

THE SQUIBBER

January 2020

The Squibber is the Bob Davids Chapter's newsletter. It is emailed to chapter members roughly every three months. If you're a Bob Davids chapter member and are not getting the *Squibber*, please check that your email address and chapter affiliations listed on the SABR site are correct. Please send submissions for future editions to Squibber editor Walt Cherniak at wcherniakjr@aol.com.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- ANNUAL MEETING ON FEB. 1: Speakers, Trivia, Vendors, Presentations and More, By Dave Raglin
- TALKIN' BASEBALL: Upcoming Speakers Announced, By Dave Paulson
- MYTHS OF BASEBALL: True or False? By Charles Pavitt
- BUCKY HARRIS PICKS THE SENATORS: How the Hall of Famer Wound Up in D.C., By Gary Sarnoff
- DEAN STONE'S WEIRD ALL-STAR VICTORY: A Win Without Retiring a Batter, By Andrew Sharp
- BROOKS ROBINSON'S DEBUT GAME: As Recalled by a Six-Year Old, By Paul Scimonelli
- CHAPTER MEMBER PUBLISHES DOC WHITE PIECE: Article Included in Historical Society Magazine

TRIVIA QUESTION: Frank Howard occupies the top four spots on the expansion Senators single-season home run list. He hit 48 homers in 1969, 44 each in 1968 and 1970, and 36 in 1967. Who's the next player on that list? **(See answer below)**

ANNUAL MEETING ON FEB. 1: Speakers, Trivia, Vendors, Presentations and More, By Dave Raglin

Mark your calendars for Saturday, Feb. 1, the date of the ninth annual meeting of the Bob Davids Chapter, the first, and still most active chapter of the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR).

The meeting will run from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and is open to members, non-members and guests.

As it has since 2010, this year's meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Rosslyn at Key Bridge, 1900 North Fort Myer Drive, Arlington, VA 22209-1602, (703) 807-2000. The hotel is located within walking distance of the Rosslyn Metro station on the Orange, Blue and Silver lines.

Parking is \$5 in the hotel's parking deck (a discount from the hotel's regular rate).

The cost is \$40 for SABR members and guests; \$20 for ages 15 and under. There will be a lunch buffet with chicken parmigiana, vegetarian lasagna, tomato-basil mozzarella salad, antipasto salad, garlic bread, assorted desserts, coffee, water and iced tea, and morning and afternoon coffee service.

You need to register by Jan. 28, 2020 so we can give a count to the hotel. Admission thereafter, including at the door, is \$45. After the deadline, please do not mail registration forms and checks; instead, notify Dave Paulson at d2244p@yahoo.com of your intent to attend.

Attendees can pay via PayPal or check. See details below.

This year's highlights will include:

- Jesse Dougherty (invited), Nationals beat writer for the Washington Post
- Matt Van Hoose, organist, Washington Nationals
- Chris Segal, Major League umpire
- Mark Pankin, who will present his talk on "Batting Out of Turn (BOOT): The Most Confounding Rule" which won the 2019 Doug Pappas Award for the best oral research presentation at the 2019 SABR Convention in San Diego.
- Greg Larson, a former clubhouse attendant for the Aberdeen Ironbirds who has written a manuscript called "Clubbie" on the economics of minor league ball playing.
- Several research presentations from chapter members

The meeting also will feature:

- Vendors of baseball books and related material—If you are interested in having a table (for free), contact Barry Sparks at barrysparks243@aol.com.
- Camaraderie: You can mingle with SABR friends and make new ones. There will be lots of time to socialize and talk baseball.
- Trivia: See how you do. Actually, if you love baseball enough to come to the meeting, you will do fine!
- Raffle: Go home with baseball books and paraphernalia. Tickets are still only \$1 each or 10 tickets for \$5. Bring items to donate. Proceeds help the chapter stay in the black.
- Elections: We have openings this year that we need to fill, so this is your chance! These are the offices that are up for reelection: President, currently held by Dave Raglin, who is not running for reelection; current Chapter Vice President Pete Cottrell is running for President; Secretary, currently held by Mark Pattison, who is running for reelection; At-Large No. 1, currently held by Ed Veit, who is not running for reelection; Dave Raglin is running for that seat; and At-Large No. 2, currently vacant. If you are interested in running for one of those positions or know of a good candidate for those positions, contact David Raglin at darags@ymail.com or (703) 835-1198.

