

# THE BALTIMORE CHOP

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BABE RUTH CHAPTER OF BALTIMORE



SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN BASEBALL RESEARCH



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## President's Message

MLB 2023 has started. New rules, lots of opinions on those rules, and a time of year when everyone has a chance.

I was very impressed with the 70 or so people who came to our SABR Day in February. Very good turnout considering it was our first one since 2020 and it was held on a Monday, although it was a federal holiday. The speakers were all beyond excellent, and it will be hard to top that next winter, but the BBRC is always up for another challenge.

With monthly Zoom and in-person gatherings, we are doing quite well. Our roster is robust, we have several members constantly working on research for a bio project or a book. And since we are not hosting SABR 51 (it is in Chicago), I look forward to being just an attendee this summer and hope many local SABR brethren will be in attendance.

Our chapter will celebrate its eighth birthday in June (we were founded in 2015 in Chicago), and we have many

**President** ▶ Page 8

## BBRC Mounts Campaign For Union Park (Oriole Park III) Marker

By David Stinson

The SABR Baltimore Babe Ruth Chapter is raising funds for the design, manufacture, and installation of an historic marker at the former site of Union Park (Oriole Park III), once home to the 1890s world champion National League Baltimore Orioles. SABR awarded our chapter a \$1,500 2023 Local Grant in the marker. We were one of five SABR chapters to receive a Local Grant, including the Cliff Kachline Chapter (Cooperstown, New York) chapter, which received a grant for an historical marker on the site of Island Park in Schenectady, home to the Mohawk Colored Giants.

This will be the BBRC's second historic marker placed within city of Baltimore. In 2020, our chapter was involved in the design and placement of the marker for Old Oriole Park (Oriole Park V), which was placed in the beer garden outside Peabody Heights Brewery. Once our Union Park campaign is complete, we hope to turn our attention to placing an historic marker at the former site of Bugle Field, home of the Baltimore Elite Giants. Bugle Field was located in East Baltimore at the intersection of Federal Street and Edison Highway, just a few blocks south of Baltimore Cemetery and approximately 1½ miles off I-895.

The Union Park marker will be attached to the front façade of St. Ambrose



The marker will be attached to the facade of the St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center on 25th Street to the left of the black iron gate. (David Stinson)

Housing Aid Center at 321 East 25th Street to the left of the black iron gate (see photo). St. Ambrose's building is located adjacent to the former site of the grandstand and can be seen in both the 1895 photograph depicting the front entrance to Union Park and the 1897 photograph of the grandstand and playing field.

**Marker** ▶ Page 7

## Star-Studded Lineup Makes SABR Day a Hit

BBRC 6, the Baltimore Babe Ruth Chapter SABR Day event, took place on Monday, February 20, 2023, at the Peabody Heights Brewery. The brewery, at 401 East 30th Street, is located on the former site of Oriole Park V, also known as Terrapin Park, which was the home of the Federal League Baltimore Terrapins from 1914 to 1915, and the International League Orioles from 1916 to 1944. The brewery is across the street from the site of Oriole Park II and IV, where the Amer-

ican League Orioles played in 1901 and 1902.

About 70 people attended the first in-person SABR Day event since 2020. Members feasted on sandwiches as well as an assortment of pre-loved (donated) baseball books and goodies that found new homes in the annual raffle.

There were six speakers for the afternoon celebration of baseball.

**SABR Day** ▶ Page 8



# SABR Baltimore Babe Ruth Chapter

Formed 2015

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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 until further notice)

Since 2001, Bob Davids Chapter hosts a guest speaker

First Saturday of the month, 9 A.M.

#### 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.

### April

19: Called Shot Lunch

30: Baltimore Baseball Babble, Inning 2

### May

3: Peeps @ The Peeb, Dan Schlossberg will discuss his book *Baseball's Memorable Misses: an Unabashed Look at the Game's Craziest Zeroes*

17: Called Shot Lunch

28: Baltimore Baseball Babble, Inning 3

### June

3: Talkin' Baseball

7: Peeps @ The Peeb

21: Called Shot Lunch

25: Baltimore Baseball Babble, Inning 4

### July

5-9: SABR 51, Chicago

### August

26: BBRC at the ballpark, Orioles vs. Rockies (tentative)

## Getting to Know ... Patrick McGovern

Patrick McGovern claims no hometown. "I grew up as a military brat, mostly overseas," he says. However, he is an Orioles fan through and through. He lists his favorite teams as the O's and their minor-league affiliates. He saw his first game at Memorial Stadium, and his favorite ballpark as Camden Yards.

"My most memorable on-field memory is probably Cal Ripken Jr.'s final game. I attended with my then-9-year-old son," he says.

"However, my favorite baseball memory doesn't really have anything to do with what happened on the field. My favorite memory is spending the day at Camden Yards with my son a few years ago. We were there for a doubleheader. We spent six hours talking about baseball, life, and everything else while we watched the games. It was one of my best days ever."



McGovern says he has no favorite player, but he's taken a special interest in Urban "Red" Faber. "I found out that he was a cousin of my paternal grandmother, which is also why I'm fascinated by the Black Sox Scandal. I'm reading a biography about him now."

