

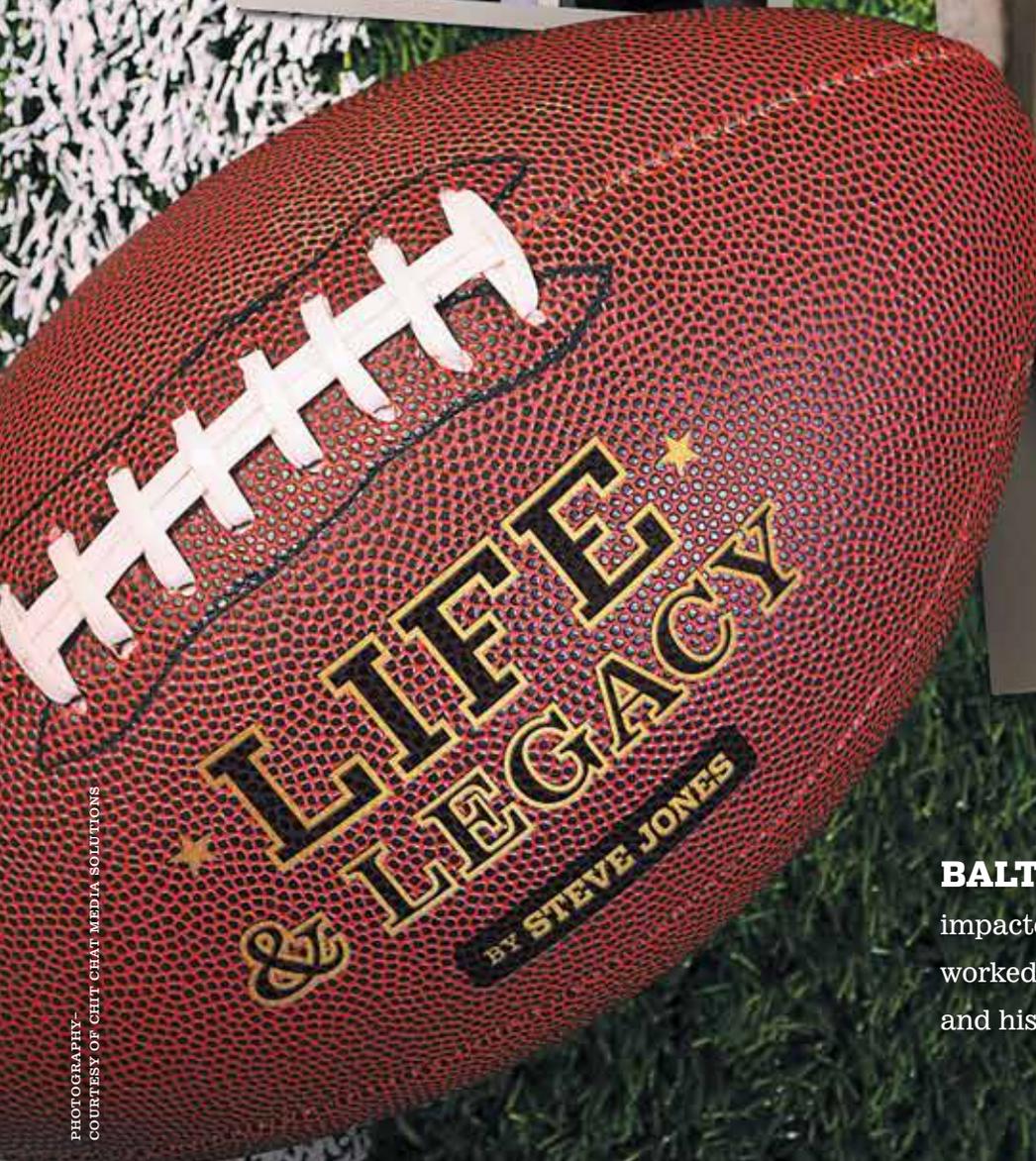
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LET THE  
MADNESS  
BEGIN  
Pg 29-32

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**BALTIMORE NATIVE KEION CARPENTER** impacted his hometown in profound ways, and those who worked closest with him plan to ensure his good work, and his good name, won't be forgotten ★ PAGE 10

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## STARTING LINEUP

- TABLE OF CONTENTS -

### COVER STORY

**LIFE & LEGACY**..... 10  
*Baltimore native Keion Carpenter impacted his hometown in profound ways, and those who worked closest with him plan to ensure his good work, and his good name, won't be forgotten*

### SPECIAL SECTION

**LET THE MADNESS BEGIN** ..... 29

### FEATURE STORIES

**SPORTS BUSINESS W/ ED WALDMAN** ..... 8  
**ORIOLES REPORT W/ RICH DUBROFF**..... 17  
**RAVENS REPORT W/ GLENN CLARK**.....20  
**VARSITY REPORT W/ WICK EISENBERG**..... 41  
**MARYLAND GAMING W/ BILL ORDINE** ..... 44

### COLUMNS

> **ONE FAN'S OPINION** .....05  
Stan "The Fan" Charles  
> **CONNOLLY'S CORNER** ..... 18  
Dan Connolly  
> **UPON FURTHER REVIEW** ..... 19  
Jim Henneman  
> **THE REALITY CHECK** ..... 31  
Glenn Clark

### SECTIONS

**FRONT ROW**.....06  
**COLLEGE**.....27

### VOICES

**THEY SAID IT ON GLENN CLARK RADIO** ..... 39  
**COMMUNITY BEAT** .....42  
**RICIG'S WORLD OF SPORTS** ..... 46

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## ONE FAN'S OPINION



### Pimlico Renovation May Price Preakness Out Of Baltimore

★ STAN "THE FAN" CHARLES

On Feb. 24, the first phase of a study on the costs associated with renovating Pimlico Race Course was released. The study, conducted by the Maryland Stadium Authority in conjunction with its economists and equine specialist, has placed an approximately \$300 million price tag on the renovation of Old Hilltop, the 147-year-old racetrack that sits at the corner of Northern Parkway and Pimlico Road.

The release of the findings is merely the first step in a fascinating, three-sided, high-stakes chess match among the Maryland Jockey Club, owners of the state's two racetracks Pimlico and Laurel Park plus the Preakness Stakes; the state of Maryland and the city of Baltimore.

The next step may be still another study to explore how these renovations would be financed and how a track currently scheduled for 12 days of racing in 2017 could generate enough additional revenue to show a return on this investment. But the project team that authored the first study awaits further direction from the Maryland Stadium Authority.

After all, there is the considerable issue of convincing whoever winds up paying for an upgraded Pimlico that they should invest a substantial chunk of money into beautifying a facility that has one gigantic day of business -- that being the third Saturday in May.

Among the candidates who might be asked to contribute are the state of Maryland, the city of Baltimore and the Mary-

land Jockey Club, and perhaps there are even other sources -- but none of that is clear right now. In particular, how the city would come up with a share of this initial estimate for a track renovation is hard to imagine.

I am sure the figures tossed around -- the actual range was \$248 million to \$321 million -- are merely a starting point in a discussion on how to make this whole endeavor make some sort of fiscal sense to all parties involved. It's important to also keep in mind, this initial approximate \$300 million figure is going to grow at the rate of Pinocchio's nose.

And that is just where the rub is. If you are the Maryland Jockey Club, you own a more updated and modern facility about 20 miles away that resides in the middle of the incredible megalopolis of Washington, D.C., and Baltimore. It also happens to be the case that Laurel Park sits on an unusually valuable 100 acres of mostly undeveloped land.

The Maryland Jockey Club has laid out a vision for Laurel Park that would include a residential component, dining and retail, all near the racetrack and all served by an expected MARC rail station.

So, what would be the business sense for the Maryland Jockey Club in making a capital investment of, say, well more than \$150 million (and to be clear, that's just a hypothetical number) in another facility? What exactly does the Maryland Jockey Club get for its investment?

I know it's not apples-to-apples, but think about the Orioles or Ravens being asked to move into their new stadiums, while at the same time going into their coffers for \$150 million to help fix up Memorial

Stadium, so the O's could play a weekend series against the Yankees and the Ravens, a game against the Steelers -- just for the nostalgia factor. Think Orioles owner Peter Angelos or Ravens owner Steve Bisciotti would take a bite out of that apple?

At the end of the day, that is what Baltimore is asking of the Maryland Jockey Club -- to go against the good business sense of developing the racing company's overall Laurel property just because Baltimore will be harmed if the Preakness leaves. But is that really true? Aside from the hit from a prestige standpoint, will the city and state lose much in revenue? People who would have come and stayed in Baltimore hotel rooms to go to Pimlico will still stay in Baltimore.

It wasn't too many years ago, 2008 to be exact, that *PressBox* did a cover story entitled "The Preakness in Twilight" on the notion Maryland stood a fairly decent chance of losing the Preakness altogether. *PressBox* posed a couple simple questions to three powerful people: then-Stadium Authority head Fred Puddester, former head of the Stadium Authority and the man who negotiated the Browns move to Baltimore for the state of Maryland John Moag and U.S. Rep. Elijah Cummings.

However, that was before the referendum to allow slot machines in Maryland and the rise of a robust casino industry. Along with the slots came an infusion of a lot of money into the veins of the racing industry, mainly for purses, but also for facility renewal. In fact, so much money has been generated for the racing industry since the advent of slots that the racing product within Maryland has enjoyed something of a renaissance, and the financial health of the horsemen and ancillary breeding folks has improved.

This overall improving environment has allowed the Maryland Jockey Club to move forward with capital improvements at Laurel that have cost tens of millions so far and have enhanced the physical plant to the point that the Maryland Jockey Club is making a strong bid to host the first Breeders' Cup event in the state at Laurel Park in 2020 or 2021.

Another aspect of today's racing climate that has changed things is the fact there hasn't been any word from the Magna Group, parent of the Maryland Jockey Club, about moving the Preakness to one of its other notable racing properties, such as Santa Anita in Southern California or Gulfstream Park in Hallandale Beach, Fla.

Without the implied threat that Maryland could lose the Preakness, the state should be less alarmed at the notion of a Pimlico closure, with the Preakness simply moving about 25 miles further south, but still firmly in Maryland.

So, if the Maryland Jockey Club would like to simply close Pimlico, sell off the land and then put their all-out development plan in place at Laurel, who's to blame them? ☒

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FRONT ROW



Zachary Orr

# Zachary Orr Lends Voice To Fight Opioid Addiction

**F**ormer Baltimore Ravens linebacker Zachary Orr has teamed up with the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) to produce a series of public service announcement videos addressing the stigma surrounding substance use disorders.

Orr, who announced his retirement from professional football in January due to a spinal condition, got involved in this project on behalf of the Ravens to help reverse the stigma surrounding individuals who struggle with opioid addiction.

"This cause is important to me because, after doing research, I realized how the perception of opioid abuse is received," Orr said in an email. "In most cases, it is looked upon as a shameful act, but in reality, it's a real issue that needs to be treated as a disease -- just like many other addictions are. I feel like it is very important to destigmatize opioid addiction and get the proper help to those in need."

This PSA campaign is part of Gov. Larry Hogan's 2017 Heroin and Opioid Prevention, Treatment and Enforcement Initiative, which is an effort to address

Maryland's ongoing opioid and heroin epidemic. From 2007-2015, the number of yearly heroin deaths in Maryland has increased from 399 to 748, according to the Maryland Vital Statistics Administration Annual Overdose Death Report.

Orr filmed three PSAs highlighting the stigma of this disease; the benefits of naloxone, a lifesaving drug that can reverse an overdose; and information about the Good Samaritan Law that protects Marylanders from arrest or prosecution if they assist someone overdosing and call 911. The videos have aired on local TV and in area movie theaters.

"Real people talking about opioid abuse as a disease instead of a law enforcement issue helps the public to understand that this issue is real and people need help," said BHA director of public awareness Margie Donohue. "Almost immediately, we received emails from people who have experienced this disease firsthand, thanking us for putting it in this light -- that it shouldn't be all negative."

As a recognizable sports figure taking the lead in raising awareness on this issue, Orr has also experienced the effects of his role in this positive campaign.

"I have definitely seen the positive impact the PSAs

have had on numerous people," Orr said. "Many people have personally reached out to me sharing their own personal experiences with addiction and how they are thankful that me and many others are standing up for them to get proper care. In life, I always want to help others in any way I can so it's something I would like to continue bringing awareness to the problem and help in any way."

Since stepping away from his career in professional football, Orr continues his work in the community as he prepares to begin a foundation to support at-risk kids. During his retirement announcement in January and afterward, he spoke about his hope to pursue coaching and also his desire to carry on his work in the community.

"I haven't gotten involved in any other projects just yet. I recently had shoulder surgery and am jumpstarting my foundation," Orr said. "My focus has been rehabbing and the foundation, but I will get involved in other projects in the near future."

Marylanders who need help finding substance use disorder treatment resources should visit [MdDestinationRecovery.org](http://MdDestinationRecovery.org) or call the Maryland Crisis Hotline, which provides 24/7 support, at 800-422-0009.

-- MATT WILSON

## The Athlete Daily Informs And Inspires Fitness Community

During spring training last year, MLB.com Orioles reporter Brittany Ghiroli and her sister, April, came up with an idea for a new website.

The pair noticed it was difficult to find reliable content on fitness training. It was challenging to sift through the plethora of misinformation on the internet about CrossFit training, powerlifting, weightlifting and Strongman. How do you find a solid nutrition program? They started brainstorming about a website that would provide information to improve the quality of a workout. The Athlete Daily was born.

"If you want to read about Chris Davis, you can Google him and get your fill pretty easily," Ghiroli said. "When it comes to working out, there are a lot of misconceptions. There are no good fitness websites. April and I were both Division I athletes, and we couldn't find any good fitness websites. We launched the site last June and were surprised by how many people enjoyed it."

Along with a steady flow of helpful hints and suggestions to stay on the leading edge of the rapidly evolving fitness landscape, the Athlete Daily provides inspiring stories, including a piece on a 16-year-old boy who can lift 400 pounds; a female athlete who overcame weight struggles and is empowering herself through CrossFit; weightlifting workout routines while injured; and on the growing number of women discovering the benefits of weightlifting. The website strives to educate people to be smart about their training.

The Ghiroli sisters grew up in Connecticut and were active in sports. Their father was a football and hockey player. The girls played street hockey and practiced taekwondo. Ghiroli swam for Michigan State, and her sister played softball at the University of Pittsburgh.

"On Mondays and Fridays, we had softball practice, swimming practice and karate," said April Ghiroli, a competitive power lifter, CrossFit instructor and social media manager for the National Pro Grid League.



April Ghiroli

"That's four hours of sports. My dad had a set of barbells, and we did squats on the dining room chairs. That was crazy."

The Athlete Daily dispels the current prevailing myths about working out, such as the importance of cardio and losing weight.

"Everyone is obsessed with being small and getting on the treadmill," Brittany Ghiroli said. "Weightlifting doesn't mean 'big and bulky.' It's OK to create muscle. It's OK to eat carbs. It's empowering to lift. How else will you withstand falls? We live in a culture of sitting, and our bodies can do so much more."

During the baseball season, with so many night games, it can be a challenge for Brittany Ghiroli to get in her CrossFit training. When she showed up at spring training this year, manager Buck Showalter took notice.

"He told me I was in better shape than some of his players on the team," she said. "Players have asked me for training tips."

As the Athlete Daily continues to grow, the Ghiroli sisters share a vision to motivate and help people in their fitness pursuits. The site is updated once a week with an even mix of content addressing issues and highlighting athletes. April Ghiroli has just qualified for a national power lifting competition, and their mother started CrossFit a few months ago.

"Mom just beat a large chunk of our family in bowling this past weekend, and she attributes it to CrossFit," Brittany Ghiroli said. "You can take up a sport after 55. You can compete against yourself. See what your body can do. You can push yourself. We were made to move."

-- DEAN SMITH

## Catching Up With Eddie Murray: From The Batter's Box To The Vineyard

It's been 20 years since Baltimore Orioles fan favorite "Steady Eddie" Murray retired after 21 years in

the big leagues, 13 of them in Baltimore. However, the Hall of Famer who belted 504 home runs, earned 1977 American League Rookie of the Year honors and was a member of the Orioles' 1983 World Series championship team hasn't been content to rest on his many laurels.

Among his post-baseball endeavors, Murray has been a supporter of Baltimore's Babe Ruth Birthplace Museum, most notably putting his name on a wine whose proceeds have been donated to the museum.

The wine fundraiser was first launched in 2015, but a limited amount of the wine will be re-released in the spring/summer of this year.

Murray, a native Californian with an abiding interest in wine and wine making, lent his name and celebrity to The Roundtripper, a 300-bottle limited edition 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon. The wine -- with a distinctive label that pays tribute to Ruth and Murray -- was introduced in September 2015, with the proceeds earmarked for the Babe Ruth Museum.

It wasn't Murray's first association with the wine business. Previously, his name was on the Eddie Murray 504, a 2006 Cabernet Sauvignon produced for the Charity Wines fundraising organization.

"About 15 years ago, I really discovered a love and passion for wine, especially those made in the Sonoma and Napa Valleys," Murray said. "For the last 10 years, I have been visiting and tasting the wines from those areas and been fortunate to taste with many of the owners and winemakers of some of the best wineries in the area."

Murray continues to make frequent visits to Napa Valley with his friend Bruce Gearhart, president of Baltimore-based Bacchus Importers Ltd.

It was while visiting and conducting wine tastings in Napa Valley with Gearhart that Murray was introduced to renowned winemaker Ken Deis, and The Roundtripper project was launched. And just like a winning baseball team, the group that put together The Roundtripper had all-star credentials.

Deis has produced a variety of wines that have frequently received scores of 90-plus from wine advocate critic Robert Parker of *Wine Spectator* and *Wine Enthusiast* magazines. Deis contacted fellow vintner/winemaker Joe Cafaro of Cafaro Cellars wines in Napa Valley to obtain the grapes used for the initial vintage.

Cafaro's resume includes making wines for Chappallet, Keenan, Acacia, Robert Sinskey and Dalla Valle wineries, prior to founding Cafaro Cellars in 1986.

The grapes were picked, vinified and then tasted from the barrel where the final blend was chosen and then aged for two years before being bottled and made available for the fundraiser event in 2015 at the Babe Ruth Birthplace Museum. Murray is a member of the museum's Hall of Fame, and Gearhart is a member of the board of directors.

