

CURRENT AND FORMER MLB PLAYERS SHARE BASEBALL WISDOM WITH CAMDEN YOUTH

By Alex Matyuf / MLBPAA

AMDEN, Ark. - On a sunny day in Camden, Ark., 122 aspiring baseball players arrived at Camden Fairview High School on Saturday, January 25 to learn baseball skills, drills and life lessons from current and former major and minor league players at the Major League Baseball Players Alumni Association (MLBPAA) Legends for Youth Clinic Series.

The clinic was hosted by Toronto Blue Jays centerfielder and Camden native Jonathan Davis through his JD 3:21 Foundation. The foundation's purpose is to spread the John 3:21 scripture and empower the youth through faith, sports, education and mentorship. Davis' return to his alma mater did just that. "The little facets of the game that people often tend to overlook, sometimes we want to go from A to Z, you know when we step into this game," said Davis. "You can ask anybody, if you want to play at the top level, we work on the fundamentals all day, every day."

Davis, who will begin his third season with the Blue Jays, was joined by his brother-in-law and teammate Anthony Alford, as well as former MLB players Dustin Moseley, Rich Thompson and

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Toronto Blue Jays centerfielder and Camden native, Jonathan Davis, praises participants of the Legends for Youth clinic in Camden, Ark. on January 25, 2020.

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Gary Wilson. These former major leaguers were also joined by six current and former minor league players.

"It's not even so much about trying to make this kid become a D1 athlete or professional baseball player, because that's kind of not that realistic to do that in three hours, right," Alford said. "So it's really about just giving back." The MLBPAA facilitated 185 Legends for Youth clinics in 2019, reaching more than 16,000 kids with 920 instructors. The organization's mission is to promote the game of baseball, raise money for charity, inspire and educate youth through positive sport images and protect the dignity of the game through former players.

The Camden clinic was the first clinic the MLBPAA hosted in 2020, after they

kicked off the year with three Legends for Youth clinics in Curacao in early January.

Davis' parents, Jacovis and Iretha Davis, were also in attendance and assisted with the clinic, which included various stations that teach baseball fundamentals such as base running, throwing, catching, pitching, fielding and hitting.



Former pitcher Dustin Moseley works with participants on baseball techniques at the Legends for Youth clinic in Camden, Ark.

"It's awesome," said Jacovis Davis. "I remember when he was this age, you know we went to some baseball games and after the game he used to run the bases after the game just going around sliding so it meant a lot to him then and I know it means a lot to these young kids."

Throughout the duration of the clinic, participants break up into groups based on their ages and rotate to each station, giving them the opportunity to work with each instructor. At the conclusion of the clinic, instructors address the participants as one group to discuss life lessons, such as the importance of education, respecting their coaches and elders and saying "no" to illegal substances.

"For me, [it's fulfilling] being able to teach these kids at a young age the fundamentals and the rules of the game, and how to play the game," Jonathan Davis said.

Overall, the players feel that this is just another way of giving back to the game that they love.

"Anyone can just sit there and write a check and give money," said Alford. But actually being there in the flesh and giving your time, that's the best thing you can do."

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NEW MLBPAA AND MLAM BOARD MEMBER PROFILES

We would like to recognize our outgoing board members for their outstanding service to the MLBPAA Board of Directors, and announce our newly appointed board members. Thank you to **Denny Doyle, Doug Glanville, Jim "Mudcat" Grant, Rich Hand, Fernando Tatis and Jose Valdivielso**, for their unwavering support, assistance and vision in making the Alumni Association better every day. Please read on below to learn about our new board members for both MLBPAA and MLAM.

JEAN AFTERMAN MLBPAA

Entering her 19th season as Senior Vice President and Assistant GM of the New York Yankees, Afterman joined the club with a diverse business and legal background, having previously focused on international sport and licensing, with an emphasis on U.S. and Japanese relations. Prior to her time with the Yankees, Afterman managed her own practice, specializing in representation for athletes through arbitration proceedings, as well as worked for KDN Sports Inc. Afterman has garnered numerous accolades, including being named a 2010 Women of the Year nominee by Women in Sports and Events (WISE), a Sports Business Journal Game Changers honoree in 2017, and twice earning a spot on the 50 Most Powerful Women in New York list published by the New York Post. Most recently, Afterman received the inaugural Trailblazer of the Year Award from Baseball America, recognizing her leadership, expertise and tremendous accomplishments in her almost 20 years with the Yankees.





