

Baseball tidbits newsletter – interesting and random stuff, fodder for bar bets.

2.5.2023

Good morning baseball fans,

Yes, it is freaking cold in Maine. Friday night we hit -17 last night with wind chill under 30 below. The Red Sox trucks have left for spring training. In this week's edition—more Hall of Fame notes, trends in season tickets, lots of switch hitters, **Billy Martin**, the balanced 2023 schedule, Anti-trust plus trivia.

Two corrections—**Lance Berkman** (46 in 2008) should have been included with **Mickey Mantle**, **Ken Caminiti**, **Chipper Jones** and **Todd Hundley** as switch hitters who hit 40 HRs in a season. And Caminiti's 40 HR/MVP season was 1996 (not 1997). Thank you to the keen-eyed subscribers for the corrections.

THIS WEEK'S THREE QUESTION TRIVIA CHALLENGE

In 1975 I hit .331, led the AL in runs and doubles, winning Rookie of the Year and MVP

My 1979 was even better, leading the AL in batting (.333) with 39 HR and 122 RBI.

I had six consecutive 20 HR seasons (1982-88)

I hit a grand slam in the 1983 All-Star Game (the only grand slam in All-Star play). That was my fourth All-Star Game home run, second only to **Stan Musial** in ML history.

Over 17 years I played for five teams, retiring after the 1990 season.

Who am I?

Teammates.

One won MVP in 1964, World Series MVP in 1970 and All-Star game MVP 1966

The other won MVP 1966, World Series MVP 1966, 1971 All-Star game MVP.

Name them.

Among Hall of Famers born since 1900, about 27% played their entire careers for one team. Of the 29 Hall of Famers born after 1960, 10 played for just one team. How many of the 10 can you name?

MISCELLANEOUS STUFF

MLB.com came out with their rankings of the top 100 prospects. Interesting to see the Orioles leading with 8. The Guardians and the Dodgers had 7 each.

Six active players have totaled at least 30 home runs and 30 stolen bases in the same season-- **Mike Trout, José Ramírez, Mookie Betts, Christian Yelich, Ronald Acuña Jr. and Cedric Mullins** once each.

Speaking of Mike Trout. Despite Trout's eight to ten WAR a year, the Angels have three over-.500 seasons with him, and none since 2015. For the last two seasons, the Angels have had Trout and **Shohei Ohtani**. They're 150-174, even with those two combining for 10.8 bWAR in 2021 and 15.9 in 2022.

Nolan Ryan's 20 seasons of 10 or more wins is tied with **Greg Maddux** for second in AL/NL history. Hall of Famer **Don Sutton** (21 seasons with 10+ wins).

What do **Bryce Harper, Steven Strasburg, Carlos Correa, Gerrit Cole, David Price, Joe Mauer, ARod, Chipper Jones, Darryl Strawberry** have in common? They were all the top MLB draft pick. The draft began in 1965 with the Kansas City A's choosing **Rick Monday** out of Arizona State. The first top draft pick to be elected to the Hall of Fame? **Ken Griffey Jr.**, drafted number one 1 in 1987 by the Mariners out of Bishop Mueller H.S. in Cincinnati.

Want a commentary on ownership. The Pirates 2023 payroll will be the same as their 2013 payroll. Think their revenue may have increased in a decade? Think ticket prices have risen?

Juan Marichal threw 14 consecutive scoreless innings in All Star games. He allowed just two runs in 18 innings pitched over 8 All Star game appearances.

You can probably win a beer asking ‘who was the only player ever to play in a World Series in Wrigley Field and Comiskey Park?’ **Babe Ruth**’s Re Sox defeated the Cubs in 1918 (held in Comiskey Park to take advantage of the larger seating capacity). Ruth and the Yankees played the Cubs at Wrigley in the 1932 World Series.

You just don’t see many 33-year-old everyday center fielders in today’s game. The last player that old to start 100 games in center was **Lorenzo Cain** in 2019, one of only four such players in the past decade (also **Denard Span**, **Ángel Pagán** and **Coco Crisp**).

The Dodgers, Pirates, Reds and Cardinals originally played in the American Association. After that league folded the four teams moved to the National League in the 1890’s.

Cody Bellinger--we’re talking an unprecedented fall in what should be his prime years. He slashed .305/.406/.629 with 47 homers in 2019 and .203/.272/.376 with 41 homers in the three seasons since (over more than 1,000 plate appearances). Good luck to the Cubs in trying to get him back to his productive self.

Frustrated Yankee fans can relate: with his long swing and long stride, **Joey Gallo** is so easily beaten on elevated fastballs that he cheats to get the bat head out, which leads to such a ridiculous pull profile and so much swing and miss. Gallo saw 385 elevated fastballs last year—just about one out of every four pitches he saw. *He went 5-for-72 (.069) with 46 strikeouts against those pitches.* His approach needs an overhaul.

O.K., the shift ban helps Gallo a bit, as it does all lefties. But his problem is more about contact than it is hard-hit grounders turned into outs. Gallo is a .195 career hitter with runners in scoring position, with a 37.2% strikeout rate.

Key stat: Gallo has come to plate 146 times with a runner at third and less than two outs in his career and delivered three—*three!*—sacrifice flies. **Madison Bumgarner** has more career sacrifice flies than Gallo.

The Blue Jays have signed right-hander **Chad Green**. Green, 32 in May, has been serving as a quality reliever for the Yankees for the past seven seasons but was sidelined in May of last year and underwent Tommy John surgery shortly thereafter.

He has somewhat quietly been one of the most effective relievers in the league. Over the past six major league seasons, he's pitched 338 innings over 260 total appearances with a 2.96 ERA, striking out 33.4% of batters faced while walking just 6.1%. Among relievers to throw over 300 innings in that stretch, he ranks fourth in strikeout rate, trailing only elite guys **Josh Hader**, **Edwin Díaz** and **Liam Hendriks** and coming in ahead of **Kenley Jansen** and **Ryan Pressly**.

Most batting titles among active players--**Miguel Cabrera** (4).

Salvador Perez leads all active catchers with 223 home runs. **Gary Sanchez** is second with 154.

The 2023 season kicks off a new era for Major League Baseball. Teams can now sell advertising to be put on their uniforms and the Cincinnati Reds have inked a deal with Kroger, who will now have a patch on the uniform of the Reds. For their part the Reds will be able to cash a \$5,000,000 check each year according to Terry Lefton of the Sports Business Journal. For a comparison, the San Diego Padres announced a deal with Motorola that was worth \$10,000,000 per season. The Boston Red Sox have a deal with Mass Mutual for \$17,000,000 a season for the next decade, and there are bonuses that could push it to \$20,000,000 a year.

Kroger has been a sponsor/advertiser with the Reds for the last 69 years, so it's no surprise that they were interested in throwing their logo on the jersey.

In today's game \$5M doesn't go a long way, but it's also not nothing. That's enough to sign a solid reliever or a good bench player. That and a little extra could get you a starter. It's just another piece of the pie. Last year Major League Baseball had an all-time high with \$11,000,000,000 in revenue. There's a ton of national broadcast money that's split up evenly between teams. And the local revenues (which includes local tv deals) has some revenue sharing, too. Every little bit coming in counts and teams are finding more and more ways to have these smaller, but not insignificant ways to bring in additional revenue. New gambling partnerships and jersey patches have been added in just the last two seasons. The Reds now play in a state that you can legally gamble on sports in and have installed the Bet MGM Sportsbook at the Wings and Rings Machine Room (two sponsorships for one place – what a deal!) at Great American Ballpark. That's yet another way the team can and does generate revenue that didn't exist just a few years ago.

1993 World Series. Blue Jays beat Phillies 4 games to 2. 7 men were in uniform who won World Series MVP.

Johnny Podres (Phillies pitching coach) won in 1955

Gene Tenace (Jays bench coach) won in 1972

Dave Stewart 1989

Jack Morris 1991

Pat Borders 1992

Paul Molitor 1993

Curt Schilling 2001

Yes, it has been a ho-hum trade off-season.

Previous winters had featured show-stopping deals involving **Chris Sale** (2016-17); **Gerrit Cole**, **Giancarlo Stanton**, and **Christian Yelich** (2017-18); **Paul Goldschmidt**, **J.T. Realmuto**, **Edwin Díaz**, and **Robinson Canó** (2018-19); **Mookie Betts**, **Corey Kluber**, and **Sandy León** (2019-20); and **Francisco Lindor**, **Nolan Arenado**, **Blake Snell**, and **Yu Darvish** (2020-21).

The 2021-22 trade market lacked a deal involving a superstar at his peak but still featured prominent swaps involving **Matt Olson**, **Matt Chapman**, **Josh Donaldson**, and **Chris Bassitt**. This winter has offered a faint shadow of those predecessors.

The biggest names to move have been catcher **Sean Murphy** going from the A's to the Braves in a three-team deal; the Diamondbacks sending talented young outfielder **Daulton Varsho** to the Blue Jays for elite catching prospect **Gabriel Moreno** and outfielder **Lourdes Gurriel**; Toronto sending slugger **Teoscar Hernández** to the Mariners for reliever **Erik Swanson**; Seattle's addition of Brewers second baseman **Kolten Wong** for outfielder **Jesse Winker** and infielder **Abraham Toro**; and the Tigers' deals of two relievers with All-Star Games on their résumés (**Gregory Soto** and **Joe Jiménez**).

Some evaluators opined that the 12-team playoff format introduced last year has a) reduced the number of teams who view themselves as out-of-contention offseason sellers; and b) led

sellers to seek young, big league-ready talent rather than lower-level prospects — a formula that limits the number of interested trade partners who see depth as a critical factor to contend.

