

THE BALTIMORE CHOP



SABR Babe Ruth Chapter

Vol. 4, No. 3

Fall 2020

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President's Message

A Chance to Tell Our Story

The truncated major league baseball season is over, the Dodgers have been crowned and now we wait for the annual awards to be announced. Meanwhile, we SABR members have enormous baseball knowledge that we have amassed over the years. We can amaze our colleagues and families with interesting facts and anecdotes about this game we all love.

We now have an opportunity to go beyond that because we have been contacted by the Edward A. Myerberg Center (<https://www.myerberg.org/>). It is the largest nonprofit senior center in Baltimore. One of the more popular programs is its men's club. They call themselves The Bagel Boys and they meet twice a week over Zoom on Tuesdays from 10-11 and Fridays from 9-10. They are requesting someone from SABR who has ties to and knowledge of Baltimore Orioles baseball.

If you would be interested in making such a presentation (likely to be more questions than presentation), please contact:

President ► Page 5

COVID-19 Throws Us a Curve

Fantasy Baseball During a Pandemic

By Dave Raglin

I have been playing fantasy baseball in various forms since 1985, but, of course, this season has been unique. Many fantasy leagues, including a pool that my wife, Barb Mantegani, and I are in decided not to play this season. However, one league that I have been a part of since 1990 went in a different direction.

That league has some unusual characteristics. Instead of having a big draft right before the season, we draft throughout the winter, drafting players from three major-league teams a week for 10 weeks starting in mid-January, followed by an 11th round for leftover players. Therefore, when

spring training was put on hold in mid-March, we had assembled most of our teams. At the time the thinking was that the season would likely start in late April, so we put the rest of the draft on hold. By mid-April, it was becoming clear that this was going to last for a while. League founder and commissioner Bob Kominski, a SABR member who lived in Maryland for years, started looking into other options. He found a few groups that were simulating the season. After research, he picked the simulation Out of the Park Baseball that Baseball Reference was running, so we finished drafting our teams and started our season.



Fantasy ► Page 6

2020--The Season That Kind of Was

By Peter Coolbaugh

It started late ... way late. No work-stoppage issues, just a global pandemic that affected every aspect of our lives.

No one expected what would happen when spring training 2020 began. But by mid-March, the season was postponed indefinitely, and Opening Day traditions for many of us were put on hold. Would there even be a season? People were getting sick and dying all over the world, and nothing seemed to make sense.

We waited. And waited. And then it began to unravel. Play would resume at the end of July. BUT, there would be

some major changes. First, a 60-game season. Second, expanded playoffs. And there would be a universal DH. Oh, and the American and National leagues would only play within their divisions and regions. So East vs. East, etc. For the first time since 1873, the two oldest teams in the NL did not play each other (Braves and Cubs).

It seemed weird to all of us. Baseball on TV, but with no fans. Baltimore had an experience with that back in 2015, but it was only for a game. A season with no fans. Rule changes. Numerous players opting out of the season.

For the most dedicated of baseball fans, we had to decide if we should watch, since this was going to be as

Season ► Page 6

Before he became infamous for celebrating the Dodgers' world championship after testing positive for COVID-19, Justin Turner was an Oriole. He wasn't the only ex-Oriole playing in October. See Page 5.



SABR Baltimore Babe Ruth Chapter Formed 2015

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

Calendar

Regularly scheduled events

All are Zoom meetings until further notice

Peeps @ The Peeb

First Wednesday of the month, 7-9 P.M. unless noted

Talkin' Baseball

Since 2001, Bob Davids Chapter hosts a guest speaker
First Saturday of the month, 9 A.M.

Called Shot lunch

BYO lunch and talk baseball
Third Wednesday of the month, noon

November

18: Called Shot lunch Zoom: Peter Coolbaugh will present his "Personal Journey into Becoming a Super Baseball Fan"

December

2: Peeps @ The Peeb Zoom: Sean Gibson, great-grandson of Josh Gibson will speak on renaming the MVP trophy.

