

THE BALTIMORE CHOP



SABR Babe Ruth Chapter

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Summer 2020

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President's Message

Stepping Back to Step Forward

The corona virus outbreak has put the whole world off its stride but offers some time for contemplation. The lockdown provides the opportunity to re-evaluate customs and protocols that we may have accepted only because that's how they were first introduced to us.

For example, rules changes in baseball often seem heretical at first and but are accepted after some time has passed.

Here are some baseball rules that have had a good run, but might, just for the fun of it, merit re-evaluation:

- Do bases really need to be 90 feet apart? Hitters and base runners would certainly appreciate a shorter distance, even if by only a few feet. Pitchers, on the other hand, are likely to enumerate the benefit of 100 feet between bases. Why not step back and listen to both?

- Games are nine innings long because?
- Is the mandated circumference of a baseball just right? Universally?
- Should we bring back "soaking" runners?

President ▶ Page 3

On the Coronavirus/Orioles Beat

COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus SARS-COV-2, has disrupted life around the world in 2020.

Baseball fans saw spring training end in March and resume in July (called Spring Training 2.0) to be followed by a 60-game season with no fans in the stands, new rules, expanded playoffs and regular testing for the disease.

Baltimore Sun readers may have noticed that several sports reporters went on the COVID-19 beat during the sports hiatus. One of them was Orioles beat reporter Nathan Ruiz.

"I hadn't done [general assignment] news reporting since my first semester of college, so it's definitely been an ad-

justment," he wrote in an email interview with *The Baltimore Chop*. "It's been nice to have a more set and 'normal' schedule compared to life on the baseball beat, and it's also been a generally good experience in terms of getting to write stories that benefit our readers' day-to-day understanding of the ongoing circumstances in Maryland."

The distance from baseball data to health data was surprisingly short.

"One of my primary responsibilities on the news side has been writing about the daily data updates the state has provided about virus cases, deaths,

Ruiz ▶ Page 10

Interview with Bernard McKenna: The Baltimore Black Sox

By David B. Stinson

Bernard McKenna's new book on the Baltimore Black Sox is landmark piece, a corner piece if you will, of the puzzle that is Baltimore's Negro League baseball history. So much of that history, unknown for decades, is coming into focus, as Bernard notes, thanks in part to the increased online availability of local and national newspaper archives and databases. Bernard's book recounts the early years of black baseball in Baltimore, leading up to the founding of the Baltimore Black Sox in 1913. He recounts also the social movements of the day and their impact upon the development and popularity of Negro League baseball both in Baltimore and nationally. He tells the story of the rise

and eventual demise of the Baltimore Black Sox, the players, the ballparks where they played and the fandom that accompanied the team's almost two decades' existence. He tells also the bittersweet stories of the players' lives after they left the game and how those lives became a part of Baltimore's everyday rich social fabric.

Recently, I had the opportunity to social-distance with Bernard, and ask him questions about his fine new book,

Black Sox ▶ Page 9



Save the New Date!

June 16-20, 2021
Hyatt Regency Inner Harbor

SABR Baltimore Babe Ruth Chapter Formed 2015

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Getting to Know ... Mike Licea

Mike Licea brought a long-standing love of baseball from his hometown of Miami to Baltimore.

He saw his first game at Joe Robbie Stadium, where his beloved Marlins used to play. But it doesn't make the cut for his favorite ballpark: That's Camden Yards, followed closely by Target Field in Minneapolis.

The Marlins have made room in his baseball heart for the Orioles. Bo Jackson, who never played for either team, is his all-time favorite player.

Favorite baseball memory?

That's Game 6 of the 1997 World Series. "We had obstructed-view tickets in the left field upper deck. We couldn't even see the entire left field," says Mike. "But it was so crazy being there with 60,000 fans for a baseball game. They lost Game 6 but ended up winning Game 7."



Mike lives in Baltimore and works as a sales rep for a cabinet company, making calls on new home builders. He joined SABR this year and volunteers with the Oriole Advocates.

He loves to travel, run, garden and ride his bike. Sometimes he combines his hobbies, such as the time he, his father and a friend biked from Baltimore to Cooperstown, a five-day, 350-mile trip.

Calendar

Regularly scheduled events

Peeps @ The Peeb

First Wednesday of the month, 7-9 P.M. unless noted
Zoom meeting until further notice

Talkin' Baseball

Since 2001, Bob Davids Chapter hosts a guest speaker

First Saturday of the month, 9 A.M.

Zoom meeting until further notice

Called Shot lunch

BYO lunch and talk baseball

Third Wednesday of the month, noon

Zoom meeting until further notice

August

19: Called Shot lunch Zoom

September

2: Peeps @ The Peeb Zoom

5: Talkin' Baseball Zoom, Jim Meisner, "Faith, Hope, and Baseball"

16: Called Shot lunch Zoom

October

3: Talkin' Baseball Zoom, Dennis Hetrick, Official Scorer of the Washington Nationals

7: Peeps @ The Peeb Zoom

21: Called Shot lunch Zoom

November

4: Peeps @ The Peeb Zoom

7: Talkin' Baseball Zoom, Tom Stone, "Now Taking the Field: Baseball's All-Time Dream Teams for all 30 Franchises"

December

2: Peeps @ The Peeb Zoom

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

16: Called Shot lunch Zoom

January

2: Talkin' Baseball Zoom, Perry Barber, "Female Umpiring"

6: Peeps @ The Peeb Zoom

20: Called Shot lunch Zoom

June 2021

16-20: SABR 50, Hyatt Regency Inner Harbor, Baltimore

Welcome, New Members

Matt Ault	Marriottsville
Brett Bennett	Washington, D.C.
Kevin Bley	St. Louis
Thomas Carney	Ellicott City
Ron Cassie	Baltimore
Robert Clayton	Washington, D.C.
John Conniff	Washington, D.C.
Stephen Dixon	Ashburn, Virginia
Jim Fisher	Reston, Virginia
Robert Fitzpatrick	Chevy Chase
Keith Helinsky	Middletown
Gary Johnson	Silver Spring
Pat Kilroy	Sykesville
Steven Mack	Falls Church, Virginia
Meg Madden	Washington, D.C.
William McCormack	Fairfield, Connecticut
Andrew Middleman	Cockeysville
Conor Mulville	Nottingham
Bob Neuman	Annapolis
Matthew Niemerski	Takoma Park
Christian Robertson	Rockville

Trivia Corner

What is the significance of the following seasons?

1902, 1922, 1960, 1968, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1989, 1994, 1996, 2012 and 2016

Answer on Page 6

Origins of *The Called Shot*

By Tom Wolf

On a cold December day in 2000, I was given a tour of the Anamosa State Penitentiary in Anamosa, Iowa. Baseball was the last thing on my mind, but my experience that day at the penitentiary would get me started on a book about Babe Ruth and the 1932 baseball season.

When the tour ended, my guides answered questions and told stories about the history of the institution. One of those stories was about a prisoner named Harry Hortman. He had committed a murder as a young man and was serving a life sentence for the crime. He would spend the final 34 years of his life at Anamosa.

I learned that Hortman was a model prisoner, acquired the nickname "Snap", and was recognized as a valued member of the prison population. He mentored young inmates, played clarinet in the prison band and coached the institution's baseball team. The baseball team called themselves The Snappers in his honor.

