

MANAGER BUCK SHOWALTER

Full Name: William Nathaniel "Buck" Showalter

Born: May 23, 1956

2014 Opening Day Age: 57

Birthplace/Residence: Born in DeFuniak Springs, FL...Resides in Dallas, TX and Baltimore, MD

Contract Status: Signed through 2018

M.L. Service: Is entering his 21st season as a manager in professional baseball in 2014, his 16th season as a manager in the major leagues and his fifth as manager of the Orioles.

MANAGERIAL/COACHING CAREER

A two-time Manager of the Year (1994 and 2004), Buck Showalter enters his fifth season with the Orioles with 1,163 career wins, third most among active major league managers and 43rd all-time. In his managerial career, Showalter is 1,163-1,095 in 15 seasons as manager of the New York Yankees (313-268; 1992-1995), Arizona Diamondbacks (250-236; 1998-2000), Texas Rangers (319-329; 2003-06) and Orioles (281-262; 2010-Current). He recorded his 1,000th career win on May 1, 2012 at New York. On January 16, 2013, the Orioles announced a contract extension for Showalter through 2018.

Showalter was hired as the 19th manager in Orioles history on July 29, 2010 and took the helm on August 2, directing the club to a 34-23 finish, the second-best record in the AL over the last 57 games behind Minnesota's 35-22 finish. Showalter became the first manager since 1900 to take over a team on August 1 or later and win more games the rest of the way (34) than the club won before he took over (32). He is also the first manager in major league history to win seven of his first eight games after taking over a team in mid-season that was 20 or more games under .500.

In 2012, Showalter led the Orioles to a 24-game improvement (69 wins in 2011 to 93 in 2012) and the American League Division Series, where they fell to the New York Yankees, three games to two. The Orioles and Rangers reached the postseason in 2012 as the two Wild Card teams and met in a one-game playoff in Arlington to determine the Wild Card team for the Division Series round. The Orioles advanced with a 5-1 win. Following the season, Showalter was named The Sporting News' 2012 AL Manager of the Year and was awarded the C.I. Taylor Legacy Award by the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum as the top AL manager.

Showalter spent the first 19 years of his professional baseball career in the New York Yankees organization, culminating in a four-year stint as manager from 1992-95. In 1994 Showalter earned AL Manager of the Year honors, guiding New York to a 70-43 record before the strike ended the season prematurely. The next season, he led the Yankees to their first playoff berth in 14 years and managed the American League All-Star team. He was the youngest manager in the major leagues in each of his four seasons in New York.

In November 1995, Showalter joined the Arizona Diamondbacks, 28 months before the expansion franchise began play, and helped shape the new team's major league operations. In 1999, he guided the Diamondbacks to a 100-win season and the NL West division title, an improvement of 35 victories over the previous season, the most in major league history.

Showalter joined the Texas Rangers prior to the 2003 season and, in 2004, led the club to an 18-win improvement over the previous year, earning his second Manager of the Year honor.

Showalter's managerial career began in 1985 with the Oneonta Yankees. He managed for five seasons in the Yankees minor league system, earning Eastern League Minor League Manager of the Year honors in 1989, prior to joining the major league coaching staff in 1990.

Texas: Ranks fourth on the Rangers all-time manager's win list with 319...Only Ron Washington (611), Bobby Valentine (581) and Johnny Oates (506) have more wins as the Rangers skipper...Named the BBWAA's American League Manager of the Year in 2004 after guiding the Rangers to an 89-73 record, leading a team that was not eliminated from playoff contention until the final week of the season...Piloted the club to a third place finish in the AL West, just 3.0 games behind division champion Anaheim...Texas' 89 victories marked an 18-win improvement over its 2003 finish, matching the third-largest increase between two seasons in Rangers history...Named the 2004 The Sporting News AL Co-Manager of the Year, winning that award for the second time (also 1994)...Tied with the Twins' Ron Gardenhire for The Sporting News award in 2004...Was appointed as the 16th full time manager in club history on October 11, 2002, signing a 4-year contract.

Arizona: Guided the Diamondbacks to a 250-236 (.514) record from 1998-2000, the franchise's first three seasons in the National League...2000: Arizona led the NL West for first four months before finishing third at 85-77, 12 games behind San Francisco...1999: Guided the Diamondbacks to the NL West title with a 100-62 record, 14 games ahead of San Francisco...Marked the first time that an expansion team had ever won a division title in as few as two years...Increase of 35

victories from 1998 represented the biggest improvement in major league history... Diamondbacks won 51 of final 68 games... Arizona lost in four games to the New York Mets in the NL Division Series... 1998: In its inaugural season, Arizona was 65-97, the fourth most wins ever for an expansion club in its first year... Won seven consecutive contests, August 28-September 4, tying the 1961 Los Angeles Angels for longest winning streak ever for an expansion team... Joined the Arizona organization as its first manager on November 15, 1995, 28 months before the NL expansion club began play... During that period was instrumental in the formation of Arizona's major league operation and was heavily involved in the scouting of major and minor league talent.

