



# NEWS

NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM, INC.

25 Main Street, Cooperstown, NY 13326-0590

Phone: (607) 547-0215 Fax: (607)547-2044

Web Site Address – [baseballhall.org](http://baseballhall.org)

E-Mail – [info@baseballhall.org](mailto:info@baseballhall.org)

Jon Shestakofsky, Vice President, Communications & Education  
Craig Muder, Communications Director

PRESERVING HISTORY. HONORING EXCELLENCE. CONNECTING GENERATIONS.

## AROUND THE HORN

### *BBWAA Election Edition*

*News & Notes from the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum*

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### ELECTION HEADQUARTERS

Induction Weekend 2019 at the Baseball Hall of Fame will be held July 19-22 in Cooperstown, with the *Induction Ceremony* scheduled for 1:30 p.m. ET on Sunday, July 21 at the Clark Sports Center...The Class of 2019 will feature five-time All-Star **Harold Baines** and former all-time saves king **Lee Smith** along with any candidates who are elected by the Baseball Writers' Association of America...2019 J.G. Taylor Spink Award winner **Jayson Stark** and 2019 Ford C. Frick Award winner **Al Helfer** will be honored during Induction Weekend at the *Awards Presentation* on Saturday, July 20 in Cooperstown.

**CRUNCH TIME:** 2019 Hall of Fame ballots have been returned to the BBWAA from eligible 10-year Baseball Writers' Association of America (BBWAA) members...Results will be announced **Tuesday, Jan. 22 at 6 p.m. ET**...MLB Network will air extensive coverage, interviews and analysis beginning at 3 p.m. ET, then televise the announcement live as Hall of Fame President Jeff Idelson delivers the results...The announcement will also be simulcast on **MLB.com**.

**THE CANDIDATES:** The 2019 BBWAA ballot was announced Nov. 19 and consists of: Rick Ankiel, Jason Bay, Lance Berkman, Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens, Freddy García, Jon Garland, Travis Hafner, Roy Halladay, Todd Helton, Andruw Jones, Jeff Kent, Ted Lilly, Derek Lowe, Edgar Martínez, Fred McGriff, Mike Mussina, Darren Oliver, Roy Oswalt, Andy Pettitte, Juan Pierre, Plácido Polanco, Manny Ramírez, Mariano Rivera, Scott Rolen, Curt Schilling, Gary Sheffield, Sammy Sosa, Miguel Tejada, Omar Vizquel, Billy Wagner, Larry Walker, Vernon Wells, Kevin Youkilis and Michael Young...For candidate bios, visit [baseballhall.org/BBWAA](http://baseballhall.org/BBWAA)...First-time eligibles are Ankiel, Bay, Berkman, García, Garland, Hafner, Halladay, Helton, Lilly, Lowe, Oliver, Oswalt, Pettitte, Pierre, Polanco, Rivera, Tejada, Wells, Youkilis and Young...Holdover candidates include Martínez, who was named on 70.4 percent of the BBWAA ballots cast in 2018, and Mussina, who was named on 63.5 percent of ballots cast a year ago...Other returning candidates include Bonds, Clemens, Jones, Kent, McGriff, Ramírez, Rolen, Schilling, Sheffield, Sosa, Vizquel, Wagner and Walker.

**THE VOTING ELECTORATE:** A total of 422 ballots were cast by BBWAA voters in 2018...Voting privileges are extended to those BBWAA members meeting their organization's Hall of Fame voting qualifications and in good standing with the BBWAA...Voters can select from zero to 10 names on their Hall of Fame ballot...Votes on 75 percent of all ballots cast are necessary for election.

**CREDIT AN ASSIST:** Thanks to the firm of Ernst and Young for its assistance in verifying the vote and the voting process, year-in and year-out.