How to Sign Up

There are two ways to pay

1. Send the registration fee to (\$40 for adults, \$40 for students) via PayPal to sabrdavids@aol.com. If you are registering for other people, please provide us the names in the "Notes" section.
2. Complete the form below and send it and a check to us.

Registration Form

Send this form, with a check for your payment, to SABR c/o: Dave Paulson, 5400 Vantage Point Rd. #801, Columbia, MD 21044

of adult tickets _____ \$40 X = \$ _____

of student tickets _____ X \$20 = \$ _____

Total Cost \$ _____

NOTE: We need your e-mail address to put you on the meeting mailing list for updates.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address _____

Phone(s): _____

Names of other people included on this registration:

Additional questions? Contact David Raglin at darags@ymail.com or (703) 835-1198.

TALKIN' BASEBALL: Upcoming Speakers Announced, By Dave Paulson

Here is the speaker schedule for the upcoming meetings of the "Talkin' Baseball" group:

- March 7 -- Don Jensen, "*Buy Me Some Peanuts.*"
- July 11 -- Maxwell Kates: "*Time for Expansion Baseball.*"
- Dec. 7 -- Cameron Penwell: Baseball in Japan

The Talkin' Baseball group meets on the first Saturday of each month at 9 a.m. Meetings are normally held at Brighton Gardens, 7110 Minstrel Way, Columbia, Md.

Come and bring a friend!

MYTHS OF BASEBALL: True or False?, By Charles Pavitt

This is the sixth in a series of Squibber contributions intended to report the truth (as far as present data suggests) of the tidbits of "conventional wisdom" that TV analysts and comparable pundits make without any true knowledge about their validity.

Myth #16 – There is a Home Run Derby curse

The supposed "Home Run Derby curse" is a good example of regression to the mean, the tendency for unusually good or bad performance to eventually revert to normal.

Players are chosen for this All-Star-Game-related event due to their home runs during the previous three months of the season, and it is not unusual that quite a few contestants have been productive well beyond their performance in previous seasons.

Consistently with the curse, Joseph McCollum and Marcus Jaiclin (2010) noted that contestants had significantly lower HR/AB and OPS after participating than before, and that no analogous differences occurred for the same players in seasons when they did not participate.

However, they also discovered that both the first and second half performance of contestants were on average about equally superior to their normal performance. The point is that contestants tend to be chosen after unusually good starts while enjoying their best seasons. O'Leary (2013) examined relevant 1999-2013 data and basically replicated this result, but also noted that this decrease only occurred for Derby losers and not winners.

Myth #17 – Hitting is contagious, such that when one hitter is going well, others on the same team will be also.

Work by both Bill James in the 1985 *Baseball Abstract* and David Kaplan (2006) revealed that batters surrounded by other good batters tend to accumulate higher numbers of counting indices, including hits, walks, total bases, runs scored, runs batted in, and runs created. However, all this means is that a batter on a better hitting team will, because the team is getting on base more, get up to the plate more and so have more opportunities to pile up big numbers.

In Kaplan's study, there was no evidence of any contagion effect for indices measuring averages, including on-base and slugging averages, isolated power, and on base plus slugging, which is the real test for this truism. The bottom line – what little evidence we have suggests that this myth is false.

Myth #18 – Players perform better the year before free agency and then shirk after signing long term contracts.

What is interesting about this myth is that some social psychologists would propose the opposite; the year before, players would be feel undercompensated and take out their unhappiness by performing worse, then revert to their normal level with a happy new contract.

Research in this area is voluminous, and much of it fundamentally flawed, because most free agency occurs after career peaks and too many researchers have not corrected for the resulting downward performance tendencies.

The best research has both made such corrections and compared those facing free agency with those not. These appear to support the myth, but the impact seems tiny, with effects such as 1.2 runs a year (Phil Birnbaum, 2007), 3 OPS points (Krautmann and Solow, 2009), and .07 rWAR (Paulsen, 2019).

BUCKY HARRIS PICKS THE SENATORS: How the Hall of Famer Wound Up in D.C., By Gary Sarnoff

In our last edition of *The Squibber*, we read why Clark Griffith's frustrating 1919 season inspired him to build for the future. Believing the best way to bring a winner to Washington was by comprising a team of young ball players, Griffith announced he was going to "hit the road" during a Senators series in Chicago and leave his right-hand man, George McBride, in charge during his absence.

