

# THE BALTIMORE CHOP

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BABE RUTH CHAPTER OF BALTIMORE



SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN BASEBALL RESEARCH



Vol. 5, No. 4

Winter 2021-22

## The Lineup

SABR Spotlight .....	2
Calendar .....	2
Chapter officers .....	2
Trivia .....	2
3 games-2 cities-1 day ...	3
Members recognized ...	3
Tommy Davis, O's DH ...	4
Finding James Deery.....	5
New members .....	5
'54-55 Browns/Birds ...	6
Trivia answer .....	6
Voice of Camden Yards ..	7
The last time .....	7
Rookie of the Year .....	8

## BBRC Elections

The SABR Baltimore/Base Ruth Chapter election results are in! With 100 percent of the precincts reporting, we are proud to introduce Peter Coolbaugh as our new president, who begins a two-year term. Outgoing President Bruce Brown announced in January that he was stepping down from the leadership position he has held since 2015, when the Chapter was formed. We thank Bruce for his many years of service to the Chapter, and welcome him as our newly elected treasurer, taking over for Dick O'Keefe, who decided not to seek reelection. We thank him for his service as well.

At-large Board Member John Burbridge won reelection, and Baltimore Chop Editor Ruth Sadler won election to the at-large board member position vacated by David B. Stinson, who was appointed by the Board to fill the vice-president position vacated by Peter. Voting for the at-large board member positions was not uncontested this year, and chapter member Thomas Bell graciously ran as well, but came in third

**Elections** ▶ Page 2

## Presidents' Messages

### *The S is for 'Society'*

In many writings and personal conversations, it is heard that we should focus on the third letter of SABR's acronym, the R for research. Obviously, without it we have no purpose, no reason to exist. Fortunately, research in SABR is as strong today as it has ever been. The best research is often done alone and often enough working on projects in less-than-optimal surroundings in situations that will strain the eyes and back.

My emphasis differs slightly. I love SABR the most because of the S. We are a society. We exist to share our findings with one another. We are not merely an institution or a generic organization. We have bonded ourselves together in a unique manner in a way that is not replicated anywhere else. I hesitated for many years to join SABR until I attended a meeting where Bob Davids jump-started the proceedings with a couple of corny trivia questions. Look at all these smart, dedicated baseball lovers gather in the same place! I was hooked!

I went home and paid the dues for my first year immediately after the meeting. I wanted to make sure I got the details for

### *The Torch has Passed*

At the moment I write this we are still waiting on when we will have an Opening Day. The labor dispute is upsetting to many fans as our beloved game is paused for who knows how long.

Here at the Baltimore/Babe Ruth Chapter, changes are a-plenty. We have a new slate of officers in 2022 and we look forward to begin hosting in-person events again as well as welcoming SABRites from around the world to SABR 50 this summer.

None of the what our chapter has accomplished would have ever had happened if it were not for our President Emeritus D. Bruce Brown. Bernard McKenna and David Stinson can be credited as the impetus behind the chapter's getting started, but Bruce is the reason it really took off.

As the president of the Bob Davids Chapter (SABR's oldest and then-largest chapter) from 2006 to 2015, Bruce made the transition to be the inaugural BBRC leader. He assembled a team of knowledgeable and very capable people as his board and set out with a mission to make our chapter a force to be

**Outgoing** ▶ Page 3

**Incoming** ▶ Page 4



**SABR 50**  
August 17-21

Registration for SABR 50 is open, as is registration for the Hyatt hotel block: [sabr.org/convention](http://sabr.org/convention).

The lineup of speakers will be growing, but here are the first confirmed ones:

Keynote address: Tim Kurkjian, BBRC member and winner of the BBWAA's 2022 Career Excellence Award  
Opening remarks: Sig Mejdal, Orioles vice president and assistant general manager, analytics

Oriole Park at Camden Yards panel: Bill Stetka (BBRC member and Orioles team historian), Greg Bader (Orioles senior vice president, administration & experience), and Joe Spear (founder of Populous)

Women in Leadership panel: Orioles executives Eve Rosenbaum (BBRC member and director, baseball development), Nicole Sherry (director, field operations), Jennifer Grondahl (BBRC member and senior vice president, community development & communications), and Lisa Tolson (senior vice president, human resources)

# SABR Baltimore Babe Ruth Chapter Formed 2015

## Board of Directors

**President** - Peter Coolbaugh (term expires SABR Day 2024)  
[peterc@baberuthmuseum.org](mailto:peterc@baberuthmuseum.org)

**Vice President** - David Stinson (term expires SABR Day 2023)

[dylcarcal@aol.com](mailto:dylcarcal@aol.com)

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

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

443-742-4494

**Secretary** - Leslie Hoffmeister (term expires SABR Day 2023)

[leslie.hoffmeister@gmail.com](mailto:leslie.hoffmeister@gmail.com)

443-421-1413

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

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

Michael Gibbons (term expires SABR Day 2023)

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

Ruth Sadler (term expires SABR Day 2024)

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

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

## Calendar

### Regularly scheduled events

All are Zoom meetings until further notice (registration links are sent by the chapters)

#### Peeps @ The Peeb

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

#### Talkin' Baseball

Since 2001, Bob Davids Chapter hosts a guest speaker

First Saturday of the month, 9 A.M.