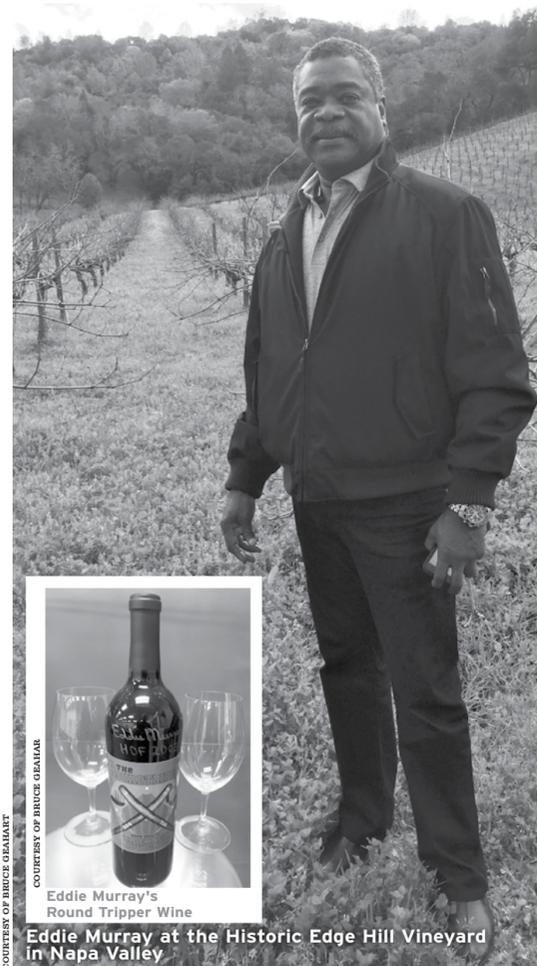
The Roundtripper's colorful label displays crossed bats with the numbers 3 and 714, and 33 and 504 in recognition of Ruth and Murray's uniform numbers and career home run totals.

Since retiring as a player after the 1997 season at the age of 41, Murray has remained active in the sport. He returned to the Orioles as a bench coach in 1998 and worked as a hitting coach for the Cleveland Indians from 2002-05 and for the Los Angeles Dodgers in 2006.

Most recently, Murray was in the news for the groundbreaking of Eddie Murray Field at BGE Park, located behind James Mosher Elementary School in west Baltimore, home of the James Mosher Baseball League that has been in continuous operation since 1960.

Murray keeps a permanent residence in his native California, but he maintains a presence in Baltimore, where he remains actively involved in a number of charitable organizations, including schools for at-risk children. And he makes it a practice of returning for most of the Orioles' major reunion events.

-- CHARLIE VASCCELLARO



Eddie Murray at the Historic Edge Hill Vineyard in Napa Valley

Eddie Murray's Round Tripper Wine

## SPORTS BUSINESS

# Pimlico Planners Can Glean Lessons From Other Renovations

★ ED WALDMAN

There are few people in the country who know more about turning “antiquated” and iconic sports venues into facilities that are relevant -- and profitable -- in the 21st century than Janet Marie Smith.

Orioles fans know and admire Smith for her work on Oriole Park at Camden Yards, first as part of the original team that built the stadium, and then as part of the team hired by Peter Angelos to update the stadium as it approached its 20th anniversary.

In between her Orioles stints, Smith worked for the Atlanta Braves, helping the team open Turner Field, and then -- more importantly for our purposes -- with the Boston Red Sox as they modernized Fenway Park.

For the last nearly five years, Smith has been senior vice president for planning and development for the Los Angeles Dodgers, leading the team's efforts to update Dodger Stadium, which opened in 1962 and is the third-oldest, continuously-used park in Major League Baseball.

But even though Smith's work has taken her across the country, she still calls Baltimore's Roland Park neighborhood home.

And living a mile or so from Pimlico Race Course has left her “passionate” about the future for the home of the Preakness.

“I've often hoped that perhaps if Pim-

lico has a chance at being revived that it will be done in a way that's architectural-ly sensitive to its current scale,” she said.

Last month, the Maryland Stadium Authority released its long-awaited study on the future of Pimlico. The study, which cost \$175,000, stated “Pimlico Race Course is antiquated and in need of substantial renovations.”

The study pegged the cost of the renovations to be between \$248 and \$321 million, and the Stronach Group, the track's Canadian-based owners, have said it would need a “huge public commitment” to move forward.

Smith pointed to upgrades and renovations done at another Stronach property, Santa Anita Park in Arcadia, Calif., as a “good model” of what Pimlico might look to.

“In the course of working for the Dodgers and looking at the other sporting venues around Los Angeles, I've been particularly impressed with how Santa Anita has handled similar issues,” she said. “They did a great job. It was a multi-year renovation; they did a little bit every year, and they got to the finish line.”

And it wasn't all about attracting “premium” customers who would spend a lot of money and were looking for “an enclosed, air-conditioned dining experience,” Smith said, but also about how to attract families looking for something to do on a Sunday afternoon with the kids.

“They took their infield, and in a very deliberate move, they made it a family place. So on any given Sunday, you go there and they've got big blowup things

up, and it's like a little kids' carnival,” she said. “Yes, you can still buy a drink, and you can still buy a beer, but the overarching image is that it's a family place. It's a beautiful, clean, crisp environment where you want to go and socialize and be outdoors for the day.”

The \$40 million project, which was completed over several years, also included upgrades to several key areas of the grandstand, updated technology and upgrades to the park's 13 luxury suites.

Smith also said comparing racetracks to baseball stadiums is not the apples-to-oranges example some might think. They are both sports that don't demand a fan's attention 100 percent of the time.

“They both have a lot of leisure time. That is the appeal,” she said. “It's a very different pace and a different vibe.”

“So how do you present an environment where [the fans' enjoyment] is not solely dependent on the outcome of the game or even your level of understanding of the game? It's got to be a compelling experience and one that demands both your time and your dollars.”

In Boston, Smith said, that meant asking “how do we renovate Fenway and provide new appendages to the building that will give fans and players the kinds of amenities today's industry standards require?”

“Some of the first things we did at Fenway Park were not to go in and do renovation in a traditional sense, but to go in and say, ‘How do we change the behavior of this building, so that the concourses feel wider, so that the bathrooms are big and new again, so that the

concession stands are large enough that you can have cooking within them, not just warmed up stuff? How do we do all that within the flavor of what feels like your grandfather's ballpark?’”

Smith also said it is important to preserve the “architectural integrity” of older venues, such as Fenway Park or Dodger Stadium or Pimlico.

“As you approach any renovation where the building has that sort of character, that has that type of memories associated with it, you really want it to come alive,” Smith said.

At Fenway and Dodger Stadium, Smith said the teams were “very anxious to see history put front and center. We don't want fans to think they're walking back into time when they're walking into the building, but we want them to feel the timeless quality of the building, and to feel the history and the relevance of all the events that it housed over the decades.”

“And you don't have to do anything more than look at the movies in your library to see what horseracing has meant to America.”

And, as a Pimlico neighbor, Smith thinks part of the goal of any track redevelopment would only do good for the neighborhood.

“A renovated Pimlico could lift up the neighborhood rather than drag it down,” she said. “Not every horse race is going to be a big event; you're not having the Preakness every week.”

“One of the questions that has to be asked is how do we make this a place where people say, ‘Wow, it's a beautiful weekend, what should we do?’ And that ... one of the top five things [on their mind is] to spend some time in a beautiful venue, with the offerings that you would expect to find in other entertainment areas.”

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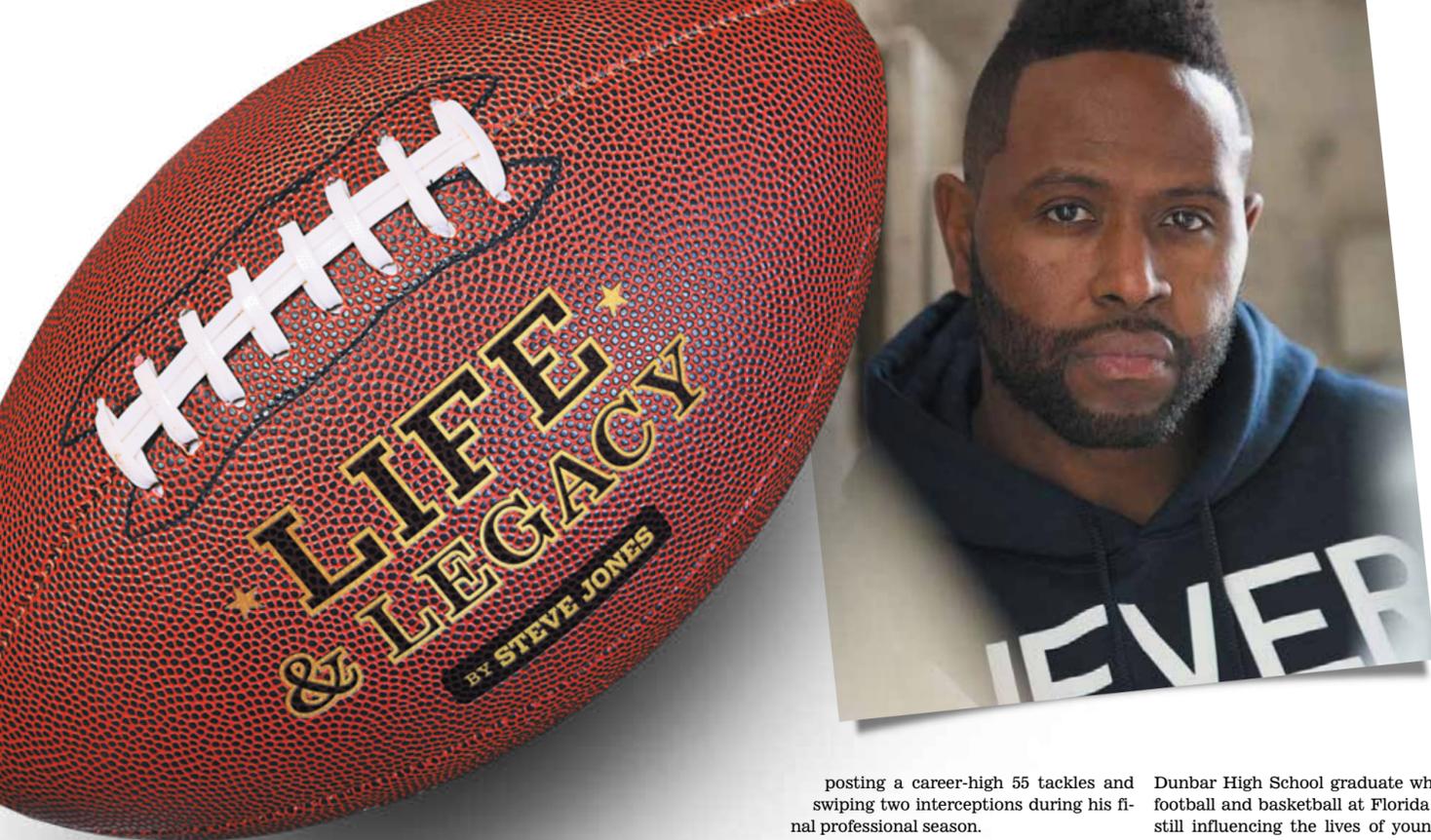
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ginia Tech.  
During his final  
two seasons with the ac-

complished Hokie program, Carpenter recorded 113 tackles and nine interceptions as a defensive back, returning a pick for touchdown. Carpenter also blocked five kicks during his time at Virginia Tech.

Carpenter's production at the collegiate level caught the eye of professional scouts, but he entered the NFL as an underdog.

It's often been said people who have a platform should use it.

Actors and musicians have used their platform to initiate and achieve positive change throughout the world. Athletes have a similar platform. Their talents and clutch performances have earned them recognition and respect.

Keion Carpenter, whose passing in December following a freak fall stunned and saddened all who knew him, was one of those people. Following a highly successful football career that took him from Woodlawn High School to Virginia Tech, and finally to the NFL's Buffalo Bills and Atlanta Falcons, Carpenter took a different route.

He didn't accept a job on a collegiate or NFL coaching staff.

Instead, he took another kind of coaching position. At his new job, Carpenter was able to directly influence the lives of young people who needed love, guidance and reassurance during the most vulnerable times in their lives.

## THE EARLY DAYS

Carpenter began his trek to professional football at Woodlawn High School. He used his superior athleticism to excel as a two-way player on the football field and on the Warriors' basketball team.

Following his 1995 graduation from Woodlawn, Carpenter headed south to at-

posting a career-high 55 tackles and swiping two interceptions during his final professional season.

## CARPENTER THE MENTOR

During the final seasons of Carpenter's career, he and DeAngelo Hall became teammates and friends. Hall had already been on a parallel path with the man who would become his mentor in the National Football League.

Hall was an All-American cornerback at Virginia Tech, the same school where Carpenter made his name. When Hall was selected by the Falcons in the first round of the 2004 NFL Draft, he was united with a former Hokie who also played in the defensive backfield.

Carpenter, who was still recovering from his spinal injury during Hall's first season, immediately reached out to the rookie cornerback. Hall soon joined Carpenter on the sidelines, after suffering a fractured hip during a preseason game.

"He took me under his wing, because I was a Virginia Tech guy," said Hall, who will enter his 14th NFL season and ninth with the Washington Redskins this fall. "But I could have gone to [rival] University of Virginia, and I think he would have still mentored me. And being the born leader that Keion was, he observed me and helped me grow into the player I became."

Hall also observed Carpenter, and what he saw made a difference in his own life.

"Just watching what he did on our off-days, you could see that Keion wanted to do something for kids who were less fortunate," Hall said. "It was a beautiful thing to watch, and it helped me understand what was important in life."

Carpenter and Tommy Polley had that same kind of bond. Polley, a Paul Laurence

Dunbar High School graduate who played football and basketball at Florida State, is still influencing the lives of young people as a football coach at Althoff Catholic High School in Belleville, Ill.

"We always thought about the people who helped us, so we wanted to give back," said Polley, who played in the NFL with the St. Louis Rams, Baltimore Ravens and New Orleans Saints. "Sometimes I'd get discouraged, but Keion always told me to keep fighting. Every time I needed him, he was there."

## THE NEXT STAGE

Following the end of his NFL career, Carpenter began to have an even greater impact. A difference-maker on the field, Carpenter sought that same role away from football. The founding of The Carpenter House in 2005 was his next step.

"He wanted everybody to have a better life and to bring hope to their situations," Polley said. "He was grounded and well-respected in the community. I told him that he could be a pastor, because he spoke so well."

Carpenter channeled his commitment to others in establishing The Carpenter House, whose stated mission is to "strengthen and empower families from disadvantaged backgrounds by providing access to resources, activities and structured environments that enable them to reach their highest academic and economic potential."

Staffed completely by volunteers, The Carpenter House gives children ages 5-17 from lower-income homes the chance to interact with mentors and participate in a variety of activities. It is an agent of change for boys and girls who need positive direction in their lives.

Although his primary residence was in Atlanta, Carpenter had a strong desire to help the young people of Baltimore.

"Keion felt that he wanted to come back

and do it in his hometown," said LaTisha Chambers, the executive manager of The Carpenter House. "I once asked him, 'Why do you keep coming back here?' He said to me, 'If I don't come back, who's coming back? I had coaches and mentors who helped me, and I want to be that same person.'"

## HELPING IN MANY WAYS

Keion Carpenter was a multi-purpose football player. The Carpenter House is even more versatile.

Within The Carpenter House organization, which is headquartered at 19 E. Fayette Street in downtown Baltimore, are five programs designed to serve various areas of the community.

For My Kidz is a mentoring program that works with local school systems. During its early days, the program benefited from the friendship between Carpenter and Polley, who helped set up an important meeting with Tracey Estep, the chief of recreation operations for Baltimore City.

"Keion had started the For My Kidz program, but he didn't have any place to hold the sessions," Estep said. "We had a space that was available at one of our recreation centers."

The mentoring program, which originally operated two days a week, has expanded to a six-day-a-week program.

"Keion was able to engage these young men and change their lives," Estep said. "We had one youngster who missed 110 out of 180 school days one year, and he ended up graduating from high school with a 3.0 grade point average and going to college."

"It was all about Keion's commitment to the whole child. He wanted to make sure that kids had access to schools, quality housing and sports."

The Special Delivery program also fills a critical need, providing toys, food and clothing to hundreds of needy families. Carpenter House Communities addresses one of Baltimore's most pressing problems: the lack of affordable housing for low-income and single-parent families. Carpenter House Communities has also partnered with Baltimore City Public Schools to identify, train and hire teachers' aides for special-needs classrooms.

Commitment 4 Change is a summer camp for youngsters age 7-17. It provides football instruction, financial education and leadership classes at area recreation centers.

Shutdown Academy, which was founded in 2010, is a signature Carpenter House program that has affected many lives. Shutdown Academy teaches its participants how to reach their full potential through the core values of integrity, honor and respect.

Carpenter wasn't alone in the creation of Shutdown Academy. His co-founders were Aaron Maybin and Bryant Johnson, two local athletes who were first-round NFL Draft picks.

Maybin, a Baltimore resident who grew up in Ellicott City, Md., was a standout linebacker at Mount Hebron High School and Penn State and the 11th overall selection by the Bills in the 2009 NFL Draft. Maybin

spent two seasons each with the Bills and New York Jets and one year with the Canadian Football League's Toronto Argonauts, before retiring in 2014.

Johnson, a wide receiver from Baltimore's City College and then Penn State, was taken by the Arizona Cardinals with the 17th pick in the 2003 NFL Draft. Johnson spent five seasons with the Cardinals and also played for the San Francisco 49ers, Detroit Lions and Houston Texans before his career concluded after the 2011 season.

"That bonded us together," said Maybin, who runs his own foundation and works with the Mayor of Baltimore's Safe Arts Spaces Task Force. "Keion told me that this was a marathon that we were running. I was amazed by how he connected with people. He would engage and listen to their problems, and everyone in the room knew how generous he was. Keion taught me how to change the trajectory of young people's lives."

With three NFL players as its founding members, it's no surprise sports play an important role at Shutdown Academy. The football teams play at Baltimore's Hanlon Park, and the organization also uses Calverton School and Collington Square Recreation Center for its sports programs. Football was the first sport to be offered, and the Shutdown Academy lineup now includes baseball, boys' and girls' basketball and boys' lacrosse.

Chambers was also involved in the creation of Shutdown Academy. She met Carpenter nine years ago, at a time when her then-teenage son needed some guidance. Carpenter referred Chambers and her son to the For My Kidz mentoring program.

"They helped my son with homework and helped him in football," Chambers said. "Since my son was already playing football, Keion reached out to me and asked me to help him start a football program."

A few months later, the Shutdown Academy was underway.

"We started by introducing Keion to youth football coaches in Baltimore City," Chambers said. "He went to league meetings, talked with the coaches and decided that this is what he wanted to do. During the first year, we were just a travel team. He took the Shutdown Academy team to Atlanta to play against teams that were coached by Hall of Fame cornerback Deion Sanders, former Ravens running back Jamal Lewis and Hall. After that first year, Keion was so excited that he wanted to develop a full-blown league in Baltimore."

