



Little League.....Big Fun!!

Hello Families of Roland Park Baseball Leagues,

While actual baseball play has disappeared for the moment, RPBL continues on. Of special note in this issue are the many sponsors that make us the finest experience in Baltimore youth sports year in and year out. If you visit one of these establishments or use their services, please remember to thank them for their support of Roland Park Baseball.

In this issue:

- Baltimore Baseball Bits
- Training with Bret for coaches and players
- Our Sponsors
- Roland Park Baseball on Instagram
- Update on the RPBL spring season
- Play by the Rules (and answers to last issue's questions)

Enjoy,

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



BALTIMORE BASEBALL BITS

by Shawn Boehringer, former RPBL coach and trustee



Young Campy



One of the greatest all-time catchers, Roy Campanella had close connections to Philadelphia and Baltimore. He grew up in the Germantown and Nicetown neighborhoods of North Philly, attending Simon Gratz High. A PA historical marker outside of Gratz honors his memory. The Phillies blew a chance to sign him when they cancelled his work-out after ascertaining his race- Campy's father's parents were Sicilian immigrants to the U.S. and his mother was

African-American. He established himself as one of the game's best catchers in Baltimore, where he played for the Negro League's Elite Giants from 1938 to 1942 and again in '44 and '45 after a stint in the Mexican League. He led Baltimore to the Negro National League pennant in '39 hitting a gaudy .353.

Branch Rickey provided him the opportunity to play in the big leagues in Brooklyn, and he took full advantage, making his Dodger debut in 1948, and earning the starting catcher spot in '49. During his 10 seasons as a Dodger catcher between '48 and '57, the Dodgers won 5 NL pennants with Campy taking league MVP honors in three seasons- 1951, 1953, and 1955- the season the Dodgers won their only World Series title in Brooklyn. He also was named all-star 8 times. In his three MVP seasons, he hit .300 and averaged 30+ homers and 100+ RBI per season.

Campanella's playing career effectively ended on January 28, 1958, the winter before the Dodgers' first year in LA, when his car skidded on a patch of ice, struck a telephone pole, and overturned as he was returning to his Long Island home after closing his Harlem liquor store. The accident damaged his spinal chord and left him paralyzed. He used a wheelchair to meet his mobility needs for the remainder of his life.

After his playing career ended, Campy continued working for the Dodgers as scout, in community relations, and as Spring Training instructor in Vero Beach. He was inducted into Cooperstown in 1969 and passed away after a heart attack in 1993. He still holds the MLB record for catchers for caught stealing percentage, impressively gunning down over 57% of runners trying to steal on him and his Dodger battery mates. By contrast, the current leader in that statistical category among active catchers is the great Yadier Molina of St. Louis, who throws out runners just over 40% of the time.

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.

Training with Bret

During this hiatus from active play, keep your skills sharp as player and coach. Bret Linnenkohl, longtime friend of RPBL and founder of Impact Sports will, starting in April, release videos on specific baseball skills that may be done just by player and parent. Additionally, he will hold webinars each week with coaches and parents to answer their questions. Look for the TeamSnap mailing announcing this great opportunity.

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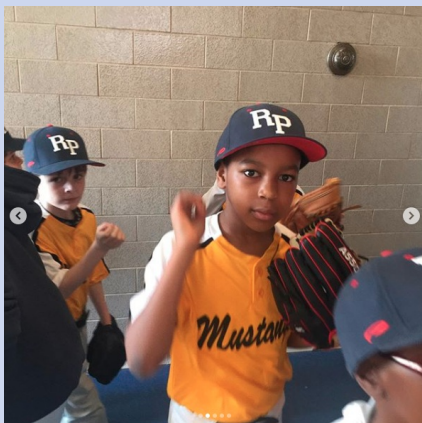
needed each season to bring the biggest event in Baltimore youth sports to you with high quality and low cost. In these difficult times, visit their places of business and use their services

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[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.



Picture Day

On March 7th, 59 teams assembled for photos on Picture Day 2020! Once again it was another great day at the School of the Cathedral. Thank you to Galeone Photographers and the Cooperstown 12U Team for making this go so well!

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.



As with our own season, the status of this tournament is to be determined as more information is known.



