

OUR 13TH SEASON...PLAY BALL!



# BLEACHER CREATURE

A Monthly Conversation Among Baseball Fans

ISSUE # 131

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

APRIL, 2005

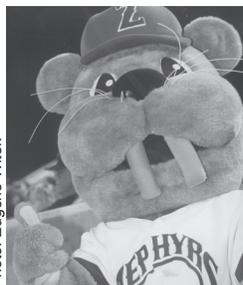


Photo: Eugene Witek

## New Orleans Zephyrs 2005 Early Season Home Schedule

Date	Opponent
April 15	Nashville 7:05
April 16	Nashville
April 17	Nashville
April 18	Nashville
April 19	Memphis
April 20	Memphis
April 21	Memphis
April 22	Memphis
April 28	Albuquerque
April 29	Albuquerque
April 30	Albuquerque
May 1	Albuquerque
May 2	Round Rock
May 3	Round Rock
May 4	Round Rock
May 5	Round Rock

See You at the Ballpark!

## THIS MONTH

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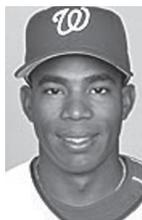
Photos courtesy Washington Nationals



Broadway



Karp



Chavez



Harris



Rauch

## Zs Start Season With Mix of Veterans and Hot Young Prospects

The New Orleans Zephyrs open the 2005 season with a mix of major league veterans, seasoned minor leaguers, and some of the most promising prospects in the Washington Nationals organization.

Skipper Tim Foli has the luxury of having major league veterans Jeffrey Hammonds and Carlos Baerga in the clubhouse alongside young prospects like Brendan Harris, Larry Broadway, Tyrell Godwin and Endy Chavez.

On the Zs' pitching staff are two former LSU Tigers, Ed Yarnall and Roy Corcoran, as well as Baton Rouge native Chad Durbin. Righthander Josh Karp is one the Nationals' top pitching prospects. A member of Olympic Team USA in 2000, righthander Jon Rauch at 6'11" is reported to be the tallest pitcher to appear in a major league game.

In all, 16 players on the opening day roster have major league experience, including 11 who played in the majors last year.

From [Zephyrsbaseball.com](http://Zephyrsbaseball.com)

## NEW ORLEANS ZEPHYRS OPENING DAY ROSTER

### Pitchers (12)

Micah Bowie  
Hector Carrasco  
Roy Corcoran  
Mark DiFelice  
Chad Durbin  
Josh Karp  
Sun-Woo Kim  
Gary Majewski  
Brian Powell  
Jon Rauch  
Dan Smith  
Ed Yarnall

### Catchers (2)

Hector Ortiz  
John Wilson

### Infielders (5)

Carlos Baerga  
Jason Bowers  
Larry Broadway  
Brendan Harris  
Rick Short

### Outfielders (5)

Matt Cepicky  
Endy Chavez  
Dan Dement  
Tyrell Godwin  
Jeffrey Hammonds

Manager: Tim Foli  
Pitching Coach: Charlie Corbell  
Hitting Coach: Mike Hart  
Trainer: Mike Quinn

# Ron Maestri Named Zephyrs' Executive Director; Mike Schline Named GM

The New Orleans Zephyrs announced March 30 that Ron Maestri was named Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of the club and Mike Schline was appointed General Manager of Baseball Operations.

Maestri comes to the Zephyrs after working with the Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation as Executive Director of the New Orleans Bowl. He has chaired the 2002 Women's Volleyball Final Four, the 2003 NCAA Men's Final Four and the 2004 NCAA Women's Final Four. Maestri, a member of the New Orleans Sports Hall of Fame, came to New Orleans in the 1970's to lead the University of New Orleans baseball program, a post he held for 14 years. Maestri held the post of Athletic Director at UNO, a position he held for 21 years until stepping down in 2000. Maestri never had a losing season as UNO baseball coach from 1972 to

1985, guided his teams to nine NCAA tournaments and finished second in the Division II College World Series in 1974. He coached the first Louisiana team to the College World Series in 1984.

