

Sunday Baseball Tidbits Newsletter – interesting and random stuff, fodder for bar bets.

11.26.2023

Good morning baseball fans,

A week of fun trivia lists, the day **Ted Turner** managed the Braves.

In Longer Reads more on the late Padres owner Peter Seidler, How Post-Season Shares are Distributed and the Hall of Fame case for **Bill White** (remembering Yankees broadcast trio of White, **Phil Rizzuto** and Frank Messer makes me feel young again).

The 2024 Hall of Fame ballot came out this week. Take a look at the 26 names below—who do you think belongs? You have up to ten selections. Later in this issue the start of nine weeks of thoughts and analysis about who makes it to Cooperstown. **You have two weeks to ponder your selections—email them when you’re ready and I’ll roll up our expert subscribers’ results.**

Pour yourself a cup and enjoy.

2024 HALL OF FAME BALLOT

Holdovers (14)

Todd Helton
Billy Wagner
Andruw Jones
Gary Sheffield
Carlos Beltrán
Alex Rodriguez
Manny Ramirez
Omar Vizquel
Andy Pettitte
Bobby Abreu
Jimmy Rollins
Mark Buehrle
Francisco Rodríguez
Torii Hunter

Newcomers (12)

Adrian Beltre
Joe Mauer
Chase Utley
David Wright
Bartolo Colon
Matt Holliday
Adrian Gonzalez
José Bautista
José Reyes
Victor Martinez
James Shields
Brandon Phillips

THIS WEEK'S TRIVIA CHALLENGE

(answers at bottom)

Editor's note-this week's trivia is from sporcle.com, free sports trivia quizzes worth checking out.

Can you name the teammates who won MVP and Cy Young Award in the same year?

2013 Tigers

2006 Twins

2005 Cards

2002 A's

1993 White Sox

1991 Braves

1990 A's

1990 Pirates

1988 Dodgers

1984 Cubs

1982 Brewers

1980 Phillies

1974 Dodgers

1967 Red Sox

1962 Dodgers

1961 Yankees

17 players won 10 or more gold gloves. Let's see how many you can name.

18 (P) Cubs, Braves, Dodgers, Padres

16 (P) Senators, Twins, White Sox, Phillies, Yankees, Cardinals

16 (3B) Orioles

13 (C) Rangers, Marlins, Tigers, Yankees, Astros, Nationals

13 (SS) Padres, Cardinals
12 (OF) Pirates
12 (OF) Giants, Mets
11 (1B) Cardinals, Mets, Indians
11 (SS) Mariners, Indians, Giants, Rangers, White Sox, Blue Jays
10 (3B) Rockies, Cardinals
10 (2B) Padres, Blue Jays, Orioles, Indians, Mets, White Sox, Diamondbacks
10 (C) Reds
10 (OF) Braves, Dodgers, Rangers, White Sox, Yankees
10 (OF) Mariners, Reds, White Sox
10 (OF) Tigers
10 (3B) Phillies
10 (OF) Mariners, Yankees, Marlins

Ten groups of American League stars. Which player in each group never won MVP?

Josh Hamilton
Joe Mauer
David Ortiz
Dustin Pedroia

Juan González
Derek Jeter
Iván Rodríguez
Mo Vaughn

Ken Griffey Jr.
Manny Ramirez
Cal Ripken Jr.
Frank Thomas

Don Baylor
Rod Carew
Carlton Fisk
Jim Rice

Carlos Delgado
Jason Giambi

Alex Rodriguez
Miguel Tejada

Luke Appling
Jimmie Foxx
Charlie Gehringer
Hank Greenberg

Vladimir Guerrero
Justin Morneau
Ichiro Suzuki
Jim Thome

George Bell
Wade Boggs
Jose Canseco
Don Mattingly

Dick Allen
Reggie Jackson
Fred Lynn
Dave Winfield

George Brett
Paul Molitor
Thurman Munson
Robin Yount

MISCELLANEOUS STUFF

Some great stuff from the 2023 season

The new rules led to in an increase of nearly 1,3000 stolen bases.

The Cincinnati Reds, who stole a league-leading 190 bases, won 20 more games than the year before

Over the past two postseasons, three of the four teams to make the World Series were wild cards, and this year we had an all-wild-card World Series matchup between the Rangers and Diamondbacks.

Gerrit Cole--He went 15-4 this year with a 2.63 ERA, 222 strikeouts and 0.981 WHIP.

The bashing Braves became the first team in MLB history to have a slugging percentage above .500.

From the 'you can't buy a World Series championship' file, as the clubs with the top three payrolls — the Yankees, Mets and Padres — all missed the postseason.

Justin Verlander, who became just the 21st pitcher in major-league history to record a win against all 30 teams.

Julio Rodríguez became the first player to hit at least 25 home runs and steal at least 25 bases in his first two years in the majors.

Freddie Freeman became the first 1B in MLB history to hit 50 doubles and steal 20 bases in a season.

Adam Wainwright retired after 18 seasons, all in St. Louis. He finished off a long and successful career by recording his 200th career win, becoming just the third Cardinals pitcher to reach that milestone.

Miguel Cabrera announced his retirement after 21 years. Congratulations on a Hall of Fame career. Cabrera finished with a career slash line of .306/.382/.518, with 511 home runs and 1,881 RBIs.

HOLDING OUT FOR A MANAGEMENT POSITION

Joe Torre's 2,326 wins rank fifth in major-league history, and he's one of six managers to win four World Series. The Yankees had qualified for the postseason in all 12 of Torre's seasons at the helm.

Nine of the 15 American League managers are former catchers.

Bobby Cox, who had managed the Braves for a quarter-century, directing them to 14 division titles in 15 years, five NL pennants, a World Series triumph and six 100-win seasons. His 2,504 wins overall rank fourth in major-league history.

No manager is going to benefit more by **Craig Counsell's** record five-year, \$40 million contract than **Alex Cora** of the Boston Red Sox.

He's a free agent after the 2024 season, and he'll have teams lined up around the Green Monster trying to sign him.

Mike Shildt is the new manager in San Diego, the team announced yesterday. The former Cardinals manager succeeds **Bob Melvin**, who spent two turbulent years in San Diego before decamping for San Francisco. Shildt inherits arguably the most talented roster in baseball, with soaring expectations amid a well-documented difficult work environment.

The Yankees hire former Tigers, Angels manager **Brad Ausmus** as bench coach

Ausmus is replacing **Carlos Mendoza**, who will be the New York Mets' new manager.

The 54-year-old Ausmus previously managed the Detroit Tigers from 2014 to 2017 and the Los Angeles Angels in 2019. He was also the Oakland Athletics' bench coach in 2022.

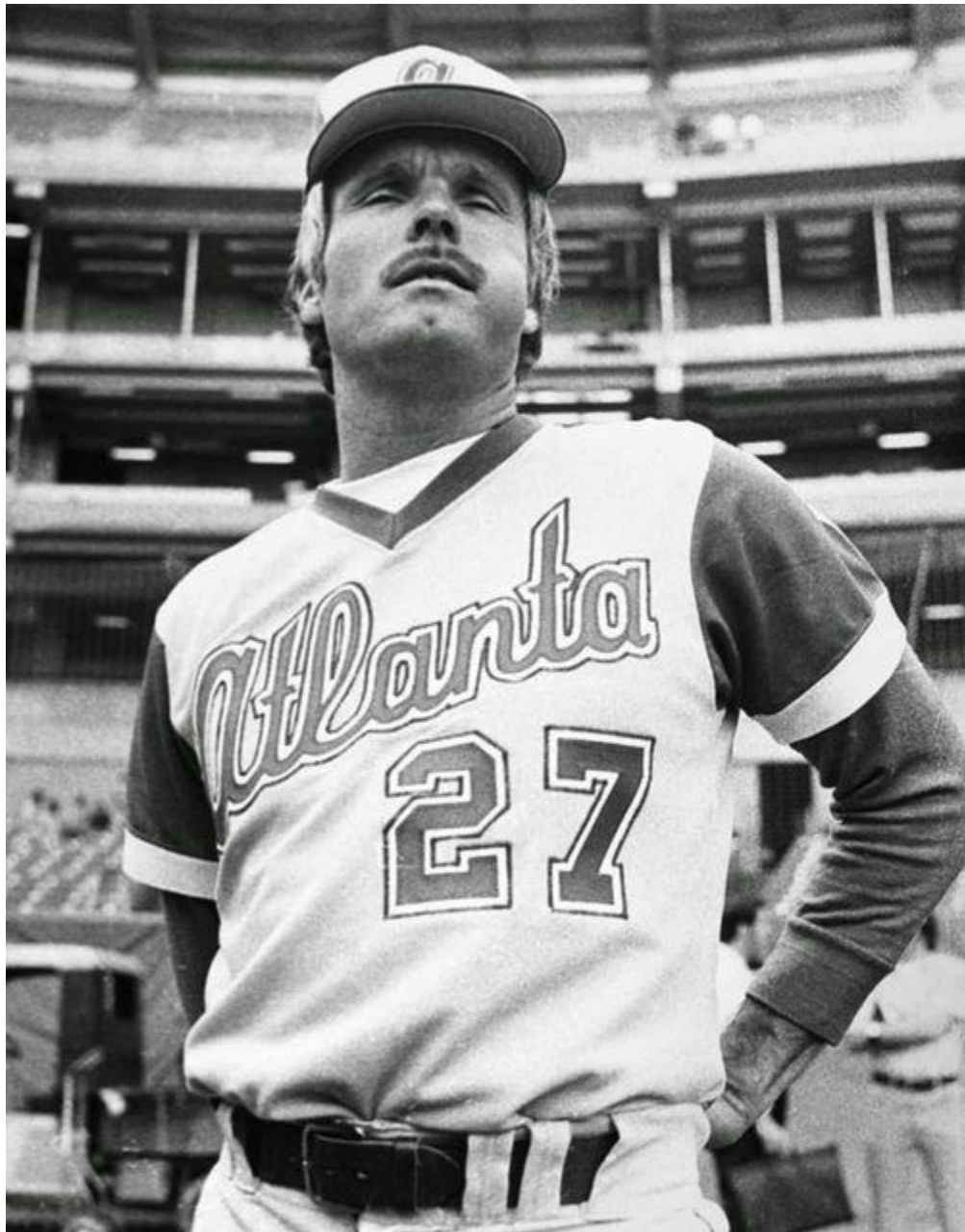
The Yankees had approached former Chicago Cubs manager **David Ross** about their bench coach opening and were also considering hiring **Andrew Bailey** (recently hired as the Boston Red Sox's pitching coach) or moving third-base coach **Luis Rojas** to the bench.