NOTE: This will be hosted by the Josh Gibson Foundation, and you will be required to sign up via Eventbrite.

5: Talkin' Baseball Zoom, Ryan Swanson, "When Baseball Was White"

9: Bonus Peeps @ The Peeb Zoom: Tom Gilbert will discuss his book *How Baseball Began*

16: Called Shot lunch Zoom: virtual holiday gathering, a time to chat and spread cheer as we say good riddance to a bad year!

January 2021

2: Talkin' Baseball Zoom, Penny Barber, "Female Umpire"

6: Peeps @ The Peeb Zoom

20: Called Shot lunch Zoom

31: SABR Day Zoom

February 2021

3: Peeps @ The Peeb Zoom

6: Talkin' Baseball Zoom, Thomas Wolf, "The Called Shot, Babe Ruth, the Chicago Cubs and Unforgettable Major League Baseball Season of 1932"

17: Called Shot lunch Zoom

March 2021

2: Talkin' Baseball Zoom, Greg Pryor, "The Year the Yankees Made Me Shave"

6: Peeps @ The Peeb Zoom

20: Called Shot lunch Zoom

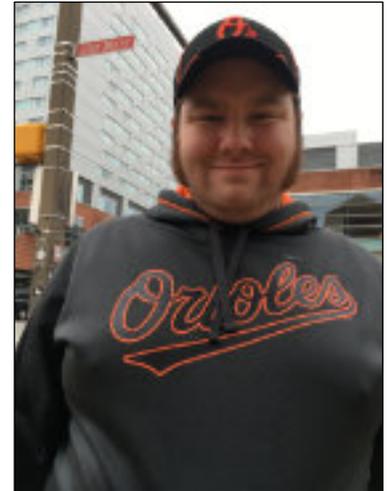
Getting to Know ... Grady Hipley

One of our chapter's newer members, Grady Hipley, is a lifelong Baltimorean. He grew up and still lives in Catonsville. A SABR member for the past year, he works at Ross Dress for Less.

Baseball-wise, he is also strictly Baltimore. He saw his first game at Camden Yards (his favorite ballpark), and of course his favorite team is the Orioles. That combination provided his favorite baseball memory: Mark Trumbo's walk-off home run on opening day in 2017. Favorite player? Frank Robinson.

Hipley enjoys collecting toys, comic books and baseball memorabilia. He also enjoys painting and drawing.

"I have been a practitioner of Kendo since age 7," he says. It is a Japanese martial art involving wooden swords. "Kendo does not award belts," he explains, "but I have been training for over 20 years and I've gotten pretty good."



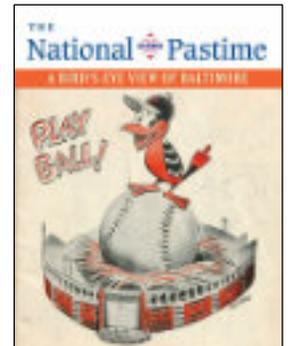
Welcome, New Members

Thomas Carney	Ellicott City
Robert Fitzpatrick	Bethesda
Andrew Middleman	Cockeysville
Matthew Niemerski	Takoma Park

The National Pastime: Chapter Members Contribute

Ten members of the Baltimore Babe Ruth Chapter contributed articles to *A Bird's-Eye View of Baltimore*, the SABR 50 edition of *The National Pastime*.

- John J. Burbridge Jr.: Billy Martin and the Baltimore Brawls
- Steven M. Glassman: Dave McNally and Peter Seitz at the Intersection of Baseball Labor History
- Bob Golon: Dick Armstrong: Orioles PR Pioneer and His 'Mr. Oriole'
- Bill Hickman and Bruce Adams: Summer College Baseball in Maryland
- Jimmy Keenan: The 1958 Midsummer Classic
- Francis Kinlaw: Promising Flight of Baby Birds
- David W. Smith: The 1966 Orioles: More than Frank Robinson
- Cort Vitty: The Final Flight of Tom Gastall
- Mark C. Zeigler: Demons, Colts, Giants, and Drybugs: Baseball in the 1916 Class D Potomac League



Trivia Corner

On September 17, Bruce Zimmerman of Ellicott City became the 12th native Marylander to start a game (as a pitcher) for the Orioles. Name the other 11.

