

★ PA 15 GE
LOCAL SPORTS STORIES THAT
WOULD MAKE GOOD "30 FOR 30s"



LOCK IN YOUR BIRDLAND SUMMER

Orioles.com
888-848-BIRD

PRESSBOX

No. 236
08.17
★

NO DND OF

As the Baltimore Ravens prepare to embark on their first international game, *PressBox* takes an inside look at logistics for the team and how fans will take in the contest -- whether they're flying across the pond, hanging with their mates at the pub or watching at home on the telly

By BO SMOLKA,
KAITLYN WILSON
& KEVIN ECK

>>> PAGE 16

CAWING

PHOTOGRAPHY- SABINA MORAN/PRESSBOX

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW



★ ★ ★ [FREE] ★ ★ ★

VISIT BUYATOYOTA.COM FOR GREAT DEALS!

TOYOTA
Let's Go Places
buyatoyota.com



The Ultimate
Driving Machine®



Northwest BMW makes your service decision easy

- Loaner Vehicles (See Service Advisor for Details)
- Original BMW Parts (2-Year Warranty, Unlimited Mileage)
- Complimentary Vehicle Wash With Service Visit
- Complimentary WiFi
- BMW-Trained Technicians
- BMW-Approved Diagnostic Equipment

Northwest BMW

9702 Reisterstown Rd, Owings Mills, MD 21117-4120 (410) 902-8700 NorthwestBMW.com

15% OFF

PARTS AND LABOR WITH ANY BMW SERVICE AND SUMMER CHECK-UP

With certificate only. Not valid on prior services or tire purchases.
Must present certificate at time of write-up. Maximum \$200 savings.
Cannot be used on tires, alignments, or Value Service repairs.
Cannot be combined with other offers. Applies to BMW vehicles only.

Northwest BMW

9702 Reisterstown Rd • Owings Mills
(410) 902-8700

Offer Expires 9/15/17

STARTING LINEUP

- TABLE OF CONTENTS -

COVER STORY

LONDON CAWING..... 16
 By Bo Smolka, Kaitlyn Wilson & Kevin Eck
As the Baltimore Ravens prepare to embark on their first international game, PressBox takes an inside look at logistics for the team and how fans will take in the contest -- whether they're flying across the pond, hanging with their mates at the pub or watching at home on the telly

PLUS:

JERMAINE ELUEMUNOR BY GLENN CLARK 18
UK RAVENS FANS BY ANDY KOSTKA 19

SPECIAL SECTION

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW..... 27

FEATURE STORIES

RAVENS REPORT W/ BO SMOLKA..... 10
ORIOLES REPORT W/ RICH DUBROFF..... 21
VARSITY REPORT W/ WICK EISENBERG..... 35
SPORTS BUSINESS W/ ED WALDMAN 36
MARYLAND GAMING W/ BILL ORDINE 37

COLUMNS

> **ONE FAN'S OPINION** 05
 Stan "The Fan" Charles
 > **CONNOLLY'S CORNER** 24
 Dan Connolly
 > **UPON FURTHER REVIEW** 25
 Jim Henneman
 > **THE REALITY CHECK** 41
 Glenn Clark

SECTIONS

FRONT ROW..... 07

VOICES

PHOTO OF THE MONTH 04
10 QUESTIONS WITH 09
COMMUNITY BEAT 38
THEY SAID IT ON GLENN CLARK RADIO 40
RICIG'S WORLD OF SPORTS 42

PRESSBOX

OUR NAME SAYS IT ALL

Live!
CASINO • HOTEL

At Arundel Mills - Directly off B/W Parkway and Route 100

[f](#) [t](#) [@](#) marylandlivecasino.com

Must be 21. Please play responsibly, for help visit mdgamblinghelp.org or call 1-800-GAMBLER. © 2017

PHOTO

OF THE MONTH



SABINA MORAN/PRESSBOX

'HEY DAD, IS THIS THING ON?'

RAVENS CORNERBACK JIMMY SMITH BROUGHT HIS 3-YEAR-OLD SON, JAMES, TO THE PODIUM FOR HIS SESSION WITH THE MEDIA AT TRAINING CAMP AUG. 2. "HE'S LIL BEANS," SMITH SAID OF HIS SON'S NICKNAME. "I'M BIG BEANS, HE'S LIL BEANS."

ALL PRO BUSINESS SERVICES



K&S ASSOCIATES
Excellence in Auto Body Repair

3939 Falls Road
Baltimore, MD 21211

Service 410.235.6660 • Parts 410.235.3100
Fax 410.235.2244 • 1.800.335.6660



AK
Personal Trainer

443-386-2082 SkidmoreFitness@gmail.com



ROBERT'S KEY SERVICE INC.

KEYS FOR EVERY TYPE OF LOCK
217 W. READ STREET
BALTIMORE, MD 21201

FAX 410.728.0504

410.728.7484



ONE FAN'S OPINION



MITCH STRINGER/PRESSBOX

Boog Powell

Boog Powell Is The Real MVP Of Camden Yards

★ STAN "THE FAN" CHARLES



As the years have rolled on and we find ourselves celebrating the 25th anniversary of Oriole Park at Camden Yards, I pause to consider who would be my MVP -- Most Valuable Person -- of the Camden

Yards era of Baltimore sports.

When considering the past 25 summers, my MVP is a man who hasn't played for the Orioles since 1974. He is, however, a man who literally and figuratively touches thousands of Orioles fans (other fans, too) night in and night out: No. 26, Boog Powell.

This is not to denigrate the likes of Cal Ripken Jr., Brady Anderson, Davey Johnson, Buck Showalter, Mike Mussina, Adam Jones or Manny Machado. But the reality is that the baseball gods have not always treated Baltimore baseball the best since Camden Yards opened.

Ripken's record-breaking game at Camden Yards Sept. 6, 1995 was by far the No. 1 event any of us in Baltimore has covered. But baseball, as that record demonstrated, is really about the grind, and nobody has embodied that grind quite like Powell.

Since 1992, the Orioles have played more than 2,000 games at Camden Yards, and for every one of them, Boog's Barbecue has been serving quality food and some of the Orioles' best goodwill.

Powell estimates he misses anywhere from three-to-five games per season. In 1997, you may remember he had a health scare with colon cancer that caused him to miss about 25 games. But he was back in time for the end of the regular season

and that exciting postseason run that ended a bit too soon.

Recently, I asked Powell how the idea to sell barbecue at Oriole Park came about. He told me something I never knew. Apparently, he had been in contact with the Larry Lucchino-led Orioles in the early 1990s, but there just wasn't a place at Memorial Stadium to really do it the way Powell envisioned.

Powell said a pairing at the Save A Heart golf tournament at Turf Valley Golf Course in the summer of 1991 led to the idea becoming a reality. Powell, who had worked for the Miller Lite Brewing Company as a TV spokesperson, was paired with his good friends Bob Footlick and Bob Pinkner of Bond Distributing. The last member of the foursome just happened to be then-president of Aramark, Hugh Gallagher, who was the Orioles' concessionaire in those days.

During the course of those 18 holes, and then a couple ... no, a few ... glasses of Grand Marnier, the plans led to serious talks, and Boog's Barbecue was born.

Powell said when the crowds at Camden Yards are in the 40,000 range, he may dispense as much as 800 pounds of beef, 600 pounds of turkey and 600 pounds of pork per night. So you can do the math and estimate how much that is during the course of an 81-game home schedule.

But Powell's favorite part of the day is the part he originally didn't know he would be doing -- signing autographs.

Before he started, Gallagher suggested to Powell that he might want to be out at the park some. To which Powell replied, "Oh, I intend to be out there more than just some."

Powell gets to the park for each game about an hour and 45 minutes before the

game starts, and then, like clockwork, about 70 minutes before first pitch, he is at his post signing autographs, shaking hands and straddling two eras of O's fans. He chats with those who knew him as a player and those who now come back time and again and only know him as the guy who delivers the beef with a down-home feel and a smile.

I probably visit Powell about 10-12 times per year for a pregame sandwich and to remind myself of a time when the players meant so much to fans. Each time I leave I am blown away by the incalculable amount of positive PR Powell provides the Orioles. I hope that doesn't get lost on Orioles management.

The old adage is that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. Well, Powell's simple idea has been copied by Randy Jones in San Diego, Greg Luzinski in Philadelphia, Manny Sanguillén in Pittsburgh, Orlando Cepeda in San Francisco and Luis Tiant in Boston. None, however, have been nearly as successful as Powell.

Powell turned 76 in August. He has no plans to retire and said he wants to continue to do just what he is doing -- connecting with Orioles fans for as long as he lives.

Powell and I talked about the long-standing relationship he has with so many of his customers and how much that ongoing mutual love and respect means to him this late in his life. I started to quote the last line of Jim Bouton's famous book on baseball, "Ball Four," when Powell jumped in and recited it: "A ballplayer spends a good piece of his life gripping a baseball, and in the end it turns out that it was the other way around all the time."

"That really describes it, Stan," Powell said. "That's the way it is." •

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

GIVE STAN A PIECE OF YOUR MIND AT PRESSBOXONLINE.COM

PRESS BOX

3600 CLIPPER MILL ROAD
- SUITE 300 -
BALTIMORE, MD 21211
PHONE: (410) 366-7272
FAX: (410) 366-7220
- PRESSBOXONLINE.COM -

FOUNDER AND PUBLISHER

> Stan Charles

SENIOR EDITORIAL ADVISER

> Bill Ordine

COMMUNITY BEAT EDITOR

> Jayne Charles

MANAGING EDITOR

> Kaitlyn Wilson

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

> Kevin Eck

VICE PRESIDENT OF DIGITAL SERVICES

> Jennifer Nelson

MANAGER OF DIGITAL PROGRAMMING

> Glenn Clark

EDITORIAL CONSULTANT

> Krystina Wales

VICE PRESIDENT, SALES AND MARKETING

> John Coulson

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

> Julie Sawyer Gail Greene
 Hugh Collie

ART DIRECTOR

> Brad Meerholz

SENIOR GRAPHIC DESIGNER

> Kimberly Shilling

OFFICE MANAGER

> Leah Lancaster

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS

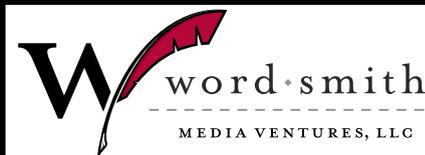
> Sabina Moran Kenya Allen

"INSIDE PRESSBOX"

> Dave Laishley, senior producer
 Matt Stovall, producer/videographer

INTERNS

> Andy Kostka Chase Pyke



BOARD OF DIRECTORS	> Scott Rifkin
	> Bradford Mills
	> Stan Charles
	> John Coulson
	> Andrew Levine

PressBox is published monthly by Word Smith Media Ventures, LLC, 3600 Clipper Mill Road, Suite 300, Baltimore, Maryland 21211 (410-366-7272). Copyright 2016 by Word Smith Media Ventures, LLC. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the expressed written consent of the publisher.

PressBox is a free publication distributed every month on the 15th in the Baltimore metropolitan area. Printed by Engle Printing & Publishing Company, EngleOnline.com



SUPPORT SARCOIDOSIS PATIENTS & RESEARCH

SEPTEMBER 15, 2017 | 7 PM - MIDNIGHT

FOUR SEASONS HOTEL BALTIMORE
CASINO ROYALE STYLE

TICKETS & INFO: lifeandbreath.org or 866-478-7778

Mingle with **sports celebrities.**

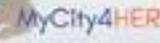
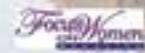
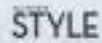
Taste **sumptuous cuisine** and cocktails.

Bid on live auctions for **highly sought-after** sports and travel packages.

Enter to win **raffle prizes.**

Dance to the sounds of Attraction, an 8-piece **professional show band.**

MEDIA SPONSORS



FALL FITNESS SPECIAL

FULL SERVICE MEMBERSHIP ONLY

\$49^{99*} PER MONTH!

*Certain restrictions apply. Offer expires 11/30/17.

Meadow Mill athletic club



www.meadowmill.com 410.235.7000

Tamir Goodman: From 'Jewish Jordan' To Entrepreneur

Tamir Goodman, once dubbed the "Jewish Jordan" while regularly churning out 35-point games for Talmudical Academy of Baltimore from 1996-1999, went on to reach the highest level of professional basketball in Israel. Now, he's making his mark on the sport as an entrepreneur.

Goodman, 35, is the inventor of a training device for players called the Zone190. The inspiration for his invention came out of the realization that his playing days were coming to an end and his desire to help in the development of younger players.

He recalls standing on the baseline eight years ago, sizing up a 3-pointer, all alone. After playing briefly for Towson University (he had orally committed to Maryland but later changed his mind), as well as five teams in Israel and the Maryland Nighthawks of the Premier Basketball League, Goodman was no longer with a team, but he wasn't ready to leave the hardwood.

"I had that dark moment in the gym, thinking I might never be able to play professionally again, and kind of coming up with the realization that that might really be true," said Goodman, who suffered two knee injuries in his career.

Without coaches or teammates at the gym to feed him passes, his training lacked an authentic game feel. Use of a traditional bounce-back device was one dimensional, offering passes straight back to the source.

"My coach won't get me the rebounds," Goodman said, "and if I use one of these devices that already exists, it's not really game-like, because if I'm standing in the corner ... the ball wouldn't come to me from the angle of the net, I'd be coming off a down-screen usually and the ball would be coming from the wing."

Working in the gym, he thought to himself, "Well, I'm never going to be able to play again, how can I help the next generation of players?"

Goodman first imagined a more sophisticated bounce-back device, one capable of replicating the passes a player would experience during a game.

After Goodman's comeback bid failed to materialize, the concept he imagined helped him transition from player to entrepreneur, while keeping him involved in the game he loves. The energy he once displayed on the court was channeled toward the creation of his semi-circular bounce-back device.

Goodman's invention brings versatility to training. Its main component is a low-profile trampoline-like surface that sweeps in a 190-degree arc. It even has appendages that simulate a defender.

A single Zone190 bounce-back machine can help with drills for ball-handling, shooting, post play, passing and conditioning. Goodman's goal with the invention is to eliminate weaknesses in a player's game by having enough drills to improve each skill set.

Goodman recalled how scouting reports describe a player's weakness turning to one side or handling a specific type of pass. Opposing coaches will try to exploit those weaknesses, but with Zone190, "they won't have any weaknesses."

"Zone190 helps you be unscoutable," Goodman said. "They can back cut, curl cut, fade cut, pick and roll -- any situation you could ever find yourself in on the

court, whatever position you play, you can practice all the game-like scenarios that you'd see on the court and that way be confident in every one of those."

The device handles the work of multiple coaches feeding passes to a player, and the speed with which the ball is returned on the bounce forces a player to give maximum effort, even without coaches overseeing training. Goodman wishes he could have trained with it during his development in Baltimore.

Goodman, who ended a playing career marred by injuries in 2009, uses the Zone190 to stay involved with the sport he grew up playing. In Jerusalem, he runs an international basketball camp, and he is a consultant for Hapoel Jerusalem of the Israeli Basketball Premier League. Last year, the team signed former NBA player Amar'e Stoudemire.

"It's very hard for players ... to all of a sudden retire," Goodman said. "I'm very thankful that I've had Zone190, because it's almost like I've been able to continue my career, and even on a higher level because I've been able to reach players I otherwise wouldn't have been able to reach if it weren't for Zone190."

The Zone190 has broken through into the training regimens of elite high schools, such as DeMatha, plus college programs and NBA teams.

In a testimonial video by Goodman, DeMatha head coach Mike Jones said, "I really believe this is something we're going to utilize on a daily basis, and I really think it's going to be a great benefit to our guys."

The international reach Goodman has achieved through his training aid helps him impact the game even further than what was possible with him on the court.

"Here I am, able to reach a lot more players and help them reach their potential on the court," Goodman said. "So, I was glad I was able to experience playing on the court, but I think it's an even greater feeling to share and help other people to reach their potential, and Zone190 allows players to do that."

-- ANDY KOSTKA

Local Goalie Dreams Of Playing In NHL

Severna Park, Md., native Nick Ellis isn't from a hockey hotbed, but the goalie for the Bakersfield Condors of the American Hockey League, a minor league affiliate of the Edmonton Oilers, has been pursuing his dream of playing in the NHL since he was 5 years old.

"The first time I went skating was at a birthday party," said Ellis, 23. "Then my mother started taking me to public skates."

In one of his first games, Ellis wore the goalie pads backward and kept falling down. He played for the now-defunct Benfield Ice Vipers in the early days and started working with a goalie coach at 7. He rose through the ranks of youth hockey and was playing U16 AAA before deciding to attend the Pomfret School, a prep school in Connecticut, after the 10th grade.

After prep school, he played 37 games for the Des Moines Buccaneers in the United States Hockey League, allowing 3.41 goals per game and recording a

.909 save percentage.

"That was the biggest adjustment for me," he said. "It was definitely a higher level of play and my first inclination that I was going to play Division I and get drafted."

He attended Providence College and was a reserve for two years before helping lead the Friars to a 27-7-4 record in 2015. He allowed fewer than two goals per game.

"I've never needed someone to motivate me," he said. "I've always had a passion for hockey. I love the pressure that comes with the position. I like being the difference-maker. You are a big part of the team's success. It's kind of fun."

At 6-foot-1 and 180 pounds, Ellis is not considered a large netminder.

"I'm not big or small," he said. "I focus on good movements -- edge work and balance -- so that I can play big."

Ellis works out five days a week and does vision training.

"Vision training has gotten pretty big lately," he said. "It strengthens your eyes. The eye is basically a muscle. I put on 3-D glasses and play games designed to help me project and react."

His biggest challenge as a goalie is fighting through screens when two or three players are blocking his vision.

"Traffic and screens are the hardest thing to figure out," he said. "I handle breakaways the same way every time, only the reactions are different. The approach and the method allow the player to make the first move and you react from there."

Ellis hopes all his training eventually leads to the sport's highest level.

"My ultimate goal is to play in the NHL," he said. "I want to have a good career and win the Stanley Cup."

In his first season for the Condors, Ellis went 16-12-1 and recorded 897 saves. It's a different lifestyle for him.

"You're living on your own," he said. "You have to figure things out. No one will babysit you."

Ellis is grateful to his parents for supporting him.

"They drove me everywhere to play on certain teams," he said. "They made all the sacrifices and put in a lot of work. They gave me this opportunity. And they watch or listen to every game. They are enjoying this for as long as it lasts."

-- DEAN SMITH

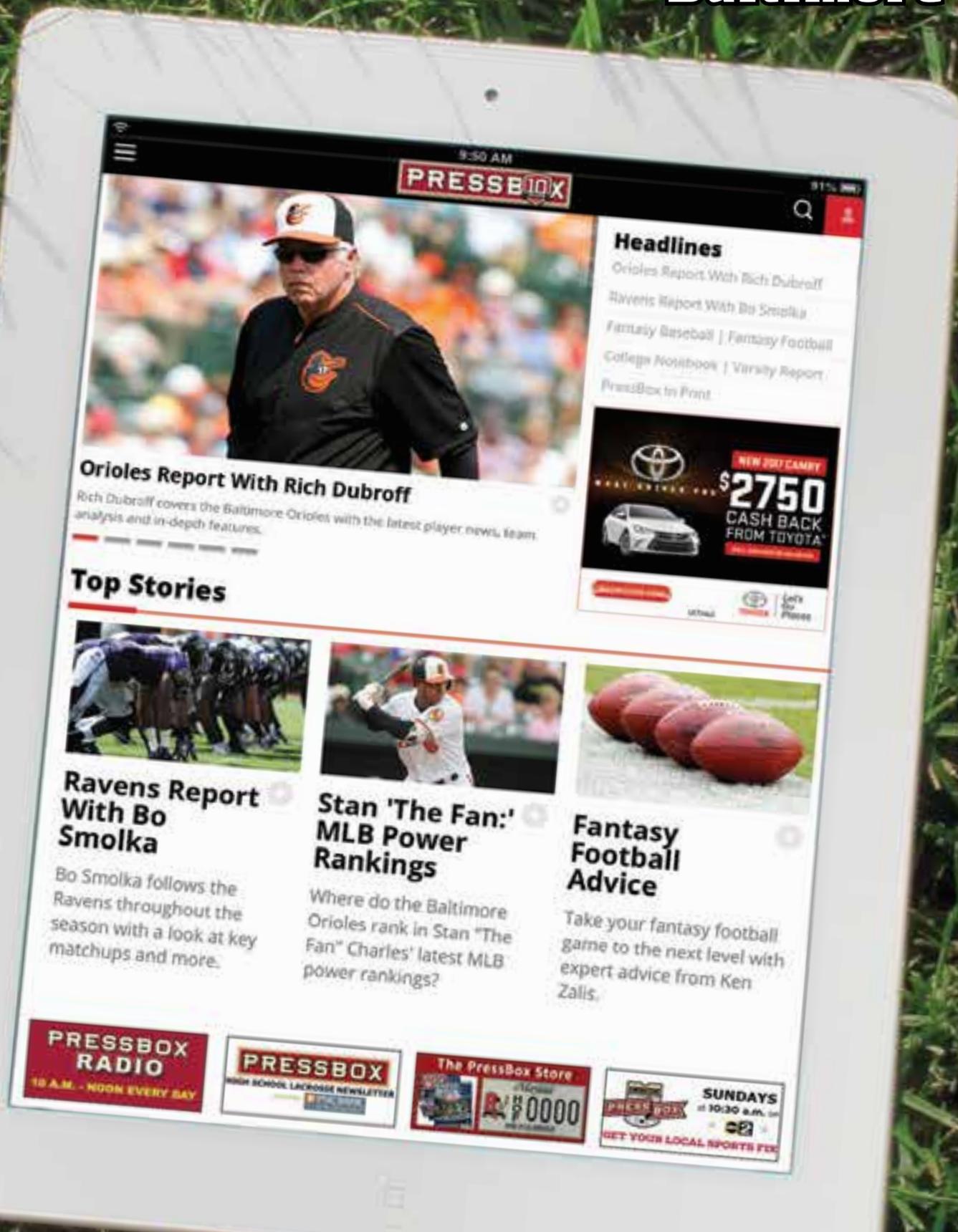


Nick Ellis

COURTESY OF BAKERSFIELD CONDORS

PressBoxOnline.com

Baltimore Sports. Period.



