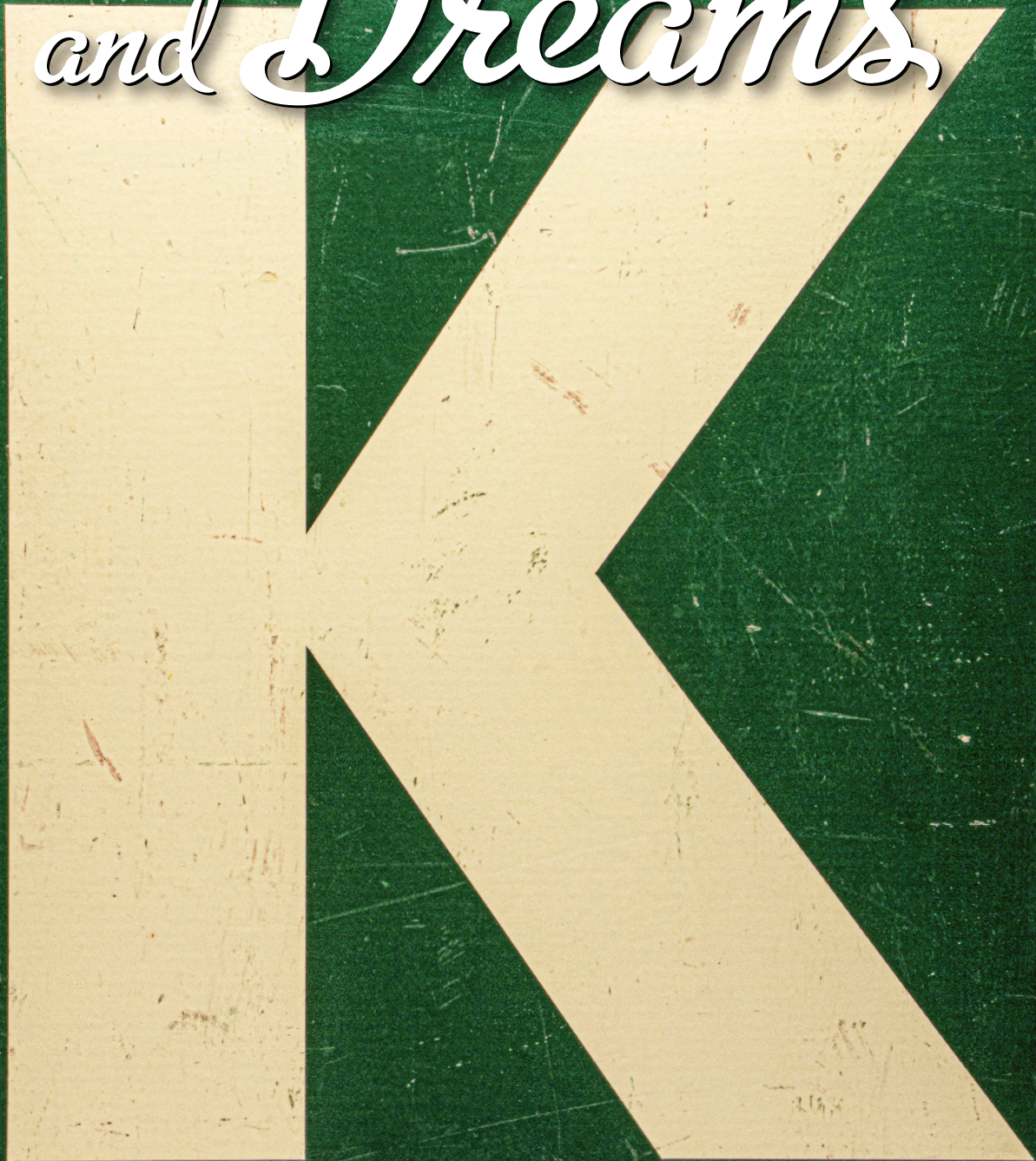


PRESERVING HISTORY. HONORING EXCELLENCE. CONNECTING GENERATIONS.

MEMORIES

and Dreams



WINTER 2021 | VOLUME 43 | NUMBER 6 | THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE HALL OF FAME

MEMORIES and Dreams

The Official Magazine of the Hall of Fame

THE NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME
AND MUSEUM
25 Main Street, Cooperstown, NY 13326
(607) 547-0397

THE NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD Jane Forbes Clark
TREASURER Kevin S. Moore
Paul Beeston
Craig Biggio
William O. DeWitt Jr.
Tom Glavine
Ken Griffey Jr.
Ken Kendrick
Robert D. Manfred Jr.
Arte Moreno
Jerry Reinsdorf
Cal Ripken Jr.
Brooks C. Robinson
Dr. Harvey W. Schiller
Ozzie Smith
Edward W. Stack
Thomas Tull

THE NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM SENIOR STAFF:

PRESIDENT Josh Rawitch
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT Jeffrey J. Jones
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
VICE PRESIDENT Sean J. Gahagan
RETAIL MERCHANDISING
AND LICENSING
VICE PRESIDENT Kenneth Meifert
SPONSORSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT
VICE PRESIDENT Jon Shestakofsky
COMMUNICATIONS AND EDUCATION
VICE PRESIDENT Erik Strohl
EXHIBITIONS AND COLLECTIONS

THIS INSTITUTION IS AN
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER.

H.●. ZIMMAN, Inc.

PUBLISHER Joshua A. Zimman
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER Adam Scharff
VICE PRESIDENT, OPERATIONS Dave Baribeault
CREATIVE/PRODUCTION DIRECTOR Cheryl A. Lampert
EDITOR John Veneziano
ASSOCIATE EDITOR Andre Christopher
DESIGN/PRODUCTION Christina Capobianco,
Cat Paszyc
STRATEGIC SALES & MARKETING
VICE PRESIDENT, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
Paul DeJoie
STRATEGIC ADVISOR & PARTNERSHIPS
Lee Nadler
DISTRIBUTION DIRECTOR/ MARK APPEL
VICE PRESIDENT, ADVERTISING SALES
ADVERTISING SALES Greg Clements, Edward Dias
FEATURED WRITERS Steve Buckley, Jerry Crasnick,
Scott Pitoniak, Phil Rogers,
Steve Wulf
MAGAZINE HISTORIAN Marty Appel
PHOTO CREDITS: All historical images,
National Baseball Hall of Fame Library, unless otherwise indicated

H.●. ZIMMAN, Inc.

Seaport Landing / 152 The Lynnway / Lynn, Massachusetts 01902
Email: info@hozinc.com / Website: hozimman.com
Phone: (781) 598-9230 / Fax: (781) 599-4018

To report a change of address for your *Memories and Dreams* subscription,
please contact the Membership Department at (607) 547-0397
or via email at membership@baseballhall.org.

LINEUP

WINTER 2021 | VOLUME 43 | NUMBER 6



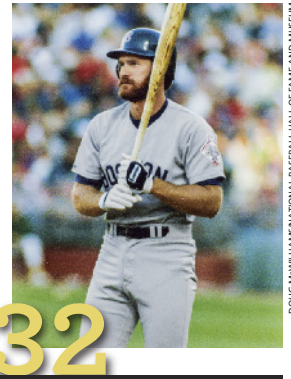
DEBORAH ROBINSON/NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

4



NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

12



DOUG McWILLIAMS/NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

32

4 STRIKE ANYWHERE

As analytics have emerged, the proliferation of the strikeout has forever altered the game.

JERRY CRASNICK

8 RAPID RESULTS

Bob Feller's 348 strikeouts in 1946 set a new standard in an era when batters avoided the 'K' at all costs.

PHIL ROGERS

12 NUMBERS KING

Nolan Ryan's strikeout achievements still fill the record books.

SCOTT PITONIAK

16 21 'K' SALUTE

Tom Cheney shocked the baseball world by setting the single-game strikeout record in 1962.

MARTY APPEL

18 'K' IS FOR KILROY

In 1886, Matt Kilroy struck out 513 batters for the American Association's Baltimore Orioles.

STEVE WULF

32 CAN'T MISS

Hitters like Joe Sewell and Wade Boggs charted a path to Cooperstown by making contact at the plate.

STEVE BUCKLEY

35 FOREVER 21

The magic of one of the most welcomed seasons in generations is preserved through artifacts in Cooperstown.

CRAIG MUDER

36 LEFT OUT

Robert Moses Grove topped his league in strikeouts his first seven seasons, leading some to say he was the fastest pitcher in the game.

BILL FRANCIS

40 BEDAZZLER

Charles Arthur Vance set strikeout standards that still stand more than 80 years after his playing career ended.

JANEY MURRAY

42 BLUE JAY WAY

Philadelphia's NL team adopted a new nickname in 1946 during an effort to rebrand the franchise.

CRAIG MUDER

44 OUR MUSEUM IN ACTION

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

47 CHOICE LINEUP

2022 Baseball Writers' Association of America Hall of Fame ballot features historic debuts and final bows.

CRAIG MUDER

48 DUTCH MASTER

A lesson in how to attack hitters was the key for me to produce strikeouts.

BERT BLYLEVEN



BILLY STEVART/NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

ON THE COVER

Strikeouts have been a part of baseball since the game's inception, but how they are viewed has changed significantly through the years. This "K" is from a Madison Bumgarner start in the 2014 World Series at AT&T Park.

FROM THE PRESIDENT > JOSH RAWITCH



The voice of Ford C. Frick Award winner Vin Scully was crystal clear on my father’s car radio. It was Sept. 23, 1986, and Jim Deshaies had just struck out a record eight consecutive Dodgers to start a game at the Houston Astrodome. With each new batter, we found ourselves rooting against our hometown team just so we could hear history, and as it turned out, Deshaies’ mark would stand for nearly three decades before being matched by Jacob deGrom (2014) and German Márquez (2018).

Then along came the Marlins’ Pablo López on July 11 of this season, fanning nine straight Braves to begin a game and etch his name in the record books. When the cap he wore in

that game arrived in Cooperstown, it made me think about the fans who attended that game with no idea that they would witness something that had never happened before. Decades from now, they will remember it like it was yesterday, telling the story about where they were and what they were thinking.

The same goes for those who attended, watched or listened to the Phillies’ Aaron Nola or the Brewers’ Corbin Burnes each strike out 10 straight batters this year, as both right-handers equaled the all-time mark set by Hall of Famer Tom Seaver, who was the first to do it in 1970. Mementos from each of those performances live on in Cooperstown.

Our National Pastime has always connected generations of players, as Burnes whiffed his

10 hitters in a row against the Chicago Cubs with Deshaies calling the game on air, surely thinking about his own brush with baseball history.

The same goes for milestones like that of Max Scherzer, who became the 19th pitcher in big league history to strike out 3,000 batters when he reached that mark on Sept. 12 of this season, nearly a century after Walter Johnson became the first to achieve the milestone in 1923. In 2019, I was fortunate enough to watch in person at Chase Field as CC Sabathia became the 17th member of that exclusive club, and it’s a moment I will never forget.

It was on that same mound in Arizona that Randy Johnson once punched out 20 batters in a game, one of the rarest feats in baseball, accomplished by only five pitchers (including Tom Cheney, whose 21-strikeout game is profiled on page 18).

The concept of “three strikes and you’re out” has not changed much over the years, with called strikes coming into play in 1858 and early baseball rules stating that “three balls being struck at and missed and the last one caught, is a hand-out; if not caught is considered fair, and the striker bound to run.”

Therein lies one of the more quirky strikeouts – four strikeouts in an inning. While a baseball novice might not recognize its possibility, historians will assure you that it has happened nearly 100 times in major league history, including a handful of times this season. Perhaps you know someone who was in New Orleans when a major leaguer struck out five batters in an inning. It was Astros pitcher Joe Niekro – brother of Hall of Famer Phil Niekro – who fanned five Twins in the first frame of an exhibition game in 1976 just a few months before I was born.

As you flip through the pages of this edition of *Memories and Dreams*, perhaps you’ll remember some of the incredible strikeouts you’ve seen in person or watched on television. Just don’t get called out “for excessive window shopping,” as Frick Award winner Ernie Harwell used to say about Tigers’ opponents who got caught looking at strike three. The least you can do is go down swinging.

Respectfully,



Randy Johnson of the Diamondbacks tied a record by striking out 20 batters in a nine-inning game against the Reds on May 8, 2001.

SHORT HOPS

@BaseballHall

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



M&D Donor Issue features Member-submitted photos

This photo of the Carter family from their 2019 trip to Cooperstown was one of the nearly 2,000 images that we received as part of our mosaic project for the cover of the Donor Edition of *Memories and Dreams*.

You can view the artwork at baseballhall.org/courtyardphotos.

Experience baseball through the camera's lens with Picturing America's Pastime

Celebrate baseball through a unique photography collection from the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum's unmatched archive of baseball photos.

"Picturing America's Pastime: Historic Photography from the Baseball Hall of Fame Archives" utilizes the Museum's unequalled collection of photos from baseball history to reveal the full landscape of our National Pastime.

Selected by the curators at the Baseball Hall of Fame, the photographs show the rich relationship between photography and the game. Each image is accompanied by a historic quote and a detailed caption, often highlighting little-known information about

the photographers and techniques used across the 150-plus years covered in the book.

"Picturing America's Pastime" is available now at shop.baseballhall.org.

Explore the Museum's education programs

The Baseball Hall of Fame is dedicated to fostering knowledge of the game and its role in our history. The Museum's Education Department can help facilitate at-home learning through video presentations, fun activities and sharing the Hall's unparalleled collection.

We offer students and teachers programs that provide interactive experiences that align with national learning standards. Free lesson plans using baseball to teach math, science, social studies and the arts are available for grades 3-12, and free printable Hall of Fame activities – including games, coloring projects and reading lists – are available for kids of all ages.

Learn more by calling (607) 547-0349 or emailing our Education Department at education@baseballhall.org.

STAFF SELECTIONS



Name: Adam Halay

Position:

Senior Retail and Sales Associate

Hall of Fame Debut: 2013

Hometown: Springfield Center, N.Y.

Favorite Museum Artifact:

Bracelet that Lou Gehrig had made for his wife

Memorable Museum Moment:

My most memorable moment is whenever I see a guest visit us here and their first steps in the front doors. On a couple occasions, I've seen guests come through our doors and immediately break down into tears or even fall to their knees that they've finally made it to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. Yes, I've met some of baseball's greats and I've had the privilege to work some amazing events, but seeing the reactions of guests visiting us makes coming to work mean that much more. It reminds me that visiting the Museum is on the bucket list for many people, and I am lucky enough to be here each day to make that visit even more special and memorable.

MEMORIAL AND HONORARY GIFTS

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

IN HONOR OF:

Buddy Bradford
Billy Sklar
Don Cardwell
Sylvia G. Cardwell
Rocky Colavito
Billy Sklar
Willie Horton
Billy Sklar
Sandy Koufax
Michael and Debra Carre
Mickey Lolich
Billy Sklar
Dennis McLain
Billy Sklar
Craig Muder
Scott M. Pitoniak

Salvatore and Catherine Nalli
Jay and Melissa Nalli
Lou Piniella
Billy Sklar
Josh Rawitch
Kerry J. DeMarco
Jeff Ray
Lawrence Kelson
Pete Rose
Billy Sklar
Nuncio T. Sciattara
Roz Nasdor
The Great Hall of Fame Staff
Peter P. Hand

IN MEMORY OF:

Henry Aaron
Rosario and Katherine Stagnitti
John Joseph Albanese
Peter and Joni Diehl
Dave Bergman
Arthur F. Neff
Yogi Berra
Billy Sklar
Hugh Southern Bower
William Bosma
Sidney J. Prejean
Stephen Wentz
Norm Cash
Billy Sklar
Brooke Caroline Crotty
Robert S. Crotty

Dick Falcone
Lynda and Roy B. Harrill
Dennis Fitzgerald
Edward Apuzzo
Bill Freehan
Billy Sklar
Doug Harvey
Joy Harvey
George Hower
Robert Daly
Leroy Johnson
Kurt Vanderhei
Lucas O'Neill Johnson III
Nancy B. Johnson
Leroy K. "Lee" Kadow
Timothy and Deborah Coffin
David Harrison

Richard C. Manson Jr.
Morty Cox
Michael Kremasky
Richard Pestorich
Darlene and Jim Pickens
James Rowland
Ronald Smith
E. H. Thompson Jr.
Andrea Wherry
Billy Martin
Billy Sklar
Dick McAuliffe
Billy Sklar
Stan Musial
Elizabeth Skerencak
Phil Niekro
Kaye B. Smith
Jim Northrup
Billy Sklar

Carolyn Ofenloch
Bob Ofenloch
Paul Pettit
Dan Taylor
Keith Anthony "Tony" Phillips
Jay and Melissa Nalli
Elisa Renteria
Henry Renteria
Elmer Rock
Terrill M. Janssen
Herb Score
Sheldon Green
George Steinbrenner
Bop-Bop
Catherine Reidy
Billy Sklar

To make a gift in memory or honor of someone special to you, please call (607) 547-0310 or visit baseballhall.org/support.



One of the great power hitters of this or any other era, Albert Pujols concentrated on contact and never struck out more than 93 times in a season.

STRIKE ANYWHERE

AS ANALYTICS HAVE EMERGED, THE PROLIFERATION OF THE STRIKEOUT HAS FOREVER ALTERED THE GAME.

BY JERRY CRASNICK

A

As Albert Pujols nears the end of a storied career, some iconic moments help frame his “greatest hits” catalog. His monster homer onto the Minute Maid Park train tracks off Brad Lidge in the 2005 National League Championship Series and his three-home run game against Texas in the 2011 World Series spring to mind. Pujols’ place among the baseball elite was assured when he joined Hank Aaron, Willie Mays and Álex

Rodríguez as one of four players with 3,000 hits and 600 home runs.

But the greatness of Pujols also lies in the details. Hitting connoisseurs revel in vintage clips of the Machine poking two-strike sliders up the middle for RBI singles. And if you’re into facial expressions, you might have noticed that he looks a tad peeved on his way back to the dugout after striking out.

For all his marquee stats, Pujols is a bit old school when it comes to the most ignominious of baseball outcomes. As strikeouts abound and it’s not unusual to see players whiffing 200 times in a season, Pujols takes particular pride in one statistic: He has never logged 100 K’s in a season.

“Some guys in this era think the strikeout is a little overrated,” Pujols said in a 2018 interview. “They’re like, ‘I don’t care about it.’ I do. It’s something in this game I really, really don’t like. If you put the ball in play, you give yourself a chance to put some pressure on the defense, and maybe they can make mistakes and make an error. If it’s two outs, you can start a rally. If you strike out, you don’t have any chance.”

While Pujols isn’t the only resister among current players, he’s a remnant of a bygone era.

The 2021 season featured MLB teams striking out just slightly less than the record-high 8.81 whiffs per game in 2019. In 2011, a total of 78 players struck out 100 times or more. That number spiked to 161 by 2019, the last full season before the pandemic.

When Tom Seaver struck out 10 consecutive San Diego Padres on April 22, 1970, it seemed Herculean. No one matched the feat until this season, when Philadelphia’s Aaron Nola and Milwaukee’s Corbin Burnes both fanned 10 straight hitters in a span of six weeks in June and August of 2021.

The record book is in constant flux. At the moment, Toronto’s Robbie Ray is baseball’s career leader in strikeouts per nine innings (minimum 1,000 innings pitched) with an average of 11.2, followed by Yu Darvish, Chris Sale, Jacob DeGrom and Max Scherzer. The first retired pitcher on the list is Randy Johnson, who ranks No. 6 in K’s per nine. Pedro Martínez is 11th and Nolan Ryan is 16th.

A different era? Consider this: Not a single strikeout was recorded by either team in the classic 10-9, Bill Mazerowski home run World Series game between the Pittsburgh Pirates and New York Yankees in 1960. For sake of comparison, the Boston Red Sox and Los Angeles Dodgers combined to strike out 34 times in their 18-inning marathon in Game 3 of the 2018 World Series.

So what gives?