**THE 2018 BALLOT:** The BBWAA ballot featured 33 players, including 19 new candidates and 14 returnees...Candidates appearing on the necessary 75 percent of all ballots cast to earn election appear in bold below...Candidates receiving less than five percent of the vote are no longer eligible for BBWAA consideration and appear in italics below...Fifteen players return for consideration in 2019...A total of 422 votes were cast, with 317 votes necessary for election and 21 votes necessary to remain on the ballot...Chipper Jones and Jim Thome became the 53<sup>rd</sup> and 54<sup>th</sup> players elected to the Hall on their first BBWAA ballot...The final results, in order of percentage received with number of years on the ballot:

NAME	YR	2018	NAME	YR	2018	NAME	YR	2018
<b>Chipper Jones</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>97.2%</b>	Fred McGriff	9	23.2%	<i>Hideki Matsui</i>	1	0.9%
<b>Vladimir Guerrero</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>92.9%</b>	Manny Ramírez	2	22.0%	<i>Chris Carpenter</i>	1	0.5%
<b>Jim Thome</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>89.8%</b>	Jeff Kent	5	14.5%	<i>Kerry Wood</i>	1	0.5%
<b>Trevor Hoffman</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>79.9%</b>	Gary Sheffield	4	11.1%	<i>Liván Hernández</i>	1	0.2%
Edgar Martínez	9	70.4%	Billy Wagner	3	11.1%	<i>Carlos Lee</i>	1	0.2%
Mike Mussina	5	63.5%	Scott Rolen	1	10.2%	<i>Orlando Hudson</i>	1	0.0%
Roger Clemens	6	57.3%	Sammy Sosa	6	7.8%	<i>Aubrey Huff</i>	1	0.0%
Barry Bonds	6	56.4%	Andruw Jones	1	7.3%	<i>Jason Istringhausen</i>	1	0.0%
Curt Schilling	5	51.2%	<i>Jamie Moyer</i>	1	2.4%	<i>Brad Lidge</i>	1	0.0%
Omar Vizquel	1	37.0%	<i>Johan Santana</i>	1	2.4%	<i>Kevin Millwood</i>	1	0.0%
Larry Walker	8	34.1%	<i>Johnny Damon</i>	1	1.9%	<i>Carlos Zambrano</i>	1	0.0%

**CAREFUL SELECTION:** 2019 marks the 75<sup>th</sup> Hall of Fame election held by the BBWAA...Starting in 1936, the BBWAA has elected someone 66 times and on eight occasions it did not elect anyone (1945, 1946, 1950, 1958, 1960, 1971, 1996, 2013)...On nine occasions, no election was held (1940, 1941, 1943, 1944, 1957, 1959, 1961, 1963, 1965)...The BBWAA membership has elected from zero to five candidates in each of its 74 elections...As quantified in the chart below, the BBWAA has voted in one player or two players more than any other quantity (26 times apiece).

ELECTED	TIMES	LAST	CLASS
5	1	1936	Cobb, Johnson, Mathewson, Ruth, Wagner
4	4	2018	Guerrero, Hoffman, Jones, Thome
3	9	2017	Bagwell, Raines, Rodríguez
2	26	2016	Griffey Jr., Piazza
1	26	2012	Larkin
0	8	2013	----

**NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE:** A partial list of eligible first-time players for upcoming Hall of Fame elections includes: **2020:** Derek Jeter, Paul Konerko, Cliff Lee, Alfonso Soriano; **2021:** Tim Hudson, Torii Hunter, Aramis Ramírez, Barry Zito; **2022:** Prince Fielder, David Ortíz, Álex Rodríguez, Mark Teixeira; **2023:** Carlos Beltrán, John Lackey, Francisco Rodríguez, Jayson Werth; **2024:** Adrián Beltré, Joe Mauer, Chase Utley, David Wright.

**RULES FOR ELECTION:** Voting criteria for BBWAA electors can be found at <http://baseballhall.org/hall-famers/rules-election/bbwaa>...Voting rules state that: “Voting shall be based upon the player's record, playing ability, integrity, sportsmanship, character, and contributions to the team(s) on which the player played.”

