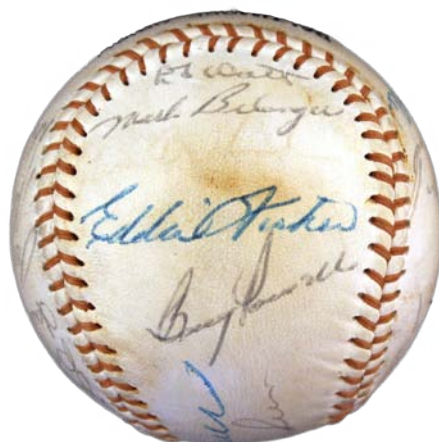


FROM 18 BATTERS &
11 STARTING PITCHERS
TO 8-5 UNDERDOGS
TO 9 BATTERS & 4 PITCHERS &
WORLD SERIES CHAMPS:

The 1966
Orioles
BALTIMORE



Albert Leroy Lang, III



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If that's What an Old 30 Hits Like...

In 1965, Frank Robinson batted .296/.386/.540. He finished 18th in MVP voting, 14 spots lower than the year before.

Robinson played in Cincinnati for 10 years, accumulating 1,673 hits, 324 HRs, and a .303/.389/.554 line. In that time, he posted a 150 OPS+ (OPS+ is on-base percentage plus slugging percentage adjusted for the park and league).¹

Though no one knew it at the time, Robinson's WAR² over this span was fifth best among active hitters, behind only Willie Mays, Hank Aaron, Mickey Mantle and Eddie Mathews.

Inexplicably, Frank Robinson was traded to the Baltimore Orioles on December 9, 1965.

Reds GM Bill DeWitt defended his decision to deal Robinson to the Orioles for, essentially, Milt Pappas by referring to Robinson as an "old 30." Erroneously, DeWitt believe the Reds were a pitcher away from the pennant. He didn't realize that subtracting Robinson from the equation made them more than simply a pitcher away.³

And, while Pappas was a fine pitcher, he was not a star. In his nine seasons with the Orioles, Pappas had a 3.24 ERA, 1.21 WHIP, 1.78 K:BB rate and 113 ERA+.⁴ Put simply, Pappas was durable and slightly better than the average hurler.

Robinson, conversely, was a star. And, he knew it.

Robinson took the trade as insult and used it to fuel his competitive nature.⁵ When Jim Palmer, at the time an unproven brash young hurler, saw an angry Frank Robinson swinging at Spring Training, he said "I think we just won the pennant."⁶

Frank began exacting revenge on opening day: he went 2/4 with two runs, a homer and a stolen base. He homered in his first three games for the Birds and recorded at least one hit in every game

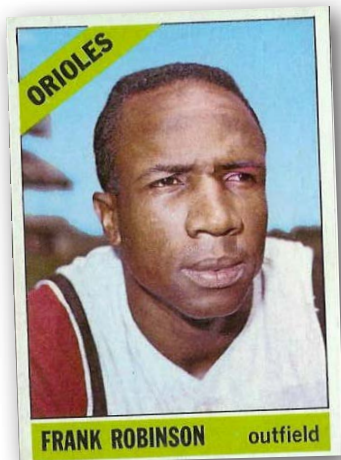
during April. Not until May 4th, in a game against the Washington Senators, did Robinson finally fail to reach base for his new team.

Over the course of the 1966 season, Robinson destroyed American League pitching. He led the league in runs (122), HRs (49), RBIs (122), average (.316), OBP (.410), slugging (.637), OPS (1.047), OPS+ (198) and total bases (367).⁶ Robinson's success is all the more impressive when viewed in light of the Orioles' offensive production the previous year. In 1965, Curt Blefary, the starter in right field, put together a solid rookie year, batting .260/.381/.470 with 22 HRs. Boog Powell and Norm Siebern, who manned left field and first base respectively, were not quite as successful. In addition, Blefary and Powell were not good fielders, which hurt the pitching staff.

Unsurprisingly, the Orioles finished in third place in '65. In 1966, Robinson played 155 games predominantly in right field. Blefary shifted to left and Powell played first base. With this new lineup, the Orioles won the World Series.

After securing the Triple Crown, Robinson won the regular season MVP. He followed this up by winning the World Series MVP as well, batting .286/.375/.857 with two homers in the World Series as the O's swept the heavily favored Los Angeles Dodgers.

It would be fitting if the photo for this card was taken after Robinson learned of the disrespectful trade that sent him to Baltimore. He looks determined and assured of his success. While 1966 may not have been Robinson's best statistical season, it was his best season in Baltimore and the first of two championships he would win. Though he had 3,000 more at bats in his career for the Reds, Frank will always be remembered as an Oriole.



Frank Robinson is clearly wearing a Cincinnati Reds uniform in his 1966 Topps card; Topps simply replaced the "Reds" banner with an "Orioles" one.

1 A 100 OPS+ is considered league average.

2 "Wins Above Replacement (WAR) is an attempt by the sabermetric baseball community to summarize a player's total contributions to their team in one statistic," according to Fangraphs (<http://www.fangraphs.com/library/index.php/misc/war/>).

3 In 1966, the Reds drew 300,000 fewer fans and DeWitt found himself hanging in effigy with a sign across his chest that read: Dimwit.3

4 ERA+ adjusts a pitchers earned run average according to the pitcher's ballpark and the ERA of the league. An average ERA+ is 100.

5 Robinson was known to use anger to forge success. In his career, only six pitchers (including Lew Burdette, Roger Craig, and Don Drysdale) hit Frank, a man who stood on almost literally on top of the plate, more than four times. Against these pitchers, Frank had a .303 average, 34 doubles, 25 HRs, 73 RBIs and a .414 OBP. Of this group, only Don Drysdale managed to limit Robinson's success, holding him to a .226/.309/.440 line.

6 Some may argue that Robinson's 1966 season was a bit of an outlier in his post-Cincinnati days. With the exception of leading the league in hit-by-pitches in 1969, Robinson never led the league in another relevant category. He did, however, bat a comparable .311/.403/.576 in 1967.

Planting a Permanent First Baseman

After the 1963 season, the Baltimore Orioles traded Diamond Jim Gentile, who was three years removed from a 46 HR and 141 RBI campaign, for Norm Siebern. Siebern had just finished up a decent four-year stretch for Kansas City, batting .289/.381/.463.⁷

Oddly, Siebern and Gentile were the same age and played the same position. However, Gentile was on the decline of his career and Siebern was on the upswing of his.

Siebern posted decent and undervalued seasons for the Orioles in 1964 and '65 — indeed he is, at most, a footnote in O's history. He led the league in walks in '64, but his power was virtually nonexistent. After suffering injuries in 1965, the Orioles shipped Siebern to the California Angels for Dick Simpson. This was the first domino in the acquisition of Frank Robinson.

In retrospect, it's amazing the amount of history the Orioles unloaded in one offseason. Just as Pappas was the winningest pitcher in Baltimore history, Siebern held the franchise's single-season record for walks.

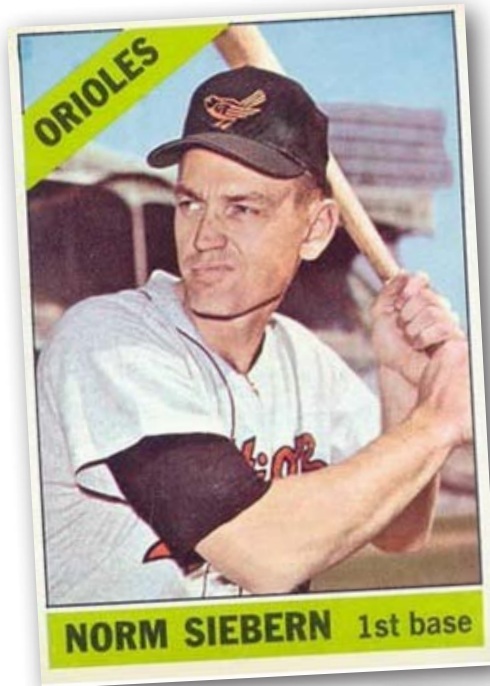
Of course, they acquired far more successful history as a result. Seven days after trading for Simpson, the Orioles flipped the speedy young outfielder to the Reds.⁸

While trading Siebern helped (inadvertently) get Robinson, the real benefit was shifting powerful Boog Powell from part-time outfielder to full time first base. Powell led the league in slugging in 1964, but scuffled tremendously in 1965. He posted one of his worst slugging percentages (.407) and labored in the outfield. That season, as an outfielder, he hit .220/.309/.376.

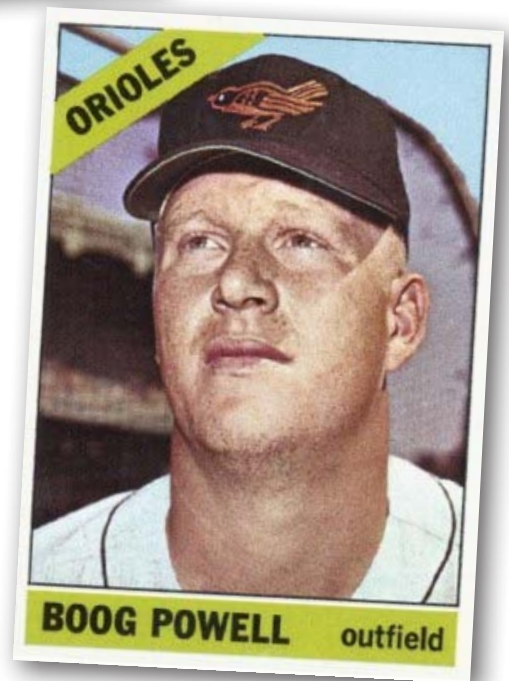
As a first baseman, he batted .285/.385/.439. While he had hit decently as an outfielder in previous years, it appeared that playing the position was taking a toll by 1965.

With Frank Robinson in the fold and Boog manning his natural position, Orioles fans were justified in hoping that the slugger would return to form.

