

The Baltimore Chop

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“As soon as the spring sun draws the frost out of the hands of the idle boys and half-grown men who loaf about the streets, the nuisance of throwing base-balls about our thoroughfares—to the terror of ladies and small children—commences.”

(Chestertown Transcript, April 13, 1872)

President’s message:

We are very pleased to announce the launch of our chapter’s newsletter: *The Baltimore Chop*. The name comes from a play made famous by the National League Baltimore Orioles of the 1890’s, a team loaded with Hall of Famers. This “house organ” is in the very capable hands of our editor Marty Payne. Marty will rely on input from everyone. We have many veteran and up-and-coming baseball researchers in our midst and this is a great way for us all to share in the talent. This is our first one: The collector’s edition! Enjoy.

~ D. Bruce Brown

EDITOR’S NOTE

Welcome to the first edition of THE BALTIMORE CHOP, the newsletter for the Baltimore/Babe Ruth Chapter. It is hoped that this venue will help keep our members informed of the baseball events of the chapter, those of other institutions in the region, and provide a format for brief historical forays into the region’s rich baseball history.

The newsletter is the obvious forum to announce and report on chapter and regional events like Talking Baseball, the Hot Stove, the Called Shot and other chapter meetings. It certainly will also be a means for the chapter officers to communicate with members. We will include reports from those who attend national SABR conferences like the Frederick Ivor-Campbell, the Analytics, the National Convention as well as out-of-SABR conferences like those recently presented in New York and Philadelphia.

On the same note, we are looking to report on the activities—historical and contemporary—occurring in our area. We share our interests with The Babe Ruth Birthplace/Sport Legends Museum, the Leon Day Museum, The Hubert V. Simmons Negro Baseball Museum of Maryland, the Eastern Shore Hall of Fame and Museum and the Jimmie Foxx Museum, not to mention many historical societies, educational institutions and lifelong learning groups that periodically present programs on baseball. It is our goal to announce and report on these various activities.

With the number of minor league teams, regional reporting will also be featured, and

hopefully stray in to southern Pennsylvania, Delaware and parts of Virginia. Regional reporting, however, would not be limited to minor leagues but any and all activities in a region, past and present. Brief historical pieces pertaining to our region will also be welcome.

The more the members involved in providing announcements, reports, and essays, the better “The Chop” will be. This can be done by regular or semi-regular correspondents and contributors, but all chapter members and fellow SABRites are invited to participate.

~ Marty Payne, Editor

TRIVIA CORNER

Who are the only players in MLB history to win a season MVP, an All-Star game MVP and a World Series MVP? [Answer at the end of this issue.]

Notes on the Diamond

As many of us know, **The Hot Stove** of the Bob Davids Chapter has been a regular gathering on the third Thursday of every month for regional members and friends for several years. Mark Pattison sends out those monthly emails announcing time and place and topic. The Maryland Hot Stoves are held at the Taste Diner on 8601 Cameron St. in Silver Spring just west of Georgia Ave. (Rt. 97). Projected dates through this quarter are April 18, May 16, and June 20. Look for Mark’s announcements.

Talkin’ Baseball is another regular feature for local SABR folks originated and still headed up by Dave Paulson, Treasurer of the Bob Davids chapter. Look for his monthly announcements by email, but we will also help get the word out.

The Babe Ruth Chapter’s **“Called Shot”**

When: Every 3rd Wednesday of the Month at NOON. [Mid-town, mid-week, mid-month!]

Who: Everyone

How: FREE - No charge at all, but bring your own lunch/drink

Where: The birthplace of George Herman Ruth, Jr., the Babe Ruth Birthplace & Museum 216 Emory Street in Baltimore.

At our first Called Shot, 100% of the people who had committed showed up! We had a great time.

Stay for an hour, stay for a minute. Join us if you can. These are the dates:

April 19 - "Called Shot Lunch" at the Babe Ruth Birthplace at 12 noon

May 17 - "Called Shot Lunch" at the Babe Ruth Birthplace at 12 noon

June 21 - "Called Shot Lunch" at the Babe Ruth Birthplace at 12 noon

July 19 - "Called Shot Lunch" at the Babe Ruth Birthplace at 12 noon

The time has almost come for our **annual Baltimore / Babe Ruth Chapter game**. This year the game will be on Saturday, May 20 vs. Toronto. Game time has been moved

to 4:05, so our program will be moved accordingly. Further announcements will follow. Ticket pricing along with pregame food and speakers is still TBD. Coincidentally, that is also Maryland Preakness Day so the giveaway that night will be a Maryland Flag Script Jersey to all fans.

