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# MEMORIES

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# MEMORIES and Dreams

The Official Magazine of the Hall of Fame

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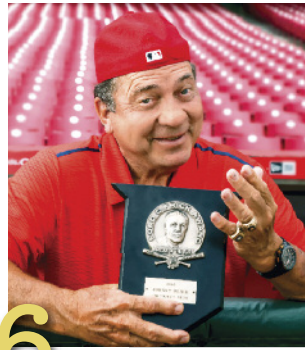
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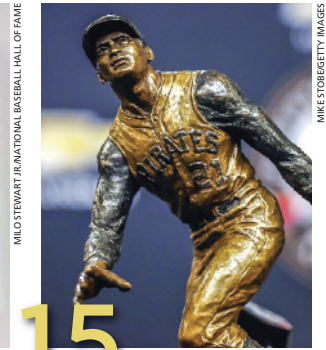
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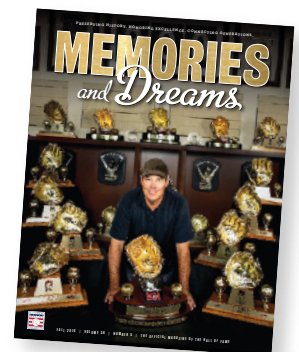
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2014 Hall of Fame inductee Greg Maddux is one of the game's most decorated players, collecting a record 18 Gold Glove Awards and four straight Cy Young Awards during his 23-year MLB career.

# FROM THE PRESIDENT > JEFF IDELSON



**I** was born and raised in the greater Boston area. My family first lived in an apartment in Jamaica Plain, and later, when we outgrew the space, we settled into a home in Newton. It was there that my extremely limited baseball playing career began and ended.

My rookie season as a Little Leaguer was in kindergarten, and I finished in the majors, as a member of the Phillies, in sixth grade. It began to sink in at age 12 in 1976 that if I were to have a career in baseball, it wasn't going to be on the diamond.

At the end-of-the-season banquet, every player who was graduating from Little League was presented with his or her (there was one girl in

our league) own trophy. It was big, looked like it was gold, and seemed most impressive. I was ecstatic to receive my trophy. I felt like the father in the movie *A Christmas Story*, who was over-the-moon when he learned he had “won a major award,” and proud of the lamp in the shape of a leg he received as the award.

Even though my trophy was given for simply showing up every day and finishing the season, it's a relic that today still evokes memories of not only my final season, but of my entire Little League career.

The highlights of my illustrious seven-year career included batting three times (and getting three hits) in an inning, hitting one



Hall of Fame President Jeff Idelson holds his Little League trophy while standing in front of the Museum in Cooperstown.

home run (and it was a grand slam), playing all nine positions in a game, catching the season-opening ceremonial first pitch from our Little League Commissioner, and starting in center field in my final season for a Phillies team that won the Newton Central Division with a 14-2 record. That's about it.

Awards in Major League Baseball are presented for achievement. Those who have the best seasons earn MVPs. Cy Youngs go to the dominant pitchers. The top new players on the scene earn Rookie of the Year honors. The dominant hitters are bestowed with the Hank Aaron Award. And beginning this year, those with the highest batting average in each league are presented with the Tony Gwynn and Rod Carew awards in the National and American leagues, respectively.

Baseball is so intertwined with culture that awards are presented for service and humanitarianism, with Roberto Clemente, Branch Rickey, Fred Hutchinson and Lou Gehrig having awards named in their memory.

And, of course, the ultimate awards are presented in Cooperstown for career excellence: Hall of Fame plaques and the Buck O'Neil Award.

Awards serve as vehicles for our memories. Sitting with Rod Carew as he explained how the Clemente Award was more important to him than virtually anything drove that home. Carew, hearing directly from “The Great One” about how to carry himself and be an example for other young Latino players, struck a chord with him that, nearly a half century later, is still vivid.

Dave Winfield smiles broadly and remembers moments and seasons when talking about his multitude of Gold Glove and Silver Slugger awards.

When you ask any Hall of Famer about his election, he will wax poetic on career memories that remain crystal clear. If the details start to become fuzzy, we, as baseball fans, remind them of specific places, events and milestones from their playing days.

And when I see my Little League trophy (which sits in my living room at home in Cooperstown), I can't help but remember being a youngster again. Because, after all, however we consume the game, it brings out the little kid in each of us.

MILO STEWART JR./NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME



# 2016 MEMBERSHIP LITHOGRAPH

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## RICKEY HENDERSON • MAN OF STEAL

### MAY 1, 1991 • OAKLAND COLISEUM • OAKLAND, CA

In celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rickey Henderson breaking Lou Brock's stolen base record, the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum has commissioned renowned baseball artist Bill Purdom to create and capture the moment from Rickey's historic day.

#### THE MOMENT

Henderson, then a left fielder with the Oakland Athletics, ran into the record books in the fourth inning of a 7-4 win over the visiting New York Yankees on the afternoon of May 1, 1991.

Standing on second base, the "Man of Steal" took off for third on a 1-0 change-up from righty Tim Lincecum to designated hitter Harold Baines and dove into third base with his signature headfirst slide, easily beating catcher Matt Nokes' throw, which bounced before reaching third baseman Randy Velarde.

#### GET YOUR LITHOGRAPH

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For more information and news from the Hall of Fame, visit [baseballhall.org](http://baseballhall.org).

## Enjoy a VIP Experience

Fans have the opportunity to explore the Hall of Fame through a special program designed to give Cooperstown visitors a VIP Experience. The Museum has partnered with Cooperstown accommodations to offer a unique two-day behind-the-scenes experience that includes: Hall of Fame Sustaining Membership (\$100 value); exclusive after-hours access to the Museum on Thursday evening; a Library archive tour; a Museum collections artifact presentation; and a private late-afternoon reception with light refreshments served.

This special package is a great way to learn more about the Museum and baseball history, whether this is your first or your 50th visit to Cooperstown, and is only available for purchase through select Cooperstown Chamber of Commerce accommodations.

Learn more about the VIP Experience at [baseballhall.org/visit/vip-experience](http://baseballhall.org/visit/vip-experience). Dates for upcoming packages include Oct. 13-14 and Nov. 17-18.

## Presenting PASTIME

The Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum has launched its new online digital portal, dubbed PASTIME (Public Archive System To Interact with the Museum Electronically), at [collection.baseballhall.org](http://collection.baseballhall.org).

The digital collection debuted Sept. 7 with 25 volumes of 10 different Babe Ruth scrapbooks created by Ruth's agent Christy Walsh, which provide a unique look at Ruth's career through letters, stories and photographs. Baseball fans and researchers alike can explore PASTIME as it continues to grow, with additional digitized material – including photos, audio, video and text – from the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum's collections scheduled to be published every other Wednesday.

Keep an eye out for the next issue of *Memories and Dreams*, which will feature PASTIME and the Hall of Fame's digitization efforts.



## STAFF SELECTIONS



MICHAEL STEWART/INTERNATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

**Name:** Cassidy Lent  
**Position:** Reference Librarian  
**Hall of Fame Experience:** Debuted March 31, 2014  
**Hometown:** Schenectady, N.Y.

**Favorite Museum Artifact:** My favorite is the upright player model piano made for Christy Mathewson during his time in rehabilitation for tuberculosis in upstate New York. It is just one of those unique pieces that the Hall has that doesn't relate directly to baseball, but still tells a story.

**Memorable Museum Moment:** We have a number of visitors who make their way back to the Library looking for anything we might have on relatives who played baseball. Whenever we are able to find something for them, especially if it can be copied and taken home, it just makes them so happy. Those are the best moments!

## MEMBERS MAILBAG



### Memories of Uncle Joe

Our late godfather, Joe Wargo, would accompany us on our annual Induction Weekend pilgrimage from northeastern Pennsylvania each year. This tradition began in 1987. Our Uncle Joe would hold court from "The Bench" on Main Street each year, and he loved telling stories of Joe DiMaggio, Joe Gordon and Phil Rizzuto.

Dr. Joe and his father, Joe, keep the great tradition alive.

Thanks for the memories!

*Joe Butas, Boston, MA*

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**KEN GRIFFEY JR.**

2016 NATIONAL BASEBALL  
HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE



FROM THE CINCINNATI REDS AND  
YOUR FANS THROUGHOUT REDS COUNTRY

# AWARD-WINNING HISTORY

RECOGNIZING BASEBALL'S HIGHEST ACHIEVERS IS A TRADITION NEARLY AS OLD AS THE GAME ITSELF.

BY JACOB POMRENKE

**T**

roust vs. Cabrera. Williams vs. DiMaggio. Cobb vs. Lajoie. There is no more time-honored tradition among baseball fans than arguing over the most deserving award winners at the end of every season.

For more than a century, that debate has largely centered around who's considered the Most Valuable Player in each league. The roots of the MVP Award, baseball's oldest and most prestigious individual honor, date back to the late 1800s. Winning the award has become almost a predictor of Hall of Fame election. Of the 87 position players elected by the Baseball Writers' Association of America to the Hall of Fame, 50 of them are MVP winners.

Today, there are more awards than ever – many of them named after celebrated award winners of the past – rewarding modern players for their accomplishments both on and off the field. Major leaguers may receive contract bonuses and shiny Tiffany trophies when they win awards, but more importantly, they earn a permanent place among the game's storied greats.

These MLB awards, from the Cy Young Award to the Fred Hutchinson Award to the Tony Gwynn Award, all have their own unique histories, too.

Some are famous or controversial, with the results debated by fans for months and years afterward. Others hold special meaning for players who may never receive one of the “major” awards.

But no award has evoked more controversy, or has a more interesting backstory, than the MVP award.

The idea of honoring the player who was most valuable to his team's

success goes back at least to 1875, one year before the formation of the National League. That season, future Hall of Fame catcher James “Deacon” White batted .367 in leading the Boston Red Stockings to a 71-8 record in the old National Association. As historian Bill Deane documented

in “Total Baseball,” White was presented with a tray of silver inscribed with “Most Valuable Player to Boston Team” from an admiring fan.

Fans in other cities, however, did not pick up on the tradition. So White's hardware was a one-time honor. It took another generation before that type of award returned to prominence. And if not for a scandal involving two Hall of Famers, the MVP award as we know it might not exist today.

In 1910, automobile executive Hugh Chalmers announced that he would present one of his company's new roadsters to the player with the highest batting average that season. A two-man race between Detroit's Ty Cobb and Cleveland's Napoleon Lajoie came down to the last day. Lajoie came out on top, .384 to .383, only because of a remarkable 8-for-8 performance in the final doubleheader against the St. Louis Browns. It was later discovered that Browns manager Jack O'Connor had instructed his rookie third baseman, Red Corriden, to play back in

short left field and allow Lajoie to easily bunt for singles all day long.

A public relations disaster ensued and, after the dust had settled, Cobb was declared the winner by American League president Ban Johnson (who inexplicably discovered a “discrepancy” in the record books and awarded two extra hits to the Tigers star) and O'Connor was kicked out of baseball.

Chalmers decided to award cars to both Cobb and Lajoie in a gesture



Mike Trout smiles after accepting the 2015 All-Star Game Most Valuable Player trophy bat at Great American Ball Park in Cincinnati. Trout became the first player to win back-to-back All-Star Game MVPs, having won the 2014 award at Target Field in Minneapolis.

JEAN PITHAVATONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME





Ken Griffey Jr. earned his share of hardware during his Hall of Fame career, shown here posing with his ninth Gold Glove Award and a Silver Slugger Award during 1999 Opening Day ceremonies in Seattle.



JEAN TRUHN/INTERNATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

of good will. The next season, despite calls from some baseball writers to abolish the concept of individual awards entirely, the automaker suggested new criteria for his prize. He would award an automobile to one player in each league who was “the most important and most useful player to his club and to the league at large in point of deportment and value of services rendered.” This was the first modern MVP award, selected by a committee of 16 writers, one from each city in the league.

Cobb took home the first Chalmers Award (as it was known) in 1911 for the AL, while Chicago Cubs outfielder Frank “Wildfire” Schulte won in the NL. But fan interest in the award quickly diminished, in part

**1.** Dave Winfield sits surrounded by some of the seven Gold Glove Awards and six Silver Slugger Awards he won during a 22-year big league career that earned him a plaque in Cooperstown. **2.** Walter Johnson was named the American League’s Most Valuable Player in 1913 and was given the Chalmers Award of a new Chalmers automobile. **3.** Alcides Escobar (left), Salvador Perez (center) and Eric Hosmer of the Royals pose with their 2015 Gold Glove Awards at Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City, Mo. The trio helped the Royals win the 2015 World Series. **4.** Willie McCovey holds his 1969 National League Most Valuable Player Award. Ten years earlier in 1959, McCovey was named the National League’s Rookie of the Year. **5.** Ty Cobb poses with the Chalmers automobile he won in 1911 for being the “most valuable player” of the American League. The Chalmers Award was one of the first examples of an MVP award in baseball.

because Cobb voluntarily “retired” from winning it again the following year. By 1915, the Chalmers Award became extinct.

This idea that a player could only win the MVP once helped doom the next attempt at establishing the award, too. The American League started awarding an MVP trophy in 1922 and the National League in 1924, but both were abolished by the end of the decade. Because he had already won the award in 1923, Babe Ruth’s ineligibility to win the award after his record-setting 60-homer season in 1927 played a role in destroying its credibility.

Finally, in 1931, the Baseball Writers’ Association of America decided to standardize its voting process and the modern MVP award was born. This time, there was no limit to the number of times a player could win, player-managers were also eligible – and so, too, were pitchers.

Calls to exclude pitchers from the MVP had been heard since the beginning, but the BBWAA repeatedly asserted that all big league players were eligible. However, the perception among some writers and fans that no one who took the mound every fourth or fifth game could be as valuable as a position player persists to this day. Yet in the first five years of the award, Lefty Grove, Dizzy Dean and Carl Hubbell all won the BBWAA vote. During



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World War II, American League pitchers Spud Chandler and Hal Newhouser (twice) captured three consecutive MVPs between 1943 and 1945.

But pitchers winning the MVP turned out to be a rare occurrence and, in an effort to better honor baseball's top moundsmen, Commissioner Ford Frick led the way in establishing an award especially for them in 1956. It was named after the game's all-time winningest pitcher, Cy Young, who had recently died. Initially, only one Cy Young Award winner was chosen each year, but it was expanded to one pitcher in each league starting in 1967.

The Cy Young Award was not the first award to recognize a special category of players. In 1940, the BBWAA's Chicago chapter began voting for the top rookie of that season, with Lou Boudreau winning the inaugural award. Baseball writers in other cities were added to the selection process in 1947 and the Rookie of the Year Award was created – named at the time after former White Sox owner J. Louis Comiskey, the son of team founder Charles Comiskey.

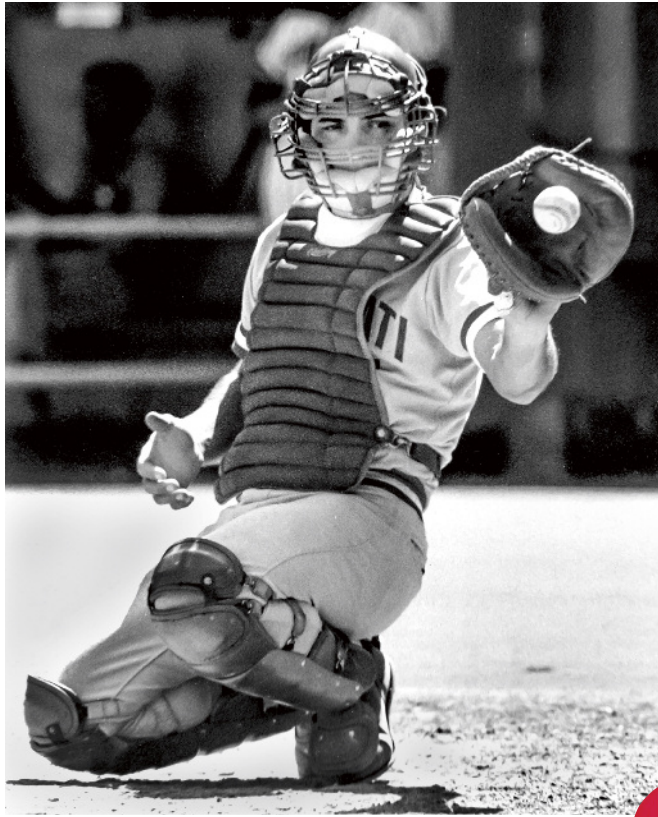
In 1987, the award was renamed after its first winner, Jackie Robinson, whose pioneering rookie season for the Brooklyn Dodgers 40 years earlier had broken the color barrier and changed the course of American history.

No player has ever won the big three – the MVP, Cy Young and Rookie of the Year – in the same season, although two pitchers have come close. Vida Blue of the Oakland A's was 21 years old and in his first full season when he finished first in the AL's MVP and Cy Young voting in 1971. But he was no longer eligible for the Rookie of the Year despite spending most of the previous two seasons in the minor leagues.

