

EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE BIG TRAIN*

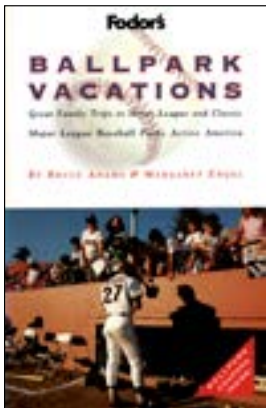
(*But Haven't Had a Chance to Ask)

We get lots of questions about the Big Train during the season and throughout the year. We asked Big Train founder Bruce Adams to answer twenty of the most frequently asked questions as part of our celebration of the 20th season of Bethesda Big Train baseball at Shirley Povich Field.

1. Where did the idea for the Big Train come from?

After completing my second term on the County Council in 1994, Denise Gorham of BCC Baseball assigned me to coach my son Hugh's rec team. I was embarrassed by the poor conditions of the fields. I had lived through the difficult budget times and understood the challenge faced by the Parks department. It seemed to me we needed a public-private partnership to improve the fields. Government dollars alone would not be sufficient. Unfortunately, I quickly learned that folks with resources were less than thrilled with my idea of spending their money in other parts of the county. I wasn't making progress, and I needed a new plan.

The breakthrough moment came on August 28, 1995 at Damaschke Field in Oneonta, New York, just south of the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. That summer, my wife Peggy Engel, kids Emily and Hugh, and I set off on a two summer 25,000 mile adventure that took us to 44 states and two Canadian provinces to see 85 baseball games in 82 different stadiums. It was a tough job, but someone had to do it. As Larry King said: "If you have to have an obsession, make it baseball." Fodor's published our *Ballpark Vacations: Great Family Trips to Minor League and Classic Major League Baseball Parks Across America* in 1997.



Hugh was five years old that summer. He had figured out that the place to get baseballs was the visiting team's bullpen. The visiting team didn't own the balls, and there wasn't much adult supervision in the bullpen before the game. He came home from our road trip with a bucket of balls. Peggy and I were interviewing Sam Nader, the legendary owner of Oneonta's Class A affiliate of the New York Yankees who happened to be Ralph Nader's uncle, when it dawned on me that I hadn't seen five year old Hugh in quite awhile.

I went down to the visiting team bullpen, and there he was chatting it up with a group of newly minted professional ballplayers. Apparently, they were intrigued by his baseball

adventure, and they asked me if I knew about summer college baseball. I mentioned that I knew about the Cape Cod League, but that was about the limit of my knowledge. When I said we lived near Washington, one of the players said he had played in the Shenandoah Valley League the previous summer. I told him I was a baseball fanatic and that I couldn't imagine there being a great baseball scene 90 minutes from my house that I didn't know about. He assured me I would be impressed by the quality of play in the Valley League. I went back to Peggy and said that if the Valley League is anywhere near as great as the player described, we had a really good *Washington Post Sunday Magazine* article to write.

In the summer of 1996, when we weren't on the road finishing our research for *Ballpark Vacations*, we were watching games in small towns across the Shenandoah Valley. We fell in love with the New Market Rebels. The players

lived in homes of local residents and worked by day in local businesses. Seemingly half the town turned out at night for the games. The players watered, raked, and lined the fields. Parking was free, programs cost a quarter, and hot dogs were a dollar. Members of the booster club sold raffle tickets during the game, and a 75 year old former FBI agent played "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" on a celluloid accordion at the seventh inning stretch. The food was adequate, but the locals knew to stroll through a neighbor's yard to Pack's Frozen Custard where everything was finer topped by the homemade black raspberry sauce. The players shook hands after the game.

It was pure pleasure. As I drove home from those weekends, I thought about what fun it would be to be part of the Valley League. It combined two of my passions — building community values and baseball at its most genuine. But then I realized that life commuting between Bethesda and the Valley on I-66 every summer night might get old quickly. Right after our article appeared as "Minor Classic" in *The Washington Post* on March 16, 1997, I got a call. Most of you have received a call like this. The person doesn't start by saying, "You are an idiot." But you know that is exactly what he is thinking. "Don't you know there is a league just like the Valley League right here in the Washington region?" No, I did not. He told me about the Clark C. Griffith Collegiate Baseball League. I was intrigued. What I learned after seeing a couple of games that summer was that, yes, it was wooden bat baseball played by top college players. But, no, it wasn't the Shenandoah Valley League. It didn't have the community involvement. It didn't have the crowds of fans. I asked league officials why their teams didn't have community support, and they told me they were baseball guys and didn't know how to build community.

So now I had a plan. It would be just like Paul Newman's salad dressing. Actor Paul Newman started Newman's Own in 1982. The company gives its profits from the sale of its salad dressing and other products to educational and charitable organizations. With all due respect to Paul Newman, I was pretty sure it would be more fun to make baseball than salad dressing. We would build a ballpark, organize a team in the Griffith League, and take the money we made from selling tickets and hot dogs and t-shirts and spend it to improve youth baseball fields. We would use as our model the successful minor league teams that understood that the key to building a fan base was to provide a family friendly atmosphere with nightly entertainment that was more than just a baseball game. Over the last two decades, more and more community nonprofits have followed this model of providing services and goods as a way to supplement charitable giving and government grants.

2. What did it take to move this idea to reality?

Now we needed an organization to make this happen. The community values orientation of the Valley League's New Market Rebels was our model. The Griffith League agreed in the fall of 1997 to include a team from Bethesda. I sent notes to a bunch of my baseball crazy friends inviting them to a meeting in my living room. I was introducing the idea to the eight or ten people at the meeting when John Ourisman walked in. John said barely a word as I laid out my fundraising and other plans, but he stuck around after everyone else had left. John very gently let me know that my fundraising plan wouldn't work. The good news was that he was willing to help. He loved the idea of a community owned baseball



Big Train Founder Bruce Adams was first in line to eat a cicada June 23, 2004 and got an "I ate a Cicada at Povich Field" t-shirt.



team that would raise money to improve fields for kids. John agreed to be co-founder and began to assemble an extraordinary group of founding members. To ensure that our organization was “owned” by the community and not by any individual, family, or corporation, John set limits on the amount any individual or business could donate.

I have always believed that skill is important in making things happen, but luck can often be more valuable. Over and over during the process, exactly the right person would step up at exactly the right time. I had met John Ourisman while I was working to create the Capital Crescent Trail that ran adjacent to Ourisman Honda in Bethesda. But it wasn't John I wrote to about the baseball project. I sent a note to his step-brother Tom Korengold in Tom's capacity as president of the Greater Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce asking if he would send someone from the Ourisman organization to my planning meeting. Tom could easily have tossed my note aside. Instead, he passed it on to John and that made all the difference. John brought his business management skills and his network of friends who love sports to our enterprise. Without John, we might still be sitting in my living room trying to figure out how to make this happen.

Denise Gorham had paired Phil Leibovitz and me to coach our sons' BCC Baseball team. When I approached Phil about my idea, he explained how busy his construction firm Sandy Spring Builders was and how he couldn't possibly manage the construction of a ballpark in the winter and spring of 1999. I want to apologize right here to Phil's clients for any delay in getting their houses built on time that year. Phil and Sandy Spring Builders went all in. They were there right up to the afternoon of the first game on June 4, 1999 putting the finishing touches on the press box. Of all the concrete construction firms based in Bethesda, we made the fortunate choice of going to see John McMahon at Miller & Long. His crew of engineers and builders worked at lightning speed, and Miller & Long has remained a generous donor throughout our 20 seasons.

One of the heroes of our *Ballpark Vacations* book was Peter Kirk, one of the two or three most important figures in the revival of minor league baseball. I saw Peter across a crowd of people leaving Cole Field House after a February 1998 Terps game. I caught up with him and invited him to tour Cabin John Regional Park. When he got there, I explained how we planned to add more aluminum bleachers to the existing field. And he explained to me that the only chance we had to be successful would be to get repeat visitors. The only people who would return to watch baseball if they have to sit on aluminum bleachers would be moms, dads, girlfriends, and scouts. We all have Peter Kirk to thank for those major league quality seats on a

concrete grandstand.

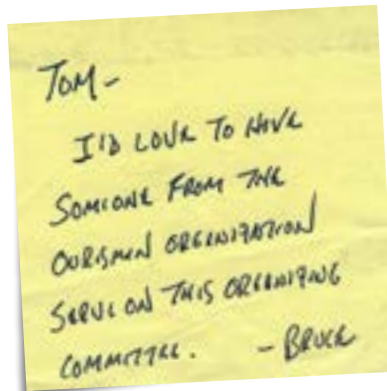
It really was an extraordinary process. For 18 months, John and I would meet with the busiest people we knew, and they would set their work aside and take an hour to swap baseball stories and listen to our dream. In visit after visit, no matter how outrageous our request, we received the same answer: “We're in. We'll do whatever you need to make this happen.” From our Founding Members, we asked for money. For others, like Sandy Spring Builders, Hopkins & Porter, and Miller & Long, we asked for their professional building skills and donated materials. In Robby Brewer and Paul Alpuche at Lerch, Early & Brewer, we found the first rate legal assistance we needed.

By April 10, 1998, we had incorporated the Bethesda Community Base Ball Club (BCBBC) with a commitment “to raise money to improve the quality of youth baseball fields in Montgomery County and the District of Columbia.” We were moving fast and needed to be able to accept tax deductible contributions long before the IRS would grant us our tax-exempt status. Fortunately, there was a Montgomery Parks Foundation available to accept tax deductible contributions so we could move forward with our plan to have a ballpark ready for our first game on June 4, 1999. And we needed a team. Derek Hacopian, a Churchill High School grad who was an All-American at the University of Maryland before his professional career was cut short by injury, had recently opened a baseball training facility in Gaithersburg. Derek agreed to recruit and coach the team.