During the past several years, the Shutdown Academy program has expanded beyond its Baltimore roots. Due to Carpenter's vision and energy, Shutdown Academies are now established in Virginia (Manassas and Newport News), Washington, D.C., and Atlanta.

The Shutdown Academy isn't just about athletic training and accomplishment. Attendees also have to work hard on the academic side in order to participate.

"From the door, we stress the concept of 'student-athlete,' and the student comes first," said Terrence Wheeler, president of Shutdown Academy. "We tell





family was taken care of," said Cassandra Vaughn, who directs the publicity efforts for The Carpenter House. "The one thing that Keion cared about more than these kids was his own family. He lived and breathed for every person in his family."

The shock of Carpenter's sudden death was felt in many quarters, but it has deepened the resolve of the people of The Carpenter House whom he touched.

"When he first left us, there were times where we didn't want to do anything," Vaughn said. "But I'm not going to quit. I feel like Keion put people together for a certain reason."

### THE MISSION GOES ON

Those who helped Carpenter improve the lives of young people have vowed to not only maintain the mission but to expand it.

"We're definitely moving forward with everything," Chambers said. "At this point, nothing has stopped. With Shutdown, Terrence Wheeler and I are working on building new relationships and continuing the relationships that Keion already had in place. For My Kidz, which is run by Jerel Wilson and Marshawn Gibbs, has expanded. Special Delivery will move forward."

Maybin, who helped build Shutdown Academy, understands the commitment of the organization's volunteers will be essential, especially at this time.

"If you live in Baltimore or Atlanta, he probably affected your life in some

way," Maybin said. "It will take an army of people to fill that void. It will require the dedication of people who want to see the work continue. Keion was so passionate about the work, and he dedicated his life to the cause of bettering people's circumstances."

The Carpenter House will have no shortage of volunteers, even from out of town.

"Keion put himself and his career on the back burner to make sure that these kids had the opportunity to be successful," said Hall, who lives in Atlanta during the off-season but helped get the Shutdown Academy off the ground. "I will take the opportunity to keep his legacy going. To hear the success stories, to see kids get the proper coaching, and to see kids go to college that might not have had the chance is the best part about it."

Wheeler has also pledged to ensure Carpenter's legacy lives on.

"I believe that there will eventually be a Shutdown Academy in every major city across the country," Wheeler said. "I'm excited to see where God is going to take us."

Vaughn will continue to be inspired by Carpenter's "infectious and contagious love for people."

"I miss him every minute," Vaughn said. "Keion was born to make sure that everything was OK. That's who he was to all of us. He had so much more that he wanted to do. We can't let his legacy die by letting our strengths be idle." ■

- PHOTOGRAPHY -  
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them that in order to get to another level, you have to get an education. These kids need to reach a weekly academic requirement in order to even play that week."

Wheeler, who works full-time as a Behavioral Specialist for the Baltimore City Public School system, met Carpenter through a mutual friend. He was immediately inspired by Carpenter's caring nature.

"Keion and I developed a great business relationship, but we were like brothers," Wheeler said. "I don't know when he slept, because I'd get texts at 3 o'clock in the morning from him. He was a ball of energy and had the heart of a true servant. All Keion wanted to do was make the peo-

ple who society said didn't have a reason to smile, smile."

### GONE TOO SOON

In December 2016, Carpenter, his wife Tonia and their four children were on a post-Christmas vacation in south Florida. On the afternoon of Dec. 27, Carpenter was running to his car when he slipped and hit his head, knocking him unconscious. He fell into a coma and died two days later at a Miami hospital. Carpenter was 39 years old.

"We just wanted to make sure that his

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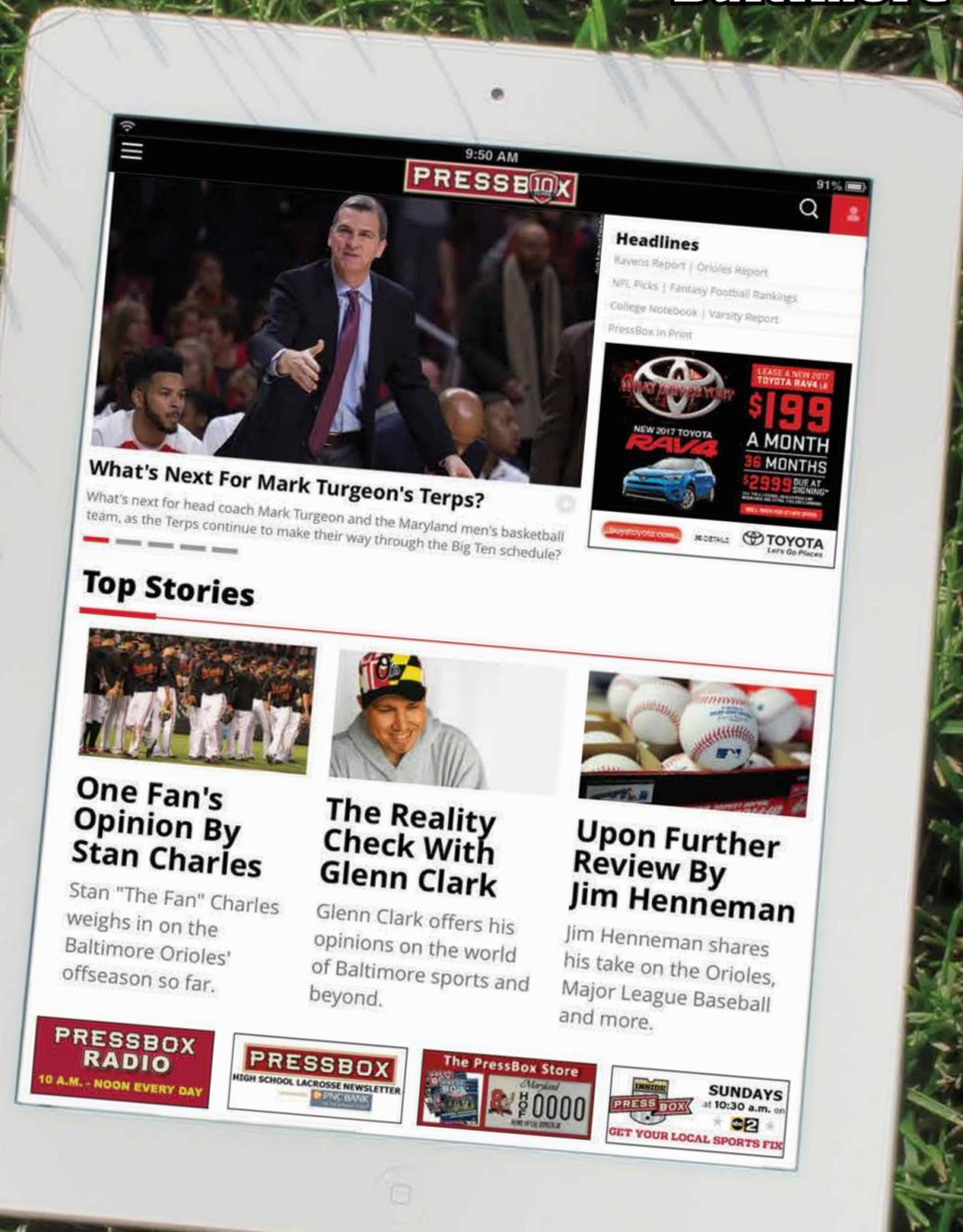
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Major League Baseball commissioner Rob Manfred has tried with varying levels of success to implement a number of new rules. Intentional walks will no longer involve having to throw pitches, and replay reviews will be limited to two minutes this season. There have also been discussions about limiting mound visits and an experiment with starting extra innings with runners on second base beginning with the World Baseball Classic.

But why should we stop there? How about a few more? These are The 15 rules changes baseball could also consider.

#### [01] CRAZY THOUGHT, BUT MAYBE ALL TEAMS COULD PLAY BY THE SAME RULES?

If you grew up watching American League baseball, you probably believe all teams should play with designated hitters. If you grew up watching National League baseball, you probably believe all teams should play with pitchers hitting. Personally, I believe we should permanently play by beer league rules for everything.

#### [02] ROBOT UMPIRES, MAN. ROBOT UMPIRES.

This is the one idea on which most baseball fans seem to agree, yet it still hasn't come to fruition. It's 2017. We're only 45 years away from when "The Jetsons" was set. Since flying cars and people living in space pods are mere decades away, I would think we should have the technology to get this right by now.

#### [03] FIXING THE REPLAY SYSTEM IS IMPORTANT. SO HOW ABOUT INSTEAD OF HAVING THE MANAGERS DO THE UMPIRING, WE HAVE THE UMPIRES DO IT.

Baseball is just like the NFL when it comes to the idiocy of this. How dumb is it that when there's a close call, for some reason a manager has to be the one to figure it out instead of just having another umpire who says, "Let me look at that again really quick." College football is the only sport that seems to get this right. If the call is close, look at it again ... quickly. Then move on. Stop forcing the teams to have to officiate the games for you. Also, since we've already replaced umpires with robots, this could give them new work. Stick an umpire in the press box and have them be the one to decide if a play should be looked at again.

#### [04] THE "WIN" STAT HAS BEEN STUPID FOR A LONG TIME. LET'S GET RID OF IT. BUT LET'S ALSO GET RID OF THE "SAVE" STAT WHILE WE'RE AT IT.

If you give up 10 runs in five innings but your team scores 12, congratulations, you were great! But if you pitch 4.2 no-hit innings and get pulled because your team doesn't want you to throw too many pitches, I'm so sorry, you just weren't good enough. Let's just be done with the "win" stat already. And we're awfully caught up on the "save" thing. How about teams just have their best pitchers pitch in big situations and stop worrying about these stupid stats?

#### [05] YOU DON'T WANT TO HAVE RUNNERS ON BASE IN EXTRA INNINGS? FINE, BUT LET'S ALLOW TEAMS TO BRING BACK PLAYERS WHO HAVE ALREADY LEFT THE GAME INSTEAD.

A baseball game is nine innings, and the rule to prevent players from being able to return to the game makes sense for nine innings. When those games end up going 14 or 15



## RULE CHANGES MLB SHOULD CONSIDER

innings, such rules just don't make any damn sense anymore. (Similarly, it makes no sense that players don't get an extra foul to work with when a basketball game goes to overtime, but that's a whole different thing.)

#### [06] NO ONE WANTS TO ADMIT IT, BUT SEPTEMBER ROSTER EXPANSIONS ARE STUPID.

"We're going to play a certain way for the entire season, but the moment the games start getting really important for the teams who are in pennant races, we're going to start using a bunch of minor leaguers." There's nothing quite like being one game out of a playoff spot Sept. 30 and realizing the team you're trying to catch is facing a starting pitcher who has never pitched above Double-A.

#### [07] THAT BEING SAID, ADDING A 26TH PLAYER TO THE ROSTER YEAR-ROUND SEEMS LIKE A GOOD IDEA, ESPECIALLY FOR TEAMS THAT LIKE TO HOARD RULE 5 PLAYERS. NOT THAT I'M THINKING OF ANY TEAM SPECIFICALLY.

Opponents would say, "Why don't we just make it 27 players?" But they're just insufferable jerks. The idea for expanding rosters for an additional player is to reflect the amount of specialization that now exists in baseball. If a player catches the flu bug for a couple of days, it would be nice to have an additional player available.

#### [08] PLAYOFF BASEBALL IS REALLY GREAT. WOULD ANYONE REALLY HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THE DIVISION SERIES BEING A BEST OF SEVEN?

While I did not include it, some would argue the regular season should be trimmed down to 144 games or so. That's understandable because the regular season can really drag on. But the postseason is freaking amazing. Playoff baseball is thrilling. Why wouldn't we want more of it?

#### [09] PERHAPS WE'LL GET SICK OF IT QUICKLY, BUT COULD WE CREATE A RULE THAT REQUIRES TEAMS TO BROADCAST THEIR SPRING TRAINING GAMES?

Obviously, this hits home a little bit more for us in Baltimore. But particularly if teams own their own regional sports networks, it feels as though they should be allowed to air the games. If they don't want to do full-fledged broadcasts because they're too costly, that's fine. But at least give us the option to watch the games. How can more exposure be a bad thing?

#### [10] HERE'S ANOTHER GOOFY BROADCAST IDEA. ON NIGHTS A TEAM ISN'T PLAYING, ITS NETWORK SHOULD BE AIRING ONE OF ITS MINOR LEAGUE GAMES.

This is a bit more silly, but how many times during baseball season do you get home from work, sit down on the couch and then get really angry because you forgot the Orioles (or your own favorite team) were off that night? I don't know if you'd watch nine innings of a minor league game, but a chance to see a pitching prospect in the organization take the mound could do a little bit to fill the void.

#### [11] YOU KNOW WHAT'S ANNOYING? TEAMS THAT INEXPLICABLY START THEIR GAMES AT 10 AFTER THE HOUR. WHAT IS THAT ALL ABOUT?

This is even more frustrating because the two teams that do this are the Chicago White Sox and Minnesota Twins, both in the central time zone. So not only have I already had to wait an extra hour for the game to start, but now I have to wait an additional five minutes on top of that? Just play the games at five after. It works for everyone else.

#### [12] I KNOW THIS IS BOLD, BUT WHAT IF THE RED SOX AND YANKEES WERE ONLY ALLOWED TO BE INVOLVED IN LIKE 90 PERCENT OF THE NATIONAL BASEBALL BROADCASTS?

It's always nice to see a weekend series between them where the Friday night game is on MLB Network, the Saturday game is on FOX and the Sunday night game is on ESPN. Those teams just don't get enough exposure during the course of the season.

#### [13] THE GAME THE BRAVES AND MARLINS PLAYED AT FORT BRAGG LAST YEAR WAS STUPID COOL. PERHAPS WE MAKE A RULE THAT EVERY TEAM HAS TO PLAY ONE GAME SOMEWHERE COOL EVERY YEAR?

The Nationals are playing an exhibition game at the Naval Academy April 1, which is cool. But it would be even cooler if it were a real game. Teams could play games at their minor league affiliates, in football stadiums, other military bases, etc.

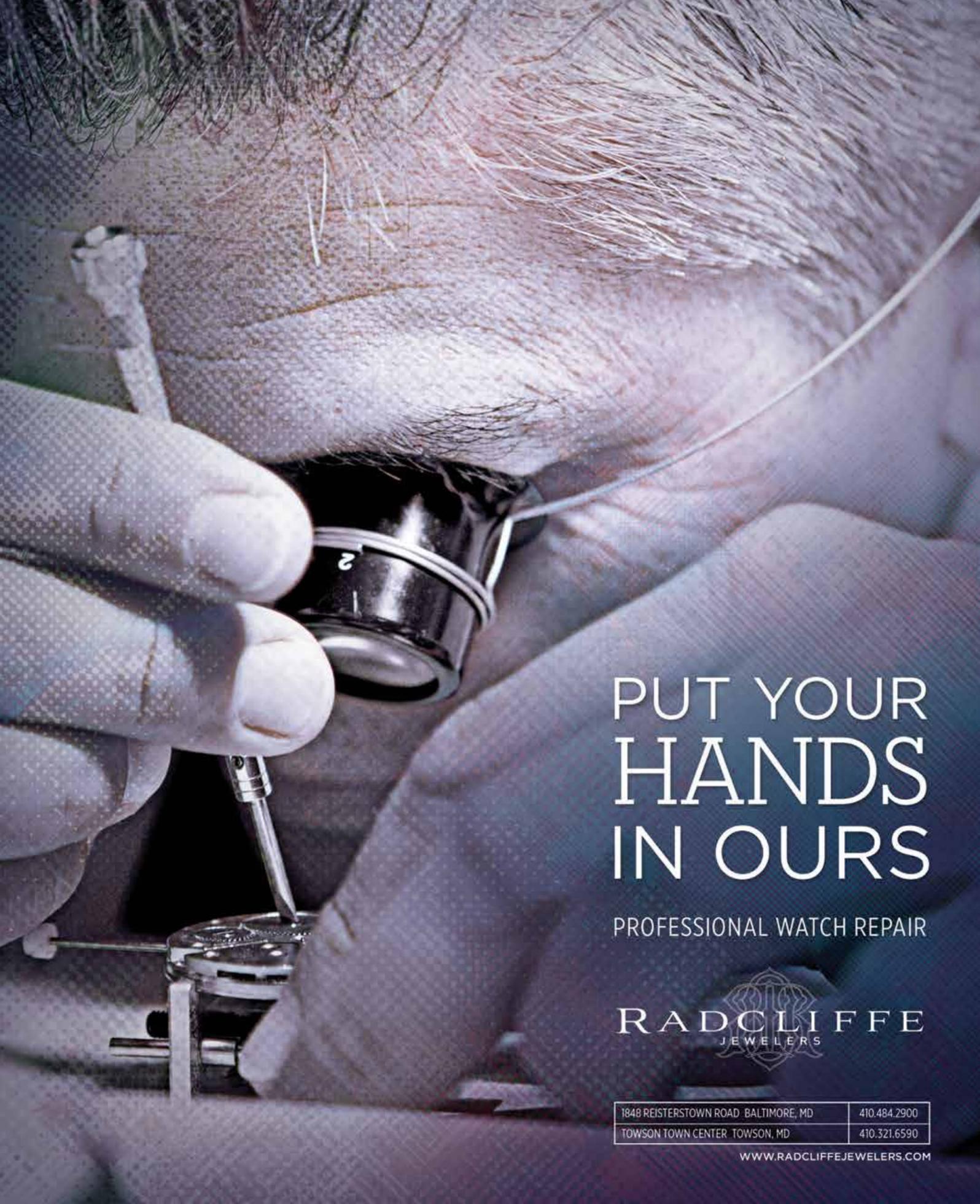
#### [14] NOW THAT THE ALL-STAR GAME HAS RIGHTLY GONE BACK TO BEING MEANINGLESS, WE ALL AGREE NOT TO GET WORKED UP IF IT ENDS IN A TIE, RIGHT?

I kind of hope it happens this year just to ruffle feathers. It's a stupid exhibition game and should never be viewed as anything other than that.

#### [15] WE AGREE TEAMS SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEIZE ONE PLAYER WITH THE INITIALS "MM" BY EMINENT DOMAIN, RIGHT?

You know, because the Rays definitely don't want to lose catching prospect Mike Marjama to free agency in the future. ☒

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## ORIOLES REPORT

### To Wellington Castillo, Communication Is Key

★ RICH DUBROFF

**S**ARASOTA, Fla. -- The Baltimore Orioles and Matt Wieters were tied together for so long it may be inconceivable to think of any other catcher in black and orange.

But the Orioles moved on from Wieters and signed Wellington Castillo as his replacement Dec. 16, 2016.

