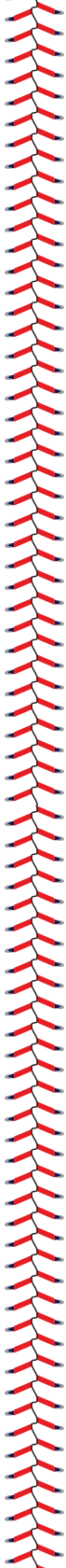


**27th Annual Conference
on Baseball in Literature and Culture**

April 4-5, 2024





Batting Order

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2024

6:00 p.m. **Pre-Game Reception**
Location: 205 E. 13th Street
Ottawa, Kansas

FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2024

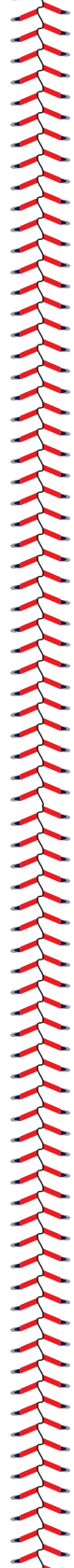
7:45 a.m. **Registration and Breakfast**

8:15 a.m. **Opening Remarks**
Andy Hazucha, Conference Coordinator
Joann Bangs, Vice President of Academic Affairs and
Provost of Ottawa University

8:30 – **Morning Keynote Address**
9:15 a.m. Morning Keynote Speaker: Joe Posnanski
Author of *Why We Love Baseball*
Book signing in the Mabee Lounge following the talk.

9:30 – **Concurrent Sessions A**
10:30 a.m. **Session A1: Baseball in International Theatres**
Location: Hasty Conference Room
Chair: Jency Wilson, Ottawa University

- **“From a Hurley to a Bat: Irish Hurling and Its Impact on Nineteenth-Century Baseball”**
Shawn O’Hare, Carson-Newman University
- **“When You Come to the Fork in the Road: Take It! The Crisis in Japanese Professional Baseball of 2004”**
Paul Dunscomb, University of Alaska Anchorage





Session A2: Baseball and Philosophy

Location: Zook Conference Room

Chair: George Eshnaur, Ottawa University

- “**Baseball, Sacrifice, and Playing to Win**”
Justin Clarke, Ottawa University
- “**Philosophical Absurdity and the Backup Catcher**”
Eric Berg, Bemidji State University
- “**Clock of the Mind Always in Baseball before the Pitch Clock**”
Ken Moon, Iowa Western Community College

**10:45 –
11:45 a.m.**

Concurrent Sessions B

Session B1: Baseball and Its (Dis)contents

Location: Hasty Conference Room

Chair: Lyn Wagner, Ottawa University

- “**Death and Baseball: The Eleventh-Hour Stretch**”
Barb Dinneen, Ottawa University
- “**Why / Love Baseball**”
Phil Oliver, Middle Tennessee State University
- “**When Bye Means Bye: The Immediate, Unforeseen Impact of a Recent Change to First-Round Playoff Protocol**”
Joc Collins, Carson-Newman University

Session B2: Recovering Baseball History

Location: Zook Conference Room

Chair: Shannon Dyer, Ottawa University

- “**Florence Norman: A Chicago Cubs’ Scout**”
Dean Karau, Independent Scholar
- “**Creating *Contenders: Two Native Baseball Players, One World Series***”
Traci Sorell, Independent Scholar
- “**The Life and Baseball Career of Bud Fowler: It’s Complicated—and Important**”
Mark E. Eberle, Fort Hays State University