#### Called Shot Lunch

BYO lunch and talk baseball

Third Wednesday of the month, noon

#### Baltimore Baseball Babble

Free-for-all baseball chat, not recorded

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

#### March

**16:** Called Shot Lunch, an executive from the Babe Ruth Birthplace will discuss the newest exhibit at the BRM on Babe's rookie card

**27:** Baltimore Baseball Babble (Inning two)

#### April

**6:** Peeps @ The Peeb, Tony Dahbura will present "Baseball Analytical Research at the Johns Hopkins University"

**9:** "Baseball: America's Home Run" opens, National Postal Museum, 2 Massachusetts Ave., N.E., Washington DC (runs through January 5, 2025)

**20:** Called Shot Lunch

**24:** Baltimore Baseball Babble (Inning three)

#### August

**17-21:** SABR 50, Hyatt Regency Inner Harbor

## Elections ► From Page 1

in voting. Positions not up for election this year were secretary, currently held by Leslie Hoffmeister, and the third at-large board member position, currently held by Michael Gibbons.

Congratulations to all who were elected, and thanks to all who ran. Thank you also to our officers and board members for their continued dedication and hard work in support of our Chapter.

## Getting to Know ... Janet Marie Smith

While Baltimore baseball fans associate Janet Marie Smith with Oriole Park at Camden Yards and the ballpark (r)evolution it began, but her baseball resume, personal and professional, ranges far and wide. While she hails from Jackson, Mississippi and is the Dodgers' executive vice president for planning and development, Baltimore is her home. (And the porch of that home has prototype seats for Camden Yards and Turner Field.)

She joined SABR in 1990, but says, "SABR has been on my radar and a resource and inspiration since 1988."

Her first ballpark experience was in the Astrodome, she thinks in 1968. "I remember the razzle-dazzle of the scoreboard and popcorn served in a cone that doubled as a megaphone when empty. The scoreboard would flash 'CHARGE' and fans would yell 'charge.' Why you would yell 'charge' at a baseball game, I did not understand, but I do remember that!"

Favorite teams? 1988 Dodgers, 1989 Orioles, Braves in the 1990s, 2004 Red Sox, 2020 Dodgers.

As for a favorite player, "I'm going to go with players from the days when I was pure fan, no work affiliations then," she says. "Dale Murphy of the Braves and Fernando Valenzuela of the Dodgers—a joy to watch them both."

Now for the question in her wheelhouse: favorite ballpark. "I'd say Camden Yards, Fenway Park, and Dodger Stadium, but that seems too obvious! So, let's go with Rickwood Field, Birmingham, Alabama."

Her favorite baseball memories are all over the map, in time and geography but focused on three teams: the Dodgers (Orel Hershiser's 59 consecutive scoreless innings pitched in 1988 and Fernandomania in L.A. in the mid-1980s), the Orioles (Bo Jackson running UP the outfield wall at Memorial Stadium and Cal Ripken's spontaneous victory lap at Camden Yards in 1995 after 2,131 consecutive games) and the Red Sox in 2004, when they won four straight over the Yankees to go to the World Series. Plus one we can all appreciate: "Attending Dodgers World Series 2020 in Texas after NOT being able to go to games during the 2020 season due to COVID-19."

In her spare time, "I love to go to ballparks, museums, street fairs, public parks to see how people are enjoying free time," she says.

And, finally, there are the mementoes: "I have paint chips from Camden Yards, Fenway Park, Dodger Stadium in my desk; I have keys to Dodger Stadium in my pocket; I have a lifetime pass to MLB ballparks in my wallet; I have a lifetime pass to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in my backpack; I have 4 World Series rings in a box."



(Los Angeles Dodgers)

## Trivia Corner

Which four players from the 1970 World Series Championship team became major-league managers? For extra credit, name the teams they managed. (Answer on Page 6)

Hint—Here are their career managerial records:

	Years	Teams	Wins	Losses
#1	9	2	627	689
#2	17	5	1,372	1,071
#3	11	2	979	746
#4	16	4	1,067	1,176

# Let's See Three! Five Fans' 2-City Odyssey in 2012

By D. Bruce Brown

Every year when Major League Baseball released the schedule for all teams for the coming season Dave Paulson immediately compared the home games of the Nationals and Orioles. A few times each year both teams had home games scheduled on the same days. Less frequent still were when, on the same day, one team's game was in the early afternoon and the other had an evening start. Finding this gem, Dave's next move was to call me to see if I would like to attend both games with him.

I had said yes to him a couple of times before when he noticed another opportunity, this time on Monday, September 24, 2012 for our specialized I-295 doubleheader. These days were always fun and we looked forward to this one. When the day arrived, the Orioles announced that on that very day, they would play a doubleheader with the Blue Jays, the added game being a makeup of a rainout earlier that summer! "Three games? Yes! Let's do it!"

The timing worked out that we could make all three! We asked if any others would like to join us for that rare day when three (!) major-league games could be attended in person on the same calendar day. We shared our intentions with members attending Talkin' Baseball, and three other members said they would like to join us.

Dave, Peter Cottrell, David Stinson, Eric Johnston and I arranged our schedule and had a great triple-game day.

At 1:06 P.M. we settled in to watch the Nationals host the Brewers. They were not gracious hosts that day, prevailing 12-2. I confess that with game well in hand, we decided to leave before the end to assure our arrival in Baltimore.

We made it to Camden Yards in good time and watched the Orioles split with the Jays, winning 4-1 in the game that started at 4:08 but losing 5-9 in the nightcap that got under way at 7:33.

We have asked many and have not spoken to anyone else who ever attended three major-league games in one day. Of course, none of this would have happened without Dave Paulson's ingenuity.