NFL

MLB

NHL

NBA

Lacrosse

Soccer

College Sports

High School Sports

Sports Business

Casinos and Gaming

Fantasy Sports

Video

And More

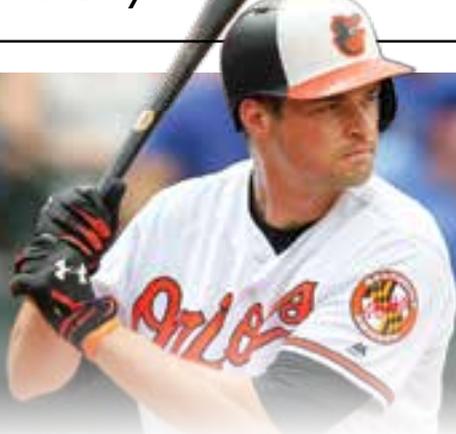
All Updated. All Relevant.

PRESENTED BY:  Buyatoyota.com

PLUS, CHECK OUT
PressBoxDC.com
D.C. Sports. Period.

10 Questions With Outfielder/Infielder Trey Mancini

• By Kevin Eck



Trey Mancini

Q1 *Who was your favorite athlete when you were a kid?*
Ken Griffey Jr. was my favorite player to watch. I'd say a lot of kids who grew up in that time liked him, [Mark] McGwire and [Sammy] Sosa, but Griffey was my favorite.

Q2 *If you weren't playing baseball what would you be doing for a living?*
There's a good chance I'd be in law school right now. I was a political science major [at Notre Dame].

Q3 *What is your all-time favorite movie?*
"Shawshank Redemption." I just think it's the best movie of all-time. I watch it probably at least once a year. If any of my friends haven't seen it before, I try to get them to watch it.

Q4 *What's your favorite thing about Baltimore?*
I like going to Fells Point a lot. I think it's a really cool area, so I like checking out different restaurants and things to do there.

Q5 *Do you have a favorite road city?*
I actually really enjoyed Kansas City a lot. It's got a good Midwest feel to it.

Q6 *What's your favorite thing to do in the offseason?*
I play some tennis. I've been playing since I was 3 years old. So if I want to get some cardio in but I don't want to run, I play some tennis because it's a really good workout.

Q7 *What's your favorite "cheat" food?*
Pizza, for sure. It's my favorite food of all time by far. During the season, especially sometimes on late nights, pizza's probably the easiest option. I eat it probably more than I should.

Q8 *What's something everyone's obsessed with but you just don't get?*
I've never understood everybody's obsession with The Muppets. Kermit The Frog and Miss Piggy and all them -- they go on talk shows and stuff and everybody loves them, and I just don't get why everybody likes them so much. It's always annoyed me.

Q9 *What's something you wish you knew more about?*
Since I was a political science major, I wish I knew more about what's going on politically. I know a decent amount, but I guess, like the whole healthcare thing, I don't know many details about it, so if it comes up in conversation, I don't really have much to put my two cents in because I don't know the ins and outs of it and what's really going on with it. So I'd like to get a little more well-versed in that and what's going on day to day in the political world.

Q10 *What's the best advice you were ever given?*
Don't worry about what anybody else thinks of you. In baseball that's definitely helped me the most. And it's hard because you want everybody to like you and think you're talented, but it's just impossible. Even the best player in the world or the best person in the world, somebody's going to have some issue. So just try to make yourself happy and not worry too much what other people think.

PRESS BOX FANTASY FOOTBALL

DOMINATE YOUR LEAGUE

With Fantasy Football Expert
KEN ZALIS

- Complete player rankings
- Weekly player updates with Sit 'em, Start 'em suggestions
- Live updates online every Sunday from 10 am - noon

PRESS BOX FANTASY & REALITY FOOTBALL SHOW

WITH **KEN ZALIS**
AND **THE NFL CHICK**

ALL AT
PressBoxOnline.com

SPONSORED BY **PAREXEL**
YOUR JOURNEY. OUR MISSION.™

RAVENS REPORT

Danny Woodhead Could Provide Offensive Spark Ravens Need

★ BO SMOLKA



Much of the chatter about the Ravens this offseason centered around the defense, and with good reason: The Ravens signed free-agent defensive backs Tony Jefferson and Brandon Carr, re-signed defensive lineman Brandon Williams to a whopping \$52.5 million contract and then selected defensive players with their first four picks in the NFL Draft.

But the one offensive acquisition the team made early in free agency amid all that focus on the defense -- running back Danny Woodhead -- could prove to be the Ravens' most important move of the year.

Woodhead figures to have a significant role in the Ravens' offense given their reliance on running backs in the short-passing game and the departure of fullback Kyle Juszczyk.

And Woodhead's role appears to be growing with each

injury that alters the Ravens' offensive depth chart. By Aug. 1, the Ravens had already lost tight ends Dennis Pitta (hip) and Crockett Gillmore (knee) and running back Kenneth Dixon (knee) to likely season-ending injuries. They had also lost tight end Darren Waller to a year-long suspension because of a second violation of the league's substance-abuse policy.

Woodhead, 32, is coming off an ACL injury himself that limited him to two games last season, and he missed 13 games in 2014 with an ankle injury. His age and health history bring valid questions, but he has shown no signs of lingering medical issues since joining the Ravens.

What he has shown is elusiveness, quickness, toughness and very reliable hands.

"The kid is a little ball of muscle," Pro Bowl guard Marshal Yanda said.

Woodhead, all 5-foot-9, 200 pounds of him, has never been a bell-cow runner; he has averaged about five carries a game during his career. But the former Chadron State star, who has dismissed doubters throughout his career,

excels at pass protection and as a receiver, making him the Ravens' likely backfield choice on third down and in passing situations.

"I think whatever role I end up getting, I have to go out there and play well in order to have a role," Woodhead said. "Whatever the coaches ask me to do, I'll be ready for."

The Ravens signed Woodhead to a three-year, \$8.8 million deal on the opening day of free agency, the same day they learned Dixon would be facing a four-game suspension. (General manager Ozzie Newsome said the two events were not related.) It seemed mildly surprising at the time, given the Ravens' stated need to add a complementary receiver, the loss of starting right tackle Rick Wagner to free agency and the return of Terrance West, Dixon, Buck Allen and Lorenzo Taliaferro in the backfield.

But Woodhead came at a fraction of the cost of Juszczyk's new deal (four years, \$21 million) in San Francisco, and he brought a skill set the Ravens were looking for.

"He is a very versatile running back," head coach John Harbaugh said. "He can carry the ball, but he is also a big part of the passing game, both in protection ... [and] the route running."

Quarterback Joe Flacco said Woodhead is the Ravens' best receiving back since Ray Rice.

"They just have a very good feel for when they're open and how to get open, how to sit in holes, how to find my eyes, and you can already see that," Flacco said after a June minicamp workout. "You can see he has a really good feel for those kinds of things. ... That gives a lot to your offense, for sure."

Woodhead's career numbers bear that out. In his last fully healthy season, in 2015, Woodhead had 80 catches for 755 yards and six touchdowns for the San Diego Chargers. He had 76 catches for 605 yards in 2013. (Rice, incidentally, set a Ravens franchise record for receptions by a running back with 78 in 2009.)

That success, Woodhead said, comes from developing rapport with his quarterback, and he's played with a couple of outstanding ones in Tom Brady in New England (2010-2012) and Philip Rivers in San Diego (2013-2016).

"I think you have to have some sort of chemistry with a quarterback," Woodhead said. "Everywhere I have been, that has been really important to get on the same page, whether we are running routes and I'm like, 'Hey Joe, you like this? If you don't, let me know, because I will change it.'"

"The most important thing is to do what he wants, because if I am going to get the ball or a receiver is going to get the ball, it is because we are doing it correctly how he sees it."

Through OTAs and into training camp, Woodhead proved to be a popular target for the quarterbacks and a matchup problem for the Ravens' defense -- precisely what they are hoping he will be during the regular season.

That's especially true given the Ravens' propensity to look to its running backs. Whether by design or as a check-down option, Juszczyk was fourth on the team with 37 catches for 266 yards last year, and the Ravens are hoping Woodhead's quickness and elusiveness can help improve an offense that ranked 24th in the league in third-down efficiency.

Harbaugh said Woodhead gives the Ravens "a great matchup against linebackers and even against safeties in critical situations to help us move the chains."

Woodhead also knows how to find the end zone, which has been another issue for the Ravens. Woodhead has 32 career touchdowns -- 15 rushing and 17 receiving. Last year, the Ravens' offense totaled 30 touchdowns, sixth-fewest in the league.

In short, the Ravens might have found a critical spark for an offense sorely in need of one.

"He has a knack for the football scheme, and he seems like a guy who is going to help us win, as far as with the matchups he creates," Yanda said. "You can just tell that he is a pro, and he takes his job seriously. ... He is a detail guy. I like what I see from him, and I think he is going to do great things for us." •



Danny Woodhead

SAERVA MORAN/PRESSBOX



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS AT ORIOLE PARK



25TH ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

AUGUST 18



25th Anniversary Poster
presented by MECU
(All fans)



Fireworks (Postgame)
presented by Baltimore Area Credit Unions
(All fans)

AUGUST 19



Pregame Ceremony
featuring members of the 1992 Orioles
(All fans)

**25th Anniversary Oriole Park
Replica Ballpark**
(All fans)

AUGUST 20



Kids Run the Bases (Postgame)
presented by Weis Markets
(All fans ages 4 to 14)

SEPTEMBER 3



Orioles Cap
presented by DAP
(First 20,000 fans 15 & over)



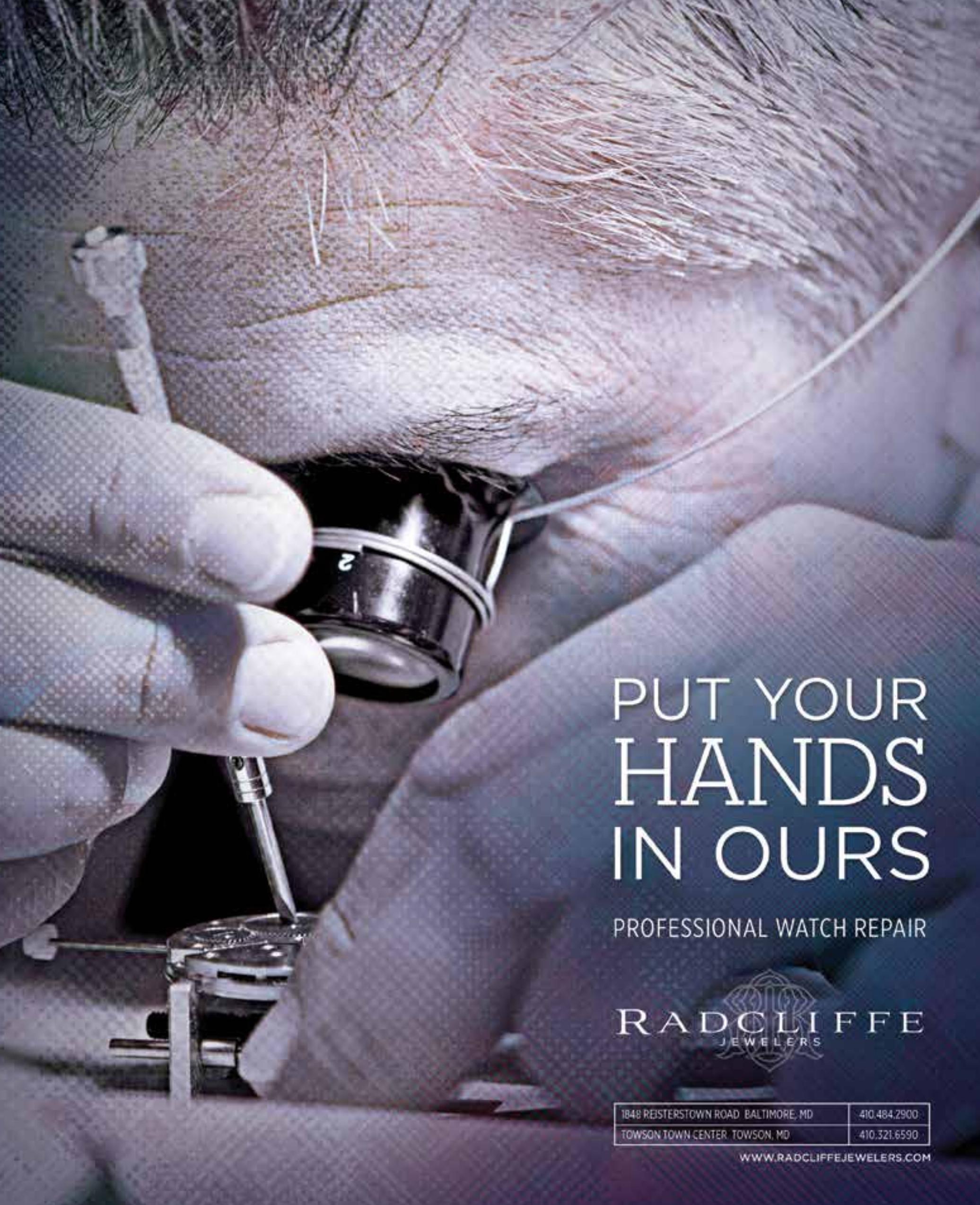
Kids Run the Bases (Postgame)
presented by Weis Markets
(All fans ages 4 to 14)

SEPTEMBER 4

Orioles T-Shirt
(All fans)

Orioles.com

888-848-BIRD



PUT YOUR HANDS IN OURS

PROFESSIONAL WATCH REPAIR

RADCLIFFE
JEWELERS

1848 REISTERSTOWN ROAD BALTIMORE, MD
TOWSON TOWN CENTER, TOWSON, MD

410.484.2900
410.321.6590

WWW.RADCLIFFEJEWELERS.COM

Top 10 2017 Fantasy Football Sleepers You Should Draft

★ **KEN ZALIS**



As the NFL regular season approaches, preseason games are being played, experts are moving players up and down their draft boards and fantasy drafts are starting up. Below are my top 10 sleeper picks.

1. PAUL PERKINS

RUNNING BACK,
NEW YORK GIANTS

WHEN: Rounds 7-8

WHY: Rashad Jennings is no longer in town and Perkins really has no competition in camp. Rookie running back Wayne Gallman is the only true back-up on the team, and Shane Vereen tore his triceps twice last season and is more of a passing-down threat.

ADVICE: During the last three games of 2016, Perkins averaged more than 4.8 yards per carry. He has third-down ability, and the Giants' offense looks much improved from last year.

2. MARLON MACK

RUNNING BACK,
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

WHEN: Rounds 12-14 or undrafted free agent

WHY: Father Time will win its battle with running back Frank Gore. I believe we have been saying that since 2013 or 2014, but eventually it will be true, and when it is, you will want to have his replacement.

ADVICE: Mack, a rookie, is University of South Florida's all-time leader in rushing and all-purpose yards. Early in the season, I can see him being the pass-catching running back, and his role will increase as the season goes forward.

3. PHILIP RIVERS

QUARTERBACK,
LOS ANGELES CHARGERS

WHEN: Rounds 8-10

WHY: The return of receiver Keenan Allen and running back Melvin Gordon should improve an already explosive offense.

ADVICE: Rivers has averaged 4,486 yards and 31 touchdowns during the past four seasons. In 2016, he threw 33 touchdowns. That's not bad for a quarterback you can get this late. I am happy to have Rivers as my passer, especially at the price I need to pay.

4. ELI MANNING

QUARTERBACK,
NEW YORK GIANTS

WHEN: Rounds 10-12

WHY: The addition of wide receiver Brandon Marshall and the drafting of tight end Evan Engram will turn this offense into a dynamic matchup issue for most defenses.

ADVICE: Truth be told, I have never been a big Eli guy. He threw too many interceptions and had too many dud games for me to trust, but during the past three seasons, he has averaged 30 touchdowns and fewer than 15 interceptions. Plus, he never misses games. It is easy to wait on quarterbacks when guys such as Rivers and Manning can be taken so late.

5. JACQUIZZ RODGERS

RUNNING BACK,
TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

WHEN: Rounds 12-13

WHY: Tampa Bay running back Doug Martin will be suspended for the first three weeks of the 2017 season, so Rodgers should be the go-to guy in the backfield during those weeks.

ADVICE: Rodgers performed well in Martin's absences in 2016, averaging more than 4.3 yards per carry in five games as the starter, including two 100-plus-yard games. If Rodgers gets off to a fast start early in the season, or if Martin should go down due to on- or off-the-field issues, you have a starter on your hands from an emerging offense in Tampa Bay. He's well worth the price.

6. ZACH ERTZ

TIGHT END,
PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

WHEN: Rounds 9-10

WHY: I'm guessing drafters see the lack of touchdowns and ignore that Ertz has caught 75 or more balls in each of the past two seasons. Ertz had the fourth-best yards per game among tight ends in 2016.

ADVICE: I won't take a tight end early in drafts unless Travis Kelce is there in the fourth round, but I also won't be drafting tight ends in rounds 5-8 or so. Ertz's current 121 average draft position has to rise, as it's kind of crazy how low he is being taken.

7. CAMERON BRATE

TIGHT END,
TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

WHEN: Rounds 14-16 or undrafted free agent

WHY: Brate is not going away that easily. Quarterback Jameis Winston and Brate developed a nice connection last season, and Tampa Bay faces the fifth-easiest schedule for tight ends in 2017.

ADVICE: Rookie tight end O.J. Howard has taken all of Brate's fantasy value, but remember tight

ends tend to struggle early during their NFL careers. Brate will still be on the field plenty in 2017.

8. QUINCY ENUNWA

WIDE RECEIVER,
NEW YORK JETS

WHEN: Rounds 10-12

WHY: Enunwa is the No. 1 receiver for the Jets. He had more than 100 targets as the No. 2 receiver last year. The Jets are going to play from behind often and will be forced to throw.

ADVICE: I love grabbing Enunwa in drafts. Yes, the quarterback situation is bad for the Jets, but I like Enunwa to garner more than 120 targets this year for 70-plus catches. On 105 targets and 58 grabs in 2016, Enunwa totaled 857 yards. He could surpass 1,000 receiving yards in 2017.

9. STERLING SHEPARD

WIDE RECEIVER,
NEW YORK GIANTS

WHEN: Rounds 12-13

WHY: Shepard had a terrific rookie year, with 65 catches and eight touchdowns. The Giants have a great schedule, which ranks as the eighth-easiest for wide receivers.

ADVICE: Yes, Brandon Marshall was added as a free agent, and Evan Engram was drafted at tight end, and they will both steal targets from Shepard, but he is not going to be frozen out of the offense entirely and should injury strike a teammate, Shepard would play a significant role for the Giants once again in 2017.

10. TYRELL WILLIAMS

WIDE RECEIVER,
LOS ANGELES CHARGERS

WHEN: Rounds 7-9

WHY: Mike Williams, the seventh overall pick in the 2017 NFL Draft, may not play in 2017 due to a back issue that may require surgery. That opens playing time and targets for Tyrell Williams.

ADVICE: Tyrell Williams finished as a top 15 wide receiver in 2016, but that was without Keenan Allen in the lineup. Allen is back, but the No. 2 receiver for the Chargers is still worth selecting in your fantasy draft, especially if you are selecting him as your fourth receiver. •

HONORABLE MENTION:

1. C.J. PROSISE, RUNNING BACK, SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

2. JOE WILLIAMS, RUNNING BACK, SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

3. AUSTIN HOOPER, TIGHT END, ATLANTA FALCONS

4. DUKE JOHNSON, RUNNING BACK, CLEVELAND BROWNS

5. BLAKE BORTLES, QUARTERBACK, JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

6. CHRIS CONLEY, WIDE RECEIVER, KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

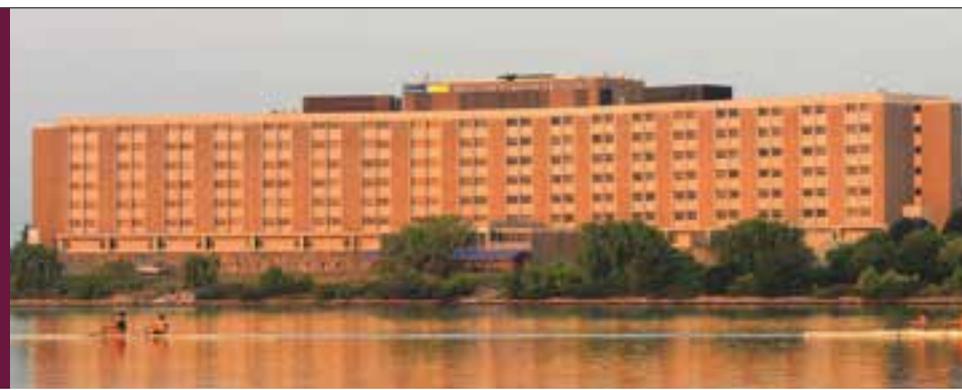
7. DEVIN FUNCHESS, WIDE RECEIVER, CAROLINA PANTHERS

8. KAMAR AIKEN, WIDE RECEIVER, INDIANAPOLIS COLTS (PPR ONLY)

9. CARSON WENTZ, QUARTERBACK, PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

10. ROBERT WOODS, WIDE RECEIVER, LOS ANGELES RAMS

PARTICIPATE IN A CLINICAL RESEARCH TRIAL



The Baltimore Early Phase Unit is currently seeking volunteers to participate in a clinical research trial to evaluate a new investigational medication.

This study has up to 2 screening visits, a 8 day/7 night in-house stay, and six follow-up visits.

WE ARE RECRUITING:

- Healthy males
- Ages 18-55
- BMI 25-34.9

If you qualify you may receive up to \$6,800.00 after completing all study required visits.

