

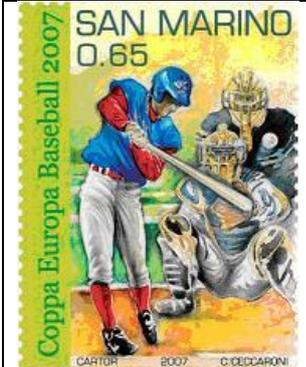
	<p>Swing Time Philately GOLF-BASEBALL-SOFTBALL (founded 21 January 1991) INFORMATION BULLETIN (31st volume, edition 2021-1)</p>	
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Dear members,

Hopefully you are all still well in this difficult Covid-19 period which has now been going on for over a year. With more and more vaccinations taking place, the situation appears to be slowly improving, but we are not there yet. I personally had the 1st Pfizer injection myself and the second injection is scheduled for next month. In this bulletin much attention is paid to the new stamp of baseball player Yogi Berra, but also sad news about the co-founder Leon Vanverre of now 30-years-old Swing Time Philately. Enjoy the bulletin and comments are always welcome.

Rob van Tuyl

30 YEARS OF SWING TIME PHILATELY!

	<p><i>Swing Time Philately</i> <i>Since January 21,</i> <i>1991</i></p>	
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In January 2021, it was thirty years since collector's club Swing Time Philately was founded. Members from the very start know the origin but for those of you who later became members, it could be nice to look back.

The framework was laid down in the summer of 1990 during a visit to the Haarlem Baseball Week. Next to me in the stands, a certain Leon Vanverre from Antwerp was sitting. We got into an animated conversation and he told me he had a large collection of not only baseball items but also baseball stamps.

Not yet being a stamp collector myself the latter did create a stir, but my interest was aroused when he told me had created a real baseball museum in his Antwerp home. An appointment was quickly made and a visit took place.

Beautiful baseball attributes, an extensive collection of old postcards of American baseball stadiums and a large collection of baseball stamps That was not all, he also showed me a

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collection of golf stamps was also shown. As a former baseball player and starting golfer, he had me completely turned around.

We kept in touch and decided to found a club for thematic stamp collectors who were interested in either baseball, golf or both. In early 1991, a meeting was organized in the clubhouse of the baseball club FAK in Bilthoven. We expected that only a few people would show up, but surprisingly there was more than a lot of interest and so it happened that Swing Time Philately saw the light of day. But how to continue?

No stamp catalogue for both sports existed, so it was unknown how many stamps with golf and baseball images existed. Partly with the know-how of Leon Vanverre and partly by consulting as many stamp collectors in our network as possible, we gained insight into what had been issued. Quite a job since Google did not yet exist in those days. After quite some time and a lot of research, typing and copy-pasting, to their great joy the members were surprised with a first separate golf or/and baseball catalogue.

The next question was how the members could obtain missing and new stamps and sheets. This was also picked up and the well-known offer lists were created, which were extensively used and many members were able to expand their collection. When possible, adverts were placed in club magazines and local newspapers, which often resulted in new members. In terms of membership, the peak in number was reached at the turn of the century but since then the number of members has declined substantially, partly due to health problems and members passing away because of old age.

In the past, several bulletins were published with a modest number of printed pages. Today, bulletins are published digitally in spring and autumn. Although lower in terms of number of bulletins, they have become more extensive in terms of the number of pages and illustrations. In addition, personal messages are sent to individual members.

What should not be missing in this story is the annual club meeting. An extremely and well-attended meeting in December or January in the clubhouse of the BSC Alphiens in Alphen aan den Rijn. A one-hour general meeting in the morning with the members about all sorts of club business, a short lunch break and after lunch a display of old and new golf and baseball stamps for sale on long tables. Afterwards, members often lingered for a while to socialize while enjoying a drink.

Since 1995 a Swing Time Open golf tournament was organized for members collecting golf stamps. A total of twenty tournaments were played on 16 different golf courses with a challenge cup for the winner and for the highest ranking STP member the honour to organise next year's tournament.