Powell, so big he was banned from playing little league (and fills a good portion of his baseball card),



clearly returned to the loveable lumbering slugger and even became a passable fielding first baseman. His prowess was most evident on July 6, 1966: during a double header against the Athletics, he went 4/9 with two doubles, two HRs, and 11 RBIs. After the victory, the Orioles were 56-27 and had an eight game lead in the standings. Big Boog then batted .271/.352/.516 with 16 HRs after July 6th, in the season's final 62 games, thereby ensuring no one in Baltimore would remember Siebern.



⁷ Siebern, himself, had been acquired by Kansas City from the Yankees for Hank Bauer, Don Larsen and Marv Thornberry. The Yankees received Joe DeMaestri, Kent Hadley and Roger Maris.

⁸ Through 99 career plate appearances at this point, Simpson had a .176/.276/.282 line. He would hit .246/.335/.391 in 161 plate appearances for the Reds.

Dave(y) Johnson: Rookie Star?

From 1961-1965, Jerry Adair was the Oriole's primary second baseman.

During this period, he batted .258/.297/.368, hit just 42 HRs and stole 24 bases, but was caught 18 times. In 1965, he inexplicably finished 17th in MVP voting, despite leading the league in grounding into double plays and barely posting a .300 OBP.

Meanwhile, in the minors, Davey Johnson batted .301/.362/.440 in '65, which came on the heels of a successful 1964 season.

The writing, clearly, was on the wall. Adair appeared in just 17 games for the Orioles in '66 before being traded for Eddie Fisher, a phenomenal reliever who finished fourth in the MVP voting in '65 (it must have been a weak year).

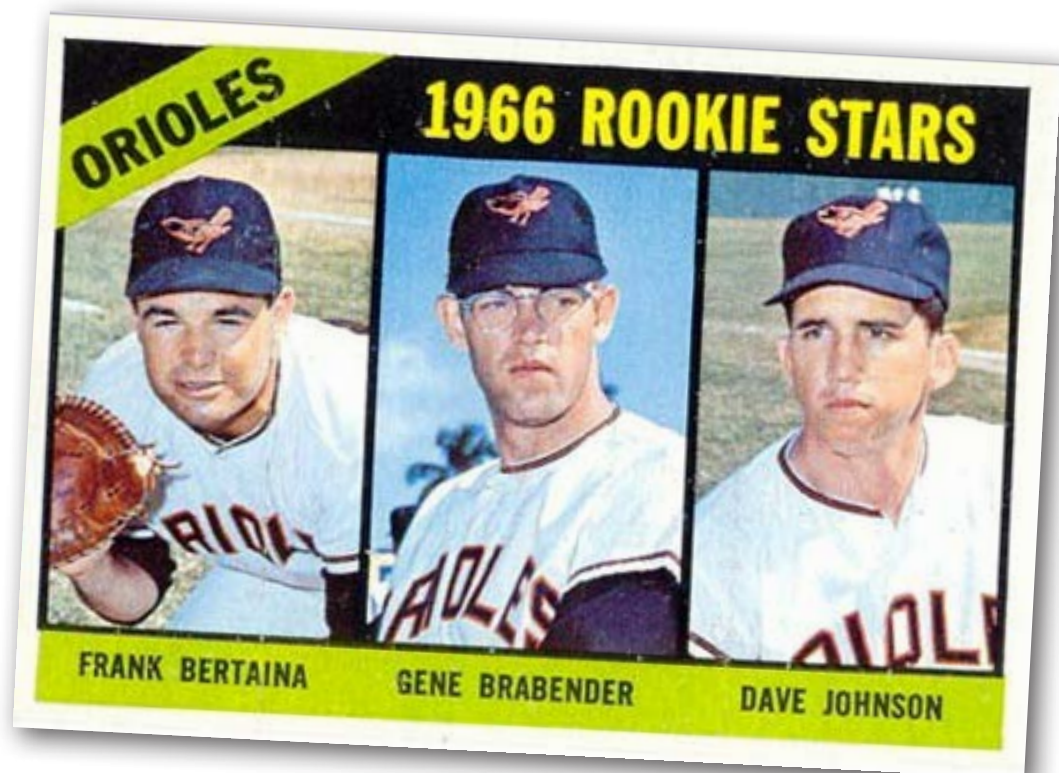
Promoting Johnson didn't reap immediate rewards for the Orioles, as he batted just .257/.298/.351

— a pretty dead-on imitation of Jerry Adair — on the year. However, Johnson thrived as the season progressed, batting .273/.310/.355 after June 29 in 257 plate appearances.

While Johnson wasn't exactly a star in '66, he certainly became one: he would play six more seasons in Baltimore, win another World Series, win several Gold Gloves and make four All-star games.

In spring training following the '66 season, even though he was retired, Sandy Koufax was at Dodgers camp. When Johnson bumped into Koufax he brashly said "Hey Sandy, I guess you know who hit the last hit off you."

Koufax replied, "Davey, that's why I knew I was washed up."ⁱⁱ



Step Aside Kid

The Baltimore Orioles acquired Luis Aparicio from the Chicago White Sox in 1963 for, essentially, Hoyt Wilhelm.

Aparicio, affectionately known as Looie, looks like one confident son of a bitch. And why shouldn't he? By the end of the 1965 season, Aparicio owned a .258/.307/.341 line, 1,502 hits, six gold gloves, seven All star appearances and a Rookie of the Year award. He received votes in MVP balloting six times, finishing second in 1959 to his teammate Nellie Fox.

Aparicio also led the league in steals every season from 1956-1964 (of course he also led the league in caught stealing in '59, '61, '62 and '64).

Heading into 1966 (Aparicio's age 32 season), it appeared that Looie was wearing down. In '65, Aparicio stole just 26 bases, and he suffered to a .225/.286/.339 batting line that year.

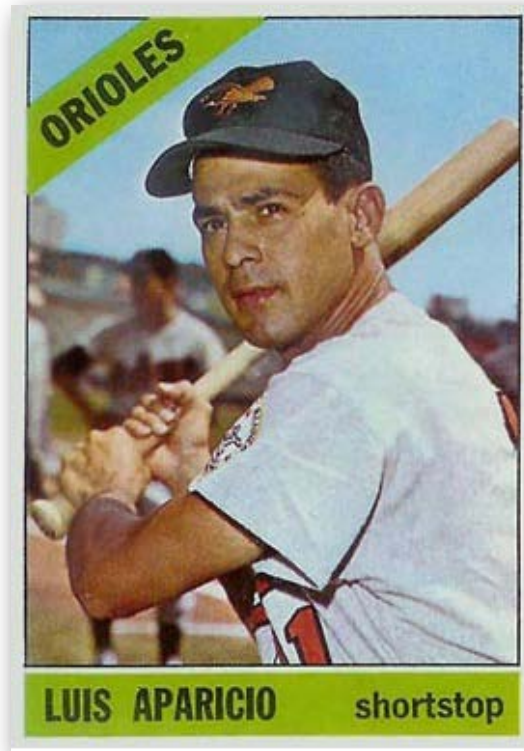
As Spring Training began, the Orioles were hoping that Looie could teach Mark Belanger the craft before drifting into retirement. Loveable Looie wanted no such thing.

Looking back, Belanger noted that Aparicio "wouldn't talk to me at all...I'd never knock Luis—he had to know why I was in camp—but I'd ask him questions and he'd say 'get away from me, kid, get away from me.' so I watched him all the time."ⁱⁱⁱ

Sure enough, the Orioles did not need Belanger's services in 1966. While Belanger appeared in only eight games, Aparicio displayed incredible durability, leading the league in plate appearances and at bats. He also batted .276/.311/.366, hitting 25 doubles, his highest tally at that point.

But Looie's value was never in his bat.

In the early '90s, Cal Ripken, Jr. would actually call pitches from the shortstop position when young Chris Hoiles was catching. Aparicio was no differ-



ent. He moved outfielders into position and acted as the coach on the diamond, anchoring one of the best defenses in baseball.

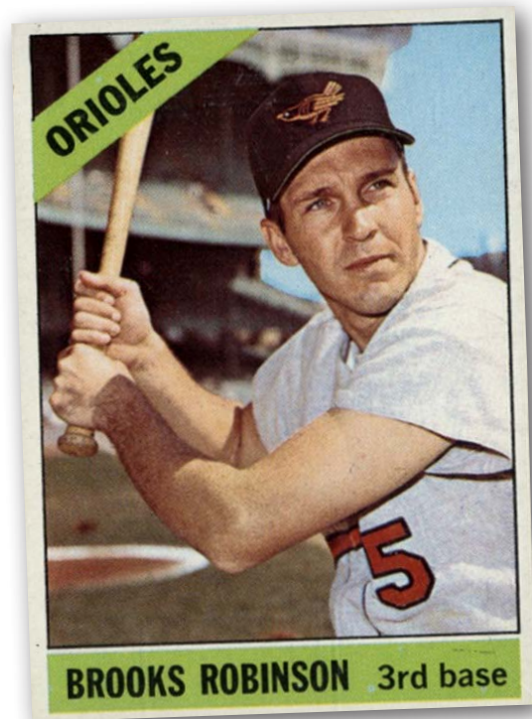
After the 1967 season, Aparicio was traded back to the White Sox for, essentially, Don Buford. He played through his age 39 season and was the first Venezuelan inducted into the Hall of Fame.

In 1968, Belanger took over as the Orioles starting shortstop, and, while he was a fantastic glove man, his bat never matched Aparicio's.

Mr. Oriole

This is one of the prettier Brooks Robinson cards available. You get the idea that Robinson is cool under pressure, not easily rattled, and assured of his ability.

By 1966, the man Hall of Famer Ron Santo called a human vacuum cleaner had already cemented himself as the embodiment of the Baltimore Orioles. He was Mr. Oriole.



He was also the 1964 MVP and the third place finisher in 1965. In fact, one could argue that Brooks was the best Robinson from '64-65.