One-by-one, all the pieces were falling in place. As is so often the case, when you need something done in Montgomery County, you'll find the world's expert living here. We needed a scorecard, and Garrett Park's Paul Dickson, author of *The Joy of Keeping Score* (Walker, 1996), designed a scorecard for us. We needed an architect, and Alan Sparber stepped up. My friend Alysia Emden connected us to Chris Renshaw of Text Design, and Text Design has produced the best graphics in all of summer college baseball for us for two decades. The *Gazette* newspapers agreed to donate ad space to promote our games. We needed good food, and Rob Rubin of Ledo Pizza was our guy. We needed new and stronger lights, but we didn't have the money in the budget. Someone in the Parks department noticed that it was time for new lights on the Cabin John 90' diamond and pointed out that the money was already in the capital budget. The experts told us we needed a covered

picnic pavilion if we expected to make money on picnics. But we didn't have that in our budget either. The Davis Family stepped up and donated the funds. And the weather gods looked fondly on us as well. Because of limited snowfall that winter and a Herculean effort by the local building industry, we were able to build the ballpark in five months and have it ready for opening night June 4, 1999.

By December 1998, under John Ourisman's leadership, the Bethesda Community Base Ball Club had raised \$500,000 to build the ballpark. We needed another \$100,000 to complete our initial plans, but, even more importantly, we needed to begin to get the word out and start to build a fan base. As John and I explained in dozens of meetings in 1998, this wasn't a sure thing. The conventional wisdom was that summer college baseball could not succeed in a busy place like Bethesda with all the entertainment options we have here. As an example, when the highly regarded Coastal



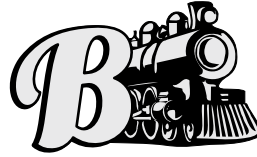
BETHESDA COMMUNITY BASE BALL CLUB

FOUNDING MEMBERS

ERIC BILLINGS	PHIL LEBOVITZ
STUART BINDEMAN	BRUCE MACKEY
ALAN BUBES	HALL MARTIN
NEIL COHEN	JOHN MCMAHON
SKIP DAVIS	PETER MINSHALL
TIM DAVIS	JOHN OURISMAN
WAYNE DAY	ROBERT OURISMAN
PEGGY EACHO FECHNAY	MAURY POVICH
MICHAEL GELMAN	MITCH RALES
DON GRAHAM	JOE ROBERT
DOUG JEMAL	ALBERT H. SMALL, JR.

CORPORATE FOUNDERS

FRIEDMAN BILLINGS RAMSEY | LINENS OF THE WEEK
OURISMAN AUTOMOTIVE | PEPSI-COLA
RIGGS BANK | THE WASHINGTON POST



With special appreciation

*to those whose major contributions made it possible for us to
give our beloved Shirley Povich Field a fresh coat of paint,
brand new signs, and other improvements in celebration of the
20th season of Bethesda Big Train baseball.*

Connie Chung and Maury Povich

R J Crowley/Becky Crowley

Floyd E. Davis Company/Skip Davis

Peggy Engel and Bruce Adams

Ann Marie and Steve Fay

*Miller & Long Concrete Construction/
John McMahon and Mike Lenkin*

Lisa and John Ourisman

Connie and David Povich

Lynn Povich and Stephen Shepard

*... and with great thanks to the organizations that made
the Povich Field Refresh a reality.*



TXTDESIGN inc.





Miller & Long staff building grandstand walls in February 1999.

Plain League was launched in 1997, it had teams in Durham and Raleigh. They failed. It was the teams in the more rural parts of the Carolinas that succeeded. While there are exceptions, summer college baseball tends to thrive in places like Chatham, MA, Edenton, NC and New Market, VA.



So, as we recruited our players and constructed our ballpark, we also had money to raise and a fan base to build. In December of 1998, I sent a short four paragraph letter along with a brochure designed by the Earl Palmer Brown firm to my mailing list of political, community, and baseball friends. Our inspiration this time wasn't Paul Newman but rather John Lennon. The cover of the brochure said simply: "Imagine... a team of our own playing in a league of our own right near home." There wasn't any choice but to imagine. Virtually no one who received that brochure knew anything about summer college baseball. There were no players. There wasn't a ballpark. Inside, the brochure promised: "Join us for summer nights of family fun with baseball at its most genuine in a county fair-like setting." The request was to send \$100 to get a small plaque on one of the

606 seats at the ballpark or \$1,000 as a Diamond Club sponsor to be listed on a ballpark plaque. Astonishingly, the seats sold out and the plaque filled up in just two months.

3. How did the team get the name Big Train?



For the initial meeting in my living room in 1997 to discuss the concept of a Bethesda based team in the Clark C. Griffith Collegiate Baseball League, I made a very traditional list of baseball team names for the group to consider. I remember Barons, as in the Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School Barons, was on my list. When someone suggested Big Train as a way of honoring Walter Johnson, I was thinking to myself "Big Train is a person's nickname, not the name of a team." Before I could make my point, another in the group said he was also thinking of Big Train for the name.

If it worked for the group, it sure worked for me. Big Train it would be. I grew up being told by my dad that Walter Johnson wasn't just the greatest pitcher in history. Everyone agreed about that. He told me Walter Johnson was one of the greatest people who ever lived. My dad grew up in Edgemoor near what is now downtown Bethesda. Just a two mile trolley ride west and north on Old Georgetown Road lived another young baseball and basketball player named Eddie Johnson. Eddie's dad worked at Griffith Stadium in Washington, DC. He was the manager of the Washington Senators from 1929 to 1932 when the boys were between 12 and 15 years old. When the Senators played at home in the summer, Eddie went to the ballpark with his dad. Eddie need a pal to hang out with, and my dad's house was on the way. I told my kids when they were growing up that it would be like Cal Ripken picking them up and taking them to Camden Yards to hang out with Cal's kids in the dugout.

Later, as a member of the Montgomery County Council, I had the privilege of getting the Johnson house at 9100 Old Georgetown Road designated historic. Johnson bought the eight acre Alta Vista estate in 1925, possibly with his bonus money and fees for articles after the 1924 World Series championship. The 11 room, white clapboard Victorian house sat back off the road. There was a four acre fruit orchard, coops for 2,000 chickens, and, of course, a ballfield. By 1936, the Kansas born farm boy needed more space and moved from Bethesda to a farm in Germantown that is now the site of Seneca Valley High School.



Sculpture by Joseph Craig English

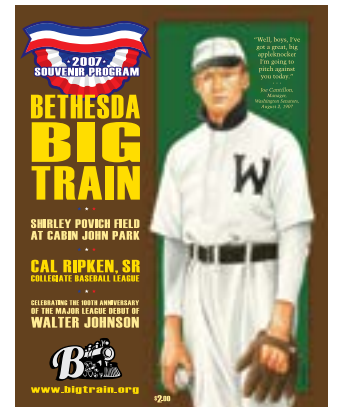
Walter Johnson was in the first class of players selected for induction into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown in 1936 along with Ty Cobb, Christy Mathewson, Babe Ruth, and Honus Wagner. In 1999, *The Sporting News* ranked Johnson as number four on its list of baseball's 100 greatest players. Johnson compiled a record of 417 wins against 279 losses in 21 seasons with the Washington Senators. In a record that will almost certainly never be broken, he pitched 110 complete game shutouts. He struck out 3,508 batters, leading the major leagues in strikeouts twelve times. We was named American League MVP in 1913 when he won 36 games, and 1924, the year Washington won the World Series.

The right-hander threw a fearsome fastball with a sidearm motion. Ty Cobb, one of baseball's greatest hitters, described facing Walter Johnson for the first time: "On August 2, 1907, I encountered the most threatening sight I ever saw in the ball field. He was a rookie, and we licked our lips as we warmed up for the first game of a doubleheader in Washington. Evidently, manager Pongo Joe Cantillon of the Nats had picked a rube out of the cornfields

of the deepest bushes to pitch against us. He was a tall, shambling galoot of about twenty, with arms so long they hung far out of his sleeves, and with a sidearm delivery that looked unimpressive at first glance. One of the Tigers imitated a cow mooing, and we hollered at Cantillon: 'Get the pitchfork ready, Joe—your hayseed's on his way back to the barn.' The first time I faced him, I watched him take that easy windup. And then something went past me that made me flinch. The thing just hissed with danger. We couldn't touch him. ... [e]very one of us knew we'd met the most powerful arm ever turned loose in a ball park."

Hank Thomas, Walter's grandson and the author of the terrific biography *Walter Johnson: Baseball's Big Train* (1995, Phenom Press), was instrumental in launching the Bethesda Big Train and secured permission from the family to name our team after his grandfather. In the preface, Shirley Povich confirmed my dad's appraisal of Walter Johnson: "Captivated was I, not only by his unmatched pitching skills, but by the manner of the man, his modesty, humility, and humanity while surrounded by a game that in his era was the playing field of roughnecks."