He's been a SABR member since 2020, lives on a farm in northern Baltimore County and works as a senior infrastructure operations analyst. His hobbies are eclectic: photography, coding, cooking, and scoring baseball games at the ballpark.

Which leads to something most people don't know about him:

"I used to run a website that taught people how to score baseball games. Because of that, I've been interviewed a few times, and my name or website appeared in a few books or magazines, including the program for the 2007 American League Championship Series," he says. "A scorecard I designed has also been used in the game programs for a couple of minor-league baseball teams and in the baseball program for one of the Maccabi Games in Israel."

## Welcome, New Members

Zachary Adams	
Ray Banks	
Mike Bordick	
Robin Davis	
Katie Dick	Glen Burnie
Jack Graham	
Kayla Hightower	Baltimore
William Joyner	Ocean City
Sean Kao	Baltimore
Jason Lee	
Joe Orsulak	
Ryan Ripken	
Adrienne Roberson	Baltimore
Amy Rosewater	
Brian Shallcross	
Tim Youngbar	Baltimore



# Sam Lacy and Negro Leaguers in Cooperstown

Mark Millikin is the author of *The Glory of the 1966 Orioles and Baltimore and Jimmie Foxx: The Pride of Sudlersville*. His new book, *Baseball Fever in Baltimore: Frank, Brooks, Boog, Earl and the 1969-1971 Orioles*, will be published in 2023 by St. Johann Press, Inc.

## By Mark R. Millikin

Black sportswriter and sports editor Sam Lacy never tired of being a staunch advocate for black (variously referred to as colored, tan, Negro, and black depending on the time period from the 1930s to 2003) athletes throughout his long and very productive career mostly for the *Baltimore Afro-American*. In all, he spent more than 60 years covering black athletes and fought for integration and equal treatment of blacks in sports until he passed away in May 2003.

Vince Bagli's sportscast on WBAL-TV in Baltimore featured Lacy on a "spot" five days a week beginning in 1968 (with appearances until 1976). Even though I was 17 in 1968, I had little clue about the positive significance of Bagli's decision to feature Lacy on his sports program on a regular basis. It finally gave Lacy a voice in a medium that many white Baltimoreans followed daily. Few whites in Baltimore read the *Afro-American* that featured Lacy's columns and articles twice weekly. Bagli noticed in 1968 that Lacy had little enthusiasm for the yearly Hall of Fame elections/inductions even though he was a member of the Baseball Writers Association of America and participated in the annual voting for new Hall of Fame members.

Lacy was deeply troubled by the lack of recognition in the Hall of Fame of the Negro Leaguers. No long-term Negro League stars were in the Hall of Fame by the 1960s because of the requirement of at least 10 years of major-league experience and voters' scant knowledge of Negro Leagues batting and pitching statistics and their games' results. Jackie Robinson became the first Negro Leaguer to be admitted to the Hall of Fame in 1962, six years after he retired from major-league baseball.

Lacy (along with fellow black sportswriter Wendell Smith) covered Robinson's first spring training in Florida in 1946. They had seen many Negro Leaguers play in Negro League games and exhibition games against white major leaguers in the 1930s and 1940s. They knew that many Negro Leaguers were as good or better than many top white major leaguers. Consider for a moment that Willie Mays, Hank Aaron, and Ernie Banks all came from the Negro Leagues to major league baseball between 1951 and 1954. There had to be Negro Leaguers from the 1920s-1940s (and black players before that time) who would have been some of the best professional baseball players had they been allowed to play in the major leagues.

In February 1971, the Baseball Hall of Fame finally began a slow process of opening its doors to players who played all or by far most of their professional baseball careers in the Negro Leagues and assigning them to a "special category" that was not yet defined. The minimum of 10 years of major-league experience was waived for Negro Leaguers because they simply had never been allowed to play in the majors until 1947 (only six of 16 major-league clubs had any black players on their team as of September 1953, six years after Robinson's debut with the Brooklyn Dodgers).

The first player in this category who was elected to the Hall that month and then inducted in August, was Satchel Paige. An editorial in the *Baltimore Evening Sun* on February 4, possibly written by Baltimore baseball historian James Bready, applauded the long overdue recognition coming the way of Negro Leaguers in the Hall, but cautioned against degrading the Negro Leaguers or their plaques "by any sort of inferior position or wording [that would] only perpetuate the regrettable discrimination of times past."

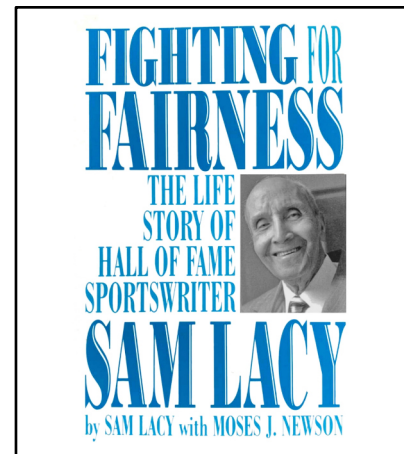
After Paige's election, it was initially announced that Negro League stars would be added to a "special section" in the Hall, but baseball commissioner Bowie Kuhn and Hall of Fame director Paul Kerr removed that designation in July before Paige's August induction. Paige told the Baltimore Afro-American he was "all out elated" about the removal of the "special category". "This is terrific," he said. The committee chosen by Kuhn to begin electing Negro Leaguers to the Hall of Fame included Sam Lacy and Wendell Smith; former Negro League club owners Eddie Gottlieb, Eppie Barnes, and Alex Pompey; and Negro League stars Roy Campanella, Monte Irvin, Judy Johnson, and Bill Yancey. The committee also included Frank Forbes, one-time player, coach, and umpire in the Negro Leagues and later a scout for the New York Giants.

