

ORIOLES

Optimists club meeting set to begin

As the Orioles' pitchers and catchers report to Sarasota, Elias says camp opportunities extend to prized rookies

By **JON MEOLI**

SARASOTA, Fla. — On a shaded courtyard beside the Orioles clubhouse at the Ed Smith Stadium complex in Sarasota on Tuesday, as pitchers and catchers reported to spring training ahead of the first workout Wednesday, executive vice president/general manager Mike Elias didn't let the hope

of a sun-splashed afternoon and green grass and all things baseball influence his 2020 Orioles outlook.

"We're worried about the development of the individual players," Elias said. "We know where we're at this year. We're realistic about our chances in the American League East this year. I think everyone is."

Where there is hope, though, is in the

young, up-and-coming players that fans have spent the past two years of 115- and 108-loss seasons watching and waiting for. And Elias provided all those young players a dose of optimism as well.

Though last year's edition of the Orioles' camp of opportunity was more geared toward players who had completed their minor league development here or elsewhere instead of those exciting homegrown players, Elias said this year that the door

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Spring training schedule

Sunday: Position players report
Monday: First full-squad workout
Feb. 22: First game, Orioles at Braves, 1:05 p.m., North Port, Fla.
Feb. 23: Home opener, Red Sox at Orioles, 1:05 p.m., Sarasota, Fla.

BASEBALL COMMENTARY

Never enough

This trip to Orioles spring training takes a detour down memory lane

SARASOTA, Fla. — In the late summer of 1979, you couldn't turn on your radio without hearing Michael Jackson belting out one of his first No. 1 singles, appropriately titled "Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough."

It was also a big hit in baseball clubhouses, where I unexpectedly found myself when a series of fortunate — or unfortunate circumstances, depending on who we're talking about — changed my life forever.

Filling in for a couple of co-workers at the Orange County Register, I made road trips with the Los Angeles Dodgers and California Angels, then was promoted to a full-fledged baseball writer at about this time in 1980.



Peter Schmuck

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Orioles pitcher Miguel Castro stretches in the early morning hours of spring training in 2019. Pitchers and catchers reported to camp on Tuesday with position players due on Sunday.

LLOYD FOX/BALTIMORE SUN

MEN'S BASKETBALL

BYU's schedule policy could send ripples through bracket

By **PATRICK STEVENS**
 The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The NCAA basketball committee has more than its share of guidelines, though far less than in recent years.

At one point, teams from the same conference weren't supposed to have any chance at meeting before a regional final. Now, as a result of bloated conferences, that timeline has been relaxed to as early as the round of 32 (if the teams met only one time in the regular season, like Michigan State and Minnesota had

The late show

The Maryland-Nebraska game Tuesday night did not end in time for this edition. For coverage, go to baltimoresun.com/sports

last year).

Going further back, teams whose schools were hosting a tournament site weren't allowed to play on the same day as

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RAVENS

Clark knows how rare path to contract extension can be

By **JONAS SHAFFER**

Chuck Clark was the Ravens' last pick of the 2017 NFL draft, taken No. 186 overall, just after a defensive tackle who's started once in his career and just before a fellow safety who spent all of last season on injured reserve.

Of course, over his first two seasons in Baltimore, Clark played like a sixth-round pick. Or at least he played as much as a sixth-round pick typically does. Starting safeties Eric Weddle and Tony Jefferson almost never missed a defensive snap. Clark had to work on special teams and

wait for something bigger.

The opportunity that could make or break a career arrived in October. Clark was finally needed. And when he found a place on defense, he found a future with the Ravens.

On Monday, he signed a contract extension through 2023 reportedly worth \$19 million.

"A lot of sixth-round picks, late-round guys, don't get to make it this far and get extended early in their career," he said Tuesday, his first comments since re-

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