As Athletic Director, Maestri oversaw the development of the Privateer athletic complex. Maestri was instrumental in securing host-institution roles for the men's NCAA Southeast Regional basketball tournament in 1990, and the 1991 Women's Final Four (the first for the city), the 2001 men's basketball South Regional first and second rounds,

the 2002 women's volleyball Final Four, and the 2003 basketball Final Four. Maestri has also chaired numerous NCAA boards over the years.

"I haven't been this excited since taking the head baseball job at UNO," said Maestri.

"The Zephyrs are very excited to have someone of Ron's caliber involved with our organization," said Zephyrs Owner Don Beaver. "Ron has been a major sports figure in New Orleans for over thirty years and brings a wealth of experience to our franchise."



Ron Maestri meets the media after being named Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of the Zephyrs by owner Don Beaver.

***"I haven't been this excited since taking the head baseball job at UNO," said Maestri.***

Schline begins his fourth season with the Zephyrs and first as the General Manager of Baseball Operations after serving as Assistant General Manager. In his ninth season overall in minor league baseball, Schline previously worked with the Charlotte Knights of the Class AAA International League and the Winston-Salem Warhogs of the Class A Carolina League.

"We are very pleased to officially name Mike as General Manager," said Beaver. "He has done a tremendous job working for Beaver Sports over the years and has been particularly extraordinary in the transition period, which ends today with Ron coming on board and Mike becoming the General Manager."

-Zephyrsbaseball.com

## BLEACHER CREATURE

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*Bleacher Creature* is a conversation among baseball fans. It has been published monthly eleven times a year, since 1993. It is independent of the New Orleans Zephyrs ballclub and is made possible by our wonderfully loyal subscribers, supporters, contributors and friends.

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# Nation's Capital Has Long History as a Baseball City

After an absence of 32 years, Washington, D.C. returns to Major League Baseball in 2005 as a member of the National League, just as it was before 1900.

Since 1871, when the National Association of Baseball was organized, a total of seven leagues have qualified as major league status.

Five years after the National Association disbanded in 1875, the National League of Professional Baseball was organized and has continued to the present day—a total of 128 years. Washington was a member of the National Association from 1871, but was not a member when the league was replaced by the new National League in 1876.

The nation's capital came back to baseball in 1884 in the newly organized American Association. A second major league was launched in 1884—the Union Association, which operated just one season. Washington had a club in both the American Association and the Union Association.

Another one year major league, the Players League, operated in 1890, but Washington was not represented. The Federal League operated for two years, but its franchises did not include Washington.

In 1901, the American League was born, and Washington was a charter member. The league has operated continuously for 104 seasons.

Major League Baseball 1871-Present	
National Association	1871–1875
National League	1876–Present
American Association	1882–1891
Union Association	1884
Players League	1890
American League	1901–Present
Federal League	1914–1915

The last American League game played in Washington was on September 30, 1971. It was a baseball rarity in that the game ended in a forfeit. The Washington Senators were forced to forfeit despite leading the New York Yankees, 7–5, with two out in the top of

## Last ML Game in Washington Ended in a Forfeit

### RFK Stadium, Washington, D.C. September 30, 1971

New York	AB R H RBI	Washington	AB R H RBI
Murcer cf	4 1 1 2	Maddox cf	4 0 1 2
Clarke 2b	4 0 0 0	Harrah ss	4 0 1 0
Torres rf	4 1 2 1	Howard 1b	3 1 1 1
White lf	3 2 2 1	Grzenda p	0 0 0 0
Ellis 1b	3 0 2 1	Billings c	4 1 3 0
Munson c	4 0 2 0	Burroughs lf	4 1 1 0
Hansen 3b	4 0 0 0	Nelson 3b	4 3 2 0
Baker ss	2 1 0 0	Unser rf	4 0 0 1
c-Michael ss	1 0 0 0	Ragland 2b	4 1 1 0
Keckich p	2 0 0 0	Bosman p	1 0 0 0
Aker p	0 0 0 0	a-Casanova	0 0 0 0
e-Alou	1 0 0 0	Pina p	0 0 0 0
		b-Mincher	0 0 0 0
		Lindblad p	0 0 0 0
		d-McCraw 1b	1 0 1 1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>32 5 9 5</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>33 7 11 5</b>

