

# Baseball Player Won-Lost Records

15 Players, 5 Years



By Tom Thress

# **BASEBALL PLAYER WON-LOST RECORDS:**

**150 Players, 50 Years**

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## **Introduction and Calculation of Top 150 List**

In my first book, *Player Won-Lost Records in Baseball: Measuring Performance in Context* (McFarland, 2017), I introduced Player won-lost records. This book takes a closer look at 150 significant players of the past 50 years as seen through the prism of Player won-lost records.

### **Overview of Player Won-Lost Records**

The calculation and interpretation of Player won-lost records are described in great detail in my first book. Player won-lost records for all players, teams, and seasons for which I have calculated them are available on my website, <http://baseball.tomthress.com>.

A brief overview of Player won-lost records is presented here for convenience.

Player won-lost records are calculated play by play at the game level. I actually calculate two sets of Player won-lost records: pWins and eWins. The first of these, pWins, are calculated such that the players on a winning team earn exactly two pWins and one pLoss within each game while the players on a losing team earn exactly one pWin and two pLosses. Hence, the allocation of pWins and pLosses is highly context-dependent. The allocation of pWins within a game is based on win probability. All of this is described in much more detail in my first book.

The second set of Player won-lost records, eWins, are calculated independent of context, so that a home run will generate the same number of eWins regardless of the inning it was hit, the number of baserunners, or whether the batter's team won or lost the game. Total eWins and eLosses by factor and by component and sub-component are equal to total pWins and pLosses at the season level.

Player won-lost records are distributed across four factors: batting, baserunning, pitching, and fielding. Player won-lost records are distributed across nine components. These nine components are as follows:

- Component 1: Stolen Bases
- Component 2: Wild Pitches and Passed Balls
- Component 3: Balls not in Play
- Component 4: Balls in Play
- Component 5: Hits vs. Outs
- Component 6: Singles v. Doubles v. Triples
- Component 7: Double Plays
- Component 8: Baserunner Outs
- Component 9: Baserunner Advancements

Credit is shared within Components 1 and 2 between pitchers and catchers and within Components 5, 6, and 7 between pitchers and fielders (Components 8 and 9 are allocated entirely to fielders). Credit is shared within Components 7, 8, and 9 between batters and baserunners.

In constructing Player wins and losses, all events are measured against expected, or average, results across the event. Fielding won-lost records are constructed such that aggregate winning percentages are 0.500 for all fielding positions, while batting won-lost records are constructed such that aggregate winning percentages are 0.500 across all batters. Because of this, average player winning percentages will vary across positions. I control for this by calculating pWins and eWins over Positional Average (pWOPA, eWOPA). I also calculate a measure relative to replacement level (pWORL, eWORL), where



replacement level is set one standard deviation below positional average. These two measures are a key component of my rankings here and show up frequently in the tables presented throughout this book.

More details regarding the calculation of Player won-lost records can be found in my first book and at my website.

### Constructing the List of Players

#### Why 50 Years?

Player won-lost records are calculated using play-by-play data provided by Retrosheet.org. The information used here was obtained free of charge from and is copyrighted by Retrosheet. Interested parties may contact Retrosheet at "[www.retrosheet.org](http://www.retrosheet.org)".

At the time of this writing (spring of 2018), Retrosheet has released play-by-play data for most games dating back to 1925 and for all games since 1941. For this book, I have chosen to focus on the years 1961 – 2010. I have done so for several reasons.

For data prior to 1941, I am missing some play-by-play data. Player won-lost records for these seasons are therefore incomplete.

For the earliest seasons for which full play-by-play data are available, there are two problems. First, World War II had a significant effect on major-league baseball, particularly in 1943, 1944, and 1945. Many of the top stars of the time were in the military over some or all of this time period. This has two effects on statistics for these seasons. For players who missed time due to being in the military, their raw Player won-lost records may not be fairly compared with players of other generations who did not miss time due to military service. For players who did play during the war, however, raw Player won-lost records, while an accurate reflection of what actually happened during those seasons, may nevertheless produce misleading results for players whose performance was better in those seasons because of a relative lack of competition.

The other issue with the 1940s (and earlier) was the lack of integration. This problem persists into the 1950s as integration was initially very limited and many players entered the white major leagues partway through their careers. It is hard to know how best to evaluate a player like Monte Irvin, for example, who was a Negro League star who did not make his major-league debut until he was 30 years old.

I chose to start in 1961 to largely avoid having to make adjustments for integration – either to the statistics of white players who played before integration or to the statistics of black players whose major-league career is not a full accounting of their professional baseball experience. There were undoubtedly still some lingering issues associated with integration in the early- and mid-1960s. But 1961 also makes a convenient starting point because it was the first season of major-league expansion and, with that, the introduction of the 162-game season (in the American League; the National League followed suit one year later, in 1962).

I stopped the evaluation in 2010 for two reasons. First, 1961 – 2010 is exactly fifty seasons, which is a nice round number. Second, I wanted to avoid evaluating current major-league players as much as possible.

Comparing players who are mid-career to players whose careers are over can be problematic. Either one treats active players as if their careers are over, which runs the risk of making one's evaluations obsolete very quickly, or one has to try to guess how the remainder of active players' careers might unfold, which, if one is wrong, may still leave one's evaluations obsolete very quickly. To ameliorate this problem, I stopped my evaluation with the 2010 season. There are, of course, some active players who

had significant careers through 2010. Four of the 150 players profiled here were still active during the 2017 season: Albert Pujols, Chase Utley, Carlos Beltran (who has announced that 2017 was his final season), and C.C. Sabathia. In all cases, for players whose careers either began prior to 1961 or continued beyond 2010, the ranking of the player in my list will be based entirely on what he did from 1961 – 2010, but the discussion of the player will include his full career (through 2017).

### Why 150 Players?

I chose 150 players because it makes for a nice round number. It also closely approximates the size of the National Baseball Hall of Fame. From 1961 through 2010, 166 players were elected to the Hall of Fame. It ends up producing a list that includes some players that you probably would not have expected, but all of whom clearly excelled in one or more ways that are easily shown through Player won-lost records, while also including most of the “usual suspects”.

### Compiling the List

At my website, I have set up a page which allows one to construct a ranked list of players weighting various aspects of Player won-lost records as one wishes. The Top 150 list used for this book was constructed at this page, <http://baseball.tomthress.com/Leaders/UberWeights.php>. The specific weights which I used to construct my list and my rationale for the choices are discussed next.

- **pWins vs. eWins**

Player won-lost records are calculated two ways: pWins & pLosses - which are tied to team wins - and eWins & eLosses - which control for the quality of a player's teammates and the context in which he performed.

The choice between pWins and eWins will likely depend on one's purposes in putting together a list. One could think of pWins as measuring what actually happened, while eWins perhaps measure what *should have* happened. Personally, I think both measures provide us with useful and interesting information.

For that reason, I gave pWins and eWins each a weight of 0.5 in constructing this list.

- **Wins over Star: WO\***

In my original book, *Player Won-Lost Records in Baseball: Measuring Performance in Context* (McFarland, 2017), I introduced three player measures based on Player won-lost records: Wins, Wins over Positional Average (WOPA), and Wins over Replacement Level (WORL). For this exercise, I have added a fourth measure, which I call Wins over Star (WO\*).

Replacement level is calculated as one standard deviation below positional average. What could be thought of as “star” level, then, is one standard deviation above positional average. The idea is that we are not necessarily interested only in players who were merely above average or even below average, but above replacement level, but we are interested in players who were stars, even if only briefly.

Consider, for example, two pitchers who pitched for the Los Angeles Dodgers a decade apart from each other, Sandy Koufax and Tommy John.

Who was the better pitcher, Sandy Koufax or Tommy John? Most people would consider that a ridiculous question. The answer is obvious. Sandy Koufax had a four-year stretch in which he had a traditional won-lost record of 97-27 (average season of 24-7), a 1.86 ERA and 1,228 strikeouts (307 per season). Tommy John matched Koufax in winning 20 games 3 times in 4 seasons, but John’s record was

only 80-35 over those four seasons. John had an ERA below 2.00 once, in 1968, the lowest-scoring season since the Deadball Era, and John only pitched 177.2 innings that season.

And yet, Tommy John beats Sandy Koufax in career pWOPA, 23.6 – 21.1, and in career pWORLD, 47.2 – 34.0. And if you look at their careers it's easy to see why. Tommy John earned positive pWOPA in 19 seasons; Sandy Koufax had positive pWOPA in 8 seasons. Koufax bested John's career-high pWOPA three times, in 1963, 1965, and 1966, all of which rank among the greatest seasons of any player since at least World War II. But Tommy John produced 11 more seasons of above-average pitching than Koufax did. That's an enormous advantage to John.

If you were starting a team, whose career would you rather have, Sandy Koufax or Tommy John? With Koufax, you get those three historic seasons and 3-5 more good to decent seasons. With John, you don't get any historical seasons, but you get an above average starting pitcher for the better part of two decades. That's not necessarily an easy question to answer and I don't think it has what can fairly be considered a "right" answer.

If we limit our focus to Wins, WOPA, and WORLD, however, John wins in all three. Even ranking seasons top to bottom, John catches up to Koufax by about the fifth season and pulls ever farther ahead through fourteen more above-average seasons.

But Sandy Koufax was not merely above-average over the last six years of his career, he was dominant. Shifting the standard from positional average to one standard deviation above average, Koufax earned positive pWO\* over each of his last six seasons amassing a total of 13.5 pWO\*. Tommy John was more than one standard deviation above average twice as often as Koufax, twelve times in his career, but summing up Tommy John's pWO\* for the twelve seasons in which he earned positive pWO\*, the total comes to only 10.9, 2.6 pWO\* below Sandy Koufax's 1961 - 1966 total.

- **Wins vs. WOPA vs. WORLD vs. WO\***

- **Negative Values of WORLD, WOPA, WO\***

Player values for WORLD, WOPA, and WO\* - wins over replacement level, positional average, and star, respectively – can be negative if a player is below replacement level, positional average, or star value, respectively. I am most interested in evaluating how good a player was in his prime. Having an occasional bad season mixed into a player's prime is a black mark on a player's record, but I would prefer not to penalize players for coming to the major leagues too early or for hanging on too long at the end of one's career. For this reason, my calculations here zero out any negative seasonal values of pWORLD, pWOPA, pWO\*, eWORLD, eWOPA, and eWO\* for all players. Zeroing out negative seasons in this way leads to the result that a player's "key stat" value cannot decline over the course of the player's career.

- **Weights applied to Wins, WORL, WOPA, WO\***

The next table shows the 300th-best player in each of wins, WORL, WOPA, and WO\* across the 50 seasons considered here, 1961 - 2010, with pWins and eWins weighted as outlined above, with negative seasons zeroed out.

<b>Statistic</b>	<b>Player</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Weight</b>
Wins	Aurelio Rodriguez	187.0	0.1135
WORL	Denis Menke	21.2	1.0000
WOPA	Denny Neagle	8.7	2.4526
WO*	Arthur Rhodes	2.0	10.6058

The last column of the table maintains the same ratio across values as in the next-to-last column but normalizes the numbers to be relative to WORL.

These are the weights which I apply to these four statistics in forming my list here. The logic of this choice is that being the 300th-best player in wins should give the same weight as being 300th in WORL or WOPA or WO\*. I chose the number 300 because it is equal to twice the 150 players in my list. This choice was purely subjective.

- **Treatment of Postseason Wins**

The player rankings in this book include both regular-season and postseason records, with both given equal weights, with respect to wins, WOPA, and WORL. Wins over Star are only calculated for regular seasons.

- **Normalizing Season Length**

For the player ranking used here, I normalized all seasons to 162 games. Because of the time period chosen, this has fairly minimal effects, primarily in five seasons: 1961, when the National League still played a 154-game schedule; 1972, when a strike eliminated the first week of the season, costing teams 5-7 games; 1981, when a two-month mid-season strike cost teams around 50 games apiece; 1994, when a two-month late-season strike cost teams a similar number of games and wiped out the postseason; and 1995, when the end the 1994-95 strike reduced the schedule to a uniform 144-game schedule.

- **Differences by Position**

The position(s) played by a player are taken into account when calculating positional averages, which affect the calculation of WOPA, WORL, and WO\*. The position(s) that a player plays can also affect his career value.

The basic premise of the calculation of wins over positional average (WOPA) is that players at different positions will generate different Player winning percentages. In addition to differences in winning percentages across positions, however, there are also differences in the raw number of wins and losses earned by players depending on the position they play.

When evaluating a player's career, it can be important to put career length into perspective. One thing that can affect the length of a player's career is what position(s) he played. The table below shows the distribution of the "key stat" based on the weights and dates outlined so far by player position for two sets of players: everybody for whom Player won-lost records have been calculated and the top 1,296 players.

Why 1,296? Because, by trial and error, I decided that the number of total team-seasons over the time period being considered produces results that seem most reasonable and from 1961 through 2010, there were a total of 1,296 team-seasons (an average of just under 26 major-league teams per season). This is, of course, purely judgmental.

<b>Distribution of Key Stat Across Positions</b>				
<b>Position</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Top 1,296</b>	<b>Ratio</b>	<b>Weight</b>
Catcher	5.7%	4.8%	1.1890	1.1890
First Base	6.6%	7.2%	0.9183	0.9171
Second Base	6.6%	6.6%	0.9971	0.9971
Third Base	6.9%	7.6%	0.9191	0.9171
Shortstop	6.7%	6.9%	0.9718	0.9718
Left Field	7.2%	7.3%	0.9801	0.9718
Center Field	6.7%	7.0%	0.9600	0.9718
Right Field	7.0%	7.2%	0.9747	0.9718
Designated Hitter	2.2%	2.4%	0.9075	0.9171
Pinch Hitter	1.2%	0.7%	1.8435	1.0000
Pinch Runner	0.0%	0.0%	3.0376	1.0000
Pitcher Offense	2.3%	2.5%	0.9187	0.9090
Starting Pitcher	30.0%	33.0%	0.9082	0.9090
Relief Pitcher	10.8%	6.9%	1.5815	1.1454

Positions for which their share of total is greater than their share of the top 1,296 are positions which are potentially under-represented in a list of the top X players. One possible reason for this under-representation could be that the nature of the position makes it more difficult for a player to amass large career totals, due, perhaps, to the wear and tear of the position.

The ratio in the next-to-last column represents a potential weight one could apply to positions to balance out the positional distribution of one's list of the top X players. The bases for these weights are discussed next.

#### ○ **Non-Pitchers**

Two of the three largest ratios in the above list are pinch hitters (1.84) and pinch runners (3.04). These positions suggest a second reason why a position may be under-represented in a list of the top X players: some positions are naturally filled by less talented players than others. In order to pinch hit or pinch run, a player cannot be in the starting lineup. But, of course, the best players will be in the starting lineup far more often than not. Hence, it seems to me that it would make no sense to give a positive boost to pinch hitters and pinch runners in evaluating career values.

Setting aside pinch hitters and pinch runners, then, it seems to me that the potential weights for non-pitchers can be divided into four groupings: catchers (1.1890), second basemen (0.9971), corner infielders (including designated hitters, 0.9171), and everybody else (shortstops and outfielders, 0.9718).

Catcher is by far the most physically demanding position on a baseball field. This affects players' ability to play as many games both within an individual season as well as over the course of a career. The numbers here suggest that a boost of nearly 20% would be necessary to put as many catchers in a top X list as players at other positions. This seems like a reasonable adjustment and is made in preparing my

Top 150 list. This weight boosts my top-ranked catcher, Mike Piazza, from 24th to 13th. This seems reasonable to me.

Second base is also a physically challenging position as the primary pivot man on double plays. The numbers here suggest that this is far less significant than the wear and tear faced by catchers, but the second-base weight implied here, 0.99, represents about a 3-8% boost relative to the weight for other positions (except for pitchers and catchers).

The lowest weights are applied to the two corner infield positions and designated hitter. First base and DH are positions where players frequently end up in their later years, which likely leads to the over-representation of these positions here. The apparent over-representation of third base is somewhat surprising to me, although may be for similar reasons. Several players spent time playing third base either before moving on to first base or DH (e.g., Harmon Killebrew, Jim Thome, Edgar Martinez) or after moving from shortstop (e.g., Alex Rodriguez, Toby Harrah).

Applying these weights, my top 150 list includes a total of 99 non-pitchers. These players break down by primary position as follows.

Position	Number	Comments
Catcher	11	
First Base	15	including Frank Thomas, Jim Thome
Second Base	12	
Third Base	12	
Shortstop	12	including Alex Rodriguez, Toby Harrah
Left Field	8	
Center Field	14	
Right Field	12	
Designated Hitter	2	Paul Molitor, Edgar Martinez
Miscellaneous	1	Pete Rose

#### ○ Starting Pitchers

The numbers for starting pitchers and pitcher offense are very similar. These are combined into a single weight. Overall, starting pitchers are over-represented among the top 1,296 players by about 9.1 percent. This over-representation of pitchers is because of the nature of Player won-lost records. One of my findings, which I discussed quite a bit in my first book, is that there is a multiplicative impact of player performance on team performance: a team whose players are a little bit above-average will win a lot of games and a team whose players are a little bit below-average will lose a lot of games.

This effect is strongest for starting pitchers, because they concentrate their performance into fewer games, hence, this multiplicative effect is stronger within individual games.

I believe this is the reason why starting pitchers are “over”-represented in the top 1,296 here and would, I believe, also be similarly over-represented in a list of the bottom X players. I put “over” in quotation marks in the previous sentence, however, because it is not clear to me that this is an indication that starting pitchers have some advantage over other players that is inappropriate. That is, a case could be made that this advantage of starting pitching in amassing wins over average and star level does not warrant any adjustment. I think such a case could be made, but, frankly, the result would be a top 150 list that was even more heavily skewed toward pitchers. In the absence of any positional weights, there would be 54 starting pitchers in the top 150 (including John Smoltz, Dennis Eckersley, and Derek Lowe). Using

a weight of 0.9090 reduces this slightly, leaving only 49 starting pitchers in the top 150 (including the three aforementioned pitchers). The latter number seems more desirable to me, in part, to be honest, because it would be harder to identify the unique greatness of the 50th-best starting pitcher of the past 50 years.

- **Relief Pitchers**

Relief pitchers are the most under-represented position outside of pinch hitters and pinch runners. This could be used as an argument for assigning a fairly large weight to relief pitchers, larger even than for catchers and second basemen. On the other hand, one could certainly make the reasonable argument that relief pitchers are more similar to pinch hitters in this regard: most pitchers who are good enough to have long careers and amass significant value are also good enough that their teams prefer to use them as starting pitchers.

Relief pitchers present an additional problem, however. Good relief pitchers will tend to look much better when measured by pWins than by eWins because good relief pitchers pitch in higher-context situations. And, in fact, eWins do not assume an average context; they assume an “expected” context and, as I discussed in some detail in my first book, the typical context in which relief pitchers pitch is actually below-average: a lot of relief-pitcher innings are spent mopping up 8-1 losses where the starting pitcher was knocked out in the fourth inning, or, in more recent seasons, pitching the last two innings of 9-2 wins to save wear and tear on the starting pitcher. In general, though, the guys pitching in those situations are not a threat to make anybody’s top X list (at least for any reasonable value for X).

If the expected context for all relief pitchers is, say, 10% below average (which is fairly close to what it has averaged historically), the expected context for the best relief pitchers is probably closer to 40% above average. So, one could, perhaps, make a case that relief pitchers’ eWins should be boosted by perhaps 50% (+40% vs. -10%). Given that eWins are weighted at 0.5 vs. 0.5 for pWins here, one could perhaps argue for a boost equal to, say, 50% of 50%, or, perhaps 25%.

I have chosen to use a somewhat more conservative weight for relief pitchers of 1.1454, which boosts their value by 14.5%. This is equal to one-fourth of the boost implied by the ratio in the above table (58.1%). I think of this weight as having been chosen to adjust relief pitchers’ “expected” context to reflect the context in which very good relief pitchers typically perform as opposed to applying an “expected” context based on all relief pitchers.

Using this weight, two pure relief pitchers appear in my top 150 list, Mariano Rivera at 29 and Goose Gossage at 150. The list also includes three pitchers who spent significant portions of their career as relief pitchers: Dennis Eckersley, John Smoltz, and Derek Lowe.



- **The Final List**

Putting all of that together produces the following list of players. The “Key Stat” is the weighted average of the statistics discussed here using the weights identified here.

The players listed here are listed in the order in which they appear in the table below, based purely on the objective calculation outlined above. That said, when putting together a pure ranking, some subjectivity may be warranted (of course, the weights used to construct this list were chosen subjectively, of course). For players who did not make this book, I am not necessarily saying that they were not among the top 150 players of the past 50 years, and I am definitely not saying that any such players who are in the Hall of Fame do not belong there. I have no desire to denigrate anybody, either on this list or not on this list. This is all about celebrating the accomplishments of 150 major-league baseball players who had significant careers over the past fifty to sixty years. And, hopefully, to familiarize you a bit more with both these players and with Player won-lost records in the process.

All traditional season-level and career baseball statistics are taken from Baseball-Reference.com and are complete through 2017. I also used Baseball-Reference’s Play Index and the Lahman Database, available online from Sean Lahman at <http://www.seanlahman.com/baseball-archive/statistics/>, to calculate some additional statistics. For batters, when I cite a “batting line” of the form .300/.400/.500 these numbers refer to batting average, on-base percentage, and slugging percentage, respectively. All career totals and ranks are through 2017 unless otherwise specified.

Additional sources include biographies prepared as part of the Society for American Baseball Research’s (SABR’s) Bioproject. These biographies can be found online at <http://sabr.org/bioproject>. Additional sources used in compiling the information presented here include *The New Bill James Historical Baseball Abstract* by Bill James (Free Press, 2001) and *Incredible Baseball Stats: The Coolest, Strangest Stats and Facts in Baseball History* by Kevin Reavy and Ryan Spaeder (2015), both of which I highly recommend.

I hope you enjoy!

1	Barry Bonds	633.1	51	Roberto Alomar	200.0	101	Ivan Rodriguez	140.0
2	Greg Maddux	468.9	52	Gary Carter	199.2	102	Jose Canseco	140.0
3	Roger Clemens	457.2	53	Tommy John	199.2	103	Vida Blue	139.8
4	Joe Morgan	438.1	54	Craig Biggio	197.8	104	Al Kaline	139.4
5	Alex Rodriguez	379.6	55	Willie Stargell	197.3	105	Dennis Martinez	138.9
6	Randy Johnson	364.0	56	Jeff Bagwell	197.0	106	Ron Santo	138.8
7	Tom Seaver	347.7	57	Carl Yastrzemski	194.2	107	Jimmy Wynn	137.8
8	Pedro Martinez	330.0	58	Eddie Murray	191.9	108	Amos Otis	137.8
9	Mike Schmidt	326.9	59	Jorge Posada	190.2	109	Darrell Porter	136.9
10	Bob Gibson	314.1	60	Roy Halladay	187.7	110	Andruw Jones	136.2
11	Rickey Henderson	301.4	61	Wade Boggs	186.5	111	George Foster	136.0
12	Steve Carlton	297.2	62	Dwight Gooden	179.0	112	Fred Lynn	135.0
13	Mike Piazza	290.0	63	Gary Sheffield	178.7	113	Fernando Valenzuela	134.5
14	Jim Palmer	278.0	64	Dennis Eckersley	174.2	114	Kevin Appier	133.8
15	Johnny Bench	269.4	65	Ryne Sandberg	173.0	115	Dale Murphy	133.6
16	Carlton Fisk	266.0	66	David Cone	169.7	116	Pete Rose	132.3
17	Cal Ripken	265.4	67	Ozzie Smith	169.5	117	Joe Torre	131.6
18	Albert Pujols	259.7	68	Johan Santana	169.3	118	Will Clark	131.4
19	Kevin Brown	257.3	69	Dwight Evans	167.7	119	Gene Tenace	131.3
20	Willie Mays	251.4	70	Andy Pettitte	167.1	120	Andre Dawson	131.3
21	Juan Marichal	250.6	71	Harmon Killebrew	166.2	121	Nomar Garciaparra	130.8
22	John Smoltz	246.5	72	Sandy Koufax	164.4	122	Ron Cey	130.2
23	Tom Glavine	243.7	73	Jason Giambi	164.4	123	Dave Stieb	130.2
24	Derek Jeter	242.7	74	Luis Tiant	162.6	124	Sal Bando	130.2
25	Mike Mussina	240.9	75	Dick Allen	161.8	125	Graig Nettles	129.7
26	Chipper Jones	236.3	76	Larry Walker	161.5	126	Roberto Clemente	129.7
27	Reggie Jackson	235.6	77	Jeff Kent	161.4	127	Jim Bunning	129.2
28	Alan Trammell	229.8	78	Phil Niekro	160.9	128	Tony Perez	129.0
29	Mariano Rivera	228.8	79	Orel Hershisier	160.7	129	Fred McGriff	128.3
30	Fergie Jenkins	228.3	80	Dave Concepcion	160.1	130	Lance Berkman	128.0
31	Curt Schilling	226.4	81	Rod Carew	159.9	131	Matt Williams	127.9
32	Robin Yount	223.9	82	Darryl Strawberry	156.5	132	Vladimir Guerrero	127.6
33	Bobby Grich	223.3	83	Paul Molitor	155.5	133	Darrell Evans	127.4
34	Gaylord Perry	223.3	84	Tim Hudson	152.1	134	Brooks Robinson	127.1
35	Manny Ramirez	221.3	85	Roy Oswalt	152.0	135	Cesar Ceden	126.2
36	Bert Blyleven	219.9	86	Mickey Mantle	152.0	136	Carlos Zambrano	126.0
37	Hank Aaron	219.6	87	Scott Rolen	151.7	137	Steve Rogers	125.9
38	Barry Larkin	218.3	88	Willie Randolph	150.7	138	Miguel Tejada	125.1
39	Nolan Ryan	217.1	89	Ron Guidry	149.4	139	Bill Freehan	125.0
40	Lou Whitaker	216.4	90	Dave Winfield	149.1	140	Tim Lincecum	124.9
41	Jim Edmonds	213.1	91	Chase Utley	147.5	141	Bernie Williams	124.8
42	Jim Thome	213.0	92	Edgar Martinez	146.5	142	Billy Williams	124.4
43	Frank Robinson	208.9	93	Rick Reuschel	144.5	143	Dick McAuliffe	124.2
44	Ken Griffey Jr.	208.9	94	Jim Kaat	144.5	144	John Candelaria	123.0
45	George Brett	207.1	95	Bert Campaneris	144.2	145	Ted Simmons	121.3
46	Mark McGwire	206.9	96	Catfish Hunter	144.2	146	Sammy Sosa	121.0
47	Don Sutton	206.3	97	Toby Harrah	143.8	147	Derek Lowe	120.7
48	Frank Thomas	204.5	98	Carlos Beltran	143.6	148	Davey Lopes	120.6
49	Willie McCovey	204.3	99	C.C. Sabathia	143.0	149	Eric Davis	120.3
50	Bret Saberhagen	202.1	100	David Wells	142.0	150	Rich Gossage	119.7

## #1: Barry Bonds

### Career Highlights

The best player in major-league history for whom I have calculated Player won-lost records is Barry Bonds. This will probably not come as a shock to many people, especially those who know that Retrosheet data do not cover the first half of Babe Ruth's career yet.

Five highlights of Barry Bonds's career:

- Barry Bonds won seven MVP awards spread over fifteen seasons, 1990 to 2004. Over that time period, Bonds also finished second in MVP voting twice, fourth once, and fifth twice.
- Barry Bonds led the National League in each of the three Triple Crown categories at least once, but never won a Triple Crown. He led the league in batting average in 2002 (.370) and 2004 (.362), in home runs in 1993 (46) and 2001 (73) and in RBI in 1993 (123).
- Barry Bonds won eight Gold Gloves, winning every year from 1990 through 1998, except for 1995.
- Barry Bonds holds the major-league career records for home runs (762) and walks (2,558). He is third in major-league history in runs scored (2,227), fourth in OPS (on-base plus slugging percentage, 1.051) and total bases (5,976), fifth in RBI (1,996) and slugging percentage (.607), and sixth in on-base percentage (.444).
- Barry Bonds was so good, in fact, that he got his first major-league hit 40 days before his major-league debut (sort of). Bonds made his major-league debut on May 30, 1986. A little more than two months later, on August 11, 1986, Bonds hit a game-winning single in the 17th inning of a game which was the continuation of a suspended game that was originally started (and, hence, per MLB rules, officially played) on April 20, 1986. So, Bonds is officially credited with a major-league hit (and RBI) on April 20, 1986, forty days before his official major-league debut on May 30, 1986.

### At What Was Barry Bonds Elite?

A better heading for this section might be, "At what was Barry Bonds *not* elite?" That would probably make for a shorter section.

Barry Bonds's #1 ranking here is not an artifact of any of the weights that go into the formula which I used here. In fact, it would be almost impossible to construct an objective formula that did not place Barry Bonds first. I calculate Player won-lost records two ways: pWins are calculated in context (tied to team wins), while eWins control for context. In my first book, I introduced two standards against which Player wins can be measured: positional average (WOPA), and replacement level (WORL).

The next four tables show the top 10 players in career totals for WOPA and WORL, both in and out of context: i.e., pWORL, pWOPA, eWORL, and eWOPA, for all players for whom I have calculated Player won-lost records. Barry Bonds tops all four tables.

**pWins over Replacement Level, Top 10 Players**

	<b>Player</b>	<b>pWin</b>	<b>pLoss</b>	<b>pWORLD</b>	<b>pWOPA</b>	<b>pWO*</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Barry Bonds</b>	<b>462.0</b>	<b>315.0</b>	<b>90.7</b>	<b>60.5</b>	<b>33.4</b>
2	Willie Mays	459.7	334.6	81.9	50.3	21.0
3	Roger Clemens	318.2	228.2	79.6	51.1	25.0
4	Hank Aaron	492.4	372.8	77.9	42.8	13.1
5	Greg Maddux	328.5	271.4	73.9	48.0	25.3
6	Mickey Mantle	351.5	230.4	73.8	50.6	28.9
7	Joe Morgan	374.1	292.4	72.7	46.4	23.3
8	Warren Spahn	345.9	286.2	70.9	45.9	22.6
9	Alex Rodriguez	373.9	297.2	69.9	43.6	19.2
10	Randy Johnson	281.3	221.0	64.4	39.4	21.1

**pWins over Positional Average, Top 10 Players**

	<b>Player</b>	<b>pWin</b>	<b>pLoss</b>	<b>pWORLD</b>	<b>pWOPA</b>	<b>pWO*</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Barry Bonds</b>	<b>462.0</b>	<b>315.0</b>	<b>90.7</b>	<b>60.5</b>	<b>33.4</b>
2	Roger Clemens	318.2	228.2	79.6	51.1	25.0
3	Mickey Mantle	351.5	230.4	73.8	50.6	28.9
4	Willie Mays	459.7	334.6	81.9	50.3	21.0
5	Greg Maddux	328.5	271.4	73.9	48.0	25.3
6	Joe Morgan	374.1	292.4	72.7	46.4	23.3
7	Warren Spahn	345.9	286.2	70.9	45.9	22.6
8	Alex Rodriguez	373.9	297.2	69.9	43.6	19.2
9	Hank Aaron	492.4	372.8	77.9	42.8	13.1
10	Tom Seaver	308.7	256.8	63.0	40.6	20.7

**eWins over Replacement Level, Top 10 Players**

	<b>Player</b>	<b>eWin</b>	<b>eLoss</b>	<b>eWORLD</b>	<b>eWOPA</b>	<b>eWO*</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Barry Bonds</b>	<b>456.7</b>	<b>310.1</b>	<b>90.3</b>	<b>60.2</b>	<b>31.5</b>
2	Roger Clemens	310.9	225.6	76.7	48.7	22.8
3	Hank Aaron	477.5	363.6	74.5	40.1	9.4
4	Willie Mays	438.5	327.5	74.1	43.6	14.8
5	Greg Maddux	321.0	261.9	73.2	46.6	22.8
6	Mickey Mantle	341.9	231.9	68.0	44.7	22.1
7	Joe Morgan	367.6	295.8	67.7	41.4	16.1
8	Alex Rodriguez	365.5	292.5	67.5	41.9	18.1
9	Ted Williams	346.1	233.3	67.4	43.8	21.2
10	Stan Musial	413.1	314.7	64.1	35.0	10.5

**eWins over Positional Average, Top 10 Players**

	<b>Player</b>	<b>eWin</b>	<b>eLoss</b>	<b>eWORLD</b>	<b>eWOPA</b>	<b>eWO*</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Barry Bonds</b>	<b>456.7</b>	<b>310.1</b>	<b>90.3</b>	<b>60.2</b>	<b>31.5</b>
2	Roger Clemens	310.9	225.6	76.7	48.7	22.8
3	Greg Maddux	321.0	261.9	73.2	46.6	22.8
4	Mickey Mantle	341.9	231.9	68.0	44.7	22.1
5	Ted Williams	346.1	233.3	67.4	43.8	21.2
6	Willie Mays	438.5	327.5	74.1	43.6	14.8
7	Alex Rodriguez	365.5	292.5	67.5	41.9	18.1
8	Joe Morgan	367.6	295.8	67.7	41.4	16.1
9	Hank Aaron	477.5	363.6	74.5	40.1	9.4
10	Mel Ott	335.3	239.6	61.5	37.8	14.5

## The Elephant in the Room

As I said, "it would be almost impossible to construct an objective formula that did not place Barry Bonds first." I did not, however, say that it would be impossible to argue that Barry Bonds does not deserve to be first. There is considerable evidence that Barry Bonds used performance-enhancing drugs over the latter portion of his career, and many fans are inclined, therefore, to disregard or at least discount Bonds's exceptional late-career surge. As far as Hall-of-Fame voting, many fans, as well as many voters, go a step farther and also discount and/or disregard the early portion of Bonds's career to further punish him for his illegal drug use.

I am dealing strictly with numbers, tied strictly to actual major-league games and the teams that actually won them. Major League Baseball has not chosen to vacate any wins in which steroid users participated or made any attempts to adjust player statistics. Barry Bonds is officially credited with all 762 home runs which he hit and the final scores of the games in which he hit those home runs remain the same today as they did when those games ended all those years ago. I have no interest in going back and attempting to undo the effect of steroids on historical games. That said, it does seem at least somewhat plausible to me, if one were so inclined, to simply eliminate entire player seasons from consideration.

The book *Game of Shadows* alleges that Barry Bonds began using steroids in response to the fawning media coverage given to Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa in 1998. If this timeline is accurate (and I am making no claim as to whether I think it is; as far as I am concerned, I am just setting up a math problem here), one could argue that anything which Bonds did after the 1998 season should not count.

Using the weights outlined in the introduction, Barry Bonds amassed a "key stat" of 633.1. Ending the calculations for Bonds after his 1998 season, this would drop to 334.2. This would drop Bonds from first here to eighth, between Tom Seaver and Pedro Martinez. If I stopped all my calculations after the 1998 season – i.e., a ranking of players from 1961 through 1998 – Bonds would be fifth, between Roger Clemens (who, of course, has his own potential issues in this regard) and Mike Schmidt.

## Barry Bonds's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORL	pWOPA	pWO*
1986	PIT	21	112	15.5	15.1	1.0	-0.2	-
1987	PIT	22	150	18.8	17.0	1.7	0.3	-
1988	PIT	23	144	21.4	15.9	3.6	2.1	0.7
1989	PIT	24	159	21.1	19.1	1.7	0.3	-
1990	PIT	25	151	24.1	16.5	4.5	3.0	1.5
1991	PIT	26	153	24.3	15.8	5.2	3.7	2.1
1992	PIT	27	140	22.2	14.6	4.6	3.2	1.8
1993	SFN	28	159	26.9	15.6	6.6	4.9	3.2
1994	SFN	29	112	18.6	13.2	3.6	2.2	0.9
1995	SFN	30	144	24.7	17.1	4.8	3.1	1.4
1996	SFN	31	158	25.6	17.7	4.9	3.1	1.4
1997	SFN	32	159	24.8	17.4	5.0	3.3	1.7
1998	SFN	33	156	24.6	16.8	5.0	3.4	1.8
1999	SFN	34	102	15.6	11.0	3.0	1.9	0.9
2000	SFN	35	142	23.8	15.2	5.1	3.5	2.0
2001	SFN	36	153	27.9	15.5	7.2	5.3	3.5
2002	SFN	37	143	25.4	13.2	6.8	5.3	3.7
2003	SFN	38	130	21.0	11.6	5.3	4.0	2.7
2004	SFN	39	147	23.2	11.6	6.5	5.1	3.7
2005	SFN	40	14	1.7	1.4	0.2	0.1	0.0
2006	SFN	41	130	15.3	11.8	2.3	1.3	0.3
2007	SFN	42	126	15.3	12.0	2.3	1.3	0.2
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,984  </b>	<b>462.0</b>	<b>315.0</b>	<b>90.7</b>	<b>60.3</b>	<b>33.4</b>
PostSeason (career)			48	6.4	6.3	0.3	-0.2	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORL	eWOPA	eWO*
1986	PIT	21	112	16.1	13.0	2.2	1.2	0.1
1987	PIT	22	150	19.4	16.2	2.4	1.0	-
1988	PIT	23	144	20.8	16.3	3.1	1.7	0.3
1989	PIT	24	159	22.7	19.8	2.2	0.6	-
1990	PIT	25	151	22.8	16.3	3.9	2.5	1.1
1991	PIT	26	153	22.2	16.1	4.0	2.5	1.0
1992	PIT	27	140	23.0	15.3	4.7	3.3	1.8
1993	SFN	28	159	25.8	15.4	6.1	4.5	2.8
1994	SFN	29	112	18.5	12.3	3.9	2.7	1.4
1995	SFN	30	144	23.4	16.3	4.5	2.9	1.3
1996	SFN	31	158	25.6	16.6	5.3	3.6	1.9
1997	SFN	32	159	24.9	17.4	5.0	3.3	1.6
1998	SFN	33	156	23.6	16.7	4.5	2.9	1.3
1999	SFN	34	102	14.1	10.1	2.6	1.6	0.7
2000	SFN	35	142	21.8	14.8	4.3	2.8	1.3
2001	SFN	36	153	29.4	15.7	7.9	5.9	4.0
2002	SFN	37	143	24.6	12.8	6.6	5.1	3.6
2003	SFN	38	130	21.3	12.0	5.3	3.9	2.6
2004	SFN	39	147	23.7	12.1	6.5	5.1	3.7
2005	SFN	40	14	1.8	1.1	0.4	0.3	0.2
2006	SFN	41	130	15.5	11.8	2.4	1.4	0.4
2007	SFN	42	126	15.7	12.0	2.5	1.5	0.4
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,984  </b>	<b>456.7</b>	<b>310.1</b>	<b>90.3</b>	<b>60.2</b>	<b>31.5</b>
PostSeason (career)			48	6.9	5.3	1.1	0.6	

## **#2: Greg Maddux**

### **Career Highlights**

Greg Maddux is, by the calculations I used here, the best pitcher since major-league expansion. This is, perhaps, a debatable proposition. But at a minimum, Greg Maddux was undoubtedly one of the best pitchers of the last fifty years. Greg Maddux was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility, 2014, with 97.2% of the vote.

Five highlights of Greg Maddux's career:

- Greg Maddux made his major-league debut as a pinch runner. He also actually made his major-league debut a day later than his official debut date. Maddux pinch-ran for Cubs' catcher Jody Davis in the bottom of the 17th inning of a game on September 3, 1986, which had been suspended the day before in the top of the 15th inning. After pinch running, Maddux stayed in the game and pitched the 18th inning, giving up a home run to Billy Hatcher and taking the loss, 8-7.
- Greg Maddux won four consecutive Cy Young awards from 1992 through 1995. The last two of these were unanimous.
- Greg Maddux won 18 Gold Gloves in his career, winning every season from 1990 through 2008, except for 2003 (when Mike Hampton won), the most of any player at any position.
- From 1988 through 2004, Greg Maddux amassed at least 15 traditional pitcher wins for seventeen consecutive seasons. This broke the previous major-league record of fifteen consecutive 15-win seasons, which had been held by Cy Young (1891 - 1905).
- Greg Maddux's Hall-of-Fame plaque does not show any team logo on his baseball cap. Maddux played 10 seasons in two stints with the Chicago Cubs, who drafted him in the second round of the 1984 draft. With the Cubs, Maddux accumulated 133 traditional pitcher wins, his first Cy Young award and, in his second stint with the team, the 300th win of his career. Maddux played 11 seasons for the Atlanta Braves, for whom won three Cy Young awards and 194 games. Maddux also pitched parts of three seasons for the Los Angeles Dodgers and San Diego Padres.

### **At What Was Greg Maddux Elite?**

In my first book, I made a detailed comparison between Greg Maddux and Roger Clemens. I concluded the comparison as follows: "If push came to shove, I guess I would pick Clemens, but I probably would not argue the case too hard."

And yet, using the weights I outlined in the introduction here, Greg Maddux finishes ahead of Roger Clemens. For this book, I have introduced a new measure, Wins over Star, where "star" level is equal to one standard deviation above positional average. The next two tables show the top 10 players in pWins over Star (pWO\*) and eWins over Star (eWO\*) since MLB integration in 1947. In both tables, all seasons are adjusted to 162 games – this benefits Maddux, whose top two seasons were the strike-shortened 1994 and 1995 seasons – and all negative WO\* values are zeroed out.



pWins over Star						
Top 10 Players, 1947 – 2017						
	Player	pWin	pLoss	pWORL	pWOPA	pWO*
1	Barry Bonds	472.8	322.6	92.8	61.8	34.0
2	Mickey Mantle	362.2	237.1	76.2	52.3	29.9
<b>3</b>	<b>Greg Maddux</b>	<b>336.8</b>	<b>276.0</b>	<b>76.8</b>	<b>50.2</b>	<b>26.8</b>
4	Roger Clemens	323.7	232.3	80.9	51.9	25.2
5	Joe Morgan	380.7	297.3	74.1	47.3	23.7
6	Warren Spahn	358.5	296.1	73.7	47.6	23.5
7	Randy Johnson	288.3	225.7	66.3	40.6	21.6
8	Willie Mays	470.1	342.2	83.7	51.4	21.4
9	Tom Seaver	314.8	261.2	64.6	41.8	21.4
10	Pedro Martinez	199.3	142.2	52.6	35.3	19.9

eWins over Star						
Top 10 Players, 1947 - 2017						
	Player	eWin	eLoss	eWORL	eWOPA	eWO*
1	Barry Bonds	467.2	317.2	92.5	61.7	32.2
<b>2</b>	<b>Greg Maddux</b>	<b>328.8</b>	<b>266.2</b>	<b>75.9</b>	<b>48.7</b>	<b>24.2</b>
3	Roger Clemens	316.4	229.8	77.9	49.4	23.0
4	Mickey Mantle	352.3	238.8	70.2	46.2	22.9
5	Alex Rodriguez	366.8	294.2	67.6	42.0	18.2
6	Pedro Martinez	188.2	137.1	48.6	32.4	17.8
7	Randy Johnson	274.5	219.8	60.9	36.2	16.7
8	Mike Schmidt	337.9	251.3	59.5	37.0	16.4
9	Joe Morgan	373.8	300.9	68.8	42.1	16.3
10	Willie Mays	448.5	334.9	75.8	44.6	15.1

As I said earlier, it is hard to not have Barry Bonds first. But Greg Maddux finishes clearly ahead of Roger Clemens – and everybody else whose career falls entirely within the time period used to create the list here, 1961 – 2010.

## Greg Maddux's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1986	CHN	20	6	1.6	2.3	-0.1	-0.2	-
1987	CHN	21	31	9.9	13.5	-0.2	-1.3	-
1988	CHN	22	34	17.4	12.5	4.5	3.2	2.0
1989	CHN	23	35	16.1	14.1	3.1	1.8	0.5
1990	CHN	24	35	15.6	14.8	2.6	1.3	-
1991	CHN	25	39	15.8	13.7	3.1	1.8	0.4
1992	CHN	26	35	17.7	12.4	5.0	3.5	2.1
1993	ATL	27	36	18.1	13.5	4.3	3.0	1.6
1994	ATL	28	25	14.4	8.1	4.8	3.7	2.5
1995	ATL	29	28	16.5	7.5	6.5	5.3	4.1
1996	ATL	30	35	16.2	11.7	4.5	3.1	1.7
1997	ATL	31	33	14.2	9.2	4.4	3.2	1.9
1998	ATL	32	34	17.1	12.0	4.8	3.4	2.0
1999	ATL	33	33	15.9	12.9	3.6	2.2	0.9
2000	ATL	34	35	17.1	12.2	4.6	3.2	1.9
2001	ATL	35	35	16.1	11.7	4.4	3.0	1.6
2002	ATL	36	35	13.1	10.2	3.2	2.0	0.9
2003	ATL	37	37	13.5	13.9	1.9	0.5	-
2004	CHN	38	34	14.7	13.1	3.1	1.7	0.2
2005	CHN	39	35	12.5	14.7	0.8	-0.4	-
2006		40	34	13.3	12.4	2.5	1.2	-
	CHN		22 /	8.3	9.3	0.8	-0.1	-
	LAN		12 /	5.0	3.0	1.6	1.3	0.9
2007	SDN	41	34	11.6	11.3	1.9	0.7	-
2008		42	33	10.1	13.8	-0.0	-1.2	-
	LAN		7 /	2.4	3.7	-0.2	-0.5	-
	SDN		26 /	7.7	10.2	0.1	-0.8	-
CAREER (reg. season)			751	328.5	271.4	73.5	44.8	24.4
PostSeason (career)			37	12.6	12.5	2.0	0.8	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1986	CHN	20	6	1.9	2.3	0.1	-0.1	-
1987	CHN	21	31	9.1	11.7	0.1	-0.9	-
1988	CHN	22	34	15.9	13.9	3.0	1.8	0.5
1989	CHN	23	35	14.8	13.4	2.6	1.4	0.2
1990	CHN	24	35	15.2	13.0	3.1	1.9	0.7
1991	CHN	25	39	16.6	15.2	3.0	1.5	0.1
1992	CHN	26	35	17.8	12.5	5.0	3.6	2.1
1993	ATL	27	36	17.0	12.8	4.0	2.7	1.4
1994	ATL	28	25	13.8	7.5	4.7	3.6	2.5
1995	ATL	29	28	14.6	7.1	5.5	4.4	3.4
1996	ATL	30	35	16.9	10.4	5.5	4.1	2.7
1997	ATL	31	33	15.2	9.5	4.9	3.6	2.2
1998	ATL	32	34	15.9	10.3	4.8	3.6	2.4
1999	ATL	33	33	14.6	12.2	3.2	1.9	0.6
2000	ATL	34	35	15.5	11.7	4.0	2.7	1.4
2001	ATL	35	35	15.8	11.8	4.2	2.8	1.4
2002	ATL	36	35	12.4	10.3	2.7	1.6	0.5
2003	ATL	37	37	13.0	12.2	2.4	1.0	-
2004	CHN	38	34	14.8	13.2	3.1	1.7	0.2
2005	CHN	39	35	14.2	14.5	2.0	0.7	-
2006		40	34	12.7	11.5	2.5	1.3	0.1
	CHN		22 /	8.1	7.9	1.3	0.5	-
	LAN		12 /	4.6	3.6	1.2	0.8	0.4
2007	SDN	41	34	12.0	11.9	1.9	0.7	-
2008		42	33	11.4	13.1	1.0	-0.2	-
	LAN		7 /	2.5	2.6	0.3	0.1	-
	SDN		26 /	8.9	10.5	0.7	-0.3	-
CAREER (reg. season)			751	321.0	261.9	73.2	45.3	22.5
PostSeason (career)			37	13.1	10.8	3.0	1.8	

### #3: Roger Clemens

#### Career Highlights

If Greg Maddux was not the best pitcher of the last fifty years, Roger Clemens probably was.

Five highlights of Roger Clemens's career:

- Roger Clemens was born exactly one year after former President Barack Obama, with whom he shares a birthday.
- Roger Clemens won seven Cy Young awards spread across three decades and four teams. He won his first Cy Young award in 1986 and his last in 2004. Clemens also won one MVP award – in 1986 – with five other top-10 MVP finishes.
- Roger Clemens had 20 or more traditional pitching wins six times, leading the league four times. He led the league in ERA seven times, in shutouts six times, in innings pitched twice, and in strikeouts five times.
- Because of the DH rule, Roger Clemens did not have his first regular-season plate appearance until 1996, when he was 33 years old. Clemens was forced to bat in the eighth inning against the Seattle Mariners on May 23, 1996, when Red Sox DH Jose Canseco (#102) moved to left field. Clemens singled to center field off Norm Charlton en route to a complete-game 11-4 victory. Clemens's second regular-season at bat – in an inter-league game against the New York Mets on September 2, 1997 – was a double to right field off Juan Acevedo. He then reached on an error and walked in his other two plate appearances that game. Roger Clemens was not retired as a batter in a regular-season game until June 8, 1998, when he was almost 36 years old.
- On April 29, 1986, Clemens tied a major-league record with 20 strikeouts in 9 innings in a complete-game 3-1 victory over the Seattle Mariners. On September 18, 1996, Clemens became the only pitcher in major-league history to pitch a second 20-strikeout game.

#### At What Was Roger Clemens Elite?

Perhaps the most impressive thing about Roger Clemens's career, as shown in the tables on the next page, is that he never once had a below-average season in his career. Roger Clemens played for 24 seasons and had a positive pWOPA (and eWOPA) in each of them. Roger Clemens has the most above-average seasons of any player for whom I have calculated Player won-lost records. The list of players with at least 20 consecutive seasons with positive pWOPA is shown next.

Players with (pWOPA > 0) for 20 consecutive seasons						
Player	Seasons	Games	pWins	pLosses	pWOPA	pWORL
<b>Roger Clemens</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>709</b>	<b>318.2</b>	<b>228.2</b>	<b>51.1</b>	<b>79.6</b>
Willie Mays	21	2,992	459.7	334.6	49.7	81.8
Barry Bonds	21	2,984	462.0	315.0	60.3	90.7
Hank Aaron	21	3,298	492.4	372.8	42.2	77.9

See also, #70, Andy Pettitte.

## Roger Clemens's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1984	BOS	21	21	7.3	5.8	1.4	0.9	0.3
1985	BOS	22	15	5.9	4.6	1.3	0.7	0.2
1986	BOS	23	33	17.3	9.9	5.2	3.9	2.6
1987	BOS	24	36	18.3	11.7	5.1	3.6	2.1
1988	BOS	25	35	18.0	11.9	4.7	3.3	1.9
1989	BOS	26	35	14.8	12.7	2.6	1.2	-
1990	BOS	27	31	16.7	8.7	5.5	4.2	3.0
1991	BOS	28	35	16.8	11.1	4.5	3.0	1.6
1992	BOS	29	32	15.5	10.2	4.3	2.9	1.5
1993	BOS	30	29	12.7	12.6	1.4	0.2	-
1994	BOS	31	24	10.6	8.0	2.5	1.4	0.3
1995	BOS	32	23	8.8	6.7	2.1	1.3	0.4
1996	BOS	33	34	13.4	11.0	2.9	1.5	0.1
1997	TOR	34	34	18.6	9.8	6.4	4.7	3.0
1998	TOR	35	33	15.7	9.3	4.8	3.5	2.2
1999	NYA	36	30	13.2	12.3	2.0	0.6	-
2000	NYA	37	32	14.0	12.0	2.6	1.2	-
2001	NYA	38	33	13.9	8.8	4.1	2.8	1.5
2002	NYA	39	29	11.5	9.1	2.5	1.4	0.3
2003	NYA	40	33	13.4	11.0	2.8	1.4	-
2004	HOU	41	33	14.8	10.8	4.1	2.8	1.5
2005	HOU	42	32	14.1	9.8	3.9	2.8	1.7
2006	HOU	43	19	7.2	4.8	2.1	1.5	0.9
2007	NYA	44	18	5.9	5.5	1.0	0.3	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>709  </b>	<b>318.2</b>	<b>228.2</b>	<b>79.6</b>	<b>51.1</b>	<b>25.0</b>
PostSeason (career)			35	12.6	11.2	2.3	1.0	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1984	BOS	21	21	8.3	6.7	1.6	0.9	0.3
1985	BOS	22	15	5.8	4.3	1.4	0.9	0.3
1986	BOS	23	33	16.3	10.6	4.4	3.1	1.8
1987	BOS	24	36	18.0	11.9	4.9	3.4	1.9
1988	BOS	25	35	16.5	10.3	4.6	3.3	2.0
1989	BOS	26	35	15.4	12.1	3.2	1.9	0.5
1990	BOS	27	31	14.6	8.5	4.4	3.3	2.2
1991	BOS	28	35	16.1	10.7	4.3	2.9	1.5
1992	BOS	29	32	15.8	10.2	4.4	3.0	1.6
1993	BOS	30	29	12.0	9.9	2.2	1.1	0.1
1994	BOS	31	24	10.7	7.7	2.7	1.6	0.5
1995	BOS	32	23	8.6	8.1	1.4	0.5	-
1996	BOS	33	34	16.0	11.4	4.2	2.7	1.1
1997	TOR	34	34	17.9	8.6	6.5	4.9	3.4
1998	TOR	35	33	15.4	10.1	4.3	2.9	1.6
1999	NYA	36	30	11.8	10.9	1.8	0.6	-
2000	NYA	37	32	12.7	11.3	2.2	0.9	-
2001	NYA	38	33	13.2	11.0	2.8	1.4	0.0
2002	NYA	39	29	11.2	9.6	2.2	1.0	-
2003	NYA	40	33	13.0	11.3	2.5	1.1	-
2004	HOU	41	33	13.9	11.0	3.5	2.2	0.9
2005	HOU	42	32	14.5	9.0	4.4	3.3	2.3
2006	HOU	43	19	7.3	5.1	2.0	1.4	0.8
2007	NYA	44	18	5.7	5.3	1.0	0.3	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>709  </b>	<b>310.9</b>	<b>225.6</b>	<b>76.7</b>	<b>48.7</b>	<b>22.8</b>
PostSeason (career)			35	12.6	10.4	2.6	1.4	

## #4: Joe Morgan

### Career Highlights

In my opinion, Joe Morgan is the greatest second baseman in major-league history. He was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility, 1990, with 81.8% of the vote.

Five highlights of Joe Morgan's career:

- Joe Morgan made ten All-Star teams, won five Gold Gloves, and finished in the top 10 in MVP voting five times
- Joe Morgan won back-to-back MVP awards in 1975 and 1976. In 1975, Morgan batted .327/.466/.508 with 132 walks, 67 stolen bases (against 10 caught stealing), 17 home runs, 94 RBI, and 107 runs scored. Morgan led the National League in walks, on-base percentage, and OPS (on-base plus slugging percentage, .974). In 1976, Morgan batted .320/.444/.576 with 114 walks, 60 stolen bases (and 9 caught stealing), 27 home runs, 111 RBI, and 113 runs scored. Morgan led the National League in on-base percentage, slugging percentage, and, obviously, in OPS.
- Joe Morgan is second in MLB history in games played at second base (2,527), behind only Eddie Collins.
- Joe Morgan was third in MLB history in walks when he retired (1,865). Barry Bonds and Rickey Henderson have since passed him so that he is currently fifth in career walks.
- Joe Morgan's first major-league hit was a game-winning single with two out in the bottom of the ninth inning on September 22, 1963.

### At What Was Joe Morgan Elite?

Joe Morgan was the best baseball player in the 1970s and nobody else was particularly close. The next two tables show the top 10 players in pWOPA and pWORLD from 1970 through 1979.

pWins over Positional Average Top 10 Players, 1970 - 1979					
	Player	pWins	pLoss	pWOPA	pWORLD
1	Joe Morgan	221.1	158.2	34.5	49.5
2	Jim Palmer	171.1	122.4	27.9	41.3
3	Tom Seaver	177.1	138.5	26.5	39.8
4	Johnny Bench	174.7	133.1	20.9	33.1
5	Reggie Jackson	212.6	162.4	20.1	35.3
6	Steve Carlton	183.0	159.8	19.5	33.9
7	Fergie Jenkins	171.2	143.4	18.5	32.6
8	Bobby Grich	152.3	122.8	18.3	29.1
9	Gaylord Perry	176.2	150.9	17.6	32.2
10	Mike Schmidt	150.3	111.6	16.9	27.1

pWins over Replacement Level Top 10 Players, 1970 - 1979					
	Player	pWins	pLoss	pWOPA	pWORLD
1	<b>Joe Morgan</b>	<b>221.1</b>	<b>158.2</b>	<b>34.5</b>	<b>49.5</b>
2	Jim Palmer	171.1	122.4	27.9	41.3
3	Tom Seaver	177.1	138.5	26.5	39.8
4	Reggie Jackson	212.6	162.4	20.1	35.3
5	Steve Carlton	183.0	159.8	19.5	33.9
6	Johnny Bench	174.7	133.1	20.9	33.1
7	Fergie Jenkins	171.2	143.4	18.5	32.6
8	Gaylord Perry	176.2	150.9	17.6	32.2
9	Don Sutton	163.0	143.6	16.4	29.3
10	Bobby Grich	152.3	122.8	18.3	29.1

As the above tables indicate, Morgan was the best player in baseball in the 1970s by a wide margin and he was the best position player in baseball by an even wider margin. The next table looks at exactly how much better Joe Morgan was in the 1970s than other position players.

This table compares Joe Morgan's pWORLD to the top pWORLD by a non-pitcher other than Joe Morgan for every year of the 1970s.

Joe Morgan vs. the Field, pWORLD (Non-Pitchers only)		
Year	Joe Morgan	Best non-Morgan in MLB
1970	3.6	5.1
1971	3.6	5.8
<b>1972</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>5.6</b>
<b>1973</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>5.0</b>
<b>1974</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>4.9</b>
<b>1975</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>4.7</b>
<b>1976</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>4.9</b>
<b>1977</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>4.9</b>
1978	3.2	5.9
1979	1.9	5.2
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1970 - 79	49.5	51.9

Overall, Morgan was the best position player in Major League Baseball six (consecutive) years in the 1970s. Taking the best season from every other position player in Major League Baseball, the rest of baseball trails Morgan through the first nine years of the decade, just barely passing Morgan for the entire decade in 1979.

See also, #72, Sandy Koufax.

## Joe Morgan's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1963	HOU	19	8	1.1	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2
1964	HOU	20	10	1.1	1.5	-0.1	-0.2	-
1965	HOU	21	157	21.1	20.4	2.3	0.7	-
1966	HOU	22	122	16.3	14.1	2.8	1.6	0.4
1967	HOU	23	133	17.0	15.9	2.2	0.8	-
1968	HOU	24	10	1.0	0.7	0.2	0.2	0.1
1969	HOU	25	147	19.1	17.5	2.6	1.0	-
1970	HOU	26	144	20.2	17.8	3.6	2.0	0.4
1971	HOU	27	160	22.2	18.6	3.6	2.0	0.4
1972	CIN	28	149	25.8	16.1	7.0	5.3	3.6
1973	CIN	29	157	26.9	17.1	6.9	5.0	3.2
1974	CIN	30	148	23.8	16.8	5.4	3.8	2.3
1975	CIN	31	146	24.5	15.4	6.2	4.6	3.1
1976	CIN	32	139	23.3	14.3	6.2	4.7	3.3
1977	CIN	33	153	22.4	14.7	5.7	4.2	2.7
1978	CIN	34	132	16.9	13.4	3.2	2.0	0.8
1979	CIN	35	126	15.2	14.0	1.9	0.7	-
1980	HOU	36	141	17.6	15.3	2.7	1.4	0.2
1981	SFN	37	90	11.9	9.3	2.3	1.4	0.6
1982	SFN	38	134	18.2	13.8	3.5	2.3	1.1
1983	PHI	39	123	16.6	12.9	3.0	2.0	0.9
1984	OAK	40	116	12.0	12.2	1.2	0.2	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,645  </b>	<b>374.1</b>	<b>292.4</b>	<b>72.7</b>	<b>46.2</b>	<b>23.3</b>
PostSeason (career)			50	6.8	5.6	1.1	0.7	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1963	HOU	19	8	1.1	0.9	0.2	0.1	0.0
1964	HOU	20	10	1.1	1.5	-0.0	-0.1	-
1965	HOU	21	157	23.0	20.0	3.6	1.9	0.2
1966	HOU	22	122	16.4	14.5	2.7	1.5	0.3
1967	HOU	23	133	18.7	15.5	3.2	1.8	0.3
1968	HOU	24	10	0.9	0.8	0.1	0.0	-
1969	HOU	25	147	20.2	17.4	3.3	1.7	0.0
1970	HOU	26	144	20.7	18.7	3.5	1.8	0.1
1971	HOU	27	160	22.7	18.9	3.8	2.2	0.5
1972	CIN	28	149	24.4	17.4	5.6	4.0	2.3
1973	CIN	29	157	24.9	17.4	5.6	3.9	2.1
1974	CIN	30	148	22.1	15.9	4.8	3.4	1.9
1975	CIN	31	146	23.4	15.7	5.4	3.9	2.4
1976	CIN	32	139	23.0	15.1	5.7	4.2	2.8
1977	CIN	33	153	20.6	14.4	4.9	3.5	2.1
1978	CIN	34	132	15.5	14.1	2.1	0.9	-
1979	CIN	35	126	15.2	13.5	2.1	1.0	-
1980	HOU	36	141	16.8	15.3	2.3	1.0	-
1981	SFN	37	90	11.3	9.5	1.8	1.0	0.2
1982	SFN	38	134	17.6	13.9	3.2	2.0	0.8
1983	PHI	39	123	15.9	13.6	2.3	1.3	0.2
1984	OAK	40	116	12.2	11.7	1.5	0.6	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,645  </b>	<b>367.6</b>	<b>295.8</b>	<b>67.6</b>	<b>41.3</b>	<b>16.1</b>
PostSeason (career)			50	6.7	5.9	0.9	0.4	



## #5: Alex Rodriguez

### Career Highlights

Alex Rodriguez has arguably been both the best and most controversial player in major-league baseball in the twenty-first century so far.

Five highlights of Alex Rodriguez's career:

- Alex Rodriguez won three MVP awards, in 2003, 2005, and 2007; was named to fourteen All-Star teams (ten times as a starter), won ten Silver Sluggers (seven as a shortstop, three as a third baseman), and two Gold Gloves (both at shortstop).
- Alex Rodriguez led the American League in each of the three Triple Crown categories, just not all at the same time. He led the American League in batting average in 1996 (.358), in home runs five times (2001 – 2003, 2005, 2007), and in RBI twice (in 2002 and 2007). Rodriguez also led the American League in runs scored five times, in total bases four times, and in hits and doubles once apiece.
- Alex Rodriguez is eighth in major-league history in runs scored (2,021), sixth in total bases (5,813), fourth in home runs (696), and third in RBI (2,086).
- Alex Rodriguez was the youngest player in major-league history to hit his 300th career home run, his 400th career home run, his 500th career home run, and his 600th career home run. He hit his 600th home run on August 4, 2010, exactly 3 years after he hit his 500th career home run.
- Alex Rodriguez holds the major-league record for career grand slams with 25.

### At What Was Alex Rodriguez Elite?

Upon Barry Bonds's retirement, Alex Rodriguez took over the mantle as the best player in Major League Baseball. The next table shows the top 10 players of the first decade of this century (2000 – 2009).

pWins over Replacement Level, 2000 – 2009					
	Player	pWins	pLoss	pWOPA	pWORL
1	Alex Rodriguez	217.4	163.0	28.8	43.4
2	Albert Pujols	200.2	133.0	25.8	38.6
3	Derek Jeter	205.3	172.0	21.7	36.1
4	Barry Bonds	153.7	92.4	25.9	35.8
5	Manny Ramirez	192.6	149.7	17.7	32.0
6	Miguel Tejada	217.9	197.7	14.9	30.9
7	Vladimir Guerrero	206.8	167.2	14.6	30.1
8	David Ortiz	142.2	104.8	15.1	29.8
9	Jason Giambi	148.3	103.0	18.1	29.7
10	Randy Johnson	126.7	101.0	18.0	29.6

## Alex Rodriguez's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1994	SEA	18	17	0.9	2.0	-0.4	-0.5	-
1995	SEA	19	47	3.7	4.1	0.3	-0.0	-
1996	SEA	20	146	22.3	16.8	5.1	3.5	1.9
1997	SEA	21	141	20.1	17.1	3.7	2.2	0.8
1998	SEA	22	161	23.8	20.5	4.2	2.5	0.7
1999	SEA	23	129	18.4	16.3	2.9	1.6	0.2
2000	SEA	24	148	23.6	15.0	6.5	4.9	3.4
2001	TEX	25	162	22.9	17.5	5.0	3.3	1.5
2002	TEX	26	162	21.6	18.0	3.9	2.3	0.7
2003	TEX	27	161	21.2	18.3	3.6	2.0	0.4
2004	NYA	28	155	21.0	15.2	4.1	2.7	1.3
2005	NYA	29	162	25.6	17.1	5.7	4.2	2.6
2006	NYA	30	154	20.5	17.0	2.9	1.5	0.2
2007	NYA	31	158	25.2	16.2	5.9	4.4	2.9
2008	NYA	32	138	18.1	15.8	2.3	1.1	-
2009	NYA	33	124	17.8	12.9	3.6	2.5	1.3
2010	NYA	34	137	18.7	14.3	3.5	2.2	0.9
2011	NYA	35	99	12.0	9.9	2.0	1.2	0.3
2012	NYA	36	122	13.1	12.0	1.5	0.4	-
2013	NYA	37	44	4.5	4.2	0.5	0.1	-
2015	NYA	39	151	14.4	11.6	2.6	1.1	-
2016	NYA	40	65	4.5	5.3	0.1	-0.5	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,783  </b>	<b>373.9</b>	<b>297.2</b>	<b>69.5</b>	<b>42.5</b>	<b>19.2</b>
PostSeason (career)			76	9.0	8.2	1.1	0.4	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1994	SEA	18	17	1.2	2.0	-0.2	-0.3	-
1995	SEA	19	47	4.1	4.8	0.2	-0.2	-
1996	SEA	20	146	23.1	16.1	5.8	4.3	2.7
1997	SEA	21	141	19.4	17.5	3.1	1.7	0.2
1998	SEA	22	161	23.8	19.7	4.5	2.8	1.1
1999	SEA	23	129	18.4	15.4	3.3	2.0	0.7
2000	SEA	24	148	22.3	15.7	5.4	3.9	2.4
2001	TEX	25	162	25.3	17.4	6.4	4.6	2.8
2002	TEX	26	162	24.2	18.3	5.2	3.5	1.8
2003	TEX	27	161	22.3	17.3	4.5	3.0	1.4
2004	NYA	28	155	19.5	15.9	3.0	1.6	0.2
2005	NYA	29	162	22.3	16.4	4.3	2.9	1.5
2006	NYA	30	154	19.4	16.4	2.6	1.3	-
2007	NYA	31	158	22.3	15.5	4.7	3.3	1.9
2008	NYA	32	138	18.4	14.5	3.1	1.9	0.6
2009	NYA	33	124	16.8	13.3	2.9	1.8	0.6
2010	NYA	34	137	16.2	13.6	2.5	1.3	0.1
2011	NYA	35	99	11.3	9.9	1.7	0.8	-
2012	NYA	36	122	13.3	12.1	1.6	0.5	-
2013	NYA	37	44	4.4	4.3	0.4	0.0	-
2015	NYA	39	151	13.6	11.3	2.3	0.8	-
2016	NYA	40	65	3.9	5.0	-0.1	-0.6	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,783  </b>	<b>365.5</b>	<b>292.5</b>	<b>67.2</b>	<b>40.8</b>	<b>18.1</b>
PostSeason (career)			76	9.0	8.0	1.2	0.5	

## **#6: Randy Johnson**

### **Career Highlights**

Randy Johnson may have been the most intimidating pitcher in major-league history: 6'10" (tallest in major-league history at his debut), 225 pounds, 98 mph fastball, devastating slider. He was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility, 2015, with 97.3% of the vote.

Five highlights of Randy Johnson's career:

- Randy Johnson threw the first no-hitter in franchise history for both the Seattle Mariners and the Arizona Diamondbacks, the latter of which was a perfect game.
- Randy Johnson had seasons with traditional won-lost records of 18-2 (1995), 20-4 (1997), and 24-5 (2002). He also had a record of 10-1 in his partial 1998 season with the Houston Astros. For his career, Randy Johnson had a traditional won-lost record of 303-166.
- Randy Johnson led his league in strikeouts nine times. He led Major League Baseball in strikeouts a tenth time, in 1998, which he split between the two leagues. For his career, Randy Johnson struck out 4,875 batters, second most in major-league history. His career rate of 10.61 strikeouts per nine innings is the most in major-league history for any pitcher with at least 1,000 innings pitched.
- In 2001, Randy Johnson struck out 372 regular-season batters and another 47 strikeouts in the postseason, giving him a total of 419 strikeouts in a combined 291 innings pitched.
- Randy Johnson won five Cy Young awards, including four in a row from 1999 through 2002. Johnson finished second in Cy Young voting three times and third once.

### **At What Was Randy Johnson Elite?**

Randy Johnson is second in major-league history in total strikeouts with 4,875, and first in major-league history in strikeouts per 9 innings (among players with 1,000 or more career innings pitched). The one pitcher in major-league history with more strikeouts than Johnson, Nolan Ryan, struck out 839 more batters than Johnson (in 1,251.1 more innings) but Ryan also walked 1,208 more batters than Johnson. In fact, while Randy Johnson was fairly wild as a young pitcher - leading his league in walks three straight seasons in 1990, 1991, and 1992 - he developed quite good control in his prime, with, for example, four top-10 finishes in fewest walks per 9 innings (in 1995, 1999, 2004, and 2005).

Strikeouts and walks (and hit batsmen) are measured within Component 3 of Player won-lost records. The top 10 pitchers in net career Component 3 pitching wins since the integration of major-league baseball are presented in the next table.

**Top 10 Net Pitching Wins: Component 3**  
(since 1947)

		<b>eWins</b>	<b>eLosses</b>	<b>eWinPct</b>	<b>Net Wins</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Randy Johnson</b>	<b>104.9</b>	<b>47.9</b>	<b>0.686</b>	<b>57.0</b>
2	Roger Clemens	101.0	49.3	0.672	51.8
3	Curt Schilling	65.9	21.6	0.753	44.2
4	Greg Maddux	71.7	29.9	0.706	41.8
5	Pedro Martinez	67.7	26.1	0.722	41.6
6	Fergie Jenkins	67.7	31.4	0.683	36.3
7	Mike Mussina	60.3	24.3	0.713	36.0
8	Bert Blyleven	79.8	44.4	0.642	35.4
9	John Smoltz	64.6	29.4	0.687	35.1
10	Gaylord Perry	74.9	44.1	0.630	30.9

Component 3 of Player won-lost records - which measures player value for plate appearances in which the ball is not put into play – is measured concurrent with Component 4 - which measures basic batter/pitcher value for plate appearances where the ball is put into play (including home runs). In essence, Components 3 and 4 measure pure pitching, completely independent of fielding.

The top 10 pitchers in Components 3 and 4 combined, since the integration of major-league baseball, are shown in the next table.

**Top 10 Net Pitching Wins, Components 3 and 4**  
(since 1947)

		<b>eWins</b>	<b>eLosses</b>	<b>eWinPct</b>	<b>Net Wins</b>
1	Roger Clemens	225.7	166.1	0.576	59.6
2	Greg Maddux	211.0	158.8	0.571	52.2
<b>3</b>	<b>Randy Johnson</b>	<b>197.7</b>	<b>153.4</b>	<b>0.563</b>	<b>44.3</b>
4	Pedro Martinez	135.3	93.9	0.590	41.5
5	Kevin Brown	140.8	105.0	0.573	35.8
6	Gaylord Perry	222.7	188.0	0.542	34.7
7	Nolan Ryan	243.8	211.4	0.536	32.4
8	Mike Mussina	158.7	127.3	0.555	31.3
9	Bob Gibson	169.8	140.5	0.547	29.3
10	John Smoltz	153.0	124.5	0.551	28.5

Randy Johnson was arguably one of the top three pure pitchers of the past seventy years, and, not coincidentally, one of the top three pitchers in this list.

## Randy Johnson's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1988	MON	24	4	1.8	1.3	0.4	0.3	0.1
1989		25	29	9.2	10.7	0.4	-0.5	-
	<i>MON</i>		7 /	2.2	3.1	-0.1	-0.3	-
	<i>SEA</i>		22 /	6.9	7.6	0.5	-0.2	-
1990	SEA	26	33	13.9	12.5	2.2	1.0	-
1991	SEA	27	33	14.0	13.5	1.9	0.5	-
1992	SEA	28	31	14.3	15.5	1.3	-0.3	-
1993	SEA	29	36	17.0	11.3	4.3	3.0	1.6
1994	SEA	30	23	11.2	8.5	2.6	1.5	0.3
1995	SEA	31	30	16.5	7.5	6.1	4.8	3.5
1996	SEA	32	14	3.9	2.6	1.1	0.7	0.3
1997	SEA	33	30	16.2	8.5	5.6	4.1	2.6
1998		34	34	18.0	14.9	3.8	2.2	0.5
	<i>HOU</i>		11 /	7.7	4.0	2.7	2.1	1.6
	<i>SEA</i>		23 /	10.4	10.8	1.1	0.0	-
1999	ARI	35	35	18.5	13.3	4.9	3.4	1.9
2000	ARI	36	35	18.6	13.4	5.0	3.4	1.9
2001	ARI	37	35	19.1	12.5	5.8	4.2	2.5
2002	ARI	38	35	19.1	10.4	6.5	5.1	3.6
2003	ARI	39	18	7.5	7.6	1.1	0.3	-
2004	ARI	40	35	15.5	12.6	3.8	2.3	0.9
2005	NYA	41	34	13.2	10.9	2.6	1.4	0.1
2006	NYA	42	33	11.8	11.3	1.7	0.5	-
2007	ARI	43	10	3.5	3.5	0.5	0.2	-
2008	ARI	44	30	11.5	11.5	1.8	0.6	-
2009	SFN	45	22	7.0	7.4	0.8	0.1	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>619  </b>	<b>281.3</b>	<b>221.0</b>	<b>64.3</b>	<b>38.5</b>	<b>20.0</b>
PostSeason (career)			19	7.9	7.4	1.4	0.6	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1988	MON	24	4	1.6	1.8	0.1	-0.0	-
1989		25	29	9.7	10.2	0.9	-0.0	-
	<i>MON</i>		7 /	1.9	2.6	-0.1	-0.3	-
	<i>SEA</i>		22 /	7.8	7.6	1.0	0.3	-
1990	SEA	26	33	13.3	13.9	1.3	-0.0	-
1991	SEA	27	33	12.9	12.6	1.6	0.3	-
1992	SEA	28	31	12.8	12.0	2.0	0.6	-
1993	SEA	29	36	16.6	11.5	4.0	2.7	1.3
1994	SEA	30	23	11.4	7.5	3.1	2.1	1.0
1995	SEA	31	30	14.6	7.6	5.0	3.8	2.6
1996	SEA	32	14	3.7	2.9	0.8	0.4	0.0
1997	SEA	33	30	14.3	8.4	4.5	3.2	1.8
1998		34	34	16.1	12.5	3.8	2.3	0.9
	<i>HOU</i>		11 /	5.6	3.6	1.7	1.3	0.9
	<i>SEA</i>		23 /	10.5	8.9	2.0	1.0	-
1999	ARI	35	35	17.8	14.2	4.1	2.6	1.1
2000	ARI	36	35	16.6	12.4	4.2	2.8	1.4
2001	ARI	37	35	17.1	11.9	4.8	3.3	1.9
2002	ARI	38	35	17.5	13.0	4.5	3.0	1.5
2003	ARI	39	18	7.8	7.9	1.2	0.3	-
2004	ARI	40	35	16.7	10.6	5.3	3.9	2.5
2005	NYA	41	34	13.3	11.7	2.4	1.1	-
2006	NYA	42	33	12.5	11.5	2.0	0.7	-
2007	ARI	43	10	3.7	3.2	0.7	0.4	0.0
2008	ARI	44	30	11.7	11.0	2.1	0.9	-
2009	SFN	45	22	5.8	7.2	0.2	-0.4	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>619  </b>	<b>267.6</b>	<b>215.5</b>	<b>58.9</b>	<b>34.1</b>	<b>16.0</b>
PostSeason (career)			19	8.3	6.4	2.0	1.2	

## **#7: Tom Seaver**

### **Career Highlights**

Tom Seaver was one of the most celebrated pitchers of the 1960s and 1970s.

Five highlights of Tom Seaver's career:

- Tom Seaver was a twelve-time All-Star who won the 1967 NL Rookie-of-the-Year award and three Cy Young awards (1969, 1973, and 1975).
- Tom Seaver led his league in traditional pitcher wins three times, in ERA three times, and in strikeouts five times.
- Tom Seaver set a major-league record (since broken) by striking out 19 San Diego Padres in nine innings on April 22, 1970, including the final 10 batters of the game, which also set a major-league record (which still stands).
- Tom Seaver threw five one-hitters and took a no-hitter into the ninth inning three times for the New York Mets. He threw the only no-hitter of his career as a Cincinnati Red on June 16, 1978, against the St. Louis Cardinals.
- Tom Seaver was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility, 1992, with a then-record 98.8% of the vote.

### **At What Was Tom Seaver Elite?**

In his New Historical Baseball Abstract, Bill James ranked Tom Seaver as the sixth-best pitcher in major-league history but said the following:

"There is actually a good argument that Tom Seaver should be regarded as the greatest pitcher of all time. Of the five pitchers rated ahead of him, four pitched before World War II, the other just after World War II.... Where Seaver rates relative to those pitchers, then, depends to a large extent on how steep one believes the timeline of history to be."

James wrote this following the 2000 season, so Roger Clemens, Greg Maddux, and Randy Johnson (among others) were still mid-career. James ranked Clemens eleventh, and commented that "like Seaver, there is actually a very good argument that he is the greatest pitcher who ever lived."

The next table shows the top 10 players in career pWins over replacement level among all pitchers for whom I have calculated Player won-lost records (with missing data extrapolated for seasons before 1941).

**pWins over Replacement Level**

**Top 10 Pitchers**

	<b>Player</b>	<b>pWins</b>	<b>pLoss</b>	<b>pWOPA</b>	<b>pWORLD</b>
1	Roger Clemens	318.2	228.2	51.1	79.6
2	Greg Maddux	328.5	271.4	44.8	73.5
3	Warren Spahn	354.3	293.6	43.9	71.8
4	Lefty Grove	268.9	186.5	47.3	68.0
5	Randy Johnson	281.3	221.0	38.5	64.3
<b>6</b>	<b>Tom Seaver</b>	<b>308.7</b>	<b>256.8</b>	<b>38.0</b>	<b>62.3</b>
7	Steve Carlton	337.9	303.9	31.7	59.0
8	Nolan Ryan	356.9	328.0	24.6	55.9
9	Bob Gibson	263.9	217.3	34.6	55.5
10	Tom Glavine	279.5	249.6	29.1	54.5

Being among the top 10 pitchers in pWORLD is obviously extremely impressive. But among pitchers, Seaver is behind at least two pitchers from before his time – Lefty Grove and Warren Spahn. I am also missing all or most of the careers of several other all-time great pitchers, including Walter Johnson, Grover Alexander, and Cy Young. Seaver is also behind the three more recent pitchers ranked ahead of him in this book.

But this would seem to leave a stretch of time over which Tom Seaver would rank as the top pitcher, at least as measured by pWORLD. In fact, there is a fifty-year stretch of time, which just happens to encompass the second half of the twentieth century over which Tom Seaver was the best pitcher in the major-league baseball.

The top 10 pitchers in pWORLD from 1950 through 2000 are shown next.

**pWins over Replacement Level, 1950 - 2000**

**Top 10 Pitchers**

	<b>Player</b>	<b>pWins</b>	<b>pLoss</b>	<b>pWOPA</b>	<b>pWORLD</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Tom Seaver</b>	<b>308.7</b>	<b>256.8</b>	<b>38.0</b>	<b>62.3</b>
2	Roger Clemens	237.3	168.3	38.1	59.1
3	Steve Carlton	337.9	303.9	31.7	59.0
4	Warren Spahn	286.1	241.3	33.8	56.8
5	Nolan Ryan	356.9	328.0	24.6	55.9
6	Greg Maddux	223.6	170.3	37.2	55.6
7	Bob Gibson	263.9	217.3	34.6	55.5
8	Jim Palmer	242.8	186.1	33.6	53.3
9	Don Sutton	320.9	295.3	24.6	51.6
10	Gaylord Perry	317.7	289.4	23.7	51.1



## Tom Seaver's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1967	NYN	22	36	16.8	14.2	3.3	2.0	0.6
1968	NYN	23	37	16.8	14.3	3.2	2.0	0.7
1969	NYN	24	36	20.8	13.3	6.1	4.5	3.0
1970	NYN	25	38	20.6	15.2	5.1	3.5	2.0
1971	NYN	26	37	19.6	13.0	5.5	4.1	2.7
1972	NYN	27	36	18.8	16.3	3.7	2.1	0.6
1973	NYN	28	37	20.1	13.7	5.4	4.1	2.7
1974	NYN	29	32	14.0	14.3	1.6	0.4	-
1975	NYN	30	37	18.4	13.2	4.7	3.3	2.0
1976	NYN	31	35	16.5	13.9	3.1	1.9	0.7
1977		32	33	19.1	12.3	5.6	4.2	2.8
	CIN		20 /	12.7	7.0	4.2	3.4	2.5
	NYN		13 /	6.4	5.2	1.4	0.9	0.3
1978	CIN	33	36	16.0	15.0	2.3	1.0	-
1979	CIN	34	32	14.1	11.7	2.9	1.8	0.8
1980	CIN	35	26	10.1	11.8	0.5	-0.4	-
1981	CIN	36	23	10.6	7.4	2.9	2.1	1.3
1982	CIN	37	22	6.6	10.0	-0.6	-1.3	-
1983	NYN	38	34	12.7	14.7	0.8	-0.4	-
1984	CHA	39	34	13.5	11.6	2.3	1.2	0.1
1985	CHA	40	35	14.5	10.9	3.4	2.0	0.7
1986		41	28	9.3	10.0	0.7	-0.2	-
	BOS		16 /	5.9	5.4	0.9	0.3	-
	CHA		12 /	3.4	4.6	-0.1	-0.5	-
CAREER (reg. season)			664	308.7	256.8	62.3	38.0	20.7
PostSeason (career)			8	3.4	3.6	0.4	0.1	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1967	NYN	22	36	15.8	16.6	1.7	0.3	-
1968	NYN	23	37	17.9	14.7	3.6	2.3	1.0
1969	NYN	24	36	17.7	15.7	3.3	1.8	0.2
1970	NYN	25	38	20.6	13.9	5.7	4.2	2.7
1971	NYN	26	37	19.8	13.3	5.5	4.0	2.6
1972	NYN	27	36	17.3	15.1	3.3	1.9	0.4
1973	NYN	28	37	19.6	14.6	4.7	3.3	2.0
1974	NYN	29	32	14.9	13.2	2.5	1.4	0.3
1975	NYN	30	37	17.6	13.2	4.2	2.9	1.6
1976	NYN	31	35	16.6	13.9	3.2	2.0	0.7
1977		32	33	16.9	12.1	4.5	3.2	1.9
	CIN		20 /	10.6	7.1	3.0	2.2	1.5
	NYN		13 /	6.3	5.0	1.4	0.9	0.4
1978	CIN	33	36	15.8	15.8	1.9	0.5	-
1979	CIN	34	32	13.3	11.9	2.3	1.3	0.3
1980	CIN	35	26	9.1	10.8	0.3	-0.5	-
1981	CIN	36	23	10.7	8.8	2.4	1.5	0.7
1982	CIN	37	22	6.1	8.7	-0.3	-0.9	-
1983	NYN	38	34	13.4	15.2	1.0	-0.2	-
1984	CHA	39	34	13.1	12.3	1.8	0.7	-
1985	CHA	40	35	14.1	12.9	2.3	0.9	-
1986		41	28	10.3	9.9	1.3	0.3	-
	BOS		16 /	6.4	5.7	1.0	0.4	-
	CHA		12 /	3.9	4.3	0.3	-0.1	-
CAREER (reg. season)			664	300.7	262.6	55.2	31.0	14.5
PostSeason (career)			8	3.9	3.5	0.7	0.4	

## **#8: Pedro Martinez**

### **Career Highlights**

Pedro Martinez had one of the most impressive pitching peaks in major-league history in the heart of the high-run-scoring late 1990s and early 2000s. He was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility, 2015, with 91.1% of the vote.

Five highlights of Pedro Martinez's career:

- Pedro Martinez was named to eight All-Star teams, received Cy Young votes seven times, and won three Cy Young awards, in 1997, 1999, and 2000.
- Pedro Martinez's 1997 Cy Young award was the only Cy Young award ever won by a member of the Montreal Expos.
- Pedro Martinez led his league in ERA five times, in strikeouts three times, in winning percentage three times, and in wins once. He led the American League in all four of these categories in 1999, when he went 23-4 with a 2.07 ERA and 313 strikeouts in 213.1 innings pitched. Martinez also led the 1999 American League in lowest WHIP (0.923), fewest hits allowed per 9 innings (6.8), fewest home runs per 9 innings (0.4), most strikeouts per nine innings (13.2), and highest strikeout-to-walk ratio (8.46).
- As measured by Baseball-Reference.com, Pedro Martinez has the best career ERA+, which compares a pitcher's park-adjusted ERA against league average, of any pitcher with at least 2,000 career innings pitched, at 154. In 1999 and 2000, Pedro Martinez's ERA was more than one full run lower than any other pitcher in the American League.
- Pedro Martinez got his first major-league hit on May 22, 1994, a bases-loaded triple off Denny Neagle of the Pittsburgh Pirates, to account for all three runs in a 3-2 Montreal Expos victory.

### At What Was Pedro Martinez Elite?

As I discuss at some length in my first book, raw player wins and losses are not necessarily the best measure of player performance. Nevertheless, there is something to be said for putting up impressive raw winning percentages. Pedro Martinez amassed a pWin percentage over .650 in each of five consecutive seasons from 1999 through 2003. This is an elite winning percentage.

The next table shows all players who had three or more consecutive seasons with a .650 pWin percentage among all players for whom I have calculated Player won-lost records.

Players with 3 or more consecutive seasons of pWinPct > .650							
Player	#	Seasons	pWins	pLoss	pWinPct	pWOPA	pWORL
Joe Nathan	6	2004 - 2009	41.5	18.1	0.697	10.5	14.6
<b>Pedro Martinez</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1999 - 2003</b>	<b>68.8</b>	<b>32.4</b>	<b>0.680</b>	<b>19.1</b>	<b>24.6</b>
Kenley Jansen	5	2013 - 2017	33.4	14.3	0.700	8.6	12.1
Craig Kimbrel	5	2011 - 2015	34.9	16.2	0.683	8.3	11.9
Eric Gagne	5	2002 - 2006	27.0	9.8	0.733	7.9	10.5
Frankie Rodriguez	4	2004 - 2007	33.1	15.2	0.685	8.0	11.3
Jonathan Papelbon	4	2006 - 2009	26.5	11.5	0.698	6.7	9.4
Joakim Soria	4	2007 - 2010	25.3	10.9	0.699	6.5	9.1
Wade Davis	4	2014 - 2017	23.5	9.9	0.703	6.1	8.5
Mariano Rivera	4	2011 - 2013	14.1	6.9	0.672	3.2	4.7
John Smoltz	3	2002 - 2004	23.5	9.8	0.706	6.3	8.6
Eric O'Flaherty	3	2011 - 2013	11.8	5.7	0.675	2.7	3.9
Andrew Miller	3	2015 - 2017	20.7	8.0	0.722	5.7	7.8
Dellin Betances	3	2013 - 2015	14.7	7.6	0.661	3.1	4.7
Dennis Eckersley	3	1988 - 1990	18.5	7.5	0.712	5.0	6.6

Pedro Martinez was the second player to accomplish this feat – the first to do so for more than three consecutive seasons – and is the only non-relief pitcher on the list with the most pWins, pWOPA, and pWORL of any player on the list during his stretch of dominance.

## Pedro Martinez's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1992	LAN	20	2	0.2	0.3	-0.0	-0.0	-
1993	LAN	21	65	7.5	5.4	1.7	0.9	0.2
1994	MON	22	24	9.7	7.9	2.2	1.3	0.3
1995	MON	23	30	11.6	11.3	1.9	0.8	-
1996	MON	24	33	13.3	13.2	2.2	0.8	-
1997	MON	25	31	18.0	11.9	5.4	3.8	2.2
1998	BOS	26	33	15.6	10.7	4.1	2.7	1.4
1999	BOS	27	31	16.3	6.5	6.3	5.1	3.9
2000	BOS	28	29	16.4	7.1	6.1	4.9	3.6
2001	BOS	29	18	7.4	4.0	2.5	1.9	1.2
2002	BOS	30	30	14.8	7.5	5.1	3.9	2.7
2003	BOS	31	29	13.8	7.3	4.7	3.4	2.2
2004	BOS	32	33	14.7	10.9	3.7	2.2	0.7
2005	NYN	33	31	13.4	11.0	2.9	1.8	0.7
2006	NYN	34	23	8.4	9.9	0.6	-0.3	-
2007	NYN	35	5	2.3	1.5	0.7	0.5	0.3
2008	NYN	36	20	6.5	8.1	0.3	-0.4	-
2009	PHI	37	9	3.8	2.7	1.0	0.7	0.4
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>476  </b>	<b>193.7</b>	<b>137.5</b>	<b>51.4</b>	<b>33.9</b>	<b>19.7</b>
PostSeason (career)			16	5.2	4.8	0.9	0.3	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1992	LAN	20	2	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1
1993	LAN	21	65	5.3	4.4	1.0	0.4	-
1994	MON	22	24	8.9	7.5	1.9	1.0	0.1
1995	MON	23	30	11.2	11.3	1.7	0.5	-
1996	MON	24	33	14.0	12.0	3.1	1.8	0.4
1997	MON	25	31	16.7	10.5	5.3	3.8	2.4
1998	BOS	26	33	15.2	11.5	3.5	2.1	0.7
1999	BOS	27	31	14.7	6.7	5.3	4.2	3.0
2000	BOS	28	29	15.3	6.3	5.8	4.6	3.5
2001	BOS	29	18	7.9	3.8	2.9	2.2	1.5
2002	BOS	30	30	12.6	7.5	3.8	2.8	1.7
2003	BOS	31	29	12.6	6.4	4.4	3.3	2.2
2004	BOS	32	33	13.9	10.4	3.4	2.0	0.6
2005	NYN	33	31	14.1	10.3	3.6	2.5	1.4
2006	NYN	34	23	8.8	9.1	1.2	0.3	-
2007	NYN	35	5	1.9	1.6	0.5	0.3	0.1
2008	NYN	36	20	6.8	9.4	-0.1	-0.9	-
2009	PHI	37	9	2.7	3.5	0.1	-0.2	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>476  </b>	<b>183.0</b>	<b>132.5</b>	<b>47.5</b>	<b>30.8</b>	<b>17.8</b>
PostSeason (career)			16	6.3	4.7	1.6	1.0	

## **#9: Mike Schmidt**

### **Career Highlights**

Mike Schmidt is generally regarded as the best third baseman in major-league history. He was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility, 1995, with 96.5% of the vote.

Five highlights of Mike Schmidt's career:

- Mike Schmidt was the 30th player taken in the 1971 MLB amateur draft. The player drafted immediately before Schmidt was George Brett (#45 in my rankings). In 1980, Brett and Schmidt won their leagues' MVP awards and met in the World Series.
- Mike Schmidt was a twelve-time All-Star (seven times as a starter), ten-time Gold Glove winner, and three-time MVP (1980, 1981, and 1986).
- Mike Schmidt led the National League in home runs eight times, in RBI four times, in walks four times, in on-base percentage three times, in slugging percentage five times, in OPS five times, and in total bases three times.
- Mike Schmidt tied a major-league record by hitting four home runs on April 17, 1976. In that game, Schmidt went 5-for-6 with a single and 4 home runs, 4 runs scored, and 8 RBI, in an 18-16 win over the Chicago Cubs at Wrigley Field. Schmidt's fourth home run of the game was a 2-run home run in the top of the 10th inning to give the Phillies a 17-15 lead which they would not relinquish.
- Mike Schmidt batted .381/.462/.714 with 2 home runs and 7 RBI in the 1980 World Series, for which he was named World Series MVP as he led the Philadelphia Phillies to the first World Series victory in franchise history.

### At What Was Mike Schmidt Elite?

Continuing something of a theme so far in the book, there was a significant stretch of time when Mike Schmidt was the best player in the major leagues. We have already seen the best player of the 1990s (Bonds), the 1970s (Morgan), and the 2000s (Rodriguez). Schmidt's prime crossed two decades, so that he was not actually the best player over a ten-year period for which the first year ended in zero.

But over the course of Mike Schmidt's prime, 1974 – 1987, Mike Schmidt was the best player in baseball, by quite a lot, as measured by pWins over replacement level (pWORLD).

