

Ovation Data Helps Major League Ball Club Protect and Preserve Its History

Challenge

Convert all legacy media into modern digital formats for preservation and improved access.

A major-league ball club's history was locked up in aging media – inaccessible to the club or fans, vulnerable to damage or loss, and occupying valuable space. The media held irreplaceable footage of the club's all-star games, player development, in-house productions, concerts, events, and even construction of the club's original field and stadium.

Thousands of pieces of media needed to be moved as soon as possible; no current inventory records existed; and some media was stored under poor conditions.

Formats Converted

Audio: ¼" reel, cassette, CD/DVD, and DAT

Video: 1" Type-C reel, ¾" Umatic, all forms of Betacam, VHS, 8mm, DVCam, DVCPro, XDCam, and DVD

Solution

Lacking inventory records and sufficient time to barcode each piece at the club's site, Ovation took a brief inventory during the packing process. After the transfer to its own secure facility, Ovation subsequently conducted a meticulous inspection and detailed inventory and retained all media for the duration of the project. Due to previous storage conditions, the 16 mm film was affected with "vinegar syndrome" and was unrecoverable. However, Ovation found duplicates on tape within the set of healthy media and was ultimately able to:

Organize, catalog, photograph, and index every label and media case.

Digitize and provide digital quality control reports on each medium.

Set up secure online access for the club to perform quality control checks.

Archive all digital objects to storage, with a copy retained in two separate locations.

Results

More than 25,000 pieces of media (about 15,000 video hours) are now digital. Speed of video access is from seconds to minutes. Multiple storage rooms have been transformed into usable office space, and the project produced a preservation master copy of the club's historical footage.

The club's quality control checks did not reject a single digital object.