

# THE BALTIMORE CHOP

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BABE RUTH CHAPTER OF BALTIMORE



SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN BASEBALL RESEARCH



Vol. 7, No. 2

Summer 2023

## The Lineup

SABR Spotlight .....	2
Calendar .....	2
BBRC Board of Directors	2
New members .....	2
Trivia question .....	2
Stone's stellar season..	10
Hopkins baseball .....	11
1969-71 Orioles .....	12
Trivia answer .....	12
Simmons museum .....	13
USS Cooperstown .....	14

## 75 Years Later, We Remember Babe Ruth's Death, August 16, 1948

Babe Ruth visited Yankee Stadium for the final time on June 13, 1948, as the Yankees celebrated the 25th anniversary of the ballpark and retired his number 3. He appeared frail, a far cry from the young, robust ballplayer who opened the park on April 13, 1925 with a three-run home run.

Still, his death two months later, on August 16, rocked the baseball world.

Seventy-five years later, the SABR chapter named for Baltimore's gift to the sport of baseball looks back at how the world received the news and the man's legacy that reached beyond sport.

## President's Message

I am back from SABR 51, and it was like going home again.

It was not held in Scranton, but rather in Chicago, which was the same site as SABR 45 back in 2015. The Baltimore/Babe Ruth Chapter was born in 2015 at the Palmer House Hilton Hotel, and it felt nostalgic being back.

In just eight years we have gone from an offshoot of the Bob Davids Chapter to having over 600 members on our chapter roster and hosting a national convention. Our trajectory has been heading up since Day One, and thanks to wonderful leadership, great local partners, and just some good luck we sit among the elite chapters in SABR and still have a lot to accomplish.

In the next 12 months we will be celebrating the upcoming 70th anniversary of the Orioles coming to Baltimore as well as the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Babe Ruth Birthplace and Museum. Add in a red-hot Orioles club with their

How the world heard	Page 3
Front-page news	Page 3
Baltimore's three daily papers	Page 4
The Afro and Catholic Review	Page 5
Headlines from New York	Page 5
Pioneering cancer treatment	Page 6
Cardboard Eulogy	Page 7
St. Mary's Industrial School band	Page 7

## August 26: Save This Tripleheader Date

The BBRC's annual day at the ballpark returns in August (delayed for COVID and last year's SABR convention in Baltimore)—and it's a tripleheader day!

Besides being a tripleheader, it's strictly a la carte. Choose all three events, or any one or two. The New Cathedral portion is free. The pregame party will cost \$38, with details on the menu and speakers to be announced. Your ballpark perch can be upstairs (\$35) or lower deck down the right-field line (\$50).

The program for Saturday, August 26 begins at New Cathedral Cemetery at 1 P.M., where SABR will dedicate its grave marker for Bobby Mathews. The dedica-



tion is planned for 1:30, with a tour of the cemetery to follow.

President ▶ Page 14

Tripleheader ▶ Page 14



# SABR Baltimore Babe Ruth Chapter

Formed 2015

## Board of Directors

**President:** Peter Coolbaugh (term expires SABR Day 2024)

[Peter@baberuthmuseum.org](mailto:Peter@baberuthmuseum.org)

**Vice President:** David Stinson (term expires SABR Day 2025)

[huntingtonparkdbs@gmail.com](mailto:huntingtonparkdbs@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** D. Bruce Brown (term expires SABR Day 2024)

[dbrucebrown@gmail.com](mailto:dbrucebrown@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** Ruth Sadler (term expires SABR Day 2025)

[editor714@gmail.com](mailto:editor714@gmail.com)

**At-Large:** John Burbridge (term expires SABR Day 2024)

[jjburbridgejr@gmail.com](mailto:jjburbridgejr@gmail.com)

Michael Gibbons (term expires SABR Day 2025)

[michaelg@baberuthmuseum.org](mailto:michaelg@baberuthmuseum.org)

Janet Marie Smith (term expires SABR Day 2024)

[smith.janetmarie@gmail.com](mailto:smith.janetmarie@gmail.com)

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

## Calendar

### Regularly scheduled events

**Zoom registration links are sent by the chapter**

**Peeps @ The Peeb (in-person and Zoom)**

Conversation, nibbles, libations

First Wednesday of the month, 7-9 PM

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

**Talkin' Baseball (Zoom only)**

Since 2001, Bob Davids Chapter hosts a guest speaker

First Saturday of the month, 9 AM

**Called Shot Lunch (in-person only)**

BYO lunch and talk baseball

Third Wednesday of the month, noon

Babe Ruth Museum, 216 Emory St., Baltimore

**Baltimore Baseball Babble (Zoom only, March-November)**

Free-for-all baseball chat, not recorded

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

### July

**30:** Baltimore Baseball Babble, Inning 5, Andy McCue discusses his book *Stumbling Around the Bases: The American League's Mismanagement of the Expansion Eras*

### August

**2:** Peeps @ The Peeb, Bill Peach from Chicago will talk about SABR publications and his role as chairman

**12:** Talkin' Baseball, Steve Gietschier talks about his book *Baseball: The Turbulent Midcentury Years*

**16:** Called Shot Lunch

**26:** BBRC tripleheader (see Page 1)

**27:** Baltimore Baseball Babble, Inning 6, Mark Millikin will discuss his newest book, *Baseball Fever in Baltimore: Frank, Brooks, Boog, Earl and the 1969-1971 Orioles*

### September

**6:** Peeps @ The Peeb, Robert Garratt will talk about his book *Jazz Age Giant: Charles A. Stoneham and New York City Baseball in the Roaring Twenties*

**20:** Called Shot Lunch

**24:** Baltimore Baseball Babble, Inning 7: Dan Taylor will talk about Babe Ruth's greatest impact.

## SABR Spotlight on ... Liz Thompson

Liz Thompson is a lifelong baseball fan but only joined SABR last year. She's an office assistant and has spent her life in Clarksville, Maryland, and splits her baseball loyalties between the Orioles and Cubs.

She saw her first ballgame at Oriole Park, which remains her favorite place to see her favorite sport. However, her favorite player when she was growing up was the Cubs' Sammy Sosa, and her current favorite is the Phillies' Bryce Harper.



Her favorite baseball memory? The Cubs' 2016 World Series victory.

Is baseball her passion? When asked if she has any hobbies, her answer is: "Is baseball not enough?" But she admits enjoying watching television.

Thompson also collects more than memories when she visits ballparks: "I buy a team hat and koozie at every major-league ballpark." And the baseball koozies are just part of her koozie collection.

"This started after college," she says, "so there are two ballparks I've been to but don't have koozies for—Wrigley and White Sox... I do hope to hit all 30 at some point. My favorites, excluding Orioles, are probably my Houston denim-front hat and my Bryce Harper koozie."

## Welcome, New Members

Mathew Annis	Ashburn, Virginia
Larry Grimsley	Sykesville
Fred Harris	Arlington, Massachusetts
Taylor Malone	
Patrick Regal	Baltimore
Ed Roesinger	Severna Park
Richard Schieffelin	Fairfax, Virginia
Ralph Surette	Catonsville
Dawn Tepper	Arlington, Virginia
Laura Van Pate	Baltimore

## Trivia Question

There are four families in which the grandfather, father, and son played major-league baseball.

Two of the families had one of family member who played for the Orioles.

Name the two families who were also part of the Orioles family.

Extra credit: Name all four families.

Answer on Page 12.

## Chop Deadlines

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

# 75 Years After Babe Ruth's Death: The News

Babe Ruth died on Monday evening, August 16, 1948. Most Americans got their news from their daily newspaper or the radio. Television was in its infancy, sets were expensive, and programming was limited. And with most radios on at that hour, it is likely that most people first learned of his death if regular programming was interrupted with the news. Personal computers and telephones with news alerts were decades in the future.

In New York, where he played most of his career and where he died, there were eight major daily papers in 1948. Early editions of the morning papers and late or special (extra) editions of the evening papers may have been bought by movie or theater patrons leaving the show, as well as those who attended the mayor's trophy baseball game at the Polo Grounds between the Yankees and Giants, where the news was announced and a moment of silence held. But the papers of Tuesday, August 17 brought the front-page news to their home-delivery and street-sale customers.