Members pay a modest annual fee of € 27.50 - an amount that has not been increased in the past twelve(!) years. With the expansion of the collections, the number of catalogue pages has also increased. Since a few years, an additional contribution is asked to cover the costs for the new catalogue pages and postage for the supplements available in December.

In addition to members from the Netherlands, we also have members from Spain, Germany, USA, Italy, France, Canada, Ireland and Sweden. Perhaps it would be nice to introduce two former members of Swing Time Philately in more detail (see the article after this column).

For several years now, the New Issue Service has been active. Thus, members are insured they will receive the new issues in particular. A significant part of the members makes use of it.

Last year, a request from the Dutch Golf Museum (located in the clubhouse of Bleijenbeek Golf Club in Afferden) was met to provide them with a collage of golf stamps. The collage was displayed for many weeks in a row and stamp issues related to astronaut Alan Shepard with the famous golf shot from the moon were donated to the museum together with an accompanying story.

Finally, I want to honour a few members whose contributions to the club should not be left unnoticed. Of course co-founder Leon Vanverre, Eric Visch who has provided the copying of the bulletin for many years, Ad van Sinttruijen, who has been the webmaster and also responsible for the layout of the bulletin for many years, and Hendrik-Jan van Telgen, the man of the excellent translations in the English. Also Mrs Annechien Faneyte for regular

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information about newly discovered issues and also thanks to some members who pass on additions/changes for both catalogues.

Let's continue to the 35th anniversary.

BAD NEWS

Three days after writing the column above about the founding of Swing Time Philately thirty years ago, in which I honoured Leon Vanverre from Antwerp as co-founder of STP, our valued member Annechien Faneyte contacted me and brought me some bad news about Leon Vanverre.

He was already fragile for several years, but each time managed to get back on track. Now news came that he had finished his collection and was admitted to a care home. Due to a partial amputation of his foot from diabetes, Leon can no longer function properly. In addition, the tremors from his Parkinson's disease have increased to such an extent that he is almost unable to do anything. The continuous care became too much for his wife Irene, who is by now also in her eighties.

On behalf of all Swing Time members, we wish Leon and Irene much strength in this already difficult period.

PETER O'MALLEY AND ELTEN SCHILLER

These Americans managed to find Swing Time Philately's membership from the USA. Both joined STP separately at the beginning of this century and there was regular contact. I then discovered they were rather famous persons in US Baseball.



Peter O'Malley (now 83) served previously as CEO and President of the Los Angeles Dodgers (MLB Champions in 2020). For his interesting life course, you can try to Google him.

Next there was **Elten Schiller**. In 1978, he moved the All Star Baseball Game to San Diego and served as Executive Vice President of Business Operations for the San Diego Padres. In addition, he also developed a new ticket system in the last century that was actually introduced. In his life story on Wikipedia (now deleted) you could read: 'An avid collector of baseball postage stamps and First Day Covers. He penned Baseball-stamps and Aerographs'. Elten Schiller passed away on 10 March 2012 at the age of 88.

An obituary can be found on: <https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/elten-schiller/>

SURPRISING

For years, Joost Luiten was the only Dutch golf ace to reach 32nd position in the world rankings. However, in recent years he has dropped to a lower position partly due to injuries. Now three other players who have worked their way through the qualifying school appear on the European Tour. Wil Besseling already achieved a few nice top-10 finishes. And behold, new players such as Darius van Driel and Lars van Meijel are starting to get a taste of the great work.

And what about Joost Luiten? He seems to be gaining momentum again. During the Grand Canaria Open he hit a hole-in-one and Exactly one week later another hole-in-one in

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the Tenerife Open: his 6th hole-in-one in his professional career in total. Sheer luck, Joost said in the interview after his last. Incidentally, golf legend Severiano Ballesteros only managed to score a single hole-in-one during his entire decades-long career.