With that in mind, some wondered whether Brooks would have problems sharing the spotlight with Frank. As noted, Frank carried a chip on his

shoulder for a variety of reasons, including a father who did not believe in his ability and a sport and country that were not quite ready for an African American superstar. Furthermore, Frank was joining an Orioles team with just two other black players: Paul Blair and Sam Bowens (Bowens played sparingly after his career was derailed by a beaming in 1965).

However, people severely underestimated the southerner's temperament. There was only one thing that mattered to Brooks: whether you could play the game—and Frank, Paul and Sam could certainly play.

In years past, after games, Brooks would eat with fellow Southerner Powell. After Frank arrived, Brooks made sure to invite Frank, Blair and Bowens to discuss the day's game over dinner and drinks.

In his autobiography, Frank wrote "I suspect Brooks was a key reason why, for the first time in my 14 years of professional baseball, black players and white players had drinks and meals together when we were on the road."^{iv}

Brooks had an amazing season in 1966: .269/.333/.444 with a 123 OPS+ and 4.2 bWAR. It was completely overshadowed (and rightly so) by Frank's, but Brooks didn't care. Maybe that's a small part of why he was so great.

In 39 postseason games, Brooks hit five HRs and batted .303/.323/.462. His first World Series homer came in the first inning of Game One of the 1966 World Series off Don Drysdale. The HR gave the Orioles three runs in the inning. The Dodgers scored two runs in the entire series.

Clank

If there is a yin and yang in the universe, the yang to Brooks' sterling defense was clearly Curt Blefary. In 1966, during a team bus ride that passed a scrap iron yard, Frank shouted to Blefary, who had already earned the nickname Clank, "you should get a new glove there."

That was just one of the many items on which Frank and the rest teased Blefary (see his eyebrows).

That said, Blefary was no joke at the plate, earning Rookie of the Year honors in 1965 after belting 22 HRs. In fact, the Orioles held Blefary in such high regard that they (unwisely) nixed the Reds initial trade offer for Frank Robinson. Lucky for Baltimore, Cincinnati was willing to accept the recently acquired Dick Simpson in Blefary's place and the trade was consummated.

The Orioles had quite the farm system back then. Before Blefary even reached the majors, he was preceded by Powell, Bowens and Pete Ward, all serviceable players promoted from Rochester.

In 1966, Blefary would join Powell as one of the "four cannons at the corners." Blefary, the least heralded of the four cannons, tied for third (with Brooks) in HRs (behind Powell and Frank) on the team and finished fourth in RBIs, behind the other corners. Blefary actually posted the 14th best OBP in the majors that season, behind Powell, Frank and some other guys. Perhaps if Blefary had done some damage in the Series (he went just 1/13 with two walks), he'd be better remembered by Orioles faithful.

While Blefary had an unremarkable series in '66, he proved indirectly invaluable for future Orioles championship teams. When Earl Weaver became manager in 1968, he strictly platooned Blefary, sitting him against lefties. Blefary didn't like this

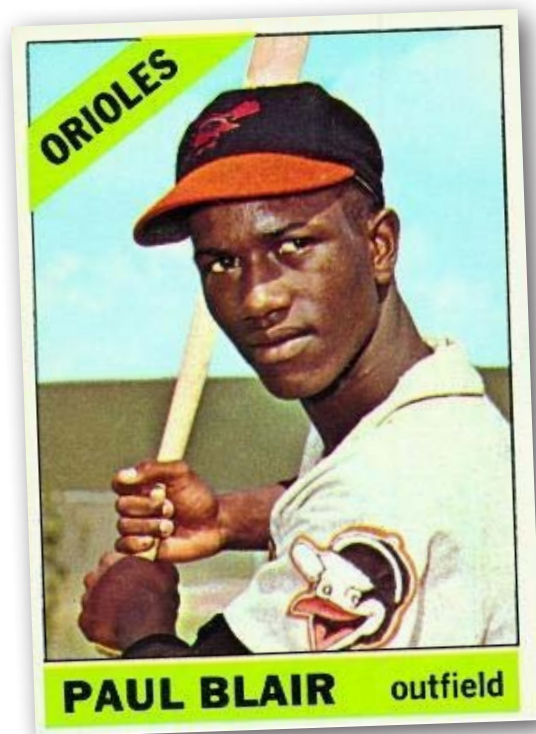


and demanded a trade. In December of '68 the Orioles struck a deal with the Astros that netted Baltimore Mike Cuellar. Cuellar pitched eight seasons in Baltimore, posting a 3.18 ERA and 1.19 WHIP.

Motormouth

On February 1, 1966, Paul Blair turned 22. He had all of 365 major league at bats to his name and a .233/.301/.337 line with just five HRs. However, he was, without a doubt, going to be the starting centerfielder on a team with serious World Series aspirations.

Luckily, Paul Blair's glove was so good that anything he did with the bat was pure gravy. He was so quick and his reads on fly balls so accurate that he played one of the shallowest centerfields in baseball history. Legend has it that the only thing faster than Blair was his mouth, as his energy, enthusiasm and word-per-minute rate earned him the nickname Motormouth.



Frank Robinson marveled at Blair's fielding acumen, saying Blair "had a knack of knowing where he was and knowing when to jump at the fence instead of banging into the fence. I saw him one time go over the fence and catch a ball without hitting the fence with his body. That sounds almost impossible but he did it."^{vi}

Very few expected Blair to hit well, especially because Blair was a bit behind in preparing for the season. Instead of playing winter ball, Blair stayed in Baltimore to work at a department store selling sporting goods.

Of course, Blair was sure he could hit better and he did finish 1965 strong (something he was eager to bring up to anyone who would listen). Indeed, after August 8, 1965 (in 201 at bats), Blair had a .264/.315/.373 line. Blair continued to improve in 1966, posting a .277/.309/.416 line.

Blair's bat did the most talking in the World Series. In the bottom of the fifth of Game 3, with the score tied 0-0, Blair stepped up to the plate against Claude Osteen. Blair looked for a fastball, got one and hit it 430 feet. It was one of three Orioles hits that day and accounted for the only run in the game. When Blair got back to the dugout, he was jumping around and talking a mile a minute. Frank told him if he kept it up, he'd jump straight through the dugout roof. Quickly, Blair replied "if I do, I won't feel a thing."^{vii}

Blair's terrific blast wasn't enough to earn him a start in Game Four though. But, with the Orioles leading 1-0 in the top of the eighth, Blair replaced Blefary, moving Russ Snyder to left.

Jim Lefebvre stepped up to the plate and hit a deep drive to center fielder. Blair raced back to the fence and jumped, surpassing the seven-foot high fence and pulling Lefebvre's blast back into the field of play for a long, loud, scary out in a one run win for the Orioles.

Blair played a key role in the final out of the series as well, though with a far less dramatic play. In the top of the ninth, Blair caught Lou Johnson's lazy fly to center—the final out of the Series.

Prettier than Berra

Heading into the 1966 season, manager Hank Bauer expected Dick Brown and Charlie Lau to split time at catcher for the Orioles, with youngster Andy Etchebarren getting time if he progressed. Unfortunately, Brown was diagnosed with a brain tumor in Spring Training, ending his career immediately.

Lau had his own problems, though none that were life threatening. Injured the previous year, Lau was suffering tremendous pain in his elbow as the season began. In fact, he claimed early steroid treatments caused him to come back from injury too soon. He managed to appear in just 18 games in '66 and another 63 in '67 before retiring.

With the injuries, the Orioles were forced to use four catchers in addition to Lau: Cam Carreon, Larry Haney, Vic Roznovsky and Andy Etchebarren—although, it was far from a revolving door.

With Lau ailing during Spring Training and the team desperately needing catching depth, on March 10, the Orioles traded Lou Piniella to the Cleveland Indians for Camilo Carreon.

From 1961-1964, in 907 at bats, Carreon had a .267/.330/.350 line with the Chicago White Sox. Of catchers with at least 900 at bats during that span, only 13 had a higher on base percentage than Carreon.

Unfortunately he tore tendons in his right arm in the middle of the '64 season. After the season, he was a minor part of a three team deal that included Tommy John and Rocky Colavito and sent him to Cleveland. Having little use for him, the Indians played Carreon in just 19 games, in which he posted a decent .231/.344/.365 line.

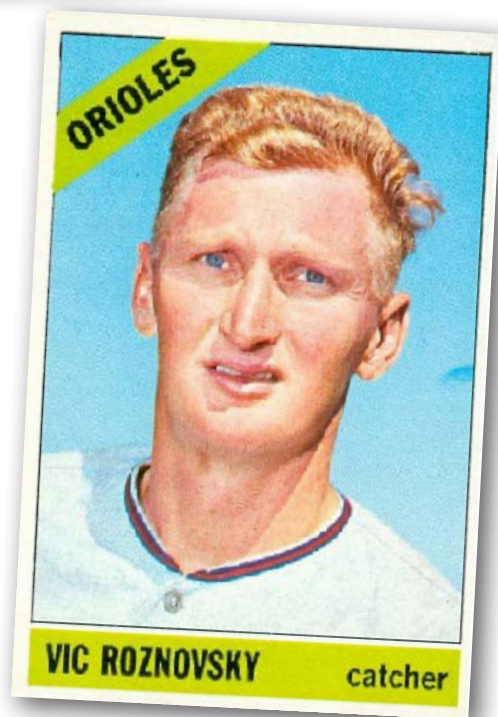
Still, he didn't get much more playing time with the O's, appearing in just two games in May and both parts of a June 8 double header all season. Those four games would be the last of his major league career.

Apparently unsatisfied with Carreon in Spring Training, twenty days later the Orioles traded Carl Warwick to the Chicago Cubs for Vic Roznovsky. Roznovsky appeared in 205 games over his five season career, with 41 of those coming for the Orioles during the 1966 season. He even made the post-season roster. For his troubles, Roznovsky was paid \$9,000 — not a bad pot of money for basically a replacement level season (.237/.308/.320).