PEDRO FELIZ MLBPAA

Born and raised in Azua, Dominican Republic, Feliz spent 11 years in the Major Leagues with the Giants, Phillies, Cardinals and Astros. Primarily a third baseman during his service time, Feliz was known for his above average fielding, winning a Fielding Bible Award for his efforts in 2007, and leading the National League in assists as a third baseman in 2006 and double plays turned as a third baseman in 2009. Feliz also had four 20-home run seasons, from 2004 to 2007, but may be most notably known for his RBI that knocked in the eventual game-winning run of the 2008 World Series for Philadelphia.



JERRY HAIRSTON, JR.

MLBPAA

A member of one of only four threegeneration families, Hairston, Jr. recorded 16 years in the Majors as a second baseman and outfielder, though he managed to play every position except for pitcher and catcher during his career. Hairston Jr.'s grandfather Sammy, father Jerry, Sr., uncle Johnny, and brother Scott all made it to the highest level as well. Hairston, Jr. joined the family business by making his debut with the Orioles in 1998, before going on to spend time with the Cubs, Rangers, Reds, Yankees, Padres, Nationals, Brewers and Dodgers. A highlight of his career was his 2009 World Series win while with the Yankees. Hairston, Jr. has previously worked for ESPN and MLB Network, and now works as a studio analyst for SportsNet LA, contributing to pre- and post-game shows, as well as covering Spring Training and offseason programs.

TODD HANEY MLBPAA

Haney was drafted out of University of Texas at Austin after the Longhorns made a trip to the 1987 College World Series. He went on to spend parts of five seasons in the majors, with the Expos, Cubs and Mets, primarily as a second baseman. Following his time in the Majors, Haney founded the Waco Storm Baseball Club in 2004, before joining Texas State University as the Director of Player Development for the Bobcats. Haney is now the Head Coach of summer-collegiate baseball team the Victoria HarbourCats.





JIM THOME

Hall of Fame first baseman Thome spent 22 years in the Major Leagues, the majority of his time spent in Cleveland, Philadelphia and Chicago, with stints in Minnesota, Los Angeles and Baltimore. Thome's 612 career home runs rank him eighth all-time, and during his career he received numerous accolades for his on-field performance, including five All-Star appearances, a Silver Slugger Award, 2006 American League Player of the Year, and six 40-home run seasons. Just as notably, Thome was known for his efforts off the diamond, winning the Marvin Miller Man of the Year Award in 2001 and 2004, the Roberto Clemente Award in 2002 and the Lou Gehrig Memorial Award in 2004. In 2011, the Major League Baseball Players Alumni Association bestowed him with the Brooks Robinson Community Service Award. Thome currently serves as Special Assistant to the Senior Vice President/General Manager for the White Sox.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW? DAVE CAMPBELL

Gary Thorne (left) and fellow ESPN host Dave Campbell (right).

PHOTO CREDIT: ESPN IMAGES

By Alex Matyuf / MLBPAA

or infielder Dave Campbell, his impact on the baseball world did not lie solely in his playing career. Instead, Campbell excelled in his broadcasting career with the San Diego Padres, ESPN and the Colorado Rockies.

Campbell's baseball career began at the University of Michigan. He played on the 1962 National Championship baseball team as a sophomore and signed with the Detroit Tigers in 1964. After splitting time between AAA and the major league club with the Tigers from 1967 to 1969, Campbell was traded to the San Diego Padres. While Campbell continued in the league for five more seasons, it was while in San Diego that he found his true calling.

Campbell's broadcasting opportunity arose out of a less-than-ideal circumstance while with the Padres in 1972.

"[It] was actually a blessing when I tore my Achilles tendon in 1972," said Campbell. "The Padres were televising 18 games. That's all they were televising in those days but it was just one guy doing it. So I talked to the general manager and asked him if I could be the color guy."

Campbell didn't ask to be paid for his efforts, either. Instead, he requested that the general manager put him up in a hotel and provide money for food.

While his playing career ended in 1974 with the Houston Astros, Campbell accepted a minor league managing position for one year in 1977 until the broadcasting job opened up again with the Padres in 1978.

