

The Dugout

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Vintage tournament scores a hit again - This time, in Japanese!!

In November 1913, some of the greatest major league baseball players of the time stopped in Bisbee to play an exhibition game at Warren Ballpark, before heading across the Pacific Ocean to thrill fans in Japan while on their world tour.

Ninety eight years later, Japan came to Bisbee for baseball.

A production crew from NHK - Japanese Public Television - spent four days in Bisbee recording the Second Annual Copper City Classic Vintage Base Ball Tournament, held March 19-20 2011 at Warren Ballpark.

The tournament, a fundraiser held by The Friends of Warren Ballpark, featured four teams from the Arizona Territories Vintage Base Ball League playing in a six-game round robin format.

The crew, which consisted of NHK correspondent Seizo Nakanishi, producer Masa Funaki and cameraman Kenji Shimabukuro, captured all the (See Tournament, page 4)



(Top) Lance Busch, captain of the mighty Glendale Gophers, talks baseball with Seizo Nakanishi, reporter for NHK television during the Copper City Classic Vintage Base Ball Tournament. (Right) Bisbee fast pitch softball phenom Ann Henry signed her cards for some admiring fans.



A baseball legend passes...

Charlie Metro: mentor, manager, player, 1918-2011

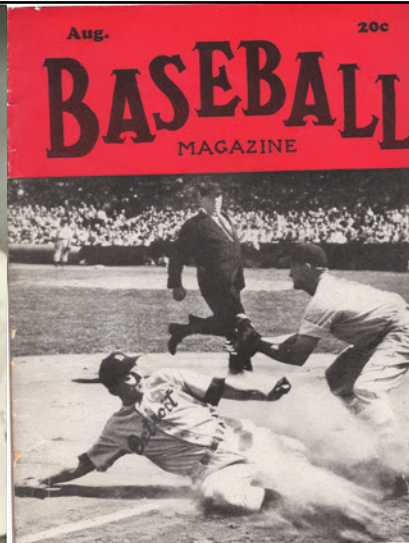
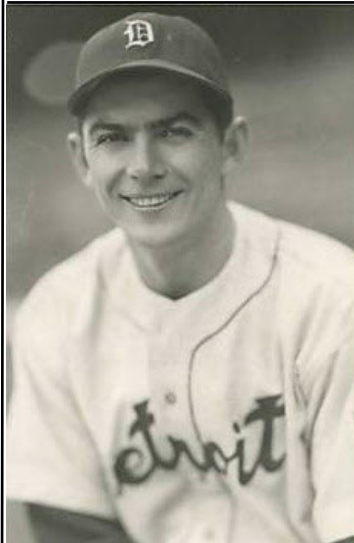
The people of Bisbee and the world of baseball lost a good friend recently with the passing of Charlie Metro, who died in Buckingham, VA March 18, 2011 at the age of 92.

Born Charles Moreskonich in Nanty Glo, PA April 18, 1918, he was the son of coal miner Metro and Pauline Moreskonich.

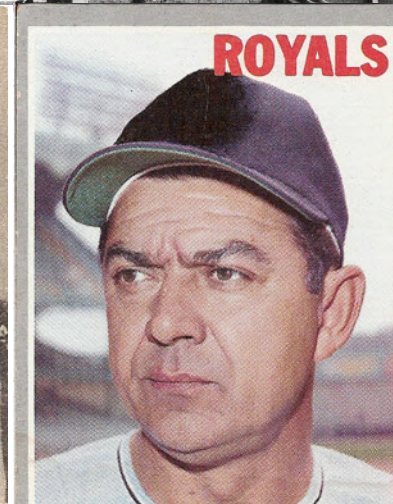
After beginning his career as a ball player in with the Easton, MD Browns in 1937, Charlie changed his last name to Metro, taking his Ukranian immigrant father's first name so it would fit in box scores.

During his almost 50 years in professional baseball, Charlie played and/or managed 22 years in the minor leagues, played three seasons (1943-1945) with the Detroit Tigers and Philadelphia Athletics, managed the Chicago Cubs (1962) and Kansas City Royals (1970).

Charlie played under Connie Mack of the Athletics during parts of the 1944 and 1945 seasons. He was sent to the Oakland Oaks of the



CHARLIE METRO
Oaks Outfielder 11



Charlie Metro **MANAGER**

Pacific Coast League in 1945, where he played outfield for Casey Stengel.

It was while he was playing for the Oaks that Charlie befriended a teenager named Billy Martin. Their friendship would last for the rest of Martin's life.

Charlie started his managerial career in Bisbee in 1947, as skipper of the Bisbee Yanks (center photo, front row, center.) The Class C Yanks were the first minor league team to play at Warren Ballpark since the end of the 1941 season.

Charlie's autobiography, "Safe By A Mile," was published by the University of Nebraska Press in 2002.

He is survived by his wife Helen, his daughter Elena, sons Charles Jr. and Stephen, 11 grandchildren, 19 great grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren.

Give our regards to Billy, Casey and Mr. Mack, Charlie!



Left-right: Cheryl Grenko, Ann Henry and Rob Henry before the first game.



Top left: Fined 25 cents, but worth every penny! Bottom left: "Long Dan" Frey makes the play. Middle right: Seizo is out at first. Bottom right: Mighty Seizo "Ronin" Nakanishi at the bat!

Photos by Liz Manring

(Tournament, from page 1)

action from start to finish. The program, which featured NHK correspondents at major league parks all over the U.S. (and Warren Ballpark) aired nationwide in Japan April 6.