When asked where he was headed by *Washington Times* sportswriter Denman Thompson, Griffith said, "Buffalo," to scout a 22-year-old second baseman named Bucky Harris. "This coming after watching his team lose, 11-4, at Chicago. His team made 6 errors, which convinced Griffith more than ever to make an overhaul on his team," Thompson told his readers.

On Sunday, Aug. 24, 1919, the Buffalo Bisons were hosting the Reading Cola Barons in a double header. A teammate whispered to Harris while pointing to Griffith, who was seated in the front and beside the Buffalo dugout. As Harris walked past Griffith's box when heading to his position in the field, he stared and locked eyes with the Washington manager, and Griffith responded with a smile.

Harris knew that Griffith was in town to watch him. He was aware that Senators scout Joe Engel had been scouting him during the last few weeks, and something else he knew was that he would have to overcome the pain of his injured finger.

During a game when Engel was in attendance, Harris took a line drive off the third finger of his right hand. The damaged finger swelled and began to throb, but knowing that opportunity was knocking, Harris refused to sit out. With Griffith watching, he went 6-for-6, with two extra-base hits, stole two bases and handled all fielding chances in the double header. "Never once did I think of the pain in my hand," Harris would later say.

After the game Bisons' Manager George Wiltse introduced the two men, and when they shook hands, Harris winced in pain. "What's the matter with your hand?" asked Griffith, who noticed a large bandage around Harris's injured finger.

"Just a sprained joint, I guess, Mr. Griffith," replied Harris, who knew the injury was far worse than a sprain.

"How long have you been playing with it?" asked Griffith.

"About 10 days, sir," said Harris.

“Well! Well! Well! What do you know about that?” said Griffith.

Later that evening, Wiltse summoned Harris to tell him the good news: Griffith wanted him on his team. “He thinks you are a game rooster to play with a finger as big as a balloon,” Wiltse said. “He wants to build up a fighting, aggressive club. He thinks you’re fast enough and have the right spirit.”

“Gosh, that’s great,” Harris said with a big smile.

“Wait a minute,” Wiltse said. The Athletics and Giants were also interested in acquiring Harris. “How does New York sound?” Wiltse asked. Harris thought it over for a minute.

The Athletics were on their way to their fifth straight last place American League finish. On the other hand, the Giants had veteran Larry Doyle and a promising rookie named Frank Frisch handling second base, which meant he would ride the bench in New York. Meanwhile, Washington offered a chance to immediately break into the starting lineup since second base was a troubled position for the Senators. “I’ll pick Washington,” Harris said.

DEAN STONE’S WEIRD ALL-STAR VICTORY: A Win Without Retiring a Batter, By Andrew Sharp

Dean Stone had a good enough rookie season with Washington in 1954 that he made the All-Star team, albeit as an injury replacement. Bob Porterfield, a 20-game winner the year before, and Nats’ first baseman Mickey Vernon were the Nats’ representatives; Stone was added after Ferris Fain of the White Sox was hurt.

“He’s a young left-hander who can go the route and isn’t troubled by wildness,” Manager Bucky Harris had said about Stone earlier in the season.

The July 13 game was played at Cleveland’s huge Municipal Stadium. Derisively referred to as the “mistake on the lake,” the stadium set many single-game attendance records because of its massive capacity. A crowd of nearly 70,000 fans showed up for the year’s All-Star tilt.

Porterfield pitched the fifth, sixth and seventh. He yielded two runs on a two-out homer by Ted Kluszewski in the fifth to give the N.L. a lead, but he left with the A.L. ahead, 8-7. He faced 13 batters, most of any A.L. pitcher that day.

With two out in the top of the eighth, Red Schoendienst reached second on an error when neither Minnie Minoso nor Nellie Fox could catch his pop fly near the right-field

line. He moved to third on Alvin Dark's infield single. Casey Stengel, managing the A.L. team, summoned Stone to face Duke Snider. Leo Durocher, coaching third for the National League, encouraged Schoendienst to take a big lead off third.

