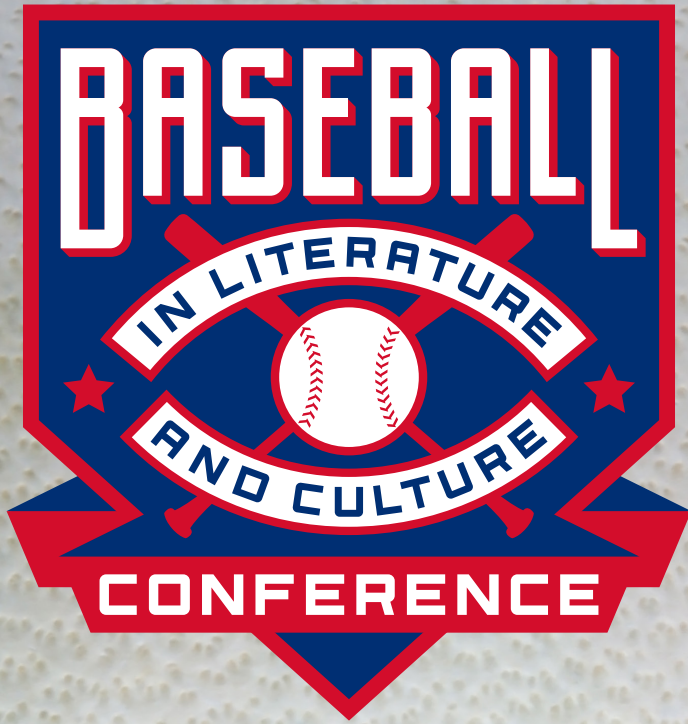
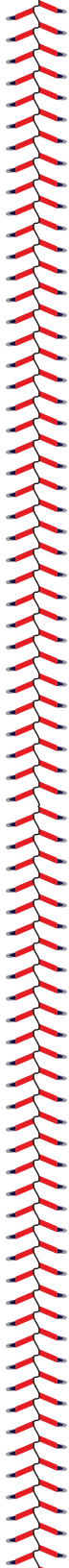




**28th Annual Conference
on Baseball in Literature and Culture**

March 20-21, 2025



Batting Order

THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025

6:00 p.m.

Pre-Game Reception

Location: 611 Willow Lane
Ottawa, Kansas

FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2025

8:15 a.m.

Registration and Breakfast

8:45 a.m.

Opening Remarks

Andy Hazucha, Conference Coordinator
Bill Tsutsui, Ottawa University Chancellor

**9:00 –
10:00 a.m.**

Session A

Baseball Teams and Leagues on the Move

Location: Hasty Conference Room
Chair: Carrie Stevens, Ottawa University

- **“Stadiums and Subsidies”**
Peter Jacobsen, Ottawa University
- **“Rooted No More: Lost Loyalties in the East Bay”**
Warren Tormey, Middle Tennessee State University
- **“The Short-Lived Continental League and Its Long-Term Impact Depicted in Fiction”**
Todd Fertig, Freelance Writer

**10:05 –
11:05 a.m.**

Concurrent Sessions B

Session B1: Baseball Commentators, Actors, and Archetypes

Location: Hasty Conference Room

Chair: Justin Clarke, Ottawa University

- **“Gary Cooperstown: What Makes a Hall-of-Fame Portrayal of an Actual Hall-of-Famer”**
Sarah D. Bunting, TomatoNation.com
- **“From the Roaring Twenties to Present Day: A Century of Great American Baseball Broadcast Play-by-Play and Commentators - Radio and Television”**
Jon Jacobsen, Ottawa University
- **“From Dugouts to Diamonds: Applying Jung’s Archetypes to Your Baseball Hero”**
Joc Collins, Carson-Newman University

Session B2: Baseball History

Location: Zook Conference Room

Chair: Murle Mordy, Ottawa University

- **“The Royal Achievements of the Kansas City Monarchs”**
Larry Lester, Independent Scholar
- **“More Than a Sport: Early Developments of Baseball in Lawrence, Kansas”**
Jude Butler, University of Kansas
- **“Two-way Players: Baseball and Music”**
Mark E. Eberle, Fort Hays State University

11:15 a.m.

Morning Keynote Address

Keynote Speaker: David Block

Author of *Baseball before We Knew It*

Book signing in the Mabee Lounge following the talk.