Some think the phenomenon is largely pitching-driven, as increased velocity and spin rate make for faster, sharper, snappier offerings. According to FanGraphs, 25 starting pitchers threw their fastball 95 mph-or-higher this season, compared to just six in 2013. Factor in all those hard-throwing bullpens, and hitters routinely have to start the bat earlier to make contact.

Times have changed. From 1973-75, lefty Bill Lee posted a 51-35 record while averaging 276 innings and 98 strikeouts per season. That breaks down to 3.2 strikeouts per nine.

“It’s all based on what teams value now,” said former big league catcher Jonathan Lucroy. “They have all these analytical specifications they require for a pitcher to be successful, and they want guys with a high spin rate or whatever. Personally, I don’t think Greg Maddux had a high spin rate. He was able to locate and control the baseball.

“My first year in the big leagues in 2010, maybe two or three guys threw 95 out of the bullpen. Now it seems like everyone does. And hitters are trying to hit homers and hit for power. You don’t see nearly as many sacrificial at-bats where guys are trying to move the runner over and just make contact for a single. They’re going up there and swinging hard and trying to do damage.”

Defensively, the proliferation of shifts has prompted more hitters to tailor their swings to get the ball airborne. Why focus on hitting line



NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

Hall of Famer Frank Robinson posted only one season during his 21-year playing career when he struck out at least 100 times. “We hated striking out when I played,” Robinson said.

drives or going up the middle when it’s likely a fielder will snag the ball and make a play while barely moving? Hence, the focus on launch angle.

“The analytics are saying that because of the shifting – and because the pitching has gotten better – it’s less likely that you’re going to get three or four hits in an inning to score runs,” said former big league manager and pitching coach Bryan Price. “It’s more likely that you can run into a couple of home runs per game, hopefully with a couple of guys on base, and you can win 5-4 or 4-3. Teams think that’s the best way to go about it because there just aren’t enough hits out there.”

This season’s aggregate MLB batting average of .244 tied for the lowest since 1968, “The Year of the Pitcher,” when Bob Gibson posted

a 1.12 ERA, Denny McLain won 31 games and MLB lowered the mound in response.

“There are a lot of contributing factors,” said Colorado Rockies hitting coach Dave Magadan, a 16-year big leaguer who posted an impressive 718-to-546 walk-to-strikeout ratio during his career. “First and foremost, it’s probably the acceptance of the strikeout. Ten to 15 years ago, guys started not really caring about the strikeout. Then in turn, front offices were like, ‘We don’t mind guys striking out as long as they hit the ball over the fence.’”

“That became a prevailing attitude in baseball, and it slowly but surely permeated throughout the league. When I played, even power guys hated to strike out. Now the stigma of the strikeout is pretty much gone.”

Babe Ruth became an American icon by

clearing fences and striking out with regularity, but history features a lot of power hitters who were strikeout-averse. Hank Aaron, Ted Williams, Johnny Mize, Al Kaline and Billy Williams never struck out 100 times in a season. Willie Mays and Ernie Banks did it only once, near the end of their careers. Stan Musial’s single-season high was 46 strikeouts. Joe DiMaggio topped out at 39 whiffs, and Yogi Berra peaked at 38.

Frank Robinson’s only triple-digit strikeout season came in 1965, when he entered the 162nd game with 99 whiffs and logged No. 100 against San Francisco’s Bobby Bolin in his next-to-last at-bat. Robinson could live with the transgression because he had changed his batting stance that season and encountered some unexpected hiccups. But he was determined not to make it a habit.

“We hated striking out when I played,” Robinson said in a 2013 interview. “A strikeout was a non-productive out, and it didn’t help the team at all – that’s the way we looked at it.”

In the late 1980s, a new breed of hitter emerged, with Rob Deer, Pete Incaviglia, Bo Jackson, Jim Presley and Cory Snyder among those embodying the boom-or-bust mentality. In the 1990s, baseball writer Christina Kahrl coined the phrase “three true outcomes” to summarize the strikeout-walk-home run trifecta that relegated fielders to innocent bystanders. Adam Dunn, who ran deep counts, went yard with regularity and lived with the collateral strikeout damage, became a three true outcomes poster boy.

“Everything evolves, and this is the era we’re in,” Dunn said in a 2017 interview. “People see if you hit homers and drive in a lot of runs, you’re going to get where you need to get financially. Does it help a team if you have a couple of those guys? Yeah. But if you have nine of them, it’s going to be tough.”

For all the talk about launch angles and Statcast numbers, it’s hard to discount the economic factors at play when MLB teams build their rosters. In December 1978, Pete Rose signed a four-year, \$3.2 million contract with the Philadelphia Phillies to become the highest paid player in the game. He was 37 years old, and on the way to hitting 160 homers with a .409 career slugging percentage.

“Home runs drive the narrative when it comes to guys that really get paid in this game,” Price said. “Look at all the long-term contracts that have been out there, and they’re

Adam Dunn helped revolutionize the game by normalizing strikeouts in exchange for power and on-base percentage. Dunn hit 462 homers in 14 big league seasons and posted a .364 OBP.



not going to your Gold Glove shortstop who hits .240 with nine home runs and 40 RBI. Those guys aren't around now anyway. But you're paying guys to hit homers, and that drives the narrative, not just for the players, but for their agents."

Major League Baseball has been tinkering with potential solutions to inject more contact and less dead time in games. The Atlantic League, an independent league partner of MLB, experimented with moving the mound back a foot in 2021 as a potential antidote to all those upper 90s fastballs. But the evidence was inconclusive, and it's a challenge to find quick fixes when aspiring big leaguers on the high school showcase circuit are emulating their heroes and going all-in on launch angle.

"About 10-15 years ago, you started getting self-proclaimed hitting experts taking money from parents and teaching improper mechanics on trying to get the ball up in the air and

teaching 10-to-12-year-old kids to swing up," Magadan said. "There's zero adjustability in the swing, and that's what's being taught. They're teaching a one-spot contact point to maximize exit velo and launch angle. But in reality, you're making contact in a lot of different areas during a game. Up. Down. In. Out. Very seldom will you hit that sweet spot if you're taking 30 swings over the course of four or five games."

Among active players, Andrelton Simmons, Joe Panik, Yadier Molina, Michael Brantley and Pujols have the lowest career ratios of strikeouts per at-bat. But the fraternity of resisters gets smaller every year. Adam Frazier, who made the 2021 All-Star team with the Pirates before being traded to San Diego, has struck out a modest 13 percent of the time in his career. It's not by accident.

"If I didn't take pride in it, I wouldn't be as good at it," Frazier said. "It's a little embarrassing

when you go down swinging or looking. I try to be a tough out anyway, but when you get to two strikes, you're protecting and you want to put the ball in play any way you can. These guys now are all power arms for the most part, so you can't go up there and take full swings and swing as hard as you can. Shorten up, and if it's close, you protect and you get a mistake. Put the ball in play any way you can. That's my philosophy."

It's an admirable approach when the landscape is tilting so precipitously in the other direction. Yes, things tend to run in cycles in baseball. But the days of Tony Gwynn logging one three-strikeout game in a 20-year career are gone, and they're not coming back. ●

After three decades as a baseball writer, Jerry Crasnick currently works as a senior advisor for the MLBPA.

RAPID RESULTS

BOB FELLER'S 348 STRIKEOUTS IN 1946 SET A NEW STANDARD IN AN ERA WHEN BATTERS AVOIDED THE 'K' AT ALL COSTS.

BY PHIL ROGERS

Bob Feller didn't have radar guns and TrackMan data to tell his story. He didn't need them, either, but he did have a family to feed, as well as a burning desire to be the best. So he was intrigued when Washington Senators owner Clark Griffith came to see him before a Tuesday night game in late August 1946.

The Senators had received approval from the Army to have a team from the nearby Aberdeen Proving Ground use its photo-electric devices to measure Feller's fastball. They had heavily advertised this pregame novelty and fans had rushed to buy tickets. The eventual attendance at Griffith Stadium was 30,051, the Senators' biggest crowd since Opening Day.

There was a hitch, however. Griffith hadn't consulted Feller or his team, the Cleveland Indians, then owned by Bill Veeck, about the promotion.

"He never told me," Feller told the *Los Angeles Times* in a 1989 interview, saying he initially declined to participate.

"I was being paid by the number of games I won and attendance at home, not by Griffith," Feller said. "If I won a game, I got \$2,500. I told Griffith, 'You've been good for baseball and haven't made much money from it. You're going to make \$25,000 from this. I'll do it for \$700.'"

Griffith agreed and Feller went out before his scheduled start to throw as hard as he

possibly could for the Army engineers.

There's no way this would happen today – can you imagine the Dodgers' reaction if an opposing team wanted Clayton Kershaw to air out some fastballs before an August start on the road? – but it speaks to the era Feller pitched in.

Feller had been discharged by the Navy only a year earlier, and his return had been anticipated like those of Ted Williams and Joe DiMaggio, as the native of Van Meter, Iowa, was only 17 when he debuted for the Cleveland Indians. He was an All-Star at age 19 in 1939 and had led the AL in wins three years in a row before Pearl Harbor interrupted his career.

His no-hitter in 1940 remains the only one on Opening Day in major league history. "Many athletes are great," *Sports Illustrated's* Frank Deford wrote. "Bob Feller was seminal."

Feller saw combat as a gun captain on the USS *Alabama*, with tours of the Atlantic and Pacific. He participated in the Battle of the Philippine Sea, which is credited with eliminating the Imperial Japanese Navy's ability to conduct large-scale carrier actions, but deflected praise when he returned to the Indians late in the 1945 season.

"The real heroes didn't come home," Feller said.

Legend has it Feller kept his arm in shape by throwing baseballs against gun turrets at sea. He was able to pitch in game action while stationed at the Norfolk (Va.) Naval Training Station and later at Great Lakes Naval Training

Center of Chicago. It was at the latter location where he worked hard to add a slider to his fastball-curveball combination, and his performance was better than ever after World War II.

Feller delivered historic results in '46, when he chased Rube Waddell's American League strikeout record. Feller believed Waddell had struck out 343 in 383 innings for the Philadelphia A's in 1904, but a clarification of the record book actually showed Waddell with 349 – which for a time created confusion.

In between Waddell and Feller, there had been only two 300-strikeout seasons. Both were by Walter Johnson, with 313 strikeouts in 1910 and 303 in '12.

Strikeouts were an embarrassment to hitters in Feller's era. Conventional wisdom held that strikeouts were their ticket out of baseball.

The great DiMaggio never struck out 40 times in a season, and in 1945 no major league hitter struck out 100 times. Pitchers worked deep into games by trying to get hitters to make weak contact, not swing and miss with regularity.

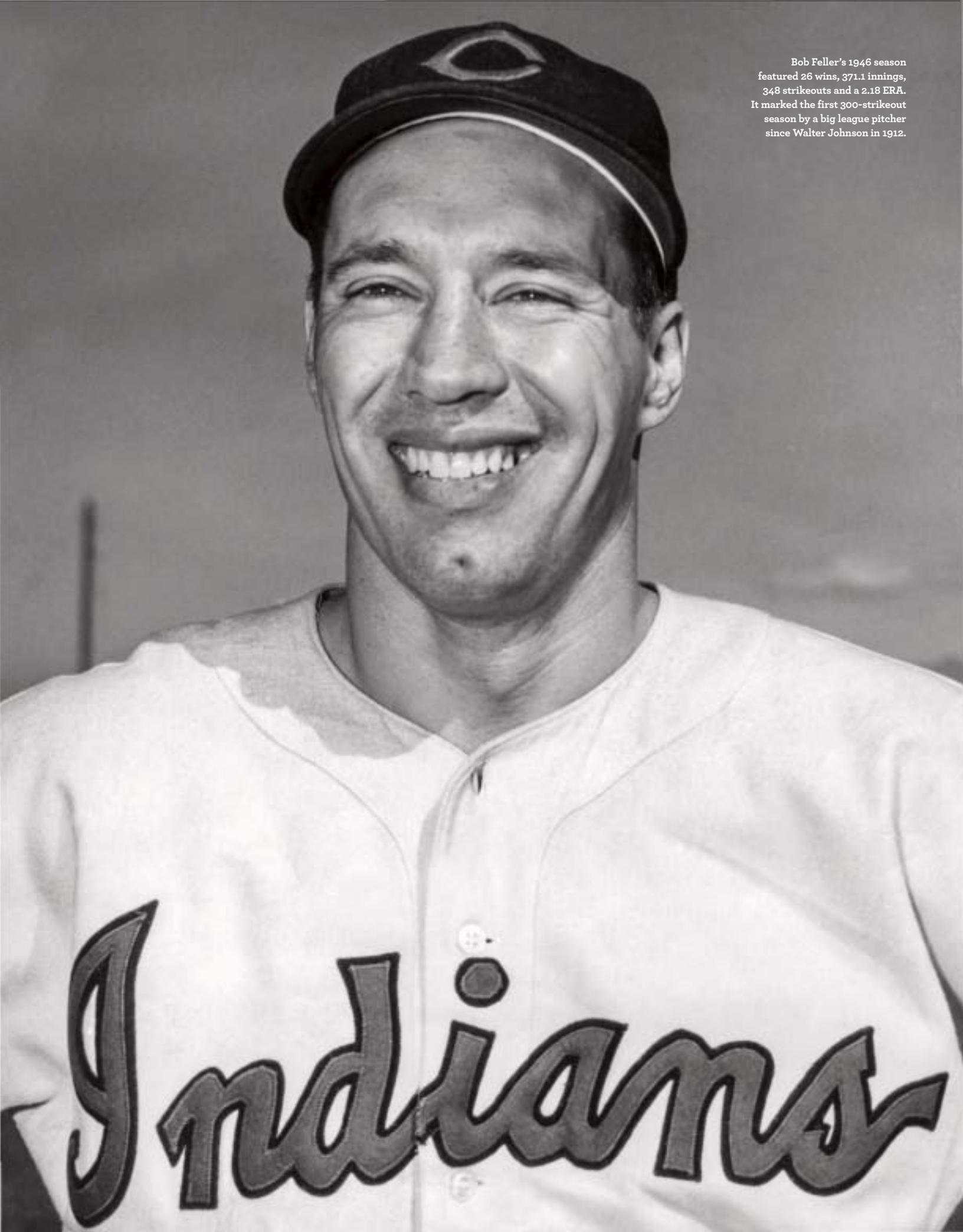
Returning from the war, Feller showed that pitchers could dominate hitters. He struck out 348 in 371.1 innings in '46, raising the bar for future generations of hurlers.

Feller never again struck out 200 in a season, but his most historic season is the perfect bridge from Johnson and Waddell to contemporary aces such as Kershaw, Chris Sale, Max Scherzer, Gerrit Cole and Justin Verlander, who have all had 300-strikeout seasons in the past decade.

There have been 33 300-strikeout seasons since 1963, delivered by 16 different pitchers. Sandy Koufax made the Feller/Waddell argument moot with 382 strikeouts in 1965, and Nolan Ryan followed with 383 in 1973, a modern MLB record that seems safe until managers and executives stop limiting the usage of their aces.

Sam McDowell, Mickey Lolich, Vida Blue, Steve Carlton, J.R. Richard, Mike Scott, Curt Schilling and Pedro Martínez reached the 300-strikeout milestone in the last 59 seasons, in addition to those already named. They created the kind of excitement that Feller tapped into when he was in his prime.

Bob Feller's 1946 season featured 26 wins, 371.1 innings, 348 strikeouts and a 2.18 ERA. It marked the first 300-strikeout season by a big league pitcher since Walter Johnson in 1912.



Indians



Bob Feller (left) celebrates with catcher Frankie Hayes after Feller pitched a no-hitter against the Yankees on April 30, 1946, with Hayes hitting a ninth-inning home run in the Indians' 1-0 victory. Feller fanned 11 Yankees in that game and would go on to strike out 348 batters that season, setting a new standard for modern-era right-handers.

Feller had elevated the Indians to second place in 1940, but they slipped to fourth in '41 and treaded water throughout the war years, with player-manager Lou Boudreau riding the roller-coaster of a constantly changing roster.

When Feller pitched his first game back on Aug. 24, 1945, the Indians were one game over .500 and in fifth place in the AL. They would win the World Series with Feller, Bob Lemon and Gene Bearden in '48, but you couldn't have seen this coming in Feller's first full season back. The Indians lacked pitching behind Feller in 1946, with Red Embree (career record: 31-48) as the No. 2 starter and Lemon still a part-time outfielder who pitched mostly out of the bullpen.

Boudreau knew he'd have to ride Feller heavily in 1946, and Feller probably would have fought him if he did anything else. Feller started four times in 15 days in April and then made seven starts in May, including five on three day's rest.

Feller shut out the White Sox on Opening Day, striking out 10 in a three-hitter. He lost a 10-inning complete game against the Tigers in his second start, again striking out 10. He was unhittable at Yankee Stadium on April 30, throwing his second career no-hitter. That lineup included four future Hall of Famers, with DiMaggio, Phil Rizzuto, Joe Gordon and Bill Dickey going a combined 0-for-12.

The Indians were 5-5 at that point but lost their first seven games in May and would never again get back to .500. The focus became more and more about Feller. He hit double figures in strikeouts in six of his first eight starts, including 14 in a shutout of the Senators on May 17. That would be his season high, matched on June 4 against the Senators, who never seemed able to catch up to his fastball.

Feller's curveball was one of the best pitches in baseball. "It would start off back here, behind your head, and it would break over the corner, low and outside," Lemon said.

Feller wasn't known for his control. He led the AL in walks as well as strikeouts in 1938, '39 and '41, and nothing was different in '46. He had five walks in his no-hitter against the Yankees and likely led the majors in 3-2 counts. He kept hitters guessing in terms of his pitch usage.

"I had two or three different kinds of curveballs and a lot of confidence in each of them," Feller said in his autobiography, "Now Pitching, Bob Feller."

"I was never afraid to throw my curve when I was behind in the count, 2 and 0 or 3 and 1, or even late in a pressure situation. The curveball made my fastball more effective because hitters couldn't time my every pitch, and it also gave me that one additional fringe benefit that a curve ball brings with it: Enlarging the strike

zone for a pitcher. When you have a good curveball, it makes your strike zone larger because the hitters swing at pitches that are outside. But the fastball was my bread-and-butter pitch. As long as hitters kept missing it, I was going to keep throwing it."

When the Army engineers timed Feller's fastball, they got a speed of 98.6 mph from the mound. But that measured the speed as the ball crossed home plate rather than as it left his hand. One complicated calculation from that session credited him with a 107.9-mph fastball, and historians mostly believe the truth lies somewhere in the middle.

No matter the exact velocity, there was no questioning the stuff. Williams, the Red Sox icon, considered Feller's fastball the best he ever faced.

Feller maintained it throughout the '46 season, allowing him to dream about reaching Waddell's mark, which he had been told was 343.

"I wasn't really striking out staggering numbers in each game, but I was achieving what I always preached about pitching: Consistency," Feller wrote. "I went two months, from the last week of July until the last week of September, without reaching double figures in strikeouts, and I never struck out more than 10 men in a game after June. But the consistency was there – nine, seven, five, four, seven, six, seven – all the way into the last week of the season."

Feller blew past his previous career high of 261 strikeouts in a start against the White Sox on Aug. 17. He reached 300 in a complete-game win over the St. Louis Browns on Sept. 8.

Feller was working on only two day's rest in that start. He would start again on two day's rest on the 15th, 22nd and 25th, and worked on one day's rest in his final two outings – a five-inning relief stint on the 27th and a complete-game victory in the final game of the season, both in Detroit.

Feller believed he had tied Waddell when he struck out six Tigers while working in relief of Bob Kuzava on the 27th. He got five more strikeouts in his final start, finishing with 348.

It wasn't long before Feller realized it didn't matter whether he caught Waddell or finished one behind him. He had shown it was possible for a fireballer to blow away hitters over a full season. 🍌

Phil Rogers is a freelance writer living in Utah who has covered baseball since 1984.