"He's just a kid," Durocher told Schoendienst. "He might balk. I'll draw a marker down the line and you come that far, maybe on the first pitch or two. Then if he is still watching Dark on first, go the next time."

Stone indeed kept an eye on Dark before pitching to Snider. As Stone was in the stretch for his third pitch, Schoendienst took off for home. Stone stepped off the rubber and threw to catcher Yogi Berra, who tagged out Schoendienst. The N.L. coaches claimed Stone has balked, but the umpires said he didn't.

In the bottom of the eighth, Larry Doby pinch hit for Stone and homered. Mickey Mantle and Berra followed with singles before Al Rosen walked. The Dodgers' Carl Erskine was brought in to face Vernon and struck him out on 3-2 pitch, but Fox's bloop single drove in two runs to give the A.L. an 11-9 lead and make Stone the pitcher of record.

The N.L. didn't score in the ninth, so Stone won the game without retiring a batter or putting anybody on base.

Stone joined righty knuckleballer Dutch Leonard, who started the 1943 game, as the only Senators pitchers to win an All-Star game. Two other Senators, Walt Masterson in 1948 and Dave Stenhouse for the expansion Nats in 1962's second All-Star game, also were A.L. starters. Neither was involved in the decision. Pete Richert of the expansion Nats, pitching in relief, was the loser of the 1966 All-Star game.

Stone lost four games in August, but the Senators were shut out twice and scored just one run in another game. On Sept. 11 he delivered his first major-league shutout with a 5-0 win against the Baltimore Orioles. Six days later Stone followed with a three-hit whitewash of the Boston Red Sox. The two shutouts were part of a string of $32\frac{2}{3}$ consecutive innings in which the lefty did not surrender an earned run. By season's end, he was 12-10 with a 3.32 earned run average.

Stone finished among the leaders in nearly every pitching category on a Nats staff that featured four left-handed starters, a record at the time that's since been matched by the White Sox in 2013 and 2015. The '54 season turned out to be by far Stone's career best, although he managed to make appearances in the majors for four more teams – the Red Sox, Cardinals, Colt 45s and Orioles – into the 1963 season before calling it quits.

Stone was 88 when he died on Aug. 21, 2018.

BROOKS ROBINSON'S DEBUT GAME: As Recalled by a Six-Year Old, By Paul Scimonelli

In September of 1955, the six-year-old me had yet to learn the trials and tribulations of baseball. My deep abiding love for the hapless Washington Senators and the magnificent Roy Sievers was about four years away. Six-year-old me was content to run about the neighborhood with my authentic Davey Crockett "coon skin" cap and my authentic Davey Crockett "Ol Betsy" flintlock, tryin' to find me a "bar" to shoot.

Growing up in District Heights, Md., a literal "stone's throw" from Andrews Air Force Base (home of presidential Air Force One) and a mere 29 miles down the Baltimore-Washington Parkway from Memorial Stadium in East Baltimore City, life edged on the bucolic.

There was still farmland between our home and the U.S. Capitol building. It was the golden age of Eisenhower suburbia. However, I do remember one thing: It was hot!

Not "damn hot" as my father was wont to say when the 90-plus-degree August sun baked us to a crisp golden brown. But it was still hot, even for the 17th of September. The noontime sun was pushing into the mid 80s and the oh-so-balmy 60 percent humidity was just a joy to play in! In D. C., nobody put their summer clothes away until November.

But my Disney-clouded mind was unaware of the history that would take place this day. For on Sept. 17, 1955, a young, skinny kid from Little Rock, Ark., Brooks Calbert Robinson Jr. would set foot on his first Major League baseball field and define the history of the Baltimore Orioles forever.

It was not a very important game, to be sure. Both teams were fighting to stay out of the cellar, a distinction held by the Senators in toto. The O's would finish the year 57-97 and claim seventh place in the American League, while the ever-struggling Senators would go 53-101. About the only bright spot for the Senators would be the home run production from their big man Roy Sievers, who would once again break the Nats franchise record with 25 moon shots, 10 into the cavernous 388-foot left field bleachers.

The Orioles were struggling to find their identity in 1955. Born out of Bill Veeck's luckless St. Louis Browns, who also fought with the Senators for last place in the A.L., the O's were an amalgam of old castoffs and young "bushers."