HIDEKI MATSUYAMA, GOLF HERO IN JAPAN

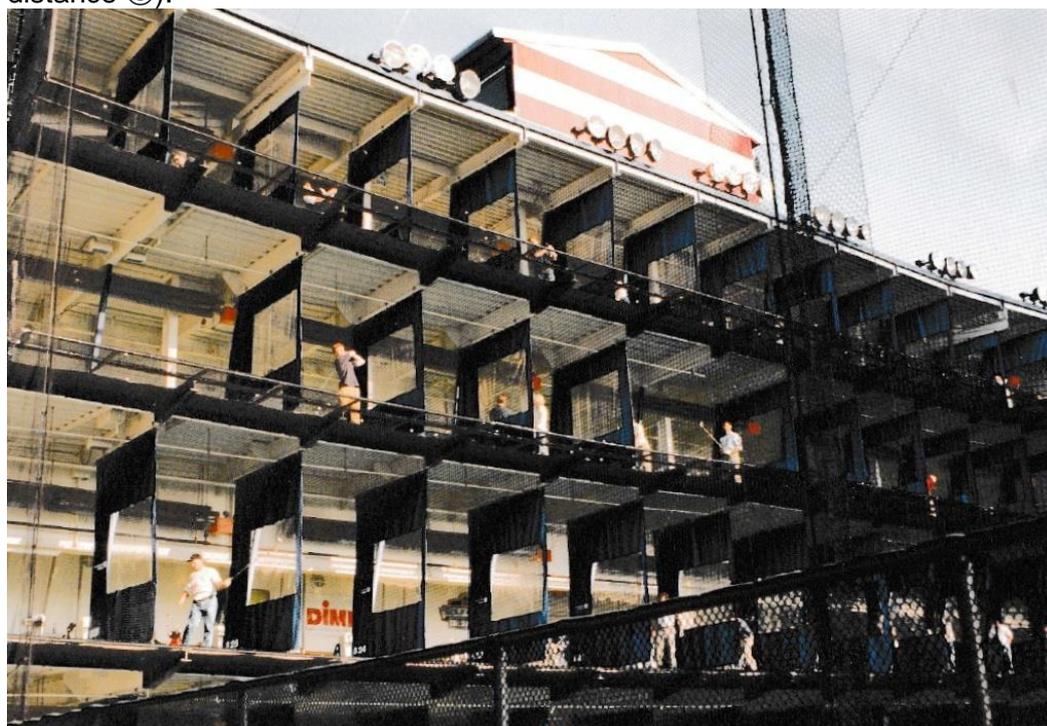
The outcome of the last Masters at the Augusta National in America was very surprising. Not Justin DeChambeau, Rahm, Spieth or the unknown Will Zalatoris, but Japanese golfer Hideki Matsuyama claimed the green jacket. The cool Asian seemed to be pushing for the title unimpeded, with only the unknown Zalatoris on his heels. With only a handful of holes to go, the Japanese got the jitters and suddenly made one mistake after another. And then there was also the American Xander Schauffele who put the pressure on with four birdies in a row. On the very moment he thought he would catch up with the Japanese, he hit his ball into the water hazard! End of story for him and Matsuyama could finally breathe a sigh of relief and receive the trophy and accompanying check of US\$ 2,000,000 (€1,740,265) with the surprising Will Zalatoris as runner-up and shared 3rd place by Jordan Spieth and Xander Schauffele.

Japan, golf crazy as the country is, was in all states. For the first time a Japanese golfer had won a famous Major tournament such as the The Masters.

During my visit to Tokyo in the 1990s as team chef of the Dutch Youth Baseball team, I was the guest of an engineer and upon entering his home I saw a Mizuno golf bag with a beautiful golf set in it. When we talked about golf later, he said that he only played golf once a year and that was with family relatives at 2-days travel distance. The green fees in Japan are excessively high and memberships of the better golf clubs often cost more than \$ 100,000. Yet golf is immensely popular. Everywhere you see nets on the flat roofs to catch the golf balls that are hit there in order to practice.

While visiting the Tokyo Dome baseball stadium (nicknamed The Big Egg), I noticed a former hotel that had been converted into a three-story driving range. A motorway runs in front of the building and over it cables with nets are attached so you can practice your golf swing and hit balls up to 200 meters away.

(Note from translator: once playing with two Japanese ex-pats at Spaarnwoude golf course, I experienced that their drives were long and straight, but their short game was terrible because they had hardly practiced it. It at least gave me a chance to make up for the loss in distance 😊).



