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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, November 17, 2005

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Challenger Middle School Students Complete 2005 Padres Box Scores Scrapbook *New Volume Joins Collection in SABR Baseball Research Center at Central Library*

SAN DIEGO – The latest volume of scrapbooks containing every box score in San Diego Padres' major league history was completed by students of Challenger Middle School in Mira Mesa. The new scrapbook joins 36 previous scrapbooks that are part of the collection of the San Diego SABR Baseball Research Center at the Central Library.

The students became involved in the project through a school activity taught by eighth grade math teacher Terry Allinger. "This program taught the students how to make sense of all the data and statistics involved in baseball," said Allinger. "It was neat to see that when the students started collecting the box scores from the scrapbook, they actually began to read through them and could really visualize the game."

The project was not only a learning experience for the students, but also a lot of fun, especially since the San Diego Padres were Western Division champions this year.

"Creating the scrapbook was very fun because we were recording history," said student Adrian Bacong. "It was especially fun because it was a winning season."

Added another student, Alex Heck, "I've never done anything like this before and I thought it was really cool. I got to work with good friends and learned a lot about baseball."

The scrapbooks were begun by William "Whitey" Wietelmann (1919-2002). He played for the San Diego Padres in the Pacific Coast League from 1949-53 and coached for the Padres from 1960-66 and again from 1969-80. He also served the Padres in a variety of jobs for the next 14 years. As a result of his close connection to the team, Wietelmann became known by fans as "Mr. San Diego Baseball." The Padres called him "Mr. Indispensable."

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Wietelmann created the first scrapbook in 1969, the Padres' first year as a major league franchise, and continued making a scrapbook each year through 1993. Following his death in 2002, Bill Swank, Bob Boynton, Andy Aguinaldo and Bob Diaz undertook the daunting task of reorganizing the deteriorating books and updating them with box scores from 1994-2002. The result is 34 binders with laminated pages containing every Padres box score from 1969-2002. Also included are various newspaper clippings, season program covers, and copies of Padres baseball cards.

The previous two scrapbooks for 2003 and 2004 were done by students of Juarez-Lincoln Elementary School in Chula Vista. The school putting together the 2006 scrapbook has not yet been selected. All the students and teachers involved in the project participate in the Fantasy Baseball Program coordinated by Tim Scheidt and conducted in coordination with the San Diego Hall of Champions. The Fantasy Baseball Program is a math program that uses baseball to teach percentages, probability, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

The San Diego SABR Baseball Research Center identifies, organizes, preserves and promotes the research and study of baseball through a partnership between the San Diego Public Library and the San Diego Ted Williams chapter of the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR). The scrapbooks are available in the Special Collections section at the Central Library, located at 820 E St. in downtown San Diego.

“I think this may be the only complete box score collection for any major league team,” said Bill Swank. “That makes this is a very unique resource for Padres fans, baseball enthusiasts and anyone else with an interest in San Diego sports history.”

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