Member-Exclusive Apparel

Celebrating Baseball History



GET YOUR HANDS ON YOUR OWN NOSTALGIA-INSPIRED BASEBALL HALL OF FAME MEMBER-EXCLUSIVE BOMBER JACKET.

Perfect for celebrating baseball's greatest moments from Opening Day through the Fall Classic, or as a stylish compliment to your everyday casuals, it's only available to Museum Members at the Patron level or higher.

This exclusive bomber jacket is crafted for Baseball Hall of Fame Members in collaboration with Baseballism®. Available in adult sizes from S to 3XL.


JACKET FEATURES:

- medium weight nylon shell
- 100% nylon lining
- high quality YKK full-length zipper
- knit rib cuffs and collar
- Hall of Fame applique-style back embroidery
- “Flag Man” Baseballism® embroidered logo
- vintage style Hall of Fame patch
- two exterior pockets, one interior pocket
- custom interior Member patch

CALL (607) 547-0397 TO UPGRADE.

baseballhall.org/MemberApparel





If a pitcher began his career this year and struck out exactly 300 batters in each season for 19 straight years, he would still find himself 14 strikeouts short of Nolan Ryan's all-time record of 5,714. Ryan pitched until he was almost 47 years old, setting standards that may never be approached. He was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1999.

NUMBERS KING

NOLAN RYAN'S STRIKEOUT ACHIEVEMENTS STILL FILL THE RECORD BOOKS.

BY SCOTT PITONIAK

Mixing 100-mph heaters with knee-buckling curves, Nolan Ryan had struck out 17 Detroit Tigers and was one out away from his second no-hitter in two months when a flummoxed Norm Cash strode to the plate in the bottom of the ninth.

Had there been a white surrender flag in the Detroit bat rack during that July 15, 1973, game at Tiger Stadium, Cash surely would have grabbed it. Instead, he opted to wield a thick, wooden table leg he had retrieved from the clubhouse.

Home plate umpire Ron Luciano was not amused by the prank and told the slugger he couldn't use the unorthodox choice of lumber against the California Angels flamethrower.

"Why not?" Cash protested mildly. "I won't hit him anyway."

Forced to swing the personalized Louisville Slugger he had used while striking out twice in his first three at-bats, Cash scored a moral victory by making contact his fourth time around. But his infield popup did no damage. It merely put the finishing touches on another Ryan no-no.

Hall of Fame right fielder Frank Robinson, who had joined the Angels before the season, was blown away by the mow down in Motown, telling reporters afterward: "I've never seen anyone throw harder, and that includes Sandy Koufax."

A few lockers away, Angels catcher Art Kusnyer proudly displayed a hand swollen and purple from the impact of so many explosive Ryan fastballs. "Bone bruise," he said, smiling. "Hazards of the job when you're catching Nolan's bullets."

Over in the Tigers clubhouse, teammate Mickey Stanley commiserated with Cash and marveled at Ryan's dominance, saying: "Those were some of the best pitches I ever heard."

Stanley's lament would be echoed by hundreds of major league batters who flailed futilely and fearfully at Ryan fastballs through the years. It's hard to hit something you can't see and something that could do bodily harm.

For 27 big league seasons, Ryan bruised hitters' egos and catchers' palms, striking out 5,714 batters and tossing seven no-hitters, 12 one-hitters and 18 two-hitters while accumulating 324 victories and garnering entry into the Baseball Hall of Fame with 98.8 percent of the vote in 1999.

To put Ryan's all-time strikeout record into

perspective, a pitcher debuting this year could fan 300 batters a season for 19 years and still be 14 strikeouts shy of the man known as The Ryan Express.

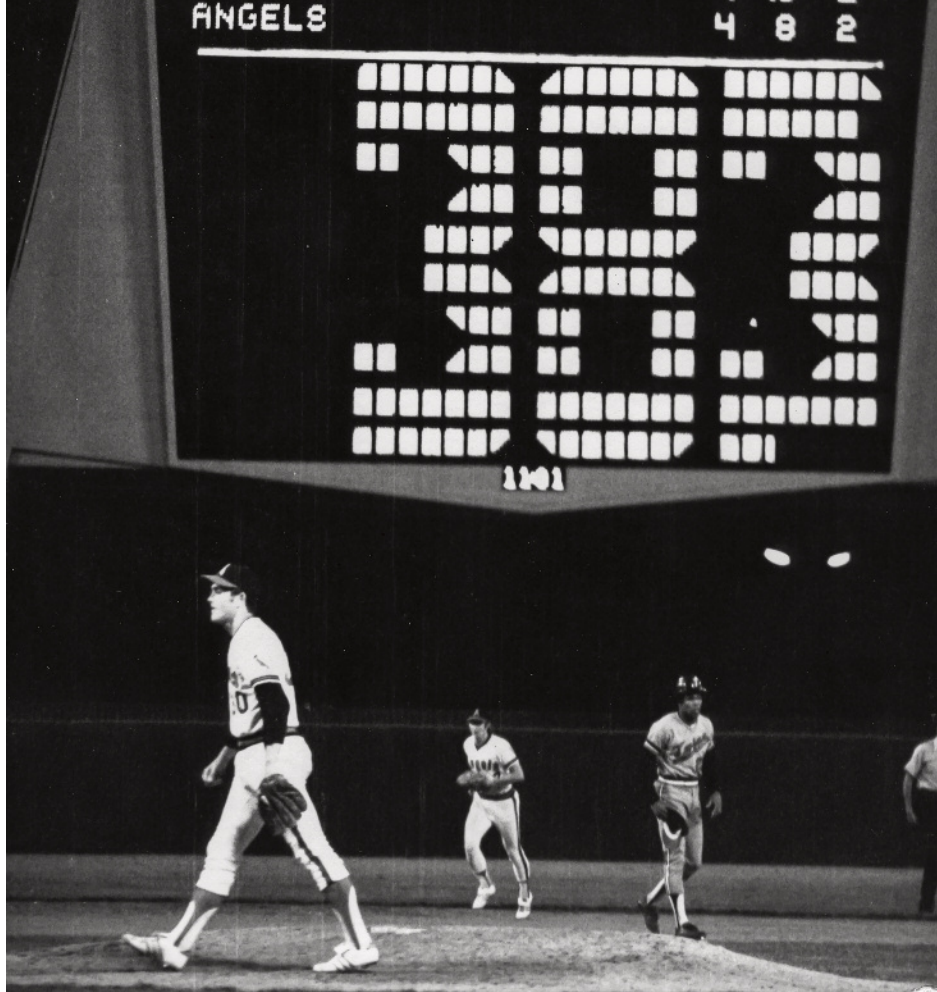
"I just loved that one-on-one competition between me and the batter," said Ryan, who also established the modern-day single-season mark with 383 strikeouts in 1973. "To me, that battle is still the best duel in all of sports. We both have weapons. I got a ball. You got a bat. Bring it on."

As evidenced by his nearly 6,000 punch-outs and the miserly combined .204 batting average compiled against him through the years, Ryan won the majority of those duels. And what made his career even more remarkable is its longevity. He was still bringing it in the high 90s right up to the end, when torn ligaments in the right-hander's pitching elbow finally forced him into retirement just four months shy of his 47th birthday near the end of the 1993 season.

His run spanned seven U.S. presidents – from LBJ to Bill Clinton – and it saw him strike out eight pairs of fathers and sons, 12 sets of brothers and 49 Hall of Famers. Rickey Henderson was among the victims enshrined in Cooperstown. He wound up being strikeout No. 5,000.

Ryan's final total probably will never be challenged. Randy Johnson gave it his best shot, but the Big Unit finished his Hall of Fame career in second place, a distant 839 K's behind. The closest active pitcher – 36-year-old Max Scherzer – trails by more than 2,600 strikeouts. At his current pace, he would have to pitch 14 more seasons to break Ryan's mark.

"I can't see anyone coming close, even in this era when hitters are swinging for the fences on every pitch and strikeouts are at an all-time high," said Bobby Grich, a six-time All-Star infielder who played against and with Ryan. "Nolan was a freak of nature. God gave him a lightning bolt for an arm, and no athlete ever worked harder at his craft. Minutes after throwing a shutout, Nolan would be on a stationary bike, pedaling away for a half-hour, 45 minutes. Toss in the fact he



NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

In 1973, Nolan Ryan struck out 383 batters, breaking Sandy Koufax's modern-era record with a mark that still stands today.

was as fierce a competitor as anyone who ever toed a rubber, and it's understandable to see why he was able to throw as hard as he did for as long as he did."

The funny thing is Ryan never envisioned having a long career. After being drafted out of high school in 1965 by the New York Mets in the 12th round – the 295th pick overall – his goal was to last long enough to earn a big league pension.

"I was shooting for at least four or five years, then I'd head back to my hometown (Alvin, Texas) and get serious about raising cattle," he said. "If you'd told me back then I'd wind up pitching 27 years in the big leagues, I would have recommended you get your head examined."

Perhaps no one was more convinced Ryan was destined for greatness than Mets scout John "Red" Murff, who stumbled upon the young fireballer while making a detour to a high school tournament in 1964. Ryan was just a string bean at the time, maybe 155 pounds soaking wet, but he captured Murff's attention with several pitches that were faster than what he had witnessed while scouting future big leaguers

Jim Maloney and Turk Farrell that same spring.

Murff remained smitten even after Ryan was hit hard and knocked out of the game. In his scouting report, he wrote: "This skinny high school junior has the best arm I have ever seen in my life."

Three decades later, at Ryan's Hall of Fame induction ceremony, Murff offered a revision. "In retrospect, I probably made the understatement of a lifetime on my report," he explained to a reporter. "I wrote 'Best arm I've ever seen.' But that was pinpointing it to one person. I should have written, 'Best arm the world would ever see.'"

Gil Hodges, the former Brooklyn Dodgers great who managed Ryan with the Mets, boasted the pitching phenom had the potential to "break all the records." But the Mets gave up on Ryan prematurely because he walked too many batters. Following the 1971 season, they dealt him to the Angels as part of a package deal that brought shortstop Jim Fregosi to New York.

Ryan initially was angry with the Mets, but the change of scenery turned out to be a godsend because for the first time in his

professional career, he'd be starting regularly and no longer would be in the shadow of Mets aces Tom Seaver and Jerry Koosman. Under the tutelage of Angels pitching coach Tom Morgan, Ryan added a curveball to his repertoire, and in 1972 recorded a 19-16 record and a 2.28 earned-run average, while leading the American League in shutouts (nine) and the majors in strikeouts (329). He also issued 157 bases on balls that season, and would battle occasional control problems throughout his career. In addition to walking an all-time record 2,795 batters, Ryan also hit 158 batters and delivered 277 wild pitches. But that wildness, born in large part by his insistence on pitching inside, worked to his advantage.

"Ryan's the only guy who puts fear in me," Hall of Fame slugger Reggie Jackson told reporters. "Not because he could get me out, but because he could kill me."

Or as former Tigers reserve outfielder Dick Sharon once put it: "He's baseball's exorcist; he scares the devil out of you."

Little wonder hitters often suffered acute cases of "Ryan-itis," a mysterious ailment that prompted them to take days off when it came time to face the pitcher with the triple-digit heater and the nasty mound demeanor.

"It wasn't just how hard he threw; it was how hard he played," Grich said. "On the mound, he had a hatred for hitters. It drove him nuts to see you get good wood on the ball."

After eight stellar seasons with the Angels, Ryan spent nine years with the Houston Astros and five more with the Texas Rangers. By the time he was through in 1993, he owned or shared 53 MLB records, including the lowest hits per nine inning ratio (6.555) in history. The Angels, Astros and Rangers all retired his number.

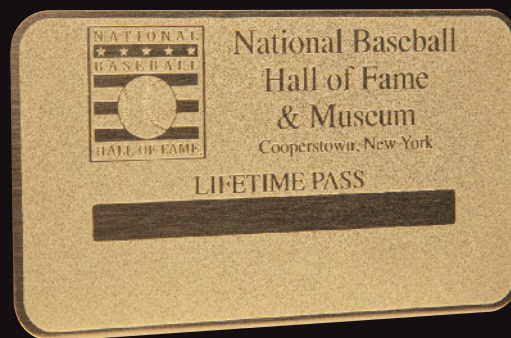
"My ability to throw a baseball was a gift," Ryan said. "It was a God-given gift. It took me a while to figure out how to use that gift, and when I finally did, I did everything in my power to make sure I didn't waste it."

After thousands of swings and misses by batters who couldn't see what they were trying to hit, it's apparent Ryan maximized his gift to the fullest. 🍎

Best-selling author Scott Pitoniak resides in Penfield, N.Y. His latest book is "Remembrances of Swings Past: A Lifetime of Baseball Stories."

Preserve. Honor. Connect.

For a Lifetime.



Lifetime Memberships Available

Lifetime Membership ensures the opportunity to relive baseball's most cherished moments through the Museum's collection. They also make great gifts for newborns, children, grandchildren or that special baseball fan in your life – ensuring that they will enjoy a lifelong connection to Cooperstown.

To join or for more information visit baseballhall.org/lifetimemembership or call (607) 547-0397.





21 'K' Salute

Tom Cheney shocked the baseball world by setting the single-game strikeout record in 1962.

BY MARTY APPEL

It was Sept. 12, 1962, and President John F. Kennedy, speaking at Rice University in Houston, pledged that the United States would put a man on the moon before the decade ended. Many thought the goal was impossible.

That same day, a journeyman right-hander for the Washington Senators accomplished something else few ever thought possible. And with a 16-inning performance that included 228 pitches, Tom Cheney wrote his name into the record books.

On a Wednesday evening at Memorial Stadium in Baltimore, Cheney struck out 21 batters in a single game, setting a record that still stands. Cheney was in his second season with the Washington Senators, who were still thought of as an expansion team, mired in last place. But that night, before barely 4,000 fans, the 5-foot-11, 27-year-old Georgian with a season record of 5-8 (and a lifetime mark of 8-18) did something no one ever had.

Baseball fans awoke the next morning to headlines proclaiming: NATS' CHENEY FANS 21 IN 16-INNING VICTORY.

Many readers perhaps wondered, "Who?"

At that point, the modern record for strikeouts in a nine-inning game was 18, first by Bob Feller in 1938 and then by Sandy Koufax in 1959 and again in early 1962. Warren Spahn (15 innings, 1952) and Jack Coombs (16 innings, 1910) had reached that plateau as well.

Today, we can no longer call the feat unimaginable, because hitters strike out far more than they ever did, and Roger Clemens struck out 20 in nine innings – twice. Kerry

Wood, Randy Johnson and Max Scherzer have likewise reached 20.

But in 1962, it seemed impossible. It would be like a hitter getting nine or 10 hits in a single game.

In 1962, the Senators – who had replaced the franchise that became the Minnesota Twins the year before – were struggling to build a fan base. It was the inaugural season of D.C. Stadium (later to be renamed Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium), and the team was on its way to 101 losses. Only Dave Stenhouse, with 11, reached double figures in wins. Cheney joined Stenhouse, Don Rudolph, Claude Osteen and Bennie Daniels to start 115 of the Senators' 162 games. The well-respected Mickey Vernon was the manager; Sid Hudson was the pitching coach. Even with a new state-of-the-art ballpark, the Senators ranked eighth out of 10 in American League attendance, averaging fewer than 10,000 fans a game, which included 44,383 for the stadium's inaugural contest in April, at which JFK threw out the first pitch.

As for Cheney, he had originally signed in 1952 with the St. Louis Cardinals at age 17, made it to the majors in 1957 and was then traded to Pittsburgh in December 1959 (with Gino Cimoli for Ron Kline), enabling him to be a member of the 1960 World Champion Pirates. He appeared in three games against the Yankees in that year's World Series.

But in June 1961, the Pirates dealt him to Washington for Tom Sturdivant. Cheney was bitter with the Pirates over what he felt were broken promises, and he was now in a new league, a member of an expansion club that

played its home games in ancient Griffith Stadium while awaiting the opening of a new ballpark two miles east of Capitol Hill.

Cheney's 1962 season had few highlights to date, but one was certainly a 1-0 shutout over Jim Kaat and the visiting Twins (the old Senators, whose roster of former Washington players included Harmon Killebrew and Bob Allison). He had an impressive 10 strikeouts in that game. The victory evened his record at 2-2 and was the second shutout and second complete game of his career.

Little in Cheney's major league past had signaled that he was much of a strikeout pitcher. But pitching for Fresno of the Class C California League in 1954, he recorded 207 strikeouts in 203 innings. The Cardinals attributed it to his being in too low of a classification. The most innings he pitched in his major league career had been 52 with the 1960 Pirates, during which he fanned 35 batters.

So now here he was, in his 21st start of the 1962 season, facing an Orioles team that was 72-74 and headed for a seventh-place finish under manager Billy Hitchcock.

Cheney did not strike out anyone in the first inning, got one strikeout in the second and then struck out the side in the third. The Senators had scored in the first on a ground out by Bud Zipfel. Cheney had an impressive 13 strikeouts through nine innings, but the score was knotted at 1-1 after the Orioles' Charlie Lau – the future hitting coach – drove in the tying run in the seventh. Milt Pappas had pitched the first seven for Baltimore, but after being pinch-hit for, was succeeded by Dick Hall, who pitched brilliantly over the next 8.1 innings.

On they went. The crowd of 4,098 may have been halved as midnight approached. By the 15th inning, Cheney had retired 15 straight, and his strikeout of Marv Breeding in the 14th inning was his 18th, tying the Feller-Koufax-Spahn-Coombs mark. The public address announcer informed the remaining fans that the single-game record had been matched, and then informed them again one batter later when Cheney fanned Hall for No. 19. No modern player had ever been to those heights before.

Cheney said he was not aware of his mounting total, and he walked around the mound twice after hearing the PA announcement, soaking it in. Vernon and Hudson repeatedly asked him if he wanted to be relieved, but with

his adrenaline pumping, he insisted that, “I started it and I’ll finish it.”

Between innings, he chain-smoked in the runway behind the dugout. He felt fine.

Strikeout No. 20 was Russ Snyder in the last of the 15th. (It tied an 1884 record set by both Charlie Sweeney and Hugh Daily, when the pitching distance was only 50 feet.) The 20 equaled Cheney’s complete total for the 1961 season.

At last, in the top of the 16th, with a midnight curfew looming, Zipfel (who drove in Washington’s first run 15 innings earlier), sent a Hall pitch into the deserted right field seats to give the Senators a 2-1 lead. Cheney held that lead in the last of the 16th, getting Dick Williams (the future Hall of Fame manager) to take a called third strike for strikeout No. 21 and the complete-game victory. Only seven of the strikeouts were called third strikes.

For his evening’s work, Cheney struck out Snyder, Hall, Breeding, Dave Nicholson and Jim Gentile three times each; Pappas twice; and once each for Williams, Jerry Adair, Brooks Robinson and Hobie Landrith. The rookie left fielder, Boog Powell, had six at-bats without a strikeout, quite a feat in itself on the historic night. In all, Cheney allowed 10 hits, walked four, and lowered his ERA from 3.27 to 3.01. Ken Retzer, the Senators’ catcher, was credited with 21 putouts, then an American League record.

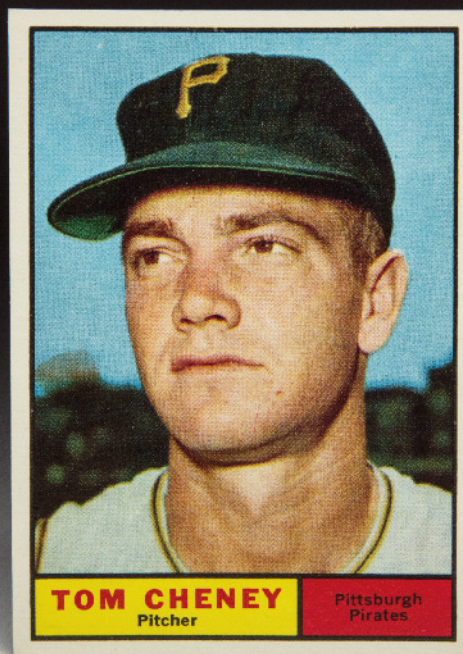
As for his 228 pitches, Leon Cadore of the Brooklyn Robins had pitched a 26-inning complete game in 1920, in which it was estimated he threw 360 pitches in a head-to-head matchup against Joe Oeschger of the Boston Braves. More reliable record keeping shows Joe Hatten of the New York Giants throwing 211 pitches over 12.2 innings in 1948. (In 1974, 12 years after Cheney’s performance, Nolan Ryan threw 235 pitches in 13 innings for the Angels.)