After retiring from baseball to his Germantown farm, people urged Walter Johnson to become a candidate for public office. This modest man likely needed substantial coaxing to enter the political arena. In 1938, he was elected



Big Train by the Numbers

with lots of help from our volunteers, friends, and sponsors

Nineteen Years of Community Baseball

- 🔸 Built Shirley Povich Field in 1999
- 🔸 1,500 Volunteers
- 🔸 Maintained 25 youth fields throughout Montgomery County in 2001
- 🔸 Improved Cabin John #2 (Little Povich Field) in 2002
- 🔸 Built Jackie Robinson Field in Anacostia for the Field of Dreams after-school program 2002
- 🔸 Invested more than \$600,000 improving baseball and softball fields for kids from Rockville to Takoma Park, Bethesda to Anacostia, and Germantown to Wheaton
- 🔸 Sold 600 Povich Field seat plaques and 500 commemorative bricks
- 🔸 Sent several huge boxes of sneakers and gloves to kids at Campo de Sueños in the Dominican Republic every year since 2001
- 🔸 Helped send more than 600 Fields of Dreams kids to see the Nationals and Orioles
- 🔸 Donated Big Train season passes to more than 320 local schools and youth-serving organizations for their fundraisers
- 🔸 Hosted more than 440 Bethesda Big Train games at Shirley Povich Field
- 🔸 Hosted three Fourth of July Ledo Pizza Hardball Classics
- 🔸 Hosted fourteen League All-Star games
- 🔸 Hosted two Military All-Star games
- 🔸 Hosted seven Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League Playoffs
- 🔸 Delivered 6 tons of food to Manna Food Center through efforts of Big Train players
- 🔸 Provided housing in our community for more than 340 out-of-town Big Train players
- 🔸 Watched 13 alumni move up to Major Leagues
- 🔸 Watched an additional 10 alumni play with Major League teams in spring training games
- 🔸 Watched 154 alumni play in Professional Baseball
- 🔸 Welcomed 260,000 fans to Big Train baseball games
- 🔸 Certified 31 high school kids through the Student Leadership Program
- 🔸 Certified more than 30,000 community service learning hours for our teenage volunteers
- 🔸 One National Championship

Big Train ALL-TIME RECORDS



Compiled by Bill Hickman

Batting Average (min. 100 AB)	Adam Barry (Cal State Northridge)	.414 in 2011
Games Played	Drew Carson (Southern Mississippi)	42 in 2004
	Greg Lemon (Salisbury)	42 in 2004
	Adam Barry (Cal State Northridge)	42 in 2011
	Ryne Willard (Tallahassee CC)	42 in 2013
Runs Scored	Hunter Renfroe (Mississippi State)	47 in 2012
Hits	Adam Barry (Cal State Northridge)	67 in 2011
Doubles	Brendan Hendriks (San Francisco)	17 in 2012
Triples	Ryan Collins (Mississippi State)	6 in 2010
Home Runs	Hunter Renfroe (Mississippi State)	16 in 2012
RBI	Hunter Renfroe (Mississippi State)	53 in 2012
Total Bases	Hunter Renfroe (Mississippi State)	116 in 2012
Slugging % (min. 100 AB)	Hunter Renfroe (Mississippi State)	.866 in 2012
On Base % (min. 100 AB)	Jarrod Parks (Mississippi State)	.526 in 2009
Stolen Bases	Stephen Alemais (Tulane)	26 in 2014
Hit by Pitch	Jarrod Parks (Mississippi State)	21 in 2009
ERA (min. 35 IP)	Matt Hiserman (Santa Clara)	0.00 in 2008
	Bryan Hamilton (UNC Charlotte)	0.00 in 2010
Wins	Byron Binda (Coastal Carolina)	6 in 2002
	Gus Hlebovy (Kent State)	6 in 2002
	Keith Moreland (UNC Charlotte)	6 in 2004
	Scott Schneider (St. Mary's (CA))	6 in 2008
	Cameron Love (San Francisco)	6 in 2009
	Bubba Derby (San Diego State)	6 in 2013
Winning % (min. 7 decisions)	Keith Moreland (UNC Charlotte)	.857 in 2004
	Cameron Love (San Francisco)	.857 in 2009
Saves	Justin Davis (Old Dominion)	10 in 2000
	Matt Hiserman (Santa Clara)	10 in 2008
Appearances	Justin Davis (Old Dominion)	18 in 2000
	Matt Hiserman (Santa Clara)	18 in 2008
	Bryan Hamilton (UNC Charlotte)	18 in 2010
Games Started	Matthew Griffith (Middle Tennessee State)	10 in 2000
Strikeouts	Dirk Hayhurst (Kent State)	69 in 2001

Other Notable Achievements

Most Home Runs in a Game	Marcus Taylor (Middle Tennessee State) June 26, 2003 v. Herndon Braves at Herndon High School	3
Most Strikeouts in a Game	Dirk Hayhurst (Kent State) — June 12, 2001 v. Reston Hawks at Povich Field	18
Triple Play	July 11, 2000 v. Vienna Mustangs at Nottoway Park	3-2-5-4
No-hitters	Jeff Little (Vanderbilt) June 23, 1999 v. Arlington Senators at Barcroft Field	
	Kevin Damiano (Penn State) June 29, 2001 v. Lower Bucks Indians in State College, PA	
	Mark Galvin (Kentucky) July 27, 2001 v. Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts at Povich Field	
	Keith Moreland (UNC Charlotte) July 14, 2004 v. Baltimore Pride at Povich Field	

to a term as one of the five Montgomery County Commissioners (the predecessor body to the County Council). In 1940, he ran for the congressional seat in Maryland's Sixth District but lost to the incumbent Democrat William D. Byron. He was reelected as a County Commissioner, again as the only Republican, in 1942. Walter Johnson died of a brain tumor on December 10, 1946 at the age of 59. He is buried in Rockville Cemetery. If you visit, you are likely to see some Bethesda Big Train memorabilia at the grave. In 1956, the new high school near his Bethesda home was named after him.



4. Why is the ballpark named after Shirley Povich?



Early on, I thought it would be great to play the games in or near downtown Bethesda. The ballfield at Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School was within walking distance of scores of restaurants and the Bethesda METRO station. But quickly I realized the neighbors might not appreciate the loud music and people parking on their residential streets. So much for the restaurants and the METRO station. Plan B was a no brainer. The 90 foot diamond in the athletic complex at Cabin John Regional Park (known as Field #1) was conveniently located near I-270 and the Beltway and had plenty of parking, and

a gorgeous backdrop of evergreen trees. And no near neighbors to complain when the games went past 10 p.m. But fan friendly, it wasn't. There were some aluminum bleachers and an ancient press box that disintegrated the first time our bulldozer touched it. We had a fine surface and a beautiful setting, but we had a lot of money to raise and work to do. We made our formal request to the Montgomery County Park Commission to renovate and use the Cabin John field on September 29, 1997. The Commission met just weeks later to agree to have staff negotiate a detailed development and license agreement to allow us to build a ballpark at the site of Field #1. That agreement was signed on December 21, 1998.

John Ourisman and I both wanted our ballpark to be a living baseball history museum. With the team to be named after Walter "Big Train" Johnson, we were on the right path. We needed a name for the ballpark and soon realized Shirley Povich Field would be perfect. As one of the nation's premier sports journalists, Shirley Povich's career at *The Washington Post* spanned 75 years from Babe Ruth to Cal Ripken, Jr. Many a young Washingtonian developed a passion for reading by devouring Povich's "Mornings with Shirley Povich" in *The Washington Post*. As Ben Bradlee, the *Post's* former executive editor, explained: "Shirley Povich was why people bought the paper. You got the *Post* for Shirley and the sports section. He was the sports section. For a lot of years, he carried the paper, and that's no exaggeration."

Shirley Povich covered the 1924 World Series, the only time the Washington Senators were crowned world champions. His description of Don Larsen's perfect game in the 1956 World Series remains a classic: "The million-to-one shot came in. Hell froze over. A month of Sundays hit the calendar. Don Larsen today pitched a no-hit, no-run, no-man-reach-first game in a World Series." He championed integration in major league baseball and had a long running feud with the owner of the Washington NFL team noting that its colors were "burgundy, gold and Caucasian." Povich covered Lou Gehrig when he said his goodbye at Yankee Stadium and Cal Ripken, Jr. at Camden Yards when he broke Gehrig's streak of 2,130 consecutive games played. He filed his last column the day before he died at 92 on June 4, 1998. In 1975, Povich received the J.G. Taylor Spink Award from the Baseball Writers' Association of America at the induction festivities at the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.

We knew this choice would be well received in the community and add distinction to our effort, but we needed to get the family's permission to use the Povich name. We asked our friend and fellow baseball enthusiast Don Graham, publisher of *The Washington Post*, if he would help. Don wrote to Shirley's son Maury asking him to meet with us. John Ourisman and I took a train to New York and attended filming of two episodes of *The Maury Show*. After the shows were taped, we met Maury in his office. I remember being dazzled by the baseball memorabilia. Maury was enthusiastic about having the ballpark named after his dad and agreed to be a Founding Member of our Bethesda Community Base Ball Club. With permission from the family, we proposed the name to the Parks department and received approval.



The December 18, 1998 groundbreaking ceremony for Shirley Povich Field was a well attended and festive affair. The Povich and Johnson families were joined by Montgomery County officials, BCBBC Founding Members, and youth baseball supporters. We had hoped that Shirley Povich himself would be at the ground breaking, but he

had died just six months before. Happily, Maury was able to report that when he told his dad that the ballpark would be named in his honor, his dad responded: "Well, this is an offer I can't refuse." The formal agreement that let us move forward was signed by Parks just days later. When Phil Leibovitz of Sandy Spring Builders hit the existing press box with his bulldozer, it disintegrated and the renovation and construction had begun. We had just more than five months before opening night.

*"Well, this is an offer
I can't refuse."
— Shirley Povich*

For Povich Field to be a living baseball history museum, it wasn't enough to tell the stories of Walter Johnson and Shirley Povich on the back of the grandstand wall. We needed the architecture of the ballpark to reflect our mission. You

enter Povich Field through an arch designed to evoke memories of historic Doubleday Field near the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY. The red brick and the Camden green seats honor Baltimore's Camden Yards, the ballpark that forever changed baseball architecture by turning back to the golden age of ballpark construction at the start of the twentieth century. And the original hand-operated scoreboard in left field was based on the iconic Ebbets Field scoreboard of the Brooklyn Dodgers. During our travels for the *Ballpark Vacations* book, we had seen a similar Ebbets Field replica scoreboard in the state of Washington that had been built by Margaret and Bob Bavasi, the owners of the rookie level Everett Aquasox. Bob's dad, Buzzie Bavasi, had been general manager of the Brooklyn and Los Angeles Dodgers.

5. How did the Big Train end up in a league named after Cal Ripken?

If there had not been a Clark C. Griffith Collegiate Baseball League, there would not have been a Bethesda Big Train. Starting a team and building a ballpark was challenging enough. Establishing a summer college league from scratch would have been far too daunting.