The White Sox have never won more than 100 games in a season. They won exactly 100 in 1917 and have never topped that.

Of the sluggers with 600+ homeruns, **Jim Thome** is the only one who never won an MVP award. His highest finish was 4th for the 2003 Phillies.

The Braves have had five 30-30 seasons:

Hank Aaron - 1963 (44 Home Runs, 31 Stolen Bases)

Finished 3rd in MVP vote to Sandy Koufax and Dick Groat

Dale Murphy - 1983 (36 Home Runs, 30 Stolen Bases)

Second of his back-to-back MVP seasons, had 161 career steals

Ron Gant - 1990 (32 Home Runs, 33 Stolen Bases) - 1991 (32 Home Runs, 34 Stolen Bases)

Put up a career-best line of .303/.357/.539. He also played a big part in Atlanta's worst-to-first season slotting into the middle of the order where he topped the 100 RBI mark for the first time in his career.

Ronald Acuña Jr. - 2019 (41 Home Runs, 37 Stolen Bases)

Acuña's 37 stolen bases in 2019 led the league and he also scored 127 runs. At age 21.

Keep an eye on **Ronnie Gajownik**. She is one of only 11 women coaches in pro baseball. Eight years ago, Gajownik was playing softball for the University of South Florida and baseball for the U.S. women's national team, which won gold at the Pan Am Games. Three years ago, she was the hitting and outfield coach for the UMass-Amherst softball team. And now, after two seasons in pro baseball, she is the first woman manager of a High A team. This season she will manage the D'backs high A team, the Hillsboro Hops. The only other woman manager, **Rachel Balcomec**, will soon start her second season as manager of the Low A Tampa Tarpons.

Gajownik wears number 34 as an homage to former Cubs ace **Kerry Wood**. After a year as an intern with Hillsboro, Gajownik was assigned to coach in the Rookie Arizona Complex League. But when Javier Colina, coach of the Double-A Amarillo Sod Poodles, injured his foot when he was struck by a ball in the batting cage, Arizona sent her there to replace him.

The Hops begin their season April 6 in Pasco, Wash., against the Tri-City Dust Devils. Good seats still available.



Happy trails to **Darren O'Day**, who announced his retirement this week after 15 seasons in MLB. The submariner feels like a quintessential Guy to Remember: a reliever with a funky delivery who was good enough to stick around for a long, long time while never really being a star. In some ways, though, he's in a class all his own: He's the only reliever ever to pitch more than 600 innings with an ERA under 3.00 while never being a closer (25 career saves or fewer). O'Day pitched in 644 games over 15 seasons in the majors for the Angels, Mets, Rangers, Orioles, Braves and Yankees.

The Red Sox traded reliever Matt Barnes to the Marlins last week. I was surprised to read in the Globe that Barnes left the Red Sox with the third-most pitching appearances (486) in franchise history, behind **Bob Stanley** (637) and **Tim Wakefield** (590).

Another tidbit from the Globe's Sunday Baseball Notes-- unsigned free agent **Michael Wacha** has held **Aaron Judge** is 0 for 15 with 10 strikeouts and three walks against him. No other pitcher who has faced Judge more than 10 times has held the Yankee slugger hitless.

Today marks the 89th anniversary of **Henry Aaron's** birth, and Monday marks the 128th anniversary of **Babe Ruth's** birth. It remains mind-blowing to think that both started their affiliated MLB careers with Boston teams — Ruth when he was purchased by the Red Sox from the Baltimore Orioles of the International League in 1914, and Aaron when he was acquired by the Boston Braves from the Indianapolis Clowns of the Negro American League in 1952, less than a year before Boston's National League team moved to Milwaukee.

While Mets fans are pretty happy in Cohen-world, on the horizon they need to sign **Pete Alonso**.

The best recent comp for an Alonso extension is **Matt Olson**, a slugging first baseman who signed with the Braves before the 2022 season. Like Alonso right now, Olson had two years of arbitration eligibility left when he inked his deal. His career up to that point looked like this:

Matt Olson

Age: Entering age-28 season

Career WAR: 18.3

Career OPS+: 134

Career HR: 142

Deal: Eight years, \$168 million

Compare that to ...

Pete Alonso

Age: Entering age-28 season

Career WAR: 14.2

Career OPS+: 140

Career HR: 146

Deal: ???

Alonso would certainly want to beat Olson's deal, either by negotiating for additional years or value; MLB.com's Jon Morosi recently estimated that it would take around eight years and \$200 million to lock up Alonso, which feels about right. That would at least be enough to get both sides in the room seriously talking.

However, there's the Mets' payroll to consider; it's already about \$80 million above MLB's highest Competitive Balance Tax threshold, even with Alonso on a relatively modest \$14.5 million arbitration contract. Waiting to sign Alonso would allow Cohen to avoid additional tax over the next two seasons, so there's at least some incentive for the Mets to stand pat -- that is, unless Alonso accepts a hometown discount or defers significant amounts of salary. Remember, the Mets were willing to sign **Jeff McNeil** to a \$50 million extension because he agreed to a somewhat below-market deal. If Alonso isn't keen to do the same, the equation changes.

The Royals announced they will bring back the powder blue uniforms they wore in the 70's and 80's. **George Brett, Amos Otis, John Mayberry, Frank White, Dan Quisenberry**. Good teams. Couldn't beat the Yankees in the playoffs. The powder blues were worn from 1973-91, including during their World Series-winning season in '85, before the club switched to the road grays. Brett played the most games for the Royals in the powder blue era—2,410 games.

Interesting contrast—Dodgers are charging \$25 for pictures with **Gavin Lux, Brusdar Graterol, Miguel Vargas, Alex Vesia and Noah Syndergaard**. If you want to tour their garden, you'll have to pay \$45. To tour the press box, it'll cost another \$45. If your kid wants to meet **Mookie Betts**, it will cost you \$250. If you want to hold a player's bat, it costs \$60.

The Dodgers are taking advantage of their fans while the Padres are making sure every fan has a FanFest experience to remember—for free.

Miller Huggins, Branch Rickey, Tony LaRussa. All Hall of Famers. All managed the Cardinals. All have a law degree.

Jim Bouton played with 5 different teammates who in their careers won two consecutive MVP awards:

Yogi Berra 1954-55

Mickey Mantle 1956-57

Roger Maris 1960-61

Joe Morgan (1975-76)

Dale Murphy 1982-83



Red Sox gear being loaded at Fenway for the journey to spring training. JetBlue didn't get the ad space on the truck for free.

As part of Black History Month mlb.com is running some great videos. Here re 60 seconds of 1971 All Star game pitchers Doc Elis and Vida Blue.

https://www.mlb.com/video/black-history-month-1971-asg?t=bhm&partnerId=zh-20230202-819415-mlb-1-A&qid=1026&utm_id=zh-20230202-819415-mlb-1-A&bt_ee=6Q55TUuYfmcoVrET9bVa61BWGSBSKL6gTgRXHOPEP%2FLO%2B%2FN9h5CI7B5ig0DNgHiZ&bt_ts=1675346268266

Estaban Yan was a righthanded pitcher who threw for 7 teams over 11 seasons. Thanks to the DH:

1 st plate appearance – HR on 1 st pitch	6/4/2000 Devil Rays
2 nd PA – Sac bunt on second pitch	6/4/2000 Devil Rays
3 rd PA Bunt single on second pitch	6/30/2003 Cardinals

Saw 4 pitches in the majors. 2 for 2. 1.000 batting average in each league. That's a 2.500 slugging pct and 3.500 OPS.

Speaking of pitchers batting – **Ron Guidry** holds the record for most pitching wins without a regular season at-bat. Guidry won 170 games for the Yankees. He did have 9 plate appearances in the World Series without a hit.

Lefty Grove led the American League in ERA nine times including 4 years in a row from 1929-1932 with the Philadelphia A's.

Rod Carew is the only American League batting champ not to hit an HR in the season he led the league in batting.

Wee Willie Keeler of the 1897 Baltimore Orioles, **Ginger Beaumont** of the 1902 Pirates and **Zack Wheat** for the 1918 Brooklyn Robins did it in the National League.

You probably remember **Hal Newhouser**, lefty pitcher who won back-to-back MVPs for the 1944-45 Tigers, from our recent trivia question. Three year stretch--Newhouser went 26-9 in 1946 to lead the league in wins, 17-17 in 1947 to lead the league in losses, 21-12 in 1948 to lead the league in wins.

