

The Squibber

THE BOB DAVIDS CHAPTER E-NEWSLETTER

December 2014

This newsletter is produced by the Bob Davids Chapter of the Society for American Baseball Research ([SABR](http://sabr.org)), which serves members in Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia and parts of Pennsylvania and Delaware. Visit the chapter's official website at <http://chapters.sabr.org/bobdavids/> [currently in transition].

Submissions for future editions can be sent to *Squibber* editor Walt Cherniak at wcherniakjr@aol.com. Keep sending us those squibs, and those ideas for squibs!

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TRIVIA QUESTION: Which Baltimore Orioles batter made the most outs in a single season?
(See answer below)

1. ANNUAL CHAPTER MEETING ON JAN. 31: *'Hondo on Tap,'* by Mark Pattison

That's right!

Frank "Hondo" Howard, the Capital Punisher himself, is on the bill for the annual meeting of the Bob Davids Chapter on Jan. 31. And, if you're keeping score (we're the kind of people who do that), it'll be our 44th annual meeting.

Our venue, as it's been in recent years, is the Holiday Inn Rosslyn at Key Bridge, 1900 N. Fort Myer Dr. in the Rosslyn section of Arlington, Virginia.

We wouldn't keep you for seven hours or more if we didn't have a slam-bang lineup. Even though all speakers have yet to be confirmed, here's who else we've got commitments from at the *Squibber's* deadline:

Retrosheet founder **David Smith**, a perennial favorite whose documentation of the curious and not-so-curious of the past season is always entertaining

Bowie Baysox Manager **Gary Kendall**, whose speaking gig at the chapter's minor league outing in Bowie over the Labor Day weekend was so enlightening it prompted this encore; and

Michael Hand, chief marketing officer and president of MiLB Enterprises.

Our regular features all return, including trivia from chapter president Bruce Brown; our baseball book (and memorabilia) raffle (tickets still just \$1 each or 10 for \$5 -- bring your donations to the meeting); and vendors of baseball books and other materials.

During the brief business part of the meeting, chapter members will vote for chapter vice president, treasurer and one board member. David Raglin, Dave Paulson and Barry Sparks are running for re-election to those offices and Gary Levy is challenging for Treasurer, but additional nominations can be sent to chapter secretary Don Seaman at 8332 PI., Springfield, VA 22153. It's OK to nominate yourself. If you wish to vote but can't attend, please send your selections to Don.

And we'll have an Italian buffet luncheon featuring chicken parmigiana, vegetarian lasagna, garlic bread, two kinds of salads, plus beverages and desserts, not to mention coffee in the morning and after lunch. We'll also have time to mingle with our fellow SABR members, and with 125-150 members coming every year, come early and get a head start!

Members, nonmembers and guests may attend. Advance registration is \$32 and just \$16 for students, with a Jan. 27 deadline. After that, it's \$35. Include your name, address, phone and email, plus the name and residence of your guests, plus your check payable to SABR, and mail to chapter treasurer Dave Paulson, 6285 Cardinal Lane, Columbia, MD 21044.

If you have admission questions, get in touch with Dave Paulson at d2244p@yahoo.com. Have program questions? Contact Barry Sparks at bsparks243@aol.com or 717-848-8925.

2. TALKIN' BASEBALL: *Upcoming Talks Scheduled, by Dave Paulson*

Gary Sarnoff will be the featured speaker Dec. 13 at the next meeting of "Talkin' Baseball," which features presentations and discussions with well-known baseball authors. He will discuss his latest book, *"The Yankees' First Dynasty: Babe Ruth, Miller Huggins and the Bronx Bombers."*

On Jan. 3, Fran Zimniuch will be the featured speaker, discussing "how to write a baseball book."

The meetings are held at 9 a.m. at Brighton Gardens, 7110 Minstrel Way, Columbia, MD. Come and bring a friend.