The league was founded in 1945 as the National Capital City Junior League and was a charter member of the All-American Amateur Baseball Association (AAABA). Games were played on the Ellipse near the White House. When Clark Griffith, the longtime owner of the Washington Senators, died in 1955, the league was renamed in his honor as the Clark C. Griffith Memorial Baseball League. Griffith had been inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1946 after a major league career as a pitcher, manager, and team owner. As a pitcher, he compiled a record of 237-146, with seven 20 win

20 QUESTIONS

seasons including six in a row from 1894-1899. As a big league manager for 20 years, his record was 1,491-1,367. He helped Ban Johnson recruit players from the National League to establish the American League in 1901 and was the owner of the Washington Senators from 1920 until his death.



In the mid-1960s, Lady Bird Johnson's beautification initiatives eliminated two of the four baseball fields on the Ellipse and forced the league to relocate to Northern Virginia. The Griffith League wasn't the only activity disrupted by Mrs. Johnson's conservation efforts. As President Johnson once explained: "Whenever I try to take a nap, there is Lady Bird in the next room

with Laurance Rockefeller and eighty ladies talking about the daffodils on Pennsylvania Avenue."

In the early 1970s, the Griffith League adopted the use of aluminum bats which had become popular with amateur baseball organizations. The iconic Cape Cod League became the first collegiate summer league to reintroduce wooden bats in 1985 after a decade of using the aluminum bats favored by college baseball. The wooden bats attracted major league scouts which in turn drew the best college prospects to the Cape. With a goal of improving the quality of players, the Griffith League made the switch back to wooden bats in 1993, changed its name to Clark C. Griffith Collegiate Baseball League, and relaxed its rules about accepting players from outside the Washington area. Griffith League teams captured the championship of the All-American Amateur Baseball Association in Johnstown, PA in 1997 (Prince William Gators) and 1998 (Arlington Senators). In 1999, the Big Train became the fifth team in the league. The Senators would repeat as national champions in 1999 and win again in 2001 and 2002.

The Big Train was a consistent competitor in the Griffith League right from the start, finishing in second place in our 1999 inaugural season and representing the league with a third place finish in the National Amateur Baseball Federation (NABF) College World Series. In 2000, the Big Train posted the best overall record at 29-11 in the Griffith League, but finished second in each round to two different teams and failed to make the playoffs (yes, we changed the rules after that). The 2000 team was runner-up in the NABF College World Series. Bethesda slipped to fourth place out of seven teams in 2001 posting its only non-winning season at 20-20. The Big Train finally broke through in 2004 and won the Griffith League crown.

Some in the Griffith League leadership appreciated the fan friendly, community service values of the Big Train and the Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts, but others did not. In the end, our culture never meshed with the self-described "baseball guys" of the Griffith League. After winning the championship in 2004, we decided to start a league explicitly dedicated to the community service values that had inspired our founding.

We decided to focus the new league in Maryland and approached two top teams that regularly competed in the national AAABA tournament. The College Park Bombers readily agreed to join. The key, it seemed, would be to get Youse's Maryland Orioles, a Baltimore-based team named after the legendary scout and coach Walter Youse. In 60 years as the backbone of amateur baseball in Baltimore, Youse had helped produce scores of major leaguers, including Hall of Famers Al Kaline and Reggie Jackson. The Big Train had regularly played exhibition games with the Orioles at Povich Field. When Youse's manager Dean Albany agreed to join the effort, the project had instant credibility in the world of college baseball. The Thunderbolts of Silver Spring-Takoma had joined the Griffith League in 2000 and modeled its program after the Big Train. They became the fourth team giving the new league the critical mass needed to move forward.

Very quickly, we realized that the perfect way to honor Maryland's tradition of old school, fundamental baseball would be to name the new league after Cal Ripken, Sr. As one of the architects of "The Oriole Way," Ripken Senior's maxim was simple: "Perfect practice makes perfect." The Maryland native began managing his way up the Orioles minor league system in the Class D Florida State League in 1961 at the age of 25. He served as manager of the major league Orioles in 1987 and 1988. He left a legacy of excellence admired by all who love the game. On September 6, 1995, Cal Ripken, Jr. broke Lou Gehrig's unbreakable record of consecutive major league games played, and he said this about his dad that night: "He not only taught me the fundamentals of baseball, but he also taught me to play it the right way, and to play it The Oriole Way. From the very beginning, my dad let me know how important it was to be there for your team and to be counted on my your teammates."



We had a great idea for the league's name. Now, we needed to get it approved. In addition to managing the national champion Youse's Orioles, Dean Albany was a scout for the major league Orioles. Dean and I met with Billy Ripken, a twelve season major leaguer and one of Ripken Senior's sons, and laid out our plans for the new league. The family soon gave its approval and turned responsibility for negotiations with the new league over to the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation. The inaugural season of the Cal Ripken, Sr. Collegiate Baseball League began with a June 10, 2005 game at Shirley Povich Field between the AAABA national champion Youse's Orioles and our 2004 Griffith League champion Big Train. Over time, the six team Ripken League grew to ten and expanded its territory into the District of Columbia and Virginia. Some of that growth came as the Griffith League contracted and ultimately suspended operations after the 2009 season. Youse's Maryland Orioles had replaced the Griffith League's Arlington Senators as the dominate national team winning the AAABA crown in 2003-2008 and 2010-2011 and again in 2013 before it suspended operations after the 2014 season. In 2010, the league dropped "Sr." from its name to avoid sounding like a league for those 55 and better.

6. What is the Big Train's win-loss record over the years?



The Big Train has been a success since the very first inning of the very first game on June 4, 1999. My wife Peggy gave me one of those "You are an idiot?" looks that I seem to get from

people fairly frequently when she asked just before our inaugural game, "Why would you schedule opening night against the national champions? Wouldn't it have made more sense to schedule a team you could beat?" While silently questioning my own sanity, I breezily responded: "But wouldn't it be cool if we beat the national champions?" It was a great relief when with

a packed house that included Shirley Povich's wife and family, the Big Train players jumped on the Arlington Senators with five runs in the first inning and cruised to a 7-2 victory.

In 19 seasons from 1999 through 2017, the Big Train has only failed to post a winning season once. I'll always be grateful to Jim Burt Jr. (Miami, BT 2001) for hitting a late inning grand slam on the road in Germantown on July 31, 2001 in the team's final game of the season to raise the team's record to 20-20 and avert what would have been the only losing season in Big Train history.

The Big Train's regular season record of 519 wins and 254 losses computes to an eye-popping winning percentage of .671. Baseball isn't like football. Very few baseball teams at any level win at the rate that the Big Train has for the last 19 seasons. The New York Yankees with a winning percentage of .579 have the best regular season record in major league baseball in the years (1999-2017) since the Bethesda Big Train began. The Cardinals at .555, Red Sox at .551, and the Dodgers at .539 are the next highest winning percentages in MLB over that time period.

According to our irreplaceable Big Train statistician Bill Hickman, Joe Torre has the best record among big league managers with more than 500 regular season decisions during the Big Train era with 1,108 wins and 795 losses for a winning percentage of .582. Torre bested such other MLB coaching legends as Bobby Cox (.557), Tony LaRussa (.553), and Terry Francona (.552).

So, move over, Joe Torre. Meet Derek Hacopian and Sal Colangelo.

Timing counts for a lot in life, and the Big Train was really lucky that Derek Hacopian, an All-American at the University of Maryland, was available to help set us on a winning path. Derek was a Churchill High School graduate who played three summers in the Clark Griffith League. As a member of the Maryland Terps in 1992, Derek turned in one of the most impressive college seasons ever, batting .490 with 23 home runs and 83 runs batted in. He won the ACC Triple crown on his way to being named Atlantic Coast Conference Player-of-the-Year. Over the next five years in the minor leagues, Derek was a three time league All-Star as an outfielder. When his pro career was cut short by injury, Derek turned to coaching and teaching baseball. Chuck Faris, his manager for the Reston Raiders in the Griffith League, called Derek "the best pure hitter I ever saw. Period." For the Big Train, Derek was the right guy at the right place at the right time.

One day in February of 1999, just months before our first game, Derek ran into Sal Colangelo at Montgomery Mall not far from where Shirley Povich Field was being constructed. Derek had known Sal from the Griffith League when they played on rival teams and asked him if he would be interested in being a coach for the new team. Sal had played baseball and football at Virginia Tech. I'm sure Sal could not have imagined that 20 years after that chance encounter at the mall, he would have a national championship, a Maryland State Amateur Coach of the Year Award, and six league championships on his baseball resume.



In six years in the Griffith League as the Big Train skipper, Derek notched 149 regular season wins against only 90 losses for a winning percentage of .623. His 2000 Big Train team had the best overall record at 29-11 in the Griffith League and placed second in the NABF College World Series. In his

sixth and last season as manager, the 2004 team captured the Griffith League regular season title with a record of 29-13 and won the league championship.

When Derek decided to step down as manager, Sal Colangelo stepped up and took over the head job of recruiting and managing for the 2005 season as we transitioned to the new Ripken League. In 13 seasons at the helm, Sal's Big Train teams have won eight regular season titles and six league championships. In 2011, the Big Train was named the nation's top summer college team by Perfect Game USA. Sal's 370 wins with only 164 losses computes to an extraordinary winning percentage of .693.

CAL RIPKEN COLLEGIATE BASEBALL LEAGUE



7. What is it like to be an elite Division 1A college baseball player?

It's a grind.

A Division 1 NCAA baseball player's season starts in February and includes 50 to 60 regular season games. Conference tournaments and the national championship continue into the middle of June when the eight surviving teams arrive in Omaha, NE for the College World Series. Depending on the success of their teams in the tournaments, players might get a week at home before reporting to their summer teams. The Northwoods League schedules 72 regular season games and the Coastal Plain League schedules 56, but the norm in summer collegiate baseball is about 44. The Ripken League plays 40 regular season games with the possibility of six or more playoff games. And then, within weeks, the players report back to college and begin fall practice. Granted, this is not quite the grind of a 140 game minor league schedule, but it's a grind.

