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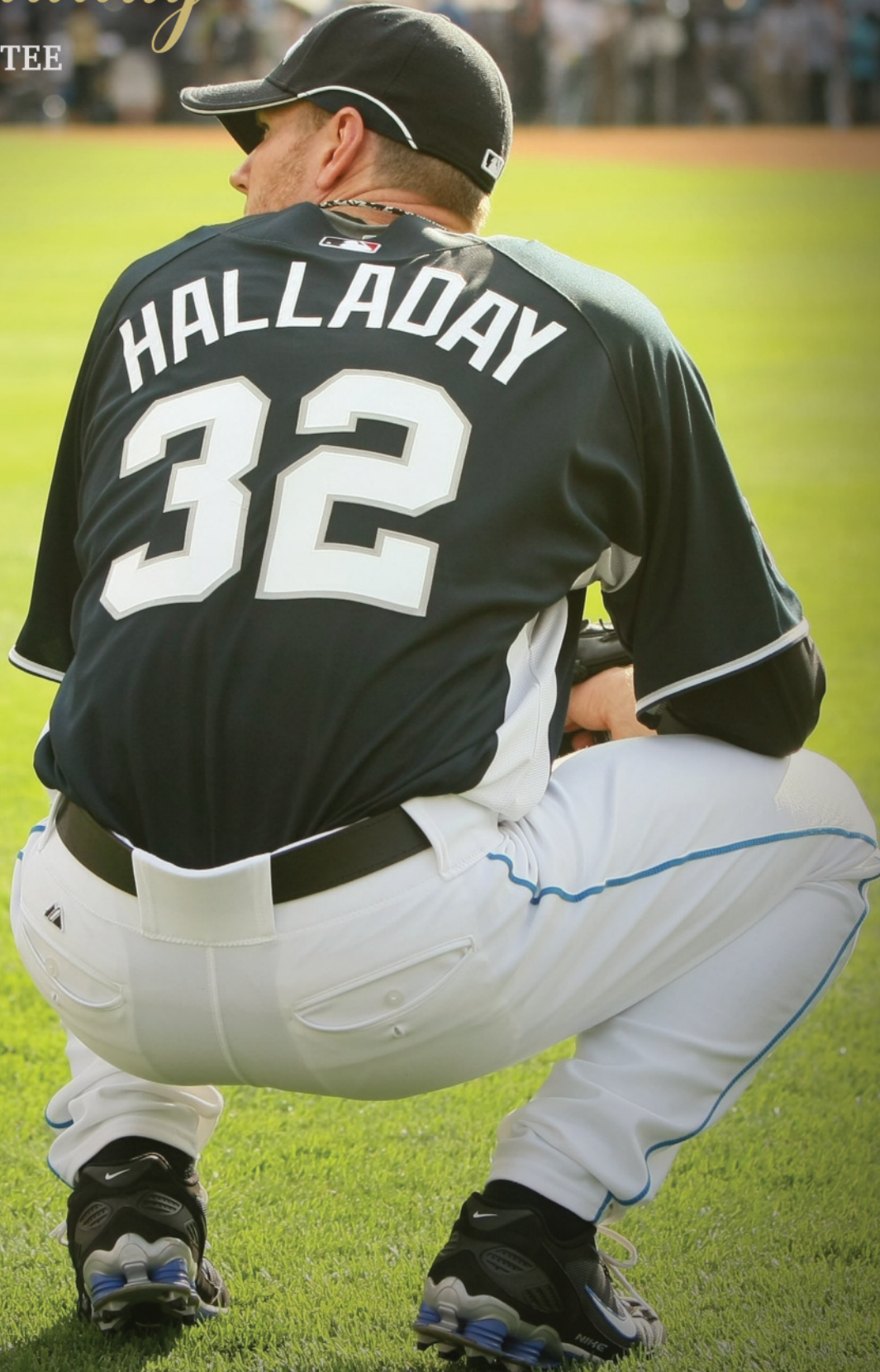
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MEMORIES and Dreams

The Official Magazine of the Hall of Fame

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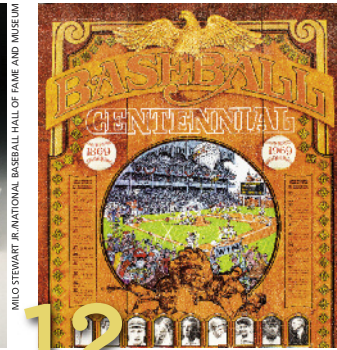
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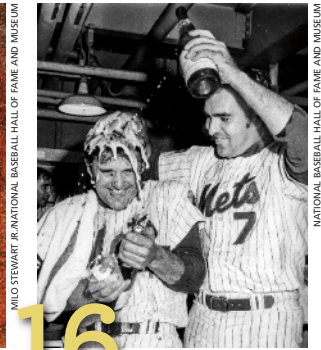
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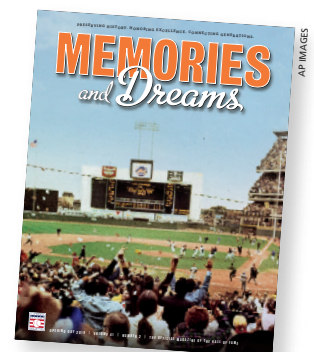
Baines, Rivera, Smith awed by visits to the Hall of Fame. BILL FRANCIS

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A Hall of Fame career got rolling when the Mets won the 1969 World Series. NOLAN RYAN



ON THE COVER

Players and fans at Shea Stadium erupt in celebration after the Mets shocked the baseball world by winning the 1969 World Series over the Orioles.

FROM THE PRESIDENT > JEFF IDELSON



Many baseball rules and traditions have remained constant through the decades, though as you will read in this issue of *Memories and Dreams*, 1969 was a year of serious change for the National Pastime.

The baseball season saw the Mets become champions for the first time in their eight years of existence; Harmon Killebrew win the American League MVP; and Willie McCovey's monster campaign ensuring that an African American was National League MVP for the 14th time in 21 seasons since Jackie Robinson became the first in 1949. We also experienced the Hall of Fame inductions of Roy Campanella, Stan Coveleski, Waite Hoyt and Stan "The Man" Musial.

Turn the clock back to 1941's September call-ups, and you discover a dead-armed pitcher-turned-left fielder starting for the St. Louis Cardinals. After wearing "19" and hitting .426 in 12 games, equipment manager Butch Yatkeman gave 20-year-old Stan Musial "6" the next spring.

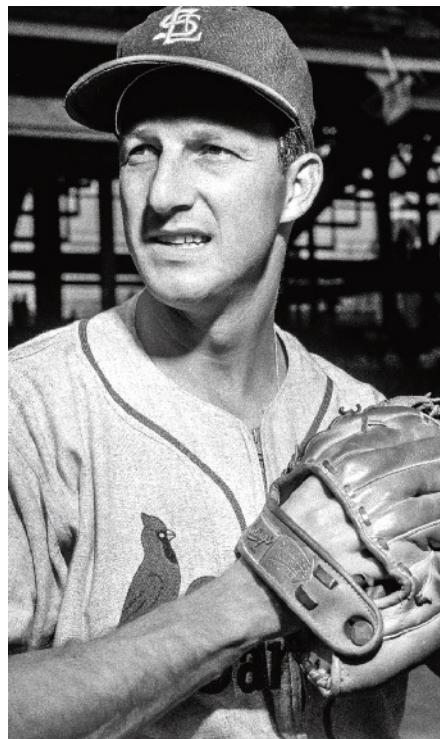
Stosh's career numbers are indisputable and, in some cases, remarkably consistent. Over 22 seasons, he used an indelible corkscrew swing to accumulate 3,630 hits (1,815 at home, 1,815 on the road), hit .310 or higher 18 times and win seven batting titles. He retired with three NL MVP awards and 24 All-Star Game appearances, as the career record-holder in extra base hits and total bases, and as the NL leader in runs, hits, doubles, years hitting .300 or better and consecutive games played.

His favorite accomplishments? "I'm proud

of my seven batting titles," he told me. "You have to have a good entire season any time you win a batting title."

And lest we forget to mention Musial's profound respect for his profession: He was never once thrown out of a major league game.

"I grew up believing that you treat everybody like you'd like to be treated. Respect your elders and just be a nice guy along the way. I always tried to do that and take care of the fans, signing autographs. I remember being at ballgames on weekends, when youngsters from out of town would show up. Red Schoendienst and I would sit in our cars and sign for about an hour until everybody was



Stan Musial, inducted into the Hall of Fame 50 years ago, embodied baseball perfection on and off the field.

taken care of. We went to the Hot Stove leagues and promoted baseball. We all loved the game and we always took care of our fans."

Longtime Dodgers executive Buzzie Bavasi, who was in Brooklyn when Musial routinely rained hits in Ebbets Field, once told me: "If it hadn't been for my good friend Stanley, we would have won the pennant in 1951. He was the best, even better than my favorite, Bill Terry. One day, big Don Newcombe came into my office. He was going to pitch against the Cards that evening. I said, 'Newk, Musial kills you. Why don't you knock him on his rear end once in a while?' Newk looked at me as if I were crazy, and said, 'Buzzie, are you nuts? The guy is hitting .400 against me now. If I make him mad, he would probably hit .600.'"

Stan The Man hit .359 lifetime in Ebbets Field, where he earned his nickname from the fans.

"Ebbets Field was very close to the stands and you could hear everything the fans were talking about," Musial said. "The Brooklyn fans were great: They knew baseball, loved baseball and they backed the Dodgers. I would be walking up to the plate and you could hear the fans say, 'Here comes "The Man" again.' That's how I got my nickname. I have a warm spot for all of the Brooklyn fans."

Although he called St. Louis home, Musial grew up 35 miles south of Pittsburgh. He rooted for the Pirates, and Honus Wagner was his idol. "Johnny Bunardzya, a sport writer friend, took me to a ballgame when I was 16 or 17 years old," Musial told me. "The Pirates played the New York Giants, and after the game, we talked about it. He asked me what I thought about big league baseball, and I said, 'John, I think I could become a big league ballplayer.'"

Musial personifies Hall of Fame greatness: Career excellence, incredible character and a profound respect for the game. He was born Nov. 21, 1920, in the small town of Donora, Pa. And 49 years later to the day, in the same town where Stan Musial was born, Ken Griffey Jr. entered the world.

The torch from one "Perfect Knight" of baseball to one who would soon become another, was passed. 🏆

SHORT HOPS

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

A night among the legends

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

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

The evening includes all-access to the Museum's public areas after hours, special hands-on programs and a late-night snack and movie. Upcoming dates include Oct. 5 and Nov. 2.

To book your experience today, call (607) 547-0329.

Experience the Museum as a VIP

Fans have the opportunity to explore the Hall of Fame through a special program designed to give Cooperstown visitors a VIP Experience. The Museum has partnered with Cooperstown accommodations to offer this unique package, highlighted by behind-the-scenes experiences at the Museum that include a Hall of Fame Sustaining Membership (\$125 value), exclusive after-hours access to the Museum on Thursday evening, a Library archive tour, a Museum collections artifact presentation and concludes with a private late-afternoon reception with light refreshments served.

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Name: Caitlin Ogden

Position: Grant and Development Specialist

Hall of Fame Experience: Debuted May 2018

Hometown: Palm Harbor, Fla.

Favorite Museum Artifact: David Wright's final game helmet

Memorable Museum Moment: My favorite Museum moment is just being able to work to support an organization that brings so many happy memories to people's minds – warm family memories, from their dad taking them to their first game to watching their own families grow up loving the sport.

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

For more info and a list of participating accommodations, visit the Hall of Fame website at baseballhall.org/VIPexperience. Dates for upcoming packages include Sept. 5-6, Oct. 24-25 and Nov. 7-8.

We'd like to hear from you

We love hearing from our readers about their personal connections to the stories that appear in *Memories and Dreams*. Send your notes and letters to us at membership@baseballhall.org.

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TURNING THINGS UPSIDE-DOWN

FIFTY YEARS AGO,
THE 1969 SEASON CHANGED THE BASEBALL WORLD FOREVER.

BY SCOTT PITONIAK

Alvin Dark's prognostication was not merely out of the park; it was out of this world. A true moonshot, if you will. And it would lead to one of the strangest coincidences in baseball history.

After watching future Hall of Fame pitcher Gaylord Perry smack several batting practice home runs before a 1964 game, an impressed baseball scribe turned to Dark and told the San Francisco Giants manager he wouldn't be surprised if Perry's power surge carried over into a game. Dark thought the reporter was crazed.

"Mark my words," the skipper scoffed while assessing the hitting skills of the righty who'd finish his career with a .131 batting average. "A man will land on the moon before Gaylord Perry hits a home run."

Fast forward to July 20, 1969. Perry was preparing to start a home game against the rival Los Angeles Dodgers at Candlestick Park. Roughly 240,000 miles from San Francisco, something much more astounding was occurring as astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first men to land on the moon. After receiving the momentous news, the public address announcer at Candlestick asked the crowd to stand and give a moment of silent thanks to the crew of Apollo 11. About 30 minutes later, in the bottom of the third inning, Perry smacked his first major league homer.

One giant leap for mankind – and for Gaylord Perry. And one just barely on-target prediction by Alvin Dark.

The year 1969 would be filled with many historic moments. On and

off the diamond. Some of them, such as the lunar landing, Perry's homer and the New York Mets' amazing World Series run, would be considered miraculous. One thing was certain: America and baseball would never be the same.

Expanding horizons

While NASA explored new frontiers during that seminal year, MLB expanded its horizons by adding four new teams, including its first north-of-the-border franchise, the Montreal Expos. Baseball also would divide its two leagues into four six-team divisions, and open its Postseason to four teams instead of two. The new arrangement resulted in some awkward geographic decisions. Not wanting to give up rivalries with the Philadelphia Phillies, Chicago Cubs and Mets, the St. Louis Cardinals insisted on being placed in the NL East. That forced the powers-that-be to put the Atlanta Braves and Cincinnati Reds in the Senior Circuit's West Division.

A draft was held in which the four fledgling franchises – the San Diego Padres, Kansas City Royals, Seattle Pilots and Expos – chose from a pool of major and minor league players left unprotected by existing big league teams. The Padres won the coin toss on Oct. 14, 1968, and selected Ollie Brown from the Giants. Other notable picks included aging future Hall of Fame pitcher Hoyt Wilhelm, who was chosen 49th by the Royals, and Lou Piniella, whom the Pilots took with the 28th selection.

“
**Mark my words.
A man will land on the moon
before Gaylord Perry
hits a home run.**
”

Alvin Dark

Opposite page: Gaylord Perry (top left) won 314 games across 22 big league seasons, but found things more difficult at the plate, batting .131 for his career.

On July 20, 1969, however, Perry shocked the baseball world by hitting his first career home run – just minutes after the Apollo 11 moon landing – fulfilling a prediction by former manager Alvin Dark. Players in 1969, including Indians catcher Vic Correll (top right), wore an MLB patch on their jerseys in honor of baseball's centennial.

The logo (bottom), with its iconic red, white and blue coloring, and which included the wording "100th Anniversary" in 1969, is still in use today.

Not surprisingly, none of the expansion teams fared well in their inaugural seasons. The worst of the bunch were the Expos, who lost 110 games despite the yeoman efforts of pitcher Bill Stoneman, who tossed five shutouts, including a no-hitter. The Padres suffered seven shutout losses by 10 runs or more. And the Pilots, who finished last in the AL West, would be one-and-done in Seattle, moving to Milwaukee the following season and being renamed the Brewers.

New leadership

The year also would witness changes in the leadership of the country and the National Pastime. On Jan. 20, 1969, the United States inaugurated Richard Nixon as its 37th President. Just a few years earlier, Nixon had been considered a candidate for both the Commissioner's job and the general counsel for players' union leader Marvin Miller.

Fifteen days after Nixon entered the Oval Office, baseball installed Bowie Kuhn as its fifth Commissioner. The lawyer and lifelong baseball fan was a compromise choice after the original candidates – Mike Burke of the New York Yankees and Chub Feeney of the Giants – wound up deadlocked along party lines, with Burke receiving all 12 votes from AL team owners and Feeney all 12 votes from the NL bosses. Kuhn, highly respected for the legal work he had done on behalf of MLB through the years, wound up being approved unanimously.

It wouldn't take long for the future Hall of Famer's mettle to be tested. In fact, just weeks after Kuhn was confirmed, he was forced to deal with a player boycott of Spring Training. The dispute centered on the players' pensions, and Kuhn was able to convince the owners, with pressure from network television rights-holder NBC, to make concessions. A strike was averted, with all players reporting by the end of February.

On the offensive

Two months before Kuhn replaced General William Eckert as Commissioner, owners and executives met to devise ways to combat the



Bowie Kuhn was a compromise choice when elected MLB Commissioner in 1969. Within weeks on the job, he negotiated an agreement between owners and players to avoid a strike.



FUTURE HALL OF FAMERS SHINE BRIGHT IN '69



PHOTOS BY DOUG McWILLIAMS/NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

A pair of future Hall of Famers were named 1969's Most Valuable Players. Willie McCovey (left) was the National League winner; Harmon Killebrew (right) took American League honors.

One was long and lean. The other was muscular and stocky. But despite the differences in their physiques, 6-foot-4, 198-pound Willie McCovey and 6-foot, 195-pound Harmon Killebrew were quite similar when it came to hitting baseballs a country mile.

And that was never more apparent than in 1969, when "Stretch" and "Killer" topped their respective leagues in home runs and runs batted in to capture Most Valuable Player honors.

Fearing pitcher Bob Gibson called McCovey "the scariest hitter in baseball." That season it was easy to understand why, as the San Francisco Giants slugger recorded career highs in homers (45) and RBI (126) while batting .320. Former New York Mets manager Casey Stengel once joked to a pitcher about to face McCovey: "Where do you want to pitch him? Upper deck or lower deck." Many teams opted not to pitch to him at all in 1969 as McCovey set a big league record for intentional walks in a season with 45. That mark would stand for 33 years.

Killebrew was similarly feared, with 20 free passes among his American League-leading 145 walks. The year before, during the 1968 All-Star Game, his season was cut short when he ruptured his right hamstring while stretching for a throw at first base. The Minnesota Twins clutched left the field on a stretcher, and there were concerns the injury might be career-ending. But after a grueling rehab, he returned with a vengeance in 1969, smacking 49 homers and driving in 140 runs.

During and after their playing careers, McCovey and Killebrew became as beloved off the field as they were feared on it. As baseball ambassadors, they proved time and again they knew how to go deep with fans.

Killebrew was inducted into the Hall in 1984, with McCovey joining him in Cooperstown two years later. They were living proof that sluggers and good guys come in all sizes.

Scott Pitoniak

dearth of scoring that had dropped run production to Dead Ball Era levels and was threatening the popularity of the game. Motivated by 1968's "Year of the Pitcher," in which Bob Gibson posted a miserly 1.12 earned-run average and Carl Yastrzemski needed a late-season hot streak to top the AL with a .301 batting average, a series of rule changes was implemented.

After exploring numerous suggestions, among them moving the pitching



A WHOLE NEW BALLGAME FOR TEDDY

Ted Williams retired as a player following the 1960 season, having spent 19 magnificent seasons with the Red Sox. With his famous left-handed swing, “Teddy Ballgame” would win two Triple Crowns, two MVP awards, six batting championships, compile a .344 career batting average and, with his .406 mark in 1941, be the last player to hit .400.