a--walked for Bosman in 5th  
 b--intentionally walked for Pina in 6th  
 c--grounded out for Baker in 8th  
 d--singled for Lindblad in 8th  
 e--grounded out for Aker in 9th

New York	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	5	9	5
Washington	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	2	X	7	11	0

Game forfeited to New York with two out in 9th

E--Baker 2, Aker, Michael, Hansen. 2B--White, Maddox. HR--Torres, Murcer, White, Howard. DP--New York 3, Washington 1. LOB--New York 6, Washington 6. SB--Nelson. S--Keckich. SF--Maddox.

New York Pitching	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Keckich	5	7	4	3	2	1
Aker	3	4	3	1	1	2
Washington Pitching	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Bosman	5	8	5	5	2	3
Pina	1	0	0	0	1	1
Lindblad	2	1	0	0	0	0
Grzenda	2/3	0	0	0	0	0

HBP--by Bosman (Ellis). U--Odom, O'Donnell, Honochick, DiMuro. T--2:38. A--14,460

Boxscore courtesy Arthur Schott

the 9th inning, when the unruly and uncontrollable Washington crowd swarmed the field and prevented the players from finishing the game. Bobby Murcer was the last batter to appear at RFK Stadium. He grounded out to pitcher Joe Grzenda, who was able to get the first two outs of the inning, but never could get the final out due to circumstances beyond his control. The last hit of the game was made by the Senators' Tom McCraw, who singled off Yankees reliever Jack Aker. The game's leading hitter was Washington catcher Dick Billings, who had three singles in four at-bats.

# 2005 Update

## Win Shares and the Hall of Fame

By Bill Gilbert

*Win Shares were devised by sabermetrician Bill James, in an effort to measure the contribution of a player's performance in achieving wins. It is a very complex system which includes hitting, pitching and fielding and is designed to put players on an even footing regardless of ballpark or era. Three Win Shares are assigned to the winning team in each game. Thus a team that wins 90 games would have 270 Win Shares to spread around the players on the team.*

*If a player achieves 30 Win Shares in a season, he should be a candidate for MVP. 20 Win Shares can loosely be described as an All Star season.*

Last year, I took a look at the Hall of Fame credentials of active players based on the Bill James Win Share system. In the Win Shares system, James states that 400 career Win Shares means absolute enshrinement in the Hall of Fame and 300 Win Shares makes a player more likely than not to be a Hall of Famer. However, he cautions, while those standards describe the past, they are not as likely to describe the future as accurately. Players with 300 to 350 Win Shares in the past have generally gone into the Hall of Fame. In the future, they more often will not.

The Win Shares system provides a useful method of examining the body of work that a player has accumulated in his career. In the case of active players, it is interesting to see if they are on track for the Hall.

Following is the list of players with over 300 Win Shares, active in 2003 that I used in the analysis last year. It has been updated to include Win Shares earned in 2004.

Player	Win Shares thru 2003	Win Shares in 2004	Win Shares thru 2004
Barry Bonds	611	53	664
Rickey Henderson	535	--	535
Roger Clemens	378	20	398
Craig Biggio	377	18	395
Roberto Alomar	372	3	375
Rafael Palmeiro	363	13	376
Jeff Bagwell	363	23	386
Frank Thomas	347	12	359
Greg Maddux	347	12	359
Gary Sheffield	337	31	368
Barry Larkin	336	11	347
Fred McGriff	326	0	326
Ken Griffey, Jr.	324	16	340

Bonds, Clemens, Biggio, Bagwell and Sheffield clearly enhanced their credentials in 2004. Palmeiro and Maddux continued to rack up Win Shares but not at the rate they once did. Thomas and Griffey were going strong until shut down by injuries. Larkin put a strong finish on his career, while Alomar continued to put an ugly tail on an otherwise sparkling career. McGriff's comeback fell short and Henderson's didn't get past Newark. All but McGriff appear to be Hall of Fame candidates.