Ausmus, drafted by the Yankees in the 48th round in 1987, played in 18 MLB seasons for six teams. He managed the Tigers and then he signed a three-year deal to manage the Angels, but only helmed them for the 2019 season before he was dismissed. He was fired from both jobs, compiling a 386-422 (.478) career record before joining the A's in 2022. The bench coach's job

is to be the gatherer of information from all departments and present it in organized ways to manager **Aaron Boone**, his assistants and the players. Ausmus will be Boone's right-hand man and help with in-game strategy. It'll be beneficial to have someone like Ausmus, who is a two-time manager.

Additionally, one of the biggest responsibilities of the bench coach is to run the team's spring training practices.

1977. Braves manager **Ted Turner** takes over the 8-21 Braves. It lasts one game (a loss to Pittsburgh), then MLB bans him from managing.



Interesting connection—future Cincinnati Reds teammates 1988 NL Rookie of the Year **Chris Sabo** and Hall of Fame shortstop **Barry Larkin** played in the same University of Michigan infield that went to the semi's of the College World Series.

Sabo not only won ROY, in the 1990 Reds World Series sweep of the Oakland A's he batted .563 (9th all-time) with 9 H in 16 AB, including 2 HR & 5 RBI & 2 BB.

As a high-school goalie, Sabo played hockey on two national championship age-17-and-under team



Major League Baseball owners, who agreed to allow A's owner John Fisher to move his franchise from Oakland to Las Vegas, voted to approve the deal under one intriguing caveat.

There's a provision in the agreement called a 10-year flip tax, MLB executives told USA TODAY Sports, to prevent Fisher from using the relocation simply to increase the value of his team and immediately sell.

MLB gave Fisher about a \$300 million break by not charging him a relocation fee, but if he turns around and tries to sell the team, he's going to have to pay a stiff penalty.

The agreement, an executive told USA TODAY Sports, requires Fisher to retain the team until at least 2028 when they are scheduled to open in Las Vegas.

If Fisher sells before 2028, he will be taxed 20% of the purchase price, which will be split among owners.

If Fisher sells in 2029, he will be taxed 10%.

If he sells in 2030-2033, he will be taxed a decreasing amount each year.

He will be unable to sell the team without being taxed until 2034.

So if Fisher was thinking about pulling a fast one, there will be a price to pay.

MLB canceled plans to play regular-season games in Paris in 2025 when it couldn't find a promoter to make the games profitable. There still are plans to have games in Tokyo, Mexico City and San Juan, Puerto Rico, in 2025, however.

John Adams' famous drum, beating loudly from the bleachers at more than 3,700 Cleveland Guardians' games, going to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Pretty cool to see Hall of Famer **Derek Jeter** returning to his high school, Kalamazoo Central High School, to help fund a \$5 million project through his Turn 2 Foundation for new baseball and softball fields at the Michigan school.

Flashback to early 1999. Can you name the players the Yankees gave up for **Roger Clemens**? Blue Jays trade Roger Clemens to Yankees for **David Wells, Homer Bush and Graeme Lloyd**.

Clemens was coming off his second consecutive AL Cy Young season with Toronto, and fifth overall. The right-hander remained his dominant self in his age-35 season. Clemens didn't win a Cy Young with the Yankees (he won his last in 2004 for the Astros at age 41) but he did go 83-42 in 6 seasons with the Yankees.

I learned something this week. The on-deck batter when **Roger Maris** hit his famous 61st home run on Oct. 1, 1961 was **Yogi Berra**. Berra was the Yanks' cleanup hitter on Oct. 1, 1961, when Maris lined a fourth-inning pitch from **Tracy Stallard** of the Red Sox into the right-field seats. Maris' AL single-season record for home runs stood until 2022, when Judge eclipsed it with 62.



Fan Duel Odds

2024 World Series Odds for Every Team

- Braves +600
- Dodgers +700
- Rangers +800
- Astros +800
- Phillies +1000
- Rays +1300
- Blue Jays +1600
- Yankees +1600

- Padres +1800
- Twins +1800
- Orioles +1800
- Mariners +2000
- Mets +3000
- Diamondbacks +4000
- Cubs +4000
- Red Sox +4000
- Reds +5000
- Brewers +5000
- Cardinals +5500
- Giants +5500
- Guardians +6000
- Marlins +6000
- Tigers +8500
- Angels +10000
- Pirates +10000
- Nationals +20000
- Royals +20000
- White Sox +20000
- Athletics +25000
- Rockies +25000

R.I.P. Willie Hernandez

Three-time All-Star relief pitcher **Willie Hernández**, who won the 1984 AL Cy Young and Most Valuable Player awards for the World Series champion Detroit Tigers, has died. He was 69.

The left-handed Hernández had a 13-year career but is mostly known for his role as the closer on one of the most dominant teams in the past 40 years. The 1984 Tigers, led by **Alan Trammell, Lou Whitaker, and Jack Morris**, opened 35-5 and cruised to the AL East title with a 104-58 mark before sweeping Kansas City in the AL Championship Series and beating San Diego in a five-games World Series.

Hernández arrived in Detroit in a trade before the 1984 season began, had a 9-3 record and 32 saves in 33 chances that year, with a 1.92 ERA over 80 games and 140 1/3 innings. He is among just 11 pitchers to win the Cy Young and MVP in the same year, edging Kansas City's **Dan Quisenberry** for Cy Young in 1984 and Minnesota's **Kent Hrbek** for MVP.

Hernández would go on to have an excellent postseason and got the final out of the clinching Game 5, coaxing a short fly ball to left field from Hall of Famer **Tony Gwynn**, setting off a celebration. The Tigers haven't won a World Series since.

6 1/2 solid but unspectacular seasons with the Chicago Cubs that began in 1977. He was traded to Philadelphia during the 1983 season and pitched four scoreless innings in that year's World Series as the Phillies lost to Baltimore.

Detroit acquired Hernández and **Dave Bergman**, a defensive first baseman, from the Phillies for outfielder **Glenn Wilson** and catcher **John Wockenfuss** a few weeks before the 1984 season. Mr. Hernandez would go on to make three straight All-Star teams from 1984-86.

He finished with a 70-63 record and a 3.38 ERA.

Buyer Beware

While pondering Yoshinobu Yamamoto, **Jordan Montgomery** and **Blake Snell**, GMs should be mindful of some recent history:

Jacob deGrom, Rangers — five years, \$185 million (2023-27)
Tommy John surgery.

Chris Sale, Red Sox — five years, \$145 million (2020-24)
Too many injuries to list.

Stephen Strasburg, Nationals — four years, \$140 million (2020-23)
The Nationals got eight starts for \$140 million (2020-23) and no insurance coverage.

Patrick Corbin, Nationals — six years, \$140 million (2019-24). He's led the NL in losses each of the past three years.

David Price, Red Sox — seven years, \$217 million (2016-22)
Five years of the contract were a bust as he didn't win more than seven games nor pitch 110 innings in any of those campaigns. Basically, he was paid \$217 million for two years of effectiveness.

Madison Bumgarner, Diamondbacks — five years, \$85 million (2020-24). 15-32 for Arizona with a 5.23 ERA over 69 starts., then released.

Then there are the Free Agent Signings that Delivered Immediately

Sarah Langs, mlb.com

2018: **J.D. Martinez**, Red Sox, OF/DH

Full contract: 5 years, \$109.95 million (2018-22)

First season: .330/.402/.629, 43 HR, 130 RBI, 6.4 WAR

2004: **Vladimir Guerrero**, RF, Angels

Full contract: 5 years, \$70 million (2004-08)

First season: .337/.391/.598, 39 HR, 126 RBI, 5.6 WAR

2001: **Ichiro Suzuki**, RF, Mariners

Full contract: 3 years, \$14 million (2001-03)

First season: .350/.381/.457, 8 HR, 56 SB, 7.7 WAR, MVP

2001: **Manny Ramirez**, LF, Red Sox

Full contract: 8 years, \$160 million (2001-08)

First season: .306/.405/.609, 41 HR, 125 RBI, 5.2 WAR

2001: **Alex Rodriguez**, SS, Rangers

Full contract: 10 years, \$252 million (2001-10)

First season: .318/.399/.622, 52 HR, 135 RBI, 8.3 WAR

1999: **Randy Johnson**, LHP, D-backs

Full contract: 4 years, \$52.4 million (1999-2002)

First season: 17-9, 2.48 ERA, 364 K, 9.1 WAR, Cy Young

1997: **Roger Clemens**, RHP, Blue Jays

Full contract: 4 years, \$40 million (1997-2000)

First season: 21-7, 2.05 ERA, 292 K, 11.9 WAR, Cy Young

1996: **Kevin Brown**, RHP, Marlins

Full contract: 3 years, \$12.6 million (1996-98)

First season: 17-11, 1.89 ERA, 159 K, 7.9 WAR

1993: **Greg Maddux**, RHP, Braves

Full contract: 5 years, \$28 million (1993-97)

First season: 20-10, 2.36 ERA, 197 K, 5.8 WAR, Cy Young

1993: Barry Bonds, LF, Giants

Full contract: 6 years, \$43.75 million (1993-98)

First season: .336/.458/.677, 46 HR, 123 RBI, 9.9 WAR, MVP

1988: Kirk Gibson, LF, Dodgers

Full contract: 3 years, \$4.5 million (1988-90)

First season: .290/.377/.483, 25 HR, 31 SB, 6.5 WAR, MVP

1977: Reggie Jackson, RF, Yankees

Full contract: 5 years, \$3 million (1977-81)

First season: .286/.375/.550, 32 HR, 110 RBI, 4.5 WAR (not an awesome season as far as stats but he did **hit 3 HRs in a World Series game**).

