



NEWS

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AROUND THE HORN

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TODAY'S GAME ERA ELECTION

The National Baseball Hall of Fame will take the first steps toward Induction Weekend 2017 at Baseball's Winter Meetings in National Harbor, Md., next week, as the Today's Game Era Committee considers a ballot of 10 candidates for Hall of Fame election whose contributions came from 1988 through the present...Results of the Today's Game Era ballot vote will be announced at 6 p.m. ET on Sunday, Dec. 4...Any electees to emerge from the Today's Game Era Committee balloting will be honored during Hall of Fame Weekend 2017, July 28-31 in Cooperstown...The 2017 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will be held at 1:30 p.m. ET on July 30.

ANNOUNCING THE RESULTS: Hall of Fame President Jeff Idelson will announce the results of the 2017 Today's Game Era balloting at 6 p.m. ET Sunday, Dec. 4 live on MLB Network from the Winter Meetings in National Harbor, Md....If any living electees emerge from the voting, conference calls with each individual electee will be held Sunday evening...A press conference featuring any living electees will be held at 11 a.m. ET on Monday, Dec. 5 at the Winter Meetings, with all credentialed media invited to attend...The press conference will be shown live by MLB Network, at MLB.com and at baseballhall.org.

THE TODAY'S GAME ERA BALLOT: Five former big league players, three executives and two managers were named Oct. 3 to the Hall of Fame's Today's Game Era Ballot...The 10 finalists on the 2017 Today's Game Era Ballot include: **Harold Baines, Albert Belle, Will Clark, Davey Johnson, Orel Hershiser, Mark McGwire, Lou Piniella, John Schuerholz, Bud Selig and George Steinbrenner.** Baines, Belle, Clark, Hershiser and McGwire are included for their contributions as players, with Johnson and Piniella included for their work as managers and Schuerholz, Selig and Steinbrenner included for their off-field careers...All candidates are living except for Steinbrenner... Any candidate to receive votes on 75 percent of the ballots cast by the 16-member Today's Game Era Committee will be elected and enshrined as part of the Class of 2017.

THE TODAY'S GAME ERA ELECTORATE: The 16-member Today's Game Era electorate features Hall of Fame members **Roberto Alomar, Bobby Cox, Andre Dawson, Dennis Eckersley, Pat Gillick, Ozzie Smith, Don Sutton and Frank Thomas;** major league executives **Paul Beeston** (Blue Jays), **Bill DeWitt** (Cardinals), **David Glass** (Royals), **Andy MacPhail** (Phillies) and **Kevin Towers** (Reds); and veteran media members/historians **Bill Center, Steve Hirdt and Tim Kurkjian**...The Today's Game Era ballot was devised by the Baseball Writers' Association of America-appointed Historical Overview Committee, comprised of 11 veteran members: **Bob Elliott** (*Canadian Baseball Network*); **Jim Henneman** (formerly *Baltimore Sun*); **Steve Hirdt** (Elias Sports Bureau); **Rick Hummel** (*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*); **Bill Madden** (formerly *New York Daily News*); **Jack O'Connell** (BBWAA); **Jim Reeves** (formerly *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*); **Tracy Ringolsby** (*MLB.com*); **Glenn Schwarz** (formerly *San Francisco Chronicle*); **Dave Van Dyck** (formerly *Chicago Tribune*); and **Mark Whicker** (*Southern California News Group*)...The HOC annually sets ballots for the Era Committee elections.

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

FUTURE ELECTIONS: Four eras for committee consideration have been identified following the Hall of Fame Board of Directors meeting in July: *Today's Game* (for candidates who made their most indelible contribution to baseball from 1988 to the present); *Modern Baseball* (for candidates who made their most indelible contribution to baseball from 1970 to 1987); *Golden Days* (for candidates who made their most indelible contribution to baseball from 1950 to 1969); and *Early Baseball* (for candidates who made their most indelible contribution to baseball prior to 1950)...The *Today's Game* and *Modern Baseball* eras will be considered twice each in a five-year period, with the *Golden Days* era considered once every five years and the *Early Baseball* era considered once every 10 years...Eras considered for yearly induction are as follows: **2017** – Today's Game; **2018** – Modern Baseball; **2019** – Today's Game; **2020** – Modern Baseball; **2021** – Both Golden Days and Early Baseball; **2022** – Today's Game; **2023** – Modern Baseball; **2024** – Today's Game; **2025** – Modern Baseball; **2026** – Golden Days. *The Early Baseball era returns for induction consideration in 2031.*

HISTORY OF THE VETERANS COMMITTEE

The Veterans Committee/Eras Committee has been a part of the Hall of Fame voting process since the first class of electees in 1936, with the first Veterans Committee electees coming in 1937...In all its forms, the Veterans Committee/Eras Committee has elected 165 individuals (96 major leaguers, 28 executives, 22 managers, nine Negro Leaguers and 10 umpires) to the Hall of Fame.

