

The Squibber

THE BOB DAVIDS CHAPTER E-NEWSLETTER

October 2013

This newsletter is produced by the Bob Davids Chapter of the Society for American Baseball Research ([SABR](http://sabr.org)), which serves members in Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia and parts of Pennsylvania and Delaware. Visit the chapter's official website at <http://chapters.sabr.org/bobdavids/>.

Submissions for future editions can be sent to Squibber editor Walt Cherniak at wcherniakjr@aol.com. Keep sending us those squibs, and those ideas for squibs!

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1. NOT YOUR GREAT-GRANDFATHER'S ORIOLES: Inaugural A.L. Season Kicked Off in Baltimore: By Fred Glueckstein

With the sun shining over Baltimore on Friday, April 26, 1901, the big parade on Opening Day welcoming the hometown Orioles and Boston Americans, two new teams in the recently established American League, formed at 12:30 p.m. in front of the brick covered Eutaw House, a fashionable hotel on the northwest corner of Eutaw and Baltimore streets. The parade left from the Eutaw House and proceeded down Baltimore Street to Holliday Street and passed City Hall.

Many businesses gave their employees half the day off to welcome the new team. The *Chicago Tribune* reported: "Many business-houses displayed flags and cheer greetings to (player-manager John) McGraw and the new Orioles." It went on to report: "There were hundreds of rooters in line (procession), delegations from the American Federation of Labor, city officials, athletic clubs, including the John Hopkins University teams, and the players of both teams in carriages."

After passing City Hall, the parade led by its bands continued through the principal streets of Baltimore. It paraded down to Lexington and then onto Calvert, Fayette and Howard. From there the parade went to the Monument, where it proceeded to Charles Street, Huntington Avenue, York Road (Greenmount) and 29th Street, and finally to the new ball field.

Upon entering American League Park, over 10,000 people saw that the new ballpark, compared to old Union Park, was a great improvement in size, appearance, and stands. Old Union Park had been badly in need of replacement. After its opening in 1891 for the American Association Baltimore Orioles, and later the National League Baltimore Orioles, it was damaged by fire in 1894. The players had to deal continually with a swamp in right field due to water from a nearby stream (Brady's Run), which oozed underneath the outfield fence. For Baltimore's baseball fans and players, American League Park was very much welcomed.

As the fans settled into their seats at American League Park, they looked around the ballpark and saw the diamond, a flag pole in right center, and a large tree beyond the right field fence. The park's dimensions were: left field, 360; left field power alley, 435; left center field, 420; center field, 435; right center field, 392; right field power alley, 411, and right field, 281.

The Orioles' line-up that day was: John McGraw, 3b; Mike Donlin, lf; Jimmy Williams, 2b; Bill Keister, ss; Cy Seymour, rf; Jim Jackson, cf; Frank Foutz, 1b; Wilbert Robinson, c; and Joe McGinnity, p.

Also a member of the Orioles team was a catcher named Roger Bresnahan, who during the 1902 season was traded to the New York Giants and played 14 outstanding years in the National League.

Boston's lineup included: Tommy Dowd, lf; Charlie Hemphill, lf; Chick Stahl, cf; Jimmy Collins, 3b; Buck Freeman, 1b; Freddie Parent, ss; Hobe Ferris, 2b; Lou Criger, c; and Win Kellum, p.

Some of the Boston players were known to the Orioles' fans. Manager and third baseman Collins and center fielder Stahl were members of the Boston team of 1897 that defeated Ned Hanlon's Baltimore champions. The loss kept Baltimore from winning their fourth consecutive championship in a famous three-game series at Union Park. Seen by nearly 50,000 people, the series decided the 1897 pennant race.

Pitcher Cy Young, who was expected to pitch, was an old opponent of Baltimore in the days when Patsy Tebeau's Cleveland team used to play Temple Cup games with Hanlon's champions. Catcher Criger was also on Tebeau's old team. First baseman Freeman was the league's home run champion in 1899 at Washington as their right fielder. Finally, right fielder Hemphill and left fielder Dowd had been members of the 1899 Cleveland team.

As Dodd came to the plate to face McGinnity and the game was ready to begin, American League President Ban Johnson tossed out the first ball from the stands to the diamond. The Orioles reached Kellum for three runs on two doubles and a walk in the first inning. Baltimore added a run in the third, two in the sixth, and four in the eighth. McGinnity pitched very well, surrendering only one run going into the eighth. Although he tired and gave up two runs in the eighth and three in the ninth, McGinnity held on for the victory and the Orioles won the opening game of the new American League season from Boston at American League Park, 10-6. The game was played in 1:45, and the attendance was 10,371.