Ten years later, Fernando Valenzuela of the Los Angeles Dodgers took the baseball world by storm, winning his first eight starts (including five shutouts) to begin the 1981 season. He took home the Cy Young and Rookie of the Year awards, but finished fifth in the NL MVP voting.

The only players to win MVP and Rookie of the Year in the same year are Fred Lynn of the Red Sox in 1975 and Ichiro Suzuki of the Mariners in 2001. Eleven pitchers have won the MVP and Cy Young in the same season, most recently Clayton Kershaw in 2014.

Over the years, other awards were created by corporate sponsors to celebrate specific achievements or excellence in a single area, such as the Rawlings Gold Glove Awards (1957) for the top-rated fielders at each position, the Roloids Relief Man Awards (1976) for the best relief pitchers, and the Silver Slugger Awards (1980), presented by



NANCY HOGUE/GETTY IMAGES

Louisville Slugger, for the best offensive player at each position.

In 2014, the defunct Roloids awards were replaced by MLB awards named after New York Yankees great Mariano Rivera and San Diego Padres record-setting closer Trevor Hoffman. This move continued a growing hardware trend: Many of baseball's current awards are now named after star players of the past.

For example, there's the Mel Ott Award (for the National League's home run leader), the Lou Brock Award (stolen base champions), the Hank Aaron Award (top hitters in each league), the Edgar Martinez Award (top DH), the Ted Williams Award (MVP of the All-Star Game) and baseball's newest awards, the Tony Gwynn and Rod Carew Awards, established in 2016 and given out to the batting champions in each league.

Even some lesser-known ballplayers have prestigious awards named after them. The Tip O'Neill Award, whose namesake was a Triple Crown-winning outfielder in the 19th century, honors the top Canadian-born ballplayer in the major leagues. Meanwhile, the Fred Hutchinson Award was established in honor of the inspirational pennant-winning Cincinnati Reds manager who died of cancer at age 45.

You may not be able to rattle off the names of the Hutch Award winners as easily as you can the MVP or the Cy Young Award – though, for the record, Hall of Famers Mickey Mantle, Willie Stargell and George Brett are among the past recipients — but any time elite major league athletes are involved, you can bet there's a fierce competition for it. 🏆

*Jacob Pomrenke is the Society for American Baseball Research's director of editorial content.*

Hall of Famer Johnny Bench is one of two catchers in National League history – Buster Posey being the other – to win the Rookie of the Year Award and the MVP during his career. Bench (below) sits in the Reds dugout at Cincinnati's Great American Ball Park with his 1968 Rookie of the Year Award, his two World Series rings and two of his 10 Gold Glove Awards.



JEAN FRUTKIN/NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

NEW YORK METS CONGRATULATE

# MIKE PIAZZA



NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

CLASS OF 2016

# CROWNING ACHIEVEMENTS

AWARDS IN THE HALL OF FAME'S COLLECTION DATE BACK TO 1800s.

BY ALEX COFFEY

**A**

s a game that dates back hundreds of years, baseball has seen a lot of development since its inception. But one thing that has stood the test of time is the notion that the achievements of its players should be celebrated.

The National Baseball Hall of Fame preserves more than 40,000 three-dimensional artifacts in its collection, including hundreds of trophies and plaques. Three awards in its collection in particular – the Eckford

Base Ball Club Trophy Case, the Honey Boy Evans trophy and the Cy Young Award – while remarkably different in design, all evoke a desire to reward the game's greatest players and moments.

## A trophy of trophy balls

The Eckford Base Ball Club Trophy Case dates to the mid 1800s and the era of so-called “trophy balls.” In the game's first rulebook – “Rules and Regulations of the Game of Base Ball Adopted by the National Association of Base Ball Players,” created on March 19, 1859 – it states in Section 1 that the ball “must be composed of India rubber and yarn, and covered with leather, and in all match games shall be furnished by the challenging Club, and become the property of the winning Club, as a trophy of victory.”

Unlike the modern era in which dozens of baseballs are used in a single game, in the 19th century it was common for only one ball to be used. After the game was finished, the trophy ball would typically be gilded in gold or silver, with the date of the game, the score and the participating teams inscribed on the ball. These trophy balls were not only a way to relive the joy and glory of a previous victory, but were also a source of pride for baseball clubs across the country.

The Eckford Base Ball Club was a team mostly made of shipwrights and mechanics. It was based in Brooklyn, N.Y., and was a 19th century powerhouse, collecting more than 150 “trophy balls” and displaying them in a glass case, all stacked up so their winning scores were visible. Although the club stopped competing in the latter part of the century, its players continued to gather socially for decades afterward. An 1896 article from

the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* said this about Eckford's prized trophy balls:

*“These have been built pyramid-like in a glass case in the parlor. It is customary for a stranger to have them shown and their value explained to him, and while a pleasant hour is thus spent a good deal of knowledge in regard to the past history of the club is obtained in a very interesting form. At the close of every game which the club won, the ball used was gilded. ... The members believe that there are few collections of the kind in the country to compare with it.”*

## Honey Boy and baseball

As the game evolved, individual players began being celebrated for their performance, and trophies emerged to honor their feats. It wasn't unusual for fans or patrons of the game to create an award for a particular player, simply for being a good person or attaining a specific accomplishment. These trophies were a testament to not only the achievement of the player, but the importance of baseball to the person presenting it.

The Honey Boy Evans trophies, presented by vaudeville performer George “Honey Boy” Evans from 1908 through 1912, rewarded baseball's greatest sluggers, but also demonstrated Evans' love for the game. Given to the major league player with the highest batting average, the trophy became the object of an intense rivalry between two future Hall of Famers: Ty Cobb and Honus Wagner.

Wagner won the inaugural trophy in 1908, when he finished the season with a .354 batting average. But Cobb, a famously fierce competitor, quickly aspired to take the title from Wagner. According to *The Telegraph* of Macon, Ga., “Cobb first saw the cup, or rather the drawings and photo of the cup, on the last visit of the team to New York and he at once developed a desire to own it.” He would win the Honey Boy Evans trophies from 1909-1912, at which point Evans decided to stop presenting it. Cobb would later donate all four of his Honey Boy Evans trophies to the National Baseball Hall of Fame, where two of them are currently on display.

**1.-3.** The Honey Boy Evans trophy was presented from 1908 until 1912 to the player with the highest batting average in the game. Honus Wagner won the first award, while Ty Cobb took the next four. Cobb later donated his four trophies to the Hall of Fame.



1

2

3



1

1. Alvin Dark of the New York Giants won the 1955 Lou Gehrig Memorial Award, presented annually by Gehrig's fraternity, Phi Delta Theta. The award is one of hundreds in the Museum's collection. 2. The Eckford Base Ball Club Trophy Case is one of the Museum's iconic artifacts, having welcomed visitors to the second-floor timeline for years. The case is made of trophy baseballs won by the Brooklyn-based club during the mid-1800s. 3. Sandy Koufax donated his 1965 Cy Young Award – one of three he won between 1963 and 1966 – to the Hall of Fame.



2

## A pitcher's reward

The Hall's collection also includes awards that are still in use today. Since its inception in 1956, the Cy Young Award has honored baseball's most successful pitchers, as voted on by the BBWAA. It was created by then-commissioner Ford C. Frick in honor of Young, who had passed away the year before. From 1956 until 1966, it was only presented to one pitcher in all of baseball, but in 1967 was amended to one per league.

A dark plaque that has a silver hand and baseball on it, the award looks very different from the Honey Boy Evans trophy and the gilded trophy balls. It has been won by 20 Hall of Famers, the most recent of those recipients being Randy Johnson in 2002. The Hall of Fame's collection houses four Cy Young Awards: Two from Steve Carlton (1972 and 1980), one from Sandy Koufax (1965) and one from Greg Maddux (1993).

While these awards may differ in appearance, conceptually they are all the same. If anything, the story of these awards is a story of consistency – how a time-honored tradition continues to be preserved, albeit in different shapes and sizes.

Baseball greats may come and go, but these awards ensure that they will not be forgotten. 📌



3

*Alex Coffey is the communications specialist at the National Baseball Hall of Fame.*



# REMEMBERING ROBERTO

## MLB'S ROBERTO CLEMENTE AWARD HONORS PLAYERS FOR HEROICS ON AND OFF THE FIELD.

BY JOHN ROSENGREN

**R**oberto Clemente's death in a plane crash on Dec. 31, 1972, en route to deliver emergency relief supplies to earthquake victims in Nicaragua, immortalized him as a humanitarian.

His status as a baseball icon, however, had long been secure.

Clemente had already established his reputation as a great ballplayer during his 18 seasons with the Pittsburgh Pirates, a 15-time All-Star and 12-time Gold Glove Award-winning right fielder who famously notched his 3,000th hit in his last big league at-bat. Clemente had long shared his success with those less fortunate, whether that meant passing out baseball equipment or bringing food to those in need.

Following his passing, the world moved swiftly to honor his legacy. Less than three months after his death, Baseball Writers' Association of America members waived the customary five-year waiting period and elected Clemente immediately into the Hall of Fame with 93 percent of the vote, making him the only player to be so inducted via that path. Commissioner Bowie Kuhn, who had introduced the "Commissioner's Award" two years earlier to recognize the player who "best exemplifies

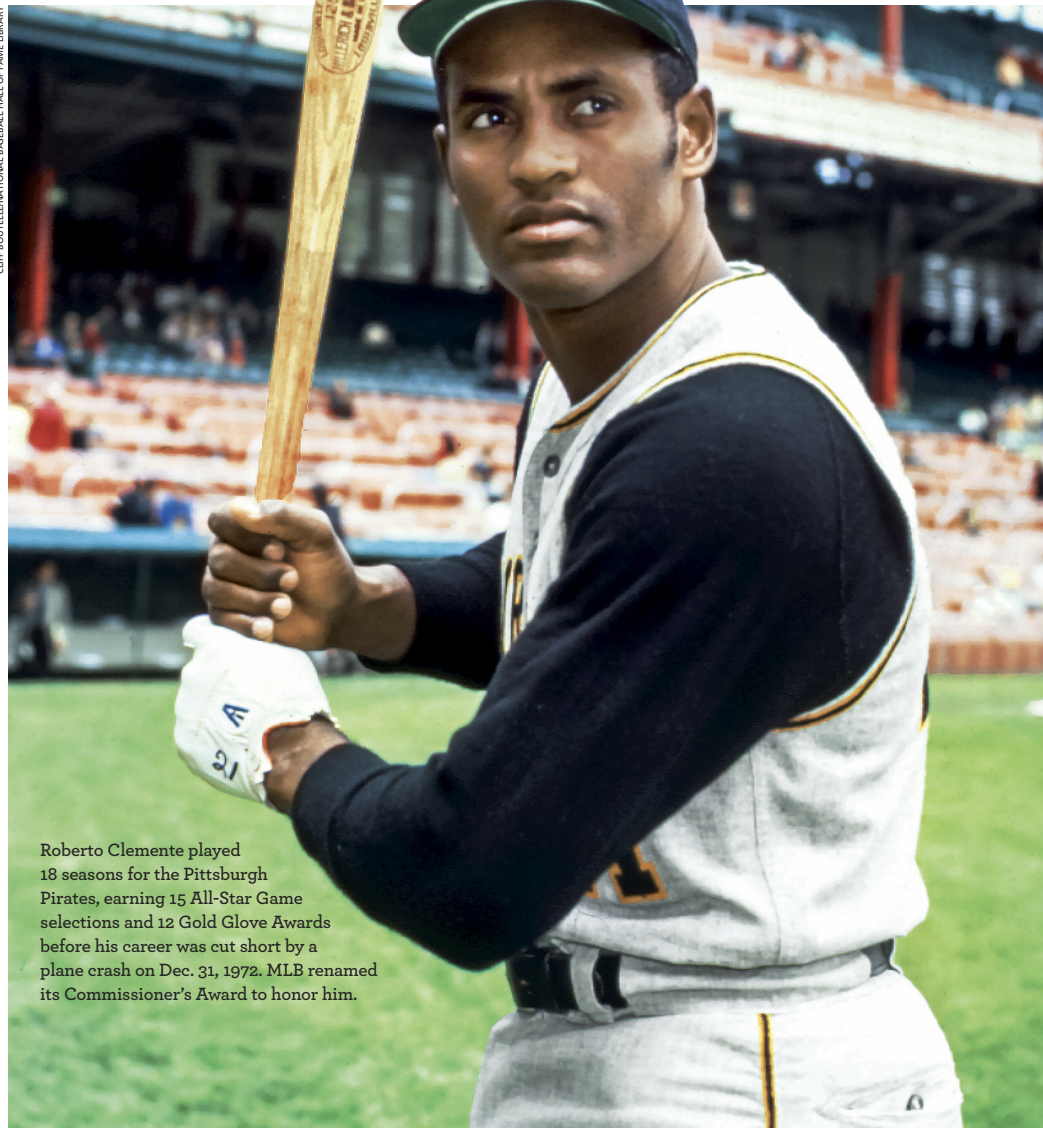
the game of baseball on and off the field," recast it as "The Roberto Clemente Award."

"That was done because we were aware of Clemente's public service," Kuhn explained. "He was a very selfless man."

Willie Mays and Brooks Robinson had won the first two Commissioner's Awards. In 1973, Detroit Tigers outfielder Al Kaline became the first to receive the renamed Roberto Clemente Award for his decency, honesty and generosity in supporting youth causes.

The following year, Willie Stargell, Clemente's teammate for 11 years in Pittsburgh, became the first Pirates player to win the award. In addition to raising awareness for sickle cell

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Roberto Clemente played 18 seasons for the Pittsburgh Pirates, earning 15 All-Star Game selections and 12 Gold Glove Awards before his career was cut short by a plane crash on Dec. 31, 1972. MLB renamed its Commissioner's Award to honor him.

## CLEMENTE AWARD



MIKE STOBEGGETTY IMAGES

### Hall of Famers who have won the Clemente Award

Willie Mays	1971
Brooks Robinson	1972
Al Kaline	1973
Willie Stargell	1974
Lou Brock	1975
Rod Carew	1977
Phil Niekro	1980
Gary Carter	1989
Cal Ripken Jr.	1992
Barry Larkin	1993
Dave Winfield	1994
Ozzie Smith	1995
Kirby Puckett	1996
Tony Gwynn	1999
John Smoltz	2005
Craig Biggio	2007

anemia, Stargell led the majors in home runs (44) RBI (119), doubles (43), slugging percentage (.646) and game-winning hits (28) the previous season. He finished second to Pete Rose in the 1973 National League MVP vote.

“Of all the awards, this ranks No. 1 with me because it identifies with Clemente, who always tried to help people,” Stargell said at the time. “This means a lot to me because Clemente meant a lot to me. He’ll always be someone special in my life.”

Sixteen Hall of Famers have won the award during its first 45 years, along with several others on a potential path to Cooperstown, including Derek Jeter, Albert Pujols and Clayton Kershaw.

Many of the recipients, such as Tony Gwynn, established themselves as philanthropists in the communities where they played. Gwynn, the eight-time batting champion for the Padres who was given the Roberto Clemente Award in 1999, created the Tony and Alicia Gwynn Foundation to fund San Diego-area charities.



JEAN FRUITH/NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

The Pirates’ Andrew McCutchen accepts the 2015 Roberto Clemente Award at a press conference in New York City during last year’s World Series. McCutchen became the second Pirates player to win the award that’s named after the Pittsburgh legend, following Willie Stargell in 1974.

Longtime Cardinals shortstop Ozzie Smith, who won the award in 1995, donated time and money to causes that benefitted local chapters of the Red Cross, March of Dimes, Special Olympics and social services for children in the St. Louis area.

Others, including Dave Winfield, whose career spanned San Diego, New York, California, Toronto, Minnesota and Cleveland, were instrumental in nationwide causes. The 1994 Clemente Award recipient, Winfield set up a foundation that contributed more than \$4 million to provide health and dental screenings, literacy programs, fitness training and nutritional counseling for the underprivileged. He also created an initiative to raise money for children’s breakfast clubs in Canada and a drug prevention program in the U.S.

Reds shortstop Barry Larkin, who won the Clemente Award in 1993, expanded a local effort in Cincinnati to a national level when he enlisted MLB players from all (then) 28 clubs to join his Caring Team of Athletes to help

needy children, the first time that players from every MLB club had joined together on a national level to benefit a single charity.

Class of 2015 inductees John Smoltz and Craig Biggio are the most recent recipients to become Hall of Famers. Braves pitcher Smoltz, who won the Clemente Award in 2005, was cited for raising more than \$4 million for the Kings Ridge Christian School in the Atlanta area, contributing to local food shelves and children’s hospitals, and for donating \$100 for every strikeout he recorded to his “Strike Out Hunger” program.

The Astros’ Biggio, the Roberto Clemente Award winner in his final season, 2007, had long been devoted to The Sunshine Kids Foundation, which provides support for children with cancer and their families. He hosted an annual baseball game at Minute Maid Park for more than 100 children with cancer. He also raised more than \$2.5 million for the foundation.