Answer on Page 5

Babe Ruth's First Major-League Game

By Patrick Brown

In these turbulent times there have been many discussions about history and its depictions of the past. Analogous to the entertainment world's "overnight sensation", who usually has been working hard at their craft for many years before achieving fame, there are numerous historical examples where the prevailing narrative is that one big event happens for a person and "the rest is history." The piece by Fred Glueckstein in the Summer 2020 *The Baltimore Chop* about Babe Ruth's marriage to Helen Woodford appealed to me in many ways. One is that my wife and I were also married in Ellicott City, Maryland, and the day of the wedding, July 9, is the anniversary of when Ruth, Ernie Shore and Ben Egan were sold to the Boston Red Sox by the minor-league Baltimore Orioles. Another is that by describing

the circumstances of how Ruth and Woodford met, Glueckstein provides "hidden" details, fleshing out a prevalent narrative of the Babe's career: "He was sold to the Boston Red Sox



by Jack Dunn and the rest is history."

Glueckstein's article mentions that on the day Babe and the future Mrs. Ruth met, Babe pitched and won his first game for the Red Sox, 4-3, against the Cleveland Naps. This led me to wonder about the details of the game that was played on that fateful day, July 11, 1914. According to the July 11, 1914 *Boston Globe* the reason Ruth was selected to pitch so soon after his acquisition was that, due to injuries, "The Red Sox staff of boxmen" was "not in very good shape". One can easily say that looking over Ruth's career it was an eventful one and, not surprisingly, that started with his first inning in the major leagues. The first hitter he faced, Jack Graney, singled and went to second on a groundout to second baseman Steve Yerkes. The next hitter, Joe Jackson, singled to center, where Tris Speaker retrieved the ball and threw home. The throw was cut off by Ruth, who threw to Yerkes to try to catch Jackson, who was on his way to second. As Jackson retreated to first, Yerkes threw to the first baseman Hal Janvrin, prompting Graney to try for the plate,



but Janvrin's throw to catcher (and manager) Bill Carrigan nabbed him. The "play of the game" was captured in a cartoon in the *Globe* by Wallace Goldsmith. In a somehow fitting manner, the inning ended with "Jackson caught napping at First".

According to the game account in the *Globe*, Ruth held the Naps to five hits and one run in six innings, with the run scoring on an RBI single by Jackson after Graney reached base on a muff by Speaker and a sacrifice. Ruth was hit hard in the seventh, when he gave up two runs on two singles, a sacrifice, and a two-run single by catcher Steve O'Neill which tied the score at 3.

Even though Duffy Lewis pinch-hit for Ruth in the bottom of the seventh, Ruth got the win when in that half-inning Speaker singled in Everett Scott from second making the score 4-3. That turned out to be the final score as Dutch Leonard, the ace of the Red Sox staff, entered in the top of the eighth and got a save by retiring all six men he faced, four by strikeout. Incidentally, the *Globe* game account had two different versions of the bottom of seventh. The second one has Lewis scoring on Speaker's single, but that version conflicts with the box score.

CLEVELAND				BOSTON			
AB	R	H	E	AB	R	H	E
Graney, 1f	4	2	4	0	1	1	0
Turner, 1b	4	0	4	0	0	1	0
Jack, 1c	4	2	4	0	0	1	0
Leahy, 3b	4	0	0	1	2	1	1
Kline, 1b	4	2	2	1	1	4	0
Chapman, 4f	4	1	1	0	1	1	0
Leahy, 1b	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
O'Neill, 1c	3	1	2	2	0	0	0
Michael, p	3	0	1	0	0	0	0
Totals	31	12	18	4	1	1	0
Totals				30			
Innings				Totals			
Cleveland				Boston			
Totals				Totals			

In the end, Ruth gave up eight hits in seven innings with one strikeout and "not a Naplander walking." Not a very auspicious start, given that when Ruth was acquired by the Red Sox, one of the articles in the *Globe* stated that some baseball men "have stamped Ruth as a second Rube Waddell". The acknowledged pitching star of the day was Leonard, a 22-year-old who would finish the year 19-5 with seven shutouts, three saves, a 0.96 ERA and 17 complete games out of 25 games started.

