



*Little League.....Big Fun!!*

***HAPPY MOTHERS DAY!***



Thank you to the many mothers of Roland Park Baseball Leagues for your years of coaching teams, mentoring players, serving on our board, and staying to the bitter cold end of early April games and sweaty hot June evenings cheering on our kids. And while we are sad not to be playing baseball, we nonetheless have a beautiful spring day on which to show our appreciation for all you do. Enjoy your day!

## **In this newsletter...**

- Food box distribution to those in need
- Fortnite Tournament
- Baltimore Baseball Bits
- Training with Bret for coaches and players
- What is On and What is Gone (schedule changes and event cancellations due to the COVID-19 pandemic)
- Thank you to the RPBL Sponsors
- Play by the Rules (and answers to last issue's questions)

Enjoy,

Chuck Fancher, 45<sup>th</sup> Commissioner of the Roland Park Baseball Leagues

# Food Distribution Day

Mentioned in a recent last email to the league was an RPBL food distribution event. High demand for the trucks that bring in the boxes of food is forcing us to **postpone** this until later in the month. Information will be posted on our homepage and social media pages once confirmed.

## Fortnite for Food

Jump into the Fortnite for Food tournament organized by our Fall Classic coordinators, Trevor Khouzami and Wyatt Winstead, that is raising funds for the distribution day. More information on that is here: [Fortnite for Food Tournament](#)



### **BALTIMORE BASEBALL BITS**

*by Shawn Boehringer, Trustee Emeritus and former RPBL coach*



### **Sweet Little Buttercup**



With the dogwood, forsythia, tulips, and daffodils in bloom in the Charm City, I remember today a player with the most Springlike of nicknames, Louis Pessano "Buttercup" Dickerson, big league outfielder who played 7 seasons for 8 different clubs from 1878 through 1885.

Dickerson was a decent left-handed hitter, sporting a .284 lifetime batting average. In 1879, he led the National League with 14 triples, and was coined "Sweet Little Buttercup" by a local newspaper after a popular character in the Gilbert and Sullivan musical "H.M.S. Pinafore."

Buttercup was inducted into the National Italian American Sports Hall of Fame and recognized as the first Italian-American in the Big Leagues. Family members, however, dispute the assertion that he had any Italian-American ancestry. His parents were of English or Scottish descent, and his middle name was given to him to honor the doctor (Dr. Pessano) who assisted in his birth in tiny Tyaskin (Population 236 in the 2010 census) in Wicomico County on the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland. His father was an oysterman there.

Buttercup also had a penchant for drinking, and his exploits were chronicled in the press in the cities in which he played. While on a road trip with the St. Louis Maroons in 1884, one of the St. Louis papers reported that Buttercup "disappeared in Baltimore, and has not been heard from since. Meeting many old friends, he yielded to his inclination for strong drink and fell by the wayside."

He did resurface two days after the story, in the lineup for the Baltimore team. He was apparently not one to honor player contracts. In 1885, he signed with an Omaha team in the fledgling Western League, pocketed his \$100 signing bonus, and shuffled off to Buffalo to join the National League's Bisons.

Buttercup eventually settled in Baltimore, where he passed away in 1920. He is laid to rest at the Loudon Park Cemetery on the southwestern edge of the city, a short distance from the former location of the St. Mary's Industrial School for Boys, whose most famous alum was George Herman Ruth, the Babe.



*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](mailto:chuck.rpbl@gmail.com). Topics can be provided, or may be one's own. Material should pertain in some way to youth baseball.*

## Training with Bret

Training videos by Brett Linnenkohl have been dropping in your inbox, a few each week. Brett melds his experience in child psychology with his love of baseball in this series of twenty five short videos specifically designed for parent child practice during this time of isolation. Take a look!

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**1-800-GOT-JUNK?**  
THE WORLD'S LARGEST JUNK REMOVAL SERVICE

## Thank You to Our Sponsors

Thank you to the many sponsors of Roland Park Baseball Leaguers. Their support is needed each season to bring the biggest event in Baltimore youth sports to you with high quality and low cost. In these difficult times, visit their places of business and use their services. Check our homepage at [www.rolandparkbaseball.com](http://www.rolandparkbaseball.com) for a listing of services currently available from these businesses.

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Baltimore Mediation  
Baltimore Trophy House  
BDSC  
Bethany Blues BBQ  
Blue Ridge Sports Cars  
Brady Fischel & Daily, LLC  
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The Local Oyster  
The Quincy Wilson Group -  
Cummings Realtors  
Venable, LLP  
Whiteford Taylor & Preston  
Wicked Sisters  
Woodrow Bar-b-que  
Wright, Constable & Skeen, LLP

## What is On and What is Gone

**Spring Recreation League Baseball:** As of this time no decision has been made concerning play this year. Please fill out our survey if you have not already as this will help guide us in making such decisions. The survey is here: [RPBL Survey](#)

**Travel Baseball:** As of this writing both Baltimore County and Harford County Travel Leagues are intending to play delayed seasons.

**Baseball for All National Tournament:** The all-girls tournament scheduled for Aberdeen, Maryland this summer has been cancelled.

**Cooperstown Tournament:** The weeklong Cooperstown tournament for our 12U team has been cancelled.

With all of these events we will keep you posted as information changes.



#1 - The batter hits a line drive into the right-center field gap. The absent-minded first baseman is standing near his regular position, watching the baseball. As the batter-runner rounds first he nearly runs into the first baseman, but veers around him and proceeds to try for a triple. The first baseman has violated a rule. What is the violation called?

1. blocking
2. interference
3. obstruction
4. posting

#2 - True or False? The first baseman dives to his right to field a sharp ground ball. The pitcher is running down the first base line to cover the bag. The first baseman throws ahead of the pitcher, who is approaching first base with the runner. The pitcher reaches for the throw, but misses it and falls on the first base bag. In attempting to touch the base, the runner steps on the pitcher rather than the base. The runner tumbles past first base. The catcher has backed up the play, and runs the ball over and tags the batter-runner. The batter-runner is out because he failed to touch first.

#3 - The batter hits a deep and high fly ball into the right field corner. The right fielder gets under the ball at the fence, near the foul pole. He is standing on foul territory. The fielder jumps and touches the ball with his glove while the ball is over fair territory. The ball deflects off his glove and travels over the fence on the foul side of the foul pole. Ruling?

1. Home run. The ball was fair and traveled over the home run fence.
2. Foul ball. The fielder was on foul territory when he touched the ball, and the ball was foul when it went over the fence.
3. Ground rule double. The ball was fair but traveled over the fence over foul territory.

#4 - Runner on first (R1), stealing on the pitch. The batter hits a ground ball to the shortstop, who throws to second, but R1 is safe at second. The second baseman then tries to throw out the batter-runner, but the ball gets by the first baseman and goes into the dugout, out of play. Ruling? R1 stays at second, batter-runner stays at first.

1. R1 to third, batter-runner to second.
2. R1 scores, batter-runner to second.
3. R1 scores, batter-runner to third.

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## ***Answers to Issue #6 Play by the Rules Quiz***

Scenario 1:

- A) The umpire won't say anything.
- B) The umpire won't do anything.
- C) The offense will have number 1 come to the plate and he will have a 0-1 count.

Scenario 2:

- A) No he won't.
- B) Batter #2 will bat again.
- C) They should send #3 to bat. Once a pitch is thrown, it is too late to call batting out of order.

Scenario 3:

- A) The umpire would not call anything. The offense would put in Batter #6.
- B) Appeal and tell the umpire that they are batting out of order. The offense should have batted #2 and not #1.