New York Yankees: Had a 313-268 record (.539) in four seasons as New York's manager... At that time was the longest consecutive tenure for a Yankees skipper since Ralph Houk managed from 1966-73... Was the major leagues' youngest manager in each of his four seasons at New York... 1995: Yankees earned their first postseason appearance since 1981, winning the AL Wild Card with a 78-66 record, second in the East, seven games behind Boston... New York won nine of final 10 games to earn playoff berth... Won first two games of AL Division Series versus Seattle before dropping final three contests in the Kingdome... Managed the AL squad in the July 11 All-Star Game at Rangers Ballpark in Arlington, losing to the NL, 3-2... 1994: Guided Yankees to 70-43 record, a .619 winning percentage that ranked as second best in the majors at time of players' strike on August 12... Had a 6.5 game lead in AL East, biggest advantage of any division... Won his 200th game as a Yankee on June 13 in Baltimore at the age of 38, second youngest New York skipper to reach that milestone behind Clark Griffith at age 35 in 1905... Selected as the AL Manager of the Year by the Baseball Writers Association of America and *The Sporting News*... 1993: New York finished second in AL East at 88-74, 7 games behind Toronto and a 13-game improvement from 1992... Finished second in AL BBWAA Manager of the Year balloting behind Chicago's Gene Lamont... 1992: Appointed as the 30th Yankees manager on October 29, 1991 at age 35, the club's youngest skipper since Roger Peckinpaugh (23) in 1914... New York went 76-86, a 5-game improvement from 1991 and had second best start in team history at 6-0... Served as a coach for Tom Kelly in the All-Star Game at San Diego, the first Yankee manager to achieve that distinction since Houk in 1970.

New York Organization: Spent the first 19 seasons of his pro career in the Yankees organization... Was on New York's major league coaching staff for two seasons, serving as team's "eye in the sky coach" for the first half of 1990 and as third base coach from June 6, 1990 through 1991... Compiled a 360-207 record in five seasons as a minor league manager from 1985-1989 with four first place finishes... Had a 14-4 record in postseason play, winning league championships at Oneonta (New York-Penn) in 1985, Fort Lauderdale (Florida State) in 1987, and Albany-Colonie (Eastern) in 1989... Eastern League Manager of the Year in 1989 as Albany-Colonie won 92 games, most for a Yankee farm club since 1980... Oneonta established New York-Penn League records for victories in both 1985 (55) and 1986 (59)... Served as third base coach at Fort Lauderdale in 1984.

PLAYING CAREER

A fifth-round selection by the Yankees in the 1977 draft, he spent seven seasons as first baseman-outfielder in Yankees minor league system from 1977-83 with a career .294 average... Led Southern League in hits (152) at Nashville in 1982... Was a teammate of Don Mattingly at Nashville in 1981... Also topped SL in hits (178, a league record that still stands) and finished second in average (.324) in 1980, when Nashville won a league record 97 games... Teammates that year included future major leaguers Steve Balboni, Tom Filer, Andy McGaffigan, Willie McGee, Rafael Santana and Pat Tabler.

AMATEUR BACKGROUND

Earned First Team All-America honors in 1977 in his only season at Mississippi State University, where he established a still-standing school record for batting average (.459) and a then team mark for RBI (44)... Was an All-American in 1976 at Chipola Junior College in Marianna, FL... Had his jersey retired at Chipola on February 5, 2011... Played for Hyannis in Cape Cod League in summer of 1976, batting .434 to break Thurman Munson's league record... The .434 mark is still the highest in Cape Cod League history... Was elected to the Cape Cod League Hall of Fame in 2002... Played baseball, basketball and football at Century, FL HS (graduated '74).

PERSONAL/MISCELLANEOUS

After wearing #11 in his previous managerial stints, switched to #26 after joining the Orioles to honor the late O's player and manager Johnny Oates... Prior to joining the Orioles, and during the 2001 and 2002 seasons, Showalter worked for ESPN as a regular studio analyst on Baseball Tonight and an analyst on ESPN's television and radio broadcasts. He also worked the 2002 Arizona-St. Louis Division Series games for ESPN Radio... Graduated from Mississippi State University with a B.S. in education in 1979... Buck's father, the late William Nathaniel II was an All-American fullback at Milligan College in Tennessee and then served as principal at Century High School for 23 years... Was called "Nat" throughout his youth before acquiring nickname "Buck" from Ed Napoleon, his manager at Fort Lauderdale in 1977... Buck and his wife, Angela, were married on March 5, 1983, and have two children... Their daughter, Allie St. Clair Showalter Robinson, was born January 30, 1987, and married Andrew Robinson in 2013... She is a law student at Southern Methodist University... Their son, William Nathaniel IV (Nathan), was born December 17, 1991, and is a student at Texas Christian University.