



# BLEACHER CREATURE

A Monthly Conversation Among Baseball Fans

ISSUE # 129

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Photos courtesy New Orleans Zephyrs

Tim Foli

## Tim Foli Will Manage the 2005 New Orleans Zephyrs

Tim Foli will manage the New Orleans Zephyrs in 2005, the club announced last month. Foli becomes the Zephyrs' eighth manager since the franchise moved to New Orleans.

The team also announced that Mike Hart has been named hitting coach and Charlie Corbell pitching coach for the 2005 Zephyrs. Mike Quinn will be

the team's trainer. The Zephyrs enter their first year as an affiliate of the Washington Nationals.



Mike Hart



Charlie Corbell

Foli, 54, who enjoyed a 16-year playing career in the major leagues, was drafted by the New York Mets with their first round pick in the 1968 draft.

He anchored the middle of the Pittsburgh Pirates' infield in 1979 under manager Chuck Tanner, as the Bucs went all the way to the World Series championship. After his playing days, Foli served as a major league coach and minor league manager.

Hart, after a 12-year minor league playing career, is a 19-year veteran minor league coach and manager. He served as hitting coach last year with the Edmonton Trappers.

Likewise, Corbell was pitching coach at Edmonton last season. He begins his fourth season as a minor league pitching coach, after a 7-year playing career.

## Zephyrs 2005 Spring Training Schedule

The New Orleans Zephyrs have announced their Spring Training schedule to take place in Melbourne, Florida in March and April.

The Zephyrs pitchers and catchers are to report to Spring Training on March 6th, while the position players will report on March 10th.

The schedule for Spring Training games is as follows (all game times 12:00 PM CT unless otherwise noted):

- Friday, March 18 vs. Richmond @ Melbourne**
  - Saturday, March 19 vs. Round Rock @ Kissimmee**
  - Monday, March 21 vs. Round Rock @Melbourne**
  - Tuesday, March 22 vs. Las Vegas @ Vero Beach**
  - Wednesday, March 23 vs. Las Vegas @Melbourne**
  - Friday, March 25\* vs. Norfolk @Melbourne**
  - Saturday, March 26 vs. Round Rock @Kissimmee**
  - Sunday, March 27 vs. Las Vegas @Vero Beach**
  - Monday, March 28 vs. Richmond @Melbourne**
  - Wednesday, March 30\* vs. Round Rock @Melbourne**
  - Thursday, March 31 vs. Las Vegas @Vero Beach**
  - Friday, April 1\* vs. Las Vegas @Melbourne**
  - Sunday, April 3 Intrasquad @Melbourne**
- \* 10:00 AM CT start

## THIS MONTH

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# Zephyrs To Offer General Admission Seating

The New Orleans Zephyrs announced that they will offer 10-game General Admission coupon books for the 2005 season. The 10-game book is available for \$50, with individual General Admission tickets available for \$7. The 2005 season will be the first time that general admission seating will be offered (other than on the center field levee) at Zephyr Field.



Photo: Eugene Witek

In addition to offering Field Box (\$9.50), Lower Reserved (\$8.50) and Grandstand (\$7.50) seating, fans will also be able to purchase the \$7 ticket for sections 110 and 111 on the third base line, or the 10-game coupon book for those sections.

"General admission coupon books are used in most professional baseball markets," said Zephyrs Interim General Manager Mike Schline. "By bringing general admission seating to Zephyr Field, we're giving fans more flexibility in those sections, while offering an even more affordable alternative."

Fans that purchase the 10-game general admission coupon books will also have the option to upgrade those tickets at the Zephyr Field ticket office upon arriving at the game.

"As we have for the last several years, we have decided to keep our ticket prices the same, but felt we should also put to good use the two sections in the ballpark that are not part of our other ticket packages,"

added Schline. "And with the 10-game coupon book, fans can be in the stands for just \$5 per game. This is just another way for us to continue our tradition of providing the most affordable sports experience for families in Louisiana."

Opening day for the Zephyrs is Friday, April 15th vs. the Nashville Sounds.

