

THE BALTIMORE CHOP

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BABE RUTH CHAPTER OF BALTIMORE



SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN BASEBALL RESEARCH



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Honoring Bobby Mathews ... And Others

By Sam Gazdziak

One of the great things about baseball fandom is that there is always a community for you, regardless of your niche. Do you like sabermetrics and the latest analysis? Do you prefer a particular decade of baseball, or a particular team, or a particular player? Do you care about baseball cards, autographs, or uniforms? There are communities out there, in SABR and elsewhere, full of people that share your passion.

While plenty of fans focus on the lives of baseball players, there is likewise a community that has an interest in player deaths and their final resting places. I stumbled into this interest when I visited

New Bedford, Massachusetts, and learned that 19th century star Harry Stovey was buried there. On a whim and with no information other than the name of the cemetery (Oak Grove Cemetery), I set out to find his grave. And I succeeded, thanks to an incredible amount of dumb luck. It was the first of more than 600 baseball-related graves I've visited.

There are Facebook groups, books, and websites out there all dedicated to baseball player deaths and burials. I happen to run one of them at RIP Baseball (ripbaseball.com). Just this past month, SABR member Fred Worth

Mathews ▶ Page 14

President's Message

What a season! Maybe not the ending people had in mind, but the Orioles defied all the naysayers and won 100 games for the first time since 1980. That makes Brandon Hyde the first manager NOT named Earl Weaver to do it (Earl did it five times).

Gunnar, Adley, Tony Taters, Mounty, The Mountain. We have come to know the names and love them. Our core is solid. There is a lot more in our pipeline. And add in a few FA or trades and we will likely be even more of a force in the future. Think of the Astros and their dominance since 2016. That will very likely be our Orioles over the next several seasons. Buckle up and enjoy.

As a chapter we have a lot to celebrate. After only eight years we continue to grow, stay very active, and get great feedback from speakers about how much they enjoy us as an audience.

President ▶ Page 14

The Brooks Robinson I Knew

By Michael Gibbons

Director Emeritus, Historian, Babe Ruth Museum

In May 1983 I began my decades-long tenure as executive director of the Babe Ruth Museum, and, coincidentally, an equally long association with Hall of Fame third baseman Brooks Robinson. Prior to coming to work for the museum I produced documentaries and thus was familiar with all things audio/visual. With that in mind, I was determined that the museum should begin to develop an audio archive consisting of game highlights from local sports teams and interviews featuring local sports personalities. With Brooks slated for induction into the National Baseball Hall of Fame that July, I arranged an interview with the "Human Vacuum Cleaner" as one of my first on-the-job assignments. It would prove to be a less-than-auspicious undertaking.

Mr. Robinson asked me to meet him in the lobby of a Baltimore hotel where he was scheduled to attend a luncheon. I'd never met the legend, my boyhood hero, so I was more than a little nervous and stressed. But I made it to the hotel on time, equipped with a new cassette tape recorder, microphone, and tape. Brooks could not have been nicer, of course, and we set about preparing for the task at hand. We found a quiet place

Brooks ▶ Page 10

• Behind the scenes of the statue project, Page 10





SABR Baltimore Babe Ruth Chapter

Formed 2015

Board of Directors

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Find us on [Facebook](#), too.

Calendar

Regularly scheduled events

Zoom registration links are sent by the chapter

Peeps @ The Peeb (in-person and Zoom)

Conversation, nibbles, libations

First Wednesday of the month, 7-9 PM

Peabody Heights Brewery, 401 E. 30th St., Baltimore

Talkin' Baseball (Zoom only)

Since 2001, Bob Davids Chapter hosts a guest speaker

First Saturday of the month, 9 AM

Called Shot Lunch (in-person only)

BYO lunch and talk baseball

Third Wednesday of the month, noon

Babe Ruth Museum, 216 Emory St., Baltimore

Baltimore Baseball Babble (Zoom only, March-November)

Free-for-all baseball chat, not recorded

Last Sunday of the month, 7-9 P.M.

November

1: Peeps @ The Peeb, Lindsay Berra will join us on Zoom to talk about her grandfather and the recent documentary *It Ain't Over*. (Note that Netflix will be carrying this film starting October 26; you may want to check it out.)

15: Called Shot Lunch

26: Baltimore Baseball Babble, Inning 9, Jamison Pack will talk about his lifelong baseball devotion, his collection, and his museum that he just opened in Tennessee.

December

6: Peeps @ The Peeb, Bryan Hoch, MLB beat writer for the Yankees, will discuss his book *62: Aaron Judge, the Yankees and the Pursuit of Greatness*

20: Called Shot Lunch

January

3: Peeps @ The Peeb

17: Called Shot Lunch

February

7: Peeps@ The Peeb

21: Called Shot Lunch

SABR Spotlight on ... Rich Dubroff

Rich Dubroff covers the Orioles for BaltimoreBaseball.com, but his baseball up-close started at Yankee Stadium in September 1963 when he saw his first major-league game. He grew up in Brooklyn, New York, a "huge Mickey Mantle fan".

He's been in Baltimore for the past 43 years, writing about the Orioles since 2011 and has been a SABR member for four years.

On the record, "Since I cover the Orioles, I can't have a favorite team," Dubroff says. However, he does have three



favorite ballparks--Oracle Park (Giants), Petco Park (Padres), and Oriole Park—and a favorite baseball memory—covering Cal Ripken Jr. breaking Lou Gehrig's streak.

It's not all baseball for Dubroff. He enjoys reading, traveling, eating out, and watching *Jeopardy!*

Most people may not realize that Dubroff's media career began on the news side: "For many years, I was a network news and public affairs television producer before I began covering the Orioles fulltime in 2011," he says.

Welcome, New Members

Bob Babb	Baltimore
Scott Bigham	
Cole Blackwell	
James D. Caudill	Fredericksburg, Virginia
John Grega	Lutherville
Bryan Hoch	
Jenn Keeling-Jenkins	New Market
Kerwin Miller	Aberdeen
Matt Morris	
Steve Moreno	Finksburg
Connie Sharpe	Riva

Trivia Question

The Orioles won 100 games for the first time in 43 years. Adley Rutschman led the O's in hits with 163, Kyle Gibson was the leader in wins with 15, and Felix Bautista led the team in saves with 33.

Who led the O's in hits, wins, and saves the last time they won 100 games, back in 1980?

Answer on Page 11.

Chop Deadlines

Winter 2023-24	December 31
Spring 2024	March 31, 2024
Summer 2024	June 30
Fall 2024	September 30

2023 Orioles Compared to Great O's Clubs of Yesteryear

By Tom Hanrahan

The Orioles won 101 games this season, their best total since 1979. This is an amazing accomplishment, regardless of how the postseason turned out. How does their regular-season domination compare with other Orioles teams that

had this kind of success? I'm so glad you asked!

I will compare the 2023 Birds with Baltimore clubs in the expansion era (since 1969) who also (a) won their division and (b) won more than 95 games. These criteria are true of eight other O's teams.

Year	Tom's Label	Wins	Post-season Result
1969	Robinson Era I	109	Beat Twins, then lost to Mets in World Series
1970	Robinson Era II	108	TROPHY! Beat Reds behind Brooks
1971	Robinson Era III	101	Beat A's, then lost to Pirates in World Series
1973	Pitching and Defense; Palmer Era	97	Lost to A's in ALCS
1979	Singleton and Murray	102	Beat Angels, then lost to Pirates in World Series
1983	Cal and Eddie	98	TROPHY! Beat Phillies
1997	Mussina Era	98	Beat Mariners, then lost to Indians in ALCS
2014	Lots of Power	96	Beat Tigers, then lost to Royals in ALCS
2023	New Blood: Gunnar, Adley, Bradish	101	Lost to Rangers in ALDS

These teams averaged 101 wins, matching this year's total.

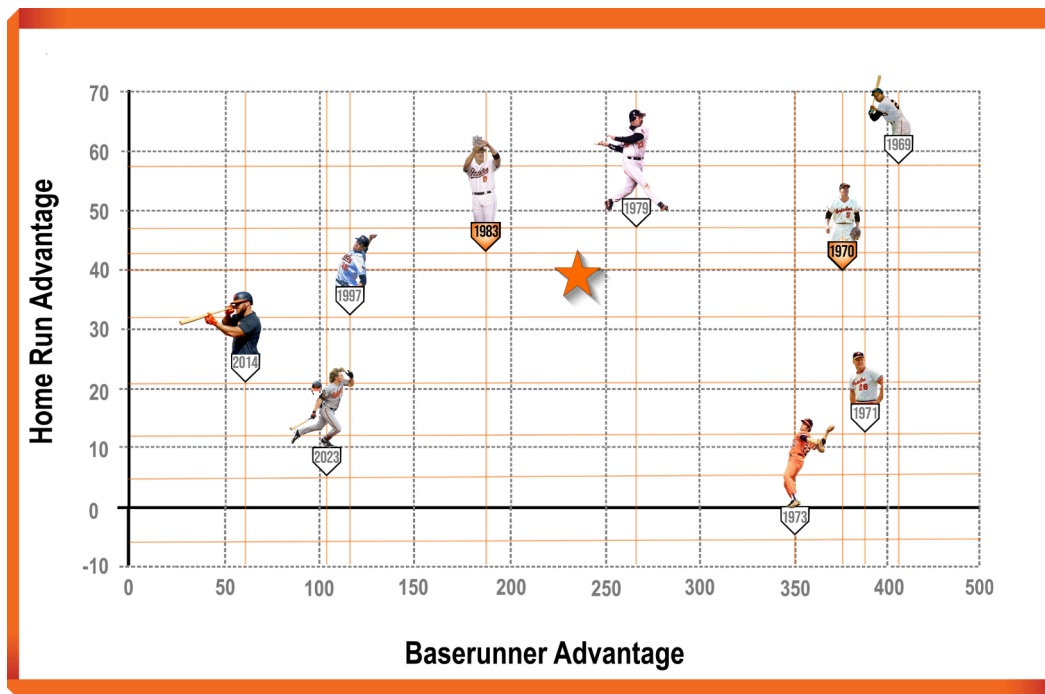
While there are many ways to compare excellence among teams, I will use two metrics that most agree are important keys to success and to assessing underlying strengths. They are

- How many more baserunners did the team have over the season, compared with how many baserunners it allowed?

