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SUMMER 2016 | VOLUME 38 | NUMBER 3 | THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE HALL OF FAME



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MEMORIES and Dreams

The Official Magazine of the Hall of Fame

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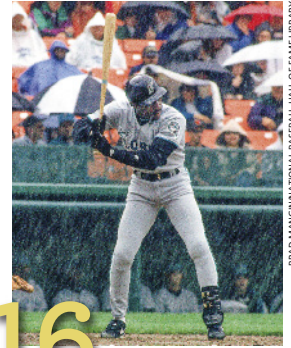
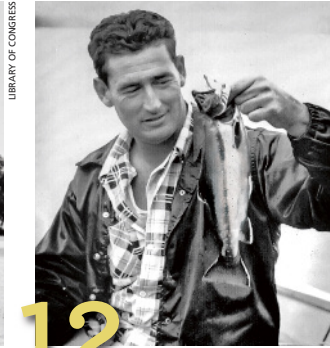
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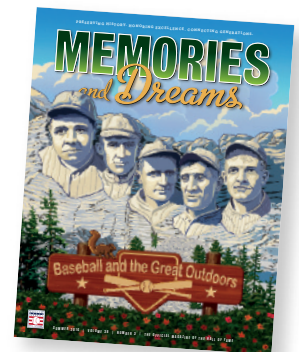
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FROM THE PRESIDENT > JEFF IDELSON



I've been to baseball games in a number of countries outside of the 50 United States: Canada, Japan, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico and Cuba. Whereas as the games I saw in Japan were in the Seibu Prince Dome and the Tokyo Dome, Cuba does not have domed stadiums. All of the games there are outdoors, which fits in nicely with the theme of this issue of *Memories and Dreams*.

During Spring Training, the Tampa Bay Rays traveled to Havana to play an exhibition game against the Cuban National Team. The

two countries are separated by just 94 miles of ocean, but Cuba and the United States are worlds apart. The two nations seemingly moved a step closer toward improving their relationship after Major League Baseball played an exhibition game in Havana for the first time since 1999, and only the second time since the Cuban Revolution more than a half century ago.

The March 22 game was played at Estadio Latinoamericano, home to the Industriales, the most successful team in the post-revolution Cuban baseball league, called the National Series. Virtually the entire stadium was freshly

painted for the game, and nationalistic art adorns some of the corridor walls, along with prominent busts of two great Cuban pitchers: Dolf Luque, who played in the major leagues in the early 20th century, and Hall of Famer Martín Dihigo.

We arrived at the ballpark before 10 a.m. The bleachers were already packed, four hours before game time, and the stadium was completely full by noon.

Ninety minutes before game time, the stadium was quiet, anticipating the arrival of the Presidents of the two nations. No music played. Very few Cubans have cell phones. You could hear a pin drop. When President Barack Obama and his family arrived, along with President Raul Castro, polite cheers began. The two world leaders sat near each other, and both teams made their way toward the seats behind home plate to shake hands with their country's chief executive. Rays starting pitcher Chris Archer gave President Obama a glove belonging to fellow left-hander Mike Moore.

The pregame ceremony involved each team's players being introduced individually and walking onto the field with young Cuban children dressed in baseball uniforms. Hundreds of birds were released as a symbol of peace. And then Luis Tiant and Pedro Luis Lazo – both Cubans, one who starred in America and one who starred in Cuba – threw out ceremonial first pitches simultaneously.

The game began, but it was quite secondary to the enormity of the day's ceremonies. One of the most interesting plays occurred when Rays outfielder Dayron Varona, who had defected three years earlier, led off the game against his former country. He popped out, and the ball was taken out of play to go to Cooperstown. After the game, he was welcomed warmly by his former teammates.

Reflecting on the trip, it could not have gone better. We captured the history of the country through artifacts, photography, baseball cards, art, literature and more. The olive branch of baseball was extended, but only time will tell if this trip will help change the relationship between the U.S. and Cuba.

Regardless, there's no doubt that baseball is as much a fabric of the Cuban society as it is our own.



Tampa Bay manager Kevin Cash (left) presents his game-worn jersey to Hall of Fame President Jeff Idelson after the Rays' 4-1 win over the Cuban National Team in Havana, one of several items donated to the Museum from the March 22 game.

SHORT HOPS

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For more information and news from the Hall of Fame, visit baseballhall.org.

Museum receives legacy grant from SF RBI

The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum has received a \$250,000 legacy grant from San Francisco RBI (SF RBI), a Bay Area nonprofit educational organization now winding down its operations. SF RBI focused its efforts on integrating reading and baseball to raise literacy levels of under-resourced youth in San Francisco.

The grant will be used to continue outreach from Cooperstown for students within the San Francisco Unified School District to provide educational experiences and resources for Junior Giants participants in the Bay Area, as well as provide grants for Central New York students to visit the Museum.

The Museum was selected to receive the grant for its work in collaboration with SF RBI to deliver videoconference programs for San Francisco students, as well as its delivery of the Museum's "Be A Superior Example" (BASE) Program for students served by the SF RBI footprint.

Royals Weekend

The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum will host Royals Weekend July 2-3 in Cooperstown, with the 2015 World Series trophy on display at the Museum both days.

Museum visitors will have the chance to relive the 2015 season – which culminated in the Royals' second-ever championship – and create new memories in Cooperstown, where artifacts of the Royals' world title will be preserved forever.

Many of those artifacts are on display in the Museum's *Autumn Glory* exhibit, which celebrates each season's playoff and World Series teams. Throughout the weekend, visitors can learn about the history of the Royals through guided exhibit tours, artifact spotlights, player profiles, trivia contests, themed craft stations and other special opportunities.

Curt Nelson, director of the Royals Hall of Fame, will be in Cooperstown to host a Museum program on Royals history.

Experience the Museum as a VIP

Fans can 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 this unique package, with behind-the-scenes experiences that include: 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 concludes with a private late-afternoon reception with light refreshments served.

This special package is only available for purchase through select Cooperstown Chamber of Commerce accommodations. For more information and a list of participating accommodations, visit baseballhall.org/vipexperience.

Dates for upcoming packages include Sept. 8-9, Oct. 13-14 and Nov. 17-18.

A night among the legends

Spend a night with baseball's legends in Cooperstown as part of the Museum's Extra Innings Overnights program.

Children ages 7-12 and their adult guardians can sleep in the Hall of Fame Gallery among the plaques honoring Babe Ruth, Ted Williams, Jackie Robinson and other greats.

The evening includes all-access to the Museum's public areas after hours, special hands-on programs and a late-night snack and movie in the Bullpen Theater.

Upcoming dates include Sept. 17, Oct. 22 and Nov. 5.

To book your experience today, call (607) 546-0313.

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CORRECTIONS

- In the Opening Day 2016 issue of *Memories and Dreams*, the baseball card on page 5 was produced by Upper Deck.
- In the Opening Day 2016 issue of *Memories and Dreams*, the 1955 Dodgers world championship pennant mentioned on page 36 was officially donated to the Brooklyn Historical Society by Dodgers President Peter O'Malley, after briefly being displayed at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

From Coast to Coast

Fans from both sides of the country expected to converge on Cooperstown for Hall of Fame Weekend 2016.

BY MATT KELLY

In late July last year, the residents of Cooperstown woke up to find their streets flooded with Astro orange and Diamondback purple – two colors they had never seen before on Induction Day.

This year, the idyllic village will add another new color to its summer palette: Mariner teal. And Cooperstown will reacquire itself with Met blue and orange as well during a weekend like no other on the baseball calendar.

Swarms of fans from the Pacific Northwest will be flying in to Central New York to see Ken Griffey Jr. become the first player to don a Seattle Mariners cap on his plaque, while thousands more figure to take the short drive up from New York City to see fellow electee Mike Piazza join Tom Seaver as just the second Met in the Plaque Gallery. It's all part of an

historic Hall of Fame Weekend July 22-25 in Cooperstown.

Both electees carry adoring fan bases who can remember the days when these heroes turned around their club's fortunes. Griffey, whose sprint home won the 1995 American League Division Series for the Mariners and is often credited with "saving" baseball in Seattle, became the team's first certifiable icon on his way to 630 career home runs.

"When you take a guy in the Northwest, and he becomes an international superstar, it's mind-boggling," Griffey's former teammate and current MLB Network broadcaster Harold Reynolds told *The Seattle Times*. "You didn't have the reach you do now, where you could have a guy on Twitter, Instagram, all over the world. Junior did all that out of the Northwest with a local TV package."



For the 15th consecutive year, Hall of Fame shortstop Ozzie Smith will lead participants in *PLAY Ball*, a two-hour baseball instructional program taking place Friday, July 22, during Hall of Fame Weekend in Cooperstown.



The Hall of Fame's Class of 2016 – Ken Griffey Jr. (left) and Mike Piazza – represent both the highest (Griffey, 1st overall) and lowest (Piazza, 1,390th overall) drafted players to be elected to the Hall of Fame.

Meanwhile, Piazza's midseason trade to the Mets in 1998 was seen as one of the final pieces of the puzzle for an up-and-coming team that reached the World Series just two seasons later.

"We got our rock star," said Mets pitcher Al Leiter. "I was on the phone with John Franco and some of the other guys and we were like 12-year-olds, going, 'We got Mike Piazza!'"

This powerful pair, selected in January by the Baseball Writers' Association of America, will join the 310 legends already in the Hall of Fame. More than 50 of these immortals are expected to return this summer for the annual Induction Ceremony on Sunday, July 24, at the Clark Sports Center – about a mile south of the Hall of Fame.

But this midsummer tradition contains many more family-friendly events beyond Sunday's induction. The weekend kicks off with *PLAY Ball*, featuring Ozzie Smith and his Hall of Fame friends Craig Biggio and John Smoltz, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Friday, July 22. Now celebrating its 15th year, *PLAY Ball* includes two hours of non-stop interaction and instruction from The Wizard and fellow Hall of Famers in the Museum's iconic Plaque Gallery and on a Cooperstown-area diamond.

The annual event also serves as a fundraiser for the Museum's educational outreach programs. Spots can be reserved by calling (607) 547-0397.

Next, the Hall of Fame's 2016 award winners get their time in the sun during Saturday's *Awards Presentation* at 4:30 p.m. at Doubleday



Fans of the Houston Astros and Arizona Diamondbacks came to Cooperstown in droves for last year's Hall of Fame Weekend to see Class of 2015 members Craig Biggio and Randy Johnson become the first players to represent each franchise in the Museum's iconic Plaque Gallery. Class of 2016 electee Ken Griffey Jr. will be the first Hall of Famer to go in as a Seattle Mariner.

Field. Longtime *Boston Globe* columnist Dan Shaughnessy will receive the BBWAA's J.G. Taylor Spink Award for his meritorious contributions to baseball writing, and Graham McNamee – widely recognized as a pioneer in calling baseball on the radio – will be posthumously recognized with the Ford C. Frick Award for broadcasting excellence.

Directly following the *Awards Presentation*, the returning Hall of Famers and this year's electees will gather for the seventh annual *Parade of Legends*, a spectacle that has quickly become a fan favorite. Thousands of fans will watch their favorite baseball heroes ride down Cooperstown's Main Street in pickup trucks provided by the Ford Motor Company. Admission to both the *Awards Presentation* and the *Parade of Legends* is free.

Then on Sunday comes the weekend's main event: The Induction Ceremony. This crown jewel of the baseball season, starting at 1:30 p.m. and expected to last two-to-three hours, will feature speeches from Griffey and Piazza with the returning Hall of Famers on stage behind them – all set against the backdrop of pastoral Cooperstown. Admission to the Induction Ceremony is free, and attendees are encouraged to arrive early with their lawn chairs to reserve their spot. The event will also be carried live on MLB Network.

On Monday, July 25, the historic weekend wraps up with the *Legends of the Game Roundtable* at 10:30 a.m. at Doubleday Field. Newly minted Hall of Famers Griffey and



Piazza will look back on their careers as well as their big weekend in Central New York.

This event is open to participants in the Museum's Membership Program, with tickets available for \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12-and-under. Tickets for the *Roundtable* go on sale Monday, June 6, and will be available by visiting the Membership desk in the Museum or by calling (607) 547-0397.

The Museum will feature special hours (including opening one hour early each day for Members only) during Hall of Fame Weekend, and commemorative Hall of Fame Weekend merchandise will be available at the Museum Store.

For more information and a complete schedule of weekend events, please visit baseballhall.org/visit/hall-of-fame-weekend.

Matt Kelly is a freelance writer from Brooklyn, N.Y.

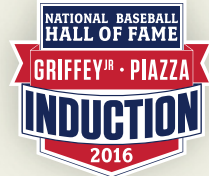
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HALL OF FAME WEEKEND 2016 PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Schedule subject to change



Friday, July 22

Museum open 9 a.m. until 9 p.m.
8 a.m. – 11 a.m.

PLAY Ball with Ozzie Smith & Special Guests
Hall of Fame Plaque Gallery and Cooperstown-area diamond

Saturday, July 23

Museum open 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.
Open at 7 a.m. for Members
4:30 p.m.

Hall of Fame Awards Presentation
Doubleday Field

6 p.m.

Hall of Fame Parade of Legends

(immediately following *Awards Presentation*)
Main Street, concluding in front of Museum

Sunday, July 24

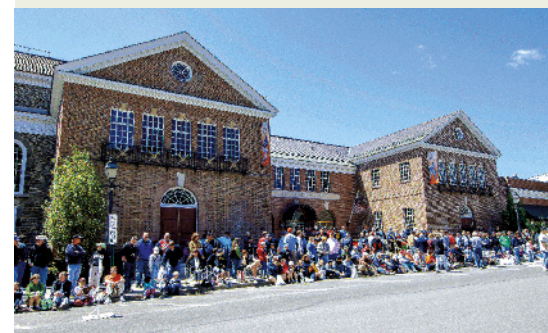
Museum open 8 a.m. until 9 p.m.
Open at 7 a.m. for Members
1:30 p.m.

Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony
Clark Sports Center

Monday, July 25

Museum open 9 a.m. until 9 p.m.
Open at 8 a.m. for Members
10:30 a.m.

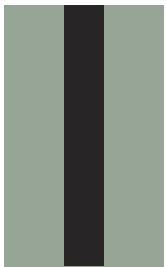
Legends of the Game Roundtable featuring Ken Griffey Jr. and Mike Piazza
Doubleday Field



AN INSIDE-THE-PARK HOME RUN

BASEBALL TALES ARE DEEPLY WOVEN INTO THE
100-YEAR HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.

BY MATT KELLY



It was the afternoon of July 13, 1971, and Sparky Anderson was living a manager's dream.

As manager of the reigning National League champion Cincinnati Reds, Anderson was given the honor of leading the Senior Circuit in that year's All-Star Game in Detroit. His lineup card contained an embarrassment of riches, with spots one through six occupied by fellow future Hall of Famers Willie

Mays, Hank Aaron, Joe Torre, Willie Stargell, Willie McCovey and Johnny Bench. Roberto Clemente was designated as a pinch hitter.

So when someone asked Anderson how his cleanup hitter, Stargell, would fare at cavernous Tiger Stadium, the quotable skipper was more than ready to hand out some effusive praise.

"[Stargell]'s such a big strong guy, he should love that porch," he replied. "He's got power enough to hit home runs in any park, including Yellowstone."

Aside from evoking an awesome hypothetical scene of Willie Stargell taking batting practice next to Old Faithful, Anderson's quip perfectly united one of America's most beautiful national treasures with the National Pastime. In fact, just as the game of baseball found its footing in the United States, so, too, did the concept of a national park.

Yellowstone was the first in the world to carry such a distinction, when a "certain Tract of Land lying near the Head-waters of the Yellowstone River" was officially declared so by Congress in 1872. President Teddy Roosevelt established five more national parks during his presidency, and on Aug. 25, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed the Organic Act that created the National Park Service.

In the 100 years since, the NPS has grown up in America right alongside the game of baseball, swelling from 35 parks and monuments when the Organic Act was signed to more than 400 designated areas today that span more than 84 million acres in all 50 states. And since baseball is traditionally an outdoor sport, many of the game's seeds have scattered onto national park territories – from iconic monuments to geographical wonders.

Pulaski players

The morning of April 10, 1862, signaled a turning point in military technology. Fort Pulaski, a Confederate stronghold outside Savannah, Ga., was protected by swampy moats and seven-and-a-half foot brick walls thought to be impenetrable by opposition fire. Union troops, however, introduced mortar shells and rifled guns to battle for the first time, destroying much of Pulaski's artillery. Fearing the results of an imminent ground assault by Union troops, Confederate Col. Charles Olmstead chose to surrender.

In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge declared Fort Pulaski a national monument, and the fort was transferred to the Park Service's jurisdiction in 1933. But the fort's legacy is noteworthy in American history for more than its military exploits. In the slow months following the Confederate surrender, members of the 48th New York Volunteer Infantry organized baseball teams to pass the time. A photograph of the regiment, now housed in the Museum's Library archive, shows Company G standing in stiff formation in the foreground while their infantry mates play an early form of baseball behind them.