THE COMMITTEE ON BASEBALL VETERANS: In 1953, the Baseball Hall of Fame Committee on Baseball Veterans was formed, outlining parameters that were similar through 2001, though with some variance throughout its time...Voting was conducted every other year from 1953-1959, with annual votes from 1961 until 2001...From 1961 through 2001, the Committee elected 101 members in 41 meetings, electing a candidate on all but three occasions: 1988, 1990 and 1993.

TURN OF THE CENTURY CHANGES: From 2001 through 2007, the Hall of Fame's Committee on Baseball Veterans considered long-retired players, managers, umpires and executives on a bi-annual cycle featuring one ballot for players and another for managers, umpires and executives...The electorate was comprised of the living members of the Hall of Fame, the living recipients of the J.G. Taylor Spink Award, the living recipients of the Ford C. Frick Award and Veterans Committee members whose terms had not yet expired...Beginning in 2003, the Committee held its election of players every other year...Also beginning in 2003, the election of managers, umpires and executives was held every four years...The three players elections (2003, 2005 and 2007) and the two composite-ballot elections (2003 and 2007) produced no candidates who received the 75 percent of the vote necessary for election.

REVAMPING THE PROCESS: From 2007 to 2010, the Hall of Fame's Committee on Baseball Veterans was revamped to consider managers and umpires on one ballot, executives and pioneers on one ballot, players who began their big league careers prior to 1943 on one ballot and players who were retired for at least 21 seasons and whose careers began after 1942 on a fourth ballot...The electorates consisted of panels of Hall of Famers, executives and media members...Players whose big league careers began after 1942 were considered every other year, with managers/umpires and executive pioneers ballots considered in the opposite years from the players...Players whose big league careers began prior to 1942 were considered every five years starting in the fall of 2008...In the fall of 2007, the Committee considered the managers/umpires ballot and the executives/pioneers ballot...Managers **Billy Southworth** and **Dick Williams** each received 13 of a possible 16 votes (81.3%) to earn election from the managers/umpires ballot, while **Barney Dreyfuss** (10 of 12 votes, 83%), **Bowie Kuhn** (10 of 12 votes, 83%) and **Walter O'Malley** (9 of 12 votes, 75%) were elected from the executives/pioneers ballot...In the fall of 2008, **Joe Gordon** received 10 of 12 votes (83%) to earn election from the pre-1943 players ballot...No player reached the 75 percent threshold needed for election on the post-1942 players ballot, which was comprised solely of the 64 living Hall of Famers at that time...In the fall of 2009, the managers/umpires and the executives/pioneers ballots were again considered...Umpire **Doug Harvey** (15 of 16 votes, 93.8%) and manager **Whitey Herzog** (14 of 16 votes, 87.5%) were elected from the managers/umpires ballot...No candidate received the necessary 75 percent of the vote to earn election from the executives/pioneers ballot.

A NEW ERA: From 2011-15, the Veterans Committee transitioned to the Eras Committee, which featured three candidate categories based on the era in which the candidate left his or her most indelible mark...The Expansion Era Committee, the Golden Era Committee and the Pre-Integration Era Committee met on a three-year rotating basis, with two complete cycles of committee votes held from 2011-15...The Expansion Era Committee elected executive **Pat Gillick** to the Hall of Fame as part of the Class of 2011 in its first session, then elected managers **Bobby Cox**, **Tony La Russa** and **Joe Torre** to the Class of 2014...The Golden Era Committee elected **Ron Santo** as part of the Class of 2012, with no Golden Era candidates receiving the necessary 75 percent of the vote to be elected with the Class of 2015...The Pre-Integration Era Committee elected umpire **Hank O'Day**, executive **Jacob Ruppert** and third baseman **Deacon White** to the Class of 2013, with no Pre-Integration Era candidates reaching the 75-percent mark needed to be included with the Class of 2016.

