

"5th Annual Battle on the Ship - Summer Tradition"

Keith Mills: Pressbox

It's called the Battle of the Ship and it's **Lou Holcomb's** way of giving back to local high school baseball and his University of Maryland alma mater. Holcomb was an outstanding pitcher for coach, **Mel Montgomery** at Old Mill in the late - 80s. He played for Walter Youse on the Johnny's amateur powerhouse, went on to Maryland and eventually played in the Texas Rangers' farm system.

He's also the former coach at Cardinal Gibbons and now runs an all-star game that showcases some of the best rising seniors and juniors in Maryland and Virginia.

"It's my way of giving back," said Holcomb, an associate to Orioles regional scout Dean Albany. "I was fortunate enough to go through the system and be coached by a lot of great guys and get a lot of great exposure and I'm just trying to give the kids today that chance."

Holcomb also runs a baseball recruiting service called Diamond Recruiting that helps connect local players with coaches. Four years ago he started the Battle of the Ship, which will be played on Sunday at noon on Shipley Field at the University of Maryland.

"I had a great experience at Maryland," Holcomb said. "Hopefully, by playing the game at Shipley Field it will give some kids a chance to see the school and be aware of the baseball program."

Tryouts for the Battle of the Ship will be held Friday morning at 10 a.m. at Joe Cannon Stadium in Harmon's and will be attended by dozens of college coaches and pro scouts