Cheney posed for photos after the game with Zipfel and with a ball marked “21.”

“I can’t explain it and neither can anyone else,” said Cheney to columnist Thomas Boswell many years later. “It was one of those times when everything works.”

Recovered from postgame muscle cramps, (“I thought he needed an IV on the bus ride back to Washington,” said teammate Don Lock), Cheney made his next start just six days later, losing to the Yankees, 7-1. He had five strikeouts

TOPPS BASEBALL CARD PHOTOGRAPHED BY MILO STEWART JR. NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM



TOPPS 494 TOM CHENEY *Pitts. Pirates, pitcher*
 HT: 6'0" WT: 180 THROWS: RIGHT BATS: RIGHT
 BORN: OCTOBER 14, 1934 HOME: ATLANTA, GEORGIA

COMPLETE MAJOR AND MINOR LEAGUE PITCHING RECORD

YEAR	TEAM	LEA.	G	IP	W	L	PCT	SO	BB	ERA	
1952	Albany	Ga.-Fla.	1	1/3	0	1	.000	0	0	27.00	
1953	Albany	Ga.-Fla.	35	172	9	12	.429	122	85	3.61	
1954	Fresno	Calif.	32	203	12	11	.522	207	122	3.85	
1955	Omaha	A. A.	2	2	0	0	.000	2	3	0.00	
1955	Columbus	Sally	30	227	14	12	.538	153	100	3.26	
1956	Omaha	A. A.	29	169	10	5	.667	122	64	2.93	
1957	St. Louis	N. L.	4	9	0	1	.000	10	15	5.00	
1957	Omaha	A. A.	25	182	14	8	.636	175	61	2.62	
1958										(Military Service)	
1959	St. Louis	N. L.	11	12	0	1	.000	8	11	6.75	
1959	Omaha	A. A.	14	76	5	6	.455	56	48	4.38	
1960	Columbus	Int.	15	111	4	8	.333	115	47	3.16	
1960	Pittsburgh	N. L.	11	52	2	2	.500	35	33	3.98	
Major League Totals			3 Yrs.	26	73	2	4	.333	53	59	4.56

TOM WAS AN A. A. ALL-STAR IN 1956 AND 1957
 HE PITCHED IN 2 GAMES IN THE '60 WORLD SERIES

Tom Cheney's 1961 Topps baseball card showed him as a member of the Pirates, with whom he won a 1960 World Series ring. In 1962, Cheney would set an MLB single-game strikeout record that still stands.

in three innings. Then his season wrapped up on Sept. 30, when he defeated the Red Sox and struck out 12 in 8.2 innings.

Hopes were high for Cheney in 1963, and he delivered a decent season, going 8-9 with a 2.71 ERA but only 97 strikeouts in 136.1 innings. But he had only one more victory in his career, missing all of 1965 with an injured elbow and going back to the minors in 1966

before leaving the game at age 31.

Cheney passed away on Nov. 1, 2001, after suffering from Alzheimer’s disease.

It is not hard to imagine what the first sentence in his obituary was. 📖

Magazine Historian Marty Appel’s many books include “Pinstripe Empire,” which in eBook version has been updated through the 2020 season.

K IS FOR KILROY

IN 1886, MATT KILROY STRUCK OUT 513 BATTERS FOR THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION'S BALTIMORE ORIOLES.

BY STEVE WULF



he crowd of 15,867 at Oriole Park at Camden Yards on Aug. 25, 2021, is in a festive mood even though the hometown team is on a 19-game losing streak. That's because the talk of baseball, Shohei

Ohtani, is the starting pitcher and leadoff hitter for the Los Angeles Angels.

He has come into the game with 40 homers and an 8-1 record and 2.79 ERA, drawing comparisons with Baltimore's own Babe Ruth.

Who hasn't heard of Ohtani? Who hasn't heard of Ruth?

On the other hand, who *has* heard of Matt Kilroy?

Well, it might surprise you to know that once upon a time – 135 years ago, to be exact – Matthew Aloysius Kilroy was the talk of baseball. The “Phenomenal Kid” was just that, striking out 513 batters for the Baltimore Orioles in 1886, a season in which he turned 20 years old. That's right: 513 strikeouts. That is still the major league record for strikeouts in

a season. Long before a 1963 *Time* magazine article declared that “K Is For Koufax,” Kilroy made Henry Chadwick's shorthand for strikeout his own.

Granted, Kilroy needed 583 innings to do it, and the front of the pitcher's box was just 50 feet from home plate, but still, what the little (5-foot-9, 175 pounds) left-hander did was, to borrow an adjective that he himself coined, “bazzazz.”

Because of the fireballs he threw, he had another nickname: “Matches.” His home field, a few miles north of Camden Yards, was called Orioles Park, and his 1886 team went 48-88. That's why his record that season was only 29-34.

But who would have conceived then, or who would think now, that a kid that young would strike out more batters in a season than any man in the history of baseball, or throw 66 complete games in 68 starts, one of them a no-hitter? Or that he would have a cigar named after him just a few months out of his teens?

But that's baseball for you, then and now. On that August 2021 night that the

O's faced Ohtani, they broke their losing streak. Bazzazz.

The footprint of the field in North Baltimore on which Kilroy first made a name for himself has been lost to time and urban renewal. Also known as the Huntingdon Avenue Grounds, it was bordered by Huntingdon Ave. (now 25th St.) to the north, 24th St. to the south, Greenmount Ave. to the east and Barclay St. to the west. There is no historical marker to indicate Major League Baseball was ever played here.

But according to Baltimore baseball historian Ken Mars, more than 6,000 fans jammed the stands on Opening Day of the 1886 season – Saturday, April 17 – to watch Kilroy make his major league debut against the Brooklyn Grays. There was already a buzz about the black-haired, grey-eyed youngster, owing to the 29 games he won for Augusta of the Southern League the year before and a strong showing in spring exhibitions.

Kilroy also came with a great back story. He was the seventh of 13 children born to Irish immigrants who came to Philadelphia to escape the potato famine. When the Kilroy boys weren't working in a glass factory, they were playing baseball, and Matt was so good at the age of 14 that they called him the “Boy Wonder.”

As Mars points out in his fascinating book, “Baltimore Baseball – First Pitch to First Pennant,” “He was a full two years younger than any batter on his adversary's lineup sheet.”

He proceeded to limit the Grays to just two hits while striking out seven for a complete-game 4-1 victory. The Orioles' fans, according to Mars, “were just as shocked as the Grays, as they yelled their throats hoarse and stomped their feet sore. It was glorious.”

Young as he was, the fans felt they had a hero, and a chance. But after the Orioles got off to a decent start, they discovered that, in Mars' words, “he was the lone stallion on a club of pack mules.” His teammates weren't the best influence, either. After celebrating his 20th birthday with them in New York that June, he lost to the Grays, 25-1. He shook off



Matt Kilroy, shown on an Old Judge baseball card from the Hall of Fame's collection, struck out 513 batters in 1886 to set a single-season record that still stands.

that hangover, though, and resumed dominating the opposition. On Oct. 6, with the Orioles mired in last place, Kilroy pitched the first no-hitter in club history, a 6-0 victory over the host Pittsburgh Alleghenys.

A Baltimore tobacconist named August Mencken took advantage of the kid's notoriety and named a cigar after Matches. Unfortunately, they had to be taken off the market when it was discovered they were being made by the boys at the St. Mary's Industrial School – Ruth's future alma mater. (Mencken's own son, Henry, grew up to be legendary satirist H.L. Mencken.)

That offseason, American Association owners decided to boost offense by requiring four strikes for a strikeout and shortening the pitchers box from seven feet to 5½ feet. But while Kilroy's strikeout total plummeted to 217, his victories skyrocketed to 46, which is still the record for left-handers. Manager Billy Barnie had surrounded him with a better lineup, but Kilroy also helped himself with a new leg kick that presaged the modern pitching motion.

Matches' stats in 1887 are unmatched: 589.1 innings, 66 complete games, six shutouts, and victories in both games of a doubleheader twice. He actually had the team in contention for the early part of the season, but they faded to third place in the fall.

All told, in his first two seasons, Kilroy won 75 games, which is still a major league record, threw 1,172.1 innings and 132 complete games, and fanned 730 batters. With that kind of workload, the reason Kilroy faded into obscurity like the Huntingdon Avenue Grounds seems like a foregone conclusion. For a time, though, he was the toast of Baltimore. He was given a gold watch by the fans and a new \$2,600 contract by the club.

Adding to his appeal was his colorful personality. According to baseball historian John Thorn, "Sometimes Matty was at loss for a word to express something, so he invented 'bazzazz' and applied it universally. It means a good drive, a fast curve, a batsman's leg, a base runner's foot – or anything else." Kilroy

also had a deadly pickoff move to first base, which he called “the Bazzazzaz Balk.”

Here’s another Matty, Christy Mathewson, quoting Kilroy on the balk move in his 1912 book, “Pitching In A Pinch”: “My old soup bone was so weak that I couldn’t break a pane of glass from fifty feet. So one winter I spent some time every day out in the back yard getting that balk motion down. . . . I had them stickin’ closer to the base for two years than a sixteen-year-old fellow does to his gal when they’ve just decided they would do for each other.”

Because of injuries and wear-and-tear, Kilroy’s victory total fell to 17 in ’88. But it was not a lost season for Matt – he married 20-year-old Frances “Fannie” Denny that April, and for a wedding present, Orioles faithful gave the newlyweds an inscribed silver service. Indeed, 1888 became something of a family after the Orioles called up Matt’s older brother Mike, a right-handed pitcher, for a cup of coffee.

Matt returned to form in ’89, winning 29 games with an ERA of 2.85 and 55 complete games. But then he jumped to the Players League to play for King Kelly’s Boston Reds and struggled with arm problems. After stops in Cincinnati, Washington and Louisville, he found himself on the Chicago Orphans in 1898, sharing first base with a kid named Frank Chance and pitching in an emergency. One day, he was picked to start against the host Cleveland Spiders and their ace, Cy Young. This is from a newspaper account of that game:

“It was Kilroy Day. After three years, ‘Bazzazzas’ was resurrected and sent in to do battle against the Spiders. He pitched grandly. . . . In the tight places Kilroy showed magnificent command.”

Final score: Chicago 12, Cleveland 4. WP – Kilroy. LP – Young. “Matches” finally hung up his spikes in 1899 after hitting .246 as an outfielder for Hartford of the Eastern League.

He wasn’t done with baseball, though.

A nearby sign tells you what used to be here, at Lehigh Ave. and North 20th Street:

SHIBE PARK/CONNIE MACK STADIUM
Early Major League baseball park opened here, 1909. Renamed, 1953. Home to Athletics, 1909-1954; Phillies, 1938-1970.

It was also across the street from the Lehigh Ave. home of Matt and Fannie Kilroy, and the seven children they raised in their Philadelphia rowhouse. Soon after his playing days were over, he opened a saloon on the first floor that became a popular gathering spot of ballplayers, even during Prohibition. Their kids often worked the bar and the tables – one of them, Elmer Kilroy, became the Speaker of the House of the Pennsylvania legislature.

Matt was also in the good graces of Connie Mack, who broke into the big leagues as a catcher the same year as Kilroy. Mack valued his judgement and asked him to coach his A’s pitchers, three of whom went on to Hall of Fame careers: Charles Bender, Eddie Plank and Lefty Grove.

Here was Kilroy’s scouting report on the rookie Grove, who was struggling with his control: “When he brings that long arm of his over his head, he doesn’t complete his pitch, but gets the ball away too quick. That makes him wild. But he’ll overcome that. When he does, he’ll be a corker.”

Fannie died in 1923 at the age of 56. But Matt never lacked for company. Ballplayers often stopped by his restaurant, sometimes during games, and he kept a ledger of every one who did. He sold the tavern in 1939, and passed away a year later. Charlie Quinn then took it over and renamed it The Deep Right Field Café.

In 2018, *Philadelphia Inquirer* sportswriter Frank Fitzpatrick recalled the glory of the place: “Its floor was coated with sawdust, its walls adorned with sepia-toned photos of old ballplayers clutching impossibly tiny gloves or big, unwieldy bats.”

Quinn kept autographed baseballs behind the bar, signed by the likes of Connie Mack, Jimmie Foxx and Babe Ruth. He also maintained the registry started by Matches. The first name in the book is that of Mike Kilroy, who pitched three games for the Phillies in 1891. The last name is that of Don Money, who played for the Phillies before they moved to Veterans Stadium in 1971.

Charlie Quinn died in 1974, but by then, The Deep Right Field was also gone. You’d love to get a peek at that ledger, though, to see if the great strikeout pitchers like Walter Johnson and Sandy Koufax and Nolan Ryan signed on to a tradition that Matt Kilroy started.

Resting places don’t come much nicer than The Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Opened in 1894 and owned by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, it is a place of serenity on the border of Cheltenham Township and Northwest Philadelphia.

The paths taking you between the sections of the cemetery are something of a maze, but there in Section D is a striking marble tombstone with KILROY in between two crosses. Below the surname are five full names. Matthew is the fourth one down, right below Frances. There is nothing to indicate that Matthew played baseball, much less struck out more men in a season than anyone else ever has.

About a hundred yards away, in Section 27, is a gravesite that simply reads MCGILLICUDDY. The only thing to signal that Matt’s old friend Connie Mack is buried there is a makeshift flower arrangement in a Phillies cup. It is nice to know that the two men, pitcher and catcher, are within throwing distance of one another.

“All four of my grandparents are buried there,” said Bryan Torresani, the baseball coach at Arcadia University, which is right across Highway 309 from Holy Sepulchre.

Sitting in his office at the Kuch Athletic Center, one is surrounded by the trappings of the successful program he has been running since 2016.

“I grew up a Phillies fan, and caught for Elizabethtown College. But until you told me, I had no idea who Matt Kilroy was, much less that he holds the record for strikeouts in a season. Nolan Ryan, Walter Johnson, Steve Carlton – those guys I know. And this guy is buried near Connie Mack across the road from us?”

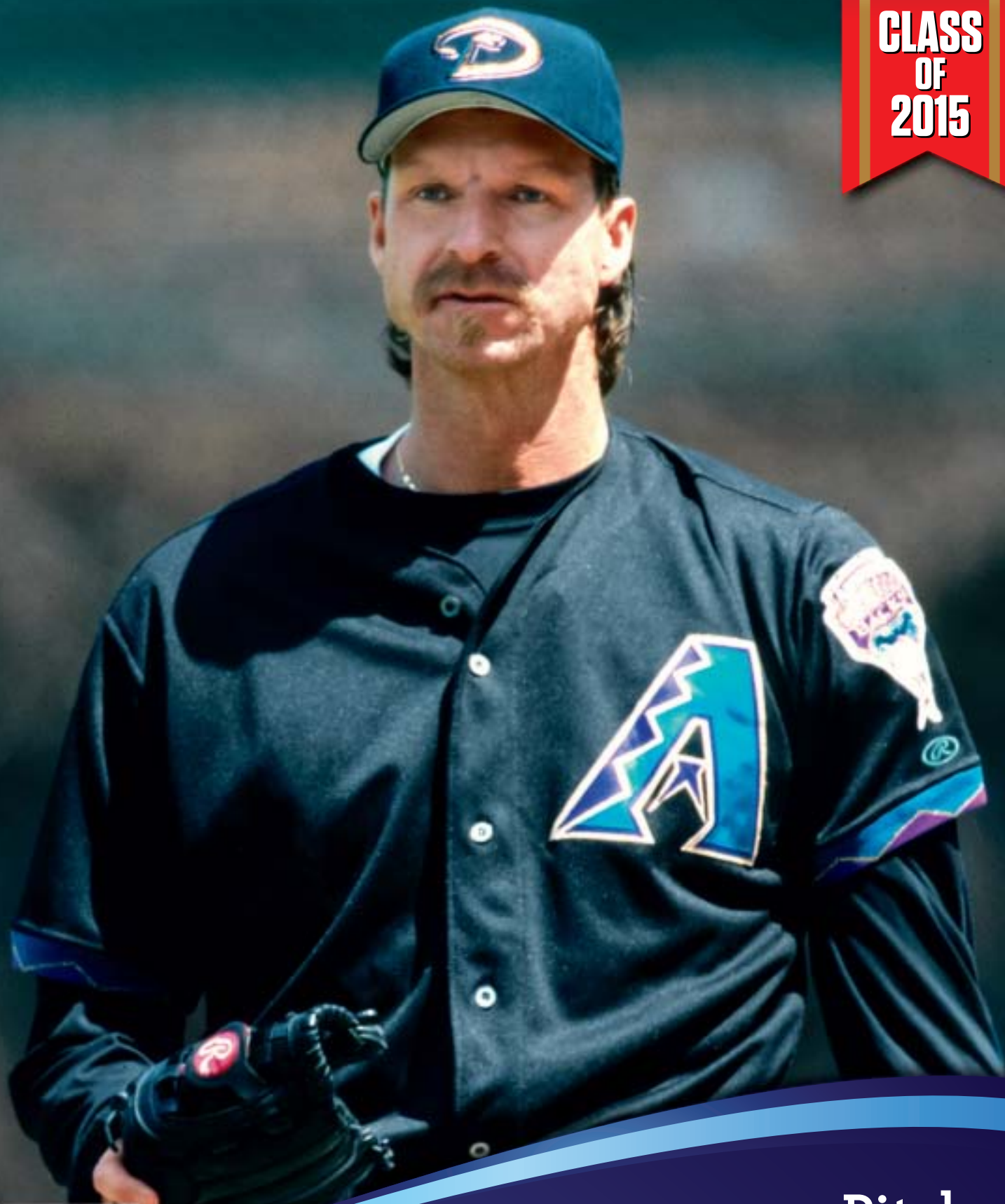
As a coach, Torresani can appreciate a strikeout pitcher when he sees one. He even has his own: Zach Steiger, a sophomore right-handed reliever from Collegeville, Pa. In 18.1 innings last spring, he struck out 31 MAC opponents, an even better ratio than Matches had in 1886, albeit with a much smaller sample size.

“You’ve given me an idea for a field trip,” Torresani said. “You can’t truly appreciate baseball until you know its history.”

And some of it is bazzazzas. 🍌

Steve Wulf has been writing about baseball since Hank Aaron was active. He lives in Larchmont, N. Y., just up the hill from where Lou and Eleanor Gebrig once resided.