Baseball was Hortman's passion, and he was a Cubs fan. He bonded with the prison warden, a compassionate and outgoing man named Charlie Ireland. In 1932, Warden Ireland promised Hortman that if the Cubs won the National League pennant, he would take Hortman to Chicago to watch World Series games at Wrigley Field.

My interest was piqued. The story was compelling: a prison warden and a convicted murderer traveling together to watch their favorite team play in the World Series. I was hooked and decided to do more research. I thought a book about these two men and the 1932 baseball season would appeal to a broad range of readers.

I wasn't thinking about Babe Ruth as I left the penitentiary, but as I began my research, I realized that Babe Ruth had to be at the center of any book about that year. Ruth was not only the most prominent player in the game, he was also the most dominant personality in all of baseball—the most well-known and beloved American athlete of the era.

The Babe had his last great regular season in 1932. Although at 36 he was the second oldest player on the Yankees' roster, he was a potent offensive weapon on a team that dominated the American League and won 110 games. Ruth's stats for 1932: 41 home runs, 137 RBIs, 120 runs and a batting average of .341. He also led the league in walks with 130. Only Ruth's teammate, Lou Gehrig, came close to matching these numbers.

As my research progressed, I realized that there was a lot of drama, on and off the field, during the 1932 season. Both leagues had great pennant races. Jimmie Foxx, 24, of the Philadelphia Athletics had the best major-league season of his Hall of Fame career, coming close to breaking Ruth's single-season home run record. Dizzy Dean made his debut as a pitcher for the St. Louis Cardinals. Legendary manager John McGraw retired in midseason. Gehrig hit four home runs in one game. Cubs rookie shortstop Billy Jurges was shot by his former girlfriend in a Chicago hotel room, just a few blocks away from Wrigley Field. An umpire got into a fistfight with several members of the Chicago White Sox. A gambling scandal involving Rogers Hornsby forced commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis to investigate.

For America and Americans, the year 1932 was a chaotic and challenging time. As my idea for the book grew in scope and content, I decided to pay attention to what was happening in our country. The failed social experiment of Prohibition was about to end. The hardships caused by the Great Depression caused social unrest. More than 20,000 World War I veterans camped out in our nation's capital, demonstrating their displeasure with the government and demanding an early payment of the bonuses they had earned. In the fall, the nation faced a choice between Herbert Hoover and

Franklin Roosevelt in a critical national presidential election.

When baseball's regular season ended, the eyes of America turned to the World Series. The iconic franchises of the New York Yankees and the Chicago Cubs were victorious in their respective pennant races and destined to meet in the fall classic. Once again, and now for the final time in his career, Babe Ruth would take center stage and create one of baseball's most enduring moments.

My task as a writer was to convey the drama and excitement of this unforgettable season to readers. I knew that the climax of the story would be the dramatic and historic confrontation between Cubs pitcher Charlie Root and Babe Ruth at Wrigley Field in the fifth inning of Game Three, the most famous at-bat in the long history of the sport.

The Yankees won the first two games of the series in New York. Then the series moved to Chicago. Fifty thousand fans filled Wrigley Field for Game Three, cheering for the hometown Cubs and jeering the visiting Yankees. The crowd included such notables as Commissioner Landis, Mayor Anton Cermak and the Democratic Party candidate for president, Franklin Roosevelt, an avowed Yankee fan. And, yes, Charlie Ireland, the Iowa prison warden, and his friend and fellow baseball fan, the lifer Harry Hortman, were in the stands, enjoying the game from reserved seats.

Fans taunted Ruth as he took outfield practice, tossing lemons at him. As always, Ruth loved being the center of attention. The real drama occurred in the top of the fifth inning when Ruth came to bat with the bases empty and the score tied 4-4. Most baseball fans know what happened next. After much taunting, arm-waving and finger-pointing, Ruth hit Root's 2-2 pitch 440 feet over the scoreboard in right-center field. The Legend of the Called Shot was born in that glorious moment.

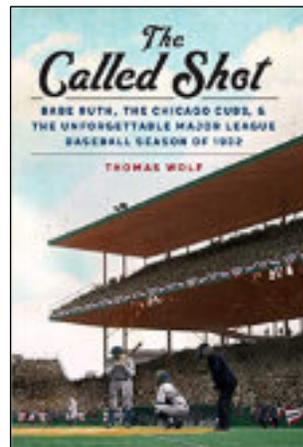
My quest to tell the story of the 1932 baseball season started with a tour of a maximum-security prison in Iowa and ended many years later after extensive research. My goal was to write an entertaining book with multiple storylines that would appeal to baseball fans and history buffs.

If I have succeeded, it is likely due to the fact that any book with Babe Ruth at its core will attract readers who admire this most charismatic figure—this great athlete—whose life story and exploits continue to enthrall baseball fans of all ages.

President ▶ From Page 1

- Does baseball at every level need a mercy rule?
- Should last-place teams be "relegated" to a lower league?

OK, maybe those are off the deep end, but there are other ideas I'd love to hear. Send your thoughts to editor714@earthlink.net.



Don Stanhouse the Oriole: Full Pack, Stan the Man Unusual

This article is adapted from a chapter in the SABR publication *1972 Texas Rangers: The Team that Couldn't Hit*

By Maxwell Kates

Although his tenure in Baltimore was limited to three years, Don Stanhouse earned both of his nicknames as an Oriole. Manager Earl Weaver, apprehensive when Stanhouse pitched, called him "Full Pack". That's how many cigarettes he was said to have smoked.¹ Teammate Mike Flanagan called him "Stan the Man Unusual" to rhyme with the surname of a St. Louis Cardinals Hall of Famer. There was, however, far more to the pitching career of Don Stanhouse. During his decade in the major leagues, he perfected his skills both as a starting pitcher and as a short reliever in a career which took him from Cowtown to Tinseltown by way of la Belle Province and the Land of Pleasant Living. Stanhouse reached the pinnacle of his performance in 1979, earning an All-Star berth and a trip to the World Series with the Orioles. Injuries may have cut short his career, but he remains a unique character in the memories of his fans and the media.

Donald Joseph Stanhouse was born on Feb. 12, 1951 in DuQuoin, Illinois, to a family of Scottish-Irish background.² He was selected by the Oakland A's in the first round of the June 1969 draft. Before the 1972 season, he was traded to the Texas Rangers for Denny McLain. After posting a 3.78 ERA with the Rangers in 1972, Stanhouse split the next two years between Texas and Spokane before being traded to the Montreal Expos. He was one of the rare bright spots in a dismal 1976 campaign in Montreal. In mid-August, his record was 8-5 and his 2.60 ERA was second in the National League to Fred Norman's 2.38.³ Stanhouse again performed well for Montreal in 1977, going 6-2 with 10 saves and a 1.52 ERA.⁴ On Dec. 7, he was traded in a six-player deal, this time to the Orioles.

Upon arrival at the Orioles' training camp in Miami, Stanhouse went to great lengths to show that his eccentricities extended far beyond his pitching delivery. He drove a black Cadillac to match his outfit and the paint scheme of his apartment. He brought a stuffed gorilla to the games, perhaps the inspiration for the primal screams he would yelp as the game was about to start.⁵ Then there was the "sleeper" egged on by teammates Lee May and Terry Crowley. "I'd go into the stretch and drop my head, like I'd fallen asleep. Eventually the hitter would stomp out of the box and the umpire would come out and say, 'Wake up!'"⁶ When he did, the game was over!

