

INDUCTION 2023 | VOLUME 45 | NUMBER 4

Memories *and Dreams*



COMMEMORATIVE HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY PROGRAM ★ JULY 21-24, 2023



THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

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Memories and Dreams

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE HALL OF FAME

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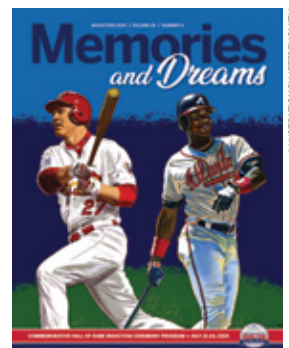


ILLUSTRATION BY JEFFREY SMITH

ON THE COVER

With their July 23 induction into the National Baseball Hall of Fame, Scott Rolen (left) and Fred McGriff are now officially part of baseball's greatest team.



The video has been watched millions of times. Scott Rolen, walking into his parents' kitchen to tell them he was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame. If you have not yet seen it, do yourself a favor and Google it now. The reaction from his mom and dad sums up the emotions that any parent who has ever supported their child feels when they accomplish their dreams, and the Rolens are no different. As it has for more than eight decades, this institution continues to connect generations like none other.

At this year's Hall of Fame Weekend, we saw thousands of grandparents, parents and kids walking through the streets of Cooperstown as we honored the excellence of Rolen and Fred McGriff, two of the most universally respected players of their generation. For proof, just take note of all the former teammates who made their way to the ceremony to pay tribute to the Class of 2023.

That does not even include the dais, where Fred was surrounded by many of his friends. He now joins six other members of the 1990s Atlanta Braves dynasty as Hall of Famers: Manager Bobby Cox, Tom Glavine, Chipper Jones, Greg Maddux, general manager John Schuerholz and John Smoltz.

As the parade rolled down Main Street on the night before Induction, you were guaranteed to see Fred flashing his signature giant grin with throngs of fans waving and celebrating alongside him. Scott — always a bit less animated — was still loving every minute of it. It was a far cry from the winter visits in February and March, when these two legends came to our cozy village for their respective orientations for an opportunity to get to know Cooperstown and the Hall of Fame before their big day.

Fred and his wife, Veronica, arrived just



MARY DEICCO/MLB PHOTOS

Scott Rolen was inducted into the Hall of Fame on July 23 in Cooperstown.

as the snow began to fall. The picturesque scene inspired the Florida natives to break out their phones and capture the moment from the veranda of the famous Otesaga Resort Hotel. As those who have visited Cooperstown in the offseason know, this place is truly beautiful year 'round.

Just a few weeks earlier, Scott and his wife, Nikki, and their kids, Raine and Finn, took our customary tour of the Museum to get an understanding of what takes place inside the walls of 25 Main Street. After the family returned to their hotel, Scott decided he wanted to wander the streets on his own. He happened upon our local watering hole, Cooley's, where he was able to sit at the bar, completely unrecognized, listening to fans around him talk about baseball.

Those conversations were ubiquitous during Hall of Fame Weekend, as they are every day here in baseball heaven. Visitors to Cooperstown this summer will encounter several new things, including the Personalize Your Plaque interactive on the first floor and Randy Johnson's first-ever solo photography exhibit at the Fenimore Art Museum down the street, featuring photos from his numerous trips to Africa.

Also making headlines this year are the Savannah Bananas, who are playing in Cooperstown in September; and the USS Cooperstown, the Navy's 23rd littoral combat ship, which was officially commissioned in May and is named for the 70 Hall of Famers who stepped away from their baseball careers to fight for our country during wartime. While visitors will not actually have the chance to see the ship in Central New York — it is currently stationed at Mayport, Fla. — we were able to make the interior of it feel like the Hall of Fame, with each sailor's state room door featuring a replica plaque of a baseball military hero. We even installed a small artifact exhibit and signs, quotes and photos on board to educate those who serve about the ship's namesake while maintaining our unique connection to the crew.

Scott's father, Ed, is a Navy veteran, and the family was really looking forward to joining Johnny Bench and Joe Torre at the ship's commissioning at Pier 88 in Manhattan. Unfortunately, Mr. Rolen fell ill shortly before the big day and was unable to make it, but a memento of the ceremony is headed his way.

On the night before the USS Cooperstown officially became a part of our nation's fleet, the Secretary of the Navy, Carlos Del Toro, handed me a challenge coin to give to Lieutenant Junior Grade Rolen the next time I saw him. I cannot wait to do so just as he enters the Hall of Fame for the first time, sees his son's plaque hanging on the wall and confirms what he surely already knows: That the sacrifices he has made, both as a parent and during his time on the USS Valcour and the USS Aggressive, have been well worth it.

With my deepest gratitude,

Short Hops

FOR MORE BASEBALL INFORMATION AND NEWS FROM THE HALL OF FAME, VISIT BASEBALLHALL.ORG.

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TRIO HONORED AT AWARDS PRESENTATION

Carl Erskine, Pat Hughes and John Lowe were honored at the Hall of Fame's annual *Awards Presentation* on Saturday, July 22.

Erskine became the sixth winner of the Buck O'Neil Lifetime Achievement Award, which is given to an individual whose efforts broadened the game's appeal and whose character, integrity and dignity is comparable to O'Neil, who passed away in 2006 after eight decades of contributions to the game and was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2022.

As a standout pitcher for the Brooklyn and Los Angeles Dodgers from 1948 to 1959, Erskine racked up 122 wins, two World Series championships and two no-hitters.

After his playing career ended, he returned to his hometown of Anderson, Ind., and was the baseball coach at Anderson College for 12 years. With more than four decades as a volunteer, he was awarded Special Olympics' highest honor, the Spirit of the Special Olympics. Erskine was also a charter member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the Baseball Assistance Team.

Hughes received the 2023 Ford C. Frick Award for broadcasters. The Chicago Cubs' radio play-by-play voice for more than a quarter century, he is a nine-time winner of the Illinois Sportscaster of the Year Award and was the recipient of three straight Wisconsin Sportscaster of the Year Awards (1990-92). Among the more than 6,000 MLB games he has called are eight no-hitters, the 25-inning White Sox vs. Brewers contest from 1984 that is the longest game in AL history and Kerry Wood's 20-strikeout game in 1998.

Lowe, the 2023 winner of the Baseball Writers' Association of America Career Excellence Award, covered games from 1979 until 2014, the last 28 of those years as the Tigers beat writer for the *Detroit Free Press*. During his tenure there, he was credited with creating the Quality Start stat for pitchers that remains a measuring stick. Lowe covered more than 300 postseason games, including 147 World Series contests. He also chronicled Cal Ripken Jr. breaking Lou Gehrig's consecutive games played record in 1995 and the culmination of 1998's Mark McGwire-Sammy Sosa home run chase.

STAFF SELECTIONS



JASON SCHIELLACK/NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

Name: Amanda Taylor

Position: Manager of Membership & Visitor Services

Hall of Fame Debut: May 2022

Hometown: Chapel Hill, N.C.

Favorite Museum Artifact:

Ty Cobb sweater: I like this object because Ty Cobb is one of my favorite players and it's such an unexpected object for today's fan as it's not something immediately or currently associated with the game, such as a glove, bat or ball. Artifacts like this also speak to the history of baseball and the country itself and show changing fashions in baseball gear and the textile industry.

Memorable Museum Moment:

My most memorable Museum moments have come from meeting and speaking with Members. It's fascinating to learn each person's story, everything from meeting Ted Williams outside Fenway Park to building their own baseball field in their front yard to their memory of purchasing their first membership to the Hall of Fame.

CORRECTIONS

- Don Newcombe was misidentified in the "Proof of Arrival" story in the summer 2023 issue of *Memories and Dreams*.
- Reggie Jackson's World Series-winning teams were misidentified in the summer 2023 issue of *Memories and Dreams*.

MEMORIAL AND HONORARY GIFTS

THANK YOU to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum donors for their recent gifts to support our mission to preserve history, honor excellence and connect generations. Memorial and honorary gifts are listed below.

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Welcome to Induction Weekend

Sunday, July 23, 1:30 p.m.
Clark Sports Center

Introduction of Hall of Fame Members
Brian Kenny

Hall of Fame Welcome
Jane Forbes Clark,
Board Chairman, National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum

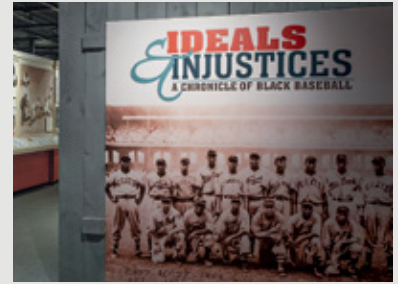
Recognition of 2023 Award Winners
Carl Erskine
Pat Hughes
John Lowe

Class of 2023 Inductions
Fred McGriff
Scott Rolen

Plaque Readings
Robert D. Manfred Jr.,
Commissioner, Major League Baseball

DON'T MISS OUT

A visit to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum completes every trip to Cooperstown. As always, fans can see the latest treasures from the current season and experience the thrills of the iconic Plaque Gallery. Please visit the Museum, which is open until a special time of 9 p.m. on Sunday, July 23. The Museum maintains daily hours of 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. through the day before Labor Day.



Ideals and Injustices exhibit, which will be replaced in 2024 by the new *Souls of the Game* exhibit



One for the Books exhibit



Shoobox Treasures exhibit

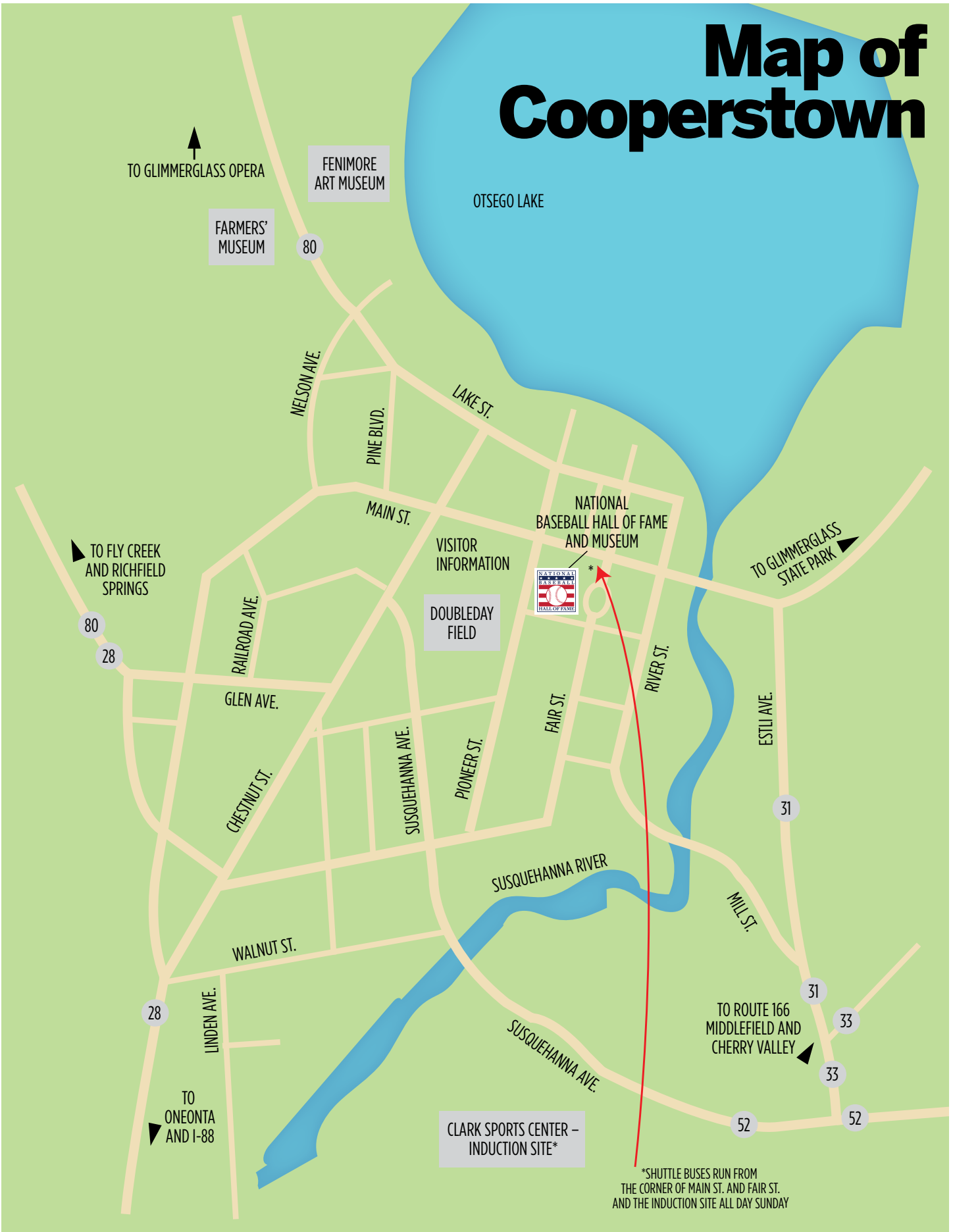
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Year-Round: Arizona Diamondbacks, Atlanta Braves, Baltimore Orioles, Baseball Digest, Big League Chew, Boeing, Boston Red Sox, The Allan G. Byer Family Foundation, Chicago Cubs, Chicago White Sox, Cincinnati Reds, Cleveland Guardians, Colorado Rockies, Cooperstown Chamber of Commerce, Cooperstown GetAway, Destination Marketing Corporation for Otsego County, Detroit Tigers, Fernleigh Foundation, Fiserv, The Marc Haas Foundation, Houston Astros, Kansas City Royals, Lily Transportation, Los Angeles Angels, Los Angeles Dodgers, Major League Baseball, Miami Marlins, Milwaukee Brewers, Minnesota Twins, Morgan Stanley, NBT Bank, New Era Cap Company, New York Mets, New York State Department of Economic Development, New York State Tourism, New York Yankees, Oakland A's, Philadelphia Phillies, Pittsburgh Pirates, Rawlings Sporting Goods, St. Louis Cardinals, San Diego Padres, San Francisco Giants, Seattle Mariners, Scriven Foundation, Seidler Family Foundation, Tampa Bay Rays, Texas Rangers, The Tianaderrah Foundation, Toronto Blue Jays, Tull Family Foundation, UltraPRO International, Washington Nationals, The Yawkey Foundation.

Map of Cooperstown



*SHUTTLE BUSES RUN FROM THE CORNER OF MAIN ST. AND FAIR ST. AND THE INDUCTION SITE ALL DAY SUNDAY

Moonlighting Becomes Them

GREAT AS THEY WERE AS PLAYERS, MANY HALL OF FAMERS ALSO LED RICH LIVES AWAY FROM THE DIAMOND.

By Steve Wulf

HOLDING DOWN TWO PASTIMES CAN BE DIFFICULT. Take the situation Hall of Fame pitcher Waite Hoyt found himself in one summer day in the early 1920s. He had to start a game for the New York Yankees, but he had also promised his father-in-law, Harry Pyle, that he would deliver a cadaver to Pyle's funeral home in Brooklyn. So Hoyt picked up the body in a hearse, parked it at the Polo Grounds, pitched a shutout and then dropped off his passenger. According to William A. Cook, author of "Waite Hoyt: A Biography of the Yankees' Schoolboy Wonder":

"By the time he finally delivered the corpse to Pyle later in the day, it had started to take on a rather nauseating odor. Pyle was beside himself and livid."

Despite the *faux pas*, Hoyt was intent on learning the funeral business, so much so that he would take textbooks on embalming out to the Yankees bullpen to study for the exam necessary to become a mortician. Eventually, he opened his own funeral home in Larchmont, N.Y. (The building now houses a very upscale restaurant.)

Hoyt was a man who felt comfortable in many different worlds. At one point, he was juggling *three* jobs. His father was a vaudeville performer, and so was Waite, who had a fine singing voice and once shared a bill at New York's Palace Theatre with Jimmy Durante. The great sportswriter Tom Meany quoted Hoyt as saying, "I'm knocking 'em dead on 7th Avenue while my partner is laying 'em out in Westchester."

As unique a man as Hoyt was, he was hardly the only major leaguer who did a little

moonlighting. Baseball owners tended to play their own brand of hardball, so players often needed another source of income. Take the trio immortalized by Franklin P. Adams in his 1910 poem, "That Double Play Again." The verse starts out, "These are the saddest of possible words: Tinker to Evers to Chance." As it ended up, shortstop Joe Tinker (appropriately enough) made metal plates back home in Kansas in the offseason, second baseman Johnny Evers owned a shoe store in Troy, N.Y., and first baseman Frank Chance tended to his orange groves in Glendora, Calif.

While the words on the plaques in the Hall of Fame Plaque Gallery capture the greatness of the faces above them, there isn't room to do justice to their lives far from the diamond and wide of the strike zone. The array of second callings is dizzying, and it speaks to their depths of character and mind. Pitcher Eppa Rixey taught Latin and wrote poetry. Catcher Roger Bresnahan was

a hotel detective. Pitcher Monte Ward and shortstop Hughie Jennings were lawyers. Sam Crawford had a barbershop, John McGraw ran a billiards parlor and Christy Mathewson owned an apartment house. Pitcher Jesse Haines was a tax assessor. First baseman Jim Bottomley raised cattle. Walter Johnson was a pig farmer. Ty Cobb sold those new-fangled things called automobiles.

Then there were the vaudevillians. King Kelly trod the boards performing "Casey At The Bat." Pitcher Rube Marquard appeared in theaters alongside his equally famous wife, Blossom Seeley. Cap Anson would take a bow on stage as his daughters curtsied. Charles Bender, Cobb, McGraw, Mathewson, Tinker...the cast goes on and on.

After the 1926 season, Babe Ruth signed up for a 12-week, 14-city vaudeville tour. He told stories and gamely took part in comedy skits and musical numbers. One critic from *The New York Times* wrote, "Ruth has a good stage presence, a winning smile and gets away with the singing part."