Two other players reached the 300 Win Share mark in 2004.

Player	Win Shares thru 2003	Win Shares in 2004	Win Shares thru 2004
Edgar Martinez	297	8	305
Sammy Sosa	295	14	309

Both suffered significant declines in 2004. Sosa has a chance to rebound in 2005 and should make the Hall. Martinez has completed a successful and unique career but will likely fall short.

For reference, the two players elected to the Hall this year, Wade Boggs and Ryne Sandberg, had 394 and 346 Win Shares respectively. Others on the ballot with over 300 Win Shares that were not elected included Andre Dawson (340), Bert Blyleven (339), Dave Parker (327) and Alan Trammell (318). The four players that came closest to being elected by the Veterans Committee this week were Ron Santo (324), Gil Hodges (263), Jim Kaat (268) and Tony Oliva (245).

The list below includes the 41 active players with between 200 and 300 Win Shares through 2003. The first number is the player's Win Shares through 2003, the second number is the Win Shares in 2004 and the third number is the total through 2004.

Player	Win Shares	Age on 1/1/2005
Edgar Martinez	297- 8-305	41
Sammy Sosa	295-14-309	36
Mark Grace	294	40
Mike Piazza	285-12-297	36
Larry Walker	284-13-297	38
John Olerud	284-10-294	36
Bernie Williams	276-16-292	36
Robin Ventura	266- 6-272	37
Steve Finley	263-18-281	39
Randy Johnson	261-25-286	41
Tom Glavine	261-15-276	38
Ellis Burks	260- 0-260	39
Julio Franco	256-12-268	46
Jim Thome	256-22-278	34
Luis Gonzalez	255-12-267	37
Alex Rodriguez	252-30-282	29
Andres Galarraga	251- 0-251	43
Manny Ramirez	249-28-277	32
Jeff Kent	246-24-270	36
Jay Bell	245	40
Chipper Jones	243-19-262	32
Matt Williams	241	39
Ivan Rodriguez	240-22-262	33
Kenny Lofton	239- 7-246	37
Marquis Grissom	234-16-250	37
Kevin Brown	232- 9-241	39
Juan Gonzalez	231- 3-234	35
Jason Giambi	229- 8-237	33
Tim Salmon	226- 2-228	36
John Smoltz	222-12-234	37
B. J. Surhoff	217-10-227	39
Todd Zeile	217- 4-221	40
Mike Mussina	215-10-225	36
Ruben Sierra	212- 9-221	39
Pedro Martinez	208-16-224	33
Moises Alou	208-26-234	38
Ron Gant	206	39
David Cone	205	41
Jim Edmonds	205-36-241	34
Curt Schilling	202-22-224	38
Mo Vaughn	201	37

continued on page 5 =>

# Ruben Gomez Hurlled a Shutout at the Dodgers in MLB's West Coast Debut

On April 15, 1958, the Giants and the Dodgers made history when they played California's first major league game at San Francisco's tiny Seals Stadium. The two freshly transplanted New York rivals opened the 1958 season roughly 3,000 miles west of the Polo Grounds.

Before the opening day game got underway there was the usual parade of state and local politicians and baseball bigwigs, among them a special guest, the widow of the great Giants manager John McGraw.

The mound opponents for the historic opener were a contrast. Dodgers manager Walter Alston chose the 21-year-old righthander Don Drysdale, a native of Southern California. His major league experience consisted of just 25 games for Brooklyn in '56. Giants skipper Bill Rigney picked 30-year-old righthander Ruben Gomez, a native of Puerto Rico, who had been a 15-game winner during the Giants' final season in New York.