But suddenly and surprisingly, in February 1969, the 50-year-old Williams’ attitude toward managing changed and he signed on as the highest-paid skipper in big league history to lead the moribund Washington Senators.

“Even a couple of days ago, I couldn’t imagine this happening,” said Williams when the news was announced. “It had almost reached the point where baseball had gotten away from me. But now

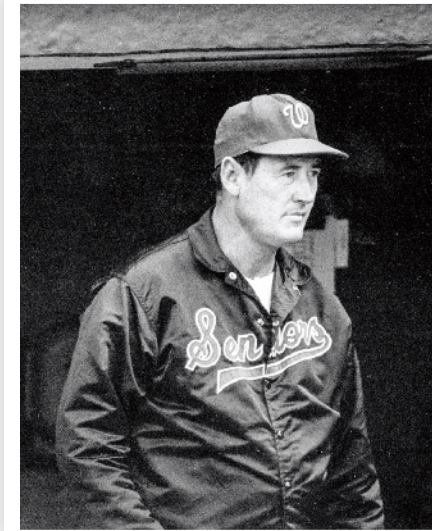
I’m getting geared up for this thing. I’m really excited about it.

“(Senators’ owner Bob Short) is a hard person to say ‘no’ to. I couldn’t get him off the phone. He persisted. Now I’m glad he did.”

According to news accounts, Williams’ contract was for five years at a salary of \$65,000 a year and included a deferred option to purchase 10 percent of the team.

“The money is certainly a part of my decision, but I can’t deny I love baseball,” Williams said. “And besides, I’ve been sitting around doing very little for eight years except fishing.”

As for Short, a Minnesota millionaire who once owned the Minneapolis Lakers of the NBA, he had bought the Senators less than a month prior to signing on Williams. It was said at the time that he was attempting to match the recent headlines that the NFL’s Washington Redskins garnered when they lured the legendary Vince Lombardi to coach their team.



NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

“They have a right to be excited over Lombardi. He has proven himself,” Williams said. “If they’re excited about me, I’m flattered.”

The task ahead for Williams was a daunting one, as he was taking over a team that had finished the 1968 campaign in 10th place – out of 10 teams – with a 65-96 record.

“Washington,” said Short, “was not only last in terms of the American League. The sport was practically dying in the town. You don’t go after anything less than the divine when you want to raise the dead.

“It had to be a name that would telegraph to all of Washington, to the team, to all of baseball that we meant business. It had to be dramatic. No name could have done it better.”

Williams rewarded such faith in his first season, leading the 1969 Senators to an 86-76 record and a fourth-place finish in the American League’s East Division. As a result, Williams was selected the American League Manager of the Year by the *Associated Press*.

“There is a satisfaction that comes simply from accepting a challenge, but you have every reason to be especially proud of your decision to return to baseball,” read a celebratory telegram to Williams from President Richard M. Nixon. “The Nixons enthusiastically join your friends and admirers across the nation in saluting you as Manager of the Year. Our congratulations and warmest wishes for future successes.”

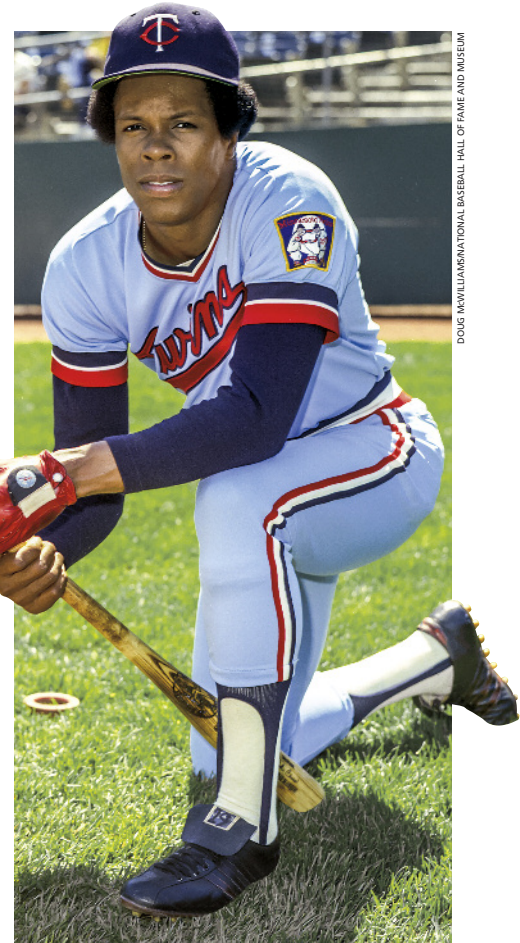
Despite that encouragement, the Senators returned to mediocrity the next two seasons. And following one year with the Texas Rangers (after the franchise relocated), Williams resigned with a year to go on his contract, his team’s 54-100 record in 1972 the worst in the big leagues.

“It was my decision and mine alone,” Williams said at the time. “I had personal reasons and can’t give anything more than that. I’m sure this is the right decision for myself and for the team.”

Years later, in his book “My Turn at Bat,” Williams wrote, “In my heart, I think I helped everybody on that Senators/Rangers club by just talking baseball, by giving them the viewpoint of an old hitter who knew the game between the pitcher and the batter as well as anybody who ever played it.

“But I wouldn’t manage again if you gave me the club and the city it’s in.”

Bill Francis



DOUG M/Williams/NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

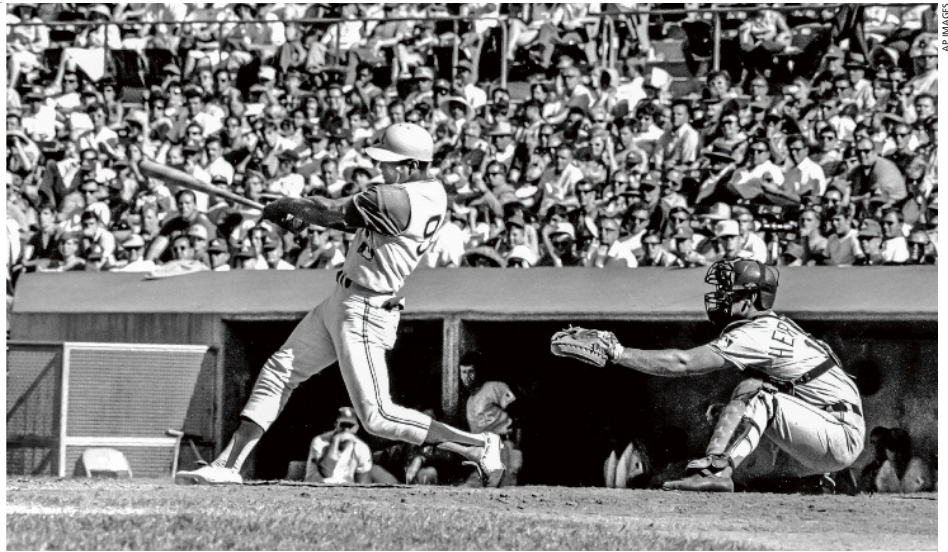
In 1969, future Hall of Famer Rod Carew would lead the Junior Circuit with a .332 average to capture the first of his seven league batting titles.

rubber back five feet, to 65 feet, six inches, the rules committee settled on lowering the mound from 15 inches to 10, and shrinking the strike zone to its pre-1963 size – the top of a batter’s knees to the armpits. These moves led to an 11-point jump in MLB batting averages and a 19-percent increase in runs.

Interestingly, during exhibition games that spring, teams experimented with “designated pinch hitters” who batted in place of pitchers. Though many balked at the tinkering, the foundation was in place for the American League’s adoption of the designated hitter four years later as MLB continued to seek ways to bolster scoring and make games more entertaining.

That 1969 would be a better year for batters was evident early on as a muscular 23-year-old slugger named Reggie Jackson got off to a torrid start with the Oakland A’s. The future Hall of Famer smashed a then-record 37 homers before the All-Star break, prompting many to predict he would obliterate the single-season record of 61 established by

NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM



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Top left: Willie Mays clubbed his 600th career home run during the 1969 season, joining Babe Ruth as the only players to reach that milestone. **Top right:** Reggie Jackson smashed an amazing 37 homers before the 1969 All-Star break and finished with 47 – two behind league-leader and AL Most Valuable Player Harmon Killebrew. **Bottom left:** Mets pitcher Tom Seaver holds up uniform No. 25 (worn by teammate Amos Otis) after winning his 25th game of the 1969 season, a 1-0 shutout of the Phillies. It was Seaver’s first of five 20-win seasons. **Bottom right:** Members of the Mets storm the field at Shea Stadium after they beat the Orioles in Game 5 of the 1969 World Series to win the first championship in franchise history.

Roger Maris eight years earlier. But Jackson cooled off down the stretch and finished with 47 homers – two behind league-leader and AL Most Valuable Player Harmon Killebrew.

Rod Carew would lead the Junior Circuit with a .332 average to capture his first of seven league batting titles, while Pete Rose batted .348 to win the NL crown. Giants first baseman Willie McCovey wound up leading the National League in homers and runs batted in to earn his league’s Most Valuable Player award. His teammate, Willie Mays, made news that year, too, clubbing his 600th career home run, joining Babe Ruth as the only players to reach that milestone.

And Ted Williams would make a triumphant return, this time as manager of the woebegone Washington Senators, whom he guided to their first winning season since they joined the American League as an expansion team eight seasons earlier.

A season of stories

Of course, *the* baseball story of 1969 would focus on the Miracle Mets, who just seven seasons earlier had lost a modern-day record 120 games, prompting their original manager, Casey Stengel, to lament: “Can’t anybody here play this game?”

Boasting a staff of talented young hurlers, including 25-game winner Tom Seaver, the Mets won 37 of their final 48 games to overtake the cursed Cubs and win the NL East by nine games, then defeated the Braves in the inaugural NLCS and topped the Orioles in the World Series.

It was just another bizarre and historic event in a year that proved to be out-of-this-world. On and off the diamond. 🍷

Best-selling author Scott Pitoniak resides in Penfield, N.Y. His latest book, “Forever Orange: The Story of Syracuse University,” will be published this fall.



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Saluting 1969

Hall of Famers were front and center during that memorable season.

While the Mets' improbable World Series crown was the biggest story from the 1969 MLB campaign, several other significant events took place on the diamond that summer. Here are some of the accomplishments by members of the National Baseball Hall of Fame:



NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

Future Hall of Famers dominate the National League pitching leaders. Ferguson Jenkins tops the circuit with 273 strikeouts, **Juan Marichal** posts a league-best 2.10 ERA and Tom Seaver collects a major league-best 25 wins.

The Twins lay claim to the American League's top hitting combo as Rod Carew finishes with a .332 average to win the batting title, while Harmon Killebrew tops the majors with 49 home runs and 140 RBI.



NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

Two of the game's greats step away. In March, **Mickey Mantle** retires after an 18-year career that saw him smash 536 home runs, win three American League MVP Awards (1956, 1957, 1962) and be part of seven Yankees' World Series winners. **Don Drysdale** announces his retirement in August, following a 14-year career that includes 209 victories, the 1962 Cy Young Award and three World Series championships with the Dodgers.

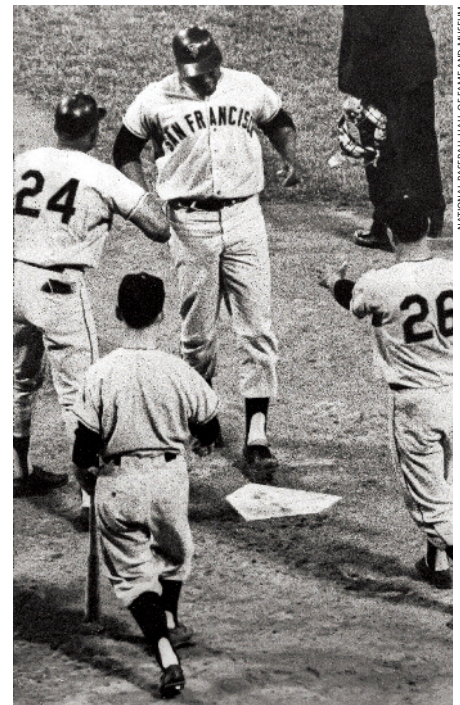


NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM



NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

Six no-hitters are thrown on the year, including one on Aug. 13 by the Orioles' **Jim Palmer**, who blanks the Athletics, 8-0.



NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

Two Giants legends hit milestone home runs. **Willie McCovey** clubs career No. 300 on July 29 in a 4-2 victory over the Cubs, while Willie Mays swats the 600th of his career on Sept. 22, in a 4-2 win over the Padres.

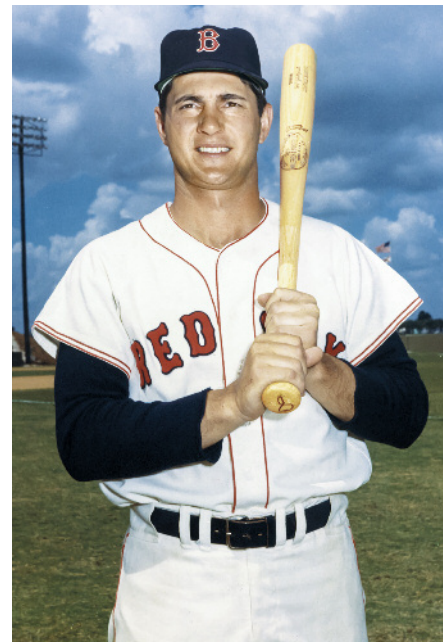
On Aug. 5, the Pirates' **Willie Stargell** becomes the first player to hit a home run completely out of Dodger Stadium. His mammoth blast comes as part of an 11-3 Pittsburgh victory.



NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM



NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM



NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

Orioles third baseman **Brooks Robinson** (left) wins his 10th consecutive Gold Glove Award. He would run his streak to 16 in a row, taking the honor every season from 1960-75. **Carl Yastrzemski** (right), meanwhile, wins a Gold Glove for his work in left field with the Red Sox.



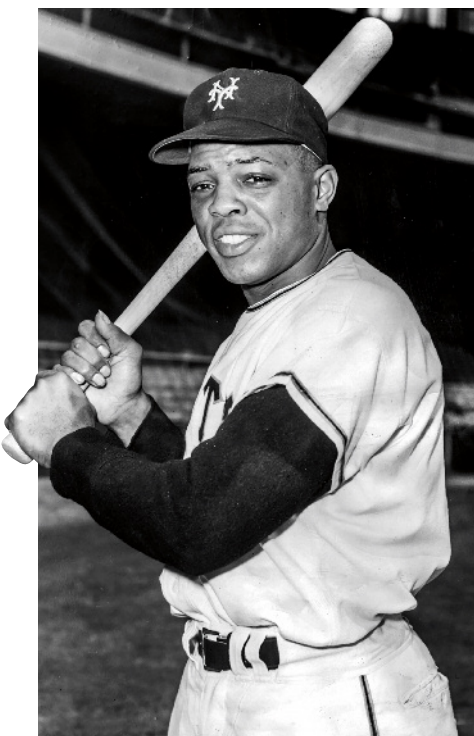
DOUG McWILLIAMS/NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM



BRAD MANGINI/NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

Billy Williams and Bob Gibson tie MLB records. On April 9, Williams doubles in four straight at-bats in the Cubs' 11-3 win over the Phillies; on May 12, Gibson strikes out the side on nine pitches, doing so as part of a 6-2 Cardinals victory over the Dodgers.

A pair of future Hall of Famers are born eight days apart. **Ken Griffey Jr.** enters the world on Nov. 21, in Donora, Pa., – 49 years to the day after Stan Musial was born in the same town – while Mariano Rivera is born Nov. 29 in Panama City.



NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

The average ticket to a major league game costs \$2.61 and the average MLB salary is \$24,909. **Willie Mays**, at \$135,000, is the game's highest-paid player.

News from off the field

Away from the National Pastime, 1969 was a year of both upheaval and achievement. Among the notable events taking place were: The Beatles giving their final public performance; *The Saturday Evening Post* ceasing as a weekly publication; Warren Burger being sworn in as Chief Justice of the United States; the landing of Apollo 11 on the moon with Neil Armstrong becoming the first man to walk on the moon's surface; the three-day Woodstock festival in Upstate New York; the debut of the TV shows *Scooby-Doo* and *Sesame Street*; and the inaugural passenger flight of a Boeing 747, which travels from Seattle to New York City.

CELEBRATING A CENTURY

IN 1969, MLB SHIFTED PROMOTION INTO HIGH GEAR TO HONOR THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF PRO BASEBALL.

BY MARTY APPEL

Fifty years ago, Major League Baseball decided to throw a centennial birthday party for the 1869 Cincinnati Red Stockings, the game's first openly professional team.

The celebration proved to be far more: It marked the birth of modern baseball marketing.

The 1869 Red Stockings, who did indeed wear red baseball socks, went undefeated in the 57 games they played against other clubs and were the first team to openly acknowledge salaries for its players. They traveled around the country while playing a combination of organized teams and “picked nines,” and the roster included future Hall of Famers George and Harry Wright. They did not suffer a defeat until June 1870.

Major League Baseball's marketing efforts 50 years ago were a far cry from the complex and sophisticated approach employed today. The term “MLB” wasn't even used and the game's offices were simply called the “Office of the Baseball Commissioner.”

That began to change when the Major League Baseball Promotion Corporation was

founded in 1968 under the guidance of New York Yankees president Michael Burke. A centennial promotion was very much in mind, and a search firm was engaged to find someone to head the effort.

The firm contacted Schaefer Beer, which strongly recommended Tom Villante, a senior

vice president and director at BBDO Advertising. Villante, a Yankees batboy in the '40s, had produced Brooklyn and Los Angeles Dodgers broadcasts on behalf of Schaefer Beer, but he wasn't interested in leaving the agency. Instead, he suggested BBDO take the account, which he could run. (Villante eventually did go to MLB to head marketing and broadcasting from 1978-83.)

Baseball had celebrated the centennial of the amateur game with the 1939 opening of what was then called the National Baseball Museum in Cooperstown, and further marked the occasion with a sleeve patch on all uniforms and the issuance of a three-cent U.S. postage stamp. Now, 30 years later, it had a chance to do more.

A first step, even before BBDO's efforts, was the embrace of a budding book project, which would be called “The Baseball Encyclopedia” and be published by Macmillan in 1969 (and nicknamed “Big Mac”). These were the nascent days of mainframe computers, and a team at Information Concepts Incorporated set out to give the game a reference book such as it never had before.

A team of 47, including Hall of Fame historian Lee Allen, began combing through old box scores and other materials to deliver a



“The Baseball Encyclopedia,” published in 1969, was the first book other than phone books typeset entirely by computer.

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

book of 2,337 pages – a birthday gift to the game. It was the first book other than phone books typeset entirely by computer. (Allen, a Cincinnati native, died in May 1969, before he could appreciate the overwhelming accolades of fans.)

A jazz pianist/baseball fan named Dave Frobisher went through the book and recorded a whimsical tune, “Van Lingle Mungo,” which featured a random assortment of 37 retired player names and was released later that year.

With the Encyclopedia as an entry point, BBDO set out to create some special promotions to draw attention to the centennial. BBDO was, at last, the first creative agency ever engaged by Major League Baseball.

Among their proposals was a logo of red, white and blue, featuring a batter about to hit a ball. The model for the image was rumored to be Twins slugger Harmon Killebrew, but it was no one in particular, according to the designer Jerry Digor. In fact, depending on your point of view, the batter could be either left-handed or right-handed.