Teams down 3 games to 1 that came back to win the World Series

Cubs beat Indians 2016

Royals beat Cards 1985

Pirates beat Orioles 1979

Tigers beat Cards 1968

Yankees beat Braves 1958

Pirates beat Senators 1925

When Peter Bendix made his well-timed arrival at Tufts in the fall of 2004, the freshman from Cleveland was clear-eyed in his ambitions. As instructor Andy Andres reviewed roughly 70 student submissions for the 20 available spots in Sabermetrics 101, a course he was introducing that semester through the Experimental College at Tufts, Bendix stood out for his precociousness.

“Pete, as a freshman — first semester in college, just from high school — wrote he wanted to be the general manager of the Cleveland Indians,” Andres, a lecturer at Boston University, recalled with a laugh. “We saw that when we looked at his application and said, ‘Oh, we’ve got to take that guy.’ It turned out to be a wise choice.”

Indeed. Earlier this month, Bendix — a 38-year-old who'd spent 15 years with the Rays, including the last two as GM — was named president of baseball operations for the Marlins.

Aaron Nola re-signed with the Phillies this week for \$172 million/7 years.

Nola joins **Gerrit Cole** (2019), **Stephen Strasburg** (2019), **David Price** (2015), **Max Scherzer** (2015), **CC Sabathia** (2008), **Barry Zito** (2006), **Mike Hampton** (2000), and **Kevin Brown** (1998) as the only free agent pitchers to receive contracts of at least seven years and \$100 million.

Luis Tiant. 187 career complete games seeming almost unfathomable given that there have been 195 complete games combined across baseball over the last five seasons. Tiant went 229-172 with a 3.30 ERA over 19 big league seasons and nearly 3,500 innings.

Nelson Cruz, 43, announced his retirement this week. Cruz spent eight seasons with the Texas Rangers from 2006 to 2013, earning two All-Star nods and ALCS MVP in 2011. He's also a three-time All-Star with the Seattle Mariners, where he played from 2015 to 2018, after a season with the Baltimore Orioles in 2014 that saw him lead the major leagues with 40 home runs.

Cruz, a four-time Silver Slugger, also played for the Milwaukee Brewers, Minnesota Twins, Tampa Bay Rays, Washington Nationals and San Diego Padres. He's hit 464 career home runs, slashing .274/.343/.513 through 2,055 career games. He hammered 18 home runs in 187 postseason at-bats

The Dominican Republic native won the **Roberto Clemente** Award in 2021 and is a two-time Edgar Martínez Award winner (2017, 2019).

San Diego Padres. Last seasons' payroll \$255 million. Top three. Stars like **Juan Soto and Manny Machado and Matt Snell and Josh Hader**. Missed the playoffs.

One reason-- 2-12 in extra innings, 9-23 in one run games. Ouch.

On November 26 in Baseball History...

- **1960** - Twins is the appropriate new name chosen for the club transplanted from Washington to Minnesota's Twin Cities of Minneapolis-St. Paul.
- **1961** - The Professional Baseball Rules Committee votes 8-1 against legalizing the spitball. Only National League supervisor of umpires Cal Hubbard votes in favor.
- **1963** - Cincinnati second baseman **Pete Rose** is a landslide winner of National League Rookie of the Year honors, taking 17 of 20 votes.
- **1965** - Dodgers second baseman **Jim Lefebvre** is voted National League Rookie of the Year.
- **1974** - **Catfish Hunter** meets with Charlie Finley in the American Arbitration Association office in New York City for a hearing to determine the validity of Hunter's breach-of-contract claim. Hunter contends that Finley failed to pay \$50,000, half of Hunter's salary, to a life insurance fund. The case will go to arbitration.
- **1975** - **Fred Lynn** becomes the first rookie to win Most Valuable Player honors, taking the American League award. Lynn batted .331 with 21 home runs, 105 RBI, and league-leading figures in runs (103), doubles (47), and slugging (.566).
- **1979** - Third baseman **John Castino**, who batted .285 for the Twins, and shortstop **Alfredo Griffin**, who hit .287 for the Blue Jays, tie for the American League Rookie of the Year award, each receiving seven of the 28 votes. The deadlock precipitates a change in the voting system, effective in 1980.
- **1980** - **Mike Schmidt** is a unanimous choice as National League Most Valuable Player. The slugging third baseman hit .286 with career highs of 48 home runs and 121 RBI.
- **1996** - Less than three weeks after major league owners voted 18-12 against ratification of baseball's new collective bargaining agreement, owners voted again and this time approved it by a vote of 26-4. The landmark agreement brings interleague play to the regular season for the first time as well as revenue sharing among owners and a payroll tax on players.

HALL OF FAME

We have nine weeks until the vote is announced. As a refresher, here are the mechanics. Then each week we'll feature thoughts on nominees from top writers.

THE ROAD TO COOPERSTOWN

Eligibility requirements

To be eligible, a player has to have played 10 seasons in the big leagues and been active in Major League Baseball at some point between five to 15 years before the Hall of Fame election.

The player must also be five calendar years removed from their Major League Baseball playing career, but can still be connected to the sport and league through coaching or business opportunities.

To be on the 2024 ballot, a player's final game had to be in 2018 or earlier.

If a player who has not been retired for the full five years dies, the candidate is eligible in the next regular election, if it is held at least six months after the date of death or after the end of the five-year period, whichever occurs first.

Any player on baseball's ineligible list — people prohibited from playing or working in professional baseball — is not eligible.

How a nomination becomes an induction

A player must be named on 75 percent of the voter ballots to be selected for the Hall of Fame.

Active and honorary members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America, who have been active baseball writers for at least 10 years, can vote for a maximum of 10 players. Electors vote for no more than 10 eligible candidates. Write-ins are not allowed.

If a player doesn't garner the necessary number of votes to hang in the halls of Cooperstown, N.Y., there's still hope. Players can stay on the ballot for up to 10 years as long as they receive more than 5 percent of the vote each year. If they fail to reach that threshold during any voting cycle, they're removed from the ballot the following year and are not eligible to return.

When will the results be announced?

The ballot is first released in November before the physical ballots are mailed to eligible writers/voters, who have 20 days to send them back. The 2024 inductees — if anyone clears 75 percent — will be named on Jan. 23.

When will the 2024 class be inducted?

The 2024 induction will take place on July 21 at 1:30 p.m. on the grounds of the Clark Sports Center in Cooperstown.

Contemporary Baseball Era ballot

In addition to the BBWAA ballot, players can eventually reach the Hall via one of the Era Committees. The Era Committees — split into contemporary (1980-present) and classic (before 1980) — consider retired players no longer eligible for the BBWAA ballot, as well as managers, umpires and executives. The Era Committees have chosen 105 major leaguers, 33 executives, 22 managers, 10 umpires and nine Negro Leaguers (179 total) to the Hall of Fame.

Eight candidates are being considered by the Contemporary Baseball Era Committee for managers/executives/umpires for induction in the Class of 2024.

Four managers (**Cito Gaston, Davey Johnson, Jim Leyland and Lou Piniella**), two umpires (**Ed Montague and Joe West**) and two executives (**Bill White** and Hank Peters) are candidates. All candidates except Peters are living.

A candidate who receives 75 percent of votes on the ballots cast by a 16-member committee will be inducted. The Contemporary Era Committee will meet at MLB's Winter Meetings in Nashville, Tenn. on Dec. 3 to vote.

The Baseball Hall of Fame hands out the Ford C. Frick Award annually, rewarding excellence in broadcasting.

The 2024 nominees include Joe Buck, Joe Castiglione, Gary Cohen, Jacques Doucet, Tom Hamilton, Ernie Johnson Sr., Ken Korach, **Mike Krukow, Duane Kuiper** and Dan Shulman.

The winner will be announced at the Baseball Winter Meetings on Dec. 7 in Nashville and honored during the awards presentation, as part of the Baseball Hall of Fame weekend celebrations, on July 20 in Cooperstown.

THOUGHTS ON THE NOMINEES

Scott Rolen and Todd Helton were neck and neck in the Hall of Fame voting last year. Rolen got in (76.3% of the vote); Helton didn't (72.2%). But he barely missed, by only 11 votes. The Rockies' great slugging first baseman, who had 369 home runs and 2,519 hits in his career, and was a .316 lifetime hitter and the 2000 MLB batting champion.

Billy Wagner and Andruw Jones are getting close. They've made big gains in the last few years, with Wagner jumping from 51% of the vote in 2022 to 68.1% in 2023 and Jones jumping from 41.4% to 58.1%. Wagner, one of the dominant closers of his era with 422 saves, a 2.31 ERA and 11.9 strikeouts per nine innings, will be in his ninth year on the ballot next year, meaning he has two chances remaining at election. Jones, who hit 434 home runs and was one of the greatest defensive center fielders in MLB history, will be in his seventh year on the ballot.

The big newcomer to the ballot is **Andre Beltré**, who's a surefire Hall of Famer. He had 3,166 hits, 477 home runs and 93.5 Wins Above Replacement, third-most among third basemen behind only **Mike Schmidt and Eddie Mathews**. The only question is, will Beltré get in on the first ballot? He'd become the fifth Dominican-born Hall of Famer, along with **Juan Marichal** (1983), **Pedro Martínez** (2015), **Vladimir Guerrero** (2018) and **David Ortiz** (2022).

Joe Mauer and Chase Utley are on the ballot for the first time in 2024, and they have interesting Hall of Fame cases. They might not have all the counting stats of other Hall of

Famers, but at their peak, they were the best players at their positions. Mauer's five-year run with the Twins from 2006-10 is one of the best by any catcher ever -- it included three batting titles, three Gold Gloves, four Silver Sluggers, four All-Star seasons and the 2009 AL MVP Award. Mauer was also a .306 career hitter, and his 55.2 career WAR ranks seventh among catchers. Every other catcher in the top 10 is in the Hall of Fame.

Utley's five-year peak with the Phillies from 2005-09 made him just as dominant among second basemen as Mauer was among catchers. Utley amassed 39.7 WAR over that time, nearly doubling the next-best second baseman, **Brian Roberts** (23 WAR). Utley led all second basemen in WAR in four of those five seasons, including a career year for the 2008 World Series champs. Utley's 1,885 hits and 259 homers might seem a little low, but his 64.5 career WAR is close to the average for a Hall of Fame second baseman, and his peak WAR is above-average.