As for the man who batted behind the Babe, Lou Gehrig starred in a 1938 movie called *Rawhide*. In the plot, Gehrig plays himself after he quits the Yankees to start a new life on a cattle ranch. Even though he had never been on a horse before, he rides to the rescue of a group of ranchers who are being preyed upon by a protection racket. The movie premiered in St. Petersburg



Lou Gehrig parlayed his baseball stardom into a role on the big screen, starring in the 1938 film *Rawhide*.

during Spring Training before Gehrig's last full season and features the song "When A Cowboy Goes To Town," written by Albert von Tilzer, the composer behind "Take Me Out To The Ball Game."

Gehrig knew far more about dogs than he did about horses, which is why he entered

a German shepherd, Afra of Cosalta, in the 1933 Westminster Dog Show. She finished second in the Open Bitch Competition and garnered this description: "A large, agile, muscular dog of noble character and high intelligence." The judges could've been describing her owner.



Yogi Berra is among the many Hall of Famers who have worked offseason jobs. He was a greeter at a restaurant, a salesman at a men's clothing store and later opened a bowling alley with Phil Rizzuto.

They call it home plate for a reason.

Over the years, the restaurant business has attracted several Hall of Famers. In 1937, Joe DiMaggio and his brothers decided to open a restaurant on Fisherman's Wharf called Joe DiMaggio's Grotto, and it featured a huge electric sign depicting Joe in his batting stance.

St. Louis native Yogi Berra used to work at Biggies on The Hill as a greeter — it's where he met his future wife, Carmen. The restaurant was renamed Stan Musial & Biggies when the Cardinals great became the partner of Julius "Biggie" Garagnani in 1949. Musial threw himself into his new line of work, greeting patrons, signing autographed pictures (as many as 2,000 in a year), inspecting meats and keeping regular office hours.

Cubs Hall of Fame third baseman Ron Santo opened a pizzeria in Park Ridge, Ill., in 1961, using his mother's recipe, and saw it grow into a chain of seven restaurants and a regular food stand at Wrigley Field. Mickey Mantle's opened on Central Park South in New York City in 1988, and such was the power of the name, it stayed in business until 2012, 17 years after The Mick's passing.

"What's in a name?" Shakespeare asked in *Romeo and Juliet*. Customers is one answer.

That's why the American Shops in Newark, N.J., employed Berra and Phil Rizzuto to sell men's clothing in the offseason, and why they opened a bowling alley together in Clifton, N.J.

In the offseason after winning the 1949 MVP Award, Jackie Robinson sold television sets at the Sunshine Appliance Store in Rego

Tom Seaver became a grape producer after retiring from baseball. One of many Hall of Famers whose passions extended beyond the diamond, Seaver's grapes led to award-winning wines.



Andre Dawson was elected to the Hall of Fame in 2010 following a big league career during which he was known for his contributions to the community. Dawson has continued to serve his neighbors following his playing days as a funeral director in South Florida.

Park, Queens. As the store owner, Joseph Rudnick, told *The New Yorker*, “He’s a natural salesman with a natural modesty that appeals to buyers.” Among those buyers were boxing champs Joe Louis and Sugar Ray Robinson.

Quite frankly, baseball players were underpaid back then. That’s why New York Mets pitcher Nolan Ryan installed air conditioning units after his rookie season. And why, a week after outdueling Sandy Koufax in Game 2 of the 1966 World Series, 20-year-old Jim Palmer was selling suits and signing autographs at Hamburger’s, a men’s clothing store in Baltimore.

Deliverance for the players came in the person of Marvin Miller, who took over as the executive director of the Players Association in 1966 and negotiated an agreement with the owners that raised the yearly major league minimum from \$7,000 to \$10,000. Among the player representatives who recruited Miller was Phillies Hall of Fame pitcher Jim Bunning. When Bunning retired after the 1971 season, he had 2,855 strikeouts, second only to Walter Johnson’s 3,509. But then he did something that the Big Train was unable to do. While Johnson failed in his 1940 attempt to be elected to the House of Representatives, Bunning won his 1986 Congressional race in Kentucky’s Fourth District. Afterwards, he said, “I loved baseball, and I’m grateful for the name recognition it gave me. But I don’t want to be autographing balls on my way to a vote in the House.”

Bunning’s political career included six terms in Congress and two terms in the United States Senate. In baseball, that’s called going the distance.

That new-found financial freedom saved major leaguers from having to parlay their fame during the offseason. Still, some Hall of Famers felt the need to express themselves in other ways.

While Lou Brock was chasing Ty Cobb’s stolen base records, he was also taking a healthy lead in the business world. For one thing, he owned a florist shop in the Clayton area of St. Louis known simply as The Flower Shop. When asked what he knew about flowers, Brock responded, “Did anybody ask Rockefeller why he went into the oil business?” He also owned Lu-Wan Enterprises, named for his children Lou Jr. and Wanda, that produced the BroccaBrella, a headband from which a miniature red-and-white umbrella springs to protect its wearer from sun and rain. The great *Sports Illustrated* writer Ron Fimrite quoted Brock as saying, “We have taken a concept that first appeared in 1879, and we’ve spent two years researching and redesigning it.” It caught on for a while, especially in St. Louis. One recently sold on eBay for \$49.99.

Far more expensive is a 2019 vintage bottle of GTS Cabernet Sauvignon, which goes for \$379. The GTS stands for George Thomas Seaver, the Hall of Fame pitcher who passed away in 2020. Several years before, then-Hall of Fame President Jeff

Idelson visited Tom and his wife, Nancy, at their vineyard in the Diamond Mountain area of Napa Valley. Tom, whose father was a raisin farmer, told Jeff: “This was a natural career change for me. It is so much like a baseball season. You prepare in the spring, maintain and grow diligently every day during the summer months with the goal of a great fall harvest. The similarities are fascinating.”

The Montreal Expos had high hopes for Randy Johnson when they selected the USC pitcher in the second round of the 1985 draft. But nobody could have predicted just how great The Big Unit would be: Five Cy Young Awards, 4,875 strikeouts and 303 victories in a 22-year career.

It was only after he retired in 2010 that Johnson could unleash his potential in another area entirely: Photography. His passion for photojournalism began at Southern Cal, where he shot for the student newspaper, and also took him to Cooperstown. His work is currently on display at the Fenimore Art Museum, just a few blocks from the Hall of Fame, in an exhibit entitled *Randy Johnson: Storytelling With Photographs*.

The show, devoted to Johnson’s four trips to Africa, is filled with strikingly beautiful portraits of the silverback gorillas in Rwanda, the people of Ethiopia and the great herd migrations of Eastern Africa. “I’m not a great photographer, and I never said I was,” Johnson said. “I’m just trying to make people happy. It’s just a passion.”

The tallest member of the Hall of Fame then added, “I was a late bloomer in baseball. Hopefully, that will be the same thing with my photography.”

Ashes to ashes. When the owner of the Paradise Memorial Funeral Home in Miami hears the story of Waite Hoyt driving a hearse to a game he was about to pitch, he laughs and says, “Oh my! I tell my hearse drivers not to stop for anything out of the ordinary, like a McDonald’s. But it’s nice to know that another Hall of Famer did what I do.”

Andre Dawson is hardly “The Merry Mortician” that Hoyt was. Yet he brings the same dedication and work ethic to the funeral business that he brought to his Hall of Fame baseball career — his resumé includes eight Gold Gloves, eight All-Star Games and the 1987 NL MVP Award. But when people first learn of his second calling, they’re a little surprised. When he told fellow Hall of Famer Jim Rice what he was doing with his life, Rice responded, “You do what?”

“Paradise kind of fell into my lap,” he said. Thirteen years ago, his brother and two uncles convinced Dawson, a deeply religious man, to take over a funeral home that was important to the community but had fallen on hard times. Together with his wife, Vanessa, Dawson has been comforting families ever since. “The first time I ever drove a hearse,” he said, “it was for the funeral of a dear friend’s mother. The whole ride I talked to her in the coffin, promising her a smooth ride.”

Occasionally, baseball does come up. Dawson recalls meeting a young man, who asked him as he was taking a body out of a house, “Are you who I think you are?”

“Well, who do you think I am?”

“You’re The Hawk!” the young man replied. Then he went into the house and came back out with a photo of himself as a boy at a Marlins game, standing next to Dawson.

“I feel God placed me here for a reason,” Dawson said. “I’ve felt the loss these families feel, so I know how important it is that their loved ones get a proper farewell. It truly is my second calling.”

Many Hall of Famers have become broadcasters, and in a way, they have Waite Hoyt to thank for that, too. As the voice of the Cincinnati Reds for 24 years, he was the first inductee to make a name for himself behind a mic. And when he wasn’t calling games, Hoyt could often be found behind an easel. His painting, *Retired*, is in the Hall of Fame’s art collection.

Other members of the exclusive club have achieved immortality in different ways: You can still buy a car at George Kell Motors in Newport, Ark., or knock down some pins at Nellie Fox Bowl in Chambersburg, Pa. For all we know, the descendants of the trotting horses Elmer Flick bred and raised in Bedford, Ohio, are still racing.

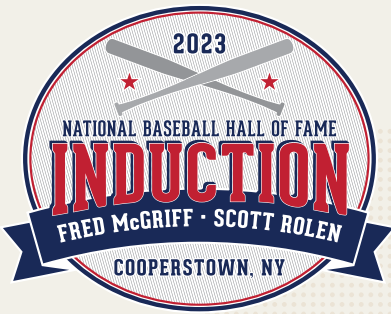
Then there’s Ernie Banks, who was an ordained minister, an unsuccessful candidate for alderman, the owner of a gas station and a Ford dealership, a spokesman for Seaway National Bank and New World Van Lines, and a member of the board of the Chicago Transit Authority from 1968 until 1981.

As he used to say, “Let’s Play Two.” 🏆

Steve Wulf is a freelance writer from Larchmont, N.Y.



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Fired Up

FRED McGRIFF'S TRADE TO THE BRAVES IN 1993 SET ABLAZE
ONE OF BASEBALL'S GREATEST PENNANT RACES.

By Terence Moore

IN EARLY JUNE 1993, when the San Diego Padres were plunging in the standings of the National League West even faster than the Braves, Tony Gwynn turned to a reporter in the visiting dugout of Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium with wide eyes.

He was the perennial Gold Glove Award-winning right fielder, owner of batting titles and eternal leader of the Padres, and he had a question that kept gnawing at his Baseball Hall of Fame psyche.

“Why haven’t the Braves pulled the trigger to get Fred McGriff?” said Gwynn, referring to a couple of things: The Braves needed an offensive jolt since they spent the opening two months of the season sputtering at the plate despite a lineup of accomplished hitters, and Padres officials were making regular deals to send away their top players.

According to Gwynn, that included McGriff, a 29-year-old first baseman who already owned two of his three Silver Slugger Awards and who also had the rare distinction of leading the American League (1989) and the National League (1992) in home runs.

“If the Braves add Fred to that lineup, it will be nitro,” said Gwynn, his eyes growing wider, and he became prophetic in several ways.

Slightly more than a month later — on July 15, 1993 — the Braves pulled one of the biggest heists in Major League Baseball history by swapping three minor leaguers for McGriff. Unlike Gwynn, the man of the moment was shocked by it all. McGriff laughed with the memory in late spring of 2023 with his Hall of Fame ceremony on the horizon. Then he said: “Even though I didn’t have any idea I might be traded to the Braves, that doesn’t surprise me about Tony. He knew a lot of stuff.”

Take Gwynn’s “nitro” prediction, for instance.

On the day McGriff officially arrived with the Braves, July 20, six suites burst into flames at Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium during batting practice for the hometown team. Courtesy of fire trucks responding to the four-alarm blaze — combined with a pitch smoked over the left-center field wall by McGriff for a two-run homer in the bottom of the sixth inning against the St. Louis Cardinals — “nitro” was the operative word for the evening. The Braves eventually surged to a come-from-behind victory, and they remained an inferno for the rest of the regular season.

McGriff’s bat sizzled the most. The Braves were nine games behind the NL West-leading Giants when McGriff arrived, but by the end of the season they had taken over the division with 104 victories — earning entry into the National League Championship Series. In contrast, the Giants left for an early vacation despite 103 wins during those pre-Wild Card days of Major League Baseball. The Braves were so exhausted from what sports historians soon labeled “The Last Great Pennant Race” that they didn’t reach the World Series after dropping the NLCS to the Philadelphia Phillies. That still didn’t damage memories of the Braves’ McGriff-inspired miracle.

In 255 at-bats with the Braves, McGriff hit .310, ripped 19 of his 37 home runs for the season and collected 55 of his 101 RBI. The majority of his numbers came when the Braves needed them the most.

“I think when Freddie got there, it put us on such an elite level offensively that it kind of matched our pitching,” said John Smoltz, who joined Greg Maddux and Tom Glavine in the Braves’ starting rotation back then as Cy Young Award winners on the way to the Baseball Hall of Fame. “Freddie was the biggest part of that turnaround on offense compared to where we were during the earlier part of that season. He made everybody else in the lineup better, and just those other hitters being in the presence of Fred McGriff. That was singlehandedly one of the biggest moves we ever made.”

Smoltz’s Braves had several bigger-than-big moves throughout their major league-record string of 14 consecutive division titles. The streak began in 1991 when they acquired future NL Most Valuable Player Terry Pendleton during the offseason as a free agent. Then it continued the next season and threatened to last forever after they signed Maddux as a free agent before the 1993 campaign. Even so, the streak nearly was crushed by weak hitting through late spring before “nitro” arrived as a left-handed master of producing line drives and home runs at 6-foot-3 and 200 pounds.

Braves slugger David Justice benefited the most from those additional line drives and home runs. Just like that, with McGriff batting fourth to his fifth, the previously slumping Justice ended the season with 40 home runs and 120 RBI. He also won a Silver Slugger Award and



When Fred McGriff joined the Braves in the middle of the 1993 season, he immediately gave the team's offense a much-needed jolt. He batted .310 and blasted 19 home runs across 68 games, keying Atlanta's climb from a nine-game deficit to win the National League West.

finished third in NL Most Valuable Player voting.

"Getting Freddie, I felt like he was solid at first base, so I knew we wouldn't have a problem there," said Justice of McGriff, who replaced Sid Bream, mired in one of baseball's worst batting slumps at the time. "But offensively, I knew we were adding a guy who could flat-out rake and who would be a great addition on offense. So Fred McGriff? With that pitching we had? Damn, if we score four runs, we write that game down as a victory."

Victory arrived in bunches during summer and fall for the Braves, and the avalanche began Tuesday, July 20. Then again, what happened that night almost didn't happen, and not only because parts of Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium nearly became ashes in Georgia's red clay. Unbeknownst to nearly everybody at the time, McGriff was trying to

recover from damaged ribs. Braves general manager John Schuerholz knew. That's why after he acquired McGriff on July 15 — the trade was officially consummated three days later — he granted McGriff's request to spend a few days of recovery in Tampa, his hometown, where he still lived during the offseason.

"I took some medicine (earlier in the day on July 20), and since I had driven to Atlanta before, I knew it was going to be a six-hour drive or so from Tampa," McGriff said. "So I figured if I left home at noon and got into Atlanta about 6, that would be fine. That's because I figured that with the game time at 7:40 p.m., there was no way I would be in the lineup."

Except McGriff *was* in the lineup.

He laughed.

"I looked up, saw my name up there, and I said to myself, 'Oh, boy,'" he recalled, with more laughter.

Braves manager Bobby Cox loved to start those fresh to his team in a hurry, and McGriff was no exception, especially since they needed a spark, but not like the ones that came after McGriff left the training room for batting practice following work on his ribs. When he first arrived at the cage, he was greeted mostly by familiar faces.

"Terry Pendleton. Ron Gant. David Justice. I used to talk to all of those guys all the time since I was playing first base for the Padres, and I would talk to them when they were on base," said McGriff, who nevertheless could have been nicknamed "Quiet Dog" for his mellow personality. Instead, his alias during his nearly two decades in the major leagues was "Crime Dog" — as in McGriff, the animated bloodhound.

Those various huddles around the diamond involving McGriff and his new teammates ended when a can of Sterno used to heat catered food in one of the stadium suites went unnoticed. Soon, everybody on the field — from players to coaches to reporters to ballpark workers — was glancing at the smoke pouring out of the Braves radio booth. Massive flames followed. Then came an explosion, and the fire swallowed four other booths, including the one that normally seated Schuerholz. With McGriff and other players from the Braves and the Cardinals watching from the outfield, more than 40 firefighters were on the scene. It took slightly more than an hour for them to get the fire under control in the sprinkler-less stadium that was built during the mid-1960s.

Somehow, except for four sections charred by the raging flames and dampened by the firefighters, the ballpark was back to normal about two hours after the previously scheduled first pitch. Those who remained among the 49,072 ticket-holders were ready for the debut of debuts, and so was that player.

Sort of.

