

THE SPORTS PAGE

News from the Babe Ruth Birthplace Foundation



VOL. II, ISSUE 1 - FALL 2015

A New Future Ahead

On May 14, 2005, Sports Legends Museum opened its doors at Baltimore's historic Camden Station, welcoming visitors to gaze for the first time upon all of Maryland's sports treasures together in one spectacular display. Ten years later, the museum must now search for a new home.

Last month's announcement about the museum's closing generated a lot of press and social media response. With all of the "he said, she said" commentary swirling about, we thought it prudent to let our members and supporters understand the museum's perspective on this landmark situation, from why we are leaving Camden Station to our prospects for a new venue.

When Sports Legends opened, the Babe Ruth Birthplace Foundation had already invested \$7 million in the project, including \$1.7 million towards Camden Station's restoration. Prior to 2005, the

building was in serious danger of suffering substantial structural damage, and was saved through a collaboration between the foundation and the state. Since then, the museum and its landlord, the Maryland Stadium Authority (MSA), have worked together to make the building an important cultural attraction in Baltimore.

Rent, however, has always been an issue. A 2008 agreement with the MSA and the Board of Public Works reduced monthly rent to \$10,000 per month based on recommendations by the museum board on what was feasible for a nonprofit institution. Unfortunately, rent rose again over the next several years beyond what was affordable. "Sports Legends Museum, as one of the only not-for-profit cultural attractions in the state paying rent, has been financially challenged by an original business model that was too dependent on admissions and store revenues," said executive director Mike Gibbons. In September, after the foundation proposed

that MSA reduce rent once again to \$10,000 per month plus utilities and parking (returning to the 2008 agreement), the MSA counter-proposed with \$15,000 per month (rent, utilities, and parking) for one year, with no option to renew. Clearly it was time to move on.

Starting October 26, museum staffers have worked tirelessly to make sure the Birthplace Foundation's vast collection is moved safely into storage as the board searches for a new location. While it is sad to see Baltimore's sports heritage packed into boxes, it is also an exciting time to see what a new location might bring to the table, and to focus on the newly renovated Babe Ruth Birthplace. The museum would like to thank all of our members and volunteers who have contributed their time and financial support in this untimely exodus, but it is time to turn the page to a new chapter in the Sports Legends Museum legacy.

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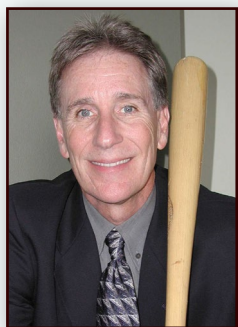
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FROM THE DIRECTOR



As we pack the last boxes of artifacts into storage, I can't help but think back on when we converted the B&O Railroad's historic depot, Camden Station, into Sports Legends Museum at Camden Yards. The travesty that pervades every member of our staff, board and volunteer corps was certainly not in mind when we got the rights to develop the property in 1993.

Back then, working in partnership with the Maryland Stadium Authority, we convinced then Governor William Donald Schaefer that Sports Legends Museum was the best fit for Camden Station, the de facto gateway to Oriole Park at Camden Yards. For the next decade, the museum raised funds, expanded its mission to represent sports from all across the state of Maryland, and set about renovating 22,000 square feet of exhibit and office space.

In May 2005, Sports Legends Museum opened to critical acclaim, labeled immediately as America's next great sports heritage museum. Anchored by exhibit galleries featuring Baltimore's Orioles, Ravens and Colts, the new attraction proclaimed to have the 'real deal' of local sports, and indeed showcased World Series and Super Bowl trophies, NCAA championship trophies, even the suit Coach Gary Williams wore when his Maryland Terrapins men's basketball squad captured the 2002 national championship.

Right away the place became a destination for sports fans, fathers and sons, mothers and daughters, all connecting through the wonderful world of local sports, which brings together all facets of our community in ways that nothing else can. When the home town team wins, we all feel good. Nothing else in our culture has that kind of widespread appeal.

And that is what I will miss most about our museum at Camden Station, witnessing the pure joy the attraction evoked from the hundreds of thousands of fans who visited.

But now it is time to move along, and so we shall. Stay tuned for an announcement of a new location for Sports Legends Museum. In the meantime, many of Sports Legends' treasured artifacts will be on display at our fully renovated Babe Ruth Birthplace. I hope you have a chance to stop by soon.