Castillo may still be unfamiliar to many Orioles fans. Except for six games with Seattle in 2015, he's never played in the American League. He's also quite a contrast physically.

Generously listed as 5-foot-10, Castillo is at least seven inches shorter than the 6-foot-5 Wieters, and he knows the comparisons won't stop there.

But Castillo has power and a good arm, too. Wieters hit 17 home runs last year, and Castillo had 14, 19 the year before. Castillo threw out 38 percent of runners trying to steal in 2016, Wieters 35 percent.

But how will Castillo get along with the Orioles' pitchers, many of whom worked with Wieters for years?

All indications are Castillo is doing well. Before he left to play for the Dominican Republic in the World Baseball Classic March 5, Castillo got favorable reviews from his new pitchers.

"I like what I see back there, and I know that he has talent, and that's why we got him," right-hander Dylan Bundy said. "I think all the pitchers are looking forward to working with him and dealing with him."

Reliever Darren O'Day agreed: "He seems positive, upbeat, which is good out of a catcher. You want a guy who's easy to talk to. Just throwing to him, I can tell he's going to steal some strikes for us. He's got a lot to learn, so he's going to have to catch a lot of different guys. But [it's] encouraging, definitely, to throw to him."

Castillo said he's spent a lot of time early in camp trying to bond with the pitchers.

"We get along pretty good," Castillo said, "so I kind of talk to them and try to build that relationship and especially when I catch the bullpens. I just ask them, 'Where do you want me to set up? How do you like to pitch? What situation would you like to do this and do that?' The more that I talk to them, the better, the faster, I'm going to get to know them. They're really open to

talk and let me [get to] know them."

Wieters could be physically intimidating, and one former Orioles pitcher said he only shook him off a handful of times during his Orioles tenure. That's not Castillo.

"I'm trying not to dwell on it too much," manager Buck Showalter said. "[Bench coach John Russell] and I were talking today about who Castillo is going to catch. It was X or [closer] Zach Britton. I said no, Britton. Every chance we get, I want Zach to feel comfortable."

Britton's sinker is vicious, and Showalter is careful to make sure his personality will mesh with Castillo's.

"And I also want Wellington to step back and say, 'OK, this is a different cat. I really got to keep the ball down, work my way through it, not assume it's the end of the break,'" Showalter said. "He's a pleaser. He talks about it. This guy really wants to work on the things that he needs to work on."

By the time Castillo left for the WBC, he hadn't caught Britton in a game, only in bullpens.

"You need to be able to catch. You know he was going to be able to do that," Britton said. "A lot of it is just getting comfortable with the guy, to be able to feel comfortable talking to him about anything, him feeling comfortable coming up to you, saying,

'Hey, maybe that's not as good as I think you can throw.' And that's something we had with [Wieters]. I don't think Castillo is at that point yet where I feel he can give constructive criticism, but that's just part of the process."

Showalter said Francisco Pena, another Orioles catcher and fellow Dominican, walked up to him early during spring training and told him how much he would like Castillo.

Pena and another Dominican, Ubaldo Jimenez, both volunteered that Castillo was devoutly religious and a good person, and he gratefully accepted their kind thoughts.

"I feel very proud of guys like Pena and Ubaldo, the guys that know me, what kind of person I am," Castillo said. "I know myself, and I know them because we've been playing together and against them, so they know me. That's good when you have people like that talking on your side like that because everybody who gets to know you gets to know what kind of person you are. People are going to have an idea what kind of person you are."

"I was Christian since I was a kid. I'm the kind of guy who likes to enjoy what I do. I'm really calm. I'm a really calm guy. I feel like I need to pick the right time when I talk. I think religion helps with some people. I'm a big believer in God. My whole life I've been a Christian. I'm a God follower. I think that's going to help me my whole career because I know that everything I do is because He lets me do it. It's because of Him. I can't do anything without Him."

Before Jimenez's first spring training start, Castillo, who caught him in winter ball in the Dominican, worked with him in the bullpen. After each pitch, Castillo would comment in Spanish, and Jimenez

followed up.

"Every time you have a guy behind you that you know, you feel comfortable," Jimenez said. "He's pretty good. He's pretty good. He puts a lot of work and a lot of pride to get better every day, and it shows."

Russell, whose job it is to work with the catchers, has found Castillo to be a good student.

"He's making adjustments," Russell said. "He's adjusting to a new team, adjusting to new teammates, adjusting to a new atmosphere. I think he's done a very good job. He's very open. We talked early in camp about some of the things we wanted to accomplish, and he's very open with it, the things that he wanted to get better at. You hear guys say that, and to actually really come out to do it, and show that [is good]."

"He's willing to make a few changes and a couple of adjustments here and there. The biggest thing there when you start to do that is [to] feel that, and he's starting to really feel it, some of the things with his receiving and throwing that he's picked up on."

Castillo knows as long as he's with the Orioles, there will be the inevitable Wieters comparisons.

"Wieters is a really good catcher. He's a great catcher," Castillo said. "When I talk to the pitchers, they never say, 'Wieters did it this way. I want to continue to do it this way.' They're really open. I'm the one that has to adjust myself to them. If you want me to set up a little bit off the plate, more on the plate, up target, down, I'm the one that has to make the adjustments. They know their stuff. I don't know them really well. That's why spring training is the time to get to know each guy. I'm really open to learning and build[ing] a relationship." ☒






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## CONNOLLY'S CORNER

# World Baseball Classic Isn't Perfect, But It Should Continue

★ DAN CONNOLLY

I understand the criticism. The event occurs at an inopportune time. It's somewhat of a publicity stunt. It could accelerate injuries, causing more harm than good.

I get all of that, and yet count me in as someone who supports and enjoys the World Baseball Classic -- Major League Baseball's stab at a professional world championship.

Is it kitschy? Yes. Does it interrupt the flow of spring training and put players in unnecessary jeopardy? Perhaps.

Is it considerably more important to other countries than it is to the United States? Without a doubt.

So, why do I like it?

Like most Americans, I don't know what baseball is like outside of the United States and Canada. I've never experienced a game in the Dominican Republic or Venezuela or Japan or Korea.

But I have seen some of the most rabid baseball countries face each other in the World Baseball Classic. I covered the first one in 2006 near Orlando, Fla., and in San Diego, and, to this day, it was one of the coolest events I have attended.

The first WBC game I covered provided me with a sense of Caribbean baseball, a carnival constructed around a diamond at Disney's World Wide of Sports complex in March 2006.

It was, indeed, the happiest place on earth. A congo-drum-banging, vuvuzela-blowing, hip-shaking crowd danced and sang and cheered and jeered as the Dominican Republic bashed Venezuela, 11-5. David Ortiz and Adrian Beltre each homered twice, and Miguel Cabrera homered once, three future Hall of Famers going deep in one game.

That contest was a who's who of Latino ballplayers: Bartolo Colon and Johan Santana were the starting pitchers; Omar Vizquel, Victor Martinez, Albert Pujols and Miguel Tejada, among others, also played.

And though it was an exhibition game, you couldn't tell by the mood of the crowd or the intensity of the players. The Dominicans were thrilled by the victory; the Venezuelans were choking back emotions as they promised to move forward.

It was tremendous theater. And so were the semifinals in San Diego.

Team Cuba, which was dealing with defection concerns, won, 3-1, against the mighty Dominicans and celebrated as if it had captured the World Series. I remember interviewing Tejada after the game and he was crestfallen, completely in shock that his lineup-for-the-ages couldn't score more than one run against the Cubans.

In the other semifinal, Japan was victorious, 6-0, thanks to a three-hitter thrown by a control artist named Koji Uehara. I asked scouts about the right-hander at the time and was told his stuff wouldn't play in the States. Three years later, Uehara made his major league debut with the Orioles. He turns 42 April 3 and is still pitching, now as a reliever with the Chicago Cubs.

Japan won that first WBC, beating Cuba, 10-6; Daisuke Matsuzaka, who later starred for the Boston Red Sox, picked up the win. Japan won the next one, too, in 2009, and the Dominicans captured its first WBC crown in 2013.

Team USA has never finished higher than fourth.

A sold-out crowd watched that first finale in San Diego, and more than 737,000 attended the 39 games in Japan, Puerto Rico and the United States in 2006. The attendance has been similar in the two WBC tournaments since: 801,408 in 2009 and 781,438 in 2013.

And that's really what this is about, attracting fan interest, whether that's for marketing and merchandising purposes or developing participation in the game throughout the world.

This year's tournament started with a bang when Team Israel, consisting mostly of minor leaguers and former fringe major leaguers with Jewish ancestry, upset both host South Korea and the equally formidable Chinese Taipei.

Israel's upset win of Korea was the lead story on many sports websites the following day, and it was just an exhibition between players most casual fans don't know (former big league pitcher Jason Marquis and first baseman Ike Davis are the headliners for Team Israel).

Those exciting moments will always be weighed against the risks major league teams take by allowing their players to participate in a competitive tournament just a few weeks into spring training. Injuries are at the forefront of those concerns dating back to the first WBC, when Washington Nationals reliever Luis Ayala, who was competing for his club's closer's job, was lost for the year in March after injuring his elbow while pitching for Team Mexico.

Most veteran baseball men, including Orioles manager Buck Showalter, are torn when it comes to the WBC. They hate the risk factor and losing players for several weeks during spring training, but unquestionably there

is significant international pride involved. Especially outside the United States, where countries want to see if they can measure up with the American team.

The problem with that rationale, though, is Team USA never has all of its top players on the field. Mike Trout, Clayton Kershaw, Mookie Betts, Bryce Harper, Kris Bryant and Zach Britton aren't on this year's squad. Tampa Bay's Chris Archer leads the rotation and the offense boasts Paul Goldschmidt, Andrew McCutchen, Adam Jones and Giancarlo Stanton, among others.

I recently asked former Orioles great and current MASN broadcaster Rick Dempsey whether he liked the World Baseball Classic, and his response was indicative of what many people inside the game think. It's good for the game. And it isn't.

"I think the timing is awful. For spring training, you just take such a chance of guys not really being ready to play," Dempsey said. "All players are competitive and they're going to give you 110 percent, and to [have a guy get hurt] or weaken your pitching staff in a series that really, overall, isn't all that important, it's not like the regular World Series.

"It is important to these other countries, but to the players here in the United States, it's not as important. So, I don't know. It's a real tough call, one way or the other. It is [important] to a certain extent, but you're not getting players at their very, very best at the start of spring training, anyway."

Some have suggested Major League Baseball would be better served scheduling the World Baseball Classic after the World Series. But I don't think so. This country, anyway, is knee-deep into football by then. The interest would be limited. Many players will be tired and decline invitations. It would become baseball's version of the NFL's Pro Bowl. And forget about having it before spring training or during the season; those are really bad ideas.

To me, there are two choices: Keep it the same and have the WBC every four years during spring training or bag it completely.

I think there's enough reason to keep it going. Team Israel provided an excellent example for why the WBC matters this year. We've seen glimpses of that every WBC. I know I witnessed it up close in 2006.

It's not perfect, but I, for one, think the WBC should be here to stay. ☑



## UPON FURTHER REVIEW

# Loyola-Morgan 1952 Basketball Game Made Memories And History

★ JIM HENNEMAN

It was a momentous occasion at the time, but the 65th anniversary of what now ranks as one of the most significant sporting events held in the state of Maryland went practically unnoticed last month.

On Feb. 12, 1952, Morgan State University's basketball team hosted Loyola College (now University). It was played in a new, state-of-the-art field house, which proved to be a perfect setting for a game that had historic implications.

That game was the first interracial basketball game played south of the Mason-Dixon line, a fact that drew much more attention from area newspapers than the opening of a new athletic venue. Talmadge Hill was Morgan's head coach at the time, and the building would bear his name. The visitors were coached by Emil "Lefty" Reitz, who years later would be similarly honored by Loyola.

Ed "Nap" Doherty, one of the stars in Loyola's thrilling, 65-63, final-second win and later the coach at his alma mater, remembers the historic significance and the quality of play.

"The one thing I always remembered was that it was played on [Abraham] Lincoln's birthday," Doherty said. "And that was back when there were holidays for both [George] Washington and Lincoln. It just seemed so symbolic."

Doherty doesn't recall whether the game was part of the original schedules for the two teams or if it was an "add-on" attraction for the opening of the new gym at Morgan, with the date on Lincoln's birthday intended to emphasize the historic nature of the game. In his book "Running With The Greyhounds," former player Jimmy "Jumpshot" Smith notes Morgan was looking for an attractive, local game to open its new field house. As defending Mason-Dixon Conference Champions, Loyola was a perfect fit.

A matchup between schools less than five miles apart and bordering on Cold Spring Lane in north Baltimore is far more realistic today than it was in 1952, but Doherty said what might be today's perception wasn't reality then.

"It was not like 'We've got to beat these guys,'" Doherty said. "I don't think anybody looked at it like that at all. It

wasn't a case of black players against white players.

"We had played against teams that had black players, so it wasn't anything new for us. Plus, I was from Brooklyn, and Joel Hittleman was from New York, and we played a lot of games on the playgrounds against some teams from Harlem. So I don't think anybody thought of it as us doing something special."

But, of course, it was special -- and so was the game.

"It was a capacity crowd, the enthusiasm and the cheerleading was unbelievable," Doherty said. "It was like that the entire game. I don't think there was any other game that I ever participated in that had more enthusiasm than that one."

The game itself proved to be one for the ages -- in more ways than one. It see-sawed back and forth. Morgan held

a slim lead most of the game. But after Hittleman tied the score at 63-63, Loyola regained possession with 2:30 remaining, and that's when it turned into "show-time" for Doherty, who dribbled away all but a few of the remaining seconds before finding Hittleman on a backdoor cut and making the pass to set up the winning basket with only a few seconds left.

"Teams didn't do a lot of pressing in those days, and of course there was no [shot] clock," said Doherty, who still ranks as one of the top players in Loyola history, as well as the school's second-winningest coach (behind only Reitz) with 176 wins. A noted ball-handler and passer in addition to his scoring ability, Doherty's performance during the final minutes produced one of the funniest lines and best compliments.

"After the game, a couple of guys came into the locker room and said they wanted to meet the 'White Globetrotter,'" Doherty said with a laugh, recalling from memory details of an event that exceeded his, and many other, expectations.

"It was the most memorable game I ever played in," said Doherty, whose career spanned a lot of meaningful games for the Greyhounds.

Details and pictures from this historic game are one highlight from Smith's book, which was a labor of love, he said, and a way for him to thank his parents, friends and coaches who inspired his career. Information is available at running-

withthegreyhounds.webs.com.

On a personal note while on the subject of books written by friends that became a labor of love, I can recommend "What Would I Tell Him..." -- a unique autobiography by Keith Humphries that recounts living after losing a father at a young age. There are many intimate but nonintrusive moments, as Humphries recounts his life growing up, in school, on the sandlots, and as a parent and grandparent.

Humphries' own labor of love began early, as he wondered what it would be like if he had a chance to tell his dad about his life. It's a journey of some poignant tales along the way before taking a dramatic turn of its own when he was diagnosed with Stage 4 lung cancer.

Not long after that diagnosis, while participating in the LUNGevity Foundation's Breathe Deep Baltimore walk at Camden Yards sponsored by Monica Barlow, the Orioles' late, beloved director of public relations, Humphries realized they had the same diagnosis. They became close email friends and warriors for the LUNGevity cause, which Humphries supports in Monica's memory as he continues his own battle.

"What Would I Tell Him..." is a story without an ending, but with a captivating journey. Books are available through Amazon. ☑

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



Team Israel



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# RAVENS REPORT

## What Positions Could Ravens Target In 2017 NFL Draft?

★ GLENN CLARK

**R**egardless of what they've done or will do during free agency, the Baltimore Ravens have a number of positions where they could simply use more young, high-level talent.

With the 16th overall pick in the first round of the 2017 NFL Draft, and four of the top 100 picks overall, they should have the opportunity to obtain both quality and quantity. Here are four areas in which the team should be looking for young talent and an idea of what it might be able to find.

### CORNERBACK:

For sheer numbers reasons, cornerback has been the position most popularly connected to the Ravens in the first round of mock drafts. Florida's Teez Tabor (a Washington, D.C., native), Washington's Sidney Jones, Alabama's Marlon Humphrey and Ohio State's Marshon Lattimore are all expected to be selected in the first round. Other early-round options include Tabor's Gators teammate Quincy Wilson and Jones' Huskies teammate Kevin King, who was measured at 6-foot-3 at the NFL Scouting Combine Feb. 28-March 6 -- making him the biggest in the group of corners expected to go in the early rounds.

But perhaps the most fascinating name among the corners expected to go in the early rounds is USC's Adoree' Jackson. In addition to collecting five interceptions a season ago, Jackson was a tremendous playmaker on special teams and returned four punts or kicks for touchdowns. Given the Ravens' many other needs, it's easy to forget how much they could use an upgrade in that department as well.

### WIDE RECEIVER:

It is commonly believed Clemson wide receiver Mike Williams will be off the board before the Ravens get on the clock at No. 16. But Western Michigan's Corey Davis (whose toughness has garnered him comparisons to former Raven Anquan Boldin) and Washington's John Ross (who posted a record 4.22 time in the 40-yard dash at the combine) could both be in the mix. Ross' speed would seem to be a particularly good fit, considering quarterback Joe Flacco's massive arm.

Other early-round options for the Ravens could include highly productive Eastern Washington receiver Cooper Kupp (who caught 73 touchdowns during his college career), USC's JuJu Smith-Schuster (who some analysts view as the best all-around receiver in the class) and Florida State's Travis Rudolph. Considering the Ravens' emphasis on character in recent years, Rudolph might be a desirable choice, as he made headlines for all of the right reasons last season when he befriended a boy with autism during a visit to a local middle school. I'd encourage you to go find the story, but only if you're in an area where no one will be able to see your tears.

### PASS RUSH:

There are a number of potential early-round pass rush options for the Ravens, including those who profile more naturally as rush linebackers (including Vanderbilt's Zach Cunningham, UCLA's Takkarist McKinley, Temple's Haason Reddick, Alabama's Tim Williams and Wisconsin's T.J. Watt) and those who profile more naturally as rush ends (including Tennessee's Derek Barnett and Michigan's Taco Charlton). The Ravens are more likely to be interested in the natural stand-up players considering their

3-4 defense, although there isn't a player on this list who wouldn't tell you they're capable of doing both.

From the group, Watt clearly stands out because of his family connection. You probably know his brother, Derek, plays for the Chargers. His brother Justin James is a bit of a football-er as well. Williams would make sense because general manager Ozzie Newsome hasn't selected a player from Alabama since 2014, which only feels like the longest they've ever gone without taking a player from the GM's alma mater. (They actually didn't select a former Crimson Tide player between cornerback Ralph Staten in 1997 and tight end Terry Jones in 2002.) But Williams' background is likely a concern, as he admitted to multiple failed drug tests during his collegiate career. Perhaps fellow former Alabama pass rusher Ryan Anderson could fill the Ravens' void instead.