TRADES THAT GM'S REGRETTED

Last week's item on bad trades (it wasn't meant to be exhaustive) brought several emails with other trades the GMs could have used a do-over. Tell me you don't say "ouch" to each of these:

1936 Athletics trade **Jimmie Foxx and Johnny Marcum** to Boston for **Gordon Rhodes, George Savino** and \$150,000.

1964 Cubs trade **Lou Brock, Jack Spring and Paul Toth** to Cards for **Ernie Broglio, Doug Clemens, Bobby Shantz**

1966 Reds trade **Frank Robinson** to Orioles for **Milt Pappas, Jack Baldschun, Dick Simpson**

1970 Yankees trade **Stan Bahnsen** to White Sox for **Rich McKinney**

1972 Yankees trade **Danny Cater** to Red Sox for **Sparky Lyle**

1972 Houston trades **Joe Morgan, Ed Armbrister, Jack Billingham, Cesar Geronimo and Denis Menke** to Cincinnati for **Tommy Helms, Lee May and Jimmy Stewart**

1972 St. Louis trades **Steve Carlton** to Philadelphia for **Rick Wise**

1976 Pittsburgh trades **Willie Randolph, Ken Brett and Doc Ellis** to New York for **Doc Medich**

1982 Padres Trade **Ozzie Smith** to the Cardinals for **Al Olmsted**

1986 Yankees trade **Fred McGriff, Dave Collins, Mike Morgan** and cash to Toronto for **Tom Dodd and Dale Murray**

1988 Seattle Mariners receive **Jay Buhner, Rich Balaban and Troy Evers**, New York Yankees receive **Ken Phelps**

1989 Rangers Trade **Sammy Sosa** to White Sox for **Harold Baines**

1989 Montreal Expos traded pitchers **Randy Johnson, Gene Harris, and Brian Holman** to the Seattle Mariners for pitchers **Mark Langston and Mike Campbell**

1991 Orioles Trade **Curt Schilling, Pete Harnisch and Steve Finley** for Astros **Glen Davis**

1992 Houston trades **Kenny Lofton and Dave Rohde** to Cleveland for **Willie Blair and Ed Taubensee**

1993 Atlanta Braves receive **Fred McGriff**, San Diego Padres receive **Vince Moore, Donnie Elliott and Melvin Nieves**

1995 **New York Yankees** receive **David Cone**, **Toronto Blue Jays** receive **Jason Jarvis, Mike Gordon and Marty Janzen**

1996 Boston trades **Jamie Moyer** to Seattle for **Darren Bragg**

1997 Mariners ship **Jason Varitek** and **Derek Lowe** to Boston for **Heathcliff Slocumb**

1997 A's **Mark McGwire** Traded to the Cardinals for **T.J. Matthews, Blake Stein or Eric Ludwick**

1997 **Philadelphia Phillies** receive **Bobby Abreu**, **Tampa Bay Devil Rays** receive **Kevin Stocker**

1998 Astros trade **Randy Johnson** to Mariners for **Freddy Garcia, John Halama and infielder Carlos Guillen**

1998 Montreal trades **Pedro Martinez** to Boston for **Carl Pavano and Tony Armas Jr.**

1999 Detroit trades **Luis Gonzalez** to Arizona for **Karim Garcia**

2003 Giants Trade Pitchers **Joe Nathan, Francisco Liriano** for Twins **A.J. Pierzynski**

2008 Pittsburgh trades **Jose Bautista** to Toronto for **Robinson Diaz**

2008 Florida trades **Miguel Cabrera and Dontrelle Willis** to Detroit for **Dallas Trahern, Burke Badenhop, Frankie De La Cruz, Cameron Maybin, Andrew Miller and Mike Rabelo**

2012 San Diego trades **Anthony Rizzo and Zach Cates** to Chicago for **Kyung-Min Na and Andrew Cashner**

TOOLS OF IGNORANCE

Tommy Gilligan/USA TODAY Sports

Last night, MLB Network concluded its annual Top 10 Right Now list of players at every position with its ranking of the best catchers in the league entering the 2023 season.

All of the positional lists are good starting points for fun baseball debates. Is **Corbin Burnes** really the best starting pitcher in the game? Are there really four third basemen who are better than **Nolan Arenado**? My quick answer to both of these prompts is no.

Let's take a look at the list of catchers because it offers an interesting window into the state of the position right now.

MLB Network's Top 10 Catchers:

1. **J.T. Realmuto**, Phillies
2. **Will Smith**, Dodgers
3. **Adley Rutschman**, Orioles
4. **Sean Murphy**, Braves
5. **Willson Contreras**, Cardinals
6. **Alejandro Kirk**, Blue Jays
7. **Travis d'Arnaud**, Braves
8. **Salvador Perez**, Royals
9. **Danny Jansen**, Blue Jays
10. **Tyler Stephenson**, Reds

Realmuto, Smith and Rutschman are far and away the best at the position. They do everything well and are the cornerstones of contending franchises. Yes, that includes the Orioles, who

have the best collection of young talent in the sport and should make a postseason push this year, even if they ultimately fall short.

The next tier features three All-Star-level talents—Murphy, Contreras and Kirk—who excel at several components of the game but lack the upside of the top three guys.

There's a considerable drop-off after Kirk. Perez and d'Arnaud are viable veterans with good track records, but they have some clear weaknesses that could become more pronounced as they age.

Finally, there's Jansen and Stephenson, both of whom spent a lot of time on the injured list last season but played quite well when they were on the field. Of the final four catchers here, Stephenson is the one to keep an eye on this year. He's the youngest of the quartet with the highest offensive ceiling. If he stays healthy, he could shoot into the top five in time for next year's list.

But here's where things get *really* interesting: Two teams control 40% of the players on the list, with two of those catchers projected to be platoon players against lefties.

Atlanta's trade for Murphy in December came as a bit of a surprise because the team already had two All-Star catchers in 2022: d'Arnaud and William Contreras. There was a place in the lineup for both of them. Contreras, as a strong hitting catcher with defensive limitations, was a natural fit for DH. He could start behind the plate when d'Arnaud was hurt or needed a day off and still get regular at bats when he wasn't catching. In this way, Contreras was the catching equivalent of a super utility man. He could play most days, even if there was someone ahead of him on the depth chart.

Murphy's arrival relegates d'Arnaud into what I'll call the super backup catcher role. And while Murphy is a considerable upgrade over the d'Arnaud-Contreras tandem, d'Arnaud doesn't offer the same offensive upside at DH that Contreras did. That said, d'Arnaud is well suited to start mostly against lefties.

His platoon splits last season and in his career:

2022 vs. LHP — .341/.375/.571 (.946 OPS)

2022 vs. RHP — .246/.303/.443 (.746 OPS)

Career vs. LHP — .269/.334/.459 (.794 OPS)

Career vs. RHP — .247/.305/.417 (.722 OPS)

Meanwhile, the Blue Jays entered this offseason with three catchers capable of starting in the big leagues—Kirk, Jansen and Gabriel Moreno, who was their top prospect before they traded him to the Diamondbacks in December for **Daulton Varsho**, an outfielder who also has big league catching experience.

Kirk, 24, emerged as one of the best young players in the American League last season and should be the starting catcher in Toronto for many years to come. That pushes Jansen into that super backup gig. A right-handed hitter, Jansen is expected to platoon at DH against lefties, with the veteran Brandon Belt starting vs. righties. Interestingly, Jansen has been better in his career when facing righties than he is against lefties.

2022 vs. LHP — .226/.373/.453 (.826 OPS)

2022 vs. RHP — .272/.326/.537 (.863 OPS)

Career vs. LHP — .195/.298/.376 (.675 OPS)

Career vs. RHP — .235/.311/.444 (.755 OPS)

He was quite good against lefties last season, but that .826 OPS came in the small sample of 67 plate appearances. The thing is, Jansen has never carried the workload of a full-time player. His 72 games last season are the second most he's played in a year, behind his 107 games in 2019. His inclusion in the top 10 says much more about the lack of depth at the position than it does about Jansen's ability.

That lack of depth is crucial to understanding why these two teams have decided to keep the multiple top-10 catchers. Catching is a grind; injuries happen. Having a quality backup provides insurance in the event that the starter gets hurt. Plus, due to the positional scarcity right now, rostering two starting-caliber catchers means some teams don't have any. Actually, if Varsho were still a primary catcher, he would have a fairly good case to be on this top-10 list. So, you could say half of the 10 most talented catchers in the league, if you include Varsho, will be playing for one of two teams in 2023. That's wild.

THIS WEEK'S FUN EXPLORING BASEBALL-ALMANAC.COM

Career sac fly career leader – **Cal Ripken Jr.** 127

NL sac fly career leader – **Hank Aaron** 113

(**Eddie Murray** had 125 across both leagues)

Most sac flies in a season – **Gil Hodges** 19 for 1954 Dodgers

AL most sac flies in a season--**Bobby Bonilla** 17 for 1996 Orioles and Roy White for the 1971 Yankees

(Bonilla also holds the NL season record for a switch hitter with 15 with 1990 Pirates tied with **Howard Johnson** for the 1991 Mets.

Most sac flies in a season by a lefty—**Don Mattingly** 15 for the 1985 Yankees.

11 players are tied for most sac flies in a game with 3 including **George Bell, Juan Gonzalez, Don Mattingly, Edgar Martinez, Ernie Banks and Vince Coleman.**

The 1971 Padres hit a record low 17 sac flies all season.

The 1984 A's hold the record for most in a season with 77.

Brooks Robinson led the American League in sacrifice flies during 1962 (10), 1964 (10), 1967 (8), and 1968 (8) — a league leading 4 times. **Ron Santo & Johnny Bench** led the National League in sacrifice flies during 1963 (11), 1967 (12) & 1969 (14) then 1970 (11), 1972 (12) & 1973 (10) — respectively, a league leading 3 times.

In the entire history of baseball, three Major League players are tied for most at-bats without a single sacrifice fly in a season. Each had six-hundred eighty at-bats and zero sacrifice flies. They are: **Pete Rose** of the Cincinnati Reds (1973), **Frank Taveras** of the Pittsburgh Pirates / New York Mets (1979) & **Kirby Puckett** of the Minnesota Twins (1986).

THE SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN BASEBALL RESEARCH (SABR) ANNOUNCED FINALISTS FOR ITS 2023 SABR ANALYTICS CONFERENCE RESEARCH AWARDS.

The awards recognize baseball researchers who have completed the best work of original analysis or commentary during the preceding calendar year.

Nominations were solicited by representatives from SABR, Baseball Prospectus, FanGraphs, the Internet Baseball Writers Association of America, and Sports Info Solutions.

You can read the nominees at Sabr.org

Categories include **Contemporary Baseball Analysis, Contemporary Baseball Commentary, Historical Baseball Analysis/Commentary.**

Some interesting titles:

Michael Baumann, "The Playoffs Aren't Too Big. The League Is Way Too Small," FanGraphs, October 4, 2022.

