



# BLEACHER CREATURE

Baseball Monthly for Fans of the New Orleans Zephyrs

ISSUE # 123

New Orleans, Louisiana

JULY, 2004

## See You at the Ballpark!

JULY	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1 At Nashville	2 At Nashville	3 At Nashville
	4 Oklahoma 6:05	5 Oklahoma 7:05	6 Oklahoma 7:05	7 Oklahoma 7:05	8 At Iowa	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15 Colorado Spgs. 7:05	16 Colorado Spgs. 7:05	17 Colorado Spgs. 6:05
	ALL STAR BREAK						
	18 Colorado Spgs. 5:05	19 At Albuquerque	20 At Albuquerque	21 At Albuquerque	22 At Albuquerque	23 Memphis 7:05	24 Memphis 6:05
	25 Memphis 5:05	26 Memphis 7:05	27 At Sacramento	28 At Sacramento	29 At Sacramento	30 At Sacramento	31 At Fresno
Tickets 734-5155							



Photos: Eugene Witek



When Kirk Bullinger was called up, several young arms in the bullpen stepped up to give Chris Maloney some innings. Among them were (L-R): Heath Bost, Brandon Backe and Miguel Saladin.

## Zephyrs Coping With the Changes

By Bill Catalanello

The New Orleans Zephyrs struggled in June with inconsistency and frequent roster changes brought about by moves made by the major league affiliate Houston Astros. Throughout the month, the Zephyrs failed to win consecutive games until they were victorious in a pair of one-run games at home on June 25 and 26. A record of 12-16 for the month dragged their season record to 6 games below .500 as July began. Manager Chris Maloney was doing his best to keep some kind of consistency to the Zephyrs' veteran lineup.

Disappointing as the month was to Zephyrs fans, it was not without some shining moments. Here are some highlights:

**June 4** – Chris Burke's home run in the 8th inning put New Orleans up to stay in a 4-2 victory at Albuquerque to gain a split of the four-game series.

**June 10** – Kirk Bullinger was promoted to the Houston bullpen, and Brandon Duckworth was optioned to New Orleans.

**June 15** – Phil Hiatt hit his 300th career minor league home run in a 9-2 Zs loss at Memphis.

**June 23** – Ryan Thompson homered in the first inning and John Buck drove in two runs to back starter Taylor Buchholz, who pitched 5 innings to earn his 5th win.

*continued on page 4*

AUG / SEPT	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1 At Fresno	2 At Fresno	3 At Fresno	4	5 Portland 7:05	6 Portland 7:05	7 Portland 6:05
	8 Portland 5:05	9 Tacoma 7:05	10 DH Tacoma 6:05	11 Tacoma 7:05	12 OFF	13 Oklahoma 7:05	14 Oklahoma 6:05
	15 Oklahoma 5:05	16 Oklahoma 7:05	17 At Colo. Spgs.	18 At Colo. Spgs.	19 At Colo. Spgs.	20 At Colo. Spgs.	21 Iowa 7:05
	22 Iowa 5:05	23 Iowa 7:05	24 Iowa 7:05	25 At Nashville	26 At Nashville	27 At Nashville	28 At Nashville
	29 At Nashville	30 At Albuquerque 7:05	31 At Albuquerque 7:05	1 At Albuquerque 7:05	2 At Albuquerque 7:05	3 At Colo. Spgs.	4 At Colo. Spgs.
	5 At Colo. Spgs.	6 At Colo. Spgs.					

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Photo: Eugene Witek

**See you at the Ballpark  
Saturday, July 17, 2004  
The New Orleans Zephyrs  
Salute to the Pelicans  
Ceremony before the game.  
Game time 6:00 p.m.**

## **Gisclair Will Sign Books At Zephyr Field July 17**

S. Derby Gisclair will be signing copies of his wonderful pictorial history, *Baseball in New Orleans* at Zephyr Field on Saturday, July 17. That's the evening the Zephyrs will hold their "Salute to the Pelicans" night.

The Zephyrs plan to honor several local former ballplayers, including a number of former New Orleans Pelicans on the field before the game. There will be autograph tables, and both the current Zephyrs and the former ballplayers will be wearing vintage Pelicans jerseys.