Despite his advanced age of 42, rookie Satchel Paige won six games and lost one, pitching two shutouts for Bill Veeck's Cleveland Indians in 1948. The 10-man committee who made the selection of Paige considered the Negro League power-hitting catcher Josh Gibson; but the fact that Paige made good in the majors even at the age of 42, and was still alive in 1971 (Gibson had died), worked in Paige's favor. Lacy credited *New York Daily News* sportswriter Dick Young and former Associated Press sportswriter Joe Reichler for much of the heavy lifting in finally opening the Hall of Fame to former stars of the Negro Leagues.

Ironically for Oriole fans, Orioles general manager Arthur Ehlert cut Paige from the roster before Opening Day of their first season in 1954. Paige had had limited success for the Orioles' predecessor, the St. Louis Browns from 1951-1953, winning 18 and losing 23, including two shutouts in 1952 when he was 46 years old. Hindsight says he would have been quite an attraction for Oriole fans in any games he played had he been part of their early-season roster in 1954.

The parade of more Negro League stars added to the Hall of Fame after Paige was slow at first. Seventeen members were added from 1972 through 2001. Extensive research by a group of baseball historians who were experts on the Negro Leagues was sponsored by the Hall of Fame and added a wealth of statistical information about Negro League players and their games. As a result, 17 more Negro League stars were inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2006. Lacy died three years before that large class of Negro Leaguers was added, a moment that would have warmed his heart. In December 2020, commissioner Rob Manfred announced that Negro League statistics were being added to official MLB records and the Negro Leaguers were officially considered major-leaguers.

**References**  
"At the Hall of Fame," *Baltimore Evening Sun*, February 4, 1971.  
Hogan, Lawrence D. and others. *Shades of Glory: The Negro Leagues and the Story of African-American Baseball*. Washington, D.C., National Geographic, 2005.  
Sam Lacy, "Why Hall of Fame Doesn't Faze Me," *Baltimore Afro-American*, August 9, 1968.



# 1996 Orioles Set Major-League Home Run Record

By Barry Sparks

The 1996 Orioles featured a star-studded lineup with unprecedented power.

The club bashed 257 home runs, shattering the previous mark of 240 by the mighty 1961 New York Yankees. Seven Orioles slugged 20 or more round-trippers: Brady Anderson (50), Rafael Palmeiro (39), Bobby Bonilla (28), Cal Ripken Jr. (26), Chris Hoiles (25), Roberto Alomar (22), and B.J. Surhoff (21).

Late-season acquisitions Eddie Murray and Todd Zeile also ended up with more than 20 homers for the season. Murray, acquired on July 21 from the Indians, had 10 of his 22 homers as an Oriole, and Zeile hit five of his 25 home runs as a Bird after being traded from Philadelphia on August 29.

Late in the season, Ripken said: "I've never been part of a lineup that had the ability to hit the ball out of the ballpark and score runs as readily as this one does. When you're in a lineup that hits this many homers, it takes the pressure off."

They scored a team-record 949 runs (100 more than any previous team). They scored 10 or more runs on 30 occasions. But despite their power and offense, the club finished second to the Yankees in the American League East with an 88-74 record. The team's 5.14 ERA was its Achilles' heel.

Here are some home run highlights of that memorable season:

- **April 18-21:** Anderson hits leadoff homers in four consecutive games. The four-baggers come against Boston at Baltimore and in a three-game series at Texas. The Orioles, however, lose all four games.

At the end of April, Anderson has 11 home runs, eclipsing Frank Robinson's record of 10 for the month.

- **May 17:** Hoiles slams an "ultimate grand slam" in the bottom of the ninth inning with two outs against the Seattle Mariners in front of 47,259 fans at Camden Yards.

Trailing 13-10 going into the bottom of the ninth, Alomar walks, Palmeiro strikes out, and Bonilla doubles against reliever Norm Charlton. Billy Ripken fouls out and Cal Ripken walks to load the bases. Hoiles, who was 0-for-5, works Charlton to a full count before he deposits the next pitch into left field, unleashing a raucous celebration.

- **September 6:** Murray, who returned to Baltimore in late July after a 7½-year absence, blasts his 500th home run at Camden Yards. He joins Willie Mays and Henry Aaron as the only players with 500 homers and 3,000 hits.