3. REFLECTIONS ON A SEASON JUST PAST: *No Series, But Still a Great Ride, by Bill*

(The following was written just after the Baltimore Orioles were defeated by Kansas City in the ALCS. All the games referred to were attended by me during the 2014 baseball season)

"it begins with the fond expectancy of springtime and ends with the hard facts of autumn" - Ken Burns

And so it ends; no Birds-Nats World Series; the season for each team ends with disappointment.

But between the promise of spring and the facts of autumn are the days and nights of summer. And I cannot let Baseball 2014 pass from view without reminiscing a bit about the past season through the eyes of a very ordinary fan.

By my final count I got to attend 29 games this season (18 with the Birds; nine with the Nats; and two down in Houston). I'm not positive but I think this might be a personal record (many

thanks to my wife Mary for allowing this to happen). And from these games came so many memories:

I recall the grit of O's ace Chris Tillman as he somehow managed to win even when he did not have his best stuff. And Zach Britton, who having run out of options as a starting pitcher, managed to resurrect his career in the bullpen.

There was the Angels' Garret Richards effortlessly (or so it seemed) throwing one 96-m.p.h. fastball after another. And the Cardinals' Pat Neshek, whose sidearm delivery completely baffled the Birds.

And that special day when a pitcher named Zimmermann and an outfielder named Souza created a magic moment when no one wanted to leave the ballpark at the completion of the game.

Offensively I can recall that August mid-week day game against the Mets when Bryce Harper ended things with a 13t-inning home run that seemed to serve notice that he was ready for the pennant drive ahead.

I can recall the Astros George Springer, his career just beginning, hitting a home run at Camden yards that left his bat like a shot and reached the left field stands in seeming record time; while I also recall 42-year-old Raul Ibanez, his career coming to a close, hitting a clutch pinch-hit double enabling the Angels to win an early season game against the Nats.

And then there was that O's-Tampa game played in 39-degree weather with every player wearing number 42; throwing the announcers into confusion as they wrestled with Abbott and Costello's old question of "Who's on first?"

There was Steve Pearce, rejected by so many teams (including the Orioles) who, when finally given a real chance, gave the O's a much-needed offensive force. And Delmon Young, who only played sporadically, but it seemed that whenever a bat was put in his hands in a key situation he came through, showing that sometimes what you can do is far more important than what you can't.

And Manny Machado, sidelined all of April still recovering from 2013's horrific injury. When he came back in May he really didn't seem like the same player offensively or defensively. Then, as the weeks went by he gradually got it back, and by mid-summer he seemed as good as ever.

Of course one can't think of Manny without recalling that bat-throwing incident. I don't condone what he did although I'm not sure why lobbing a baseball bat 90 feet toward a third baseman who is poised for action is any worse than throwing a baseball 60 feet at 95 m.p.h. toward the head of a batter who's trying to hit the ball.

And there was the SABR convention in Houston, where I felt so proud of myself for navigating the Houston transit system in order to sneak in an extra Astros game on the Wednesday before the convention began. And then the Saturday night Houston game, which produced a "regular" home run, an inside-the-park home run, and a "Little League" home run. SABR attendees of that game will know exactly what I mean (and isn't Jose Altuve one exciting player?).

And speaking of SABR, no account of the 2014 would be complete without mentioning those Wednesday night chili sessions when some of the most knowledgeable fans (and nicest people) get to hash out the baseball issues of the day.

I witnessed so many great defensive plays; by Denard Span and Adam Jones; by Ryan Flaherty and Jonathan Schoop; by the Mets' Kirk Nieuwenhuis (I still can't pronounce it), Houston's Robbie Grossman, and the Twins' Jordan Schafer; and most recently by a man from Kansas City named Lorenzo Cain.

But as great as all those defensive exploits were, the play I most remember was the Sunday night when Kelly Johnson hit that towering fly ball into the vortex of swirling wind as the heavens were about to explode with rain. Somehow Nick Markakis managed to stay focused on every twist and turn of the falling projectile to make the catch and preserve the victory over the Yankees. I don't think it ever made a highlight reel but for me it was the defensive gem of the season.