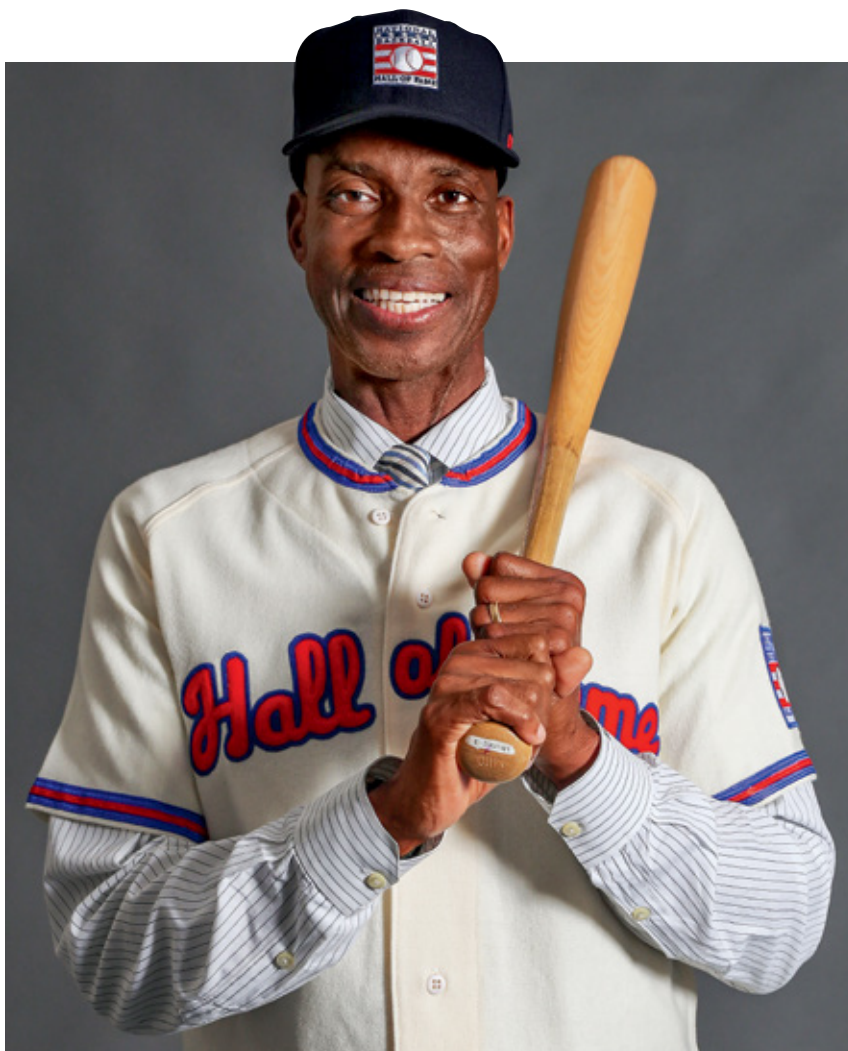
"I always tell myself whenever I look back at that, 'The man upstairs was watching after me,' because if that game had started at 7:40 p.m., I never would have been ready to play. That would have been tough," said McGriff, who kept getting treatment on his ribs from the time he finished batting practice until moments before he trotted out to first base for the opening pitch. "Yeah, I was still hurting during the game. My ribs were really sore. I don't know how in the world I was able to play, but I had to go tough it on out."

When Justice was asked this spring about McGriff and those aching ribs, he said, "Wow! Really? I had no idea. Nobody did. Remember, Freddie didn't talk that much, so we never knew."

The Braves did know they needed to rally from a 5-0 deficit, and they chipped away in the sixth to trail only 5-3 as McGriff strolled to the plate with roaring everywhere throughout the stadium.

Pressure?

"That was tremendous pressure, and even though it's not life-and-death pressure, you still have to perform," said McGriff, who excelled during tense situations during his 19 major league seasons, exemplified



Elected to the Hall of Fame in December by the Contemporary Baseball Era Players Committee, Fred McGriff totaled 493 career home runs and 1,550 RBI across 19 major league seasons.

by his 80-or-more RBI per year from 1988 through 2002. He also spent 50 playoff games hitting a combined .303 with 10 homers and 37 RBI. So, in the bottom of the sixth on July 20, 1993, it was like another postseason moment for McGriff with right-handed pitcher René Arocha across the way for the Cardinals.

"You're like the hired gun to come in there to try to help the team out," McGriff said. "They're 10 games out of first place, but honestly, you go out there every day with pressure. I'm an aggressive hitter. So, in that situation, I was looking for a fastball to hit, like I did most of the time, and I got a fastball."

Wham!

The opposite way for McGriff, just over the wall in left-center field, across from the burnt suites on the other side of ballpark.

"It's your first game. A lot is expected of you, and that first impression is kind of like the biggest impression, and if you bomb out on that first game, it's like, 'Oh, boy. This guy,'" McGriff said with a chuckle. Then he turned serious with emotion in his voice, adding, "So for me to be able to produce and to come through in that situation, it was *awesome*."

No, it was nitro.

Or simply Fred McGriff. 🍌

Terence Moore is a freelance writer from Smyrna, Ga.



Fred McGriff

2023 INDUCTEE

Fred McGriff



The Atlanta Braves
congratulate Fred McGriff
on his induction into the
National Baseball
Hall of Fame

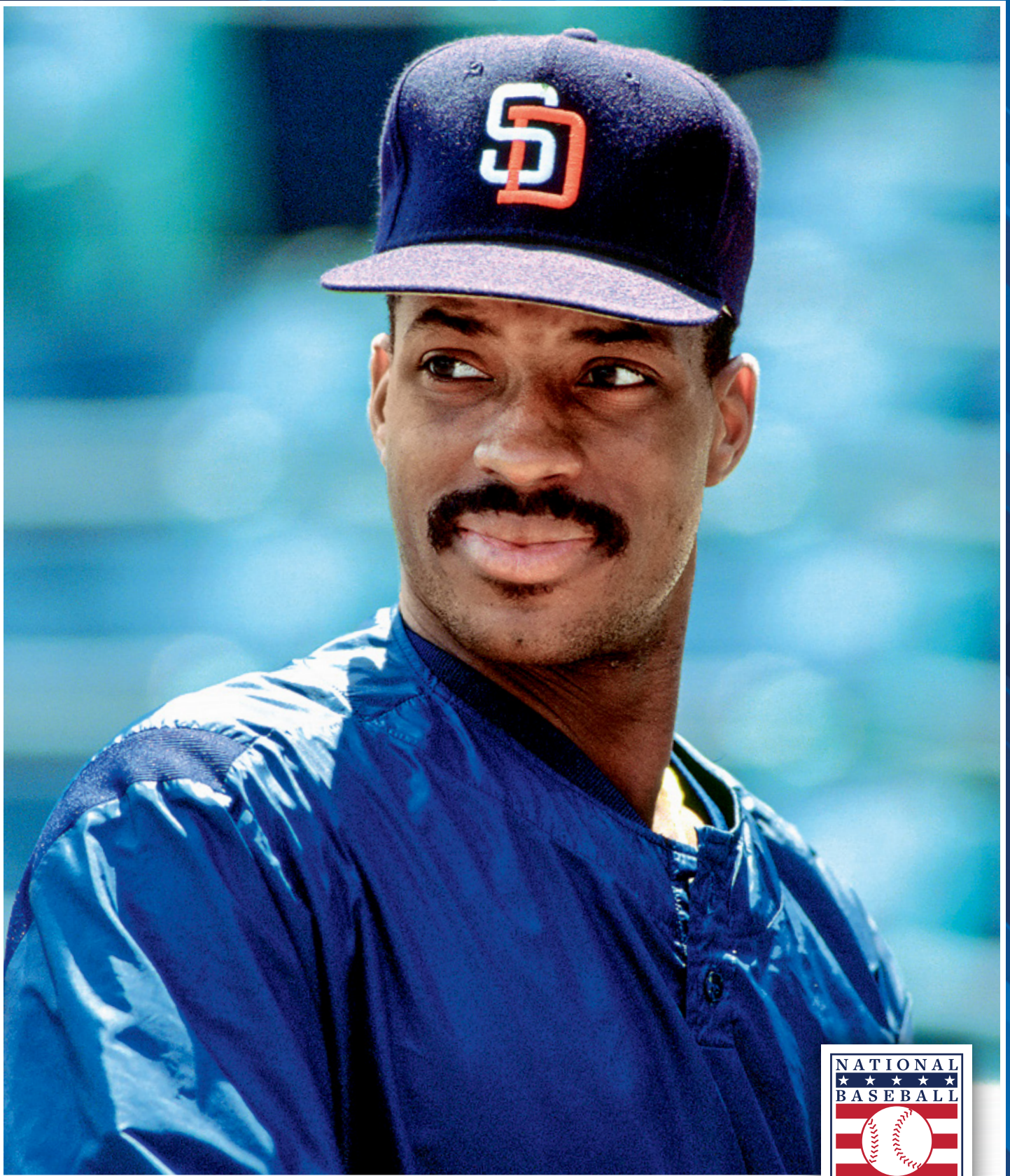


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RON VESELY/NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

FRED MCGRIFF

Elected: 2023 • **Born:** Oct. 31, 1963, Tampa, Fla.

Throw: Left • **Batted:** Left • **Height:** 6'3" • **Weight:** 200 pounds

Played for: Toronto Blue Jays (1986-90); San Diego Padres (1991-93); Atlanta Braves (1993-97);

Tampa Bay Devil Rays (1998-2001, 2004); Chicago Cubs (2001-02); Los Angeles Dodgers (2003)



YEAR	TEAM	G	PA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BB	BA	SLG
1986	TOR	3	5	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.200	.200
1987	TOR	107	356	295	58	73	16	0	20	43	3	60	.247	.505
1988	TOR	154	623	536	100	151	35	4	34	82	6	79	.282	.552
1989	TOR	161	680	551	98	148	27	3	36	92	7	119	.269	.525
1990	TOR	153	658	557	91	167	21	1	35	88	5	94	.300	.530
1991	SD	153	642	528	84	147	19	1	31	106	4	105	.278	.494
1992	SD	152	632	531	79	152	30	4	35	104	8	96	.286	.556
1993	SD/ATL	151	640	557	111	162	29	2	37	101	5	76	.291	.549
1994	ATL	113	478	424	81	135	25	1	34	94	7	50	.318	.623
1995	ATL	144	604	528	85	148	27	1	27	93	3	65	.280	.489
1996	ATL	159	691	617	81	182	37	1	28	107	7	68	.295	.494
1997	ATL	152	641	564	77	156	25	1	22	97	5	68	.277	.441
1998	TB	151	649	564	73	160	33	0	19	81	7	79	.284	.443
1999	TB	144	620	529	75	164	30	1	32	104	1	86	.310	.552
2000	TB	158	664	566	82	157	18	0	27	106	2	91	.277	.452
2001	TB/CHC	146	586	513	67	157	25	2	31	102	1	66	.306	.544
2002	CHC	146	595	523	67	143	27	2	30	103	1	63	.273	.505
2003	LAD	86	329	297	32	74	14	0	13	40	0	31	.249	.428
2004	TB	27	81	72	7	13	3	0	2	7	0	9	.181	.306
19 Seasons		2460	10174	8757	1349	2490	441	24	493	1550	72	1305	.284	.509

All statistics are from baseball-reference.com • All bolded marks are league-leading totals • Bolded and italicized marks are major league-best totals
Awards & Records: Five-time All-Star • Three-time Silver Slugger Award winner • 1994 All-Star Game Most Valuable Player

DID YOU KNOW...

- ★ ...that Fred McGriff is one of only four players to lead both the American League and National League in home runs, joining Buck Freeman, Sam Crawford and Mark McGwire?
- ★ ...that McGriff became the first player in history to record a 30-homer season for five different franchises (Blue Jays, Padres, Braves, Devil Rays and Cubs)?
- ★ ...that McGriff finished in the top 10 of his league's Most Valuable Player Award voting in six straight seasons (1989-94) and garnered MVP votes in eight straight years (1988-95)?

MARY D'ICCO/NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM



FRONT OF CARD: RON VESELY/NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

WHAT THEY SAY...

- ★ "When he came over, everybody and everything literally caught fire. It was a fun summer to give me a taste of what the next few years were going to be like with us hitting third and fourth pretty much every day."
 — BRAVES TEAMMATE AND HALL OF FAMER CHIPPER JONES.
 ON THE 1993 TRADE THAT BROUGHT FRED MCGRIFF TO ATLANTA
- ★ "He's a remarkable man. I think he's one of the classiest people who ever wore our uniform."
 — BRAVES GENERAL MANAGER AND HALL OF FAMER JOHN SCHUERHOLZ



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2023



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WINNER

Scott Free

IN 2004, SCOTT ROLEN'S PERFORMANCE AS THE CARDINALS' CLEANUP HITTER LED ST. LOUIS TO THE NL PENNANT.

By Derrick Goold

AS SCOTT ROLEN SPRANG the swing that, when looking back, changed all their lives, Jim Edmonds enjoyed one of the best views in the ballpark.

The Cardinals' center fielder, batting fifth that night under the concrete arches at Busch Stadium in Game 7 of the 2004 National League Championship Series, stood on deck for Rolen's sixth-inning at-bat against Houston ace Roger Clemens. It's the same vantage point Edmonds had two innings earlier when cleanup hitter Rolen worked Clemens through an eight pitch at-bat, saw everything the right-hander had, fouled off most of it and just missed once. Clemens, a few weeks away from his seventh Cy Young Award, got a fly out from Rolen that time and carried a one-run lead two outs into the sixth inning.

That was when, with first base open but Rolen looming, Clemens decided to pitch to Albert Pujols. His two-out double tied the game and brought Rolen to the plate — sandwiched between the other “MV3” teammates, Edmonds on deck and Pujols watching from second.

Rolen sent the first pitch he saw for a homer and the Cardinals toward the pennant.

“That defines Scott Rolen,” Edmonds said. “That was our season right there. Game 7. Astros. Roger Clemens. We had to go through him, and we knew it. It's a highlight of my career to be where I was when it happened. And that was Scott Rolen. He takes a good at-bat, sees all those pitches, comes up again, gets a pitch to hit and hits a home run. Biggest home run of his career. Then he puts his head down and runs the bases, like he did nothing at all.

“That's Scott Rolen and he did it all in one at-bat.”

Rolen's two-run, two-out homer gave the Cardinals a lead they would not misplace on their way to the National League pennant and an overdue return to the World Series for the first time since 1987.

That swing was the exclamation point on a career year for Rolen and one of the finest ever by a third baseman — the peak for a mountain of a man who, 19 years later, has reached baseball's highest honor, induction into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

In 2004, Rolen set career bests for home runs (34), RBI (124), slugging percentage (.598), on-base percentage (.409) and OPS (1.007). A full-time

third baseman has hit at least .300 with 100 or more RBI and an OPS of 1.000 or higher for a season 16 times — by 12 different players — in the history of the American and National Leagues. Hall of Famer George Brett (1980), Ken Caminiti (1996) and Rolen in 2004 are the only ones to pair that elite offensive production with a Gold Glove Award.

“Scotty Rolen — he's amazing to watch and I got to from first base,” Pujols said. “How serious his preparation was. You never saw Scotty [half-stepping] anything. His preparation was always sharp, and that made him a great leader for us. He would point the way with his play. It's something that I'm going to be telling my grandchildren. I played with that Hall of Famer.”

Dressed in a Dave Matthews Band T-shirt he'd wear out that year, Rolen strolled in early for 2004 Spring Training and did not waste any time getting to work.

Not even the time it would take to put on workout gear.

The first time he played catch at Cardinals camp in February 2004, he did so in street clothes. The third baseman was coming off a season that ended with his fifth Gold Glove Award and 49 doubles, second-most in the NL, but that first full season with the Cardinals also included back and neck issues that eroded his playing time. Acquired in 2002 from the Phillies and signed a few weeks later to an eight-year, \$90 million extension, Rolen walked into Spring Training a lot like other returning Cardinals — so eager to put 2003 behind him that he didn't take the time to slip into a jersey before batting practice.

“The thing was, he was locked in for Spring Training,” said outfielder Ray Lankford. “He went spring to the season and was already in a zone.”

On Opening Day, Rolen had a single and a walk — and then began the run.

Within the first six games of the season, he had three with at least four RBI. On a Friday night in Arizona, he drove in four runs, and on Saturday, as an encore, he hit two home runs and drove in five. By the end of April, he had 27 RBI to pace the NL, five more than Barry Bonds. During one stretch of the season, Rolen went 88 at-bats between home runs — a career-long at that point — and still had 49 RBI in



Scott Rolen's 2004 season helped propel the Cardinals to the National League pennant as he joined teammates Albert Pujols and Jim Edmonds to form a trio known as "MV3."

46 games. Rolen reached the All-Star break with a .339 average, a .415 OBP, a .599 slugging percentage and was the only Cardinal to rank in the top 10 in all three categories. His 80 RBI led the NL.

"Yeah, this is the best start I've had, without a doubt," Rolen said in the midst of his April. "I'm not trying to downplay it. Not trying to up-play it. I just want to keep playing."

In July, fans elected Rolen to the third of his seven All-Star Games, and he received the most votes of any National League player and 271,809 more than his AL hot corner contemporary, the Yankees' Alex Rodríguez.

The "MV3" began to emerge, led by Rolen.

The Cardinals were on their way to 100 wins, led by Rolen.

"That whole team showed up every day wanting to compete, ready to play and expecting to win, and they were straight all business, and it was Scott who probably was the leader of it all," said Chris Carpenter, who went on to win the NL Cy Young Award in 2005. "Scott and Larry (Walker) were two guys who I think were the most business-like I ever played with. They're both in the Hall of Fame. That tells you something. Look, I know it's a cliché, but it is what it is for a reason: He was leading by example."

Or, if necessary, leading with his shoulder.

In late June, during a runaway game against Kansas City, Rolen had the moment that teammates recall most two decades later. It was not a double or a homer, but it was two hits. Earlier in the game, Rolen had been struck by a pitch, bruised but undeterred and patient. In the eighth inning of a

game the Cardinals led, 10-3, thanks to another Rolen RBI, teammate Edgar Rentería skipped a grounder toward second base. The ball was fielded by KC shortstop Ángel Berroa and tossed to second baseman Tony Graffanino. That was when Rolen arrived to unsuccessfully upset the double play — but, like a 7-10 split, upend both Royals infielders.

"Stuff like that you don't see very often," Cardinals all-time saves leader Jason Isringhausen said. "He didn't take out one guy. He took them both. And they looked at each other like, 'What the hell just happened?' And Scotty jumped up, put his head down and ran off the field. No commotion. But I'm going to get you."

In the first week of August, Pujols and Rolen remained challengers to Bonds for the MVP, Edmonds was the NL Player of the Month for July and a newcomer was added via trade to the lineup: Former MVP, three-time batting champ and future Hall of Famer Walker.

"Where do I fit in?" Walker recalled thinking.

He found his spot in the lineup, a race for October and, right there in the autumn of his career, a player nine years younger, at 29, who he wanted to mimic.