- How many more home runs did the team have over the season, compared with how many home runs it allowed?

These can be labeled simply as "baserunner advantage" and "home run advantage". Here, the previous table is repeated, including the two metrics for each team/season. I defined "baserunners" simplistically as hits plus walks. This does miss small items like hit by pitcher, and reached on error.

Year	Tom's Label	Wins	BR	HR	Opp. BR	Opp. HR	BR Adv.	HR Adv.
1969	Robinson Era I	109	2099	175	1693	117	406	58
1970	Robinson Era II	108	2141	179	1786	139	355	40
1971	Robinson Era III	101	2054	158	1673	125	381	13
1973	Pitching and Defense	97	2122	119	1772	124	350	-5
1979	Singleton and Murray	102	2009	181	1746	133	263	48
1983	Cal and Eddie	98	2093	168	1903	125	190	43
1997	Mussina Era	98	2084	196	1967	164	117	32
2014	Lots of Power	96	1835	211	1814	151	21	60
2023	Gunnar Adley Bradish	101	1911	183	1807	177	104	6



Observations:

Baserunner advantage: Most of the great Orioles teams dominated other teams by putting many, many more men on base than they allowed. The first five teams (late 1960s to late 1970s) averaged more than two extra baserunners per game. No wonder they won so often.

Home run advantage: Most Orioles teams hit many more dingers than they permitted. The largest advantage belonged to the 2014 club, which led the AL that season. This made up for its lack of extra runners by bringing home the runners it had via the long ball.

This year's team is the only one in this set which was merely league-average in home run advantage (plus-6), and "only" somewhat above average in baserunner advantage (plus-104). Thus, it is

'Country Boy' and the Baltimore Orioles

*Well life on the farm is kinda laid back
Ain't much an old country boy like me can't hack
It's early to rise, early in the sack
I thank God I'm a country boy*

*Well a simple kinda life never did me no harm
A raisin' me a family and workin' on the farm
My days are all filled with an easy country charm
Thank God I'm a country boy*

*Well I got me a fine wife I got me an ol' fiddle
When the sun's comin' up I got cakes on the griddle
And life ain't nothin' but a funny funny riddle
Thank God I'm a country boy*

By Jim Considine

Forty-eight years have passed since "Thank God I'm a Country Boy" by John Denver became embedded in the culture of the Orioles. In the mid-1970s, the concept of a country tune being played at an Orioles game was rather foreign.

"Country Boy" was more than a #1 song on the Billboard Hot 100 Country Singles. "Country Boy" crossed over and topped the Billboard Hot 100 Chart, where it would be played on Top 40 stations across the USA.

But who decided it should be played at Orioles games? Whose bright idea started this tradition? Dr. Charles Steinberg, president of the Worcester WooSox of the International League will answer this question.

Steinberg after graduation from the University of Maryland School of Dentistry became the Orioles team dentist. However, before he assumed this role, Steinberg was an intern for the Orioles while a student at Gilman School. The hustling intern was a witness to the arrival of "Country Boy".

As he tells it: "In 1975, Orioles general manager Frank Cashen decided the Orioles needed to make the game more appealing to younger people and replace that dreadful organ music. Playing popular music might 'liven' the place up. Unfortunately, their idea of a new, hipper version of the Orioles seemed to center around Herb Alpert and the Tijuana Brass."

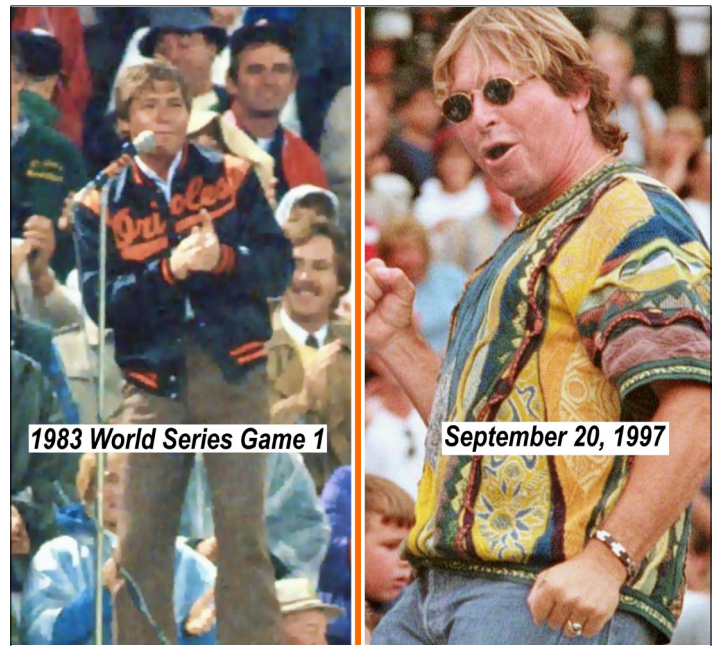
"Candy Bond, the secretary of vice president Jack Dunn III came to work with a song on her mind. She popped in on Frank Cashen and told him about this catchy tune she heard on the radio. That's all it took for 'Country Boy' to make it onto the Orioles playlist. The fans took a liking to it, and it was then slotted for the seventh inning."

But it hardly was considered the Orioles "anthem". It was quirky, and quirky things were beginning to become part of the Orioles charm. PA announcer Rex Barney was awarding imaginary contracts to fans who caught a foul ball. His signature acknowledgement, "Thank yeeeeeew", is still chanted by O's fans. Wild Bill Hagy was becoming an attraction in Memorial Stadium's upper deck Section 34. By 1978, the team was developing a habit of staging "walk-off" victories though it would be several years before ESPN would make this term popular. Rick Dempsey was embraced by the fans when he would imitate the Wild Bill cheer by leading the fans in spelling O-R-I-O-L-E-S.

And then "it" happened.

On June 22, 1979, thanks to Ken Singleton and Doug DeCinces delivering ninth-inning homers to defeat the Tigers, Orioles Magic was born.

The following night, in game one of a two-night doubleheader, 46,800 fans went wild when Eddie Murray clobbered a three-run walk-off homer. In the bottom of the



1983 World Series Game 1

September 20, 1997

John Denver in Baltimore (left, MLB; right, Baltimore Sun).

seventh of the second game, with the Tigers leading 5-3, the crowd had been whipped into a frenzy as "Country Boy" played during the stretch. Singleton then singled to drive in the tying run. In the bottom of the eighth, pinch hitter Terry Crowley drove in what would be the winning run. Orioles Magic was a "thing", and "Country Boy" was the theme song.

Memorial Stadium had become the place to hang out for a good time. The turnstiles started spinning.

The fans' passion for the song was tested on Opening Day of 1983.

Steinberg tells this story with glee:

"In 1983, marketing was a term that was beginning to descend upon how the Orioles conducted their business affairs. The marketing gurus overrode prevailing common sense and decided the Orioles needed a more personal song to play in the seventh inning."

Baltimore Sun columnist Bob Maisel's report was titled "'Magic Feeling' leaves Bird fans unfeeling":

"The most significant development of the day was the brief one-inning retirement and quick comeback of John Denver's Thank God I'm a Country Boy. It caused more reaction than anything that happened between the white lines. For some reason, the Orioles decided to scrap the record they played seemingly forever at the traditional 7th inning stretch and replace it with their new theme song, 'That Magic Feeling'.

"Instead of just sneaking it in, they had public address announcer Rex Barney say something like, 'For the past seven years or so, you clapped to John Denver's record "Thank God I'm a Country Boy", but in recent years, we sensed a feeling you are tiring of it and need a change.'

"There were some cries of 'No,' and a little booing right away, but in fairness, those in the sellout crowd of 51,889 gave the new theme a polite chance to win them over.

"What it did was lay a big fat egg. The longer it went, the louder the boos, until the din was much worse than the one Dan Ford heard when he dropped the first 1983 fly ball hit to him, giving the Royals a 1-0 first-inning lead."