It's a good evening to come early to the ballpark, because the former players will be honored before the game.

## **Chris Burke Headed to Futures Game, Royce Huffman to Triple-A All-Star Game, Maloney Will Coach for the PCL**

Second baseman Chris Burke was named to the USA squad for the All-Star Futures game to be played July 11 at Minute Maid Park.

Burke, 24, who was on the Houston roster as we went to press, had a very solid first half of the season with New Orleans. Before his recent promotion to the majors, Burke was hitting .325 for the Zs, with 10 home runs and 35 RBIs in only his fourth professional season. Burke was a first-round pick by the Astros in the 2001 amateur draft out of the University of Tennessee, where he was SEC Player of the Year in 2001.

Royce Huffman will represent the Zephyrs at the Triple-A All Star Game, which will be played on Wednesday, July 14 at Pawtucket, RI. Catcher John Buck was chosen originally to go to Pawtucket, but after a trade with Kansas City, Buck was in the major leagues. Huffman was named to replace him.

Huffman was hitting .310, with 7 home runs and 39 RBIs for the Zephyrs in the first week of July.

The Pacific Coast League All-Star team will be managed by Salt Lake's Mike Brumley. His coaches will be Pat Listach of Iowa and the Zephyrs' Chris Maloney.

For Buck, this is the second consecutive year he was chosen to the Triple-A All-Star team only to be replaced. Last year his hand injury prevented him from playing in the game.

## **BLEACHER CREATURE**

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## Charles Mason: First New Orleanian to Play Big League Ball

**L**ISTED ON THE ROSTER of major league players is one Charles E. Mason. He appeared in a total of 21 games, hitting .183, with 15 hits in 82 times at bat. His career began in the old National Association (a predecessor of the National League) on April 26, 1875, with the Centennials of Philadelphia. After twelve games there, Mason went to the Washington club in the same league for eight games.

Mason's career ended in 1883, when "base ball" was still being written as two words. He appeared in the old American Association major league. He made one hit in two times at bat (a .500 average for his short career there).

Why is this seemingly insignificant performance so long ago worthy of mention? Charles Mason was born on June 25, 1853, in New Orleans, Louisiana, and died October 21, 1936, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. That fact coupled with his short major league career entitle him to a record that can never be equalled: He was the first New Orleans native to play in a league of major classification.

The accompanying boxscore is that of Charles Mason's first game, when the New Orleans native played right field for the Centennials and contributed two hits in four times at bat.



At Philadelphia, April 26, 1875.

CENTENNIAL		AB	R	H	PO	A	E
George Bechtel, p		5	2	1	0	1	2
Bill Craver, ss		5	0	2	1	6	3
George Trenwith, 3b		5	0	2	0	3	3
Fred Treacy, 1f		5	1	1	2	0	0
Fred Warner, cf		5	0	0	0	1	0
Ed Somerville, 2b		5	2	1	8	2	1
Tim McGinley, c		5	0	2	2	1	4
John Abadie, 1b		4	0	0	11	1	2
Charlie Mason, rf		4	2	2	3	0	1
Totals		43	7	11	27	15	16
PHILADELPHIA		AB	R	H	PO	A	E
John McMullin, 1f		5	0	0	4	0	2
Mike McGeary, 2b		5	2	2	4	1	3
Bob Abby, rf		5	1	1	0	1	0
Levy Meyerle, 3b		5	2	2	0	1	3
West Fisher, p		5	1	1	1	1	1
Bill Crowley, 1b		4	0	1	5	0	0
Chick Fulmer, ss		5	0	1	1	2	2
Tim Marnan, cf		5	2	0	0	0	0
Pop Snyder, c		4	2	0	12	3	2
Totals		43	10	8	27	9	13

R H E LOB

Centennial.....	211	000	030	-	7	11	16	9
Philadelphia.....	016	003	000	-	10	8	13	15

Total bases on hits - Centennial 14, Philadelphia 8.  
Umpire - John Clapp. Time - 1:50.

