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Hall of Fame Sportswriter to Open Legendary Baltimore Pit Beef Franchise

Philadelphia, PA **July 16, 2019** Famous Chaps Pit Beef and its unique brand of barbecue is moving into the Philadelphia area with a <u>new franchise</u> opening in the Delaware County in Fall of 2019 by National Baseball Hall of Fame sportswriter Paul Hagen.

Recently named the "The Best Sandwich in Maryland" by People magazine, Famous Chaps Pit Beef has been a Baltimore, MD staple since 1987. Since then, Chaps has been featured multiple times on the Food Network, Travel Channel and within countless national publications. Today their take on pit beef is nationally known as people travel from all over the country just to get a taste.

Soon BBQ lovers in the Philadelphia area will be able to enjoy Famous Chaps signature pit beef sand-wiches closer to home, courtesy of longtime Philadelphia Phillies and former mlb.com sportswriter, Paul Hagen.

Hagen first discovered Chaps Pit Beef while covering the Phillies and Major League Baseball for the Philadelphia Daily News. At this time, road trips to Washington, D.C. and Baltimore were frequent.

It was during one of these road trips that fellow Phillies sportswriter, Jim Salisbury, mentioned seeing a profile of a Baltimore BBQ sandwich spot called Chaps on the Food Network's "Diners, Drive-Ins & Dives". They stopped in for a taste and both immediately loved it!

Ever since, Hagen has continued to enjoy Chaps Pit Beef whenever he could get to Baltimore or Aberdeen, MD, finding joy in introducing it to family and friends.

Hagen, who joined MLB.com in 2011, was awarded the J.G. Taylor Spink Award by the Baseball Writers' Association of America in 2013 at the annual National Baseball Hall of Fame awards presentation in Cooperstown, New York. He now contributes a weekly column to Philly Voice.

But after he stopped writing full time in January, 2018, he began to think about what the next chapter of his life would look like. It didn't take long for him to decide that he wanted to start his own business. Opening a Chaps BBQ franchise was the logical option.

"Chaps was the only business I seriously considered. Not only do I love the product, but everyone I introduced it to loved it," he said recently when asked why he choose to invest in a Chaps franchise. "Chaps has been incredibly supportive from the very first conversations, through the franchise and loan application process and beyond."

Hagen's new Chaps Pit Beef franchise will be located at 1067 W Baltimore Pike in Media, PA, a newly developing area at the site of the old Granite Run Mall across the street from Riddle Hospital. It will be located next to what was the old Riddle Ale House, a local favorite roast beef sandwich spot. So now old Riddle Ale House fans can get an even better beef sandwich experience at Famous Chaps Pit Beef.

"Chaps is very unique for the Philly area. There is nothing else like it here. That is what I am excited about," he said.

For more information on this and other Chaps franchises, visit https://chapspitbeef.com/bbq-franchise-locations/