In the early years, the Big Train played more exhibition games than we do now. We would begin around Memorial Day with games against teams from the Shenandoah Valley. In 1999, we traveled to Altoona, PA before the start of the Griffith League and swept the L.S. Fiore Memorial Day Tournament to pick up our first championship. We also hosted our own tournament — "Ledo Pizza July 4 Hardball Classic" — from 1999 to 2001. The purpose of the holiday classic was to give our fans an opportunity to see teams from other leagues and build relationships with other collegiate summer programs. We hosted two teams — Maryland Bombers and Youse's Orioles — that later joined us in the Ripken League as well as ABCO Phillies from Pennsylvania, Brooklyn Cadets, Churchland Thoroughbreds of Portsmouth, L.S. Fiore of Altoona, Mount Airy Sharks, Swann Insurance of Cambridge, and Youth Service of Brooklyn. We won the championship in 1999 and finished second in 2000 and 2001. In addition, for several seasons we played mid-season exhibition games with Youse's Orioles. In our six years in the Griffith League, we traveled to post-conference tournaments three times adding another week to the schedule. After three years with a robust schedule of non-conference games, we recognized that the long grind of the league schedule was punishing enough on our players and decided to drop our tournament and reduce the number of preseason exhibition games. The Ripken League ends with our league championship. The winner does not then go to a post-conference tournament.

The teams in the Northwoods League and the Coastal Plain League are for-profit organizations. The more games they play, the more money the teams can earn. The Ripken League, as with most summer collegiate leagues, is set up as a not-for-profit organization. Our highest goal is to give our players an excellent experience with wooden bat baseball with a chance to sharpen their skills. We believe the forty game regular season is adequate, reduces the

dangers of overusing pitchers, and allows the players a needed break before returning to college.

8. Where do the Big Train players come from and how are they selected?

The 1999 Big Train roster included 28 players from 22 different colleges and universities and 13 different states. While there were three players from Montgomery County and others from Virginia and the District of Columbia, they were outnumbered by players from the hotbeds of baseball talent in California, Florida, and Texas and elsewhere across the country.

On March 16, 1999, less than three months before opening day, members of the board of Montgomery County Baseball Association (MCBA) wrote to the director of Parks to insist that the Parks department not waive its residency requirement. "There are more than enough high quality college players who live in Montgomery County who are qualified to play for the Big Train," they asserted. It was easy to understand their point of view. Why should a team made up mostly of players from outside the county get to take game time in a public park away from local ballplayers? Fortunately, there was a nearby and recent precedent. Prince George's Stadium in Bowie, MD is the home of the Bowie Baysox, the Eastern League AA affiliate of the Baltimore Orioles. The stadium, opened in 1994, was built on park property as a result of a public private partnership between Peter Kirk's Maryland Baseball Limited Partnership and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, the same organization with which we partnered.



Our concept was to raise private dollars to create an excellent ballpark that would attract families looking for affordable family entertainment right near home. Obviously, we argued, a lot more Montgomery County residents would come to watch the Big Train play than would use the field if there were no Big Train. Our plan was to take the money earned from the games and plow it back into improving youth baseball and softball fields. With all due respect to the local baseball talent in Montgomery County, it was very clear

that a team of Montgomery County All-Stars would not have been able to compete in the Griffith League with teams drawing players from across the country. The controversy died once youth baseball supporters realized the talented players from across the country were role models for their players and that our plan to raise money to improve youth fields really worked.

The Big Train does not have the financial resources to scout college players from across the country. Our managers, first Derek Hacopian and now Sal Colangelo, have developed contacts with college baseball programs. The colleges know what we want — good young players who want to develop their skills over the summer. And we know what the colleges want — a good experience for their players to develop their skills without exhausting them or, in the case of their pitchers, ruining their arms through overuse. By building relationships of trust with ten to a dozen colleges at a time, our managers build their core roster. Things happen, of course — injuries, summer school, family priorities — and the roster is in flux especially during the early weeks as players arrive at different times after their college seasons end. As coaches and situations change, the core group of colleges our managers rely on has changed. In the early years, Jacksonville State, Miami, Middle Tennessee State, and San Francisco were more prominent on our roster than now. Mississippi State, Sacramento State, St. Mary's-CA, and Stetson have been significant sources of Big Train talent for the last decade. Florida Atlantic, Kentucky, and Maryland have provided players throughout our 20 seasons.

Recruiting is the key to success in summer college baseball. While the players come to Bethesda to improve their skills, our managers are well aware of the fact that if a college coach sends us a player and we try to change his mechanics and it doesn't work, we won't be getting another player from that college. Putting the right players on the field at the right time and inspiring them to believe in the importance of these summer games are absolutely critical, but recruiting is the key. Sal Colangelo has proven to be a master recruiter. After an exhausting summer of rising early to drive to Bethesda from his home in Lorton, VA to open summer camp five days a week and ending games at 10 p.m. or later six or seven nights a week and doing this for two straight months, Sal takes a well deserved family beach vacation. Except that he takes his cell phone. The core of the next year's roster is in place by mid-August. It is because of Sal's dedication to excellence that the Big Train has been able to maintain its winning tradition.

9. Where do the players stay during the Big Train season?

While recruiting is the key to success in summer college baseball, our host families have been our secret weapon. Over the two decades, the Big Train has had a fabulous group of host families. Our players have come here from different backgrounds and cultures from all across the United States. We pride ourselves in Montgomery County as a welcoming community, and our host families have year-after-year generously welcomed our players into

Big Train Players Have Come From 139 Different Colleges

Florida Atlantic	27	High Point	6	East Carolina	3	Moorpark College	2	Christopher Newport	1	Gonzaga	1	Penn State	1	Trinity Christian HS	1
Maryland	19	Kent State	6	Jacksonville	3	New Mexico State	2	Coll. of San Mateo	1	Houston	1	Pitt. - Johnstown	1	Tusculum College	1
San Francisco	19	Michigan State	6	Lipscomb	3	North Carolina	2	Columbia	1	Indiana University	1	Pittsburgh	1	UC Santa Barbara	1
Saint Mary's (CA)	18	Mount St. Mary's	6	Maryland - Balt. Co.	3	Old Dominion	2	Columbus State (OH)	1	Kenyon College	1	Rutgers	1	US Naval Academy	1
Mississippi State	16	San Jose State	6	Radford	3	Rider	2	Connors State	1	Lewisburg JC	1	Sacred Heart	1	Va. Military Inst.	1
Middle Tenn. State	13	UNC - Wilmington	6	Tennessee	3	Saint Leo	2	Cornell	1	Louisville College	1	San Diego	1	Vanderbilt	1
Southern Mississippi	10	George Mason	5	Va. Commonwealth	3	Salisbury State	2	Davidson	1	Lubbock Christian	1	Seton Hall	1	Ventura	1
Virginia Tech	10	James Madison	5	Ark. - Fort Smith Col.	2	Tallahassee CC	2	Eastern Michigan	1	Maine	1	Shepherd	1	Vernon College	1
Kentucky	9	Morehead State	5	Belmont Abbey Col.	2	Alabama	1	El Camino College	1	Marshall	1	Sonoma State	1	Virginia	1
Miami (FL)	9	Princeton	5	Bryant	2	American	1	Evansville	1	Meridian College	1	South Carolina	1	Washington	1
San Diego State	9	Richmond	5	California - Berkeley	2	Appalachian State	1	Ferrum	1	Methodist (NC)	1	South Carolina - Aiken	1	Western Carolina	1
Stetson	9	Clemson	4	Creighton	2	Auburn	1	Findlay	1	Miami (Ohio)	1	South Eastern CC	1	Western Maryland	1
Tulane	9	Sacramento State	4	Duke	2	Belmont	2	Florida	1	Mont. College - Germantown	1	Southern	1	William & Mary	1
Jacksonville State	8	Santa Clara	4	George Washington	2	Big Bend Comm. Col.	1	Florida Southern	1	NC State	1	Stanford	1	Yale	1
UNC - Charlotte	8	Towson	4	Georgetown	2	Cal Poly - San Luis Obispo	1	Frederick (MD) CC	1	New Mexico JC	1	Texas	1		
Central Florida	7	Cal State Northridge	3	Hofstra	2	Cal State - Stanislaus	1	Frostburg State	1	Northern Illinois	1	Texas at Arlington	1		
Coastal Carolina	7	Campbell	3	Illinois	2	Centenary College	1	Furman	1	Occidental College	1	Texas State	1	TOTAL	436
Bowling Green State	6	Catholic	3	Liberty	2	Chesapeake	1	Georgia	1	Ozarks	1	Texas - Pan American	1		

their homes. Each year, we need to find housing for 20 to 25 players for all of June and July. This is no small task, and we are so grateful to all the host families and to our host family coordinators who have made this happen over the years — Joyce Semmes, Jami Deise, Laura Forman, Anne Fletcher, and Emily Waldman.



Host mom Becky Crowley with two of her boys — Hunter Renfroe (BT 2011-12) and Wes Rea (BT 2014) at the Carolina-California Single A All-Star Game in Wilmington, DE on June 17, 2014

I can say from personal experience that hosting a Big Train player is one of the joys of the youth of Bethesda. Our kids, Emily and Hugh, adored the players who stayed with us. For a summer, your child can have the coolest big brother in the neighborhood.

Some years, the Big Train wins championships by beating teams that have more raw talent and professional prospects. I am absolutely convinced that our host families are the reason. Many players who could move on to other summer

college leagues come back for a second or even third season with the Big Train because they love the atmosphere at Povich Field, the Bethesda community, and their host families. This gives us an edge in experience and commitment that no other team in our league can match. Hunter Renfroe (Mississippi State) helped lead the Big Train to the national championship of all of summer college baseball in 2011. Teams in the Cape Cod League would have loved to have had him in 2012. But he came back to Bethesda in significant part because he stayed with the MVP of host moms, Becky Crowley. Hunter returned for a second season and obliterated the Ripken League record books in virtually every slugging category. And it worked out pretty well for Hunter as he was selected in the first round of the major league draft the next summer.