Lindsey Adler, "Why the Yankees pitching staff is embracing a new slider and how the 'whirly' is different from a traditional slider," The Athletic, April 4, 2022.

Ethan Rendon, Elijah Emery, Will Sugar and Tieran Alexander, "The Mystic Art of Pitch Tunneling," Prospects Live, August 23, 2022.

Jerry Nechal, "Were Pitchers More Likely to Throw at Black Batters? 1947–66," *SABR Baseball Research Journal*, Fall 2022.

Alex Eisert, "More Than a Putout Puzzle: Revisiting the Problem of Outfield Alignment," FanGraphs, December 5, 2022.

Russell A. Carleton, "So You've Decided to Ban the Shift," Baseball Prospectus, March 9, 2022.

Winners announced March 10-12 at the SABR annual convention.

HALL OF FAME

Well, the discussions haven't faded as fast as I expected. Several emails this week. I have been an advocate of a larger HOF. One reader offered a well-argued counter.

*Why bravo for **Scott Rolen**? A HOFer, to me, must pass the simple eye test. or a simple question: "would you go to a game, watch a game, thinking about Scott Rolen much, or at all?" I never did.*

Steve Garvey never got 50% of the votes. 6 top ten MVP votes, including a 1st. and 2nd.

Would you pick Keith Hernandez or Scott Rolen for your team?

*And, while I'm ranting, I'd pick **Vlad Guerrero** over **Derek Jeter** every time. Montreal vs. NY, of course. If he played in N.Y. they'd compare him to **Joe DiMaggio** (no one likes hyperbole more than Yankee fans). And Vladdy had to wait a year!*

I find the "would you pay to go to a game to see Scott Rolen?" question interesting. I thought back to the players I had paid to see—**Rickey Henderson, Don Mattingly, Ron Guidry, Pedro Martinez, Nolan Ryan, Vida Blue, Dick Allen, Reggie Jackson, George Brett**. 5 are deservedly in the Hall. The others I found exciting. Scott Rolen wouldn't drive a ticket purchase for me.

Think about that dynamic as you consider who from the following mlb.com list would you put in if you had the power?

Best players eligible but not in HOF by position—Matt Kelly's opinion from mlb.com. 73 players by position—he picks one (underlined) from each that he would drop into Cooperstown if he could.

C **Bill Freehan, Thurman, Munson, Jorge Posada, Gene Tenace**

1B **Todd Helton, Don Mattingly, Mark McGwire, Rafael Palmiero**

2B **Bobby Grich, Jeff Kent, Lou Whitaker**

SS ***Bill Dahlen, Jim Fregosi, Nomar Garciaparra, ARod, Jimmy Rollins, Miguel Tejada, Omar Vizquel***

3B **Dick Allen, Sal Bando, Ken Boyer, *Graig Nettles***

LF **Barry Bonds, Manny Ramirez, Pete Rose**

CF **Carlos Beltran, Jim Edmonds, Andruw Jones, Kenny Lofton, Dale Murphy, Jim Wynn**

RF **Bobby Abreu, Dwight Evans, Shoeless Joe Jackson, Dave Parker, Gary Sheffield, Reggie Smith, Sammy Sosa**

DH **Don Baylor, Hal McRae**

RSP **Kevin Brown, Roger Clemens, Eddie Cicotte, David Cone, *Orel Hershiser, Tim Lincecum, Roy Oswalt, Curt Schilling, Dave Stieb, Luis Tiant***

LSP ***Mark Buehrle, Ron Guidry, Tommy John, Jimmy Key, Mickey Lolich, Andy Pettitte, Johan Santana***

RRP ***Keith Foulke, Tom Gordon, Tom Henke, Firpo Mayberry, Joe Nathan, Jonathan Pappelbon, Troy Percival, Dan Quisenberry, Francisco Rodríguez, Kent Tekulve, John Wetteland***

LRP **John Franco, Sparky Lyle, Tug McGraw, Randy Myers, Billy Wagner**

It is the age-old question. Where do you draw the line between elite and very good? If you ruled Cooperstown for a day, who would you drop in?

Tom Verducci in Sports Illustrated

Biggest Snub

Despite picking up 52 votes, Jeff Kent fell 111 votes short of election in his 10th and final year of eligibility on the writers' ballot, never cracking 50% of the vote. The all-time leader in home runs and 100-RBI seasons by a second baseman is likely to gain election in December 2025 by the Contemporary Baseball Era committee.

Most Momentum

Billy Wagner, the most difficult pitcher to hit in baseball history (minimum 900 innings) received between 10.5%, 10.2% and 11.1% of the vote in his first three years on the ballot. He's continued to steadily gain ground in the five elections since: 16.7%, 31.7%, 46.4%, 51.0% and now 68.1%. He has two years to pick up that last 6.9%.

Wagner struck out 11.9 batters per nine innings during his career, the most of any pitcher who threw at least 900 innings.

Most Reinforced Trend

PED-tainted guys are not getting in. **Gary Sheffield** did get a bump to 55%, but he's not picking up 20% in what will be his final year on the ballot next year. **Alex Rodriguez**, **Manny Ramírez** and **Andy Pettitte** are going nowhere. In a weak ballot where many players made double-digit percentage leaps, Rodriguez (35.7%) picked up just four votes. Ramirez (33.2%), in his seventh year of eligibility, gained 15 votes—yet still received 10 fewer votes than Rodriguez. Pettitte added 24 votes, from 42 to 66, but is at only 17% with five years left.

Most Obvious Penalty

Despite Hall-worthy numbers, **Carlos Beltrán** received 46.5% support in his first year on the ballot. His role in the 2017 Astros' sign-stealing scandal was too outsized and too recent for voters to ignore. Was it just a one-year penalty? Beltrán is likely to get a good bump next year but probably needs a handful of years to get in. His statistical doppelgänger, Andre Dawson, needed nine ballots to get in.

Next Up

This year's ballot was relatively thin. According to the BBWAA website, the average number of votes per ballot decreased from 7.11 to 5.86; 13.9% of voters submitted 10-player ballots, down from 33.8% in 2021.

Next year, notable players such as Beltré, Joe Mauer, Chase Utley, David Wright and Matt Holliday make their debuts on the writers' ballot. Beltré is the only one who will almost certainly get elected in his first year of eligibility, but Mauer and, to a lesser extent, Utley should get more than enough support to stay on the ballot and be in a good position to climb in future elections. Wright and Holliday will be closer to the cut mark, and it'll be interesting to see whether they can earn enough votes to avoid the one-and-done fate.

Jayson Stark in The Athletic has a fun list—players who received 1 HOF vote.

It's *not* every darned year when a guy comes along and gets exactly one vote for the Hall of Fame and joins the exalted club we honor today. In fact, it's not even every decade when *five* players get one vote — no more, no fewer — as happened this year.

MOST PLAYERS TO GET EXACTLY ONE VOTE*

1991 — 7

2001 — 6

2008 — 5

2022 — 5

*(*Since 1985, the inception of the 5 percent rule, which knocks players like this off the ballot)*

1B **Mike Napoli** over **John Kruk**

2B **Bret Boone** over **Eric Young (Sr.)**

SS **Shawon Dunston** over **Walt Weiss**

3B **Terry Pendleton** over **Ray Knight** and **Tim Wallach**

LF **Raúl Ibañez** over **Garrett Anderson**

CF **Darin Erstad** over **Lenny Dykstra**

RF **Jay Buhner** over **David Justice**

C **Darren Daulton** over **Javy Lopez**

DH **Adam Dunn** over **Cecil Fielder**

SP **Bronson Arroyo, R.A. Dickey** and **John Lackey**, because they all got exactly one vote apiece this year. Then I'm going with **Jim Deshaies, Mike Krukow** and **Ron Darling**

RP **Huston Street** got one vote this year, so he's in. Then I'm going with **Steve Bedrosian** and **Mark Davis** to honor their Cy Young Awards, **Jesse Orosco** and **Randy Myers** to honor their left-handedness, **Tim Wakefield** to honor his "knuckleballishness," and **Armando Benitez**.

The All-'Seems Like They Should Have Gotten More Than One Vote' Team

- **Kenny Rogers**
- **Livan Hernandez**
- **Chuck Finley**
- **David Justice**
- **Jesse Orosco**

Cy Young Memorabilia Division

- **Barry Zito**
- **Pat Hentgen**
- **R.A. Dickey**

- **Mark Davis**
- **Steve Bedrosian**

Special One-And-Not-Done Achievement Award

Jose Rijo*

*(*Retired in 1996 ... got exactly one vote in 2001 ... then unretired ... and got no votes in his second appearance on the ballot in 2008!)*

TOUGH TIMES IN THE NATION'S CAPITOL

From Joe Sheehan's excellent newsletter

No baseball team was as wrecked by the pandemic as the Nationals were. One of the earliest pieces of research into the relationship between performance and attendance showed that teams didn't cash in a championship in the championship season, but the year after. Fans you already had buy more tickets, more merch, more beers. Fans you didn't have get swept up in the excitement and jump on board. The effect varies based on your established baseline -- the Royals have more room to add fans than the Dodgers do -- but the principle, that the gains are realized in the year after, hold true.

Even when the team immediately tore down the championship roster, like the 1998 and 2004 Marlins, the team sold 1.7 million tickets. The 1994 Blue Jays played just 59 home games due to the strike and drew 2.9 million. The 1981 Phillies played just 55 home games due to the other strike and drew 1.6 million. The 2022 Oakland A's lost 100 games in the aftermath of a pandemic and actively chased their fans away in a way that makes the opening scenes of "Moneyball" look like a Steve Cohen shopping spree. They sold 787,000 tickets.