Mike Gibbons, Executive Director

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Yogi Berra, 1925-2015

New York Yankee

Three-time American League MVP and a dear friend of the Babe Ruth Birthplace Foundation

At the 1998 opening of The Yogi Berra Museum and Learning Center in Lime Falls, New Jersey, Yogi said, "I'm lucky. Usually you're dead to get your own museum, but I'm still alive to see mine."

R.I.P. Yogi

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Carl Berger
Eileen Carlston
Keyla Cohen
Michael Madsen
Angela McNulty
Bob and Joyce Menchen

James Reynolds
Michael Riggs
Doreen Sklodowski
Wendy Steinberg



‘The Roundtripper’ Wine Unveiling – September 10

Eddie Murray himself visited the newly restored Babe Ruth Birthplace at the premiere of his signature wine, “The Roundtripper.” Guests toured the new galleries while sampling fine wine with Murray and receiving their own signed bottle. It was a fitting first event to show off the museum’s fresh look.

Collectibles 101 – September 24

It was just the right kind of night to go digging in the archives. Members came from as far as the eastern shore to take a look at some rarely-seen treasures from the vault, and learn a little about how to take care of their own treasures at home. We saw rare postcards with a potential Babe Ruth signature, trophies from an Australian college championship, and more. Thanks to everyone who could join us, and we hope to see you at the next collectibles event.

Ravenswalk

Like to tailgate at M&T Bank Stadium? Stop by and see our latest off-site exhibit on Ravenswalk, featured at every home game and several stadium events. We put together a showcase of some favorite gear, tickets, photos, and more celebrating 20 years since the Ravens came to Baltimore. Check it out!

Oriole Pub at the Center Club

Head up to the Center Club at 100 Light Street after 4:30 for some burgers and brews, and take a look at what’s on the walls. We just installed bat displays for pub-goers to enjoy while looking out over the Baltimore skyline.



Best Bang for your Book

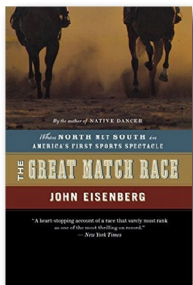
Give them the best sports reads this holiday season

60 YEARS OF ORIOLE MAGIC

by Jim Henneman - introduction by Jim Palmer

Takes us from the return of Major League Baseball to Baltimore to last year’s exciting division title and post season run. “Jim Henneman’s “60 Years Of Orioles Magic” is a comprehensive and insightful book with lots of inside stuff and terrific pictures.”

Rich Dubroff - Orioles Insider, CSMmidatlantic.com



THE GREAT MATCH RACE

by John Eisenberg

“A heart-stopping account of a race that must rank as one of the most thrilling on record.” - New York Times

John Eisenberg is an author and columnist who wrote for the Baltimore Sun for many years. His columns now run on the Ravens’ website.

Baltimore BASEBALL & BARBEQUE

by Boog Powell and Rob Casper

Includes dozens of Boog’s hilarious Oriole memories. “During one spring training session in Miami, I had to threaten Andy Etchebarren that I would toss him off a balcony if he did not man up and eat his first raw oysters.

Andy has still not thanked me.” And here’s the culinary piece de resistance, see pg 130 for the ‘secret recipe’ for Boogs’ Pit Beef (ssssshhh)! ”

Oriole manager Buck Showalter on a couple of his favorite books:

“Well, you know how the teachers used to make you check out a book that wasn’t sports related? Mrs Pruitt, the librarian in my elementary school, I guess it was about ten years ago, brought me a card that I’d checked out the same book about fifteen times. “*Little Lefty*”, about this little left handed player. And there was another one, about a kid that batted a thousand...this kid had perfected how to foul off pitches and then take a walk. And the last game of the year he got a base hit to win the game and he batted a thousand. I read those books over and over and over again.” from Gary Thorne’s MASN TV show, “Hitting The Books,” May 13, 2015

LITTLE LEFTY, by Matt Christopher, \$7.95 on Amazon

THE KID WHO BATTED A THOUSAND, by Bob Allison and Frank Ernest Hill, \$398.40 on Amazon

Football's Secret Code

Have you ever heard a football quarterback yell "Omaha!" or "Texas 42!" before a play? That's called an audible. When the defense comes to the line of scrimmage and makes a formation the quarterback wasn't expecting, the quarterback makes a "hot read" to find out a new play for his offense. He could yell out "Ronald!"—R for running play—or "O-25!" for a passing play they learned on October 25.

It's all a secret code, so the opposing defense can't find out how the offense is going to move the ball. If you were a quarterback, what code word audible would you yell out? Try to make some of your own for the plays below, and write down why you picked that code word.

