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## FOR FAMILY ★ FOR COUNTRY

For four Midshipmen, the Army-Navy game has a far greater meaning,  
as their commitment to serve comes from those closest to them

BY STEVE JONES ★ PAGE 10



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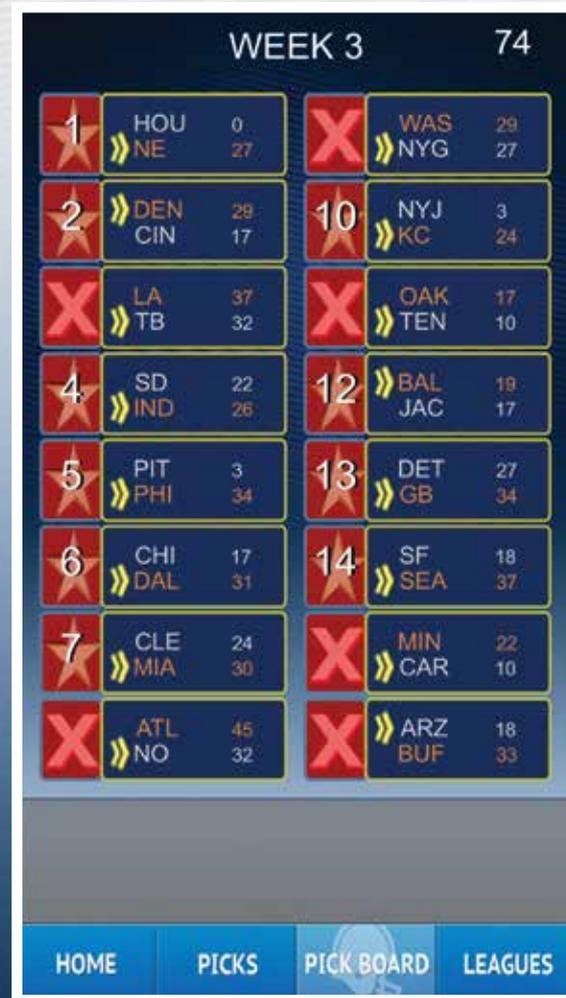
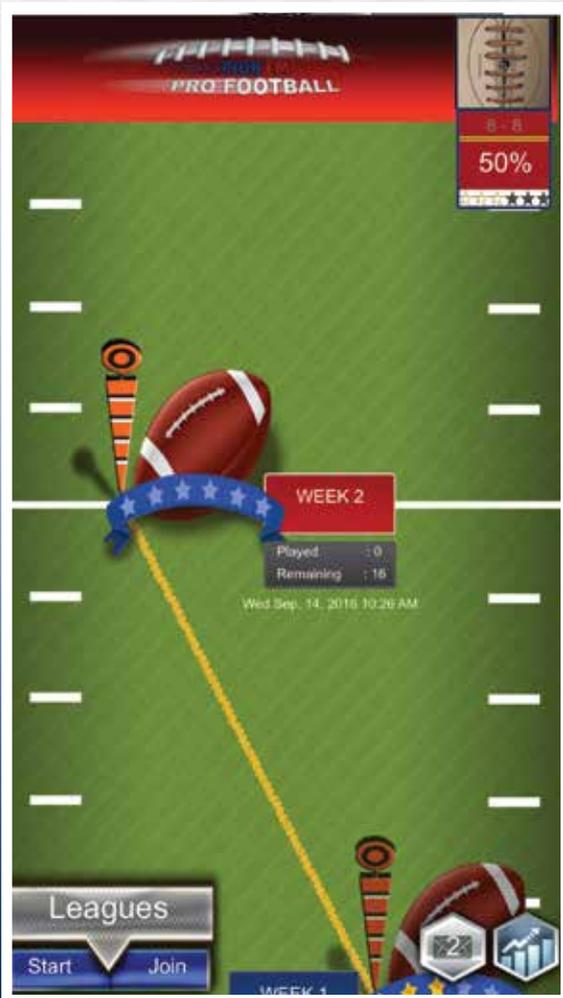
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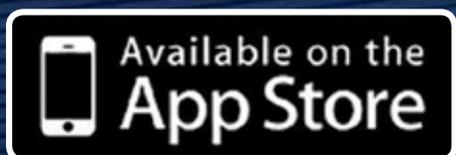
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## ONE FAN'S OPINION

# Only Guarantee In Birdland Is Cost Of Business Going Up

★ STAN "THE FAN" CHARLES

**U**sually, when I sit down and write, I know from the outset what the middle and end of the story will look like. I guess when your main point is rather obvious and simple -- "the Orioles' cost of business is soaring" -- readers can go, "Duh?" at just about any time.

However, that doesn't change the fact that this column's recited numbers are pretty staggering.

In November 2011, executive vice president of baseball operations Dan Duquette took over an Orioles team that, throughout a number of regimes overseen by majority owner Peter Angelos, had just endured its 14th consecutive season of sub-.500 baseball. Rightfully so, the now-president of baseball operations of the Philadelphia Phillies, Andy MacPhail, deserves some credit for positioning the club's roster to be ready for some smart tweaking by Duquette, some brilliant managing by Buck Showalter and some winning.

Starting with Duquette's 2012 team and going through the recently concluded 2016 season, the home team in Baltimore has won 444 regular-season games, which is an average of 88.8 per season. During this five-year run, the Orioles made the postseason three times (2012, 2014 and 2016).

So with improved play, you'd expect a solid upswing in attendance, right? Using any index, the Orioles have certainly been received significantly better by the fanbase since Duquette (and the winning) started. The 2006-2010 seasons saw the Orioles average 1.9 million in attendance per year. From Duquette's first season through 2016, the Orioles have drawn 11.3 million fans, which comes out to an average of 2.2 million per season, or 360,856 more fans on a yearly basis.

Where this gets really interesting is when you judge that fan increase of 360,856 against the increase in player compensation throughout that time period and try to project where this is all headed.

In 2011, the Orioles payroll was \$86,942,583. The two highest-paid Orioles that season were right fielder Nick Markakis (\$10.6 million) and second baseman Brian Roberts (\$10 million). In fact, these two players were the only two with eight figures in their yearly com-

ensation.

Fast forward to 2016, and the Orioles had five players earning eight figures -- first baseman Chris Davis (\$21.1 million), center fielder Adam Jones (\$16 million), catcher Matt Wieters (\$15.8 million), starter Ubaldo Jimenez (\$13 million) and shortstop J.J. Hardy (\$12.5 million). Two others -- outfielder/designated hitter Mark Trumbo and right-hander Yovani Gallardo -- topped \$9 million, as the club's payroll soared well above \$145 million.

So while some fans are surprised or upset about the club's refusal to extend the \$17.2 million qualifying offer to Wieters, it's really no surprise when viewed in the context of a near-runaway escalation of the Orioles' payroll.

Don't think that describes it accurately? Then let's look at the way 2017 is shaping up, shall we?

As we stand now, the Orioles have eight players under contract for next season, and an additional nine players (seven if you ignore utility man Ryan Flaherty's \$1.5 million and reliever T.J. McFarland's \$700,000) are arbitration eligible. Since the top seven arbitration-eligible players are key players, let's tally those two groups and see where we are (with nine players still left to sign).

### UNDER CONTRACT FOR 2017

**Chris Davis -- \$21,118,782**  
**Adam Jones -- \$16 million**  
**J.J. Hardy -- \$14 million**  
**Ubaldo Jimenez -- \$13.5 million**  
**Yovani Gallardo -- \$11 million**  
**Wade Miley -- \$8.75 million**  
**Darren O'Day -- \$7 million**  
**Hyun-Soo-Kim -- \$4.2 million**  
**Total Committed: \$95,568,782**

### KEY ARBITRATION-ELIGIBLE PLAYERS FOR 2017

(FROM MLBTRADERUMORS.COM'S ARBITRATION PROJECTION MODEL)

**Zach Britton -- \$11.4 million**  
**Manny Machado -- \$11.2 million**  
**Chris Tillman -- \$10.6 million**  
**Kevin Gausman -- \$3.9 million**  
**Jonathan Schoop -- \$3.4 million**  
**Brad Brach -- \$2.9 million**  
**Caleb Joseph -- \$1 million**  
**Total Arbitration Commitment: \$44.4 million**

As you can see, combining those two totals, with nine players still left to add to the Opening Day roster, the Orioles are sitting at almost \$140 million. That is only about \$7 million behind a year ago. Of those nine players left to add, four of them are starter Dylan Bundy, relievers Mychal Givens and Donnie Hart and outfielder Joey Rickard, who will probably combine to add about \$3 million more.

With those players added, you see the Orioles' payroll at roughly \$142 million while needing five more players.

Who will those five players wind up being? Well, that's where you hope ownership is motivated enough to invest well in-excess of their 2016 compensation. That brings us back to the bump in attendance between 2011 and now. Angelos knows full well the heady days of 1996-2001 are gone.

That was a six-year period where he remained the only game in both Washington, D.C., and Baltimore. Those were the days when Oriole Park at Camden Yards was still a fascination across the nation, the club was highly competitive during the 1996 and 1997 seasons, and you had Cal Ripken Jr. still helping to draw fans. During that six-season span, the Orioles drew a total of 20.8 million fans. That's an average of 3.4 million per season.

Now, the Washington Nationals are firmly entrenched just 45 miles from Camden Yards, and the Orioles were non-competitive for the first decade of the 21st century. The club has more modest designs when it comes to attendance. Nobody from the front office would ever state this publicly, but if attendance could get back into the 2.5-2.7 million range, that would suit them just fine.

Who those last five players are will largely determine whether the Orioles can seriously contend in 2017. They may just be chosen based upon how confident ownership is in their ability to help attract those extra 350,000-450,000 fans.

One thing is for certain, and the owner will of course take this into consideration too, failing to contend just might tip the scales toward another downward attendance trend.

If you are a betting man, it seems Angelos still has to wager on the upswing Duquette and Showalter started in 2012. That could translate into a payroll somewhere around \$160 million. ☒

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PressBox is a free publication distributed every month on the 15th in the Baltimore metropolitan area. Printed by Engle Printing & Publishing Company, EngleOnline.com

## Juan Dixon Takes Lessons From Maryland To UDC Head Coaching Job

**J**uan Dixon had an outstanding high school career as a guard at Calvert Hall in Baltimore. After that, he led Maryland to a national championship and went on to play seven seasons in the NBA.

Now, he's ready to face his next basketball challenge -- being a collegiate head coach.

The University of the District of Columbia named Dixon its women's basketball coach in mid-October, giving the 38-year-old his first college head coaching job. He took over just a few weeks before the Firebirds began the 2016-17 season, but that's not bothering Dixon.

"I feel like it was meant to be," Dixon said. "I feel like it was meant to happen. This is my dream. I'm going to be sure to do it at a high level. I'm here to lead, to teach, to mentor and to help prepare for life."

Those are the thoughts director of athletics Patricia Thomas expressed when announcing Dixon's hiring a few weeks ago.

"There is no question Juan Dixon will take our women's basketball program to the next level," she said. "His tremendous success as a student-athlete -- as well as professionally -- combined with his respect for the development of students, supports our goals. I am excited about the opportunity to work with Juan."

Dixon comes to UDC after serving as a special assistant to Maryland men's head coach Mark Turgeon for the past three seasons. His contract was not renewed after the 2015-16 season, which opened the door for this job after former UDC head coach DeWayne Burroughs left to take over the same role at his alma mater, Coppin State.

"This is an outstanding opportunity for Juan," Turgeon said. "He has a great knowledge, passion and understanding of the game. All his experience in both the college and professional game will help in developing him into a good basketball coach. Juan is a strong communicator and will have a very bright future."

At Maryland, Dixon worked among Turgeon's staff on game plans and strategies at both ends of the floor, and he helped a number of players. He viewed his time at Maryland as a learning opportunity for growing into a head coach and understanding what is needed to run a program. He had high

praise for Turgeon.

"It prepared me more than anything else I've experienced in life," Dixon said. "I learned from one of the best coaches in the country how to run a program. He's just a great man. He's just a great family man. He cares about his kids."

Dixon said he learned the importance of treating players with dignity and care. Turgeon did a lot of small things that caught Dixon's attention. For example, when the team traveled, Turgeon made sure the players went to nice restaurants to eat, and not just grab a sandwich somewhere.

"He made it about his players," Dixon said. "He came from an amazing coaching tree. It goes on and on."

Dixon will use the players-first philosophy on his UDC teams. He wants his players to have fun while learning about basketball and life.

It's important to Dixon to teach about both because the games will end one day, so players need to learn lessons they can carry with them off the basketball court.

"Every day, it's all about their success. It's all about their development," he said. "And I'm not saying I'm right all the time. I feel as though I've learned, it's not about the coach, it's about the players. We teach at a high level. Our message is getting through while they're having a ton of fun."

Dixon knows how to play the game while having a ton of fun. That often happened, since he found so much success on the court.

He's still the all-time leading scorer at Maryland (2,269 points), and a bunch of those points came while leading the Terps to their only national title during 2001-02 season. Dixon was named the Most Outstanding Player in the 2002 NCAA Final Four as well as ACC Player of the Year.

Dixon twice earned All-America honors, three first-team All-ACC selections as well as two berths on the All-ACC Tournament teams.

The Washington Wizards picked Dixon in the first round of the 2002 NBA Draft (No. 17 overall), and the guard played with them for three years before signing with Portland, Toronto, Detroit and returning to D.C. one last time in 2008-09.

Dixon said he'll likely have some similarities to the coach he's best known for playing for -- Hall of Famer Gary Williams. He joked he won't sweat through his suits on the sidelines like Williams but is looking forward to doing the job his former coach did so well for so long.

"I'm very blessed and very fortunate to have played for a Hall of Fame coach who understood what it took to be successful," Dixon said. "He understands what it took to grind and work and work hard. I'm going to follow in the same footsteps. I'm going to grind, and I'm loving my experience working with the young ladies at UDC."

-- JEFF SEIDEL

## Local Fund Helps Cancer Patients Realize Soccer Dreams

Craig Willinger had a pretty average life for a Baltimore student-athlete. He grew up in Baltimore's Highlandtown, kicking a soccer ball. He watched Italian and Greek teams on TV with friends and became a fan of Bayern Munich, a nod to his German heritage.

He went on to play for Mario Scilipoti at Archbishop Curley. And after a college career playing for CCBC, Salisbury and



St. Francis, he settled down in Baltimore to start a family and became a real estate agent.

However, when Willinger was diagnosed with terminal leukemia at the age of 37 in 2007, the love of his life, Johanna Agueda, gave him advice.

"I told him to do what he loved and stop worrying about himself," she said. "I knew it would involve soccer."

Agueda was attending an event in Fells Point in 2008 where she met Liverpool supporter and soccer writer Darren Rudham. More than anything, Willinger wished he could see his favorite team play.

"The Ravens, that got the whole thing started," Rudham said. "It was a meet-and-greet in Fells Point with ex-coach Brian Billick. I went back to the Liverpool Supporters Group I was a part of, and after a brief conversation, we decided to put our collective efforts towards getting Willinger to Germany to see Bayern Munich play."

Willinger had rarely traveled out of Maryland, so Rudham's fundraising efforts garnered support for Agueda to travel with Willinger to Munich.

"It was the trip of a lifetime -- the city and the people were beautiful," Agueda said. "We didn't have seats together, and the fans quickly fixed that. He was never tired, despite his condition. He was a different person. Craig told me, 'I want to do this for other people.' He found his legacy."

Dedicated to sending cancer patients to see their favorite soccer teams, the Craig Willinger Fund (CWF) was born. Willinger contacted Rudham and his Baltimore Reds fan club and also utilized his vast Rolodex of contacts. In 2010, CWF had its first honoree -- Katy Hudson, a Hodgkins lymphoma survivor who traveled with her father to watch the United States in the World Cup in South Africa.

"Craig found people," Agueda said. "He was called, 'The Mayor of Highlandtown.' We created a 501(c)(3). He got someone to donate a website. Now, the teams are starting to get involved."

The CWF quickly spread beyond Baltimore when *Sports Illustrated* writer Grant Wahl mentioned it on a website in 2010. After reading of the CWF's mission, Jordyn Farrell's father encouraged her to share her survival story. An Atlanta resident, Farrell was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. She flew to Barcelona to watch FC Barcelona play Villarreal. There, she met her idol, forward Lionel Messi.

"The Craig Willinger Fund affected me profoundly, giving me the best day I think I will ever have in my entire life, with an emotional high that could have reached the top of the Camp Nou stadium," Farrell said. "On the exact same day, a year before that high, I had reached a whole new low that came with my cancer treatment. CWF showed me that for even the lowest low, there is an equally tall high."

Craig Willinger passed away in 2012 after complications from a bone marrow transplant, and Agueda worried the fund would disappear. With a dedicated board of directors that included Rudham, it began to thrive in the aftermath. Eleven cancer survivors from Texas, Missouri, Pennsylvania and Iowa have enjoyed trips to see their favorite teams.

Zach Bach, from Richmond, Va., was diagnosed with cancer in his arm the same day he made his varsity high school soccer team. He had a golf-ball-sized tumor removed and endured a year of chemotherapy. Agueda and Bach went to see his favorite team, Real Madrid, play in 2013. After meeting the



COURTESY OF UDC

Juan Dixon

team and touring the stadium, Bach declared it the best day of his life before seeing the game. Agueda worked some magic and finagled a special meeting with star forward Cristiano Ronaldo.

"Ronaldo was amazing," Agueda said. "Contrary to everything you read about him, he asked Zach questions and was very attentive. Something happens to the honorees when they are on the trips. Zach couldn't use his arm because of the surgery, and he was so happy he jumped up and grabbed a pole on the subway."

In September, the first accredited Baltimore FootGolf course was named after Willinger in Carroll Park. There's an exciting "premiere" trip planned for 2017.

"I get to honor Craig this way," Agueda said. "The donation goes straight into funding the trips. When you go into an international football stadium, everyone is connected to that game. It makes people happy."

Rudham remembers how people would "light up" when Willinger stopped and answered questions for anyone going through chemotherapy.

"Even with those that love you around going through it with you, battling cancer can be an incredibly lonely journey, and one that many want to forget when they have gone through it. Craig would dive into it and lift people when they needed it most," Rudham said. "It's one of the reasons he was so tireless in his efforts for the fund -- to give those who were battling something to look forward to, to raise them up."

-- DEAN SMITH

## PressBox, GBMC Honor Dulaney Allied Soccer Player Sean Herrin

PressBox and GBMC have teamed up to honor one high school student-athlete each month who demonstrates sportsmanship, school spirit, hard work and dedication with the Un-

sung Hero of the Month award. The latest honoree is Dulaney High School Allied soccer player Sean Herrin.

Herrin, a senior, serves as a peer assistant and player on the Allied soccer team. Established by the Baltimore County Public School Office of Athletics in 1994, Allied Sports is a co-ed program created to give students with disabilities an opportunity to play on sports teams. The program features soccer in the fall, bowling in the winter and indoor softball in the spring. The Allied program's teams consist of special education and general education students.

Herrin first got involved with the program during his junior year when he participated in bowling and softball, and then he played soccer this fall.

Dulaney High School Allied soccer head coach Anita Shaw nominated Herrin for the October Unsung Hero of the Month award because he's "dependable, kind, and goes above and beyond the call of duty."

"Sean was taking so much initiative in just being willing to put himself out there at all the practices and looking to help the kids whenever he could," Shaw said. "[He was] stepping onto the field and looking for opportunities to just really get the ball to these kids in the game, so that they could have the most fun. ... Any job that needs to be done, he's there doing it."

Herrin's selfless attitude is what makes him a strong Allied teammate. Shaw said many of the soccer volunteers go "out of their way to make life great for someone else."

"If I felt like it, I could go join the actual soccer team, or I could go try out for basketball, or something like that," Herrin said. "Whereas these kids aren't given that opportunity. ... I like to give these guys as much of a chance [as possible], because they've been working hard in practices. They've been looking forward to this all summer, and I like to give them as much time with the ball as they can get."