The logo, still in use, appeared as a sleeve patch on all players during the 1969 season. In that season, it said “100th Anniversary” across the bottom.

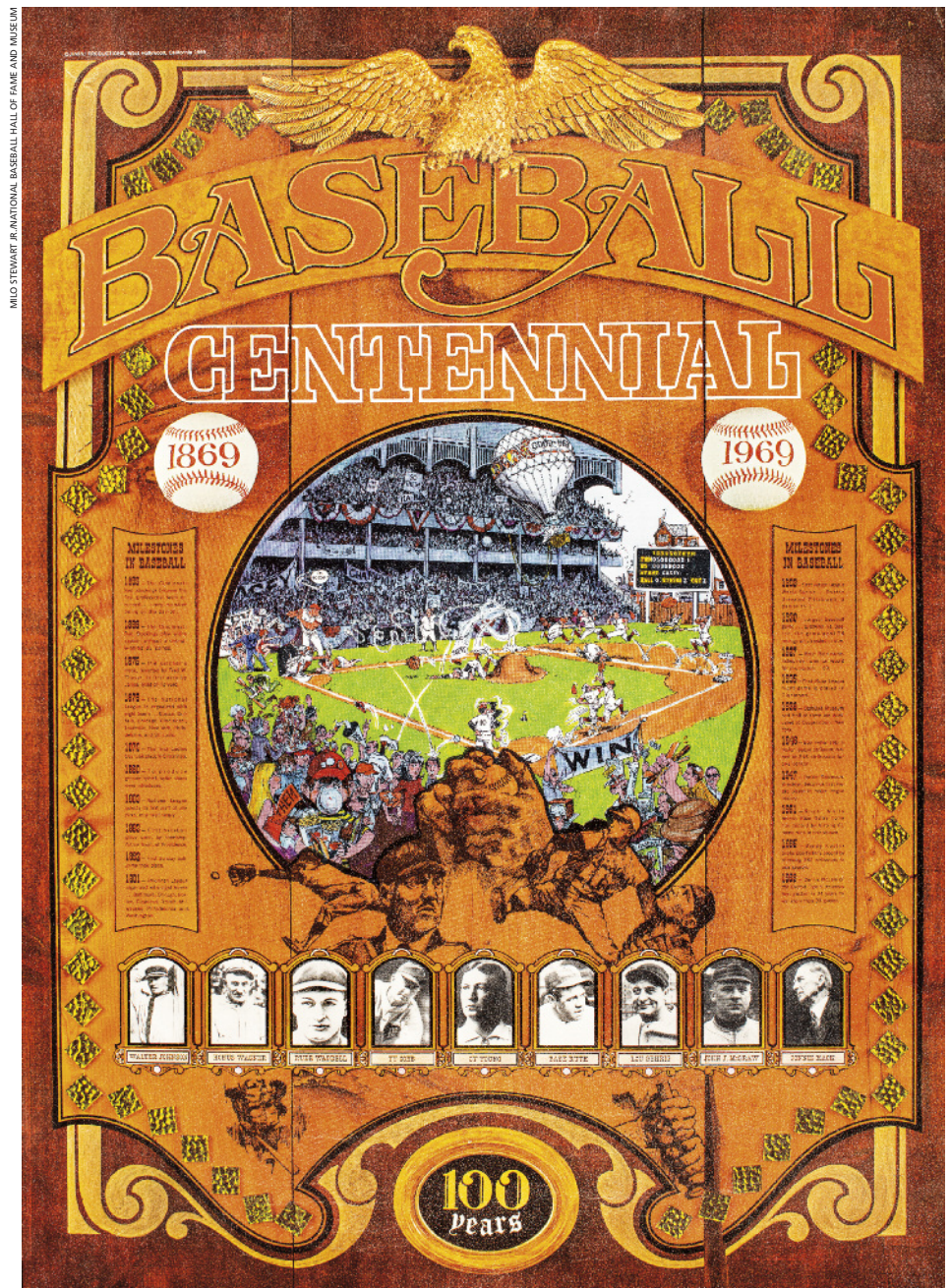
The idea of branding was taking form.

BBDO then commissioned a record album – *Baseball: The First 100 Years: Official Centennial Record Album* – narrated by beloved actor James Stewart and NBC baseball announcer Curt Gowdy, incorporating historic broadcast audio. It was issued by Fleetwood Records, a Revere, Mass., company. The cover art, a collage of baseball imagery, included an illustrated batter wearing the new sleeve patch. It was designed by Bob Peak, a legend in his field for having designed posters for such films as *West Side Story*, *My Fair Lady* and *Camelot*.

A larger, poster version of the collage, reading “Professional Baseball Centennial 1869 1969,” was also released. It was colorful and attention-getting, and certainly appealed to younger fans during an era of poster decorations on bedroom and dorm walls.

All of this was but a prelude to BBDO’s big promotion for the year – the selection of the game’s Greatest Players Ever and Greatest Living Players, which would be announced as part of the All-Star Game ceremonies in Washington in July.

With the assistance of the game’s 24 team



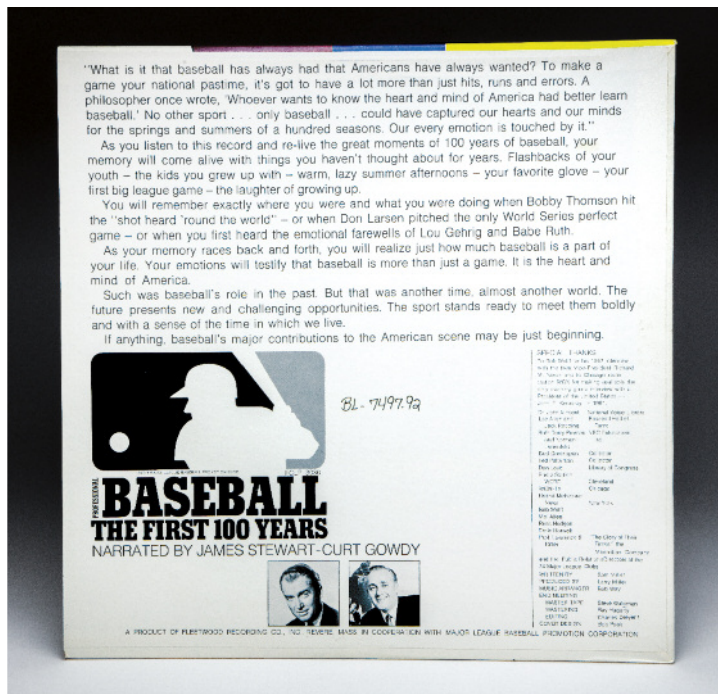
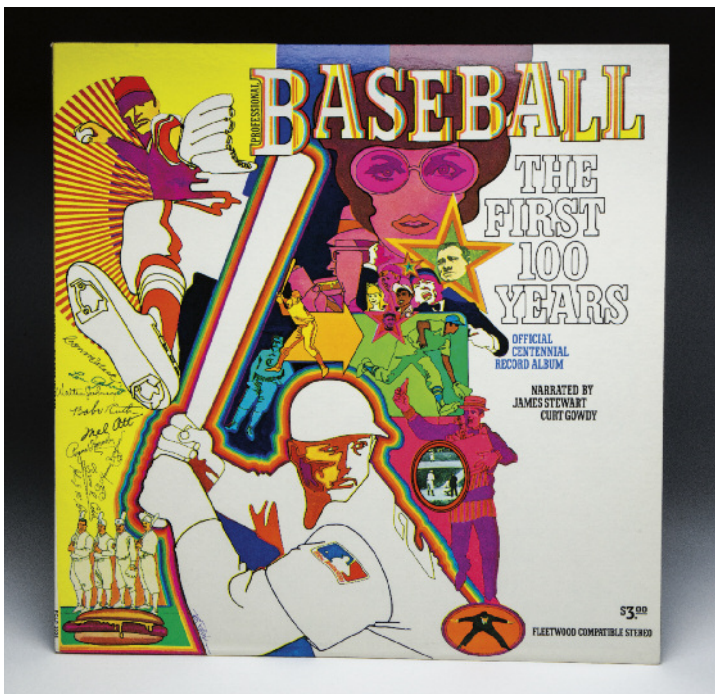
This poster, promoting baseball’s centennial celebration of 1969, is part of the Hall of Fame collection.

public relations departments, the promotion was supported by local newspapers in every major league city, and fans were asked to fill out ballots with not only national selections, but also their own franchise’s “greatest ever.” (Expansion teams had fans vote just for “greatest ever.”)

There had not been such a significant “all-time poll” since the *Sporting News* produced a mid-century version in 1950, selected by its own editorial staff. Some of the selections, such as 19th-century third baseman Jimmy Collins, would clearly not resonate with fans in 1969. It was time to freshen things up.

The results of the poll were announced at the grandest banquet ever thrown by MLB: A gala at the Washington Sheraton Park Hotel on Monday, July 21, attended by 2,200 people, which included 35 Hall of Famers, the largest such gathering of immortals to that point. (Players from the All-Star teams attended as well, adding 19 future Hall of Famers to the guest list.)

Astronaut Frank Borman (Commander of Apollo 8) and author George Plimpton were among the celebrities who announced the names to the VIP gathering, while press kits including photos were simultaneously



An album narrated by actor James Stewart and broadcaster Curt Gowdy incorporated historic audio to promote baseball's 1969 centennial. The album cover was also made into a poster.

hand-delivered by limousine to every major media outlet based in New York. President Richard Nixon, the most knowledgeable baseball fan to ever occupy the Oval Office, could not attend, as he was at the White House watching the return of the Apollo 11 astronauts, who had walked on the moon's surface the night before. But his turn at bat would come the following day.

The Greatest Players Ever list found Babe Ruth, Ty Cobb and Joe DiMaggio in the outfield, Lou Gehrig at first, Rogers Hornsby at second, Pie Traynor at third, Honus Wagner at short, Mickey Cochrane catching, Walter Johnson the right-handed pitcher, Lefty Grove the left-handed pitcher, and John McGraw the manager. Babe Ruth was named the Greatest Player, with his widow, Claire, accepting.

(Baseball was still three years away from incorporating the Negro Leagues into historical projects, but Satchel Paige attended.)

For the "living" all-time team, there were Ted Williams (then managing the Washington Senators), DiMaggio and Willie Mays (the only active player) in the outfield, a tie between George Sisler and Stan Musial at first, Charlie Gehringer at second, Traynor at third, and Joe Cronin (the A.L. president) at short. Bill Dickey was the catcher, Bob Feller the right-hander and Grove the left-hander. Casey Stengel was the manager.

Mays, chosen for right field, accepted his trophy and said, "I've played right field maybe twice, but I'm happy to turn over center to Joe."

DiMaggio was named the Greatest Living Player, and for the remaining 30 years of his life, he basked in that title wherever he was introduced.

Musial was a "commissioner's choice" selection, in that Sisler won the poll at first base, but Interim Commissioner Bowie Kuhn agreed with his advisors that the team just wasn't right without him. (Musial's polling had been hurt by having divided his career between the outfield and first base.)

The next day, prior to the evening's scheduled All-Star Game, a gathering at the White House was held, and some 400 people – the All-Star players, Hall of Famers (or their widows), sports media, game officials and sponsors – walked through a receiving line where President Nixon greeted the guests and posed for photos. In remarks, Nixon showed off his baseball knowledge, recalling the surprise decision of Connie Mack to start pitcher Howard Ehmke in the 1929 World Series, and suggesting that if he could do it all over again, he'd have been a sports writer. (Apparently liking the poll idea, Nixon, assisted by his son-in-law David Eisenhower, named his own all-time teams three years later.)

Kuhn's best remembrance of the day was seeing Grove seated on a rare antique chair

in the White House's East Room – with his feet up on a priceless coffee table.

Nixon would have delivered the ceremonial first pitch at the Tuesday night All-Star Game, but it was rained out and rescheduled for Wednesday afternoon. (The National League won, 9-3, backed by two homers from Willie McCovey). By then, the President was out west to greet the returning astronauts.

"Looking back, all we had to do was compete with the moon landing," Villante recently reflected. "No big deal."

The celebrations weren't over yet. On Sept. 24, Cincinnati Reds officials headed for the city's main post office on Dalton Avenue as the U.S. Postal Service issued a six-cent stamp that read "1869-1969, Professional Baseball." It featured a drawing of an anonymous right-handed hitter in a red cap about to swing, against a background of yellow and green. The stamp, designed by Alex Ross of Connecticut, had an initial printing of 120 million.

The centennial events captivated the nation, and stoked many hours of fan conversation.

Baseball marketing had come of age. 📌

As a young New York Yankees publicist in 1969, Marty Appel hand-delivered the Greatest All-Time press kits around Manhattan. He is the Magazine Historian for Memories and Dreams.

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STILL A MIRACLE

THE AMAZIN' METS WROTE WHAT MAY BE BASEBALL'S MOST INCREDIBLE STORY.

BY WAYNE COFFEY

History was going to happen. To fans of the New York Mets, that seemed as certain as sitting in traffic after the game.

It was Opening Day of the 1969 season, April 8, a sunny Tuesday at Shea Stadium. The Mets had never won an opener in their previous seven tries, a span in which they'd lost with record-breaking regularity, dropping a total of 737 games and finishing every year but two in last place.

But the start of Year No. 8 would be different, wouldn't it? The Mets had their fresh-faced ace, Tom Seaver, on the mound, going against an expansion team, the Montreal Expos, a club outfitted in tri-color hats that might've been designed by Barnum & Bailey. It was the first international game in big league annals, in the game's first season with divisional play.

Already a two-time All-Star at age 24, Seaver was widely regarded as the premier young pitcher in baseball, teaming with Jerry Koosman to give the Mets the best lefty-righty combination in the National League since the heyday of Sandy Koufax and Don Drysdale.

Shortstop Maury Wills was the first Expos hitter. Seaver struck him out looking.

Subsequent outs did not come as easily. The Expos scored twice in the first and once in the third. They scored again in the fourth when a reliever named Dan McGinn, a former punter for Notre Dame, hit a ball that landed on top of the right field wall and plopped into the Mets bullpen. It was the only home run of McGinn's career.

Seaver was done after five innings, having yielded four runs, six hits and three walks. The Mets lost, 11-10.

"My God, wasn't that awful?" Seaver said afterward.

Indeed it was, but things did not stay awful for long for the Mets, and that was principally because of Seaver, who would go on to win 25 games and the first of his three Cy Young Awards, the best season of a career that would land him in Cooperstown – one of just two Hall of Famers (with Nolan Ryan) on a fabled ballclub that may well be the most improbable World Series champion in history.

A year after they won 73 games under their new manager, Gil Hodges, the Mets finished 100-62 in 1969. They swept the Henry Aaron-led Atlanta Braves in the first National League Championship Series, and then faced the mighty Baltimore Orioles, winners of 109 games, in the Fall Classic.



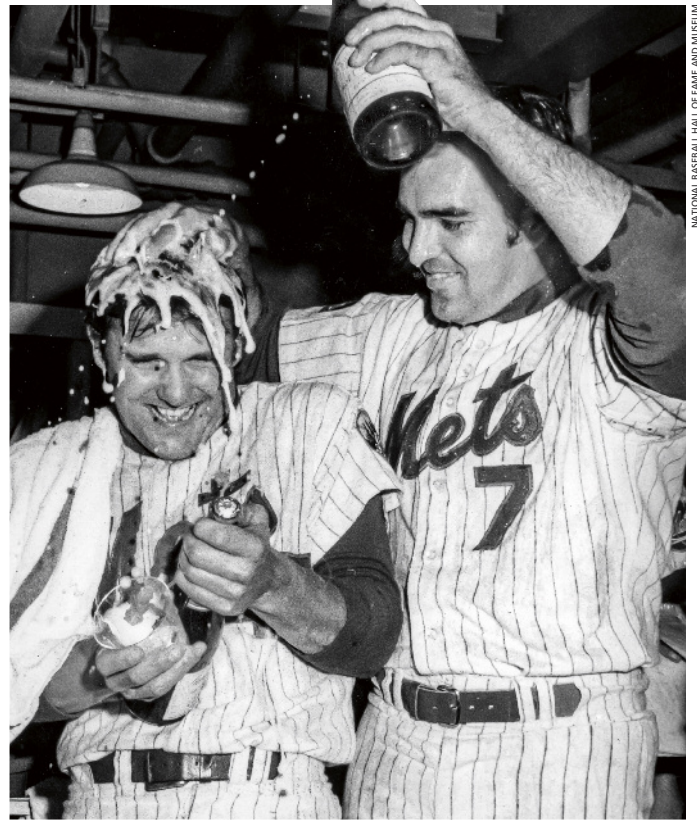
The Orioles were not terribly concerned about all the chatter surrounding the Mets and their charmed, providential journey.

"If somebody upstairs is guiding the Mets, as we're told, then all I can say is He is guiding us better, because we won 109 games to their 100," said Orioles manager Earl Weaver.

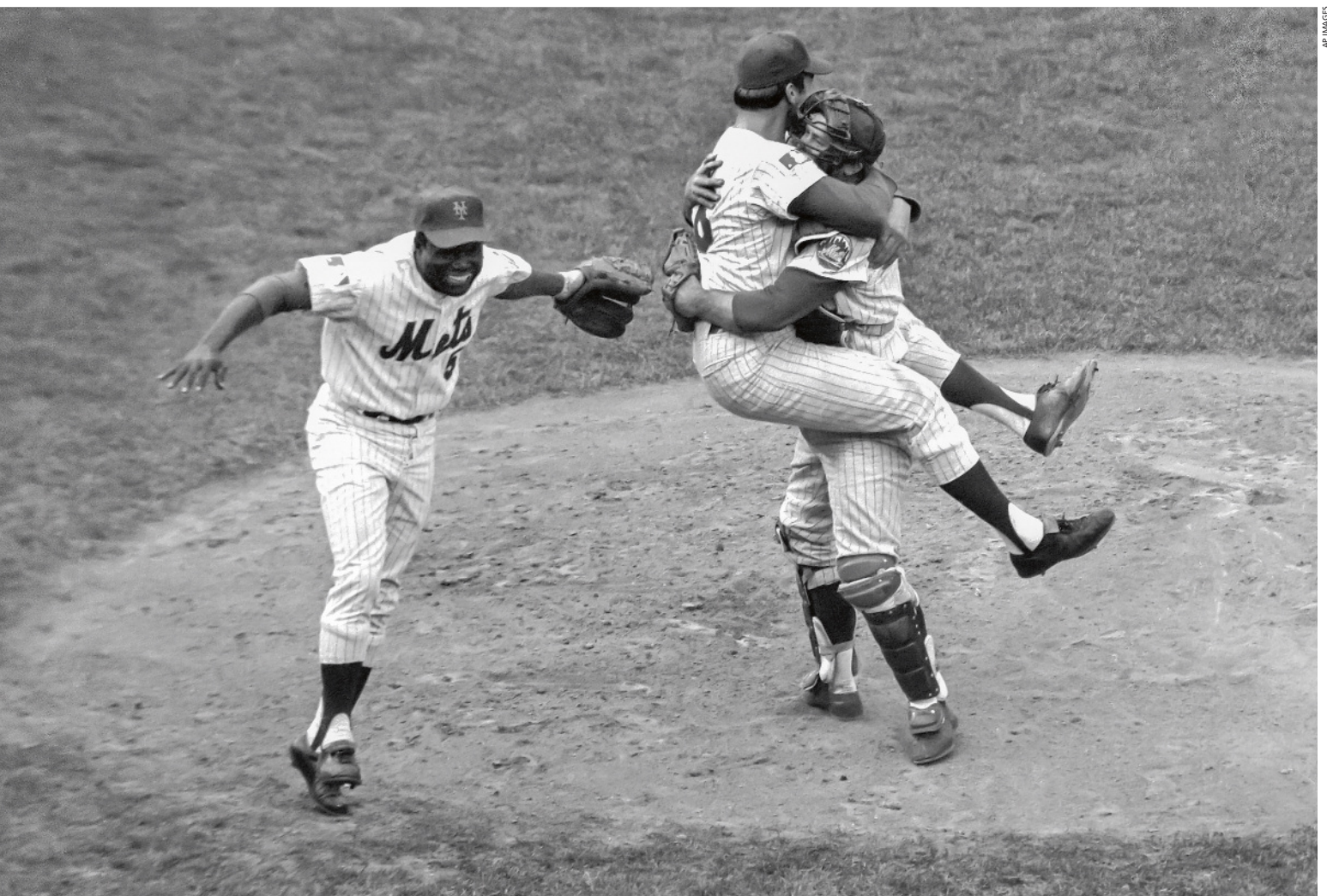
"We're going to whip the Amazin' Mets," added Frank Robinson, the Orioles' slugging right fielder, and one of two Hall of Fame-bound Robinsons on the club (Brooks, of course, being the other). "The World Series might go five, or it just might go four. ... The Birds haven't decided yet."