The New York papers had been on a "death watch" since August 10, when Babe re-entered the hospital and his condition was listed as "critical." They would have had reporters staking out the hospital for the first word of his death. Newspapers in the rest of the country, as well as radio stations that were not part of the major networks, relied on the Associated Press and United Press (now United Press International) wire services, which operated on a 24-hour news cycle. They had also maintained a death watch.

UP got the news out first, with a "flash" at 8:01 P.M.: "Babe Ruth died tonight." One minute later, AP sent the news first to its radio wire, then to its general news wire (A Wire) as a "bulletin," one level of urgency lower. These news alerts were accompanied by bells ringing on the teletype machines in the newspapers and radio stations; the more bells, the more urgent the news. The flash or bulletin wording had been ready to go.

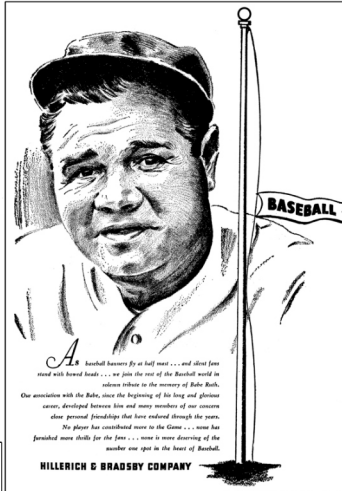
Ruth's lingering illness gave newspapers in Baltimore (his hometown) and New York time to prepare recaps of his life and interview people with special insight into the man.

Interestingly, Ruth's death does not make the cut in the Boston *Globe's* *Historic Front Pages* book between Japan's surrender in 1945 and the Brinks robbery of 1950.

-Ruth Sadler

Thank you to the people who aided my research into the coverage of Babe Ruth's death:

- Paul McCardell, Librarian, Baltimore *Sun*
- Steve Geimann
- Francesca Pitaro, Archivist, Associated Press
- Alison Foley, Reference Archivist, St. Mary's Seminary & University
- George Matysek, *The Catholic Review*
- Enoch Pratt Free Library Maryland Department
- Library of Congress Newspaper and Current Periodical Reading Room staff



**Game Called**  
By GRANTLAND RICE  
Written for the North American Newspaper Alliance

Game called by darkness -- let the curtain fall,  
No more remembered thunder sweeps the field  
No more the ancient echoes hear the call  
Where is the mighty music, the refrain  
That once brought joy to every waiting ear?  
The big guy left us with the night to face,  
And there is no one who can take his place.

Game called -- and silence settles on the plain.  
Where is the crash of ash against the sphere?  
Where is the mighty music, the refrain  
That once brought joy to every waiting ear?  
The big guy's left us, lonely in the dark,  
Forever waiting for the flaming spark.

Game called -- what more is there for one to say?  
How dull and drab the field looks to the eye.  
For one who ruled it in a golden day  
Has waved his cap to bid us all good-bye.  
The big guy's gone -- by land or sky or foam  
May the Great Umpire call him "safe at home".



Collages on Page 3 and Page 4: Jim Considine

# 75 Years After Babe Ruth's Death: Baltimore

Baltimore, the city that was proud to say it was Babe Ruth's birthplace, had three daily newspapers in 1948: the morning *Sun*, *Evening Sun* and afternoon *News-Post*. Unsurprisingly, Ruth's death dominated all three on Tuesday, August 17.

The *News-Post* devoted almost the whole front page to the news, including an article about the reaction at his alma mater, St. Mary's and another that city flags were ordered to half-staff and that the mayor had sent his condolences to Ruth's widow. Its afternoon rival, the *Evening Sun*, saved most of its Ruth coverage for the sports section, but its top front-page headline was "Ruth To Lie In State In Yankee Stadium," so it is likely that a late edition or extra on August 16 carried the news of his death. There was also an article headlined "Jap Fans Mourn 'Babu'."

In the morning *Sun*, Babe played second fiddle to a Washington bill signing (Truman Signs Anti-Inflation Measure above Babe Ruth, Home-Run King, Dies Of Cancer) on page 1, and the headlines under that never mentioned his hometown, only that he started with the International League Orioles). The bulk of the coverage was in the sports section.

The next day the *Sun* reported that the mayor proposed renaming city stadium in Ruth's honor, but that never happened.

A bonus for Baltimore readers was that two of the city's sports editors had seen the Babe fresh from St. Mary's embarking on his pro career.

From Jesse Linticum of the *Sun*: I saw George Ruth hit his first home run, pitch his first game and obtain the nickname of Babe. ...

"In [an intrasquad game] Ruth played shortstop and later pitched. Left-handed shortstops are as rare as left-handed catchers but Ruth handled the job acceptably having three assists and two putouts.

"It was in this game that Ruth made his first home run, a prodigious clout that sent the North Carolina natives down to Main street talking to themselves.

"They had never seen such a long hit, and neither had I." From the *News-Post*'s Rodger Pippen: "It so happens this writer has been able, as a reporter, to observe Babe from the first day he came out of St. Mary's Industrial School until he came to the end of the road.

"I was the first reporter the Home-Run King ever knew. "I played in the first ball game down in Fayetteville, N.C., in which he participated as an Oriole rookie.

"I measured the first home run he hit as a pro. "I roomed with him for three weeks on the first Northern trip of the Orioles that spring.

"I wrote his first love letter to the first of his thousand and one sweethearts.

"After having been in daily contact with him for 60 consecutive days, he didn't know my first or last name. I was "pal" to him. Later he called everybody "kid."

## Truman Scored On Spy Secrets Full O' Hope Wins Atlantic City 1st

### RUTH BURIAL THURSDAY Will Lie In State At Yankee Stadium

Lie Detector Pippen Tells Why Babe Ruth Was Baseball Legend

City's Flags Dip In Honor Of Ruth

VERY LATEST NEWS

1895-Babe Ruth (1948)

# 75 Years After Babe Ruth's Death: Baltimore

## ... In The Afro-American

Babe Ruth's death was not ignored by Baltimore's Black newspaper, *The Afro-American*.

There was a wire-service photo in the August 28 issue on page 3 headlined "All the People Loved Him" whose caption reads "People of all races last week mourned the death of George Herman (Babe) Ruth, home-run king. Above are some of the thousands who came to pay their last respects at his bier in the rotunda of Yankee Stadium." (See *Chop* Page 3)

Six pages later, in the sports section, sports editor Sam Lacy disagreed with those, who, after his death, were casting him as a role model for youth. He led his weekly column "From A to Z" with his take:

"It is not my wish to crucify the man. ... But neither can I sit here in my room and read the thousands of glowing words being written about him and remain unaffected by it all. ... They say that Ruth came along in the wake of the Black Sox scandal and at a time when the reputation and popularity of the game of baseball was at its lowest ebb; that he restored it to its present level.

"Of that there can be no question. ... But when he was no longer able to hit home-runs, no one was willing to employ him, and it wasn't until 13 years after his retirement from that game that baseball felt obligated to hold a "day for him. ... Then, when it became unmistakably clear early this month that death was overtaking him, the nation was told of the tremendous influence Babe Ruth had on sports in general and baseball in particular. ... The ex-star was held up as a model for the youth of the world. ...

The fact that he, in earlier life, was referred to as an irresponsible rowdy ... who could neither eat with dignity nor drink with judgment ... who thrived on cuss-words and brawls .... Who of all the great New York Yankee players of his day, could remember the name of none but Babe Ruth ... who scorned authority and attacked a manager that was one-third his size, physically ... whose 15-year-old mentality led him to buy one bright-colored automobile after another to smash up ... These recollections of things I've read move me to say that the rest of the world can hail the departed hero as a model for its youth if it so desires ... But I do not wish my Tim to use him as an example. ... And there is nothing racial about this observation. ... The same applies to Jack Johnson ... who is also dead."

## ... In The Catholic Review

Babe Ruth was a lifelong Catholic, and Baltimore's weekly Catholic newspaper, *The Catholic Review*, carried three articles in the issue after his death (August 20, 1948).