The 2020 Washington Nationals, off a stunning run to the first World Series and first championship in franchise history, sold 0.

So it's hard to come down too hard on them for what has happened in the three seasons since that championship. Faced with tough decisions after that title, the Nationals chose to let **Anthony Rendon** leave as a free agent, while signing **Stephen Strasburg** to a seven-year contract. Neither player has been healthy since, but Strasburg has been an extreme case: eight starts, 31 1/3 innings, \$105 million in three years. The rotation that had been so effective during the playoff run collapsed in 2020, and the Nationals couldn't overcome a 12-24 start, missing the expanded playoffs by three games. In 2021, they opened the season with attendance restrictions for two months. By the time the park was fully opened June 9, the Nationals were 24-33 -- 50-67 since that dogpile in Houston -- and rumors of a fire sale were swirling. **Max Scherzer and Trea Turner** would be traded that July, leaving only Strasburg,

Patrick Corbin, and Juan Soto from that championship-winning core. A year later, Soto would also be traded.

The 2019 Nationals will stand alone in history as the team that never got to build on its championship. The effect of the pandemic on the team's arc will continue to be felt as it attempts its first rebuild in more than a decade.

HOW HAS THE NEW MLB SCHEDULE CHANGED?

Some notes from Jayson Stark in The Athletic

Editor's note—in sixth grade if you asked me what I wanted for a career the answer was the job of making the MLB schedule. At the time it was done manually by a couple in Queens, NY. They took requests and rules and drew up the schedule. On paper. Now of course it's computerized but a lot goes into it from union restrictions on consecutive game days to the Red Sox playing at home on Patriots Day.

You might have missed it last March, when MLB teased this epic schedule remake as it was ticking off all the stuff settled in the labor deal. But buried inside those new luxury tax thresholds was this major scheduling earthquake:

Old-fashioned unbalanced schedule? See ya!

Every team playing all 29 other teams every year? Hello!

It's true. That's happening. Now here's a quick rundown of how the world has changed:

GAMES VS. OWN DIVISION (52): In the olden days, by which we mean last year, every team played 76 games against its own division. That computes to 19 games — and six series — versus every division opponent. Not anymore. That number has been chopped to 13 games against each division opponent, spread out over four series (two at home, two on the road). Repeat after us: Less is more.

GAMES VS. OTHER 10 LEAGUE OPPONENTS (64): Each club will now play every other team in its league in one series at home and one on the road, for a total of either six or seven games per opponent. Not much has changed there. Those 64 total games are only two fewer than the old total, of 66.

INTERLEAGUE GAMES (46): This is where it gets wild. Oh, not the part where every team faces its designated interleague “rival” four times — two games at home, two on the road. Been there, seen that. But ...

Where do those other 42 interleague games come from? They come from what we’re declaring is the most dramatic scheduling change in the history of this sport. You know those remaining 14 teams in the other league? Your team will now be matched up against every darned one of them, three games apiece, every year, for the first time in the modern era.

So if **Julio Rodríguez** doesn’t play in your town this season, he’ll stop by next season. It’s a beautiful thing. There used to be 19 or 20 interleague games a year. Now MLB will more than double that. And in this case, more actually is more.

When interleague play began a quarter-century ago, it was a tease and an oddity. But in 2023, it’s no longer any of that. It’s everywhere. It’s every night. It’s every team. And if you miss those days when there was a sense of mystery and distinction between the two leagues ... well, sorry. Baseball clearly isn’t in the nostalgia business anymore.

What were they thinking?

It isn’t 1968 anymore. It isn’t 1998 anymore. The planet has spun in ways nobody would have seen coming in the early days of interleague play. Baseball is simply spinning with it.

For a long time now, the **NBA** has leaned into its stars to drive its sport and industry. It has used the schedule masterfully and creatively to do that. Now MLB is taking its own steps down that path, in a way that the realities of the modern sports landscape and the modern sports fan are pretty much demanding it take.

I can sum up those steps in two words: **Shohei Ohtani**.

Now here come 10 more: *He’s about to play against that team you root for!*

And finally, there are these two words: *Every year*.

Look, here’s the truth: Baseball is a regional sport. It can try to convince you: *Hey, Ohtani is a superhero. Stay up late and watch him some night*. But you know what’s way more powerful? *You don’t have to open that MLB app to find him. He’s playing next week in your city*.

You can fill in the name of any monster star-power dude you want there. ... **Mike Trout** ... **Aaron Judge** ... **Mookie Betts** ... **Max Scherzer**. Whoever that star is, he is going to face that team you care about. Every year.

That’s the driving force behind shifting to a schedule format like this one. *Promote the game. Promote the stars. And we’ll deliver them to your doorstep, just like Uber Eats*. Under this

format, every team will play games in 22 ballparks every season. It was 18 under the old format. That's a critical part of this scheduling logic.

"The whole genesis of this idea," says MLB's chief operations and strategy officer, Chris Marinak, "was, we play 162 games. We don't play 16 or 17 games. We have great players, and we have players who are making national storylines. So to get them in front of as many fans as possible only helps players tell their story."

Some Fallout

The Mets will take only two trips to the Pacific Time Zone all season — an April spin through Oakland, Los Angeles and San Francisco, then a July journey to Arizona and San Diego. That's the fewest trips west of any team in the NL East or AL East. But ...

The Phillies and Nationals will each pass through the Pacific Time Zone on *four* trips, the most of any teams in the NL East or AL East.

The A's and Diamondbacks will make *six* trips that take them through the Eastern Time Zone — the most of any western-division teams.

The Padres, meanwhile, will make only four trips to the Eastern Time Zone. That's the fewest of any West Coast team.

So how did something like that happen? It's not just random scheduling, it turns out.

Before it made up this schedule, MLB asked all 30 teams for special requests and travel preferences. At least in part, the schedule reflects those requests.

So teams such as the Mariners and Giants, who do a lot of flying no matter what the schedule looks like, tell MLB their preference is to take more three-city trips when they're traveling across the country. So if they're traveling east, they might as well see as much of the east as possible. The upside of that is fewer total road trips and less multi-time-zone travel.

But other teams, like the Phillies, would rather do shorter trips — two cities, then back home — wherever possible. So that gives them more regular homestands and more flexible home scheduling. But in this case, it also means they find themselves making trips like Milwaukee/San Diego or Houston/Los Angeles.

Got it? That doesn't explain all of this. But you should know there's an actual method to this travel madness.

The Yankees will play as many games in April against the Twins (six) as the AL East. And the Giants, Phillies and Padres will all visit Yankee Stadium before the Red Sox first stop by on June 9.

The Phillies will play more *series* against the American League in April (five) than they'll play *games* against the NL East (three). And they won't play a home game against the Mets or Braves until June 20!

The Giants have been known to play the whole month of April without leaving the Pacific Time Zone. But this year ... um, not so much. In fact, they spend so much time in the Eastern and Central time zones in April, that before they flip the calendar to May, they'll play *seven* games that are scheduled to start before noon, San Francisco time. And they won't play a road game in the state of California until June 16!

There are lots more examples like that, but you get the idea. So what's that all about? It's about an aspect of scheduling most of us never think about — makeup games.

Why did the schedule gurus line up so many out-of-division games early in the season whenever possible? Because those are the hardest to make up if weather stuff happens. And weather stuff *will* happen.

Now that every team plays 110 games outside its division, finding common off days is a much bigger challenge. So April and May are loaded with those games, to provide as much flexibility as possible to reschedule them later if necessary

DIFFERENT DRUMMER

John Adams died Monday morning at the age of 71.

His drumbeat was the heartbeat of every Cleveland baseball season for the past half-century, year after year, through miserable slogs during chilly evenings on the lakefront to those magical moments that only October can deliver. That ballpark memory you clutch onto dearly? Adams' steady beat was its soundtrack.

He was a staple, a constant, a comforting presence perched beneath the scoreboard. He was always there, no matter the team's record, the month of the year, or his other obligations in life. He missed only 45 games from Aug. 24, 1973 — when he first lugged his 26-inch bass drum to Municipal Stadium— through the 2019 season.

Nearly every game for five decades — almost 4,000 contests. Last season, the team inducted him into its Distinguished Hall of Fame, and honored him with a bench in Heritage Park with a bronze sculpture of his drum.



FROM MACKEY TO MANTLE...A LOOK AT MLB'S SWITCH HITTING LEADERS

Last week's trivia question on switch hitters who hit 40 or more HRs in a season led to Baseballroundtable.com and lots more switch-hitting stuff.

Who was the first switch-hitter not named **Mickey Mantle** to reach 40 HRs in a season?

On August 11, 1956, in the seventh inning of a Yankees' 10-5 loss to the Orioles (in New York), Yankees' CF **Mickey Mantle** took the Orioles' **Hal Brown** deep to RF for a three-run home run – becoming the first MLB switch-hitter to reach *40 home runs* in a season. Just over one month later (September 18, 1956), Mantle popped his fiftieth long ball of the campaign (off **Billy Pierce** in the eleventh inning of a 3-2 Yankees' win in Chicago) – becoming the first switch-hitter to reach *50 home runs* in a single season. (Mantle finished the year at .353-52-130; winning the Triple Crown.)

Mantle is still the only switch hitter to hit 50 home runs in a season. (He did it once again with 54 long balls in 1961). Mantle remained the only switch-hitter to reach 40 homers in a season

for (appropriately) 40 years. Since 1996, six switch-hitters have joined Mantle in the 40-home run club.