Sean's dedication goes far beyond his abilities on the soccer field, as he's forged genuine friendships with his teammates. Herrin, a Connecticut native and Boston sports fan, is frequently paired with Brian Duffy on the field, and the pair often talk, or argue, about sports. And then there's goalie Katie Eppler, who Shaw said Herrin supports unwaveringly.



Sean Herrin and Anita Shaw

"There does have to be a pretty compassionate heart to do what they're doing," Shaw said. "... I see [Sean] looking out for these kids. I see him talking to them in a game. I see him pointing and even gently guiding them into the right spaces on the field. I see him encouraging them, going and giving them high-fives. Even when we get scored on, he's the first one to run back ... to tell her, 'Heads up, Katie. You'll get the next one.'"

And even during Herrin's humble acceptance of the award, he didn't go without acknowledging his teammates on the Allied soccer team who work just as hard.

"Honestly, any one of the kids on the team could have gotten the award just as much as I could have," Herrin said. "It's a really, really great honor to be given this."

For Shaw, who spends her time making sure the Allied sports participants are given opportunities and are put in a position to succeed, Herrin's unwavering support is what keeps her going.

"I want to inspire them that this will really be a meaningful experience and something that they will not forget for the rest of their life and that they will learn a great deal from," Shaw said. "And I feel like Sean has kind of embraced that and is really looking to see what he can learn and what he can give. It really is a joy to see, a joy to watch."

-- KYLE OTTENHEIMER

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## Under Armour Hits Home Run With New MLB Deal

★ ED WALDMAN



or Kevin Plank and Under Armour, becoming the official uniform supplier to one of the major professional sports leagues in the United States had been the

Holy Grail.

They tried to get the National Football League deal for 2012 but lost to bitter rival Nike in 2010.

Nike also beat out Under Armour for the NBA contract that starts next season, and Adidas will outfit NHL teams starting in 2017-18.

So it was a monumental victory for the Baltimore-based company to secure Major League Baseball rights, starting with the 2020 season.

But it might be an even bigger deal for MLB.

Majestic Athletic has been supplying

MLB with uniforms (made at a facility near Easton, Pa.) since 2005. And while Majestic is a solid company that makes a solid product, it doesn't have anywhere near the panache of Under Armour.



"What Under Armour brings to Major League Baseball is brand strength and a relevance that the previous licensee

"WHAT UNDER ARMOUR BRINGS TO MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL IS BRAND STRENGTH AND A RELEVANCE THAT THE PREVIOUS LICENSEE DID NOT HAVE."

- HOWE BURCH, PRESIDENT OF BALTIMORE-BASED TBC ADVERTISING

did not have," Howe Burch, president of Baltimore-based TBC Advertising, said.

"People were buying the name of the team or player. The brand was incidental," added Burch, who was also the former vice president of U.S. marketing for Reebok International and senior vice president for marketing communications and sports marketing at Fila. "Under Armour provides added value as a performance brand. I think it's really good for Major League Baseball. They would much rather be affiliated with a brand that has cache than one that is obscure. Nobody knows who Majestic is."

In addition, Under Armour's paid endorsers have notoriety. And while the

Lukas said he's not worried about Under Armour-designed baseball uniforms also causing a virtual stir.

"I don't think the New York Yankees are going to look radically different 10 years from now, no matter who the uniform outfitter is," Lukas said. "I don't think the Chicago Cubs are going to look radically different 10 years from now, no matter who the uniform outfitter is."

"I could be wrong. But, ultimately, it's up to those teams. It's not up to the commissioner's office, and it's certainly not up to Under Armour. Under Armour can only do what it's permitted or asked to do."

Under Armour, he stressed, will be a vendor serving the desires of the 30 MLB teams, and some may actually want something completely different.

"This year, the Arizona Diamondbacks went with a completely different look -- whether you call it innovative or ridiculous or however you want to assess it," Lukas said. "But it certainly was a very different kind of look. And they did that with Majestic. They didn't need Under Armour to do that."

Lukas recalled the uproar when, not long after the Nike-NFL deal was announced in 2010, sketches of proposed designs for the company's "Pro Combat" uniforms were leaked. They were, to put it one way, clearly inspired by what Nike did for the University of Oregon football team.

Turned out most NFL teams didn't want to become Oregon.

Nike has done makeovers for a few teams, Lukas said, "but I don't think the pace of makeovers has accelerated -- or is any different -- under Nike than it was in the previous decade under Reebok. It's just the normal order of things that some teams occasionally get a redesign."

"I think that most people would agree that the NFL, except on Thursday nights, still looks largely like it did, or is in a place of somewhat predictable progression from where it had been no matter who the outfitter was."

We almost certainly won't be seeing Major League Baseball uniforms that are reminiscent of the 1999's "Turn Ahead The Clock" days, which saw teams wear uniforms that supposedly represented what might be worn in 2021.

But we might see throwback uniforms that actually look like they belonged in 1970 or before. Under Armour has developed a faux-flannel product it calls "Legend Gray" that has the look of retro road uniforms.

Lukas, as you might suspect, loves them, but wonders how big the fans' appetite for seeing flannel uniforms is.

"It's worth remembering that there's at least one, and arguably two, generations of baseball fans who don't even remember or understand or care that baseball uniforms were once flannel," he said. "... It would certainly be good for some throwbacks." ☒

company doesn't have a ton of baseball players, the ones it does have are pretty high profile: Washington Nationals outfielder Bryce Harper, Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Clayton Kershaw, Miami Marlins second baseman Dee Gordon, San Diego Padres outfielder Wil Myers and Cincinnati Reds second baseman Brandon Phillips.

Anyone who has watched an Orioles game, or a San Francisco Giants game, has seen the Under Armour logo on nearly every pitch, emblazoned on the gear of catchers Matt Wieters and Buster Posey.

Point being, even though Plank established the foundation of the company with football, Under Armour has baseball experience.

Nearly everyone in Maryland knows what Under Armour has done to raise the sartorial profile of the University of Maryland's football team, which Plank played for in the mid-1990s.

It started in 2011 when the Terps wore Under Armour-designed uniforms that were supposed to look like the state flag during a game against the University of Miami. The fierce reactions -- both pro and con -- nearly broke the internet. Since then, they have worn "Maryland Pride" uniforms and uniforms designed to pay homage to the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Baltimore.

Paul Lukas is probably the preeminent uniform expert in the country. He writes a monthly column on uniforms for ESPN.com, and his uni-watch.com website is a must-see for anyone who cares about what teams are wearing.

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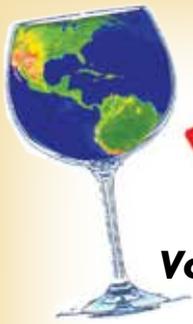
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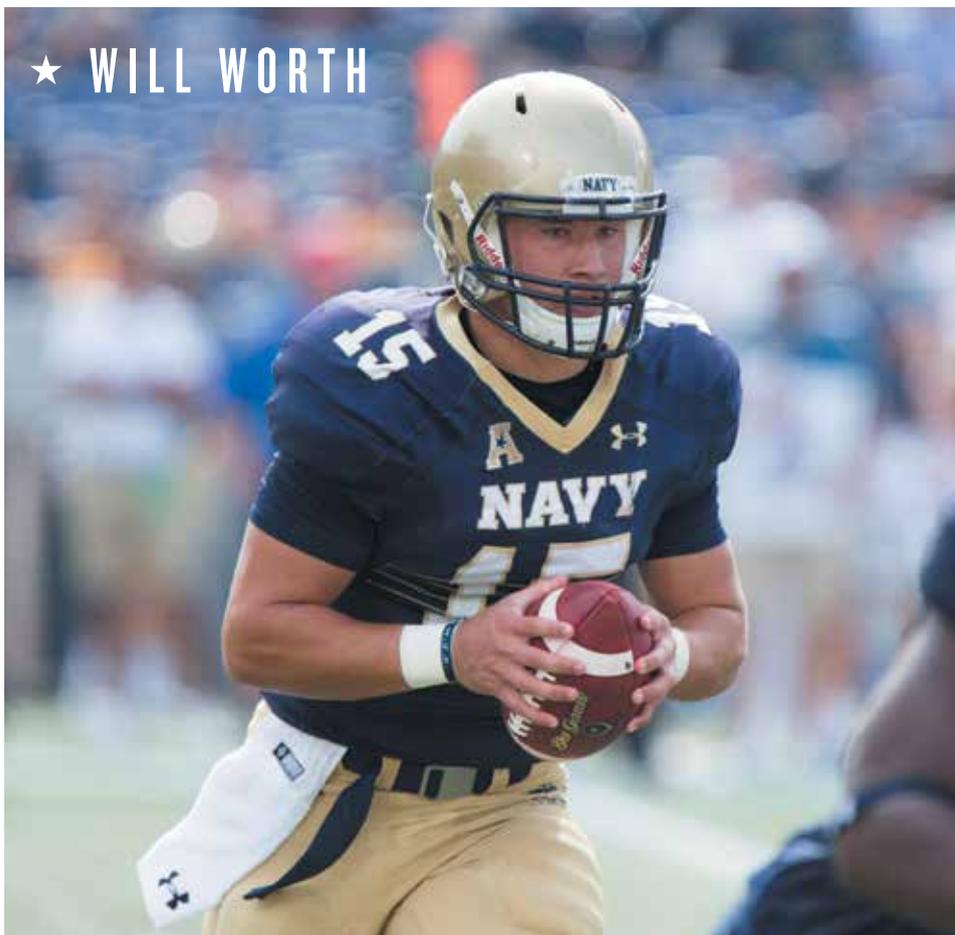
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★ WILL WORTH



The Navy football program posted one of its most notable victories in more than 30 years Oct. 8, outlasting then-No.6 Houston in a 46-40 thriller at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. It was the Midshipmen's first victory against a top-10 program since they defeated No. 2 South Carolina, 38-14, during the 1984 season.

Navy followed up the win against Houston with a 42-28 victory against visiting Memphis Oct. 22. That triumph gave the Midshipmen the lead in the American Athletic Conference's West Division.

The signature wins against Houston and Memphis lifted the Midshipmen into the top 25 in both national polls. But while those victories were important, they don't quite match up to the one game that means the most to Navy every year. The game the Midshipmen circle on their calendar is the annual matchup with Army West Point.

"There's something unique and special about the Army-Navy game," said Ken Niumatalolo, now in his ninth year as Navy's head coach after spending 10 seasons as a Midshipmen assistant. "It's an iconic game in college football. Air Force is a really good program. We really want to beat Air Force, and Army really wants to beat Air Force. Those are super-intense, competitive rivalries too, but they're not Army-Navy.

"I've been here 19 seasons, and on a

group decided to dedicate themselves to a military career that begins with their time in Annapolis, Md.

"When you have parents that have served in the Army, they'll obviously have their bias towards the Army," Niumatalolo said. "Ultimately, the parents just want what they feel is best for their sons. Blood is always thicker than water. Once their sons make their choice, they're going to support them."

**A MOTHER'S INFLUENCE**

For the first eight years of slotback Toneo Gulley's life, his mother worked close to home. Shellaree Twitty had an established career as a hair stylist in Gulley's hometown of Akron, Ohio. But a greater calling awaited her.

"It was definitely challenging for her," said Gulley, a senior co-captain of the 2016 Midshipmen. "She went into the service later in life than most people, and some people talked to her as if she wasn't going to make it. But she didn't listen to it and proved those people wrong."

Gulley was in the third grade when his mother decided to enlist in the Navy. Following her completion of boot camp, Twitty

BY STEVE JONES



**F O R F A M I L Y**



★ TONEO GULLEY

handful of occasions, the President of the United States has come to the Army-Navy game. How many sporting events does the President attend? That just shows you the magnitude of the game."

Considered to be one of the greatest of all athletic rivalries, Army-Navy brings together young men to battle each other on the gridiron before they graduate and join together to protect their nation after leaving their respective academies. The Midshipmen, who have won 14 straight games in the series, and Black Knights will play for the 117th time at Baltimore's M&T Bank Stadium Dec. 10.

"The way both institutions treat each other and the respect factor is what makes me most proud about this rivalry," Niumatalolo said. "There have been many surveys that have named [Army-Navy] as the No. 1 rivalry in college football or in college sports. It's always a healthy rivalry. As intense and as fierce as the competition is, the mutual respect never leaves. That's what separates this rivalry."

The Army-Navy matchup is broadcast around the nation and the world. But the rivalry hits close to home for several Navy players and their families.

For several Midshipmen, the Army-Navy game has a greater meaning. They are sons and brothers of veterans, who took an unusual route to a service career. The future Midshipmen watched and learned as their family members served their country and often sacrificed their own personal goals for the greater good. Drawing inspiration from those closest to them, this

told the family her first duty station was in Corpus Christi, Texas.

"I had friends in Akron and didn't want to move," Gulley said. "But being in third grade, I had no say-so whatsoever. We moved, and it was probably one of the best years of my life."

Gulley lived in the military complex and made a lot of friends. But the family moved back to Akron when Gulley was in middle school. His mother's orders eventually sent her to Jacksonville, Fla., but Gulley elected to stay in Akron with his father and grandmother.

While Gulley was in high school, his mother was transferred to the Naval Station Great Lakes in Lake County, Ill., just north of Chicago. Gulley ultimately joined his mother in her Kenosha, Wis., home for his last two years of high school. He earned All-State honors at Tremper High School and was chosen as the Milwaukee Player of the Year following his senior season.

Gulley, whose brother Prince-Tyson Gulley was a running back at Syracuse, knew about the Naval Academy program from watching former Midshipmen quarterback Ricky Dobbs on TV. After weighing his options, Gulley chose Navy over the University of Akron.

"I wanted to travel the world, and Navy was the best option," Gulley said. "I haven't regretted it since, and coming here just made me more proud of my mother. It was easier to make the decision because I've seen what the military has done for our family in many ways. If my mother wouldn't have joined the military, I'm not sure where

life would have taken our family.”

Twitty, who is an operations support officer at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., has attended two of the last three Army-Navy games.

“My mother is Navy all the way,” Guley said. “She comes to the games, and she loves watching me play. It’s a great experience for her and gives her a sense of pride to be serving in the military.”

## MILITARY THROUGH AND THROUGH

Quarterback Will Worth exemplifies the Navy spirit. The senior was a supportive teammate to former standout Midshipmen signal-caller Keenan Reynolds and classmate Tago Smith, before getting his first chance to start when Smith went down with a knee injury during Navy’s season-opening win against Fordham Sept. 3.

Worth is a nominee for the National Football Foundation’s Campbell Trophy, which will be awarded Dec. 6 to the top scholar-athlete football player in the nation. The native of Valrico, Fla., is also a candidate for the Wuerffel Trophy, which is presented to the collegian who best combines exemplary community service with academic and ath-

letic achievement. carries a 3.50 GPA, was also thinking about his post-college career.

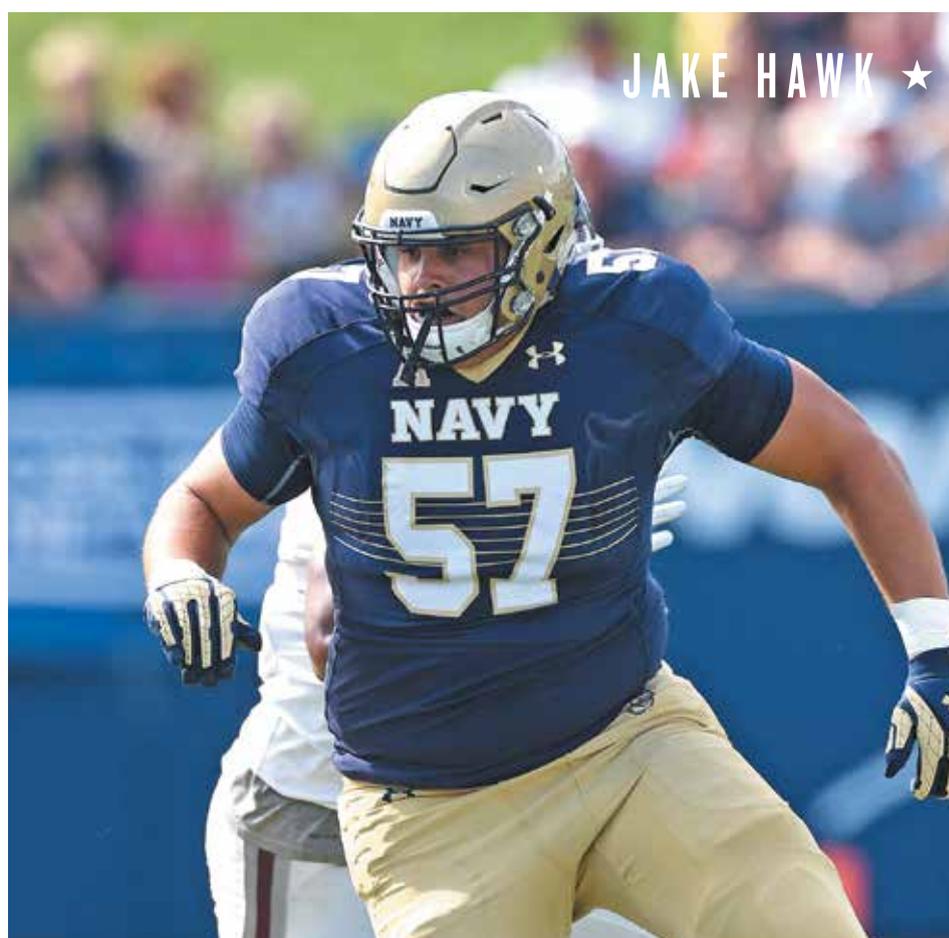
“Coming here, I knew that I was going to be able to do something different and that it would be a challenge,” Worth said. “I knew that, wherever I went, I would have tried to join the military after college. My family has been in the military for a while, and I knew that was an option.”

Worth has experienced three Army-Navy clashes. But as the Midshipmen’s starting quarterback, he will be asked to play a more prominent role during his final game against Navy’s archrival.

“It’s one of the best experiences you could have on a football field,” Worth said. “Everyone is watching, since it’s the weekend after the conference championship games and the only game on TV. You prepare the same way that you would for every other game. But obviously, there’s an added excitement and energy during that week.”

## FROM THE MOUNTAINS TO THE WATER

After graduating from Palmer Ridge (Colo.) High School, Winn Howard had his share of collegiate football options. A two-way standout, Howard was also considering



# FOR COUNTRY ★

letic achievement.

When Worth runs onto the M&T Bank Stadium field Dec. 10, he will be representing a family steeped in military service. Worth’s grandfather graduated from the Naval Academy in 1953, where he was a member of the crew team. Worth’s parents, William and Susan, met in the Navy, his father serving 20 years, while his mother spent eight years in uniform. In addition, Worth’s brother, Joe, played inside linebacker for Navy before graduating in May 2015. Worth’s family tree also includes two uncles and a great-grandfather who all served in the Marine Corps.

When it came time to make his college decision, Worth’s family didn’t try to influence him. But his brother, who is now in the Marine Corps at Camp Lejeune (N.C.), spoke highly of the school and the football program.

“My brother wanted it to be my own decision,” Worth said. “But he was a huge proponent of the school. He loved the place and the brotherhood aspect of the football team. I learned how tight the team was, and that really appealed to me.”

Worth’s father drew a strong comparison between the military life and Worth’s sport of choice.

“My dad had always said that, if you liked the teamwork atmosphere of a football team, then joining the military is the best team experience that you can have,” Worth said. “Just seeing him and all of his buddies throughout the years was something that I looked up to.”

Worth, an ocean engineering major who

Northwestern University and the University of Colorado, where his father, Tim, played football from 1980-83.

Howard was raised near the United States Air Force Academy, but the idea of attending a service academy wasn’t appealing at first. Yet, Howard still wound up spending his collegiate years in Annapolis, Md.