The tournament featured the Bisbee Bees (from Phoenix), the Bisbee Black Sox, the Glendale Gophers and the Phoenix Senators. At the end of the second day the Senators and Bees were each 2-1 and the Black Sox and Gophers were 1-2. Local fans saw the Black Sox beat the Gophers 5-4 in extra innings during the opening game and the Black Sox lose a 1-0 thriller to the Bees in the final match.

The biggest winner at the tournament was the ball park itself. The \$5500 raised during the two days will be used for upcoming projects by the Friends of Warren Ballpark.

(Top photo) Nathan "Newsboy" Busch of the Glendale Gophers grounds out to third sacker Andy "The Hammer" Arreola during the first game of the tournament.

(Middle photo) The Bisbee Bees used two out-of-state visitors from the Long Nine vintage base ball club of Springfield, IL to round out their roster. (Bottom) Phoenix Senator Jacki Alexander combined speed and skill during a match against the Gophers. (Photos by Liz Manning, Bob Gaethje and Butch Lynn.)



**Help preserve the REAL
"Field of Dreams"!**

**Become a member of
The Friends of Warren
Ballpark!**

www.friendsofwarrenballpark.com



For the second year in a row the Friends of Warren ballpark took part in Bisbee's Fourth of July parade. Our message this year stressed the importance of supporting high school football and baseball at the ballpark. Thanks to Judy & Mike Anderson, Pam & Tom Nelson and Sharon Travis.



Friends of Warren Ballpark historian and founding member Mike Anderson spoke about the life and times of southwest baseball legend Syd Cohen during Story telling Hour at the Jewish History Museum in Tucson, March 6. Cohen played and managed at Warren Ballpark during the 20s, 30s and 50s. Present during the presentation was Al Cohen, (no relation to Syd) who played with the Tucson Cowboys against Syd in the 1950s. (Photo by Butch Lynn)

Buy a piece of Bisbee baseball history and help support Warren Ballpark! Bisbee's Boys and Girls of Summer Baseball card sets 1-4 can be purchased online at the Friends of Warren Ballpark website for \$5 per each 5-card set. For details, visit or website at: www.friendsofwarrenballpark.com

Who we are: The Friends of Warren Ballpark has been sponsored by the Bisbee Council on the Arts and Humanities, a tax-exempt 501 (c) (3) organization since May 2009. The Mission of the Friends is:

- To restore and preserve the Historic Warren Ballpark;
- To research and share the rich history of the Park and sports played in Bisbee; and
- To support the continuation of Bisbee's athletic traditions into the future.

Consider joining the *Friends* to support our mission.

For details, visit our website at: www.friendsofwarrenballpark.com

Copper Kings sponsor collegiate tournament

The Copper Kings, Bisbee's Boys of Summer, will be hosting yet another great baseball event July 31-August 6, when they bring the U.S. Amateur Baseball Federation Collegiate World Series to Warren Ballpark. The event will feature college summer-league teams from Arizona, California and Texas, said

Copper Kings president Tom Mosier. There is a possibility of teams from other states and even South Korea taking part as well, Moser said.

For additional information about the USABL-sanctioned tournament, visit www.bisbeecopperkings.com or call (520) 732-7325.

A Few Words from the Chair

The Friends of Warren Ballpark celebrated their second year as a non-profit organization operating under the umbrella of the Bisbee Council on the Arts and Humanities. During the upcoming year we plan to introduce ourselves to the new members of the Bisbee Unified School District governing board and work with them to finalize a list of projects that they think important to preserve and improve our grand old ballpark. Once this list is finalized, the Friends will begin writing and submitting grants and soliciting donors for specific projects. Our mission is to partner with the school district to relieve them of some of the cost of upkeep required for a 102-year-old park that is showing its age, so they can focus on their mission of educating children.

The Friends recently realized that we are overlooking an important aspect of Warren Ballpark's history—football. This year the Bisbee Pumas won back the coveted "Pick" from their ancient rivals, the Douglas Bulldogs. The annual contest remains the second longest high school football rivalry in the United States. This year the Friends are revising their mission statement to support the continuation of all of the sports - high school baseball and football, semi-pro baseball and vintage base ball - played at Warren Ballpark - into the future.

Finally, thanks are owed to everyone who made the 2nd Copper City Classic Vintage Base Ball Tournament a success. We thank the "ballists" from the Arizona Territories Vintage Base Ball League and the old west re-enactors of the Tombstone Vigilantes. Thanks to Mike Holland who sang the Star Spangled Banner and to Boy Scout Troop #1 who presented the colors. Our vendors made sure that no one went hungry or thirsty. School district staff made sure the field was chalked and the bathrooms had toilet paper and answered all of our questions.

The Friends are particularly grateful for our new partnership with the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. They provided insurance and volunteers. The Friends support their search for a cure for cancer. We hope to continue this partnership.

A big tip of our base ball caps and a very loud "huzzah!" goes to the many volunteers who provided security, sold tickets and beer, ran raffles and planned the event. Everyone's participation was valued.

Judy Anderson, Chair, Friends of Warren Ballpark

The 1950 Bisbee-Douglas Copper Kings were a Brooklyn Dodgers franchise.

Front row, l-r: Manuel Morales, Jack Dunn, Buck Elliott (mgr.), Louis Uribe, Bobby Perez, Al Endriss and John McWilliams.

Back row, l-r: Bob Henry, Dick Smith, Fern Paredes, Ted Dean, Jerry Schmidt, Dick Collins, R.A. Smith, Gene Clough and Joe Potts. (Photo courtesy Dick Smith and Ann Henry.)