For more information, please visit www.PAREXEL.com/baltimore or call us at 1-877-617-8839.

PAREXEL[®]
YOUR JOURNEY. OUR MISSION.™

© 2017 PAREXEL International Corporation. All rights reserved.

Register Today

Presented by **ExpressCare**⁺
A LifeBridge Health Partner
URGENT CARE CENTERS

Sunday, September 17, 2017 • 8 a.m.
5K/10K Run, 1-Mile Family Fun Walk
Benefiting the Herman & Walter Samuelson Children's Hospital

Amenities include:
■ Chip-timed race
■ Long-sleeve technical shirt
■ Kosher food available at post-race party

Call **410-601-4438** or visit raceforourkids.org

RACE FOR OUR KIDS
SAMUELSON
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AT SINAI

The Herman & Walter Samuelson
Children's HOSPITAL AT SINAI

CLASSIC
CATERING
PEOPLE

Earlier this month, the documentary film "Baltimore Boys" debuted on ESPN and told the story of the legendary basketball teams at Baltimore's Dunbar High School in the early 1980s. The film was the latest in ESPN's award-winning "30 For 30" series to tackle a local sports topic. Previously, "The Band That Wouldn't Die" told the story of the Baltimore Colts Marching Band; "Without Bias" remembered the 1986 death of Maryland basketball legend Len Bias; and "Elway To Marino" looked at how the 1983 NFL Draft shook out with the Colts drafting Stanford quarterback John Elway, who they later traded to the Denver Broncos.

With that in mind, The 15 this month looks at other local sports stories that might make a good "30 For 30" film. My suggestions largely feature more modern subjects, as a documentary film needs living storytellers who are able to give quality perspective. And while the stories are local, I tried to consider that in order to make a good "30 For 30," they would have to also be interesting to a national audience.

So here are some ideas, complete with title suggestions. And like all "30 For 30" films, I even offer a potential "What if I told you ..." tagline that could be in the trailer.



LOCAL SPORTS STORIES THAT WOULD MAKE GOOD "30 FOR 30" FILMS

figure in sports broadcasting.

01 **"30 FOR 30: AQUAMAN"**
"WHAT IF I TOLD YOU ... BEING THE WORLD'S MOST DOMINANT ATHLETE ISN'T ALWAYS ALL IT'S CRACKED UP TO BE?"

SUBJECT: Baltimore native Michael Phelps' remarkable journey from a kid growing up with ADHD to the greatest Olympic champion of all time, despite missteps outside of the pool, including multiple DUI arrests.

02 **"30 FOR 30: BARBARO"**
"WHAT IF I TOLD YOU ... NOT ALL SUPERHEROES GET THEIR HAPPY ENDINGS?"

SUBJECT: Kentucky Derby champion Barbaro's shocking injury early in the 2006 Preakness Stakes that ultimately led to his death.

03 **"30 FOR 30: CATEGORICALLY DENIED"**
"WHAT IF I TOLD YOU ... WHEN YOU POINT YOUR FINGER, SOMETIMES YOUR FINGER POINTS BACK?"

SUBJECT: Former Orioles first baseman Rafael Palmeiro testing positive for steroids just days after becoming only the fourth player in MLB history to reach 500 career home runs and 3,000 career hits (and mere months after vehemently denying steroid use while testifying before Congress).

04 **"30 FOR 30: THE CHAMP IS ROCKED"**
"WHAT IF I TOLD YOU ... IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD, THE IMPOSSIBLE OCCURRED?"

SUBJECT: Then-largely unknown Baltimore native Hasim Rahman's stunning knockout win against boxing heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis in South Africa in 2001.

05 **"30 FOR 30: DRAFT NERD"**
"WHAT IF I TOLD YOU ... SOMETIMES A SILLY IDEA CAN LAY THE FOUNDATION FOR AN EMPIRE?"

SUBJECT: The career of ESPN NFL Draft analyst Mel Kiper Jr. (Calvert Hall), who went from making draft evaluations for fun in the 1970s to becoming an iconic

06 **"30 FOR 30: FLANNY"**
"WHAT IF I TOLD YOU ... THINGS AREN'T ALWAYS THE WAY THEY APPEAR?"

SUBJECT: The devastating 2011 suicide of former Orioles pitcher, front office executive and broadcaster Mike Flanagan.

07 **"30 FOR 30: JEFFREY FREAKING MAIER"**
"WHAT IF I TOLD YOU ... THE ACTIONS OF A CHILD COULD ALTER THE COURSE FOR TWO FRANCHISES AND THEIR FAN BASES?"

SUBJECT: The story of Derek Jeter's 1996 American League Championship Series Game 1 home run thanks to the interference of then-12-year-old Yankees fan Jeffrey Maier. The story would be told from the perspective of New York fans (where he is revered after playing a role in what would be the beginning of the Yankees' dynasty) and Baltimore fans (where he is reviled for having hurt the Orioles' chances of winning a World Series before a futile stretch of losing baseball began).

08 **"30 FOR 30: THE JEWISH JORDAN"**
"WHAT IF I TOLD YOU ... THE BIGGEST BASKETBALL PHENOM OF THE LATE 1990s COULD BE FOUND UNDER A YARMULKE?"

SUBJECT: Former Towson University and Talmudical Academy basketball player Tamir Goodman's ascent to national prominence, including his commitment to play for the University of Maryland at one point.

09 **"30 FOR 30: THE MAN WHO CHANGED THE GAME"**
"WHAT IF I TOLD YOU ... NOT EVEN DEATH COULD END THE IMPACT OF ONE OF FOOTBALL'S GIANTS?"

SUBJECT: After his Hall of Fame career ended, former

Baltimore Colts tight end John Mackey -- who led the fight for free agency during his time as NFL Players Association president -- brought the league's head injury debate to prominence during his very public battle with dementia.

10 **"30 FOR 30: NO SPECTATORS"**
"WHAT IF I TOLD YOU ... IF A BASEBALL GAME IS PLAYED IN A PARK AND NO ONE IS THERE TO SEE IT, IT DEFINITELY STILL MAKES A SOUND?"

SUBJECT: The 2015 game between the Orioles and Chicago White Sox played in front of no fans at Camden Yards amidst the backdrop of the civil unrest in Baltimore following the death of Freddie Gray while in police custody.

11 **"30 FOR 30: PETER THE GREEK"**
"WHAT IF I TOLD YOU ... HALF OF A CITY CAN THINK YOU'RE NO. 1 AND THE OTHER HALF CAN SEE YOU AS PUBLIC ENEMY NO. 1?"

SUBJECT: Peter Angelos' tumultuous era as Orioles owner while also having the reputation of being one of the most philanthropic people in the city.

12 **"30 FOR 30: PRELUDE TO IMMORTALITY"**
"WHAT IF I TOLD YOU ... A 1993 BRAWL NEARLY ENDED IT ALL?"

SUBJECT: The many close calls and issues former Orioles shortstop Cal Ripken Jr. faced before breaking Lou Gehrig's consecutive games record in 1995, including ankle injuries, struggles at the plate, his father getting fired as Orioles manager, twisting his knee during the Orioles' brawl with the Seattle Mariners and more.

13 **"30 FOR 30: RAY-DEMPTION"**
"WHAT IF I TOLD YOU ... A MAN COULD GO FROM A JUMPSUIT TO A GOLD SUIT?"

SUBJECT: Former Ravens linebacker Ray Lewis' rise from a 2000 murder accusation to a Hall of Fame career as an inspirational football icon.

14 **"30 FOR 30: SABELHAUS"**
"WHAT IF I TOLD YOU ... ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT PROSPECTS OF ALL TIME NEVER PLAYED A SNAP OF COLLEGE FOOTBALL?"

SUBJECT: The failed hype of former McDonogh quarterback and prized Florida recruit Bobby Sabelhaus, which led to the term "Sabelhaus" becoming synonymous with recruiting busts. (This hypothetical "30 For 30" would be particularly interesting because Sabelhaus is actually the producer of "Baltimore Boys." He told Glenn Clark Radio July 21 he didn't think his story was interesting enough to warrant its own documentary but said he'd participate if someone else wanted to make it.)

15 **"30 FOR 30: UNWANTED"**
"WHAT IF I TOLD YOU ... SOMETIMES REALITY IS MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAN FICTION?"

SUBJECT: Baltimore native/Maryland basketball legend and Coppin State coach Juan Dixon's incredible path from being a scrawny orphan who lost his parents to heroin addiction, to receiving few scholarship offers before landing at Maryland and then leading the Terps to their only national championship (while also becoming the school's all-time leading scorer). Oh, and then he played nearly a decade in the NBA, had a role in a reality TV show, returned to his alma mater and then later his hometown to coach before discovering a biological father he never knew existed. •

[BY GLENN CLARK | PRESSBOX IS AVAILABLE EVERY MONTH ON THE 15TH]

By
**BO SMOLKA,
KAITLYN WILSON
& KEVIN ECK**

L O N D O N

GETTING YOUR FAMILY TO LONDON MIGHT SEEM LIKE A LOGISTICAL CHALLENGE

-- managing passports, foreign currency and hotel arrangements, not to mention that whole driving-on-the-left-side-of-the-road thing.

Now imagine trying to get 53 football players, staff and all the team's equipment and technology across the pond and you can begin to understand the challenge facing Ravens vice president of operations Bob Eller as Baltimore prepares to face the Jacksonville Jaguars in London's Wembley Stadium Sept. 24.

"It will be a different type of trip for sure," said Eller, who along with director of team travel Joan Fennekohl is responsible for the logistics in getting the team from Point A to Point B for each of its road games.

For a typical game, that includes coordinating with the equipment staff, athletic trainers and others to ensure all gear bags, video equipment and medical supplies arrive safely -- and that ground transportation and hotel rooms are ready at the other end.

A game in London has additional hurdles, such as making sure everyone in the official travel party of about 190 has a valid passport, the lengthy process of clearing customs with all the team equipment at the airport, arranging a practice facility and working with local medical personnel and security.

And while some fans are building vacations around this game, the team has no such luxury. The Ravens host the Cleveland Browns at M&T Bank Stadium seven days before playing in London and host the Pittsburgh Steelers seven days afterward.

Given that schedule, this will be a quick business trip for the Ravens, not much more than a bus-window tour of London, with arrival Friday morning, Sept. 22, and departure immediately after the game. (The Ravens could have requested a bye week after the London game, as many teams have done, but they prefer the bye later in the season.)

Head coach John Harbaugh is a creature of habit, and the Ravens are approaching the Jaguars game much like other long road games. Rather than spend the whole week in London, as some teams opt to do, the Ravens will prac-

tice at their Under Armour Performance Center in Owings Mills, Md., during the first part of the week and will fly Thursday night, Sept. 21, landing at London's Heathrow Airport the next morning.

The Ravens will practice Friday, Sept. 22, at the Hazelwood rugby facility in suburban London. It has been used by other NFL teams, so the facility already has NFL practice equipment such as first-down chains and goalposts.

Then they will have a standard light walkthrough practice Saturday at Wembley Stadium, and there could be some promotional appearances in conjunction with NFL UK.

"The goal is to keep it in the rhythm of the week to week," Eller said.

For starters, every player will need a valid passport, and they have all been told to bring passports to training camp. This will give the team several weeks to sort out any potential issues.

The Ravens unofficially began planning this trip last October, when an NFL official told team president Dick Cass that a Ravens game in London in 2017 was likely. It was already known that the Jaguars would host the Ravens this season, and the Jaguars were scheduled to be the host team for one of the London games.

So when the Cincinnati Bengals and Washington Redskins played in London last season during the Ravens' bye week, Eller and Fennekohl went to observe and scout out potential practice and hotel sites. They returned to London in March once the game was confirmed.

"Everybody over there has been so pleasant and accommodating," Eller said. "They want it to be a good experience for the teams, although it is a very, very different type of game."

It helps that the league has been staging regular-season games in London since 2007. So in planning for this game, the Ravens have drawn on the experience of veteran NFL staffers and the Jaguars, who will be playing in London for the fourth straight season.

"We're very fortunate to have the resources of the league office, because they've been doing this a long time," Eller said. "They really kind of have a system down. ... They are very well organized."

One of the biggest issues to arise in the past few months has been security in light of terrorist attacks in London this spring.

"We will be making the trip," Harbaugh said after one OTA workout. "I just think it underscores the gratitude and the respect that we all absolutely have to have for those who protect us."

Eller said team officials and the NFL have had "many discussions about it, and [NFL and local authorities] are acutely aware of the challenges they face and they really do a very, very good job. ... Believe me, it's on everybody's radar, and every precaution that can be taken is being taken."

— BO SMOLKA

RAVENS NATION TRAVELS ABROAD

Perry Hall, Md., resident Ed Stylc has never been overseas. In fact, he hasn't been on a plane since 2000.

This September, however, he'll embark on his first European adventure. And it's all because of the Ravens.



➤ RAVENS FAN ED STYLC

CAWING

"Absolutely, no question about it. If they weren't playing I wasn't going," Style said. "... The combination of it being my favorite team and, well, I never really thought I was going to go over to Europe. But in this case, it was like if the Ravens are going to be there, why not?"

Style, 48, grew up in Highlandtown, Md., and attended Calvert Hall. He was a Baltimore Colts fan in grade school and became a Ravens fan when the team came to town for the 1996 season. He's been a season-ticket holder since M&T Bank Stadium opened in 1998.

With an 11-year-old daughter, Style said he and his wife have never had much of an interest in traveling. They often vacation in the Outer Banks and enjoy their routine. This year, however, they aren't making their annual beach trip, so Style and a friend decided to take on London.

Having never been overseas -- and not even on a plane since 9/11 -- Style said recent security concerns in Europe have crossed his mind but haven't dampened his enthusiasm.

"I'm not the greatest flyer in the world," he said. "... I can't tell you that going to Europe doesn't bother me a little bit, but the likelihood of it being a problem is pretty unlikely."

Style is one of many Ravens fans who will need passports in hand as they catch the purple and black across the pond. Whether through a group or on their own, a seven-plus-hour flight, thousands of dollars and time off work won't keep diehard fans from making the trip.

"We enjoy going and seeing other cities and towns and seeing other stadiums and just supporting the Ravens away," said Laura Weber of Baltimore. "There's a huge congregation of Ravens fans that show up at away games. You would be surprised if you've never been."

Weber, 60, and her husband will be traveling to London for the first time. A former season-ticket holder for 12 years, Weber and her husband often travel to see the Ravens play, but this is the first time they'll need a passport.

"Well, London was on my husband's and my bucket list for travel," Weber said. "We love to travel. And when we found out that the Ravens were playing that game it was just like a perfect reason to go at that time."

Planning a trip to London is slightly different than, say, New Orleans, so Weber and others have enlisted the help of BMORE Around Town and Sports Tickets Unlimited, who have teamed up to help fans make the trip.

"There's no other way," said Tish Hild of Parkton, Md., who will be traveling with her husband. "... We do all of our Ravens trips with them. It's not even a consideration. ... The package includes a bunch of touristy things. It's really easy to just write a check, if you will, and they plan everything else. The most you have to remember is what time to be in the

lobby for different excursions."

The package through BMORE Around Town and Sports Tickets Unlimited offers fans a four- or six-night stay. The trips run from \$2,700 to \$3,400, depending on the number of nights, and include everything from non-stop airfare, five-star lodging, tickets to the game, several tours of local attractions, a Sunday tailgate and more.

But while some may take comfort in the convenience of a group trip, others are more than happy to take it on themselves.

Jason Armiger grew up in Towson, Md., and has been a Ravens fan since 1996. He now lives in Parkland, Fla., but travels back to Baltimore once or twice each year to attend a game with his father. He also recently started attending a few road games each year, also with his dad.

"It's very much deep-rooted in my family, being Ravens fans," Armiger, 45, said.

This year, Armiger will take his wife and two kids, ages 3 and 5, to London. Armiger, who has family in the UK, booked the trip himself, and said airfare from Orlando to London for his family of four ran about \$3,000. He paid \$95 a ticket for the four tickets he purchased through the Ravens' website. Once there, the Armigers will be staying with family.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see the Ravens play on that stage," Armiger said. "... I think it's an honor for the Ravens to play on that stage. To see the Ravens ... expand in other markets, to see our NFL game get played for a more broad audience, I think is fantastic."

— KAITLYN WILSON

LOCAL BUSINESSES BRING LONDON EXPERIENCE TO CHARM CITY

Those traveling to London to attend the game aren't the only Ravens fans who are in store for a unique game-day experience. On the domestic front, the impact of the game will be felt in living rooms and establishments all across Baltimore and elsewhere where there are Ravens fans.

With kickoff taking place at 9:30 a.m. Eastern Time, game-day rituals for Ravens fans on this side of the pond will be a departure from the typical football Sunday. However, a number of popular Ravens game-day destinations are embracing the opportunity to enhance the experience.

For example, Jimmy's Famous Seafood in Dundalk, Md., will open its doors at 6 a.m. -- five hours earlier than usual -- and do its best imitation of an English pub.

"We are going to bring England to Baltimore for those who couldn't travel from



Baltimore to England," Jimmy's Famous Seafood owner John Minadakis said. "We're going to do the English breakfast thing and have the soccer games on the screen, and we're going to have the staff dressed like they're [working] in an English bar. We'll have the Spice Girls on the screen, a [former British WWE wrestler] William Regal look-alike contest -- anything it takes to recreate the English experience. Of course when it's time for the game, we'll turn off the soccer matches and get into football mode, with the wings and the traditional American football things."

Even though the sun may just be rising when Jimmy's opens, Minadakis said he anticipates a good crowd because of how rabid Ravens fans are about the team.

"In [2002], when the U.S. was in the World Cup and they were playing in Japan, we had people in at 6 in the morning and it was awesome," he said. "It was very patriotic. I would equate people's love for the Ravens to their love of their country. I anticipate it'll be our best away game party of the year."

For Ravens fans who want to stick to

their routine of having a few cold ones before or during the game, Jimmy's will accommodate them, although Minadakis said breakfast beverages, such as a Bloody Mary and Bellini, will likely be popular that day.

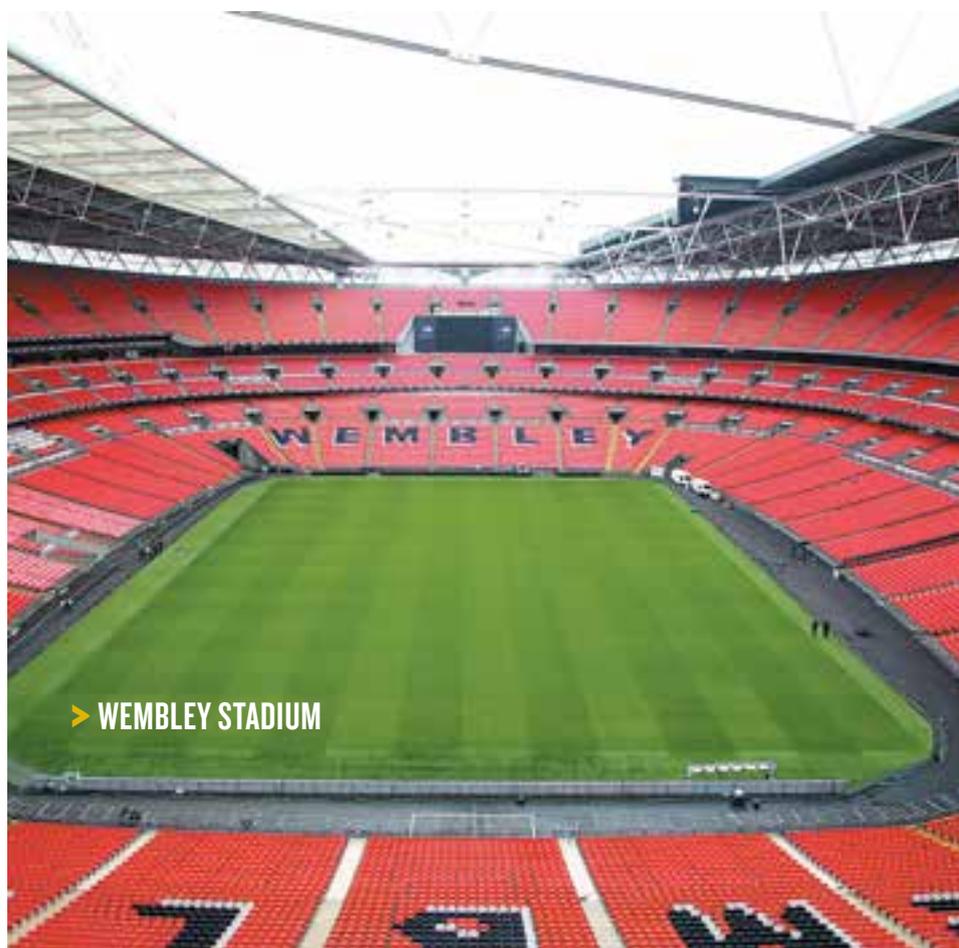
So, in keeping with the English theme, will patrons also be able to enjoy a spot of tea at Jimmy's?

"Gosh, I'd have to revoke somebody's man card as I served them that tea," Minadakis said with a laugh. "But, yeah, if they want tea, we'll give them tea."

Other Ravens haunts planning to commemorate the team's international road trip include Mother's Federal Hill Grille, Della Rose's Local Tavern in Bel Air, Md., and various Greene Turtle and Looney's Pub locations.

"A lot of the people who come out here are diehard fans, and they wouldn't miss this for the world because this game is so special and something different," said Mother's owner Kelly Rather, who added that Mother's will be doing drink specials and some English dishes for breakfast.

Tony Della Rose, the owner of Della Rose's Local Tavern, has become something of a local cult figure for



➤ WEMBLEY STADIUM

delivering passionate pregame pep talks while standing on the bar at Della Rose's Avenue Tavern in White Marsh prior to Ravens games. (Those over-the-top speeches and his Ravens-themed comedy videos led to him co-hosting a weekly, late-night TV show on Channel 54 in Baltimore years ago). Della Rose said patrons at his new establishment in Bel Air can expect the same type of spirited atmosphere for the London game, despite the early start time.