10. Why do the college players use wooden bats in the summer?

As we have said from the very start twenty years ago, our goal has been to offer the fans of Big Train baseball at Povich Field baseball at its most genuine. Part of being genuine is using wooden bats. Maybe a better question would be “why do the NCAA Division 1 teams still use metal bats?”

Back in the day, bats were made of wood. During the 1970s, aluminum bats became the fashion. For young kids, the aluminum bats made sense as they were lighter and easier for kids to swing. College baseball adopted them in part because they were less expensive than wooden bats that break and need to be replaced much more frequently. So, what’s wrong with metal bats at the college level? Nearly everything. Aesthetically, no baseball fan prefers the pinging sound of a metal bat over the exquisite crack from a wooden bat. Money is far less an issue today as the modern aluminum bats now cost a small fortune. At the high school and college level, safety should be of foremost concern. The ball can come off a high quality aluminum bat at a frightening pace. In fairness, the bat manufacturers concerned about safety and about losing a valuable market have been working in recent years to make the ball come off aluminum bats in a manner that more closely resembles wood.

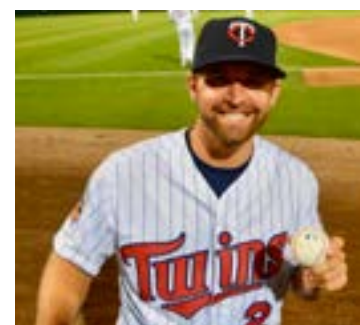
In addition to the issues of aesthetics, safety, and money, the switch back to wooden bats has been a huge part of the revival of summer college baseball. The Cape Cod League became the first collegiate summer league to reintroduce wooden bats in 1985 after a decade of using the aluminum bats. Hitting a baseball with an aluminum bat is a lot easier than with wood because the sweet spot is larger on the aluminum bats, and the ball has more spring off aluminum than wood. The MLB scouts like the summer collegiate wooden bat leagues for a very straightforward reason: they are trying to draft and sign players who will be swinging wood and pitching against wood. They want to see the real thing. With a metal bat, a hitter can fist an inside pitch over the

infield for a single. With a wooden bat, that same batter on that exact same pitch might be on his way back to the dugout with a stub of a bat in his hands. The Cape Cod League in 1985 and virtually all other top summer leagues in the decade following switched to wooden bats and reaped the benefits. Scouts want to see the wooden bat game. Good players want to be where the scouts can see them. And fans want to go where the best players are.

11. How many of the players go on to play professional baseball?

An amazing 41% of the 379 Big Train alumni who have finished their college careers have gone on to play professional baseball. Summer college baseball is a gateway to the major leagues. Most of the players endure the grind of a summer season on top of a grueling spring of classes and travel and games because they want to play professionally. They know that they need to play to get better. They know they need to be seen to get drafted. And they want to test themselves against the best with the wooden bats used at the next level. Thirteen Big Train alumni have worked their way through all the levels of professional baseball to the major leagues.

One of the great thrills of my experience with the Big Train is being able to watch our alumni progress through the ranks to the pinnacle of the sport. I remember walking into Ripken Stadium in Aberdeen in 2002 and seeing Jim Cooney (FAU, BT 1999-2000) signing autographs for young fans. He looked up with a big smile on his face and told me, “I learned to do this at Povich Field.” What a delightful surprise it was in 2013 at Marlins Park in Miami to see Mike Costanzo (Coastal Carolina, BT 2003) warming up in his Team Italy uniform for a World Baseball Classic game.



Brian Dozier (Southern Mississippi, BT 2006) added his name to ball signed by Big Train alumni in MLB at spring training in Fort Myers, FL March 5, 2014

I wish I had thought of this earlier, but a few years ago I started collecting on a single ball the autographs of our alumni who have made it to the major leagues. I ask each one to sign his name, number, and the date of his first MLB game. As of this spring, I have seven autographs on the ball: Allen, Bowman, Dozier, Garton, Hayhurst, McKenry, and Renfroe. I’ve got six to go and hope to have the opportunity to fill that ball.

12. What is the seating capacity at Povich Field?

750.

Our original idea was to use the aluminum bleachers already in place at Cabin John’s Field #1 and simply build a clubhouse with an improved press box, concession stand, and bathrooms. Minor league entrepreneur par excellence Peter Kirk convinced us that we



You never know who you might run into at Povich Field.

would not be able to attract return fans unless we provided real seats. That insight dramatically changed our original plans and exponentially increased the cost of our initiative. The brick and concrete grandstand that we built at Povich Field originally held 606 seats (a row of disability seats was removed a few years ago by Parks to add the flexibility to better accommodate wheelchairs). Our builders moved an aluminum bleacher from the third base side to beyond the grandstand down the rightfield line, increasing the seating capacity to 750.

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As it has turned out, Povich Field has been just about the perfect size for the crowds we have attracted. With the exception of one crazy weekend in 2001 when 1,326 fans flocked to Povich Field on Friday July 20 after an extraordinarily favorable article in the weekend edition of *The Washington Post*, we have seldom had crowds significantly in excess of 1,000 fans at a game. Povich Field with a standing room only crowd of 1,000, as we often had in the heyday of the rivalry between the Big Train and Youse's Orioles in the early years of the Ripken League, is a terrific sports environment. With crowds averaging between 500 and 750 over the years, Povich Field almost always looks full or nearly so. Averaging about 13,000 fans per season, nearly 260,000 people have watched Big Train baseball at Shirley Povich Field since 1999. We didn't pick 750 seats because we were clairvoyant. Truth be told, we picked 750 seats because that was what we could afford.

13. How far is it to center field at Povich Field?

361 feet.

Field #1 was not built to accommodate some of the best players in Division 1 college baseball. Likely, the planners of county parks in the middle of the 20th century did not imagine many future major leaguers playing in their parks. The Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) was established by the Maryland General Assembly in 1927 and soon began discussing plans for Rock Creek, Sligo, and Cabin John parks. Passage of the Capper-Cramton Act of 1930 provided federal funds to protect stream valleys in the national capital region. Montgomery County's population in 1940 was 84,000. The national trend of rapid suburban growth took off, and by 1970 the census reported 522,809 Montgomery residents. As a magnet for talented people from across the nation reacting to a call to serve in the federal government, Montgomery County attracted residents who demanded quality educational and recreational opportunities. Reacting to that demand, County officials stepped up their planning for parks and purchase of land in the 1950s. M-NCPPC bought the land for Cabin John Regional Park for \$1.9 million. Commission officials used local funds as well as federal Housing and Urban Development open space funds and Capper-Cramton dollars. There was also a land swap to support a "Save Our Scotland" campaign to redevelop an adjacent historically African American community that had a demonstration grant from the Federal Housing and Home Finance Agency. Officials dedicated the Cabin John Regional Park on August 26, 1966 with a miniature train and a Noah's Ark. There were four ballfields, two of them lighted for night play.

For some reason, many of the original 90' diamonds in Montgomery County Parks were laid out with the fences relatively flat across the outfield. Field #1 has always been 330' down the left and right field lines. Major league ballparks average 333 feet to left and 328 feet to right. But center field in Field #1 was a paltry 345 feet. Major league ballparks average 404 feet to center. I was so embarrassed, I asked the Parks department to remove the 345' sign in center field for the groundbreaking ceremony on December 18, 1998. But there wasn't much we could do. A maintenance road runs directly behind the field from the left field foul pole past center field. Miller & Long built a berm along the road to allow us to push the fence from 345 to 361 feet in center field. Our only other option was to build a tall fence in the deepest part of center field. The fences down the lines are eight feet tall. The top of the train on our scoreboard is 20



Gelberg Signs crew hanging Hunter Renfroe's retired #11 on July 26, 2012

feet high. The fences on each side of the scoreboard are 16 feet high. The batter's eye — the hitting background in the batter's direct line of sight — is 20 feet tall. The fence in a typical major league ballpark is eight feet tall. Bill Hickman, the official Big Train statistician, calculates that a ball hit over the 20 foot fence that sits 361 feet from home plate will likely land 377 feet from home plate. To our surprise, very few home runs have been hit directly over the center field fence in the two decades of summer wooden bat baseball at Povich Field. The short fences do, however, pose a significant problem for the Georgetown Hoya games in the Big East Conference that are played with aluminum bats.

Look carefully high up on the light pole in left-center field where you will see a sign for the retired #11. Hunter Renfroe (Mississippi State) hit quite a few bombs high into and some beyond those beautiful evergreens when he played for the Big Train in 2011 and 2012.

14. What are those numbers on the fence in right field?

Bethesda Big Train baseball and BCC Baseball are dedicated to showcasing the great history of baseball and sharing this history with new generations of baseball fans. We named our team the Big Train after baseball's greatest pitcher, Walter Johnson. We named our ballpark after Shirley Povich, the Hall of Fame sportswriter with *The Washington Post*. The numbers on the right field fence have been retired by Bethesda Big Train baseball to honor baseball's most important barrier breakers — Roberto Clemente, Hank Greenberg, and Jackie Robinson. Clemente, Greenberg, and Robinson taught us that baseball (and life) is a better game when everyone gets to play. We have also honored Cal Ripken, Senior, after whom the league we play in — Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League — is named. In addition, we have honored two of the most significant players in Big Train history — Hugh Adams and Hunter Renfroe.



Hank Greenberg

A Hall of Famer who suffered physical and verbal abuse throughout his career because of his religion. Greenberg helped break stereotypes and change the opinion many Americans had about Jews. A two-time World Champion with the Detroit Tigers with a lifetime batting average of .313, Greenberg was American League MVP in 1935 and 1940. To honor one of baseball's most significant barrier breakers, the Big Train retired #5 in 2016.