So ***“Who was the first switch-hitter not named Mickey Mantle to reach 40 home runs in a season?”***

The answer is Mets’ catcher **Todd Hundley**, who hit his 40th round tripper of the 1996 season in the seventh inning of a Mets’ September 8 win over the Braves in Atlanta. (Side note: *Another switch-hitter, the Braves’ **Chipper Jones**, in just his second full MLB season, hit his 30th home run of the campaign in the same game. Jones, by the way, was at shortstop for that contest.*) It didn’t take long for a third switch-hitter to join the 40-homer club. Nineteen days after Hundley’s blast, the Padres’ switch-hitting 3B **Ken Caminiti**, hit his 40th long ball of the 1996 season. Hundley finished the 1996 season at .259-41-112, achieving would be his career high in home runs, RBI, runs scored (85), hits (149) and doubles (32).

Before we go on to look at some additional switch-hitting record holders, a little more about Todd Hundley. Hundley had some good baseball genes. He was the son of **Randy Hundley**, who played catcher in 14 MLB seasons (1964-77) – and was a one-time All Star (1969 Cubs). The younger Hundley also played in 14 MLB seasons (1990-2003) and outdid his father with two All Star selections and a .234-202-599 stat line to his father’s .236-82-281.

Todd Hundley was a second-round draft pick (Mets) in 1987 (out of William Fremd High School). He made his major-league debut (as a 20-year-old) on May 18, 1990. Over his 14-season MLB career (1990-2003 ... Mets, Dodgers, Cubs), he topped 20 home runs in four seasons and 100 RBI once. Hundley’s best MLB seasons were clearly 1996 and 1997. He followed his 1996 .259-41-112 stat line with .273-30-98 in 1997.

MLB Switch-Hitting Single-Season Leaders

Batting Average (*minimum 3.1 appearances per team game played*)

Biz Mackey , 1923 Hilldale Club, Eastern Colored League	.423
Tuck Turner , 1894 Philadelphia Phillies, National League	.418
Jim West , 1937 Washington Elite Giants, Negro National League II	.394

Home Runs

Mickey Mantle , 1961 New York Yankees, American League	54
Mickey Mantle , 1956 New York Yankees, American League	52
Chipper Jones , 1999 Atlanta Braves, National League	45
Lance Berman , 2006 Houston Astros, National League	45

RBI

Mark Teixeira , 2005 Texas Rangers, American League	144
Lance Berkman , 2006 Astros, National League	136
George Davis , 1897 New York Giants	135

MLB Switch-Hitting Career Leaders

Batting Average (*minimum 3,000 plate appearances*)

Biz Mackey , 1920-29, 1933-41, 1945-47	.328
Cool Papa Bell , 1922-37, 1942-46	.325
Roger Connor , 1880-1897	.3164
Frankie Frisch , 1919-37	.3161

Home Runs

Mickey Mantle , 1951-68	536
Eddie Murray , 1977-97	504
Chipper Jones , 1993, 1995-2012	468

RBI

Eddie Murray , 1977-97	1,917
Chipper Jones , 1993, 1995-2012	1,623
Carlos Beltran , 1998-2017	1,587

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Note: Batting average leaders in 100+ game seasons: **Tuck Turner**, 1894 Philadelphia Phillies (National League), .418 (Turner played 82 of 132 games); **Tommy Tucker**, 1889 Baltimore Orioles (American Association), .372; **Roger Connor**, 1885 New York Giants (National League), .371. **Mickey Mantle's** .365 average for the 1957 Yankees is the highest average for a switch-hitter in a post-1900 season in which his team played 100 or more games.

Biz Mackey – Career and Single-Season Batting Average

Hall of Famer **Biz Mackey** was not only a great defensive catcher, but also a versatile fielder and an offensive force. You'll find his average at the top of the list for switch-hitters in both the single-season and career categories. *Thank you, MLB for adding Negro League stats from 1920-1948 to the MLB record books.* Mackey played in 22 seasons (all in the Negro Leagues), suiting up at every defensive position (617 at C; 60 at 1B; 33 at 2B; 60 at 3B; 70 at SS; 145 in LF; 2 in CF; 22 in RF). He even took the mound seven times (three starts), albeit to a 7.52 ERA. From 1920 through 1929, Mackey hit .348-45-454 in 582 games – never averaging below .312 in any season. He played in five East-West All Star Games and in 26 Negro Leagues post-season games (hitting .327).

Mickey Mantle – Career and Single and Season Home Runs

Mickey Mantle is *the* power leader among MLB switch hitters. There have been just two seasons of 50 or more home runs by switch-hitters in MLB history and both belong to Mantle. There also have been just 11 seasons of 40 or more homers by switch-hitters in MLB history (including Mantle's two 50-HR seasons) and Mantle has four of those.

He is, as expected, also at the top of the switch-knitting career home runs list. Mantle played in 18 MLB seasons (1951-68), going .298-536-1,509. The Hall of Famer was an All Star in sixteen seasons, a three-time AL MVP and a one-time Gold Glover. He led the league in home runs four times, runs scored five times, total bases three times; RBI once and batting average once. Over his career, Mantle hit 30 or more home runs in nine campaigns.

Mantle holds the World Series records for home runs (18), RBI (40); runs scored (42), total bases (123) and walks (43).

Mark Teixeira and Eddie Murray – Single-Season and Career RBI Leaders

Mark Teixeira sent the *mark* for single-season RBI among switch hitters in 2005 – a season in which the Rangers' first baseman played all 162 games and hit .301-43-144. Teixeira played in 14 MLB seasons (2003-2016 ... Rangers, Braves, Angels, Yankees). He was a three-time All Star, hit 30+ home runs in nine seasons and drove in 100+ runs in eight. He finished with a .268-409-1,298 stat line. He also won five Gold Gloves.

Teixeira and **Nick Swisher** share the record for the most times hitting a home run from both sides of the plate in a single game at 14.

Hall of Famer **Eddie Murray** tops all switch hitters in career RBI at 1,917 (in 21 MLB seasons – 1977-97 ... Orioles, Dodgers, Mets, Indians, Angels). While he drove in 100 or more runs in six seasons, he only led the league in RBI once, with 78 in the strike-shortened 1981 season. The Hall of Famer and eight-time All Star is also one of just two switch-hitters to reach 500 career home runs. He hit 30 or more home runs in five seasons and 20 or more in another 11. Murray was the 1977 AL Rookie of the Year, an All Star in eight seasons and a three-time Gold Glover at first base. ***Over his career, Murray hit 19 Grand Slam home runs, the most by any switch-hitter.***

Eddie Murray also holds the MLB career record for career sacrifice flies with 128.

MLB Switch-Hitting Leaders		
Base Hits - Single Season		
Pete Rose, 1973	.	230
Willie Wilson, 1980		230
Frankie Frisch, 1923		223
Base Hits - Career		
Pete Rose, 1963-86		4,256
Eddie Murray, 1977-97		3,255
Frankie Frisch (1919-37)		2,880

Pete Rose and Willie Wilson – Single-Season and Career Base Hits

Pete Rose can be found atop the switch-hitter leaderboard in single-season and career base hits. In fact, he leads all batters in MLB history in career safeties. Rose played 24 MLB seasons (1963-86 ... Reds, Phillies). He is the MLB leader in games played (3,562); plate appearances (15,890); at bats (14,053); and hits (4,256).

Rose was an All Star Game starter at five different positions: 1B, 2B, 3B, LF, RF.

Rose's final career line was .303-160-1,314, with 2,165 runs scored. He was a 17-time All Star and led the league in hits seven times (ten seasons of 200+ hits); runs four times; doubles five times; and batting average three times.

Tied with Rose atop the single-season leader in base hits in season (among switch-hitters) is **Willie Wilson**, who collected 230 safeties in 1980 (for the Royals), while putting up a .326-3-49 line with a league-topping 133 runs scored. Wilson played in 19 MLB seasons (1976-1994 ... Royals, Cubs, A's). The two-time All Star won one batting title, led the league in hits once, triples four times and stolen bases once. He retired with a .285-41-585 stat line, with 1,169 runs scored and 668 stolen bases. He stole 30 or more bases in 11 seasons (forty or more in seven of those seasons), with a high of 83 (in 95 attempts) in 1979.

other Switch-Hitter Leaders:

Runs Scored: Season: **Max Carey**, 1922 Pirates (140). Career: **Pete Rose** (2,165)

Doubles: Season: **Jose Ramirez**, 2017 Indians (56). Career: **Pete Rose** (746)

Triples: Season: **George Davis**, 1893 Giants (27). Career: **Roger Connor** (293)

Total Bases: **Jimmy Rollins**, 2007 Phillies (380). Career: **Pete Rose** (5,752)

DID A JOHN DENVER SONG GET BILLY MARTIN FIRED?

Billy Martin won everywhere he managed.

He also got fired everywhere he managed.

And yet, the strangest of his firings isn't one of the five times Yankees owner George Steinbrenner let Martin go or pressured him to resign. Nor is it his first dismissal, after leading the Twins to 18 more wins and a rise from seventh place to first place and the ALCS in 1969, his only season in Minnesota.

It's the time in Texas when the owner made the call because of a John Denver song.

Here's how Billy Martin – born and bred in Berkeley, Calif., and a four-time World Series second baseman in New York – lost his job, at least in part, because of “Thank God I’m a Country Boy.”

“I loved playing for Billy. I always regarded him as a players’ manager,” said Tom Grieve, who was a Ranger throughout Martin’s tenure and has been a broadcaster for the team since 1995. “I loved his intensity, his competitiveness. We always felt – at least I did – that all things being equal on the field, that we would win because our manager was better than the other team’s manager.”

Martin’s ability to get the most out of his players may be most apparent in his records during his first season at each stop. Working with many of the same players as the previous manager – especially before the advent of free agency in 1976 – Martin won at a better pace than his predecessor each time, averaging 20 more wins and 3.8 places in the standings (only looking at his first Yankees stint for this exercise).