BBRC Treasurer Gary Levy is the contact for this event. You can reach him at glevy@towson.edu

More information to come soon!

SABR Baltimore Babe Ruth Chapter sabrbaberuth@aol.com

Anyone interested in making a presentation at that meeting can send a 100 word proposal to martyp4@verizon.net.

Other Notable Events

April 3 - Orioles Home Opener

June 28 to July 2 - National SABR Convention in Manhattan

July 29 - Combined BBRC and Bob Davids Chapter MiLB game at Aberdeen, Maryland.

THE FRED

The Frederick Ivor-Campbell 19th Century Conference (known to its regulars simply as “The Fred”) is no longer one of the best kept secrets in SABR, and is being held April 21 and 22 this year at the National Baseball Hall of Fame. It marks the beginning of the baseball season, which in Cooperstown can mean snow on the ground and a frozen lake, or 75 degrees and catch in the park. It also means some the best presentations and discussions on 19th century baseball you will find anywhere. The camaraderie and mutual support from some of the best 19th Century baseball historians is the draw. This is due to the efforts of Peter Mancuso, Jim Gates, and the contributions of many others who make The Fred what it is. Babe Ruth member, Richard Hershberger will be presenting “The Fizzled Game Throwing Scandal of 1879,” and Dorothy Mills is featured on the agenda as co presenter of “Town Teams: Bigger Than Baseball.”

From Gary Sarnoff

The energy is always high this time of year in Southern Maryland, as the local minor league baseball team and high school baseball teams gear up for their upcoming seasons. Meanwhile, the local college baseball team’s season is already underway.

The Southern Maryland Blue Crabs, under the direction of new ownership and a young general manager, will have a new atmosphere at Regency Furniture Stadium, while the upcoming high school season promises to be a tough battle for number one in a region that has produced the last three state champions.

Southern Maryland Blue Crabs getting ready for tenth season

In 2008, when Regency Furniture Stadium opened its doors for the first time, a new

era was created in Southern Maryland. Ten seasons later, the Southern Maryland Blue Crabs are about to enter another era, as they gear up for their tenth season in existence, and nobody is more enthused about it than their second year general manager, Courtney Knichel. "This season is our tenth anniversary season and a very important one to Southern Maryland," says the Southern Maryland native who began as an intern for the Blue Crabs during the team's 2008 maiden season and worked her way through the front office to the general manager position. "We are under new ownership and looking to step up the quality of our brand and atmosphere. We just replaced our field with all brand new sod, which was a huge project, but the fans will rest assured that the grass will be jet green when they walk through the gates on Opening Day. We have taken over operations at the Crab Shack team store and have restocked the entire store with new merchandise that the fans will love. And we have partnered with a few local vendors to bring in new food options."

The Blue Crabs have also made a change on the field by hiring a new field manager, who is in the process of constructing a roster that can hopefully take the team to the promise land. In 2015, the Blue Crabs nearly reached the zenith of winning its first Atlantic League championship by making it to the league's championship series. Last season the Blue Crabs plunged to the second division, finishing with the league's worst record. Currently, the Blue Crabs have three pitchers and seven position players listed on their roster. Most of the remaining roster spots will be filled after open tryouts are conducted at Regency Furniture Stadium on Sunday, April 9th. The team's new field manager is Tom Harris, a former major league player who has coaching experience as well as a resume that includes an association with winning ball clubs. In 1979, the Blue Crabs' new manager had the privilege of playing for the Pacific Coast League champions, the Salt Lake City Gulls, and American League West champions, the California Angles. The decision to hire Harris was made through a team effort: a collaboration of the team's ownership and the general manager. "We spoke to him prior to making a decision and made sure we all felt the same about him," says Knichel.

The new look Blue Crabs begin their 2017 season at home against the Long Island Ducks on Thursday evening, April 20th, with the new evening home game starting time of 6:30. "We are trying to make the time more family friendly," according to Knichel. "Starting at 6:30 puts the kids in bed by 9:30 to 10:00 P.M., so this might make the parents more apt to bring their children to the games during the week."

College of Southern Maryland baseball

The 2017 season for College of South Maryland Hawks got off to a successful start with a doubleheader win over Central Penn on February 25th. Since then the Hawks have dropped five in a row, including three contests to conference rivals.