MISSING ITEMS LIST

From time to time members send me their updated missing list and in quite a few cases I already was able to get hard-to-obtain numbers, mostly through my foreign contacts. The advantage of a missing items list is of course that you have insight into what you are still looking for. For most of the members, I have created a file with all the information about numbers that I sent and numbers that are still missing. If you do not have sent me a list yet, perhaps a good opportunity to start one in this time when people are more home-bound.

OFFER LISTS GOLF AND BASEBALL

An updated copy of both golf and baseball is expected to be mailed to you around the end of May. For many issues I have only one or two copies in stock.

On the lists, you can see the remark 'by order' at the end of some rows. I have not taken these numbers into stock, but you can still order them if you wish. Also, do not forget the discount up to a maximum of 25% of your order, as stated at the top of the offer lists.

CLEVELAND DROPS THE NAME 'INDIANS'



Paul Dolan, the owner of the Cleveland Indians, announced the end of the name "Indians," and hopefully the end of the discussion. Of course, there will still be people who disagree and wager some rear-guard action, which seems to be quite normal in the US these days, but eventually they too will have to accept a name change.

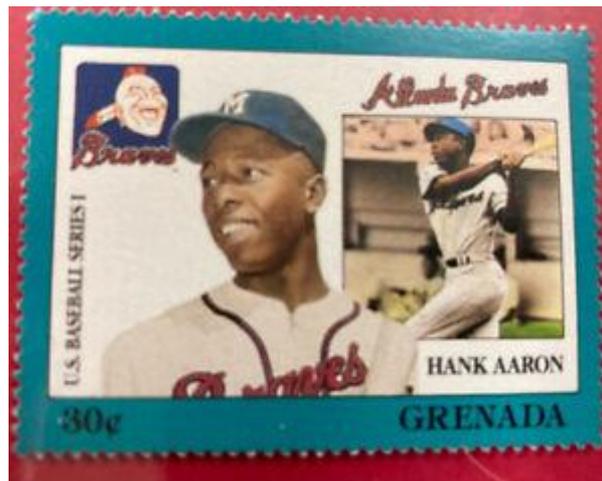
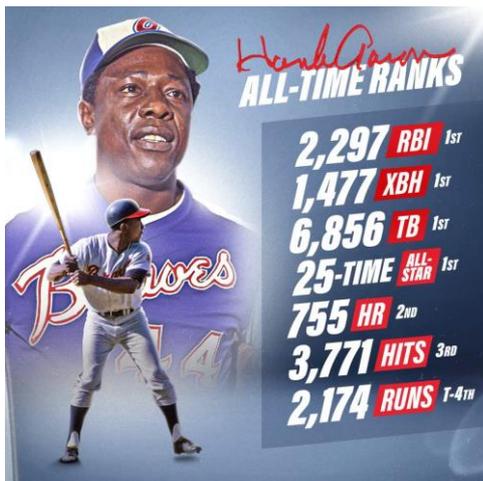
Baseball won't get any less in Cleveland, and it would be nice if the discussion there were just about baseball again. For example about whether they can keep Francisco Lindor. That seems to be much more important to Cleveland.

HANK AARON (86) PASSED AWAY

American baseball legend Hank Aaron, who was in the record books for years with the highest number of home runs, has passed away at the age of 86.

For 23 seasons, Hammerin' Hank played at the highest level in the MLB, of which 21 years for the Braves. He won the World Series in 1957 with the Braves. He ended his career with the Milwaukee Brewers in 1976.

Aaron, who hit 755 home runs, earned a place in the Hall of Fame when he broke the record of the legendary Babe Ruth (714). His record stood for 33 years, until Barry Bonds broke it in August 2007 while playing for the SF Giants.



YOGI BERRA HONOURED

Thirty famous American baseball players have been depicted on postage stamps over time, but Yogi Berra was missing to date. The reason was that, except for the president of the US, on stamps no living persons are depicted. However, to be depicted on a stamp of America takes a long and winding road. Here's an interesting story, taken from Sports Illustrated, about a new baseball stamp featuring Yogi Berra.

