



PITTSBURGH PIRATES

FPO



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Major League Baseball

League Play

There are two leagues in MLB. They are the American League (AL) and the National League (NL). Each league has 15 teams and is split into three divisions. They are east, central, and west.

The Pittsburgh Pirates is one of 30 Major League Baseball (MLB) teams. The team plays in the National League Central **Division**.

Throughout the season, all MLB teams play 162 games. The season begins in April and can continue until November.



The Pirate Parrot mascot joined the Pirates team in 1979. He helped create the "Let's Go Bucs, Let's Go Green" campaign. This movement helps save the planet!.

gettyimages®
Joe Sargent

A Winning Team

The Pirates team is from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The team's colors are black, gold, and white.

The Pirates team has had good seasons and bad. But time and again, players have proven themselves. Let's see what makes the Pirates one of MLB's greatest teams!

Fast Facts



HOME FIELD: PNC Park

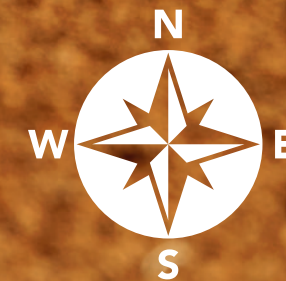
TEAM COLORS: Black, gold, and white

TEAM SONG: "A New Pirates Generation" by Buzz Poets

PENNANTS: 9

WORLD SERIES TITLES:

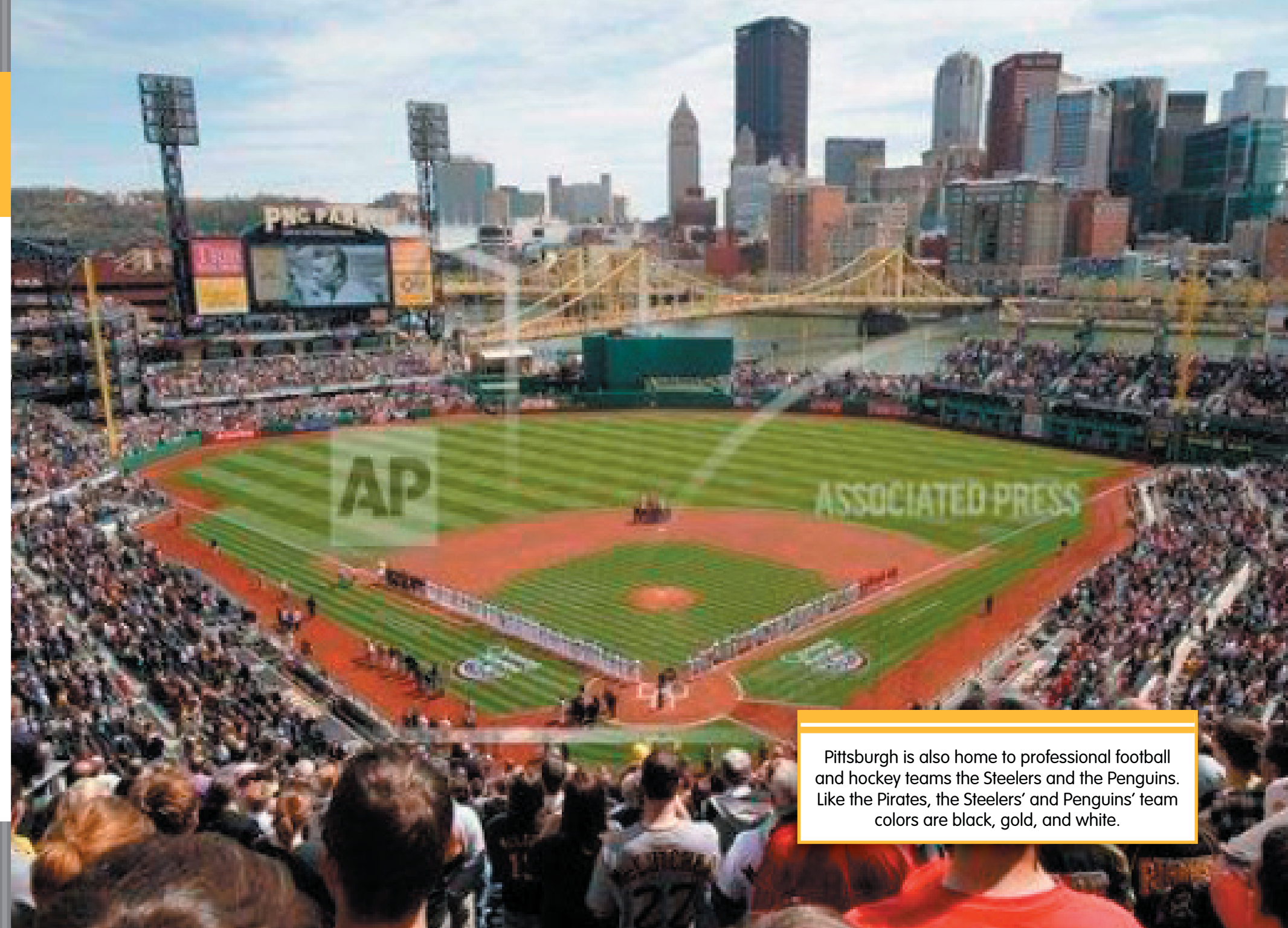
1909, 1925, 1960, 1971, 1979



PNC Park

The Pirates have been in Pittsburgh since the team began in 1887. But they have played in five different stadiums throughout the city. The team played at Recreation Park as the Alleghenys until 1890. It then moved to Exposition Park, Forbes Field, and Three Rivers Stadium.