Your code

Why did you choose that?

Running Play _____

Dive Play _____

Quarterback Sneak _____

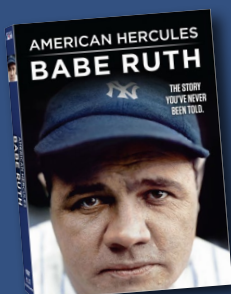
Draw Play _____

Want to learn more about these plays? Visit footballbabble.com/football/offense/plays

New from the Gift Shop

Authentic Brick from the Babe Ruth Birthplace Museum - \$29.99

We managed to save some of the bricks that came out of this year's museum renovation. What says Baltimore better than having your own small piece of the city's history? It's a great gift for history and baseball lovers alike.



"American Hercules: Babe Ruth" - \$27.99

The story you've never been told. Follow the rise of America's bigger-than-life slugger with the newly released documentary

from Major League Baseball productions, soon to be aired on the Smithsonian channel. Get your DVD before anyone else straight from the house where it all began.

Buy online (baberruthmuseum.org/store) or visit our museum gift shop in the newly restored Babe Ruth Birthplace.



Michael Ricigliano draws cartoons for PRESS BOX and contributes to the SUN, USA TODAY, Sports Weekly and the LA Times. Check out his Toon Trivia feature on GoComics at gocomics.com/ricigs-toon-trivia.



Colts and Ravens Come Together

by John Eisenberg

The Baltimore Ravens have played in the National Football League since 1996, but they always make a point of celebrating the Baltimore Colts, their predecessors.

John Unitas, the Colts' legendary quarterback, walked the Ravens' sideline at home games until his death in 2002. The names of eight Colts hang on the façade at M&T Bank Stadium as Ravens Ring of Honor inductees. Lenny Moore, the Colts' star halfback, practically has the run of the Ravens' training facility in Owings Mills.

Steve Bisciotti wouldn't have it any other way. Growing up in Anne Arundel County, he rooted for the Colts and attended training camp practices in Westminster. He now owns the Ravens.

The marriage of the city's old and new teams was especially evident at

halftime of the Ravens' game against the Cleveland Browns on October 11. In a ceremony, David Baker, president of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, presented new commemorative rings to three Colts who are enshrined in the Hall—Moore, Gino Marchetti and Raymond Berry.

The retired players already had rings from the Hall, but the NFL has commissioned new rings for the Hall's older living enshrines because the rings given to more recent inductees are quite a bit larger. As Baker goes around the country presenting the new rings in 2015, some teams are making a show of celebrating their former stars.

This created a problem for Moore, Marchetti and Berry. The last thing they wanted was to receive their new rings in Indianapolis, where their former team, the Colts, have played since 1984 after then-owner Robert Irsay abruptly moved

the franchise, embittering many. Moore, Marchetti and Berry never played in Indianapolis.

When the Ravens heard about the situation, they immediately agreed to host a ring ceremony for the former Colts, even though none of the three ever wore Ravens purple. The Ravens asked their own Hall of Fame inductee, Jonathan Ogden, to stand with the retired Colts during the ceremony.

At halftime of the Cleveland game, Baker gave a brief speech and presented Moore, Marchetti and Berry with their rings, which feature nearly two carats of diamonds arranged in the shape of a football. Baker ended his remarks by exclaiming, "Go Ravens!"

For a few minutes, Baltimore's football past and present were seamlessly conjoined.

—**John Eisenberg** has won more than 20 awards for his many pieces on his beloved Baltimore Sports. He currently writes for baltimoreravens.com.



Rosemary Baldwin,
cheerleader from 1956-69

"Give me a C!"

Remembering the Colts' cheerleaders behind the scenes in an interview with Rosemary Baldwin

I graduated from high school and was working at the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company where I met this woman, Anemi Trawzinski. She came up to a friend of mine, Elinor, and asked us if we had ever cheerleadered [sic] before, and we said no.

She asked, "would you like to try out for the Colts?" Elinor said yes, but Ms. Trawzinski walked away I said, "Who are the Colts?" She answered, "That's [our] football team." So I came home...I walked in the door and I told my mother and my father. [Dad asked], "When do you have to try out?" and told me I was going. When I found out who the Colts were, I felt like the luckiest girl in the world.

We were the first NFL team to have cheerleaders. Dallas claimed they were first, starting in 1961, but we said, "Go look at films of the '58 championship game and you will see us." Dallas backed off after that.