VETERAN INFLUENCE: The Veterans Committee, in all its forms, has been electing players to the Hall of Fame since 1937, when **Morgan Bulkeley**, **Ban Johnson**, **Connie Mack**, **John McGraw** and **George Wright** comprised the first Veterans Committee class...The largest class came in 1946 when 11 men were elected to the Hall of Fame by the Veterans Committee...The 11 electees in 1946 were: **Jesse Burkett**, **Frank Chance**, **Jack Chesbro**, **Johnny Evers**, **Clark Griffith**, **Tommy McCarthy**, **Joe McGinnity**, **Eddie Plank**, **Joe Tinker**, **Rube Waddell** and **Ed Walsh**...The 17 former Negro League players and executives chosen for enshrinement in 2006 were elected through a special committee on Negro Leagues and pre-Negro Leagues candidates.

FRICK AND SPINK AWARD FINALISTS IN SPOTLIGHT

Eight of baseball's most beloved and honored broadcasters from the *Current Major League Markets* ballot were named Nov. 7 as the finalists for the 2017 Ford C. Frick Award, presented annually for excellence in baseball broadcasting by the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum...The eight finalists for the 2017 Frick Award are: **Gary Cohen, Jacques Doucet, Ken Harrelson, Pat Hughes, Bill King, Mike Krukow, Ned Martin** and **Dewayne Staats**...The winner of the 2017 Frick Award will be announced at 11 a.m. ET on Wednesday, Dec. 7 and honored during the 2017 Hall of Fame Weekend *Awards Presentation*, Saturday, July 29 at Doubleday Field in Cooperstown...All candidates except for King and Martin are living...Final voting for the 2017 Frick Award will be conducted by an electorate comprised of the 13 living Frick Award recipients and four broadcast historians/columnists, including past Frick honorees **Marty Brennaman, Dick Enberg, Jaime Jarrin, Tony Kubek, Denny Matthews, Tim McCarver, Jon Miller, Eric Nadel, Felo Ramirez, Vin Scully, Bob Uecker, Dave Van Horne** and **Bob Wolff**, and historians/columnists **David J. Halberstam** (historian), **Barry Horn** (*Dallas Morning News*), **Ted Patterson** (historian) and **Curt Smith** (historian)...For bios on the eight finalists, please visit <http://baseballhall.org/discover/awards/ford-c-frick/2017-candidates>.

FRICK AWARD HISTORY: The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum's Ford C. Frick Award has been presented annually since 1978 for excellence in baseball broadcasting...Annual winners are announced as part of Baseball's Winter Meetings each year, while awardees are presented with their honor the following summer during Hall of Fame Weekend in Cooperstown, New York...Pioneering national voice Graham McNamee became the 40th winner of the Frick Award in 2016.

FRICK AWARD VOTING PROCESS REVAMPED: Following changes to the voting regulations implemented by the Hall of Fame's Board of Directors in the summer of 2016, a new Frick Award election cycle has been established, rotating annually between *Current Major League Markets* (team-specific announcers) with the 2017 Frick Award; *National Voices* (broadcasters whose contributions were realized on a national level) with the 2018 Frick Award; and *Broadcasting Beginnings* (early team voices and pioneers of baseball broadcasting) with the 2019 Frick Award. This cycle will repeat every three years... New criteria for selection is as follows: "Commitment to excellence, quality of broadcasting abilities, reverence within the game, popularity with fans, and recognition by peers."

2017 SPINK AWARD FINALISTS: The Baseball Writers' Association of America has announced its three finalists for the 2017 J.G. Taylor Spink Award...The finalists are: Former *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* beat writer and columnist Jim Reeves; former *New York Times* national baseball columnist and current ESPN coordinating editor Claire Smith; and longtime Spanish syndicated columnist Juan Vene...The winner of the 2017 J.G. Taylor Spink Award for writers will be announced on Dec. 6 at Baseball's Winter Meetings.

SCRIBES AND MIKEMEN: Winners of the Frick and Spink Awards are featured in the Museum's "Scribes and Mikemen" exhibit, located on the first floor as part of the Library and Education Center of the Hall of Fame...Text of the current year's award winner and headshots of past award winners are featured in the exhibit, which outlines the media's contributions to the game's history.

2017 BBWAA ELECTION

HALL OF FAME WEEKEND: Hall of Fame Weekend 2017 will be held July 28-31, with the annual Induction Ceremony scheduled to take place on Sunday, July 30 at 1:30 p.m. EDT...Admission to the Ceremony is free and the Ceremony will be broadcast live on MLB Network...The Weekend will feature the annual *Awards Presentation* at Doubleday Field on Saturday, July 29, where the winners of the 2017 Ford C. Frick Award and J.G. Taylor Spink Award will be honored...The eighth annual Hall of Fame *Parade of Legends* will follow the *Awards Presentation* on Main Street...For more information or to plan your trip to Cooperstown, please visit www.baseballhall.org/visit.