"[My 1972 color commentary] went well enough that when my [playing] career ended, the television station I was working for offered me a job in sports television at that time, so that kind of turned into a second career," Campbell said.

With big baseball names coming up from the minor leagues to manage – including Tony La Russa, Bobby Cox and Jim Leyland – Campbell knew he had to keep up with them in some capacity.

"None of them were really top-flight players so they went on to either have Hall of Fame careers or close to Hall of Fame careers [as managers] because they learned the game and I felt like I had to learn the game too, because I just wasn't a name player," said Campbell.

Campbell felt that he had the ability to explain the game in "fairly simple terms" and be succinct about his delivery. After he was hired with the Padres, his broadcasting career took off.

Eleven years after broadcasting with the Padres, Campbell joined ESPN in 1990, while also broadcasting for the Colorado Rockies from 1994 to 1997. Campbell would go on to spend 21 years with ESPN at the highest level.

"I was doing 100 events a year for ESPN and trying to do the Rockies," Campbell said. "I wasn't getting home an awful lot."

At the time, Campbell lived in Colorado Springs, Colo., about 60 miles south of Denver. When he took the job with the Rockies, they were only televising 80 road games.

"The first year I got there, they decided they wanted to do 40 home games and 40 road [games]," said Campbell. "They told me as long as I lived in Colorado it didn't matter. In fact, they didn't mind me living in Colorado Springs at all, but I thought I was going to be on the road all 80 games, so I didn't think I'd be making that drive up [the interstate] to Denver."

While juggling two demanding broadcasting jobs, Campbell also took a side gig recording voiceovers for the MLB: The Show video game series from 1999 to 2011.

"That was fun," Campbell said. "It's the only thing that impressed my grandkids! I'd tell them 'oh, I used to be a major league player' [and they'd say] 'yeah but we heard your voice on MLB: The Show!"

During this time, Campbell would fly into San Diego every November from either Colorado or Idaho and spend three or four days reading script.

"I had partners like Vin Scully and Matt Vasgersian and the crazy thing was we'd say things 'well Vin, I thought that that pitch was outside'," Campbell said. "Well I was reading script in a studio in San Diego and he was reading script in a studio in Los Angeles at a different time and somehow they had the ability to marry all those things together through the magic of technology."

With ESPN, Campbell worked on Baseball Tonight for 10 years and was an analyst for Wednesday and Friday night baseball games from 1990 to 2003. Campbell then went to ESPN Radio while analyzing televised games in 1999 and also broadcasting Sunday Night Baseball alongside well-recognized broadcasters

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such as Dan Shulman, Charley Steiner and Gary Thorne.

Campbell worked until he was nearly 70 years old and is now retired, splitting his time between Post Falls, Idaho and San Diego. Now Campbell's focus has shifted to traveling with his wife, with whom he's visited Europe seven times.

"Through my travels through baseball and the minor leagues and everything else, I've been to 48 states here," said Campbell. "I've been everywhere except Vermont and North Dakota. We've been to Canada a couple of times because we live in Idaho half the year and spend half he would come with the commissioner the year in California."

Campbell and his wife have another month-long trip to Europe planned

this fall to visit Switzerland, Austria, Germany and Italy.

Campbell looks back fondly on his eightyear career in the majors.

"I just keep thinking about how even though I didn't have a great career, I have the one year I still cherish," said Campbell. "I only hit 20 home runs in the big leagues, but I hit one off of Tom Seaver and Bob Gibson and one off of Phil Niekro and two off of Don Sutton. so five of my 20 home runs were against Hall of Famers. Every time I used to see Bob Gibson at the World Series - because - he would look at me and just go 'I don't want to hear about it'."



Major League Baseball analyst Dave Campbell is shown on the Baseball Tonight studio set.



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2019 YEAR IN REVIEW



MLBPAA ASSISTS THOSE IN FINDING CAREERS ONCE THE CHEERING STOPS

Jay Paris /Special to MLB.com



PHOTO CREDIT: KENT HORNER/MLB.COM



Rocco Baldelli (left) listens as Ryan Spilborghs (right) moderates a panel at the second annual Career Development Summit in San Diego.



an Diego – Ryan Spilborghs was moving about at a hectic pace and one wondered if he got his sports confused.

"OK, two minutes," said Spilborghs, a former major leaguer and current Rockies and MLB radio broadcaster. "Two minutes!"

