



Little League.....Big Fun!!

Hello Roland Park Baseball Families!

Baseball season has arrived with the first of the travel team tryouts. Practices and games will not begin in earnest for a number of weeks yet, but now is the time to be thinking about it. **AND REGISTERING!** See below for information on our travel and recreation programs this spring.

Respectfully,

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

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- Baltimore Baseball Bits
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- 2021 Spring Travel Team Tryout Information
- Play by the Rules Quiz (and answers to last issue's questions)

Spring Recreation Baseball is Here!

Registration is OPEN

Registration closes at **midnight on Sunday, February 14**. Don't miss your chance to be a part of the Roland Park Baseball League by registering now. Do not risk waiting until the last minute!

The RPBL Spring Recreation League is returning for 2021. Come be a part of this rite of Spring! Picture Day is scheduled for **March 27**, with games starting within a few weeks after that. With the pandemic still a concern, we will continue as we have all year - modifying our schedule and our rules to bring our youth as much baseball as we can as safely as we can. More details on the spring season may be found **here**.

Age Groups: The Roland Park Baseball Leagues are set up as follows:

- T-Ball League (Ages 5 and 6). Designed as an introduction to baseball.
- International League (Ages , 7 and 8). Where coaches pitch to players.
- National League (Ages 9 and 10). Player pitch. Bases are set 60 feet apart.
- American League (Ages 11 and 12). 70 ft diamond and stealing allowed.
- Teen League (Ages 13-15). This is baseball played on a regulation, 90 foot diamond.

[Register Here](#)

Eligibility is determined by a child's age on May 1, 2021. For example, a player that is age five on May 1, 2021 would be eligible for T-ball; a player that is age ten on May 1, 2021 would be in the National League. Exceptions are sometimes made for special circumstances. Please email all requests to rolandparkbaseball@gmail.com. Thank you.

Note: An optional feature available for an extra fee in this year's registration process is RegSaver insurance, an offering that comes by way of Teamsnap. Please read the information on this offering carefully so as to understand what is and is not covered by this insurance, especially as it pertains to COVID-19.

Coaches Needed!

We need coaches! Each spring Roland Park Baseball turns to the many families in our league for support in many ways, but no way is more important than through coaching. 60 recreation teams need 120+ coaches, plain and simple. This year we offer the following support:

For those on the fence, RPBL is offering a coaching information session via Zoom on **February 23**. Details and a link will be posted to the RPBL website. To gauge interest, please register **here**.

League coordinators will meet with coaches in their respective divisions during the week of **March 8-12**. These meetings provide information on the logistical details on umpires, equipment, scheduling, rules, safety and more.

Coaching clinics will be scheduled mid-March to provide information on the actual process of coaching - how to run a practice, skills and knowledge appropriate for the age group, and preparation for games from the RPBL perspective.

If you are interested, please use the link below to register. If you have questions, please write me - chuck.rpbl@gmail.com.

[Coach Registration Here](#)

Team sponsorships

Past and future supporters of Roland Park Baseball Leagues, it is the time of year that we line up sponsors for our 60+ spring recreation league teams! If you, or a business or organization you know, would like to support RPBL, please consider the team sponsorship. There is no better way to show your

support for our community than to adorn the jersey of a Moose, Knight, Shamrock, Falcon, or Cub with your name or logo.

For more information on sponsorships go

to www.rolandparkbaseball.com/team-sponsorship/ or write to Roland Park Baseball at rolandparkbaseball@gmail.com.

**Roland Park Baseball League 20%
OFF SHOP EVENT**
**Friday, March 12th - Monday, March
15th**
Hunt Valley Store Location Only

Save the date! Our partner, DICK'S Sporting Goods, is offering you a 20% off discount throughout the store to help you gear up for the season! Be sure to use the coupon linked here, as this is specific to our organization. The coupon is valid in-store on the dates above, and should be shown at the register during checkout.



BALTIMORE BASEBALL BITS

by Shawn Boehringer, Trustee Emeritus and former RPBL coach



Baltimore's Baseball Valentine: Cupid Childs



At 5'8", 185-190 pounds, Clarence Lemuel Childs acquired the nickname "Cupid" early in his baseball career due to his cherubic appearance. Cupid was born in 1867 in Sunderlandville, Calvert County, MD, a place which several websites describe as "historical" and containing no current community. His father Singleton was a Southern Maryland farmer and fathered 11 children with Cupid's mother Caroline. Singleton tragically died when Cupid was a child, prompting the family to leave the farm and move to Baltimore. Demonstrating baseball talent as a youngster, by age 16, Cupid was playing for \$4.00 a week for Durham in the North Carolina State League. By 1885, he was back in the Charm City, working in a can making factory and living at 77 S. Gilmore Street, a short distance from the B and O roundhouse. Between '85 and '1891, he played for a number of minor league teams, including Baltimore's Monumental team where he played shortstop, another Baltimore team called the Harlems; Scranton, Johnstown, Allentown, and Shamokin in the Pennsylvania League; and Petersburg in the Virginia League. He was given a shot at the big leagues in 1888 with the Philadelphia Quakers but was released after 2 games. He then returned to journeyman minor league status for the next few years playing for the Kalamazoo Celery Eaters and the Syracuse Stars.