The image carries special significance as one of the earliest known photographs of a baseball game. It also illustrates the game's rapid advances to southern and western territories during the Civil War. This past April, Park Service employees staged a 19th century-style ball game to celebrate the fort's historic connection to the sport.

Baseball on the national lawn

By August 1865 – three short years after the 48th New York organized their games at Pulaski – baseball had made its way to the White House lawn. An edition of Washington D.C.'s *Daily National Republican* newspaper dated Aug. 29, 1865, lists the results of a tournament game in which the visiting Philadelphia Athletics walloped the hometown Washington Nationals, 87-12. Though the Athletics were made up of "young men



Amateur games were a frequent sight on the baseball diamonds of the Ellipse, situated just south of the White House fence in Washington, D.C.



MARK RUCKERT/GETTY IMAGES

This famous photograph shows members of Company G of the 48th New York Volunteer Infantry standing at attention at Fort Pulaski, Ga., while their infantry mates play an informal game of baseball behind them. The image, dating back to 1862, is one of the earliest known photographs of a baseball game.

who have practiced the game assiduously from early boyhood” and the Washington club was just six years old at the time, the *Republican* stated that “such a defeat sustained by our National (sic) yesterday is difficult of explanation.”

A crowd of 10,000 was in attendance at the Nationals’ home turf, then called The White Lot, despite a steep \$1 gate admission. The circular field would later come to be known as “The Ellipse” and played host to countless baseball games (organized or otherwise) for decades. Around 1870, Nicholas H. Young – who later became influential in the founding of both the National Association and National League – formed the Washington Olympics to serve as a rival to the Nationals in Ellipse contests. Accomplished black baseball teams that included the Mutuals and Alerts also flourished there until the fields became segregated in 1874.

The Ellipse was transferred to the National Park Service in 1933 and was still seen as a baseball destination for several decades after. Movie buffs would note that an Ellipse diamond was prominently featured in the 1951 film *The Day the Earth Stood Still*, when the alien Klaatu’s ship lands in the outfield. While the Ellipse is more associated now with the National Christmas Tree and the annual Easter Egg Roll, it can also be considered the cradle of baseball in Washington, D.C.

Baseball has other National Park roots in the nation’s capital, too. Just across the Potomac River from the Ellipse lies Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia. The cemetery, included on the Park Service’s National Register of Historic Places, contains the bodies of those who served in the country’s armed forces. Among the 400,000-plus buried there are a number of baseball luminaries, most notably former commissioner

William Eckert, fabled baseball inventor Abner Doubleday and Hall of Famer Jud Wilson, who served in the U.S. Army in World War I.

A spring ritual is born

Central Arkansas may seem to be an unorthodox place for a baseball tradition to take root. But in the spring of 1886, Chicago White Stockings owner Al Spalding figured a resort town named Hot Springs to be an ideal destination for his squad.

“The line of thought was that Al Spalding’s club was a championship-caliber baseball team,” said documentary filmmaker Larry Foley, “but it was infamous for partying and many of the players didn’t stay sober during the offseason.”

Foley said Spalding brought his players to Hot Springs to “boil out the alcoholic microbes” and get them fit for the baseball season. Hot Springs, which had been designated a national reservation back in 1832, was famous for its natural springs and mineral bathwater favored by everyone from aristocrats to gamblers to the infirmed. Spalding’s White Stockings bought an old goat farm there and converted it into a ballpark. When they weren’t playing baseball, the players climbed the surrounding hills for cardiovascular exercise.

“They went back to Chicago afterwards and won the National League pennant,” Foley said, “and other teams thought, ‘Well maybe there’s something to this.’”

So when more and more teams began following the White Stockings to Hot Springs, the tradition of “spring training” was born. Foley’s new documentary *The First Boys of Spring*, narrated by Hot Springs native Billy



The city of Hot Springs, Ark., was a popular Spring Training destination for many major leaguers, including the 1908 New York Highlanders (left) and Hall of Famer Dizzy Dean (right) during the early decades of the 20th century. **Below:** Members of the 1939 Rushmore Memorial Baseball Team: (front row) Orville Worman, Ted Crawford, Casey Jones, Glen Jones, Howdy Peterson and Nick Clifford; (back row) Bob McNally, Al Johnson, Red Anderson, Norman Newell and Merle Peterson.

Bob Thornton, explores the baseball culture that was once fervent at the national park. The film, broadcast earlier this year on MLB Network, was shown again at the 28th Cooperstown Symposium on Baseball and American Culture in June at the Hall of Fame.

Foley estimates that as many as 250 players could be found training in Hot Springs during its peak, and said the resort town was favored by many future Hall of Famers.

Lefty Grove claimed its therapeutic mineral waters helped to “resurrect” his career, while Cy Young maintained a clause in his contracts stipulating he could always train in Hot Springs – no matter where the rest of his team went for Spring Training. Honus Wagner, who played basketball in the offseason to stay in shape, tutored the Hot Springs High School basketball

team one winter and is still honored by the school’s black and gold uniforms.

Foley said that even after major league teams left Hot Springs in the late 1920s for newer venues in Florida, pitchers and catchers continued going there before the rest of their teammates began training. Hence, even after teams left the area, Hot Springs spawned another major league tradition. Today, visitors to the park can find many historical baseball markers denoting where famous players trained.

“You can stand at where home plate was at Whittington Park and see the hills where the ballplayers hiked,” Foley said. “And then you can look at another spot in the outfield and see where Babe Ruth hit a ball an estimated 573 feet into an alligator farm. It’s almost impossible to fathom how someone could hit a ball that far.”



The Rushmore Drillers

In the 1920s and '30s, sculptor Gutzon Borglum and his team had a literally monumental task in front of them: Carve a mountain in the Black Hills of South Dakota into four distinct, 60-foot faces. It was the first project of its kind anywhere in the world, one that would take decades to complete. The Mount Rushmore project would prove to be grueling and difficult, but when the workers sought relief from the rigors of the job, they found comfort in baseball.

Borglum's son Lincoln, who worked as a carver and then took over the Rushmore project after his father's death in 1941, was a passionate baseball fan. When games were being played, he parked his car next to the hoist house and left the radio on so that the operator could relay scores up to the men on the mountain. When Lincoln realized how many of the workers seemed interested in the happenings of the games, he recognized an opportunity to bring the staff closer together.

According to park historians, Borglum formed a baseball team – and a serious one, at that. In the late 1930s, it is widely reported that the Borglums required new hires to be talented ballplayers, too.

“They hired me because I was a good baseball player,” former Rushmore carver Nick Clifford told Examiner.com in 2010. “I knew how to run a jackhammer, too. I had learned in the mines down in Keystone. But they wanted a winning baseball team.”

The Rushmore Drillers, as they came to be known, practiced baseball in the evenings after eight-hour days on the cliffs. They played games on Sundays and proved to be quite formidable, reaching the South Dakota State Amateur Baseball Tournament two years in a row, including a semifinal appearance in 1939.

America's landmark ballpark

Back on the East Coast, a relic from an important time in baseball history was recently granted a more stable future. The exterior walls of Hinchliffe Stadium in Paterson, N.J., possess the same grandiose aesthetic as old ballparks such as Ebbets Field and Connie Mack Stadium, and what took place inside those walls was arguably just as historic. The 10,000-seat park played host to the 1933 “Colored Championship of the Nation” – a Negro Leagues version of the World Series – as well as to legendary teams, among them the New York Black Yankees and New York Cubans, during the 1930s and '40s.

Some of the best Negro Leagues players – from Josh Gibson to Oscar Charleston to Monte Irvin – flashed their talents at Hinchliffe. The park was practically home to Paterson native Larry Doby, who played high school football on the field and later attracted attention there from scouts of the Newark Eagles.

Hinchliffe is among the few Negro Leagues stadiums still standing, but years of neglect and vandalism left the park in jeopardy after the black baseball leagues folded. The damage became so serious that the park was closed by the Paterson school system in 1996. Then, in 2014,



Top: Volunteers paint over graffiti on the walls of Hinchliffe Stadium in Paterson, N.J. The stadium was once home to the New York Black Yankees, the New York Cubans and other Negro Leagues baseball teams, and hosted the 1933 “Colored Championship of the Nation.” Eleven members of the National Baseball Hall of Fame played there, including Larry Doby. The once-crumbling Art Deco stadium (above) was granted national historic landmark status in 2014 and is now part of Paterson's Great Falls National Historic Park.

the U.S. Congress voted to incorporate the ballpark into Paterson's Great Falls National Historic Park, officially placing it under National Park Service supervision. While Boston's historic Fenway Park is on the National Register of Historic Places, Hinchliffe is currently the only baseball stadium that boasts national landmark status.

With these new protections in place, the old ballpark's preservation is already well underway. The citizens of Paterson have begun pulling overgrown weeds and erasing years of graffiti with a fresh coat of white paint.

“I hope I'll be able to see it finished,” said former New York Black Yankees pitcher Bob Scott, who was present at Hinchliffe's landmark dedication ceremony in 2014, “and be built so young kids can come here and enjoy themselves, and grow up to be great people.”

Matt Kelly is a freelance writer from Brooklyn, N.Y.

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FROM THE CINCINNATI REDS AND
YOUR FANS THROUGHOUT REDS COUNTRY

FISHING BUDDIES

HALL OF FAME TEAMMATES WILLIAMS AND DOERR BOUND BY BASEBALL, OUTDOORS.

BY SCOTT PITONIAK

Many moons ago, Ted Williams and a sports scribe were chewing the fat when the subject of fishing was broached. Like baseball, this was a pastime in which the legendary Boston Red Sox slugger believed he reigned supreme.

“There’s nobody in heaven or on earth that knows more about fishing than I do,” Williams boasted.

“Sure there is, Ted,” the sportswriter responded.

“Who?” Williams demanded in a booming voice that one writer claimed flushed Florida flamingos from their nests.

“Well, God made the fish,” said the sportswriter.

Williams pondered the answer for a few seconds.

“Well, all right,” he grudgingly acknowledged. “But you had to go back a heck of a long way.”

When the conversation was relayed years later to Bobby Doerr, Williams’ longtime teammate and friend, he chuckled. “I’m just surprised Ted conceded to God,” Doerr quipped. “That’s one of the few times, maybe the only time, someone threw a curve that had Ted fooled.”

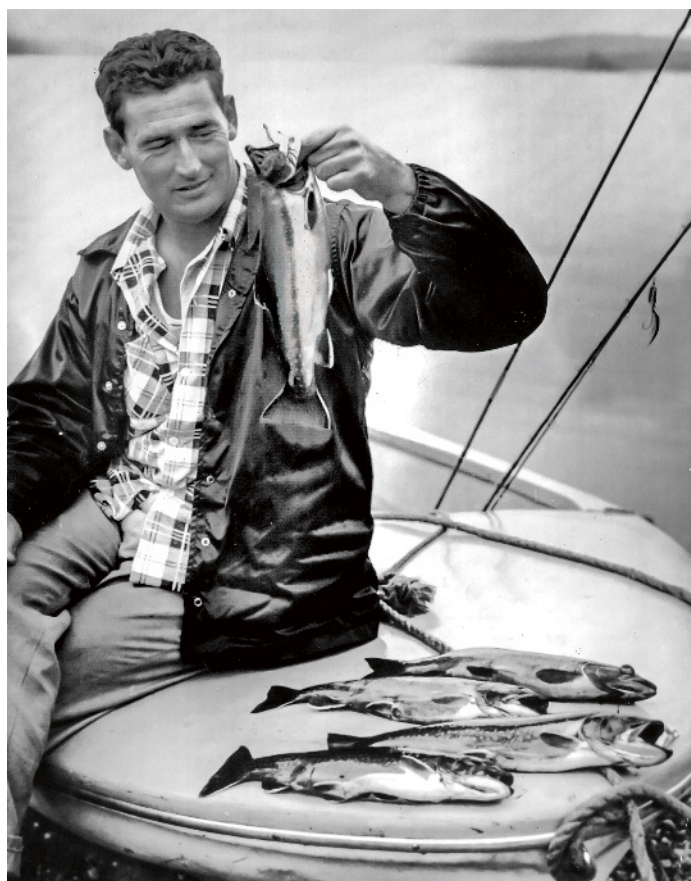
Doerr, who spent 14 seasons with the Red Sox, may have known Williams as well as anyone. The two Baseball Hall of Famers’ friendship dates back 80 years, to the summer of 1936 when Doerr was an 18-year-old in his third season of Pacific Coast League baseball with the San Diego Padres and Williams was a rookie on the team. Although they had polar opposite personalities – Doerr was a quiet, considerate person, while Williams could be loud and temperamental – they immediately bonded. Baseball clearly played a huge role in their lifelong friendship, but, over time, fishing would bring them together, too – and some of their boisterous, rip-roaring river, lake and ocean expeditions would become the stuff of legend.

A San Diego neighbor named Les Cassie introduced Williams to fishing as a boy. As David Halberstam wrote in his marvelous 2003 book, “The Teammates: A Portrait of Friendship,” “Ted loved it from the first, the solitude of it, the way it enabled him to escape from other pressures at least temporarily, and perhaps most important for Williams, the chance it offered to seek perfection and to excel in yet another arena.”

Doerr’s interest in the sport was piqued by Padres trainer Les Cook,

who repeatedly posted photographs and told compelling stories about his offseason fishing trips on the Rogue River in Oregon. One offseason, Doerr went there with Cook and discovered not only an outdoorsman’s paradise, but a young schoolteacher named Monica Terpin, who would become his wife. Shortly after he was promoted to the Red Sox in 1937, Doerr purchased 160 acres overlooking the Rogue, and he and Monica would move there soon after.

In 1939, Williams and Doerr were reunited – this time as Red Sox teammates – and their friendship blossomed. Aside from baseball and the



Ted Williams spent the years following his retirement mastering the art of fishing, and in 1999 was inducted into the International Game Fish Association Hall of Fame.



Ted Williams (left) and Bobby Doerr pose for a photo at Fenway Park. Following their Hall of Fame careers on the baseball field, the two bonded over their shared love of fishing.

outdoors, they shared a love for movie Westerns, especially ones starring Gene Autry or Hoot Gibson. As Halberstam wrote about their relationship: “Bobby was five months older, but infinitely more mature, with an uncommon emotional equilibrium that would stay with him throughout his life. He never seemed to get angry or to get down. This stood in sharp contrast to Williams’ almost uncontrollable volatility, and his meteoric mood swings. It was as if Ted had somehow understood the difference, that Bobby was balanced as he was not and that Bobby could handle things that he could not.

“Ted somehow understood that he needed Bobby’s calm, and he seized on his friend’s maturity and took comfort in it from the start. ... Doerr soon became Ted’s confidant, the one person he could always turn to.”

And that included times when Williams struggled to deal with fans, the media and, on occasion, with some of his older teammates. Doerr was one of the few people who Williams would take advice from when his fluid swing was out of synch.

As a young man, Williams boldly predicted that one day people would point at him and say: “There goes the greatest hitter of all time.” Many believe he lived up to that boast after he won six batting titles, two Triple Crowns and earned first-ballot induction to the Hall of Fame in 1966.

Like most from that era, Doerr was overshadowed by the player known as “Teddy Ballgame.” But the “Silent Captain” was no slouch. A

lifetime .288 hitter, Doerr drove in more than 100 runs six times, led American League second basemen in fielding four times and was inducted into the Hall in 1986.

After their playing careers ended – Doerr’s following the 1951 season and Williams’ after the 1960 campaign – they hooked up frequently for fishing trips in Oregon or the Florida Keys, where Ted had settled. In his post-playing career, Williams pursued his new pastime with the same gusto he had for baseball. He hosted a television show on the outdoors, co-authored a fishing book with *Sports Illustrated* writer John Underwood and was hired by Sears to design and promote his own line of hunting and fishing gear. In 1999, Williams achieved immortality in his second favorite sport when he was inducted into the International Game Fish Association Hall of Fame.

“Ted was so big (6-foot-3) and powerful that he could always put the fly 20 feet farther on a cast than I could,” Doerr marveled.

That’s not to say Doerr couldn’t handle a fly rod with exceptional skill, too. “The best evidence of this was that Ted always looked forward to fishing with him,” wrote Halberstam. But fishing with a perfectionist like Williams was not always pleasant. The Splendid Splinter could be anything but splendid with his friend, especially if Doerr allowed a big fish to wriggle off his hook.



Future Hall of Famers Ted Williams and Bobby Doerr each played their entire big league careers with the Red Sox, including 10 years together with the team.

“Bobby threatened he’d never go fishing again with Ted four or five times,” their Red Sox teammate Dom DiMaggio said in a 2002 interview with the *Associated Press*. “He’d say to me, ‘Dommy, I was so insulted. I felt like a real small individual the way he yelled at me in the boat. I made a little noise and he jumped all over me. I caught a fish and it made a turn and I lost the fish and he gave me some more abuse. I’m quitting him.’ Ten days later, they were fishing again.”

One of their most memorable expeditions occurred during a three-day float trip down the Rogue for steelhead. Williams decided to bring up a decades-long debate he had with Doerr about the science of hitting.