One was a reprint of the August 17 News-Post article on the students at St. Mary's receiving the news and the Mass that followed.

There was also a lengthy column by the paper's managing editor, Vincent de Paul Fitzpatrick, whose frequent baseball articles were syndicated to Catholic newspapers under the title "Keep Your Eye on the Ball." Fitzpatrick, who met Ruth through the newspaper, talks about the man's big heart and the special place in his heart that St. Mary's Industrial School occupied. "We never asked Ruth to autograph a baseball for some youngster who had requested us to do so that he did not accede," he wrote.

Other anecdotes from the column:

- "No summa cum laude graduate of any university in this country was more loyal to his Alma Mater than Babe to St. Mary's. Whenever the Yankees were in Washington, Babe would insist on going over to Baltimore with Lou Gehrig and other Yankees. He introduced them to the kids—some of them his pals of former days—the older boys at the school at the time.

"And when Babe in one of the less happier periods of his life had a run-in with Manager Miller Huggins, Brother Benjamin, then head of St. Mary's wrote to him and told him he was wrong and that the boys at St. Mary's were sad."

- "Strange things happen in life. Many years ago I stood in front of a score board in the town of Eagle Pass, Texas, on the shore of the Rio Grande [October 9, 1916]. It was a world's series game and Babe was hurling. He was with Boston at the time as I remember it. I was rooting for Babe of course. But there was another on the shore of the Tiber who was rooting for Ruth. He was ordained in 1916, Ruth's debut in World's Series history. The young priest's name was Father Francis J Spellman." [Spellman, a Massachusetts native, was an auxiliary bishop of Boston from 1932-1939 and archbishop of New York from 1939-1967 and was named a cardinal in 1946.]

The third article, "A Tribute to Babe Ruth," is unsigned and covers much the same ground as Fitzpatrick's, but with more emphasis on his faith.

## More Headlines from the New York Newspapers

### *Times*

- Throng at Yankees-Giants Game Stands At Polo Grounds for a Moment of Silence

### *Sun*

- Babe Ruth's Signature Will Live on Baseballs
- New Drug Used on Babe Ruth
- 'He Said His Prayers and Went to Sleep' (above a photo of the priest who administered last rites to Ruth telling children of Ruth's death as he leaves hospital)
- When Babe Wore a Dodger Uniform

### *World-Telegram*

- 'Wonderful Man, Grateful, Gracious'/Priest Recalls His Visits in Babe Ruth's Final Hours
- Babe's Autograph Worth 2 of Hoover's

- Hushed Crowd Swells Outside Funeral Parlor But Mourners Head for Stadium After Plans Are Changed

- All America Bows in Sorrow At the Mighty Ruth's Passing/'No President Ever Meant More To the Youth of This Land'; U.S. Leaders Pay Tribute

- Yankees Mates, Sports Luminaries Among 57 Honorary Pallbearers

### *Herald Tribune*

- Boston Fans Pay Tribute to Ruth at Braves Field
- New Drug Used on Babe Ruth in Dramatic Test

### *Journal-American*

- 7 Yankees of '27 Gone
- Babe Mourned In Britain, Too

# 75 Years After Babe Ruth's Death: Pioneering Treatment

By Fred Glueckstein

Babe Ruth is widely recognized as the greatest baseball player of all time, but his legacy also includes helping to pioneer modern cancer treatment. The combination of radiation and chemotherapy given to him is still employed in the treatment of a number of cancers.

Babe Ruth was one of the first cancer patients—some researchers say he was the first—to receive a combination of radiation and chemotherapy, a protocol still used today.

Ruth begins the story in his autobiography, *The Babe Ruth Story*. Ruth wrote that in September 1946, his wife Claire and a number of close friends began commenting that his voice was getting hoarser. "I had noticed it myself but believed it was some sort of reaction to the old scalding it got from that 'treatment' when I was a rookie. Or, when I didn't think it was that, I believed it had something to do with my sinus trouble."

Dr. Lawrence K. Altman, *New York Times* medical reporter, picks up the story in a December 1998 article: Ruth began to get severe pains over his left eye, his head ached and he took a couple of aspirins. By November 1946, the pain over Ruth's eye was so intense night and day, that Dr. Philip MacDonald, who treated his throat and sinus, suggested that he enter French Hospital in New York for observation. Ruth entered the hospital in a wheelchair.

Doctors diagnosed sinusitis, then looked at possible dental problems. Three teeth were pulled, but there was no improvement. His face swelled, his left eye became shut, and he lost the ability to swallow.

Ruth said he "seldom could speak." When he did, he wrote in his autobiography, his "voice sounded like somebody gargling ashes." X-rays showed a large abnormality at the base of Ruth's skull. However, several biopsies of tissue in his mouth showed nothing abnormal. Ruth stayed in French Hospital for four months in 1946 and 1947.

## Radiation

Ruth's symptoms worsened. His neck enlarged from swollen lymph nodes, his jaw hurt when he ate, and he was unable to swallow. Later Ruth was fed intravenously. Despite his doctors being unable to diagnose the problem, Ruth was treated with radiation. His hair fell out in masses.

Altman wrote in 1998: "In December (1946), the doctors operated on Ruth and documented extensive spread of the cancer in the neck. But in the operation, surgeons had to tie off the external carotid artery because the cancer had wrapped itself around the blood vessel in his neck. The cancer also pressed on nerves that course through the neck from the brain. The pressure partly paralyzed muscles controlling his voice, accounting for his hoarseness and making swallowing even more difficult."

In February 1947, Ruth spent his 52nd birthday in the hospital. He was secluded and allowed no visitors. "I often felt so alone that the tears would run helplessly down my cheeks," Ruth wrote.

In April, Ruth, bolstered by his radiation treatments, appeared on Babe Ruth Day at Yankee Stadium. In the dugout before speaking to the crowd, Ruth suffered a coughing spell. Recovered, he walked to home plate. In pain and emaciated from advancing cancer, Ruth spoke in a raspy voice: "You know how bad my voice sounds," he told the crowd, "Well, it feels just as bad." By June, Ruth could not sleep, as severe pain had returned.

## Chemotherapy

At the time Ruth appeared at Yankee Stadium, a team headed by Dr. Richard Lewisohn, a surgeon at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City, was treating mice with an anti-cancer drug called terofterin.



Babe Ruth, with nurse Agnes Kavanaugh, returns to his apartment from French Hospital, February 15, 1947. (Associated Press photo)

Ruth was aware terofterin had rarely been used on humans but agreed to its use and asked no questions. Over the fierce objections of Lewisohn's team, who believed terofterin was not ready for tests in people, Ruth began receiving daily injections on June 29, 1947.

Ruth knew the risks: "I realized that if anything was learned about that type of treatment, whether good or bad, it would be of use in the future to the medical profession and maybe to a lot of people with my same trouble," he wrote.

Altman explained the effects on Ruth: "The drug had dramatic effects. His pain waned; his spirit improved. Able to eat again, he began regaining some of the 80 pounds he had lost. By August, the enlarged nodes in his neck had completely disappeared."

In September, Lewisohn reported Ruth's case, without using his name, at a scientific meeting in St. Louis. But word leaked that Ruth had received the novel therapy. On September 11, 1947, the *Wall Street Journal's* lead story citing success on an unidentified famous person suggested that scientists were on the verge of a cure for cancer. Meanwhile, Lewisohn's colleagues left Mount Sinai when the hospital refused to support further research on terofterin.

## Memorial Hospital

On June 13, 1948, Ruth participated in the 25th anniversary of the opening of Yankee Stadium. He wore his old number 3 uniform and was glad to be with his old teammates.

A few days later, Ruth entered Memorial Hospital (now Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center) in Manhattan. Claire Ruth wrote in *The Babe and I* that Ruth looked at the sign and said to his doctor: "Doc, this is Memorial. Memorial is a cancer hospital. Why are you bringing me here?" MacDonald responded that not all patients at Memorial had cancer.

On August 16, 1948, Babe Ruth, age 53, died at Memorial Hospital of pneumonia. An autopsy showed the cancer that began in his nose and mouth had spread extensively through his body.