The '58 game, oh my lord. I don't think we realized how important it was at the time, but it was chaotic. It was frightening at the end 'cause the New Yorkers came down on the field and were chasing us around to get maybe a sweater off of us or

a hat. So, yeah, it was frightening.

We started with ten cheerleaders. We started the "Give me a C" cheer. Give me a C, O, L, T, S, Colts!

They started out with five girls on each side and then they made a sign that spelled out Colts at the end, so that became six girls on each side for twelve. And then it escalated.

In the '58 game the Colts had tied up the game, 17-17. We did the sign cheers and got excited. When we jumped up, we threw the signs down on the ground and they landed face down. So the next play was coming up and we decided to do a rally, a Colt cheer, and I held up the C. And Alma, she held up the O, but the wind blew the signs from the girls so Alma picked up the L and Thelma picked up the O, so we spelled out CLOTS. The audience followed right through with it and we didn't hear because of so much yelling, but someone kept pointing at us and then we caught on. We were all red as beets. It was so embarrassing. So it was "Yay, CLOTS," and the Clots won the championship.

The Babe: Born Ahead of his Time?

by Jim Henneman

How many times have you said or heard that a baseball player (or anybody for that matter) was “born ahead of his time?” If you’re like most of us (and you wouldn’t be reading this if you weren’t) the answer is simple—more than we can count.

So, what prompts that question? Glad you should ask because while I was watching Daniel Murphy’s homer heroics leading up to the World Series I found myself daydreaming and wondering if Babe Ruth was ahead—or behind—his time.

Laugh if you will, but think about it. The Babe was a full-time pitcher through the 1917 season, when he had a 24-13 record and 2.01 earned run average, following the 23-12, 1.75 record he posted the year before. In those two years he hit the grand total of five home runs in what was still known as the dead ball era. After three years, at the age of 22, he had 65 wins.

Now, if you can, fast forward almost a century and ask this question: Would

anyone in baseball even remotely consider making a position player out of someone with those pitching credentials? Duh, do I have to repeat myself?

A year later, when the lively ball apparently made an unannounced debut, Ruth pitched in only 20 games (19 starts), and went 13-7, with a 2.32 ERA. Oh, by the way, he also played 75 games in the outfield and hit 11 home runs, which was good enough to lead the league, the first of 12 times (in the next 14 years) he would do so.

It’s too bad the American League didn’t have the same idea in 1918 that it had after the 1972 season, when they introduced the world to the designated hitter. We’ve been debating the pros and cons of the DH for four decades, but suppose somebody had made the suggestion a century earlier? Just imagine if you can. The Babe finished with 714 home runs – and a 94-46 win-loss record and 2.28 ERA. By the way he once logged 29 1/3 straight scoreless innings in World Series play, a record that

lasted longer than his single season home run mark. He played another 17 years after converting from a full-time pitcher to position player (he made two cameo appearances, one in 1930, the other three years later—and logged complete game victories both times).

Was Babe ahead of his time? Is it conceivable that we might’ve found the Sultan of Swat’s name in the pitching department of the record book -- alongside Cy Young, the winningest (and losingest) pitcher in history?

Or was he behind his time, too soon on the scene to establish himself as the game’s premier all-around performer as a combination pitcher-outfielder-DH? Shucks, it really doesn’t matter, because no matter how the numbers are stacked, is there really any question about who was the greatest player?

Didn’t think so.

—**Jim Henneman** is a long-time Baltimore sports writer, the author of “60 Years Of Oriole Magic” and the “Upon Further Review” column on www.pressboxonline.com.

Can I get your autograph?

Submitted by Timothy Morris, member

In October of 2011 they unveiled the Brooks Robinson statue near the Pickles Pub on a Saturday morning. I couldn’t go—my kids were busy with soccer. So on the Monday that followed I walked over at lunchtime from my job in Harbor East to check out the statue.

When I got there, two older couples were there as were a few other folks not with the couples. I saw the back of one man and thought, “Hey, from the back that could be him!”

Then the man turned around and walked to me, extending his arm to shake hands and said, “Hi, I’m Brooks Robinson.”

What a thrill. Brooks went on to explain that he was there with his brother and their wives to take a better look at the statue before they left town.

I told him how I went to the Brooks Robinson Hall of Fame night at Memorial Stadium on August 5, 1983 and how great it was. (One of the best nights and game finishes at Memorial Stadium!)

I asked if I could have a picture with him and Brooks’s brother took it using my phone.

What a thrill for me.

Have your own autograph story?