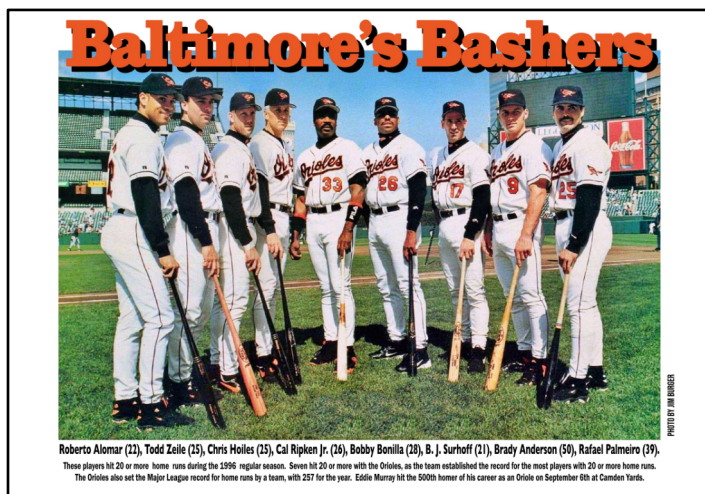
Murray slams the first pitch from Detroit Tigers' Felipe Lira for a round-tripper in the bottom of the seventh inning. The crowd gives him an 8½-minute ovation.

- **September 15:** The Orioles surpass the Yankees home run mark of 240 with five dingers in Detroit en route to a 16-6 win. Anderson homers in the first, Cal Ripken adds two and Bonilla hits a grand slam. But it is backup catcher Mark Parent's homer off Todd Van Poppel in the third inning that sets the record. It's Parent's first homer in 11 games with the Orioles.

## Big Train Road Trip

The Bethesda Big Train summer college team will be on the road during the July 4 holiday, and is offering its fans a chance to see the team twice, see the Orioles and Yankees, and tour four ballparks.

The tour begins from Povich Field in Bethesda on July 3 and ends there on July 6. Cost is \$900 per person (double occupancy; \$150 single premium) and includes transportation, lodging, meals, and tickets. A deposit of \$250 by May 1 reserves a spot. Details at <http://www.bigtrain.org/schedule/travel-with>.



The 1996 Baltimore Bashers and their home run totals (left to right): Roberto Alomar (22), Todd Zeile (25), Chris Hoiles (25), Cal Ripken Jr. (26), Eddie Murray (22), Bobby Bonilla (28), B.J. Surhoff (21), Brady Anderson (50) and Rafael Palmeiro (39). (Jim Burger, Baltimore Sun)

"It seems kind of weird," said Parent afterward. "It should have been Cal or Brady. But, I'm just happy to join the fun."

Manager Davey Johnson said, "The home run record doesn't mean a whole lot." He admitted taking some pleasure in breaking a mark held by the Yankees.

- **September 30:** Anderson hits home run No. 50, breaking Robinson's team record of 49 and becoming only the 14th player in major-league history to reach that plateau. Hall of Famers Aaron, Harmon Killebrew, Ted Williams, Mel Ott, and Ernie Banks, never hit that many in a season.

Anderson, who had never hit more than 21 homers in a season, touches Toronto's Pat Hentgen in the first inning.

Anderson sets an AL record with 12 leadoff homers (since broken by Alfonso Soriano in 2003) and ties Bobby Bonds for the most homers from the leadoff spot with 35.

Interestingly, only 19 of Anderson's 50 round-trippers come at cozy Camden Yards. He never hits more than 24 homers in a season the rest of his career.

The outfielder ends 1996 with career highs in average (.297), hits (172), doubles (37), RBIs (110), runs (117), and on-base percentage (.396).

Alomar sets a club record with 132 runs, while Palmeiro registers a team-record 142 RBIs.

In the postseason, the Orioles defeated the Cleveland Indians in the ALDS, three games to one, before falling to the Yankees in the ALCS in five games.

The Orioles team home run record was short-lived. The Seattle Mariners erased it the following season with 264. The current record is held by the 2019 Minnesota Twins with 307.

Looking back on 1996, home runs were up 15% in the major leagues, the Orioles played in a hitter-friendly ballpark, and it was amid the steroid era. But what a glorious, fun season it was.

## Trivia Corner

The 1960 All-Star Games were played in Kansas City Metropolitan Stadium and Yankee Stadium. The Orioles sent four players to these games. Three were rookies. Can you name the players?

Answer on Page 8



# Luis Aparicio's Path to Baltimore

By Francis Kinlaw

Of the many Orioles teams since 1954, few if any groups of players are remembered more fondly by fans of the Birds than the club that surprisingly swept the Los Angeles Dodgers in the 1966 World Series. The members of that team collectively excelled in nearly every aspect of their sport, and the infield featured four players who were usually penciled into manager Hank Bauer's lineup. Three of them (first baseman Boog Powell, second sacker Davey Johnson, and third baseman Brooks Robinson) had been developed within the Orioles organization, but the fourth regular (shortstop Luis Aparicio) had been acquired in 1963 in a trade with the Chicago White Sox. The circumstances that led to the Aparicio transaction are fascinating, and many of the details involved are not known by---or have been forgotten by---people familiar with the era.

Sportswriter Leonard Shecter addressed this subject 60 years ago in an article entitled "The Case Against Aparicio" that appeared in the June 1963 edition of *Sport* magazine. Shecter revealed how on-the-field performance, money, and individual attitudes combined to produce conditions ripe for the movement of one of baseball's best shortstops from the Windy City to Charm City.