And there was that marvelous ALDS playoff Game 2 against Detroit when Oriole magic exploded for four runs in the bottom of the eighth to the deafening roar of the crowd. And I got to share that moment with my son Mark, who has rooted for the O's for so many years and finally got to see them in post season play.

And while the ALCS Game 2 against Kansas City did not have the same happy ending, it was still special as I got to share it with my other son John, who was home on fall break.

So many games. So many memories. And the best part is that we get to do it again next year. Thank you Birds. Thank you Nats. Thank you Abner Doubleday (or whoever). It's been a great ride. See you next April.

4. 'BASEBALL AS IT WAS': New Chapter Member Launches Baseball History Podcast, by Brian Wright

I'm very excited to be a new member of the SABR D.C. Chapter. My hope is that being part of this group will enhance my love of baseball while also meeting people with similar interests.

One way to express my love of this sport (and other sports) is through my job as a writer. That recently expanded to my newest venture: a baseball history podcast "*Baseball As it Was*," which began in November. The debut episode focused on the Hall of Fame Golden Era vote and had interviews with Gil Hodges Jr. as well as with a man running a campaign for Tony Oliva. You can listen to it here:

<https://soundcloud.com/brian-wright-35/baiw-episode-1-mike-murphy-and-gil-hodges-jr>

The second episode features an interview with Jerry Koosman.

My hope is to have an episode every week (probably Tuesday or Wednesday) and feel this is a perfect forum to gain listeners and to gain ideas for future episodes. – Brian Wright.

5. THE 'FOLLY FLOATER': Before Yankee Antics, Hamilton Was a Nat, by Jeff Stuart

On June 24, 1970, two of Yankee Steve Hamilton's "Folly Floater" pitches retired Cleveland's Tony Horton, a very good hitter, at the Bronx to end the top of the ninth inning. That earned him a place in baseball history.

The Yankees trailed the Indians badly and had no chance of beating starter Sam McDowell, who had his best stuff that day. Yankee starter Mel Stottlemyre did not. Nonetheless, the crowd went crazy when the first pitch floated down over home plate, and Horton fouled it off.

Horton called for Hamilton to throw him another, and the 6-7 lefthander obliged. Horton fouled out to catcher Thurman Munson. The crowd roared and Hamilton raised his arms in triumph as he walked to the dugout. There is a YouTube video of this event

It was far from the last time he would use the pitch and maybe not the first. Well, all lefties are supposed to be quirky, right? Hamilton qualified.

On July 7, 1970, the *Washington Post's* Shirley Povich noted in his column, "This is exactly the same blooper pitch that used to cause Yankee writer Dan Daniel and other Yankee writers to work up a pout and exclaim 'Bush' when Rip Sewell was throwing it for the Pirates and Bobo Newsom for the Senators. Now Yankee fans are being positively titillated by the pitch. They beg for it in the late innings when Hamilton is in there and the Yankees are either so far in front the Folly Floater can be chanced or so far behind that it doesn't matter if Hamilton can't get his orbiting offering over the plate."

The Yankees were not very good at the time. They couldn't hit and had starting pitchers that were more notable for swapping wives than their mound presence.

Before reaching the Bronx, Hamilton's got his feet wet in Washington. He had pitched three innings for the Indians in 1961 but that did not disqualify him from rookie status with the Nats in 1962. He was acquired from Cleveland in April for pitcher Don Rudolph and outfielder Willie Tasby

On May 31, 1962, pitching for the Senators in Kansas City, Hamilton lost a complete-game 1-0 decision to the Athletics. With two outs in the bottom of the ninth, Ed Charles hit a line drive into center field for a base hit. Joe Azcue hit a line drive into right field, where Joe Hicks picked up, and then dropped the ball. Charles came all the way around to score an unearned run to win the game. Heartbreak, for sure, for Hamilton, who earned the undying loyalty of disappointed Nats fans like me.