In 1965, at AA, Larry Haney batted .254/.331/.361 earning a promotion to AAA in 1966. He struggled there, batting .213/.268/.360, but was promoted to the Majors and made his first appearance on July 27. He hit a HR in his second at bat, but it was his last HR of the season. In 20 games, Haney posted a .161/.190/.232 line for the Birds.

Before the Brown and Lau injuries, some in the Orioles organization thought they'd be rendered luxuries once rookie Andy Etchebarren got his feet wet.



In AA, in 1964, Etch, just 21, batted .237/.355/.373. The following season in AAA, Etch posted a .247/.341/.349 line.

In addition, by all accounts, Etch could handle a pitching staff and was superb behind the plate. In fact, Steve Barber was the only Orioles pitcher allowed to shake Etch off. He appeared in 121 games for the Orioles in '66, the 10th most in the league by a catcher.

Given his eyebrows, ears and rookie status, Etch was tormented by his teammates and manager. Bauer would tell Etch "You look like Yogi Berra," and Etch would reply "I'm a lot prettier."^{viii}

of starting pitchers. He was also smart enough to set-up on the outside corner and call the fastball.

Aside from saving Frank, Etch has one clear memory from the season. In the top of the sixth in Game Two of the World Series, Etch grounded into a double playing, erasing Davey Johnson who was on first. In so doing, Etch became the last player to ever bat against Sandy Koufax.

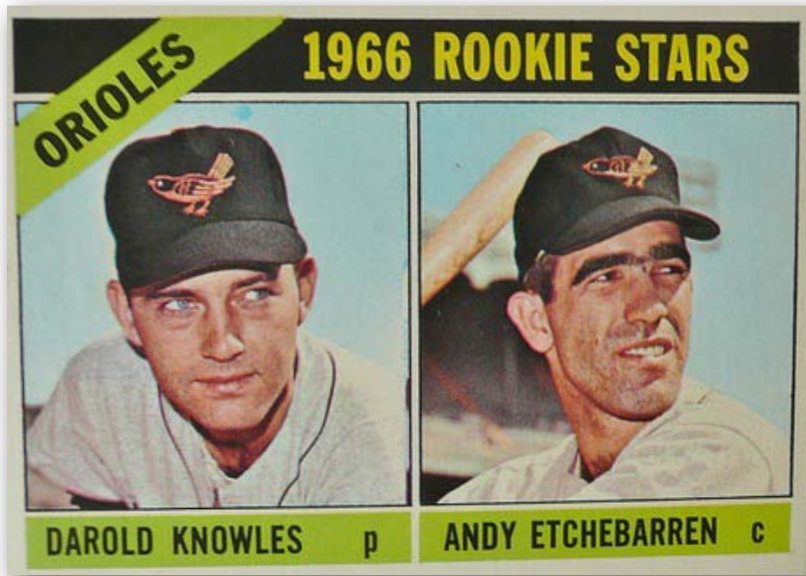
Even though Lau didn't play much, he left his impression on the team and baseball history. Lau served as hitting coach for the Kansas City Royals from 1971-1978 and was partly credited with turning George Brett into George Brett.

Before all that, in 1963, the Orioles sold Lau to the Kansas City Athletics — a team that featured Norm Siebern at first base, Moe Drabowsky in relief, and a young Tony LaRussa.

After playing sparingly from '63-64 (105 games), but hitting well (.285/.334/.400), the Orioles reacquired Lau on June 15, 1964.

While Lau just missed overlapping with Hank Bauer in Kansas City, Bauer actively sought his advice during his tenure with the O's.

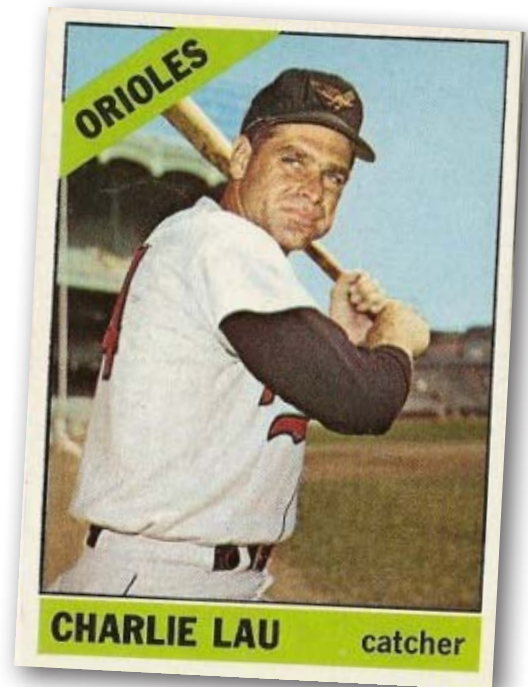
According to legend, Lau was unconcerned with losing Pappas and advised Bauer to go out and get Moe Drabowsky. Never mind that Drabowsky was drafted on November 29 and the Orioles traded for Frank Robinson on December 9.



No one was joking when Etch started hitting, though. On May 10, he was batting .284/.342/.433. By the end of June, he was sitting at .250/.320/.440 and was one of four Oriole All-stars (Frank, Brooks and Barber were the others). Etch slumped horribly the rest of the way, batting .175/.249/.244. His slump was somewhat justified, however, as he was playing with a broken hand.

Regardless of his work in the batter's box, Etch earned his money (and then some) for his work off the field that summer. On August 22, Etch saved a drowning Frank Robinson, who had been thrown into a pool during a party. While most of the players thought Frank was joking, Etch quickly realized Frank could not swim, and jumped in to save him...and the Orioles season.

For a rookie, Etch was a surprisingly stabilizing presence for a team that used an incredible amount



GAME 1

Charlie Lau never made a bigger imprint on the Orioles championship than he did in Game 1. Clearly legends never die, as to this day it is “known” that Lau lobbied hard for Drabowsky to replace some of Milt Pappas’s innings. However, general manager Lee McPhail has a different story, saying the Orioles were prepared to take another relief pitcher in the 1965 Rule 5 Draft.⁹ Fortunately, that player went a spot before, so the Orioles had to select Drabowsky.

In the top of the first inning of Game 1 of the World Series, Russ Snyder drew a walk off Don Drysdale with one out. Frank Robinson followed and was promptly brushed back. On the next pitch, Frank hit a two-run HR.

Drysdale tried to go up and in on Brooks Robinson, the next batter, but it was neither up nor in and Brooks hit it out of the yard. In the bottom of the first, Dave McNally walked one batter but retired the side without incident. The Orioles led 3-0.

In the bottom of the third, with the Orioles leading 4-1, McNally got Willie Davis to pop out, but then walked three Dodgers in succession.

Before the series there was a lot of talk about the mound being higher in Los Angeles. Whether it was nerves, the mound or a combination of the two, all of McNally’s pitches were sailing high. This much was clear: Hank Bauer needed to go to the pen to protect the three run lead.

Bauer didn’t go to Eddie Watt who had the most innings, Stu Miller who had the best ERA or Eddie Fisher the brilliant mid-season acquisition. Instead, he chose journeyman Moe Drabowsky

Jim Russo, the Orioles “super scout,” prepared a detailed scouting report on the Dodgers and how Orioles pitchers should approach them prior to Game 1. The plan of attack centered on fastballs. Whether Bauer paid attention to the scouting report or had a different reason for choosing Moe is a matter for legends.

In his autobiography, *Super Scout*, Russo wrote, “I can’t be sure [Drabowsky] read one page of the sixteen page report. I can’t, because Moe’s approach would have been the same if he had or hadn’t. If I wanted hard stuff, I couldn’t have gone to a better source than Moe Drabowsky. That was Moe’s game.”^{ix}

Moe was the perfect choice for this spot. Moe’s family had fled Poland before World War II — he knew how to handle real pressure. In addition, he was a wild man, often known as the best “hot foot” in MLB history (once lighting Commissioner Bowie Kuhn’s laces on fire).

During the season, he discovered that several Oriole players were petrified of snakes. Soon plastic ones were showing up in showers, lockers and gym bags. Once the shock wore off, Moe went to pet stores for live snakes and hid them in his teammate’s equipment. He also prank called opposing team’s bullpens to get people warming up and once switched room numbers on hotel doors so none of his teammates’ keys would work.



⁹ It’s unclear if this is true or not. The players that appear to be selected around Drabowsky were batters. In addition, there are really only three reasonable pitching options from the entire draft: Bob Heffner who was decent from 1963-1964, but horrible in 1965. He pitched just 21 innings after the ‘65 season. Don Nottebart had a decent career up to that point, but was mostly a starter. He pitched just three seasons after 1965. The other likely scenario was Ken Sanders, who was a young reliever for the Kansas City Athletics.

In reality, Moe had to be lighthearted for his career to endure, as success didn't come quickly for him. In his first six seasons and 633.2 IPs, Drabowsky owned a 4.05 ERA, 1.46 WHIP and 1.19 K:BB rate.

In addition, during the swansong of Early Wynn's career, Moe was on the losing end of Wynn's 300th and final career victory. He was also victimized by AARP card holder Stan Musial, giving up Stan the Man's 3,000th career hit. Once he even allowed a 573 foot home run. Perhaps the pinnacle of his failure: on June 2, 1957, he set the record for most hit batsmen in a game (two of them were Frank Robinson).



Series opener at Dodgers Stadium October 5, 1966

Things hadn't improved much for Moe by 1965. From 1962-1965 he pitched 492.1 IPs with a 4.37 ERA, 1.35 WHIP and 1.68 K:BB rate. At that point, Moe was almost done with baseball and was strongly considering adopting his off-season job full time.

The Orioles, after selecting Moe, offered him \$10,000. Moe worked as a stockbroker in the

off-season and turned down the money. The O's upped the offer to \$12,500. Moe crunched the numbers and took the offer. And that is the legend(s) of how Moe Drabowsky became an Oriole, and thank God he did.