Such skepticism was nothing new for the Mets, who spent the whole season having to convince naysayers that these were not the Mets of yesteryear. From the moment he was hired, Hodges' top priority was to shed the club's culture of losing and convince his youthful ballplayers that they could turn things around

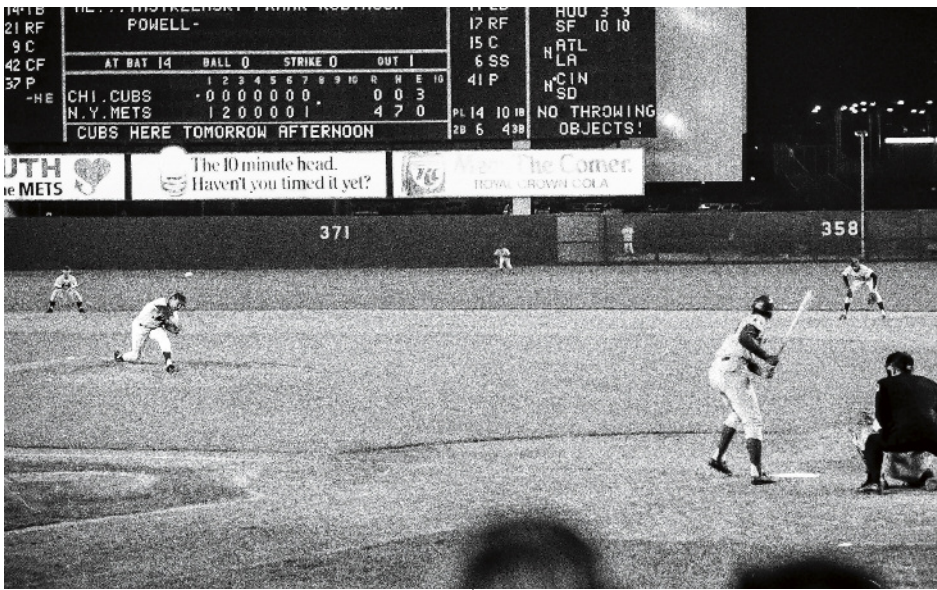
Top left: Fans engulf the Shea Stadium field after the Mets capped their amazing 1969 season by winning the World Series. **Top right:** First baseman Ed Kranepool (right) pours celebratory champagne on relief ace Tug McGraw in the clubhouse after the Mets' World Series triumph. **Bottom right:** Catcher Jerry Grote embraces pitcher Jerry Koosman as third baseman Ed Charles (left) joins the celebration after the Mets defeated the Orioles in Game 5 to win the 1969 World Series.



NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM



AP IMAGES



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Above: Just eight seasons into their existence, the Mets were baseball's best team in 1969. The coaching staff included Yogi Berra (first row, third from right). **Left:** Tom Seaver's "Imperfect Game" against the Cubs on July 9 kickstarted the Mets' run to the National League East title. Seaver retired the first 25 Chicago batters he faced.

quickly if they played crisp, fundamentally sound baseball, and stuck together.

The message got through, and nobody carried it more passionately than Seaver. On May 21 in Atlanta, Seaver shut out the Braves on three hits to even the Mets' record at 18-18 – the latest point in their history that they'd been at .500. Reporters descended on Seaver to get his reaction.

"What's so good about .500?" he said. "That's only mediocre. We didn't come into this season to play .500. Let Rod Kanehl and

Marvelous Marv (Throneberry) laugh about the Mets. We're out here to win. You know when we'll have champagne? When we win the pennant."

Soon after, the Mets went on an 11-game winning streak, moving into second place in the NL East and closing to within 5.5 games when the first-place Chicago Cubs visited Shea in early July. It was unquestionably the biggest series the Mets had ever played.

In the opener, trailing by two runs in the ninth against Cubs ace (and another future

Hall of Famer) Ferguson Jenkins, the Mets rallied for three runs to win, 4-3. The next night, Seaver took the mound against Cubs left-hander Ken Holtzman and dominated from the start, striking out five of the first six batters he faced. The Mets, meanwhile, staked him an early lead. In the third inning, Mets pitching coach Rube Walker turned to Hodges in the dugout.

"[Seaver] has the stuff to throw a no-hitter tonight," Walker said.

Through five innings, Seaver had set down all 15 Cubs he'd faced. A 1-2-3 sixth made it 18 straight. When Don Kessinger, the Chicago shortstop, hit a liner to left to lead off the seventh, Seaver's heart sank before Cleon Jones made a nice running grab by the foul line. Seaver retired the next two hitters and got the Cubs in order again in the eighth.

Seaver had now faced 24 Chicago Cubs and retired every one of them. Only two National League pitchers in the 20th century had pitched perfect games, both of them Hall of Famers: Jim Bunning did it on Father's Day in 1964, on this same mound, against the



Among the artifacts at the Hall of Fame from the Mets' 1969 season are manager Gil Hodges' World Series championship ring (left) and a glove used by Jerry Koosman.

Mets, and Sandy Koufax did it against the Cubs the following season.

When Seaver came up to bat in the bottom of the eighth, the sellout crowd of 59,000-plus stood as one. One of those fans was Howie Rose, now a Mets broadcaster, but then a 15-year-old from Bayside, Queens.

Rose called it "the loudest sound I ever heard in my life."

"The sonic roar encapsulated the realization, at least to me, that not only had the Mets at long last 'arrived,' but that in Tom Seaver, we as Mets fans, had our very own Sandy Koufax or Mickey Mantle – a transcendent star who willed his team far beyond a newfound competitiveness; who allowed us to dream that the New York Mets, in 1969, might actually be capable of something special," Rose said.

Seaver came out for the ninth, the crowd still standing. Randy Hundley, the Cubs' catcher, dropped down a leadoff bunt, but the ball rolled right back to the mound. Seaver threw him out easily.

Twenty-five Cubs down. Two more to go.

Up stepped Jimmy Qualls, a 22-year-old infielder/outfielder who had recently been activated after a two-week military stint and was playing in just his 18th big league game. He had made better contact than any other Cub in his previous two at-bats against Seaver, smacking a liner to right and a hard grounder to first. Seaver's first pitch was a fastball away.

Qualls hit it solidly, toward left-center. Jones and Tommie Agee, the center fielder, broke for it, but neither had a play. It was a clean single. The excitement and anticipation that had been building the entire night exited Shea Stadium faster than air from a punctured balloon.

"It was like a drain opened up under my feet," Seaver said later. "I just took a deep breath. I didn't say a word to myself. All the pressure, everything, was gone."

The crowd gave the right-hander one more thunderous ovation before he quickly got the final two outs. Seaver would forever more refer to that outing as "the imperfect game."

He and his teammates continued to chase the Cubs. Though a rough stretch coming out of the All-Star break left the Mets 10 games behind in mid-August, neither Hodges nor his players lost heart, playing their best baseball of the season in the heat of their first pennant race.

The Mets went 38-11 over their final 49 games and zoomed past the Cubs to win the division going away. They clinched on Sept. 24, scoring five times in the first inning to back Gary Gentry's four-hit shutout against the defending NL champion St. Louis Cardinals.

Overcome with euphoria, Mets fans tore up the field so completely it looked something close to a war zone. They ransacked the field again after the Mets swept the Braves to advanced to the Series. Even after Seaver dropped Game 1 in Baltimore, the Mets weren't

shaken. Koosman carried a no-hitter into the seventh inning of Game 2 as the Mets took a 2-1 decision, and back home in Shea in Game 3, Gentry pitched superbly and Agee had as great a game in the field as any outfielder in Series history, with two running catches in the gap that might well have saved five runs.

Seaver returned to the mound in Game 4, and this time he was in prime form, pitching a six-hitter over 10 innings to capture what would be the only Series victory of his career. He got a huge assist from right fielder Ron Swoboda, who made a spectacular grab of his own on a sinking line drive off the bat of Brooks Robinson.

Koosman closed it out a day later, getting the final out when Davey Johnson, who would later manage the '86 World Champion Mets, hit a fly ball to Cleon Jones in left. Jones went down to one knee as he made the catch, and soon Seaver and all the other Mets were pouring out of the dugout ... as tens of thousands of fans poured out of the stands right behind them.

Six months after the Mets' 1969 season had gotten off to an awful start, it came to a sublime conclusion. And amid the spray of champagne and whoops of joy in the Mets clubhouse, Seaver may have put it best: "It's the greatest feeling in the world." 🍷

Wayne Coffey is the author of "They Said It Couldn't Be Done: The '69 Mets, New York City and The Most Astounding Season in Baseball History."



'Space-Ball'

Museum's collection contains many out-of-this-world artifacts.

BY ISABELLE MINASIAN

The 1960s saw America leading the exploration of outer space and children dreaming of becoming the next John Glenn and Jim Lovell.

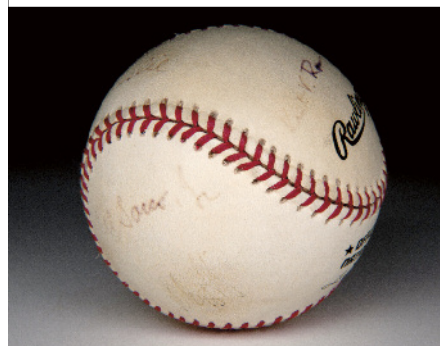
The so-called Space Race between the United States and the Soviet Union captivated Americans across the country, and the corresponding cultural movement, referred to as the Space Age, influenced everything from automotive design to fashion.

It was only natural that the National Pastime caught space fever, too. When Major League Baseball added an expansion team in Houston in 1962, it was initially named the Colt .45s, but three years later became the Houston Astros in homage to the NASA Mission Control Center located in the city.

In 1964, San Francisco Giants manager Alvin Dark famously played up the space fascination, too, when he remarked to *San Francisco Examiner* reporter Harry Jupiter: "Mark my words. A man will land on the moon before Gaylord Perry hits a home run."

Five years later, on July 20, 1969, Apollo 11 was preparing to land on the moon, and Gaylord Perry was preparing to face off against the rival Los Angeles Dodgers. As fortune – and a Claude Osteen fastball – would have it, mere minutes after Neil Armstrong took his first steps on the moon, Perry hit his first major league home run.

This almost-too-good-to-be-real story is one of the more well-known intersections of baseball and space, but America's pastime and the solar system have been connected for years, and the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum is fortunate to have a number of space-related artifacts in its collection.



Top: This helmet was used by groundskeepers at the Houston Astrodome in 1965, the year the Astros were renamed to honor the NASA Mission Control Center located in the city. **Above:** In what was a baseball first, Commander Ken Bowersox threw this ball, used for the ceremonial first pitch of Game 5 of the 1995 World Series, while aboard the space shuttle Columbia.

In 2017, four minor league teams whose stadiums were in the path of totality during the solar eclipse capitalized on the historic event. Most notably, the Salem-Keizer (Ore.) Volcanoes celebrated the first-ever "Eclipse Day" in baseball history, complete with a 10-minute delay during the first inning as the sun disappeared from view. The Volcanoes preceded Eclipse Day with Eclipsefest, a three-day event complete with fireworks, free beer tastings and commemorative gear,

including NASA-approved solar eclipse glasses with the Eclipsefest logo on the sides.

Volcanoes players also wore eclipse-themed jerseys, which featured the stages of the moon passing in front of the sun. Salem-Keizer pitcher Alejandro De La Rosa's jersey, a pair of the glasses and the baseball thrown after the eclipse are all part of the Museum's collection.

There are also, of course, plenty of Astros-related space artifacts. Early on in the team's tenure in the Astrodome, the groundskeepers wore astronaut-like outfits, and one of their fiberglass helmets – complete with painted trim to imitate a face shield – is featured in the Hall's collection. The helmets were originally used in 1965, and the team brought them back in April 2010 when it celebrated the 45th anniversary of the Astros name.

The Museum also has Hall of Famer Craig Biggio's jersey from Opening Day in 2003. On the right sleeve of the jersey is a patch in the shape of the space shuttle Columbia, with the last names of the seven astronauts who died during re-entry earlier that year.

Thus far, no baseball players have journeyed into space (unless you count minor leaguer Michael Jordan's starring turn in *Space Jam*), but there have been a number of baseball-related items that sojourned beyond earth's atmosphere. The Museum has a few space-dusted baseballs, including one that traveled aboard the space shuttle Atlantis in 1988, and another Atlantis ball, this one from a 2002 voyage and was signed by the astronauts aboard.

Perhaps most notable of the space-baseball objects is the baseball used to throw out the first pitch of Game 5 of the 1995 World Series. It was the first time in history that the ceremonial pitcher wasn't in attendance at the ballpark, and for good reason: Commander Ken Bowersox was onboard the space shuttle Columbia at the time. Later on, the ball was signed by all seven astronauts on that mission.

Much like the universe itself, the future of space travel is vast and uncertain, but who knows? Perhaps in another 50 years, they'll be playing baseball on the moon.

If Gaylord Perry could hit a home run just 30 minutes after astronauts landed on the lunar surface, anything can happen. **🌕**

Isabelle Minasian is the digital content specialist at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.



Top: This Astros jersey worn on Opening Day 2003 by Craig Biggio honors the crew of the space shuttle Columbia. **Above:** Alejandro De La Rosa of the Salem-Keiser (Ore.) Volcanoes wore this jersey in 2017 when the team celebrated "Eclipse Day" in celebration of a total solar eclipse taking place during their game.

HALL FOR HEROES

THE INDUCTION CLASSES OF 1966 AND 1969 HELPED CHANGE THE FACE – AND PACE – OF HALL OF FAME ELECTIONS.

BY BOB RYAN

July 28, 1969. It's a gray, wet day in Cooperstown. But it's Induction Day at the National Baseball Hall of Fame, and the outdoor show must go on. But shortly before Commissioner Bowie Kuhn is to introduce honoree Stan Musial, the skies clear. Suddenly, Cooperstown is bathed in sunshine. And no one is surprised. After all, among other things, this is a day to honor Stanley Frank Musial, whose sunny disposition is the stuff of baseball legend.

"With Musial, it figured," quipped Pat Dean, spouse of the St. Louis Cardinals legend answering to the name "Dizzy."

Musial is joined on the induction stage by Roy Campanella, likewise elected by the Baseball Writers' Association of America (BBWAA), and pitchers Waite Hoyt and Stanley Coveleski, chosen by the Veterans Committee.

It is the close of an important transition decade in the history of the Hall, which came into being in 1936 with the selection of Ty Cobb, Babe Ruth, Honus Wagner, Christy Mathewson and Walter Johnson. Over the years,

the election process has undergone change and movement. Today's fan is accustomed to reading and hearing about annual votes, which always engender endless discussion and debate. Indeed, a case can be made that there is no more hot button ongoing topic in all of American sport than who merits inclusion in the Baseball Hall of Fame. It seems as if everyone has an opinion.

But at the dawn of the 1960s, the voting was not an annual affair. In addition, the BBWAA had become very selective – some say stingy – the result being a paucity of BBWAA inductees during that era.

There was, however, a conspicuous exception in 1966. Both the BBWAA and the Veterans Committee presented marquee selections, the former giving us Ted Williams and the latter Casey Stengel.

Casey was Casey, of course. The Ol' Perfessor always had a delightful way with the English language. But the show was stolen by a man known as The Kid, and the nation took notice.

Williams knew it was almost mandatory to make some reference to his stormy relationship with the Fourth Estate. He wasn't a unanimous choice – that wouldn't happen until 2019, when Mariano Rivera became the first man to have

that honor – but he did receive 93 percent of the vote, which surprised him to a degree.

"I received two hundred eighty-odd votes from the writers," he said. "I know I don't have two hundred eighty-odd close friends among the writers. I know they voted for me because they felt in their minds, and some in their hearts, that I rated it. And I want to say to them from my heart, thank you. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart."

That was gracious, but it isn't what people most remember from his acceptance speech, which, in retrospect, may have been the single most impactful such dissertation ever delivered at a Hall of Fame induction. What Ted Williams had to say in conclusion caught everyone off-guard. Absolutely no one saw it coming.

"This is the nature of man and the name of the game," he said, "and I've been a very lucky guy to have worn a baseball uniform; to have struck out or to hit a tape-measure home run. And I hope that someday, the names of Satchel Paige and Josh Gibson in some way can be added as a symbol of the great Negro players that are not here only because they were not given a chance."

We'll never know what would have transpired in that regard had the great Thumper not spoken up on behalf of those neglected Negro Leagues greats. What we do know is the forces were almost immediately set in motion to rectify this oversight and that pitching ace Paige (1971) and legendary catcher Gibson (1972) became Hall of Famers. At last, the Baseball Hall of Fame was truly a home for all the great players, not just some. Ted Williams had performed an immeasurable service to the game.

Williams and Joe DiMaggio were the face of the American League throughout the '40s. DiMaggio broke in with the Yankees in 1936; Williams was a Red Sox rookie three years later. And there may never be a more fascinating MVP confrontation than the one in 1941, when DiMaggio had his famous 56-game hitting streak and Williams batted .406. Soon, they

The Class of 1969 poses with MLB Commissioner Bowie Kuhn (second row, center) at Induction Day. Pictured with Kuhn are (clockwise from top left) Stan Musial, Waite Hoyt, Roy Campanella and Stan Coveleski.



STANLEY FRANK MUSIAL
"THE MAN"
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS (1941-1961)

HOLDS MANY NATIONAL LEAGUE RECORDS, AMONG THEM GAMES PLAYED (151), AT BATT (1,170), HITS (1,013), MOST HOME RUNS (184), MOST RBIS (1,013), TOTAL BASES (6,146), LEAD (1,111), BATTING IN 197, TOTAL BASES (6,146), LEAD (1,111), TOTAL BASES (6,146), LEAD (1,111), BATTING TITLES, MOST VALUABLE PLAYER (14), HITS (1,013), PLAYED IN 4 ALL-STAR GAMES, LIFETIME BATTING AVERAGE .311.