**12:00 –
1:30 p.m.**

Luncheon and Keynote Speaker

Keynote Speaker: Bobby Dernier





**1:30 –
2:30 p.m.**

Concurrent Sessions C

Session C1: Umpires and Fans

Location: Hasty Conference Room

Chair: Murle Mordy, Ottawa University

- **“Punches, Kicks, Spits, and Curses: The Miserable Lives of Old-Time Umpires”**
Pat O’Neill, Independent Scholar
- **“‘I’ve Been Robbed!’: MLB Fans and the Many Ways They Feel Robbed”**
Ken Moon, Iowa Western Community College
- **“Is It ‘Pasttime’ for Umpires?”**
Ian Carpenter, Ottawa University

Session C2: Social Realism, Social Unrest, Socially Awkward

Location: Zook Conference Room

Chair: Mike Webber, Franklin County Historical Society

- **“Aleksandr Deyneka, Social Realism Art, and Baseball”**
Shawn O’Hare, Carson-Newman University
- **“Baseball Fields as Symbols for Social Unrest and Change”**
Eric Berg, Minnesota Twins
- **“Government Spies and Cinematic Lies: The Awkward Truth about Moe Berg”**
Andy Hazucha, Ottawa University

**2:40 –
3:40 p.m.**

Session D

Baseball's Heroes and Their Legacies

Location: Hasty Conference Room

Chair: Kyle Bentley, Ottawa University

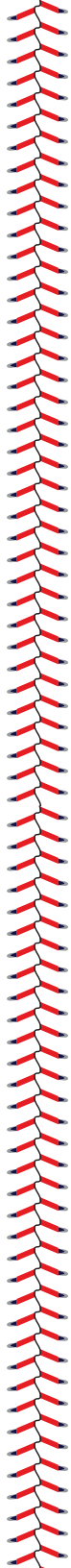
- **“Do I Need (Another) Hero?: Super Joe, a 40-Year-Old Poster, and Childhood Nostalgia”**
Ron Kates, Middle Tennessee State University
- **“Go and Glow in 7-0’: The Enduring Legacy of Durocher’s Clubs”**
Dan Anderson, Dominican University
- **“The Speedboys and Their Machines: The Case of Ty Cobb”**
Gerald C. Wood, Carson-Newman University

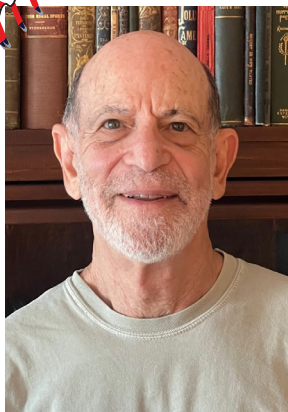
4:00 p.m.—

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

David Block

Following a professional career as a computer systems analyst, David Block embarked on a systematic study of baseball's origins. Today he is a preeminent baseball historian and antiquarian whose research and writings have shed new light on the distant beginnings of the game. His early findings revealed that much of what had previously been written on the topic were erroneous, prompting him to produce his landmark book, *Baseball before We Knew It: A Search for the Roots of the Game* (University of Nebraska Press, 2005). Block's book was the recipient of the 2006 Seymour Medal, awarded by the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR) for the best book of baseball history published during the previous year. An updated and expanded 20th-anniversary edition of the title is set for release in March, 2025.

In 2015, SABR bestowed Block with the Henry Chadwick Award in recognition of his "invaluable accomplishments" as a baseball researcher. He formerly served on the editorial board of *Base Ball: A Journal of the Early Game* and was a member of the Major League Baseball special committee on baseball's origins. He lives with his family in San Francisco.



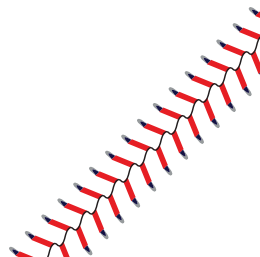
Friday Afternoon Keynote Speaker

Bobby Dernier

Robert Eugene Dernier was born on January 5, 1957, in Kansas City, MO and attended Raytown South High School, where he became an All-State shortstop on the baseball team and hit .473 his senior year. After graduating

from high school, Dernier attended nearby Longview Community College in Lee's Summit, MO, attracting the notice of pro scouts as an infielder-outfielder with blazing speed and a .424 batting average. Drafted out of Longview by Cincinnati in the twelfth round of the 1977 amateur draft, Dernier ultimately could not reach an agreement with the Reds; in August of that year he signed a contract with the Philadelphia Phillies. Dernier made his major league debut with the Phillies on September 7, 1980, as a pinch runner for Pete Rose and promptly recorded his first stolen base.

In 1984 he was traded to the Cubs in a five-player deal that sent Dernier, fellow outfielder Gary Matthews, and pitcher Porfi Altamirano to Chicago in exchange for Cubs' reliever Bill Campbell and catcher Mike Diaz. Dernier quickly established himself as the Cubs' everyday centerfielder and settled into the leadoff spot in the batting order. Ryne Sandberg batted in the number two spot behind him, prompting Harry Caray to nickname this pair at the top of the Cubs' lineup "The Daily Double." Known for his speed both on the basepaths and in the outfield—he earned the moniker "The Deer" from Cubs fans—Dernier became the first Cubs outfielder ever to win a Gold Glove in 1984, the year Chicago won the National League East division championship.





Logo designed by Todd Radom

Ottawa
University



Prepare for a Life of Significance™

1001 South Cedar Street • Ottawa, Kansas 66067