The nomination and selection process for



# AWARD-WINNING HEART

## HALL OF FAMER ROD CAREW CHERISHES ROBERTO CLEMENTE AWARD ABOVE ALL OTHERS

By JEFF IDELSON

As Hall of Famer Rod Carew continues to recover from his September 2015 heart attack and prepares for a heart transplant, there's no question that the heart he currently has continues to give and give and give.

The lone Panamanian-born Hall of Famer fashioned an incredible baseball career: Seven batting titles in a 10-year stretch, a serious run at .400 in 1977, 3,053 career hits, and in 1991, election to Cooperstown's hallowed halls on the first ballot.

Carew was the 1967 American League Rookie of the Year, and 10 years later won the American League MVP Award after batting .388.

He's proud of all his accomplishments, but none more so than earning the Roberto Clemente Award in 1977. The award is presented annually to the major leaguer who "best exemplifies the game of baseball, sportsmanship, community involvement and the individual's contribution to his team," as voted on by baseball fans and members of the media.

"The Clemente Award is more special to me than any other. Whenever kids ask to see my awards, I always show them the Clemente Award first," Carew told me at his home in Southern California. "I came up with the Twins, who were so community-minded, and it was from them that I learned about myself as a person.

"At the 1968 All-Star Game in Houston, Clemente called me over during batting practice. He said to me that Tony Oliva told him I would be a big star some day. Roberto told me as that happened, to be sure to take care of the young Latin ballplayers. I was so saddened when he died tragically four years later. The older I became, the more I would try to help the young Latin players."

Carew went on to recognize three important baseball voices in his life.

"Tony was my roommate for 10 years, taught me how to play the game and carried himself with class. If you can't like Tony, you can't like anyone. Harmon Killebrew told me it didn't cost anything to be nice. Always be nice. And Jimmie Reese (Angels coach and Babe Ruth's roommate at one time) taught me that you don't badmouth anyone. If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say it.

"The Roberto Clemente Award is by far my most important award. To help others, besides being a baseball player, is what it's all about."



JEAN FRUTKIN/ATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

Rod Carew, the 1977 winner of the Roberto Clemente Award, says that award is more special to him than any other because of its connection to the Hall of Fame outfielder.

the Clemente Award has evolved over the years. Initially, a committee of sportswriters, broadcasters and baseball executives picked a winner from a pool of 48 players (two nominees were selected from each club), and the MLB commissioner presented a trophy bearing Clemente's likeness at the Florida Governor's Banquet in March. Today, the selection committee includes Clemente's widow Vera Clemente, Commissioner Rob Manfred, Ozzie Smith and Pedro Martinez, along with other baseball dignitaries who pick a winner from one nominee representing each club. The commissioner presents the trophy at the World Series.

Not to be confused with MLB's award, the "Roberto Clemente Memorial Award" was given annually for 25 years to a Latino ballplayer in the major leagues who exemplified Clemente's virtues, beginning in 1973. It was started by Luis Mayoral, a baseball historian and former official with the Rangers and Tigers who had known Clemente since he was a teenager.

"My award was based simply on trying to keep the name of Clemente alive among Latino ballplayers," said Mayoral, who received approval from Kuhn. A panel of Puerto Rican sportswriters and broadcasters selected Hall of Famers Luis Aparicio, Juan Marichal and Tony Pérez among others for the Memorial Award.

Last year, Pittsburgh outfielder Andrew McCutchen became only the second Pirate to win the MLB's Roberto Clemente Award. McCutchen, who was born 14 years after Clemente died, was well aware of Clemente's legacy, having first learned about him while attending a baseball camp in Puerto Rico as a youngster. He has emulated Clemente with his own charitable works, among them cutting off his signature dreadlocks to raise money for Pirates Charities.

"It's unbelievable to see the impact that [Clemente] made," McCutchen said. "I can only hope that I can do at least half that he did. I know that if he was here, I think he would say that as long as I'm doing something, that's what matters." 🍌

*John Rosengren is a freelance writer from Minneapolis and the author of "THE FIGHT OF THEIR LIVES: How Juan Marichal and John Roseboro Turned Baseball's Ugliest Brawl into a Story of Forgiveness and Redemption."*

# Tears in Heaven

Griffey, Piazza overwhelmed by emotion at Hall of Fame Weekend.

BY CRAIG MUDER

**K**en Griffey Jr. and Mike Piazza rewrote the record books during their historic big league careers. On July 24, Griffey and Piazza were part of baseball lore once more, as their Hall of Fame induction brought historic crowds to Cooperstown. And along the way, both were moved to tears by the magnitude of the moment.

The National Baseball Hall of Fame welcomed two new members at the 2016 Induction Ceremony. With 48 returning Hall of Famers on the stage at the Clark Sports Center and a national television audience on MLB Network, an estimated crowd of 50,000 fans – the second-largest gathering in Induction history – basked in the sun at the home of the National Pastime.

Piazza led off the Ceremony, emotionally thanking the writers who elected him, his Class of 2016 classmate Griffey and his childhood heroes Mike Schmidt and Johnny Bench. Over 28 minutes at the podium, Piazza’s voice cracked with emotion several times.

“Nobody gets here alone,” said Piazza, who also thanked his former manager Tommy Lasorda, former hitting coach Reggie Smith and former Dodgers teammate Eric Karros, among others.

“And how can I put into words my love and appreciation for New York Mets fans. Looking back into this crowd of blue and orange brings me back to the greatest time of my life. The thing I miss most is making you cheer.”

Piazza also acknowledged the first responders from the Sept. 11 attacks in New York City – drawing a long, appreciative cheer from the crowd – then turned to his family.

“My father’s faith in me, often greater than my own, is the single most important factor in me being elected into this Hall of Fame,” Piazza said. “We made it, Dad. The race is over. Now it’s time to smell the roses.”

The usually stoic Griffey also broke down repeatedly – to the applause of the thousands of Mariners fans who made the more than 2,800-mile trip to Cooperstown, turning the Induction Site green and white ... where it was not Mets blue and orange.



Ken Griffey Jr. wipes away the tears during his speech at the Class of 2016 Induction Ceremony on July 24.

MICLO STEWART JR./NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

Mike Piazza (left) and Ken Griffey Jr. show off their new Hall of Fame plaques on the shores of Otsego Lake following the July 24 Induction Ceremony.



“I stand up here humbled and overwhelmed,” said Griffey, who spoke for 21 minutes. “I got to play this game for 22 years, and I wouldn’t trade it in for anything. I got a front-row seat to the greatest team ever assembled, the 1975 and 1976 Big Red Machine. And I got to wear the same Reds uniform as my dad.

“I’m going to leave you with one thing: Out of my 22 years, I’ve learned that only one team will treat you the best. And that’s your first team. I’m very proud to be a Seattle Mariner.”



Then Griffey donned a ball cap, turned it around in his trademark style and smiled.

“I’d like to thank the Mariners, Reds and White Sox for making this kid’s dream come true.”

The 2016 Award Winners were also honored on the Induction Ceremony stage: J.G. Taylor Spink Award winner Dan Shaughnessy of *The Boston Globe*, and Graham McNamee, who was posthumously honored with the Ford C. Frick Award for broadcasters. New York City Battalion Fire Chief Vin Mavaro

### Plan for 2017

The National Baseball Hall of Fame’s 2017 Induction Weekend will take place July 28-31, with the Induction Ceremony scheduled for Sunday, July 30.

For more information, visit [www.baseball-hall.org/hall-of-famers/future-eligibles](http://www.baseball-hall.org/hall-of-famers/future-eligibles).

was recognized following his emotional speech at the July 23 Awards Presentation.

The Induction Ceremony crowd at the

Clark Sports Center matched the 1999 crowd as the second-largest in the history of the event. The 2007 Ceremony drew an estimated 82,000 fans, the 1999 Ceremony crowd was estimated at 50,000 and the 2014 crowd was estimated at 48,000.

In the last three Induction Ceremonies, the average estimated attendance has been 47,667. 📊

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



# He was “The Bird” of a different feather

Story of Mark Fidrych’s 1976 season told in Museum’s *Whole New Ballgame* exhibit.

BY BRUCE MARKUSEN

**I**t would be virtually impossible to tell the story of baseball since 1970 without recalling those players who became summer sensations.

Some were pitchers who had substantial careers, but were particularly brilliant for one headline-making season. Beginning with Vida Blue in 1971, continuing with Ron Guidry in 1978 and culminating with Dwight Gooden in 1985, these pitchers were so dominant for one glorious campaign that they captivated the nation as iconic figures in American pop culture.

Another of those hurlers was Fernando Valenzuela. In 1981, Valenzuela took the game by such a storm that a phenomenon known as “Fernandomania” spread out from Southern California to the rest of the nation.

There have also been one-year position player wonders over the past 45 years, perhaps none more memorable than “Super Joe” Charboneau. The slugging Indians outfielder won Rookie of the Year in 1980, all the while building a legacy of memories that included a habit of opening beer bottles with his eye sockets. And then, he seemingly disappeared from baseball’s public landscape.

But it was another one-year wonder that set a standard that many still remember, one that took hold of both baseball and American culture four years before Charboneau’s arrival. That was the year that “The Bird” became the overriding theme of our National Pastime.

Forty years ago, the summer of 1976 gave

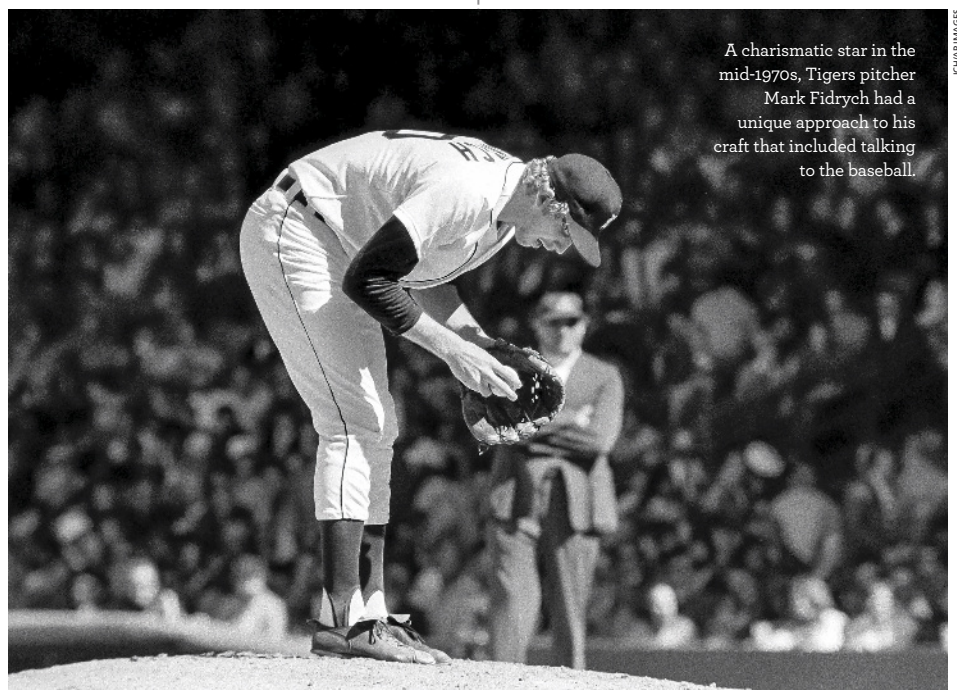
us a series of experiences that have yet to be recaptured. It was America’s Bicentennial, the year our nation celebrated its 200th birthday with a seemingly endless stream of hallmark events, including the sailing of tall ships and fireworks displays of unprecedented proportions. It was also the year that a young right-handed pitcher named Mark Fidrych made his major league debut.

Much of the country, at least those fans outside of Detroit, first experienced Fidrych on a Monday night in late June. Prior to that game, most fans had seen only snippets of Fidrych’s antics on local sportscasts and read

tidbits about him in their local newspapers. Beyond that, no one knew much about Fidrych. There was no MLB Network or ESPN around to provide continuous highlights about what this strange-looking rookie was doing during his inaugural tour of American League cities.

On June 28, ABC Television broadcast the matchup between the Detroit Tigers and New York Yankees on *Monday Night Baseball*. With old Tiger Stadium providing the backdrop, Fidrych showed the country his way of doing things. He manicured the mound by combing the dirt with his hands, fixing cleat marks and small potholes along the way. When one of his infielders made a great defensive play behind him, Fidrych applauded loudly. After recording the third out of each inning, Fidrych ran off the mound as if he were in the midst of a 40-yard dash, before coming to a sudden halt at the Tigers dugout. There was also an element of superstition: He always jumped over the chalk baselines so as to avoid stepping on the lines.

There was one other unusual part to his routine: Fidrych talked to the baseball. He felt that by actually conversing with the ball, he could better control the pitch and make it move the way that he wanted. Fidrych felt that every baseball possessed a kind of karma. Once a batter reached safely with a hit, he asked the umpire to throw out the ball and give him another. Fidrych felt the old ball still had “hits” in it and needed to mix with other baseballs so that it would “right itself.”



A charismatic star in the mid-1970s, Tigers pitcher Mark Fidrych had a unique approach to his craft that included talking to the baseball.

CHRYST IMAGES



THE SPORTING NEWS/GETTY IMAGES



MILD STEWART JR./NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME



MILD STEWART JR./NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

**Above:** Tigers sensation Mark Fidrych showed up on many memorabilia items in his career, including this pennant that is part of the Hall of Fame collection. **Inset:** An RC Cola can featuring Mark Fidrych is now part of the Museum's *Whole New Ballgame* exhibit, which examines baseball's connection to pop culture throughout the last 50 years.

All of these rituals and mannerisms nearly overshadowed Fidrych's pitching that night in Detroit. Throwing a sinking fastball clocked at 93 miles per hour, Fidrych scattered seven hits in hurling a complete game and putting the clamps on the AL pennant-bound Yankees, 5-1. The crowd of more than 47,000 fans left the ballpark satisfied – and thoroughly entertained.

Fidrych would go on to finish the year 19-9, lead the American League in complete games (24) and top the majors with his 2.34 ERA. He was the AL's Rookie of the Year and placed second in Cy Young voting. A star had been born.

As with most colorful characters, Fidrych came equipped with a fitting nickname: "The Bird." Thin and gangly with a head full of curly hair, Fidrych looked a little like the Sesame Street character "Big Bird." His unusual look gave him a loveable goofiness that fans adored.

Fans also appreciated Fidrych for his down-home qualities; he became the Pied Piper of baseball. At a time when major league

players began to draw criticism for escalating salaries, Fidrych showed little interest in material reward. He drove a green subcompact car, usually wore old blue jeans and told fans that if he didn't have the ability to pitch anymore, he'd spend his time pumping gas at a filling station in Northborough, Mass.

Fidrych so resonated with fans and the media that he remained popular heading into the 1977 season. That spring, Royal Crown (RC) Cola issued a series of special commemorative soda cans featuring the likenesses of 70 major league players. Most of the cans featured established stars, but there was the young Fidrych, too, based on the meteoric success of his rookie season.

Interest in Fidrych persisted even after he tore cartilage in his knee while shagging fly balls during Spring Training. *Sports Illustrated* featured him on the cover of the issue that hit newsstands on June 6, 1977. As a bonus, *SI* transposed Fidrych against "Big Bird."

Both that issue of *Sports Illustrated* and the

Fidrych RC Cola can are now featured in the Hall of Fame's newest exhibit, *Whole New Ballgame*. This expansive and interactive exhibit tracks the history of the game from 1970 to today. Interspersed with numerous video highlights from the turbulent 1970s to more recent times, the exhibit's cases and visual displays capture the color of an era that saw the game undergo a massive transformation.

Of the many players featured in the exhibit, none was more colorful than "The Bird." While the *Sports Illustrated* cover proclaimed Fidrych's return, he never made a full comeback from that injury. Ironically, he won his first game of the season on June 6, tossing a complete game shutout in an 8-0 win over the California Angels, but barely a month later was sidelined again with what was eventually diagnosed as a torn rotator cuff. He was shut down after going 6-4 with a 2.89 ERA.

The injury forced him to bow out of the 1977 All-Star Game and kept him on the shelf for most of the next three seasons. He appeared in just 16 games from 1978 until 1980, and made his final major league appearance on Oct. 1, 1980, starting and going five innings in a Tigers victory at Toronto.

Fidrych pitched three more seasons in the minors, including two in the Boston Red Sox system, before retiring. And to the surprise of no one, he became a commercial trucker and settled down to live on a 107-acre farm in Northborough. It was on that farm that Fidrych was doing some work in April 2009 when a family friend came by his house and discovered Fidrych's body under a pickup truck. A medical investigation determined that Fidrych's clothing had become entangled with part of the truck, suffocating him. He was only 54.

But in his short life, Fidrych managed to create more memories in five big league seasons than many do in decades.