<b>pWins over Replacement Level Top 10 Players, 1974 - 1987</b>					
	<b>Player</b>	<b>pWins</b>	<b>pLoss</b>	<b>pWOPA</b>	<b>pWORLD</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Mike Schmidt</b>	<b>304.7</b>	<b>225.4</b>	<b>33.8</b>	<b>54.0</b>
2	Joe Morgan	202.3	152.1	27.5	41.2
3	George Brett	244.6	196.6	22.7	39.7
4	Steve Carlton	211.0	189.0	20.4	37.2
5	Dwight Evans	255.6	210.9	17.2	35.2
6	Dave Winfield	296.5	252.5	14.0	35.1
7	Robin Yount	256.2	241.6	15.7	35.0
8	Nolan Ryan	212.9	192.6	16.5	34.6
9	Reggie Jackson	235.3	195.1	15.3	34.1
10	Eddie Murray	201.1	152.4	19.3	33.4

## Mike Schmidt's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1972	PHI	22	13	1.3	1.2	0.1	0.0	-
1973	PHI	23	131	14.2	12.1	1.8	0.7	-
1974	PHI	24	162	24.1	16.8	4.9	3.3	1.8
1975	PHI	25	158	21.3	17.2	3.4	1.9	0.3
1976	PHI	26	160	23.6	16.1	4.9	3.4	1.9
1977	PHI	27	153	21.4	14.9	4.3	2.8	1.4
1978	PHI	28	145	20.2	16.2	3.0	1.6	0.2
1979	PHI	29	160	24.1	17.1	4.7	3.1	1.5
1980	PHI	30	150	23.6	16.9	4.5	3.0	1.4
1981	PHI	31	102	17.0	10.6	3.9	2.8	1.7
1982	PHI	32	148	22.4	16.2	4.1	2.6	1.2
1983	PHI	33	153	22.3	17.0	3.5	2.1	0.7
1984	PHI	34	151	22.5	17.6	3.8	2.2	0.7
1985	PHI	35	158	18.8	16.4	1.8	0.5	-
1986	PHI	36	160	21.0	15.5	3.5	2.1	0.8
1987	PHI	37	147	22.2	16.8	3.8	2.2	0.7
1988	PHI	38	108	12.6	13.1	0.6	-0.4	-
1989	PHI	39	42	4.6	5.7	-0.2	-0.6	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,401  </b>	<b>337.4</b>	<b>257.5</b>	<b>56.3</b>	<b>33.5</b>	<b>14.3</b>
PostSeason (career)			36	4.1	4.4	0.1	-0.2	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1972	PHI	22	13	1.0	1.0	0.0	-0.0	-
1973	PHI	23	131	13.0	11.8	1.3	0.3	-
1974	PHI	24	162	23.6	16.2	4.8	3.3	1.8
1975	PHI	25	158	23.2	16.6	4.7	3.1	1.6
1976	PHI	26	160	22.5	16.3	4.2	2.8	1.3
1977	PHI	27	153	21.4	15.1	4.2	2.8	1.3
1978	PHI	28	145	18.4	14.8	2.7	1.4	0.2
1979	PHI	29	160	23.3	17.4	4.1	2.5	1.0
1980	PHI	30	150	24.4	17.3	4.7	3.1	1.6
1981	PHI	31	102	15.8	10.3	3.4	2.4	1.3
1982	PHI	32	148	21.2	15.0	4.0	2.6	1.3
1983	PHI	33	153	22.4	16.6	3.8	2.4	1.0
1984	PHI	34	151	21.8	16.1	4.1	2.7	1.2
1985	PHI	35	158	20.0	15.0	3.1	1.8	0.5
1986	PHI	36	160	19.8	14.3	3.5	2.2	1.0
1987	PHI	37	147	20.3	15.0	3.6	2.2	0.8
1988	PHI	38	108	13.3	12.6	1.2	0.2	-
1989	PHI	39	42	4.8	4.8	0.3	-0.1	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,401  </b>	<b>330.0</b>	<b>246.1</b>	<b>57.8</b>	<b>35.7</b>	<b>15.7</b>
PostSeason (career)			36	4.6	4.2	0.4	0.1	

## **#10: Bob Gibson**

### **Career Highlights**

Bob Gibson was one of the best and most feared pitchers of his generation and the greatest pitcher in St. Louis Cardinals history. He was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility, 1981, with 84.0% of the vote.

Five highlights of Bob Gibson's career:

- Bob Gibson won two Cy Young awards (1968, 1970), one MVP award (1968), nine Gold Gloves, and was named to eight All-Star teams.
- Bob Gibson had 20 or more traditional pitcher wins five times. In addition, in 1964, Gibson won 19 regular season games plus 2 World Series games.
- Bob Gibson batted .206/.243/.301 in 1,489 career plate appearances with 24 home runs. His 24 home runs are tied for the seventh-most by a pitcher in major-league history.
- In 1968, Bob Gibson amassed a 1.12 ERA in 304.2 innings, leading the league in shutouts (13), strikeouts (268), and WHIP (0.853). From June 6, 1968 (the day I was born) through July 30, 1968, Bob Gibson started 11 games and completed all of them, going 11-0 with a 0.27 ERA in 99 IP. In those 11 games, he allowed 3 runs (all earned), one run apiece in three games, and threw 8 shutouts. In 1968, Bob Gibson started 34 games and completed 28 of them. In all 6 of Gibson's non-starts, he was removed from the game for a pinch-hitter. Which means that Cardinals' manager Red Schoendienst never once took the ball from Bob Gibson's hand on the pitcher's mound in 1968.
- Bob Gibson had 3,117 strikeouts in his career. He was the first National League pitcher to strike out 3,000 batters in his career and he was second in career strikeouts to Walter Johnson when he retired.



### At What Was Bob Gibson Elite?

Bob Gibson was one of the best pitchers in major-league history (see #7, Tom Seaver) and one of the best players of the 1960s (see #21, Juan Marichal).

But Bob Gibson was at his best in the World Series. Gibson pitched in three World Series for the St. Louis Cardinals, in 1964, 1967, and 1968. All three of these series went 7 games and in all three Series, Gibson started three games, including Game 7.

In the three Series combined, Gibson started 9 games, completing 8 of them. Overall, he pitched 81 innings, with a traditional won-lost record of 7-2 with a 1.89 ERA. In 81 innings, Gibson struck out 92 batters and walked only 17.

Bob Gibson was named World Series MVP in 1964 and 1967. Gibson is one of three players to win two World Series MVP awards (which were first awarded in 1955). The other two are Sandy Koufax (1963, 1965) and Reggie Jackson (1973, 1977) (#72 and #27 on my list, respectively).

As measured by career pWins over positional average, Bob Gibson is among the best World Series performers for whom I have calculated Player won-lost records, the absolute best between World War II and Madison Bumgarner.

#### Top 10 World Series performers, since 1925 (Ranked by pWOPA)

		pWins	pLosses	pWinPct	pWOPA
1	Lou Gehrig	6.4	2.3	0.737	1.8
2	Red Ruffing	6.3	4.4	0.591	1.2
3	Madison Bumgarner	3.2	1.1	0.744	1.2
<b>4</b>	<b>Bob Gibson</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>0.603</b>	<b>1.1</b>
5	Frankie Crosetti	5.2	3.2	0.619	1.1
6	Mariano Rivera	3.7	1.4	0.719	1.0
7	Whitey Ford	9.8	8.6	0.533	1.0
8	Allie Reynolds	6.0	4.4	0.578	1.0
9	Reggie Jackson	4.3	2.3	0.651	0.9
10	Monte Pearson	2.8	1.1	0.714	0.9

## Bob Gibson's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1959	SLN	23	18	4.9	4.6	0.7	0.3	-
1960	SLN	24	36	4.6	6.5	-0.3	-0.8	-
1961	SLN	25	37	15.0	13.0	2.7	1.5	0.3
1962	SLN	26	39	17.3	13.7	3.9	2.5	1.1
1963	SLN	27	38	17.5	14.2	3.9	2.5	1.0
1964	SLN	28	40	19.9	16.1	4.6	2.7	0.8
1965	SLN	29	42	20.2	17.3	4.1	2.5	0.9
1966	SLN	30	44	19.5	15.1	4.3	2.8	1.3
1967	SLN	31	25	11.9	9.7	2.5	1.6	0.7
1968	SLN	32	35	21.9	14.1	6.2	4.8	3.4
1969	SLN	33	37	22.2	16.7	5.6	3.8	2.1
1970	SLN	34	40	21.7	13.6	6.5	5.0	3.6
1971	SLN	35	31	17.5	15.1	3.4	2.0	0.6
1972	SLN	36	34	20.0	14.0	5.4	3.9	2.4
1973	SLN	37	25	11.0	10.9	1.5	0.6	-
1974	SLN	38	33	13.1	14.2	1.1	0.0	-
1975	SLN	39	22	5.8	8.7	-0.6	-1.2	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>576  </b>	<b>263.9</b>	<b>217.3</b>	<b>55.5</b>	<b>34.6</b>	<b>18.3</b>
PostSeason (career)			9	5.4	3.6	1.5	1.1	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1959	SLN	23	18	4.7	4.8	0.5	0.1	-
1960	SLN	24	36	5.2	6.0	0.3	-0.2	-
1961	SLN	25	37	13.7	12.3	2.3	1.2	0.0
1962	SLN	26	39	16.1	12.4	3.8	2.5	1.3
1963	SLN	27	38	17.5	15.6	3.3	1.8	0.3
1964	SLN	28	40	18.8	16.6	3.7	1.9	0.0
1965	SLN	29	42	20.3	18.8	3.5	1.8	0.2
1966	SLN	30	44	17.6	15.4	3.1	1.7	0.3
1967	SLN	31	25	11.4	9.5	2.3	1.4	0.6
1968	SLN	32	35	19.3	13.2	5.2	3.9	2.6
1969	SLN	33	37	22.0	16.6	5.5	3.8	2.0
1970	SLN	34	40	22.5	14.9	6.4	4.8	3.3
1971	SLN	35	31	15.9	13.6	3.1	1.9	0.6
1972	SLN	36	34	19.8	14.4	5.1	3.6	2.1
1973	SLN	37	25	12.8	10.7	2.6	1.6	0.7
1974	SLN	38	33	14.9	16.3	1.2	-0.1	-
1975	SLN	39	22	6.2	7.9	-0.0	-0.7	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>576  </b>	<b>258.8</b>	<b>219.1</b>	<b>51.9</b>	<b>31.1</b>	<b>14.0</b>
PostSeason (career)			9	5.8	3.8	1.6	1.2	

## **#11: Rickey Henderson**

### **Career Highlights**

Rickey Henderson is widely regarded as the greatest leadoff hitter in major-league history. He was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility, 2009, with 94.8% of the vote.

Five highlights of Rickey Henderson's career:

- Rickey Henderson was named to ten All-Star teams and received MVP votes in eight seasons. Henderson won one Gold Glove (1981) and was named the American League MVP in 1990.
- Rickey Henderson holds the major-league records for runs scored (2,295) and stolen bases (1,406). He also held the major-league record for walks at the time of his retirement (2,190), a record which has since been broken by Barry Bonds.
- Rickey Henderson led his league in stolen bases twelve times. He led his league in runs scored five times, in walks four times, and in on-base percentage and OPS once each.
- Rickey Henderson is, of course, most famous for his speed. But he also holds the major-league record for home runs to lead off a game with 81.
- Rickey Henderson was voted MVP of the 1989 ALCS when he batted .400/.609/1.000 with 2 home runs, 8 stolen bases, 5 RBI, and 8 runs scored in five games. He followed that up by batting .474/.524/.895 with 1 home run, 3 stolen bases, 4 runs scored, and 3 RBI in the A's four-game sweep of the San Francisco Giants in the 1989 World Series. For his career, Henderson batted .284/.389/.441 in 262 plate appearances in 60 postseason games. Henderson's 33 career postseason stolen bases are the second-most all-time behind Kenny Lofton who stole one more base than Henderson in 35 more postseason games.

### At What Was Rickey Henderson Elite?

Rickey Henderson was, of course, the most prolific basestealer in major-league history. More than that, he was the best baserunner in major-league history (see #140, Tim Lincecum).

I think, however, that sometimes Rickey Henderson's basestealing overshadowed his other skills. Rickey Henderson has the second-most walks in major-league history (2,190), the 23rd-most hits (3,055), and the most runs scored in major-league history (2,295). He even hit 297 home runs in his career, which was tied for the 100th-most in major-league history at the time of his retirement.

It is, of course, true that Rickey Henderson was the best baserunner in major-league history. But he was also one of the best offensive players (and players, period) of the past seventy years.

#### Top 10 Offensive Wins over Non-Pitcher Average, since 1947

		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	eWOPA
1	Barry Bonds	335.3	208.7	0.616	58.3
2	Hank Aaron	359.9	255.5	0.585	46.7
3	Willie Mays	324.1	222.3	0.593	45.7
4	Mickey Mantle	262.0	163.1	0.616	45.5
5	Frank Robinson	300.1	212.2	0.586	39.5
6	Ted Williams	177.7	102.8	0.633	34.9
7	Alex Rodriguez	284.0	216.2	0.568	33.3
<b>8</b>	<b>Rickey Henderson</b>	<b>312.1</b>	<b>246.8</b>	<b>0.558</b>	<b>31.8</b>
9	Frank Thomas	234.5	171.1	0.578	31.5
10	Mike Schmidt	249.2	179.1	0.582	31.1

## Rickey Henderson's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1979	OAK	20	89	12.3	12.3	0.8	-0.2	-
1980	OAK	21	158	26.6	20.4	4.2	2.4	0.6
1981	OAK	22	108	17.7	13.7	2.9	1.6	0.4
1982	OAK	23	149	22.1	19.0	2.7	1.2	-
1983	OAK	24	145	20.5	17.4	2.6	1.2	-
1984	OAK	25	142	22.5	17.3	3.7	2.1	0.6
1985	NYA	26	142	23.0	15.9	4.7	3.3	1.8
1986	NYA	27	153	20.8	18.5	2.4	1.0	-
1987	NYA	28	95	13.4	10.8	2.2	1.1	0.0
1988	NYA	29	139	22.5	16.7	4.0	2.6	1.1
1989		30	150	22.6	17.3	3.5	2.1	0.7
	NYA		65 /	9.7	7.7	1.4	0.7	0.1
	OAK		85 /	12.9	9.6	2.2	1.4	0.5
1990	OAK	31	136	23.8	14.5	5.6	4.2	2.7
1991	OAK	32	133	19.2	15.4	3.1	1.7	0.3
1992	OAK	33	115	17.9	12.1	3.8	2.7	1.5
1993		34	134	19.1	16.5	2.5	1.0	-
	OAK		90 /	13.9	11.2	2.2	1.2	0.1
	TOR		44 /	5.2	5.3	0.3	-0.1	-
1994	OAK	35	87	11.3	8.9	1.9	1.0	0.1
1995	OAK	36	112	14.9	12.2	2.2	1.1	-
1996	SDN	37	146	16.0	14.1	1.6	0.4	-
1997		38	120	11.8	12.2	0.7	-0.4	-
	ANA		32 /	3.0	3.3	0.2	-0.2	-
	SDN		88 /	8.8	8.9	0.5	-0.2	-
1998	OAK	39	152	18.1	18.4	1.1	-0.3	-
1999	NYN	40	121	14.7	14.0	1.0	-0.1	-
2000		41	120	13.9	14.3	0.6	-0.6	-
	NYN		30 /	2.8	3.2	-0.1	-0.3	-
	SEA		90 /	11.1	11.1	0.7	-0.2	-
2001	SDN	42	122	13.2	12.5	1.0	-0.1	-
2002	BOS	43	61	6.6	6.7	0.4	-0.2	-
2003	LAN	44	30	1.9	2.1	-0.0	-0.2	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>3,059  </b>	<b>426.7</b>	<b>353.2</b>	<b>59.4</b>	<b>28.7</b>	<b>9.9</b>
PostSeason (career)			60	8.0	6.7	1.0	0.5	

# Rickey Henderson

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORL	eWOPA	eWO*
1979	OAK	20	89	11.5	12.3	0.3	-0.6	-
1980	OAK	21	158	24.5	18.8	3.9	2.2	0.6
1981	OAK	22	108	19.2	14.6	3.2	1.9	0.5
1982	OAK	23	149	22.7	18.2	3.4	1.8	0.3
1983	OAK	24	145	22.2	17.0	3.6	2.2	0.8
1984	OAK	25	142	21.9	16.7	3.6	2.1	0.7
1985	NYA	26	142	22.8	15.4	4.9	3.5	2.0
1986	NYA	27	153	21.4	18.2	2.9	1.4	-
1987	NYA	28	95	13.0	10.2	2.2	1.2	0.2
1988	NYA	29	139	22.9	17.9	3.7	2.2	0.6
1989		30	150	22.7	17.9	3.3	1.8	0.4
	NYA		65 /	9.2	7.9	1.1	0.5	-
	OAK		85 /	13.4	10.0	2.2	1.4	0.6
1990	OAK	31	136	22.0	14.5	4.7	3.3	1.9
1991	OAK	32	133	18.8	14.9	3.1	1.8	0.4
1992	OAK	33	115	16.4	12.0	3.1	2.0	0.9
1993		34	134	20.0	15.3	3.5	2.1	0.6
	OAK		90 /	14.7	10.2	3.1	2.1	1.0
	TOR		44 /	5.3	5.1	0.4	0.0	-
1994	OAK	35	87	10.1	8.0	1.7	0.9	0.1
1995	OAK	36	112	14.2	11.5	2.2	1.1	0.0
1996	SDN	37	146	16.6	15.1	1.4	0.1	-
1997		38	120	13.5	13.0	1.1	-0.0	-
	ANA		32 /	3.2	3.5	0.1	-0.2	-
	SDN		88 /	10.3	9.5	1.0	0.2	-
1998	OAK	39	152	19.8	18.2	2.1	0.7	-
1999	NYN	40	121	14.5	13.3	1.3	0.2	-
2000		41	120	13.4	14.8	0.1	-1.1	-
	NYN		30 /	3.0	3.5	-0.2	-0.4	-
	SEA		90 /	10.5	11.3	0.2	-0.6	-
2001	SDN	42	122	13.1	12.8	0.8	-0.3	-
2002	BOS	43	61	6.3	6.4	0.3	-0.2	-
2003	LAN	44	30	2.0	1.8	0.2	0.0	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>3,059  </b>	<b>425.5</b>	<b>348.9</b>	<b>60.7</b>	<b>30.3</b>	<b>9.9</b>
PostSeason (career)			60	8.7	6.8	1.4	0.8	

## **#12: Steve Carlton**

### **Career Highlights**

Steve Carlton was the first pitcher in major-league history to win more than three Cy Young awards. Carlton was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility, 1994, with 95.6% of the vote.

Five highlights of Steve Carlton's career:

- Steve Carlton won four Cy Young awards: 1972, 1977, 1980, and 1982. He was named to ten All-Star teams and finished in the top 10 in MVP voting five times. He also won one Gold Glove award, in 1981.
- For his career, Carlton amassed 329 traditional pitcher wins. He won 20 or more games six times, leading the league four times. He also led his league in innings pitched and strikeouts five times apiece and in ERA once (1972).
- Steve Carlton held the major-league record for career strikeouts at the end of the 1983 season, with 3,709. He and Nolan Ryan traded first place through the 1984 season with Ryan leading Carlton 3,874 to 3,872 at the end of the 1984 season, before Ryan pulled away over the next several seasons. Steve Carlton retired with 4,136 strikeouts, which was the second-most in major-league history at the time of his retirement and is currently fourth all-time (Randy Johnson and Roger Clemens having passed him).
- The 1972 Philadelphia Phillies went 29-12 in games started by Steve Carlton, a 162-game pace of 115 wins (one fewer than the major-league record). The 1972 Philadelphia Phillies went 30-85 in games which Carlton did not start, a 162-game pace of 120 losses (equal to the post-19th century major-league record).
- Although not an official stat, Steve Carlton led his league in baserunners picked off nine times and his 144 career pickoffs are an unofficial major-league record.

### At What Was Steve Carlton Elite?

In his prime, Steve Carlton was one of the best players in major-league baseball. Steve Carlton also had one of the longest primes in major-league history. Carlton's first full season was 1967, when he made 28 starts for the World Champion St. Louis Cardinals (14-9, 2.98 ERA, 168 K in 193 IP). Carlton's last season as a full-time above-average pitcher was 17 years later, in 1984, when Carlton went 13-7, 3.58, with 163 K in 299 IP for the Philadelphia Phillies.

The next table shows the top 10 players in pWins over replacement level (pWORLD) earned across those eighteen seasons, 1967 – 1984. Yes, it's cherry-picked for Steve Carlton. But it's also an 18-season stretch of major-league history. See also, #72, Sandy Koufax.

<b>Top 10 Players, 1967 - 1984</b>					
<b>(Ranked by pWORLD)</b>					
		<b>pWins</b>	<b>pLosses</b>	<b>pWOPA</b>	<b>pWORLD</b>
1	Joe Morgan	334.5	255.8	43.8	67.3
<b>2</b>	<b>Steve Carlton</b>	<b>310.5</b>	<b>265.5</b>	<b>36.3</b>	<b>60.3</b>
3	Tom Seaver	284.9	235.9	36.2	58.2
4	Jim Palmer	224.4	167.9	33.1	51.1
5	Reggie Jackson	333.8	267.3	25.0	50.2
6	Fergie Jenkins	276.7	240.0	26.9	49.7
7	Mike Schmidt	258.2	190.0	29.6	46.9
8	Don Sutton	266.8	243.7	22.0	43.9
9	Phil Niekro	292.1	277.4	19.5	43.8
10	Gaylord Perry	270.9	246.2	20.6	43.6



## Steve Carlton's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORL	pWOPA	pWO*
1965	SLN	20	15	0.9	0.9	0.1	-0.0	-
1966	SLN	21	9	3.3	3.1	0.5	0.2	-
1967	SLN	22	30	13.1	11.0	2.5	1.5	0.5
1968	SLN	23	34	14.4	13.9	2.0	0.8	-
1969	SLN	24	32	16.3	15.0	2.8	1.4	-
1970	SLN	25	34	16.1	17.5	1.5	-0.0	-
1971	SLN	26	37	18.6	15.8	3.7	2.2	0.7
1972	PHI	27	41	25.1	14.9	7.9	6.1	4.3
1973	PHI	28	40	18.7	21.2	1.3	-0.4	-
1974	PHI	29	39	18.0	16.0	3.1	1.7	0.4
1975	PHI	30	37	16.4	16.2	2.2	0.8	-
1976	PHI	31	35	17.1	12.5	4.1	3.0	1.8
1977	PHI	32	36	20.4	15.5	5.0	3.4	1.7
1978	PHI	33	34	15.6	15.2	2.1	0.8	-
1979	PHI	34	36	16.9	14.9	3.1	1.9	0.7
1980	PHI	35	38	19.9	13.2	5.4	4.1	2.8
1981	PHI	36	24	11.5	8.3	3.0	2.2	1.3
1982	PHI	37	38	21.6	15.4	5.7	4.1	2.6
1983	PHI	38	37	17.7	16.8	2.8	1.3	-
1984	PHI	39	34	13.0	12.0	2.2	1.3	0.3
1985	PHI	40	16	4.8	6.8	-0.2	-0.7	-
1986		41	32	10.3	13.8	-0.2	-1.2	-
	CHA		10 /	3.6	3.3	0.5	0.2	-
	PHI		16 /	4.8	7.8	-0.6	-1.1	-
	SFN		6 /	1.9	2.8	-0.1	-0.3	-
1987		42	32	7.6	12.3	-1.1	-2.2	-
	CLE		23 /	5.4	8.1	-0.5	-1.2	-
	MIN		9 /	2.2	4.2	-0.6	-0.9	-
1988	MIN	43	4	0.5	1.5	-0.4	-0.5	-
	<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>		<b>744  </b>	<b>337.9</b>	<b>303.9</b>	<b>59.0</b>	<b>31.7</b>	<b>17.2</b>
	PostSeason (career)		16	6.9	6.5	1.1	0.5	

# Steve Carlton

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORL	eWOPA	eWO*
1965	SLN	20	15	1.3	1.3	0.1	-0.0	-
1966	SLN	21	9	3.1	3.0	0.5	0.2	-
1967	SLN	22	30	11.7	11.6	1.5	0.5	-
1968	SLN	23	34	13.5	13.6	1.7	0.6	-
1969	SLN	24	32	16.0	14.2	3.0	1.6	0.2
1970	SLN	25	34	17.5	17.1	2.4	0.9	-
1971	SLN	26	37	16.7	17.8	1.7	0.2	-
1972	PHI	27	41	23.2	16.0	6.3	4.5	2.8
1973	PHI	28	40	18.2	18.8	2.1	0.5	-
1974	PHI	29	39	18.4	17.4	2.7	1.3	-
1975	PHI	30	37	15.9	16.2	1.9	0.5	-
1976	PHI	31	35	15.6	13.5	2.8	1.7	0.5
1977	PHI	32	36	17.7	14.7	3.8	2.3	0.9
1978	PHI	33	34	15.0	14.6	2.1	0.8	-
1979	PHI	34	36	16.1	14.9	2.7	1.5	0.3
1980	PHI	35	38	19.1	14.9	4.2	2.9	1.6
1981	PHI	36	24	12.3	9.7	2.9	1.9	0.9
1982	PHI	37	38	18.2	15.4	3.7	2.3	0.9
1983	PHI	38	37	18.3	16.5	3.2	1.8	0.3
1984	PHI	39	34	13.5	13.2	2.0	1.0	-
1985	PHI	40	16	5.1	6.2	0.2	-0.3	-
1986		41	32	10.3	13.7	-0.1	-1.2	-
	CHA		10 /	3.6	3.4	0.5	0.1	-
	PHI		16 /	4.9	7.5	-0.4	-0.9	-
	SFN		6 /	1.8	2.8	-0.2	-0.4	-
1987		42	32	8.6	10.9	-0.0	-1.0	-
	CLE		23 /	6.2	7.3	0.2	-0.5	-
	MIN		9 /	2.4	3.6	-0.2	-0.5	-
1988	MIN	43	4	0.4	1.3	-0.4	-0.5	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>744  </b>	<b>325.6</b>	<b>306.6</b>	<b>50.8</b>	<b>24.0</b>	<b>8.4</b>
PostSeason (career)			16	6.5	6.5	0.8	0.3	

## **#13: Mike Piazza**

### **Career Highlights**

Mike Piazza is widely regarded as the best hitting catcher in major-league baseball history. Per the weights used to construct my list, an argument can be made that Piazza was the best catcher in major-league baseball history, period, with no qualifiers needed. Mike Piazza was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his fourth year of eligibility, 2016, with 83.0% of the vote.

Five highlights of Mike Piazza's career:

- Mike Piazza was drafted by the Los Angeles Dodgers as a personal favor to then-manager Tommy Lasorda, in the 62nd round of the 1988 draft, the 1,390th player taken overall. Piazza was the last player drafted in the 1988 draft who played even a single game in the major leagues. Piazza is the latest draft pick ever to be elected to the Hall of Fame, a distinction which is likely to last for the foreseeable future, as the MLB draft was shortened to 50 rounds in 1998 and further shortened to 40 rounds in 2012.
- Mike Piazza was voted National League Rookie of the Year in 1993. He was named to twelve All-Star teams in his career and received MVP votes nine times, finishing in the top 10 in MVP voting seven times, including back-to-back second-place finishes in 1996 and 1997.
- Mike Piazza was voted MVP of the 1996 All-Star game. He started the game at catcher for the National League (one of 10 All-Star starts in his career) and went 2-for-3 with a home run and 2 RBI and caught seven shutout innings as the National League won the game, 6-0.
- Mike Piazza batted .300 or better nine times in his career with a career high of .362 in 1997. He hit 30 or more home runs nine times with a career high of 40 (in 1997 and 1999). Piazza had at least 100 RBI six times with a career high of 124 (in 1997 and 1999). Overall, Piazza had six seasons in which he hit all three benchmarks: .300, 30, and 100.
- Mike Piazza hit 427 home runs in his career, 396 while playing catcher. The latter number is a major-league record for home runs by a catcher.

### At What Was Mike Piazza Elite?

Mike Piazza is widely regarded as the best-hitting catcher in major-league baseball history. Typically, catchers are among the poorest hitters on most major-league teams. Positional averages control for this in Player won-lost records, which is why WOPA and WORL allow for better comparisons of players across different positions than raw pWins or eWins or winning percentage.

The next table, then, compares a player's batting win percentage to the player's positional average to identify the top 25 batters since integration, relative to the defensive positions they played.

<b>Top 25 Batters, Relative to Position, since 1947</b> <b>(Ranked by Batting Wins over Positional Average)</b>					
		<b>eWins</b>	<b>eLosses</b>	<b>eWinPct</b>	<b>eWOPA</b>
1	Barry Bonds	306.9	184.6	0.624	49.3
2	Mickey Mantle	243.2	150.3	0.618	36.9
3	Willie Mays	295.0	200.3	0.596	36.1
4	Alex Rodriguez	263.6	200.3	0.568	35.6
5	Hank Aaron	332.7	232.9	0.588	34.1
6	Joe Morgan	235.5	179.9	0.567	32.5
7	Mike Schmidt	231.1	159.0	0.592	30.4
8	Frank Robinson	276.3	191.7	0.590	28.9
9	Ted Williams	167.2	94.1	0.640	28.2
10	Eddie Mathews	228.2	162.2	0.585	27.7
11	Jim Thome	225.7	160.8	0.584	25.6
12	Frank Thomas	222.4	157.3	0.586	25.2
13	Manny Ramirez	221.1	158.5	0.582	25.1
14	Chipper Jones	233.6	175.5	0.571	23.9
<b>15</b>	<b>Mike Piazza</b>	<b>175.2</b>	<b>133.2</b>	<b>0.568</b>	<b>23.6</b>
16	Harmon Killebrew	226.9	159.4	0.587	23.6
17	Stan Musial	233.0	166.4	0.583	23.4
18	Reggie Jackson	251.2	189.0	0.571	23.2
19	Albert Pujols	254.0	188.7	0.574	22.2
20	Mark McGwire	178.7	118.6	0.601	21.8
21	Willie McCovey	223.3	155.8	0.589	21.8
22	Ken Griffey Jr.	241.0	192.1	0.556	21.8
23	Gary Sheffield	235.5	178.2	0.569	21.0
24	Derek Jeter	240.9	217.9	0.525	20.4
25	Miguel Cabrera	211.9	158.8	0.572	20.2

Mike Piazza's primary value was in his bat, but I think his defensive shortcomings have been somewhat exaggerated. He was very poor at what I call Component 1, basestealing, which, admittedly is the most important aspect of catcher fielding (Player won-lost records do not measure game-calling or pitch-framing ability). But excluding Component 1, Mike Piazza was a good fielder.

**Top 25 Fielding Catchers, excluding Component 1  
1947 - 2017, ranked by net fielding wins**

		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	Net eWins
1	Carlton Fisk	10.9	8.8	0.551	2.0
2	Yogi Berra	8.4	6.6	0.558	1.8
3	Brad Ausmus	8.5	7.1	0.544	1.4
4	Del Crandall	7.3	5.9	0.551	1.3
5	Matt Wieters	4.9	3.5	0.580	1.3
6	Bill Freehan	8.4	7.1	0.542	1.3
7	Dan Wilson	5.3	4.2	0.562	1.2
8	Terry Kennedy	6.7	5.5	0.546	1.1
9	Roy Campanella	6.3	5.2	0.547	1.1
10	Charles Johnson	5.7	4.6	0.552	1.1
11	Elston Howard	6.2	5.1	0.545	1.0
12	Johnny Bench	9.0	8.0	0.529	1.0
13	Jason Varitek	5.4	4.5	0.548	0.9
14	Jim Sundberg	8.9	8.0	0.527	0.9
15	Jake Gibbs	2.8	1.9	0.597	0.9
16	Tom Haller	6.4	5.6	0.535	0.8
17	Greg Myers	3.6	2.8	0.566	0.8
18	Scott Servais	3.8	3.0	0.561	0.8
19	Buster Posey	4.1	3.3	0.555	0.8
<b>20</b>	<b>Mike Piazza</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>0.528</b>	<b>0.8</b>
21	Mike Ryan	3.7	3.0	0.558	0.8
22	Jason Kendall	11.1	10.3	0.518	0.8
23	Steve Yeager	5.8	5.1	0.534	0.7
24	Bruce Benedict	4.2	3.5	0.547	0.7
25	Sherm Lollar	6.6	5.9	0.529	0.7

## Mike Piazza's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORL	pWOPA	pWO*
1992	LAN	23	21	1.2	1.9	-0.2	-0.3	-
1993	LAN	24	149	18.1	13.8	3.5	2.2	1.0
1994	LAN	25	107	12.5	9.8	2.5	1.6	0.6
1995	LAN	26	112	14.7	10.2	3.4	2.4	1.4
1996	LAN	27	148	19.5	13.1	4.7	3.4	2.1
1997	LAN	28	152	18.1	13.3	3.7	2.5	1.2
1998		29	151	18.5	13.2	4.3	3.1	1.8
	<i>FLO</i>		5 /	0.4	0.6	-0.0	-0.0	-
	<i>LAN</i>		37 /	4.6	3.2	1.1	0.8	0.5
	<i>NYN</i>		109 /	13.4	9.5	3.2	2.3	1.4
1999	NYN	30	141	17.9	14.0	3.6	2.3	1.1
2000	NYN	31	136	17.9	11.8	4.5	3.2	2.0
2001	NYN	32	141	16.8	13.4	3.6	2.3	0.9
2002	NYN	33	135	13.5	13.4	1.7	0.6	-
2003	NYN	34	67	6.4	6.5	0.6	0.1	-
2004	NYN	35	129	11.3	12.1	0.4	-0.6	-
2005	NYN	36	113	9.8	10.6	0.6	-0.2	-
2006	SDN	37	126	11.1	10.9	1.1	0.3	-
2007	OAK	38	83	6.8	7.1	0.5	-0.4	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>1,911  </b>	<b>214.1</b>	<b>175.0</b>	<b>38.4</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>12.1</b>
PostSeason (career)			32	2.4	3.3	-0.2	-0.4	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORL	eWOPA	eWO*
1992	LAN	23	21	1.8	1.9	0.2	0.0	-
1993	LAN	24	149	17.9	13.6	3.5	2.2	1.0
1994	LAN	25	107	11.6	9.3	2.2	1.3	0.5
1995	LAN	26	112	14.1	9.6	3.3	2.4	1.4
1996	LAN	27	148	17.3	13.2	3.5	2.3	1.0
1997	LAN	28	152	18.6	13.0	4.2	2.9	1.6
1998		29	151	17.5	13.1	3.8	2.6	1.4
	<i>FLO</i>		5 /	0.4	0.5	0.0	-0.0	-
	<i>LAN</i>		37 /	3.9	3.3	0.7	0.4	0.1
	<i>NYN</i>		109 /	13.1	9.3	3.1	2.2	1.3
1999	NYN	30	141	16.2	12.6	3.2	2.1	1.0
2000	NYN	31	136	15.7	11.4	3.5	2.4	1.2
2001	NYN	32	141	16.4	13.1	3.5	2.2	0.9
2002	NYN	33	135	14.3	12.5	2.5	1.4	0.3
2003	NYN	34	67	6.8	6.1	1.0	0.5	-
2004	NYN	35	129	12.0	11.5	1.0	0.1	-
2005	NYN	36	113	9.9	10.0	0.9	0.1	-
2006	SDN	37	126	10.3	9.4	1.3	0.6	-
2007	OAK	38	83	6.2	6.8	0.3	-0.5	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>1,911  </b>	<b>206.6</b>	<b>167.0</b>	<b>38.0</b>	<b>22.6</b>	<b>10.4</b>
PostSeason (career)			32	3.1	3.2	0.3	0.0	

## **#14: Jim Palmer**

### **Career Highlights**

Jim Palmer was the ace of the dominant Baltimore Orioles teams of the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Five highlights of Jim Palmer's career:

- Jim Palmer was named to six All-Star teams in his career, starting four of them. He received Cy Young votes eight times, winning three awards (1973, 1975, and 1976). He received MVP votes eight times, finishing second in 1973 (to Reggie Jackson, #27). Palmer also won four Gold Gloves in his career.
- Jim Palmer had 20 or more traditional pitcher wins eight times in his career. He led the American League in innings pitched four times, in wins three times, and in ERA twice.
- Jim Palmer pitched in all six World Series appearances in Baltimore Orioles history. Overall, in eight postseasons, Jim Palmer pitched 124.1 innings in 17 games (15 starts) with a traditional won-lost record of 8-3 and a 2.61 ERA.
- Jim Palmer never allowed a grand slam in a major-league baseball game. For his career, he faced 213 batters with the bases loaded. They batted .196/.230/.234 against him (36-for-184, 5 doubles, 1 triple, 13 walks). Jim Palmer did allow one grand slam as a minor league pitcher, on July 1, 1967, to Johnny Bench (#15).
- Jim Palmer was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility, 1990, with 92.6% of the vote. His number, 22, was retired by the Baltimore Orioles in 1986. He has a statue outside Oriole Park at Camden Yards which was unveiled on July 14, 2012.

### At What Was Jim Palmer Elite?

As measured by pWins over either positional average or replacement level, Jim Palmer was the best pitcher and second-best player of the 1970s (see #4, Joe Morgan).

Palmer pitched in eight postseason series, pitching for six pennant winners and three World Champion teams. Palmer took his excellent regular-season performance (.638 traditional winning percentage, 2.86 career ERA) to another level in the postseason, posting a traditional won-lost record of 8-3 (.727 winning percentage) and a 2.61 ERA.

In fact, as measured by pWins over replacement level (pWORLD), Jim Palmer was the best postseason performer of the two-division playoff era: 1969 – 1993, when there were two division winners in each league, no wild-card teams, and two playoff rounds.

#### Top Postseason Performers, 1969 - 1993 (Ranked by pWORLD)

		pWins	pLosses	pWOPA	pWORLD
1	<b>Jim Palmer</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.8</b>
2	Pete Rose	9.3	6.6	1.1	1.7
3	Reggie Jackson	10.1	8.1	0.8	1.6
4	Ken Holtzman	5.0	3.0	1.1	1.5
5	Johnny Bench	6.1	4.0	1.1	1.5
6	Dave Henderson	5.2	3.2	1.0	1.3
7	Dave Stewart	8.5	7.7	0.5	1.3
8	Fernando Valenzuela	4.6	3.2	0.9	1.3
9	Davey Lopes	6.9	5.6	0.7	1.2
10	Lenny Dykstra	4.8	2.8	0.9	1.2



## Jim Palmer's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1965	BAL	19	28	4.0	4.6	0.2	-0.3	-
1966	BAL	20	30	14.3	13.6	2.0	0.8	-
1967	BAL	21	9	2.5	3.1	0.0	-0.2	-
1969	BAL	23	26	12.8	8.1	3.8	2.9	2.0
1970	BAL	24	40	20.6	15.3	5.0	3.5	1.9
1971	BAL	25	37	20.0	14.4	5.1	3.7	2.2
1972	BAL	26	36	19.0	13.6	4.9	3.5	2.1
1973	BAL	27	38	17.9	11.2	4.9	3.6	2.2
1974	BAL	28	26	9.2	10.1	0.6	-0.3	-
1975	BAL	29	39	20.3	12.1	5.8	4.3	2.7
1976	BAL	30	40	19.3	13.4	4.6	3.1	1.7
1977	BAL	31	39	18.5	13.2	4.5	2.9	1.3
1978	BAL	32	38	17.6	13.2	3.7	2.3	0.9
1979	BAL	33	23	8.6	6.1	2.0	1.4	0.7
1980	BAL	34	34	11.7	11.0	1.5	0.5	-
1981	BAL	35	22	6.7	7.9	0.3	-0.4	-
1982	BAL	36	36	14.8	10.0	3.8	2.7	1.5
1983	BAL	37	14	4.1	3.9	0.5	0.1	-
1984	BAL	38	5	0.8	1.6	-0.3	-0.4	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>560  </b>	<b>242.8</b>	<b>186.1</b>	<b>53.3</b>	<b>33.6</b>	<b>19.1</b>
PostSeason (career)			20	7.9	5.5	2.0	1.4	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1965	BAL	19	28	5.0	5.4	0.4	-0.1	-
1966	BAL	20	30	13.1	14.4	1.0	-0.2	-
1967	BAL	21	9	2.9	3.2	0.2	-0.1	-
1969	BAL	23	26	11.9	9.5	2.7	1.7	0.7
1970	BAL	24	40	18.8	16.5	3.5	1.9	0.4
1971	BAL	25	37	18.4	15.8	3.6	2.1	0.7
1972	BAL	26	36	17.6	15.3	3.4	1.9	0.5
1973	BAL	27	38	17.5	12.8	4.0	2.6	1.2
1974	BAL	28	26	10.3	10.4	1.0	0.1	-
1975	BAL	29	39	20.0	13.6	5.0	3.4	1.8
1976	BAL	30	40	18.1	13.7	3.8	2.4	0.9
1977	BAL	31	39	19.3	13.9	4.6	2.9	1.2
1978	BAL	32	38	17.5	14.5	3.1	1.6	0.1
1979	BAL	33	23	9.6	7.0	2.1	1.4	0.6
1980	BAL	34	34	12.6	13.4	0.9	-0.3	-
1981	BAL	35	22	7.0	7.6	0.6	-0.1	-
1982	BAL	36	36	13.3	10.7	2.6	1.5	0.4
1983	BAL	37	14	3.9	4.6	0.1	-0.3	-
1984	BAL	38	5	1.0	1.5	-0.2	-0.3	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>560  </b>	<b>237.7</b>	<b>204.0</b>	<b>42.5</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>8.6</b>
PostSeason (career)			20	7.8	7.2	1.2	0.6	

## #15: Johnny Bench

### Career Highlights

Johnny Bench is regarded by many to have been the best catcher in major-league baseball history.

Five highlights of Johnny Bench's career:

- Johnny Bench won the National League Rookie of the Year award in 1968. He won two MVP awards, in 1970 and 1972. Bench won ten Gold Gloves and was named to fourteen All-Star teams.
- Johnny Bench led the National League in home runs twice (his MVP seasons) and RBI three times (1970, 1972, and 1974). For his career, he drove in 100 or more runs six times and hit 20 or more home runs eleven times.
- Johnny Bench played in 45 postseason games in his career (winning the World Series in 1975 and 1976). In those games, Johnny Bench stole 6 bases and was caught stealing one time. In the same 45 postseason games, Reds' opponents stole a total of 6 bases and were caught stealing by Bench 13 times.
- Johnny Bench's 45 home runs in 1970 is the most in a season by any player who was primarily a catcher. His 148 RBI in the same season are the most RBI in a season by a catcher.
- Johnny Bench was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility, 1989, with 96.4% of the vote. Bench was the first catcher elected to the Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility and his 96.4% vote total is the highest ever for a catcher.

### At What Was Johnny Bench Elite?

Johnny Bench was one of the top players of the 1970s (see #4, Joe Morgan) and, as I said earlier, is considered by many to be the best the greatest catcher in major-league history.

The next table, then, looks at players for whom at least half of their player wins were earned at catcher, since major-league integration, ranked by pWins over replacement level (across all positions).

<b>Top 10 Catchers, since 1947 (Ranked by career pWORLD)</b>					
		<b>pWins</b>	<b>pLoss</b>	<b>pWOPA</b>	<b>pWORLD</b>
1	Yogi Berra	244.7	185.1	32.4	49.9
<b>2</b>	<b>Johnny Bench</b>	<b>246.4</b>	<b>188.9</b>	<b>24.4</b>	<b>42.1</b>
3	Carlton Fisk	251.5	214.4	21.3	40.1
4	Mike Piazza	214.1	167.0	22.4	38.4
5	Gary Carter	241.9	207.4	14.2	31.7
6	Jorge Posada	172.7	149.1	18.6	31.6
7	Ted Simmons	248.7	219.1	8.5	28.5
8	Ivan Rodriguez	233.6	229.5	8.2	26.7
9	Darrell Porter	163.0	143.1	14.3	26.5
10	Roy Campanella	127.0	101.8	17.4	26.4

## Johnny Bench's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORL	pWOPA	pWO*
1967	CIN	19	26	1.9	2.5	-0.0	-0.2	-
1968	CIN	20	154	15.2	13.6	2.2	1.1	-
1969	CIN	21	148	15.3	11.3	3.5	2.4	1.2
1970	CIN	22	158	21.7	15.3	4.7	3.1	1.5
1971	CIN	23	149	16.0	15.3	1.6	0.4	-
1972	CIN	24	147	20.1	13.3	4.8	3.4	2.1
1973	CIN	25	152	19.7	14.2	4.2	2.8	1.4
1974	CIN	26	160	21.9	15.7	4.6	3.2	1.8
1975	CIN	27	142	17.9	13.7	3.3	2.0	0.8
1976	CIN	28	135	12.8	11.0	1.9	1.0	0.1
1977	CIN	29	142	16.8	12.7	3.0	1.8	0.6
1978	CIN	30	120	12.2	9.7	2.1	1.3	0.4
1979	CIN	31	130	15.6	12.0	2.9	1.8	0.7
1980	CIN	32	114	11.3	9.9	1.6	0.8	-
1981	CIN	33	52	6.2	4.4	1.2	0.8	0.3
1982	CIN	34	119	11.6	13.1	-0.1	-1.1	-
1983	CIN	35	110	10.3	10.1	0.6	-0.2	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,158  </b>	<b>246.4</b>	<b>197.9</b>	<b>42.1</b>	<b>24.4</b>	<b>11.1</b>
PostSeason (career)			45	6.1	4.0	1.5	1.1	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORL	eWOPA	eWO*
1967	CIN	19	26	1.6	2.4	-0.2	-0.3	-
1968	CIN	20	154	16.0	14.7	2.2	0.9	-
1969	CIN	21	148	16.0	12.4	3.4	2.2	1.0
1970	CIN	22	158	18.9	14.4	3.6	2.1	0.7
1971	CIN	23	149	15.7	14.0	2.1	0.9	-
1972	CIN	24	147	19.6	13.4	4.4	3.1	1.8
1973	CIN	25	152	17.0	14.1	2.8	1.5	0.2
1974	CIN	26	160	19.4	14.2	4.0	2.7	1.4
1975	CIN	27	142	17.3	12.7	3.4	2.2	1.1
1976	CIN	28	135	13.6	11.5	2.1	1.2	0.2
1977	CIN	29	142	14.3	11.4	2.3	1.3	0.2
1978	CIN	30	120	12.5	10.3	2.0	1.2	0.3
1979	CIN	31	130	14.1	11.0	2.5	1.6	0.6
1980	CIN	32	114	11.0	8.5	2.0	1.3	0.5
1981	CIN	33	52	5.3	4.3	0.8	0.4	-
1982	CIN	34	119	11.5	11.2	0.7	-0.2	-
1983	CIN	35	110	8.9	8.2	0.8	0.1	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,158  </b>	<b>232.7</b>	<b>188.9</b>	<b>39.0</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>8.0</b>
PostSeason (career)			45	5.2	3.9	1.0	0.7	

## **#16: Carlton Fisk**

### **Career Highlights**

Carlton Fisk was the top catcher in the American League through the 1970s and 1980s.

Five highlights of Carlton Fisk's career:

- Carlton Fisk held the major-league record for games played at catcher at his retirement, having set the record of 2,226 games caught in the final game of his major-league career on June 22, 1993, breaking the previous record of 2,225 games held by Bob Boone. Ivan Rodriguez (#101) has since broken Fisk's record.
- Carlton Fisk won the 1972 American League Rookie of the Year award. He was named to eleven All-Star teams and received MVP votes seven times, finishing in the top 10 in MVP voting four times.
- Carlton Fisk hit 351 of his 376 career home runs as a catcher, a major-league record for home runs as a catcher until it was broken by Mike Piazza.
- Carlton Fisk was born and raised in New England and played his first nine seasons with the Boston Red Sox. Fisk's first game as a new member of the Chicago White Sox was against the Red Sox at Fenway Park on April 10, 1981. In the top of the eighth inning, Fisk hit a one-out, three-run home run to give the White Sox a 3-2 lead in a game they would go on to win 5-3.
- Carlton Fisk had his uniform number retired by both the Boston Red Sox (27) and Chicago White Sox (72). He was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his second year of eligibility, 2000, with 79.6% of the vote.

### At What Was Carlton Fisk Elite?

Carlton Fisk was an elite catcher in terms of both quality (eleven All-Star teams) and quantity (a then-record 2,226 games caught in his career). In fact, as measured by Player won-lost records, Carlton Fisk is arguably the best catcher in Major League Baseball since integration.

The next table shows the top 10 catchers in context-neutral eWins over positional average earned exclusively as a catcher.

<b>Top 10 Catchers, since 1947</b> <b>(Ranked by eWOPA as Catcher only)</b>					
		<b>eWins</b>	<b>eLoss</b>	<b>eWinPct</b>	<b>eWOPA</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Carlton Fisk</b>	<b>224.3</b>	<b>192.9</b>	<b>0.538</b>	<b>21.7</b>
2	Mike Piazza	185.9	150.3	0.553	21.1
3	Johnny Bench	185.1	148.1	0.555	20.0
4	Yogi Berra	179.5	150.0	0.545	16.8
5	Gary Carter	214.8	186.8	0.535	16.2
6	Jorge Posada	147.2	131.2	0.529	14.2
7	Ivan Rodriguez	229.8	223.2	0.507	12.0
8	Roy Campanella	122.2	101.5	0.546	11.6
9	Joe Mauer	96.6	80.1	0.547	11.6
10	Ted Simmons	184.0	164.7	0.528	11.3

This table is similar, but subtly different, from the table shown under Johnny Bench's entry. One advantage Carlton Fisk has over some of the other great catchers in major-league history is that, outside of one ill-fated season when the White Sox tried to make Carlton Fisk a left fielder (1986), Carlton Fisk was a major-league catcher from his first game to his last (literally, he played catcher in his first and last major-league games).

In contrast, Johnny Bench, for example, spent more time playing positions other than catcher over his final three seasons (1981 – 1983), mostly third base. For his career, Johnny Bench played 416 games in which he did not catch. Yogi Berra (whose prime seasons pre-date the years considered for this book) played 421 games in which he didn't catch (mostly in the outfield).

In contrast, Carlton Fisk played only 273 such games.

## Carlton Fisk's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1969	BOS	21	2	0.0	0.1	-0.0	-0.1	-
1971	BOS	23	14	1.2	1.2	0.1	-0.0	-
1972	BOS	24	131	14.8	10.6	3.2	2.2	1.2
1973	BOS	25	135	13.6	12.7	1.9	0.8	-
1974	BOS	26	52	5.8	4.4	1.2	0.8	0.4
1975	BOS	27	79	8.4	6.4	1.7	1.1	0.5
1976	BOS	28	134	12.5	12.8	1.2	0.3	-
1977	BOS	29	152	18.3	12.0	4.4	3.2	2.0
1978	BOS	30	157	18.4	13.1	4.3	3.1	1.8
1979	BOS	31	91	7.3	6.6	1.1	0.4	-
1980	BOS	32	131	12.7	11.1	2.0	1.0	0.1
1981	CHA	33	95	9.5	9.4	1.0	0.2	-
1982	CHA	34	135	13.1	12.7	1.5	0.5	-
1983	CHA	35	137	15.4	11.4	3.3	2.4	1.4
1984	CHA	36	102	8.0	9.6	0.2	-0.5	-
1985	CHA	37	153	17.6	13.3	3.7	2.5	1.2
1986	CHA	38	125	10.9	14.6	-0.7	-1.7	-
1987	CHA	39	135	13.0	12.2	2.0	1.0	-
1988	CHA	40	76	7.4	7.0	1.0	0.5	-
1989	CHA	41	103	11.0	9.4	2.0	1.3	0.5
1990	CHA	42	137	14.5	10.9	3.1	2.1	1.1
1991	CHA	43	134	12.9	13.1	1.4	0.4	-
1992	CHA	44	62	4.8	4.7	0.6	0.2	-
1993	CHA	45	25	0.7	1.4	-0.3	-0.3	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,497  </b>	<b>251.5</b>	<b>220.9</b>	<b>40.1</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>10.3</b>
PostSeason (career)			14	1.5	1.4	0.2	0.1	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1969	BOS	21	2	0.0	0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-
1971	BOS	23	14	1.5	1.2	0.3	0.2	0.0
1972	BOS	24	131	16.4	10.8	4.0	2.9	1.8
1973	BOS	25	135	13.0	12.1	1.8	0.8	-
1974	BOS	26	52	6.4	4.8	1.4	1.0	0.5
1975	BOS	27	79	7.5	5.8	1.5	1.0	0.4
1976	BOS	28	134	14.3	12.5	2.3	1.3	0.3
1977	BOS	29	152	16.6	12.4	3.4	2.2	1.0
1978	BOS	30	157	17.8	13.9	3.6	2.4	1.1
1979	BOS	31	91	6.7	7.0	0.6	-0.1	-
1980	BOS	32	131	13.0	11.2	2.1	1.1	0.2
1981	CHA	33	95	9.2	8.3	1.3	0.6	-
1982	CHA	34	135	12.7	12.2	1.6	0.6	-
1983	CHA	35	137	13.9	11.1	2.7	1.8	0.9
1984	CHA	36	102	9.0	8.2	1.4	0.7	0.0
1985	CHA	37	153	16.2	13.5	2.9	1.7	0.5
1986	CHA	38	125	10.3	12.8	-0.3	-1.2	-
1987	CHA	39	135	11.4	10.9	1.7	0.8	-
1988	CHA	40	76	8.6	6.7	1.8	1.3	0.7
1989	CHA	41	103	10.2	9.1	1.7	1.0	0.3
1990	CHA	42	137	13.4	11.2	2.3	1.4	0.5
1991	CHA	43	134	11.5	12.0	1.2	0.2	-
1992	CHA	44	62	4.4	5.0	0.2	-0.1	-
1993	CHA	45	25	0.9	1.4	-0.1	-0.2	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,497  </b>	<b>245.0</b>	<b>214.4</b>	<b>39.3</b>	<b>21.1</b>	<b>8.2</b>
PostSeason (career)			14	1.7	1.6	0.2	0.1	

## **#17: Cal Ripken**

### **Career Highlights**

Cal Ripken is probably most famous for having played 2,632 consecutive games from May 30, 1982 through September 19, 1998. He was also one of the best shortstops in major-league history. Ripken was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility, 2007, with 98.5% of the vote.

Five highlights of Cal Ripken's career:

- Cal Ripken was named to nineteen All-Star teams in his career. He was named American League Rookie of the Year in 1982. He received MVP votes ten times, winning the award in 1983 and 1991. He also won two Gold Gloves and eight Silver Sluggers in his career.
- Cal Ripken finished his career with 3,184 hits, which is currently 15th all-time. He is fourth in career at bats, sixth in career plate appearances, and eighth in career games played. He is in the top 20 in career doubles (603, 14th) and total bases (5,168, 16th), and second in career sacrifice flies (since that statistic became official in 1954).
- Cal Ripken batted over .300 five times in his career (including 1999 when he batted .340 in 354 plate appearances). He scored 100 or more runs three times and scored at least 90 eight times. He had at least 100 RBI four times, with 90 or more RBI eight times.
- In 1991, Cal Ripken became the first shortstop to win the Home Run Derby during All-Star festivities. The next day, he hit a 3-run home run off former teammate Dennis Martinez (#105) and was named All-Star Game MVP, making him the first player to win the Home Run Derby and All-Star Game MVP in the same season. He capped off the 1991 season by winning his second American League MVP award, with career highs in all three Triple Crown categories, with a .323 batting average, 34 home runs, and 114 RBI.
- Only 36 players in major-league history have played more games in their career than Ripken played during his consecutive-game streak. Early in Cal Ripken's consecutive-game streak, he played in 8,264 consecutive innings from June 5, 1982 through September 14, 1987.

### At What Was Cal Ripken Elite?

Cal Ripken is the best major-league shortstop since at least MLB integration as measured by Player won-lost records (see #97, Toby Harrah). Part of that was because Cal Ripken was an excellent defensive shortstop (see #67, Ozzie Smith).

One aspect of defense at which Ripken was particularly adept was turning double plays. Ripken played the fifth-most games at shortstop in major-league history (2,302). He is third in major-league history in double plays as a shortstop (1,565) and added three more seasons late in his career when he was in the top five in the American League in double plays as a third baseman.

The next table shows the top 10 infielders in net Component 7 (double plays) fielding wins since 1947.

<b>Top 10 Infielders, since 1947</b>					
<b>(Ranked by Net Component 7 Fielding Wins)</b>					
		<b>eWins</b>	<b>eLosses</b>	<b>eWinPct</b>	<b>Net eWins</b>
1	Bill Mazeroski	16.9	12.9	0.567	4.0
2	Willie Randolph	16.0	12.1	0.569	3.9
3	Fernando Vina	8.0	4.8	0.623	3.1
<b>4</b>	<b>Cal Ripken</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>0.566</b>	<b>3.1</b>
5	Mark Grudzielanek	10.3	7.3	0.586	3.0
6	Tim Foli	11.5	8.6	0.573	2.9
7	Ozzie Smith	14.7	12.1	0.549	2.6
8	Robby Thompson	8.6	6.0	0.589	2.6
9	Dave Concepcion	13.4	11.0	0.550	2.4
10	Red Schoendienst	13.1	10.8	0.549	2.3

Ripken is the highest-ranked non-second baseman in the above table.



## Cal Ripken's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1981	BAL	20	18	0.6	0.9	-0.1	-0.1	-
1982	BAL	21	159	21.6	17.9	3.9	2.3	0.8
1983	BAL	22	162	24.9	19.3	5.1	3.5	1.9
1984	BAL	23	162	25.8	19.3	6.2	4.5	2.8
1985	BAL	24	161	23.2	20.4	4.0	2.4	0.8
1986	BAL	25	162	22.0	20.1	3.5	2.0	0.4
1987	BAL	26	162	19.4	21.3	1.5	-0.1	-
1988	BAL	27	161	19.9	19.8	2.2	0.7	-
1989	BAL	28	162	22.5	19.3	3.9	2.4	0.9
1990	BAL	29	161	20.6	18.5	3.2	1.8	0.4
1991	BAL	30	162	23.4	20.0	4.1	2.5	0.8
1992	BAL	31	162	19.5	18.9	2.5	1.0	-
1993	BAL	32	162	20.5	19.4	2.8	1.3	-
1994	BAL	33	112	14.9	12.8	2.8	1.6	0.5
1995	BAL	34	144	17.7	18.4	1.9	0.4	-
1996	BAL	35	163	20.6	19.2	3.0	1.4	-
1997	BAL	36	162	19.3	17.0	2.6	1.2	-
1998	BAL	37	161	16.4	17.4	0.9	-0.5	-
1999	BAL	38	86	10.0	9.2	1.2	0.5	-
2000	BAL	39	83	8.8	7.7	1.3	0.6	-
2001	BAL	40	128	11.5	14.0	-0.1	-1.2	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,995  </b>	<b>383.2</b>	<b>350.6</b>	<b>56.5</b>	<b>28.2</b>	<b>9.3</b>
PostSeason (career)			28	3.7	2.8	0.8	0.5	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1981	BAL	20	18	0.8	1.4	-0.2	-0.3	-
1982	BAL	21	159	20.3	18.1	3.0	1.5	0.1
1983	BAL	22	162	23.5	19.4	4.2	2.7	1.1
1984	BAL	23	162	25.1	19.5	5.7	4.0	2.3
1985	BAL	24	161	23.0	20.3	4.0	2.3	0.7
1986	BAL	25	162	21.9	19.6	3.7	2.1	0.6
1987	BAL	26	162	20.5	20.1	2.7	1.1	-
1988	BAL	27	161	21.2	17.4	3.9	2.5	1.0
1989	BAL	28	162	20.9	19.7	2.8	1.4	-
1990	BAL	29	161	19.9	17.4	3.3	2.0	0.6
1991	BAL	30	162	24.6	18.4	5.5	3.9	2.2
1992	BAL	31	162	19.5	19.7	2.2	0.7	-
1993	BAL	32	162	19.9	19.1	2.7	1.1	-
1994	BAL	33	112	14.3	12.7	2.5	1.3	0.2
1995	BAL	34	144	16.1	16.0	2.0	0.7	-
1996	BAL	35	163	20.0	20.0	2.3	0.7	-
1997	BAL	36	162	16.7	17.4	1.0	-0.3	-
1998	BAL	37	161	16.1	17.2	0.8	-0.5	-
1999	BAL	38	86	10.6	9.3	1.5	0.7	-
2000	BAL	39	83	8.0	7.7	0.9	0.2	-
2001	BAL	40	128	12.0	14.1	0.1	-1.0	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,995  </b>	<b>374.8</b>	<b>344.5</b>	<b>54.6</b>	<b>26.8</b>	<b>9.0</b>
PostSeason (career)			28	3.8	3.2	0.7	0.4	

## **#18: Albert Pujols**

### **Career Highlights**

Albert Pujols is the highest-ranked player in my top 150 who was still active in Major League Baseball as of 2017.

Five highlights of Albert Pujols's career:

- In the first 11 seasons of Albert Pujols's career, he won three MVP awards, finished second in MVP voting four times, and finished third, fourth, fifth, and ninth once apiece.
- In his first 11 seasons, Albert Pujols scored at least 100 runs 10 times. In his first 12 seasons, Pujols drove in at least 100 runs 11 times. The one season in which he failed to score 100 runs was 2007, when he scored 99 runs. The one season in which he failed to drive in 100 runs was 2011, when he drove in 99 runs.
- Albert Pujols led the National League in each of the three Triple Crown categories at least once, but never won a Triple Crown. He led the league in batting average in 2003 (.359), in home runs in 2009 (47) and 2010 (42) and in RBI in 2010 (118). Pujols's only league-leading RBI total, 118, was only the eighth-highest season total of Pujols's career.
- Albert Pujols has played in the postseason in eight seasons. In 77 career postseason games, Pujols has batted .323/.431/.599 with 19 home runs, 55 runs scored, and 54 RBI in 334 plate appearances. Pujols was voted MVP of the 2004 NLCS when he batted .500/.563/1.000 with 4 home runs, 10 runs scored, and 9 RBI in seven games (32 PA).
- On April 22, 2014, Albert Pujols became the third-youngest player to hit his 500th career home run. On June 3, 2017, Albert Pujols became the fourth-youngest player to hit his 600th career home run. Pujols is the only player whose 600th career home run was a grand slam.

## At What Was Albert Pujols Elite?

As with most of the players ranked this highly, Albert Pujols has been at least very good at everything over the course of this career. The next table decomposes Albert Pujols's career record (regular season only, through 2017) across the three key aspects of non-pitcher value: batting, baserunning, and fielding.

Basic Decomposition of eWins, eLosses (Career, Regular Season only)								
Batting			Baserunning			Fielding		
Wins	Losses	WOPA_b	Wins	Losses	WOPA_r	Wins	Losses	WOPA
254.0	188.7	30.0	17.8	15.4	1.0	46.9	40.8	3.1

WOPA stands for Wins over Positional Average. For batting and baserunning, positional average is the average winning percentage for non-pitchers. For fielding, positional average is simply set equal to 0.500. As the above table indicates, Albert Pujols has been above average at all three aspects of non-pitcher value over his career.

Perhaps the biggest surprise of these three is baserunning. Albert Pujols has never been particularly fast (and, in fact, has battled foot injuries for much of the latter part of his career), but has, nevertheless, been an above-average baserunner through his career. There are two aspects to good baserunning. Speed is the obvious factor, but not the only factor; it also helps to be what is commonly called a “smart” baserunner: reading the ball off the bat, knowing the situation, including who is in the field and what their strengths and weaknesses are, understanding when it makes sense to take what the defense is giving, and when discretion is the better part of valor.

So, is there a way to identify who the “smartest” baserunners are? I think there may be. Most simply put, the smartest baserunners will be those players who rate as the best baserunners when one controls for speed. Which leads to the obvious follow-up question: how can one “control for speed”?

Most aspects of baserunning are at least somewhat discretionary – a player can choose to attempt a stolen base or not, a player can try to score from second on a single or hold at third base. These aspects of baserunning are not, then, ideal measures of speed. But one thing that is almost entirely a question of speed, it seems to me, is the extent to which one hits into double plays on ground-ball outs in double-play situations. This is measured by what I call Component 7. Offensive component 7 decisions are actually considered “batting” instead of “baserunning” (with respect to the batter), although that distinction is purely semantic.

It seems to me, then, that one could identify how “smart” a baserunner a player was by looking at the difference between a player's baserunning win percentage and his Component 7 batting win percentage.

Component 7 only comes into play if a batter hits a ground-ball out with a runner on first base and fewer than two outs. So, it already controls for opportunities and a batter's ground-ball tendencies. Once those things are controlled for, the only thing that determines whether the batter can beat the relay throw on ground ball to the shortstop is pure foot speed.

Well, that's not entirely true. Left-handed batters have an advantage over right-handed batters because they start out closer to first base, although the difference in Component 7 winning percentage between left-handed and right-handed batters is fairly small. Since 1947, the Component 7 win percentage for left-handed batters was 0.006 greater than for right-handed batters. To control for that, the difference

was calculated between a player's Component 7 winning percentage and his expected win percentage based on handedness. The difference, then, was calculated between that number and the difference between a player's baserunning win percentage and the non-pitcher average baserunning win percentage. That difference was then multiplied by the player's total baserunning decisions to determine a total number of baserunning wins for a player that can be attributed to how "smart" a baserunner he is.

The top 25 players, then, in "smart" baserunning wins since 1947, calculated in this way, are shown in the next table.

<b>Top 25 Players, "Smart" Baserunner Wins, since 1947</b>				
		<b>Win Percentage</b>		<b>"Smart" Baserunning</b>
	<b>Player</b>	<b>Component 7</b>	<b>Baserunning</b>	<b>Wins</b>
1	Albert Pujols	0.369	0.536	5.2
2	Frank Robinson	0.413	0.536	4.9
3	Rusty Staub	0.359	0.495	4.8
4	Joe Morgan	0.496	0.575	4.6
5	Eric Young	0.406	0.550	4.6
6	Tim Lincecum	0.541	0.625	4.3
7	Tony Perez	0.389	0.525	4.1
8	Rafael Palmeiro	0.349	0.469	3.8
9	Julio Franco	0.440	0.539	3.6
10	Mo Vaughn	0.216	0.448	3.6
11	Miguel Cabrera	0.339	0.483	3.5
12	Jeff Bagwell	0.429	0.552	3.5
13	Joe Torre	0.347	0.480	3.5
14	Barry Bonds	0.471	0.542	3.4
15	George Scott	0.349	0.484	3.4
16	Jim Rice	0.355	0.482	3.4
17	Darrell Porter	0.352	0.504	3.3
18	Ian Kinsler	0.445	0.568	3.2
19	Pat Kelly	0.397	0.520	3.2
20	Brooks Robinson	0.434	0.536	3.1
21	Rickey Henderson	0.552	0.590	3.0
22	Ted Simmons	0.367	0.468	2.9
23	Wally Joyner	0.404	0.525	2.9
24	Robin Ventura	0.347	0.485	2.9
25	Harold Baines	0.406	0.496	2.8

*Does the list make sense?*

In *The New Historical Baseball Abstract*, Bill James calculates what he originally called “Baseball IQ”, although he “decided ... to call the resulting category ‘Percentage Player Index’ rather than ‘Baseball IQ’” (pp. 479-480 of the paperback edition). But the idea was similar to this – although broader, as James did not limit his focus to baserunning – to identify smart baseball players. Anyway, the top player identified by James was Joe Morgan, who shows up fourth in my list, so that’s fairly encouraging.

Also encouraging to me is that the list is a nice mix of fast players who were even smarter than they were fast (Morgan, Tim Lincecum, Rickey Henderson) and slow players who were nevertheless not terrible baserunners (Tony Perez, Joe Torre, Jim Rice). So, overall, it seems like this list is measuring what I wanted it to measure.

One possible concern is that double-play tendency may not be as purely a function of speed as I suggested earlier. There are several players here with very low Component 7 winning percentages – i.e., they hit into a lot of double plays – not (necessarily) because they were slow, but because they hit the ball very hard and hard grounders are more likely to result in double plays than soft grounders. That said, this critique strikes me as suggesting that this list is not perfect more than invalidating the exercise entirely.

So, granting that the methodology here is perhaps not perfect, the reason, of course, why this list shows up where it does in this book is because Albert Pujols was (is) arguably the smartest baserunner of the past seventy years.

## Albert Pujols's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
2001	SLN	21	161	23.4	17.8	3.8	2.0	0.3
2002	SLN	22	157	24.3	18.6	3.8	2.1	0.4
2003	SLN	23	157	23.1	14.9	4.7	3.2	1.7
2004	SLN	24	154	21.5	13.4	4.6	3.2	1.9
2005	SLN	25	161	20.7	14.5	3.5	2.2	1.0
2006	SLN	26	143	23.2	12.7	5.6	4.3	3.0
2007	SLN	27	158	20.1	14.2	3.5	2.2	1.0
2008	SLN	28	148	19.1	12.3	3.8	2.6	1.5
2009	SLN	29	160	24.8	14.7	5.3	3.8	2.3
2010	SLN	30	159	22.1	14.7	4.0	2.7	1.3
2011	SLN	31	147	19.4	13.5	3.3	2.1	0.9
2012	ANA	32	154	18.1	15.0	2.5	1.1	-
2013	ANA	33	99	9.6	9.4	1.0	0.0	-
2014	ANA	34	159	17.9	14.4	2.6	1.2	-
2015	ANA	35	157	17.7	15.2	2.2	0.7	-
2016	ANA	36	152	16.5	14.3	2.4	0.7	-
2017	ANA	37	149	13.3	14.1	1.3	-0.3	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,575  </b>	<b>334.8</b>	<b>243.5</b>	<b>58.0</b>	<b>34.1</b>	<b>15.2</b>
PostSeason (career)			77	12.3	6.9	3.0	2.2	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
2001	SLN	21	161	21.7	16.3	3.6	2.0	0.4
2002	SLN	22	157	22.5	18.1	3.1	1.5	-
2003	SLN	23	157	23.7	15.4	4.8	3.2	1.7
2004	SLN	24	154	22.0	13.5	4.7	3.4	2.0
2005	SLN	25	161	20.6	14.1	3.6	2.4	1.1
2006	SLN	26	143	20.0	12.6	4.0	2.8	1.7
2007	SLN	27	158	19.7	13.8	3.4	2.2	1.0
2008	SLN	28	148	20.2	12.5	4.3	3.1	1.9
2009	SLN	29	160	22.6	14.4	4.3	2.9	1.6
2010	SLN	30	159	21.6	14.9	3.7	2.3	0.9
2011	SLN	31	147	20.2	15.4	2.8	1.5	0.1
2012	ANA	32	154	16.3	14.0	2.0	0.8	-
2013	ANA	33	99	9.7	9.9	0.8	-0.2	-
2014	ANA	34	159	17.4	15.0	2.1	0.7	-
2015	ANA	35	157	16.4	15.0	1.6	0.2	-
2016	ANA	36	152	14.2	13.6	1.5	-0.1	-
2017	ANA	37	149	11.8	13.5	0.7	-0.8	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,575  </b>	<b>320.4</b>	<b>242.2</b>	<b>51.0</b>	<b>27.8</b>	<b>12.3</b>
PostSeason (career)			77	10.2	6.7	2.0	1.4	

## **#19: Kevin Brown**

### **Career Highlights**

Kevin Brown is the highest-ranked player here who would not be in the National Baseball Hall-of-Fame but for performance-enhancing drugs. While it is true that Kevin Brown was named in the Mitchell Report, and so is technically PED-tainted himself, I have very little doubt that he would still not have been elected to the Hall of Fame (yet) even had he been untainted.

Five highlights of Kevin Brown's career:

- Kevin Brown attended Georgia Tech for three years, majoring in chemical engineering, before being drafted fourth overall in the 1986 draft by the Texas Rangers.
- Kevin Brown was the starting pitcher for the American League in the 1992 All-Star game, pitching one perfect inning, striking out one (Ozzie Smith). The American League scored four runs in the top of the first inning, so that Brown actually batted before he pitched in the game, striking out to end the top of the first. Brown was selected to five additional All-Star games, appearing in four of them.
- Kevin Brown pitched a no-hitter on June 10, 1997, in which he allowed only one baserunner: Marvin Benard, who was hit by a pitch with two out and a 1-2 count in the eighth inning.
- Somewhat oddly, as measured by net pWins, Brown's no-hitter was only his fifth-best career start on a June 10. For his career, he started six games on June 10. In those games, he completed four of them, amassing a traditional won-lost record of 5-0, allowing 7 runs in 53 innings, good for a 1.19 ERA. In his one non-decision on a June 10, his team, the Rangers, lost 3-2 in 13 innings to the White Sox on June 10, 1991; Brown left the game at the end of 9, with the score tied 1-1.
- Kevin Brown led his league in wins once, ERA twice, in games started three times, in innings pitched once, and in WHIP twice.

### At What Was Kevin Brown Elite?

Kevin Brown was an elite pitcher. Specifically, he was one of the best pitchers of the 1990s. Despite most of the decade being a high-offense era, the 1990s also saw a plethora of exceptional pitchers. To some extent, Kevin Brown was somewhat lost in the shuffle, making only four All-Star teams in the decade and receiving Cy Young votes only four times in the decade. On the other hand, Brown was highly-regarded enough that he signed the first contract worth more than \$100 million (7 years, \$105 million) following the 1998 season.

As measured by Player won-lost records, Kevin Brown was one of the top five pitchers and top ten players of the 1990s.

Top Pitchers of the 1990s (Ranked by Net Pitching Wins)					
	Player	eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	Net eWins
1	Greg Maddux	127.9	88.2	0.592	39.7
2	Roger Clemens	122.4	91.7	0.572	30.7
<b>3</b>	<b>Kevin Brown</b>	<b>118.3</b>	<b>92.4</b>	<b>0.561</b>	<b>25.9</b>
4	Randy Johnson	118.2	95.0	0.554	23.2
5	Pedro Martinez	76.2	56.3	0.575	19.9
6	Kevin Appier	103.5	85.0	0.549	18.5
7	Mike Mussina	96.6	79.0	0.550	17.6
8	David Cone	112.1	95.7	0.539	16.4
9	John Smoltz	115.0	99.0	0.537	15.9
10	Tom Glavine	116.4	101.2	0.535	15.3

pWins over Positional Average Top 10 Players, 1990 – 1999					
	Player	pWins	pLoss	pWOPA	pWORL
1	Barry Bonds	231.5	155.7	31.8	47.0
2	Greg Maddux	161.6	115.7	30.5	43.7
3	Roger Clemens	141.9	99.7	23.2	36.1
4	Tom Glavine	145.9	118.0	21.2	33.8
5	Randy Johnson	143.7	108.0	20.8	33.9
6	Barry Larkin	185.4	151.8	20.3	33.5
<b>7</b>	<b>Kevin Brown</b>	<b>138.5</b>	<b>108.9</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>31.5</b>
8	David Cone	130.5	102.3	17.6	29.5
9	Mike Mussina	111.5	80.6	17.3	27.7
10	Mike Piazza	120.5	89.3	17.2	25.6



## Kevin Brown's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1986	TEX	21	1	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0	-
1988	TEX	23	4	1.1	1.5	-0.1	-0.2	-
1989	TEX	24	28	11.1	10.4	1.6	0.5	-
1990	TEX	25	27	10.7	9.4	1.8	0.8	-
1991	TEX	26	33	11.3	12.2	0.9	-0.3	-
1992	TEX	27	35	17.8	12.0	4.8	3.2	1.6
1993	TEX	28	34	14.4	11.7	2.7	1.5	0.2
1994	TEX	29	26	9.4	9.8	1.0	-0.1	-
1995	BAL	30	26	9.7	7.6	2.2	1.3	0.3
1996	FLO	31	32	16.2	10.6	5.0	3.6	2.3
1997	FLO	32	33	14.2	11.0	3.6	2.3	0.9
1998	SDN	33	36	17.0	10.9	5.2	3.8	2.5
1999	LAN	34	35	17.9	13.8	4.3	2.8	1.3
2000	LAN	35	33	15.6	10.4	4.5	3.2	2.0
2001	LAN	36	20	8.4	6.5	2.1	1.4	0.6
2002	LAN	37	17	3.9	4.8	0.2	-0.3	-
2003	LAN	38	32	13.9	10.6	3.6	2.3	1.0
2004	NYA	39	22	7.9	6.4	1.7	0.9	0.1
2005	NYA	40	13	4.1	5.0	0.1	-0.4	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>487  </b>	<b>204.7</b>	<b>164.7</b>	<b>45.2</b>	<b>26.4</b>	<b>12.8</b>
PostSeason (career)			14	5.3	5.7	0.7	0.1	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1986	TEX	21	1	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.0	-
1988	TEX	23	4	1.4	1.8	-0.0	-0.2	-
1989	TEX	24	28	11.2	9.3	2.1	1.1	0.2
1990	TEX	25	27	10.4	9.3	1.7	0.7	-
1991	TEX	26	33	12.1	12.8	1.1	-0.2	-
1992	TEX	27	35	16.7	11.1	4.6	3.1	1.6
1993	TEX	28	34	13.5	11.8	2.2	1.0	-
1994	TEX	29	26	10.5	9.8	1.6	0.4	-
1995	BAL	30	26	10.8	7.0	3.1	2.1	1.1
1996	FLO	31	32	14.5	9.0	4.6	3.5	2.3
1997	FLO	32	33	15.7	11.4	4.4	2.9	1.5
1998	SDN	33	36	17.6	10.8	5.5	4.2	2.9
1999	LAN	34	35	16.4	12.3	4.1	2.7	1.3
2000	LAN	35	33	14.9	11.1	3.8	2.5	1.3
2001	LAN	36	20	7.4	6.3	1.7	1.0	0.3
2002	LAN	37	17	3.9	4.4	0.4	-0.1	-
2003	LAN	38	32	13.8	10.4	3.6	2.3	1.1
2004	NYA	39	22	7.7	6.7	1.5	0.7	-
2005	NYA	40	13	4.5	4.3	0.6	0.2	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>487  </b>	<b>203.3</b>	<b>159.8</b>	<b>46.6</b>	<b>28.0</b>	<b>13.4</b>
PostSeason (career)			14	5.5	4.7	1.2	0.6	

## **#20: Willie Mays**

### **Career Highlights**

Willie Mays is one of a very small handful of players for whom one can make a plausible argument that he was the best player in major-league history. He ranks #20 here only because my rankings disregard anything before 1961, which means they disregard the first eight full seasons of Willie Mays's career, over which he batted .317/.390/.585 with 279 home runs and 204 stolen bases. Willie Mays was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility, 1979, with 94.7% of the vote.

Five highlights of Willie Mays's career:

- Willie Mays's given first name is Willie. He was named for his father, William Howard Mays, who was named for the U.S. President when he was born, William Howard Taft.
- Willie Mays began his major-league career 0-for-12. His first hit was a home run off Hall-of-Famer Warren Spahn. Bill James quotes Spahn several years later: "I blame myself for Willie; if I had struck him out in '51, maybe we could have gotten rid of him years ago."
- Willie Mays was named to the All-Star team for nineteen consecutive seasons from 1954 through 1972. He won twelve Gold Gloves and received MVP votes fifteen times with twelve top-10 finishes, including ten consecutive top-10 finishes from 1957 through 1966.
- Willie Mays won two MVP awards, in 1954 and 1965. Willie Mays led the National League in pWins over replacement level (pWORLD) four times (1955, 1961, 1962, and 1964). Ironically, Mays did not lead the National League in pWORLD in either of his actual MVP seasons (he did lead NL non-pitchers in pWORLD in 1965).
- Willie Mays holds the major-league career record for outfield putouts with 7,095. His career totals are in the top 15 in major-league history in total bases (6,066, third), home runs (660, fifth), runs scored (2,062, seventh), games (2,992, ninth), RBI (1,903, 11th), hits (3,283, 12th), and at bats (10,881, 12th).

### At What Was Willie Mays Elite?

Willie Mays was elite at pretty much everything: batting average (.302 career average, three seasons over .330, a batting title in 1954), power (660 career home runs, six seasons with 40 or more home runs, four home run titles), baserunning (338 career stolen bases, leading the league four times), fielding (12 Gold Gloves). About all Willie Mays did not do well was pitch.

Consequently, Willie Mays finds himself near the top of numerous lists throughout this book. He was one of the best players of the 1950s (#86, Mickey Mantle), the 1960s (#21, Juan Marichal), and since 1947 (#1, Barry Bonds). He was the best center fielder since at least 1947 (#44, Ken Griffey Jr.). He was great at the big things (offense, see #11, Rickey Henderson) and the small things (#104, Al Kaline).

Going back to my first sentence introducing Mays, he is one of a very small handful of players for whom one can make a plausible argument that he was the best player in major-league history. There are basically two players who seriously undercut such an argument: Babe Ruth before Mays's time and Barry Bonds after. Starting with the integration of major-league baseball (which seems like an obvious starting point when talking about Willie Mays), Willie Mays was fairly clearly the best player in major-league baseball until Barry Bonds passed him (if, indeed, one thinks that Bonds ever legitimately did so).

Picking a nice round number, here are the top 10 players in major-league baseball for the first fifty years since integration, ranked by career pWins over replacement level (pWORL).

<b>Top 10 Players, 1947 - 1996</b>					
<b>(ranked by pWORL)</b>					
		<b>pWins</b>	<b>pLoss</b>	<b>pWOPA</b>	<b>pWORL</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Willie Mays</b>	<b>459.7</b>	<b>334.6</b>	<b>49.7</b>	<b>81.8</b>
2	Hank Aaron	492.4	372.8	42.2	77.9
3	Mickey Mantle	351.5	230.4	50.2	73.8
4	Joe Morgan	374.1	292.4	46.2	72.7
5	Warren Spahn	345.9	286.2	43.1	70.3
6	Tom Seaver	308.7	256.8	38.0	62.3
7	Frank Robinson	394.9	304.1	30.3	59.8
8	Steve Carlton	337.9	303.9	31.7	59.0
9	Eddie Mathews	320.6	240.7	34.2	56.9
10	Mike Schmidt	337.4	257.5	33.5	56.3

## Willie Mays's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1951	NY1	20	121	15.3	13.2	1.8	0.7	-
1952	NY1	21	34	5.5	3.4	1.3	1.0	0.6
1954	NY1	23	151	24.3	16.8	4.5	2.8	1.1
1955	NY1	24	152	26.9	17.6	5.6	3.8	2.0
1956	NY1	25	152	23.0	18.2	3.4	1.7	0.1
1957	NY1	26	152	24.4	18.6	3.9	2.1	0.4
1958	SFN	27	152	25.8	18.6	4.5	2.8	1.1
1959	SFN	28	151	24.8	16.2	5.3	3.6	2.0
1960	SFN	29	153	25.2	19.5	3.8	2.0	0.3
1961	SFN	30	154	25.6	17.7	5.1	3.2	1.3
1962	SFN	31	162	29.3	18.4	6.6	4.8	3.0
1963	SFN	32	157	24.6	19.4	3.6	2.0	0.3
1964	SFN	33	157	25.9	16.4	5.9	4.2	2.5
1965	SFN	34	157	26.2	17.8	5.3	3.5	1.8
1966	SFN	35	152	25.8	16.6	5.4	3.8	2.2
1967	SFN	36	141	17.7	14.9	2.4	1.0	-
1968	SFN	37	148	23.8	17.2	4.3	2.6	0.9
1969	SFN	38	117	14.7	12.9	1.7	0.5	-
1970	SFN	39	139	17.0	14.8	2.0	0.7	-
1971	SFN	40	136	18.0	12.0	3.7	2.5	1.3
1972		41	88	9.6	7.8	1.3	0.6	-
	NYN		69 /	8.0	5.9	1.4	0.8	0.2
	SFN		19 /	1.6	1.9	-0.0	-0.2	-
1973	NYN	42	66	6.1	6.5	0.1	-0.4	-
	<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>		<b>2,992  </b>	<b>459.7</b>	<b>334.6</b>	<b>81.8</b>	<b>49.7</b>	<b>20.8</b>
	PostSeason (career)		25	3.2	3.0	0.3	0.0	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1951	NY1	20	121	16.5	14.7	1.8	0.5	-
1952	NY1	21	34	4.8	3.7	0.8	0.5	0.2
1954	NY1	23	151	23.5	16.1	4.4	2.8	1.2
1955	NY1	24	152	26.1	17.4	5.3	3.5	1.8
1956	NY1	25	152	22.6	16.5	4.0	2.4	0.8
1957	NY1	26	152	24.4	18.2	4.1	2.3	0.6
1958	SFN	27	152	25.2	18.7	4.2	2.5	0.9
1959	SFN	28	151	22.7	16.6	4.0	2.4	0.8
1960	SFN	29	153	23.2	18.5	3.3	1.6	-
1961	SFN	30	154	23.3	17.1	4.2	2.4	0.6
1962	SFN	31	162	23.7	17.9	3.9	2.4	0.8
1963	SFN	32	157	25.4	19.2	4.2	2.5	0.8
1964	SFN	33	157	26.1	17.0	5.7	4.0	2.3
1965	SFN	34	157	24.3	16.8	4.7	3.1	1.4
1966	SFN	35	152	22.2	16.5	3.6	2.1	0.6
1967	SFN	36	141	17.1	13.9	2.5	1.2	-
1968	SFN	37	148	21.3	15.8	3.6	2.1	0.6
1969	SFN	38	117	14.6	12.9	1.7	0.5	-
1970	SFN	39	139	19.4	14.1	3.6	2.2	0.7
1971	SFN	40	136	17.3	12.3	3.1	1.9	0.8
1972		41	88	9.0	7.6	1.1	0.4	-
	NYN		69 /	7.2	5.8	1.0	0.5	-
	SFN		19 /	1.8	1.9	0.1	-0.1	-
1973	NYN	42	66	5.7	6.0	0.1	-0.4	-
	<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>		<b>2,992  </b>	<b>438.5</b>	<b>327.5</b>	<b>74.1</b>	<b>43.1</b>	<b>14.8</b>
	PostSeason (career)		25	3.0	2.9	0.2	-0.0	

## **#21: Juan Marichal**

### **Career Highlights**

Juan Marichal is the greatest pitcher in San Francisco Giants history.

Five highlights of Juan Marichal's career:

- Juan Marichal was named to nine All-Star teams, starting the 1965 and 1967 games. He pitched in eight All-Star games, pitching a total of 18 innings with an ERA of 0.50.
- Marichal had 20 or more traditional pitcher wins six times, leading the National League twice. Marichal led his league in ERA once (1969), complete games twice, shutouts twice, and innings pitched twice. Marichal led his league in fewest walks per 9 innings four times and in strikeout-to-walk ratio thrice.
- Juan Marichal made his major-league debut on July 19, 1960. He pitched a complete-game, one-hitter, striking out 12 and walking only 1, in a 2-0 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies
- On July 2, 1963, Juan Marichal pitched a 16-inning, complete-game, 1-0 victory. The losing pitcher was Hall-of-Famer Warren Spahn and the only run of the game scored on a solo home run by Hall-of-Famer Willie Mays.
- Juan Marichal was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1983, his third year of eligibility, with 83.7% of the vote. Marichal was the first native of the Dominican Republic to be elected to the Hall of Fame.

### At What Was Juan Marichal Elite?

The 1960s included the time period from 1963 through 1968 that is sometimes referred to as the "Second Deadball Era". Because of this, the 1960s are frequently associated with great pitching and great pitchers.

- Sandy Koufax won 25 or more games three times, three Cy Young awards, and allowed 5 earned runs in 6 World Series starts.
- Bob Gibson had a 1.12 ERA one season, won seven World Series games, two World Series MVPs, and one regular-season MVP (and Cy Young) award.
- Two pitchers won their 300th career game during the decade.
- Six eventual 300-game winners debuted in the 1960s.
- Don Drysdale pitched 6 consecutive shutouts and 58 consecutive scoreless innings in 1968.
- Denny McLain won 31 games in 1968 and back-to-back Cy Young awards in 1968 and 1969.
- Dean Chance had a 1.65 ERA in 278.1 innings in 1964.
- Jim Bunning won 19 games four times in five seasons and pitched a perfect game.

Meanwhile, Juan Marichal failed to receive a single Cy Young award vote in the entire decade of the 1960s (for all of the 1960s, voters only listed one name; for most of the 1960s, there was only one Cy Young award given for both leagues) or win a single World Series game (he pitched 4 shutout innings in his only World Series start).

Yet, as measured by pWins over Positional Average (pWOPA), Juan Marichal was the best player, pitcher or otherwise, in the 1960s.

#### pWins over Positional Average, 1960 - 1969

##### Top 10 Players

	Player	pWins	pLoss	pWOPA	pWORLD
1	Juan Marichal	175.9	131.5	29.6	43.0
2	Willie Mays	238.9	170.9	27.6	44.2
3	Bob Gibson	169.9	136.3	24.0	37.5
4	Hank Aaron	248.3	185.6	21.8	39.3
5	Sandy Koufax	126.5	92.4	21.7	31.6
6	Frank Robinson	226.1	164.1	21.4	37.2
7	Mickey Mantle	154.9	105.6	19.6	30.2
8	Willie McCovey	166.7	113.6	18.8	30.3
9	Jim Bunning	164.6	142.3	17.7	31.3
10	Harmon Killebrew	192.4	142.5	17.2	30.8

## Juan Marichal's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1960	SFN	22	11	5.2	3.4	1.5	1.1	0.8
1961	SFN	23	29	12.8	11.6	2.1	1.1	-
1962	SFN	24	37	17.9	15.5	3.5	2.0	0.6
1963	SFN	25	42	22.6	16.0	6.0	4.3	2.5
1964	SFN	26	33	18.6	12.8	5.3	3.7	2.1
1965	SFN	27	39	22.0	15.1	6.0	4.4	2.8
1966	SFN	28	37	22.9	14.2	6.7	5.2	3.6
1967	SFN	29	26	12.6	12.2	1.8	0.8	-
1968	SFN	30	38	20.1	16.2	4.3	2.9	1.5
1969	SFN	31	37	21.1	14.6	5.8	4.1	2.5
1970	SFN	32	34	12.9	13.1	1.6	0.4	-
1971	SFN	33	37	16.7	13.8	3.5	2.2	0.9
1972	SFN	34	25	9.6	12.4	0.1	-0.9	-
1973	SFN	35	34	13.5	13.0	2.0	0.9	-
1974	BOS	36	11	3.5	2.4	0.8	0.6	0.3
1975	LAN	37	2	0.3	0.9	-0.2	-0.3	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>472  </b>	<b>232.3</b>	<b>187.0</b>	<b>50.7</b>	<b>32.4</b>	<b>17.6</b>
PostSeason (career)			2	0.6	0.8	-0.0	-0.1	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1960	SFN	22	11	4.9	4.1	1.0	0.6	0.2
1961	SFN	23	29	11.4	11.5	1.4	0.4	-
1962	SFN	24	37	16.3	15.9	2.4	1.0	-
1963	SFN	25	42	20.9	16.4	4.9	3.2	1.5
1964	SFN	26	33	18.5	14.9	4.3	2.6	0.9
1965	SFN	27	39	19.7	13.9	5.2	3.7	2.3
1966	SFN	28	37	19.2	14.7	4.4	3.0	1.6
1967	SFN	29	26	12.6	12.5	1.6	0.6	-
1968	SFN	30	38	20.5	18.7	3.4	1.9	0.4
1969	SFN	31	37	20.0	13.8	5.5	3.9	2.4
1970	SFN	32	34	14.6	15.4	1.5	0.2	-
1971	SFN	33	37	16.8	16.0	2.6	1.2	-
1972	SFN	34	25	9.8	10.5	1.0	0.1	-
1973	SFN	35	34	12.6	13.0	1.5	0.4	-
1974	BOS	36	11	3.0	2.8	0.4	0.2	-
1975	LAN	37	2	0.2	0.9	-0.3	-0.3	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>472  </b>	<b>221.0</b>	<b>195.1</b>	<b>40.8</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>9.3</b>
PostSeason (career)			2	0.8	0.7	0.1	0.1	

## **#22: John Smoltz**

### **Career Highlights**

John Smoltz was a key contributor to 13 division titles for the Atlanta Braves. He was the only player to play for both the first and last of the Braves' 14 consecutive division winners from 1991 through 2005. Smoltz was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility, 2015, with 82.9% of the vote.

Five highlights of John Smoltz's career:

- John Smoltz was named to eight All-Star teams, received Cy Young votes five times, and received MVP votes four times in his career.
- John Smoltz led the National League in pitcher wins in 1996 with 24. He led the National League in saves in 2002 with 55. He then returned to the Braves' starting rotation and led the National League in wins a second time in 2006 with 16. John Smoltz is the only player in major-league history with at least 200 pitcher wins (213) and 150 saves (154).
- John Smoltz won the National League Cy Young award in 1996. That season, he led the National League in innings pitched (253.2), strikeouts (276), and pitcher wins (24), with a 2.94 ERA. Smoltz started the All-Star game in 1996 and was credited with the pitcher win in that game. He then earned 4 pitcher wins in 5 postseason starts, giving him a combined total of 29 wins.
- From June 3, 2002 through May 25, 2003, John Smoltz appeared in 73 games. The Braves won all of them. In these games, Smoltz earned 3 pitcher wins and 60 saves.
- John Smoltz pitched in 41 postseason games in his career, including 27 starts. He pitched 209 innings with a traditional won-lost record of 15-4 with 4 saves and a 2.67 ERA. Smoltz holds the major-league record for career postseason strikeouts with 199.



### At What Was John Smoltz Elite?

John Smoltz was elite, or at least above average, at everything he tried in major-league baseball. He was an elite starting pitcher who became an elite relief pitcher. He was an above-average fielder, an above-average hitter for a pitcher. He was excellent in the postseason. And, as measured by Player won-lost records, he even generated more team wins (pWins over positional average) than would have been expected (eWins over positional average).

All of these aspects of John Smoltz's career, as measured by Player won-lost records, are arrayed in the next table.