WAITE CHARLES HOYT
"SCHOOL BOY"
NEW YORK YANKEES PITCHER (1910-1920)

LIFETIME RECORD: 137 GAMES, WON 113, FIFTH PLACE RECORD FOR CATCHERS; MOST GAMES (101), 100 AVERAGE, EARNED RUN AVERAGE (.74), PITCHED 3 GAMES IN 1911, WORLD SERIES AND GAVE NO EARNED RUNS, ALSO PITCHED FOR BOSTON, DETROIT, PHILADELPHIA A.L. AND BROOKLYN, NEW YORK AND PITTSBURGH N.L.



ROY CAMPANELLA
"CAMPY"
BROOKLYN N.Y. (1948-1957)

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER N.Y. (1948-1957)
ESTABLISHED RECORD FOR CATCHERS; MOST HOME-RUNS IN A SEASON (31), MOST RBIS BATTED IN 192, SET N.L. RECORD FOR CHANCES (194), TIED RECORD FOR MOST CONSECUTIVE YEARS (7), TIED RECORD FOR MOST CONSECUTIVE PITCHES & CATCHES (100 OR MORE GAMES FOR MOST CONSECUTIVE YEARS), AILED IN FIELDING AVERAGE FOR CATCHERS (1949-1952-1953-1957)



STANLEY ANTHONY COVELESKI

PHILADELPHIA A.L. 1912
CLEVELAND A.L. 1916-1918
WASHINGTON A.L. 1923-1927
NEW YORK A.L. 1928
STAR PITCHER WITH A RECORD OF 214 WINS, 141 LOSSES, AVERAGE .607, E.R.A. 3.88,
12 STRAIGHT GAMES IN 3 SEASONS, WON
WON 2 GAMES FOR CLEVELAND IN 1920
WORLD SERIES WITH E.R.A. 0.67.

sported their legendary nicknames: Ted became known as “The Splendid Splinter”; DiMaggio was “The Yankee Clipper.”

Their National League counterpart was Musial, who made his major league debut that season with the St. Louis Cardinals. Two years later, in 1943, Musial led all of baseball with a .357 average. And he, too, gained a famous nickname. He was “Stan The Man.”

Let’s clear the record on that one, shall we? The following is courtesy of George Vecsey’s “Stan Musial, An American Life.”

Musial was in the habit of terrorizing Brooklyn Dodgers pitchers. One day in 1946, St. Louis writer Bob Broeg, a close friend of Musial’s, heard a chant in the stands. But he couldn’t quite make it out, so he asked Cardinals road secretary Leo Ward if he had heard anything.

Ward said every time Musial came up, fans were chanting, “Here comes the man.” But Broeg said he thought it was “that man.” No, insisted Ward, it was “the man.”

And so it was. Stan “The Man” Musial. Now and forever. And was it ever accurate. Playing 23 games in Ebbets Field in 1948 and 1949, Stan The Man was 47-for-90, good for a .522 batting average and 96 total bases.

Musial’s résumé was impeccable. Three MVPs. Seven batting titles. A .331 career batting average. Three-thousand, six-hundred thirty career hits, with a you-can’t-make-this-up distribution: 1,815 at home, 1,815 on the road. He led the league in on-base percentage six times, in OPS (though no one knew back then) seven times, in total bases six times and, not surprisingly, in intentional walks five times.

He did so while making exactly zero enemies. He was an unfailingly positive man, and as a special bonus, he was an expert harmonica player famous for his stirring version of the “Wabash Cannonball.”

It wasn’t a bad career for a guy who was signed by the Cardinals while still in high school in Donora, Pa., as a left-handed pitcher. He had decent stuff, but his problem was throwing strikes. In three minor league seasons, he pitched 425 innings, striking out 328 but walking 310. His Daytona Beach manager, Dickey Kerr, was already employing him as a part-time outfielder in 1940 when Musial injured his left shoulder diving for a ball. That pretty much made up everyone’s mind: Stan Musial would be an outfielder.

Roy Campanella was likewise known for his



Cooper Park was the site of the memorable 1969 Hall of Fame induction that welcomed Stan Musial (top), Roy Campanella (above), Stan Coveleski and Waite Hoyt.

affability. He became a Brooklyn Dodger in 1948, a year after Jackie Robinson had broken the color line, but he was a very different personality. Jackie was fiery; Roy was jovial and more laid-back. And he was a tremendous catcher.

Born in a Philadelphia section known as “Nictown,” Campanella had been a professional with the Negro League Baltimore Elite Giants since age 16. Now he was a 26-year-old Dodgers rookie, who, after one adjustment year, would establish himself as the premier catcher in the National League for the next decade.

His big bat was evident to one and all, but what really dazzled the professionals was his work behind the plate. His arm quickly became feared. Running on Campy was a risky proposition. Sometimes even taking a lead was foolhardy, as a startled Phil Rizzuto discovered when

Campanella picked the wily Yankees shortstop off third base in the 1949 World Series.

He was sent over from Central Casting. If ever a man looked like a catcher, it was Roy Campanella, who was listed at 5-foot-9 and anywhere from 190 to 220 pounds. Consider this Roger Kahn description in his classic “The Boys of Summer”: “He was a little sumo wrestler of a man, a giant scaled down rather than a midget fleshed out.”

Campy was the National League MVP in 1951, 1953 and 1955. His crowning year at the plate was 1953, when he hit .312 with 41 homers and 142 runs batted in while leading all catchers in putouts, something he did six times in a 10-year career.

He had stories to tell, such as claiming to have caught three Venezuelan doubleheaders in one day, starting at 10 in the morning and ending at midnight; how he had an off-season scouting job under Buzzie Bavasi while both were in Nashua, N.H., and among the players he recommended were Monte Irvin and Larry Doby; or how an early Dodgers batterymate was constitutionally unable to accept pitches being called by a black man, shaking absolutely everything off, every time.

Campanella was inducted into the Hall of Fame while sitting in a wheelchair. His career ended on a January night in 1958 when his car skidded into a telephone pole on an icy Long Island road, fracturing his fifth cervical vertebra and injuring his spinal cord. He would be a quadriplegic for the rest of his life.

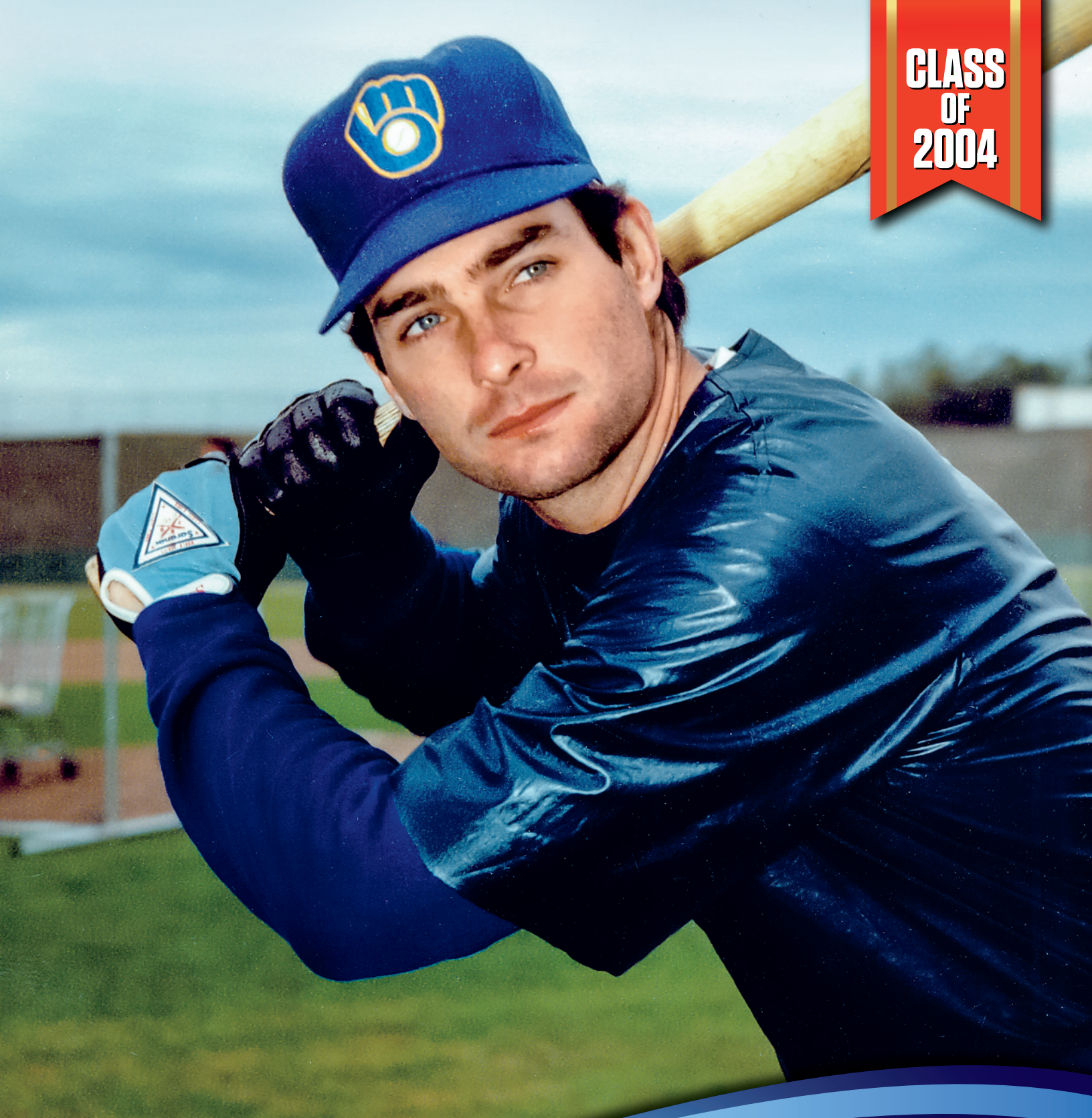
Among the things he never lost were his sense of humor and his dignity. Again we turn to Roger Kahn, who concluded a visit to the wheelchair-bound Campanella by marveling at “the vaulting human spirit, imprisoned, yet free in the noble wreckage of the athlete, in the dazzling palace of the man.”

Back to that once dreary, then sunny Cooperstown day 50 years ago. Stan The Man was his usual modest self, spending as much time celebrating the induction of Coveleski, a fellow Pole, as he did his own. And when night came, where was Stan The Man?

The Cardinals legend was playing harmonica with a jazz combo at the nearby Otesaga Hotel. Why not? 🎷

Bob Ryan is Sports Columnist Emeritus for The Boston Globe and a panelist on ESPN’s Around The Horn.

**CLASS
OF
2004**



Third Base

PAUL MOLITOR



PAUL LEO MOLLITOR

Elected 2004 • Born: Aug. 22, 1956, St. Paul, Minn.

Batted: Right Threw: Right • Height: 6'0 Weight: 185

Played for: Milwaukee Brewers (1978-92), Toronto Blue Jays (1993-95), Minnesota Twins (1996-98)

Year	Team	G	PA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BB	BA	SLG
1978	MIL	125	556	521	73	142	26	4	6	45	30	19	.278	.372
1979	MIL	140	645	584	88	188	27	16	9	62	38	48	.322	.469
1980	MIL	111	512	450	81	137	29	2	9	37	34	48	.304	.438
1981	MIL	64	284	251	45	67	11	0	2	19	10	25	.267	.335
1982	MIL	160	751	666	136	201	26	8	19	71	41	69	.302	.450
1983	MIL	152	682	608	95	164	28	6	15	47	41	59	.270	.410
1984	MIL	13	49	46	3	10	1	0	0	6	1	2	.217	.239
1985	MIL	140	642	576	93	171	28	3	10	48	21	54	.297	.408
1986	MIL	105	482	437	62	123	24	6	9	55	20	40	.281	.426
1987	MIL	118	542	465	114	164	41	5	16	75	45	69	.353	.566
1988	MIL	154	691	609	115	190	34	6	13	60	41	71	.312	.452
1989	MIL	155	696	615	84	194	35	4	11	56	27	64	.315	.439
1990	MIL	103	458	418	64	119	27	6	12	45	18	37	.285	.464
1991	MIL	158	752	665	133	216	32	13	17	75	19	77	.325	.489
1992	MIL	158	701	609	89	195	36	7	12	89	31	73	.320	.461
1993	TOR	160	725	636	121	211	37	5	22	111	22	77	.332	.509
1994	TOR	115	516	454	86	155	30	4	14	75	20	55	.341	.518
1995	TOR	130	598	525	63	142	31	2	15	60	12	61	.270	.423
1996	MIN	161	729	660	99	225	41	8	9	113	18	56	.341	.468
1997	MIN	135	597	538	63	164	32	4	10	89	11	45	.305	.435
1998	MIN	126	559	502	75	141	29	5	4	69	9	45	.281	.382
21 Years		2683	12167	10835	1782	3319	605	114	234	1307	504	1094	.306	.448

All statistics are from baseball-reference.com • All bolded marks are league-leading totals, numbers in italics led both leagues and career stats asterisks are all-time records

Awards & Records: 7-Time All-Star • 4-Time Silver Slugger Award winner • 1983 World Series MVP

DID YOU KNOW ...

- ★ ... that Paul Molitor (1993) and Reggie Jackson (1977) are the only players in World Series history to score 10 runs in a single Fall Classic?
- ★ ... that Molitor and Rickey Henderson are the only two players in history with at least 200 home runs, 3,000 hits and 500 stolen bases?
- ★ ... that Molitor's 225 hits in 1996 are the most by any player age 39 or older in one season?

FRONT OF CARD: COURTESY MILWAUKEE BREWERS



WHAT THEY SAY ...

- ★ "He had tremendous instincts and you could see right away he was a talented athlete. There wasn't anything this kid couldn't do. He ran the bases well, threw well, hit well and was an exceptional bunter."
— BREWERS MANAGER GEORGE BAMBERGER
- ★ "Molly is one of those rare players who makes other people around him better."
— TWINS MANAGER TOM KELLY

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



The Toast from Coast to Coast

Hall of Fame Class of 2019 will bring fans from across the nation to Cooperstown.

BY CRAIG MUDER

From coast to coast and some of the largest cities in between, they're coming to Hall of Fame Weekend 2019.

Their heroes will be waiting for them in Cooperstown.

The Class of 2019 is set to be inducted on Sunday, July 21, as the highlight of Hall of Fame Weekend. Harold Baines, Roy Halladay, Edgar Martinez, Mike Mussina, Mariano Rivera and Lee Smith will be honored at the *Induction Ceremony* on the grounds of the Clark Sports Center. The approximately three-hour ceremony starts at 1:30 p.m. (EDT) and will be televised live by MLB Network.

Martinez and Rivera spent their entire big league careers with the Mariners and Yankees, respectively, while Baines and Smith debuted and starred with the White Sox and Cubs in Chicago.

Mix in Mussina's brilliant career with the Orioles and Yankees, and Halladay's with the Phillies and Blue Jays, and a cross section of some of the most fervent baseball towns in North America will be represented in Central New York.

"I tell you what," said Rivera, who helped the Yankees win five World Series titles. "All New York is going to be here."

Hall of Fame Weekend 2019 also will feature the Saturday, July 20, *Awards Presentation*,

when Ford C. Frick Award winner Al Helfer and J.G. Taylor Spink Award winner Jayson

Stark of *The Athletic* will be honored. The Weekend will include many family programs, including the July 20 *Parade of Legends* and the July 22 *Legends of the Game Roundtable* discussion event with the inductees.

Admission to the *Induction Ceremony*, the



Harold Baines (left) and Lee Smith joined the Class of 2019 after being elected by the Today's Game Era Committee in December. The Hall of Fame is now comprised of 329 elected members.

Plan your trip to Cooperstown

The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum has teamed up with Sports Travel and Tours to offer baseball fans a one-stop opportunity to purchase Induction Weekend travel packages. For more information or to plan a trip to Cooperstown, please call (888)-310-HALL (4255). Membership participants receive a 5-percent discount on all their baseball travel packages.

Accommodations

Accommodation information is available through thisiscooperstown.com/lodging and through the Cooperstown Chamber of Commerce at (607) 547-9983. For driving directions from major cities, area cities and local airports, visit the directions page at the Hall of Fame's website for more information: baseballhall.org/visit/Cooperstown.

Induction Ceremony seating

To learn more about reserved seating for the *Induction Ceremony* through the Museum's Membership Program at the Contributor, President's or Benefactor levels, visit baseballhall.org/join or call (607) 547-0397.

Awards Presentation and the *Parade of Legends* is free and open to the public. The *Legends of the Game Roundtable* is open to participants in the Hall of Fame's Membership Program.

The Hall of Fame now consists of 329 elected members. More than 50 Hall of



Above: (From left) Edgar Martinez, Mike Mussina and Mariano Rivera were elected to the Hall of Fame in January by the Baseball Writers' Association of America, along with the late Roy Halladay. The Class of 2019 will be inducted July 21 in Cooperstown. **Left:** Class of 2019 electee Mariano Rivera shows off his cutter grip to MLB Network's John Smoltz, a 2015 Hall of Fame inductee.



MILO STEWART/INTERNATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

Famers are expected to return to Cooperstown for Hall of Fame Weekend – with the full list of attendees to be announced in early July – to honor the Class of 2019.

Hall of Fame Weekend begins Friday, July 19, with *PLAY Ball with Ozzie Smith*, hosted by

the Hall of Fame shortstop and several special guests. The morning experience is a fundraiser for the Hall of Fame's educational programs. It features more than two hours of non-stop interaction, including personalized instruction and the opportunity to turn double plays.

Each participant receives time on the field with the baseball legends in attendance, as well as a personalized photo and special mementos of the occasion. Prior to the on-field activities, participants will join Smith and his guests for a special breakfast in the Hall of Fame's Plaque Gallery, starting at 8 a.m.

This event is open to fans of all ages. Those interested in participating can register by calling the Membership department at (607) 547-0385.

Additional features of Hall of Fame Weekend include special Museum hours and commemorative Hall of Fame Weekend merchandise available at the Museum Store. For more information on the weekend's events, please visit baseballhall.org/HOFW. 📍

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



Ticket to Hide

After more than a century as some of the game's most prized mementos, MLB tickets are becoming harder and harder to find.

BY BILL FRANCIS

For more than a century, a ticket to a baseball game could conjure cherished memories and hold deep sentimental value. Today, thanks to the digital revolution and its unintended consequences, those once-beloved rectangular pieces of cardboard are becoming as rare as a pitcher tossing a complete game.

The National Pastime's earliest known baseball tickets date to the mid-19th century, a period when, according to historians, they were collected at the gate and used over and over again. Unsurprisingly, few of these aged artifacts have survived. But for most of the 1900s, these sports ducats not only noted pertinent information for that day's contest, but also included eye-pleasing aesthetic features.

Once considered a utilitarian object – as a means to enter a ballpark and then forgotten

in a pocket or tossed in the trash – baseball tickets would eventually become part of a burgeoning hobby that caught fire during the sports memorabilia craze of the 1970s.

“Why collect? I dunno,” a ticket collector told the *Chicago Tribune* in 1973. “Maybe because it brings back a little of your boyhood, when the pace wasn't as tough, before you had money and worried, when the game was everything.”

For Dan Busby, a baseball historian and ticket collector since 1955, the lure has much to do with the history these items represent.