"Country Boy" was back before the Orioles came to bat in

Great Scott? 19th-Century Mystery

By Justin McKinney

On July 5, 2023, Colton Cowser made his debut for the Orioles, playing left field in the club's 6-3 victory over the Yankees. The Orioles proceeded to win six more games with Cowser in the lineup, before finally falling to the Dodgers on July 17. Cowser's career began with seven straight victories. I have no idea what the record for most consecutive wins to start a career would be, but Cowser's debut and streak brought to mind another Baltimore outfielder who began his career with a long winning streak.

Way back on July 16, 1884, nearly 139 years to the day that Cowser's opening career win streak was ended, a man with the last name of Scott debuted in right field for the Baltimore Unions of the Union Association. Scott batted ninth and went 2-for-5, scoring a run, and making no errors as the club dismantled the visiting Kansas City Unions by a score of 17-5. He was replacing Henry Oberbeck in the starting lineup. Oberbeck was a highly touted prospect who had failed to live up to his potential and would just a few days later join the lowly Kansas City.

The Baltimore Unions were one of the stronger clubs in the circuit, holding down second place for much of the season. Bill Sweeney, the club's ace, went 40-21 with a 2.59 ERA in 538 innings. Youngsters like William "Yank" Robinson and Emmett Seery, who would go on to stardom in the AA and NL, respectively, buoyed a respectable offense that average 6.3 runs per game, good for third best in the league.

The Union Association was formed as a third major league to rival the established American Association and National League. The UA targeted players who had been reserved by other clubs, and much of the 1884 season had teams vying for the services of players. While dilution of talent under expansion was to be expected, 1884 was something unlike baseball had ever seen or would ever see again. The addition of eight UA teams, along with the expansion of the major AA and the minor Northwestern League from eight to 12 teams, put a massive strain on available talent.

In 1884, every player in the major leagues save for Moses and Welday Walker was white, with the vast majority of players being of Irish descent and calling Philadelphia, Boston, or New York their home. So, when the Baltimore Unions were looking for a new outfielder midseason, they weren't going to be too picky about his credentials. If a man could pick up a baseball, he could probably play at least one game, and if he didn't set the ballpark on fire with his incompetence, he might get to appear in a second game.

In the case of Scott, there were no notes in the local papers about where he came from, and none bothered to list a first name. Baltimore had won with him in the lineup, and he had performed creditably, which was all that seemed to matter. On July 18, Scott went 1-for-4, in a 14-5 dismantling of Kansas City. On July 19, the outfielder enjoyed his greatest day in baseball. The game was a sloppy affair with the score tied 12-12, heading into the 12th inning. Though Baltimore was the home club, it batted in the top of the inning, owing to a since-abandoned custom that allowed sides to choose whether they wanted to bat in the top or bottom of the inning.

Scott went to bat to face Oberbeck, who was making his first appearance for Kansas City since being replaced in the Baltimore lineup. The rookie hit his first career home run, which gave the club a 13-12 lead, and Yank Robinson shut down the K.C. lineup in the bottom half of the inning to seal the victory. Scott went 2-for-6 with his clutch home run and again made no errors.

The club went on the road to Philadelphia and swept all five games from the Keystones. Scott played all five games. Baltimore returned home and took two games from a solid



Boston club on July 30 and August 1. They then traveled to Washington and made mincemeat of the Nationals, sweeping another four games. In the final game of that series on August 5, Scott went 2-for-4, scoring two runs and again making no errors in an 8-3 victory.

This was Scott's final major-league appearance. He disappeared from box scores, replaced by Bernie Graham, a well-regarded prospect, whom Baltimore got from the Massachusetts State Association. For the record, Baltimore won all 13 games that Scott appeared in, and the outfielder performed solidly. In 13 games, he got 12 hits in 53 at-bats and drew two walks at a time that it took seven balls for a free pass. His modest batting line .226/.255/.340 included a double, a triple, and a home run, good for a relatively solid 90 OPS+. He also fielded .909 in right field, against a league average of .816 for the position.

All of this, and the newspapers never once mentioned his first name, where he came from, when he arrived, or where he went when he left. They did not mention his signing or his release. He played 13 games, all Baltimore victories, yet it was as if he had never existed. I would argue he is the most mysterious baseball player in the history of the game.

That leaves us to wonder almost 140 years later, who was Scott? I have worked closely with the Biographical Research Committee for a number of years, and the case remains deeply enigmatic. One theory posited by David Nemecek and Frank Vaccaro is that Scott was actually an alias used by pitcher Dick Blaisdell. The young hurler had jumped to the Kansas City Unions from the Lynn, Massachusetts, club in early July, and was blacklisted. Blaisdell proved to be no great shakes for Kansas City, getting hammered for 39 runs in 26 innings across three starts. The theory goes that Blaisdell was transferred to Baltimore while Kansas City was visiting in mid-July 1884, and that Henry Oberbeck was sent to Kansas City in return, in what would be baseball's first pseudo-trade.

Blaisdell then would have appeared as Scott for Baltimore for the next few weeks, before departing the club as it was about to head to Boston in mid-August. Fearing his alias would be uncovered back in his home region, he simply up and left.

I am skeptical of this theory for a couple reasons. First, Blaisdell appeared for Kansas City using his real name, so why would he begin using an alias? Second, an item in the July 18, 1884 *Boston Globe* noted that Blaisdell was back in

The Hub of Baseball: The Story of the Aberdeen Pheasants

By Ben Ernst

When you hear the names Jim Palmer, Cal Ripken, and Earl Weaver, what is the first thing that comes to your mind? Orioles legends? The Orioles currently have a minor-league team called the Aberdeen IronBirds, located only 35 miles from Camden Yards. Did you know that the Orioles had an Aberdeen minor-league team before, but it was 1,406 miles from Baltimore in South Dakota? This is the story of the Aberdeen Pheasants and the greats of the game who played for them.

The Aberdeen Pheasants were a member of the Northern League, which consisted of towns located in the Upper Midwest. The team was founded in 1946 when local businessmen went to St. Louis to pitch the idea of bringing a minor-league team to Aberdeen South Dakota. The original parent club of the Pheasants was the St. Louis Browns.

The first legend of the game to play for the Pheasants was Don Larsen in 1947. In the book, *The Perfect Yankee*, Larsen remembers his first time in Aberdeen.

“Apparently, no one from the minor league ball club knew I was arriving that night, because nobody met me at the train station. I had no idea where I was supposed to go. I headed for the Sherman Hotel, but there weren’t any rooms available, so I stayed in the lobby and spent a sleepless night worrying what the next day would bring. My first day as a professional ball player was an unusual one. I took all my

luggage and headed toward the ballpark, which was located some distance from the hotel. There was no one at the ticket gate to pass me through into the Pheasants scheduled double-header, so I had to pay my way into my first game as a professional ball player.”

Another well-known player who played in Aberdeen was Tito Francona, who played for the club in 1953. He married a local Aberdeen girl. His son Terry



Philbert the Pheasant

was born in Aberdeen and has won two World Series as manager of the Red Sox and just stepped down as the manager of the Cleveland Guardians.

In 1959 Earl Weaver managed the Pheasants, who included a handful of players who made it to the big leagues, among them playboy pitcher Bo Belinsky.

Belinsky was a member of the Pheasants in 1958 and 1959. He was released by the Orioles and was picked up by the Angels in the 1961 Rule 5 draft. Belinsky made baseball history on May 5, 1962 at Dodger Stadium when he pitched the first no-hitter in Angels history, defeating his former parent club, the Orioles, 2-0. He bested Steve Barber, a teammate on the 1958 Pheasants. The final out of the game was off the bat of Dave Nicholson, another former Pheasant, who played for them in 1959.

Another famous Oriole who called Aberdeen home was Cal Ripken Sr., who managed the club in 1963, 1964, and 1966. Cal Jr. was also around the team and served as the team batboy from time to time. The best team that Cal Sr. managed was the 1964 edition, which had eight players who made it to the big leagues: Mark Belanger, Mike Davison, Mike Fiore, Tom Fisher, Dave Leonhard, Jim Palmer, Lou Piniella, and Eddie Watt.

And on June 8, 1964, something special happened: The Orioles came to Aberdeen to play an exhibition game against their minor-league team. Still, almost 60 years later, that is the only time a



Pheasants ▶ Page 12

1964 Northern League champions (above), some Pheasants who become Orioles (below, montage by Jim Considine)



Bird-Watching by AL Managers in 1960

By Francis Kinlaw

Until statistical analysis became the preferred method of evaluating athletic performance, many sportswriters and fans did not hesitate to express personal views regarding the strengths and weaknesses of major-league players. In 1960, Milton Richman of *Sport* magazine took a full-blown approach to such an exercise in the publication's July issue by comparing every regular position player in the American League to his peers, with rankings based upon opinions of the AL managers during that season: Casey Stengel (Yankees), Paul Richards (Orioles), Al Lopez (White Sox), Cookie Lavagetto (Washington Senators), Billy Jurges and/or Pinky Higgins (Red Sox), and Bob Elliott (Athletics). Joe Gordon and Jimmy Dykes, the subjects of a midseason trade of managers by the Tigers and Indians, also participated. The qualities of each club's pitching staff and utility players were also ranked from best to worst, but by team rather than individually.