McGinnity won 26 games in 1901. Only Boston's Young won more, with 33 victories. McGinnity led the league with 48 games, 39 complete games, and 382 innings pitched. In the 1901 season, McGraw batted .349; Keister, .328 and Williams, .388. Burt Hart

batted .311 and Cy Seymour .303. American League Park turned out to be a better than the average A.L. park for batters.

Manager McGraw and his Orioles finished the 1901 season in fifth place, winning 68 and losing 65. The team scored 760 runs and allowed 750 runs. Attendance at American League Park was 141,952, sixth of the eight teams.

American League Park was used by the Orioles until Sept. 29, 1902. It was occupied for only a short time before the Baltimore franchise was bought and moved to New York in 1903, becoming the New York Highlanders, later to be known as the Yankees.

American League Park has its special story in Baltimore Orioles history. Four Orioles of the 1901 team who played in American League Park -- McGraw, Robinson, McGinnity, and Bresnahan—as well as Boston's Collins and Young—went on to have outstanding careers in the American League and were elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

2. TALKIN' BASEBALL: Upcoming Talks Scheduled -- By Dave Paulson

Fran Zimniuch, writer of *"Baseball's New Frontier, A History of Expansion, 1961-1998,"* will speak at the next meeting of the Talkin' Baseball group on Nov. 2.

The meeting will be held at 9 a.m. at Brighton Gardens, 7110 Minstrel Way, Columbia, Md. Come and bring a friend.

Here is a tentative list of other upcoming speakers and programs:

Nov. 2: Fran Zimniuch *"Baseball's New Frontier: A History of Expansion, 1961-1998"*

Dec. 7: Bill Mead, *"Even the Browns"*

Jan. 4: To be announced

Feb. 1: Mark Hyman: *"Confessions of a Baseball Purist"*

3. A 'SUN-Y' DAY IN HAGERSTOWN: Recapping this Year's Minor League Outing -- By David Hughes

The annual minor league outing for SABR's Bob Davids Chapter took place on Aug. 17, where 25 chapter members gathered for a [South Atlantic League](#) game at [Hagerstown Municipal Stadium](#). Thanks go to event organizer David Newman.

[Municipal Stadium](#) is a historic ballpark and, despite its age, has a certain rustic charm. The evening's activities began in the picnic area, with [Eli Pearlstein](#) ([Suns](#)' director of media relations, radio announcer, and general public information officer) addressing the group and leading a Q&A about the team, the stadium, his job, and his career experience and aspirations.

Eli acknowledged that he has a long way to go to achieve his career goals, and he is working his way up from the bottom rungs. Unfortunately, while Eli (and virtually everyone else present) knew the significance of two of the stadium's three retired numbers (located on decals on the wall in the right field corner, two of the numbers are "42" for Jackie Robinson and "24" for Willie Mays), he could not answer for the third number on the wall, "50."

A few days later, an outside source provided the answer: the "50" is for John Henry Moss, highlighting his 50 years of service to the South Atlantic League). A fourth decal on the outfield wall commemorates the late [Nick Adenhardt](#), former [Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim](#) pitcher who played many years of youth baseball in the Hagerstown area.

After Eli's presentation, chapter President Bruce Brown moderated an impromptu trivia contest. The champion crowned that evening was Paul Sekula, with the prize being a DVD of "[The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg](#)." After a hearty ballpark buffet, we had the opportunity to watch [Brett Mooneyham](#) (Nationals' third-rounder out of [Stanford](#), 2012) face those pesky [Tourists from Asheville](#), including the league's then-leading hitter, 20-year old [Rosell Herrera](#) (Rockies' free agent, Dominican Republic).

Mooneyham was dominant in the game, as he went seven innings with nine strikeouts. Hagerstown won the crisp, 2:15 contest, 4-0, before an announced crowd of 1,139.

Next year's minor league outing will be held in Bowie, Md., home of the BaySox, the Orioles' Double A Eastern League affiliate.

4. CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA REPORT: Harrisburg's Mirowski Completes Sparkling Relief Season – By Barry Sparks

Harrisburg Senators relief pitcher Richie Mirowski is a candidate for Minor League Relief Pitcher of the Year. The right-hander pitched 32 games this season, compiling an 8-3 record and 13

games for Harrisburg with a 2-0 mark. He worked multiple innings in 20 of his 45 relief appearances, notching seven saves and 69.2 innings. Opponents batted .185 against him. Voting ends Tuesday, Oct. 22. Go to www.senatorsbaseball.com to vote.

In other Senators news, right-handed pitcher Taylor Hill received a 2013 Rawlings Gold Glove Award for being the best defensive player at his position in the minor leagues. Hill, 24, started 11 games with the Senators, posting a 2-7 mark with a 2.71 ERA. He compiled 16 fielding chances without an error and participated in five double plays, tied for most among Eastern League pitchers. He also pitched for Potomac and Syracuse in 2013, totaling 46 total chances without an error. He is the second Harrisburg Senators to win a Rawlings Gold Glove Award. Steve Lombardozzi did it in 2011.

ATLANTIC LEAGUE

The eight-team Atlantic League drew 2.2 million fans in 2013. The Sugar Land Skeeters led the way, averaging 5,537 per game. The Long Island Ducks drew 5,303 fans per game. Average attendance for the remainder of the teams include: Somerset Patriots (5,223); Lancaster Barnstormers (4,396); York Revolution (3,741); Southern Maryland (3,520); Camden (3,147) and Bridgeport (2,347). Interestingly, the York Revolution averaged slightly more fans than the Bowie Baysox, the Orioles AA affiliate, which averaged 3,715 fans per game. The Harrisburg Senators averaged 4,121 fans per game. The Lancaster Barnstormers drew their three millionth fan on Aug. 24, less than nine years after their inaugural season.

Lancaster Barnstormers pitcher Dwayne Pollok tied the Atlantic League record for wins in a season with 18. Dan Reichert of the Southern Maryland Blue Claws also won 18 games in 2010. Pollok also won 12 consecutive games en route to an 18-3 record and a 2.91 ERA.

Pitcher Ross Peeples appeared in his 297th game for the Lancaster Barnstormers, setting the Atlantic League mark for most career games pitched for one team. Peeples, who has played for the Barnstormers since their inception in 2005, needs 14 more appearances to tie Ben Grezlovski record of most total games pitched in the Atlantic League.

The Sugar Land Skeeters finished the season with a 95-45 record, the best won-lost percentage (.679) for any "full season" league team (140 or more games) in professional baseball and the most wins in one season for an Atlantic League team. The Skeeters had 22 pitchers who won at least one game. The Somerset Patriots swept the Texas club three games to none in the Freedom Division Championship Series.

5. REPORT FROM BETHESDA – Holiday Baseball Auction Coming Up -- By Bill Hickman

The annual Bethesda Baseball Holiday Auction will take place on Sunday, Nov. 17, at the Doubletree Hotel at 8120 Wisconsin Ave. in Bethesda. In case your loved ones need any hints as to what to purchase for you in the way of gifts for the holiday season, there will be some outstanding items auctioned off at this event.

Some examples are an autographed Bryce Harper Washington Nationals jersey; autographed Chris Davis American League All-Star Game jersey; a Cal Ripken Jr. memorabilia package, which includes an autographed jersey, ball, and bat; and a Robert Griffin III autographed helmet. There will be many additional items as well.

The special guests are headlined by Nationals reliever Drew Storen and ESPN analyst Tim Kurkjian. Bring along the kids or grandkids, as the Nationals' "Racing Presidents" Teddy Roosevelt and Abe Lincoln will be in attendance as well. The hours for the event will be 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

You may purchase tickets and register for the auction by visiting the following webpage:

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e84pjyipe5310098&llr=bh9iy5bab>

Big Train Finishes First

Since our last report, the Big Train team finished the regular season in sole possession of first place and made it to the championship game in the playoffs. The Baltimore Redbirds, who finished in a tie for fourth during the season, took the playoff championship.

In August, the Gio Gonzalez Camp was held at Povich Field to benefit needy children, with Big Train as a co-sponsor along with the Gio Gonzalez Foundation. Gio's teammates Ian Desmond, Anthony Rendon, and Denard Span joined him as instructors at the camp.

In that way, the youths were able to circulate around the field during the course of the morning to get tips from big leaguers on aspects of pitching, infield play and outfield play. More than 100 children participated, and seemed thrilled with the experience. Numerous additional sponsors helped with the equipment, refreshments, etc., so that the kids were able to enjoy a top-notch experience.