Without a doubt, Aparicio's performance during the 1962 season had failed to match that of 1961. His batting average dropped from .272 in 1961 to .241 in 1962, and his number of stolen bases plummeted from 53 to 31. Although both totals were higher than the number of swipes by any other American League player, both White Sox manager Al Lopez and general manager Ed Short were critical of Aparicio's showing. Furthermore, Lopez and Short were frustrated by the fact that the Pale Hose had continued a slide down the standings of the American League: After winning the pennant in 1959, the club had finished third in 1960, fourth in 1961, and fifth in 1962. The consensus in Chicago was that the time had come to rebuild the team.

The relationship between Aparicio and the White Sox had become uncomfortable in 1962 as the shortstop struggled and his relationship with Lopez became strained. According to Shecter, Lopez' reputation as one of the nicest men in baseball had been altered since 1960, when his Chisox team dropped below second place in the American League standings, and several players believed that adversity had turned him "nervous and sour". Tony Kubek, who played for the New York Yankees, told Shecter that "at the All-Star break (in 1961), Billy Pierce and Nellie Fox told me there had been a tremendous change in Lopez, that he just wasn't a nice guy anymore, knocking players on the bench and everything."

In fairness to all concerned, it must be noted that some White Sox players defended Lopez in this matter. One unidentified player told Shecter that Aparicio "didn't go get the ball as well in 1962". (Aparicio's rebuttal: "If it was so bad, why did I win the Golden Glove?") This unidentified teammate also said that Aparicio "had the green light as a baserunner, but he didn't steal bases." (Aparicio's retort: "I didn't hit too much, so I wasn't on base so much. And the scores of ballgames often weren't good.") The teammate summed up his perspective by saying that Aparicio "just wasn't as good as a player, and I guess it teed Lopez off." Furthermore, some observers contended that Aparicio's demeanor grew markedly worse when he was not experiencing success.

Al Smith, who played for the White Sox before being traded to the Orioles in the Aparicio deal, found fault with the attitudes of Chicago's players but was not particularly critical of Lopez. When he and Aparicio arrived in 1963 for their first spring training with Baltimore, Smith expressed the wish that "this (will be) the kind of club where we all

help each other out in little ways. That's the kind of club that wins. It sure wasn't that way in Chicago the last two years."

Given the contentious atmosphere in Chicago, fireworks as explosive as those emitted by Comiskey Park's scoreboard after White Sox homers could have been anticipated soon after the conclusion of the 1962 season when Aparicio and Short sought to negotiate a 1963 salary. The expected conflict did indeed occur. Shecter's article stated that Aparicio was offered and declined a contract that called for a reduction in salary from \$36,000 in 1962 to \$30,000 in 1963. (According to salaries provided on the Baseball-Reference.com website, Aparicio received \$35,000 in 1962.) The man who had recently been a hero on Chicago's South Side was more than irritated by the pay cut, and he proclaimed that he could no longer play there even if the club gave him a raise. Hence, the likelihood of a trade increased greatly.

Contentiousness aside, the White Sox had reason to trade Aparicio in order to restructure their team and obtain young players. Trade



conversations with Baltimore had been conducted for two seasons, and Lee MacPhail, the Orioles general manager, needed a right-handed-hitting outfielder. Several times the two clubs were on the verge of a trade that would have landed Hoyt Wilhelm and Dave Nicholson

in Chicago and Al Smith in Baltimore, and the trigger was finally pulled by both organizations when Aparicio came on the market. On January 14, 1963, the Orioles obtained Aparicio and Smith for Ron Hansen, Wilhelm, Pete Ward (who had no major-league experience), and Nicholson (a prospect who had hit .173 for the Orioles in 1962). The White Sox also sent pitcher Dean Stone to Baltimore's Rochester minor-league affiliate.

Despite the bad feelings that had existed in 1962, the trade jolted Aparicio emotionally. However, he was moving to a contending team built on a foundation of power and pitching. He would get a fresh start in Baltimore, while adding speed and defense to the Orioles. When he arrived for his first spring training with the Orioles, Aparicio commented that with Robinson at third base, Jerry Adair at second, and Jim Gentile at first, Baltimore had the best infield in the major leagues.

Shecter's article noted that the trade was generally considered by baseball insiders to be "the most one-sided deal since the Yankees had obtained Roger Maris from the Kansas City Athletics (in 1959)," but a few dissenters could be found. One such voice was that of Johnny Johnson, the Yankees farm director, who said, "I think Chicago got the better of the deal. In two or three years, Baltimore won't have anything to show for it. Aparicio will be in his 30s. Smith will be finished. But the White Sox will have Ward. Our scouting reports on Ward (indicate) that he's an excellent prospect. I have no doubt that he's a big-league hitter (who) could make it big." Johnson also said that he would rate Hansen

# Babe and Yogi Meet: Sportsman's Park, St. Louis, June 19, 1948

By Fred Glueckstein

Sportsman's Park was home of the American League's St. Louis Browns. On the afternoon of June 19, 1948, the New York Yankees were there to play the Browns. There was excitement when it was learned that Babe Ruth was to be at Sportsman's Park to promote a baseball clinic for children at 10 A.M.