However, Tim Murnane of the *Globe* did have some good things to say about the 19-year-old Ruth: "He has a natural delivery, fine control, and a curve ball that bothers the batsmen, but has room for improvement and will, undoubtedly, become a fine pitcher under the care of Manager Carrigan" and that, even though he went 0-for-2 in the game, "Ruth ... shaped up like a good batsman."

In addition, a characteristic remarked upon by several commentators was Ruth's composure. Murnane in his game account mentioned that, during this first game, Ruth "went through his act like a veteran of many wars", and *The Sporting News* reported that even though in Ruth's next game against Detroit he "went down in a crash", he "continued to look and act like a cool-headed and crafty youngster".

Across the nation, newspaper accounts of this first game varied to some extent. Most papers had either the standard two-line game account from the United Press:

"With "Babe" Ruth, the Red Sox new \$20,000 southpaw in a debut stunt, Boston downed the Cleveland Naps this afternoon, 4 to 3. Poor base work in the early innings lost for the Naps."

or
"Cleveland was defeated by Boston in the opening game of the series. Ruth, formerly of Baltimore, made his debut as

Ruth's debut ► Continued on Page 7

My Baseball Bookshelf: *The Babe Ruth Story*

By Fred Glueckstein

In 1947, George Herman "Babe" Ruth Jr., who had retired from baseball in June 1935 after playing professionally for more than 20 years, authorized the writing of his life and times. A year later, the E.P. Dutton & Co. in New York published *The Babe Ruth Story*, by Babe Ruth as told to Bob Considine. The Babe Ruth Story was the first baseball book to be recognized on the *New York Times* Best Seller list that had originated 17 years earlier.

The Babe Ruth Story consists of 250 pages and 49 photographs in the first edition, which measures 5¾ inches by 8½ inches. Aware that other books written about him had contained misinformation, a hand-written message from Ruth appeared at the top of the cover: My only Authorized Story / Babe Ruth.

Ruth reiterated that the book was the only authorized story of his life in the dedication that reads: "This book, the only authentic story of my life, is sincerely dedicated to the Kids of America."

The Babe Ruth Story contains 21 chapters and includes a list of Ruth's 54 milestones, batting and pitching records. Chapter 1 opens with This Is How It Begins: "I was a bad kid. I say that without pride but with a feeling that it is better to say it. Because I live with one great hope in mind: to help kids who now stand where I stood as a boy. If what I have to say here helps even one of them avoid some of my mistakes, or take heart from such triumphs as I have had, this book will serve its purpose," said Ruth.

Ruth begins with the story of his parents placing him on June 13, 1902, at the age of seven, in St. Mary's Industrial School in Baltimore for behavior difficulties. Being placed in St. Mary's Industrial School was the most important event of Ruth's life. It was there he met Brother Matthias, who saw early that Ruth had a talent for baseball. First, Ruth was a catcher on St. Mary's baseball team. Then Brother Matthias had him pitch and Ruth became a successful left-handed pitcher. Ruth could also hit.

From that time on, the book covers Ruth's remarkable career. He tells how he was signed by Jack Dunn of the Baltimore Orioles of the International League, who had never seen Ruth play. He describes how he felt on February 27, 1914, at the age of 19, when he left St. Mary's and began his professional career with the Orioles at its spring training camp in Fayetteville, N.C. Ruth tells how he got the name Babe at Fayetteville; hitting his first home run of 350 feet as a pitcher in an intra-squad game; his sale to the Boston Red Sox on July 8, 1914, and his time with the Red Sox and Yankees.

The hardcover edition of *The Babe Ruth Story* contains 49 superb photographs. The softcover edition, however, does not include photographs. Many of the photographs will certainly be new to most baseball buffs.