"My whole career, I'd hit a home run and I'd run around the bases," Walker said. "When I came to St. Louis, because I followed what Scott does — he was my leader — when I hit a home run, I sprinted around the bases. You've got someone like Scott Rolen, a Hall of Famer, and he hits a home run and runs around the bases like it's his first home run."



I appreciated that. I tried to copy that. When I hit a home run in a St. Louis uniform, it was ‘get around the bases so I can get back to the dugout and high-five my teammates.’ That was like Scott.”

No Cardinal sent as many teammates home that season as Rolen did. He was hitting .416 with runners in scoring position at the All-Star break and spent most of the year with a .400-or-better average with a teammate on second, third or both.

Rolen finished the year batting .358 with runners in scoring position — the fourth-highest total in the majors — but that hid the damage he did. His 95 RBI with runners in scoring position led the NL, and Rolen’s .742 slugging percentage in those spots was second only to Bonds’ absurd .944.

“You knew he was going to do something special,” Lankford said. “That ’04 year, he was so locked in on the defensive end, on offense and even the base-running part of it — locked in on the field at all times. Scotty was not missing his pitches. He was taking you out to left field, right field, center field. You might get one pitch an at-bat to drive, and you cannot miss it. That year, Scotty was not missing, man.”

In the National League Division Series, the Dodgers challenged Rolen or sidestepped him entirely, and he finished with six walks and no hits in 18 plate appearances. Houston took a similar approach in the NLCS — briefly. In Game 1, the Astros walked Pujols ahead of Rolen in the fifth inning, and the Cardinals’ cleanup hitter laced a single for an RBI. In Game 2, Rolen hit two home runs and joined Pujols as the first pair of Cardinals to hit back-to-back home runs in a playoff game.

Hitless in one series, he was 3-for-8 with two homers in two games vs. the Astros, rewriting their plan and inviting sarcasm from teammates.

“About damn time,” he recalled them saying.

“Are you on this team?”

The series visited Houston and found its way back to St. Louis, where Edmonds’ walk-off homer forced a winner-take-all Game 7. Fall’s brightest spotlight found Rolen there, Pujols looking on from second and Edmonds nearby on deck. The best season of his career had reached the biggest moment of his career. Rolen got his pitch. He did not miss it.

The Boston Red Sox snapped the curse and shocked the Cardinals with a sweep in the World Series. A few weeks later, Bonds won the NL MVP and Rolen finished fourth, fittingly between Pujols and Edmonds in the voting.

Not first. Not even on his own team.

But in the middle.

“He was at the center of it all for us,” former Cardinals outfielder Reggie Sanders said. “Scott Rolen — that is a winning player. The ability to change a game with his glove. The ability to win a game with his bat. The smartness. The leadership. These are characteristics I saw him bring every single day. A confidence. The execution. All it means and takes to be a champion. He embodied all of that for us — which catapulted us as a team to becoming much better.” 📍

Derrick Goold is the lead Cardinals beat writer for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. He started covering the beat in 2004.

Congratulations
**SCOTT
ROLEN**

· 27 · THIRD BASE · 27 · THIRD BASE · 27 · THIRD BASE ·

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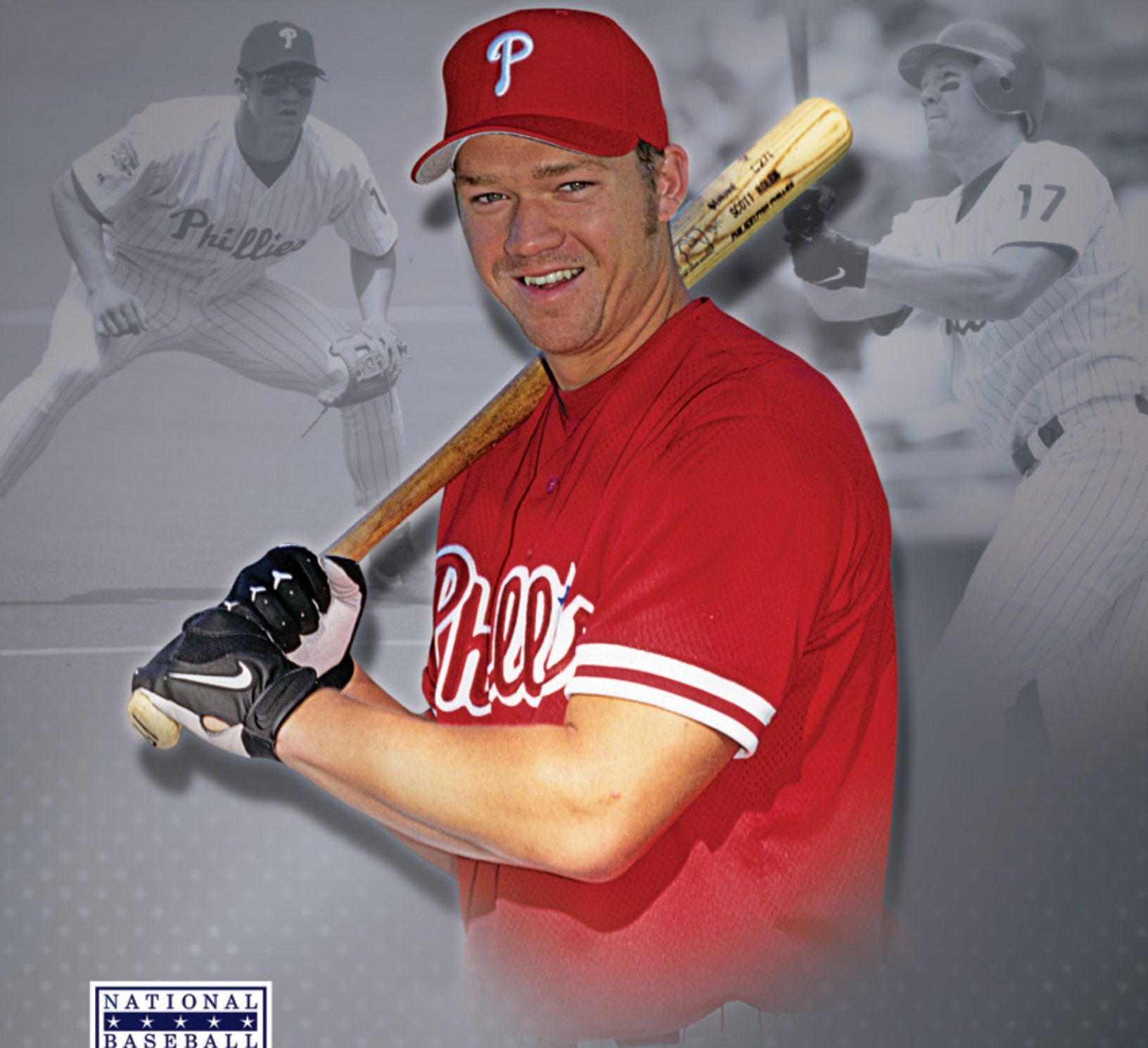


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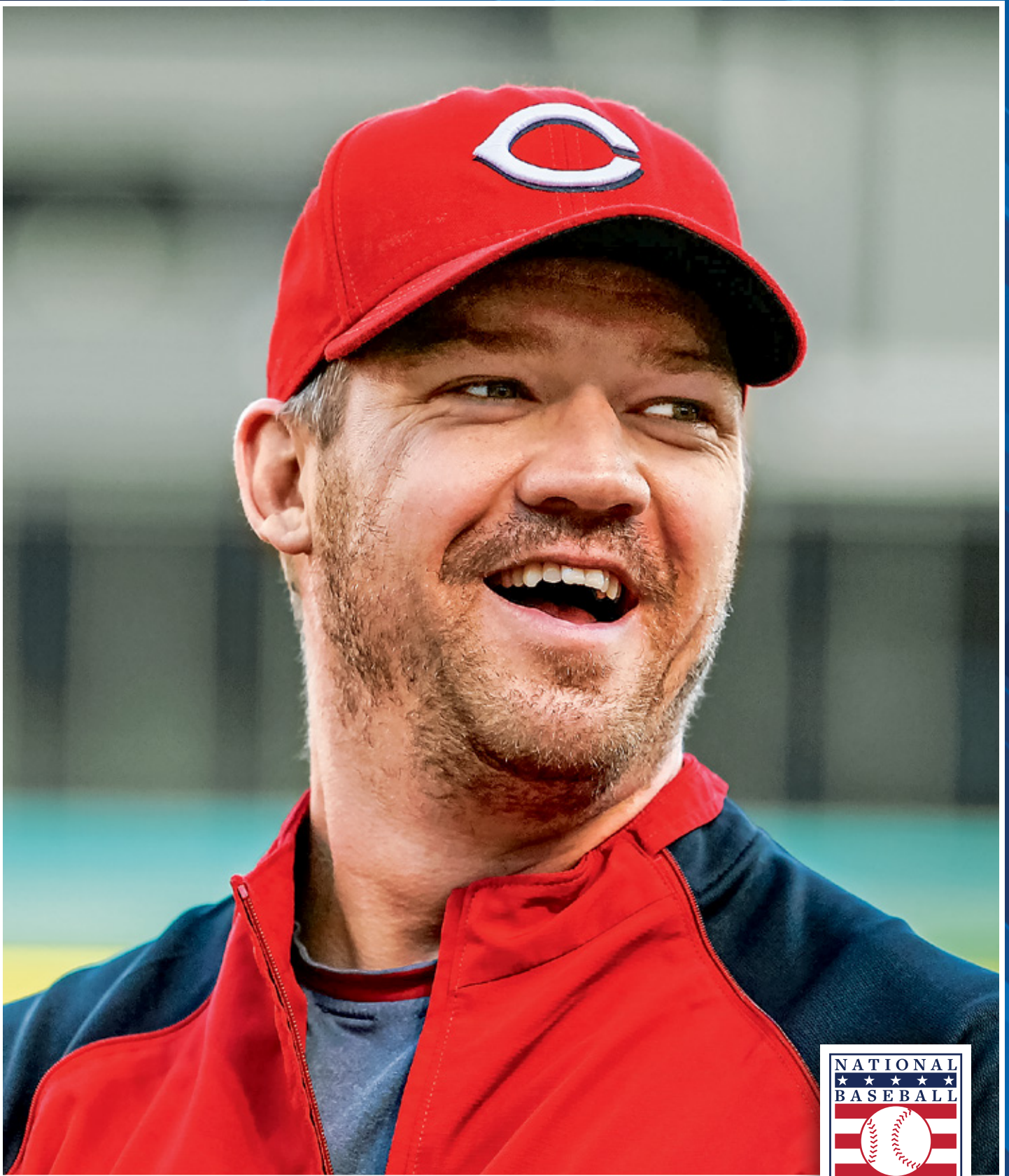


Congratulations Scott Rolen

On your induction into the National Baseball Hall of Fame



Phillies



Scott Rolen 3B

**CLASS OF
2023**



BRAD MANGINI/MLB PHOTOS

SCOTT BRUCE ROLEN

Elected: 2023 • **Born:** April 4, 1975, Evansville, Ind.

Threw: Right • **Batted:** Right • **Height:** 6'4" • **Weight:** 245 pounds

Played for: Philadelphia Phillies (1996-2002); St. Louis Cardinals (2002-07); Toronto Blue Jays (2008-09); Cincinnati Reds (2009-12)



YEAR	TEAM	G	PA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BB	BA	SLG
1996	PHI	37	146	130	10	33	7	0	4	18	0	13	.254	.400
1997	PHI	156	657	561	93	159	35	3	21	92	16	76	.283	.469
1998	PHI	160	711	601	120	174	45	4	31	110	14	93	.290	.532
1999	PHI	112	497	421	74	113	28	1	26	77	12	67	.268	.525
2000	PHI	128	541	483	88	144	32	6	26	89	8	51	.298	.551
2001	PHI	151	653	554	96	160	39	1	25	107	16	74	.289	.498
2002	PHI/STL	155	667	580	89	154	29	8	31	110	8	72	.266	.503
2003	STL	154	657	559	98	160	49	1	28	104	13	82	.286	.528
2004	STL	142	593	500	109	157	32	4	34	124	4	72	.314	.598
2005	STL	56	223	196	28	46	12	1	5	28	1	25	.235	.383
2006	STL	142	594	521	94	154	48	1	22	95	7	56	.296	.518
2007	STL	112	441	392	55	104	24	2	8	58	5	37	.265	.398
2008	TOR	115	467	408	58	107	30	3	11	50	5	46	.262	.431
2009	TOR/CIN	128	535	475	76	145	36	1	11	67	5	45	.305	.455
2010	CIN	133	537	471	66	134	34	3	20	83	1	50	.285	.497
2011	CIN	65	269	252	31	61	20	2	5	36	1	10	.242	.397
2012	CIN	92	330	294	26	72	17	2	8	39	2	30	.245	.398
17 Seasons		2038	8518	7398	1211	2077	517	43	316	1287	118	899	.281	.490

All statistics are from baseball-reference.com

Awards & Records: Eight-time Gold Glove Award winner • Five-time All-Star • Unanimous winner of 1997 NL Rookie of the Year Award

DID YOU KNOW...

- ★ ...that Scott Rolen is one of only four third basemen in history (players who appeared in at least 50 percent of their games at third base) with at least 300 home runs, 100 stolen bases and 500 doubles, along with Adrián Beltré, George Brett and Chipper Jones?
- ★ ...that Rolen ranks 12th all time with 2,023 games played at third base and never played another position in the field in his big league career?

- ★ "I tell people: 'Scott was 18 going on 35 when we signed him.' That was his maturity level."
— PHILLIES SCOUTING DIRECTOR MIKE ARBUCKLE
- ★ "He was a runaway train, and over time he just grew this stark professionalism and an intensity and focus that led to his success."
— PHILLIES TEAMMATE DOUG GLANVILLE
- ★ "It didn't take very long for me to make him my standard of what I wanted to be as a player."
— REDS TEAMMATE JAY BRUCE

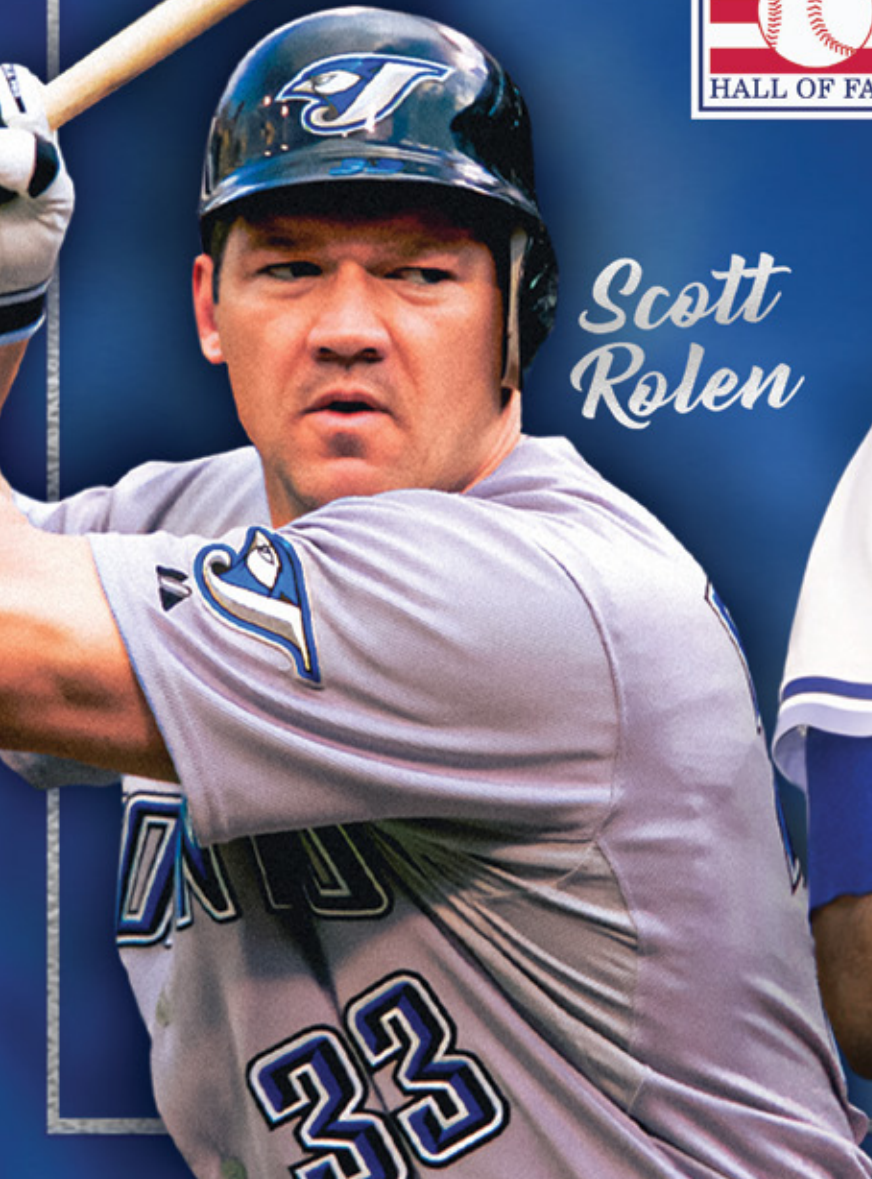
WHAT THEY SAY...





CONGRATULATIONS

HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2023



*Scott
Rolen*



*Fred
McGriff*

Quarter to History

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, BIG LEAGUE PIONEER LARRY DOBY RECEIVED HIS HALL OF FAME PLAQUE.

By **Scott Pitoniak**

ONE MAY BE THE LONELIEST NUMBER, but two might be the least appreciated. History tends to forget those who come in second.

And so it was for Larry Doby, who spent decades in the enormous shadow cast by his friend and fellow trailblazer Jackie Robinson. Eleven weeks after Robinson integrated the National League, Doby took a Louisville Slugger to the American League's color barrier, jumping directly from the Negro Leagues to the Cleveland Indians. He would be forced to negotiate bigoted basepaths similar to ones Robinson traversed. And he would have to do so in the same restrained manner, turning the other cheek to beanballs, bottles and epithets hurled his way.

