



Little League.....Big Fun!!

Hello Roland Park Baseball Families!

It has been a while, but at last we can announce, "IT'S PLAYOFF TIME!" The recreation season is storming into its final days, hopefully without actual storms. But that is not the only baseball we have going. There have been pitching clinics this past month, ongoing travel league play with fall tryouts approaching, and an all-girls team coming together for a tournament this summer. Roland Park Baseball Leagues is in full swing!

This edition of the newsletter touches on several of these activities, provides a little information on upcoming events, and adds some entertainment to boot.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Charles Fancher'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chuck Fancher, 45th Commissioner of the Roland Park Baseball Leagues

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Playoffs! Closing Ceremony! Basket Raffle!

The end of the RPBL Spring Recreation Season is approaching, but first we have *PLAYOFFS!* The playoff season kicked in last week with the start of the double elimination tournament of the Teen League. The American and National Leagues follow suit this Tuesday, June 1st. Playoff brackets will be post [here](#) until champions in each league are crowned.

All Star games are scheduled for **Friday June 11**. The National League games will start at **6PM** at Druid Hill Park fields 1 & 2. These will be followed at **8PM** by the American League. Team assembly will be handled by the league coordinators. Teens will meet at Swann Park for a **7PM** game time.

RPBL CLOSING Ceremonies & Basket Raffle are scheduled for **Saturday, June 12th** at at our RPBL Clubhouse, Belvedere Square, 529 E. Belvedere Avenue. **
NOTE: Ceremonies will be help in the UPPER LEVEL covered PARKING LOT!!

Please note we are staggering the league ceremonies to reduce crowd size...

TEEN, AMERICAN & NATIONAL Leagues (9-15 year olds)
9:00 - 11am

INTERNATIONAL & TEEBALL Leagues (5-8 year olds)
11am - 1pm

Belvedere Square is a presenting sponsor for RPBL and will be hosting the event. Our traditional Basket Raffle will take place at 9am - 1pm. We will have a Closing Program for each league at their designated times. This will include a trophy presentation, final distribution of program/pictures AND equipment drop off for coaches!

We hope you will come celebrate your children at another successful completion of a RPBL Spring Season!

The Basket Raffle has been a Roland Park Baseball tradition for years and the players love it. Everyone can participate and there are many winners. The key to our success is YOU. All the teams have been asked create their own team basket. Past basket themes include: beach basket, toy basket, book basket, game night, spa basket, hair care basket, wine and cheese basket, gourmet coffee basket, baseball lovers basket,

golf basket, chocolate lovers basket, movie night basket, Italian basket, sports basket, gift card basket...the sky is the limit. So, if you haven't already, have your team choose a basket representative and a theme. Please help show your support for the league! We NEED your help.

We kindly ask if all baskets be dropped off at Closing Ceremonies at 8:00 AM. If necessary, arrangements can be made for drop off during the week. If there is issue with delivering the baskets on time prior to Closing Day, please let your coach know and they will in turn contact their league coordinator.

Each basket will be displayed at Closing Ceremonies, where we will be selling raffle tickets for one dollar each (and blocks of 25 tickets for \$20.00.). Cash, checks & Venmo accepted.

There will be a ticket bucket next to each team basket. Each participant will write their name and phone number (OR, feel welcome to bring your return address labels if you have them) on each ticket they purchased and place it in the corresponding basket of their choice. The winner DOES NOT need to be present to win, BUT names and cell phone numbers must be legible. The drawing for all baskets will be held immediately following the Closing Ceremonies. For all those participating, we ask you be available between 1pm - 2pm for pickup of your winning basket...storage space is limited.

The covered parking garage will be blocked off at 7am.

- ATWATER'S will be offering a 10% off the check for families
- PRIGEL FAMILY CREAMERY will be offering free toppings for those in RPBL uniform!

Thanks again for supporting Roland Park Baseball Leagues! We couldn't do it without your support.



THANK YOU COACHES!

Roland Park Baseball Leagues runs on many things - our relationships with sponsors, our field providers and maintainers, our many vendors, the many parents shuttling players here and there, donations, the Board of Trustees, and much more. At the top of the list, however, there is one role - Coach. The coaches of RPBL are the face of the league. Charged with upholding the Coaches Code of Conduct they step forward as

volunteers each year to give their time to help our children establish themselves as members of our community.