Moe started just three games for the Orioles in '66, even with all the injuries to the starting pitching. His first start was late in the year, on August 12. With a badly depleted bullpen, Bauer turned to Moe and asked for five innings. Moe gave him 8.2 — an effort Moe mentions just as often as his World Series relief work. He would finish the season with 96 innings, a 2.81 ERA, 0.95 WHIP and 3.38 K:BB rate.

Because of all the things (true, imagined and embellished) that embodied Moe, there was, quite simply, no Oriole more qualified to enter a World Series game with the bases loaded and one out than Moe Drabowsky. As he said while leaving the bullpen, "they're bringing in the machine early today."^x

Sure enough, Moe came in and struck out Wes Parker. He then walked in a run but got a fly-out to end the inning with only one run being scored. It was the last run the Dodgers scored in the Series.

In the fourth and fifth, Moe struck out the side — six batters in a row — tying a World Series record for consecutive strike-outs. The pitcher he tied, Hod Eller, set his record against the 1919 Chicago Black Sox. Enough written.

In addition to being the last O's pitcher on the mound when the Dodgers scored, Moe was the last reliever the Orioles would use in the series. He pitched 6.2 innings in the series, allowing two walks, one hit and no runs. He struck out 11 Dodgers. Etch said Moe threw 85 percent fastballs.

When asked what Moe's pitches were doing, Lou Johnson, LA's starting right fielder, replied, "they weren't hitting the bat."^{xi}

Recalling pitch selection that day, Etch said, "I just sat out there on the outside corner calling for the fastball."^{xii}

GAME 2

During Game One, Jim Palmer and Wally Bunker were the only pitchers who sat in the dugout. They witnessed the scouting report in action. Palmer knew you could beat the Dodgers with fastballs.

In fact, after Game One, Palmer told the press you “could beat the Dodgers with fastballs.”^{xiii}

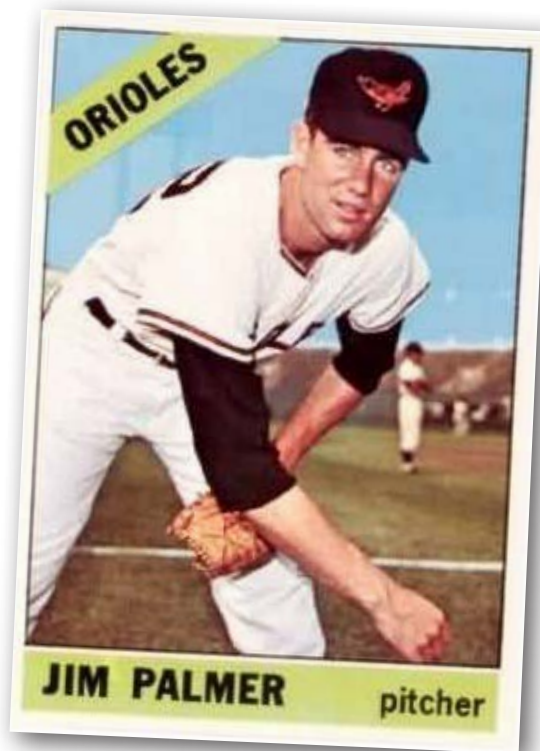
Palmer was confident from birth. In the April 23, 1966 issue of *Sporting News*, Doug Brown wrote, “this kid [Palmer] leaves the impression that he thinks he can win big if they pitch him regularly...it is often difficult to draw a line between brashness and confidence in describing a young player...he is clearly not brash...yet just as certainly he is clearly confident of his ability.”^{xiv}

Palmer didn’t get off to a great start though. After his first four games, he had a 4.56 ERA and had walked 16 batters in 25 innings.

Following the rough start, and despite arm troubles that caused him to miss starts throughout the season, Palmer threw 182.2 innings and recorded a 3.30 ERA. On September 22, Palmer won his final game of the regular season, going the distance against Kansas City. He allowed one run and struck out eight — and the Orioles clinched the pennant.

In the first inning of Game 2, Palmer set the Dodgers down in order. In the second, he got into a bit of trouble with two walks (one intentional), but no Dodger scored. He recorded 1-2-3 innings in the third, fourth, sixth, and ninth. Palmer allowed just seven base runners and struck out six batters. In so doing, he became the youngest pitcher to win a complete game shutout in the World Series.

Unfortunately, Game Two would be the high point of his career until he worked his way back from injuries in the 1969 season. Then, from 1969-1982,



Palmer pitched 3,504 innings, recording a 2.74 ERA, 1.16 WHIP and 203 complete games.¹⁰

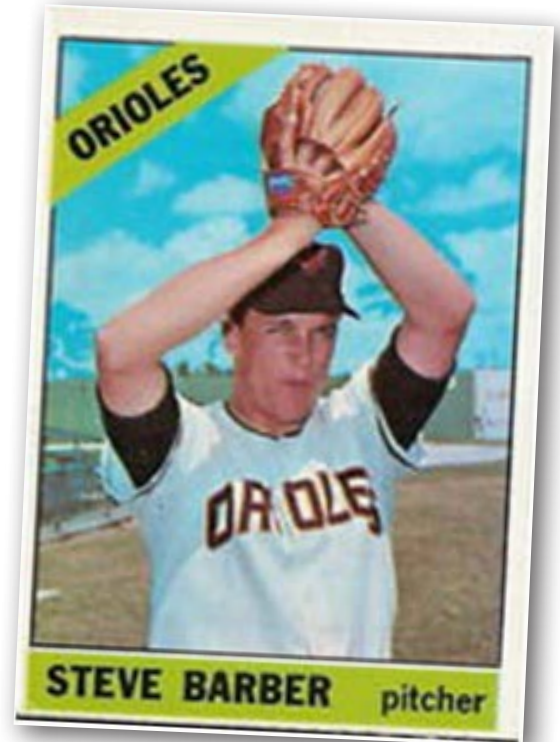
Sandy Koufax didn’t fare as well, as his defense set a record in making six errors. The Orioles won easily.

Bob Johnson, a lightly used bench bat for the Orioles, was quoted in the *Sun* the following day: “I think we have them now.”^{xv}

¹⁰ In Oriole history, Jim Palmer is the only player to appear on every championship team.

GAME 3

As the Orioles had clinched the pennant and their World Series birth well in advance, Bauer had ample time to decide who should serve as the team's third starter. The decision came down to Wally Bunker and Steve Barber, the All-star and Maryland native. Barber was the pride of Tacoma Park and the University of Maryland. He was the first Oriole ever to win 20 games.



Complicating the issue of who to start Game Three was Barber's inflamed tendon, which limited him to just 14 innings after the All-Star break. Bunker, however, was not exactly healthy either (since his rookie debut, Bunker had suffered various unspecified arm ailments). In 1966, he spent a month on the DL during the season and had been just a spot starter while healthy — although he did make six starts in September.

On the final day of the season, for little reason apparently, the Orioles had a double header scheduled against the Twins. Barber was slated to start the first game, but couldn't get out of the second inning. Bunker, meanwhile, was able to go five innings in his start. He would pitch Game Three.

And like that, the Orioles entered their first World Series without the winningest pitcher in franchise history (Pappas) and the first hurler to win 20 (Barber).

At that point in time, Game Three was the largest crowd to ever attend an Orioles game at Memorial Stadium. Most gave Bunker and the O's little chance in this contest. Bunker wasn't half the pitcher Claude Osteen was. In addition, Bunker was a noted sinkerball pitcher, going against a Dodger line-up with several low-ball hitters, including Jim Lefebvre.

Warming up before Game Three, his arm hurt a lot but he didn't tell anyone. Etch, however, could tell.

In conferring with the pitching coach and Bauer, the O's almost pulled Bunker, he looked that terrible. However, with Palmer going the distance and a travel day, the O's bullpen was rested, so they went with Bunker, but planned to be ready with a quick hook.

Bunker started well, striking out Maury Wills and Wes Parker to begin the game. In fact, through three innings, Bunker faced the minimum.

As recorded in the following day's Baltimore Sun: Bunker sat in the dugout chain smoking cigarettes between innings, all while having Capsolin rubbed on his arm. Capsolin is some sort of strong precursor to Icy/Hot it appears, "a potent anti-inflammatory ointment," according to Wiki Answers.

The next five innings were messier than the first three; Bunker allowed a hit or walk (or both) in each frame, though no one scored. Bunker then pitched a perfect ninth to continue the shut-out streak and put the Orioles on the verge of their first World Series.

Of course, Bunker didn't become the second youngest pitcher to win a World Series shutout (behind Palmer) without a little help from his friends, as Claude Osteen allowed just three hits in his seven innings of work. He was basically flawless until the fifth inning.

In the fifth, Paul Blair, hitless in the series, stepped to the plate, crowding it like he always did (which would later lead to a vicious beaming that shortened his career). Osteen threw an outside fastball. Blair connected and hit it further than he had ever hit a baseball before. Blair was the sixth black player to hit a World Series homer.

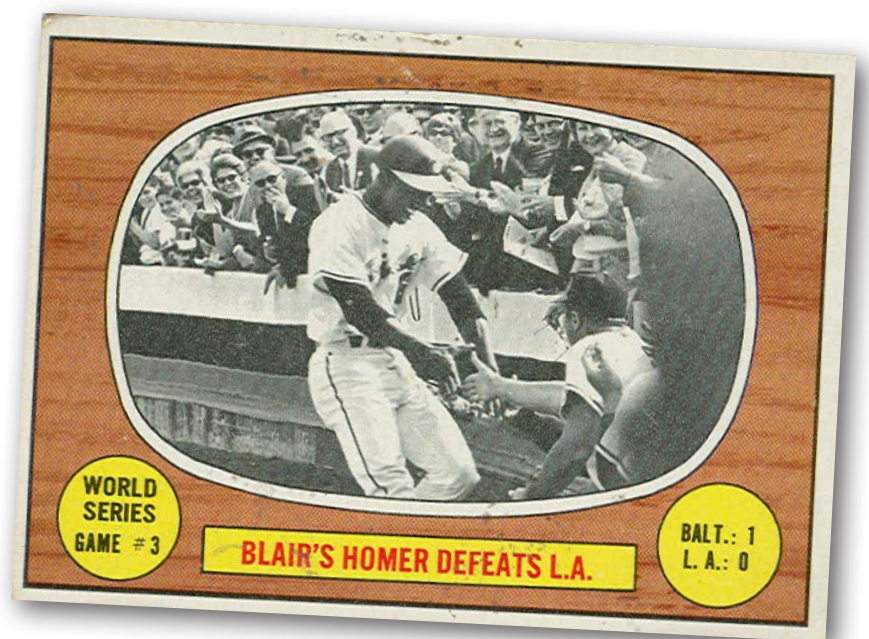
The Orioles won the game 1-0.