Memorial Hospital issued a news release that emphasized that Ruth "received no special drug or chemical in the at-

# 75 Years After Babe Ruth's Death

## Cardboard Eulogy

By Jason Schwartz

The set known to many baseball card collectors as 1948 Leaf included no shortage of top-tier Hall of Famers. Among the top-shelf Hall of Famers with cardboard in the set are Jackie Robinson, Ted Williams, Satchel Paige, Stan Musial, and Joe DiMaggio. Lest one take such things for granted, I'll add that it is the only vintage set to include all five of those players! Curiously, however, the set also includes a card—bearing number 3 no less—of a player who had been retired more than a decade: Babe Ruth.

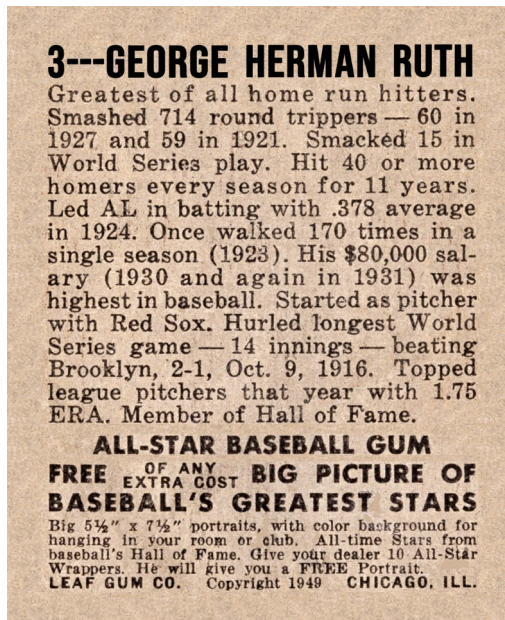
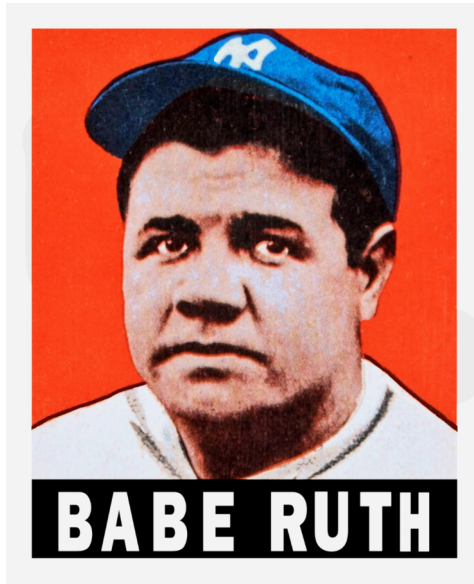
Today, the inclusion of retired greats in contemporary sets is commonplace. For instance, packs of 2023 Topps include retro inserts of Willie Mays, Eddie Murray, Cal Ripken Jr., and numerous other Hall of Famers. However, this was hardly the case in the much earlier days of the hobby. For example, the only retired players found in the 407-card 1952 Topps set are those of active managers and coaches. It was not until 1961 that Topps included retired greats within a set of contemporary ballplayers, doing so with both its MVP and Baseball Thrills subsets.

So why the Bambino in 1948? Conventional wisdom might simply offer that Ruth remained a popular player and his presence in the set might boost sales. Alternatively, one might imagine the set designers knew of Babe's declining health and wanted to honor him with one last baseball card before he died. However, a more likely explanation is that Ruth was already dead.

Though modern scholarship has not yet taken hold across all areas of the hobby, many baseball card experts now recognize the 1948 Leaf set as a 1949 issue. (The Hall of Fame, Beckett, and SABR Baseball Cards have embraced the research and now refer to the set as 1949 Leaf. Meanwhile, grading company PSA has stuck by the "1948 Leaf" designation, and Trading Card Database waffles somewhere in the middle with "1948-49 Leaf.")

With this new dating in mind, we may now regard this unique Ruth card as an unstated "in memoriam" tribute and rightly read the back of the card not simply as biography but as eulogy. Rest in peace, Bambino, and as we like to say at SABR Baseball Cards, "There's a card for that!"

*Jason Schwartz is a member of the Emil Rothe (Chicago) chapter and co-chair of the SABR Baseball Cards Research Committee.*



## Babe Ruth's Band at St. Mary's Industrial School For Boys

By David B. Stinson

(reprinted from a blog on [davidbstinsonauthor.com](http://davidbstinsonauthor.com))

In February 1914, George Herman "Babe" Ruth signed his first professional baseball contract in the office of Brother Paul Scanlon, the superintendent of St. Mary's Industrial School for Boys. Babe Ruth's parents had signed their son over to the Xaverian Brothers when he was 8 years old, and Brother Paul, as superintendent of the school and Ruth's legal guardian, was required to sign the player contract on his behalf. Present at the signing that day, in addition to Ruth and Brother Paul, were Jack Dunn, owner of the International League Baltimore Orioles, and Brother Gilbert, the athletic director at nearby Mount St. Joseph's (High School) College and a friend of Dunn's. Before that meeting, Dunn and Brother Gilbert had introduced Dunn to Brother

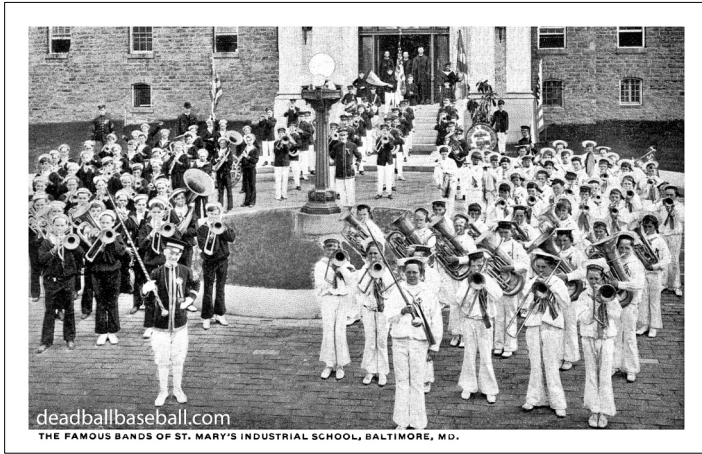
Matthias Boutlier (or Boutelier), who was instrumental in helping Ruth develop his baseball skills. Ruth's contract set his salary at \$600 for the season.

The Baltimore *Sun* reported the signing on February 15, 1914: "[t]he Oriole magnate signed another local player yesterday. The new Bird is George H. Ruth, a pitcher, who played with teams out the Frederick road. Ruth is six feet tall and fanned 22 men in an amateur game last season. He is regarded as a very hard hitter, so Dunn will try him out down South." On March 2, 1914, before Ruth's departure for Fayetteville, North Carolina, where Dunn's Orioles held spring training, Brother Paul took Ruth on a tear-filled tour of St. Mary's so that Ruth could say goodbye to his friends at the school. Brother Paul then accompanied Ruth to Union

Band ► Page 8

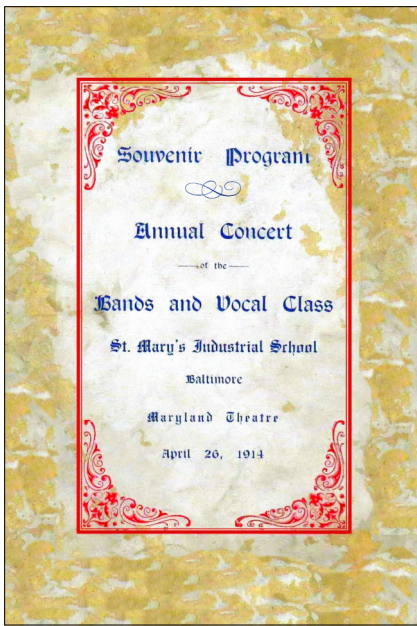
# 75 Years After Babe Ruth's Death

Band ► From Page 7



Station in Baltimore, where he departed for North Carolina, on what was the first of Ruth's many train rides.

Although Ruth later would become the most famous export of St. Mary's Industrial School, at the time of his departure, it was the St. Mary's Bands that perhaps had brought the school the most fame in Baltimore and around the country (John Phillips Sousa is said to have stated that St. Mary's was the best high school band he had ever heard).