**CLASS
OF
2015**



NATIONAL

Pitcher

RANDY JOHNSON

RANDALL JOHNSON

Elected: 2015 • Born: Sept. 10, 1963, Walnut Creek, Calif.
 Batted: Right Threw: Left • Height: 6-foot-10 Weight: 225 pounds
 Played for: Montreal Expos (1988-89); Seattle Mariners (1989-98); Houston Astros (1998); Arizona Diamondbacks (1999-2004; 2007-08); New York Yankees (2005-06); San Francisco Giants (2009)



Year	Team	W	L	PCT	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
1988	MON	3	0	1.000	2.42	4	4	1	0	0	26.0	23	8	7	7	25
1989	MON/SEA	7	13	.350	4.82	29	28	2	0	0	160.2	147	100	86	96	130
1990	SEA	14	11	.560	3.65	33	33	5	2	0	219.2	174	103	89	120	194
1991	SEA	13	10	.565	3.98	33	33	2	1	0	201.1	151	96	89	152	228
1992	SEA	12	14	.462	3.77	31	31	6	2	0	210.1	154	104	88	144	241
1993	SEA	19	8	.704	3.24	35	34	10	3	1	255.1	185	97	92	99	308
1994	SEA	13	6	.684	3.19	23	23	9	4	0	172.0	132	65	61	72	204
1995	SEA	18	2	.900	2.48	30	30	6	3	0	214.1	159	65	59	65	294
1996	SEA	5	0	1.000	3.67	14	8	0	0	1	61.1	48	27	25	25	85
1997	SEA	20	4	.833	2.28	30	29	5	2	0	213.0	147	60	54	77	291
1998	SEA/HOU	19	11	.633	3.28	34	34	4	0	0	244.1	203	102	89	86	329
1999	ARI	17	9	.654	2.48	35	35	12	2	0	271.2	207	86	75	70	364
2000	ARI	19	7	.731	2.64	35	35	8	3	0	248.2	202	89	73	76	347
2001	ARI	21	6	.778	2.49	35	34	3	2	0	249.2	181	74	69	71	372
2002	ARI	5	5	.500	2.32	35	35	8	4	0	260.0	197	78	67	71	394
2003	ARI	6	8	.429	4.26	18	18	1	1	0	114.0	125	61	54	27	125
2004	ARI	16	14	.533	2.60	35	35	4	2	0	245.2	177	88	71	44	290
2005	INNY	17	8	.680	3.79	34	34	4	0	0	225.2	207	102	95	47	211
2006	INNY	17	11	.607	5.00	33	33	2	0	0	205.0	194	125	114	60	172
2007	ARI	4	3	.571	3.81	10	10	0	0	0	56.2	52	26	24	13	72
2008	ARI	11	10	.524	3.91	30	30	2	0	0	184.0	184	92	80	44	173
2009	SF	8	6	.571	4.88	22	17	0	0	0	96.0	97	55	52	31	86
22 Years		303	166	.646	3.29	618	603	100	37	2	4135.1	3346	1703	1513	1497	4875

All statistics are from baseball-reference.com • All bolded marks are league-leading totals • Bolded and italicized marks are major league-best totals
Awards & Records: Five-time Cy Young Award Winner (1995, 1999-2002) • Won NL pitching Triple Crown in 2002 • 10-time All-Star (1990, 1993-95, 1997, 1999-2002, 2004)

DID YOU KNOW ...

- ★ ... that Randy Johnson's 4,875 strikeouts rank second on the all-time MLB list and first among left-handers?
- ★ ... that Johnson's career mark of 10.6 strikeouts per nine innings ranks first all time among non-active pitchers?
- ★ ... that more than half of Johnson's 303 career wins came after he turned 35 years old?

WHAT THEY SAY ...

- ★ "He went about preparing for each game like it was the most important game of his career."
 - SEATTLE MARINERS GENERAL MANAGER WOODY WOODWARD
- ★ "He was so tall, it looked like he was delivering the ball from Little League distance."
 - HALL OF FAMES GEORGE BRETT
- ★ "You almost got spoiled by it. He was the most dominating pitcher I ever saw."
 - MANAGER BOB MELVIN



RANDALL DAVID JOHNSON

"RANDY," "THE BIG UNIT,"
 MONTREAL, N.L., 1988-89; SEATTLE, A.L., 1989-98;
 HOUSTON, A.L., 1998-99; SAN FRANCISCO, N.L., 2000-08;
 NEW YORK, A.L., 2005-06; SAN FRANCISCO, N.L., 2009
 AT 6'10", A TOW BRN, AND UNWINDING LEFT-HANDER WHOSE CRACKLING
 FASTBALL AND DEFASTING SLIDER PARALYZED HITTERS FOR MORE THAN
 TWO DECADES, FIVE-TIME CY YOUNG AWARD WINNER, INCLUDING FOUR
 CONSECUTIVE, 1999-2002, LED LEAGUE IN STRIKEOUTS NINE TIMES AND
 POSTED SIX 30 STRIKEOUT SEASONS, TEN-TIME ALL-STAR AND THREE-TIME
 POSITIVE STRIKEOUTS PER INNING LEADER, HE WON FOUR MVP AWARDS
 AND LED LEAGUE IN E.R.A. FOUR TIMES, WON THREE GAMES IN 2011
 WORLD SERIES WITH CHAMPION DIAMONDBACKS, EARNING CO-MVP HONORS.

2021

WORTHMORE
2 FOR 5

BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

Holiday Gift Guide

"Some of the wounded survivors of the ill-fated warship speak in glowing terms of the team's former prowess and believe that some of the crack nines of the big leagues would have had to hustle in a contest with the sailor laddies who have made their last home run."

—The Savannah (Charleston) Evening News, May 27, 1868

The Old Major League team and their great play for a picture, which is now in the collection of the Baseball Hall of Fame, is a most interesting and valuable historical document. The team, which played the regular season in Savannah, Ga., was captured on film by the photographer, W. G. ...



PICTURING AMERICA'S PASTIME

Historic Photography from the Baseball Hall of Fame Archives



PICTURING AMERICA'S PASTIME
121215 | \$34.95 | Members \$31.46

2021
Holiday Gift Guide



CHAMPION REVERSE WEAVE QUARTER ZIP
210113 | \$69.99 | Members \$62.99



GEAR FOR SPORTS APPLIQUE SCRIPT SWEATSHIRT
209924 | \$59.99 | Members \$53.99

HALL OF FAME REVERSIBLE VARSITY JACKET
270003 | \$100.00 | Members \$90.00

HALL OF FAME REVERSIBLE VARSITY JACKET
270002 | \$110.00 | Members \$99.00





HALL OF FAME LOGO MEMBER TEE
201081 | \$34.99 | Members \$31.49



HALL OF FAME TIMEX WATCH
100867 | \$74.95 | Members \$67.46



HALL OF FAME TEAM TEES
TEAMHOF | \$35.00 | Members \$31.50



HALL OF FAME NEW ERA 59FIFTY CAPS
HOFCAPS | \$35.99 | Members \$32.39

Members Receive 10% Discount & FREE Standard Shipping

2021
Holiday Gift Guide



BARNWOOD SPORTS
JERSEY HOME PLATES
 BARNWOOD | \$59.99–\$399.99
 Members \$53.99–\$359.99



HALL OF FAME BOBBLEHEADS
 HOFBOBBLE | \$34.99–\$49.99 | Members \$31.49–\$44.99



HALL OF FAME CAREER STAT BATS
 HOFSTATBAT | \$140.00 | Members \$126.00



WORLD SERIES PROGRAM & TEAM YEARBOOK WALL ART

TEAMWALLART | \$64.99 | Members \$58.49



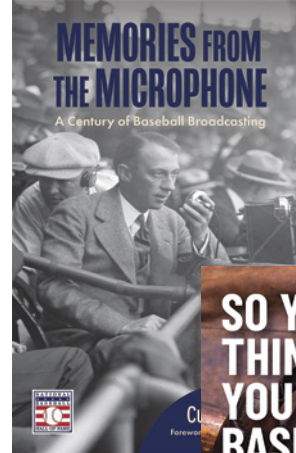
JUSTYN FARANO ARTWORK

192007 | \$30.00 | Members \$27.00



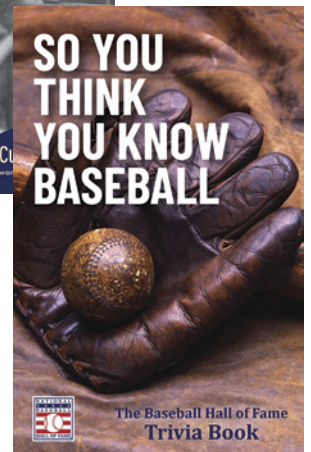
UNFORGETTABALLS LIMITED EDITION BASEBALLS

600290 | \$29.99-\$33.99 | Members \$26.99-\$30.59



MEMORIES FROM THE MICROPHONE

121217 | \$19.95 | Members \$17.96

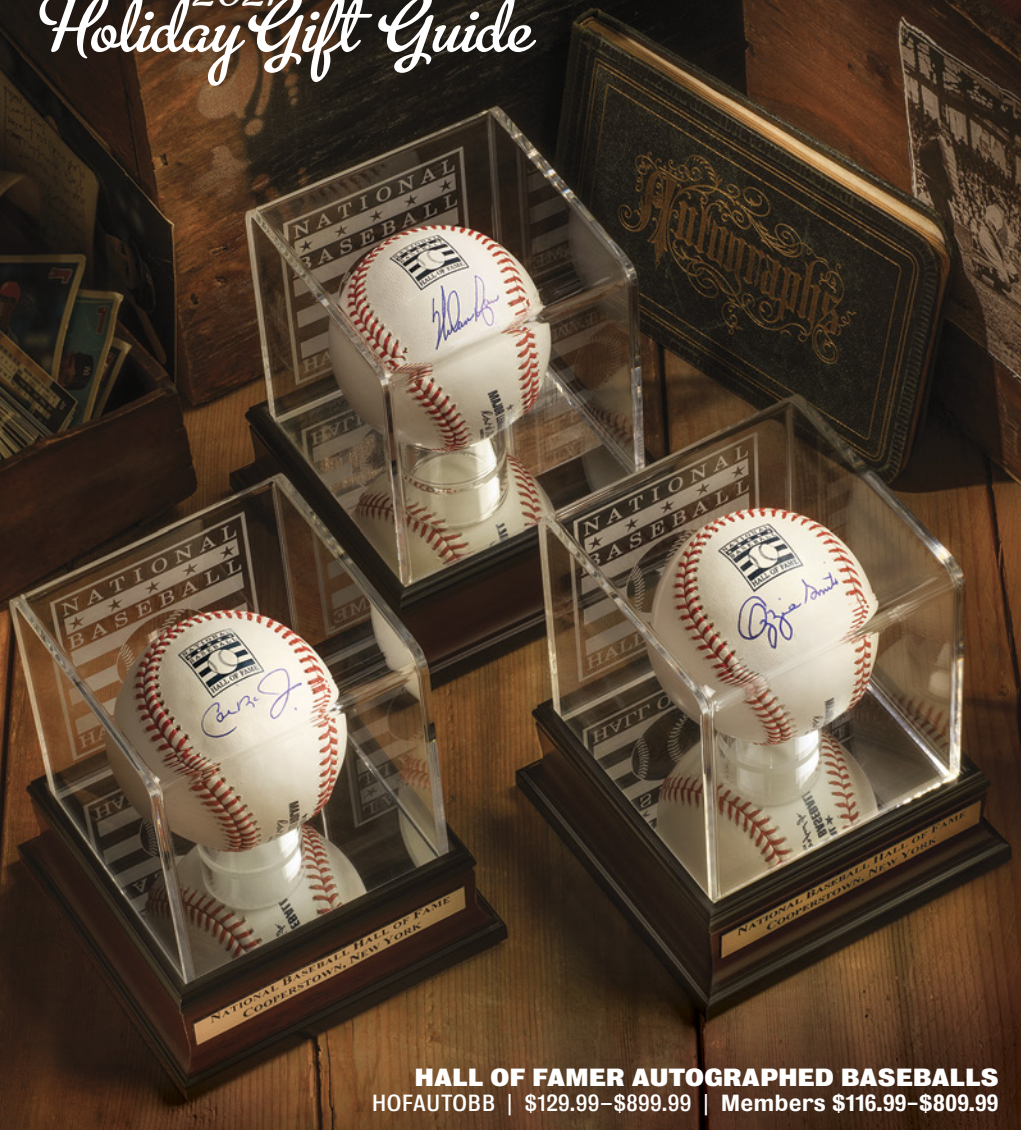


SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW BASEBALL TRIVIA BOOK

121219 | \$16.95 | Members \$15.26

Members Receive 10% Discount & FREE Standard Shipping

2021 Holiday Gift Guide



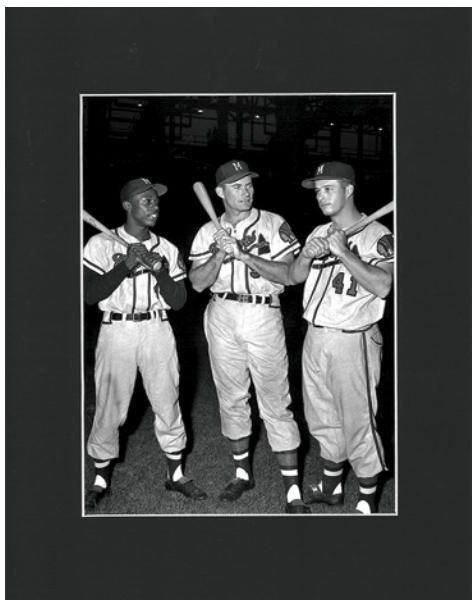
HALL OF FAME AUTOGRAPHED BASEBALLS
HOFAUTOBB | \$129.99-\$899.99 | Members \$116.99-\$809.99



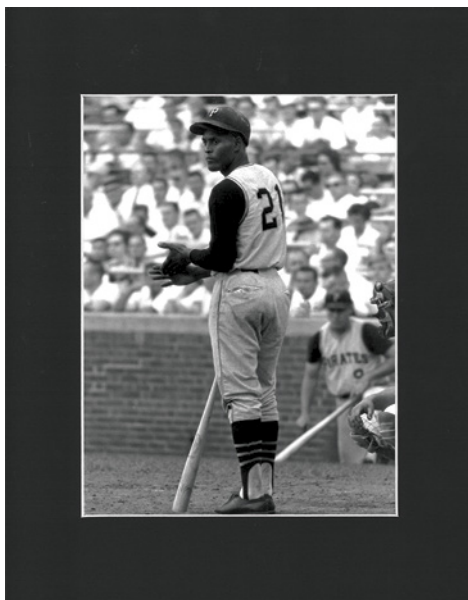
AUTOGRAPHED BASEBALL CARDS
AUTOCARDS | See website for prices



REPRINT BASEBALL CARDS
CARDREPS | \$44.95-\$54.95
Members \$40.46-\$49.46



HALL OF FAME PHOTO REPRINTS
HOFPHOTOS | \$19.99 | Members \$17.99



**HALL OF FAME
PLAQUE POSTCARDS**

30165 | *Plaque Postcard Set*
\$149.99 | **Members \$134.99**
HOF CARD | *Individual Plaque Postcards*
\$0.99 | **Members \$0.89**



HALL OF FAME REPLICA PLAQUES
HOFACRYLIC | \$49.99 | **Members \$44.99**



HALL OF FAME PLAQUE PHOTOMINTS
100075 | \$79.99 | **Members \$71.99**



PLAQUE PIN SETS
HOPINSET | \$39.99 | **Members \$35.99**

Members Receive 10% Discount & FREE Standard Shipping

2021 Holiday Gift Guide



HALL OF FAME SIGNATURE DECANTERS

501249 | \$59.99 | Members \$53.99



HOME PLATE 4-PIECE COASTER SET

336055 | \$31.99 | Members \$28.79

HALL OF FAME GLASSWARE

HOFGLASS | \$6.99-\$13.99 | Members \$6.29-\$12.59



HALL OF FAME DUGOUT MUGS

DUGOUT | \$64.99 | Members \$58.49

We're at the ballpark this summer! We hope to see you there!

Sports Travel and Tours is currently operating Baseball Road Trips.

Limited capacity tours, following all CDC guidelines as well as abiding by all state and local guidelines.

We invite you to hit the road and join us!



Hall of Fame
members
SAVE 5%
on baseball
travel packages

See the Country and Visit Cooperstown on a Sports Travel and Tours Baseball Road Trip.

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

With trips full of avid baseball fans, you are guaranteed to make new friends along the way!
Call or visit us online today, and leave the planning to us.



SPORTS
TRAVEL AND TOURS

888-310-HALL | sportstravelandtours.com/nbhof



A portion of every Sports Travel and Tours purchase generously provides funds to support the Hall of Fame's mission to preserve baseball history. Hall of Fame members save 5% on baseball travel packages.

Baseball Hall of Fame trademarks and copyrights are used with permission of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, Inc.

CAN'T MISS

HITTERS LIKE JOE SEWELL AND WADE BOGGS CHARTED A PATH TO COOPERSTOWN BY MAKING CONTACT AT THE PLATE.

BY STEVE BUCKLEY

From Henry Chadwick's rudimentary 19th century box scores to such modern-day statistical measures as UZR (Ultimate Zone Rating), WAR (Wins Above Replacement) and BABIP (Batting Average on Balls in Play), baseball has always been a numbers game.

But if there's one statistic that, if you'll pardon the pun, strikes at the heart of what baseball is all about, it's the one that focuses on not striking out. Ted Williams often said that the key to hitting is "getting a good pitch to hit," which translates to getting the bat on the ball, which means not going down on strikes.

It's true that the game's modern-day front office folks are less concerned about batters striking out than in the old days, when rumply "general managers" ran the show. Or at the very least, today's heads of baseball ops don't seem to take it personally when their batsmen strike out a lot. But getting the bat on the ball – that is, not striking out – remains as much an art form as it ever was, a trait to be admired and celebrated.

We often like to reach back in time and wonder what this or that player would be worth in today's market. For the purposes of this exercise, let's take a look at Joe Sewell, the Hall of Fame infielder who played for the

Cleveland Indians and New York Yankees from 1920 to 1933. Sewell's niche in baseball history is made clear on his Hall of Fame plaque: "Most difficult man to strike out in game's history." If the whole point of the game is to get your bat on the ball, and in accordance with Teddy Ballgame's theory, this would make Joe Sewell a pretty important figure, no?

It's been said that Sewell used just one bat in his entire career, called Black Betsy. He had a lifetime .312 batting average and his on-base percentage was .391. He played on World Series championship teams with the Indians (1920) and Yankees (1932). These are helpful guideposts in explaining Sewell's Hall of Fame mettle – he was elected by the Veterans Committee in 1977, which put him on the Cooperstown stage with Chicago Cubs icon Ernie Banks – but it was putting the ball in play that put him over the top. In 8,333 plate appearances, Sewell struck out just 114 times. That works out to about once every 73 plate appearances, or about once every couple of weeks. He once went 115 consecutive games without striking out. In 699 plate appearances in 1925, he struck out four times.

And then there was the 1932 season, his second-to-last in the big leagues. Sewell was 33 years old, playing third base for the Yankees, and maybe he got all caught up in the long ball by virtue of being teammates with Babe Ruth (41 home runs that season) and Lou

Gehrig (34). Whatever it was, Sewell hit a career-high 11 home runs in 1932. It was the only season he reached double digits in homers (his previous high was seven with the '29 Indians), but it came at a cost: Sewell hit just .272 in 1932, the lowest batting average of his 14 seasons in the majors. And yet, despite getting it into his head that this 5-foot-6, 155-pound infielder was a new Bustin' Babe or Larrupin' Lou, he struck out just three times in 576 plate appearances en route to hitting those 11 home runs.

Sewell last returned to Cooperstown for the 1989 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, when Johnny Bench, Red Schoendienst, Carl Yastrzemski and umpire Al Barlick were enshrined. He died March 6, 1990, at age 91.

But Sewell's legacy lives on. Leighton Calhoun "Foots" Parnell III is Sewell's grandson, and can boast he once pitched to the man who was the most difficult batter to strike out in baseball history.

Grandfather and grandson are both graduates of the University of Alabama. Joe Sewell was a baseball star 'Bama who later coached the Crimson Tide for seven years; when he retired, he continued to live in the area.

In 1970, Foots Parnell, a freshman, was on the baseball field at Alabama when Sewell, age 71, stepped up to the plate to take a few cuts.