Thankfully, reminders of Fidrych and his wonderful antics are preserved in Cooperstown, where *Whole New Ballgame* helps keep the legacy of "The Bird" alive and flying. 🐦

*Bruce Markusen is the manager of digital and outreach learning at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.*

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**CLASS  
OF  
1974**



**Pitcher**

**WHITEY FORD**

# WHITEY FORD

Elected: 1974 • Born: Oct. 21, 1928, New York, NY  
 Batted: Left Threw: Left • Height: 5'10" Weight: 178 pounds  
 Played for: New York Yankees (1950, 1953-67)



AP IMAGES

Year	Team	W	L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	IP	H	R	ER	HR	BB	SO
1950	NY	9	1	.900	20	12	7	2	112	87	39	35	7	52	59
1951					Did not play in major or minor leagues (Military Service)										
1952					Did not play in major or minor leagues (Military Service)										
1953	NY	18	6	.750	32	30	11	3	207	187	77	69	13	110	110
1954	NY	16	8	.667	34	28	11	3	210.2	170	72	66	10	101	125
1955	NY	18	7	.720	39	33	18	5	253.2	188	83	74	20	113	137
1956	NY	19	6	<b>.760</b>	31	30	18	2	225.2	187	70	62	13	84	141
1957	NY	11	5	.688	24	17	5	0	129.1	114	46	37	10	53	84
1958	NY	14	7	.667	30	29	15	7	219.1	174	62	49	14	62	145
1959	NY	16	10	.615	35	29	9	2	204	194	82	69	13	89	114
1960	NY	12	9	.571	33	29	8	4	192.2	168	76	66	15	65	85
1961	NY	25	4	<b>.662</b>	39	39	11	3	<b>263</b>	242	108	101	23	92	209
1962	NY	17	8	.680	38	37	7	0	257.2	243	90	83	22	69	160
1963	NY	24	7	<b>.774</b>	38	37	13	3	<b>269.1</b>	240	94	82	26	56	189
1964	NY	17	6	.739	39	36	12	8	244.2	212	67	58	10	57	172
1965	NY	16	13	.552	37	36	9	2	244.1	241	97	88	22	50	162
1966	NY	2	5	.286	22	9	0	0	73	79	33	20	8	24	43
1967	NY	2	4	.333	7	7	2	1	44	40	11	8	2	9	21
<b>16 Seasons</b>		<b>236</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>.690</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>3170.1</b>	<b>2766</b>	<b>1107</b>	<b>967</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>1086</b>	<b>1956</b>

All statistics are from baseball-reference.com • All bolded marks are league-leading totals, numbers in italics led both leagues and career stats asterisks are all-time records  
**Awards & Records:** 1961 Cy Young Award winner • 1961 World Series Most Valuable Player • 10-time All-Star

## DID YOU KNOW...

- ★ ...that Whitey Ford's career winning percentage of .690 is the best in history among pitchers with at least 200 career wins who started their careers in the 20th century?
- ★ ...that Ford's 33 consecutive scoreless innings in World Series play from 1960 through 1962 are an all-time record?
- ★ ...that Ford's 10 victories and 146 innings pitched in the World Series are the most by any pitcher in history?

## WHAT THEY SAY...

- ★ "He was my banty rooster. Whitey used to stick out his chest, like this, and walk out to the mound against any of those big pitchers." – CASEY STENGELE
- ★ "I don't care what the situation was, how high the stakes were – the bases could be loaded and the pennant riding on every pitch, it never bothered Whitey. He pitched his game. Cool. Crafty. Nerves of steel." – MICKEY MANTLE





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# A BELT FOR THE BEST

## HALL OF FAME PRESERVES FIRST HICKOK BELT, WHICH WAS PRESENTED TO PHIL RIZZUTO IN 1951.

BY SCOTT PITONIAK

**T**o the best of anyone's recollection, Phil Rizzuto didn't utter a single "Holy Cow!" at that historic banquet in Rochester, N.Y., on Jan. 22, 1951. But he did shed tears. Plenty of them, in fact, as the shortstop who was once told he was too short to play Major League Baseball stood taller than anyone in the world of sports.

When the stunned Rizzuto appeared at the dais that wintry night to accept the 1950 Hickok Belt Award as America's top professional athlete, he couldn't help but reflect on that time as an 18-year-old when he tried out for the Brooklyn Dodgers and was told he'd be better off shining shoes. Undaunted, the New York City native auditioned with the crosstown Yankees and was tendered a minor league contract.

Years later, after the 5-foot-6 Rizzuto became a Bronx Bomber, he wound up being reunited with Casey Stengel, the former Dodgers manager who had told him to trade

Ray Hickok (left), son of the namesake of the Hickok Belt, sits with Roy Campanella of the Dodgers during the 1953 Hickok Belt presentation in Rochester, N.Y. Golfer Ben Hogan won the belt that year, but many of the finalists were in attendance in the early years that the belt was presented.

his bat and glove for a shoeshine kit.

"I can't believe it, and I can't tell you how grateful I am," Rizzuto told a packed banquet hall of about 600 people. "It couldn't happen anywhere but America. This is the greatest night of my life."

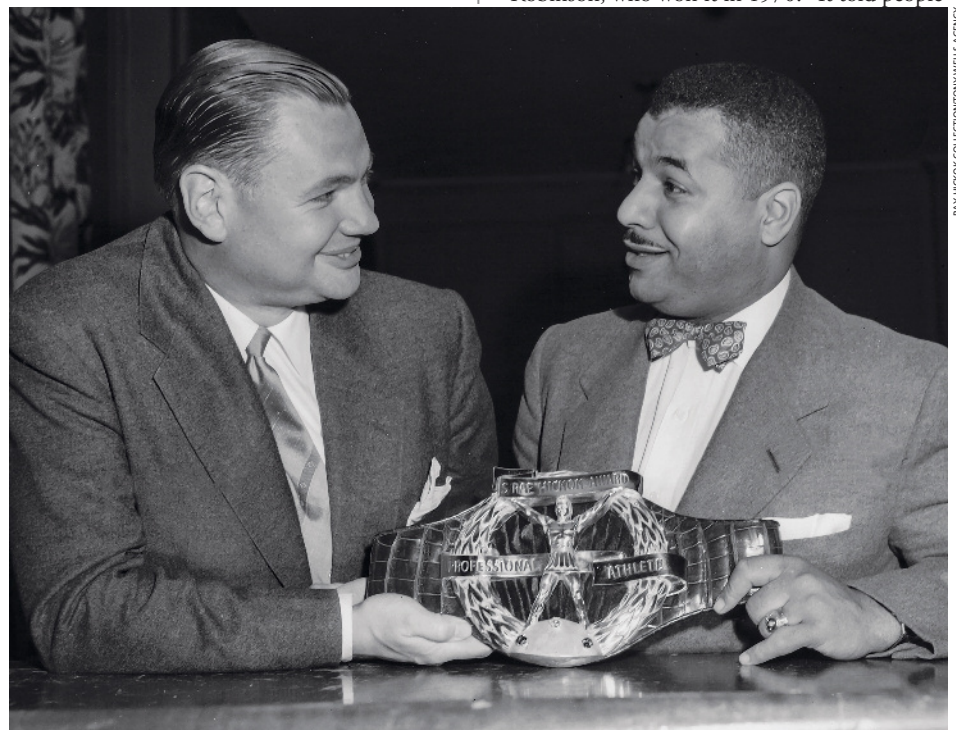
And that was saying something because the

night before had been awfully good, too. The Baseball Writers' Association of America had honored the player nicknamed "Scooter" as American League MVP at their annual banquet, based on a sensational season in which he batted .324 and helped lead the Yankees to the pennant and a four-game World Series sweep of the Philadelphia Phillies.

Although just in its first year of existence, the Hickok Award had gained instant prestige, and over the next quarter century would be regarded as the crown jewel of sports. Imagine an actor-of-the-year award that took into account film, stage and television. That's the prestige the Hickok held in the sports world because it signified you were not only the best in your particular sport, but the best in *all* of sports. It was an Oscar, a Tony and an Emmy all rolled into one. The closest modern-day equivalents would be *Sports Illustrated's* "Sportsperson of the Year" and ESPN's ESPY Award.

The fact that a nationwide panel of about 250 prominent sportswriters and sportscasters voted on the Hickok Belt boosted its credibility.

"It was like the Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval for sports," said Hall of Famer Brooks Robinson, who won it in 1970. "It told people



RAY HICKOK COLLECTION/ANTHONY WELLS AGENCY



RAY HICKOK COLLECTION/TONY WELLS AGENCY



RAY HICKOK COLLECTION/TONY WELLS AGENCY

**Clockwise from top left:** Willie Mays and Yogi Berra pose with Ray Hickok and the Hickok Belt that Mays won following the 1954 season. Sandy Koufax is the only two-time winner of the Hickok Belt, having won the award in both 1963 and 1965. Phil Rizzuto's Hickok Belt, honoring him as America's top professional athlete in 1950, is preserved in the Museum's collection and is currently on exhibit on the Museum's second floor.



MICHO STEWART JR./NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

that you were the best of the best for that particular year. We athletes are pretty prideful, competitive people. To be able to say you were the crème de la crème is pretty darn special.”

The belt was the brainchild of Ray and Alan Hickok as a way of paying homage to their sportsman father, Stephen Rae Hickok, who had founded the Rochester-based Hickok Manufacturing Company. By the 1950s, Hickok's business had become the world's leading producer of men's accessories, such as belts, wallets, cuff links and tie clips.

Modeled after ornate boxing championship belts, the Hickok Belt featured a pristine 4 1/3-carat diamond from South Africa, along with a ruby, sapphire and several diamond chips encrusted into a five-pound, 18-carat gold buckle featuring a laurel wreath encircling a generic ancient Greek athlete with his arms raised triumphantly. In the award's early years, the belt was made from alligator skin. Jewelers placed

its value at \$10,000 to \$12,000, roughly a third of what Rizzuto made during his MVP season.

“It really was a thing of beauty,” said Dave Anderson, the Pulitzer Prize-winning sports columnist from *The New York Times*. “It wasn't like receiving a plaque or a trophy. It was something distinctive, and I think that added to its appeal.”

The belt was presented 27 times before being discontinued in 1976, and baseball players dominated the list of winners. Fifteen times the Hickok was presented to a baseball player, with football players a distant second (five), followed by boxers (four) and golfers (three). Legendary Dodgers lefty Sandy Koufax was the only two-time winner (1963 and 1965).

Besides Rizzuto, Robinson and Koufax, other Baseball Hall of Famers to wear the belt were Willie Mays (1954), Mickey Mantle (1956), Frank Robinson (1966), Carl Yastrzemski (1967), Tom Seaver (1969) and Steve Carlton (1972).

Until 1972, the Hickok was presented at a banquet in Rochester that raised funds for children's charities. For one night a year, the mid-sized, upstate New York city on the shores of Lake Ontario would become the center of the sports universe. For the first 10 years, the winner was announced at the podium and the dinner took on an Academy Awards feel, with athletes from various sports waiting anxiously in the audience to see who would walk away with sports' version of the Oscar.

The night before the first Hickok presentation, Rizzuto believed he had reached the pinnacle when he was honored as MVP at the New York baseball writers' annual gala in midtown Manhattan. After that dinner, he and several ballplayers and writers boarded a train at Grand Central Station for the overnight trip to Rochester. Rizzuto figured golfer Ben Hogan, who had battled back from a car accident that almost paralyzed him, or heavyweight boxing champion Ezzard Charles would win the bejeweled belt. And Scooter would have been perfectly fine with that.

“Ben and Ezzard have to do it on their own in their sport, so they're probably more deserving,” the modest Rizzuto told reporters. “I have eight other guys out there helping me succeed.”

The nationwide panel of sportswriters and broadcasters disagreed, as Rizzuto edged Hogan, 162-156, garnering 38 first-place votes



RAY HICKOK COLLECTION/TONY WELLS AGENCY

Mickey Mantle shows off the Hickok Belt he won for being named America's top professional athlete of 1956. Of the 27 Hickok winners between 1950 and 1976, 15 were baseball players. **Below:** The Yankees' Phil Rizzuto won the first Hickok Belt following his stellar 1950 season. From left, Ray Hickok, Rizzuto, Phillies pitcher Jim Konstanty and boxer Sugar Ray Robinson admire the belt.

to the golfer's 34. When Master of Ceremonies Jerry Flynn opened the sealed envelope and revealed the winner, Rizzuto was stunned.

"When they announced my name, I thought it was a mistake," he said in a 1981 interview. "I was on cloud nine. I didn't think anything could top (winning the MVP award), and then to come to Rochester and win the Hickok ...."

After retiring in 1956, Rizzuto became a Yankees broadcaster for more than four decades, endearing himself to listeners with his humorous, unpredictable digressions and his signature "Holy Cow!" call. Following his induction into the Hall in 1994, Rizzuto donated several artifacts to the Museum, including the Hickok Belt, which is on display in a Yankees-related exhibit on the second floor, adjacent to Mantle's locker. The belt actually was publically displayed for the first time in the winter of 1951 at a New Jersey clothing store where Rizzuto worked in the offseason. Interestingly, he had a jeweler remove the diamonds to make a necklace, earrings and bracelets for his wife, Cora. Non-precious gems were placed in the belt, so that it looked the way it did originally. Other Hickok winners would follow Rizzuto's lead.

"Let me tell ya something," he joked years later. "I scored some big-time points with the wife. And the jeweler did such an excellent job with the belt's replacement gems that you couldn't tell the difference. It still looked like a work of art."

If you look closely at the belt, you'll notice that the top of the buckle reads: RAY HICKOK AWARD. The four Hickok Manufacturing employees who designed and made the belt didn't realize it should have read: S. RAE HICKOK AWARD. It was too late to make the change, but all subsequent belts featured the correct engraving, in honor of the com-



RAY HICKOK COLLECTION/TONY WELLS AGENCY

## HICKOK BELT RECIPIENTS

- 1950: **Phil Rizzuto (baseball)\***
- 1951: **Allie Reynolds (baseball)**
- 1952: Rocky Marciano (boxing)
- 1953: Ben Hogan (golf)
- 1954: **Willie Mays (baseball)\***
- 1955: Otto Graham (football)
- 1956: **Mickey Mantle (baseball)\***
- 1957: Carmen Basilio (boxing)
- 1958: **Bob Turley (baseball)**
- 1959: Ingemar Johansson (boxing)
- 1960: Arnold Palmer (golf)
- 1961: **Roger Maris (baseball)**
- 1962: **Maury Wills (baseball)**
- 1963: **Sandy Koufax (baseball)\***
- 1964: Jim Brown (football)
- 1965: **Sandy Koufax (baseball)\***
- 1966: **Frank Robinson (baseball)\***
- 1967: **Carl Yastrzemski (baseball)\***
- 1968: Joe Namath (football)
- 1969: **Tom Seaver (baseball)\***
- 1970: **Brooks Robinson (baseball)\***
- 1971: Lee Trevino (golf)
- 1972: **Steve Carlton (baseball)\***
- 1973: O.J. Simpson (football)
- 1974: Muhammad Ali (boxing)
- 1975: **Pete Rose (baseball)**
- 1976: Ken Stabler (football)

*Baseball winners in bold • \*Hall of Famer*

pany's founder.

The last belt was made and presented to Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback Ken Stabler following Super Bowl XI. By that time, Hickok Manufacturing had been sold and moved out of Rochester. With the ascendancy of *Sports Illustrated's* award and the escalating salaries and appearance fees being commanded by prominent athletes, the Hickok lost its significance. Although no more belts have been produced or given out, the award was revived in 2011, with members of the National Association of Sportswriters and Sportscasters voting for monthly and yearly winners. After his scintillating performance in the 2014 World Series, San Francisco Giants pitcher Madison Bumgarner was named the winner.

He was merely following in the spike steps of a pint-sized shortstop who had been sold short before rising to the top of the sports world. 📌

*Author Scott Pitoniak has published 22 books, including "Jewel of the Sports World: The Story of the Hickok Belt Award." The nationally recognized sports columnist lives in Penfield, N.Y.*



# Incoming Class

2017 Hall of Fame ballot features plenty of star power.

BY CRAIG MUDER

**F**or Jeff Bagwell, Tim Lincecum and Trevor Hoffman, all signs point to Cooperstown.

And though the annual Baseball Writers' Association of America Hall of Fame election is still three months away, each can be forgiven if his thoughts are already turning to July 2017.

Bagwell, Lincecum and Hoffman are the three leading returning vote-getters in the upcoming BBWAA election, with each garnering more than two-thirds of the vote in 2016. In the history of the vote, only one player who has ever received more than 65 percent of the vote in any given BBWAA Hall of Fame election has not been eventually inducted.

That player is Jack Morris, who exhausted his BBWAA ballot eligibility in 2014.

Bagwell received 71.6 percent of the BBWAA vote in 2016, the most of any player who did not earn election. Falling just 15 votes short of the 75 percent needed for induction, Bagwell returns to the ballot for the seventh time this year.

Lincecum, meanwhile, fell 23 votes short – earning 69.8 percent of the vote – and will be on the ballot for the 10th-and-final time in 2017.

The last eight Hall of Fame candidates who received at least 69.8 percent of the vote in a given year – dating back to 1995 – were elected by the BBWAA the very next year.