Teddy Ballgame argued that the best swing was a 12-degree uppercut, to meet the ball perpendicularly as it came down from the pitcher’s mound. Doerr said he preferred a more level swing, and this infuriated Williams. When they docked on the second day of their trip, the argument spilled over onto land as Williams loudly put on a riverbank hitting

clinic as startled, then bemused, fishermen floated by in their boats.

“Ted Williams is a .344 lifetime average hitter and I’m a .288 lifetime average hitter,” Doerr joked. “You can imagine who won that hitting clinic debate.”

Despite Williams’ overbearing nature, Doerr never held a grudge. Perhaps better than any man, he understood his friend’s complexities. And he also experienced Williams’ kindness numerous times. After joining Sears, Williams designed a rod and reel that he named after his longtime friend. Doerr, who turned 98 on April 7, looks back fondly at the friendship he forged with Williams, who passed away in 2002. Baseball and fishing helped cement that bond.

“Ted used to say that for every day you fished, it added a day to your life,” Doerr recalled. “And I kind of think maybe it could be that.”

Scott Pitoniak is a freelance writer from Rochester, N.Y.

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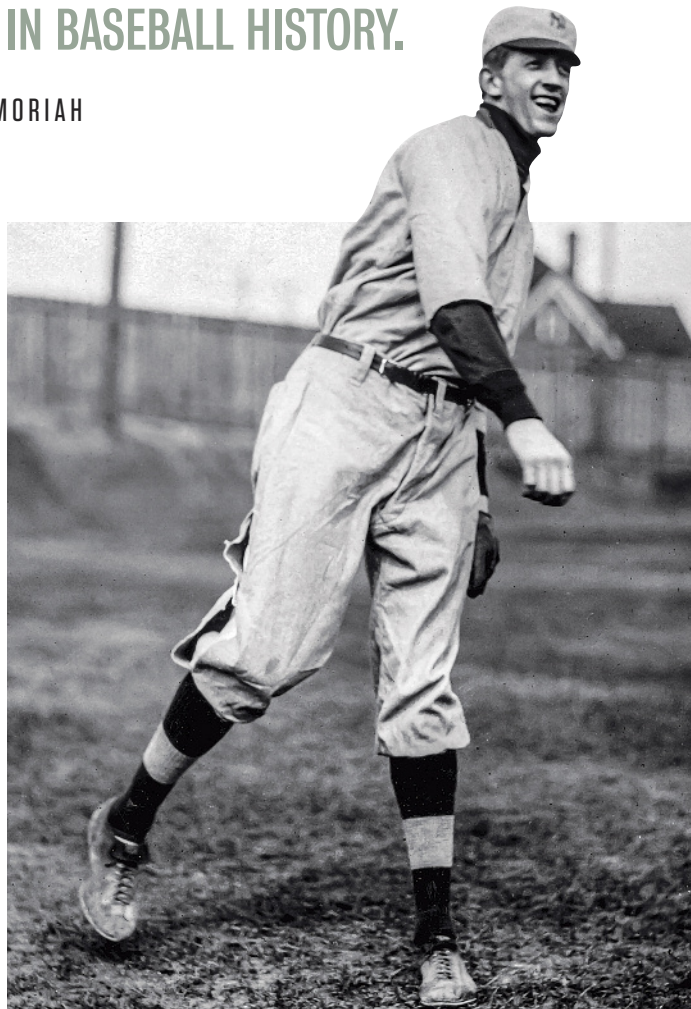


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ELEMENTS OF STYLE

THE WEATHER, THE WORLD AND THE WACKY
HAVE ALL PLAYED A PART IN BASEBALL HISTORY.

BY DAVID MORIAH



On Aug. 24, 1919, Indians pitcher Ray Caldwell was struck by lightning during the ninth inning of a game against the Athletics in Cleveland. Caldwell was knocked to the ground unconscious, but after five minutes jumped to his feet and went on to record the final out to complete the victory.

evening. In the 1961 All-Star Game played at the “Stick,” pitcher Stu Miller was literally blown off the mound midway through his delivery. Or was he?

In a ninth-inning relief appearance, Miller was called for a balk after a gust of wind rocked his pitching motion. The next day, several newspapers reported he was “blown off the mound.” As the years went by, Miller alternately admitted and denied that version of the story, and the truth has proven as elusive as determining whether Babe Ruth really called his shot. No known video exists, so whether Miller was literally “blown off the mound” or not is shrouded in mystery. What we know for certain is

Bolts of lightning. Gale-force winds. Swarms of angry insects. Midnight suns. Men falling from the sky. Torrential rains. Impassable floods.

No, this isn't a list of Biblical plagues or dire prophecies of how the world might come to an end. Rather, it's a sampling of the strange variety of events that have intersected over time with the game of baseball.

Although fans in some cities have grown accustomed to watching baseball under a fixed or retractable roof, in the long history of the sport the vast majority of games have been played in the great outdoors. The outdoors – a place of unpredictable weather and untamed nature where the unusual and unexpected can happen at any moment, and often does.

A bolt from the blue

According to the National Weather Service, the odds of being struck by lightning in an average person's lifetime are one in 12,000. On Aug. 24, 1919, in Cleveland, those odds caught up with Indians pitcher Ray Caldwell. He was one out shy of a complete-game victory against the visiting Philadelphia Athletics as A's batter “Jumpin’ Joe” Dugan dug in. Just then, however, lightning flashed and Caldwell was knocked off his feet, falling unconscious as the crowd quieted and players gathered around him.

After an agonizingly long five minutes, Caldwell suddenly jumped up and, according to legend, immediately said to his catcher, “Give me the ball!” What is indisputable is that he took the ball and proceeded to retire Dugan on a ground ball to finish off the victory. To this day, Caldwell's remarkable experience is the only known instance of a big league player being struck by lightning on the field of play.

Blowin’ in the wind

If lightning rarely makes an appearance in a baseball game, wind is an everyday player. Fielders factor it into pop-ups and fly balls, and batters watch anxiously if it will result in a home run or just a long foul ball. Who can forget Hall of Famer Carlton Fisk waving his arms to coax the wind to blow the ball fair in the 1975 World Series?

The now-retired Candlestick Park in San Francisco was notorious for the ferocious winds that came off a nearby bay every late afternoon and



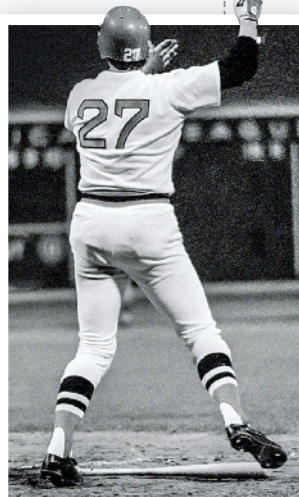
BRAD MANNING/NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME LIBRARY

that wind factored into Miller's balk, and that Candlestick Park will forever be known for the winds that whipped through the stands, blew across the field and played mischief in many a San Francisco ballgame.

Living world

In addition to being vulnerable to extreme weather, the outdoor game sometimes involves encounters with the animal kingdom. Birds are the most common intruders, sometimes colliding with balls in the air, and there was even an alligator found in the dugout of the Charlotte (Fla.) Stone Crabs ballpark in 2015.

However, one of the smallest members of the animal kingdom proved to be one of its most ferocious during a 2007 playoff game in Cleveland. The Indians' home park, then known as Jacobs Field, was the site of the "Attack of the Gnats" in Game 2 of an American League Division Series between the New York Yankees and



HARRY CALBUCCAP/IMAGES

Cleveland. As Yankees pitcher Joba Chamberlain came in to protect a 1-0 Yankees lead in the eighth inning, a swarm of bugs surrounded his head and refused to leave. Team trainers sprayed Chamberlain between pitches to no avail. The relentless insects so unnerved him that he came unglued and blew the lead with two untimely wild pitches. The Indians won the game and eventually the series, thanks in part to the pesky behavior of an insect called midges.

Top: Future Hall of Famer Andre Dawson of the Marlins bats during a rainstorm in a 1995 game against the Giants at Candlestick Park. Candlestick featured some of the worst weather in baseball during its 40-year run as home of the Giants from 1960 until 1999. **Right:** New York Yankees trainer Gene Monahan sprays pitcher Joba Chamberlain with bug repellent after small insects swarmed the mound during the eighth inning of a 2007 playoff game in Cleveland. **Inset:** Boston's Carlton Fisk gestures at his 12th-inning shot down the left field line in Game 6 of the 1975 World Series, directing its path to a game-winning home run over the Reds.



AMY SANCETTA/AP IMAGES



Above: Future Hall of Famer Gabby Hartnett crosses home plate after his ninth-inning home run at Wrigley Field on Sept. 28, 1938, gave the Cubs a 6-5 win and vaulted Chicago into first place over the Pirates. The Cubs, who trailed the Pirates by seven games on Sept. 1, went on to win the National League pennant. The home run became known as the “Homer in the Gloamin’” because darkness had virtually settled on Wrigley Field at the time of the blast. **Right:** A parachutist identified as Michael Sergio is taken into custody after parachuting onto the field at Shea Stadium carrying a “Let’s Go Mets” banner during the sixth game of the 1986 World Series.

Starshine

And then there is the role of the largest object in our solar system and source of all earthly heat and light. From losing a fly ball in bright sunshine to darkness descending on games before lights were installed at ballparks, the sun has often played a crucial role in determining the outcome of ballgames.

Looming darkness met destiny on Sept. 28, 1938, when the Chicago Cubs met the league-leading Pittsburgh Pirates at Wrigley Field. With the Cubs trailing the Bucs by a half game in the standings and the score tied, 5-5, after eight innings, the umpires agreed the game would go no more than nine innings. In a scene of storybook drama, the Pirates quickly secured two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning before future Hall of Famer Gabby Hartnett of the Cubs came to bat. With two strikes on him, Hartnett stroked a home run over the recently installed ivy in left-center field, a blow many fans could not even see due to the descending darkness.

Hartnett’s blow, known at the time as the “Homer in the Gloamin’” in reference to a popular song of the day “Roamin’ in the Gloamin’,” set the stage for a Cubs win the following day to clinch the pennant for the Northsiders.

If sunlight wanes in late September in Chicago, it waxes in Alaska in

June. There the sun blazes well past midnight every June 21 as the summer solstice lightens the sky over America’s 49th state. To celebrate, the so-called “Midnight Sun” ballgame debuted in Fairbanks in 1906 and since 1960 has been hosted by the Alaska Goldpanners. Along with several other prominent major league players, Hall of Famers Tom Seaver and Dave Winfield both played in Midnight Sun contests during their college years. The game begins at 10:30 p.m. and is played with only natural illumination.

Winfield, who pitched and played the outfield for the Goldpanners in 1971 and 1972, recalls the unusual experience of being a ballplayer so close to the North Pole.

“We had to adjust all summer because the sun would rarely go down,” Winfield remembered. “It was a big eye in the sky. When you live and work in Alaska, you learn to have blackout window shades and schedule your sleep accordingly.”

Man-made mania

Sometimes the unusual and unexpected moments in outdoor baseball are not the result of natural phenomena, but rather man-made ones. In the first inning of Game 6 of the 1986 World Series, a Mets fan parachuted onto the infield grass trailing a banner that read “Let’s Go Mets!” The flying fan, Michael Sergio, was a 37-year-old actor and a rabid Mets rooter. He was promptly escorted from the field and later fined \$500 and sentenced to 100 hours of community service for the stunt. The Mets went on to win Game 6 and eventually the world championship.

Our final tale of baseball and the great outdoors is the story of the only time a game was rained out at the Astrodome, the first domed stadium in baseball.

Opening in 1965, the arena was nicknamed “The Eighth Wonder of the World” as nothing like it had ever been seen before in sports. Its promise to eliminate the rainout resulted in tickets being printed for the first time without the mandatory “rain check” affixed.

On June 15, 1976, the Astros were scheduled to play the visiting Pittsburgh Pirates in an evening game. Shortly before noon, the skies opened up and a torrential downpour engulfed Houston. Downtown received 7.48 inches of rain by game time, and an unofficial reading near the Astrodome measured 10.47 inches. Streets all around the ballpark were flooded and by late afternoon it was impossible to get to the game.

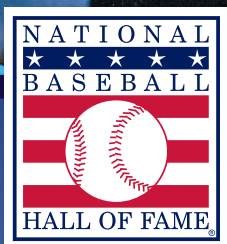
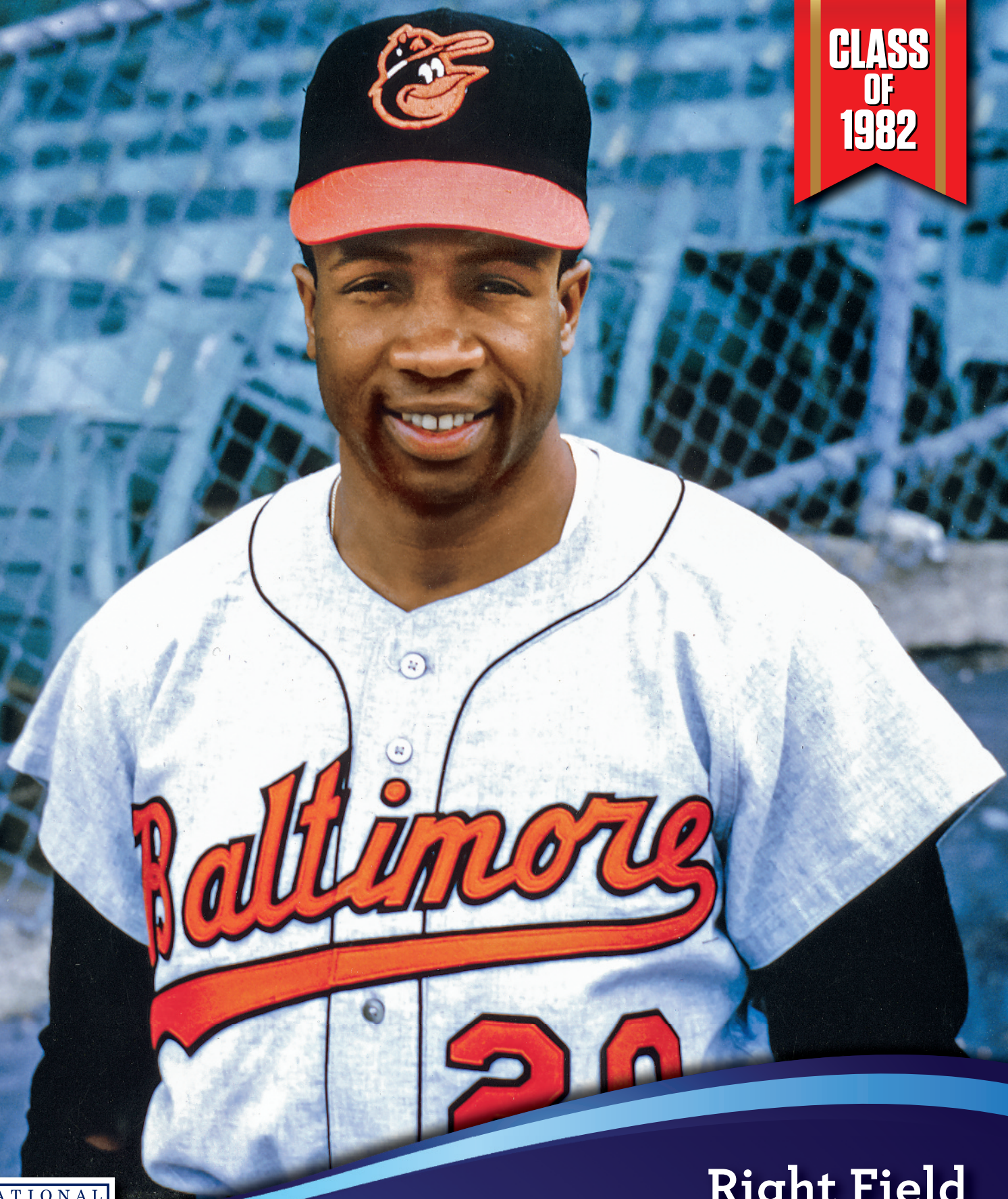
Ironically, all players from both teams were in the house, having arrived early for pregame practice, and consideration was given to playing the game without fans. That idea was scratched when the umpires called and reported they had attempted to reach the stadium but their car stalled on flooded roads. The men in blue abandoned their vehicle and waded back to their hotel.

Thus is the power of nature. Despite mere mortals taking the game inside, Mother Nature still finds a way to remind us that baseball has been – and always will be – intertwined with the great outdoors. 🍷

David Moriah is a freelance writer from Lawrence, N.J.