At Nats Park for a 12-2 victory over the Brewers...



... and at Camden Yards for a split with the Blue Jays.

## BBRC Members Recognized

### BBWAA Honors Kurkjian

BBRC member and ESPN analyst Tim Kurkjian has been honored by the Baseball Writers' Association of America with its highest award, the Career Excellence Award (formerly the J.G. Taylor Spink Award). Kurkjian's Maryland roots are deep—he's a graduate of Walter Johnson High School in Bethesda and the University of Maryland and was the Oriole beat writer for the *Baltimore Sun* from 1986 to 1989, when he joined *Sports Illustrated*. He worked for the *Washington Star* and *Baltimore News American* before joining the *Dallas Morning News* in 1981 to cover the Rangers.

### Manheim's Book a Book Fest Finalist

BBRC member Jerry Manheim's book, *This Never Happened: The Mystery Behind the Death of Christy Mathewson*, was named a Finalist in the Sports category in the 2021 American Book Fest Best Book competition. *This Never Happened* is the first volume of *The Cooperstown Trilogy*, an exploration through fiction of some of the hidden dynamics of professional baseball. The remaining two volumes, *The GameKeepers: Whitewash, Blackmail, and Baseball's Darkest Secrets* and *Doubleday Doubletake: One Ball, Three Strikes, One Man Out*, will be published in April 2022 by Summer Game Books. You can find the latest updates throughout the spring at his website, [jbermanheimbooks.com](http://jbermanheimbooks.com).

## An Orioles Rookie Oddity

Six Orioles have been selected as American League Rookie of the Year: Ron Hansen (1960), Curt Blefary (1965), Al Bum-bry (1973), Eddie Murray (1977), Cal Ripken Jr. (1982) and Gregg Olson (1989).

In 1960, the Orioles swept the voting, with Chuck Estrada and Jim Gentile sharing second place with one vote each. It's the only time it's happened, and it will never happen again.

From 1947 to 1979, voters selected one player. Since 1980, more players receive votes because there are first-, second-, and third-place votes.

## Outgoing ► From Page 1

the next such conclave to put on my calendar in ink. Some of my closest friends are ones I met through SABR and continue to do so. The COVID-19 virus pandemic has taken away this part of the SABR experience and focused us on research and reporting—not a bad thing in itself, but I miss the in-person gatherings and hope they resume as quickly as is reasonably possible. I hope to see you there!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "D. Bruce Brown".

# Tommy Davis Was 'A Magician With The Bat'

*Author's note: Several years ago, Tommy Davis appeared at a card show at the York Fairgrounds in York, Pennsylvania. I went to the card show hoping to get a 10-minute interview with him. Attendance was extremely sparse that day and no one was in line for Davis' autograph. As a result, I ended up talking to the former Oriole for more than one hour. Much of this article is based on that interview.*

## By Barry Sparks

Baltimore Orioles manager Earl Weaver called Tommy Davis "a magician with the bat."

In 1973, former Orioles third baseman and 10-time All-Star George Kell said, "Tommy is one of the game's few remaining pure natural hitters."

Kell admired Davis's ability to hit to all fields, torment both lefties and righties and adjust to situations.

Davis, a two-time National League batting champ, served as the Orioles' primary designated hitter from 1973-1975.

The Orioles obtained the veteran hitter in mid-August 1972 from the Chicago Cubs in exchange for Elrod Hendricks. It was one of the best deals the Orioles ever made.

Before the designated hitter was adopted for the 1973 season, the much-traveled Davis considered retiring. By the time he put on an Orioles uniform, he had played in Los Angeles, New York, Chicago (for both the White Sox and Cubs), Seattle, Houston, and Oakland.

"Playing DH was my cup of tea," he said. "It gave my career a shot in the arm. I loved playing the outfield, but I wasn't a Paul Blair. But I loved to hit more than anything. Getting four at-bats as the DH without playing the outfield was a great deal to me."

Davis studied pitchers, analyzed situations, and consistently made contact. He loved to hit with men on base and late in the game.

He prided himself on being an RBI man. "Like a lot of hitters, I concentrate better with men on base. Driving in runs is how you make money in the major leagues," he said.

As a DH for the Orioles from 1973-1975, he led the club in RBIs twice. In 1973, he batted .306 while driving in 89 runs.

The right-handed hitter recorded one of baseball's most productive seasons in 1962 when he tallied 153 RBIs for the Los Angeles Dodgers. He is the only player from 1950-1995 to reach the 150-RBI plateau. That year, he also led the league in hits (230) and batting average (.346).

He won the batting title again in 1963 with a .326 mark. It looked as if he were going to be one of baseball's greatest players. His career, however, was dealt a devastating blow in May 1965 when his spikes caught in the dirt while sliding into second base. He suffered a potentially career-ending compound fracture of his right ankle.

The 26-year-old missed most of the 1965 season, but returned to play 100 games and bat .313 in 1966. During the off-season, the Dodgers traded Davis to the New York Mets. He never forgave the organization for the decision.

As a designated hitter, Davis was comfortable retreating to the clubhouse in between at-bats. Sometimes, he would watch the opposing pitchers on the television monitors; or he might shave or make a phone call.

Once he was talking on the phone in the clubhouse when it was his turn at bat. Head groundskeeper Pat Santarone rushed into the clubhouse to get Davis's attention, telling him he was up. Davis told the person on the other end to hold the line. He went out and delivered a clutch RBI single, then returned to continue his conversation.