In the dawning of major league baseball in California, the lead-off batter was a San Francisco native, Dodgers centerfielder Gino Cimoli. Gomez struck out Cimoli to record a milestone, the first west coast out.

The Giants reached Drysdale for a pair of runs in the third. After two walks, run scoring singles by Jim Davenport and Jim King put San Francisco on top, 2-0. The distinction of major league baseball's first west coast home run went to the Giants' Daryl Spencer, whose solo shot in the fourth extended the lead. The Giants rallied for 4 runs in the inning to take a 6-0 lead. Rookie first baseman Orlando Cepeda's solo homer and Willie Kirkland's RBI single provided the final margin. In blanking

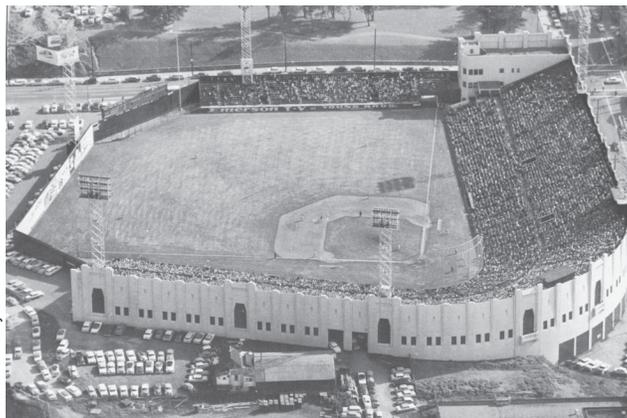


Photo courtesy San Francisco Giants

## Seals Stadium— The Giants' first home in San Francisco

the Dodgers, Gomez gave up six hits, six walks and struck out six.

The games featured six future Hall of Famers: Pee Wee Reese, Duke Snider, Don Drysdale and manager Walter Alston of the Dodgers and Willie Mays and Orlando Cepeda of the Giants.

### APRIL 15, 1958 – SEALS STADIUM SAN FRANCISCO

LOS ANGELES					SAN FRANCISCO				
	AB	R	H	RBI		AB	R	H	RBI
Cimoli, cf	5	0	1	0	Davenport, 3b	4	1	2	1
Reese, ss	3	0	0	0	King, lf	3	1	2	1
Snider, lf	2	0	0	0	Mays, cf	5	0	2	2
Hodges, 1b	4	0	0	0	Kirkland, lf	5	0	1	1
Neal, 2b	4	0	2	0	Cepeda, 1b	5	1	1	1
Furillo, rf	3	0	0	0	Spencer, ss	4	1	1	1
Walker, c	3	0	1	0	O'Connell, 2b	2	1	0	0
Drysdale, p	1	0	0	0	Thomas, c	1	2	0	0
Bessent, p	0	0	0	0	Gomez, p	4	1	2	1
aRoseboro, c	1	0	0	0	Totals	33	8	11	8
bLarker	1	0	0	0					
Negray, p	0	0	0	0					
cGilliam	0	0	0	0					
Totals	31	0	6	0					

a—Ran for Walker in seventh.  
 b—Grounded out for Bessent in seventh  
 c—Walked for Negray in ninth.

Los Angeles	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	— 0
San Francisco	0 0 2	4 1 0	0 1 x	— 8

Error—Hodges.  
 Assists—Los Angeles 12, San Francisco 14.  
 Double play—Gomez, Spencer and Cepeda.  
 Left on bases—Los Angeles 10, San Francisco 9.  
 Home runs—Spencer, Cepeda. Sacrifice fly—Davenport.

PITCHING	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Drysdale (L, 0-1)	3.2	5	6	6	3	1
Bessent	2.1	4	1	1	1	0
Negray	2.0	2	1	1	3	1
Gomez (W, 1-0)	9.0	6	0	0	6	6

Balk—Negray. Passed ball—Walker.  
 Umpires—Conlan, Secory, Dixon and Venzon.  
 Time of game—2:29. Attendance—23,448

### Bill Gilbert, continued from page 4

The final list shows the 10 players that reached the 200 Win Share level in 2004. Again the first number is Win Shares through 2003, the second is Win Shares in 2004 and the third number is the total after 2004.