Twins

1968 under **Cal Ermer**: 79-83 (.488), 7th place in AL West

1969 under Martin: 97-65 (.599), 1st place

Tigers

1970 under **Mayo Smith**: 79-83 (.488), 4th place in AL East

1971 under Martin: 91-71 (.562), 2nd place

Rangers

1973 under three managers: 57-105 (.352), 6th place in AL West*

1974 under Martin: 84-76 (.525), 2nd place

****Whitey Herzog** went 47-91, **Del Wilber** 1-0 and **Martin** 9-14 to finish the season. Martin's .391 winning percentage was better than the .345 before he took over.*

Yankees

1975 under two managers: 83-77 (.519), 3rd place*

1976 under Martin: 97-62 (.610), 1st place

****Bill Virdon** went 53-51, then **Martin** went 30-26, again posting a better winning percentage than his predecessor)*

A's

1979 under **Jim Marshall**: 54-108 (.333), 7th place in AL West

1980 under Martin: 83-79 (.512), 2nd place

"He had a really good feeling about how to motivate each individual player," **Tom Grieve** said. "He didn't have one way that fit everybody. I think he adjusted his style to who the player was. For the most part, he brought out the best in his players, and it's evidenced in how rapidly each time his team improved whenever he got there."

But each time, Martin wore out his welcome quickly. His longest stint anywhere was parts of four seasons during his first Bronx tenure. He finished out the '75 season, led the Yankees to the World Series the next two years (winning it in 1977), then was fired after going 52-42 in 1978.

"I think one of the things that happened probably every place that Billy ever went was, after the initial year and half, two years, things did start to change," Grieve said. "And Billy began to wear out his welcome and things weren't going as smoothly as they did when he first got there. It's just a track record and it's pretty simple to look at it and see it. That's not the fault of the organizations, that pretty much can be attributed to Billy. That's the way he was."

In Texas, Martin delivered the Rangers' first winning record since it moved to Arlington from Washington – and nearly doubled attendance from 662,974 in 1972 to 1,193,902 in his one full season in '74. And he loved the lifestyle, quickly adapting to life in the Lone Star State.

"He was a good fit [for Texas]," said **Jim Sundberg**, a rookie catcher for Martin in 1974. "He had boots and he had a cowboy hat. He kind of fit the part before things went south."

A change in ownership from Bob Short to Brad Corbett early in the 1974 season changed things. Corbett hired Dan O'Brien as general manager (Martin was also the GM when he came to Texas and had swung a trade with the Cubs for future Hall of Famer **Ferguson Jenkins**), and Martin had less influence over selecting the players on his roster.

"Billy's M.O. was trying to turn the club around, and then in a short period of time, he kind of self-sabotaged himself," Sundberg said.

Martin's exploits off the field would also affect the team, with players noticing his drinking and companions, according to Bill Pennington's 2015 biography, "Billy Martin: Baseball's Flawed Genius."

"It's well documented that he had occasional drinking problems, and I think there were times that got in the way of success," Grieve said. "There were times in '75 where we were taking batting practice not knowing what the lineup was because he wasn't at the ballpark yet."

As that sweltering summer of '75 went on, the friction between Martin and the front office produced more heat. One rift that was well-reported at the time involved catcher **Tom Egan**, a backup released by the Angels on June 30, 1975. Martin wanted the Rangers to sign him but was rebuffed by O'Brien and Corbett.

"You sense that things were changing in the relationship he had with management, the owner, the GM," Grieve said. "There were times that Billy wanted to go out and acquire a certain player – not a star – but he wanted his presence on the team. But management balked at some of these suggestions and that created tension. You could see it coming as a player. You knew it wasn't going to last."

Martin's affinity for Texas included country music. In early June, the No. 1 song on the Billboard Hot 100 chart was John Denver's "Thank God I'm a Country Boy," perhaps because Martin began insisting that it be played at the ballpark – but not just between innings. He wanted to hear it in the middle of the seventh, in place of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game." Martin and Corbett clashed over the songs, with the owner – it's his team, after all – decreeing that the ballpark staple remain in its traditional slot.

One hot Texas Sunday – July 20, 1975 – Martin made one of his last moves as Rangers manager. Sometime during a doubleheader against the Red Sox, the skipper picked up the dugout phone, but not to call the bullpen. According to Pennington's biography, Martin called the press box, looking for the person in charge of the music between innings. Umpire **Ron Luciano** had walked over to the dugout for a drink and relayed the scene in his autobiography: "Billy was saying, 'I don't care what the owner says, play the God damned John Denver song.' I couldn't believe my ears. Billy's yelling, 'I better hear "Thank God I'm a Country Boy."'" And he slams the phone down."

When Martin's request was played during the stretch, "Corbett steamed," Pennington wrote. The next day, the Rangers announced Martin's dismissal.

Did it really happen? Was Martin's fate decided by a fight over the stadium playlist? Two players who played for him don't remember it specifically but could see it happening.

"He was getting controlling," Sundberg said. "He was doing things like that. And that wasn't really the only night he called the press box about something. So yeah, I think that's accurate."

"I've heard that, and based on who I've heard tell that story, I trust that there was some validity to that," Grieve said. "I don't think it's a myth. I think that probably happened, but I don't remember having any knowledge about it as it happened. Maybe it was written about the next day."

It was covered, in fact, by Dave Anderson of The New York Times: "'He wanted to run everything in the organization,' says [a] Ranger executive. 'Even to the music that's played.' During the seventh-inning stretch at Arlington Stadium, a rendition of 'Thank God I'm a Country Boy' could be heard, on Billy Martin's orders."

And a couple days later, a United Press International wire story noted that with Martin's firing, the song was axed, too.

MLB SEASON TICKETS, NETFLIX STYLE? HOW TEAMS, START-UPS ARE RE-IMAGINING TICKET BUYING

Evan Drelich in The Athletic

When it comes to baseball's efforts to capture younger audiences, season tickets usually aren't top of mind. But at the same time the league is working on creating a new streaming package for viewers at home or on the go, teams are finding new ways to sell the in-stadium experience, too — in the likeness of ClassPass, HotelTonight and Netflix.

In the age of StubHub and SeatGeek, where you can decide to go to pretty much any event at the last minute, people have less incentive to buy season tickets than they once did. That's a problem for teams. As MLB commissioner Rob Manfred put it a few years ago: "When you have 2,430 (games) that you're going to sell, we can't be a one-ticket-at-a-time business."

"Consumer habits are obviously changing, and teams are changing their offerings to adapt to that," said Oliver Marvin, director of revenue strategy at SeatGeek. "You're starting to see teams lean more into not just thinking about it as a season ticket, but like a season membership, where there's more perks that go above and beyond the ticket and the in-venue experience, and make it a bit more personalized and bespoke."

"But then you're starting to see other buckets of inventory that teams are making available to capture consumers who want more flexibility, who don't want that long-term commitment. And that can be at the lowest level of commitment, making primary single tickets available. And then there's going to be in between ... you'll see a lot of themed packages that will target different demographics and cohorts."

Some will always be partial to classic full- or partial-season plans. Businesses want to entertain clients, and some fans want to keep the same seat in the same section.

“Traditional season tickets are still our lifeblood, and I think they will be for a long time,” said Jason Hartlund, chief commercial officer for the Brewers. “But as we’re trying to tap into a younger, more diverse demographic, folks that spend a lot more time on their phone or on their tablet, the flexibility and the ability to not be committed to every game we think might be attractive.”

The idea of a subscription itself isn’t brand new. In 2017, several teams started to offer a “Ballpark Pass,” which still exists today in varying forms. Last season, 13 teams, or close to half the league, offered subscription-style plans: the Astros, Brewers, Blue Jays, Cardinals, Diamondbacks, Mets, Nationals, Orioles, Phillies, Pirates, Royals, Twins and Yankees.

Last year, a pass entailed a monthly fee ranging from \$24.99 to \$75, depending on the team, and provided access to the stadium in either a regular seat or standing room. (The Yankees changed their pricing depending on the month, while the Nationals offered only a full-season option at \$405.)

Those who have signed up in Milwaukee for their “Ballpark Pass Plus” have been “significantly younger relative to our traditional season seat holders,” Hartlund said.

“Medium-size markets like Milwaukee, we need to just be a little scrappier,” he said. “If you’re in a market with seven, eight, nine million people, there’s probably enough of a population where 40-game plans and full-season plans make sense. But for us, we just have to get creative.”

Teams are now starting to take subscriptions a step further, expanding their offerings. It’s not that front offices didn’t want to before, but the ability to implement new offerings — and in some cases, the bravery to try them — was lacking. When the Oakland A’s tried a bold program in 2019 called A’s Access, they realized they needed to hire more associates to make it work.

“We’ve had these ideas, but maybe we didn’t have quite the technology to actually make it work the way we want — how am I going to go about this?” said Kenny Farrell, the senior vice president of marketing and analytics for the Arizona Diamondbacks. “Years ago, we used to give people paper vouchers and tell them to bring the paper vouchers back to the window. I mean, it didn’t seem insane then — it sounds crazy today. In the 2010s probably, we were still doing things like that.”

Two developments are working now to push offerings to new places. One is the environment after the arrival of COVID-19.

“There really is an inflection point here that’s been driven by the pandemic in the need to get new, younger fans into the database and product ecosystem,” said Aaron Holland, CEO at Season Share. “It’s never been more compelling to stay at home.”

The other is the rise of companies like Season Share and FanRally. Season Share began as a platform for people to divvy up their season tickets, but pivoted in 2020 and now offers several ticketing options.