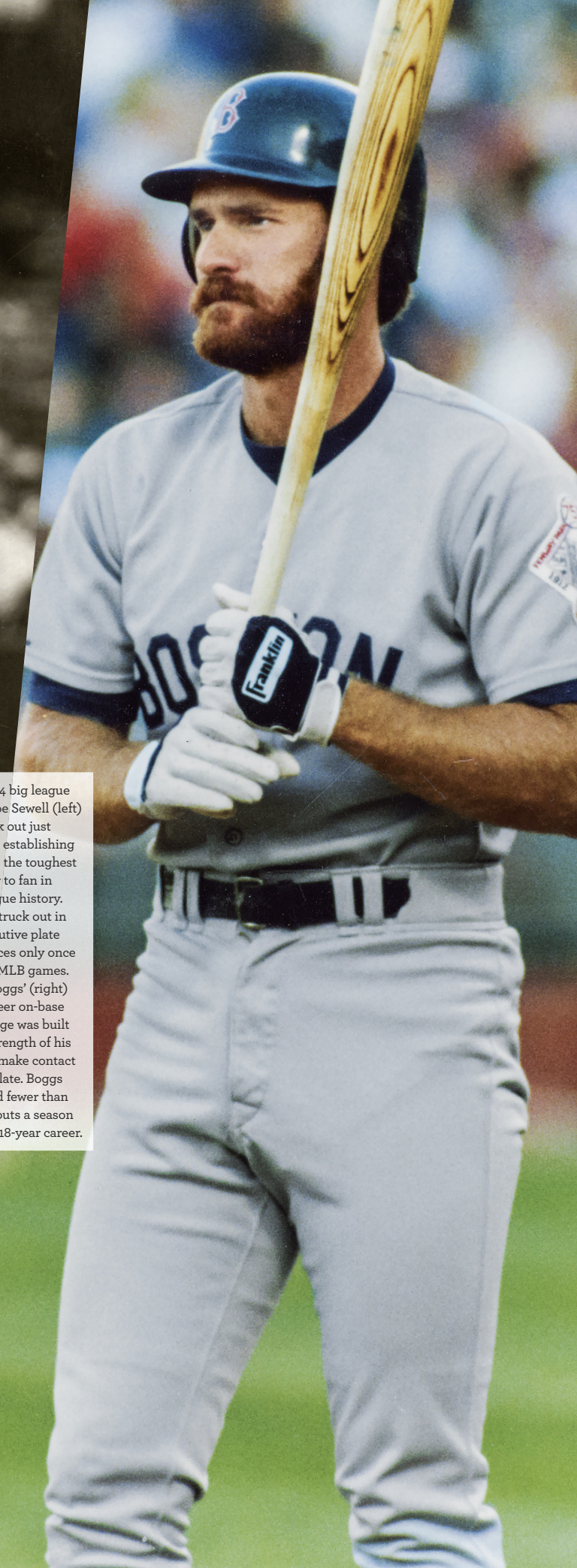
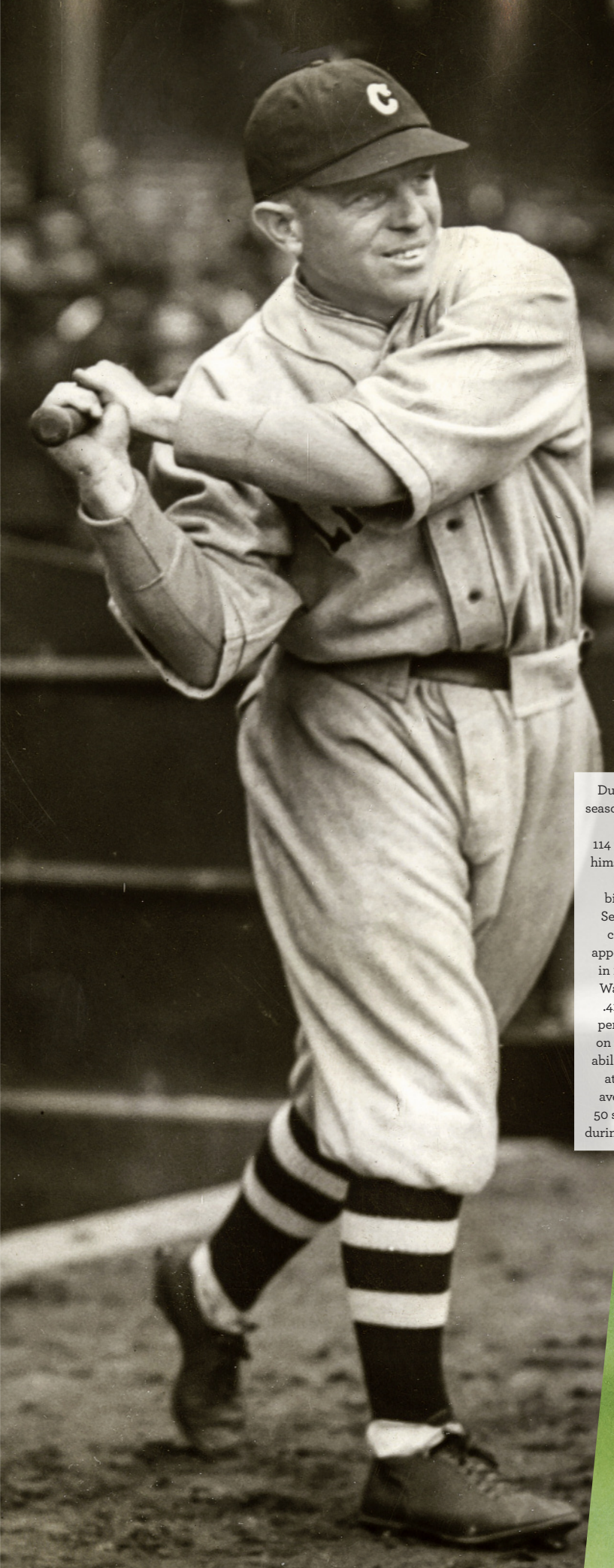
"Here I am, throwing pitches to my grandfather," said Parnell. "He said he wanted to hit a ball to every position."

By "every position," Sewell was saying he wanted to hit a ball to first base, to second base, to shortstop ... to every position.

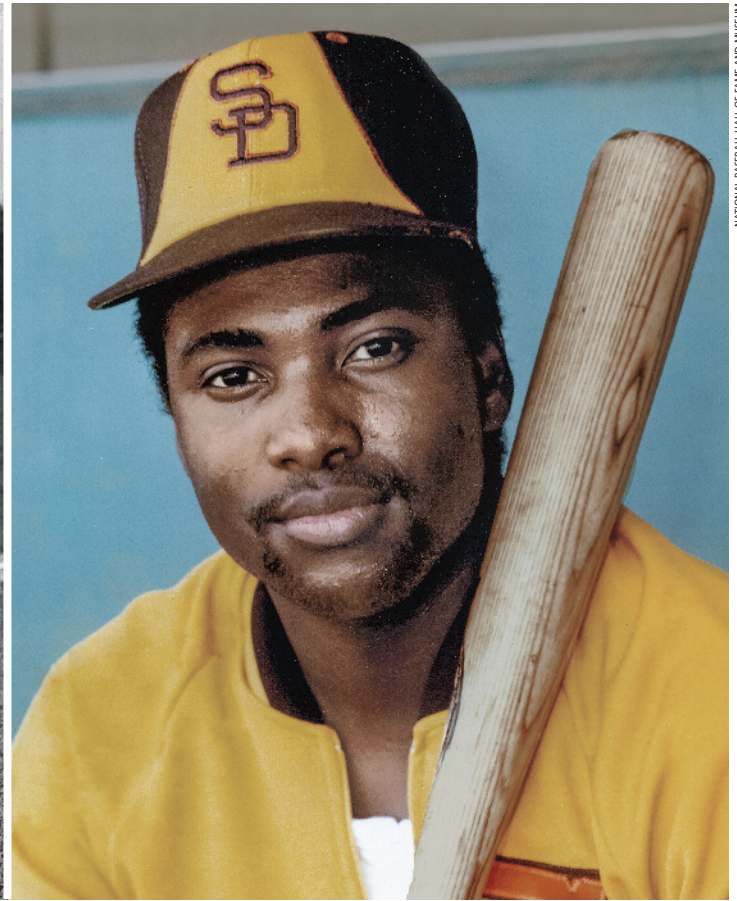
"And he did," said Parnell. "It was remarkable. It was years before the movie, but it's my 'Field of Dreams' moment. I remember it like it was right now."

The two men talked a lot of baseball in those days.

"We were discussing his strikeout record once, and I said Joe – I called him Joe – I cannot believe you never broke your bat, Black Betsy," Parnell said. "He looked at me and said, 'You see that fountain pen in your pocket? That's your tool.' He told me that if



During 14 big league seasons, Joe Sewell (left) struck out just 114 times, establishing himself as the toughest batter to fan in big league history. Sewell struck out in consecutive plate appearances only once in 1,903 MLB games. Wade Boggs' (right) .415 career on-base percentage was built on the strength of his ability to make contact at the plate. Boggs averaged fewer than 50 strikeouts a season during his 18-year career.



In 1958, Nellie Fox (left) went 98 consecutive games without striking out. Eight-time NL batting champion Tony Gwynn (right) struck out just 434 times in more than 10,000 plate appearances.

you make a living using a tool, you wouldn't want to break that tool, would you? I said, 'No, I wouldn't.' He said, 'Well, I wouldn't want to break mine, either.'"

According to Parnell, his grandfather was quite proud of his place in history as one of the toughest batters to strike out. To illustrate his point, Parnell cites the Indians' 5-2 win over the White Sox in the second game of a doubleheader on May 26, 1930, at Cleveland's League Park. For it was in that game that a 24-year-old rookie left-hander named Cecil Bradford Patrick "Pat" Caraway struck Sewell out in consecutive plate appearances. It was the only time in Sewell's career that he struck out twice in a row, and only the second time in his career he struck out twice in the same game. (Washington Senators lefty Cy Warmoth struck him out twice on May 13, 1923, but not consecutively.)

"My grandfather would often talk about that game against the White Sox in 1930," said Parnell. "He told me that with the angle the pitcher was throwing the ball from the mound, and with the fans wearing white shirts in center field, he couldn't see the ball.

"That particular day, he said he went home and almost killed himself," said Parnell, laughing a little. "Joe was pretty upset."

He didn't strike out again for the remainder of the season.

Sewell hit only 49 career home runs, including the 11 in 1932, but as Parnell noted, "He always said they paid him to get on base and that he'd let Ruth and Gehrig and those guys knock him in."

That's a comment from a back-in-the-day ballplayer, but it's not a back-in-the-day sentiment. Modern-day ballplayers who hit for average without striking out a lot – and who don't hit a lot of home runs – will tell you the same thing.

Hall of Famer Wade Boggs, who hit 118 home runs in his career, was known for getting on base and not striking out a lot: In 10,740 plate appearances, he struck out just 745 times – or once every 14 plate appearances. That's an impressive number for a modern-day player, but obviously not Sewell-like – there being only one Joe Sewell.

On Aug. 7, 1999, Boggs hit a home run for his 3,000th hit. "How about that? Now

I can become a home run hitter," Boggs said after the game.

During a conversation from Cooperstown on the morning of the 2021 Hall of Fame *Induction Ceremony*, Boggs said: "The way I treated strikeouts, it was failure. I didn't care if I lined out to left or hit a hard ground ball to shortstop. It just didn't bother me as much as striking out. It was a thorn in my side that the pitcher won. And I never wanted to give him credit for striking me out."

One wonders if Sewell spoke similar words after striking out twice against Warmoth in 1923, or heaven help us, after those back-to-back strikeouts against Caraway in 1930.

We can all agree that home runs are cool. But these guys – we can add other 20th-century stars such as Nellie Fox and Tony Gwynn to the list – devoted their careers to putting the ball in play, and they did it in a way that landed them in Cooperstown. 🍌

Steve Buckley is a columnist for The Athletic-Boston and a longtime member of the Baseball Writers' Association of America.



Forever 21

The magic of one of the most welcomed seasons in generations is preserved through artifacts in Cooperstown.

BY CRAIG MUDER

The fans returned. The players celebrated. And the game provided the magic it always does. The story of the 2021 baseball season will be forever told in Cooperstown through artifacts generously donated by teams and players.

Additions to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum's collection this year include:

Batter up

The Angels' Shohei Ohtani used the bat below on April 4 when he started the game on the mound and hit the first pitch he saw as a batter for a home run. Ohtani starred on the mound and at the plate throughout the 2021 season.

Power of 10

Brewers pitcher Corbin Burnes wore the cap shown below when he tied Tom Seaver and Aaron Nola by striking out 10 straight batters in an Aug. 11 game vs. the Cubs.



Several items from the Field of Dreams game were donated to the Hall of Fame, including this jersey worn by Eloy Jiménez of the White Sox. Jiménez hit a three-run homer as part of his team's 9-8 win over the Yankees.

Spin (around the bases) cycle

Jake Cronenworth donated the bat he used to hit for the cycle in the Padres' 24-8 win over the Nationals on July 16.

Cronenworth became just the third Padres batter to record a cycle, joining Wil Myers (2017) and Matt Kemp (2015).

Dream weavers

Following the White Sox's 9-8 win over the Yankees in the Field of Dreams game on Aug. 12, the Hall of Fame received the following donations:

- The spikes worn by Chicago's Tim Anderson while hitting his walk-off home run
- The cap worn by White Sox starting pitcher Lance Lynn
- The jersey worn by the White Sox's Eloy Jiménez (above)
- The cap worn by Yankees manager Aaron Boone. 🇺🇸



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

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



Lefty Grove led the American League in strikeouts in each of his first seven seasons en route to the Hall of Fame.

LEFT OUT

ROBERT MOSES GROVE TOPPED HIS LEAGUE IN STRIKEOUTS HIS FIRST SEVEN SEASONS, LEADING SOME TO SAY HE WAS THE FASTEST PITCHER OF HIS TIME.

BY BILL FRANCIS

They said Lefty Grove had lightning in his long and sinewy pitching arm, a natural gift that only enhanced his menacing demeanor while straddling a mound. The results often left opposing batsmen shaking their heads as they returned to the dugout.

“If he wasn’t the greatest left-hander the game has seen,” longtime batterymate Mickey Cochrane once said, “I certainly can’t imagine anyone better. As a matter of fact, I can’t think of a better right-hander either.”

For Robert Moses Grove, arguably the greatest southpaw hurler – if not the best pitcher period – to hurl horsehide toward home plate, the numbers speak for themselves. In a 17-year career that lasted from 1925 to 1941, Grove totaled 300 wins, a .680 career winning percentage, seven straight 20-win seasons, an American League MVP in 1931 with a 31-4 record, nine ERA titles and seven straight years leading his league in strikeouts to start his career.

From 1925 to ’31, pitching for owner/manager Connie Mack’s Philadelphia Athletics, Grove, known for an intimidating fastball and temper, led the American League in strikeouts each season, averaging 174 whiffs per campaign and topping out with a career-high 209 in 1930.

While Grove’s strikeout totals pale when compared to modern hurlers, it must be remembered that batters did not strike out as frequently then as now. Hall of Famer Jimmie Foxx, for example, led batters in strikeouts with totals of 70 in 1929 and 66 in ’30.

“First time I batted against Grove,” first baseman Joe Kuhel recalled, “was as a pinch-hitter. Lefty rifled his first pitch by me and the ump shouted ‘strike one.’ His next offering was just as hard and just as blinding and the ump bellowed ‘strike two.’ I stepped out of the batter’s box, rubbed a little dirt on my hands, hitched up my belt and was ready for the third pitch. Lefty wound up and came in with a blazing fastball, head high and inside. ‘Take your base,’ the umpire told me. I turned around and asked why since the count was only 1 and 2. ‘Listen kid,’ the umpire said, ‘when you came up here your cap was on straight, now it’s sideways!’”

Born and raised in Lonaconing, Md., a bituminous coal mining town in Western Maryland situated seven miles from the West Virginia border, Grove was an infielder when he broke into pro ball.

“I had no intention of becoming a professional baseball player. I was working in a machine shop at Cumberland, Md., and I liked my work very much,” Grove told a reporter in 1925. “I had done some pitching in independent circles around home, but I never thought seriously of

following up the game until after I got an offer to join the Martinsburg club of the Blue Ridge League. This was in 1920. Everybody was saying I’d be too homesick to stick, and that I’d be back home in a few days. So I resolved I wouldn’t.

“I spent only about a week and a half with Martinsburg, being bought by Jack Dunn, manager of the Baltimore International Leaguers, in June. I broke in with Martinsburg as a first baseman and it was Bill Loudon, ex-big league infielder, who converted me into a pitcher. Bill was managing Martinsburg that year. I had a strong arm and I was cutting the ball around the infield pretty fast, so Bill thought I ought to be a pitcher.”

That “strong arm” helped the tall southpaw from the hills of Maryland dominate International League competition – in five seasons, between 1920 and ’24, he finished with a 108-36 win-loss record. His 330 strikeouts in 1923 are still a league record.

“The first time [Dunn] ever saw me work, he said to me after the game, ‘Say, young fellow, who taught you all you know about pitching up to now?’ I told him I taught myself,” Grove recalled. “He said, ‘Then go ahead and teach yourself the rest.’”

“You know the kind of pitcher I was in those days – fast and wild. I’d walk as many batters as I’d strike out, and I struck out a lot. I was always in trouble. I didn’t have a curveball and I didn’t know many of the tricks. I’d just wind up and fire away in the direction of the plate.”

Reportedly, when Dunn told Grove he ought to develop a changeup, the reply was succinct and to the point: “I’ve got a change of pace. I’ve got my fast one. When I get in wrong, I’ve got a faster one. And, when they fill the bases with nobody out and I have to bear down to strike out the side, I’ve got a faster one yet.”

Finally sold to Mack’s Philadelphia Athletics in October 1924 for \$100,600 – a record sale price for a player at the time – the lanky southpaw, all 6-foot-3 and 190 pounds of him, soon took the American League by storm.

“When he first came up, Lefty had a control problem,” said Joe Cronin, who managed the

Red Sox when Grove pitched for Boston. “But even after he mastered it, most hitters were plate shy. Just to see that big man glaring down at you from the rubber was enough to frighten the daylights out of most hitters.”

One newspaperman at the time even wrote, “Grove, with the appropriate middle name of Moses, will lead the Philadelphia Athletics out of the wilderness.”

However, Bob Grove, as he was also referred to then, got off to an inauspicious big league start. He led the Junior Circuit with 116 strikeouts in 1925, but his 131 bases on balls were the most in the majors. The fastest pitcher in baseball was wild at first, but increasingly effective as he matured.

“We would have meetings in the clubhouse before the game to discuss the opposing hitters and their weaknesses,” Grove said. “When I was due to pitch, there was no discussion, because Mr. Mack knew I had only a fastball and a prayer and there wasn’t any need to talk about the hitters to me.”

The “Lonaconing Express” would claim hunting during the offseason prior to the start of the 1926 season helped him gain control of his fastball.

“I trained my eyes during the winter,” he told the *Baltimore Sun* in July 1926. “I know I could see a deer or bear at 500 yards, and if I could aim a shot at a vulnerable point on that animal at such a distance, I certainly should be able to throw a ball at a target which is 60 feet, 6 inches from the pitcher’s box.

“That’s all there is to it. I set my mind on control and apparently I have achieved it. I’m pitching the way I want to and I’ve had to exert myself only two or three times this season.”

Soon enough, scribes were comparing Grove’s strikeout ability to the greats of the game, ranging from fellow southpaw Rube Waddell, who whiffed an AL-record 349 in 1904, to Walter Johnson, the longtime stalwart of the Washington Senators who led the AL a dozen times in striking out hitters.

“I think having a big fastball and a mean disposition proved to be a winning combination for him,” said Jim Kaplan, author of the 2000 biography “Lefty Grove: American Original.” “In terms of dominance, he was as dominant as anyone. There’s no way of measuring Grove’s pitching speed back then, but it was probably not as fast as Nolan Ryan or Bob Feller – but still very hard.

“While his contemporaries were pitching to weak contact, Grove, as far as collecting strikeouts, was uncompromising in that regard.”

Hall of Fame umpire Billy Evans, in 1929, shared the difficulties inherent in calling balls and strikes for flamethrowers like Johnson and Grove.

“A fellow could only look where the catcher took the pitch and call it a ball or strike on circumstantial evidence,” Evans said of Johnson’s speed. “Now, I can’t rightly say how Grove’s speed compares to Walter’s, but he certainly can put more gallop on the ball than any other man in the game at present.”

Regarding his overwhelming speed, Grove was emphatic on one point: “I never threw at a batter. No sir. If I ever hit a guy on the head with my fastball, he’d be through. Of course I was just a little wild. That made the hitters stay loose.”

