

# BLEACHER CREATURE

A Monthly Conversation Among Baseball Fans

ISSUE # 132

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

MAY, 2005

## Zephyrs Home Schedule

May 2	Round Rock	7:05
May 3	Round Rock	11:35
May 4	Round Rock	7:05
May 5	Round Rock	7:05
May 19	Colorado Springs	7:05
May 20	Colorado Springs	7:05
May 21	Colorado Springs	6:05
May 22	Colorado Springs	2:05
May 23	Salt Lake	7:05
May 24	Salt Lake	12:05
May 25	Salt Lake	7:05
May 26	Salt Lake	7:05
June 4	Round Rock	6:05
June 5	Round Rock	5:05
June 6	Round Rock	7:05
June 7	Round Rock	7:05

## See You at the Ballpark!

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## Foli's Zs Counting on Pitching, Speed, Defense

By Bill Catalanello

The New Orleans Zephyrs finished April with a record of 10-12, with a club that so far has counted on pitching, speed and defense to contend in a tough division.

In their first season as a Washington Nationals affiliate, the Zephyrs were having difficulty pushing runs across the plate, despite making good contact. After 23 games, the Zs were next-to-last in the league in runs and last in home runs, extra base hits and RBIs, but they were also last in strikeouts.

The games that New Orleans has been able to win so far have been games dominated by pitching and defense. Despite superior team speed, the Zephyrs were in the middle of the pack in the category of stolen bases. Through their first 23 games, New Orleans had stolen just 18 in 28 attempts.

The Zephyrs excelled in close, well-pitched games. In the season's first month, they were 5-2 in games decided by one run. The Zs, in their first month, had to pitch well to win. In games in which their opponents scored 5 or more runs, New Orleans was 1-11. When holding their opponents to 4 runs or fewer, the Zephyrs were 9-4.

### 2005 Zephyrs Brain Trust



L-R: Manager Tim Foli, Hitting Coach Mike Hart and Pitching Coach Charlie Corbell

Zephyrs outfielder Tyrell Godwin was among the league's leading hitters in the early going. The 25-year-old former North Carolina Tar Heel was batting .383 after 23 games and was second in the league in hits with 36. Godwin is an aggressive hitter with blazing speed, but he had stolen only six bases in his first ten attempts as May began.

Sun-Woo Kim was New Orleans' most impressive pitcher in the season's first weeks. He was named Pitcher of the Week in the PCL for the week of April 25. In his first 25 innings of pitching, Kim was 3-1, with an ERA of 2.49. Kim, a major leaguer with Montreal in 2004, appeared ready for a return to the National League.

The 2005 Zephyrs lack power, and

-continued on page 2

# Zephyrs Announce Youth Baseball Nights

The New Orleans Zephyrs announced last month that all Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday games will be Youth Baseball Nights, in which any fan 16 years old or younger who is wearing a baseball jersey or shirt from their team will receive a \$2 ticket, while parents of youth baseball players will receive a \$5 ticket. Both tickets will be good for seats in the lower seating bowl of the stadium.

“This new policy is our way of showing our commitment to bring fans back to Zephyrs games and ties in with our team slogan, Take me back to the ballgame!” said Ron Maestri, Zephyrs Executive Director and COO. “We have a commitment to the youth in our community and to giving back to a community that has treated us so well over the years.”

Added Maestri, “This is just the first step in what will be a comprehensive program to get young people more involved with the New Orleans Zephyrs. We have a sponsor in the works for Youth Baseball Nights that



Photo courtesy New Orleans Zephyrs

will be announced at a later date, and we are working on a number of other exciting things to bring young people back to Zephyrs baseball.”

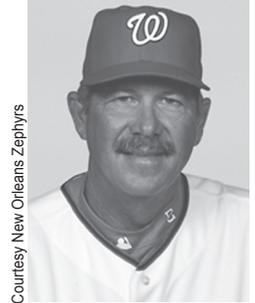
“This is a win-win situation for us,” said Zephyrs General Manager of Baseball Operations Mike Schline. “The new program will help us to increase our attendance and will give young baseball fans a great opportunity to enjoy a ballpark that they may aspire to play in one day.”

The new policy went into effect immediately, so fans who attended the Zephyrs game against the Albuquerque Isotopes on Monday, May 2nd took advantage of the discounts.

**Call the Zephyrs ticket office at 734-5155.**

**ZEPHYRS...cont'd. from page 1**

**Foli: “The whole idea as a manager is to put your people in place to use whatever talent they have, and to put them in the best position to be successful.”**



Courtesy New Orleans Zephyrs

that forces manager Tim Foli to put baserunners in motion, bunt, take the extra base, do just about anything to score some runs, one at a time, if necessary. Foli’s Zephyrs thus far have played hard every day. Even when they are not able to outscore their opponents, they hustle and leave it all on the field.