A year after *The Babe Ruth Story* was released in the United States, it was published in Japanese by the Asahi Newspaper Co. There are four pages of photos accompanying the 360 pages of text. A Japanese translation was an excellent decision because the Babe was admired in Japan after his 1934,

visit with the Major League All-Stars as part of a goodwill tour.

When *The Babe Ruth Story* was written, Considine (November 4, 1906-September 25, 1975) was a well-known author and Hearst syndicated newspaper columnist. Early in his career, Considine worked in the sports department for the *Washington Post*. Later, he was the sports editor of the *Washington Herald*. On the back cover of *The Babe Ruth Story*, Considine wrote of his association with Ruth:

"Babe and I have known each other since 1933, when I started covering big league baseball for the *Washington Herald*. When I was a kid he was,



of course, my No. 1 baseball hero. He pitched the first game I ever saw - during the summer of 1918. He beat Washington 1-0, and the 1 run was one of the eleven home runs he hit that season to tie for the American League home run championship," wrote Considine. [Tilly Walker, outfielder for the Philadelphia Athletics, tied Ruth with 11 home runs in the 1918 season.]

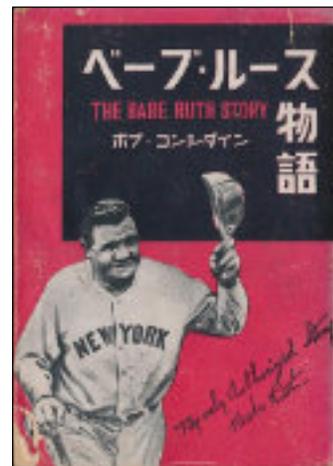
On May 2, 1948, sports columnist and short story writer Rex Lardner reviewed *The Babe Ruth Story* in the *New York Times*. Lardner wrote in part: "Bob Considine, who wrote the book in the first person, has done much more than describe Ruth's vagaries and exploits."

Lardner continued: "He has captured the team personality of the Yankees of the Twenties and Thirties, and he has lively stories to tell: of Durocher, the cocky busher, giving Ty Cobb the hip as the latter rounded second and sending him flying; of the detective who was hired by the Yankee management to report on the supposititious transgressions of the players; of Meusel throwing his bat at a Detroit pitcher after being hit in the back by a duster and precipitating a riot."

A serialization of *The Babe Ruth Story* ran in eight issues of *The Saturday Evening Post* from February 14 to April 3, 1948. The coverage helped bring notice to the book and helped increase sales.

Reviews were very positive. It was "full of warmth", according to respected *Richmond Times-Dispatch* columnist Chauncey Durden. The *Miami News* called it "straightforward, frank and honest." If Ruth and Considine had written this book at the end of the 1927 season, the *News* wrote, it might have gone into the record books as "Home Run No. 61."

Fred Lieb (March 5, 1888-June 3, 1980) was a sportswriter and baseball historian. Lieb covered every World Series game from 1911-1958, 30 All-Star games and more than 8,000 major-league baseball games. In 1972, he received the J.G. Taylor Spink Award and a place in the writers wing of the Baseball Hall of Fame. In his 1977 memoir, *Baseball As I Have Known It*,



Autobiography ► Continued on Page 7

21 Former Orioles Play On in 2020 Postseason

Twenty-one former Orioles, whose tenure ranged from a month to nine seasons, were on 2020 postseason rosters. Only four teams (the Astros, White Sox, Indians and Cubs) had none.

By the way, Justin Turner, in his two fresh-faced seasons with the O's, appeared in 17 games, with three hits (all singles) in 27 at-bats, three RBI, four walks and six strikeouts. The rest of his 2009 and 2010 seasons were spent at Triple-A Norfolk until the Mets selected him off waivers in May 2010.