An occupational hazard for the slender southpaw was the friction on his fingers caused by the force of the ball leaving his left hand. He even resorted to sticking his fingers in brine – like boxers do to harden their knuckles – in the offseason to no effect.

“I pitched many a game with the blood trickling out of my fingertips. The pressure of the fingers on the ball split the nails and resulted in painful blood blisters,” Grove said. “I used to throw my fastball with my index and second fingers an eighth to a quarter-inch apart. That was the only way I could get a grip on the ball. By the time the game was half over, the pressure I exerted had pushed the flesh into the nails and broken them.

“After the game, I would cut the fingernail to where it had split and paint it with iodine. With a day’s rest, the soreness would be gone. I’d probably make a relief appearance before my next regular start, despite the broken nails.”

In 1933, in the midst of his seventh straight 20-win season, the *Sporting News* editorialized on the flamethrower’s relative fame.

“If Grove had the color of a (Dizzy) Dean, an (Grover Cleveland) Alexander or a Waddell, his pitching feats would have earned him a following that might have equaled Ruth’s, but unfortunately he hasn’t,” it read. “Attempts to have him play to the gallery have failed. He is just a super-workman, engrossed only in his work, letting the adulations fall where they may. He believes his job is pitching, and he can be found warming up in the bullpen when stars of much lesser

magnitude would be inclined to take it easy.”

After Grove spent nine seasons with the A’s, compiling an extraordinary 195-79 record as well as three pennants and World Series titles in 1929 and ’30, Mack decided to unload some high-salaried players to pay off Depression-era losses. In December 1933, Grove was traded to the Boston Red Sox, where he would spend his final eight seasons.

Unfortunately for Grove, an injury early in his BoSox tenure affected his fastball. Thought to be a Boston savior, a diminished Grove won only eight games that first season and injuries forced him to transform himself from a thrower into a pitcher.

“The time had come when he had to do more than just rear back, stretch out and whip that fastball at the hitters,” wrote famed sports columnist Grantland Rice in 1940. “The old blaze had died out in his fastball. He couldn’t fool the hitters with it anymore. He had to do something he hadn’t done before. He had to stop and think – to study the hitters and develop a curveball, a change of pace ball and a slow ball, and brush up on his control. And when he had done all that, he was a pitcher – a real pitcher.”

Ultimately, Grove rediscovered success on the mound, but the overwhelming fastball that led to so many strikeout titles was gone. He retired in December 1941 at the age of 41 with a record of 300-141, his .680 winning percentage ranking 12th all time.

“I never batted against (Walter) Johnson,” said Hall of Fame catcher Bill Dickey in 1940, “but my vote goes for Grove when he was at his best. I can see Feller’s fast one, even if I don’t hit too well – but I couldn’t see Grove’s.”

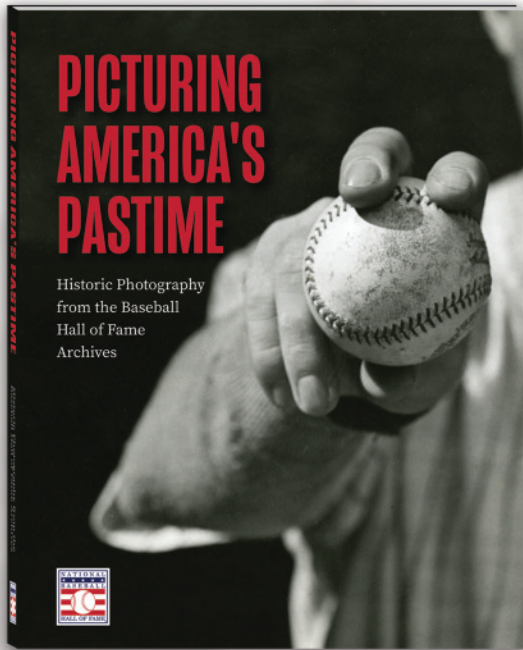
Reflecting on his own career, Grove said: “The best of it all was the feeling in you after the game went right and you came back in the locker room and got undressed. I used to take my shower and swallow an ounce of whiskey slow and get a rubdown, and I’d go off to sleep right there on the table. It was very damn good.”

Elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1947, Grove’s bronze plaque is full of superlatives. The second line, appropriately, reads, “Led A.L. in strikeouts seven consecutive seasons.”

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



National Baseball Hall of Fame Books



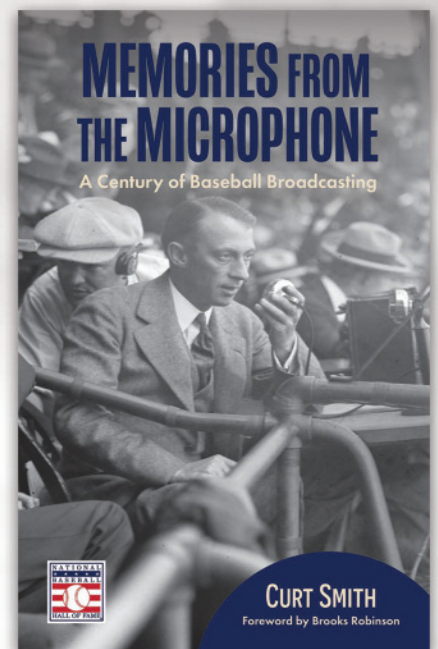
Picturing America's Pastime celebrates baseball through the unique photography collection of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. Selected by the historians and curators at the Baseball Hall of Fame, the book's photos reveal the enduring relationship between photography and the National Pastime. Each image is accompanied by an historic quote and a detailed caption, often highlighting little-known information about the photographers and techniques.

"There's no better way to celebrate the game than pouring through this one-of-a-kind collection from the Hall of Fame's unequalled photo archive."

Rod Carew
Hall of Fame Class of 1991



In *Memories From the Microphone*, author Curt Smith chronicles the rich history of baseball over the airwaves, sharing stories that cover a century of baseball broadcasting history. Organized chronologically, the book charts the history of baseball broadcasting and the personalities that helped bring the game to millions of fans—from Mel Allen to Harry Caray, Vin Scully to Joe Morgan, Ernie Harwell to Red Barber.



"Curt Smith's knowledge of the history of baseball broadcasting and its foremost practitioners is unsurpassed."

Bob Costas
2018 Ford C. Frick Award Winner



shop.baseballhall.org/hofbooks



Bedazzler

Charles Arthur Vance set strikeout standards that still stand more than 80 years after his playing career ended.

BY JANEY MURRAY

At an age when most Hall of Fame pitchers are reaching the peak of their careers, Dazzy Vance was just getting started.

Despite that late start, however, Vance emerged as the National League's premier strikeout artist of the 1920s.

The future Hall of Fame hurler was born Charles Arthur Vance on March 4, 1891, in Orient, Iowa. After his family moved to Webster County, Neb., Vance got his start in baseball with a semipro team in nearby Hastings. It was as a semipro pitcher that Vance earned his nickname, "Dazzy," in reference to the "dazzling" fastball he threw as a teenager.

Vance broke into professional ball in 1912, pitching for the York Prohibitionists of the Class D Nebraska State League. By 1915, the right-hander had earned his first big league opportunity, debuting for the Pittsburgh Pirates on April 16 of that year and suffering the loss after giving up three runs on three hits.

Almost immediately afterward, Vance was sold to the Yankees, with whom he continued to struggle. He appeared in eight games, losing all three of his decisions with New York, and was promptly sent back to the minors.

After bouncing among clubs in the low minors for several years, Vance got another big league opportunity with the Yankees in 1918 – but the third one was no better than the first two. In two games, the 27-year-old posted a 15.43 ERA and didn't record a single strikeout.

It was in 1920 when Vance's fortunes finally began to turn around. He landed with the Pelicans in New Orleans, where a medical examination revealed an underlying arm injury that had gone undetected for years. Vance underwent surgery, and from then on, he looked like a different pitcher.

Vance went 21-11 and posted a 3.52 ERA for New Orleans in 1921. The following offseason, the Brooklyn Robins, in search of a catcher, sought to acquire Hank DeBerry from the Pelicans. New Orleans insisted on including the 30-year-old Vance in the deal, and Brooklyn eventually obliged, sending \$10,000 in exchange for the pair.

In 1922, Vance earned another big league opportunity, with Brooklyn – and this time would be nothing like the three before. Now, Vance was ready to cement his spot as a big leaguer.

In his first full season, Vance went 18-12 with a 3.70 ERA. Perhaps most remarkably, the 31-year-old led the National League with 134 strikeouts. While he may have been unfamiliar to NL hitters at the time, they would soon get to know him very well, as it would be seven years before someone besides Vance appeared atop the NL strikeout leaderboard at the end of the season.

"I can say he was a great one," Hall of Famer Casey Stengel, who played in the NL from 1922-25 while Vance was pitching, told *Newsday* shortly after Vance's death in 1961. "I recall a four-game series between the Giants and the Dodgers when Vance struck out 11 men in one game and 14 in another.

When he was right, he was sensational."

Vance's most impressive campaign came in 1924, when he captured the Triple Crown by leading the league in wins (28), ERA (2.16) and strikeouts (262). He also led the NL with 30 complete games and won the MVP Award. His strikeout total was more than the second-place (teammate Burleigh Grimes, 135) and third-place (Cincinnati's Dolf Luque, 86) finishers combined.

Though he wouldn't again match the dominance of 1924, Vance continued to shine in the years to come. He led the league in wins and shutouts in 1925 and was tops in complete games in 1927. In 1928, the final year in which he would lead the NL in strikeouts, he also won the ERA title (posting a career-best 2.09 ERA) – an honor he would capture for a third time in 1930.

When he pitched, Vance wore a tattered, long-sleeved undershirt. Opposing batters accused him of using a razor blade to slit the sleeve of his shirt in an attempt to throw them off – but Vance always denied it, claiming the shirt was just wearing out naturally.

"He worked for me for several years toward the end of his career at Brooklyn, and I'll always remember his getting out there on the mound with his undershirt flapping," Stengel said. "It used to bother the opposing batters. It wasn't the undershirt that made them swing and miss like they claimed, but the stuff he had on the ball."

After 11 years with Brooklyn, in 1933, Vance was dealt to the Cardinals, where he posted a 3.55 ERA but won just six games. The Reds claimed him off waivers the following offseason before he eventually returned to the Cardinals via waivers in the middle of the 1934 season.

That October, Vance made his first and only World Series appearance, tossing 1.1 innings and allowing one unearned run on two hits while fanning three. The Cardinals defeated the Tigers in seven games, and Vance secured his elusive championship ring.

Vance returned to Brooklyn as a free agent in 1935 to close out his career with the Dodgers. In his final major league season at age 44, Vance went 3-2 with a 4.41 ERA and just 28 strikeouts, compared to his career peak of 262.

Vance finished with 197 victories, 2,045 strikeouts and a 3.24 ERA.



Dazzy Vance was 31 years old when he first led the National League in strikeouts in 1922. That would be the first of seven consecutive NL strikeout titles earned by the Brooklyn right-hander.

Once his playing career concluded, Vance's wait to enter the Hall of Fame was a little longer than most, just like his trip to the big leagues. Vance was on the Baseball Writers' Association of America ballot for 16 years before he was elected in 1955 – the longest wait of anyone elected via the BBWAA.


He was driving on the highway near his home in Homosassa, Fla., on Jan. 26, 1955, when a highway patrolman flagged him down to give him the good news.

"I thought he was going to give me a ticket," Vance said. "Instead he told me to hurry back because a photographer was waiting back at the house. I suspicioned something was in the air because I had read that the Hall of Fame voting was going to take place today."

He was overjoyed to be entering the Hall alongside fellow BBWAA electees Joe DiMaggio, Ted Lyons and Gabby Hartnett.

"Like a blow to the jaw and I haven't come

to yet," Vance said, describing the feeling of being elected. "It's a great thing to happen to you. I still can't believe it's true. Maybe I'm not awake yet."

It was an overdue honor for a pitcher who was often overlooked, but, over his 16 big league seasons, clearly established himself as one of the game's greatest strikeout artists. 

Janey Murray is the digital content specialist at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

OUT OF LEFT FIELD

The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum's collection contains more than 40,000 three-dimensional artifacts - many apparently having little obvious relation to the National Pastime. But dig a little deeper, and you'll find that these treasures connect us to the game in fascinating and unexpected ways. Come inside and examine some of the pieces that appear to be "Out of Left Field."

Blue Jay Way

Philadelphia's NL team adopted a new nickname in 1946 during an effort to rebrand the franchise.

BY CRAIG MUDER

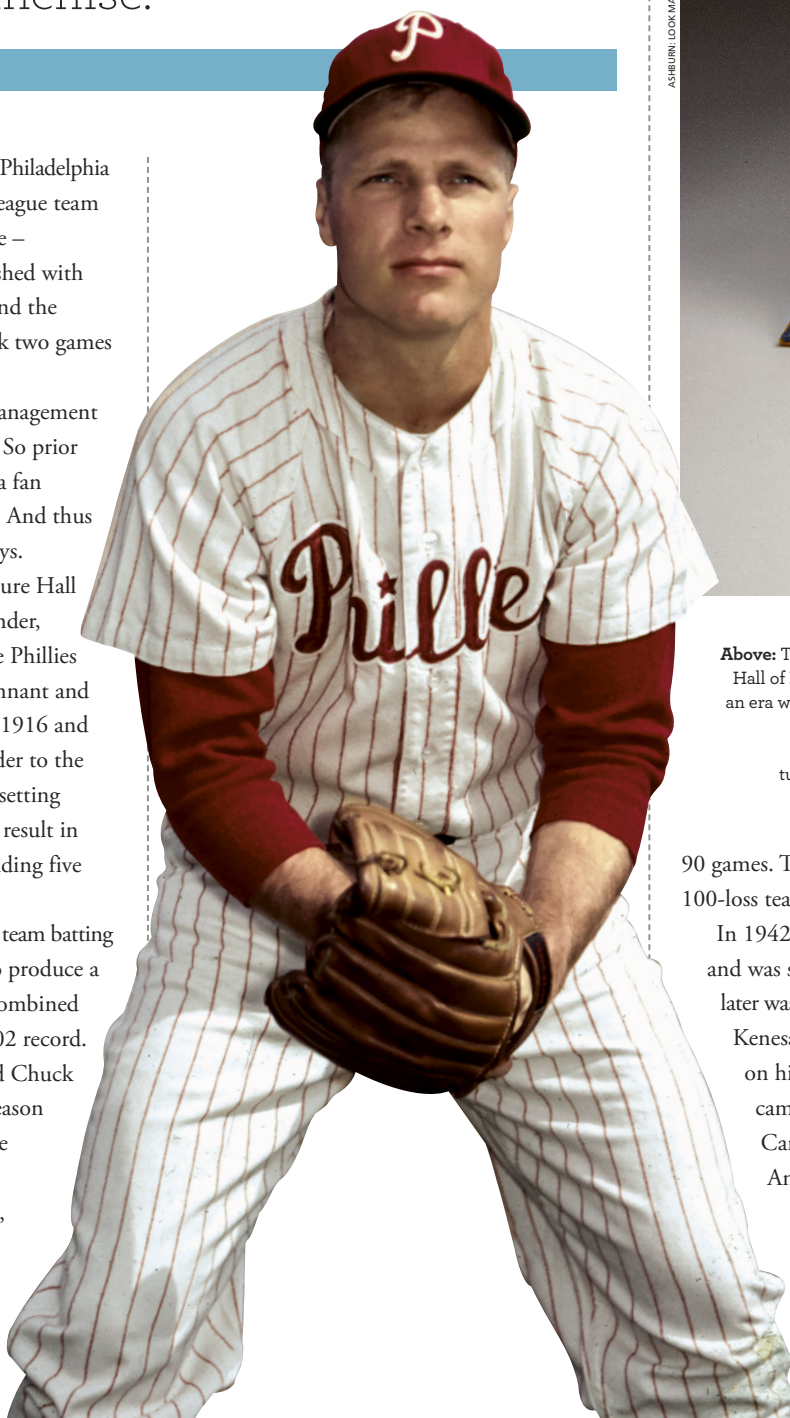
From 1918 through 1948, the Philadelphia Phillies fielded a National League team in each season. In all but one – 30 of 31 – Philadelphia finished with a record of less than .500. And the exception – 1932 – featured a mark two games over the break-even point.

Deep into that stretch, team management decided a rebranding was in order. So prior to the 1944 season, the team held a fan contest to choose a new nickname. And thus were born the Philadelphia Blue Jays.

Decades earlier, powered by future Hall of Famers Grover Cleveland Alexander, Dave Bancroft and Eppa Rixey, the Phillies won the 1915 National League pennant and finished second in the NL in both 1916 and 1917. But the team traded Alexander to the Cubs following the 1917 season – setting the franchise on a path that would result in 14 straight losing campaigns, including five 100-loss seasons.

Even the Phillies' incredible .315 team batting average in 1930 was not enough to produce a .500 mark, as the squad's hurlers combined for a 6.71 ERA en route to a 52-102 record.

Manager Burt Shotton parlayed Chuck Klein's NL Most Valuable Player season into a 78-76 mark in 1932. But the Phillies fell to seventh place the following year with a 60-92 record, starting a run of 12 out of 13 seasons when the team lost at least



ASHBURN: LOOK HANCA/NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM; MID STEVART/NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

Above: This Philadelphia Phillies pennant from the Hall of Fame collection features a Blue Jay during an era when the Phillies were rebranding the team.

Left: Hall of Famer Richie Ashburn helped turn around a Phillies franchise that in 1946 abandoned its traditional nickname.

90 games. Those 13 seasons included seven 100-loss teams.

In 1942, the club nearly became insolvent and was sold to William Cox, who a year later was suspended for life by Commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis for betting on his own team. But out of those ashes came stable ownership when the Carpenter family bought the team. And a new brand was born.

The *Associated Press* reported on March 4, 1944, that Mrs. John L. Crooks of Philadelphia



received a \$100 War Bond for submitting the name “Blue Jays” in a contest to choose the team’s new nickname.

And with the return of hundreds of war veterans to big league rosters in 1946, the team made a concerted effort to push the new name.

“We’ve gotten too accustomed to hearing about the lowly Phillies and the cellar-dwelling Phils, so the name has been changed to Blue Jays,” team manager Ben Chapman said in a story that appeared in the *Daily Times-News* of Burlington, N.C., during Spring Training of 1946.

Newspapers all over the country picked up on the new name, with “Blue Jays” appearing in print throughout that season. Change was evident on the field as well, as Philadelphia improved its record by 23 victories that year – finishing 69-85. The team then announced in

April 1947 the unveiling of a new official club song: “Blue Jay Jeanne,” which was to be played over the public address system at Shibe Park during home games.

A felt pennant featuring the “Philadelphia Blue Jays” is preserved in the collection at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

But even as the club pushed the new name, “Phillies” continued to creep into print. Realizing it was fighting a battle it could not win, the team announced on Jan. 9, 1950, that it was abandoning its “Blue Jays” branding.

The team’s “blue” period, however, would pay dividends. Midway through the 1948 season, Eddie Sawyer – who had managed some of the franchise’s top prospects with the Utica Blue Sox of the Eastern League from 1944-47, was named the team’s new skipper. Waiting for Sawyer in Philadelphia were players that

included future Hall of Famer Richie Ashburn, Granny Hamner and Stan Lopata – all of whom had suited up for the Blue Sox.

Powered by this infusion of young talent, the Phillies went 81-73 in 1949. The next season, the team dubbed the “Whiz Kids” won the NL pennant.