Send it in! We would love to read about times you got an autograph, met your favorite player, or if you have an heirloom with a great back story. Submit your memories to patrickd@baberuthmuseum.org, and we may publish your story in the next newsletter!

Call 410-727-1539 x3033 for questions.



Member Timothy Morris met Brooks Robinson by chance at his statue downtown.



Listen In!

Baltimore Sports' Untold Stories from interviews by John Patti

Look what I found! My feature produced for WBAL Radio on May 13, 2005, the day before the grand opening of Baltimore's Sports Legends Museum.

I recall it as a beautiful sunny afternoon with sports legends, local dignitaries, and privileged fans getting a sneak peek at what was to be the home of the greatest sports heroes that Baltimore and Maryland has ever produced. Baseball, football, lacrosse, horse racing, just to mention a few. Sports names, heroes, and traditions at all levels from the professional, amateur, and scholastic world.

Why, even the building was part of local history. The museum was housed in the former Camden Station, originally constructed in 1857 by the B & O Railroad. It was the railroad's main passenger station in Baltimore. President Abraham Lincoln passed through there at least three times, including shortly after his assassination

when his body laid in state.

Baltimore Sports Legend Brooks Robinson told me he remembers, like it was yesterday, when he would walk through the station because "the Orioles would come in, get off the train, this is back in the 50's now, and walk through here." Retired Orioles First Baseman Boog Powell showed me a replica of his old Orioles locker with a pair of his old spikes in there. Boog said with a wide smile, "I think they were trying to acknowledge my blinding speed."

Sports Legends Museum also was a place where Baltimore Colts fans and Baltimore Ravens fans became Baltimore football fans.

Retired Pimlico Race Course track announcer Dick Wooley took great pride in showing me his contribution to the museum: binoculars that he used to call the 1978 Preakness Stakes where Affirmed



beat Alydar by a neck and went on to become a Triple Crown winner that year.

But perhaps the day was summed up best by Julia Ruth Stevens, daughter of Baltimore Sports Legend Babe Ruth. "Daddy is the cornerstone. No question about that, and I'm glad. But Baltimore has so many great legends of sports history and it's a proper place for them to be."

Perhaps those are words to live by as Baltimore's Sports Legends Museum looks to the future.

Listen to the interview at baberruthmuseum.org/sports-page.

— **John Patti** has anchored and reported for WBAL Radio since 1984.

THE BALLPARK FOOD REVIEW

by Doug Roberts

During football season, we all know there are plenty of watering holes where you can catch the game. Here are a few choices from around town and around the beltway—catered personally to your watching experience.

SUNDAY RAVENS AWAY GAMES

LP Steamers

100 E Fort Ave, Locust Point, Baltimore
An authentic Baltimore crab house. Zagat rated. Raw bar featuring shrimp, scallops, clams and oysters. Hard crabs. Lobster tails, fish 'n chips. Hard crabs. Award-winning crab cakes. Did I say delicious hard crabs?

Kibby's

3450 Wilkens Ave (right by St Agnes Hospital on Caton Ave)
A delightful little restaurant and a huge lounge (See Melinda, my choice as Baltimore's Best bartender/waitress). Over 20 entrees ranging from a charcoal grilled 3/4lb Angus Rib Eye steak to the very best shrimp salad I've ever

tasted (Seriously, Kibby's shrimp salad won so many Baltimore BEST awards it was not allowed to compete).

SUNDAY RAVENS HOME GAMES

The Camden Pub

647 W Pratt St, Baltimore
"Melt in your mouth Texas brisket", Old Bay wings, 16oz Natty Boh Purple Pride cans. For parking, call 410.547.1280.

MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL - Nov 30 RAVENS/BROWNS 8:30pm

Jerry's Belvedere Tavern

5928 York Road, Towson
Oysters on the 1/2 shell, spicy clams & mussels swimming in an outstanding homemade sauce. Hand carved steam ship round—all that and cheese cake, too!

Don't forget, Baseball Minutes are Online!

How did Buck Showalter transform the Orioles into a winning team in 2011? What did Eddie Murray think of the famous "Ed-die!" chant? Find out right now with Baltimore's Baseball Minutes, now online at baberruthmuseum.org/baseballminutes/.



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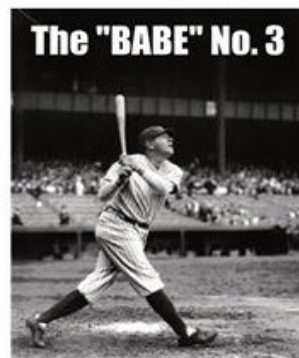
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