-From zephyrsbaseball.com

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the 2005 baseball season.**

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## College Baseball at Zephyr Field Will Feature Two of Best in NCAA

Tulane and LSU, two of the Top 10 teams in the preseason polls, will play regular season games at Zephyr Field this spring. Call the Zephyrs ticket office at 834-5155 for more info. Here's the lineup of games:

**FEBRUARY 19TH  
Tulane vs. Arizona State**

**MARCH 12TH  
Tulane vs. Cal State Fullerton**

**MARCH 23RD  
Southeastern vs. LSU**

**APRIL 6TH  
LSU vs. Rice/Wally Pontiff Jr. Classic**

**APRIL 19TH  
LSU vs. Tulane**

**MAY 3RD  
Tulane vs. UNO**

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# 100 Years Since Pelicans Won New Orleans' First-Ever Southern Association Pennant

The New Orleans Pelicans franchise, a charter member of the Southern Association which began play in 1901, won its first pennant in 1905.

Despite the threat of a yellow fever epidemic, which nearly caused the Southern Association to disband, the Pelicans became a road team for much of the season, but still won the championship by 10-1/2 games over second-place Montgomery. Under manager Charles Frank the club finished with a record of 84-45, a winning percentage of .651.

The backbone of the club was a steady pitching staff. Four starters combined for 69 victories against only 23 losses. The Pelicans staff pitched 27 shutouts.

Most of the regulars either had been or would later become major league players. Theodore Breitenstein, for example, pitched in the majors for 11 years (including two no-hitters) before becoming a Pelican. Edgar Hahn advanced to the New York Yankees, and George Rohe went on to become a star for the 1906 World Champion Chicago White Sox. Jimmy Dygert pitched parts of six seasons for Connie Mack's Philadelphia Athletics beginning in 1905.

First baseman Erve Beck has a unique and irreplaceable niche in major league history. Playing in the American League's first game in 1901 for the Chicago White Sox, he hit the first home run in league history.

The 1905 New Orleans Pelicans hit only two home runs all season. Erve Beck and outfielder Joe Stanley each hit one.

Here are some brief stats on the position players of the 1905 New Orleans Pelicans:

Pos	Player	G	Avg.
1B	Erve Beck	130	.259
2B	Otto Williams	126	.278
3B	George Rohe	113	.281
C	James Sullivan	63	.281
C	Milo Stratton	69	.139
SS	Edward Holly	130	.251
OF	Edgar Hahn	108	.304
OF	Joe Stanley	114	.264
OF	Phil Nadeau	110	.248



Manager Charles Frank surrounded by members of the 1905 New Orleans Pelicans, Southern Association Champions

And here are the won-loss records of the starting pitchers:

Pitcher	W	L	Pct.
Jim Dygert	18	4	.818
Ted Breitenstein	21	5	.802
Bill Phillips	21	8	.724
Al Whitridge	9	6	.600

## Opening Day in New Orleans – April 20, 1905

The New Orleans Pelicans started the 1905 season with a victory over Shreveport, 4-2 at Athletic Park, behind pitchers Ted Breitenstein and Jimmy Dygert. It was the first of 84 victories by the Pelicans, who were forced to play several of their 1905 "home" games in Meridian, Mississippi.

SHREVEPORT					NEW ORLEANS				
AB	H	PO	A	AB	H	PO	A		
Jimmy Smith, ss	5	0	2	2	Stanley, cf	4	0	2	0
Kennedy, cf	5	2	1	0	Nadeau, lf	3	0	2	0
Hess, 3b	5	1	0	0	Hahn, rf	2	0	3	0
Hanley, cf	5	1	1	0	Rohe, 3b	3	1	3	0
Weikart, 1b	4	3	6	1	Beck, 1b	4	1	5	0
Evans, 2b	3	1	3	2	Williams, 2b	4	2	3	2
Miller, lf	3	1	2	0	Holly, ss	4	1	1	0
Fritz, c	3	0	9	0	Sullivan, c	2	0	8	1
W. Breitenstein, p	2	1	0	3	T. Breitenstein, p	2	0	0	3
Bartley, p	2	0	0	1	Dygert, p	1	0	0	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>7</b>

Score by innings	R	H	E	LOB
Shreveport	0	1	0	0
New Orleans	1	1	0	1

PITCHING	IP	H	R	SO	BB
W. Breitenstein (L)	4.2	4	3	3	2
Bartley	3.1	1	1	4	0
T. Breitenstein (W)	6.0	6	2	4	2
Dygert	3.0	4	0	4	0

HBP-Nadeau, by W. Breitenstein

E-Smith, Hess 2, Beck, Holly. R-Weikart, Evans, Hahn 2, Williams, Holly. 2B-Weikart 2, Kennedy, Williams. 3B-Rohe. SB-Williams 2, Evans, Miller. SH-Evans, Hahn, Rohe. T-2:00 Umpire-Mr. Carpenter. Attendance-5,000

Boxscore courtesy Arthur Schott

# Zephyrs Salute Past, Present and Future

## Five Are in Inaugural N.O. Baseball Hall of Fame Class

On January 26, at the 3rd Annual Evening With the Zephyrs, the team inducted the first-ever class into the Greater New Orleans Professional Baseball Hall of Fame.

