



# BIG TRAIN BULLETIN

## 2023 BIG TRAIN HOME SCHEDULE

Mark your calendars now!

Bethesda Big Train baseball has announced our 2023 schedule of home games at Shirley Povich Field early this year to give our fans a chance to mark their calendars now for a summer of fun. Later this spring, we will release a full slate of theme nights and entertainment, including our Jewish Baseball Heritage Night, Pride Night, Tribute to Latin Baseball, guest celebrities, and other special events. Opening Night will be on Saturday June 3 with the dedication of the David Povich First Base Grandstand. Treat your child's favorite teacher to a picnic and a ballgame on School's Out Night Friday June 16. Book Sunday June 18 for our annual Father's Day game where kids get to play catch on the field with their dads before the game. The Second Annual Clarence "Pint" Isreal Juneteenth Classic honoring Montgomery's historic Black Sandlots will be held on Monday June 19 as part of a day long Scotland Juneteenth Heritage Festival. On Sundays June 25 and July 16, we will start games at 1 p.m. and have special activities for young kids. June 25 will be our very first Big Train Grandparents Day. Fan Appreciation Night will be held on Wednesday July 19, the night of our last regular season Ripken League game. All games start at 7 p.m. except for the two 1 p.m. games on June 25 and July 16. Gates open at 6 p.m. with picnic parties allowed in at 5:30 p.m. Ripken League playoffs run from July 22 to 31.

### Season tickets on sale now – Scan to Purchase

Get on board the Big Train now by buying your 2023 season tickets. Make sure you and your family don't miss this summer's action and entertainment at Shirley Povich Field. Lock in your favorite seats at a discounted price -- \$130 per seat -- for all regular season games and receive priority access for playoff tickets by becoming a Big Train season ticket holder. Skip the lines and enter through the exclusive season ticket holder entrance. Season ticket holders will be able to exchange tickets for games you are not able to attend for other regular season games. Season ticket holders get 10% off Big Train merchandise and \$5 off picnic purchases. For more information and to purchase your season tickets, please go to [www.bigtrain.org](http://www.bigtrain.org) and click on Season Tickets under the TICKETS tab. If you have questions, please email [tickets@bigtrain.org](mailto:tickets@bigtrain.org). For those who want less than a full season ticket, our Flex Plans, allowing fans to select games before individual game tickets go on sale May 1, will be available on the Big Train website in mid-February.



### Big Train Games at Shirley Povich Field First pitch at 7 p.m. except June 25 and July 16

Friday June 2	Southern MD Senators (Exhibition)
Saturday June 3	Cropdusters (Opening Night)
Tuesday June 6	Alexandria Aces
Thursday June 8	Gaithersburg Giants
Saturday June 10	SS-TThunderbolts
Monday June 12	Southern MD Senators
Friday June 16	SS-TThunderbolts
Saturday June 17	Southern MD Senators
Sunday June 18	Cropdusters (Father's Day)
Monday June 19	Gaithersburg Giants (Juneteenth Classic)
Wednesday June 21	DC Grays
Friday June 23	Metro SOCO Braves
Sunday June 25*	Gaithersburg Giants (Grandparents Day)
Thursday June 29	DC Grays
Friday June 30	Metro SOCO Braves
Saturday July 1	Alexandria Aces
Thursday July 6	Southern MD Senators
Monday July 10	Cropdusters
Saturday July 15	Gaithersburg Giants
Sunday July 16*	Metro SOCO Braves
Wednesday July 19	SS-TThunderbolts (Fan Appreciation Night)

\* First pitch at 1 p.m.

#### July 22-31 Ripken League Playoffs

Check [www.calripenleague.org](http://www.calripenleague.org) for dates, times, And ballparks for CRCBL playoff games.



### Register for the Big Train Summer Camp

Give your son or daughter an opportunity to learn the game from some of the best college players in the country. It is so fun for kids to get to know the Big Train players at our Summer Camp and then watch them play at night at Povich Field. There are five weeks of camp starting June 19 and ending July 28 (no camp week of July 3-7) for boys and girls ages 5 to 12. Every kid deserves a great summer. Register your child now at [www.bigtrain.org/summercamp/](http://www.bigtrain.org/summercamp/). Use code WINTER23 by February 15 for 10% off your registration.