"I enjoyed playing in Baltimore. We had a good group of players and I felt like I contributed. We won the Eastern Division twice and finished second once in my three full seasons there," said Davis, who collected his 2,000th hit and 1,000th RBI with the club.

"Earl Weaver was a great manager. He had a reason for doing everything. I'll never forget, one time I went 6-for-9 over two games. I came to the clubhouse and noticed my name wasn't in the lineup.

"I went to Earl's office and said good naturedly, 'Six-for-nine, Skip, six-for-nine,'" recalled Davis, swinging an imaginary bat as he had when he walked into Weaver's office. "'Six-for-nine and I'm not in the lineup?'

"Weaver asked me, 'Who's pitching today?'

"'Luis Tiant,' I replied.

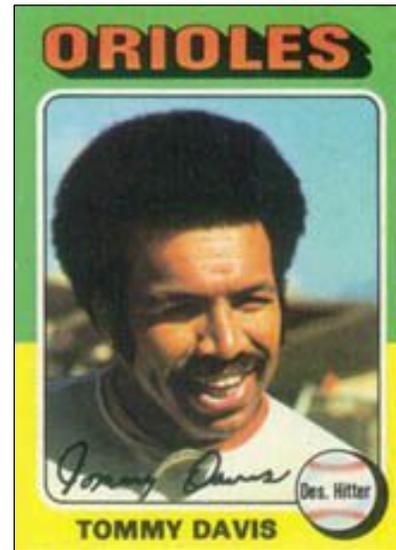
"Weaver then started shuffling through his box of index cards. A few seconds later, he pulled out a card and barked, '0-for-two seasons, Tommy, 0-for-two seasons.'

"He had me, and I couldn't help but laugh. Do you know who Weaver started that day? Tom Shopay. The guy was batting .125.

"What did he do against Tiant? Went 1-for-3," chuckled Davis.

The Orioles released Davis at the end of the 1975 season due to his age (almost 37), high salary, and decreased production. Although he batted .283 in 1975, he drove in just 57 runs.

He concluded his 18-year career in 1976, splitting the season between the California Angels and the Kansas City Royals. He finished with a .294 lifetime batting average.



## Incoming ► From Page 1

reckoned with.

By 2017, we were already on the map and there were whispers of our being a fast riser in the SABR hierarchy. This was confirmed at the San Diego convention in 2019, when it was formally announced that Baltimore would be hosting the convention in 2020. Our chapter was only 4 years old at that point.

COVID-19 took the wind out of everyone's sails for several years. But the BBRC can boast now that we are in the top five size-wise of chapters, we hold regular meetings, and, thanks to Zoom, we have made a name for ourselves with excellent speakers and monthly topics. We are also proud to have Janet Marie Smith and Tim Kurkjian along with several members of the Orioles front office on our roster. The Orioles are great supporters of our chapter for sure, and we have had support from day one from our friends at the Babe Ruth Birthplace & Museum.

I am a man who wears a size 17 sneaker (Under Armour preferred). But I am intimidated by the prospect of stepping into the legacy left by Bruce. He will still active, of course, as our treasurer and resident trivia whiz, and will always be around for our Chapter events.

I look forward to seeing all of you in person soon, hopefully by August at the latest. We expect possibly the largest crowd ever at a convention this summer, and both our chapter and the folks in Phoenix are doing everything we can to make it the best ever.

Until next time...

Peter

# James Deery and the 1953 Mattoon Phillies

By Pat Brown

Recently I read this passage by Earl Weaver in his book, *Winning*, about the park in Mattoon, Illinois, one of the places he played in his minor-league career:

"... the locker room was a Quonset hut that couldn't have been much bigger than twenty feet in diameter. I say diameter because it was round. And sloped towards the center. A wooden bench ran the circumference of the circle. From the bench to the shower was a short slide downhill to the center where overhead a single pipe poured a steady stream of cold water. Trying to get dressed was the real trick. If you managed to reach the bench scaling a cold, wet concrete floor, you had to hang onto a clothes nail with one hand while you dressed with the other. If you didn't hang on, you'd slide right back under the water pipe."

The reason this passage stood out was that Mattoon was the place where in 1953 my wife Karen began a 65+-year love of baseball during which I have had the pleasure of accompanying her to most major-league ballparks and scores of minor-league ballparks. It all started when, as a 10 year old, she would try to be good all day so that her father would take her with him to the wooden bleachers of the Mattoon Baseball Park to watch the games of her hometown Class D Mattoon Phillies. To this day she has vivid memories of the smell of cigar smoke as she sat in the box seats behind home plate, her father explaining the game to her and introducing her to terms like "grasscutter". No doubt because of this seat location, Alex Sirota, the 23-year-old catcher who hit .255 with seven homers in 117 games, was one of her favorite players along with 19-year-old star right-handed pitcher Dennis "Pete" Hamilton. Since these experiences have stayed with her through the decades, I thought I would learn more about this team of her youth.

Some information was readily available. 1953 was the first year for Mattoon to be affiliated with the Phillies; the previous season the team was the Mattoon Indians, affiliated with the Cincinnati Reds. I quickly learned, however, that finding out information about a low-level minor-league team or a player on that team from 70 years ago is not easy, as there does appear to be a dearth of even basic research. For example, the team page on BaseballReference.com (BR) does not have a manager listed. An examination of the listing of the players' ages shows that they all fall between 18 and 23, except for that of James Deery, who played in 119 of the 120 games and whose age is listed as 31 (date of birth: November 3, 1921). In fact, the *Mattoon Journal Gazette* in April 1953 listed James Deery as the player-manager of the Phillies (his first managerial assignment), although it should be noted that in the same paragraph Deery's age at that time is listed as 27.