**12:00 –
1:15 p.m.**

Luncheon and Keynote Speaker

Keynote Speaker: Steve Lyons

**1:30 –
2:15 p.m.**

Concurrent Sessions C

Session C1: Gaming and the Sociology of Baseball

Location: Hasty Conference Room

Chair: Shannon Dyer, Ottawa University

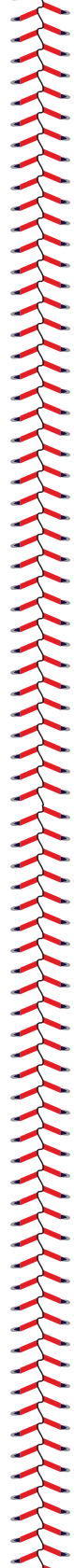
- **“Diamonds in the Rough: The Social Impact of Migration Patterns and the Establishment of Negro League Baseball in Kansas City, KS in the Early 20th Century”**
Andrew Stolarski, Kenyon College
- **“Can Game Day Save Us from Ourselves?”**
Gerald C. Wood, Carson-Newman University
- **“Ludic Legacies: Tracing Johan Huizinga’s Theories through the Prism of Baseball and Modern Gaming Culture”**
David Pihoda, Ottawa University

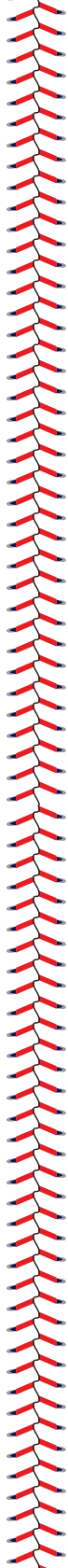
Session C2: The Economics of Baseball

Location: Zook Conference Room

Chair: Lyn Wagner, Ottawa University

- **“Non-tuism in Baseball”**
Peter Jacobsen, Ottawa University
- **“Economic Stories of Baseball Stadiums”**
Russ McCullough, Ottawa University





**2:35 –
3:35 p.m.**

Concurrent Sessions D

Session D1: Nostalgia in Baseball

Location: Hasty Conference Room

Chair: Jency Wilson, Ottawa University

- **“ChatGPT Doesn’t Know Zander Hollander! Wait, What?”**
Ron Kates, Middle Tennessee State University
- **“‘I can’t figure out if he is kidding or in earnest’: Ring Lardner, Authenticity, and Anti-Modernism”**
Dan Anderson, Dominican University
- **“Baseball Poetry—It’s in the Numbers”**
Warren Tormey, Middle Tennessee State University

Session D2: Baseball Poetry and Fiction

Location: Zook Conference Room

Chair: Mike Webber, Franklin County Historical Society

- **“Ball, Balk, and Bat”**
Mark Bennion, Brigham Young University-Idaho
- **“Mad for Baseball Novels”**
Bob Mayberry, California State University Channel Islands
- **A reading of Juan Carlos Chirinos’s “Béisblood”**
Wladimir Márquez Jiménez, Regis University

**3:40 –
4:40 p.m.**

Sessions E: Baseball in Literature

Location: Hasty Conference Room

Chair: Ian Carpenter, Ottawa University

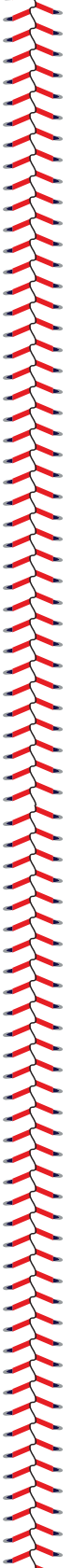
- **“The Rothstein Reader: The Big Bankroll and Blame for the Black Sox”**
Sarah D. Bunting, TomatoNation.com
- **“The Vulnerable, the Misunderstood, the Despised: E. Ethelbert Miller’s Poetic Depictions of Major Leaguers”**
Michele Schiavone, Marshall University
- **“Encoding and Decoding the Baseball Industrial Complex in 21st-Century Literature from Its 20th-Century Origins to Mass Market Magazines and Ring Lardner’s *You Know Me Al*”**
Aurora Blanchard, University of Missouri-St. Louis

5:00 p.m.

EXTRA INNINGS

Location: Not Lost Brewing Company
229 South Main Street
Ottawa, KS 66067

Food and drink will be available for purchase at this networking event.