In particular we wish to thank those that take the role of head coach, and encourage those that have served as assistants to give it a try. Please be sure to pick up your gift of appreciation when turning in equipment at closing ceremonies.

*Belvedere
Square*

Commissioner On Deck

Roland Park Baseball Leagues is drawing to the end of its 70th season, and alongside it, the two-year commissioner's term is also coming to a close. While the transition officially occurs at the conclusion of the spring season, the next commissioner has already been vetted and selected by the Board of Trustees, and she has accepted.

Heather Harlan-Warnack will serve as 46th commissioner. She enters at a time the league will be resuming operation following two seasons of pandemic restrictions and safety concerns. The nominating committee recognizes in Heather career skills and experience that align well with the task of stabilizing league revenue and the demands of innovation that keeps RPBL ahead of other youth athletic options in the Baltimore area.

A long-time resident of north Baltimore City, Heather has worked extensively with schools and community service organizations in the area. Currently and for the past few years she has been employed as Director of Development at The Gilman School following work at Maryvale Preparatory School. In addition to the RPBL Board of Trustees, she has served as President of the Baltimore Board of Directors of the American Heart Association, Alumni Board of Roland Park Country School and boards of the Second Presbyterian Church. Each of these positions has made use of her communications and fundraising talents, and her desire to build relationships between these organizations and the communities in which they reside.

Heather comes to the league by way of her two sons, both of whom played RPBL since Tee Ball, and both of whom qualify for the Teen League next year. She also lives with her husband John, and dog Harper, neither of whom play baseball for RPBL - yet.



RPBL CHALLENGE

Get in the game by taking the RPBL Challenge!

For a three-day period leading up to Closing Exercises on June 11, you will have the chance to double your impact with a gift to RPBL. In honor of the Leagues' 70th Anniversary, we are counting on you to contribute a total of \$7,000 - unlocking a match by a group of generous donors.

RPBL has provided players with the continuity of the baseball experience for generations, even during the pandemic. Our willingness and ability to operate when other leagues shut down in 2020 and 2021 provided a welcomed outlet for our children. This decision, however, resulted in additional costs for RPBL during a time when we could not hold our traditional fundraisers.

Get a head start. Take the RPBL Challenge today. Click [here](#) to make a gift, Venmo @RPBL1952, or mail a check to: Roland Park Baseball Leagues, P.O. Box 26255, Baltimore, MD 21210.

RPBL Girls Team

Baseball for All National Tournament

Aberdeen, Maryland July 18-22

An all girls team from the northern Baltimore area will don the RPBL jersey and compete for us in the 10U division at the Baseball For All National Tournament in Aberdeen, Maryland from July 18-22 this summer. Show your support at fundraisers coming to other RPBL events.

There is room on the team for a couple more players. Interested families should contact Jen Bryant (jenreese10@yahoo.com), Jesse More (jesse.more@gmail.com),

or Matt Fischer (matt.erik.fischer@gmail.com).



2021 Fall Travel Tryouts

To take one item off the list of things to track this summer, RPBL will be holding its Fall Travel Team Tryouts this month. More information will appear on our website soon. For now, take note of the dates, times, and locations of the tryouts for the various age groups.

Date and time (all ages will meet at both times)

Wednesday June 16th 5:30 - 7:30

Wednesday June 23rd 5:30 - 7:30

Places:

8U and 9-10 tryouts will be at the **Roland Park Elementary Middle School fields**

11-12 tryouts are at **Memorial Field in Mt Washington**

13-14 tryouts are at the **Baltimore Polytechnic Varsity Baseball field**

Registration opens Wednesday [here](#).

BALTIMORE BASEBALL BITS

by Shawn Boehringer, Trustee Emeritus and former RPBL coach



Wee Willie Keeler

One of the pleasures of the Charm City is the fabulous Oriole Park at Camden Yards. The park contains some wonderful detail including a mural in the left field stairwell near the monument park which honors the champion NL Oriole teams of the 1890's, led by one of the greatest hitters of all-time, 5'4" 140 lb. Wee Willie Keeler, whose explanation of his batting prowess was summed up in 5



words: he “Hit ‘em where they ain’t.”