	Pos.	O's years	O's minor-league years
Atlanta Braves			
Nick Markakis	OF	2006-14	
Darren O'Day	P	2012-18	
Cincinnati Reds			
Wade Miley	P	2016-17	
Los Angeles Dodgers			
Adam Kolarek *	P		
Justin Turner	IF	2009-10	
Miami Marlins			
Richard Bleier	P	2017-20	
Stephen Tarpley	P		2013-14
Milwaukee Brewers			
David Freitas	C		2014-15
Josh Hader	P		2012-13
Jace Peterson	IF-OF	2018-19	
Minnesota Twins			
Nelson Cruz	DH	2014	
New York Yankees			
Zack Britton	P	2011-18	
Oakland A's			
Jonah Heim	C		2013-16
Liam Hendriks †	P		
T.J. McFarland	P	2013-16	
St. Louis Cardinals			
Andrew Miller	P	2014	
Matt Wieters	C	2009-16	
San Diego Padres			
Zach Davies	P		2012-14
Manny Machado	IF	2012-18	
Tampa Bay Rays			
Ji-Man Choi ‡	UT		
Toronto Blue Jays			
Jonathan Villar	IF	2018-19	
Key:			
Granted free agency		Waiver wire	
Traded		Lost in Rule 5 draft	
Released			
*--Signed as free agent Oct. 23, 2015; lost in Dec. Rule 5 draft			
†--Selected off waivers Dec. 23, 2013; selected off waivers by Toronto Blue Jays Feb. 21, 2014			
‡--Signed as free agent Nov. 24, 2015; lost in Dec. Rule 5 draft			

SABR Day 2021

SABR will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2021:

- It begins with a special national program on SABR Day, January 30 from 2-4 PM.

- A special logo was unveiled in October.

- BBRC6 (our chapter's annual celebration, #6 in 2021) will take place virtually, hopefully wrapping around the national programming in some way. No speakers have been confirmed. There will be chapter elections for vice president, secretary and at-large director in a format to be determined. Watch your email for details.



President ▶ From Page 1

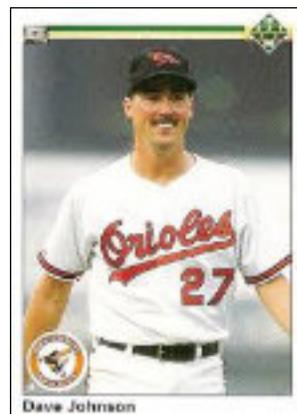
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It is a chance to tell SABR's story as well as delve into the wealth that is Baltimore baseball with a captive, interested audience. Let me know if you have contacted them and let me know how it went.

Trivia Answer

Player	Debut	Hometown
Ray Moore	April 18, 1955	Meadows
Jack Fisher	July 3, 1959	Frostburg
Steve Barber	April 21, 1960	Takoma Park
John Miller	September 30, 1962	Baltimore
Tom Phoebus	September 15, 1966	Baltimore
Bruce Howard	April 14, 1968	Salisbury
Dave Boswell	July 10, 1971	Baltimore
Dave Johnson*	August 8, 1989	Baltimore
Steve Johnson*	August 8, 2012	Baltimore
Ryan Meisinger	September 17, 2018	Prince Frederick
Evan Phillips	September 26, 2018	Salisbury

*--Father and son



Steve Johnson

Fantasy ▶ From Page 1

At first, we were scoring our players from the box scores, the way the league did it for 25 years. We have a real crackerjack programmer, Marylander Bob Nunziata, in the league, though, who figured out how to pull the daily stats from Baseball Reference and provide us a spreadsheet of the players on each team and the team totals using our unique scoring stats. We still did some manual work—taking the stats from the spreadsheets and scoring our games versus our opponents; that was to help ensure we paid attention to our teams.

When real baseball was coming back, we decided to run two leagues—continuing with the simulation while also playing the real game like we had for years.

**For the real baseball version, we started where we had finished the draft in April, so the real teams did not include the transactions made during the simulated league. This meant that most owners had two teams which looked very similar but were not exactly the same (we allow weekly changes via purchase of unowned players). As you might expect, this became a bit confusing for some owners.

The method of determining a champion will also be different for the two leagues.

Traditionally, our league does not have a playoff—the winner at the end of the season is the team with the best won-loss record, with a separate postseason competition, and that is the case this year for the real league.

