



BIG TRAIN BULLETIN

2022 Cal Ripken League Highlights

The Bethesda Big Train tied the Alexandria Aces for the 2022 Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball regular season with 26 wins and ten losses. Our Boys of Summer swept the Gaithersburg Giants in the league semifinals, winning 13-12 and 12-3. The Aces captured the Ripken crown with two hard fought wins of 8-6 and 5-3 in the league championship series.

Nick Del Prado (Florida Atlantic) was named Ripken League Pitcher of the Year, posting a 3-0 record with a 0.69 ERA while striking out 37 batters in 26 innings pitched. **Émilien Pitre** (Kentucky), **Luke Nowak** (East Carolina), **Ryan Sanders** (St. Mary's CA), and **Jordan Little** (East Carolina) joined Nick on the Ripken All-League First Team.

At season end, our Hall of Fame Manager **Sal Colangelo** announced his 2022 season award winners: MVP **Nick Del Prado** (Florida Atlantic), Most Outstanding Hitter **Luke Nowak** (East Carolina), Most Outstanding Pitcher **Ryan Sanders** (St. Mary's CA), Most Outstanding Relief Pitcher **Jordan Little** (East Carolina), Most Outstanding Defender **Jason Schiavone** (James Madison), and Golden Spikes Award Winner **Émilien Pitre** (Kentucky).

Nick Del Prado



Roberto Clemente Community Service Day

Eighty Big Train players, staff, and fans volunteered at seven different community service nonprofits in July as part of our First Annual Roberto Clemente Community Service Day. The Big Train volunteers served meals at **Shepherd's Table**, refurbished signs at the **Menare Foundation's Button Farm**, organized storage space at **Interfaith Works**, sorted sports equipment at **Leveling the Playing Field**, bagged fresh produce at the **Rainbow Community Development Center**, helped beautify a playground area at the **National Center for Children & Families' Greentree Center**, and sorted food for the **Manna Food Center**. From Germantown to downtown Silver Spring, the Big Train volunteers were a grand slam hit across Montgomery County. Pat Drumming from Rainbow expressed her appreciation: "You helped about 150 families to be food secure and made our workload so much lighter. We can't thank you enough. Please keep up the great amazing work!"

Roberto Clemente, who died in a 1972 plane crash attempting to deliver relief supplies to victims of an earthquake in Nicaragua, is honored by Major League Baseball with its highest award for humanitarian and community service. At our Tribute to Latin Baseball game, Big Train players honored Clemente by all wearing jerseys with "TREN GRANDE" on the front and Clemente's 21 on the back. Big Train retired #21 in honor of Clemente in 2009 and will continue to honor him with this day of service each summer.

Join Us at the Annual Big Train Base Ball & Holiday Auction



Join us on **Sunday November 13 from 3 to 4:30 p.m.** in the Davis Family Picnic Pavilion as part one of our annual Big Train Base Ball & Holiday Auction. Our great friend **Tim Kurkjian** from ESPN will share his reflections on the 2022 MLB season, the World Series, and what it means to him to have been honored at Cooperstown in July with the Baseball Writers' Career Excellence Award. MLB All Star **Gio Gonzalez** will be our special guest. We will present our 2022 **Randy Schools Big Train Outstanding Service Awards** and enjoy cake and ice cream in honor of the 75th birthday of Big Train founder **Bruce Adams!**

On **Sunday December 11** at 7 p.m. on **bigtrain.tv**, we will present part two of our holiday event featuring interviews with **Eve Rosenbaum**, Assistant General Manager at the Baltimore Orioles, Pulitzer Prize winning author **David Maraniss** discussing his new book on Jim Thorpe, and beloved sportscaster **Johnny Holliday**. Johnny will receive a Big Train Community Hero Award. **Sal Colangelo** will present his 2022 season player awards.

Each event will include an online auction to assist you in finding fabulous holiday presents for your family and friends.

