

# BIG TRAIN BULLETIN

Spring 2023

## Fun is Good! A Message from Big Train Founder Bruce Adams

My most consequential mentors in developing Big Train baseball have been two of minor league baseball's most successful entrepreneurs – Peter Kirk and Mike Veeck. They taught me that only about one-third of fans come just for the baseball game. To succeed, a ballclub needs to put on a show every night and give fans a great experience. Mike's dad Bill, baseball's greatest showman, had a fans-first philosophy. The fans adored him.

The best times I have ever had at a ballgame were at Mike Veeck's St. Paul Saints. The baseball is top notch, but it is the fan friendly environment that makes it special. Mike's "**Fun Is Good!**" approach guides us as we craft the Big Train experience — volunteers welcoming you, Catalyst Hot Dogs, Gregorio's Trattoria, and Bruster's Real Ice Cream, t-shirt giveaways, great music, on-field contests between innings, and visiting sports celebrities.

In addition to watching our boys of summer recapture the Ripken League crown, here's a preview of what we plan to bring you this summer:

- ☞ The area behind the first base grandstand will be a **Kids Fun Zone** with moon bounces, games, and prizes.
- ☞ Our **Father's Day** game features pre-game catch on the field with dads and their kids.
- ☞ Big Train fan favorite and former major leaguer **Mike Costanzo**, our 2003 MVP, will be in the house Friday June 23.
- ☞ Big Train's First Annual **Grandparents Day** will be Sunday June 25 with games at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. We are planning a 1 p.m. start on Sunday July 16 for our younger fans.
- ☞ Get to the game early on Friday June 30 for a **Homer bobblehead**.
- ☞ Our five **Hall of Fame Saturdays** will feature Montgomery County Sports Hall of Famers like NFL Pro Bowl player Shawn Springs and ESPN's Tim Kurkjian.
- ☞ Our **Clarence "Pint" Isreal Juneteenth Classic** on June 19 honoring Montgomery's Black sandlot teams will be the capstone event of a weekend long Juneteenth Festival.
- ☞ Our **Gio González Big Train Pitching Camp** will be for players ages 13 to 18.
- ☞ Our first ever **Travel with the Big Train** opportunity for fans to join the Big Train players on the road will be a July 3 to 6 trip to play the Newport Gulls and Martha's Vineyard Sharks that you will never forget.

To enhance the fan experience, we have replaced the 284 seats in the First Base Grandstand and are adding three cameras to improve the quality of our home game broadcasts.

Fun Is Good! Buy your tickets now, organize a team party or a birthday celebration in our Davis Family Picnic Pavilion, and sign up for the Big Train camp.

Looking forward to enjoying the fun with you at Povich Field this summer.

Roll Train!

Bruce Adams, Founder & President  
Bethesda Community Base Ball Club



### Reserve your tickets now.

Don't wait until the last minute and find the games you want to attend are sold out. Buy a full season or mini plan ticket package.



### Register for the Big Train Summer Camp.

Every kid deserves a great summer. Sign your child up now to be coached by some of America's top college players.

### Reserve your spot in the Davis Family Picnic Pavilion.

Schedule your birthday party, company celebration, end of season youth team party, or neighborhood outing now while there is still room in the pavilion.



### Bethesda Community Base Ball Club

7211 Exeter Road, Bethesda, MD 20814

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y Big Train TV    in Bethesda Big Train Baseball

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



# Picnics with the Big Train

Schedule your birthday party, corporate outing, end of season youth team party, or neighborhood get together at Shirley Povich Field this summer. What could be better on a warm summer night than a good meal and a ballgame? With the small town charm and big league talent of Big Train baseball, we have been providing affordable fun right near home for more than two decades.

- 🚫 **5:30 p.m.** dinner provided by Catalyst Hot Dogs and Gregorio's Trattoria in the Davis Family Picnic Pavilion.
- 🚫 **7 p.m.** first pitch of a Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League game featuring the Bethesda Big Train.

**For just \$25\* per person, everyone in your group gets a reserved seat ticket for the game and a pre-game meal and drink.**

\* \$20 per person for Big Train Summer Campers and Season Ticket holders.  
Price includes 6% Maryland sales tax.