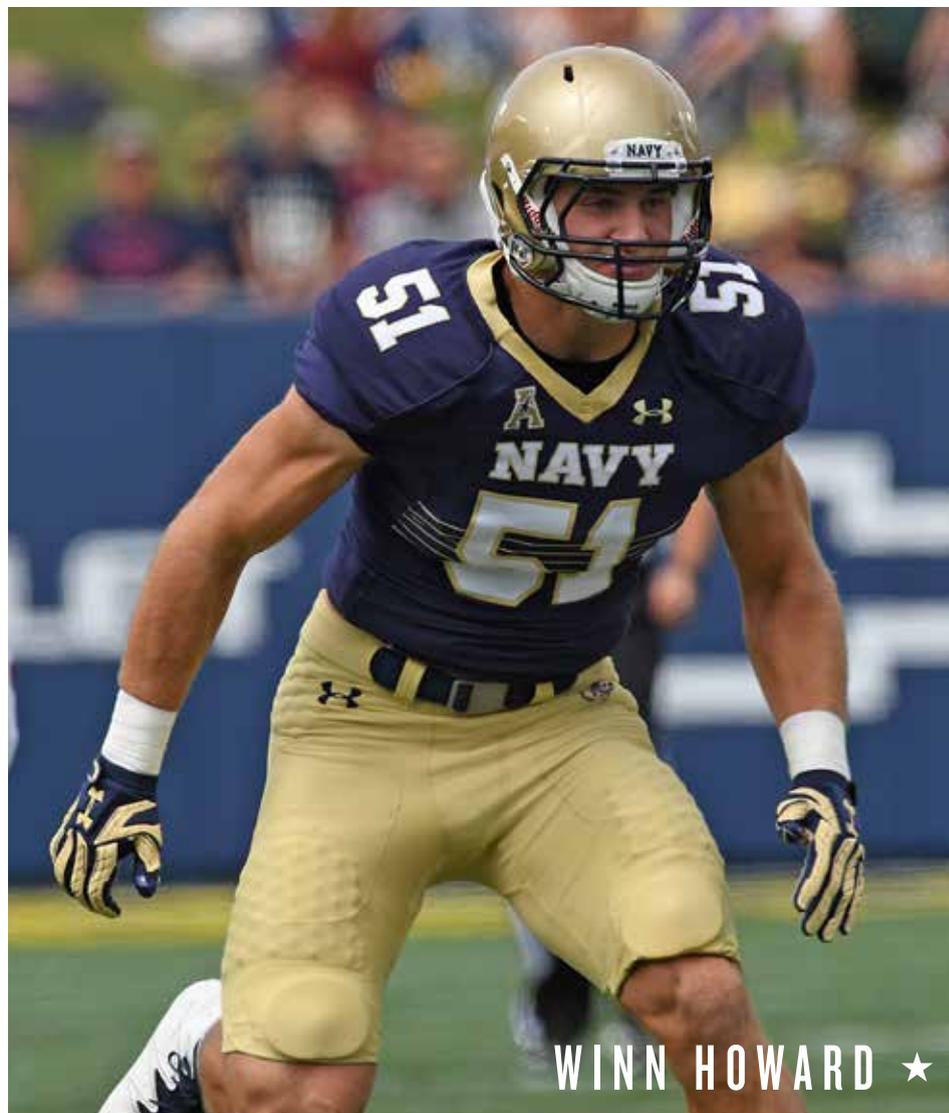
“It really came from a long-term desire to serve, and that was because of my dad,” said Howard, a junior linebacker from Monument, Colo. “He brought home these night-vision goggles when I was 4 years old, and ever since I looked through them, I knew what I wanted to do.”

Howard wasn’t the first in his family to wear a military uniform. His father served as an Army officer, and his mother, Karen, has worked throughout the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for many years. Tim Howard was excited his son had decided on a military career.

“I think he was just psyched that I was somewhere I wanted to be,” Winn Howard said. “He likes the Navy. He does a good job of hiding it, but I think there’s a bit of rivalry in him.”

Despite his upbringing in Colorado and familiarity with Air Force, Howard was drawn to the Naval Academy.

“Navy had sent me a letter for track and field,” said Howard, who was a two-sport athlete in high school. “I wanted to help people, and [the military] became a really cool option. I reached out to [Navy football assistant coach] Steve Johns and told him that I wanted to play at ➔



Navy. I saw it as a way to accomplish two goals: to serve in the military and to play football. I got a call back, made a visit out here and got my application in. I was on my way.”

Howard feels his military commitment



is also a way to honor his mother's work in Veterans Affairs.

“I think that it's so valuable to give back to this country,” said Howard, who also had an uncle serve in the Navy. “My parents were the foundation of that inspiration.”

During the day of the Army-Navy clash, the postgame pageantry also makes Howard proud of the respect that signifies the service rivalry.

“When it comes to singing the alma maters after the game, they're both beautiful songs, and it's a really cool tradition,” Howard said. “You're humbled when you're standing there with your hand over your heart, singing your alma mater and listening to Army's. You can't help but think of both services, the history of the game and the people who have played.”

During the 2016 Army-Navy game, Howard will be wearing a patch on his Navy uniform to honor his father's U.S. Army intelligence unit.

“I tracked down the intelligence patch he wore when he was in Korea,” Howard said. “I thought that was one way to pay

tribute to my dad, and to connect our two services.”

## STAYING CLOSE TO HOME

While the current Midshipmen roster lists players from 31 states, offensive tackle Jake Hawk saw the Army-Navy rivalry from close range. A graduate of Meade High School, Hawk was raised in

nearby Severn, Md.

Hawk's home environment was different from most of his teammates. His family is heavily populated with Army veterans. Hawk's father, John, was an Army man for 20 years and was deployed three times during the Iraq War. His older brothers, Paul and Zachery, joined the Army after attending Baltimore's Coppin State University and are currently stationed in Korea and Germany.

“I grew up in this area, but I only came to the Academy a few times,” said Hawk, a sophomore. “My dad was always cheering for Army, and I was cheering for them, too. But when it came to recruiting, I liked the Naval Academy better.”

During his senior year at Meade, Hawk earned first-team All-State honors and played in the Big 33 Football Classic. He could have played college football elsewhere, but he opted to suit up for Navy.

“I thought that this place was amazing,” Hawk said. “I knew that I wanted to serve, like my dad and brothers did, and to me, this was the best option. I committed early, during the summer going into my senior year, so I wouldn't have to worry about the recruiting process. I'd be in the area, would be able to do all the military stuff and get a great education.”

Despite their long-term involvement with the Army, Hawk's family was supportive when he chose Navy.

“It didn't matter to my dad whether I went to Army or Navy,” Hawk said. “He knew that it would be a great situation

coming out of either academy. And he told me, ‘As long as you're at Navy, I will cheer for Navy.’”

While Hawk didn't make many trips to the Navy campus during his youth, he was heavily influenced by his dad's military career.

“He was really inspiring,” Hawk said. “My dad did 20 years, and he told me about all of the hardships that you have to go through. Coming out of high school, he realized that he was going to have to go 100 percent. The military taught him a great lesson, and he's carried that through his career and into what he's doing now [at Fort Meade]. I want to be like that.”

## MUTUAL RESPECT

Their mission is clear. Army and Navy work together every day to develop young men and women who will lead, protect and defend the nation. On Dec. 10, the football teams representing these two branches of service will oppose each other for one afternoon. But like the families portrayed here, the mutual understanding and respect, the love of country and the true meaning of loyalty will be on display for a much longer period of time. ★

— PHOTOGRAPHY —

COVER & PAGES 11-12: ALEX EDELMAN/PRESSBOX  
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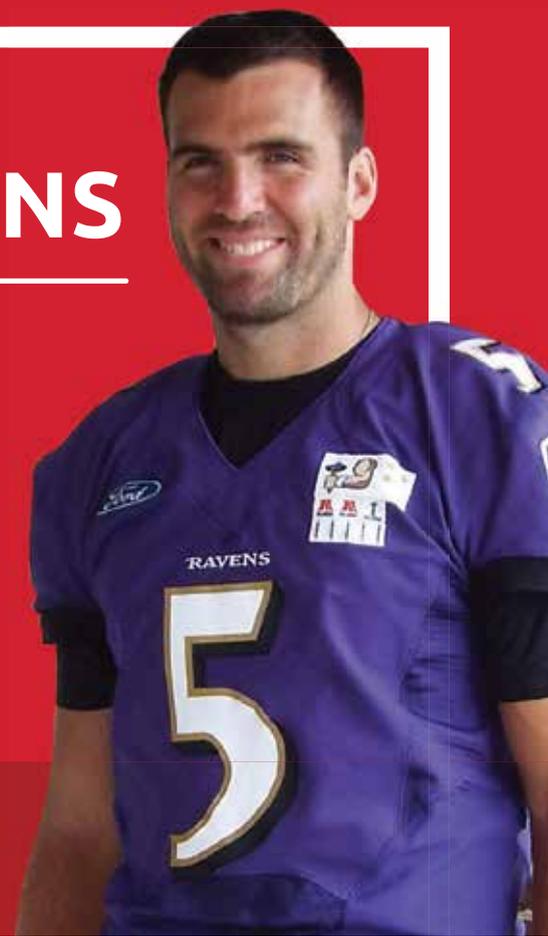
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As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, we are reminded (for better or worse) that many of us will be seeing an awful lot of our families in the coming weeks. Sure, we can't wait for Aunt Jenny to make her cheesy jalapeño potato casserole, but we might not be so thrilled about talking with Uncle Karl about how "screwed" we all are because of the election. Alas, "The 15" is all about family this month. Who are Baltimore's greatest sports families? (No word on whether any of them understand why Michelle keeps coming to family gatherings despite being divorced from your cousin for five years now.)



## BALTIMORE'S GREATEST SPORTS FAMILIES

### 01 THE RIPKENS: CAL JR., CAL SR. AND BILLY

There was really no other option for the top spot. In addition to Cal Jr., Cal Sr. and Billy, the bowling accomplishments of Cal and Billy's sister, Elly, are the stuff of legend in Harford County.

### 02 THE STANWICKS: SHEEHAN, COCO, WICK, TAD, STEELE, WELLS, COVIE AND SHACK

The subjects of the February 2014 *PressBox* cover story, the octet of siblings has combined to score more than 1,000 NCAA Division I lacrosse goals. Their on-field accomplishments are overshadowed only by the excellence of their lacrosse names.

### 03 THE FULLERS: VINCENT II, COREY, KYLE AND KENDALL

When youngest brother Kendall debuted with the Washington Redskins this season, the family from Woodlawn, Md., became just the second in history to have four brothers play in the NFL. But it's still really cool you and your brothers once ate 144 wings in one sitting back when you were in college, too.

### 04 THE AYANBADEJOS: OBAFEMI AND BRENDON

While there are far fewer Ayanbadejos than Fullers or Stanwicks, these two former Ravens each remarkably won separate Super Bowls with the franchise. Oddly enough, two other Baltimore football players (former Colt Bubba Smith and former Raven Jamie Sharper) and a former Ravens assistant (Rex Ryan) are all parts of brother duos that each have Super Bowl rings. However, their brothers never played (or coached) in Baltimore, so they weren't considered for the list.

### 05 THE HARBAUGHS: JOHN AND JIM

To the best of my research, the Harbaugh brothers are the only set to have been the head coach and starting quarterback at some point for the same franchise. And if somehow I missed some random 1920s combination, I feel confident in saying they're definitely the only set of brothers to have done it whose father (Jack) was also an unofficial coaching consultant for the same franchise.

### 06 THE SHULAS: DON, DAVE AND MIKE

The Hall of Famer (Don) coached the Colts from 1963-69, leading them to the 1964 NFL Championship Game and Super Bowl III. He also played for the Colts from 1953-56. His older son, Dave, played for the Colts in 1981 before his own coaching career took off. His younger son Mike was born in Baltimore before going on to his own career as a player and coach, and he's still the offensive coordinator of the Carolina Panthers.

### 07 THE HENDERSONS: E.J. AND ERIN

The NFL linebackers are two of the greatest athletes in the history of either Maryland prep ball or the University of Maryland, but they sadly can't be considered the most accomplished duo of brothers from their own high school, as Aberdeen was also the home of the Ripkens.

### 08 THE KELLYS: FRANK, JOHN, DAVID AND BRYAN AND THEIR SONS FRANKIE, STEPHEN, JOHNNY, DAVID, PATRICK, TIMMY AND JACOB

Baltimoreans Patrick, Timmy and Stephen (their cousin) were all part of the 2016 national championship lacrosse team at North Carolina. Patrick and Timmy's father, David, was a national champion there in 1986. The trio's uncle, Bryan (now the coach at Calvert Hall), was a member of UNC's 1991 national championship team. All Kellys except John played Division I lacrosse (John played at Washington College), with Jacob set to join the Tar Heels in 2018. It's hard to imagine there won't be more in the future.

### 09 THE JOHNSONS: DAVE AND STEVE

The Johnsons are one of the more popular sports families in Baltimore history because they were contributors to two of the more unlikely good teams in Orioles history. Father Dave was a part of the magical 1989 "Why Not?" season, while his Baltimore native son, Steve, made his debut with the 2012 team, whose run to the postseason may have been even more improbable.

### 10 THE BARTONS: WILL AND ANTONIO AND COUSIN JOSH SELBY

All three Baltimore natives played for Lake Clifton at some point during their prep careers, with the older Barton (Will) and Selby going on to careers in the NBA. Will Barton's career continues today after averaging a career-best 14.4 points per game with the Nuggets last season.

### 11 THE HARRISONS: DR. MILES AND KYLE

Not only was Dr. Harrison the quarterback at Forest Park in the late 1960s, he's far more well known for being part of the legendary "Ten Bears" lacrosse team at Morgan State in the 1970s. His son (Kyle) led Friends School to two MIAA "B" conference championships (as well as two more in basketball and one in soccer) in the late 1990s before being named an All-American three times at Johns Hopkins, winning the Tewaaron Trophy as the national player of the year and helping the Blue Jays to the 2005 NCAA championship.

### 12 THE MARTINEZES: TIPPY AND COURTNEY

Father Tippy recorded 105 saves during 11 seasons with the Orioles and was named an All-Star during their 1983 World Series championship season. Daughter Courtney led Loch Raven to three state lacrosse championships in the 1990s and, thanks to a redshirt season, was a member of five NCAA championship teams at Maryland. She is now the lacrosse coach at Arizona State.

### 13 THE HEALEYS: KEVIN AND PAT

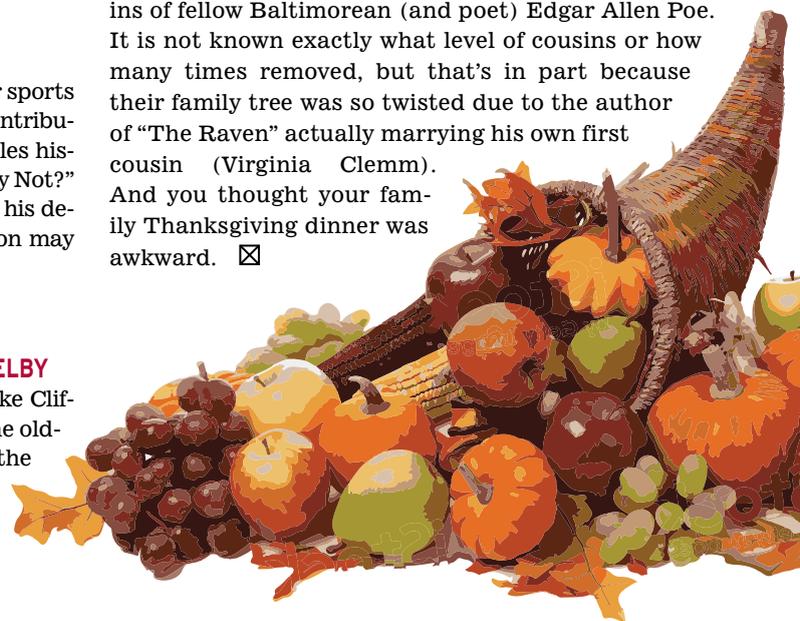
The elder Healey (Kevin) was part of the 1976 NCAA Division II national championship soccer team at Loyola before his own career in coaching that continues now as the president and general manager of the Blast. His son Pat was the 2007 CAA Player of the Year at Towson before going on to win three championships in his own career with the Blast.

### 14 THE RADEBAUGHS: DOUG, NED, DAN, SEAN, TUCKER AND J.D.

Lacrosse just seems to be a family sport. Here's the rundown on the Radebaughs: Doug is a lacrosse Hall of Famer who won two national championships at Maryland in the 1970s. Ned won three NCAA titles during his career at Johns Hopkins. Sean won two Division III titles during his career at Salisbury. Dan was a first-team All-American at Maryland. Tucker was part of the 1999 NCAA championship team at Virginia and J.D. was an All-American at Washington College.

### 15 THE POES: SAMUEL JOHNSON, EDGAR ALLAN, JOHN PRENTISS JR., NEILSON, ARTHUR AND GRESHAM

So this one was a bit of a doozy. My friend Tom Marr IV put me on to this group of six brothers and Baltimore natives who were highly accomplished football players at Princeton in the late 19th century. Arthur is recognized in the College Football Hall of Fame. Edgar Allan was an All-American. Samuel Johnson was a lacrosse All-American. The group of brothers are cousins of fellow Baltimorean (and poet) Edgar Allan Poe. It is not known exactly what level of cousins or how many times removed, but that's in part because their family tree was so twisted due to the author of "The Raven" actually marrying his own first cousin (Virginia Clemm). And you thought your family Thanksgiving dinner was awkward. ☒



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# RAVENS REPORT

## DT Michael Pierce Goes From Undrafted To Playmaker For Ravens

★ JOE PLATANIA



More often than not, the obscurity of the fourth preseason game is where a player's NFL dreams go to die.

But for Ravens defensive tackle Michael Pierce, it happened to be where they were revived, if not downright cemented.

For all intents and purposes, Pierce's pro career emerged with a play that epitomized the hustle small-college players, like Pierce, need and teams like the Ravens want.

Late in the second quarter of the preseason finale in New Orleans, the host Saints and Ravens were locked in a 6-6 tie, with the Saints taking possession at their own 9-yard line. Quarterback Luke McCown dropped back to pass, stopping his retreat just in front of his own goal line.

Meanwhile, Pierce deftly used his 6-foot, 339-pound frame and quick hands to shove the center to his left, then duck quickly back under him in the opposite direction, keeping his feet moving all the while. He reached McCown at the goal line, grabbed him around the waist and popped the ball loose.

The predictable dogpile ensued, but seconds later, it was Pierce who had fallen on the ball for a tie-breaking touchdown that was part of a 16-point, second-quarter blitz and a 23-14 win that cemented the Ravens' unbeaten preseason.

"The play happened real fast," Pierce said after the win against the Saints. "I got great pressure on the quarterback and sacked him, and then the ball popped free. Since it was on the goal line, I just noticed the ball and covered it up for a touchdown.

"We all know that, as rookies, the cut is coming. Everyone in the locker room has worked real hard to make the team. As for me, there's nothing else I can do, and I hope I've proved to the coaching staff that I deserve a spot on the team."

Head coach John Harbaugh and his staff already had an idea about Pierce, signing him as a rookie free agent after the 2016 draft concluded. His name was not called on draft weekend primarily because he had attended Samford, a private university in Birmingham, Ala., that houses a mere 3,100 undergraduate students.

But the public administration major, who transferred to Samford after two years at Tulane University in his native New Orleans, proved to be durable (47 games, 32 starts), productive (24 tackles for losses, 3.5 sacks) and notable among those who watched him (first-team All-Southern Conference).

In college, Pierce carried the ball four times and scored two touchdowns in goal-line situations; whether that dimension ever comes into play, as in the case of former Chicago Bear lineman William Perry, remains to be seen.

However, regarding Pierce's defensive play, he has attributes reminiscent of Baltimore linemen, past and current

Despite his size, Pierce -- who turned 24 Nov. 6 -- combines former Ravens nose tackles Haloti Ngata's quick feet with Kelly Gregg's tenacity and teammate Brandon Williams' strength, all necessary ingredients to fit into the Ravens' run-stuffing tradition.

Even though Baltimore primarily plays a 3-4 defense, there have been times when Williams and Pierce have been on the field together in an alignment reminiscent of the team's 4-3 era that lined up Tony Siragusa and Sam Adams in the middle of a stout front seven.

