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Down to the Last at Bat

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Only a few days remain to experience the Hall of Fame-quality Dayton at Bat! exhibit at the University of Dayton Roesch Library. The free exhibit wraps up the weekend of June 13-14 with a pair of free events that will take baseball fans back in time.

As part of the University of Dayton's Reunion Weekend, the Dayton Clodbusters vintage "base ball" team will take on all comers from among University of Dayton staff, faculty and alumni at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 13, at Baujan Field. Vintage "base ball" is played with 1800-era rules such as:

the ball was bigger than today's baseball but smaller than a softball, players did not use gloves and players could record an out by catching the ball on the fly or on its first bounce.

At 1 p.m. Sunday, June 14, in the Roesch Library, baseball collector Tracy Martin will talk about the "Evolution of Baseball Equipment." Martin, a Dayton native whose collections have been included in exhibits at the National Baseball Hall of Fame, has an extensive collection of more than 2,000 pieces of baseball equipment, uniforms, memorabilia and photos dating back to the 1860s.

If you wonder whether your old baseball card, bat, autographed ball or historical uniform is worth something. Martin will help identify and evaluate your collectibles after his presentation.

"Our baseball treasure fair held earlier in the exhibit was so popular that Tracy has agreed to stay after his presentation to help fans and collectors see what kinds of treasures they may have," said Kathy Webb, dean of the University of Dayton libraries.

Dayton at Bat! is an exhibit of baseball memorabilia from the collections of National Baseball Hall of Fame writer Si Burick and Dayton philanthropist Miriam Jacobs. The four-month display has the only known baseball autographed by three of the world's top four home run hitters — Sadaharu Oh, Babe Ruth and Hank Aaron. Baseballs autographed by Warren Spahn, Johnny Vander Meer, Lefty Grove, Bob Feller and President Woodrow Wilson are among the approximately 140 items on display through June 14.

Parking for library events is free. On weekends use B Lot, which can be entered after turning from Stewart Street to Zehler Street. Baujan Field is a short walk from the library. During the week, please stop at the Visitor Center for a parking pass.

For more information, contact Shawn Robinson, associate director of media relations, at 937-229-3391 or srobinson@udayton.edu.