

Robert D. Crawford
7615 Overlook Drive
Boonsboro, MD 21713
(301) 432-5550

March 5, 2008

Mr. Moreno Carrasco, Principal
C/o Richard Montgomery High School
250 Richard Montgomery Drive
Rockville, MD 20852

Mr. Carrasco,

The Richard Montgomery High School alumni of the late 1940's and 50's would like to propose naming the baseball portion of the new stadium in honor, posthumously, after the 1952 graduate, Gordon Calvin Coleman.

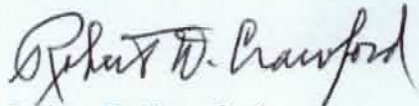
Gordon was born in Rockville and grew up on Horners Lane. He attended Rockville schools for all 12-years of his public education. He graduated from Richard Montgomery in 1952.

Gordon was arguable the greatest all-round athlete to graduate from Richard Montgomery. He starred and lettered in football, basketball, baseball, and, track in all three high school years at Richard Montgomery High School.

He was offered college scholarships for football from most of the major college football programs. He accepted a football scholarship to Duke University. He was also offered contracts by several major league baseball teams. Gordon went on to have an 8-year major league career. Gordon's accomplishments are included in the enclosed attachments.

If this proposal is accepted, the classes of the 40's and 50's will raise the necessary funds to pay for a scoreboard and a plaque honoring Gordon's accomplishments. We feel it is very appropriate that Richard Montgomery High School's only successful major league baseball player to be remembered and honored in this fashion. We look forward to your support in this endeavor.

Sincerely,



Robert D. Crawford
Class of 1952

Cc: Mr. Robert Maxey, Athletic Director with attachments
Mr. Ralph Larry, President: RMHS Booster Club with attachments
Mr. J. Michael Curtis with attachments
Mr. James V. Hoffman with attachments
Mr. Buster Maurer with attachments

Gordon Calvin Coleman

Gordon Calvin Coleman was born in Rockville Maryland on July 5, 1934. Gordy lived and grew up on Horners Lane. He entered Park Street Elementary School in 1940. His entire twelve years of public school was in Rockville and he graduated from Richard Montgomery in 1952. Gordon was surely the greatest all around athlete to graduate from R.M.H.S. He starred in football, basketball, baseball, and track. In football, Gordy was selected for the following honors: All-State, All-Metropolitan, All-Counties, All Montgomery County, and All-Southern. Gordon was offered football scholarships to most of the top football schools. He accepted a full scholarship to Duke university. In basketball, Gordon was one of the top players on the 1952 basketball team which was the first team from R.M.H.S. to go to the University of Maryland in the state finals. In baseball, Gordon pitched and hit leading R.M.H.S. to very successful seasons. Gordon was offered contracts from several Major League teams including Washington and Cleveland. Gordon also ran track for R.M.H.S. and lettered in this sport. At Duke, Gordon played both football and baseball. He was so successful in baseball that the Cleveland Indians signed him to a bonus contract in 1953. Gordon then played minor league baseball from 1953-1959 with two years out for military service where he played baseball for Ft. McPherson in Georgia. In the minor leagues, Gordy made the all-star teams in 1954, 1955, and 1959. In 1959, he led the Southern Association in batting (353), total bases (307), home runs (30), RBI's (110), and was the leagues most valuable player. He also was the winner of the Minor Leagues Achievement Award. For this honor, he was introduced on the Ed Sullivan Show. Gordon came to the major leagues at the end of the 1959 season with the Cleveland Indians. His first at bat in the major leagues was against Early Wynn, (Hall of Fame and 300 game winner). Gordon hit a triple in this first at bat. He went on to hit 533 to finish the season. In 1960, Gordon was traded to the Cincinnati Reds where he played first base for the Reds from

1960-1967. In 1961, the Reds won the pennant and Gordon hit 287 with 26 home runs. In the world series he hit a home run in Yankee Stadium. In 1962, Gordon hit 28 home runs and batted 277. In 1965, Gordon hit 302 for the entire season. Gordon was also an outstanding pinch-hitter. He holds the all-time best batting average (.333) for players who pinch hit more than one hundred times. After his playing career, Gordon was selected to the Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame. The Reds hired him to be in charge of their speaker bureau and eventually he became the color announcer on the Reds TV. In March, 1994, at the age of 59, Gordon suffered a massive heart attack and died. It certainly would be appropriate for Richard Montgomery High School to honor Gordon Calvin Coleman by naming the new baseball field in his honor.

