



ATOS
Round 1 4.8
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PITTSBURGH PIRATES



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Major League Baseball

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.

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

A Winning Team

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

The 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

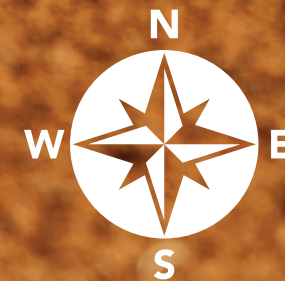
TEAM COLORS: Black, gold, and white

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 1887. The team has played in five different stadiums throughout the city. The Pirates played at Recreation Park as the Alleghenys until 1890. Then it moved to Exposition Park, Forbes Field, and Three Rivers Stadium.

The team played at Three Rivers Stadium for 30 years. Finally in 2001, it 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. Five years later, it joined the NL. In 1890, the team had the lowest record it would ever see. Players won only 23 out of 136 games. The owners knew they had to rebuild the **roster**.

The team added valuable players to its lineup. At the same time, the Alleghenys changed its name to the Pittsburgh Pirates. Over the next decade, the Pirates continued to advance in the league.

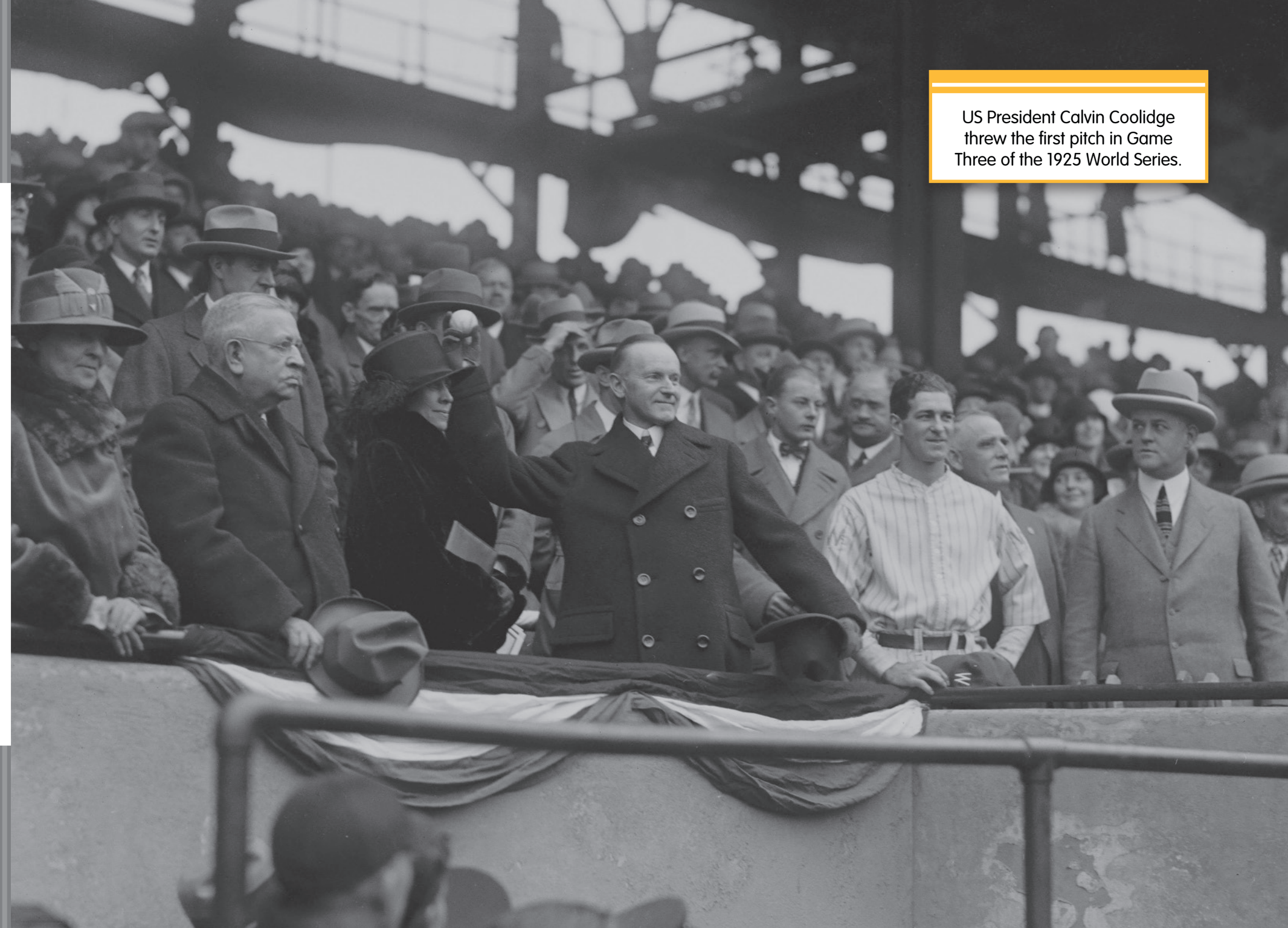


In 1903, the team played the Boston Americans in the first-ever World Series. Sadly, the Pirates lost five of the eight games.

After losing the 1903 World Series, the Pirates began posting winning seasons. In 1909, the Pirates made it to the World Series once more. The team won its first Series title against the Detroit Tigers.