Hoffman, meanwhile, is only the sixth player to earn at least two-thirds of the vote in his first year on the ballot (having earned 67.3 percent of the vote in 2016) but fall short of the 75 percent threshold. Of the previous five, three were elected the next year (Roberto Alomar,


Yogi Berra and Whitey Ford) and two were elected in their third year of eligibility (Craig Biggio and Gaylord Perry).

Excluding Hoffman, every player who has ever received between 50 and 74.9 percent of the BBWAA vote in their initial appearance on the ballot has been subsequently elected to the Hall of Fame.

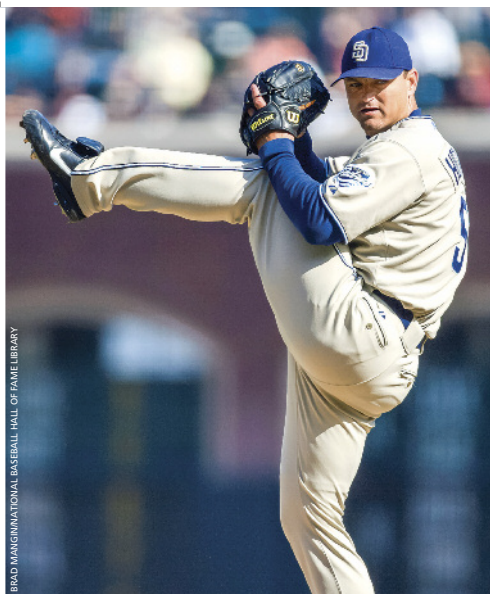
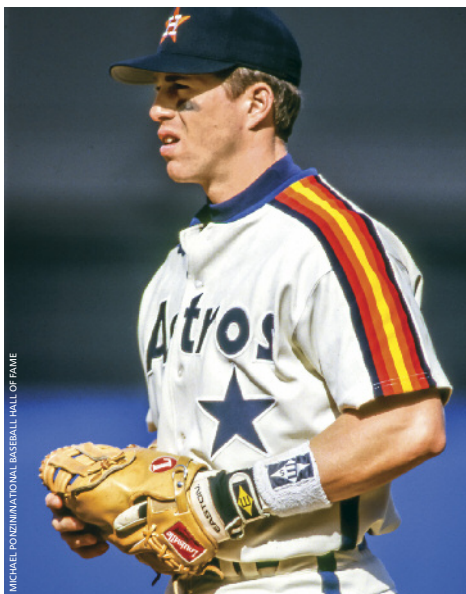
The only other candidate on the BBWAA ballot who received at least 50 percent of the vote in 2016 was Curt Schilling (52.3 percent).

The list of first-year eligible candidates for 2017 includes catchers Ivan Rodriguez and Jorge Posada, outfielders Vladimir Guerrero and Manny Ramirez and pitcher Tim Wakefield. The 2017 BBWAA Hall of Fame ballot will be announced later this fall.

Also this fall, the Today's Game Committee will meet for the first time after the restructuring of the Eras Committee system this summer by the Museum's Board of Directors. The Today's Game Committee will vote on a 10-person ballot of eligible managers, executives, umpires and players retired for more than 15 seasons whose primary contribution to the game came since 1988.

The Today's Game Committee ballot will be constructed by the BBWAA's Historical Overview Committee and will be announced shortly after the completion of the 2016 World Series. 

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



Left to right: Jeff Bagwell, Trevor Hoffman and Tim Lincecum are the top returning vote-getters who are scheduled to appear on the 2017 BBWAA Hall of Fame ballot.

# RETROACTIVE REWARDS

## VOTES BY BASEBALL RESEARCHERS GIVE A GLIMPSE AS TO WHO MIGHT HAVE WON ANNUAL AWARDS.

BY MARTY APPEL

**J**ust how many Cy Young Awards would Cy Young have won?

He didn't win any of course, because the award only began in 1956, eight months after he had died. Commissioner Ford Frick,

sensitive to the repeated Top 10 finishes – without a victory – of the Phillies' Robin Roberts in the Most Valuable Player Award voting, proposed the award to distinguish pitchers from everyday players, without removing pitchers from MVP competition.

But the idea that retroactive Cy Young Award winners and Rookie of the Year winners (an award that began in 1947) could be determined back to 1900 was an intriguing one.

I was working in the office of Commissioner Bowie Kuhn in 1980 when I spoke about this with Bob Davids, one of the founders of SABR (Society for American Baseball Research).

SABR was by then a nine-year-old organization of about a thousand baseball history-loving members. It had established a reputation for solid research skills, its credibility was strong and this seemed like a good group to take on such a project. It was an unofficial conversation; it would be strictly a SABR project, not sanctioned



Cy Young pitched in 22 big league seasons and won 511 games. He was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1937.

by MLB or by the Baseball Writers' Association of America, whose members voted on the actual annual awards. Still, it seemed like a fun project for the membership.

Davids turned it over to researcher Lyle Spatz, who proceeded to diligently comb through "The Baseball Encyclopedia" in search of likely annual candidates. The preparation of

the ballots would actually take over a year. These were the days of postal service communication, and the very mailing of ballots and receipt and tabulation was time consuming. It was done a decade at a time, beginning with Rookies of the Year.

Spatz's ballot included the preferred stats at the time (no WAR or WHIP, etc.), and voters were asked to list up to three candidates in order. A 5-3-1 point system was used, as was done for the "real awards," and voters were reminded that future performances, reputations, postseason, etc., should not be taken into account. It was as though they were voting fresh each year at the end of the regular season.

"We received a few hundred ballots when we began, and it gradually increased," said Spatz. "By the time we got to the Cy Young Award, we were in the 500-700 range."

The retroactive Rookies of the Year (now called the Jackie Robinson Award) were announced in 1986, and the retroactive Cy Young Award winners in 1988. (Researcher Bill Deane later did his own compilation in "Total Baseball" with some different winners, using the SABR honors as part of his research tools.)

The fact that so many ballots were cast by such a knowledgeable group gave immediate credibility to the voting. And while the list of winners has never made its way into a widely recognized honor, for some of the honorees, had they known, it might have been a lifetime highlight.

Imagine, for instance, if outfielder Homer Smoot of the St. Louis Cardinals, who died in 1928, had known that he might have been the National League Rookie of the Year in 1902. Think he might have bragged about that a little? (He played five years in total.)

Or how about old Joe Berry, retroactive American League Rookie of the Year in 1944 while playing for the Philadelphia Athletics? Berry went 10-8 that year with a 1.94 ERA. He was 39 years old, and would have been the oldest Rookie of the Year ever. He died in 1958.

Then there was Billy Sullivan, a catcher for the Boston Braves who was voted the first





### SABR'S RETROACTIVE CY YOUNG WINNERS

### SABR'S RETROACTIVE JACKIE ROBINSON WINNERS (ROOKIE OF THE YEAR)

Year	National League	American League
1900	Joe McGinnity	BKL —
1901	Bill Donovan	BKL Cy Young
1902	Jack Chesbro	PIT Cy Young
1903	Christy Mathewson	NY Cy Young
1904	Joe McGinnity	NY Jack Chesbro
1905	Christy Mathewson	NY Rube Waddell
1906	Mordecai Brown	CHI Al Orth
1907	Christy Mathewson	NY Addie Joss
1908	Christy Mathewson	NY Ed Walsh
1909	Christy Mathewson	NY George Mullin
1910	Christy Mathewson	NY Jack Coombs
1911	Pete Alexander	PHI Walter Johnson
1912	Rube Marquard	NY Joe Wood
1913	Christy Mathewson	NY Walter Johnson
1914	Bill James	BOS Walter Johnson
1915	Pete Alexander	PHI Walter Johnson
1916	Pete Alexander	PHI Babe Ruth
1917	Pete Alexander	PHI Eddie Cicotte
1918	Jim Vaughn	CHI Walter Johnson
1919	Jesse Barnes	NY Eddie Cicotte
1920	Pete Alexander	CHI Jim Bagby
1921	Burleigh Grimes	BKL Red Faber
1922	Eppa Rixey	CIN Eddie Rommel
1923	Dolf Luque	CIN George Uhle
1924	Dazzy Vance	BKL Walter Johnson
1925	Dazzy Vance	BKL Stan Coveleski
1926	Ray Kremer	PIT George Uhle
1927	Jesse Haines	STL Waite Hoyt
1928	Larry Benton	NY Lefty Grove
1929	Pat Malone	CHI Lefty Grove
1930	Pat Malone	CHI Lefty Grove
1931	Bill Walker	NY Lefty Grove
1932	Lon Warneke	CHI Lefty Grove
1933	Carl Hubbell	NY Lefty Grove
1934	Dizzy Dean	STL Lefty Gomez
1935	Dizzy Dean	STL Wes Ferrell
1936	Carl Hubbell	NY Tommy Bridges
1937	Jim Turner	BOS Lefty Gomez
1938	Bill Lee	CHI Red Ruffing
1939	Bucky Walters	CIN Bob Feller
1940	Bucky Walters	CIN Bob Feller
1941	Whit Wyatt	BKL Bob Feller
1942	Mort Cooper	STL Tex Hughson
1943	Mort Cooper	STL Spud Chandler
1944	Bucky Walters	CIN Hal Newhouser
1945	Hank Wyse	CHI Hal Newhouser
1946	Howie Pollet	STL Hal Newhouser
1947	Ewell Blackwell	CIN Bob Feller
1948	Johnny Sain	BOS Gene Bearden
1949	Warren Spahn	BOS Mel Parnell
1950	Jim Konstanty	PHI Bob Lemon
1951	Sal Maglie	NY Eddie Lopat
1952	Robin Roberts	PHI Bobby Shantz
1953	Warren Spahn	MIL Bob Porterfield
1954	John Antonelli	NY Bob Lemon
1955	Robin Roberts	PHI Whitey Ford
1956	Don Newcombe*	BKL Herb Score
1957	Warren Spahn*	MIL Jim Bunning
1958	Warren Spahn	MIL Bob Turley*
1959	Sam Jones	SF Early Wynn*
1960	Vern Law*	PIT Jim Perry
1961	Warren Spahn	LA Whitey Ford*
1962	Don Drysdale*	LA Ralph Terry
1963	Sandy Koufax*	LA Whitey Ford
1964	Sandy Koufax	LA Dean Chance*
1965	Sandy Koufax*	LA Jim Grant
1966	Sandy Koufax*	LA Jim Kaat

Year	National League	American League
1900	Billy Sullivan, c	BOS —
1901	Christy Mathewson, p	NY Socks Seybold, of
1902	Homer Smoot, of	STL Addie Joss, p
1903	Jake Weimer, p	CHI Chief Bender, p
1904	Harry Lumley, of	BKL Fred Glade, p
1905	Ed Reulbach, p	CHI George Stone, of
1906	Jack Pfeiffer, p	CHI Claude Rossman, 1b
1907	Nap Rucker, p	BKL Glen Liebhardt, p
1908	George McQuillan, p	PHI Ed Summers, p
1909	Babe Adams, p	PIT Harry Krause, p
1910	King Cole, p	CHI Russ Ford, p
1911	Pete Alexander, p	PHI Vean Gregg, P
1912	Larry Cheney, p	CHI Hugh Bedient, p
1913	Jim Viox, 2b	PIT Reb Russell, p
1914	Jeff Pfeffer, p	BKL George Burns, 1b
1915	Tommy Long, of	STL Babe Ruth, p
1916	Rogers Hornsby, if	STL Claude Williams, p
1917	Leon Cadore, p	BKL Joe Harris, 1b
1918	Charlie Hollocher, ss	CHI Scott Perry, p
1919	Oscar Tuero, p	STL Dickie Kerr, p
1920	Fred Nicholson, of	PIT Bob Meusel, 3b-of
1921	Ray Grimes, 1b	CHI Joe Sewell, ss
1922	Hack Miller, of	CHI Herman Pilleter, p
1923	George Grantham, 2b	CHI Homer Summa, of
1924	Kiki Cuyler, of	PIT Al Simmons, of
1925	Dick Cox, of	BKL Earle Combs, of
1926	Paul Waner, of	PIT Tony Lazzeri, 2b
1927	Lloyd Waner, of	PIT Wilcy Moore, p
1928	Del Bissonette, 1b	BKL Ed Morris, p
1929	Johnny Frederick, of	BKL Dale Alexander, 1b
1930	Wally Berger, of	BOS Smead Jolley, of
1931	Paul Derringer, p	STL Joe Vosmik, of
1932	Dizzy Dean, p	STL Johnny Allen, p
1933	Frank Demaree, of	CHI Pinky Higgins, 3b
1934	Paul Dean, p	STL Hal Trosky, 1b
1935	Cy Blanton, p	PIT Jake Powell, of
1936	Johnny Mize 1b	STL Joe DiMaggio, of
1937	Jim Turner, p	BOS Rudy York, of-3b
1938	Johnny Rizzo, of	PIT Ken Keltner, 3b
1939	Hugh Casey, p	BKL Ted Williams, of
1940	Babe Young, 1b	NY Wally Judnich, of
1941	Elmer Riddle, p	CIN Phil Rizzuto, ss
1942	Johnny Beazley, p	STL Johnny Pesky, ss
1943	Lou Klein, 2b	STL Dick Wakefield, of
1944	Bill Voiselle, p	NY Joe Berry, p
1945	Ken Burkhardt, p	STL Dave Ferris, p
1946	Del Ennis, of	PHI Hoot Evers, of
1947	Jackie Robinson, 1b*	BKL Frank Shea, p
1948	Alvin Dark, ss*	BOS Gene Bearden, p



Jackie Robinson of the Brooklyn Dodgers won the first Rookie of the Year Award in 1947. The award is now known as the Jackie Robinson Award.

\* BBWAA winner

Rookie of the Year in this process. It turned out he was the only catcher to win the award in either league until Johnny Bench won the actual BBWAA award in 1968. For 67 years, he could have claimed to be the only catcher to ever win. (Rudy York, the 1937 retroactive AL winner, caught 54 games – enough to lead the league in passed balls – but he also played third base.)

Some of the retro-winners did indeed go on to the Hall of Fame, including Addie Joss, Chief Bender, Al Simmons, Earle Combs, Tony Lazzeri, Joe DiMaggio, Ted Williams and Phil Rizzuto in the American League, and National Leaguers Christy Mathewson, Grover Cleveland Alexander, Rogers Hornsby, Kiki Cuyler, Paul Waner, Lloyd Waner, Dizzy Dean and Johnny Mize. It would have led to an additional line on their plaques.

Oh, and one more: Babe Ruth. Yes, Ruth would have won the Rookie of the Year Award in 1915 as a pitcher with the Boston Red Sox – and then, according to the balloting, would have won the retroactive Cy Young Award in 1916! Two more Ruth “honors” we did not know about.

Eleven St. Louis Cardinals were voted Rookies of the Year, the most of any team, with the Yankees and the Cubs having 10 each. And Stan Musial was not one of the 11 Cards. He was beaten out in 1942 by his teammate, pitcher Johnny Beazley, who went 21-6 with a 2.13 ERA, compared to Musial’s .315 with 10 homers and 72 RBI.

The Cy Young Award ballots also filled in the years in which there was just a single winner (1956-66) by adding the “other” league.

Three Rookies of the Year also placed first in Cy Young Award balloting: Alexander of the Phillies in 1911, Jim Turner of the Boston Braves in 1937 and Gene Bearden of Cleveland in 1948. There wouldn’t be another one until Fernando Valenzuela won the BBWAA honor in 1981.

Turner, later a New York Yankees pitching coach, was a 33-year-old rookie when he took home the two hypothetical “honors,” going 20-11 for Boston while leading the league in ERA and complete games. He never approached 20 victories again in his nine-year career.

As for Cy Young, he was voted the winner of the first three American League Cy Young Awards. But he wasn’t the only legendary name who put up a bunch of them in SABR voting.

These were, after all, the days of eight-team leagues, and perhaps 32 starting pitchers in the competition. Mathewson won seven between 1903 and 1913, which would equal the modern record held by Roger Clemens. Alexander won five between 1911 and 1920, Walter Johnson earned that same number between 1911 and 1918, and that includes being denied the



Cy Young was presented with this award, now a part of the Museum’s collection, in 1908. Forty-eight years later, the award that now bears his name was created to honor the top pitcher of the year.

award in 1912 (when he was 32-12), edged out by Smoky Joe Wood. Lefty Grove won six straight between 1928 and 1933, and Warren Spahn won five between 1949 and 1961, including one BBWAA award.

Cleveland’s Bob Feller won three straight (1939-41) before leaving for military service in World War II. In his absence, teammate Hal Newhouser won in 1944-45-46, with Feller winning again in ’47. With all the statistical accomplishments that Feller failed to reach by

missing those war years (such as 300 wins), he certainly figured to have been a strong candidate to add to those four “Cy’s” to his résumé.