**CLASS
OF
1982**



Right Field

FRANK ROBINSON

FRANK ROBINSON

Elected 1982 • Born: Aug. 31, 1935, Beaumont, TX
 Batted: Right Threw: Right • Height: 6'1" Weight: 183 pounds
 Played for: Cincinnati Reds (1956-65), Baltimore Orioles (1966-71),
 Los Angeles Dodgers (1972), California Angels (1973-74), Cleveland Indians (1974-76)



YEAR	TEAM	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BB	SO	BA	OBP	SLG
1956	CIN	152	572	122	186	27	6	38	83	8	64	95	.290	.379	.558
1957	CIN	150	611	97	197	29	5	29	75	10	44	92	.322	.376	.529
1958	CIN	148	554	90	149	25	6	31	83	10	62	80	.289	.350	.504
1959	CIN	146	540	106	168	31	4	36	125	18	69	93	.311	.391	.583
1960	CIN	139	484	86	138	33	6	31	83	13	82	67	.297	.407	.555
1961	CIN	153	545	117	176	32	7	37	124	22	71	64	.323	.404	.611
1962	CIN	162	609	134	208	57	2	39	186	18	76	62	.342	.421	.624
1963	CIN	140	482	79	125	19	3	21	91	26	81	69	.259	.379	.442
1964	CIN	156	568	103	174	38	6	29	96	23	79	67	.306	.386	.548
1965	CIN	156	582	109	172	33	5	33	113	13	70	100	.296	.386	.540
1966	BAL	155	576	122	182	34	2	49	122	8	87	90	.316	.410	.637
1967	BAL	129	479	83	149	23	7	30	94	2	71	84	.311	.403	.576
1968	BAL	130	421	69	113	27	1	15	52	11	73	84	.268	.390	.444
1969	BAL	148	539	111	166	19	5	32	100	9	88	62	.308	.415	.540
1970	BAL	132	471	88	144	24	1	25	78	2	69	70	.306	.398	.520
1971	BAL	133	455	82	128	16	2	28	99	3	72	62	.281	.384	.510
1972	LAD	103	342	41	86	6	1	19	59	2	55	76	.251	.353	.442
1973	CAL	147	534	85	142	29	0	30	97	1	82	93	.286	.372	.489
1974	TOT	144	477	81	117	27	3	22	68	5	85	95	.245	.367	.453
1974	CAL	129	427	75	107	26	2	20	63	5	75	85	.251	.371	.461
1974	CLE	15	50	6	10	1	1	2	5	0	10	10	.200	.297	.380
1975	CLE	49	118	19	28	5	0	9	24	0	29	15	.237	.385	.508
1976	CLE	36	67	5	15	0	0	3	10	0	11	12	.224	.329	.358
21 Yrs		2808	10006	1829	2943	528	72	586	1812	204	1420	1532	.294	.389	.537

All statistics are from baseball-reference.com • All bolded marks are league-leading totals • Bolded and italicized marks are major league-best totals
Awards & Records: 1956 National League Rookie of the Year • 1961 National League Most Valuable Player • 1966 American League Most Valuable Player • 1966 American League Triple Crown winner • 14-time All-Star

DID YOU KNOW...

- ★ ...that Frank Robinson is the first and, to date, the only player to win the Most Valuable Player Award in both the American League and the National League?
- ★ ...that Robinson's 38 home runs in 1956 remain the top total by a rookie (tied with Wally Berger) in National League history?
- ★ ...that Robinson won the 1989 American League Manager of the Year Award with the Orioles?

WHAT THEY SAY...

★ "What changed around here the most and made us the team we are today was the arrival of Frank in 1966. He put our club over the hump. We came close, but never won until he came here. He solidified the club. We were a good team before. We became a better team when he joined us. We became a great team when he came to know us and how much he could do for all of us. Leadership isn't a matter of color. It's a matter of how much of yourself you are willing to give to another man and how much of you he is willing to accept. Frank gave everything of himself and we accepted everything he gave us." — BROOKS ROBINSON





Cuban History Lights Up Cooperstown

Artifacts from March 22 game in Havana arrive at Hall of Fame.

BY BILL FRANCIS

Put into baseball terms, Cuba is barely a relay throw from the coast of Florida, yet the Caribbean island nation has been largely isolated when it comes to relations with the United States. With the help of some recent baseball diplomacy, though, the icy association between the two is beginning to thaw – and the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum was there to document the historic undertaking.

On March 22, an exhibition game took place between the Tampa Bay Rays and the Cuban National Team in front of a capacity crowd at the 55,000-seat Estadio Latinoamericano, Havana's most famous stadium. And though the home team was defeated, 4-1, with the Rays' James Loney homering and driving in three runs, the day will undoubtedly be best remembered for the sight of U.S. President Barack Obama, the first sitting American president to visit Cuba since Calvin Coolidge 88 years ago, seated with Cuban President Raul Castro.

Sitting in the front row behind home plate, the two leaders took in the game in a public display toward normalizing relations between their countries after decades of diplomatic hostility. It was the first time a big league team had played in Cuba since the Baltimore Orioles participated in a similar exhibition in 1999.

Baseball dignitaries on hand for the game included MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred, Hall of Famer Dave Winfield, longtime New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter, Cuban

pitching legend Luis Tiant, Jackie Robinson's widow Rachel Robinson and Hall of Fame President Jeff Idelson.

Idelson would return to Cooperstown with numerous donated artifacts from the historic contest, among them the jersey worn by Rays manager Kevin Cash, the cap belonging to Cuban outfielder Roel Santos, the baseball thrown for the first pitch, a game-used baseball, Cuba's dugout lineup card and a ticket to the game. Many of the items are now on display at the Museum.

Baseball gained its first Latin American foothold in Cuba, arriving on the island in the 1860s. While it wasn't long before Cubans established the Caribbean's first pro league in 1878, professional baseball in the United States excluded the majority of Latin Americans because of their skin color, just as it barred African Americans.

Trailblazer Esteban Bellán, a native of Cuba, was the first Latin-born professional ballplayer, seeing action with the National Association's Troy Haymakers and New York Mutuals between 1871 and 1873. Years later, in 1911, the Cincinnati Reds made news when the franchise signed Cubans Armando Marsans and Rafael Almeida.



Hall of Fame President Jeff Idelson (left) holds the cap that Cuba National Team member Roel Santos donated to the Hall of Fame. Idelson, in turn, presented Santos with a Hall of Fame cap, to go with the jersey Evan Longoria gave to him.

JEAN FRUTKIN/ATLANTIC BASEBALL HALL OF FAME



Artifacts collected by the Hall of Fame from the March 22 game between the Cuban National Team and the Tampa Bay Rays in Havana include a Rays jersey worn by Tampa manager Kevin Cash; a cap worn by Cuba outfielder Roel Santos; the first-pitch baseball; a game-used baseball; and a ticket to the game.

The 1949 debut of Cuban Orestes “Minnie” Minoso with the Cleveland Indians marked the opening salvo in a new wave of Latino talent in the MLB. Fellow Cubans Tony Oliva, Leo Cárdenas, Mike Cuellar, Cookie Rojas, Tony Gonzalez, Tony Taylor and Zoilo Versalles would all follow, gracing box scores for the next three decades.

Soon after the 1959 Cuban revolution, professional baseball was outlawed in the country and replaced with amateurism. Though Cuba would often dominate international amateur competition in the ensuing decades, the embargo put in place in 1962 ultimately led to the defections of such familiar names as brothers Livan and Orlando “El Duque” Hernandez, Aroldis Chapman, Yoenis Cespedes, Yasiel Puig and Jose Abreu.

The Baseball Hall of Fame has more than 100 Cuba-related artifacts in its collection, the earliest a ball dating back to an 1898 game on the island. Other artifacts include a ball signed by players from the first Caribbean World Series

in Havana in 1949, a ceramic plate representing a 1940s Almendares team, a 1950s Habana team pennant, a 1959 “Little World Series” championship ring from the Havana Sugar Kings and a 1992 Olympic ball signed by the gold medal-winning Cuban team.

“Baseball and Cuba have had a long history together – ever since the game arrived on the island in the 1860s when returning students brought it home from the United States,” said Erik Strohl, the Hall of Fame’s vice president of exhibitions and collections. “Cuba quickly became engulfed with baseball passion, forming the Caribbean’s first pro league in 1878. Cuba has been baseball mad ever since. Major League Baseball’s first return to Cuba since 1999 marks another milestone in Cuba’s long baseball history.”

The Hall of Fame has among its 312 elected members four Cuban-born players: Martín Dihigo, José Mendez, Tony Pérez and Cristóbal Torriente. No nation other than the United States can claim more Hall of Famers.

Dihigo, Mendez, and Torriente were legends in the Pre-Negro and Negro Leagues, while Pérez starred in the majors from 1964 until 1986.

“At the Hall of Fame, it is our mission to not just preserve and maintain the history of baseball in America, but to also trace the game’s impact on cultures around the world. By collecting artifacts from the game on March 22, we hope to be able to save a little part of this history for posterity,” Strohl said.

“Though it may just be a single baseball game, its importance is much wider ranging than that. As the political relationship evolves between Cuba and the U.S., their baseball relationship will change as well.

“Hopefully these artifacts will serve as a reminder of the power of baseball to bring cultures together and to act as a signpost marking moments of historical change.”

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

A. INDUCTION PLAYER JERSEY

Replica jerseys from Majestic featuring the 2016 Inductees. Tackle twill team logo on chest and player name & number on back, with Hall of Fame logo sleeve patch. 100% polyester. Sizes: S-XXL.

BHOF331 | \$134.99 • Members \$121.49



B



B. HALL OF FAME INDUCTION PORTRAIT T-SHIRTS

Celebrate this year's inductees with this player portrait t-shirt from Majestic. Features player image, career stats, along with team & Hall of Fame logos. 100% cotton. Sizes: S-XXL.

BHOF332 | \$27.99 • Members \$25.19

C



C. INDUCTEE BOBBLEHEADS

These classic collectible bobbleheads capture each inductee's signature swing. Stands 8" tall with a 3" x 3" base featuring the Hall of Fame logo.

BHOF333 | \$29.99 • Members \$26.49

D



D. INDUCTION LOGO GOLD BASEBALL

Collectible Induction baseball with 2016 Induction logo and replica signatures of each member of the 2016 Class.

BHOF334 | \$9.99 • Members \$8.99

E



E. INDUCTION PLAYER BASEBALLS

Inductee "jersey" baseballs include player name & number, career stats, replica signature, with team and Induction logo.

BHOF335 | \$9.99 • Members \$8.99

F



F. INDUCTION PLAYER NAME & NUMBER T-SHIRTS

Soft 100% cotton t-shirt from Majestic with team logo on front, player name & number on back and Hall of Fame logo on the sleeve. Available in men's, women's and youth sizes. 100% cotton. Sizes: S-XXL. BHOF336 | \$29.99 • Members \$26.99

G



G. INDUCTION PLAYER COIN CARDS

Individual inductee coin cards feature 2016 Induction logo and team logos. Includes acrylic case and insert card with player image, career stats & accomplishments. Measures 6" x 4". BHOF338 | \$19.99 • Members \$17.99

H



H. INDUCTION LOGO 39THIRTY TEAM CAPS

Team logo caps from New Era, with 2016 Induction logo side patch. Available for Mariners (Griffey) and Mets (Piazza). Sizes: S/M, M/L, L/XL. BHOF337 | \$26.99 • Members \$24.99

J



J. INDUCTION PLAYER STAT BATS

Limited edition full-sized collectible bats available for each member of the 2016 Class. Features career statistics, 2016 Induction logo, jersey number and replica signature. Measures 34" in length. Limited edition of 500 per bat. BHOF339 | \$129.99 • Members \$116.99





A

A. ALL HALL OF FAMERS T-SHIRT
 Ken Griffey Jr. and Mike Piazza join baseball's immortals on this fan favorite t-shirt. Full-chest graphic with a complete list of Hall of Famers on the back organized by position played. Available in Navy. 100% cotton. Sizes: S-3XL. BHOF340 | \$24.99 • Members \$22.49



B

B. ROSTER T-SHIRT
 This classic Induction t-shirt features a screen printed full-chest graphic and a listing of Hall of Famers on the back by year of Induction. Available in Oxford Gray. 100% cotton. Sizes: S-3XL. BHOF341 | \$24.99 • Members \$22.49



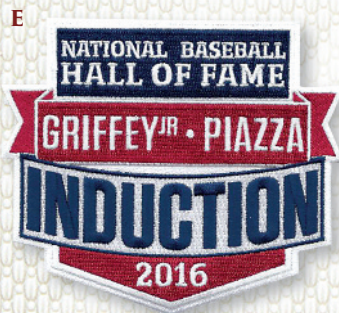
C

C. INDUCTION POLO SHIRT
 Performance knit polo with rib collar and open sleeve. Features embroidered 2016 Induction logo on left chest. Available in Navy. 100% polyester. Sizes: S-XXL. BHOF342 | \$49.99 • Members \$44.99



D

D. INDUCTEE SIGNATURE CAPS
 Structured 100% brushed cotton cap from American Needle features 2016 Induction logo on front crown with embroidered inductee signature, team logo and jersey number on the left side. Induction Ceremony date on the back. Adjustable. BHOF343 | \$24.99 • Members \$22.46



E

E. INDUCTION LOGO PATCH
 Official 2016 Induction logo patch. Measures 3" x 5". BHOF344 | \$14.99 • Members \$13.49



F

F. INDUCTION PLAYER PENNANTS
 Classic wool felt pennants featuring 2016 inductees Ken Griffey Jr. and Mike Piazza. Includes jersey number, team logo, player replica signature and 2016 Induction logo. Measures 13" x 32". BHOF345 | \$29.99 • Members \$26.99

G. MITCHELL & NESS INDUCTION VINTAGE T-SHIRTS

Vintage-styled Induction t-shirt from Mitchell & Ness. Lightweight 100% ring spun garment washed cotton with screen printed graphic and jock-tag at lower left hem. Available in Navy. Sizes: S-XXL.

BHOF346 | \$34.99 • Members \$31.49



H. UNDER ARMOUR INDUCTION TECH T-SHIRTS

Induction performance t-shirt from Under Armour. Features moisture wicking fabric and raglan sleeve construction with full-chest screen printed graphic. Available in Carbon Heather. Sizes: S-XXL.

BHOF347 | \$34.99 • Members \$31.49



J. INDUCTION ALTERNATE 39THIRTY® CAP

Performance Induction cap from New Era features raised embroidery with names of the 2016 inductees. Pre-curved bill and flex fit design. Available in Gray/Charcoal. Polyester, spandex blend. Sizes: S/M, M/L, L/XL.

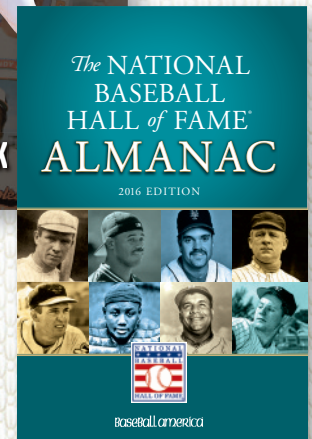
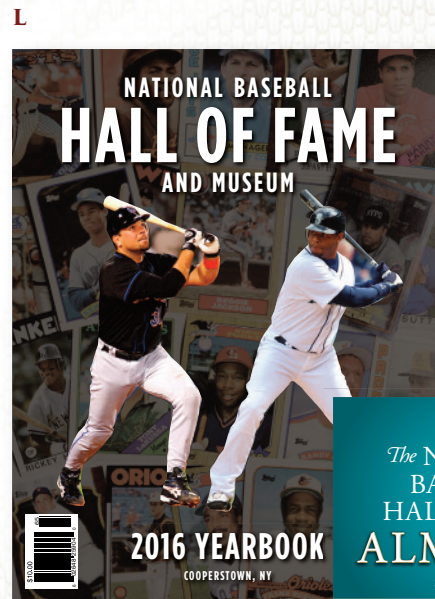
BHOF349 | \$26.99 • Members \$24.29



K. INDUCTION LOGO CAP

Classic relaxed fit cap features the 2016 Induction logo on front, with embroidered Induction Ceremony date on the back. Available in Navy. 100% washed cotton. Adjustable.

BHOF348 | \$19.99 • Members \$17.99



L. 2016 HALL OF FAME YEARBOOK

Our annual yearbook celebrates the careers of the 2016 Induction Class with an in-depth feature story on each inductee. Also includes mini-bios of each Hall of Fame member. 144 pages.

BHOF350 | \$10.00 • Members \$9.00

M. 2016 HALL OF FAME ALMANAC

The ultimate Hall of Famer reference source with career summaries for each of the 312 Hall of Famers. Includes bio, career stats, photo, plaque image, post-season accomplishments & awards. 550 pages.