The drill was the goal of absorbing more information during the next panel at the Major League Baseball Players Alumni Association's Career Development Summit in La Jolla, Calif. The second annual event was held December 6th – 8th, on the eve of the MLB Winter Meetings, with these participants looking to make deals, too.

More than 50 ex-big leaguers were getting a big-time education of making the turn and it had nothing to do with getting two outs up the middle.

These men were segueing from playing to being employed and the MLBPAA was there to assist in that endeavor. "We identified a severe issue and that is guys transitioning out of the game," said Dan Foster, the CEO of the MLBPAA. "Some handle it well and some not so well."

That's why guys that chased fastballs and fly balls were running head first into their post-baseball life. This conference was about preparing these prospective employees to make an impression with getting face time with future employers.

"A lot of them are like a ship without a rudder," Foster said. "We're not handing them a job. Instead we are preparing them to go get a job."

Those sharing hiring secrets made something abundantly clear: there are no shortcuts and no better trait than being persistent.

That includes networking at all times.

"Some love it and some detest it," said Amy Kosh of the Ayers Group, the MLBPAA's exclusive career development and transition service partner. "Most people would rather do anything but network. But it doesn't have to be a big deal. Just think of it as having a conversation."

Right-hander Brad Boxberger has heard the chatter of what lies beyond painting corners. While he's a free agent hoping to pitch next season, he knows there's more to living than owning the inside of the plate.

"We all hope that we make enough money in our career that we don't have to work, or do something we don't want to do, for the rest of our life," said Boxberger, who's pitched for four teams in eight years. "But the reality is that's not always the case."

So Boxberger was listening to speakers talking about being your own boss, getting a job in coaching, the business side of baseball in the front office, broadcasting, becoming a sports agent and even how to be hired as a manager, which featured the Dodgers' Dave

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Roberts, the Rockies' Bud Black and Hall of Famer Tony La Russa.

That's a lot to consume, but then again, there are many years to fill after the cheering stops.

"All the current players will someday be former players," Foster stressed. "And everyone is a former player a lot longer than they are a current player."

There was a discussion on analytics that drew a packed room. But possibly the most jarring figure on the two-day conference was the one that computed to a 80-20 ratio.

"Eighty percent of people get their next job through networking," Kosh said. "Twenty percent of them get it through what I call 'click, and pray', by applying on line."

Dave Stewart, the former ace pitcher and general manager now working as a sports agent, has a distinct feeling of what it means when an athletic career meets its end.

"For me you're leaving something you have been doing your whole life, it's all you have ever done, and now you are getting out of the dream and stepping into the real world and that can be scary," said Stewart, the owner of Sports Management Partners. "It can be depressing and it's an adjustment."

The most challenging component of Stewart's role is telling a client the truth. "The tough part isn't dealing with general managers, owners or teams; it's the life part of the game that becomes a reality for the player," he said.

Agent John Boggs has represented



Diamondbacks Director of Pro Scouting Josh Barfield (left) and former MLB Executive Dave Stewart (right) serve on the scouting panel at the second annual Career Development Summit in San Diego.

everyone from Tony Gwynn to Ichiro Suzuki. As he was speaking, the ink was drying on an \$18 million, one-year pact he had negotiated for lefty Cole Hamels with the Braves.

But it's the deals that he can't make that stand out, signaling that a baseball career had expired.

"That's the part that is really very difficult because you're supposed to be close to your players and feel what they are feeling," Boggs said. "So you can feel the stress of that player, and his family, and it's tougher if the player hasn't had the financial compensation of others.

"I was the one that had to tell Ichiro, and not the club, that it was over. It was one of the toughest things I had to go through in my life, especially with someone of that stature to say, 'Hey, it's over for you."

It was a cautionary tale which had those possibly beginning a new chapter

taking notice. "I didn't know what to expect with this," Boxberger said of the MLBPAA Career Development Summit. "I definitely gained some insight into how I can find a path, or an avenue, after my career ends."



Bud Black (left) and Tony La Russa (right) speak on the managers panel at the event.

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Ryan Rowland-Smith (left) and Bob Scanlan (right) contribute to a broadcasting panel at the second annual Career Development Summit at Torrey Pines in San Diego.

PHOTO CREDIT: KENT HORNER/MLB.COM

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