Cupid's big break came in 1891 when he signed with his hometown Orioles to play in the American Association, a major league at the time. Before '91, two other major leagues operated in addition to the A.A., the National and Players' Leagues, and when the Players' League folded, the N.L. and A.A. entered the "National Agreement" to equitably distribute players who had been in the P.L. After Cupid's signing, however, the A.A. backed out of the National Agreement, and Cupid took the position that the withdrawal rendered him a free agent. He signed with the National League Cleveland club, the Spiders (a nickname I hope the current Cleveland major league team adopts). Litigation ensued in Baltimore in a highly publicized case with the Orioles requesting an injunction in Baltimore City Circuit Court demanding specific performance of its contract. The request was denied by Baltimore Circuit Judge Phelps, and Cupid was off to Cleveland.

For 8 seasons, Cupid was a terrific second baseman on a star-studded Spiders team that included Cy Young and five other Hall of Famers (Cupid was never selected for Cooperstown, although he is arguably deserving.) Between 1892 and 1897, he hit respectively, .317, .326, .353, .288, .355, and .338. His best season came in 1896, when in addition to his .355 batting average, he produced a .467 on base percentage with 24 doubles and 106 RBI and 106 runs scored. Cupid rarely struck-out, had a keen batting eye, aggressively stole bases and was an excellent defensive player. In '96, he drew 100 walks, striking out only 18 times and recorded 25 stolen bases. He also played for the Spiders in two Temple Cups, the precursor to the modern World Series, both against Baltimore, splitting series in 1895 and 6 against the legendary Oriole teams of the era.

Cupid went on to play in the big leagues in St. Louis and Chicago, but injuries and a bout with malaria which produced lingering effects diminished his ability and led to declining performance. By 1901, he was back in the minors with Toledo and then Jersey City and Syracuse in '02. Oriole great Wilbert Robinson recruited Cupid for Baltimore's Eastern League entry in 1903 (the A.L. Orioles had relocated to New York where they would become the Yankees), but Cupid already had a deal in the Southern League with the Montgomery Legislators in Alabama. In '04, he was back in the New York State League but no record exists of him playing after that year. Cupid's career ended with impressive big league stats. His lifetime on base percentage of .416 is just behind Stan Musial's .417 and is higher than all Hall of Fame second basemen but for Rogers Hornsby and Eddie Collins. He averaged 6.3 chances per game at his position, which puts him #5 on the all-time list.

After his playing days, he returned to Baltimore and worked as a coal driver out of his home at 1800 W. Pratt Street. He died young in 1912 at age 45 at St. Agnes Hospital in southwest Baltimore from Bright's Disease, leaving behind his wife Mary and 8 year-old daughter Ruth. His simple gravestone in Loudon Park Cemetery near St. Agnes reads "Husband Clarence L. Childs Beloved Husband of Mary E. Childs 1867-1912." Baltimore's sad Valentine.

"Cupid" Childs gravestone in Loudon Park Cemetery near
St. Agnes reads "Husband Clarence L. Childs Beloved
Husband of Mary E. Childs 1867-1912."



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.

RPBL is Looking to Field Girls' Team for Local Summer *Tournament*

A national girls' baseball organization, **Baseball For All**, shall be holding their 2021 national tournament at the Ripken complex in Aberdeen. RPBL is looking to field teams composed of girls looking to play this summer. The tournament is scheduled for July 18-22, and its proximity presents an outstanding opportunity for our players. We encourage girls who want to play some tournament baseball this summer to contact us. All skill levels are welcome.

Interested families should contact Matt Fischer (matt.erik.fischer@gmail.com) and Chuck Fancher (chuck.rpbl@gmail.com) for additional information about BFA or the tournament.

2021 Spring Travel Tryout Registration

The 2021 Spring travel team tryouts are open to 9-14 year olds. Go to <http://www.rolandparkbaseball.com/travel-program/>.

PLAY BY THE RULES QUIZ - courtesy of Mark Brody

#1 - A runner on 1st is stealing on the pitch. The batter swings and the ball touches the bat and goes sharply and directly back to the catcher striking the catcher's mask and falls into the catcher's glove. Does the base runner get to stay at second base or does he have to go back to first base? Why?

#2 - A runner is stealing on 1st is stealing on the pitch. The batter swings and the ball touches the bat and goes sharply and directly back to the catcher striking the catcher's mask and he then bobbles the ball forward and the pitcher makes a diving catch on the ball. The pitcher then throws the ball to first base. Is the batter out? Is this a double play? Why? Why not?

#3 - The batting order on the line up card goes Abel, Baker, Charles....all the way down to Jackson batting last. In the first inning, Baker batted first instead of Abel. Abel then followed him in the order and then Charles and everyone else stayed in order. After

Jackson batted, Abel came up to bat. Abel hit a home run and the defense appealed that they were batting out of order. Are they batting out of order? Do they have to stick with the same incorrect order for the game?

Answers to Issue #8 Play by the Rules Quiz

#1 – Yes. Rule 4.06(b) provides that fielders cannot deliberately distract the batter. The penalty is removal from the game, though a warning is typically given first.

#2 – Answer 3 – It's the umpires' judgement as to whether the second baseman had a chance at fielding the ball. If the umpire does not believe the second baseman had a chance, the runner is not out from being hit by the ball.

#3 – Yes. As long as the inning does not end on a force play, runners crossing home before the third out count. Imagine a 6-4-3 double play with bases loaded followed by a tag out at home of the player that started at second base. The runner originally at third scores before the third out. This happened in a Twins-Mariners game on May 27, 2006. In fact the relief pitcher, Juan Rincon, who had just entered the game with bases loaded ended the inning this way having thrown just one pitch.

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