BHOF351 | \$24.99 • Members \$22.49

A



**A. HALL OF FAMER
AUTOGRAPHED BASEBALLS**

The ultimate collectible. Individual Hall of Fame logo baseballs autographed by a member of the Hall of Fame. Authenticated through the MLB authentication program.
 BHOF352 | From \$179.99
Members From \$161.99

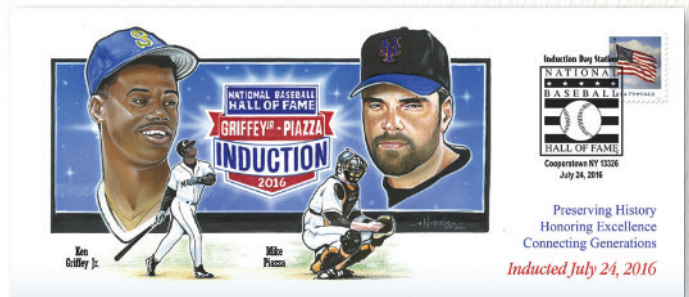
B



B. INDUCTION PLAYER PHOTOMINTS

Limited edition matted and framed inductee photomints feature player photo collage and gold Induction logo coin. Measures 12" x 19.5".
 BHOF353 | \$59.99 • **Members \$53.99**

C



C. INDUCTION CACHET

Limited edition cachet features full-color lithograph of 2016 inductees Ken Griffey Jr. and Mike Piazza. USPS cancellation from the Cooperstown, NY, post office. Includes protective mylar sleeve and certificate of authenticity. Limited edition of 2,016.
Available for delivery July 25th.
 BHOF358 | \$24.99 • **Members \$22.49**

D



D. HALL OF FAMER ACRYLIC PLAQUES

Finely crafted plaque replicas in acrylic with laser etched plaque image, wooden base and engraved nameplate. Measures 6.25" x 4.25". 2016 inductees available for delivery July 25th.
 BHOF355 | \$39.99 • **Members \$35.99**

E



E. 2016 INDUCTION PLAQUE POSTCARDS

A favorite with collectors, these postcards capture images of the plaques found in the Hall of Fame Gallery. Available as a complete set or select individual cards. 2016 inductees available for delivery July 25th.

PLAQUE POSTCARD SET

BHOF356 | \$100.00 • **Members \$90.00**

INDIVIDUAL PLAQUE POSTCARDS

BHOF357 | \$0.50 • **Members \$0.45**

F

F. HALL OF FAMER PLAQUES ON CANVAS

Replica canvas prints of the plaques that hang in the Hall of Fame gallery in Cooperstown. Printed on archival canvas and mounted on a sturdy wooden box frame. Each print ships ready to hang and measures 18" x 24". 2016 Inductees available for delivery July 25th. BHOF371 | \$79.99 • Members \$71.99



G



G. INDUCTION PLAYER PINS

Collectible inductee action pins feature team and Hall of Fame logos. Approximately 1.5" x 1.5". BHOF359 | \$9.99 • Members \$8.99

H



H. INDUCTION ROSTER PIN

Special collector's pin includes the names of each member of the 2016 Class and year of Induction. Measures approximately 1 1/8" x 2". BHOF360 | \$8.99 • Members \$8.09

J



J. INDUCTION LOGO PIN

This classic pin features the 2016 Induction logo and is a great way to commemorate this year's Induction. Measures 1.5" x 2.5". BHOF361 | \$7.99 • Members \$7.19

K



K. INDUCTION JERSEY PIN SET

Four pin set includes home and away jersey pin for each member of the 2016 Class with display case. Limited edition of 2,016 consecutively numbered on a nameplate pin. Each pin measures approximately 1" x 1". BHOF362 | \$34.99 • Members \$31.49

L



L. INDUCTION PLAYER OYO SPORTS FIGURINES

Collectible mini-figurines with poseable arms and legs. Available for each member of the 2016 Induction Class, as well as other Hall of Famers. Each figurine includes ball, bat, cap, glove and stand. Measures 1.75" tall. BHOF363 | \$12.99 • Members \$11.69



A. MEN'S SOFTHAND COTTON COOPERSTOWN 3/4 SLEEVE RAGLAN SHIRT
 Soft hand Cotton Cooperstown Name and Number T-shirts from Majestic Threads. Features distressed screen print graphics for a vintage look, rounded hem and tag-less collar. MADE IN USA. 100% cotton. Sizes: S-2XL.
 BHOF364 | \$44.99 • Members \$40.49



B. COOPERSTOWN LOGO T-SHIRT
 This classic Cooperstown Logo t-shirt features screenprint graphics, tag-less collar and is officially licensed. 100% cotton. Available in standard and big & tall sizes. Regular Sizes: S-XXL. Big & Tall Sizes: XLT-5XLT, 2XB-6XB.
 BHOF365 | Standard Sizes: \$27.99 • Members \$25.19
 BHOF374 | Big & Tall Sizes: \$29.99 • Members \$26.99



C. HALL OF FAME MITCHELL & NESS RAGLAN HENLEY
 Vintage style lightweight slub knit henley with 3/4 length sleeves, 4-button placket and woven jocktag. Embroidered Cooperstown patch on left chest. Available in Navy/Red. Sizes: S-XXL.
 BHOF366 | \$49.99 • Members \$44.99



D. HALL OF FAME ANTIGUA STRIKER POLO
 This jersey knit yarn dye engineered stripe short sleeve polo features Antigua's Desert Dry™ Xtra-Lite D2XL moisture wicking process, button placket & open cuff and yarn dye striped flat knit "self" collar. Antigua triangle patch at sleeve. 100% polyester. Sizes: M-XXL.
 BHOF367 | \$69.99 • Members \$62.99



E. MAJESTIC HALL OF FAME TEAM T-SHIRTS
 Celebrate your favorite team's greats with this retro-styled t-shirt. Features full-chest graphic and team logo on front with a listing of each team's Hall of Famers and their year of Induction on the back. 100% cotton. Sizes: S-3XL.
 BHOF368 | \$27.99 • Members \$25.19

F. HALL OF FAMER AUTOGRAPHED BATS

Perfect for display in your home or office, each full-sized bat is hand signed and inscribed by your favorite Hall of Famer under the auspices of the MLB Authentication Program. Includes numbered tamper-proof hologram that can be verified online. BHOF369 | Starting at \$99.99 • Members Starting at \$89.99



G



G. LIGHT UP REPLICA STADIUMS

This unique collectible is made to look just like your favorite team stadium featuring multiple layers of wood with colorful laminated images giving each stadium a stunning 3D effect. Includes strategically placed LED lights to highlight each stadium's playing field. Clear acrylic display case. Available in three sizes. BHOF370 | \$99.99 - \$269.99 • Members \$89.99 - \$242.99

H



H. BASEBALL HALL OF FAME 22" X 12" HOME SWEET HOME SIGN

Celebrate where the baseball greats are immortalized when you grab this Baseball Hall of Fame 22" x 12" Home Sweet Home sign from Steiner Sports. BHOF358 | \$49.99 • Members \$44.99

J



J. MILESTONES & MEMORIES PHOTOGRAPH WITH FACSIMILE SIGNATURE

This Hall of Fame framed collectible includes an 8" x 10" photo of your favorite Hall of Famer, an image of their plaque and replica signature. Each is double matted and framed, ready for hanging. Measures 13" x 16". BHOF372 | \$59.99 • Members 53.99

K



K. HALL OF FAMER UNIFORMS

Hall of Famer uniform prints include player uniform number and action image beautifully framed in a genuine wood frame with glass front and player nameplate. Available for over 65 players, including the 2016 inductees. Measures 20.5" x 20.5". BHOF373 | \$79.99 • Members \$71.99

NEW YORK METS CONGRATULATE

MIKE PIAZZA



NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

CLASS OF 2016

QUICK AS THIEVES

A QUARTER OF A CENTURY AFTER BREAKING THE RECORD, RICKEY HENDERSON REMAINS THE “MAN OF STEAL.”

BY BILL FRANCIS

Twenty-five years ago, on one of the more historic days in baseball history, an overjoyed Rickey Henderson, considered by many the game’s greatest leadoff hitters as well as one of its most disruptive forces on the base paths, held the record-breaking result of his most recent larceny triumphantly over his head.

On the afternoon of May 1, 1991, Henderson stole his 939th career base – adding up to 16 miles worth of swipes – to surpass Lou Brock for the major league record.

Henderson, at the time a left fielder with the Oakland Athletics, ran into the record book in the fourth inning of a 7-4 win over the visiting New York Yankees.

Leading off second base, the “Man of Steal” took off for third on a 1-0 changeup from righty Tim Learly to designated hitter Harold Baines. He dove toward the base with his signature headfirst slide, easily beating catcher Matt Nokes’ throw, which bounced before reaching third baseman Randy Velarde. It marked the 216th time that Henderson had swiped third.



Oakland’s Rickey Henderson holds up the base from his 939th career steal. He shattered Lou Brock’s career stolen base mark on May 1, 1991, in a game against the Yankees.

“He was really relieved to get that weight off his shoulders,” said Velarde of Henderson. “He had a big smile. He said, ‘I’m glad it’s over.’”

Henderson, born in Chicago but raised in Oakland, would pull up the third base bag from its mooring, hold it above his head with two hands, shift it to his left hand and pump his

right fist to a standing ovation. Longtime A’s equipment manager Frank Ciensczyk was soon on the field replacing the base.

After being embraced by third-base coach Rene Lachemann, manager Tony La Russa and pitcher and childhood friend Dave Stewart, a 10-minute ceremony commenced near third base that included Henderson’s wife, Pamela, his mother, Bobbie, and an appreciative crowd of 36,139 at the Oakland Coliseum who were there to salute the sport’s new stolen base king.

Also on hand was Brock, a Hall of Fame left fielder with the Cardinals who retired from the game in 1979 and had traveled from his St. Louis home back to Oakland in order to be present when his 12-year-old record was broken.

“It’s always been said that competition among men is one of the oldest practices known to man,” Brock said. “Today, you might be the greatest competitor that ever ran the bases and I congratulate you. You are a legend in your own time. Congratulations.”

“I would imagine in the stolen base Hall of Fame, there will be a lot of guys moving over one seat. Ty Cobb’s moving over, I’m moving over. Rickey becomes the chairman.”

Then it was Henderson’s turn to address the fans, who remained standing after giving him a well-deserved ovation. Also listening were his A’s teammates, who were perched on the top step of the dugout, and the Yankees, the team that traded him back to Oakland in 1989.

“Took a long time, huh?” said the 32-year-old Henderson, who entered 1991 fresh off an American League MVP season and was only two swipes shy of Brock’s record when the year began. Yet he had been hampered in his pursuit by a strained left calf muscle suffered in the season’s fourth game, an injury that eventually landed him on the 15-day disabled list.

Henderson also made sure to thank Tom Trebelhorn, his first minor league manager with the 1976 Boise A’s of the Northwest League and the then-manager of the Milwaukee Brewers, and the late Billy Martin, his former manager with the A’s and Yankees who had passed away in December 1989.

“I love ya, Billy,” Henderson said to the

BRAD MANGIN/NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME LIBRARY

crowd. “I wish you were here.”

After the game, Henderson added, “Billy Martin made me believe I could go out and break records. He put his heart behind me. He was like a father to me, and I think I was like a son to him.”

Henderson was in position for the record-breaking moment only after being thrown out by Nokes trying to steal second in the first inning and taking a called third strike in his next at-bat. But in the fourth inning, he reached first base when his grounder went through shortstop Alvaro Espinoza’s legs for an error and then advanced to second on an infield single. One

out later, the big moment was at hand.

“I really wanted to get it over. I was putting too much pressure on myself,” Henderson said. “[There wasn’t enough] focus on the baseball game, but on me stealing a base. It’s the toughest test I’ve taken in baseball.

“When I felt my hand on the base, it was a dream come true. All that work and dedication paid off.

“What a day, what a day,” he added. “You can’t say in words how you really feel. I don’t think there are words to describe how you feel. I felt about 50 pounds lighter. Now, maybe I can get a good night’s sleep.”

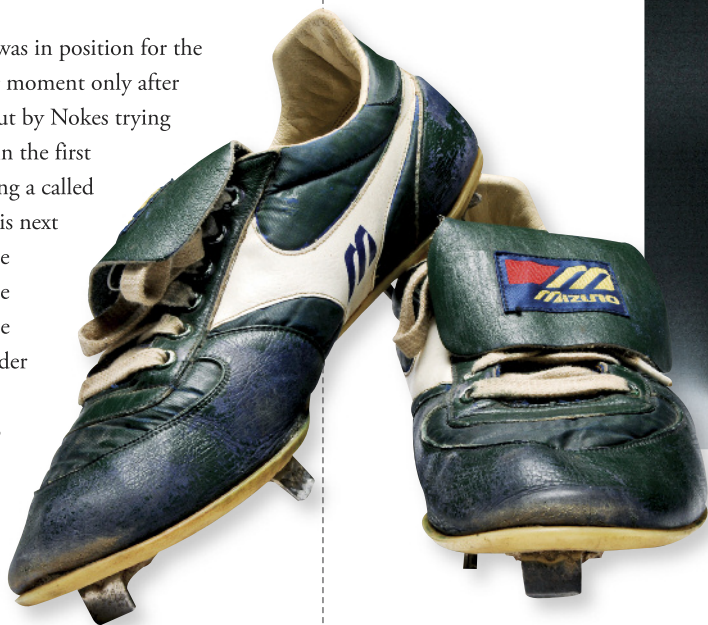
Henderson would later donate to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum the fluorescent green batting gloves he wore when he dove headfirst into third base for the historic steal.

Immediately after Brock’s career stolen-base record was broken, concession stands inside Oakland Coliseum began selling T-shirts picturing Henderson over the number “939.” Reports claimed Henderson ordered six dozen for himself to give to teammates.

Despite being victimized by Henderson for the record-breaking theft, Nokes did catch Henderson stealing twice that game – nailing him again in the fifth.

“If he steals on me, he’s Rickey Henderson.

The spikes Rickey Henderson wore on Aug. 27, 1982 – when he set a new modern single-season stolen base record with his 119th steal – are now part of the Hall of Fame collection, along with the base from that record.



PHOTOS BY MILO STEWART JR./NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

If not, then I’ll say he can’t run on me,” Nokes joked before the game. “You’ve got to have fun. It’s a challenge.”

Yankees manager Stump Merrill was more pragmatic: “I don’t care if he steals 10 bases against us as long as we beat them.”

According to Henderson, he would be celebrating his record achievement by opening a bottle of champagne he received after graduating from high school in 1976.

“I’ve got to pop it tonight,” Henderson said.

The A’s showed their appreciation afterward by presenting Henderson with a 1991 Porsche and a \$75,000 donation to several charities designated by the record-holder.

“I just want to keep stealing bases. I want to steal so many that I put [the record] out of sight,” Henderson said. “Twelve hundred is a realistic goal, maybe 1,500 if I stay healthy.”

Henderson would, in fact, end his 25-year major league career in 2003 with a total of 1,406 stolen bases, nearly 500 more than the second-place Brock. His total included 12 seasons of leading the league, the most famous of those being his 130-steal campaign of 1982, another modern MLB record. He even led the league in 1998, at the age of 39, when he stole 66 bases for the Athletics.

A first-ballot electee to the Hall of Fame in 2009, Henderson had to share the spotlight

on the day he broke Brock’s mark. Hours later and some 1,700 miles away, 44-year-old pitching legend Nolan Ryan, in his 25th season in the majors, continued to defy age when he tossed his seventh no-hitter. It came nearly 18 years after his first no-no.

Playing for the Texas Rangers, Ryan went the distance in a 3-0 victory over the visiting Toronto Blue Jays, striking out 16 and finishing just two walks away from a perfect game. The only other pitcher with at least four no-hitters is Sandy Koufax.

“It didn’t bother me at all,” said Henderson days later. “It didn’t make any difference. I got my attention and Nolan got his attention. No one stole my thunder.

“That couldn’t take away from what I did. I was here with my glory and he was over there in Arlington [Texas] with his.”

The two stars were connected in other historic ways, too. While Henderson had stolen bases against more than 300 pitchers at that point in time, he had yet to successfully steal with Ryan on the mound.

Henderson, however, would be Ryan’s 5,000th career strikeout victim, and on June 11, 1990, when Ryan pitched his sixth career no-hitter, Oakland’s Henderson made the final out.

In the end, it turned out that May 1, 1991, was Henderson’s day and Ryan’s night. 🍷

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



2016 MEMBERSHIP LITHOGRAPH

LIMITED EDITION MEMBER GIFT



NO. 939

RICKEY HENDERSON • MAN OF STEAL

MAY 1, 1991 • OAKLAND COLISEUM • OAKLAND, CA

In celebration of the 25th 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

The lithograph is an exclusive member gift for Patron (\$175), President's Circle (\$500) and Benefactor (\$1,000) members of the Hall of Fame. The lithograph has been produced as a limited edition of 2,500; each print is matted, signed and numbered by Purdom.

To become a member at the Patron level or higher, or upgrade your membership and receive this exclusive limited edition lithograph, please call 607.547.0397 or visit baseballhall.org/join.

MUDDYING UP THE GAME

THE SECRET TO A PERFECT BASEBALL IS FOUND IN NATURE'S SIMPLEST COMBINATION.