**"Our entire experience was great. The food at the ballpark, the area for parents to hang out and the kids to play, the ambiance, a beautiful field, all of this made it an incredible baseball experience!"**

– Eric Custer, Coach of BCC Baseball 11U Cubs



**Catalyst Hot Dogs**  
[www.cataysthotdogs.com](http://www.cataysthotdogs.com)

## Catalyst Hot Dogs offers these options:

- 🚫 Hamburger/cheeseburger with macaroni salad
- 🚫 Hot dog with ketchup and mustard, macaroni salad, ear of corn
- 🚫 Hot dog with toppings from the Catalyst Truck
- 🚫 Caesar salad with chicken
- 🚫 Pulled pork sandwich with macaroni salad

*Note: vegan/plant based meat options for all Catalyst burgers and hot dogs.*



**Gregorio's Trattoria**  
301-296-6168

## Gregorio's Trattoria offers these options:

- 🚫 Two slices of Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza with Chips (add a Garden or Caesar Salad for \$3 per person).
- 🚫 Sandwich Platter with Sandwich, Salad, Chips, and a Mini Cannoli (add a slice of Pizza for \$3 per person).

For Custom Menu Packages, please contact Gregorio's Trattoria directly and mention Big Train Picnic.

**"Our Only Limitation is Our Imagination!"**

## Here's how to reserve your 2023 Big Train Picnic:

To check available picnic dates and ask questions, please email [picnics@bigtrain.org](mailto:picnics@bigtrain.org).  
To help us respond promptly, please include in your email:

- 🚫 Name of your organization;
- 🚫 Your three preferred game dates (see next page for schedule); and
- 🚫 Name of contact person with email address and phone number;
- 🚫 Approximate number of attendees.



**Reserve your spot  
in the Davis Family  
Picnic Pavilion.**



# Get in on the Fun this Summer

## Reserve your Big Train tickets now

Bethesda Big Train baseball will be providing a full menu of game night entertainment this summer. Reserve your tickets now. Don't wait until the last minute and find the games you want to attend are sold out. Go to [www.bigtrain.org](http://www.bigtrain.org) and click on tickets.

This summer there will be a different kind of fun every night. We will have five Hall of Fame Saturdays featuring members of the Montgomery County Sports Hall of Fame like NFL Pro Bowl player Shawn Springs and ESPN's Tim Kurkjian. Our Moon Bounce Sundays will include our popular Father's Day game of catch on the field and afternoon games on June 25 and July 16. You won't want to miss the June 30 Homer Bobblehead Night or our Juneteenth Classic June 19 honoring Montgomery's Black sandlot teams.

## Mini Plans for 5 and 10 Games

For those Big Train fans unable to attend all 22 home games this summer, Big Train is offering Mini Plans of 5 or 10 games with these benefits:

- ⚾ Save 20% on a 5-Game Mini Plan or 25% on a 10-Game Mini Plan compared to single game tickets
- ⚾ Exchange your tickets from games you can't attend to other regular season or exhibition home games
- ⚾ Receive \$5 off any Big Train picnic purchase for each Mini Plan registrant
- ⚾ And more!



## Full Season Ticket Plans

Buy a full season ticket package to guarantee your seats for all regular season games at discount prices. As a Season Ticket Holder, you will receive the following benefits:

- ⚾ Save 35% compared to single game tickets
- ⚾ Lock in the same seats for every regular season and exhibition home game
- ⚾ Exchange your tickets from games you can't attend to other regular season or exhibition home games
- ⚾ Enter through an exclusive season ticket holder entrance on game day
- ⚾ Receive priority access to playoff tickets in your seats before the general public
- ⚾ Save 10% on merchandise
- ⚾ Receive \$5 off any Big Train picnic purchase for each season ticket
- ⚾ And more!



## Individual Game Tickets

Individual game tickets at \$10 each will go on sale on April 15.

# 2023 BIG TRAIN GAME SCHEDULE

JUNE						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 SMS	3 CR
4 SST	5 SOC	6 AA	7	8 GG	9 CR	10 SST
11 DC	12 SMS	13	14 SOC	15 AA	16 SST	17 SMS
18 CR	19 GG	20	21 DC	22 AA	23 SOC	24 SST
GG 25 10 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.	26	27	28 SMS	29 DC	30 SOC	

JULY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 AA
2	3	4 NEW	5 MV	6 SMS	7 AA	8 DC
9 ★	10 CR	11	12 GG	13 SST	14 CR	15 GG
SOC 16 1 p.m.	17 CR	18	19 SST	20	21	22
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29

**Calendar Key** – All games at Povich Field start at 7 p.m. except 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. doubleheader on June 25 and 1 p.m. July 16. Gates open one hour before first pitch.