The inaugural class included the following New Orleans baseball figures: Mel Ott, Larry Gilbert, Henry “Zeke” Bonura, Alexander Julius Heinemann and Mel Parnell, the only surviving member of the class who was in attendance to accept his induction. Representatives of the families of the other inductees were on hand to accept their inductions.

At the dinner, a gathering of roughly 200 fans was addressed by Zephyrs General Manager Mike Schline, Zephyrs Owner Don Beaver, Washington Nationals Director of Player Development Adam Wogan, new Zephyrs coaches Mike Hart and Charlie Corbell, minority owner/VP Walter Leger and baseball author S. Derby Gisclair, who handled the induction ceremony. The evening also included an autograph session with Parnell, former Zephyrs reliever Kirk Bullinger and former LSU Tiger and potential 2005 Zephyr Roy Corcoran. Tim Grubbs, the radio voice of the Zephyrs, served as emcee.

**Mel Ott** (1909-1958) was born in Gretna, Louisiana, and spent 22 seasons in the major leagues, all with the New York Giants. Ott led the National League in home runs in 1932, 1934, 1936, 1937, 1938, and 1942 – hitting 30 or more home runs in a season eight times. Ott was elected to the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame in 1951.

**Larry Gilbert** (1891-1965) was born in New Orleans and made his major league debut in 1914 with the Boston Braves, helping that franchise win its first World Series of the 20th Century. In 1917 Gilbert joined the New Orleans

Pelicans, where he played for nine seasons (1917-1925). Before the end of his playing career, Gilbert took over as the Pelicans manager, a job he held for 15 seasons. As manager, Gilbert went 1,307-968 (.575) with four pennants.

**Henry “Zeke” Bonura** (1908-1987) was born in New Orleans and attended Loyola University. Bonura played three seasons with the Pelicans before making his major league debut with the Chicago White Sox in 1934, hitting 27 home runs as a rookie. Bonura enjoyed seven seasons in the majors with the White Sox, Washington Senators, New York Giants and Chicago Cubs. He compiled a .307 career batting average.

**Alexander Julius Heinemann** (1878-1930) was born in New Orleans, and advanced in the Pelicans organization from concessionaire to Vice President. In 1914, Heinemann successfully orchestrated the construction of a new ballpark at the corner of Tulane and South Carrollton Avenue – moving the team from their location across from present-day Jesuit High School. With Heinemann’s guidance, the Pelicans captured five pennants.



Members of the Ott, Gilbert and Bonura families join Mel Parnell (second from the left) as the charter members of the Greater New Orleans Professional Baseball Hall of Fame

### Mel Parnell’s numbers speak for themselves:

**123-75 .621 career.**

**3.50 career ERA.**

**Two 20-win seasons.**

**27 complete games in 1949,  
with a record of 25-7.**

**20 career ML shutouts.**

**113 career complete games.**

Mel Parnell was born in New Orleans in 1922 and attended S.J. Peters High School. After playing for six years in the minor leagues including three years of military service, Parnell made his major league debut with the Boston Red Sox in 1947. Over 10 seasons with the Red Sox, the pitcher compiled a record of 123-75 with a 3.50 ERA. In 1956 Parnell pitched the first no-hitter in over 33 years for the Red Sox, and is still the winningest left-hander in Red Sox history. He returned to New Orleans in 1958 and managed Tulane



Zephyrs owner/president Don Beaver had words of optimism for the fans regarding New Orleans' new affiliation with the Washington Nationals.



Baseball historian Arthur Schott, a regular contributor to this publication, received a special award that henceforth will be named in his honor.

for one season and the Pelicans in their final season in 1959.

The class was chosen by a five-member selection committee, which used the following criteria for its choices: entrants must have been a citizen of the greater New Orleans area through birth or re-location, have had outstanding baseball achievement as a player, coach or administrator that has brought recognition to the Greater New Orleans area, and be of good character and reputation.

Zephyrs principal owner Don Beaver addressed the New Orleans fans and season ticket holders and thanked them for their long-term support of the



Photos: Bill Catalanello

Former Zephyrs reliever Kirk Bullinger, N.O. Baseball Hall of Fame inductee Mel Parnell and former LSU and possibly future Zephyrs pitcher Roy Corcoran manned the autograph tables before dinner at the third annual Evening With the Zephyrs at the Ponchartrain Center.