Hamilton was traded to the Yankees in 1963 for pitcher Jim Coates. And it was not entirely to his liking. He told George Minot of the Post, "I was secure in Washington. But when I walked into the Yankee clubhouse for the first time and saw the likes of Whitey Ford and Mickey Mantle. I thought 'What am I doing here?'"

Hamilton did very well as a Yankee, going 34-20 and being elected player representative. His blooper pitch was more than a gimmick -- he got batters out. Hamilton pitched for eight years with the Yankees. He had previously played pro basketball, backing up Elgin Baylor on the Lakers.

Hamilton had played college basketball at Morehead State Teachers College in Kentucky. "Maybe I'd still be playing basketball if I hadn't hurt my knee," he told the Post's Bob Addie in April of 1963. "But the experience with the Lakers was great..."

Hamilton could be an intimidating pitcher. He threw from a side-arm slot that drove left-handed batters daffy. The ball came right at a left-handed hitter, whose only thought was to dive for safety. "I wish all batters were left handed," said Hamilton. "I like that kind."

He was not a star, though the "Folly Floater" earned him a certain amount of notoriety. But Hamilton was pretty good. He pitched in 421 games and ended his career with a 3.05 ERA. He even started 17 games with three complete games and one shutout.

Hamilton's best season was 1968, when he saved 11 games and had a sparkling 2.13 ERA and a 0.937 WHIP. But the Yankees finished fifth.

He finished his playing career in 1972 with the Chicago Cubs after brief stints with the Chicago White Sox and San Francisco Giants.

Hamilton, who also starred in track and field at Morehead State, served as baseball coach at his alma mater from 1976 to 1989 and as athletic director from 1987 until his death on Dec. 2, 1997 of colon cancer.

6. LOOKING FOR OLD MAGAZINES? *Skip McAfee Might Be Able to Help*

Long-time SABR member Skip McAfee has some stuff & doesn't know what to do with it. As Skip writes, "I have a run of *Sports Illustrated* from January 1972 thru September 1991. These issues are BOUND in 68 volumes. As I am in the process of downsizing, I need to find a way to dispose of this collection, without making a visit to the local landfill."

Skip's not looking to sell his magazines, just to find a good home for them. "The ideal collector would be a Washington / Baltimore resident so that the volumes can be acquired without heavy shipping costs."

If you are interested in Skip's magazines, you can contact him directly: Skip McAfee, 5533 Coltsfoot Court, Columbia, MD 21045-2424. You can call him at 410-730-5847 or reach him by e-mail at xerxes7@earthlink.net

7. BOBBY BURKE PITCHED THE LAST WASHINGTON NO-NO: *Zimmermann's Gem Recalled 1931 Masterpiece, by Gary Sarnoff*

It was hard to believe that Jordan Zimmermann's no-hitter on the final day of the 2014 season was the first in Washington baseball history since 1931. That is correct; it had been 83 years since Washington Senators pitcher Bobby Burke accomplished that feat by blanking the Boston Red Sox.

Bobby Burke? It wasn't Walter Johnson, the greatest pitcher of them all, or General Crowder, who won over 20 games for the Nats in 1932 and 1933, or Hall-of-Famer Early Wynn, or Dick Bosman, Walt Masterson or Dutch Leonard?

So who was Bobby Burke? He was a stringy left-handed pitcher who managed to hang around the major leagues for 10 years with no better than mediocre results. "Ordinarily when a pitcher failed to win more games than I did, he found himself back in the minors," he once said when looking back at his career. "But I was allowed to hang around, start a game occasionally, and then wait for a relief assignment."

Due to a few disappointments on the pitching staff, Washington Manager Walter Johnson decided to give the ball to Burke in a rare starting assignment, versus the Red Sox on Aug. 8, 1931. "Cut loose," Johnson told the pitcher. "Yeah, we told him he had the stuff if he's cut loose with that fastball," said Senators owner Clark Griffith after the game.