BOOK NOW FOR FUTURE WEEKENDS: Hall of Fame Weekend is typically scheduled for the last weekend in July, though there are exceptions...The 2017 Induction Weekend is scheduled for July 28-31, with the Induction on July 30...Induction Weekend 2018 is scheduled for July 27-30, with the Induction on July 29...Induction Day in 2019 will be July 20, and Induction Day in 2020 will be July 26...A partial list of eligible first-time players for upcoming Hall of Fame elections includes: **2018:** Chipper Jones, Hideki Matsui, Jim Thome, Omar Vizquel; **2019:** Roy Halladay, Todd Helton, Andy Pettitte, Mariano Rivera; **2020:** Bobby Abreu, Derek Jeter, Paul Konerko, Alfonso Soriano; **2021:** Mark Buehrle, A.J. Burnett, Tim Hudson, Torii Hunter, Aramis Ramirez; **2022:** Prince Fielder, David Ortiz, Alex Rodriguez, Mark Teixeira.

THE CLASS OF JANUARY: The results of the 2017 Baseball Writers’ Association of America Hall of Fame vote will be announced at 6 p.m. ET on Jan. 18, 2017 live on MLB Network... The 2017 BBWAA ballot was announced Nov. 21 and consists of: Jeff Bagwell, Casey Blake, Pat Burrell, Barry Bonds, Orlando Cabrera, Mike Cameron, Roger Clemens, J.D. Drew, Carlos Guillen, Vladimir Guerrero, Trevor Hoffman, Jeff Kent, Derrek Lee, Edgar Martinez, Fred McGriff, Melvin Mora, Mike Mussina, Magglio Ordonez, Jorge Posada, Tim Lincecum, Manny Ramirez, Edgar Renteria, Arthur Rhodes, Ivan Rodriguez, Freddy Sanchez, Curt Schilling, Gary Sheffield, Lee Smith, Sammy Sosa, Matt Stairs, Jason Varitek, Billy Wagner, Tim Wakefield and Larry Walker...For candidate bios, visit <http://baseballhall.org/hof/2017-bbwaa-ballot>...First-time eligibles are Blake, Burrell, Cabrera, Cameron, Drew, Guillen, Guerrero Lee, Mora, Ordonez, Posada, Ramirez, Renteria, Rhodes, Rodriguez, Sanchez, Stairs, Varitek and Wakefield...Holdover candidates include Bagwell, who was named on more than 71 percent of the BBWAA ballots cast in 2016, and Raines and Hoffman, each of whom were named on at least 67 percent of ballots a year ago...Other returning candidates include Bonds, Clemens, Kent, Martinez, McGriff, Mussina, Schilling, Sheffield, Smith, Sosa, Wagner and Walker...2016 marks the final year of BBWAA ballot eligibility for Raines and Smith.

CHANGES TO THE ELECTION PROCESS: In July 2014, the Hall of Fame’s Board of Directors altered the election criteria for candidates under consideration by the Baseball Writers’ Association of America, reducing the maximum number of years a candidate can be considered by the BBWAA from 15 years to 10 years...The change will be reflected in 2017 balloting, though one candidate who had already surpassed the 10-year threshold will be grandfathered in for potential consideration for the full 15 years: Lee Smith (year 15)...On July 28, 2015, the Hall of Fame’s Board of Directors announced changes to the Baseball Writers’ Association of America electorate for Hall of Fame voting...Hall of Fame voters must now meet requirements as active members who are still covering the game...A 10-year grace period will be provided for BBWAA members who are no longer active in baseball.... BBWAA members previously holding Hall of Fame voting privileges who are no longer active in the game and are more than 10 years removed from active status will have the opportunity for annual reinstatement, based on their coverage of the game in the preceding year.

2016 RESULTS: The 2016 BBWAA ballot featured 32 players, including 15 new candidates and 17 returnees...Candidates appearing on the necessary 75 percent of all ballots cast to earn election appear in bold below...Candidates receiving less than five percent of the vote are no longer eligible for BBWAA consideration and appear in italics below...Fifteen players will return for consideration in 2017...A total of 440 votes were cast, with 330 votes necessary for election and 22 votes necessary to remain on the ballot...Ken Griffey Jr. became the 51st player elected to the Hall on his first BBWAA ballot and set a new record by receiving 99.32 percent of the overall vote...Alan Trammell received 40.9 percent of the vote, and Mark McGwire received 12.3 percent in their final years of eligibility on the BBWAA ballot...The final results, in order of percentage received with number of years on the ballot:

NAME	YR	2016	NAME	YR	2016	NAME	YR	2016
Ken Griffey Jr.	1	99.3%	Fred McGriff	7	20.9%	<i>Garret Anderson</i>	1	0.2%
Mike Piazza	4	83.0%	Jeff Kent	3	16.6%	<i>Brad Ausmus</i>	1	0.0%
Jeff Bagwell	6	71.6%	Larry Walker	6	15.5%	<i>Luis Castillo</i>	1	0.0%
Tim Raines	9	69.8%	Mark McGwire	10	12.3%	<i>Troy Glaus</i>	1	0.0%
Trevor Hoffman	1	67.3%	Gary Sheffield	2	11.6%	<i>Mark Grudzielanek</i>	1	0.0%
Curt Schilling	4	52.3%	Billy Wagner	1	10.5%	<i>Mike Hampton</i>	1	0.0%
Roger Clemens	4	45.2%	Sammy Sosa	4	7.0%	<i>Mike Lowell</i>	1	0.0%
Barry Bonds	4	44.3%	<i>Jim Edmonds</i>	1	2.5%	<i>Randy Winn</i>	1	0.0%
Edgar Martínez	7	43.4%	<i>Nomar Garciaparra</i>	2	1.8%			
Mike Mussina	3	43.0%	<i>Mike Sweeney</i>	1	0.7%			
Alan Trammell	15	40.9%	<i>David Eckstein</i>	1	0.5%			
Lee Smith	14	34.1%	<i>Jason Kendall</i>	1	0.5%			

THE VOTING ELECTORATE: Of the 472 Hall of Fame ballots distributed to BBWAA voters for the 2016 election, 440 (93.2 percent) were returned...The most ballots ever cast in one BBWAA Hall of Fame election came in 2011 with 581...The last time a BBWAA Hall of Fame election featured fewer than 500 votes was in 2000 when 499 votes were cast...The last time as few as 440 votes were cast was in 1993 when 423 votes were cast...Voting privileges are extended to those BBWAA members meeting their organization’s Hall of Fame voting qualifications and in good standing with the BBWAA...Voters can select from zero to 10 names on their Hall of Fame ballot...Votes on 75 percent of all ballots cast are necessary for election.

CAREFUL SELECTION: 2016 marked the 72nd Hall of Fame election held by the BBWAA...Starting in 1936, the BBWAA has elected someone 64 times and on eight occasions it did not elect anyone (1945, 1946, 1950, 1958, 1960, 1971, 1996, 2013)...On nine occasions, no election was held (1940, 1941, 1943, 1944, 1957, 1959, 1961, 1963, 1965)...The BBWAA membership has elected from zero to five candidates in each of its 72 elections...As quantified in the chart below, the BBWAA has voted in either one or two players more than any other quantity (26 times).

ELECTED	TIMES	LAST	CLASS
5	1	1936	Cobb, Johnson, Mathewson, Ruth, Wagner
4	3	2015	Biggio, Johnson, Martínez, Smoltz
3	8	2014	Glavine, Maddux, Thomas
2	26	2016	Griffey Jr., Piazza
1	26	2012	Larkin
0	8	2013	----

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

THE ALL-TIME GREATS: The Hall of Fame is comprised of 312 elected members...Included are 217 former major league players, 28 executives, 35 Negro Leaguers, 22 managers and 10 umpires...The BBWAA has elected 121 candidates to the Hall while the veterans committees (in all forms) have chosen 165 deserving candidates (96 major leaguers, 28 executives, 22 managers, 10 umpires and nine Negro Leaguers)...The defunct “Committee on Negro Baseball Leagues” selected nine men between 1971-77 and the Special Committee on Negro Leagues in 2006 elected 17 Negro Leaguers...There are currently 69 living members.

LIVING HISTORY: There are 69 living members of the Hall of Fame...The all-time mark for the most living members ever at any one point in history since elections began in 1936 is 70, reached in both early 2015 and 2016.