### CATCH THE ZEPHYRS GAMES

Home and Away  
Broadcast LIVE

on

**WTIX 690-AM**

with

**TIM GRUBBS & RON SWOBODA**

You may notice that the winning home Philadelphia team batted in the bottom of the ninth, even though leading, 10-7. The National Association played a total of 345 games in 1875 and hit a total of 40 home runs for the season, vastly different from today's home run output.

*Note: Thanks to my fellow SABR members, Bob Richardson, Joe Ditmar and Bob Tieman for supplying me with data to complete and present the boxscore above.*





Photo: Eugene Witek

**22-year-old Taylor Buchholz (left) after some shaky early outings, has improved steadily, thanks to a wicked breaking ball.**

## Hiatt's HR Totals Continue to Grow

Phil Hiatt, Zephyrs outfielder-first baseman has had an impressive career as a professional power hitter. In fact, he is currently the career active leader in minor league homers.

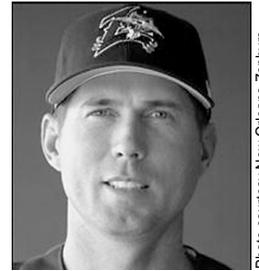


Photo courtesy New Orleans Zephyrs

**Phil Hiatt**

As July began, Hiatt led New Orleans hitters in home runs with 19, bringing his career minor league total to 303. His 44 RBIs through July 2 also led the Zs.

Hiatt's professional career started in 1990, and he's had some prolific home run seasons in the minors, including 2001, when he hit 44 homers for Las Vegas in only 436 at-bats.

On Tuesday, June 15, 2004, at Memphis, Hiatt connected for his 300th career minor league home run off the Redbirds' Danny Haren in a 9-2 Zephyrs loss. Despite the numerous roster moves that have changed the faces in the clubhouse on almost a daily basis, Hiatt has managed to stay in the Zephyrs lineup and continue to put up solid run producing numbers.

Hiatt has had a number of short stints in the majors, and he even had a brief career in the Japanese leagues. He has a career total of 13 major league home runs.

### Zephyrs Highlights . . . continued

- Taylor Buchholz, acquired from Philadelphia in the Billy Wagner trade, struggled in his first few starts, but has improved in his last six outings, and pitched beautifully in his first start in July, a 5-3 win over Oklahoma.
- Lefty Carlos Hernandez remained the Zephyrs' most consistent starting pitcher. In 16 starts, Hernandez had a record of 5-3, with an ERA of 4.64.
- Miguel Saladin, moved into the closer's role after Kirk Bullinger's call-up to Houston.
- Veterans Phil Hiatt and Mike Coolbaugh were the Zs' power leaders at mid-season. In early July, Hiatt had 19 homers, and Coolbaugh had 15.



### Zephyrs Attendance Facts & Figures

- In the first 37 home dates of the 2004 season, the New Orleans Zephyrs had announced paid total of 169,309 fans, for an average of 4,576 per game, according to Zephyrsbaseball.com.
- In the first seven years in Zephyr Field (1997-2003) the Zephyrs attracted 3,157,929, for an average of 451,133 per season.
- In the franchise's first four years in New Orleans (1993-1996), playing at the University of New Orleans' Privateer Park, the Zephyrs drew a total of 687,902 fans, for an average of 171,976 per season.

Year	Record	Venue	Total Attendance
1993	80-64	Privateer Park	161,846
1994	78-66	Privateer Park	187,026
1995	63-79	Privateer Park	159,007
1996	74-70	Privateer Park	180,023
1997	74-70	Zephyr Field	517,200
1998	76-66	Zephyr Field	519,584
1999	53-85	Zephyr Field	498,221
2000	68-74	Zephyr Field	447,475
2001	82-57	Zephyr Field	385,447
2002	75-69	Zephyr Field	410,183
2003	71-73	Zephyr Field	379,819



# ML All-Star Father/Son Combos

Sandy Alomar 1970 AL  
Sandy Alomar, Jr. 1990, 91, 92, 96-98 AL  
Roberto Alomar 1990 NL, 1991-2001 AL

Felipe Alou 1962, 66, 68 NL  
Moises Alou 1994, 97, 98, 2001 NL

Gus Bell 1953, 54, 56, 57 NL  
Buddy Bell 1973, 80, 81, 82, 84 AL

Ray Boone 1954, 56 AL  
Bob Boone 1976, 78, 79 NL, 1983 AL  
Bret Boone 1998 NL, 2001, 03 AL  
Aaron Boone 2003 NL