"I'm approaching that game the way [Looney's Pub owner] Bill Larney approaches St. Patrick's Day," said Della Rose, who said he'll likely open for business at 8 a.m. and have a "tailgate breakfast" on the patio. Della Rose won't be there in person to deliver his traditional pregame speech -- he'll be at Wembley Stadium for the game -- but he said one of his bartenders will be a capable surrogate.

Many of the most passionate Ravens fans are members of Ravens Roosts -- a booster organization -- and as one would expect, they're not going to let a 9:30 a.m. kickoff deter them from enjoying the game to its fullest. At least two of the clubs -- in Hagerstown, Md., and Pasadena, Md., -- are encouraging members to roll out of bed and head right to the festivities still wearing their pajamas.

"It's come as you are," said Mike Guessford, president of Hub City Ravens Roost 124, which meets at Beaver Creek Country Club in Hagerstown. "We're going to be doing a big breakfast and trying to find some British-type meal. Our roost is really excited about it. We have about 45 members, and I know we're going to have a full house."

Darryl Despeaux, president of Ravens Roost 65, which gathers at Beefalo Bob's in Pasadena, said his club members are

used to putting their game faces on early in the morning, as they typically meet at 8 a.m. for 1 p.m. home games during the season, hop on a bus and head to M&T Bank Stadium to tailgate. He said some of his members see advantages in the 9:30 a.m. start.

"Some people were like, 'This is great. We can watch the Ravens game at 9:30, it'll be over with early in the afternoon, and then we can go home and do some other stuff,'" said Despeaux, whose Roost will have a breakfast buffet and Blood Mary bar for the London game.

Not all Ravens fans are thrilled about the early start time, however.

"Since my life revolves around game days, 9:30 a.m. [kickoff] sucks," Dundalk, Md., native Janeen McCoy said. "I'm big on comfort food for game days. I get up, put in a big roast, make chicken pot pie, roast chicken, and it's ready by game time. I'm not down with drinking my morning coffee while screaming at the TV. I'm guaranteed to dump hot coffee on myself."

As for transplanted Ravens fans residing on the West Coast, they will have to drink their morning coffee especially early that day, as kickoff commences at 6:30 a.m. Pacific Time.

"To be totally honest, we haven't given it much thought to this point," said Peter Allen, president of Ravens In The Fog, a club for Ravens fans in San Francisco. "We meet as a group early enough as it is most weeks, and finding a bar willing to open at 9:30 a.m. [Pacific Time] is tricky enough. But 6:30 a.m.? Forget about it!"

"But, trying to look at things optimistically, it's a special occasion and it's a ways off. Plenty of time to plan something for the occasion." ■

— KEVIN ECK

LONDON MATCHUP WOULD BE HOMECOMING GAME FOR RAVENS ROOKIE JERMAINE ELUEMUNOR

BY GLENN CLARK

The Ravens' trip to London for their Sept. 24 International Series matchup against the Jacksonville Jaguars will unquestionably mean the most to one Raven in particular.

"I had the dream of playing in the NFL -- playing in Wembley Stadium one day," said rookie offensive tackle Jermaine Eluemunor, a fifth-round pick out of Texas A&M and a London native who potentially could play in his hometown.

Eluemunor was 12 when he watched the New York Giants face the Miami Dolphins on British television in October 2007. It was the first regular-season NFL game played outside of North America. To that point of his life, Eluemunor had played soccer and rugby. After that game, he had a new passion.

"I wanted to play in the NFL," Eluemunor said. "That's why I started playing."

Of course, it wasn't as easy for Eluemunor to get into the sport as it would have been if he was growing up in, say, Parkville, Md.

"I Googled a bunch of teams around the area and found out about [British American football team] the London Blitz," Eluemunor said. "I went from there to trying to get into it and went through a tryout and made the team and just practiced with them."

He continued to watch and enjoy American football as well. With no British-born heroes to follow, he was a fan of players such as New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning and former Giants defensive end Michael Strahan because of that first game he watched.

Eluemunor continued his football dream when he moved to the U.S. with his father at the age of 14. His dream became reality after he transferred from Lackawanna College in Pennsylvania to Texas A&M, which gave him the opportunity to be drafted. But as a mid-round pick, Eluemunor isn't ready to make any assumptions about being on the field for the Ravens' Week 3 game.

"I've thought about it, but I want to get through training camp and make sure I make a name for myself here so I can get to that point," Eluemunor said. "I don't want to think ahead."

His friends and family, however, are certainly thinking about it. Eluemunor said he has a great support system in his native country -- a group that would be thrilled to see him take the field in his hometown.

"I'm sure it would be really dope for them to see a little boy from London, England, go back to London to play an American football game," Eluemunor said. "When you move from another country to play a sport and only 1.5 percent of people [who play in college] play this game -- it was hard to get here, but knowing I have the chance to play there is the motivation."

The 22-year-old also knows he could now be the inspiration for a new generation of British football fans.

"I feel like since I'm here now, kids over there will think, 'If he made it, then why can't I?'" Eluemunor said. "If he came from another country to play the sport, then why can't I play the sport? They won't let things get in the way of that. They'll put everything they have in order to achieve that dream. So hopefully me being here is a sign to them that they can achieve whatever they want to achieve if they put their minds to it and just work hard."

Some Ravens fans have wondered if the Jaguars will have a distinct home-field advantage in London because of the annual games the team has played there since 2013 (and will continue to play through 2020). Eluemunor said that isn't the case.

"I feel like people are just fans of the game, period," Eluemunor said. "The sport has grown over there from when I was over



Jermaine Eluemunor

there; it's just huge now. It's a lot bigger now. It's fun to see how big the sport's grown over there and how big it keeps growing yearly."

As far as what Ravens fans should do while they're in his backyard, Eluemunor has suggestions.

"Eat the food over there; go explore," Eluemunor said. "Camden Town, where I'm from, is a big touristy place. See the River Thames. Go on the London Eye. Big Ben, Buckingham Palace, just all of London because it's really cool cultural-wise."

At 330 pounds, Eluemunor believes he's quite the expert on food. He specifically suggested fans visit Blue Sea Fish Bar near his neighborhood of Chalk Farm to try the "chips and saveloy." (Saveloy is a sausage made of salted pork.)

However, when the subject veered to his Ravens teammates regarding what he wants them to experience when they visit his hometown, Eluemunor had a succinct answer.

"A win." ■

UK RAVENS FANS FINALLY GET TO SEE THEIR TEAM UP CLOSE

BY ANDY KOSTKA

When the Baltimore Ravens face the Jacksonville Jaguars at London's Wembley Stadium Sept. 24, there will be a contingent of Ravens fans in the crowd, most of whom traveled across the Atlantic to watch their team. However, for members of the UK Ravens, their team will have finally come to them.

The Facebook group UK Ravens consists of approximately 400 British citizens who support the team as avidly as any Baltimorean. Each fan has their own story of how they began rooting for the Ravens.

When Dave Cressey, a rugby player from England, was visiting his friend in Westminster, Md., in July 1990, he met a former Baltimore Colts tight end with a Super Bowl ring on his left index finger. He was presumably Tom Mitchell, though Cressey could only recall his first name. The tight end, who died this past July, let Cressey try on his Super Bowl V championship ring. After hearing how the Colts left town, Cressey promised to follow a Baltimore football team when one returned.

When he was in his early 20s, Ben Mortimer lived in Baltimore as a travel agent

from 2001-2011, and he quickly learned that watching football at bars, and later M&T Bank Stadium, was the thing to do on a

Sunday. He eventually became a season-ticket holder, and despite returning to England, still owns the tickets, which his brother-in-law now uses.

For the UK Ravens members who've yet to see a Ravens game live, the match-up offers an opportunity to experience fandom directly as opposed to watching from an ocean away.

There's Jamie and Jen Muir, who have a dog named after quarterback Joe Flacco.

Daniel Raeburn plays defensive back in two American Football leagues in England and tries to emulate former Ravens safety Ed Reed, while Jake Hill is a linebacker who models his play on former Raven Ray Lewis.

Alex Harker swapped his support for his local football team (Derby County) with a Ravens fan he met in an online chatroom.

There is an excitement surrounding the late September football game, and the UK Ravens are taking advantage of the opportunity to see their favorite team by throwing a Saturday night party at the Ravens' official team pub (The Admiralty in Trafalgar Square) and attending the

game with other Baltimoreans in purple and black at Wembley.

"To be honest, I've had my fingers crossed [the Ravens would come to London] for a while," Harker said. "Finally, when it was announced, I thought, 'Right, how do I get these tickets?'"

Fans had to sign up through the NFL to be informed when tickets were available. As soon as the date and time of the game were confirmed, fans made purchases promptly when the window opened.

While Ravens fans in the UK are looking forward to seeing their first Ravens game, there is also an excitement to meet fellow UK Ravens members. The group mainly operates virtually, with members spanning the British Isles. The Saturday night party offers a chance to meet UK and American fans.

"[We were] looking for like-minded people," Jamie Muir said of why he and his wife, Jen, joined the fan group. "We're in a tiny little kind of village, really, where we are probably the only American football fans in the village."

After Ravens victories, the pair go out in Ravens attire and celebrate in Chesterle-Street, a town in northeast England.

"People are probably thinking, 'What are they on about?'" Muir said.

The NFL will host a free tailgate party outside of Wembley before the game, and many of the UK-based Ravens fans are eager to try it out. In England, there are

rules against open flames in parking lots, and stadiums often lack any space outside for tailgating.

"The pregame experience in the UK is still very pub-driven," Mortimer said. "The closest you get to it here is Rugby Union games, where people kind of do picnics out of the back of cars. But it's not quite as rough-and-ready as American tailgating."

In the past, the Wembley tailgate started early in the morning and lasted until right before kickoff. Last year, it featured NFL Hall of Famers, musical performances and plenty of gear for sale.

Jake Smith attended a Wembley matchup between the Atlanta Falcons and Detroit Lions in 2014.

"Everybody, even though they had their own team, sort of picked a side for that day," Smith said. "We were cheering for everything, really."

For this group of fans, Sept. 24 is a Ravens home game. But they also know that seeing their team play at Wembley won't match the atmosphere of a game at M&T Bank Stadium.

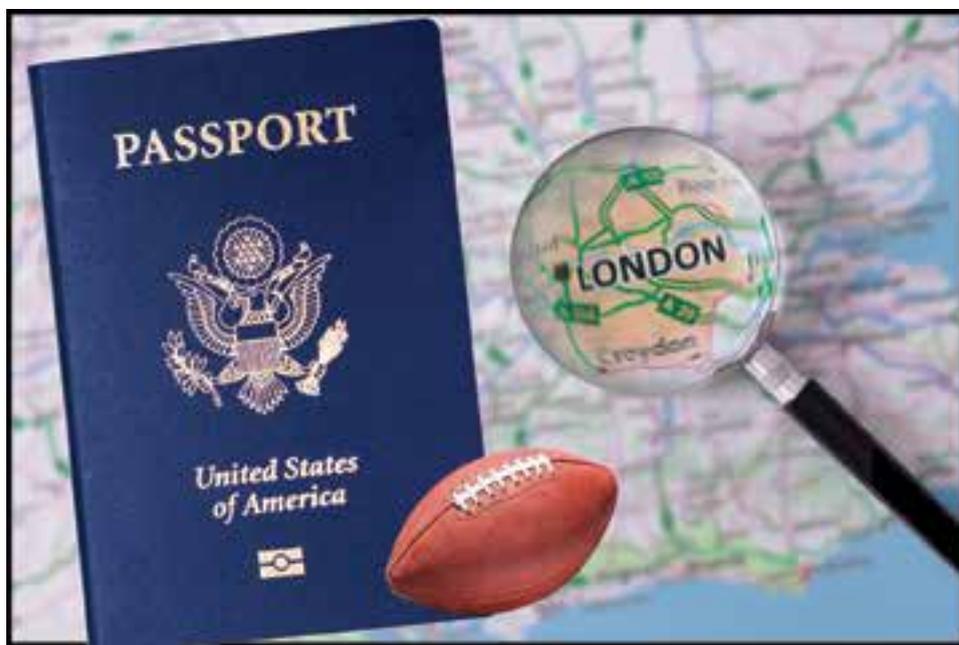
"I'm excited to see a game at Wembley," Harker said, "but I don't think there'll be anything that even compares to even an away game in the U.S." ■

- PHOTOGRAPHY -

COVER & PAGE 17: SABINA MORAN/PRESSBOX

PAGE 18: COURTESY OF ED STYLC

PAGE 19: COURTESY OF WEMBLEY STADIUM



Need a passport to get to the game in London?

PASSPORT SERVICES
CONVENIENT AND NOW AVAILABLE
AT ARBUTUS, TOWSON AND WHITE MARSH
BRANCHES

Passport Book and Card Application • Passport Photos • Expedited Services

No appointment necessary.

Passport Hours (Differ from branch hours)

Monday-Thursday: 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday & Saturday: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Fees and complete details available at
bcpl.info/passport

B BALTIMORE COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY
bcpl.info



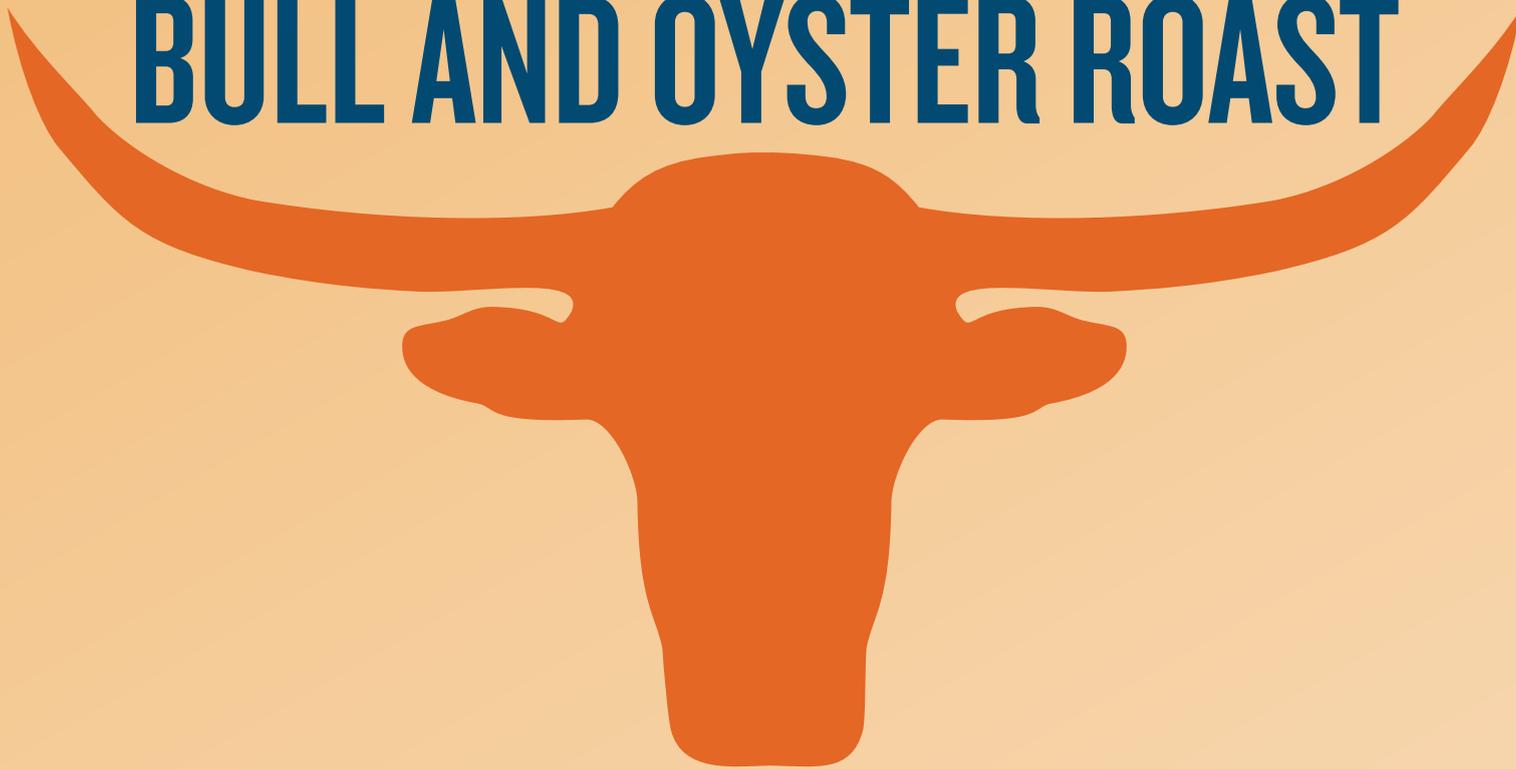


Donate Your Car to Goodwill Today!

866-492-2770 or GivetoGoodwill.org



BALTIMORE REGION SPECIAL OLYMPICS BULL AND OYSTER ROAST



@ VALLEY MANSION, COCKEYSVILLE, MD
SEPTEMBER 16TH FROM 7-11 PM

sombd.org/sobaco

ORIOLES REPORT

Being Little League World Series Champion Still A Big Deal For Jonathan Schoop

★ RICH DUBROFF

Each August, there's a common sight around the major leagues. Players watch the Little League World Series on clubhouse televisions and comment on the young players' idiosyncrasies.

Few of those little leaguers will make it to the majors, but Jonathan Schoop did.

Thirteen years ago, long before the Baltimore Orioles second baseman became a major league All-Star and pal of Orioles third baseman Manny Machado, then-12-year-old Schoop was the star shortstop on Willemstad, Curacao's 2004 championship team.

Curacao, a Caribbean island nation of about 160,000 people, defeated Southern California's Thousand Oaks for the championship. Schoop went 2-for-3 with an RBI and moved from shortstop to the mound in the final inning to get the save in the 5-2 win.

"It was really important for me because we were a small island," Schoop said. "No one expected us to be there, and we won it all."

Willemstad won its three games in the international pool in Williamsport, Pa., and beat Taiwan and Mexico to advance to the championship game.

"It was a tough game," Schoop said of the matchup against Thousand Oaks. "The whole crowd was behind them, cheering for them. ... It was so loud. We were like scared. It motivated us, too, to get going."

Jurickson Profar, who has played parts of four seasons with the Texas Rangers and is currently with Triple-A Round Rock, hit a two-run home run in the game, and Schoop recorded the final two outs, allowing one hit.

"I always was a control guy, throw hard, too. I had curve balls from all angles," Schoop said. "That last inning, I didn't even feel my hands. The crowd was screaming 'USA!' I couldn't feel my fingers. I [thought I] was throwing hard, [but] I was throwing slow because I couldn't feel my hands. The crowd was so loud, I couldn't hear myself."

Playing in the United States was a bit of a culture shock for Schoop.

"After the game, [we would] go talk with media," Schoop said. "We didn't know much [English], but we had a [translator]."

These days, Schoop speaks four languages: the native island dialect of Papiamentu, Dutch (the official language of Curacao), Spanish and English. But back then, Schoop wasn't as sure of himself.

"I didn't want to talk. I got nervous in front of people," Schoop said. "I didn't know much. I knew a little bit."

Fourteen major leaguers have come from Curacao, most of them debuting in recent years. In 2004, Andruw Jones was the player Schoop and his teammates looked up to. Jones won 10 Gold Gloves as a star center fielder for the Atlanta Braves from 1996-2007. He was one of the first players in the majors from Curacao and by far the best known.

Schoop and his teammates used Jones as a motivator.

"We went there with our mindset to go in there and show the world that we can play baseball," Schoop said. "At that time, Andruw Jones was a big leaguer, and everybody was looking up to him. We want to make him proud to watch us

because we know he was watching the game."

Before Schoop came to Williamsport, he didn't see himself as a big leaguer, but that soon changed.

"I didn't think it right away [that] I can play in the big leagues, but after that I [took] baseball more serious," Schoop said. "We were all serious, but we had fun, just play the game. We would play other sports, play soccer, but after that moment, [I] pay more attention, work harder, try to be the best I can be."

For Schoop, the highlight of the experience was returning home as a champion.

"It was the best. All of Curacao was waiting for us," Schoop said. "We had everybody outside. We had a parade. They gave us a lot of things -- one year [of] McDonald's for free, they gave us haircuts.

"They gave us anything you can imagine -- laptops, we got phones, we got everything. We were like kings. It was so fun coming back. ... I remember it like yesterday."

Orioles third base coach Bobby Dickerson has known Schoop since Dickerson came to the Orioles' organization in 2010. Schoop's Little League accomplishments were no secret.

"In the minor leagues, we talked about it all the time," Dickerson said. "If you think about it, for a little kid, and especially knowing Jonathan now, for a little kid representing his country like that, there was already pressure in a way in those levels.

"As much fun as I'm sure they had, I'm sure there was a lot of pressure on them to beat the Americans. He used to bring it up all the time, talk about it all the time. We picked on him and said, 'You're never going to win a championship other than that one in your life.'"

Dickerson said he grew emotional last month when he learned the second baseman he mentored would be an All-Star. He knows what representing Curacao means to Schoop.

"[Curacao is] very, very proud of what he was and still is, I'm sure," Dickerson said.

Last year, Curacao, which had represented the Caribbean in the Little League World Series from 2001-2009, returned to Williamsport. It was an exciting time for Schoop.

"Of course, if Curacao is in there, I'm following it," he said. "Even if Curacao is not in there, I'm following it."

When Curacao came to Williamsport, Schoop and New York Yankees shortstop Didi Gregorius, who moved to Curacao from the Netherlands when he was 5, arranged a visit to Yankee Stadium, where the little leaguers watched the Orioles play the Yankees.

Gregorius arranged for tickets, while Schoop hired a bus to bring the team to the Bronx. After the game, Gregorius and Schoop hosted the team on the field.