David Wright, the Mets' captain, was one of MLB's best third basemen before spinal stenosis shortened his career -- a seven-time All-Star, two-time Gold Glover and two-time Silver Slugger who hit .296 with 242 home runs and led the Mets to the 2015 NL pennant.

Matt Holliday was a seven-time All-Star for the Rockies and Cardinals, a World Series champion with St. Louis in 2011 and a batting champion for the 2007 Rockies. He finished his career with a .299 batting average, 316 home runs and 2,096 hits.

Other big names who are Hall of Fame-eligible for the first time: two-time MLB home run king **José Bautista** (344 homers), five-time All-Star catcher **Victor Martinez** (.295 batting average), five-time All-Star first baseman **Adrián González** (2,050 hits) and three-time stolen base champion **José Reyes** (517 steals).

Carlos Beltrán has a strong Hall of Fame resume -- nine All-Star seasons, a World Series ring, 435 home runs, 2,725 hits and 70.1 WAR as one of the best switch-hitters ever -- but he fell well short in his first year on the ballot, getting 46.5% of the vote.

Bartolo Colon. Bartolo might not have quite enough Hall of Fame credentials, but he pitched until he was 45, and he's beloved by baseball fans everywhere. And hey, he does have 247 career wins, 2,535 strikeouts and a Cy Young Award to his name. And one home run, of course.

The feared slugger **Gary Sheffield** is entering his 10th and final season of Hall of Fame ballot eligibility in 2024. He crushed 509 home runs in his career, but he'll be a long shot to make it to Cooperstown on the writers' ballot. Sheffield reached his highest share of the vote ever in 2023, increasing from 40.6% in '22 to 55% in 2023 ... but that still means he'll have to jump by another 20% in 2024.

(note in the Boston Globe) There are plenty of Hall of Famers for whom a single year in Boston represented a footnote. **John Smoltz** (2009), **Rickey Henderson** (2002), **Juan Marichal** (1974),

and **Orlando Cepeda** (1973) all spent a late-career season with the Red Sox long after their paths to Cooperstown had been defined.

Five things to watch on the Baseball Hall of Fame ballot: Could Beltré be a unanimous pick?

Jayson Stark, The Athletic

Could **Adrián Beltré** really become the first position player to get elected to the Hall of Fame unanimously? It's a fascinating question to contemplate, isn't it?

Derek Jeter missed by one vote. **Ken Griffey Jr.** missed by three. **Ty Cobb** was four away. **Cal Ripken Jr.** was eight away.

Babe Ruth wasn't unanimous. **Willie Mays** wasn't unanimous. **Henry Aaron** and **Ted Williams** weren't unanimous. It's bizarre even to type those words.

But Hall of Fame voting is in its ninth decade of making way too little sense. So even if the voters of the 21st century seem a lot more rational than their predecessors of 50, 60 and 70 years ago, there are always questions. Don't expect that to change between now and Jan. 23, when the results are announced.

So let's ask again: Is it possible that Beltré could join the great Mariano Rivera as the only unanimous Hall of Famers? I'll take the "under," but seriously, what reason could any voter find to not check Beltré's name?

Who could *not* vote for a third baseman with 3,166 hits? Can't answer that ... if only because no true full-time third baseman ever got that many. (**George Brett** finished with 3,154 hits. **Paul Molitor** topped 3,300 but spent more time at DH than at third.)

Who could *not* vote for a third baseman so smooth that he owns five Gold Glove awards and the most career Fielding Runs of any third baseman in history not named **Brooks Robinson**?

Who could *not* vote for a third baseman who once won a home run title, led his league in hits and was still winning Gold Gloves and collecting MVP votes at age 37?

Who could *not* vote for a third baseman who rolled up 93.5 career WAR, according to Baseball Reference? You understand that puts Beltré in legend territory, right? He ranks 25th in WAR among *all* position players whose careers began after 1900. And every non-Hall of Famer in that group is in the team picture of the All-PED team.

I'm sure somebody will find a reason not to vote for him. But even if Beltr  isn't unanimous, he could still rack up the highest first-ballot percentage by a third baseman in history. Brett was at 98.2 percent. Mike Schmidt was at 96.5.

Are we finally going to have a Hall of Famer who spent his whole career on a Rocky Mountain High?

Todd Helton spent 17 seasons playing for the Rockies. He finished his career with a .316/.414/.539/.953 slash line. You know how many players whose career started after 1930 have topped that? Exactly two: **Ted Williams** and **Stan Musial**.

So do we even have to ask whether Helton would already be a Hall of Famer if he'd put up those numbers anywhere else? That's obvious.

But what's also obvious is that Coors Field is like no place else. And Helton is the first player ever to play his whole career in Colorado and find himself on the precipice of the Hall of Fame. So even if the Coors Cooperstown Curse isn't what it used to be (4 years ago **Larry Walker** was elected), has it magically evaporated all of a sudden? Don't be so sure of that.

Nevertheless, there's an excellent chance Helton's time has arrived. He was the biggest shooting star on the ballot last year, jumping by an amazing 20 percent. So he missed election by 11 votes last year, his fifth on this ballot. And history tells us that pretty much everybody who comes that close gets his ticket to Cooperstown punched the next year.

In the past 50 elections, only 10 other players returned to the ballot after coming up short by 11 votes or fewer. Of that group, just **Jim Bunning** *didn't* get elected the next time he was up. And Bunning got his plaque eventually (via the Veterans Committee).

So Todd Helton is *going to be* the first career-long Rockie to make it onto that podium. The drama over these next two months is whether that happens now or later. And "now" is an excellent bet.

Jimmy Rollins and Chase Utley: Together again?

They were the **Alan Trammell** and **Lou Whitaker** of their generation. Will Hall of Fame voters value that?

Not so long ago, **Jimmy Rollins** and **Chase Utley** hung out in the middle of the infield for an incredible 1,227 games together, the most in National League history. And not all of those games were in Philadelphia, by the way. (They also teamed up for 14 games for the Dodgers at the end of the 2015 season.)

But now it's time for them to make yet one more cool reunion — on the new Hall of Fame ballot.

It's Utley's first year on the ballot, and he's as intriguing as any first-timer on the list. It's Rollins' third spin through the process. And at first, I thought: Hey, that's fun. But then my next thought was: Wait. Has this ever happened? Have two longtime double-play partners ever taken a ride together on the Cooperstown Express?

I knew, you see, that Trammell and Whitaker somehow *never* appeared on the same ballot. That's the voters' fault, not theirs, of course. Whitaker remains one of the writers' worst one-and-done's ever, getting bounced following his first election in 2001 after receiving just 2.9 percent of the vote. Which meant he was missing in action once Trammell arrived in 2002.

So I had to turn to my friends at STATS Perform to see if there was any parallel in history to Rollins and Utley. And let's start with this: No double-play combination in the history of baseball ever played as many games together as these two guys and then showed up on the Hall ballot together. Wow.

STATS' Tom Paquette dug deeper on this. Besides Rollins/ Utley and Trammell/Whitaker, he found only six double-play duos in the modern era (1901-present) that played at least 1,000 games together. But to find the last time any of those combinations appeared on the same Hall ballot, you have to go back nearly 40 years.

Nellie Fox and Luis Aparicio spent 1,035 games in the same infield in the 1950s and '60s. Then, between 1979 and 1984, they made it onto six Hall ballots together, a streak that ended with Aparicio's election in '84.

Before them, you have to travel back another four decades to find any other member of the 1,000-Game DP Combo Club that appeared on the same ballot. The only other was the fabled **Joe Tinker/Johnny Evers** tag team. But don't look for any YouTube footage on those two. They played their last game together for the Cubs in 1913. Then they appeared on six Hall ballots in the 1930s and '40s.

So is it possible that Rollins and Utley are in for a longer ride than six years? Since Rollins has eight years of eligibility left, it's theoretically possible. But is one of them going to get elected by 2031? Or both of them? Or neither? Good question. And if that answer is one of them, then which one?

Rollins has the more traditional selling points on his side: An MVP trophy, four Gold Gloves, more than 2,400 hits, 200 homers, 400 steals and 857 extra-base hits. And how many other shortstops in history can say that? That would be none. Yet he attracted only 50 votes last year. So is he going to find another 242 votes out there? That seems hard.

Utey, meanwhile, has a very different case. He's basically an analytics cult hero, whose monster peak (six seasons, from 2005-10, in which he *averaged* 7.6 WAR) has the potential to make him a popular name to check, especially when you add in all the winning his teams did.

But Utey never even got to 1,900 hits. And the writers haven't elected a player with under 2,000 in almost 50 years (since Ralph Kiner, in 1975). Yet if I had to place a friendly wager on this, I'd still bet Utey gets more votes this year than Rollins.

You know what would be really interesting, though? What are the chances these two can somehow elevate each other's candidacy — just by generating perspective and conversation about who's more deserving? It's a question worth asking, if only because I've always wondered what might have happened if Trammell and Whitaker had gotten the chance to do that.

Will Billy Wagner and Gary Sheffield run out of time?

It's **Gary Sheffield's** 10th and final year on this ballot. It's **Billy Wagner's** ninth, so he has two more shots at this. But is that enough time?

Fourteen years after he took his final ferocious hack, Sheffield attracted 54 more votes last year than he'd gotten the year before, so he's now at 55.0 percent. Thirteen years after his final save, Wagner's vote count rocketed upward by 64 votes last year — the biggest one-year jump by any reliever in Hall voting history. He made it all the way to 68.1 percent.

If one of them is going to make it to 75 percent, Wagner is the obvious favorite. He was only 27 votes — 6.9 percentage points — away from election last year. So are there really 27 voters so dug in on keeping him out of Cooperstown that he can't find those votes? History would suggest that's highly unlikely.

Five previous relievers — **Trevor Hoffman, Goose Gossage, Bruce Sutter, Hoyt Wilhelm and Rollie Fingers** — have crossed the 60 percent barrier with at least two years left on the ballot. All five of them got elected within two years.