BY BILL FRANCIS

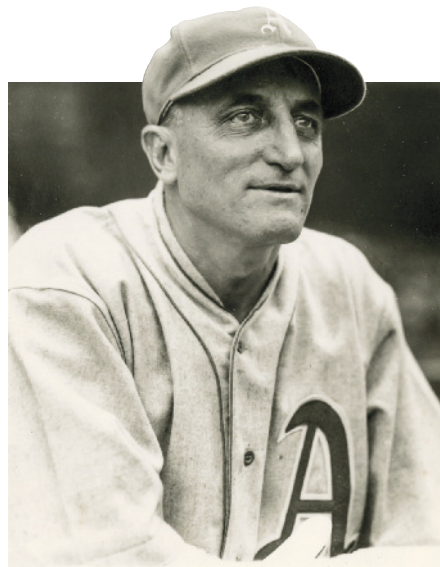
The existence of Bigfoot, the formula for Coca-Cola and the whereabouts of D.B. Cooper are longstanding mysteries in the American consciousness, but what about the National Pastime? Turns out, baseball has its own unsolvable puzzle: The source location of the baseball's "magic mud."

Today, Rule 4.01(c), under "Game Preliminaries – Umpire Duties" in the 2016 Official Major League Baseball Rules, reads, in part: "The umpire shall inspect the baseballs and ensure they are regulation baseballs and that they are properly rubbed so that the gloss is removed."

But what specifically is being "properly rubbed" on all MLB baseballs?

Simply put, it's dirt and water – and cannot be produced without the help of Mother Nature.

Lena Blackburne Rubbing Mud has been used in the majors dating back to the 1930s to improve the grip and dull the shine of new baseballs. Before every game, dozens of baseballs are rubbed with this one-of-a-kind specialty product, derived from a secret source, by an umpire or other club personnel. No other foreign substance can be applied to



Lena Blackburne served as a coach on Connie Mack's Philadelphia A's staff for several seasons. In 1938, he brought the mud from a creek he frequented as a child to big league umpires, who began using it to rub the shine off new baseballs.

new baseballs before they are used.

Since Cleveland's Ray Chapman died in 1920 as the result of being hit in the head with a pitched ball, the game had made efforts to improve the welfare of its players as it relates to the baseball. Pitchers can't get a good grip on new, shiny baseballs – and hitters are sometimes blinded when the sun or indoor lighting hits the too-white surface.

In July 1929, National League President

John Heydler issued an edict to his umpires to treat new baseballs with dirt as a means of aiding the pitchers, claiming that slightly soiling the orb would not only make it easier for pitchers to handle but, at the same time, lessen the luster and brightness of the cover.

"We can put a man on the moon, but we can't manufacture a baseball that doesn't have a slick hide and a white gloss to it," said Durwood Merrill, an American League umpire from 1976 to 1999. "So in the old days, they'd just rub 'em with dirt from around home plate, with maybe a spit or two of tobacco juice."

Here's the dirt on baseball rubbing mud: One can trace its history and its secret location back to the 1938 season, when American League umpire Harry Geisel complained during a game about the job of taking the slickness off new baseballs. In those days, ballpark dirt and water were the main raw ingredients – as well as the occasional tobacco juice and shoe polish – used on new baseballs.

But the ballpark-made mud was often too coarse, thus putting marks on the cover of the baseball, which would allow pitchers to get their fingernails in those marks and make the ball travel in an unnatural path.

Lena Blackburne, an eight-year veteran of the big leagues who at the time was a third base coach with the Philadelphia Athletics, overheard Geisel's griping and his thoughts raced back to his youth. As a child, Blackburne had discovered a special mud while wading in the Pennsauken Creek, a branch of the Delaware River, near his southern New Jersey home.

"I noticed in those days that the outgoing tides purified the mud at the bottom of the creek, leaving it inky black and sticky," Blackburne remembered. "Two streams come together where I get my mud. That means it is filtered twice and is very fine."

"I was a kid pitcher in those days and I often used the mud on a new ball – when we were lucky enough to get one."

After experimenting with the Burlington County mud he remembered from his childhood, and adding a secret ingredient, he later gave a can of it to Geisel to de-gloss the new baseballs.

CHARLES M. CONLON/NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME LIBRARY

Soon afterward, as the story goes, every American League team was getting a supply of the odorless, greaseless and as smooth as pudding mud from Blackburne at a very reasonable price. Being a longtime Junior Circuit man, Blackburne resisted selling his mud to the National League until the mid-1950s.

Blackburne's big league career record as a good-field, no-hit infielder featured 550 games with four different teams, mainly the White Sox, a team he also managed for two seasons. But he may be most remembered for what he did off the field when he developed a business dredging mud from the bottom of a Delaware River tributary.

Having been in professional baseball dating back to 1908 – as a player, coach, scout or manager – Blackburne often marveled at his new role in the game being in the mud supply business.

"This isn't a business; it's a hobby," Blackburne said. "Besides, what I get I share with my wife. She calls it her 'mud money.'"

"I've stuck in baseball," he added, "because I got stuck in the mud."

When he passed away in 1968 at the age of 81 – with the knowledge that every baseball put into play from March to October was being rubbed down with Lena Blackburne Rubbing Mud – the first paragraph of his *New York Times* obituary referenced his late-in-life role in the game: "...originated the idea of rubbing mud on new baseballs to remove their slippery finish..."

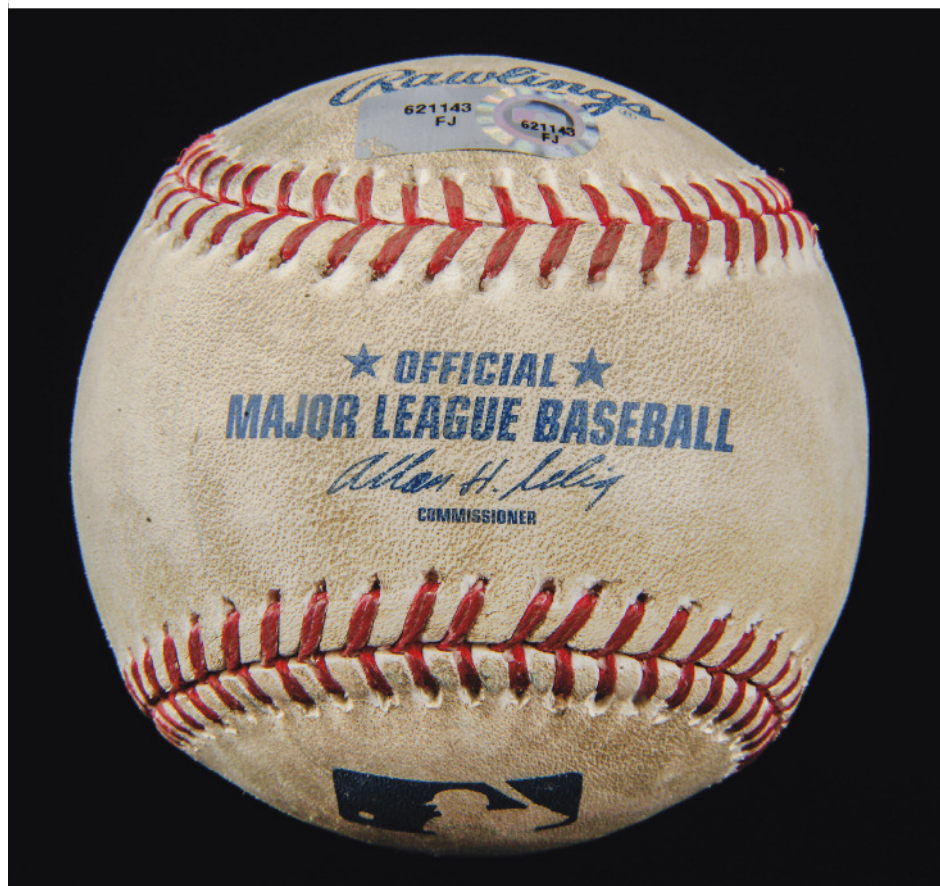
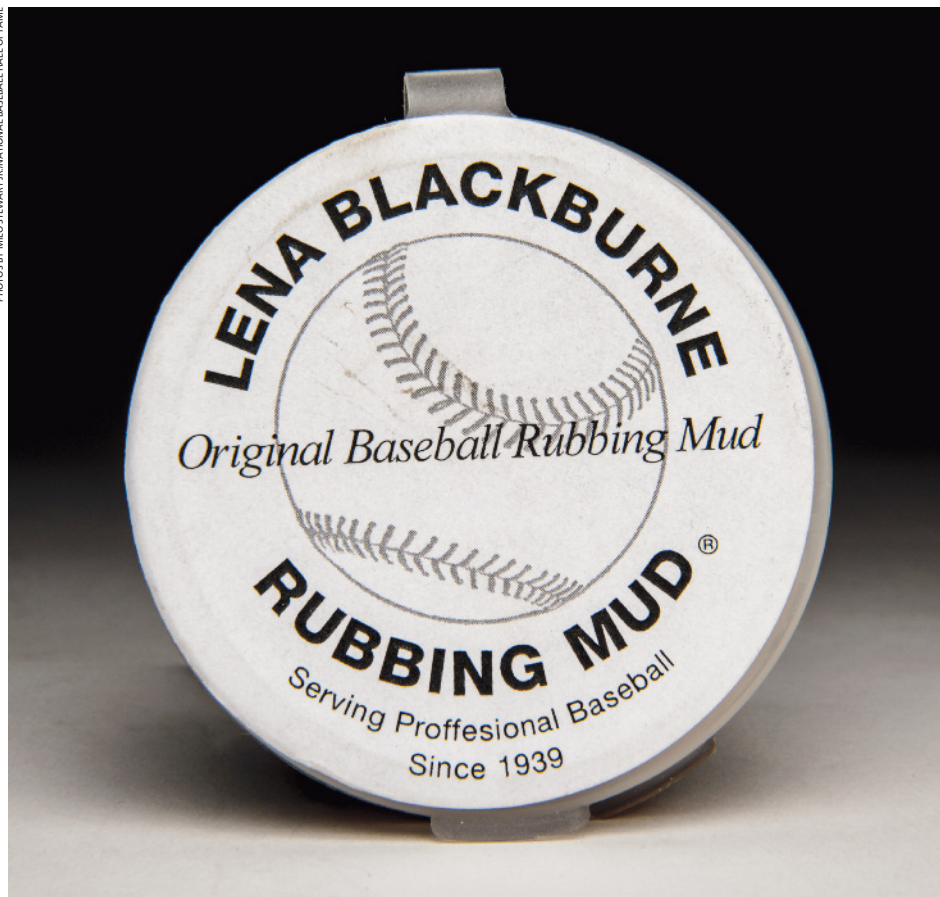
After taking loads of the New Jersey mud home, usually between fall and spring, Blackburne would filter it, then add a special something that would make it non-staining and smooth as cold cream. The concoction seemed to contain a superfine grit that could scuff a baseball's cover evenly with the mud nearly invisible.

Bill Kinnamon, an American League umpire during the 1960s, once said, "There's something about this mud. I don't know how to explain it. It takes the shine off without getting the ball excessively dark."

According to Blackburne, working the mud through a sieve "takes out any stones. They would wreck a ball. Of course, umps never let any of this mud get into the stitches of a ball. The balance would be ruined, and pitchers would make the ball perform the aerobatics of a horsefly under a lampshade."

After Blackburne's death, his mud business,

PHOTOS BY MILO STEWART JR./NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME



A canister of Lena Blackburne Rubbing Mud is a part of the collection at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. The mud is applied to each new big league baseball before use to remove the shine. The mud also removes the gloss, which increases the ball's visibility.

along with all its secrets, was willed to childhood friend John Haas, who had helped out with Blackburne's affairs.

"Mr. Blackburne made me promise that I would never give away to outsiders the secret of the source of the mud," Haas said. "He also made me promise that, since he had no children of his own, I would see to it that the business was handed down through the family."

In relatively short order, Haas passed it down to his son-in-law, Burns Bintliff.

"He (Haas) picked me because I was his son-in-law and also because he knew I'd played semipro baseball as a young man on the Burlington County team and had remained a committed baseball bug," said Bintliff. "It's better than tobacco juice and far superior to everyday mud. Mud from the Delaware River tributary contains an ultrafine abrasive that strips off the factory gloss but doesn't damage the cover, and it doesn't discolor the ball."

Bintliff would later admit the source of the baseball's dirtiest secret was somewhere in the southern part of New Jersey.

"Everybody has their own idea where it comes from. Everybody thinks it's the Delaware River, but it isn't," he said. "I'll tell you this: Where it comes from is covered at high tide and uncovered at low tide. Other than that, it's none of your business. That's my standard response."

In 1982, a scientific analysis of the rubbing mud conducted at *The New York Times'* request found that more than 90 percent of it was finely ground quartz, probably pulverized by ice that covered New Jersey during the Pleistocene Epoch more than 10,000 years ago.

"The surprise is that there is very little clay in it, so it would be terrible for a potter to use," said Dr. Kenneth S. Deffeyes, professor of geology at Princeton University. "The overwhelming mineral in there is quartz, just like sand, only finer. It is more than 90 percent quartz in a range of sizes with sharp edges."

Bintliff would ship his topnotch mud in coffee cans his friends and neighbors would leave on his porch. A one-pound coffee can could hold three pounds of mud and last a whole season.

"I don't make much money from this," Bintliff said. "But my raw material costs me nothing and the supply will last forever."

"I wish I could raise my prices in proportion to what the ballplayers get in salaries. But the traffic wouldn't bear it. I'm in this for the thrill,"



COKE WHITWORTH IMAGES

Jim Bintliff gently shovels mud from a small creek into his buckets in southern New Jersey. For more than 50 years, Bintliff's Lena Blackburne Rubbing Mud company has provided high-quality mud to Major League Baseball to prepare slick, shiny new baseballs for play.

he added. "I watch baseball on TV. Can you imagine how I feel knowing I've had something to do with every pitch at every single ballpark?"

What money the Bintliffs did receive from the business went toward an annual getaway.

"It gives us enough to pay for the family vacation every year – and it's always the same vacation," Bintliff would say. "My wife, Betty, who's the executive vice-president and accountant of the business – she handles all the paperwork – and I go up to Cooperstown, New York, home of the Baseball Hall of Fame."

A can of Lena Blackburne Rubbing Mud was donated to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1968 and was part of the Museum's Evolution of Equipment exhibit for many years.

Eventually, Bintliff turned the mud business over to his son, Jim, who runs it today.

"We're extremely proud of that," said Jim Bintliff in an interview with the Hall of Fame a number of years ago, referring to the mud being a part of the Hall of Fame's permanent collection. "Any time I talk about the mud, one of the first things I tell people is that we're in the Hall of Fame. Last year, I took my whole family up and we're going to make it a yearly trip. It was really fun to take my young daughters and show them our mud really is famous."

Baseball's latest Mud Man not only supplies his product to every big league team but also their minor league affiliates, independent teams, college programs and high school squads. It can also be purchased, now shipped in plastic containers, through their website – baseballrubbingmud.com – in three sizes:

personal (.5 pounds), institutional (2.75 pounds) and professional (4 pounds).

The source of the mud today, according to Jim Bintliff, is different but still near the original one used by Blackburne, as development a few decades ago made it nearly impossible to keep the old location secret.

"If anybody happens to catch me in the act of harvesting mud, I come up with a story to give them a reason I'm putting mud in a bucket," Jim Bintliff, a self-confessed mud farmer, once shared. "I've told people I use it in my garden, I use it for my rose bushes, I use it for bee stings and poison ivy and any kind of story."

And much like his predecessors in the business, Jim Bintliff readily admits the work brings with it much more than monetary gain.

"I'll never get rich doing this, but I get paid in more ways than money. My mud is on every ball and is part of every milestone. I am part of baseball," he said. "I just love being part of the sport."

"It doesn't take long to think, 'This mud was on baseballs that are in the Hall of Fame.' It's kind of a neat connection," he added. "It's something I've been doing since I was a kid and I wouldn't give it up for anything. From 1938 on, all those record home runs and those thousands of strikeouts, my mud's been on every ball."

"From the first day of Spring Training to the last out of the World Series, we're there." ❀

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

MANAGING EXPECTATIONS

TONY LA RUSSA'S HEAD, HEART AND DUGOUT SUCCESS LED HIM TO COOPERSTOWN.

BY HAL BODLEY

Tony La Russa has it all wrong. He belongs in the Hall of Fame just as much as the arms and legs and bats that have made baseball so great.

La Russa, one of 23 skippers enshrined in Cooperstown, often raises the question whether managers should be spoken about in the same breath as players.

Quick answer: They should.

"I don't feel comfortable being in the same room with the Hall of Famers," said La Russa about returning to Cooperstown for Hall of Fame Weekend. "I understand what an exclusive club it is.

"The longer I was in the game, the more I appreciated the specialness of the Hall of Famers. That's why I've felt like I'm a 'coattail' Hall of Famer because I didn't get in as a player. I got in because I was part of three great organizations."

La Russa, along with fellow managerial icons Joe Torre and Bobby Cox, was inducted in 2014. Only Connie Mack (3,731) and John McGraw (2,763) won more games in baseball's storied history than La Russa's 2,728.

"As a player, I wasn't good enough and dealt with that," La Russa said. "Then I got an



Tony La Russa delivers his Induction speech to a crowd of 48,000 people on July 27, 2014, in Cooperstown.

opportunity to manage and was very fortunate to be with three outstanding organizations (Chicago White Sox, Oakland Athletics, St. Louis Cardinals). I realized that the level of play just to be a durable major leaguer is extremely high."

