

How Bout 'Dem O's

By Kyle Wenning

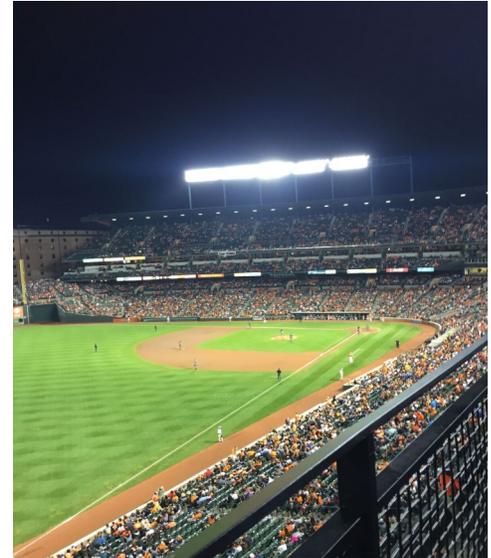
"Camden Yards screams baseball. Nothing gives a better representation of the people and the specialness surrounding the city like the Orioles."

Camden Yards. Home to the Baltimore Orioles and one of the greatest ballparks in Major League Baseball. Opening in 1992, the historic ballpark remains one of the best in baseball because of its original retro style which so many other parks have tried to copy and failed. Camden Yards screams baseball. Nothing gives a better representation of the people and the specialness surrounding the city like the Orioles. Orioles games act as one of the greatest ways to help create a bond of social interaction between Loyola students and the best of what Baltimore has to offer.

No event gives me greater joy than attending a baseball game, so Loyola's location definitely played a huge role in helping me continue my passion while at college. Only 15 minutes away from the ballpark makes Loyola a prime spot to attend and travel to Orioles games at an extreme convenience. Every Friday night home game is also Student Night, which means you only have to pay \$7 for a ticket if you show your student ID at the ticket booth. Even though I do not support the birds, my enjoyment for base-

ball will induce me into going to every Friday night home game they have during our school year; I end up seeing my favorite team, the Yankees, a couple times anyways while I'm here since they are in the same division. Not having a baseball team at Loyola makes Camden Yards a hot attraction on Friday nights for many other students. The Orioles become Loyola's baseball team, so many other students will attend Orioles games even if they don't support either team playing. From the benefits students in the Baltimore area receive from tickets, to watching a game in one of the greatest ballparks, Loyola's location helps continue a passion and love for the game of baseball while away from home.

One word I would use to describe the social life of Baltimore is the Orioles. Baltimoreans care about nothing more than their local baseball team. Once the month of March hits and spring training starts up, everyone starts to bring out the Orioles apparel. I probably used an Uber every weekend during March and every driver was either wearing O's clothing or started talking to me about how the team is looking this season. The Orioles possess one of the most prideful fan ba-



ses you will find in all of baseball, so when the O's put talent on the field, no stadium rocks with the same excitement as Camden Yards. When the O's start bringing in the W's, the fans bring out the energy. As the regular season started to dwindle this fall, more Orioles fans started to come out to support the team as they started getting closer to clinching a spot in the playoffs. The team's performance makes a huge impact on how lively the city becomes. Downtown becomes energized when the birds do well, making Baltimore a lot more enjoyable to visit on the weekends. Nothing beats the excitement when the Orioles produce success, which really plays a big role on everyone's lives in the city.

Going to Orioles baseball games has definitely been one of my favorite things about going to a university just outside of a main city. The accessibility to continuously attend baseball games while away at college only helps Loyola feel more like home. The Orioles help develop an understanding of the distinctiveness of Baltimore, which helps us understand what the people and the city can unite around.