As for the “Blue Jays,” the name would make a big league comeback in 1977 when the Toronto expansion team debuted in the American League. That franchise would be run by general manager and future Hall of Famer Pat Gillick, who engineered back-to-back World Series titles in 1992 and 1993 before eventually winding up in Philadelphia – where he led the Phillies to the 2008 Fall Classic title. 📌

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



Our Museum in Action

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

BASEBALLHALL.ORG/MUSEUMINACTION

WHAT WE’VE DONE TOGETHER

#COOPERSTOWNMEMORIES

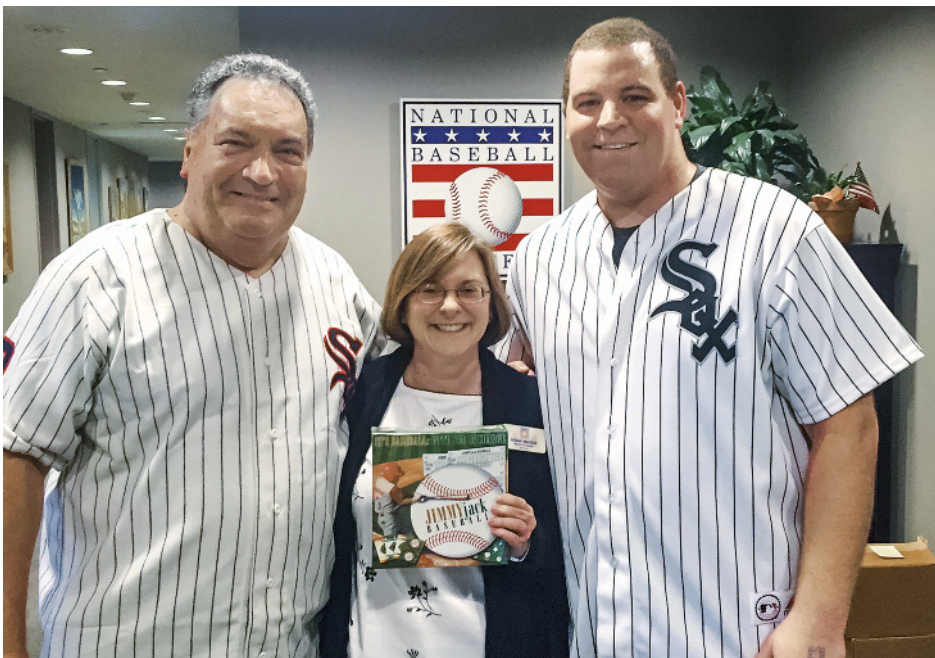
As history has shown us time and time again, baseball has a tremendous impact on families and friends everywhere – bringing us together and creating special memories.

As baseball fans, we all have stories: Our first trip to Cooperstown, meeting a Hall of Famer in *America’s Most Perfect Village*, seeing an exhibit that brings our own memories flooding back, stepping into the Plaque Gallery and feeling the connection to the game’s all-time greats – the memories are countless.

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

Simply send an email that includes your story and your name to development@baseballhall.org. As we compile them, we’ll share selected ones with our “baseball family.”

Here are a few stories shared with us from supporters like you:



Jack Manning (left) and his son Michael (right) pose with director of collections Susan Mackay during their visit to the Hall of Fame in 2016. Mackay is holding a baseball game that the Mannings created and later donated to the Museum.



Following years of talking about going to Cooperstown, my son Michael and I finally starting mapping out our road trip and making reservations in early 2016. Traveling from Naperville, Ill., we planned our visits to places we had never been: Niagara Falls; Cooperstown; Williamsport; and Canton – with a two-day stop at The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum being the primary reason for our trip.

Not surprisingly, Cooperstown proved to be well above our already high expectations. We arrived on Monday evening Sept. 12, 2016, and spent our first day, Tuesday, on the second and third floors absorbing each and every exhibit. Day Two started very early with playing catch on the sidewalk in front of the Museum and having breakfast at the Cooperstown Diner before the Museum’s doors opened. Needless to say, walking into the Baseball Hall of Fame was an emotional moment as we proceeded to read and touch plaque after plaque, with Nellie Fox, Ron Santo and Frank Thomas being among of our favorites.

The Museum staff could not have been more friendly or accommodating, and we enjoyed meeting and speaking with many, including (director of collections) Susan Mackay, who had graciously accepted a baseball game we had created into the Museum’s permanent collection back in 2007. We hope to make a return visit as each of us has said many, many times: “I miss Cooperstown!”

John (Jack) Manning

Member since 2016



My first visit to Cooperstown came on July 4, 1980. I had just graduated from high school and was about to join the United States Marine Corps. I worked in a mom & pop grocery store and the owner, Matt Fitzsimmons, asked me if I’d like to take a ride to Cooperstown with him. I was thrilled and eagerly accepted. We lived in Troy, N.Y., which is about 80 miles east of the Hall. Traveling west on State Route 20 is a visual treat as the beautiful rural landscape with the rolling hills is a side benefit that I still enjoy each time I visit.

The Hall in 1980 was a far cry from what it has become today. But I vividly recall the artifacts and exhibits, which both fascinated and enthralled me. Seeing pieces of baseball history up close that I had only read about was incredible. I was captivated by the village as well, and roaming the

COURTESY OF JACK MANNING

streets of Cooperstown with all the baseball shops was magical. Knowing I was about to leave home to join the Marines, I was uncertain when I'd be able to revisit the Hall, but I was hopeful to return some day.

Fast forward to the mid 1990s. Having completed my enlistment in the Marines, I began visiting the Hall every year for a fall pilgrimage. In 1999, I became a Member and have visited every year at least once – sometimes more often. Being a fan of history, I have visited numerous halls of fame, but none can compare to the Baseball Hall of Fame. Seeing Babe Ruth's locker and Ty Cobb's hand-written letter NEVER gets old.

Baseball holds a special place in my heart – what with so many memories of the great players and their memorable achievements that have thrilled fans for over a century. But those memories are most vividly brought to life in Cooperstown. The Baseball Hall of Fame has something for everyone, whether you've been a fan for years or are just a youngster rooting for the first time. The magic of Cooperstown and the Hall of Fame is a MUST SEE for any true baseball fan.

Patrick Hogan

Member since 1999



My wife and I, up until Aug. 16, 2021, owned several acres of property in Springfield N.Y., just at the other end of the beautiful Otsego Lake (from Cooperstown). The Hall of Fame brought us there along with the many wonderful residents, businesses and, of course, the lake. There's also that part, sitting on a bench and watching all of the happy kids run around from store to store and dashing into the Hall of Fame to see their favorite team or player.

We are happy to say, as members of the Hall of Fame, that we will not be leaving the area altogether.

My favorite part of the Museum is the Hank Aaron exhibit. It was unbelievably spectacular and truly showed me how humble one of my favorites was. We will still make our way up from North Jersey to see the Hall of Fame and support all of the local businesses in the area. We love Council Rock Brewery, Fly Creek Cider Mill, Toscana, The Cooperstown Diner, the Cooperstown Distillers, Stagecoach, Pail Shop Vineyards, the Farmer's Market, the Cooperstown Library, the bridge at the start of the mighty Susquehanna, Red Shed, Ace Hardware, Bruce Hall, the Opera, Sam Smith's, The Otesaga, Hawkeye Grill and



COURTESY OF WENDY AND PAUL ROTHLAUF

Wendy and Paul Rothlauf were residents of nearby Springfield, N.Y., who often visited Cooperstown and the Hall of Fame. Though they recently moved, their love for the area will have them making frequent trips back to the "Birthplace of Baseball."

so much more. We love Cooperstown and always try to do something different every time we visit. We still have so much more to do on our bucket list; therefore, we will be back! Mel's, the Farmers Museum, The Fenimore Art Museum, Ommegang, Origins Cafe and others will be reason to come back soon.

Our last visit was when we sadly sold our property to a wonderful couple from the area.

This photo (shown above) was taken then as a great memory of a wonderful town and the well-run National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

Cooperstown, we love you!

Wendy and Paul Rothlauf

Members since 2019

Photos to be digitally preserved

Thanks to a number of generous donors, photographs featuring 325 Hall of Famers from our archive – more than 97 percent of all inductees from the Classes of 1936 to 2020 – have been funded in full and will be digitally preserved. Many of these photographs will be added to our online digital collection, which you can browse at collection.baseballhall.org.

Projects recently funded include:

- **Ed Barrow** – Thanks to a gift from Paul D. Phillips
- **Greg Maddux** – Thanks to gifts from Stephanie I. Davis, Barry Fitzgerald, Peter P. Hand, Monty Honeycutt, Galen K. Johnson, Ian M. Laczynski, Mark R. McCallum, Dana Mock, Tim Powers, Randy B. Radford, Dan Schellenberg, Arthur Thomas, Kimberly Vennachio, Lindsey R. Williford, Arthur C. Zwemke and an anonymous donor
- **Billy Southworth** – Thanks to gifts from Randy G. Barthelman, Wayne Hebden, Larry Marvell and Richard T. Rook

Bob Feller Home Movie Collection

Thanks to a generous gift from Kathy and Michael Gallichio, M.D., the Bob Feller Home Movie Collection was completely funded and will be digitized.

Donated to the Museum by Bob and Anne Feller in 2003, and supplemented with another donation in 2006, this collection of films features a variety of content. Once the digitization process is complete, these unique and never publically available films will be available for fans to enjoy. Additionally, the collection will be preserved for future generations of fans to explore.



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

WHAT YOU CAN HELP US DO



Hall of Famers Heroes Campaign

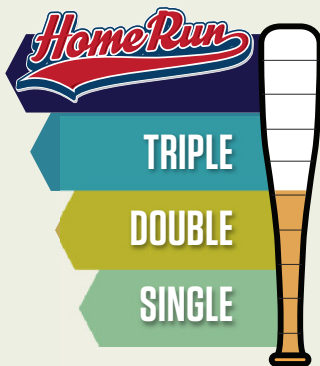
Please consider enrolling today to make a monthly gift through our Hall of Fame Heroes Campaign. Your monthly gift will help preserve the greatest moments in baseball history.

Becoming a monthly donor is easy and a recurring gift of ANY amount – \$10, \$25, \$50, \$75 or more – helps sustain the work we are doing every day to preserve the game.



The Museum is a National Treasure where the legends of the game live forever. It's up to us as fans to make this happen – to keep their legacy alive.

– Bob Crotty



Our goal for this urgent need is to have 333 monthly donors, a number that honors those elected to the Hall of Fame.

To learn about this campaign and to see the list of Hall of Fame Heroes, visit baseballhall.org/monthlygiving.

Hank Aaron trophies

Hank Aaron personified consistent excellence, pitting himself against baseball's grinding schedule and bending it to his will. In his rookie 1954 campaign, Aaron served notice that he was a rising star. Then, over his 23-season career, Aaron conquered baseball's greatest milestones and records with a relentless drive that belied his quiet nature.

Through the years, Aaron donated numerous awards to the Museum, but two symbolize his accomplishments in special ways. In 1967, the 33-year-old Aaron was the oldest player in the Braves' starting lineup and might have been excused for taking Spring Training a little easy. After all, The Hammer's place in right field was secure. However, the 13-year vet continued to impress all observers, earning the 1967 Outstanding Braves Player Spring Training Trophy for his preseason work. His efforts were rewarded during the regular season when he led the National League in home runs for the fourth and final time in his career.

Aaron was awarded the second trophy in 2002 by the Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr. and the Rainbow PUSH Coalition. The Muhammad Ali Life Achievement Award was given to Aaron in honor of his athletic achievements, business acumen, community service and leadership in civil rights and human rights.


You can honor one of baseball's greatest by helping fund restoration of these trophies that illustrate Hank Aaron's accomplishments both on and off the field.

Estimate for conservation for both trophies to be performed by B.R. Howard and Associates: \$4,000



Additional projects online

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

Explore additional projects, including artifacts, photographs and Library documents that are in need of conservation and preservation, at our website. 

baseballhall.org/museumination

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



Choice lineup

2022 Baseball Writers' Association of America Hall of Fame ballot features historic debuts and final bows.

BY CRAIG MUDER

The 2022 Baseball Writers' Association of America Hall of Fame ballot features the debut of record-breaking sluggers, the continued progress of several candidates and the final year of eligibility for some of the game's biggest names.

The results will be announced live on MLB Network on Jan. 25.

The 2022 BBWAA Hall of Fame ballot will include 17 returnees when it is announced on Nov. 22. Of the players returning to the ballot, four – Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens, Curt Schilling and Sammy Sosa – are eligible for the 10th-and-final time.

Schilling led all vote-getters in 2021 – when no candidate received votes on 75 percent of ballots cast necessary for election – with 71.1 percent of the vote. Bonds was second on that list after receiving 61.8 percent and Clemens was third with 61.6. Sosa received votes on 17 percent of the 401 ballots cast by eligible BBWAA members. Schilling, Bonds, Clemens and Scott Rolen (who received 52.9 percent of the vote in 2021) were the only candidates to receive at least 50 percent of the BBWAA vote.

One of only six pitchers with at least 3,000 strikeouts and fewer than 1,000 walks, Schilling was named the 2001 World Series co-MVP with Hall of Famer Randy Johnson and owns an 11-2 mark with a 2.23 ERA in 19 career postseason appearances. He won 216 regular-season games over 20 seasons with the Orioles, Astros, Phillies, Diamondbacks and Red Sox.

Clemens, a seven-time Cy Young Award winner, won the 1986 American League MVP Award and was named to the All-Star Game in 11 seasons. A two-time World Series champion with the Yankees (1999-2000), Clemens – who pitched in 24 seasons with the Red Sox, Blue Jays, Yankees and Astros – led his league in earned-run average seven times.

Bonds, baseball's all-time home run leader with 762, was a seven-time National League MVP and an eight-time Gold Glove Award winner. Bonds – who played 22 seasons with the Pirates and Giants – set single-season records for home runs (73 in 2001) and walks (232 in 2004). He led the NL in on-base percentage 10 times and paced the league in batting average twice.

Rolen, a seven-time All-Star, eight-time Gold Glove Award winner at third base and the 1997 NL Rookie of the Year, played 17 seasons with the Phillies, Cardinals, Blue Jays and Reds.

The other returning candidates (with 2021 voting percentage in parentheses) are Omar Vizquel (49.1 percent), Billy Wagner (46.4 percent), Todd Helton (44.9 percent), Gary Sheffield (40.6 percent), Andruw Jones (33.9 percent), Jeff Kent (32.4 percent), Manny Ramírez (28.2 percent), Sosa (17.0 percent), Andy Pettitte (13.7 percent), Mark Buehrle (11.0 percent), Torii Hunter (9.5 percent), Bobby Abreu (8.7 percent) and Tim Hudson (5.2 percent).

First-time eligible candidates include two members of the 500-home run club: David Ortiz and Álex Rodríguez.

Era Committee meetings

- Both the Golden Days Era Committee and the Early Baseball Era Committee will consider Hall of Fame candidates this fall.
- Eligible candidates for the Golden Days Era include players, managers, umpires and executives whose most indelible contribution to the game came from 1950 through 1969. Eligible candidates for the Early Baseball Era include players, managers, umpires and executives – including Negro Leaguers and pre-Negro Leaguers – whose contributions came prior to 1950.
- The Golden Days Era Committee and the Early Baseball Era Committee each meet for the first time this fall following the restructuring of the era committee process in 2016. Both committees consist of 16 voting members, and candidates must receive at least 75 percent of the vote to earn election to the Hall of Fame.
- The results will be announced Dec. 5 on MLB Network from Baseball's Winter Meetings in Orlando, Fla.

Ortiz, a 10-time All-Star and eight-time winner of the Edgar Martínez Award as the game's top designated hitter, played 20 seasons with the Twins and Red Sox. A three-time World Series champion with Boston who was selected the 2004 ALCS Most Valuable Player and 2013 World Series MVP, Ortiz totaled 541 home runs and 1,768 RBI while batting .286 with a .380 on-base percentage.

Rodríguez was a three-time AL MVP and 14-time All-Star whose 22 MLB seasons were divided between the Mariners, Rangers and Yankees. A 10-time Silver Slugger Award winner and two-time Gold Glove Award winner, Rodríguez led the AL in home runs five times – his career high of 57 came with the Rangers in 2002 – and helped the Yankees capture the 2009 World Series. He retired with 696 home runs, 2,086 RBI and 3,115 hits.

Other first-time eligible candidates for the 2022 BBWAA ballot include Carl Crawford, Prince Fielder, Ryan Howard, Tim Lincecum, Justin Morneau, Joe Nathan, Jonathan Papelbon, Jake Peavy, A.J. Pierzynski, Jimmy Rollins and Mark Teixeira. 📌

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

DUTCH MASTER

A lesson in how to attack hitters was the key for me to produce strikeouts.

BY BERT BLYLEVEN

To be completely honest, I never considered myself a strikeout pitcher. When I signed and came up to the Twins at the young age of 19 years old, strikeouts may have been in the back of my mind, but I only looked for strikeouts when I needed them – when there’s a guy at third base and one out. As I matured and got more time in the league, what I wanted were three-pitch innings.

My mind would shift to the strikeout at times during an outing, depending on the score and game situation. I lost a lot of close ball games, so anytime you could put that hitter away on strikes, it’s one less defensive play that has to be made behind you. That’s the way I looked at it.

People talk about my curveball, and I did get a lot of my strikeouts on the curveball. Hitters like Brooks Robinson and Don Baylor told me that they could hear the spin of my curveball as it left my hand.

But the fastball set up my curveball. I was really never of the mindset of a Nolan Ryan or a Randy Johnson to overpower hitters. I was a control pitcher, not overpowering. But to get them to bite on my curveball, I needed good control of my fastball.

I think the biggest conversation I ever had about pitching was when I was 19 and, through my pitching coach Marv Grissom, had the opportunity to meet with Don Drysdale in the dugout during my first trip to Anaheim, where Don was broadcasting games for the Angels.

And I got to sit and listen – not talk – listen to Don Drysdale for about 20 minutes. He told me about his approach to pitching, the importance of controlling the fastball and not only pitching inside, but repeating inside to keep hitters off balance. That conversation I had with Drysdale taught me about being

aggressive inside – that it opens up the outside of the plate to a right-handed or left-handed hitter.

A lot of that came into setting up my curveball. If I wasn’t able to pitch inside to right-handed hitters, they were going to be leaning out, and maybe they’d foul off that good curveball. And control of the fastball was the most important asset to my fastball-curveball combination.

In my earlier years, the fastball was all about velocity. But when I learned the two-seam fastball, it added some movement to the mix, along with my four-seam fastball.

Some days you go out there and you feel good. I struck out 15 a couple of times in my career, but usually it was five to eight, maybe 10 in a game. It all added up.

As my career moved along, getting to 3,000 strikeouts became a goal. When I first came up, Walter Johnson was the all-time strikeout leader and I thought, “3,500 strikeouts – nobody’s going to reach that!” Then, of course, came Nolan Ryan. I still have the ball at home from when I passed Walter Johnson.

I was always fascinated by Ted Williams’ hitting chart (on exhibit at the Hall of Fame). When I was the pitching coach for the Dutch team at the World Baseball Classic, I showed all of my pitchers what Williams, one of the greatest hitters ever, would hit if every pitch was down and away.

That always stuck with me – and that conversation I had with Don Drysdale about how being aggressive inside opens up the outside of the plate to a right-handed or left-handed hitter. 📌

Bert Blyleven, whose 3,701 strikeouts rank fifth on the all-time list, was elected to the Hall of Fame in 2011.



Bert Blyleven recorded eight seasons of 200-or-more strikeouts en route to Cooperstown.

IT WAS GREAT HAVING YOU BACK IN THE SEATS THIS SEASON
CATCH US ON YOUR SCREENS
THIS OFFSEASON!



WEEKDAYS

BEGINNING AT **9AM ET/6AM PT**

HOT STOVE

HIGH HEAT WITH CHRISTOPHER RUSSO™

MLB NOW™

MLB TONIGHT™

INTENTIONAL TALK®



FOR THE COMPLETE PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE VISIT MLBNETWORK.COM
© 2021 MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL PROPERTIES, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum
25 Main Street
Cooperstown, NY 13326

NON PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #590
COOPERSTOWN, NY



MILO STEWART JR./NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME LIBRARY

AROUND COOPERSTOWN

cooperstowngetaway.org

Against a backdrop of fall color, a vigilant statue oversees an entrance to the Otesaga Resort Hotel in Cooperstown.