**THE GAME’S ELITE:** The Hall of Fame is comprised of 325 elected members...Included are 228 former major league players, 30 executives, 35 Negro Leaguers, 22 managers and 10 umpires...The BBWAA has elected 128 candidates to the Hall while the veterans committees (in all forms) have chosen 171 deserving candidates (100 major leaguers, 30 executives, 22 managers, 10 umpires and nine Negro Leaguers)...The defunct “Committee on Negro Baseball Leagues” selected nine men between 1971-77 and the Special Committee on Negro Leagues in 2006 elected 17 Negro Leaguers...There are currently 77 living members, tied for the most at any time in Hall of Fame history.

**77 AMBASSADORS:** The 77 living members of the Hall of Fame are: Henry Aaron, Roberto Alomar, Luis Aparicio, Jeff Bagwell, Harold Baines, Johnny Bench, Craig Biggio, Bert Blyleven, Wade Boggs, George Brett, Lou Brock, Rod Carew, Steve Carlton, Orlando Cepeda, Bobby Cox, Andre Dawson, Dennis Eckersley, Rollie Fingers, Carlton Fisk, Whitey Ford, Bob Gibson, Pat Gillick, Tom Glavine, Goose Gossage, Ken Griffey Jr., Vladimir Guerrero, Rickey Henderson, Whitey Herzog, Trevor Hoffman, Reggie Jackson, Ferguson Jenkins, Randy Johnson, Chipper Jones, Al Kaline, Sandy Koufax, Barry Larkin, Tony La Russa, Tom Lasorda, Greg Maddux, Juan Marichal, Pedro Martínez, Willie Mays, Bill Mazeroski, Paul Molitor, Joe Morgan, Jack Morris, Eddie Murray, Phil Niekro, Jim Palmer, Tony Pérez, Gaylord Perry, Mike Piazza, Tim Raines, Jim Rice, Cal Ripken, Brooks Robinson, Frank Robinson, Iván Rodríguez, Nolan Ryan, Ryne Sandberg, Mike Schmidt, John Schuerholz, Tom Seaver, Bud Selig, Lee Smith, Ozzie Smith, John Smoltz, Bruce Sutter, Don Sutton, Frank Thomas, Jim Thome, Joe Torre, Alan Trammell, Billy Williams, Dave Winfield, Carl Yastrzemski and Robin Yount.

**CONNECTING GENERATIONS:** Tommy Lasorda, born Sept. 22, 1927, is currently the oldest living Hall of Famer at 91...Vladimir Guerrero, who was born on Feb. 9, 1975, is the youngest living Hall of Famer at 43 years of age.

**BETWEEN THE LINES:** Including Negro League players, the following is a breakdown by position of the 257 Hall of Famers who earned their election on the playing field...Also included is the last major leaguer to be elected at each position...Numbers in parenthesis indicate Hall of Famers elected by the BBWAA at each position.

<b>Pitchers</b> ..... 80 (42)	<b>Second Baseman</b> ..21 (11)	<b>Left Fielders</b> .....22 (12)
<b>Catchers</b> ..... 18 (10)	<b>Third Baseman</b> ..... 17 (8)	<b>Center Fielders</b> .....24 (8)
<b>First Baseman</b> ..... 23 (11)	<b>Shortstops</b> .....25 (11)	<b>Right Fielders</b> .....25 (14)
<b>Designated Hitter</b> .... 2 (1)		

DH: Baines (2019)

PITCHER: Smith (2019)

SECOND BASE: Biggio (2015)

LEFT FIELD: Raines (2017)

CATCHER: Rodríguez (2017)

THIRD BASE: Jones (2018)

CENTER FIELD: Griffey Jr. (2016)

FIRST BASE: Thome (2018)

SHORTSTOP: Trammell (2018)

RIGHT FIELD: Guerrero (2018)

**FIRST THINGS FIRST:** With the election of Chipper Jones and Jim Thome in 2018, 54 players have been elected in their first year of eligibility (16 pitchers, seven RF, six 3B, six LF, five CF, five SS, three 2B, three 1B, two catchers and one DH; position based on where electee played the majority of his big league games)...In 12 of the last 18 elections, at least one player has been elected in his first year of eligibility...Other than the inaugural Hall of Fame election, 1999, 2014 and 2015 are the only three years where as many as three first-year candidates were elected at once...NOTE: Lou Gehrig (who received votes in 1936 while active and then was elected by acclamation in 1939) and Roberto Clemente (by special election in 1973) were each elected through a non-traditional process and are not counted in the 54.