Members of the "Geritol" set like Cal Abrams, Bob Alexander, Billy Cox, Hoot Evers, Ed Lopat, Hank Majeski, Vern Stephens and Eddie Waitkas would end their careers in '55 or '56. Solid veterans like Bob Kuzava, Willy Miranda, Dave Philley, Gus Triandos and

Gene Woodling would attempt to bring an air of respect to the team, while youngsters like Wayne Causey, Angelo Dagues, Bob Hale, Trey Nelson and Robinson looked toward the future. None of those youngsters would “stick” except Brooks.

No, it was an inauspicious game, one of those “let’s get this done and get back to our families” type of games. No one hit a homer, there were 19 hits, and Brooks never got a chance at third base. But still, it meant something to Brooks.

In a phone interview, I asked Robinson how he found out he was going to Baltimore and who told him:

“I was in York, Pa. [with the York White Roses.] I got there after high school in June and played about a hundred baseball games and I was playin’ my last couple of games and they said I would be goin’ to Baltimore. I had a Major League contract with them and also with Cincinnati, and I took Baltimore because they weren’t very good, they lost about a hundred games the year before, 1954, their inaugural season, and I figured I’d have a better chance of making it to the big leagues with Baltimore. They needed players at the time.”

“Well anyways, George Stallings was my manager. He told me and I didn’t know if I would play or not, they only had about eight or 10 games left to play. I came to Baltimore and the first couple of games I didn’t play. I was just taking batting practice and fielding ground balls, and then George Kell, he’s another Arkansas guy, he’s one of my best friends, from Suffolk, Arkansas, he wasn’t feelin’ too good. So, Paul Richards says to me, ‘you’re in at third.’ So I went in and played third base that day.”

I asked Brooks, “Is that all Paul Richards said to you, you’re in at third?”

“That’s all Richards said to me. He was a man of few words.”

Indeed. With a few but powerfully propitious words, Paul Richards, combative manager of the nearly new Baltimore Orioles, would set into motion a dynasty that would win its first World Series championship a mere 13 years after its inception as a Major League franchise and would dominate the American League for decades. Robinson would be an integral part of that dynasty for 23 seasons.

Some 8,734 Baltimore faithful, and surely many Senators stalwarts, whipped the Memorial Stadium turnstiles on that sunny September day. Included were 3,248 “Kiwanis Kids Day” youngsters, whooping it up one last time for this dog day afternoon game.

“Ancient” Ed Lopat would square off with Nats ace lefty Chuck Stobbs, he of the famous 565-foot “moon shot” given up to Mickey Mantle in 1953.

The game would start innocently enough. Third baseman Eddie Yost would do what he did best: walk. (Ted Williams would self-effacingly say Yost had a better eye than he did; Yost is 11th all-time with 1,614 career walks.)

Career minor leaguer Tom Umplett would immediately show why he was so, by grounding into a 4-6-3 double play. Then the Nats would try to make a game of it. The really “ancient” Mickey Vernon, in his 15th season, singled to left, followed by “Squirrel” Sievers, whose single sent Vernon to second.

Carlos Paula, the stunning 6-3 Joe Cambria Cuban find, and the first black Washington Senator, took a page from the Minnie Minoso handbook and was hit by a pitch to load the bases. And there they would all stay as usually reliable Pete Runnels popped out weakly to short.

Stobbs had his stuff that day and got Chuck Diering, Jimmy Dyck and Dave Philley to fly out, pop out and ground out in quick succession to take it to the second inning. The Senators returned the favor in their half of the second as catcher Steve Korcheck, shortstop Jose Valdivielso and pitcher Stobbs went down 1-2-3.

First baseman Gus Triandos led off the home half of the second with a groundout, followed by a solid double off the bat of rookie catcher Hal Smith. A nervous Brooks Robinson stepped into the batter’s box and popped to the catcher on an 0-2 pitch.

“I honestly don’t remember much about that first at bat, it’s been so long” said Brooks in a phone interview. “I just remember I didn’t get good wood on the ball, is all.”

Second baseman Fred Marsh made the “Kiwanis Kids” happy, sending Smith home with a solid single to put the O’s on the board 1-0. Shortstop Willy Miranda then sent a shot to deep center field. Marsh tried to score from first, but Umplett atoned for his poor batting by gunning down Marsh with a great cut-off throw to second baseman Runnels.