After the game, Steve Barber, in addressing Bunker, said "great job...but you're not that fucking good and you know it."

Reflecting on the season, Barber would say, "the biggest thrill of my career was being part of that team...also the biggest disappointment."^{xvi}

In 1965, Barber demanded a trade from Baltimore. In fact, it was somewhat surprising Pappas was traded instead of Barber. The Orioles ultimately obliged Barber's continual trade demands, sending him to the Yankees on July 4, 1967. He was in NY for only a short period, as the Seattle Pilots took him in the '68 expansion draft. He never pitched in the postseason in his career.

Bunker shared a somewhat similar fate; he was drafted from the Orioles in the '68 expansion draft by the Kansas City Royals. He was good after the '66 season (3.60 ERA, 1.21 WHIP), but rarely healthy (535.2 IPs in five seasons). He too never appeared in the post-season again.



GAME 4

At 23, Dave McNally was the oldest of Baltimore's World Series starters.



McNally carried the Orioles staff, leading the team in innings, K's, and starts. Etch called McNally, not Palmer, the greatest pitcher he ever caught. With McNally back home on a familiar mound facing a team that had barely scored in the Series, the Orioles were confident.

In the first inning, McNally threw eight pitches, the Dodgers swung at seven of them. The other was a called strike. The game rolled along with few

base runners until the fifth, when Frank Robinson stepped to the plate and hit his second homer of the Series off Don Drsydale.

In the top of the fifth, McNally allowed a single, but erased the runner with a double play. Through five innings, McNally had faced just one batter over the minimum. In so doing, he extended the team's scoreless streak to a record 29 innings. The Orioles, familiarly, led 1-0.

McNally also faced the minimum in the sixth, seventh and eighth.

In the top of the eighth, Blair entered the 1-0 game, moving Russ Snyder to left. Jim Lefebvre was up at the plate. He connected on a long fly ball to deep center. Blair tracked it down, leapt at the fence and pulled the ball back for an out. McNally got two ground ball outs and the scoreless streak was at 32 innings.

In the ninth, McNally allowed a single and walked a batter, but recorded a K and a line-out. Lou Johnson came up with two runners on and two outs. He hit a lazy fly ball to center. Paul Blair caught the ball, the last out of the World Series.

It was a fitting ending, with Blair catching the final out and the Dodgers going scoreless.

By the end of the series, the Dodgers set records for fewest hits and runs, and the lowest batting average. They also recorded the most errors in an inning in World Series history. The Orioles, marked by exceptional pitching and defense, lived up to their billing, despite being an 8-5 underdog entering the Series.

“When you Win, that’s Momentum”

In his first 10 seasons as a player, Hank Bauer appeared in nine World Series. He also won two Bronze Stars during World War II for his service at Guadalcanal and Okinawa.

Bauer was the perfect manager to lead the 1966 Baltimore Orioles. He knew how to handle veterans (soft love) and how to push rookies (hard love).

Bauer also thought “the worst thing you can do is over manage.”^{xvii} He largely avoided that with the offense. In January of ‘66, Bauer wrote his preliminary batting order: Aparicio, Blefary, Frank, Brooks, Powell, Lau, Adair, Blair. There was some tinkering, but the core of this lineup remained consistent throughout the season — only nine players managed 300 or more plate appearances for the O’s.

That said, Bauer didn’t just sit back and watch a great team succeed on auto pilot during the regular season. The Orioles used 15 pitchers in 1966, including 11 different starters. Only two pitchers started 30 or more games. The Dodgers, conversely, had four pitchers who started more than 35 games. In fact, Eddie Watt, a rookie and mostly a reliever, pitched the third most innings for the Orioles that year.

The shuffling changed in the World Series. Bauer used 13 players total in the Series, including pitchers. He knew when to get out of the way.

As Frank Robinson said of Bauer, “he wasn’t much of strategist. He used few bunts, or hit-and-run plays; he just let us hit and play for the big inning.”^{xviii} That sounds a lot like Earl Weaver.

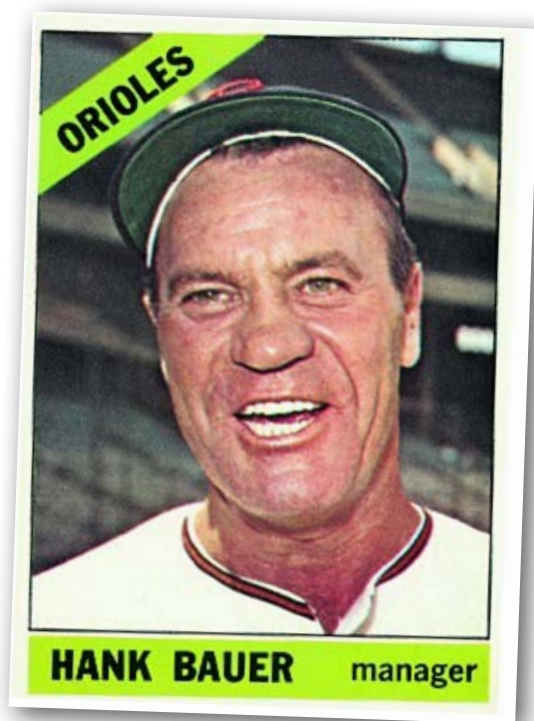
During the Series, Bauer had to make just two tough decisions. The first decision was informed, according to legend, partly by happenstance. Before Game One, Bauer skipped a scouting session to instead wander around Dodger Stadium. He ran into Sam Mele, the manager of the Minnesota Twins who had lost the ‘65 series to the Dodgers.¹¹ Mele told Bauer to throw fastballs.

Meanwhile, in the scouting session, Jim Russo was telling Orioles pitchers to throw fastballs.¹²

That information probably played a part in Moe Drabowsky coming out of the pen in the third inning with the bases juiced and one out. Six innings later, by the time Drabowsky was done pitching, the Orioles had all the momentum — not that momentum mattered to Bauer.

According to Bauer, “I still don’t know what that word means. Momentum. I mean, when you win, that’s momentum.”^{xix}

Bauer was a smart manager.

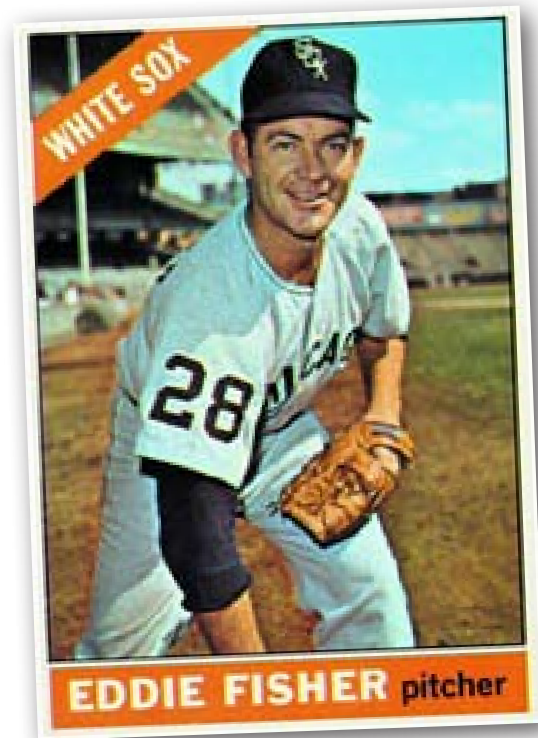


11 Mele was also a Baltimore Oriole for all of 72 games in 1954.

12 The second difficult decision was starting and sticking with Wally Bunker.

The Pen

Aside from Drabowsky, the Orioles bullpen saw no action during the World Series. However, without them, the Orioles would never have reached the Series in the first place.



As the Orioles battled injuries to Barber, Bunker and other members of the pitching staff, the team went out and traded for Eddie Fisher on June 13. In 1965, Fisher finished fourth in MVP voting, pitching 165.1 innings in relief and leading the league in WHIP (0.97).

Little did the Orioles know when they swapped Wilhelm for Aparicio in 1963 they would be further helping the '66 ball club because Fisher, a knuckleballer, perfected his craft under the tutelage of Wilhelm.

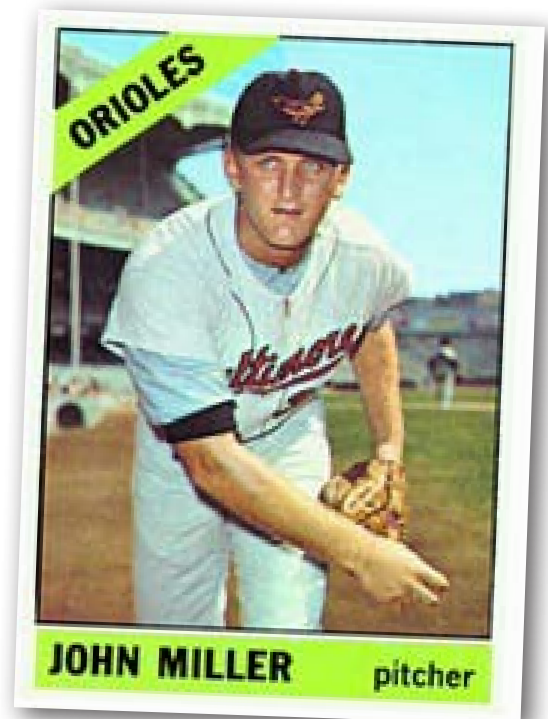
When Fisher joined Baltimore, the Orioles had just a one game lead in the standings. The Orioles put Fisher to quick work as his first appearance was June 15. His 44th and final appearance was on September 30. In between, he threw 71.2 IPs with a 2.64 ERA.