These are observations after 25 games of a 144-game season. As the Zephyrs work their way through the schedule with all the travel, the injuries and the roster changes, the true character of this team and its leadership will emerge.

## BLEACHER CREATURE

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*Bleacher Creature* is a conversation among baseball fans. It has been published monthly eleven times a year, since 1993. It is independent of the New Orleans Zephyrs ballclub and is made possible by our wonderfully loyal subscribers, supporters, contributors and friends.

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# At The Shrine on Airline

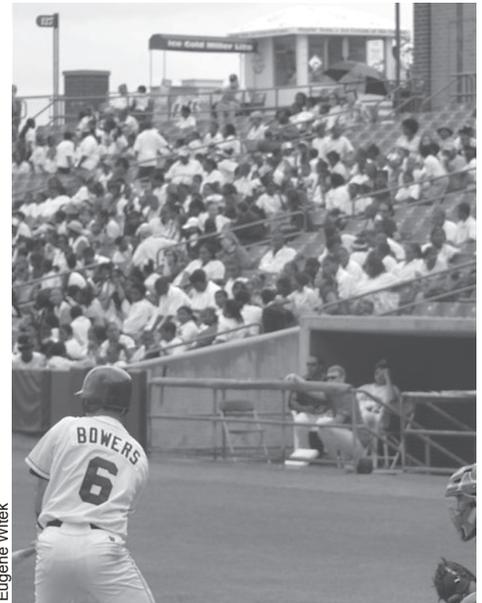
By John Bowlin

Greetings from Birmingham! I have just completed a wonderful week back in New Orleans: April 25-29th. It was good to be back in Louisiana. Our week was filled with heart touching volunteer work, good times, and the best food on the planet. Just as a bowl of bread pudding is the perfect ending to a great meal, our week ended with a night at Zephyr Field. The weather was perfect and the Zs hosting the first-place Isotopes. My first stop was The Strike Zone. I feel about The Strike Zone like most women feel about Wal-Mart. I kept hearing the voice of my wife calling me saying "Budget, Budget" much like the voice from *Field of Dreams*.

I did stay in budget and got to my seat about ten minutes before game time. It was so exciting being back at the Shrine. I was back in the midst of the Zephyr family. The game was going against the Zs until I broke out the old standby from little league: the rally cap. We tied the game in the eighth inning and the pitcher for the Isotopes walked in the winning run. I wish I could remember the pitcher's name because he saved me a lot of trash talk the next day all the way back to Alabama. He deserves a Christmas card from me this year.

As we were leaving the park after a great night of baseball, we met the man himself, Ron Maestri. He thanked us for coming to the game and gave us some free ticket passes. I don't know about you, but I think it is pretty awesome that the COO

Share your Zephyr Field experiences with John Bowlin.  
[nutrianation@hotmail.com](mailto:nutrianation@hotmail.com)



Eugene Witek

Photos by Eugene Witek

of an organization stands outside and thanks people for spending the evening with them. The last time I filled up my gas tank, the COO of Texaco was not standing by the car wash to thank me for my purchase. It was true pleasure to meet Mr. Maestri. I think he will do a fantastic job with the Zephyrs. We got back to Birmingham Friday afternoon, and my daughter loved the Boudreaux shirt and as she puts it "Tilly" doll I got her. Go enjoy a fun night at the park this spring and summer! Viva the Nutria Nation!

\* \* \*

I would love to hear from some of the fellow fans, and you can reach me at:

[nutrianation@hotmail.com](mailto:nutrianation@hotmail.com)

John Bowlin

## 3 HRs in One Inning: Texas League's Eugene Rye in 1930

For a record not likely to be equalled, we visit the Texas League for a game played at Waco on August 6, 1930. In that game Waco outfielder Eugene Rye hit three home runs in one inning against Beaumont. To illustrate the rarity of this occurrence, consider that the National and American Leagues have played a combined total of 233 seasons. During that span, only five players have managed to record three base hits in one inning.

The first time it happened in either league was on September 6, 1883 when three members of the old Chicago Nationals each collected three safe hits in the same big inning. It didn't happen again for nearly 70 years, until Gene Stephens had a double and two singles in the same inning for the Boston Red Sox on July 18, 1953. Johnny Damon was the last to do it in the majors when he had a single, a double and a triple in the same inning, also for Boston.

