

Society for American Baseball Research



Emil Rothe Chapter - Chicago

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Chapter Website: <http://malamut.net/sabrchicago.html>
Chapter Facebook Page <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=263195779069>

SABR Day in America!

By Richard Smiley

On the last Saturday in January of 2011, a hearty crowd of over 30 people turned out at the Eisenhower Library in Harwood Heights to celebrate "SABR Day in America". With the Bears season at an end and both the Cubs and White Sox actively involved in the winter player market, attendees were eager to look ahead to the coming season.

Jim Callis of Baseball America kicked off the festivities with a two part presentation to the crowd. In the first hour, he spoke extensively about how the MLB draft might be impacted by changes to the Collective Bargaining Agreement. He recapped the history of the draft and showed how baseball had reached its current state of bonuses paid out to amateur players. He hypothesized that the draft will become the major topic of negotiations in the upcoming discussions around the bargaining agreement as "there is nothing else for the players and owners to fight about". He said that he suspected that the owners will ultimately win the fight as it is not really a big issue for the players. A result of such an owner victory would be a hard-slotting system similar to what is seen in other major sports. He hypothesized that the hard-slotting system would make it harder for smaller revenue teams to compete as the option of paying over-slot bonuses for talent that had fallen in the draft was gone. He suggested that the money saved under such a system would have to be invested in the much more risky international market. He also hypothesized that the hard-slotting system will cost baseball talent to other sports and that the 2012, 2013, and 2014 drafts will be weaker than the current draft classes when signings are taken into account. His talk generated a lot of questions.

After discussing the draft, Jim profiled Cubs and White Sox prospects who might impact their respective teams in 2011. On the White Sox side, Jim indicated that he liked Chris Sale a lot and was stunned he fell to the Sox in last year's draft. He thinks Brent Morel will be a solid regular at third base providing good defense and 12 to 15 home runs. He assessed Dayan Viciedo as a one-dimensional player who can fill in at DH, but nothing else. But he did see Dayan's single dimension as important, stating that he has "big time power". Over

SABR Day In America Continued

Over the course of the year, he thinks Gregory Infante, Anthony Carter, Jhonny Nunez, and Lucas Harrell may all help out with the pitching duties. On the Cubs side, he likes Brett Jackson a lot and thinks that although he will start in AAA, Brett may be up with the big club by mid-season. On the heels of the trade to acquire Matt Garza, Trey McNutt became the Cubs best pitching prospect. Although more likely a year away, Jim thinks if Trey gets off to a good start he could make the big club before the year is up. More likely to show up on the north side this season in a pitching capacity is hard-throwing Chris Carpenter who may get a shot at bullpen duties by the middle of the season. Jim likes Darwin Barney and thinks he may win the second base job outright in the spring. Others from the system who he thought might be able to help the Cubs this year include Scott Maine, Welington Castillo, Jay Jackson, and Marcos Mateo. After this part of his presentation, Jim took more questions from the crowd.

The meeting moved on to Chicago SABR Chapter member Dan Helpingstine who finished up his talk from our previous meeting around his recently published McFarland book *The Cubs and the White Sox: A Baseball Rivalry, 1900 to the Present*. After a lively question and answer session, the meeting took a pizza break while Dan signed copies of his book.

After the break, Doak Ewing of *Rare Sportsfilms, Inc.* screened a winter of 1949 White Sox promotional film entitled "Down on the Farm" which was narrated by Bob Elson and featured rare color footage of 1948 White Sox minor league teams and players. Footage included glimpses of Sox farm teams in Hot Springs, Memphis, Waterloo (Iowa), Muskegon (Michigan), Hollywood, and smaller towns in Kentucky, Oklahoma, and Wisconsin. Attendees did their best to recall some of the obscure players being highlighted in the (then decimated) White Sox minor league system.

A splendid time was had by all!

Welcome to New Chicago Chapter Members:

Rex Burdett

Trivia Quiz by Dave Zeman

- 1- Who was the first Cub to strike out at least 100 times in a season?
- 2- Who earned the only World Series victory in San Diego Padres history?
- 3- Who played the most career games for the Athletics franchise (Philadelphia, Kansas City or Oakland)?
- 4- Name the only team never to have a batter hit at least 40 home runs in a season and name that club's season record holder.
- 5- The last time the San Francisco Giants had a 20-game winner they actually had two of these distinguished hurlers. Who were they?
- 6- Who was the most recent Cub to lead the National League in stolen bases?
- 7- Who is the only batter to have a 200-hit season for both the Dodgers and the Yankees (different years)?
- 8- Jon Lester won 19 games for the Red Sox last year. Name the last 20-game winning southpaw for the Bosox.
- 9- What team never had one of its players named Rookie of the Year?
- 10- Since 1931, just two Cubs batters have drawn at least 100 bases on balls in a season. Who were those patient hitters?

Trivia Answers are on the Website at <http://malamut.net/triviaanswers.html>

New Books in the SABR Chicago Chapter Library, <http://malamut.net/librarycollection.html>

Thank you to Kevin Goldstein for donating a complete collection of 2010 Major League media guides

Also have a lot of 2011 College Media Guides

Name of Chapter: Emil Rothe

Revenue		
Interest Income	\$	0.40
Other		
Silent Auction		0.00
Donation		0.00
Total Revenue	\$	0.40
Expenses		
Meeting Expenses		
Gifts for Speakers	\$	0.00
Facility Rental		0.00
Bank Fees		0.00
Other		
Library		40.00
Total Expenses	\$	40.00
Net Revenue (Expense)		39.60)
Beginning Fund Balance on 1/1/2010	\$	408.42
Current Period Net Increase (Decrease)		
\$ 39.60		
Ending Fund Balance on 12/31/2010	\$	368.82

Thank you to Peter Yee

Our Next Meeting Will Be In April, The Date and Speakers are still To Be Announced