Bobby Bonds 1971, 73 NL, 1975 AL  
Barry Bonds 1990, 92-98, 2000, 01 NL

Ken Griffey, Sr. 1976, 77, 80 NL  
Ken Griffey, Jr. 1990-99 AL, 2000 NL

Jim Hegan 1947, 1949-52 AL  
Mike Hegan 1969 AL

Randy Hundley 1969 NL  
Todd Hundley 1996 NL

Vern Law 1960 NL  
Vance Law 1988 NL

Source: Major League Baseball



## Triple-A All-Star Game Telecast Info:

The seventeenth annual Triple-A All-Star Game will be televised live across the ESPN2 network on Wednesday, July 14 at 6:00 p.m. CDT. The 2004 game, to be played at McCoy Stadium, home of the International League's Pawtucket Red Sox, marks the tenth straight season Triple-A Baseball's mid-summer classic has been televised live on ESPN2.

One commentator returns from the crew that announced last season's Triple-A All-Star tilt. ESPN baseball analyst Buck Martinez provided insight on some of Triple-A Baseball's stars last year and will reprise his role. Joining Martinez in the booth will be veteran sportscaster Sean McDonough. Reporting from the field will be newcomer Kyle Peterson, a former Major Leaguer who pitched in the 1999 Triple-A All-Star Game in New Orleans.

## 1954: All-Star Winning Pitcher Never Retired a Batter

At Cleveland Municipal Stadium  
July 13, 1954

Americans 11, Nationals 9

NL	0 0 0	5 2 0	0 2 0	9 14 0
AL	0 0 4	1 2 1	0 3 x	11 17 1

WP- Stone, LP Conley  
HR- Rosen(AL) (2), Boone (AL),  
Kluszewski (NL), Bell (NL),  
Doby (AL)

In a see-saw game at Cleveland, the National League re-took the lead, 9-8 in the 8th inning on Gus Bell's 2-run home run. Later that same inning, they were threatening to get some insurance, with Red Schoendienst on third and two out. Dean Stone came in from the AL bullpen.

Right after Stone's warm-up pitches, Schoendienst made a surprise break for the plate. Stone hurried his delivery, and Schoendienst was tagged out at the plate by AL catcher Yogi Berra. The NL argued that Stone had balked, but none of the umpires thought so. The game moved to the bottom of the 8th.

The AL rallied for three runs; the last two scoring on a bloop single by Nellie Fox with the bases loaded to put the Americans up, 11-9.

Virgil Trucks came in to pitch a hitless 9th for the AL, to make a winner of Stone, whose only "pitch" was that hurried throw to get Schoendienst at the plate. This is the 50th anniversary of the memorable game.

Bill Catalanello

**Don't Miss July 17th . . .  
The Zephyrs Salute  
the New Orleans Pelicans  
at Zephyr Field before the Zs'  
6:00 PM Game  
against Colorado Springs**

- Autograph Table
- Throw-back Jerseys
- Lots of Former Players

## Only Four Have Managed and Homered in an All-Star Game

Since 1933, when the first All-Star Game was played in Chicago's old Comiskey Park, over 1300 players have been selected to All-Star squads. Of the 70 men who managed All-Star teams in the Mid-Summer Classic, only four also hit All-Star game home runs.