How does it happen that a player even has an opportunity to bat three times in one inning? Here's how it happened for Eugene Rye. In the 8th inning on August 6, 1930, Waco sent 21 men to the plate, and 18 runs scored (16 earned) on just 12 hits (6 singles, 1 double, and 5 home runs), for 28 total bases, 6 bases on balls, 2 errors and 1 wild pitch. Rye made the most of his three at-bats in the inning, hitting 3 consecutive home runs; the third was a grand slam. In the inning Rye accounted for 12 total bases, scored 3 runs and drove in 8.

### Slugger Had 8 RBIs in the 8th Inning for Waco

Here's an account of the inning:

- 1.) Rye led off the inning with a home run over the left field fence.
  - 2.) Stuvengen walked.
  - 3.) Molesworth singled.
  - 4.) Piet walked, filling the bases. Green replaced Mallett on the mound for Beaumont.
  - 5.) Sanguinet, batting for Stein, singled, scoring Stuvengen.
  - 6.) Tate walked, forcing Molesworth home.
  - 7.) Bischoff doubled to center, scoring Piet and Sanguinet.
  - 8.) Munson walked, reloading the bases.
  - 9.) Speer singled over short, scoring Tate and Bischoff. Newman replaced Green for Beaumont. Waco had batted around with still no outs in the inning.
  - 10.) Rye hit his second home run, scoring Munson and Speer ahead of him.
  - 11.) Stuvengen flied to center for the first out.
  - 12.) Molesworth hit to short, where Schuble made a fine stop but threw wildly, and the batter went all the way to third.
  - 13.) Piet hit a home run to right, scoring Molesworth ahead of him.
  - 14.) Sanguinet struck out for the second out.
  - 15.) Tate walked. He took second on a wild pickoff attempt by Newman.
  - 16.) Bischoff singled to center, scoring Tate.
  - 17.) Munson singled to center.
  - 18.) Speer walked, filling the bases.
  - 19.) Rye hit his third home run of the inning, a grand slam, scoring Bischoff, Munson and Speer.
  - 20.) Stuvengen hit another home run, and scored Waco's 18th run of the inning.
  - 21.) Molesworth grounded out to end the inning.
- 18 runs, 12 hits, 2 errors, nobody left.

Beaumont started the bottom of the 8th inning leading 6-2, and Waco wound up winning by a score of 20-7.

Below is a score by innings. The boxscore at right=>

Beaumont	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	2	1	-	7
Waco	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	18	x	-	20

#### Three Hits in One Inning - National and American Leagues since 1876

Sept. 6, 1883	Tom Burns, Fred Pfefer, Ned Williamson, Chicago (NL)
July 18, 1953	Gene Stephens, Boston (AL)
June 27, 2003	Johnny Damon, Boston (AL)

Please charge me with an error of omission in last month's column on Washington's league affiliations (*Bleacher Creature*, August, 2005). I failed to list that Washington was a member of the National League: 1887-1889 and 1892-1899.

-A.O.S.

# Swinging For the Fences: Big HR Total, Low BA

**B**ABE RUTH ushered in the live ball era in 1920 with a 54-home run outburst. Since that landmark season, 120 different major league sluggers have accounted for 168 seasons of 40 or more home runs. Of this number, only 8 have had 40 or more four-baggers in a season with a batting average of .250 or lower.

The first to post these unusual numbers, not once but twice in his career, was the muscular Hall of Fame slugger Harmon Killebrew of the Washington Senators and the Minnesota Twins. In 1959 with the Senators, Killebrew shared the American League home run title with Cleveland Indians slugger Rocky Colavito with 42 home runs. Killebrew averaged a homer every 13.00 at-bats, while the rest of the league averaged a homer every 39.48 at-bats. Despite that, Killebrew batted only .242. Three years later as a Minnesota Twin, Killebrew led the league in home runs with 48 while batting a cool .243 for the 1962 season. He hit a home run on average every 11.50 times at bat, while the rest of the league went deep once every 36.36 at-bats.

• In 1979, Milwaukee Brewers slugger Gorman Thomas

## 40 or More Home Runs in a Season with Batting Average of .250 or Lower

Player	Team	Year	AB	HR	BA
H. Killebrew	Wash.	1959	546	42	.242
H. Killebrew	Minn.	1962	552	48	.243
G. Thomas	Milw.	1979	557	45	.244
D. Evans	Det.	1985	505	40	.248
J. Buhner	Sea.	1997	540	40	.243
J. Canseco	Tor.	1998	583	46	.237
G. Vaughn	Cin.	1999	550	45	.245
T. Glaus	Ana.	2001	588	41	.250
J. Giambi	NYY	2003	535	41	.250

topped the American League with 45 homers with a .244 batting average.