On the other hand, Hoffman was at 67.3 percent in 2016 and still came up short the next year. So does Wagner have a 7 percentage point leap in him this time around? We love election night drama, right? That story has all the makings.

Sheffield, meanwhile, has a bigger mountain to climb because he's trying to do something extremely rare. Over the past 50 elections, only one man has made the unlikely pole vault from 55 percent (or lower) in his next-to-last year to getting elected at the buzzer. And that was Larry Walker, who was at 54.6 percent with one year to go — and then eked in by six votes on his final turn.

But does a guy with Sheffield's ties to performance-enhancing drugs, vague as they might be, have that sort of jump in him? Seems unlikely, but we're about to find out.

Can Joe Mauer channel his inner Ernie Banks?

Once upon a time, in a baseball galaxy far, far away, there was a future Hall of Famer named **Ernie Banks**. Just like **Joe Mauer**, his career was divided between time at two positions. Just like Mauer, he was special at one, not so much at the other.

In his nine seasons at what was then looked at as primarily a defensive position, Banks was the greatest hitting shortstop of his time. But then, in part two of his career, when he moved to an offensive position (first base), let's just say he didn't remind anybody of **Willie McCovey**.

So what happened when Banks finally appeared on a Hall of Fame ballot? He cruised to first-ballot election in 1977, with 83.8 percent of the vote. And why do we tell this tale of Mr. Cub at a time like this? Because it seems instructive to how voters could view Mauer in his first go-round on this ballot.

In his 10 seasons as a catcher for the Twins, Mauer did stuff at the plate no catcher had ever done. Three batting titles. An MVP award. A 135 OPS+. That's not just greatness at that position. That's historic greatness — for a full decade, remember.

But then concussions forced him to spend the last five seasons of his career at first base. And you know how that went. In his time at first, Mauer batted only .278, slugged a minuscule .388, never made another All-Star team and never showed up on a single MVP ballot. So now that his debut on the Hall ballot has finally arrived, here's the question:

Why *wouldn't* the voters treat him like they once treated Ernie Banks? At a position where he played *10 seasons*, Mauer was clearly way over the Hall of Fame line. So how heavily does he deserve to be penalized for honoring his contract by playing another position, where he wasn't That Guy?

On a ballot that's jammed with so many fun first-ballot names — Beltré, Utley, **David Wright**, **Bartolo Colon**, **Matt Holliday**, etc. — nobody is a more fascinating candidate to watch than the pride of St. Paul, Joe Mauer. But where is his vote total headed? That, my friends, is the reason columns like this exist.

LONGER READS

THE HALL OF FAME CASE FOR BILL WHITE

Jay Jaffee, FanGraphs

This post is part of a series covering the 2024 Contemporary Baseball Era Committee Managers/Executives/Umpires ballot, covering candidates in those categories who made their greatest impact from 1980 to the present. For an introduction to the ballot, see [here](#). The eight candidates will be voted upon at the Winter Meetings in Nashville on December 3, and anyone receiving at least 75% of the vote from the 16 committee members will be inducted in Cooperstown on July 21, 2024 along with any candidates elected by the BBWAA.

In the rules for Era Committee voting published on the Hall of Fame's web site, the provision regarding eligible candidates reads in part, "Those whose careers entailed involvement in multiple categories will be considered for their overall contribution to the game of Baseball; however, the specific category in which these individuals shall be considered will be determined by the role in which they were most prominent." In theory, this makes sense, but in practice, the various Era Committees have produced rather inconsistent results when it comes to weighing candidates with contributions in multiple areas.

For example, the elections of **Gil Hodges and Jim Kaat** as players via the 2022 Golden Days ballot suggest an additive effect via their additional contributions — the former as a manager, the latter as a broadcaster — atop long, good-to-great playing careers that didn't quite measure up as Hall-worthy in the eyes of BBWAA voters or previous committees (to say nothing of JAWS). Yet managers haven't been treated similarly in the recent past, with **Davey Johnson and Lou Piniella** each falling short twice and seeming to get less credit for solid playing careers atop stronger (but hardly unassailable) qualifications as skippers. Should those careers put them ahead of similarly qualified managers with no major league playing experience, such as this ballot's **Jim Leyland**? Does **Felipe Alou**, whose career WAR is greater than those of Johnson and Piniella combined but whose managerial record is limited by years spent with the impoverished Expos, belong in the same discussion? You can see how this quickly gets messy.

Bill White is a candidate who should benefit from voters considering the cumulative impact of his career, as he made major contributions in three separate areas, none of which by themselves would be enough to earn enshrinement but within a larger portfolio look more impressive. As a player with the Giants, Cardinals, and Phillies from 1956 to '69, he won seven consecutive Gold Gloves and earned All-Star honors in five seasons. He helped the Cardinals win the 1964 World Series, but even before that, he made a bigger impact by speaking out against the Jim Crow laws that separated Black players from their teammates in segregated Florida during spring training, long after the color line had fallen.

After retiring from playing, White began an 18-year run (1971–88) calling Yankees games and working for national networks, one that made him the first full-time Black play-by-play broadcaster in any sport. After retiring from broadcasting, he spent five years (1989–94) as president of the National League, making him the first Black person to assume such a post and the highest-ranking Black executive in any sport at the time. It adds up to a unique and admirable career as an ambassador for the game.

William DeKova White was born into a family of sharecroppers on January 28, 1934 in Lakewood, Florida. He never knew his father, and his first home had no electricity or indoor plumbing. When he was three, his mother moved the family to Warren, Ohio, where she worked as a housecleaner before going to secretarial school and getting a civilian job with the US Air Force. The family lived in segregated housing, but White attended the mostly-white Warren G. Harding High School, where he was elected senior class president. By tradition the class president was supposed to have the first dance with the prom queen... but the school's principal ended that tradition because the queen was white.

White lettered in three sports, but he was a better student (second in his class) than athlete. "I was first string in nothing. I was about the third-string halfback in football, and in basketball I was the 10th man on a 10-man team," he recounted in 2011. He nonetheless received football scholarship offers but chose to accept an academic scholarship to Hiram College in Hiram, Ohio. While playing for the baseball team as an 18-year-old, he drew the attention of Giants bird dog scout Alan Fey by homering twice in a championship game played at the Reds' Crosley Field. Fey invited him to try out for Giants manager **Leo Durocher**, who saw him hit balls over Forbes Field's right field wall (the team was in Pittsburgh). The Giants offered him a contract, which he agreed to once the team raised its bonus offer to \$2,500. His mother let him sign with a promise he would finish college; he figured to pursue a medical degree if he didn't reach the majors in three or four years.

White's entry into professional baseball brought him face to face with some of the ugly realities of segregation circa 1953. In Phoenix, where the Giants trained, he was turned away from a movie theater that lacked a balcony for segregated seating. In the Carolina League, where he began his career with the Giants' Danville (Virginia) affiliate, he was the circuit's only Black player, a target for epithets and, in one game in North Carolina, death threats. In his 2011 memoir *Uppity: My Untold Story About The Games People Play*, he recounted one fan shouting, "You'll be lucky if your black a— makes it out of here alive." White only exacerbated the situation by giving the fans the middle finger. His teammates escorted him to the bus, which the mob pelted with rocks.

Despite the abuse, White hit well at Danville, Sioux City (1954) and Dallas (1955). He played just 20 games at Triple-A Minneapolis in 1956 before being called up to the Giants to replace slumping first baseman **Gail Harris**. Facing the Cardinals' **Ben Flowers** on May 7, he homered in his first plate appearance, adding a double and a single. He held the job for the rest of the season, hitting .256/.321/.459 (108 OPS+) with 22 homers overall.

White's career was interrupted when he was drafted into the Army in 1957. While serving at Fort Knox, Kentucky, where he quit the baseball team over teammates' indifference to his being refused service in a restaurant, he missed the entire season and over half of the 1958 one, not returning until late July. By then the Giants had moved to San Francisco, and 20-year-old first baseman **Orlando Cepeda** was en-route to Rookie of the Year honors. White made just 36 plate appearances in 26 games, mainly as a pinch-hitter. On March 25, 1959, he was traded to the Cardinals as part of a four-player deal, with pitcher "**Toothpick**" **Sam Jones** the key return.

The Cardinals had 38-year-old **Stan Musial** at first base, so White spent most of his time in left field, where he was solid; he often moved to first late in games. He hit .302/.344/.470 and was selected for both of that year's All-Star Games (two apiece were played from 1959 to '62). That began a six-year stretch during which he earned All-Star honors every year except 1962. For that time, he hit .301/.356/.475 (118 OPS+), averaging 19 homers, 10 steals, and 3.8 WAR per year; in his best offensive season, 1963, he hit .304/.360/.491 (131 wRC+) with 27 homers, 109 RBI, and 6.0 WAR thanks to excellent defense. Indeed, after swapping places with Musial, he won Gold Gloves annually from 1960 to '66.

White's 1964 season, his last as an All-Star, may have been his most rewarding. He hit .303/.355/.474 with 21 homers and 102 RBI — good for a career-best third-place finish in the NL MVP voting behind teammate **Ken Boyer** and the Phillies' **Johnny Callison** — and helped the Cardinals finish one game ahead of both the Phillies and Reds in a tight three-way pennant race. In the season's penultimate series, White went 7-for-13 in a three-game sweep of the Phillies. He went just 3-for-27 in the World Series against the Yankees, but two hits came in Game 7, where he singled and came around to score in a three-run rally that turned the game from 3–0 to 6–0.

Off the field, White had an even greater impact while with the Cardinals. At the time, the team trained in St. Petersburg, and Black players were required to find their own lodging, which they did with the help of local NAACP member Dr. Ralph Wimbish. When Wimbish declared in 1961 that he would no longer help them find separate housing — a move he hoped would lead to integrated quarters — the local Ku Klux Klan burned a cross on his lawn.

When white players but not Black ones — including White, **Curt Flood**, and **Bob Gibson** — were invited to the St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce's "Salute to Baseball" breakfast that year, White reached his limit. He spoke out on the record regarding the unfair treatment to Associated Press reporter Joe Reichler — something that Black players just didn't do in that day:

"When will we (Negro players) be made to feel like humans? They invited all but the colored players. Even the kids who never have come to bat once in the big leagues received invitations — that is, if they were white. How much longer must we accept this without saying a word? This thing keeps gnawing away at my heart. I think about this every minute of the day."