69 AMBASSADORS: The 69 living members of the Hall of Fame are: Hank Aaron, Roberto Alomar, Luis Aparicio, Johnny Bench, Craig Biggio, Bert Blyleven, Wade Boggs, George Brett, Lou Brock, Jim Bunning, Rod Carew, Steve Carlton, Orlando Cepeda, Bobby Cox, Andre Dawson, Bobby Doerr, Dennis Eckersley, Rollie Fingers, Carlton Fisk, Whitey Ford, Bob Gibson, Pat Gillick, Tom Glavine, Goose Gossage, Ken Griffey Jr., Doug Harvey, Rickey Henderson, Whitey Herzog, Reggie Jackson, Ferguson Jenkins, Randy Johnson, Al Kaline, Sandy Koufax, Barry Larkin, Tony La Russa, Tom Lasorda, Greg Maddux, Juan Marichal, Pedro Martínez, Willie Mays, Bill Mazerowski, Willie McCovey, Paul Molitor, Joe Morgan, Eddie Murray, Phil Niekro, Jim Palmer, Tony Pérez, Gaylord Perry, Mike Piazza, Jim Rice, Cal Ripken, Brooks Robinson, Frank Robinson, Nolan Ryan, Ryne Sandberg, Mike Schmidt, Red Schoendienst, Tom Seaver, Ozzie Smith, John Smoltz, Bruce Sutter, Don Sutton, Frank Thomas, Joe Torre, Billy Williams, Dave Winfield, Carl Yastrzemski and Robin Yount.

CONNECTING GENERATIONS: At 98, Bobby Doerr is the oldest living Hall of Famer in history, having surpassed Al Lopez (97 years, 71 days) on June 18, 2015...Doerr, who is also currently the oldest living former MLB player, was born on April 7, 1918, while World War I was still raging around the globe...Pedro Martínez, who was born on Oct. 25, 1971, is the youngest living Hall of Famer at 45 years of age.

BETWEEN THE LINES: Including Negro League players, the following is a breakdown by position of the 246 Hall of Famers who earned their election on the playing field...Also included is the last major leaguer to be elected at each position...Numbers in parenthesis indicate Hall of Famers elected by the BBWAA at each position.

Pitchers 77 (41)	Second Baseman ..21 (11)	Left Fielders21 (11)
Catchers 17 (9)	Third Baseman 16 (6)	Center Fielders24 (8)
First Baseman 21 (9)	Shortstops24 (11)	Right Fielders24 (13)
Designated Hitter 1 (1)		

PITCHER: Johnson, Martínez, Smoltz (2015)	DH: Thomas (2014)	LEFT FIELD: Henderson, Rice (2009)
CATCHER: Piazza (2016)	SECOND BASE: Biggio (2015)	CENTER FIELD: Griffey Jr. (2016)
FIRST BASE: Murray (2003)	THIRD BASE: White (2013)	RIGHT FIELD: Dawson (2010)
	SHORTSTOP: Larkin (2012)	

FIRST THINGS FIRST: With the election of Ken Griffey Jr., 51 players have now been elected in their first year of eligibility (16 pitchers, seven RF, six LF, five CF, five SS, five 3B, three 2B, two 1B, one DH and one catcher; position based on where electee played the majority of his big league games)...In 10 of the last 16 elections, at least one player has been elected in his first year of eligibility...Other than the inaugural Hall of Fame election, 1999, 2014 and 2015 are the only three years where as many as three first-year candidates were elected at once...NOTE: Lou Gehrig (who received votes in 1936 while active and then was elected by acclamation in 1939) and Roberto Clemente (by special election in 1973) were each elected through a non-traditional process and are not counted in the 51.

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

TRY AND TRY AGAIN: The 68 men not elected by the BBWAA in their first year eligible were done so on a later ballot, taking from two to 16 elections...The length of time a player could stay on the BBWAA ballot has varied throughout history...From 1946-56, the rule was that a player must have been active at some point in the 25 years prior to the election – it was increased to 30 years from 1956-62, was 20 years from 1963-2014 and is now 15 years...When one walks through the Hall of Fame Gallery, though, the year or method by which players were elected are not noted...The 68 non-first year BBWAA electees: **2nd election** (Alomar, Berra, Fingers, Fisk, Ford, Lajoie, Speaker, Young); **3rd election** (Alexander, Biggio, Grove, Hubbell, Hunter, Jenkins, Larkin, Marichal, Ott, Perry, Sandberg); **4th election** (E.Collins, DiMaggio, Keeler, Killebrew, Piazza, Roberts, Sisler, Wynn); **5th election** (Campanella, Hornsby, Mathews, Niekro, Sutton); **6th election** (Aparicio, Carter, Cochrane, Frisch, Gehringer, P.Waner, B.Williams); **7th election** (Appling, Foxx); **8th election** (Pennock, Traynor, Wilhelm); **9th election** (Dawson, Gossage, Greenberg, Medwick, Pérez); **10th election** (Boudreau, Cronin, Dickey, Drysdale, Lyons, Simmons); **11th election** (Snider); **12th election** (Dean, Hartnett, Heilmann, Lemon); **13th election** (Kiner, Sutter); **14th election** (Blyleven, Maranville, Terry); **15th election** (Rice, Ruffing); **16th election** (Vance).