Player	Win Shares	Age on 1/1/2005
Derek Jeter	193-26-219	31
Scott Rolen	176-38-214	29
Carlos Delgado	195-17-212	32
Ryan Klesko	190-19-209	33
Tino Martinez	194-15-209	37
Omar Vizquel	192-17-209	37
Bret Boone	194- 9-203	35
Bobby Abreu	164-37-201	30
Edgardo Alfonzo	186-15-201	31
Shawn Green	183-17-200	32

It's too early to speculate on the Hall of Fame chances of these players but the top three may be on track and Abreu can't be ruled out if he can continue to play at the level he achieved in 2004.

# The PCL's Wild and Crazy Logos: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

By John Bowlin

"Do you know what it means to miss New Orleans when that is where you left your heart?"

—Louis Armstrong

Hello and greetings from Birmingham. I wanted to share some information about myself since I am new to the newsletter. My wife and I had a really tough decision to make winter of 1999-2000 on whether to make the move to New Orleans from Birmingham that spring to finish up my master's degree from NOBTS. It would be my first move away from home, having gone to college at UAB and working after college in Birmingham. We prayerfully made the decision that in May of 2000 we would move to the Big Easy. One of the first things we did socially was attend a game at Zephyr Field.

I had attended games in Birmingham (Hoover Met and Rickwood Field), Chattanooga, and Columbus, Ga. There is something special about pulling into the parking lot at the Shrine on Airline for the first time. Zephyr Field is the nicest minor league park that I have ever been to. There was a buzz in the ballpark that night. I purchased my first Zephyrs cap that night and wore it so much that summer that it shrunk from the sweat and heat. Here we were in a strange city that you have heard all of these horror stories about, and our first real trip away from campus was to a Zephyrs game. It was a combination of something new and something that I dearly love, that being baseball. I don't remember who the Zephyrs played that night but it was a start of loyalty for a team and for a city that we grew to love and are proud to call it a second home.

I'm a huge baseball fan, and I love minor league baseball teams for their cool logos. I collect minor league hats and keep up with logos. Some teams do a better job than others. Here's my evaluation of the logos of some of the clubs in the Pacific Coast League.

**New Orleans Zephyrs**—I enjoyed the change the team made last year with the biting Boudreaux on all three hats. My personal favorite is the road blue with the green bill. I also tip my hat to the old alternative hat with the Mardi Gras colors adorning the Z. I live in Birmingham and get questions when I wear the colors of the Nutria Nation around town. Vive Le Boudreaux!

## Two of the Sharp Ones...



The Albuquerque Isotopes and the Round Rock Express have two of the logos John Bowlin likes

**Iowa Cubs**—This hat looks too much like that of the parent club. The logo lacks originality, but I guess it looks good in a cornfield.

**Tucson Sidewinders**—I really hate snakes. I do, however, like this logo. It has a connection to the parent club (Diamondbacks), but stands on its own, unique to its city.

**Portland Beavers**—Leave it to this team. I wonder who the Beaver is winking at? Is he stealing signs for his team? Both team caps are pretty sharp.



The Portland Beavers batting practice cap (left) and one of the caps offered by the Las Vegas 51s.

**Sacramento River Cats**—I do not like nickname or the logo. What is a River Cat? A catfish? Maybe my Alabama roots are showing.

**Las Vegas 51s**—This might be the strangest logo in professional sports. I wish Scotty would beam up this logo.

**Colorado Springs Sky Sox**—I have to say I like the CS interlocked design. The fox on the batting practice cap is a little too Warner Brothers for my taste.

**Memphis Redbirds**—This team has one of my favorite uniforms in the league. The BP cap with the Cardinals looks sharp and classic.

