

# By the Numbers

The Newsletter of the Statistical Analysis Committee of the Society for American Baseball Research

Vol. 3, No. 2

June, 1991

## COMMITTEE NEWS

**SABR Convention in New York.** As you all know, the 1991 SABR Convention is scheduled for the end of June in New York City. **The Statistical Analysis Committee is scheduled to meet Saturday morning at 8:30 AM.** If you are planning to be in New York for the Convention, please try to attend the committee meeting.

I hope to publish again this year an issue based on presentations made at the convention. Unfortunately, I will not be at the convention, so I must rely on those of you who are there to identify presentations which embody statistical analysis and which will be of interest to the members of the committee. If you hear a presentation which you think should be more widely disseminated, please make a note of the author and title, write a brief (one-paragraph) description of it, and let me know. I'll get in touch with the author from there.

In addition to the normal convention activities, there will be a series of meetings for committee chairs, beginning Thursday evening (June 27), to discuss a number of issues surrounding the resources available to committees and the role of committees in SABR. The specific issues to be discussed in these meetings are as follows:

1. Who should be entitled to belong to SABR Research committees and thus receive newsletters and mailings from committees? Should committee membership be open to non-members? If so, should these non-members be charged a fee for committee membership?
2. Should all committee members be charged a fee to cover duplication and mailing of committee newsletters and research materials? More generally, should committees charge a small membership fee in addition to regular SABR membership dues? If so, should this fee be

waived for those regularly contributing research to the committee?

3. Should committee newsletters be sent first to the SABR central office for duplicating and bulk mailing, thus cutting costs and eliminating these time-consuming tasks for committee chairpersons?
4. Should all committee newsletters be restricted to some kind of similar format (especially incorporating cost-cutting measures--like using white paper only and maintaining a certain page limit)?
5. Should committees be free to raise funds of their own (as regionals do), and if so, what approval must be obtained in advance from the Executive Director and/or SABR President? Should committees produce or contract to publish any books or documents without approval of the Publications Director and central office?
6. What should be the term of office for a committee chairperson, what role should committees play in selecting their own chairs, and what policy should be adopted to train new chairs before they take over? Should each committee have a co-chair or assistant chair who rotates into the chair's position after a specified period of time?
7. What specifically is the mission of SABR research committees and how do they fit into the scope of SABR at large? Should such committees advocate political positions (or what might be political positions)--such as a particular stand on non-major leaguers in the Hall of Fame, or a position on saving or destruction of a particular ballpark, or a position on what should constitute official statistics, etc.?

If you have any comments on these issues, or if you have other issues you think should be raised, please let me know as soon as possible.

**Contents of This Issue.** In this issue are two bibliographies which may be of interest to members of this committee. The first was prepared by Roy Fleming (Department of Political Science, Texas A&M University) specifically for the Statistical Analysis Committee, and consists of two listings of articles published in The Baseball Abstract (June, 1982 to February, 1989), except for issues 2, 3, 8, and 9. The first listing is an author listing and the second is a subject listing.

The second bibliography accompanied an article ("Discrimination in Professional Sports: A Survey of the Literature") by Lawrence Kahn (of the University of Illinois) published in the April, 1991, issue of Industrial and Labor Relations Review. This bibliography is reprinted by permission of Industrial and Labor Relations Review. I think this is an interesting and informative article, and would urge you to find a copy of it.

**Forthcoming Issues.** The next (September?) issue will be the convention issue, containing reports on presentations made at the convention. Past that, I NEED MATERIAL. Without your continuous participation in the preparation of this newsletter, it will not last. So if you are working on something, let me know, and we'll see what we can do about publishing it.

**Return Your Questionnaire: A Last Chance.** If you have not yet returned your questionnaire, this is the last issue of By the Numbers you will receive. (This applies only to committee members, and not to other SABR committee chairman, officers, or members of the Board). By returning your questionnaire, you will take advantage of the opportunity to continue receiving By the Numbers; I will send you a new copy of the questionnaire if you have lost it. (NEW committee members will receive BTN for one year; at that point, I will be writing you to see whether you wish to continue to receive BTN). At the end of this newsletter is a listing of those committee members who have returned their questionnaires and of all new committee members. **IF YOUR NAME IS NOT THERE, THIS IS YOUR LAST ISSUE.**

**New Telephone Number.** I have a new telephone number, which comes complete with voice mail facilities. This way, any messages cannot get lost in a pile of paper (which on my desk is a real possibility). The new number is 219-980-6867.

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# **The Baseball Analyst: An Index To Authors and Subjects**

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Issues 2, 3, 8, and 9 of The Baseball Analyst are not included in these indexes. The indexes are otherwise complete and begin with the first issue published in June of 1982 and conclude with issue #40 released in February, 1989. Articles are indexed first by author and then by subject.

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