### RUNNING BACK:

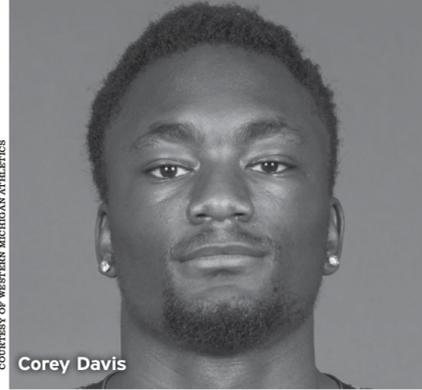
Perhaps the most controversial question you could ask a Ravens fan about the 2017 NFL Draft is whether they'd be willing to spend the 16th pick on a running back. Some will tell you they like the young players the Ravens have. Some will say they'd never spend a first-round pick on a back, despite the success Rams running back Todd Gurley and Cowboys running back Ezekiel Elliott experienced during their rookie seasons. Others would be more supportive of the idea, particularly given the quality of the backs expected to go early in this year's draft.

LSU's Leonard Fournette and Florida State's Dalvin Cook are both so good they could come off the board even before the Ravens' selection. Stanford's Christian McCaffrey is one of the more polarizing players in the early rounds, although NFL fans seem to be convinced the football gods will see to it that the rushing/receiving/returning threat will somehow find his way to New England at No. 32 overall.

And then there's Oklahoma running back Joe Mixon, who is viewed as an early-round talent but who could slip due to his 2014 assault of a female at a Norman, Okla., restaurant and the video of the incident that surfaced. But the Ravens have said they won't take players with domestic violence in their background and have suggested Mixon falls into that camp.



Adoree' Jackson



Corey Davis



Travis Rudolph



T.J. Watt



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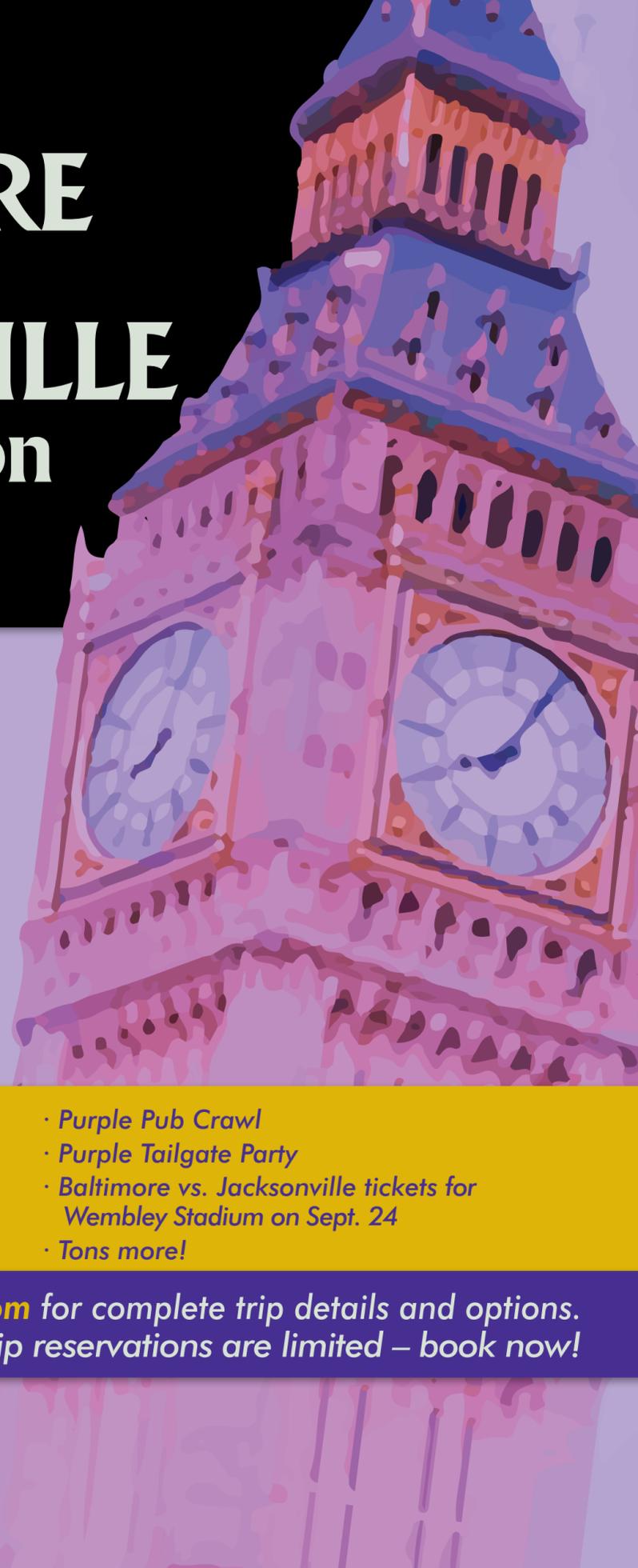
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## NFL DRAFT

### 2017 Mock NFL Draft

★ BY **KEN ZALIS**

Now that the 2017 NFL Scouting Combine is finished, here's a look at my preliminary first-round mock draft for the 2017 NFL Draft. Below, you will find the needs for each team plus my projected pick.

**1. CLEVELAND (1-15)**  
TEAM NEEDS: QB, WR, ILB, CB  
PICK: Myles Garrett, DE, Texas A&M

**2. SAN FRANCISCO (2-14)**  
TEAM NEEDS: QB, WR, G/C, OLB, CB  
PICK: Mitch Trubisky, QB, North Carolina

**3. CHICAGO (3-13)**  
TEAM NEEDS: QB, DE, OLB, CB  
PICK: Jonathan Allen, DE, Alabama

**4. JACKSONVILLE (3-13)**  
TEAM NEEDS: QB, RB, TE, G/C, OT  
PICK: Jamal Adams, S, LSU

**5. TENNESSEE --  
FROM THE LOS ANGELES RAMS (4-12)**  
TEAM NEEDS: WR, DT, DE, CB  
PICK: Marshon Lattimore, CB, Ohio State

**6. NEW YORK JETS (5-11)**  
TEAM NEEDS: QB, TE, OLB, CB  
PICK: Deshaun Watson, QB, Clemson

**7. LOS ANGELES CHARGERS (5-11)**  
TEAM NEEDS: G/C, OT, ILB, S  
PICK: Malik Hooker, S, Ohio State

**8. CAROLINA (6-10)**  
TEAM NEEDS: RB, G/C, OT, DE, CB  
PICK: Leonard Fournette, RB, LSU

**9. CINCINNATI (6-9-1)**  
TEAM NEEDS: OT, WR, DE, DT, ILB  
PICK: Solomon Thomas, DT, Stanford

**10. BUFFALO (7-9)**  
TEAM NEEDS: WR, OT, OLB, S, QB  
PICK: Derek Barnett, DE/OLB, Tennessee

**11. NEW ORLEANS (7-9)**  
TEAM NEEDS: TE, LB, DL, CB  
PICK: Jarrad Davis, LB, Florida

**12. CLEVELAND --  
FROM PHILADELPHIA (7-9)**  
TEAM NEEDS: QB, WR, ILB, CB  
PICK: Reuben Foster, ILB, Alabama

**13. ARIZONA (7-8-1)**  
TEAM NEEDS: QB, WR, G/C, CB  
PICK: Mike Williams, WR, Clemson

**14. PHILADELPHIA --  
FROM MINNESOTA (8-8)**  
TEAM NEEDS: RB, WR, DT, CB  
PICK: Corey Davis, WR, Western Michigan

**15. INDIANAPOLIS (8-8)**  
TEAM NEEDS: RB, OT, ILB, OLB  
PICK: Garrett Bolles, OT, Utah

**16. BALTIMORE (8-8)**  
TEAM NEEDS: WR, LB, DB, DE  
PICK: Sidney Jones, CB, Washington

**17. WASHINGTON (8-7-1)**  
TEAM NEEDS: DT, ILB, OLB, CB, WR  
PICK: Malik McDowell, DT, Michigan State

**18. TENNESSEE (9-7)**  
TEAM NEEDS: WR, DT, DE, CB  
PICK: John Ross, WR, Washington

**19. TAMPA BAY (9-7)**  
TEAM NEEDS: RB, G/C, OT, DT  
PICK: Dalvin Cook, RB, FSU

**20. DENVER (9-7)**  
TEAM NEEDS: TE, G/C, OT, DE, DT  
PICK: O.J. Howard, TE, Alabama

**21. DETROIT (9-7)**  
TEAM NEEDS: G/C, DE, DT, ILB  
PICK: Cam Robinson, OT, Alabama

**22. MIAMI (10-6)**  
TEAM NEEDS: DE, DT, ILB, OLB  
PICK: Taco Charlton, DE, Michigan

**23. NEW YORK GIANTS (11-5)**  
TEAM NEEDS: QB, RB, TE, G/C  
PICK: Charles Harris, DE/OLB, Missouri

**24. OAKLAND (12-4)**  
TEAM NEEDS: TE, DE, ILB, CB  
PICK: Haason Reddick, LB, Temple

**25. HOUSTON (9-7)**  
TEAM NEEDS: QB, G/C, OT, DT  
PICK: Forrest Lamp, G, Western Kentucky

**26. SEATTLE (10-5-1)**  
TEAM NEEDS: RB, G/C, OT, DT  
PICK: Ryan Rancezyk, OT, Wisconsin

**27. KANSAS CITY (12-4)**  
TEAM NEEDS: WR, G/C, DL, CB  
PICK: Zach Cunningham, LB, Vanderbilt

**28. DALLAS (13-3)**  
TEAM NEEDS: TE, DE, DT, CB, WR  
PICK: Quincy Wilson, CB, Florida

**29. GREEN BAY (10-6)**  
TEAM NEEDS: TE, G/C, OLB, CB, RB  
PICK: Christian McCaffrey, RB, Stanford

**30. PITTSBURGH (11-5)**  
TEAM NEEDS: TE, ILB, OLB, CB  
PICK: Jabrill Peppers, OLB/S, Michigan

**31. ATLANTA (11-5)**  
TEAM NEEDS: OT, DE, DT, OLB  
PICK: Takkarist McKinley, OLB/DE, UCLA

**32. NEW ENGLAND (14-2)**  
TEAM NEEDS: RB, WR, G/C, OLB, CB, TE  
PICK: David Njoku, TE, Miami



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## Johns Hopkins Thriving With The Return Of Joel Tinney

★ TODD KARPOVICH



Johns Hopkins' opponents have learned to keep a close eye on Joel Tinney.

The junior midfielder has managed to confound defenders -- and even a few TV cameras -- with his craftiness on the lacrosse field. In the process, the Blue Jays have firmly put themselves in the hunt for a 10th NCAA national championship.

Twice this season, Tinney scored game-changing goals by hiding the ball in his stick, a trick play that has gone viral and been shown nationally by ESPN. After missing last season because of a violation of undisclosed NCAA rules, Tinney is back with a vengeance and embracing his opportunities.

"It's been a long time coming," Tinney said. "Last year was tough, but I was able to get through it with the support of the coaching staff and my teammates. Ever since the summer, it's been about the 2017 Jays."

Tinney, a Innerkip, Ontario, native, was a highly touted recruit when he committed to Johns Hopkins from lacrosse powerhouse Culver Academy in Indiana. He ended his high school career with 220 goals and 148 assists, leading the Eagles to an 80-8 record during his tenure.

Tinney also made an immediate impact at Johns Hopkins as a freshman. He finished fourth on the team in scoring with 28 goals and 10 assists. He also earned third-team All-American honors by the United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association.

The 2015 Blue Jays went 11-7 and advanced to the NCAA semifinals, where they lost to rival Maryland, 12-11. That momentum, however, slowed the following year when Tinney was

ruled ineligible.

Without Tinney in the lineup last year, Johns Hopkins went 8-6 during the regular season and lost to Brown in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. Despite the setback, Tinney was in good academic standing and retained two years of eligibility beginning this season.

Blue Jays head coach Dave Pietramala firmly stood behind Tinney throughout the player's ineligibility. Tinney rewarded that loyalty by entering preseason camp focused, fit and determined to raise Johns Hopkins back to its accustomed lofty heights.

"I'm happy that Joel is back out on the field," Pietramala said.

Tinney wasted little time this year putting his mark back on the program.

In the season opener against Navy Feb. 7, Tinney appeared to flip the ball to fellow midfielder John Crawley to set the attack. As Crawley drew the attention of the defense, Midshipmen freshman goalie Ryan Kern and a cameraman on the sidelines, Tinney actually kept the ball hidden in his stick. With the subterfuge, Tinney was able to fire a 30-yard shot into the goal, sparking then-No. 9 Johns Hopkins to an eventual 15-8 victory.

It was Tinney's first action since scoring a pair of goals in the NCAA semifinals against Maryland. He finished the game against the Midshipmen with career-high-tying totals of three goals, two assists and five points. Navy head coach Rick Sowell lauded Tinney's performance and said the talented middle was simply the main difference in the game.

"He's a special player, one of the best in our sport," Sowell said. "I'm sure they've got to feel real good having him back."

Two weeks later, against Charles Street rival Loyola, Tin-

ney once again used deception to take over the game. This time, he appeared to flip the ball to fellow midfielder Patrick Fraser, who drew a pair of defenders. Tinney, however, held the ball and used the open space to fire a shot past Loyola sophomore goalie Jacob Stover from about 10 yards for a 14-13 overtime victory.

"We saw that they jumped the pick," Tinney said. "So when coach had called it in overtime, we had talked about faking it just because we knew they had been jumping picks all day, and they were getting us in the first half. They were jumping when we weren't quite ready for it and stuff like that. So we came out like that, and the attack happened to know what I was thinking and they had given me all this space, and it just happened to work out perfectly."

Tinney is the perfect complement to a well-balanced Blue Jays squad. Johns Hopkins is fully capable of scoring 15 or more goals a game and has a stout defense that has already locked down some of the nation's most high-powered attacks, most notably Loyola and North Carolina Feb. 25.

The Blue Jays' talented midfield and attack have created matchup problems throughout the 2017 season. In addition to Tinney, junior attackman Shack Stanwick (Boys' Latin) is widely regarded as one of the best players in Division I lacrosse. Crawley and senior attackman Wilkins Dismuke have also been a force this season. Freshman attackman Cole Williams (Loyola Blakefield) is making an immediate impact.

As a result, opposing teams have struggled to adjust to the number of playmakers for Johns Hopkins and the depth of its roster. Once again, the Blue Jays have the look of a dangerous team that appears to get better each week.

"Teams are having problems with Crawley on the attack. We're seeing double poles; we're seeing different zones and designated slides," Tinney said. "Cole Williams has been a great up-and-comer as a freshman for us. So it definitely causes problems. I feel we're faster this year and we're more prepared. We have a lot more experience on the offense. With the guys and how we're playing right now, we should be able to cause matchup problems for other teams." ☒



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## For Terps' Damonte Dodd, 'It's Been A Great Four Years' In College Park

★ LUKE JACKSON

**B**etween the time he got called up to the Queen Anne's County High School varsity basketball team in the middle of his sophomore season until the end of his junior high school season, Damonte Dodd made significant jumps in his game, developing into a fierce defensive presence but also improving his stamina, his ability to run the floor and adding to his offensive skill set around the basket.

Dale Becraft, Dodd's coach when he was on the Lions' varsity squad, knew what kind of weapon he had in Dodd but wasn't sure if Dodd would totally commit himself to unlocking his potential. Between his junior and senior seasons in high school, Dodd hired a personal trainer, added strength in the weight room and started working on his on-court skills, according to Becraft. It was an exhibition game early during his high school senior season in the fall of 2011 that the improvements he made showed.

"We always kidded him about his size, that he had the weakest dunks of anybody [his] size. We tried to get him to throw it down harder," Becraft said. "We're scrimmaging the East Wicomico High School -- his first scrimmage of his senior year. And one of the referees doing the scrimmage had been following his career, and Damonte came down on the fast break and caught the ball at the top of the key, leapt [at] about the foul line and tomahawked it down. The referee turned around and said, 'I think he's got it, Coach.'"

Several years later, Dodd is the 6-foot-11, 250-pound starting center for Maryland. He's finishing a four-year career in which he has played 117 games and started 67 entering the Big Ten Tournament in Washington, D.C. His 139

blocked shots are eighth on the Terps' all-time list.

This season, Dodd has been one of the Terps' defensive anchors and ranks third in the Big Ten in blocked shots at 2.0 per contest. Maryland honored Dodd at Xfinity Center as part of senior day against Michigan State March 4.

"Time flew. It's been a great four years," Dodd, a Centerville, Md., native, said. "I've been here for ups and downs and things like that, but Coach [Mark] Turgeon's been a great coach, took me in. Maryland, they took me in as a family. It's been a great four years, and I'm glad that I played here."

### 'WE NEED A BIG BODY'

Becraft knew about Dodd when he was playing during his middle school days, but he didn't know him personally until Dodd joined the junior varsity squad at Queen Anne's County High his freshman year. Dodd played on junior varsity from his freshman year until the middle of his sophomore year, during which he was still growing and developing his coordination, according to Becraft. But his size and defensive ability gave the Lions no choice but to call him up to varsity.

Dodd made a "quantum leap" between his junior and senior season, according to Becraft, averaging 24.2 points, 15.7 boards and 5.7 blocks as a senior. The Lions won a school-record number of games during Dodd's senior season, and his skill set was a major reason why.

Becraft said the Lions were "really aggressive pressing up front and [took] a lot of chances knowing that Damonte was in the back, that if they broke it, that he was going to be back there to block or alter or just intimidate." Becraft harkened back to one story in particular to illustrate

what Dodd meant to the team.

"We had been pressing in a game, and [Dodd] was in the back of the press," Becraft said. "And a kid came down one-on-one. [He] saw Damonte and tried to shoot over him and put it over the backboard up into a baseball net that was hanging in the back [of the gym], and the ball was stuck up there. It's the highest shot I think I've ever seen."

Dodd committed to Maryland in February 2012, eventually narrowing it down to Maryland and Georgetown, though mid-majors like Morgan State were involved in his recruitment as well. Dodd said he chose Maryland because the Terps "really showed my family a lot of love." Turgeon said he first started recruiting Dodd only a month before he committed.

"I feel like I've known Damonte forever. I recruited him my first year here," Turgeon said. "... It's amazing what he's done for our program. When we recruited him, I was just like, 'Well, we need a big body.' I didn't expect him to do what he's done."