When Larry, the son of Yogi Berra, was still a teenager, one of his teachers got him into stamp-collecting, a hobby that he enjoyed for years. As he found magic in all portraits of artists, icons and presidents, he asked his teacher: "What would it take to get my father Yogi Berra, the famous baseball-player then at the tail of his career, into a stamp?" The teacher explained to him that an individual who is still alive cannot be featured on a stamp. The younger Berra, now 71, recalls saying: "Well, hopefully that won't happen for a while".

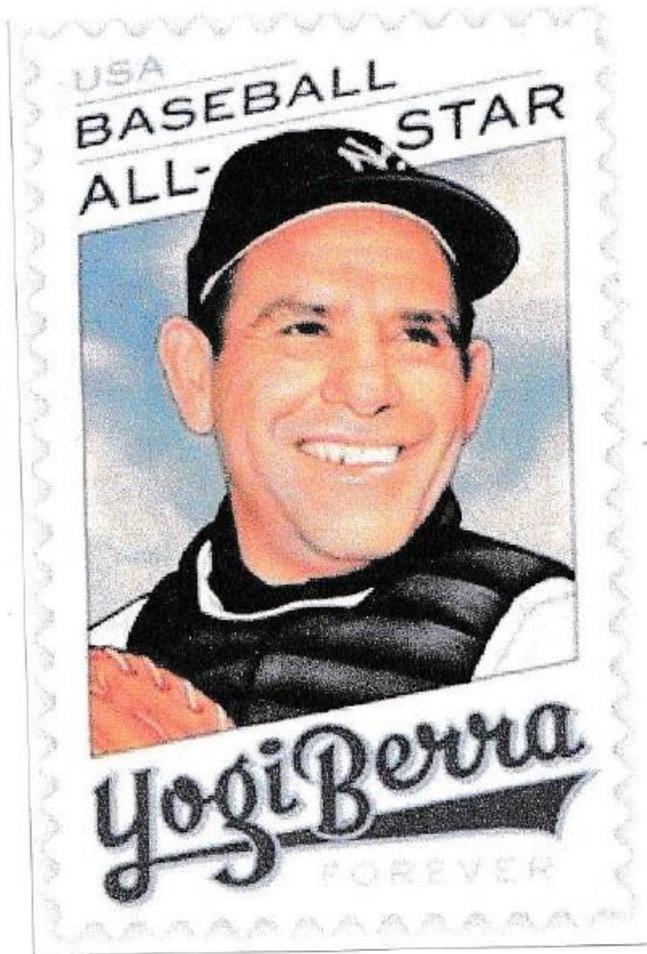
That conversation from high school came back to him last year when he received a surprise call from the United States Postal Service to say that his father, who died in 2015, would finally have a stamp of his own. "I was stunned when they asked me," Berra says, "It's an incredible feeling".

In January Yogi Berra's stamp was unveiled and it will be released later in 2021. "To have Dad's image in front of people all the time so they don't forget him means a lot to me", Berra says.

The process of putting an individual on a stamp and finding the right design can take years - each tiny image comes only after plenty of back-and-forth. It starts with the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, a group of experts in various fields who gather four times a year, to review proposals for new stamps that have been sent in from around the US. Berra's name first popped up in 2016; each year the committee can select only a handful of names for stamps and it typically looks a few years out at the time.

Once an individual has been chosen, a research group collects relevant material for potential artwork, and the family is contacted to go through necessary legal paper work. Then it's time to get down the work of figuring out the design.

USPS art director Antonio Alcala hired an artist to try capturing Berra, but when early sketches failed to capture the vibe, he switched to another one. Before producing a handful of sketches, this new artist, Charled Chaisson, first reviewed a dozen different images of Berra selected by the research group.



One potentially promising example showed Berra batting, “but at a stamp size, everything ends up being so small”, Alcalá says, “so if you’re showing the better in his swing, it’s hard to see Yogi, and instead he becomes another baseball player in a generic sort of way”. So he decided to follow a different route.

The final selection is centred on Berra’s face, but with a more “dynamic angle” than you might find in your traditional baseball card. Situated partially outside the frame. You can see his chest protector, identifying him as a catcher, and his baseball cap, identifying him as a Yankee. But the focus is on him and his smile.