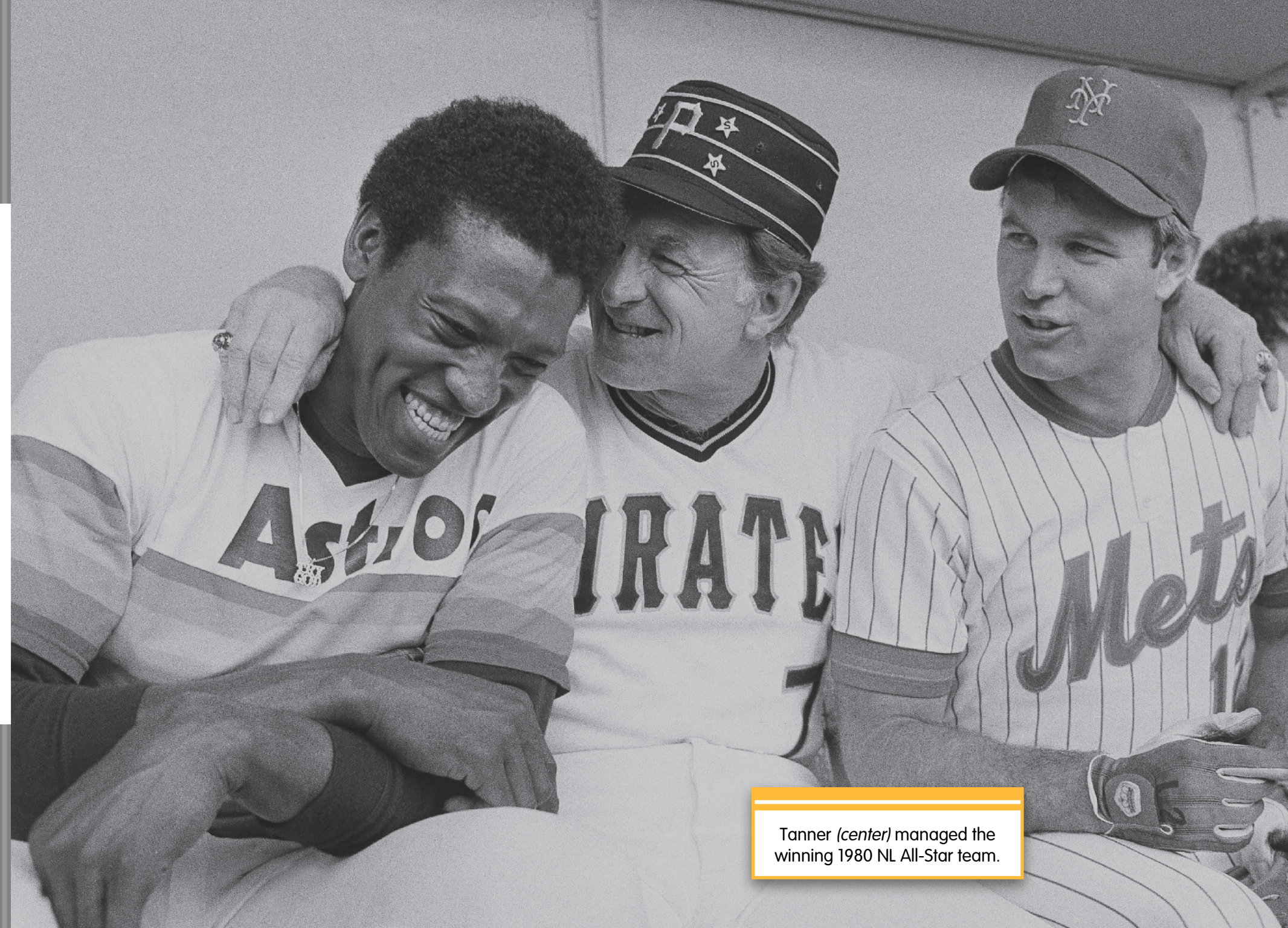
The players had 11 winning seasons over the next 15 years. But they did not make it to the **playoffs** during that time. Then in 1925, players Pie Traynor and Kiki Cuyler led the team to the World Series. They won four games to three over the Washington Senators.

US President Calvin Coolidge
threw the first pitch in Game
Three of the 1925 World Series.



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

After 1979, the Pirates had four more winning years under Tanner's leadership. Later, he was **nominated** for the 1983 NL Manager of the Year Award. Tanner went on to manage the Atlanta Braves in 1986.



Tanner (center) 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. He won the **Championship** Series, World Series, and regular-season **MVP** awards in 1979. He was the first player to do so. During his **career**, he helped the Pirates win six **division** titles and two World Series.

1962 – 1982

Roberto Clemente RIGHTFIELDER, #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 fielding. Clemente won three more batting titles and 11 more Gold Glove Awards. And in 1971, he earned 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. In only seven years with the team, he hit 176 home runs! Bonds earned three **Silver Sluggers** for his efforts. He also won the 1990 Major League Player of the Year Award.

1986 – 1992

Through the Years

1887

The Alleghenys played its first NL game in front of nearly 10,000 fans.



1921

The Pittsburgh KDKA radio station played an MLB game on the radio for the first time. In that game, the Pirates beat the Philadelphia Phillies eight to five.

1900

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

1937

Pirates' first baseman Gus Suhr played 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. The Wagner card is the most valuable of all baseball cards.



2000

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

2017

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

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.
- 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



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To learn more about the Pittsburgh Pirates, visit abdoobooks.com. These links are routinely monitored and updated to provide the most current information available.

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