■ Home ■ Away ■ Exhibition @ Povich ■ CRSCBL All-Star Game ■ New England Trip ■ Possible Playoff Game

AA Alexandria Aces | DC DC Grays | GG Gaithersburg Giants | CR Cropdusters | SST Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts  
SOC Metro SOCO Braves | SMS Southern Maryland Senators | NEW Newport Gulls | MV Martha's Vineyard Sharks

# Big Train Summer Baseball Camp



The Bethesda Big Train Summer Baseball Camp returns for its 24th summer of fun and affordable summer baseball for girls and boys ages 5-12. Every kid deserves a great summer. Sign your child up now to be taught by some of America's top college baseball players.

Hall of Fame Big Train Manager Sal Colangelo and Associate Head Coach Galvin Morris will direct the camp. Coaches Sal and Galvin, along with their star-studded Big Train players, will be the instructors, teaching kids the FUNDamentals of baseball. Twenty-one Big Train alumni have made it to the major leagues.

All campers will receive instruction in the fundamentals of the game as well as the opportunity to play in live games. Along with our General Camp, we also offer specialized sessions including Pitching, Catching, and Advanced Development, each of which are for older and more experienced 9-12 year olds looking for more specialized instruction. Every camper will receive an official Big Train Summer Camp t-shirt that will get them free admission to all Big Train home games at Shirley Povich Field during the 2023 regular season. Tickets must be reserved online in advance of each game.

## Camp Descriptions

**General Camp for ages 5-12:** All campers will receive instruction on basic fundamentals through drills and live games throughout the week. The session is designed for players of all skill levels from beginner to advanced. Campers will work on a mix of drills including bunting, fielding, throwing, hitting and catching, while also playing fun games that help with hand-eye coordination and agility. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. *June 19 - June 23, June 26 - June 30, July 10 - July 14, July 17 - July 21, and July 24 - July 28.* **\$330.**

**Advanced Development Camp for ages 9-12:** This session is designed for kids who play Select or Travel baseball. All campers will receive instruction on the fundamentals as well as more advanced training. Campers will have the chance to play in live games. Campers will work on rundowns, cutoffs, reading the ball off the bat, and baserunning techniques. Campers will participate in competitive games to work on hand-eye coordination and agility. This session is limited to 24 campers. Mornings 9 a.m. to noon. *June 26 - June 30, July 10 - July 14, and July 17 - July 21.* **\$260.**

**Pitching Camp for ages 9-12:** This session is designed for kids who want to focus specifically on pitching, whether they have been pitching for years or are just now getting started. All campers receive highly specialized training that includes work on stamina, throwing motion, strength and balance. Limited to 24 campers. Pitching Camp will NOT meet on Wednesdays to prevent the risk of campers straining their arms. Campers may attend General Camp on Wednesday afternoon at no additional cost. Afternoons 1 to 3 p.m. Ages 9-12. *June 26 - June 30, July 10 - July 14, and July 17 - July 21.* **\$230.**

**Catching Camp for ages 9-12:** This session is designed for kids who want to focus specifically on catching, whether they have been catching for years or are just getting started. All campers receive highly specialized training, including work on stance, blocking, throwing, receiving, footwork, and other specific drills. This session is limited to 16 campers. Catching Camp will NOT meet on Wednesdays to prevent the risk of campers straining their arms/bodies. Campers MUST bring their own catcher's equipment. Campers may attend General Camp on Wednesday afternoon at no additional cost. Afternoons 1 to 3 p.m. *June 26 - June 30 and July 10 - July 14.* **\$200.**

## Gio González Big Train Pitching Camp

New this year, we are pleased to offer the Gio González Big Train Pitching Camp with advanced pitching instruction for ages 13-18



led by two-time MLB All-Star Gio González. Over his 13-year major league career, González won 131 games including 21 in 2012 for the Washington Nationals. These camps will help prepare high school pitchers for Summer Ball and Fall Showcases. The camps will be held at the home of the Bethesda Big Train summer college team at Shirley Povich Field in Cabin John Regional Park, making use of the recently renovated Big Train bullpen. Big Train college players will assist González.