ROCKET '52



GORDON COLEMAN Gordon
*Like some brave knight of old, He
 dashed into the fray. The lists rang
 long and loud. We won the game
 that day.*

Football 2, 3, 4; Baseball 2, 3, 4; Basket-
 ball 2, 3, 4; Track 2, 3, 4; Varsity Sports
 Club 3, 4; Intramurals 1; "M" Club 2, 3,
 4; TIDE 3; Cabinet 4; Patrol 1, 2, 3, 4;
 Tribunal 3, 4; Glee Club 2, 3; Dancing
 Club 1; Senior Committees 4; Band 1;
 4-H Club 1, 2; Inter-High 4; Junior Com-
 mittees 3; Hi-Y Club 3.

Coleman breaks loose for yardage.



Honors

Gordon Coleman, End—Starting position—All-State, All-Metropolitan, All-
 Counties, Captain—All-Southern, All-Montgomery County; Barbee Neblett,
 Guard—Starting position—All-Suburban All-Montgomery County; Paul
 Schwartzbeck, Center—Starting position—All-Montgomery County, Second
 String—All-Counties, Honorable mention—All-State.



Lazarus, Pullen, Kelly, Yocom, Coleman, Dupee, Case, and Crawford watch as Coach Halthcock maps out strategy for coming game. Inset, William Hutchison, manager.

Gordon Coleman
 Center

First Baseman Gordy Coleman

First Baseman Gordon Calvin Coleman. BORN July 5, 1934 (30) at Rockville, Maryland. BATS—Left. THROWS—Right. HEIGHT—6-2. WEIGHT—220. ANCESTRY—German-Irish. MARRIED Marian Huggins, October 12, 1955. Have son, Shawn. WINTER ADDRESS—Cincinnati, Ohio. COLLEGE—Duke University (1 year) 1952-53. HOW OBTAINED—Trade, Cleveland, 12/15/59 with Cal McLish and Billy Martin to Cincinnati from Cleveland for Johnny Temple.

Gordy Coleman, handsome and personable first baseman for the Reds, completed his fourth complete season with the Cincinnati club in 1964. Gordy also played in 66 games for the 1960 Reds.

In 1963 was the Reds leading pinch-hitter with 8 for 20 for a .400 average and had another good pinch-hitting season for the 1964 Reds. In the season just passed, Gordy had 9 for 35 for a .257 pinch-hitting mark.

Coleman came to the Reds on December 15, 1959 in a trade with Cleveland. Gordy batted .324 for Seattle in 1960 and was on the Coast League All-Star team. He joined the Reds in July of 1960 and batted .271 in 66 games.

In 1961, the 6-2, 220-pounder, who is one of the best liked athletes ever to wear a Cincinnati uniform, was a tremendous help to the Reds as they won the pennant. In 150 games Gordy hit .287 with 87 RBIs and connected for 26 home runs. He had ten hits in 14 at-bats against the great Warren Spahn for a .714 mark. This included a double, two homers and five RBIs. In five World Series games he had 5 for 20 for .250 and connected for a home run.

Coleman, in 1962, batted .277 for 136 games and drove in 86 runs while bashing 28 home runs.

Gordy played baseball, football, track and basketball at Richard Montgomery High in Rockville, Md. (All State end in football).

He attended Duke University one year (1952-53) where he played freshman football and baseball.

He was an outfielder until the Cleveland Indians converted him into a first baseman in the spring of 1956. Coleman, who had a tremendous minor league hitting background, was named to All-Star teams in 1954, 1955, 1959 and 1961.

In 1959 he led the Southern Association in batting with .353 for Mobile; led in total bases (307); home runs (30); RBIs (110); and slugging percentage (.606). He was selected as the league's "Most Valuable Player;" named to the All Star team; and was winner of the "Minor League Achievement Award for 1959."

