

Intelligence

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BELLAIRE'S KENNEDY ALSO CONSIDERED

Hack Wilson Tops Shrine Vets

TAMPA, Fla. (UPI) — Hack Wilson, whose 1930 hitting statistics rank among the greatest in major league history, and Warren Giles, an 18-year president of the National League who was termed "the greatest friend" umpires ever had, are the likely candidates for induction into baseball's Hall of Fame Wednesday by the Veterans Committee of the Baseball Writers Association of America.

Also considered as prime candidates in the long list surveyed by the committee — which will name one player and one executive — are Chuck Klein, four-time National League home run king in the 1930s; Babe Herman, one of the Brooklyn Dodgers' "Daffiness Boys" during the same era, and Bellaire, Ohio native William "Brickyard" Kennedy, a four-time 20-game winner between 1892 and 1903. Herman is the only one of the five still alive.

The Veterans Committee has extended the "executive" category to cover managers, front-office administrators and umpires.

The committee could name a player from the old Negro Leagues, but a member of the committee identified the players named (plus Giles) as the four "front-runners."

Willie Mays, for 22 seasons a star for the New York and San Francisco Giants and the New York Mets, was elected to the shrine last January and will be formally inducted along with the Veterans Commit-

tee's two choices, Aug. 5, in Cooperstown, N.Y.

Wilson, a stubby man whose batting skills were undermined by a chronic drinking problem, enjoyed one of the most spectacular seasons in history in 1930 when he batted .356, set the NL record of 56 homers in one season and the major-league mark of 190 RBI. The home run and RBI marks still stand. Wilson is buried in Martinsburg, W. Va., where he started his pro baseball career and resided much of his adult life.

Giles, who died last Feb. 7, became the NL's president in 1951 and took on the job of strengthening the authority of the umpires.

"Warren Giles was the greatest friend the umpires ever had," said former umpire Jocko Conlan when he was inducted into the Hall of Fame. "He did more to help them than anyone else in baseball history."

Klein, who played for three NL teams from 1923 through 1944, led the league in homers four times and in RBI twice.

Herman compiled a lifetime .324 batting average for four teams from 1926 through 1945. He was even more famous as a member of the perpetually losing Brooklyn "Daffiness Boys." One sports writer of the era penned the famous line, "Jones hit a fly ball to Babe Herman, who caught it."

Kennedy pitched for Brooklyn, New York and Pittsburgh from 1892 through 1903, with a career record of 186-157.