On April 24, 1914, just a month and a half after Ruth departed the school, St. Mary's held its Annual Concert. Included in the school program was a now-famous photo of Ruth and his teammates, who in 1914 were league champions (according to the photo). The photo depicts the

team in front of the school's bandstand or gazebo. Five years to the day after that concert, a fire started by an errant piece of coal destroyed most of the buildings at St. Mary's. The fire destroyed the main school building, but the chapel at the corner of South Caton Avenue and Wilkins Avenue was spared.

At the time of the fire, Ruth was a member of the Yankees and well on his way to becoming a baseball legend. When Ruth learned of the fire, he was determined to find a way to rebuild the school. Although it is not clear whose idea it was, Ruth helped the school raise money through a tour by the St. Mary's Industrial School Band. Brother John Sterne, who as an adolescent attended St. Mary's, played in the band on that tour and years later recounted the event: "[d]uring the last road trip of the 1920 season, Babe sponsored the St. Mary's Band to travel with the Yankees as 'Babe Ruth's Boys Band.' Giving concerts at the ball parks before the game, the boys would later circulate among the patrons, collecting

change and bills in their sailor hats. Not only was a goodly sum of cash received, but the free publicity was invaluable. By this effort, the Babe gave much back to his alma mater, of which he was always proud."<sup>1</sup>

Brother Paul, who was school superintendent at the time of the fire, accompanied the band on that trip. As part of St. Mary's efforts to raise funds, the school produced a private mailing card that pictures the St. Mary's Band near the baseball field where Ruth once played. The bandstand, where Ruth posed for the 1914 team photo, is visible in the background of the card as well.

The reverse of the card includes a printed acknowledgement from Brother Paul, thanking patrons for contributing funds to rebuild the school. One example of that card, which is pictured at left, has a personal note from Brother Paul dated March 3, 1921, thanking "Miss Cramer" for a one-dollar donation. Brother Paul added: "Shall have our little boys pray for your intention. May God bless you." Brother Paul remained at St. Mary's until 1925, and three years later was named Superior General of the Xaverian order.

With the help of Ruth, the school was rebuilt and continued to serve wayward boys of Baltimore another 30 years. On August 16, 1948, Ruth died in New York City, and at St. Mary's the following day, a special prayer service was held for Ruth at the school's chapel. A Newspaper Enterprise As-



sociation wire photo captures the moment. The photo's description: "BALTIMORE, MD. — Sorrowful boys at St. Mary's Industrial School kneel at the altar in the school's chapel for morning prayers after they were informed that Babe Ruth, a graduate of the institution and one of its greatest benefactors, had died. In center is Brother Herbert who taught at the school when Babe Ruth attended. At extreme right is Brother Charles, superintendent of the school."

St. Mary's Industrial School closed in 1950, and the facility later was reopened as Cardinal Gibbons High School (interestingly, it was James Cardinal Gibbons who performed Ruth's Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Mary's in 1907). Cardinal Gibbons High School closed in 2010. The property is now owned by St. Agnes Hospital. It is perhaps fitting that, soon after Babe Ruth died, the school that helped make him who he was, closed for good. Newspaper accounts do not mention whether Babe Ruth's Band played one last time in his honor on the day he died.

1. Phillip F. Cairnes (Brother Gilbert), *Young Babe Ruth, His Early Life and Baseball Career, From the Memoirs Of A Xaverian Brother* (Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland 1999), 11.



# 75 Years After Babe Ruth's Death

## Cancer ▶ From Page 6

tempt to control his tumor." Teroplerin was not included in Ruth's treatment at Memorial because it "had been previously investigated at Memorial Hospital and found to be of no value in the treatment of cancer," the news release said.

### Nasopharyngeal Cancer

Over the years, Ruth's cause of death had been attributed to throat cancer, which is generally taken to mean cancer of the larynx, or voice box.

Cancer of the larynx as the cause of Ruth's death was identified again in early 1998 in *Cancer Therapeutics*, the official journal of the Coalition of National Cancer. Dr. Dennis L. Cooper, a Yale oncologist, wrote that Ruth had cancer of the larynx, and that even 50 years later his chances of being cured were only slightly improved.

Altman, in the *Times*, wrote that in July 1998, Ruth's cancer was a topic of conversation at the University of California at San Francisco. There, a team of specialists discussed a patient with nasopharyngeal cancer. That cancer occurs in the nasopharynx, which is located behind the nose and above the back of the throat.

A pathologist, Dr. Harvey Z. Klein, said that while in training he had learned of Ruth's diagnosis. "That created a great stir because virtually everyone in the room said Ruth died of laryngeal cancer," said Dr. Jeffrey H. Spiegel, a specialist in head and neck surgery.

Altman wrote: "Dr. Mark I. Singer, the chief of head and neck surgery at Mount Zion Hospital and a participant at the June meeting, was puzzled because the eye pain and headache Ruth experienced typified cancer in the back of the nose much more than cancer of the vocal cords."

Altman continued: "A colleague, Dr. Nadim B. Bikhazi, was asked to ascertain the cause of Ruth's death and found it in microfilm of *New York Times* articles, which described the autopsy findings."

"Dr. Bikhazi then received permission from Ruth's daughter, Julia Ruth Stevens, to examine the autopsy report. The crucial finding, Dr. Bikhazi said in an interview in San Francisco, was that no cancer was found in the larynx." Accordingly, it was concluded Ruth died of nasopharyngeal cancer.



Once muscular, then overweight, Babe Ruth was frail when he wore #3 at Yankee Stadium on June 13, 1948. This iconic image is from *Life* magazine.

### Medical Legacy

Altman credits Ruth as one of the first, if not the first, to receive a combination of radiation and chemotherapy, a practice that doctors still use today. "For Ruth, the chemotherapy worked dramatically—but only temporarily. Nevertheless, knowledge gained from his case helped shape the combination therapy that is now standard for his disease."

In addition, a drug similar to teroplerin, which was given to Ruth, is amethopterin or methotrexate. The drugs are used today to treat a variety of cancers and other diseases.

Siegel, the head and neck specialist, said: "Although the types and amounts of medications, and timing of their delivery, are not precisely given for nasopharyngeal cancer today, Ruth was the first person to get treated almost the right way."

## ... And in *The Sporting News*, An 8-Page Tribute

In 1948, when Babe Ruth died, *The Sporting News* called itself "The Base Ball Paper of the World," and many baseball fans called it "The Bible of Baseball." There were 16 teams in the (white) major leagues plus 58 minor leagues from AAA to D, and *TSN* ran standings and highlights for all and stats leaders for most, with more extensive coverage for the higher classifications.

The August 25 issue had 40 pages plus an eight-page special section on Ruth.

In the main section, there was an editorial ("Game Made Ruth—And He Remade Game") and an article on ballpark tributes ("Flags Lowered, Fans and Players Pay Respects to Babe at All Parks").

There was also a full-page ad from Hillerich & Bradsby on page 10 saying in part, "Our association with the Babe, since the beginning of his long and glorious career, developed between him and many members of our concern close personal friendships that have endured through the years."

An article on page 30 said that H&B had sent its advertising tribute to "the newspapers of all major league cities" on August 13 with instructions that it run in the papers in the edition after his death.

The special section included:

- "Last Photo of Famed Slugger"
- Pitching, hitting, and salary stats; his records
- "Babe Died Without Learning Cause of His Fatal Illness"
- "Ruth Started and Finished Career in Boston Uniform"
- "Ruth's Recorded Voice Adds Drama to Network Memorials"
- "Evans Recalls Ruth's Rhubarbs With Umps"

# Steve Stone's Dream-like 25-7 Season

By Barry Sparks

When the Baltimore Orioles signed Steve Stone, 31, as a free agent in November 1978, they expected he would be the No. 5 starter in a four-man rotation that consisted of Jim Palmer, Mike Flanagan, Scott McGregor, and Dennis Martinez.

The 5-foot-10 right-hander had compiled an unimpressive 67-72 career record after eight seasons with the San Francisco Giants, Chicago Cubs and two stints with the Chicago White Sox.