Over time, Robinson would be celebrated for the courageous role he played in helping baseball and America become more inclusive. Doby, meanwhile, would wait a bit longer for his recognition.

It wasn't until July 26, 1998, that this pioneer who followed a pioneer received his just due with induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame. On that warm summer day a quarter century ago, the seven-time AL All-Star and two-time home run champion was made to feel second to none. That evening, after the festivities concluded, Doby and his wife, Helyn, shared a quiet moment in the room where his bronze plaque now hung among baseball's immortals.

"This is it," he said, softly. "We've arrived."

Doby's journey to Cooperstown took root in Paterson, N.J., where he led Eastside High School to a state football championship and earned a basketball scholarship to Long Island University. His best sport, though, was baseball, and as a 17-year-old he was so good that Effa Manley, the Hall of Fame's



A quarter century ago, trailblazer Larry Doby took his rightful place as a Hall of Famer.

only female member, signed him to play for her Newark Eagles in the Negro National League in 1942 following a tryout at Paterson's historic Hinchliffe Stadium. To protect his amateur status, Doby played under the alias Larry Walker.

Despite competing against seasoned pros several years his senior, he held his own his rookie season. That fall, Doby began studies at LIU, but after one semester, he transferred to Virginia Union College to play basketball and participate in the school's ROTC program. Before his freshman year ended, he was drafted and served in the Pacific theater with the Navy during World War II.

While in the military, he played on several base teams, and his skills caught the eye of many, including Washington slugger Mickey Vernon, who was so impressed he wrote Senators owner Clark Griffith, urging him to sign Doby if Major League Baseball ever allowed integration. Doby's dreams of that happening were buoyed by the news the Brooklyn Dodgers had signed Jackie Robinson to a minor league contract and assigned him to spend the 1946 season with Montreal of the International League. Upon receiving his honorable discharge after the war, Doby returned to the Eagles, powering them to a Negro League World Series title against a stacked Kansas City Monarchs team featuring Satchel Paige.

Robinson made his historic NL debut on April 15, 1947. Around the same time — unbeknownst to Doby — Indians owner Bill Veeck was secretly negotiating with Manley to acquire the Newark slugger. Cleveland scout Bill Killefer told Veeck that Doby had the ideal talent and temperament to handle the racial slings and arrows he would face while playing with and against whites. Unlike Rickey, who poached talent from the Negro Leagues without

Larry Doby debuted with Cleveland on July 5, 1947, becoming the first Black player in American League history.



NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

compensation, Veeck paid \$10,000 to purchase Doby's contract and agreed to tack on \$5,000 if the then-second baseman stuck on the Indians roster for 30 days.

Taking a different approach than Rickey had with Robinson, Veeck wanted Doby to

forego the minors and jump directly from the National Negro League to the AL. Doby's sterling 1947 stats – including a .415 batting average at the season's halfway point — indicated he was ready to make the move.

On the Fourth of July, Doby and Louis

Jones, an African-American public relations assistant hired by Veeck, boarded a train from Newark to Chicago, where Doby officially joined the Indians for their road game against the White Sox in Comiskey Park the next day. Upon arriving in the Windy City, he was greeted by Veeck. After exchanging hugs and pleasantries, Veeck grew serious, imparting advice echoing what Rickey told Robinson three months earlier. No matter how bad it got, Doby would have to refrain from retaliating against hostile players and fans, because if he did, integration would be set back for years. Like Robinson, Doby understood he wasn't playing just for himself. America would be watching. The burdens were enormous.

As Cleveland's newest player signed his contract a few hours before his debut, Veeck offered words of encouragement. "Just remember," he said within earshot of reporters, "they play with a little white ball and a stick of wood up here, just like they did in your league." Manager Lou Boudreau then took Doby around the locker room and introduced him to each of his new teammates.

"I stuck out my hand," Doby recalled in a 2012 interview with *Newark Star-Ledger* columnist Jerry Izenberg. "Very few hands came back in return. Most of the ones that did were cold-fish handshakes, along with a look that said, 'You don't belong here.'"

Several teammates turned their backs on him. It only got worse when he took the field. His teammates began playing catch, but no one asked him to join in. For three minutes that felt like an eternity, Doby stood by himself, humiliated and in disbelief. Finally, Joe Gordon ended the freeze-out by tossing him a ball. It was a gesture Doby never forgot. The two would become good friends.

Doby pinch-hit and struck out in his first MLB at-bat that day, and after the game was further reminded of the isolation he would be facing when he was driven not to the team's hotel, but to a hotel in a Black neighborhood.

Like Robinson, he was subjected to fastballs to the ribs, spikes to the shins and bottles tossed from the stands. An infielder even spat tobacco juice into his face as he slid into second base. He played in just 29 games that season, batting .156. Occasional phone calls with Robinson

Steve Gromek and Larry Doby hug following Game 4 of the 1948 World Series. Gromek was the game's winning pitcher and Doby homered in Cleveland's 2-1 victory over the Braves.

helped him maintain his sanity. The two men formed an inseparable bond. When Jackie died in 1972, Doby was asked to be one of his pallbearers.

During Spring Training in 1948, Doby switched from second base to center field and was a natural from the get-go. In one of the final exhibition games that March, he cemented a roster spot by smashing a homer that traveled an estimated 550 feet. Doby played a pivotal role in the Indians winning the pennant that season, batting .301 with 14 homers and 66 runs batted in. And his impact would be felt in the World Series when he hit .318 to catapult Cleveland to its first championship since 1920. The high point came in Game 4 when Doby became the first Black player to homer in an AL/NL World Series game. His blast provided the Indians with their second run, which would be all they needed as Steve Gromek outdueled Boston Braves counterpart Johnny Sain for a 2-1 victory.

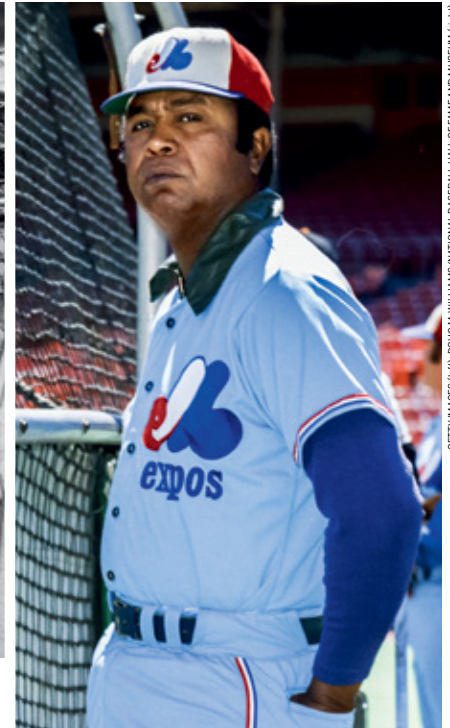
Of greater significance was the photograph that appeared in newspapers across the country the following day. It was taken in the clubhouse after the game and showed Doby and Gromek joyously hugging each other.

"I don't know if America had seen many photographs of a Black man and a white man embracing one another before," said author/historian Larry Lester, a curatorial consultant for the Hall of Fame's ongoing Black Baseball Initiative. "It was a signature moment in the integration of baseball."

And a signature moment for Doby, too.

"It wasn't planned," Doby said. "It just happened spontaneously. For me, that photograph was more rewarding than the homer."

In 1949, Doby clubbed 24 home runs, drove in 85 runs and batted .280, and joined Robinson, Roy Campanella and Don Newcombe as the first Black players to appear in an AL/NL All-Star Game. After Doby compiled a .326 average with 25 homers and 102 RBI in 1950, the *Sporting News* called him the best center fielder in baseball. He wound up being named to seven AL All-Star teams and twice led the league in homers. He



Following his playing career, Larry Doby coached for several teams, including the Montreal Expos. In 1978, he became the second Black manager in AL or NL history when he took over the reins of the White Sox.

finished his AL career with 253 home runs, 970 RBI and a .283 batting average over 10 seasons with Cleveland, three with the White Sox and one with the Detroit Tigers. The statistics were remarkable, considering the circumstances he had to overcome.

"I fought back by hitting the ball as far as I could," Doby said. "That was my answer."

After his playing career, Doby spent time as an MLB scout and coach — serving as Andre Dawson's first hitting coach, among other roles — and as early as 1971 expressed an interest in managing. On June 30, 1978, he became the second Black man to cross another baseball color line, taking charge of the White Sox three seasons after Frank Robinson became the first Black manager in AL/NL history. Doby returned to his role as the team's batting coach in 1979, then left to become the director of communications and community affairs for the NBA's New Jersey Nets. He came back to MLB in 1995 as an assistant to AL President Gene Budig.

On March 3, 1998, Doby received a long-awaited phone call from Ted Williams informing him the Veterans Committee had voted him into the Hall of Fame.

"I feel like a bale of cotton has been lifted from my shoulders," Doby told reporters.

Four months later, this quiet, unassuming man was in Cooperstown, joining the Class of 1998 — Don Sutton, Lee MacPhail, Bullet Joe Rogan and George Davis — as the Hall's newest members. True to his grateful and

graceful nature, Doby chose to accentuate the positives during his induction speech.

"You know, it's a very tough thing to look back and think about things that were probably negative," he said. "But you put those things on the back burner. You're proud and happy that you've been part of integrating baseball, to show people that we can live together, that we can work together, that we can play together and that we can be successful together."

Doby died of cancer on June 18, 2003, at the age of 79. The Indians (now the Guardians) feted him by retiring his No. 14 and erecting a statue of him outside Progressive Field. In 2012, the U.S. Postal Service commemorated Doby, Joe DiMaggio, Willie Stargell and Williams with postage stamps.

As one scribe wrote, Doby was proof the seed Jackie planted had taken root.

"I'll take second," Doby told reporters the day he was inducted. "Second ain't all that bad, baby." 🍌

Scott Pitoniak is an author and nationally honored journalist residing in Penfield, N.Y. His latest book is "Remembrances of Swings Past: A Lifetime of Baseball Stories."



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With Deliberate Speed

THE 1950s SAW THE REINTEGRATION OF THE WHITE MAJOR LEAGUES.

By Larry Lester

Seven years after Jackie Robinson, Larry Doby, Hank Thompson, Willard Brown and Dan Bankhead reintegrated the white major leagues, the United States was still under the dogma of “separate but equal” imposed by the 1896 *Plessy v. Ferguson* Supreme Court decision. This doctrine legalized racially segregated public facilities, so long as the facilities for Black people and whites were equal. As Baseball Writers’ Association of America Career Excellence Award winner Sam Lacy

CELEBRATING BLACK BASEBALL

The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum is celebrating and honoring the history of Black baseball with a new initiative that includes a lineup of educational outreach programs and a groundbreaking Museum exhibit that will open in the spring of 2024.

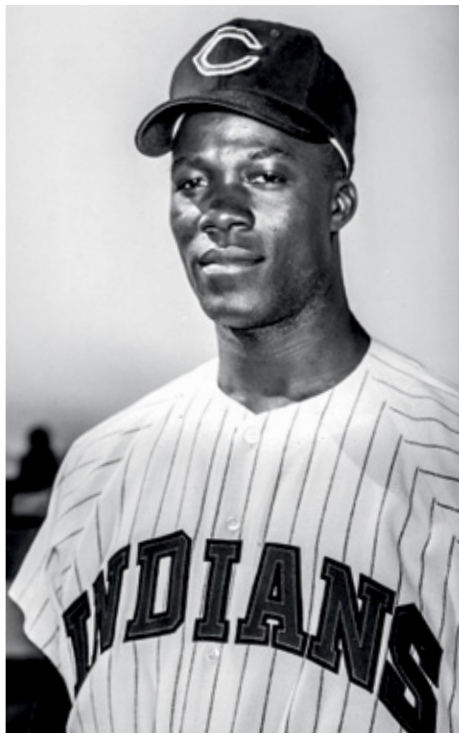
unequivocally said: “Some people were more equal than others.”

The 1896 ruling constitutionally sanctioned laws barring Black Americans from sharing the same buses, schools and other public facilities

as whites — known as “Jim Crow” laws — and established the “separate but equal” rule that stood for the next six decades.

Overtuned by the 1954 *Brown v. the Topeka (KS) Board of Education* decision, the Supreme Court ordered American schools to be integrated, using the operative words “with all deliberate speed,” which was purposely vague — allowing local school boards to delay, obstruct and generally slow the process of integrating Black and white students.

This built-in ambiguity gave segregationists



OPPOSITE PAGE: The Red Sox became the final AL or NL organization to integrate their roster when Elijah “Pumpsie” Green (left) suited up for the team in 1959. Green made his debut a little more than two weeks after manager Mike “Pinky” Higgins (right) was dismissed. ABOVE: When Chico Fernández made the Phillies’ 1957 Opening Day roster, all eight NL teams were finally integrated. The shortstop spent eight seasons in the majors, which included a 20-homer campaign with the Tigers in 1962.

the opportunity to strategize resistance. Historically, segregated schools and public facilities had been inherently unequal, despite the provision to provide all citizens with equal protection under the law guaranteed in 1868 by the Fourteenth Amendment.

Unquestionably, sports, especially baseball, have been a barometer for social change in America, as it is essentially a game of resilience, just like real life. One precursor to social change in America began with the reintegration of the National League.

Stars like Doby, Thompson, Brown, Bankhead, Satchel Paige and Ernie Banks were fast-tracked to the AL and NL from the Negro Leagues. Meanwhile, the Brooklyn Dodgers bolted to the front of the diversity pack with seven Black and Latino players on the team by 1956, Jackie Robinson’s last season in the pros. During Robinson’s time, the Bums arguably became Black America’s favorite team.

Still, as noted by several media outlets, the Dodgers failed to honor Robinson’s

agreement with the Kansas City Monarchs when no compensation was offered for his service. To avoid reparations, Branch Rickey’s radical rhetoric about Negro Leagues teams operating “in the zone of a racket” implied that their team owners were mostly number bankers with criminal intent.

However, research reveals the primary occupations of owners encompassed many professions — from bowling alley operator (Tom Baird) to postal clerk (Ed Bolden), undertakers (Robert Cole, Robert Lewis Sr.), bail bondsman (Tom Bowser), night club owner (Soosa Bridgeforth), restaurant owner (John Connor), pool hall owner (Hugh Cherry), boxing promoter (Gus Greenlee), service station owner (Rev. John Harden), insurance broker (Tom Hayes Jr.), music store owner (Sonnyman Jackson), taxi company owner (Dr. Richard Kent), blues singer (Gatemouth Moore), hotel owner (Joe Rush), dance studio owner (Colonel Strothers), parking garage owner (Sam Sheppard), realtor and chauffeur (Abe Manley), and the Martin brothers’ employment in the medical fields of dentistry, general practitioner, pharmacist and hospital administrator.

During this span, 13 of the original 16 AL and NL teams were integrated, yet the Phillies, Tigers and the Red Sox were still without a Black or Brown face in 1956. Some hesitated to press the integration accelerator.

In 1958, Cleveland’s Jim “Mudcat” Grant (pictured) and Gary Bell may have been the first Black and white teammates to room together in the big leagues. For many years, teams would employ an even number of Black players to create roommate pairings.

The stopwatch of senselessness was evident in Roger Kahn’s pivotal 1972 book “The Boys Of Summer,” writing that New York Yankees general manager George Weiss explained at a cocktail party in 1952 why the Yankees were still an all-white team, six years after Robinson signed with the Dodgers.

“I will never allow a Black man to wear a Yankee uniform. Box-holders from Westchester (County) don’t want that sort of crowd. They would be offended to have to sit with [N-word].”

In 1953, the Yankees became the last team yet to integrate to win a World Series when they defeated the Dodgers, who had Robinson, Joe Black, Roy Campanella and Junior Gilliam, in six games. (In retrospect, the 1948 Cleveland Indians, with Doby and Paige, were the first team with color to win a World Series when they beat the Boston Braves in six games.)

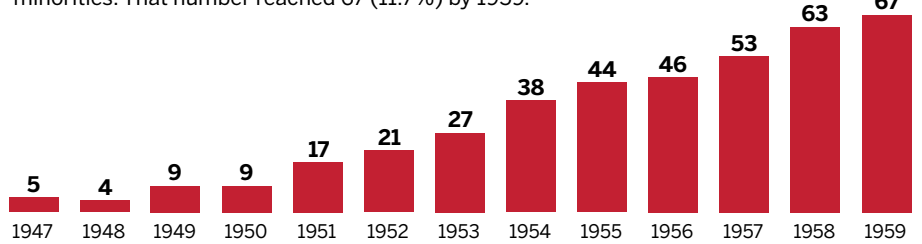
Two seasons later, the Yankees signed catcher and first baseman Elston Howard from the Kansas City Monarchs. As Peter Golenbock noted in his classic manuscript “Dynasty,” manager Casey Stengel whined, “When I finally get a [N-word], I get the only one who can’t run.”

One of the last roadblocks to completely integrate the pastime was the Philadelphia Phillies, owned by Robert Carpenter. In Bruce Kuklick’s book “To Every Thing a Season: Shibe Park and Urban Philadelphia,” he emphasized, “As much as he could, Carpenter opposed a [B]lack presence in the majors and certainly at Shibe Park,” and charged that the Phillies “were racist on principle” and “willingly hurt the quality of their teams.” Despite the “City of Brotherly Love” showcasing Black athletes from the NFL’s Eagles, the NBA’s Warriors and the AL’s Athletics with Bob Trice, Vic Power, Héctor Lopez and Harry “Suitcase” Simpson, the Phillies were without color.