While the stamp was being developed, Larry could not discuss it publicly, bound by the terms of a nondisclosure agreement. However, after the announcement was made official in January he made a few calls to the sons of two teammates of his father, Mickey Mantle and Roger Maris, who had featured on their own stamps to share the news and ask about their experiences with the unique honour.

Berra is the 31st baseball player to be featured on a stamp. However, twenty of the previous 30 were pictured together in a single sheet that was released to honour the MLB All-Century Team in 2000, so only a handful were honoured individually like this.

That league of baseball legends on individual stamps now includes Yogi Berra.

And for Larry Berra, the oldest of his three sons, it’s one last stamp to add to the collection that he started all those years ago. “His face brought joy to thousands of people”, says Berra. “As players get older and pass away, their legacy wanes and goes down, but hopefully the stamp will keep it going; that means the most to me, to keep him in public eye, so they don’t just forget”.

STAMP ISSUE PROCEDURE IN THE NETHERLANDS

Above in this bulletin an explanation of how the procedure is in America with regard to the postage stamp image of a person, in this case the baseball player Yogi Berra of the New York Yankees. The rule of thumb in America is that living persons are not yet eligible for a stamp, with the exception of the president.

The Netherlands had the same rule that living persons are not depicted on a stamp, here too, with the exception of members of the Royal Family.

On February 26, 1975, the Netherlands issued a 30 cent stamp on the occasion of Amsterdam’s 700th anniversary. The image includes a group of people. Some recognizable in the face. As it turned out, one of the depicted persons turned out to be still alive and the rule of thumb of the then P.T.T. no longer be held on to. Numerous issues of recognizable persons followed, albeit unknown in terms of status.

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The first stamp on which living persons can be seen is the issue on February 28, 1995 on the occasion of the Year of the Film with an image from the film *Turks Fruit* with Monique van der Ven and Rutger Hauer. Numerous well-known Dutchmen followed later.

But of course there is the first Dutch golf stamp. With the increasing popularity of golf in the Netherlands around the turn of the century, it was striking that more than 40 stamps with sports were depicted, but golf was deprived of a stamp image.

There was, however, a First Day Cover with a very small unknown golfer on the Goese GC. Swing Time Philately contacted the P.T.T. but the answer indicated that it was already full of issues for years to come.

After football and tennis, golf has become the number 3 sport in the Netherlands (note: now sport number 2 after football) and the P.T.T. approached to think about a golf stamp. Relatively small sports such as korfbal, checkers, etc. were depicted.

The years passed, but persistence was ultimately successful. In 2009 a letter arrived that the P.T.T. had plans to issue a golf stamp now and whether I wanted to have a conversation in the AC Restaurant in Leiderdorp.

Spoken with the P.T.T. coordinator of stamp issues and at their request a collage of existing corrugated stamps was shown to get an impression. It was agreed that a P.T.T. designated illustrator (note: Max Kisman) would make a dozen designs and then discuss the images. But first I contacted the Dutch Golf Federation (N.G.F.) whether the logo of the association could be used on this stamp and the N.G.F. was enthusiastic and approved.

After a second meeting, the P.T.T. decide which image it would be. I myself had a different preference but could not influence the decision.

Shop

Persoonlijke Postzegels 2009 (I): Golf

Postzegelmapje nr. 390
Persoonlijke Postzegels 2009 (I): Golf

NGF - NEDERLANDSE GOLF FEDERATIE

Postzegelvel Persoonlijke Postzegels 2009 (I): Golf
€ 4,40
BESTELNUMMER 290261

Berstedagenvelop nr. 583
Persoonlijke Postzegels 2009 (I): Golf

On March 10, 2009, the stamp of 44 Eurocent was released under stamp number 2635 in an edition of 2,100,000 stamps in 210,000 sheets of 10 stamps. In addition, the First Day Cover and Folder M390 with an explanation of the creation and a block of 4 wave stamps.

As accurate as it is in America to prevent mistakes, it ended so sloppily with the P.T.T.