	<b>Wins</b>	<b>Losses</b>	<b>WOPA</b>
Starting Pitching	176.3	152.1	15.1
Relief Pitching	15.1	9.4	2.3
Fielding	4.1	3.6	0.3
Offense	13.0	23.0	1.6
Postseason	12.5	9.3	2.1
Total eWOPA	218.8	188.2	24.9
Total pWOPA	239.8	201.2	29.1

The next table, then, shows every pitcher since 1947 who earned at least 1.0 WOPA as both a starting pitcher and a relief pitcher and was above average in all of the other aspects identified in the above table: fielding, offense (relative to the average pitcher), postseason performance, and more pWOPA than eWOPA. The pitchers are sorted by career pWOPA.

<b>Pitchers Above Average at Everything, since 1947</b>			
	<b>pWins</b>	<b>pLosses</b>	<b>pWOPA</b>
<b>John Smoltz</b>	<b>239.8</b>	<b>201.2</b>	<b>29.1</b>
Dennis Eckersley	217.3	174.4	22.4
Don Mossi	97.0	87.5	7.3

It's a short table.

## John Smoltz's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1988	ATL	21	12	4.3	6.3	-0.3	-0.8	-
1989	ATL	22	32	14.4	12.7	2.7	1.5	0.3
1990	ATL	23	35	14.8	15.6	1.7	0.4	-
1991	ATL	24	36	14.6	13.5	2.5	1.1	-
1992	ATL	25	36	17.1	16.0	3.0	1.4	-
1993	ATL	26	35	15.6	14.4	2.5	1.2	-
1994	ATL	27	21	9.0	9.5	1.1	0.1	-
1995	ATL	28	29	11.8	10.8	2.2	1.1	-
1996	ATL	29	35	18.2	11.8	5.6	4.1	2.6
1997	ATL	30	35	16.4	14.8	3.3	1.7	0.0
1998	ATL	31	26	13.3	7.7	4.4	3.4	2.4
1999	ATL	32	29	13.5	10.8	3.2	2.1	0.9
2001	ATL	34	36	4.4	2.4	1.4	1.0	0.6
2002	ATL	35	75	10.0	3.9	3.9	2.9	1.8
2003	ATL	36	62	5.7	2.4	2.1	1.5	0.9
2004	ATL	37	73	7.8	3.5	2.7	1.9	1.1
2005	ATL	38	33	13.6	11.8	2.7	1.6	0.4
2006	ATL	39	35	15.3	13.6	3.1	1.7	0.4
2007	ATL	40	32	12.9	11.0	2.8	1.6	0.3
2008	ATL	41	6	2.4	2.0	0.5	0.3	0.1
2009		42	15	4.9	6.6	0.0	-0.6	-
	BOS		8 /	2.4	3.9	-0.3	-0.6	-
	SLN		7 /	2.5	2.7	0.3	0.1	-
CAREER (reg. season)			728	239.8	201.2	51.1	29.1	11.8
PostSeason (career)			42	12.5	9.3	3.2	2.1	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1988	ATL	21	12	3.8	5.9	-0.4	-0.8	-
1989	ATL	22	32	13.6	12.1	2.5	1.4	0.2
1990	ATL	23	35	13.9	14.2	1.8	0.6	-
1991	ATL	24	36	14.0	12.7	2.5	1.2	-
1992	ATL	25	36	14.8	14.2	2.5	1.1	-
1993	ATL	26	35	15.3	15.2	2.0	0.7	-
1994	ATL	27	21	8.8	8.8	1.3	0.3	-
1995	ATL	28	29	12.6	11.7	2.3	1.1	-
1996	ATL	29	35	17.4	12.1	5.1	3.6	2.1
1997	ATL	30	35	17.7	13.6	4.6	2.9	1.3
1998	ATL	31	26	10.9	7.9	3.0	2.1	1.2
1999	ATL	32	29	12.5	8.7	3.5	2.5	1.5
2001	ATL	34	36	3.3	2.7	0.7	0.3	-
2002	ATL	35	75	4.0	2.5	1.1	0.6	0.2
2003	ATL	36	62	3.0	1.4	1.0	0.7	0.4
2004	ATL	37	73	4.1	3.1	0.8	0.3	-
2005	ATL	38	33	14.9	11.5	3.6	2.4	1.2
2006	ATL	39	35	14.5	13.0	2.9	1.6	0.3
2007	ATL	40	32	12.6	10.3	3.0	1.8	0.6
2008	ATL	41	6	1.9	1.6	0.4	0.3	0.1
2009		42	15	5.1	5.1	0.7	0.2	-
	BOS		8 /	2.6	3.1	0.2	-0.1	-
	SLN		7 /	2.5	2.0	0.6	0.4	0.1
CAREER (reg. season)			728	218.8	188.2	44.9	24.9	8.9
PostSeason (career)			42	13.5	10.9	3.1	1.9	

## **#23: Tom Glavine**

### **Career Highlights**

Tom Glavine pitched for 11 consecutive division-winning Atlanta Braves teams (ignoring entirely the 1994 season). He then pitched for the first team to finish a complete season ahead of the Atlanta Braves in sixteen years, the 2006 New York Mets. Tom Glavine was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility, 2014, with 91.9% of the vote. Glavine was inducted in the same Hall-of-Fame class as his longtime teammate Greg Maddux (#2) and his longtime manager Bobby Cox.

Five highlights of Tom Glavine's career:

- Tom Glavine was drafted in the second round of the 1984 MLB draft by the Atlanta Braves. That same year, he was drafted in the fourth round of the NHL draft by the Los Angeles Kings.
- Tom Glavine had 20 or more traditional pitcher wins five times in his career. He led the National League in victories in each of those seasons.
- Tom Glavine was named to ten All-Star teams. He was the starting pitcher for the National League in back-to-back All-Star games in 1991 and 1992. Glavine won two Cy Young Awards (1991, 1998), finished second in Cy Young voting twice, and finished third in Cy Young voting twice. He also won four Silver Sluggers as the best-hitting pitcher in the National League.
- Tom Glavine holds the major-league career record for most successful sacrifice bunts by a pitcher with 216.
- Tom Glavine's brother Mike played in 6 major-league games in 2003. Mike Glavine's major-league debut came when he pinch hit for his brother Tom in the sixth inning of a 7-3 Mets loss to the Montreal Expos. Mike Glavine ended his career with a lower batting average (.143, he went 1-for-7 in his career, a single) than Tom Glavine, who had a career batting line of .186/.244/.210.

### At What Was Tom Glavine Elite?

Tom Glavine won practically every accolade possible. He was named to 10 All-Star teams, starting two All-Star games. He won two Cy Young awards. He won four Silver Sluggers. He won the 1995 World Series MVP. He was named National League pitcher of the month four times and player of the week three times.

But there was one award that Tom Glavine never won. He never won a Gold Glove. Mostly, he never won a Gold Glove because he shared a league – and, for most of his career, a team – with Greg Maddux, who won 18 Gold Gloves.

And yet, here are the top 10 fielding pitchers since 1947, as measured by Player won-lost records.

<b>Top 10 Fielding Pitchers, since 1947 (Ranked by Net Fielding eWins)</b>					
		<b>eWins</b>	<b>eLosses</b>	<b>eWinPct</b>	<b>Net eWins</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Tom Glavine</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>0.593</b>	<b>2.3</b>
2	Phil Niekro	7.9	5.9	0.573	2.0
3	Dennis Martinez	6.7	4.8	0.585	1.9
4	Livan Hernandez	5.9	4.0	0.596	1.9
5	Tom Seaver	7.3	5.4	0.573	1.8
6	Mike Mussina	4.8	3.0	0.616	1.8
7	Bobby Shantz	4.6	2.9	0.614	1.7
8	Kirk Rueter	3.9	2.2	0.639	1.7
9	Zack Greinke	3.7	2.1	0.642	1.7
10	Kenny Rogers	6.4	4.8	0.573	1.6

Five of the top six fielding pitchers made my top 150 here.

Perhaps more interestingly, the top two fielding pitchers since 1947 are Hall-of-Fame pitchers who pitched the majority of their careers for the Atlanta Braves. In fact, the top four pitchers on this list pitched for the Atlanta Braves at some point in their career. And, of course, conspicuously absent from the list is Tom Glavine's longtime Hall-of-Fame teammate on the Braves, Hall-of-Famer and 18-time Gold Glove winner Greg Maddux. Maddux would appear on the table if it was extended to a top-25 list.

## Tom Glavine's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1987	ATL	21	9	3.3	3.7	0.3	-0.0	-
1988	ATL	22	36	11.4	14.7	0.1	-1.1	-
1989	ATL	23	29	11.7	11.3	1.8	0.8	-
1990	ATL	24	34	11.9	13.5	1.0	-0.2	-
1991	ATL	25	35	16.9	11.9	4.5	3.2	1.9
1992	ATL	26	35	15.6	11.8	4.0	2.8	1.5
1993	ATL	27	36	16.8	12.5	4.1	2.8	1.5
1994	ATL	28	26	10.8	9.9	2.0	0.9	-
1995	ATL	29	29	14.1	9.5	4.2	3.1	1.9
1996	ATL	30	39	15.7	11.9	4.1	2.7	1.4
1997	ATL	31	33	14.4	12.5	3.1	1.7	0.3
1998	ATL	32	33	15.3	10.7	4.3	3.1	1.8
1999	ATL	33	36	14.4	13.6	2.4	1.1	-
2000	ATL	34	37	14.7	11.6	3.5	2.3	1.0
2001	ATL	35	35	13.3	12.0	2.6	1.3	0.0
2002	ATL	36	37	15.4	12.5	3.6	2.2	0.9
2003	NYN	37	33	11.3	12.8	1.1	-0.1	-
2004	NYN	38	35	12.5	11.9	2.3	1.0	-
2005	NYN	39	33	13.1	12.9	1.9	0.7	-
2006	NYN	40	32	12.5	11.0	2.5	1.4	0.2
2007	NYN	41	35	11.3	12.0	1.5	0.3	-
2008	ATL	42	14	3.1	5.2	-0.5	-0.9	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>701  </b>	<b>279.5</b>	<b>249.6</b>	<b>54.5</b>	<b>29.1</b>	<b>12.4</b>
PostSeason (career)			36	14.6	14.7	2.2	0.7	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1987	ATL	21	9	3.2	3.8	0.2	-0.2	-
1988	ATL	22	36	11.6	12.4	1.2	0.2	-
1989	ATL	23	29	11.5	11.8	1.4	0.4	-
1990	ATL	24	34	12.7	13.5	1.5	0.3	-
1991	ATL	25	35	15.9	12.4	3.7	2.5	1.2
1992	ATL	26	35	13.3	11.4	2.9	1.8	0.6
1993	ATL	27	36	14.4	14.5	1.9	0.6	-
1994	ATL	28	26	10.6	10.7	1.5	0.4	-
1995	ATL	29	29	13.6	10.5	3.5	2.3	1.1
1996	ATL	30	39	16.5	12.9	4.2	2.7	1.2
1997	ATL	31	33	15.8	13.2	3.7	2.2	0.7
1998	ATL	32	33	14.3	11.2	3.5	2.3	1.1
1999	ATL	33	36	14.8	13.4	2.7	1.3	-
2000	ATL	34	37	14.6	12.7	2.9	1.6	0.3
2001	ATL	35	35	14.7	14.4	2.4	0.9	-
2002	ATL	36	37	14.4	13.9	2.4	1.0	-
2003	NYN	37	33	11.8	11.9	1.8	0.5	-
2004	NYN	38	35	13.4	12.0	2.8	1.4	0.1
2005	NYN	39	33	13.3	11.8	2.5	1.4	0.2
2006	NYN	40	32	13.2	13.6	1.8	0.5	-
2007	NYN	41	35	12.3	12.9	1.7	0.4	-
2008	ATL	42	14	3.9	5.1	0.1	-0.4	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>701  </b>	<b>279.8</b>	<b>260.0</b>	<b>50.4</b>	<b>24.3</b>	<b>6.5</b>
PostSeason (career)			36	13.9	12.8	2.6	1.3	

## **#24: Derek Jeter**

### **Career Highlights**

Derek Jeter was the starting shortstop on seven American League pennant winners and five World Series winners.

Five highlights of Derek Jeter's career:

- Derek Jeter was named to fourteen All-Star teams, starting nine of them. He received MVP votes twelve times including eight top-10 finishes. He also won the 1996 American League Rookie of the Year award, five Gold Gloves, and five Silver Sluggers.
- Derek Jeter batted .300 or better twelve times. He had an on-base percentage of .400 or better four times. Jeter scored 100 or more runs thirteen times (plus 99 runs scored in 2012), leading the league in 1998. He collected 200 or more hits eight times, leading the league twice (in 1999 and 2012).
- Derek Jeter ended his career sixth in major-league history in career hits, with 3,465, and eleventh in career runs scored, with 1,923. He is third in American League history in hits (behind Ty Cobb and Tris Speaker) and fifth in American League history in runs scored.
- Derek Jeter holds major-league career postseason records for games played (158), plate appearances (734), at bats (650), hits (200), doubles (32), triples (5, tied with two others), total bases (302), and runs scored (111).
- Derek Jeter got his 3,000th career hit on July 9, 2011. He was the second player to hit a home run for his 3,000th hit – Wade Boggs (#61) was the first. He was also the second player to go 5-for-5 in the game in which he got his 3,000th hit (he ended the game with 3,003 hits) – Craig Biggio (#54) was the first. Jeter's final hit was an RBI single in the top of the ninth to drive in the go-ahead run in a 5-4 Yankees victory (Jeter scored or drove in 3 of the Yankees' 5 runs in the game).

### At What Was Derek Jeter Elite?

Derek Jeter earned 60.1 pWins over replacement level (pWORLD) in his career. This places Jeter among the top 15 players in pWORLD since MLB integration.

Controlling for context and the quality of Jeter's teammates, however, his eWins over replacement level total only 46.6, a difference of 13.5 wins. As shown in the next table, this is the largest gap between pWORLD and eWORLD by a non-relief pitcher who debuted since 1947.

**Top 10 Player Gaps, pWORLD vs. eWORLD (MLB Debut since 1947)  
(excluding Relief Pitchers)**

		pWORLD	eWORLD	Difference
1	<b>Derek Jeter</b>	<b>60.1</b>	<b>46.6</b>	<b>13.5</b>
2	Whitey Ford	47.6	35.1	12.5
3	Nellie Fox	37.8	26.1	11.7
4	Brooks Robinson	43.8	32.5	11.3
5	Sandy Koufax	34.0	23.1	10.9
6	Jim Palmer	53.3	42.5	10.8
7	Juan Marichal	50.7	40.8	9.9
8	Mark Belanger	28.8	19.0	9.8
9	Denny McLain	19.5	9.8	9.7
10	Eddie Murray	45.0	36.0	9.0

What does this mean?

It means that Jeter's performances contributed to 13 or 14 more wins than would have been expected. Differences of this type will largely be due to one of two possible reasons: fortuitous timing of a player's performance (e.g., strong clutch hitting) or good teammates such that a player is simply more likely to participate in wins (which produce more pWins). Starting pitchers have somewhat more impact on team wins – and, hence, pWins – than position players, because they concentrate their performance into fewer games. It is not terribly surprising, therefore, to see that 5 of the 10 players on this list are starting pitchers.

Certainly, Jeter – and most of the others on this list – played his career with very good teams. That said, three longtime teammates of Jeter's are in my top 100: Mariano Rivera (#29), Jorge Posada (#59), and Andy Pettitte (#70). Rivera was a relief pitcher, so his pWORLD is greater than his eWORLD because he pitched in mostly high-context situations throughout his career. Both Posada and Pettitte had more pWORLD in their career than eWORLD: 31.6 to 27.2 for Posada, a difference of 16 percent; 44.4 to 40.2 for Pettitte, a gap of 10 percent. In contrast, Jeter's pWORLD exceeds his eWORLD by almost 30 percent.

It is hard to know the extent to which this was merely dumb luck or whether there was really something special in Derek Jeter's game that enabled him to better rise to the occasion in key situations than others, including his long-time teammates. But whether by happenstance or by skill, it is unquestionably true that Derek Jeter's performance led to more wins than might have been expected based purely on his context-neutral statistical record.

## Derek Jeter's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1995	NYA	21	15	1.0	1.6	-0.2	-0.3	-
1996	NYA	22	157	18.2	19.5	1.5	0.0	-
1997	NYA	23	159	21.4	20.3	3.0	1.4	-
1998	NYA	24	149	23.2	16.7	5.5	4.0	2.4
1999	NYA	25	158	26.2	17.8	6.7	4.9	3.2
2000	NYA	26	148	20.6	16.6	4.0	2.5	1.0
2001	NYA	27	150	20.2	17.3	3.6	2.0	0.4
2002	NYA	28	157	20.4	17.5	3.5	2.0	0.4
2003	NYA	29	119	16.0	12.8	3.1	2.0	0.8
2004	NYA	30	154	22.8	18.1	4.5	2.9	1.3
2005	NYA	31	158	23.1	20.4	3.5	2.0	0.4
2006	NYA	32	154	22.7	17.1	4.7	3.3	1.8
2007	NYA	33	156	21.4	18.0	3.4	2.0	0.6
2008	NYA	34	150	18.6	17.8	2.3	1.0	-
2009	NYA	35	153	19.5	16.5	3.3	2.0	0.6
2010	NYA	36	157	20.4	20.1	2.3	0.8	-
2011	NYA	37	131	16.0	15.4	1.9	0.7	-
2012	NYA	38	159	20.2	18.8	2.7	1.2	-
2013	NYA	39	17	1.5	1.8	0.1	-0.1	-
2014	NYA	40	145	15.9	18.1	0.5	-0.8	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,746  </b>	<b>369.4</b>	<b>322.2</b>	<b>60.1</b>	<b>33.4</b>	<b>13.2</b>
PostSeason (career)			158	21.3	18.4	3.6	2.0	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1995	NYA	21	15	1.2	1.5	0.0	-0.1	-
1996	NYA	22	157	18.7	19.5	1.8	0.3	-
1997	NYA	23	159	21.0	21.4	2.3	0.6	-
1998	NYA	24	149	21.5	17.6	4.2	2.7	1.1
1999	NYA	25	158	23.0	18.2	4.7	3.1	1.5
2000	NYA	26	148	19.1	17.3	2.9	1.5	0.0
2001	NYA	27	150	19.7	17.3	3.3	1.7	0.1
2002	NYA	28	157	20.0	18.6	2.8	1.2	-
2003	NYA	29	119	15.3	14.0	2.2	1.1	-
2004	NYA	30	154	20.6	19.1	2.8	1.3	-
2005	NYA	31	158	22.1	19.9	3.2	1.6	0.1
2006	NYA	32	154	21.4	18.4	3.4	2.0	0.6
2007	NYA	33	156	20.1	19.1	2.3	0.9	-
2008	NYA	34	150	18.4	18.2	2.1	0.7	-
2009	NYA	35	153	21.3	19.2	3.1	1.6	0.1
2010	NYA	36	157	18.0	18.9	1.5	0.1	-
2011	NYA	37	131	15.2	15.4	1.4	0.2	-
2012	NYA	38	159	20.9	19.8	2.6	1.0	-
2013	NYA	39	17	1.5	1.9	-0.1	-0.2	-
2014	NYA	40	145	15.2	18.5	-0.1	-1.3	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,746  </b>	<b>354.4</b>	<b>333.9</b>	<b>46.6</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>3.6</b>
PostSeason (career)			158	21.8	19.6	3.3	1.7	



## **#25: Mike Mussina**

### **Career Highlights**

Mike Mussina was one of the best and one of the most under-appreciated pitchers in recent baseball history.

Five highlights of Mike Mussina's career:

- Mike Mussina was named to five All-Star teams in his career. He received Cy Young votes eight times. He also won six Gold Gloves.
- Mike Mussina had 11 or more traditional pitcher wins for seventeen consecutive seasons from 1992 through 2008. He was the first pitcher in American League history with at least 10 wins in seventeen consecutive seasons.
- Mike Mussina was the starting and winning pitcher on September 6, 1995, when Cal Ripken (#17) played in his 2,131st consecutive game, breaking Lou Gehrig's record.
- Mike Mussina took a no-hitter into the eighth inning four times in his career, the most by any pitcher in major-league history who never threw a no-hitter. He retired the first 25 Cleveland Indians on May 30, 1997, before Sandy Alomar, Jr. singled with one out in the ninth inning. He retired the first 26 Boston Red Sox on September 2, 2001, before Carl Everett singled with two out in the ninth inning.
- Mike Mussina earned 20 traditional pitcher wins in a season only once, winning his 20th game of 2008 in the final start of his career. At 39, Mussina was the oldest pitcher to win 20 games for the first time. He was also the first pitcher since Sandy Koufax (#72) to win 20 or more games in his final major-league season.

### At What Was Mike Mussina Elite?

In my opinion, Mike Mussina is one of the most under-rated pitchers in major-league history: not quite as underrated as Keven Brown (#15), but underrated. Too much attention focuses on what Mussina did not do (win 20 games – until his final season; win a Cy Young award) and not enough attention on what he did do. What he did do was pitch at an elite level.

The next table shows the top 25 pitchers, measured by net (context-neutral) pitching wins, since MLB integration.

<b>Top 25 Pitchers, since 1947 (Ranked by Net Pitching Wins)</b>					
		<b>eWins</b>	<b>eLosses</b>	<b>eWinPct</b>	<b>Net eWins</b>
1	Roger Clemens	273.4	211.3	0.564	62.1
2	Greg Maddux	263.7	209.5	0.557	54.2
3	Randy Johnson	234.3	190.0	0.552	44.3
4	Pedro Martinez	159.8	117.1	0.577	42.8
5	Kevin Brown	175.1	139.1	0.557	36.0
6	Gaylord Perry	281.0	245.7	0.533	35.3
<b>7</b>	<b>Mike Mussina</b>	<b>192.7</b>	<b>159.5</b>	<b>0.547</b>	<b>33.2</b>
8	Warren Spahn	264.7	232.3	0.533	32.4
9	Tom Seaver	251.2	219.9	0.533	31.3
10	Curt Schilling	177.0	145.8	0.548	31.1
11	Bob Gibson	209.4	179.3	0.539	30.1
12	Nolan Ryan	298.2	269.1	0.526	29.1
13	Clayton Kershaw	105.5	76.5	0.580	29.1
14	John Smoltz	187.1	158.2	0.542	28.9
15	Bert Blyleven	267.0	238.4	0.528	28.6
16	Mariano Rivera	72.8	44.9	0.619	27.9
17	Roy Halladay	148.4	121.0	0.551	27.4
18	Tim Hudson	165.9	139.7	0.543	26.2
19	Bret Saberhagen	138.1	112.2	0.552	25.9
20	Juan Marichal	182.3	157.3	0.537	24.9
21	Jim Palmer	207.7	182.8	0.532	24.8
22	Andy Pettitte	180.6	156.6	0.536	24.1
23	Don Sutton	274.2	251.0	0.522	23.2
24	Fergie Jenkins	238.4	216.6	0.524	21.7
25	Robin Roberts	247.6	226.1	0.523	21.5

## Mike Mussina's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1991	BAL	22	12	4.5	4.8	0.4	-0.1	-
1992	BAL	23	32	13.8	9.3	3.7	2.5	1.3
1993	BAL	24	25	10.2	8.0	2.0	1.1	0.3
1994	BAL	25	24	12.1	7.4	3.6	2.4	1.3
1995	BAL	26	32	16.0	10.3	4.6	3.2	1.7
1996	BAL	27	36	15.3	12.5	3.3	1.7	0.1
1997	BAL	28	33	13.3	9.8	3.4	2.0	0.6
1998	BAL	29	29	12.8	10.2	2.8	1.6	0.3
1999	BAL	30	31	13.5	8.3	3.9	2.8	1.7
2000	BAL	31	34	14.4	12.2	2.8	1.4	-
2001	NYA	32	34	15.6	10.7	4.2	2.8	1.3
2002	NYA	33	33	13.3	10.4	2.9	1.7	0.4
2003	NYA	34	31	14.4	10.6	3.6	2.1	0.7
2004	NYA	35	27	11.1	9.2	2.4	1.2	0.0
2005	NYA	36	30	11.1	10.6	1.6	0.5	-
2006	NYA	37	32	10.8	8.5	2.4	1.4	0.3
2007	NYA	38	28	8.7	9.4	0.9	-0.2	-
2008	NYA	39	34	13.4	11.0	2.8	1.5	0.2
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>537  </b>	<b>224.3</b>	<b>173.2</b>	<b>51.3</b>	<b>29.6</b>	<b>10.3</b>
PostSeason (career)			23	7.5	6.9	1.3	0.4	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1991	BAL	22	12	5.2	4.2	1.1	0.6	0.1
1992	BAL	23	32	14.5	10.8	3.4	2.1	0.7
1993	BAL	24	25	10.2	8.8	1.7	0.8	-
1994	BAL	25	24	10.8	7.8	2.7	1.6	0.5
1995	BAL	26	32	13.7	9.3	3.7	2.5	1.2
1996	BAL	27	36	15.1	12.8	3.1	1.5	-
1997	BAL	28	33	13.8	10.5	3.3	1.9	0.4
1998	BAL	29	29	13.1	9.9	3.0	1.8	0.6
1999	BAL	30	31	13.7	9.5	3.6	2.4	1.2
2000	BAL	31	34	14.4	11.1	3.2	1.9	0.5
2001	NYA	32	34	14.3	9.7	3.9	2.6	1.2
2002	NYA	33	33	13.5	10.8	2.9	1.6	0.3
2003	NYA	34	31	13.5	9.0	3.7	2.4	1.1
2004	NYA	35	27	9.8	8.7	1.8	0.7	-
2005	NYA	36	30	10.7	10.0	1.6	0.5	-
2006	NYA	37	32	12.2	9.2	2.9	1.7	0.6
2007	NYA	38	28	8.8	8.1	1.4	0.5	-
2008	NYA	39	34	11.9	9.8	2.5	1.3	0.1
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>537  </b>	<b>219.0</b>	<b>170.2</b>	<b>49.6</b>	<b>28.3</b>	<b>8.7</b>
PostSeason (career)			23	9.1	6.8	2.2	1.3	

## **#26: Chipper Jones**

### **Career Highlights**

Chipper Jones was the offensive centerpiece for most of the Atlanta Braves' incredible run of division titles through the 1990s and 2000s. He was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility (2018) with 97.2% of the vote.

Five highlights of Chipper Jones's career:

- Chipper Jones was drafted by the Atlanta Braves with the first overall draft pick in 1990. He was the starting third baseman for the Atlanta Braves when they won the World Series five years later. This is the shortest gap between a top overall draft pick being drafted and winning a World Series for the team who drafted him, one year faster than Darryl Strawberry (#82), who was drafted first overall in 1980 before helping the Mets win the 1986 World Series.
- Chipper Jones was named to eight All-Star teams, starting five of them. He received MVP votes thirteen times, finishing in the top ten in MVP voting six times.
- Chipper Jones won the 1999 National League MVP award. That season, Jones batted .319/.441/.633 with 45 home runs, 116 runs scored, 110 RBI, and stole 25 bases in 28 attempts.
- Chipper Jones played 2,254 games with Bobby Cox as his manager. This is the most games for a player – manager combination since 1915 (Honus Wagner played 2,597 games under Fred Clarke from 1897 – 1915).
- Chipper Jones recorded the last hit in the history of Atlanta Fulton-County Stadium, with a double off Andy Pettitte (#70), leading off the bottom of the ninth inning in Game 5 of the 1996 World Series. He then recorded the first hit in the history of Turner Field with a first-inning single off the Cubs' Kevin Foster on April 4, 1997.

### At What Was Chipper Jones Elite?

Chipper Jones has the most home runs (468) and RBI (1,623) by any switch-hitter in National League history. He is second in major-league history among switch-hitters in RBI, behind Eddie Murray (#58). He is third in major-league history among switch-hitters in home runs, behind Murray and Mickey Mantle (#86).

As measured by Player won-lost records, Chipper Jones was the second-best switch hitter in the major leagues since MLB integration.

<b>Top 10 Switchhitters, since 1947</b>				
<b>(Ranked by Batting Wins over Non-Pitcher Average)</b>				
		<b>eWins</b>	<b>eLosses</b>	<b>eWOPA</b>
1	Mickey Mantle	243.2	150.3	42.8
<b>2</b>	<b>Chipper Jones</b>	<b>233.6</b>	<b>175.5</b>	<b>25.5</b>
3	Lance Berkman	171.0	124.4	21.0
4	Eddie Murray	265.5	221.9	20.7
5	Reggie Smith	175.8	134.2	18.1
6	Ken Singleton	174.5	141.5	15.7
7	Mark Teixeira	167.2	137.3	14.2
8	Carlos Beltran	224.3	193.9	13.3
9	Pete Rose	302.3	266.0	12.8
10	Chili Davis	195.9	170.4	11.5

## Chipper Jones's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1993	ATL	21	5	0.0	0.0	-0.0	-0.0	-
1995	ATL	23	140	20.1	15.4	3.4	1.9	0.5
1996	ATL	24	157	23.0	16.9	4.4	2.8	1.2
1997	ATL	25	157	21.4	17.9	3.0	1.4	-
1998	ATL	26	160	23.6	15.8	5.1	3.6	2.0
1999	ATL	27	157	22.6	15.0	5.1	3.6	2.1
2000	ATL	28	155	21.2	16.6	3.8	2.3	0.7
2001	ATL	29	159	20.9	16.2	3.6	2.0	0.4
2002	ATL	30	158	24.7	18.4	4.1	2.3	0.6
2003	ATL	31	153	21.2	17.2	2.7	1.2	-
2004	ATL	32	137	17.1	12.9	2.9	1.7	0.5
2005	ATL	33	109	16.0	10.5	3.5	2.5	1.6
2006	ATL	34	110	13.2	12.0	1.1	0.2	-
2007	ATL	35	134	19.4	14.2	3.5	2.2	1.0
2008	ATL	36	128	15.6	12.1	2.5	1.4	0.4
2009	ATL	37	143	15.9	14.2	1.8	0.7	-
2010	ATL	38	95	12.1	9.2	2.1	1.3	0.5
2011	ATL	39	126	14.7	12.7	2.1	1.0	-
2012	ATL	40	112	14.0	11.3	2.0	1.1	0.2
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,495  </b>	<b>336.7</b>	<b>258.5</b>	<b>56.5</b>	<b>33.3</b>	<b>11.7</b>
PostSeason (career)			93	11.1	10.8	0.8	-0.1	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1993	ATL	21	5	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
1995	ATL	23	140	17.8	16.3	1.7	0.4	-
1996	ATL	24	157	21.9	17.2	3.7	2.1	0.5
1997	ATL	25	157	20.6	17.7	2.6	1.1	-
1998	ATL	26	160	21.5	16.3	3.8	2.3	0.8
1999	ATL	27	157	21.8	16.0	4.2	2.7	1.2
2000	ATL	28	155	19.8	16.1	3.2	1.8	0.3
2001	ATL	29	159	21.2	16.1	3.9	2.3	0.7
2002	ATL	30	158	23.0	17.8	3.5	1.8	0.2
2003	ATL	31	153	19.1	16.4	2.0	0.6	-
2004	ATL	32	137	15.8	12.8	2.2	1.1	-
2005	ATL	33	109	13.6	10.4	2.3	1.4	0.5
2006	ATL	34	110	14.5	11.1	2.2	1.3	0.4
2007	ATL	35	134	18.6	12.9	3.7	2.5	1.3
2008	ATL	36	128	16.1	11.8	2.9	1.9	0.8
2009	ATL	37	143	16.1	15.1	1.5	0.3	-
2010	ATL	38	95	10.7	8.9	1.5	0.8	0.0
2011	ATL	39	126	14.9	13.0	2.0	0.9	-
2012	ATL	40	112	12.8	11.2	1.5	0.6	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,495  </b>	<b>319.9</b>	<b>257.1</b>	<b>48.3</b>	<b>25.9</b>	<b>6.9</b>
PostSeason (career)			93	11.4	10.7	1.0	0.2	

## **#27: Reggie Jackson**

### **Career Highlights**

Reggie Jackson played for five World Series winners in seven years and had a candy bar named after him. He was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility, 1993, with 93.6% of the vote.

Five highlights of Reggie Jackson's career:

- Reggie Jackson was the second player taken in the second major-league draft in 1966 by the Kansas City Athletics. He was the highest draft pick elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame before Ken Griffey Jr.'s election in 2016.
- Reggie Jackson was named to fourteen All-Star teams and received MVP votes thirteen times with seven top-10 finishes.
- Reggie Jackson won the 1973 AL MVP award unanimously. That season, Jackson led the American League in slugging percentage (.531), OPS (.914), home runs (32), RBI (117), and runs scored (99).
- In four World Series appearances (Jackson missed the 1972 World Series with a torn hamstring), Reggie Jackson batted .357/.457/.755 in 116 plate appearances with 10 home runs, 24 RBI, and 21 runs scored. Jackson was named World Series MVP in 1973 and 1977. Reggie Jackson's three home runs in Game 6 of the 1977 World Series tied a record first set by Babe Ruth; his five home runs for the series set a new World Series record (since tied by Chase Utley (#91)).
- Reggie Jackson was the first player in major-league history to hit 100 home runs for three different franchises (Athletics, Yankees, Angels). This feat has since been matched by three other players: Darrell Evans (#133), Alex Rodriguez (#5), and Jim Thome (#42).

### **At What Was Reggie Jackson Elite?**

Reggie Jackson was one of the best hitters in major-league baseball, at least since MLB integration (see #48, Frank Thomas). He was also the best non-pitcher in the American League through the 1970s (see #4, Joe Morgan) and one of the top World Series performers ever (see #10, Bob Gibson).

Reggie Jackson's teams won five World Series in seven seasons from 1972 through 1978. The next table shows the top five players on each of these five teams as measured by pWins over replacement level (pWORLD).

<b>Top 5 Players, ranked by pWORLD (regular season plus postseason)</b>				
	<b>pWins</b>	<b>pLoss</b>	<b>pWOPA</b>	<b>pWORLD</b>
<b>1972 Oakland Athletics</b>				
Catfish Hunter	21.4	15.0	4.1	5.7
Bert Campaneris	23.2	19.6	2.6	4.4
Sal Bando	22.6	17.5	2.3	3.9
Joe Rudi	24.5	18.3	2.2	3.9
<b>Reggie Jackson</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>3.4</b>
<b>1973 Oakland Athletics</b>				
<b>Reggie Jackson</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>5.2</b>
Bert Campaneris	23.0	19.9	3.2	4.9
Ken Holtzman	18.6	14.9	2.1	3.7
Sal Bando	22.1	17.5	1.9	3.6
Catfish Hunter	16.3	12.9	1.9	3.3
<b>1974 Oakland Athletics</b>				
Catfish Hunter	19.2	14.4	2.7	4.2
<b>Reggie Jackson</b>	<b>23.7</b>	<b>17.9</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>4.1</b>
Joe Rudi	25.1	20.0	2.0	3.7
Sal Bando	20.7	16.0	2.3	3.7
Bert Campaneris	20.2	18.4	1.8	3.3
<b>1977 New York Yankees</b>				
<b>Reggie Jackson</b>	<b>23.1</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>4.3</b>
Graig Nettles	22.5	16.9	2.7	4.3
Ron Guidry	15.2	9.7	2.9	4.2
Willie Randolph	19.8	17.6	1.7	3.2
Mickey Rivers	21.3	18.0	1.5	3.1
<b>1978 New York Yankees</b>				
Ron Guidry	20.0	10.2	5.1	6.5
<b>Reggie Jackson</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>15.3</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>3.5</b>
Graig Nettles	21.8	17.7	2.0	3.5
Willie Randolph	18.0	14.9	2.1	3.3
Ed Figueroa	16.8	14.1	1.4	2.9

Reggie was not just a guy who happened to play for good teams. He was (arguably) the most valuable player on two World Series winners – the 1973 Oakland A's and 1977 New York Yankees – and the most valuable non-pitcher on two others – the 1974 A's and the 1978 Yankees.



## Reggie Jackson's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1967	KC1	21	35	2.7	4.0	-0.5	-0.8	-
1968	OAK	22	154	20.9	18.5	2.1	0.5	-
1969	OAK	23	152	24.7	16.7	4.7	2.9	1.1
1970	OAK	24	149	16.1	15.7	1.1	-0.3	-
1971	OAK	25	150	22.7	15.8	4.2	2.7	1.2
1972	OAK	26	135	20.8	15.8	3.4	1.9	0.4
1973	OAK	27	151	23.9	16.5	5.0	3.3	1.6
1974	OAK	28	148	22.3	17.4	3.6	2.1	0.5
1975	OAK	29	157	25.5	19.1	4.5	2.7	0.9
1976	BAL	30	133	22.1	16.1	4.2	2.7	1.2
1977	NYA	31	146	21.6	15.7	3.9	2.4	0.8
1978	NYA	32	139	19.1	14.7	3.1	1.7	0.3
1979	NYA	33	131	18.6	15.6	2.3	0.9	-
1980	NYA	34	143	19.7	14.3	3.9	2.4	0.9
1981	NYA	35	94	10.5	10.1	0.9	-0.0	-
1982	CAL	36	153	19.9	17.8	2.2	0.7	-
1983	CAL	37	116	9.4	11.5	-0.3	-1.2	-
1984	CAL	38	143	13.5	11.9	1.9	0.4	-
1985	CAL	39	143	14.9	13.0	2.0	0.8	-
1986	CAL	40	132	11.8	9.9	1.9	0.7	-
1987	OAK	41	115	6.5	8.0	-0.1	-0.9	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,819  </b>	<b>367.0</b>	<b>298.2</b>	<b>54.1</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>9.0</b>
PostSeason (career)			77	10.1	8.1	1.6	0.8	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1967	KC1	21	35	3.3	3.9	-0.1	-0.4	-
1968	OAK	22	154	23.3	18.3	3.4	1.7	0.0
1969	OAK	23	152	27.2	17.3	5.7	3.8	1.9
1970	OAK	24	149	16.5	14.3	2.0	0.6	-
1971	OAK	25	150	22.5	16.8	3.7	2.1	0.6
1972	OAK	26	135	20.9	15.9	3.4	1.9	0.4
1973	OAK	27	151	22.3	16.4	4.3	2.6	1.0
1974	OAK	28	148	19.5	15.8	2.9	1.5	0.1
1975	OAK	29	157	22.4	18.0	3.4	1.8	0.1
1976	BAL	30	133	20.4	15.7	3.5	2.1	0.7
1977	NYA	31	146	18.6	15.4	2.5	1.0	-
1978	NYA	32	139	17.5	15.2	2.1	0.7	-
1979	NYA	33	131	17.3	14.6	2.1	0.9	-
1980	NYA	34	143	18.7	14.2	3.4	2.0	0.5
1981	NYA	35	94	9.9	9.2	1.0	0.2	-
1982	CAL	36	153	19.5	16.7	2.5	1.1	-
1983	CAL	37	116	9.9	11.7	-0.1	-1.1	-
1984	CAL	38	143	11.4	11.5	1.0	-0.4	-
1985	CAL	39	143	15.1	13.3	2.0	0.8	-
1986	CAL	40	132	10.6	9.7	1.4	0.2	-
1987	OAK	41	115	7.8	8.2	0.6	-0.3	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,819  </b>	<b>354.6</b>	<b>291.9</b>	<b>50.4</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>5.4</b>
PostSeason (career)			77	10.4	8.0	1.8	1.0	

## **#28: Alan Trammell**

### **Career Highlights**

Alan Trammell was one of the best shortstops in major-league history who finally got his well-deserved election to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in late 2017.

Five highlights of Alan Trammell's career:

- Alan Trammell and Lou Whitaker (#40) made their major-league debuts together in the second game of a doubleheader on September 9, 1977. Whitaker and Trammell would go on to play an American League record 1,918 games together.
- Alan Trammell was named to six All-Star teams in his career, won four Gold Gloves, and won three Silver Sluggers. For his career, Trammell batted .285/.352/.415 with 185 home runs and 236 stolen bases. He batted .300 or better seven times, scored 100 runs in a season three times, and drove in 100 runs once.
- Alan Trammell was named MVP of the 1984 World Series, in which he batted .450/.500/.800 with 2 home runs, 6 RBI, and 5 runs scored (in five games).
- In 1987, Alan Trammell had the best season of his career, batting .343/.402/.551 with career highs in batting average, on-base percentage, slugging percentage, hits (205), total bases (329), home runs (28), runs scored (109), and RBI (105). He also stole 21 bases while being caught stealing only twice.

The Tigers entered the final weekend of the 1987 season trailing the Toronto Blue Jays by one game. The Tigers swept a 3-game series against the Blue Jays on the final weekend of the series to win the American League East by two games. Trammell batted .333/.538/.667 over these three games. As measured by Player won-lost records, Trammell led Major League Baseball in both pWOPA and pWORL in 1987. Yet, Trammell inexplicably lost the American League MVP to George Bell of the Toronto Blue Jays (who went 1-for-11 in the final weekend series).

- Alan Trammell singled to center field in his first major-league plate appearance, one of two hits in his first major-league game. Alan Trammell also singled to center field in his final major-league plate appearance, on September 29, 1996, one of two hits in his final major-league game.

### At What Was Alan Trammell Elite?

Alan Trammell was one of the most under-rated players of his generation. Actually, even that sentence underrates Alan Trammell. In fact, Alan Trammell was one of the best players of his generation. The next two tables show the top 10 players in pWins over positional average (pWOPA) and replacement level (pWORLD) for the 1980s.

pWins over Positional Average Top 10 Players, 1980 – 1989					
	Player	pWins	pLoss	pWOPA	pWORLD
1	Alan Trammell	185.0	157.8	21.0	34.0
2	Robin Yount	201.7	169.9	18.9	33.3
3	Rickey Henderson	211.9	167.0	18.5	33.0
4	Lou Whitaker	184.9	156.8	17.9	30.8
5	Cal Ripken	179.9	158.2	17.6	30.2
6	Ozzie Smith	199.8	175.3	17.2	31.3
7	Mike Schmidt	187.2	145.9	16.7	29.3
8	Dwight Gooden	89.7	65.8	16.2	22.9
9	George Brett	162.0	128.0	14.9	26.2
10	Darryl Strawberry	145.2	106.4	14.9	24.3

pWins over Replacement Level Top 10 Players, 1980 – 1989					
	Player	pWins	pLoss	pWOPA	pWORLD
1	Alan Trammell	185.0	157.8	21.0	34.0
2	Robin Yount	201.7	169.9	18.9	33.3
3	Rickey Henderson	211.9	167.0	18.5	33.0
4	Ozzie Smith	199.8	175.3	17.2	31.3
5	Lou Whitaker	184.9	156.8	17.9	30.8
6	Cal Ripken	179.9	158.2	17.6	30.2
7	Mike Schmidt	187.2	145.9	16.7	29.3
8	Dwight Evans	199.5	163.7	14.1	28.2
9	George Brett	162.0	128.0	14.9	26.2
10	Eddie Murray	179.9	143.1	13.1	25.6

As measured by either pWOPA or pWORLD, Alan Trammell was the best player of the 1980s.

## Alan Trammell's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1977	DET	19	19	0.8	1.3	-0.1	-0.2	-
1978	DET	20	139	14.8	14.0	2.1	1.0	-
1979	DET	21	142	13.9	13.7	1.9	0.8	-
1980	DET	22	146	19.1	16.7	3.5	2.1	0.7
1981	DET	23	105	13.8	12.2	2.5	1.4	0.4
1982	DET	24	157	17.1	15.1	2.9	1.7	0.5
1983	DET	25	141	18.6	15.9	3.2	1.9	0.7
1984	DET	26	138	20.0	15.1	4.8	3.3	1.9
1985	DET	27	149	18.0	19.6	1.4	0.0	-
1986	DET	28	150	19.5	17.6	3.2	1.8	0.5
1987	DET	29	151	23.2	15.9	6.1	4.5	3.0
1988	DET	30	128	21.0	14.8	5.0	3.7	2.3
1989	DET	31	121	14.7	14.8	1.5	0.5	-
1990	DET	32	146	20.0	17.0	3.6	2.2	0.8
1991	DET	33	100	13.4	12.3	1.9	0.9	-
1992	DET	34	29	3.8	3.7	0.5	0.2	-
1993	DET	35	112	13.4	11.4	2.3	1.2	0.2
1994	DET	36	76	7.1	9.9	-0.4	-1.1	-
1995	DET	37	74	6.8	7.5	0.5	-0.1	-
1996	DET	38	66	4.1	7.4	-1.0	-1.5	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,289  </b>	<b>283.0</b>	<b>256.2</b>	<b>45.2</b>	<b>24.4</b>	<b>10.9</b>
PostSeason (career)			13	2.2	1.5	0.6	0.5	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1977	DET	19	19	0.9	1.5	-0.1	-0.2	-
1978	DET	20	139	15.4	15.0	2.0	0.8	-
1979	DET	21	142	14.6	15.3	1.5	0.4	-
1980	DET	22	146	19.2	17.1	3.3	2.0	0.6
1981	DET	23	105	13.0	13.0	1.7	0.6	-
1982	DET	24	157	16.7	15.4	2.5	1.3	0.1
1983	DET	25	141	18.6	15.7	3.2	2.0	0.8
1984	DET	26	138	18.1	15.9	3.3	1.9	0.5
1985	DET	27	149	18.4	18.8	2.1	0.7	-
1986	DET	28	150	20.1	17.2	3.7	2.3	0.9
1987	DET	29	151	21.9	16.7	5.0	3.5	2.0
1988	DET	30	128	16.9	13.9	3.2	2.0	0.9
1989	DET	31	121	14.7	13.9	2.0	0.9	-
1990	DET	32	146	20.0	17.2	3.5	2.1	0.8
1991	DET	33	100	12.6	11.7	1.8	0.8	-
1992	DET	34	29	3.7	3.6	0.4	0.2	-
1993	DET	35	112	13.4	12.1	2.0	0.9	-
1994	DET	36	76	8.2	8.9	0.7	-0.1	-
1995	DET	37	74	6.7	7.1	0.6	0.0	-
1996	DET	38	66	4.6	6.1	-0.2	-0.6	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,289  </b>	<b>277.6</b>	<b>256.2</b>	<b>42.2</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>6.5</b>
PostSeason (career)			13	2.0	1.6	0.4	0.3	

## **#29: Mariano Rivera**

### **Career Highlights**

Mariano Rivera was unquestionably the greatest relief pitcher in major-league history.

Five highlights of Mariano Rivera's career:

- Mariano Rivera was named to thirteen All-Star teams. He was named MVP of his final All-Star game, in 2013.
- Mariano Rivera holds the major-league record for saves (652) and games finished by a relief pitcher (952). Baseball-Reference.com calculates Mariano Rivera as having an ERA+ of 205 (ERA+ adjusts earned run average for ballpark and league run-scoring environment) which it reports as the highest ERA+ for any pitcher with at least 1,000 innings pitched.
- Mariano Rivera appeared in 96 postseason games in his career. He pitched 141 innings with an ERA of 0.70 with 42 saves and an 8-1 traditional won-lost record. He holds the major-league record for lowest postseason ERA (minimum 30 IP). Rivera holds the major-league career records for most saves in divisional series (18), championship series (13), World Series (11), and, of course, total postseason saves with 42.
- Mariano Rivera was named Most Valuable Player of the 1999 World Series (1-0, 2 saves, 0.00 ERA in 4.2 IP) and 2003 ALCS (1-0, 2 saves, 1.13 ERA in 8 IP).
- Major League Baseball introduced an award for relief pitchers, the Delivery Man Award, in 2005. Mariano Rivera won the first two Delivery Man Awards in 2005 and 2006 and won a third time in 2009. In 2014, MLB introduced separate relief pitcher awards in the American and National Leagues. The American League award is called the Mariano Rivera AL Reliever of the Year Award.

### At What Was Mariano Rivera Elite?

Mariano Rivera is the best relief pitcher in major-league history. This is true, as measured by Player won-lost records, basically, no matter how one measures it.

The next three tables show the top ten relief pitchers measured three ways (since 1947, although, given the history of relief pitching in major-league history, these are almost certainly the top ten relief pitchers ever in all three cases).

First, the top ten relief pitchers in (context-neutral) eWins over positional average earned exclusively as a relief pitcher.

Top 10 Relief Pitchers (ranked by eWOPA, RP only)					
		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	eWOPA
1	<b>Mariano Rivera</b>	<b>73.2</b>	<b>43.6</b>	<b>0.627</b>	<b>12.6</b>
2	Billy Wagner	53.7	38.8	0.581	5.8
3	Kent Tekulve	77.7	63.1	0.552	4.7
4	Rollie Fingers	84.3	69.8	0.547	4.5
5	Joe Nathan	44.0	32.5	0.575	4.3
6	Trevor Hoffman	62.8	50.4	0.555	4.2
7	Tom Henke	46.1	34.6	0.571	4.2
8	Dan Quisenberry	57.4	45.2	0.560	4.0
9	Rich Gossage	87.0	73.2	0.543	4.0
10	Craig Kimbrel	28.5	18.8	0.602	3.9

Mariano Rivera's career eWOPA as a relief pitcher is more than the second and third pitchers in this table combined.

Second, the top ten pitchers, ranked by career pWins over positional average, for pitchers who earned more wins as a relief pitcher than as a starting pitcher.

Top 10 Relief Pitchers (ranked by pWOPA)					
		pWins	pLosses	pWOPA	pWORL
1	<b>Mariano Rivera</b>	<b>126.6</b>	<b>60.8</b>	<b>29.6</b>	<b>42.3</b>
2	Trevor Hoffman	100.7	62.4	16.6	27.4
3	Joe Nathan	78.9	48.3	13.8	22.2
4	Frankie Rodriguez	90.0	56.9	13.6	23.9
5	Jonathan Papelbon	67.9	36.8	13.5	20.8
6	Lee Smith	111.3	78.2	13.3	25.1
7	Billy Wagner	80.0	50.4	12.6	21.5
8	Rich Gossage	131.2	101.9	11.7	25.6
9	John Franco	103.8	74.4	11.6	22.9
10	Dan Quisenberry	71.4	44.5	11.1	18.4

And finally, the top ten pitchers, ranked by career pWins over replacement level, for pitchers who earned more wins as a relief pitcher than as a starting pitcher.

<b>Top 10 Relief Pitchers</b>					
<b>(ranked by pWORLD)</b>					
		<b>pWins</b>	<b>pLosses</b>	<b>pWOPA</b>	<b>pWORLD</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Mariano Rivera</b>	<b>126.6</b>	<b>60.8</b>	<b>29.6</b>	<b>42.3</b>
2	Trevor Hoffman	100.7	62.4	16.6	27.4
3	Hoyt Wilhelm	138.6	116.1	10.4	25.8
4	Rich Gossage	131.2	101.9	11.7	25.6
5	Lee Smith	111.3	78.2	13.3	25.1
6	Frankie Rodriguez	90.0	56.9	13.6	23.9
7	Rollie Fingers	121.1	97.2	9.8	23.0
8	John Franco	103.8	74.4	11.6	22.9
9	Joe Nathan	78.9	48.3	13.8	22.2
10	Billy Wagner	80.0	50.4	12.6	21.5

The debate over who was the second-best relief pitcher in major-league history would be interesting (see #150, Rich Gossage). The debate over who was number one is not interesting and seems unlikely to get any more interesting any time soon.

## Mariano Rivera's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORL	pWOPA	pWO*
1995	NYA	25	19	4.0	4.2	0.4	-0.1	-
1996	NYA	26	61	9.7	3.6	3.6	2.7	1.9
1997	NYA	27	66	7.3	3.8	2.3	1.6	0.9
1998	NYA	28	54	6.4	1.9	2.6	2.1	1.5
1999	NYA	29	66	6.6	2.5	2.5	1.9	1.3
2000	NYA	30	66	7.6	4.0	2.4	1.6	0.8
2001	NYA	31	71	8.8	4.0	3.0	2.1	1.2
2002	NYA	32	45	5.0	3.9	1.1	0.4	-
2003	NYA	33	64	7.2	2.9	2.7	2.0	1.2
2004	NYA	34	74	9.4	3.6	3.5	2.6	1.7
2005	NYA	35	71	7.7	3.3	2.8	2.0	1.3
2006	NYA	36	63	7.1	3.4	2.4	1.7	1.0
2007	NYA	37	67	6.4	3.9	1.8	1.1	0.4
2008	NYA	38	64	7.6	2.6	3.0	2.3	1.6
2009	NYA	39	66	6.2	3.1	2.0	1.4	0.7
2010	NYA	40	61	5.6	3.3	1.6	1.0	0.4
2011	NYA	41	64	6.3	2.8	2.2	1.5	0.9
2012	NYA	42	9	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1
2013	NYA	43	64	7.1	3.8	2.3	1.5	0.7
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>1,115  </b>	<b>126.6</b>	<b>60.8</b>	<b>42.3</b>	<b>29.6</b>	<b>17.7</b>
PostSeason (career)			96	13.0	3.5	5.5	4.4	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORL	eWOPA	eWO*
1995	NYA	25	19	4.0	4.2	0.4	-0.1	-
1996	NYA	26	61	5.7	2.6	1.9	1.4	0.8
1997	NYA	27	66	3.8	2.8	0.8	0.4	-
1998	NYA	28	54	2.9	1.8	0.7	0.4	0.1
1999	NYA	29	66	3.5	1.6	1.2	0.9	0.5
2000	NYA	30	66	3.9	2.3	1.2	0.7	0.3
2001	NYA	31	71	4.1	2.4	1.2	0.7	0.3
2002	NYA	32	45	2.4	1.9	0.5	0.2	-
2003	NYA	33	64	3.6	2.1	1.1	0.7	0.2
2004	NYA	34	74	4.1	2.0	1.3	0.9	0.5
2005	NYA	35	71	3.9	2.0	1.3	0.9	0.5
2006	NYA	36	63	3.8	2.1	1.2	0.8	0.4
2007	NYA	37	67	3.5	2.4	0.9	0.5	0.0
2008	NYA	38	64	3.5	1.7	1.2	0.8	0.4
2009	NYA	39	66	3.6	2.3	0.9	0.5	0.1
2010	NYA	40	61	2.7	1.7	0.8	0.5	0.1
2011	NYA	41	64	3.1	1.9	0.8	0.5	0.2
2012	NYA	42	9	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
2013	NYA	43	64	3.2	2.2	0.8	0.4	0.0
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>1,115  </b>	<b>65.7</b>	<b>40.2</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>4.5</b>
PostSeason (career)			96	7.5	3.2	2.6	1.9	



## **#30: Fergie Jenkins**

### **Career Highlights**

Fergie Jenkins was the ace of the Chicago Cubs for what was arguably their best half-decade of the fifty-year period being evaluated here.

Five highlights of Fergie Jenkins's career:

- Fergie Jenkins had 20 or more traditional wins for six consecutive seasons from 1967 through 1972, all with the Chicago Cubs. He had more than 20 wins a seventh time in 1974 with the Texas Rangers.
- From 1967 through 1975, Fergie Jenkins pitched at least 270 innings for nine consecutive seasons, including five seasons with more than 300 innings pitched. Overall, Jenkins pitched 2,705.1 innings over these nine seasons, just over 300 innings per season.
- Fergie Jenkins was the first pitcher in major-league history to retire with more than 3,000 strikeouts (3,192) and fewer than 1,000 walks (997).
- Fergie Jenkins wore uniform number 31 for the Chicago Cubs. That number was later worn by Greg Maddux. In 2009, the Cubs retired uniform number 31 in honor of both Jenkins and Maddux. Maddux retired with 3,371 strikeouts and 999 walks. Maddux and Jenkins are first and second in major-league history in strikeouts by a pitcher with fewer than 1,000 walks.
- Fergie Jenkins was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1991, his third year of eligibility, with 75.4% of the vote. Jenkins is the only native Canadian enshrined in Cooperstown.

### At What Was Fergie Jenkins Elite?

Fergie Jenkins was one of the top players of the 1970s (see #4, Joe Morgan, and #89, Ron Guidry). One thing, however, is missing from Fergie Jenkins's resume: elite postseason performance. In fact, Fergie Jenkins never pitched for a team which made the postseason in his 19-year major-league career.

As measured by Player won-lost records, Fergie Jenkins was arguably the best player to never appear in a postseason games, at least since MLB integration, and at least as measured via pWins. The top 10 players who debuted since 1947 to never play in the postseason, as ranked by pWORLD, are shown in the next table.

<b>Top Players to Never Play in the Postseason, since 1947</b>					
<b>(ranked by career pWORLD)</b>					
		<b>pWins</b>	<b>pLosses</b>	<b>pWOPA</b>	<b>pWORLD</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Fergie Jenkins</b>	<b>286.9</b>	<b>250.9</b>	<b>26.8</b>	<b>50.8</b>
2	Jim Bunning	239.2	217.5	20.2	40.3
3	Ernie Banks	310.3	279.2	11.8	35.7
4	Ron Santo	294.0	259.3	12.6	35.1
5	Minnie Minoso	262.9	213.9	15.2	34.5
6	Toby Harrah	254.0	233.4	14.7	33.5
7	Larry Jackson	205.7	190.7	15.5	33.0
8	Joe Torre	245.0	210.1	13.7	32.2
9	Jim Fregosi	229.3	210.9	13.9	31.8
10	Felix Hernandez	154.4	129.0	16.0	31.2

Three of the top four players on the list were teammates for six seasons for the Chicago Cubs. Fergie Jenkins is the only one of the three who lived to see the Cubs finally make and win the World Series in 2016.

# Fergie Jenkins's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1965	PHI	22	7	0.7	0.8	0.0	-0.1	-
1966		23	61	9.5	10.1	1.0	-0.0	-
	CHN		60 /	9.5	10.0	1.0	-0.0	-
	PHI		1 /	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
1967	CHN	24	38	20.2	17.4	3.8	2.2	0.7
1968	CHN	25	40	21.2	17.7	4.2	2.7	1.1
1969	CHN	26	43	22.1	17.2	5.2	3.3	1.5
1970	CHN	27	40	21.8	16.7	5.1	3.4	1.8
1971	CHN	28	39	24.2	17.3	6.3	4.6	2.9
1972	CHN	29	36	18.7	16.1	3.6	2.1	0.6
1973	CHN	30	38	16.0	18.3	1.0	-0.5	-
1974	TEX	31	41	22.8	14.3	6.2	4.6	2.9
1975	TEX	32	37	16.6	14.8	2.6	1.1	-
1976	BOS	33	30	11.2	11.3	1.1	0.1	-
1977	BOS	34	28	10.3	10.1	1.3	0.2	-
1978	TEX	35	34	14.8	10.3	3.5	2.3	1.1
1979	TEX	36	37	14.9	14.1	1.9	0.6	-
1980	TEX	37	29	12.3	11.8	1.5	0.4	-
1981	TEX	38	19	6.6	7.0	0.6	-0.1	-
1982	CHN	39	34	14.0	14.5	1.6	0.4	-
1983	CHN	40	33	9.0	11.0	0.3	-0.6	-
CAREER (reg. season)			664	286.9	250.9	50.8	26.8	12.6
PostSeason (career)			0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1965	PHI	22	7	0.6	0.6	0.1	-0.0	-
1966		23	61	10.4	10.5	1.3	0.2	-
	CHN		60 /	10.3	10.4	1.3	0.2	-
	PHI		1 /	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	-
1967	CHN	24	38	18.0	16.7	2.8	1.4	-
1968	CHN	25	40	19.4	16.9	3.5	2.1	0.6
1969	CHN	26	43	21.0	18.1	4.2	2.4	0.6
1970	CHN	27	40	20.6	15.3	5.0	3.5	1.9
1971	CHN	28	39	23.0	17.0	5.8	4.1	2.5
1972	CHN	29	36	18.7	17.3	3.1	1.6	-
1973	CHN	30	38	16.7	17.9	1.6	0.1	-
1974	TEX	31	41	19.2	13.9	4.4	2.9	1.5
1975	TEX	32	37	15.9	15.3	2.0	0.5	-
1976	BOS	33	30	12.0	11.3	1.5	0.4	-
1977	BOS	34	28	11.2	10.8	1.5	0.4	-
1978	TEX	35	34	14.4	11.3	2.8	1.6	0.4
1979	TEX	36	37	15.5	15.5	1.6	0.2	-
1980	TEX	37	29	11.6	10.8	1.5	0.5	-
1981	TEX	38	19	5.9	7.2	0.1	-0.6	-
1982	CHN	39	34	12.2	14.1	0.8	-0.4	-
1983	CHN	40	33	10.0	10.7	1.0	0.1	-
CAREER (reg. season)			664	276.2	251.3	44.6	21.1	7.5
PostSeason (career)			0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	

## **#31: Curt Schilling**

### **Career Highlights**

Curt Schilling was a key contributor to four pennant winners and three World Series winners.

Five highlights of Curt Schilling's career:

- Curt Schilling was named to six All-Star teams. He was the starting pitcher for the National League in the 1999 and 2000 All-Star games.
- Curt Schilling finished second in Cy Young voting three times in four seasons: 2001, 2002, and 2004.
- Curt Schilling is the only pitcher in major-league history to earn a pitching win in the World Series for three different franchises: the Phillies (1993), Diamondbacks (2001), and the Red Sox (2004 and 2007).
- In 2001, Curt Schilling pitched a major-league leading 256.2 regular-season innings. He then pitched 48.1 innings in six postseason starts, giving Schilling a total of 305 innings pitched in meaningful baseball games. Schilling is the last pitcher to have pitched 300 combined regular-season and postseason innings within a single season.
- Curt Schilling's final major-league appearance was Game 2 of the 2007 World Series. Schilling started the game, pitched 5.1 innings, allowing 1 run on 4 hits, earning the traditional pitcher win in the game. Curt Schilling is the only pitcher in major-league history whose final appearance was a World Series game in which he started and won the game.

### At What Was Curt Schilling Elite?

Curt Schilling has one of the most impressive postseason resumes in major-league history. He pitched in the World Series for three different franchises, helping the Arizona Diamondbacks win the first pennant and World Championship in their history in 2001 before helping the Boston Red Sox win their first World Series in 86 years in 2004.

In 19 career postseasaon games (all starts), Schilling pitched 133.1 innings with a traditional record of 11-2 and a 2.33 ERA. Schilling was named MVP of the 1993 NLCS and shared MVP honors in the 2001 World Series with teammate Randy Johnson (#6).

The next table shows the top 10 postseason performers, since 1947, ranked by pWins over positional average.

#### Top 10 Postseason Performers, since 1947 (Ranked by pWOPA)

		pWins	pLosses	pWinPct	pWOPA
1	Mariano Rivera	13.0	3.5	0.787	4.4
<b>2</b>	<b>Curt Schilling</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>0.630</b>	<b>2.2</b>
3	Albert Pujols	12.3	6.9	0.640	2.2
4	John Smoltz	12.5	9.3	0.574	2.1
5	Derek Jeter	21.3	18.4	0.536	2.0
6	Andy Pettitte	17.1	14.1	0.548	1.9
7	Cliff Lee	6.4	3.6	0.638	1.6
8	Paul O'Neill	11.6	8.0	0.592	1.6
9	David Ortiz	9.6	6.2	0.608	1.5
10	Orlando Hernandez	7.5	4.9	0.606	1.4

## Curt Schilling's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1988	BAL	21	4	0.9	1.9	-0.3	-0.5	-
1989	BAL	22	5	0.3	0.4	-0.0	-0.1	-
1990	BAL	23	35	1.6	2.0	-0.0	-0.2	-
1991	HOU	24	56	3.6	4.0	0.2	-0.3	-
1992	PHI	25	42	12.8	11.0	2.6	1.4	0.2
1993	PHI	26	34	14.4	12.7	2.6	1.4	0.3
1994	PHI	27	13	4.4	5.8	0.0	-0.5	-
1995	PHI	28	17	6.2	6.2	1.0	0.4	-
1996	PHI	29	28	11.6	11.2	2.0	0.8	-
1997	PHI	30	35	17.1	14.6	3.8	2.1	0.4
1998	PHI	31	35	17.6	14.5	4.0	2.4	0.9
1999	PHI	32	24	12.7	10.6	2.7	1.6	0.4
2000		33	29	13.8	11.8	2.8	1.6	0.4
	ARI		13 /	6.7	5.4	1.6	1.0	0.5
	PHI		16 /	7.1	6.5	1.3	0.6	-
2001	ARI	34	35	19.3	12.4	6.0	4.4	2.8
2002	ARI	35	36	18.4	12.4	5.3	3.9	2.4
2003	ARI	36	24	10.8	8.4	2.7	1.7	0.7
2004	BOS	37	32	14.7	9.0	4.5	3.2	1.8
2005	BOS	38	32	5.6	5.6	0.6	-0.0	-
2006	BOS	39	31	12.1	9.3	2.8	1.6	0.5
2007	BOS	40	24	9.0	8.0	1.6	0.6	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>571  </b>	<b>207.0</b>	<b>172.1</b>	<b>44.9</b>	<b>25.5</b>	<b>10.7</b>
PostSeason (career)			19	9.3	5.4	3.0	2.2	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1988	BAL	21	4	0.7	1.6	-0.3	-0.4	-
1989	BAL	22	5	0.4	0.6	-0.0	-0.1	-
1990	BAL	23	35	2.1	1.7	0.3	0.1	-
1991	HOU	24	56	3.7	3.5	0.5	-0.0	-
1992	PHI	25	42	12.8	10.7	2.7	1.6	0.4
1993	PHI	26	34	14.1	14.1	1.8	0.6	-
1994	PHI	27	13	4.9	5.7	0.4	-0.2	-
1995	PHI	28	17	7.8	6.5	1.8	1.0	0.3
1996	PHI	29	28	11.3	9.6	2.5	1.5	0.4
1997	PHI	30	35	16.2	13.5	3.7	2.1	0.5
1998	PHI	31	35	17.5	14.0	4.1	2.6	1.1
1999	PHI	32	24	10.7	10.4	1.6	0.6	-
2000		33	29	13.5	11.1	3.0	1.8	0.6
	ARI		13 /	6.2	4.4	1.7	1.3	0.8
	PHI		16 /	7.2	6.7	1.3	0.6	-
2001	ARI	34	35	17.0	14.1	4.0	2.4	0.8
2002	ARI	35	36	17.6	11.8	5.1	3.7	2.3
2003	ARI	36	24	11.5	8.7	2.9	1.9	0.8
2004	BOS	37	32	14.1	9.2	4.1	2.8	1.4
2005	BOS	38	32	5.4	5.1	0.7	0.2	-
2006	BOS	39	31	13.1	10.5	2.8	1.5	0.2
2007	BOS	40	24	8.9	8.1	1.6	0.6	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>571  </b>	<b>203.3</b>	<b>170.6</b>	<b>43.3</b>	<b>24.2</b>	<b>8.9</b>
PostSeason (career)			19	8.5	6.0	2.3	1.5	

## **#32: Robin Yount**

### **Career Highlights**

Robin Yount was the best player in Milwaukee Brewers history. He was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility in 1999 with 77.5% of the vote.

Five highlights of Robin Yount's career:

- Robin Yount won MVP awards in 1982, as a shortstop, and 1989, as a center fielder. He is one of four players to win MVP awards while playing two different positions (Hank Greenberg, Stan Musial, and Alex Rodriguez are the others) and the only player to win MVP awards at two up-the-middle defensive positions.
- Robin Yount finished his major-league career with 3,142 hits (18th all-time), 2,182 singles (23rd all-time) 583 doubles (21st), 4,730 total bases (35th), 4,156 times on base (37th), 1,632 runs scored (40th), and 1,406 RBI (77th).
- Robin Yount had the most hits in the 1980s with 1,731. He also had the most doubles in the decade with 337 and was second for the decade in triples (83) and runs scored (957).
- Robin Yount's older brother, Larry Yount, had one of the more unusual major-league careers in baseball history. Larry Yount was listed in the starting lineup as the starting pitcher for the Houston Astros on September 15, 1971. He was injured warming up before the game, so he never appeared in the game. But, because he was in the lineup, Yount is officially credited with having appeared in this major-league game. Larry Yount never appeared in another game, making his final career record 1 game "played" with no plate appearances and no innings played in the field.
- Robin Yount is the only player in major-league history with more than one four-hit World Series game. Yount did it twice in the 1982 World Series, the only World Series in which he appeared. Overall, in the 7-game Series, Yount batted .414/.452/.621 with 6 runs scored and 6 RBI.

### At What Was Robin Yount Elite?

Robin Yount was great at a lot of things. He won MVP awards at two key defensive positions, collected over 3,000 hits, 500 doubles, and even hit 251 career home runs.

There is one area, however, at which Robin Yount was historically elite that may not be as well known: Robin Yount was an exceptional baserunner. He only stole 271 bases in his career (against 105 caught stealing), but where he really excelled was in the non-stolen-base aspects of basestealing, particularly at the ability to take the extra base (e.g., go first-to-third on hits) and avoid making baserunning outs. I measure these two skills in what I call component 8 (baserunner outs) and component 9 (baserunner advancement).

The next table shows the top 10 players in component 8 and 9 baserunning, ranked by wins over non-pitcher average, since 1947.

**Top 10 Players, Baserunning, Components 8 and 9, 1947 - 2017**  
**(Ranked by Wins over Non-Pitcher Average)**

		<b>eWins</b>	<b>eLosses</b>	<b>eWinPct</b>	<b>eWOPA</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Robin Yount</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>0.595</b>	<b>2.1</b>
2	Willie Davis	11.4	7.4	0.606	1.8
3	Bert Campaneris	10.9	7.2	0.604	1.8
4	Willie Wilson	9.1	5.9	0.606	1.6
5	Tim Lincecum	11.3	7.9	0.588	1.6
6	Mickey Mantle	10.1	6.7	0.601	1.5
7	Kenny Lofton	10.5	7.4	0.587	1.5
8	Rickey Henderson	14.6	11.5	0.559	1.5
9	Johnny Damon	10.6	7.7	0.580	1.4
10	Toby Harrah	9.9	7.0	0.587	1.4



## Robin Yount's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1974	MIL	18	107	10.6	13.2	0.1	-0.8	-
1975	MIL	19	147	16.1	19.8	0.6	-0.9	-
1976	MIL	20	161	18.9	22.2	0.8	-0.8	-
1977	MIL	21	154	17.6	20.6	1.2	-0.3	-
1978	MIL	22	127	18.3	16.4	3.0	1.7	0.4
1979	MIL	23	149	18.7	17.6	2.9	1.5	0.1
1980	MIL	24	143	21.7	18.0	4.3	2.8	1.2
1981	MIL	25	96	14.7	10.7	3.6	2.6	1.6
1982	MIL	26	156	25.2	17.7	6.3	4.7	3.1
1983	MIL	27	149	21.3	16.3	4.4	3.0	1.6
1984	MIL	28	159	20.0	19.3	2.8	1.1	-
1985	MIL	29	122	15.5	15.5	0.9	-0.3	-
1986	MIL	30	138	16.8	16.1	1.4	0.2	-
1987	MIL	31	158	20.8	18.0	2.7	1.2	-
1988	MIL	32	162	23.6	19.6	3.5	1.8	0.1
1989	MIL	33	160	22.0	18.6	3.3	1.8	0.3
1990	MIL	34	158	18.6	19.0	0.9	-0.5	-
1991	MIL	35	130	16.3	14.7	2.0	0.8	-
1992	MIL	36	150	18.2	17.1	1.7	0.4	-
1993	MIL	37	127	12.1	14.8	-0.3	-1.4	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,853  </b>	<b>367.0</b>	<b>345.5</b>	<b>46.1</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>8.3</b>
PostSeason (career)			17	2.5	3.1	0.0	-0.2	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1974	MIL	18	107	11.5	12.3	1.0	0.1	-
1975	MIL	19	147	17.2	19.1	1.4	0.0	-
1976	MIL	20	161	18.7	21.9	0.8	-0.7	-
1977	MIL	21	154	18.1	19.0	2.2	0.7	-
1978	MIL	22	127	16.6	16.1	2.2	1.0	-
1979	MIL	23	149	17.8	19.3	1.6	0.2	-
1980	MIL	24	143	20.9	17.2	4.3	2.8	1.3
1981	MIL	25	96	13.0	10.9	2.5	1.6	0.6
1982	MIL	26	156	24.3	18.6	5.4	3.8	2.2
1983	MIL	27	149	21.7	17.5	4.2	2.7	1.3
1984	MIL	28	159	21.5	19.2	3.7	1.9	0.2
1985	MIL	29	122	15.5	14.4	1.5	0.3	-
1986	MIL	30	138	17.9	16.1	2.0	0.8	-
1987	MIL	31	158	19.6	17.6	2.2	0.7	-
1988	MIL	32	162	20.8	17.4	3.0	1.5	0.1
1989	MIL	33	160	21.4	17.1	3.6	2.2	0.8
1990	MIL	34	158	19.5	18.6	1.6	0.2	-
1991	MIL	35	130	14.6	14.9	1.0	-0.2	-
1992	MIL	36	150	17.0	17.0	1.2	-0.2	-
1993	MIL	37	127	13.0	13.6	0.7	-0.4	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,853  </b>	<b>360.8</b>	<b>337.8</b>	<b>46.2</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>6.4</b>
PostSeason (career)			17	2.6	2.5	0.4	0.2	

### #33: Bobby Grich

#### Career Highlights

Bobby Grich was one of the best second basemen in baseball in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Five highlights of Bobby Grich's career:

- Bobby Grich was named to six All-Star teams, won four Gold Gloves, and received MVP votes five times.
- Bobby Grich's best offensive season was probably the strike-shortened 1981 season, when he led the American League in slugging percentage, .543, and tied for the league lead in home runs, 22 (in 100 games), while batting .304.
- When Bobby Grich tied for the AL lead in home runs in 1981, he became the first major-league second baseman to lead his league in home runs since Rogers Hornsby in 1925 and the first American League second baseman to lead the league in home runs since Napoleon Lajoie in 1901 (the first season in American League history).
- In 1973, Bobby Grich set a major-league record for single-season fielding percentage by a second baseman, .995. In 1985, he broke his own record with a .997 fielding percentage, committing only two errors in 116 games.
- In 1988, Bobby Grich was the first person inducted into the California Angels Hall of Fame.

#### At What Was Bobby Grich Elite?

Bobby Grich was not merely one of the best second basemen of the 1970s and 1980s, he was one of the best second basemen in major-league history. The next table shows the top 10 second basemen since integration (1947) as measured by eWins over positional average at second base.

**Top 10 Second Basemen, since 1947  
(Ranked by eWOPA, 2B only)**

		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	eWOPA
1	Joe Morgan	358.8	295.3	0.549	37.1
2	<b>Bobby Grich</b>	<b>226.3</b>	<b>197.0</b>	<b>0.535</b>	<b>19.6</b>
3	Lou Whitaker	283.1	255.3	0.526	19.5
4	Ryne Sandberg	274.6	240.6	0.533	17.6
5	Chase Utley	224.5	193.5	0.537	14.8
6	Roberto Alomar	299.9	278.5	0.518	14.7
7	Jeff Kent	257.8	232.0	0.526	13.6
8	Jackie Robinson	111.9	86.8	0.563	13.2
9	Willie Randolph	266.9	251.6	0.515	13.0
10	Craig Biggio	267.6	243.6	0.523	12.8

## Bobby Grich's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1970	BAL	21	29	2.7	2.7	0.3	0.1	-
1971	BAL	22	7	1.8	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.5
1972	BAL	23	132	19.5	15.3	3.9	2.5	1.1
1973	BAL	24	162	21.8	16.7	4.5	2.9	1.3
1974	BAL	25	160	23.2	18.1	4.6	3.1	1.5
1975	BAL	26	150	20.9	16.6	3.9	2.5	1.0
1976	BAL	27	144	20.4	16.4	3.9	2.5	1.1
1977	CAL	28	52	6.3	6.5	0.8	0.3	-
1978	CAL	29	144	15.8	14.6	2.2	1.0	-
1979	CAL	30	153	20.1	15.2	4.3	2.9	1.6
1980	CAL	31	149	16.7	16.1	2.0	0.8	-
1981	CAL	32	100	13.4	11.8	2.1	1.1	0.1
1982	CAL	33	145	18.3	16.2	2.8	1.5	0.1
1983	CAL	34	120	14.8	13.6	1.9	0.9	-
1984	CAL	35	116	13.2	12.7	1.5	0.5	-
1985	CAL	36	144	15.5	14.7	1.6	0.4	-
1986	CAL	37	97	9.5	9.8	0.8	0.1	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,004  </b>	<b>253.6</b>	<b>217.7</b>	<b>41.8</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>8.3</b>
PostSeason (career)			24	2.9	3.0	0.3	0.0	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1970	BAL	21	29	2.5	3.0	0.1	-0.2	-
1971	BAL	22	7	1.3	0.8	0.4	0.3	0.2
1972	BAL	23	132	17.0	13.7	3.3	2.0	0.8
1973	BAL	24	162	21.8	17.0	4.3	2.7	1.1
1974	BAL	25	160	23.1	19.6	3.9	2.3	0.7
1975	BAL	26	150	21.1	17.4	3.7	2.2	0.7
1976	BAL	27	144	18.8	15.5	3.4	2.1	0.8
1977	CAL	28	52	6.6	5.8	1.3	0.8	0.3
1978	CAL	29	144	16.3	16.0	1.9	0.6	-
1979	CAL	30	153	19.9	16.0	3.8	2.4	1.0
1980	CAL	31	149	17.5	15.8	2.6	1.3	0.1
1981	CAL	32	100	14.4	10.3	3.4	2.4	1.4
1982	CAL	33	145	18.4	16.3	2.8	1.5	0.2
1983	CAL	34	120	16.2	13.6	2.7	1.6	0.5
1984	CAL	35	116	13.6	12.5	1.8	0.8	-
1985	CAL	36	144	17.0	15.9	1.8	0.6	-
1986	CAL	37	97	10.1	10.1	1.0	0.3	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,004  </b>	<b>255.7</b>	<b>219.3</b>	<b>42.2</b>	<b>23.8</b>	<b>7.9</b>
PostSeason (career)			24	2.4	2.6	0.1	-0.1	

## **#34: Gaylord Perry**

### **Career Highlights**

The starting pitchers in the first major-league baseball game that I attended in person were Jim Palmer (#14) – one year after winning a Cy Young award – and Gaylord Perry (#34) – one year before winning a Cy Young award. The final score was 1 – 0 in 13 innings (neither starting pitcher got a decision).

Five highlights of Gaylord Perry career:

- Gaylord Perry won the American League Cy Young award in 1972 in his first season with the Cleveland Indians. He won the National League Cy Young award in 1978 in his first season with the San Diego Padres. Perry was the first pitcher to win a Cy Young award in each league.
- Gaylord Perry's older brother, Jim, won the American League Cy Young award in 1970. Jim and Gaylord Perry are the only brothers to each win a Cy Young award.
- Gaylord Perry had 20 or more traditional pitcher wins a total of five times in his career, for three different teams, the San Francisco Giants, Cleveland Indians, and San Diego Padres. He led his league in wins three times, once for each of these three teams. Gaylord Perry amassed a total of 314 pitcher wins in his career, 17th most alltime.
- Gaylord Perry led his league in innings pitched twice. He pitched 300 or more innings in a season six times and 250 or more innings twelve times, including eleven consecutive seasons from 1966 through 1976. His 5,350 career innings pitched is the sixth-most in major-league history.
- Gaylord Perry was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1991, his third year of eligibility, with 77.2% of the vote. The San Francisco Giants dedicated a statue of Perry on the concourse outside of AT&T Park in 2016.

### At What Was Gaylord Perry Elite?

Gaylord Perry was one of the best pitchers in baseball history (see #25, Mike Mussina) and one of the best players of the 1970s (see #4, Joe Morgan). One aspect of pitching at which Gaylord Perry was perhaps surprisingly good was at controlling opponents' running game, what I call Component 1 (basestealing). In 5,350 career innings pitched, Gaylord Perry allowed only 236 stolen bases while 222 runners were either caught stealing or picked off against Perry. That works out to one stolen base for every 22.7 innings pitched.

The next table shows the top 10 pitchers in net Component 1 wins since MLB integration.

Top 10 Pitchers, Net Component 1 Wins, since 1947						
		Throws	eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	Net Wins
1	Steve Carlton	L	8.1	5.9	0.576	2.1
<b>2</b>	<b>Gaylord Perry</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>0.608</b>	<b>2.1</b>
3	Kenny Rogers	L	3.4	1.5	0.693	1.9
4	Frank Viola	L	3.9	2.1	0.645	1.7
5	Tom Glavine	L	4.5	2.8	0.617	1.7
6	Mark Buehrle	L	2.8	1.1	0.711	1.6
7	Jim Perry	R	3.3	1.7	0.658	1.6
8	Andy Pettitte	L	3.5	2.0	0.643	1.6
9	Claude Osteen	L	3.4	1.9	0.647	1.5
10	Sam McDowell	L	2.9	1.4	0.675	1.5

What is most impressive about Perry's placement on this list is that Gaylord Perry is one of only two right-handed pitchers on the list. Ironically, the only other right-hander on the list is Gaylord Perry's older brother, Jim. Apparently, the ability to control an opponent's running game ran in the Perry genes.

## Gaylord Perry's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORL	pWOPA	pWO*
1962	SFN	23	13	2.3	2.4	0.2	0.0	-
1963	SFN	24	32	3.2	4.8	-0.4	-0.8	-
1964	SFN	25	46	12.3	10.5	2.5	1.2	-
1965	SFN	26	49	11.4	12.8	0.9	-0.2	-
1966	SFN	27	36	17.6	12.6	4.3	3.0	1.7
1967	SFN	28	42	18.0	17.9	2.3	0.7	-
1968	SFN	29	39	15.7	14.6	2.4	1.2	0.0
1969	SFN	30	40	20.9	18.8	3.8	2.0	0.1
1970	SFN	31	41	22.3	19.7	4.1	2.3	0.5
1971	SFN	32	38	16.3	16.0	2.3	0.9	-
1972	CLE	33	41	24.3	18.5	5.8	3.9	2.1
1973	CLE	34	41	19.8	18.5	2.7	0.9	-
1974	CLE	35	37	17.5	15.1	2.9	1.5	0.0
1975		36	37	17.3	15.8	2.5	0.9	-
	<i>CLE</i>		<i>15 /</i>	<i>7.0</i>	<i>7.8</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>-0.4</i>	<i>-</i>
	<i>TEX</i>		<i>22 /</i>	<i>10.3</i>	<i>8.0</i>	<i>2.1</i>	<i>1.3</i>	<i>0.4</i>
1976	TEX	37	32	13.8	10.4	2.9	1.8	0.8
1977	TEX	38	34	14.9	12.5	2.8	1.4	0.0
1978	SDN	39	37	16.1	12.0	3.8	2.6	1.5
1979	SDN	40	32	13.9	12.4	2.4	1.3	0.3
1980		41	34	11.1	11.6	0.9	-0.1	-
	<i>NYA</i>		<i>10 /</i>	<i>2.6</i>	<i>2.6</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>-0.0</i>	<i>-</i>
	<i>TEX</i>		<i>24 /</i>	<i>8.5</i>	<i>8.9</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>-0.1</i>	<i>-</i>
1981	ATL	42	23	8.6	8.3	1.3	0.6	-
1982	SEA	43	32	11.0	11.8	0.9	-0.2	-
1983		44	30	9.4	12.4	-0.3	-1.3	-
	<i>KCA</i>		<i>14 /</i>	<i>4.4</i>	<i>5.2</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>-0.3</i>	<i>-</i>
	<i>SEA</i>		<i>16 /</i>	<i>4.9</i>	<i>7.2</i>	<i>-0.5</i>	<i>-1.0</i>	<i>-</i>
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>786  </b>	<b>317.7</b>	<b>289.4</b>	<b>51.1</b>	<b>23.7</b>	<b>6.9</b>
PostSeason (career)			2	1.0	1.1	0.1	-0.0	

Gaylord Perry

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1962	SFN	23	13	2.4	2.6	0.2	-0.0	-
1963	SFN	24	32	3.5	4.7	-0.1	-0.6	-
1964	SFN	25	46	11.9	10.9	2.0	0.7	-
1965	SFN	26	49	11.7	13.2	0.9	-0.3	-
1966	SFN	27	36	15.1	12.4	3.0	1.8	0.6
1967	SFN	28	42	17.7	15.4	3.2	1.7	0.3
1968	SFN	29	39	16.7	14.3	3.1	1.9	0.6
1969	SFN	30	40	21.1	18.9	3.8	2.0	0.1
1970	SFN	31	41	20.3	17.5	3.9	2.3	0.7
1971	SFN	32	38	16.6	16.9	2.1	0.6	-
1972	CLE	33	41	22.8	17.4	5.4	3.6	1.9
1973	CLE	34	41	20.0	18.1	3.0	1.2	-
1974	CLE	35	37	18.6	13.9	4.1	2.6	1.2
1975		36	37	19.0	14.6	4.0	2.4	0.7
	CLE		15 /	7.2	7.1	0.8	0.1	-
	TEX		22 /	11.8	7.5	3.2	2.2	1.3
1976	TEX	37	32	15.2	11.0	3.4	2.2	1.0
1977	TEX	38	34	14.5	11.5	3.0	1.7	0.4
1978	SDN	39	37	15.6	14.2	2.5	1.3	0.1
1979	SDN	40	32	14.2	13.7	2.0	0.9	-
1980		41	34	12.0	11.7	1.4	0.3	-
	NYA		10 /	2.7	3.1	0.1	-0.2	-
	TEX		24 /	9.3	8.6	1.3	0.5	-
1981	ATL	42	23	9.1	9.4	1.2	0.4	-
1982	SEA	43	32	13.4	12.6	1.9	0.7	-
1983		44	30	10.8	11.3	1.0	-0.1	-
	KCA		14 /	5.0	4.7	0.7	0.2	-
	SEA		16 /	5.8	6.6	0.3	-0.3	-
CAREER (reg. season)			786	322.1	286.4	54.9	27.4	7.6
PostSeason (career)			2	1.0	1.0	0.1	0.0	

## #35: Manny Ramirez

### Career Highlights

Manny Ramirez was a hitting savant.

Five highlights of Manny Ramirez's career:

- Manny Ramirez was named to twelve All-Star teams. He received MVP votes eleven times and finished in the top 10 in MVP voting nine times.
- Manny Ramirez had a career batting line of .312/.411/.585. His OPS (on-base plus slugging, .996) is the 8th-highest in MLB history.
- Manny Ramirez batted over .300 in eleven seasons. He hit 30 or more home runs twelve times and had 100 or more RBI twelve times. He did all three - .300, 30, 100 – ten times.
- Manny Ramirez led the major leagues in the three Triple Crown stats once each, each in a different season. He led the league in batting average in 2002 (.349), in home runs in 2004 (43), and in RBI in 1999 (165). Ramirez's 165 RBI in 1999 were the most in the major leagues since Jimmie Foxx drove in 175 runs in 1938.
- In 2008, Manny Ramirez finished fourth in National League MVP voting, having played in only 53 games for the Los Angeles Dodgers. In those 53 games, Ramirez batted .396/.489/.743 with 17 home runs and 53 RBI. The Dodgers were 54-54 and 2 games out of first when they acquired Ramirez. They went 30-23 with Ramirez and won the NL West by 2 games.

### At What Was Manny Ramirez Elite?

Manny Ramirez was one of the best hitters in major-league history (see #48, Frank Thomas). Ramirez's prime was from 1995 – 2008. The next table shows the top 10 batters, ranked by batting eWins over non-pitcher average, over these fourteen seasons.

Top 10 Hitters, 1995 - 2008					
(Ranked by Batting Wins over Non-Pitcher Average)					
		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	eWOPA
1	Barry Bonds	184.0	100.2	0.647	39.4
<b>2</b>	<b>Manny Ramirez</b>	<b>197.0</b>	<b>138.7</b>	<b>0.587</b>	<b>28.7</b>
3	Jim Thome	183.4	126.2	0.592	27.9
4	Alex Rodriguez	200.1	145.6	0.579	26.9
5	Chipper Jones	193.6	142.3	0.576	22.7
6	Jason Giambi	165.8	121.1	0.578	22.0
7	Gary Sheffield	171.8	123.9	0.581	21.9
8	Jeff Bagwell	158.1	111.9	0.586	20.6
9	Carlos Delgado	177.2	135.4	0.567	20.1
10	Albert Pujols	128.8	85.4	0.601	20.0

Ramirez's prime essentially overlaps with Barry Bonds's, so he had little chance of finishing first. But finishing second to Barry Bonds in virtually anything related to baseball is still pretty damn good.



## Manny Ramirez's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORL	pWOPA	pWO*
1993	CLE	21	17	0.4	1.3	-0.3	-0.4	-
1994	CLE	22	91	10.5	8.8	1.4	0.6	-
1995	CLE	23	137	19.1	13.5	3.7	2.4	1.0
1996	CLE	24	152	21.8	17.2	3.4	1.8	0.3
1997	CLE	25	150	19.8	18.1	1.8	0.3	-
1998	CLE	26	150	21.9	17.7	3.1	1.5	-
1999	CLE	27	147	23.4	16.7	4.4	2.8	1.2
2000	CLE	28	118	17.5	12.3	3.7	2.4	1.0
2001	BOS	29	142	18.8	14.8	3.4	1.6	-
2002	BOS	30	120	17.6	13.2	3.3	1.8	0.4
2003	BOS	31	154	21.3	16.2	3.6	2.1	0.5
2004	BOS	32	152	21.3	17.4	3.0	1.4	-
2005	BOS	33	152	23.5	18.8	3.6	2.1	0.6
2006	BOS	34	130	18.4	14.0	3.1	1.9	0.7
2007	BOS	35	133	17.1	16.0	1.5	0.3	-
2008		36	153	24.2	15.3	5.6	4.0	2.4
	<i>BOS</i>		<i>100 /</i>	<i>14.5</i>	<i>9.7</i>	<i>3.2</i>	<i>2.2</i>	<i>1.1</i>
	<i>LAN</i>		<i>53 /</i>	<i>9.8</i>	<i>5.6</i>	<i>2.4</i>	<i>1.8</i>	<i>1.3</i>
2009	LAN	37	104	12.8	11.9	1.1	0.2	-
2010		38	89	9.3	7.4	1.5	0.7	-
	<i>CHA</i>		<i>24 /</i>	<i>1.4</i>	<i>1.6</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>-0.1</i>	<i>-</i>
	<i>LAN</i>		<i>65 /</i>	<i>7.9</i>	<i>5.8</i>	<i>1.4</i>	<i>0.8</i>	<i>0.3</i>
2011	TBA	39	5	0.1	0.5	-0.2	-0.2	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,296  </b>	<b>318.9</b>	<b>250.8</b>	<b>50.8</b>	<b>27.2</b>	<b>8.0</b>
PostSeason (career)			111	15.2	12.3	2.2	1.1	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORL	eWOPA	eWO*
1993	CLE	21	17	0.8	1.4	-0.2	-0.3	-
1994	CLE	22	91	10.4	9.5	1.1	0.2	-
1995	CLE	23	137	17.7	14.7	2.4	1.0	-
1996	CLE	24	152	21.4	17.4	3.2	1.6	0.0
1997	CLE	25	150	20.5	17.3	2.6	1.1	-
1998	CLE	26	150	20.5	17.2	2.6	1.1	-
1999	CLE	27	147	21.3	15.6	3.8	2.3	0.9
2000	CLE	28	118	17.2	12.2	3.5	2.2	0.9
2001	BOS	29	142	18.1	13.7	3.6	1.8	0.0
2002	BOS	30	120	16.6	11.3	3.7	2.3	1.0
2003	BOS	31	154	21.2	16.6	3.4	1.8	0.2
2004	BOS	32	152	20.0	16.2	2.9	1.4	-
2005	BOS	33	152	21.4	17.8	2.9	1.5	0.1
2006	BOS	34	130	18.9	14.7	3.0	1.8	0.6
2007	BOS	35	133	16.1	14.9	1.5	0.4	-
2008		36	153	20.3	14.8	3.7	2.3	0.9
	<i>BOS</i>		<i>100 /</i>	<i>11.8</i>	<i>9.6</i>	<i>1.8</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>-</i>
	<i>LAN</i>		<i>53 /</i>	<i>8.5</i>	<i>5.2</i>	<i>1.9</i>	<i>1.4</i>	<i>0.9</i>
2009	LAN	37	104	13.7	11.0	2.0	1.1	0.2
2010		38	89	8.6	7.3	1.1	0.4	-
	<i>CHA</i>		<i>24 /</i>	<i>1.6</i>	<i>1.5</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>-</i>
	<i>LAN</i>		<i>65 /</i>	<i>7.0</i>	<i>5.9</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>-</i>
2011	TBA	39	5	0.1	0.3	-0.1	-0.1	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,296  </b>	<b>304.9</b>	<b>243.8</b>	<b>46.7</b>	<b>24.0</b>	<b>4.7</b>
PostSeason (career)			111	15.3	12.3	2.3	1.2	

## #36: Bert Blyleven

### Career Highlights

Bert Blyleven was probably the first player for whom sabermetrics helped get him elected to the Hall of Fame. His Hall-of-Fame case was pushed most strongly by Internet writer Rich Lederer, but Blyleven was a *cause celebre* for many sabermetric fans throughout his fourteen years on the Hall-of-Fame ballot.

Five highlights of Bert Blyleven's career:

- Bert Blyleven was born in the Netherlands. He is the only person elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame as a major-league player who was born outside of the Western Hemisphere.
- Bert Blyleven pitched 200 or more innings in 16 seasons. His 4,970 career innings pitched is the 14th-most in major-league history. Blyleven had 200 or more strikeouts eight times and his 3,701 career strikeouts are the fifth-most in major-league history.
- Bert Blyleven threw 60 complete-game shutouts in his career, the ninth-highest total in major-league history.
- Bert Blyleven pitched for two World Series winners: the 1979 Pittsburgh Pirates and 1987 Minnesota Twins. For his career, Blyleven pitched 23 innings in the two World Series (4 games, 3 starts) with a traditional record of 2-1 with a 2.35 ERA. His overall postseason record was 5-1 with a 2.47 ERA in 47.1 innings pitched.
- Bert Blyleven was inducted into the Minnesota Twins Hall of Fame in 2002. He had his uniform number, 28, retired by the Twins in 2011. He was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his 14th year of eligibility, 2011, with 79.7% of the vote.