After Robinson’s retirement announcement in December 1956, he called out the Phillies, Tigers and the Red Sox in a statement to the *Sporting News*: “If thirteen major league teams can come up with colored players, why can’t

MINORITY REPRESENTATION IN THE AL AND NL

The number of minority players in the American and National Leagues grew slowly after Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier. In 1947, just five players (0.9%) were minorities. That number reached 67 (11.7%) by 1959.



the other three?” In 1957, Cuban shortstop Chico Fernández opened the season with the Phillies, and six days later was joined by John Kennedy, a middle infielder from the Kansas City Monarchs. Kennedy, who had two plate appearances with no hits and no fielding opportunities, was sent to the Class B Carolina League. Former Indianapolis Clowns outfielder Chuck Harmon immediately became Fernández’s roommate.

The Detroit Tigers were owned by Walter Briggs Sr. (from 1935-52) and Walter “Spike” Briggs Jr. (1952-56). Briggs Manufacturing was a vast company, designing cars and supplying various parts and sub-assemblies to automakers that included Chrysler, Ford, Hudson, Lincoln, Packard, Stutz and other models.

So notorious was his refusal to hire Black players that the saying around the Tigers clubhouse and in the factory was “No j*gs with Briggs.” Two years after Tigers ownership changed in 1956, with radio executive Fred Knorr taking the helm, the team would sign Dominican infielder Ozzie Virgil Sr. Yet Virgil did not want the distinction of being the first Black Tiger. He told *Detroit News* reporter Joe Falls: “I’m not Negro; I’m Dominican; I’m Spanish.” Virgil was replaced the next season by an aging Doby, light-hitting middle infielder Ossie Alvarez and pitcher Jim Proctor, who had one start.

In an Aug. 22, 2017, op-ed to the *Detroit Free Press*, Walter Briggs Sr.’s great-grandson Harvey Briggs spoke of his grandpa’s philanthropy to the Detroit Institute of Arts and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and noted that he helped found the Detroit Zoo. He did not, however, give gramps a pass that he was “a product of his time” or “no worse than

many of his peers in the industry.” Instead, Harvey wanted to acknowledge the truth that, “He (Walter) was a racist.”

Inroads to integrate the Red Sox included the openly prejudiced manager Mike “Pinky” Higgins, who is quoted in Pulitzer-Prize-winning journalist David Halberstam’s “The Summer of ’49” as saying, “There will never be any (N-word) on this team as long as I have anything to say about it.” Midway through the 1959 season, Higgins was replaced by Billy Jurges, upon which the Red Sox employed their first Negro, Elijah “Pumpsie” Green. Seven days later, pitcher Earl “No-hit” Wilson became Green’s roommate.

The unofficial quota system was expressed by Green in Danny Peary’s book “We Played The Game”: “Earl Wilson and I were roommates each time he was brought up to the majors. Naturally, in those days, if a team had three Blacks and two were roommates, the third one could be sent back to the minors. It was two by two.”

In Doby’s book “Pride Against Prejudice,” he mentions arriving in Cleveland on July 4 and having the newly hired African-American assistant public relations director, Louis Jones, assigned to be his roomie. Satchel Paige became his bunkmate the next season.

The percentage of minority players listed in the chart on this page (defined as African American or Latino) is based on outward appearances. As race is principally a social construct, the audience from this time period often organized Black and Brown players into one minority group. Latinos before 1947 and since the *Plessy v. Ferguson* decision, like Armando Marsans, Mike Almeida, Mike González, Jack Calvo, Adolfo Luque, Pete Aragón, José Acosta, Ricardo Torres, Pedro Dibut, Ramón Herrera, Óscar Estrada, Tomás de la Cruz and Chico

Hernández, were socially whitewashed by owners to gain admittance. Ironically, these Brown stars also played on Black teams.

The first dark-skinned Latino in the AL or NL was Minnie Miñoso, who joined the defending champion Cleveland Indians in 1949. There he met teammates Paige, Doby and his roommate from the Homestead Grays, Luke Easter.

The 1960 Census reported that Black Americans comprised 11% of the U.S. population. That same year, with all deliberate speed, the Kansas City Athletics became the last major league team to employ an all-white roster for an entire season. They finished in last place, 39 games behind the Yankees.

We don’t know each team’s policy regarding teammates rooming together during the early days of reintegration. However, in 1958, two rookie pitchers for the Cleveland Indians, Gary Bell from San Antonio, Texas, and Jim “Mudcat” Grant from Lacombe, Fla., may have been the first white & Black roommates.

According to Grant’s book “The Black Aces,” “If there were three Blacks on the team, you roomed two and one had a single room by himself. So, we decided to break up the crap. We got a room (together). They didn’t hassle us too much, but they didn’t pay for the room. We had to pay.”

With segregated sanctions in place, it was common practice for teams traveling by bus to stop at restaurants that did not serve “Negroes,” forcing white players to bring meals back to the bus for their Black teammates. And once they arrived at the designated hotel, Black players were often denied occupancy. In turn, they roomed at private residences or Black-owned hotels, or had an occasional sleepover at a Black-owned funeral parlor.

With Jim Crow behind the wheel at the pedestrian speed of a school bus, the long and winding road to educate and integrate the original 16 teams, over 13 seasons, validates a horrendous testament about injustice on the field toward diversity and equality.

Today’s owners, albeit mostly a racially homogeneous group, welcome players of all colors in their efforts to capture the crown. May that progress continue. Batter Up! 🍌

Larry Lester is a curatorial consultant for the Hall of Fame’s ongoing Black Baseball Initiative.



WE TIP OUR CAPS

The Milwaukee Brewers congratulate broadcaster **Pat Hughes**, this year's recipient of the Ford C. Frick Award, presented by the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

Enjoy your place in Cooperstown!



Pitching his Pictures

RANDY JOHNSON'S PHOTO EXHIBIT DEBUTS IN COOPERSTOWN.

By Bill Francis

It's a passion for pictures that has Hall of Fame pitcher Randy Johnson excited these days.

The Class of 2015 Hall of Fame inductee visited Cooperstown this spring for the opening of his first-ever solo exhibition, *Randy Johnson: Storytelling with Photographs*.

Johnson's photo exhibit, which runs through Sept. 17 at the Fenimore Art Museum in Cooperstown, includes 30 large-print images captured during his excursions in Africa.

"I just came from Arizona where it was about 70 degrees, and I came in last night and it was snowing while I was having dinner. It's not something someone from Arizona sees very often," the 59-year-old Johnson said. "I really enjoy coming back here to Cooperstown, not only in July, but obviously for this occasion."

During Johnson's 22-year career, spent mostly with the Mariners and Diamondbacks, the dominant southpaw, with his fastball/slider arsenal, won 303 games and five Cy Young Awards, including four in a row from 1999 to 2002. A 10-time All-Star, he led his league in strikeouts nine times, his career total of 4,875 second all time only to Nolan Ryan. In 2001, his 3-0 record in the World Series helped an Arizona team, in only its fourth year of existence, to the championship.

Johnson's interest in photography began when he studied photojournalism at the University of Southern California from 1983-85, but went next level following his

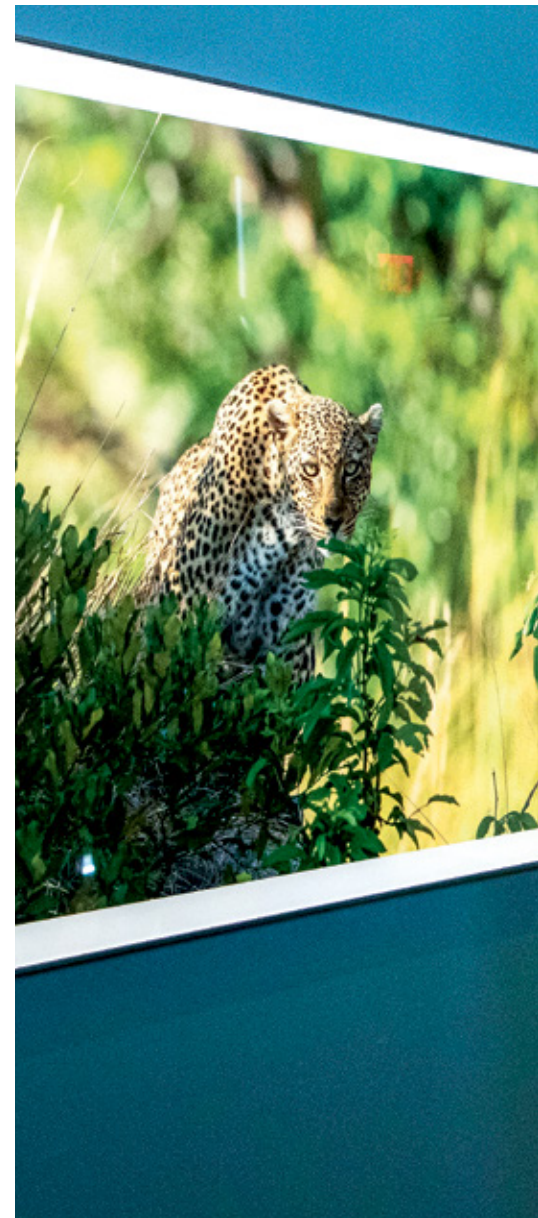
retirement from big league baseball in 2010.

"A lot of people think because now I'm retired, they're getting wind of the photography now. They think I just started, but in high school I was into photography and then I studied photojournalism at USC and worked for the college newspaper there, *The Daily Trojan*, and really got immersed into taking photographs, developing film and seeing the process," Johnson said.

"If there was going to be an interview with somebody or a story on something, they would send me," he continued. "There were probably five or six other staff photographers. I would take a picture and develop it and get an 8-by-10 of the image to the photo editor and they would run that, and I'd get my little photo credit in *The Daily Trojan*."

The exhibit, the result of four visits to separate regions of the African continent, features sections on Ethiopia and its people, Rwanda and its silverback gorilla population, the great herd migrations of Eastern Africa and portraits of various animals photographed in the wild.

"The love that I really get is traveling to Africa, not only seeing the animals but traveling to different villages and meeting the people," Johnson said. "Sometimes you learn more by just putting the camera down and listening to what your translator is saying about the village and the people and the culture. Something that a photograph can't get you. Over the time that I've been doing this, I understand that sometimes it's a lot



better to listen and maybe take a few less photographs, and then you got some story to go along with the picture."

Despite any acclaim Johnson has received for his artistic endeavors, he was consistently demurred when asked about this new success off the diamond.

"I'm not a professional. What I think is good is good for me, but someone else may critique it differently. That's how you get better," Johnson said. "I don't mind constructive criticism. I'm not a great photographer, and I never said I was. I'm just trying to make people happy. It's just a passion. I've never said that I'm good at it. I want to do better.

"I was a late bloomer in baseball. Hopefully that will be the same thing with my photography."



Randy Johnson has made several trips to Africa over the years. His photography from his journeys is featured in *Randy Johnson: Storytelling with Photographs* that is on display through the summer of 2023 at the Fenimore Art Museum in Cooperstown.

Johnson's enjoyment of shooting all different types of things, including concerts, travel and motorsports, lends itself to his thoughts on youth sports.

"It's the same that I would tell someone who plays Little League baseball. It's OK if you want to play basketball, football, ride skateboards and play baseball. You'll use those skills in other sports and then you can contribute them all toward baseball," he said.

"When I played basketball in high school, (I learned) the skills that you need are different than those in baseball, but nevertheless they were helpful. I always encourage when I talk to groups of parents

with their kids playing Little League baseball to not let them just play baseball," Johnson continued. "And then when you gravitate back toward baseball, or whatever sport that may be, all these other sports that you play will hopefully increase your ability and your agility."

Asked his thoughts on seeing his exhibition for the first time earlier that day after arriving in Cooperstown, Johnson admitted to being as nervous as he once was on a pitching rubber.

"I walked in and it blew me away. I don't think I've ever been that excited or that nervous," he said with a grin. "But I think there's nobody in this room that I could fool

if I gave up seven runs in a game and tried to sugarcoat it and say, 'Oh, I pitched a great game,' and convince you of that. You're too smart.

"In baseball, everybody knew when I pitched good and when I pitched bad," he continued. "My photography is going to be completely [subjective], whether you like it or not, and I'm totally fine with that. And I'm waiting to hear some feedback. And what I've heard so far is that a lot of people like it, and that makes me happy." 🍎

Bill Francis is the senior research and writing specialist at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.



Hall of Famer Joe Torre speaks at the commissioning of the USS Cooperstown on May 6.

Honoring the 70

THE USS COOPERSTOWN IS COMMISSIONED IN NEW YORK CITY.

The U.S. Navy commissioned its newest Freedom-variant littoral combat ship, USS Cooperstown (LCS 23), on May 6 in New York City.

USS Cooperstown is the first naval ship named after Cooperstown, N.Y., and honors the 70 Hall of Famers who served the United States during wartime in a range of conflicts spanning the Civil War, World War I, World War II and the Korean War.

“This [is a] quote from Chief Petty Officer and Hall of Fame pitcher Bob Feller; he was known for being succinct and direct,” said Jane Forbes Clark, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum and the ship’s Honorary Sponsor. “Baseball in the Navy was always much more fun than baseball in the major leagues.”

Longtime major leaguer and Hall of Fame manager Joe Torre was the ceremony’s main speaker and highlighted the ship’s ties with the namesake service members.

“As we commission the USS Cooperstown today, I’m thinking about my family and some of my dear friends,” Torre said, referencing his brother Rocco, who served in the military.

“There are so many others, like Phil Rizzuto, Larry Doby, Buck O’Neil, Chief Petty Officer Bob Feller — my hope is that when everyone looks at the USS Cooperstown, they think about the great ballplayers who represented something much bigger: American courage, sacrifice and togetherness.”

Hall of Famer Johnny Bench presented the long glass during the ceremony. The crew was hosted for a week-long series of events celebrating the ship, its namesake Village and the community it honors.

“I am pleased to be here in my hometown of New York City to commission the Navy’s newest littoral combat ship, USS Cooperstown,” said Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro. “LCS 23 honors the baseball greats who, in service of our nation, sacrificed their baseball careers for us. I have full confidence that the officers and crew of this great ship will continue to honor their legacy.”

Speakers for the event also included Chauncey McIntosh, vice president and general manager of Lockheed Martin Rotary and Mission Systems, Integrated Warfare Systems and Sensors; and Chief of Navy Reserve, Vice Adm. John Mustin.

The ship’s Sponsor, Ms. Alba Tull, gave the first order to “man our ship and bring her to life.”

“Cooperstown has a long-standing tradition of excellence and dedication to preserving the history and legacy of baseball, and the USS Cooperstown is a fitting tribute to that tradition,” said Tull. “The ship represents the best of America, our values, our commitment to defending our nation and the interests of our country.”

Built by the Lockheed Martin and Fincantieri Marinette Marine in Marinette, Wis., the USS Cooperstown was launched Jan. 19, 2019, christened on Feb. 29, 2020, completed acceptance trials on Dec. 14, 2020, and was delivered to the U.S. Navy on Sept. 20, 2022.

“The USS Cooperstown’s commissioning is a proud moment for us all, made possible by the tireless efforts of our dedicated crew,” said the ship’s Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Daxton Moore. “They have demonstrated remarkable teamwork and a relentless commitment to excellence, working hard to ensure that this ship is ready. We are honored to carry the name Cooperstown into the fleet.”

LCSs are fast, agile, mission-focused platforms designed to operate in near-shore environments, winning against 21st-century coastal threats.

Following its commission, the USS Cooperstown sailed to its home port of Mayport, Fla. 📍

Dodger Hero

CARL ERSKINE HONORED WITH 2023 BUCK O'NEIL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR HIS SELFLESS EFFORTS TO PROMOTE ATHLETICS.

By Bill Francis

Carl Erskine's time atop a pitching mound earned him a long list of impressive numbers and achievements, but his life after the diamond helping others is when his star shined the brightest.

The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum's Board of Directors announced June 14 that it had selected Erskine as the 2023 recipient of the John Jordan "Buck" O'Neil Lifetime Achievement Award.

Presented not more than once every three years, the award pays tribute to the legacy of O'Neil, the Negro Leagues legend whose baseball contributions spanned eight decades.

It is given to "honor an individual whose extraordinary efforts enhanced baseball's positive impact on society, broadened the game's appeal, and whose character, integrity and dignity are comparable to the qualities exhibited by O'Neil."

The Award, named after the late Buck O'Neil, was first given in 2008, with O'Neil the first recipient. Erskine becomes the sixth honoree, joining (besides the namesake) Roland Hemond (2011), Joe Garagiola (2014), Rachel Robinson (2017) and David Montgomery (2020).

"I'm a little overwhelmed, and this is very special to me," Erskine said. "What an honor this is, and it is really unexpected. At this point in my life, this is as big a boost as you can possibly give me."

As a standout pitcher for the Brooklyn and Los Angeles Dodgers from 1948 to 1959, Erskine, who was born Dec. 13, 1926, in



NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

Carl Erskine pitched for the Dodgers for 12 seasons before embarking on a career that saw him promote athletics and sportsmanship in his home state of Indiana and beyond.

Anderson, Ind., racked up 122 wins and two no-hitters while pitching on two Dodgers teams that won World Series titles.

Later, "Oisk," as Erskine's Brooklyn fans affectionately dubbed him, became a successful banking and insurance executive with a long-standing and prolific commitment to acts of citizenship. He helped break down racial barriers as a teammate and close friend of Jackie Robinson, and — with his son Jimmy born with Down Syndrome — he fought for people with intellectual disabilities, their acceptance and the services available to them.

In 1945, after graduating from high school, Erskine was drafted into the United

States Navy and stationed at the Boston Navy Yard. He signed with the Dodgers as an amateur free agent prior to the 1946 season and made his MLB debut on July 25, 1948. In the 1950s, he was a starting pitcher on the great Dodgers teams of that era, playing alongside Hall of Famers Robinson, Roy Campanella, Duke Snider, Pee Wee Reese, Gil Hodges and Sandy Koufax. Those teams would face the Yankees in a crosstown World Series on five occasions, and Erskine set a World Series single-game record (since surpassed) by striking out 14 Yankees in Game 3 of the 1953 World Series.

His best weapon on the mound was an outstanding overhand curveball.