A week after the trade, the Orioles had doubled their lead. By June 29, they had stretched it to 3.5 games. By July 15, they were up 6, and that would be the low point for the rest of the season, as they cruised to a 9 game lead by season's end.

For some reason, the O's used Fisher less the following year (just under 90 IPs), and he demanded a trade. Fisher was an Oriole for 17 months and 15 days. He pitched 161.1 innings.

On May 30, 1941, John Miller was born in Baltimore, Maryland. The pride of Edmondson high school in West Baltimore, the O's signed Miller in 1961.

In 1966, John Miller threw 100 innings for the depleted Orioles. It would be the first and last time he reached that threshold. While his aggregate numbers (4.74 ERA, 1.49 WHIP) weren't great, Miller put in his best work as the Orioles surged toward the pennant. After August 16, Miller threw 28.1 IPs and posted a 3.81 ERA. He actually spot-



started for the Orioles in late August/early September. In four starts, he posted a 3.47 ERA.

Miller wasn't even the best reliever Miller on the team, but he was the best reliever from West Baltimore on the hometown World Champion O's.

In 1965, Stu Miller was voted the most valuable Oriole, he also finished seventh in MVP voting, just a few spots behind Brooks Robinson and Eddie Fisher. Miller was equally brilliant in 1966, posting a 2.25 ERA in 92 innings. He finished 33 games and collected 18 saves. Unlike Drabowsky, Miller relied on deception, sometimes throwing pitches as slow as 55 MPH.



He would pitch only one more season for the Orioles, during which he gave up Mickey Mantle's 500th HR and combined to throw a no-hitter with Steve Barber, which the O's lost 2-1.

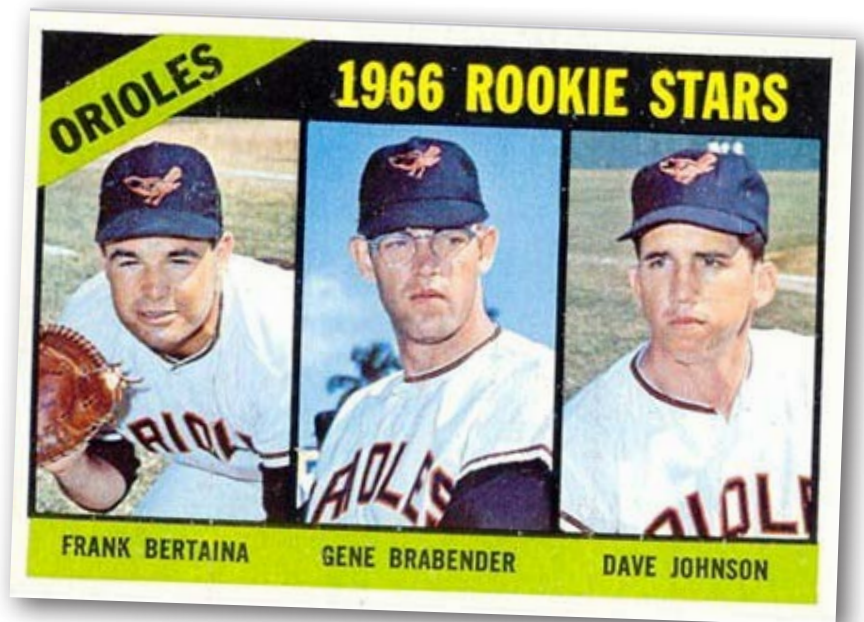
Miller is a forgotten Oriole great, tallying 502 innings for the ball club, with a superb 2.44 K:BB rate, 1.12 WHIP and 2.37 ERA. He collected a cool 100 saves.

In 1951, Branch Rickey signed Dick Hall for the Pittsburgh Pirates. He made his way to the Orioles in 1961 and learned from Wilhelm and Miller. Hall credited Wilhelm with teaching him the knuckleball and Miller for teaching him the slow change.

He pitched phenomenally for the Orioles from '61-'66, posting a 2.82 ERA and 0.99 WHIP. While '66 wouldn't be his finest year from an ERA standpoint, he finished 20 games (third most on the team) and tied Drabowsky for third most saves. He also led the team with a 5.50 K:BB rate. Drabowsky was second with a 3.38 rate. His K:BB rate was the second best in the majors that season (min. 60 IPs), behind only Juan Marichal.

The O's traded him after the '66 season, but reacquired him in '69. That season, Hall became the first pitcher in history to win an American League Championship Series game. He pitched 8.2 innings for the Orioles in the postseason and didn't allow a run.

In 1965, Gene Brabender was pitching for an Army team in Aberdeen, Maryland. He was the property of the Dodgers, but available for the '65 Rule 5 draft and the Orioles pounced.



In 1966, it took a while for Brabender to see action, as his first appearance came on May 11 (he took the loss). In fact, he allowed runs in five of his first six appearances and, after a disastrous outing on July 4, Brabender had pitched 32.1 innings with a 4.18 ERA.

However, as the Orioles suffered injuries, Brabender was called on to pitch more innings (38.2 innings the rest of the season) and achieved better results (3.03 ERA). Brabender threw 71 innings for the '66 Orioles, the 10th most on the team and finished 15 games (the fifth most).

From May 12 through June 26, Frank Bertaina was a solid, yet sporadic starter for the Orioles. He started eight games during that stretch, posting a 3.66 ERA, though he went 0-3. He made one spot start in August that went poorly and four relief appearances in September. His 63.1 IPs, however, were certainly solid. Bertaina would pitch just as effectively in '67, although most of it was for the Washington Senators, as the O's traded him for Pete Richert.

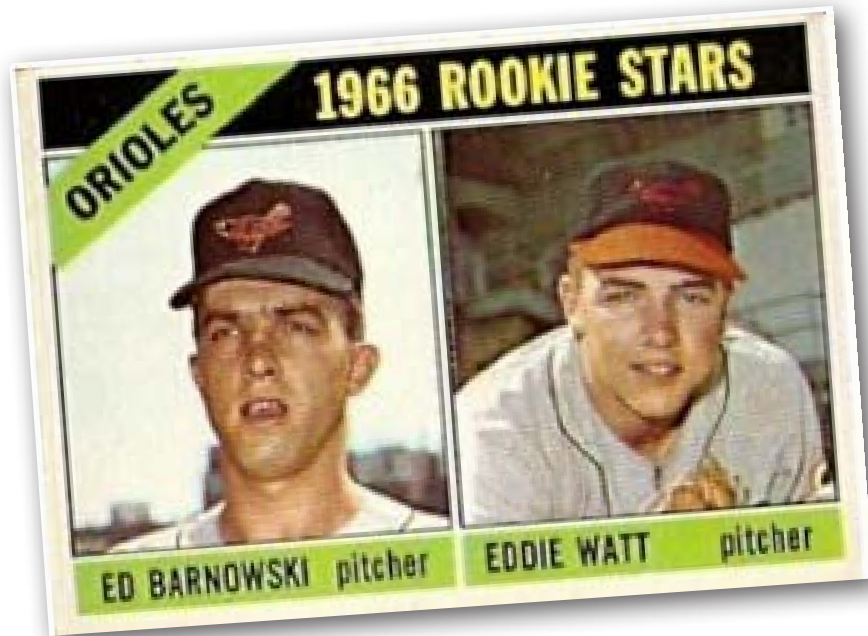
To this day, Bertaina is the other guy who appeared on Davey Johnson's Rookie Card.

Eddie Watt made 43 appearances for the Orioles: he started 13 games and finished 14. He also threw the third most innings for the O's in '66.

Watt's final start, on September 15, resulted in a 4-3 victory for the O's. Watt went 8.2 innings, allowed two earned runs and struck out seven. Watt never started another game in his career.

After the '66 season, in the off-season, Watt taught police officers as they prepared for the civil service exam. He covered English, math and physical education — no word on whether Blair provided the equipment for the PE class.

While Watt didn't appear in the '66 post-season, he did in '69, '70, '71 and '73. In 10.2 post-season innings, he had a 2.53 ERA and 1.22 WHIP.



INVESTIGATING THE NARRATIVE: Milt Pappas Caved Because of the Frank Robinson Trade

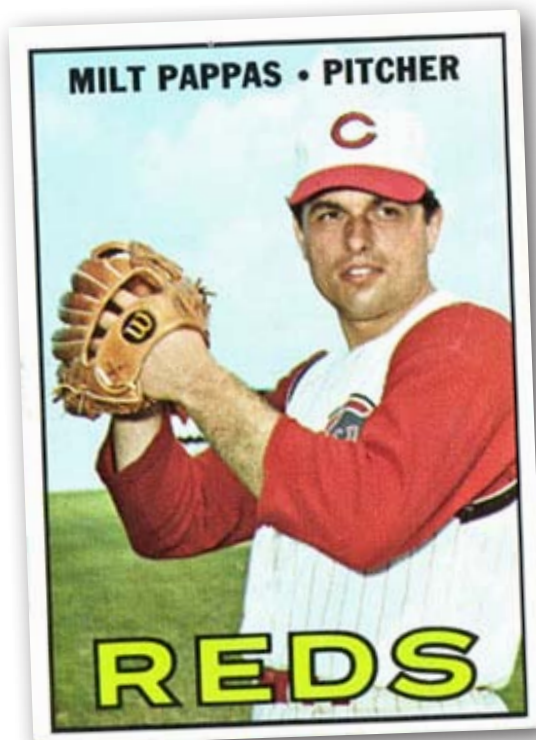
On December 9, 1965 Milt Pappas, Jack Baldschun and Dick Simpson were sent to the Cincinnati Reds for Frank Robinson. Robinson's 1965 season (.296/.386/.540) had fallen off somewhat from his torrid stretch between 1960-1964, but his OPS+ in '65 was still 151. When asked about the trade, owner Bill De Witt said Robinson was "an old 30." Some also speculate that DeWitt saw his team fade down the stretch in '65 because of poor pitching and thought one pitcher might push them over the top.

