

2018
FUN.FIRST.



Post-Season **RECAP**



2018 IronBirds Season

Recap and Highlights

When the Aberdeen IronBirds opened the 2018 season, they had hopes of reaching the playoffs for the first time since 2013. While the IronBirds fell short of that goal by just two games, 2018 will still be remembered as a season of many accomplishments, including the club's second winning record in a row.

The IronBirds staff took creativity to another level in 2018. During the pre-season, the staff came up with two new identities for your IronBirds to play under during the season. During every Sunday home game, the IronBirds took the field as the Star-Spangled Banners of Aberdeen. This was in honor of the 100-year celebration of the National Anthem first being played in professional baseball. Working with Fort McHenry, the club was also able to show its support for local military members stationed at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds. The second name created was the Harford County Anglers, in reference to the ESPN's Bassmaster's Elite tournament that was to be held in the Chesapeake Bay, with portions of the event at Leidos Field at Ripken Stadium, July 28 & 29. In addition to those two names, the team continued its tradition of playing a single-game in honor of Maryland's favorite crustacean, the Aberdeen Steamed Crabs.



Leidos Field at Ripken Stadium hosted many promotions throughout the season. Fans were treated to nine breathtaking fireworks displays held every Friday night, as well as July 3, and August 9, Military Appreciation Night.

In 2018, Leidos Field at Ripken Stadium also celebrated Maryland's 230 birthday, presented by University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Heath, with a giveaway tin depicting the scenes of the state of Maryland, as well as an appearance by Governor Larry Hogan. We celebrated Ferrous' birthday with more than 1,000 kids who attended the birthday party, all of whom received a complimentary ticket to Dutch Wonderland. We even celebrated the life of one of Maryland's most recognized athletes, Babe Ruth, with a fly swatter giveaway, courtesy of Executive Coach, recognizing the 70 anniversary of the passing of the "the Sultan of Swat"!





2018 IronBirds Season

Recap and Highlights (continued)

The most anticipated game of the year was the celebration of Aberdeen's own Cal Ripken, Jr. A sold-out crowd came out to support and honor the local legend. The date was July 20 in honor of the 20 anniversary of the end of Cal's consecutive games played streak. It was a special evening honoring and reliving Cal's days as one the greatest Orioles' to ever play the game. He ended the evening the same way he did in Camden Yards; by walking around the warning track, giving fans high-fives and thanking them for their support!

National musical and entertainment acts played throughout the season at Leidos Field at Ripken Stadium. Favorites such as Phillie Phanatic's cousins Reggie and Newton; the energetic Halftime Dogs who performed acrobatic stunts around the field; U.S. Olympian figure skater Kimmie Meissner who skated out a game's ceremonial first pitch; and the three-man X-Pogo crew who entertained us with their acrobatic abilities on pogo sticks. We closed out the season celebrating the 35 Anniversary of the Baltimore Orioles 1983 World Series championship, courtesy of the Babe Ruth Museum, and the evening included appearances by team alumni Tippy Martinez, Al Bumbry, Bill Swaggerty and John Steforo.





2018 IronBirds Season

Recap and Highlights (continued)

2018 saw high school spirit nights take over the ballpark. For the first time ever, Leidos Field at Ripken stadium hosted Aberdeen High School, Edgewood High School and The John Carroll School for their own fundraising games. The school support and excitement was beyond belief with hundreds of high school students and teachers raising the roof in the ballpark each night!





2018 IronBirds Season

In the Community

The IronBirds and their legendary mascots, Ferrous and Ripcord, are beloved in Harford, Cecil and Baltimore Counties and have long been heralded for their work within each of these communities. The IronBirds commitment to giving back remains a top priority thanks to the philanthropic endeavors of the Ripken brothers.

2018 was a record year for the IronBirds in donations, appearances and fundraising. Over the course of the 2018 season the IronBirds made more than 380 donations to Harford, Cecil and Baltimore County based non-profit organizations through fundraising, ticket donations, first-pitches and other in-kind initiatives, totaling over \$138,000. In addition, Ferrous and Ripcord made over 90 appearances at schools, community events, business functions, little league baseball games and non-profit organizations.

We kicked off 2018 focused on three non-profit organizations: Harford Family House, YMCA of Central Maryland and the Boys and Girls Club of Harford and Cecil Counties. During the year, we worked hand-in-hand with these organizations to bring awareness and raise funds together.

During our season each of these organizations received signage, advertorial in our game program, announcements during games, mascot appearances, fundraising opportunities, ticket donations, and IronBirds' staff participation.





2018 IronBirds Season

In the Community (continued)

It didn't stop there. The IronBirds worked with numerous organizations and corporate partners' charitable causes throughout the summer.

Listed below are some of the club's in-season charitable endeavors:

- ❑ For each ticket sold in the Plaza Ford Party Deck, the IronBirds donated \$1 to the Miracle League. This season, the IronBirds will be making a donation of \$3,375 to the Miracle League through Plaza Ford.
- ❑ Bmore Buggies created a custom baseball themed golf cart and sponsored the call to the home team bullpen. We sold raffle tickets over the course of season to win the golf cart. The money raised was for the Shriners Hospital for Children. During the last game of the season B-more Buggies presented a check to the Shriners for \$2,134.