In looking at Deery's record on BR, he played 10 years and 1,000+ games in the minors and was a player-manager his last five years, serving in that role in both the Phillies and Milwaukee Braves organizations. He played for the Terre Haute Phillies in 1950 and 1951 (leading the Three-I (Illinois-Indiana-Iowa) League in runs with 103 despite a .222 batting average (106 hits) and a .295 slugging percentage. When he brought his Mattoon team back to play Terre Haute in an exhibition game in 1953, the *Terre Haute Tribune* called him "one of the most popular players ever to wear a Terre Haute uniform." With all this information about him, it seemed very strange to me that on Deery's player page on BR it has "Throws: Unknown".

Deery was a second baseman, so it stands to reason that he threw right-handed. The question was whether there was some way to prove it. As it turns out, there is. In 1952, Deery, although an infielder, reported early with the pitchers and catchers to the spring training camp of the Baltimore Orioles, the Class AAA affiliate of the Phillies, in Hollywood,



"Throws: Unknown"

\$1,350 from the club that season), perhaps another Baltimore connection is in the offing.

Florida. So it was that in the March 8, 1952, of the *Baltimore Evening Sun* there is a photo of him with the Orioles pitchers playing pepper, throwing right-handed.

I am continuing to research the 1953 Mattoon Phillies, and, while so far I have found both the ordinary (the team had a record of 64-56, which is the exact record that would have been predicted with 598 runs and 551 runs allowed) and the not-so-ordinary (the team's business manager was a 340-pound gentleman named Willis "Tiny" Chapman, who in December 1953 pleaded guilty to five counts of embezzlement after being charged with embezzling

## Welcome, New Members

Kailey Adams	Baltimore
Robert Anderson	Lovettsville, Virginia
Timothy Anderson	Towson
Thomas Bell	Baltimore
Steve Cheskin	Silver Spring
Vivian Clark	Columbia
Joseph Costa	Mount Airy
Bill Cranmer	Frederick
Anton Dahbura	Hagerstown
Liam Davis	Baltimore
Mark De Luca	Denton
Aidan Donnan	Cabin John
Adam Esselman	Baltimore
Jennifer Grondahl	Baltimore
Jackie Harig	Baltimore
Justin Klugh	Baltimore
Katie Krause	Baltimore
Ted Lewis	Bethesda
Sean McKillop	Frederick
John Miller	Pittsburgh
Barry Neeb	Berlin
Greg Pipitone	Baltimore
Randy Reisinger	Dagsboro, Delaware
Chris Riehl	Columbia
Eve Rosenbaum	Bethesda
Tessa Sayers	Baltimore
Earl Schurman	Lutherville Timonium
Mark Simons	College Park
Albert Smith	Gaithersburg
Noah Smock	Baltimore
Michael Stefanek	Ridgeland, Mississippi
Bruce Zimmerman	Hagerstown

# 1953 to '54: Browns or Birds---But Not Both

By Francis Kinlaw

The 1954 Orioles are notable in Baltimore's baseball history because they were the city's first major-league team in the modern era, not because they excelled on baseball diamonds. Having found its way to the Chesapeake Bay after a season filled with futility as the St. Louis Browns, the team hoping for a fresh start could only match the very unimpressive record (54 victories and 100 losses) of the 1953 Browns. The Orioles of '54 did finish in seventh place in the American League (57 games behind the pennant-winning Cleveland Indians!) after the 1953 Browns had fallen into the league's cellar, but that meager achievement can hardly be considered a bright spot in the annals of the franchise.

In reviewing the transition of the club from St. Louis to Baltimore, it is interesting to observe the degree to which the rosters of the two teams changed over the winter of 1953-1954 and to note which players played for both the Browns in 1953 and the Orioles in 1954. It is equally as interesting to consider which players were members of one team and not the other, and to consider—nearly 70 years later—whether a different approach regarding personnel management would have produced better results for a floundering organization.

Only four of the eight regular "position" players (i.e., pitchers excluded) on the 1953 Browns appeared in uniform for the '54 Orioles: catcher Clint Courtney, first baseman Dick Kryhoski, second sacker Bobby Young, and shortstop Billy Hunter. Catcher Les Moss, infielder Vern Stephens, and outfielder Don Lenhardt were the only utility players to move from St. Louis to Baltimore, although Lenhardt (after leading the Browns with a batting average of .317 in 1953) was sold to the Boston Red Sox on May 12, 1954 after getting off to a slow start in Baltimore.

The transaction involving Lenhardt was one of several consummated by general manager Arthur Ehlers early in the 1954 season. The player movements began on April 17, 1954 when infielder Jim Dyck was traded to the Cleveland Indians for Bob Kennedy. Then, on the day before Lenhardt was sent on his way, former Browns outfielder Dick Kokos (13 home runs and 38 RBIs in 1953) was traded by the Orioles to the New York Yankees for infielder Jim Brideweser. (Both Kennedy and Brideweser saw reasonable amounts of action for the '54 Orioles: Kennedy hit six homers and batted .251 in 106 games, while Brideweser hit .265 in 73 contests.) Dick Littlefield, a left-handed pitcher with seven wins and 12 losses and a 5.08 ERA in 1953, was shipped to the Pittsburgh Pirates on May 25, 1954 for outfielder Cal Abrams, who would tag six homers and drive across 25 runs in 1954. Finally, Vic Wertz—who had hit 19 home runs and driven in 70 runs for the Browns in 1953—would exit the Orioles' clubhouse on June 1, 1954, when he was traded to the first-place Cleveland Indians for pitcher Bob Chakales.