Fans in the mid-Atlantic region of the country were naturally interested in how players wearing Orioles uniforms were perceived by opposing AL skippers. (The Orioles, after finishing in fifth place in 1957 and sixth in both 1958 and 1959, would emerge from the second division to challenge the Yankees for the 1960 pennant. The "Baby Birds" ultimately completed the season eight games behind the Bronx Bombers.)

The results of the managerial survey relative to Baltimore's team and Richman's summaries of his findings were:

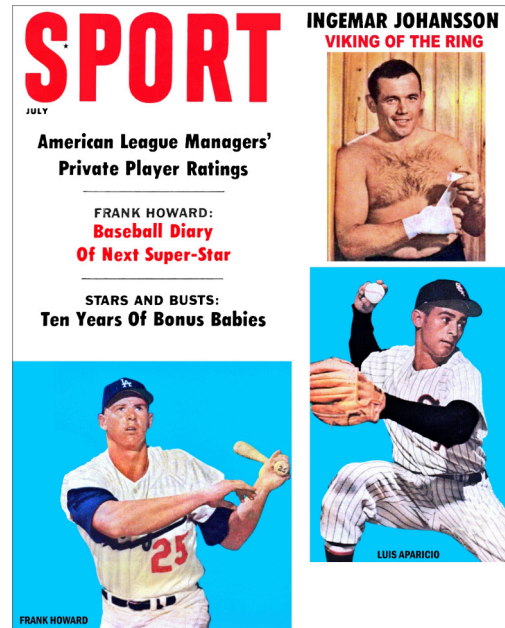
First base – A combination of Bob Boyd and Walt Dropo were rated sixth among the eight first sackers, behind Vic Power of the Indians, Bill Skowron of the Yankees, Ted Kluszewski of the White Sox, Vic Wertz of the Red Sox, and Marv Throneberry of the Kansas City Athletics. "Boyd is a good slap hitter, but is murder on the basepaths and is a poor fielder. Dropo delivers the long ball now and then but strikes out too much. Walt has good hands and is a much better than average fielder."

Second base – Marv Breeding was deemed to be the least competent player in the league at this position. "With Billy Gardner traded to the Washington Senators, Breeding will probably get a long look in the majors. Marv, now 26 years old, hit .288 with Vancouver in 1959. Jerry Adair, at the age of 23, who hit .309 with Amarillo, may be recalled from the minors. Neither has much power."

Third base – A still-developing Brooks Robinson placed seventh among American Leaguers patrolling the hot corner, behind (in order) Frank Malzone of the Red Sox, Eddie Yost of the Tigers, Harmon Killebrew of the Senators, Gene Freese of the White Sox, a combination of Andy Carey and Gil McDougald of the Yankees, and Bubba Phillips of the Indians. "Improved tremendously at bat toward the end of last season. Once considered an 'automatic out man.' Always battles the pitchers. An excellent fielder who gets remarkable mileage out of an average arm and mediocre speed. Could move up right behind Malzone if hitting improves."

Shortstop – Ron Hansen ranked sixth at this key position behind Luis Aparicio of the White Sox, Woodie Held of the Indians, Tony Kubek of the Yankees, Don Buddin of the Red Sox, and the Tigers' combination of Chico Fernandez and Rocky Bridges. "Reminds you of Marty Marion in the field. Tremendous range, gets the ball away quickly and has a good arm. Has improved some at the plate, but still has a long way to go."

Left field – Gene Woodling came in fifth on this list behind Tito Francona of the Indians, Minnie Minoso of the White Sox, Roger Maris of the Yankees, and Charlie Maxwell of the Tigers. "Better hitter now than he was earlier in his career. Adequate fielder but has a poor arm. Runs well to first base, not so



Sport magazine, July 1960

well after that. Displays temperament from time to time."

Center field – Jackie Brandt was deemed to be the fifth-best behind Mickey Mantle of the Yankees, Al Kaline of the Tigers, Jim Landis of the White Sox, and Bill Tuttle of the Athletics. "Hits well to all fields, but hasn't shown consistent power. Good speed and a strong arm. American League managers have seen him only a short while. In the National League, Brandt's improvement was steady but not spectacular."

Right field – The managers considered the Orioles' combination of Willie Tasby and Al Pilarcik to be less effective than players covering right field for the seven other clubs. "Tasby is bothered by pitches across the letters. Has a lot of speed but not a strong enough hitter to be a day-in and day-out regular. Pilarcik has been around awhile and never has shown enough to rate regular status either. John Powers, obtained from the Reds, may get a long look."

Catcher – Gus Triandos received an acceptable rating of third among backstops, behind only Sherm Lollar of the White Sox and Yogi Berra of the Yankees. "A hand injury cut down his hitting during the second half of last season. Best arm of all the American League catchers. Accurate, gets the ball away fast and holds runners on. Good power, but doesn't hit for average. Very slow. Clint Courtney, obtained from the Senators, adds good depth."

Pitching staff – The Orioles' mound crew was given the highest mark possible relative to opposing groups of hurlers. "A brilliant staff although largely inexperienced. Milt Pappas is rated the premier hurler on the staff. Great fast ball, but needs work on his curve and changeup. Young Jerry Walker has the poise and know-how of a ten-year man, and Jack Fisher can throw hard all day. Rookie Chuck Estrada is rated highly, too. Veterans Hoyt Wilhelm and Skinny Brown are perfect spot pitchers. Bullpen is a bit weak with Arnie Portocarrero and Gordon Jones as the top relief men."

The bench – Baltimore's reserves were rated fourth behind those of the White Sox, Yankees, and Indians. "The Orioles don't have much power among their reserves but they have protection at each position. Paul Richards juggles Bob Boyd, Walt Dropo and Jim Gentile at first base and has two of them available for pinch-hitting duties each day; Billy Klaus is available at short or third; Clint Courtney spells Gus Triandos; and Al Pilarcik, John

Interview: Perfect Combination Key to O's Greatest 3-Year Run

*Editor's note: Baltimore Babe Ruth Chapter member Barry Sparks recently interviewed Mark Millikin about his book *Baseball Fever in Baltimore: Frank, Brooks, Boog, Earl and the 1969-1971 Orioles* (St. Johann Press, 2023).*

Question: Why did you decide to write your book about the 1969-1971 Orioles?

Answer: After I wrote about the 1966 Orioles for my book, *The Glory of the 1966 Orioles and Baltimore*, I decided to write about the 1969-1971 Orioles because those years were the most successful three-year run in team history, the last three seasons that Frank Robinson led the team to AL pennants and Earl Weaver's first three full seasons as the Orioles manager. By writing the book, *Baseball Fever in Baltimore: Frank, Brooks, Boog, Earl and the 1969-1971 Orioles*, I completed chronicling the four seasons Frank led the Orioles to the World Series.

Q: Are you surprised there is not another book on this subject?

A: Yes, the Orioles were kings of the AL those three seasons, dominated the AL playoffs, and defeated the Big Red Machine in the 1970 World Series. Baseball fever from the Orioles fans perspective was a constant happy preoccupation.

Q: The Orioles won more games during that three-year period than any other team up to that point, yet they don't receive that much publicity. Why do you think that is?

A: It could be because the Oakland A's won three World Series in a row from 1972-1975. The A's won the games they needed to win the World Series, but I don't think they were as dominant in the AL all season long each year the way the Orioles were from 1969-1971.

Q: Do you think the Orioles were the better team when they lost to the Mets in 1969 World Series and the Pirates in the 1971 World Series?

A: I think the Orioles were better than the Mets in 1969, and they were about equal in ability to the Pirates in 1971. The Mets played extremely well in the 1969 Series, especially their starting pitching. But I think if a couple of umpire calls had gone their way, it would have changed the outcome of at least two games. Frank Robinson was probably not up to par in Games 1 and 2, due to leftover effects from an intestinal virus.

Q: What do you think were the keys to the Orioles' success from 1969 to 1971?

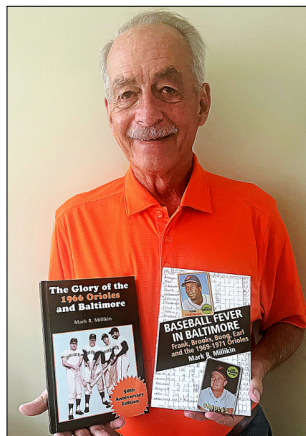
A: The Orioles' large degree of success from 1969-1971 was due to a perfect combination of excellent pitching, batting, and fielding and good fortune in not having too many long-term injuries to key players.

Q: Can you talk about the value of Frank Robinson's leadership?

A: Frank's ability to win a game in so many ways gave his teammates plenty of confidence in him being able to lead them to victory when he was in the lineup, or even when he was on the bench, available to pinch-hit. If he slid hard into a fielder to break up a double play, a teammate often followed suit in short order. His leadership in the locker room included his role as judge in the team's Kangaroo Court, held in their locker room after many wins from 1969-1971.