### At What Was Bert Blyleven Elite?

Bert Blyleven was the youngest player in major-league baseball when he made his major-league debut on June 5, 1970, at the age of 19. He had what was probably his best season in 1973 at the age of 22, when he pitched 325 innings and won 20 games for the only time in his career. This made Bert Blyleven one of the best young pitchers in major-league history (see #113, Fernando Valenzuela).

He continued to pitch at a very high level through the rest of the 1970s. Measured by context-neutral starting pitcher wins over positional average (eWOPA amassed only as a starting pitcher, excluding relief pitching, offense, and contextual adjustments), Blyleven was one of the top five pitchers of the 1970s, ahead of some names that were (and are) much better known.

<b>Top Starting Pitchers of the 1970s (Ranked by eWOPA, SP only)</b>				
		<b>eWins</b>	<b>eLosses</b>	<b>eWOPA</b>
1	Tom Seaver	145.0	115.4	16.6
2	Jim Palmer	149.1	122.4	15.1
3	Gaylord Perry	156.8	132.8	13.9
<b>4</b>	<b>Bert Blyleven</b>	<b>145.0</b>	<b>122.8</b>	<b>12.9</b>
5	Fergie Jenkins	146.6	130.4	10.0
6	Don Sutton	136.2	120.5	9.5
7	Nolan Ryan	140.8	127.3	8.6
8	Steve Carlton	147.0	135.5	7.7
9	Tommy John	101.7	89.5	7.4
10	Vida Blue	126.1	114.6	7.4

See also Dave Stieb (#123).

## Bert Blyleven's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1970	MIN	19	27	10.5	10.2	1.5	0.5	-
1971	MIN	20	38	18.2	15.4	3.6	2.1	0.6
1972	MIN	21	39	18.0	17.0	2.9	1.3	-
1973	MIN	22	40	18.8	13.6	4.4	2.9	1.4
1974	MIN	23	37	15.9	12.7	3.1	1.9	0.6
1975	MIN	24	35	15.1	11.8	3.1	1.8	0.5
1976		25	36	17.6	14.4	3.2	1.7	0.3
	MIN		12 /	4.9	4.7	0.6	0.1	-
	TEX		24 /	12.7	9.7	2.6	1.6	0.6
1977	TEX	26	30	13.4	10.7	2.8	1.5	0.3
1978	PIT	27	35	15.4	13.4	2.8	1.6	0.5
1979	PIT	28	38	12.9	12.4	1.8	0.8	-
1980	PIT	29	37	11.5	12.8	0.8	-0.2	-
1981	CLE	30	20	8.1	6.8	1.6	0.8	0.1
1982	CLE	31	4	1.3	1.6	0.0	-0.1	-
1983	CLE	32	24	8.9	8.5	1.2	0.4	-
1984	CLE	33	33	14.3	9.2	3.8	2.7	1.7
1985		34	37	17.5	15.1	3.3	1.5	-
	CLE		23 /	10.3	8.8	1.9	0.9	-
	MIN		14 /	7.2	6.2	1.3	0.6	-
1986	MIN	35	36	17.6	16.8	2.3	0.7	-
1987	MIN	36	37	16.8	15.8	2.5	0.8	-
1988	MIN	37	33	11.5	14.4	-0.1	-1.3	-
1989	CAL	38	33	13.9	9.4	3.6	2.5	1.3
1990	CAL	39	23	6.9	8.3	0.2	-0.6	-
1992	CAL	41	25	7.1	9.8	-0.2	-1.1	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>697  </b>	<b>291.3</b>	<b>260.0</b>	<b>47.9</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>7.3</b>
PostSeason (career)			8	3.4	2.1	1.0	0.7	

Bert Blyleven

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1970	MIN	19	27	10.1	9.5	1.5	0.6	-
1971	MIN	20	38	18.3	15.8	3.5	2.0	0.5
1972	MIN	21	39	18.4	17.5	2.9	1.2	-
1973	MIN	22	40	19.4	12.9	5.0	3.5	2.0
1974	MIN	23	37	17.5	13.1	3.8	2.5	1.1
1975	MIN	24	35	16.9	13.6	3.3	1.8	0.3
1976		25	36	17.7	14.3	3.3	1.9	0.4
	MIN		12 /	5.4	5.3	0.5	0.1	-
	TEX		24 /	12.4	9.0	2.7	1.8	0.8
1977	TEX	26	30	14.8	10.8	3.5	2.2	0.9
1978	PIT	27	35	15.6	13.2	3.0	1.8	0.6
1979	PIT	28	38	14.1	15.8	1.0	-0.2	-
1980	PIT	29	37	12.2	13.1	1.0	-0.0	-
1981	CLE	30	20	9.1	7.4	1.9	1.1	0.2
1982	CLE	31	4	1.2	1.2	0.2	0.0	-
1983	CLE	32	24	9.4	8.0	1.7	0.9	0.1
1984	CLE	33	33	15.0	10.5	3.6	2.5	1.4
1985		34	37	17.5	13.3	4.0	2.4	0.7
	CLE		23 /	10.7	8.5	2.3	1.3	0.2
	MIN		14 /	6.8	4.8	1.7	1.1	0.5
1986	MIN	35	36	16.3	15.7	2.1	0.6	-
1987	MIN	36	37	15.5	17.2	1.2	-0.5	-
1988	MIN	37	33	11.9	12.9	0.8	-0.3	-
1989	CAL	38	33	14.2	11.6	2.8	1.5	0.3
1990	CAL	39	23	7.9	8.3	0.7	-0.1	-
1992	CAL	41	25	7.4	8.7	0.4	-0.5	-
CAREER (reg. season)			697	300.5	264.3	51.1	24.8	8.6
PostSeason (career)			8	2.9	2.6	0.5	0.2	

## **#37: Hank Aaron**

### **Career Highlights**

Hank Aaron broke Babe Ruth's career home run record. Like Willie Mays, Hank Aaron only ranks this low because these rankings only consider what players did starting in 1961. Hence, the rating here misses Hank Aaron's first seven seasons, including his only MVP season. Hank Aaron was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility, 1982, with 97.8% of the vote.

Five highlights of Hank Aaron's career:

- Hank Aaron was the first person in an alphabetical list of people who played major-league baseball for almost fifty years, from the moment of his debut (on April 13, 1954) until the debut of David Aardsma on April 6, 2004.
- Hank Aaron currently holds major-league records for career RBI (2,297) and total bases (6,856). He ranks in the top five in major-league history in home runs (755, second), at bats (12,364, third), plate appearances (13,941, third), games played (3,298, third), hits (3,771, third), and runs scored (2,174, fourth).
- Hank Aaron hit 20 or more home runs for twenty consecutive seasons, from 1955 through 1974.
- Hank Aaron led the National League in batting average twice, in home runs four times, in RBI four times, in slugging percentage four times, in doubles four times, in runs scored three times, and in hits twice.
- Hank Aaron received MVP votes nineteen times, finishing in the top 10 thirteen times and the top 5 seven times. He won his only MVP award in 1957 when he batted .322/.378/.600, led the National League with 44 home runs, 132 RBI, 118 runs scored, and 369 total bases, and Aaron's Milwaukee Braves won the National League pennant and World Series.

### At What Was Hank Aaron Elite?

Hank Aaron had an extraordinary career. His career was especially extraordinary in the consistency of his career. As noted above, he hit 20 or more home runs for 20 consecutive seasons. He received MVP votes in 19 consecutive seasons.

Player wins, pWins (and eWins), are on approximately the same scale as traditional pitcher wins. One can therefore evaluate pWin totals on a similar scale to pitcher wins: 20 pWins is an excellent season, 300 pWins is an excellent career. Raw pWins are not the best tool for evaluating players – in part because raw pWins are not evenly distributed across positions (e.g., outfielders tend to earn more player decisions than infielders) – but nevertheless they can be informative (or at least fun).

Hank Aaron had 20 or more pWins for seventeen consecutive seasons, from 1955 – 1971. This is the longest such streak for any player for whom I have calculated Player won-lost records. The next table shows every player with 10 or more consecutive 20-pWin seasons since MLB integration.

#### Players with 10 or more consecutive 20-pWin Seasons, since 1947

Player	#	Seasons
<b>Hank Aaron</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1955 - 1971</b>
Willie Mays	13	1954 - 1966
Pete Rose	12	1965 - 1976
Mickey Mantle	11	1952 - 1962
Bobby Abreu	11	1999 - 2009
Ichiro Suzuki	10	2001 - 2010
Minnie Minoso	10	1952 - 1961
Nellie Fox	10	1951 - 1960

## Hank Aaron's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1954	MLN	20	122	16.9	14.7	1.9	0.6	-
1955	MLN	21	153	21.6	18.6	2.6	1.0	-
1956	MLN	22	153	25.2	18.4	4.4	2.6	0.9
1957	MLN	23	151	25.2	16.6	5.3	3.6	1.9
1958	MLN	24	153	24.9	17.3	4.6	2.9	1.3
1959	MLN	25	154	25.1	17.8	4.3	2.6	0.9
1960	MLN	26	153	24.0	17.9	4.1	2.4	0.8
1961	MLN	27	155	25.4	18.6	4.4	2.4	0.5
1962	MLN	28	156	26.9	19.7	4.5	2.7	1.0
1963	MLN	29	161	25.8	19.3	3.7	2.0	0.2
1964	MLN	30	145	21.1	18.0	2.3	0.7	-
1965	MLN	31	150	21.9	17.9	2.7	1.2	-
1966	ATL	32	158	25.3	18.7	4.0	2.3	0.6
1967	ATL	33	155	26.1	19.4	4.3	2.3	0.4
1968	ATL	34	160	27.7	20.3	4.7	2.7	0.8
1969	ATL	35	147	23.9	15.8	4.7	3.0	1.3
1970	ATL	36	150	22.9	16.3	4.3	2.7	1.0
1971	ATL	37	139	20.6	13.4	4.1	2.7	1.4
1972	ATL	38	129	16.2	12.7	1.9	0.7	-
1973	ATL	39	120	15.1	13.3	1.5	0.3	-
1974	ATL	40	112	14.3	10.9	2.2	1.2	0.2
1975	MIL	41	137	9.6	10.5	0.7	-0.6	-
1976	MIL	42	85	6.5	6.6	0.7	-0.1	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>3,298  </b>	<b>492.4</b>	<b>372.8</b>	<b>77.9</b>	<b>42.2</b>	<b>13.1</b>
PostSeason (career)			17	2.7	2.5	0.2	0.0	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1954	MLN	20	122	15.2	14.2	1.2	0.0	-
1955	MLN	21	153	22.5	18.1	3.4	1.7	0.0
1956	MLN	22	153	23.9	19.0	3.5	1.7	-
1957	MLN	23	151	24.4	17.7	4.4	2.7	0.9
1958	MLN	24	153	22.2	16.8	3.4	1.9	0.5
1959	MLN	25	154	24.9	18.0	4.1	2.4	0.7
1960	MLN	26	153	24.3	18.0	4.2	2.5	0.8
1961	MLN	27	155	25.1	19.5	3.8	1.8	-
1962	MLN	28	156	24.5	17.2	4.5	2.9	1.3
1963	MLN	29	161	27.4	18.5	4.9	3.1	1.4
1964	MLN	30	145	21.4	17.4	2.8	1.2	-
1965	MLN	31	150	22.7	17.2	3.5	1.9	0.4
1966	ATL	32	158	24.4	18.4	3.7	2.0	0.4
1967	ATL	33	155	25.0	19.2	3.8	1.9	0.0
1968	ATL	34	160	25.2	19.5	3.8	2.0	0.1
1969	ATL	35	147	23.1	15.8	4.3	2.6	0.9
1970	ATL	36	150	19.5	15.5	2.9	1.4	-
1971	ATL	37	139	20.7	13.3	4.2	2.9	1.5
1972	ATL	38	129	16.2	11.6	2.5	1.3	0.2
1973	ATL	39	120	16.5	12.5	2.6	1.4	0.2
1974	ATL	40	112	11.8	10.0	1.3	0.5	-
1975	MIL	41	137	10.0	10.3	1.0	-0.3	-
1976	MIL	42	85	6.4	5.9	0.9	0.2	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>3,298  </b>	<b>477.5</b>	<b>363.6</b>	<b>74.5</b>	<b>39.8</b>	<b>9.4</b>
PostSeason (career)			17	3.4	2.0	0.8	0.6	



## **#38: Barry Larkin**

### **Career Highlights**

Barry Larkin was one of the best shortstops in major-league history (see #97, Toby Harrah), a multi-tool star, who was one of the best combinations of batting, baserunning, and fielding of his generation. Barry Larkin was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 2012, his third year of eligibility, with 86.4% of the vote.

Five highlights of Barry Larkin's career:

- Barry Larkin was named to twelve All-Star teams. He won three Gold Gloves and nine Silver Sluggers.
- Barry Larkin won the National League MVP award in 1995 when he batted .319/.394/.492 with 15 home runs and 51 stolen bases (with only 5 caught stealing) and 98 runs scored in 131 games (out of a 144-game season) while winning his second Gold Glove.
- Barry Larkin was the first shortstop to hit 30 home runs and steal 30 bases in the same season when he hit 33 home runs and stole 36 bases in 1996.
- Barry Larkin appeared in the postseason twice, in 1990 and 1995. In 17 career postseason games, Larkin batted .338/.397/.465 with 8 stolen bases (with only one caught stealing), and 11 runs scored. He batted .353/.421/.529 with 3 runs scored in the Reds' four-game sweep of the Oakland A's in the 1990 World Series.
- Barry Larkin's brother, Stephen, had a one-game major-league career with the Cincinnati Reds. Barry played SS and batted second and Stephen played 1B and batted third in a 4-1 Reds' victory on September 27, 1998.

### At What Was Barry Larkin Elite?

Barry Larkin was named to twelve All-Star teams, starting five All-Star games. To some extent, citing his All-Star appearances may over-rate Barry Larkin, because, except for Ozzie Smith, all the good shortstops during Larkin's career played in the American League, while Larkin spent his entire career in the National League. That said, Barry Larkin was very clearly the best shortstop in major-league baseball between the primes of the great 1980s shortstops – Cal Ripken, Alan Trammell, Ozzie Smith – and the great shortstops of the early twenty-first century – Alex Rodriguez, Derek Jeter, Nomar Garciaparra.

In fact, Barry Larkin was the best shortstop of the 1990s by a wide margin.

<b>Top Shortstops of the 1990s</b> <b>(Ranked by eWOPA, SS only)</b>				
		<b>eWins</b>	<b>eLosses</b>	<b>eWOPA</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Barry Larkin</b>	<b>172.7</b>	<b>148.7</b>	<b>15.2</b>
2	Cal Ripken	133.6	123.9	9.7
3	Alex Rodriguez	89.3	76.5	9.4
4	Nomar Garciaparra	65.8	57.2	6.6
5	Derek Jeter	85.4	78.9	6.2
6	Jay Bell	168.5	163.2	6.2
7	John Valentin	68.3	62.0	5.5
8	Jeff Blauser	114.3	110.7	4.1
9	Alan Trammell	60.1	57.5	3.5
10	Jose Valentin	79.2	76.9	3.5

## Barry Larkin's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1986	CIN	22	41	5.4	4.4	1.0	0.6	0.3
1987	CIN	23	123	14.4	13.9	1.8	0.6	-
1988	CIN	24	151	22.9	18.9	3.9	2.3	0.7
1989	CIN	25	97	13.6	9.9	3.0	2.1	1.3
1990	CIN	26	158	22.8	18.6	4.1	2.6	1.1
1991	CIN	27	122	19.0	15.3	3.4	2.1	0.8
1992	CIN	28	140	21.3	16.1	4.4	3.0	1.6
1993	CIN	29	99	13.7	12.3	2.0	1.0	-
1994	CIN	30	110	16.2	13.7	2.9	1.6	0.4
1995	CIN	31	131	19.9	15.0	4.2	2.8	1.4
1996	CIN	32	152	22.0	18.4	3.8	2.2	0.5
1997	CIN	33	73	8.2	8.3	0.8	0.1	-
1998	CIN	34	145	19.9	16.6	3.4	2.0	0.6
1999	CIN	35	161	22.5	17.5	4.4	2.9	1.3
2000	CIN	36	102	11.8	12.9	0.6	-0.4	-
2001	CIN	37	45	5.7	4.7	1.0	0.5	0.1
2002	CIN	38	145	13.9	15.6	0.5	-0.7	-
2003	CIN	39	70	7.8	6.6	1.3	0.7	0.1
2004	CIN	40	111	10.8	10.6	1.1	0.2	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,176  </b>	<b>291.8</b>	<b>249.4</b>	<b>47.5</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>10.1</b>
PostSeason (career)			17	2.5	1.6	0.7	0.5	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1986	CIN	22	41	5.3	4.8	0.8	0.4	0.0
1987	CIN	23	123	13.6	13.8	1.3	0.2	-
1988	CIN	24	151	20.6	18.5	2.8	1.4	-
1989	CIN	25	97	12.2	9.9	2.2	1.4	0.6
1990	CIN	26	158	20.7	19.3	2.6	1.2	-
1991	CIN	27	122	17.5	13.5	3.4	2.2	1.0
1992	CIN	28	140	19.8	16.1	3.6	2.3	0.9
1993	CIN	29	99	12.8	11.7	1.7	0.7	-
1994	CIN	30	110	16.2	14.4	2.5	1.2	-
1995	CIN	31	131	18.0	14.8	3.3	1.9	0.6
1996	CIN	32	152	21.5	17.0	4.2	2.7	1.1
1997	CIN	33	73	8.2	6.7	1.5	0.9	0.3
1998	CIN	34	145	19.0	16.2	3.1	1.8	0.4
1999	CIN	35	161	20.4	17.8	3.1	1.6	0.1
2000	CIN	36	102	12.7	12.2	1.4	0.4	-
2001	CIN	37	45	5.0	4.7	0.6	0.2	-
2002	CIN	38	145	14.0	16.0	0.4	-0.8	-
2003	CIN	39	70	7.0	7.0	0.6	0.1	-
2004	CIN	40	111	11.1	10.8	1.2	0.3	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,176  </b>	<b>275.5</b>	<b>245.2</b>	<b>40.5</b>	<b>20.1</b>	<b>5.0</b>
PostSeason (career)			17	2.4	2.0	0.4	0.3	

## **#39: Nolan Ryan**

### **Career Highlights**

Nolan Ryan holds the major-league single-season and career records for strikeouts. He also holds the major-league record with seven career no-hitters. Ryan was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility, 1999, with 98.8% of the vote.

Five highlights of Nolan Ryan's career:

- Nolan Ryan led his league in strikeouts eleven times. He also led the league in the fewest hits allowed per nine innings eleven times. He led the league in ERA, shutouts, and WHIP (fewest walks plus hits allowed per nine innings) twice each.
- Nolan Ryan holds career records in strikeouts (5,714) and fewest hits per nine innings (6.555). He also holds the career record for walks (2,795). He is second in major-league history in games started (773, #1 is Cy Young), fifth in career innings pitched (5,386), and seventh in career shutouts (61).
- In addition to his major-league record 7 no-hitters, Nolan Ryan also threw 12 career one-hitters, tied with Bob Feller for the most in major-league history. Nolan Ryan threw 37 complete games in his career allowing 2 hits or fewer, more than twice as many as any other pitcher in major-league history: Jim Palmer (#14) and Jim Maloney had 17 such games apiece.
- Nolan Ryan was the oldest player in the American League in each of his last four seasons, 1990 through 1993. In 1990, at the age of 43, Nolan Ryan led the American League in age, strikeouts (232), WHIP (1.034), hits per nine innings (5.3), threw his sixth no-hitter, and earned his 300th pitcher win. In 1991, at the age of 44, Ryan led the league in age, WHIP (1.006), hits per nine innings (5.3), and strikeouts per nine innings (10.6), while throwing his seventh and final no-hitter on May 1, 1991, in which he struck out 16 Toronto Blue Jays.
- The four teams for whom Nolan Ryan played in his major-league career were the first four expansion teams in major-league history: the New York Mets, California Angels, Houston Astros, and Texas Rangers (who debuted as the Washington Senators).

### At What Was Nolan Ryan Elite?

Nolan Ryan was, of course, the greatest strikeout pitcher in major-league history. Ryan also pitched in parts of 26 major-league seasons and, as noted above, is second in major-league history in games started.

From the perspective of a team, a groundout is about as valuable as a strikeout. But from a pitcher's perspective, the player wins associated with outs on balls in play are shared between the pitcher and his fielders, whereas strikeouts accrue entirely to the benefit of the pitcher. Hence, Nolan Ryan had more plays in his career in which he earned all the defensive wins for the play.

The next table, then, shows the top 10 pitchers in career pWins since 1947.

<b>Top 10 Pitchers, since 1947</b>					
<b>(Ranked by career pWins)</b>					
		<b>pWins</b>	<b>pLosses</b>	<b>pWOPA</b>	<b>pWORL</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Nolan Ryan</b>	<b>356.9</b>	<b>328.0</b>	<b>24.6</b>	<b>55.9</b>
2	Warren Spahn	345.9	286.2	43.1	70.3
3	Steve Carlton	337.9	303.9	31.7	59.0
4	Phil Niekro	331.9	321.0	18.2	46.9
5	Greg Maddux	328.5	271.4	44.8	73.5
6	Don Sutton	320.9	295.3	24.6	51.6
7	Roger Clemens	318.2	228.2	51.1	79.6
8	Gaylord Perry	317.7	289.4	23.7	51.1
9	Tom Seaver	308.7	256.8	38.0	62.3
10	Robin Roberts	297.1	269.8	24.9	49.6

Nolan Ryan tops the list.

## Nolan Ryan's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORL	pWOPA	pWO*
1966	NYN	19	2	0.1	0.5	-0.1	-0.2	-
1968	NYN	21	21	7.8	9.9	0.0	-0.7	-
1969	NYN	22	25	5.1	4.8	0.8	0.2	-
1970	NYN	23	27	8.6	11.0	0.0	-0.9	-
1971	NYN	24	30	11.6	14.7	0.1	-1.0	-
1972	CAL	25	39	21.4	20.0	3.4	1.6	-
1973	CAL	26	41	22.8	15.6	5.7	3.9	2.1
1974	CAL	27	42	21.8	18.4	3.8	2.0	0.3
1975	CAL	28	28	12.5	12.1	1.5	0.4	-
1976	CAL	29	39	20.2	17.8	3.1	1.4	-
1977	CAL	30	37	19.9	16.5	3.9	2.0	0.1
1978	CAL	31	31	15.4	13.3	2.5	1.2	-
1979	CAL	32	34	16.2	13.5	2.9	1.6	0.2
1980	HOU	33	35	14.9	13.9	2.2	1.0	-
1981	HOU	34	21	10.8	7.6	2.9	2.1	1.3
1982	HOU	35	35	16.3	15.7	2.5	1.1	-
1983	HOU	36	29	13.2	11.5	2.5	1.5	0.4
1984	HOU	37	30	11.8	13.0	1.0	0.1	-
1985	HOU	38	35	13.7	13.8	1.9	0.6	-
1986	HOU	39	30	12.5	11.8	2.0	1.0	-
1987	HOU	40	34	13.4	13.8	1.8	0.6	-
1988	HOU	41	33	13.9	15.3	1.2	-0.0	-
1989	TEX	42	32	16.2	11.5	3.9	2.6	1.2
1990	TEX	43	30	12.3	10.1	2.4	1.3	0.2
1991	TEX	44	27	10.8	8.0	2.5	1.5	0.6
1992	TEX	45	27	9.6	9.4	1.3	0.3	-
1993	TEX	46	13	3.8	4.7	-0.0	-0.4	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>807  </b>	<b>356.9</b>	<b>328.0</b>	<b>55.9</b>	<b>24.6</b>	<b>6.5</b>
PostSeason (career)			9	2.7	2.6	0.4	0.2	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORL	eWOPA	eWO*
1966	NYN	19	2	0.2	0.4	-0.1	-0.1	-
1968	NYN	21	21	8.0	10.4	-0.1	-0.9	-
1969	NYN	22	25	5.1	5.0	0.7	0.2	-
1970	NYN	23	27	7.9	8.5	0.7	-0.0	-
1971	NYN	24	30	9.6	11.9	0.2	-0.8	-
1972	CAL	25	39	18.7	17.7	2.9	1.3	-
1973	CAL	26	41	21.2	15.7	4.7	3.0	1.3
1974	CAL	27	42	21.1	17.6	3.8	2.1	0.4
1975	CAL	28	28	12.1	12.4	1.2	-0.0	-
1976	CAL	29	39	17.4	15.7	2.5	1.0	-
1977	CAL	30	37	18.9	15.2	3.8	2.1	0.4
1978	CAL	31	31	15.3	13.0	2.6	1.3	-
1979	CAL	32	34	13.8	11.2	2.6	1.5	0.4
1980	HOU	33	35	14.3	14.5	1.6	0.4	-
1981	HOU	34	21	9.4	7.7	2.1	1.4	0.6
1982	HOU	35	35	14.9	16.5	1.3	-0.0	-
1983	HOU	36	29	12.2	11.7	1.8	0.8	-
1984	HOU	37	30	10.8	11.1	1.3	0.4	-
1985	HOU	38	35	13.5	14.1	1.7	0.4	-
1986	HOU	39	30	10.9	10.4	1.7	0.8	-
1987	HOU	40	34	13.9	11.5	3.1	1.9	0.7
1988	HOU	41	33	13.1	14.9	0.9	-0.3	-
1989	TEX	42	32	15.1	11.8	3.2	1.9	0.6
1990	TEX	43	30	13.1	9.8	3.0	1.9	0.8
1991	TEX	44	27	11.1	7.0	3.1	2.2	1.2
1992	TEX	45	27	9.6	8.9	1.5	0.5	-
1993	TEX	46	13	3.8	4.0	0.3	-0.1	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>807  </b>	<b>334.9</b>	<b>308.4</b>	<b>52.1</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>6.3</b>
PostSeason (career)			9	3.5	2.6	0.9	0.6	

## **#40: Lou Whitaker**

### **Career Highlights**

Lou Whitaker was the starting second baseman and leadoff hitter for one of the best teams of the past fifty years, the 1984 Detroit Tigers, who started the season 35-5 en route to 104 regular-season victories and ended the season by going 7-1 in the postseason and winning the World Series.

Five highlights of Lou Whitaker's career:

- Lou Whitaker singled and stole second base in his first major-league plate appearance on September 9, 1977. He doubled in his second major-league plate appearance, driving in Alan Trammell, who was also making his major-league debut. Overall, Whitaker went 3-for-5 with an RBI and a run scored in his debut.
- Lou Whitaker was named the American League Rookie of the Year in 1978. Three other players in my top 150 list here also received Rookie of the Year votes in 1978: Ozzie Smith (#67), who finished second in the National League, and Alan Trammell (#28) and Paul Molitor (#83), who finished behind Whitaker in American League voting.
- Lou Whitaker was named to five All-Star teams in his major-league career. He won three Gold Gloves and four Silver Sluggers. He did all of these in a five-year period from 1983 through 1987.
- Lou Whitaker became the third second baseman in major-league history (following Rogers Hornsby and Joe Morgan) to have at least 1,000 runs, 1,000 RBI, 2,000 hits, and 200 home runs in his career.
- The best game in Lou Whitaker's career, as measured by net pWins, was May 8, 1992, against the Mariners. The Mariners jumped out to a 6-0 lead by the end of the third inning. Whitaker had two hits in the game. His first was an RBI single in the eighth inning which cut the Mariners lead to 6-2. In the top of the ninth inning, Whitaker came to bat with the Tigers trailing 6-4 with runners on first and third and two out. Whitaker hit a 3-run home run to give the Tigers a 7-6 lead which ended up being the final score.

### At What Was Lou Whitaker Elite?

Lou Whitaker was one of the best second basemen in major-league history. In the listing for Bobby Grich (#33), I showed the top 10 players as measured by eWins over positional average earned as a second baseman.

Whitaker looks better in context (pWins) than out of context (eWins) and Whitaker has a playing time advantage over Bobby Grich for his career (9,967 to 8,220 plate appearances) that makes Whitaker look better relative to replacement level (pWORLD) than relative to positional average (pWOPA).

The next table, then, is similar to the table shown for Grich but with a couple of tweaks to make it more favorable to Whitaker. The table shows the top 10 players in total career pWORLD (regardless of position) for players for whom at least half of their player wins were earned as a second baseman.

Top Second Basemen, since 1947 (Ranked by pWORLD across all positions)					
		pWins	pLosses	pWOPA	pWORLD
1	Joe Morgan	374.1	292.4	46.2	72.7
2	<b>Lou Whitaker</b>	<b>306.2</b>	<b>261.0</b>	<b>28.4</b>	<b>50.2</b>
3	Roberto Alomar	314.4	280.7	20.9	44.3
4	Craig Biggio	358.5	325.4	17.3	44.0
5	Bobby Grich	253.6	217.7	23.6	41.8
6	Jeff Kent	302.6	264.8	18.9	41.1
7	Jackie Robinson	196.0	140.2	26.1	39.7
8	Robinson Cano	265.2	227.2	21.4	39.6
9	Willie Randolph	275.3	246.8	19.6	39.5
10	Rod Carew	295.1	259.8	16.9	39.2

Basically, in any list of second basemen, it's a battle for second place behind Joe Morgan (a similar phenomenon is true with third base and Mike Schmidt). And this specific ranking is not definitive. But it is possible to create a logical and consistent good-faith ranking that shows Lou Whitaker as the second-best second basemen since MLB integration.



## Lou Whitaker's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1977	DET	20	9	0.7	1.0	-0.0	-0.1	-
1978	DET	21	138	17.7	14.8	3.2	1.9	0.7
1979	DET	22	127	16.8	13.1	3.4	2.3	1.1
1980	DET	23	144	15.6	14.9	2.0	0.8	-
1981	DET	24	109	13.0	10.4	2.5	1.6	0.7
1982	DET	25	152	20.2	16.8	3.6	2.2	0.7
1983	DET	26	161	23.5	18.5	4.5	3.0	1.5
1984	DET	27	143	19.5	15.2	3.9	2.6	1.3
1985	DET	28	152	21.3	18.7	2.9	1.4	-
1986	DET	29	144	19.6	16.1	3.6	2.3	1.0
1987	DET	30	149	20.3	17.3	3.5	2.1	0.6
1988	DET	31	115	13.5	11.8	2.1	1.2	0.2
1989	DET	32	148	18.5	17.1	2.1	0.8	-
1990	DET	33	132	15.3	14.7	1.7	0.6	-
1991	DET	34	138	18.9	14.2	3.7	2.4	1.1
1992	DET	35	130	16.5	15.1	2.1	0.8	-
1993	DET	36	117	15.2	13.2	2.4	1.3	0.1
1994	DET	37	92	11.1	10.1	1.6	0.7	-
1995	DET	38	83	9.0	8.0	1.4	0.7	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,383  </b>	<b>306.2</b>	<b>261.0</b>	<b>50.2</b>	<b>28.4</b>	<b>8.9</b>
PostSeason (career)			13	1.5	1.4	0.2	0.1	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1977	DET	20	9	0.8	1.1	-0.0	-0.1	-
1978	DET	21	138	16.0	15.5	1.9	0.7	-
1979	DET	22	127	15.5	13.6	2.5	1.4	0.2
1980	DET	23	144	14.9	16.2	1.1	-0.1	-
1981	DET	24	109	12.1	10.8	1.9	1.0	0.1
1982	DET	25	152	18.4	16.3	2.8	1.5	0.2
1983	DET	26	161	22.2	17.9	4.1	2.6	1.1
1984	DET	27	143	17.8	16.1	2.6	1.3	0.0
1985	DET	28	152	20.5	18.2	2.7	1.3	-
1986	DET	29	144	18.1	16.2	2.7	1.5	0.2
1987	DET	30	149	18.7	17.8	2.4	1.0	-
1988	DET	31	115	13.3	11.6	2.1	1.1	0.2
1989	DET	32	148	19.1	15.5	3.1	1.9	0.7
1990	DET	33	132	15.6	14.5	1.9	0.8	-
1991	DET	34	138	17.7	13.8	3.2	2.0	0.7
1992	DET	35	130	16.1	14.2	2.3	1.1	-
1993	DET	36	117	14.2	11.9	2.5	1.4	0.3
1994	DET	37	92	10.5	9.7	1.5	0.6	-
1995	DET	38	83	8.1	7.2	1.3	0.6	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,383  </b>	<b>289.7</b>	<b>258.1</b>	<b>42.5</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>3.7</b>
PostSeason (career)			13	1.9	1.6	0.3	0.2	

## #41: Jim Edmonds

### Career Highlights

As measured by Player won-lost records over positional average, Jim Edmonds was the best center fielder in baseball in five of the first six years of the 2000s (2000-02, 2004-05).

Five highlights of Jim Edmonds's career:

- Jim Edmonds was named to four All-Star teams. He received MVP votes six times with two top-5 MVP finishes. He won eight Gold Gloves and one Silver Slugger.
- Jim Edmonds had an on-base percentage over .400 four times (in five seasons). He scored 100 or more runs four times and had 100 or more RBI four times.
- Jim Edmonds led his league in assists by a center fielder four times and in double plays by a center fielder three times.
- Jim Edmonds's best season was 2004, when he batted .301/.418/.643 with 38 doubles, 42 home runs, 320 total bases, 101 walks, 102 runs scored, 111 RBI, and won his seventh Gold Glove and only Silver Slugger award. Edmonds is one of only two players in major-league history to have a season in which he batted at least .300/.400/.600 with at least 30 doubles, 40 home runs, and 100 walks, runs scored, and RBI, while winning a Gold Glove award. The other was Barry Bonds (#1) in 1993.
- Jim Edmonds homered in his final major-league at bat on September 21, 2010, to give the Cincinnati Reds a 1-0 lead over the Milwaukee Brewers (in a game the Reds would eventually win 4-3).

### At What Was Jim Edmonds Elite?

Jim Edmonds was of the best defensive center fielders in baseball history (see #108, Amos Otis). He was also one of the best offensive center fielders in baseball history (see #112, Fred Lynn). Not surprisingly, this makes Jim Edmonds one of the best center fielders in baseball history (see #44, Ken Griffey Jr.).

In fact, Jim Edmonds was the best center fielder in baseball for the final fifteen years of the time period over which this list was constructed.

#### Top 10 Center Fielders, 1995 - 2010 (Ranked by eWOPA, CF only)

		eWins	eLosses	eWOPA
1	<b>Jim Edmonds</b>	<b>226.0</b>	<b>188.2</b>	<b>17.2</b>
2	Carlos Beltran	216.5	185.3	14.1
3	Ken Griffey Jr.	181.8	154.1	12.7
4	Andruw Jones	223.9	193.1	12.3
5	Bernie Williams	189.7	171.3	9.5
6	Grady Sizemore	106.1	92.7	7.0
7	Mike Cameron	213.5	196.9	6.9
8	Ray Lankford	78.9	63.9	6.5
9	Curtis Granderson	98.2	89.5	4.6
10	Vernon Wells	166.5	158.4	4.3

## Jim Edmonds's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1993	CAL	23	18	1.8	2.1	-0.0	-0.2	-
1994	CAL	24	94	8.8	8.8	0.5	-0.2	-
1995	CAL	25	141	18.9	15.1	3.5	2.2	0.8
1996	CAL	26	114	12.2	13.6	0.4	-0.7	-
1997	ANA	27	133	17.1	14.7	2.4	1.1	-
1998	ANA	28	154	20.1	17.9	2.6	1.1	-
1999	ANA	29	55	6.1	6.6	0.3	-0.3	-
2000	SLN	30	152	21.3	14.5	4.5	3.0	1.6
2001	SLN	31	150	22.2	15.6	4.6	3.0	1.4
2002	SLN	32	144	20.1	14.8	3.7	2.3	0.9
2003	SLN	33	137	17.8	14.3	2.8	1.6	0.3
2004	SLN	34	153	23.5	14.0	6.0	4.5	3.0
2005	SLN	35	142	21.7	14.6	4.6	3.3	1.9
2006	SLN	36	109	13.8	12.1	1.6	0.7	-
2007	SLN	37	116	11.2	12.9	-0.1	-1.0	-
2008		38	110	12.4	11.3	1.3	0.4	-
	CHN		84 /	10.0	7.8	1.6	1.0	0.3
	SDN		26 /	2.4	3.5	-0.3	-0.6	-
2010		40	86	7.9	7.1	0.9	0.3	-
	CIN		13 /	0.9	0.9	0.0	-0.1	-
	MIL		73 /	7.0	6.2	0.8	0.3	-
CAREER (reg. season)			2,008	256.7	210.1	39.5	21.2	10.0
PostSeason (career)			64	8.5	8.1	0.7	0.1	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1993	CAL	23	18	1.9	2.1	0.0	-0.1	-
1994	CAL	24	94	8.7	8.8	0.5	-0.2	-
1995	CAL	25	141	18.0	14.9	3.1	1.8	0.5
1996	CAL	26	114	13.8	11.4	2.3	1.2	0.2
1997	ANA	27	133	17.5	15.4	2.3	1.0	-
1998	ANA	28	154	19.5	17.6	2.4	1.0	-
1999	ANA	29	55	6.6	6.5	0.5	0.0	-
2000	SLN	30	152	20.2	14.7	3.8	2.4	1.0
2001	SLN	31	150	20.0	15.3	3.6	2.1	0.6
2002	SLN	32	144	19.6	14.4	3.7	2.3	0.9
2003	SLN	33	137	17.9	13.1	3.5	2.2	1.0
2004	SLN	34	153	21.5	14.3	4.7	3.3	1.9
2005	SLN	35	142	18.5	14.1	3.2	2.0	0.8
2006	SLN	36	109	12.1	11.5	1.0	0.2	-
2007	SLN	37	116	11.5	11.7	0.6	-0.2	-
2008		38	110	11.5	11.1	0.9	0.1	-
	CHN		84 /	9.0	7.7	1.2	0.6	-
	SDN		26 /	2.5	3.4	-0.3	-0.5	-
2010		40	86	8.3	7.7	0.8	0.1	-
	CIN		13 /	0.8	0.8	0.0	-0.0	-
	MIL		73 /	7.4	6.9	0.7	0.2	-
CAREER (reg. season)			2,008	247.0	204.5	37.0	19.2	7.0
PostSeason (career)			64	7.8	6.6	1.0	0.5	

## **#42: Jim Thome**

### **Career Highlights**

Jim Thome was perhaps the all-time king of the “three true outcomes”: walks, strikeouts, and home runs. He was also one of the best hitters of the last decade of the twentieth and first decade of the twenty-first century. Jim Thome was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility, 2018, with 89.8% of the vote.

Five highlights of Jim Thome’s career:

- Jim Thome scored 100 or more runs in a season eight times. He had 100 or more RBI nine times. He drew 100 or more walks in a season nine times. He did all three in the same season eight times.
- Jim Thome is seventh in major-league history in career walks (1,747) and career home runs (612).
- In 2008, the Chicago White Sox and Minnesota Twins ended the 162-game regular season tied for first in the AL Central Division with 88 wins. The Chicago White Sox won Game 163, 1-0, with the only run of the game scoring on a solo home run by Jim Thome leading off the bottom of the seventh inning.
- On June 23, 2012, Jim Thome hit a pinch-hit home run leading off the bottom of the ninth inning for the Philadelphia Phillies, giving them a 7-6 victory over the Tampa Bay Rays. This was Jim Thome’s 13th walk-off home run, which set a major-league record. Jim Thome is the only player whose 500th career home run was a walk-off home run (on September 16, 2007).
- Jim Thome had one sacrifice bunt in his career. On July 3, 1994, Eddie Murray (#58) led off the bottom of the seventh inning of a 7-7 tie with a single to right field. Thome bunted down the third-base line and reached first base safely on an error by Twins’ 3B Chip Hale. Murray and Thome eventually scored to give the Indians a 9-7 lead in a game that the Indians went on to win 10 – 9 in 11 innings

### **At What Was Jim Thome Elite?**

Jim Thome was one of the premier hitters in major-league history (see #48, Frank Thomas).

Jim Thome is an exemplar of a specific type of player who is fairly common in my top 150 list: a power hitter who started his career as a third baseman, usually at least somewhat defensively challenged, before moving to first base, typically for defensive reasons, and, often, eventually ending up as a DH.

Several players in the top 150 – Mark McGwire (#46), Jeff Bagwell (#56), Jason Giambi (#73) – made the transition from 3B to 1B in the minor leagues before spending their major-league careers exclusively at 1B (and DH in Giambi’s case). Other examples of this type of player who began their major-league careers at third base include Harmon Killebrew (#71), Dick Allen (#75), Tony Perez (#128), and Darrell Evans (#133). Edgar Martinez (#92) sort of qualifies, except that he went straight from 3B to DH and was shifted primarily for health reasons as opposed to fielding. Joe Torre (#117) fits the mold except that he began his career as a catcher before shifting to 3B (and, eventually, to 1B).

Steve Treder wrote a book (based on a series of articles of his that originally appeared online at the Hardball Times) on the subject of players who pass through third base on their way to or from other positions which I found interesting: *Third Base: The Crossroads* (Amazon Kindle Edition only).

The next table attempts to identify the best players of this type since MLB integration. Specifically, the table ranks the top 25 players (ranked by pWORLD) who earned at least 20 player wins at both third base and first base: the equivalent of 1-2 seasons at each position.

Top 25 1B/3B Combo Players, since 1947 (Ranked by pWORLD)					
		pWins	pLosses	pWOPA	pWORLD
1	George Brett	328.0	275.0	22.7	47.6
2	Paul Molitor	317.9	273.0	19.8	47.4
<b>3</b>	<b>Jim Thome</b>	<b>273.8</b>	<b>209.4</b>	<b>24.8</b>	<b>47.3</b>
4	Pete Rose	437.9	394.8	11.2	44.1
5	Harmon Killebrew	300.0	236.3	20.6	42.9
6	Miguel Cabrera	285.8	227.2	22.3	41.5
7	Jackie Robinson	196.0	140.2	26.1	39.7
8	Tony Perez	308.1	257.3	14.8	37.8
9	Darrell Evans	303.0	259.4	14.9	37.5
10	Dick Allen	237.1	181.9	19.2	36.1
11	Joe Torre	245.0	210.1	13.7	32.2
12	Edwin Encarnacion	178.9	155.7	8.5	23.1
13	Richie Hebner	200.1	177.1	7.5	22.7
14	Ryan Zimmerman	191.9	167.6	8.0	21.2
15	Billy Goodman	175.0	160.5	6.9	20.6
16	Pedro Guerrero	188.9	163.1	6.3	19.7
17	Kevin Youkilis	120.9	97.3	9.8	17.9
18	Ray Boone	154.4	139.5	5.4	17.4
19	Dan Driessen	168.2	146.1	4.6	16.8
20	Kevin Seitzer	160.2	149.8	4.2	16.6
21	Matt Carpenter	106.2	84.1	9.0	16.0
22	George Scott	208.2	196.1	-2.4	14.0
23	Phil Nevin	133.6	123.0	2.8	13.4
24	Todd Zeile	231.4	234.2	-5.8	12.7
25	Bob Horner	125.6	111.2	3.6	12.6

These criteria pick up a few players who are not exactly what we are looking for. George Brett and Paul Molitor were better fielders than most of the Thome-type players; Pete Rose and Jackie Robinson played too many positions.

Still, it's a fun list of players who spent at least some significant time at both corner infield positions with some success.

## Jim Thome's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORL	pWOPA	pWO*
1991	CLE	20	27	2.9	3.4	0.0	-0.2	-
1992	CLE	21	40	3.1	4.3	-0.3	-0.6	-
1993	CLE	22	47	4.8	4.8	0.4	-0.0	-
1994	CLE	23	98	11.0	9.0	2.0	1.1	0.3
1995	CLE	24	137	18.3	12.4	4.1	2.9	1.7
1996	CLE	25	151	20.3	14.1	4.4	3.0	1.6
1997	CLE	26	146	16.1	12.4	2.2	1.0	-
1998	CLE	27	123	13.9	11.0	1.9	0.9	-
1999	CLE	28	146	15.8	11.5	2.9	1.7	0.5
2000	CLE	29	158	16.1	12.8	2.4	1.0	-
2001	CLE	30	156	18.9	11.7	4.3	3.0	1.6
2002	CLE	31	147	19.4	12.8	4.0	2.6	1.2
2003	PHI	32	159	18.9	14.0	2.8	1.5	0.2
2004	PHI	33	142	15.9	12.9	2.0	0.8	-
2005	PHI	34	59	5.6	5.7	0.1	-0.3	-
2006	CHA	35	143	15.9	10.3	3.9	2.3	0.7
2007	CHA	36	129	13.3	9.4	2.9	1.5	0.2
2008	CHA	37	149	13.2	12.3	1.7	0.1	-
2009		38	124	10.3	8.0	2.1	1.0	-
	CHA		107 /	10.0	7.4	2.1	1.1	0.0
	LAN		17 /	0.3	0.6	-0.0	-0.1	-
2010	MIN	39	108	8.4	6.2	1.9	1.0	0.1
2011		40	93	7.2	6.3	1.1	0.3	-
	CLE		22 /	1.5	1.3	0.2	0.1	-
	MIN		71 /	5.6	4.9	0.9	0.2	-
2012		41	58	4.4	4.0	0.6	0.1	-
	BAL		28 /	2.4	2.3	0.3	0.0	-
	PHI		30 /	2.0	1.7	0.3	0.1	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,540  </b>	<b>273.8</b>	<b>209.4</b>	<b>47.3</b>	<b>24.8</b>	<b>8.1</b>
PostSeason (career)			71	6.2	5.6	0.6	0.1	

**Jim Thome**

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1991	CLE	20	27	2.7	3.5	-0.1	-0.4	-
1992	CLE	21	40	3.6	4.4	-0.1	-0.4	-
1993	CLE	22	47	5.7	4.7	0.9	0.5	0.1
1994	CLE	23	98	11.1	10.0	1.5	0.6	-
1995	CLE	24	137	16.8	12.9	3.1	1.9	0.7
1996	CLE	25	151	20.1	15.1	3.8	2.4	1.0
1997	CLE	26	146	17.5	12.4	2.9	1.7	0.5
1998	CLE	27	123	14.4	11.1	2.1	1.1	0.1
1999	CLE	28	146	16.1	11.9	2.9	1.6	0.4
2000	CLE	29	158	16.3	13.0	2.4	1.0	-
2001	CLE	30	156	17.5	11.9	3.5	2.2	0.9
2002	CLE	31	147	17.6	10.9	3.9	2.7	1.5
2003	PHI	32	159	19.7	13.6	3.5	2.2	0.8
2004	PHI	33	142	17.0	12.8	2.6	1.4	0.2
2005	PHI	34	59	5.3	5.1	0.2	-0.2	-
2006	CHA	35	143	14.7	9.5	3.6	2.1	0.6
2007	CHA	36	129	12.7	8.7	2.9	1.6	0.3
2008	CHA	37	149	12.9	11.1	2.1	0.6	-
2009		38	124	9.1	7.6	1.6	0.6	-
	CHA		107 /	8.8	7.2	1.6	0.7	-
	LAN		17 /	0.3	0.4	-0.0	-0.1	-
2010	MIN	39	108	9.0	5.7	2.5	1.6	0.7
2011		40	93	7.0	5.7	1.2	0.4	-
	CLE		22 /	1.8	1.4	0.3	0.1	-
	MIN		71 /	5.2	4.3	0.9	0.3	-
2012		41	58	3.7	3.5	0.5	0.1	-
	BAL		28 /	2.0	2.1	0.1	-0.1	-
	PHI		30 /	1.8	1.4	0.4	0.2	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,540  </b>	<b>270.5</b>	<b>205.3</b>	<b>47.4</b>	<b>25.3</b>	<b>7.8</b>
PostSeason (career)			71	6.1	5.6	0.6	0.1	

## **#43: Frank Robinson**

### **Career Highlights**

Frank Robinson has a strong case as one of the ten most important people in major-league history. He was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility, 1982, with 89.2% of the vote.

Five highlights of Frank Robinson's career:

- Frank Robinson won the 1956 National League Rookie of the Year award (unanimously). He won the 1961 NL MVP award (with 15 of 16 first-place votes). He won the 1966 AL MVP award (unanimously). Frank Robinson is the only player in major-league history to win an MVP award in both the American and National Leagues.
- In 1961, Frank Robinson batted .323/.404/.611 with 37 home runs, 124 RBI, and 117 runs scored. He even stole 22 bases, while being caught only three times. Robinson led the National League in slugging percentage and OPS (1.015). He was second in the league in both runs scored and RBI. That season, Robinson led the Cincinnati Reds to their first pennant in twenty-one seasons.
- In 1966, Frank Robinson won the Triple Crown, leading the American League in batting average (.316), home runs (49), and RBI (122). Robinson also led the American League in runs scored (122), total bases (367) on-base percentage (.410), slugging percentage (.637), and OPS (1.047). Robinson's Orioles won their first pennant since moving to Baltimore and the first pennant for the franchise in twenty-two seasons.
- Frank Robinson was named World Series MVP in 1966. In the Baltimore Orioles' four-game sweep of the Los Angeles Dodgers, Robinson batted .286/.375/.857 with two home runs, three RBI, and four runs scored. Robinson had as many home runs in the series as the Dodgers had total runs scored. Robinson's second home run was the only run scored in the Orioles' 1-0 victory in Game 4 to complete the sweep.
- On October 3, 1974, the Cleveland Indians hired Frank Robinson to be the first African-American manager in the history of Major League Baseball. Frank Robinson managed 2,241 major-league games for four franchises over sixteen seasons. He was named American League Manager of the Year in 1989 as the Baltimore Orioles won 33 more games than in 1988.



### At What Was Frank Robinson Elite?

In the decade of the 1960s, Frank Robinson led his league in slugging percentage and OPS four times apiece, in on-base percentage and runs scored twice apiece, and in doubles, home runs, RBI, batting average, and total bases once each. He also led his league in hit-by-pitch five times in the 1960s (and seven times overall in his career).

Put that all together and Frank Robinson was the best hitter of the 1960s, as measured by Player won-lost records.

<b>Top 10 Batters, 1960 - 1969</b>					
<b>(Ranked by Batting eWins over Non-Pitcher Average)</b>					
		<b>eWins</b>	<b>eLosses</b>	<b>eWinPct</b>	<b>eWOPA</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Frank Robinson</b>	<b>153.5</b>	<b>99.5</b>	<b>0.607</b>	<b>24.5</b>
2	Hank Aaron	163.1	110.0	0.597	23.9
3	Harmon Killebrew	146.5	94.6	0.607	23.6
4	Willie Mays	151.2	100.3	0.601	23.0
5	Mickey Mantle	113.1	69.6	0.619	20.0
6	Willie McCovey	121.1	78.3	0.607	19.5
7	Norm Cash	129.8	94.1	0.580	15.7
8	Frank Howard	125.6	90.9	0.580	15.3
9	Al Kaline	123.9	91.9	0.574	13.9
10	Roberto Clemente	141.1	108.9	0.564	13.7

## Frank Robinson's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORL	pWOPA	pWO*
1956	CIN	20	152	23.4	18.4	3.3	1.6	-
1957	CIN	21	150	20.4	18.1	1.7	0.1	-
1958	CIN	22	148	20.6	19.1	1.4	-0.1	-
1959	CIN	23	145	17.7	15.2	1.9	0.6	-
1960	CIN	24	139	18.2	14.3	2.4	1.1	-
1961	CIN	25	153	24.4	17.1	4.5	2.7	0.8
1962	CIN	26	161	26.3	17.5	4.9	3.3	1.6
1963	CIN	27	140	21.5	16.4	3.1	1.7	0.2
1964	CIN	28	156	26.2	17.9	4.9	3.1	1.4
1965	CIN	29	156	23.1	18.1	3.2	1.6	-
1966	BAL	30	155	24.7	17.0	4.4	2.8	1.2
1967	BAL	31	129	20.4	15.5	3.1	1.6	0.0
1968	BAL	32	130	16.6	14.9	1.5	0.1	-
1969	BAL	33	148	24.5	15.4	5.1	3.4	1.7
1970	BAL	34	131	18.0	13.6	3.0	1.6	0.3
1971	BAL	35	133	19.5	15.5	2.6	1.2	-
1972	LAN	36	103	14.1	12.5	1.5	0.4	-
1973	CAL	37	147	15.8	11.9	3.5	1.8	0.2
1974		38	144	12.7	10.9	2.2	0.8	-
	CAL		129 /	11.6	9.5	2.2	1.0	-
	CLE		15 /	1.1	1.3	-0.0	-0.2	-
1975	CLE	39	49	4.1	2.6	1.1	0.7	0.3
1976	CLE	40	35	2.6	2.2	0.5	0.2	-
	<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>		<b>2,804  </b>	<b>394.9</b>	<b>304.1</b>	<b>59.8</b>	<b>30.3</b>	<b>7.7</b>
	PostSeason (career)		35	4.9	3.2	1.0	0.7	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORL	eWOPA	eWO*
1956	CIN	20	152	23.1	19.0	2.8	1.1	-
1957	CIN	21	150	22.0	18.3	2.5	0.8	-
1958	CIN	22	148	20.2	17.3	2.0	0.6	-
1959	CIN	23	145	18.4	13.8	2.9	1.6	0.4
1960	CIN	24	139	19.5	13.9	3.3	2.0	0.6
1961	CIN	25	153	22.5	16.2	4.0	2.2	0.5
1962	CIN	26	161	25.2	18.0	4.1	2.5	0.8
1963	CIN	27	140	19.6	15.4	2.6	1.3	-
1964	CIN	28	156	24.6	17.7	4.1	2.4	0.7
1965	CIN	29	156	22.6	17.5	3.2	1.7	0.1
1966	BAL	30	155	26.2	18.0	4.7	3.0	1.3
1967	BAL	31	129	19.9	14.3	3.4	1.9	0.5
1968	BAL	32	130	16.2	13.6	1.8	0.6	-
1969	BAL	33	148	22.3	16.0	3.7	2.0	0.4
1970	BAL	34	131	17.8	13.3	3.0	1.7	0.3
1971	BAL	35	133	16.9	14.3	1.8	0.6	-
1972	LAN	36	103	13.3	11.2	1.7	0.7	-
1973	CAL	37	147	15.7	12.0	3.4	1.8	0.1
1974		38	144	13.2	10.1	2.8	1.4	0.1
	CAL		129 /	11.9	8.8	2.7	1.5	0.2
	CLE		15 /	1.2	1.3	0.1	-0.0	-
1975	CLE	39	49	3.6	2.5	0.9	0.5	0.1
1976	CLE	40	35	2.0	1.7	0.4	0.2	-
	<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>		<b>2,804  </b>	<b>384.5</b>	<b>294.1</b>	<b>59.2</b>	<b>30.6</b>	<b>6.0</b>
	PostSeason (career)		35	4.8	3.8	0.7	0.3	

## #44: Ken Griffey Jr.

### Career Highlights

Ken Griffey Jr. was the face of major-league baseball for much of the 1990s.

Five highlights of Ken Griffey's career:

- Ken Griffey Jr. doubled in his first major-league plate appearance (April 3, 1989 vs. Dave Stewart of the Oakland A's) and homered in his first plate appearance at home (April 10, 1989 vs. Eric King of the Chicago White Sox).
- On August 31, 1990, Ken Griffey Jr. (CF) and Ken Griffey Sr. (LF) became the first father and son to play as teammates in a major-league game. Batting second and third in the lineup, the Griffey's hit back-to-back singles their first time up in the bottom of the first inning. Both Griffey's eventually came around to score as the Mariners jumped out to a 3-0 lead in a game in which they eventually beat the Kansas City Royals 5-2.
- Ken Griffey Jr. was named to thirteen All-Star teams. He won ten Gold Gloves and received MVP votes ten times, winning the award unanimously in 1997.
- Ken Griffey Jr. hit 40 or more home runs in a season seven times. He led the American League in home runs four times. His 630 career home runs are the sixth-most in major-league history.
- Ken Griffey Jr. was the first player chosen in the 1987 MLB draft. In 2016, he became the first number one overall draft pick to be inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame with a record 99.3% of the vote.

### At What Was Ken Griffey Jr. Elite?

Ken Griffey Jr. was one of the best center fielders in major-league history.

#### Top 10 Center Fielders, since 1947

(Ranked by eWOPA)

		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	eWOPA
1	Willie Mays	421.8	322.0	0.567	37.9
2	Mickey Mantle	268.4	180.4	0.598	36.3
3	<b>Ken Griffey Jr.</b>	<b>293.4</b>	<b>247.5</b>	<b>0.542</b>	<b>21.3</b>
4	Duke Snider	224.2	172.0	0.566	19.6
5	Jim Edmonds	226.6	188.5	0.546	17.2
6	Mike Trout	119.0	84.7	0.584	16.3
7	Carlos Beltran	217.1	186.2	0.538	14.0
8	Jimmy Wynn	173.1	137.5	0.557	13.1
9	Larry Doby	183.9	147.4	0.555	13.1
10	Andruw Jones	223.9	193.1	0.537	12.3

## Ken Griffey Jr.'s Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1989	SEA	19	127	14.9	15.3	0.9	-0.1	-
1990	SEA	20	155	19.9	19.0	1.6	0.2	-
1991	SEA	21	154	20.3	16.6	3.2	1.8	0.4
1992	SEA	22	142	18.0	16.4	2.0	0.7	-
1993	SEA	23	156	20.5	16.7	3.4	1.8	0.3
1994	SEA	24	111	15.3	12.2	2.7	1.5	0.3
1995	SEA	25	72	9.5	8.3	1.5	0.7	0.0
1996	SEA	26	140	19.2	14.8	3.6	2.2	0.8
1997	SEA	27	157	21.9	16.1	4.4	2.9	1.4
1998	SEA	28	161	22.8	19.1	3.5	1.8	0.2
1999	SEA	29	160	23.4	18.2	4.2	2.5	0.9
2000	CIN	30	145	20.0	17.1	2.6	1.1	-
2001	CIN	31	111	12.7	12.9	0.8	-0.3	-
2002	CIN	32	70	6.6	7.6	-0.0	-0.6	-
2003	CIN	33	53	5.4	5.5	0.4	-0.1	-
2004	CIN	34	83	11.8	9.0	2.1	1.3	0.4
2005	CIN	35	128	17.6	17.1	1.2	-0.0	-
2006	CIN	36	109	14.1	13.2	1.2	0.2	-
2007	CIN	37	144	17.4	17.7	0.5	-0.7	-
2008		38	143	16.6	15.6	1.4	0.1	-
	CHA		41	4.0	4.4	0.1	-0.2	-
	CIN		102	12.6	11.2	1.2	0.3	-
2009	SEA	39	117	9.8	9.4	1.1	0.1	-
2010	SEA	40	33	1.7	2.7	-0.3	-0.5	-
CAREER (reg. season)			2,671	339.3	300.6	42.0	16.5	4.7
PostSeason (career)			18	2.2	2.0	0.3	0.1	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1989	SEA	19	127	15.5	14.8	1.5	0.4	-
1990	SEA	20	155	21.5	19.4	2.3	0.8	-
1991	SEA	21	154	20.5	16.0	3.7	2.3	0.8
1992	SEA	22	142	19.3	16.2	2.7	1.4	0.0
1993	SEA	23	156	22.8	16.3	4.8	3.2	1.5
1994	SEA	24	111	16.4	12.2	3.3	2.1	0.8
1995	SEA	25	72	9.0	8.0	1.3	0.6	-
1996	SEA	26	140	20.5	14.6	4.3	2.9	1.5
1997	SEA	27	157	22.3	16.3	4.6	3.0	1.5
1998	SEA	28	161	22.7	17.2	4.3	2.7	1.1
1999	SEA	29	160	22.3	18.4	3.5	1.9	0.3
2000	CIN	30	145	19.8	16.0	3.0	1.6	0.1
2001	CIN	31	111	12.8	11.6	1.5	0.5	-
2002	CIN	32	70	6.4	7.0	0.2	-0.4	-
2003	CIN	33	53	6.9	5.3	1.2	0.7	0.3
2004	CIN	34	83	10.6	10.0	1.0	0.2	-
2005	CIN	35	128	17.2	14.9	2.1	0.9	-
2006	CIN	36	109	13.4	13.9	0.5	-0.5	-
2007	CIN	37	144	18.8	18.0	1.1	-0.2	-
2008		38	143	15.7	15.2	1.1	-0.1	-
	CHA		41	3.8	4.0	0.2	-0.1	-
	CIN		102	11.9	11.2	0.9	-0.0	-
2009	SEA	39	117	9.4	9.2	1.0	-0.0	-
2010	SEA	40	33	1.6	2.6	-0.3	-0.5	-
CAREER (reg. season)			2,671	345.5	293.0	48.8	23.4	8.0
PostSeason (career)			18	2.4	1.9	0.4	0.3	

## #45: George Brett

### Career Highlights

George Brett is the greatest player in Kansas City Royals history. He was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility, 1999, with 98.2% of the vote.

Five highlights of George Brett's career:

- George Brett was named to thirteen All-Star teams in his career and received MVP votes eleven times.
- George Brett is the only player in major-league history to win batting titles in three decades: in 1976 (.333), 1980 (.390), and 1990 (.329).
- In 1976, George Brett led the American League in hits (215), triples (14), and total bases (298). Brett hit only 7 home runs in 1976, the lowest total for a league leader in total bases since 1919.
- George Brett won the American League MVP award in 1980. That year, Brett batted .390/.454/.664, leading the major leagues in all three categories, with 118 RBI in 117 games.
- George Brett appeared in the postseason seven times. For his career, he batted .337/.397/.627 in 184 postseason plate appearances (43 games) with 10 home runs, 23 RBI, and 30 runs scored. He batted .340/.400/.728 in six ALCS, winning the 1985 ALCS MVP for batting .348/.500/.826 with 3 home runs, 5 RBI, and 6 runs scored in seven games. In two World Series (1980 and 1985), Brett batted a combined .373/.439/.529 with 8 runs scored in 13 games.

### At What Was George Brett Elite?

George Brett is sixth in major-league history with 665 career doubles. He is 70th in major-league history in triples with 137, although that ranking is somewhat misleading. Brett's 137 career triples are sixth in major-league history since 1947 and he led his league in triples three times (in 1975, 1976, and 1979).

Player won-lost records are calculated across nine components. Component 6 measures whether hits-in-play go for doubles or triples (or the occasional inside-the-park home run, of which Brett hit five). The next table shows the top 10 batters in net Component 6 batting wins since 1947.

**Top 10 Batters, since 1947**  
**(Ranked by Net Component 6 Wins)**

		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	Net eWins
1	<b>George Brett</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>0.602</b>	<b>4.3</b>
2	Roberto Clemente	12.5	9.0	0.580	3.4
3	Vada Pinson	11.3	8.1	0.582	3.2
4	Johnny Callison	7.4	4.7	0.613	2.7
5	Dick Allen	7.0	4.2	0.622	2.7
6	Juan Samuel	6.8	4.1	0.623	2.7
7	Hank Aaron	12.3	9.8	0.558	2.6
8	Carl Crawford	7.2	4.6	0.608	2.5
9	Hal McRae	8.5	6.1	0.585	2.5
10	Stan Musial	10.5	8.0	0.567	2.5

## George Brett's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1973	KCA	20	13	0.6	1.0	-0.2	-0.2	-
1974	KCA	21	133	13.0	14.6	0.2	-0.8	-
1975	KCA	22	159	20.9	17.7	3.1	1.6	0.1
1976	KCA	23	159	22.4	17.2	4.0	2.5	1.1
1977	KCA	24	139	21.3	15.6	4.2	2.7	1.2
1978	KCA	25	128	16.6	14.1	2.3	1.2	-
1979	KCA	26	154	21.1	16.7	3.6	2.1	0.7
1980	KCA	27	117	18.5	10.2	5.2	4.1	3.0
1981	KCA	28	89	10.6	10.4	0.8	-0.0	-
1982	KCA	29	144	18.5	15.0	2.9	1.6	0.3
1983	KCA	30	123	16.6	13.8	2.3	1.2	0.1
1984	KCA	31	104	14.9	10.9	3.0	2.1	1.1
1985	KCA	32	155	22.1	15.3	4.8	3.4	2.0
1986	KCA	33	123	15.5	13.1	2.1	1.1	-
1987	KCA	34	115	12.6	11.8	1.0	-0.1	-
1988	KCA	35	157	18.2	15.1	2.5	1.1	-
1989	KCA	36	124	14.5	12.4	1.4	0.4	-
1990	KCA	37	142	15.4	13.9	1.5	0.3	-
1991	KCA	38	131	11.1	11.3	0.8	-0.5	-
1992	KCA	39	152	11.6	12.4	0.6	-0.7	-
1993	KCA	40	145	12.1	12.4	1.2	-0.3	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,706  </b>	<b>328.0</b>	<b>275.0</b>	<b>47.6</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>9.6</b>
PostSeason (career)			43	5.8	5.6	0.5	0.1	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1973	KCA	20	13	0.6	1.2	-0.2	-0.3	-
1974	KCA	21	133	14.4	15.1	0.7	-0.5	-
1975	KCA	22	159	20.3	18.7	2.3	0.8	-
1976	KCA	23	159	21.9	17.3	3.7	2.3	0.8
1977	KCA	24	139	19.7	16.4	3.0	1.5	0.1
1978	KCA	25	128	16.0	14.0	2.1	0.9	-
1979	KCA	26	154	22.2	18.1	3.5	2.0	0.4
1980	KCA	27	117	18.2	11.8	4.3	3.2	2.0
1981	KCA	28	89	11.7	10.5	1.3	0.4	-
1982	KCA	29	144	18.7	15.5	2.7	1.4	0.1
1983	KCA	30	123	16.2	13.2	2.4	1.3	0.2
1984	KCA	31	104	11.8	11.1	1.4	0.5	-
1985	KCA	32	155	22.5	17.5	4.0	2.5	1.0
1986	KCA	33	123	15.0	12.0	2.4	1.4	0.4
1987	KCA	34	115	12.9	10.9	1.5	0.5	-
1988	KCA	35	157	18.2	14.2	2.9	1.6	0.2
1989	KCA	36	124	13.9	11.9	1.4	0.4	-
1990	KCA	37	142	16.3	13.4	2.2	1.0	-
1991	KCA	38	131	11.2	11.8	0.7	-0.7	-
1992	KCA	39	152	12.8	12.6	1.2	-0.2	-
1993	KCA	40	145	12.5	12.9	1.2	-0.4	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,706  </b>	<b>326.9</b>	<b>280.0</b>	<b>44.7</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>5.3</b>
PostSeason (career)			43	6.2	4.9	1.0	0.6	

## **#46: Mark McGwire**

### **Career Highlights**

Mark McGwire was the first player in major-league history to hit 70 home runs in a single season.

Five highlights of Mark McGwire's career:

- Mark McGwire set the major-league record for most home runs by a rookie with 49 in 1987. McGwire led the American League in home runs and slugging percentage (.618) that season and was unanimously voted the American League Rookie of the Year.
- Mark McGwire was named to twelve All-Star teams and received MVP votes in ten different seasons. He won a Gold Glove in 1990.
- Mark McGwire led the American League in home runs twice, in 1987 and 1996. He led the National League in home runs twice, in 1998 and 1999. Mark McGwire led Major League Baseball in home runs five times, the aforementioned four and 1997, when McGwire hit 34 home runs for the Oakland A's (ninth in the AL) and 24 home runs for the St. Louis Cardinals for a combined 58 home runs.
- Mark McGwire holds the major-league career record for fewest at bats per home run (AB/HR), 10.6. McGwire has the second-, third-, and fourth-best single-season AB/HR ratios in major-league history (1998, 1999, and 1996, respectively).
- In his major-league career, Mark McGwire hit 583 home runs and scored 1,167 runs. In other words, McGwire scored 583 runs on which he drove himself in and 584 runs where he was driven in by somebody else.

### **At What Was Mark McGwire Elite?**

Mark McGwire was sometimes criticized for being “one-dimensional” because all he did was hit home runs. I will admit that I prefer watching players with a wider breadth of skills (see, e.g., #98: Carlos Beltran). But the fact is, it is certainly possible for a “one-dimensional” player to be quite valuable, especially if the player's one “dimension” is an especially valuable one. And there is nothing more valuable in baseball than a home run: boom, there's a guaranteed run (or 2 or 3 or 4). And Mark McGwire was extremely good at hitting home runs.

The next table, then, shows the players with at least 10 career eWins for whom home runs make up the largest percentage of their career eWins.

<b>Top 10 Home Run Hitters (as Percent of Total Wins), since 1947</b>					
		<b>eWins (Total)</b>	<b>eLosses (Total)</b>	<b>eWins (Home Runs)</b>	<b>Pct. of Total</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Mark McGwire</b>	<b>217.3</b>	<b>155.7</b>	<b>80.5</b>	<b>36.6%</b>
2	Sam Horn	25.0	22.1	8.6	36.0%
3	Ken Phelps	52.5	41.5	17.3	34.5%
4	Matt Davidson	11.0	12.0	3.7	34.3%
5	Joey Gallo	17.9	16.1	6.1	33.8%
6	Chris Carter	66.5	61.6	22.2	33.7%
7	Gary Sanchez	19.2	15.6	6.8	33.4%
8	Hector Villanueva	12.4	12.2	3.6	33.1%
9	Kevin Maas	31.2	29.1	9.3	32.7%
10	Bill Schroeder	29.4	31.4	8.7	32.3%

One common defense I have heard to the charge that McGwire was “one-dimensional” was that, in fact, he had two “dimensions”: he hit home runs but he also had a very good batting eye, finishing in the top 10 in his league in walks nine times.

The next table, then, mirrors the previous table, but considers both home runs and walks (and hit-by-pitches).

<b>Top 10 Three True Outcomes (as Percent of Total Wins)</b>					
		<b>eWins (Total)</b>	<b>eLosses (Total)</b>	<b>eWins ("True" Outcomes)</b>	<b>Pct. of Total</b>
1	Ken Phelps	52.5	41.5	29.4	58.7%
<b>2</b>	<b>Mark McGwire</b>	<b>217.3</b>	<b>155.7</b>	<b>118.4</b>	<b>53.8%</b>
3	Sam Horn	25.0	22.1	12.5	52.1%
4	Kevin Maas	31.2	29.1	14.4	50.9%
5	Roy Cullenbine	17.3	12.8	8.4	50.6%
6	Hank Greenberg	13.3	11.0	6.8	49.6%
7	Chris Carter	66.5	61.6	32.1	48.8%
8	Jim Thome	270.5	205.3	131.8	48.2%
9	Aaron Judge	24.3	17.5	11.1	48.0%
10	Joey Gallo	17.9	16.1	8.6	47.8%



## Mark McGwire's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORL	pWOPA	pWO*
1986	OAK	22	18	1.8	1.5	0.3	0.1	0.0
1987	OAK	23	151	17.1	13.5	2.2	1.0	-
1988	OAK	24	155	19.3	13.2	3.8	2.6	1.3
1989	OAK	25	143	16.0	12.7	1.9	0.9	-
1990	OAK	26	156	18.6	13.2	3.2	2.1	0.9
1991	OAK	27	154	13.6	13.0	1.0	-0.1	-
1992	OAK	28	139	18.0	12.5	3.4	2.2	1.1
1993	OAK	29	27	3.5	2.6	0.6	0.3	0.1
1994	OAK	30	47	4.8	3.5	0.8	0.4	0.1
1995	OAK	31	104	13.8	8.0	3.4	2.4	1.5
1996	OAK	32	130	16.6	10.0	4.0	2.8	1.7
1997		33	156	18.2	15.3	1.7	0.4	-
	<i>OAK</i>		<i>105  </i>	<i>11.9</i>	<i>10.3</i>	<i>1.1</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>-</i>
	<i>SLN</i>		<i>51  </i>	<i>6.2</i>	<i>5.0</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>-</i>
1998	SLN	34	155	21.4	12.8	4.6	3.2	1.9
1999	SLN	35	153	17.6	13.1	2.6	1.4	0.2
2000	SLN	36	89	10.4	5.7	2.5	1.8	1.1
2001	SLN	37	97	9.4	8.0	0.9	0.1	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>1,874  </b>	<b>220.1</b>	<b>158.9</b>	<b>36.7</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>9.9</b>
PostSeason (career)			42	2.7	4.1	-0.6	-0.8	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORL	eWOPA	eWO*
1986	OAK	22	18	1.5	1.7	-0.0	-0.2	-
1987	OAK	23	151	18.0	13.1	2.9	1.7	0.5
1988	OAK	24	155	16.5	14.1	1.9	0.8	-
1989	OAK	25	143	15.6	12.9	1.6	0.6	-
1990	OAK	26	156	17.1	13.6	2.3	1.1	0.0
1991	OAK	27	154	14.2	12.5	1.6	0.5	-
1992	OAK	28	139	17.7	12.0	3.4	2.3	1.2
1993	OAK	29	27	3.3	2.0	0.8	0.6	0.4
1994	OAK	30	47	4.1	3.2	0.6	0.3	-
1995	OAK	31	104	12.8	7.5	3.0	2.2	1.4
1996	OAK	32	130	15.5	9.3	3.7	2.7	1.6
1997		33	156	19.0	13.4	3.1	1.8	0.5
	<i>OAK</i>		<i>105  </i>	<i>11.7</i>	<i>8.9</i>	<i>1.7</i>	<i>0.8</i>	<i>0.0</i>
	<i>SLN</i>		<i>51  </i>	<i>7.2</i>	<i>4.5</i>	<i>1.4</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>0.5</i>
1998	SLN	34	155	23.3	13.5	5.2	3.7	2.3
1999	SLN	35	153	20.8	13.8	3.9	2.6	1.2
2000	SLN	36	89	9.6	5.6	2.1	1.5	0.9
2001	SLN	37	97	8.3	7.4	0.7	-0.0	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>1,874  </b>	<b>217.3</b>	<b>155.7</b>	<b>36.8</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>9.9</b>
PostSeason (career)			42	3.0	3.7	-0.2	-0.4	

## #47: Don Sutton

### Career Highlights

Don Sutton was a key contributor to six pennant winners over his 23-season career. He was elected to the Hall of Fame in his fifth year of eligibility, 1998, with 81.6% of the vote.

Five highlights of Don Sutton's career:

- Don Sutton's major-league debut was on the same day that Greg Maddux (#2) was born, April 14, 1966.
- Don Sutton is third in major-league history in games started (756), seventh in career innings pitched (5,283.1) and strikeouts (3,574), and tenth in career shutouts (58).
- Don Sutton holds the major-league record for seasons with at least 10 traditional pitcher wins (21).
- The Milwaukee Brewers and Baltimore Orioles entered the last game of the 1982 regular season tied for first place in the American League East. On October 3, 1982, Don Sutton and the Milwaukee Brewers defeated Jim Palmer (#14) and the Orioles, 10-2. This is the only time in major-league history that two Hall-of-Fame pitchers have matched up in a winner-take-all regular-season game.
- Don Sutton had seven games in his career in which he pitched at least nine innings, allowed no runs, but did not earn a pitcher win. This is the most known such games in major-league history.

### At What Was Don Sutton Elite?

Pitchers earn Player won-lost decisions across seven components. Component 5 measures whether balls in play become hits or outs. Component 5 decisions are shared between pitchers and fielders. This is described in considerable detail in my first book.

Don Sutton was among the best pitchers at preventing hits on balls in play for whom I have calculated Player won-lost records.

#### Top 10 Pitchers, since 1947 (Ranked by Net Component 5 Wins)

		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	Net eWins
1	Tom Seaver	37.3	33.6	0.526	3.7
2	<b>Don Sutton</b>	<b>42.8</b>	<b>39.4</b>	<b>0.521</b>	<b>3.4</b>
3	Warren Spahn	41.4	38.1	0.521	3.3
4	Charlie Hough	30.3	27.3	0.526	3.0
5	Catfish Hunter	28.3	25.4	0.527	2.9
6	Robin Roberts	40.2	37.5	0.518	2.7
7	Don Newcombe	18.0	15.4	0.538	2.5
8	Whitey Ford	26.1	23.9	0.522	2.2
9	Bob Buhl	22.5	20.2	0.526	2.2
10	Tom Glavine	36.4	34.2	0.516	2.2

## Don Sutton's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1966	LAN	21	38	14.3	11.9	2.8	1.6	0.5
1967	LAN	22	39	13.2	14.3	1.2	-0.0	-
1968	LAN	23	35	12.0	12.0	1.5	0.5	-
1969	LAN	24	41	17.9	18.4	2.3	0.6	-
1970	LAN	25	39	15.7	17.2	1.4	-0.1	-
1971	LAN	26	39	17.3	13.0	4.2	2.9	1.6
1972	LAN	27	33	17.9	13.5	4.3	2.9	1.5
1973	LAN	28	33	20.0	14.2	5.2	3.8	2.4
1974	LAN	29	40	17.6	15.3	3.2	1.9	0.6
1975	LAN	30	35	16.2	14.7	2.7	1.4	0.1
1976	LAN	31	35	17.6	14.6	3.4	2.1	0.8
1977	LAN	32	33	14.7	13.1	2.7	1.4	0.1
1978	LAN	33	34	13.7	14.0	1.5	0.3	-
1979	LAN	34	33	12.4	14.0	0.9	-0.2	-
1980	LAN	35	32	13.1	10.6	2.6	1.7	0.7
1981	HOU	36	23	9.6	8.0	2.1	1.3	0.5
1982		37	34	15.2	13.9	2.6	1.3	0.0
	<i>HOU</i>		<i>27 /</i>	<i>11.4</i>	<i>10.6</i>	<i>1.9</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>0.0</i>
	<i>MIL</i>		<i>7 /</i>	<i>3.8</i>	<i>3.3</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>0.0</i>
1983	MIL	38	31	11.1	11.5	1.0	-0.0	-
1984	MIL	39	33	11.6	11.5	1.3	0.3	-
1985		40	34	12.7	11.0	2.3	1.0	-
	<i>CAL</i>		<i>5 /</i>	<i>1.7</i>	<i>1.7</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>-0.0</i>	<i>-</i>
	<i>OAK</i>		<i>29 /</i>	<i>11.0</i>	<i>9.3</i>	<i>2.1</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>-</i>
1986	CAL	41	34	11.9	11.1	1.7	0.6	-
1987	CAL	42	35	10.2	11.2	0.8	-0.3	-
1988	LAN	43	16	5.0	6.3	0.1	-0.4	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>779  </b>	<b>320.9</b>	<b>295.3</b>	<b>51.6</b>	<b>24.6</b>	<b>8.8</b>
PostSeason (career)			15	5.9	5.3	1.0	0.5	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1966	LAN	21	38	14.8	13.2	2.5	1.2	0.0
1967	LAN	22	39	13.9	14.4	1.5	0.3	-
1968	LAN	23	35	12.4	11.5	1.9	1.0	-
1969	LAN	24	41	18.0	18.3	2.3	0.6	-
1970	LAN	25	39	15.7	18.8	0.7	-0.8	-
1971	LAN	26	39	17.3	13.5	4.0	2.7	1.4
1972	LAN	27	33	16.8	13.0	3.9	2.6	1.2
1973	LAN	28	33	16.2	12.8	3.6	2.4	1.2
1974	LAN	29	40	16.7	16.6	2.1	0.8	-
1975	LAN	30	35	15.0	13.4	2.6	1.4	0.1
1976	LAN	31	35	16.7	17.2	1.7	0.3	-
1977	LAN	32	33	14.6	14.0	2.3	1.0	-
1978	LAN	33	34	13.2	15.4	0.6	-0.6	-
1979	LAN	34	33	12.9	12.8	1.7	0.7	-
1980	LAN	35	32	11.6	11.4	1.5	0.6	-
1981	HOU	36	23	9.4	7.3	2.3	1.5	0.8
1982		37	34	14.8	13.4	2.5	1.3	0.1
	<i>HOU</i>		<i>27 /</i>	<i>11.7</i>	<i>10.2</i>	<i>2.2</i>	<i>1.3</i>	<i>0.3</i>
	<i>MIL</i>		<i>7 /</i>	<i>3.1</i>	<i>3.2</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>-</i>
1983	MIL	38	31	12.7	11.7	1.9	0.7	-
1984	MIL	39	33	12.0	11.7	1.4	0.4	-
1985		40	34	12.9	11.8	2.1	0.8	-
	<i>CAL</i>		<i>5 /</i>	<i>1.8</i>	<i>2.1</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>-0.1</i>	<i>-</i>
	<i>OAK</i>		<i>29 /</i>	<i>11.1</i>	<i>9.7</i>	<i>2.0</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>-</i>
1986	CAL	41	34	11.9	11.9	1.3	0.2	-
1987	CAL	42	35	11.3	12.1	1.1	-0.2	-
1988	LAN	43	16	4.9	5.8	0.3	-0.2	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>779  </b>	<b>315.8</b>	<b>302.0</b>	<b>45.7</b>	<b>18.6</b>	<b>4.9</b>
PostSeason (career)			15	6.3	6.2	0.9	0.3	

## **#48: Frank Thomas**

### **Career Highlights**

Frank Thomas had one of my all-time favorite nicknames, “The Big Hurt”, which perfectly described what he did to large numbers of baseballs and pitchers over his career.

Five highlights of Frank Thomas’s career:

- Frank Thomas won back-to-back MVP awards in 1993 (unanimously) and 1994. Thomas received MVP votes nine other times, with four other top-5 finishes in MVP voting.
- Frank Thomas batted over .300/.400/.500 with at least 100 runs scored and 100 RBI in each of his first seven seasons. One of these seasons was 1994 which was only 113 games long (for the White Sox) because of a players’ strike. That season, Thomas scored 106 runs and had 101 RBI in 113 games played.
- Thomas is the only player in major-league history with seven consecutive seasons with at least a .300 batting average, 100 walks, 100 runs, 100 RBI, and 20 home runs.
- Overall, in his career, Thomas batted .300 or better nine times, had an on-base percentage of .400 or better nine times, scored 100 or more runs nine times, had 100 or more RBI eleven times, and hit 30 or more home runs nine times.
- Frank Thomas’s number 35 was retired by the Chicago White Sox in 2010. The White Sox unveiled a statue of Thomas at their stadium in 2011. In 2014, Thomas was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility, with 83.7% of the vote.

## At What Was Frank Thomas Elite?

Frank Thomas was an elite hitter: one of the best hitters in baseball history. The next table shows the top 25 players in batting wins over non-pitcher average since MLB integration.

Top 25 Batters, since 1947 (Ranked by Career eWins over Non-Pitcher Average)					
		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	eWOPA
1	Barry Bonds	306.9	184.6	0.624	56.6
2	Hank Aaron	332.7	232.9	0.588	44.8
3	Mickey Mantle	243.2	150.3	0.618	42.8
4	Willie Mays	295.0	200.3	0.596	42.6
5	Frank Robinson	276.3	191.7	0.590	38.3
6	Ted Williams	167.2	94.1	0.640	34.2
7	Mike Schmidt	231.1	159.0	0.592	32.5
<b>8</b>	<b>Frank Thomas</b>	<b>222.4</b>	<b>157.3</b>	<b>0.586</b>	<b>32.3</b>
9	Jim Thome	225.7	160.8	0.584	31.7
10	Alex Rodriguez	263.6	200.3	0.568	31.1
11	Manny Ramirez	221.1	158.5	0.582	30.7
12	Harmon Killebrew	226.9	159.4	0.587	30.4
13	Willie McCovey	223.3	155.8	0.589	30.2
14	Albert Pujols	254.0	188.7	0.574	30.0
15	Reggie Jackson	251.2	189.0	0.571	29.9
16	Stan Musial	233.0	166.4	0.583	29.5
17	Eddie Mathews	228.2	162.2	0.585	29.2
18	Mark McGwire	178.7	118.6	0.601	29.2
19	Jeff Bagwell	213.3	151.7	0.584	27.4
20	Carl Yastrzemski	293.5	233.8	0.557	26.9
21	Willie Stargell	208.5	148.2	0.585	26.8
22	Gary Sheffield	235.5	178.2	0.569	26.0
23	Chipper Jones	233.6	175.5	0.571	25.5
24	Miguel Cabrera	211.9	158.8	0.572	25.3
25	Dick Allen	172.5	119.4	0.591	24.1

## Frank Thomas's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1990	CHA	22	60	7.1	4.9	1.3	0.9	0.4
1991	CHA	23	158	18.3	12.1	4.2	2.6	1.0
1992	CHA	24	160	21.6	15.7	3.8	2.3	0.9
1993	CHA	25	153	21.2	14.1	4.3	2.9	1.4
1994	CHA	26	113	15.2	9.3	3.4	2.4	1.3
1995	CHA	27	145	15.8	12.8	2.3	0.9	-
1996	CHA	28	141	16.4	13.5	2.1	0.9	-
1997	CHA	29	146	17.8	12.0	3.6	2.2	0.9
1998	CHA	30	160	14.9	12.3	2.4	0.7	-
1999	CHA	31	135	13.7	11.3	2.1	0.8	-
2000	CHA	32	159	17.1	11.8	3.9	2.1	0.4
2001	CHA	33	20	1.1	1.5	-0.0	-0.2	-
2002	CHA	34	148	12.0	11.8	1.4	-0.1	-
2003	CHA	35	153	17.1	12.4	3.7	1.9	0.2
2004	CHA	36	74	7.4	4.6	2.0	1.3	0.5
2005	CHA	37	34	2.9	2.1	0.6	0.4	0.1
2006	OAK	38	137	14.8	10.3	3.3	1.8	0.2
2007	TOR	39	155	13.7	11.9	2.0	0.4	-
2008		40	71	6.0	6.4	0.4	-0.4	-
	OAK		55 /	4.4	5.1	0.1	-0.5	-
	TOR		16 /	1.6	1.3	0.3	0.1	-
CAREER (reg. season)			2,322	254.2	190.8	46.7	23.7	7.3
PostSeason (career)			16	1.3	1.5	0.0	-0.1	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1990	CHA	22	60	6.6	4.6	1.2	0.8	0.4
1991	CHA	23	158	18.8	12.6	4.2	2.6	1.0
1992	CHA	24	160	20.9	15.0	3.7	2.3	0.9
1993	CHA	25	153	19.0	13.8	3.3	2.0	0.6
1994	CHA	26	113	15.4	9.3	3.6	2.5	1.4
1995	CHA	27	145	17.8	12.7	3.4	1.9	0.5
1996	CHA	28	141	18.0	13.2	3.0	1.8	0.5
1997	CHA	29	146	17.5	12.2	3.3	1.9	0.6
1998	CHA	30	160	14.8	12.8	2.1	0.4	-
1999	CHA	31	135	13.2	11.3	1.8	0.5	-
2000	CHA	32	159	16.4	11.5	3.7	1.9	0.2
2001	CHA	33	20	1.4	1.4	0.2	-0.0	-
2002	CHA	34	148	11.6	10.4	1.8	0.4	-
2003	CHA	35	153	15.5	11.1	3.3	1.8	0.2
2004	CHA	36	74	7.4	4.6	2.0	1.3	0.5
2005	CHA	37	34	3.1	2.3	0.6	0.3	-
2006	OAK	38	137	13.3	10.0	2.7	1.2	-
2007	TOR	39	155	13.2	11.0	2.1	0.6	-
2008		40	71	5.6	5.7	0.5	-0.2	-
	OAK		55 /	4.4	4.3	0.5	-0.1	-
	TOR		16 /	1.2	1.4	0.0	-0.1	-
CAREER (reg. season)			2,322	249.5	185.5	46.6	24.1	6.8
PostSeason (career)			16	1.4	1.3	0.1	0.0	

## **#49: Willie McCovey**

### **Career Highlights**

Willie McCovey was one of the most feared hitters of the 1960s. He was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility, 1986, with 81.4% of the vote.

Five highlights of Willie McCovey's career:

- Willie McCovey made his major-league debut on July 30, 1959. In that game, McCovey went 4-for-4 against Hall-of-Fame pitcher Robin Roberts with two triples and two RBI in a 7-2 Giants win over the Philadelphia Phillies.
- Willie McCovey won the 1959 National League Rookie of the Year award unanimously despite playing in only 52 games that season. Over those 52 games, McCovey batted .354/.429/.656 with 13 home runs and 38 RBI.
- Willie McCovey won the 1969 National League MVP award. In 1969, McCovey led the National League in on-base percentage (.453), slugging percentage (.656), home runs (45), and RBI (126).
- In his career, Willie McCovey led the National League in home runs three times (1963, 1968, and 1969), in slugging percentage three times (1968 – 1970), in RBI twice (1968 and 1969), and in walks once (in 1970). McCovey led the National League in fewest at bats per home run five times (1963, 1967 – 1970).
- Willie McCovey led the National League in intentional walks four times (1969 – 1971, 1973). Willie McCovey drew 45 and 40 intentional walks in 1969 and 1970. These were the two highest single-season intentional walks totals before Barry Bonds (since intentional walks became an official statistic in 1955). McCovey's 260 career intentional walks are the fourth-most all-time, behind Bonds (#1), Albert Pujols (#18), and Hank Aaron (#37).

### At What Was Willie McCovey Elite?

Willie McCovey was one of the best players of the 1960s (see #21, Juan Marichal) and one of the best hitters in major-league history (see #48, Frank Thomas).

One component of batting that has been somewhat under-valued in traditional baseball statistics is the ability to advance runners. The ability to drive in runners is implicitly captured in RBI (in which Willie McCovey led his league twice and in which McCovey is in the top 50 all-time for his career), but RBI do not pick up the ability to move a baserunner from first-to-third on a single or advance a runner from second to third via a long fly ball. Baserunner advancement is what I call Component 9. Offensive credit for Component 9 is shared between batters and baserunners as explained in my first book.

The next table shows the top 10 players in net Component 9 batting wins (wins minus losses) since MLB integration.

Top 10 Batters, Baserunner Advancement, since 1947 (Ranked by Net Component 9 Wins)					
		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	Net eWins
1	<b>Willie McCovey</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>0.612</b>	<b>2.5</b>
2	Rusty Staub	8.9	6.6	0.573	2.3
3	Boog Powell	5.8	3.7	0.612	2.1
4	Kent Hrbek	4.9	3.0	0.618	1.9
5	Ryan Howard	3.6	1.8	0.672	1.9
6	Fred Lynn	5.2	3.4	0.608	1.8
7	Duke Snider	5.6	3.8	0.594	1.8
8	Joe Mauer	4.3	2.5	0.627	1.7
9	Willie Stargell	6.0	4.3	0.582	1.7
10	Billy Williams	7.2	5.5	0.566	1.7

Willie McCovey tops the list.



## Willie McCovey's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1959	SFN	21	52	7.3	4.5	1.6	1.2	0.7
1960	SFN	22	101	9.1	6.9	1.4	0.7	0.0
1961	SFN	23	106	10.3	8.5	1.2	0.3	-
1962	SFN	24	89	9.4	6.6	1.7	1.0	0.4
1963	SFN	25	152	22.0	16.6	3.3	1.8	0.3
1964	SFN	26	129	13.2	11.4	1.4	0.4	-
1965	SFN	27	160	21.1	13.1	4.4	3.0	1.7
1966	SFN	28	149	19.5	12.4	3.9	2.7	1.4
1967	SFN	29	135	18.5	11.6	3.9	2.6	1.3
1968	SFN	30	148	21.5	14.4	3.9	2.5	1.0
1969	SFN	31	149	22.1	12.1	5.3	3.8	2.4
1970	SFN	32	152	21.6	12.7	4.9	3.4	1.9
1971	SFN	33	105	12.4	8.2	2.3	1.5	0.7
1972	SFN	34	81	6.5	7.6	-0.5	-1.1	-
1973	SFN	35	130	14.7	10.6	2.4	1.4	0.3
1974	SDN	36	128	11.4	10.0	1.1	0.3	-
1975	SDN	37	122	11.6	12.2	-0.0	-1.0	-
1976		38	82	6.1	6.8	-0.1	-0.6	-
	OAK		11	0.3	0.7	-0.2	-0.2	-
	SDN		71	5.8	6.1	0.1	-0.4	-
1977	SFN	39	141	13.8	13.0	0.8	-0.2	-
1978	SFN	40	108	11.5	9.9	1.1	0.3	-
1979	SFN	41	117	9.2	9.6	0.2	-0.6	-
1980	SFN	42	48	3.2	3.0	0.2	-0.0	-
CAREER (reg. season)			2,584	295.9	221.7	44.4	23.3	12.1
PostSeason (career)			8	1.1	1.1	0.0	-0.0	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1959	SFN	21	52	7.0	4.3	1.5	1.1	0.6
1960	SFN	22	101	8.2	6.2	1.3	0.7	0.1
1961	SFN	23	106	10.1	8.4	1.1	0.3	-
1962	SFN	24	89	8.6	6.1	1.5	0.9	0.3
1963	SFN	25	152	21.7	16.5	3.2	1.7	0.3
1964	SFN	26	129	12.1	11.6	0.7	-0.3	-
1965	SFN	27	160	18.4	12.8	3.2	1.9	0.7
1966	SFN	28	149	17.6	11.8	3.2	2.1	0.9
1967	SFN	29	135	15.5	10.5	2.9	1.8	0.6
1968	SFN	30	148	19.5	13.2	3.5	2.2	0.8
1969	SFN	31	149	20.0	12.2	4.2	2.8	1.4
1970	SFN	32	152	18.6	12.4	3.5	2.2	0.8
1971	SFN	33	105	11.0	8.1	1.6	0.9	0.1
1972	SFN	34	81	7.0	6.8	0.2	-0.4	-
1973	SFN	35	130	13.7	9.8	2.3	1.3	0.3
1974	SDN	36	128	12.3	9.0	2.0	1.2	0.4
1975	SDN	37	122	12.6	11.3	0.9	-0.1	-
1976		38	82	5.5	5.9	0.0	-0.4	-
	OAK		11	0.4	0.6	-0.1	-0.1	-
	SDN		71	5.1	5.3	0.1	-0.3	-
1977	SFN	39	141	13.6	12.0	1.2	0.2	-
1978	SFN	40	108	9.2	9.3	0.3	-0.5	-
1979	SFN	41	117	9.3	8.5	0.7	0.0	-
1980	SFN	42	48	2.5	3.2	-0.2	-0.5	-
CAREER (reg. season)			2,584	273.7	209.9	38.7	19.0	7.4
PostSeason (career)			8	1.2	0.8	0.2	0.1	

## **#50: Bret Saberhagen**

### **Career Highlights**

Bret Saberhagen was a two-time Cy Young winner and the ace of the first Kansas City Royals team to win the World Series.