Cal Ripken, Senior

One of the major architects of The Oriole Way. "Perfect practice makes perfect," according to the Maryland native who began managing his way up the minor league system of the Baltimore Orioles at the age of 25. He left a legacy of excellence admired by all who love the game. In 2005, the Big Train joined with other teams to establish the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League to honor Ripken Senior. The Big Train retired #7 in 2015.



Hunter Renfroe

Helped lead the Big Train to the National Championship of all of summer college baseball in 2011. Hunter holds most of the Big Train's slugging records, including 16 home runs and 53 RBI in 2012. An All American at Mississippi State in 2013, the power hitter was drafted in first round of the MLB Draft by San Diego Padres. The Big Train retired #11 in 2012. Hunter made his major league debut with the Padres on September 21, 2016.



Roberto Clemente

The first Latin American and Caribbean player enshrined in the Hall of Fame. The Puerto Rican native was a 12-time All Star for the Pittsburgh Pirates and National League MVP in 1966. The two-time World Champion died in a plane crash in 1972 attempting to deliver emergency supplies to earthquake victims in Nicaragua. He got his 3,000th major league hit just three months before his death. To honor one of baseball's most significant barrier breakers, the Big Train retired #21 in 2009.



Hugh Adams

The Bethesda native and product of BCC Baseball is the longest serving Big Train player (2006-2012). Hugh, who began his Big Train career as the batboy in the inaugural 1999 season, posted a career ERA of 1.72 over seven seasons. With 18 saves for Florida Atlantic University in 2013, he was named a third team All American. Hugh played professionally for the Saint Paul Saints. The Big Train retired #40 in 2012.



Jackie Robinson

Broke baseball's color line and became the first black elected to the Hall of Fame. A World Champion with the Brooklyn Dodgers, Robinson was Rookie of the Year in 1947 and National League MVP in 1949. According to Martin Luther King Jr. "Jackie Robinson made my success possible. Without him, I would never have been able to do what I did." To honor baseball's most significant barrier breaker, the Big Train retired #42 following the lead of Major League Baseball.

15. How does the Ripken League compare with the Cape Cod League and other summer leagues?

There is a broad consensus that the best league in summer college baseball is the Cape Cod League. With the exception of the members of the Team USA Collegiate National Team that attracts players for international competition, many of the nation's top prospects head to Cape Cod for the summer. Founded in 1885, the league was officially sanctioned by the NCAA in 1963. The league used aluminum bats from 1974 to 1984, but then switched back to wood in 1985. This decision increased the league's popularity with major league scouts and the league became a magnet for many of the most talented college players in the nation. Virtually all other top summer collegiate leagues followed the lead of the Cape to wooden bats. In 2017, there were 306 active major leaguers who had played in the Cape Cod League with more than 1,100 league alumni playing professionally.

In 2011, the Big Train was named the nation's top summer college team by Perfect Game USA. Last summer, the Collegiate Summer Baseball website ranked Bethesda number four in the nation behind the champions of the Cape Cod League (Brewster Whitecaps), Valley League (Charlottesville TomSox), and Golden State League (Top Speed Baseball). This was our third top ten finish in the last decade as our 2009 team was ranked ninth. In my view, these national rankings tend to distribute the top spots among multiple league champions, favoring teams with dominant records over the Cape Cod teams that battle top talent every night. Truth be told, as good as we were in 2011, we would not have been crowned national champions except that the standout teams during the regular season in the Cape Cod League and the Coastal Plain League were upset in their league championship playoffs that year.

The Collegiate Summer Baseball website reports that there are now more than 40 collegiate summer baseball leagues. In addition to Cape Cod, Coastal Plain, Ripken, and Valley leagues, strong summer leagues include Alaska, Jayhawk, MINK, New England, and Northwoods. The Ripken League is a member of the National Alliance of College Summer Baseball, twelve of the top summer leagues including the Cape and the Valley leagues. If you are traveling this summer and in need of a baseball fix, consider checking out some of these other leagues. Many of the collegiate summer teams have taken over classic minor league ballparks after the minor league team has left the city.

16. Are Homer and Bunt related?

Of course! Can't you tell?



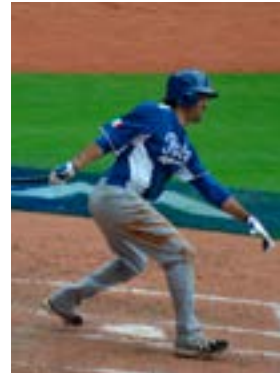
As every Big Train fan knows, Homer was the ancient Greek poet who created the first epic poems of western literature — the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*. As the 17th century English philosopher Robert Burton described, Homer “did go from door to door and sing ballads, with a company of boys about him.” The Epic Home Run Race of 1998 between Sosa and McGwire brought him back to life after 2,800 years. Throughout the summer of 98, Homer kept hearing people calling out his name. “Homer!” they cried. “Homer!” But time had changed Homer. Instead of a long flowing white beard, he reappeared with long flowing brown ears. The Bible says the pools of Bethesda in ancient Jerusalem had the power to heal. Alas, neither the pools nor NIH could

turn this hound dog back into a wise man. But when he heard the citizens of Bethesda were building a stadium to honor another of the world's great storytellers, he knew Bethesda was where he wanted to be.

We don't know all the details, but sometime over the winter of 2005-2006 Homer had a son and named him Bunt. Bunt made his rookie appearance

at Povich Field on June 9, 2006. He recorded 1,000 hugs that first summer while eating 81 slices of Ledo Pizza and 224 Bean Bag cookies.

17. Does the Big Train have any international baseball connections?

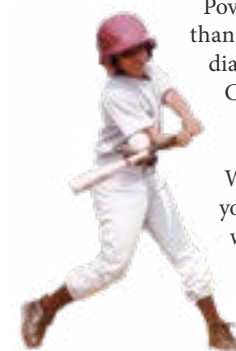


Mike Costanzo (Coastal Carolina, BT 2003) at World Baseball Classic in Miami March 12, 2013

In January 2001, my wife Peggy and I traveled with our daughter Emily to research an article about baseball in the Dominican Republic for *The Washington Post Magazine* of March 11. Our visit to Manny Mota's Campos de Sueno (Field of Dreams) in El Tamarindo led to the Big Train's first foray into international baseball. Manny and Margarita Mota were serving some of the most underserved children in the country, and we promised to help. We sent tons (literally) of sneakers, gloves, and baseball equipment donated by Big Train fans to the Motas over the next few years.

Twice the Ripken League has sent teams outside the continental United States — playing goodwill games in Puerto Rico in 2010 and Cuba in 2016. Three of the Big Train alumni who played in the major leagues played in the elite winter leagues of Latin and South America — Bobby Livingston (Trinity Christian HS, BT 2001) (Dominican Republic, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and Venezuela), C.J. Jimerson (Miami, BT 1999) (Mexico and Venezuela), and Steve Schmoll (Maryland, BT 2000) (Venezuela). The well-travelled Livingston also played in Taiwan. Another former big leaguer Mike Costanzo (Coastal Carolina, BT 2003) represented Team Italy in the World Baseball Classic in 2009 and 2013. Carlos Gutiérrez (Miami, BT 2005) played in Puerto Rican Winter League and represented Puerto Rico in the 2009 World Baseball Classic. Chris Kelly (Jacksonville, BT 2001-02) played in the Puerto Rican Winter League. Justin Wright (Virginia Tech, BT 2008) played in the Venezuelan Winter League. Other Big Train alumni have played professionally in Australia, France, Germany, and Sweden. Former Big Train general manager David Ireland worked as an assistant general manager for a team in Brisbane, Australia. Big Train alumni have played for the British and Greek national teams.

18. How has the Big Train organization benefitted the community?



Povich Field was just the beginning. After making more than one million dollars of improvements to the 90' diamond in Cabin John Regional Park, the Bethesda Community Base Ball Club raised nearly \$600,000 to improve youth fields from Bethesda to Anacostia, Rockville to Takoma Park, and Germantown to Wheaton. In 2002, we built a miniature Povich Field for youth players in Cabin John Regional Park. I remember watching one of the first players walk through the gate and see that field and let out a “SW...E...E...T!” In 2003, Sharon Robinson joined Mayor Anthony Williams at Kimball Elementary School in Anacostia to dedicate Jackie Robinson Field in honor of her dad. This was the first of several abandoned fields we turned into community jewels in the District of Columbia to support the Fields of Dreams after-school baseball and character education program.

In addition to providing great baseball at affordable prices right near home, the Big Train organization has been committed to serving the community in other ways. Big Train players have collected 12,158 pounds of food for the Manna Food Center in the eight years of the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League's Feed the Hungry Challenge. Players from the four Ripken League teams in Montgomery County have collected nearly 22 tons of food for our

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neighbors in need through this annual event. Big Train fans donated literally tons of baseball equipment to Manny Mota's Campos de Sueno (Field of Dreams) in the Dominican Republic.

Montgomery County is the special place it is today because of our wonderful nonprofit organizations. Each season, the Big Train showcases about four dozen local nonprofits. Each group is given 100 free tickets, provided a table at the ballpark entrance, and an opportunity to pitch their group to



the fans just before throwing out a first pitch before the game. For the last decade, our Big Train Nonprofits of the Night program has been supported by the Jim and Carol Trawick Foundation. From our very first season, the Big Train has donated family passes to local schools and community groups to support their fundraising. Homer and Bunt attend community events and Miracle League games and support the county's Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service each January and Community Service Week each October.

19. What is the connection between the Big Train and BCC Baseball?

If there had not been a BCC Baseball, there would not have been a Bethesda Big Train. That was my message every year when I would introduce BCC Baseball founder Denise Gorham to throw out a first pitch at BCC Baseball night at Povich Field. The conventional wisdom was that summer college baseball could not be successful in a busy place like Bethesda with all the entertainment options we have here. Summer college baseball tends to thrive in places like Chatham, MA, Edenton, NC and New Market, VA. Suburban Washington, DC was an unlikely place for summer college baseball to succeed. While I would warn our founding members and supporters about this, I told them that I thought we could make it work here because of the strong youth baseball program we had in BCC Baseball. The families of BCC Baseball were the market that gave us the confidence to defy conventional wisdom.