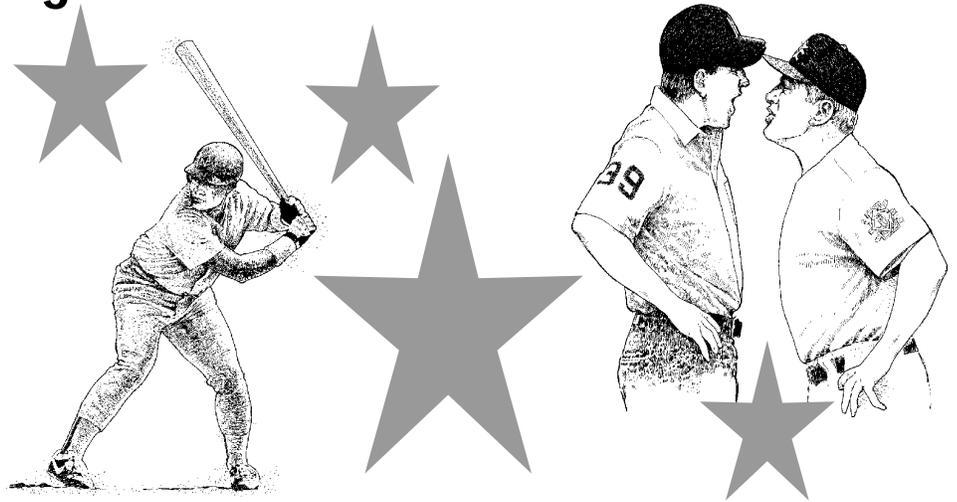
They are: Frankie Frisch, Lou Boudreau, Red Schoendienst and Joe Torre.

First to accomplish this rare feat, St. Louis Cardinals player/manager **Frankie Frisch** was the starting second baseman for the NL in the inaugural All-Star Game on July 6, 1933. In the 6th inning with the bases empty and the AL leading, 3-1, Frisch drove a pitch from Washington Senators pitcher General Crowder into the right field seats for only the second home run in All-Star history. (The first was Babe Ruth's earlier two-run shot in the bottom of the 3rd, which gave the AL a 3-0 lead.) The AL hung on win, 4-2.

In the 1934 All-Star game at New York's Polo Grounds, Frisch struck again, with a solo homer off Lefty Gomez in the first inning. The AL came roaring back in the middle innings, however, to take a 9-7 win.

The following year, Frisch was the NL manager in the All-Star game played at Municipal Stadium in Cleveland. His NL stars fell to manager Mickey Cochrane's AL team, 4-1.

Cleveland Indians shortstop **Lou Boudreau** led off the 1942 All-Star



Game (also at the Polo Grounds) with a homer off Mort Cooper to jump start the AL offense. Later in the first inning, Rudy York's 2-run shot gave the AL all the runs they needed for a 3-1 victory.

In 1949, Boudreau managed the AL All-Star team to an 11-7 win at Ebbets Field in Brooklyn. Boudreau selected the AL's first African American All Star to the game that year, Cleveland outfielder Larry Doby.

One of the most dramatic moments in All-Star history was a 14th-inning home run by **Red Schoendienst** on the first pitch thrown by AL reliever Ted Gray in 1950. That put the NL on top, 4-3, in the first extra-inning game in All-Star history at Comiskey Park. It gave the NL its first-ever victory in an AL ballpark.

Schoendienst was a 10-time All-Star Game participant, and he was at the helm for the NL in the 39th All-Star Game played in Houston's Astrodome. It was the first (and only) 1-0 game in All-Star history, and it was also the first All-Star game

played indoors. NL Manager Schoendienst used 23 of his 27 players, including five pitchers who held the AL to just three hits (all doubles) in the shutout. Schoendienst also managed the NL in 1969 to a 9-3 win at Washington's Robert F. Kennedy Stadium.

**Joe Torre** was named to the NL All-Star team in 1965, the 36th, played at Minnesota's Metropolitan Stadium. Wearing the Milwaukee Braves uniform, Torre helped the NL to a 6-5 victory with a first-inning, 2-run home run off Baltimore's Milt Pappas.

After making eight appearances as a player, Torre made his All-Star managerial debut in 1997, as the AL won, 3-1, in Cleveland's Jacobs Field. Torre managed the AL again in 1999, 2000 and 2001, winning each time to become the first All-Star manager to win his first four All-Star games, but he will also be remembered for managing the infamous 2002 game in Milwaukee's Miller Park, which ended in a 7-7 tie after both clubs exhausted their rosters.