The Ravens' defensive line is perhaps the best and deep-

est unit on the team, and it could benefit from Pierce's presence should Williams leave in free agency after the current season.

"Pierce is my guy," Williams said. "We call him 'The Jugernaut.' I'm taller than him though. He's short and squatty. He's doing a great job, especially coming in here as a rookie free agent and making his way on the roster.

"Then, at the same time, [he is] getting reps in. He's doing a great job. Anytime I can help him, I always tell him this or that, anything. I take him under my wing and let him know. I commend him for just working his butt off and getting out here and doing it every day."

After Pierce's big play in New Orleans, he had to sustain that momentum to crack a roster at a position unit loaded with proven talent like Williams, Timmy Jernigan, Lawrence Guy and Brent Urban.

And he did -- marking the 13th straight year an undrafted player has made the Week One Ravens roster, tied for the league's second-longest current streak -- and in such an emphatic manner that someone from a larger school who actually was drafted, fourth-round Michigan product Willie Henry, has been relegated to inactive status for most of the season.

According to Pro Football Focus, Pierce was the top-rated rookie defensive lineman in the league through seven weeks and the ninth-best rookie at any position, one spot ahead of

first-round offensive lineman Laremy Tunsill of the Miami Dolphins.

"Pierce made this list early on in the season before a few average weeks, and is back again after a [fine] performance against the Jets [Oct. 23]," PFF wrote. "What's maybe most impressive for the rookie isn't that he's stopping the run at a high level -- it's that he's already adding value as a pass-rusher from the [nose tackle] position."

Through the season's first eight games, Pierce has played 158 of a possible 438 defensive snaps (36.1 percent), including a 31-snap, five-tackle performance against the Jets. Pierce also contributed five special teams snaps that day and recorded one of his two sacks.

According to defensive coordinator Dean Pees, it's simply proof that if someone can play the game, his collegiate origins are irrelevant.

"A good athlete is a good athlete, and what happens is they rise to the level of the competition that they play," Pees said. "What happens is, they play at a certain level, and when they come in here, because they're still a good athlete, they rise to that level. There's just been so many of those guys around the league that I think the small school syndrome ... I don't buy that anymore. An athlete is an athlete.

"[Pierce has] come from an unknown [place]. First of all, making the team ... I don't know if anybody thought, probably early on in OTAs or when we brought him in, that he'd be that. Now he shows up enough in preseason and camp that he makes the team. After that, he just works hard out there. I can't say enough good things about him. I'm really, really pleased with where he is."

There is no doubt many undrafted players would give anything to be where Pierce is right now, having made an NFL roster after making a play in his hometown during the preseason game in New Orleans.

"It was a real special feeling," Pierce said. "And with me being from this area ... it was great for me to have that happen with some family and friends watching."

For big players like Pierce who make big plays, no situation has proven too obscure. ☒



Michael Pierce

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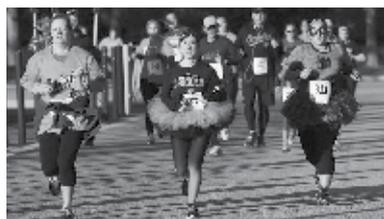
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## ORIOLES INSIDER

# Dylan Bundy Is 2016 Orioles' Biggest Success Story

★ PAUL FOLKEMER



ommy John surgery. Shoulder calcification. Elbow stiffness.

For years, a laundry list of injuries and setbacks littered the star-crossed career of right-hander Dylan

Bundy, the Orioles' first-round pick (No. 4 overall) in the 2011 amateur draft. Considered a future ace out of Owasso (Okla.) High School, and once ranked as the top pitching prospect in the sport by *Baseball America*, Bundy rocketed to the majors at age 19 in 2012 -- only for his career to nearly self-destruct.

From 2013-15, Bundy threw a grand total of 63.1 minor league innings. Elbow reconstruction surgery June 28, 2013 cost him that entire season and most of the next; a rare calcium buildup in his right shoulder sidelined him for much of 2015. Bundy, at last, got back on a mound in the 2015 Arizona Fall League -- only to be shut down after two innings pitched because of a sore elbow.

Major league careers have ended for less than the perfect storm of calamities that befell the 23-year-old Bundy. With each passing year he spent on the shelf, Bundy ran the ever-increasing risk of becoming the latest busted pitching prospect in a recent Orioles history full of them.

During his interminable layoff, Bundy admitted he'd begun to wonder whether he'd ever get another shot at pitching in the major leagues.

"After all the injuries, absolutely, yeah," Bundy said. "I mean, some people don't like to admit it, but there is some doubt. But it seemed like once there was some doubt, the next week I would feel better or I'd be on a different throwing progression and be on a mound or something, and it just seemed like something always kept me going, and I was thankful for that."

One thing that kept Bundy going was his older brother Bobby, 26, a right-hander who has been in the Orioles' organization since they made him their eighth-round pick in 2008. Bobby Bundy underwent Tommy John surgery three months after Dylan, and the two motivated each other as they rehabbed together. Both had a full recovery; Bobby spent most of the 2016 season at Double-A Bowie, pitching 36 games.

"Luckily, I had my brother going through Tommy John as well down there with me," Dylan Bundy said. "So I was fortunate for that. He was able to go through it with me, and me and him were both able to keep each other in line and focus on the main goal."

Bundy reported to 2016 spring training healthy but carried a cavalcade of question marks. Would his arm hold up? How productive would he be? With Bundy out of options,

the Orioles didn't have the benefit of getting his feet wet in the minors. The Birds stashed him in the Opening Day bullpen with the No. 1 priority of keeping him healthy, even if his actual role was undefined.

"Coming into the year, I was just wanting to get 70 innings this full year," Bundy said. "I didn't care [whether I was] starting or relieving. I just wanted to get through the year healthy and learn a whole lot. So that was kind of my main plan coming into this season."

Bundy made his regular-season debut April 7, working a scoreless inning against the Twins in Baltimore. It marked his first appearance on a big league mound in 43 months.

Early on, manager Buck Showalter carefully picked his spots to use Bundy, easing him back into game action. As was to be expected for a pitcher who had barely thrown the last three seasons -- and who had only two games of major league experience prior to 2016 -- Bundy suffered growing pains at first. He struggled with velocity and command, and hitters weren't fooled. Bundy had just two strikeouts in nine innings pitched in April, followed by a rough May in which he was scored upon during six of his eight appearances, posting a 6.75 ERA.

Having spent his entire pro baseball career as a starter, Bundy had trouble adapting to a reliever's workload of pitching every two or three days. So the Orioles tried a different approach. In June, they began giving him longer breaks between outings. Beginning June 9, five of Bundy's next six relief appearances came on at least four days' rest, akin to a starting pitcher's schedule. The O's also began extending his appearances; during five of those six outings, Bundy worked 2.1 or more innings.

The adjusted game plan paid immediate dividends. Bundy rattled off six consecutive games without allowing an earned run, spanning 14.1 innings, and struck out 19 batters during that stretch. His velocity was back up to the mid-90s, topping out at 98 on his fastball. His command improved significantly, as did his pitch selection. Along the way, Bundy continued to pick the brains of veteran Orioles and learn how to adjust to the major leagues.

"[I learned], basically, how to act on and off the field and act like a big leaguer up here," Bundy said. "And just talking to the starters about reading hitters' swings and maybe what they're looking for, either inside or outside, what pitches they're sitting on, whether they like the curveball or the changeup better, little stuff like that."

Bundy's starter-like appearances out of the bullpen raised speculation the O's might try to shift him into the rotation by the end of the season, but few expected it to happen before September.

But his growing dominance convinced the Orioles to move up their timetable. When the second half began, the Birds announced

Bundy would join the starting staff, perhaps hoping to spark an O's rotation that had the second-worst ERA in the American League (5.15) before the All-Star break.

It didn't take long for Bundy to make the baseball world sit up and take notice. He picked up his first big league win as a starter by holding the Indians to one unearned run in five innings July 22. The next time out, Bundy looked unhittable against the Rockies -- retiring the first 16 batters of the game -- before tiring in the sixth and allowing two homers.

Against Texas Aug. 2, Bundy enjoyed the best start of his young career. He carried a no-hitter into the sixth inning and ultimately retired 20 of the 22 batters he faced in seven shutout frames. Bundy finally looked every bit the top-flight pitcher he was projected to be when the O's drafted him.

As Bundy flummoxed opposing lineups with his fastball, sinker, change-up and curve, he managed to achieve success without the use of arguably his best pitch, the cutter. That was Bundy's go-to weapon in high school, but he and the Orioles agreed to scrap it from his repertoire in 2016, fearing it could aggravate his elbow injury. Whether Bundy will reintroduce the cutter into his arsenal in the future is a question he can't yet answer.

"It just kind of depends," Bundy said. "I played with it around in the offseason this year, and if I feel comfortable bringing it in the spring, I'll throw it in the spring. And then if it went well in spring, then obviously I'd use it during the season. But it's going to take time, and it's going to be a slow process."

Ultimately, Bundy's brilliance didn't last. He surrendered five or more runs during four of his last eight outings, working six innings just once. It appeared his larger-than-expected workload may have caught up with him. He finished the season with 109.2 innings pitched, his highest total as a pro.

Bundy, though, insisted his struggles weren't related to a tired arm.

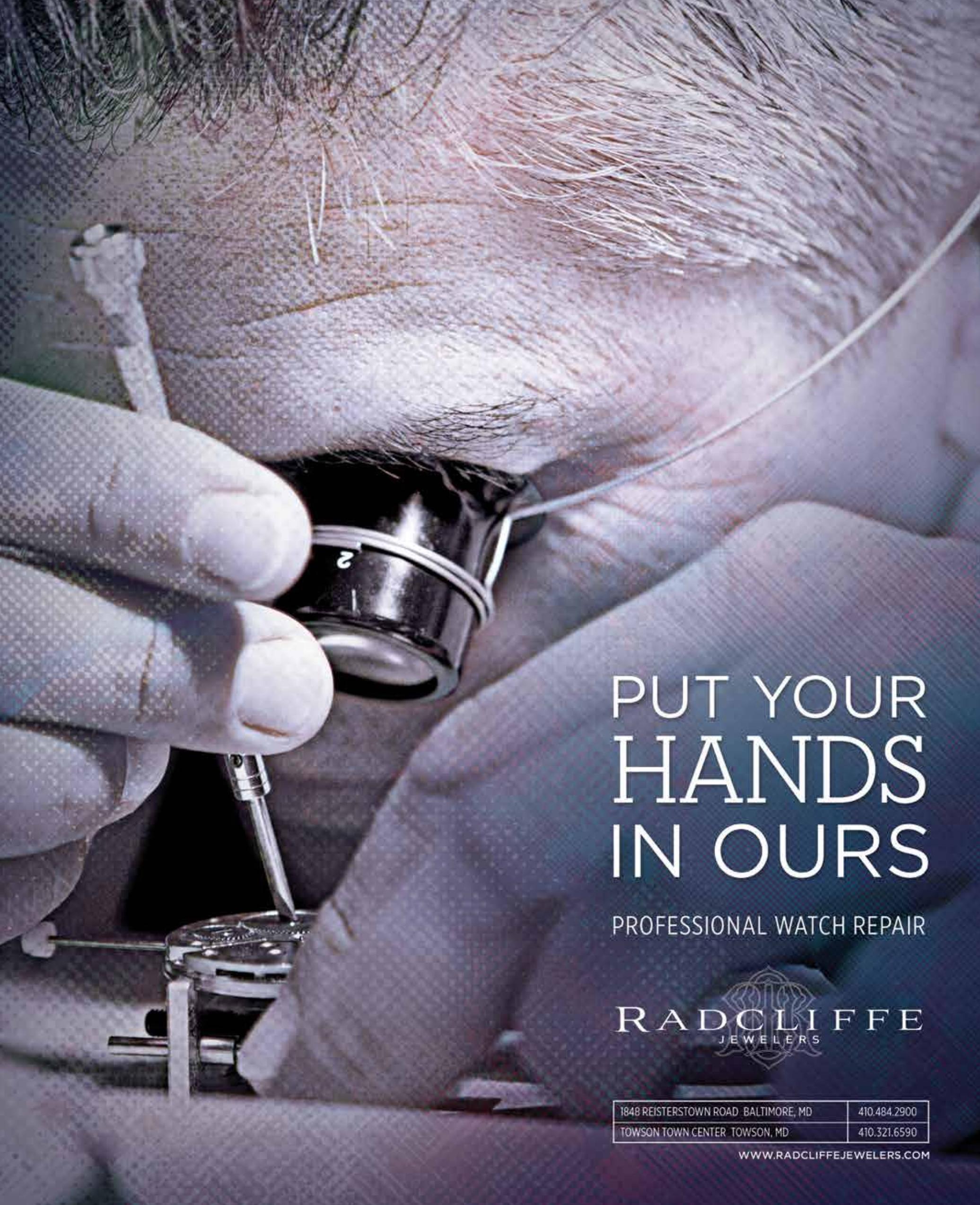
"There's probably a bunch of variables that go into all that," Bundy said. "I'm definitely not going to say fatigue. But maybe [I was] just leaving too many balls over the zone, or leaving too good of pitches 0-2, or getting behind guys and grooving a heater for them. I'm still working on stuff and still learning every day, so I'll get better."

Bundy's late-season slump, catcher Matt Wieters said, is all part of the maturation process.

"I think the biggest thing for him is going to be just [learning] how to maintain his body throughout the course of the year, and how to maintain the arm and continue to get stronger but at the same time be able to get his rest when he needs it," Wieters said. "And that's one thing with all young pitchers, being able to kind of increase your workload each year is something that you have to learn how the body's going to respond to it."

Still, Bundy made great strides this season simply by being able to get on the mound regularly.

"[I'm] grateful that he was able to be healthy this year," Wieters said. "I know it was a tough struggle, and ... he had some injuries set in and took a little bit longer road to recovery than he would've wanted. But he's stayed true to the course through that, and I think this year is just him starting to reap some of the rewards of all his hard work of getting back here."



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## UPON FURTHER REVIEW

# A Guaranteed Way To Shorten Baseball Games

★ JIM HENNEMAN

**S**poiler alert: The time it takes to play a Major League Baseball game isn't as long as you think. Spoiler alert No. 2: Despite some radical changes in the rules (the designated hitter), strategy (relief pitchers) and disputes (replays), the game itself doesn't take much, if any, more time to play than it did 50 years ago.

Sound preposterous? Impossible? It isn't. It just seems like it, and therein lies the problem nobody seems able to identify. Even though he's been there a long time, three decades or longer, nobody sees, or wants to see, the elephant in the room. It's called commercial time.

So here comes the public service announcement: An ironclad guarantee to reduce the length of a Major League Baseball game by at least 17 minutes. Based on average length of nine-inning games the last three years (3:02 in 2014; 2:56 in 2015; 3:01 in 2016) that would put baseball in the 2:40-2:45 range -- about the same as the theatre, opera or movies, where performances end the same way every night.

It would be drastic, but it's really a relatively simple task -- getting the average time back to where it was in the 1960s and 1970s. If MLB is serious, really *serious*, about getting the time of the game comfortably below three hours, then it will stop worrying about the pace and spend more time dealing with the

down (dead) time, the 16 or 17 intervals between innings.

And with the highest TV-rated World Series in the last 25 years, this would seem to be the perfect time. If baseball is honest, really *honest*, and admits it can't go there, then it's time to admit it's not just selling the game, but the event, the total entertainment package. In other words, the spring/summer/fall version of the NFL. It has gotten to that point with postseason ticket prices and is getting close during the regular season, so the time has come to either 'fess up or cut time.

It took a while -- more than a century and a half if you count concurrent years -- but baseball finally got its classic matchup of "Lovable Losers" in the 2016 World Series. It came with a guaranteed "feel good" ending for everybody. Well, almost everybody.

It would've been better in 2004 if the Boston Red Sox (86 years) had met the Chicago Cubs (then at 96 and counting), but nobody's complaining. Well, almost nobody.

The pairing of the Cubs, who last won a World Series in 1908, and the Cleveland Indians, without a ring since 1948, provided enough droughts for anybody. That it managed to go seven games and end with a pulsating finish did wonders for the game, not to mention the TV ratings that lagged in recent years.

It also emphasized that, when games are exciting, it's more important than how well they are played or how long they take. Game 7, won 8-7 by the Cubs

in 10 innings, was not classically played, but it had a near-perfect setting that made the four hours and 28 minutes it took to play tolerable. And therein lies the major complaint about the only team game without a time limit.

The length of Game 7 exposed a touchy subject for MLB, which seems to spend as much time trying to figure out how to speed it up as it does promoting the overall product. Let's face it, MLB has been trying to speed up the game for three decades, ever since it decided to slow it down, for obvious commercial reasons. Now the concern is more about the pace than it is about time.

In 1950, when TV was a novelty, radio broadcasts were still in infancy and "commercial time" was 65 seconds, the average time of a game was 2:23. By 1964, the average climbed to 2:35, and by 1984, it was 2:40, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

We need to pay attention and do some math here. In 1985, with cable TV now a major player, baseball decreed there would be a minimum of two minutes between each half inning. Minimum is the key word. Those numbers have climbed as high as 2:25 for local and 2:45 for national broadcasts.

Two years ago, with average game time of 3:02, MLB used what it called "creative ways" to improve the pace of the game. Time limits were put on pitchers and hitters to be ready when games came out of commercial breaks, admittedly a good idea. They helped cut the average time by six minutes, only to have the 2016 average creep back to 3:01, according to Elias.

But we're still tap-dancing around the issue here: the built-in delay of game. The time of game has increased in direct proportion to the increase in commercial time. I've researched scores of stories about base-

ball game times, and I haven't seen one that brings time of commercial breaks into play.

Here's the "non-creative" way to speed up the game: go back to 65- or 95-second breaks after each half-inning, or even 95 and 125 seconds if that's too drastic. Try that and see if it doesn't work a lot better than a 12-second pitch clock (still a good idea). It really isn't that big of a deal. In an age when vocal ("tonight's lineups brought to you by ABC plumbers," "the ABC brewing company seventh-inning stretch") or visual (backstop ads clearly visible from the main centerfield camera) advertisements are already infringing on the broadcasts, somebody needs to find a way to "creatively" cut back on the actual time play is suspended.

But here's another, maybe even bigger, kicker -- the elephant in the room has a friend, a very big friend. It's the Jumbo Scoreboard, where all those cute and sponsored, in-game segments (think Kiss Cam, Crab Shuffle, etc.) are displayed. Teams need those extra minutes to provide entertainment for spectators who complain the games are too long.

MLB has put the onus on the players to pick up the pace, to the point of threatening \$500 fines on flagrant violators. But it's hard to point fingers when the game has its own version of a "Four Corners" offense.

I appreciate MLB commissioner Rob Manfred's concern for the game, but when he talks about drastic rule changes, like outlawing the shift or making the intentional walk automatic, I'm not sure how much he understands it. To be fair, he always uses the phrase "under consideration," which is never a bad approach, but there is always fear marketing people could influence the game.

The commissioner might not need or want my advice, but it's free, so here it is: The game is fine. Leave it alone. If you feel a need to speed it up, start at the top. ☒



Jim Henneman can be reached at [JimH@pressboxonline.com](mailto:JimH@pressboxonline.com).

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# CONNOLLY'S CORNER

## Changes Needed To Boost Prestige Of Reliever Awards

★ DAN CONNOLLY

It's about time the Baseball Writers Association of America and Major League Baseball pull the plug on one of its traditions, or at least call it what it is.

It's time to define the Cy Young Award properly: Recognition of the season's best starting pitcher.

It's not a pitcher's award any longer; it's a starting pitcher's award. Period. Even after this so-called "Postseason of the Reliever."

If you weren't sure, the voting for the 2016 American League Cy Young race confirmed it. Orioles closer Zach Britton, who turned in an historic season with a 0.54 ERA in 67 innings, wasn't named as a top three finalist.

He was beaten out by three starters -- Cleveland's Corey Kluber, Boston's Rick Porcello and Detroit's Justin Verlander -- all of whom had ERAs higher than 3.00 but threw at least 200 innings.