LIFETIME RECORD

Year	Club	League	Ave.	G	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	SH	SB	RBI	BS	SO
1953	Reading	EL	.200	13	20	5	4	8	1	0	1	0	0	2	3	3
1954	Spartanburg	Tri-St.	.318	137	556	93	177	269	35	9	13	8	3	100	35	41
1955	Keokuk	III	.349	93	401	78	140	216	24	2	16	6	0	77	25	51
	Indianapolis	AA	.235	4	17	0	4	7	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
1956	Mobile	So. A.	.316	155	613	83	194	316	26	8	27	1	7	118	40	81
1957-58																
		United States Army														
1959	Mobile	So. A.	.353	137	507	93	179	307	30	4	30	2	0	110	56	39
	Cleveland	AL	.533	8	15	5	8	10	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	2
1960	Seattle	PCL	.324	93	370	54	120	190	22	9	10	1	1	60	35	51
	Cincinnati	NL	.271	66	251	26	68	98	10	1	6	3	1	32	12	32
1961	Cincinnati	NL	.287	150	520	63	149	262	27	4	26	4	1	87	45	67
1962	Cincinnati	NL	.277	136	476	73	132	231	13	1	28	2	2	86	36	68
1963	Cincinnati	NL	.247	123	368	38	90	156	20	2	14	1	1	59	29	51
1964	Cincinnati	NL	.242	89	198	18	48	73	6	2	5	1	2	27	13	30
Major League Totals			.271	570	1825	223	495	830	76	11	79	11	7	293	136	250

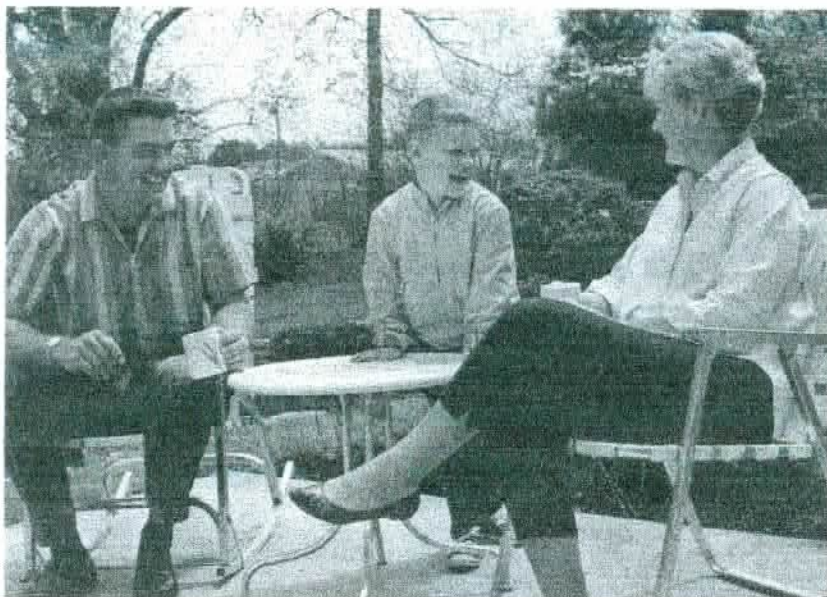
*—Led league.

WORLD SERIES RECORD: 1961—Cincinnati 5 games, 5 for 20 (.250) one home run.



Marian and Gordy Coleman at home.

Gordy Coleman at a baseball function.



Gordy, son Shawn, and wife Marian relax on the patio.



FIRST BASEMAN GORDON CALVIN "Gordy" COLEMAN—BORN July 3, 1934 (31) at Reckville, Maryland. BATS—Left. THROWS—Right. HEIGHT—6-2. WEIGHT—220. ANCESTRY—German-Irish. MARRIED—Marian Huggins, October 12, 1955. CHILDREN—Son, Shawn. WINTER ADDRESS—Cincinnati, Ohio. COLLEGE—Duke University (1 year) 1952-53.

The very popular and very well-liked Gordy Coleman, Reds' first baseman, hit .302 in 1965 in 108 games and 325 at-bats. Gordy connected for 14 home runs and drove in 57 markers.

The hustling Coleman continued to enhance his reputation as one of baseball's premier pinch-hitters. Gordy was called upon 21 times as a pinch-hitter, had 6 for 16 for .375 with seven RBIs.

During the season Coleman hit .600 (12 for 20) against L.A. pitching; .389 off N.Y. Mets pitching slants; .375 against the Phils; and .407 when opposing Pittsburgh. His best months were May (.439); July (.313) and August (.333).