Five highlights of Bret Saberhagen's career:

- Bret Saberhagen made his major-league debut on April 4, 1984, seven days before his twentieth birthday. He is the youngest player (and only teenager) in Kansas City Royals history.
- In 1985, Bret Saberhagen won the Cy Young award in his first full season in the Kansas City Royals' starting rotation. Saberhagen finished the season with a traditional won-lost record of 20-6 with a 2.87 ERA in 235.1 innings pitched. He led the league in fewest walks per nine innings with only 38 walks (1.5 per 9 IP). He also led the American League in WHIP (walks plus hits per nine innings) and FIP (expected ERA based only on strikeouts, walks, and home runs allowed).
- Bret Saberhagen was named World Series MVP in 1985 when the Kansas City Royals won their first World Series. Saberhagen pitched two complete games in which he allowed a total of 1 run. In 18 innings, Saberhagen allowed only 11 hits and 1 walk while striking out 10.
- In 1989, Bret Saberhagen won his second Cy Young award. That season, he went 23-6 with a 2.16 ERA in 262.1 innings pitched, leading the American League in wins, winning percentage, ERA, innings pitched, complete games (12), WHIP (0.961), and FIP (2.45)
- Bret Saberhagen led his league in strikeout-to-walk ratio three times, in 1985, 1989, and 1994 (the three seasons in which he received Cy Young votes). Bret Saberhagen had a career strikeout-to-walk ratio of 3.64. Saberhagen's K-to-BB ratio is the sixth-best among retired post-1900 starting pitchers.

### At What Was Bret Saberhagen Elite?

Bret Saberhagen had a very interesting career pattern. After a solid rookie season in 1984 (10-11, 3.48 in 157.2 IP), Saberhagen won his first Cy Young award in 1985 (20-6, 2.87, 235.1 IP). He then slumped in 1986 (7-12, 4.15, 156.0), bounced back in 1987 (18-10, 3.36), slumped in 1988 (14-16, 3.80), and won his second Cy Young award in 1989 (23-6, 2.16, 262.1 IP).

Basically, Bret Saberhagen was an elite pitcher in odd-numbered years and a mediocre pitcher in even-numbered years. He finally had a very good season in an even-numbered year in 1994 (14-4, 2.74 ERA), but even there, his bad luck in even-numbered years held as the 1994 season was cut short by a strike so that Saberhagen only pitched 177.1 innings. After the 1994 season, Saberhagen pitched in parts of 5 of the next 7 seasons. True to his career pattern, both seasons that he missed were even-numbered years: 1996 and 2000.

The next table splits Bret Saberhagen's career record between odd-numbered years and even-numbered years.

	pWins	pLosses	pWOPA	pWORLD
Odd Seasons	86.8	59.7	15.4	22.7
Even Seasons	68.1	60.9	5.0	11.4

What if Bret Saberhagen had been as good in even-numbered years as odd-numbered years?

The next table shows what Bret Saberhagen's career record would have looked like in Player won-lost records if his record in even years matched his odd-year record. Below Saberhagen's record, then, are all players who made their major-league debut since 1947, whose career totals were within 5 pWOPA and 5 pWORLD of Bret Saberhagen's adjusted record.

	pWins	pLosses	pWOPA	pWORLD
<b>Bret Saberhagen (adj)</b>	<b>173.6</b>	<b>119.4</b>	<b>30.7</b>	<b>45.5</b>
Lou Whitaker	306.2	261.0	28.4	50.2
Whitey Ford	210.5	164.4	31.0	47.6
Barry Larkin	291.8	249.4	26.3	47.5
Duke Snider	268.6	201.0	26.1	45.3
Kevin Brown	204.7	164.7	26.4	45.2
Mariano Rivera	126.6	60.8	29.6	42.3

That's a nice set of comparables.

## Bret Saberhagen's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORL	pWOPA	pWO*
1984	KCA	20	38	8.1	7.5	1.1	0.3	-
1985	KCA	21	32	15.9	8.5	5.2	3.9	2.6
1986	KCA	22	30	9.6	9.3	1.2	0.3	-
1987	KCA	23	33	15.6	10.6	4.2	2.8	1.5
1988	KCA	24	35	14.3	14.5	1.5	0.1	-
1989	KCA	25	36	16.7	9.3	5.1	3.9	2.6
1990	KCA	26	20	7.6	6.8	1.3	0.5	-
1991	KCA	27	28	13.2	8.0	3.8	2.7	1.7
1992	NYN	28	17	6.2	6.2	0.9	0.3	-
1993	NYN	29	19	7.5	6.7	1.3	0.7	0.1
1994	NYN	30	24	11.4	7.8	3.2	2.2	1.3
1995		31	25	8.2	8.5	1.1	0.3	-
	COL		9 /	2.4	2.9	0.2	-0.1	-
	NYN		16 /	5.8	5.6	0.9	0.4	-
1997	BOS	33	6	0.9	1.9	-0.3	-0.5	-
1998	BOS	34	31	10.9	8.8	2.3	1.3	0.2
1999	BOS	35	22	7.9	4.9	2.3	1.6	0.9
2001	BOS	37	3	0.9	1.3	-0.0	-0.2	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>399  </b>	<b>154.9</b>	<b>120.6</b>	<b>34.2</b>	<b>20.4</b>	<b>10.9</b>
PostSeason (career)			10	3.1	3.9	-0.0	-0.4	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORL	eWOPA	eWO*
1984	KCA	20	38	8.1	6.8	1.4	0.6	-
1985	KCA	21	32	14.7	9.8	4.0	2.7	1.3
1986	KCA	22	30	9.2	7.7	1.7	0.9	0.1
1987	KCA	23	33	15.8	11.4	3.9	2.5	1.1
1988	KCA	24	35	15.9	13.4	2.9	1.5	0.1
1989	KCA	25	36	16.0	10.2	4.4	3.1	1.8
1990	KCA	26	20	8.4	6.5	1.8	1.1	0.4
1991	KCA	27	28	12.4	8.2	3.3	2.3	1.2
1992	NYN	28	17	5.8	5.7	0.9	0.3	-
1993	NYN	29	19	8.9	7.1	1.9	1.3	0.6
1994	NYN	30	24	12.0	8.0	3.5	2.5	1.5
1995		31	25	9.6	10.1	1.3	0.3	-
	COL		9 /	2.8	3.5	0.1	-0.2	-
	NYN		16 /	6.8	6.6	1.2	0.5	-
1997	BOS	33	6	1.4	2.1	-0.1	-0.3	-
1998	BOS	34	31	10.6	9.3	2.0	0.9	-
1999	BOS	35	22	7.6	5.4	1.9	1.2	0.6
2001	BOS	37	3	1.0	1.0	0.1	0.0	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>399  </b>	<b>157.6</b>	<b>122.6</b>	<b>34.9</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>8.6</b>
PostSeason (career)			10	3.5	3.8	0.3	-0.1	

## **#51: Roberto Alomar**

### **Career Highlights**

Roberto Alomar was the best second baseman of the last decade of the twentieth century and a key contributor for seven playoff teams across three franchises.

Five highlights of Roberto Alomar's career:

- Roberto Alomar was named to twelve All-Star teams in his career, nine as the starting second baseman. Alomar won ten Gold Gloves and four Silver Sluggers.
- Roberto Alomar is the son of Sandy Alomar, Sr., who played 1,481 major-league games across fifteen seasons, primarily at second base, and was named to the American League All-Star team in 1970. Roberto Alomar's older brother, Sandy Alomar, Jr., played 1,377 games across a twenty-year career as a catcher, making six All-Star teams. Roberto and Sandy Jr. were teammates for two seasons with the Cleveland Indians, 1999 – 2000. They also both started the 1991 and 1992 All-Star games for the American League.
- Roberto Alomar batted over .300 nine times in his career. He had an on-base percentage over .400 five times. He scored 100 or more runs six times and had at least 100 RBI twice.
- Roberto Alomar played in 58 postseason games across seven seasons. He batted .313/.381/.448 with 32 runs scored and 33 RBI in his postseason career. In the postseason, Alomar stole 20 bases and was caught stealing only twice. Alomar was the MVP of the 1992 ALCS, batting .423/.464/.692.
- Roberto Alomar was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his second year of eligibility, 2011, with 90.0% of the vote. Alomar is currently the only Hall-of-Famer wearing a Toronto Blue Jays cap on his plaque.

### At What Was Roberto Alomar Elite?

Lou Whitaker (#40) was the best second baseman in the American League (and in baseball) in the 1980s. Whitaker's last season as an elite second baseman was 1991, after which Whitaker passed the title of "best second baseman in the American League" to Roberto Alomar.

Alomar leads all American League players in eWins over positional average at second base since 1992, a stretch which has now lasted for 26 years through 2017.

#### Top 10 American League Second Basemen, since 1992 (Ranked by eWOPA, 2B only, AL only)

		eWins	eLosses	eWOPA
1	<b>Roberto Alomar</b>	<b>191.8</b>	<b>173.4</b>	<b>13.0</b>
2	Robinson Cano	251.8	231.5	12.7
3	Ian Kinsler	212.2	196.1	10.2
4	Dustin Pedroia	190.2	174.0	9.9
5	Chuck Knoblauch	157.7	148.6	7.9
6	Jose Altuve	102.3	93.7	4.9
7	Carlos Baerga	90.7	85.5	4.4
8	Brian Dozier	101.7	94.7	4.1
9	Ray Durham	138.8	137.0	4.0
10	Alfonso Soriano	99.1	94.6	4.0

## Roberto Alomar's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1988	SDN	20	143	20.2	17.0	3.1	1.7	0.3
1989	SDN	21	158	22.2	19.8	2.6	1.1	-
1990	SDN	22	145	19.4	18.9	1.7	0.3	-
1991	TOR	23	160	23.6	21.0	3.1	1.4	-
1992	TOR	24	152	23.0	17.7	4.4	2.9	1.3
1993	TOR	25	153	23.4	17.4	5.0	3.4	1.7
1994	TOR	26	107	13.0	12.8	1.5	0.4	-
1995	TOR	27	130	15.0	16.1	1.1	-0.2	-
1996	BAL	28	153	21.8	16.3	4.9	3.4	1.8
1997	BAL	29	110	15.3	13.3	2.5	1.4	0.3
1998	BAL	30	147	17.4	19.1	0.9	-0.5	-
1999	CLE	31	159	23.0	16.5	5.1	3.6	2.0
2000	CLE	32	155	19.4	17.9	2.7	1.2	-
2001	CLE	33	157	21.7	16.3	4.7	3.0	1.4
2002	NYN	34	149	16.5	17.7	1.0	-0.4	-
2003		35	140	15.0	17.3	0.3	-1.0	-
	CHA		67 /	7.9	8.6	0.4	-0.2	-
	NYN		73 /	7.1	8.7	-0.2	-0.8	-
2004		36	55	4.4	5.6	-0.2	-0.6	-
	ARI		38 /	3.2	3.6	0.1	-0.2	-
	CHA		17 /	1.2	2.0	-0.3	-0.4	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,373  </b>	<b>314.4</b>	<b>280.7</b>	<b>44.3</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>8.8</b>
PostSeason (career)			58	7.6	7.2	0.9	0.3	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1988	SDN	20	143	18.0	16.9	2.0	0.7	-
1989	SDN	21	158	20.8	19.6	1.8	0.4	-
1990	SDN	22	145	19.2	19.0	1.5	0.1	-
1991	TOR	23	160	22.5	20.1	2.9	1.3	-
1992	TOR	24	152	19.6	16.9	2.9	1.5	0.1
1993	TOR	25	153	22.0	17.8	4.0	2.5	0.9
1994	TOR	26	107	12.7	12.0	1.7	0.6	-
1995	TOR	27	130	16.9	16.0	2.2	0.8	-
1996	BAL	28	153	20.8	16.7	4.2	2.6	1.1
1997	BAL	29	110	13.5	12.3	2.0	0.9	-
1998	BAL	30	147	18.8	18.1	2.1	0.7	-
1999	CLE	31	159	22.1	16.9	4.4	2.9	1.4
2000	CLE	32	155	19.7	19.0	2.4	0.8	-
2001	CLE	33	157	20.5	17.1	3.6	2.0	0.4
2002	NYN	34	149	18.0	18.1	1.6	0.1	-
2003		35	140	14.7	16.9	0.4	-0.9	-
	CHA		67 /	7.3	8.1	0.4	-0.2	-
	NYN		73 /	7.4	8.8	-0.0	-0.7	-
2004		36	55	4.3	5.1	0.0	-0.3	-
	ARI		38 /	3.2	3.2	0.3	0.0	-
	CHA		17 /	1.2	1.9	-0.2	-0.4	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,373  </b>	<b>304.2</b>	<b>278.6</b>	<b>39.7</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>3.8</b>
PostSeason (career)			58	7.7	7.4	0.9	0.3	

## **#52: Gary Carter**

### **Career Highlights**

Gary Carter was one of the best catchers in baseball through much of the 1970s and 1980s.

Five highlights of Gary Carter's career:

- Gary Carter won his age group in the NFL's first Punt, Pass, and Kick competition in 1961 at the age of seven.
- Gary Carter was named to eleven All-Star teams in his nineteen-year major-league career. He won three Gold Gloves and five Silver Sluggers. Carter finished second in voting for Rookie of the Year in 1975 and received MVP votes seven times, finishing second in 1980 and third in 1986.
- Gary Carter hit 20 or more home runs nine times. He had 100 or more RBI four times, leading the National League in RBI in 1984 with 106.
- Gary Carter was traded from the Montreal Expos to the New York Mets in the 1984-85 offseason. In his first game as a Met, Carter went 2-for-4 including a game-winning walk-off solo home run with one out in the bottom of the tenth inning to beat the St. Louis Cardinals on April 9, 1985.
- Gary Carter was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his sixth year of eligibility, 2003, with 78.0% of the vote. Carter was the first player in the Hall of Fame wearing a Montreal Expos cap on his plaque.



### At What Was Gary Carter Elite?

Gary Carter was one of the best-hitting catchers in major-league history (see #59: Jorge Posada) and also one of the best defensive catchers in major-league history (see #101, Ivan Rodriguez). The next table shows Gary Carter's context-neutral offensive and defensive Player won-lost records.

Offense			Defense		
eWins	eLoss	eWinPct	eWins	eLoss	eWinPct
197.8	173.6	0.533	41.2	35.7	0.536

Gary Carter was an extremely well-balanced player, excellent on both offense and defense. In fact, he was one of the most well-balanced great players in major-league history.

The next table shows the top 25 players since integration whose offensive and defensive eWin percentages were within 0.010 of each other, ranked by the difference between their offensive winning percentage and their positional average.

### Top 25 Most Balanced Players since 1947 (Ranked by Offensive WinPct minus Positional Average) (eWinPct Difference < 0.010, min. 100 Offensive eWins, 10 Defensive eWins)

		eWinPct (Offense)	eWinPct (Defense)	Positional Average
1	Roy Campanella	0.546	0.544	0.494
2	<b>Gary Carter</b>	<b>0.533</b>	<b>0.536</b>	<b>0.497</b>
3	Troy Tulowitzki	0.530	0.522	0.494
4	Alan Trammell	0.515	0.519	0.480
5	Evan Longoria	0.537	0.538	0.501
6	Cal Ripken	0.516	0.522	0.484
7	Thurman Munson	0.522	0.524	0.492
8	Gil McDougald	0.527	0.519	0.498
9	Eric Chavez	0.527	0.530	0.500
10	Ian Kinsler	0.522	0.512	0.495
11	Andruw Jones	0.535	0.529	0.508
12	Tony Oliva	0.543	0.537	0.518
13	Adrian Beltre	0.528	0.524	0.503
14	Robby Thompson	0.523	0.520	0.499
15	Matt Williams	0.529	0.524	0.505
16	Bert Campaneris	0.503	0.503	0.479
17	Robin Ventura	0.524	0.529	0.501
18	Jason Varitek	0.501	0.504	0.478
19	Willie Randolph	0.511	0.520	0.490
20	Amos Otis	0.529	0.528	0.507
21	Dwayne Murphy	0.526	0.517	0.505
22	George Kell	0.530	0.526	0.512
23	John Olerud	0.540	0.538	0.522
24	Sherm Lollar	0.511	0.519	0.493
25	Reggie Sanders	0.534	0.526	0.517

## Gary Carter's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1974	MON	20	9	1.1	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.2
1975	MON	21	144	16.2	16.0	1.0	-0.3	-
1976	MON	22	91	8.6	10.0	-0.0	-0.7	-
1977	MON	23	153	15.5	13.7	1.9	0.7	-
1978	MON	24	157	16.1	14.5	2.1	0.9	-
1979	MON	25	140	15.2	13.3	2.0	0.9	-
1980	MON	26	154	16.6	13.7	2.7	1.5	0.3
1981	MON	27	100	12.4	9.8	2.3	1.4	0.5
1982	MON	28	154	18.7	15.5	3.1	1.8	0.5
1983	MON	29	145	15.5	13.9	2.0	1.0	-
1984	MON	30	159	19.7	16.3	3.2	1.8	0.5
1985	NYN	31	149	19.9	14.1	4.3	3.1	1.8
1986	NYN	32	132	17.9	13.3	3.6	2.4	1.3
1987	NYN	33	139	13.2	13.8	1.2	0.2	-
1988	NYN	34	130	12.3	11.8	1.3	0.4	-
1989	NYN	35	50	3.6	4.8	-0.2	-0.5	-
1990	SFN	36	91	6.0	6.2	0.4	-0.1	-
1991	LAN	37	101	6.0	7.0	0.2	-0.3	-
1992	MON	38	95	7.4	8.3	0.3	-0.3	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,293  </b>	<b>241.9</b>	<b>216.6</b>	<b>31.7</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>5.0</b>
PostSeason (career)			30	4.1	2.9	0.9	0.6	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1974	MON	20	9	1.0	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2
1975	MON	21	144	17.0	15.3	1.7	0.5	-
1976	MON	22	91	8.7	8.8	0.6	-0.1	-
1977	MON	23	153	16.4	13.1	2.6	1.5	0.3
1978	MON	24	157	16.6	13.4	2.8	1.7	0.5
1979	MON	25	140	15.3	12.3	2.5	1.5	0.4
1980	MON	26	154	17.0	13.0	3.2	2.1	0.9
1981	MON	27	100	10.9	9.0	1.8	1.0	0.2
1982	MON	28	154	18.6	13.8	3.7	2.5	1.3
1983	MON	29	145	16.3	13.4	2.7	1.6	0.5
1984	MON	30	159	19.4	14.6	3.8	2.5	1.2
1985	NYN	31	149	17.8	14.2	3.1	1.9	0.7
1986	NYN	32	132	14.6	13.1	1.9	0.9	-
1987	NYN	33	139	12.5	13.5	1.0	-0.0	-
1988	NYN	34	130	12.0	13.0	0.7	-0.3	-
1989	NYN	35	50	3.5	4.3	0.0	-0.3	-
1990	SFN	36	91	6.9	6.4	0.8	0.3	-
1991	LAN	37	101	7.6	7.3	0.9	0.3	-
1992	MON	38	95	7.5	8.2	0.3	-0.3	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,293  </b>	<b>239.4</b>	<b>207.4</b>	<b>34.6</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>6.2</b>
PostSeason (career)			30	3.2	2.7	0.5	0.3	

## **#53: Tommy John**

### **Career Highlights**

Tommy John may be the player whose ranking by Player won-lost records most exceeds his reputation, among either traditional or sabermetric baseball fans.

Five highlights of Tommy John's career:

- Tommy John made his major-league debut on September 6, 1963, and played in his final major-league game on May 25, 1989, almost 26 years later
- Tommy John is one of eight pitchers in major-league history to have started 700 games
- Tommy John had 20 traditional pitcher wins in a season 3 times in his career, all within a four year stretch from 1977 – 1980, during which John had a traditional record of 80-35, 3.12 ERA. These were the only four seasons in which John received any Cy Young votes – he finished second in 1977 and 1979 – and John made 3 of his 4 career All-Star appearances during this stretch.
- Tommy John was hurt in a game on July 17, 1974 which led to him becoming the first pitcher to receive what has come to be called “Tommy John surgery” on September 25, 1974. Tommy John’s first major-league appearance following surgery was April 16, 1976.
- Tommy John appeared in three World Series, all of which pitted the Los Angeles Dodgers against the New York Yankees. John pitched in 6 games, starting 5 of them, across these three World Series, over which he amassed a traditional record of 2-1 with a 2.67 ERA. The Yankees won two of the three Series, but John ended up on the losing side all three times, pitching twice for losing Dodgers teams (in 1977 and 1978) before switching sides of the rivalry in time for the Dodgers to finally beat the Yankees in the 1981 World Series.

### At What Was Tommy John Elite?

Tommy John was a very good pitcher for a very long time. He was also somewhat unique among elite pitchers in how he had success. Tommy John had very pedestrian strikeout totals for a great pitcher. For his career, he averaged only 4.3 strikeouts per nine innings (K/9). While strikeout rates were considerably lower during John's career than they are today, he was never in the top 10 in either K/9 or total strikeouts for any season of his career.

John's success instead depended on the other two of the so-called "three true outcomes". He walked very few batters - he was in the top 10 in his league in (fewest) walks per nine innings twelve times - and kept the ball in the ballpark - he was in the top 10 in his league in (fewest) home runs per nine innings twelve times, leading his league three times. The key to Tommy John's success was to throw low strikes that batters beat into the ground. The basic idea is that if you don't walk anybody and you don't allow any extra-base hits, it takes a lot of singles to beat you.

Player won-lost records are calculated across nine components. These components were outlined briefly in the introduction of this book and discussed in considerable detail in my first book, *Player Won-Lost Records in Baseball: Measuring Performance in Context* (McFarland, 2017). Pitchers earn decisions in the first seven of these components.

- Component 1: Stolen Bases
- Component 2: Wild Pitches and Passed Balls
- Component 3: Balls not in Play
- Component 4: Balls in Play
- Component 5: Hits vs. Outs
- Component 6: Singles v. Doubles v. Triples
- Component 7: Double Plays

The next table decomposes Tommy John's (context-neutral, teammate-adjusted) Player won-lost records across these components.

**Tommy John's Career Pitching Record by Component**

Component	eWins	eLoss	eWinPct	Net eWins
Component 1	4.7	4.1	0.536	0.6
Component 2	4.0	4.5	0.469	-0.5
Component 3	47.7	40.8	0.539	6.9
Component 4	137.8	119.6	0.535	18.2
Component 5	39.8	43.4	0.478	-3.6
Component 6	4.4	4.1	0.520	0.3
Component 7	1.1	1.8	0.377	-0.7

Tommy John was left-handed and controlled the running game (Component 1) quite well. His walk rates were good enough to overcome his poor strikeout totals enough so that his Component 3 win percentage was quite good. And John was a groundball pitcher who was generally adept at avoiding extra-base hits on balls in play (Component 6).

But there is one component where Tommy John's record is particularly noteworthy.

- Component 4: Balls-in-Play, including Home Runs

Component 4 measures how hard balls are hit against a pitcher: how many home runs vs. line drives vs. fly balls vs. pop-ups vs. ground balls. As noted above, Tommy John was excellent at preventing the first of these, home runs, and also excellent at inducing the last, ground balls.

The next table shows the top 10 pitchers in net Component 4 eWins since 1947. Tommy John was not merely excellent at this component of pitching. He was the best pitcher of the last sixty years at it.

Top 10 Pitchers, Net Component 4 Wins (1947 - 2017)					
		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	Net eWins
1	Bob Lemon	87.3	64.6	0.575	22.7
<b>2</b>	<b>Tommy John</b>	<b>137.8</b>	<b>119.6</b>	<b>0.535</b>	<b>18.2</b>
3	Warren Spahn	158.5	141.2	0.529	17.3
4	Early Wynn	117.2	100.0	0.540	17.2
5	Mike Garcia	67.6	51.2	0.569	16.4
6	Bob Rush	76.7	60.7	0.558	15.9
7	Jim Palmer	118.1	102.2	0.536	15.9
8	Mel Parnell	55.2	41.3	0.572	13.9
9	Kevin Brown	89.6	75.7	0.542	13.9
10	Ned Garver	81.7	68.4	0.544	13.3

## Tommy John's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORL	pWOPA	pWO*
1963	CLE	20	6	1.0	1.2	0.0	-0.1	-
1964	CLE	21	25	5.1	7.7	-0.4	-1.1	-
1965	CHA	22	39	12.7	10.1	2.8	1.8	0.8
1966	CHA	23	34	15.0	12.3	3.0	1.8	0.7
1967	CHA	24	31	11.5	11.7	1.3	0.3	-
1968	CHA	25	25	10.2	8.1	2.2	1.5	0.7
1969	CHA	26	33	13.0	13.0	1.8	0.6	-
1970	CHA	27	38	16.6	15.8	2.5	1.1	-
1971	CHA	28	38	13.3	15.2	0.9	-0.3	-
1972	LAN	29	29	10.7	9.3	2.0	1.1	0.2
1973	LAN	30	36	13.0	10.1	3.0	2.0	1.1
1974	LAN	31	22	9.6	6.3	2.6	2.0	1.3
1976	LAN	33	31	11.0	11.0	1.3	0.5	-
1977	LAN	34	31	16.3	11.2	4.5	3.3	2.0
1978	LAN	35	33	12.5	11.0	2.2	1.2	0.2
1979	NYA	36	37	15.7	10.7	3.9	2.7	1.5
1980	NYA	37	36	16.2	11.1	3.9	2.7	1.5
1981	NYA	38	20	8.0	7.0	1.4	0.7	-
1982		39	37	11.7	10.5	1.9	0.8	-
	CAL		7 /	2.0	1.9	0.3	0.1	-
	NYA		30 /	9.7	8.6	1.6	0.7	-
1983	CAL	40	34	11.9	12.9	0.9	-0.3	-
1984	CAL	41	32	9.5	10.6	0.5	-0.4	-
1985		42	23	5.2	6.6	-0.0	-0.6	-
	CAL		12 /	2.0	2.3	0.1	-0.2	-
	OAK		11 /	3.2	4.3	-0.1	-0.5	-
1986	NYA	43	13	4.4	3.3	1.0	0.6	0.2
1987	NYA	44	33	11.4	8.6	2.6	1.6	0.6
1988	NYA	45	35	9.5	8.3	1.6	0.7	-
1989	NYA	46	10	3.2	4.3	-0.1	-0.5	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>761  </b>	<b>277.9</b>	<b>247.9</b>	<b>47.2</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>10.9</b>
PostSeason (career)			14	5.1	4.8	0.8	0.3	

Tommy John

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORL	eWOPA	eWO*
1963	CLE	20	6	1.2	1.4	0.1	-0.0	-
1964	CLE	21	25	5.5	6.1	0.5	-0.1	-
1965	CHA	22	39	11.8	10.9	2.0	1.0	-
1966	CHA	23	34	14.3	13.3	2.2	1.0	-
1967	CHA	24	31	11.5	11.0	1.6	0.6	-
1968	CHA	25	25	11.7	9.6	2.4	1.6	0.7
1969	CHA	26	33	14.2	13.9	2.1	0.8	-
1970	CHA	27	38	16.4	15.0	2.8	1.4	0.0
1971	CHA	28	38	13.0	14.1	1.2	0.0	-
1972	LAN	29	29	11.2	11.3	1.4	0.4	-
1973	LAN	30	36	13.2	11.2	2.6	1.6	0.6
1974	LAN	31	22	8.9	8.3	1.4	0.7	0.0
1976	LAN	33	31	12.3	12.2	1.5	0.5	-
1977	LAN	34	31	13.6	12.0	2.6	1.4	0.3
1978	LAN	35	33	12.1	12.4	1.3	0.3	-
1979	NYA	36	37	15.8	11.4	3.6	2.4	1.2
1980	NYA	37	36	14.8	11.5	3.0	1.8	0.7
1981	NYA	38	20	7.8	6.9	1.4	0.6	-
1982		39	37	12.8	10.8	2.3	1.2	0.1
	CAL		7 /	2.0	2.3	0.1	-0.1	-
	NYA		30 /	10.8	8.5	2.3	1.4	0.5
1983	CAL	40	34	13.1	13.3	1.4	0.2	-
1984	CAL	41	32	9.8	10.7	0.6	-0.3	-
1985		42	23	4.8	5.8	0.2	-0.4	-
	CAL		12 /	2.1	2.3	0.1	-0.1	-
	OAK		11 /	2.7	3.5	0.0	-0.3	-
1986	NYA	43	13	3.8	3.4	0.6	0.2	-
1987	NYA	44	33	10.8	8.7	2.2	1.3	0.3
1988	NYA	45	35	10.2	10.4	1.0	0.0	-
1989	NYA	46	10	3.6	4.1	0.2	-0.2	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>761  </b>	<b>278.3</b>	<b>259.8</b>	<b>42.1</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>3.9</b>
PostSeason (career)			14	5.1	4.8	0.8	0.3	

## #54: Craig Biggio

### Career Highlights

In his *New Historical Baseball Abstract*, published in 2001, Bill James rated Craig Biggio as the 35th-best player in major-league history and claimed that he was the best player active at the end of the 1990s, going into considerable detail comparing Biggio to Ken Griffey Jr. (#44).

Five highlights of Craig Biggio's career:

- Craig Biggio was named to seven All-Star teams in his career, including four times as the starting second baseman for the National League (1995 – 1998). Craig Biggio was the first player in major-league history selected as an All-Star as both a catcher (1991) and second baseman (1992, 1994-98). He won four Gold Gloves, all at second base (1994 – 1997), and five Silver Sluggers, one as a catcher (1989) and four at second base (1994-95, 1997-98).
- Craig Biggio hit 40 or more doubles seven times. He led the National League in doubles three times. His 668 career doubles are fifth in major-league history. He is one of only two players in major-league history with 50 doubles and 50 stolen bases in the same season (1998). (Tris Speaker did so in 1912.)
- Craig Biggio scored 100 or more runs eight times. He led the National League in runs scored twice. His 1,844 career runs scored are the 15th most in major-league history.
- Craig Biggio led the National League in hit-by-pitch five times. His career total of 285 is the second-most in major-league history and the most of any player since 1900.
- Craig Biggio got his 3,000th career hit on June 28, 2007. Biggio went 5-for-6 in this game, becoming the first player to get 5 hits in the game in which he got his 3,000th hit. He was thrown out trying to stretch his 3,000th hit into a double, making him the first player to make an out on his 3,000th hit. Biggio's fifth hit of the game came with two out, the bases empty, and the Astros trailing the Colorado Rockies 5-4, in the bottom of the eleventh inning. Biggio eventually scored the tying run as Carlos Lee hit a walk-off grand slam in an 8-5 Astros win.



### At What Was Craig Biggio Elite?

Craig Biggio followed an interesting career progression in terms of his defensive positions. Biggio spent his first four seasons primarily as a catcher. He then spent the next eleven seasons as a second baseman. In 2003, the Houston Astros acquired Jeff Kent (#77) and Craig Biggio moved to center field. Basically, Craig Biggio worked his way through 3 of the 4 up-the-middle defensive positions.

The next table, then, shows the top 25 players since 1947 in eWins over replacement level earned while playing up-the-middle defensive positions (catcher, second base, shortstop, center field).

**Top 25 Players, Up-the-Middle Defensive Positions, since 1947**  
(Ranked by eWORLD: C, 2B, SS, CF only)

		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	eWORLD
1	Willie Mays	421.8	322.0	0.567	68.0
2	Joe Morgan	359.2	295.5	0.549	63.2
3	Mickey Mantle	268.9	180.6	0.598	54.7
4	Cal Ripken	302.1	274.1	0.524	47.5
5	Derek Jeter	347.0	330.1	0.513	44.5
6	Robin Yount	339.3	320.2	0.514	43.2
7	Ken Griffey Jr.	293.4	247.5	0.542	42.6
<b>8</b>	<b>Craig Biggio</b>	<b>339.9</b>	<b>312.4</b>	<b>0.521</b>	<b>40.5</b>
9	Lou Whitaker	283.1	255.3	0.526	40.2
10	Alan Trammell	266.1	248.5	0.517	39.7
11	Bobby Grich	245.1	213.4	0.535	39.4
12	Barry Larkin	272.2	244.9	0.526	38.7
13	Ozzie Smith	331.3	321.3	0.508	38.2
14	Carlton Fisk	224.3	192.9	0.538	38.2
15	Roberto Alomar	300.6	279.1	0.519	37.6
16	Ryne Sandberg	274.7	240.8	0.533	37.1
17	Alex Rodriguez	182.3	146.4	0.555	36.4
18	Duke Snider	224.2	172.0	0.566	35.7
19	Bert Campaneris	274.8	272.7	0.502	35.2
20	Mike Piazza	185.9	150.3	0.553	34.7
21	Jim Edmonds	226.6	188.5	0.546	33.6
22	Johnny Bench	185.2	148.3	0.555	33.3
23	Luis Aparicio	329.6	337.0	0.495	33.0
24	Jeff Kent	258.1	232.3	0.526	32.8
25	Willie Randolph	266.9	251.6	0.515	32.7

## Craig Biggio's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1988	HOU	22	50	2.7	3.3	-0.0	-0.3	-
1989	HOU	23	134	13.9	12.1	2.2	1.3	0.4
1990	HOU	24	150	16.4	16.9	0.9	-0.3	-
1991	HOU	25	149	14.5	14.0	1.8	0.7	-
1992	HOU	26	162	21.4	20.2	2.1	0.5	-
1993	HOU	27	155	21.5	19.1	2.9	1.3	-
1994	HOU	28	114	17.1	12.7	3.5	2.3	1.0
1995	HOU	29	141	22.3	17.1	4.4	2.8	1.2
1996	HOU	30	162	22.7	19.5	3.7	2.0	0.3
1997	HOU	31	161	23.8	18.5	4.5	2.8	1.1
1998	HOU	32	160	25.2	17.9	5.3	3.7	2.0
1999	HOU	33	160	23.0	20.5	2.9	1.2	-
2000	HOU	34	101	11.4	11.7	0.9	-0.0	-
2001	HOU	35	155	21.0	16.5	3.9	2.2	0.6
2002	HOU	36	145	17.1	17.8	1.2	-0.2	-
2003	HOU	37	153	18.2	18.2	1.2	-0.2	-
2004	HOU	38	156	17.7	19.5	0.0	-1.4	-
2005	HOU	39	155	20.4	17.5	2.7	1.3	-
2006	HOU	40	145	15.3	16.8	0.5	-0.7	-
2007	HOU	41	141	12.9	15.7	-0.4	-1.5	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,849  </b>	<b>358.5</b>	<b>325.4</b>	<b>44.0</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>6.6</b>
PostSeason (career)			40	3.7	5.1	-0.4	-0.7	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1988	HOU	22	50	3.1	3.3	0.2	-0.0	-
1989	HOU	23	134	13.4	11.9	2.1	1.2	0.3
1990	HOU	24	150	16.4	16.3	1.1	-0.1	-
1991	HOU	25	149	15.0	13.8	2.1	1.0	-
1992	HOU	26	162	22.1	20.6	2.2	0.6	-
1993	HOU	27	155	20.4	17.4	3.0	1.5	0.0
1994	HOU	28	114	15.9	13.0	2.7	1.5	0.3
1995	HOU	29	141	22.3	18.5	3.7	2.1	0.4
1996	HOU	30	162	22.2	20.1	3.1	1.4	-
1997	HOU	31	161	25.3	18.7	5.2	3.4	1.7
1998	HOU	32	160	23.8	19.8	3.8	2.0	0.3
1999	HOU	33	160	21.9	20.1	2.5	0.9	-
2000	HOU	34	101	12.8	11.7	1.6	0.7	-
2001	HOU	35	155	20.2	18.6	2.5	0.8	-
2002	HOU	36	145	17.5	17.3	1.7	0.3	-
2003	HOU	37	153	18.2	17.5	1.6	0.2	-
2004	HOU	38	156	18.9	18.7	1.0	-0.5	-
2005	HOU	39	155	18.8	17.5	1.9	0.5	-
2006	HOU	40	145	15.4	16.6	0.7	-0.5	-
2007	HOU	41	141	12.4	15.3	-0.5	-1.5	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,849  </b>	<b>356.0</b>	<b>326.6</b>	<b>42.2</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>3.1</b>
PostSeason (career)			40	4.1	4.9	-0.1	-0.4	

## **#55: Willie Stargell**

### **Career Highlights**

Willie Stargell was a key contributor to the last two Pittsburgh Pirates teams to win the World Series, beating the Baltimore Orioles in seven games in both the 1971 and 1979 World Series. Willie Stargell was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility, 1988, with 82.4% of the vote.

Five highlights of Willie Stargell's career:

- Willie Stargell's given first name was Wilver, a combination of his father's first name, William, and his mother's maiden name, Vernell.
- Willie Stargell was named to seven All-Star teams and received MVP votes eleven times. Stargell finished second, third, and second in MVP voting in 1971, 1972, and 1973.
- Willie Stargell was named NL Comeback Player of the Year in 1978 (awarded by the Sporting News at that time). He followed that up by sharing the 1979 NL MVP award with Keith Hernandez of the St. Louis Cardinals.
- In addition to sharing the regular-season MVP, Stargell was named MVP of both the 1979 National League Championship Series and World Series. Stargell batted .455/.571/1.182 in the 1979 NLCS with 2 home runs, 6 RBI, and 5 runs scored. He then batted .400/.375/.833 with 3 home runs, 7 RBI, and 7 runs scored in the World Series.
- A statue of Willie Stargell is outside of PNC Park in Pittsburgh. Willie Stargell died the same day the first regular-season major-league game was played at PNC Park, April 9, 2001.

## At What Was Willie Stargell Elite?

A case can be made that Willie Stargell was the best hitter of the 1970s.

Willie Stargell led all major-league hitters in the 1970s in home runs (296), slugging percentage (.555), and OPS (on-base plus slugging percentage, .928).

In terms of Player won-lost records, the next table shows the top 10 players in batting wins over non-pitcher average for the decade.

**Top 10 Batters, 1970 - 1979**  
(Ranked by Batting eWins over Non-Pitcher Average)

		<b>eWins</b>	<b>eLosses</b>	<b>eWOPA</b>
1	Reggie Jackson	134.2	96.5	18.1
<b>2</b>	<b>Willie Stargell</b>	<b>119.8</b>	<b>80.2</b>	<b>18.0</b>
3	Joe Morgan	136.6	98.6	16.9
4	Bobby Bonds	138.4	106.7	14.6
5	Reggie Smith	119.2	88.5	13.6
6	Johnny Bench	131.1	100.0	13.5
7	Mike Schmidt	98.9	69.5	13.2
8	Ken Singleton	120.9	93.0	13.1
9	Carl Yastrzemski	129.8	104.1	12.1
10	Gene Tenace	98.4	73.2	11.8

Batting won-lost records include what I call component 7, grounding into double plays. As I discussed somewhat in my first book, this component could perhaps be better thought of as baserunning instead of batting.

Excluding component 7 produces the following top 10.

**Top 10 Batters, 1970 - 1979**  
(Ranked by Batting eWins over Non-Pitcher Average, excl. GDPs)

		<b>eWins</b>	<b>eLosses</b>	<b>eWOPA</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Willie Stargell</b>	<b>118.7</b>	<b>78.9</b>	<b>18.1</b>
2	Reggie Jackson	131.8	94.3	18.0
3	Joe Morgan	134.4	96.0	17.1
4	Bobby Bonds	136.5	105.3	14.4
5	Johnny Bench	129.5	97.5	13.9
6	Reggie Smith	117.7	86.8	13.7
7	Ken Singleton	119.4	90.8	13.5
8	Mike Schmidt	98.1	68.7	13.2
9	Carl Yastrzemski	127.3	101.9	12.0
10	Gene Tenace	97.4	72.1	11.8

The two tables contain the exact same ten names, just in a slightly different order. It is perhaps best to simply say that the top two hitters of the 1970s were Willie Stargell and Reggie Jackson (#27), leaving Stargell as the best National League hitter of the 1970s.

## Willie Stargell's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1962	PIT	22	10	0.6	1.0	-0.1	-0.2	-
1963	PIT	23	107	9.2	10.2	-0.1	-0.9	-
1964	PIT	24	117	12.4	12.3	0.5	-0.5	-
1965	PIT	25	144	18.7	16.3	1.9	0.5	-
1966	PIT	26	140	20.7	14.0	4.1	2.8	1.4
1967	PIT	27	133	16.6	15.2	1.3	-0.0	-
1968	PIT	28	127	16.6	16.1	0.8	-0.6	-
1969	PIT	29	145	19.3	15.9	2.5	1.0	-
1970	PIT	30	136	18.2	16.1	1.7	0.2	-
1971	PIT	31	141	22.8	14.1	5.0	3.6	2.1
1972	PIT	32	138	20.2	13.0	3.8	2.4	1.1
1973	PIT	33	148	25.2	17.6	4.7	2.9	1.1
1974	PIT	34	140	21.6	15.7	3.7	2.3	0.9
1975	PIT	35	124	15.7	10.8	2.7	1.7	0.6
1976	PIT	36	117	11.3	10.2	0.8	-0.0	-
1977	PIT	37	63	5.7	4.0	1.0	0.6	0.2
1978	PIT	38	120	13.8	9.8	2.4	1.5	0.6
1979	PIT	39	126	14.5	10.4	2.5	1.5	0.5
1980	PIT	40	67	6.4	5.3	0.7	0.3	-
1981	PIT	41	38	1.6	1.7	0.1	-0.1	-
1982	PIT	42	74	2.4	2.6	0.2	-0.1	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,355  </b>	<b>293.5</b>	<b>232.3</b>	<b>40.1</b>	<b>18.8</b>	<b>8.5</b>
PostSeason (career)			36	4.3	3.8	0.4	0.1	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1962	PIT	22	10	0.8	1.0	-0.1	-0.1	-
1963	PIT	23	107	9.3	9.4	0.4	-0.4	-
1964	PIT	24	117	12.8	11.6	1.1	0.1	-
1965	PIT	25	144	19.3	16.1	2.3	0.9	-
1966	PIT	26	140	19.4	14.0	3.5	2.2	0.9
1967	PIT	27	133	17.2	14.8	1.8	0.5	-
1968	PIT	28	127	17.0	14.5	1.8	0.5	-
1969	PIT	29	145	20.0	15.3	3.2	1.7	0.1
1970	PIT	30	136	18.0	14.8	2.2	0.8	-
1971	PIT	31	141	22.6	14.3	4.8	3.4	1.9
1972	PIT	32	138	16.9	13.0	2.1	0.9	-
1973	PIT	33	148	23.5	15.6	4.7	3.1	1.4
1974	PIT	34	140	21.3	15.8	3.4	2.0	0.6
1975	PIT	35	124	14.1	10.3	2.1	1.2	0.2
1976	PIT	36	117	11.9	9.9	1.2	0.4	-
1977	PIT	37	63	6.1	4.5	1.0	0.6	0.1
1978	PIT	38	120	12.6	9.3	2.0	1.2	0.3
1979	PIT	39	126	13.6	10.1	2.2	1.2	0.3
1980	PIT	40	67	6.2	4.6	1.0	0.6	0.2
1981	PIT	41	38	1.5	1.6	0.1	-0.0	-
1982	PIT	42	74	2.1	2.1	0.3	0.1	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,355  </b>	<b>286.2</b>	<b>222.5</b>	<b>41.1</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>6.1</b>
PostSeason (career)			36	4.3	3.4	0.6	0.3	

## **#56: Jeff Bagwell**

### **Career Highlights**

Jeff Bagwell has a case as the best first baseman since the integration of major-league baseball. He was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 2017 in his seventh year of eligibility with 86.2% of the vote.

Five highlights of Jeff Bagwell's career:

- Jeff Bagwell was named to four All-Star teams in his career. He started two All-Star games, in 1997 (at first base) and 1999 (at DH). He won one Gold Glove (in 1994) and three Silver Sluggers. He was elected National League Rookie of the Year in 1991 and received MVP votes ten times with six top-10 finishes.
- Jeff Bagwell scored 100 or more runs in a season nine times, leading the league in runs scored three times. He drove in 100 or more runs eight times (in all of which he also scored 100 or more runs), leading the league in RBI once.
- Jeff Bagwell is the only player in major-league history to have at least 30 doubles, 40 home runs, 30 stolen bases, and 100 walks in a season. He did it twice, in 1997 and 1999.
- Jeff Bagwell may have been the only player to have actually benefitted from the 1994 players' strike. Bagwell suffered a season-ending wrist injury the day before the strike, at a time when he was leading the National League in runs scored, RBI, and OPS. He was voted NL MVP unanimously, but, if not for the strike, he would have missed the last one-third of the season and almost certainly his league leads in runs and RBI as well as his MVP award.
- Jeff Bagwell was born in Boston, Massachusetts, and drafted by his hometown Boston Red Sox in 1989. But he was traded by the Red Sox while still in the minor leagues for relief pitcher Larry Andersen on August 30, 1990. Bagwell finally appeared in a major-league game at Fenway Park on June 13, 2003 and doubled in his first at bat in the top of the first inning.

### At What Was Jeff Bagwell Elite?

Jeff Bagwell was an elite first baseman. In fact, as I said above, he has a case as the best first baseman since integration (and/or World War II). The next table shows the top 10 players in (context-neutral, teammate-adjusted) wins over positional average earned as a first baseman among all players since 1947.

<b>Top 10 First Basemen, since 1947</b> <b>(Ranked by Career Wins over Positional Average, 1B only)</b>				
		<b>eWins</b>	<b>eLosses</b>	<b>eWOPA</b>
1	Albert Pujols	218.6	158.4	20.9
2	Mark McGwire	209.4	151.8	20.2
<b>3</b>	<b>Jeff Bagwell</b>	<b>267.4</b>	<b>199.6</b>	<b>19.8</b>
4	Willie McCovey	229.0	176.3	14.7
5	Frank Thomas	125.1	88.5	13.8
6	Joey Votto	171.9	130.8	12.8
7	Will Clark	219.2	173.1	12.7
8	Todd Helton	247.2	199.0	11.8
9	Gil Hodges	202.0	164.7	11.7
10	Jim Thome	129.2	95.3	11.5

Jeff Bagwell ranks third in first base wins over positional average over this time period. But Bagwell amassed significantly more decisions at first base than either of the players ahead of him. The next table, then, lowers the baseline from positional average to replacement level.

<b>Top 10 First Basemen, since 1947</b> <b>(Ranked by Career Wins over Replacement Level, 1B only)</b>					
		<b>eWins</b>	<b>eLosses</b>	<b>eWOPA</b>	<b>eWORLD</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Jeff Bagwell</b>	<b>267.4</b>	<b>199.6</b>	<b>19.8</b>	<b>38.4</b>
2	Albert Pujols	218.6	158.4	20.9	35.6
3	Mark McGwire	209.4	151.8	20.2	34.3
4	Willie McCovey	229.0	176.3	14.7	31.3
5	Eddie Murray	271.7	231.8	10.2	29.9
6	Todd Helton	247.2	199.0	11.8	28.9
7	Will Clark	219.2	173.1	12.7	28.0
8	Rafael Palmeiro	239.4	203.4	8.8	27.1
9	Fred McGriff	251.9	210.3	8.5	26.9
10	Norm Cash	210.3	165.7	11.5	26.9

Jeff Bagwell has the most (context-neutral) wins over replacement level as a first baseman since MLB integration.

To be entirely fair, this is due, in part, to the fact that Jeff Bagwell was exclusively a first baseman throughout his career (outside of 10 games as a DH and 7 innings in right field) while several other players played multiple positions. Regardless, even if not first, Jeff Bagwell was unquestionably one of best first basemen of the past seventy years.

## Jeff Bagwell's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1991	HOU	23	156	17.8	15.9	1.5	0.1	-
1992	HOU	24	162	22.6	16.9	3.3	1.8	0.3
1993	HOU	25	142	16.7	14.0	1.7	0.5	-
1994	HOU	26	110	17.1	9.9	3.8	2.7	1.6
1995	HOU	27	114	15.3	10.7	2.5	1.5	0.4
1996	HOU	28	162	22.9	15.0	4.4	2.8	1.3
1997	HOU	29	162	22.0	14.6	3.7	2.3	0.9
1998	HOU	30	147	19.3	13.3	3.2	1.9	0.6
1999	HOU	31	162	22.8	14.2	4.7	3.3	1.8
2000	HOU	32	159	18.7	15.6	1.8	0.4	-
2001	HOU	33	161	22.4	14.1	4.6	3.0	1.5
2002	HOU	34	158	19.5	15.1	2.5	1.1	-
2003	HOU	35	160	18.5	16.1	1.6	0.3	-
2004	HOU	36	156	16.7	14.0	1.8	0.6	-
2005	HOU	37	39	3.1	3.0	0.2	-0.1	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,150  </b>	<b>275.4</b>	<b>202.4</b>	<b>41.3</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>8.4</b>
PostSeason (career)			33	2.5	3.4	-0.4	-0.6	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1991	HOU	23	156	18.1	15.7	1.7	0.4	-
1992	HOU	24	162	20.5	16.7	2.4	1.0	-
1993	HOU	25	142	16.9	12.9	2.3	1.2	-
1994	HOU	26	110	16.7	9.3	4.0	2.9	1.8
1995	HOU	27	114	15.9	11.4	2.5	1.4	0.3
1996	HOU	28	162	21.9	15.2	3.8	2.3	0.8
1997	HOU	29	162	23.2	14.3	4.4	3.0	1.5
1998	HOU	30	147	19.6	14.0	3.0	1.7	0.4
1999	HOU	31	162	21.0	14.6	3.6	2.2	0.8
2000	HOU	32	159	20.1	14.6	3.0	1.6	0.2
2001	HOU	33	161	20.2	14.8	3.1	1.6	0.1
2002	HOU	34	158	18.2	14.2	2.2	0.9	-
2003	HOU	35	160	18.1	15.3	1.8	0.5	-
2004	HOU	36	156	16.7	14.0	1.8	0.6	-
2005	HOU	37	39	3.0	2.8	0.3	0.0	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,150  </b>	<b>270.1</b>	<b>199.7</b>	<b>39.9</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>5.8</b>
PostSeason (career)			33	2.6	2.8	0.0	-0.2	



## **#57: Carl Yastrzemski**

### **Career Highlights**

Carl Yastrzemski is the bridge between Ted Williams and Jim Rice, giving the Boston Red Sox a Hall-of-Fame left fielder for nearly fifty years.

Five highlights of Carl Yastrzemski's career:

- Carl Yastrzemski was named to eighteen All-Star teams in his career. He received MVP votes fourteen times and won seven Gold Gloves.
- Carl Yastrzemski is second in major-league history in plate appearances (13,992). He is fifth in major-league history in times on base (5,304), sixth in major-league history in walks (1,845), eighth in major-league history in doubles (646), ninth in major-league history in hits (3,419) and total bases (5,539), 14th in RBI (1,844), and 18th in runs scored (1,816).
- Carl Yastrzemski finished one first-place vote short of unanimously winning the 1967 American League MVP. That season, Carl Yastrzemeski won the Triple Crown, batting .326 with 44 home runs and 121 RBI. He also led the American League in on-base percentage (.418), slugging percentage (.622), OPS (1.040), hits (189), total bases (360), and runs scored (112).
- Carl Yastrzemski led the American League in batting average three times, in 1963 (.321), 1967 (.326), and 1968 (.301). Yastrzemski's .301 batting average in 1968 is the lowest league-leading batting average in major-league history.
- Carl Yastrzemski only appeared in the postseason twice, in 1967 and 1975. In 17 postseason games, Yastrzemski batted .369/.447/.600 with 4 home runs, 11 RBI, and 15 runs scored in 76 plate appearances.

### At What Was Carl Yastrzemski Elite?

Carl Yastrzemski was one of the best hitters (see #48, Frank Thomas) and best left fielders (see #142, Billy Williams) of the last seventy years. And he did it all for one team, the Boston Red Sox, for whom he played all of his twenty-three seasons.

The next table shows the top 10 players who debuted since 1947 who earned the most pWins for one team. Teams here are defined by the city in which they play, so that, for example, the Milwaukee Braves and Atlanta Braves are considered separate teams (which is why Hank Aaron does not top this list).

<b>Top 10 Players, debuting since 1947</b> <b>(Ranked by career pWins for a single franchise)</b>						
	<b>Player</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>pWins</b>	<b>pLosses</b>	<b>pWOPA</b>	<b>pWORLD</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Carl Yastrzemski</b>	<b>BOS</b>	<b>426.4</b>	<b>363.1</b>	<b>17.9</b>	<b>50.8</b>
2	Cal Ripken	BAL	383.2	350.6	28.2	56.5
3	Al Kaline	DET	377.9	302.1	24.7	52.8
4	Derek Jeter	NYA	369.4	322.2	33.4	60.1
5	Robin Yount	MIL	367.0	345.5	18.5	46.1
6	Craig Biggio	HOU	358.5	325.4	17.3	44.0
7	Pete Rose	CIN	356.7	313.3	14.7	41.3
8	Brooks Robinson	BAL	355.0	310.6	17.1	43.8
9	Roberto Clemente	PIT	352.5	299.1	13.3	39.7
10	Mickey Mantle	NYA	351.5	230.4	50.2	73.8

Carl Yastrzemski is the only player to debut since World War II to earn more than 400 pWins for a single team within a single city.

See also #116, Pete Rose.

## Carl Yastrzemski's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1961	BOS	21	148	17.3	18.4	0.5	-1.0	-
1962	BOS	22	160	21.4	20.8	1.0	-0.6	-
1963	BOS	23	151	23.3	19.0	2.8	1.2	-
1964	BOS	24	151	20.0	18.7	1.7	0.2	-
1965	BOS	25	133	17.4	18.0	0.4	-1.0	-
1966	BOS	26	160	23.4	20.3	2.6	0.9	-
1967	BOS	27	161	27.2	18.0	5.4	3.5	1.5
1968	BOS	28	157	25.8	17.0	5.1	3.3	1.6
1969	BOS	29	162	23.2	18.3	3.5	1.7	-
1970	BOS	30	161	23.0	16.3	3.9	2.2	0.6
1971	BOS	31	148	22.6	18.1	3.1	1.5	-
1972	BOS	32	125	18.0	14.1	2.4	1.1	-
1973	BOS	33	152	18.0	14.2	2.7	1.3	0.0
1974	BOS	34	148	17.5	17.4	0.9	-0.4	-
1975	BOS	35	149	15.8	13.6	1.7	0.5	-
1976	BOS	36	155	18.2	17.0	1.5	0.2	-
1977	BOS	37	150	21.5	18.6	2.7	1.1	-
1978	BOS	38	144	18.2	15.0	2.7	1.3	-
1979	BOS	39	147	17.1	13.8	2.8	1.4	-
1980	BOS	40	105	10.3	10.0	0.9	-0.1	-
1981	BOS	41	91	9.0	7.8	1.3	0.5	-
1982	BOS	42	131	10.3	9.7	1.2	0.0	-
1983	BOS	43	119	7.9	9.1	0.1	-0.8	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>3,308  </b>	<b>426.4</b>	<b>363.1</b>	<b>50.8</b>	<b>17.9</b>	<b>3.7</b>
PostSeason (career)			17	3.0	2.2	0.5	0.3	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1961	BOS	21	148	18.3	19.5	0.5	-1.1	-
1962	BOS	22	160	22.1	21.3	1.1	-0.6	-
1963	BOS	23	151	23.2	18.1	3.3	1.7	0.1
1964	BOS	24	151	20.6	17.8	2.4	0.9	-
1965	BOS	25	133	19.4	18.7	1.1	-0.4	-
1966	BOS	26	160	23.6	19.1	3.3	1.7	0.0
1967	BOS	27	161	27.4	17.0	6.0	4.1	2.2
1968	BOS	28	157	25.9	17.1	5.1	3.3	1.6
1969	BOS	29	162	23.6	18.8	3.4	1.6	-
1970	BOS	30	161	24.2	16.1	4.6	2.9	1.2
1971	BOS	31	148	21.2	18.5	2.2	0.6	-
1972	BOS	32	125	17.3	15.6	1.3	-0.0	-
1973	BOS	33	152	17.9	14.7	2.4	1.1	-
1974	BOS	34	148	18.1	15.9	1.9	0.7	-
1975	BOS	35	149	14.6	13.8	0.9	-0.2	-
1976	BOS	36	155	18.6	16.4	2.0	0.7	-
1977	BOS	37	150	21.2	18.0	2.8	1.2	-
1978	BOS	38	144	17.4	16.0	1.8	0.4	-
1979	BOS	39	147	14.4	13.4	1.5	0.2	-
1980	BOS	40	105	10.5	9.6	1.1	0.2	-
1981	BOS	41	91	8.4	8.2	0.8	-0.0	-
1982	BOS	42	131	10.9	9.7	1.5	0.3	-
1983	BOS	43	119	8.4	8.7	0.6	-0.4	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>3,308  </b>	<b>427.1</b>	<b>361.9</b>	<b>51.7</b>	<b>18.8</b>	<b>5.1</b>
PostSeason (career)			17	3.0	2.1	0.6	0.4	

## **#58: Eddie Murray**

### **Career Highlights**

Eddie Murray is my all-time favorite major-league player. He was elected to the Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility, 2003, with 85.3% of the vote.

Five highlights of Eddie Murray's career:

- Eddie Murray batted left-handed for the first time as a professional baseball player late in the 1975 season. Two years later, he hit 27 home runs for the Baltimore Orioles, 20 of them left-handed. He ended his career with the second-most hits, second-most home runs, and most RBI of any switch-hitter in major-league history.
- Eddie Murray won the American League Rookie of the Year award playing for my favorite team, the Baltimore Orioles, in the first season I followed passionately from start to finish, 1977.
- Eddie Murray received MVP votes nine times, with six top-5 finishes including back-to-back second place finishes in 1982 and 1983. Baseball-Reference.com calculates a statistic called “MVP shares” which aggregates how well a player does in MVP voting, expressed as a share of the maximum possible votes (i.e., a player who wins the MVP award unanimously earns 1.0 MVP shares that season). As calculated by Baseball-Reference, Eddie Murray has the most MVP shares (3.33 – which is appropriate for Murray, who wore uniform number 33 his entire career) of any player who never won the award.
- Murray hit two home runs in the 1983 World Series clincher when I was 15 years old. The next offseason, my brother and I spent hours debating who deserved to win the MVP award: Murray or teammate Cal Ripken (#17). In retrospect, my brother was probably right, but Murray was, and still is, my favorite major-league player.
- In 1996, Eddie Murray became the third player in major-league history to collect 3,000 hits and 500 home runs in his career.

### At What Was Eddie Murray Elite?

Perhaps my favorite statistic from Eddie Murray's career is his career batting record with the bases loaded. In 302 career plate appearances with the bases loaded, Murray batted .399/.387/.739, an OPS of 1.127, with 19 grand slams (second all-time when he retired) and 299 RBIs.

Breaking his career down by leverage, Murray's OPS was .872 in high-leverage situations (as defined by Baseball-Reference.com) with a home run every 21 at-bats. In low-leverage situations, Murray's OPS was only .809 and he hit a home run once every 27 at-bats.

For his career, Eddie Murray is tenth all-time in RBI (at least in part because he is seventh all-time in plate appearances and sixth in career at bats). Two more statistics that may or may not be "clutch" but for which Eddie Murray ranks highly: he is the American League's all-time leader in Game-Winning RBIs (for the seasons for which it was an official statistic - which largely overlap with Eddie Murray's prime) and he holds the major-league record for career sacrifice flies (again, for the seasons for which it was an official statistic).

Within Player won-lost records, one can measure "clutch" hitting through what I call my "inter-game win adjustment", which measures the extent to which a player's Player winning percentage changes because of the timing of his performance with respect to in-game context (i.e., leverage). For his career, Eddie Murray's batting inter-game win adjustment is 0.011, which translates into an extra 5.7 pWins for Murray's career. The next table shows the top 10 players in "clutch" batting wins, measured in this way.

Most Clutch Batting Wins, career, since 1947				
		eWins	eLosses	Clutch Wins
1	<b>Eddie Murray</b>	<b>265.5</b>	<b>221.9</b>	<b>5.7</b>
2	Willie McCovey	223.3	155.8	5.4
3	Granny Hamner	107.9	120.9	4.2
4	Ben Oglivie	127.9	113.8	4.0
5	Jason Giambi	186.6	140.8	3.9
6	Harold Baines	217.8	195.2	3.8
7	Mickey Mantle	243.2	150.3	3.8
8	Barry Bonds	306.9	184.6	3.7
9	Billy Williams	230.6	181.8	3.6
10	Vic Wertz	146.7	120.2	3.6

I think that produces a fun combination of names: four Hall-of-Famers, a few all-time great hitters who are not Hall-of-Famers for various reasons, and a couple of "Huh?"'s mixed in for fun – Granny Hamner? Ben Oglivie?

By this measure, Eddie Murray was arguably the best clutch hitter of the past seventy years.

Earl Weaver had an interesting take on "clutch hitting" generally and Eddie Murray specifically in his excellent book, *Weaver on Strategy*.

"Eddie Murray is like Reggie Jackson in that his individual statistics might be a little better if the game were always on the line when he batted.... In the late innings with an important runner on second base, Reggie and Eddie become better hitters. If the Orioles are winning 9-2, Eddie isn't the same hitter as when the score is 3-2....

No one can totally concentrate for all six hundred at bats, although Frank Robinson came as close to doing so as anyone who has ever played.... Frank realized a 9-2 lead in the seventh inning isn't always safe. Frank's concentration surpassed Eddie's, but Eddie is young enough that he may change. He's improving every year." (p. 156, originally published in 1984)

Weaver seems to be suggesting that what made Murray a great "clutch hitter" is that he relaxed and became a lesser hitter when the game wasn't on the line and, contrary to conventional baseball wisdom, that being a "clutch hitter" in this way was a bad thing, or at least, not a good thing. Here's a career comparison of the three players cited here by Weaver in what Baseball-Reference characterizes as "high-leverage" versus "low-leverage" situations and by my calculation of clutch batting wins.

	OPS by Leverage		Inter-Game Win Adj	Net Batting Wins	
	High	Low		Clutch	Total
Eddie Murray	0.872	0.809	0.011	5.7	26.3
Reggie Jackson	0.855	0.848	0.001	0.5	30.4
Frank Robinson	0.920	0.952	-0.009	-4.1	34.2

Weaver's take on Murray vs. Robinson is pretty accurate. In high-leverage situations, Robinson was better than Murray, but not by a lot, with an OPS about 5.5% higher. But in low-leverage situations, Robinson's OPS was 17.7% (143 points) higher than Murray's. And while Murray amassed 9.8 more "clutch" batting wins than Robinson that merely helped to close the gap between the two, and Robinson still beat Murray by 7.9 net batting wins over his career, even when accounting for context.

As for Reggie Jackson, like many players, the numbers do not necessarily back up the reputation: Reggie Jackson's batting numbers were very consistent (and consistently excellent) across situations.

## Eddie Murray's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1977	BAL	21	160	16.6	13.0	3.2	1.5	-
1978	BAL	22	161	19.9	15.2	3.2	1.8	0.5
1979	BAL	23	159	19.9	14.4	3.6	2.3	1.0
1980	BAL	24	158	19.0	14.7	3.0	1.7	0.4
1981	BAL	25	99	13.1	9.1	2.7	1.8	0.9
1982	BAL	26	150	19.0	13.1	3.8	2.6	1.3
1983	BAL	27	156	20.3	13.2	4.4	3.2	2.0
1984	BAL	28	162	22.2	14.8	4.6	3.2	1.8
1985	BAL	29	156	20.4	13.8	3.9	2.6	1.4
1986	BAL	30	137	13.2	13.9	0.3	-0.7	-
1987	BAL	31	160	17.5	17.3	0.6	-0.8	-
1988	BAL	32	161	16.8	17.2	0.9	-0.6	-
1989	LAN	33	160	18.3	16.0	1.3	0.0	-
1990	LAN	34	155	20.1	14.9	2.9	1.6	0.3
1991	LAN	35	153	19.3	16.2	2.1	0.7	-
1992	NYN	36	156	18.7	16.7	1.4	0.1	-
1993	NYN	37	154	15.2	17.8	-0.9	-2.2	-
1994	CLE	38	108	9.9	9.6	0.9	-0.2	-
1995	CLE	39	113	11.4	8.8	2.1	0.9	-
1996		40	152	11.7	11.4	1.2	-0.2	-
	BAL		64 /	4.7	4.6	0.5	-0.1	-
	CLE		88 /	7.0	6.8	0.8	-0.1	-
1997		41	55	2.9	4.4	-0.3	-0.8	-
	ANA		46 /	2.6	3.7	-0.2	-0.6	-
	LAN		9 /	0.3	0.7	-0.1	-0.2	-
	CAREER (reg. season)		3,025	345.7	285.3	45.0	18.7	9.6
	PostSeason (career)		44	4.7	4.3	0.5	0.1	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1977	BAL	21	160	15.3	14.7	1.7	0.0	-
1978	BAL	22	161	18.0	14.8	2.4	1.1	-
1979	BAL	23	159	18.0	14.6	2.5	1.2	-
1980	BAL	24	158	17.7	15.2	2.1	0.8	-
1981	BAL	25	99	12.3	8.6	2.5	1.6	0.8
1982	BAL	26	150	17.3	13.0	2.9	1.7	0.6
1983	BAL	27	156	18.0	13.7	3.0	1.8	0.7
1984	BAL	28	162	19.6	14.2	3.5	2.2	0.9
1985	BAL	29	156	18.6	14.3	2.7	1.5	0.3
1986	BAL	30	137	14.3	12.4	1.6	0.6	-
1987	BAL	31	160	16.9	15.9	1.0	-0.3	-
1988	BAL	32	161	17.0	14.7	2.2	0.8	-
1989	LAN	33	160	17.2	15.5	0.9	-0.2	-
1990	LAN	34	155	18.0	13.6	2.5	1.3	0.2
1991	LAN	35	153	17.1	15.9	1.1	-0.2	-
1992	NYN	36	156	16.1	15.4	0.7	-0.5	-
1993	NYN	37	154	16.3	15.8	0.6	-0.7	-
1994	CLE	38	108	9.2	10.5	0.1	-1.0	-
1995	CLE	39	113	10.9	9.5	1.5	0.3	-
1996		40	152	11.6	12.5	0.6	-0.9	-
	BAL		64 /	4.8	4.9	0.4	-0.2	-
	CLE		88 /	6.8	7.6	0.2	-0.7	-
1997		41	55	3.0	4.1	-0.2	-0.6	-
	ANA		46 /	2.8	3.9	-0.2	-0.6	-
	LAN		9 /	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	-
	CAREER (reg. season)		3,025	322.5	279.1	36.0	10.7	3.5
	PostSeason (career)		44	4.3	4.2	0.4	-0.0	

## #59: Jorge Posada

### Career Highlights

Jorge Posada was the primary catcher for six pennant winners and four World Series winners in his 17-year career, all spent with the New York Yankees.

Five highlights of Jorge Posada's career:

- Jorge Posada was named to five All-Star teams, starting the 2002 and 2003 games. He won five Silver Sluggers as the best-hitting catcher in the American League. Jorge Posada received MVP votes twice in his career, finishing third in 2003 and sixth in 2007.
- Jorge Posada hit 20 or more home runs eight times in his career. He had 90 or more RBI five times and an on-base percentage of .400 or better four times.
- In 2007, Jorge Posada batted .338/.426/.543 with 42 doubles, 20 home runs, 91 runs scored and 90 RBI. Posada was the first catcher in major-league history to bat .330 with 40 doubles, 20 home runs, and 90 RBI in the same season.
- Jorge Posada hit the first regular-season home run in the history of New Yankee Stadium on April 16, 2009, against Cliff Lee of the Cleveland Indians (although the Yankees lost the game, 10-2).
- Jorge Posada was teammates with Derek Jeter (#24 in my list) and Mariano Rivera (#29) for all seventeen seasons of his career. This is the most seasons over which any three players were teammates in major-league history.

### At What Was Jorge Posada Elite?

Jorge Posada batted .273/.374/.474 for his career. Although he was overshadowed by Mike Piazza, who was probably the greatest hitting catcher in major-league history, during much of his career, in fact, Jorge Posada was also one of the best-hitting catchers in major-league history.

The next table shows the top 10 catchers in non-fielding wins over positional average since 1947.

Top 10 Offensive Catchers (Ranked by eWins over Positional Average, Non-Fielding, Catcher only)					
		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	eWOPA
1	Mike Piazza	166.7	127.3	0.567	23.0
2	Carlton Fisk	195.2	165.5	0.541	20.9
3	Johnny Bench	162.6	128.7	0.558	18.4
4	Yogi Berra	161.1	132.9	0.548	16.2
<b>5</b>	<b>Jorge Posada</b>	<b>130.0</b>	<b>112.6</b>	<b>0.536</b>	<b>14.9</b>
6	Gary Carter	179.9	157.0	0.534	13.6
7	Ted Simmons	159.1	139.9	0.532	11.3
8	Joe Mauer	88.4	72.7	0.549	11.2
9	Roy Campanella	109.1	90.5	0.547	10.6
10	Bill Freehan	132.3	116.9	0.531	10.4



## Jorge Posada's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1995	NYA	23	1	0.0	0.0	-0.0	-0.0	-
1996	NYA	24	7	0.1	0.4	-0.1	-0.1	-
1997	NYA	25	60	4.5	4.7	0.4	0.0	-
1998	NYA	26	111	9.6	7.7	2.1	1.4	0.6
1999	NYA	27	112	9.5	9.2	1.3	0.5	-
2000	NYA	28	151	15.3	12.1	3.1	2.0	0.9
2001	NYA	29	138	14.3	12.2	3.0	1.8	0.6
2002	NYA	30	143	16.6	13.3	3.7	2.5	1.3
2003	NYA	31	142	16.0	11.0	4.1	3.0	2.0
2004	NYA	32	137	13.6	11.2	2.7	1.8	0.8
2005	NYA	33	142	12.1	11.3	1.8	0.9	0.0
2006	NYA	34	143	14.3	11.5	2.8	1.8	0.9
2007	NYA	35	144	13.2	11.9	2.2	1.3	0.3
2008	NYA	36	51	4.1	4.4	0.3	-0.1	-
2009	NYA	37	111	11.9	9.4	2.5	1.6	0.8
2010	NYA	38	120	10.0	9.5	1.3	0.5	-
2011	NYA	39	115	7.6	7.8	0.6	-0.3	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>1,828  </b>	<b>172.7</b>	<b>147.6</b>	<b>31.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>	<b>8.2</b>
PostSeason (career)			125	9.8	10.6	0.8	-0.0	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1995	NYA	23	1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1996	NYA	24	7	0.1	0.4	-0.1	-0.1	-
1997	NYA	25	60	5.1	5.3	0.4	0.0	-
1998	NYA	26	111	9.3	8.0	1.7	1.0	0.3
1999	NYA	27	112	9.1	9.8	0.8	0.0	-
2000	NYA	28	151	14.9	12.1	2.9	1.8	0.7
2001	NYA	29	138	13.2	12.2	2.3	1.2	0.1
2002	NYA	30	143	14.1	13.1	2.4	1.3	0.2
2003	NYA	31	142	14.6	11.1	3.3	2.3	1.2
2004	NYA	32	137	12.3	10.9	2.2	1.3	0.4
2005	NYA	33	142	12.7	11.0	2.2	1.3	0.4
2006	NYA	34	143	13.3	11.4	2.3	1.4	0.5
2007	NYA	35	144	14.5	12.2	2.8	1.8	0.8
2008	NYA	36	51	4.1	4.3	0.3	-0.1	-
2009	NYA	37	111	11.7	10.4	1.9	1.0	0.2
2010	NYA	38	120	9.7	8.9	1.5	0.7	-
2011	NYA	39	115	7.4	8.0	0.4	-0.5	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>1,828  </b>	<b>166.1</b>	<b>149.1</b>	<b>27.2</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>4.7</b>
PostSeason (career)			125	10.6	10.6	1.2	0.4	

## #60: Roy Halladay

### Career Highlights

Roy Halladay is one of six pitchers to have won a Cy Young award in each league. His uniform number, #32, was retired by the Toronto Blue Jays on Opening Day, 2018.

Five highlights of Roy Halladay's career:

- Roy Halladay was named to eight All-Star teams and received Cy Young votes seven times. He finished second in Cy Young voting twice (2008, 2011) and won two Cy Young awards, in 2003 (American League) and 2010 (National League).
- In 2003, Roy Halladay led the American League in games started (36), complete games (9), shutouts (2), innings pitched (266), and pitcher wins (22). He was third in the AL in strikeouts (204) and fifth in ERA (3.25). Halladay received 26 of 28 first-place votes in winning the AL Cy Young award.
- In 2010, Roy Halladay led the National League in innings pitched (250.2), complete games (9), shutouts (4), and pitcher wins (21). He was second in the NL in strikeouts (219) and third in ERA (2.44). Halladay won his second Cy Young award unanimously.
- In Roy Halladay's first career postseason appearance, on October 6, 2010, he threw a no-hitter against the Cincinnati Reds, the second postseason no-hitter in major-league history. The only Red to reach base was Jay Bruce who walked with two out in the fifth inning.
- Roy Halladay had five seasons in his career in which he had at least 200 strikeouts and fewer than 40 walks (2003, 2008 – 2011). No other pitcher in major-league history has had more than three such seasons.

### At What Was Roy Halladay Elite?

Roy Halladay had 30 or more starts in a season only eight times in his career. These eight seasons fell within the ten-year period from 2002 through 2011. The next table shows the top 10 players in major-league baseball over those ten seasons, ranked by pWins over replacement level.

Top 10 Players, 2002 - 2011 (Ranked by pWORLD)					
		pWins	pLoss	pWOPA	pWORLD
1	Albert Pujols	218.3	144.1	28.1	41.7
2	Alex Rodriguez	202.7	155.8	24.0	37.6
<b>3</b>	<b>Roy Halladay</b>	<b>141.3</b>	<b>99.5</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>37.2</b>
4	David Ortiz	154.7	111.0	18.2	34.0
5	Derek Jeter	200.2	172.0	18.9	32.9
6	C.C. Sabathia	139.3	107.9	18.8	32.0
7	Johan Santana	116.3	83.5	19.6	30.2
8	Roy Oswalt	132.3	110.4	17.6	29.5
9	Lance Berkman	192.0	146.1	15.9	28.6
10	Vladimir Guerrero	184.9	151.1	12.8	27.6

Roy Halladay was the best pitcher over this decade and among the top three players across all positions.

## Roy Halladay's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1998	TOR	21	2	1.2	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.3
1999	TOR	22	36	7.3	8.4	0.4	-0.5	-
2000	TOR	23	19	3.6	5.5	-0.4	-0.9	-
2001	TOR	24	17	5.5	3.5	1.6	1.1	0.6
2002	TOR	25	34	15.4	10.0	4.3	2.9	1.6
2003	TOR	26	36	17.7	11.6	5.0	3.3	1.7
2004	TOR	27	21	8.2	7.1	1.6	0.8	-
2005	TOR	28	19	10.5	5.6	3.4	2.6	1.8
2006	TOR	29	32	12.1	8.7	3.0	1.9	0.8
2007	TOR	30	31	12.8	9.6	3.1	1.8	0.5
2008	TOR	31	34	16.6	11.5	4.4	2.9	1.3
2009	TOR	32	32	14.5	11.6	3.2	1.8	0.4
2010	PHI	33	33	17.0	12.5	4.4	3.0	1.6
2011	PHI	34	32	15.7	10.4	4.6	3.4	2.2
2012	PHI	35	25	9.7	9.9	1.3	0.4	-
2013	PHI	36	13	3.9	6.9	-0.7	-1.3	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>416  </b>	<b>171.5</b>	<b>133.2</b>	<b>39.7</b>	<b>23.7</b>	<b>12.8</b>
PostSeason (career)			5	2.5	1.8	0.7	0.5	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1998	TOR	21	2	0.9	0.7	0.2	0.1	0.0
1999	TOR	22	36	8.6	9.2	0.7	-0.2	-
2000	TOR	23	19	3.8	6.0	-0.5	-1.1	-
2001	TOR	24	17	6.3	3.9	1.9	1.3	0.7
2002	TOR	25	34	14.2	9.7	3.7	2.5	1.2
2003	TOR	26	36	17.0	11.5	4.7	3.1	1.4
2004	TOR	27	21	8.4	6.3	2.1	1.3	0.4
2005	TOR	28	19	8.4	5.4	2.3	1.6	0.9
2006	TOR	29	32	13.2	10.2	3.0	1.7	0.4
2007	TOR	30	31	13.5	10.6	3.1	1.7	0.3
2008	TOR	31	34	15.7	10.6	4.3	2.9	1.4
2009	TOR	32	32	15.4	11.2	3.9	2.4	1.0
2010	PHI	33	33	15.9	13.7	3.3	1.9	0.5
2011	PHI	34	32	15.1	11.0	4.0	2.8	1.6
2012	PHI	35	25	10.2	10.1	1.5	0.6	-
2013	PHI	36	13	3.3	5.8	-0.6	-1.0	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>416  </b>	<b>169.8</b>	<b>135.8</b>	<b>37.6</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>10.0</b>
PostSeason (career)			5	2.5	1.8	0.7	0.5	

## #61: Wade Boggs

### Career Highlights

Wade Boggs led the American League in batting average five times and on-base percentage six times in the 1980s. He was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility, 2005, with 91.9% of the vote.

Five highlights of Wade Boggs's career:

- Wade Boggs participated in the longest game in professional baseball history, a 33-inning minor-league game between the Rochester Red Wings and the Pawtucket Red Sox, the AAA affiliates of the Baltimore Orioles and Boston Red Sox. Boggs played the entire game at third base and batted 4-for-12, including an RBI double in the bottom of the twenty-first inning. Boggs was on deck when the winning run scored. Cal Ripken (#17) played the entire game at third base for Rochester.
- Wade Boggs batted at least .325 with at least 200 hits and 100 runs scored in each of his first seven full major-league seasons (1983 – 89). He also had 40 or more doubles in 6 of these 7 seasons.
- From June 9, 1985 through June 7, 1986, Wade Boggs played 163 games and batted exactly .400 (258-for-645).
- Wade Boggs is the only player in major-league history to have at least 150 singles, 50 extra-base hits, and 100 walks in a season. Boggs did it twice, in 1986 and 1988.
- Wade Boggs was the first third baseman in Tampa Bay Devil Rays (now Rays) history. He had the first RBI and first home run in Tampa history when he hit a two-run home run off the Tigers' Justin Thompson with one out in the bottom of the sixth inning on March 31, 1998.

### At What Was Wade Boggs Elite?

By at least one measure, eWins over replacement level, Wade Boggs was the best player in baseball over the second half of the 1980s.

#### Top 10 Players, 1985 - 1989 (Ranked by eWORLD)

		eWins	eLosses	eWOPA	eWORLD
1	Wade Boggs	104.1	79.8	12.0	18.9
2	Roger Clemens	72.1	49.2	12.5	18.5
3	Cal Ripken	107.4	97.0	9.4	17.0
4	Rickey Henderson	102.8	79.6	10.0	17.0
5	Bret Saberhagen	71.6	52.5	10.6	16.8
6	Orel Hershiser	78.6	65.4	10.4	16.8
7	Darryl Strawberry	100.1	73.6	10.1	16.6
8	Ozzie Smith	105.5	93.1	8.7	16.1
9	Alan Trammell	92.1	80.5	9.4	15.9
10	Jesse Barfield	103.9	86.0	7.3	14.4

## Wade Boggs's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1982	BOS	24	104	10.4	9.0	1.3	0.6	-
1983	BOS	25	153	22.2	18.3	3.2	1.7	0.3
1984	BOS	26	157	17.9	17.5	1.7	0.3	-
1985	BOS	27	161	22.8	18.6	3.7	2.2	0.6
1986	BOS	28	149	21.9	15.0	4.6	3.3	1.9
1987	BOS	29	147	19.5	14.8	3.6	2.3	0.9
1988	BOS	30	155	19.9	15.4	3.6	2.3	1.0
1989	BOS	31	156	18.0	15.8	2.3	1.1	-
1990	BOS	32	155	18.1	17.7	1.7	0.3	-
1991	BOS	33	144	19.5	15.3	3.5	2.2	0.8
1992	BOS	34	143	16.3	16.7	1.0	-0.3	-
1993	NYA	35	143	16.4	15.5	1.8	0.5	-
1994	NYA	36	97	14.3	10.2	3.2	2.1	1.1
1995	NYA	37	126	13.8	11.9	2.0	0.9	-
1996	NYA	38	132	13.4	13.4	1.0	-0.1	-
1997	NYA	39	104	9.2	8.6	1.1	0.3	-
1998	TBA	40	123	10.5	11.3	0.6	-0.5	-
1999	TBA	41	90	7.7	9.3	-0.1	-0.8	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,439  </b>	<b>291.8</b>	<b>254.2</b>	<b>39.8</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>6.6</b>
PostSeason (career)			39	4.4	4.0	0.5	0.2	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1982	BOS	24	104	10.6	9.4	1.2	0.5	-
1983	BOS	25	153	21.9	17.5	3.4	2.0	0.6
1984	BOS	26	157	20.3	18.2	2.7	1.2	-
1985	BOS	27	161	23.7	18.3	4.3	2.8	1.2
1986	BOS	28	149	20.1	15.9	3.3	2.0	0.6
1987	BOS	29	147	20.2	14.4	4.2	2.8	1.4
1988	BOS	30	155	20.0	15.2	3.8	2.5	1.1
1989	BOS	31	156	20.0	16.0	3.3	2.0	0.7
1990	BOS	32	155	18.1	17.8	1.6	0.3	-
1991	BOS	33	144	18.6	15.4	3.0	1.7	0.3
1992	BOS	34	143	16.1	16.1	1.2	-0.1	-
1993	NYA	35	143	16.0	16.8	1.0	-0.4	-
1994	NYA	36	97	13.9	10.8	2.7	1.7	0.6
1995	NYA	37	126	13.6	12.2	1.7	0.7	-
1996	NYA	38	132	12.7	13.4	0.7	-0.4	-
1997	NYA	39	104	9.9	9.3	1.1	0.3	-
1998	TBA	40	123	11.2	11.3	0.9	-0.1	-
1999	TBA	41	90	8.1	8.9	0.3	-0.4	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,439  </b>	<b>295.1</b>	<b>257.0</b>	<b>40.4</b>	<b>18.8</b>	<b>6.6</b>
PostSeason (career)			39	4.2	4.4	0.2	-0.1	

## #62: Dwight Gooden

### Career Highlights

Dwight Gooden had one of the greatest seasons in major-league history at the age of 20 in 1985.

Five highlights of Dwight Gooden's career:

- Dwight Gooden was named National League Rookie of the Year in 1984 at the age of 19 and Cy Young winner in 1985 at the age of 20.
- In 1984, Dwight Gooden became the youngest player to appear in a major-league All-Star game. He struck out the side in the fifth inning.
- In 1985, Dwight Gooden led the National League in innings pitched (276.2), complete games (16), strikeouts (268), pitcher wins (24), and ERA (1.53).
- Dwight Gooden's 1.53 ERA in 1985 is the lowest single-season ERA since Bob Gibson's 1.12 ERA in 1968 and the second-lowest since 1918.
- From August 11, 1984 through May 6, 1986, Dwight Gooden amassed a record of 37-6 with a 1.38 ERA and 412 strikeouts in 404.2 innings pitched.

### At What Was Dwight Gooden Elite?

As measured by Player won-lost records, Dwight Gooden was the best pitcher in baseball his first two seasons in the major leagues, 1984 and 1985. The next table shows the top pitcher by season for the 1980s, ranked by pWORLD.

**Top Pitcher by Season, 1980 - 1989**  
**(Ranked by pWORLD)**

		pWins	pLosses	pWOPA	pWORLD
1980	Steve Carlton	19.9	13.2	4.1	5.4
1981	Fernando Valenzuela	15.3	10.5	3.1	4.2
1982	Steve Carlton	21.6	15.4	4.1	5.7
1983	John Denny	15.9	10.6	3.4	4.5
<b>1984</b>	<b>Dwight Gooden</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>4.3</b>
<b>1985</b>	<b>Dwight Gooden</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>7.6</b>
1986	Mike Scott	19.1	12.6	4.0	5.4
1987	Roger Clemens	18.3	11.7	3.6	5.1
1988	Orel Hershisier	20.3	13.4	4.2	5.7
1989	Bret Saberhagen	16.7	9.3	3.9	5.1

See also #113, Fernando Valenzuela.

## Dwight Gooden's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORL	pWOPA	pWO*
1984	NYN	19	31	16.5	11.6	4.3	3.2	2.2
1985	NYN	20	35	21.3	11.0	7.6	6.1	4.6
1986	NYN	21	33	16.3	12.4	3.9	2.7	1.5
1987	NYN	22	25	12.7	10.3	3.0	1.9	0.9
1988	NYN	23	34	14.9	12.9	2.9	1.8	0.6
1989	NYN	24	19	8.0	7.6	1.2	0.5	-
1990	NYN	25	34	15.4	12.1	3.7	2.5	1.3
1991	NYN	26	27	12.9	10.9	2.7	1.6	0.6
1992	NYN	27	33	13.1	13.0	2.1	0.9	-
1993	NYN	28	30	13.9	14.1	1.7	0.5	-
1994	NYN	29	7	3.0	3.7	0.1	-0.2	-
1996	NYA	31	29	10.0	9.4	1.6	0.5	-
1997	NYA	32	20	7.1	7.0	1.0	0.2	-
1998	CLE	33	23	7.3	6.9	1.1	0.4	-
1999	CLE	34	26	5.8	6.3	0.5	-0.1	-
2000		35	27	5.9	6.9	0.3	-0.5	-
	<i>HOU</i>		1 /	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0
	<i>NYA</i>		18 /	3.3	2.7	0.7	0.3	-
	<i>TBA</i>		8 /	2.2	3.9	-0.5	-0.8	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>433  </b>	<b>184.1</b>	<b>156.0</b>	<b>37.8</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>11.5</b>
PostSeason (career)			12	2.9	3.6	0.1	-0.2	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORL	eWOPA	eWO*
1984	NYN	19	31	13.4	10.4	3.1	2.2	1.3
1985	NYN	20	35	17.9	11.3	5.5	4.2	2.8
1986	NYN	21	33	14.8	13.1	2.7	1.5	0.3
1987	NYN	22	25	11.8	9.5	2.8	1.8	0.9
1988	NYN	23	34	15.1	15.0	2.1	0.8	-
1989	NYN	24	19	7.2	8.2	0.5	-0.2	-
1990	NYN	25	34	15.4	14.1	2.8	1.5	0.2
1991	NYN	26	27	12.5	11.1	2.4	1.3	0.2
1992	NYN	27	33	13.1	12.7	2.3	1.1	-
1993	NYN	28	30	13.1	12.4	2.0	0.9	-
1994	NYN	29	7	2.4	3.5	-0.1	-0.4	-
1996	NYA	31	29	10.5	9.8	1.7	0.6	-
1997	NYA	32	20	6.3	7.4	0.4	-0.4	-
1998	CLE	33	23	8.1	7.7	1.2	0.4	-
1999	CLE	34	26	7.1	8.8	0.1	-0.7	-
2000		35	27	5.5	7.2	-0.1	-0.8	-
	<i>HOU</i>		1 /	0.3	0.4	-0.0	-0.0	-
	<i>NYA</i>		18 /	3.3	2.9	0.6	0.2	-
	<i>TBA</i>		8 /	2.0	3.9	-0.6	-0.9	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>433  </b>	<b>174.2</b>	<b>162.0</b>	<b>29.5</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>5.8</b>
PostSeason (career)			12	3.5	3.9	0.3	-0.0	

## **#63: Gary Sheffield**

### **Career Highlights**

Gary Sheffield was one of the most well-traveled and most feared hitters of the 1990s and 2000s. He was also the first major-league player who was younger than me.

Five highlights of Gary Sheffield's career:

- Gary Sheffield played in the 1980 Little League World Series representing his hometown of Tampa, Florida and set a Little League World Series record with four doubles. Sheffield's team lost in the finals, 4-3, to a team from Taiwan.
- Gary Sheffield batted .300 or better ten times in his career. He had an on-base percentage of .400 or better ten times. He hit 30 or more home runs eight times. He scored 100 or more runs seven times. He had 100 or more RBI eight times. Gary Sheffield hit each of these milestones in the same season four times, in 1996, 1999, 2000, and 2003.
- Gary Sheffield played for the 1997 World Championship Florida Marlins. In the 1997 postseason, Sheffield batted .320/.521/.540 with 13 runs scored in 16 games.
- Gary Sheffield hit his first major-league home run on September 9, 1988, at the age of 19. Sheffield hit his final major-league home run on June 29, 2009, at the age of 40. This made Gary Sheffield the third player to hit a home run as a teenager and in his 40s, following Ty Cobb and Rusty Staub. Alex Rodriguez (#5) became the fourth such player when he homered on his fortieth birthday on July 27, 2015.
- Gary Sheffield is the nephew of the man ranked immediately above him in my rankings, Dwight Gooden.



### At What Was Gary Sheffield Elite?

Gary Sheffield played for eight franchises over his 22-year career. Except for the Brewers, for whom he started his career, and the Tigers and Mets, with whom he ended it, Sheffield was an All-Star for five of the eight teams for which he played, and deservedly so.

Gary Sheffield's career value by franchise is presented in the next table.

Team	pWins	pLoss	pWOPA	pWORL
Milwaukee Brewers	34.4	36.6	-0.6	2.0
San Diego Padres	32.7	25.9	2.9	5.1
Florida Marlins	78.2	69.5	1.5	7.5
Los Angeles Dodgers	73.8	61.0	3.8	9.3
Atlanta Braves	45.2	31.1	5.5	8.5
New York Yankees	47.4	36.9	4.5	7.9
Detroit Tigers	21.9	19.9	0.3	2.8
New York Mets	8.4	8.9	-0.4	0.3

The next table shows every player who debuted since 1947 who had at least 1.5 pWOPA and 5.0 pWORL for four or more different franchises.

#### Players with pWOPA $\geq 1.5$ , pWORL $\geq 5.0$ for at Least Four Teams (since 1947)

Player	# of Teams	pWins	pLoss	pWOPA	pWORL
<b>Gary Sheffield</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>342.0</b>	<b>289.7</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>43.4</b>
Roger Clemens	4	318.2	228.2	51.1	79.6
Gaylord Perry	4	317.7	289.4	23.7	51.1
Bert Blyleven	4	291.3	260.0	22.2	47.9
Kevin Brown	4	204.7	164.7	26.4	45.2
Roberto Alomar	4	314.4	280.7	20.9	44.3

Nobody was as good for as many different franchises in his career as Gary Sheffield.