That trio certainly had excellent seasons, but none dominated. Verlander, for instance, was 16-9 with a 3.04 ERA and 1.001 WHIP in 227.2 innings this season. In his spectacular 2011 campaign in which he won the AL Cy Young and MVP awards, Verlander was 24-5 with a 2.40 ERA and a 0.920 WHIP in 251 innings.

If someone had that kind of year in the AL in 2016, I wouldn't be writing this column. But no one did.

Britton, however, arguably was as dominant as any reliever in the game's history. His ERA was the lowest ever for someone with at least 50 innings pitched. He was perfect in his 47 save chances, allowed just one homer and four earned runs in 69 appearances and put together a run of 43 outings without yielding an earned run, the longest such streak.

And he's not in the top three in his league? (At least not according to the BBWAA; Britton did make the top three for AL Outstanding Pitcher in the Players' Choice Awards.)

Today's baseball writers, as a unit, don't view late-inning relievers in the same class as starting pitchers because of the innings pitched by each group.

Really, the writers rarely have. The Cy Young Award has been around since 1956, and only nine relievers have won the award in either league. It took al-

most 20 years for the first one, the Los Angeles Dodgers' Mike Marshall in 1974. And he wasn't the breed of reliever we know now.

Marshall posted a 2.42 ERA in a whopping 208.1 innings -- appearing in 106 games in relief.

The last time a reliever -- specifically, a closer -- won the award was in 2003, when the Dodgers' Eric Gagne converted all 55 of his save chances. The last time a reliever won in the AL was Oakland's Dennis Eckersley, who picked up the 1992 MVP and Cy Young awards with a 1.91 ERA, 0.913 WHIP and 51 saves in 54 opportunities while pitching 80 innings in 69 games.

The argument can easily be made Britton had a better year this season than Eckersley 24 years ago. But Britton isn't competing against Eckersley; he's competing against the growing sentiment that closers are interchangeable and defined roles for relief pitchers are archaic.

Britton's agent, Scott Boras, made that clear in a text after the finalists were announced: "Baseball writers have now excluded closers from winning the Cy Young. Ridiculous."

Britton was a little more diplomatic. "Whether I was a finalist or not, it wasn't going to change the way I feel about the season I had," Britton texted. "I figured I wasn't the safe [Cy Young] choice and it was going to be an uphill battle. Obviously, I hope a reliever in the future has a better season than I had and gets recognized for it."

The truth is, you can't do much better than what Britton did as a reliever. This is what his manager, Buck Showalter, had to say: "This guy has maybe had the greatest year in history of relief pitching. He did it at home, he did it away. It was with a one-run lead, a three-run lead, when we got into a city at 4 o'clock the previous morning."

You also don't often see a group of upper echelon starters so evenly matched like the top candidates were this year. So, this was the perfect storm for a reliever to win the Cy Young Award. And Britton didn't come close.

It should signify to the BBWAA membership -- of which I belong -- that times have changed, and an adjustment in the rules is necessary.

Several years ago, esteemed baseball writer Jayson Stark of ESPN.com

made a proposal to the BBWAA to add a fifth award in each league to honor relief pitchers (joining the Cy Young, MVP, Rookie and Manager awards).

His point was the Roloids Relief/Delivery Man accolades didn't have the same prestige as the BBWAA awards, and relievers were buried in the Cy voting. The proposal was shot down.

Full disclosure: I voted against it. I liked the idea, but as then-chairman of the local BBWAA chapter, I was always struggling to get 16 qualified voters (two per award, four awards, two leagues) because large media entities such as *The Baltimore Sun* and *Washington Post* didn't allow their employees to vote, and MLB.com writers were not allowed to be part of the BBWAA.

Trying to find four more voters from a limited pool would have been a logistical nightmare. Conceptually, I agreed with the idea, though.

And, now, membership of the BBWAA expanded to include approved internet media such as MLB.com. Finding qualified voters is no longer as much of a challenge.

I'd now be on board for adding a BBWAA reliever award. But that ship likely has sailed.

In 2014, Major League Baseball took over the reliever awards and renamed them in honor of Trevor Hoffman (NL) and Mariano Rivera (AL). A panel of nine former elite closers pick the annual winners, and do an excellent job (Britton won the Rivera award this year).

The primary benefit of having the writers take ownership of the awards is they are all under one umbrella. The finalists are all announced at once and the winners are spread out for a period of days to create maximum interest. (The BBWAA award winners are revealed in the offseason, while the MLB reliever awards are presented during the World Series).

Plus, because of the historical tradition involved with the MVP and Cy Young, the BBWAA awards just have a little more juice than any other baseball accolades. That's the way it is.

That's not to say the writers get it right every time; we didn't come close this year with Britton, seemingly ignored in Cy Young voting.

So, it's time to alter things. Make Cy Young official for starters only, and promote the Hoffman/Rivera honors in the same manner as the BBWAA awards, so the relievers get their proper recognition.

Regardless if it's fair, it's certainly obvious after this year's balloting that relievers can't compete for the Cy Young these days. ☒

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# Back For His Junior Year, Melo Trimble Ready To Lead Youthful Terps

★ LUKE JACKSON

**A**s Maryland head coach Mark Turgeon and his staff entered the spring, they were in danger of losing their entire starting lineup from the 2015-16 season, during which they won 27 games and went to the NCAA tournament Sweet 16. They also had just two players committed as part of their incoming freshmen class.

But by the end of the spring, Maryland's roster was remade: forward Micah Thomas committed in mid-March; graduate transfer L.G. Gill, a forward who had spent his prior three years at Duquesne, committed in early May; point guard Melo Trimble decided to return for his junior season May 25; forward Justin Jackson committed on

the same late-May night, and finally, forward Joshua Tomaic committed June 1.

Rather than entering the 2016-17 season with the look of a rebuilding team, the Terps suddenly seemed as if they had a chance to compete at the top of the Big Ten once again.

"You want to stay relevant. I just kept telling my staff that," Turgeon said at Maryland's media day Oct. 25. "I said, 'We can't drop off the college basketball map -- can't be on it for two years and fall off. We've got to get some stuff done.'

"I think we added some really good pieces that fit in. We didn't just take anything. We grabbed guys that fit into what we're doing. I couldn't have been more proud of my staff and what we got done in that month. It's really kind of set us up -- not only for this year but for the future."

New faces and youth populate the Terps'

roster this year. Guards Anthony Cowan and Kevin Huerter round out Maryland's freshmen class, along with Jackson, Thomas and Tomaic. The Terps' returning scholarship players are guards Trimble, Dion Wiley and Jaylen Brantley; forwards Jared Nickens and Ivan Bender; and centers Damonte Dodd and Michal Cekovsky. Dodd and Gill are the only seniors on the team.

Turgeon said this year's squad actually reminds him of the Terps' 2014-15 team. But regardless of the identity Maryland eventually takes on throughout the course of the season, Trimble will be the focal point.

## 'IT'S MY TEAM'

Trimble entered the 2015-16 season as the Big Ten Preseason Player of the Year after leading Maryland to the NCAA tournament as a freshman. The Terps missed the tournament in the four years prior to Trimble's arrival, but Trimble's steadiness, scoring and playmaking ability helped transform the program.

Trimble's sophomore year began similarly well, despite high expectations on both an individual and team level. The high point of Trimble's season came Jan. 9, when he knocked in a game-winning 3-pointer at Wisconsin that pushed the Terps to 4-0 in conference play.

However, after that, Trimble struggled. He averaged 14.9 points on 36 percent shooting -- including 26 percent from 3-point range -- during Maryland's 20 games after the win at Wisconsin. Trimble was once seen as likely to forego his final two years of college to turn pro, but his prolonged shooting slump hurt his draft stock.

He chose to come back to College Park, Md., after attending the NBA Draft Combine and working out with various teams last May.

"I'm just happy to be here with the group of guys and to have Coach Turgeon be my coach again," Trimble said. "[I] just have something to prove. Last year wasn't a year I wanted to have. Me coming back this year, I'm really focused, and I'm confident about myself, and I know I'm going to play the way I want to play.

"A year ago, we had a lot of weapons on the team, but this year it's a lot different. It's my team. I'm the leader of the team."

Given his history with the program, the 21-year-old Trimble returns as the unquestioned leader of the Terps. Guard Dez Wells led Maryland's 2014-15 team, while a host of veterans like forward Jake Layman and guard Rasheed Sulaimon held those duties last year. Now, it's Trimble's turn.

"He's a very good player, but [even though] it's his team, he doesn't really act like it," Jackson said. "He's very unselfish. He passes the ball. He looks for teammates. He's very encouraging.

"He just tells me to keep trying. No matter how many mistakes I make, no matter what I do wrong, just keep trying and keep going and keep pushing because the one thing you can control is your effort."

## NEW FACES EQUAL MORE PACE AND SPACE

Just as Trimble, Nickens and Wiley energized the program during the fall of 2014, Turgeon is hoping this year's recruiting class can do the same. Maryland lost four starters off last year's team, leaving plenty of minutes open to competition. Turgeon sees three freshmen -- Cowan, Huerter and Jackson -- as particularly capable of helping the Terps right away.

Cowan is a 6-foot, 170-pound Bowie, Md., native who starred at St. John's College High School in Washington, D.C. Cowan gives the Terps a legitimate secondary point guard -- something they've struggled to identify during the past two years, allowing Trimble a chance to play off the ball some. Turgeon said Cowan is "probably going to be the fastest guy in the league" and "can really defend. He can pick up full court, pressure the ball [and is] fast on the break."

Huerter, out of Clifton Park, N.Y., will play on the wing. Turgeon said he began recruiting Huerter when he was a 6-foot-3.5 point guard. Now, Huerter is 6-foot-7 while retaining his guard skills, particularly his ability to shoot from the outside. Huerter has also "figured out he's pretty tall and long, [so] he can get into the paint and shoot over people," Turgeon said.

Jackson is a 6-foot-7, 225-pound forward from East York, Ontario, Canada. Turgeon said he'll play Jackson at power forward some this year. Jackson is "really more of a guard than anybody I've had at that position, even more so than [Layman], as far as handling the ball and being able to play that position," Turgeon said. But Jackson is so long -- he has a 7-foot-3 wingspan -- that he can hold up defensively at power forward.

"I think they all have different games. They all bring something different to the table. I think they're all going to help us in a lot of different ways," Brantley said of the freshmen class. "I really think that we're going to depend on them some games; they're going to depend on [the older players] some games. I think, if we give them the confidence to know that we trust them, they'll be fine."

The injection of talent gives Turgeon a chance to play smaller and faster than he did last year. More guard depth gives Turgeon more combinations to play small ball; Trimble and Sulaimon were the only guards who got a lot of minutes last year. Turgeon now has five guards he can play this year in Trimble, Cowan, Wiley, Brantley and Huerter, who's probably long enough to play small forward.

And instead of using traditional big men on the post, Turgeon can spread the floor with players at power forward who are also good ball-handlers, like Jackson and Gill. With the shooters Maryland has on paper -- Nickens, Huerter and Jackson, to name a few -- Trimble likely will have more space to operate than last year.

"You spread the floor better, it opens it up for Melo a little bit more. Anthony Cowan, Dion Wiley, even Justin Jackson, they're all really good off the dribble, can do some things for us," Turgeon said. "We'll be able to open the floor more, but we can also play traditional and run our system that's been so successful for us." ☒



ED SHEAHAN/PRESSBOX

Melo Trimble

# Shatori Walker-Kimbrough, Brionna Jones To Lead New-Look Terps

★ STEVE JONES



he Maryland women's basketball team will have a different look this season. With six freshmen dotting the 14-player roster, the Terps are younger than they have been in several years. But they are hoping

for similar results.

The Terps have qualified for the post-season each of the last 13 years, making 12 appearances in the NCAA tournament and one trip to the Women's National Invitation Tournament. The 2015-16 team continued Maryland's winning tradition, finishing with a 31-4 record, a second consecutive Big Ten championship and another trip to the NCAA tournament. A 74-65 second-round loss to eventual Final Four participant Washington brought Maryland's season to its earliest end since the 2010-11 campaign.

Despite the loss of several key players to graduation, the Terps are expected to be one of the nation's top teams again. Maryland, No. 6 in the preseason Associated Press poll, can point to the return of seniors Shatori Walker-Kimbrough and Brionna Jones as reasons for that high ranking.

The veteran duo has played an integral role in Maryland's recent success. During the past three seasons, the Terps have compiled a 93-14 record, won consecutive Big Ten championships and made two Final Four trips during their three NCAA appearances.

Head coach Brenda Frese is relying on Walker-Kimbrough and Jones to not only continue their production but to also help acclimate the freshmen class.

"We know what we can expect from them,

both on and off the court," Frese said. "What I've been most impressed with is their leadership. Bri is someone who still leads by example, but when she does speak the team listens. Shatori has a strong voice and has been consistent every day."

Six freshmen and two sophomores are on the roster, but Walker-Kimbrough indicated the Terps' lofty goals haven't changed.

"It's not necessarily about our opponent but about how great we can be," Walker-Kimbrough said. "We had some extra practices during our foreign trip [to Italy], so we got to build the chemistry early on. I feel that this is the most versatile team we've had since I've been here."

Walker-Kimbrough and Jones were first-team All-Big Ten choices and candidates for college basketball's major awards last season. Walker-Kimbrough, a 5-foot-11 guard, averaged a team-high 19.5 points per game and was the nation's most accurate 3-point shooter at .545.

Jones is a force in the low post. The 6-foot-3 center enters her senior season as the ninth-leading rebounder in program history and ranks eighth in blocked shots. Jones nearly averaged a double-double last season, finishing with 15.2 points and 9.8 rebounds per game. Jones, the national leader with a .665 field-goal percentage, has been working to further diversify her offensive game.

"I want to be more consistent with my jump shot and be more willing to face up [to the basket]," said Jones, who will be joined by younger sister Stephanie on the Terps' roster this winter. "It's all about being more versatile."

Jones will be aided in the frontcourt by the return of sophomore forward Kiah Gillespie (5.1 points, 2.8 rebounds per game) and sophomore center Brianna Fraser (4.0 points, 2.7 rebounds).

Junior guard Kristen Confroy is the Terps' third returning starter. The 5-foot-9 Confroy, who made 40.8 percent of her 3-point attempts last season, averaged 8.0 points and 4.2 rebounds for the 2015-16 squad.

"I think this team is similar to last year's, in terms of its work ethic and the mentality that we're going to get better every day," Confroy said. "But it's much different in terms of the team dynamic. We have a lot of new energy and talent."

Maryland will have to replace several key players, including point guards Brene Moseley (11.6 points, team-leading 5.9 assists) and Chloe Pavlech (3.2 assists). The Terps also lost forward Tierney Pfirman (9.1 points, 4.9 rebounds) and center Malina Howard, who contributed 5.3 points and 4.4 rebounds per outing, from the frontcourt. In addition, junior guard Kiara Leslie and junior forward Aja Ellison are being medically redshirted this season.

But the loss of those six players will be countered by the arrival of the nation's top freshmen class. The six-player group consists of guards Kaila Charles, Sarah Myers, Destiny Slocum and Blair Watson, forward Stephanie Jones and center Jenna Staiti. Charles, Slocum and Watson earned McDonald's All-America recognition during their high school senior years.

"We're really looking forward to blending in so many new faces," Frese said. "[Our freshmen] are fearless and extremely competitive, and I love their mentality."

Slocum, who was the Idaho Gatorade State Player of the Year during her junior and senior seasons at Mountain View High School, could step into the point guard spot vacated by the graduations of Moseley and Pavlech. Charles, a Glenn Dale, Md., native who played three seasons at Eleanor Roosevelt High School and finished her prep ca-

reer at Riverdale Baptist, and Watson should also get extensive playing time in the Maryland backcourt.

"To be able to surround yourself with not only the amazing girls that are already here but also the group that have just come in, [makes] me happy where I am," said Watson, a 6-foot guard from Nutley, N.J. "I'm ready to be challenged and see how hard and how physical the game is at the college level."

The Terps will also welcome redshirt junior Ieshia Small, who sat out last season after transferring from Baylor. Frese expects the 6-foot guard, who averaged 2.9 points and 1.4 rebounds per game during her two seasons at Baylor, to play multiple positions.

"I see my role as being a contributor and helping wherever it's needed," said Small, who was the 2013 Florida Gatorade Player of the Year. "Last year, sitting out was a blessing in disguise because I got to learn the system, the plays and my teammates."

That familiarity should help the Terps in their quest to retain the Big Ten title. Maryland, which won the conference championship during its first two seasons in the league, was chosen as the 2016-17 favorite in the Big Ten's preseason poll of head coaches and media members. But the Terps should get a strong challenge from Ohio State, which finished second in the regular-season standings last winter. Indiana and Michigan State are also expected to be major factors in the conference race.

Before the Big Ten season opens at Minnesota Jan. 1, the Terps will face a challenging nonconference schedule. Maryland will play Arizona State and Washington State at the Nov. 25-26 South Point Shootout in Las Vegas. The Terps also will travel to face two 2016 NCAA tournament participants in preseason No. 5 Louisville (ACC-Big Ten Challenge Dec. 1) and Duquesne (Dec. 21), before battling defending national champion Connecticut Dec. 29 at Xfinity Center.

"We'll be tested early," Frese said. "The competition that we'll face throughout the nonconference schedule will really help prepare us for conference play." ☒



Shatori Walker-Kimbrough



Brionna Jones

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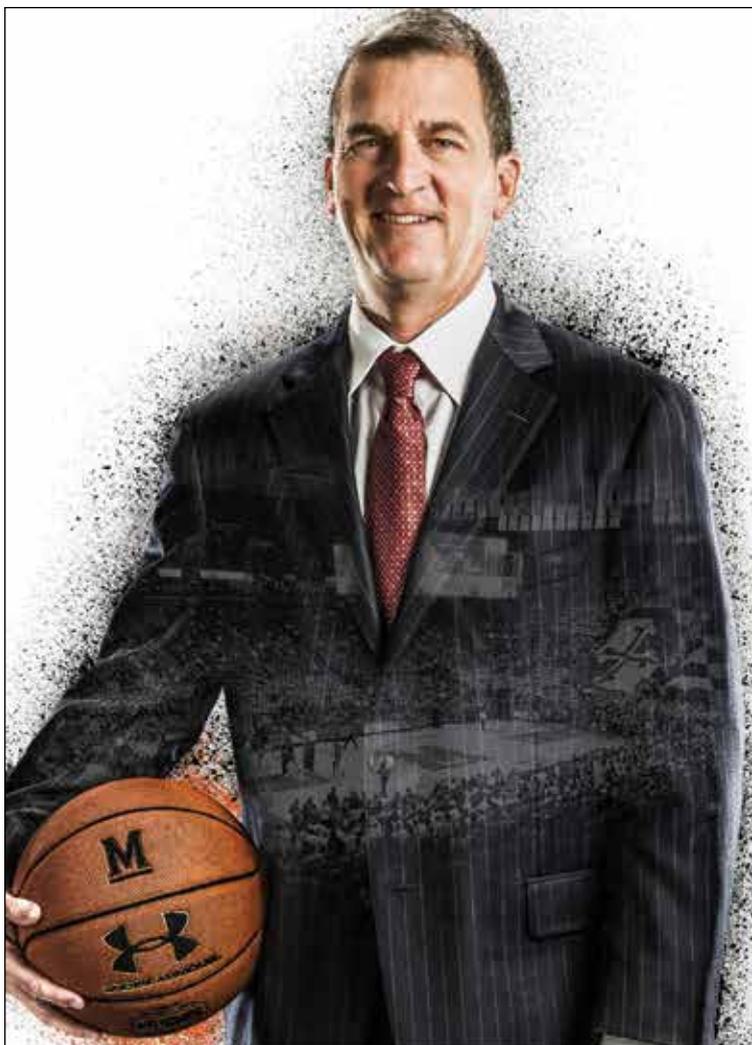
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# Towson Men Picked To Finish Second In CAA

★ SIMON HABTEMARIAM



After an impressive 2015-16 season, the Towson men's basketball team faces high expectations this year.