Friday Morning Keynote Speaker

Joe Posnanski

Joe Posnanski was born in Cleveland, attended high school in North Carolina, and, having abandoned an early attempt at an accounting major, graduated with a degree in English from UNC Charlotte in 1989. After graduating

from college, Posnanski worked as a reporter for *The Charlotte Observer*, *The Cincinnati Post*, and *The Augusta Chronicle* before moving to Kansas City in 1996 to be a sportswriter and columnist for the *Kansas City Star*, where he covered the lowly Royals and other sub-performing Kansas City sports teams of that era. During his thirteen years at the *Kansas City Star*, Posnanski was twice named the best sports columnist in the country by The Associated Press Sports Editors.

In 2008, Posnanski left Kansas City to become a senior writer at *Sports Illustrated*, where he wrote a blog called “Curiously Long Posts.” Since that time Posnanski has worked as a national columnist for NBC Sports, MLB.com, and *The Athletic*. Named as a National Sportswriter of the Year by five different organizations, Posnanski is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of seven books, including *Why We Love Baseball*, *The Baseball 100*, *The Soul of Baseball: A Road Trip through Buck O’Neil’s America*, and *The Machine: A Hot Team, a Legendary Season, and a Heart-stopping World Series: The Story of the 1975 Cincinnati Reds*. He writes at JoePosnanski.com and currently lives in Charlotte, North Carolina, with his family.

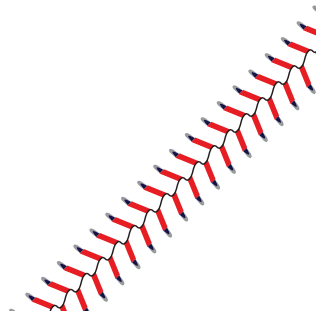


Friday Afternoon Keynote Speaker

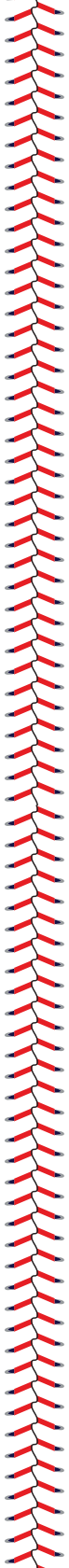
Steve Lyons

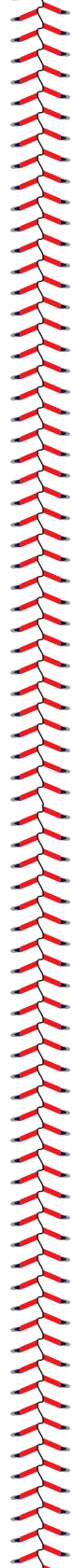
Drafted out of Oregon State University in the first round of the 1981 MLB draft, Steve Lyons made his major league debut with the Boston Red Sox on April 15, 1985. Starting in early June of that year, Lyons became Boston's regular center fielder; he went on to play 133 games with the 1985 Red Sox, batting .264 with five home runs and 30 RBIs. Lyons was traded from Boston to the Chicago White Sox for HOF pitcher Tom Seaver in 1986, and during his five-year tenure with the team played every defensive position (including pitcher) as well as designated hitter, pinch hitter, and pinch runner. He also has the rare distinction of having played all nine defensive positions in a single game at the major league level, played between the Chicago Cubs and the White Sox at Wrigley Field on April 23, 1990. Per standard baseball notation, Lyons's positions during the game were, in order: 2-3-7-8-6-9-5-9-1-4.

Lyons's colorful personality earned him the nickname "Psycho"; he was known for such eccentricities as playing tic-tac-toe and hangman against opposing players during games, using spikes to mark the infield dirt. After his retirement as a player, he became a television baseball commentator. In 1995, he published a book entitled *PSYCHOanalysis*, with a foreword by Stephen King, about his personal observations and stories about baseball.



FOR YOUR NOTES







Logo designed by Todd Radom



1001 South Cedar Street • Ottawa, Kansas 66067