## Gary Sheffield's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1988	MIL	19	24	2.6	3.1	0.1	-0.1	-
1989	MIL	20	95	11.0	12.6	0.4	-0.5	-
1990	MIL	21	125	16.3	14.5	2.1	1.0	-
1991	MIL	22	49	4.4	6.5	-0.6	-1.0	-
1992	SDN	23	146	24.8	17.7	4.7	3.1	1.5
1993		24	138	16.3	16.9	0.8	-0.5	-
	<i>FLO</i>		71 /	8.4	8.8	0.4	-0.3	-
	<i>SDN</i>		67 /	7.9	8.1	0.4	-0.2	-
1994	FLO	25	87	12.6	11.2	1.2	0.2	-
1995	FLO	26	63	8.8	8.7	0.4	-0.3	-
1996	FLO	27	161	24.6	19.7	3.3	1.5	-
1997	FLO	28	135	18.5	15.8	2.0	0.6	-
1998		29	130	16.5	15.0	1.2	0.0	-
	<i>FLO</i>		40 /	5.2	5.3	0.1	-0.3	-
	<i>LAN</i>		90 /	11.2	9.6	1.1	0.3	-
1999	LAN	30	152	18.6	16.6	1.8	0.5	-
2000	LAN	31	141	21.4	16.0	3.5	2.0	0.5
2001	LAN	32	143	22.6	18.7	2.9	1.1	-
2002	ATL	33	135	21.3	14.2	4.2	2.8	1.3
2003	ATL	34	155	23.9	16.8	4.3	2.7	1.1
2004	NYA	35	154	22.8	16.8	4.3	2.7	1.1
2005	NYA	36	154	20.5	15.5	3.6	2.2	0.8
2006	NYA	37	39	4.1	4.7	-0.0	-0.4	-
2007	DET	38	133	13.8	10.3	2.7	1.3	-
2008	DET	39	114	8.1	9.7	0.0	-1.0	-
2009	NYN	40	100	8.4	8.9	0.3	-0.4	-
	<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>		<b>2,573  </b>	<b>342.0</b>	<b>289.7</b>	<b>43.4</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>6.3</b>
	PostSeason (career)		44	5.5	5.6	0.2	-0.2	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1988	MIL	19	24	2.6	2.9	0.1	-0.1	-
1989	MIL	20	95	10.5	11.5	0.6	-0.2	-
1990	MIL	21	125	15.8	14.3	2.0	0.9	-
1991	MIL	22	49	4.8	6.3	-0.3	-0.8	-
1992	SDN	23	146	22.2	17.7	3.4	1.9	0.3
1993		24	138	16.7	15.9	1.4	0.1	-
	<i>FLO</i>		71 /	8.5	8.1	0.7	0.1	-
	<i>SDN</i>		67 /	8.2	7.8	0.7	0.1	-
1994	FLO	25	87	12.7	10.5	1.6	0.7	-
1995	FLO	26	63	9.7	7.1	1.6	1.0	0.3
1996	FLO	27	161	23.7	17.5	3.9	2.3	0.6
1997	FLO	28	135	18.5	15.1	2.3	0.9	-
1998		29	130	17.0	14.3	1.9	0.6	-
	<i>FLO</i>		40 /	5.5	5.3	0.3	-0.1	-
	<i>LAN</i>		90 /	11.5	9.0	1.6	0.8	-
1999	LAN	30	152	19.7	16.2	2.6	1.2	-
2000	LAN	31	141	20.4	15.5	3.2	1.7	0.3
2001	LAN	32	143	21.9	17.9	2.9	1.2	-
2002	ATL	33	135	18.3	15.1	2.3	0.9	-
2003	ATL	34	155	22.4	15.7	4.1	2.6	1.1
2004	NYA	35	154	20.2	17.1	2.8	1.3	-
2005	NYA	36	154	19.9	16.0	3.0	1.6	0.2
2006	NYA	37	39	4.3	3.9	0.4	0.1	-
2007	DET	38	133	13.5	10.8	2.3	0.9	-
2008	DET	39	114	8.9	9.3	0.6	-0.4	-
2009	NYN	40	100	9.1	8.8	0.7	-0.0	-
	<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>		<b>2,573  </b>	<b>332.7</b>	<b>279.4</b>	<b>43.5</b>	<b>18.4</b>	<b>2.8</b>
	PostSeason (career)		44	5.9	5.4	0.5	0.0	

## **#64: Dennis Eckersley**

### **Career Highlights**

Dennis Eckersley was a very good starting pitcher for the first half of his career and a lights-out closer for the second half, a combination unmatched in baseball history. He was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility, 2004, with 83.2% of the vote.

Five highlights of Dennis Eckersley's career:

- Dennis Eckersley spent the first twelve years of his career as a starting pitcher. As a starting pitcher, Eckersley was named to two All-Star teams, received Cy Young votes twice, and earned 20 traditional pitcher wins once, in 1978, when he went 20-8 with a 2.99 ERA in 268.1 innings pitched for the Boston Red Sox.
- Dennis Eckersley spent the last twelve years of his career as a relief pitcher. As a reliever, Eckersley was named to four All-Star teams, received Cy Young votes four times, and received MVP votes four times.
- In 1988, Eckersley was voted MVP of the ALCS. He pitched six scoreless innings allowing one hit and two walks with five strikeouts while earning the save in all four of Oakland's victories in the series. In 27 career relief appearances in the postseason, Eckersley finished 26 games, earned 15 saves, and threw 30.2 innings with a 2.08 ERA with 3 walks and 22 strikeouts.
- In 1990, Dennis Eckersley had more saves, 48, than baserunners allowed, 47. Eckersley allowed 41 hits, 4 walks, and had 2 batters reach base on errors.
- In 1992, Eckersley won both the American League Cy Young and MVP awards. Eckersley led the major leagues with 51 saves while amassing a traditional won-lost record of 7-1 in 69 games with a 1.91 ERA over 80 innings pitched.

### **At What Was Dennis Eckersley Elite?**

Dennis Eckersley played in the major leagues for 24 seasons. For his first 12 seasons, 1975 – 1986, he appeared in 376 games and started 359 of them. For his last 12 seasons, 1987 – 1998, Eckersley appeared in 695 games and started 2 of them (both in the first two months of 1987). In effect, Dennis Eckersley had two careers: one as a very good starting pitcher and another as an elite reliever.

The next table shows the players most similar in career value to the first twelve years of Dennis Eckersley's career, the starting pitcher portion, as measured by Player won-lost records.

<b>Most Similar Players to Dennis Eckersley, Starting Pitcher, in Career Value</b>					
<b>Player</b>	<b>Games</b>	<b>pWins</b>	<b>pLosses</b>	<b>pWOPA</b>	<b>pWORL</b>
<b>Dennis Eckersley</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>148.7</b>	<b>129.9</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>25.2</b>
Chris Carpenter	350	137.0	123.8	11.8	25.0
Mel Stottlemyre	365	164.3	152.1	12.5	26.4
Mike Hampton	434	146.2	143.0	9.9	24.3
Jon Lester	350	138.3	118.1	14.5	27.9
Rick Rhoden	427	153.0	148.1	9.3	22.4
Al Leiter	419	155.4	151.3	8.4	24.1
Mike Cuellar	455	169.8	155.6	12.5	27.1
Jason Schmidt	324	131.0	120.1	11.8	24.4
Andy Messersmith	348	143.1	129.1	12.8	24.6
Dan Haren	401	147.7	144.6	7.5	22.2

Two players on this list won Cy Young awards: Chris Carpenter (2005 NL) and Mike Cuellar (1969 AL) and four finished second in Cy Young voting once apiece (Hampton, Lester, Schmidt, and Messersmith). All ten of these pitchers were named to at least two All-Star teams in their career. That said, none of these ten pitchers made my top 150 list.

The next table shows the players most similar in career value to the last twelve years of Dennis Eckersley's career, the relief pitcher portion, as measured by Player won-lost records.

<b>Most Similar Players to Dennis Eckersley, Relief Pitcher, in Career Value</b>					
<b>Player</b>	<b>Games</b>	<b>pWins</b>	<b>pLosses</b>	<b>pWOPA</b>	<b>pWORL</b>
<b>Dennis Eckersley</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>68.6</b>	<b>44.5</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>17.2</b>
Tom Henke	642	67.3	42.2	10.5	17.4
Keith Foulke	619	56.6	36.4	8.6	14.9
Randy Myers	729	76.7	57.1	8.0	16.2
John Wetteland	618	71.7	47.6	10.6	18.0
Robb Nen	642	63.1	38.6	10.5	17.2
Troy Percival	702	71.1	44.6	11.0	18.9
Armando Benitez	762	67.3	48.4	7.4	15.2
Huston Street	668	59.6	38.6	8.6	15.4
Francisco Cordero	800	72.6	53.4	7.3	16.0
Jeff Montgomery	700	73.3	52.6	8.1	16.2

None of these pitchers won a Cy Young award, although it is fairly rare for relief pitchers to win one (of course, Eckersley won not only a Cy Young award but an MVP award as well). But all of these pitchers were named to at least one All-Star team and all of them received at least one down-ballot MVP vote at some point in their careers.

Basically, Dennis Eckersley had Chris Carpenter's career and then followed that up with Tom Henke's career.

## Dennis Eckersley's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1975	CLE	20	34	12.2	9.5	2.5	1.4	0.4
1976	CLE	21	36	11.8	10.6	1.7	0.7	-
1977	CLE	22	33	14.7	10.8	3.4	2.1	0.8
1978	BOS	23	35	16.7	12.5	3.6	2.2	0.9
1979	BOS	24	33	16.4	11.7	3.8	2.5	1.3
1980	BOS	25	30	11.6	11.5	1.2	0.2	-
1981	BOS	26	23	8.3	7.1	1.6	0.8	0.0
1982	BOS	27	33	13.1	12.0	2.0	0.8	-
1983	BOS	28	28	10.3	12.3	0.2	-0.8	-
1984	BOS	29	33	13.3	12.5	2.0	1.0	-
	BOS		9 /	3.6	3.5	0.5	0.2	-
	CHN		24 /	9.7	9.0	1.5	0.8	0.1
1985	CHN	30	25	10.3	7.7	2.6	1.8	0.9
1986	CHN	31	33	10.0	11.9	0.5	-0.4	-
1987	OAK	32	54	7.7	6.1	1.3	0.5	-
1988	OAK	33	60	6.9	3.4	2.1	1.5	0.9
1989	OAK	34	51	5.3	2.0	2.0	1.5	1.1
1990	OAK	35	63	6.3	2.1	2.4	1.9	1.4
1991	OAK	36	67	7.6	5.3	1.8	1.0	0.1
1992	OAK	37	69	7.4	2.4	2.9	2.3	1.7
1993	OAK	38	64	6.0	4.5	1.3	0.6	-
1994	OAK	39	45	4.6	3.4	1.1	0.5	-
1995	OAK	40	52	4.0	3.8	0.5	-0.1	-
1996	SLN	41	63	5.3	4.5	0.8	0.2	-
1997	SLN	42	57	5.1	5.0	0.5	-0.1	-
1998	BOS	43	50	2.4	2.0	0.4	0.2	-
CAREER (reg. season)			1,071	217.3	174.4	42.4	22.4	9.5
PostSeason (career)			28	3.1	2.5	0.5	0.2	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1975	CLE	20	34	10.7	9.7	1.6	0.6	-
1976	CLE	21	36	12.0	9.7	2.2	1.2	0.2
1977	CLE	22	33	14.9	12.4	2.9	1.5	0.1
1978	BOS	23	35	15.9	14.8	2.1	0.7	-
1979	BOS	24	33	14.8	12.3	2.7	1.5	0.3
1980	BOS	25	30	11.6	10.4	1.7	0.8	-
1981	BOS	26	23	9.5	7.6	2.0	1.1	0.3
1982	BOS	27	33	13.1	11.8	2.1	0.9	-
1983	BOS	28	28	9.6	11.9	0.1	-1.0	-
1984	BOS	29	33	12.8	12.5	1.7	0.7	-
	BOS		9 /	3.8	3.9	0.4	0.0	-
	CHN		24 /	9.1	8.6	1.4	0.7	0.0
1985	CHN	30	25	10.5	7.2	2.9	2.1	1.3
1986	CHN	31	33	12.2	13.0	1.3	0.2	-
1987	OAK	32	54	5.9	4.1	1.3	0.7	0.1
1988	OAK	33	60	3.5	2.4	0.8	0.5	0.1
1989	OAK	34	51	2.7	1.7	0.7	0.4	0.2
1990	OAK	35	63	3.4	1.7	1.1	0.7	0.4
1991	OAK	36	67	3.8	3.4	0.6	0.1	-
1992	OAK	37	69	4.0	2.6	1.0	0.6	0.1
1993	OAK	38	64	3.4	3.0	0.5	0.1	-
1994	OAK	39	45	2.2	1.9	0.4	0.1	-
1995	OAK	40	52	2.4	2.2	0.3	-0.0	-
1996	SLN	41	63	2.9	3.1	0.1	-0.2	-
1997	SLN	42	57	2.6	2.8	0.2	-0.2	-
1998	BOS	43	50	1.9	2.2	0.0	-0.3	-
CAREER (reg. season)			1,071	186.6	164.5	30.2	12.9	3.1
PostSeason (career)			28	1.8	1.5	0.3	0.1	

## **#65: Ryne Sandberg**

### **Career Highlights**

Ryne Sandberg was the best second baseman in the National League through most of the 1980s and early 1990s and is one of the best and most popular players in Chicago Cubs history. He was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his third year of eligibility, 2005, with 76.2% of the vote.

Five highlights of Ryne Sandberg's career:

- Ryne Sandberg was named after Ryne Duren, a relief pitcher who pitched for seven teams across ten seasons in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Duren's two best seasons were 1958 and 1959, when Duren saved 33 games for the New York Yankees (leading the league in 1958 with 19) with a 1.95 ERA in 152.1 innings across 85 appearances. Ryne Sandberg was born in September 1959.
- Ryne Sandberg was named to ten All-Star teams, nine as the starting second baseman for the National League. He won nine Gold Gloves and seven Silver Sluggers.
- Ryne Sandberg batted .300 or better five times in his career. He scored 100 or more runs seven times and had exactly 100 RBI twice. Sandberg led the National League in runs scored three times and in triples, home runs, and total bases once each.
- Ryne Sandberg won the National League MVP award in 1984. That season, Sandberg batted .314/.367/.520 with 36 doubles, 19 triples, 19 home runs, 114 runs scored, 84 RBI, and 32 stolen bases (in 39 attempts). Sandberg led the National League in runs scored and triples and won his second Gold Glove at second base.
- Ryne Sandberg appeared in the postseason twice, in 1984 and 1989. In 1984, he batted .368/.455/.474 in five games. In 1989, he batted .400/.458/.800 in five games. Overall, Sandberg batted .385/.457/.641 in postseason play with 6 RBI and 9 runs scored in 10 games.

### At What Was Ryne Sandberg Elite?

During his nine-year prime, from 1984 through 1992, Ryne Sandberg was one of the best players in baseball. In fact, ranked by eWins over replacement level, he was the best player in the National League over that time period.

#### Top 10 National League Players, 1984 - 1992 (Ranked by eWORLD)

		eWins	eLosses	eWOPA	eWORLD
1	<b>Ryne Sandberg</b>	<b>200.1</b>	<b>165.7</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>31.0</b>
2	Ozzie Smith	178.1	160.9	12.8	25.5
3	Dwight Gooden	121.2	105.3	14.2	24.2
4	Darryl Strawberry	162.7	126.0	13.0	23.9
5	Orel Hershiser	112.1	95.5	13.6	22.9
6	Barry Bonds	147.0	112.9	12.7	22.5
7	Andy Van Slyke	159.9	134.2	9.1	20.2
8	Dale Murphy	170.5	147.4	6.7	18.6
9	Tony Gwynn	183.5	160.8	5.4	18.3
10	Will Clark	124.0	92.4	9.8	17.9

See also, Bobby Grich (#33) and Willie Randolph (#88).

## Ryne Sandberg's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORL	pWOPA	pWO*
1981	PHI	21	11	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-
1982	CHN	22	156	18.1	19.1	0.6	-0.9	-
1983	CHN	23	158	19.5	20.7	1.0	-0.5	-
1984	CHN	24	156	25.4	19.1	5.0	3.3	1.6
1985	CHN	25	153	24.0	19.2	3.9	2.3	0.7
1986	CHN	26	154	19.5	18.5	2.2	0.8	-
1987	CHN	27	132	16.8	15.9	1.9	0.6	-
1988	CHN	28	155	20.4	18.6	2.5	1.0	-
1989	CHN	29	156	21.6	18.1	3.0	1.6	0.2
1990	CHN	30	155	22.0	18.7	3.1	1.6	0.1
1991	CHN	31	158	23.1	17.1	4.3	2.8	1.2
1992	CHN	32	158	24.8	18.8	4.5	2.8	1.1
1993	CHN	33	117	13.2	13.7	0.9	-0.2	-
1994	CHN	34	57	6.9	7.1	0.5	-0.1	-
1996	CHN	36	150	19.6	16.7	3.2	1.7	0.3
1997	CHN	37	135	12.7	13.7	0.6	-0.4	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,161  </b>	<b>287.7</b>	<b>255.1</b>	<b>37.1</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>5.3</b>
PostSeason (career)			10	1.4	1.3	0.1	0.0	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORL	eWOPA	eWO*
1981	PHI	21	11	0.2	0.2	-0.0	-0.0	-
1982	CHN	22	156	18.7	18.8	1.0	-0.4	-
1983	CHN	23	158	20.6	19.9	1.9	0.5	-
1984	CHN	24	156	23.7	19.2	4.1	2.4	0.8
1985	CHN	25	153	22.7	18.9	3.3	1.8	0.2
1986	CHN	26	154	20.5	19.4	2.3	0.8	-
1987	CHN	27	132	17.2	15.4	2.3	1.1	-
1988	CHN	28	155	21.1	19.4	2.5	0.9	-
1989	CHN	29	156	21.6	18.2	3.0	1.6	0.2
1990	CHN	30	155	23.5	17.9	4.3	2.8	1.3
1991	CHN	31	158	23.9	18.2	4.2	2.5	0.9
1992	CHN	32	158	26.0	19.0	5.0	3.3	1.6
1993	CHN	33	117	14.3	14.1	1.3	0.1	-
1994	CHN	34	57	6.9	6.8	0.7	0.1	-
1996	CHN	36	150	18.1	16.0	2.7	1.3	-
1997	CHN	37	135	12.9	13.2	0.9	-0.1	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,161  </b>	<b>291.7</b>	<b>254.7</b>	<b>39.5</b>	<b>18.8</b>	<b>5.0</b>
PostSeason (career)			10	1.6	1.1	0.4	0.3	



## **#66: David Cone**

### **Career Highlights**

David Cone was one of the best pitchers of the 1990s.

Five highlights of David Cone's career:

- David Cone won the American League Cy Young award in 1994. That season, he went 16-5 with a 2.94 ERA in 171.2 innings pitched in a strike-shortened 115-game season.
- David Cone earned 20 traditional pitcher wins twice in his career, going 20-3 for the 1988 New York Mets and 20-7 for the 1998 New York Yankees. Cone is the only pitcher to win 20 games for both the Yankees and Mets.
- David Cone led major-league baseball in strikeouts three consecutive seasons from 1991 through 1993. He struck out 19 Philadelphia Phillies in a game on October 6, 1991.
- David Cone threw a perfect game on July 18, 1999 for the New York Yankees against the Montreal Expos. Cone's perfect game was the first no-hitter in a regular-season interleague game. He threw it on Yogi Berra day at Yankee Stadium. Don Larsen, who threw a perfect game in the 1956 World Series, threw out the ceremonial first pitch before the game.
- David Cone pitched for five World Series winners. He pitched in all five World Series, pitching a combined 29.2 innings across 6 games (5 starts) with a 2.12 ERA and a traditional won-lost record of 2-0.

### At What Was David Cone Elite?

David Cone was one of the best pitchers of the 1990s (see #19: Kevin Brown). Cone peaked somewhat later than usual. He won his Cy Young award in his age-31 season and had his second (and final) 20-win season in his age-35 season (1998). Cone received Cy Young votes five times in his career. Three of these five times fell between Cone's age-31 and age-35 seasons.

The next table shows the top 25 pitchers in pWins over replacement level (pWORL) at ages 31 through 35 since 1947.

Top 25 Pitchers, ages 31 - 35 (1947 - 2017, ranked by pWORL)					
		pWins	pLosses	pWOPA	pWORL
1	Bob Gibson	95.2	69.1	17.2	24.2
2	Kevin Brown	80.8	56.6	15.7	22.5
3	Greg Maddux	80.5	58.0	15.1	21.9
4	Randy Johnson	73.2	46.7	15.2	21.5
5	Whitey Ford	83.8	60.8	14.9	21.4
6	Curt Schilling	81.8	61.7	13.9	20.8
7	Warren Spahn	93.6	73.5	13.5	20.8
8	Steve Carlton	90.0	71.4	13.2	19.7
9	Jim Bunning	92.1	75.6	11.9	19.5
10	Bob Lemon	91.8	75.5	11.6	18.9
11	Roger Clemens	67.1	44.8	12.3	18.6
12	Early Wynn	92.4	76.5	11.2	18.5
13	Roy Halladay	73.4	55.8	11.5	17.9
14	Gaylord Perry	100.2	87.8	9.5	17.9
15	Luis Tiant	82.7	65.0	10.0	16.8
16	Allie Reynolds	80.7	65.2	10.2	16.7
<b>17</b>	<b>David Cone</b>	<b>58.7</b>	<b>39.0</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>16.3</b>
18	Tom Glavine	72.2	60.4	9.5	16.0
19	Mike Mussina	68.7	53.1	9.2	15.9
20	Mike Cuellar	82.8	73.2	8.5	15.3
21	Mike Scott	79.1	68.9	8.7	15.3
22	Larry Jackson	85.9	78.4	7.6	15.1
23	Fergie Jenkins	75.8	60.9	8.3	14.7
24	Tom Seaver	75.8	64.7	8.6	14.4
25	Vic Raschi	73.9	62.8	8.0	14.2

## David Cone's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1986	KCA	23	11	0.6	0.8	-0.1	-0.2	-
1987	NYN	24	21	5.2	6.0	0.4	-0.2	-
1988	NYN	25	35	14.3	10.3	3.6	2.6	1.5
1989	NYN	26	34	14.3	11.7	3.1	2.0	0.9
1990	NYN	27	32	14.3	12.0	3.1	1.9	0.8
1991	NYN	28	34	14.9	14.2	2.4	1.1	-
1992		29	35	16.4	15.1	2.9	1.4	-
	NYN		27 /	12.5	12.0	2.1	0.9	-
	TOR		8 /	3.9	3.1	0.9	0.5	0.1
1993	KCA	30	34	15.1	13.1	2.4	1.1	-
1994	KCA	31	23	12.5	7.4	3.8	2.7	1.5
1995		32	30	14.9	10.5	3.9	2.5	1.1
	NYA		13 /	7.0	4.8	1.9	1.3	0.6
	TOR		17 /	7.8	5.7	2.0	1.2	0.5
1996	NYA	33	11	5.2	3.2	1.6	1.1	0.6
1997	NYA	34	29	11.8	8.7	3.0	1.8	0.5
1998	NYA	35	31	14.3	9.2	4.0	2.8	1.6
1999	NYA	36	31	11.2	8.9	2.4	1.3	0.3
2000	NYA	37	30	8.6	11.9	-0.4	-1.5	-
2001	BOS	38	25	9.5	8.9	1.5	0.5	-
2003	NYN	40	5	1.5	1.9	0.1	-0.1	-
CAREER (reg. season)			451	184.5	153.8	37.8	20.7	8.8
PostSeason (career)			21	7.1	6.3	1.2	0.5	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1986	KCA	23	11	1.1	1.2	0.0	-0.1	-
1987	NYN	24	21	5.7	6.3	0.5	-0.1	-
1988	NYN	25	35	13.9	12.9	2.3	1.1	-
1989	NYN	26	34	14.2	14.4	1.9	0.7	-
1990	NYN	27	32	13.7	13.0	2.3	1.2	-
1991	NYN	28	34	15.2	13.2	3.0	1.7	0.4
1992		29	35	15.4	15.4	2.2	0.7	-
	NYN		27 /	12.5	12.5	1.9	0.7	-
	TOR		8 /	2.9	2.9	0.3	0.0	-
1993	KCA	30	34	16.5	13.4	3.1	1.7	0.2
1994	KCA	31	23	10.9	6.8	3.1	2.1	1.1
1995		32	30	14.3	11.6	3.1	1.7	0.2
	NYA		13 /	6.0	5.3	1.1	0.5	-
	TOR		17 /	8.3	6.3	2.0	1.2	0.4
1996	NYA	33	11	4.7	2.9	1.4	1.0	0.6
1997	NYA	34	29	12.4	9.4	3.0	1.7	0.4
1998	NYA	35	31	12.9	10.1	2.9	1.6	0.4
1999	NYA	36	31	12.1	10.6	2.1	0.9	-
2000	NYA	37	30	9.3	11.4	0.2	-0.9	-
2001	BOS	38	25	8.6	8.8	1.1	0.1	-
2003	NYN	40	5	1.2	1.5	0.0	-0.1	-
CAREER (reg. season)			451	182.1	163.2	32.3	14.9	3.3
PostSeason (career)			21	7.1	6.8	1.0	0.3	

## **#67: Ozzie Smith**

### **Career Highlights**

Ozzie Smith is widely regarded as the finest defensive shortstop in major-league history. He was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility, 2002, with 91.7% of the vote.

Five highlights of Ozzie Smith's career:

- Ozzie Smith was named to fifteen All-Star teams and won thirteen Gold Gloves, the most by any shortstop in major-league history.
- Ozzie Smith was named MVP of the 1985 NLCS, batting .435/.500/.696 including a walk-off game-winning home run in Game 5.
- Ozzie Smith finished second in MVP voting in 1987. That season, Smith played his usual superlative defense while posting career highs in batting average (.303), on-base percentage (.392), slugging percentage (.383), hits (182), doubles (40), walks (89), runs scored (104), and RBI (75).
- Ozzie Smith appeared in the 1992 episode of *The Simpsons*, *Homer at the Bat*, in which Montgomery Burns brings in nine major-leaguers to play on the company softball team. Six of the nine players brought in by Burns make my top 150 here: Roger Clemens (#3), Ken Griffey, Jr. (#44), Wade Boggs (#61), Smith, Darryl Strawberry (#82), and Jose Canseco (#102).
- A statue of Ozzie Smith, showing him diving for a ground ball, was unveiled outside Busch Stadium in St. Louis in 2002.

### At What Was Ozzie Smith Elite?

As I said above, Ozzie Smith is widely regarded as the finest defensive shortstop in major-league history. Player won-lost records agree (at least among those players for whom I have calculated Player won-lost records).

#### Top 10 Fielding Shortstops, since 1947 (Ranked by Net Fielding Wins)

		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	Net eWins
1	<b>Ozzie Smith</b>	<b>118.0</b>	<b>103.2</b>	<b>0.533</b>	<b>14.8</b>
2	Mark Belanger	76.1	66.1	0.535	10.0
3	Pee Wee Reese	60.9	51.9	0.540	9.0
4	Cal Ripken	92.4	84.4	0.523	8.0
5	Tim Foli	67.1	60.4	0.526	6.7
6	Alan Trammell	82.1	75.7	0.520	6.4
7	Dave Concepcion	89.9	84.2	0.516	5.7
8	Omar Vizquel	102.0	96.3	0.514	5.7
9	Roy McMillan	86.0	80.5	0.517	5.5
10	Rey Sanchez	37.3	31.9	0.540	5.5

In my first book, I introduced fielding wins over replacement level (fWORLD). This metric has two advantages over simple fielding records. First, by comparing against replacement level instead of average (or .500), it rewards players for being able to play a position longer at an acceptable, but below-average, level. Second, replacement level differs by position, so fWORLD can allow one to compare fielders across different positions.

The next table, then, looks at the top 10 players in fielding wins over replacement level since 1947.

#### Top 10 Fielders Across All Positions, since 1947 (Ranked by Fielding Wins over Replacement Level)

		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	fWORLD
1	<b>Ozzie Smith</b>	<b>118.0</b>	<b>103.2</b>	<b>0.534</b>	<b>18.7</b>
2	Cal Ripken	110.9	101.5	0.522	16.5
3	Luis Aparicio	111.0	106.4	0.510	14.3
4	Mark Belanger	76.6	66.5	0.536	14.0
5	Omar Vizquel	107.4	101.5	0.514	13.8
6	Dave Concepcion	96.4	90.9	0.515	13.1
7	Alan Trammell	83.8	77.5	0.519	12.7
8	Brooks Robinson	90.9	77.8	0.539	12.1
9	Tim Foli	71.8	64.3	0.528	11.5
10	Bill Russell	84.7	79.4	0.516	11.4

According to Player won-lost records, Ozzie Smith was not merely the finest fielding shortstop in major-league history, he was the most valuable fielder across all positions, since at least MLB integration.

## Ozzie Smith's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1978	SDN	23	159	21.1	21.6	2.1	0.4	-
1979	SDN	24	156	17.4	18.9	1.2	-0.2	-
1980	SDN	25	158	21.3	21.2	2.4	0.7	-
1981	SDN	26	110	13.1	15.5	0.4	-0.7	-
1982	SLN	27	140	19.6	16.8	3.2	1.8	0.4
1983	SLN	28	159	20.2	17.8	2.8	1.5	0.1
1984	SLN	29	124	17.9	15.4	3.1	1.9	0.6
1985	SLN	30	158	22.5	18.1	4.3	2.8	1.3
1986	SLN	31	153	18.9	16.6	2.9	1.6	0.3
1987	SLN	32	158	23.0	17.4	4.9	3.3	1.8
1988	SLN	33	153	22.6	17.8	4.3	2.7	1.2
1989	SLN	34	155	20.7	18.6	2.9	1.5	0.1
1990	SLN	35	143	16.3	17.2	1.1	-0.1	-
1991	SLN	36	150	20.7	17.7	3.3	1.8	0.3
1992	SLN	37	132	18.5	16.8	2.6	1.3	-
1993	SLN	38	140	18.6	18.2	2.0	0.6	-
1994	SLN	39	98	10.9	12.3	0.5	-0.5	-
1995	SLN	40	44	4.6	5.6	0.0	-0.4	-
1996	SLN	41	82	7.5	6.8	1.1	0.5	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,572  </b>	<b>335.3</b>	<b>310.4</b>	<b>45.3</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>6.2</b>
PostSeason (career)			42	4.7	4.8	0.4	0.1	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1978	SDN	23	159	20.3	21.9	1.5	-0.1	-
1979	SDN	24	156	18.4	20.6	1.1	-0.4	-
1980	SDN	25	158	22.4	22.7	2.3	0.6	-
1981	SDN	26	110	14.2	15.6	0.9	-0.2	-
1982	SLN	27	140	19.0	18.0	2.4	1.0	-
1983	SLN	28	159	18.9	18.0	2.0	0.7	-
1984	SLN	29	124	16.9	16.2	2.2	1.0	-
1985	SLN	30	158	20.1	18.5	2.8	1.4	-
1986	SLN	31	153	17.8	16.9	2.2	0.9	-
1987	SLN	32	158	23.4	18.4	4.7	3.0	1.4
1988	SLN	33	153	23.3	19.4	3.9	2.3	0.7
1989	SLN	34	155	20.9	20.0	2.4	1.0	-
1990	SLN	35	143	16.3	16.1	1.6	0.5	-
1991	SLN	36	150	20.6	18.0	3.1	1.6	0.1
1992	SLN	37	132	18.8	17.6	2.4	1.0	-
1993	SLN	38	140	17.5	17.9	1.5	0.1	-
1994	SLN	39	98	11.5	12.4	0.8	-0.2	-
1995	SLN	40	44	4.4	5.4	-0.0	-0.4	-
1996	SLN	41	82	7.6	7.3	1.0	0.3	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,572  </b>	<b>332.3</b>	<b>320.6</b>	<b>39.1</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>2.2</b>
PostSeason (career)			42	4.7	5.2	0.3	-0.1	

## #68: Johan Santana

### Career Highlights

Johan Santana was the best pitcher in baseball for much of the first decade of the twenty-first century.

Five highlights of Johan Santana's career:

- Johan Santana was originally signed by the Houston Astros. He was acquired by the Minnesota Twins, for whom he would have his best seasons, via the 1999 Rule V draft. Santana was technically drafted by the Florida Marlins who subsequently traded him to the Twins.
- Johan Santana was named to four All-Star teams in his career. He received Cy Young votes six times, winning the award twice (2004 and 2006).
- From 2004 – 2006, Johan Santana had a traditional won-lost record of 55-19 with a 2.75 ERA and 748 strikeouts in 693.1 innings pitched. He led the American League in strikeouts all three seasons, in ERA twice, in innings pitched and wins once each, had his only 20-win season and won both of his Cy Young awards during this stretch.
- From July 17, 2004 through April 26, 2005, Johan Santana won 18 consecutive decisions, including the postseason. He had four no-decisions during that time: in two no-decisions, the Twins were leading when Santana left the game; in the other two no-decisions, Santana was removed from a tie game which the Twins went on to win.
- Johan Santana pitched the first no-hitter by a New York Mets' pitcher on June 1, 2011, beating the St. Louis Cardinals, 8-0.

### At What Was Johan Santana Elite?

At his best, Johan Santana was a star: the best pitcher, and one of the best players, in Major League Baseball for a seven-year stretch from 2003 through 2009. Santana's pWins over Star (pWO\*), 10.0, are considerably greater than the pitchers ranked just above and below him here: David Cone (#66, 8.8) and Andy Pettitte (#70, 7.2). But Cone and Pettitte beat Santana in career pWins over either positional average or replacement level. This is because, while Johan Santana had a peak period during which he was the best pitcher in baseball, he had very little career value outside that period.

But at his best, Johan Santana was really, really good.

#### Top 10 Players, 2003 - 2009 (Ranked by pWORLD)

		pWins	pLosses	pWOPA	pWORLD
1	Albert Pujols	152.6	96.7	21.7	31.0
2	Alex Rodriguez	149.3	112.5	18.3	28.1
<b>3</b>	<b>Johan Santana</b>	<b>96.0</b>	<b>64.5</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>26.9</b>
4	David Ortiz	114.7	78.9	15.0	26.3
5	Derek Jeter	144.1	120.7	15.1	24.9
6	Carlos Zambrano	100.8	82.4	14.9	23.9
7	Roy Halladay	92.4	65.7	15.1	23.8
8	Carlos Beltran	139.4	109.8	13.5	22.8
9	Chase Utley	122.0	93.3	14.1	22.0
10	C.C. Sabathia	94.4	73.5	12.8	21.9

## Johan Santana's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
2000	MIN	21	30	2.4	3.2	-0.1	-0.5	-
2001	MIN	22	15	1.6	1.3	0.3	0.1	-
2002	MIN	23	27	7.5	5.5	1.8	1.1	0.3
2003	MIN	24	45	10.3	6.1	3.2	2.2	1.2
2004	MIN	25	34	15.4	8.1	5.3	4.0	2.7
2005	MIN	26	33	14.5	8.5	4.4	3.2	2.0
2006	MIN	27	34	15.9	9.9	4.7	3.3	1.9
2007	MIN	28	33	13.5	10.8	3.0	1.6	0.3
2008	NYN	29	34	15.1	11.8	3.7	2.4	1.0
2009	NYN	30	25	11.3	9.2	2.6	1.6	0.6
2010	NYN	31	29	12.6	12.7	1.8	0.5	-
2012	NYN	33	21	8.4	10.0	0.5	-0.4	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>360  </b>	<b>128.5</b>	<b>97.4</b>	<b>31.1</b>	<b>19.1</b>	<b>10.0</b>
PostSeason (career)			11	2.2	1.8	0.5	0.2	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
2000	MIN	21	30	4.4	5.1	0.2	-0.4	-
2001	MIN	22	15	2.1	2.8	-0.0	-0.3	-
2002	MIN	23	27	6.7	5.2	1.5	0.8	0.1
2003	MIN	24	45	9.4	6.8	2.3	1.3	0.3
2004	MIN	25	34	15.3	8.5	5.1	3.8	2.4
2005	MIN	26	33	15.6	9.6	4.5	3.2	2.0
2006	MIN	27	34	14.8	9.9	4.1	2.7	1.4
2007	MIN	28	33	14.2	11.1	3.3	1.9	0.5
2008	NYN	29	34	15.5	13.4	3.3	1.8	0.4
2009	NYN	30	25	10.7	10.0	2.0	1.0	-
2010	NYN	31	29	12.6	11.4	2.4	1.2	0.1
2012	NYN	33	21	7.1	8.3	0.5	-0.2	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>360  </b>	<b>128.5</b>	<b>101.9</b>	<b>29.1</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>7.1</b>
PostSeason (career)			11	2.1	1.5	0.6	0.4	



## **#69: Dwight Evans**

### **Career Highlights**

In the mid-1970s, the Boston Red Sox came up with three young outfielders, two of whom won MVP awards in the 1970s. Dwight Evans was the only one of the three to not win an MVP award, but probably ended up having the best career of the three (see also, #112, Fred Lynn).

Five highlights of Dwight Evans's career:

- In Dwight Evans's first major-league plate appearance, he batted out of turn. Evans and Cecil Cooper both entered the game as pinch runners in the sixth inning, stayed in the game defensively, and came up to bat in the eighth inning. Cooper was supposed to bat in front of Evans, but Evans batted first. He popped out to the shortstop and Cooper grounded out, so the Cleveland Indians did not bother to object to Evans batting out of turn.
- Dwight Evans was named to three All-Star teams. He received MVP votes five times. He won eight Gold Gloves and two Silver Sluggers.
- Dwight Evans has the sixth-most games played in right field since 1913 (2,092). He is third in career putouts (4,247), 14th in assists (155), and eighth in double plays (42) by a right fielder (all since 1913).
- Dwight Evans hit the most home runs in the American League in the 1980s, 256.
- Dwight Evans played in two World Series, 1975 and 1986. In World Series play, Evans batted .300/.397/.580 with 3 home runs and 14 RBI in 14 World Series games.

### **At What Was Dwight Evans Elite?**

Dwight Evans was elite at a number of things, appearing in several other players' tables throughout this book. He was one of the best players in baseball in the late 1970s and 1980s (see #9, Mike Schmidt; #28, Alan Trammell; et al.). He was one of the best right fielders in baseball (see #86, Darryl Strawberry).

At his best, Dwight Evans was one of the best hitters in baseball. He was also one of the best defensive right fielders ever at his best. One interesting thing about Evans, which I think plays into his having been underrated through his career, is that his fielding peak and his hitting peak barely overlapped with one another. Evans did not really come into his own as a hitter until 1980 or 1981, his age-28 and age-29 seasons. Through 1978, Evans batted .258/.337/.440, which is solid, but from age 28 through his retirement (at age 39), Evans batted .277/.383/.484.

But Evans' best years defensively were his earliest seasons, through his age-29 or age-30 seasons (1981 and 1982).

The next table shows the top 10 players in net fielding wins (wins minus losses) as a right fielder through age 30 since 1947.

**Top 10 Fielding Right Fielders, 1947 - 2017**  
**(Ranked by Net Fielding Wins, through age 30)**

		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	Net eWins
1	Jesse Barfield	55.2	46.0	0.546	9.2
2	Al Kaline	52.6	44.9	0.540	7.7
3	Carl Furillo	27.8	21.1	0.568	6.7
4	Tony Oliva	35.3	28.6	0.552	6.6
5	Ellis Valentine	35.4	29.0	0.549	6.3
6	Dave Winfield	42.3	36.2	0.539	6.1
7	Johnny Callison	56.7	50.7	0.528	6.0
8	Ichiro Suzuki	26.7	21.2	0.558	5.6
<b>9</b>	<b>Dwight Evans</b>	<b>51.9</b>	<b>46.8</b>	<b>0.526</b>	<b>5.1</b>
10	Roger Maris	31.2	26.3	0.543	5.0

In his thirties, Evans was closer to an average defensive right fielder, actually a tick below average, who continued to provide tremendous value primarily through his bat. In general, his fielding in his thirties was not bad; but being slightly below average over that time period reduces his net eWins, which is the statistic being ranked in the above table. If, instead, one shifts the base from average to replacement level, Evans continues to get credit for playing right field at an acceptable, even if slightly below average, level through his thirties.

The next table, then, shows the top 10 players in fielding wins over replacement level earned as a right fielder, since 1947.

**Top 10 Fielding Right Fielders, 1947 - 2017**  
**(Ranked by Fielding Wins over Replacement Level)**

		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	fWORL
1	Ichiro Suzuki	78.8	68.9	0.533	9.2
2	Roberto Clemente	103.7	94.9	0.522	8.3
3	Jesse Barfield	58.5	48.8	0.545	8.0
4	Carl Furillo	59.9	50.2	0.544	7.9
5	Al Kaline	77.6	68.1	0.532	7.7
<b>6</b>	<b>Dwight Evans</b>	<b>84.5</b>	<b>80.9</b>	<b>0.511</b>	<b>6.5</b>
7	Alexis Rios	51.4	45.5	0.530	5.8
8	Paul O'Neill	64.6	60.0	0.518	5.5
9	Tony Oliva	47.2	40.1	0.541	5.2
10	Johnny Callison	68.1	63.1	0.519	5.1

## Dwight Evans's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1972	BOS	20	18	2.1	2.0	0.1	-0.1	-
1973	BOS	21	115	10.0	9.0	1.1	0.3	-
1974	BOS	22	133	17.6	13.8	2.9	1.6	0.4
1975	BOS	23	126	14.8	13.1	1.7	0.5	-
1976	BOS	24	146	18.6	15.5	2.5	1.2	-
1977	BOS	25	73	7.7	7.0	0.8	0.2	-
1978	BOS	26	147	17.6	15.0	2.1	0.9	-
1979	BOS	27	152	17.0	16.2	1.2	-0.1	-
1980	BOS	28	146	15.7	15.1	1.3	0.1	-
1981	BOS	29	108	18.8	12.3	4.1	2.9	1.7
1982	BOS	30	162	24.2	19.3	3.7	2.1	0.4
1983	BOS	31	126	14.9	13.4	1.7	0.7	-
1984	BOS	32	162	25.6	19.9	3.8	2.1	0.4
1985	BOS	33	159	22.9	19.2	3.1	1.5	-
1986	BOS	34	152	21.0	15.8	3.6	2.2	0.9
1987	BOS	35	154	19.1	15.3	2.7	1.3	-
1988	BOS	36	149	20.1	18.1	2.0	0.5	-
1989	BOS	37	146	17.2	15.4	2.2	0.8	-
1990	BOS	38	122	13.1	10.3	2.7	1.3	-
1991	BAL	39	101	8.8	9.2	0.4	-0.3	-
CAREER (reg. season)			2,597	326.9	274.9	43.7	19.7	3.7
PostSeason (career)			32	3.8	3.3	0.5	0.2	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1972	BOS	20	18	2.4	1.9	0.4	0.2	0.0
1973	BOS	21	115	9.7	8.7	1.1	0.3	-
1974	BOS	22	133	16.0	14.1	1.9	0.7	-
1975	BOS	23	126	14.5	12.8	1.6	0.5	-
1976	BOS	24	146	19.0	15.9	2.5	1.2	-
1977	BOS	25	73	8.6	7.1	1.2	0.6	-
1978	BOS	26	147	19.4	16.4	2.4	1.0	-
1979	BOS	27	152	17.1	16.1	1.3	0.0	-
1980	BOS	28	146	17.4	15.8	1.8	0.5	-
1981	BOS	29	108	18.8	12.9	3.9	2.6	1.3
1982	BOS	30	162	23.8	18.8	3.8	2.2	0.5
1983	BOS	31	126	15.0	14.1	1.5	0.3	-
1984	BOS	32	162	24.3	20.2	3.0	1.3	-
1985	BOS	33	159	22.6	18.8	3.1	1.6	-
1986	BOS	34	152	19.2	16.2	2.5	1.2	-
1987	BOS	35	154	19.7	15.1	3.0	1.7	0.3
1988	BOS	36	149	18.1	15.8	1.9	0.6	-
1989	BOS	37	146	17.1	14.2	2.7	1.3	-
1990	BOS	38	122	10.6	10.1	1.4	0.2	-
1991	BAL	39	101	8.6	8.1	0.8	0.1	-
CAREER (reg. season)			2,597	321.8	273.2	41.8	18.1	2.1
PostSeason (career)			32	3.7	3.3	0.4	0.1	

## #70: Andy Pettitte

### Career Highlights

Andy Pettitte was a key starting pitcher for eight pennant winners and five World Series winners.

Five highlights of Andy Pettitte's career:

- Andy Pettitte had 20 or more traditional pitcher wins twice in his career (1996 and 2003), leading the league once. He also led the American League in games started three times.
- Andy Pettitte pitched the equivalent of somewhat more than one full regular season in postseason games over his career. For his career, Pettitte started 44 postseason games, pitching 276.2 innings, with a traditional won-lost record of 19-11 and a 3.81 ERA that was virtually identical to his career regular-season ERA of 3.85. Pettitte's 19 postseason wins and 272.2 postseason innings are both major-league records.
- Andy Pettitte hit one home run in his career, against Chan Ho Park of the San Diego Padres on August 11, 2006, in the fourth inning to bring the Houston Astros into a 2-2 tie in a game the Astros – and Pettitte – would go on to win 4-2.
- Mariano Rivera saved 72 of Andy Pettitte's victories, a major-league record for a starting pitcher – relief pitcher combination.
- The last game of Andy Pettitte's major-league career was one of the ten best games of his major-league career, as measured by Player won-lost record (net pWins). Pettitte pitched a complete-game five-hitter with two walks and five strikeouts as the Yankees beat the Houston Astros, 2 – 1.

### At What Was Andy Pettitte Elite?

Andy Pettitte's general reputation was, I believe, of a pitcher who was consistently good, but perhaps not great. In fact, that's exactly how Andy Pettitte was elite: he was so "consistently good" that he never had a below-average season in his career, at least as measured by pWOPA.

The next table shows every player for whom I have calculated Player won-lost records with at least 200 career pWins and a positive pWOPA for every season of his career (through 2017).

Players with 200 or more career pWins and (pWOPA > 0) every season of career						
Player	Seasons	Games	pWins	pLosses	pWOPA	pWORL
Roger Clemens	24	709	318.2	228.2	51.1	79.6
Ted Williams	19	2,168	349.4	239.0	42.4	66.4
<b>Andy Pettitte</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>211.6</b>	<b>174.7</b>	<b>23.7</b>	<b>44.4</b>
Bobby Grich	17	2,004	253.6	217.7	23.6	41.8
Robin Ventura	16	2,072	237.8	203.1	17.0	34.6
Arky Vaughan	14	1,454	208.6	175.2	18.5	34.5
Joe DiMaggio	13	1,686	278.0	189.3	38.7	57.9
Phil Rizzuto	13	1,658	204.2	179.1	15.1	30.5
Robinson Cano	13	1,998	265.2	227.2	21.4	39.6
Joe Gordon	11	1,538	213.6	170.0	23.2	38.8

## Andy Pettitte's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1995	NYA	23	31	10.6	9.8	1.8	0.7	-
1996	NYA	24	35	15.0	10.8	3.9	2.4	0.9
1997	NYA	25	35	14.0	8.2	4.4	3.1	1.8
1998	NYA	26	33	13.7	11.8	2.6	1.2	-
1999	NYA	27	31	11.7	11.4	1.6	0.4	-
2000	NYA	28	32	13.0	10.7	2.6	1.4	0.1
2001	NYA	29	31	13.2	10.5	3.0	1.7	0.3
2002	NYA	30	22	9.5	5.9	2.8	1.9	1.1
2003	NYA	31	33	14.5	11.7	3.2	1.7	0.2
2004	HOU	32	15	5.6	4.9	1.2	0.6	0.1
2005	HOU	33	33	14.1	9.8	3.9	2.8	1.7
2006	HOU	34	38	14.8	14.7	2.3	0.8	-
2007	NYA	35	36	12.4	10.7	2.4	1.1	-
2008	NYA	36	33	13.0	13.3	1.5	0.1	-
2009	NYA	37	32	12.9	10.4	2.9	1.6	0.4
2010	NYA	38	21	8.6	6.2	2.1	1.3	0.6
2012	NYA	40	12	4.1	3.9	0.6	0.2	-
2013	NYA	41	30	10.8	9.9	1.8	0.7	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>533  </b>	<b>211.6</b>	<b>174.7</b>	<b>44.4</b>	<b>23.7</b>	<b>7.2</b>
PostSeason (career)			44	17.1	14.1	3.6	1.9	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1995	NYA	23	31	10.5	9.2	1.9	0.8	-
1996	NYA	24	35	13.6	10.5	3.2	1.8	0.4
1997	NYA	25	35	15.1	9.2	4.6	3.2	1.7
1998	NYA	26	33	12.6	12.3	1.8	0.5	-
1999	NYA	27	31	11.8	12.0	1.4	0.1	-
2000	NYA	28	32	12.1	11.1	1.9	0.7	-
2001	NYA	29	31	12.4	9.7	2.9	1.6	0.4
2002	NYA	30	22	8.5	6.2	2.1	1.3	0.5
2003	NYA	31	33	13.2	11.0	2.8	1.4	-
2004	HOU	32	15	5.4	4.6	1.2	0.7	0.2
2005	HOU	33	33	14.1	10.8	3.4	2.3	1.1
2006	HOU	34	38	14.4	14.6	2.1	0.6	-
2007	NYA	35	36	12.8	11.0	2.5	1.2	-
2008	NYA	36	33	12.2	11.6	1.9	0.6	-
2009	NYA	37	32	12.9	11.7	2.3	1.0	-
2010	NYA	38	21	7.5	6.3	1.4	0.7	-
2012	NYA	40	12	4.8	3.6	1.1	0.7	0.3
2013	NYA	41	30	10.8	9.9	1.8	0.7	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>533  </b>	<b>204.7</b>	<b>175.4</b>	<b>40.2</b>	<b>19.8</b>	<b>4.6</b>
PostSeason (career)			44	17.5	15.2	3.3	1.6	

## **#71: Harmon Killebrew**

### **Career Highlights**

Harmon Killebrew was the best power hitter in the American League in the 1960s. He was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1984, his fourth year of eligibility, with 83.1% of the vote.

Five highlights of Harmon Killebrew's career:

- Harmon Killebrew was signed by the Washington Senators on the recommendation of an actual U.S. Senator, Herman Welker (R-Idaho).
- Harmon Killebrew was named to 11 All-Star teams. He received MVP votes 11 times. He finished in the top 5 in MVP voting 6 times, winning the 1969 American League MVP award.
- Harmon Killebrew was the first player to start All-Star games at three different positions: 3B (1959, 1970), LF (1964), and 1B (1965, 1967-68).
- Harmon Killebrew led the American League in home runs six times, in RBI three times, in walks four times, and in slugging percentage once.
- Harmon Killebrew got the first hit by a Minnesota Twin in the first home game in Minnesota Twins history, a single leading off the second inning off Bob Shaw of the Chicago White Sox. Killebrew went 4-for-5 in the game with a home run (the second by a Twins player in Minnesota), but the Twins lost their home opener, 5-3 in 11 innings.

### At What Was Harmon Killebrew Elite?

Harmon Killebrew was an elite power hitter. When he hit the ball, he hit it hard. When he retired, he was fifth in major-league history in career home runs and he is still sixth all-time in home runs per at bat.

Player won-lost records are calculated across nine components. These were described briefly in the introduction to this book. Batters share credit in seven of these nine components:

- Component 3: Balls not in Play
- Component 4: Balls in Play
- Component 5: Hits vs. Outs
- Component 6: Singles v. Doubles v. Triples
- Component 7: Double Plays
- Component 8: Baserunning Outs, and
- Component 9: Baserunner Advancements

Component 4 assigns value on balls which the batter hits, based on how hard the ball is hit and how far it goes. That is, Component 4 gives batters credit for hitting home runs and line drives and debits batters who hit a lot of infield pop-ups or weak ground balls.

The next table shows the top 10 batters in net component 4 wins, since 1947. There is obviously a very high, although not necessarily 100 percent, correlation between Component 4 wins and home runs. Harmon Killebrew is one of the top 10 hitters, in terms of how hard he hit the ball, when he hit the ball, of the past 70 years.

Top 10 Batters, Net Component 4 Wins, since 1947					
		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	eWORLD
1	Barry Bonds	152.6	71.0	0.682	81.6
2	Hank Aaron	170.6	93.7	0.645	76.9
3	Willie Mays	147.6	81.0	0.646	66.6
4	<b>Harmon Killebrew</b>	<b>118.1</b>	<b>54.4</b>	<b>0.685</b>	<b>63.7</b>
5	Mike Schmidt	115.4	51.7	0.690	63.6
6	Sammy Sosa	117.8	54.4	0.684	63.4
7	Mark McGwire	103.1	40.1	0.720	63.0
8	Mickey Mantle	114.3	51.4	0.690	62.8
9	Jim Thome	112.6	50.0	0.692	62.6
10	Willie Stargell	109.6	47.4	0.698	62.2

## Harmon Killebrew's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1954	WS1	18	6	0.3	0.4	-0.0	-0.0	-
1955	WS1	19	38	1.7	2.2	-0.1	-0.3	-
1956	WS1	20	44	1.9	3.8	-0.7	-0.9	-
1957	WS1	21	9	1.0	1.2	-0.0	-0.1	-
1958	WS1	22	13	0.5	1.3	-0.3	-0.4	-
1959	WS1	23	153	22.1	17.9	3.1	1.5	-
1960	WS1	24	124	14.1	11.1	2.0	1.0	-
1961	MIN	25	150	17.5	15.1	1.8	0.3	-
1962	MIN	26	155	23.8	17.9	3.5	2.0	0.4
1963	MIN	27	142	18.8	15.6	2.1	0.8	-
1964	MIN	28	158	22.7	19.9	2.1	0.4	-
1965	MIN	29	113	15.8	9.6	3.5	2.5	1.5
1966	MIN	30	162	21.9	15.9	3.8	2.3	0.9
1967	MIN	31	163	22.9	14.2	4.8	3.2	1.6
1968	MIN	32	100	10.1	8.0	1.4	0.6	-
1969	MIN	33	162	24.8	15.2	5.8	4.1	2.4
1970	MIN	34	157	22.5	16.2	4.1	2.4	0.8
1971	MIN	35	147	17.5	15.6	1.5	0.2	-
1972	MIN	36	139	16.4	12.5	2.0	0.8	-
1973	MIN	37	69	6.1	6.6	0.1	-0.4	-
1974	MIN	38	122	9.4	8.9	1.1	0.2	-
1975	KCA	39	106	8.3	7.2	1.4	0.4	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,432  </b>	<b>300.0</b>	<b>236.3</b>	<b>42.9</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>7.5</b>
PostSeason (career)			13	1.3	1.7	-0.2	-0.3	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1954	WS1	18	6	0.3	0.4	0.0	-0.0	-
1955	WS1	19	38	2.3	2.3	0.2	-0.0	-
1956	WS1	20	44	2.6	3.1	-0.0	-0.3	-
1957	WS1	21	9	1.1	1.0	0.2	0.1	-
1958	WS1	22	13	0.7	0.8	-0.0	-0.1	-
1959	WS1	23	153	20.4	16.6	2.9	1.4	-
1960	WS1	24	124	15.0	11.2	2.4	1.4	0.3
1961	MIN	25	150	19.4	13.5	3.5	2.1	0.6
1962	MIN	26	155	21.8	17.7	2.6	1.1	-
1963	MIN	27	142	20.1	15.7	2.8	1.4	0.0
1964	MIN	28	158	23.0	17.8	3.3	1.6	0.0
1965	MIN	29	113	13.9	10.8	2.0	1.0	0.0
1966	MIN	30	162	20.7	14.5	3.8	2.5	1.1
1967	MIN	31	163	21.5	13.2	4.6	3.1	1.6
1968	MIN	32	100	10.3	8.1	1.4	0.6	-
1969	MIN	33	162	21.4	15.2	4.1	2.5	1.0
1970	MIN	34	157	20.5	16.1	3.1	1.6	-
1971	MIN	35	147	17.7	14.4	2.2	0.9	-
1972	MIN	36	139	14.5	11.6	1.5	0.5	-
1973	MIN	37	69	5.9	6.2	0.2	-0.4	-
1974	MIN	38	122	8.3	8.3	0.8	-0.0	-
1975	KCA	39	106	7.2	7.2	0.8	-0.1	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,432  </b>	<b>288.8</b>	<b>225.5</b>	<b>42.3</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>4.7</b>
PostSeason (career)			13	1.6	1.5	0.1	0.0	



## **#72: Sandy Koufax**

### **Career Highlights**

Sandy Koufax is considered by some people to have been one of the greatest pitchers in major-league history, despite not having thrown a pitch after his 31st birthday. Koufax was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility, 1972, with 86.9% of the vote.

Five highlights of Sandy Koufax's career:

- Sandy Koufax threw a then-record four no-hitters in his major-league career, including a perfect game.
- Sandy Koufax led the National League in pitcher wins three times, in ERA five times, in shutouts three times, in strikeouts four times, in fewest hits per nine innings five times, and in strikeouts per nine innings six times.
- Sandy Koufax won three Cy Young awards (1963, 1965, 1966) – all when a single Cy Young award was given for both leagues, and all unanimously. He also won one MVP award (1963) and finished second in MVP voting two other times (1965 and 1966).
- Because of rules at the time that required players who received a signing bonus of \$6,000 or more to be put on the major-league roster, Koufax never appeared in a minor-league baseball game in his career.
- When Koufax was first placed on the Dodgers' roster, the player he replaced was future Dodgers manager and Hall-of-Famer Tommy Lasorda.

### **At What Was Sandy Koufax Elite?**

Sandy Koufax had a peak like few, if any, other players. From 1962 – 1966, Sandy Koufax led the National League in ERA every season, amassing an overall record of 111-34 with a 1.95 ERA and 1,444 strikeouts in 1,377 innings.

Shifting to Player won-lost records, Sandy Koufax had two of the top five seasons since 1947, as measured by pWins over replacement level.

<b>Top 10 Single Seasons, since 1947 (Ranked by pWORLD)</b>						
	<b>Player</b>	<b>Season</b>	<b>pWins</b>	<b>pLosses</b>	<b>pWOPA</b>	<b>pWORLD</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Sandy Koufax</b>	<b>1965</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>8.0</b>
2	Steve Carlton	1972	25.1	14.9	6.1	7.9
3	Dwight Gooden	1985	21.3	11.0	6.1	7.6
4	Barry Bonds	2001	27.9	15.5	5.3	7.2
<b>5</b>	<b>Sandy Koufax</b>	<b>1963</b>	<b>22.6</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>7.2</b>
6	Joe Morgan	1972	25.8	16.1	5.3	7.0
7	Jackie Robinson	1951	25.7	15.2	5.3	6.9
8	Mickey Mantle	1957	24.8	12.8	5.3	6.9
9	Joe Morgan	1973	26.9	17.1	5.0	6.9
10	Barry Bonds	2002	25.4	13.2	5.3	6.8

***Did Sandy Koufax have the greatest peak in major-league history?***

I do not have the data to definitively answer this question, as the play-by-play data necessary to calculate Player won-lost records are not available, as I write this, for most seasons prior to 1925 and are missing for several games prior to 1941. But focusing on the seasons for which I have complete play-by-play data (1941 – 2017 at the time of this writing), the next table shows the top consecutive-season totals in pWins over replacement level (pWORLD).

<b>Top pWORLD, X Consecutive Seasons, since 1941</b>				
			<b>pWins over Replacement Level</b>	
	<b>Player</b>	<b>Seasons</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Avg / Season</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Sandy Koufax</b>	<b>1965 - 1965</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>8.0</b>
2	Barry Bonds	2001 - 2002	14.1	7.0
<b>3</b>	<b>Sandy Koufax</b>	<b>1963 - 1965</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>6.5</b>
4	Barry Bonds	2001 - 2004	25.9	6.5
5	Joe Morgan	1972 - 1976	31.6	6.3
6	Joe Morgan	1972 - 1977	37.3	6.2
7	Joe Morgan	1971 - 1977	40.9	5.8
8	Joe Morgan	1970 - 1977	44.5	5.6
9	Mickey Mantle	1954 - 1962	48.9	5.4
10	Barry Bonds	1995 - 2004	53.6	5.4
11	Mickey Mantle	1952 - 1962	58.2	5.3
12	Barry Bonds	1993 - 2004	63.7	5.3
13	Barry Bonds	1992 - 2004	68.3	5.3
14	Barry Bonds	1991 - 2004	73.5	5.3
15	Barry Bonds	1990 - 2004	78.0	5.2

It depends, of course, on one's definition of "peak", but Sandy Koufax is certainly in the conversation for having the greatest major-league peak since at least World War II.

## Sandy Koufax's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1955	BRO	19	12	2.5	2.4	0.3	0.1	-
1956	BRO	20	16	3.4	4.4	0.0	-0.4	-
1957	BRO	21	34	5.3	5.8	0.4	-0.1	-
1958	LAN	22	40	10.2	12.0	0.4	-0.6	-
1959	LAN	23	35	9.7	9.4	1.3	0.4	-
1960	LAN	24	37	10.6	12.5	0.5	-0.5	-
1961	LAN	25	42	17.6	15.8	3.0	1.5	0.1
1962	LAN	26	28	11.8	9.2	2.7	1.8	0.9
1963	LAN	27	40	22.6	13.2	7.2	5.5	3.9
1964	LAN	28	29	15.9	11.2	4.3	2.9	1.5
1965	LAN	29	43	25.0	14.5	8.0	6.3	4.5
1966	LAN	30	41	23.1	16.0	5.9	4.2	2.6
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>397  </b>	<b>157.7</b>	<b>126.3</b>	<b>34.0</b>	<b>21.1</b>	<b>13.5</b>
PostSeason (career)			8	3.8	2.4	1.1	0.8	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1955	BRO	19	12	2.4	2.5	0.2	-0.0	-
1956	BRO	20	16	3.6	4.8	-0.1	-0.5	-
1957	BRO	21	34	6.3	6.6	0.5	-0.1	-
1958	LAN	22	40	9.3	11.7	0.0	-0.9	-
1959	LAN	23	35	9.8	12.2	0.1	-0.9	-
1960	LAN	24	37	11.2	12.4	0.9	-0.2	-
1961	LAN	25	42	16.8	16.0	2.4	1.0	-
1962	LAN	26	28	11.7	10.6	2.0	1.1	0.1
1963	LAN	27	40	19.9	16.5	4.2	2.5	0.8
1964	LAN	28	29	14.2	12.2	3.0	1.6	0.2
1965	LAN	29	43	22.3	15.9	5.8	4.2	2.5
1966	LAN	30	41	20.1	16.7	4.0	2.4	0.8
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>397  </b>	<b>147.6</b>	<b>138.3</b>	<b>23.1</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>4.5</b>
PostSeason (career)			8	4.0	2.6	1.2	0.9	

## #73: Jason Giambi

### Career Highlights

Jason Giambi succeeded Mark McGwire (#46) as the Oakland A's first baseman.

Five highlights of Jason Giambi's career:

- Jason Giambi received MVP votes in seven seasons with three top-5 finishes including winning the 2000 AL MVP award.
- Jason Giambi walked at least 100 times in a season seven times. He scored 100 or more runs four times. He had 100 or more RBI seven times. Giambi batted over .300 four times, had an on-base percentage of .400 or better seven times and had a slugging percentage over .600 twice.
- Giambi led his league in walks four times, in on-base percentage three times, and in doubles, slugging percentage, and OPS once apiece (all in 2001).
- From 2000 through 2002, Giambi finished first, second, and fifth in MVP voting. In those three seasons, he batted a combined .330/.462/.634 (OPS of 1.096) with per-season averages of 37 doubles, 41 home runs, 125 walks, 112 runs scored, and 126 RBI.
- On July 29, 2013, Jason Giambi became the oldest player in major-league history to hit a walk-off home run. He broke his own record less than two months later when he hit the last of his ten career walk-off home runs on September 24, 2013, at the age of 42. Giambi was the oldest active player in major-league baseball in his final season, 2014, at the age of 43.

### At What Was Jason Giambi Elite?

Jason Giambi was one of the best hitters and players in baseball in the first half of the first decade of the twenty-first century (see #5, Alex Rodriguez, and #35, Manny Ramirez). Giambi's prime lasted for approximately eleven seasons, from 1998 – 2008. The next table shows the top players at the most extreme “bat-first” positions: first base, designated hitter, and pinch hitter, over these eleven seasons. Players are ranked by eWins over positional average earned exclusively at these three positions.

**Top 10 First Basemen, DHs, & Pinch Hitters, 1998 - 2008**  
(Ranked by eWOPA, 1B/DH/PH only)

		eWins	eLosses	eWOPA
1	Jim Thome	163.0	121.4	14.9
2	Albert Pujols	113.7	76.3	14.0
<b>3</b>	<b>Jason Giambi</b>	<b>161.6</b>	<b>123.7</b>	<b>13.7</b>
4	Todd Helton	191.1	147.4	12.5
5	Carlos Delgado	187.2	151.0	10.8
6	Jeff Bagwell	136.7	104.9	8.7
7	David Ortiz	124.1	100.1	8.6
8	Frank Thomas	115.2	93.2	7.6
9	Mark McGwire	61.4	40.9	7.2
10	Edgar Martinez	88.7	70.8	6.8

## Jason Giambi's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1995	OAK	24	54	4.8	4.8	0.3	-0.1	-
1996	OAK	25	140	14.8	15.1	0.8	-0.5	-
1997	OAK	26	142	15.3	14.5	1.3	0.1	-
1998	OAK	27	153	15.6	15.2	0.7	-0.5	-
1999	OAK	28	158	18.4	14.3	2.8	1.5	0.1
2000	OAK	29	152	20.0	11.8	4.8	3.4	2.0
2001	OAK	30	154	21.5	12.8	5.2	3.7	2.1
2002	NYA	31	155	20.3	12.5	4.9	3.3	1.7
2003	NYA	32	156	18.2	12.1	4.0	2.5	1.1
2004	NYA	33	80	7.0	6.4	0.8	0.1	-
2005	NYA	34	139	14.1	9.4	3.0	2.0	0.9
2006	NYA	35	139	16.9	11.3	3.6	2.3	0.9
2007	NYA	36	83	6.1	5.2	0.9	0.2	-
2008	NYA	37	145	15.2	13.0	1.9	0.7	-
2009		38	102	8.9	8.4	0.6	-0.1	-
	COL		19 /	1.5	0.8	0.4	0.3	0.2
	OAK		83 /	7.4	7.6	0.2	-0.4	-
2010	COL	39	87	5.6	5.2	0.5	0.0	-
2011	COL	40	64	4.4	3.7	0.6	0.2	-
2012	COL	41	60	2.6	2.7	0.2	-0.1	-
2013	CLE	42	71	5.4	4.7	1.0	0.4	-
2014	CLE	43	26	0.8	1.2	-0.1	-0.2	-
CAREER (reg. season)			2,260	236.0	184.6	37.8	18.8	8.8
PostSeason (career)			45	3.8	3.8	0.2	-0.2	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1995	OAK	24	54	5.4	4.9	0.6	0.2	-
1996	OAK	25	140	14.8	14.3	1.1	-0.1	-
1997	OAK	26	142	14.8	13.9	1.4	0.1	-
1998	OAK	27	153	16.8	14.5	1.7	0.5	-
1999	OAK	28	158	17.5	14.1	2.4	1.1	-
2000	OAK	29	152	19.0	12.1	4.1	2.7	1.4
2001	OAK	30	154	19.4	12.4	4.3	2.8	1.4
2002	NYA	31	155	18.7	13.1	3.7	2.2	0.6
2003	NYA	32	156	17.4	12.7	3.3	1.8	0.4
2004	NYA	33	80	5.9	6.4	0.2	-0.4	-
2005	NYA	34	139	13.6	9.5	2.7	1.7	0.7
2006	NYA	35	139	14.2	10.1	2.8	1.6	0.4
2007	NYA	36	83	6.1	5.4	0.8	0.1	-
2008	NYA	37	145	13.9	12.0	1.7	0.6	-
2009		38	102	7.4	7.2	0.5	-0.2	-
	COL		19 /	1.0	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.1
	OAK		83 /	6.4	6.6	0.2	-0.4	-
2010	COL	39	87	5.3	5.2	0.3	-0.1	-
2011	COL	40	64	4.2	3.0	0.8	0.5	0.2
2012	COL	41	60	2.1	2.6	-0.1	-0.3	-
2013	CLE	42	71	4.0	4.4	0.3	-0.2	-
2014	CLE	43	26	1.0	1.4	-0.1	-0.2	-
CAREER (reg. season)			2,260	221.3	179.2	32.5	14.5	5.0
PostSeason (career)			45	4.3	3.2	0.8	0.4	

## **#74: Luis Tiant**

### **Career Highlights**

Luis Tiant was the colorful and effective ace of the Boston Red Sox of the 1970s.

Five highlights of Luis Tiant's career:

- Luis Tiant was named to three All-Star teams, starting the 1968 All-Star game for the American League. He received Cy Young votes three times and MVP votes four times.
- Tiant led the American League in ERA twice, both times with earned run averages below 2.00. In 1968, Tiant had a 1.60 ERA in 258.1 innings pitched for the Cleveland Indians, amassing a 21-9 record. In 1972, he had a 1.91 ERA in 179 innings pitched for the Boston Red Sox, with a traditional won-lost record of 15-6.
- In the 1975 postseason, Tiant started four games, completing three of them. He earned a traditional won-lost record of 3-0 with a 2.65 ERA over 34 innings. He had two complete-game victories in the World Series. Tiant led all players in pWins and net pWins (pWins minus pLosses) in the 1975 World Series as well as over the 1975 postseason as a whole.
- Tiant's 229 wins and 3,486.1 innings pitched are the most in major-league history for any pitcher born in Cuba.
- Luis Tiant's father, Luis Eleuterio Tiant, was a star pitcher in the Cuban Leagues and the Negro Leagues from 1926 to 1948. The elder Tiant was left-handed while the younger Tiant was right-handed.

### At What Was Luis Tiant Elite?

Luis Tiant was one of the best pitchers of his era. But there was one thing at which Luis Tiant absolutely excelled. Luis Tiant hardly ever threw a wild pitch.

For his career, Luis Tiant was charged with 27 wild pitches in 3,486.1 innings pitched, one wild pitch every 129 innings pitched. To give some context, in 2017, there was a wild pitch thrown every 24 innings. In 1966, Tony Cloninger of the Atlanta Braves threw 27 wild pitches in 257.2 innings pitched.

Luis Tiant had five seasons in which he qualified for the ERA title and threw zero wild pitches – 1969 (249.2 IP), 1972 (179.0 IP), 1977 (188.2 IP), 1978 (212.1 IP), and 1979 (195.2 IP). Again, for context, in 2017, one pitcher qualified for the ERA title and threw no wild pitches: Dylan Bundy, who pitched 169.2 innings pitched (fewer than in any of the five Tiant seasons cited above).

Wild pitches and passed balls are measured by component 2 of Player won-lost records and are shared between pitchers and catchers. The top 10 pitchers in net component 2 wins are shown in the next table.

Top 10 Pitchers, Net Component 2 Wins 1947 - 2017					
		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	Net Wins
1	Luis Tiant	2.7	0.8	0.778	1.9
2	Greg Maddux	3.6	1.7	0.672	1.8
3	Bob Friend	2.7	1.1	0.708	1.6
4	Livan Hernandez	2.5	1.0	0.725	1.6
5	Dennis Eckersley	2.3	0.8	0.749	1.5
6	Tom Glavine	3.3	1.8	0.652	1.5
7	Jamie Moyer	2.7	1.2	0.695	1.5
8	Mark Buehrle	2.2	0.7	0.756	1.5
9	Bartolo Colon	2.4	1.0	0.710	1.4
10	Lew Burdette	2.1	0.7	0.746	1.4

It's a relatively small thing. But Luis Tiant was the absolute best at it.

## Luis Tiant's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1964	CLE	23	19	9.2	6.9	2.4	1.5	0.7
1965	CLE	24	41	13.0	13.1	1.7	0.5	-
1966	CLE	25	46	11.7	10.0	2.2	1.1	-
1967	CLE	26	33	14.2	12.4	2.6	1.5	0.3
1968	CLE	27	34	18.9	12.7	5.1	3.8	2.5
1969	CLE	28	38	16.1	20.9	0.2	-1.6	-
1970	MIN	29	18	6.3	5.2	1.3	0.8	0.3
1971	BOS	30	21	3.8	5.5	-0.3	-0.8	-
1972	BOS	31	43	11.7	8.9	2.7	1.7	0.7
1973	BOS	32	35	17.8	13.6	3.8	2.3	0.9
1974	BOS	33	38	20.1	13.5	5.1	3.6	2.1
1975	BOS	34	35	15.6	13.4	2.6	1.2	-
1976	BOS	35	38	17.5	15.6	2.6	1.1	-
1977	BOS	36	32	13.2	10.5	2.8	1.5	0.3
1978	BOS	37	32	13.3	10.1	2.8	1.7	0.6
1979	NYA	38	30	11.4	9.2	2.2	1.3	0.3
1980	NYA	39	25	7.5	7.6	0.7	0.0	-
1981	PIT	40	9	2.9	3.9	0.0	-0.3	-
1982	CAL	41	6	1.7	1.9	0.1	-0.1	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>573  </b>	<b>225.9</b>	<b>195.0</b>	<b>40.3</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>8.8</b>
PostSeason (career)			6	2.9	1.1	1.1	0.9	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1964	CLE	23	19	8.3	7.3	1.6	0.8	0.0
1965	CLE	24	41	12.3	12.4	1.6	0.5	-
1966	CLE	25	46	9.4	8.9	1.4	0.4	-
1967	CLE	26	33	14.1	13.6	2.0	0.8	-
1968	CLE	27	34	16.8	12.5	4.0	2.8	1.6
1969	CLE	28	38	15.4	18.7	0.7	-0.9	-
1970	MIN	29	18	6.0	6.5	0.6	0.0	-
1971	BOS	30	21	4.2	5.0	0.1	-0.3	-
1972	BOS	31	43	10.4	9.0	1.9	1.0	0.0
1973	BOS	32	35	16.3	13.3	3.1	1.7	0.4
1974	BOS	33	38	18.5	13.8	4.1	2.7	1.2
1975	BOS	34	35	13.9	12.8	2.0	0.7	-
1976	BOS	35	38	15.7	14.8	1.9	0.6	-
1977	BOS	36	32	11.4	10.4	1.7	0.6	-
1978	BOS	37	32	12.5	11.1	1.9	0.8	-
1979	NYA	38	30	11.8	10.1	2.0	1.0	0.0
1980	NYA	39	25	8.0	7.4	1.0	0.4	-
1981	PIT	40	9	3.6	3.4	0.6	0.3	-
1982	CAL	41	6	1.6	1.9	0.1	-0.1	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>573  </b>	<b>210.1</b>	<b>192.9</b>	<b>32.4</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>3.3</b>
PostSeason (career)			6	2.4	1.7	0.5	0.3	



## **#75: Dick Allen**

### **Career Highlights**

Dick Allen was one of the most feared hitters in baseball for much of the 1960s and early 1970s.

Five highlights of Dick Allen's career:

- Dick Allen was named National League Rookie of the Year in 1964. That season, he played in all 162 games for the Philadelphia Phillies, batting .318/.382/.557 with 29 home runs and 91 RBI. Allen led the National League in triples (13), total bases (352), and runs scored (129).
- Dick Allen was named the American League MVP in 1972 in his first season with the Chicago White Sox (and first season in the American League). That season, Allen batted .308/.420/.603 with 37 home runs and 113 RBI. Those numbers all led the American League except for the .308 batting average (which was third best). Allen led the American League in pWins over positional average (pWOPA), with 4.2, and he led all American League non-pitchers in pWins over replacement level (pWORL), with 5.6.
- Dick Allen was named to seven All-Star teams in his career, starting five times at two different positions: third base in 1965 and 1967, both for the NL, and first base in 1970 (in the NL), 1972 (in the AL), and 1974 (in the AL).
- Dick Allen hit 30 or more home runs in a season six times, leading his league twice (in 1972 and 1974), and finishing with 351 career home runs. Allen led his league in fewest at bats per home run three times (1966, 1972, and 1974).
- Two of Dick Allen's brothers, Hank and Ron, also played in the major leagues. Hank played seven seasons and he and Dick were teammates on the 1972-73 Chicago White Sox. Ron only played one season in the major leagues, appearing in seven games for the 1972 St. Louis Cardinals.

### At What Was Dick Allen Elite?

Dick Allen's career was somewhat short (only 7,315 plate appearances) and somewhat injury-plagued (only five seasons with 600 plate appearances). But when he was healthy, he was one of the best hitters in baseball. This was especially true through his twenties. In fact, Dick Allen was one of the best young hitters in major-league history.

The next table shows the top 10 batters, measured by eWins over non-pitcher average through age 30. Dick Allen's age-30 season was 1972, his MVP season with the White Sox when he led the American League in on-base percentage, slugging percentage, walks, home runs, and RBI.

<b>Top 10 Batters, through age 30, since 1947</b>					
<b>(Ranked by eWins over Non-Pitcher Average)</b>					
		<b>eWins</b>	<b>eLosses</b>	<b>eWin Pct</b>	<b>eWOPA</b>
1	Mickey Mantle	177.1	106.9	32.5	32.4
2	Albert Pujols	163.3	107.2	25.9	25.5
3	Eddie Mathews	167.4	113.7	24.2	24.4
4	Frank Robinson	168.8	116.4	23.5	22.2
5	Hank Aaron	173.2	122.4	22.6	21.9
6	Alex Rodriguez	170.4	126.2	21.8	21.0
7	Frank Thomas	128.1	84.7	21.6	20.5
<b>8</b>	<b>Dick Allen</b>	<b>134.2</b>	<b>88.4</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>20.4</b>
9	Miguel Cabrera	161.9	118.8	20.4	19.9
10	Barry Bonds	137.9	93.7	19.9	19.5

It is perhaps worth noting that even in his twenties, Dick Allen was injury-prone, such that he had fewer batting decisions through age 30 than nine of the ten players in this table.

## Dick Allen's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1963	PHI	21	10	0.8	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1
1964	PHI	22	162	25.2	17.7	5.0	3.3	1.6
1965	PHI	23	161	21.6	18.6	2.6	1.0	-
1966	PHI	24	141	22.9	16.1	4.4	2.9	1.3
1967	PHI	25	122	19.7	14.4	3.7	2.3	0.8
1968	PHI	26	152	25.2	18.0	4.4	2.6	0.8
1969	PHI	27	118	14.0	11.9	1.3	0.2	-
1970	SLN	28	122	14.9	12.4	1.7	0.6	-
1971	LAN	29	155	21.2	17.8	2.5	1.0	-
1972	CHA	30	148	23.2	12.1	5.6	4.1	2.7
1973	CHA	31	72	7.8	6.2	1.1	0.5	-
1974	CHA	32	128	14.6	11.5	2.1	1.1	0.1
1975	PHI	33	119	12.1	11.7	0.4	-0.5	-
1976	PHI	34	85	8.7	8.0	0.5	-0.1	-
1977	OAK	35	53	5.3	5.1	0.4	-0.0	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>1,748  </b>	<b>237.1</b>	<b>181.9</b>	<b>36.1</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>7.6</b>
PostSeason (career)			3	0.1	0.3	-0.1	-0.1	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1963	PHI	21	10	0.7	0.7	0.1	-0.0	-
1964	PHI	22	162	23.5	18.0	4.0	2.4	0.7
1965	PHI	23	161	23.3	18.8	3.4	1.8	0.1
1966	PHI	24	141	21.8	15.8	3.9	2.5	1.0
1967	PHI	25	122	18.6	14.3	3.2	1.8	0.4
1968	PHI	26	152	22.3	17.8	3.0	1.3	-
1969	PHI	27	118	15.5	11.1	2.5	1.3	0.2
1970	SLN	28	122	16.1	12.6	2.3	1.1	-
1971	LAN	29	155	21.2	16.8	3.0	1.5	-
1972	CHA	30	148	20.0	12.2	3.9	2.6	1.3
1973	CHA	31	72	8.3	6.0	1.5	0.9	0.3
1974	CHA	32	128	14.3	10.7	2.3	1.4	0.5
1975	PHI	33	119	11.0	11.1	0.2	-0.7	-
1976	PHI	34	85	8.6	7.4	0.8	0.2	-
1977	OAK	35	53	4.7	4.8	0.2	-0.2	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>1,748  </b>	<b>230.0</b>	<b>178.0</b>	<b>34.2</b>	<b>17.8</b>	<b>4.5</b>
PostSeason (career)			3	0.2	0.3	-0.0	-0.1	

## #76: Larry Walker

### Career Highlights

Larry Walker was one of the more well-rounded stars of the 1990s and early 2000s, winning seven Gold Gloves and three Silver Sluggers.

Five highlights of Larry Walker's career:

- Larry Walker was born in British Columbia, Canada. He leads all major-league players born in Canada in career plate appearances (8,030), hits (2,160), doubles (471), home runs (383), stolen bases (230), runs scored (1,355), and RBI (1,311). He is the only Canadian-born player with either 2,000 hits, 1,000 runs scored, 1,000 RBI, or 300 home runs.
- Larry Walker played his first six seasons in Montreal, making him one of 37 Canadian-born players to play for a major-league team based in Canada (either the Expos or the Toronto Blue Jays). Larry Walker stole 98 bases for the Montreal Expos. The other 36 Canadian-born players who played for a Canadian team stole a total of 69 bases for Canadian teams.
- Larry Walker led his league in batting average three times, in on-base percentage twice, and in slugging percentage twice. He also led his league in home runs and doubles once apiece. On defense, he led right fielders in assists three times, leading all outfielders once.
- Larry Walker batted .313/.400/.565 for his career. He is one of 23 players in MLB history and one of 10 players since integration with a career batting line of at least .300/.400/.500.
- Larry Walker was the first Canadian-born player and first member of the Colorado Rockies to win an MVP award when he won the 1997 National League MVP.

### At What Was Larry Walker Elite?

Larry Walker was the best right fielder of the 1990s. The next table shows the top 10 right fielders of that decade, as measured by (context-neutral, teammate-adjusted) wins over positional average earned as a right fielder.

Top Right Fielders of the 1990s (ranked by eWOPA, RF only)					
		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	eWOPA
1	Larry Walker	152.9	122.8	0.555	9.8
2	Tim Salmon	113.4	93.4	0.548	7.7
3	Manny Ramirez	109.8	91.0	0.547	6.6
4	David Justice	99.6	81.4	0.550	6.0
5	Paul O'Neill	164.4	145.8	0.530	5.1
6	Gary Sheffield	79.8	64.8	0.552	4.4
7	Sammy Sosa	157.7	138.3	0.533	4.3
8	Jay Buhner	135.6	123.5	0.523	3.4
9	Jose Canseco	53.7	45.3	0.542	3.4
10	Reggie Sanders	80.1	67.8	0.541	3.2

## Larry Walker's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1989	MON	22	20	1.5	1.4	0.1	0.0	-
1990	MON	23	131	14.6	13.6	1.2	0.2	-
1991	MON	24	136	16.2	15.4	1.0	-0.2	-
1992	MON	25	143	20.3	14.9	3.6	2.3	0.9
1993	MON	26	138	22.1	15.0	4.5	3.1	1.6
1994	MON	27	103	15.8	11.3	2.7	1.6	0.5
1995	COL	28	131	18.8	16.7	1.7	0.3	-
1996	COL	29	83	8.9	8.7	0.6	-0.1	-
1997	COL	30	153	24.4	17.6	4.1	2.4	0.7
1998	COL	31	130	16.1	14.3	1.4	0.2	-
1999	COL	32	127	16.4	13.2	2.1	0.9	-
2000	COL	33	86	11.1	10.6	0.8	-0.1	-
2001	COL	34	142	19.3	14.6	3.1	1.6	0.1
2002	COL	35	136	19.6	15.0	3.0	1.6	0.2
2003	COL	36	143	17.6	15.1	2.0	0.7	-
2004		37	82	10.0	8.2	1.3	0.6	-
	COL		38 /	4.2	3.7	0.4	0.1	-
	SLN		44 /	5.8	4.5	0.9	0.5	0.1
2005	SLN	38	99	14.0	8.8	3.1	2.2	1.4
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>1,983  </b>	<b>266.8</b>	<b>214.6</b>	<b>36.3</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>5.4</b>
PostSeason (career)			28	3.4	3.2	0.3	0.0	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1989	MON	22	20	1.4	1.7	-0.1	-0.2	-
1990	MON	23	131	15.9	13.4	1.9	0.8	-
1991	MON	24	136	16.4	15.3	1.1	-0.1	-
1992	MON	25	143	18.6	14.3	2.9	1.7	0.4
1993	MON	26	138	20.0	15.4	3.2	1.8	0.4
1994	MON	27	103	14.7	11.0	2.3	1.2	0.1
1995	COL	28	131	18.5	15.4	2.2	0.8	-
1996	COL	29	83	8.7	8.2	0.7	0.0	-
1997	COL	30	153	24.3	17.6	4.0	2.3	0.7
1998	COL	31	130	17.5	13.0	2.7	1.5	0.3
1999	COL	32	127	17.8	13.1	2.9	1.7	0.4
2000	COL	33	86	11.2	10.8	0.7	-0.2	-
2001	COL	34	142	20.2	13.5	4.1	2.6	1.1
2002	COL	35	136	18.1	14.4	2.6	1.2	-
2003	COL	36	143	17.1	14.8	1.8	0.6	-
2004		37	82	10.5	7.7	1.9	1.1	0.4
	COL		38 /	4.8	3.4	0.9	0.6	0.3
	SLN		44 /	5.7	4.3	0.9	0.5	0.1
2005	SLN	38	99	11.1	9.0	1.5	0.8	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>1,983  </b>	<b>261.8</b>	<b>208.8</b>	<b>36.5</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>4.0</b>
PostSeason (career)			28	3.4	2.8	0.5	0.2	

## #77: Jeff Kent

### Career Highlights

Jeff Kent was one of the top hitters of his generation and one of the best-hitting second basemen in major-league history.

Five highlights of Jeff Kent's career:

- Jeff Kent was named to five All-Star teams and received MVP votes seven times.
- Jeff Kent won the National League MVP award in 2000. That season, Kent batted .334/.424/.596 with 41 doubles, 33 home runs, 125 RBI, and 114 runs scored.
- Jeff Kent hit 20 or more home runs twelve times in his career, including nine consecutive seasons from 1997 through 2005.
- Jeff Kent had 100 or more RBI eight times in his career, the first six consecutively from 1997 through 2002. This is the longest streak of 100-RBI seasons by a second baseman in major-league history.
- Jeff Kent hit 377 career home runs, 351 of them as a second baseman. This is the most home runs hit by a second baseman in major-league history.

### At What Was Jeff Kent Elite?

Jeff Kent won four Silver Sluggers as the best hitting second baseman in the National League.

The next table shows the top 10 second basemen since MLB integration, ranked by non-fielding eWins over positional average (eWOPA) earned at second base.

**Top 10 Offensive Second Basemen, since 1947  
(Ranked by non-Fielding eWOPA)**

		<b>eWins</b>	<b>eLosses</b>	<b>eWinPct</b>	<b>eWOPA</b>
1	Joe Morgan	267.1	203.3	0.568	37.3
2	Lou Whitaker	202.8	178.8	0.531	17.6
3	Bobby Grich	157.9	133.1	0.543	17.4
4	Craig Biggio	198.1	168.8	0.540	15.5
5	Ryne Sandberg	196.0	166.5	0.541	15.4
6	Roberto Alomar	216.9	195.8	0.526	14.6
7	<b>Jeff Kent</b>	<b>189.7</b>	<b>162.1</b>	<b>0.539</b>	<b>14.5</b>
8	Chase Utley	164.9	137.5	0.545	13.0
9	Robinson Cano	183.0	163.1	0.529	12.5
10	Jackie Robinson	84.7	63.7	0.571	11.1

## Jeff Kent's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1992		24	102	10.0	9.4	1.0	0.3	-
	<i>NYN</i>		37 /	3.8	3.4	0.5	0.2	-
	<i>TOR</i>		65 /	6.2	6.0	0.6	0.1	-
1993	NYN	25	140	16.1	18.0	0.4	-1.0	-
1994	NYN	26	107	14.9	12.7	2.3	1.2	0.0
1995	NYN	27	125	15.0	15.4	1.1	-0.1	-
1996		28	127	13.6	13.2	1.0	-0.1	-
	<i>CLE</i>		38 /	3.2	2.8	0.4	0.2	-
	<i>NYN</i>		89 /	10.4	10.4	0.6	-0.2	-
1997	SFN	29	155	21.6	18.2	3.3	1.7	0.2
1998	SFN	30	137	20.8	16.7	3.6	2.1	0.6
1999	SFN	31	138	18.1	15.1	2.8	1.5	0.2
2000	SFN	32	159	22.8	16.3	4.9	3.3	1.8
2001	SFN	33	159	21.5	17.2	3.7	2.0	0.3
2002	SFN	34	152	23.6	16.8	5.2	3.6	2.0
2003	HOU	35	130	18.7	16.4	2.6	1.2	-
2004	HOU	36	145	20.2	16.9	3.2	1.8	0.3
2005	LAN	37	149	21.0	18.7	2.4	1.0	-
2006	LAN	38	115	14.3	12.9	1.8	0.8	-
2007	LAN	39	136	16.9	16.6	1.3	0.1	-
2008	LAN	40	121	13.4	14.4	0.5	-0.5	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,297  </b>	<b>302.6</b>	<b>264.8</b>	<b>41.1</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>5.4</b>
PostSeason (career)			49	5.4	4.7	0.7	0.3	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1992		24	102	10.1	9.6	1.0	0.2	-
	<i>NYN</i>		37 /	3.7	3.6	0.3	0.0	-
	<i>TOR</i>		65 /	6.4	6.0	0.7	0.2	-
1993	NYN	25	140	16.1	16.2	1.2	-0.0	-
1994	NYN	26	107	13.9	12.2	2.0	0.9	-
1995	NYN	27	125	15.8	14.7	1.9	0.6	-
1996		28	127	13.8	13.0	1.2	0.1	-
	<i>CLE</i>		38 /	3.0	2.9	0.3	0.0	-
	<i>NYN</i>		89 /	10.8	10.2	0.9	0.1	-
1997	SFN	29	155	19.4	17.8	2.3	0.9	-
1998	SFN	30	137	19.7	16.1	3.2	1.8	0.4
1999	SFN	31	138	16.1	14.3	2.0	0.9	-
2000	SFN	32	159	20.6	16.0	3.9	2.4	0.9
2001	SFN	33	159	20.5	17.1	3.2	1.6	-
2002	SFN	34	152	22.2	17.6	4.1	2.5	0.9
2003	HOU	35	130	16.6	15.5	1.9	0.6	-
2004	HOU	36	145	18.3	17.3	2.0	0.6	-
2005	LAN	37	149	20.9	17.6	2.8	1.4	0.1
2006	LAN	38	115	13.5	12.6	1.5	0.6	-
2007	LAN	39	136	16.6	15.6	1.6	0.4	-
2008	LAN	40	121	12.4	13.3	0.4	-0.5	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,297  </b>	<b>286.4</b>	<b>256.6</b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>2.3</b>
PostSeason (career)			49	5.4	5.1	0.6	0.2	

## **#78: Phil Niekro**

### **Career Highlights**

Phil Niekro was the pitching ace of the Atlanta Braves for most of the first two decades of their existence. He was the last active major-league baseball player who played for the Milwaukee Braves and the last active major-league baseball player who was born in the 1930s. He was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his fifth year of eligibility, 1997, with 80.3% of the vote.

Five highlights of Phil Niekro's career:

- Phil Niekro did not have his first full season in the major leagues until 1967 at the age of 28. Prior to 1967, Phil Niekro had pitched 140 major-league innings. In 1967, he pitched 207 innings with a major-league leading ERA of 1.87.
- From 1974 to 1979, Phil Niekro averaged just over 40 games started (40.3) and 309 innings pitched per season. Since 1980, no pitcher has started more than 40 games or pitched more than 304 innings in a single season.
- In 1982, at the age of 43, Phil Niekro compiled a traditional won-lost record of 17-4 in 35 games started (234.1 innings pitched) to help lead the Atlanta Braves to their only playoff appearance between 1969 and 1991. The Braves entered the final weekend of the 1982 season with a one-game lead over the Los Angeles Dodgers. That Friday, October 1st, Phil Niekro pitched a complete-game three-hit shutout and hit a two-run home run to spark a 4-0 Braves victory over the San Diego Padres. The Braves ended up winning the 1982 NL West by one game.
- Phil Niekro and his brother Joe have the most combined pitcher wins by any pair of brothers in major-league history, beating the Perry brothers (see Gaylord, #34) 539 – 529.
- Phil Niekro won five Gold Gloves in his career, at the ages of 39, 40, 41, 43, and 44.



### At What Was Phil Niekro Elite?

There is a school of thought in sabermetrics that pitcher value rests primarily, or even exclusively, in controlling three things, which are sometimes called the Three True Outcomes: strikeouts, walks, and home runs. I discussed this issue and the concept of DIPS (“defense-independent pitching”) in some detail in my first book.

There is a sabermetric statistic, FIP, which stands for fielding-independent pitching, which purports to show what a pitcher’s ERA should have been, based entirely on his strikeouts, walks, and home runs allowed.

For his career, Phil Niekro had an ERA of 3.35 and a FIP of 3.62, a gap of 0.27 earned runs per nine innings. Multiplying that by Niekro’s 5,404 career innings pitched, that works out to Phil Niekro allowing 162 fewer earned runs than he “should have”. In fact, given the quality of the defenses of many of Phil Niekro’s Atlanta Braves teams, that probably understates the true impact of Phil Niekro’s “non-FIP” pitching. Over Niekro’s 20 full seasons (1967 – 1986), his ERA was lower than his FIP 17 times. The only three exceptions were 1972 (3.06 ERA, 2.87 FIP), 1977 (4.03 ERA, 3.74 FIP), and 1978 (2.88 ERA, 2.76 FIP).

As I discussed a great deal in my first book, there are several aspects of the game beyond the “three true outcomes” over which pitchers have some control. Pitchers have considerable control over the opponents’ running game, over wild pitches and passed balls, and even a great deal of control over balls in play – ground-balls versus fly balls versus line drives versus infield pops, the relative difficulty of converting balls-in-play into outs, controlling extra-base hits.

The next table, then, looks at the top 10 pitchers in what I call non-FIP Pitching Wins: that is, net pitching wins (wins minus losses), excluding strikeouts, walks (and hit-by-pitches), and home runs allowed.

**Top 10 Net non-FIP Pitching Wins, since 1947**

		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	Net Wins
1	Warren Spahn	212.6	124.8	0.630	87.8
2	Robin Roberts	197.5	122.4	0.617	75.2
<b>3</b>	<b>Phil Niekro</b>	<b>213.4</b>	<b>143.6</b>	<b>0.598</b>	<b>69.8</b>
4	Don Sutton	200.3	134.2	0.599	66.0
5	Jim Palmer	159.6	93.8	0.630	65.8
6	Gaylord Perry	206.1	140.3	0.595	65.7
7	Early Wynn	154.9	90.7	0.631	64.2
8	Greg Maddux	192.0	129.7	0.597	62.3
9	Tommy John	191.8	131.5	0.593	60.3
10	Tom Seaver	175.3	115.8	0.602	59.4

FIP wins are, of course, extremely important, and many excellent pitchers achieved their excellence primarily through controlling the “three true outcomes” (see, e.g., #6, Randy Johnson). But non-FIP wins matter, too, and it is not surprising that all the pitchers listed here who pitched in the 1960s and later make my top 150 list.