Ruth's appearance at Sportsman's Park was sponsored by the Ford dealers of St. Louis. Ford hired Ruth as a consultant on youth baseball in 1947 and represented Ford to support the American Legion Junior Baseball Tournament. American Legion baseball began in 1925, and by the 1940s, Ford sponsored thousands of American Legion teams nationwide.

In 1948, Ford sponsored the tournament, and dealers supplied uniforms for local teams. That spring, Babe Ruth was re-hired as consultant as the *New York Times* reported on Sunday, May 19, 1948:

## Ruth Re-engaged by Ford As Junior Legion Advisor

Detroit, May 8 – Babe Ruth has been re-engaged as consultant in the American Legion Junior Baseball Tournament, the Ford Motor Co., tourney sponsor, announced today.

Ford did not disclose terms of its 1948 contract with Ruth, but J.R. Davis, a vice president, said, Babe would be "high on the list of baseball's top money earners."

Last year Ruth traveled more than 40,000 miles for personal appearances in promoting Junior Legion ball.

Ruth, now in Hollywood as a technical supervisor for a movie based on his career, will start Legion tours in June.

That year, Ruth traveled across the country promoting the American Legion baseball despite having been diagnosed with cancer in 1947. Ford mini-baseballs would be handed



out to the participants in the state championships, where Ruth would speak to the young players, his voice by then deep and raspy voice.

"I met Babe Ruth in 1948 in St. Louis," Berra, a St. Louis native and Legion ball alum (Fred W. Stockholm Post 245), remembered. "I went up and asked him if I could take a picture with him. I was really nervous."

That year, Berra's Yankees finished the season in third place 2½ games behind the first-place Cleveland Indians. The Boston Red Sox placed second, one game behind. The Browns finished sixth out of eight teams and ended 37 games behind Cleveland.

Berra had his best season in 1948, his third in the majors. In

1948, he played in 125 games with 469 at-bats. Berra had 143 hits with 24 doubles, 10 triples, 14 home runs, 98 RBIs and batted .305.

In his outstanding 19-year career, Berra played in 2,120 games, had 7,555 at-bats, 2,150 hits, 321 doubles, 49 triples, 358 home runs, 1,430 RBIs and batted .285. In 1972, he was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Sportsman's Park was the site of several memorable events in Ruth's career:

Against the St. Louis Cardinals in Game Four of the 1926 World Series, Ruth hit three home runs, one of which cleared the pavilion roof in right field. It was the longest home run ever in St. Louis.



Two years later, he had another three-homer game there in Game Four of the 1928 Series.

At Sportsman's Park on June 19, 1948, Ruth had his picture taken with Bill DeWitt Jr.

Bill DeWitt Jr. was the son of longtime baseball executive Bill DeWitt and was around baseball constantly as a child; his father owned the Browns at the time, and the younger DeWitt served as a Browns batboy.

On August 19, 1951, Eddie Gaedel, the smallest player to appear in a major-league

game, served as a pinch hitter at a Browns game. Gaedel wore DeWitt's jersey to the plate. Today, William Orville DeWitt Jr. is the managing partner and chairman of the Cardinals.

After Ruth's appearance at Sportsman's Park, the Yankees played the Browns that afternoon. The attendance was 5,271. The game duration was 2:29. The Yankees (30-23) defeated the Browns (21-30), 10-5.

Two months later, Ruth entered Memorial Hospital in New York where he died on August 16, 1948.

Sportsman's Park was demolished in 1966. In 1967, 19 years after Babe Ruth's final public appearance and his photo with Berra, the site of Sportsman's Park became home to the Herbert Hoover Boys Club, which is now known as the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis.

The baseball diamond is in the same spot as in old Sportsman's Park. Ruth and Berra would probably be pleased to know the youth of Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis are playing baseball there.



## Lacy ► From Page 3

Sam Lacy, "On Cooperstown and the Black Player," *Baltimore Afro-American*, February 9, 1971.

Sam Lacy, "Paige Tapped to Open New Hall of Fame Wing," *Baltimore Afro-American*, February 9, 1971.

Sam Lacy, "Baseball Hall of Fame lifts 'special category': On Satchel and others," *Baltimore Afro-American*, July 3, 1971, Lacy, Sam and Moses J. Newson. *Fighting for Fairness: The Life Story of Hall of Fame Sportswriter Sam Lacy*. Centreville, Maryland: Tidewater Publishers, 1998.

Lamb, Chris. *Blackout: The Untold Story of Jackie Robinson's First Spring Training*. Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 2004.