Dodd spent the 2012-13 school year at Massanutten Military Academy in Woodstock, Va., where he played with future Kansas star Frank Mason III. Massanutten finished the season 30-4 and advanced to the National Prep Championship Elite Eight before bowing out. Dodd's confidence grew that he could be a significant contributor at Maryland after his experience at Massanutten.

"I was just like, 'I can really help whatever school I'm at,'" Dodd said. "That's probably when I really realized."

### PRODUCTIVE FOUR-YEAR CAREER

Dodd enrolled at Maryland after spending a year at Massanutten. The Terps went 17-15 during the 2013-14 season, and Dodd played 7.5 minutes a game and only made one start. But one season later, opportunity knocked. Several players had transferred out of the program, including big men Charles Mitchell and Shaquille Cleare.

Dodd played in all 35 games during the 2014-15 campaign and made 31 starts as Maryland went 28-7 and broke its four-year string of missing the NCAA Tournament. He averaged 15.9 minutes, 4.0 points, 3.8 boards and 1.5 blocks. One of his best performances of the year was a home game against Minnesota, when he scored nine points, grabbed 12 boards and blocked three shots.

"I think his sophomore year [is] when he made the big jump," Turgeon said. "He was in our starting lineup, we won 28 games. He was just very mature and poised at that time, and I think that's really when he made the jump."

Dodd played in all 36 of Maryland's games the following year while forming a formidable frontcourt with Robert Carter Jr., Diamond Stone and Michal Cekovsky. Though he hasn't had the same luck his senior year, missing two games in November due to a concussion and five games in December due to a sprained MCL in his left knee.

Nevertheless, entering the Big Ten Tournament, Dodd is averaging a career-high 6.5 points per game, mostly off rolling to the hoop, dump-offs and put-backs; he's shooting 59.4 percent from the floor. After he played 31 minutes during Maryland's win against the Hoosiers Jan. 10, He was called "the best screen-and-roll player in the league" by Indiana head coach Tom Crean.

Dodd is also effective at defending screen-and-rolls, and he's continued his development as a quality rim protector. After Maryland beat Oklahoma State Dec. 3, 2016, Cowboys head coach Brad Underwood said Dodd is "one of my favorite players on their team" because "whether it's through defensive rebounding or just his sheer size at the rim, his defensive presence, his impact is felt."

Turgeon said Dodd, an African-American studies major, has also grown off the floor, as well.

"I think he's talking about just becoming a better student," said Dodd when asked what Turgeon was referring to. "At first, it was tough. I had to learn where all my classes were and things like that and just being on time to places and study hall and just how to manage everything. Then I finally got the hang of how to manage everything, and this past year I made honor roll and different things like that. So I think that's how I got really better." □

# FIFTEEN YEARS LATER MEMORIES FROM TERPS' TITLE STILL FRESH



★ LUKE JACKSON

**B**efore they were honored at halftime of the Maryland men's basketball team's ultimate loss to Iowa Feb. 25, the 2001 Final Four and 2002 national championship Terps teams gathered at the Pavilion in the Xfinity Center and reminisced about the most successful two-year stretch in the history of the program.

The 15th anniversary celebration marked the first time the national title squad had mostly been under one roof since it visited the White House after it won the NCAA Tournament, according to power forward Chris Wilcox. In fact, it was the first time guard Steve Blake had been back to College Park, Md., for a regular-season game after spending the previous 13 years on an NBA squad.

"As soon as we all got in the same room, things haven't changed," said Blake, who played four years in College Park. "We're all joking on each other and making each other laugh. It's just as if we were with each other last week almost, except for the extra gray hairs and some wrinkles... It's so much fun to talk about some old times, see where everyone is in life, with marriages and kids and all that stuff. It's pretty special to have this opportunity."

The 2000-01 team had three seniors who weren't on the title team the next year: Forward Laron Cephas, who passed away in 2007 at the age of 29, center Mike Mardesich and forward Terence Morris.

The Terps went 25-11 in that year, culminating in a loss to Duke in the Final Four

despite leading by as many as 22 in the first half. Then-head coach Gary Williams said he's never watched that game in full but "watched a couple calls, which verified some things in my mind."

Maryland played four memorable games against the Blue Devils that year, though three of them were heartbreaking losses for the Terps. Maryland lost at home to Duke after leading by 10 with less than a minute remaining, which began a stretch in which the Terps lost four of five games, including a game at Cole Field House to Florida State, which went 9-21 that year.

Maryland returned the favor at Cameron Indoor Stadium, winning on senior night for Duke standouts Shane Battier and Nate James. But the Terps lost to the Blue Devils in the ACC Tournament on a tip-in by James, though guard Juan Dixon nearly hit a game-winning 3-pointer at the buzzer after hauling in a long in-bounds pass by Morris. Three weeks later, Maryland lost to Duke once more.

Williams said the Terps' players decided to take two weeks off after losing to Duke in the Final Four. The 2001-02 team was set to come back with four seniors, three of whom (Dixon, guard Byron Mouton and forward Lonny Baxter) would be starters, an experienced junior point guard in Blake, a future lottery pick in Wilcox, and a solid bench with junior forward Tahj Holden and junior guard Drew Nicholas.

"The first week we were back, they were in the weight room -- Blake and all those guys. Then I knew we had a shot," Williams said. "I knew we were good enough if we do everything right the next year. In fact, I said at Midnight Madness -- got criticized by certain people for saying it -- that we were going to

win a national championship. You know, you throw it out there ... I wish I was that good that I knew that."

Maryland began the 2001-02 season at Madison Square Garden and lost to a Luke Walton-led Arizona squad. If the Terps were using the previous season's defeat in the Final Four to motivate them, "it didn't do a good enough job the first game," quipped Holden, who's now the head coach at the Ranney School in Tinton Falls, N.J. Maryland bounced back the next night with a win against Temple at the Garden and only lost three more games the rest of the way en route to a 32-4 record.

Wilcox said he knew his team had a chance to win the title halfway through the season. While Dixon was always in the gym working on his game, Blake eventually joined him late at night, as did Mouton and then the big men.

"It was just like a trickle effect," said Wilcox, who had an 11-year career in the NBA.

"We had guys that would come in the gym and their girlfriends would be passing them the ball late [at] night, like 1 or 2 in the morning. And we were like, 'Wow.' And then next thing you know it started being like all the guys getting in the gym," Wilcox said. "One night, I remember, it was maybe three or four guys in there. It was just a trip. Everybody wanted to get extra shots. Everybody wanted to do more. So then, after a while, [Williams] knew. He knew that he could trust in us, and we could make the big plays."

Maryland went on a 13-game winning streak during the second half of the season that included an 87-73 win against Duke -- complete with Blake's now-famous steal from Duke guard Jay Williams -- and closing out Cole Field House, which housed Terps hoops

for 47 years, with a 112-92 victory against Virginia. The Terps lost in the ACC Tournament semifinals to N.C. State, but earned a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament.

Maryland started out with 15- and 30-point wins against Siena and Wisconsin at the Verizon Center in Washington, D.C., and took down Kentucky in the Sweet 16. Maryland then played Connecticut in the Elite Eight, during which guard Caron Butler nearly carried the Huskies to the Final Four himself thanks to a 32-point performance on 9-of-13 shooting. But Dixon and Baxter combined for 56 points, while Dixon and Blake both hit huge 3-pointers late in the contest.

The Terps met Kansas in the national semifinal at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta. Baxter picked up two quick fouls, and the Jayhawks got off to a 13-2 lead in the first four minutes of the game. But Maryland recovered to win, with Dixon leading the way with 33 points. Wilcox and Holden were huge with Baxter in foul trouble; the two combined for 31 points.

Two days later, Maryland defeated Indiana, 64-52, in the championship game, with Dixon scoring a game-high 18 and Baxter adding 15. Dixon and Baxter hugging as national champions after the final buzzer -- their final game in Maryland uniforms -- is one of the more indelible images in Terps history.

"Throwing the ball in the air, me and Juan on the ground, we couldn't believe it," Baxter said. "We were so ecstatic that we actually did it because we felt like we should've [done] it the year before, but things didn't pan out the way that they should have. But we were able to redeem ourselves, and we really showed our resilience and just how relentless we were." ☒

## THE REALITY CHECK

# Whether He Returns, Fans Should Appreciate What Melo Trimble Has Done For Maryland

★ GLENN CLARK

**T**o be clear, I hope junior Maryland guard Melo Trimble returns for his senior season. Whatever else I may say in this space, there is no debate I believe Maryland would both be better and more relevant with Trimble back for his senior season.

That's not exactly a hot take. On the cusp of a third straight trip to the NCAA Tournament, Maryland fans are dealing with the reality that these could be their final chances to enjoy watching Trimble while still hoping he may have one encore season left in him.

Conflict, without question. While largely enjoying the surprisingly pleasant season Trimble and the Terps have put together this year, fans have been left with feelings of "what if," should the All-Big Ten first-team performer stick around. In the process, perhaps Maryland fans haven't been able to fully appreciate and celebrate exactly what they've had in Trimble.

Make no mistake. If this is the last we see of Trimble before he decides to enter the NBA Draft, he has already left his mark as one of the better players in school history. He's right

on the cusp of the top 10 scorers in school history. His career has been synonymous with head coach Mark Turgeon finally getting the school back into national contention, as the team snapped a four-year NCAA Tournament drought during his freshman season. His knack for clutch performances (including game-winning shots like the one he hit against Michigan State March 4) and toughness in key situations won't soon be forgotten.

Whatever your thoughts are regarding the wisdom of Trimble leaving early, there is no diminishing his greatness, even if he's only a three-year player in College Park, Md. His jersey is already heading toward the Xfinity Center rafters. For the rest of his life, he'll only pay for meals in the area if he chooses.

But yet, as you watch the final games of the season, it's hard not to imagine what more there could be if Trimble decides he's up for one more season of college basketball. "[Maryland] could be one of the top five teams in the country if everyone comes back," former Terp/current ESPN analyst Len Elmore said on Glenn Clark Radio Feb. 7.

Former Terp and current men's basketball sideline reporter for the Maryland Sports Radio Network Walt Williams agrees. "If Melo was to come back next year with this team, wow,

you definitely have to consider this team as one of the teams that has an opportunity to win a championship," Williams said on Glenn Clark Radio Feb. 28.

This is why it's so conflicting. As much as Maryland fans appreciate what Trimble has already done, there's this feeling of what could still be. To take nothing away from the enjoyable season the team has put together this year, the Terps don't enter the NCAA Tournament with fans having great confidence in a deep run. (Which of course isn't to say it would be impossible, it just doesn't feel particularly likely.)

Should Trimble return for his senior campaign, however, such expectations would feel more practical for 2018. The Terps' interior presence would remain a cause for concern, perhaps incoming freshman center Bruno Fernando could help. But a battle-tested trio of freshmen (forward Justin Jackson and guards Anthony Cowan and Kevin Huerter) rising to sophomores alongside one of the best players in the Big Ten gives good reason to believe something special could be in store.

Before your mind runs too wild, it's important to remember there is no "correct" answer for Trimble. The "what-could-be" factor should not and cannot outweigh the individual's need to do what is best for him and his family. Given his draft prospects and the fact he didn't rush to the pros the first chance he had, there's reason to believe he might be willing to stick around. But if Trimble believes now is the correct time to go, that's his decision alone to make. Barring something absurd, he's going to make significant money to play basketball next season if he departs.

Which is why Maryland fans should appreciate every opportunity they have to watch him as the season winds down. Trimble has been an incredible player, and this may truly be it. In this era of college basketball, three years with one team is a figurative eternity. Trimble's accomplishments deserve appreciation, even if Maryland's stay in the tournament this year is brief.

And yet ... you just can't help but to wonder what might be if he chooses to stick around. ☒



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# Brionna Jones And Shatori Walker-Kimbrough Leaving A Lasting Legacy At Maryland

★ STEVE JONES

Whenever Brionna Jones and Shatori Walker-Kimbrough took the court at the University of Maryland's Xfinity Center during the last four years, they walked under banners that contained the names and jersey numbers of the greatest players in school history. Now, they earned their own banners.

Following the Terps' regular-season finale Feb. 26, the jersey numbers of Walker-Kimbrough (32) and Jones (42) were unfurled above their home court. It was a crowning moment for two players who defined the Terps' success during the last four years.

"I was completely shocked," said Jones of the moment she found out her jersey would be raised with Walker-Kimbrough's. "Having gone through everything that we've gone through has made us stronger together. I think about how quiet we both were our freshmen year, and how we've grown vocally and tried every year to get better."

Jones and Walker-Kimbrough came to Maryland when the school was still a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference and the Terps' dominant player was All-American senior forward Alyssa Thomas. During their four years, they have not only led the Terps' transition to the Big Ten Conference, but have helped Maryland to two Final Four appearances and put the current squad in contention for a third trip this season.

In addition to the deep NCAA Tournament runs, the senior duo has guided the Terps to three consecutive Big Ten championships during the program's first three seasons in the conference. Maryland defeated Purdue, 74-64, March 5 to win its latest Big Ten crown and clinch the league's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. The Terps, who have reached the 30-win mark for the third straight season, will take a 30-2 overall record into their seventh consecutive NCAA Tournament appearance.

Jones, who was named the Most Outstanding Player of the 2017 Big Ten Tournament, and Walker-Kimbrough, who earned the same award a year earlier, took decidedly different routes to Maryland. Jones, a native of Havre de Grace, Md., comes from a basketball-oriented family. Her father, Michael Jones, played college basketball at the University of

Hartford. Her older brother, Jarred, scored more than 1,000 points during his just-completed career at Loyola Maryland, while younger sister Stephanie is a freshman teammate at Maryland.

Walker-Kimbrough is an only child from the football-oriented western Pennsylvania town of Aliquippa, which has produced NFL Hall of Fame players Mike Ditka and Tony Dorsett. Walker-Kimbrough excelled at basketball, volleyball and track in high school.

"I come from a really big sports city," Walker-Kimbrough said. "Being that we're known for football, I always wanted to be that one person to make it known for something else."

Maryland head coach Brenda Frese saw the potential in both players during the recruiting process.

"I think a lot of people had doubts about our program after Alyssa Thomas graduated," said Frese, who earned her 400th win at Maryland when the Terps defeated Michigan State in the Big Ten semifinal March 4. "Bri and Shatori weren't McDonald's All-Americans. But I knew that Bri had the best set of hands of any post player that I had ever seen. Shatori had a motor, was fast and was competitive, and I thought that she was going to be able to do a lot for us from the perimeter position."

"What's been so satisfying is to see the two of them just put their heads down and work. For four years, they were the first ones in the gym and the last ones to leave. The success that they've had is in direct correlation to the time they've spent on the hardwood."

Their college careers have been tightly intertwined. Jones, whose 42-point outing against Penn State Jan. 11 tied a Maryland single-game scoring record, and Walker-Kimbrough have both earned first-team All-Big Ten honors during the last three seasons. Their names have appeared on the watch lists for national awards since the beginning of the 2015-16 campaign. Both players are among the 15 semifinalists for the Wooden Award, and Jones is one of 10 players under consideration for the Naismith Trophy.

Jones and Walker-Kimbrough are also two of the NCAA's most accurate shooters. For the second consecutive season, Jones leads the nation in field-goal percentage at .698, while Walker-Kimbrough's .447 3-point percentage ranks eighth nationally.

Their consistent production has lifted Jones and Walker-Kimbrough to a lofty place in the Maryland re-

cord books. Jones, a 6-foot-3 center, ranks third all-time in rebounds (1,173), fourth in blocked shots (157) and seventh in scoring (1,865 points). Walker-Kimbrough is one of just four Terps to reach the career 2,000-point milestone. The 5-foot-11 guard ranks second in 3-point field goals made (181), fourth in scoring (2,093 points) and 10th in steals (222).

Jones and Walker-Kimbrough are looking forward to professional basketball careers, and both players have prepared themselves for productive lives after their playing days are finished.

"I definitely want to play as long as I can," said Jones, who earned her undergraduate degree in kinesiology in just three years and plans to attend medical school. "Getting the chance to go overseas and see the world would be an amazing experience."

The Maryland seniors have made their mark on the court, but they have also been mindful of others away from basketball. Walker-Kimbrough, who has been active in Maryland's Team IMPACT program and is a longtime volunteer with Special Olympics, credited her mom, Andrea Kimbrough, for instilling the value of community service.

"It started when I was in my junior year of high school, and my mom took me to a church on Christmas Day where we fed the homeless," Walker-Kimbrough said. "It was really eye-opening, especially when you're being showered with gifts on Christmas, and then you go there and see 6-year-olds coming to get a meal on Christmas Day. Ever since then, whenever I've gone home for Christmas, we have always done that."

Their off-court accomplishments have resulted in another prestigious nomination for Jones and Walker-Kimbrough. They are among the 10 national finalists for the Senior CLASS Award, which stands for Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School. The award, which focuses on the total student-athlete, will be presented during the 2017 NCAA Final Four.

"I'm extremely honored to be in that 10, because people can see that we're more than just basketball players and that we're committed to academics and to the community," said Jones, a member of the dean's list who serves on Maryland's Student-Athlete Advisory Council. "Being that positive role model for people who are coming up is a great opportunity."

Frese is certainly a believer in her seniors' past achievements and future possibilities.

"What Bri brought every day was her consistent personality," Frese said. "Her reliability will bring her great success. Shatori is never going to give up on anything. If she can't do something, she's going to work until she can. They're both going to be extremely successful, in every walk of life." ☒

# Despite Steady Progress, Towson Still Eyeing Future NCAA Tournament Bid

★ SIMON HABTEMARIAM

The Towson University men's basketball team recorded its second straight 20-win season this year.

With a 19-12 overall record and 11-7 mark in conference play, Towson earned the No. 3 seed in the Colonial Athletic Association Tournament. After an impressive 82-54 tournament win against Northeastern March 4, the Tigers' season came to an end with a 67-59 loss to College of Charleston in the CAA semifinal March 5.

Still, head coach Pat Skerry is pleased with his team's steady progress.

"At our level, winning 20 is never something to take lightly," Skerry said. "The ultimate goal is obviously the NCAA Tournament. I know our program is relevant; we've got the most wins in the [CAA] over the last five years, which is not anything to shake a stick at, especially based off where we were."

While the future looks promising for Towson, which will return 11 players from the 2016-17 roster, the program will lose two of its top scorers and rebound leaders in senior forwards John Davis and Arnaud William Adala Moto.

"Both of those guys bring such physicality," Skerry said. "Great rebounders and an ability to get to the foul line -- those two things will be missed. And just high-character leaders. We're very appreciative of that."

Adala Moto transferred to Towson from Wake Forest in 2014. After sitting out the 2014-15 season due to NCAA transfer rules, the 6-foot-6 forward started 62 of his 65 games as a Tiger, averaging 13.5 points per game and 7.5 rebounds per game.

