



Little League.....Big Fun!!

Hello Families of Roland Park Baseball Leagues.

Spring is nearly here and that means **BASEBALL!**

Moreover, the new year brings us a pair of newsletter items that may both be recurring additions. We start with a column by former coach and league trustee, Shawn Boehringer, bringing pieces of baseball history in Baltimore Baseball Bits. We also have an installment of the Play by the Rules Quiz.

In this issue:

- Baltimore Baseball Bits
- RPBL Now on Instagram
- Events for Girls in Baseball
- Spring Recreation League registration is in full swing!
- Play by the Rules

Enjoy,

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

BALTIMORE BASEBALL BITS

by Shawn Boehringer, former RPBL coach and trustee



Foxy Ned



More baseball Hall of Famers - four- are buried in Baltimore's New Cathedral Catholic Cemetery than any other. All 4 managed in the big leagues and three of the four played for the fourth - "Foxy" Ned Hanlon. Hanlon played in the big leagues in Cleveland, Detroit, Pittsburgh, and Baltimore and was known for his aggressive base running and range in centerfield. He managed the National League's Baltimore Orioles from 1892-1898, winning pennants in 3 consecutive years from 1894-'96. Over 5 seasons from '94-'98, he amassed an impressive win-loss record of 446-201. It can be argued persuasively that the greatest baseball team of the nineteenth century had Baltimore as its home. Hanlon went on to

manage the Brooklyn Superbas (later Dodgers) and won NL pennants there in 1899 and 1900.

Hanlon was an innovator - employing what is today called small ball- employing bunts and base stealing to manufacture runs. He is credited as being the first to utilize the hit and run play. He was masterful with personnel matters as well, developing and improving the games of John McGraw and Wilbert Robinson and executing trades for Wee Willie Keeler, Hughie Jennings, Joe Kelley, and Kid Gleason which brought championships to the Charm City.

After his career as a big league manager, Hanlon bought a share of the Baltimore Terrapins in the upstart Federal League. After the collapse of the league in 1915 and dissatisfied with the treatment of the Baltimore club in the buy-out of Federal League teams by the American and National Leagues, the Terrapins brought a lawsuit against Major League Baseball challenging its anti-trust exemption. A significant judgment obtained by the Baltimore club in the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia was overturned on appeal and later affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court in a decision authored by Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. who ruled that baseball could not be considered interstate commerce and be regulated by the feds. The decision stands today. Hanlon's involvement in the case is blamed for preventing what should have been an automatic induction into the HOF. Remarkably, Hanlon was not enshrined in Cooperstown until 1996.

Originally from Connecticut, Hanlon settled in Baltimore and served on the Baltimore City Board of Park Commissioners for 21 years, which included a term as Board Chairman. Hanlon's son tragically died in combat on the Western Front in France during World War I and Hanlon Park in West Baltimore is named for him. Hanlon died in Baltimore on April 14, 1937.

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.

Roland Park Baseball is on Instagram

Many of you may know [Roland Park Baseball Leagues](#) Facebook page. We have now added to that a league Instagram feed [here](#). Photos may be submitted to baseballpics26@gmail.com.

GirlPower Baseball Clinic

Saturday, February 22 from 4pm – 6pm

The Weinberg Y in Waverly
900 E. 33rd St, Baltimore, MD 21218

For more information visit [GirlPower Clinic](#).

This fun, positive, and upbeat afternoon is for girls interested in brushing up on their skills and for those new to baseball. The clinic will be run by players of the [Baltimore Blues](#).



Baseball For All National Tournament

**Baseball for All
National
tournament**

Aberdeen,
Maryland

July 26-30, 2020

Baseball for All is the largest girls baseball tournament in the U.S. and it will be holding competition at the Tee Ball, 8U, 10U, 12U, 14U, and 18U levels. Roland Park Baseball will be organizing teams to enter the Tee Ball, 8U, and 10U brackets, and holding open the possibility of more pending interest. More information will be available at the GirlPower clinic (also in this newsletter), in future newsletters, or by email to Chuck Fancher at chuck.rpbl@gmail.com.



*Belvedere
Square*



1-800-GOT-JUNK?



In addition to our participants, parents and team sponsors, our special league sponsors get an assist for helping us keep the league fun. Thanks to them, thanks to you!!

Spring Recreation League registration is open!

Registration is open until February 16

To register, please go to www.rolandparkbaseball.com/registration/.

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 or the banner of an RPBL Rangers travel team with your name or logo.

Discount Weekend at Dick's Sporting Goods

Once again Dick's Sporting Goods is offering 20% on **February 29 through March 1** to Roland Park Baseball families. Look for the coupon information on the RPBL homepage to appear soon.

Coming Events for the RPBL Spring Recreation Baseball Season

- Coaches Clinics **February 25 & February 29**
- Picture Day **March 7**
- Opening Day **March 28**

For more information on sponsorships go to www.rolandparkbaseball.com/team-sponsorship/ or write to Roland Park Baseball at rolandparkbaseball@gmail.com.

Thinking about coaching? You should!

Do you find yourself at a loss for things to do each spring? Here is a RPBL secret: as a parent of a Roland Park Baseball League player, you are **already** qualified to try your hand at *coaching!* RPBL welcomes one and all.

Each spring RPBL needs two or three coaches and assistant coaches - sometimes 6 for Tee Ball - to fill out our teams, and as always, the parents of RPBL step up to the challenge, many of them coaching a team in any sport for the first time. We offer clinics in the early spring, meetings with league coordinators, and a plethora of other information to get you into form by Opening Day. If you are interested, please indicate this when registering your child, or email me directly at chuck.rpbl@gmail.com.

Play by the Rules Quiz

- 1) True or false? "Tie goes to the runner."
- 2) Harry jumps out of the way of an inside pitch, but the ball crunches his fingers holding the bat. What is the call?
- 3) Tommy the Pilot hits a slow roller to short with Eddie on third with two out. The shortstop throws wildly in a rush sending the ball past the first baseman. Tommy,

crossing first and running into foul territory, sees the ball get away and so steps toward second before noticing the right fielder backing up the play. Without crossing into fair territory, he jogs toward first. However, the right fielder tosses the ball to the first baseman who tags Tommy. Is Tommy out? Does Eddie (running on contact) score?

4) Strangely, at that same moment Henry, Tommy's wise older brother, playing for the Ravens in a game against the Cavaliers, finds himself trying to beat out his own slow roller with two out in the bottom of the last inning. He beats the throw to first, but fails to actually touch first as he charges by. The umpire calls him safe, and he circles back to the base. Play continues and Henry scores when the next batter Marshall slams a game winning home run. What *should* have happened?

5) The Cubs are playing the Rams in the playoff final, trailing 3-2. Cub Ben is on third, Katrina on first, and Landon at the plate with one out when the Cub's coach calls for a suicide squeeze. (Ben is running on the pitch.) Landon pops the bunt high to the Ram's pitcher. Because of the squeeze, Ben quickly reaches home. However the pitcher seeing Katrina off her base too, tosses the ball leisurely to the first baseman to complete the double play. Both teams leave the field. What is the score, and why?

Answers in the next addition of the RPBL Newsletter.