The Hawks are coached by Aaron Michael, a former star collegiate player who has a lot of Southern Maryland savvy about him. During his playing days, Michael earned All-Conference and All-Regional honors as a shortstop for the College of Southern Maryland. He served as an assistant coach to the Hawks before being named as the head coach after the 2016 collegiate season.

Michael has the challenge of changing the recent fortunes of the Hawks baseball program. Last season CSM lost 30 games. The season before, they had lost 29. The

outcome of the 2017 season will depend on the improvement of the team's pitching staff, a sore spot for the Hawks in recent seasons.

The Hawks will hit the road this week, with twin bills scheduled at Allegany College of Maryland and Hartford Community College. They return home the following week to take on Hagerstown Community College and Sullivan Community College. The game versus Sullivan Community College is scheduled for March 16th and to be played at Regency Furniture Stadium.

The battle for number among the Southern Maryland Preps

The quest for Maryland's most competitive class 2A South Region is about to begin with the local high schools staring their 2017 seasons. Last season La Plata High School stunned Southern High School with a 4-2 win in the South regional finals en route to capturing Maryland's class 2A Championship. The Bulldogs of Southern High were the defending and defending champs, with class 2A state championship victories in 2014 and 2015. Heading into the 2017 season, the La Plata Warriors are ranked 5th in the preseason rankings among all Maryland high school baseball programs.

EXPLORE THE SHORE

The **Delmarva Shorebirds** enter into their 22nd season in the class A South Atlantic League at Perdue Stadium with new prospects and stadium renovations. New seats have been put in and a state of the art video board has been added to enhance the baseball experience. They are located just off Rte. 50 at 6400 Hobbs Rd., Salisbury, Md. 21804.

Among the notable promotions include "Shore to the Show" night that celebrates the 95 Shorebird players that have made it to the major leagues with a thousand posters to be handed out. Sure to be another popular night will be the Zach Britton bobble head promotion. Britton was a starter for Delmarva a few years ago.

And don't forget the **Eastern Shore Hall** of Fame located at Perdue Stadium, just to your right as you walk in the entrance. See the museum for the rich history of Eastern Shore baseball and the friendly and knowledgeable staff.

High School

Insiders say that the teams to beat in the Bayside Conference on the Eastern Shore of Maryland are 2-A Parkside in the south and 1-A St. Michaels in the north. St. Michaels has captured 3 state and 3 semi state 1-A state championships in recent years.

Central Shore League

The Central Shore League recently met hoping to continue their existence. The league originally formed in 1949 as a semi pro League.

Around the Minors

The **Frederick Keys** are the Orioles high A affiliate in the Carolina League and play at Nymeo Field at Harry Grove Stadium, 21 Stadium Dr., Frederick, Md. Their home opener is April 6. See their website for the schedule. Fireworks are featured at Friday and Saturday home games. Other featured promotions include every parent's favorite Candy Drop on April 30, and the Paw Patrol May 26 thru 28. The Keys have also just completed the Triple Suite to cater groups of 40 to 70.

The **Bowie Bay Sox** are the Orioles AA affiliate in the Eastern League, playing at the Prince Georges Stadium on 4101 Crain Highway, Bowie, Md. 20716. Their home opener is April 13. The Sox will feature 19 fireworks nights this year. On June 17 they will be their 25th anniversary celebration which will include a commemorative card set and kids t-shirts. On Fathers' Day, June 18, there will be a give-away of 25th anniversary beer steins and a catch on the field before the game.

The **Potomac Nationals** are the Nationals' affiliate in the high-A Carolina League and play at Pfitzner Stadium at 7 County Complex, Woodbridge, Va.. Their home opener is April 13. It looks like every night is a promotion. Their web site includes a Potomac Baseball Hall of Fame, including some pretty impressive major leaguers who have played for the different incarnations of the franchise since 1985.

The **Hagerstown Suns** represent the Nationals in the class A South Atlantic League at Municipal Stadium on 431 Dual Highway, Hagerstown, Md. The Suns home opener is April 6 and their premier promotion appears to be a Belly Buster Night every Monday. All you can eat seats can be had for \$16. Seems to be a limited menu of burgers, dogs, chips, and soda. Filet mignon, lobster, and single malt scotch are not available. They also have 2 Education Days with game times of 10:35 A.M. on April 26 and May 8. When we skipped school to watch baseball, it was called playing hooky.

