

## King Tiger Voting Opens

With the books closed on the 2019 season, it's time again for Society members to vote for King Tiger. Look at this year's roster and judge for yourself whose ON-the-field and OFF-the-field accomplishments merit winning the award -- a Mayo Smith tradition dating back to 2004. Note the changed email address for casting your votes (along with any elaboration you care to give): [pattison\\_mark@yahoo.com](mailto:pattison_mark@yahoo.com). Please put "King Tiger" in the subject field.

The rules are simple: The last day of voting is Wednesday, Dec. 18; we'll remind you to vote in the next two issues of *Tigers Stripes* as well. No tie votes, meaning you can't vote for two players. If you and your spouse are jointly Society members, you get just one vote between you. Also, no votes for non-players.

We'll announce the winner in the January issue of *Stripes*, and present the award prior to a home game during the Society's March 14-21 spring training trip to Lakeland.

## 2020 Vision

Major League Baseball announced both the 2020 regular season and complete spring training schedule earlier than ever this year. As a result, we can tell you top Society dates so you can plan for the year ahead.

**Saturday, March 14-Saturday, March 21:** The annual Spring Training Trip to Lakeland. Eight games in eight days, including five home games, among them the March 14 contest. We wind up the trip in Dunedin -- which, if you're flying to Florida, is far closer to the Tampa airport. We'll be staying at the Ecco Suites again. Look for a spring training registration flyer before the year is out.

**Saturday, June 13:** The Society's Annual Gathering prior to a Tigers-Blue Jays game. We'll assemble once more at the Hockeytown Cafe, and we've already lined up one terrific speaker: Detroit native and eight-year Tiger Frank Tanana! When the Tigers released the schedule in August, this game was slated to be a 4:10 p.m. first pitch, but later the entire series' start times were switched to "TBD" -- the only Detroit home games to do so. We'll keep you informed and adjust as necessary.

**Saturday, June 27:** For Smithers living or vacationing within shouting distance of the Eastern Seaboard, it our annual "Mayo Day" game pitting the Tigers against the Baltimore Orioles at Camden Yards. This is a "TBD" start time as well, but we're expecting it to be a night game. Save the date, and we'll keep you informed of ticket deals that come our way.

And don't forget: If you're in the Society's birthplace of Washington, D.C., on the first Wednesday of any month, stop by Tunnicliff's Tavern, 222 Seventh St. SE, at 6:30 p.m. for our monthly "Tiger Talk" dinner. Good food and good baseball conversation, plus we can get the Tigers on at least one TV to keep an eye on the game while we dine. Tunnicliff's is mere blocks from the Capitol, across the street from Eastern Market, and up the street from the Eastern Market stop on the subway. Why, you can even park nearby!

## Season Tickets Become Unaffordable To Society -- by Todd Miller

The lack of response to the 2020 season ticket order form has made it necessary for us to discontinue purchasing Field Box Seats in Section 133, Row 16. This development ends a 36-season run as a holder of four full-season ticket plans.

For the past five seasons, since the Tigers most recently played in the postseason, our treasury has been able to underwrite losses due to members' lack of ticket purchases, but we can't afford to continue this practice.

Although it's disappointing that we're unable to support our favorite team in as generous a manner as we've done over the past three-and-a-half decades, it's the understandable result of a quadruple whammy. Specifically, the team is not competitive, ticket prices remain at the level of a pennant contender, tickets are

available at reduced prices through secondary market websites such as StubHub and the team's own discount ticket promotions further undercut the value of our tickets. Simply stated, we don't have the means to "compete" in this environment.

If there's a silver lining in this figurative dark cloud, it's that we will now be better able to fully uphold our motto: Tigers fans who always care. We care about the Tigers regardless of their place in the standings, and we also care about the less fortunate by making annual donations to Caring Athletes Team for Children's and Henry Ford Hospitals (CATCH), the charity that Sparky Anderson founded while leading the team to the A.L. East crown in 1987, and to the Detroit Police Athletic League, which recently moved into its first permanent home at The Corner Ballpark at the intersection of Michigan and Trumbull Avenues on the site of old Tiger Stadium.

To those of you who have taken advantage of our Field Box Seats over the past 36 seasons, we appreciate your support, and we look forward to the day when the team once again becomes sufficiently competitive for us to afford purchasing a full-season ticket plan.

If you sent a check for purchasing 2020 tickets, thank you for your loyalty and enthusiasm. Your check will be destroyed or returned as you prefer.

If you would like your check returned, please let me know by Tuesday, Oct. 15, at [mayosmithsociety1983@gmail.com](mailto:mayosmithsociety1983@gmail.com)

### **"E-Mayo"? What Is This?**

We at the Society promise nine *Tigers Stripes* newsletters a year. For the past 15 years, we've been sending 11 minimum, and usually 12. Even so, there's not enough space for all the Tigers news to fit. When there's breaking news and we've just mailed a newsletter -- the Justin Verlander trade, for example -- we publish *E-Mayo Flash*. It's an exclusive for Society members who get *Stripes* via email. But for this mailing only, we thought we'd send one to all members. And, yes, we're at issue #111, thanks to big news, postseason previews, game summaries and post-series recaps since 2006. To assure that every morsel of Mayo news gets to you, switch to email delivery by emailing (of course!) Society Administrator Todd Miller at [mayosmithsociety1983@gmail.com](mailto:mayosmithsociety1983@gmail.com).

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For **Mayo Smith Society Memberships** send \$25

(US\$28 out of the US) to:

Mayo Smith Society, PO Box 119,  
Northville, MI 48167

For **Detroit Tigers 1984: What a Start! What a Finish!** (\$20) and  
**Detroit Tigers Lists and More** (\$10), autographed by  
authors David Raglin and Mark Pattison, send to:

Mark Pattison, 1221 Floral St. NW,  
Washington, DC 20012

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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City, St/Pr \_\_\_\_\_

Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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*Tigers Stripes*, the official newsletter of the Mayo Smith Society, is published nine times a year. **Publisher/Society Administrator:** Todd Miller (412/848-1082, [toddprmtg@verizon.net](mailto:toddprmtg@verizon.net)). **Editor:** Mark Pattison (202/829-9289, [pattison\\_mark@hotmail.com](mailto:pattison_mark@hotmail.com)). **Writer/Sabermetrician:** David Raglin (703/556-0332 or 703/835-1198, [darags@ymail.com](mailto:darags@ymail.com)). **Membership Services Coordinator:** Pete Wright. The Mayo Smith Society was established in 1983 by Dale Petroskey, Dennis Petroskey, and Bill Mackay.