Several pitchers (Don Larsen, Duane Pillette, Marlin Stuart, Lou Kretlow, and Mike Blyzka) who were on the roster of the last Browns team made the trip east to Baltimore. Bob Turley, the Orioles' most promising hurler, who had pitched only 60 innings for the '53 Browns due to military service, returned in 1954 to pitch 247 innings, win 14 games, and register an ERA of 3.46 for his transplanted team.

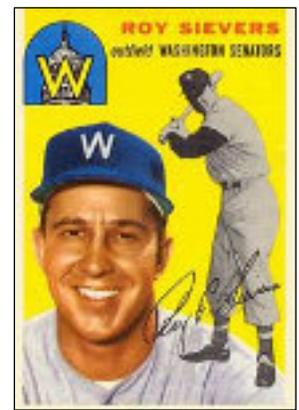
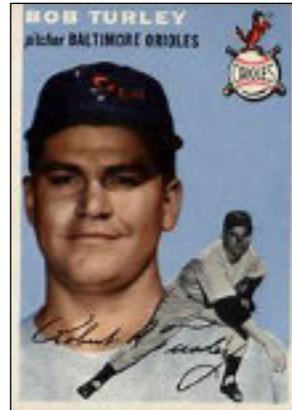
Harry Brecheen, on the other hand, who had posted an unremarkable 5-13 record but a respectable earned run average of 3.07 for the 1953 Browns while also serving as one of the team's coaches, called it quits as a pitcher during the winter of 1953-1954 and became a full-time coach for the '54 Birds.

Satchel Paige, Bob Cain, Bobo Holloman, and Max Lanier (each of whom had toiled for the '53 Browns) never toed the pitching rubber in Memorial Stadium, and outfielder Johnny Groth—a regular fly chaser in St. Louis—was obtained by the Chicago White Sox on February 5, 1954 in a trade that

brought outfielder Sam Mele to Baltimore for a brief time. Mele hit five homers and drove in 32 runs in 72 games before being claimed on waivers by the Boston Red Sox on July 29, 1954.

Without question, the worst decision by the Orioles' front office during 1953-1954 transition occurred on February 18, 1954 when first baseman/outfielder Roy Sievers was traded to the Washington Senators for outfielder Gil Coan. As Coan proceeded to hit two home runs and drive in 20 runs while playing regularly in the Baltimore's 1954 outfield, Sievers became one of major-league baseball's best sluggers while wearing the flannels of the Washington club.

The conversion of Brecheen from active player to coach was only one development in a complete turnover of the



group of men charged with making strategic decisions during games. Marty Marion was replaced as the club's manager by Jimmy Dykes, and the members of Marion's 1953 coaching staff (Jimmie Crandall, Bill Norman, and Bob Scheffing) were replaced by the trio of Brecheen, Tom Oliver, and Frank Skaff.

Due to the Browns' historically poor performance and non-productive player transactions, the initial Orioles roster included several other names that had been absent from that of the 1953 Browns. The most significant position players in that category were regular first baseman Eddie Waitkus (two homers, 33 RBIs, .283 batting average), as well as outfielders Chuck Diering (two homers, 29 RBIs, .258 batting average) and Jim Fridley (four homers, 36 RBIs, .246 batting average). Reserve catcher Ray Murray saw occasional action for the 1954 Birds, although his offensive contributions were minimal.

Pitchers appearing for the Browns/Orioles franchise for the first time in 1954 included Joe Coleman (13 wins and 17 losses, with an ERA of 3.50), Howie Fox (1-2, 3.67), and Billy O'Dell (1-1, 2.76).

Few statistics that have been cited inspired expectations of significant productivity from individual players, so it is not surprising that the Orioles of 1954 performed no better than their predecessors in St. Louis. The talent level of the club was not improved by the personnel decisions of Baltimore's brain trust, and the numerous roster moves generated newspaper headlines but accomplished little else. And, as numerous players passed in and out of the "new" organization, the one decision that *would* have likely improved the fortunes of the club—keeping Roy Sievers under contract—was unfortunately not made.

## Trivia Answer

1. Don Baylor      Rockies, Cubs
2. Davey Johnson      Mets, Reds, Orioles, Nationals, Dodgers
3. Johnny Oates      Orioles, Rangers
4. Frank Robinson      Indians, Giants, Orioles, Nationals

# The Voice of Camden Yards, Adrienne Roberson

By Peter Coolbaugh

She is like Batman—a normal person by day, working in the administrative offices of a Catholic high school in Anne Arundel County. But at night her persona is amplified, making a difference in the lives of many. Meet Adrienne Roberson, the public address announcer at Oriole Park on a full-time basis since April 2021.

The Philadelphia native was a sports fan from day one, which only grew stronger when she attended the University of Tennessee Knoxville. During her last two years in Tennessee, she worked for the Knoxville Smokies, then the Class AA affiliate of the Blue Jays. At first, she sold beverages but when asked to fill in as the PA announcer on an emergency basis, a niche was created overnight. The following season she did the job for the entire season.

After graduation, Roberson moved to California for a few years and then later back to her native Pennsylvania. She started a family and worked in several roles at local radio stations as a traffic reporter, assistant music director and on-air personality. But sports was always her thing.