Last year, the Tigers earned a No. 3 seed in the Colonial Athletic Association tournament after finishing the regular season 20-11 overall and 11-7 in the CAA. Towson fell to Northeastern, 71-60, during the quarterfinals of the conference tournament but still earned a spot in the Vegas 16 postseason tournament. But the Tigers came up short again, falling to Oakland, 90-72, in the first round.

Towson head coach Pat Skerry said throughout last year's success, the Tigers were focused on consistency, a theme he intends to highlight this year, as well.

"Obviously, whenever you win 20 [games] it's a good year," Skerry said. "... Consistency has a lot to do with mindset. Are you ready to perform? What's your routine? Are you focused on what we need you to do in order to win? These

guys know that. It's a connected group, but like I said, it starts with our better guys. When our better guys play well, that sets the tone for others and keeps guys in their roles."

One of the players Towson will look to this year is senior forward Arnaud William Adala Moto, who will look to improve on his impressive debut season with the Tigers. After sitting out a year following his transfer from Wake Forest, the then-junior led the Tigers in scoring (13.9 points per game) and rebounding (8.3 rebounds per game) during his first season at Towson.

"I wouldn't trade him for anybody," Skerry said. "... He's certainly gotten better this offseason, and I'm expecting him to play at an even higher level than he did a year ago."

The Tigers' other top offensive weapon is junior guard Mike Morsell. The 2014-15 CAA All-Rookie team selection saw marked improvement during his sophomore campaign, throughout which he recorded double-digit scoring in 24 of 33 games played. Skerry said Morsell doesn't show any signs of slowing down.

"He's gotten a lot better," Skerry said.

"He's talented. We've seen it in our first couple of scrimmages and certainly in practice. I think he's in a really good place right now -- letting the game come to him. If [he] and [Adala Moto] are consistent, it's going to make everybody's job much easier."

Along with his returning stars, Skerry is excited to show some of the newer talent on his roster, including junior guards Brian Starr, who transferred from Colby (Kansas), and DeShaun Morman, a Cincinnati transfer.

"Brian Starr is a pure point guard. He's kind of the fastest guy we've had with the basketball," Skerry said. "DeShaun Morman is certainly going to play a lot. He's a great athlete, really competitive, talented kid with a little bit better basketball IQ than I originally thought."

Towson was picked to finish second in the CAA, behind only defending champion University of North Carolina-Wilmington. But before they enter conference play, the Tigers will begin the season with some critical nonconference matchups, most notably against the University of Maryland, which is ranked No. 25 in the Associated Press preseason poll. But Skerry said his Tigers aren't intimidated by the matchup with the Terps.

"We know how good Maryland is, and we understand it's an important game, but it's one game," Skerry said. "We won't play scared there, but we have great re-



Arnaud William Adala Moto

spect for them. We know we'll have to play very well. You can say that almost any night on the road, though." ☒

# Towson Women Look To Rebound From Tough 2015-16 Season

★ SIMON HABTEMARIAM



The Towson University women's basketball team is looking to get back on track during the 2016-17 season. Last season, the Tigers went 7-24 overall and 3-15 in the CAA to finish last in the conference.

Head coach Niki Reid Geckeler said the focus heading into the season is not so much on their last-place finish but more what they must fix to avoid that fate again.

"I'm not going to say there were any expectations of where we're going to place," Reid Geckeler said. "We really have just been talking about building and the process. I think if you take care of the day-to-day process -- the small details like playing together, playing as a team with a lot of energy -- then everything else will take care of itself."

The fourth-year head coach points to the Tigers' defensive issues from last season as the team's focal point. The Tigers' 70.7 points-per-game were the most allowed by any team in the conference last season.

"The one thing the team, the coaching staff and everyone a part of the program committed ourselves to was playing on the defensive end," Reid Geckeler said.

The Tigers will look to senior guard Raven Bankston to lead the charge during Towson's rebuilding effort. The Detroit native was named preseason second-team All-CAA after she led the team in scoring last year, finishing second in the conference with a 15.5 points-per-game average.

"The expectations for Raven are high," Reid Geckeler

said. "She's a very explosive guard and can score in a number of ways. So we're looking forward to her doing that same thing and continuing to grow."

The biggest date circled on the Tigers' calendar is Dec. 6, when Towson takes on the University of Maryland in College Park. Reid Geckeler said she looks forward to testing her team against an elite program.

"It's a top-notch program in this area," Reid Geckeler said. "Maryland, when you think about the women's basketball program, has been top 25, Final Four, in contention for a national championship on a yearly basis. So we're going to go in there with the expectation of playing that team, doing what we do, which is playing defense and just playing team basketball."

"I think it's always good when you have a high-caliber team like that in your backyard and you can play against them and really have an opportunity to compete at the highest level."

Reid Geckeler expects to face an uphill climb in her team's attempt to rebound in CAA play, but the Tigers coach is excited about the product they will roll out this season.

"We're not really worried about anything" she said. "It's a very, very competitive conference. I think with the CAA, there's so many different styles of basketball. So on any given night, anything can happen."

"Again, what we do is just focus on who we are, what our identity is as a basketball team. We've grown in so many ways. We had a lot of lessons, and we learned from those lessons. So I think this is going to be a very fun year for us. I'm excited about this squad. I'm excited about where they are mentally, physically and just how driven they are right now." ☒



Raven Bankston



# THEY SAID IT ON GLENN CLARK radio

On a special college basketball preview edition of Glenn Clark Radio Nov. 1, local men's coaches from Baltimore-area schools stopped by to share their team's outlook for the 2016-17 season. Here's what they had to say:



"There's always pressure to win. There's always pressure to do well. This is my fourth year. We kind of have our guys in [place] now. We've laid the foundation. We have the building blocks; we have the pieces. We have all the ingredients to take that next step. I think we will do it. I have a lot of confidence in our guys; I have a lot of confidence in our coaching staff; I have a lot of confidence in myself."

- Loyola head coach G.G. Smith on expectations for this year's Greyhounds

"People want to know who we play. In our nonconference schedule, we basically tell them that we don't run from anybody. Anybody that wants to play and is willing to pay us the money to play, we're going to go ahead and play them. In the years that I've been here, we've played Notre Dame, we've played Michigan, we've played Michigan State, we've played Utah and Oregon and USC. It's nonstop games that we play, and we don't run from anybody."

- Coppin State head coach Michael Grant on another difficult early-season schedule for the Eagles, including games at Utah, BYU, Georgetown and Clemson



"This is probably the most athletic team I've had in a long time, since when I first got here. They just don't have the experience. Next year will probably be an even more exciting year. By no means am I using this year as a test module. ... I'm excited about the group. We've had two tough years. But I live by the saying of Nelson Mandela, when he said, 'Don't judge me by my successes, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up.' Anybody that I know that's been successful, coaches included, they've had challenging seasons. It's just all part of it."

- Morgan State head coach Todd Bozeman on the Bears having a young team this season

"It's a great time to be at UMBC. Speaking purely from a basketball standpoint, with a brand new arena going up - the investment that our president and our athletics director have put on men's basketball is really important to help us grow. Our team, our coaching staff, we're going to have to raise the level of our play to kind of match their investment. It's not just going to be, 'Because they invest, all of a sudden we're going to have a winning program.'"

- UMBC head coach Ryan Odom on the culture entering his first season with the Retrievers



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# Baltimore Natives Phil Booth, Daniel Ochefu Key To Villanova's Title

★ LUKE JACKSON



or Villanova head coach Jay Wright, the seeds for guard Phil Booth's performance during the Wildcats' 77-74 victory against North Carolina in the national championship game April 4 were planted in atypical fashion.

"We have a lot of great alumni in the Baltimore area and they're big basketball fans, and they follow the Catholic League in Baltimore," Wright said at the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation's sixth annual College Basketball Tip-Off fundraiser and luncheon in Baltimore Oct. 26. "They follow everything in Baltimore. So they tell us about all the players all the time. They're about 50 percent on their judgment. Sometimes they're right, sometimes they're wrong. But we always listen."

The alumni were certainly correct in the case of Booth, a 6-foot-3, 195-pound junior guard out of Baltimore who played at Mount St. Joseph's for four seasons. Wright credited Frank Culotta -- "one of our great Baltimore alums" -- for first

discovering Booth when he was a freshman for the Gaels.

Booth committed to Villanova in July 2013, before his senior year at Mount St. Joe's. He was named *The Baltimore Sun's* All-Metro Player of the Year for his efforts during the 2013-14 season, during which the Gaels compiled a 34-5 record and won both the Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Association "A" Conference and Baltimore Catholic League titles.

Almost three years later, Villanova's diligence in recruiting Booth was rewarded in the biggest way possible. Booth came off the bench to score a team-high 20 points during the Wildcats' victory against the Tar Heels, going 6-for-6 from the free-throw line and 2-for-2 from 3-point land. He also scored 10 points during Villanova's 99-51 victory versus Oklahoma in the national semifinal two days earlier.

"In that championship game, we don't win the game without him, bottom line," said Wright, who mentioned Booth fought through both knee trouble and mononucleosis last season. "There were a lot of games during the year like that, where he'd come off the bench and give us big numbers."

Booth averaged 14.5 minutes per game as a freshman and 21.9 minutes per contest last year. His role has a chance to increase once again this year. He averaged seven points and 2.1 assists per contest last season, though a fully healthy Booth -- he underwent arthroscopic surgery on his left knee in May -- could be capable of more.

"He's been so patient, so intelligent about the learning process that he's in a great position to be a leader this year, and he's playing that way," Wright said. "He's been great in the preseason."

Booth isn't the only Baltimore native who played a major role in Villanova's championship; Daniel Ochefu, a 6-foot-11, 245-pound forward, also fits that description.

Ochefu said on Glenn Clark Radio Oct. 25 that he lived in Maryland for the first 12 years of his life. His family then moved to Nigeria to connect with extended relatives and experience the Nigerian culture, but Ochefu returned to the States for high school, playing hoops for three years at Westtown School in West Chester, Pa., where Wright and his staff discovered him. He played his senior season at Downingtown West High School in Downingtown, Pa.

"Daniel always demanded that he was from Baltimore. And the guys on the team would bust his chops all the time," Wright said. "They'd say, 'Dude, you're at Westtown. This is a boarding school.' And he would always say, 'No, I'm a Baltimore guy.' He always took great pride in that."

Ochefu played four years for the Wildcats. He totaled 141 games for Villanova, averaging 7.2 points and 6.6 rebounds throughout the course of his career. Ochefu saved the best for last, however. He averaged 11.5 points and 7.2 rebounds on a sprained right ankle during Villanova's run through the NCAA tournament last spring. Wright called Ochefu "one of the most competitive, intelligent forwards we've ever had, we've ever coached."

Ochefu was one of three undrafted free agents to make the Washington Wizards' 15-man roster this fall. He made his debut Oct. 27 in Atlanta, hauling in a rebound during four minutes of play. Ochefu will be one of the Wizards' reserve big men this year and looks to bring the same skillset that helped Villanova win a national title.

"I think he's going to be a long-term pro because of what he brings to the table. He's not relying on athleticism and flash and flair," Wright said. "His intelligence, toughness, character, competitiveness -- that's something that can last through a career and can help a lot of different teams in a lot of ways." ☒



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# Terps Linebacker Melvin Keihn: 'Everything I Do, I Do For My Mom'

★ LUKE JACKSON

**W**hen Maryland linebacker Melvin Keihn was an eighth-grader at Southwest Academy in Gwynn Oak, Md., an advisor told him he should give football a try. Keihn, who loved basketball, bought a football for him and his dad, Baina, to toss around in the backyard.

The advisor hooked him up with a Pikesville, Md., youth football program, where he played for two weeks before switching to the Hamilton Tigers' program. But in the short period of time Keihn was with Pikesville, the football novice had already caught the attention of Biff Poggi, then the head football coach at Gilman School.

"I heard that there was a kid playing at Pikesville who was really special athletically," Poggi said. "I went out to look at him at practice, and he was certainly that. He was bigger, faster, stronger than everybody. He had no idea what he was doing, but he had all the pieces."

Keihn had proven to be a quick study in football, a sport he was initially reticent to play. He wondered why anyone liked playing it.

"When I used to watch with my dad, I was like, 'Who wants to play football and hit each other? That looks painful,'" Keihn said.

But he quickly learned to love the sport and the physicality attached to it. He was recruited by Gilman and Calvert Hall not long after he picked up football.

"It's just one of those drives, you know? Everything I do, I do for my mom," Keihn said.

## FLEEING CHAOS

Keihn, now a 21-year-old redshirt sophomore at Maryland, was born June 21, 1995 in Monrovia, Liberia. Liberia experienced two civil wars from 1989-2003. Hundreds of thousands were either killed or displaced from their homes. One of many tragic aspects of the war was the frequent use of child soldiers, some of the victims were Keihn's age. Keihn's childhood is filled with unpleasant memories of the war: kidnappings, abductions and bombs going off around him.

"Honestly, that's one of the major things that I really remember as a kid, going through wars and running away with my stepmother and trying to make sure my family's safe, making sure I'm safe," Keihn said.

Keihn lived with his mother, Satta, until he was 6 years old. Satta told Keihn his father lived in the United States, but he was first going to live with his stepmother, Pauline, until the two could join Baina in America. Keihn said he didn't even know he had a father in the United States until his mom told him. When he was 8 years old, Keihn hopped on a plane bound for the U.S. with Pauline, leaving Satta behind.

Keihn initially settled in with his father, stepmother and aunt in Silver Spring, Md., and didn't know a lick of English -- only his

native Kpelle. Keihn moved to Woodlawn, Md., when he was in third grade. He'd eventually meet Poggi, who recruited him to Gilman and soon learned Keihn's story.

"He misses [his mother] terribly, talks about her constantly," Poggi said. "One of the big drives in his life is he really wants to go back and see her. He hasn't seen her since he [was] 8. She's an older woman and not in great health, and he worries about her tremendously."

"And usually when he gets news, it's not great news. News doesn't come, 'Hey, your mom's doing great.' It's usually 'she's not feeling well' or 'she's in the hospital.'"

## 'A DOMINATING PLAYER'

When Keihn decided to go to Gilman, Baina was working two jobs that occupied him for 18-19 hours every day. Baina was concerned about whether Keihn could make it to and from school each day and get his work done.

Poggi, who was the head coach at Gilman for 11 years before taking an associate head coaching position at Michigan this year, took Keihn in throughout his tenure at Gilman. Poggi and his wife, Amy, have five children -- Henry, Sam, Jim, Mellie and Mary, all of whom Keihn refers to as his brothers and sisters.

"He has an incredible sense of empathy. He's one of the kindest people I've ever met," Poggi said. "He has a very high-emotional IQ. He can sense in others where they are and what's happening, and he really wants to be a friend and a healer and a part of the family. My kids love him. I mean, they love him."

The Poggis are a football family. For example, Henry Poggi is a senior fullback at Michigan now and played with Keihn at Gilman, where Keihn fit right in. Keihn credits the support he got from the Poggi family as vital to his development as a football player. Sam Poggi was an assistant coach at Gilman.

Keihn said his English vastly improved while he was at Gilman, and he credited Biff Poggi for making sure his tutoring sessions took precedence over practice.

"My accent was so much worse than what it is now," said Keihn, who became a U.S. citizen during his Gilman years. "It was just doing all of the little things as possible to make sure I learned English and to make sure I get English down. That was one of my hardest things. When I got to Gilman, that's when my English really sharpened up."

Keihn played for four years on Gilman's varsity squad, and the Greyhounds won two MIAA "A" conference championships while he was there. He was named to *The Baltimore Sun* All-Metro first team for his efforts during his junior and senior seasons. Keihn, who was a four-star outside linebacker and the fourth-best recruit in the state on Rivals.com, recorded 85 tackles, 16 tackles for a loss, nine sacks and forced two fumbles as a senior.

"He's an unbelievable athlete. And at Gilman, he picked it up very quickly," Poggi said. "We asked him to do the things that he could

do well. We had him pursue, chase and go to the ball and rush the passer, and he was a dominating player. I mean, dominating player."

## FROM HOKIE TO TERP

When it came time to pick where to attend college and continue his football career, Keihn was "50-50" between Maryland and Virginia Tech. Keihn called the choice "probably one of the hardest decisions I've ever made," and ultimately chose the Hokies because of how comfortable he felt with the program.

Keihn played a lot on special teams during his freshman year in Blacksburg, Va., in 2014, but he felt the tug of wanting to play close to home. He spoke with current teammates

Josh Woods and Jesse Aniebonam, both of whom were local kids he was close with even though they didn't play at Gilman. Keihn was granted his release by then-Virginia Tech head coach Frank Beamer and landed at Maryland.

Keihn sat out the 2015 season but has been a productive reserve for the Terps this year (22 tackles, two for loss and a pass breakup, as of Nov. 11). Keihn started the season competing with Aniebonam for the starting inside linebacker spot but shifted in recent weeks to the strong side linebacker position "because he's got the ability to pass rush and also cover," according to Terps defensive coordinator Andy Buh.

But Keihn's fit within a particular scheme is a miniscule detail of his life story.

"He saw and lived through the worst atrocities in the Liberian genocide. This kid, he is a complete miracle," Poggi said. "I believe God has a great future for this child because this child, by all rights, shouldn't even be here." ☒



Melvin Keihn

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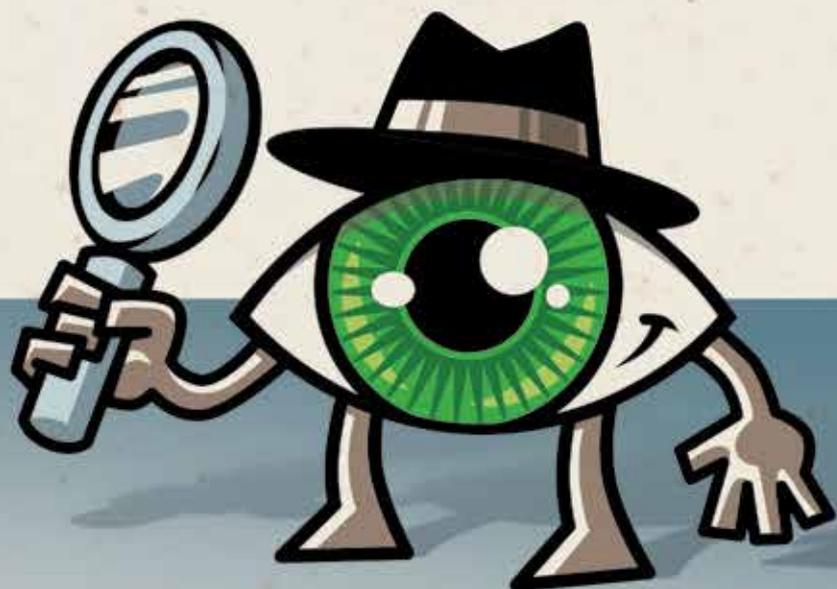
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# Senior Josiah Powell Showing Big-Play Ability For Surging Navy

★ TODD KARPOVICH



Senior linebacker Josiah Powell personifies the “Navy Football Brotherhood” -- a motto that described the permanent bond among players past and present.

Many of the Midshipmen were devastated when senior co-captain Daniel Gonzales suffered a season-ending

Lisfranc injury in his right foot against rival Air Force Oct. 1. Powell, a fellow linebacker, decided to honor his teammate by changing his number from 48 to Gonzales' 58 for the remainder of the season.

And with this show of support came a game-changing performance on the field. In his first game wearing No. 58, Powell intercepted the first two passes of his career against then-No. 6 Houston Oct. 8.

“I chose to switch to No. 58 as a tribute to my brother,” Powell said. “It really hurt me and the rest of the team to see him out for the season.”

The 6-foot-3, 224-pound Powell has evolved into one of the team's top playmakers. This year, Powell's football acumen prompted coaches to play him more at “striker,” a term used for an outside linebacker who is asked to perform several roles.

Powell has the athleticism to thrive in a position that requires versatility. He was a three-sport athlete (football, basketball, and track and field) at Madisonville North Hopkins High School in Kentucky. Both of his parents also ran track at Murray State. For Powell, it was a seamless transition adjusting to his role with Navy.