## Summer in the City: Houston Astros Scuffling

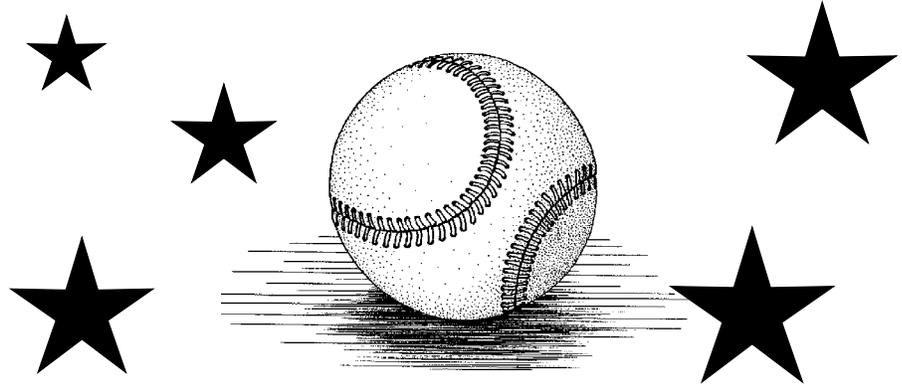
Dear Bleacher Creature,

It's mid-summer in Houston, and we're having having the same hot and wet weather that you are. It's interfering some mornings with our walks in the park, but that comes with the territory. Betsy doesn't like getting wet in anything but her swimsuit, and neither do I.

With the All-Star game here this year, the baseball fans of Houston are ready to show off their city. Our hometown team's performance so far, though, has been a disappointment.

**A**s you know, I love interleague games, and one of my favorite "rivalry series" is the Astros vs. the Texas Rangers. The last weekend in June, while watching on TV as the Astros dropped two out of three to the Rangers in Arlington, I was struck by the fact that the Astros went into the series as underachievers. The Rangers, on the other hand, were widely considered overachievers in the American League for the first half of the season. By this point in the year, if the Houston team was playing up to everyone's expectations, they'd be putting it into cruise control right about now... mowing them down with superior pitching, and getting clutch hitting from their powerful lineup. It just hasn't worked out that way.

So concerned was the Houston front office three months into the season, that blockbuster moves were made. Gone are rightfielder Richard Hidalgo, bullpen closer Octavio Dotel and top catching prospect John Buck. Into



center field from Kansas City came A.L. superstar Carlos Beltran, into right field went Lance Berkman, and moving (again) into left was Craig Biggio. Brad Lidge became the Astros closer. The rest of the bullpen appeared to be up for grabs.

Ask some of the old-timers you know if they can remember a better one-two combo of switch-hitters than Beltran and Berkman. It's a thrill to think of the two switch-hitting power guys batting back-to-back, but Louis tells me that Beltran will almost surely move on after this season. Meanwhile, the Royals move Buck right up to the majors, Hidalgo starts bashing in New York, and Dotel becomes the A's closer. The Astros, it seems, gave up lots of talent in order to try to win a pennant this year and live up to everybody's springtime expectations.

There's no point in my going over the individuals who haven't performed up to their capabilities. The numbers speak for themselves. And now it seems the pitching staff is going through a period of physical injury and spiritual self-doubt. We all knew this team had great talent starting the season; now

we'll find out how resilient and how gutsy they can be. General manager Gerry Hunsicker has gone out and made deals to try to shore up the weaknesses of this team. Now it's up to the players. It would help the cause if the starting rotation could all be healthy at the same time. Manager Jimmy Williams has had to experiment and plug holes on the pitching staff almost from the beginning. The bullpen's struggles have made for some ugly innings.

If you're a baseball fan, you know that the season is long and rugged and that you can never judge quickly. However, because of the ages of their key players, and the financial commitments they've made, there's no denying the Astros have pressure to win now. Working around injuries to Jeff Kent, Andy Pettitte, and now Wade Miller, manager Jimmy Williams has tried lots of combinations, especially in the pitching staff. It's far too soon to push the panic button, but our team needs to start a winning streak this month.

Go Astros,

Rose



# BLEACHER CREATURE

is the region's only all-baseball monthly. We've been at it since 1993, supporting Zephyrs baseball and exchanging stories about the game and its players, past and present. We're also into the wit and wisdom, heroes and villains, and facts and fables associated with baseball. Sign up today to receive 11 monthly issues by First Class Mail. On-line newsletters are fine, but we offer paper and ink.

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