By April 30, Stanhouse had converted five saves—five more than any of his teammates—while limiting the opposition to a minuscule 0.67 ERA⁷. On July 4 in Cleveland, Stanhouse notched his 12th save, matching the season record for any Orioles relief pitcher under Weaver. However, his pitching repertoire might have been enough for Weaver to single-handedly propel the share price of his Raleigh cigarettes.

As Jim Henneman of the Baltimore *Evening Sun* reported, Stanhouse was forced to convert two double plays in order to save himself from base running situations that were his own doing.

"I know I have too many walks for a relief pitcher and I know the reason I walk so many," Stanhouse told Henneman. "It's because I won't throw for the middle of the plate. It's just the way I pitch."⁸

Despite Weaver's outward anxiety, he expressed great confidence in his new right-handed bullpen specialist: "He's my short man, whether it be right-handed or left-handed hitters." High praise from a short man himself, who had never stayed with one closer for an entire season.

Pitching coach Ray Miller elaborated on Weaver's remarks: "He won't give into the hitters, even if he gets behind

on the count. He continues to go after them with his pitch. That may be why he walks a few, but it's also why he gets people out."⁹ Stanhouse's record for the fourth-place Orioles of 1978 was 6-9 with a 2.89 ERA and 24 saves, one short of the franchise record set by Stu Miller.

Expectations for 1979 were modest after Jerold Hoffberger sold the team to Edward Bennett Williams. But, as Stanhouse remembers, "...look at the Yankees, Boston and California and their personnel they had that year and you think, 'Wow, were they good!' But you know something? We beat 'em all."¹⁰

After a typically slow April, the Orioles catapulted themselves into a comfortable first-place lead by the end of May, claiming 11 of their 23 June victories in the eighth inning or later.¹¹ Under the banner of "Oriole Magic", it seemed a different player was the game's hero every night. Large crowds became the norm at Memorial Stadium as William G. "Wild Bill" Hagy spelled out O-R-I-O-L-E-S with his body from Section 34 while fans yelled each letter in unison. Stanhouse converted 21 saves in 1979 and represented the orange and black at the All-Star Game in Seattle along with Ken Singleton. For the season, he posted an ERA of 2.85, with 7 wins and 3 losses for an Orioles team that went 102-57 for the best record in baseball.



Stanhouse's first playoff appearance was in relief of Jim Palmer in Game 1 of the ALCS against the California Angels. True to the fundamentals of "the Oriole Way", Stanhouse won the opener on pitching, defense and a three-run homer—by Pat Kelly in the bottom of the 10th inning.¹² Victory was no easier for the Orioles in Game 2, as Stanhouse entered the game with nobody out in the bottom of the eighth to preserve a 9-4 lead for Mike Flanagan. After a run scored on a double-play ball, a sacrifice fly and two RBI singles, the Orioles lead had dwindled to 9-8 before Stanhouse ended the game with the bases loaded. When asked why he had not sent his ace reliever to the showers, Weaver answered, "I still had three cigarettes left!"¹³

Stanhouse saw action in three games of the 1979 World Series, which the Orioles lost to the Pittsburgh Pirates by a margin of 4-3. Despite the Orioles' new ownership, their free-agent offer to Stanhouse could not compare to the five-year, \$2.1 million contract proposed by the Los Angeles Dodgers. Injuries limited him to seven saves in 21 relief appearances in 1980, and the following March, he was released by the Dodgers.

With the Dodgers still paying him, Stanhouse returned to Baltimore in 1982. Earl Weaver offered him an invitation to spring training. Stanhouse was a married man, having wed the former Kyle Stevenson the previous year—"that might have been my best pitch!" Effective in spring training and with injuries to many on the Orioles pitching staff, Stanhouse signed a contract on April 5. Rex Barney had not even finished saying Stanhouse's name in the Opening Day introductions when the capacity crowd at Memorial Stadium rose for a standing ovation. "That," Stanhouse says, "was the biggest thrill of my whole career."

However, it was not a year to remember. Stanhouse was 0-1 with a 5.40 ERA in 17 appearances with the Orioles. He

Stanhouse ► Continued on Page 11

Babe Ruth Weds Helen Woodford Oct. 17, 1914: Tragedy Ensues

By Fred Glueckstein

On July 9, 1914, 19-year-old Babe Ruth, Ernie Shore and Ben Egan were sold by the minor-league Baltimore Orioles of the International League to the Boston Red Sox. On July 10, Ruth, Shore and Egan took an overnight train to Boston. After arriving at Back Bay Station on July 11 at 10 A.M., Ruth and Shore crossed Dartmouth Street and ordered a breakfast of ham and eggs at Landers Coffee Shop. Ruth was served by a 16-year-old dark-haired waitress named Mary Ellen "Helen" Woodford. The Babe and Helen would marry in the fall.

After breakfast, Ruth went to the Red Sox offices on Devonshire Street and then to Fenway Park, where he was fitted for a uniform. Ruth was then told he was going to start that afternoon against the Cleveland Naps (the nickname during Napoleon Lajoie's time with the team, 1903-14, and after that called the Indians). Ruth pitched seven innings to win his first major-league game, 4-3.

Ruth had been paid \$875 by the Orioles. With the Red Sox he quadrupled his salary to \$3,500. In his 1948 autobiography, Ruth wrote: "I felt rich enough and old enough ... to take to myself a wife. She [Helen] used to wait on me in the mornings, and one day I said to her, 'How about you and I getting married, hon?' Helen thought it over for a few minutes and said yes."

Ruth bought a car, and he and Helen drove to Ellicott City, Maryland, to get married. Ruth and Helen chose Ellicott City because it was one of two towns (Elkton the other) in Maryland where they could bypass the three-day waiting period.

On a cool and cloudy day, Babe Ruth, 19, and Helen Woodford, 16, went from Baltimore to Ellicott City. They were married on October 17, 1914 by Father Thomas S. Dolan in



Babe and Helen's Sudbury house today.

On September 20, 1922, while Ruth was on the road in Cleveland, Helen appeared at the Polo Grounds with a baby and nurse. Reporters asked Helen about the baby. Ruth said the baby, named Dorothy, had been born very small at 2½ pounds. The baby had lived in an incubator and had recently come home to the hotel with a nurse.

Helen said the Babe hadn't wanted news of the baby released until Dorothy was entirely healthy. Contacted in Cleveland by the press, the Babe admitted he was the father. However, when he said that the baby had been born on February 2 at Presbyterian Hospital in New York, it conflicted with Helen's having said the baby was born on June 7 at New York's St. Vincent Hospital.

Over the years, the origins of Dorothy's birth were further muddled, as neither birth nor adoption records were ever found. More than 60 years later, Dorothy Helen Ruth Pirone, who wrote a memoir titled *My Dad*, the Babe, learned that she was the Babe's natural daughter but born to his mistress Juanita Jennings (born Juanita Grenandtz).



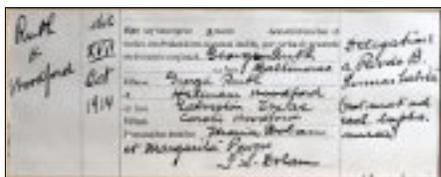
Helen knew of her baby's biological mother but would have been pleased to have a baby daughter, as she once told the wife of another ballplayer that she had four miscarriages.