St. Petersburg officials claimed the lack of invitations was a misunderstanding; a Cardinals official claimed he had not invited some players — Black or white — because the breakfast was early and they weren't staying at the team's downtown hotel (a segregated one, ahem). White declined his belated invitation, but the next year, the Cardinals insisted their players be allowed to stay in the same hotel, regardless of race. Musial and Boyer, both of whom usually stayed with their families in beach houses, joined the rest of the team at the hotel in a show of solidarity. With Black players such as the Tigers' **Bill Bruton** similarly pushing for integration around the league, by the beginning of spring training in 1962, half of the 14 teams who trained in Florida had integrated their facilities. By the end, only the Tigers in Lakeland were holdouts; they would integrate the next year.

White had a strong season in 1965, but the Cardinals slipped to seventh in an eight-team league (albeit at just 80–81). General manager Bob Howsam decided to clean house, trading his three infielders over 30 years of age, namely Boyer, second baseman **Dick Groat**, and White, the last two to the Phillies as part of a six-player deal. In Philadelphia, White didn't care much for manager **Gene Mauch**, calling him "a control freak," but he had his fourth straight season above 5.0 WAR.

In December 1967, White tore his Achilles tendon in his right foot while playing paddleball. He underwent surgery but returned too quickly, reinjured the ankle during spring training, and was limited to 90 games, that with the help of regular novocaine shots and amphetamines. He hit just eight homers, breaking a streak of six straight seasons with at least 20. After one more season in Philadelphia, the 35-year-old White was traded back to St. Louis, where he served mainly as a pinch-hitter, and retired at season's end.

White finished his playing career with respectable but not Hall-worthy numbers; among first basemen, he's 50th in career WAR (39.6) and 48th in JAWS (35.3), six spots below Hodges — a weak selection as a player, to these eyes — but just above **Boog Powell**, **Steve Garvey**, and **George Scott**, cornerstones of multiple contenders.

That playing career set White up for bigger things. During his time with the Cardinals, he had hosted a radio show on St. Louis' KMOX, and with the Phillies, he taped a pregame show for Philadelphia's WFIL-TV, even meeting with the show's sponsor, Tasty Baking, which had been the subject of boycotts over racial discrimination, to push them to hire more Black employees. After his playing days were done, he returned to Philadelphia to join WFIL's Action News as its first sports anchor, and became the first Black broadcaster to call a National Hockey League game.

White's work calling college basketball caught the ear of ABC Sports' Howard Cosell. When the Yankees began searching for a play-by-play announcer to replace Bob Gamere, who lasted just one season, Cosell recommended White to Yankees president Mike Burke. Via Sports Broadcast Journal in 2021:

It was believed that Burke's reasoning for hiring White was to expunge the Yankees' stodgy image and appeal more to minorities. White though said, "I didn't really want to be hired because of that (being Black)," adding, "the Yankees were one of the best-known teams and in the Bronx. It would be great for young Black kids to turn on the TV and see one of their own."

From the *New York Post's* coverage of the introductory press conference:

White blushed when somebody suggested he was the **Jackie Robinson** of baseball broadcasting.

"We hired him," said Yankee president Michael Burke, "because he was the best man for the job."

White became the first full-time Black play-by-play voice for any sports team, joining Yankees legend **Phil Rizzuto** and Frank Messer in the booth for television and radio simulcasts. White, who had no previous experience calling baseball, flubbed a few calls in spring training and was briefly taken off play-by-play, but practice with Yankees public relations man Marty Appel and a tape recorder helped to smooth out his delivery. Years later, Dodgers broadcaster Vin Scully offered him important tips after listening to tapes White sent him.

The White-Rizzuto-Messer combination clicked even as the broadcast adopted "a schtick to keep things entertaining" (White's words) amid the Yankees' early 1970s struggles, with White often playing the straight man to Rizzuto and his antics. The trio lasted 15 years together (with others occasionally augmenting the group) through 1985, with White and Rizzuto continuing together through '88. The rapport between the two was genuine, and they built a friendship away from the booth. From White's SABR bio, written by Warren Corbett:

The former shortstop was a famously casual broadcaster, plugging his favorite restaurants, especially those that supplied free cannoli, and leaving games in the seventh inning so he could beat the traffic home to New Jersey. It was said that the most frequent entry in his scorebook was "WW," for "wasn't watching." White blossomed as his on-air foil and straight man. Rizzuto always called him "White," never "Bill." ... When Rizzuto was dying in 2007, White visited him in the hospital and silently held his hand. White said, "I loved Phil Rizzuto."

White's call of **Bucky Dent's** shocking three-run homer at Fenway Park in the Game 163 tiebreaker in 1978 is considered one of the iconic calls in New York sports history.

<https://youtu.be/0tI7xW4Oxo0>

Given the Yankees' return to success, the trio worked WPIX broadcasts for the 1976, '77, '78, '80, and '81 American League Championship Series. White also did national work for CBS Radio, calling five World Series (1976–78, '87–88). From 1977 to '79, he also worked as part of a three-man crew for ABC's *Monday Night Baseball* with Al Michaels and **Bob Gibson**, and did pregame reporting for the Yankee Stadium-based games for the 1977 World Series; he also presented

the World Series trophy that year. Beyond baseball, he was part of ABC's coverage of the 1980 and '84 Winter Olympics.

According to White, twice he rebuffed offers from Yankees owner George Steinbrenner to become the team's general manager, which would have made him the second Black GM in AL/NL history after the Braves' Bill Lucas (1976–79). Given the revolving-door nature of the job under Steinbrenner, the decision to decline may have served his career better.

In September 1988, NL president Bart Giamatti was elected to succeed Peter Ueberroth as commissioner. Dodgers owner Peter O'Malley, who headed the six-member search committee for Giamatti's successor, called White three times in order to convince him to interview for the position. "My first comment was, 'Are you serious?'" White said at his introductory press conference. He was reluctant to change his lifestyle and return to everyday work. "But in meeting with people, I found out they were dead serious. Once I knew that, we proceeded from there." Both the search committee and the 12 NL owners approved White unanimously, and he received a four-year contract.

At the time of his hiring, Major League Baseball was under fire for its lack of Black executives and managers in the wake of Dodgers general manager Al Campanis' racist remarks on ABC's *Nightline* in 1987, in which he said that Black people "may not have some of the necessities" to be field manager or general manager. In nearly two years since that debacle, teams had hired just one manager (**Frank Robinson**) and few executives (most prominently Astros GM **Bob Watson**). "Let's face it, they wanted a black National League president," White told *The New York Times*' Claire Smith in 1991.

"Bill White was selected because he was the best man for the job," O'Malley said at White's introductory press conference. "He was the only man who was offered the job and, fortunately, he was the only man who accepted. Race was not a factor."

"I can't address the question of race," White said. "To some people, I suppose this would be of symbolic importance. But to the search committee, I just met the qualifications. After 18 years of saying a guy hits a ground ball to first base, it's time to move on."

Henry Aaron, who had been publicly critical of baseball's hiring practices, hailed White's appointment, calling it "on par with Jackie Robinson." Gibson told Smith, "Bill had no choice but to accept that job. Not for himself, but for other people."

White became the highest-ranking Black executive in any sport, in charge of disciplining on-field personnel and supervising NL umpires (the two leagues' pools would not be combined until 2000). In 1990, he clashed with **Richie Phillips**, the head of the umpires' union, over **Joe West**'s handling of an ejection of the Phillies' **Von Hayes**. He prohibited West from touching players when attempting to stop brawls and expressed a belief that both West and Phillips had misrepresented what took place. Calling White's public criticism "an unprecedented lack of support for umpires," Phillips appealed to commissioner Fay Vincent (who had replaced

Giamatti after his sudden death in October 1989). White threatened to resign if he didn't receive the commissioner's backing; Vincent resolved the matter, upholding White's prohibition, mandating that White and West keep future exchanges private, and instructing White and AL president **Bobby Brown** to construct a policy regarding umpires' roles during brawls. The NL owners backed White as well.

White was involved in the 1989 decision to ban **Pete Rose** for gambling (he had nearly suspended Rose for shoving West just a week before the ban was handed down) and the '93 decision to suspend Marge Schott for "her use of racially and ethnically insensitive language." He additionally oversaw the selection of Denver and Miami as the NL's two expansion cities in 1991 (the clubs would join the league two years later), a process that had begun in '84. He and the three owners on the committee winnowed down 18 ownership groups from 10 cities to determine the two that would pay the league's \$95 million franchise fee.

The Rockies soon drew White's ire, as they didn't interview any minority candidates for their top front-office positions, a mandate initially put in place for all teams by Giamatti in 1989 and endorsed by Vincent. "Promises were made along these lines by these two new clubs," he said. "I am surprised and disappointed... that no black people, no Hispanic people have been interviewed for any of these jobs."

White's public comments on hiring were a break from his efforts to keep his championing of affirmative action behind the scenes. "They hired me to run the league," he told Smith. "Whatever I can do positive for minorities and women is a plus. But keep in mind, that is not my primary job here. And if I spend my time doing that and don't do the job here, I'm gone. And... I am not sure that anyone else will get that opportunity again."

White drew mild criticism for not making himself more accessible to the public, or to his employers, and became frustrated by the seeming impossibility of satisfying so many constituencies — labor and management, players and umpires. "There are just too many spheres of influence all working against each other instead of working to where you get one circle together," he told Smith. In a 1992 speech to the Black Coaches Association, he voiced some frustration at the owners by saying, "I deal with people now who I know are racists and bigots. I'm bitter. I'm mad."

The owners' ouster of Vincent and installation of Bud Selig as acting commissioner did not sit well with White, who saw the consolidation of power as likely to erode the authority of the league offices. He retired from the presidency in 1994. From '94 to 2001, he served as a voting member of the Hall of Fame's Veterans Committee, most notably participating in the election of his old broadcasting colleague and friend, Rizzuto. Stronger selections during his tenure included former teammate Jim Bunning, integration pioneer **Larry Doby**, and Negro Leagues stars **Leon Day**, **Bullet Rogan**, **Turkey Stearnes** and **Willie Wells**.