**Fresno Grizzlies**—I don't know where to begin with this team's caps. My mother told me if you don't have anything nice to say, well, you know the rest. Their old logos were much better than the new 2005 look.



**Tacoma Rainiers**—This team has a really sharp looking cap. The nickname has a good connection to the area.

**Round Rock Express**—I hate to admit this to my fellow Zephyrs fans, but I like the caps this team wears. Solid logo, but sure to be rivals of the Nutria Nation.

**Oklahoma RedHawks**—Terrible logo! Pigeon Power!

**Albuquerque Isotopes**—This team has a sharp logo. I was a fan of the old Albuquerque Dukes logo, but this team has made some cool changes.

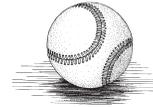
**Omaha Royals**—I am not a big fan of the Royals logo. It's the same reason I don't like the Iowa Cubs logo. It is too much like the parent club. The cap looks like a cherry lifesaver on a blue hat.

**Nashville Sounds**—I will close with a team that I like. The musical note and the swinging guitar player are some of my favorite caps in the league. Classic and cool.



Photos courtesy: Albuquerque Isotopes, Nashville Sounds, Portland Beavers, Round Rock Express, Las Vegas 51s, Omaha Royals and Tacoma Rainiers.

## THE SECRET JOYS OF KEEPING SCORE



Pasadena, Texas  
April 4, 2005

Dear Bleacher Creature,

Baseball is the only game at which you will see people watching with scorebooks on their laps. It's the only game that generates a simple, neat (sometimes) and compact account of what happened on the field: who the heroes and goats were, and which plays were the keys to winning or losing. It provides the raw data (runs, hits, errors, putouts, assists, strikeouts, walks, RBIs, etc.) from which a boxscore can be created. A boxscore, as any baseball fan can tell you, is a snapshot of one game, complete with all its grand statistics.

In the scheme of a 162-game season, one game really doesn't tell us much. Before making a judgement about the relative value of a player we need to see a whole lot of games, maybe a season's worth. To a person attending one major league game, however, keeping a scorecard can greatly enhance your enjoyment of the game and even let you know stuff to which the non-scoring fan across the aisle is probably oblivious.

For example, several years ago I was keeping score at a game that Nolan Ryan was pitching up in Arlington. Everybody knew he had great stuff that night, but, since I had a scoresheet, I could tell my dad and his friend how many strikeouts Ryan had at any point in the game. I knew also that Ryan walked only two batters, that he had not allowed a leadoff batter to reach base in the entire game, and that he gave up only five hits (all singles) in his nine innings of work. He wound up striking out 15 opposing batters, and the heart of the opposing team's lineup (the 3, 4 and 5 hitters) were a combined 0-for-13 against him. I knew all these facts from my scoresheet, and the entire picture of a Hall of Fame pitcher's performance went into my scorebook, batter by batter and inning by inning.

A completed scoresheet is more than collection of symbols and numbers. It is literally a picture of the ballgame. A pitchers' duel produces a nice, neat scoresheet, easy to read and easy to keep. A slugfest, conversely, makes for a sloppy scoresheet that, just like the game it represents, is convoluted with pinch-hitters, multiple relief pitchers, defensive replacements, and long innings that can sometimes use up one entire vertical column. I try my best to keep everything on the page neat and clear, but an ugly game will more often than not produce an ugly scoresheet.

I have to admit that I did a lot more scorekeeping before my daughter Betsy was born. Her presence at a game precludes any scoresheet activity, due in large part to the numerous and necessary side journeys to concession areas and the ladies room. But, in the absence of small children, you can't beat keeping a scoresheet to enjoy and learn the game more thoroughly.

See you soon,

Rose

# BLEACHER CREATURE

is the region's only all-baseball monthly. The 2005 season is our 13th year supporting our hometown Triple-A New Orleans Zephyrs, and publishing a monthly conversation among baseball fans.

Our contributors share stories and stats, facts and legends about the great game of baseball.

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