YEAR	NAME	YEAR	NAME	YEAR	NAME	YEAR	NAME
1936	Ty Cobb	1980	Al Kaline	1993	Reggie Jackson	2007	Tony Gwynn
1936	Honus Wagner	1981	Bob Gibson	1994	Steve Carlton	2009	Rickey Henderson
1936	Babe Ruth	1982	Hank Aaron	1995	Mike Schmidt	2014	Greg Maddux
1936	Christy Mathewson	1982	Frank Robinson	1999	Nolan Ryan	2014	Tom Glavine
1936	Walter Johnson	1983	Brooks Robinson	1999	George Brett	2014	Frank Thomas
1962	Jackie Robinson	1985	Lou Brock	1999	Robin Yount	2015	Randy Johnson
1962	Bob Feller	1986	Willie McCovey	2001	Kirby Puckett	2015	Pedro Martínez
1966	Ted Williams	1988	Willie Stargell	2001	Dave Winfield	2015	John Smoltz
1969	Stan Musial	1989	Johnny Bench	2002	Ozzie Smith	2016	Ken Griffey Jr.
1972	Sandy Koufax	1989	Carl Yastrzemski	2003	Eddie Murray	2017	Iván Rodríguez
1973	Warren Spahn	1990	Jim Palmer	2004	Dennis Eckersley	2018	Chipper Jones
1974	Mickey Mantle	1990	Joe Morgan	2004	Paul Molitor	2018	Jim Thome
1977	Ernie Banks	1991	Rod Carew	2005	Wade Boggs		
1979	Willie Mays	1992	Tom Seaver	2007	Cal Ripken		

**TRY AND TRY AGAIN:** The 72 men not elected by the BBWAA in their first year eligible were done so on a later ballot, taking from two to 16 elections...The length of time a player could stay on the BBWAA ballot has varied throughout history...From 1946-56, the rule was that a player must have been active at some point in the 25 years prior to the election – it was increased to 30 years from 1956-62, was 20 years from 1963-2014 and is now 15 years...When one walks through the Hall of Fame Gallery, though, the year or method by which players were elected are not noted...The 72 non-first year BBWAA electees: **2nd election** (Alomar, Berra, Fingers, Fisk, Ford, Guerrero, Lajoie, Speaker, Young); **3rd election** (Alexander, Biggio, Grove, Hoffman, Hubbell, Hunter, Jenkins, Larkin, Marichal, Ott, Perry, Sandberg); **4th election** (E.Collins, DiMaggio, Keeler, Killebrew, Piazza, Roberts, Sisler, Wynn); **5th election** (Campanella, Hornsby, Mathews, Niekro, Sutton); **6th election** (Aparicio, Carter, Cochrane, Frisch, Gehringer, P.Waner, B.Williams); **7th election** (Appling, Bagwell, Foxx); **8th election** (Pennock, Traynor, Wilhelm); **9th election** (Dawson, Gossage, Greenberg, Medwick, Perez); **10th election** (Boudreau, Cronin, Dickey, Drysdale, Lyons, Raines, Simmons); **11th election** (Snider); **12th election** (Dean, Hartnett, Heilmann, Lemon); **13th election** (Kiner, Sutter); **14th election** (Blyleven, Maranville, Terry); **15th election** (Rice, Ruffing); **16th election** (Vance).

**ONE-TEAM WONDERS:** There are 52 Hall of Famers who spent their entire big league career with one team, with 2018 electees Chipper Jones and Alan Trammell the most recent additions to this list...The list includes: Luke Appling, Jeff Bagwell, Ernie Banks, Johnny Bench, Craig Biggio, George Brett, Roy Campanella, Roberto Clemente, Earle Combs, Bill Dickey, Joe DiMaggio, Bobby Doerr, Don Drysdale, Red Faber, Bob Feller, Whitey Ford, Lou Gehrig, Charlie Gehringer, Bob Gibson, Tony Gwynn, Carl Hubbell, Travis Jackson, Walter Johnson, Chipper Jones, Addie Joss, Al Kaline, Sandy Koufax, Barry Larkin, Bob Lemon, Ted Lyons, Mickey Mantle, Bill Mazerowski, Bid McPhee, Stan Musial, Mel Ott, Jim Palmer, Kirby Puckett, Pee Wee Reese, Jim Rice, Cal Ripken, Phil Rizzuto, Brooks Robinson, Jackie Robinson, Mike Schmidt, Willie Stargell, Alan Trammell, Pie Traynor, Bill Terry, Ted Williams, Carl Yastrzemski, Ross Youngs and Robin Yount.