Update on the Spring Recreation League

As of this writing the RPBL in-house and travel baseball seasons have been suspended. Please be patient. Updates will continue to be posted to our website. As of now Opening Day has been postponed.

PLAY BY THE RULES QUIZ

contributed by Mark Brody, RPBL coach

When I started coaching, it occurred to me that it probably makes sense to understand

the rules of baseball. So, I went ahead and did something crazy. I read the rule book. Sure, we all understand the basic rules, but as coaches, there are some things that are not every day occurrences, but are critical to know.

The most common issue that isn't understood is the rules concerning batting out of order. Therefore, this quiz is only about that one issue.

Try to answer this quiz without looking at the explanation of the rule. Afterwards, read the explanation and try again. What you'll see is that this rule is only confusing because most people have never read the rule.

You will get the answers in the next issue of the newsletter. This quiz is true for major league baseball and all levels of Roland Park Baseball.

Scenario 1: Batter #1 is supposed to be up. Batter #2 comes to the plate. A pitch is thrown for a strike.

- A) If the umpire notices, what is he supposed to do?
- B) The defense notices that the wrong batter is up. They bring it to the attention of the umpire. What does the umpire do?
- C) When this is brought to the attention of the offense, what does the offense do?

Scenario 2: Batter #1 is supposed to be up. Batter #2 comes to the plate. Batter #2 gets out.

- A) Will the umpire say anything if he notices that the wrong batter got the hit?
- B) If the defense notices that Batter #2 was the wrong batter and brings it to the attention of the umpire, he will call an out. If this happens, what batter should then bat for the offense?
- C) If the defense does not notice or does not say anything, but the offense does realize that the wrong batter got out, what should they do? In other words, what batter should they send to the plate?

Scenario 3: Batter #1 is supposed to be up. Batter #5 comes to the plate. Batter #5 gets a hit.

- A) Nobody notices. Batter #1 comes to the plate. A pitch is thrown for a strike. What would the umpire do if the defense notices that they are batting out of order? What would the offense do?
- B) The defense notices that they were batting out of order. The umpire calls the out. Batter #1 comes to bat. He gets a hit. What should the defense do?

Do you think that you know the answers? Not sure? Read an explanation and then try again.

Batting out of order made simple:

- 1) This will only be called on appeal after the at-bat is complete. At any time during the at-bat, it can be rectified by putting in the correct batter. There is no out. The correct batter will then bat and assume the count of the incorrect batter.
- 2) If the incorrect batter bats and the play is appealed after the at-bat, it is not the incorrect batter who is out. The player who was supposed to bat is the one who is called out.
- 3) If the incorrect batter bats and there is no appeal, the incorrect batter becomes the correct batter as soon as another play takes place.

Answers to Issue #5 Play by the Rules Quiz

1) False In baseball, there are no ties. The rule does state that if the ball beats the runner, the runner is out. If the runner beats the ball, he is safe. So, if it is a tie, it really goes to the defense and not the offense.

2) No baby was ever born with a bat in his hands. Therefore, as an umpire you must

judge if the ball hit the bat or the batter first.

3) Tommy is out. Being in foul territory makes no difference here. The intent to go to second, however fleeting, negates the protection afforded to a runner overrunning first. The run however, does count. All force outs (none in this case) were resolved, so this becomes a “timed” play. Eddie (running on contact) most likely crossed the plate before Tommy was tagged out.

4) There was nothing “wrong” with what happened, even the umpire’s call was correct because Henry beat the throw. However, the Cavaliers could have appealed the call at first (had the pitcher toss the ball to the first baseman at first base after the play had ended), at which point the umpire would call Henry out for missing the base. The Ravens would have lost. Know what calls must be appealed to be enforced!

5) The score is tied 3-3. Despite failing to tag up, Ben was never put out. He could have been out through appeal, but the Rams failed to ask for an appeal before all infielders and the pitcher crossed the foul line on their way to the dugout. Note also, that doubling up a runner on a caught fly ball is not a “force” play, but a “time” play, therefore the order of Ben’s scoring and the putout on Katrina matters. Had the Rams appealed Ben’s early departure (referred to as the “fourth out”) it would be their option to choose which out, Ben’s or Katrina’s ended the inning. Selecting Ben’s would have negated the run.

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