GUIDE to the
GEORGE PFISTER MLB DRAFT PAPERS

National Baseball Hall of Fame Library
Manuscript Archives

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Claudette Scrafford
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Collection Number
BA MSS 237
BL-1870.2002

Title
George Pfister MLB Draft Papers

Inclusive Dates
1968 - 1998

Extent
52.50 linear feet (22 archival boxes)

Repository
National Baseball Hall of Fame Library
25 Main Street
Cooperstown, NY 13326

Abstract
Papers related to the Re-entry draft, Rule 4 and Rule 5 MLB draft.

Preferred Citation
George Pfister MLB Draft Papers, BA MSS 237, National Baseball Hall of Fame Library, Cooperstown, NY

Access Restrictions
Due to Social Security Numbers located throughout this collection, two weeks advanced notice is required to access this collection.

Please e-mail research@baseballhall.org or call 1-607-547-0330 to schedule an appointment or if you have further questions.

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Provenance
This collection was donated by Major League Baseball’s Office of the Commissioner in 2002.

History
George Pfister was a catcher and played one game for the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1941. He went on to coach for the Dodgers in 1952, was the farm director for the New York Yankees from 1965 – 1974, he then went on to work in baseball operations for Major League Baseball until his death in 1997.
Free Agent Re-entry Draft - started in 1976, was a system through which teams could select free agents they wanted to enter into negotiations with. The purpose of this draft was to prevent a team from signing a large number of free agents, teams had to select which players they wished to bid on. There was a select number of players, a select number of teams who could select a single player, and the players were limited to signing with one of the teams that had selected them.

Rule 5 Draft - A player is bound to a team that drafts him for the first three seasons in the minor leagues. After three years, a player must be placed on a team’s 40-man roster or he is eligible for the Rule 5 draft. The Rule 5 draft is only for professional players and are held in early December during the Winter Meetings.

Rule 4 Draft – Also known as the first-year draft, is for amateur players from high school, colleges, and other amateur teams. The first amateur draft was held in 1965, and held in June of each year. Teams chose players in reverse order of the season’s standings, alternating between the American and National Leagues. Rick Monday was the first pick by the Kansas City Athletics. Originally, there was a draft in January, June, and August but the January and August drafts were eventually eliminated.

Sources:  
www.baseball-reference.com/bullpen/free_agent_reentry_draft  
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Major_League_Baseball_draft  
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Pfister

Scope and Content
This collection is arranged in chronological order by draft type – re-entry draft, Rule 5 draft, and Rule 4 draft. There is correspondence prior to and after the draft dates, various rosters of eligible players, selections and signings, non-signed players, and press kits. In the Rule 4 draft of 1986, is correspondence relating to the new computerized procedures.

Controlled Access Terms
These records are indexed under the following terms in the National Baseball Hall of Fame’s Library catalog.

Corporate Bodies
Major League Baseball
American League of Professional Baseball Clubs
National League of Professional Baseball Clubs

Personal Names
Pfister, George 1918-1997

Subjects
Baseball draft
Baseball players-selection and appointment
Minor League (baseball)

Genres/Forms
Correspondence
Press kits

Content List
Box 1
Folder 1  Re-entry draft reference book  1976 - 1982
Folder 2  Compensation players, re-entry draft  1978 - 1987
Folder 3  Re-entry draft summaries  1976 - 1980
Folder 4  Rotation-selections, re-entry drafts  1977 - 1984
Folder 5  Re-entry draft players  1976 - 1984
Folder 6  Correspondence, re-entry draft  Aug – Oct 1976
Folder 7  Correspondence and re-entry draft  Nov 1 – 4, 1976
Folder 8  Correspondence, re-entry draft  Nov 1976 – Jan 1977
Folder 9  Player signings, re-entry draft  Oct – Nov 1977
Folder 10  Player signings, re-entry draft  Dec 1977 – May 1978
Folder 11  Correspondence, re-entry draft  Sept – Oct 1977
Folder 12  Correspondence and re-entry draft  Nov 1977
Folder 13  1977 Re-entry draft recap  through Jan 25, 1978

**Box 22 oversize – ledger sheets with selections and signings

Box 2
Folder 1  Correspondence, re-entry draft  Jan – Aug 1978
Folder 2  Correspondence, re-entry draft  Sept 1978 – May 1979
Folder 3  Re-entry draft  Nov 1978
Folder 4  Re-entry draft, 7 players only  Feb 1979
Folder 5  Correspondence, re-entry draft  Feb 1979 – Mar 1980
Folder 6  Re-entry draft  Nov 1-2, 1979
Folder 7  Correspondence, re-entry draft  Jan – Oct 1980
Folder 8  Re-entry draft, Nov 12-13  Nov 1980
Folder 9  Correspondence, re-entry draft  Nov 1980 – Jun 1981
Folder 10  Correspondence, player signings  Aug – Nov 1981
Folder 11  Re-entry draft, January Secondary draft  Nov 1981 – Apr 1982