“Each ticket can place a person in the seat at a particular game and allow one to relive memories from long ago,” said Busby, the owner of approximately 3,000 baseball tickets, which span the MLB Postseason, the Negro Leagues, Federal League and All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. “Can you imagine having a ticket to watch an old Negro Leagues,

Federal League or World Series game? Or having a ticket to watch a game at the Polo Grounds, Ebbets Field, West Side Park in Chicago, Forbes Field, Navin Field and more?”

The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum has approximately 3,800 tickets in its vast collection, the oldest being from games of the famous 1869 Cincinnati Red Stockings, the sport's first openly professional team. Others include those from jewel events, among them the World Series and All-Star Games, as well as important feats and milestones, whether it be a perfect game, unassisted triple play or career 3,000th hit. And many don't even relate to the majors; the minor leagues, amateur baseball, Negro Leagues, AAGPBL, military and Olympic baseball are all represented.

In 2004, Kathryn Ann Boles donated to the Hall of Fame a ticket from the Indians' final game at Municipal Stadium on Oct. 3, 1993.

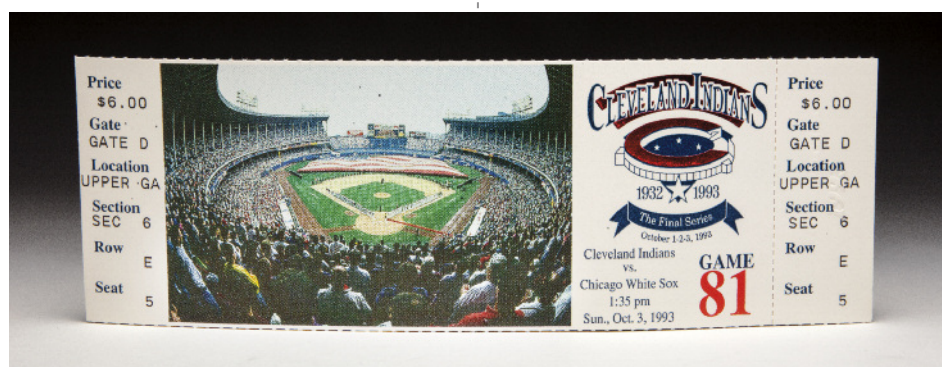
“This is where it should be, this is where it belongs,” Boles said. “Mr. Clark (the then-Hall of Fame Curator of Collections Peter Clark) said it would be preserved for all eternity. I know he's right.”

Among the memorable games included in the Hall of Fame's ticket collection are those from July 4, 1939, at Yankee Stadium when Lou Gehrig gave his “Luckiest Man” speech, Cal Ripken Jr. breaking Gehrig's consecutive games played streak in 1995, and Bobby Thomson's Playoff “Shot Heard 'round the World” that gave the New York Giants the 1951 pennant.

“The important thing to understand is why these tickets were even kept and later donated. It is because tickets mark the intersection between fans and the game – keepsakes that provide tangible memories of the event and proof that one was there to witness what occurred,” said Hall of Fame Vice President of Exhibitions and Collections Erik Strohl. “They are perhaps the ultimate ‘memorabilia,’ which comes from the Latin for ‘things worth remembering.’”

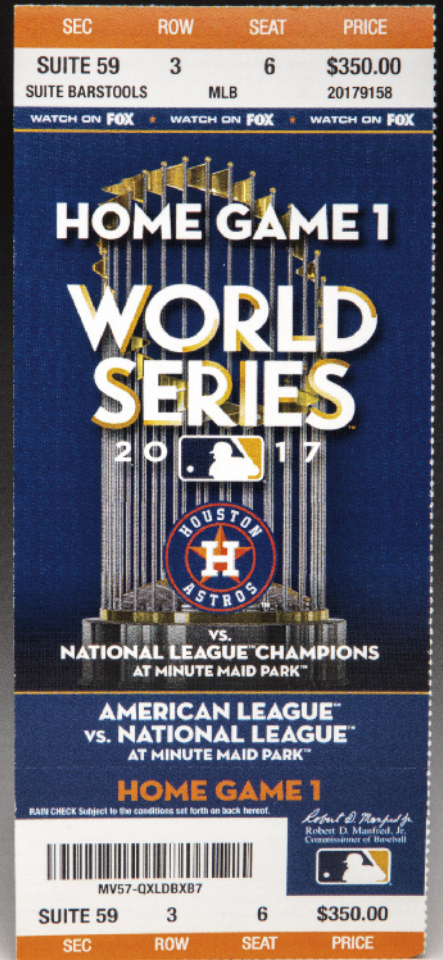
“Whether the game was crucial or just another in a long season is really not important – all tickets help note history from the amazing to the mundane and provide ordinary people a connection to their heroes. Because tickets represent that connection, they are cherished, kept, passed down and even donated to museums.”

With the dawn of the 21st century, however, came a death knell of sorts to the beloved baseball ticket, technology making the treasured souvenir almost obsolete for fans and collectors.



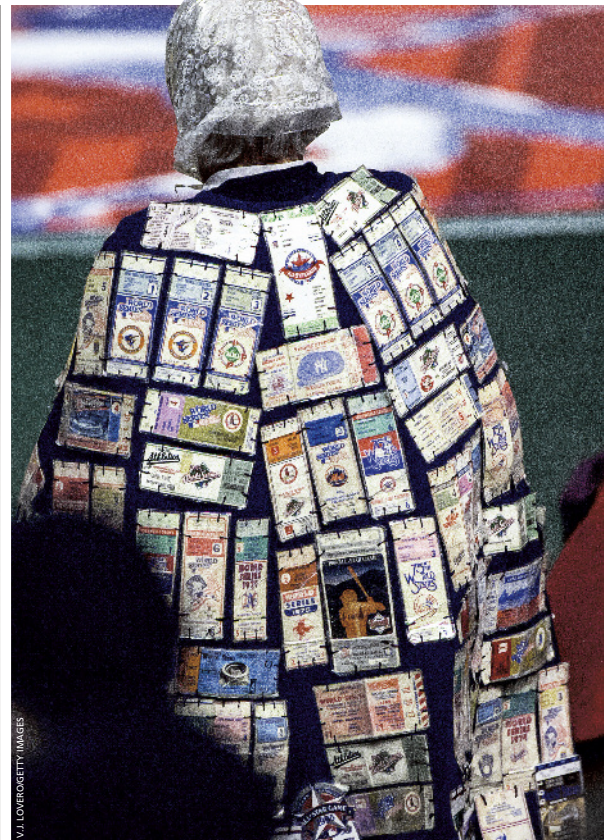
Above: Kathryn Ann Boles donated this ticket, from the final baseball game played at Cleveland Municipal Stadium on Oct. 3, 1993, to the Hall of Fame. **Opposite Page:** The Museum's collection includes tickets that span baseball history, including those from (clockwise from top left): a 1949 All-American Girls Professional Baseball League contest; Game 1 of the 2017 World Series between the Astros and the Dodgers; a Yankees doubleheader against the Washington Senators on July 4, 1939, when Lou Gehrig gave his iconic “Luckiest Man” speech; the 1949 Negro Leagues All-Star Classic; and an 1869 game of the Cincinnati Red Stockings, baseball's first openly professional team.

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





Left: In 2017, graphic designer Todd Radom created premium tickets for all 81 White Sox home games, and the team later donated a set to the Hall of Fame. **Right:** For more than a century, game tickets have been one of baseball's most treasured souvenirs.



V.J. LOWENROTH/IMAGES

Today, the majority of fans enter the ballpark with a ticket printed at home or have a barcode on their cellphone allowing them entrance.

It was 2007 when the Texas Rangers first announced that mobile phones could be your ticket to their games. Andrew Silverman, their executive vice president of sales and marketing, said at the time, "We're giving people the flexibility to buy tickets anywhere and anytime."

The Nationals announced in 2013 that season ticket holders would no longer be receiving printed tickets that could be kept as keepsakes, instead opting for cards that would be scanned at the gate. The team said this would lessen the time fans would have to stand in line.

"The move away from paper tickets to digital/electronic tickets that can be printed out on a sheet of paper has greatly reduced the collecting of current tickets," Busby said. "The result has been a corresponding increase in collecting older tickets and the value of older tickets."

According to Major League Baseball, by 2015, six teams had gone to completely paperless tickets, while 27 offered the option of tickets via mobile device. That trend has only continued. Single-game tickets sold via mobile represented 25 percent of all sales in 2018,

up from three percent just four years earlier.

Still, for many fans, baseball tickets are a permanent link to sports history, often saved and passed down from one generation to the next.

"I think something's been lost," said then-big league first baseman/outfielder Garrett Jones to *The New York Times* in 2015. "That's why keeping a lot of those things from the past, down the road, is going to be pretty cool to have.

"Every time I went to a game, I would keep the ticket stub as a memento and a memory," added Jones, who often attended White Sox games growing up in the Chicago suburbs. "You never know what can happen that game. A record could be broken."

While the romanticism of digital tickets is non-existent, tickets even in the 1980s began lacking any flair in design elements, the result of computers spitting out the generic passes at ticket outlets.

But in 2017, the White Sox made news when they approached acclaimed graphic designer Todd Radom to specially design premium season tickets for all 81 home games. Radom has designed logos for the Super Bowl, the MLB All-Star Game and the NBA All-Star Game, as well as the graphic identity

for the Washington Nationals and Los Angeles Angels. The White Sox donated a complete set of Radom's '17 White Sox tickets to the Hall of Fame.

"Tickets are memories," Radom said. "I'm a compulsive saver of tickets to games I've attended, and every one contains a record of who played and where the game was, of course, but they also represent who I went with. They conjure up remembrances of stadiums – and sometimes friends and family members – who are now gone."

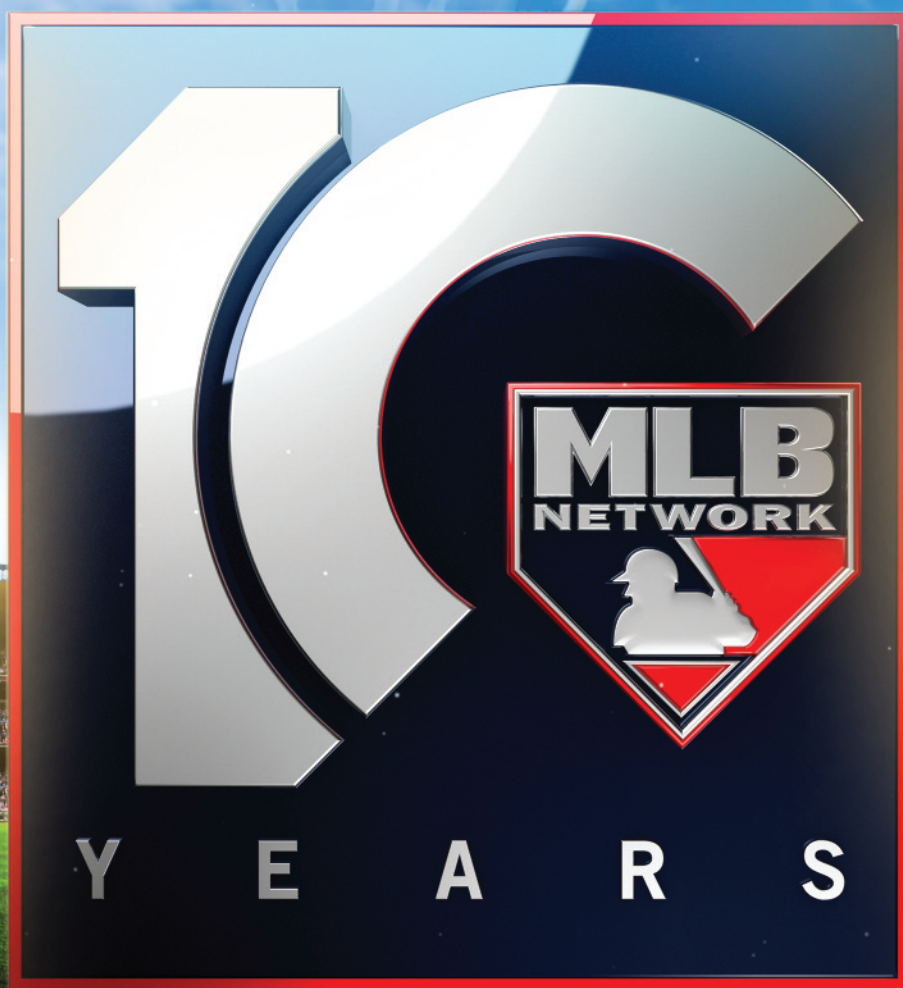
The evolution in baseball tickets over the past few decades has been rapid and revolutionary. The transition went from hard tickets to those from your personal computer to today, where your smartphone can be your ticket to the game.

"Convenience and portability are great, but I miss real tickets. I'm a Red Sox fan, and I was fortunate to have been at the clinching Game 5 of the 2018 World Series at Dodger Stadium," Radom said. "Don't get me wrong – seeing my team win a championship was priceless, but the QR code that afforded me entry is not exactly a thing of beauty or lasting value." ❀

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

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CATCHING FIRE

CARLTON FISK'S LOVE OF THE GAME DROVE HIM TO BE THE BEST.

BY HAL BODLEY

Close your eyes just for a second. The ball shoots off Carlton Fisk's bat, screaming through the early morning mist toward Fenway Park's left field foul pole, finally bouncing off the screen.

The Home Run.

It will forever define Carlton Ernest Fisk, the man they call "Pudge."

The narrative of his Hall of Fame career must start with that legendary blast, what may have been the greatest moment in perhaps the greatest game in Red Sox history.

After nearly four hours of a tense, bitter battle, a surreal atmosphere engulfed Game 6 of the World Series in the wee hours of Oct. 22, 1975. Boston and Cincinnati are tied, 6-6, in the bottom of the 12th inning, and Fisk, the Red Sox catcher, is tired and weary.

But when the Reds' Pete Rose whispers, "This is the greatest baseball game ever," he is suddenly energized.

Leading off the 12th, Fisk sends Pat Darcy's second pitch, a sinking fastball, high and curving toward the left field foul pole.

Fisk remembers taking a few steps down the first base line and starting to wave the ball fair. It straightens out enough to hit the inside of the pole, and as it drops to the turf, he throws both hands above his head and jumps straight up, clapping his hands as he rounds the bases. Fans storm the field and pandemonium breaks out at the historic ballpark.

"As I ran around the bases, I couldn't believe



NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

Carlton Fisk played the first 11 of his 24 big league seasons with the Red Sox, winning the 1972 American League Rookie of the Year Award and hitting an unforgettable home run in Game 6 of the 1975 World Series.

what had happened to me," Fisk says. "As I look back on it, it's almost like it happened to somebody else."

Then, he adds: "It was definitely one of the highlights. There were a lot of good things that happened in my career after that, but to be connected with such a positive moment in the Red Sox organization, and such a visible moment in the history of the game, is pretty cool."

It was the imaginary home run every youngster who has ever swung a baseball bat in the backyard dreams of hitting – in a World Series, no less.

Fisk, 71, was elected to the Hall of Fame in 2000, his second year on the Baseball Writers' Association of America ballot. His plaque depicts him wearing a Red Sox cap, and he spent his first 11 seasons in the big leagues in Boston before playing 13 years for the White Sox.

He spends most of his time these days at home in Bradenton, Fla., with a never-ending battle to improve his golf game when he's not doting on his 10 grandchildren.

Baseball, of course, is never far away.

There are frequent trips to Boston and Chicago, the cities where he spent his entire big league career.

Almost embarrassed, he says, "I am quote-unquote a legend in the Red Sox organization, so I go back there and participate in 12 or 15 games a year as a (with a laugh) legend. They really treat me nice up there and I enjoy it – it's a lot of fun. There are the pats on the back and, you know, that boosts your ego. A lot of people out there today don't even remember us old guys playing."

Fisk also travels to Chicago each summer, where he's an ambassador for the White Sox.

"It's very similar to what I do with the Red Sox," he says. "I spend a lot of time with the fans. I show up, schmooze, shake hands, sign autographs, take pictures, answer questions – all that kind of stuff."

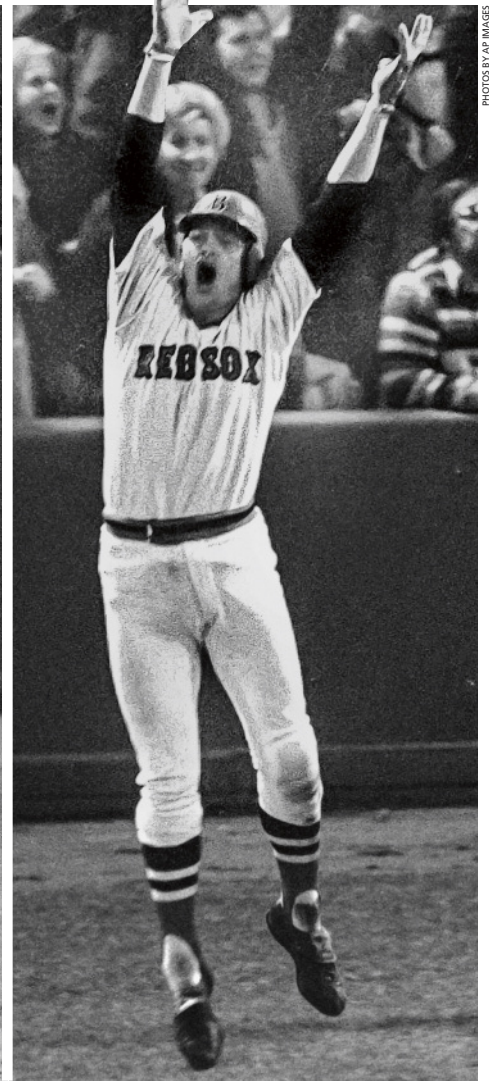
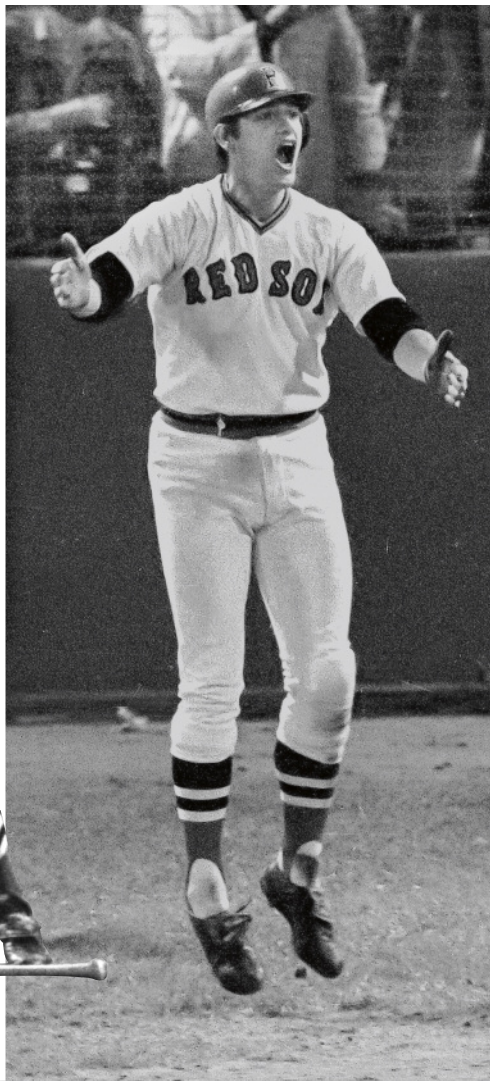
Every time he scribbles his name followed by "HOF 2000," there's a warm, fuzzy feeling inside.