She relocated to Maryland in 2004, and landed a part-time job with the Bowie Baysox. For the first season, she was a camera operator who filled in on the PA a few times. By 2005, she had become “the voice” of Prince George’s Stadium and remained in the role through 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic wiped out the 2020 season for the minor leagues.

When Dave McGowan stepped aside in Baltimore after the 2011 season, the Orioles held auditions for the PA job. Roberson finished in the top five, and was fortunate enough to fill in from time to time at Camden Yards since 2012. Mother’s Day was one of the annual dates she usually covered.

When the Orioles decided to change PA announcers beginning with Opening Day 2021, Roberson got the chair on an interim basis. But it was not long before she was named the permanent public address announcer in April 2021, becoming the first woman to hold the job full-time in Baltimore history. And she sits in elite company as one of only four females to hold the role in MLB. The others are in San Francisco, Oakland, and with the New York Mets.

Despite having her “dream job”, she does not slow down. For several years, she worked for Sirius XM behind the scenes in Washington, and is a professional audio-book reader. But Hoyas fans and alumni will recognize her voice



as the on-campus announcer for several sports at Georgetown, including lacrosse, softball, volleyball, and women’s basketball.

She also has not forgotten her loyal Baysox fans, and happily fills in at Bowie when the need arises.

The Phillies fan has put aside her childhood loyalties and embraced the Orioles organization as more than just a job. To her, they are family and a franchise she has come to adore.

Recently in a phone conversation, she told me that she would like to remain the voice at Oriole Park for the “next 15 to 20 years, if they will have me.”

Folks, we may have found our next Rex Barney. And with the celebration this season honoring the 30th anniversary of Oriole Park at Camden Yards, we can all hope we continue to hear her angelic voice for many, many seasons to come.

## The Last Time the Orioles:



Won the World Series	1983
Won the AL pennant	1983
Won the AL East	2014
Were in the playoffs	2016
Won 100 games	1980
Lost 100 games	2021
Were no-hit	2015 (Mariners’ Hisashi Iwakuma)

## The Last Time an Oriole:

Pitched a no-hitter	2021 (John Means)
Was AL Rookie of the Year	1989 (Gregg Olson)
Was AL MVP	1991 (Cal Ripken, Jr.)
Was AL Cy Young winner	1980 (Steve Stone)
Was AL Manager of the Year	2014 (Buck Showalter)
Was AL batting champ	1966 (Frank Robinson)
Was AL HR champ	2016 (Mark Trumbo)
Was AL RBI champ	2013 (Chris Davis)

## The Last Time the Nationals:



Won the World Series	2019
Won the NL pennant	2019
Won the NL East	2017
Were in the playoffs	2019
Won 100 games	—
Lost 100 games	2009
Were no-hit	1999 (as Expos; Yankees’ David Cone perfect game)

## The Last Time a National:

Pitched a no-hitter	2015 (Max Scherzer)
Was NL Rookie of the Year	2012 (Bryce Harper)
Was NL MVP	2015 (Bryce Harper)
Was NL Cy Young winner	2016 (Max Scherzer)
Was NL Manager of the Year	2014 (Matt Williams)
Was NL batting champ	2021 (Juan Soto)
Was NL HR champ	2014 (Bryce Harper)
Was NL RBI champ	2019 (Anthony Rendon)

# Rookie of the Year and Hall of Famer: A Tough Double Play

Last fall, the Orioles thought first baseman Ryan Mountcastle deserved more consideration for Rookie of the Year. In 144 games, he hit a team-rookie-record 33 homers, had 89 RBIs, batted .255 and struck out 161 times in 534 at-bats. He finished a distant sixth to Rays outfielder Randy Arozarena (.274, 20 HR, 69 RBIs, 170 strikeouts in 529 at-bats).

Investors are warned that past performance is no guarantee of future results. Is this also true for Rookies of the Year?

The Rookie of the Year has been awarded since 1947, and just 17 winners are in the Hall of the Fame. Four are Orioles: Eddie Murray and Cal Ripken Jr., as rookies, and Luis Aparicio and Frank Robinson, O's later in their careers.

	Rookie	Hall of Fame	Hall Vote
Jackie Robinson	1947	1962	1st ballot
Willie Mays	1951	1979	1st ballot
Luis Aparicio	1956	1984	6th ballot
Frank Robinson	1956	1982	1st ballot
Orlando Cepeda	1958	1999	Veterans Com.
Willie McCovey	1959	1986	1st ballot
Billy Williams	1961	1987	6th ballot
Rod Carew	1967	1991	1st ballot
Tom Seaver	1967	1992	1st ballot
Johnny Bench	1968	1989	1st ballot
Carlton Fisk	1972	2000	2nd ballot
Andre Dawson	1977	2010	9th ballot
Eddie Murray	1977	2003	1st ballot
Cal Ripken Jr.	1982	2007	1st ballot
Jeff Bagwell	1991	2017	7th ballot
Mike Piazza	1993	2016	4th ballot
Derek Jeter	1996	2020	1st ballot

Although some had careers curtailed by injury or death (Herb Score, Ken Hubbs, Thurman Munson, Mark Fidrych, Joe Charboneau, Pat Listach, Bob Hamelin), most Rookies of the Year had careers of 10+ years. The chart below shows Hall of Famers who weren't Rookies of the Year.