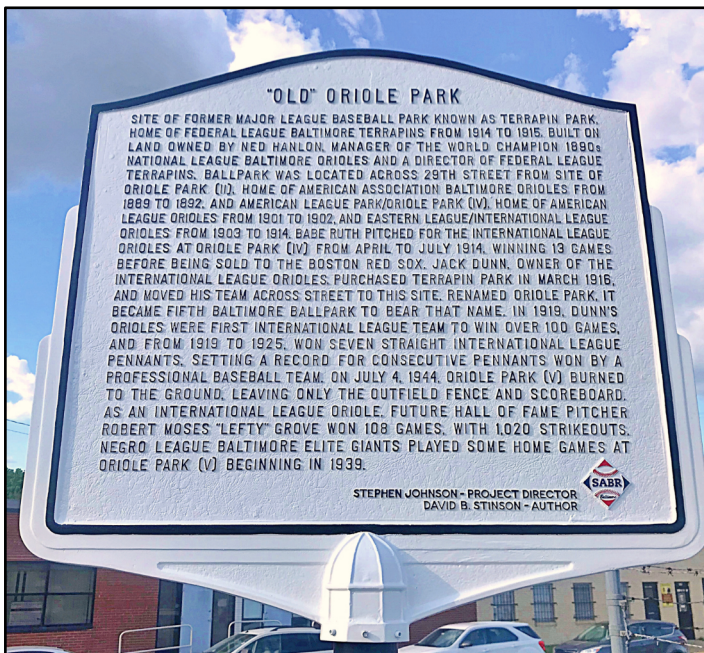
## Marker ► From Page 1

The draft text of the “Union Park (Oriole Park III)” historic marker is as follows:

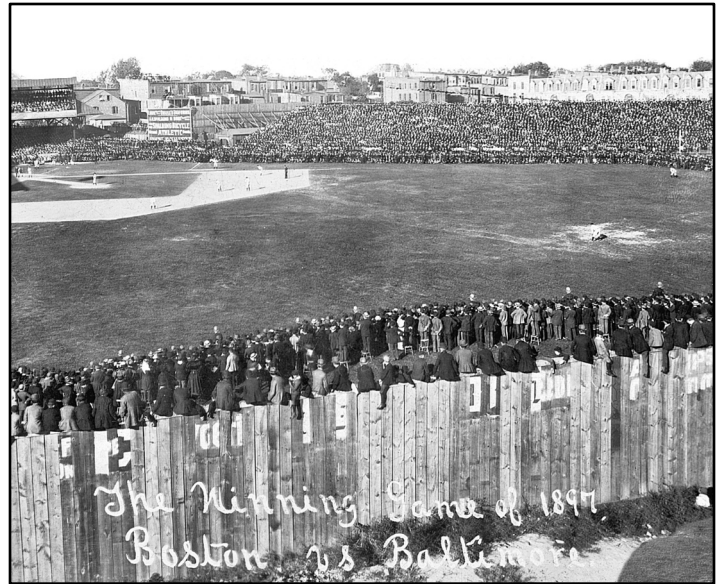
Former site of the Major League Baseball ballpark Union Park, also known as Oriole Park III and the Baltimore Baseball and Exhibition Grounds. The grandstand was located directly adjacent to this building (321 East 25th Street) and a portion of the playing field directly behind it. Union Park was home to the American Association Baltimore Orioles from 1891 and the National League Baltimore Orioles from 1892 to 1899. The Orioles were World Champions from 1894 to 1896, and included future Hall of Fame members John McGraw, Hughie Jennings, Willie Keeler, Joe Kelley, Wilbert Robinson, and Ned Hanlon. A fire in January 1895 led to construction of a larger grandstand and expanded seating capacity. Union Park was Baltimore’s first ballpark to feature a double-deck grandstand, beer garden, and lettered rows and numbered seats. On September 27, 1897, an estimated 30,000 spectators attended a contest between the Orioles and the Boston Beaneaters, and was the largest crowd to witness a baseball game up to that time. The Orioles hosted their final game at Union Park on October 10, 1899. The National League dropped the Baltimore franchise after the 1899 season and the ballpark was demolished in December 1905. Oriole Park I/Huntington Avenue Grounds, home of the American Association Baltimore Orioles from 1883 to 1888, was located one block east of Union Park.

## Join the Marker Campaign

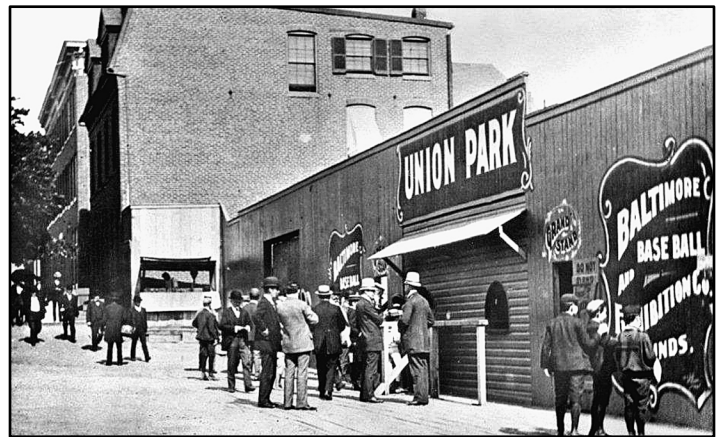
Several members of our chapter have pledged or provided additional contributions totaling \$1,200. We estimate the cost of the marker will be approximately \$3,500, and are hoping chapter members will help with the additional \$800. If you are interested in contributing to our effort to honor Baltimore baseball history, donations may be sent via Venmo to [PeterCoolbaugh@dirtyharry74](mailto:PeterCoolbaugh@dirtyharry74). Checks (payable to BBRC of SABR) may be sent to Bruce Brown at 8830 Sandrope Court, Columbia MD 21046. If you have questions about the project, please contact David Stinson at [huntingtonparkdbbs@gmail.com](mailto:huntingtonparkdbbs@gmail.com).



Here’s the chapter’s first historical marker, in the beer garden of Peabody Heights Brewery.