Q: 1969 was a terrible year for Baltimore sports fans as the Colts, Bullets, and Orioles got beat by New York teams. Can you talk about that year from a fan's perspective?

A: All three postseason losses to the New York teams were very frustrating to Baltimore sports fans. The fact that the Colts were heavily favored to beat the Jets in the Super Bowl, and the Orioles were heavily favored to beat the Mets in the World Series added to our frustration and disappointment. By the time of the 1969 World Series, many Baltimore sports fans felt that redemption was finally about



to occur for Baltimore, but it didn't.

Q: Why did the Orioles' great run end after the 1971 season?

A: With Frank Robinson traded to the Dodgers, there was no strong team leader on the club. Don Buford, Paul Blair, Boog Powell, and Merv Rettenmund did not hit as well in 1972 as they had in 1969-1971.

Q: I enjoyed the many little stories you included in the book, particularly the one about what happened to the ball that was Brooks's 2,000th hit. Can you tell that story?

A: The odyssey of what happened to Brooks's home run ball happened over a two-day period. After receiving the ball from a fan in the locker room after the game, he plopped it onto a Father's Day cake he received from fans and held it on his lap in Pete Richert's open convertible on the way home. At a stoplight, McNally pulled up next to Pete and Brooks and said, "Hey, Brooks, do you still have that cake?" Brooks hoisted the cake high above his head, whereupon the ball shot off the cake and bounced between the cars into weeds on Charles Street. Brooks could not find the ball, and he and Pete headed home. The next day, Brooks and teammates stopped near the site of the lost ball on the way to the stadium. Although it was raining, it didn't keep them from looking for the ball. Brooks finally found the ball, almost stepping on it. Upon showing the newly found ball to his teammates in the locker room before the game, Frank said, "Well, you never did have good hands, anyway."

Q: You focus a lot on the fans' views and perspectives in the book. Why did you decide to do that?

A: The fans' views and perspectives and how we were reacting are so important from my point of view. And, frankly without all the fans there would not be any MLB. These interesting stories are often left out of sports books, or only briefly mentioned. But I think the majority of readers are interested in them and can relate to them. **Q:** It seems laughable today, but the Orioles' team payroll was about \$500,000 in 1970. Can you give us an idea of what some of the Orioles made during that era?

A: Early in the 1970 season, McNally was making \$65K, Frank \$125K, Brooks \$85K, Boog \$65K, Blair \$40K, Buford and Davey Johnson \$35K, and Mark Belanger and Andy Etchebarren close to \$25K. The salaries for many of those players were higher for the 1971 season.

Q: What's the biggest surprise you had researching the book?

A: The biggest surprise was how often Frank was injured (often from being hit by a pitch) and his relentless determination to get back in the lineup.

Manheim's Books Move to Sunbury

Jerry Manheim's series of baseball mysteries and thrillers has a new home: Sunbury Press. It also has a new name: The Deadball Files. New editions of the first three books have just been published, and the fourth book in the series is now available as well. *The Federal Case* is a contemporary legal thriller and, like all of the books in the series, traces its roots to events of the Deadball Era—in this case to the fate of the Kansas City Packers and the Federal League challenge to MLB. For more information, see jbermanheimbooks.com or Sunburypress.com.

New Cathedral Cemetery: Paying Respect to 4 Hall of Famers

By David B. Stinson

Less than five miles west of Orioles Park at Camden Yards on Route 40 is New Cathedral Cemetery. The cemetery holds the distinction of being the final resting place of four Baseball Hall of Famers, all of whom were once members of the world champion National League Baltimore Orioles. On August 26, the SABR Baltimore Babe Ruth Chapter sponsored a tour of New Cathedral Cemetery, beginning a day of baseball festivities that included a pregame party at the warehouse featuring presentations by former Oriole Larry Sheets, Professor Bernard McKenna, and author Eric Gray, followed by an Orioles game, a 5-4 win over the Rockies.

New Cathedral Cemetery, located in West Baltimore at 4300 Old Frederick Road, includes the gravesites of John McGraw, Ned Hanlon, Wilbert Robinson, and Joe Kelly. Twenty SABR members met at the cemetery entrance for the hour and a half car tour of the cemetery, which included stops at each Hall of Famer's gravesite, as well as a stop at a new marker for former American Association pitcher and Baltimore native Bobby Mathews. Sam Gazdziaak, chair of the SABR 19th Century Grave Marker Project, was on hand for the dedication of Bobby Mathews's new SABR-sponsored grave marker. Mathews's original 120-year-old grave marker is worn down from years of exposure to the elements and virtually unreadable.

After the Mathews grave marker dedication, the procession stopped at the gravesites of all four Orioles Hall of Famers. The first stop was in the northeast section of the cemetery at the gravesite of Wilbert Robinson, former Orioles catcher, as well as manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers from 1914 to 1931. Robinson is buried next to his wife and son.

Next was the final resting place of Ned Hanlon, Orioles manager (as well as manager of the Brooklyn Superbas from 1899-1905, and the Reds in 1906 and 1907). Hanlon later became the principal shareholder in the Baltimore Terrapins of the Federal League in 1913. Hanlon's wife is buried alongside "Foxy Ned". A matching block of granite honors



SABR members visit the mausoleum where John McGraw is interred (above). The gravesite of Joe Kelley (below).



the memory of Hanlon's son: "Joseph Thomas Hanlon, Born March 3, 1893, Died July 31, 1918, Killed In Action, Buried At Thiaucourt, France."

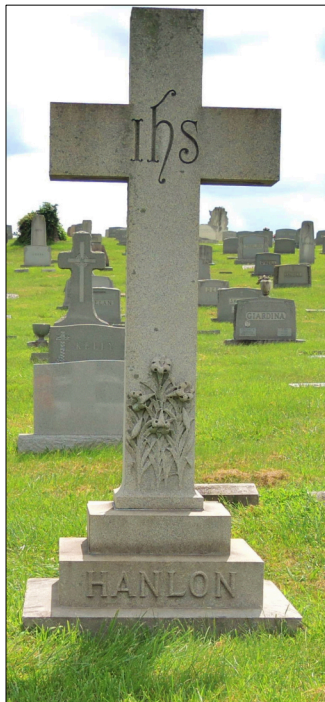
A short distance from Hanlon's gravesite is the final resting place of Joe

Kelley, former Orioles right fielder. After retiring from baseball, Kelley was a courthouse clerk in Baltimore and a member of the Maryland State Racing Commission. A set of marble stairs at the base of a small hill leads to Kelly's grave. He is buried alongside his wife and son. Close by is John Steadman, distinguished Baltimore sportswriter, who is buried alongside his wife.

Just over the hill from Kelley's burial site is the final resting place of John McGraw (Orioles third baseman and New York Giants manager from 1902 to 1932). After his death, his wife, Blanche, a Baltimore native, brought his remains back to Baltimore. He is entombed in a stately granite mausoleum with an oxidized, green copper roof. "J.J. McGraw" is carved into the granite above the front door along with "S.J. Van Lill, Jr.," whose family shares the space with McGraw and Blanche. Mrs. S.J. Lill was Blanche McGraw's sister.

Robinson and McGraw died in 1934, and were buried soon after at New Cathedral Cemetery. During their time with the Orioles, Robinson and McGraw were partners in The Diamond Cafe at 519 North Howard Street (from 1897 to 1915). The Diamond Cafe is believed to be Baltimore's first sports bar. It is fitting that both players are buried near each other in their adopted home of Baltimore.

New Cathedral Cemetery is just one example of Baltimore's rich baseball history. Given its close proximity to Camden Yards, the cemetery is worth a trip for any SABR member. (For a copy of the author's cemetery map, email huntingtonparkdbs@gmail.com.)



The gravesites of Ned Hanlon (above left) and Wilbert Robinson (above right). (Photos by David B. Stinson)

Behind the Scenes: The Statue

By Michael Gibbons
Director Emeritus, Historian, Babe Ruth Museum

At high noon on a sun-drenched October 22, 2011, emcee Scott Garceau took to the lectern to welcome the thousands of fans and dignitaries gathered for the much-anticipated unveiling of the Brooks Robinson statue.

The event marked the culmination of a project that was years in the making, punctuated by starts and stops and restarts dating back more than a decade. But on that crisp Baltimore Saturday, most everyone was focused on the shrouded statue, and on the man whose legacy would live forever through artist Joe Sheppard's 9-foot bronze rendition with its signature golden glove relief. And from the get-go, the Babe Ruth Museum would play a pivotal role in the creation of what stands today as a Baltimore landmark.

A decade before, in 2001, Henry Rosenberg, Chairman of Crown Central Petroleum and a member of the Babe Ruth Museum's board of directors, alerted the museum that he was interested in creating a statue around Oriole Park for his dear friend and sometime employee Brooks Robinson. Brooks had done promotional work for Crown Central following his retirement from baseball in 1977, along the way forging a fast friendship with Rosenberg.

As the museum's executive director, I was able to arrange a meeting with Orioles owner Peter Angelos to discuss a possible project that would result in a Brooks statue at Camden Yards. But the hunt for the right location would take years. A 2007 meeting with Maryland Stadium Authority leadership resulted in the consideration of locating the statue near Camden Station, which at the time housed our Sports Legends Museum and Steve Geppi's Entertainment Museum.