# We Are Big Train: Get on Board

While Big Train has earned income through ticket sales and summer camp, your charitable contributions are very important to our ability to make our Big Train organization so special. Our annual Big Train Base Ball & Holiday Auction (BB&HA) events net \$50,000 each year to support our community service initiatives. The We Are Big Train campaign we launch each winter, is a critical part of our ability to present the special activities each night that make Big Train baseball at Povich Field so much fun. The We Are Big Train campaign gives Big Train fans an opportunity to make automatic monthly donations just like you do to support your favorite public radio station or food bank. Support We Are Big Train by going to the donate page at [www.bigtrain.org](http://www.bigtrain.org) or use the QR code.



## 2022 Big Train Base Ball & Holiday Auction

Our annual Big Train Base Ball & Holiday Auction has since 1999 been a way to bring the Big Train family together during the off season and to present awards to our players and most outstanding volunteers and partners. It has been the main vehicle for funding Big Train's community service initiatives.



Janet Marie Smith and Tim Kurkjian

Our November 13 event at Povich Field featured a conversation with ESPN's Tim Kurkjian and famed ballpark designer Janet Marie Smith. Tim called receiving his Baseball Writers' Career Excellence Award on Hall of Fame weekend in Cooperstown "the most overwhelming and overpowering experience of my professional life, and there's not a close second." Janet Marie, whose Camden Yards has been described as the "ballpark that forever changed baseball," spoke about the importance of listening to the community as the key to her renovations at Fenway Park and Dodger Stadium.

On November 13, we also presented our Randy Schools Big Train Outstanding Service Awards. An award posthumously to David Povich was accepted by David's wife Connie and a dozen members of the Povich family. Other 2022 awardees included Bruster's Real Ice Cream, former BCBBC vice president Eric Cole, Big Train founding board member Skip Davis, generous sponsor Johns Hopkins Community Physicians, Montgomery Parks director Mike Riley, and former Big Train GM Chris Rogers.

Our December 11 virtual event on [bigtrain.tv](http://bigtrain.tv) featured Orioles Assistant General Manager and Whitman grad Eve Rosenbaum who spoke about the Orioles Renaissance and gave us the inside scoop on what goes on behind the scenes at baseball's just completed Winter Meetings. Two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning author David Maraniss discussed his biography of Jim Thorpe, *Path Lit by Lightning*. We presented sportscaster Johnny Holliday with a Big Train Community Hero jersey and heard Big Train Manager Sal Colangelo talk about the players who won his 2022 manager's awards.

If you need a baseball fix before Spring Training starts, you can find both the November 13 and December 11 events at [bigtrain.tv](http://bigtrain.tv).

## David Povich Fund for Povich Field Raises More Than \$100,000



David Povich and his beloved Salty with Big Train mascot, Homer, and George Solomon

On Saturday June 3, Big Train baseball will dedicate the First Base Grandstand at Povich Field in memory of David Povich. David, an accomplished lawyer, a great Washingtonian, an avid baseball fan, and a loyal supporter of Big Train, was the oldest son of Ethyl and Shirley Povich. When David died in August of 2022, we established the **David Povich Improvement Fund for Shirley Povich Field**. With support from David's friends and family as well as donations from Big Train fans, we have raised more than \$100,000.

It is not too late to contribute toward maintaining the long-term excellence of Povich Field and have your name as part of the ballpark you love. Those pledging contributions of \$1,000 or more **by March 10** may have their name on a permanent plaque at Povich Field. Those pledging contributions of \$250 or more **by May 1** may have an inscribed plaque on an individual seat. Email Big Train founder Bruce Adams at [bruce@greaterwash.org](mailto:bruce@greaterwash.org) for details on pledging contributions to the Fund and for information about joining the Povich family for the pre-game picnic and dedication.

### Big Train Needs You!

We are recruiting a crew of adult volunteer ushers for our new Bullpen Club. Big Train offers student service learning (SSL) hours to high school students. If you are interested in volunteering with the Big Train this summer, please email General Manager Michael Michaud at [michael@bigtrain.org](mailto:michael@bigtrain.org).

### Bethesda Community Base Ball Club

7211 Exeter Road, Bethesda, MD 20814

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To stay informed about the Big Train, please go to [www.bigtrain.org](http://www.bigtrain.org) to sign up for our email.