• Jose Canseco posted the lowest batting average by a player in a 40-home run season in 1998 as a member of the Toronto Blue Jays, when he batted .237 in a season in which he hit 46 homers (third in the league.)

Schott, cont'd.

### The Boxscore from Waco, Texas – August 6, 1930

Beaumont							Waco						
	AB	R	H	PO	A	E		AB	R	H	PO	A	E
Stapleton, 1b	4	0	0	3	0	1	Tate, 3b	2	3	0	0	0	0
Bouton, ss	5	0	1	1	3	0	Bischoff, c	6	3	4	6	6	0
Schuble, 3b	5	1	3	0	2	1	Munson, rf	5	2	4	2	0	0
Eckhardt, rf	4	1	0	1	0	0	Speer, cf	5	2	2	1	0	0
Shiver, lf	4	2	2	0	1	0	Rye, lf	6	3	4	1	0	0
Holley, 2b	3	0	1	4	1	0	Stuvengen, 1b	5	2	2	13	0	0
Wade, cf	3	0	0	1	1	0	Molesworth, ss	6	2	2	2	4	0
Baker, c	3	1	1	13	1	1	Piet, 2b	3	2	2	2	3	1
Mallett, p	3	1	1	1	1	0	Stein, p	3	0	0	0	2	1
Green, p	0	0	0	0	0	0	Sanguinet	2	1	1	0	0	0
Newman, p	0	0	0	0	0	0	Brancheau, p	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wilbur	1	1	1	0	0	0							
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>

Wilbur batted for Newman in ninth.

Sanguinet batted for Stein in eighth.

By innings— Beaumont 0 0 0 0 1 0 3 2 1—7  
Waco 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 18 \*—20

Two-base hits—Schuble, Stuvengen, Shiver, Bischoff 2. Left on bases—Beaumont 7, Waco 8. Home runs—Mallett, Rye 3, Piet, Stuvengen. Stolen bases—Piet, Shiver, Holley. Earned runs—Beaumont 5, Waco 19. Bases on balls—off Stein 3, Mallett 5, Green 2, Newman 2, Brancheau 1. Struck out—by Stein 9, Mallett 7, Newman 2. Hit by pitcher—by Brancheau (Stapleton). Double plays—Bischoff to Piet, Molesworth to Stuvengen. Sacrifice—Holley. Wild pitch—Newman. Pitchers' record—6 runs, 8 hits off Stein in 8 innings; 6 runs, 11 hits off Mallett in 7 innings; 5 runs, 3 hits off Green in no inning (none out in 8th). Passed ball—Baker. Losing pitcher—Green. Winning pitcher—Stein. Time of game—2 hours and 40 minutes. Umpires—Basil and Barr.

Boxscore courtesy Arthur Schott

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## **In the On-Deck Circle: The New Orleans Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum**

**P**LANS ARE IN THE WORKS for the establishment of a non-profit corporation to be known as the New Orleans Baseball Hall of Fame & Museum. Several local baseball personalities, led by historian and writer S. Derby Gisclair, are seeking to get the support and approval of the New Orleans Zephyrs organization to locate the facility in the Zephyrs' complex.

The first phase of the plan calls for a two-story building to be erected behind the left field at Zephyr Field. The downstairs area would house the New Orleans Baseball Hall of Fame & Museum, a museum gift shop, an expanded Strike Zone gift shop, a Zephyrs' Gallery of Greats, and a research library. The upstairs area would be a baseball-themed restaurant that would overlook the ballpark. There would be both inside and outside dining and a private room for parties and non-gameday functions. Once approval for the first phase of the project is obtained, the next phase will be to raise the money to actually build the facility. Several different funding options will be explored including public and private sources.

In the meantime, plans call for temporary museum exhibits featuring members of the New Orleans Baseball Hall of Fame to be located throughout the concourse and suites at Zephyr Field until a permanent facility can be completed. The museum is seeking donations of local baseball memorabilia – photographs, programs, scorecards, baseballs, bats, gloves and other equipment, uniforms and caps, ticket stubs, newspaper and magazine articles, letters, pennants, and so on. Anything will be considered as long as it is related directly to baseball in New Orleans.