“We just have to do a little bit of everything,” Powell said about playing striker. “You have to understand how to hold your edge on the line, so we do a lot of D-line stuff. Sometimes, you will be crossing gaps like the inside linebackers, and sometimes you drop into coverage like the [defensive backs]. So, it's a little bit of everything.”

Powell's willingness to help the team is not surprising to Navy head coach Ken Niumatalolo, who fre-

quently preaches about the importance of the “Brotherhood.” Niumatalolo is often overcome with emotion when talking about his players and their selflessness toward one another.

“It's just who our team is,” Niumatalolo said. “The players on this team love each other. If someone goes down, I can see our whole team deflate. It's like losing a family member.”

Navy is having another solid season. In addition to the victory against Houston, the Midshipmen snapped a five-year losing streak against Notre Dame with a 28-27 victory in Jacksonville, Fla., Nov. 6. Powell had three tackles during that game and helped contain Irish quarterback Deshone Kizer.

The Navy has a prominent presence in the Jacksonville area, and the win set off a jubilant celebration at EverBank Field, which is also home to the NFL's Jaguars.

“We are just trying to do our job as we've always been doing,” said Powell, who is a general science major. “The only thing I will say is different is we have been focusing a lot more on helping each other out rather than individual performance. I'm doing my job, so it makes everyone else's job easier.”

Linebacker is one of the most competitive positions for Navy this year. Powell has been pushed in practice by backup Brandon Jones and said the competition for playing time only makes the Navy players better. He embraces the challenge and works hard every snap, despite the bumps and bruises that come with the season.

“I feel like you need that in every position,” Powell said about the competition. “That way you don't have anyone getting lazy and saying they don't have to work hard. With people who are up there at your level, you can compete and have the best possible production.”

Powell played himself into the starting lineup last season. He saw action in all 13 games and started six of the final nine matchups. He finished with 29 tackles, including four for a loss, and a sack. Powell also got better dropping into coverage, broke up three passes and recorded two quarterback hurries.

During last year's 21-17 victory against archrival Army West Point, Powell had a pair of tackles, including one for a loss. He said the experience he gained in 2015 has carried over to this season and helped make him a more confident player.

“It was definitely a big help getting all of that experience that I got with playing last year,” Powell said. “This year, going against teams like Houston, I would not have been able to perform if I had not already had those reps from last year.”

Powell's biggest game this season came against favored Houston and its Heisman Trophy candidate quarterback Greg Ward Jr. Oct. 8. Powell's first interception set up a field goal that tied the game at 20. He then got his second pick-off in the third quarter and ran 34 yards for a touchdown that gave Navy a 34-20 lead.

The Midshipmen went on to win, 46-40, and the Navy students stormed the field in celebration. The victory also propelled Navy into the top 25.

“On both of the picks, I was dropping into coverage,” Powell said. “I didn't really rush the whole game. So, it was mostly just coverage for me.”

Following the Houston game, Powell was named the Football Writers Association of America Defensive Player of the Week as well as the American Athletic Conference Defensive Player of the Week and the Naval Academy Athletic Association Athlete of the Week.

“I was just trying to do what I was coached to do,” Powell said.

The following week, during a 42-28 victory against Memphis Oct. 22, Powell continued to make game-impacting plays, leading the team with a career-high nine tackles.

Powell didn't slow down and registered five tackles and forced a fumble during a disappointing, 52-45, loss to South Florida Oct. 28 that knocked Navy from the top 25 rankings. Nonetheless, the Midshipmen still have several goals in front of them.

At the forefront is beating Army at M&T Bank Stadium Dec. 10. Powell will continue to play a significant role in that late-season surge.

“He's understanding everything so much better now, and that is showing out on the field,” Navy outside linebackers coach Justin Davis said. “Josiah is kind of coming into his own this season. He's showing great instincts and making a lot of plays as a result.” ☑

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# PNC Lacrosse Spotlight: John Carroll Midfielder Charlotte Haggerty

★ TODD KARPOVICH



John Carroll midfielder Charlotte Haggerty is a talented athlete who plays field hockey, runs indoor track and excels in lacrosse. This summer, she scored three goals for Team Baltimore during a 10-3 win against Washington in the Under Armour All-America Lacrosse Tournament. The rising senior was named to the Interscholastic Athletic Association of Maryland All-Conference Team and was a second-team All-Metro selection by *The Baltimore Sun*. Haggerty has committed to play lacrosse at James Madison University.

**PressBox:** As a three-sport athlete, how do you effectively balance your time between academics and sports?

**Charlotte Haggerty:** Balancing athletics and academics has really taught me how to manage my time. During season, whether field hockey, indoor track or lacrosse, I get home late, so it is imperative that I have a daily plan and stick to it. I feel

that when I am involved in a sport, it helps me manage my time better. I make sure to write everything down and cross it off the list as I finish.

**PB:** How was the experience playing in the Under Armour All-America Lacrosse Tournament? What was the key for you to score three goals during the big victory against D.C.?

**CH:** I personally loved playing in the Under Armour All-America Lacrosse Tournament. It was so fun playing with and against the best lacrosse players in the country. It was also really cool to have the chance to work and play with people who I normally play against. I think the key to my success in the game against D.C. was the trust that grew with my team. I wouldn't have been able to score those goals if it weren't for the trust and chemistry that we built over the tournament.

**PB:** What are your goals entering your final high school season?

**CH:** My goals for entering my final high school season are pretty simple. My goals include being a leader, both on and off the field, grow as a player and, ultimately, making it to the IAAM championship and to come out with a win!

**PB:** How has the high level of play in the IAAM helped you improve as a player?

**CH:** The high level of play of the IAAM has had a huge impact on me as a player. Being in this conference has allowed me to play with the best of the best. It has really pushed me into becoming a better and all-around stronger player and athlete. This conference is a huge challenge, but I love that no game is ever an easy one.

**PB:** What went into your decision to commit to James Madison?

**CH:** I chose JMU for a variety of different reasons. Most importantly, JMU will allow me to follow my career aspirations of being in the medical field. Along with this, I personally loved the family atmosphere the team and coaches at JMU offer. I also loved the community feel and school spirit of JMU. ☒

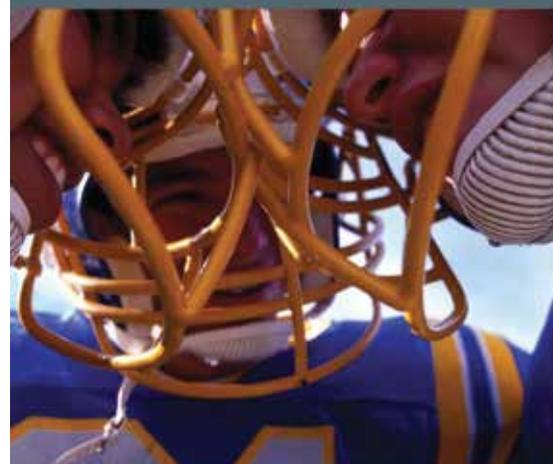


Charlotte Haggerty

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# Miranda Keaton Named U.S. Army Impact Player Of The Month

★ WICK EISENBERG



Miranda Keaton, a senior forward on the girls' soccer team at Linganore High School in Frederick County, has been named the U.S. Army Impact Player of the Month for October.

Keaton is the first recipient of the award from Frederick County. She was nominated by her coach, Howie Putterman.

"She is a leader off the field, creating unity for our team and is a constant competitor, both in games and practice -- raising the level of intensity for everyone on the team,"

Putterman wrote in his nomination. "Miranda is our emotional leader, the engine that drives us."

Possessing an impressive burst of speed and a deft finishing touch, Keaton enjoyed a historic campaign during her final high school season. She set program records this year for goals scored in a single season with 23, despite being subbed out at halftime during multiple games due to Linganore having a big lead. Keaton also recorded eight assists, and on three separate occasions, she netted hat tricks.

As a junior, Keaton was named to the second-team All-Area team, and second-team All-Conference.

"She's the one that makes things light when they need to be, but she's also one of the most competitive players



Miranda Keaton

I've ever had in 17 years of coaching," Putterman said. "She brings it every day, every practice and every game. In addition, she is really proud of the way the team came together as a unit, and you can see that by the humble way she accepts any individual accolades."

Keaton has been part of the Linganore girls' soccer program during an exciting time in its history. In 2014 and 2015, Linganore qualified for the Maryland Public Secondary School Athletics Association 3A state finals. Those two teams had a combined record of 34-3-1.

This year, Keaton helped lead the Lancers to a 14-4 overall mark. The team's season ended with a 1-0 defeat in the regional semifinal round against Frederick County rival Urbana Nov. 3.

Away from the field, Keaton makes an impact as well. She performs a lot of community service through programs like Alvarado's Angels and Hayden's Heroes. Keaton has also volunteered at local elementary school fairs and soccer camps, where she shares her soccer expertise with younger players.

Andrea Poffinberger, who teaches physical education, health and sports medicine at Linganore, has known Keaton since she was a little girl. She highlighted Keaton for being an engaging student with a keen interest in learning.

Although Poffinberger, who coaches volleyball and softball, has never coached her, she thinks it's easy to see why Keaton has had success on the soccer field.

"I had her in a great sports medicine class that was filled with kids who wanted to learn and be responsible. Those are the types of kids you can enjoy and expand on their knowledge," Poffinberger said. "Miranda is one of the most well-rounded kids you could find. She is athletic, studious, respectful and reliable -- she's just a good all-around kid, one of those kids in high school who can get along with anyone and work well with anyone."

Just like Putterman, Poffinberger recognized Keaton for her competitiveness.

Poffinberger spoke about how she had Keaton in a class teaching volleyball and that she was determined to improve as a player to help her team win. That, combined with her talent and likeability, gives Poffinberger confidence Keaton will continue to thrive after she graduates from high school in 2017.

"I just think, to start off with going away to college, the sheer responsibility will bring out the best in her. Her desire to actually learn is what will let her be successful," Poffinberger said. "When things get tougher with whatever major she chooses to pursue, her competitive side will kick in, and she'll attack the new material. That'll be the extra push that she gets in life that will allow her to be successful." ☒

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*The Impact Player of the Month Award is given to an individual who has impacted their team in a positive way, both on and off the field. Nominations will be accepted from any high school that reports scores to County Sports Zone year-round, and can be submitted by parents, coaches, teachers or fellow students. Each honoree will receive a custom trophy from Crown Trophy and the opportunity for a videotaped award presentation at their school with a member of the U.S. Army.*

## Under Nick Good-Malloy, Annapolis High Football Sees Steady Progress

★ WICK EISENBERG

**N**ick Good-Malloy, the head coach for the Annapolis High School football team, is quick to tell you his team's motto is "brick by brick." It's a phrase that represents consistent progress, something the Panthers have enjoyed since Good-Malloy's first season as head coach in 2012.

When Good-Malloy took over, the team had experienced a 15-game losing streak and hadn't qualified for the Maryland Public Secondary School Athletics Association state playoffs since 2009. Under Good-Malloy, who graduated from Annapolis in 2001, the team has enjoyed steady progress -- winning one game in 2012, four in 2013 and five in 2014.

In 2015, the Panthers had a true breakout season, finishing 8-3 and qualifying for the MPSSAA 4A state tournament. This season, Annapolis has taken it even further. With a 40-15 win against Glen Burnie Oct. 28, the team eclipsed its win total from 2015 by winning its first nine games and will once again qualify for the postseason.

"Our steady improvement isn't an accident," Good-Malloy said. "Those early years we could've cut corners and done things to win games in the moment, but we were focused on doing things the right way. That didn't lead to immediate results, but we believed that doing things the right way will pay off down the road. We like to think that that's what we see going on."

For the first time since 1999-2002, Annapolis will participate in the MPSSAA postseason in consecutive campaigns.

"I was on the varsity as a freshman, and our expectations have changed so much since then," junior outside linebacker Dayshawn Womack said. "It's been a great experience being on this team."

The team's steady rise to becoming one of Anne Arundel County's top football programs has been punctuated by big moments, which began in 2015.

Annapolis' statement win of that campaign came against perennial powerhouse Arundel. A sloppy game in which the two teams combined to have six turnovers, the Panthers pulled off a major comeback, scoring 16 straight points in the fourth quarter to beat the Wildcats, 30-28.

It was Arundel's first loss against Annapolis since 2005, and then-junior running back Cameron Hough scored one of the team's touchdowns during the fourth-quarter surge.

"Winning against Arundel proved to us that we can do more than beat mediocre teams. We can beat great teams," Hough, who also plays linebacker, said. "Through all

the mistakes, we kept playing hard. It shows that all the hard work we've put in has added another dimension to our team."

That win was part of a six-game win streak from Sept. 25-Oct. 30, 2015. The team's season ended with back-to-back losses against Old Mill, in the regular season and the first round of the MPSSAA playoffs.

"That whole season showed us we can get it done and we can play with these big teams," senior inside linebacker Avery Groft said. "The success we had and the ultimate failure gave us so much confidence and motivation for this year."

The end of 2015 was emotional for Good-Malloy because of the seniors who were leaving the program. Prior to becoming head coach at Annapolis, Good-Malloy was the head coach at Glen Burnie from 2010-11. He also had spells as an assistant coach at Annapolis from 2006-07 and Salisbury University from 2008-09.

Throughout his career, Good-Malloy had never been in one place long enough to see a class of players go from freshmen to seniors until 2015. Combined with how well the 2015 senior class finished their high school careers, it was a special conclusion for Good-Malloy.

"To see them winning one game as freshmen to graduating with eight wins and making the playoffs was incredible," Good-Malloy

said. "We always talk about leaving something better than you found it -- that includes our football program. Every senior class since my coaching staff has been here can look at themselves and say they've done their job in terms of building the program, including last year's group."

If last year's seniors can say that, then this year's will certainly be able to.

The team won its first two games against Meade and Southern by a combined score of 121-23. In its third game of the season, Annapolis faced Broadneck, the only team besides Old Mill to beat the Panthers in 2015.

Annapolis had a dominant performance, winning 40-19. The Panthers scored a touchdown in every phase of the game -- offense, defense and special teams.

"We knew it was a big game, and we had to execute where we didn't last year," junior right guard and nose tackle Jack Cowger said. "That was an overall great win -- special teams, offense, defense. Broadneck was our most complete team win of the year."

If the Broadneck game was the Panthers' most sound win, then their victory against Severna Park was their grittiest.

In that game, a plethora of injuries left Annapolis with only 31 players available to participate, which meant players who wouldn't usually get the opportunity to play were relied

upon. In Severna Park, Annapolis had an opponent it was expected to beat but was coming off consecutive convincing victories -- in other words, the definition of a trap game.

Severna Park had the lead with less than two minutes to play and had the Panthers pinned back on their own 10-yard line. Annapolis rose to the challenge, going the length of the field on a drive that was capped off by a Hough rushing touchdown to give Annapolis a narrow, 42-35, win.

"That game brought everyone together," senior wide receiver and safety Trey Gross said. "Everyone had to step up for us to beat Severna Park, whether if that meant cheering, blocking or catching the ball. Everyone did their part to win that game."

The experience of the entire team working hard and coming together so the group can enjoy a Friday night win is the vision Good-Malloy has for his program.

Good-Malloy will be the first to tell you he asks a lot of his players, not just as football players but as citizens as well. Like the team's motto of "brick by brick," he wants his players to continually improve in multiple phases of their lives.

While the discipline and focus a high schooler can gain from playing football are excellent consequences of participating, Good-Malloy also believes the special moments his kids experience when they upset a big-name team, or drive the length of the field to win in the final seconds need to be embraced in order for them to get the full experience.

"We try to have fun. We tell them that these will be some of their best high school memories," Good-Malloy said. "They'll be able to look back and remember playing high school football, so we want to see the kids be happy Friday night after a win for all the hard work and sacrifice they put in. We want being a member of this team to be a positive experience for our kids." ☒



(left to right) Jack Cowger, Cameron Hough, Trey Gross, Dayshawn Womack, Avery Groft

WICK EISENBERG/PRESSBOX

# COMMUNITY BEAT



## ★ WALKS/RACES

### NOV. 19 -- RUN OF THE CENTURY 5K

Join Century High School for the eighth annual Run of the Century to benefit the school's athletic program and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Registration will open at Century High School, 355 Ronsdale Rd. in Eldersburg at 8 a.m. The 5K run/walk will begin at 8:45 a.m., with the "Fun Run" slated to start at 9:30 a.m. For more information, email [runofthecentury@gmail.com](mailto:runofthecentury@gmail.com).

### NOV. 26 -- Y TURKEY TROT 5K

Every year, thousands of individuals from local communities come together to join the Y of Central Maryland for the annual Y Turkey Trot Charity 5K, a Thanksgiving Day tradition that raises funds to support children whose families live in poverty throughout central Maryland. The Y will host its Turkey Trot Charity 5K Nov. 26 in Baltimore City, Bel Air, Ellicott City/Catonsville, Towson and Westminster. For more information or to register, visit [ymdturkeytrot.org](http://ymdturkeytrot.org).

### DEC. 3 & 10 -- JINGLE BELL RUN

Join the 5K with a festive way to raise awareness and funds to cure Arthritis. Bring your holiday spirit to Centennial Park in Ellicott City Dec. 3 and the Coppermine Field House at DuBurns Arena Dec. 10. To register, visit [jbr.org/baltimore](http://jbr.org/baltimore).

### DEC. 10 REINDEER RUN

Join in on the fun of Baltimore City Recreation and Park's \$5 5K series. Run or walk this paved course through the Inner Harbor, and then have a picnic in the park. Food and beverage vendors will be on-site to help you refresh post-race. To register, visit [charmcityrun.com](http://charmcityrun.com).

### DEC. 17 -- THE CELTIC SOLSTICE FIVE-MILER

The Celtic Solstice Five-Miler returns to Druid Hill Park for its 17th year complete with all the festivities that have made it such a smash hit. Details for the Celtic Solstice are emailed in the days leading up to the event. For more information, visit [active.com](http://active.com).

### DEC. 17 -- UGLY SWEATER RUN

Rummage up the ugliest sweater you can find and celebrate the holidays by participating in the Ugly Sweater Run, the merriest 5K of the year. The race begins at 9 a.m. at Rash Field, 201 Key Highway. For more information, visit [theuglysweaterrun.com/locations/baltimore-maryland/](http://theuglysweaterrun.com/locations/baltimore-maryland/).

### DEC. 18 -- HOLIDAY HUSTLE 5K

Celebrate the holidays with family and friends at the Holiday Hustle 5K. The race begins at 9 a.m. at Harford Community College in Bel Air. Holiday attire is encouraged, and all participants receive a long-sleeve shirt, fin-

isher medal/ornament and chip timing. Participants must register by Dec. 16. For more information, visit [active.com](http://active.com).



## ★ BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

### FAST PITCH

U16 Dynasty Prime fast pitch softball is looking for a few committed players and families for the fall season. Games include local and national tournaments and showcases, plus year-round workouts and practices in our own facility in Glen Arm. Email Coach Denny at [dpdsoftball@gmail.com](mailto:dpdsoftball@gmail.com) or visit [dpdynasty.com](http://dpdynasty.com).

### MUSEUM OF NEGRO LEAGUES BASEBALL

Visit the Hubert V. Simmons Museum of Negro Leagues Baseball at the Owings Mills Metro Centre. The museum is named after Bert Simmons, who played for the Baltimore Elite Giants. The museum is open daily, and admission is free. Volunteers are always welcome. For more information, visit [smnlbinc.org](http://smnlbinc.org).

### COCKEYSVILLE RECREATION

For updates about baseball registration for the Cockeysville Recreation Center, visit [cockeysvillereccouncil.org](http://cockeysvillereccouncil.org) or call 410-887-7734.

### ADULT BASEBALL

Join the Eastern Baltimore County over-40 baseball league, which plays with wood bats on 90-foot diamonds. Players of all skill levels are encouraged to visit [over40baseball.org](http://over40baseball.org) or call Mike Lockett at 410-446-0443.