ONE-TEAM WONDERS: There are 49 Hall of Famers who spent their entire career with one team...2015 inductee Craig Biggio is the most recent addition to that list...The others: Luke Appling, Ernie Banks, Johnny Bench, George Brett, Roy Campanella, Roberto Clemente, Earle Combs, Bill Dickey, Joe DiMaggio, Bobby Doerr, Don Drysdale, Red Faber, Bob Feller, Whitey Ford, Lou Gehrig, Charlie Gehringer, Bob Gibson, Tony Gwynn, Carl Hubbell, Travis Jackson, Walter Johnson, Addie Joss, Al Kaline, Sandy Koufax, Barry Larkin, Bob Lemon, Ted Lyons, Mickey Mantle, Bill Mazerowski, Bid McPhee, Stan Musial, Mel Ott, Jim Palmer, Kirby Puckett, Pee Wee Reese, Jim Rice, Cal Ripken, Phil Rizzuto, Brooks Robinson, Jackie Robinson, Mike Schmidt, Willie Stargell, Pie Traynor, Bill Terry, Ted Williams, Carl Yastrzemski, Ross Youngs and Robin Yount.

NINE TENTHS OF THE LAW: No individual has been elected to the Hall of Fame by the BBWAA as a unanimous choice, though there have been many close calls...Ken Griffey Jr. became the 31st player to earn at least 90 percent of the BBWAA vote in any one election...Griffey, who received 99.32% of the vote in 2016, set a record for highest vote percentage received in a BBWAA election...The 31 players with at least 90% of votes cast in their favor:

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

CLOSE, BUT NO CIGAR: Several individuals have come close to being elected to the Hall of Fame, but have missed by the slimmest of margins in a given year...2015 electee Craig Biggio, who missed by two votes in 2014, is the most recent example.

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

CLOSE, AND CIGAR: Meanwhile, 24 Hall of Famers have earned election by 10 votes or less:

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

MUSEUM LAUNCHES ONLINE DIGITAL ARCHIVE

The Hall of Fame Digital Archive Project launched on Sept. 7 with 25 volumes of 10 different Babe Ruth Scrapbooks in the collection available online for the first time...These one-of-a-kind scrapbooks, created by Ruth's agent Christy Walsh, provide a unique look at Ruth's career through letters, stories and photographs, and give a glimpse at the authentic Babe Ruth... Additional digitized material – including photos, audio, video and text – from the Museum collection will be published regularly as the Museum adds to the PASTIME (Public Archive System To Interact with the Museum Electronically) online collection, which is available at <http://collection.baseballhall.org>... Many of these materials will be available to the public for the first time, allowing fans to browse the Museum collection as they plan their visit to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, or continue their exploration of baseball history after they tour the Museum...With more than three million Library items, a quarter of a million unique images and 40,000 three-dimensional artifacts representing baseball's illustrious history, the Museum preserves an immense physical collection that brings baseball history to life...Through the Hall of Fame Digital Archive Project, the Museum, over the next several years, will continue to digitize its collections and Library archive, making PASTIME the online resource for baseball history...The goal of the Project is to provide online access to the precious artifacts and documents that are preserved in Cooperstown for fans and researchers around the globe, while ensuring that they are digitally archived for future generations of fans...PASTIME will become the online portal for fans and students of the game to relive baseball's greatest moments through the Museum's collection...The PASTIME digital asset management system has been developed based on open source standards that will be made available so that other cultural institutions can benefit from this leap forward in digital artifact preservation...Museums and educational institutions around the world will have access to this system built by the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