—Ruth Sadler

Hall of Famer	Rookie	Votes?	Rookie winner
Yogi Berra	1947	No	Jackie Robinson
Gil Hodges	1947	No	Jackie Robinson
Duke Snider	1947	No	Jackie Robinson
Richie Ashburn	1948	Yes	Al Dark
Roy Campanella	1948	No	Al Dark
Larry Doby	1948	No	Al Dark
Satchel Paige	1948	No	Al Dark
Robin Roberts	1948	No	Al Dark
Nellie Fox	1949	No	Roy Sievers (AL)
Whitey Ford	1950	Yes	Walt Dropo (AL)
Mickey Mantle	1951	No	Gil McDougald (AL)
Minnie Minoso	1951	Yes	Gil McDougald (AL)
Eddie Mathews	1952	Yes	Joe Black (NL)
Hoyt Wilhelm	1952	Yes	Joe Black (NL)
Al Kaline	1954	Yes	Bob Grim (AL)
Ernie Banks	1954	Yes	Wally Moon (NL)
Henry Aaron	1954	Yes	Wally Moon (NL)
Jim Bunning	1955	No	Herb Score (AL)
Harmon Killebrew	1955	No	Herb Score (AL)
Roberto Clemente	1955	No	Bill Virdon (NL)
Don Drysdale	1956	No	Frank Robinson (NL)
Sandy Koufax	1956	No	Frank Robinson (NL)
Bill Mazerowski	1956	No	Frank Robinson (NL)
Brooks Robinson	1957	No	Tony Kubek (AL)
Bob Gibson	1959	No	Willie McCovey (NL)
Jim Kaat	1960	No	Ron Hansen (AL)

Juan Marichal	1960	No	Frank Howard (NL)
Ron Santo	1960	No	Frank Howard (NL)
Carl Yaztrzemski	1961	No	Don Schwall (AL)
Lou Brock	1962	No	Ken Hubbs (NL)
Gaylord Perry	1963	No	Pete Rose (NL)
Willie Stargell	1963	No	Pete Rose (NL)
Catfish Hunter	1965	No	Curt Blefary (AL)
Phil Niekro	1965	No	Curt Blefary (AL)
Jim Palmer	1965	No	Curt Blefary (AL)
Joe Morgan	1965	Yes	Jim Lefebvre (NL)
Tony Perez	1965	No	Jim Lefebvre (NL)
Steve Carlton	1966	No	Tommy Helms (NL)
Fergie Jenkins	1966	No	Tommy Helms (NL)
Don Sutton	1966	No	Tommy Helms (NL)
Reggie Jackson	1967	No	Rod Carew (AL)
Nolan Ryan	1968	No	Johnny Bench (NL)
Rollie Fingers	1969	No	Lou Piniella (AL)
Bert Blyleven	1970	No	Thurman Munson (AL)
Ted Simmons	1970	No	Carl Morton (NL)
Rich Gossage	1972	No	Carlton Fisk (AL)
Mike Schmidt	1973	No	Gary Matthews (NL)
Dave Winfield	1973	No	Gary Mathews (NL)
George Brett	1974	Yes	Mike Hargrove (AL)
Robin Yount	1974	No	Mike Hargrove (AL)
Dennis Eckersley	1975	No	Fred Lynn (AL)
Jim Rice	1975	Yes	Fred Lynn (AL)
Gary Carter	1975	Yes	John Montefusco (NL)
Bruce Sutter	1976	No	Butch Metzger Pat Zachry (NL)
Paul Molitor	1978	Yes	Lou Whitaker (AL)
Jack Morris	1978	No	Lou Whitaker (AL)
Alan Trammell	1978	Yes	Lou Whitaker (AL)
Ozzie Smith	1978	Yes	Bob Horner (NL)
Rickey Henderson	1979	No	John Castino Alfredo Griffin (AL)
Harold Baines	1980	No	Joe Charboneau (AL)
Tim Lincecum	1981	No	Fernando Valenzuela (NL)
Lee Smith	1981	No	Fernando Valenzuela (NL)
Wade Boggs	1982	Yes	Cal Ripken Jr. (AL)
Tony Gwynn	1982	No	Steve Sax (NL)
Ryne Sandberg	1982	Yes	Steve Sax (NL)
Kirby Puckett	1984	Yes	Alvin Davis (AL)
Barry Larkin	1986	Yes	Todd Worrell (NL)
Tom Glavine	1987	No	Benito Santiago (NL)
Greg Maddux	1987	No	Benito Santiago (NL)
Roberto Alomar	1988	Yes	Chris Sabo (NL)
Craig Biggio	1988	No	Chris Sabo (NL)
John Smoltz	1988	No	Chris Sabo (NL)
Ken Griffey Jr.	1989	Yes	Gregg Olson (AL)
Randy Johnson	1989	No	Gregg Olson (AL)
Edgar Martinez	1989	No	Gregg Olson (AL)
Frank Thomas	1990	No	Sandy Alomar (AL)
Larry Walker	1990	Yes	David Justice (NL)
Mike Mussina	1991	No	Chuck Knobloch (AL)
Ivan Rodriguez	1991	Yes	Chuck Knobloch (AL)
Jim Thome	1992	No	Pat Listach (AL)
Trevor Hoffman	1993	No	Mike Piazza (NL)
Pedro Martinez	1993	Yes	Mike Piazza (NL)
Mariano Rivera	1995	No	Marty Cordova (AL)
Chipper Jones	1995	Yes	Hideo Nomo (NL)
Vladimir Guerrero	1997	Yes	Scott Rolen (NL)
Roy Halladay	1999	No	Carlos Beltran (AL)