After a slow start in 1979 and several shouting matches with manager Earl Weaver about his role, Stone saw more action in the latter part of the season due to injuries to the other starters. He was a pleasant surprise as he hurled 186 innings and posted an 11-7 record in 32 starts, third highest on the team. In 14 starts beginning July 10, he didn't lose a game, going 5-0.

Weaver believed Stone could be a winner despite his slow start. Stone admitted that he needed to convince himself that he was better than a .500 pitcher. Pitching coach Ray Miller worked with him to quicken his pace and not to throw all of



his pitches--curveball, fastball, slider, and forkball--early in the game.

No one, however, could have predicted Stone's 1980 stellar performance, when he went 25-7 and started the All-Star Game.

Stone started the season in the rotation due to Dennis Martinez's sore deltoid muscle. In early April, Weaver said, "Stone was our insurance policy, and it was one of the best acquisitions we ever made."

Stone started the season 2-3, but then hit his stride. Relying heavily on his curveball, he reeled off 14 consecutive wins from May 9 through July 26. As his confidence soared and the wins mounted, he admitted he felt "untouchable."

With a 12-3 record, he got the nod from Weaver, who was managing the American League, to start the All-Star Game in Los Angeles on July 8. Stone faced nine batters and retired them in order. He sent Davey Lopes, Reggie Smith, Dave Parker, Steve Garvey, Johnny Bench, Dave Kingman, Ken Reitz, Bill Russell, and Bob Welch back to the dugout. He struck out Parker, Kingman, and Welch. The AL, however, lost the game, 4-2.

In late July, Stone had a 16-3 record and was in the Cy Young Award conversation. Unaccustomed to the spotlight, he said, "I didn't sell my soul to the devil, but I'm having a hard time of convincing my parents of it."

Although his winning streak was broken on July 31 with a 7-4 loss to Texas, Stone still had good stuff. He tossed back-to-back two-hitters on August 14 against the Yankees and August 19 against California to lift his record to 20-4.

He finished the season 25-7, but the season was bitter-sweet. Even though the Orioles won 100 games, they finished second to the Yankees in the AL East. From July 22, 1979, to the end of the 1980 season, Stone posted a 30-7 record.

His 25 victories put him on a plateau with Hall of Famers Juan Marichal, Whitey Ford, Sandy Koufax, and Steve Carlton.

Stone also set personal bests in starts (37), complete games (nine), innings pitched (250 2/3) winning percentage (.781), and strikeouts (149).

It was, according to Stone, "a dream season."

In November, the right-hander was named the AL's Cy Young Award winner, edging out Oakland's Mike Norris (22-9, 2.53 ERA). He collected a \$10,000 contract-stipulated bonus from the Orioles, one that no one thought he had a chance of earning.

"If you don't quit, you always have a chance of turning it around," he told Jim Henneman of the Baltimore *Evening Sun*. Stone considered his success an inspiration for Everyman, those who never thought success was possible.

Looking ahead to 1981, Stone said, "I fully intend to start 35-40 games next season."

His optimism, however, was scuttled by elbow problems. He reported to spring training with an inflamed tendon that limited his ability to throw a curveball, his bread-and-butter pitch. He threw about 75 curveballs a game in 1980 and pitched more innings than ever. He said his elbow never recovered.

Stone spent much of the 1981 season on the disabled list. He compiled a 2-3 record in the first month and a half. A two-month players strike that began June 12 shortened the season, erasing more than a third of the games. Once the Orioles returned to action, Stone posted a 2-4 mark to conclude with a disappointing 4-7 record.

Believing the Orioles had lost confidence in him, Stone requested to be traded three times after the 1981 season. General manager Hank Peters refused, saying the right-hander had little trade value.

Then, during spring training in 1982, Stone developed a sore arm and flew from Miami to Baltimore to be examined by the team doctor. He reinjured his arm when he returned to spring training and was placed on the 21-day disabled list on March 25.

The outlook was bleak as he failed to take the mound in the first six weeks of the season. On June 1, Stone, 34, announced he was retiring from baseball because of tendinitis in his right elbow and shoulder.

In the emotional press conference, Stone said the 1980 season was "the culmination of everything I'd ever dreamed or hoped for."

All the curveballs and increased workload had overtaxed his arm. He quoted veteran curveballer Bert Blyleven, who said, "When you throw that many curveballs, you're borrowing from tomorrow's pitches."

When a reporter asked Stone if it was worth it, he replied, "Every bit of it."

---

## Orioles Star Power

With Félix Bautista, Yennier Cano, Austin Hays, and Adley Rutschman named as reserves, the Orioles sent multiple players to the All-Star Game for the first time since 2016.

# Johns Hopkins Baseball 2023

## Close But No Cigar in Division III Final

By Jim Considine

The Johns Hopkins baseball season ended on June 8, 2023 with a 7-6 loss to the University of Lynchburg in the 2023 DIII College World Series, 15 years after JHU finished as runner-up to Trinity.

Blue Jays athletic teams have won 55 national titles (44 in men's lacrosse), but none in baseball.

Despite falling short in their championship quest, the 2023 edition of the Blue Jays may be the best in the school's baseball history, which goes back to 1887:

- Their 48 wins are a JHU record. (The 2010 team won 44.)
- Their .857 winning percentage (48-7) was the highest of every one of the 930 NCAA baseball programs.
- Three players made the American Baseball Coaches Baseball Association/Rawlings Division III All-America team (60 players nationwide): outfielder Matthew Cooper (first team), third baseman Shawn Steuerer (third team) and pitcher Gabe Romano (third team).



Matthew Cooper set school records for HRs in a season and career, and was a Division III All-American and an Academic All-District selection. (JHU photo)



Members of the BBRC saw five of JHU's season-record 114 in a doubleheader sweep of Muhlenberg.

## On SABR Day at JHU, Blue Jays Whomp Mules, Sweep Doubleheader

Rainy weather set SABR Day at Johns Hopkins back one day to April 23 and kept our "crowd" down to seven. The Johns Hopkins Blue Jays gave Muhlenberg more than it could handle as home runs rained down on Babb Field at Stromberg Stadium. The blistering hot Blue Jays improved their season record to 32-3 after winning the first game, 15-1, and the second game, 17-5. The JHU record is the third best start to a season in school history.

The SABR attendees saw the Blue Jays' big gun, Matthew Cooper, and University Parkway's sluggers hit five home runs. While watching their barrage, we were also keeping an eye on the Detroit Tigers' Eduardo Rodriguez, who took a perfect game against the Orioles into the seventh inning. Ryan Mountcastle's single with two out returned our focus to JHU.

Matthew Cooper hit his 18th home run in the nightcap, breaking the JHU record set in 1998 by John Christ.

--John Burbridge

- They out-homered their opponents 114-35 and broke the Division III home run record set in 1997 by the College of Wooster.

- Cooper's 24 homers crushed the JHU of 17 set by John Christ in 1998.

- Cooper's 37 career HRs broke another record held by Christ (35), JHU Athletic Hall of Famer who was drafted by the Indians in 1999 and played in the minor leagues from 1999-2001.

- Cooper, an economics major, is an Academic All-American. He has a 3.54 GPA.

- Besides Cooper, four other Blue Jays made the Academic All-District Team (Kieren Collins, Sam Frank, Matt Savedoff, Steuerer).

- JHU pitching was stellar, holding opponents to a .236 batting average, while posting a 3.29 ERA.

With 1,266 victories, coach Bob Babb is one shy of becoming the winningest active Division III baseball coach. He would be the third-winningest Division III baseball coach of all time.

In the 2011 movie *Moneyball*, Brad Pitt's character, Billy Beane, memorably says after the A's lose in the 2002 AL Division Series, "Nobody remembers you, nothing matters, if you lose the last game of the season."

Regardless of Billy Beane's feelings, this was an unforgettable baseball season for JHU. The primary goal for these baseball players is to finish with a Johns Hopkins degree. Winning the DIII World Series for coach Bob Babb was the Blue Jays' goal on June 8, but they missed that goal.