Other Hall of Famers who would have picked up a Cy Young Award include National Leaguers Joe McGinnity (2), Jack Chesbro (2, one in each league), Dazzy Vance (2), Carl Hubbell (2), Dizzy Dean (2), Robin Roberts (2), Mordecai Brown, Rube Marquard, Burleigh Grimes, Eppa Rixey and Jesse Haines. From the American League, that list features Whitey Ford (3, including one from the BBWAA), Lefty Gomez (2), Bob Lemon (2), Rube Waddell, Addie Joss, Ed Walsh, Red Faber, Stan Coveleski, Waite Hoyt, Red Ruffing and Jim Bunning.

There are some names among the winners who might have fared better in the collective memory of fans had they been able to boast of a Cy Young on their résumé. Among them would be Dolf Luque, Ray Kremer, Larry Benton, Pat Malone, Bill Walker, Bill Lee, Hank Wyse, Al Orth, George Mullin, Jim Bagby, George Uhle, Tommy Bridges and Tex Hughson.

It is somehow fitting that another winner was Bill James of the 1914 “Miracle” Boston Braves, who is no relation to stats pioneer and SABRmetrics guru Bill James. But it feels like a nice tip of the cap to SABR just the same. James (the player) was a true one-year wonder, going 26-7 for that championship team, but only 11-14 in 38 other appearances before and after that season, covering four years in all.

As one would expect, pure relief pitchers seldom won a Cy Young Award. It was a different era of baseball, and bullpen work was not thought of as highly as it is today. But Jim Konstanty of the Phillies finally broke through – for real – in 1950.

No St. Louis Browns pitcher ever won a Cy Young Award, but the franchise did have two top rookie winners – George Stone in 1905 and Wally Judnich in 1940.

There was no hardware to accompany any of these, no listing in the record books, no historic markers in their hometowns. But the exercise was a worthy one.

And so: Belated congratulations to the winners of these coveted awards ... that never were. 🍷

*Marty Appel is the magazine historian for Memories and Dreams.*

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# NEWK'S TRIPLE TREASURE

## DON NEWCOMBE SET A STANDARD AS THE FIRST PITCHER TO WIN ROOKIE OF THE YEAR, MVP HONORS, AND THE CY YOUNG AWARD IN HIS CAREER.

BY ROSS NEWHAN

**T**he 2016 season marks the 60th anniversary of the Cy Young Award's creation – one award for two leagues initially – by Major League Baseball owners on the recommendation of then-commissioner Ford Frick.

Frick felt it was too difficult for pitchers to win the Most Valuable Player Award and they should have their own recognition. Through the 1955 season, the MVP had been awarded 71 times – but only 14 times to a pitcher.

Don Newcombe won that first Cy Young Award, while also proving that maybe it wasn't that difficult for a pitcher to win the MVP as well. The Brooklyn Dodgers right-hander was the National League's MVP after going 27-7 over 268 innings (and producing a 4.5 wins above replacement mark). This completed a Triple Crown of sorts for Newcombe, who had been the NL's Rookie of the Year in 1949.

A significant measure of his achievement is that it would be 55 years after Newcombe's Cy Young/MVP sweep before another pitcher, Justin Verlander of the Detroit Tigers, would complete that Rookie, MVP and Cy Young

career trifecta. They remain the only two hurlers who have done it.

Meanwhile, "Cy Young" has entered into the baseball lexicon as a common noun – and many fans today fail to realize the person behind the name was one of baseball's greatest pitchers. It also becomes the answer to a trivia question: What name is mentioned on more Hall of Fame plaques than any other?

Answer: Cy Young, with citations on 19 plaques in Cooperstown, including his own. In 1972, Sandy Koufax became the first Cy Young Award winner inducted.

"To me, the interesting and largely unknown story was that it was named for Young when everybody knew that both Walter Johnson and Christy Mathewson – and arguably Lefty Grove – were better pitchers," said MLB Historian John Thorn. "I think what it came down to is that, in conceiving one award that crossed over both leagues, they wanted a pitcher who enjoyed great success in both leagues. The point could be made that Cy Young did not have the award named for him strictly on the basis of his 511 victories, but because he had done it splitting time between leagues.

"In addition, when you look at that period

in which only one (Cy Young) award was given, it really makes what Sandy Koufax did leap out at you as being an even stronger achievement."

Koufax, the great Dodgers left-hander and member of the Hall of Fame, won three Cy Young Awards in a four-year span between 1963 and 1966. A year later, the subcommittee of the Baseball Writers' Association of America began voting a Cy Young Award for each league.

For Newcombe, now 90, his voice and backbone still strong even if health issues have prevented him from being the always impeccably dressed – Panama hat, silk suit – fixture he was at Dodger Stadium, there was pride, he said, in being the first winner of the Cy Young Award and pride in having won the three different awards.

"I was proud as well for the young man in Detroit (Verlander) when he did it after so many years," Newcombe said.

The awards glitter, but if Newcombe's career hasn't always received seemingly deserved recognition, that's a subject he doesn't care to get into when there is so much more to discuss, so much more to a life and career beyond the awards and statistics.

"Two separate things altogether," Newcombe said, separating the categories – the awards on one hand and significantly altering lives on the other.

After all, it was Newcombe who helped Brooklyn teammates Jackie Robinson and Roy Campanella knock down doors as they integrated baseball. And it was Newcombe who helped lift people up during a post-playing career in which he: 1) acknowledged his struggle with alcoholism (hocking a World Series ring at a particular low point); 2) initiated a community relations department for the Dodgers in Los Angeles; and 3) traveled the country as a tireless spokesman on the perils of alcohol abuse.

"Don's significance to our organization just grew and grew," said former Dodgers owner

Don Newcombe of the Brooklyn Dodgers holds his 1956 Cy Young and National League MVP awards. Newcombe also won the 1949 Rookie of the Year Award, becoming the first pitcher to capture all three awards during his career.



B

De

CY YOUNG AWARD



PRESENTED TO  
DONALD NEWCOMBE  
MOUNTAIN LANDIS MEMORIAL AWARD

MOUNTAIN LANDIS  
MEMORIAL AWARD  
BASEBALL  
1956  
MOST VALUABLE PLAYER  
NATIONAL LEAGUE  
DONALD NEWCOMBE  
SEASON 1956

Peter O'Malley, who would become aware of the hocked ring, retrieve it, and later present it to Newcombe after he had rebuilt his life.

"It was a proud moment for Don and for me," O'Malley said. "He had faced his [problem], addressed it and has been extraordinary ever since."

Newcombe was determined to become a change-maker.

"It has been my life to me," he said, "and I say that from the heart. No one was traveling the country and talking about alcoholism when I started to do it, and I take pride in standing up in front of people and saying, 'I'm Don Newcombe and I'm an alcoholic.' I'm also telling you that I did more off the field in that time than I did on it, including what Jackie and Roy and I did."

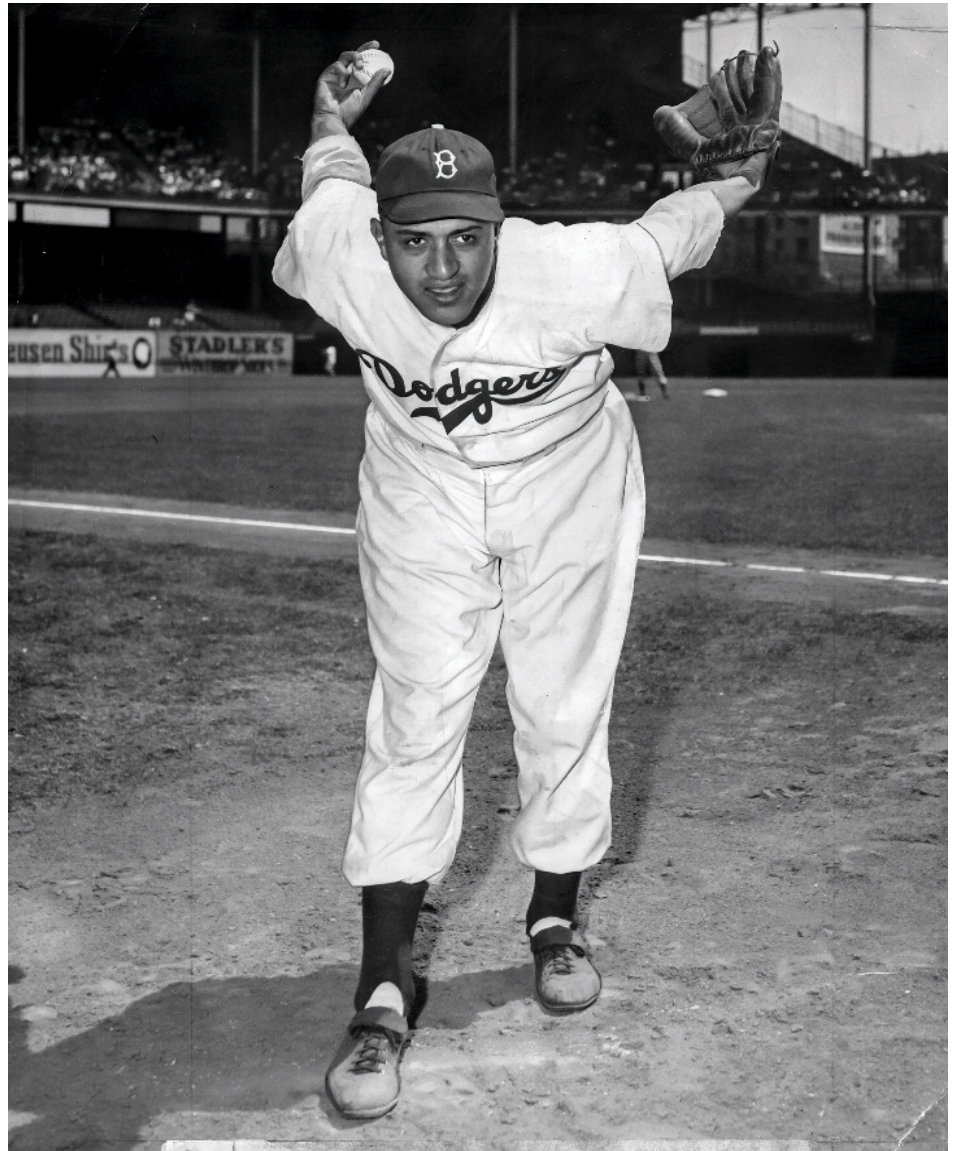
There is no minimizing, of course, the role that Robinson, Campanella, Newcombe and others played in what was the long overdue integration of the major leagues. Their stories have been told, but Newcombe always comes back to a meeting that he had with Robinson and Campanella in Campanella's New York apartment, not long after Branch Rickey, the Dodgers owner, provided the opportunity.

"Jackie delivered the message," Newcombe said. "I remember him saying, 'Gentlemen, we are very bitter now over the years it has taken to reach this point, and we are going to be very much more bitter over what we are going to have to endure every day we are on the field, but one day – and I promise both of you – one day we are going to change that 'i' in bitter to an 'e' in better."

"Gentlemen, we cannot fail. Mr. Rickey, the Dodgers and many other players who played with us in the past and many others to come are depending on it. We have to do it, so let's go out and get it done.' I will never forget Jackie saying that, and that's what we did. We went out and performed. We changed things. We changed the lives of people and players all over the country."

Bitter would become better, but not before the daily trials. The taunts, the hotels and restaurants open to teammates but not African-Americans all persisted, even after Newcombe came back from two years of military service during the Korean War. Maybe ugliest of all was in Vero Beach, Fla., where the Dodgers trained.

"I have no good memories of Vero," Newcombe said, recalling that in later years



Don Newcombe pitched eight seasons for the Dodgers, winning 20-or-more games three times and earning four All-Star Game berths, before finishing his career with the Reds and the Indians. His 149 wins included 24 shutouts.

O'Malley would provide Jim Gilliam with a car so that he could take the African-American players to the nearby community of Gifford to eat and relax.

The tests came, and Newcombe passed.

He was the first African-American to pitch in an All-Star Game and the first in a World Series. There was the Rookie of the Year Award – at age 22 in 1949 – followed by 19 or more wins in four of his next five seasons (interrupted in the middle by two years in the service). He pitched 233 or more innings in four of those seasons, including his 1956 MVP/Cy Young campaign when he hurled 19 complete games for the NL pennant winners.

Newcombe's career tailed off following that season. He accompanied the Dodgers to Los Angeles in 1958, but was traded to

Cincinnati the next year and ultimately pitched for Cleveland and in Japan before retiring with a 149-90 major league record. Newcombe never received much play in Hall of Fame voting, but there was much more to his career than the numbers.

"I think that his problems with alcohol and his bouncing around in his final years possibly left people thinking he was a pitcher who flamed out pretty quickly," O'Malley said. "However, he pitched an extraordinary amount of innings and had a great run from 1949 through 1956 at the least, and he certainly had a distinguished career in public service and with the Dodgers organization to this day." ❀

*Ross Newhan is the 2000 winner of the BBWAA's J.G. Taylor Spink Award.*

# LEFTY'S ALL RIGHT

## HALL OF FAMER STEVE CARLTON IS ENJOYING THE FRUITS OF HIS SPECTACULAR CAREER.

BY HAL BODLEY

**N**umbers, awards and victories – 329 of 'em – paved the way for Steve Carlton's journey to the Hall of Fame.

But to the pitcher they called "Lefty," all of that was a distraction when he threw the baseball 60 feet, six inches.

Steven Norman Carlton, now 71, thrived as one of the greatest left-handers in baseball history because he was driven by an unusual mentality that allowed him to focus hyper-intensely on throwing each pitch to the exact location in which he visualized.

Carlton eliminated all distractions – the weather, the noise, the fans, the opponents, the umpire, the batter. He sought to turn the batter invisible, seeing only his catcher. Nothing mattered beyond throwing the baseball, especially with his uncanny slider.

"My ball never moved. I just threw it and it stayed where I wanted it to," he said, almost matter-of-factly.

Tim McCarver, himself honored in Cooperstown as a winner of the Ford C. Frick Award for broadcasters, was Carlton's catcher both in St. Louis and Philadelphia.

"The intense concentration of Steve's approach never changed," McCarver said. "His

vicious, tightly wrapped slider, the grip of which was taught to him by Bob Gibson, was the best ever thrown. He is proudly one of a kind and one of my closest friends."

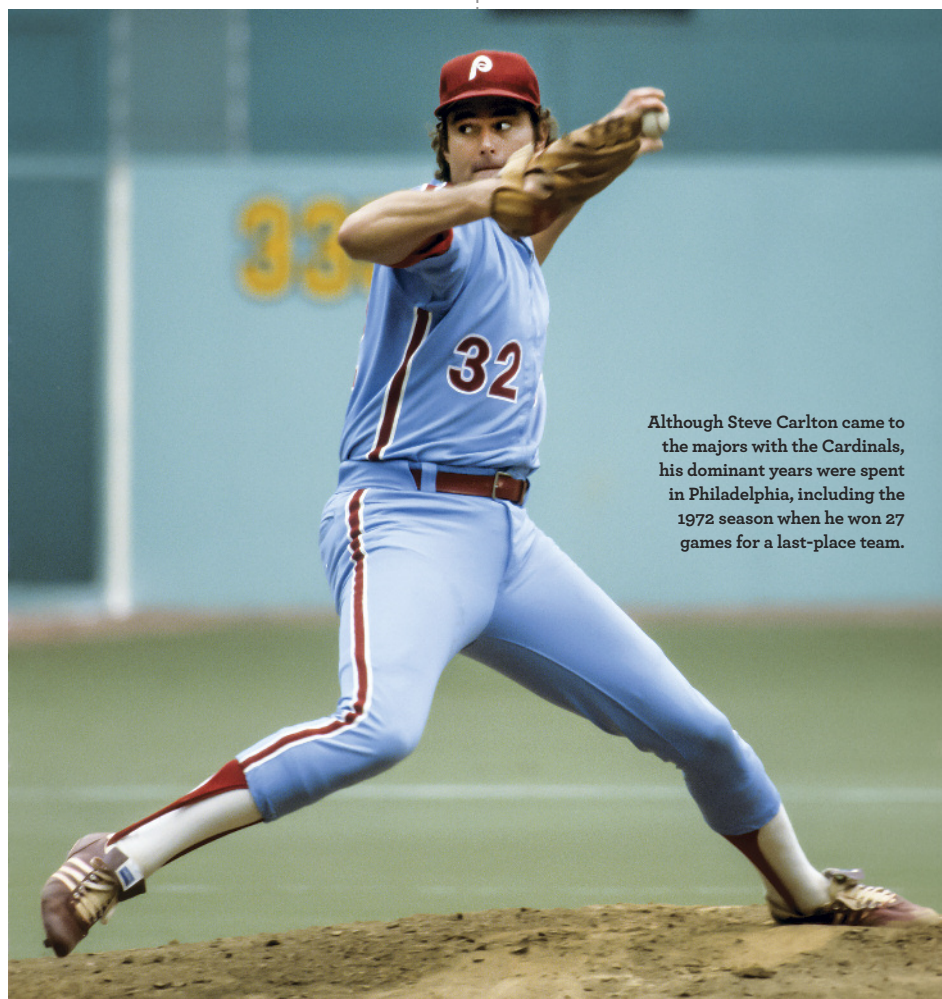
Carlton compiled Hall of Fame numbers, but he wouldn't let himself acknowledge personal goals or professional records even as they drew increasingly within his reach.