**Box 22 oversize – ledger sheets with selections and signings
Box 3
Folder 1  Correspondence, re-entry draft                          Dec 1981 – May 1982
Folder 2  Correspondence, player signings                      Aug 1982 – Feb 1983
           Re-entry draft                                            Nov 10, 1982
Folder 3  Player signings, re-entry draft                       Nov 1982 – Mar 1983
Folder 4  Correspondence, re-entry draft                       Jan – Oct 1983
Folder 5  Re-entry draft                                       Oct – Nov 1983
Folder 6  Correspondence, re-entry draft                       Nov 1983 – Jan 1984
           Tim Belcher, draft dispute                                1983 – 1984

**Box 22 oversize** – ledger sheets with selections and signings

Box 4
Folder 1  Correspondence, re-entry draft                       Nov 1983 – Apr 1984; Aug ’84
Folder 2  Re-entry draft                                       Oct – Nov 1984
Folder 3  Re-entry draft                                       Dec 1984 – Feb 1985
Folder 4  Correspondence, re-entry draft                       Dec 1984 – Mar 1986
           NAPBL contract, Ivan DeJesus, Jacksonville Expos           Feb 25, 1986
           [USA Today article by Hal Bodley, re: team salaries]     Sept 26, 1986
Folder 5  National Association Bulletins                       1967 - 1983
Folder 6  National Association Bulletins                       1986 – 1995
Folder 7  Rule 5 Selection Meeting booklets, player contracts selected written in
           Dec 2, 1974, Dec 8, 1975, Dec 6, 1976
Folder 8  Rule 5 Selection Meetings                            Dec 5, 1977 & Dec 4, 1978
Folder 9  Rule 5 Selection Meetings                            Dec 3, 1979
Folder 10 Special Rule 5 Selection Meeting                     Feb 15, 1980

Box 5
Folder 1  Rule 5 Selection Meeting and amendments              Dec 8, 1980
Folder 2  Rule 5 Selection Meeting                              Dec 7, 1981
Folder 3  Rule 5 Selection Meeting and amendments              Dec 6, 1982
Folder 4  Rule 5 Selection Meeting                              Dec 5, 1983
Folder 5  Rule 5 Selection Meeting                              Dec 3, 1984
Folder 6  Rule 5 Selection Meeting                              Dec 10, 1985
Folder 7  Rule 5 Selection Meeting                              Dec 8, 1986

Box 6
Folder 1  Rule 5 Selection Meeting                              Dec 7, 1987
Folder 2  Rule 5 Selection Meeting                              Dec 5, 1988
Folder 3  Rule 5 Selection Meeting                              Dec 4, 1989
Folder 4  Rule 5 Selection Meeting                              Dec 3, 1990
Rule 4 Amateur Free Agent Drafts – Jan and Jun

**Box 7**
Folder 1  Rule 5 Selection Meeting  Dec 5, 1994
Folder 2  Rule 5 Selection Meeting  Dec 4, 1995
Folder 3  Rule 5 Selection Meeting  Dec 9, 1996

**Box 8**
Folder 1  Jan and Jun draft selections and signings  1980
Folder 2  Jan and Jun draft selections and signings  1981
Folder 3  Jan draft selections and signings  1982
Folder 4  Jan draft selections and signings  1982
Folder 5  Jan draft players’ status  Jul 1981 – Apr 1982
Folder 6  Jun draft notices  Jan – Jun 1982
Folder 7  Jun draft selections and signings  1982
Folder 8  Jun draft players’ status  Jan – Oct 1982

**Box 9**
Folder 1  Jan pre-draft correspondence, signings  Jun 1982 – Jan 1983
Folder 2  Jan draft selections and signings  1983
Folder 3  Post-draft correspondence and signings  Mar – Jun 1983
Folder 4  Jun pre-draft correspondence, notices  Jan – Jun 1983
Folder 5  Jun draft selections and signings  1983
Folder 6  Jun draft players’ status  1983
Folder 7  Jan draft notices and correspondence  Aug 1983–May 1984
Folder 8  Jan draft selections and signings  1984
Folder 9  Jan draft players’ status  1984

**Box 10**
Folder 1  Jun draft notices and correspondence  Jan – Aug 1984
Folder 2  Jun draft selections and signings  1984
Folder 3  Jun draft players’ status  1984
Folder 4  Jan pre-draft notices and correspondence  Jun 1984 – Jan 1985
Folder 5  Jan draft selections and signings  1985
        Randy Johnson, John Smoltz
Folder 6  Jan draft players’ status  1985
Folder 7  Jun draft club telephone numbers  1985
Folder 8  Jun pre-draft notices and correspondence  1985 **SSN**
Folder 9  Jun pre-draft players’ status  1985
Folder 10 Jun draft selections and signings  1985