### BASEBALL CARD SHOW

A sports card and memorabilia show to benefit Monsignor Slade Catholic School will be held at Monsignor Slade Catholic School in Glen Burnie from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Dec. 10. For more details, call Leo at 443-416-6447.

### MASON-DIXON UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

The MDUA is looking for new high school baseball umpires in Baltimore. No experience is necessary. Email James Byrd at [jbyrd0062@comcast.net](mailto:jbyrd0062@comcast.net) or call 410-294-5257.



## ★ SOCCER/RUGBY/SQUASH

### CELTIC SOCCER CLUB

Tryouts for the Celtic Soccer Club are for boys age 6-18 and girls 6-12. Registration and additional information are available at [baltimoreceltic.com](http://baltimoreceltic.com).

## MIGHTY KICKS PUP LEAGUE

The Pup League provides year-round soccer training for boys and girls of all abilities ages 2-18. It's designed to build motor skills, self-confidence and basic techniques. Ongoing programs are available around Baltimore. For more information, visit [mightykicksbaltimore.com](http://mightykicksbaltimore.com).

## RUGBY

The Baltimore-Chesapeake Rugby Club, the region's only Division I men's rugby club, is looking for experienced players or those new to the game. For more information, email [baltimorechesapeakeclubrugby@gmail.com](mailto:baltimorechesapeakeclubrugby@gmail.com) or visit [baltimorerugby.net](http://baltimorerugby.net).

## SQUASH

SquashWise provides incentives for middle school students to excel academically, athletically and socially, as well as the opportunity to compete in local and national squash tournaments. No squash experience is necessary to become a tutor. Visit [baltimoresquashwise.org](http://baltimoresquashwise.org) to make your tax-deductible donation. To make equipment donations and/or become a volunteer tutor, email [abbym@baltimoresquashwise.org](mailto:abbym@baltimoresquashwise.org).



## ★ FOOTBALL

### BALTIMORE TERPS YOUTH

Games are open to all players age 4-14, regardless of weight or skill level. The games provide a platform for participants to play the proper position for their body size while also ensuring their success as they move on to high school and beyond. To register, visit [baltimoreterps.com](http://baltimoreterps.com) or call 443-863-TERP.

### JOIN THE RAVENS' BAND

Become part of the Baltimore Ravens' game-day experience by joining Baltimore's Marching Ravens. Visit [baltimoreterps.com/marchingravens](http://baltimoreterps.com/marchingravens).

### WOMEN'S TACKLE FOOTBALL

The Baltimore Burn is recruiting female athletes who want to play tackle football. Visit [baltimoreburnfootball.com](http://baltimoreburnfootball.com) or call head coach Jon Randall at 443-897-1192.

## ★ OTHER ACTIVITIES

### NOV. 17 -- SPORTS BOOSTERS

There will be a meet and greet with Ravens linebacker Zachary Orr and friends at Suburban Country Club to raise funds for Maryland Sports Boosters, which raises money to bridge the budget gaps of local youth sports organizations. This includes uniforms, equipment, scoreboards, field prep and seed money for the formation of new leagues/programs. To purchase tickets, go to [eventbrite.com/e/sports-boosters-of-maryland-fall-banquet-with-zach-orr-friends-tickets-28621755441](http://eventbrite.com/e/sports-boosters-of-maryland-fall-banquet-with-zach-orr-friends-tickets-28621755441).

### DEC. 5 -- TOY DRIVE

Come down to the Greene Turtle Sports Bar at McHenry Row between 5:30-8:30 p.m. and bring an unwrapped toy to be donated to local children in need.

**JANUARY 2017 -- US LACROSSE CONVENTION AND FAN FEST**

LaxCon hosts coaches and officials with 150 educational sessions, networking opportunities and 150 exhibitors Jan. 20-22. Then, the US Lacrosse Fan Fest opens the expo hall and demonstration fields to fans of all ages from 11-5 p.m. Jan. 21 at the Baltimore Convention Center. Registration for the full convention starts at \$100 for US Lacrosse members and \$160 for the general public. Fan Fest tickets are \$10 per person. Call 410-235-6882 or visit [uslacrosse.org/laxcon](http://uslacrosse.org/laxcon).

**DUCKPIN BOWLING**

Youth fall duckpin bowling leagues for participants ages 3-21 are forming at various duckpin centers in Baltimore. Most programs run Saturday mornings and include bowling, shoe rental and coaching. For more information, visit [ndya.org](http://ndya.org), call Stacy Karten at 410-356-0936 or "Like" duckpin bowling at [facebook.com/theduckpinnews](https://www.facebook.com/theduckpinnews).

**BABE RUTH MUSEUM**

The improved Babe Ruth Birthplace Museum has reopened right next to Camden Yards. Babe Ruth's legacy shaped the sports and American life we live now. Consider making a tax-deductible donation. Visit [baberuthmuseum.org/donate](http://baberuthmuseum.org/donate) or call 410-727-1539, ext. 3012.

**HOMESCHOOL SPORTS**

Baltimore-area homeschooled boys and girls in grades six-12 interested in playing interscholastic sports like soccer, volleyball and baseball can register for the upcoming school season. For more information or to register, email [chensports@verizon.net](mailto:chensports@verizon.net).

**MARYLAND OFFICIALS CLUB**

Interested in becoming a high school swimming official in the Baltimore-Anne Arundel area? Experience as a competitive swimmer or coach at the high school, college or masters level -- or prior experience officiating -- is strongly preferred. Email [mdcommish@comcast.net](mailto:mdcommish@comcast.net) or call Mike Connors at 410-653-7307.

**KICKBALL**

To participate in co-ed adult kickball around Baltimore, visit [kickball-baltimore.com](http://kickball-baltimore.com) for locations and dates.

**BICYCLE REPAIR**

As a cooperative bicycle shop, visitors can work on a donated bike, use tools to fix a broken bike or buy ready-to-ride secondhand bikes. Volunteer staff will provide assistance. For details, visit [velocipedebikeproject.org](http://velocipedebikeproject.org).

**BALTIMORE FITNESS ACADEMY**

BMoreFit's goal is to reduce childhood obesity throughout the Baltimore metropolitan area by educating and mentoring urban youth with targeted programs for improved health, fitness and nutrition. For more details, visit [bmorefit.org](http://bmorefit.org).

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## GAMING

# USFantasy Looks To Carve Into Daily Fantasy Landscape Via Alternate Route

★ **BILL ORDINE**



The daily fantasy sports landscape has been changing so rapidly, it's unclear how it will all settle.

By the time you read this, a merger between the two industry leaders, FanDuel and DraftKings, may

have been announced -- or not.

If there is consolidation throughout the daily fantasy sports industry, the difficulty these DFS companies have in turning a profit means there's no guarantee it'll be around as we know it today when the 2017 NFL season rolls around.

Still in the face of all that, another iteration of daily fantasy sports has emerged. What makes this one different is it could very well be a form of gambling that includes elements of sports wagering yet avoids running afoul of the Professional and Amateur Sports Protecting Act, the federal law prohibiting even state governments from offering sports gambling.

USFantasy is the new DFS venture, and for the first half of the current NFL season, it was offered only in some Nevada casinos. However, it could wind up in casinos and racetracks around the country, both in compliance with state laws and without tripping over PASPA.

As a reminder, PASPA is what kept Delaware from offering single-event sports gambling in 2009 (the state is limited to offering parlays) and subsequently, the same law was used to block New Jersey's attempts during the last few years to put sports gambling in casinos and race tracks.

So far, PASPA has not been applied to halt daily fantasy sports, whose contests are based on multiple athletes in multiple events. Daily fantasy, an internet-based fantasy

sports hybrid, is currently offered in about 40 states (depending on the DFS website).

Oddly, one of the states where the major DFS companies do not operate is Nevada, because regulators there wanted the DFS companies to get a license. DFS companies essentially said, "No thanks," because to do so would have been a tacit admission daily fantasy is gambling -- and the DFS companies are steadfast in insisting their product is contests of skill.

USFantasy went through the Nevada regulatory process and was licensed in June. It works much like horserace betting.

Let's take quarterbacks, for example.

USFantasy establishes a pool of, say, the 10 top quarterbacks and offers opening odds on which will score the most fantasy points.

Bettors bet into the odds for win, place and show (plus exacta and other exotic bets) and thereby establish a pari-mutuel prize pool with the odds shifting to reflect the wagering.

The football games are played, and the players accumulate fantasy points based on yards and touchdowns. After play is complete, you have a finish similar to a horse race with the top three quarterbacks paying off for win, place and show, exactas and so on.

For the NFL's Week Eight, in the contest for top quarterbacks, the leader was Oakland's Derek Carr, who paid \$25.20 to win (on a \$2 win bet); Arizona's Carson Palmer was the second finisher (place paid \$51.40) and New England's Tom Brady was the third finisher paying \$5.60 to show. The Carr-Palmer exacta paid \$881.

In all, there were 10 contests grouping various positions and when the NFL games were played.

In the early stages of the business, USFantasy was exclusively available at brick-and-mortar facilities, mostly casinos. By the

midpoint of the NFL season, USFantasy was in about 40 casinos, including some big ones such as Caesars Palace, the Flamingo, Cosmopolitan, the Palms and Red Rock. The casino lineup indicates two major gaming companies, Caesars Entertainment and Station Casinos, are offering the contests. In coming weeks, USFantasy hopes to be in 60 Nevada locations.

However, USFantasy is also looking to break out of its Nevada niche. Top company executive Vic Salerno said a deal is imminent in Colorado with a racetrack there and its more than a dozen off-track betting sites.

Also in the offing is a phone app that will allow mobile player participation where USFantasy is approved.

Unlike DraftKings and FanDuel, which are run by relatively youthful tech-oriented management teams, the new fantasy company is being led by old-school gaming operators.

The company president is Salerno, a recent inductee in the American Gaming Association's Gaming Hall of Fame. He has about four decades' worth of experience and is a legend throughout the legal book-making universe. USFantasy's CEO is a former gaming regulator in New Jersey, Bob Kocienski, and COO Michael Knapp has worked for more than 35 years in casinos and racetracks, including Del Mar Racetrack in California.

Unlike the daily fantasy companies who went on an advertising blitz in 2015 -- seemingly ignoring the fact some attorneys general and regulators might object to this new daily fantasy thing as well as some large gaming companies getting irritated -- USFantasy has been carefully introducing itself to gaming interests.

"That's how we have wanted to go about this," Salerno said. "Our goal is to provide entertaining legal daily fantasy content to

as many casinos and racetracks as possible around the country and in a way that the contests are completely transparent. And secondary to that, we'd like to be able to help the horseracing industry as much as possible. We invite regulation and we want to pay out taxes."

Salerno pointed out that unlike the current daily fantasy companies whose staffs are in central headquarters (DraftKings in Boston and FanDuel in New York), the nature of USFantasy, with a local brick-and-mortar component, means it will provide some jobs throughout whatever jurisdiction it's allowed to operate.

So how soon will USFantasy be in a casino or racetrack near you?

That's difficult to say, mainly because of issues involving licensing in various jurisdictions and forging partnerships with casinos and racetracks.

However, USFantasy already has a foothold with Caesars Entertainment, the largest casino company in the world, and Salerno says his company has held discussions with every major race organization in the country, including The Stronach Group, the parent company of the Maryland Jockey Club.

At least one Stronach racetrack, Santa Anita in California, has been offering a free-play fantasy football game to customers, so the concept of including other sports as part of the racetrack experience is at least being tested.

To be clear, the handle -- the amount of money wagered -- on USFantasy is relatively modest right now. Salerno says the game is getting some marketing push in Las Vegas, with signage on the famous Vegas Strip. And anyone who is curious can take a peek on [usfantasy.com](http://usfantasy.com).

The takeout on USFantasy (the fee charged to operate the contests) averages about 12 percent.

Considering fees on the major DFS websites have risen to 13-15 percent this year on the most popular contests, USFantasy is certainly a competitive wagering proposition.

Without doubt, USFantasy has a long road to travel, but with its conservative approach of seeking regulatory approval and partnering with established gaming companies, this could be a case where the deliberate but careful tortoise wins the race in the long run. ☑

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# THE REALITY CHECK

## Why You Should Support Local College Basketball This Year

★ GLENN CLARK

**W**hile we finally made it through election season, I ask you to consider allowing me to make one more pitch to you before 2016 runs out.

I, Glenn Clark, ask you to embrace local college basketball this winter. I'm not trying to shame those of you who haven't embraced Coppin State, Loyola, Morgan State, Towson or UMBC in the past. I'm just asking you to consider at least attending some games and supporting local athletes. If we were on Twitter, you might call this a #PleaseLikeMySport plea. I'm an admitted supporter and fan of local college basketball. I've attended games at every gym in town (as well as now-defunct buildings like the Towson Center and the Coppin Center). Some of my favorite experiences attending or covering sporting events have included local games, such as an incredible Friday night,

nationally televised tilt between Loyola and Iona in 2012 when former coach Jimmy Patso had the Greyhounds competing atop the MAAC; guard Reggie Holmes' Senior Night at Hill Field House in 2010 when Morgan State faced Coppin State; and Towson's upset win against Temple in one of the first games at SECU Arena in 2013.

Head coach Mark Turgeon's Maryland team will get the bulk of the attention from area college basketball fans. I know that because I'm chief among them. I'm not asking you to abandon the Terps (or to stop paying attention to whichever NHL or NBA teams you may support). I'll be glued to the Terps regularly throughout the season. But there are a lot of nights when Maryland isn't playing. Take an interest in other Maryland schools as well, even if you didn't attend any of them. The product is good. The atmosphere is fun. More than anything else, the prices are ... cheap.

Allow me to make some suggestions. Coppin plays a slim, nonconference home schedule because it uses road games to

make budget in the early season. The Eagles do have a Tuesday afternoon game against Louisiana-Monroe (2 p.m., Dec. 20) at the Coppin State Physical Education Complex that could help keep your kids entertained during winter break. Also, their home rivalry game against Morgan State is on a Saturday afternoon this year (4 p.m., Jan. 28).

Loyola is led by two talented scorers (Andre Walker and John Carroll's Jarred Jones) and should be competitive in the wide open Patriot League. The Greyhounds' schedule includes some holiday week, afternoon games at Reitz Arena (1 p.m. against Fairfield on Thanksgiving Eve as well as 1 p.m. against UMass-Lowell Friday, Dec. 23). Those could both prove to be great escapes when family comes to town and you realize you just need to get out of the house already. The Hounds also host local rival Mount St. Mary's on a Saturday afternoon (4 p.m., Dec. 3) and have a Saturday afternoon tilt against conference rival Army West Point (2 p.m., Feb. 4).

Preseason All-MEAC selection Phil-

lip Carr and Morgan State play two early-season Saturday afternoon games (1 p.m., Nov. 19 against Campbell and 1 p.m., Dec. 10 against Wagner) at Hill Field House. Those are particularly fun because Morgan State students haven't left for winter break yet and its student support is electric.

Towson is perhaps the most compelling local team, as the Tigers have a legitimate chance to win the CAA. Their home schedule includes an early Friday night tilt against defending America East champs and mid-major darling Stony Brook (5 p.m., Nov. 25) as well as a midweek crosstown rivalry battle with Loyola (7 p.m., Dec. 7). They also host defending CAA champions UNC-Wilmington at noon on New Year's Eve, which gives you plenty of time to get ready for a big night out after a stop at SECU Arena.

Speaking of the Tigers, you can see them face UMBC at 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 17 at the RAC Arena in Catonsville, Md. The Retrievers should be exciting in their first year under head coach Ryan Odom, with talented guards Rodney Elliott (John Carroll) and Jairus Lyles expected to stuff the stat sheet. They also have a Martin Luther King Day (Jan. 16) contest against Albany -- one of the top teams in the league a year ago.

Of course, those are far from the only games those teams are playing at home. Just some highlights on their respective schedules that I am already scouting out to attend myself. This is a plea, a request for you to "Vote Baltimore College Basketball 2016-17."

I can say with certainty -- even if they don't win any games -- they still won't disappoint you as much as the other folks you voted for this year. ☒

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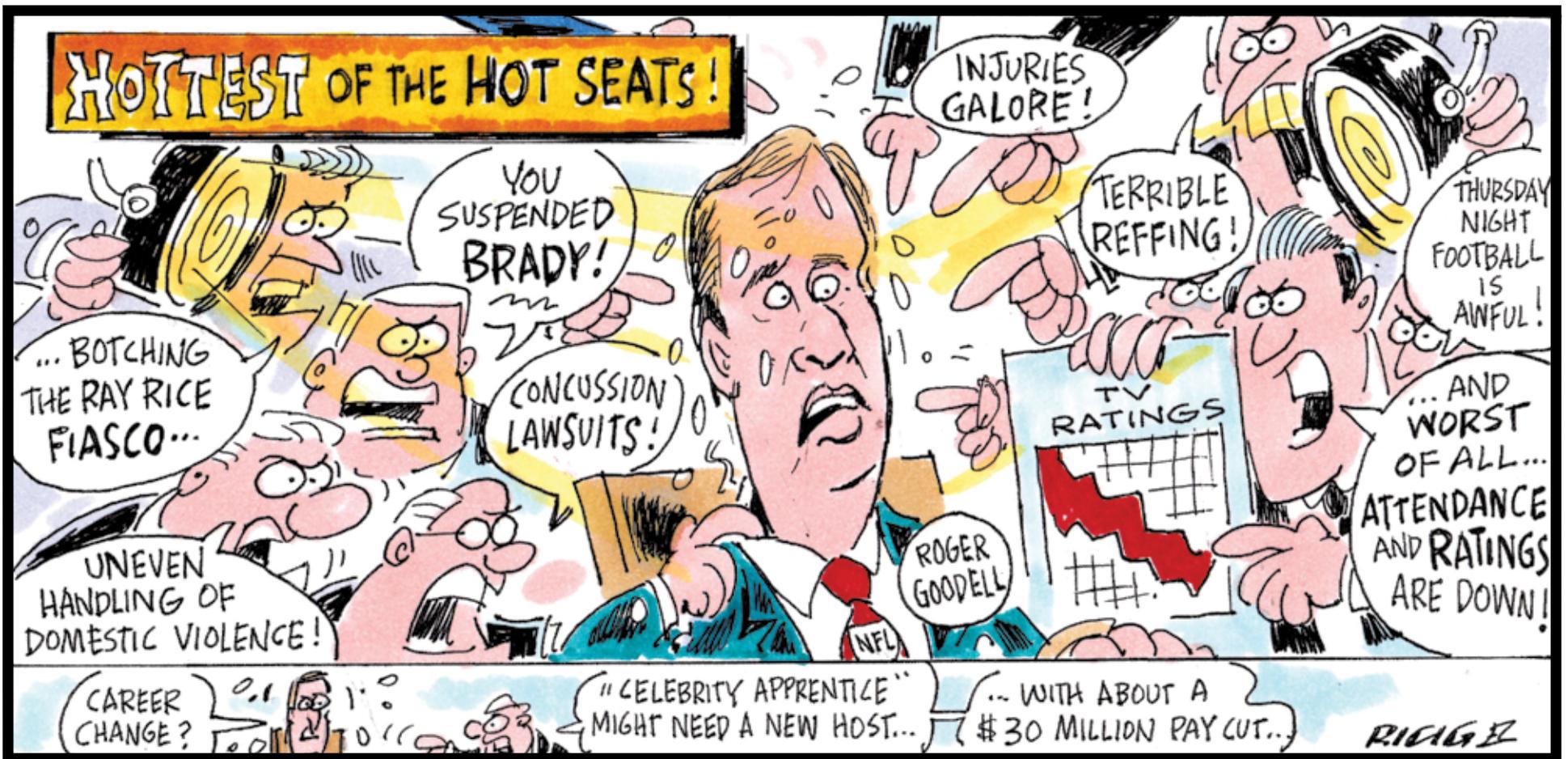


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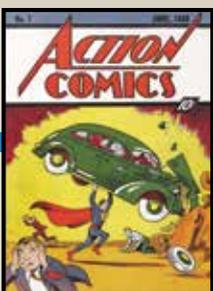


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