But for the simulated league, we decided to have a short postseason among the top eight (of 14) teams, using the daily simulated games to play our daily match-up games in two three-game series followed by a final seven-game series.

I'm glad Bob decided to do this the way he did. We got to play a fantasy game from April onward, and then added in the "Real" MLB game once the real season got underway. Although we did not focus on our simulated team as much as we do our real team, we enjoyed having our daily fantasy baseball "distraction" in a time when we all needed one. And, we and it actually did pretty well, finishing in fifth place. Our real team got off to a terrible start but has picked up the pace despite a dreadful pitching staff. It's been a very stable league, with the vast majority of teams playing for 10 to 20 years, so it was nice to continue the camaraderie at a time when so many other connections were cut.

Season ▶ From Page 1

good as it got. Can it really be counted as a season if it was only about one-third of the length of a real season?

MLB calls it a season. Obviously a very weird season. But it had winners and losers. It has award winners and players who got injured. And with the expanded playoffs and even neutral sites, we eventually got a World Series champion in the Los Angeles Dodgers.

We as fans were robbed. For the first time in 18 years, I did not see an MLB or MiLB game live. I bet many others had



much longer streaks. Baseball is a spring to fall tradition for most of us. It did appear eventually, but it was not the same. I tried to enjoy it best as I could, even though I live a mile from OPACY ... and would often walk by and tear up.

In the grand scheme of things, it is only baseball. People's lives and jobs are much more important. But we think back to how baseball got a nation through the Great Depression, World War II and lots of civil strife, and it can again be a healer as the world moves forward and eventually past this pandemic.

All our lives were impacted this year. Perhaps by next spring, when it is time to "play ball" we actually will be able to participate. Speaking for myself, I hope, pray and truly believe that our return to normal will be slow, but we will eventually get there.

SABR 50 next summer in Baltimore should be a blast. Hope to see all of you there, happy and healthy and grateful for our favorite game.

**Your Favorite Team
only on
TV, Radio
or Your Computer**

**60 Games
Plus
Playoffs**

**No refunds or exchanges
No crying in baseball**



Do we qualify for a pandemic check?

Ruth's debut ▶ From Page 3

a local pitcher and held the visitors to five scattered hits in six innings."

Occasionally these accounts would carry a headline such as "Ruth Starts Well" or "Recruit Ruth Wins" although the Greensboro (N.C.) *Daily News* made "'Babe' Ruth Wins First Game" the top headline on its baseball page. Another game account, found in papers like the *Washington Herald* and the Richmond *Times-Dispatch*, reported that

"'Baby' [sic] Ruth the \$25,000 Baltimore Star opened in the box for the winners"

That led to the large headline in the *Austin American*: "'Baby' Ruth, \$25,000 Beaut, Hurls Well".

As for the rest of the year, as mentioned above, in his next game, which was against the Tigers, he did not fare as well, being relieved in the fourth inning and taking the loss. He was used sparingly after that, with four pitching appearances (three starts) for Boston until he was "released" to the Providence Grays of the International League on August 18. His 1914 pitching line for Boston was a record of 2-1 with a 3.91 ERA, seven walks and three strikeouts. His 1914 hitting line for Boston was 10 at-bats, two hits (one double) with four strikeouts (so he had more strikeouts as a hitter than he did as a pitcher). When Ruth was sent to Providence, the consensus was that the "star" of the July 9 deal with the Orioles was Ernie Shore, who went 10-5 with a 2.00 ERA and one save in 20 games for the second-place Red Sox in 1914.

The next year, as part of a starting pitching staff which included Shore (19-8), Leonard (15-7), Rube Foster (19-8) and Smoky Joe Wood (15-5), Ruth went 18-9 with a 2.44 ERA, helping the 1915 Red Sox to 101 wins, the American League pennant and a World Series victory over the Philadelphia Phillies. And the rest, as they say, is history.

Rx: Baseball

2020 has been a bummer of a year: A pandemic has been rattling the word for nearly a year, killing more than a million worldwide, disrupting economies and upending everyone's life.

