

Howard Burton Shipley

Martinsburg 1915, 1918, 1922 Waynesboro 1920-21

Infielder / Player-Manager

By Mark C. Zeigler

When “Country” Morris was organizing his inaugural team for the Martinsburg club in 1915, one of the first people he recruited was his best friend from his college athletic days, Howard Burton Shipley.

Born on January 17, 1890 in Anne Arundel County, MD, he was a native of Harmons, MD. His name has become recognized as part of University of Maryland history, which spanned almost 80 years, from 1896, when he served as the waterboy for the football team, until his death in 1976. A very popular figure, and colorful personality at Maryland, according to a story attributed to *The Baltimore Sun*, Shipley’s sense of humor stimulated all those with whom he associated on campus.

A standout multi-sport athlete, Shipley entered Maryland Agricultural College while a prep student in 1908, and graduated from the college in the spring of 1914. He played football, basketball and baseball during that time. He helped organize and was team captain of the school’s second ever basketball team during the 1910-11 season, compiling a 3-9 record, as a student coach.

After graduation he coached at Perkiomean Prep in Phoenixville, PA and Marshall College, before entering the service during World War I on June 24, 1918. He was commissioned as a lieutenant in the army two months later at Camp Gordon, GA. After the war, Shipley was the athletic director, baseball and basketball coach at the University of Delaware, until his contract was not renewed after the 1922 season. He served as head football coach until he was replaced by Sylvester Derby prior to the 1921 season.

During several summers from 1915 to 1921, Shipley would play minor league baseball with Morris’ clubs in Martinsburg and Waynesboro in the Class D, Blue Ridge League. In 1922, Shipley was named player/manager of the Martinsburg (WV) Blue Sox, where he managed future Hall of Fame outfielder, Lewis “Hack” Wilson, and led his club to their first of three Class D, Blue Ridge League pennants in his only season at the helm of the West Virginia club.

After his success in Martinsburg, Shipley went to the Class D, Eastern Shore League the following year, 1923, to manage the Salisbury (MD) Indians. It would be his last season in the Minors, as he would concentrate his future efforts on the collegiate level.

In 1923, Shipley and Morris joined Curly Byrd, as one of the eight founding members of the “M Club” at the University of Maryland, which acknowledged the college athletes at the campus.

He was the first recognized head coach of the University of Maryland men’s basketball team, going 5-7 in his first season in 1923, playing games in a new facility originally called The Gymnasium, which was located at Annapolis Hall on the south part of the campus. His coaching career spanned 24 seasons, the longest of any Terrapins head coach, compiling a 243-199 record, for a .550 winning percentage, at what became known as Ritchie Coliseum, the predecessor to Cole Field House. His 1930-31 team defeated Adolph Rupp’s Kentucky Wildcats, 29-27 to win the



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Former teammate of William G. “County” Morris at M.A.C., Shipley became a legendary baseball and basketball coach at the University of Maryland.

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Southern Conference tournament in Atlanta, and were co-champions in 1931-32. He left the basketball coaching ranks after the 1947 season, at his request, to concentrate more on his physical education teaching duties.

Shipley was also head coach of the University of Maryland baseball team for a record 37 years, from 1924 until he retired after the 1960 season. In 1965, the University of Maryland named their new baseball stadium after their long-time head coach, calling it Shipley Field, in his honor. He compiled a record of 393 wins and 290 defeats for the Terrapin baseball nine.

In 1962, Shipley was named to the College Basketball Hall of Fame by the Helms Athletic Foundation. Among the others honored in that group of 11 inductees included Wilt Chamberlain and Jerry West.

Shipley was 86 years old when he died on February 22, 1976 of a heart attack at the Washington Hospital Center in Washington, D.C. Shipley was survived by his wife, Miriam S., and a daughter, Josephine Owens, now of Mineral, VA. Shipley was buried at Baltimore National Cemetery in Baltimore, MD.

Listed below is a breakdown of Shipley's known professional batting record:

Burt Shipley's Known Minor League Batting Statistics

BATTING

Year	Club	League	.AVG	G	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI*	SAC	SB	.SLG	
1912	WORCESTER-MA	NEL-B		released - no stats listed												
1915	MARTINSBURG-WV	BRL-D	.207	73	236	31	53	67	5	3	1	17	13	18	.263	
1916-1917				Did not play professional baseball												
1918	MARTINSBURG-WV	BRL-D	.105	13	38	5	4	4	0	0	0	0	2	1	.105	
				Did not play professional baseball												
1920	WAYNESBORO-PA	BRL-D	.292	7	24	3	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	1	.292	
1921	WAYNESBORO-PA	BRL-D	.216	36	134	17	29	36	7	0	0	9	15	7	.269	
1921	*POCOMOKE-MD	ESL-IND		No Statistics Available												
1921	MARTINSBURG-WV	BRL-D	.160	5	25	3	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	.160	
1922*	MARTINSBURG-WV	BRL-D	.213	42	80	10	17	19	2	0	0	2	0	5	.238	
1923	*SALISBURY-MD	ESL-D		No Statistics Available												
BLUE RIDGE LEA. TOTALS			5 yrs	.212	176	537	69	114	137	14	3	1	28	30	33	.

* Player-Manager

Sources – Baseball Hall of Fame, Cooperstown, NY; “Walter Hulihan and the University”, *The University of Delaware: A History, Chapter 8* – www.udel.edu/PR/munroe/chapter8.html; “State Athletes Officers,” *Washington Post*, October 28, 1918, pg. 4; “Legends of Maryland Basketball,” by Dave Ungrady, Sports Publishing, LLC, Champaign, IL, 2004; www.ukfans.net/jps/uk/rivalMaryland.html; <http://sportsnetwork.com/default.asp?c=sportsnetwork&page=cbask/teams/directB58.htm>; “Heagy Pilots Md. Tossers, Shipley Hurt,” *Washington Post*, January 11, 1944; “Shipley Soon To Be Relieved As Terp Coach,” *Washington Post*, March 26, 1947; “H. B. Shipley Dies, Was Md. Coach,” *Washington, D.C.*, February 23, 1976, pg. D6; *University of Maryland A to Z, Mac to Millenium, University Libraries, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, 2004*, Anne Turkos, University Archivist.; *Record-Herald, Waynesboro, PA, August 22, 1921*; “Boys of the Blue Ridge – The Early Years,” by Mark C. Zeigler, 2004-07.



H. Burton Shipley

Was a member of the 1913 and 1914 Maryland Agricultural College baseball teams.

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