Ultimately, Rosenberg and the museum accepted an offer

Brooks ▶ From Page 1

for the interview, and I proceeded to put the tape in the cassette and plug in the microphone. That is when I realized I had forgotten to buy batteries! Red-faced and flummoxed, and with apologies, I headed for the hotel convenience store. Once past that hurdle, Brooks and I went back and forth for a good half-hour, discussing his upcoming HOF induction and, surprisingly, his role as a member of the Babe Ruth Birthplace Restoration committee in the late 1960s and early '70s!

Over the years, Brooks Robinson was always there for the museum, participating in programs, projects, and special events. Most notable, our "Evening with Brooks" in 2009, when a sold-out Meyerhoff Symphony Hall soaked in every second of that star-studded tribute to Baltimore's most beloved sportsman. In 2013 we honored Baltimore Ravens HOF tackle Jon Ogden. Brooks made a VIP appearance, seated in the midst of the 1,100 guests in attendance. Wouldn't you know, but even at this football event, it was Brooks who drew the most attention, with dozens of fans lined up around his table for a cherished autograph.

A few years before the unveiling of the statue, I think it was 2008, my wife and I were in New York with friends. As we were walking down Manhattan's crowded Fifth Avenue, we heard a high-pitched chortle somewhere up ahead. "Hey, Michael," the voice beckoned, loud enough for me to pick up a slight Arkansas drawl. It was Brooks, in so many ways just a regular guy, a friend, with no airs about him. That's the way he was for me ... and for all of us.

His passing sent shockwaves through the local and national sports communities. We lost the greatest third baseman ever, but more importantly, we lost our dear, dear friend. Here's to you, Mr. Robinson! Your legacy, just like the Babe's, will last forever.

from Baltimore City's Office of Promotion and the Arts to erect a statue in a plaza in the 500 block of Washington Boulevard just across from Oriole Park at Camden Yards. The location was ideal in that the Brooks Robinson statue would not only be a long fly ball from the ballpark, it would also serve as a welcoming beacon to people arriving in Baltimore from the south.

Maryland sculptor Joe Sheppard, then living in Italy, was contracted to create the statue, with work commencing in 2009. Because of its not-for-profit status, the museum was designated by Rosenberg to enter an agreement with the City of Baltimore to create and install the statue and then donate it to the city, which would then accept responsibility for maintaining the 9-foot work of baseball art, its 5-foot pedestal, and the plaza in perpetuity.

Crown Central Petroleum provided a leadership gift, and the ensuing fundraising campaign successfully generated the more than \$600,000 necessary to complete the project. A Brooks Robinson statue committee headed by Rosenberg adviser Andy Lapayowker began planning for an unveiling ceremony during the spring and summer of 2011. Local contractor Whiting-Turner was selected to construct the pedestal and prepare the site for installation, guided by Mahan Rykiel Associates, an urban design and planning firm. Maroon PR was brought in to coordinate the promotion and logistics of the unveiling, and Sports Legends Museum was chosen as the site to host a post-event reception.

Which takes us back to that October day in 2011, with Scott Garceau introducing Henry Rosenberg, Joe Sheppard and Number Five, Brooks Robinson, who excitedly unveiled the statue. A glorious day for Brooks, the city of Baltimore, and the Babe Ruth Museum. And, in case you are wondering, we have no idea who adorns the statue with that colossal bright-orange scarf for opening day and the holidays!



Dedication ceremonies for the Brooks Robinson statue.

MLB World Tour London Series 2023

By David B. Stinson

The MLB World Tour London Series returned to England this summer with a two-game series June 24-25, between the Cubs and Cardinals. Advertised as an “Old Rivalry, New Grounds,” these two games were the second set of official MLB games played in Europe. The New York Yankees and the Boston Red Sox played in the first two games of the inaugural London Series in 2019.

MLB kicked off the event with a fan fest in Trafalgar



A fan fest in Trafalgar Square (Photo by David B. Stinson)

Square in Central London. With the National Portrait Gallery as a backdrop, the contrast between the grand 17th and 18th century architecture surrounding Trafalgar Square and MLB’s over-the-top banner advertising and commercialism was no less than striking, even in comparison to nearby Piccadilly Circus and London’s West End.

The games were played at London Stadium, home of Premier League club West Ham United. Fashioning an English football stadium into an American baseball park was no small feat, with the results reminiscent of multi-use ballparks in the United States built in the 1960s and 1970s, such as Veterans Stadium, RFK Stadium, and Fulton County Stadium. Still, the grass was green, the infield immaculate, and, at least on Sunday, the sky blue. A total of approximately 110,000 fans attended at both games, in a stadium configured to seat 66,000.

Before each game, MLB unfurled both the flag of the United States and the Union Jack, the flag of the United Kingdom, which together covered a large portion of right and left fields. Renditions of The Star-Spangled Banner and God Save the King, the national anthem of the United



The entrance to West Ham United’s stadium on (baseball) game day (Photo by David B. Stinson)



Inside the “ballpark” (Photo by David B. Stinson)

Kingdom, were played before each contest. A between-innings mascot race featured contests between Freddie Mercury, Sir Winston Churchill, King Henry VIII, and a member of the King’s Guard. Churchill won the race on the first day and the King’s Guard won on the second day. As for the actual games, the Cubs and the Cardinals split the series in true American democratic fashion, with the Cubs defeating the Cardinals on June 24, 9-1, and the Cardinals defeating the Cubs on June 25, 7-5. The London Series will return next year with games between the Mets and Phillies on June 8-9.

Scott ► From Page 5

Lynn, Massachusetts, on a 10-day eastern scouting trip to find players for Kansas City. This would place him nowhere near Baltimore and put him out of commission for a big chunk of Scott’s appearances. Additionally, Blaisdell was barred from making an appearance for a local club in Biddeford, Massachusetts, on August 2, due to his blacklist.

The newspapers at the time were still in the habit of using quotation marks when referring to players who were appearing under an alias. Given that, it would seem likely that his name would have appeared as “Scott” at least once. Nonetheless, there is still a decent possibility Scott was a player using an assumed name.

I will mention two other candidates, one fully fleshed out, and the other but a name in a semi-pro box score.

Harry Clay Scott was a young college player who attended Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania. Scott can be found playing the outfield for Lafayette through 1887. He died in 1898 in Easton, with this obituary

mentioning his athletic exploits, but no mention of any major-league appearances. He remains a plausible candidate, but his case lacks a smoking gun.

The other candidate is a man named W. Scott or Scott, who made a couple of semi-pro appearances around Maryland in 1885 and 1886. Nothing else is known about him. It is likely that Scott was a Baltimore native, but the lack of additional clues makes the case nearly impossible to solve.

It seems likely that for the rest of time, the true identity of Scott will remain unknown. His status as the most enigmatic and mysterious player of all time seems certain to live on.

Trivia Answer

Al Bumbry with 205 hits...Steve Stone with 25 wins...and Tim Stoddard with 26 saves.

(A tip of the editor’s cap to Jody Madron for the Q&A)

Comparison ▶ From Page 3

surprising, based merely on these numbers, that the team won over 100 games.

The second table is depicted graphically below it (Page 3). The "centroid" of the other eight teams is shown by the orange star.

So how did they win 101 games?

Obviously the Orioles did many things well outside of these metrics. One of the easiest to spot is how the Orioles hitters came through in crucial ("clutch") situations. This season, the league average OPS when there were runners in scoring position (RISP) was .745. The Orioles, despite a .742 OPS overall, had an .837 mark with RISP. They scored their runners very, very well. The Orioles were eighth in the league in OPS; but they were fourth in runs scored. Additionally, the Orioles came through in close games. They were 30-16 in one-run decisions.

So, all hail this year's Baltimore Orioles. They did not dominate in the underlying statistics like the excellent teams of the Earl Weaver era. Instead, they dominated with clutch play. Will this continue? Time will tell.

Pheasants ▶ From Page 6

major-league tem has played in South Dakota.

In the 25 years of the Pheasants' existence, from 1946 to 1971, they finished with a record of 1,452-1,366 (.515 winning percentage) and won the Northern League championship three times, in 1949, 1961, and 1964.

There's a video, too: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=l2iekOU-zkY>

Sources:

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<https://usfamily.net/web/trombleyd/>

Shutout, Triple Play Feature Hub Victory



JIM PALMER, 18-year-old right-hander from Scottsdale, Ariz., ran his scoreless hitting string to 19 Wednesday night as he blanked Winipeg on one scratch hit for a 2-0 Aberdeen victory. It was Palmer's second successive shutout and the fourth for Aberdeen pitchers this season. Palmer was a standout pitcher in the Basin League last year as a 17-year-old youngster just out of high school.

By **LARRY DESAUTELS**

THE SEASON'S first triple play and a one-hit pitching job by young Jim Palmer gave the fans some added thrills as the Aberdeen Pheasants beat Winipeg 2-0 to run their winning streak to eight in a row and their season record to 13-1 in the Northern League.