Erskine retired in 1959, finishing with a 122-78 record (his .610 winning percentage ranks 103rd on the career list) and 14 career shutouts. His no-hitters came on June 19, 1952, against the Chicago Cubs, and versus the New York Giants on May 12, 1956.

After his playing career ended, Erskine returned to his hometown and served as the baseball coach at Anderson College for 12 years (1961-71, 1973), winning four conference championships.

With more than four decades as a volunteer, he was awarded Special Olympics' highest honor, the Spirit of the Special Olympics. Erskine was also a charter member of both the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the Baseball Assistance Team.

When Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels presented Erskine with the 2010 Sagem Award, the state's highest honor, he said: "In Indiana, character still counts. We would have given this award to Carl Erskine had he not ever thrown a single pitch. We give this because he was a witness and a champion for civil rights, a witness and a champion for those who are disabled."

Erskine was honored at the *Awards Presentation* as part of Hall of Fame Weekend 2023. 🎉

Bill Francis is the senior research and writing specialist at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

Arti-Facts

AN INSIDE LOOK AT ONE AMAZING PIECE FROM THE COLLECTION
AT THE NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

Reggie Jackson's 500th HR helmet



NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

Reggie Jackson wore this California Angels helmet on Sept. 17, 1984, when he clouted his 500th career home run. The slugger retired three seasons later with 563 homers.



Wearing protective headgear while batting became mandatory in the major leagues in 1970. A new rule adopted more than a decade later required batters to wear helmets with an ear flap, but a “grandfather clause” allowed veteran players to continue to wear flapless helmets for the rest of their careers.



THE NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM IS CELEBRATING AND HONORING THE HISTORY OF BLACK BASEBALL WITH A NEW INITIATIVE THAT INCLUDES A LINEUP OF EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH PROGRAMS AND A GROUNDBREAKING MUSEUM EXHIBIT THAT WILL OPEN IN THE SPRING OF 2024. READ MORE ABOUT THE INITIATIVE AT [BASEBALLHALL.ORG/BBI](https://baseballhall.org/bbi).

This helmet was manufactured by American Baseball Cap, Inc. In 1953, Pirates general manager Branch Rickey, who had a stake in the company, was among the first to mandate his players wear protective headgear.

The halo was a design constant in the Angels' logos since the franchise's inception in 1961. Although it originally encircled a lowercase "a" on caps and helmets, in 1972 the more familiar uppercase "A" was introduced.

Under the bill is the number 2,698,434, which refers to Ralph D. Davia's 1955 patent for this protective "baseball cap." The patent states, "This invention...is for a cap to be used by those participating in sports where there is a likelihood of head injury, but where adherence to traditional dress prevents the use of protective helmets."

Jackson is best known as "Mr. October," a nickname he acquired during his stellar World Series performances. However, the media had shortened his name to "Jax" since the early days of his big league career.

Jackson wore No. 31 when he made his big league debut with the Kansas City Athletics in 1967. The following year, when the franchise moved to Oakland, he switched to No. 9. It was not until he joined the Yankees following the 1976 season that the right fielder adopted the number he wore the rest of his career: 44.

Our Museum in Action

THESE ONGOING PROJECTS ARE JUST A FEW OF THE WAYS THE NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM'S MISSION IS BEING SUPPORTED TODAY.

baseballhall.org/museuminaction

What We've Done Together

#COOPERSTOWNMEMORIES

As history has shown us time and time again, baseball has a tremendous impact on families and friends everywhere — bringing us together and creating special memories. As baseball fans, we all have stories: Our first trip to Cooperstown, meeting a Hall of Famer in *America's Most Perfect Village*, seeing an exhibit that brings our own memories flooding back, stepping into the Plaque Gallery and feeling the connection to the game's all-time greats — the memories are countless.

We would love for you to share your #CooperstownMemories with us.

Simply send an email that includes your story and your name to development@baseballhall.org, and we will share selections with our "baseball family."

Here are a few stories from our Museum Members:

>>> My dad was a huge New York Giants fan and attended many games at the historic Polo Grounds. He had the pleasure and honor of seeing Willie Mays hit the first of his 660 home runs. I remember my dad telling me that when he saw Willie hit that first home run, he thought, "This kid is really special. He is going to be a star." No truer words were ever spoken! So one of my fondest Cooperstown memories is sitting on the lawn behind the Hall of Fame (back when the ceremonies were much more close and intimate) and watching Willie Mays be inducted.

I had the distinct pleasure of meeting Willie many years ago. My dad's idol has become the idol of our entire family. Thank you, Dad!

Kathy Lilac

Member Since 1996

>>> My best memory of Cooperstown was the first trip I made in August 1972, when I was 15 years old. We took a family trip to Niagara Falls and were returning home on the New York State Thruway when my dad got off at the Herkimer exit and headed south on Route 28. I just figured he was using one of his shortcuts to avoid Albany and thought nothing of it. But then I started seeing signs for Cooperstown and the Baseball Hall of Fame, and I started to get excited. Apparently, my



mom and dad had planned this for me all along. We got there late in the afternoon and spent a couple hours in the Museum, where I was mesmerized by all the historical artifacts and exhibits. It was easily the nicest surprise I had ever experienced. Looking at the plaques was almost a religious experience, as I had been an avid baseball fan since I was 7 and still am to this day. After our visit to the Museum, we strolled down to Doubleday Field, where the Yankees (my team) had just played in the Hall of Fame Game the previous Monday. Looking around that beautiful little ballpark was just as exciting for me as walking into Yankee Stadium.

I've made a number of visits to Cooperstown since that special day, but none will ever match the sheer surprise and delight of that first encounter.

Bill Spahr

Member Since 2016

>>> I was going through my email and saw one from the Hall of Fame asking for our memories. Well, I can give you my story and it's all 100 percent true. In July 2020, I was

diagnosed with stage 4 renal cancer. Turned out I was a very sick man. With some quick treatment at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and having one of my kidneys removed in April 2021, I've been on the road to a stable recovery. My wife, knowing how much I love my New York Yankees, decided to get me a membership to the Baseball Hall of Fame to celebrate. In May 2021, we took the trip to Cooperstown from New Jersey. She had arranged for a personal tour the first day and that was amazing. I got to see some of the items from the Yankees greats and learned so much more. The next day, we took it easy and got to see everything else. It was an amazing experience that has kept me a member of the Hall to this day. But wait, there's more. My father-in-law, who had recently lost his wife of 50 years and is



Showing how baseball connects generations, Walter Mollineaux (right) took his father-in-law and youngest son on their first visit to the National Baseball Hall Fame and Museum.

a die-hard New York Mets fan, mentioned to me in 2022 that he had never gone to the Hall of Fame. That was enough for me. My youngest son and I decided we needed to take his grandfather to Cooperstown. Three generations of our family made the trek and they both got to experience the wonder that I had. We met and talked with many of the other visitors that day, and we all shared our love of the game. Just when I thought my memories of the Hall couldn't get any better, this blew it all away. It all proved to me that I am a very lucky man. A simple email like this can't convey the feelings I have for the Hall of Fame, but I do want to thank everyone there for the work that you do to preserve and cherish everything about the great game of baseball.

Walter Mollineaux
Member Since 2021

What You Can Help Us Do



ROLLED PHOTOGRAPHS

The challenge with rolled photographs is that we never know for sure what we are going to find until we unroll them! In most cases, they arrive at the Museum rolled, and we have information from the donor on what the photographs are supposed to be, but we cannot unroll them without the help of a conservator, so we don't really know until the conservation work has been completed. The Museum has approximately 35 rolled photographs in its collection. The first two that we are hoping to unroll are believed to be connected to the history of Black baseball.

The first rolled photograph is a panoramic of Ponce de Leon Park, located in Atlanta, Ga., and home to both the Atlanta Crackers and the Atlanta Black Crackers. Ponce de Leon Park opened in 1907 and hosted a variety of teams. It is known for a magnolia tree in deep center field and for hosting the first integrated crowd at a professional sporting event in Atlanta on April 8, 1962.

The second rolled photograph is actually a collection of photographs that are all rolled in on each other and trapped inside of a cardboard cylinder. It is believed to house four photographs, all panorama: The Hilldale and Monarch teams from the first Colored World Series in 1924; an Old-Timers' Day at Braves Field in Boston in 1930; Cleveland's Dunn Field, taken on July 29, 1921; and an unidentified Los Angeles All-Star game.

Estimate for conservation: \$9,000

We are grateful for all our donors and Museum Members who help us preserve baseball history. We have accomplished a lot together, but there is more to be done.

Explore additional projects, including artifacts, photographs, Library documents and exhibit updates that need conservation and preservation, at our website. baseballhall.org/museumaction

baseballhall.org/museumaction

For more information — or to make a donation of any amount toward one of the projects — visit baseballhall.org/museumaction or contact our Development Team at (607) 547-0385 or development@baseballhall.org.



MILO STEWART JR./NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

The 13th Hall of Fame Classic was played on May 27 at Doubleday Field in Cooperstown and featured six Hall of Famers along with players representing MLB teams. Pokey Reese was named the Bob Feller Player of the Game and James Loney won the pregame Home Run Derby.

Legends of the Game

REESE LEADS THE WAY AT SUN-SPLASHED HALL OF FAME CLASSIC.

By Craig Muder

The 13th edition of the Hall of Fame Classic proved lucky for legends, players and especially the fans on a sun-soaked afternoon at Doubleday Field.

Led by Bob Feller Player of the Game Award winner Pokey Reese, Bert Blyleven's team defeated Jim Kaat's team, 8-3, on May 27.

"I was known for defense, and I could hit a little. But it was great to be back with guys I hadn't seen in a long time in this historic stadium," said Reese, a two-time Gold Glove Award winner at second base during his career who went 4-for-4 with a run scored and two RBI at the plate. "I hadn't picked up a bat in a while except for my wife's charity softball game."

Under blue skies and with a perfect 71-degree reading on the thermometer at game time, Glendon Rusch drew the start for Team Bert and pitched two scoreless innings.

Team Kitty starter Jeremy Guthrie set down the opposition without a run in the

first, but Team Bert plated three runs in the second on RBI singles from Scott Spiezio and MLB Network's A.J. Andrews and a run-scoring groundout by Ryan Lavarney.

Rajai Davis put Team Kitty on the board in the third inning with a home run to right-center field that cut the deficit to 3-1.

In the top of the fifth, Cory Gearrin took the mound for Team Bert — with his father, Tim Gearrin, behind the plate as the umpire — and allowed a run, but Jorge Cantú pushed Team Bert's lead back to two with a home run to lead off the bottom of the inning off new Team Kitty pitcher Jeremy Affeldt.

Team Kitty pulled within one again, 4-3, in the top of the sixth, but in the bottom of the frame Chris Young scored on a wild pitch and Travis Snider drew a bases-loaded walk to make it 6-3. Reese then followed with a long single to right-center that plated the game's final two runs.

James Loney won the pregame Home Run

Derby, defeating Brian Dozier and Josh Reddick in the finals.

"It felt pretty good," said Loney, who hit 108 home runs over 11 seasons with the Dodgers, Rays, Red Sox and Mets. "What was it, 314 feet down the (right field) line? So I felt pretty confident.

"It's been great to be in Cooperstown. Just catching up with the guys and having that camaraderie. I'm looking forward to coming back. I've got to defend this crown."

The Hall of Fame Classic, presented by Boeing and fueled by MLB, featured Hall of Fame managers/coaches Bert Blyleven, Rollie Fingers, Fergie Jenkins, Jim Kaat, Jack Morris and Lee Smith, along with players Jeremy Affeldt (Giants), Jorge Cantú (Marlins), Jeff Cirillo (Brewers), Rajai Davis (Guardians), Brian Dozier (Twins), Brian Fuentes (Rockies), Greg Garcia (Padres), Cory Gearrin (Braves), Jeremy Guthrie (Royals), Bryan Holaday (Rangers), Garrett Jones (Pirates), Ryan Lavarney (Red Sox), James Loney (Dodgers), Terrence Long (Athletics), Chris Ray (Orioles), Josh Reddick (Astros), Pokey Reese (Reds), J.C. Romero (Phillies), Glendon Rusch (Mets), Brendan Ryan (Yankees), Travis Snider (Blue Jays), Ed Spiezio (Cardinals), Scott Spiezio (Angels), Matt Thornton (White Sox), Josh Willingham (Nationals), Alex Wilson (Tigers) and Chris Young (Diamondbacks). 🍌

Craig Muder is the director of communications for the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.



Savannah Bananas in Cooperstown

September 14-17, 2023 • Cooperstown, NY

The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum will host the Savannah Bananas in the final contest of their 2023 World Tour! In addition to the Bananas, experience the game through the eyes of an umpire at our Ump's Eye View program with retired umpire Al Clark. View special memorabilia during our Artifact Spotlight. Join us for three nights in Cooperstown as this one baseball weekend will drive even the biggest baseball nut - BANANAS!

Baseball Road Trips

Create memories to last a lifetime on a Sports Travel and Tours' Baseball Road Trip that stops in historic Cooperstown, NY. Induction Weekend trips and week-long multi-city tours of baseball's greatest teams and stadiums are available with an option for every baseball lover. Travel relaxed and hassle-free as you experience great cities, visit attractions, and enjoy baseball games. You are guaranteed to make new friends along the way!

Visit sportstravelandtours.com/NBHOF or call us at 888-310-HALL and leave the planning to us.



Hall of Fame Classic w/Cooperstown Golf Classic

Annually in May • Cooperstown, NY

Salute the start of the summer season with this Cooperstown tradition, Hall of Fame Classic Weekend. In addition to the traditional Hall of Fame Classic events this package includes a golf outing led by Hall of Fame members at the Leatherstocking Golf Course on Otsego Lake on Sunday and much more.

Contact STAT today at 888-310-HALL or visit sportstravelandtours.com/NBHOF





The 2023 Steele intern class joined the Baseball Hall of Fame team in June. Pictured are: (front row, from left) Hall of Fame President Josh Rawitch, Claire DeMeo (development), Sarah Vitelli (Library-Giamatti Research Center), Simone Gillespie (Library-Giamatti Research Center), Carly Stewart (archives), Delaney Colson (education), Nikki Humphries (digital assets) and program founder Peggy Steele; (middle row, from left) Vice President, Communications and Content Jon Shestakofsky, Kelcie Tacea (programming), Aubrey Quinn (special events), Emma Haring (programming), Atticus Ginsborg (data analyst), Andrew Stolarski (programming) and Ryan Gardner (programming) and Director of Education Stephanie Hazzard; (back row, from left) Nickolas Brandon (collections), Chase Niekro (development), Alex Buchheit (curatorial), Aaron McCoy (public relations), Manning Snyder (licensing and sales), Sebastian Cognetti (development) and Justin Alpert (social media).

Steele Home

EXCITED FOR A REWARDING EXPERIENCE, CLASS OF 2023 HALL OF FAME INTERNS BRING PLENTY TO THE TABLE.

By Aaron McCoy

The newest batch of Steele interns arrived just in time for the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum's 34th Annual Cooperstown Symposium on Baseball and Culture, a three-day event that brings together the best minds in baseball scholarship. Symposium keynote speaker Tyler Kepner, author and *New York Times* national baseball writer, shared his insights, inspirations and experiences while covering the game, referencing the old adage of baseball as a metaphor for life.

"Baseball rewards you if you put in the effort. It was one of the things I always loved about it. And one of the things I've always loved about Cooperstown," Kepner said.

The 22nd class of the Frank and Peggy Steele Internship Program knows something about putting in the effort. Out of the 19 students, five are either in or will be starting graduate school in the fall of 2023.

"The Steele Internship Program will prepare me for the next step in my academic journey on a daily basis. I'll continue to

build skills with time management, effective communication, networking and keeping detailed records," said licensing, sales and marketing intern Manning Snyder, who will be attending the Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law.

In addition to their efforts in the classroom, some interns brought their sense of teamwork and understanding of modern sports to Cooperstown, as five play (or have played) intercollegiate sports. While part of a team, student-athletes can gain a variety of useful professional skills.

"It started for me with recruiting. You had to be professional when meeting coaches and players," said Emma Haring, public programming intern and member of the Towson University women's lacrosse team. "Once you get to school, you learn time management skills, and you learn how to work with others who may not think like you."

Not only has this year's class put in the work to become a Steele intern through academic achievements and extracurricular

activities, a few logged significant hours while trekking to Cooperstown. Hailing from Seattle and completing a master's degree in library and information science at the University of Washington, archives intern Carly Stewart drove eight days to make it to the Hall of Fame for this summer.

"It was a full-circle moment," Stewart said of her 50-hour trip to the Hall of Fame. "I grew up going to games and listening to Mariners games with my dad, and I made the trip with him."

Each member of the 2023 intern class has a specific path that led them to Cooperstown. This summer, the interns will showcase their unique skills, along with their respect for both the game and each other, to help carry out the Hall of Fame's mission to Preserve History, Honor Excellence and Connect Generations.

Over a 10-week experience, the program offers interns the opportunity to learn through various seminars and career development events. Along with their departmental duties, interns will showcase and write about various items from the Museum's archives in artifact spotlights, host the annual Hall of Fame All-Star Gala and assist with events during Induction Weekend in July.

Applications for the summer 2024 Frank and Peggy Steele Internship Program will be available in October 2023. 📌

Aaron McCoy is the public relations intern in the Frank and Peggy Steele Internship Program for Leadership Development.

The Souls of the Game

NEW EXPLORATION OF THE BLACK BASEBALL EXPERIENCE TO DEBUT AT MUSEUM IN SPRING OF 2024.

The stories and impact of the Black baseball experience will be recognized and celebrated through *The Souls of the Game: Voices of Black Baseball*, the groundbreaking new exhibit opening in the spring of 2024 at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown.

From the decades-long history of Black baseball prior to the formation of the Negro Leagues, through the complexities of baseball's reintegration, to the challenges that remain today, *The Souls of the Game* will reveal the deep connections between baseball and Black America.