**NINE TENTHS OF THE LAW:** No individual has been elected to the Hall of Fame by the BBWAA as a unanimous choice, though there have been many close calls...Chipper Jones and Vladimir Guerrero became the 32<sup>nd</sup> and 33<sup>rd</sup> players to earn at least 90 percent in any one BBWAA election...Ken Griffey Jr., who received 99.32% of the vote in 2016, set a record for highest vote percentage received in a BBWAA election...The 33 players with at least 90% of votes cast in their favor:

YEAR	PLAYER	BALLOTS CAST	VOTES RECEIVED	% RECEIVED	OMITTED BALLOTS
2016	Ken Griffey Jr.	440	437	99.32%	3
1992	Tom Seaver	430	425	98.84%	5
1999	Nolan Ryan	497	491	98.79%	6
2007	Cal Ripken	545	537	98.53%	8
1936	Ty Cobb	226	222	98.23%	4
1999	George Brett	497	488	98.19%	9
1982	Hank Aaron	415	406	97.83%	9
2007	Tony Gwynn	545	532	97.60%	13
2015	Randy Johnson	549	534	97.27%	15
2014	Greg Maddux	571	555	97.20%	16
2018	Chipper Jones	422	410	97.16%	12
1995	Mike Schmidt	460	444	96.52%	16
1989	Johnny Bench	447	431	96.42%	16
1994	Steve Carlton	456	436	95.61%	20
1936	Honus Wagner	226	215	95.13%	11
1936	Babe Ruth	226	215	95.13%	11
2009	Rickey Henderson	539	511	94.81%	28
1979	Willie Mays	432	409	94.67%	23
1989	Carl Yastrzemski	447	423	94.63%	24
1962	Bob Feller	160	150	93.75%	10
1993	Reggie Jackson	423	396	93.62%	27
1966	Ted Williams	302	282	93.37%	20
1969	Stan Musial	340	317	93.23%	23
2018	Vladimir Guerrero	392	422	92.89%	30
1990	Jim Palmer	444	411	92.57%	33
1983	Brooks Robinson	374	344	91.97%	30
2014	Tom Glavine	571	525	91.94%	46
2005	Wade Boggs	516	474	91.86%	42
2002	Ozzie Smith	472	433	91.74%	39
2015	Pedro Martinez	549	500	91.07%	49
1936	Christy Mathewson	226	205	90.70%	21
1991	Rod Carew	443	401	90.50%	42
2011	Roberto Alomar	581	523	90.02%	58

**CLOSE, BUT NO CIGAR:** Several individuals have come close to being elected to the Hall of Fame, but have missed by the slimmest of margins in a given year:

YEAR	PLAYER	BALLOTS CAST	VOTES RECEIVED	NEEDED/ELECTION	SHORT BY
2014	Craig Biggio	571	427	429	2
1985	Nellie Fox	395	295	297	2
1947	Pie Traynor	161	119	121	2
1986	Billy Williams	425	315	319	4
1988	Jim Bunning	427	317	321	4
2010	Bert Blyleven	539	400	405	5
2017	Trevor Hoffman	442	327	332	5
1994	Orlando Cepeda	455	335	342	7
1967	Joe Medwick	292	212	219	7
1945	Frank Chance	247	179	186	7
1953	Bill Terry	264	191	198	7
1982	Juan Marichal	415	305	312	7
1951	Paul Waner	226	162	170	8
1968	Roy Campanella	283	205	213	8
2010	Roberto Alomar	539	397	405	8
1975	Robin Roberts	362	263	272	9
1997	Don Sutton	473	346	355	9
2002	Gary Carter	472	343	354	11