Stay tuned for an interview with Babb in the Fall issue of *The Baltimore Chop*.



# Baseball Fever in Baltimore: The 1969-1971 O's

By Mark R. Millikin

After the Orioles swept the Dodgers in the 1966 World Series, many sportswriters and fans were predicting the Orioles would be baseball's new dynasty, replacing the recent Yankees.

The Orioles and their fans found out how quickly pennant dreams could be dashed. Hank Bauer's club suffered a major setback in 1967, due to sore arm injuries to Jim Palmer, Dave McNally, and Wally Bunker, star slugger Frank Robinson's absence from the lineup for more than a month, and Boog Powell's season-long batting slump. The Orioles' record fell below .500 and resulted in a four-team race for the American League pennant, won by the Red Sox on the last day of season.

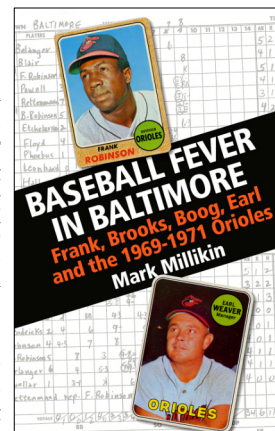
Despite Frank Robinson's arm injury and mumps illness early in 1968, and Palmer's absence all season due to shoulder and back miseries, the Orioles put together a winning record before the All-Star break but were a distant second to the front-running Tigers. In a pivotal moment in Oriole history, vice president of player personnel Harry Dalton fired manager Bauer before the second half of the 1968 season and made first base coach Earl Weaver the new manager. Weaver turned the team around in the second half on the strength of Don Buford's being an everyday player, Dave McNally's resurgence on the way to 22 wins, and more daring baserunning and hustle by the team.

The Orioles' superb play during spring training and early in the 1969 regular season convinced Baltimore sportswriters and many Orioles fans that they would win the 1969 pennant. It was a sign of many good things to come for them over the next three years. Frank and Brooks Robinson and Powell were batting as if it were 1966 again, and Palmer and newly acquired lefty starter Mike Cuellar began dramatic comebacks to bolster pitching coach George Bamberger's staff. Weaver's groundbreaking use of his players' past statistics vs. their opponents improved his team's chances of winning many games. His on-field antics with AL umpires worried sportswriters, but Orioles fans for the most part liked it. Weaver was always looking for an edge.

During the summers of 1969-71, when I was 18-20 years old, I was fortunate to work for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, mostly in the office except for a brief stint loading boxcars at the Camden Station warehouse early in the summer of 1969. Orioles baseball fever was everywhere in Baltimore downtown those summers. What a thrill it was to share in the excitement of the Orioles' successful pursuit of the AL pennant three years in a row. I witnessed Orioles fever in offices, lunchrooms, on the streets, and in the friendly confines of Memorial Stadium. The confidence that Orioles fans felt every day was possibly unmatched in Orioles history. Before each game, we wondered who might be today's star—Frank? Brooks? Boog? Merv Rettenmund? Paul Blair? Don Buford? Davey Johnson? In an era when more fans scored games than do today, we felt a little like Weaver as we filled out the game's lineups. Many of us listened to most games on radio, while about 50 games were televised. Either

way, announcers Chuck Thompson and Bill O'Donnell were welcomed into our homes with National Beer commercials sprinkled throughout game broadcasts. Our daily reading of the sports pages all season long was pure joy—where did Frank and Boog rank among leaders in homers, RBIs, and batting average?

Ever hear of fielding slumps? Brooks talked about his. Sometimes he slipped into a rut where he was still blocking grounders but not fielding them cleanly. He even made three errors in one game in 1971, and

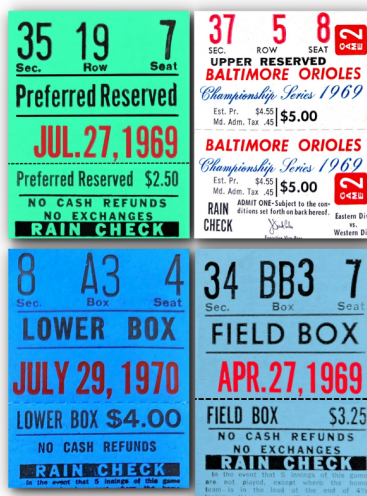


*Evening Sun* writer Phil Jackman joked that the Reds catcher Johnny Bench must have choked on his Wheaties in disbelief when he read about it in the morning newspaper. Frank's role as judge in the clubhouse Kangaroo Court was a major morale booster. Fines were only handed out to players (usually \$1) for an array of "infractions" after wins. Ballgirl and shoe sweeper Linda Warehime's pranks with opponents' third base coaches became a favorite of fans during fifth-inning infield dirt cleanups at the Stadium.

Rettenmund, Buford, Blair, Johnson, Mark Belanger, and catchers Elrod Hendricks and Andy Etchebarren played major roles in the Orioles' success.

And the starting and relief pitchers excelled. Cuellar, McNally, and Palmer won 20 or more games in 1970, and Cuellar, McNally, Palmer, and Pat Dobson won 20 or more in 1971. The Orioles won three East Division championships and all nine playoff games for three AL pennants in row from 1969-71, lost the 1969 World Series to the Miracle Mets, beat the Big Red Machine in the 1970 World Series, and lost to the Pirates and Roberto Clemente in seven games in the 1971 series. Still the Orioles compiled a .660 winning percentage with 318 wins and 164 losses during the 1969-71 regular seasons.

(Millikin's new book, *Baseball Fever in Baltimore: Frank, Brooks, Boog, Earl and the 1969-1971 Orioles*, is available from the author at [millikinmark48@gmail.com](mailto:millikinmark48@gmail.com), at the Babe Ruth Birthplace and Museum, or from St. Johann Press <https://stjohannpress.myshopify.com>.)



## Trivia Answer

Grandfather	Father	Son(s)
Gus Bell (1950-64)	Buddy Bell (1972-89)	David Bell (1995-2006) Mike Bell (2000)
Ray Boone (1948-60)	Bob Boone (1972-90)	Aaron Boone (1997-2009)
<b>Joe Coleman</b> (1942-55)	Joe Coleman (1965-79)	Casey Coleman (2010-14)
Sam Hairston (1944-48, 1951)	Jerry Hairston (1973-89)	<b>Jerry Hairston Jr.</b> (1998-2013) Scott Hairston (2004-14)

Former Orioles in bold

(A tip of the editor's cap to Jim Considine for the Q&A)

# Museum's Name Honors Negro Leagues Player, Army Veteran

(Milbert O. Brown Jr., a BBRC member, is a board member of the Hubert V. Simmons Museum of Negro Leagues Baseball)

By Milbert O. Brown Jr.

The year 2008 was memorable for Hubert V. Simmons, who was affectionately called "Bert," once known as a better-than-average baseball player. The Orioles drafted Simmons; a seemingly ageless 84-year-old pitcher. Major League Baseball wanted to highlight several former Negro Leagues players who were denied an opportunity to play in the major leagues by drafting them as honorary members of MLB teams.

Also, in 2008, on June 28, Bert Simmons, along with his wife Audrey L. Simmons, and good friend Rayner "Ray" Banks, met to discuss plans to develop a Negro Leagues baseball museum in the greater Baltimore area. The timing for this museum project was perfect, as there was a rising interest in the Negro Leagues' importance. Many of former Negro Leagues player were considered "the greatest" of their time. Simmons, a former Negro Leagues player, refused to face the possibility of losing such an essential part of baseball history. Later that year, Simmons, a member of Lochearn Presbyterian Church, convinced the church leadership to let him renovate an unused auxiliary area of the church to launch the first Negro Leagues museum in the Baltimore area.

Simmons began to collect artifacts and memorabilia featuring Negro League players and teams. "A lot of the signed autographs, baseball bats and old newspaper articles were sent to Bert to support his desire to start the museum," said Audrey Simmons.

Bert Simmons' dream of establishing a large facility to house his collection was realized four years after his 2009 death. On November 20, 2013, Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz announced the permanent location for the museum at the new Owings Mills Metro Centre complex. The space is inside the Owings Mills branch of the Baltimore County Public Library. The Hubert V. Simmons Museum of Negro Leagues Baseball, Inc. officially opened in the spring of 2014.