Burke did just that. He no-hit the Red Sox, using his fastball as his main weapon in a 5-0 Washington win. "He didn't throw more than a half-dozen curves all afternoon," said home plate umpire George Moriarty, who called Burke's performance "flawless." "He was depending on his fastball and he was smart enough to know where to put it.

"His fastball looked mighty good when coming in and he was getting better toward the end of the game when he realized it."

Just 3,000 fans were on hand to witness the game in Washington. Burke struck out eight, walked five. There were no errors; no sensational plays to aid the effort. Earl Webb, who set the all-time record for doubles with 67 that season, made the last out of the game. In that final at bat Webb stood at the plate with the bat on his shoulder and watched strike three nip the outside corner to end the game.

"I'm too nervous to talk," Burke told the reporters as he shivered beneath a shower in the Senators' clubhouse after the game. "Sure, I'm tickled to death. Gee, I'm glad that's over." Burke now had a spot in the Washington starting rotation. Five days later, in his next outing,

at Chicago, he blanked the White Sox in the first inning to extend his string of consecutive hitless innings. In the bottom of the second, with Washington ahead, 3-0, Burke finally allowed a single. He then walked the next two batters, and then gave up a two-run single. A Washington throwing error followed to allow another pair to score for a 4-3 Chicago lead. Then came another hit, and that was all for Burke. His day was complete after throwing only 1 1/3 innings.

Burke had his moment and then came back to reality. He was demoted back to the bullpen after his outing in Chicago.

8. A LONG, RICH HISTORY: *Professional Baseball in Baltimore, by Jimmy Keenan*

It should be duly noted that 2014 is the 60th anniversary of the return of the Baltimore Orioles to the American League. However, Baltimore's history with professional baseball goes back much farther than 1954. In the spring of 1872, Baltimore entered a team in a league called the National Association of Professional Base Ball Players [NAPBBP].

This loop was the first baseball league composed of all professional teams. However, whether the circuit deserves major league status is still up for debate. The NAPBBP was in existence from 1871-75. Baltimore's first entry in the NAPBBP was called the Lord Baltimores. They were also known as the Canaries and Yellow Stockings because of the color of their uniforms. This franchise competed in the NAPBBP from 1872-74. Hall of Fame pitcher Candy Cummings, believed to be the inventor of the curveball, played with the Canaries in 1873. At one point during the 1873 season another Baltimore nine, the Marylands, joined the NAPBBP. This aggregation folded after playing six games.

After the Canaries disbanded, Baltimore didn't have another professional baseball team until 1882. That season a new major league, the American Association [AA] began play. It was organized as a direct rival to the National League, which had been founded in 1876. The AA was known as the "Beer and Whiskey League" because alcohol was sold during games. The AA also offered cheaper ticket prices and Sunday baseball, which the National League did not.

Baltimore entered a team in the AA in the league's fledgling campaign of 1882. This club was generally referred to as the Baltimores during its first year in the loop. The following season [1883], this club began using the name Orioles at the behest of their new manager Billy Barnie.

The Oriole name was derived from the state bird of Maryland as well as a prominent social club in Baltimore.

Except for a few months in 1890, the Orioles played in the AA from 1882-1891. The 1890 exodus occurred over a disagreement between the Orioles front office and AA officials. The Birds started out the 1890 season in the Atlantic League, which was a high-caliber minor loop. The Orioles played in the Atlantic League until August when they rejoined the AA. They remained in the AA through 1891.

There was another major league called the Union Association that operated for one season in 1884. Baltimore put a team in this loop as well. That same year, the Baltimore Monumentals played in the Eastern League (minor league). This one disbanded after 13 games. So for a brief period in 1884, Baltimore had three professional baseball teams in operation at the same time, two major league clubs and one minor league squad.