## Phil Niekro's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1964	MLN	25	10	0.2	0.3	-0.0	-0.0	-
1965	MLN	26	42	3.3	3.2	0.4	-0.0	-
1966	ATL	27	28	2.1	1.9	0.4	0.1	-
1967	ATL	28	46	13.7	12.4	2.2	1.0	-
1968	ATL	29	37	15.3	14.2	2.4	1.2	0.1
1969	ATL	30	40	20.5	15.8	4.9	3.2	1.6
1970	ATL	31	34	14.4	17.5	0.5	-0.9	-
1971	ATL	32	42	15.9	16.1	2.0	0.6	-
1972	ATL	33	38	18.0	14.4	4.0	2.6	1.1
1973	ATL	34	42	13.5	13.3	1.8	0.6	-
1974	ATL	35	41	18.4	16.5	3.1	1.7	0.4
1975	ATL	36	39	17.0	17.6	1.9	0.4	-
1976	ATL	37	38	17.3	15.4	3.0	1.7	0.4
1977	ATL	38	44	21.6	21.3	3.1	1.1	-
1978	ATL	39	45	22.2	18.9	4.3	2.6	0.9
1979	ATL	40	44	20.4	21.3	2.2	0.5	-
1980	ATL	41	40	17.3	18.7	1.4	-0.0	-
1981	ATL	42	22	8.8	9.2	1.0	0.2	-
1982	ATL	43	35	12.5	11.1	2.3	1.4	0.4
1983	ATL	44	34	11.7	14.2	0.5	-0.6	-
1984	NYA	45	32	13.6	9.7	3.2	2.2	1.2
1985	NYA	46	33	14.1	14.3	1.6	0.1	-
1986	CLE	47	34	11.7	13.2	0.7	-0.5	-
1987		48	26	8.5	10.8	0.1	-0.9	-
	ATL		1 /	0.1	0.4	-0.1	-0.1	-
	CLE		22 /	7.7	8.7	0.5	-0.3	-
	TOR		3 /	0.7	1.6	-0.3	-0.5	-
CAREER (reg. season)			866	331.9	321.0	46.9	18.2	5.9
PostSeason (career)			2	0.6	1.1	-0.2	-0.2	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1964	MLN	25	10	0.5	0.7	0.0	-0.1	-
1965	MLN	26	42	3.3	3.3	0.3	-0.1	-
1966	ATL	27	28	2.1	2.3	0.2	-0.1	-
1967	ATL	28	46	11.8	11.4	1.6	0.5	-
1968	ATL	29	37	14.4	15.7	1.2	0.0	-
1969	ATL	30	40	18.0	14.6	4.0	2.5	1.0
1970	ATL	31	34	13.5	16.6	0.3	-1.0	-
1971	ATL	32	42	17.3	16.9	2.5	1.0	-
1972	ATL	33	38	17.9	15.9	3.3	1.8	0.3
1973	ATL	34	42	14.5	14.3	1.9	0.6	-
1974	ATL	35	41	19.3	16.1	3.8	2.4	1.0
1975	ATL	36	39	16.6	18.6	1.2	-0.3	-
1976	ATL	37	38	17.2	17.3	2.0	0.7	-
1977	ATL	38	44	21.9	21.0	3.3	1.4	-
1978	ATL	39	45	20.8	17.9	3.9	2.4	0.8
1979	ATL	40	44	20.3	21.9	1.9	0.3	-
1980	ATL	41	40	15.7	17.3	1.1	-0.2	-
1981	ATL	42	22	7.9	8.5	0.9	0.1	-
1982	ATL	43	35	14.1	14.5	1.8	0.6	-
1983	ATL	44	34	11.9	14.0	0.7	-0.4	-
1984	NYA	45	32	12.8	11.6	1.9	0.9	-
1985	NYA	46	33	12.4	14.6	0.6	-0.9	-
1986	CLE	47	34	12.3	13.9	0.7	-0.6	-
1987		48	26	8.3	9.9	0.4	-0.6	-
	ATL		1 /	0.2	0.5	-0.1	-0.1	-
	CLE		22 /	7.5	8.1	0.6	-0.2	-
	TOR		3 /	0.7	1.3	-0.2	-0.3	-
CAREER (reg. season)			866	324.9	328.9	39.6	10.8	3.1
PostSeason (career)			2	0.8	1.0	0.1	-0.0	

## **#79: Orel Hershiser**

### **Career Highlights**

Orel Hershiser pitched the Los Angeles Dodgers to their most recent World Championship in 1988.

Five highlights of Orel Hershiser's career:

- Orel Hershiser received Cy Young votes in four seasons, winning the award unanimously in 1988.
- In 1988, Orel Hershiser led the National League in innings pitched (267), complete games (15), shutouts (8), and traditional pitcher wins (23). He finished with a traditional record of 23-8 with a 2.26 ERA.
- Hershiser ended the 1988 regular season by pitching a major-league record 59 consecutive shutout innings.
- Hershiser appeared in the postseason six times. For his career, he finished with a traditional record of 8-3 with a 2.59 ERA in 132 innings over 22 games (18 starts). Hershiser was named MVP of the 1988 NLCS, the 1988 World Series, and the 1995 ALCS.
- In 1988, Hershiser became the only pitcher to win the Cy Young award, Championship Series MVP, and World Series MVP in the same season. Hershiser also was named Pitcher of the Year by the Sporting News and Sportsman of the Year by Sports Illustrated that year.

### **At What Was Orel Hershiser Elite?**

Orel Hershiser was the best pitcher (and player) in baseball in 1988 (see #62, Dwight Gooden). He was also one of the best pitchers of the 1980s (see #123, Dave Stieb) and one of the best players in the second half of the 1980s (see #61, Wade Boggs, and #65, Ryne Sandberg).

Orel Hershiser did not allow a run over his last six starts of the 1988 season, throwing five complete-game shutouts and ten shutout innings in a game which the Dodgers eventually lost 2-1 in sixteen innings. Somewhat coincidentally, these six games were the only six games in which Hershiser appeared in September of 1988.

For the month of September 1988, Hershiser pitched 55 innings, allowing 30 hits, 9 walks (3 intentional), with 34 strikeouts and, as noted, no runs allowed.

The next table shows the top 25 pitchers since 1947 in net pWins (pitching only) for a month.

<b>Top 25 Months by a Pitcher, since 1947</b> <b>(Ranked by Net pWins, Pitching only)</b>						
	<b>Player</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>pWins</b>	<b>pLosses</b>	<b>Net pWins</b>
1	Fergie Jenkins	1974	8	5.59	1.82	3.77
2	Pat Dobson	1971	7	5.44	1.75	3.70
3	Clayton Kershaw	2016	5	4.60	1.10	3.50
4	Ray Culp	1968	9	5.26	1.88	3.38
5	Juan Marichal	1965	6	5.08	1.82	3.26
6	Warren Spahn	1947	9	5.16	1.91	3.25
7	Bob Feller	1948	9	5.00	1.78	3.22
8	Gaylord Perry	1970	9	4.47	1.28	3.19
9	Sandy Koufax	1965	9	5.22	2.03	3.19
10	Fernando Valenzuela	1981	4	4.43	1.25	3.18
11	Carl Erskine	1953	7	5.21	2.07	3.15
12	Russ Meyer	1949	9	5.06	1.92	3.14
13	Greg Maddux	1995	7	4.33	1.23	3.10
14	Mark Langston	1988	9	5.07	1.99	3.08
15	Warren Spahn	1954	8	4.66	1.62	3.04
16	Tom Seaver	1969	9	4.21	1.18	3.03
17	Randy Johnson	2000	4	4.40	1.37	3.02
18	Mike Cuellar	1974	9	4.58	1.57	3.01
19	Mike Garcia	1954	6	4.61	1.63	2.98
20	Andy Messersmith	1969	7	5.07	2.11	2.95
21	Ewell Blackwell	1947	6	5.15	2.20	2.95
22	J.R. Richard	1979	8	4.38	1.45	2.93
23	Don Sutton	1976	9	4.46	1.53	2.93
24	Johnny Antonelli	1956	9	4.54	1.63	2.91
<b>25</b>	<b>Orel Hershiser</b>	<b>1988</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4.04</b>	<b>1.14</b>	<b>2.91</b>

Net pWins are dependent on context. Pitching well in close games is more valuable than pitching well in blowouts. And Hershiser is hurt by the fact that the Dodgers lost one of his starts – despite his pitching 10 shutout innings. Nevertheless, having one of the top 25 pitching months of the past 70 years is nothing to sneeze at.

The top month here was by Fergie Jenkins in August 1974. That month, Jenkins made eight starts. He got the decision in all of them finishing with a record of 6-2 including two complete-game 1-0 wins, a complete-game 2-0 win, and a complete-game 2-1 win. That's a lot of very favorable context.

Removing context makes Hershiser look much better. One of the aspects of context being removed is the actual number of runs scored, so Hershiser does not necessarily get credit for allowing literally no runs. But he gets equal credit for his performance in his 1-0 win (on September 14), his 5-0 win (on September 10), and his 10 shutout innings that ultimately went for naught on September 28.

The top 25 pitching months, ranked by net eWins (pitching only), are as follows.

**Top 25 Months by a Pitcher, since 1947**  
**(Ranked by Net eWins, Pitching only)**

	<b>Player</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>eWins</b>	<b>eLosses</b>	<b>Net eWins</b>
1	Gaylord Perry	1975	8	4.01	2.01	1.99
2	Roger Clemens	1998	8	2.92	0.96	1.96
3	Pat Dobson	1971	7	3.87	1.99	1.87
4	Warren Spahn	1953	8	3.68	1.89	1.79
5	Clayton Kershaw	2016	5	2.75	0.98	1.77
6	Fergie Jenkins	1974	8	3.53	1.79	1.75
7	Juan Marichal	1965	6	3.39	1.68	1.72
<b>8</b>	<b>Orel Hershiser</b>	<b>1988</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2.83</b>	<b>1.11</b>	<b>1.72</b>
9	Tom Seaver	1971	9	3.32	1.61	1.72
10	Steve Carlton	1972	8	3.96	2.26	1.69
11	Vern Law	1965	6	3.26	1.57	1.69
12	Roy Halladay	2003	9	2.94	1.26	1.68
13	Frank Lary	1956	9	3.38	1.72	1.66
14	Johan Santana	2004	9	2.32	0.66	1.66
15	Javier Vazquez	2001	8	2.77	1.15	1.63
16	Gaylord Perry	1967	9	3.76	2.13	1.62
17	Tom Seaver	1969	9	2.93	1.31	1.62
18	Roger Clemens	1997	7	3.05	1.45	1.61
19	Dennis Martinez	1979	5	3.33	1.72	1.61
20	Roger Clemens	1988	7	2.98	1.37	1.61
21	Greg Maddux	1995	7	2.86	1.26	1.60
22	Warren Spahn	1947	9	3.41	1.81	1.60
23	Cory Lidle	2002	8	2.47	0.87	1.59
24	Corey Kluber	2017	6	2.54	0.96	1.58
25	Gaylord Perry	1970	9	2.97	1.40	1.58

In August 1975, Gaylord Perry started seven games, completing six of them, pitching 66 innings (that's more than 9 innings per start) with 59 strikeouts against only 5 walks – a strikeout-to-walk ratio of 11.8!

Controlling for context, Hershiser's September 1988 performance was one of the top 10 monthly performances by a major-league pitcher since at least 1947.

## Orel Hershiser's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORL	pWOPA	pWO*
1983	LAN	24	8	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0
1984	LAN	25	45	10.8	8.1	2.5	1.7	0.9
1985	LAN	26	36	13.9	10.3	3.5	2.4	1.2
1986	LAN	27	35	15.5	15.1	2.3	1.0	-
1987	LAN	28	40	16.6	15.2	3.1	1.7	0.3
1988	LAN	29	36	20.3	13.4	5.7	4.2	2.8
1989	LAN	30	35	14.6	14.3	2.1	0.8	-
1990	LAN	31	4	1.3	1.7	0.0	-0.1	-
1991	LAN	32	21	7.1	4.3	2.2	1.7	1.2
1992	LAN	33	35	12.4	12.9	1.7	0.5	-
1993	LAN	34	33	13.7	13.5	2.0	0.8	-
1994	LAN	35	21	7.8	9.0	0.6	-0.3	-
1995	CLE	36	26	9.8	8.3	2.0	1.0	0.0
1996	CLE	37	33	14.0	10.6	3.4	2.0	0.6
1997	CLE	38	32	11.0	10.7	1.6	0.4	-
1998	SFN	39	34	12.8	12.6	2.0	0.8	-
1999	NYN	40	32	11.6	12.6	1.3	0.1	-
2000	LAN	41	10	1.4	3.7	-0.8	-1.1	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>516  </b>	<b>195.1</b>	<b>176.6</b>	<b>35.4</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>7.0</b>
PostSeason (career)			22	7.7	6.2	1.7	1.0	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORL	eWOPA	eWO*
1983	LAN	24	8	0.4	0.5	-0.0	-0.1	-
1984	LAN	25	45	10.8	9.4	1.9	1.0	0.1
1985	LAN	26	36	14.3	10.9	3.5	2.3	1.1
1986	LAN	27	35	14.8	13.4	2.6	1.4	0.2
1987	LAN	28	40	17.3	14.8	3.7	2.3	0.8
1988	LAN	29	36	15.7	13.1	3.2	2.0	0.8
1989	LAN	30	35	16.5	13.1	3.7	2.4	1.1
1990	LAN	31	4	1.4	1.4	0.2	0.1	-
1991	LAN	32	21	7.9	5.7	2.0	1.4	0.8
1992	LAN	33	35	13.5	13.6	2.0	0.7	-
1993	LAN	34	33	14.3	12.7	2.6	1.5	0.3
1994	LAN	35	21	8.0	10.4	0.2	-0.8	-
1995	CLE	36	26	10.3	8.7	2.0	1.0	-
1996	CLE	37	33	13.1	11.0	2.7	1.4	0.0
1997	CLE	38	32	11.0	11.5	1.3	-0.0	-
1998	SFN	39	34	12.1	13.4	1.3	0.0	-
1999	NYN	40	32	10.6	11.5	1.2	0.1	-
2000	LAN	41	10	1.3	2.7	-0.5	-0.7	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>516  </b>	<b>193.3</b>	<b>178.0</b>	<b>33.8</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>5.3</b>
PostSeason (career)			22	8.2	6.7	1.8	1.0	

## **#80: Dave Concepcion**

### **Career Highlights**

Dave Concepcion was the smooth-fielding shortstop for the Big Red Machine.

Five highlights of Dave Concepcion's career:

- Dave Concepcion was named to nine All-Star teams, five as a starter. He was named MVP of the 1982 All-Star game, which was his final All-Star appearance.
- Dave Concepcion won five Gold Gloves as the best defensive shortstop in the National League and two Silver Sluggers as the best offensive shortstop in the National League
- Dave Concepcion is in the top 11 players in major-league history in games played at shortstop (2,178, ninth), assists at shortstop (6,594, 11th), and double plays turned as a shortstop (1,290, ninth).
- In his prime, Dave Concepcion was a solid hitter. From 1973 through 1982, Concepcion batted .282/.334/.389, averaging 208 total bases, 22 stolen bases, 66 RBI, and 65 runs scored per season. Concepcion's 1,508 hits over these ten years are the most by any player who played at least 500 games at shortstop.
- The Cincinnati Reds retired Dave Concepcion's number, 13, in a ceremony on August 25, 2007.

### At What Was Dave Concepcion Elite?

Dave Concepcion was one of the best shortstops of the 1970s (see #95, Bert Campaneris) and one of the best defensive shortstops in major-league history (see #67, Ozzie Smith).

The most important aspect of fielding is the ability to turn balls in play into outs. This is measured in what I call Component 5. Dave Concepcion was very good at this component of fielding. There are, however, four additional components for which fielding won-lost records are earned. Component 6 measures the ability to hold hits on balls-in-play to singles; component 7 measures the ability to turn ground balls into double plays in double-play situations; component 8 measures baserunner outs; and component 9 measures baserunner advancement. These components are described in more detail in my first book.

As shown in the next table, Dave Concepcion ranked higher among shortstops since integration at these additional components of fielding than he did at the basic act of converting balls-in-play into outs.

<b>Top 10 Fielding Shortstops, since 1947</b>					
<b>(Ranked by Net Fielding Wins, excluding Component 5)</b>					
		<b>eWins</b>	<b>eLosses</b>	<b>eWinPct</b>	<b>Net eWins</b>
1	Tim Foli	20.0	15.5	0.564	4.5
2	Ozzie Smith	30.6	26.3	0.538	4.4
<b>3</b>	<b>Dave Concepcion</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>0.537</b>	<b>3.3</b>
4	Alan Trammell	21.5	18.8	0.533	2.7
5	Pee Wee Reese	16.1	13.5	0.543	2.6
6	Mike Bordick	15.1	12.7	0.544	2.5
7	Bobby Wine	11.5	9.1	0.559	2.4
8	Jose Uribe	10.6	8.2	0.563	2.4
9	Jack Wilson	13.0	10.6	0.550	2.4
10	Ron Hansen	14.9	12.6	0.541	2.2



## Dave Concepcion's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1970	CIN	22	101	8.4	8.2	1.1	0.4	-
1971	CIN	23	129	9.9	11.3	0.6	-0.3	-
1972	CIN	24	119	11.5	11.5	1.3	0.4	-
1973	CIN	25	89	13.5	10.2	3.3	2.3	1.3
1974	CIN	26	160	23.1	19.1	4.3	2.7	1.1
1975	CIN	27	140	17.8	15.1	3.3	2.0	0.8
1976	CIN	28	151	20.3	17.3	3.5	2.1	0.6
1977	CIN	29	156	18.0	17.7	2.4	1.0	-
1978	CIN	30	153	21.0	18.8	3.3	1.8	0.2
1979	CIN	31	149	21.6	17.8	4.2	2.6	1.1
1980	CIN	32	156	19.9	18.3	2.9	1.4	-
1981	CIN	33	106	16.2	12.7	3.4	2.3	1.1
1982	CIN	34	147	17.8	17.9	1.8	0.4	-
1983	CIN	35	142	14.9	16.9	0.4	-0.8	-
1984	CIN	36	154	14.8	17.0	0.5	-0.7	-
1985	CIN	37	155	18.7	18.5	2.1	0.7	-
1986	CIN	38	89	9.3	10.2	0.5	-0.3	-
1987	CIN	39	104	8.6	8.9	0.5	-0.2	-
1988	CIN	40	84	4.0	6.0	-0.6	-1.0	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,484  </b>	<b>289.3</b>	<b>273.4</b>	<b>38.8</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>6.3</b>
PostSeason (career)			34	3.6	3.4	0.5	0.2	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1970	CIN	22	101	7.8	9.1	0.3	-0.4	-
1971	CIN	23	129	10.2	11.6	0.6	-0.3	-
1972	CIN	24	119	11.7	13.2	0.6	-0.4	-
1973	CIN	25	89	12.6	10.6	2.6	1.7	0.7
1974	CIN	26	160	20.6	18.6	3.2	1.7	0.2
1975	CIN	27	140	17.5	16.4	2.7	1.3	-
1976	CIN	28	151	20.5	19.0	2.8	1.3	-
1977	CIN	29	156	18.3	17.0	2.9	1.5	0.1
1978	CIN	30	153	19.7	19.1	2.4	1.0	-
1979	CIN	31	149	21.8	18.1	4.1	2.6	1.0
1980	CIN	32	156	17.8	18.8	1.5	0.1	-
1981	CIN	33	106	14.5	12.8	2.4	1.3	0.2
1982	CIN	34	147	18.5	17.2	2.5	1.1	-
1983	CIN	35	142	14.3	16.5	0.3	-0.9	-
1984	CIN	36	154	16.5	18.3	0.9	-0.4	-
1985	CIN	37	155	17.6	19.9	0.9	-0.5	-
1986	CIN	38	89	9.3	9.5	0.7	0.0	-
1987	CIN	39	104	8.2	8.9	0.3	-0.4	-
1988	CIN	40	84	5.2	6.8	-0.3	-0.7	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,484  </b>	<b>282.6</b>	<b>281.3</b>	<b>31.5</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>2.2</b>
PostSeason (career)			34	3.9	3.6	0.6	0.3	

## **#81: Rod Carew**

### **Career Highlights**

Rod Carew was one of the best pure hitters in the American League through the 1970s and early 1980s.

Five highlights of Rod Carew's career:

- Rodney Cline Carew was born on a train in Panama. He was named after Dr. Rodney Cline, who happened to be traveling on the same train as his parents and helped to deliver him.
- Rod Carew led the American League in batting average seven times, in on-base percentage four times, in hits three times, in runs scored once, and in triples twice.
- Rod Carew was named to the All-Star team in each of his first 18 seasons in the major leagues. He was named the American League Rookie of the Year in 1967 and the American League MVP in 1977, when he batted .388 with career highs in runs scored (128) and RBI (100). Carew received MVP votes eight other times in his career.
- Rod Carew stole home 7 times in 1969, one short of Ty Cobb's single-season record (set in 1912). For his career, Carew stole home 17 times.
- Rod Carew collected his 3,000th career hit on August 4, 1985, becoming the 16th player to do so. He was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility, 1991, with 90.5% of the vote. He was the first Panamanian inducted into the Hall of Fame.

### At What Was Rod Carew Elite?

Rod Carew was a teammate for eight seasons with Harmon Killebrew, who is ranked #71 here. Killebrew and Carew were both elite hitters, but perhaps as different in style as any two similarly-valuable teammates have ever been.

Harmon Killebrew led the American League in home runs six times. Rod Carew's career high in home runs was 14. Carew hit 92 career home runs. Killebrew hit 94 home runs in two seasons in 1963 and 1964 (and 93 home runs in 1962-63).

Rod Carew led the American League in batting average seven times with a career batting average of .328. Harmon Killebrew had a career batting average of .256. Killebrew's career high batting average (in a full season) was .288 in 1961. From 1969 through 1983, Rod Carew batted above .300 for 15 consecutive seasons. The lowest single-season batting average of Rod Carew's career, .273 in 1968, was seventeen points higher than Harmon Killebrew's career average.

As shown earlier, Harmon Killebrew was one of the top 5 Component 4 batters since MLB integration: when Killebrew hit the ball, he hit it hard and/or far. Rod Carew, on the other hand, was one of the top 5 Component 5 batters since integration: when Carew hit the ball, as he usually did (he struck out 671 fewer times than Killebrew), he had a knack for turning balls in play into base hits – “hitting ‘em where they ain’t”, beating out infield singles, etc.

Top 10 Batters, Net Component 5 Wins, since 1947					
		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	eWORL
1	Roberto Clemente	88.5	65.4	0.575	23.2
<b>2</b>	<b>Rod Carew</b>	<b>91.2</b>	<b>70.1</b>	<b>0.566</b>	<b>21.2</b>
3	Lou Brock	88.9	68.4	0.565	20.5
4	Tony Gwynn	91.4	75.4	0.548	16.0
5	Derek Jeter	97.3	81.6	0.544	15.7
6	Willie McGee	70.8	55.5	0.561	15.4
7	Kirby Puckett	64.1	49.4	0.565	14.7
8	Vada Pinson	81.7	67.9	0.546	13.9
9	Willie Mays	78.6	64.8	0.548	13.8
10	Mickey Rivers	53.4	39.7	0.574	13.7

Harmon Killebrew and Rod Carew: longtime teammates; very different skill sets; very similar value.

## Rod Carew's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1967	MIN	21	137	16.4	16.7	1.5	0.1	-
1968	MIN	22	127	14.9	14.5	1.7	0.5	-
1969	MIN	23	123	16.8	12.8	3.6	2.3	1.0
1970	MIN	24	51	6.9	6.2	1.2	0.6	0.1
1971	MIN	25	146	18.6	17.7	2.1	0.7	-
1972	MIN	26	141	18.8	16.0	3.2	1.7	0.3
1973	MIN	27	149	20.3	18.6	2.8	1.2	-
1974	MIN	28	153	22.4	18.8	4.0	2.4	0.8
1975	MIN	29	143	18.8	16.1	3.0	1.6	0.3
1976	MIN	30	156	20.7	14.9	3.7	2.3	1.0
1977	MIN	31	155	19.7	13.6	3.9	2.5	1.2
1978	MIN	32	152	16.9	14.8	1.8	0.6	-
1979	CAL	33	110	11.4	11.3	0.6	-0.3	-
1980	CAL	34	144	15.6	13.9	1.8	0.5	-
1981	CAL	35	93	10.3	10.1	0.8	-0.1	-
1982	CAL	36	138	14.3	12.9	1.4	0.3	-
1983	CAL	37	129	11.6	11.2	0.9	-0.1	-
1984	CAL	38	93	8.8	8.3	0.7	0.0	-
1985	CAL	39	127	12.1	11.4	0.8	-0.1	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,467  </b>	<b>295.1</b>	<b>259.8</b>	<b>39.2</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>4.7</b>
PostSeason (career)			14	0.9	1.4	-0.1	-0.2	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1967	MIN	21	137	16.2	16.7	1.4	-0.0	-
1968	MIN	22	127	14.4	14.7	1.3	0.1	-
1969	MIN	23	123	15.8	12.9	2.9	1.7	0.4
1970	MIN	24	51	6.9	5.8	1.4	0.8	0.3
1971	MIN	25	146	18.1	18.2	1.6	0.2	-
1972	MIN	26	141	18.5	16.0	3.0	1.6	0.2
1973	MIN	27	149	21.2	18.1	3.5	1.9	0.3
1974	MIN	28	153	23.8	19.8	4.2	2.6	0.9
1975	MIN	29	143	20.7	16.8	3.7	2.2	0.7
1976	MIN	30	156	19.2	15.7	2.5	1.2	-
1977	MIN	31	155	20.8	14.1	4.2	2.8	1.4
1978	MIN	32	152	17.4	14.4	2.3	1.1	-
1979	CAL	33	110	11.8	10.5	1.2	0.3	-
1980	CAL	34	144	15.3	13.9	1.6	0.4	-
1981	CAL	35	93	10.6	9.1	1.4	0.6	-
1982	CAL	36	138	15.2	13.8	1.4	0.3	-
1983	CAL	37	129	12.3	11.6	1.1	0.1	-
1984	CAL	38	93	8.5	8.8	0.3	-0.3	-
1985	CAL	39	127	12.2	12.3	0.4	-0.5	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,467  </b>	<b>298.9</b>	<b>263.3</b>	<b>39.6</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>4.3</b>
PostSeason (career)			14	1.1	1.3	-0.0	-0.1	

## **#82: Darryl Strawberry**

### **Career Highlights**

Darryl Strawberry was one of the stars of the great New York Mets teams of the late 1980s, including the 108-win World Series champion 1986 Mets.

Five highlights of Darryl Strawberry's career:

- Darryl Strawberry was the first player taken in the 1980 MLB draft. Four #1 overall draft picks are in my top 150 here. Strawberry was the first of the four to be drafted: i.e., in my opinion, Strawberry was the best player taken #1 overall in the MLB draft prior to 1987 (when Ken Griffey, Jr. was drafted).
- Darryl Strawberry won the National League Rookie of the Year award in 1983. He was named to eight All-Star teams and received MVP votes four times, finishing in the top 10 all four times, including a second-place and third-place finish in 1988 and 1990, respectively.
- Strawberry hit 25 or more home runs in each of his first nine seasons. He also stole 25 or more bases in five of those seasons. Strawberry had at least 100 RBI three times; he had 93 or more RBI six times. He scored 100 or more runs twice.
- Strawberry's best season was 1988. He led the National League that season in home runs (39), slugging percentage (.545), and OPS (on-base plus slugging percentage, .911). He also stole 29 bases and both scored and drove in 101 runs. He won the first of his two Silver Slugger awards, earned his fifth All-Star selection (all as a starter) and finished second in MVP voting. Strawberry led National League non-pitchers in both pWins and eWins over positional average (pWOPA, eWOPA) and replacement level (pWORLD, eWORLD) that season.
- Darryl Strawberry is one of three players in major-league history to have played for all four franchises which began their history in New York City: the Yankees, Dodgers, Giants, and Mets. Strawberry is the only player for whom those were the only four teams for which he played.

### At What Was Darryl Strawberry Elite?

In his prime, Darryl Strawberry was one of the best players in baseball: excellent power, solid on-base skills, above-average speed, and good defense.

In fact, measure by context-neutral batting wins over pitcher average, Darryl Strawberry was the best hitter of the second half of the 1980s. And measured by pWins over replacement level, he was the best player in baseball over this time period.

See also #132, Vladimir Guerrero.

#### Top 10 Batters, 1985 - 1989 (Ranked by Batting Wins over Non-Pitcher Average)

		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	eWOPA
1	<b>Darryl Strawberry</b>	<b>66.6</b>	<b>45.0</b>	<b>0.597</b>	<b>9.8</b>
2	Wade Boggs	75.7	56.4	0.573	9.6
3	Jack Clark	56.9	38.8	0.595	8.4
4	Dwight Evans	68.6	53.1	0.564	7.7
5	George Brett	63.4	48.2	0.568	7.6
6	Don Mattingly	75.4	60.3	0.556	7.6
7	Will Clark	54.0	38.3	0.585	7.0
8	Eric Davis	51.3	35.8	0.589	6.9
9	Rickey Henderson	63.2	49.2	0.562	6.9
10	Pedro Guerrero	54.2	38.8	0.583	6.9

#### Top 10 Players, 1985 - 1989 (Ranked by pWORLD)

		pWins	pLosses	pWOPA	pWORLD
1	<b>Darryl Strawberry</b>	<b>107.4</b>	<b>75.0</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>19.7</b>
2	Ozzie Smith	107.7	88.5	12.1	19.4
3	Roger Clemens	74.2	50.8	12.8	18.9
4	Dwight Gooden	73.3	54.2	13.0	18.6
5	Wade Boggs	102.1	79.5	11.1	17.9
6	Mike Scott	81.4	67.4	10.7	17.4
7	Bret Saberhagen	72.2	52.2	11.0	17.2
8	Alan Trammell	96.3	82.8	10.5	17.2
9	Teddy Higuera	70.3	50.3	11.1	17.1
10	Rickey Henderson	102.3	79.2	10.0	16.9

## Darryl Strawberry's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORL	pWOPA	pWO*
1983	NYN	21	120	16.9	14.9	1.8	0.7	-
1984	NYN	22	147	21.0	16.6	2.8	1.3	-
1985	NYN	23	111	17.9	12.0	3.7	2.5	1.4
1986	NYN	24	136	20.4	14.3	3.7	2.4	1.2
1987	NYN	25	154	23.9	17.0	4.3	2.7	1.0
1988	NYN	26	153	26.2	16.3	5.6	4.0	2.4
1989	NYN	27	134	18.9	15.4	2.5	1.3	0.0
1990	NYN	28	152	21.0	16.7	2.9	1.6	0.2
1991	LAN	29	139	19.0	14.7	2.7	1.4	0.1
1992	LAN	30	43	5.4	5.1	0.4	0.0	-
1993	LAN	31	32	3.3	3.6	0.0	-0.2	-
1994	SFN	32	29	3.2	2.4	0.5	0.3	0.1
1995	NYA	33	32	3.3	2.0	0.8	0.6	0.3
1996	NYA	34	63	6.4	5.6	0.8	0.2	-
1997	NYA	35	11	0.3	0.9	-0.2	-0.3	-
1998	NYA	36	101	9.4	6.3	2.3	1.3	0.4
1999	NYA	37	24	1.3	1.0	0.3	0.1	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>1,581  </b>	<b>217.9</b>	<b>164.8</b>	<b>35.0</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>7.1</b>
PostSeason (career)			40	5.3	3.5	1.1	0.8	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORL	eWOPA	eWO*
1983	NYN	21	120	17.2	14.4	2.2	1.0	-
1984	NYN	22	147	19.6	17.1	1.8	0.4	-
1985	NYN	23	111	17.3	12.5	3.1	2.0	0.9
1986	NYN	24	136	18.5	14.2	2.7	1.5	0.3
1987	NYN	25	154	22.5	16.1	4.0	2.4	0.9
1988	NYN	26	153	23.8	16.7	4.2	2.6	1.1
1989	NYN	27	134	18.0	14.2	2.6	1.5	0.3
1990	NYN	28	152	19.3	15.8	2.5	1.2	-
1991	LAN	29	139	18.5	14.9	2.4	1.1	-
1992	LAN	30	43	5.1	4.6	0.5	0.1	-
1993	LAN	31	32	3.1	3.4	0.0	-0.2	-
1994	SFN	32	29	3.2	2.9	0.3	0.0	-
1995	NYA	33	32	2.5	2.1	0.4	0.2	-
1996	NYA	34	63	5.4	5.6	0.3	-0.2	-
1997	NYA	35	11	0.4	0.8	-0.2	-0.2	-
1998	NYA	36	101	7.9	6.5	1.3	0.5	-
1999	NYA	37	24	1.7	1.1	0.5	0.3	0.1
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>1,581  </b>	<b>204.2</b>	<b>162.8</b>	<b>28.8</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>3.7</b>
PostSeason (career)			40	4.4	3.3	0.7	0.4	

## **#83: Paul Molitor**

### **Career Highlights**

Paul Molitor was the first player elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame who played more games as a designated hitter than at any specific defensive position. He was elected in his first year of eligibility, 2004, with 85.2% of the vote.

Five highlights of Paul Molitor's career:

- Paul Molitor was named to seven All-Star teams in his career and received MVP votes nine times.
- Paul Molitor batted .300 or better twelve times in his career. He led his league in hits three times, in runs scored three times, and in doubles and triples once each.
- Paul Molitor is in the top 20 in major-league history in career plate appearances (12,167, 16th), hits (3,319, 10th), singles (2,366, 12th), doubles (605, 14th), and runs scored (1,782, 20th). Paul Molitor is one of four players (along with Barry Bonds, Ty Cobb, and Honus Wagner) in major-league history with at least 900 extra-base hits (953) and 500 stolen bases (504).
- Paul Molitor's best season was probably either 1987 or 1993. In 1987, he batted .353/.438/.566, all three of which were career highs, and he led the American League with 114 runs scored and 41 doubles in only 118 games played. In 1993, Molitor batted .332/.402/.509 and led the league in hits (211) while scoring 121 runs and hitting career highs in home runs (22) and RBI (111); he stole 22 bases and was caught only 4 times, all while tying his career high with 160 games played.
- In 1987, Paul Molitor had a 39-game hitting streak, the seventh longest in major-league history.



### At What Was Paul Molitor Elite?

Paul Molitor came up as a shortstop, but only played 57 games at shortstop in the major leagues because Robin Yount (#32) was already in Milwaukee. Molitor was primarily a second baseman in his first three seasons (400 career games at second base). After a brief detour in the outfield (50 career games, 43 in center field), he settled in as the Brewers' third baseman for about six seasons (791 career games). Eventually, injuries pushed Molitor to DH with occasional detours to first base (197 career games at first base).

Wherever Paul Molitor played, he was above average: a solid fielder when healthy and, of course, an exceptional hitter throughout his career.

The next table shows all players who were above positional average at all four infield positions – specifically, who had career eWOPA of at least 0.1 at all four positions. The players are ranked here by career pWORL.

#### Players Above Positional Average at All Four Infield Positions (since 1947)

Player	eWins over Positional Average				Career pWORL
	1B	2B	3B	SS	
<b>Paul Molitor</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>47.4</b>
Bobby Grich	0.3	19.6	0.1	2.1	41.8
Jackie Robinson	1.0	13.2	1.3	0.1	39.7
Dick Allen	5.6	0.1	8.0	0.1	36.1

Dick Allen played 3 games at shortstop in his career and 4 games at second base, never starting a game at either position. Jackie Robinson played one game at shortstop in his career (although he did start it and play all nine innings). Bobby Grich is not as bad as Allen and Robinson. He played at least 49 games at all four infield positions (49 games at 3B, 71 at 1B).

That means that Paul Molitor is the only player since integration to play at least 50 games at each infield position and be above average at all four.

## Paul Molitor's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1978	MIL	21	124	16.1	14.9	2.3	1.1	-
1979	MIL	22	140	20.9	16.5	4.2	2.7	1.2
1980	MIL	23	111	15.5	14.0	2.4	1.2	0.1
1981	MIL	24	64	7.0	7.1	0.5	-0.2	-
1982	MIL	25	160	22.4	17.9	3.7	2.1	0.6
1983	MIL	26	151	17.3	17.3	1.1	-0.1	-
1984	MIL	27	12	1.1	1.2	0.0	-0.1	-
1985	MIL	28	140	17.5	16.7	1.7	0.4	-
1986	MIL	29	105	14.2	11.7	2.1	1.1	0.1
1987	MIL	30	118	15.2	10.3	3.7	2.4	1.1
1988	MIL	31	154	20.9	16.2	3.9	2.3	0.7
1989	MIL	32	155	19.4	16.8	2.7	1.3	-
1990	MIL	33	103	11.9	11.8	0.9	0.0	-
1991	MIL	34	158	18.8	15.1	3.1	1.3	-
1992	MIL	35	158	18.0	13.4	3.5	1.8	0.2
1993	TOR	36	160	18.5	12.8	4.4	2.6	0.8
1994	TOR	37	115	11.4	9.6	1.9	0.6	-
1995	TOR	38	130	10.7	10.8	0.9	-0.5	-
1996	MIN	39	161	16.8	14.3	2.6	0.7	-
1997	MIN	40	135	13.0	13.1	1.2	-0.4	-
1998	MIN	41	126	11.2	11.7	0.7	-0.7	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,680  </b>	<b>317.9</b>	<b>273.0</b>	<b>47.4</b>	<b>19.8</b>	<b>4.8</b>
PostSeason (career)			29	4.4	2.9	1.0	0.7	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1978	MIL	21	124	15.1	15.3	1.6	0.4	-
1979	MIL	22	140	19.5	17.4	3.0	1.6	0.1
1980	MIL	23	111	15.8	13.3	2.8	1.7	0.5
1981	MIL	24	64	7.1	6.9	0.6	0.0	-
1982	MIL	25	160	22.1	19.1	3.0	1.4	-
1983	MIL	26	151	18.5	17.9	1.5	0.1	-
1984	MIL	27	12	1.1	1.3	-0.0	-0.1	-
1985	MIL	28	140	17.5	16.6	1.8	0.5	-
1986	MIL	29	105	13.1	11.9	1.4	0.5	-
1987	MIL	30	118	15.1	11.1	3.2	1.9	0.6
1988	MIL	31	154	18.2	15.2	2.9	1.5	0.0
1989	MIL	32	155	19.4	16.7	2.8	1.4	-
1990	MIL	33	103	13.1	11.6	1.6	0.7	-
1991	MIL	34	158	18.3	14.7	3.0	1.2	-
1992	MIL	35	158	17.2	13.8	2.9	1.2	-
1993	TOR	36	160	17.7	13.6	3.6	1.8	-
1994	TOR	37	115	11.3	9.1	2.1	0.8	-
1995	TOR	38	130	11.5	11.2	1.1	-0.3	-
1996	MIN	39	161	14.9	13.9	1.7	-0.0	-
1997	MIN	40	135	11.6	11.0	1.4	-0.0	-
1998	MIN	41	126	10.8	11.6	0.6	-0.8	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,680  </b>	<b>308.9</b>	<b>272.9</b>	<b>42.5</b>	<b>15.4</b>	<b>1.4</b>
PostSeason (career)			29	4.3	3.0	0.9	0.6	

## **#84: Tim Hudson**

### **Career Highlights**

Tim Hudson was one of the three aces who were the centerpiece of the “Moneyball” Oakland A’s of the late 1990s and early 2000s and the only one of the three to continue to enjoy success after leaving Oakland.

Five highlights of Tim Hudson’s career:

- Tim Hudson was named to four All-Star teams in his career and received Cy Young votes four times. Hudson had at least 30 games started and 200 innings pitched with a better-than-league-average ERA seven times in his career.
- Tim Hudson amassed 20 pitching wins once in his career, in his first full season, 2000. He finished that year with a 20-6 record, leading the American League in both wins and winning percentage. Hudson had his best finish in Cy Young voting that season, finishing (a distant) second to Pedro Martinez.
- After missing the last half of 2008 and most of 2009 following Tommy John surgery, Hudson pitched 228.2 innings in 2010 with a traditional won-lost record of 17-9 and a 2.83 ERA, for which he was named the National League’s Comeback Player of the Year.
- On April 30, 2013, Tim Hudson earned his 200th career win in an 8-1 win over the Washington Nationals. Hudson pitched 7 innings, allowing 1 run on 3 hits with 6 strikeouts. Hudson also went 2-for-3 in the game, hitting a double and a home run and scoring two runs
- Tim Hudson led active major-leaguers in traditional pitcher wins from the start of the 2014 season until his retirement at the end of the 2015 season.

### At What Was Tim Hudson Elite?

Tim Hudson was an excellent pitcher. Hudson was not necessarily elite at any one specific aspect of pitching. What made him elite was that he was good at everything. Player won-lost records are calculated across nine components with pitchers earning decisions in the first seven of these components.

The next table decomposes Tim Hudson's (context-neutral, teammate-adjusted) Player won-lost records across components.

Component	eWins	eLosses	eWin Pct.
Component 1: Basestealing	2.8	1.9	0.593
Component 2: Wild Pitches and Passed Balls	2.2	2.1	0.508
Component 3: Balls not in Play	44.9	29.6	0.602
Component 4: Balls in Play	88.0	79.0	0.527
Component 5: Hits vs. Outs on Balls in Play	25.3	24.2	0.511
Component 6: Singles vs. Doubles vs. Triples	2.1	1.9	0.523
Component 7: Double Plays	2.0	1.6	0.554

Hudson was above average (i.e., over .500) in all seven pitching components. The next table shows all pitchers for whom this is true for whom I have calculated Player won-lost records. The players are ranked here by career pWins over replacement level.

Pitchers Above Average at Everything (min. 5 Pitching eWins)				
Player	pWins	pLoss	pWOPA	pWORL
<b>Tim Hudson</b>	<b>198.8</b>	<b>167.5</b>	<b>23.7</b>	<b>42.1</b>
Larry Jackson	205.7	190.7	15.5	33.0
Rich Gossage	131.2	101.9	11.7	25.6
Rudy May	155.2	156.6	2.4	17.3
Ken Forsch	117.3	112.2	5.2	16.1
Jim Brosnan	47.0	43.5	1.7	6.8
Mark Fidrych	25.5	20.5	2.8	4.9
Terry Fox	24.4	19.5	2.0	4.8
Chuck Taylor	27.9	24.6	1.6	4.6

## Tim Hudson's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1999	OAK	23	22	9.1	6.3	2.3	1.5	0.7
2000	OAK	24	32	13.6	10.9	2.9	1.6	0.3
2001	OAK	25	35	14.5	11.1	3.5	2.0	0.6
2002	OAK	26	34	13.9	10.6	3.2	1.9	0.6
2003	OAK	27	34	15.5	9.5	4.7	3.3	1.8
2004	OAK	28	27	11.2	8.7	2.7	1.5	0.4
2005	ATL	29	29	13.1	12.5	2.2	1.0	-
2006	ATL	30	35	13.1	13.8	1.7	0.4	-
2007	ATL	31	34	13.8	10.8	3.5	2.3	1.0
2008	ATL	32	23	9.3	7.4	2.2	1.4	0.6
2009	ATL	33	7	2.3	2.3	0.4	0.2	-
2010	ATL	34	35	15.3	13.0	3.3	1.9	0.6
2011	ATL	35	33	14.0	12.1	2.9	1.7	0.5
2012	ATL	36	28	12.5	9.6	3.1	2.2	1.2
2013	ATL	37	21	8.6	7.8	1.7	0.9	0.1
2014	SFN	38	31	11.9	12.1	1.7	0.5	-
2015	SFN	39	24	7.1	9.0	0.4	-0.4	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>484  </b>	<b>198.8</b>	<b>167.5</b>	<b>42.1</b>	<b>23.7</b>	<b>8.3</b>
PostSeason (career)			15	3.5	3.6	0.4	0.1	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1999	OAK	23	22	8.7	6.0	2.2	1.5	0.7
2000	OAK	24	32	12.3	10.5	2.3	1.1	-
2001	OAK	25	35	14.5	11.7	3.2	1.7	0.3
2002	OAK	26	34	14.7	11.4	3.3	1.9	0.5
2003	OAK	27	34	15.3	10.3	4.2	2.8	1.3
2004	OAK	28	27	11.8	8.6	3.0	1.9	0.7
2005	ATL	29	29	12.4	12.2	1.9	0.7	-
2006	ATL	30	35	12.6	13.5	1.5	0.3	-
2007	ATL	31	34	14.5	10.0	4.3	3.0	1.8
2008	ATL	32	23	9.0	6.8	2.3	1.5	0.7
2009	ATL	33	7	3.2	2.6	0.8	0.5	0.2
2010	ATL	34	35	14.5	12.5	3.0	1.7	0.4
2011	ATL	35	33	13.8	11.5	3.0	1.8	0.7
2012	ATL	36	28	11.5	10.0	2.4	1.5	0.5
2013	ATL	37	21	8.4	7.2	1.8	1.0	0.3
2014	SFN	38	31	10.9	11.6	1.3	0.2	-
2015	SFN	39	24	6.9	8.3	0.6	-0.2	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>484  </b>	<b>194.8</b>	<b>164.6</b>	<b>41.1</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>8.2</b>
PostSeason (career)			15	4.8	4.1	1.0	0.5	

## **#85: Roy Oswalt**

### **Career Highlights**

Roy Oswalt was the one of the best pitchers of the first decade of the twenty-first century.

Five highlights of Roy Oswalt's career:

- Roy Oswalt won a Gold Medal in the 2000 Olympics. The 2000 Olympics were the only Olympics in which the United States won the gold medal in baseball.
- Roy Oswalt received Cy Young votes in five of his first six seasons.
- Roy Oswalt led the National League in winning percentage in his rookie season with a traditional won-lost record of 14-3. He had 20 pitcher wins twice, led the league in games started twice and in ERA once, in 2006.
- Roy Oswalt pitched in the postseason four times. He won the 2005 NLCS MVP award winning both of his starts in the series allowing 2 runs in 14 innings, helping the Houston Astros reach the World Series for the first time in franchise history.
- On June 11, 2003, Roy Oswalt was part of one of the more unusual no-hitters in major-league history. Oswalt started the game but had to leave in the second inning because of an injury. Six Houston Astros pitchers combined to no-hit the New York Yankees. The Astros set a major-league record for most pitchers used in a no-hitter (six). The Astros were the first visiting team to throw a no-hitter in interleague play (hence, becoming the first National League team to throw a no-hitter in a game with a designated hitter). This was also the last no-hitter in the old Yankee Stadium.

### At What Was Roy Oswalt Elite?

Roy Oswalt did not make his major-league debut until he was 23 years old. His career was then cut short because of injuries with Oswalt's last full season coming at age 32. But in between, during Oswalt's prime, he was one of the best pitchers in baseball.

In fact, Roy Oswalt's prime was one of the best in baseball history. The next table shows the top 25 pitchers, since 1947, ranked by pWORLD earned in their age-27 through age-30 seasons.

<b>Top 25 Pitchers, since 1947</b> <b>(Ranked by pWORLD, age 27 - 30)</b>					
		<b>pWins</b>	<b>pLosses</b>	<b>pWOPA</b>	<b>pWORLD</b>
1	Sandy Koufax	86.6	55.0	18.9	25.4
2	Greg Maddux	65.2	40.8	15.0	20.1
3	Pedro Martinez	55.0	25.1	15.7	19.9
4	Mike Garcia	77.1	54.8	13.5	19.5
5	Juan Marichal	77.6	57.7	13.3	18.8
6	Bob Lemon	83.0	65.1	11.8	18.2
7	C.C. Sabathia	64.0	42.9	12.0	17.6
8	Bob Gibson	77.1	62.7	10.5	16.9
9	Fergie Jenkins	80.5	68.4	9.7	16.0
10	Jim Palmer	66.7	46.6	10.7	16.0
11	Warren Spahn	80.1	66.0	9.6	15.8
12	Roger Clemens	61.6	42.6	10.3	15.5
13	Max Scherzer	57.1	39.2	10.6	15.5
14	Don Sutton	71.7	57.6	9.9	15.4
15	Tom Seaver	71.3	57.5	9.9	15.3
16	Teddy Higuera	61.4	43.3	10.0	15.2
17	Camilo Pascual	71.1	59.3	9.0	14.9
<b>18</b>	<b>Roy Oswalt</b>	<b>60.0</b>	<b>46.9</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>14.7</b>
19	Steve Carlton	78.2	68.3	8.3	14.4
20	Tom Glavine	57.4	43.8	9.5	14.4
21	Brandon Webb	51.3	36.6	9.8	14.2
22	Johan Santana	55.8	41.8	8.9	14.0
23	Ron Guidry	55.9	37.8	9.6	13.9
24	Billy Pierce	64.3	51.6	8.7	13.7
25	J.R. Richard	64.4	52.5	8.7	13.5

## Roy Oswalt's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
2001	HOU	23	28	10.1	6.4	3.1	2.3	1.4
2002	HOU	24	35	15.3	12.8	3.4	2.0	0.6
2003	HOU	25	21	7.9	6.2	2.0	1.2	0.5
2004	HOU	26	36	15.3	13.8	3.1	1.6	0.1
2005	HOU	27	35	18.2	13.7	4.6	3.1	1.6
2006	HOU	28	35	14.0	10.6	3.6	2.5	1.3
2007	HOU	29	33	13.3	10.6	3.2	2.0	0.7
2008	HOU	30	32	14.5	12.0	3.3	2.0	0.7
2009	HOU	31	30	9.8	9.4	1.7	0.8	-
2010		32	35	14.6	12.3	3.1	1.8	0.5
	<i>HOU</i>		<i>20 /</i>	<i>8.6</i>	<i>8.8</i>	<i>1.1</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>-</i>
	<i>PHI</i>		<i>15 /</i>	<i>6.0</i>	<i>3.5</i>	<i>2.0</i>	<i>1.5</i>	<i>1.1</i>
2011	PHI	33	23	8.7	8.4	1.4	0.6	-
2012	TEX	34	17	3.7	4.6	0.0	-0.4	-
2013	COL	35	9	2.1	3.2	-0.2	-0.5	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>369  </b>	<b>147.6</b>	<b>124.1</b>	<b>32.3</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>7.4</b>
PostSeason (career)			13	4.6	3.9	1.0	0.6	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
2001	HOU	23	28	9.3	7.1	2.4	1.5	0.7
2002	HOU	24	35	15.5	12.5	3.6	2.3	0.9
2003	HOU	25	21	7.7	6.3	1.8	1.0	0.3
2004	HOU	26	36	15.3	13.0	3.5	2.0	0.5
2005	HOU	27	35	15.8	12.5	3.7	2.4	1.1
2006	HOU	28	35	14.2	11.6	3.3	2.1	0.8
2007	HOU	29	33	13.6	11.4	3.1	1.8	0.5
2008	HOU	30	32	13.3	11.2	3.0	1.8	0.5
2009	HOU	31	30	11.6	10.7	2.2	1.1	0.0
2010		32	35	13.3	10.9	2.9	1.7	0.6
	<i>HOU</i>		<i>20 /</i>	<i>8.0</i>	<i>6.8</i>	<i>1.6</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>0.1</i>
	<i>PHI</i>		<i>15 /</i>	<i>5.3</i>	<i>4.1</i>	<i>1.3</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>0.4</i>
2011	PHI	33	23	8.6	8.1	1.5	0.7	-
2012	TEX	34	17	3.2	4.3	-0.1	-0.5	-
2013	COL	35	9	1.9	2.2	0.2	-0.1	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>369  </b>	<b>143.5</b>	<b>121.8</b>	<b>31.0</b>	<b>17.8</b>	<b>6.0</b>
PostSeason (career)			13	4.5	4.6	0.6	0.2	



## **#86: Mickey Mantle**

### **Career Highlights**

I assume you all know who Mickey Mantle is. As with Willie Mays, Hank Aaron, and a few others, he ranks this low only because the time period considered here misses the first decade of Mantle's career.

Five highlights of Mickey Mantle's career:

- Mickey Mantle was named for Hall-of-Fame catcher Mickey Cochrane. Mickey is Mickey Mantle's given name, while Mickey Cochrane's given first name was actually Gordon.
- Mickey Mantle was named to an All-Star team in 16 of the 18 seasons in which he played. The exceptions were his rookie season (1951) and 1966.
- Mantle won three MVP awards, in 1956, 1957, and 1962. He finished second in MVP voting three times, in 1960, 1961, and 1964. He also finished third in MVP voting once (1952) and fifth twice (1955, 1958).
- Mickey Mantle played in 12 World Series of which the Yankees won seven. Mantle holds career World Series records for home runs (18), runs scored (42), RBI (40), walks (43), and total bases (123).
- At the time of his retirement, Mickey Mantle was third in major-league history in home runs (536) and tied for seventh in OPS (since 1901 among players with at least 3,000 plate appearances) with the man he replaced as the New York Yankees' center fielder, Joe DiMaggio.

### At What Was Mickey Mantle Elite?

Mickey Mantle was elite at virtually everything. His name pops up repeatedly throughout this book. He is #2 in career pWins over Star (#2, Greg Maddux). He was one of the top 10 players in the 1960s (#21, Juan Marichal). He is the top switch hitter in major-league history (#26, Chipper Jones). He is the second-best center fielder since 1947 (#44, Ken Griffey, Jr.). He has the highest pWORLD over nine and eleven consecutive seasons (#72, Sandy Koufax).

To add two more tables, Mickey Mantle was the top player of the 1950s as measured by pWins over either positional average (pWOPA) or replacement level (pWORLD).

Top 10 Players, 1950 – 1959, pWOPA					
	Player	pWins	pLosses	pWOPA	pWORLD
1	<b>Mickey Mantle</b>	<b>196.5</b>	<b>124.7</b>	<b>30.6</b>	<b>43.6</b>
2	Yogi Berra	169.4	121.1	25.5	37.3
3	Warren Spahn	190.5	154.0	25.4	40.2
4	Duke Snider	198.2	143.7	21.6	35.5
5	Robin Roberts	197.9	169.6	21.4	37.2
6	Eddie Mathews	168.2	121.6	20.4	32.1
7	Early Wynn	181.0	154.6	20.0	34.4
8	Billy Pierce	162.6	136.2	19.1	32.0
9	Willie Mays	170.1	122.7	18.7	30.5
10	Jackie Robinson	130.4	91.8	18.4	27.4

Top 10 Players, 1950 – 1959, pWORLD					
	Player	pWins	pLosses	pWOPA	pWORLD
1	<b>Mickey Mantle</b>	<b>196.5</b>	<b>124.7</b>	<b>30.6</b>	<b>43.6</b>
2	Warren Spahn	190.5	154.0	25.4	40.2
3	Yogi Berra	169.4	121.1	25.5	37.3
4	Robin Roberts	197.9	169.6	21.4	37.2
5	Duke Snider	198.2	143.7	21.6	35.5
6	Early Wynn	181.0	154.6	20.0	34.4
7	Eddie Mathews	168.2	121.6	20.4	32.1
8	Billy Pierce	162.6	136.2	19.1	32.0
9	Willie Mays	170.1	122.7	18.7	30.5
10	Minnie Minoso	206.0	160.4	15.5	30.2

## Mickey Mantle's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1951	NYA	19	96	12.8	9.0	2.6	1.7	0.9
1952	NYA	20	142	22.2	14.8	4.8	3.3	1.9
1953	NYA	21	127	20.2	13.0	4.5	3.1	1.7
1954	NYA	22	145	24.0	15.2	5.2	3.6	2.0
1955	NYA	23	147	24.5	14.0	6.1	4.5	2.9
1956	NYA	24	150	24.9	15.1	5.9	4.2	2.6
1957	NYA	25	144	24.8	12.8	6.9	5.3	3.8
1958	NYA	26	150	22.9	15.9	4.3	2.8	1.3
1959	NYA	27	144	20.2	15.0	3.4	2.0	0.7
1960	NYA	28	153	23.3	13.5	5.6	4.2	2.7
1961	NYA	29	153	25.8	14.8	6.6	4.8	3.0
1962	NYA	30	123	19.9	11.3	5.0	3.8	2.6
1963	NYA	31	65	9.0	4.9	2.4	1.9	1.3
1964	NYA	32	143	21.0	13.8	4.5	3.1	1.7
1965	NYA	33	122	13.4	13.1	0.7	-0.4	-
1966	NYA	34	108	12.4	11.4	1.0	0.1	-
1967	NYA	35	144	15.7	11.9	2.3	1.1	-
1968	NYA	36	144	14.3	10.8	2.1	1.0	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,400  </b>	<b>351.5</b>	<b>230.4</b>	<b>73.8</b>	<b>50.2</b>	<b>28.9</b>
PostSeason (career)			65	9.1	7.0	1.4	0.8	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1951	NYA	19	96	11.7	9.5	1.8	0.9	0.1
1952	NYA	20	142	21.4	15.1	4.2	2.7	1.3
1953	NYA	21	127	18.9	13.3	3.7	2.3	1.0
1954	NYA	22	145	22.7	15.8	4.3	2.7	1.1
1955	NYA	23	147	22.6	14.1	5.1	3.6	2.0
1956	NYA	24	150	24.3	14.1	6.0	4.4	2.9
1957	NYA	25	144	23.5	13.1	6.1	4.6	3.0
1958	NYA	26	150	23.1	14.8	4.9	3.5	2.0
1959	NYA	27	144	22.4	16.1	4.0	2.5	1.0
1960	NYA	28	153	22.0	15.3	4.1	2.6	1.1
1961	NYA	29	153	24.9	14.9	6.0	4.3	2.5
1962	NYA	30	123	18.0	10.8	4.3	3.2	2.1
1963	NYA	31	65	7.9	5.2	1.7	1.2	0.7
1964	NYA	32	143	19.9	13.9	3.8	2.4	1.1
1965	NYA	33	122	14.0	12.0	1.5	0.5	-
1966	NYA	34	108	13.7	10.6	2.1	1.1	0.2
1967	NYA	35	144	16.4	12.1	2.6	1.3	0.1
1968	NYA	36	144	14.6	11.3	2.0	0.9	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,400  </b>	<b>341.9</b>	<b>231.9</b>	<b>68.0</b>	<b>44.7</b>	<b>22.1</b>
PostSeason (career)			65	8.9	6.9	1.4	0.7	

## **#87: Scott Rolen**

### **Career Highlights**

Scott Rolen was one of the best and most under-appreciated third basemen of the late twentieth and early twenty-first century.

Five highlights of Scott Rolen's career:

- Scott Rolen made his major-league debut on August 1, 1996. His 1996 season ended when he was hit by a pitch by Steve Trachsel, breaking his arm. At that time, Rolen had 130 at bats. In order to be eligible for the Rookie of the Year award, a player must have 130 or fewer at bats entering the season.
- Hence, Scott Rolen was eligible for the 1997 Rookie of the Year award by exactly one at bat because of his injury. He took advantage to unanimously win the 1997 NL Rookie of the Year award, batting .283/.377/.469 with 35 doubles, 21 home runs, 16 stolen bases, 92 RBI, and 93 runs scored.
- Scott Rolen was named to seven All-Star teams in his career. He received MVP votes four times.
- Rolen's top MVP finish was 2004 when he finished fourth. That season, Rolen batted .314/.409/.598 with 34 home runs and 124 RBI, all of which were career highs.
- Scott Rolen won eight Gold Gloves in his career. He is 12th in major-league history in defensive games played at third base (2,023), 11th in career assists as a third baseman (4,081), and 12th in career double plays turned as a third baseman (355).

### At What Was Scott Rolen Elite?

Scott Rolen was an extremely well-balanced player: solidly above average both offensively and defensively. The first table below shows the top 10 offensive third baseman, as measured by non-fielding wins over positional average at third base, since 1947.

#### Top 10 Offensive Third Basemen, since 1947 (Ranked by non-Fielding eWOPA, 3B only)

		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	eWOPA
1	Eddie Mathews	227.8	163.5	0.582	27.2
2	Mike Schmidt	231.1	166.3	0.581	26.9
3	Chipper Jones	206.6	155.1	0.571	21.9
4	George Brett	170.4	137.9	0.553	15.4
5	Wade Boggs	211.6	182.1	0.537	14.8
6	Ron Santo	207.0	168.6	0.551	14.6
7	Alex Rodriguez	121.0	92.3	0.567	14.0
8	David Wright	158.5	126.9	0.555	12.5
9	Sal Bando	175.1	146.1	0.545	12.1
<b>10</b>	<b>Scott Rolen</b>	<b>187.6</b>	<b>158.4</b>	<b>0.542</b>	<b>11.6</b>

And the next table shows the top 10 defensive third basemen, measured by net fielding wins, again, since 1947.

#### Top 10 Fielding Third Basemen, since 1947 (Ranked by Net Fielding eWins)

		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	Net eWins
1	Brooks Robinson	90.7	77.6	0.539	13.1
2	Mike Schmidt	76.0	68.0	0.528	8.0
3	Buddy Bell	70.9	63.2	0.529	7.7
4	Adrian Beltre	79.7	72.5	0.524	7.2
5	Aurelio Rodriguez	60.8	53.8	0.530	7.0
6	Tim Wallach	66.1	59.9	0.524	6.2
7	Terry Pendleton	63.8	57.6	0.525	6.1
<b>8</b>	<b>Scott Rolen</b>	<b>61.3</b>	<b>55.3</b>	<b>0.526</b>	<b>6.0</b>
9	Robin Ventura	57.1	51.2	0.527	5.9
10	Evan Longoria	38.3	32.8	0.538	5.5

Scott Rolen is one of only two players to appear on both lists (Mike Schmidt is the other). Although, there is an A. Rodriguez ahead of Rolen on both lists.

# Scott Rolen's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1996	PHI	21	37	4.3	4.4	0.2	-0.2	-
1997	PHI	22	155	21.1	18.7	2.5	0.9	-
1998	PHI	23	160	21.6	17.4	3.3	1.8	0.3
1999	PHI	24	112	15.0	11.4	2.7	1.7	0.6
2000	PHI	25	128	16.1	14.7	1.9	0.7	-
2001	PHI	26	151	20.3	15.5	3.7	2.2	0.6
2002		27	155	22.0	17.3	3.8	2.2	0.6
	<i>PHI</i>		<i>100 /</i>	<i>13.5</i>	<i>11.6</i>	<i>1.9</i>	<i>0.9</i>	-
	<i>SLN</i>		<i>55 /</i>	<i>8.5</i>	<i>5.7</i>	<i>1.9</i>	<i>1.3</i>	<i>0.8</i>
2003	SLN	28	154	20.8	16.4	3.6	2.1	0.7
2004	SLN	29	142	22.9	13.8	5.5	4.1	2.6
2005	SLN	30	56	6.9	6.0	0.8	0.4	-
2006	SLN	31	142	17.6	17.2	0.9	-0.3	-
2007	SLN	32	112	13.4	12.9	0.9	-0.0	-
2008	TOR	33	115	13.9	11.6	2.0	1.1	0.1
2009		34	128	15.3	12.1	2.6	1.6	0.6
	<i>CIN</i>		<i>40 /</i>	<i>4.6</i>	<i>3.1</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>0.4</i>
	<i>TOR</i>		<i>88 /</i>	<i>10.7</i>	<i>9.0</i>	<i>1.6</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>0.1</i>
2010	CIN	35	133	17.5	14.8	2.4	1.2	-
2011	CIN	36	65	7.9	7.8	0.7	0.1	-
2012	CIN	37	91	8.9	8.7	0.5	-0.1	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,036  </b>	<b>265.5</b>	<b>220.8</b>	<b>37.9</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>6.1</b>
PostSeason (career)			39	4.7	4.4	0.4	0.1	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1996	PHI	21	37	3.7	3.9	0.1	-0.2	-
1997	PHI	22	155	19.5	16.6	2.6	1.2	-
1998	PHI	23	160	21.9	17.4	3.5	1.9	0.4
1999	PHI	24	112	14.3	11.1	2.5	1.5	0.5
2000	PHI	25	128	16.0	12.6	2.8	1.6	0.5
2001	PHI	26	151	20.9	16.2	3.7	2.1	0.5
2002		27	155	20.4	16.6	3.2	1.7	0.3
	<i>PHI</i>		<i>100 /</i>	<i>13.3</i>	<i>11.0</i>	<i>2.0</i>	<i>1.1</i>	<i>0.1</i>
	<i>SLN</i>		<i>55 /</i>	<i>7.1</i>	<i>5.6</i>	<i>1.2</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>0.2</i>
2003	SLN	28	154	20.0	16.0	3.3	1.9	0.5
2004	SLN	29	142	19.9	13.4	4.1	2.8	1.5
2005	SLN	30	56	5.9	5.8	0.4	-0.0	-
2006	SLN	31	142	17.7	16.1	1.6	0.4	-
2007	SLN	32	112	11.4	11.4	0.6	-0.2	-
2008	TOR	33	115	12.3	12.1	0.9	0.0	-
2009		34	128	15.0	12.8	2.1	1.1	0.0
	<i>CIN</i>		<i>40 /</i>	<i>4.0</i>	<i>3.6</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>0.2</i>	-
	<i>TOR</i>		<i>88 /</i>	<i>11.0</i>	<i>9.2</i>	<i>1.7</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>0.2</i>
2010	CIN	35	133	16.0	13.9	2.0	0.9	-
2011	CIN	36	65	7.0	7.6	0.3	-0.3	-
2012	CIN	37	91	8.6	9.1	0.2	-0.4	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,036  </b>	<b>250.6</b>	<b>212.5</b>	<b>33.9</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>4.3</b>
PostSeason (career)			39	3.7	3.9	0.1	-0.2	

## #88: Willie Randolph

### Career Highlights

Willie Randolph was the starting second baseman for five American League pennant winners between 1976 and 1990.

Five highlights of Willie Randolph's career:

- Willie Randolph was named to six All-Star teams in his career, four of which he started. He won one Silver Slugger award and received MVP votes twice.
- Willie Randolph is seventh in major-league history in games played at second base (2,152). He ranks ninth all-time in putouts by a second baseman (4,859), tenth in assists (6,336), and third in double plays (1,547).
- Willie Randolph was co-captain of the New York Yankees from 1986 through 1988 with Ron Guidry who ranks immediately below him in my rankings (#89).
- Willie Randolph managed the New York Mets from 2005 through mid-2008. The Mets had a winning record in each of his three full seasons as a manager and his .544 career winning percentage is second in Mets' history.
- Willie Randolph's younger brother, Terry, played one season as a defensive back for the Green Bay Packers in 1977.

### At What Was Willie Randolph Elite?

Despite never winning a Gold Glove in his career, as measured by Player won-lost records, Willie Randolph was the best fielding second baseman of at least the last seventy years.

#### Top 10 Fielding Second Basemen, since 1947 (Ranked by Net Fielding Wins)

		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	Net eWins
1	<b>Willie Randolph</b>	<b>80.9</b>	<b>74.6</b>	<b>0.520</b>	<b>6.3</b>
2	Dustin Pedroia	50.8	44.6	0.533	6.3
3	Frank White	77.6	71.7	0.520	5.9
4	Nellie Fox	85.4	80.0	0.516	5.4
5	Mark Ellis	50.1	45.0	0.527	5.1
6	Bobby Grich	68.4	63.9	0.517	4.5
7	Bill Mazerowski	84.9	80.5	0.513	4.5
8	Orlando Hudson	49.4	45.0	0.523	4.4
9	Ryne Sandberg	78.5	74.2	0.514	4.4
10	Pokey Reese	19.3	15.0	0.563	4.3

## Willie Randolph's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1975	PIT	20	28	1.4	1.9	-0.1	-0.2	-
1976	NYA	21	125	14.5	13.5	1.9	0.9	-
1977	NYA	22	147	18.5	16.6	3.0	1.6	0.2
1978	NYA	23	134	18.0	14.9	3.3	2.1	0.8
1979	NYA	24	153	20.4	17.4	3.5	2.0	0.6
1980	NYA	25	138	20.6	14.8	4.8	3.5	2.1
1981	NYA	26	93	12.6	11.9	1.7	0.7	-
1982	NYA	27	144	17.5	17.3	1.8	0.5	-
1983	NYA	28	104	13.7	12.2	2.0	1.0	0.1
1984	NYA	29	142	17.9	17.0	2.3	0.9	-
1985	NYA	30	143	16.7	16.0	1.7	0.5	-
1986	NYA	31	141	16.4	15.7	2.0	0.8	-
1987	NYA	32	120	17.2	13.5	3.5	2.3	1.0
1988	NYA	33	110	12.6	12.0	1.5	0.5	-
1989	LAN	34	145	19.3	17.0	2.3	1.0	-
1990		35	118	12.4	11.4	1.5	0.6	-
	LAN		26 /	3.0	3.0	0.2	0.0	-
	OAK		92 /	9.4	8.4	1.3	0.6	-
1991	MIL	36	124	16.2	13.7	2.5	1.3	0.1
1992	NYN	37	90	9.5	9.8	0.5	-0.2	-
CAREER (reg. season)			2,199	275.3	246.8	39.5	19.6	4.8
PostSeason (career)			47	4.8	4.7	0.5	0.2	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1975	PIT	20	28	1.5	2.3	-0.2	-0.4	-
1976	NYA	21	125	15.2	14.0	2.1	1.0	-
1977	NYA	22	147	17.0	16.3	2.3	0.9	-
1978	NYA	23	134	17.3	15.6	2.6	1.3	0.1
1979	NYA	24	153	19.6	17.4	3.0	1.6	0.1
1980	NYA	25	138	19.5	15.5	3.9	2.6	1.2
1981	NYA	26	93	11.4	11.1	1.4	0.5	-
1982	NYA	27	144	18.0	17.5	2.0	0.7	-
1983	NYA	28	104	13.2	12.4	1.6	0.7	-
1984	NYA	29	142	18.7	18.6	2.0	0.6	-
1985	NYA	30	143	17.0	16.1	1.8	0.6	-
1986	NYA	31	141	16.4	15.5	2.1	0.9	-
1987	NYA	32	120	15.4	13.0	2.7	1.6	0.5
1988	NYA	33	110	12.8	13.3	1.0	0.0	-
1989	LAN	34	145	18.0	16.8	1.7	0.5	-
1990		35	118	12.1	12.7	0.8	-0.2	-
	LAN		26 /	3.2	3.0	0.3	0.1	-
	OAK		92 /	8.9	9.7	0.5	-0.2	-
1991	MIL	36	124	15.9	14.4	2.0	0.8	-
1992	NYN	37	90	9.4	9.2	0.8	0.1	-
CAREER (reg. season)			2,199	268.6	251.8	33.6	13.8	1.9
PostSeason (career)			47	5.2	5.3	0.5	0.1	



## #89: Ron Guidry

### Career Highlights

Ron Guidry was the pitching ace of the New York Yankee teams of the late 1970s and early 1980s that won four American League pennants and two World Series.

Five highlights of Ron Guidry's career:

- Ron Guidry was named to four All-Star teams in his career and received Cy Young votes six times, winning the award unanimously in 1978.
- Ron Guidry won five consecutive Gold Glove awards from 1982 through 1986.
- In 1978, Ron Guidry led the American League in traditional pitcher wins (25), winning percentage (.893, 25-3), shutouts (9), and ERA (1.74).
- Ron Guidry spent his entire career pitching in the American League after the introduction of the DH and before the advent of interleague play. Hence, Ron Guidry never had a plate appearance in a regular-season major-league game. Guidry has the most regular-season career pWORLD of any player with no regular-season plate appearances. Guidry did, however, score 4 regular-season runs as a pinch runner. He also had 9 plate appearances in the 1977 and 1981 World Series, in which he went 0-for-7 with 4 strikeouts and 2 sacrifice bunts.
- Guidry's number, 49, was retired by the New York Yankees on August 23, 2003 and he has a plaque in Monument Park at Yankee Stadium.

### At What Was Ron Guidry Elite?

The next table shows the top pitcher for each season of the 1970s, measured by pWORLD. Ron Guidry's 1978 season was the best pitcher season between Fergie Jenkins's 1974 season and Dwight Gooden's 1985 season (see #62, Dwight Gooden).

**Top Pitcher by Season, 1970 - 1979**  
(Ranked by pWORLD)

		pWins	pLosses	pWOPA	pWORLD
1970	Bob Gibson	22.1	13.9	5.1	6.5
1971	Fergie Jenkins	24.3	17.7	4.5	6.3
1972	Steve Carlton	25.7	15.2	6.2	8.0
1973	Nolan Ryan	23.0	15.9	3.8	5.6
1974	Fergie Jenkins	23.0	14.6	4.6	6.2
1975	Jim Palmer	20.6	12.4	4.2	5.8
1976	Jim Palmer	19.6	13.6	3.1	4.6
1977	Tom Seaver	19.2	12.5	4.2	5.6
<b>1978</b>	<b>Ron Guidry</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>6.0</b>
1979	Mike Flanagan	18.2	12.1	3.3	4.6

## Ron Guidry's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1975	NYA	24	11	0.3	0.5	-0.1	-0.1	-
1976	NYA	25	7	0.2	0.3	-0.0	-0.0	-
1977	NYA	26	32	13.6	8.9	3.6	2.5	1.3
1978	NYA	27	36	18.6	9.6	5.9	4.6	3.3
1979	NYA	28	34	16.0	10.7	4.0	2.8	1.6
1980	NYA	29	37	13.6	11.5	2.3	1.2	0.0
1981	NYA	30	23	7.7	6.1	1.6	0.9	0.2
1982	NYA	31	34	12.3	10.7	2.1	1.0	-
1983	NYA	32	32	16.1	11.9	3.7	2.4	1.1
1984	NYA	33	29	10.8	11.2	1.0	0.0	-
1985	NYA	34	34	14.8	9.9	4.0	2.7	1.3
1986	NYA	35	30	10.2	10.3	1.1	0.1	-
1987	NYA	36	22	6.3	6.6	0.6	-0.0	-
1988	NYA	37	12	2.5	2.9	0.1	-0.2	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>373  </b>	<b>143.0</b>	<b>111.1</b>	<b>30.0</b>	<b>17.9</b>	<b>9.0</b>
PostSeason (career)			11	4.4	3.4	1.0	0.6	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1975	NYA	24	11	0.7	0.7	0.1	0.0	-
1976	NYA	25	7	0.7	0.8	0.0	-0.1	-
1977	NYA	26	32	12.6	8.6	3.2	2.1	1.0
1978	NYA	27	36	16.6	9.8	4.7	3.5	2.3
1979	NYA	28	34	14.1	10.8	2.9	1.8	0.7
1980	NYA	29	37	12.9	11.7	1.8	0.7	-
1981	NYA	30	23	7.4	6.0	1.5	0.8	0.2
1982	NYA	31	34	13.1	11.8	2.1	0.9	-
1983	NYA	32	32	14.3	12.3	2.5	1.3	0.0
1984	NYA	33	29	11.5	11.5	1.2	0.2	-
1985	NYA	34	34	14.7	11.5	3.2	1.8	0.4
1986	NYA	35	30	11.2	10.6	1.5	0.4	-
1987	NYA	36	22	6.9	5.9	1.3	0.6	-
1988	NYA	37	12	3.3	3.4	0.3	-0.1	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>373  </b>	<b>140.0</b>	<b>115.3</b>	<b>26.5</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>4.7</b>
PostSeason (career)			11	3.7	3.5	0.5	0.2	

## #90: Dave Winfield

### Career Highlights

Dave Winfield was arguably the best player on the San Diego Padres in the 1970s, arguably the best player on the New York Yankees in the 1980s, and a key veteran contributor to two American League pennant winners in the 1990s. Winfield was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility, 2001, with 84.5% of the vote.

Five highlights of Dave Winfield's career:

- Dave Winfield was drafted by four teams in three professional sports. He was a fifth-round pick of the Atlanta Hawks in the NBA draft, a fourth-round pick of the Utah Stars in the ABA draft, and a 17th-round pick by the Minnesota Vikings in the NFL draft. Finally, Winfield was drafted in the first round, fourth overall, by the San Diego Padres, with whom he signed.
- Dave Winfield was named to twelve All-Star teams and received MVP votes nine times with seven top-10 finishes. Winfield also won seven Gold Gloves and six Silver Sluggers in his career.
- Through the end of the 2017 season, Dave Winfield ranks in the top 20 in major-league history in plate appearances (7th all-time with 12,358), total bases (15th all-time with 5,221), and RBI (18th all-time with 1,833). He is 21st all-time with 3,110 hits, and 31st all-time in runs scored with 1,669.
- Dave Winfield's best season was 1979 when he batted .308/.395/.558, led the National League in RBI (118) and total bases (333), with a career-high 10 triples, 34 home runs, and 97 runs scored, and won his first Gold Glove. Winfield finished third in MVP voting that year, the highest finish of his career.
- In 1978, Dave Winfield was named the first captain in San Diego Padres history

### At What Was Dave Winfield Elite?

Dave Winfield played 2,469 games in the outfield, the tenth-most in major-league history, primarily in right field (1,882 games), although he also played about three seasons in left field (466 games). The next table shows the top 10 corner outfielders, since MLB integration, measured by eWins over replacement level (eWORLD) earned in left and right field only. So, for example, Winfield's performance in center field (222 games) and as a designated hitter (419 games) are not included.

**Top 10 Corner Outfielders, since 1947**  
**(Ranked by eWORLD at LF, RF only)**

		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	eWORLD
1	Barry Bonds	422.5	293.5	0.590	80.1
2	Hank Aaron	379.6	291.5	0.566	56.9
3	Rickey Henderson	348.8	290.2	0.546	47.1
4	Frank Robinson	301.4	232.6	0.564	43.5
5	Ted Williams	232.3	165.3	0.584	40.4
6	Reggie Jackson	277.1	223.8	0.553	40.2
7	Manny Ramirez	271.0	222.0	0.550	38.5
8	Al Kaline	278.5	223.3	0.555	37.8
<b>9</b>	<b>Dave Winfield</b>	<b>322.6</b>	<b>279.4</b>	<b>0.536</b>	<b>36.3</b>
10	Roberto Clemente	337.3	289.9	0.538	35.9

## Dave Winfield's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1973	SDN	21	56	4.3	4.7	0.0	-0.3	-
1974	SDN	22	145	18.5	16.5	1.8	0.5	-
1975	SDN	23	143	20.2	16.9	2.4	1.0	-
1976	SDN	24	137	21.7	16.7	3.3	1.9	0.4
1977	SDN	25	157	23.3	21.0	1.9	0.2	-
1978	SDN	26	158	24.8	18.6	4.0	2.4	0.7
1979	SDN	27	159	26.6	20.0	4.0	2.2	0.4
1980	SDN	28	162	20.8	20.6	1.0	-0.6	-
1981	NYA	29	105	14.5	12.9	1.6	0.5	-
1982	NYA	30	140	19.8	19.0	1.5	0.0	-
1983	NYA	31	152	21.3	18.8	2.3	0.9	-
1984	NYA	32	140	20.8	17.0	2.7	1.3	-
1985	NYA	33	155	23.8	18.8	3.8	2.2	0.6
1986	NYA	34	154	20.2	17.8	2.2	0.8	-
1987	NYA	35	156	20.4	17.8	2.4	0.9	-
1988	NYA	36	149	21.6	17.1	3.2	1.7	0.2
1990		38	132	15.9	16.4	0.8	-0.4	-
	CAL		112 /	14.3	14.2	0.9	-0.2	-
	NYA		20 /	1.7	2.2	-0.1	-0.3	-
1991	CAL	39	150	16.8	16.5	1.2	-0.3	-
1992	TOR	40	156	17.4	12.8	3.6	1.9	0.2
1993	MIN	41	143	12.8	14.4	0.5	-1.0	-
1994	MIN	42	76	6.1	6.2	0.6	-0.2	-
1995	CLE	43	45	1.4	2.4	-0.4	-0.6	-
CAREER (reg. season)			2,970	392.8	343.0	44.6	14.8	2.6
PostSeason (career)			26	2.9	2.4	0.4	0.2	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1973	SDN	21	56	4.5	4.5	0.3	-0.1	-
1974	SDN	22	145	18.8	16.1	2.1	0.8	-
1975	SDN	23	143	19.9	16.5	2.5	1.0	-
1976	SDN	24	137	21.2	16.6	3.2	1.7	0.3
1977	SDN	25	157	24.9	20.5	3.0	1.2	-
1978	SDN	26	158	22.9	18.5	3.1	1.5	-
1979	SDN	27	159	26.0	19.5	4.0	2.2	0.5
1980	SDN	28	162	23.4	19.3	3.0	1.4	-
1981	NYA	29	105	13.7	12.6	1.3	0.2	-
1982	NYA	30	140	20.3	18.2	2.1	0.6	-
1983	NYA	31	152	21.3	19.3	2.1	0.7	-
1984	NYA	32	140	21.3	17.5	2.8	1.3	-
1985	NYA	33	155	22.6	19.9	2.6	1.0	-
1986	NYA	34	154	19.1	17.3	1.9	0.6	-
1987	NYA	35	156	18.2	17.4	1.5	0.0	-
1988	NYA	36	149	21.2	17.6	2.8	1.3	-
1990		38	132	15.4	15.6	0.9	-0.3	-
	CAL		112 /	14.0	13.7	1.0	-0.0	-
	NYA		20 /	1.4	1.9	-0.1	-0.2	-
1991	CAL	39	150	16.4	15.7	1.3	-0.1	-
1992	TOR	40	156	15.2	12.1	2.7	1.2	-
1993	MIN	41	143	12.7	13.1	1.0	-0.4	-
1994	MIN	42	76	5.9	6.1	0.5	-0.3	-
1995	CLE	43	45	1.8	2.7	-0.3	-0.5	-
CAREER (reg. season)			2,970	386.8	336.5	44.4	15.2	0.8
PostSeason (career)			26	2.8	2.8	0.2	-0.0	

## **#91: Chase Utley**

### **Career Highlights**

Chase Utley was the starting second baseman and best player on back-to-back pennant-winning Philadelphia Phillies teams in 2008 and 2009.

Five highlights of Chase Utley's career:

- Chase Utley has been selected to appear in six All-Star games in his major-league career, five of which he started at second base. He has won four Silver Sluggers as the best-hitting second baseman in the National League and has received MVP votes five times.
- Utley scored more than 100 runs in four consecutive seasons, 2006 – 2009, leading the league with 131 runs scored in 2006. He had 100 or more RBI in four consecutive seasons from 2007 – 2010.
- Through the 2017 season, Chase Utley has stolen 151 bases and been caught stealing only 21 times in his career, a success rate of 87.8%. This is the highest career success rate of any player with more than 80 stolen bases. Prior to 2016, when Utley was only successful on 2 of 4 stolen base attempts, his lowest single-season success rate had been 72.7% (8 of 11) in 2013.
- Utley led the National League in hit-by-pitches three times. On April 8, 2008, he tied a major-league record when he was hit by three pitches in the same game. His 199 career hit-by-pitches through 2017 are the eighth-most in major-league history.
- Chase Utley tied a major-league record with 5 homeruns in the 2009 World Series.

### At What Was Chase Utley Elite?

In his prime, from 2005 to 2011, Chase Utley was the best second baseman in baseball. His career batting line of .276/.358/.469 make him one of the best-hitting second basemen in major-league history (see #77, Jeff Kent). He was also a brilliant defensive second baseman in his prime, leading all second basemen in net fielding wins three times (in 2006, 2008, and 2010).

Putting all of that together, Chase Utley is, so far, the best second baseman of the twenty-first century.

#### Top 10 Second Basemen, 2001 - 2017 (Ranked by eWOPA, 2B only)

		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	eWOPA
1	Chase Utley	224.5	193.5	0.537	14.8
2	Robinson Cano	251.8	231.5	0.521	12.7
3	Ian Kinsler	212.2	196.1	0.520	10.2
4	Dustin Pedroia	190.2	174.0	0.522	9.9
5	Jeff Kent	134.6	122.5	0.524	6.3
6	Dan Uggla	158.2	147.2	0.518	5.3
7	Jose Altuve	126.9	118.8	0.516	4.8
8	Daniel Murphy	99.4	90.1	0.524	4.2
9	Brian Dozier	101.7	94.7	0.518	4.1
10	Alfonso Soriano	99.1	94.5	0.512	4.0

## Chase Utley's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
2003	PHI	24	43	4.3	4.0	0.5	0.1	-
2004	PHI	25	94	9.4	7.7	1.6	0.9	0.2
2005	PHI	26	147	21.6	15.2	4.4	3.1	1.7
2006	PHI	27	160	22.2	17.7	3.9	2.5	1.0
2007	PHI	28	132	19.7	14.8	3.6	2.3	1.1
2008	PHI	29	159	21.7	17.7	3.4	2.0	0.5
2009	PHI	30	156	23.1	16.3	4.7	3.2	1.8
2010	PHI	31	115	16.2	12.2	3.0	1.9	0.9
2011	PHI	32	103	14.9	11.3	2.7	1.8	0.8
2012	PHI	33	83	10.4	9.8	1.1	0.4	-
2013	PHI	34	131	17.0	15.5	1.9	0.7	-
2014	PHI	35	155	19.5	19.3	1.5	0.1	-
2015		36	107	10.6	11.8	0.2	-0.6	-
	LAN		34 /	4.2	3.4	0.7	0.4	0.1
	PHI		73 /	6.5	8.4	-0.4	-1.0	-
2016	LAN	37	138	14.6	14.6	0.7	-0.3	-
2017	LAN	38	127	10.5	9.4	1.3	0.5	-
CAREER (reg. season)			1,850	235.7	197.1	34.6	18.5	8.0
PostSeason (career)			67	8.6	7.7	1.0	0.4	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
2003	PHI	24	43	3.9	4.2	0.2	-0.1	-
2004	PHI	25	94	8.9	7.5	1.4	0.7	0.0
2005	PHI	26	147	20.3	15.7	3.4	2.1	0.8
2006	PHI	27	160	22.5	17.8	4.0	2.5	1.1
2007	PHI	28	132	19.3	14.7	3.4	2.2	1.0
2008	PHI	29	159	23.1	17.9	4.0	2.5	1.0
2009	PHI	30	156	21.9	16.7	3.9	2.5	1.1
2010	PHI	31	115	16.5	13.1	2.8	1.6	0.5
2011	PHI	32	103	13.4	11.8	1.7	0.8	-
2012	PHI	33	83	11.1	10.1	1.3	0.6	-
2013	PHI	34	131	16.7	15.1	1.9	0.7	-
2014	PHI	35	155	20.6	19.2	2.1	0.7	-
2015		36	107	11.4	12.4	0.4	-0.5	-
	LAN		34 /	4.1	3.5	0.6	0.3	-
	PHI		73 /	7.3	8.9	-0.2	-0.8	-
2016	LAN	37	138	14.0	14.5	0.4	-0.6	-
2017	LAN	38	127	9.2	8.9	0.8	0.1	-
CAREER (reg. season)			1,850	232.8	199.7	31.9	15.8	5.6
PostSeason (career)			67	7.5	7.1	0.7	0.2	

## #92: Edgar Martinez

### Career Highlights

Edgar Martinez was such a successful designated hitter over his career that Major League Baseball named the annual award for the best DH the Edgar Martinez Award.

Five highlights of Edgar Martinez's career:

- Edgar Martinez was named to seven All-Star teams and received MVP votes five times.
- Martinez won two batting titles, in 1992 (.343) and 1995 (.356). He led the American League in on-base percentage three times, in doubles twice, and in runs scored and RBI once apiece. For his career, Martinez batted .312/.418/.515. Baseball-Reference.com lists Martinez's on-base percentage as the 21st best in major-league history and his OPS of .933 is ranked 33rd in major-league history.
- The Seattle Mariners have made the postseason four times in their forty-year history (through 2017). Edgar Martinez played in every postseason game in Mariners history (through 2017).
- Edgar Martinez had three hits in four of the first five postseason games in Seattle Mariners history in 1995. These included three doubles and two home runs and produced nine RBI. The last of these hits was a 2-run double in the bottom of the eleventh inning in Game 5 to give the Mariners a 6-5 victory and a series win over the New York Yankees, 3 games to 2.
- Edgar Martinez has the most career pWins over either positional average (pWOPA) or replacement level (pWORLD) as a Seattle Mariner, with 18.4 and 39.6, respectively.

### At What Was Edgar Martinez Elite?

Edgar Martinez was one of the best hitters of the 1990s.

#### Top 10 Batters, 1990 - 1999 (Ranked by Batting eWins over Non-Pitcher Average)

		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	eWOPA
1	Barry Bonds	150.1	91.5	0.621	27.1
2	Frank Thomas	139.6	94.4	0.597	22.5
3	Mark McGwire	120.9	75.0	0.617	22.3
4	Jeff Bagwell	135.1	92.4	0.594	19.3
5	Ken Griffey Jr.	137.2	102.8	0.572	17.2
6	Albert Belle	130.3	99.0	0.568	15.6
<b>7</b>	<b>Edgar Martinez</b>	<b>118.7</b>	<b>87.4</b>	<b>0.576</b>	<b>15.6</b>
8	Fred McGriff	136.5	105.4	0.564	13.9
9	Rafael Palmeiro	140.7	113.0	0.555	13.8
10	Larry Walker	116.6	86.0	0.575	13.4



## Edgar Martinez's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1987	SEA	24	13	1.0	1.0	0.1	-0.0	-
1988	SEA	25	14	0.8	0.8	0.0	-0.0	-
1989	SEA	26	65	4.9	4.2	0.7	0.4	0.1
1990	SEA	27	144	16.7	15.5	1.9	0.7	-
1991	SEA	28	150	20.7	16.4	3.6	2.2	0.7
1992	SEA	29	135	17.7	15.7	2.3	0.9	-
1993	SEA	30	42	3.3	3.5	0.3	-0.1	-
1994	SEA	31	89	9.2	8.9	1.0	0.2	-
1995	SEA	32	145	16.6	9.3	4.7	3.1	1.5
1996	SEA	33	139	16.7	10.4	4.4	2.7	1.0
1997	SEA	34	155	14.1	11.2	2.7	1.1	-
1998	SEA	35	154	15.1	11.9	2.8	1.1	-
1999	SEA	36	142	13.3	9.5	3.0	1.6	0.1
2000	SEA	37	153	15.6	11.1	3.6	1.8	0.1
2001	SEA	38	132	14.5	8.4	4.3	2.8	1.2
2002	SEA	39	97	9.0	6.6	2.0	1.0	0.0
2003	SEA	40	145	14.5	11.7	2.7	1.1	-
2004	SEA	41	141	8.8	12.6	-0.7	-2.1	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,055  </b>	<b>212.5</b>	<b>168.7</b>	<b>39.6</b>	<b>18.4</b>	<b>4.7</b>
PostSeason (career)			34	3.3	3.1	0.4	-0.0	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1987	SEA	24	13	1.2	1.0	0.2	0.1	0.0
1988	SEA	25	14	0.8	0.8	0.0	-0.0	-
1989	SEA	26	65	4.4	5.0	0.1	-0.3	-
1990	SEA	27	144	16.7	14.9	2.2	1.0	-
1991	SEA	28	150	19.7	16.1	3.3	1.9	0.5
1992	SEA	29	135	19.2	14.7	3.5	2.1	0.7
1993	SEA	30	42	3.5	3.4	0.4	0.0	-
1994	SEA	31	89	9.9	8.2	1.7	0.9	0.0
1995	SEA	32	145	15.9	10.1	4.1	2.5	0.8
1996	SEA	33	139	15.2	10.3	3.6	2.0	0.4
1997	SEA	34	155	15.7	11.3	3.5	1.9	0.2
1998	SEA	35	154	14.9	11.4	2.9	1.2	-
1999	SEA	36	142	13.3	9.7	2.9	1.4	-
2000	SEA	37	153	15.8	11.0	3.8	2.0	0.2
2001	SEA	38	132	13.2	9.6	3.1	1.5	-
2002	SEA	39	97	9.0	7.0	1.9	0.9	-
2003	SEA	40	145	13.0	10.8	2.3	0.8	-
2004	SEA	41	141	9.6	10.7	0.6	-0.7	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,055  </b>	<b>211.0</b>	<b>166.3</b>	<b>39.9</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>2.8</b>
PostSeason (career)			34	3.1	2.6	0.5	0.1	

## **#93: Rick Reuschel**

### **Career Highlights**

Rick Reuschel was the workhorse ace of the Chicago Cubs of the 1970s who enjoyed a late-career resurgence with the Pittsburgh Pirates and San Francisco Giants.

Five highlights of Rick Reuschel's career:

- Rick Reuschel was born 50 years to the day before the birth of my first son on May 16, 1949.
- Rick Reuschel picked up his first (and second) major-league hit and his first major-league pitcher win in his second career appearance on June 20, 1972. He made his first major-league start six days later, in which he pitched a 6-hit complete game victory and scored his first run in an 11-1 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies.
- Rick Reuschel made three All-Star teams in his career, once each as a Chicago Cub (1977), Pittsburgh Pirate (1987), and San Francisco Giant (1989). He started the All-Star game for the National League in 1989.
- Rick and his brother Paul Reuschel pitched a combined shutout on August 21, 1975. They are the only brothers in major-league history to throw a combined shutout. Rick Reuschel picked up one of his 5 career saves on May 2, 1976, in a game started by his brother Paul, although Paul got no decision in that game.
- After winning 14 games from 1981 through 1984, Reuschel won 14 games in 1985, for which he was named the National League comeback player of the year and won the Hutch Award (given for the player who "best exemplifies the fighting spirit and competitive desire" of Fred Hutchinson).