"I was so proud," Schoop said. "I can't imagine how they feel when they were watching a big league game. Maybe it motivates them a little bit and teaches them to play hard. If I can get there, and you work hard, you can get there, too." •



Jonathan Schoop with Willemstad, Curacao's 2004 Little League championship team



Jonathan Schoop at bat for Willemstad, Curacao's 2004 Little League championship team



IT
DO
TH
IN

MICHAEL PHELPS
WORLD CHAMPION SWIMMER



UNDER ARMOUR.

'S WHAT YOU
O IN THE DARK
HAT PUTS YOU
THE LIGHT.

RULE YOURSELF.
I WILL.™



CONNOLLY'S CORNER

It's Hard To Buy Into The Plan Of Hope The Orioles Are Selling

★ DAN CONNOLLY

I guess we should have taken Orioles executive vice president of baseball operations Dan Duquette at his word last month when he said he didn't see his club as sellers but instead was focused on improving the team for a 2017 playoff run.

That's what he told season-ticket holders during the club's annual "Midseason State of the Orioles Address." At the time, I thought Duquette was playing to his audience. I mean, who wants to tell consumers who have paid good money to see a certain product that, hey, we're weakening that product for the time being, but thanks for your money?

Then Duquette made good on his promise -- at least the assertion he wouldn't be a seller -- by trading for right-handed pitcher Jeremy Hellickson and shortstop Tim Beckham in separate deals before the July 31 non-waiver trade deadline.

He gave up two minor league pitchers, some international bonus slot money and seldom-used outfielder Hyun Soo Kim.

In other words, he brokered minor, under-the-radar deals, the kind that Duquette has made frequently during his six-

season tenure in Baltimore.

They also seemed to be moves that fell into the category of too little, too late.

The Orioles were 48-54 when Duquette acquired pending free-agent Hellickson to supplement a rotation that had the worst starters' ERA in the American League by more than a half run.

Hellickson has had some success during his career -- he was 67-63 with a 3.98 ERA in parts of eight seasons with the Tampa Bay Rays, Arizona Diamondbacks and Philadelphia Phillies -- but he was 6-5 with a 4.73 ERA in 20 starts with the Phillies before the trade.

He's an upgrade to the rotation, but not the kind of major improvement the Orioles needed to be a legitimate contender.

Beckham, the former first overall pick in 2008, is only 27, has solid pop for a middle infielder and his speed on the basepaths has already given the Orioles an ingredient they didn't have. He's also signed through 2020, so he's a potential replacement for J.J. Hardy next year and beyond.

We don't know whether 2015 third-rounder Garrett Cleavinger and 2016 sixth-rounder Tobias Myers -- dealt to the Phillies and Rays, respectively -- will become major league stars, or even make it to the majors. That won't be known for a while.

So, in a vacuum, Duquette's big league acquisitions in July can be viewed as acceptable deals at this juncture. Both could help, and, indeed, the Orioles won five straight after the Hellickson deal was announced. Beckham hit and dashed around the bases during his first few Orioles games, and Hellickson made his Orioles debut a memorable one with seven shutout innings in a win against the Kansas City Royals.

Yes, buying and not selling at the trade deadline can provide a psychological boost for a club, and it can ride that for a spell.

Ultimately, though, reality sets in. Hellickson may return to his 2016 form -- a 12-game winner with a 3.71 ERA for the Phillies -- but that does little if the rest of the Orioles' rotation can't consistently pitch well. Duquette conceded that point, sort of, anyway.

"To stabilize the rotation, we've got to get some of the guys in the rotation to pitch like they've established for themselves over the course of their careers," Duquette told reporters. "Jeremy Hellickson will certainly help, but to have the other guys pitch like they are capable of, that would be good, too."

The whole problem here is that the Orioles went into the 2017 season with "ifs"

encompassing the rotation. It would be good if Kevin Gausman and Dylan Bundy took the next step, if Chris Tillman were healthy and if Ubaldo Jimenez and Wade Miley could have rebound years.

With fewer than two months to play in the season, the "ifs" remain, some more pronounced than others. No questions were answered by the rotation at Triple-A Norfolk, which has its own set of question marks.

That's why Duquette's decision not to be a seller is so maddening for some. Because there is no apparent help in a shallow farm system, and the Orioles may have been able to supplement that quickly if they had traded elite big leaguers such as relievers Brad Brach and Zach Britton at the deadline.

Ultimately, the Orioles didn't get the offers they wanted in return for their most-coveted pieces, so they didn't pull the trigger. It's hard to know whether that was a good decision without knowing all the names involved; certainly, the Orioles don't need to give away Brach or Britton, both under team control through 2018.

What's confounding is that the Orioles didn't get better for the future and didn't take a major shot for 2017, either. I could have gotten behind either plan. Instead, it just seems like there wasn't really a plan.

What it seems to me is that Duquette and Orioles manager Buck Showalter, who are both without formal contracts after 2018, and club owner Peter Angelos, who turned 87 in July, are simply hoping a rotation that may break the organization's mark for highest ERA in a season (currently held by the 2008 Orioles' rotation) will suddenly figure things out collectively.

It doesn't usually work that way in baseball.

But, for argument's sake, let's say it does. Let's say the rotation becomes consistent in the final two months and the Orioles push their way into a wild-card spot.

Once in the playoffs, they'll still have a major uphill battle to knock off AL teams that are clearly better: the Houston Astros, Cleveland Indians, New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox. Maybe they can upset one. But run the table?

I can't imagine it. And so, heading into the 2017 offseason, the Orioles likely will be dealing with a rotation that will lose four (out of six) starters to free agency, with the exceptions being Gausman and Bundy, and no obvious replacements ready.

They'll also be looking at a competitive window that appears to be shutting. Third baseman Manny Machado, center fielder Adam Jones, Britton and Brach are all eligible for free agency after 2018.

And they did little -- except for the addition of Beckham -- to address those concerns this July.

I guess none of it matters if the Orioles shock the world, are buoyed by the additions in July and get to the World Series.

Then what Duquette promised to the season-ticket holders last month was prophetic.

I'm just not buying that "plan of hope" right now. •

ORIOLES COVERAGE



★ FOLLOW THE ORIOLES ALL SEASON LONG AT PRESSBOXONLINE.COM/BASEBALL ★



UPON FURTHER REVIEW

The Hall Of Famer Who Got Away

★ JIM HENNEMAN



John Schuerholz got his first job in baseball the old-fashioned way: He wrote a letter of application. And he didn't exactly follow the normal chain of command either -- he started at the top, which as it turned out

was only fitting because that's where his career peaked July 30, when he was inducted into baseball's Hall of Fame.

It is an oft-told story how Schuerholz, who played second base for City College and Towson State Teachers College (now Towson University), wrote a letter to Orioles owner Jerold Hoffberger, who passed it along to team president Frank Cashen. As Schuerholz related during his induction speech, Cashen kept the letter's chain going by turning it over to director of player development Lou Gorman with a solitary comment: "I've never met this young man, but I know he's from good stock."

Thus began the story of the "local kid makes good" Hall of Famer who got away.

The Schuerholz name had been synonymous with athletic prowess in Baltimore for a couple of generations (his father, John Sr.,

played in the Philadelphia Athletics minor league system) and was the basis for Cashen's opening endorsement. It should be noted that the letter sent to Hoffberger and passed down to Cashen and Gorman was not an application for a particular job -- it was for *any* job, something that would open the door to a front office career than now exceeds half a century.

Gorman was the director of what was then known in baseball circles as the farm department, the place where the hamburgers and filet mignons were raised in unequal doses for delivery to the major leagues. He hired Schuerholz for a job that would carry a handful of titles today -- and require as many different individuals -- something like assistant director of scouting, minor league personnel and player development. In the old-time jargon of the day, Schuerholz was hired as the assistant farm director, second in command when it came time to separate the filets from the burgers.

That was 1966, the year the Orioles won their first World Series title, and that season proved to be a launching pad for the careers of Gorman and Schuerholz. It was only two years later, as Schuerholz related, that Gorman burst into his office and said: "Great news, John, we're going to Kansas City."

Startled by this development at such an

early stage of his career, Schuerholz, now 76, recalled saying: "What's this 'we' stuff? I'm a Baltimore guy, I'm not going to Kansas City."

But, indeed, he would go to Kansas City to play a prominent role in the Royals' rise as one of the second-wave expansion teams. Gorman had been hired to run the new team's minor league department, and his first move was to bring along his assistant -- something that perhaps might not be allowed to happen with the current generation of baseball executives.

It wasn't such a big deal at the time, maybe because the Orioles were almost as talented in the front office as they were on the field, with Cashen, Harry Dalton and a slew of top-rated executives and scouts. But in retrospect, the Orioles were more than a little generous in allowing the Royals to stock their front office with two key members of their own staff.

A few months ago, during his pre-induction visit to Cooperstown, N.Y., I asked Schuerholz this question: "John, have you ever thought what would have happened if the Orioles had offered you Gorman's job [essentially the one he took in Kansas City] and asked you to stay?"

The somewhat quizzical smile on his face was the best indication that it wasn't something he'd dwelled on, especially given the

path his career had followed, but the thought at least seemed to intrigue him. After a short pause, he just said, "I guess we'll never know, will we?"

Which is probably as good a place as any to leave the thought. When Gorman moved on to become the Seattle Mariners' general manager in 1977 during the next wave of expansion, he was replaced by Schuerholz, who eventually became general manager of the Royals in 1981. At 41, he was the youngest general manager in the game at the time -- an age he noted would make him a graybeard in today's age of analytics.

The Royals were an instant success, winning three division titles in their first 10 years (1976-1978), reaching the World Series in 1980 and winning it in 1985. Recruited by the Braves, Schuerholz eventually went to Atlanta in 1990 and presided over a team that won 14 consecutive division titles and a World Series -- a run that ushered him into the Hall of Fame three years after his manager, Bobby Cox.

Schuerholz has never forgotten his Baltimore roots and those of his family, the where and how of the start of his journey. The baseball field at Towson University carries the Schuerholz name, thanks to a sizeable contribution from a former second baseman who was just a couple years removed from college and teaching at North Point Junior High School when he wrote the letter that altered the course of his career.

We lost a potentially great educator -- and baseball got a prize catch, the Hall of Famer who got away. •

★
Jim Henneman can be reached at JimH@pressboxonline.com.



HAVRE DE GRACE, MD



The "Must Play Course" in the Region!
A Golf Digest and Golf Magazine Top 50!
Maryland's No. 1 Public Golf Course




410.939.8887 | BulleRockGolf.com
FREQUENT PLAYER PACKAGES AVAILABLE



WINE WORLD
Beer & Spirits
Voted "Best of Harford"



30 TAP GROWLER FILLING STATION
410.569.8646 • 877.569.7400

Free Tastings
Fridays at 4 p.m.
Saturdays at 1 p.m.

Located in Abingdon, MD
off I-95 exit 77B - Tollgate Rd.
near Wal-Mart, BJ's, Target and Chick-fil-a

OPEN 7 DAYS:
Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 10 p.m. Sunday 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.



Sign up to receive our weekly eNewsletter at MyWineWorld.com or YourBeerWorld.com

LOYOLA

SOCCER

WOMEN'S HOME SCHEDULE

8/18	vs. Mt. St. Mary's	7:00 pm
8/24	vs. Seton Hall	6:00 pm
9/27	vs. Bucknell	7:00 pm
10/7	vs. Holy Cross	12:00 pm
10/18	vs. American	7:00 pm
10/28	vs. Lafayette	1:00 pm



MEN'S HOME SCHEDULE

8/27	vs. St. John's	7:00 pm
9/4	vs. Pittsburgh	7:00 pm
9/9	vs. Villanova	7:00 pm
9/30	vs. Navy	7:00 pm
10/7	vs. Army West Point	2:30 pm
10/21	vs. Holy Cross	1:00 pm
10/25	vs. American	7:00 pm
11/4	vs. Lafayette	1:00 pm



TICKET INFORMATION:
www.LoyolaGreyhounds.com
 or 410.617.1420

WELCOME TO



#RETRIEVER NATION



GREGG HAUCK
Senior M/B

Season Tickets are
ONLY \$45!
Purchase Today at
umbcretrievers.com

All Home Games Played at Retriever Soccer Park. Dates/Times/Opponents Subject to Change.

	BRYANT Friday, 8/25 @ 7:30pm
	HOWARD Monday, 8/28 @ 7pm
	WEST VIRGINIA Wednesday, 9/13 @ 7pm
	NAVY Wednesday, 9/20 @ 7pm
	WESTERN MICHIGAN Saturday, 9/23 @ 7pm
	MARYLAND Tuesday, 9/26 @ 7pm
	NEW HAMPSHIRE Saturday, 9/30 @ 7pm
	ALBANY Saturday, 10/14 @ 7pm
	DELAWARE Tuesday, 10/17 @ 7pm
	STONY BROOK Wednesday, 11/1 @ 7pm



GABBY BOEHMER
Senior M

Season Tickets are
ONLY \$35!
Purchase Today at
umbcretrievers.com

All Home Games Played at Retriever Soccer Park. Dates/Times/Opponents Subject to Change.

	TOWSON Friday, 8/18 @ 7pm
	UNC WILMINGTON Friday, 8/25 @ 5pm
	LOYOLA Thursday, 8/31 @ 7pm
	LONGWOOD Sunday, 9/10 @ 2pm
	SAINT FRANCIS Thursday, 9/14 @ 7pm
	LEHIGH Monday, 9/18 @ 7pm
	ALBANY Sunday, 9/24 @ 1pm
	HARTFORD Sunday, 10/8 @ 1pm
	VERMONT Thursday, 10/19 @ 7pm
	NEW HAMPSHIRE Sunday, 10/22 @ 1pm



KRISTIN WATSON
Junior DS

Season Tickets are
ONLY \$35!
Purchase Today at
umbcretrievers.com

All Home Games Played at the RAC Arena. Dates/Opponents Subject to Change; Start Times TBA.

	COPPIN STATE Tuesday, 9/5 @ 7pm
	HOWARD Tuesday, 9/19 @ 7pm
	BINGHAMTON Friday, 10/6 @ 7pm
	ALBANY Sunday, 10/8 @ 1pm
	HARTFORD Friday, 10/20 @ 7pm
	STONY BROOK Friday, 10/27 @ 7pm
	UMASS LOWELL Friday, 11/10 @ 7pm
	NEW HAMPSHIRE Sunday, 11/12 @ 1pm

TICKETS ON SALE NOW AT UMBCRETRIEVERS.COM!

Quarterback Remains Terps' Biggest Question Mark Heading Into 2017 Season

★ LUKE JACKSON

DJ Durkin's first year as the University of Maryland's head football coach was a successful one, as he led the Terps to a six-win season that included an appearance in the Quick Lane Bowl. The Terps were 6-7 overall, 3-6 in the Big Ten; they finished fifth of seven schools in the Big Ten East Division. However, new challenges await this year, thanks in part to a schedule that ESPN's Football Power Index ranks as the Big Ten's toughest. The Terps are currently preparing for their season -- which kicks off at Texas Sept. 2 -- at fall camp in College Park, Md., with storylines at every position.

QUARTERBACKS

Junior Caleb Henderson, sophomores Tyrrell Pigrome and Max Bortenschlager and freshman Kasim Hill are competing for the starting job. Henderson was at North Carolina from 2014-2015 but barely played before transferring. Pigrome and Bortenschlager started one game each last year, although Pigrome got into 11 of Maryland's 13 games.

An electric athlete, Pigrome has a chance to be a dual-threat quarterback who can give defenses fits -- his 254 rushing yards ranked third on the Terps last year -- while Bortenschlager is more of a traditional pocket passer. Hill, out of St. John's College in Washington, D.C., was one of the key members of Durkin's 2017 recruiting class.

"If you went out and watched them all throw, watched them run, you'd say, 'Man, I'd love to have any one of them to be a Division I quarterback,'" Durkin said of his passers. "That's the good news. Now it becomes who's making the best decisions, who runs the offense the best."

RUNNING BACKS

Maryland had the fourth-best rushing offense in the Big Ten last year at 199.5

yards per game, and the big contributors -- junior Ty Johnson (9.1 yards per carry) and sophomore Lorenzo Harrison (7.2) -- are back. Sophomore Jake Funk also returns. Durkin added to this group by bringing in Anthony McFarland, Tayon Fleet-Davis and Javon Leake as part of his 2017 class.

"All the guys who returned, it makes us better players because we have to up our game in order to stay where we are in terms of playing," Funk said of the new competition. "They're coming in, and they're hungry to play as true freshmen -- just like I was last year."

RECEIVERS

Junior D.J. Moore is the leader of this group, having recorded a team-high 637 receiving yards, including six touchdowns on 41 catches last year. One of the biggest improvements Maryland's offense must make is to do a better job of getting Moore the ball down the field. Another key for the offense will be to find ways to involve the tight ends; top tight end Derrick Hayward caught four passes last year.

One potential breakout performer could be sophomore D.J. Turner, who caught just two passes last year but was the star of the spring game, catching six passes for 126 yards. Senior wide receiver Taivon Jacobs said Turner has explosive speed, but, at 5-foot-9 and 200 pounds, will also be difficult to bring down.

"For [Turner], those attributes are going to allow him to excel here or the next level," Jacobs said. "For him, it's about working on the little things -- working on how to read defenses, improving routes, hands, whatever else he needs to do. From that standpoint, he's going to be special."

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

During the spring, the first team's offensive line was, from left to right, Derwin Gray, Sean Christie, Brendan Moore, Terrence Davis and Damian Prince. Gray, Christie, Moore and Prince are all juniors; Moore and Prince started all 13 games last

year, and Gray started three. The offensive line was adept at creating running room for Johnson and Harrison last year, but Terps quarterbacks were sacked 49 times as the line struggled to contain the pass rush in obvious passing situations.

"This year we have more chemistry because most of the guys that are on the line right now, we all came in together besides Terrence Davis," Gray said.

INTERIOR DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Maryland gave up 214.8 yards per game on the ground last year and too often was pushed around at the point of attack during Big Ten play. Durkin brought in the Gaddy brothers -- Breyon (6-foot-2, 360 pounds) and Brandon (6-foot-2, 311) -- and Cam Spence (6-foot-3, 315) as part of his 2017 class.

The top returner of this group is senior Kingsley Opara, a 6-foot-3, 300-pound Florida native who was second on the team in tackles for loss (11.5) last year. Opara said his goal is to play in the NFL and he understands he needs an even better year to make that happen.

"I went back home to Jacksonville and I just watched film with my mother, and I was just showing her things I missed," Opara said. "I missed a lot of sacks and a lot of plays just because I was being lazy. So I think I've just got to have that sense of urgency to finish, and if I finish and make the plays I can make and perform well against the better teams that we play against, then the sky's the limit."

EDGE RUSHERS

Maryland had 38 sacks as a team last year -- tied for third-most in the Big Ten -- and Jesse Aniebonam was the biggest contributor, with nine sacks in part-time duty. Durkin said he believes "Jesse can and should be and will be a dominant player" in leading a group of pass rushers that also includes Chandler Burkett (two sacks) and Melvin Keihn (24 tackles).

"That's what I like," Aniebonam said of Durkin's expectations. "I'd rather have that and work up to it and prove people right, prove him right, show that I am someone that he can have faith in, have trust in on this defense, and that I am someone that can elevate my game to however high that I want to take it with the season. That's just motivation for me. That's a confidence booster."

LINEBACKERS

Senior inside linebacker Jermaine Carter Jr. is the undisputed leader of Maryland's defense and is coming off a season in which he made a team-high 110 tackles with six sacks. There'll be competition at the weak-side linebacker spot next to Carter. Last year, Shane Cockerille played there, but he sat out all of spring ball for undisclosed reasons and his status is unclear for the season. Senior Jalen Brooks played outside linebacker last year and made 28 tackles, but he wants to play inside this year.

"For a chance to get on the field more and have more of a positive effect on the team, I've got to make sure that I'm maximizing my opportunity at one of the two inside positions," Brooks said. "That's the mindset right now, to go in there and compete like hell to go ahead and win that spot ... and for them to trust me in that spot next to Jermaine."

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Sixth-year senior Denzel Conyers and junior Darnell Savage are the likely starters at safety, while juniors J.C. Jackson and RaVon Davis are front-runners to start at cornerback and nickelback. The secondary is young otherwise, as sophomore cornerback Tino Ellis will be counted on to take steps forward, as will sophomore safeties Qwuantrezz Knight and Elijah Daniels. Freshmen Deon Jones and Markquese Bell could both see early action this season; senior safety Josh Woods said Jones "is going to be a force to be reckoned with."

"Sitting in the room now looking around, I'm like, 'Wow, Denzel, Savage and I are kind of like the last of the older guys,'" Woods said. "Everybody else is just really young. So it's really fun, just seeing how the team changes -- how fast it changes -- but we've got some great athletes back there that can help us." •



Ty Johnson

D.J. Moore

Jermaine Carter Jr.

@MarylandNewsNet

DELIVERING MARYLAND NEWS
TO A RADIO STATION NEAR YOU

Find out more at mdnewsnetwork.net

MD
NEWS NETWORK
THE VOICE OF MARYLAND



STEVENSON ATHLETICS: BUILDING ON OUR SUCCESS

583 All-Conference selections. 70 championship appearances. 31 players of the year. And 86 All-Americans. These are just a few of the highlights of Mustang sports. With our 27 Division III sports teams and 800-plus student-athletes, we can't wait to see what we do next.

DIVISION III TEAMS

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Baseball | Men's and Women's Lacrosse |
| Men's and Women's Basketball | Men's and Women's Soccer |
| Women's Beach Volleyball | Softball |
| Men's and Women's Cross Country | Men's and Women's Swimming |
| Field Hockey | Men's and Women's Tennis |
| Football | Men's and Women's Track and Field (indoor and outdoor) |
| Men's and Women's Golf | Men's and Women's Volleyball |
| Men's and Women's Ice Hockey | |

Learn more at GoMustangSports.com.