As Peter Coolbaugh notes on Page 1, the baseball season that finally was didn't provide the relief we craved. It turned out to be just another 2020 thing that was no way normal.

It's time, fellow baseball lovers, to take a deep breath and remember when baseball is a state of mind—in all its glory and beauty. This happens during that long, dark time between the end of the World Series and the beginning of spring training—the daylight hours are fewer, trees are leafless, it's colder than some of us prefer—when you turn your mind's eye to baseball's glorious perfection, when the sun warms without the humidity to come, where the grass is greenest, and you can still believe that "wait till next year" is for the other teams.

After you stop dreaming, grab a baseball book!

If you don't have one at hand, you have options.

Log into SABR and browse the bookstore; remember, SABR books are free!

For out-of-print books, try ThriftBooks (thriftbooks.com) or Better World Books (betterworldbooks.com). Prices are excellent, and shipping is free or nominal. Better World Books is also a great way to recycle your books; check the website for details. Both support literacy efforts, which is a win-win.

Obviously, you like to read about baseball. Perhaps you'd like to consider contributing to *The Baltimore Chop*. Our pages have hosted research, photographs, essays, even a cartoon. Join the lineup for the winter issue. The only ground rule is a 1,500-word limit (not counting references or photo captions).

--Ruth Sadler (editor714@earthlink.net).

Autobiography ▶ From Page 4

Lieb documented his nearly 70 years as a baseball reporter. Lieb is credited with dubbing Yankee Stadium "The House that Ruth Built".

When Ruth was telling his story to Considine, Lieb was working for the New York *World-Telegram*. Later, Lieb told other writers, including Lawrence Ritter and Leigh Montville, that The Babe Ruth Story was not entirely written by Considine. In fact, at least a good portion of it came from another source, Lieb himself.

"The Babe Ruth book is under Considine's name, but I gave him most of his information. I dictated that book for about a week before the 1947 World Series. I told everything I knew or could recall about the Babe—well, everything that could be printed, anyway," said Lieb. According to Lieb, Considine didn't know enough about Ruth to do his memoir and hadn't covered him as extensively as he had. "I was with Ruth [as a sportswriter] from 1920 to 1934. Considine didn't come to New York until around 1933," said Lieb.

The public's awareness of The Babe Ruth Story increased with the Babe's death on August 16, 1948. The Babe's life will always be celebrated in his fine autobiography. Ruth will always be remembered as seen in the final photograph as displayed in *The Babe Ruth Story*:

The Babe Ruth Story is highly recommended. It is well-written, heartwarming and extremely entertaining, with wonderful baseball anecdotes. With candor, Ruth tells of his challenges, experiences on the field, stories of teammates, rejection by the Yankees to be manager, being offered the manager's job of the Detroit Tigers, as a coach with the Brooklyn Dodgers, times of personal joy and sorrow and much more.

I obtained, on the Internet, the second imprint, published in 1949, of the hardcover edition. Softcover editions of *The Babe Ruth Story* are also available; however, as mentioned, they do not include the enjoyable photographs highlighting



the Babe's life on and off the baseball field. For that reason, the hardcover edition of the Babe's autobiography is well worth the pursuit. *The Babe Ruth Story* is a must addition to every baseball library.



Save the New Date!

June 16-20, 2021
Hyatt Regency Inner Harbor

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 $\frac{2}{3}$
Mike Flanagan	2,317 $\frac{2}{3}$
Scott McGregor	2,140 $\frac{2}{3}$
Mike Cuellar	2,028 $\frac{1}{3}$
Mike Mussina	2,009 $\frac{2}{3}$
Dennis Martinez	1,775
Milt Pappas	1,632
Steve Barber	1,414 $\frac{2}{3}$
Sidney Ponson	1,375 $\frac{1}{3}$

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

On Deck ?

RBI	
Chris Davis	656

**WISHING YOU
SAFE
AND
HAPPY HOLIDAYS
AND A
WONDERFUL 2021**