The image of the folder states the following:

In 1991, stamp collectors among golfers in 12 countries joined forces to found the Swing Time Philately collecting club. And now it comes !! The founders !! of the Dutch Golf

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Federation (NGF). Leon Vanverre and Rob van Tuyl wanted to give the combination of stamps and golf more meaning with a stamp dedicated to the federation. The latter is correct, but Leon and I were really the founders of Swing Time Philately. Errors are regularly found on stamps, also in golf and baseball, but more about that in a future bulletin

MLB RECLASSIFIES NEGRO LEAGUES AS MAJOR LAEGUE



NEW YORK -- Willie Mays will add some hits to his record, Monte Irvin's big league batting average should climb over .300, and Satchel Paige might add nearly 150 victories to his total. Josh Gibson, the greatest of all Negro League sluggers, might just wind up with a major league record too.

The statistics and records of greats such as Gibson, Paige and roughly 3,400 other players are set to join Major League Baseball's books after MLB announced Wednesday that it is reclassifying the Negro Leagues as a major league.

MLB said Wednesday that it was "correcting a long-time oversight in the game's history" by elevating the Negro Leagues on the centennial of their founding. The Negro Leagues consisted of seven leagues, and MLB will include records from those circuits between 1920 and 1948. The Negro Leagues began to dissolve one year after Jackie Robinson became MLB's first Black player with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947.

Those leagues were excluded in 1969 when the Special Committee on Baseball Records identified six official "major leagues" dating to 1876.

"It is MLB's view that the Committee's 1969 omission of the Negro Leagues from consideration was clearly an error that demands today's designation," the league said in a statement.

MLB will work with the Elias Sports Bureau to review Negro Leagues statistics and records and figure out how to incorporate them into major league history. There was no standard method of record-keeping for the Negro Leagues, but there are enough box scores to stitch together some of its statistical past.

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For instance, Mays could be credited with 16 hits from his 1948 season with the Alabama Black Barons. Irvin, a teammate of Mays' with the New York Giants, could see his career average climb from .293 to .304 if numbers listed at Baseball-Reference.com from his nine Negro League seasons are accurate. And Paige, who currently is credited with 28 major league wins, should add at least 146 to his total.

"All of us who love baseball have long known that the Negro Leagues produced many of our game's best players, innovations and triumphs against a backdrop of injustice," MLB commissioner Rob Manfred said in a statement. "We are now grateful to count the players of the Negro Leagues where they belong: as Major Leaguers within the official historical record."

While some have estimated Gibson slugged more than 800 homers during 16 Negro League seasons, it's unlikely that enough records exist for him to officially pass Barry Bonds for the career record at 762.

Depending on what Elias and MLB rule, though, Gibson could wind up with another notable record. His .441 batting average in 1943 would be the best season mark ever, edging Hugh Duffy's .440 from 1894. Gibson's line came in fewer than 80 games, however, far short of the modern standard of 162.

"We couldn't be more thrilled by this recognition of the significance of the Negro Leagues in Major League Baseball history," said Edward Schauder, legal representative for Gibson's estate and co-founder of the Negro Leagues Players Association. "Josh Gibson was a legend who would have certainly been a top player in the major leagues if he had been allowed to play."

MLB said it considered input from the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, the Negro Leagues Researchers and Authors Group, and studies by other baseball authors and researchers.

"The perceived deficiencies of the Negro Leagues' structure and scheduling were born of MLB's exclusionary practices, and denying them major league status has been a double penalty, much like that exacted of Hall of Fame candidates prior to Satchel Paige's induction in 1971," baseball historian John Thorn said. "Granting MLB status to the Negro Leagues a century after their founding is profoundly gratifying."

Bob Kendrick, president of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, also praised Wednesday's announcement.

"The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum is thrilled to see this well-deserved recognition of the Negro Leagues. In the minds of baseball fans worldwide, this serves as historical validation for those who had been shunned from the Major Leagues and had the foresight and courage to create their own league that helped change the game and our country too," Kendrick said in a statement.

"This acknowledgement is a meritorious nod to the courageous owners and players who helped build this exceptional enterprise and shines a welcomed spotlight on the immense talent that called the Negro Leagues home."