Catch Baltimore's College Team



MONTY FENNER
R-Jr. | DB

2017 HOME SCHEDULE

Sept. 2	Morgan State	6 PM
Sept. 30	Villanova	6 PM
Oct. 14	Richmond	4 PM
Oct. 28	Delaware	4 PM
Nov. 18	Rhode Island	2 PM

Get your tickets now at

TOWSONTIGERS.COM  **1-855-TU-TIGER**



ALEX EDELMAN/PRESSBOX

Zach Abey

Zach Abey Looking To Take Reins As Navy's Quarterback

★ TODD KARPOVICH

Navy quarterback Zach Abey spent hours during the summer doing homework assigned by offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach Ivin Jasper.

Abey is hoping the extra work will enable him to take full control of the Midshipmen's triple-option offense this fall.

"Coach Jasper, with all of the tests, forced me to look back into film to pick out all of the minor details," Abey said. "It gave me a chance to look inside Coach Jasper's mind. I think that's a big thing with this offense, and that's knowing what coach Jasper wants and just knowing what he's thinking when he is giving me a play. Having the homework and all of the tests helped."

Abey, a junior from Archbishop Spalding, made his first career start last season against Army, replacing injured starter Will Worth in one of college football's greatest rivalries. Abey had some early nerves that led to a shaky first half marred by a pair of interceptions, but he settled down during the final two quarters and ran for a pair of touchdowns to keep the Midshipmen within striking distance before falling, 21-17.

It was an admirable showing for a young player thrown into the national spotlight. Almost two weeks later in the Armed Forces Bowl against Louisiana Tech, Abey ran for 114 yards and two touchdowns and threw for 159 yards and another score before leaving with a rib injury during a 48-45 loss.

This year, Abey entered preseason camp as the No. 1 quarterback on the depth chart. While he is the leading candidate to start, he is facing some tough competition, most notably from junior Garret Lewis.

Malcolm Perry, who is projected as a slotback, can also

play quarterback, and the coaches have not entirely ruled out using him in that role. Perry gained national attention last season when he was pulled from the stands against Fordham to serve as an emergency backup quarterback when starter Tago Smith went down with a season-ending knee injury in the first game of 2016.

Still, Abey plans to take advantage of his opportunity.

"I feel comfortable under center and am playing with confidence," Abey said. "The biggest thing Coach Jasper told me to work on during this camp was playing with confidence. Just knowing what I am doing out there will have everyone on the offense trusting me."

Navy returns 46 letter-winners, including 12 starters, from a team that went 9-5 overall last season, including a 28-27 win against Notre Dame. The Midshipmen finished 7-1 in the American Athletic Conference, winning the West Division title before losing to Temple, 34-10, in the conference championship game.

Navy opens the 2017 campaign at Florida Atlantic Sept. 1.

Midshipmen head coach Ken Niumatalolo has felt good energy from the current group of players. He has overseen a program that has been bowl eligible in 13 of the past 14 seasons, and he expects this year's squad to accomplish even more goals.

"I feel really optimistic about this team," Niumatalolo said. "All of our seniors took great leadership in our team, our off-season workouts and their approach to spring practice. ... These guys took great initiative. I am just very pleased on and off the field. Academically, our guys did real well over the summer. They worked hard."

One of Navy's main goals this season is to beat Army and Air Force to reclaim the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy. Last season, Navy fell to the Falcons, 28-14, and then was upset by the Black Knights in Baltimore. The loss to Army snapped a

14-game winning streak against Navy's archrival.

Niumatalolo, however, is not concerned about streaks. He is focused on winning games -- all of them, regardless of the opponent. Nonetheless, this year's matchup against Army in Philadelphia Dec. 9 will inevitably be another season-defining game. Niumatalolo said last year's setback will have no impact on the current team.

"We have great respect for them and the other service academies," Niumatalolo said. "But we try to win every year. People always talked about the streak before. We never talked about it. In this sport, you can't look in the past, good or bad. You have to press forward. I never try to establish a rivalry. It's game-by-game, year-by-year, and you want to beat them every year. That's everybody on our schedule."

The Mids took their coach's advice and are determined to look ahead.

"Last year, I definitely felt bad for the senior class," said senior outside linebacker D.J. Palmore, who was named a co-captain with slotback Darryl Bonner. "The only thing we're bringing into this year is experience. We're just going to win those games this year. There's no hard feeling against [those teams], but that's just what we're going to have to do."

Navy's defense plans to play more aggressively this season. Several teams in the AAC like to throw the ball downfield, so the Mids need to counter with balance between an effective secondary and an aggressive pass rush, which will prevent opposing quarterbacks from having time to find receivers.

"We want to play tight coverage and try to get some sacks," linebacker Micah Thomas said.

One of the keys for Navy will be staying healthy. The team was hampered by injuries last season to key contributors, including a pair of starting quarterbacks who were lost for the season.

As Niumatalolo often says, his attention is focused on the present and his sights set on the future. And so far, the Navy coach likes what he sees.

"[There's] something about this team" Niumatalolo said. "There's a humility. There's a drive. I kind of sense they want something really bad. I have been pleased by our work effort. Not a lot of fanfare. Guys are just working." •

After Injury-Hampered Season, Towson Feeling Good About 2017

★ SIMON HABTEMARIAM



HEAD COACH: Rob Ambrose (ninth season)

2016 RECORD: 4-7 overall, 3-5 Colonial Athletic Association.

KEY RETURNERS: QB Morgan Mahalak, RB Shane Simpson, LB Chris Tedder, LB Diondre Wallace.

KEY GAMES: Sept. 2 vs. Morgan State; Sept. 9 at Maryland; Sept. 30 vs. Villanova; Oct. 14 vs. Richmond.

OUTLOOK: Coming off a promising 2015 campaign in which the team finished 7-4, Towson entered 2016 with high expectations, but injuries to its starting quarterback and running back led to a disappointing season.

Now that the Tigers are healthy, head coach Rob Ambrose is optimistic about the 2017 season.

"I have not felt this good coming out of the spring and summer in a long time," Ambrose said. "... We're as healthy as we've ever been. There are two players who are not 100 percent as camp starts, and that's the first time that's ever happened."

Towson will be led by redshirt junior quarterback Morgan Mahalak. Last year, the highly lauded transfer from Oregon suffered a broken clavicle in the Tigers' second game. With Mahalak sidelined, Towson lost six straight. He returned to lead the Tigers to three straight wins to end the season.

With such a limited sample size, it's tough to judge the true extent of Mahalak's skills, but Ambrose said Mahalak's ability to lead the offense is markedly improved.

"Think about when I got him, how much he had to learn to get the job," Ambrose said. "It's sort of like, here's a car and you don't know how to drive it. Here are the basics, figure it out. He had some of the basics down, and then he got hurt. ... After being in the system for almost a full year

now, his understanding of what we're trying to get done is not basic anymore. So with his understanding of the offense, and them becoming more comfortable with him, you'll see some good things this fall."

In addition to Mahalak's injury, the Tigers' offense suffered another blow when senior running back Darius Victor was lost to a toe injury. The third-ranked all-time rusher in team history missed the last seven games of his final season as a Tiger. Filling his shoes was then-redshirt freshman Shane Simpson, who led the Tigers with 784 rushing yards and will enter this season as the team's primary tailback.

A multi-threat back from Easton, Pa., Simpson also caught nine passes for 64 yards and had 915 yards on 34 kickoff returns. He set the program's single-game record with 229 return yards against South Florida and tied the team record with a 100-yard touchdown return against New Hampshire. He was named preseason All-CAA at kick returner.

"Shane is probably the most versatile player I've ever had the opportunity to coach," Ambrose said. "Not only does his brain understand, but, physically, he can be a wideout, and that's a challenging thing when you break formations. When you put a bunch of heavy-set guys out there, and it looks like we're going to ram the ball down your throat, and then all of a sudden we're in empty [set], matchup-wise, that's a problem."

This offseason, the Tigers made a significant staff change on the defensive side of the ball with the dismissal of defensive coordinator Matt Hachmann and the promotion of Lyndon Johnson. Johnson and Ambrose spent seven years together as assistant coaches at the University of Connecticut before Johnson moved on to the University of Maryland as an outside linebackers coach, special teams coordinator and assistant head coach. He arrived at Towson in 2016 as running backs

coach and recruiting coordinator.

"I love Matt Hachmann. I thought he'd done a great job over eight years," Ambrose said. "But sometimes you need a change. ... There's a little difference in attitude, a little more aggressive and we're having a little more fun."

Towson was ranked 10th out of 12 teams in the CAA in preseason voting by the league's head coaches and media relations directors, so the Tigers' path to victory may require an unconventional approach. But that's something Ambrose is used to.

"... There's a job to do. You may not have the exact tool to get it done, but you're going to find a way to get it done," he said. "So moving parts around, playing to our strengths, improving on our weaknesses, going for it on fourth-and-whatever -- conventional, nah, just whatever it takes to get it done." •



Morgan Mahalak

Having Lost 'Interim' Tag, Morgan Coach Fred Farrier Looking For More Wins In 2017

★ CHASE PYKE



HEAD COACH: Fred Farrier (second season)

2016 RECORD: 3-8 overall, 3-5 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference.

KEY RETURNERS: RB Herb Walker Jr., DL Jai

Franklin.

KEY GAMES: Sept. 2 at Towson; Sept. 23 vs. North Carolina A&T; Oct. 28 vs. Florida A&M.

OUTLOOK: Fred Farrier returns for his second season as head coach, but this time it will be under different circumstances.

After serving as interim coach last season, the school lifted the interim tag from his title in December, making Farrier the program's full-time head coach.

Farrier is looking for team-wide improvement this season, especially late in games. Last year, Morgan State was outscored, 92-26, in the fourth quarter, the conference's second-worst margin.

"We've got to find a way to continue to compete and put ourselves in situations

where in those games we can execute some assignments, make a play and have an opportunity to win late in the game," Farrier said.

The Bears, picked to finish eighth (of 11 teams) in the MEAC preseason poll, return most of their starters but will have a new quarterback after last year's starter, Chris Andrews, used his final year of eligibility as a graduate transfer. Sophomore DeAndre Harris, who saw action in nine games for Morgan State in 2016, is expected to compete with transfer Elijah Staley for the starting job.

Although Farrier declared it an open competition, the coach said the 6-foot-7, 245-pound Staley was impressive during spring practice.

"It'll be interesting to see how he competes to become the starting quarterback at Morgan State," Farrier said of Staley, who spent two years at Mississippi State and one year at Tyler Junior College prior to transferring. "We think he's a really good, physical talent. Smart young man, outstanding person, and he had a really good spring with us and kind of injected himself into our team atmosphere and fits in very well with our players."

Hoping to improve on the MEAC's third-worst rushing attack in 2016, the Bears' offense will rely heavily on the offensive line, the team's most experienced unit, and running backs Eric Harrell and Walker.

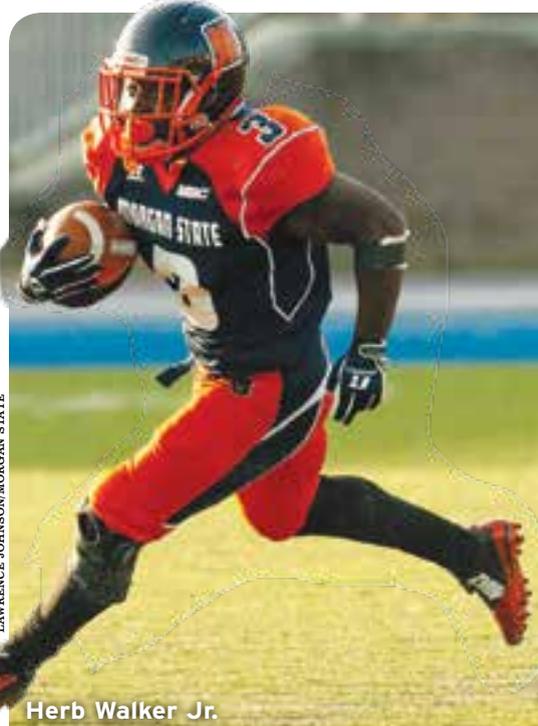
Walker, a redshirt senior, broke the school's single-season rushing record and led the conference in rushing yards in 2014 with 1,408. However, the 5-foot-6, 190-pound back was ineligible in 2015 and missed seven games last season due to injury.

On defense, Franklin, a senior defensive lineman and MEAC preseason second-team selection, returns, as does last season's second-leading tackler, senior linebacker Damare' Whitaker, and junior safeties Carl Garnes and Darius Johnson. Farrier said the Bears' defense will be better than it was a year ago when it surrendered 33.6 points and 390.5 yards per game.

"I expect our defense to be much improved," he said, "and I'm excited to see that translate to on the field and what they will do to stop teams from scoring and give our offense short-field opportunities, get the ball back, all those types of things so that we can have

a chance to score points and hopefully win football games."

Morgan State also hopes to fare better in nonconference games, starting with local rival Towson Sept. 2. The Bears then face Albany and Big 10 member Rutgers before starting conference play against North Carolina A&T Sept. 23. •



Herb Walker Jr.

Division III College Football Preview

★ ERIC DETWEILER

JOHNS HOPKINS



COURTESY OF JOHNS HOPKINS ATHLETICS

HEAD COACH: Jim Margraff (28th season)

2016 RECORD: 11-1 overall, 9-0 Centennial Conference; NCAA Tournament second round.

KEY RETURNERS: WR Brett Caggiano, RB Ryan Cary, DL Keonte Henson, OL Cameron Little.

KEY GAMES: Sept. 1 at Washington & Lee; Oct. 28 at Muhlenberg.

OUTLOOK: Margraff enters his 28th season at Johns Hopkins with some decisions to make.

He figures his depth chart will require plenty of tinkering before the season opener at Washington & Lee Sept. 1.

"There's a lot of jobs to be won," Margraff said. "That's the exciting part."

Johns Hopkins has to replace some decorated players as it tries for a ninth consecutive Centennial Conference title and seventh straight NCAA Division III playoff appearance.

Quarterback Jonathan Germano is gone after leading the Blue Jays to a 22-2 mark during the past two seasons. So are his top two receivers and All-America center Chantz Anderson.

The defense lost seven starters, including all of its linebackers and All-America safety Jack Toner.

Margraff has managed to reload on the fly to keep piling up wins, but this season provides perhaps his toughest task yet. This group will have to come together quickly to extend the program's 40-game regular-season winning streak.

Zack Baker entered preseason camp with the inside track to replace Germano. The junior from California impressed in limited action last season, completing 39 of 47 passes for 346 yards. He might not be as athletic as Germano, but he probably has a stronger arm.

He'll have to hold off senior Drew Tomaini and a couple of younger players to keep the job.

"He hasn't been out there where we've asked him to win a game yet," Margraff said. "That's going to be the big question in the preseason, seeing how he reacts to the starting role."

Expect the Blue Jays to lean heavily on running back Cary early. The senior seized the starting spot last season and rushed for 943 yards and 14 touchdowns. He also caught 41 passes for 518 yards and four scores.

It helps that he's running behind a deep and experienced line, anchored by Little at left tackle.

The line also figures to be the strength of the defense, with Henson (Broadneck) and Lance Hammond clogging up the middle.

Margraff will be watching closely in camp to slot out many of the other roles. Most in the mix played a decent amount last fall but not necessarily in crunch time.

The 2016 Blue Jays went undefeated again during the regular season and won a home playoff game before falling to mighty Mount Union (Ohio), 28-21, at Homewood Field during the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

It's a tough act for so many new faces to follow, but Margraff believes this group has the right attitude.

"I don't think they're daunted by the task of filling those shoes -- I think they're excited about it," Margraff said. "It's

not just next in line. They feel it's their turn. I think they feel that responsibility of being a great team with great players."

STEVENSON



SABINA MORLA/PRESSBOX

Dan Williams

HEAD COACH: Ed Hottle (sixth season)

2016 RECORD: 9-2 overall, 8-1 Middle Atlantic Conference; NCAA Tournament first round.

KEY RETURNERS: WR Preston Addo, RB Jainard Crawley-Lambert, LB Ashton Leschke, QB Dan Williams.

KEY GAMES: Aug. 31 at Frostburg State; Sept. 23 at Delaware Valley.

OUTLOOK: Stevenson continued its rapid climb last fall with its first NCAA Division III playoff berth.

The Mustangs posted nine wins, earned a national ranking and claimed the Middle Atlantic Conference title before finishing with a 38-17 loss at Wesley (Del.) in their national tournament debut.

That's quite the checklist for a program in its sixth year of varsity competition. Yet Hottle spent the offseason focused on the reasons his squad fell short of even more history.

"The objective isn't to hear your name called on Selection Sunday," Hottle said. "The objective is to hear your name called and go win some football games."

Stevenson rolls into the 2017 season hoping last year's success -- and quick playoff exit -- helps an experienced group chase even bigger goals.

The Mustangs have pretty much everybody back from an offense that averaged nearly 35 points per game, led by Williams.

The senior quarterback threw for 2,469 yards in 2016 with 26 touchdowns against nine interceptions en route to MAC Offensive Player of the Year honors.

He's got his three favorite targets back, including Addo, who turned 12 of his 47 catches into touchdowns last season. Crawley-Lambert returns to lead the backfield after missing the stretch run with a wrist injury.

All that familiarity certainly stands to make Hottle's job easier heading toward the Aug. 31 opener at Frostburg State.

"Things can move much, much quicker," Hottle said. "Install [of plays] happens quicker. Repetitions happen quicker."

The defense has holes to fill, especially in the secondary.

There's no quick fix to replace decorated cornerback Austin Tennessee, who signed with the Minnesota Vikings as an undrafted free agent. The unit also graduated all-conference defensive backs Billy Lewis and Jimmy Lauer.

The good news is Hottle favors a deep defensive rotation. Most of the guys in the mix to fill the void -- notably defensive backs Zach May and Daniel Flowe -- have logged plenty of snaps.

"We built for this," Hottle said. "We knew this day would come."

The linebacking corps is a strength, boosted by the return of top tackler Leschke. Cory Pietrzyk is back for a fifth year after missing most of last season with a broken ankle.

Hottle believes he's got the pieces to make another leap forward, which explains why he focused so intently in recent months on last fall's missteps.

There was a late-season loss to Wilkes that almost cost the Mustangs the conference title. In the NCAA defeat, they led well into the second quarter before fading.

Those memories have been useful for everybody.

"We set goals at the beginning of each season, and we fell short of some of those goals," Hottle said. "We expect more, and we've worked hard to achieve more."

MCDANIEL



DAVID SINCLAIR/MCDANIEL

Will Koester

HEAD COACH: Mike Dailey (second season)

2016 RECORD: 3-7 overall, 3-6 Centennial Conference.

KEY RETURNERS: WR Bamasa Bailor, QB Will Koester, LB Drew Scott, RB Perry Stefanelli.

KEY GAMES: Sept. 2 vs. Catholic University; Nov. 11 vs. Johns Hopkins.

OUTLOOK: What a difference a year -- and a small taste of success -- can make.

McDaniel had lost 22 straight games spanning more than two years before Spencer Wiersberg kicked a last-second field goal to beat Ursinus Sept. 24, 2016. It later added narrow wins against Dickinson and Juniata. The 3-7 record marked McDaniel's best season since 2010.

Dailey won't take this feeling for granted. The McDaniel head coach knows just how fleeting it can be.

"More than anything, it's a sense of hope," Dailey said. "Human beings function on hope. Our guys realize now they can win."

The mission now is keeping those positive vibes going past the Sept. 2 opener at Catholic University.

"Once you get beyond [the losing streak], you start to realize if you continue to play and spend yourself in a 60-minute competition, then you've got a chance," Dailey said. "The wins we got were all close. It wasn't like we were dominant in any game. We just found a way to come out on the good end."

McDaniel seems to have the pieces in place to capitalize on its newfound momentum.

Koester has the physical tools to be among the best quarterbacks in the Centennial Conference but needs to be more consistent. He enters his senior season with 21 touchdowns and 22 interceptions in 16 career games.

"The more he plays, the better he is about making good decisions in the pocket, throwing the ball on time, making the right reads," Dailey said. "I think it's just continuing the growth for him. He's working at it hard."

A familiar group of weapons should help. Koester has back his top three receivers.

The Green Terror found ground success last fall with Stefanelli providing the speed and John Chamberlin packing the power. They both return after combining for more than 1,000 rushing yards and five touchdowns.

Defensively, McDaniel must get better. The Green Terror gave up an average of 32 points and 404 yards of total offense per game in 2016. It's no coincidence the unit was much better than that in the three wins.

Dailey hopes the group learned from taking some lumps last season. He believes defensive lineman Ray Doh, linebacker Scott and cornerback Chris Inge have All-Centennial Conference potential.

McDaniel may not be ready to challenge the conference's best -- the Green Terror lost to the top five teams in the standings by an average of 22 points per game last season -- but Dailey's squad is clearly on the upswing, and that's a good feeling.

"It takes some time to get it right," Dailey said. "You have to have some patience. Everybody wants it to happen on an accelerated pace, but the reality of it is it does take a little time." •



MATT STOVALL/PRESSBOX

Kenneth Sumpter Jr.



MATT STOVALL/PRESSBOX

Katie Dustin

U.S. Army Impact Player Of The Month Award Growing In Prestige

★ WICK EISENBERG



Two years into its existence, the U.S. Army Impact Player of the Month -- County Sports Zone's monthly statewide award -- is more prestigious than ever.

The award, which was first given to Dunbar football player Melvin Kiah in September 2015, highlights students who not only excel on the field but also in the classroom and the community.

In addition to Kiah, 19 student-athletes across Maryland have been honored. The group is made up of 10 boys and 10 girls who play nine different pri-

mary sports and represent eight school districts.

"It's just a great honor," Havre de Grace basketball player and March 2017 recipient Kenneth Sumpter Jr. said. "Knowing that this award is statewide and that there are lots of other people that could have won this award makes me that much happier that it's me who got selected."

The most recent recipient, Glenelg softball player Katie Dustin, agreed that the award being eligible to any public high school athlete in Maryland adds to the prestige.

"It's definitely a big honor. This is such a competitive award and it's statewide," Dustin said. "I'm just happy to represent my school, represent my softball team, and I'm just so happy that I got this award."