Notes from the Diamond

Our chapter region is rich with facilities and institutions that feature the history of baseball. Both the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian occasionally offer programs, as do local historical societies, libraries, and educational institutions. We are also fortunate to have several foundations and museums devoted to baseball. These include The Babe Ruth Birth Place/Sports Legends Museum, The Leon Day Foundation, The Eastern Shore Baseball Foundation and Hall of Fame, The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum of Maryland, and the Jimmie Foxx Museum/Sudlersville Train Museum. Listed below are the addresses, hours and known scheduled events for the coming quarter.

We hope members will report to the Baltimore Chop any baseball related programs and activities they are aware of so we can announce these events to support our community partners and promote our mutual love of the game.

The **Babe Ruth Birthplace/Sports Legends Museum** is located on 216 Emory St., Baltimore Md. 21230, and is the host of our chapter's Called Shot. On April 6 they are sponsoring the 8th annual Baseball Media Luncheon at Pickle's Pub. The museum's regular hours are Monday thru Sunday, 10-5. See their website for more details.

<http://baberuthmuseum.org/>

The **Leon Day Foundation** is located on 723 N. Rosedale Ave., Baltimore 21216. Foundation information is available on face book:

<https://www.facebook.com/The-Leon-Day-Foundation-Inc-576794845683514/>

Eastern Shore Museum and Hall of Fame is located at Perdue Stadium on 6400 Hobbs rd., Salisbury, Md. 21804. They are open for all Shorebirds home games and by appointment. See the Eastern Shore Baseball Foundation website for more information.

<http://www.esbhalloffame.org/>

Hubert V. Simmons Museum of Negro Leagues Baseball is now located at the Owings Mills Metro Complex, 10302 Grand Central Ave., Owings Mills, Md. 21117. Their stated goal is to "administer projects designed to educate, advocate, and generate wide-spread interest in the Negro Leagues, and create awareness of the cultural, social, and economical impact they made."

<http://www.smlbinc.org/>

Jimmie Foxx/Sudlersville Train Museum is located at the corner of E. Main and S. Linden Streets in Sudlersville, Md. 21668. They are closed for the winter and have posted hours on Saturdays May 6 and 20, and June 3 and 17, 10-2 to start the summer.

<http://www.sudlersvillemuseum.org/>

Caught on the Fly

The Eastern Shore seems to have some fascination with baseball statuary. There are sculptures in the home towns of Jimmie Foxx in Sudlersville, and Bill "Swish" Nicholson in Chestertown. There was once talk of one for Home Run Baker in Trappe, but that attempt fizzled out. Now, there is a new initiative in Snow Hill, birthplace of Negro League Hall of Famer, Judy Johnson. Newt Weaver, a fellow SABR member, is currently vice president of the **Worcester Historical Society** and is looking into a statue or memorial to commemorate Johnson. More will be posted as this initiative develops.

In 2016 Donnie Davidson of the **Eastern Shore Hall of Fame** (ESHOF) partnered with SABR members and other community partners for presentations and displays on baseball in the region. These included events at the **Dorchester Historical Society** in Cambridge, the **Wicomoco Public Library** in Salisbury and the **Eastern Shore of Virginia Historical Society** in Onancock, Va.-way down the peninsula. The Virginia event drew over 220 people for the day long program. Future events will be posted as they are scheduled.

Mark Koenig: Shortstop of the 1927 Yankees Remembers the Babe **By Fred Glueckstein**

Shortstop Mark Anthony Koenig batted second on Opening Day for the 1927 New York Yankees. Earle Combs batted in front of Koenig, and Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Bob Meusel and Tony Lazzeri batted behind him. The lineup for the 1927 Yankees was given the nickname *Murderers Row*, and the team went down in baseball history as one of the greatest of all time. In 1984, Koenig was interviewed by the *Los Angeles Times*. In a wide ranging interview, he shared a number of anecdotes about the Babe, arguably the most famous ballplayer to ever play the game. Koenig's accounts are a valuable addition to the story of Babe Ruth.

It was written that Mark Koenig was a singles hitter on a team of power. As a second-year shortstop in 1926, he became friends with Ruth, and both men drank, played cards, and spent time together. Koenig and Ruth dressed next to each other in the locker room, and slept across from each other on the team train. However, Yankees Manager Miller Huggins moved Koenig to another berth following an altercation between the two.

Koenig said the quarrel began when Ruth accused him of not trying for a high throw "20 feet over my head" from second baseman Tony Lazzeri during an exhibition game in Baltimore. "Ruth started in yelling at me, then I waited until it was quiet and called him every name I could think of," said Koenig.