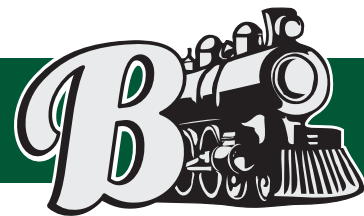
The advanced pitching camps will offer two morning sessions (9 to 10 a.m. and 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.) on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday the weeks of June 12, June 26, July 10, July 24, and August 7. Each session is limited to 12 campers. **\$230.**

To register for the 2023 Big Train Camp go to [www.bigtrain.org](http://www.bigtrain.org) or use this QR code.





# We Are Big Train



Our annual **We Are Big Train campaign** each spring helps provide the Bethesda Community Base Ball Club with the resources we need to support Bethesda Big Train baseball at Shirley Povich Field. It costs about \$350,000 to operate Big Train baseball each year. This includes the obvious uniforms, baseballs, equipment, league fees, and umpires. We have to maintain the quality of Povich Field and compensate our hard working coaches. We operate a summer camp, and we are deeply invested in building a stronger community here in Montgomery County. It all adds up.

While we have a considerable amount of earned income from our summer camp, ticket sales, concessions, souvenirs, and corporate sponsorships, nearly one-quarter of our annual budget and one-half of total spending come from charitable contributions from our supporters. In the last two and one-half years, nearly 350 individuals and families have contributed \$500,000 to help make Big Train baseball at Povich Field so special.

In addition to our annual Base Ball & Holiday Auction held each fall to raise money for our community service initiatives, there are now two other ways Big Train fans can help ensure we are able to maintain the special, fan friendly environment we all love — **We Are Big Train campaign** and our new **David Povich Improvement Fund for Shirley Povich Field**. To make donations to our We Are Big Train campaign through automatic monthly donations, please use the DONATE button at [www.bigtrain.org](http://www.bigtrain.org).

The We Are Big Train campaign helps provide us with the funds for special community building activities showcasing Montgomery's diverse communities like our Clarence "Pint" Isreal Juneteenth Classic honoring Montgomery's Black Sandlots and our Roberto Clemente Community Service Day when Big Train players and fans serve at area nonprofits. Donations to We Are Big Train also help us be able to give fans t-shirts, bookmarks, hats, and seat cushions on special giveaway nights. Contributions to the David Povich Improvement Fund for Shirley Povich Field will help us maintain the excellence of Povich Field long into the future. Donors of \$250 and more may have an inscribed plaque on an individual seat.

**I want to support Big Train baseball and our community service initiatives by making a tax deductible contribution.**



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] cell [ ] home [ ] work

Email (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Contact me about the July 3-6 Roadtrip to New England

## Payment information

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Contribution to We Are Big Train campaign

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Contribution to David Povich Fund (see reverse side to provide seat plaque text)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Contribution**

Please make checks payable to **Bethesda Community Base Ball Club (BCBBC)** and mail them with this form to: BCBBC, 7211 Exeter Road, Bethesda, MD 20814.

The Bethesda Community Base Ball Club is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization as determined by the IRS. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. BCBBC's federal EIN is 85-0895405.

## Travel with the Big Train!



Sign up now to join the **first ever opportunity for Big Train fans to travel with the team** on a fabulous baseball road trip as the Big Train face two of the top teams in the New England Collegiate Baseball League (NECBL) for a Fourth of July you will never forget. Our buses leave Monday morning July 3 and head to the Big Apple to tour Citi Field and then watch the Orioles play the Yankees at Yankee Stadium. On Tuesday July 4, we tour Newport and watch the Big Train play the Newport Gulls at Historic Cardines Field with fireworks over Newport Harbor after the game. Wednesday July 5 starts with a tour of Fenway Park before we board the ferry for Martha's Vineyard where the Big Train will face the reigning NECBL champion Sharks at the Shark Tank. During a lunch break on Thursday's July 6 ride home, fans will tour Historic Hinchliffe Stadium, one of only four remaining Negro League ballparks. Reserve your seat on the bus for only \$900 per person (plus \$150 for single occupancy) by emailing Big Train founder Bruce Adams at [bruce@greaterwash.org](mailto:bruce@greaterwash.org).



**TURN PAGE OVER  
TO LEARN HOW YOU CAN  
SUPPORT SHIRLEY POVICH FIELD**