The AA Baltimore Orioles (1882-1891) never won a championship, but they were fairly well-received by the local baseball fans. If anyone doubts that these Baltimore Orioles played in the majors I have a suggestion. Please look up who holds the major-league record for strikeouts in a season. The answer is Baltimore Orioles pitcher Matt Kilroy, who fanned 513 batters in 1886. Ironically, Kilroy, a Philadelphia native, wrested the major league mark away from Baltimorean Hugh Daily, who notched 483 strikeouts while pitching for Washington and Chicago/Pittsburgh in the Union Association in 1884.

In 1892, the Baltimore Orioles joined the National League. These Birds remained in the senior circuit through the 1899 season. During this time these Orioles evolved into one of the greatest major-league teams of the 19th century. They copped three straight National League pennants from 1894-96. They followed that up with consecutive second-place finishes in 1897 and 1898. From 1894-97, the first and second-place team played each other at the end of the regular season in what was known as the Temple Cup. The Orioles played in this series four times, winning twice.

There are seven members of these great National League Baltimore Oriole teams from the 1890s who have been enshrined at the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. They are manager Ned Hanlon along with Wilbert Robinson, John McGraw, Willie Keeler, Joe Kelley, Hughie Jennings and Dan Brouthers. McGraw, Robinson, Kelley and Hanlon are interred in New

Cathedral Cemetery in West Baltimore. Individual milestones set by the National League Orioles include Wilbert Robinson's 7-for-7 game in 1892, as well as Bill Hawke's first no-hitter at the modern day pitching distance in 1893.

In 1901, the Orioles returned to the majors as members of the newly formed American League. They played in the American League for two years, dropping out of the circuit after the 1902 season. In addition to Kelley, McGraw and Robinson, Hall of Famers Roger Bresnahan and Joe McGinnity played on these Oriole teams

Player-manager McGraw's left the ballclub in July of 1902 to join the National League New York Giants, hastening the club's demise. McGraw's distain for American League President Ban Johnson and his umpires was the reason he switched over to the Giants. Soon other Orioles jumped ship, which led to the team forfeiting a game in St. Louis on July 17 due to a lack of players. Ban Johnson borrowed men from other clubs around the league so the Orioles could finish out the year.

At the end of the 1902 season, Johnson took control of Baltimore's American League franchise and moved the ballclub to New York City. This team started out as the Highlanders, officially becoming the Yankees around 1913. Some Baltimore fans may be surprised to know that the current New York Yankee organization is a direct descendant of the 1902 Baltimore Orioles.

In 1903, the Baltimore Orioles rejoined the ranks of professional baseball as members of the Eastern League, a high-level minor league circuit. Jack Dunn took over as manager of the Orioles in 1907, winning his first championship in Baltimore the following year. The Eastern League eventually became the International League [IL] in 1912. Today, they are two separate entities.

In 1914, the Federal League (a third major league) was formed as a rival to the American and National Leagues. Baltimore's Federal League entry was named the Terrapins. The Terrapins soon began outdrawing Dunn's Orioles at the box office. This led to Dunn selling off his star players, including a 19-year old rookie pitcher named Babe Ruth, in order to offset his losses at the gate. At the conclusion of the 1914 season, Dunn, who was now the owner-manager of the Orioles, moved his franchise to Richmond. The Terrapins folded along with the rest of the Federal League at the end of the 1915 campaign. At that time, Dunn sold the Richmond franchise to local investors. He then purchased Jersey City's IL team, moving it to Baltimore for the start of the 1916 season.

From 1919 through 1925, Dunn's Orioles won seven straight IL championships, a feat that hasn't been equaled by any other professional baseball team. The 1921 IL Orioles compiled the second-highest win total (119) in the history of professional baseball. That same team won 27 straight games, tying the professional record at that time. Dunn's Birds also won three Minor League World Series titles.