Then, Koenig said he was picking up his bat in front of the dugout after the inning when Ruth grabbed him from behind and shoved him down the stairs. "We wrestled for a minute or so until the other guys stopped it," remembered Koenig. "I didn't talk to Ruth until we clinched the pennant in St. Louis. We shook hands and it was OK. It was silly."

The Ruth and Koenig Clash As Reported in 1926

Koenig's recollection of his altercation with Ruth was told in his 1987 interview some 60 years after the event. A review of the squabble as reported by *The New York Times* on September 5, 1926 under the headline *Yanks Lose; Ruth and Koenig Clash. Shortstop Hits Babe in Seventh for 'Ragging' Him—Police Keep Back Fans* described a somewhat different version of the quarrel.

The New York Times reported that the Yankees played the Baltimore Internationals in an exhibition game in Maryland on September 5, 1926: "Friction between the Yankee players broke out during the game and caused a near riot, with Babe Ruth and Mark Koenig coming to blows on the bench and halting the game until a Yankee official escorted Koenig from the park and permitted the game to be resumed."

"The trouble broke out as the Yankees came to the bench after the seventh. Ruth, who played first base, had been ragging Koenig at short for loafing on several fielding plays. Ruth charged Koenig with delaying the game and preventing the team from catching a train for New York. When the players returned to the bench at the end of the seventh Ruth had just entered the dugout when Koenig jumped on him and struck several blows at the Babe, who did not retaliate, but grabbed Mark and held the shortstop's arms. The dispute brought fans out of stands to the dugout, but they were shoed back by police

and the game resumed when Koenig accompanied a Yankee official from the field,” reported *The New York Times*.

The Yankees won the exhibition game 18 to 9. Ruth, a local favorite born and raised in Baltimore, disappointed the fans as he failed to hit safely in five at bats. Koenig, before exiting the game, had two hits at four plate appearances.

Remembering the Babe and Gehrig

Mark Koenig had a superb 1927 World Series leading the Yankees in hitting with 9-for-18. Yet he recognized the impact that the Babe and teammate Lou Gehrig had on the Series even before it began. In the *Los Angeles Times* interview, Koenig said: “We beat them when they were sitting in the stands during batting practice, watching Ruth and Gehrig hit balls over the fence,” remembered Koenig.

Koenig described the Babe as “just a big, overgrown kid” who got along with his teammates but wasn’t close to them. “I don’t think he actually knew my last name,” said Koenig. “He never knew half the names on the ball club, outside of Meusel and some of the older guys. His greeting was always, ‘Hi ya, kid.’”

Koenig remembered how good an overall ballplayer the Babe was: “As an outfielder, he had good hands and a good arm, and he was pretty fast for a big man,” he said. “I never saw him drop a fly ball, and he never threw to the wrong base. He hit a lot of homers, of course, but he also had a high average. He even looked good striking out.”

When asked about Lou Gehrig, who hit 47 homeruns and drove in a high 175 runs in 1927, Koenig said that he was “a very shy guy, a helluva nice guy and a great friend. He didn’t smoke, didn’t drink, and didn’t know what a girl looked like. I don’t know how he ever got married.” Contrary to reports, Ruth and Gehrig got along fine said Koenig.

Koenig laughed telling stories about the Babe such as about their salaries. Ruth made \$70,000 in 1927, and Koenig earned \$10,000. “We got paid every two weeks and he’d dangle that big check in front of me,” remembered Koenig. Then there was the exhibition game in St. Paul, Minnesota. A few players visited a house of ill-repute and stole the madam’s parrot. Laughing before he got to the punch line, Koenig went on to say: “They brought it down to the train we were leaving on that night and stuck it in Ruth’s straw hat in an upper berth. The next morning you should’ve seen that hat.”

Mark Koenig played with Babe Ruth into the 1930 season until he was traded to the Detroit Tigers. He again played for the Tigers in 1931. From 1932–1934, Koenig was with the Chicago Cubs. He finished his career with the New York Giants from 1935–1936.

In 1948, Koenig appeared as himself in Hollywood’s *The Babe Ruth Story*, which starred William Bendix. The film was critically panned. Dan Shaughnessy of *The Boston Globe* called *The Babe Ruth Story* “the worst movie I ever saw”, while *The Washington Times* said the film “stands as possibly the worst movie ever made.” Koenig didn’t like the film. “What a lousy picture that was. They had Babe Ruth drinking milk. I don’t think he drank a glass of milk in his life,” said Koenig.