Zephyrs. Beaver, who owns two other minor league clubs and a minority interest in the Pittsburgh Pirates, spoke very optimistically about the Zephyrs' new major league affiliate, the Washington Nationals.

Nationals' Director of Player Development Adam Wogan mentioned a few of the prospects in the Washington system who may play the 2005 season in New Orleans, but qualified his remarks by saying that January was too early to know with any certainty where any particular player may be in April.

Zephyrs new hitting coach Mike Hart and pitching coach Charlie Corbell each spoke of being happy to be in New Orleans and excited about several of the young players who are likely to be here with the Zephyrs. Both coaches were in Edmonton, the Expos' Triple-A affiliate in 2004, so they are already familiar with many of the players in the organization.

-From Zephyrsbaseball.com



S. Derby Gisclair, author of *Baseball in New Orleans*, presented the five inductees to the Greater New Orleans Professional Baseball Hall of Fame.

**2005 Zephyrs  
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Available Now.  
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Hudson



Dreese



Davis



Zambrano

## ML Pitchers Who Allowed Fewest HR per 9-Inning Game in 2004

By Jack Hebert

### American League Pitchers with at Least 162 IP Who Allowed the Fewest HR per 9-innings:

#### The Top Ten:

Player & Team	IP	HR	HR per 9 inn.
Tim Hudson, Oak.	188.2	8	0.382
Ryan Dreese, Tex.	207.2	16	0.693
Derek Lowe, Bos.	182.2	15	0.739
Rich Harden, Oak.	189.2	16	0.759
Jake Westbrook, Cle.	215.2	19	0.793
Bronson Arroyo, Bos.	178.2	17	0.856
Kelvim Escobar, Ana.	208.1	21	0.907
Curt Schilling, Bos.	226.2	23	0.913
Brad Radke, Min.	219.2	23	0.942
Freddy Garcia, Chi.-Sea.	210.0	22	0.943

### National League Pitchers with at Least 162 IP Who Allowed the Fewest HR per 9-innings:

#### The Top Ten:

Player & Team	IP	HR	HR per 9 inn.
Jaret Wright, Atl.	186.1	11	0.531
Carlos Zambrano, Chi.	209.2	14	0.601
Doug Davis, Mil.	207.1	14	0.608
Roger Clemens, Hou.	214.1	15	0.630
Roy Oswalt, Hou.	237.0	17	0.646
Carl Pavano, Fla.	222.1	16	0.648
Randy Johnson, Ari.	245.2	18	0.659
Kris Benson, Pit.-NY	200.1	15	0.674
Jake Peavy, SD	166.1	13	0.704
Jason Schmidt, SF	225.0	18	0.720

### American League Pitchers with at Least 54 and Less Than 162 IP Who Allowed the Fewest HR per 9-innings:

#### The Top Five:

Player & Team	IP	HR	HR per 9 inn.
Francisco Cordero, Tex.	71.2	1	0.126
Matt Miller, Cle.	55.1	1	0.163
Francisco Rodriguez, Ana.	84.0	2	0.214
Bobby Madritsch, Sea.	88.0	3	0.307
Mariano Rivera NY	78.2	3	0.343

continued →

## HISTORY

LEE COLLIN

## Two Homered in First AB in 1938 Phillies' Season Opener

The April 19, 1938 season opener at Philadelphia's Baker Bowl between the Brooklyn Dodgers and Philadelphia Phillies not only ushered in a new baseball season, but also included a little bit of history which may never be duplicated.

On that date, in the first inning, the Dodgers Ernie Koy and the Phillies Heinie Mueller became the 14th and 15th players to hit a home run in their first major league at-bats. It was the only time two players had done it in the same game, let alone in the same inning.

In the top of the first, Koy's first four-bagger in his first career at-bat came off Phillies lefthander Wayne Lemaster, a solo blast into the leftfield seats to give the Dodgers a quick 1-0 lead. Mueller knotted it for the Phils in the bottom half when he connected off Brooklyn starter Van Lingle Mungo. Koy later doubled and singled to go with his home run. Mueller added a single in the third inning. As each made his major league debut, Koy and Mueller combined for five runs, five hits and two RBIs.

The Dodgers broke open a close game with a six-run eighth-inning rally to win the season opener, 12-5.