As a ballplayer, the Babe was often on the road. Although married with a child, he lived as if he were single. There were many women and escapades, some of which appeared in the newspapers. Yet Helen always stood by the Babe. Marriage discord led to an agreed separation in 1923. That year, Ruth met an actress named Claire Merritt Hodgson, a widow. Claire had a daughter named Julia.

In December 1924, Helen, accompanied by her sister Nora Woodford, and the Babe went to the office of his agent Christy Walsh to discuss divorce. Nora remembered that the Babe said he wanted to marry another woman (Claire). Helen agreed to a quiet divorce in Reno, but only if the Babe would give her \$100,000 to take care of her and Dorothy and to pay expenses to Reno. "I'm not going to give you another cent," said Ruth, and the negotiations ended.

When Ruth's relationship with Claire was publicized in the newspapers, Helen formed a new relationship of her own in 1926 with a prominent dentist named Edward Kinder. Helen and Edward were the same age and were childhood family friends in South Boston.

Kinder lived in the Boston suburb of Watertown, and Helen moved into his home at 47 Quincy Street. Kinder's family was under the impression that he and Helen were mar-



St. Paul's Catholic Church. The church was empty except for Dolan and two witnesses who were parish members, one of whom was Dolan's sister.

After returning to Massachusetts, Babe and Helen lived in an apartment in Boston's Back Bay neighborhood. They remained there until 1919, when they bought a 16-room house on a farm outside Boston in Sudbury, Massachusetts. Known as the old Sylvester Perry place, the house was built in 1737, and the farm covered some 200 acres of tillable land, woodland and water. Ruth said the farm was going to be a working agricultural operation. He named the estate "Home Plate Farm".

In December 1919, the Red Sox sold Ruth's contract to the Yankees. While in New York, Babe and Helen lived in an eight-room suite in the Ansonia Hotel in Manhattan during the baseball season. They returned to their Sudbury home in the winter.

Marriage ► Continued on Page 11

Birds Vs. Pennant Winners, 1954-1965

By Francis Kinlaw

When a major-league team was paired against a first-place team back in the days of pre-divisional baseball, unique emotions often existed among members of the fan base of the team that did not occupy first place. While a recognition that the trailing team would face a stern challenge was certainly present, such games frequently featured an element of excitement emanating from the possibility that an upset of sorts might occur. If the first-place team happened to be the perennially powerful New York Yankees (which was very often the case), the prospect of a few days of glory for the logical underdog became even more intense.

With less live baseball to watch in this summer of 2020, a few idle minutes may be filled by reviewing the outcomes of seasonal series between eventual American League pennant winners from 1954 through 1965 and the seven (or nine) teams that trailed them in the standings. Long-time Orioles fans will immediately note that these 12 seasons conveniently span the period from the return of major league baseball to Baltimore to the year preceding the Birds' glorious ascension from challenger to champion.

A few significant factors relating to the study of this rather obscure topic should be noted before the results are revealed:

- Because the Yankees captured nine of the 12 pennants between 1954 and 1965, they were a challenging team in only three seasons (1954, 1959 and 1965).
- Since the Los Angeles/California Angels and the expansion Washington Senators came into existence in the 1961 season, they challenged pennant winners in only five of the 12 seasons (1961 through 1965).
- The Washington Senators of 1954 through 1960 and the Minnesota Twins of 1961 through 1965 are considered a single entity for the purposes of this exercise because only the name of the franchise changed. The Philadelphia Athletics of 1954, who became the Kansas City A's thereafter, have also been placed under one umbrella.
- For the sake of simplicity, winning percentages of challenging teams against each season's pennant winner have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Given the varied quality of Baltimore's teams during the 12-year period, the cumulative results of this study reflect an acceptable (though not exceptional) performance by Oriole teams. The Birds won 40% of their games against first-place finishers to rank very slightly above the league's mathematical median and 3½ percentage points above its mathematical mean when compared to other franchises. Four clubs (the White Sox at 41%, Yankees at 40%, Indians at 40% and Angels at 39%) were remarkably close to the Orioles in cumulative winning percentages. The Detroit Tigers stood out as the pacesetter among American League challengers with a winning percentage of 44%, although fans recalling the success of pitchers Frank Lary and Don Mossi against the Bronx Bombers may be surprised that Detroit's success rate was not higher. The Bengals won more than half of their games against the Yankees in only two seasons (1956 and 1958).

While the Orioles and those other five teams can be grouped together with winning percentages of 39% or higher against first-place teams, a clear dividing line existed statistically between them and the league's remaining franchises. The Senators/Twins combo won only 33% of their games against the top team, the Red Sox 32% and the Philadelphia/Kansas City Athletics 30%. The expansion Senators pulled up the rear at 26%.

While the Orioles held their own against league champs over the 12-year time frame, the franchise's degree of on-the-field success was inconsistent on a year-to-year basis. The sixth-place 1959 team split 22 games against Chicago's "Go-Go" White Sox, the seventh-place 1962 club won 11 of 18 games against the Yankees, and the 1964 Birds won 10 of 18

	O's record	GB	Pennant winner	
1954	54-100	57	Indians	111-43
1955	57-97	39	Yankees	96-58
1956	69-85	28	Yankees	97-57
1957	76-76	21	Yankees	98-56
1958	74-79	17.5	Yankees	92-62
1959	74-80	20	White Sox	94-60
1960	89-65	8	Yankees	97-57
1961	95-67	14	Yankees	109-53
1962	77-85	19	Yankees	96-66
1963	86-76	18.5	Yankees	104-57
1964	97-65	2	Yankees	99-63
1965	94-68	8	Twins	102-60

contests against the Yanks on the way to a third-place finish. But, on the other hand, Baltimore's first two "modern" teams struggled terribly against both the Cleveland Indians in 1954 and the Yankees in 1955, winning only three of 22 games against the league champions in each of those years. (Of course, those unfavorable results were not unexpected since those flocks of "early Birds" flew low in the American League's second division.)

Ranging between these extremes of "acceptable" and "downright bad" were several other seasons in which the Orioles' outcomes against the pennant winners can best be described as "a mixed bag."

The 1966 pennant race differed, of course, from the dozen that had come before it. Which American League team was the most difficult for the Orioles to defeat as they traveled the road to baseball supremacy? The fifth-place Indians (with a record of 10-8) were the only team to hold a head-to-head advantage over the Birds. And which opposing team gave the Orioles the fewest headaches that year? None other than the cellar-dwelling Yankees of '66, who dropped 15 of 18 games to Hank Bauer's talented roster.

Trivia Answer

These are the 12 years when the Browns/Orioles finished second, showing that in addition to championships, this team that has always been competitive, especially since moving to Baltimore.

1902	2nd of 8 teams in AL		
1922	2nd of 8 teams in AL		
1944			AL champs
1960	2nd of 8 teams in AL		won World Series
1966			
1968	2nd of 10 teams in AL		
1969			AL champs
1970			won World Series
1971			AL champs
1973			AL East champs
1974			AL East champs
1975	2nd of 6 teams in AL East		
1976	2nd of 6 teams in AL East		
1977	2nd of 7 teams in AL East		
1979			AL champs
1983			won World Series
1989	2nd of 7 teams in AL East		
1994	2nd of 5 teams in AL East	wild card	
1996	2nd of 5 teams in AL East		
2012	2nd of 5 teams in AL East	wild card	
2014		won ALDS	AL East champs
2016	2nd of 5 teams in AL East	wild card	

100 Wins But No Playoffs: A Look Back at the 1980 Orioles

By Jody Madron

The 2020 season is the 40th anniversary of one of the most impressive, yet overlooked, accomplishments in the history of Baltimore baseball.