La Russa, now 71, split his 33 managerial seasons. He spent 17 in the American League with the White Sox and Oakland, and the last 16 in the National League with the Cardinals.

On four occasions (1983, 1988, 1992, 2002), he was selected Manager of the Year by

the Baseball Writers' Association of America. And when the Cardinals captured the 2011 World Series over Texas in a seven-game thriller, it was a fitting swan song for La Russa, allowing him to leave the game while on top.

It was his second crown with St. Louis, to go with the 2006 title, while in 1989 he was at the helm of the Oakland A's when they swept the Giants in the "Earthquake Series."

He also guided the A's to three AL pennants (1988-90) and the Cardinals to three NL crowns (2004, 2006, 2011). La Russa previously spent eight seasons managing the White Sox, taking them to the ALCS in 1983. He began his managerial career in the Windy City in 1979 at the age of 34.

"The stupidest thing I ever did was letting Tony get fired," said White Sox owner Jerry Reinsdorf.

After retiring from the dugout, La Russa spent two-plus years working in the Commissioner's Office – until May 17, 2014, when he assumed his current position as Chief Baseball Officer for the Arizona Diamondbacks.

"My good fortune continued after the Cardinals because Commissioner Bud Selig allowed me to stay close to the game. I worked with Joe Torre (MLB Chief Baseball Officer), who wanted people who've had a recent experience in uniform," La Russa said. "I was able to meet a lot of people at MLB who I would have never gotten to know.

"I really enjoyed the experience in the Commissioner's Office, but what I didn't enjoy was the lack of a rooting interest. For me, being neutral was unnatural. With the Diamondbacks, I'm lucky to be with another outstanding organization, and (still) get just as upset when we lose as if I were down in the dugout. For 50-plus years, it's been about the score of the game and that's what matters to me."

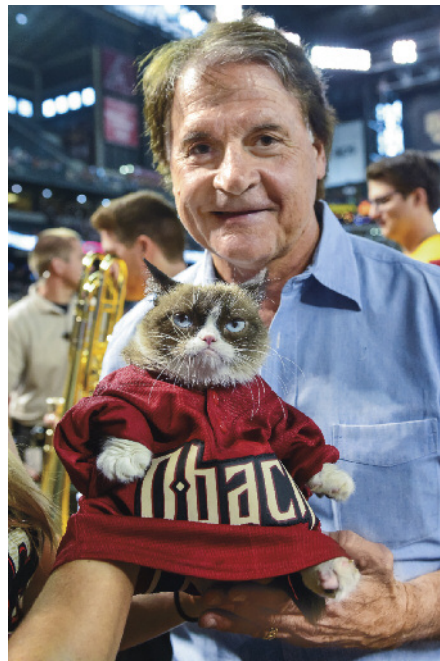
Last December, under La Russa's direction, the Diamondbacks agreed to a six-year contract with free-agent pitcher Zack Greinke worth \$206.5 million, which set a standard for the highest annual value (\$34.4 million) in MLB history. It was also the largest contract by total value in Diamondbacks history.

When La Russa was earning his stripes with Oakland in the mid-1980s, observers often identified him as a “state-of-the-art” manager. He was a fierce competitor, but he was also more innovative than anyone in the business, qualities that allowed him to have a tremendous impact on the game.

He pioneered the use of the specialized bullpen and the one-inning closer. He tried using a left-handed third baseman with the White Sox (Mike Squires) in 1984. He and his pitching guru, Dave Duncan, experimented with a three-man rotation, and in St. Louis began batting the pitcher eighth in the order, instead of the traditional ninth.

And yet when his election to the Hall of Fame was announced, he shrugged off his innovations.

“I’ve never invented anything, but always



JENNIFER STEWART/GETTY IMAGES



MICLO STEWART/INTERNATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

Top: Tony La Russa, now the Chief Baseball Officer of the Arizona Diamondbacks, holds “Grumpy Cat” during a 2015 game at Chase Field. **Above:** La Russa examines Lou Gehrig artifacts during his Hall of Fame Orientation Tour in the spring of 2014. He was one of three managerial greats inducted that year, along with Bobby Cox and Joe Torre.

somebody taught me something,” he said.

In George F. Will’s extraordinary 1990 book “Men at Work: The Craft of Baseball,” the author stated “the meticulous preparation, minute observations and aggressive strategies... have made Tony La Russa of the Oakland Athletics the model of the modern manager.”

Jim Leyland, La Russa’s third-base coach for four years (1982-85) with the White Sox, said, “I’ve never known anyone who prepares

more for a game. He taught me so much.”

First signed as a free agent by the Kansas City A’s in 1962, La Russa was a middle infielder who spent parts of six seasons in the majors and many more toiling in the minor leagues. He ended his career with the Triple-A New Orleans Pelicans in 1977. Seeing the writing on the wall as a player, he earned a law degree from Florida State University in 1978 and was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1979.

About practicing law, he once said, “I decided I’d rather ride the buses in the minor leagues than practice law for a living.”

But prior to graduating from law school, he discussed his future plans with his professors. He told them he had an opportunity to coach in the minor leagues and wanted their opinions.

One professor responded, “Grow up, you’re an adult now. You’re going to be a lawyer.”

Turns out that was the wrong answer. Before the summer of ’79 was complete, La Russa was in the dugout for the Chicago White Sox – as a major league manager.

As he looks back, La Russa says keeping it simple and remembering the game is a competition is the most important thing.

“The reason you put a team together is to play against another team. You keep score. And the way that works is the organization,” he said. “If there was one thing that I was taught growing up in the Athletics organization years ago, it’s about the whole organization.

“I’ve said it many times, I was so fortunate – Chicago White Sox, Oakland A’s, St. Louis Cardinals. If you want to win, you have to have it together, everybody coordinated and just have it go your way.”

“The best lesson Tony taught me was to make sure you have your players prepared every day,” said Leyland, who remains a close friend. “That’s a tough thing to do when you play 162 games, but his teams were always ready to play. That’s one of the most important things to managing.”

Baseball has changed so much since La Russa managed his first game. Today, computers, iPads and sabermetrics have replaced much of the human element.

La Russa believes sabermetrics is a “really important tool that can help an organization compete, whether it’s in free agency or professional scouting. It can help in development and it can help as you put together your plan to compete.

“But in the 2000s, it became the flavor of the month. In a sense, you had to have it and there were more and more formulas that were developed. I certainly understand when (an executive) has a background that’s more intellectual and they want to get involved, but I believe it has gone way too far in some cases into what it can do to help you score more runs than the other team.

“You [need to] balance that tool with all the



After he stepped away from the dugout following the Cardinals' 2011 World Series victory, Tony La Russa (right) spent more than two years working in the Commissioner's Office. He then became the Chief Baseball Officer for the Arizona Diamondbacks, where he could get back on the field for discussions like this one with team pitching coach Mike Butcher during Spring Training.

other tools that come together to create your best competitive chance. ... I mean if you don't have the traditional, old-fashioned, old-time scouts who are out there giving opinions about character, competitiveness and willingness to learn, then you'll miss a prospect like David Eckstein (who became an All-Star shortstop with the Cardinals) for example.

"You cannot just create some type of model, send it down to the minor leagues and end up with a finished player who's going to win you a championship. Some organizations really believe that they are better suited at creating the lineups and the strategies that way. To me, that's going too far.

"The dynamics of each game, each series can change inning by inning. You must empower your manager and coaches with the authority to adapt and make adjustments."

He agrees teams are foolish not to take advantage of sabermetrics, "but they need to learn where it fits. You don't want to disrespect other tools that have been around forever."

If baseball is La Russa's No. 1 passion, his love of animals comes in a close second.

He and his wife, the former Elaine Coker, are founders of Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation, headquartered in Walnut Creek, Calif. It saves abandoned and injured animals as well as running programs to bring dog and cat visits to abused children, hospital patients, seniors and shut-ins.

"When Elaine and I were married, we shared several priorities for animals that became more specially defined as companion animals," he said. "We were adopting rescues and contributing to non-profit organizations and realized there was a need in our county.

"We're now in our 26th year. We honor and treasure companion animals. You don't kill any companion animal that can be a member of someone's family."

The foundation has found a home for more than 30,000 animals while raising over \$100 million. More recently, the foundation has begun working with veterans suffering from

PTS (post-traumatic stress).

"Initially, our mission was that our people were going to help rescue companion animals," said La Russa. "After about our third year, we decided we needed to create more awareness of what the benefits are of having a companion animal join your family. We expanded our mission to 'animals rescuing people.'

"We realized a companion animal can greatly benefit a veteran with PTS. At this point, we've had over 400 matches with a veteran who's struggling.

"This is not a service dog, just a companion. We've had wonderful success – testimonials for what this has done to change lives."

Bottom line: Tony La Russa is a Hall of Famer – in Cooperstown and in life. 🏆

Hal Bodley, dean of American baseball writers, is senior correspondent for MLB.com. He has been covering Major League Baseball since 1958 and was USA TODAY baseball editor/columnist for 25 years before retiring in 2007.



Our Museum in Action

These ongoing projects are just a few of the ways the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum's Mission is being supported today.

WHAT WE'VE DONE TOGETHER

Catcher's Mask

A catcher's mask worn by Hall of Famer Mickey Cochrane is being conserved, thanks to a generous donation from Dean Cochran. Playing for the Philadelphia A's and the Detroit Tigers, Cochrane helped lead his teams to five pennants and three World Series crowns during his 13 big league seasons.

Baseball Cards Preservation

Baseball cards are one way that fans connect to the game, and we all share the memories of pouring over the stats on the back of our favorite player's card as a kid.

Several of the baseball cards in the Museum's collection were originally housed in scrapbooks and show damage – such as tape residue, creasing and areas of loss. Thanks to generous gifts from Edward Balderston Jr.,

1. Thanks to a donation by Dean Cochran, this catcher's mask worn by Mickey Cochrane has been preserved by the Museum. **2.** Gifts by Edward Balderston Jr., Wayne Hebden and Michael Kiner have helped the Museum start the process of conserving baseball cards of Hall of Famers, yet many more – including these of Yogi Berra and Eddie Collins – are still in need of treatment. **3.** This Ty Cobb baseball card from the famous T206 set is in need of treatment. **4.** Among the Museum's newest projects is the preservation of trophies that were presented to Lou Gehrig (left) and Ty Cobb. **5.** The Hall of Fame is seeking to digitize the more than 2,000 images it has of the first Induction Class, among them this Honus Wagner photo, with the goal of ultimately making them available to be viewed online.



Wayne Hebden and Michael Kiner, baseball cards featuring Richie Ashburn, Robin Roberts, Enos Slaughter, Red Schoendienst, Ralph Kiner and Hank Greenberg will be conserved.

Cards still in need treatment include Hall of Famers Yogi Berra, Lou Boudreau, John Clarkson, Eddie Collins, Sam Crawford, Bob Feller, George Kell, Johnny Mize, Phil Rizzuto, Warren Spahn and Early Wynn.

Estimated conservation cost: \$250 per card.



PHOTOS BY MILO STEWART FOR NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

WHAT YOU CAN HELP US DO

Ty Cobb T206

As the most popular and widely collected set of the tobacco/pre-war era, the Hall of Fame's T206 baseball cards are a special part of our baseball card collection, which numbers over 140,000. This T206 Ty Cobb (bat off shoulder variety) card has suffered a tear near the top, with the top quarter being completely separated from the remainder of the card. This will require significant work by a conservator in order to restore its condition.

Estimated conservation cost: \$400.

Digitizing Historic Photos of the First Five Hall of Famers

We need your help to begin the digitization of our photo collection with photographs featuring Babe Ruth, Ty Cobb, Walter Johnson, Honus Wagner and Christy Mathewson – the inaugural Class of 1936.

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. Once they are digitized, these images will be made available at baseballhall.org.

Cost of digitization per photo: \$5.

Preserving Trophies

We have two trophies in our collection that are in need of conservation work. The first trophy was presented as a farewell gift to Lou Gehrig on July 4, 1939, by his Yankees teammates at Yankee Stadium.

The second trophy is the George "Honey Boy" Evans trophy for the "World's Champion Batsman, National and American League," won by Ty Cobb in 1911. Cobb's batting average for that season was .417.

Estimated conservation cost: \$1,000 for the Gehrig trophy and \$1,500 for the Cobb trophy.

Rehousing Oversized Photos

The Hall of Fame photo collection contains more than two dozen very large photographs. These photos require special cabinets for storage as well as special archival polyester sleeves to ensure that these visually striking images are



preserved for future generations. There are currently 10 rare oversized photographs in need of archival sleeves.

Estimated cost: \$200.

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.



Cooperstown's Own

76 years ago, the Red Sox and Cubs launched the Hall of Fame Game tradition at Doubleday Field.

BY FRANK KEETZ

The date was Thursday, June 13, 1940. Advancing German armies were about to occupy Paris. Mussolini and his Italian forces had just invaded southern France. Stalin's Soviet troops occupied half of Poland and were set to overrun Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Meanwhile, the United States was not yet a formal combatant in World War II, with Pearl Harbor more than 17 months away. Heavyweight champion Joe Louis was training to fight Arturo Godoy. Thomas Dewey and Wendell Willkie were vying for the Republican presidential nomination to oppose Franklin D. Roosevelt, who was on his way to a historic third term. A Chevrolet Coupe cost \$659, while a new Oldsmobile was priced at \$807. Depression-era unemployment remained at a still-disturbing 14.2 percent.

And in Fort Plain, N.Y. – a small village (population 2,770 in 1940) in Central New York – there was history. Two trains, coming from opposite directions, were depositing Major League Baseball players who were scheduled to play a game that afternoon in nearby Cooperstown, a similar small village (population 2,599).

It was a travel day for both the Boston Red Sox and Chicago Cubs. The teams were to play the first-ever game between two major league teams in Cooperstown, a game approved and arranged by the major leagues while cooperating with the Cooperstown Baseball Committee.

Thus the Hall of Fame Game was born 76 years ago.

A year earlier – on June 12, 1939 – the National Baseball Museum (now the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum) opened its doors to the public.

That same day, a “pick up” game between a batch of big leaguers was played at Doubleday Field – with Hall of Famers Eddie Collins and Honus Wagner serving as managers. But it was in 1940 that the tradition of an annual exhibition game in Cooperstown began in earnest.

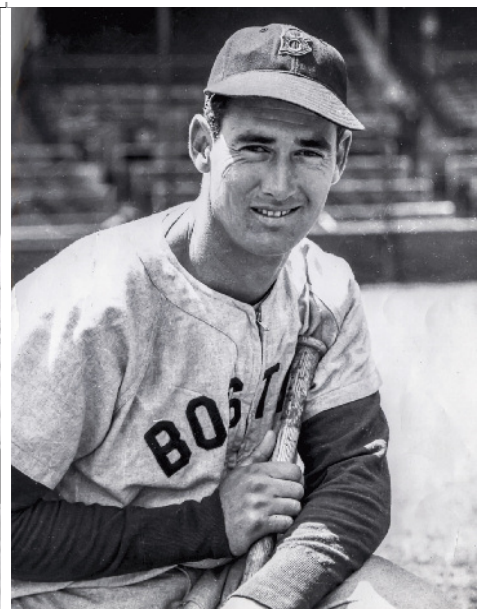
To get two MLB teams to Cooperstown at the same time during the middle of the season was a problem – but a solvable one. The New York Central Railroad ran through the region, and the Cubs and Red Sox were traveling that

same railroad through the Mohawk Valley on June 13 – the Cubs coming from New York City on the heels of a series with the Giants, and the Red Sox heading west after sweeping a two-game set from the Indians at Fenway Park. Both teams disembarked at Fort Plain, less than 30 miles away from Doubleday Field.

New York Central train No. 43 arrived at 7:10 that morning. A group of sturdy, sun-tanned Red Sox players emptied into the station platform. Included in the entourage were sports reporters from six different Boston newspapers. A large number of curious locals milled about the station as players, officials and reporters – all wondering, “Where’s Cooperstown?” – climbed into 10 private cars for the ride to Doubleday Field. A truck carrying team equipment followed.

The ride was through real “country” on a narrow, winding road over gently rolling hills. The caravan passed through tiny hamlets that included Hallsville, Starkville, Van Hornesville and East Springfield before nearing Cooperstown and beautiful Otsego Lake. It was now James Fenimore Cooper territory, land of “The Last of the Mohicans.” Soon the Red Sox were in Cooperstown, where both teams were quartered at the historic Cooper Inn. A complete dinner, with tablecloth, was available at the Inn for \$1.

The hosting committee planned a luncheon and dinner for the teams before and after the 2 p.m. game. They also allocated time for the players to tour the village, the highlight of



Cubs third baseman Stan Hack (left) was the first batter in the first Hall of Fame Game – and homered off of future Hall of Famer Lefty Grove on the second pitch of the game. Future Hall of Famer Ted Williams (right) hit a pair of home runs in the game and drove in four runs, but it wasn't enough as the Cubs prevailed, 10-9, in a rain-shortened affair.

which would be a visit to the Hall of Fame – already featuring a growing collection of artifacts, photos and, of course, the plaques of the first 26 inductees.