“One is a pass product, which is where we overlap with (FanRally), although the product itself is executed very differently, that is similar to the Ballpark Pass,” Holland said. “You have access to the game, but you don’t know where your seat location is going to be. ... Think about ClassPass, HotelTonight, these things that give these businesses a way to leverage unsold inventory in a way that doesn’t degrade or cannibalize their existing inventory.”

Season Share also has “flow” products, which are often used for last-minute ticket offers. The Diamondbacks, for example, use those to power their “Summer Pass” offering at three months for \$99.

“We help teams sell more primary inventory, and identify those fans who may be season ticket holders in the future,” Holland said. “And we’ve had many teams who activate our products, and then make a direct sales approach at our buyers to try to move them up the ladder into full season tickets.”

Holland thinks the future might lie with bundles beyond just baseball games, and is planning to launch a new product this summer in that vein.

“Last year in the NBA, the Utah Jazz rolled out their Jazz Fan Pass,” Holland said. “They were bundling basketball alongside live events, concerts, comedy and baseball. ... As a consumer, especially a younger consumer, we think that fans will subscribe to a central market-based product.”

The Astros and Brewers, meanwhile, have FanRally power their passes. FanRally can handle a variety of models, but CEO Chris Giles believes in one that makes reselling tickets more difficult, thereby returning some of the revenue resellers typically pocket to the teams themselves.

In his time as the COO of the A’s, Giles led the charge on A’s Access, which remains perhaps the most famous attempt to rethink season tickets to date. It was Ballpark Pass on steroids, because it was instituted in place of the old season-ticket model — not just as an alternative.

“I think even today, most team executives know, it’s a bad model,” Giles said of traditional season tickets. “But unless there’s significant evidence for the replacement model, it’s a tough Band-Aid to rip, right? It could be 70, 80 percent of your total ticket revenues.”

A’s Access plans in 2019 started at \$240 and included perks such as discounts on concessions, parking and merchandise, as well as ticket upgrade opportunities.

“We hadn’t grown season tickets in a really long time,” Giles said. “We didn’t really have any insight into what was happening with the season tickets, because you sell them in these big

bundles to one person. And what you figure out once you dive in is, no one goes to 81 baseball games. They either have one model, which is they have a bunch of share partners. ... As the team, you only have relationships with that main account holder, and you really don't have any visibility into what happens to it. The other (model) is, is they go and they sell all of their unwanted seats on a resale marketplace."

The season-ticket holder age was in the upper 50s, Giles said, with few members below 35.

"What are consumers of our target age bracket doing?" Giles said. "They were subscribing to services, as opposed to buying products."

The idea garnered plenty of media attention, and was in some ways successful. In July 2019, the team said new season-ticket holders were on average 11 years younger, with 9,535 new members.

Giles said the club made almost \$9 million in new membership revenue. But the program was difficult to manage without the proper software, and perhaps more importantly, Giles said, "we cannibalized the heck out of our single-game tickets." The team had no way of controlling what people did with the seats, and single-game revenue wound up down "by about the same amount."

A's Access was slated to continue for the 2020 season, but did not return post-pandemic. Giles left the team. Oakland president Dave Kaval did not return a call from *The Athletic*.

Enter FanRally, where Giles thinks he's solved some of the problems he found with A's Access, including resale.

"Our software allows the member to go in reserve seats," Giles said. "And the way that the pass works is modeled after the original Netflix DVD business model. So if you have a pass, you can't go in and just book all 81 games because you have access to 81 games. We actually cap the number of simultaneous reservations that each member can hold. ... What that does is it allows the consumer to actually gamify and optimizing games that they get. So if you want better seats, you need to book earlier.

"Very similar to the way you book an airline seat. You can go on, you can see all the available inventory, you can change your seats anytime you want. You can upgrade to better seats, but you can't resell."

One minor-league team, the Wichita Wind Surge (the Double-A affiliate of the Twins), is still offering season tickets to those who inquire, but the team is heavily pushing a FanRally membership plan. It's A's Access 2.0, or just shy of it.

"We were trying to look for a way to where on a bigger night, we'd have a platform that would have the ability to help us utilize seats in the best areas," said the team's general manager, Bob

Moulette. “Residential season ticket holders in traditional places don’t get to go to all their games.”

Moulette went to college with Giles, but said the team was going down this road even if the two hadn’t reconnected.

The question from here will be one of demand. Although it’s gotten easier for teams to introduce new plans, will they grow more popular as younger generations age?

Teams today mostly use passes as supplements, creating a mishmash of offerings to capture different demographics. D-backs Summer Pass (37 games) and D-backs Student Pass (32 games) made up a little over 7 percent of the team’s total attendance in 2022, Farrell said. But over time, those numbers could shift further.

“There is no there there, right?” said Farrell. “We’re never there. Whether it’s a shift towards more social spaces and ballparks from a macro-level, building-structures perspective, or other types of new seating products, new ticketing products, I think we have to continue to be innovative constantly. Our goal as the team is to just make sure we’re listening.”

MLB ANTI-TRUST EXEMPTION QUESTIONED BY U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE IN MILD CASE

The U.S. Department of Justice, for the second time in less than a year, asserted its concerns over Major League Baseball’s antitrust exemption in a lawsuit brought by four minor league teams that lost their major league affiliation in the 2020 reorganization of minor league baseball.

While not outright calling for the court to end the exemption — the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, which is currently hearing the case, does not have the authority to end the exemption — the department laid out multiple cases that criticized and questioned the decision to maintain baseball’s antitrust exemption in a brief filed Monday.

“Major League Baseball is also big business,” the brief reads, after noting the allusions to baseball as a “National Pastime.”

“The average Major League Baseball team is worth over \$2 billion dollars, up nine percent since 2021. Major League teams compete not just to win championships, but also to attract fans and earn revenue.”

The DOJ also raised the possibility that the exemption has already been limited in its scope by previous court rulings. “Some courts have concluded that the Federal Baseball exemption is limited to a term in player contracts — the reserve clause — which MLB largely abandoned in 1975, effectively leaving the exemption a nullity,” the brief stated.

“In addition, as the United States argued in the district court, other courts have held that only conduct ‘central to the business of baseball’ is covered by the Federal Baseball exemption.”

Federal Baseball is the moniker for the 1922 Supreme Court ruling that stated baseball was not a true interstate business.

In the brief, the department noted it took no position on whether the exemption applied to the minor league reorganization as the four teams had already argued it did, but that it wanted to reaffirm that courts should not extend the Federal Baseball exemption.

“It’s their middle ground,” said Jim Quinn, an attorney for the four minor league clubs. “They are saying don’t make it worse than it already is.”

There is no expectation that the exemption would be extended to other sports. The current lawsuit was sparked by the 2021 Supreme Court decision that ruled the NCAA’s restrictions on collegiate athletes’ marketing rights is an antitrust violation.

In that ruling, the justices wrote, “This Court once dallied with something that looks a bit like an antitrust exemption for professional baseball. ... But this Court has refused to extend Federal Baseball’s reasoning to other sports leagues — and has even acknowledged criticisms of the decision as ‘unrealistic’ and ‘inconsistent’ and (an) ‘aberration.’”

Quinn, the four teams’ lawyer, said given the references to baseball in the NCAA case, his lawsuit is designed to get before the Supreme Court, which is the only court that can overturn the exemption.

Major League Baseball’s response is due Feb. 27.

The four clubs that brought the lawsuit are the Salem-Keizer Volcanoes, the Norwich Sea Unicorns, the Staten Island Yankees and the Tri-City ValleyCats.

The federal district court previously dismissed the case because of the exemption but noted that the four teams had sufficiently pleaded an antitrust violation.

THIS WEEK’S THREE QUESTION TRIVIA CHALLENGE ANSWERS

In 1975 I hit .331, led the AL in runs and doubles, winning Rookie of the Year and MVP

My 1979 was even better, leading the AL in batting (.333) with 39 HR and 122 RBI.

I had six consecutive 20 HR seasons (1982-88)

I hit a grand slam in the 1983 All-Star Game (the only grand slam in All-Star play). That was my fourth All-Star Game home run, second only to **Stan Musial** in ML history.

Over 17 years I played for five teams, retiring after the 1990 season.

Who am I? **FRED LYNN**

Teammates.

One won MVP in 1964, World Series MVP in 1970 and All-Star game MVP 1966

The other won MVP 1966, World Series MVP 1966, 1971 All-Star game MVP.

Name them. **BROOKS ROBINSON and FRANK ROBINSON**

Among Hall of Famers born since 1900, about 27% played their entire careers for one team. Of the 29 Hall of Famers born after 1960, 10 played for just one team. How many of the 10 can you name?

Derek Jeter

Mariano Rivera

Chipper Jones

Craig Biggio

Jeff Bagwell

Cal Ripken Jr.

Tony Gwynn

Kirby Puckett

Edgar Martinez

Barry Larkin

And in case you were wondering:

Born in the 50's 4 of 21

Alan Trammell, Robin Yount, Jim Rice, George Brett

Born in the 40's 4 of 18

Willie Stargel, Johnny Bench, Mike Schmidt, Jim Palmer

Born in 30's 10 of 25

Mickey Mantle, Bob Gibson, Sandy Koufax, Roberto Clemente, Al Kaline

Ernie Banks, Carl Yastrzemski, Don Drysdale, Tony Oliva, Bill Mazeroski

Born in 20's 3 of 19

Whitey Ford, Bob Lemon, Stan Musial

Born in 1910's 7 of 20

Joe DiMaggio, Phil Rizzuto, Ted Williams, Bobby Doerr, Jackie Robinson, Pee Wee Reese, Bob Feller

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