Playing with the Babe was evidently a highlight of Mark Koenig’s career as witnessed by his interview with the *Los Angeles Times*. As he looked back at his time with Yankees and the Babe, undoubtedly one of Koenig’s most notable memories was standing off third base after tripling, where he had a good view of the Ruth hitting his

60th home run. “It was a long homer to right, just like a lot of his homers, a long lofty shot off Tom Zachary, an old left-hander with Washington,” recalled Koenig. For Mark Koenig, it was one of many noteworthy remembrances he had of his famous teammate Babe Ruth.

Note: Mark Koenig died on April 22, 1993 in Willows, CA. The author wishes to acknowledge the major source of the article, the “Memories Of The Babe: Mark Koenig, Who Once Had Fight With Ruth, Remembers Him as Being More than a Slugger September 27, 1987” by Steve Wilstein of the *Los Angeles Times*.

REMEMBERING ROY SIEVERS – MY FIRST SPORTS HERO

By John Munns

(Edited by Stuart Gorin)

Before such Washington stalwarts as Bryce Harper, Ryan Zimmerman, Frank Howard, and even Harmon Killebrew (yes, Killebrew was once a Washington Senator), there was Roy “Squirrel” Sievers. Unlike many of the other power hitters, he was not noted for tape-measure shots; he just had the ability to “put them over the fence”.

Sievers began his 17-year Major League baseball career with his hometown old St. Louis Browns in 1949—when as a two-year-old, I was too young to follow baseball. That year, batting .306 with 16 home runs and 75 RBI, he won the American League Rookie of the Year and the TSN Rookie of the Year awards.

After struggling to a .238 batting average in 1950 and suffering shoulder and arm injuries that limited his playing time to 134 games for the next three years in St. Louis, Sievers came to the Senators in the beginning of 1954 season. It was a trade with the Baltimore Orioles, which took over the Browns franchise that year. He actually never played a game in an Orioles uniform.

In 1957, which was my first year as a baseball fanatic at the lofty age of 10, Sievers had the highlight year of his career—leading the American League with 42 home runs and 114 RBI and besting future Hall of Famers Mickey Mantle and Ted Williams for the home run title. The next year, he followed with 39 home runs and 108 RBI.

What made Sievers’ accomplishments remarkable is that those two years, the Senators finished in eighth place—last in the American League. They finished above .500 only once more from 1946 through 1960, and that was in 1953. The dimension for left field at old Griffith Stadium was 350 feet, lowered from 380 feet after the 1956 season.

I rarely saw the old Senators, but followed them on the radio, with Bob Wolff calling the games. Approximately 25 games were televised locally in living black and white. Of course, before the Internet, I read the Washington Star and the Washington Post for the latest box scores with articles by Bob Addie, Shirley Povich and Mo Siegal.

I lived in West Hyattsville, only 7 miles from the D.C. line. The Metrorail was still years away, and the D.C. Transit trolley lines were in their waning years. Griffith

Stadium, in Northwest D.C., was in the next universe, but sometimes I was able to convince relatives that they needed to see a game.

Disappointments? The Senators traded my hero to the Chicago White Sox at the beginning of the 1960 season. The second disappointment was when the Senators moved to Minnesota, leaving D.C with an expansion club. I quickly learned that baseball is a business, but saw Sievers again in a Senators uniform, when he played, infrequently, with the expansion Senators in 1964 and 1965. He finished his career with 318 home runs and 1,147 RBIs.

The baseball world was saddened this April 4, when at the age of 90, Sievers passed away in his home state of Missouri. He had a low-key personality and could relate to both presidents and kids.

Although Sievers never was voted an MVP or selected for the Hall of Fame, he was a MVP and a Hall of Famer in the minds of many D.C. area fans.

I have had other sports heroes since that first year, but none could match Roy Sievers. In my mind, with him, the 1957 and 1958 Senators were “the best team in baseball.”

TRIVIA ANSWER: **Brooks Robinson** and **Frank Robinson**.

Brooks: American League MVP1964
All-Star game MVP1966
World Series MVP1970

Note: These were hardly the only honors they won in their Hall of Fame careers, but no one else can claim this historic baseball “Hat Trick”.

Frank: National League MVP1961
American League MVP1966
All-Star game MVP1971
World Series MVP1966