To Capt. John Raynor of the Baltimore Recruiting Battalion, it's the exact kind of award with which the U.S. Army wants to be involved. Raynor remembers what it was like to be a high school athlete and how much it meant to be honored for working hard.

"To have something that says, 'You do a good job; we're recognizing you,' was amazing at that age," Raynor said. "I've spoken with a few of the winners, and they've all been very appreciative and humble at the same time. They work their butts off in practice, games and away from their sports."

Recipients of the award are usually nominated by coaches or someone from a school's athletic administration, though teammates and parents can also submit nominations. Once the nomination process is complete, the list of candidates is sent to the U.S. Army, which decides who they would like to highlight that month.

The selection process can get dif-

ficult because of the sheer number of worthy candidates every month.

"I bring in the officers that work at the schools and ask them if they've met the nominee or have interacted with the team they play for," Raynor said. "We make the decision after getting input from everyone. The discussions can sometimes get a little competitive because the various soldiers argue on behalf of their schools, and if they've had good interactions with that athlete or team, it makes them want to get recognized that much more."

Once the selection is made, the recipient is honored in front of their peers. The presentation is videotaped, with a member of the U.S. Army giving the trophy to the recipient. The recipient is also given a free T-shirt from County Sports Zone.

Raynor said the presentation helps make the award special.

"We try to make it as big as possible; a great turnout will help both us and the school," Raynor said. "I've only heard good things from soldiers who we've sent to present the award."

The award has been so well-received that it's expanded to Washington, D.C. This past November, Juan Wallace from H.D. Woodson High School became the first recipient of the District of Columbia State Athletic Association U.S. Army Impact Player of the Month.

Ballou basketball player Kimane Jones, the January 2017 DCSAA recipient, said: "I feel honored. I really appreciate the award. I really don't know what to say; this whole process has just caught me by surprise."

For Raynor, the expansion to D.C. is just the beginning for the U.S. Army Impact Player of the Month award.

"It's one of those things where you start small, word got out, then it spreads and spreads," Raynor said. "I would describe it as a small tidal wave. They've latched onto it in D.C. because they see how much positive impact the organization and community can enjoy as a result of it. I only see it growing from here." •

COACHES,
Nominate Your U.S. Army

IMPACT PLAYER OF THE MONTH

Presented by






U.S. ARMY

Each month we honor a student-athlete who shows an extraordinary impact on his or her team, community and school.

To nominate a player in Maryland or D.C. for the Impact Player Of The Month, please send an email describing why your player should be considered to weisenberg@countysportszone.com

THERE'S NO
OFFSEASON
WHEN IT COMES TO
SAVING MONEY.

GEICO®

Get a quote today.

geico.com | 1-800-947-AUTO | Local Office



Some discounts, coverages, payment plans and features are not available in all states or all GEICO companies. GEICO is a registered service mark of Government Employees Insurance Company, Washington, D.C. 20076; a Berkshire Hathaway Inc. subsidiary. GEICO Gecko image © 1999-2015. © 2015 GEICO



**DOWNLOAD THE NEW
MONUMENTAL SPORTS
NETWORK APP**

New and improved photo galleries, video player, downloadable game calendars, Caps and Wizards emoji keyboards and customizable features allowing fans to tailor the content to their preferences.



amazon fire



Roku

MONUMENTALSPORTSNETWORK.COM



DOGFEST

WALK & FESTIVAL

Saturday Sept 16 10am-4pm

FUN FOR DOGS

Contests • Agility Yard
Bowling • Dog Swim
Paw Painting
Hide n' Seek
20 Yard Dash & MORE!

**no retractable leashes!*

FUN FOR KIDS

Moon Bounce
Play Area • Crafts
Agility Fitness Course
All New! Bubble Ball!

WALK INFORMATION

Enjoy a 1-mile trail walk
through our beautiful
365-acre wildlife
sanctuary.

Then join the fun and
excitement of all else
that DogFest has to
offer!

Create a **TEAM** and walk
together or compete
against your friends!

register at dogfest.org!

A DAY OF FAMILY FUN, FOOD, & FURRY FRIENDS!

Baltimore Humane Society | 1601 Nicodemus Rd, Reisterstown, MD

WALK REGISTRATION & DISCOUNT TICKETS

at

DOGFEST.ORG



VARSITY REPORT

2017 High School Football Preview

★ **WICK EISENBERG**

The high school football season kicks off Aug. 25. Here are five things to watch this season.

TEAM TO WATCH: FRANKLIN HIGH

It should be another strong season for Franklin. The Indians return 13 starters from last season's team, which rode an 11-game winning streak into the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association 3A state championship game, where it lost to Damascus of Montgomery County, 14-12.

Franklin, which last won the state title in 2014, is expected to get big seasons from senior wide receiver Assanti Kearney, senior running back Sam Botchway and junior linebacker Jay Thompson.

After opening at home against Woodlawn Sept. 2, the Indians have a Sept. 8 matchup with DeMatha, which has won four straight Washington Catholic Athletic Conference championships. Up next is a Sept. 15 trip to Delaware to play Smyrna, which has won two straight Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association Division I state championships.

"We wanted to be challenged early," Franklin head coach Anthony Burgos said. "With DeMatha, we felt like in order to be the best you have to try to beat the best. With Smyrna, one of my goals when I started at Franklin was to take our kids out of state and get exposure to competing against players from outside of Maryland. We're excited to take that step this season."

This year, Franklin will have the benefit of no longer having to compete with Damascus, as the Hornets, who have won two straight 3A state titles, will be competing in the 2A classification. With Damascus out of the picture, Franklin's path to the 3A title is much clearer.

PLAYER TO WATCH: EYABI ANOMA, SENIOR DEFENSIVE END, ST. FRANCES

Area football fans will want to keep an eye on Anoma's final high school season.

Last year was Anoma's first with St. Frances, and he was a relatively unknown commodity at the start of the season. That all changed after having a monstrous campaign for the undefeated Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Association "A" conference champions, as he finished with more than 60 tackles and 24 sacks.

Anoma has seen his stock rise with college programs. Originally seen as a raw project for the collegiate level, the 6-foot-6, 223-pound Anoma is now being viewed as a top-level prospect. He ranks fourth on ESPN.com's list of top prospects for the

Class of 2018, and at one point he was ranked as high as No. 2. Anoma has received college scholarship offers from at least 20 schools, according to ESPN, including defending national champion Clemson. Anoma has also reportedly received offers from Alabama, Ohio State, Michigan, Penn State and Maryland.

Assuming Anoma continues to perform at a high level during his senior year, he could end up being the most sought-after college football recruit in Baltimore history.

GAME TO WATCH: BROADNECK AT OLD MILL, OCT. 6

The rivalry between these two Anne Arundel County programs has intensified the past two seasons, and it should remain at a high level in 2017.

In 2015 and 2016, Old Mill entered the state playoffs with an undefeated record, the top spot in the MPSSAA 4A East regional playoffs and realistic hopes of winning a state championship. In both seasons, Old Mill defeated Broadneck by multiple touchdowns during the regular season -- a 38-22 win in 2015 and a 34-10 win the following year.

However, the Patriots were unable to beat Broadneck in the playoffs. The Bruins have eliminated Old Mill in the past two state playoff tournaments, with both games taking place on the Patriots' home field.

Both games were close, especially last year's first-round matchup, which Broadneck won, 20-17, in overtime. In that game, Broadneck trailed 14-0 entering the fourth quarter and fell behind 17-14 in overtime. The Bruins got their first lead on the game's final play, when then-senior wide receiver Robert Schwob caught his second touchdown pass of the game.

In 2015, Broadneck won, 7-0, to take the 4A East championship.

Considering that history, don't be surprised if Old Mill and Broadneck meet again in the playoffs.

COMEBACK TEAM TO WATCH: SOUTH CARROLL HIGH SCHOOL

History says South Carroll will bounce back from an uncharacteristically down year in 2016.

Last year, the Cavaliers went 4-6 and missed the MPSSAA 2A state playoffs for the first time since 2008. It also marked the first time South Carroll missed the playoffs under head coach Steve Lurette, as well as the only time the team didn't have a winning record in Carroll County play during his eight-year tenure.

The Cavaliers opened 2016 with a lopsided win against North Hagerstown but then dropped three straight. South Carroll was

able to rally, winning three straight games against Carroll County foes Manchester Valley, Winters Mill and Francis Scott Key, but it couldn't maintain the momentum, closing out 2016 with another three-game losing streak.

This year, the Cavaliers will have to find a way to win close games. Four of South Carroll's 2016 losses were by one score or less.

South Carroll begins the season with four non-county games, including opening at home with 2016 1A state semifinalist Edmondson-Westside. The Cavaliers finish with six straight county games, including Week 6 and Week 7 contests against Liberty and Century, respectively. Both of those teams beat South Carroll last season and are also expected to contend for playoff spots in the 2A West region.

COACH TO WATCH: SEAN SANDORA, ARCHBISHOP CURLEY

After spending five seasons as head coach at Dundalk, where he compiled a 40-19 record, Sandora will coach Archbishop Curley in the MIAA "B" conference this

season after longtime Friars coach Sean Murphy retired.

At Dundalk, Sandora led the Owls through their most successful period of football in the school's history. Dundalk's best season under Sandora came in 2015, when the Owls went 12-2 (a school record for wins) and reached an MPSSAA state championship game for the first time in the program's history. Dundalk lost in the 3A state final to Damascus.

"Dundalk was a phenomenal experience," Sandora said. "What I'll remember most fondly is changing the culture of the football team, which then helped with changing the culture of the whole building. Making the state championship was great, but helping kids gain the belief they can play in college and further their education was amazing."

The Friars finished 5-5 with a 3-3 conference record in 2016, which was good enough for third place. Archbishop Curley last won the conference championship in 2014.

Sandora believes the Friars should have a good blend of experience and youth in 2017. Three seniors -- tackle Stevon Brown, running back/cornerback Daekwon Hall and inside linebacker Seth Boyd -- are expected to have strong seasons and provide leadership.

The team also will be infused with younger talent, most of which comes from the JV team, which won its conference championship in 2016. A trio of juniors -- fullback/linebacker Mike Vargas, wide receiver/free safety Corey Jones-Pentz and tight end/defensive end Tyler Locklear -- is expected to make an impact this season. •



**All Maryland Public High School Sports
Schedules, Scores and Standings**

CountySportsZone.com

Topgolf Could Help Revive Entertainment District Near M&T Bank Stadium

★ ED WALDMAN



Maybe, just maybe, the long-awaited sports and entertainment district near M&T Bank Stadium and the Horseshoe Casino is coming together.

For nearly forever, the Carroll-Camden industrial park area has been, well, industrial. M&T Bank Stadium opened in 1998, and forward thinkers in Baltimore envisioned the area to the south changing into a destination that would bring people -- and their disposable dollars -- to town for more than just football games.

That didn't happen for more than 15 years. But then the Horseshoe Casino opened on Russell Street in August 2014, and momentum has, albeit slowly, been building.

Two sports bars have opened between the stadium and the casino, and there are plans to reopen the iconic Hammerjacks at the corner of Russell and Ostend.

And, according to a story in the *Baltimore Business Journal*, there's a proposal to put a Topgolf facility at the site of

the Baltimore Animal Rescue and Care Shelter on Stockholm Street.

Dallas-based Topgolf operates 30 high-tech driving ranges and entertainment centers in the United States, including one in Germantown, Md., opening in 2018, one in Loudoun County, Va.,

and one in Alexandria, Va. (which the company plans to relocate to National Harbor in Prince George's County).

Topgolf's first facility was opened outside of London in 2000. The Alexandria location, opened in 2005, was Top-

golf's first in the United States.

Topgolf is not your father's driving range, where you go to pound balls at distant flagsticks, or junked cars or the little cart that's driving around to scoop up the range balls.

Think of Topgolf as high-tech target golf, with a strong social component.

Players at a Topgolf facility hit golf balls embedded with microchips at light-up targets. The microchips relay data back to where the players are, enabling scoring on how far players hit the ball and their accuracy.

Meanwhile, everyone who's not play-

ing can be ordering food (including meats smoked and pecans candied in the on-site kitchen) or drinks, and generally having a millennially good time.

"It's really fun, it's really interactive," said Morgan Wallace, a Topgolf

spokeswoman. "We have TVs, we have live music, food, entertainment. There's something for basically all of your senses when you go to Topgolf."

Wallace would not confirm that there is a deal in place to come to Baltimore, but she said Topgolf is planning to open seven to 10 company-owned locations throughout the next few years, and Baltimore is very much on its radar.

She also said the privately owned firm has opened facilities in locations that aren't yet established as entertainment centers as well as locations that are already built up.

"There are a lot of things that the real estate team takes into account," Wallace said. "Things like proximity to highways, school districts, income, the amount of people moving there, businesses that are there. There's a lot that they take into account when determining if that area can support a Topgolf venue."

Kirby Fowler, president of the Downtown Partnership of Baltimore, said he could not comment on a deal that isn't done. But he said he thinks Topgolf belongs in Baltimore and would do great in that location.

"Most top cities are attracting Topgolf," he said. "I believe we belong in that group of cities."

"There are many locations that could work for Topgolf in the city, including the casino district. We look forward to working with them."

Every Topgolf location employs about 500 people, according to Wallace, including kitchen staff, wait staff and a golf professional.

Wallace said even though the biggest group that Topgolf sees on a daily basis is 18- to 34-year-old males, they draw everyone from kids who have never swung a golf club to senior citizens who are there to get their daily activity.

"We really have a wide variety of people," she said. "It truly reinforces that you can come to Topgolf whether you're a golfer or not. About 37 percent of our guests are non-golfers."

"You don't have to be into sports to enjoy Topgolf."

And that's what those envisioning an entertainment district around the Horseshoe Casino are hoping.

These things certainly take time. The Verizon Center, home of the Washington Capitals and Wizards, opened in Chinatown in 1997, and it took nearly 10 years for the area to become the restaurant and entertainment district that it is today.

Nationals Park opened in 2008 on the Anacostia waterfront in southeast Washington, D.C., an area that was filled with vacant lots and industrial facilities. Sound familiar? It's still not Georgetown, but a stadium that brings at least 20,000 fans to the area 81 times a year has certainly helped propel the area.

Baltimore officials can only hope the redevelopment of the Carroll-Camden area is so successful. •

"THERE ARE MANY LOCATIONS THAT COULD WORK FOR TOPGOLF IN THE CITY, INCLUDING THE CASINO DISTRICT. WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THEM."

- KIRBY FOWLER, PRESIDENT OF THE DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP OF BALTIMORE

Balanced media coverage with a slant.



JmoreLiving.com





Five Factors Daily Fantasy Sports Players Should Keep In Mind This NFL Season

★ **BILL ORDINE**



s fans look forward to the start of the NFL season Sept. 7-11, there will obviously be a torrent of news, opinions and suggestions available on the subject of fantasy football. However, much of that advice will apply largely to season-long fantasy contests and the tens of thousands of fantasy drafts that'll be held in August and early September.

Daily fantasy sports devotees, whether rabid or casual, will find some of that information helpful, but DFS requires a different mindset to be successful.

So here are five factors DFS football participants should keep in mind as they prepare for their weekly battles.

there's more randomness to FanDuel.

Typically, DraftKings has a \$50,000 salary cap and FanDuel has a \$60,000 cap.

3. SCORING DIFFERENCE

DraftKings gives a full point per reception in its scoring rules. FanDuel gives a half-point per reception.

That difference affects how DFS players should evaluate certain running backs and wide receivers. Running backs who catch a lot of passes (think Ravens new running back Danny Woodhead) and wide receivers who get a lot of targets (even if they're not long-range or touchdown threats) have greater value in DraftKings lineups.

4. LATE SWAPS

DFS participants who play only football may be unaware FanDuel made a significant change to its lineup rules when it started allowing late swaps for the 2017 baseball season, and the new rule will apparently apply in football (at least it's being used for preseason games).

Previously, the issue of late swaps was a significant difference between DraftKings and FanDuel.

With a late-swap rule, which has been the norm on DraftKings, a DFS participant can change a real-life player until the start time of that real player's game. So, if during the 1 p.m. games you found out an injury would keep one of your players out of the Sunday night game, you could swap that injured player for someone else as long as it was before kickoff for both players.

In contrast on FanDuel, no lineup changes were permitted after the start of the first game that was part of a given FanDuel contest.

The dilemma was obvious: A development affecting a player in a late game could put a gaping hole in a FanDuel lineup and the DFS player was helpless to make a change.

For preseason contests, FanDuel was using an icon of an unlocked padlock to

designate a contest that allowed late swaps.

5. OPPONENT TRANSPARENCY

A frequent criticism of DFS is that it is dominated by a small pool of expert players, so-called sharks, and that casual participants have little chance to succeed.

There are ways to mitigate that problem.

Both FanDuel and DraftKings have created "badge" systems that identify and even stratify experienced DFS players with icons that look like military insignia. At least when considering getting in a head-to-head contest (against just one other player), the badge system allows novice players to avoid more-experienced players.

Also on DraftKings, players who are less experienced can opt to play in designated "beginner" and "casual" contests where more-experienced DFS players are excluded.

DraftKings also recently announced that for contests that have entry fees of less than \$5, multi-entry limits have been lowered from 150 to 20, and the highest-volume players will be excluded from contests with an entry fee of less than \$5 and a total prize pool of less than \$25,000.

Less-experienced DFS players would be well-served to play in single-entry contests as much as possible. Those contests limit each customer to one entry and eliminates the challenge of competing against more-experienced and better-bankrolled participants loading up on dozens of entries.

ALTERNATIVE TO THE BIG TWO

A DFS website that runs a distant third or fourth to DraftKings and FanDuel in terms of market share that's worth a look is FantasyDraft. FantasyDraft has a fairly comprehensive badge system that allows customers to identify each other in terms of experience and offers "beginner" and "intermediate" contests for players who are starting out on the website. •

1. DFS UNIVERSE LARGELY UNCHANGED

It was expected the two major daily fantasy companies, DraftKings and FanDuel, would have merged by now. That did not happen. The Federal Trade Commission opposed the merger that would have created an operation that reportedly would have controlled more than 90 percent of the market. The two companies waved the white flag on merging earlier this summer and will forge ahead as competitors.

2. LINEUP DIFFERENCE

As has been the case all along, FanDuel's nine-player lineup configuration includes a kicker while DraftKings' nine-position lineup does not. In both cases, there's one quarterback, two running backs, three wide receivers, one tight end and a defense/special teams. While FanDuel includes a kicker, DraftKings has a flex position (RB/WR/TE).

If you subscribe to the notion that kicking statistics are less predictable than other positions, you may also feel



COMMUNITY BEAT



★ WALKS/RACES

AUG. 19 -- BELIEVE BIG 10K

Join the Believe race team at the River Valley Run, which features a 10K and 15K trail course, scenic 5K road course, kids stampede fun run and a toddler trot. Come run/walk with your friend, sports team or co-workers and make a difference in the lives of those who are facing, fighting and overcoming cancer. To register, visit believebig.org/rvr/.

AUG. 19 -- SURVIVOR STRONG 5K FUN RUN/WALK

All proceeds will further the mission of The National Center for Citizen Safety to raise awareness on how to respond to domestic terrorism. Opening ceremonies begin at 7:45 a.m. at 6940 Columbia Gateway Drive. To register, visit bit.ly/NCCSAFE5k.

AUG. 20 -- IRON GIRL TRIATHLON

The 11th annual Iron Girl Columbia Triathlon will take place at 7 a.m. at Centennial Lake in Ellicott City. Iron Girl aspires to bring women of all ages together as a community by offering a supportive, energetic and empowering environment for females pursuing a healthy and active lifestyle. To register, visit irongirl.com/Events/Columbia_Triathlon.htm#axzz4oVk5LwEg.

AUG. 26 -- STARS 5K & 2K WALK

Walk at the Canton Waterfront Park to raise awareness and funds to support individuals who have sickle cell disease. The event benefits Sickle Cell Disease of America. To register, visit classy.org/baltimore/events/walk-stars/e113697 or contact cpaige@sicklecelldisease.org.

SEPT. 2 -- CHARLES STREET 12

This unique, point-to-point race will take runners down historic Charles Street, now a national scenic byway, and end at Power Plant Live! A portion of the proceeds from the race will benefit the Children's Heart Program at the University of Maryland Children's Hospital. For more information and to register, visit charlesst12.com.

SEPT. 9 -- NUN RUN

This 5K and one-mile fun run benefits St. Martin's Home and the Little Sisters of the Poor Baltimore. The race begins at 8 a.m. at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, 5200 N. Charles St. To register, visit charmcityrun.com.

SEPT. 16 -- HAVE MERCY ON OUR SOLES

The annual Mercy High School 5K is a celebration of all things Mercy. Celebrate and run/walk the 26-acre wooded campus of Mercy High School, 1300 E Northern Parkway, from 8:30-10:30 a.m. Proceeds from this event will support all-girls Mercy High School. To register, visit mercy5k.com.

SEPT. 17 -- GET READY! GET SET! GET FIT!

This 5K run/walk and one-mile walk will start at the CCBC Essex campus at 8:30 a.m. and benefit the Baltimore County Department of Aging's programs for seniors. For more information and to register, visit getreadygetsetgetfit5k.com.

SEPT. 17 -- HEAT IT TO BEAT IT

Mercy Medical Center will unite hundreds of patients, their families and friends to raise awareness and funds for research into the causes and treatment of peritoneal carcinomatosis, a cancer found

in the abdomen. The 2.2-mile walk will start at the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore and end with live music, fun and games. To register, visit heat-it.org.

SEPT. 17 -- SUPER HERO WALK

Join the Baltimore Child Abuse Center for a free, fun and family-friendly romp around Lake Montebello in your finest superhero costume to raise awareness of child abuse. All are welcome to attend, and superhero costumes are optional and encouraged. Music, face-painting, healthy snacks and a cape-making station will be on-hand for all to enjoy. To register, visit bcaci.org/super-hero-walk/.