"It's really strange," he says. "I grew up in a little town (Charlestown) in New Hampshire, only about a thousand people. There were 32 kids in my high school graduating class. I was a small-town farm boy.

"To travel along that long, hard road to the big leagues and then to be recognized as one of the best who played was, and is, just unfathomable. How did I get here from there ... playing in the big leagues, playing in the World Series, playing in Yankee Stadium, playing against all those terrific players?"

Catching his breath for a moment, he sounds like a little boy.

"You think you've experienced it all, but



PHOTOS BY AP IMAGES

Carlton Fisk reacts while watching his 12th-inning home run hit Fenway Park's left field foul pole to win Game 6 of the 1975 World Series against the Cincinnati Reds. Boston's 7-6 victory forced a Game 7 and has been called by some the greatest World Series game ever played.

when you get up to the podium and look out at that crowd at the Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, it hits you right in the face – what this really means. I wasn't prepared for that. I was just crushed. I hardly remember the speech, but I know it took me three times as long to tell it as I had written it out. My 15-minute speech" He doesn't finish the thought.

The speech lasted more than 30 minutes.

"That was the first time I met Eddie Mathews," Fisk says. "He was a smoker, had throat cancer and in a gravelly, hoarse voice, said, 'That speech was so damn long, I had to go take my medicine.' Sadly, he died the following February."

At every stop, the subject always comes back to the Home Run.

The 1975 World Series, won by the Reds with an also-draining 4-3 victory in Game 7, has survived the passage of time, an uncanny

example of sustained baseball drama with more plots and subplots than one can imagine.

Memories often fade into history, but they have a way of resurfacing in an even more meaningful setting.

"Maybe that's what baseball is," Fisk says. "Moments. It's the moments. It's not the journey, not the triathlon, it's the finish.

"The home run happened early (sixth year) in my career. It was almost as if the rest of my career was an asterisk. Not that I'm disappointed people remember that home run, but you can interpret that home run in a lot of different ways. It was the beginning of scrutiny, camera positions, the beginning of over-coverage of the World Series. It was the beginning of a lot of things. Maybe baseball became more social media than it had ever been."

Best World Series ever?

"There's certainly not a better World Series,"

Fisk says. "It was the challenge of the Big Red Machine against the little Beantowners who weren't supposed to be very competitive against that Cincinnati team. Five of the seven games were decided by one run, and two in extra innings. Every one was an on-the-edge-of-your-seat game.

"I think in the whole Series everyone was tired. The weather brought us all down. We came back to Boston after Game 5 with the Reds up three-games-to-two. The next day, a Friday, was an open date. Then it rained for three straight days before we played on Tuesday – and that game didn't end until Wednesday morning!

"I always thought there were four parts to Game 6. We were up 3-0, then the Reds came back and were up 6-3. Bernie Carbo hits a homer to tie it. Then we trudged along and I hit the home run in the 12th."



ANTHONY SORRELL/LEAGUE OF FAME AND MUSEUM

An 11-time All-Star, Carlton Fisk caught 465 games after his age-39 season. Overall, he spent 2,226 games behind the plate for the Boston Red Sox and Chicago White Sox.

The Reds won the seventh and deciding game of the Series on a ninth-inning RBI single by Joe Morgan.

“I always thought if the weather had cooperated, we would have won that World Series,” says Fisk. “I always tell Johnny Bench, ‘You know we won that series three games to four!’”

Six future Hall of Famers were in that Fall Classic: Reds manager Sparky Anderson, Bench, Morgan, Tony Pérez, Carl Yastrzemski and Fisk. Jim Rice was also on the Red Sox roster, but did not play due to injury.

An 11-time All-Star known for his pride, work ethic and ability to handle pitchers, Fisk spent 2,226 of his 2,499 games behind the plate. At the time of his retirement in 1993, he held the record for the most homers (351) by a catcher. It was later surpassed by Hall of Famer Mike Piazza. He also held the record for most games played as a catcher, but that was also surpassed – by Hall of Famer Iván Rodríguez.

Fisk still holds the American League record for most years (24) behind the plate.

He was a pitcher and shortstop in high school, where, because of the New England weather, his team scheduled just 12 games a year. He switched to catching because he was

told it was the quickest route to the big leagues.

He won American League Rookie of the Year honors with the Red Sox in 1972 after leading the league in triples and batting .293 with 61 runs batted in and 22 homers.

Fisk left Boston following the 1980 season and signed with the White Sox after a procedural error made him a free agent. His final game was on June 22, 1993.

The late Jim Fregosi once said of Fisk: “Pudge worked harder than anyone I knew, because he set goals for himself and then followed through. He was the ultimate professional.”

Always outspoken, Fisk is not pleased with the way baseball has changed since he played.

“I think the emphasis in today’s game is on the wrong things,” he says. “There is far too much use of analytics, too many numbers, too many launch angles and WAR, whatever that is. It has gotten away from how terrific some of these players are.

“Are people interested in that or are people interested in the game and the players and how it’s played? The way many of the players approach the game is not bolstering the game itself. It’s about how far the ball goes, how fast it goes ... the game is pretty intricate.

“What about the guy’s heart, his personality?

It’s much too technical. ... The passion for the game is missing.”

And then there’s pitch counts, which – as a catcher – he detests.

“Because of that, the game has lost its appeal to a lot of players – the joy, the passion of facing the other guy,” he says. “The challenge is to out-think them, to be in the moment and figure out how to get through certain situations.

“Now, catchers are looking at the dugout, getting every call from the dugout. Catcher puts down certain fingers, the pitcher looks at those fingers and just throws. Players are not allowed to take ownership of the game; it’s coming from someplace else,” he continues. “When guys mess up, they say, ‘It’s OK. It’s not my fault; the computer told me to do that!’”

Yastrzemski agrees.

“He played the game the right way,” says his former teammate and fellow Hall of Famer. “Both behind the plate and at the plate.”

Even though he says, “My body is starting to complain a little,” Fisk still approaches golf with the same determination and dedication.

He plays at The Founders Golf Club and Gator Creek Golf Club, both in Sarasota, Fla. His handicap is 5.7.

“I play a lot of golf, love it,” he says. “Some



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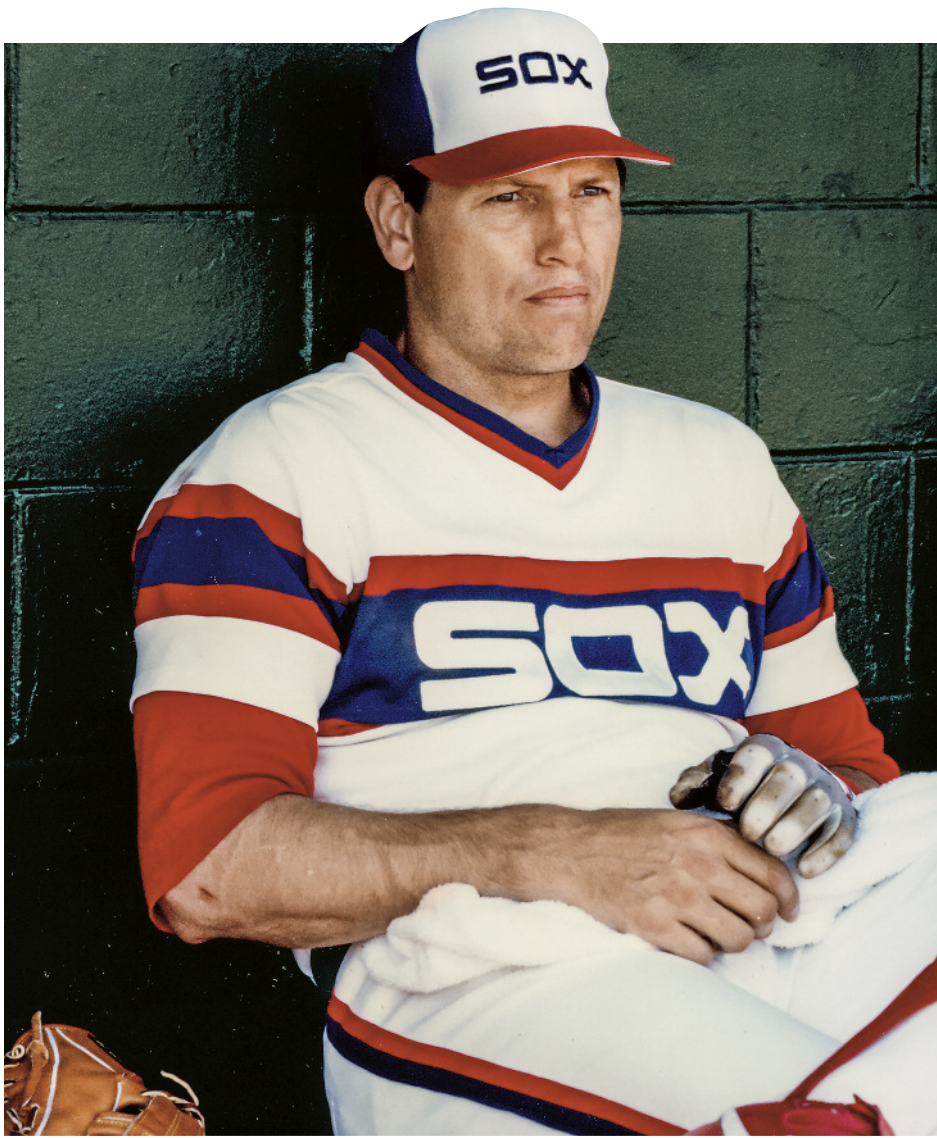
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DOUG MAWILLIAMS/NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM



LOU SAURITICH/NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

In his 13 seasons with the White Sox – following 11 years in Boston – Carlton Fisk hit 214 home runs. He retired following the 1993 season having caught the most games of any player in big league history, a mark that stood until being broken by another future Hall of Famer, Iván Rodríguez.

days I am good and some days I am not so good. But I've come to enjoy it and come to realize a 6, 8 or 10 handicap is not all that bad.

"At one time, I thought I was going to be good at it. I was out there practicing, then I'd play and practice some more. Got down to about a 1 or 2 handicap, then I said to myself, 'What am I doing? Spending eight hours at the golf course trying to be an average golfer.' Some days the game catches up to you. But whether I shoot a 78 or an 88, who's going to care?"

Later this year, Fisk and his wife, Linda, will celebrate their 49th wedding anniversary.

"We got married in 1970," he says. "This year will be 49 years and I cannot even imagine that. When I introduce my wife, I say, 'I'd like to have you meet my first wife.' It's a tough gig to stay married so long. We're very fortunate.

"When we got married, baseball wasn't very family-friendly. It was probably as unfriendly as a sport or a job could be. Families weren't encouraged to be part of the organization. Wives were basically forbidden to come on the road, so there were no families on the road."

The Fisks have three children and are extremely proud of their 10 grandchildren.

"My oldest daughter has four girls, and her oldest is now a second-semester sophomore at Illinois Wesleyan and spending this semester in Barcelona. We are all thrilled for her about that.

"My son and his wife have three little girls, the oldest is 10. My youngest daughter and her husband have three boys, the oldest is 13. We finally got some boys among the grandchildren. The 13-year-old is 6-foot-3, weighs 210 pounds and is a left-handed pitcher. Can you believe that? A left-handed pitcher."

Ask Fisk about his legacy and, in typical response, he says, "I don't know if a player can determine his legacy. I just know I didn't cheat the game. Whatever I had, I gave to the game – my life, my body."

He then adds: "I don't think a legacy has anything to do with numbers.

"I never backed off ... some of it was good, some of it was not so good.

"But I wouldn't change a thing." 🍎

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

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Card Kingdom

Museum's new *Shoebox Treasures* exhibit will use numerous artifacts to help tell the stories behind baseball cards.

BY CRAIG MUDER

They were the hidden gems in your packs of baseball cards: The ones with players who made the annual Topps All-Rookie teams.

On the card was the image of a trophy, seemingly designating that player was destined for greatness.

What most of us didn't know, however, was that image represented a real award. And like so many other pieces connected to the baseball card hobby, those trophies are now a part of the fabric of the game.

Shoebox Treasures, the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum's exhibit dedicated to baseball cards, will open Memorial Day

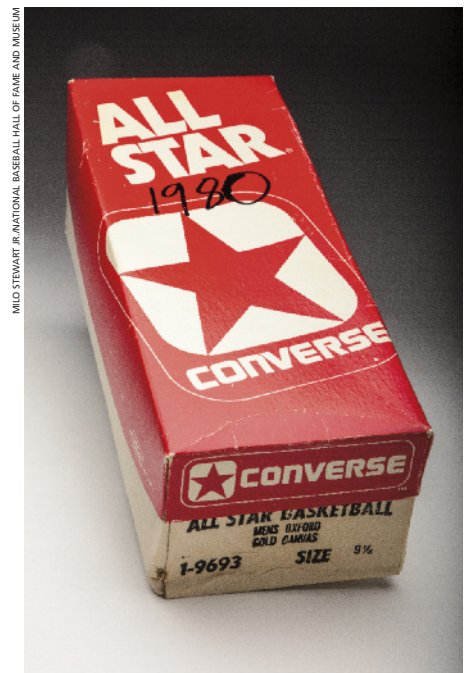
Weekend and feature more than 2,000 cards from the Hall's collection of more than 140,000. But the exhibit also will include about a dozen non-card artifacts that tell the story of how the cards are produced and all the ways collectors enjoy them.

"Baseball cards have the ability to reach both the lives of the players they depict and the fans who hold them in their hands," said John Odell, the Museum's curator of history and research and lead curator on *Shoebox Treasures*. "So we wanted this exhibit to be not just about the cards themselves, but the way collectors interact with the cards and how the cards became a part of the baseball culture."

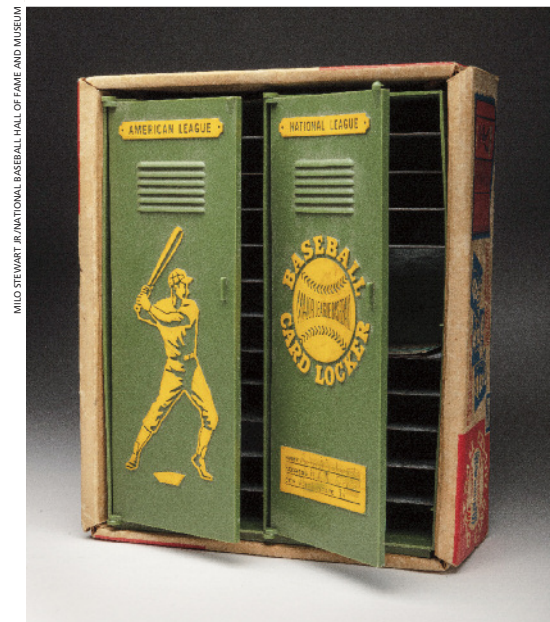
Artifacts ranging from various card-storage



Topps photographer Doug McWilliams used this camera to shoot images of more than 1,400 players during the 1970s—many of which found their way onto baseball cards.



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



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



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

Card companies featured non-card promotional items for sale on their baseball card pack labels, including this toy telegraph set available from Topps.

For those not content with shoeboxes, baseball card manufacturers such as Topps produced a variety of products for storing cards, including binders, plastic lockers and even an "audio" card player that featured basic analog technology.



Many collectors used standard shoeboxes to store their cards – some of which will be featured in the Museum’s new *Shoebox Treasures* exhibit.

devices (binders, plastic lockers and even tin cans) to a 1957 Emerson television (a giveaway from The Topps Company for fans who correctly predicted the scores of games) will be featured in *Shoebox Treasures*, as will a silver plate given to scouts who signed players that ended up on the Topps All-Rookie team.

A trophy awarded to future Hall of Famer Johnny Bench, who was a Topps All-Rookie selection in their 1969 card series, will be part of the exhibit. And, of course, authentic shoeboxes once used to store cards will also be on display.

Then there are the tools used for card production – specifically, a camera owned by legendary Topps photographer Doug McWilliams from 1972-87. In his career, McWilliams photographed nearly 10 percent of the 19,000-plus men who ever played in the big leagues, later donating many of those images to the Hall of Fame.

“Baseball cards start with the image of the ballplayer,” Odell said. “So at its essence, this is the most important part of the card.

“For generations of fans, this was the way you saw the game. Even when games became common on TV, fans would sit at home and hold the cards while watching their favorite players. The connection was that strong.”

The exhibit also will include premium items that card companies gave away or sold, such as sunglasses, cameras and even a toy telegraph set. In the days before the internet, fans interacted with the game through the mail, responding to sales pitches often made on the wrappers of packs of cards.

It was all a way of putting your own stamp on the National Pastime.

“These were all things that you could buy and then make it uniquely yours with specific cards or team affiliations,” Odell said. “This was the broader world of the card collecting experience.

“When fans experience this exhibit, we want them to be able to find themselves in those stories. And with baseball cards, those stories are almost limitless.”

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

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



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This One Goes to 11

Memorial Day Weekend contest brings baseball's biggest stars back to Doubleday Field for Hall of Fame Classic.

BY CRAIG MUDER

The unofficial start of summer means the return of one of Cooperstown's beloved traditions:

The Hall of Fame Classic. This year's Classic takes place Saturday, May 25, at historic Doubleday Field, with first pitch scheduled for 1:05 p.m.

For the 11th year in a row, the Classic will feature Hall of Famers and former MLB stars in a seven-inning legends game. Hall of Famers Rollie Fingers, Tim Lincecum and Alan Trammell will serve as captains/managers with more Hall of Famers to be announced, along with players representing all 30 Major League Baseball teams. Full rosters will be announced in the coming weeks.

Presented by Ford Motor Company, the 2019 Hall of Fame Classic highlights a weekend



Presented By



of family entertainment programs designed to celebrate the timeless connection of baseball across generations. The Classic, fueled by assistance from MLB, is preceded by the Home Run Contest at noon.

Tickets are on sale now and priced at \$15 for grandstand seats,

\$12.50 for first base seats and \$11 for outfield seats. They can be purchased at baseballhall.org or by calling (607) 207-9519.

All tickets purchased online or via phone will be shipped starting April 26. Tickets purchased online or via phone prior to May 17 will be sent by U.S. Mail. Tickets purchased May 17 through May 23 must be picked up at the Doubleday Field Will Call on game day (starting at 8 a.m.).

Tickets also will be available for purchase at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum's Ticket Booth on Friday, May 24, and at the Doubleday Field Will Call tent, beginning at 8 a.m. on Saturday, May 25.

In addition to the Classic, Hall of Fame Classic Weekend features several family events designed to promote interactivity between fans and their baseball heroes. Following Saturday's game, the Hall of Fame will reprise its *Night at the Museum* program, now in its seventh season. Hall of Fame legends and former players will greet fans throughout the Museum beginning at 6 p.m. Legends participants will canvass the Museum during the course of the two-hour event that will include special programs and interactions.

While *Night at the Museum* is not an

Golf with legends in Cooperstown

As part of Classic Weekend, Hall of Fame members will lead an exclusive golf outing, with a limited number of spots available for golfers, at the beautiful Leatherstocking Golf Course on Otsego Lake. For more information on supporting the Hall of Fame through this exclusive outing, please call (607) 547-0310.