"I was going out to do a job," he said. "I wanted to do it at the highest level. I wanted to represent myself in a dignified way."

For Carlton, the job required an almost supernatural level of concentration.

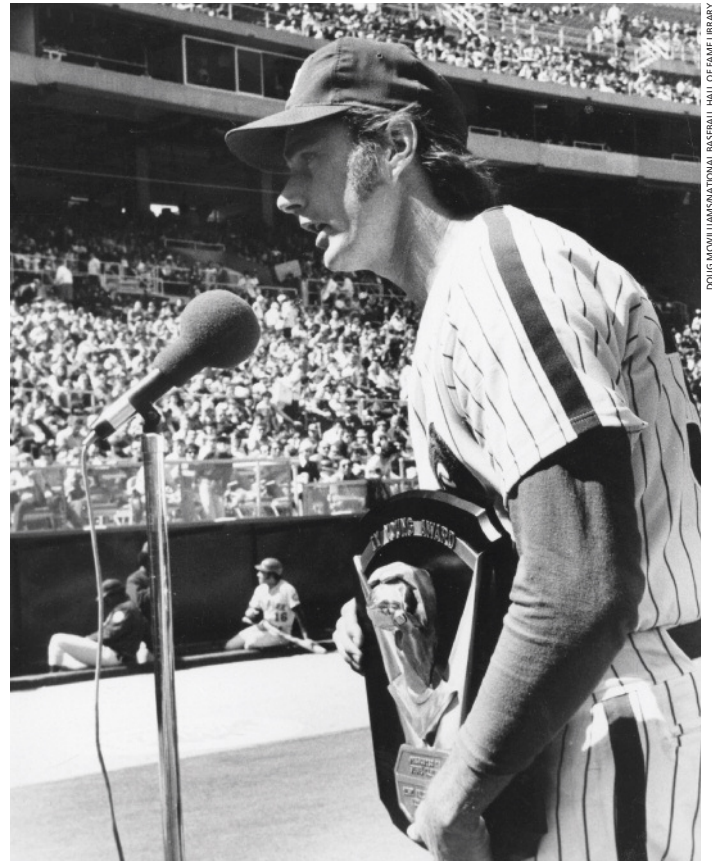
"Your will is your mission," he said. "For me, it wasn't so much to strike guys out, but to win."

"Lefty was a dream to play behind," said Hall of Famer Mike Schmidt, a former Carlton teammate. "Nothing bothered him. He



Although Steve Carlton came to the majors with the Cardinals, his dominant years were spent in Philadelphia, including the 1972 season when he won 27 games for a last-place team.

TONY TOMICIC/GETTY IMAGES



DOUG NOVILIAN/NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME LIBRARY

**Above:** When Steve Carlton was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1994, he received 95.82 percent of the Baseball Writers' Association of America vote. At the time, only four players – Tom Seaver, Ty Cobb, Henry Aaron and Johnny Bench – had received a higher percentage of the vote. **Right:** Carlton pitched 15 seasons for the Phillies, winning 241 games and four Cy Young Awards while leading Philadelphia to its first World Series title in 1980.

worked fast, and because of that, it was so easy to defense hitters. He was a strikeout pitcher.”

Schmidt, who blasted 548 career home runs, was amazed at how well Carlton hit.

“He was a great hitter for a pitcher and an unbelievable bunter,” added Schmidt. “Lefty took the ball every fifth day – rain or shine. A true Hall of Famer.”

It’s difficult to find a starting point for his seemingly endless list of achievements.

Maybe it should be the four Cy Young Awards. He was the first pitcher to win four during a career. His 329 victories are second only to Warren Spahn’s 363 of any left-handed pitcher in the game’s history, and his 4,136 strikeouts are second to Randy Johnson’s 4,875 for left-handers.

During his 24-year career, Carlton pitched for three World Series champions, four National League pennant winners and was a 10-time All-Star.

One of his most remarkable records was accounting for nearly half (46 percent) of his team’s wins when he won 27 games for the wretched last-place Phillies (59-97) in 1972. He’s the last NL pitcher to win 25 or more games in one season, as well as the last pitcher from any team to throw more than 300 innings

in a season – hurling 304 in 1980 while helping the Phillies to their first World Series crown.

Carlton never threw a no-hitter, but a game in San Francisco on April 25, 1972, comes to mind.

“I used just 112 or 113 pitches to strike out 14 batters,” he remembered. “To me, that was the economy of effort.”

Giants shortstop Chris Speier led off with a single. It was the first and last hit Carlton would allow.

“I don’t even think about my achievements,” Carlton recently said. “To me it was all good, a compilation of a lot of things. Cy Youngs are fun, but it’s an individual accomplishment. Playing in the postseason or a World Series is always great because it’s a team effort. Everyone gets to have that special feeling.”

Pausing, he added: “I guess Cy Youngs are special because you have to have a great year. Other pitchers in the league are also having a great year. But you’re not trying to win a Cy Young; you’re trying to win a game on every fourth or fifth day when you pitch. You have to do it as an individual because it propels the team forward to the postseason and World Series. Everyone then gets to enjoy the moment.”

Carlton was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1994, receiving 95.82 percent of the Baseball

Writers’ Association of America vote, which ranks 13th-best ever. His No. 32 was retired by the Phillies in 1989, and he was honored with a statue outside Citizens Bank Park in 2004.

Most of that is enjoyed, cherished. But to Carlton, today it’s in the rear-view mirror.

Turn onto the gravelly road that weaves up Wildcat Canyon near Durango, Colo., and after seven or eight miles you’re, well, a long, long way from those 329 wins and that little dirt hump of a pitcher’s mound.

This is Carlton’s land, 200 acres of breathtaking Colorado wilderness that often has snow-covered La Plata Mountains painted across the background under an azure sky.

This is his retreat, a modernistic home built in the mountainside, where he soaks in knowledge from a vast library of Eastern philosophy and metaphysical works.

It’s also where he’s planted 150 fruit trees and keeps busy after exhausting schedules of appearances at corporate events and baseball memorabilia shows.

“It’s a good getaway for me,” he said. “After I do the corporate functions in the cities, it’s wonderful to get back and relax with nature. That’s my deal.

“I’ve got five chain saws, I cut wood, I



plant trees and that keeps me busy. I play a little golf, not as much as I used to. Other than being sought after for corporate stuff and card shows, life hasn't changed much since the Hall of Fame induction."

It's at home where Carlton is most at ease.

"I have a garden every year and a greenhouse, raise a lot of my own food – pretty simple stuff. It's kinda the way I want to live."

The elevation for his property is 8,000 feet "so I have to have cold-hardy trees. I have a variety of apples, plums, pears, sour cherries ... I tried some grapes, but had no luck at that. And I couldn't do peaches at that elevation."

Carlton, who seldom spoke to the media in all those years pitching for the Phillies, is extremely open now, a delight to spend time with.

To block out noise when he pitched, he often wore earplugs (though he first took to wearing earplugs because his hearing was damaged as a youth by rifle and pistol shooting with no ear protection).

"It wasn't because I'm left-handed and nuts," Carlton said about blocking out noise. "I just found something that worked for me. It was a solution I needed to have."

The biggest and most bothersome distraction proved to be the media, so Carlton quit talking to reporters. McCarver was often the go-to player for reaction from a Steve Carlton game.

"It became an obstacle," Carlton said. "I had to make it go away. I was starting to think about things I shouldn't have been thinking of while I was pitching, like what was going to happen after the game. I wasn't doing my job. My intent was to perform for the people and the team."

That, of course, was during the golden years of his career.

"I was raised on a chicken farm and nursery my grandparents ran in North Miami," he offered. "I've sort of returned to those roots. I wasn't actively involved in it, but I enjoyed the nursery at a young age. And I love this."

He insists he's never had more fun out of life or enjoyed better peace of mind. But for one season – in 1972 – few players ever seemed more at one with the universe.

After winning 20 games for the Cardinals in 1971, Carlton became embroiled in a bitter contract dispute and was traded to the last-place Phillies for Rick Wise.

What followed was one of the most amazing seasons a pitcher has ever had.

HUNTER MARTINEZZI IMAGES



Steve Carlton remains an icon among Phillies fans. The team retired his No. 32 in 1989 and unveiled a statue in his honor outside Citizens Bank Park in 2004.

Carlton won 27 games, posted a stunning 1.97 earned-run average and took home his first Cy Young Award.

"It was one of those unique kind of years where it seemed like I never threw a bad pitch. Of course, I did," he said. "I had great control and that's what it takes to win at any level."

He'd pitch 15 years for the Phillies, win three more Cy Youngs and even win a Gold Glove Award for his fielding.

He revealed that he often went to the mound having already won the game.

"Today, that's called quantum entanglement," he said, his eyes intense. "You are entangling a thought into the future. As you go through linear concept of that reality, it has already unfolded for you."

Knowing that he places his energies into visualizing the future, it's revealing to learn if there's anything that Carlton looks back upon and wishes he would have done differently.

After much hesitation, he finally said: "I

would like to have had a splitter or circle changeup, which is a really good pitch. Or even a two-seam fastball. Throw that inside to a left-handed batter, and if it doesn't sail back over the plate, it's a great pitch.

"A two-seamer moving in on a left-handed batter would have been effective. I didn't throw a lot inside to left-handers. I had side-armed curveballs, sliders and pitches on the outside corner. I loved to watch Mariano Rivera pitch with that little cutter he had. He was tough on lefties because the ball kept bearing in on them."

Obviously, processing what he'd just said, Carlton had second thoughts: "That's retrospective ... and not me."

And that says it all about Steve Carlton. 🍎

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*Hal Bodley, dean of American baseball writers, is senior correspondent for MLB.com. He has been covering Major League Baseball since 1958 and was the baseball editor and a columnist for USA TODAY for 25 years.*



# Just Off The Mark

Research, rule changes and even rain have altered baseball's statistical history.

BY BILL FRANCIS

**B**ig league baseball has been enamored with numbers for most of the past 150 years, but some of its most celebrated achievements can't always be chiseled in history.

The biggest names in the sport are often lauded because of their impressive statistics, but on those rare occasions, under a “woulda - coulda - shoulda” banner, certain records, milestones and accomplishments are proven to be either incorrect, altered or misidentified.

The National Pastime's past is not as set-in-stone as one might expect, with specific details of its story often muddled. With record-keeping, especially in its nascent decades, not as meticulous as it's been in recent years, it often comes down to the work of historians and researchers to uncover the details that change long-held beliefs. In a sport where numbers matter, understanding the vagaries in its recorded history is important.

An early example of this, involving greats Ty Cobb and Rogers Hornsby, is referenced in the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum's exhibit, *One for the Books*, which celebrates baseball records and the stories behind them.

It was long thought that Cobb held the record for most consecutive years leading the league in batting average, the Tigers star topping the AL for nine straight seasons from 1907 to 1915. But research done in the 1970s uncovered an error in the 1910 statistics – showing that Cleveland's Nap Lajoie batted .384, one point higher than Cobb's .383.

The league record-keeper in 1910 incorrectly dated the second game of a Tigers vs. Red Sox doubleheader played on Sept. 24 as Sept. 25. Later, when no numbers were found for the

second game of Sept. 24, the “missing” numbers were re-entered – double-counting that game's statistics. When the season ended and the mistakes were discovered, the extra numbers were crossed out on each Tigers' official day-by-day statistics ... except Cobb's.

With this new information, it meant that Hornsby, not Cobb, holds the mark for most consecutive years leading his league in batting average: Six, from 1920 to 1925. This mark remains in dispute, and a definitive ruling may never occur.

Similarly, in 1929 it was reported in newspapers across the country that 42-year-old Grover Cleveland “Pete” Alexander, the great right-handed pitcher, had finally become the National League's career leader in victories. The Hall of Famer, Class of 1938, was credited with the win for the Cardinals in the second game of a doubleheader against the Phillies on Aug. 10 – the 373rd of his career, which topped by one the former record held by Christy Mathewson.

Unfortunately for “Old Pete,” now in the twilight of his career, he would not win another game that year because less than 10 days after his record-breaking triumph, he was sent home by team management for the remainder of the 1929 season for breaking training. According to manager Bill McKechnie, he was through with soft treatment of offending players, having found such leniency was not getting results.

“I felt very bad about the matter,” said Cardinals owner Sam Breadon, “but disciplinary methods are entirely up to the manager.”

In December 1929, Alexander was traded to the Phillies, the team with which he started his career 18 years earlier. But Father Time

finally beckoned for the veteran hurler and he was released by Philadelphia in June 1930 after compiling an 0-3 record. This proved to be the end of the line for Alexander, his big league career over after 20 seasons and 373 victories.

“Burt Shotton, the Phillies' manager, found it a hard job to tell me I was through, and there are no hard feelings,” Alexander said to reporters. “I tried to win, but I couldn't.”

Whether because of age or his off-the-field proclivities, Alexander didn't win another major league game after taking over the National League lead from Mathewson. But research in the 1940s discovered a theretofore unknown 1902 triumph for “Matty,” which the major baseball publications of the day soon added to their scrolls, and again tied the two Hall of Famers with a record 373 Senior Circuit victories.

As recently as 2010, another tie was acknowledged publicly with the news that Yankees slugger Roger Maris, through the dogged efforts of baseball researcher Ron Rakowski, had one less run batted in than his league-leading 142 during his famous 1961 season (when he clubbed a then-record MLB 61 home runs). Maris' reduced RBI total of 141, the result of a run that actually scored on an error, tied him with Baltimore's Jim Gentile for the American League lead that year.

“I wish I had known that then,” said Gentile, after hearing the news. “The next winter, (general manager) Lee MacPhail said if I had led the league in RBIs, that alone would have been worth an extra \$5,000.”

Gentile had the best season of his nine-year big league career in 1961, batting .302 with 46 homers, 141 RBI and finishing third in the AL MVP voting behind Maris and Mickey Mantle.

The Orioles would honor Gentile for his belated RBI title prior to a home game at Camden Yards on Aug. 6, 2010, the ceremony featuring team president Andy MacPhail, son of Lee MacPhail, presenting the former Orioles first baseman with a \$5,000 check.

Unlike a miscalculation ultimately being the cause of a statistical error, sometimes elements outside a player's control conspire against the reaching of certain lofty heights. Such was the case with Hall of Famers Jimmie Foxx and Stan Musial.

In 1932, 24-year-old Philadelphia Athletics first baseman Foxx, coming off three seasons with at least 30 home runs, made an epic run at what was thought of then as an almost

unbreakable record – Babe Ruth’s 60 homers hit only five years earlier in 1927.

While an injured wrist and inclement weather may have hampered Foxx’s homer efforts toward the end of the ’32 campaign, the right-handed hitter still finished the year with a .364 batting average while leading the AL with 58 round-trippers, 151 runs scored and 169 RBI on the way to his first of three AL MVP Awards. And unlike Ruth in ’27, some ballparks around the AL now had screens over their outfield walls that lessened the number of homers allowed there.

“Foxx is the greatest batsman in Major League Baseball today,” declared Ruth after the 1932 season. “There’s no question about that. He’s a swell fellow – well-liked by the players and fans. In fact, he’s such a nice kid I was sorry for him when he came so close to the record and missed.”

In 1951, soon after Foxx was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame, he addressed his run at Ruth’s single-season mark.

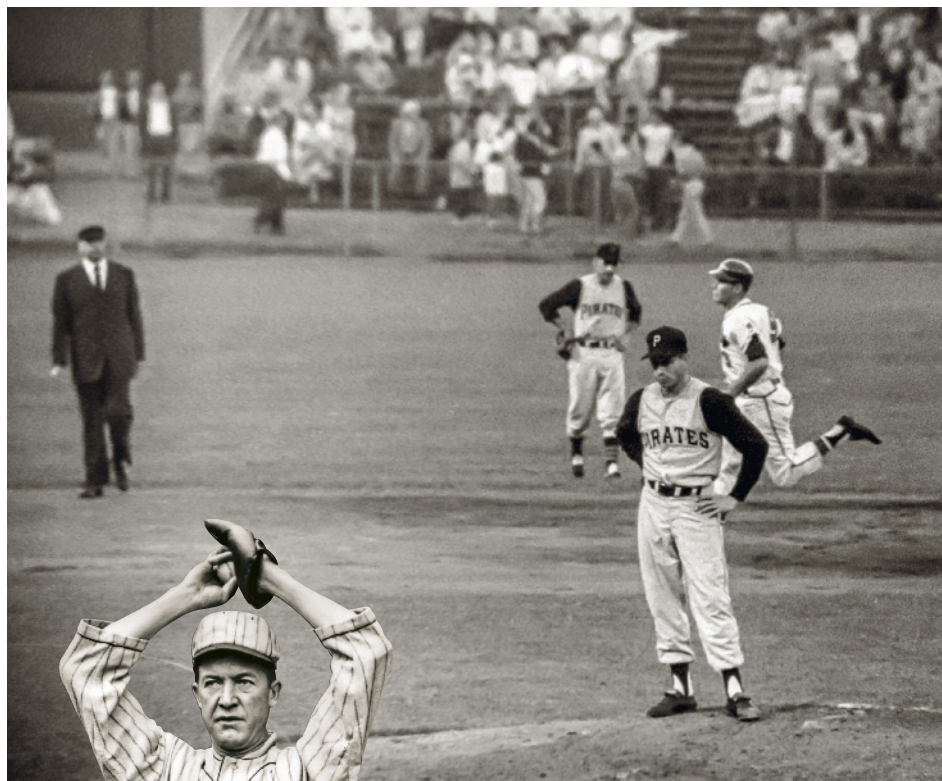
“I hit three drives in 1932 that struck the wires and bounced back. When the Babe hit his 60, those drives would have gone over. But they called the ball in play when I hit ’em and I was cheated out of three home runs. That would have made 61,” Foxx said. “And know something else. That same year I hit two other home runs in games that were called on account of rain and I didn’t get any credit for them. But what’s the use in crying now?”