**CLOSE, AND CIGAR:** Meanwhile, 25 Hall of Famers have earned election by 10 votes or less:

YEAR	PLAYER	VOTES NEEDED	RECEIVED	MARGIN
1939	Willie Keeler	206	207	1
1953	Al Simmons	198	199	1
1975	Ralph Kiner	272	273	1
1991	Ferguson Jenkins	333	334	1
1937	Cy Young	151	153	2
1947	Lefty Grove	121	123	2
1948	Pie Traynor	90	93	3
1948	Herb Pennock	90	94	4
1962	Jackie Robinson	120	124	4
2017	Iván Rodríguez	332	336	4
1972	Early Wynn	297	301	4
1987	Jim "Catfish" Hunter	310	315	5
1954	Bill Terry	189	195	6
1955	Gabby Hartnett	189	195	6
2005	Ryne Sandberg	387	393	6
1939	Eddie Collins	206	213	7
1942	Rogers Hornsby	175	182	7
1947	Mickey Cochrane	121	128	7
1956	Joe Cronin	145	152	7
1970	Lou Boudreau	225	232	7
2009	Jim Rice	405	412	7
1951	Jimmie Foxx	170	179	9
1991	Gaylord Perry	333	342	9
1974	Whitey Ford	274	284	10
2000	Tony Pérez	375	385	10

## TODAY'S GAME ERA COMMITTEE ELECTION

**TODAY'S GAME ERA COMMITTEE RESULTS:** Two electees emerged from voting by the Today's Game Era Committee on Dec. 9 at the Winter Meetings in Las Vegas...Former White Sox, Rangers, Athletics, Orioles and Indians outfielder/DH **Harold Baines** and former Cubs, Red Sox, Cardinals, Yankees, Orioles, Angels, Reds and Expos closer **Lee Smith** earned election...Both will be inducted at the 2019 Induction Ceremony on July 21 in Cooperstown...**RESULTS OF TODAY'S GAME ERA COMMITTEE ELECTION (12 NEEDED FOR ELECTION):** Lee Smith (16 votes, 100%), Harold Baines (12 votes, 75%), Lou Piniella (11 votes, 68.8%); Albert Belle, Joe Carter, Will Clark, Orel Hershiser, Davey Johnson, Charlie Manuel and George Steinbrenner each received fewer than five votes.

**KING HAROLD:** Harold Baines played 22 seasons for the White Sox, Rangers, Athletics, Orioles and Indians, earning six All-Star Game selections and twice winning the Designated Hitter of the Year Award (now named the Edgar Martinez Award)...An eight-time .300 hitter who reached the 20-homer mark in 11 seasons, Baines, drove in 90-or-more runs eight times and ranks 34<sup>th</sup> on the all-time list with 1,628 RBI...Baines' 2,830 games played rank 20<sup>th</sup> on the all-time list...Among batters who played at least 50 percent of their games as a designated hitter, Baines' 2,866 hits rank first and his and his 384 home runs and 1,628 RBI rank third behind only David Ortiz and Frank Thomas, respectively...Baines drove in 100-plus runs at age 26 in 1985 and at age 40 in 1999, the longest span (13 seasons) between 100-RBI seasons of any player in history.

**MR. SMITH GOES TO COOPERSTOWN:** Lee Smith pitched 18 seasons for the Cubs, Red Sox, Cardinals, Yankees, Orioles, Angels, Reds and Expos and retired as MLB's the all-time saves leader, a title he held for 13 seasons...Smith's 478 saves currently rank third all-time, as do his 802 games finished...A seven-time All-Star, Smith led his league in saves four times and reached the 30-save mark in 10 seasons...Smith finished in the Top 10 of his league's Cy Young Award voting three times, including a second-place finish in the NL Cy Young Award voting in 1991...Of Smith's 478 saves, 169 required at least four outs and 94 required two-or-more innings pitched...Smith averaged 8.73 strikeouts per nine innings, which ranks third all-time among pitchers with at least 1,000 appearances behind Trevor Hoffman (9.36) and Dan Plesac (8.74).