After 13 seasons, in May of 2012, our founders officially dissolved the Bethesda Community Base Ball Club and turned the assets over to BCC Baseball. After one international economic meltdown and five seasons of trying to lead the organization while holding a more than full-time job as Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett's director of community partnerships, it was time for me to hand the Big Train over to an organization with the capacity to sustain it for decades to come. BCC Baseball was the obvious choice.



A note from Big Train founder Bruce Adams: I want to express my special appreciation to Bill Hickman. As our volunteer coordinator starting in our third season in 2001, Bill helped establish our Big Train culture of service. As our statistician keeping track of Big Train records and our Big Train alumni in professional baseball, Bill has been our keeper of memories. For this piece, Bill was indispensable. He is responsible for all the fun facts. I alone am responsible for any errors. Please email me at bruce@greaterwash.org with any corrections. If you have memories and/or photos of Cabin John Regional Park and especially Field #1 from the 1960s or 70s, please share them with me so I can share them with our Big Train fans.

BCC Baseball was founded by Denise Gorham in 1993 to give local youth an opportunity to play baseball at all levels and learn the value of sportsmanship. The soul of the organization is its recreational league where friends, neighbors, and classmates play together on teams coached and managed by parent volunteers. In addition to the 2,500 recreational players, BCC Baseball has 24 select teams, six travel teams, three high school showcase teams, and two collegiate teams. BCC Baseball shares the Big Train's commitment to improve youth fields. BCC Baseball has invested in excess of \$3 million in maintaining more than twenty school and parks fields. For more information about BCC Baseball, go to www.bccbaseball.com.

20. How can we get involved with the Big Train?

I think we struck a cord here right from the start. I still remember the young fan in that first season in 1999 with a prized foul ball in hand telling me excitedly: "This was the best day of my whole life." He's probably 30 years old now. I hope he still loves the game and remembers fondly his days at Povich Field. Maybe he has already brought his child or soon will to a Big Train game. Another fan told co-founder John Ourisman that first summer: "When I'm here at a Big Train game, I feel like I live in a small town." A father of one of the players on the inaugural team told me: "Mark Twain said every boy is entitled to a great summer. And, now, my boy has had his." On July 4, 2006, Marc Fisher of *The Washington Post* wrote a spectacularly inspiring piece that called Big Train baseball at Povich Field "the ultimate small-town fantasy."

So, I know you are asking, "how can I help?" Spread the word. We don't have a budget for publicity. Word of mouth is how people learn about our community jewel. Bring your friends. Join our email list. Buy a season pass. Become a part of Povich Field by buying a seat plaque to show your support of Big Train or honor a coach or parent or child. Look for Anne or Emily at the ballpark, and ask them about being a host family. Join our Booster Club. If you want to get involved, contact us at faninfo@bigtrain.org.

Big Train baseball was possible only because so many people stepped up and volunteered their time, talent, and treasure. Since our inaugural season in 1999, under the leadership of Bill Hickman who served as our volunteer coordinator from 2001 to 2011, more than one thousand volunteers have helped make Big Train baseball such a special experience for our fans. Many of our young volunteers received their Student Service Learning (SSL) hours for their work at Povich Field. I remember John Ourisman saying in the early years, "If the adults walked away, the middle-schoolers would run this place." Eighty-eight of these volunteers are included on the John Ourisman Big Train Volunteer Honor Roll in recognition of five or more years of volunteer service. Another 69 supporters have received the Randy Schools Big Train Outstanding Service Awards in recognition of extraordinary contributions to our Big Train community. The outstanding service award is named in honor of the remarkable Randy Schools who chaired our Big Train Booster Club since the inaugural season.



Growing up at Povich Field, Luke Schauer celebrating his fifth birthday in 2007 and pitching for the WCAC champion St. John's Cadets in 2018.

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARDS

Big Train baseball at Shirley Povich Field doesn't just happen. Bethesda Community Base Ball Club Founders John Ourisman and Bruce Adams envisioned a community-based organization staffed largely by volunteers. Because so many community residents have stepped up to help out as volunteers, we have been able to contribute over \$600,000 to improve baseball and softball fields for kids. Since our inaugural season in 1999, under the leadership of our original volunteer coordinator Bill Hickman, more than one thousand volunteers have helped to make Big Train baseball a special experience for local baseball fans. We recognize our most outstanding volunteers and supporters in two ways. Since 2002, 69 community heroes have received the Randy Schools Big Train Outstanding Service Awards. Since 2003, 88 volunteers have been included on the John Ourisman Big Train Volunteer Honor Roll in recognition of five years of volunteer service to Big Train baseball.



Bill Hickman & Randy Schools

Randy Schools Big Train Outstanding Service Awards

2002 John Ourisman, Founder Chris Renshaw, Text Design Joyce Semmes, Host Family Chair Snapshot, Washington Capitals Mascot	2005 Gary Mowl, Montgomery County Department of Parks Michael Renshaw, Text Design Screech, Washington Nationals Mascot Alex Thompson, General Manager	Mimi Kress, Sandy Spring Builders Tim Kurkjian, ESPN Phil Leibovitz, Sandy Spring Builders Mike Lenkin, Miller & Long Richard Mandel, Sandy Spring Builders John McMahon, Miller & Long Rob Rubin, Ledo Pizza & Pasta Guy Semmes, Hopkins & Porter Mark Whipple, Volunteer	2010 Alan Alper, Athletic Trainer Meghan Bennett, Text Design Blaskopf-Segerman Family, Host Family Becky Crowley, Host Family Jami Deise, Host Family Coordinator, Host Family & Director of Marketing Michael Dunlow, Assistant Coach Gazette Newspapers Karen Kuker-Kihl, Volunteer Weingardt-Srour Family, Host Family	2012 Robby Brewer, Lerch, Early & Brewer, Chtd. Lerch, Early & Brewer, Chtd. Lawrence Rosenblum, Grossberg Company LLP Grossberg Company LLP Lou Novick, Volunteer Teddy, Washington Nationals Mascot
2003 Brian Haven, Raffle Maestro Bill Hickman, Volunteer Chair Keyote, Frederick Keys Mascot 2004 Derek Hacopian, Manager Elda Hacopian, General Manager Debra Brett & Michael Morgenstern, Equipment Collection for Campo de Suenos Orioles Bird, Baltimore Orioles Mascot Randy Schools, Booster Club Chair	2006 Pat Haggerty, Auctioneer Beth & Jeff Haven, Raffle Team Louie, Bowie Baysox Mascot Glenn Orlin, Official Scorekeeper	2009 Sal Colangelo, Coach and Manager Jeff Devlin, Montgomery County Department of Parks Lisa Kammerman, Official Team Photographer Bryan Oringer, Assistant General Manager Sue Ray, Povich Field Gardener Linda Tabach, Volunteer Mitchell Wool, Manager of Food Services	2011 Denise Gorham, BCC Baseball Jordan Henry, General Manager Bob Johnson, Voice of the Big Train Danielle Klope, Assistant GM Amy Miller, Volunteer Rock Creek Sports Club, Official Training Facility	2013 Bart Lambergerman, Assistant GM Bruce Mackey, EU Services
	2007 Tom DiMisa, Raffle Team Peter Kirk, Ballpark Advisor Ben O'Hara, Volunteer Don Seaman, Volunteer			2014 Adam Dantus, Former Big Train GM and President
	2008 Mike Denker, Hopkins & Porter Michael Groeneman, Assistant General Manager David Ireland, General Manager			2015 Laura Forman, Host Family Chair Mary Beth Richards, Volunteer

John Ourisman Big Train Volunteer Honor Roll

The Big Train volunteers have been listed on the John Ourisman Big Train Volunteer Honor Roll in appreciation for five years of volunteer service to the Bethesda Community Base Ball Club and the fans of Bethesda Big Train baseball. The award is named in honor of John Ourisman in appreciation for his leadership in establishing the Bethesda Community Base Ball Club and building Shirley Povich Field.

2003 John Ourisman Bruce Adams Emily Adams Hugh Adams Robert Brewer	Elliott Byrne Elaine David George DeBakey Mike Denker Peggy Engel	Josh Frank Gina Grieb Michael Grieb Jim Hartley Bill Hickman	Phil Leibovitz Julie MacCartee Caren Novick Lou Novick Glenn Orlin	Sue Ray Chris Renshaw Michael Renshaw Skip Rideout Rob Rubin	Randy Schools Phil Schwartz Don Seaman Joyce Semmes Mike Shannon, Sr.	Myron Uman
2004 Diana Deem Brian Haven Michael Morgenstern	Bob Hatzes Jeff Haven Anna Phelan	Beth Haven Bill Miller Mark Whipple				
2005 Karen Kuker-Kihl Zach Papillo	Anne Swindale John Thompson	Ron Weber				
2006 Barbara Bauman Hy Bronrott Ben O'Hara Garry Tyran	Elyssa Bosco Christopher DiMisa Nick Papillo Keith Tyran	Emily Bosco Brett Morgenstern Charlotte Tyran				
2007 Andrew Alikhani Anna Alikhani Brian Haven	Michael Morgenstern Bob Hatzes Jeff Haven	Anna Phelan Beth Haven Bill Miller	Mark Whipple			
				2008 Elizabeth Campbell Michael Castiglione	Brendan Cassidy Josh Fanaroff	Paul Cassidy Nichole Witten
				2009 Alex Campbell	Lisa Kammerman	Amy Miller
				2010 Jonathan Abramson Jim Linde	Jami Deise Alex Ting	Keith Havens
				2011 Elliott Byrne	Phil Schwartz	
				2012 Jacob Adler	Bob Johnson	Jared Saltzberg
				2013 Nina Schidlovsky	2014 Seth Ross	2015 Matthew Kupferschmid