The Senators whimpered in the third. Despite a single by Umplett, Yost, Vernon and Sievers were retired in order.

In the O’s home third, Jimmy Dyck reached second on a rare throwing error by Yost at third base. Philley then singled him home to give the Orioles a 2-0 lead. Triandos singled Philley to third but both were stranded when Smith flied out to end the inning.

After Paula and Runnels were retired to open the Senators fourth Korcheck singled to center. Jose Valdivielso reached first on a rare Willy Miranda error at short, putting Korcheck on second. But Stobbs provided Brooks with his first fielding chance by grounding to third. Robinson stepped on the bag, forcing Korcheck and ending the inning.

The table was now set for our Mr. Robinson to start his history. Leading off the fourth, with a 3-1 count, Brooks lined a solid single to left field.

I asked Brooks how that made him feel.

“Well, I felt like, ‘wow, how ‘bout that!’ I was shocked! Felt really good to get my first hit. Just gettin’ the opportunity to play, I was 18 years old, it was fantastic.”

Basking in the glow of his first big league hit, Robinson remained stranded at first as Marsh, Miranda and Lopat would all fly out to end the inning in quick succession.

The Senators utilized a little “small ball” to get a run across the plate in the visitor’s fifth. Yost started off the inning with a solid double to the left field wall. Umplett’s fly ball advanced him to third, and Vernon drove him in with a sacrifice fly to center. Sievers popped up meekly to first baseman Miranda to end the inning with the score now 2-1, Orioles.

With two outs in the Baltimore fifth, Philley singled to center. Triandos singled in front left fielder Sievers, who was suffering the effects of a shoulder injury. He flipped the ball to Valdivielso in shallow center, and he in turn gunned it to Runnels at second for a force out of Philley.

The Orioles threatened in the sixth when Paula led off with a single. After Runnels and Korcheck flied out, Valdivielso hit a doubled to left, putting Paula at third. Hoping to add a run, Manager Harris sent in the big Covington, Va. native Jim Lemon to pinch hit for Stobbs. Unfortunately, this would not be his day, as Lemon grounded out to short to end the inning.

Right-hander Ted Abernathy came on for Stobbs in the bottom of the sixth and retired Smith, Robinson and Marsh in quick 1-2-3 order.

Just as one door opens, another closes. This may have been Brooks Robinson’s first big league game, but it would be Ed Lopat’s last.

Ed Lopat, Vic Raschi, Allie Reynolds and a young “Eddie” Ford formed the nucleus of a New York Yankee pitching rotation that led the team to five straight World Series championships from 1949 to 1953. Known as “The Junkman” and “Steady Eddie” by announcer Mel Allen, and “that f*****g Lopat” by Ted Williams, Lopat threw four pitches from innumerable arm angles, grips and speeds to baffle the Orioles, as well as everyone else. Traded to the fledgling Orioles in 1955, Baltimore would be Lopat’s swan song and this game would be his final act.

After surrendering a single to Yost to lead off the top of the seventh, Lopat used all his

tricks to shut down the Senators once again. Umplett bunted to him for the first out, sending Yost to second. Vernon grounded out to second, advancing Yost to third.

Sievers was up next and manager Richards, knowing how dangerous he could be with runners on base, gave him a free pass to first base. Paula sent a weak grounder to shortstop Miranda, who forced Sievers at second to end the threat.

The top of the eighth brought Runnels up to face Lopat one last time. Eddie fooled him into a soft ground out back to the pitcher. Korcheck, he of the thick glasses and fullback body, somehow connected with one of Lopat's junk mail specials and knocked it into center field for a double.

Manager Richards, knowing when he'd seen enough, pulled Lopat for veteran right-hand reliever George Zuverink. Bucky Harris then decided to make a few moves of his own. He pulled Valdivielso for lefty Mickey McDermott, who promptly flied out to center. He then decided to pull Abernathy and pinch-hit left hand hitting Julio Becquer, another of Joe Cambria's multitudinous Cubans. Becquer, a true refugee from Castro's 1959 governmental takeover, hit a mighty fly ball to deep right field that unfortunately settled into the glove of Philley for the final out of the inning, stranding Korcheck on second.