Damp conditions also played a role in Musial not capturing a Triple Crown in 1948. The left-handed-hitting Cardinals star came close, though, leading the NL with a .376 batting average and 131 RBI, but his 39 home runs fell one short of the total put up by the New York Giants’ Johnny Mize and Ralph Kiner of the Pirates. A home run Musial hit in a rained out game that year was nullified.

“I can’t remember who we played,” Musial said years later, “but if that homer had counted, I would’ve been the first Triple Crown winner in the league since Joe Medwick (in 1937).”

But the offensive output was good enough for Musial to be presented with his third NL MVP Award in six years. Musial, despite hitting 475 career homers, never led the league. The 39 he slugged in 1948 were a career high.

Sometimes a player’s record is changed as the result of a clarification. Twenty-five years ago, back in 1991, Major League Baseball’s Committee for Statistical Accuracy, chaired by



**Above:** Harvey Haddix of the Pirates pitched 12 perfect innings against the Braves on May 26, 1959, but lost the no-hitter and the game in the 13th inning. MLB considered this a no-hitter for many years, but a 1991 change in the statistical record wiped that no-hitter and 49 others off the books. **Left:** Grover Cleveland Alexander was thought to have held the National League career wins record when he retired in 1930 with 373 victories. But a decade later, research credited Christy Mathewson with one more win – to bring his total to 373 – creating a tie atop the record book that still exists today.

rain-shortened no-hitters, no-hitters that were broken up in extra innings and eight-inning affairs by a losing team on the road. Thus, the eight-member committee deleted 50 no-hitters from the scrolls, including one belonging to Harvey Haddix, who tossed 12 perfect innings for the Pirates against the Milwaukee Braves on May 26, 1959, but lost the game in the 13th inning when Joe Adcock hit an RBI double.

According to Haddix, the change “doesn’t bother me that much. It was really not a no-hitter.”

Pascual Perez of the Montreal Expos was also a victim of the new ruling, having tossed a rain-shortened, five-inning no-hitter against the Phillies in 1988.

“What can I do? It’s their decision,” Perez said. “Now it’s too late to take it away from me. I have the tape and I have the ball and I’ll keep the no-hitter in my heart.”

MLB Commissioner Fay Vincent, defined for the first time what a no-hitter was: “An official no-hit game occurs when a pitcher (or pitchers) allows no hits during the entire course of a game, which consists of at least nine innings.”

“The most exalted category should be reserved for those who pitch nine innings and win,” explained Vincent.

The definition therefore eliminated

*Bill Francis is a Library Associate at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.*



**O**n July 10, MLB hosted the All-Star Legends and Celebrity Softball Game at Petco Park in San Diego as part of the All-Star Game festivities.

Hall of Famers (from left) Rollie Fingers, Andre Dawson, Ozzie Smith and Rickey

Henderson each participated in the game, donning the traditional brown and gold colors of the Padres.

Fingers, Smith and Henderson played for the Padres during their big league careers. Fingers was the Padres' closer from 1977-80, twice leading the National League in saves. Smith began his career in San Diego (1978-81) and won the first two of his 13 career Gold Glove Awards with the Padres.

Henderson spent three seasons with the Padres, drawing 125 walks and scoring 110 runs at age 37 in 1996.

Dawson never suited up for the Padres, but spent 21 years in the big leagues, earning eight All-Star Game selections, the 1977 National League Rookie of the Year Award and the 1987 NL MVP Award.

# COOPERSTOWN

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# Our Mission 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.

## WHAT WE'VE DONE TOGETHER

### Preserving trophies

Thanks to a generous gift from Michael Faby, the George "Honey Boy" Evans trophy for the World's Champion Batsman, National and American League, won by Ty Cobb in 1911, will undergo conservation work to ensure that it is preserved for future generations of fans. Cobb's batting average for the 1911 season was .420.

### Digitizing historic photos of the first five Hall of Famers

Thanks to generous donations from Barney Rapp and Jonathan Epstein, 30 photographs of the first five Hall of Famers will be digitized and made available for viewing online later this year at [collection.baseballhall.org](http://collection.baseballhall.org).

Additional funds are needed to complete the

**1.** This bowling ball bag belonged to Babe Ruth and is now part of the Museum's collection of more than 40,000 three-dimensional artifacts. **2.** The digitization of photos of the inaugural Hall of Fame Class of 1936 will allow the images, such as this one of Honus Wagner, to be available at [collection.baseballhall.org](http://collection.baseballhall.org). **3.** Hall of Famer Mike Piazza is interviewed at the Museum's Plaque Gallery during his Orientation Visit last spring. Ongoing conservation of the 312 plaques in the Gallery ensures the iconic bronze images will be preserved in perpetuity.

digitization of photographs featuring Babe Ruth, Ty Cobb, Walter Johnson, Honus Wagner and Christy Mathewson. The collection includes 1,269 images of Ruth, 281 of Cobb, 146 of Johnson, 156 of Wagner and 215 of Mathewson. In addition to scanning, these images will be catalogued to make them fully searchable online.

*Cost of digitization per photo: \$5*

## Conservation of Hall of Fame plaques

The bronze plaques that line the oak walls of the Hall of Fame Gallery are not immune to the ravages of time. Occasionally, plaques require conservation treatment to ensure that they look their best. This fall, Matthews International, which has created the Hall of Fame plaques for more than 30 years, will be performing conservation work on the plaques of several Hall of Famers, including: Sparky Anderson, Roberto Clemente, Ty Cobb, Lou Gehrig, Rogers Hornsby, William Hulbert, Walter Johnson, George Kell, Nolan Ryan, Cy Young and Robin Yount.

## WHAT YOU CAN HELP US DO

### Babe Ruth's bowling bag

After retiring from baseball, Babe Ruth stayed active by bowling and playing golf. One of two bowling balls with accompanying bags in the Museum collection, this particular bowling ball is in relatively good condition but the bag needs conservation treatment.

*Estimated conservation cost: \$1,800*



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## Digitizing the Hall of Fame plaques in 3D

The 312 plaques in the Hall of Fame Gallery are the eternal symbol of baseball excellence. The digitization of the plaques will eventually allow fans to three-dimensionally view these timeless symbols from a home computer or mobile device, making them accessible to anyone with an internet connection.

*Estimated cost for scanning one Hall of Famer plaque: \$125*

*For more information – or to make a donation of any amount toward one of the projects – please contact Becky Ashe of our Development Team at (607) 547-0310 or [bashe@baseballhall.org](mailto:bashe@baseballhall.org).*



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# Legacy of Learning

Grant from San Francisco RBI carries personal meaning for literacy group founder.

BY CRAIG MUDER

**F**ifty years ago, Jim Messemer found a friend in Cooperstown in Minnesota Twins pitcher Jim “Mudcat” Grant.

A half century later, Messemer – the founder and former executive director of San Francisco RBI – honored that friendship by securing a legacy grant of \$250,000 for the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

“My love for the game started in 1966 when a ballplayer showed me unusual kindness in Cooperstown,” Messemer said. “I would have never picked up the phone and called (Hall of Fame President) Jeff Idelson if it hadn’t been for that act.”

A Bay-Area nonprofit educational organization dedicated to youth literacy, San Francisco RBI wound down its operations this spring after years of service to the community. Having partnered with the Hall of Fame for several years, San Francisco RBI dedicated a quarter of a million dollars via a legacy grant that will be used to: Continue educational outreach from Cooperstown for students within the San Francisco Unified School District; provide educational experiences and resources for Junior Giants participants throughout the Bay Area; and provide grants for Central New York students to visit the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

The Museum was selected to receive the legacy grant following its work in recent years with SF RBI in collaboration on the delivery of videoconference programs for San Francisco students, as well as its work with the delivery of the Museum’s “Be A Superior Example” (BASE) Program for students served by the SF RBI footprint. The grant, to be used over

the next 10 years, ensures that students from San Francisco communities who have previously been served by programs from the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum will continue to receive access to the Museum’s educational content well into the next decade.

“The fact that the Hall of Fame had developed learning modules that would align with San Francisco RBI’s strategy to help children read at an above-grade level – and coupled with the great game of baseball – made this a perfect fit for us,” Messemer said. “But the personal component, meeting Mudcat



GENE HERRICK/AP IMAGES

Jim “Mudcat” Grant pitched 14 seasons in the majors, including four years with the Minnesota Twins that were highlighted by his 21-7 campaign in 1965.

Grant at the 1966 Hall of Fame Game, really brought it home for me.”

Messemer, a former pro athlete and Silicon Valley executive, was a youngster on vacation with his family in Lake George, N.Y. – about two hours from Cooperstown – in the summer



From left, Ted Williams, Stan Musial, Tony Oliva and Red Schoendienst pause for a photo at Doubleday Field during the 1966 Hall of Fame Game in Cooperstown. That day, a young Jim Messemer visited Cooperstown – sowing the seeds that grew into a legacy gift to the Museum from San Francisco RBI.





**Above:** In 1966, Jim Messemer (first row, third from left) played Little League Baseball in New Jersey – and visited the Hall of Fame during Induction Weekend that summer. Messemer’s coach was his father, Jim (back row, center). **Right:** Jim Messemer and his father have visited the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum several times.

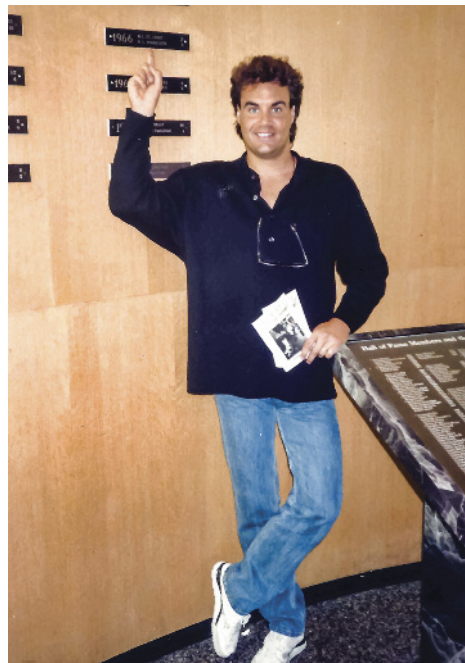
of 1966 when his parents, Jim and Lorraine Messemer, saw a story about that year’s Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. The family headed west, arriving in town the weekend that Ted Williams and Casey Stengel were inducted into the Hall of Fame.

In those days, the Hall of Fame Game was played on the Monday after the Induction Ceremony, and that year the St. Louis Cardinals faced the Minnesota Twins on July 25 at Doubleday Field.

“I can still see myself standing along a fence, peering through to see the players,” Messemer said. “All of a sudden, one member of the Twins came over, smiling and signing autographs. It was Mudcat Grant. And that single act has never been forgotten by me.”

Grant, who pitched 14 seasons in the majors, won 21 games in 1965 to lead the Twins to the American League pennant and is one of 15 African-American pitchers to win at least 20 games in one season. The connection between Grant and his own life path is not lost on Messemer.

“Baseball’s RBI program – Reviving Baseball



in Inner Cities – was created because of declining numbers of African Americans playing baseball,” Messemer said. “With this grant, the Museum is going to be leveraging a quarter of a million dollars to bring inner city youth to Cooperstown – just like I was brought to Cooperstown by my parents.

“Certainly, a big part of why this grant fit was the strategic alliance between San Francisco



RBI and the Hall of Fame. But being able to give children in San Francisco virtual field trips to Cooperstown – like the one my parents provided for me and my sister in 1966 – makes it even more special.”

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

# FINAL THOUGHTS

Griffey, Piazza reflect on Hall of Fame Weekend at Legends event.



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Ken Griffey Jr. (left) and Mike Piazza share a laugh during the July 25 *Legends of the Game Roundtable* at Doubleday Field in Cooperstown. More than 3,000 Museum Members attended the event, which took place one day after Induction Sunday.

If it wasn't a perfect Hall of Fame Weekend, it was as close to heaven on earth as could be for Ken Griffey Jr. and Mike Piazza.

On Monday, July 25 – less than 24 hours after being inducted into the Hall of Fame – Griffey and Piazza thrilled a crowd of more than 3,000 Museum Members at Doubleday Field, telling stories of their careers and the weekend at the *Legends of the Game Roundtable*.

Hosted by 2004 J.G. Taylor Spink Award winner Peter Gammons of MLB Network, the event brought a close to a historic four days at the home of baseball. Here are some highlights:

## On the Induction Ceremony

**Piazza:** “For me, (I was struck by) the gravity of the traditions, the gravity of the history. And I started thinking back on my history, and I touched on Ted Williams. Even as a kid,

knowing the stature that he was and what he represented, not only as a baseball player but as a fighter pilot. Williams was this larger-than-life figure and I started thinking, you know, I’m going in the same Hall that Ted Williams has gone into, and it was just overwhelming.

“I’m deeply involved in my faith and I just started praying, ‘Let me get through this, let me get through this.’ And I was kidding with Ken before we went up on the stage, saying, ‘We got this man, we got this. Let’s do it, let’s do it.’ So we’re trying to psych each other up. It didn’t work. I was like, ‘I’m not gonna cry, I’m not gonna cry.’”

**Griffey:** “And then [Mike] started speaking and looking at his dad, and his dad started crying. I’m like, ‘I’m done. I’m done.’”

## On baseball’s healing power after 9/11

**Griffey:** “I was in Chicago when it happened and was watching CNN, and I thought it was

a movie trailer. I had just woke up and then my phone started ringing. The hotel called and told us we might have to evacuate because the John Hancock Center is right next door.

“We ended up having to stay there a couple days before driving back to Cincinnati. When we went to Philly to play, the Reds received an e-mail from Mrs. Marino (the wife of a huge Griffey fan who was a member of Rescue 1 in Manhattan that responded to the attacks at the World Trade Center). It said, ‘If Ken can hit a home run, an extra home run, it would make Kenny proud because we lost him in 9/11.’

“A couple years before that, he gave me a little fireman’s t-shirt. He said, ‘Everybody wants something from you, but I want to give something to you.’ I took the t-shirt and Trey (Griffey’s son) wore it for a couple years, and then all of a sudden this happened.

“I hit a home run and it was one of those things once I reached first base. I try not to get emotional running around the bases, but I knew that this was something bigger than baseball. It was a family that could smile about something. After the game, I had the press conference and the first thing I said was, ‘When we get to New York, I want to meet the Marino family.’

Because at that point, I hadn’t even met them.

“On Induction Sunday, I had an opportunity to see them again for the first time in a couple of years. I can’t believe how tall they’ve gotten, and they’re starting to look like their dad. It was real emotional for me and them.”

**Piazza:** “Shea Stadium at that time was a staging area, and we were fortunate to have some of the police there. A bunch of us went into this room where, instead of a search and rescue, it was a recovery. When we walked in, we didn’t have any fanfare. These guys looked so depressed, but when they saw us, their heads came up and they started smiling. They just wanted to put their arms around us and cry.

“Baseball is a way for people to heal and come together. It’s so much, in our society, what we equate to as a kid, and that emotional connection just took on much more of a significance after 9/11. It’s something that will forever be with me. We should never forget that sacrifice.”

# THE COOPERSTOWN COLLECTION

The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum features a collection of more than 250,000 photographs with reproductions available for purchase.

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## THEIR MOMENT IN BRONZE

Class of 2016 members Mike Piazza (left) and Ken Griffey Jr. stand on the Induction Stage in Cooperstown with their Hall of Fame plaques on July 24.

Following the Induction Ceremony, fans in New York City and Seattle were able to see the plaques first-hand when Piazza's traveled to Citi Field July 29-31 and Griffey's was brought to Safeco Field the next weekend.

Both plaques have now returned to Cooperstown to take their place in the Hall of Fame Plaque Gallery.



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## AROUND COOPERSTOWN

[cooperstowngetaway.org](http://cooperstowngetaway.org)

An estimated crowd of 50,000 fans – most wearing either Mets orange and blue or Mariners green and white – attended the July 24 Induction Ceremony at the Clark Sports Center in Cooperstown.