Union Park during an 1897 Orioles game vs. the Boston Beaneaters (above) and the entrance from an 1895 photo (bottom).



## Next Issue: Remembering Babe’s Death: 75 Years Ago

August 16 will mark the 75th anniversary of Babe Ruth’s death, and that will be the focus of the Summer issue of *The Baltimore Chop*. Hence, priority will be given to articles relating to Babe Ruth’s death. The deadline for the issue is June 30.

Topics already spoken for are the revolutionary cancer treatments Babe Ruth received and how his death was covered in the media, primarily newspapers.

Maximum word count (excluding references) remains 1,500 words.

## Chop Deadlines

Summer 2023	June 30
Fall 2023	October 15
Winter 2023-24	December 31
Spring 2024	March 31, 2024



## SABR Day ▶ From Page 1



**Tony Dahbura**, a former part-owner of the Hagerstown Suns and member of the Johns Hopkins computer science department, led off the proceedings. He was a walk-on at Hopkins, which he said he chose because of its proximity to Memorial Stadium!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Udq8B0MT88I>

**Ryan Ripken**, former minor-leaguer in the Orioles and Nats organizations (and son of Hall of Famer Cal Ripken Jr.) talked about his pro baseball career, and how the role of analytics has changed the game from the philosophy that ruled when he played.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ygpw8fOzNM>



**Joe Orsulak**, an Orioles outfielder from 1982-86, had 17 years' worth of stories from his time in the minor leagues and the majors that included stops in Pittsburgh, New York (Mets), Florida, and Montreal.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GYMqL5mqIU>

**Charlie Vascellaro**, author and longtime SABR member, shared "Barnstorming with the Babe," his two baseball seasons on the road to minor-league ballparks on behalf of the Babe Ruth Museum with the museum's traveling exhibit that included a life-size Babe Ruth cutout.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D\\_x5B9sfuaU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D_x5B9sfuaU)



## Aparicio ▶ From Page 5

ahead of Aparicio as a shortstop: "I think Hansen showed the kind of player he is in his first year (1960, when he was the American League's Rookie of the Year). Then he got sick and the next year he was in the Army. Write those two years off and the White Sox got themselves a good shortstop. And Wilhelm is a bonus."

Johnson was certainly off-base in predicting that "in two or three years Baltimore won't have anything to show for (the trade)." Three years later, the Orioles captured a world championship, and the shortstop "in his 30s" had played a significant role in that remarkable achievement by hitting at a .276 clip and stealing 25 bases. He remained a valuable member of the Orioles cast for five seasons until being returned to the White Sox on November 29, 1967 in a trade that brought Don Buford---and continued success---to Baltimore. His major-league career ended when he was released by the Boston Red Sox prior to the 1974 season.



**Jason Lee**, a major-league scorekeeper, and **Adrienne Roberson**, the Orioles' PA announcer, talked about life on the press-box level at Camden Yards.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ULik0HPZEzc>

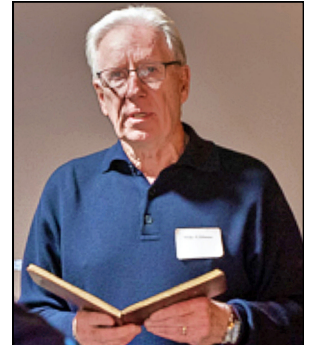
**Mike Gibbons**, director emeritus of the Babe Ruth Birthplace and Museum, showed Babe Ruth's first business card and told what's new about the museum and plans for the 50th anniversary in 2024.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RVtE2q8c\\_EY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RVtE2q8c_EY)

Chapter elections were held: Vice president David Stinson was re-elected to a two-year term. At-large member Mike Gibbons was re-elected to a two-year term.

At-large member Ruth Sadler ran for secretary and was elected to a two-year term.

Janet Marie Smith was appointed to fill the final year of Sadler's at-large term.



## President ▶ From Page 1

things coming down the pipeline, including working on getting a historical marker placed for Union Park and other Baltimore baseball acknowledgements.

Our 2023 SABR game will likely be in August, and a joint minor-league game is being discussed with our friends from Philadelphia again. Now we look forward to a summer of competitive Orioles baseball, and I am sure you will be rooting for whatever team(s) you support as well.

Looking forward to a great summer for us as fans. See you out at the ballpark in 2023.

—Peter

## Trivia Answer

- Rookie **Ron Hansen** was the starting shortstop in both games. He went 1-for-2 with a walk in Game 1 on July 11 and 2-for-4 in Game 2 on July 13. He was the American League Rookie of the Year.
- Right-hander **Chuck Estrada** pitched one inning in Game 1, gave up four hits and one run and struck out one. He won 18 games and came in second in voting for Rookie of the Year.
- **Jim Gentile** struck out as a pinch hitter in the seventh inning of Game 1, played first base and went 1-for-2. He tied with Estrada for second place in voting for Rookie of the Year.
- **Brooks Robinson** replaced starter Frank Malzone at third base in the sixth inning of Game 1 and went 0-for-2. In Game 2, he pinch-ran for Ted Williams in the seventh, then moved to third and went 0-for-1. He won the first of his 16 Gold Gloves in 1960.