In fact, the 1980 Baltimore Orioles—led by eventual Cy Young Award winner Steve Stone—did something that no O's team has done in any of the seasons that followed.

It's a feat that the 1983 world champion Orioles were not able to accomplish ... the 1997 wire-to-wire American League East champions couldn't pull off ... and even the 2014 Buck Showalter-led Birds did not realize.

What is this impressive feat?

It was the last Orioles team to win 100 regular-season games.

Of course, as crazy as this might seem in the modern era of expanded postseason play, that 100-win Orioles team did not even qualify for the postseason.

Despite having the second-best record in major league baseball in 1980, the Orioles were forced to watch the post-season on television as they finished three games behind the division champion New York Yankees.

The Orioles' record of 100 wins and 62 losses was five games better than the next-closest division winner, Kansas City (97-65), seven games better than National League West champion Houston (93-70) and nine games better than eventual World Series champion Philadelphia (91-71).

In the four decades since the 100-win 1980 team, the Orioles have had a handful of close calls with the century mark but have fallen just short each time.

The 1983 World Series champion team finished the regular season with 98 wins. The wire-to-wire division champion in 1997 also finished with 98 wins ... and the most recent division winner in 2014 posted a total of 96 wins.

Of course, back in 1980, an Orioles team winning 100 games was nothing new. 1980 was the fifth time the Orioles had won 100 or more games in team history—and all were under manager Earl Weaver. The other years were 1969, 1970, 1971 and 1979 ... and in each of those years, the O's won the American League pennant.

After defeating the White Sox on opening day at Comiskey Park on April 10 and jumping out to a 5-3 record eight days later, the Orioles went into a tailspin, losing six straight games to fall below .500.

They would not climb back to the .500 level until June 8, but another quick stumble put the Birds in sixth place—8½ games behind New York—on June 14.

Beginning with a win at Seattle on June 15, the Orioles went on a 13-3 stretch through July 2—backed primarily by a red-hot Ken Singleton—before slumping again and waking up on the morning of July 15 a whopping 11 games behind the Yankees.

That was a hole too deep to climb out of. The team went 52-20 (.722) over its final 72 games, yet could never overtake New York. For a period of seven days—August 22 through August 28—the O's were stuck at one-half game back of the lead.

But they could never pass the Yankees, slipping to six games back in mid-September before ultimately finishing three games off the pace, winning their 100th game of the season in their 162nd and final game—a 7-1 win over Cleveland at Memorial Stadium on Sunday, October 5.

Other memorable accomplishments

There's no question that the 1980 Orioles will be primarily remembered as one of just eight teams in MLB history to win 100 games and miss the playoffs ... and they remain the last American League team to do so.

But in addition to the 100 wins, the 1980 season featured several other impressive accomplishments that also haven't been seen since in the Land of Pleasant Living.

These include:

- **The memorable summer of journeyman pitcher Steve Stone:** The name of the most recent Orioles pitcher to win a Cy Young Award might come as a surprise to many younger fans who have heard about the exploits of Hall of Famers Jim Palmer and Mike Mussina, or the four 20-game winners of 1971.

The last of Palmer's three Cy Young Awards came in 1976 ... and Mussina surprisingly never won a Cy Young Award. The most recent Oriole to win a Cy Young Award was Steve Stone, in a remarkable 1980 season in which the 33-year-old posted a 25-7 record with a 3.23 ERA in 37 games. Stone's 25 wins and .781 winning percentage led the majors, and he won his 20th game on August 19, becoming the earliest 20-game winner in team history.

Stone's win total remains the highest in modern Orioles history for a single season, and no Oriole has won more than 20 games in any season since.

- **A pair of 20-game winners:** The Orioles had the only pitching staff in the majors with two 20-game winners in 1980, as Scott McGregor finished the year 20-8. It was the last time the Orioles had two 20-game winners on the same staff.

At the time, 20-game winners were considered routine in Birdland, as 1980 was the 13th straight year the Orioles had at least one 20-game winner—a major-league record that still stands. During that span, from 1968 through 1980, 22 Orioles pitchers won 20 games or more.

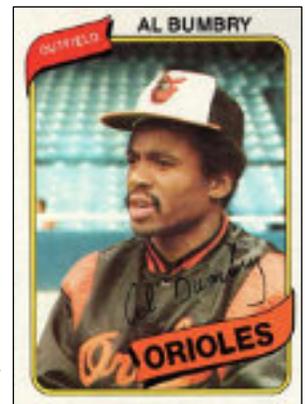
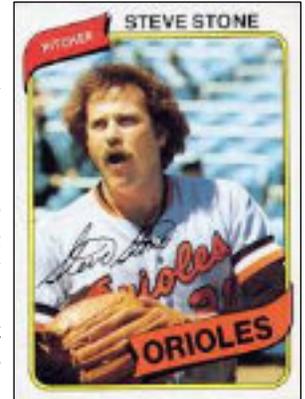
- **Bumbry's hit mark:** Speedy center fielder Al Bumbry became the first modern Oriole with more than 200 hits in a season, breaking Brooks Robinson's team record of 194 hits set in 1964. Bumbry finished the year with a team-leading batting average of .318, a career-best 44 stolen bases and was named Most Valuable Oriole by the local media in what would be the only All-Star season of his 14-year major-league career.

Bumbry's 205 hits stood as the O's record until 1983, when Cal Ripken collected 211. Ripken's record was surpassed by Miguel Tejada, whose 214-hit season of 2006 remains the team's best.

- **Weaver's final All-Star Game:** As manager of the defending American League pennant winner, Earl Weaver was in charge of the AL's entry for the 1980 midsummer classic. And while no Orioles were voted to the starting lineup by fans, Weaver selected Bumbry and Stone for the squad and named Stone his starting pitcher.

No Oriole pitcher has started an All-Star Game since Stone's outing at Dodger Stadium in 1980. Stone retired all nine NL batters he faced in three perfect innings, striking out three. The National League ultimately won the game—Weaver's final All-Star appearance—by a score of 4-2.

- **MLB attendance record:** The highlight of the season at Memorial Stadium in 1980 was a unique five-game, five-date series from August 14-18. Originally scheduled as a four-game series (running Thursday through Sunday), an



1980 ► Continued on Page 11

Why I Am a SABR Member

By Peter Coolbaugh

We have all heard it. “You’re in SABR? Aren’t you guys all about the numbers?”

Sabmetrics is a term people associate with us. We are not just about numbers or doing research ... simply put, we are baseball fans to the extreme.

I joined SABR in late 2007 on the advice of a colleague. Baltimore did not have its own chapter, so I joined the Bob Davids Chapter, based in D.C. region, but that encompassed several states. For the first six to eight months, I did very little with the group. Most of the events were in the D.C. metro area, so I did not attend a lot of things outside of the monthly book discussions in Columbia.