The exhibit is part of the Hall of Fame's Black Baseball Initiative that includes additional outreach programs, educational materials and virtual programming, and is made possible by the Yawkey Foundation with additional support from Bill Janetschek in honor of his siblings Robert and Ann, the Anthony A. Yoseloff Foundation and the Bisignano family. The new exhibit will be in the Yawkey Gallery.

"*The Souls of the Game* will share the stories of Black baseball through the voices of the men and women who lived, and still live, that history," said Josh Rawitch, President of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. "The exhibit will provide an authentic, cohesive narrative of Black baseball history while celebrating baseball through the lens of Black culture and vice versa.

"We are grateful to the Yawkey Foundation, Bill Janetschek and his family, the Anthony A. Yoseloff Foundation and the Bisignano family for their support of this exhibit, the Museum's Black Baseball Initiative and its impactful educational outreach opportunities," said Rawitch.



Hall of Fame President Josh Rawitch (left of Hall of Fame plaque of Larry Doby) and Larry Doby Jr. (right of plaque) were part of an event on June 19 at Paterson, N.J.'s, Hinchliffe Stadium to announce details of the Museum's new *The Souls of the Game* exhibit.

"The Black Baseball Initiative is meaningful and timely because there are important, complex and nuanced stories that need to be told, especially from individuals with lived experiences. The Yawkey Foundation shares the Hall's commitment to learning, understanding and courageous conversations that stem from both the painful chapters of our nation's history and from the often hard-won victories by some of the greatest players and personalities in and around baseball," said Maureen H. Bleday, CEO and Trustee of the Yawkey Foundation. "During their lifetimes, Tom Yawkey and Jean Yawkey demonstrated a love for the unique way that baseball had the power to bring together players, fans and communities, and our Trustees are certain that the Yawkeys would have invested in this critical initiative if they were with us today."

The Souls of the Game, a title that pays tribute to W. E. B. Du Bois' seminal 1903 book

"*The Souls of Black Folk*," will explore the Black baseball experience of those African-American men, women and children who were and are an integral part of our National Pastime.

"W. E. B. Du Bois' *The Souls of Black Folk* was and remains one of the most important books by a Black person written in the 20th century," said Dr. Gerald Early, Washington University professor and one of several curatorial consultants for the Hall of Fame's ongoing Black Baseball Initiative. "One of the main messages of Du Bois' book was that, in their status as free men and women, Black people needed to use all that was around them to invent, shape and resurrect their own culture. By echoing Du Bois' book title, this exhibit emphasizes that message about the meaning of baseball for Black Americans. Baseball was not merely a sport for Blacks. It was an element, a brick, in building a culture. Baseball was about Blacks creating themselves anew as a free people, as Americans of African descent."

Subtitled *Voices of Black Baseball*, the exhibit will highlight first-person accounts by individuals whose Black baseball experiences shaped them, their community, baseball and America at large. Featuring historic artifacts, important documents and engaging photographs, and utilizing audio, video and interactive elements, the exhibit will tell a more inclusive story of baseball, shine a light on and correct misconceptions about Black baseball, and provide an authentic, cohesive narrative of African-American baseball history.

Sections will cover stories of early Black baseball, the Negro Leagues era, the complexities of reintegration, Jackie Robinson, post-reintegration progress and retrogress, and calls for change in today's game. 📌

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Aaron, Henry L. (Hank) 1982
 Alexander, Grover C. (Pete) 1938
 Alomar, Roberto V.* 2011
 Alston, Walter E. 1983
 Anderson, George L. (Sparky) 2000
 Anson, Adrian C. (Cap) 1939
 Aparicio Montiel, Luis E.* 1984
 Appling, Lucius B. (Luke) 1964
 Ashburn, Don Richard (Richie) 1995
 Averill, Howard Earl 1975

Bagwell, Jeffrey R. (Jeff)* 2017
 Baines, Harold D.* 2019
 Baker, John Franklin (Home Run) 1955
 Bancroft, David J. (Beauty) 1971
 Banks, Ernest (Ernie) 1977
 Barlick, Albert Joseph 1989
 Barrow, Edward G. 1953
 Beckley, Jacob P. (Jake) 1971
 Bell, James T. (Cool Papa) 1974
 Bench, Johnny L.* 1989
 Bender, Charles A. 1953
 Berra, Lawrence P. (Yogi) 1972
 Biggio, Craig A.* 2015
 Blyleven, Rik Aalbert (Bert)* 2011
 Boggs, Wade* 2005
 Bottomley, James L. 1974
 Boudreau, Louis (Lou) 1970
 Bresnahan, Roger P. 1945
 Brett, George H.* 1999
 Brock, Louis C. (Lou) 1985
 Brothurs, Dennis J. (Dan) 1945
 Brown, Mordecai P.C. 1949
 Brown, Raymond L. (Ray) 2006
 Brown, Willard J. 2006
 Bulkeley, Morgan G. 1937
 Bunning, James P.D. (Jim) 1996
 Burkett, Jesse C. 1946

Campanella, Roy 1969
 Carew, Rodney C. (Rod)* 1991
 Carey, Max G. 1961
 Carlton, Steven N.* 1994
 Carter, Gary E. 2003
 Cartwright, Alexander J. 1938
 Cepeda Pennes, Orlando M.* 1999
 Chadwick, Henry 1938
 Chance, Frank L. 1946
 Chandler, Albert B. (Happy) 1982
 Charleston, Oscar M. 1976
 Chesbro, John D. (Jack) 1946
 Chylak, Nestor G. 1999
 Clarke, Fred C. 1945
 Clarkson, John G. 1963
 Clemente Walker, Roberto 1973
 Cobb, Tyrus R. (Ty) 1936
 Cochrane, Gordon S. (Mickey) 1947
 Collins, Edward T. (Eddie) 1939
 Collins, James J. (Jimmy) 1945
 Combs, Earle B. 1970
 Comiskey, Charles A. 1939
 Conlan, John B. (Jocko) 1974
 Connolly, Thomas H. 1953
 Connor, Roger 1976
 Cooper, Andy L. 2006
 Coveleski, Stanley A. 1969
 Cox, Robert J. (Bobby)* 2014

Crawford, Samuel E. (Sam) 1957
 Cronin, Joseph E. (Joe) 1956
 Cummings, William A. (Candy) 1939
 Cuyler, Hazen S. (Kiki) 1968

Dandridge, Raymond E. (Ray) 1987
 Davis, George S. 1998
 Dawson, Andre N.* 2010
 Day, Leon 1995
 Dean, Jay H. (Dizzy) 1953
 Delahanty, Edward J. 1945
 Dickey, William M. (Bill) 1954
 Dihigo Llanos, Martín 1977
 DiMaggio, Joseph P. 1955
 Doby, Lawrence E. (Larry) 1998
 Doerr, Robert P. (Bobby) 1986
 Dreyfuss, Barney 2008
 Drysdale, Donald S. 1984
 Duffy, Hugh 1945
 Durocher, Leo E. 1994

Eckersley, Dennis L.* 2004
 Evans, William G. (Billy) 1973
 Evers, John J. 1946
 Ewing, William (Buck) 1939

Faber, Urban C. (Red) 1964
 Feller, Robert W.A. (Bob) 1962
 Ferrell, Richard B. 1984
 Fingers, Roland G. (Rollie)* 1992
 Fisk, Carlton E.* 2000
 Flick, Elmer H. 1963
 Ford, Edward C. (Whitey) 1974
 Foster, William H. (Bill) 1996
 Foster, Andrew B. (Rube) 1981
 Fowler, Bud 2022
 Fox, Jacob N. (Nellie) 1997
 Foss, James E. (Jimmie) 1951
 Frick, Ford C. 1970
 Frisch, Frank F. 1947

Galvin, James F. (Pud) 1965
 Gehrig, Henry Louis (Lou) 1939
 Gehring, Charles L. 1949
 Gibson, Robert (Bob) 1981
 Gibson, Joshua 1972
 Giles, Warren C. 1979
 Gillick, Lawrence Patrick D.* 2011
 Glavine, Thomas M. (Tom)* 2014
 Gomez, Vernon L. (Lefty) 1972
 Gordon, Joseph L. 2009
 Goslin, Leon A. (Goose) 1968
 Gossage, Richard M. (Goose)* 2008
 Grant, Ulysses F. (Frank) 2006
 Greenberg, Henry B. (Hank) 1956
 Griffey Jr., George K. (Ken)* 2016
 Griffith, Clark C. 1946
 Grimes, Burleigh A. 1964
 Grove, Robert M. (Lefty) 1947
 Guerrero, Vladimir* 2018
 Gwynn, Anthony K. (Tony) 2007

Hafey, Charles J. (Chick) 1971
 Haines, Jesse J. 1970

Halladay III, Harry L. (Roy) 2019
 Hamilton, William R. (Billy) 1961
 Hanlon, Edward H. (Ned) 1996
 Harridge, William 1972
 Harris, Stanley R. (Bucky) 1975
 Hartnett, Charles L. (Gabby) 1955
 Harvey, Harold D. (Doug) 2010
 Heilmann, Harry E. 1952
 Henderson, Rickey N.H.* 2009
 Herman, William J. (Billy) 1975
 Herzog, Dorrel N.E. (Whitey)* 2010
 Hill, J. Preston (Pete) 2006
 Hodges, Gilbert R. 2022
 Hoffman, Trevor W.* 2018
 Hooper, Harry B. 1971
 Hornsby, Rogers 1942
 Hoyt, Waite C. 1969
 Hubbard, Robert Cal 1976
 Hubbell, Carl O. 1947
 Huggins, Miller J. 1964
 Hulbert, William 1995
 Hunter, James A. (Catfish) 1987

Irvin, Monford M. (Monte) 1973

Jackson, Reginald M. (Reggie)* 1993
 Jackson, Travis C. 1982
 Jenkins, Ferguson A. (Fergie)* 1991
 Jennings, Hugh A. 1945
 Jeter, Derek S.* 2020
 Johnson, Byron Bancroft (Ban) 1937
 Johnson, William J. (Judy) 1975
 Johnson, Randall D. (Randy)* 2015
 Johnson, Walter P. 1936
 Jones, Larry W. (Chipper)* 2018
 Joss, Adrian (Addie) 1978

Kaat, James L. (Jim)* 2022
 Kaline, Albert W. 1980
 Keefe, Timothy J. 1964
 Keeler, Willie H. (Wee Willie) 1939
 Kell, George C. 1983
 Kelly, Joseph J. 1971
 Kelly, George L. 1973
 Kelly, Michael J. (King) 1945
 Killebrew, Harmon C. 1984
 Kiner, Ralph M. 1975
 Klein, Charles H. (Chuck) 1980
 Klem, William J. 1953
 Koufax, Sanford (Sandy)* 1972
 Kuhn, Bowie 2008

Lajoie, Napoleon (Nap) 1937
 Landis, Kenesaw M. 1944
 Larkin, Barry L.* 2012
 La Russa, Anthony (Tony)* 2014
 Lasorda, Thomas C. 1994
 Lazzery, Anthony M. 1991
 Lemon, Robert G. (Bob) 1976
 Leonard, Walter F. (Buck) 1972
 Lindstrom, Frederick C. 1976
 Lloyd, John H. (Pop) 1977
 Lombardi, Ernest N. (Ernie) 1986
 López, Alfonso R. (Al) 1977
 Lyons, Theodore A. (Ted) 1955

Mack, Cornelius A. (Connie) 1937
 Mackey, James R. (Biz) 2006
 MacPhail, Leland S. (Larry) 1978
 MacPhail, Leland S. (Lee) 1998
 Maddux, Gregory A. (Greg)* 2014
 Manley, Effa 2006
 Mantle, Mickey C. 1974
 Manush, Henry E. (Heinie) 1964
 Maranville, Walter V. (Rabbit) 1954
 Marichal Sánchez, Juan A.* 1983
 Marquard, Richard W. (Rube) 1971
 Martinez, Edgar* 2019
 Martinez, Pedro J.* 2015
 Mathews, Edwin L. (Eddie) 1978

Mathewson, Christopher (Christy) 1936
 Mays, Willie H.* 1979
 Mazerowski, William S.* 2001
 McCarthy, Joseph V. 1957
 McCarthy, Thomas F. M. 1946
 McCovey, Willie L. 1986
 McGinnity, Joseph J. 1946
 McGowan, William A. 1992
 McGraw, John J. 1937
 McGriff, Frederick S. (Fred)* 2023
 McKechnie, William B. 1962
 McPhee, John A. (Bid) 2000
 Medwick, Joseph M. 1968
 Méndez, José 2006
 Miller, Marvin J. 2020
 Miñoso, Saturnino O.A. (Minnie) 2022
 Mize, John R. 1981
 Molitor, Paul L.* 2004
 Morgan, Joe L. 1990
 Morris, John Scott (Jack)* 2018
 Murray, Eddie C.* 2003
 Musial, Stanley F. 1969
 Mussina, Michael C.* 2019

Newhouse, Harold (Hal) 1992
 Nichols, Charles A. (Kid) 1949
 Niekro, Philip H. 1997

O'Day, Henry (Hank) 2013
 Oliva, Tony P.* 2022
 O'Malley, Walter 2008
 O'Neil, John J. (Buck) 2022
 O'Rourke, James H. (Jim) 1945
 Ortiz, David A.* 2022
 Ott, Melvin T. (Mel) 1951

Paige, Leroy R. (Satchel) 1971
 Palmer, James A. (Jim)* 1990
 Pennoch, Herbert J. 1948
 Pérez Rigal, Atanacio (Tony)* 2000
 Perry, Gaylord J. 1991
 Piazza, Michael J.* 2016
 Plank, Edward A. 1946
 Pompey, Alejandro (Alex) 2006
 Posey, Cumberland (Cum) 2006
 Puckett, Kirby 2001

Radbourn, Charles G. (Old Hoss) 1939
 Raines Sr., Timothy (Tim)* 2017
 Reese, Harold H. (Pee Wee) 1984
 Rice James E. (Jim)* 2009
 Rice, Edgar C. (Sam) 1963
 Rickey, Wesley Branch 1967
 Ripken Jr., Calvin E. (Cal)* 2007
 Rivera, Mariano* 2019
 Rixey, Eppa 1963
 Rizzuto, Phillip F. 1994
 Roberts, Robin E. 1976
 Robinson, Brooks C.* 1983
 Robinson, Frank 1982
 Robinson, Jack R. (Jackie) 1962
 Robinson, Wilbert 1945
 Rodríguez, Iván* 2017
 Rogan, Wilber J. (Bullet) 1998
 Rozen, Scott B.* 2023
 Roush, Edd J. 1962
 Ruffing, Charles H. (Red) 1967
 Ruppert, Jacob 2013
 Rusie, Amos W. 1977
 Ruth, George H. (Babe) 1936
 Ryan, Lynn Nolan* 1999

Sandberg, Ryne D.* 2005
 Santo, Ronald E. 2012
 Santop, Louis 2006
 Schalk, Raymond W. 1955
 Schmidt, Michael J.* 1995
 Schoendienst, Albert F. (Red) 1989
 Schuerholz, John B.* 2017
 Seaver, George T. (Tom) 1992

Selee, Frank G. 1999
 Selig, Allan H. (Bud)* 2017
 Sewell, Joseph W. 1977
 Simmons, Aloysius H. (Al) 1953
 Simmons, Ted L.* 2020
 Sisler, George H. 1939
 Slaughter, Enos B. (Country) 1985
 Smith, Hilton 2001
 Smith, Lee A.* 2019
 Smith, Osborne Earl (Ozzie)* 2002
 Smoltz, John A.* 2015
 Snider, Edwin D. (Duke) 1980
 Southworth, William H. (Billy) 2008
 Spahn, Warren E. 1973
 Spalding, Albert G. 1939
 Speaker, Tristram E. (Tris) 1937
 Stargell, Wilver D. (Willie) 1988
 Stearnes, Norman T. (Turkey) 2000
 Stengel, Charles D. (Casey) 1966
 Sutter, Howard (Bruce) 2006
 Suttles, George (Mule) 2006
 Sutton, Donald H. 1998

Taylor, Ben H. 2006
 Terry, William H. 1954
 Thomas, Frank E.* 2014
 Thome, James H. (Jim)* 2018
 Thompson, Samuel L. (Sam) 1974
 Tinker, Joseph B. 1946
 Torre, Joseph P. (Joe)* 2014
 Torriente, Cristóbal 2006
 Trammell, Alan S.* 2018
 Traynor, Harold J. (Pie) 1948

Vance, Arthur C. (Dazzy) 1955
 Vaughan, Joseph F. (Arky) 1985
 Veck, William L. (Bill) 1991

Waddell, George E. (Rube) 1946
 Wagner, John P. (Honus) 1936
 Walker, Larry K.R.* 2020
 Wallace, Roderick J. (Bobby) 1953
 Walsh, Edward A. 1946
 Waner, Lloyd J. 1967
 Waner, Paul G. 1952
 Ward, John Montgomery 1964
 Weaver, Earl S. 1996
 Weiss, George M. 1971
 Welch, Michael F. (Mickey) 1973
 Wells, Willie J. 1997
 Wheat, Zachariah D. (Zack) 1959
 White, James L. (Deacon) 2013
 White, King S. (Sol) 2006
 Wilhelm, James Hoyt 1985
 Wilkinson, J.L. 2006
 Williams, Billy L.* 1987
 Williams, Richard H. (Dick) 2008
 Williams, Joe (Smokey) 1999
 Williams, Theodore S. (Ted) 1966
 Willis, Victor G. 1995
 Wilson, Lewis R. (Hack) 1979
 Wilson, Ernest (Jud) 2006
 Winfield, David M.* 2001
 Wright, George 1937
 Wright, William H. (Harry) 1953
 Wynn, Early 1972

Yastrzemski, Carl M.* 1989
 Yawkey, Thomas A. 1980
 Young, Denton T. (Cy) 1937
 Youngs, Royce M. (Ross) 1972
 Yount, Robin R.* 1999

*Living as of June 27, 2023



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The USS Cooperstown was commissioned on May 6 in New York City. The Navy vessel is named in honor of the 70 Hall of Famers who interrupted their baseball careers to serve in the military during wartime.

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