The purpose of the Hubert V. Simmons Museum of Negro Leagues Baseball is to educate, advocate, and generate widespread interest in the Negro Leagues. The museum provides an awareness of the cultural, social, and economic impact on the surrounding communities. The museum features an extensive collection of photographs, books, oral history interviews, and memorabilia that tells the story of the Negro Leagues from the 1800s to the 1950s. Additionally, the SMNLB focuses on youth programs and the importance of good sportsmanship. Through its educational component, the museum hopes to foster community conversations about the "love for the game and Negro League contributions to baseball."

## Who was Hubert Simmons?

Hubert Simmons returned home to North Carolina after serving in the Army during World War II. One of Simmons' major activities before joining and after his service was baseball. He was good. He could play every position, but his most notable spot on the baseball diamond was as a knuckleball pitcher. In 1941, he played for the Raleigh Tigers, a semi-pro team. He doubled as a pitcher and outfielder. Even during his time in the Army, he played baseball. Shortly after his discharge from the Army, Simmons enrolled in North Carolina A&T State University. He graduated with a B.S. de-



gree in business administration.

Of course, he played baseball and was a four-time All-Colored (now Central) Intercollegiate Athletic Association player (1946-49) and was inducted into the North Carolina A&T Sports Hall of Fame in 1978. He played for the Goshen/Greensboro Red Wings, a Negro Southern League team, from 1946-1948. Simmons played for a season with the Farley Stars of Atlantic City, New Jersey which was managed by Hall of Famer and Negro

Leagues great John Henry "Pop" Lloyd. In 1949, he joined the Asheville Blues, a Negro Southern League team. In the final year of the Baltimore Elite Giants' existence, 1950, Simmons played for the Negro American League team. He ended his baseball career in 1952 with Baltimore's Yokely Stars, an independent team.

After baseball, Simmons worked as a teacher for the Baltimore City Public Schools for 30 years. He coached baseball at the Little League, high school, and college levels for many years. After retiring as a teacher in 1984, he opened Simmons, Inc., which sold customized team uniforms and unique clothing for churches, schools, and fraternal organizations. It was his business and love for Negro Leagues history that spurred him to create the museum.



## Planning to Visit the Museum?

The museum shares space on three floors of the Owings Mills branch of the Baltimore County Library, 10302 Grand Central Avenue, and is open during regular library hours, Monday-Thursday 9 A.M.-8 P.M. and Friday-Saturday 9 A.M.-5 P.M. For driving and transit directions, see <https://www.bcpl.info/locations/owings-mills/index.html>.

## Tripleheader ▶ From Page 1

Next on the program is the pregame party in the DH Lounge at Oriole Park at 5:30 (menu and speakers to be announced), followed by a game against the Rockies at 7:05 (it's also Felix Bautista bobblehead giveaway night).

New Cathedral, at 4300 Old Frederick Road in Baltimore, is the final resting place of Hall of Famers John McGraw, Wilbert Robinson, Ned Hanlon, and Joe Kelley, Orioles all, the only cemetery in the country that boasts four Hall of Famers.

Sam Gazdziak, chair of SABR's 19th Century Grave Marker Committee, has agreed to make the presentation/dedication of the grave marker and to talk a little bit about Mathews's career and life.

"Bobby Mathews is an overlooked legend, and his 297 career wins is the second-most for any pitcher not currently a member of the Baseball Hall of Fame," according to Gazdziak. "He started in the National Association as a teenager in 1871 and threw his last professional pitch in 1887, with nearly 5,000 innings pitched."

Mathews was born in Baltimore in 1851 and began his pro career 20 years later with Fort Wayne. He played for only one Baltimore team, the Canaries of the National Association in 1872. He died in 1898.

Ballplayers do not have the only recognizable names at New Cathedral. Baltimore native and longtime sportswriter John Steadman is buried there, as are members of the families of Charles Carroll (signer of the Declaration of Independence; buried in Howard County, Maryland) and Francis Scott Key (buried in Frederick, Maryland) as well as the grandparents of rock musician Frank Zappa (buried in Los Angeles).

---

## Attention, Oriole Fans: Babe Ruth Museum to Host August 'Brunch with the Birds' and Jon Miller in September

The Babe Ruth Birthplace and Museum is going to the birds in August and September.

Oriole fans may want to mark their calendars: Midweek brunch? "**Brunch with the Birds**" is on tap on Thursday, August 10 (10:30 A.M.-noon) and Wednesday, August 30 (11 A.M.-12:30 P.M.). The museum calls it a "micro version of our Opening Day party."

Combo and party-only tickets are available for both games:

- Game tickets are club level.
- The party, in the museum's covered courtyard, includes museum admission, made-to-order lunch, and beer/wine/soda.
- There will be photo ops with museum artifacts for a VIP treatment.
- For dates, cost, menu, and to buy tickets: <https://pregameparty.givesmart.com>.

The museum's virtual speaker series brings in legendary play-by-play announcer **Jon Miller** on Thursday, September 7 at 7 P.M.

- The program includes audience Q&A and is free for museum members.
- For tickets: <https://brmspeakers.givesmart.com>.

## USS Cooperstown

Baseball history went to sea on May 5 with the commissioning of the *USS Cooperstown*, a littoral combat ship. The ship honors the 70 members of the Baseball Hall of Fame who served in the armed forces during wartime; 26 of them were in the U.S. Navy.

Of those 70, seven have connections to the Orioles or Maryland and three to the St. Louis Browns, who moved to Baltimore in 1954 and became the Orioles:

Luke Appling (O's coach 1963) enlisted in the army at the age of 36 in 1944 and served two years at Lawson General Hospital in Georgia.

Leon Day (Baltimore Black Sox 1934, lived much of his life and is buried in Baltimore) served with the 818th Amphibious Battalion, bringing supplies to Utah Beach on June 12, 1944, six days after D-Day.

Larry MacPhail (moved to Maryland after retiring as a baseball executive) was an artillery captain in France and Belgium during World War I and did public relations for the War Department in World War II.

Lee MacPhail (O's general manager 1959-65) served 1944-46 on the USS Turner, a radar picket ship that did not see combat.

Robin Roberts (O's 1962-65) enrolled in the Reserve Air Corps in 1944 and was sent to Michigan State for military and college training.

Hoyt Wilhelm (O's 1958-62) was drafted in 1942 and spent three years in the Army, received a Purple Heart for wounds in the Battle of the Bulge.

Jud Wilson (Baltimore Black Sox 1923-29) served in World War I with the 417th Service Battalion, discharged as a corporal.

Branch Rickey (Browns 1905-06), enlisted in the Army at age 36 in August 1918, serving as a major with the Army's Chemical Warfare Service in Europe.

George Sisler (Browns 1915-27) enlisted in 1918 and served under Rickey in the Chemical Warfare Service and was discharged when the war ended.

Bill Veeck (sold the Browns to Baltimore group in 1954) enlisted in the Marines in 1943 and lost his right leg in the Pacific theater.

—Ruth Sadler

---

## President ▶ From Page 1

No. 1-ranked farm system, and the skies seem to be clear here in Charm City.

Postseason baseball may become a fixture in Baltimore starting this year, as the club looks to its past to map out its future. I could not be prouder of this chapter. Great writers, researchers, die-hard fans, and just a wonderful group of people overall.

I hope to see everyone at future events, whether in person or virtually, and feel free to reach out to me anytime to comment on how we are doing and what we can do better.

Now—if I could just find a job in baseball, my life would be complete.

Cheers for a safe and enjoyable summer.

--Peter Coolbaugh

---

## At the Break, a Top-10 O's Record

At the All-Star break, the Orioles sat at 54-35 (.607), the eighth-best All-Star break winning percentage in club history (since 1954). The only seasons in which the O's had a better winning percentage at the break were 1969 (.677, 65-31), 1966 (.667, 58-29), 1979 (.656, 59-31), 1997 (.647, 55-30), 1971 (.632, 55-32), 1964 (.632, 48-28), and 1970 (.621, 54-33).