But a funny thing happened over time. ... I got to know people and began to become more interested in things that I had had little exposure to in the past. My interests mainly revolved around Baltimore baseball and Babe Ruth. But as I began to associate with people over the years who had interests and expertise in other areas of baseball, my interests expanded.

Being in SABR has allowed me to view things differently than I had in the past. Sure, I still like and dislike certain franchises, but I have more of an appreciation of history than I did before and I can have spirited discussions with other fans that are not mean in any way, even if I oppose their viewpoints.

I am not a genius. I will never come up with some new statistic that will change the world, nor will I discover some newly found facts or stories of a player. As a die-hard baseball fan, my mantra is simple: Enjoy the game, preserve its history, tell the story accurately, make friends along the way and have fun.

The younger generations today don’t like to “belong” to organizations. Not sure why, but it is not trendy to be a member of anything anymore. I feel the opposite way. You should belong to things that are important to you. Never lose the passion for the causes you support and believe in. My passion for baseball (despite a lot of changes and rules that I don’t care for) is still at an all-time high, and part of that comes from interacting with the best and the brightest of fans—SABR members.

Most members like to read and learn. In SABR you have access to so many articles, publications and online databases that will give even the most knowledgeable a chance to learn something new. There are over 70 chapters around the world, and there are over 30 committees that you can become a part of in SABR. No matter what angle your interest is in the game—a player, a franchise, an era etc.—you will find someone else with the same interests as you in SABR. In fact, you may even develop an interest in something you did not know much about before. I know very little about the Negro Leagues, but due to the fact that Baltimore has a rich history and several members of the Baltimore chapter have done extensive research on the history of black baseball in this region, I have become much more fascinated than I ever thought was possible. Learning and appreciating the different aspects of the game is part of being a fan, in my opinion. And you are not limited to belonging to your (geographically) local chapter. In SABR, you can be on the rosters of numerous chapters if you choose. At last count, I think I belong to about a dozen (with Baltimore as my primary) so I can keep up on happenings and events in other chapters as well. I love to be informed.

I encourage those who have never come to a SABR event to do so in the future. COVID-19 is making things difficult right now except for Zoom meetings, but down the line come and join us. You may be hesitant, as I was, but we really are a friendly group. Sometime down the line, come to a meeting (virtual or in person), or a social event or game. If

you have any interest in the game at all, you will feel welcome as if you have been among friends all along.

And I encourage everyone to come to the belated SABR 50 convention next June in Baltimore. You will find the greatest minds on Earth gathered for four days discussing and debating baseball until long after the sun goes down. My first experience at a convention was in Chicago in 2015, and I look forward to going every year. It is like a family reunion in the middle of the summer. You want to see all the people you have not seen since the last convention.

SABR, like any organization, is not for everyone. Nothing is. But I do encourage you to give our organization a try in 2021 since this year is pretty much lost. I have mentors and friends now all over the globe now, thanks to baseball and SABR. And my holiday card list keeps growing every year as I make new friends.

Feel free to reach out to me personally with any questions, concerns, worries, etc. I hope you will consider being a part of a wonderful organization. We all love baseball and I hope to see you around even if it is simply to come and absorb something new. Stay well everyone.

peterc@baberuthmuseum.org

My Baseball Bookshelf

I first read *Bat Boy of the Giants* in 1962 after I had asked my older cousin (a college man) if he had any baseball books; I walked home with eight, plus *Hiroshima* (he didn’t want me to get in a rut).

Bat Boy of the Giants was published in 1948 and covers the 1944 through 1947 seasons. By the time I read it, that baseball world was long gone, a world of day games and “western” road trip to St. Louis and Chicago that had become a world of baseball under the lights, trips to the West Coast, where the Giants had moved, while their Polo Grounds were occupied by an expansion team.

In the book, Garth Garreau, a teen-ager from Teaneck, N.J., describes how he gets to the major leagues. His dream of playing was shattered as an undersized junior high schooler when he was introduced to an American Legion team, and those older boys were BIG and skilled. But his season as their go-fer led him to the Polo Grounds, where he spent three seasons as the visiting bat boy and home bat boy for the 1947 season. I wasn’t aware on my first reading that that was the season Jackie Robinson broke the major-league color barrier with the Giants’ bitterest rival; nary a word from Garreau, who made the trips to Ebbets Field as bat boy that year.

The book ends with his matriculating to Michigan State to study chemical engineering (his new dream) and maybe play baseball.

I’m pretty sure I only read *Bat Boy of the Giants* once, eventually gave it away, then wondered ... what happened to Garth Garreau? He got his chemical engineering degree and, after NROTC, his Navy aviator wings. On Nov. 8, 1954, Lt. (j.g.) Garth Garreau, the navigator, and the other two crewmen died when their AJ-2, laden with fuel because it was to be the refueling aircraft in the exercise, cartwheeled off the carrier USS *Coral Sea* in the Mediterranean and exploded on impact with the water; an eyewitness said the ship had not completed its turn into the wind and the order to take off should never have been given. Garreau’s body was never found. He was 25. There was an obituary in *The Sporting News* of Nov. 24, 1954, which gives the wrong date of death and the wrong years he was a bat boy but adds that he collaborated with Joe King of the *New York World-Telegram & Sun* on his memoir.

--Ruth Sadler

Black Sox ► From Page 1

as well as discuss the history of the Negro Leagues in Baltimore 100 years ago. My questions (DS:) are followed by his answers (BMcK:).

DS: This year marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of Rube Foster's Negro National League in 1920. What is Baltimore's place in that history at that moment in time—1920—and what were Baltimore's contributions leading up to the founding of the Negro Leagues?

BMcK: Although Baltimore did not have a franchise in the Negro National League, the city and the Black Sox played a part in that inaugural season. With the centennial, I think we celebrate the accomplishments of African Americans in baseball, with particular attention to not only the forces arrayed against them but also toward what African Americans built in response to and in spite of cultural and institutionalized racism. So it's not just about 1920. It's about the growth and development of what we call the Negro Leagues. In Baltimore, it's about the Elite Giants. It's about the Black Sox. It's about the individuals who played for these teams, and it's about the men and women who supported these teams. It's also about the men and women, the teams, and the cultural and social movements that preceded the founding of the Negro National League. I think I strayed from the question a bit. I also don't know if it's my place to say what "we're" celebrating.

DS: What was Baltimore's specific role? What was the Black Sox's role in that 1920 season? Baltimore hosted games in what Rube Foster called the "World's Colored Championship." It involved a series of games between Foster's Chicago American Giants and the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants. The teams played one another in D.C., Baltimore, Wilmington, Philadelphia and New York. In Baltimore, they met at the Westport Baseball Grounds, the first ballpark in Baltimore to be called "Black Sox Park". The Westport Grounds, sometimes called Westport Park, was just to the south of what would be the home of Maryland Park, where the Black Sox played during their time in the Eastern Colored League. The city witnessed part of baseball history.

BMcK: The Black Sox's role involved cultivating a fan base in the city for African American baseball. The team also played games in Wilmington, where they developed a loyal following and became involved in a local rivalry with the semi-pro Harlan Giants (Judy Johnson was one of their players). It was that rivalry and that following that convinced Foster to schedule a stop in Delaware.

DS: What social/societal factors in Baltimore helped influence the rise of Negro League baseball in the years just prior to, and leading up to, 1920?