MUSEUM NEWS FROM COOPERSTOWN

COMING TO COOPERSTOWN: The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum has received many treasures from the 2016 season, including: Batting gloves and batting helmet worn by the Rockies' Trevor Story April 4-6 when he hit four home runs in his first three big league games to set a new mark...A "Smart Bat" used by Angels outfielder Mike Trout during Spring Training, created by Zepp Labs, designed to evaluate swing and measure data generated in performance...The cap worn by umpire Ramon De Jesus when he became the first native of the Dominican Republic to umpire an MLB game on April 22 at Comerica Park in Detroit...The spikes worn by the Marlins' Ichiro Suzuki when he recorded his 500th career stolen base on April 29 against the Brewers...The cap worn by the Nationals' Max Scherzer, along with a game-used ball and the game's rosin bag, from May 11 when he struck out 20 Tigers batters on one game...The spikes worn by the Yankees' Carlos Beltran when he hit his 400th career home run on May 15 against the White Sox...The bat used by the Rangers' Adrian Beltre when he recorded his 1,500th career RBI on May 28 against the Pirates... Batting helmet and batting gloves worn by the Braves' Freddie Freeman when he hit for the cycle against the Reds on June 15...The "W" flag flown over Wrigley Field from the Cubs' 4-3 win over the Pirates on June 18...The cap worn by the Marlins' Christian Yelich on July 3 when the Marlins defeated the Braves 5-2 in a game at Fort Bragg, and a base used in that game...The bat used by Red Sox minor leaguer Yoan Moncada when he went 2-for-5 with a single, homer and stolen base to win the game's MVP as the World Team defeated Team USA 11-3 in the All-Star Futures Game on July 10 in San Diego...The spikes worn by the Red Sox's David Ortiz during batting practice at the July 12 All-Star Game...The bat used by the Yankees' Mark Teixeira to hit his 400th career home run on July 3 against the Padres...The bat used by All-Star Game MVP Eric Hosmer of the Royals on July 12 in San Diego...Bat and batting helmet used by Kelsie Whitmore of the Pacific Association's Sonoma Stompers on July 20 when she recorded her first professional hit...The jersey, spikes, batting gloves, wrist bands, elbow guard and socks used by the Marlins' Ichiro Suzuki when he recorded his 3,000th MLB hit on Aug. 7...The bat used by the Giants' Brandon Crawford when he recorded seven hits against the Marlins on Aug. 8...The bats used by the Yankees' Tyler Austin and Aaron Judge to hit back-to-back home runs on Aug. 13 against the Rays, becoming the first pair of teammates to hit their first big league home runs in their first big league at-bats in the same game...Jersey worn by the Braves' Dansby Swanson on Aug. 18 against the Nationals, featuring a patch commemorating the final season of Turner Field...A home game jersey worn by the Red Sox's Mookie Betts against the Orioles on Sept. 13...The spikes worn by the Angels' Albert Pujols when he hit his 600th career double Sept. 16...The catcher's mask worn by Athletics bullpen catcher Phil Pohl, a Cooperstown native, throughout the 2016 season...The bat used by the Pirates' John Jaso when he hit for the cycle against the Cubs on Sept. 28...A baseball used during the Oct. 2 Red Sox vs. Blue Jays game at Fenway Park, featuring a special logo honoring David Ortiz in his last regular season game...A sliding mitt used by the Pirates' Starling Marte during the 2016 season...The helmet worn by Matt Holliday of the Cardinals on Sept. 30 when he returned from the disabled list with an emotional pinch-hit home run against the Pirates...A bat used by Indians minor leaguer Francisco Mejia during his 50-game hitting streak for Lake County and Lynchburg this summer...The jersey worn by the Twins' Brian Dozier on Sept. 22 when he set a new American League record with his 40th homer of the season as a second baseman...A cap worn by the Orioles' Zach Britton during 2016 home games, the last one coming on Sept. 25 against the Diamondbacks when he recorded his 46th save en route to 47 saves in 47 chances for the season...The cap worn by Indians pitcher and ALCS MVP Andrew Miller during road games of the ALCS...And the spikes worn by the Indians' Francisco Lindor during road games of the 2016 Postseason, including the World Series.

COOPERSTOWN CONNECTION

VIP TREATMENT: Fans have the opportunity to explore the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum through a special program designed to give Cooperstown visitors a Hall of Fame VIP Experience...The Museum has partnered with Cooperstown accommodations to offer this unique package, which includes behind-the-scenes experiences at the Museum...This special package is only available through participating accommodations...Your VIP Experience will begin with exclusive after-hours access to the Hall of Fame on Thursday evening and wrap up on Friday with a private reception...Upcoming dates include March 23-24, Sept. 7-8, Oct. 12-13 and Nov. 16-17...For more information, please visit www.baseballhall.org/visit/vip-experience or call 607-547-0397.

TIME TO VISIT: The Museum is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily through Memorial Day Weekend, when summer hours begin...The Museum is open every day of the year, except for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day...Ticket prices are \$23 for adults (13 and over), \$15 for seniors (65 and over) and for those holding current memberships in the VFW, Disabled American Veterans, American Legion and AMVets organizations, and \$12 for juniors (ages 7-12)...Members are always admitted free of charge and there is no charge for children 6 years of age or younger...For more information, visit our website at www.baseballhall.org or call 888-HALL-OF-FAME (888-425-5633) or 607-547-7200.