Three Rivers Stadium could seat nearly 50,000 fans. The Pirates played there for 30 years. But finally in 2001, the team settled at PNC Park in downtown Pittsburgh. The ballpark sits along the shore of the Allegheny River.



Pittsburgh is also home to professional football and hockey teams the Steelers and the Penguins. Like the Pirates, the Steelers' and Penguins' team colors are black, gold, and white.

Then and Now

The Allegheny team began in 1882 as part of the American Association. Five years later, it joined the NL. ~~Then in~~ 1890, the team had the lowest record it would ever see. Winning only 23 out of 136 games, the owners knew they had to rebuild the **roster**.

The team added valuable players to its lineup. With a new group of players came a new team name. The Alleghenys became the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1891. Over the next decade, the Pirates continued to advance in the league.



In 1903, the team played the Boston Americans in the first-ever World Series. Sadly, the Pirates lost five of the eight games ~~against the Americans~~.

Even after losing the 1903 World Series, the Pirates continued posting winning seasons. Finally in 1909, the Pirates made it to the World Series once more. The team won its first Series title against the Detroit Tigers.

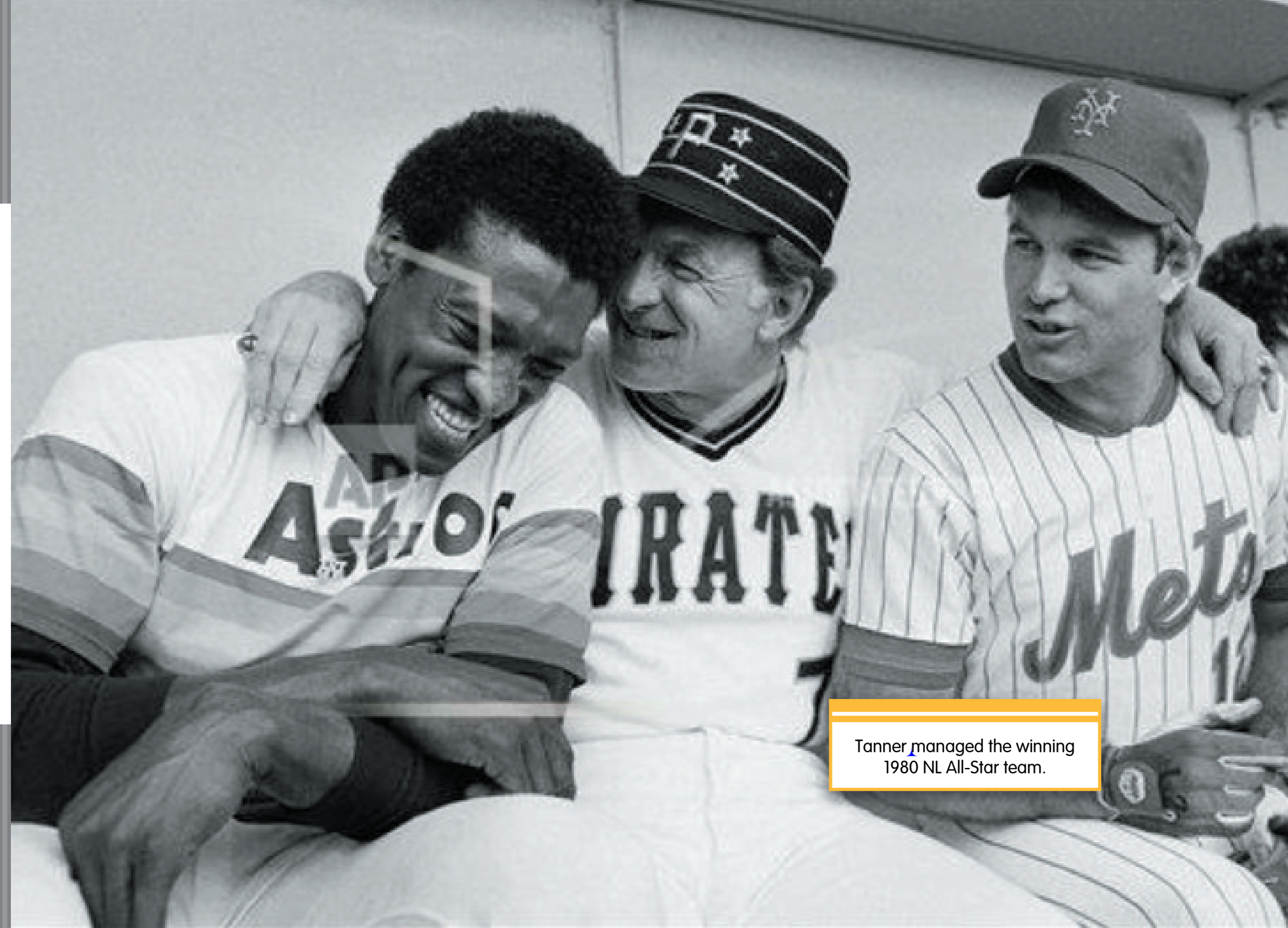
The players had 11 winning seasons over the next 15 years. But they did not make it to the **playoffs** during that time. Finally in 1925, players Pie Traynor, Kiki Cuyler, and Max Carey led the team to the World Series. They won four games to three over the Washington Senators.