BMcK: I'll mention just two. I go into more detail in my book. First, the city enacted a series of "Segregation Ordinances" that has been called "Apartheid Baltimore style". The laws became a model of segregation laws throughout the country. Second, the African American community took action to protest these laws. The team's first owner, Howard Young, purchased a home in a white neighborhood to challenge the law.

DS: What year did Baltimore field its first Negro League-affiliated team?

BMcK: 1923. The Eastern Colored League, officially the Mutual Association of Colored Baseball Clubs, had its inaugural season in 1923.

DS: What was the fan experience like attending Negro league games in the 1920s?

BMcK: Maryland Park, in the mid-1920s, was a great place to attend a game. It suffers from a bad reputation, earned from its condition in the late '20s and early '30s. However, in its prime, it offered fairly comfortable accommodations. There was actual seating, not just bleachers. The crowd was close to the action. In fact, for some games, the fences behind home and along the baselines moved forward to accommo-

date an overflow crowd. The stands would have had integrated seating, with anywhere from 20% to 50% white fans in attendance. According to reports, there also would have been considerable interaction between the players and the crowd. There's a famous story of Scrappy Brown, the Black Sox shortstop, running through the crowd after hitting a home run, collecting money in his hat.

DS: Who are some of the players who had the biggest impact on the Baltimore game?

BMcK: Jud Wilson, Doc Sykes, Charles Evans, Charles Thomas, J.B. Hairstone, Laymon Yokely, Crush Holloway, Rap Dixon, John Beckwith, Ghost Marcelle, Dick Lundy, Frank Warfield. I could go on.

DS: How many current Hall of Fame players wore Baltimore Black Sox uniform?

BMcK: Satchel Paige, Leon Day, Mule Suttles, Ben Taylor, Pete Hill and Biz Mackey.

DS: How many other players from that team deserve to be in the Hall of Fame?

BMcK: John Beckwith, Dick Lundy, Rap Dixon, Laymon Yokely, Fats, Jenkins. We hear their names mentioned quite a bit. I think a case could also be made for Doc Sykes, whose greatest years as a player predate the ECL. He was a dominant pitcher, particularly against major-league all-star teams. He was also a civil rights hero, testifying on behalf of the teen-agers unjustly accused in the Scottsboro case. In retaliation for his testimony, the KKK burned crosses on his lawn and at his office; he was a practicing dentist.

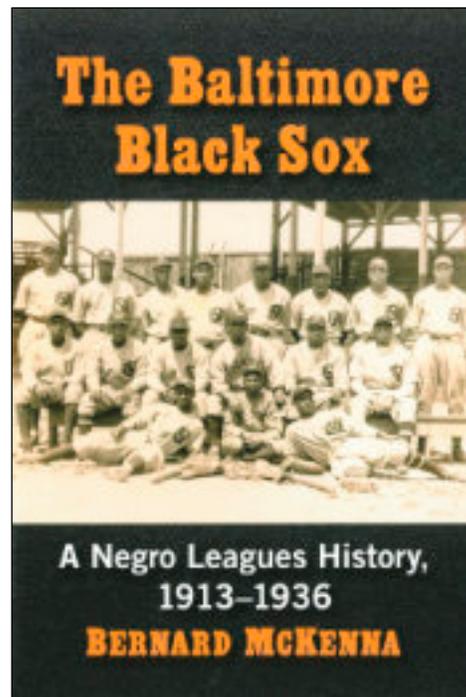
DS: Are there any executives that you believe are worthy of mention for the Hall of Fame?

BMcK: If it were not the controversy surrounding his departure from the team, Charles Spedden would be at the front of the line. He was involved in the formation of the ECL. I think that the Maryland State Athletic Hall of Fame should take a look at Spedden and at the Black Sox players.

DS: 1920 was the last year the Black Sox played at Westport Baseball Grounds, moving in 1921 to Maryland Park. What was the reason for that move and how significant was it for the future of the team? Where were those parks located?

BMcK: The parks were located in Westport on opposite sides of the Gwynns Falls. Maryland Park offered the team a true home. It had showers, hot water, a decent clubhouse. It could accommodate as many fans as say a AAA stadium can accommodate today. It was a home of their own.

DS: You have written a wonderful book detailing the history of the Baltimore Black Sox, including the team's early beginnings both as the Weldons and, in 1913 with the team's official start, the players and front-office staff that made up the team over the years, and the eventual demise of the team



Black Sox ► Continued on Page 10

Black Sox ► From Page 9

in 1934. How difficult was it to research this history? How many years did you devote to this book? What were your primary sources? Which newspaper sources and writers were most beneficial?

BMcK: 1936! James Bready and Daniel Nathan have written invaluable articles and books on the team, but the best sources are African-American newspapers, particularly the Baltimore *Afro-American*. Researching for me is fun, so it wasn't difficult at all. It's a bit like time travel. Reading those papers has you living in the time with the hopes and concerns of contemporary readers. It took me parts of seven years to write the book from start to finish

DS: Your last chapter is reminiscent of Roger Kahn's bittersweet book about the Brooklyn Dodgers, *The Boys of Summer*, in that you detail the lives lived by the Baltimore Black Sox after leaving the game as players. How hard was it to find information about those players after they left baseball and how much more is there left to discover about those players that you wish you could have learned?

BMcK: I keep discovering things I wished I could include in the book, and I continually lament other things I wish I knew. For example, I wish I knew more about the groundskeeper, a man identified only as "Uncle Henry". To find out about the players, I searched through newspaper databases, census records, city directories, etc.

DS: What did you learn about Baltimore history that surprised you most?

BMcK: I learned that my great-uncle authored the law that permitted baseball on Sundays in the city; it was called the "McKenna Ordinance". I knew he sat on the City Council, but I was thrilled to discover that.

DS: What was the Baltimore Black Sox's greatest contribution to the history of baseball in the United States, both Negro League and MLB?

BMcK: Baltimore supported men who wanted to play professional baseball. In the 1920 census, Blaney Hall, a Black Sox player, identified his profession as a "ballplayer" and as "salaried". In that moment, reflected in a historical document, we get an insight into the life of a man who not only took pride in his job but could reflect his soul through his work. This is the part that represents the whole.

Note: *The Baltimore Black Sox: A Negro Leagues History, 1913-1936* was published by McFarland in June 2020 and is available from the publisher and through amazon.com.

Negro Leagues Centennial

Be sure to visit the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City to celebrate the Negro Leagues centennial. <https://nlbm.com/centennial/>



More Resources

The Negro League Baseball Players Association (NLBPA) website has information on teams, players and ballparks. nlbpa.com

Seamheads.com has a Negro Leagues database that includes win shares, wins above replacement, OPS, OPS+ and more.

<https://www.seamheads.com/NegroLgs/index.php>



Zooming In

The BBRC was a little late on jumping onto the Zoom fad, but we got there.

Any SABR recorded sessions on the main HQ account are posted to the SABR Facebook page and/or the SABR Virtual Events page.

Our BBRC Monthly Zoom sessions coincide with our usual in-person meetings. The Peeps @ the Peeb meeting is the first Wednesday of the month from 5-7 P.M. Our Called Shot Lunch meeting is the third Wednesday of the month from noon to 2 P.M.

Times may change a little if some other chapter is using the account during those hours, but those are normally the times. If you are not on our mailing list and would like to be to get the Zoom login info, contact VP Peter Coolbaugh at peterc@baberuthmuseum.org. Interested authors or presenters should email Coolbaugh for a possible future slot.