**Box 11**
Folder 1  Jan draft notices and correspondence  1985 - 1986
Folder 2  Jan draft selections and signings  1986
Folder 3  Jan draft players’ status  1986
Folder 4  Jun draft notices and correspondence  1986
        New draft ‘**computerized**’ procedures
Folder 5  Jun free agent draft – new format and procedures  1986
        Instructions and sample reports
Folder 6  Jun draft – late signings  May – Jun 1986
Folder 7  Jun draft selections and signings  1986
Folder 8  Jun draft players’ status  1986

**Box 12**
Folder 1  Jun draft free agent signings  Jun 1986 – Jun 1987
Folder 2  Jun draft notices and correspondence  Sept 1986 – Dec 1987
Folder 3  Jun draft selections and signings  1987
Folder 4  Jun draft free agent signings  Jun 1987 – Jun 1988
Folder 5  Jun draft players’ status  1987
Folder 6  Jun draft notices and correspondence  Nov 1987 – Oct 1988
Folder 7  Jun draft late signings  May – Jun 1988

**Box 13**
Folder 1  Jun draft selections and signings  1988
Folder 2  Jun draft selections, by round, 154 pages  1988
Folder 3  Jun draft free agent signings  Jun 1988 – Jun 1989
        Breakdown on draft selections and signings  1965 - 1988
Folder 4  Jun draft players’ status  1987 – 1988
Folder 5  Jun draft notices and correspondence  Sept 1988 – Nov 1989
Folder 6  Summer Free Agent Draft Press Kit  1989
“The Commissioners” Press Kit
Giamatti elected Apr 1, 1989
Commissionership – an historical perspective
Biographies on past commissioners

Folder 7  Jun draft players’ status  1988 – 1989

**Box 14**
Folder 1  Jun draft selections and signings  1989
Folder 2  Jun draft selections  1989
Folder 3  Jun draft, by round, 192 pages  1989
Folder 4  Jun draft free agent signings  Jun 1989 – Jun 1990
Folder 5  Jun draft free agent signings  1989 – 1990

**Box 15**
Folder 1  Jun draft press kit  1990
Folder 2  Jun draft players’ status  1989 - 1990
Folder 3  Jun draft letters re: player’s status  1989 - 1990
Folder 4  Jun draft problem player status  1990
Folder 5  Jun draft correspondence  1989 - 1991
Folder 6  Jun draft selections and signings  1990
Folder 7  Jun draft, by round, 204 pages  1990
Folder 8  Jun draft signings  Jun 1990 – Jun 1991

**Box 16**
Folder 1  Jun draft correspondence and Press Kit  Oct 1990 – Jan 1992
Folder 2  Jun draft late signings  May 1991
Folder 3  Jun draft selections and signings  1991
Folder 4  Jun draft selections and signings  1991
   By name and by club
Folder 5  Jun draft signings  Jun 1991 – Jun 1992
Folder 6  Jun draft letters re: player’s status  Jan – Sept 1991
   Bert Blyleven, HOF 2011, wrote a letter for his son
Folder 7  Jun draft players’ status  1990 - 1991

**Box 17**
Folder 1  Jun draft correspondence  Aug 1991 – Jun 1992
Folder 2  Jun draft selections and signings  1992
Folder 3  Jun draft selections and signings  1992
Folder 4  Jun draft players’ status  Aug 1991 – May 1992
Folder 5  Jun draft letters re: player’s status  Nov 1991 – Aug 1993

**Box 18**
Folder 1  Jun draft press kit  1993
Folder 2  Jun draft player letters and status  1992 – 1993
Folder 3  Jun draft club telephone numbers  1993
Folder 4  Jun draft selections and signings  1993
Folder 5  Jun draft signings by club  Jun 1993 – Jun 1994
Folder 6  Jun draft passed-over players  1993
Folder 7  Jun draft signed players  Jun 3 – Nov 10, 1993

Box 19
Folder 1  Jun draft press kit  1994
          Press release
          “Cuban players rights awarded in special drawing” Oct 29, 1993
          “Mets select FSU’s Wilson first in amateur draft” Jun 2, 1994

Folder 2  Jun draft status memos to clubs  Dec 1993 – May 1995
Folder 3  Jun draft player’s status and letters  Oct 1993 – Mar 1995
Folder 4  Jun draft lists  1994
Folder 5  Jun draft selections and signings  1994
Folder 6  Jun draft selections by name and by team  1994
Folder 7  Jun draft signings  Jun 1994 – Jun 1995
Folder 8  Jun draft unsigned players  1994

Boxes 20 and 21 are banker boxes with pin-fed style printouts (15” x 11”)
Box 20
1992 – 1995  June drafts
          Final draft match list, final draft list
          Players reported for selection
          Club-by-club list
          Total drafted by club, 1993

Box 21
1996 – 1998  June drafts
          Final draft match list, final draft list
          Players reported for selection
          Club-by-club list
          Players drafted with club and round 1996

Box 22 oversize
1976 – 1984
          Re-entry draft selections and signings, ledger sheets

1978 – 1982
          June draft signings, alphabetical, divided into 4 categories
          Seniors selected as juniors
          Seniors 1st selection
          Juniors in 4 year school
          Junior college prior to junior year selection