The Pirates is one of three teams that began in 1882. The others are the Cincinnati Reds and the St. Louis Cardinals.



Chuck Tanner managed the Pirates from 1977 to 1985. His first year ~~as manager~~, he led the team to 96 wins. Two years later, he helped the team to a World Series victory against the Baltimore Orioles!

After the World Series win, the Pirates had four more winning years under Tanner's management. Later, Tanner was **nominated** for the 1983 NL Manager of the Year Award. He went on to manage the Atlanta Braves in 1986.



Tanner managed the winning 1980 NL All-Star team.

Star Players

Honus Wagner SHORTSTOP, #33

Honus Wagner is one of history's greatest ball players. In 1902 and 1906, Wagner led the league in number of runs scored. He even won eight batting titles for his skills at the plate. Wagner led the Pirates to its first World Series win in 1909. For his accomplishments, Wagner joined the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1936.

1900–1917

Willie Stargell LEFTFIELDER, #8

Willie Stargell was one of the best Pirates players for 21 seasons. In 1979, he became the first player to win the **Championship** Series, World Series, and regular-season **MVP** awards. During his **career**, he helped the Pirates win six **division** titles and two World Series.

1962–1982

Roberto Clemente RIGHT FIELDER, #21

Roberto Clemente was an all-star batter and outfielder. In 1961, he won his first NL batting title for his powerful swing. He also earned a **Gold Glove** for his fielding skills. Clemente went on to win three more batting titles and 11 more Gold Glove Awards. And in 1971, he took home the World Series **Most Valuable Player (MVP) Award**.

1955–1972

Barry Bonds LEFTFIELDER, #24

World-famous slugger Barry Bonds began his MLB career with the Pirates. ~~Bonds helped the team win three NL East Division titles from 1990 to 1992.~~ In only seven years with the Pirates, he hit 176 home runs! For his efforts, Bonds earned three **Silver Sluggers** and the 1990 Major League Player of the Year Award. ~~He also won his first two MVP Awards at this time.~~

x x

Through the Years

1887

The Alleghenys played in their first NL game. They played while nearly 10,000 fans watched from the stands at Recreation Park.

1900

Barney Dreyfuss took over as owner of the Pirates. He brought future Hall of Fame winners Honus Wagner and Fred Clarke with him.

1915

Player and manager Fred Clarke **retired** after 16 years with the Pirates. During his **career**, he led the team to four NL **Championship** titles and one World Series title.

1921

The Pittsburgh KDKA radio station plays an MLB game on the radio for the first time. During the game, the Pirates beat the Phillies 8–5.

1937

Pirates' first baseman Gus Suhr plays in his eight hundred eighty-second game in a row.

1972

Roberto Clemente died in an airplane crash. He was on his way to deliver supplies to sufferers of an earthquake in Central America.

2016

The 1909 to 1911 Honus Wagner baseball card sold for \$3.12 million in 2016. The Wagner card is the most valuable of all baseball cards.

2017 or 2018

The Pirates took part in the very first MLB Little League Classic.

2000

More than 55,000 fans attend a game at Three Rivers Stadium. This is the largest crowd to ever attend a regular-season Pirates game.



Glossary

assist the action of a player who by passing a ball makes it possible for a teammate to make a putout.

career a period of time spent in a certain job.

championship a game, a match, or a race held to find a first-place winner.

division a number of teams grouped together in a sport for competitive purposes.

draft a system for professional sports teams to choose new players.

Gold Glove Award annually given to the MLB players with the best fielding experience.

~~**induct** to officially introduce someone as a member.~~

inning a division of a baseball game that consists of a turn at bat for each team.

Most Valuable Player (MVP) the player who contributes the most to his or her team's success.

nominate to name as a possible winner.

playoffs a game or series of games to determine a championship or break a tie.

putout an action that causes a batter or runner on the opposite team to be out.

retire to give up one's job, or to withdraw from use or service.

rookie a player who is new to the major leagues until he meets certain criteria.

roster an orderly list of people belonging to a professional sports group.

Silver Slugger Award given every year to the best offensive players in MLB.

switch-hitter a batter who can bat on either side of the plate.

Online
Resources



To learn more about the Boston Red Sox, visit abdobooklinks.com. These links are routinely monitored and updated to provide the most current information available.