Gordy had a grand-slam home run off Bob Purkey of the Cards at Busch Stadium on April 15, 1965.

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Gordy, his wife Marian, and son Shawn, make their home in Cincinnati.

LIFETIME RECORD

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1953	Reading	EL	.200	13	29	5	4	8	1	0	1	0	0	2	3	3
1954	Spartanburg	Tri-St.	.318	137	558	93	177	269	35	9	13	8	3	100	35	41
1955	Kaokuk	III	.340	93	401	78	140	218	24	2	16	6	0	77	25	51
	Indianapolis	AA	.235	4	17	0	4	7	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
1956	Mobile	So. A.	.316	156	613	83	194	316	25	8	27	1	7	118	46	81
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		United States Army														
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	Cleveland	AL	.533	6	15	5	8	10	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	2
1960	Seattle	PCL	.324	93	370	54	120	190	22	8	10	1	1	60	35	51
	Cincinnati	NL	.271	66	251	26	88	98	10	1	6	3	1	32	12	32
1961	Cincinnati	NL	.287	150	520	63	149	252	27	4	26	4	1	57	45	57
1962	Cincinnati	NL	.277	136	478	73	132	231	13	1	28	2	2	86	36	68
1963	Cincinnati	NL	.247	123	365	38	90	156	20	2	14	1	1	59	23	51
1964	Cincinnati	NL	.242	83	198	18	48	73	8	2	6	1	2	27	13	30
1965	Cincinnati	NL	.302	108	325	39	98	159	19	0	14	0	0	57	24	38
Major League Totals			.276	678	2150	262	593	983	95	11	93	11	7	350	160	288

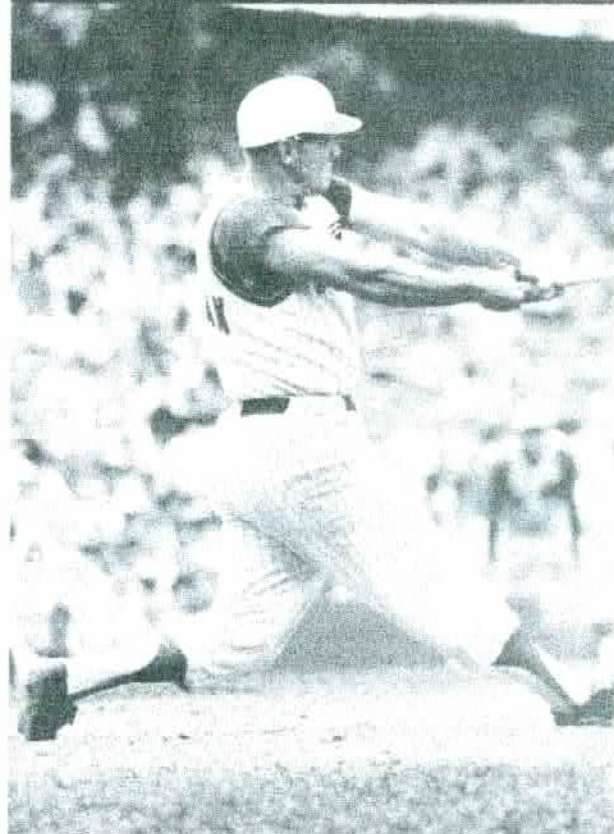
*—Led league.

WORLD SERIES RECORD: 1961—Cincinnati, 5 games, 5 for 20 (.250) one home run.



Members pinned roses on two Reds players when they were guests at the annual business meeting of the Rosie Reds, women's fan club at the CG&E auditorium. Left to right: Eileen Dudley, Joe Nuxhall, Pat Carson, Mrs. Wm. H. Zimmer, 1st Vice Pres.; Gordy Coleman and Mrs. Jane Heinze, President.

GORDY COLEMAN



Gordy connects for a long one.



Gordy does a great job as a speaker.

THE Baseball Encyclopedia

THE COMPLETE AND
DEFINITIVE RECORD OF
MAJOR LEAGUE
BASEBALL

TENTH EDITION

COLEMAN, GORDON CALVIN

B. July 5, 1934, Rockville, Md.

D. Mar. 12, 1994, Cincinnati, Ohio.

BL TR 6'3" 208 lbs.