Players walked half a block south from the Cooper Inn to Main Street, then strolled past a variety of small-town shops, stores and offices on their way to the Hall of Fame: A bakery, a Victory market, Smalley's Movie Theater (which was showing Dorothy Lamour in *Typhoon*), a lawyer's office, Augur's Corner Bookstore, a diner, the Ellsworth & Sill department store, a pharmacy, another market, a local bank ("1% return on FDIC insured deposit") and a gas station selling 1940 Play Ball baseball cards for a few pennies (slab of gum included).

Meanwhile, the fourth-place Chicago Cubs, accompanied by three reporters, arrived from Fort Plain shortly after noon. They ate a quick lunch before shuffling off to Doubleday Field, a former cow pasture where Abner Doubleday was thought to have laid out the original baseball diamond in 1839.

With seating for 7,000 fans, Doubleday Field featured a special raised view from the third-base side – reserved for 50 expected reporters and connected by four Western Union wires. Grandstand seats cost \$1.50, with first and third base seats priced at \$1. Bleacher tickets in the outfield could be had for 55 cents.

A large crowd was expected at the Thursday game, and most local merchants closed their stores while it was in progress, even though Father's Day was just three days around the corner. Intermittent showers had been predicted – and some rain had fallen in the morning – but it was dry by game time.

The small dimensions of Doubleday Field portended a high-scoring game, and it didn't take long for each team to dent the scoreboard. Cubs leadoff batter Stan Hack hit 40-year-old Lefty Grove's second pitch out of the park, and Bill Nicholson followed three batters later with a two-run shot to give Chicago a 3-0 lead.

The Red Sox quickly tied the game with a three-run second inning, highlighted by Ted Williams' towering home run – with the ball landing on the porch of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Root. The teams traded runs during the next four innings, and entered the seventh tied, 4-4.

With a light rain now falling, 11 runners crossed the plate that inning, six from Chicago and five from Boston – including three on a shot by Williams, his second homer of the day.



Members of the Boston Red Sox warm up prior to the June 13, 1940, Hall of Fame Game at Doubleday Field. The Red Sox played the Cubs that day, beginning a 68-year tradition of the annual Hall of Fame Game in Cooperstown.

As the rain became heavier, the Red Sox's Jim Tabor did not run out a bunt attempt – reportedly because he was under orders not to do so. That marked the third out of the bottom of inning, and the game was then called due to rain, giving the Cubs a 10-9 win. The contest featured 22 hits and seven home runs, and was played in a brisk one hour and 30 minutes.

Red Sox rookie Dom DiMaggio ended up at Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital in Cooperstown after crashing into the left-center field seating area while chasing a fly ball from the Cubs' Billy Rogell. *Boston Herald* writer Burt Whitman reported "great pain" for DiMaggio due to "badly bruised" facial abrasions and "severe cuts on both legs." Manager Joe Cronin was initially concerned about possible eye damage, but hours after the game, DiMaggio left Cooperstown with his teammates on the way to Fort Plain to catch the train. The injuries, however, kept DiMaggio out of the lineup for eight days.

Both teams used most of their regular position players in the game, though Red Sox second baseman Bobby Doerr – a future Hall of Famer – was held out due to a nagging ankle injury.

Attendance figures vary, but the crowd appeared to be in the area of 4,000 fans. Gate receipts, totaling \$3,500, went to support the Museum, as did the \$100 raised from the sale of programs at 5 cents apiece.

Following the game, the players were free to visit the village and Hall of Fame before dinner at the Cooper Inn. Both teams then took the ride back to Fort Plain, where the Cubs left on the 7:04 p.m. sleeper train bound for Boston. The Red Sox boarded the westbound Commodore Vanderbilt sleeper train at 8:20 p.m., headed to Chicago for a series against the White Sox.

The Cubs, forced to play a day game on June 14, lost to the Boston Bees, 4-2, at Braves Field. Meanwhile, the Red Sox and White Sox played under the lights at Comiskey Park, where the Red Sox, at the time in first place in the American League, prevailed, 5-1.

Seven participants in the 1940 Hall of Fame Game eventually earned Hall of Fame induction: Billy Herman and Gabby Hartnett for the Cubs (though Hartnett, the Cubs' manager, did not play in the game) and Cronin, Doerr (who didn't play), Jimmie Foxx, Grove and Williams from the Red Sox.

On Dec. 11, 1940, the American and National leagues voted to make the Hall of Fame Game an annual part of the big league schedule – a tradition that remained in place for more than 60 years. 📌

Frank Keetz is a freelance writer from Schenectady, N.Y.



Loving the Game... Inside and Out

Modified versions of baseball keep the National Pastime connected to fans.

BY RICK BURTON

Perhaps no other American sport has been modified as successfully as baseball during the last 175 years. From wooden board games invented in the 1860s to softball, stickball, Wiffle Ball and Wii, much of baseball's enduring charm and relevance in American society has been drawn from the game's malleability – which has consistently changed to fit the times, the physical setting or an individual's mobility.

To be sure, baseball, as most perceive it, is a game requiring significant real estate (large open fields) dating back to the 1840s and 1850s when the game we now know began to coalesce.

This was a pre-Civil War time when agrarian America was embracing its “Manifest Destiny” approach to land, and there was strong encouragement for youth to explore or “go outside and play.” But as America became increasingly urbanized, some of those spaces – particularly during America's industrial era – began shrinking and various inventors and entrepreneurs began retooling America's nascent game to suit their environment.

One of baseball's first form-shifters may have been Francis Sebring of Hoboken, N.J., who in 1865 designed a wooden board game called Parlor Base Ball for a bedridden baseball player. Sebring's concept incorporated the equivalent of a pinball flipper flicking a coin across a two-foot wide “field” with numerous holes that produced “outs” if the coin did not come to rest on the plank.

When Parlor Base Ball caught on with recreation clubs and families, it was not long before player-endorsed board games followed with the expensive and heavy wooden field replaced by die-cut cardboard. It was also a time when dice or cards were first used to simulate actual performances by real-life players such as Cy Young, Dan Brouthers and John Montgomery Ward.

By 1931, Clifford Van Beek's National Pastime would initiate a statistic-fueled

revolution that was ultimately followed by more modern versions like Strat-O-Matic, APBA and All-Star Baseball (with its famed spinner and circular player discs) as well as Rotisserie baseball. These games were not only transportable, but could be played inside, outside, in cars, while lying on tiny living room floors or while seated at a desk.

Less than 25 years after Sebring's indoor invention in New Jersey, the early roots of “softball” would begin spreading across the Midwest. The year was 1887, and during the annual Harvard-Yale football game, supporters from both teams gathered at the Farragut Boat Club in Chicago to await the game's outcome. As the story is now recounted, when Yale was announced the victor, a Bulldog alum threw an old boxing glove at a Crimson fan, who reportedly batted it back with a broom handle.

When an onlooker yelled, “Play Ball!,” a game of indoor baseball was devised by the Boat Club (which subsequently created rules), and over the years variations known as pumpkin ball, kitten ball and indoor baseball would find favor throughout the Midwest. By 1926, a YMCA representative named Walter Hakanson was using the term “softball,” and eight years later, in 1934, the National Recreation Congress' Joint Rules Committee on Softball standardized a set of rules governing, among other things, the size of the ball.



Future Hall of Famer Willie Mays often played stickball in the streets of New York when he was a young ballplayer with the Giants. Through stickball, which adapted to the confines of city life, many children experienced baseball for the first time.

Interestingly, the ball's size was a major topic of debate since Chicagoans used a 16-inch ball (as had been favored by the Farragut Boat Club members) and did not allow the use of gloves, whereas many other competitions in the Midwest (notably Minneapolis) preferred a 12-inch ball as well as gloves modified to accommodate a spheroid larger than a baseball.

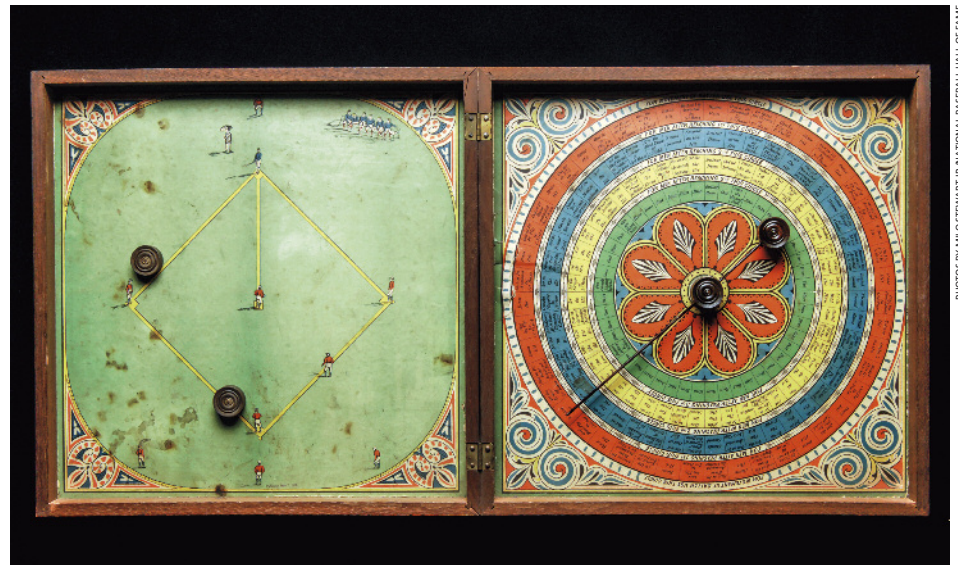
The Midwest was not alone in its ability to modify baseball, and where the Chicago version – often called cabbage ball, mush ball and super slow pitch – utilized parks and fields, New York City's newly arrived immigrants (approximately 15 million between 1900 and 1915) were developing a different model for their narrow streets. In the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Manhattan, the game of "stickball" was taking shape with a unique set of boundaries, field dimensions and varying number of fielders dodging trash cans, wary pedestrians and brownstone stoops.

For this game, buildings, awnings or lamp-posts served as foul poles, and manhole covers or parked cars stood in for bases. Walls were sometimes chalked as strike zones and if a batter hit the rubber ball – often a pink Spalden that would not break windows and was known for its elongated back-spinning shape when hit – some neighborhoods prohibited running due to the dangers of moving vehicles or "deadly" fire hydrants and the absence of logical base paths. To compensate for this inconvenience, the distance the ball traveled (or the number of street lights surpassed) often determined its value as a hit.

In the early 1960s when New York Yankees first baseman Joe Pepitone was selected for a feature story in *Look* magazine on the "Million Dollar Infield," the publication took photos of the Brooklyn-born player out on the streets playing the game he'd grown up on (using a traditional – but modified – broom handle) and showing the form that helped drive and sustain the game's urban growth.

While stickball worked well in the city, America was also a country of suburban driveways and postage stamp backyards. This setting, specifically a single-family home in Fairfield, Conn., was where David Mullany invented the plastic Wiffle ball in 1953 for his sons and their friends.

Initially, Mullany's sons were attempting to play baseball with a plastic golf ball. Fearing they would "throw their arms out," Mullany



PHOTOS BY MILO STEWART JR./NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME



imagined a larger ball with curious parabola-like holes cut into its top half (to facilitate throwing curves). Incorporating the word "whiff," a synonym for striking out, Mullany launched a plastic bat-and-ball concept that captivated post-Korean War America and stood (along with the Frisbee, Super Ball and Slinky) as a touchstone for Americans of the late 20th century.

And what of the modern era?

The modern indoor version of baseball has been found on Game Boys, Wiis, Xboxes, PlayStations, iPads and Samsungs – and future versions will almost certainly incorporate augmented reality, where a device like Oculus Rift will create a total immersion system allowing young and old alike to step into the batter's box to face a Bob Gibson or Randy Johnson heater or round the virtual bases after "going yard" on a 3-2 fastball.

It is this ongoing flexibility that has ensured that baseball (and its many modifications) can keep fans of all ages connected to the game. The ball's construction may have at one time



Board games simulating baseball action began to emerge almost as quickly as the real game in the 19th century, a response to the country's love of baseball. The Hall of Fame's collection features several of these historic board games.

featured horsehide, yarn and thick stitching, but it is clear the game will gladly accommodate wood, cardboard, plastic, rubber and digital bits to produce enjoyable alternative ways to play the game. 🏆

Rick Burton is the David B. Falk Professor of Sport Management at Syracuse University. His work was inspired by the research of one of his Syracuse Honors students, Daniel Drashinsky, and by an interview with Pro Football Hall of Fame running back Floyd Little, who played stickball while growing up in New Haven, Conn.



At Home on the Range

From an early age, the outdoors have provided me another “field of dreams.”

BY FERGIE JENKINS



JIM MCSAGGETTY IMAGES

Born in Chatham, Ontario, Hall of Fame pitcher Fergie Jenkins grew up enjoying the outdoors and later spent many offseasons during his 19-year big league career on his farm.

My dad was the first to introduce me to an active outdoors lifestyle, through hunting and fishing, and I was about 11 when I went on my first real rabbit hunt. I wasn't allowed to carry a gun, but I would step on a tree pile to try to scare the rabbits out.

As I got older, around the age of 15 or 16, I developed a love for fishing. We used to fish

Mitchell's Bay, which is not far from Chatham, Ontario. I bought my first fishing tackle around that time, and had purchased my first shotgun when I was 14 years old, funded by my paper route. As an older teenager, the outdoors were something I really enjoyed, and my dad continued to cultivate that passion.

Growing up, I had an uncle who owned a small ranch with a chicken and pig farm. My dad used to take me to the ranch to do chores.

I remember thinking that if I ever bought a ranch, I wouldn't raise chickens and pigs. But I did end up raising a lot of cattle, and I raised Appaloosa show horses, both in Canada and Oklahoma. I did that for well over 30 years. It was really enjoyable for me; farm life was kind of an escape. It was peaceful, very quiet.

Ranching was very interesting for me, learning about how you can influence the market by the way you sold cattle, horses and working the ground – even learning about farm equipment for planting certain types of crops. You needed a planter, a seed drill, a cultivator, a type of tractor to break the land up and other tractors to plant with. It was an educational experience to truly understand what farming was all about.

When I was pitching, as soon as the season was over, I went home to harvest corn or spend time on things like testing the land. You had to take the soil to a certain inspection area to know what kind of fertilizer to put back into your property. It gave me something to do in the winter months. I know a lot of guys take vacations. My vacation was to go home to the farm and get things done.

Living now in Arizona, I get blue skies all the time with temperatures in the 80s. Fishing is something I still enjoy. I own a Champion bass boat and there are four or five lakes in the area. Depending on the time of the year and when I want to go fishing, I can get to a lot of different fish. The program now is catch and release; I don't bring a lot of fish home to eat.

I still hunt in Colorado and Wyoming, and a good friend of mine, Bill Buckner, lives in Idaho. I also hunt in Illinois and Iowa. I have a bunch of good friends from when I played ball there, farmers who still own land around Peoria. (Former Cubs catcher) Jody Davis and I still hunt together.

For me, the outdoors are a way to stay in touch with a lot of my friends. I've met so many nice people in and out of baseball, and it's the same with the outdoors. You meet a lot of nice, conscientious people who really enjoy camping, fishing or hunting.

The outdoors are a place I have always enjoyed, and I continue to make it an important part of my life. 🍷

The winner of 284 major league games, Fergie Jenkins is a 1991 inductee into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

THE COOPERSTOWN COLLECTION

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STRIKING UP A FRIENDSHIP

Heading into the 1943 season, Ted Williams had played just four years for the Boston Red Sox. But he already was being compared to the game's greatest hitter: Babe Ruth.

Little wonder that the two sluggers – one retired for more than eight years and the other serving in the United States Marines – were stars of the show on July 12, 1943, at Fenway Park during a war benefit game.

In this photo taken in the Fenway Park clubhouse, Ruth hands Williams an autographed baseball while The Splendid Splinter lights Babe's cigar. Williams, then stationed at Chapel Hill, N.C., at the Navy's Pre-Flight School, was part of Ruth's All-Star team that played a Boston Braves squad managed by Casey Stengel. Williams homered to lead the All-Stars to a 9-8 victory in front of 18,000 fans.

Williams, then 24, won the American League Triple Crown in 1942 before enlisting in the Marines. He would miss three seasons during World War II, but in his first four years with the Red Sox had won two AL home run crowns, two batting titles – including his since unmatched .406 average in 1941 – and led the league in runs scored three times.

Many believed Williams would one day threaten Ruth's single-season record of 60 home runs. And while he would never hit more than 43 home runs in any one season, Williams did club 521 round-trippers in his 19-year career and his lifetime batting average (.344) and on-base percentage (.482) would both surpass Ruth's career averages.

All told, Williams missed almost five full seasons while serving as a pilot in the Marines – including another stint during the Korean War in 1952 and 1953.



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After a slow start to spring in 2016,
the daffodils returned to Cooperstown –
along with blue skies and warm breezes.