SEPT. 23 -- 5K RACE TO EMBRACE INDEPENDENCE

Join a fun, healthy, family-friendly and festive neighborhood celebration to support and highlight the successes of Marian House women moving from dependence to independence. Participation helps raise vital funds for housing, food, clothing, education, life skills, employability training, counseling services and other necessary support services for homeless women and children. For more information, visit marianhouse.org/5k.

SEPT. 24 -- ZERO PROSTATE CANCER RUN/WALK

Register for the Cancer Challenge 10K, 5K and one-mile fun walk at Towson University's Johnny Unitas Stadium. This tight-knit community event will bring together athletes, doctors, cancer survivors and those who care about ending prostate cancer. The goal is to find a cure for prostate cancer by funding research and providing free testing and education. To register, visit zerobaltimore.org.



★ BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

SEPT. 9 -- BASEBALL CARD SHOW

A sports card and memorabilia show to benefit Monsignor Slade Catholic School will be held at Monsignor Slade Catholic School in Glen Burnie from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. For more details, call Leo at 443-416-6447.

MUSEUM OF NEGRO LEAGUES BASEBALL

Visit the Hubert V. Simmons Museum of Negro Leagues Baseball at the Owings Mills Metro Centre. The museum is named after Bert Simmons, who played for the Baltimore Elite Giants. The museum is open daily and admission is free. Volunteers are always welcome. For more information, visit smnlbinc.org.

MEN'S COED SOFTBALL

The Baltimore County Lutherville-Timonium Rec Council has opened team registration for the fall slow-pitch softball program at Reisterstown Regional Park, which runs from mid-August to early November. Leagues are Monday and Wednesday evenings. Email tjharrington51@netscape.net or call 443-847-1072 for additional registration details.

ADULT BASEBALL

Join the Eastern Baltimore County over-40 baseball league, which plays with wood bats on 90-foot diamonds. Players of all skill levels are encouraged to visit over40baseball.org or call Mike Lockett at 410-446-0443.

BLUE DEVIL UMPIRE ASSOCIATION

New baseball umpires are needed to officiate in Baltimore, Carroll

and Frederick counties. No experience is necessary. Email Bob Frank at lawyerfrank@comcast.net or call 410-493-7011, or contact Larry Silverman at Bluedevilumps@comcast.net or call 410-484-2118.

COCKEYSVILLE RECREATION

For updates about baseball registration for the Cockeysville Recreation Center, visit leagueathletics.com/?org=COCKEYSVILLERECCOUNCIL.ORG or call 410-887-7734.



★ SOCCER/RUGBY/SQUASH

MIGHTY KICKS PUP LEAGUE

The Pup League provides year-round soccer training for boys and girls of all abilities ages 2-7. It's designed to build motor skills, self-confidence and basic techniques. Ongoing programs are available around Baltimore. For more information, visit mightykicksbaltimore.com.

CELTIC SOCCER CLUB

Tryouts for the Celtic Soccer Club are for boys ages 6-18 and girls 6-12. Registration and additional information is available at baltimoreceltic.com.

SQUASH

SquashWise provides incentives for middle school students to excel academically, athletically and socially, as well as the opportunity to compete in local and national squash tournaments. No squash experience is necessary to become a tutor. Visit baltimore-squashwise.org to make your tax-deductible donation. To make equipment donations and/or become a volunteer tutor, email abbym@baltimoresquashwise.org.

RUGBY

The Baltimore-Chesapeake Rugby Club, the region's only Division I men's rugby club, is looking for experienced players or those new to the game. For more information, email baltimorechesapeakerugby@gmail.com or visit baltimorerugby.net.



★ GOLF

AUG. 26 -- THREE CLUB CLASSIC

A nine-hole event played with three clubs will be held at historic Carroll Park Golf Course to benefit First Tee of Baltimore, whose mission is to provide kids the support to thrive academically and socially through golf. The use of only three clubs forces golfers to be creative and invent shots, especially around the greens. This event puts a major emphasis on shot-making, club selection and making the most of limited resources. For more information, call 240-273-GOLF (4653) or visit 3clubclassic2017.ezevent.com.

SEPT. 25 -- 4TH QUARTER GOLF OUTING

Enjoy a day of golf at Waverly Woods in Marriottsville to benefit The 4th Quarter, a nonprofit organization focused on building leadership skills and confidence through after-school sports programs for middle school-age students. For more information, visit the4thqtr.org/upcoming-events/ or call Justin at 443-904-6318.

SEPT. 15 -- GOLF CLASSIC

The road to Pebble Beach starts at the Greystone Golf Course in White Hall hosted by the National Kidney Foundation of Maryland. Practice and registration begin at noon, followed by a 2 p.m. shotgun start. Designed for new golfers and seasoned players alike, this four-

person scramble-style tournament comprises Handicap Index and Gross Divisions. Proceeds will directly support NKF-MD's patient emergency assistance program (providing food, housing aid, utilities, medical and dental support, medication and transportation to dialysis), as well as vital research at Johns Hopkins and the University of Maryland. To register, visit NKGolfClassic.org or call 410-494-8545.

★ FOOTBALL

BALTIMORE TERPS YOUTH

Games are open to all players ages 4-14 regardless of weight or skill level. The games provide a platform for participants to play the proper position for their body size while also ensuring their success as they move on to high school and beyond. To register, visit baltimoreterps.com or call 443-863-TERP.

★ OTHER ACTIVITIES

AUG. 15-19 -- CROSSING MARYLAND

Become a trekker and hike or bike alongside meteorologist Justin Berk as he makes his way across Maryland to benefit kids with cancer and their families. To register, visit coolkidscampaign.org/mdtrek.

SEPT. 12 -- SIZZLING GOLF CLASSIC

Raise money to fight leukemia at this event benefiting There Goes My Hero. There will be an 11 a.m. shotgun start at Woodholme Country Club. For more information, visit ruthschrissizzlinggolfclassic.com or call 410-653-2133.

SEPT. 15 -- FLIP FLOP FESTIVUS

A repeatedly sold out event with more than 300 guests, Flip Flop Festivus offers an elegant night on the town in a resort casual atmosphere. Past attendees have included former professional athletes, media personalities and community leaders such as Qadry Ismail, Brad Jackson, Gheorghe Muresan, Harvey Grant, Ed Norris, Walt Williams, David Aldridge and Johnny Holliday. The event will feature great food and drinks, casino games, raffle prizes and a live auction of highly sought-after sports and travel packages. For tickets visit lifeandbreath.org/events/donate/flip-flop-festivus/.

SEPT. 16 -- DOGFEST

Baltimore Humane Society's Dogfest Walk & Festival is a dog-day extravaganza for pets, kids, pet owners and pet lovers that benefits animals in need of care and refuge at the 365 acre no-kill shelter. Sign up now to be a walk fundraiser and/or come for a great family day of games, contests, swimming for your dog, demonstrations and lots of food. Plus, meet adoptable dogs and cats and local rescue groups. For tickets and more information, visit dogfest.org.

SEPT. 16 -- BULL AND OYSTER ROAST

This event benefits Keep Punching, a nonprofit that raises funds to help in the fight against brain cancer. The roast will take place from 7-11 p.m. at Columbus Gardens and will feature many sports-related items for auction. For tickets, visit flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/MjAwNDk=.

OFFICIALS WANTED

Do you love roller derby? Do you love whistles? Do you love stats? Then you may be ready to join the ranks of the Charm City Roller Girls' officiating crew, which is looking for skating and non-skating officials of all skill levels. No experience necessary. For more information, email referees@charmcityrollergirls.com.

ULTIMATE FRISBEE

Central Maryland Ultimate Association promotes youth ultimate frisbee leagues in the Baltimore area. Go to cmuadisc.org/youth/ for information about spring/summer leagues in Pikesville and Towson as well as Howard and Anne Arundel counties.

BABE RUTH MUSEUM

The improved Babe Ruth Birthplace Museum has reopened next to Camden Yards. Babe Ruth's legacy shaped the sports and American life we live now. Consider making a tax-deductible donation. Visit baberuthmuseum.org/donate or call 410-727-1539, ext. 3012.

HOMESCHOOL SPORTS

Baltimore-area homeschooled boys and girls in grades six-12 interested in playing interscholastic sports -- such as soccer, volleyball and baseball -- can register for the upcoming school season. For more information or to register, email chensports@verizon.net.

MARYLAND OFFICIALS CLUB

Interested in becoming a high school swimming official in the Baltimore-Anne Arundel area? Experience as a competitive swimmer or coach at the high school, college or masters level -- or prior experience officiating -- is strongly preferred. Email mdcommish@comcast.net or call Mike Connors at 410-653-7307.

CAR RACING

Enjoy car racing with a dose of adrenaline in a safe and legal environment all summer long. Visit mirdrag.com or call 301-884-9833.

DUCKPIN BOWLING

There are openings for youth duckpin-bowling leagues for ages 3-21 at various duckpin centers in Baltimore. Most programs run Saturday mornings and include bowling, shoe rental and coaching. For more information, visit ndya.org, call Stacy Karten at 410-356-0936 or "like" duckpin bowling at facebook.com/theduckpinnews.

BALTIMORE FITNESS ACADEMY

BMoreFit's goal is to reduce childhood obesity throughout the Baltimore metropolitan area by educating and mentoring urban youth with targeted programs for improved health, fitness and nutrition. For more details, visit bmorefit.org.

BICYCLE REPAIR

As a cooperative bicycle shop, visitors can work on a donated bike, use tools to fix a broken bike or buy ready-to-ride secondhand bikes. Volunteer staff will provide assistance. For details, visit velocipedebikeproject.org.

WIFFLE BALL

If you can swing a bat and throw and catch a ball, then you can play Wiffle Ball. Enjoy a game that caters to players of all ages and have some fun. For summer tournament information, visit midatlanticwiffle.com.

• LIST YOUR • UPCOMING EVENT



GO TO
PRESSBOXONLINE.COM/COMMUNITY
AND GIVE US THE
DETAILS ABOUT YOUR
UPCOMING SPORTING EVENT.



★
EVERY
SUNDAY

at
10:30 a.m.



BALTIMORE SPORTS.
PERIOD.

★
PRESENTED BY:

MARYLAND *Live!* CASINO

Show segments available at PressBoxOnline.com



THEY SAID IT ON GLENN CLARK radio



ALEX EDILMAN/PRESSBOX

Melo Trimble

"Yeah, I think about it ... what if I came out my freshman year when I was really hot? [But] I feel like I came out at the right time. I wasn't really ready my freshman year to be where I wanted to be in the NBA. Unfortunately, now, I didn't get drafted. But I'm not hanging my head or regretting not coming out. I'm just being humble and waiting for my opportunity. I was young, and I wouldn't have been able to take not playing, not starting, because I had been starting all my life. Me

being in school for three years and going to the Pan American games [in July 2015], I was able to just learn that when I do get to the next level, it's not going to be my team, and I've got to get in where I fit in. Things aren't going to be great all the time."

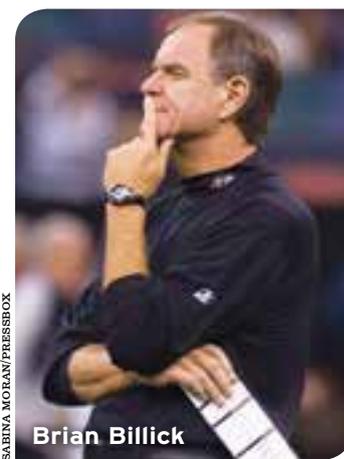
- Former Maryland point guard Melo Trimble July 6 on whether he regrets not leaving school earlier after going undrafted

"There definitely is the family connections and expectations regardless of which team I ended up being with, but specifically the Orioles ... and this is how [it has] been my entire life. You know, really proud of what my family has accomplished, but at the end of the day I just want to be known for Ryan and whatever I can do to build my own legacy and people to have their own interpretations of me."

- Aberdeen IronBirds first baseman Ryan Ripken July 13 on moving into the Orioles' organization this season

"As solid as this defense has been, I don't necessarily see that. I don't see that dominance on the inside. Good, solid players on the inside. [Nose tackle] Brandon Williams can obviously be a presence, but I don't know if I would put him in that 'dominant' category. We have [linebacker Terrell] Suggs, who is obviously at the point of his career where [his age is] going to be an issue. C.J. Mosley has played very good at linebacker and [Kamalei] Correa is going to be solid. A good, solid across-the-board defense, but it's hard to point out the dominant player that could take over at any one of those levels."

- Former Ravens coach and preseason radio analyst Brian Billick July 14 on whether the Ravens could have a dominant defense this season



SABINA MORAN/PRESSBOX

Brian Billick

"It's a funny situation. It happens a lot, so I have to explain. They're like, 'What happened?' So I have to go through and kind of explain what we were trying to do and what the miscommunication was and where it went wrong. Yeah, it comes up a lot. I don't know. I don't have a bad attitude about it, though. I just kind of chuckle when it comes up. Walking off the field [that day], I wasn't sure [what went wrong] because I had just done what I was told to do."

- New Ravens wide receiver Griff Whalen July 24 on how often he's asked about the infamously disastrous fake punt play he ran against the New England Patriots while he was with the Colts in 2015



COURTESY OF THE NFL

Griff Whalen

Listen to Glenn Clark Radio live from
**10 a.m.-noon,
Monday-Friday**
GlennClarkRadio.com

Streaming Live At
PressBoxOnline.com/radio



**Monday-Friday
10 a.m.-noon**



**Saturday
10 a.m.-noon**



WITH **KEN ZALIS
AND THE NFL CHICK**

**Sunday
10 a.m.-noon**



THE REALITY CHECK

Will NFL Fans Get Tired Of Waking Up Early For London Games?

★ **GLENN CLARK**



I've covered the Baltimore Ravens' first trip to London extensively in this month's *PressBox*. Despite the fact that I won't be making the trip, I actually think the jaunt is very cool -- even if long overdue.

For the team, it's an opportunity to market itself in an area in which it's had no footprint. For the players, it's a chance to build their brands in a place with no specific "home team."

Ravens offensive tackle and London native Jermaine Eluemunor said he became a fan of New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning just because he watched him playing at Wembley Stadium growing up. And for the fans, it's a once-in-a-lifetime chance to travel abroad and root for your favorite team. (Well, NFL commissioner Roger Goodell would prefer it's not a "once-in-a-lifetime" trip, but instead a fairly regular experience for all fans in the coming years, but that's a different topic.)

There's nothing not to like here. Even a cynic like me can understand that.

Well, maybe except for one thing.

As the league has played more games over the pond

in recent years, it has settled on trying to establish a new Sunday morning TV window. Three of the four International Series games in England this season will kick off at 9:30 a.m. Eastern Time. The only one that won't kick off that early is the Arizona Cardinals-Los Angeles Rams game, which features two far western teams. Wisely, the league won't ask fans to wake up as early as 6:30 a.m. to enjoy that one.

Trying to create a new television slot is understandable. The league has been searching for new revenue streams, and a national TV game with no competition (outside of the other pregame shows, which are largely irrelevant on days of London games) can provide just that. I can't say definitively how the games perform with advertisers, but considering the league has stuck with those times, it's reasonable to assume they've performed well.

But what concerns me is that as the league plays more of these games -- the four in London this season are the most in history, and the NFL has been consistent about exploring other markets for future games -- it risks alienating fans in the process. Sure, it will be fun for fans to gather at area establishments early in the morning of the Ravens' Sept. 24 matchup for revelry, but fans with closely held religious beliefs will be torn about whether to watch the game or attend church. Local college students

may well struggle to be awake in time for the game after whatever they may have been doing the night before. And sure, it's easy to say, "Well, that's a choice they'll have to make for one game," and not care otherwise, but it goes beyond that. Among other things, the national relevance of each game has elevated football to prominence in comparison to the other pro sports leagues, where games are largely viewed as regional. While prime-time football games end late enough that some fans will choose to check out early, every NFL game is played for as large an American audience as possible. And with each team playing only 16 games all season, the importance of each one helps to drive that incredible audience to each game.

The NFL is essentially punting the entire Pacific Time Zone when it schedules a game at 9:30 a.m. Eastern. Making things worse, fantasy football players have to deal with the issue of "will they play or won't they?" for players listed as questionable. The league is asking fantasy football owners on the West Coast to wake up at 6 a.m. to check to see if their guys are active. That's simply unreasonable.

I am not naive enough to think the league hasn't done extensive research on the topic, including cost/benefit analyses. I am also not naive enough to think the league hasn't operated with a fair amount of hubris at times in recent years. And there are a number of people it needs to consider when it schedules these games, including media partners in the U.S. and Great Britain.

But the NFL has shown it's OK with playing these games at 1 p.m. Eastern (6 p.m. local time in London) and will do it again for the Cardinals-Rams game. There's no reason why it couldn't do that for all of the London games -- particularly if it's going to keep expanding the international slate in the coming years.

It won't change anything about this year's game, however. So hopefully you'll be able to get at least one Bloody Mary in you before kickoff. Remember, the secret is that there is no such thing as too much Worcestershire sauce. •

HOLY FRIJOLE'S

¡ARRIBA!

¡ARRIBA!

VIVA TACOS!

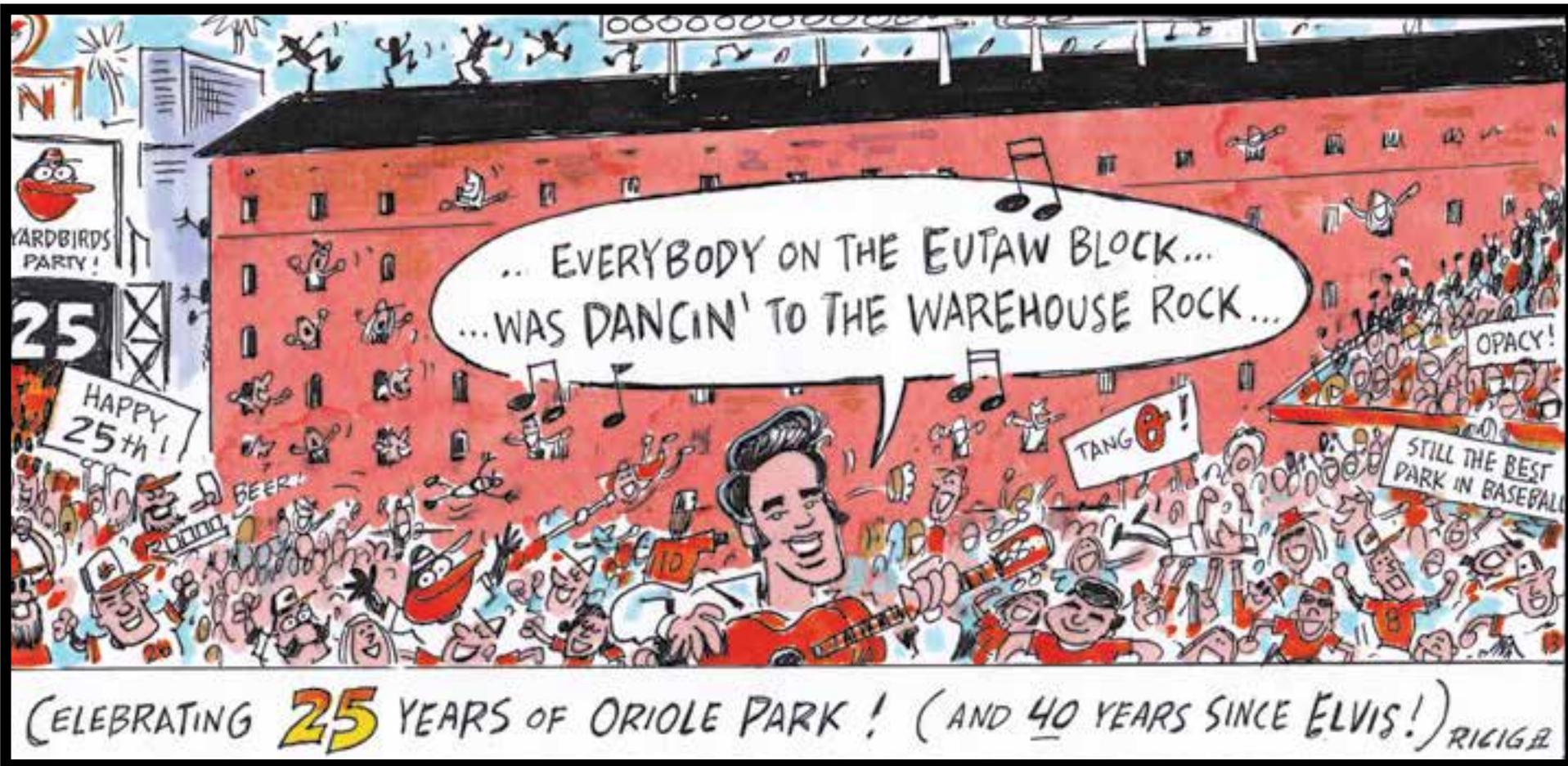
VIVA PINBALL!

SEE YOU SOON!

HAMPDEN'S ORIGINAL OUTPOST SINCE 1996

908 W 36TH ST, BALTIMORE, MD 21211 (410) 235-2326

DIAMOND COMIC PRESENTS:
RICIG'S WORLD OF SPORTS



Do You Want a Party of Historic Proportions?

Geppi's Entertainment Museum is a pop culture shrine, a tribute to the exciting characters, toys and experiences that have shaped our past and our present. Whether you're looking for a gateway to history or a place to hold an amazing family or corporate event, you'll find it at **GEM!**



Located in Baltimore's historic Camden Yards sports complex, right across the street from the Baltimore Convention Center and immediately next door to Oriole Park!



Action Comics #1
 The first appearance of Superman



The original, hand-made G.I. Joe prototype

To make your party a night to remember, contact: **Nadja Martens, Sales Manager – Events**
 Phone: (410) 625-7063
 Email: mnadja@geppismuseum.com
www.GeppisMuseum.com



Club Members Get
7th CUP FREE!



STRIKING



The All-New

C A M R Y



buyatoyota.com