When it comes to joining those men in Cooperstown, so far White has fallen short. In three years on the BBWAA ballot, starting in 1975, he maxed out at 1.9% (the Five Percent Rule was

not yet in place). In both 2003 and '07, he was considered on composite Veterans Committees ballots alongside managers, executives and umpires. Those slates were voted upon by all living Hall of Famers and, in the first of those years, also Spink and Frick Award winners. The committees failed to elect anyone, with White receiving 28% in 2003 and 30% in '07. On a 2010 Veterans Committee ballot containing only executives, he was one of six candidates who received two votes or fewer from among the 12 voters; again, no one was elected.

Because he contributed in three different areas, White's candidacy isn't easy to evaluate, but his playing career was a notable one; if not Hall caliber, it's not far off from the likes of the recently elected **Gil Hodges** and the popular **Steve Garvey**. Hodges' post-playing exploits boil down to managing the 1969 Mets to an unlikely championship and two other seasons barely above .500 from among his nine on the job. To these eyes, White's pioneering work as a broadcaster and executive trumps that — there's one champion annually, after all, but it's not every year that someone sets major firsts that open so many doors for others. Regarding **Jim Kaat**, White's about the same distance from the JAWS standard at first base (18 points) as the long-lasting lefty is from those among starting pitchers (19); the latter had a longer career in the booth but hardly as groundbreaking, and he never worked as an executive.

Considering all of that as well as the example White set by speaking out on the record regarding segregated housing as a player, which put his career at risk but led to swift change, I have to question how voters could think of turning him down. The breadth of White's achievements and the impact he made upon the game in so many areas resonates and merits election. Particularly on a ballot where none of the other candidates appear to be slam dunks, I think White's accomplishments make him the single most worthy candidate, and I believe the Hall of Fame itself would be improved by his addition. You can't ask for much more.

LIFE CHANGING MONEY – HOW THE DIAMONDBACKS DISTRIBUTED THEIR PLAYOFF SHARES

Ken Rosenthal, The Athletic

Not all of them know it yet, but numerous members of the Arizona Diamondbacks' support staff, including food-room attendants, are going to receive at least a portion of a postseason share.

"There are a lot of people who will be pretty surprised when they get checks in the mail," third baseman **Evan Longoria** said Wednesday.

Every season, players on postseason contenders vote on how they will divide the pool of money they would receive from playoff gate receipts. The vote occasionally causes friction — the 2018 Yankees reportedly shortchanged certain coaches and support staff who were members of their traveling party. But more often, the distribution of shares reflects the players' generosity, both

toward each other and the team employees who assist them during the season, from the traveling secretary to clubhouse attendants.

The Diamondbacks, unexpected National League champions, voted 71 full shares, each worth \$313,634, and 11.49 partial shares, according to figures released Tuesday by the commissioner's office. The World Series champion Texas Rangers voted 64 full shares, each worth \$506,263, 12.56 partial shares and \$48,000 in cash awards.

The overall pool, a record \$107.8 million this season, includes 60 percent of total gate receipts from the first two games of each Wild Card series, the first three games of each Division Series and the first four games of each League Championship Series and the World Series. The further a team advances, the greater its chunk of the pool.

The number of full shares the Diamondbacks agreed upon was not the most in recent years. The Dodgers distributed 80, 82 and 80 full shares the past three seasons, the Rays and Yankees 74 in 2021, and the Phillies 72 in 2022. But Longoria, the 16-year veteran who oversaw the Diamondbacks' shares meeting after the team released its player representative, shortstop **Nick Ahmed**, on Sept. 11, made clear to his teammates the importance of distributing the money in an unselfish manner.

Players from other clubs echo his sentiments.

"When I first came up and sat in my first shares meeting one common theme came out from the likes of **Dan Uggla**, **Brian McCann**, etc.: 'If we win the World Series these shares can be life-changing money to some of these people,'" said first baseman **Freddie Freeman**, who has appeared in eight postseasons with the Braves and Dodgers.

"That stuck with me. So as I've gotten older in the game and have a voice, that's what I say. Thankfully we have a lot of guys with the Dodgers who feel the same way. Support staff work so hard throughout the year. We just try and be as generous as possible."

Added first baseman **Rhys Hoskins**, a member of the 2022 Phillies: "We felt because it had been so so long for the franchise and all of the people that had worked there during our 10-year postseason drought, it was important to take care of as many of the people that had any hand in allowing us to be the best product on the field. That's really what it came down to. Our owner has always preached the importance of feeling like a family. That resounded with us during our meetings."

Longoria, who has appeared in six postseasons, said his first priority was making sure the Diamondbacks' players felt they were treated fairly. At least 20, he estimated, automatically qualified for full shares. Players and managers who are with a team from June 1 until the end of the season fall into that category, according to major-league rules. Those players, injured as well as active, also are the only ones who can vote.

The Diamondbacks also voted full shares for their full-time major-league coaches and athletic trainers, as well as players such as outfielder **Tommy Pham** and closer **Paul Sewald**, who arrived in midseason trades. Non-uniformed personnel such as front-office executives do not receive postseason shares.

Players with minimal service time sparked the greatest debate, Longoria said. Teams are required to vote on shares before the playoffs start, without knowing how the games will play out. A club that withholds a full share from a youngster risks making an unfair decision if the youngster emerges as a major contributor in October.

“That’s the hardest part of the process — you have to decide that before you know the impact everybody is going to have,” said Longoria, who prior to the meeting sought input from players with other clubs. “That’s why we ended up deciding, if you make a roster, you’re going to get a full share, just because of the potential impact you could have playing deeper into October.”

Left-handed reliever **Andrew Saalfrank** was one such example, making only 10 regular-season appearances, all after Sept. 4, then pitching 11 times in the postseason, getting scored on only twice. Pitcher Bryce Jarvis, who made the Wild Card Series roster but no other, received a full share without ever pitching in the playoffs. Pitcher **Slade Cecconi**, whose only contribution in October was two innings in the NLCS, also received a full share. So did infielder **Jordan Lawlar**, who had only two plate appearances in three rounds.

With their postseason shares, Saalfrank and Lawlar roughly tripled the money they earned in limited service time during the regular season. For Jarvis and Cecconi, the shares were approximately double. But as much as such players will welcome the additional cash, they already were earning a pro-rated portion of baseball’s \$720,000 minimum salary last season. Support staffers such as clubhouse attendants work for much less.

“I kind of said to the group, I’m in a different spot, I’ve made plenty of money,” said Longoria, who has earned nearly \$150 million in his career and is now a free agent, undecided about playing next season.

“Don’t get me wrong. I’m not rolling my eyes over a \$300,000 check. I’m just saying the impact that it has on me is not going to be as significant as on any of our younger players who have limited service time or our clubhouse attendants or our kitchen attendants. That impact is going to be much, much more for them.

“I said, I don’t feel like I should be the one to make this decision. But I want you guys to understand the perspective that I’m coming from when I say it’s life-changing for these people.”

If that hasn’t hit home for the players yet, it will soon. The collective-bargaining agreement requires the money to be distributed within 30 days of the completion of the World Series.

"These guys will get Christmas cards or messages on their phones, thanks from those people," Longoria said. "And they'll understand at that point what being in that position and being able to make that impact on somebody's life means."

WHAT MADE LATE PADRES OWNER PETER SEIDLER BELOVED BY HIS MLB PEERS

Bon Nightengale, USA TODAY

Major League Baseball owners arrived at their meetings this week, holding back tears, still trying to grasp that beloved San Diego Padres owner Peter Seidler is gone.

"I saw the news on my phone, I couldn't believe it," Yankees owner Hal Steinbrenner said.

St. Louis Cardinals owner Bill DeWitt was checking into the hotel, informed of the news by a reporter, and recoiled, hurrying to his room.

Commissioner Rob Manfred was having a committee meeting when he was informed of Seidler's death, shared the news with several owners in the room, and no one uttered a word.

"We just sat there," Milwaukee Brewers owner Mark Attanasio said, "and couldn't say anything."

Seidler, 63, the grandson of Dodgers legendary owner Walter O'Malley, was a beautiful man, with a passionate soul, unbridled optimism, with an unwavering commitment to his beloved city of San Diego.

"He had (non-Hodgkin's) lymphoma, twice overcoming it," Attanasio tells USA TODAY Sports, "but he never had a bad day. At least I never saw it. It was hard to always stay positive going through the treatments, but he was unfailingly positive. He was always warm, kind and gentle.

"How many baseball owners can you say are gentle?"

When Major League Baseball and the players association were at war two years ago, threatening to cancel the 2022 season, no one was more miserable than Seidler. Even when a resolution was reached on a five-year contract, Seidler was pleading for a 10-year contract.

When Seidler spent a franchise-record \$258 million on his club, sending MLB and his fellow owners into a tizzy, believing he was ruining the game with his expenditures for a small-market team, Seidler's retort was that he had a plan. And, oh, by the way, he pleaded with reporters: Will you stop calling the Padres a small-market club?

"A lot of people thought that that San Diego would never be a baseball city," said Attanasio, Seidler's closest friend among owners. "It's a military town. It's a beach town. He made baseball more than relevant. He brought passion to that fanbase, and that's as loud a crowd as you will ever hear."



Padres owner Peter Seidler celebrates in the PETCO Park clubhouse after San Diego bounced the Dodgers in the 2022 NLDS.

The Padres finished with an 82-80 record, perhaps the most disappointing team in baseball history, but still drew a franchise record 3.2 million fans, selling out 61 games, and averaging 40,389 fans a game. They went from receiving revenue-sharing money from their fellow owners, to paying it, despite their massive financial losses.

Seidler didn't care. He just wanted to win. It was important for him to leave behind a legacy for the entire community, so desperately wanting to win a World Series, no matter the cost, and no matter how much it upset owners.

Attanasio was well aware of the angst Seidler was causing among fellow owners, going back to why he would dare sign **Fernando Tatis Jr.** to a 14-year, \$340 million contract in 2021 before he played a full season.