There were more changes in the bottom of the eighth. Minor League wanderer Bobby Kline, who would play only one season of major league baseball, replaced Valdivielso at short and Harris brought in Panamanian-born Vibert Ernesto "Webbo" Clarke to try and stem the tide. Clarke, a Negro Leagues and minor league journeyman, was also in as his only year of big league baseball.

Clarke was able to retire Dyck and Philley, but he didn't fare so well with Triandos, who slammed one of his fastballs for a double to deep center field. Richards called on Dave Pope to run for Triandos. Now in a jam, Clarke pitched around Smith, who waited him out for a walk.

Up to the plate stepped our hero of the day, Brooks Robinson.

Looking for something good to hit, Brooks found a fastball to his liking and ripped it into left-center field for a clean single, the speedy Pope scoring from second. Smith was caught in a "pickle" at third and was tagged out by Korcheck to end the inning.

But the damage was done. The young Mr. Robinson had found a new neighborhood, providing two solid hits, and driving home the go-ahead run. As Brooks related:

"Anyway, I played that day and I went 2 for 4, knocked in a big run for the Orioles that beat Washington. And I remember runnin' back to the hotel; it was the Southern Hotel here in Baltimore, and I called up my parents and said, 'Hey Mom and Dad, guess

what? I just played my first game, got two hits, and drove in a big run.' I said this is my cup 'o tea! Anyway, the rest of the season I went 0 for 18, struck out 10 times, but it was a good lesson to learn."

Zuverink had little trouble with the Senators in the top of the ninth, getting Yost to fly out, surrendering a single to reserve Ernie Oravets, and then getting Vernon to ground into a game ending double play. The Oriole won, 3-1.

It was Two hours and seventeen minutes of pure fun for the "Kiwani Kids," 5,486 paying customers and one young man from Little Rock, Ark., who went on to play 23 seasons of Major League ball, all with the Orioles. Robinson garnered American League, All-Star and World Series MVP trophies and 16 Gold Glove awards. In 1983 he was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame, after single handedly redefining the third base position for the century. His legendary performance in the 1970 World Series earned him the sobriquet "The Human Vacuum Cleaner."

Robinson was one of the inaugural members of what would later be described as "The Oriole Way," a system developed by Richards that stressed hard work, professionalism and strict adherence to strong fundamental baseball skills taught by every coach at every minor league level.

Between 1955 and 1959, Brooks would be "seasoned" by stints with the San Antonio Missions of the Texas League and the Vancouver Mounties of the Pacific Coast League until his first full All Star and Gold Glove season in 1960.

Between 1955 and 1965, Richards shrewdly populated the team with a plethora of young talent that would become the nucleus of an Orioles team that would go on to dominate the American League for over two decades.

These included players such as Milt Pappas, Ron Hansen, Jerry Adair, Steve Barber, Dave Nicholson, Boog Powell, Dave McNally, Pete Ward and Jim Palmer. The final piece of the puzzle would be the "old" Frank Robinson, acquired in 1965, who Brooks call "one of my all-time greatest friends in baseball." The Robinson "twins" led the team to World Series championships in 1966 and 1970 and American League championships in 1969 and 1971.

Through it all, Brooks Robinson remained humble and kind, never refusing an autograph request, and supporting Orioles causes throughout the greater Baltimore community. As author Doug Wilson wrote in his biography of Brooks:

"Years after playing his last game, Brooks Robinson remains an unquestioned icon in Baltimore. His genuine, humble demeanor, friendliness and above all, ability to remain a

great role model have somehow grown in significance over the years as fans are continually disappointed by sports figures who are rude, selfish and inaccessible. Brooks Robinson exhibits the exact opposite. And, no matter how much fame of adoration he achieved, he never lost the sense of who he was: just a regular guy who loved the game of baseball. As one writer was prompted to remark, 'Nobody's ever named a candy bar for Brooks. Around here we name our children after him'"

CHAPTER MEMBER PUBLISHES DOC WHITE PIECE: Article Included in Historical Society Magazine

Bob Davids Chapter member Jim Flack recently published, "D.C. Sports Hall of Famer Doc White," in *Washington History: Magazine of the Historical Society of Washington*, D.C. 31, nos. 1-2 (Fall 2019): Pages 39-41.

TRIVIA ANSWER:

Mike Epstein hit 30 home runs for the Senators in 1969, aided by the teaching of new Manager Ted Williams.