May 20	General chapter meeting
June 3	Author D.B. Firstman: <i>Hall of Names</i>
June 17	Author Thomas Wolf, <i>The Called Shot</i>
July 1	Author Thomas Stone, <i>Now Taking the Field</i>
July 15	Author Bill Nowlin, <i>Working a Perfect Game</i>
August 5	Author Bernard McKenna, <i>The Baltimore Black Sox</i>

Ruiz ► From Page 1

hospitalizations and the like," he wrote, "allowing me to flex the stat-driven aptitude that comes with being a baseball writer while putting in the context of a news story that paints a picture for readers of the virus' impact in Maryland."

But baseball in the midst of the pandemic has turned out to be unfamiliar territory.

According to Ruiz, "Watching players practice in an empty Camden Yards with fake crowd noise playing is certainly an interesting experience."

Then there is Zoom.

The Orioles hold daily Zooms with manager Brandon Hyde and one or two players.

This, according to Ruiz, has both an upside and a downside.

All reporters, whether they are attending games, have access to Zoom calls because they are recorded and posted for later viewing.

"Individual access is obviously decreased, given that we can't just walk up to players in the clubhouse and have conversations as we normally would," Ruiz wrote. "To this point, the Orioles have done well about working with us on requests to talk with players one-on-one, with those interviews also over Zoom."

On the other hand, screen time is a kind of long-distance relationship.

"I think the job is more challenging in that the relationship-building that normally happens over a course of a season is a lot more difficult, with all of our interactions, understandably, happening through only Zoom.

"There's also added difficulty in having stories unique from the rest of the beat, with most of us all being on the same Zoom calls and not having as many daily one-on-one interactions with players," he wrote.

In case you were wondering, league rules limit each team to 35 media credentials per game, which, Ruiz says, has not been an issue to date at Camden Yards.

The Orioles issued black masks with the bird logo in white, but players have been wearing various masks and face gaiters.

--Ruth Sadler

Marriage ► From Page 5

ried in Montreal. People in the neighborhood knew Helen as “Helen Kinder”. Dorothy was known as “Dorothy Kinder”. No record has been found of a marriage.

On Friday, January 11, 1929, Kinder was at Boston Garden attending boxing matches. Helen was home alone. Nine-year-old Dorothy was at a boarding school in Wellesley, Massachusetts. A woman passing along Waverly Avenue around 10 o’clock saw flames coming from Kinder’s home on Quincy Street and pulled the corner alarm.

A fire had started in the living room, later believed from faulty wiring. Helen was upstairs in the bedroom. When firefighters arrived, the flames had reached the second floor. A firefighter fought his way up the stairs. He found Helen face down on the bedroom floor lying by the door. She was helped out of the house in the early morning hours of January 12. She lived for a number of hours but then was pronounced dead from “incineration and suffocation”.

The Babe learned of Helen’s death at 9 o’clock on Satur-



day. He took the overnight train from New York and arrived at Back Bay Station at 7 o’clock Sunday morning. On January 17, a 15-minute funeral service was held at the home of Helen’s family in South Boston. It was followed by a 10-minute burial at the Calvary Catholic Cemetery. The Babe was present at the service and the burial. Kinder was not.

The New York Daily News reported on the burial: “... tears streamed down the Babe’s tanned cheeks as he saw the body of his wife lowered to its grave. Unmindful of the snow which fell from a gray sky, the Babe stood among his wife’s relatives, sobbing.” After the funeral, Babe returned to New York with his daughter Dorothy.

Three months and six days after Helen died, Babe Ruth married Claire Hodgson on April 17, 1929. Both the Babe and Claire had been worried about the timing of the marriage as it was so close to Helen’s death. They consulted Father William Hughes, a friend from St. Gregory’s Church in Manhattan. He told them he saw nothing wrong with getting married immediately and offered to perform the wedding. Claire’s daughter Julia was adopted by the Babe.

His first marriage had lasted 15 years, and it all began when a 19-year-old baseball player met a waitress at a coffee shop on the day he arrived in Boston to begin his celebrated major-league career.

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Wikipedia.

Stanhouse ► From Page 4

pitched one final year with Class AAA Hawaii in 1983 before hanging up his spikes. His lifetime statistics were 64 saves in 294 appearances, a record of 38-54 and an ERA of 3.84.

Today, Don and Kyle Stanhouse live in Trophy Club, Texas, and are the parents of Duke, Kameryn and Kelsey. In 2012, they became grandparents. Stanhouse worked in investment banking for 12 years and became active in alumni activities with the Rangers. In 1991, he returned to Baltimore for the final weekend of Memorial Stadium. He once remarked that “...someday, I could be back in that dugout, and Earl will be looking over at me and saying, ‘Better get Full Pack up again.’ And I’d be ready to go.”¹⁴

1. Dan Epstein, *Big Hair and Plastic Grass: A Funky Ride Through Baseball and America in the Swinging ‘70s* (New York: Thomas Dunne Books, 2010), 174.

2. Ian MacDonald, “Ex-Starter Stanhouse a Kingpin in Expo Bullpen,” *The Sporting News* (August 27, 1977): 19.

3. Ian MacDonald, “‘Want to Put My Act Together,’ Stanhouse Informs the Expos,” *The Sporting News* (March 12, 1977): 34.

4. MacDonald (August 27, 1977): 59.

5. Mike Klingaman, “Catching Up With...Former Oriole Don Stanhouse, August 18, 2009, <http://weblogs.baltimoresun.com>, accessed January 9, 2011

6. Klingaman.

7. Jim Henneman, “Stanhouse Is Mr. Big in Orioles’ Bullpen,” *The Sporting News* (May 20, 1978): 17.

8. Jim Henneman, “Reliever Stanhouse Props Up Shaky Orioles,” *The Sporting News* (July 22, 1978): 11.

9. Henneman (May 20, 1978): 17.

10. Klingaman.

11. Ted Patterson, *The Baltimore Orioles: Four Decades of Magic from 33rd Street to Camden Yards* (Dallas: Taylor Publishing Company, 2000), 136.

12. “Legend Brooks Leads Cheers for DeCinces,” *The Sporting News* (October 20, 1979): 11.

13. Klingaman.

14. January 18, 2012 email interview.

	G	W	L	S	IP	H	R	ER	ERA	HR	BB	SO
O’s	125	13	13	45	174.0	138	68	63	3.26	7	118	84
Career	294	38	54	64	760.1	707	359	324	3.84	48	455	408

1980 ► From Page 7

early-season rainout added a 5 P.M. game on Monday, August 18.

The series attracted 253,636 over the five dates, the largest turnout for a single series in the history of baseball.

The Orioles entered the five-game series trailing the Yankees by 3½ games and won the opener on Thursday night—a complete game by Stone—by a score of 6-1. New York won the games on Friday and Saturday before a McGregor shutout evened the series on Sunday.

The O’s won the fifth and deciding game of the series on Monday, cutting the Yankee lead to 2½ games and setting the attendance record.

Jody Madron is a free-lance copywriter and marketing consultant who lives in Sykesville. A SABR member since 2003, he is a lifelong baseball fan, has been an Orioles season-ticket holder for 30 years and occasionally writes about the Orioles on his personal blog, www.TrustYourStuff.com.