**LET'S GET TWO:** For the second straight year, a Hall of Fame veterans committee elected two living former big league players, with the election of Harold Baines and Lee Smith by the Today's Game Era Committee coming on the heels of the election of Jack Morris and Alan Trammell by the Modern Baseball Era Committee in 2017...The last time a veterans committee chose at least two living former big league players in back-to-back years was 1970-71, when Earle Combs and Jesse Haines were elected in 1970 and Dave Bancroft, Chick Hafey, Harry Hooper and Rube Marquard were elected in 1971.

**THE TODAY'S GAME ERA ELECTORATE:** The 16-member Today's Game Era electorate featured Hall of Fame members **Roberto Alomar, Bert Blyleven, Pat Gillick, Tony La Russa, Greg Maddux, Joe Morgan, John Schuerholz, Ozzie Smith and Joe Torre**; major league executives **Al Avila** (Tigers), **Paul Beeston** (Blue Jays), **Andy MacPhail** (Phillies), **Jerry Reinsdorf** (White Sox); and veteran media members/historians **Steve Hirdt, Tim Kurkjian and Claire Smith**... The Today's Game Era ballot was devised by the Baseball Writers' Association of America-appointed Historical Overview Committee, comprised of 11 veteran members: **Bob Elliott** (*Canadian Baseball Network*); **Jim Henneman** (formerly *Baltimore Sun*); **Steve Hirdt** (Elias Sports Bureau); **Rick Hummel** (*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*); **Bill Madden** (formerly *New York Daily News*); **Jack O'Connell** (BBWAA); **Jim Reeves** (formerly *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*); **Tracy Ringolsby** (*Baseball America*); **Glenn Schwarz** (formerly *San Francisco Chronicle*); **Dave Van Dyck** (formerly *Chicago Tribune*); and **Mark Whicker** (*Southern California News Group*)... The HOC annually sets ballots for the Era Committee elections.

**WHO'S ELIGIBLE:** The Today's Game Era covers candidates among managers, umpires, executives and long-retired players whose most significant career impact was realized from 1988 through the present... Eligible candidates include: Players who played in at least 10 major league seasons, who are not on Major League Baseball's ineligible list, and have been retired for 15 or more seasons; Managers and Umpires with 10 or more years in baseball and retired for at least five years; and Executives who have been retired for at least five years, with any active executives 70 or older eligible for consideration.

**FUTURE ELECTIONS:** Four eras for committee consideration have been identified by the Hall of Fame's Board of Directors: *Today's Game* (for candidates who made their most indelible contribution to baseball from 1988 to the present); *Modern Baseball* (for candidates who made their most indelible contribution to baseball from 1970 to 1987); *Golden Days* (for candidates who made their most indelible contribution to baseball from 1950 to 1969); and *Early Baseball* (for candidates who made their most indelible contribution to baseball prior to 1950)... The *Today's Game* and *Modern Baseball* eras will be considered twice each in a five-year period, with the *Golden Days* era considered once every five years and the *Early Baseball* era considered once every 10 years... Eras considered for yearly induction are as follows: **2020** – Modern Baseball; **2021** – Both Golden Days and Early Baseball; **2022** – Today's Game; **2023** – Modern Baseball; **2024** – Today's Game; **2025** – Modern Baseball; **2026** – Golden Days. *The Early Baseball era returns for induction consideration in 2031.*

## 2019 AWARD WINNERS

Jayson Stark, the 2019 winner of the Baseball Writers' Association of America's J.G. Taylor Spink Award, and Al Helfer, winner of the 2019 Ford C. Frick Award for broadcasters, will be honored at the 2019 Hall of Fame Awards Presentation on Saturday, July 20 in Cooperstown.