15	8	0	1	0	0.0	5	2	1	2	0	2	2	18	3	1	7.3	955	18-3		
251	68	10	1	6	2.4	26	32	12	32	1	0	0	555	63	1	69	9.4	998	18-66	
520	149	27	4	26	5.0	43	37	45	67	1	6	3	1362	111	11	93	8.6	991	18-150	
476	132	13	1	28	5.9	73	36	36	48	2	15	3	1021	83	12	100	8.7	789	18-128	
345	90	20	2	14	3.8	38	59	29	51	1	19	8	752	65	11	66	7.7	387	18-107	
198	48	6	2	5	2.5	18	27	13	30	2	35	9	552	35	4	28	8.0	990	18-49	
451	98	19	0	14	4.1	39	57	24	38	0	14	6	621	48	6	52	7.4	991	18-89	
227	57	7	0	5	2.2	20	37	16	45	2	25	8	599	79	4	33	6.7	586	18-45	
7	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	1	0	0	2	6	4	1	0	0	5.0	1,000	18-2	
448	2384	650	102	11	98	4.1	282	367	177	333	9	120	45	4892	448	52	442	8.2	990	18-659
400	20	5	0	0	1	5.0	2	2	0	1	0	0	30	4	1	6	7.0	971	18-5	

THE TOP 10 CAREER PINCH HITTERS

(Minimum, 100 Pinch-hit at Bats; Retired Players Only)

	Years Active	At Bats	Hits	Average
1. Gordy Coleman	1959-67	120	40	.333
2. Ward Miller	1909-17	110	36	.327
3. Doc Miller	1910-14	120	39	.325
4. Rod Carew	1967-85	124	40	.323 ¹
5. Al Kaline	1953-74	115	37	.322
6. Tommy Davis	1959-76	197	63	.320
7. Estel Crabtree	1929-44	116	37	.319
8. Earl Smith	1919-30	129	41	.318
9. Elmer Smith	1914-25	123	39	.317
10. Bib Falk	1920-31	114	36	.316 ²

¹Hall of Famers, for the most part, have been undistinguished pinch hitters. Aside from Carew and Kaline, only Bill Terry and Red Schoendienst among those with 100 or more pinch-hit at bats have career averages of over .300.

²The difference of only 17 points between the 1st and the 10th players on the list indicates how difficult it is to be consistently successful as a pinch hitter. Among players with 200 or more pinch-hit at bats, only Bob Fothergill, who hit exactly .300 was able to post a .300 career batting average.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

A Local Star

1994

The obituary page of the March 14 issue of The Washington Post mentioned the death of Gordy Coleman, baseball player and broadcaster. The brief article addressed his major league career with the Cleveland Indians and Cincinnati Reds and also mentioned his post-baseball career with the Reds, but nowhere in that article or on the sports pages was there any mention of him as a local sports hero.

Gordy Coleman was an all-around athlete at Richard Montgomery High School in Rockville in 1950-1952. He earned 12 varsity letters (three each in football, basketball, baseball and track), the maximum possible at the time. He was on the first Maryland all-state football team in 1951. He was a starter on the 1951-52 RMHS basketball team that played in the Maryland State Class B finals. His baseball career in Montgomery County was legendary. Gordy attended Duke University on a football scholarship and while attending college signed a major league contract with Cleveland. He played in the majors from 1959 until 1967.

Steve Bernard
Darnestown

Gordy Coleman Former first baseman

CINCINNATI (AP) — Gordy Coleman, a former Cincinnati Reds first baseman who later worked as a broadcaster for the baseball team, died at a hospital Saturday, apparently of a heart attack. He was 59.

Coleman broke into the major leagues with the Cleveland Indians in 1959. He was the Reds' first baseman from 1960 to 1967.

More recently, he was part of the Reds television broadcasting team for SportsChannel cable and director of the team's speakers bureau.

Gordy Coleman, the Cincinnati Reds' lefthand-hitting first baseman from 1960 to '67, had his way with lefthander Warren Spahn. "One year," says Coleman, "I went something like 14 for 16 off him. He would get so frustrated that he would consult with his infielders on how to pitch me. One day, I think I was 4 for 4. I was walking down the runway when this big arm came around me. It was Spahn. 'Don't you realize I'm the world's greatest lefthander?' he said to me. Later he sent over a bat inscribed, 'To My Hero.' "

The bigger they are, the harder they fall, and even the biggest of them all had his nemesis.