A.J. Pierzynski and his son, Austin, soak in the Doubleday Field atmosphere at the 2018 Hall of Fame Classic in Cooperstown. Players from all 30 MLB teams will be represented at the 2019 Classic.

autograph session, fans are encouraged to bring a camera to capture their special memories. Tickets are priced at \$50 for participants in the Museum's Membership Program and \$100 for non-Members.

The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum has teamed up with Sports Travel and Tours to offer baseball fans a one-stop opportunity to purchase Classic Weekend travel packages. For more information or to plan a trip to Cooperstown, please call 1-888-310-HALL (4255). Membership participants receive a 5-percent discount on all baseball travel packages.



Hall of Famer Gaylord Perry shares stories with fans during last year's *A Night at the Museum* program. The popular Classic Weekend meet-and-greet returns to the Hall of Fame on May 25.



First Tours

Baines, Rivera, Smith awed by visits to Hall of Fame.

BY BILL FRANCIS

Ten days after making history as the first unanimous National Baseball Hall of Fame electee, Mariano Rivera was in the Museum's Plaque Gallery and marveling at his good fortune.

"For a man who loves the game of baseball, who's passionate for all that these players did and passed on to us, it couldn't be a better day," said an awestruck Rivera. "I only have to say, 'Thank God,' because without him, it would have been impossible for me to be here speaking to you about the Hall of Fame."

Rivera and his wife, Clara, experienced the Hall of Fame for the first time on Feb. 1 – taking part in a rite of passage afforded to all new Hall of Famers. They will return to Cooperstown for Induction Weekend, July 19-22, when the Class of 2019 is enshrined.

"If someone would have told me, 'Mariano, in 29 years (following his pro baseball debut in 1990) we'll be sitting in Cooperstown talking about the Hall of Fame and you can put that in the book,' I would have said you were crazy."

Rivera and his wife went on a two-hour tour of the Museum guided by Hall of Fame Vice President of Exhibitions and Collections Erik Strohl. Inquisitive throughout, he was able to witness exhibits from baseball's long history as well as revisit his own past.

Wide-eyed at what he was taking in, Rivera could be heard often saying "Amazing," "Geez" and "Wow" when shown artifacts old and new that tell the story of baseball. Whether it was checking out a seamless baseball ("How are you going to throw that in weather like this?"), reading text that tells of Cy Young's 751 complete games ("Unbelievable") or a baseball

bat Babe Ruth used to slug 28 of his 60 homers in 1927, "Mo" was constantly entertained.

After taking a photo in front of a large photo of 10 of the Hall of Famers inducted in 1939 and told he's joining a pretty cool club, Rivera smiled and softly said, "Yes."

Harold Baines experienced his Orientation Tour with his wife, Marla, on Jan. 29. Soon

after continuing the tradition of autographing the spot where his plaque will reside come this summer, a calm and collected Baines reflected on the whirlwind weeks since receiving the news of his Hall of Fame election.

"This has been exciting," said the 59-year-old. "Now that I'm going to be a part of what people are going to be looking at, it's very special.

"It's a place you need to see if you've never seen it before."

Asked what he was feeling on this particular day, the man of few words contemplated the question, then said, "I don't show emotion, a lot of emotions, but inside it's very exciting."

Baines' stoicism did let up, though, when told his Hall of Fame plaque would reside about 20 feet from Ruth's, his eyes watering after receiving the news.

"All this hasn't really sunk in yet, but coming here has helped a lot. Being home, I didn't feel it a lot, but once I got here today, I started feeling it," he said. "I'm very honored, very grateful, for what's going to be happening."

Baines has also contemplated standing on



Mariano Rivera poses with a Rod Carew jersey during his Feb. 1 Orientation Tour of the Museum. In 1991, Carew became the first Panamanian inducted in the Hall of Fame; this summer, Rivera becomes the second.

MILOSTEWART JR./NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

stage this summer with dozens of Hall of Famers seated behind him, tens of thousands in the crowd and a national audience watching on television.

“I’ve played in front of 50,000 fans, but standing in front of a mic trying to speak. ... I can hit a 100-mile-an-hour fastball, but standing in front of a crowd, I have to be honest, is going to be tough,” he said.

Making sure to check out the exhibit of fellow Maryland native Ruth during his tour, Baines also examined the *Pride and Passion* exhibit and took note of the history of African-American baseball, remarking “strong man” when passing a Jackie Robinson photo.

Along the way, Baines made a point of looking at artifacts of fellow White Sox Hall of Famers, whether it be a Luis Aparicio jersey or an Al López pair of spikes. Baines also saw a pair of shorts that White Sox players wore for a few games in the 1970s.

A final tour stop was in the collections facility, where Baines could hold Joe Morgan’s cleats, a Roberto Clemente cap and a Willie Mays bat (“Where do you find this stuff?” a surprised Baines asked a few times). Shown a Randy Johnson glove, Baines exclaimed, “That was usually my day off when he was pitching.”

Lee Smith’s Hall of Fame journey ended in December with a call informing him he had achieved baseball’s greatest individual honor. In his first trip to Cooperstown since, the joy was apparent throughout his visit.

“It’s been crazy. There’s a lot of this stuff here I already knew, especially about the Negro Leagues and guys I played with and against. But being here is like no game you’ve ever been in before,” said Smith following his Orientation Tour on Feb. 5.

Smith had been to the Hall of Fame a number of times previously, including attending the 2009 Hall of Fame induction of Rickey Henderson, Jim Rice and Joe Gordon. But this time it was different as the monumental aspect of the event was still sinking in – with the 2019 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony just months away.

“It’s getting there, but I’m still in awe,” said Smith, currently a minor league pitching coach with the San Francisco Giants, a franchise he has worked with for two decades since retiring as a player.

“Most people know my reputation, that I’m pretty relaxed. And I can’t lie to you – I was



Top: Harold Baines holds the bat he used to end the longest game in American League history on May 8-9, 1984. The bat is part of the Hall of Fame’s collection, and Baines had the chance to see it during his Jan. 29 Orientation Tour at the Museum. **Above:** Lee Smith visited the Hall of Fame on Feb. 5 for his Orientation Tour in advance of Induction Weekend, July 19-22 in Cooperstown.

asleep when the call came. It was unbelievable just to get that call. You wait so many years.”

Now the waiting will only last until Induction Sunday in Cooperstown, and Smith is already bursting with anticipation.

“I’ve got goosebumps. I’ve never been nervous before, but I’m nervous right now,” said Smith, who turned 61 in December. “I’ll get there when I see all the guys at the *Induction Ceremony*. It’s something I’m really looking forward to. It can’t get here soon enough.

“Everybody recognizes me now because of the Hall of Fame. Back in the day, I had an identity crisis because in Chicago everybody wanted to throw me on the football field because I was such a big guy. I don’t have that problem anymore. Now they know who Lee Smith is. I’m proud of that.”

Bill Francis is the senior research and writing specialist at 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

Museum benches

We have successfully funded the installation of benches throughout the Museum's exhibit galleries! Due to the overwhelming popularity of our bench program and the growing need for benches on the Museum grounds, we are expanding the program to cover the installation of benches in the statue park, Museum Courtyard and other important areas.

Thanks to generous gifts from Kaye Albright,

Robin Craig, Kerry DeMarco and Cecil Kennedy, four benches have already been installed on the Museum grounds.

There are 15 bench spaces still available as part of this expanded program. Donors supporting the installation of a bench with a gift of \$2,500 will be recognized with an engraved 8" x 2" brass plaque on the bench, allowing for up to three lines of text that may be used to honor a loved one or your favorite baseball legend.

You can learn more about the Museum Bench Program at baseballhall.org/bench program.

Photos to be digitally preserved

Thanks to a number of generous donors, photographs from our archive will be digitally preserved and added to our online digital collection, which you can browse at collection.baseballhall.org.

They include:

- **Goose Goslin** – Thanks to a gift from Debra Williams
- **Jackie Robinson** – Thanks to a gift from Debra Williams

WHAT YOU CAN HELP US DO

Sponsor a page

Since we launched our digital collection online in 2016, we have added more than 75,000 items, including 15,000 photographs, 15,000 three-dimensional artifacts, 2,000 scrapbook pages, 30,000 Library documents and 100 oral histories.

Once an item in the Museum Collection or Library Archive has been digitally preserved and uploaded to the online database, the costs to store and make these images available continue in perpetuity. Ongoing costs include data storage, internet service and servers, in addition to ongoing development and maintenance of our digital asset management system.

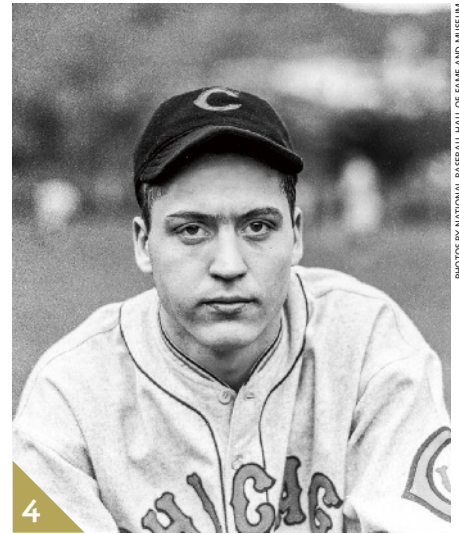
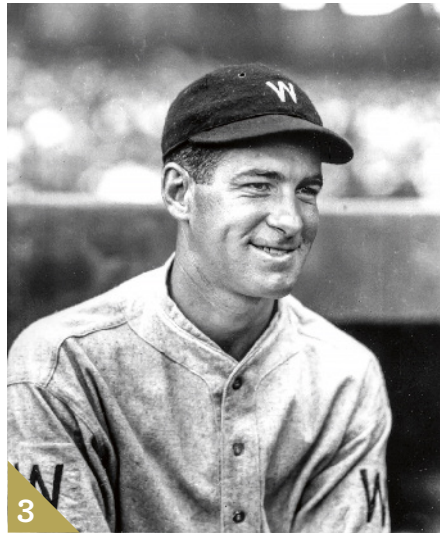
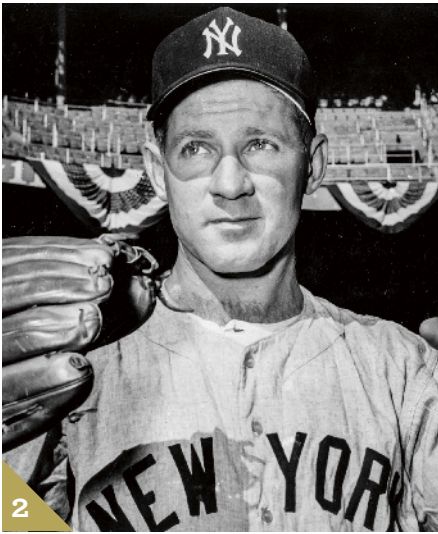
To help cover these ongoing costs to maintain the free online database, you can



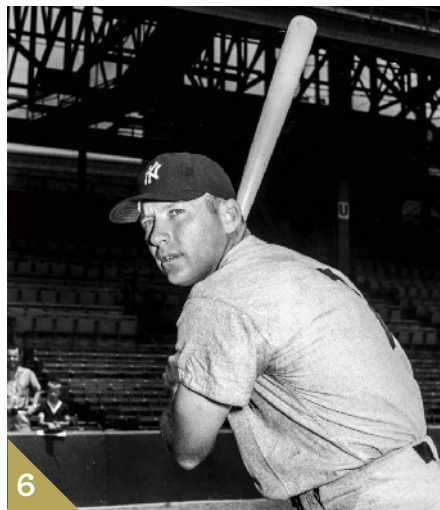
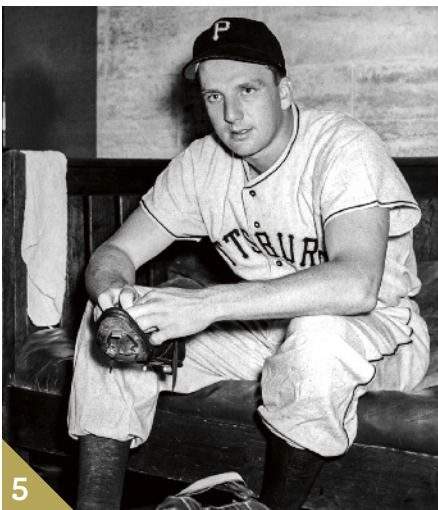
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1. The glove Rube Marquard wore during the 1912 season – when he set a modern-era record by winning 19 consecutive decisions – is in need of conservation. You can help ensure its structural integrity for generations to come by supporting the Hall's Museum in Action program.

MILIO STEWART / NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM



PHOTOS BY NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM



2-6. Images of the Hall of Fame Classes of 1974 and 1975 are in need of digital preservation. Player images from these classes that you can help preserve through the Hall's Museum in Action program include Whitey Ford (2), Bucky Harris (3), Billy Herman (4), Ralph Kiner (5) and Mickey Mantle (6).

Cost to digitally preserve images of:

Class of 1974

Cool Papa Bell:	.....FUNDED
Jim Bottomley (9 images):	.....\$45
Jocko Conlan (8 images):	.....\$40
Whitey Ford (308 images):	.....\$1,560
Mickey Mantle (445 images):	.....\$2,345
Sam Thompson (10 images):	.....\$50

Class of 1975

Earl Averill (45 images):	.....\$225
Bucky Harris (165 images):	.....\$825
Billy Herman (66 images):	.....\$330
Judy Johnson:	.....FUNDED
Ralph Kiner (137 images):	.....\$705

Additional projects online

We are grateful for all our donors and Museum Members for helping 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 by visiting our website:

baseballhall.org/museuminaction

For more information – or to make a donation of any amount toward one of these projects – visit baseballhall.org/museuminaction or contact our Development Team at (607) 547-0338 or development@baseballhall.org.

sponsor the online display of an item from the Hall of Fame collection.

For just \$5 a year, you can have your name displayed on an artifact page within our online collection.

The pages available to sponsor cover a broad range of topics and interests, and more are added on a regular basis. Learn more and explore the collection online by visiting collection.baseballhall.org.

Rube Marquard glove

The glove used by Rube Marquard of the New York Giants during his 1912 record-breaking season of 19 consecutive wins is in need of conservation work.

In 1911, Marquard's potential was finally realized, as he won 24 games and led the National League with 237 strikeouts. That season started a three-year run of success for both Marquard and the Giants. He won at

least 20 games and helped the team reach the World Series each year.

On April 11, 1912, Marquard made his first start of the season and defeated Brooklyn, 18-3. That began a streak of 19 straight decisions, a modern-era record, until he suffered his first loss on July 8. During that historic run, Marquard had an ERA of 1.63. He finished the year with 26 victories and added two more in the World Series, though New York lost to Boston.

Estimate for conservation to be performed by B.R. Howard and Associates: \$2,550

Digitally preserve historic photos of the Hall of Fame Classes of 1974 and 1975

We need your help to continue our work to digitally preserve the Museum's photo collection, which contains more than 250,000 images. You can help us to preserve the images of the Classes of 1974 and 1975.

EXPRESSLY AMAZING

A Hall of Fame career got rolling when the Mets won the 1969 World Series.

BY NOLAN RYAN

The 1969 baseball season was amazing, especially for the Mets. When I look back on that year, I think about all the different people who contributed to that winning effort.

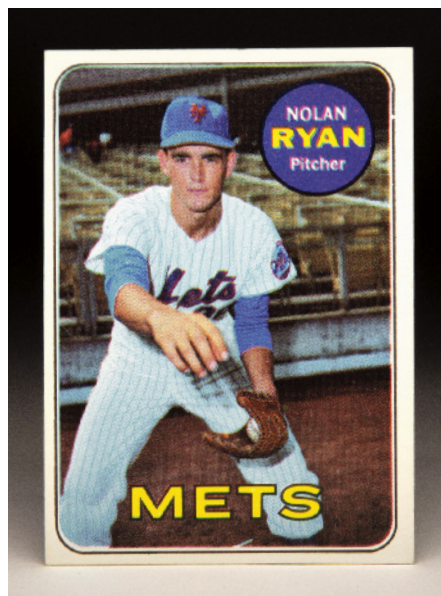
Tom Seaver was by far the leader of that pitching staff. He was so consistent, and he had a career year in '69. Everybody marveled at the year he had.

I had met Tom in minor league Spring Training the year that he signed, which was 1966. Our paths didn't cross again until I was in the big leagues two years later. He had a big influence on me because he had a very professional and mature attitude, and it helped me start focusing on my career and what I had to do to be successful.

That year (1969) was truly a team effort because when we would call somebody up from Triple-A, or when we traded for someone, they contributed to our winning ways. We had a great team. There was Cleon Jones having a solid year, and then the acquisition of (first baseman) Donn Clendenon in June.

That summer, I can remember watching the moon-landing on television and marveling at the accomplishment – and not only that they landed on the moon, but that those astronauts were able to leave the moon and come back home.

The whole situation was phenomenal, and it was just hard to comprehend that we were capable of doing that. The fact that I grew up about 20 miles from the Space Center (in Houston) and was aware of the development of NASA made it even more interesting.



With his legendary fastball, Nolan Ryan helped the 1969 New York Mets win the World Series.

That season was also a year of adjustment for all pitchers because of the mound being lowered and having the feel that you were pitching from flat ground. They also shrunk the strike zone, so there was no high strike at all. Pitchers noticed it more than hitters.

I was 22 years old and was struggling with my control and consistency. That was a challenge for me at that point in my career. Adding to that challenge was that I was on a different schedule from the rest of the pitchers, because I was in a top-priority Army Reserve unit in Houston. So every other weekend, I went back to Houston for military duty. Because of that, I never pitched on a regular basis while I was with the Mets.

Gil Hodges was a very fair manager, and he expected you to play the game right. His demeanor and the way he carried himself certainly influenced the team. He had a very positive effect on us players.

So did Yogi Berra, who was our first base coach. From a pitcher's perspective, we didn't have as much one-on-one with Yogi as we did with pitching coach Rube Walker, but I think everybody was very at ease with him and enjoyed having him on the team. Yogi brought so much experience, in so many Postseasons, and had so much success.

In the Playoffs, Gil gave me the opportunity to contribute. Those were great games in front of Mets fans. By that point in my career, even pitching at Shea Stadium in front of 50,000 people, I had a comfort level with it.

In Game 3 of the Championship Series against the Braves, I was in the bullpen and Gil called on me in the third inning. I was really surprised that he made a pitching change that early, and also the fact that he went to me – I didn't anticipate being in the game at that early stage.

To be in a World Series, that was a dream of all players, and it was a dream come true for me at my young age. I was thrilled to get that opportunity, and Gil put me in again in Game 3 against the Orioles. By far, it was one of the most special moments of my career, to get that last out to put our team ahead 2-games-to-1 in the World Series.

When you experience things as I did in the Playoffs and the World Series and have a year like the Mets did, it helps you in your development. That season was an important foundation for the growth of my career.

In 1969, it all fell into place. The little things just seemed to go our way. When there was a break that year, it went our way. Sometimes the difference in whether a team wins or doesn't is whether a ball falls in your favor, and I really felt that's what happened with that ballclub. 🍀

Nolan Ryan won or saved two of the Mets' seven victories in the 1969 Postseason. He was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1999.



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cooperstowngetaway.org

An annual sign of spring in Cooperstown, these maple syrup buckets began filling up as the warm weather returned.