**WRITTEN HISTORY:** Jayson Stark, whose game coverage and insight have provided fans with a unique look at the National Pastime, has been named the winner of the 2019 J.G. Taylor Spink Award in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America... The Philadelphia native and Syracuse University graduate began his sports writing career with the *Providence Journal* (1975-78), where he occasionally covered the Red Sox, then moved closer to home, joining the *Philadelphia Inquirer* (1979-1999), where he worked the Phillies' beat before transitioning into a columnist... By 2000, Stark had joined ESPN, where he not only wrote for their website but also appeared on the network... Writing for *The Athletic* since 2018, he also appears on MLB Network and hosts "Baseball Stories" on Stadium TV... Stark is the 70<sup>th</sup> winner of the Spink Award.

**A MUTUAL RESPECT:** Al Helfer, who called games for eight big league teams and also was the voice of the *Mutual Game of the Day* for five seasons during the 1950s, was elected posthumously as the 2019 winner of the Ford C. Frick Award, presented annually for excellence in broadcasting by the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum... A Pennsylvania native, Helfer left University of Pittsburgh medical school in 1929 after only one month and secured a job at a small radio station in Silver Haven, Pa... By 1933, Helfer's long tenure in the bigs began in Pittsburgh recreating Pirates games on the radio... Following stints with the Reds, Giants, Yankees and Dodgers, he would serve in the Navy in World War II... He signed on as play-by-play for the *Mutual Game of the Day* in 1950, and called six big league games a week for five years, reaching an estimated 80 million listeners via more than 400 stations in non-MLB markets in American and around the world... He stepped away from the *Game of the Day* in 1955 and would work calling Dodgers, Phillies, Colt .45s and Athletics games during the final years of his career... Helfer passed away on May 16, 1975 and is the 43<sup>rd</sup> winner of the Frick Award.

## COOPERSTOWN CONNECTION

**VIP TREATMENT:** Fans have the opportunity to explore the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum through a special program designed to give Cooperstown visitors a Hall of Fame VIP Experience...The Museum has partnered with Cooperstown accommodations to offer this unique package, which includes behind-the-scenes experiences at the Museum...This special package is only available through participating accommodations...Your VIP Experience will begin with exclusive after-hours access to the Hall of Fame on Thursday evening and wrap up on Friday with a private reception...Upcoming dates include March 14-15, Sept. 5-6, Oct. 24-25 and Nov. 7-8...For more information, please visit [www.baseballhall.org/visit/vip-experience](http://www.baseballhall.org/visit/vip-experience) or call 607-547-0397.

**APPLICATIONS FOR CLASS OF 2019 INTERNS DUE JAN. 31:** The chance to spend the summer in Cooperstown is every baseball fan's dream...For college students aspiring to land a once-in-a-lifetime summer experience in the National Baseball Hall of Fame's 2019 internship program, only a handful of weeks remain before applications are due Jan. 31...The 2019 Frank and Peggy Steele Internship Program for Youth Leadership Development will provide students the chance to join the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum team in a 10-week paid summer internship, offering meaningful, hands-on training in numerous professional career fields for those who are chosen from the hundreds of applications received in Cooperstown each year...To be considered for the program, students must be enrolled in a bachelor's or master's degree program at a college or university, having completed at least their sophomore year of studies, or must have just graduated in May of the year of their internship...All applications must be completed online at [baseballhall.org/intern](http://baseballhall.org/intern)...In order to complete an application, candidates must attach a cover letter and resume to the online application...Only completed applications will be reviewed for acceptance into the program...Applications must be received no later than Jan. 31, 2019...Now in its 19<sup>th</sup> year, the Frank and Peggy Steele Internship Program has welcomed more than 300 interns in its first 18 years, equipping college students with the knowledge and experience necessary to work in their field of study.

**TIME TO VISIT:** The Museum is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily through Memorial Day Weekend, when summer hours begin...The Museum is open every day of the year, except for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day...Ticket prices are \$25 for adults (13 and over), \$20 for seniors (65 and over), \$18 for those holding current memberships in the VFW, Disabled American Veterans, American Legion and AMVets organizations and \$15 for juniors (ages 7-12)...Members and active/career retired military members are always admitted free of charge and there is no charge for children 6 years of age or younger...For more information, visit our website at [baseballhall.org](http://baseballhall.org) or call 888-HALL-OF-FAME (888-425-5633) or 607-547-7200.