Regardless, it was DeWitt's worst move as a baseball man (and DeWitt was no slouch — he built the Big Red Machine). For the Baltimore Orioles, in 1966, Robinson put together one of the best seasons in baseball history, winning the Triple Crown, MVP and World Series and posting a 198 OPS+.

Consequently, no matter what Pappas did, the trade would be regarded as one of the silliest in baseball history. In addition, DeWitt's sheer amount of chutzpah and hubris in saying that Robinson was "an old 30" hurt the franchise and outraged fans.

The fans outrage, in fact, has been cited as one of the main reasons for Pappas' decline in "effectiveness" following his move from Baltimore to Cincinnati. Such an assessment, however, is likely unfair. By all accounts, Pappas was a confident player, in today's parlance a diva. To be just as anecdotal: to think that a person with that much bravado and hubris would be affected by fans—who he probably didn't consider—putting pressure on him seems suspect. Isn't it far more likely that what changed wasn't Pappas himself but his environment, specifically a different league, different home ballpark and different defense?

Perhaps, one time out of a thousand, a professional ball player lets the hatred, rage and anger from fans affect him and hurt his performance. From



what I've read about Pappas, however, he doesn't seem like the fragile type. Moreover (and more importantly), as you'll read, the evidence doesn't support it.

Performance, Before and After, An Overview

From 1957-1965, Pappas threw 1,623 innings for the Orioles. He had a 3.24 ERA, 1.20 WHIP and 1.78 K:BB rate. By the start of 1964, Pappas was basically a 200 IP pitcher that was slightly above average. Then, from 1964-1965, Pappas threw 473 innings with a 2.80 ERA, 1.10 WHIP and 2.84 K:BB rate. He was the winningest pitcher in Baltimore's history and just 26. In short, he appeared to be a thoroughbred that wouldn't fade down the stretch.

Unfortunately, as Robinson was winning the MVP of the 1966 World Series, Pappas sat at home stuck with a season line of 4.29 ERA, 1.25 WHIP and 3.41 K:BB rate. Things didn't get a lot better for Pappas after '66. Over his 490 IPs with the Red(legs), Pappas had a 4.04 ERA, 1.22 WHIP and 3.51 K:BB rate — a seeming far cry from his sub-3.00 ERA with the O-R-I-O-L-E-S.

Memorial Stadium & Crosley Field

In his career, Pappas threw 848 innings in Memorial Stadium. He had a 3.01 ERA, 1.99 K:BB rate and 1.16 WHIP. He had better ERAs at seven other stadiums, however he threw over 68 IPs in only two of them (100.2 IPs at Yankee Stadium and 129 IPs at Dodger Stadium). In addition, he had a WHIP better than 1.16 in six stadiums — in only one did he pitch more than 68 innings (Yankee Stadium).

From 1958-1965, Memorial Stadium was a pretty decent pitchers park, posting sub 100 park factors almost every year. Oddly '64 and '65 (arguably Pappas's best years) were the only seasons that saw more neutral or hitter friendly environments.

In 1966, Cincinnati's Crosley Field had a multiyear batting park factor of 110 and pitching of 109 — anything over 100 favors hitters. Crosley similarly favored hitters in '67 and '68.

Pappas had a 4.12 ERA, 1.21 WHIP and 3.93 K:BB rate at Crosley Field in 273 IPs. The WHIP is his eighth best, right behind his WHIP at Memorial Stadium. The 3.93 K:BB rate was, by far, the best rate Pappas posted in any ball park that he threw more than 45 IPs in.

Defense

Brooks Robinson's career began roughly at the same time as Pappas. During Pappas' tenure, the Orioles added two excellent defenders: Paul Blair and Luis Aparicio. While Blair and Aparicio overlapped with Pappas for only a few years, their time as teammates with Pappas marked the best stretch of his career with the O's.

With the Orioles, Pappas' highest BABIP¹³ was .286 in 135.1 IPs in 1958. Overall, Pappas posted a .258 BABIP at Memorial Stadium during his time with the Orioles.

In 1966, conversely, Pappas had a .296 BABIP with the Reds overall, and a .294 mark at Crosley Field.

From 1958-1965, the Reds pitchers posted a .277 BABIP; the Orioles: .261.

From 1966-1968, the Reds posted a .279 BABIP; the Orioles: .254.

After 3,186 innings, Milt Pappas retired with a .268 BABIP.

Leaving Runners on Base

From 1958-1965, the Orioles tied for the third best strand rate (73.8%). League average is 70-72%. During the same time, the Reds had a 72.7% strand rate.

From 1966-1968, the Orioles tied for the fourth best strand rate¹⁴ (74.8%) while the Reds posted a 73.2% strand rate.

¹³ BABIP stands for batting average on balls in play. Essentially, throughout the history of baseball, most pitchers tend to hover between a .290 and a .300 BABIP. There are exceptions, but they are few and far between.

¹⁴ Thank you Moe Drabowsky, the Miller boys and the Eddies.

BALLS AND STRIKES

Season	Team	IP	K/9	BB/9	HR/9	BABIP	LOB%	ERA	FIP*
1964	Orioles	251.2	5.61	1.72	0.75	.264	76%	2.97	3.10
1965	Orioles	221.1	5.16	2.11	0.89	.247	77%	2.60	3.41
1966	Reds	209.2	5.71	1.67	0.99	.296	68%	4.29	3.31
1967	Reds	217.2	5.33	1.57	0.79	.283	74%	3.35	3.08
1968	Reds	62.2	6.18	1.44	1.29	.299	59%	5.60	3.45
1968	Braves	121.1	5.56	1.63	0.59	.273	80%	2.37	2.62

*FIP (which stands for fielding independent pitching) measures "all those things for which a pitcher is specifically responsible;" <http://www.hardball-times.com/main/statpages/glossary/#fip>.

As noted by the chart, Pappas struck out more batters with the Reds. He also walked less. However, when the ball was put into play, less of them were turned into outs with the Reds than with the Orioles. The Reds, as noted by BABIP, were worse at turning batted balls into outs than the Orioles. This clearly impacted their pitcher's ERA.

In addition, during his career, there were only four seasons or partial seasons during which Pappas had a strand rate under 70%. During these campaigns, Pappas posted some of the worst ERAs of his career. While, for the '68 Reds and '70 Braves, Pappas gave up more HRs than usual (which can contribute to more runners scoring, i.e. a worse strand rate), he was traded after just 62.2 and 35.2 innings respectively. On his new teams, the amount of HRs he gave up went back to his career norms and he posted sub-3.00 ERAs and better strand rates in larger samples of innings.

Examining Milt Pappas, his career, the Orioles and the Reds has not uncovered one shred of evidence

that Pappas was, by any means, shell-shocked from the negative reaction to the Frank Robinson trade. If he were, we would have seen far worse underlying numbers. For instance, a spike in HRs and walk rate (i.e., signs that he lost the strike zone or was failing to hit corners or nibbling) or a decrease in K's.

In reality, Pappas was put in a poor pitching environment, with, likely, worse fielders. He also managed to have some of his worst batted ball luck and small sample size fluctuations with Cincinnati. If anything, Pappas was a better pitcher with the Reds than he was with the Orioles (though this still doesn't forgive the horrendous trade).

If you normalized his 1966 season to the 1966 Orioles, you get a 3.69 ERA and 1.16 WHIP. For 1967, you get a 2.85 ERA and 1.08 WHIP. Basically, Pappas in Memorial Stadium with the incredible O's defense looks like a world beater, while, with average defenders and a tough park, Pappas looks far more ordinary.

ENDNOTES

- i *Black and Blue: The Golden Arm, the Robinson Boys and the 1966 World Series that Stunned America*. Tom Adelman. April 3, 2006.
- ii *The Orioles Encyclopedia: A Half Century of History and Highlights*. Michael Gesker. May 27, 2009.
- iii *Nine Side of the Diamond: Baseball's Great Glove Men on the Fine Art of Defense*. David Falkner. 1990.
- iv *Extra Innings*. Frank Robinson and Barry Stainback. June 1988.
- v *The Orioles Encyclopedia: A Half Century of History and Highlights*. Michael Gesker. May 27, 2009.
- vi *From 33rd Street to Camden Yards: An Oral History of the Baltimore Orioles*. John Eisenberg. March 20, 2001.
- vii *Black and Blue: The Golden Arm, the Robinson Boys and the 1966 World Series that Stunned America*. Tom Adelman. April 3, 2006.
- viii *Black and Blue: The Golden Arm, the Robinson Boys and the 1966 World Series that Stunned America*. Tom Adelman. April 3, 2006.
- ix *Super Scout: Thirty-five Years of Major League Scouting*. Jim Russo and Bob Hammel. April, 1992.
- x *Black and Blue: The Golden Arm, the Robinson Boys and the 1966 World Series that Stunned America*. Tom Adelman. April 3, 2006.
- xi *Los Angeles Times*. October 6, 1966.
- xii *The Sporting News*. March 25, 1967.
- xiii *Black and Blue: The Golden Arm, the Robinson Boys and the 1966 World Series that Stunned America*. Tom Adelman. April 3, 2006.
- xiv *The Sporting News*. April 23, 1966.
- xv *The Baltimore Sun*. October 7, 1966.
- xvi *From 33rd Street to Camden Yards: An Oral History of the Baltimore Orioles*. John Eisenberg. March 20, 2001.
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