Dunn kept his players exempt from the major-league draft for most of his tenure with the Orioles. This allowed Dunn to sell his star players to major-league owners for whatever price he deemed fair. In one highly publicized transaction, Dunn sold pitcher Lefty Grove to Philadelphia Athletics owner Connie Mack for \$100,600 on Oct. 2, 1924. This was the highest price paid for a minor league player up to that point in baseball history.

In addition to baseball luminaries Ruth and Grove, Hall of Fame pitchers Rube Marquard and Chief Bender saw time with Dunn's Orioles. There were also a number of major league stars who at one time or another were members of Dunn's Birds. During the early 1920's Dunn's payroll usually exceeded \$50,000, which was higher than some major-league teams at that time. Four of Dunn's former Orioles, Joe Boley, Max Bishop, Grove and George Earnshaw played key roles on Connie Mack's 1929-30 World Champion Philadelphia Athletics.

Dunn died in 1928 but the IL Orioles rolled on. The Birds slipped in the standings, but players like Joe Hauser (63 home runs in 1930) and Buzz Arlett (54 round-trippers in 1932), kept fans coming out to the ballpark. The IL Orioles won their last regular season championship in 1944.

Their home field, Oriole Park, [the fifth ballpark with that name in Baltimore], burned down on the night of July 3, 1944. The Birds had to move their home games to Municipal Stadium, which later became Memorial Stadium. The Orioles went on to win the International League in 1944 by mere percentage points. From there they captured the Governor's Cup, which was a playoff series between the top four teams in the IL that took place at the end of the year. The Orioles then defeated the American Association, (minor league) champion Louisville Cardinals in the minor-league World Series. One home game at Municipal Stadium on Oct. 9 in Baltimore (52,833) outdrew the St. Louis Browns vs. the St. Louis Cardinals World Series game (31,630) that was played on the same day. This large turnout helped convince people around the country that Baltimore was ready to support a major-league team. The IL Orioles won the Governor's Cup again in 1950 but lost to Columbus in the minor-league fall classic.

From 1903 through 1953 the minor-league Orioles were Baltimore's professional baseball team. In 1954, the St. Louis Browns transferred their American League franchise to Baltimore. The International League Orioles franchise was sold to business interests in Richmond to make room for Baltimore's new major-league team. The current Oriole franchise, the fourth major league ballclub in Baltimore to use that name, has been in existence since the 1954 season. This year, 2014, is the 60th anniversary of the St. Louis Browns relocating to Baltimore. It is the 112th anniversary of the Orioles' return to the American League.

Negro League baseball also has a storied history in Baltimore. In 1887, Baltimore entered a team in the first all-African-American professional baseball league. The loop held its first organizational meeting at the Douglass Institute, which was located at 11 East Lexington St. in Baltimore. Unfortunately, the circuit didn't fare well financially, folding after only a few weeks

Charm City's nine was known as the Lord Baltimores. This pioneering ballclub would be the forerunner of great Negro League baseball teams like the Baltimore Black Sox and Elite Giants, which would grace the local diamonds of the Monumental City in the years to come.

Several Hall of Famers played in Baltimore with the Elite Giants and Black Sox, including Roy Campanella, Satchel Paige, Mule Suttles, Jud Wilson, Oscar Charleston, Leon Day, Ben Taylor, Biz Mackey and Pete Hill. In addition to the aforementioned immortals of the game, there are more players from these clubs that merit induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame. John Beckwith, Dick Lundy, Rap Dixon, Laymon Yokely and Henry Kimbro are some, but not all, of the superstars from these teams who deserve to be enshrined in the hallowed halls of Cooperstown.

The city of Baltimore has a long association with our national pastime, dating back to the sport's earliest days. While celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the return of the Orioles to the American League, we shouldn't forget the other professional teams and players that laid the foundation for the great game of baseball in Baltimore.

TRIVIA ANSWER: *J.J. Hardy set the O's record by making 535 outs in 2012*