Palmer, whose last outing was a three-hit shutout of Grand Forks for a 10-inning, 1-0 victory, missed a no-hitter on a scratch single in the sixth inning. Vic Torres, Goldeye third baseman, hit a curving line drive into right field. Al Cooper, right fielder, partially misjudged the ball, then couldn't hold it on a last-second lunge. It was scored as a hit and turned out to be a big play.

Palmer, with a string of 19 consecutive scoreless innings to his credit, said simply, "We won the ball game. That's the big thing."

The 18-year-old right-hander walked five and hit one, but no one hit the ball well. Until the ninth when the Goldeyes hit three routine outfield flies, only three balls were hit out of the infield. Palmer struck out the side in the first inning.

The triple play was distinctly different. Palmer had walked Cal Knowles and Steve Jacobus to open the seventh inning and Bart Zeller hit a low line drive at second baseman Bob Litchfield.

The ball hit the ground just before Litchfield grabbed it and he made the play to shortstop Mark Belanger covering second to start a routine double play. Belanger relayed to first baseman Mike Fiore to get Zeller for the second out.

Knowles, thinking the ball had been caught on the fly, tagged up at second, then made a belated dash for third base. He was thrown out by Fiore's perfect peg to third baseman Nellie Cochran who put the tag on the runner going into third.

Palmer was starting to weaken, as indicated by the two walks, he got a real taste out of that play and retired the last six runs in order. The last triple play in the Aberdeen park was Jim Rouse's unassisted effort last summer.

Battling hero of the game was George Rouse, Aberdeen catcher who is on a hit rampage. Al Cooper, who went three-for-three plus a walk, singled with two

out in the second and Faron led the drive double to left-center as Cooper raced around to score from first with the only run Aberdeen needed.

Cochran singled on a neat bunt with one out in the sixth and ran to second on an error. Cooper was given an intentional walk in the hopes of setting up a double play, but Faron lashed a single to center sending Cochran home with the second run of the game.

DAVIDSON WILL PITCH

MIKE DAVIDSON, was named to pitch the windup game of the Winipeg series Thursday night, ending Aberdeen's present home stand. The Pheasants play their next six games with St. Cloud, three of them at St. Cloud and three more in Aberdeen starting next Monday.

Olivo pitched good ball for the Goldeyes, although the Pheasants had runners on base in every inning. He struck out eight and walked three. Dan Musico hurried the eighth inning after Olivo had left for a pinch-hitter.

Aberdeen ab r h e	Winipeg ab r h e
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Sport ▶ From Page 7

Powers and Albie Pearson are extra outfielders."

Except for the managers' favorable opinion of the quality of Baltimore's pitching staff and their reasonably good impressions regarding available bench talent and the club's catchers, these ratings were not close to a level that fans near the Chesapeake Bay would have wished.

One other interesting question may be asked relating to the managers' evaluations: How did they compare to the American League's

starting lineups in the two All-Star games that were played in the same month as the publication of the Sport article? (The first of these games was played in Kansas City's Municipal Stadium on July 11, and the second two days later in Yankee Stadium in New York.) The starting lineups were chosen in a poll of players, managers, and coaches, with no one allowed to vote for a player from his own franchise. After votes were counted, All-Star managers Walter Alston of the Dodgers and Al Lopez of the White Sox selected players to complete their respective



Ron Hansen, All-Star starter complete their respective

rosters and chose their starting pitchers.

The American League team's starting nine was identical in both games, with Hansen receiving more votes in the All-Star poll than the shortstops who had been ranked above him in the Sport magazine survey. Despite having only one of their players on the field as the games began, the Orioles organization was well-represented, as Estrada, Gentile, and Robinson watched from the dugout or bullpen. (Hansen and Gentile both singled and struck out in the game played in Kansas City, while Robinson was hitless in two plate appearances. Estrada surrendered four hits---but only one run---in one inning of work. Two days later in the Bronx, Hansen played the entire game and had two singles in four times at bat. Robinson, after entering the game as a pinch runner in the seventh inning, grounded out in the ninth. Gentile and Estrada did not play in the second game.)

Although neither the managerial survey conducted by Richman nor the results of voting by a larger pool of baseball professionals can be considered definitive, both indicated a belief among those qualified to make informed judgments that the 1960 Orioles roster included several young players with potential. So, while publication of the managerial survey certainly did not cause readers in the Baltimore area to jump for joy, the encouraging outcome of the "Season of the Baby Birds" would soon confirm that a productive youth movement was indeed about to bear fruit.

New Baseball Movies to Stream

Baseball season isn't over for subscribers to Netflix.

The Saint of Second Chances is the story of how Mike Veeck, son of Bill Veeck, learns about the grace of second chances.

It Ain't Over is a delightful documentary of one of the greatest baseball players of all time from the granddaughter of Yankees Hall of Fame catcher Yogi Berra. It was scheduled to land on Netflix on October 26. Lindsay Berra will be the guest November 1 at Peeps @ The Peeb.

Country Boy ▶ From Page 4

the eighth inning.

In 1983, the Orioles invited John Denver to sing the song atop the Orioles dugout during the first game of the World Series in front of a national audience.

The greatest blow came when Eli Jacobs purchased the Orioles, which became official in April 1989: "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" by the Andrews Sisters would replace "Country Boy" per Mr. Jacobs.

During the 1991 final weekend series, the O's hosted the Tigers. On Friday, October 4, the Orioles and Tigers slogged away in a 14-inning game in front of a sold-out Memorial Stadium. The inning break of the 14 is regarded as the "second seventh-inning stretch". Playing "Country Boy" was still prohibited by Jacobs. However, by the 14th inning, he had left for the evening. As the Orioles prepared to come to bat, the sound of the rhythmic clapping opening of "Country Boy" was played over the PA speakers.

The groggy fans who remained were immediately electrified, and the crowd was delighted to hear their song again.

"Country Boy" was restored as the Orioles' signature seventh-inning stretch tune at the 1994 Opening Day. New owner Peter Angelos was happy to restore the tradition.

On September 20, 1997, the Orioles were playing the Tigers at a sold-out day game at Oriole Park. John Denver was booked to play a charity show that night at the Baltimore Arena. Denver had a standing invitation to appear at an Oriole game. He said he would do it when the Orioles would play in their next World Series. He was made aware that the Orioles were playing "Country Boy" during the stretch again, and decided to call John Maroon and see if they could throw something together. They agreed to having Denver lip-sync the tune while dancing atop the Orioles dugout. He got a big cheer and was gone.

Baltimore felt the pain when his plane crash was reported three weeks after his appearance. It was as if we had lost one of our own.

Two years later *Sun* columnist Kevin Cowherd started a campaign to petition Angelos to replace "Country Boy" for the same reasons that have been floated for years (e.g., Baltimore has nothing in common with the country). His petition failed, and "Country Boy" is still here.

Author's note: I ran into Orioles beat writer, Rich Dubroff at Oriole Park in August 2023. I told him about my plan to interview Charles Steinberg regarding 'Country Boy'. At the sound of "Country Boy", the affable Dubroff says, "Get rid of it!"



Gunnar Henderson, Country Boy (posted on X, August 12, 2023).

I guess if I had heard this song over 100 times a year in Baltimore and Sarasota over the past two decades, even I might vote for a change.

Listen to Country Boy here: [Country Boy at OPCY](#)

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Was George Stevens an O's Fan?



George Stevens is sporting an Orioles cap while directing Shelley Winters in 1958 on the set of *Diary of Anne Frank*. This is a screenshot from the documentary *George Stevens—A Filmmaker's Journey*, 1984.

Was George Stevens an Orioles fan?

During the wee hours of April 27, 2023, Turner Classic Movies aired a documentary about the career of George Stevens, a three-time Oscar winner and seven-time Oscar-nominated director, producer, writer, and cinematographer from the classic Hollywood era. The title of the documentary is *George Stevens: A Filmmaker's Journey* (1984).

While telling the story behind Stevens' 1959 movie *The Diary of Anne Frank*, this photo of Stevens on the set of the production giving instructions to actress Shelley Winters is shown. He is dressed in his typical garb of a coat and tie, sweater, and a hat. Most times, he would wear a Stetson. However, I noticed that this time he is wearing a black-billed Orioles cap that the team wore from 1954 to 1957.

The photo was most likely taken in 1958, the year that the Orioles switched to an orange-billed cap. I was thinking that perhaps he attended the 1958 All-Star Game in Baltimore but could not substantiate this.

Was George Stevens an Oriole fan? The question was posed in a Tweet to his 91-year-old son, George Stevens Jr., who produced the documentary.

No reply has been received.

—Jim Considine

Mathews ► From Page 1

unveiled a Baseball Graves Map (<https://fortress.maptive.com/ver4/SABRGravesMap>) that gives you the locations of more than 9,000 baseball-related gravesites. If you are interested in paying your respects to players, owners, managers, umpires, or anyone else who has been a part of baseball history, you're in good company.

One thing you'll find if you start visiting cemeteries is that those players from the 19th century can be difficult to find. Many of those final resting places are unmarked, or the gravestones are worn and dilapidated. Some of those



players are pretty obscure--a couple of unmarked graves that I've found (or tried to find) are Jim Green at Cleveland's Calvary Cemetery or Tommy Beals at Cypress Lawn Memorial Park in Colma, California. But other players made some significant contributions to baseball history.