"Look," he told Attanasio. "We've got a business plan. The Chargers are leaving. There's no other sports team in town. We think we have an opportunity here if we seize this now. And we have a business plan to draw a lot more fans."

Said Attanasio: "And guess what, he did."

Seidler refused to stop. He secretly had **Aaron Judge** come into town the night before he returned to the Yankees, offering him a 10-year, \$400 million contract, and willing to pay more if needed. He offered shortstop **Trea Turner** \$42 million more than the Phillies' 11-year, \$300 million deal, and when rebuffed, spent \$280 million on shortstop **Xander Bogaerts**.

If Seidler were alive today, he'd try to have free agent **Shohei Ohtani** fill out a blank check.

Seidler, who lived life as if he were immortal, was slowly dying in front of us this past year. He looked more frail every time you saw him. His shirts were too big, his sports jacket drooped off his shoulder.

But he would never let you believe he even had a cold.

"He was a two-time cancer survivor," Padres CEO Erik Greupner said, "so I think as a result he was more aware than the rest of us that his days were numbered, or limited."

Still, he would never let onto anyone about his health. You ask him how he's doing, and he immediately spun the narrative, asking about you and your family.

"You could tell he was sick," White Sox chairman Jerry Reinsdorf said, "but he didn't want anyone to feel bad for him. He was just so universally liked."

He wasn't just beloved by the owners, but everyone else he met. The grounds crew. The stadium workers. Beer vendors. Government officials. Players.

"He was just the most genuine and pure soul," Padres Cy Young winner **Blake Snell** said. "He was such a great man."

Padres All-Star pitchers **Yu Darvish** and **Joe Musgrove** dropped flowers off at Petco Park the day Seidler passed, while an artist painted a mural of him with the simple message: "Thank you."

“Peter was a truly wonderful human being, and being in his presence was always a blessing,” Darvish posted on X. “He was a teacher of life, and taught me countless lessons from all the interactions we had. May his beautiful soul rest in peace.”

Seidler was a man of the people, opening his doors to anyone and everyone. You dropped into his spacious corner office at Petco Park, and it had less furniture than a college dorm room. He’d passionately talk about trying to combat the homeless situation in downtown San Diego, asking for solutions.

His idea of a great time at the ballpark was not sitting in his Petco Park suite wining and dining dignitaries, but hanging out at the batting cage before games talking to everyone from grounds crew to **Manny Machado**, showing as much respect to the bat boys as he did to \$300 million players.

“We’d be in the office and he’d say, ‘Let’s go down to batting practice,’” Greupner said. “He loved being on the field. He loved talking to people. He was never in a rush. He would always pause, and just soak in the moment, and enjoy the people around him. He made such a conscious decision to be present in the moment, enjoying every moment with people around him, and didn’t take them for granted.

“He treasured each and every one.”

The outpouring of love and appreciation for Seidler and his family was shown all week. He wasn’t just a baseball owner, he was a community treasure, doing everything possible to improve the community and help the homeless problem.

He would routinely take walks alone around town asking the homeless what could be done to help. One time, he left his cell phone on top of his car, realized what happened, tracked down his phone, and discovered that a homeless man had it in his shopping cart.

Seidler knew it was his, and could have demanded it be returned, but instead bought the man lunch, and gave him a generous tip to have it back.

There wasn’t a negative bone in the man’s body. Even with his team flailing away with its massive payroll, Seidler remained undaunted, convinced it was going to turn around any day.

“I remember his first year, the Padres were 20 games out of first place in September,” Attanasio said, “and he was still hanging on every pitch. He was like, ‘Everything’s going to be OK.’”

That was Seidler, with enough optimism to fill every tank at SeaWorld, trying to make the world a better place.

It was the first day of spring training this year when Seidler uttered the words: “One day soon, the baseball gods will smile on the San Diego Padres, and will have a parade.”

Whenever the Padres have that parade to celebrate their first World Series championship, the first float should be for the Seidler family, wife Sheel, and their three young children, aged 11 to 4.

Surely, Seidler will be there in spirit, looking down from the heavens, saying, "I told you this day would come."

May his legacy live forever in the San Diego community.

THIS WEEK'S TRIVIA CHALLENGE ANSWERS

Can you name the teammates who won MVP and Cy Young Award in the same year?

2013 Tigers	2006 Twins
MVP Miguel Cabrera	MVP Justin Morneau
CYA Max Scherzer	CYA Johan Santana
2005 Cardinals	2002 A's
MVP Albert Pujols	MVP Miguel Tejada
CYA Chris Carpenter	CYA Barry Zito
1993 White Sox	1991 Braves
MVP Frank Thomas	MVP Terry Pendleton
CYA Jack McDowell	CYA Tom Glavine
1990 A's	1990 Pirates
MVP Rickey Henderson	MVP Barry Bonds
CYA Bob Welch	CYA Doug Drabek
1988 Dodgers	1984 Cubs
MVP Kirk Gibson	MVP Ryne Sandberg
CYA Orel Hershiser	CYA Rick Sutcliffe
1982 Brewers	1980 Phillies
MVP Robin Yount	MVP Mike Schmidt
CYA Pete Vuckovich	CYA Steve Carlton
1974 Dodgers	1967 Red Sox
MVP Steve Garvey	MVP Carl Yastrzemski
CYA Mike Marshall	CYA Jim Lonborg

1962 Dodgers	1961 Yankees
MVP Maury Wills	MVP Roger Maris
CYA Don Drysdale	CYA Whitey Ford

17 players won 10 or more gold gloves. Let's see how many you can name.

18 (P) Greg Maddux	Cubs, Braves, Dodgers, Padres
16 (P) Jim Kaat	Senators, Twins, White Sox, Phillies, Yankees, Cardinals
16 (3B) Brooks Robinson	Orioles
13 (C) Iván Rodríguez	Rangers, Marlins, Tigers, Yankees, Astros, Nationals
13 (SS) Ozzie Smith	Padres, Cardinals
12 (OF) Roberto Clemente	Pirates
12 (OF) Willie Mays	Giants, Mets
11 (1B) Keith Hernandez	Cardinals, Mets, Indians
11 (SS) Omar Vizquel	Mariners, Indians, Giants, Rangers, White Sox, Blue Jays
10 (3B) Nolan Arenado	Rockies, Cardinals
10 (2B) Roberto Alomar	Padres, Blue Jays, Orioles, Indians, Mets, White Sox, Diamondbacks
10 (C) Johnny Bench	Reds
10 (OF) Andruw Jones	Braves, Dodgers, Rangers, White Sox, Yankees
10 (OF) Ken Griffey	Mariners, Reds, White Sox
10 (OF) Al Kaline	Tigers
10 (3B) Mike Schmidt	Phillies
10 (OF) Ichiro Suzuki	Mariners, Yankees, Marlins

Ten groups of American League stars. Which player in each group never won MVP?

Josh Hamilton	2010 AL MVP
Joe Mauer	2009 AL MVP
<u>DAVID ORTIZ</u>	
Dustin Pedroia	2008 AL MVP
 Juan González	 1998, 1996 AL MVP
<u>DEREK JETER</u>	
Iván Rodríguez	1999 AL MVP
Mo Vaughn	1995 AL MVP

Ken Griffey Jr.	1997 AL MVP
<u>MANNY RAMIREZ</u>	
Cal Ripken Jr.	1991, 1983 AL MVP
Frank Thomas	1994, 1993 AL MVP

Don Baylor	1979 AL MVP
Rod Carew	1977 AL MVP
<u>CARLTON FISK</u>	
Jim Rice	1978 AL MVP

<u>CARLOS DELGADO</u>	
Jason Giambi	2000 AL MVP
Alex Rodriguez	2007, 2003 AL MVP
Miguel Tejada	2013 AL MVP

<u>LUKE APPLING</u>	
Jimmie Foxx	1938, 1933, 1932 AL MVP
Charlie Gehringer	1937 AL MVP
Hank Greenberg	1940, 1935 AL MVP

Vladimir Guerrero	2004 AL MVP
Justin Morneau	2006 AL MVP
Ichiro Suzuki	2001 AL MVP
<u>JIM THOME</u>	

George Bell	1987 AL MVP
<u>WADE BOGGS</u>	
Jose Canseco	1988 AL MVP
Don Mattingly	1985 AL MVP

Dick Allen	1972 AL MVP
Reggie Jackson	1973 AL MVP
Fred Lynn	1975 AL MVP
<u>DAVE WINFIELD</u>	

George Brett	1980 AL MVP
<u>PAUL MOLITOR</u>	
Thurman Munson	1976 AL MVP
Robin Yount	1989, 1985 AL MVP

Please remember to check out

SUNDAYBASEBALLTIDBITS.COM

Over 5,000 pages of our back issues, trivia questions & answers, subscriber recommendations for best baseball books and websites. Easy access to all our trivia questions and answers.

Special thanks to **Todd Mogren** for web support.

HOUSEKEEPING

Sunday Baseball Tidbits is distributed every Sunday morning. The goal is to provide “2 Cups of Coffee worth of baseball news, analysis, history and trivia” from a range of sources. All content belongs to its respective copyright holders. This newsletter is provided for the non-commercial enjoyment of our subscribers. Please email nhsuperseven@yahoo.com for a free subscription. We will never share your email address. Questions, comments, ideas, corrections and pointers to content you think subscribers would enjoy are encouraged and appreciated.

Our sources include:

The Athletic	Baseball-almanac.com
Baseballroundtable.com	Bleacher Report
Boston Globe	Mlb.com
The New York Times	Joe Posnanski newsletter
SABR.org	Sports Illustrated
Joe Sheehan newsletter	Baseballreference.com
ESPN.com	New York Post
SBNation	mlbtraderumors.com
baseballsavant.mlb.com	thebaseballcube.com
baseballthinkfactory.org	historicbaseball.com

ViSN (Vegas information and sports network)

Atlas Obscura	statmuse.com
Fangraphs.com	The New Yorker
Baseball's Best and Worst	Thedrummeyangle.com
Sports Business Journal	thisdayinbaseball.com
horsehidetrivia.blogspot.com	sportsskeeda.com
theringer.com	teamrankings.com
sporcle trivia quizzes	nowtakingthefield

Please check them out and support them.