Davis has been a regular contributor during his four years at Towson. He had a breakout year as a sophomore in 2014-15, averaging 11.8 points per game even though he only started four out of 32 games played.

The 6-foot-5, 215-pound forward has been one of Towson's most physical and versatile players, averaging 11.3 points per game and 7.0 rebounds per game during his final three seasons.

Unfortunately, Davis' senior year was cut short after he was shot in the knee Feb. 11 in Philadelphia, his hometown. Skerry said it's hard to tell how the team's season would have ended if Davis had not been sidelined.

"There will be an asterisk as to what would've happened if John played," Skerry said. "The way I look at it, we were 3-3 in the last six games, in which we pretty much hammered teams and we lost in wars, but we were right there."

"He's such a high-character worker, great teammate, incredibly unselfish and he epitomizes Towson toughness."

Despite losing the duo, Towson will return 11 letter-winners, including a talented junior class that boasts three of the Tigers' top five scorers this year.

Leading the pack is guard Mike Morsell, who averaged 13.4 points per game, 27.2 minutes per game and also led the team in 3-point shooting, hitting 48-of-144 attempts. Joining him are transfer guards Desean Morman and Brian Starr, who contributed 9.9 and 6.0 points per game, respectively.

"Mike's been a very good player for us. He's our most gifted guy," Skerry said. "We've got a really good [rising] senior class. Desean Morman has been really good for us. Eddie Keith -- I think [Morman] and Eddie are our best leaders. Brian Starr had a really good year. Traditionally for us, junior college guys make a really big jump between their first and second year. It's a really good group."

With a young team returning, Skerry hopes to get over the hump and win the CAA Tournament to earn a coveted NCAA Tournament automatic bid.

"I think, on our part, we have to continue to do what we do -- keep growing guys," Skerry said. "I think our



Mike Morsell

player development played a big part. We have to stay aggressive. We have to be a tough out in tournament play. The No. 3 team in three of the last four years, I think that's pretty exciting. We just have to keep investing in the program, stay up there with the Charlestons and Wilmingtons of the world. But make no mistake about it, we're a long, long way away from being the 351st team in the country. We need to appreciate and understand what that's taken. We're close; the goal is to get to the NCAA Tournament. That's why I came here. That's what the plan is." ☒



Brionna Jones



Shatori Walker-Kimbrough

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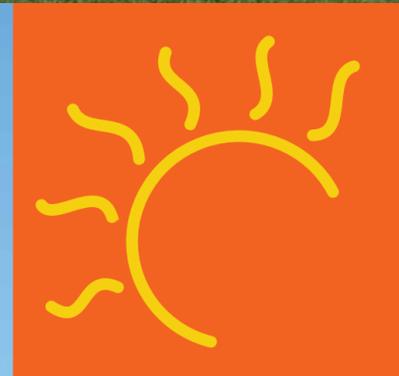
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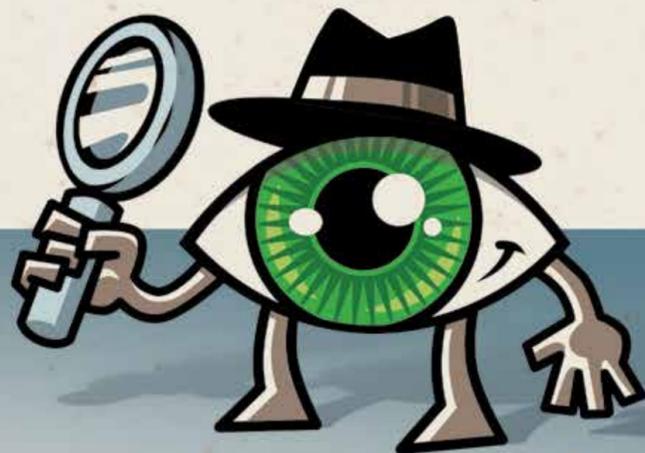
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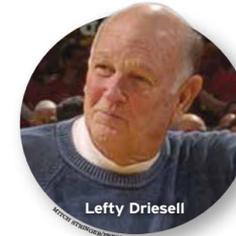
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"What more could a sports fan want than to have the life that I've had and to have the support from my family that I've had? It has just been a godsend. I've really achieved, other than broadcasting a World Series, just about everything that I wanted to do. As a kid, I would've loved to have broadcast a Baltimore Colts Super Bowl. That wasn't to be, because unfortunately they're no longer the Baltimore Colts. And now I want to do a Baltimore Orioles World Series, which would be just fantastic. How far away we are from that, we don't know."

- Orioles play-by-play voice Fred Manfra Feb. 9 on retiring from full-time broadcasting

"He has done a super job, because I think when he left [Texas A&M for Maryland after the 2010-11 season], he only had about seven scholarship players, and it took him a couple years to really get the right people. So he's done a super job. I think Maryland is lucky to get him. Don't let him go. Sign him to a 25-year contract or whatever it takes."

- Maryland coaching legend Lefty Driesell Feb. 13 on the respect he has for Mark Turgeon

"They're going to be competitive. I mean, [Buck] Showalter's a fantastic manager, they have nice pieces. ... They could put more pressure on the bases; that could be

an asset. Just small things, because they have so much power that they can make you sit back and wait for that three-run homer. Those are small adjustments - positioning, being aggressive on the bases - and just hope they get strong performances from [right-handers like] a [Kevin] Gausman or a [Dylan] Bundy, and these guys really evolve over a short period of time. That'll change absolutely everything. If those guys are dependable starters every fifth day, they're going to be in contention."

- ESPN analyst/former MLB outfielder Doug Glanville Feb. 14 on his expectations for the 2017 Orioles

"I think it would be pass rusher. I think you could maybe look at a safety, you could possibly go that route if you wanted to. A young safety, obviously, would make sense at that particular point in the draft, midway through [the first round]. [Michigan safety/linebacker] Jabrill Peppers is interesting, because Jim [Harbaugh] coached him at Michigan. He's got great talent. Does he have a defined position? No, he doesn't. What kind of player will he be? Maybe [he will be similar to Arizona Cardinals linebacker] Deone Bucannon."

- Baltimore native/ESPN NFL Draft analyst Mel Kiper Jr. Feb. 17 on what the Ravens might do in the first round if they don't select a cornerback

"Overall graduation rate and academics, because I was raised in a family where education is the main thing, and everything else comes second. I just want to make sure I get my education, because maybe one day basketball might not pan out, and I'll have a backup plan for myself."

- Mount St. Joseph star forward/Maryland recruiting target Jalen Smith Feb. 23 on what is most important to him in making his college decision

"It's open competition. The good news is, although they [were] true freshmen, [Tyrrell Pigrome and Max Bortenschlager], they both have game experience. They both played this year for us. It's neck-and-neck. They're going to have every opportunity to go win the job - and equal opportunity. And then you mix in [junior] Caleb Henderson, who's a transfer for us. ... There's no separation or deciding factor yet. That's what spring ball is for, and to be honest with you, that'll carry on into preseason camp. Because then we have Kasim [Hill] coming in as a freshman; he's going to have an opportunity to compete for us as well. The good news is I think we're really talented at the position."

- Maryland head football coach DJ Durkin Feb. 27 on how the team's quarterback battle shapes up

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# Haley Tiller Named U.S. Army Impact Player Of The Month

★ WICK EISENBERG

Haley Tiller, a member of the girls' basketball team at Reservoir High School in Howard County, has been named the U.S. Army Impact Player of the Month for February.

Tiller, a senior shooting guard, is the second recipient of the award from Howard County. She was nominated by her coach, Deb Taylor. "Haley Tiller is the perfect choice for this award," Taylor wrote in her nomination. "She's a great leader that is well

respected by both her teammates and coaches. A multi-year captain in all three of her sports, she's unselfish, and on the basketball team, she thrives on defense and makes us go. We are a terrific defensive team, having a great deal of success this year after a history of just average teams, and Haley makes us go. She is the kid I cannot take off the floor."

Tiller averaged six points, 1.7 assists and 1.6 steals this season for the Gators, who beat Centennial in the first round of the Maryland Public Secondary School Athletic Association 3A state tournament before getting eliminated by Long Reach in the second round. This season, Tiller was regularly asked to cover the opposition's top perimeter threat, a difficult task but one she enjoyed immensely.



Haley Tiller

COURTESY OF HALEY TILLER

"I love that it's all about how much you put in," Tiller said. "On offense, you can try your best, but if your shots don't fall, you won't be as productive. On defense, if you focus and are determined, you can really help your team succeed."

Tiller has proven herself to not only be a vital player on the basketball court for Reservoir but also on the field hockey and lacrosse fields as well.

For field hockey, Tiller started all three of her years on varsity. She was an All-County Honorable Mention and was twice given Reservoir's Most Valuable Offensive Player Award. Tiller was also chosen to participate in the Maryland Senior All-Star Game.

On the lacrosse team, Tiller made the Maryland Brine National High School team as a sophomore. Tiller started four years on varsity and has earned a second-team All-County selection. Much like with the field hockey team, Tiller is a two-time Offensive Player of the Year for the Gators.

For Tiller, what she's enjoyed most about being a student-athlete is the relationships she's formed with teammates.

"I love the camaraderie that comes with being on a team. I don't think I'll be able to recreate my high school sports experience; it's been incredible," Tiller said. "You go through everything together with your teammates, both the highs and lows. It's really nice knowing there's a group of people who have your back."

Tiller has also made quite the impact in Reservoir's community away from athletics.

She is the president and founder of the Reservoir New Student Mentoring Academy, which focuses on helping students transferring to Reservoir make an easy adjustment at their new school. Tiller is also the vice president of Reservoir's student government and headed the committee that organized the school's first pep rally in five years.

She is also heavily involved with Maryland DECA, an organization whose aim is to prepare high school students for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management. In addition to being the president of Reservoir's chapter of DECA, she is also the president of the organization's entire operations in all of Maryland, which involves representing the state in numerous national conferences and leading workshops for students.

"It's an extracurricular that builds on what you learn in the classroom, which I love," Tiller said.

Tiller manages to do all this and excel in the classroom. She has a 4.7 weighted GPA and ranks 11th in her class academically. Tiller has been accepted to University of Pennsylvania, where she will be a student at the prestigious Wharton Business School. ☑

*The Impact Player of the Month award is given to an individual who has impacted his or her team in a positive way, both on and off the field.*

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## VARSITY REPORT



St. Frances girls' basketball

COURTESY OF NATHALIA NYRE

## Team Chemistry Propels St. Frances Academy To IAAM Championship

★ WICK EISENBERG

Jerome Shelton, head coach of the St. Frances Academy girls' basketball team, is quick to tell you he tries to learn from other coaches. Shelton said it's a great way for him to grow as a coach, even as he is in the midst of a distinguished career in which he's led the Panthers to 10 Interscholastic Athletic Association of Maryland "A" conference titles and won more than 500 games.

This past year, Shelton found himself recalling a quote he heard Connecticut women's basketball coach Geno Auriemma say about his team, as it approached a 100-game winning streak.

"One of the things he said that was so important was trying to get your players to focus on one game at a time and never take games off," Shelton said. "What we did with these 27 games is only focus on who is in front of us. Play as well as we can at that time and do what we do best out there to make us successful. We emphasize that all the time."

Auriemma's words were particularly relevant for St. Frances as its season wore on and the team developed a winning streak of its own. St. Frances went 27-0 this season, winning the difficult Patsy Mink division at the Title IX Holiday Tournament in Washington, D.C., and

the IAAM Championship along the way.

The Panthers' achievements came despite playing one of the most difficult schedules in Baltimore. In addition to tough league competition, St. Frances found ways to beat top regional talent, like National Christian Academy, Sanford (Del.), Salem (Va.), Georgetown Visitation and Eleanor Roosevelt, outscoring opponents by an average of 21.92 points per game.

The dominant season has led to national recognition; the Panthers are ranked third in MaxPrep's top 25 rankings and ninth in the *USA Today's* super 25 rankings.

"Going undefeated wasn't the plan. We just wanted to win another conference title," senior forward Mia Davis said. "We started to win games and get confident that no one could actually beat us. From there, we began to have that mindset whenever we stepped on the court."

Despite St. Frances' success, there were plenty of question marks for the group coming into this season. The Panthers won the IAAM Championship in 2016, but four of their players graduated and another transferred, which left St. Frances with just four returning players. So the St. Frances coaching staff got to work recruiting new talent.

The Panthers had 12 players on their roster this season, making it one of the deepest teams Shelton has coached during his 26-year tenure as head coach. It

also gave the Panthers a diverse roster that had as many freshmen as it did returners.

"I wanted to come in as a new piece and contribute," freshman shooting guard Delicia Pinnick said. "We needed to fill in the holes that the graduating seniors left if we wanted to maintain our level of play and win another championship."

In order for that to happen, the Panthers had to get on the same page quickly. The coaches relied heavily on veteran players, like captains Davis and junior point guard Nia Clouden, as well as junior forward Taneara Moore, to help the new players get accustomed to the way the Panthers go about their business.

For Shelton, getting the team's new players to buy into St. Frances' culture early was more important than anything else.

"Winning is an attitude; that's the first thing we try to implement," Shelton said. "We try to impress upon our players the importance of a work ethic, to bond with one another and accept roles. The better coaches will tell you that you establish culture first. The way you want things done and you want them done in such a fashion, so that when new players come in, they realize they're a part of something special."

St. Frances also takes pride in playing elite defense.

The Panthers limited opponents to 42.37 points per game and 39.5 in conference contests. The coaching staff em-

phasizes to each player the importance of guarding the basketball and how to play off the ball as well. Shelton said no athlete can play college basketball without those skills.

"The coaches always say before the game to hold the opponent to under 45 points," freshman forward Angel Reese said. "Because of that, we always have that mindset in the back of our heads; that's the target we should be aiming for."

Whenever the team's defense struggled, the Panthers' offense was able to thrive behind Davis and Clouden.

Davis has been a double-double machine during her three years of high school ball, becoming one of the best players in the Baltimore area in the process. Clouden has become a dominant force as well without commanding the ball too much, preferring to get her teammates involved.

The duo was relied upon heavily during St. Frances' regular-season finale against National Christian Academy, a program that is considered one of the nation's elite. In a much-hyped contest that extended into overtime after National Christian Academy hit a buzzer-beating 3-pointer at the end of regulation, Davis led all scorers with 21 points.

Clouden, who finished the game with 14 points, made her biggest contribution in overtime. She found herself with the ball as St. Frances was trailing with 5.2 seconds remaining. After the Panthers' drawn-up play broke apart, Clouden was forced to improvise and buried an 18-foot shot as time expired.

The shot gave St. Frances a 75-74 win and kept its undefeated season alive.

"Going into that game, we expected it to be a good one. We knew everyone on their team and what they were capable of doing," Clouden said. "When it was time to play, we were just ready to go. It was a fast game, really physical, too, a lot of fouls. I was really happy to see my shot go in, mostly just that the game was over and that we'd found a way to win."

The win catapulted St. Frances into the IAAM postseason with even more momentum. The group topped Seton Keough in the semifinals before besting McDonogh, 56-47, Feb. 19 to win the program's second straight IAAM championship.

Shelton still struggles to pick out his favorite performance that his players put together. Winning the Title IX championship was particularly exciting. Topping National Christian and claiming the league title also stick out. As dominant as St. Frances was for large stretches of the season, it's the moments when the girls had to fight through adversity that Shelton enjoyed seeing the most.

"We've shown a tremendous amount of poise under fire and executed well in late-game situations," Shelton said. "I am proud of my players because they were able to stay together during those times when games could have gone the other way if we didn't have the chemistry that we did." ☑

# COMMUNITY BEAT



## ★ WALKS/RACES

### APRIL 1 -- FOXHOUND 5K

The St. James Academy Foxhound 5K and Family Fun Run/Walk benefits Paul's Place to improve the quality of lives in southwest Baltimore communities. To register, visit [charmcityrun.com](http://charmcityrun.com).

### APRIL 2 -- RED SHOE SHUFFLE 5K

Wear red to show your support for the Ronald McDonald House Family Fun Walk to benefit the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Baltimore. To register, visit [redshoeshuffle.org/shuffle-details/](http://redshoeshuffle.org/shuffle-details/).

### APRIL 2 -- WALK FOR WISHES

Join this community-wide celebration and use your superpowers to grant the wishes of local kids battling life-threatening medical conditions and support Make-A-Wish Mid-Atlantic, Inc. The walk is from 7:30-11 a.m. at the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore. To register, visit [midatlanticwalkforwishes.org/htmlcontent.asp?cid=674848](http://midatlanticwalkforwishes.org/htmlcontent.asp?cid=674848).

### APRIL 8 -- SOLE OF THE CITY 10K

Join the Under Armour Sole of the City and run the streets of Baltimore and finish at Charm City Run McHenry Row. For more details, visit [b3baltimore.com/](http://b3baltimore.com/).

### APRIL 22 -- PORT TO FORT 6K

Rally the troops, enlist your family, challenge your friends or run individually through a scenic, Fort McHenry 6K course to support the 21st annual Believe in Tomorrow Children's Foundation fundraiser. The race will start at Coke Field, 2400 Fort Ave. and take place from 8:30 a.m.-noon. Visit [port2fort.org](http://port2fort.org).

### APRIL 23 -- REACHOUT AND RUN 5K

The race will raise funds for HopeWell Cancer Foundation programs to support those affected by cancer. It will be held at Goucher College from 8:30-11:30 a.m. For more information, visit [facebook.com/events/201281747003399/](https://facebook.com/events/201281747003399/).

### APRIL 23 -- RED HOT RUN

Proceeds from the race will benefit Roland Park School Faculty Compensation to ensure it is able to attract and retain exceptional teachers and provide student financial assistance for our talented and diverse student community. For more information, visit [rpcs.org](http://rpcs.org).

### APRIL 30 -- BRIGANCE BRIGADE 5.7K

Celebrate ALS Awareness Month and the 10th anniversary of founder O.J. Brigance's ALS diagnosis at the fourth annual

charity event. Races will honor former Baltimore Ravens special teams captain O.J. Brigance's jersey number (57) -- a timed 5.7K run, a 1.57-mile family run/walk and a Kid's Fun Run for youth ages 8 and younger. A Celebration Village with food, beverages, music and a Kid's Fun Zone will follow the races. For more information, visit [brigancebrigade.org/brigance-brigade-foundation-5.7k](http://brigancebrigade.org/brigance-brigade-foundation-5.7k).

### APRIL 30 -- ADAM THOMPSON 5K

Race to honor the memory of Adam Thompson, a first-year Harford Community College student who was killed in an automobile accident in 2011. Proceeds from the race will benefit scholarships supporting students attending Harford Community College. The race starts at 8 a.m., and participants may run as individuals or organize themselves as part of a team. Online registration is available in advance at [harford.edu/adam](http://harford.edu/adam). For more information, call 443-412-2449.