SABR's 19th Century Committee Grave Marker Project was formed to recognize those ballplayers of the past. The project began in 2016 with placement of a grave marker for James Whyte Davis of the Knickerbocker Ball Club of New York. Since then, we have paid for and placed grave markers for early players and pioneers like

Andy Leonard, Pud Galvin, Hicks Hayhurst, and Ed Williamson. I have served as the chair since 2022.

Bobby Mathews's was a little different case than other projects we have undertaken. One of the most durable pitchers of his era, Mathews had a marble stone in Baltimore's New Cathedral Cemetery to honor his death on April 17, 1898. However, after being exposed to the elements for more than 120 years, the stone had become nearly illegible. It was one more indignity to the memory of a pitcher who has been largely forgotten, and the Grave Marker Project was happy to right this wrong.

A few notes on Bobby Mathews:

He was the starting pitcher in the first National Association game ever played and beat Cleveland, 2-0, while pitching for Fort Wayne.

He won 43 games in 1874 when he was 22 years old.

During the five years that he pitched in the National Association, he was his team's only pitcher or main pitcher and routinely threw more than 400 innings or more in a season—with a high of 625 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings in 1875.

He was one of the first pitchers to perfect the curveball—and the spitball, it must be noted.

He played his final professional game in 1887, long after his contemporaries had retired and faded from memory.

He won a total of 297 games over 15 seasons in the National Association, National League, and American Association.

You can debate what constitutes a "major league" if you want, but the only pitcher to have recorded more victories and not been inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame is Roger Clemens.

Bobby Mathews didn't have an easy life, which is fairly common among the first generations of ballplayers. He

spent his last days in a Baltimore sanitarium, and it took proceeds from a benefit baseball game in Philadelphia to give him some support over the last months of his life.

He is buried in New Cathedral Cemetery, which is home to four Hall of Famers: Wilbert Robinson, Ned Hanlon, Joe Kelley, and John McGraw. We at SABR can't vote Mathews into Cooperstown, but we can honor him in other ways. This year, he was selected as the 19th Century Committee's Overlooked Legend. And the Grave Marker Project has placed a marker to ensure that any baseball fan who visits New Cathedral can easily find him.

I would like to thank the Baltimore SABR Chapter for putting together a great cemetery tour on August 26. It was an enthusiastic group of baseball fans who gathered to formally dedicate Bobby Mathews's new grave marker. Getting to take in an Orioles victory at Camden Yards was the perfect ending to a fun day!

The Grave Marker Project will have announcements soon concerning its next placement. Baseball, even in the 1800s, had entrenched itself in American popular culture, and we are happy to honor one of the earliest performers who brought baseball into the entertainment world.



Sam Gazdziak, chair of SABR's 19th Century Committee Grave Marker Project.

President ► From Page 1

My goals in 2024 are for an upgraded web and social media presence and to continue our history of having excellent speakers.

We are fortunate to have such great partners as the Orioles and Peabody Heights Brewery, and we hope to work with other local baseball organizations as well in time. The resurgence of interest in our hometown team helps to keep baseball relevant so there is more opportunity for folks like us to research and share with a captive society.

Many of our members have generously donated to our campaign to place a historic marker at St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center on 25th Street in Baltimore, honoring the baseball history of Union Park, which once stood next to and behind St. Ambrose. We now have the funds to cover the cost of the marker, which is scheduled to be shipped in November. Once the marker is installed by St. Ambrose, we plan to hold a dedication ceremony and hope many members can attend.

Next year marks the 70th anniversary of the Orioles in Baltimore since their arrival from St. Louis, and also the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Babe Ruth Birthplace. Throw in a very tough team that could run the table in 2024 and you have the makings of a wonderfully exciting summer in Birdland!

Thanks for all your support. Let's take this ride together and see where we end up.

--Peter Coolbaugh

BBRC's Day at the Ballpark, the First Since 2019

For the first time since 2019, members of the Baltimore Babe Ruth Chapter (BBRC) of SABR and their friends gathered for a pregame meal and presentation in the DH Lounge in the Warehouse at Oriole Park at Camden Yards.

This year the 30 in attendance on August 29 were fortunate to hear from Dr. Bernard McKenna, one of the founders of the BBRC. Then came former Oriole Larry Sheets, who fielded questions from the audience. And lastly we had author Eric Gray speak to us about his latest book, *Backyards to Ballparks*.

The food from the ballpark's Brick & Whistle got rave reviews, and the service was outstanding. Special thanks goes out to Orioles Alumni Director Bill Stetka for his help in securing former Orioles to stop by, and for Orioles ticket guru Cole Blackwell for his assistance along the way.

The Orioles did win that evening vs. the Rockies, as more than 42K packed the Yard on Felix Bautista bobblehead giveaway evening. Alas, Bautista would be lost for the season due to injury that same weekend.

With the pandemic now in the rear-view mirror, we hope to get back to Oriole Park every summer for a similar event. Likely will almost always be on a Saturday to maximize time so we can eat, listen and enjoy each other's company prior to seeing Orioles baseball. Next year we may try for an



earlier-season game so we can get to a minor-league game later in the summer. With the exception of SABR Day in January/February, our summer outings are our only chance to see each other in person, talk baseball, and share stories.

See you all in 2024 for more memories to be made!

--Peter Coolbaugh

Larry Sheets, the BBRC's Orioles alumni pregame guest speaker, cheering on the Orioles at Oriole Park at Camden Yards.

Orioles Career Leaders

At-Bats	
Cal Ripken	11,551
Brooks Robinson	10,654
Eddie Murray	7,075
Adam Jones	6,385
Brady Anderson	6,271
Boog Powell	5,912
Mark Belanger	5,734
Paul Blair	5,606
Nick Markakis	5,331
Brian Roberts	5,214

Runs	
Cal Ripken	1,647
Brooks Robinson	1,232
Eddie Murray	1,084
Brady Anderson	1,044
Adam Jones	875
Brian Roberts	810
Boog Powell	796
Al Bumbry	772
Nick Markakis	749
Paul Blair	737

Wins	
Jim Palmer	268
Dave McNally	181
Mike Mussina	147
Mike Cuellar	143
Mike Flanagan	141
Scott McGregor	138
Milt Pappas	110
Dennis Martinez	108
Steve Barber	95
Mike Boddicker	79
Scott Erickson	79

ERA (500 innings)	
Stu Miller	2.37
Hoyt Wilhelm	2.42
Eddie Watt	2.74
Pat Dobson	2.78
Jim Palmer	2.86
Billy O'Dell	2.86
Dick Hall	2.89
Jim Harden	2.95
Tom Phoebus	3.06
Robin Roberts	3.09

Hits	
Cal Ripken	3,184
Brooks Robinson	2,848
Eddie Murray	2,080
Adam Jones	1,781
Brady Anderson	1,614
Boog Powell	1,574
Nick Markakis	1,547
Ken Singleton	1,455
Brian Roberts	1,452
Paul Blair	1,426

Home Runs	
Cal Ripken	431
Eddie Murray	343
Boog Powell	303
Brooks Robinson	268
Adam Jones	263
Chris Davis	253
Rafael Palmeiro	223
Brady Anderson	209
Ken Singleton	182
Frank Robinson	179

Winning % (50 starts)	
Steve Stone	.656
Mike Mussina	.645
Jim Palmer	.638
Wally Bunker	.620
Mike Cuellar	.619
Dick Hall	.619
Dave McNally	.616
Alan Mills	.604
Milt Pappas	.598
Wei-Yin Chen	.590

Saves	
Gregg Olson	160
Zack Britton	139
Jim Johnson	122
Tippy Martinez	105
Stu Miller	100
Jorge Julio	83
Randy Myers	76
Eddie Watt	74
Dick Hall	60
Tim Lincecum	57

RBI	
Cal Ripken	1,695
Brooks Robinson	1,357
Eddie Murray	1,224
Boog Powell	1,063
Adam Jones	866
Ken Singleton	766
Brady Anderson	744
Rafael Palmeiro	701
Melvin Mora	662
Nick Markakis	658

Batting Avg. (1,200 AB)	
Roberto Alomar	.312
Miguel Tejada	.305
Bob Nieman	.301
Bob Boyd	.301
Harold Baines	.301
Frank Robinson	.300
Eddie Murray	.294
Javy Lopez	.293
B.J. Surhoff	.291
Tommy Davis	.291

Innings Pitched	
Jim Palmer	3,948
Dave McNally	2,652.2
Mike Flanagan	2,317.2
Scott McGregor	2,140.2
Mike Cuellar	2,028.1
Mike Mussina	2,009.2
Dennis Martinez	1,775
Milt Pappas	1,632
Steve Barber	1,414.2
Sidney Ponson	1,375.1

Strikeouts	
Jim Palmer	2,212
Mike Mussina	1,535
Dave McNally	1,476
Mike Flanagan	1,297
Mike Cuellar	1,011
Milt Pappas	944
Steve Barber	918
Scott McGregor	904
Dennis Martinez	858
Chris Tillman	847