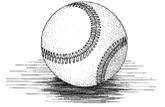
“You’d be surprised at how much local baseball memorabilia is still in someone’s attic or at the top of someone’s storage closet,” says Gisclair. “Much of that gets thrown away when the owner dies and we want to make sure that people know that they have a place to donate these artifacts.” Anyone interested in becoming involved in the project is encouraged to contact Derby Gisclair via e-mail at

[Derby@neworleansbaseball.com](mailto:Derby@neworleansbaseball.com)

**Catch Every Zephyrs Game  
Home and Away  
on  
WTIX-690 AM  
with  
Tim Grubbs and Ron Swoboda**

## We Saw Zephyrs on First Visit to Round Rock

Pasadena, Texas  
April 27, 2005



Dear Bleacher Creature,

Our April visit to Round Rock's Dell Diamond was our first chance to see the new Triple-A Express, and it was doubly exciting because they were playing the New Orleans Zephyrs. The ballpark in Round Rock is always packed, always rocking, and always full of smiling faces. My husband Louis and our daughter Betsy and I spent a Sunday afternoon and a Tuesday night watching the Express and the Zephyrs go at it in what I believe is one of the best places to watch a ballgame anywhere.

The Sunday afternoon game was one dominated by pitching until the late innings. New Orleans manufactured a run in the first inning. Tyrell Godwin singled, stole second, advanced to third on a sacrifice by Endy Chavez, and scored on a single by Rick Short. Zephyrs righthander Sun-Woo Kim made the run stand up for his six brilliant innings of pitching. Kim allowed Round Rock only three hits. Express righthander Jared Goethaux was almost as sharp, holding the Zephyrs to just the one run on five hits in his six innings of work.

New Orleans eventually broke the game open against the Round Rock bullpen, to take a 7-0 victory. The Zs took advantage of six bases on balls by the Express relievers. Louis kept a beautiful scorecard while Betsy and I walked all around the Dell Diamond, eating ice cream and getting Betsy's face painted (mine too), talking with other young kids, visiting the ladies

room, and looking for ourselves on the big video screen. It was a beautiful day, and although the home team didn't even score a run, it looked to me as though everyone in attendance had a great time. Checking Louis' scorecard showed me that three Zephyrs double plays kept the Express from getting anything going. New Orleans relievers Travis Hughes and Matt White combined for six strikeouts and no walks to outpitch the Round Rock bullpen and preserve the shutout.

Tuesday night's contest was a different story entirely. New Orleans needed a win for a split of the four-game series. Godwin put the Zs on top again, 1-0, when he smacked a solo homer leading off the 4th inning. That guy can play. The Express rallied in the 6th to take a 2-1 lead on Tommy Whiteman's two-run single off Zephyrs reliever Roy Corcoran. Corcoran's balk had put both runners in scoring position. The Zephyrs retook the lead, 4-2, in the top of the 7th with a 3-run rally against Mike Gallo, aided by an Express error.

Mike Coolbaugh drove in two runs for the Express right after the 7th inning stretch, to tie the game at 4-4, and set the stage for some late-inning excitement. Danny Klassen's third hit of the game, a one-out triple off New Orleans reliever Chad Durbin in the bottom of the 9th, put the winning run 90 feet away. Zs manager Tim Foli opted to intentionally walk the next two batters to set up a potential double play. It looked like the strategy might work when the dangerous pinch hitter Barry

Wesson was called out on strikes. Round Rock catcher Humberto Quintero, however, worked a game-ending base on balls, a "walk-off walk," if you will. The Round Rock faithful went home happy, having won the series, three out of four. Betsy was snoring before we drove out of the parking lot. The three-hour game had run a little long for her, but for me and Louis, die-hard baseball fans that we are, it was a great game with lots of strategy, heroics and excitement.

For those of you who attend minor league games all season long, what I'm saying may seem obvious and self-evident. For fans like me and Louis who see most of our games in major league venues, an outing at a place like the Dell Diamond is a rare treat. Every seat in the ballpark offers a better view than we could ever hope to have in Minute Maid Park. We were closer to the players, closer to the action, and more connected to the game and the fun. Round Rock's video screen is an important component, not only for baseball action, but also for shots of fans having fun, each in his or her own way. As the camera pans the grandstands between innings, we see ourselves and our neighbors enjoying each other, the game and the evening, and there's a feeling of coziness in the ballpark.

In Round Rock, every game is surrounded by a festival atmosphere, and the folks in Texas love it. Soon we'll be in New Orleans to visit Zephyr Field on a fireworks Friday, and we can't wait to enjoy another weekend of Triple-A baseball.

See you soon,

Rose

OUR 13TH YEAR SUPPORTING ZEPHYRS BASEBALL

# BLEACHER CREATURE

A Monthly Conversation Among Baseball Fans

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