Over the years, our annual Big Train Base Ball & Holiday Auction has provided the opportunity to bring the Big Train Family together in the off season and raise funds to support our community service initiatives. For information about how you can support this event please scan this QR code.



David Povich Improvement Fund for Shirley Povich Field



A proud Povich family on Opening Night, June 4, 1999. David on the right with his brother and mother.

When David Povich, the oldest child of Shirley and Ethyl Povich, died in August, the family suggested that, in lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory go to support Povich Field and the Povich Center at the University of Maryland. Inspired by the Povich family's initiative, the Bethesda Community Base Ball Club established the **David Povich Improvement Fund for Shirley Povich Field**.

In announcing creation of the fund, Big Train founder and president Bruce Adams said: "David was an accomplished lawyer, a great Washingtonian, an avid baseball fan, and a loyal and generous supporter of our Bethesda Big Train baseball at Shirley Povich Field. We are so grateful to David's wonderful wife Connie and their children for recognizing the importance of funding to maintaining the quality experience fans have come to expect when they visit Povich Field. This fund in David's name will allow us to sustain this quality long into the future." The first base grandstand will be named in David's honor. We especially appreciate generous contributions from Williams & Connolly, David's law firm, and an anonymous donor that have seeded the fund with our first \$50,000. Information about donating to the fund may be found at the DONATE button at www.bigtrain.org.

"Pint" Isreal Juneteenth Classic

Along with churches and schools, baseball was the center of civic life in Montgomery County's historic Black communities during the Jim Crow era of the mid-twentieth century. Big Train and the Gaithersburg Giants honored Montgomery's Black sandlots with a Sunday June 12

First Annual Clarence "Pint" Isreal Juneteenth Classic. Rockville's "Pint" Isreal was Montgomery County's greatest Negro League star. A member of the 1946 Negro World Series champion Newark Eagles, Isreal will be inducted into the Montgomery County Sports Hall of Fame on December 4. Thanks to sponsors **Westfield Montgomery, Lafayette Federal Credit Union, and David and Mikel Blair Family Foundation**, all fans received a commemorative t-shirt and 250 representatives of African American churches and community groups were treated to a fabulous lunch prepared by **Imojae's Soul Food**. Montgomery County native and 13 year MLB star **Milt Thompson** tossed out a ceremonial first pitch.



Big Train Community Heroes

Again this summer, Big Train hosted a different outstanding community nonprofit – from Interfaith Works to KID Museum, Special Olympics to Nourishing Bethesda -- each game night. Each Community Heroes group received tickets and dinners for 25 staff, volunteers, and clients. Many thanks to the generous donors who made this possible -- **Jim and Carol Trawick Foundation, The Sebrechts Family and Luc Sebrechts/Morgan Stanley Wealth Management, and Melanie Folstad/RBC Wealth Management**.

Big Train Needs You!

To make Big Train baseball one of the most welcoming and fan friendly environments in all of baseball, we rely heavily on volunteers and college and high school students. There are many opportunities to become a part of the Big Train Family. This season, we had our first group of adult volunteers for our newly formed **Bullpen Club** and the inaugural class of the **Alexander DiMisa High School Leadership Fellows**. Applications for our summer 2023 high school and college internships, including our **Tim Kurkjian Sports Journalism Fellows** and **Bill and Mike Veeck Baseball Operations Fellows**, are due February 28, 2023. For information about our fellowships or to volunteer, please go to the **GET INVOLVED** dropdown menu at www.bigtrain.org or email General Manager Michael Michaud at michael@bigtrain.org.

WE WANT TO CONNECT WITH YOU

To stay informed about Big Train activities, please go to www.bigtrain.org to sign up for our email. Send your questions and ideas for the 2023 season to:

Bruce Adams: bruce@greaterwash.org

Michael Michaud: michael@bigtrain.org

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BETHESDA COMMUNITY BASE BALL CLUB

7211 Exeter Road, Bethesda, MD 20814

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