### APRIL 30 -- FLASHBACK 5K

The Junior League of Baltimore Flashback 5K race will raise funds for the Junior League of Baltimore's community projects that focus on healthy families and healthy communities. The race will be held at Foundry Row in Owings Mills from 9 a.m.-noon, followed by a post-race festival that includes a vendor fair, music and a costume contest. Participants are encouraged to run in their favorite 1980s- or 1990s-inspired workout gear. To register, visit [raceentry.com/races/5th-annual-flashback-5k/2017/register](http://raceentry.com/races/5th-annual-flashback-5k/2017/register).

### APRIL 30 -- GREATER BALTIMORE KIDNEY WALK

Nearly 6,000 people are expected to attend the Greater Baltimore Kidney Walk at Camden Yards. The walk highlights the need for organ donation and the prevention of kidney disease. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. at UMBC, 1000 Hilltop Circle, Lot No. 22. For more information, visit [kidneymd.org](http://kidneymd.org) or call 410-494-8545.

### MAY 7 -- AIDS WALK & RUN

Walkers, runners, volunteers and supporters will come together to show their support for the HIV/AIDS community of Baltimore during the AIDS Walk & Run at the Maryland Zoo. The run will benefit Chase Brexton Health Services, a nonprofit, community-based health organization that provides dependable, high-quality, comprehensive and accessible health care to those infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS. For more information and to register, visit [baltimoreaidswalk.org](http://baltimoreaidswalk.org).

### MAY 20 -- OLD BAY 5K

Hosted by McCormick & Co., the inaugural Old Bay 5K Flavor of Giving will benefit the American Heart Association, Y of Central Maryland and United Way. The race starts at 8:30 a.m. at 215 Schilling Circle in Hunt Valley. To register, visit [eventbrite.com/e/old-bay-5k-flavor-of-giving-registration-31651941810](http://eventbrite.com/e/old-bay-5k-flavor-of-giving-registration-31651941810).



## ★ BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

### 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](mailto:lawyerfrank@comcast.net) or call 410-493-7011, or contact Larry Silverman at [Bluedevilumps@comcast.net](mailto:Bluedevilumps@comcast.net) or call 410-484-2118.

### FAST PITCH

U14 and U16 Dynasty Prime fast-pitch softball teams are looking for committed players and families for the upcoming spring/summer season. Games are played in local and national tournaments and showcases. Players participate in year-round workouts and practice at Prime Sportsplex in Glen Arm. Visit [Dpdynasty.com](http://Dpdynasty.com) or email Coach Denny at [dpdsoftball@gmail.com](mailto:dpdsoftball@gmail.com).

### 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 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. April 8. For more details, call Leo at 443-416-6447.

### 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](http://over40baseball.org) or call Mike Lockett at 410-446-0443.

### COCKEYSVILLE RECREATION

For updates about baseball registration for the Cockeysville Recreation Center, visit [cockeysvillereccouncil.org](http://cockeysvillereccouncil.org) or call 410-887-7734.

### 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 [smlbinc.org](http://smlbinc.org).

### MASON-DIXON UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

The MDUA is looking for new high school baseball umpires in Baltimore. No experience is necessary. Email James Byrd at [jbyrd0062@comcast.net](mailto:jbyrd0062@comcast.net) or call 410-294-5257.

### AL KALINE DOCUMENTARY

Have a story or picture of Hall of Fame outfielder Al Kaline? If so, executive producer Stephen Johnson is working on a documentary and wants to hear from you. Email [baltimoresandlots@yahoo.com](mailto:baltimoresandlots@yahoo.com).

### SLOW-PITCH SOFTBALL

The Baltimore County Lutherville-Timonium Rec Council has opened team registration for the spring slow-pitch softball

program at Seminary Park, which runs from May to mid-August. Men's leagues are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings, and the coed league is Tuesday evenings. Individual players seeking spots will be referred to the registered team managers. For more information, email [tjharrington51@netscape.net](mailto:tjharrington51@netscape.net) or call 443-847-1072.



## ★ SOCCER/RUGBY

### CELTIC SOCCER CLUB

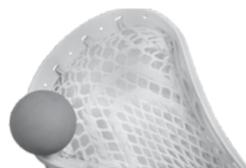
Tryouts for the Celtic Soccer Club are for boys ages 6-18 and girls 6-12. Registration and additional information are available at [baltimoreceltic.com](http://baltimoreceltic.com).

### 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](mailto:baltimorechesapeakerugby@gmail.com) or visit [baltimorerugby.net](http://baltimorerugby.net).

### OLD LINE SOCCER

Register by April 15 for the Central Maryland Soccer Association's tournament held in Jarrettsville April 29-30. Single-age level competition is available for U8-U15 and the dual ages of U16 and U18; the competition for U8-U10 is 7v7, for U11 and U12 is 9v9 and for U13 and older, 11v11. For additional information, visit [cmsasoccer.com](http://cmsasoccer.com) or email [scorenews@aol.com](mailto:scorenews@aol.com).



## ★ LACROSSE/SQUASH

### BALTIMORE CITY YOUTH LACROSSE

The Baltimore Youth Lacrosse League is registering for the spring 2017 season. This in-house league is open to all kids ages 4-13 and practices two days a week with games on weekends. For more information, call 443-863-8377, email [baltimoreyouthlax@gmail.com](mailto:baltimoreyouthlax@gmail.com) or visit [baltimoreyouthlax.com](http://baltimoreyouthlax.com).



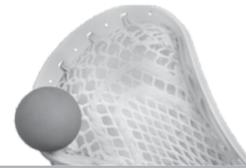
## ★ FOOTBALL

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Become part of the Baltimore Ravens' game-day experience by joining Baltimore's Marching Ravens. Visit [baltimoreravens.com/marchingravens](http://baltimoreravens.com/marchingravens).

### 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](http://baltimoreterps.com) or call 443-863-TERP.



## ★ OTHER ACTIVITIES

### MARCH 23 -- "MARCH MADNESS"-THEMED BENEFIT

Celebrating more than three decades of providing free, quality civil legal assistance to low- and moderate-income Marylanders, Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service will host its benefit from 6-9 p.m. in the southeast club level of M&T Bank Stadium. There will be an open beer-and-wine bar, a behind-the-scenes stadium tour that includes field access, interactive basketball games and more. For more information, visit [mvslaw.org](http://mvslaw.org) or call Kim at 443-451-4065.

### MARCH 24 -- BB&T SPRING SWING

Guests will enjoy dinner, live and silent auctions and a night of laughs with Sarge, a world-renowned entertainer, all while raising funds to help cure cystic fibrosis. To purchase tickets, visit [mdspringswing.eventscff.org](http://mdspringswing.eventscff.org), email [arivlin@cff.org](mailto:arivlin@cff.org) or call 410-628-0795.

### MARCH 25 -- ROLLER DERBY

The Charm City Roller Girls play the Dundalk Deviants at Skateland North Point, 1113 North Point Road in Dundalk. For more information visit [charmcityrollergirls.com](http://charmcityrollergirls.com) or call 443-475-0088.

### APRIL 1 -- STEEPLECHASE RACING

Gates open at 10 a.m., pony races begin at 11 a.m., the first race is at 12:30 p.m. at Shawan Downs, 1401 Shawan Road in Cockeysville. For more information, visit [shawandowns.com/events/green-spring-valley-point-point/](http://shawandowns.com/events/green-spring-valley-point-point/).

### APRIL 22 -- GRAND NATIONAL STEEPLECHASE

Join the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation for a true Maryland tradition, the 115th running of the Grand National Steeplechase. Enjoy a beautiful day in Baltimore County's horse country with a classic picnic buffet, signature "Southside" cocktails, live music and the best view of the Grand National Steeplechase course. For tickets, visit [grandnational.eventscff.org/](http://grandnational.eventscff.org/).

### APRIL 22 -- DUCKPIN BOWLING BASKET BINGO

The Stoneleigh National Duckpin Youth Association league has openings for ages 3-21 to join their league at Stoneleigh Lanes in Towson. Many of the coaches are pro bowlers who donate their time to work to improve their bowling skills and teach the kids good sportsmanship. Join their annual fundraiser to support tournament and operating expenses starting at 7 p.m.; doors open at 6 p.m. For more information, email Diane Shaw at [duckpinmom@gmail.com](mailto:duckpinmom@gmail.com) or call 410-499-6657.

### ULTIMATE FRISBEE

Looking for an exciting sport, combining the nonstop movement and athletic endurance of soccer with the aerial passing skills of football into one fast-paced game in which everyone is involved? The Pikesville Ultimate Disc Association will host youth leagues for boys ages 8-12 at Wellwood Elementary School, 2901 Smith Ave. in Pikesville. The leagues will begin

in April and will run every Tuesday night through May. For more information, visit [pikesvillerec.org/info/activities/program\\_details.aspx?ProgramID=28760](http://pikesvillerec.org/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=28760), email Brett Weil at [baweil@gmail.com](mailto:baweil@gmail.com) or call 410-262-6136.

### BABE RUTH MUSEUM

The improved Babe Ruth Birthplace Museum has reopened right next to Camden Yards. Babe Ruth's legacy shaped the sports and American life we live now. Consider making a tax-deductible donation. Visit [baberruthmuseum.org/donate](http://baberruthmuseum.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 like soccer, volleyball and baseball can register for the upcoming school season. For more information or to register, email [chensports@verizon.net](mailto: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](mailto:mdcommish@comcast.net) or call Mike Connors at 410-653-7307.

### 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](http://ndya.org), call Stacy Karten at 410-356-0936 or "Like" duckpin bowling at [facebook.com/theduckpinnews](https://facebook.com/theduckpinnews).

### 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 Charm City Roller Girls' officiating crew, which is looking for skating and non-skating officials of all skill levels. No experience necessary. Email [referees@charmcityrollergirls.com](mailto:referees@charmcityrollergirls.com) for more information.

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**Maryland Jockey Club  
 Looking To Bring  
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**W**ithout much fanfare, one of the more important gatherings involving Maryland sports is scheduled for March 18.

That day, the Maryland Jockey Club will make a pitch to representatives of the Breeders' Cup to hold the prestigious horse racing event at Laurel Park in either 2020 or 2021.

The Triple Crown races of the Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont may be more familiar to casual sports fans, but the Breeders' Cup -- a two-day extravaganza that attracts racing royalty -- enjoys a special place in racing's firmament because of the deep talent that shows up to compete.

And because the Breeders' Cup, which is held in late October or early November, shifts its locale annually (in 2017, it's at Del Mar Thoroughbred Club in Southern California), landing one is akin to luring a Super Bowl. Race organizers have estimated the economic impact for San Diego County, where Del Mar is located, to be about \$100 million.

In short, the Breeders' Cup is a really big deal.

"We know this can be incredibly important and beneficial to the city and the state," said Sal Sinatra, the president of the MJC. "As terrific as the Preakness Stakes is every year, this would be different. A Breeders' Cup brings an international audience, and they're real horse racing people."

The Maryland Jockey Club, a subsidiary of Canada-based the Stronach Group, owns Laurel Park, Pimlico Race Course and the Preakness Stakes. While the MJC is trying for its first Breeders' Cup, another Stronach Group track, Santa Anita Park near Los Angeles, has held six Breeders' Cups since 2008.

To woo the Breeders' Cup, the MJC will be touting already completed, as well as future upgrades, to Laurel. In recent years, Laurel has undergone a \$20 million facelift that ushered in hundreds of flat-screen TVs, new dining and cocktail areas, a new infield board and new barns with surveillance cameras for horse security.

Another Laurel feature that will be a valuable asset in reeling in an international racing event is its turf course, which is considered one of the best in the county. Six of the Breeders' Cup's 13 races are on grass.

Plus, there are plans to put in a section of luxury suites with each one accommodating 14 to 20 people with all the amenities well-heeled fans have come to expect, such as inside and outside viewing, comfy seating, TVs and refrigerators, even an elevator that takes folks right from the parking lot to their fancy boxes.

Overall, the MJC will have more than 80,000 seats available for a Breeders' Cup and will be able to keep just about all spectators comfortable inside.

Also, by the time the Breeders' Cup would be held, a new MARC rail station is expected to open on the Howard County side of the Laurel Park facility.

Sinatra said he's been discussing the notion of bringing the Breeders' Cup to Laurel with race officials around the country, and there's enthusiasm for having the race weekend return to the East Coast. The last time the Breeders' Cup was on the Eastern seaboard was in 2007 at Monmouth Park in New Jersey.

"I think our location is absolutely ideal in a lot of ways," Sinatra said. "For starters, being halfway between Baltimore and Washington, we have plenty of first-class hotel rooms. We have several airports that national and international travelers can use. And being on the East Coast, that's something that should certainly be appealing to the European connections because they don't have to take their horses nearly as far as when the Breeders' Cup has been on the West Coast."

As a long weekend of all-star racing, the Breeders' Cup would be an economic bonanza for the region and the Maryland Jockey Club, but Sinatra believes there's an opportunity to leverage the event even more.

The Maryland Jockey Club has wanted to revive the former Washington DC International Stakes, which was a marquee event at Laurel Park from the early 1950s through the mid-1990s before it was basically usurped by, well, the Breeders' Cup.

If the MJC could land the Breeders' Cup, Sinatra dreams of holding an International Stakes in late September to bring in some of the international horses early, then run the Maryland Millions in October, and finish with the top-flight racing of the Breeders' Cup.

"The International, which brought horses from all over the world, was the precursor of the Breeders' Cup, and then the Breeders' Cup came along and knocked it out," Sinatra said. "So what better way would there be to bring the thing full circle." □

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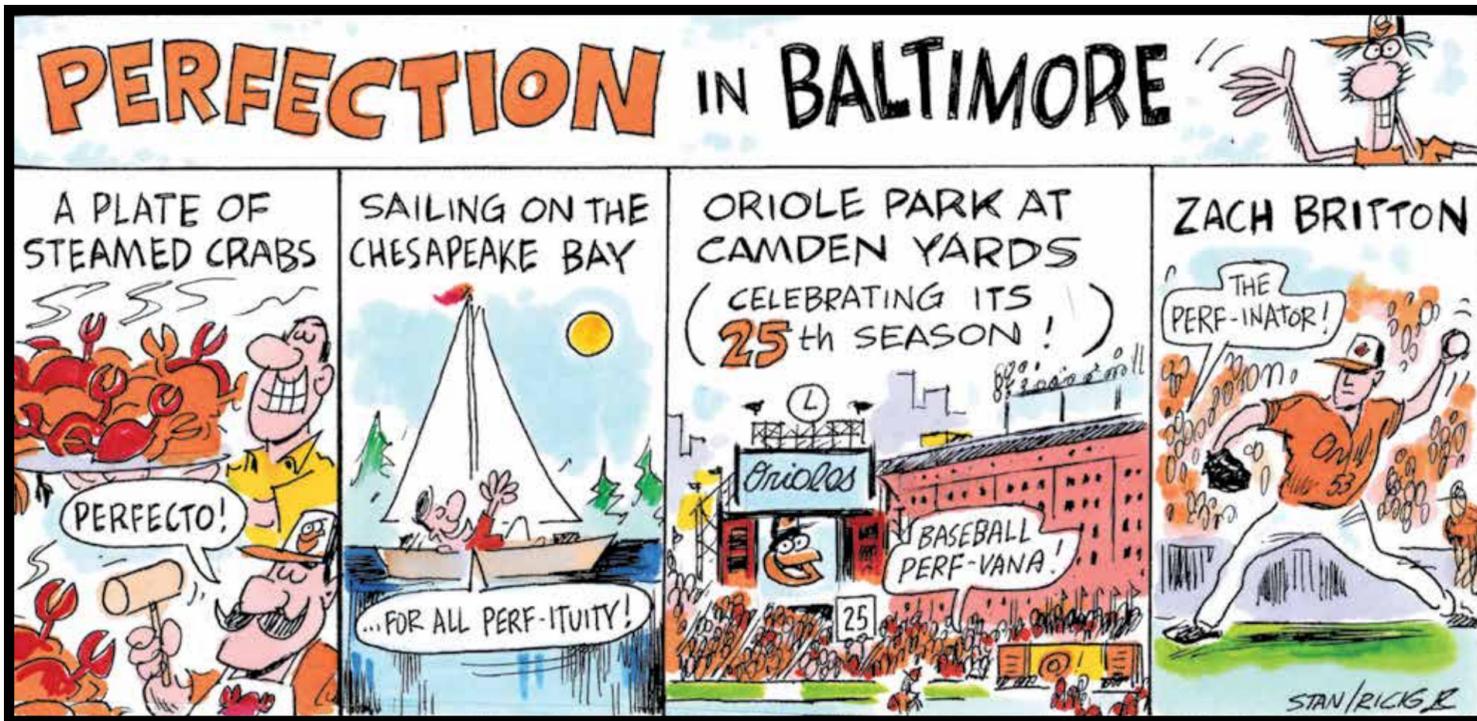
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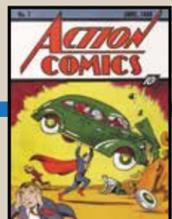
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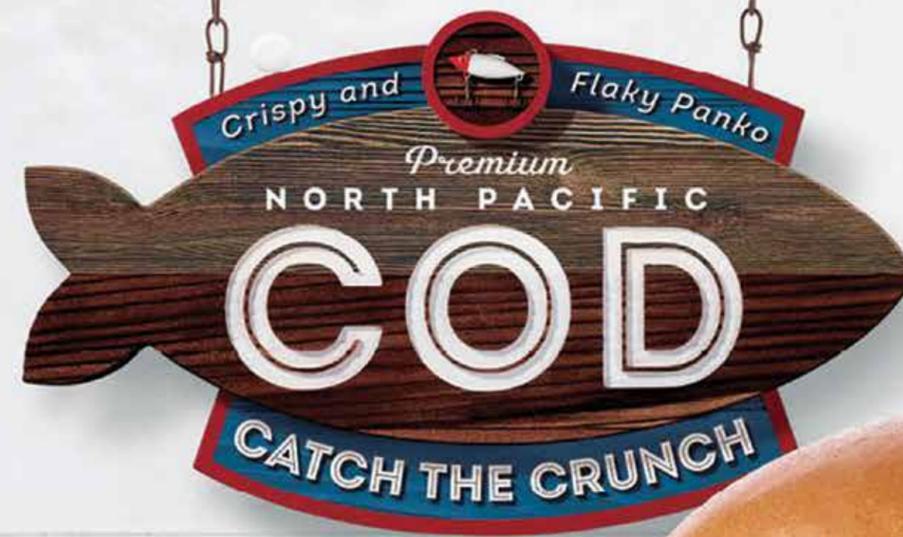


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