- ❑ Fox Television presented a \$500 check to Maryland Special Olympics through the State Police.
- ❑ The ***Allegiant Air \$500 flight voucher giveaway*** was a part of MiLB's CommUNITY activation window for the month of August. It was a great opportunity for the IronBirds to give back to their community and award one lucky first responder, who give so much to keep us safe. Our lucky winner was Curtis Diering Jr, a volunteer firefighter and EMS responder for the City of Aberdeen!
- ❑ This season Freedom Federal Credit Union

presented the long ball. With every home run hit Freedom FCU donated \$100 to MedStar Health. The IronBirds this season hit a total of 26 home runs, producing a **\$2,600** donation to the pediatric department at **MedStar Health**.

- ❑ RAACE, with their large spinning wheel, was once again a staple in the Kids Zone. RAACE raised money with a \$1 spin to bring awareness to their cause of the Race Against Abuse of Children Everywhere.





2018 IronBirds Season

In the Community (continued)

- ❑ PNC Bank, for the second season in a row, sponsored the college tuition scholarship promotion. Six students were selected from Cecil College and Harford Community College to participate in the scholarship tuition promotion. All six students received \$250 for being selected. First place received: \$3,500 Second place: \$1,000 and Third place: \$500
- ❑ Through our MiLB partnership with Bush's Baked Beans the IronBirds held a food drive at the ballpark. We received over 20 lbs. of food from IronBirds fans during one game. The Maryland Food Bank was the benefactor.
- ❑ Through our local partnership with the Maryland Department of Transportation's State Highways Administration, we held an Operation Orange Food drive at Liedos Field at Ripken Stadium, with the Maryland Food Bank serving as benefactor.
- ❑ On August 10, the Orioles Advocates were in attendance promoting their Cardboard to Leather (C2L) of Maryland. The Orioles Advocates visit stadiums throughout the area collecting gently used baseball equipment to send to impoverished countries so youth have the opportunity to play the game of baseball. Previous donations have gone to countries including Afghanistan, Aruba, Belgrade, Belize, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ghana, Iraq, Nicaragua and Venezuela.
- ❑ C2L has received over 90 tons of equipment donations to be shipped to underprivileged youth. Equipment consisting of uniforms, bats, gloves, helmets, catcher's equipment, baseballs. This year the Orioles Advocates collected just under 50 pieces of baseball and softball equipment.
- ❑ ICan Bike Camp provided by the Harford County Commissions on Disabilities. Three players (Kevin Magee, Jimmy Murphy and Zach Matson) helped children with disabilities ride bikes around the Churchville Recreation Council Building.
- ❑ The IronBirds held three specialty jersey auctions during the 2018 season. From the Star Wars jerseys, RAACE jerseys and Banners jerseys we were able to raise over \$3,000.





2018 IronBirds Season

In the Community (continued)

- ❑ Ben Hill, a blogger with MiLB, visited Leidos Field at Ripken Stadium during a game. Through his charity VS. Cancer we were able to raise \$150 through IronBirds fans purchasing an opportunity to win a Cal Ripken Jr. signed baseball for \$5
- ❑ For Military Appreciation Night, Leidos, our naming rights partner, and Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation purchased over 1,000 tickets to donate to active and reserved military personnel.
- ❑ Through our Ferrous and Ripcord scoreboard fund we raised \$450 from birthday and other special scoreboard announcements. The Boys and Girls Club was the benefactor.
- ❑ From the sales of our Steamed Crab ticket package we were able to raise \$140 for Blue Water Baltimore.
- ❑ From the sales of our Banner ticket package we were able to raise \$180 for the Seats for Soldiers campaign.
- ❑ During five Saturday home games we hosted five Home Run for Life Honorees. This promotion allowed the IronBirds to share with our fans real stories of people overcoming challenges in their lives. We recognized Louis Marcell (recovered substance abuser), Meg Kaiser (recovered substance abuser), Josh Fischer (recovered substance abuser), Joe Ryan (Manager, MD Office of Drug Control Policy), Ashley Moore (recovered substance abuser) and Mathew Hayes (cancer survivor)
- ❑ IronBirds worked with Harford, Cecil and Baltimore Counties Public Library Foundations. Game day ticket vouchers were handed out to the children who completed the library's Summer Reading program. Almost 400 children were awarded a ticket to an IronBirds game. In support of the program, we had IronBirds players read to children in the dugout.





2018 IronBirds Season

In the Community (continued)

Outside of the baseball season the IronBirds hosted a two charity events:

- ❑ Josh Hamer Memorial baseball game. On April 20, John Carroll's varsity team played Rising Sun. John Carroll won the game 6-4. The IronBirds donated all the gate and concession proceeds, totaling \$3,000.
- ❑ On August 28, Harford Family House hosted a Home Runs for the Homeless event at Leidos field at Ripken Stadium. Over 20 teams participated in the event and raised over \$35,000.





Thank You

Every team's goal is to win a league championship every season. Although the IronBirds didn't make the 2018 New York-Penn League postseason, it was their second winning season in a row at Leidos Field at Ripken Stadium. Not to mention a championship year in the Aberdeen community as well.

The IronBirds would like to thank you for your support in 2018. Your support to the Ripken family is a significant piece, not only to the team, but to our community that supports us throughout the season.