Keeler maintains the longest consecutive game hitting streak in NL history at 45, which he established over the final game of the 1896 season and the first 44 in 1897. The record remains unmatched in 2021 after 124 NL seasons as does his record for lowest ratio of strikeouts to at bats.

Only Joe Dimaggio’s 56 game hit streak in 1941 is higher than Keeler’s in major league history. Dimaggio incredibly posted a 61 game streak for the San Francisco Seals in the Pacific Coast League in 1933, second best all-time for a minor leaguer. His longest MLB streak other than the 56 gameer totalled only 19 games. His brother Dom holds the Red Sox consecutive game hit streak at 34. Pictured below are Joe and Dom D with the Seals (Dom with glasses and Joe to his right)

Back to Keeler, who ended his career by following his legendary Baltimore manager Ned Hanlon to Brooklyn in 1899 then moving boroughs to Upper Manhattan where he was the first star of the AL Highlanders (later Yankees) from 1903 to 1909, and playing a final year for his old Baltimore Oriole teammate John McGraw for the NY Giants in 1910.

Keeler retired with a .341 deadball era batting average and was enshrined in Cooperstown in 1939. He died at age 50 of complications from tuberculosis and endocarditis.

If you have an aspiring sports writer in the family that would like to contribute to the RPBL Newsletter, have them contact me, Chuck Fancher, at chuck.rpbl@gmail.com. Topics can be provided, or may be one’s own. Material should pertain in some way to youth baseball.



RPBLive!

Shawn Boehringer, a longtime contributor to many aspects of the league, from coaching to serving on its board of trustees to penning articles for this newsletter, has stepped up his game once again. This spring Shawn proposed expanding the RPBL footprint by livestreaming recreation league games, and over the last few weeks it happened!



In what we hope can become a regular, if infrequent, part of the Roland Park Baseball experience, livestreaming a few games at each age level allows out of town friends and family to see our children playing our great sport. With Shawn's expert commentary, and guest coaches and friends of the league on hand for color commentary, these broadcasts have been spectacles to behold.



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Summer Baseball

While RPBL takes the summer off (except for our travel team programs) baseball goes on. For those interested in camps, clinics, and trainers. Check our website (link below) for some of these programs.

Camps, Clinics, and Training



1-800-GOT-JUNK?
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Fall Events Return

With the pandemic in the rearview mirror, expect to see more on our regular events soon. Including:

Fall Skills Clinic: The Fall Skills Clinic will return. We are working out the details now. Look for an announcement in the near future or check our website.

Fall Classic Wiffleball Tournament and Home Run Derby: This fundraiser for area school athletics programs is returning this fall for all ages! Start sharpening your wiffleball skills now.



HERBER
HOME TEAM

Play by the Rules Quiz

#1 – Runners on first and third, one out. The pitcher disengages the rubber and errantly attempts to throw to first base to pick off the runner. His throw goes into the stands. Where do the runners end up?

#2 – With bases loaded the batter pops up to the pitcher. An infield fly is called, though the runner on third heads for home anyway. The pitcher drops the popup but quickly recovers tossing the ball to the catcher who steps on home before the runner. What is the outcome?

Answers to Issue #9 Play by the Rules Quiz

#1 – The base runner stays on second base. This, as of the 2020 baseball season, is a "foul tip". The rule concerning a foul tip used to state that the ball must first hit the catcher's glove or hand. That is no longer the case. As long as the ball goes sharply and directly back to the catcher and he catches the ball, it is a "foul tip".

A foul tip is treated identically to a clean strike. If the catcher drops the ball, it is a foul ball and the runner would have to return to first.

#2 – The batter is not out. It is not a double play. The runner goes back to first base. When the ball goes sharply and directly back to the catcher, it can ONLY be a foul tip or a foul ball. For a foul tip, the catcher must be the one to catch it. When the pitcher catches the ball, it simply becomes a foul ball. The base runner goes back to first base.

#3 – They are not batting out of order. In the first inning, they were, but batting out of order is only done on appeal. The line up is not set by how a team bats. It is set by the line up card. Once Jackson batted, the next batter is Abel. It does not matter where he previously batted.

Answers in the next addition of the RPBL Newsletter. Past newsletters will soon be available at: [RPBL Newsletter Archive](#)

www.rolandparkbaseball.com | 410-467-9182 | [Email Us](#) |

Roland Park Baseball Leagues | 4612 Roland Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21210

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