Koy went on to appear in 142 games for Brooklyn in the 1938 season, hitting 11 home runs in 521 at-bats. In his career Koy slugged 36 home runs in 1,846 at-bats. Heinie Mueller went on to play in 136 games for the Phillies during the '38 season, hitting 4 home runs in 444 at-bats. In his tour of duty in the majors, Mueller went deep 17 times in 1,281 at-bats. Koy played 558 games in his career for five major league clubs. Mueller's big league stay consisted of 441 games in four seasons, all with Philadelphia.

### National League Pitchers with at Least 54 and Less Than 162 IP Who Allowed the Fewest HR per 9-innings:

#### The Top Five:

Player & Team	IP	HR	HR per 9 inn.
Julian Tavarez, St.L.	64.1	1	0.140
Ray King, St.L.	62.0	1	0.145
Ricky Bottalico, NY	69.1	3	0.390
Danny Kolb, Mil.	57.1	3	0.471
Braden Looper, NY	83.1	5	0.540

Charts by Jack Hebert

February 7, 2005  
Pasadena, Texas

Dear Bleacher Creature,

We're still in the middle of winter, but the football season is history now, and we all know what comes next. We look toward spring training with ever-optimistic eyes, searching for any reason to hope, to think that this might be the year our team puts it all together and marches to the World Series. It almost happened for us here in Houston last year. We were one win away from the National League Championship; that's as close as you can get without being there.

But, hey, I'm over it, know what I mean? As the great Satchel Paige once advised, "Don't look back; something may be gaining on you."

Let's look forward, then. Baseball fans have several reasons for optimism in 2005.

The most important happening of this off-season to me was the establishment of a drug-testing policy for major leaguers. Why is this so important? I thought this issue over during the cold winter while my husband Louis and I were abstaining from the TV. I even discussed it with him to try to understand the legal side. (Louis is an attorney, among many other things.) The key to the importance of drug testing transcends the players who now play the game and goes straight to those who give this great game its heart and soul: the fans.

Baseball fans are often creatures of history and statistics. Players of today can be measured statistically to Cobb, Hornsby, Ruth, DiMaggio, Musial,

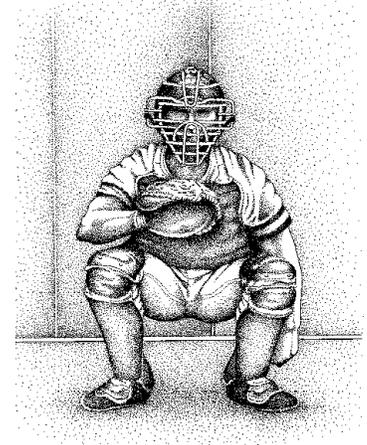
Mays, Aaron, etc. When a great player comes along, we want to know where he fits into the pantheon of all-time greats.

With the recent availability of steroids, athletes who are paid millions for performance, had every incentive to use whatever could help them to play better. Some took advantage of situation. Without any credible testing there was nothing besides common sense in place to curb the use of steroids. That's why it's important to us, the fans, that baseball put a stop to that use. With verification that no one is using, the playing field will once again be leveled, and the fans will be able to believe in and value the numbers generated by the game's best players. If the situation were to reach a point at which baseball fans could no longer attach any relevance to the game's statistics, they would slowly become apathetic toward the game and its players.

\* \* \*

Another very important off-season development was the relocation of the Montreal team to Washington. This franchise has been misused for years now, since they have owned by Major League Baseball (the other owners). The move to D.C. signals that the baseball owners are finished abusing the Expos/Nationals club. They are now, it seems, in the process of building value into the franchise while at the same time finding a buyer who will soon no doubt pay an obscene price for the Washington franchise without complaining.

The nation's capital has been without baseball since the 1971 season, when the American League Senators



managed to draw only 655,000 fans to RFK Stadium, the same venue that will welcome the National League Nationals in April, 2005.

It seems to me the Zephyrs were either lucky or smart to attach themselves to the Expos/Nationals this off-season. I think we'll see a success story begin to unfold in Washington, one that will culminate a few years hence with the opening of another beautiful, high-profile ballpark. If baseball is to be our national pastime for years to come, it only makes sense for the game to have a prominent presence in the U.S. capital. By the time the new park is ready the Nationals are going to want to be ready with a young, talented, contending club. The Zephyrs are sure to benefit at the Triple-A level from the franchise building process in D.C.

The baseball fans in New Orleans, as you know, are knowledgeable and enthusiastic. If they are offered a quality product as a Washington affiliate, I think you'll see bigger crowds this year at Zephyr Field.

We'll be there in May. See you then.

– Rose

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