### At What Was Rick Reuschel Elite?

Rick Reuschel essentially had two careers. From 1972 through 1980 (ages 23 through 31), he was the workhorse ace of the Chicago Cubs. From 1973 – 1980, he pitched at least 234 innings for each of eight consecutive seasons with at least 35 games started every season.

In 1981, he only pitched 156.1 innings, although that was largely because of a strike that wiped out about 50 games in the middle of the season. But Reuschel then missed the entire 1982 season following rotator cuff surgery and in 1983 and 1984, Reuschel only appeared in a combined 23 games (18 starts, 113 innings pitched).

Then, in 1985, the year in which Reuschel turned 36 years old, he appeared in 31 games, 26 starts, for the Pittsburgh Pirates. He pitched 194 innings and had a traditional won-lost record of 14-8 with a 2.27 ERA. He followed this up with four straight seasons with at least 32 games started and 208 innings pitched in each of these years. He earned two of his three All-Star selections during this time period, including being named the National League starter for the 1989 All-Star game at the age of 40.

Overall, from age 36 – 40 (1985 – 1989), Reuschel started 161 games, pitching 1,090 innings, with a traditional won-lost record of 72-52 and an ERA of 3.10. Reuschel's performance during these years was historic for pitchers over these ages.

#### Top 25 Pitchers, 1947 - 2017 (Ranked by pWORLD, ages 36 - 40)

		pWins	pLosses	pWOPA	pWORLD
1	Randy Johnson	79.7	56.5	15.3	22.1
2	Warren Spahn	93.7	75.5	13.2	20.0
3	Early Wynn	88.4	80.6	7.6	14.7
4	Phil Niekro	98.5	94.5	6.3	14.4
5	Gaylord Perry	75.9	63.1	8.1	14.4
6	Roger Clemens	66.0	53.3	7.5	14.0
7	Jamie Moyer	61.8	49.0	7.5	13.5
8	Steve Carlton	68.6	59.3	8.2	13.5
9	John Smoltz	55.3	42.4	8.2	13.4
10	David Wells	61.9	50.2	7.0	13.0
11	Dennis Martinez	62.7	53.2	7.0	12.7
12	Curt Schilling	52.1	40.4	7.1	12.2
<b>13</b>	<b>Rick Reuschel</b>	<b>66.0</b>	<b>59.7</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>12.1</b>
14	Tommy John	63.6	52.2	6.7	12.0
15	Greg Maddux	67.0	64.3	5.0	11.5
16	Tom Glavine	64.8	61.1	5.2	11.5
17	Charlie Hough	77.9	73.4	3.7	11.0
18	Mariano Rivera	32.9	16.2	7.5	10.9
19	Orel Hershiser	59.2	54.7	4.3	10.3
20	Virgil Trucks	60.2	54.7	4.6	9.9
21	Nolan Ryan	64.7	63.8	3.7	9.3
22	Don Sutton	60.2	55.9	3.9	9.3
23	Sal Maglie	52.9	46.9	4.6	9.2
24	Tom Seaver	57.9	54.7	3.6	8.7
25	Hoyt Wilhelm	48.5	41.4	3.7	8.6

## Rick Reuschel's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1972	CHN	23	21	8.1	6.8	1.6	1.0	0.3
1973	CHN	24	36	16.7	15.3	2.7	1.4	0.0
1974	CHN	25	41	15.9	16.1	1.9	0.6	-
1975	CHN	26	38	14.9	16.4	1.2	-0.1	-
1976	CHN	27	38	15.3	13.6	2.6	1.5	0.3
1977	CHN	28	39	17.9	12.9	4.7	3.3	1.9
1978	CHN	29	35	15.0	14.3	2.2	0.9	-
1979	CHN	30	37	16.6	14.7	2.9	1.7	0.4
1980	CHN	31	41	13.6	13.5	1.6	0.6	-
1981		32	25	8.2	8.7	0.8	0.0	-
	CHN		13 /	4.5	5.6	0.2	-0.3	-
	NYA		12 /	3.7	3.1	0.7	0.3	-
1983	CHN	34	4	1.4	1.2	0.3	0.2	0.1
1984	CHN	35	20	4.6	5.3	0.3	-0.1	-
1985	PIT	36	31	11.6	8.1	3.2	2.3	1.3
1986	PIT	37	42	12.2	14.8	0.5	-0.6	-
1987		38	34	14.5	11.6	3.5	2.3	1.1
	PIT		25 /	10.4	8.8	2.3	1.4	0.5
	SFN		9 /	4.2	2.8	1.2	0.9	0.6
1988	SFN	39	36	14.8	13.5	2.6	1.4	0.2
1989	SFN	40	32	12.9	11.8	2.2	1.2	0.1
1990	SFN	41	15	5.4	6.1	0.5	-0.1	-
1991	SFN	42	4	0.4	1.1	-0.3	-0.4	-
CAREER (reg. season)			569	220.0	205.8	35.1	17.0	5.8
PostSeason (career)			8	1.6	3.0	-0.4	-0.6	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1972	CHN	23	21	7.9	6.3	1.8	1.1	0.5
1973	CHN	24	36	14.7	13.6	2.4	1.2	-
1974	CHN	25	41	15.7	16.8	1.5	0.2	-
1975	CHN	26	38	15.0	15.3	1.8	0.5	-
1976	CHN	27	38	16.5	16.4	2.0	0.7	-
1977	CHN	28	39	17.0	13.6	3.8	2.5	1.1
1978	CHN	29	35	15.1	14.4	2.2	0.9	-
1979	CHN	30	37	14.0	14.3	1.7	0.5	-
1980	CHN	31	41	15.5	15.1	2.0	0.7	-
1981		32	25	9.0	8.7	1.3	0.5	-
	CHN		13 /	5.2	5.6	0.5	0.1	-
	NYA		12 /	3.8	3.1	0.8	0.4	0.1
1983	CHN	34	4	1.3	1.2	0.2	0.1	-
1984	CHN	35	20	5.1	5.7	0.4	-0.0	-
1985	PIT	36	31	12.0	8.0	3.5	2.5	1.6
1986	PIT	37	42	12.8	14.3	1.1	-0.1	-
1987		38	34	14.2	10.9	3.6	2.4	1.3
	PIT		25 /	11.0	8.8	2.6	1.7	0.8
	SFN		9 /	3.2	2.1	1.0	0.7	0.5
1988	SFN	39	36	13.8	13.6	2.0	0.8	-
1989	SFN	40	32	12.1	12.1	1.6	0.6	-
1990	SFN	41	15	5.4	6.3	0.4	-0.1	-
1991	SFN	42	4	0.5	0.9	-0.1	-0.2	-
CAREER (reg. season)			569	217.6	207.3	33.0	14.9	4.5
PostSeason (career)			8	1.9	2.4	0.0	-0.2	

## **#94: Jim Kaat**

### **Career Highlights**

Jim Kaat was a workhorse starting pitcher of the 1960s and 1970s

Five highlights of Jim Kaat's career:

- Jim Kaat won 16 consecutive Gold Gloves from 1962 through 1977. Kaat is tied with Brooks Robinson for the second-most Gold Gloves by any player at any position behind Greg Maddux, who won 18 Gold Gloves as a pitcher.
- Jim Kaat started 625 games in his career. This is the 17th-most games started by a pitcher in major-league history. Kaat's 4,530.1 career innings pitched is the 25th most in major-league history.
- Jim Kaat's best major-league season was probably 1966 when he led the American League in games started (41), complete games (19), innings pitched (304.2), fewest walks per nine innings (1.6: 55 walks in 304.2 innings), and pitcher wins (25) with a 2.75 ERA (sixth in the American League). Kaat received his second of three career All-Star selections and his highest finish in MVP voting (fifth).
- Jim Kaat's first postseason appearance was a complete-game victory over Sandy Koufax (#72) in Game 2 of the 1965 World Series.
- Jim Kaat had a reputation as one of the fastest-working pitchers of his generation. Bill James, in his *New Historical Baseball Abstract*, quotes Kaat, "if the game goes over two hours, my fastball turns into a pumpkin." From 1975 – 1977, Kaat started seven games which finished in under 100 minutes, including an 89-minute game in 1977 and two 92-minute games in 1976. For comparison, the average game length in 2017 was 188 minutes.

### At What Was Jim Kaat Elite?

Jim Kaat's first full season coincided with major-league baseball's first season in Minnesota. Kaat pitched 12+ seasons as a Minnesota Twin and was in the starting rotation for the first three Minnesota Twins teams to make the playoffs (1965, 1969, and 1970 – although Kaat did not pitch in the 1969 playoffs, when the Twins were swept in three games in the first ALCS by the Baltimore Orioles).

Three pitchers in my top 150 are most strongly associated with the Minnesota Twins – Bert Blyleven (#36), Johan Santana (#68), and Kaat – as are two non-pitchers – Harmon Killebrew (#71) and Rod Carew (#81).

The next table shows the top 10 players in Minnesota Twins history (excluding performance for the Washington Senators) as measured by pWins over replacement level (pWORL) earned as a Minnesota Twin.

<b>Top 10 Minnesota Twins (Ranked by pWORL)</b>					
		<b>pWins</b>	<b>pLosses</b>	<b>pWOPA</b>	<b>pWORL</b>
1	Harmon Killebrew	250.3	191.2	19.4	37.6
2	Rod Carew	211.2	180.6	16.6	32.4
<b>3</b>	<b>Jim Kaat</b>	<b>189.2</b>	<b>174.0</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>31.9</b>
4	Tony Oliva	209.3	175.5	10.0	27.2
5	Bert Blyleven	154.5	138.7	11.4	25.2
6	Brad Radke	145.0	132.6	9.1	24.4
7	Joe Mauer	171.9	151.8	11.4	24.4
8	Kirby Puckett	236.7	219.2	6.4	24.1
9	Johan Santana	81.1	53.5	14.9	22.5
10	Kent Hrbek	187.5	160.9	7.7	21.3

Ranked in this way, by total pWORL as a Twin, Jim Kaat is the best pitcher and third-best player in the history of the Minnesota Twins - ahead of two Hall-of-Famers, among others.

## Jim Kaat's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORL	pWOPA	pWO*
1959	WS1	20	3	0.3	1.1	-0.3	-0.4	-
1960	WS1	21	13	1.7	3.7	-0.7	-0.9	-
1961	MIN	22	41	12.4	13.1	1.2	0.2	-
1962	MIN	23	48	17.8	16.2	3.1	1.6	0.1
1963	MIN	24	34	10.9	11.8	1.1	0.0	-
1964	MIN	25	42	16.6	13.7	3.8	2.3	0.8
1965	MIN	26	56	18.1	16.3	3.3	1.9	0.4
1966	MIN	27	45	21.0	16.0	4.9	3.3	1.8
1967	MIN	28	45	16.6	16.5	2.2	0.8	-
1968	MIN	29	34	13.3	12.6	2.0	1.0	-
1969	MIN	30	43	14.8	14.2	2.3	0.9	-
1970	MIN	31	51	14.3	13.3	2.4	1.2	-
1971	MIN	32	49	16.0	14.8	2.7	1.3	0.0
1972	MIN	33	22	7.3	4.7	2.1	1.6	1.1
1973		34	38	12.7	12.9	1.3	0.1	-
	CHA		7 /	2.6	2.1	0.5	0.3	0.1
	MIN		31 /	10.1	10.8	0.8	-0.2	-
1974	CHA	35	42	17.2	13.0	3.7	2.3	1.0
1975	CHA	36	43	15.1	13.5	2.3	0.9	-
1976	PHI	37	40	11.8	12.4	1.2	0.2	-
1977	PHI	38	36	8.7	10.9	0.2	-0.7	-
1978	PHI	39	26	7.9	7.8	1.0	0.4	-
1979		40	43	2.8	2.9	0.2	-0.1	-
	NYA		40 /	2.4	2.6	0.1	-0.2	-
	PHI		3 /	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0
1980		41	53	6.8	7.0	0.8	0.1	-
	NYA		4 /	0.1	0.5	-0.2	-0.2	-
	SLN		49 /	6.7	6.5	0.9	0.3	-
1981	SLN	42	41	3.1	2.7	0.5	0.2	-
1982	SLN	43	62	3.4	3.9	0.1	-0.3	-
1983	SLN	44	24	0.6	0.9	-0.1	-0.2	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>974  </b>	<b>271.2</b>	<b>255.8</b>	<b>41.2</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>5.2</b>
PostSeason (career)			9	1.9	2.6	-0.0	-0.2	

Jim Kaat								
Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORL	eWOPA	eWO*
1959	WS1	20	3	0.3	0.6	-0.1	-0.2	-
1960	WS1	21	13	2.8	4.2	-0.2	-0.6	-
1961	MIN	22	41	13.2	11.7	2.3	1.3	0.2
1962	MIN	23	48	17.6	15.3	3.4	1.9	0.5
1963	MIN	24	34	10.8	12.9	0.6	-0.5	-
1964	MIN	25	42	16.3	14.3	3.3	1.8	0.2
1965	MIN	26	56	17.5	17.9	2.3	0.8	-
1966	MIN	27	45	18.9	17.6	3.0	1.4	-
1967	MIN	28	45	17.1	16.8	2.4	0.9	-
1968	MIN	29	34	12.8	13.1	1.5	0.5	-
1969	MIN	30	43	15.0	15.4	1.9	0.4	-
1970	MIN	31	51	14.6	15.5	1.5	0.2	-
1971	MIN	32	49	16.5	16.0	2.4	1.0	-
1972	MIN	33	22	7.7	5.7	1.9	1.4	0.8
1973		34	38	12.0	12.8	0.9	-0.2	-
	CHA		7 /	2.3	1.9	0.4	0.2	0.0
	MIN		31 /	9.8	10.9	0.5	-0.5	-
1974	CHA	35	42	15.0	12.3	2.8	1.5	0.3
1975	CHA	36	43	17.4	15.3	2.8	1.2	-
1976	PHI	37	40	12.8	12.7	1.6	0.6	-
1977	PHI	38	36	8.8	11.2	0.1	-0.8	-
1978	PHI	39	26	7.6	7.8	0.9	0.2	-
1979		40	43	3.0	3.0	0.3	-0.1	-
	NYA		40 /	2.6	2.5	0.3	-0.0	-
	PHI		3 /	0.4	0.6	-0.0	-0.1	-
1980		41	53	7.1	7.5	0.7	0.0	-
	NYA		4 /	0.3	0.5	-0.1	-0.1	-
	SLN		49 /	6.8	7.0	0.8	0.1	-
1981	SLN	42	41	2.6	2.7	0.3	-0.1	-
1982	SLN	43	62	3.6	4.2	0.0	-0.4	-
1983	SLN	44	24	1.5	2.1	-0.1	-0.4	-
CAREER (reg. season)			974	272.6	268.6	36.4	12.0	2.1
PostSeason (career)			9	1.6	1.8	0.1	-0.0	



## **#95: Bert Campaneris**

### **Career Highlights**

Bert Campaneris was the starting shortstop for three World Series winners, the 1972, 1973, and 1974 Oakland A's.

Five highlights of Bert Campaneris's career:

- Bert Campaneris was named to six All-Star teams in his career and was voted the starting shortstop for the American League three times, in 1973, 1974, and 1975.
- Campaneris led the American League in stolen bases six times and finished his career with 649 stolen bases, 14th most in major-league history.
- Campaneris won the 1973 Babe Ruth award, presented by the New York area BBWAA chapter for outstanding postseason performance. Campaneris batted .308/.368/.538 with 3 home runs, 6 stolen bases, and 9 runs scored in 12 games in the 1973 postseason.
- Campaneris was the second player in major-league history to hit two home runs in his major-league debut. Campaneris also singled, walked, and stole a base in a 4-3 A's win in Minnesota on July 23, 1964.
- On September 8, 1965, Campaneris became the first major-league player to play all nine positions in a single game. He started the game at his usual shortstop position but changed position every inning. He pitched the eighth inning – allowing one run on one hit and two walks – and caught the ninth inning, where he was injured in a collision at the plate (but made the putout to end the inning). The A's eventually lost the game, 5 to 3, to the Angels in thirteen innings.

### At What Was Bert Campaneris Elite?

The table below shows the top 10 shortstops of the 1970s, measured by (context-neutral) eWins over positional average as a shortstop from 1970 through 1979.

<b>Top 10 Shortstops, 1970 - 1979</b>				
<b>(Ranked by Wins over Positional Average)</b>				
		<b>eWins</b>	<b>eLosses</b>	<b>eWOPA</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Bert Campaneris</b>	<b>167.4</b>	<b>165.2</b>	<b>9.6</b>
2	Dave Concepcion	157.9	151.5	9.2
3	Toby Harrah	101.0	92.4	9.0
4	Chris Speier	154.0	152.7	6.8
5	Roy Smalley	82.5	81.3	4.8
6	Mark Belanger	137.5	143.7	3.6
7	Garry Templeton	68.2	66.6	3.3
8	Freddie Patek	150.7	160.0	3.0
9	Bud Harrelson	96.5	98.9	2.8
10	Rick Burleson	101.4	106.9	2.7

By at least this measure, Bert Campaneris was the best shortstop of the 1970s, although Dave Concepcion (#83) and Toby Harrah (#97) are very close to Campaneris.

But is this just a case of convenient cherry-picked dates that happen to all start with the first three digits? To some extent, sure: being "the best shortstop of the 1970s" is no more significant than being the best shortstop over any other 10-year period. But, in fact, the 1970s are not cherry-picked here to make Bert Campaneris look better. In fact, Bert Campaneris's last season as an above-average shortstop was 1977 - two years before the end of the 1970s.

Overall, Bert Campaneris was an above-average everyday shortstop for twelve seasons, from 1966 through 1977. The next table, then, cherry picks the 12-year period which is most likely to make Bert Campaneris look good.

<b>Top 10 Shortstops, 1966 - 1977</b>				
<b>(Ranked by Wins over Positional Average)</b>				
		<b>eWins</b>	<b>eLosses</b>	<b>eWOPA</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Bert Campaneris</b>	<b>230.2</b>	<b>223.6</b>	<b>14.0</b>
2	Rico Petrocelli	88.6	77.6	8.4
3	Jim Fregosi	117.6	109.4	8.3
4	Toby Harrah	90.1	84.4	7.0
5	Dave Concepcion	116.7	113.8	6.0
6	Chris Speier	124.6	123.1	6.0
7	Mark Belanger	155.9	161.6	4.3
8	Denis Menke	65.8	61.6	4.3
9	Freddie Patek	149.2	156.1	3.8
10	Luis Aparicio	140.6	145.2	3.6

Yes, it's cherry-picked, but it's also a 12-year period over which Bert Campaneris was clearly the best shortstop in the major leagues.

## Bert Campaneris's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1964	KC1	22	67	7.2	9.2	-0.5	-1.2	-
1965	KC1	23	144	17.7	20.9	0.1	-1.5	-
1966	KC1	24	142	20.0	18.5	2.8	1.3	-
1967	KC1	25	147	17.5	20.6	0.9	-0.7	-
1968	OAK	26	159	22.8	20.8	3.8	2.0	0.2
1969	OAK	27	135	16.0	15.9	1.9	0.5	-
1970	OAK	28	147	20.5	18.2	3.6	1.9	0.3
1971	OAK	29	134	19.7	15.7	4.3	2.9	1.5
1972	OAK	30	148	21.9	18.5	4.1	2.5	0.8
1973	OAK	31	150	20.6	18.4	4.1	2.5	0.9
1974	OAK	32	134	18.9	17.2	3.1	1.8	0.4
1975	OAK	33	137	17.4	17.0	2.6	1.3	-
1976	OAK	34	149	19.1	18.8	2.4	1.0	-
1977	TEX	35	150	19.7	19.6	2.9	1.3	-
1978	TEX	36	95	8.8	10.4	0.4	-0.4	-
1979		37	90	7.4	8.0	0.6	0.0	-
	CAL		82 /	6.9	7.6	0.6	0.0	-
	TEX		8 /	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.0
1980	CAL	38	69	6.8	7.1	0.7	0.2	-
1981	CAL	39	52	1.9	2.6	-0.2	-0.4	-
1983	NYA	41	56	4.3	3.9	0.5	0.2	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,305  </b>	<b>288.3</b>	<b>281.3</b>	<b>38.1</b>	<b>15.2</b>	<b>4.1</b>
PostSeason (career)			37	5.4	4.8	1.0	0.6	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1964	KC1	22	67	8.4	8.5	0.5	-0.2	-
1965	KC1	23	144	19.9	20.0	1.7	0.1	-
1966	KC1	24	142	19.5	17.9	2.8	1.3	-
1967	KC1	25	147	19.0	19.8	2.1	0.5	-
1968	OAK	26	159	24.4	22.3	4.0	2.1	0.2
1969	OAK	27	135	17.7	17.8	2.0	0.5	-
1970	OAK	28	147	20.7	17.7	3.9	2.3	0.6
1971	OAK	29	134	17.8	16.9	2.7	1.3	-
1972	OAK	30	148	22.2	20.0	3.6	1.9	0.2
1973	OAK	31	150	19.6	18.8	3.4	1.8	0.2
1974	OAK	32	134	17.5	16.2	2.7	1.5	0.2
1975	OAK	33	137	16.0	16.0	2.3	1.0	-
1976	OAK	34	149	18.9	19.3	2.1	0.6	-
1977	TEX	35	150	18.6	19.3	2.4	0.9	-
1978	TEX	36	95	8.7	10.7	0.1	-0.6	-
1979		37	90	8.2	9.0	0.7	0.0	-
	CAL		82 /	7.9	8.5	0.7	0.1	-
	TEX		8 /	0.4	0.5	-0.0	-0.0	-
1980	CAL	38	69	6.7	7.2	0.6	0.0	-
1981	CAL	39	52	2.5	2.6	0.1	-0.1	-
1983	NYA	41	56	4.2	4.8	0.1	-0.2	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,305  </b>	<b>290.5</b>	<b>284.6</b>	<b>37.7</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>1.5</b>
PostSeason (career)			37	4.8	4.5	0.8	0.4	

## **#96: Catfish Hunter**

### **Career Highlights**

Catfish Hunter pitched for six American League pennant winners and five World Series winners in the 1970s. He was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his third year of eligibility, 1987, with 76.3% of the vote.

Five highlights of Catfish Hunter's career:

- Catfish Hunter was named to eight All-Star games, including starting the 1973 game for the American League. He received MVP votes five times and Cy Young votes four times.
- Hunter threw a perfect game on May 8, 1968. It was the first regular-season perfect game by an American League pitcher since 1922. Hunter struck out 11 Minnesota Twins and batted 3-for-4 with a double and 3 RBI in the game.
- Hunter amassed twenty or more traditional pitcher wins five consecutive seasons from 1971 through 1975. He bookended that stretch with 18 wins in 1970 and 17 wins in 1976. From 1970 through 1976 Hunter pitched 2,032.2 innings (290.1 per season) with 126 complete games (18 per season).
- Hunter won the American League Cy Young award in 1974, his last season in Oakland, when he led the American League in traditional pitcher wins (25), earned run average (2.49), and WHIP (walks plus hits per nine innings, 0.986). He finished second in Cy Young voting the next year, his first in New York, when he amassed a traditional won-lost record of 23-14 with a 2.58 ERA while leading the league in wins, innings pitched (328), complete games (30), and WHIP (1.009).
- Hunter pitched in the postseason in seven seasons. His teams went 6-1 in the American League Championship Series and 5-1 in the World Series. Hunter was the winning pitcher in the World Series clincher in both his first (1972, Game 7) and last (1978, Game 6) World Series.

### At What Was Catfish Hunter Elite?

Catfish Hunter made his major-league debut at the age of 19. Unlike some very young pitchers (e.g., #62, Dwight Gooden, and #113, Fernando Valenzuela), it took several seasons for Hunter to really come into his own (although Hunter did make the All-Star team as a 20- and 21-year-old).

I show the top pitchers through the age of 22 under Fernando Valenzuela. For Hunter, I show the top 10 pitchers, ranked by pWins over replacement level, from the ages of 23 to 26: young pitchers, but not necessarily prodigiously young.

#### Top 10 Pitchers, ages 23 - 26 (1947 - 2017, ranked by pWORLD)

		pWins	pLosses	pWOPA	pWORLD
1	Robin Roberts	86.3	62.7	14.6	21.2
2	Tom Seaver	77.7	55.7	14.1	19.8
3	Jim Palmer	72.5	51.3	13.5	19.0
4	Clayton Kershaw	62.8	41.9	13.6	18.5
5	Roger Clemens	68.3	46.2	12.1	17.7
6	Juan Marichal	72.0	55.8	11.1	16.9
7	Jim Maloney	66.7	51.2	10.6	15.9
8	Johan Santana	47.8	28.2	10.4	14.7
9	Carlos Zambrano	61.2	49.4	9.2	14.6
10	<b>Catfish Hunter</b>	<b>72.1</b>	<b>61.5</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>14.4</b>

Unfortunately, like several other pitchers on this list (e.g., Roberts, Maloney, Santana, Zambrano), Hunter peaked young. Hunter's last season in which he made more than 22 starts or pitched more than 143.1 innings was his age-30 season, 1976. But Hunter did enough, when he was younger, to be elected to the Hall of Fame and to slot in here at #96 on my list.

According to the SABR Bio on Catfish Hunter (by Jeff English), the top player on this list, Robin Roberts, was Hunter's favorite pitcher when Hunter was a kid.

## Catfish Hunter's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1965	KC1	19	32	7.4	9.5	0.0	-0.8	-
1966	KC1	20	30	11.5	13.5	0.5	-0.5	-
1967	KC1	21	37	17.3	16.8	2.4	1.0	-
1968	OAK	22	37	14.4	14.4	1.8	0.7	-
1969	OAK	23	42	15.7	16.6	1.8	0.3	-
1970	OAK	24	42	16.1	15.8	2.3	0.9	-
1971	OAK	25	38	20.7	15.4	5.1	3.6	2.1
1972	OAK	26	39	19.5	13.7	5.2	3.7	2.3
1973	OAK	27	37	14.1	11.9	2.5	1.3	0.1
1974	OAK	28	41	17.8	13.2	4.0	2.6	1.2
1975	NYA	29	39	19.2	14.1	4.3	2.7	1.1
1976	NYA	30	36	15.2	15.4	1.4	0.1	-
1977	NYA	31	22	8.0	9.1	0.4	-0.4	-
1978	NYA	32	21	8.3	7.1	1.4	0.6	-
1979	NYA	33	19	4.9	6.9	-0.4	-0.9	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>512  </b>	<b>210.1</b>	<b>193.2</b>	<b>32.9</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>6.8</b>
PostSeason (career)			22	8.0	7.6	1.1	0.4	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1965	KC1	19	32	7.8	9.9	0.1	-0.7	-
1966	KC1	20	30	10.7	11.5	0.9	-0.0	-
1967	KC1	21	37	17.3	14.6	3.4	2.0	0.7
1968	OAK	22	37	16.1	17.6	1.4	0.1	-
1969	OAK	23	42	15.9	17.5	1.5	-0.1	-
1970	OAK	24	42	16.7	17.2	2.0	0.5	-
1971	OAK	25	38	18.7	16.3	3.6	2.1	0.6
1972	OAK	26	39	19.3	15.6	4.2	2.7	1.1
1973	OAK	27	37	14.5	15.7	1.1	-0.4	-
1974	OAK	28	41	17.3	13.5	3.6	2.2	0.8
1975	NYA	29	39	18.6	13.7	4.2	2.6	1.1
1976	NYA	30	36	16.9	15.9	2.1	0.6	-
1977	NYA	31	22	7.6	9.5	0.1	-0.8	-
1978	NYA	32	21	6.6	6.3	0.8	0.2	-
1979	NYA	33	19	5.6	6.9	-0.0	-0.6	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>512  </b>	<b>209.5</b>	<b>201.8</b>	<b>28.8</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>4.4</b>
PostSeason (career)			22	8.1	8.9	0.6	-0.2	

## **#97: Toby Harrah**

### **Career Highlights**

Toby Harrah was a bat-first shortstop and third baseman in the 1970s and 1980s.

Five highlights of Toby Harrah's career:

- For his career, Toby Harrah had a career batting line of .264/.365/.395 with averages of 15 home runs, 18 stolen bases, 84 runs scored, and 69 RBI per 162 games. He was the only player to play at least 500 games at shortstop and hit more than 100 home runs in the 1970s (Harrah had 128). In addition to home runs, Harrah led all shortstops in the 1970s in on-base percentage (.355), OPS (.752), and RBI (560).
- Toby Harrah was the last batter in Washington Senators history, although he didn't actually have the last plate appearance in Senators' history – Tommy McCraw was caught stealing while Harrah was at bat. Harrah was also the last active major-leaguer to have played for the Senators.
- In 1972, Toby Harrah was the first All-Star selection in Texas Rangers history, the first of four All-Star selections in Harrah's career.
- On June 25, 1976, Harrah played both games of a doubleheader at shortstop without a single fielding chance.
- On August 27, 1977, Harrah and Bump Wills became the only teammates in major-league history to hit back-to-back inside-the-park home runs.

### **At What Was Toby Harrah Elite?**

Toby Harrah came to the majors as a shortstop and played over 100 games at shortstop five times. But he also played over 100 games at third base six times and over 100 games at second base once. In addition, he had two seasons (1973, 1978) where he played over 100 games but no more than 91 at any single position.

Because Harrah moved around so much, he doesn't necessarily stand out at any one position. Yet, he still ranks among the top 25 players in (context-neutral, teammate-adjusted) shortstop wins over positional average since 1947 and just outside the top 25 players in third base wins over positional average.

The top 30 players at each of these positions are shown in the next two tables. The statistics shown in these two tables only reflect value accrued at these respective positions.

**Top 30 Shortstops, 1947 – 2017**  
(sorted by eWOPA at Shortstop only)

		<b>eWins</b>	<b>eLosses</b>	<b>eWOPA</b>
1	Cal Ripken	302.1	274.1	25.5
2	Alex Rodriguez	182.3	146.4	23.2
3	Alan Trammell	265.3	247.0	20.2
4	Ernie Banks	167.9	137.7	18.6
5	Barry Larkin	271.9	244.6	18.5
6	Derek Jeter	347.0	330.1	18.4
7	Pee Wee Reese	205.9	180.7	15.9
8	Bert Campaneris	272.6	269.7	13.6
9	Ozzie Smith	331.3	321.3	13.3
10	Robin Yount	195.5	188.0	12.9
11	Jim Fregosi	186.6	172.5	12.4
12	Nomar Garciaparra	145.6	130.3	11.8
13	Hanley Ramirez	150.6	130.2	11.8
14	Troy Tulowitzki	167.5	149.7	10.8
15	Dave Concepcion	260.3	257.5	10.6
16	Eddie Joost	130.9	115.3	9.3
<b>17</b>	<b>Toby Harrah</b>	<b>101.1</b>	<b>92.8</b>	<b>8.8</b>
18	Miguel Tejada	247.3	241.5	8.8
19	Rico Petrocelli	99.4	88.5	8.6
20	Roy Smalley	131.1	126.7	8.4
21	Vern Stephens	94.4	81.3	7.4
22	Tony Fernandez	196.5	196.4	7.0
23	Jimmy Rollins	290.5	283.2	6.8
24	Chris Speier	213.5	215.8	6.7
25	Jose Valentin	138.8	133.7	6.4
26	Denis Menke	98.6	91.0	6.4
27	Jose Reyes	217.1	210.2	6.4
28	Luis Aparicio	329.6	337.0	6.1
29	Lou Boudreau	67.2	57.3	5.5
30	Jay Bell	187.6	184.9	5.5



**Top 30 Third Basemen, 1947 – 2017**  
**(sorted by eWOPA at Third Base only)**

		<b>eWins</b>	<b>eLosses</b>	<b>eWOPA</b>
1	Mike Schmidt	307.1	234.3	30.9
2	Eddie Mathews	294.5	229.5	27.6
3	Chipper Jones	259.6	209.3	21.3
4	Wade Boggs	276.5	244.2	16.2
5	George Brett	223.4	189.7	16.1
6	Ron Santo	278.2	236.9	16.1
7	Scott Rolen	248.9	213.6	14.6
8	Adrian Beltre	319.0	287.3	14.0
9	Alex Rodriguez	153.0	125.8	13.2
10	Evan Longoria	166.2	141.6	12.1
11	Ken Boyer	228.2	197.4	11.8
12	Sal Bando	228.4	200.1	11.8
13	Ron Cey	243.5	211.5	11.4
14	David Wright	205.9	177.1	11.0
15	Matt Williams	208.5	183.3	10.2
16	Robin Ventura	216.3	195.7	10.2
17	Eric Chavez	161.5	143.2	9.3
18	Graig Nettles	281.4	257.5	9.0
19	Troy Glaus	157.6	139.0	9.0
20	Josh Donaldson	100.2	81.1	9.0
21	Al Rosen	119.4	95.8	9.0
22	Darrell Evans	179.8	156.1	8.6
23	Dick Allen	95.6	75.8	8.0
24	Harmon Killebrew	97.0	77.2	7.9
25	Doug DeCinces	181.1	164.6	7.5
26	Miguel Cabrera	91.0	73.8	7.4
27	Tony Perez	100.5	82.5	7.2
28	Ken Caminiti	202.5	183.5	6.6
<b>29</b>	<b>Toby Harrah</b>	<b>126.3</b>	<b>111.6</b>	<b>6.6</b>
30	Brooks Robinson	330.6	308.0	6.3

One player ranks ahead of Toby Harrah in both tables. One could, perhaps, say that Toby Harrah was a poor man's Alex Rodriguez.

The next table combines Player wins over positional average at the three "defensive" infield positions: second base, third base, and shortstop.

<b>Top 20 Players: 2B, 3B, SS</b> <b>(since 1947, sorted by eWOPA at These Positions Only)</b>				
		<b>eWins</b>	<b>eLosses</b>	<b>eWOPA</b>
1	Joe Morgan	358.9	295.5	37.1
2	Alex Rodriguez	335.3	272.2	36.4
3	Mike Schmidt	308.4	235.9	30.9
4	Eddie Mathews	294.5	229.5	27.6
5	Cal Ripken	372.7	346.0	25.1
6	Bobby Grich	248.2	216.3	21.8
7	Chipper Jones	265.7	214.7	21.7
8	Alan Trammell	269.9	252.2	19.9
9	Lou Whitaker	283.1	255.3	19.5
10	Ernie Banks	176.5	145.0	19.2
11	Barry Larkin	272.2	244.9	18.5
12	Derek Jeter	347.0	330.1	18.4
13	Ryne Sandberg	290.5	256.5	17.3
<b>14</b>	<b>Toby Harrah</b>	<b>254.7</b>	<b>229.2</b>	<b>17.1</b>
15	Ron Santo	284.2	242.6	16.3
16	Wade Boggs	276.5	244.2	16.2
17	George Brett	223.8	190.4	15.9
18	Pee Wee Reese	217.6	193.1	15.5
19	Chase Utley	224.8	193.8	14.8
20	Roberto Alomar	300.6	279.1	14.8

## Toby Harrah's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1969	WS2	20	6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1971	WS2	22	125	11.3	13.6	0.3	-0.6	-
1972	TEX	23	115	13.0	12.6	1.7	0.7	-
1973	TEX	24	118	14.4	15.9	1.1	-0.2	-
1974	TEX	25	161	19.8	18.9	2.8	1.4	-
1975	TEX	26	151	21.5	16.8	4.7	3.2	1.7
1976	TEX	27	155	21.3	20.4	2.9	1.3	-
1977	TEX	28	159	19.9	15.3	3.6	2.2	0.8
1978	TEX	29	138	16.5	13.8	2.7	1.5	0.4
1979	CLE	30	149	17.3	16.0	2.1	0.8	-
1980	CLE	31	160	19.5	16.2	3.0	1.6	0.2
1981	CLE	32	103	12.9	10.1	2.2	1.3	0.3
1982	CLE	33	162	19.7	16.3	2.9	1.5	0.2
1983	CLE	34	138	15.5	16.2	0.7	-0.5	-
1984	NYA	35	85	7.4	7.8	0.5	-0.1	-
1985	TEX	36	125	15.2	14.3	1.7	0.6	-
1986	TEX	37	95	8.9	9.3	0.7	0.1	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,145  </b>	<b>254.0</b>	<b>233.4</b>	<b>33.5</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>3.6</b>
PostSeason (career)			0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1969	WS2	20	6	0.0	0.0	-0.0	-0.0	-
1971	WS2	22	125	12.5	13.2	1.2	0.1	-
1972	TEX	23	115	13.4	12.0	2.2	1.2	0.1
1973	TEX	24	118	14.5	14.5	1.7	0.5	-
1974	TEX	25	161	19.3	18.1	2.8	1.4	0.0
1975	TEX	26	151	22.1	16.9	5.0	3.5	2.0
1976	TEX	27	155	21.9	20.0	3.4	1.8	0.2
1977	TEX	28	159	19.8	15.9	3.3	1.8	0.4
1978	TEX	29	138	16.8	14.3	2.6	1.4	0.2
1979	CLE	30	149	17.8	15.8	2.5	1.2	-
1980	CLE	31	160	18.2	15.7	2.5	1.2	-
1981	CLE	32	103	11.9	10.0	1.7	0.8	-
1982	CLE	33	162	21.1	16.5	3.6	2.2	0.7
1983	CLE	34	138	16.2	15.5	1.4	0.2	-
1984	NYA	35	85	7.9	8.2	0.6	-0.1	-
1985	TEX	36	125	14.9	12.7	2.3	1.2	0.2
1986	TEX	37	95	9.4	9.8	0.8	0.1	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,145  </b>	<b>257.6</b>	<b>229.2</b>	<b>37.4</b>	<b>18.6</b>	<b>3.9</b>
PostSeason (career)			0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	

## **#98: Carlos Beltran**

### **Career Highlights**

Carlos Beltran was one of the finest postseason performers of all time. It is therefore simultaneously appropriate and ironic that Carlos Beltran finally won a World Series ring in his final season for a World Series in which Beltran batted only three times, going 0-for-3.

Five highlights of Carlos Beltran's career:

- Carlos Beltran was named to nine All-Star teams in his career. He started six All-Star games. He won three Gold Gloves and two Silver Sluggers. He received MVP votes seven times with two top-10 finishes, in 2003 and 2006.
- Carlos Beltran was voted the American League Rookie of the Year in 1999. He won Major League Baseball's Roberto Clemente Award in 2013.
- For his career, Beltran batted .307/.412/.609 in 256 postseason plate appearances with 16 home runs, 45 runs scored, and 42 RBI.
- For his career, Carlos Beltran stole 312 bases (in the regular season) and was caught stealing only 49 times. Beltran's stolen base success rate (86.4%). This is the highest success rate of any player with at least 200 stolen base attempts in major-league history. In his postseason career, Beltran stole 11 bases and was never caught stealing.
- Carlos Beltran has played for his native Puerto Rico in all four World Baseball Classics (2006, 2009, 2013, and 2017). He has played in more games (28) and had more at bats (95) than any other player in WBC history and was named as DH on the All-WBC team in 2017.

### At What Was Carlos Beltran Elite?

Carlos Beltran was an extremely well-rounded star. He batted .279/.350/.486 for his career with 435 career home runs and 312 career stolen bases. He also won three Gold Gloves.

Is there a way to construct a statistic to measure “well-roundness”? I tried to come up with one. For non-pitchers, there are three aspects of player value: batting, baserunning, and fielding. For each of these, I calculated the difference between a player’s career (context-neutral, teammate-adjusted) winning percentage and average. For batting and baserunning, I excluded pitchers in calculating average (this allows for a fair comparison between players in DH and non-DH leagues); for fielding, average is 0.500 for all positions. For players for whom all three of these values are positive (i.e., who were above average in all three aspects of player value), I multiplied the three together and took the cubed root. This creates something like an average of the three but gives some extra credit to players who are solidly above average at all three aspects as opposed to being excellent at one but barely above average at one (or two).

Since 1947, there are 38 players who amassed at least 150 batting wins, 15 baserunning wins, 60 fielding wins, and were above average at all three. The top 10 such players, ranked by the statistic outlined above, are shown in the next table.

**Most Balanced Players across Batting, Baserunning, Fielding  
(since 1947)**

	<b>Player</b>	<b>pWins</b>	<b>pLosses</b>	<b>pWOPA</b>	<b>pWORL</b>	<b>Balance</b>
1	Mickey Mantle	351.5	230.4	50.2	73.8	0.048
2	Al Kaline	377.9	302.1	24.7	52.8	0.043
3	Barry Bonds	462.0	315.0	60.3	90.7	0.043
4	Rickey Henderson	426.7	353.2	28.7	59.4	0.039
5	Amos Otis	262.4	222.7	16.3	35.5	0.036
6	<b>Carlos Beltran</b>	<b>328.8</b>	<b>292.6</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>38.9</b>	<b>0.028</b>
7	Lou Whitaker	306.2	261.0	28.4	50.2	0.028
8	Roy White	248.6	218.7	7.6	26.9	0.028
9	Willie Mays	459.7	334.6	49.7	81.8	0.027
10	Ryne Sandberg	287.7	255.1	16.5	37.1	0.026

To be clear, being extremely good at one aspect of player value – especially batting, which is by far the most valuable of these three – can definitely be more valuable overall than being a bit above average at everything (see, for example, #46, Mark McGwire). But there is certainly something aesthetically pleasing about a player who can beat you in a number of different ways, as Carlos Beltran could.

## Carlos Beltran's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1998	KCA	21	14	1.6	2.2	-0.1	-0.3	-
1999	KCA	22	155	19.8	21.4	0.8	-0.8	-
2000	KCA	23	98	10.1	11.5	0.1	-0.8	-
2001	KCA	24	155	21.3	20.1	2.4	0.7	-
2002	KCA	25	162	20.0	20.2	1.5	-0.2	-
2003	KCA	26	141	18.6	15.4	3.0	1.6	0.2
2004	KCA	27	159	22.6	18.7	3.4	1.8	0.2
	<i>HOU</i>		<i>90 /</i>	<i>13.1</i>	<i>10.3</i>	<i>2.1</i>	<i>1.2</i>	<i>0.3</i>
	<i>KCA</i>		<i>69 /</i>	<i>9.5</i>	<i>8.4</i>	<i>1.3</i>	<i>0.6</i>	-
2005	NYN	28	151	19.9	18.6	1.8	0.4	-
2006	NYN	29	140	23.0	14.6	5.3	4.0	2.6
2007	NYN	30	144	20.0	15.5	3.3	2.0	0.7
2008	NYN	31	161	24.2	17.9	4.4	2.9	1.3
2009	NYN	32	81	11.0	9.1	1.6	0.9	0.1
2010	NYN	33	64	6.8	7.0	0.3	-0.2	-
2011	NYN	34	142	19.5	17.7	1.6	0.2	-
	<i>NYN</i>		<i>98 /</i>	<i>13.1</i>	<i>11.7</i>	<i>1.2</i>	<i>0.3</i>	-
	<i>SFN</i>		<i>44 /</i>	<i>6.4</i>	<i>6.0</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>-0.1</i>	-
2012	SLN	35	151	20.7	16.0	3.2	1.8	0.5
2013	SLN	36	145	19.3	17.2	1.8	0.4	-
2014	NYA	37	109	10.0	10.2	0.8	-0.3	-
2015	NYA	38	133	15.6	15.0	1.2	0.0	-
2016	NYA	39	151	16.0	14.9	1.8	0.3	-
	<i>NYA</i>		<i>99 /</i>	<i>11.2</i>	<i>10.8</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>0.1</i>	-
	<i>TEX</i>		<i>52 /</i>	<i>4.8</i>	<i>4.2</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>0.3</i>	-
2017	HOU	40	129	8.6	9.4	0.7	-0.3	-
	<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>		<b>2,585  </b>	<b>328.8</b>	<b>292.6</b>	<b>38.9</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>5.7</b>
	PostSeason (career)		65	8.9	6.0	1.8	1.3	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1998	KCA	21	14	1.6	1.8	-0.0	-0.1	-
1999	KCA	22	155	22.2	20.7	2.4	0.7	-
2000	KCA	23	98	10.7	11.8	0.4	-0.6	-
2001	KCA	24	155	21.4	18.3	3.3	1.6	-
2002	KCA	25	162	21.0	19.4	2.4	0.7	-
2003	KCA	26	141	19.5	14.9	3.7	2.3	0.9
2004	KCA	27	159	22.8	18.1	3.8	2.2	0.6
	<i>HOU</i>		<i>90 /</i>	<i>13.4</i>	<i>10.3</i>	<i>2.3</i>	<i>1.4</i>	<i>0.4</i>
	<i>KCA</i>		<i>69 /</i>	<i>9.4</i>	<i>7.7</i>	<i>1.5</i>	<i>0.8</i>	<i>0.2</i>
2005	NYN	28	151	18.6	18.0	1.4	0.0	-
2006	NYN	29	140	21.4	15.3	4.1	2.8	1.5
2007	NYN	30	144	19.5	16.2	2.7	1.4	0.2
2008	NYN	31	161	22.8	17.9	3.7	2.2	0.7
2009	NYN	32	81	12.0	9.0	2.2	1.4	0.6
2010	NYN	33	64	7.6	6.9	0.8	0.3	-
2011	NYN	34	142	20.3	17.2	2.3	0.8	-
	<i>NYN</i>		<i>98 /</i>	<i>14.0</i>	<i>11.6</i>	<i>1.7</i>	<i>0.7</i>	-
	<i>SFN</i>		<i>44 /</i>	<i>6.2</i>	<i>5.6</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>0.1</i>	-
2012	SLN	35	151	19.4	16.4	2.3	1.0	-
2013	SLN	36	145	18.5	16.3	1.8	0.5	-
2014	NYA	37	109	9.9	10.2	0.7	-0.3	-
2015	NYA	38	133	14.8	14.1	1.2	0.1	-
2016	NYA	39	151	15.3	14.1	1.8	0.4	-
	<i>NYA</i>		<i>99 /</i>	<i>10.7</i>	<i>9.4</i>	<i>1.4</i>	<i>0.5</i>	-
	<i>TEX</i>		<i>52 /</i>	<i>4.6</i>	<i>4.7</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>-0.1</i>	-
2017	HOU	40	129	9.2	10.5	0.6	-0.6	-
	<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>		<b>2,585  </b>	<b>328.6</b>	<b>287.2</b>	<b>41.5</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>4.5</b>
	PostSeason (career)		65	8.7	5.8	1.9	1.3	

## #99: C.C. Sabathia

### Career Highlights

C.C. Sabathia has been one of the best pitchers of the twenty-first century. His ranking here reflects his performance only through 2010 (the tenth year of his career). Extending the years being considered through 2017, Sabathia would move up to #65 on the list between Wade Boggs and Miguel Cabrera (who misses my top 150 here because ending in 2010 misses his back-to-back MVP seasons in 2012 and 2013).

Five highlights of C.C. Sabathia's career:

- Through 2017, C.C. Sabathia has been named to six All-Star teams, has received MVP votes five times, and has received Cy Young votes five times.
- Sabathia won the American League Cy Young award in 2007 when he had a traditional won-lost record of 19-7 with a 3.21 ERA in a league-leading 241 innings pitched.
- Sabathia was traded to the Milwaukee Brewers on July 7, 2008. On the day of the trade, the Brewers had a record of 49-40 and were 0.5 game out of the lead for the wild card. Sabathia went 11-2 with a 1.65 ERA in 130.2 innings in 17 starts with a league-leading 7 complete games and 3 shutouts. The Brewers finished the season with a record of 90-72 winning the wild card by one game.
- In 2009, Sabathia was named ALCS MVP en route to helping the Yankees win the World Series. For the 2009 postseason, Sabathia started five games finishing with a record of 3-1 with a 1.98 ERA in 36.1 innings.
- C.C. Sabathia homered in interleague games on May 21, 2005, and June 21, 2008, making Sabathia the first American League pitcher with two (or more) career home runs since the introduction of the designated hitter rule in 1973. Sabathia hit a third home run on July 21, 2008 as a member of the National League's Milwaukee Brewers.

### At What Was C.C. Sabathia Elite?

The next table shows the top 10 pitchers of the twenty-first century (2001 – 2017), ranked by pWins over replacement level.

Top Pitchers of the 21st Century (Ranked by pWORLD)					
		pWins	pLosses	pWOPA	pWORLD
1	C.C. Sabathia	204.7	171.5	21.4	41.6
2	Roy Halladay	159.4	118.9	24.7	39.2
3	Clayton Kershaw	134.8	96.5	26.0	37.1
4	Tim Hudson	176.1	150.3	20.6	36.9
5	Zack Greinke	161.0	135.0	19.2	34.3
6	Mark Buehrle	193.3	173.4	14.5	34.1
7	Justin Verlander	160.0	133.2	16.9	32.6
8	Roy Oswalt	147.6	124.1	18.9	32.3
9	Johan Santana	126.1	94.2	19.6	31.2
10	Felix Hernandez	154.4	129.0	16.0	31.2

By this measure, C.C. Sabathia has thus far been the greatest pitcher of the century.

## C.C. Sabathia's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
2001	CLE	20	33	11.6	10.0	2.3	1.1	-
2002	CLE	21	33	12.9	12.0	2.0	0.7	-
2003	CLE	22	31	11.1	10.9	1.6	0.3	-
2004	CLE	23	30	10.0	10.0	1.4	0.3	-
2005	CLE	24	31	13.1	11.5	2.3	1.1	-
2006	CLE	25	28	12.3	10.1	2.6	1.4	0.2
2007	CLE	26	34	15.2	9.9	4.3	2.9	1.4
2008	CLE	27	35	17.9	11.1	5.6	4.1	2.6
	CLE		18 /	8.0	6.3	1.8	1.1	0.3
	MIL		17 /	9.9	4.9	3.7	3.0	2.3
2009	NYA	28	34	14.9	10.0	4.2	2.8	1.5
2010	NYA	29	34	16.1	10.9	4.2	2.8	1.4
2011	NYA	30	33	15.0	10.9	3.6	2.3	1.0
2012	NYA	31	28	10.9	8.7	2.3	1.3	0.4
2013	NYA	32	32	12.1	13.2	1.1	-0.3	-
2014	NYA	33	8	2.7	4.4	-0.4	-0.7	-
2015	NYA	34	29	8.8	10.7	0.4	-0.6	-
2016	NYA	35	30	11.3	10.2	2.1	0.9	-
2017	NYA	36	27	8.9	6.9	2.1	1.2	0.3
CAREER (reg. season)			510	204.7	171.5	41.6	21.4	8.8
PostSeason (career)			24	9.5	9.1	1.4	0.4	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
2001	CLE	20	33	10.6	10.1	1.7	0.6	-
2002	CLE	21	33	12.1	10.8	2.1	0.9	-
2003	CLE	22	31	12.7	11.9	2.1	0.7	-
2004	CLE	23	30	11.1	9.9	2.1	0.9	-
2005	CLE	24	31	11.7	11.1	1.7	0.6	-
2006	CLE	25	28	11.7	9.4	2.5	1.4	0.3
2007	CLE	26	34	15.6	10.3	4.4	2.9	1.4
2008	CLE	27	35	17.2	11.4	5.1	3.6	2.2
	CLE		18 /	7.5	5.8	1.8	1.0	0.3
	MIL		17 /	9.7	5.6	3.3	2.6	1.9
2009	NYA	28	34	15.2	11.0	3.9	2.5	1.1
2010	NYA	29	34	14.1	10.2	3.4	2.1	0.9
2011	NYA	30	33	14.1	11.2	3.0	1.7	0.4
2012	NYA	31	28	12.7	10.5	2.5	1.4	0.3
2013	NYA	32	32	12.5	12.9	1.4	0.1	-
2014	NYA	33	8	2.8	4.0	-0.2	-0.5	-
2015	NYA	34	29	9.7	11.5	0.6	-0.6	-
2016	NYA	35	30	11.4	9.9	2.3	1.1	-
2017	NYA	36	27	8.9	9.1	1.1	0.1	-
CAREER (reg. season)			510	204.0	175.1	39.7	19.3	6.5
PostSeason (career)			24	8.3	8.5	1.0	0.1	



## **#100: David Wells**

### **Career Highlights**

David Wells was a durable pitcher who pitched for twenty-one years mostly in the American League East.

Five highlights of David Wells's career:

- David Wells won 239 games during his career. His career totals for wins, games started (489), and innings pitched (3,439) all rank in the top 80 in major-league history.
- David Wells led the American League in 2000 with 20 traditional pitcher wins. He led the league once in winning percentage (18-4, .818 in 1998), twice in complete games, once apiece in games started, shutouts, and innings pitched, and WHIP (walks plus hits per nine innings). He led his league four times in fewest walks per nine innings and once in strikeout-to-walk ratio.
- Wells pitched in the postseason in eleven seasons winning two World Series (in 1992 and 1998) and the ALCS MVP in 1998. For his career, he was 10-5 with a 3.17 ERA (almost a full run lower than his career regular-season ERA of 4.13) in 125 innings.
- David Wells threw a perfect game on May 17, 1998. This was the first perfect game at Yankee Stadium since Don Larsen's perfect game against the Brooklyn Dodgers in Game 5 of the 1956 World Series.
- David Wells allowed fewer than one walk per nine innings in 2004 (20 walks in 213 innings) and 2004 (20 walks in 195.2 innings). Wells was the seventh pitcher since 1901 (and the most recent) to do this twice in his career. The only pitcher other than Wells to do so twice since 1922 was Bob Tewksbury in 1992 and 1993.

### At What Was David Wells Elite?

David Wells was a late bloomer (in part because he was the third person in history to have Tommy John surgery, in 1984 at the age of 21). Although he made his major-league debut shortly after his 24th birthday, he did not make 30 starts in a season until his age-30 season and he did not pitch 200 innings in a season until his age-32 season. He had his only 20-win season at the age of 37.

He makes my top 150 list – just sneaking into the top 100 – because he made up for his late start by continuing to pitch well into his forties. He won 15, 12, and 15 games in his age-40, age-41, and age-42 seasons and he pitched his final major-league game at the age of 44.

While Wells's best seasons were in his thirties, he stands out the most historically for his performance in his forties.

#### Top 10 Pitchers, ages 40+ (1947 - 2017, ranked by pWORL)

		pWins	pLosses	pWOPA	pWORL
1	Roger Clemens	55.5	42.0	8.8	13.9
2	Nolan Ryan	80.0	72.6	5.8	13.2
3	Phil Niekro	118.5	122.5	2.3	13.0
4	Warren Spahn	76.6	72.3	5.7	12.4
5	Hoyt Wilhelm	54.4	41.8	5.4	11.6
6	Randy Johnson	62.5	57.2	5.1	11.2
7	Jamie Moyer	92.0	96.4	1.3	11.1
<b>8</b>	<b>David Wells</b>	<b>46.0</b>	<b>44.6</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>7.2</b>
9	Bartolo Colon	57.6	61.1	1.0	7.2
10	Tommy John	55.0	54.6	1.1	6.4

## David Wells's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1987	TOR	24	18	2.3	1.9	0.4	0.2	-
1988	TOR	25	41	3.5	3.8	0.2	-0.3	-
1989	TOR	26	54	4.6	3.6	0.9	0.3	-
1990	TOR	27	43	10.6	7.8	2.4	1.5	0.6
1991	TOR	28	40	13.2	10.4	2.8	1.5	0.3
1992	TOR	29	41	6.5	8.1	0.0	-0.8	-
1993	DET	30	32	10.1	10.2	1.0	0.0	-
1994	DET	31	16	5.6	5.5	0.7	0.1	-
1995		32	29	13.8	10.2	3.5	2.3	1.0
	CIN		11 /	5.3	4.9	1.0	0.5	-
	DET		18 /	8.5	5.4	2.5	1.8	1.0
1996	BAL	33	34	12.6	13.4	1.4	-0.1	-
1997	NYA	34	32	14.7	12.4	3.0	1.4	-
1998	NYA	35	30	13.4	7.6	4.2	3.1	2.0
1999	TOR	36	34	15.2	13.1	2.7	1.3	-
2000	TOR	37	35	15.9	11.7	3.8	2.3	0.9
2001	CHA	38	16	6.3	5.9	1.0	0.4	-
2002	NYA	39	31	12.7	9.7	3.0	1.8	0.6
2003	NYA	40	31	11.9	9.7	2.5	1.3	0.0
2004	SDN	41	31	10.5	10.0	2.0	0.9	-
2005	BOS	42	30	10.6	9.0	2.0	1.0	0.1
2006		43	13	4.0	4.2	0.5	0.1	-
	BOS		8 /	2.2	2.8	0.0	-0.3	-
	SDN		5 /	1.9	1.4	0.5	0.3	0.2
2007		44	29	9.0	11.7	0.3	-0.8	-
	LAN		7 /	2.7	2.0	0.7	0.5	0.2
	SDN		22 /	6.3	9.6	-0.4	-1.3	-
CAREER (reg. season)			660	207.0	179.8	38.3	17.4	5.4
PostSeason (career)			27	7.5	5.7	1.8	1.1	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1987	TOR	24	18	1.7	1.4	0.3	0.1	-
1988	TOR	25	41	2.8	3.5	-0.1	-0.4	-
1989	TOR	26	54	4.2	3.3	0.8	0.3	-
1990	TOR	27	43	10.8	8.7	2.2	1.2	0.2
1991	TOR	28	40	11.6	10.4	1.9	0.7	-
1992	TOR	29	41	6.1	7.6	-0.0	-0.8	-
1993	DET	30	32	10.3	10.5	1.0	-0.0	-
1994	DET	31	16	6.3	5.5	1.2	0.5	-
1995		32	29	12.3	10.1	2.7	1.5	0.3
	CIN		11 /	4.5	3.8	1.0	0.6	0.2
	DET		18 /	7.9	6.3	1.7	1.0	0.2
1996	BAL	33	34	13.3	12.0	2.3	0.9	-
1997	NYA	34	32	13.5	11.5	2.7	1.2	-
1998	NYA	35	30	13.2	9.9	3.1	1.9	0.7
1999	TOR	36	34	14.7	13.3	2.4	0.9	-
2000	TOR	37	35	14.2	11.2	3.1	1.7	0.4
2001	CHA	38	16	5.9	5.9	0.8	0.1	-
2002	NYA	39	31	12.5	10.4	2.5	1.2	0.0
2003	NYA	40	31	12.7	10.8	2.5	1.2	-
2004	SDN	41	31	11.7	10.9	2.2	1.0	-
2005	BOS	42	30	10.7	9.9	1.7	0.6	-
2006		43	13	4.6	4.8	0.6	0.1	-
	BOS		8 /	2.7	3.5	0.0	-0.3	-
	SDN		5 /	1.9	1.3	0.5	0.4	0.2
2007		44	29	9.5	12.2	0.3	-0.8	-
	LAN		7 /	2.6	2.3	0.5	0.3	0.0
	SDN		22 /	6.9	9.9	-0.2	-1.1	-
CAREER (reg. season)			660	202.5	183.9	34.1	13.2	1.6
PostSeason (career)			27	7.9	6.3	1.8	1.0	

## #101: Ivan Rodriguez

### Career Highlights

Ivan Rodriguez was widely regarded as the best catcher in baseball through most of the 1990s and early 2000s. He was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility, 2017, with 76.0% of the vote. Rodriguez was the second catcher elected in his first year of eligibility, after Johnny Bench.

Five highlights of Ivan Rodriguez's career:

- Ivan Rodriguez was named to fourteen All-Star teams. He won thirteen Gold Gloves, the most by any catcher in major-league history, and won the 1999 American League MVP award.
- Rodriguez batted .300 or better 10 times, including three times over .330. Rodriguez hit over 30 home runs and had 100 RBI once apiece, in his MVP season in 1999, when he batted .332 and scored 116 runs, matching his career high (originally set in 1996).
- In the 2003 postseason, Rodriguez batted .313/.390/.522 with 5 doubles, 3 home runs, 17 RBI, and 10 runs scored in 17 games, as the Florida Marlins won the World Series. Rodriguez was named MVP of the National League Championship Series, in which he batted .321/.424/.607 with 2 home runs and 10 RBI in 7 games.
- Ivan Rodriguez holds the major-league record for games caught, 2,427, as well as for hits by a catcher, 2,749 of his 2,844 career hits.
- Ivan Rodriguez threw out the first two players who attempted to steal on him in his major-league career (both in his debut game) as well as the last three would-be basestealers of his career. Overall, for his career, he threw out 46% of would-be basestealers.

### At What Was Ivan Rodriguez Elite?

Ivan Rodriguez won more Gold Gloves than any other catcher in major-league history (13) and is widely regarded as the finest defensive catcher in major-league history. Player won-lost records agree. The next table shows the top 10 players in net fielding eWins as a catcher among all players since MLB integration.

**Top 10 Defensive Catchers, since 1947**  
**(Ranked by Net Fielding eWins)**

		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	Net eWins
1	<b>Ivan Rodriguez</b>	<b>30.8</b>	<b>25.3</b>	<b>0.549</b>	<b>5.5</b>
2	Gary Carter	35.0	29.8	0.540	5.1
3	Yadier Molina	21.6	16.9	0.561	4.7
4	Jim Sundberg	27.0	22.8	0.542	4.2
5	Bob Boone	31.3	27.6	0.532	3.8
6	Tony Pena	30.0	26.8	0.528	3.2
7	Johnny Bench	22.5	19.4	0.538	3.2
8	Del Crandall	17.4	14.3	0.549	3.1
9	Charles Johnson	15.0	12.0	0.556	3.0
10	Steve Yeager	17.2	14.3	0.546	2.9

# Ivan Rodriguez's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1991	TEX	19	88	5.8	7.2	0.1	-0.4	-
1992	TEX	20	123	9.3	10.7	0.4	-0.4	-
1993	TEX	21	137	12.1	12.8	0.9	-0.0	-
1994	TEX	22	99	9.1	8.5	1.4	0.6	-
1995	TEX	23	130	12.3	12.9	1.2	0.1	-
1996	TEX	24	153	16.1	14.6	2.5	1.3	0.0
1997	TEX	25	150	15.1	13.4	2.4	1.3	0.1
1998	TEX	26	145	15.6	13.2	3.0	1.8	0.7
1999	TEX	27	144	17.0	14.7	3.1	1.8	0.6
2000	TEX	28	91	9.6	8.1	1.7	1.0	0.3
2001	TEX	29	111	10.4	9.8	1.8	0.9	-
2002	TEX	30	108	9.2	9.8	1.1	0.3	-
2003	FLO	31	144	15.7	12.9	2.9	1.8	0.6
2004	DET	32	135	12.5	13.4	1.2	0.1	-
2005	DET	33	129	12.1	12.7	1.1	0.2	-
2006	DET	34	136	12.5	12.6	1.3	0.3	-
2007	DET	35	129	10.4	11.8	0.7	-0.1	-
2008		36	115	7.3	9.5	-0.2	-0.8	-
	DET		82 /	5.5	7.5	-0.3	-0.7	-
	NYA		33 /	1.8	2.0	0.1	-0.0	-
2009		37	121	9.0	10.4	0.3	-0.4	-
	HOU		93 /	6.6	8.0	0.1	-0.5	-
	TEX		28 /	2.4	2.4	0.3	0.1	-
2010	WAS	38	111	8.9	11.0	-0.1	-0.9	-
2011	WAS	39	44	3.6	4.4	-0.0	-0.3	-
	<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>		<b>2,543  </b>	<b>233.6</b>	<b>234.3</b>	<b>26.7</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>2.3</b>
	PostSeason (career)		40	3.9	3.5	0.6	0.3	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1991	TEX	19	88	6.1	7.4	0.2	-0.3	-
1992	TEX	20	123	9.9	11.3	0.5	-0.3	-
1993	TEX	21	137	11.2	11.9	0.9	-0.0	-
1994	TEX	22	99	9.5	8.5	1.6	0.8	0.1
1995	TEX	23	130	12.0	11.8	1.5	0.5	-
1996	TEX	24	153	15.1	14.4	2.1	0.9	-
1997	TEX	25	150	14.9	13.6	2.2	1.0	-
1998	TEX	26	145	14.4	13.1	2.4	1.3	0.2
1999	TEX	27	144	16.1	14.0	2.8	1.7	0.5
2000	TEX	28	91	10.4	8.4	2.1	1.3	0.5
2001	TEX	29	111	12.6	9.8	3.0	2.0	1.1
2002	TEX	30	108	10.7	9.5	2.0	1.2	0.3
2003	FLO	31	144	14.8	12.9	2.3	1.2	0.1
2004	DET	32	135	13.6	12.6	2.1	1.1	0.0
2005	DET	33	129	11.9	12.1	1.3	0.4	-
2006	DET	34	136	12.7	12.3	1.5	0.5	-
2007	DET	35	129	10.4	11.8	0.7	-0.1	-
2008		36	115	9.3	9.7	0.8	0.1	-
	DET		82 /	7.1	7.3	0.7	0.2	-
	NYA		33 /	2.1	2.4	0.1	-0.1	-
2009		37	121	9.0	10.2	0.4	-0.3	-
	HOU		93 /	7.0	7.9	0.3	-0.2	-
	TEX		28 /	2.0	2.3	0.1	-0.1	-
2010	WAS	38	111	8.5	10.4	-0.0	-0.8	-
2011	WAS	39	44	3.5	3.9	0.1	-0.1	-
	<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>		<b>2,543  </b>	<b>236.6</b>	<b>229.5</b>	<b>30.5</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>2.8</b>
	PostSeason (career)		40	3.8	3.7	0.4	0.1	

## #102: Jose Canseco

### Career Highlights

Jose Canseco was a gifted combination of power and speed who helped the Oakland A's win three consecutive American League pennants from 1988 through 1990.

Five highlights of Jose Canseco's career:

- Jose Canseco was voted American League Rookie of the Year in 1986. That season Canseco batted .240/.318/.457 with 33 home runs, 15 stolen bases, 85 runs scored, and 117 RBI.
- Jose Canseco was the unanimous choice for American League MVP in 1988. That season, Canseco became the first player to have at least 40 home runs and 40 stolen bases in the same season. For the season, Canseco batted .307/.391/.569 with 42 home runs, 40 stolen bases, 120 runs scored, and 124 RBI. He led the American League in slugging percentage, home runs, and RBI.
- Jose Canseco hit 30 or more home runs eight times; he hit 40 or more home runs three times and led his league twice. He had 100 or more RBI six times.
- Jose Canseco's career RBI per plate appearance (17.3 RBI per 100 plate appearances) is 22nd in major-league history among players with at least 5,000 career plate appearances and 8th among players who debuted since integration in 1947.
- Jose Canseco was the subject of an article by two economics professors which appeared in the June 2011 issue of the academic journal *Labour Economics*, entitled "Learning Unethical Practices from a Co-Worker: The Peer Effect of Jose Canseco". As described in the abstract, the paper "examined the issue of whether workers learn productive skills from their co-workers, even if those skills are unethical." The paper found "that a player's performance increase[d] significantly after they played with Jose Canseco. After checking 30 comparable players from the same era, we find that no other baseball player produced a similar effect."

### At What Was Jose Canseco Elite?

Jose Canseco won his MVP award in his age-23 season. He was an All-Star the next season, although injuries limited him to 65 games. He followed that up with two more very strong seasons, the latter of which saw him lead the American League with 44 home runs while scoring 115 runs and driving in 122 and finishing fourth in MVP voting in his age-26 season (1991).

Most baseball research has found that the average baseball player tends to peak in his late twenties, around ages 27 to 29. Because of injuries and fielding issues which pushed him to becoming a full-time (when healthy) DH before he was 30, Canseco peaked early, never approaching his age 23 - 26 (1988 - 1991) performance again in his career. But, as his ranking here might suggest, his performance at these ages was historically great.

The top 10 non-pitchers, ranked by pWins over positional average (pWOPA) in their age-23 through age-26 seasons are shown next.

**Top 10 Position Players, ages 23 through 26, since 1947**  
(Ranked by pWOPA)

		pWins	pLosses	pWOPA	pWORL
1	Mickey Mantle	97.1	57.8	16.8	23.1
2	Albert Pujols	88.6	55.5	13.0	18.4
3	Derek Jeter	91.3	71.4	12.8	19.2
4	Alex Rodriguez	86.5	66.8	12.1	18.3
5	Darryl Strawberry	88.5	59.6	11.6	17.2
6	Hank Aaron	99.2	69.6	11.6	18.3
7	Robin Yount	80.3	64.0	11.5	17.1
8	Eric Chavez	80.8	58.4	11.4	17.1
9	Eddie Mathews	83.6	59.7	11.0	16.8
<b>10</b>	<b>Jose Canseco</b>	<b>77.1</b>	<b>52.6</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>16.1</b>

In the interest of full disclosure, I should point out that Jose Canseco was “old” for his baseball age. Traditionally, one’s baseball age is a player’s age as of July 1st. The Canseco twins’ birthday is July 2nd. Derek Jeter’s birthday, for instance, is June 26th. So, Jose Canseco was 359 days older than Derek Jeter on July 1 of their respective “age-23” seasons.

The next table, then, compares Canseco’s 1988 – 1991 performance to other players’ performances in their age-24 through age-27 seasons, again ranked by pWins over positional average.

**Top 15 Position Players, ages 24 through 27, since 1947**  
(Ranked by pWOPA)

		pWins	pLosses	pWOPA	pWORL
1	Mickey Mantle	92.8	58.7	14.4	20.4
2	Derek Jeter	90.2	68.4	13.5	19.9
3	Robin Yount	82.9	62.7	13.1	18.7
4	Alex Rodriguez	89.4	68.8	12.5	18.9
5	Albert Pujols	85.6	54.7	12.0	17.2
6	Miguel Tejada	93.8	75.1	11.7	18.5
7	Johnny Bench	79.6	57.0	11.5	16.9
8	Duke Snider	86.9	59.5	11.4	17.4
9	Mike Schmidt	90.5	65.0	11.4	17.4
10	Chipper Jones	90.5	65.5	11.4	17.5
11	Eddie Mathews	85.7	61.4	11.1	17.0
12	Bobby Grich	86.3	67.9	10.9	16.9
	<b>Jose Canseco</b>	<b>77.1</b>	<b>52.6</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>16.1</b>
13	Willie Mays	100.2	73.1	10.5	17.5
14	Hank Aaron	99.5	71.6	10.4	17.3
15	Darryl Strawberry	89.4	63.0	10.3	16.1

If a player lands directly above Willie Mays and Hank Aaron in a table purporting to rank baseball players by their value, he is probably doing something right.

## Jose Canseco's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1985	OAK	20	29	3.1	2.8	0.3	0.1	-
1986	OAK	21	157	20.4	19.6	1.5	0.0	-
1987	OAK	22	159	21.6	18.9	2.7	1.0	-
1988	OAK	23	158	25.6	16.8	5.5	3.8	2.2
1989	OAK	24	65	10.4	7.0	2.2	1.6	0.9
1990	OAK	25	131	19.6	12.7	4.6	3.2	1.9
1991	OAK	26	154	21.5	16.0	3.8	2.3	0.7
1992		27	119	14.7	11.6	2.5	1.4	0.2
	OAK		97 /	12.4	9.3	2.4	1.4	0.5
	TEX		22 /	2.2	2.3	0.1	-0.1	-
1993	TEX	28	60	6.6	7.5	0.1	-0.5	-
1994	TEX	29	111	11.7	8.8	2.4	1.1	-
1995	BOS	30	102	10.4	7.4	2.3	1.2	0.1
1996	BOS	31	96	8.4	8.8	0.6	-0.5	-
1997	OAK	32	107	9.8	11.4	0.1	-1.0	-
1998	TOR	33	151	17.5	14.2	2.8	1.2	-
1999	TBA	34	113	9.7	9.8	0.8	-0.4	-
2000		35	98	7.7	7.3	1.0	-0.0	-
	NYA		37 /	3.2	2.9	0.4	0.1	-
	TBA		61 /	4.5	4.4	0.5	-0.1	-
2001	CHA	36	76	5.9	6.0	0.6	-0.2	-
CAREER (reg. season)			1,886	224.6	186.7	33.7	14.3	6.0
PostSeason (career)			30	3.5	3.0	0.4	0.1	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1985	OAK	20	29	3.5	3.0	0.4	0.2	-
1986	OAK	21	157	21.1	19.2	2.0	0.6	-
1987	OAK	22	159	20.3	18.9	2.0	0.3	-
1988	OAK	23	158	25.3	18.6	4.4	2.7	1.0
1989	OAK	24	65	8.8	6.8	1.4	0.9	0.3
1990	OAK	25	131	17.2	12.9	3.2	2.0	0.7
1991	OAK	26	154	19.7	15.1	3.4	1.9	0.5
1992		27	119	14.1	12.1	1.9	0.8	-
	OAK		97 /	11.8	10.5	1.5	0.5	-
	TEX		22 /	2.2	1.6	0.5	0.3	0.1
1993	TEX	28	60	6.3	7.2	0.1	-0.5	-
1994	TEX	29	111	11.3	9.2	2.0	0.7	-
1995	BOS	30	102	10.1	7.9	1.8	0.7	-
1996	BOS	31	96	10.1	7.9	1.9	0.8	-
1997	OAK	32	107	10.1	10.3	0.7	-0.3	-
1998	TOR	33	151	16.4	14.5	2.1	0.5	-
1999	TBA	34	113	11.2	9.2	1.9	0.7	-
2000		35	98	7.9	7.2	1.1	0.1	-
	NYA		37 /	2.8	2.7	0.3	-0.0	-
	TBA		61 /	5.1	4.5	0.8	0.2	-
2001	CHA	36	76	6.4	5.7	1.0	0.2	-
CAREER (reg. season)			1,886	219.7	185.8	31.5	12.3	2.5
PostSeason (career)			30	3.7	3.1	0.5	0.2	



## **#103: Vida Blue**

### **Career Highlights**

Vida Blue was one of the top starting pitchers for the 1971 – 1975 Oakland A's teams that won five consecutive AL West division titles and three consecutive World Series.

Five highlights of Vida Blue's career:

- Vida Blue's high school did not have a baseball team when he started there. Blue was so good that the school's principal built a baseball team around him. In one 7-inning game, Blue struck out 21, allowing no hits, but walking 10.
- In 1970, Vida Blue started 6 games for the Oakland A's after a September call-up, including a one-hitter (September 11th) and a no-hitter (September 21st). Blue's no-hitter came against the AL West division winning Minnesota Twins. Blue struck out 9; the only Twins baserunner was Harmon Killebrew who walked with two out in the fourth inning.
- Vida Blue won the American League Cy Young and MVP awards in his first full major-league season, 1971. Blue led the American League in ERA (1.82) and shutouts (8), with a traditional won-lost record of 24-7 and 301 strikeouts in 312 innings pitched.
- Vida Blue was named to six All-Star teams in his career. He started three of the six games: 1971 and 1975 for the American League, and 1978 for the National League. Blue was the first pitcher to start an All-Star game for both leagues. He is still the only pitcher to be credited as the winning pitcher in an All-Star game for both leagues (1971, 1981).
- Vida Blue was ostensibly sold by Oakland A's owner Charlie Finley to the New York Yankees at the 1976 trade deadline. Blue's teammates Rollie Fingers and Joe Rudi were sold to the Boston Red Sox at the same time. MLB Commissioner Bowie Kuhn voided both deals, however, arguing they were against the best interests of baseball, so Blue spent the remainder of the 1976 and all of the 1977 season with the Oakland A's before being traded to the San Francisco Giants during spring training, 1978.

### **At What Was Vida Blue Elite?**

Vida Blue broke in and had his greatest season with the Oakland A's. Like most of his teammates on the 3-time World Champion A's, Blue was eventually traded away in a cost-saving move by Charlie Finley. Unlike his A's teammates, however, Vida Blue did not have to move when he was finally traded.

After almost being traded to the Yankees before the deal was vetoed by MLB Commissioner Bowie Kuhn, Blue ended up being traded across the San Francisco Bay to the San Francisco Giants, where he enjoyed a bit of a career resurgence.

The next table shows the top 10 players to play major-league baseball in the Bay Area, for either the San Francisco Giants (since 1958) or the Oakland A's (since 1968), or, in the case of Vida Blue, for both teams, ranked by pWins over replacement level earned for these teams.

Top 10 Bay Area Players (Ranked by pWORLD as an SF Giant &/or Oakland A)					
		pWins	pLosses	pWOPA	pWORLD
1	Barry Bonds	314.6	201.1	47.9	68.5
2	Willie Mays	326.1	234.3	37.1	59.7
3	Juan Marichal	228.5	183.8	32.1	50.1
4	Willie McCovey	267.1	193.5	24.4	43.2
5	Rickey Henderson	253.8	202.4	21.3	39.1
<b>6</b>	<b>Vida Blue</b>	<b>185.8</b>	<b>167.8</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>30.2</b>
7	Bert Campaneris	176.9	160.5	16.3	29.9
8	Sal Bando	184.3	148.0	16.1	29.5
9	Reggie Jackson	183.3	143.6	14.9	28.5
10	Eric Chavez	159.0	129.8	14.8	26.2

Of course, most of the players listed there only played on one side of the bay. The next table, then, shows the top 10 players who played at least one game for both the A's and the Giants.

Top 10 Bay Area Players Who Played for Both Teams					
		pWins	pLosses	pWOPA	pWORLD
<b>1</b>	<b>Vida Blue</b>	<b>185.8</b>	<b>167.8</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>30.2</b>
2	Miguel Tejada	137.6	118.8	12.8	23.0
3	Tim Hudson	96.9	78.1	11.9	21.3
4	Barry Zito	159.1	166.2	2.0	19.0
5	Billy North	124.7	117.0	2.0	11.5
6	Kevin Mitchell	91.0	75.6	5.1	11.5
7	Ray Durham	93.8	84.9	4.5	11.4
8	Stan Javier	105.3	102.2	-0.2	8.1
9	Jairo Garcia	43.3	35.4	2.4	8.0
10	Felipe Alou	96.1	88.5	-0.4	7.1

Technically, the player with the most pWORLD for the Giants and A's while playing for both teams was Willie McCovey (#49 in my list), who played 11 career games as an Oakland Athletic and batted 5-for-24 with no extra-base hits. The table above only includes players who earned at least one full pWin as both a Giant and an Athletic.

By that standard, Vida Blue had the best combined Bay Area major-league career.

## Vida Blue's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1969	OAK	19	12	1.7	2.8	-0.3	-0.5	-
1970	OAK	20	6	3.0	1.1	1.2	1.1	0.9
1971	OAK	21	39	21.0	14.9	5.4	3.9	2.3
1972	OAK	22	27	9.5	9.9	1.1	0.2	-
1973	OAK	23	38	16.2	13.8	2.8	1.4	0.0
1974	OAK	24	40	15.0	14.8	1.6	0.3	-
1975	OAK	25	39	17.0	13.6	3.3	1.9	0.4
1976	OAK	26	37	17.8	12.4	4.2	2.9	1.5
1977	OAK	27	38	16.4	16.2	2.0	0.3	-
1978	SFN	28	35	16.0	12.9	3.4	2.2	1.0
1979	SFN	29	37	13.1	16.5	0.2	-1.0	-
1980	SFN	30	31	14.9	12.0	3.0	2.0	0.9
1981	SFN	31	18	8.1	7.4	1.4	0.8	0.1
1982	KCA	32	31	12.1	11.3	1.7	0.6	-
1983	KCA	33	19	3.1	4.9	-0.5	-0.9	-
1985	SFN	35	33	6.7	8.8	-0.0	-0.8	-
1986	SFN	36	28	9.6	10.9	0.7	-0.2	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>508  </b>	<b>201.0</b>	<b>184.1</b>	<b>31.4</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>7.1</b>
PostSeason (career)			17	4.3	4.6	0.4	-0.0	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1969	OAK	19	12	2.2	4.3	-0.7	-1.0	-
1970	OAK	20	6	2.6	1.3	0.9	0.8	0.6
1971	OAK	21	39	19.8	14.9	4.8	3.3	1.8
1972	OAK	22	27	9.5	9.4	1.3	0.5	-
1973	OAK	23	38	14.6	14.8	1.5	0.1	-
1974	OAK	24	40	15.2	14.0	2.2	0.9	-
1975	OAK	25	39	15.4	13.9	2.3	0.9	-
1976	OAK	26	37	17.0	13.1	3.4	2.1	0.7
1977	OAK	27	38	16.5	15.8	2.2	0.6	-
1978	SFN	28	35	15.8	13.3	3.1	1.9	0.7
1979	SFN	29	37	13.7	17.7	-0.0	-1.3	-
1980	SFN	30	31	13.0	11.5	2.2	1.2	0.2
1981	SFN	31	18	7.7	7.4	1.2	0.5	-
1982	KCA	32	31	10.5	10.7	1.1	0.1	-
1983	KCA	33	19	4.5	6.0	-0.2	-0.7	-
1985	SFN	35	33	7.3	11.1	-0.6	-1.6	-
1986	SFN	36	28	9.0	11.2	0.3	-0.6	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>508  </b>	<b>194.3</b>	<b>190.4</b>	<b>24.9</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>4.0</b>
PostSeason (career)			17	4.1	4.2	0.5	0.1	

## **#104: Al Kaline**

### **Career Highlights**

Al Kaline played his entire 22-year Hall-of-Fame career for the Detroit Tigers, earning him the nickname “Mr. Tiger”. He was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility, 1980, with 88.3% of the vote.

Five highlights of Al Kaline’s career:

- Al Kaline led the American League in batting average (.340), hits (200), and total bases (321), while finishing second in MVP voting in his second full season, 1955, at the age of 20. He was the youngest player to ever win a batting title.
- Al Kaline was named to the All-Star team in 15 seasons, won 10 Gold Gloves, and received MVP votes 14 times. He finished in the top 10 in MVP voting nine times with two second-place finishes (1955 and 1963).
- Al Kaline played in one World Series. He batted .379/.400/.655 with two home runs, six runs scored, and eight RBI, as the Tigers beat the St. Louis Cardinals in seven games in 1968.
- Al Kaline was the first recipient of the Roberto Clemente Award in 1973 after it was renamed in honor of Clemente. The Roberto Clemente Award is given by MLB to the player who “best exemplifies the game of baseball, sportsmanship, community involvement and the individual's contribution to his team”.
- Al Kaline was born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland. He was the starting right fielder in the first game in the history of the modern Baltimore Orioles, a 3-0 Tigers win in Detroit on April 13, 1954. Kaline got his 3,000th major-league hit in Baltimore on September 24, 1974.

### **At What Was Al Kaline Elite?**

Player won-lost records are calculated across nine components.

- Component 1: Stolen Bases
- Component 2: Wild Pitches and Passed Balls
- Component 3: Balls not in Play
- Component 4: Balls in Play
- Component 5: Hits vs. Outs
- Component 6: Singles v. Doubles v. Triples
- Component 7: Double Plays
- Component 8: Baserunner Outs
- Component 9: Baserunner Advancements

Several of these components correspond to specific traditional statistics: e.g., perhaps most obviously Components 1 and 7, or to major skills: e.g., Component 5 fielding, the ability to turn balls-in-play into outs.

But several components correspond to what baseball announcers or managers might refer to as “the little things that don’t show up in a box score”. For example, Component 2 measures not only wild pitches and passed balls allowed by pitchers and catchers, but also gives credit to baserunners for advancing on wild pitches and passed balls. Component 6 measures extra-base hits on balls-in-play, which is captured within traditional statistics for batters, but not for fielders. Component 9 is not generally captured within traditional statistics for either batters, baserunners, or fielders.

So, using Player won-lost records, it may be possible to quantify “the little things” and identify which players were the best in major-league history at doing “the little things that don’t show up in a box score.”

For this exercise, I defined the following Components as “little things”.

- Component 2: Baserunning
- Component 6: Fielding
- Component 8: Batting, Baserunning
- Component 9: Batting, Baserunning, Fielding

The top 10 players in the little things, since 1947, are shown in the next table.

<b>Top 10 Players, "The Little Things", since 1947, Offense and Defense</b>					
		<b>eWins</b>	<b>eLosses</b>	<b>eWinPct</b>	<b>Net Wins</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Al Kaline</b>	<b>63.6</b>	<b>53.3</b>	<b>0.544</b>	<b>10.3</b>
2	Willie Mays	75.5	66.3	0.532	9.2
3	Raul Mondesi	35.9	29.6	0.548	6.3
4	Joe Rudi	33.7	27.6	0.550	6.1
5	Dale Murphy	48.3	42.6	0.531	5.7
6	Rickey Henderson	68.2	62.9	0.520	5.3
7	Vada Pinson	61.8	56.5	0.522	5.3
8	Roberto Clemente	68.0	62.7	0.520	5.3
9	Barry Bonds	67.2	62.0	0.520	5.2
10	Mickey Mantle	46.7	41.5	0.529	5.2

Seven of the ten players on the list are in my top 150. Perhaps not surprisingly, players who are good at the little things tend to be very good players, in large part because players who are good at the little things tend to also be very good at the big things.

And, of course, relevant to where I have put this table in this book, Al Kaline turns out to rank as the best player in baseball at doing the little things since 1947.

## Al Kaline's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1953	DET	18	25	0.6	0.7	-0.0	-0.1	-
1954	DET	19	138	14.3	16.2	0.1	-1.2	-
1955	DET	20	152	22.5	17.6	3.3	1.7	0.0
1956	DET	21	153	24.5	18.6	4.0	2.2	0.5
1957	DET	22	149	21.4	17.2	3.1	1.5	-
1958	DET	23	146	22.6	16.5	3.8	2.3	0.8
1959	DET	24	136	20.4	16.3	2.8	1.4	-
1960	DET	25	147	17.3	18.9	-0.1	-1.5	-
1961	DET	26	153	22.8	15.4	4.4	2.7	1.0
1962	DET	27	100	16.9	12.8	2.4	1.3	0.2
1963	DET	28	145	22.4	15.9	3.6	2.2	0.7
1964	DET	29	146	19.0	16.8	1.7	0.2	-
1965	DET	30	125	15.1	13.2	1.6	0.4	-
1966	DET	31	142	20.7	14.8	3.6	2.2	0.8
1967	DET	32	131	21.1	14.4	4.1	2.5	1.0
1968	DET	33	101	13.2	9.0	2.6	1.6	0.7
1969	DET	34	131	18.3	13.6	2.9	1.5	0.1
1970	DET	35	131	15.7	13.8	1.6	0.3	-
1971	DET	36	133	16.5	12.4	2.7	1.6	0.4
1972	DET	37	106	10.0	7.8	1.6	0.9	0.1
1973	DET	38	91	9.7	9.0	0.9	0.1	-
1974	DET	39	147	13.0	11.2	2.2	0.8	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,828  </b>	<b>377.9</b>	<b>302.1</b>	<b>52.8</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>6.3</b>
PostSeason (career)			12	2.3	1.3	0.6	0.4	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1953	DET	18	25	1.0	0.9	0.1	-0.0	-
1954	DET	19	138	15.2	16.3	0.5	-0.8	-
1955	DET	20	152	23.2	17.7	3.6	1.9	0.3
1956	DET	21	153	23.6	17.8	3.9	2.2	0.5
1957	DET	22	149	21.6	16.8	3.4	1.8	0.2
1958	DET	23	146	21.1	16.5	3.0	1.6	0.2
1959	DET	24	136	19.3	14.9	2.9	1.6	0.2
1960	DET	25	147	18.8	17.2	1.5	0.1	-
1961	DET	26	153	22.2	16.6	3.5	1.8	0.1
1962	DET	27	100	15.9	12.3	2.1	1.1	-
1963	DET	28	145	21.2	15.7	3.1	1.7	0.3
1964	DET	29	146	20.4	16.3	2.7	1.2	-
1965	DET	30	125	15.9	12.0	2.6	1.4	0.3
1966	DET	31	142	19.6	14.3	3.2	1.9	0.6
1967	DET	32	131	20.3	14.5	3.5	2.1	0.6
1968	DET	33	101	12.9	9.3	2.3	1.3	0.4
1969	DET	34	131	16.0	13.1	1.9	0.7	-
1970	DET	35	131	16.4	14.0	1.9	0.6	-
1971	DET	36	133	16.7	13.0	2.5	1.4	0.2
1972	DET	37	106	10.1	8.1	1.5	0.8	-
1973	DET	38	91	8.9	8.7	0.7	-0.1	-
1974	DET	39	147	12.4	11.7	1.6	0.2	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,828  </b>	<b>372.8</b>	<b>297.9</b>	<b>52.2</b>	<b>24.4</b>	<b>3.9</b>
PostSeason (career)			12	2.2	1.4	0.5	0.3	

## **#105: Dennis Martinez**

### **Career Highlights**

Dennis Martinez made his major-league debut in 1976 at the age of 22. He pitched in his final game in 1998 at the age of 44. In between, he had quite an eventful career.

Five highlights of Dennis Martinez's career:

- Dennis Martinez was the first native of Nicaragua to play in the major leagues.
- Dennis Martinez was named to four All-Star teams in his career. He received Cy Young and MVP votes twice, in 1981 as a Baltimore Oriole and in 1991 as a member of the Montreal Expos.
- Dennis Martinez led the American League in traditional pitcher wins in 1981 with 14 in a strike-shortened 105-game season. He led the National League in ERA once, in 1991 (2.39). He also led his league in games started, complete games, and innings pitched once each, all in 1979.
- On July 28, 1991, Dennis Martinez threw the 13th perfect game in major-league history for the Montreal Expos against the Los Angeles Dodgers at Dodger Stadium. This was the only perfect game pitched by a Montreal Expo in their history and the only perfect game thrown against the Los Angeles Dodgers at Dodger Stadium.
- Dennis Martinez amassed 245 traditional pitcher wins in his career, the most by any Latino pitcher in major-league history.

### **At What Was Dennis Martinez Elite?**

Dennis Martinez's appearance in my top 150 is due, at least in part, to an unintended quirk of my rating system: my zeroing out of all negative numbers. I zero out negative values of WOPA, WORL, and WO\* so that a player's rating can never go down by playing an additional season. My rationale for doing this is to avoid punishing a player who reaches the major leagues before he is completely ready or who continues to play after he is no longer very good.

But most of Dennis Martinez's negative seasons did not come at the beginning or end of his career (although his last two seasons don't really add anything to his case). Rather, Dennis Martinez had a string of negative pWOPA (and eWOPA) seasons at ages 28 through 31, including back-to-back seasons of negative pWORL at ages 28 and 29.

After having several very good seasons between ages 23 and 26, Martinez seemingly rose from the dead to become one of the best pitchers in baseball from 1987 – 1995, Martinez's age 32 through 40 seasons, and continued to pitch until he was 44 years old.

In effect, Dennis Martinez's amassed all his player value outside of what are frequently a pitcher's peak seasons at ages 27 through 31.

The next table shows the top 25 pitchers since 1947, ranked by pWins over replacement level (pWORLD) earned outside of ages 27 – 31.

<b>Top 25 Pitchers, since 1947</b> <b>(Ranked by pWORLD, outside ages 27 - 31)</b>					
		<b>pWins</b>	<b>pLosses</b>	<b>pWOPA</b>	<b>pWORLD</b>
1	Roger Clemens	246.0	177.6	39.5	61.6
2	Warren Spahn	248.0	203.1	32.5	51.8
3	Greg Maddux	249.1	221.5	26.5	48.9
4	Randy Johnson	208.2	164.7	29.1	48.1
5	Tom Seaver	220.9	185.4	26.2	43.8
6	Nolan Ryan	267.0	249.9	17.7	41.1
7	Bert Blyleven	242.1	213.1	19.3	40.9
8	Steve Carlton	242.6	223.1	20.5	40.4
9	Tom Glavine	207.7	193.2	17.8	37.0
10	Phil Niekro	265.9	259.3	13.5	36.5
11	Tommy John	214.9	191.1	17.8	36.3
12	Bob Gibson	174.9	145.0	22.5	36.1
13	Robin Roberts	203.3	180.3	18.9	35.8
14	Mike Mussina	155.0	120.3	20.1	35.1
15	Dennis Eckersley	160.3	118.1	20.1	35.0
16	John Smoltz	171.2	146.5	18.8	34.5
17	Gaylord Perry	223.1	205.8	14.4	34.2
18	Curt Schilling	150.0	119.7	20.3	34.1
<b>19</b>	<b>Dennis Martinez</b>	<b>184.5</b>	<b>162.6</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>33.0</b>
20	Jim Palmer	157.5	126.3	20.0	32.8
21	Don Sutton	231.6	223.1	12.6	32.8
22	Whitey Ford	142.5	111.5	20.9	32.3
23	Dwight Gooden	144.2	115.8	20.3	32.2
24	Early Wynn	182.0	162.7	16.9	31.6
25	David Wells	161.1	137.9	15.1	31.4

By not zeroing out negative numbers, Martinez's value at these ages is sufficient for him to rank this high. It is, of course, unusual for a pitcher to add no value to his career at what should be his peak years. But then, Dennis Martinez had a very unusual career.



## Dennis Martinez's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1976	BAL	21	4	1.1	0.8	0.2	0.1	0.0
1977	BAL	22	42	10.8	7.5	2.6	1.6	0.5
1978	BAL	23	40	14.1	13.7	1.6	0.3	-
1979	BAL	24	40	16.6	14.2	2.8	1.4	0.1
1980	BAL	25	25	5.7	5.8	0.5	-0.1	-
1981	BAL	26	25	11.0	8.0	2.7	1.7	0.8
1982	BAL	27	40	15.0	14.4	2.0	0.6	-
1983	BAL	28	32	7.9	10.7	-0.4	-1.3	-
1984	BAL	29	34	6.8	9.4	-0.5	-1.2	-
1985	BAL	30	33	9.8	12.0	0.2	-0.9	-
1986	BAL	31	23	5.9	7.3	0.1	-0.5	-
	BAL		4 /	0.1	0.3	-0.0	-0.1	-
	MON		19 /	5.8	7.1	0.2	-0.4	-
1987	MON	32	22	9.6	6.7	2.7	1.9	1.2
1988	MON	33	34	13.7	14.7	1.4	0.2	-
1989	MON	34	34	13.7	11.3	2.9	1.8	0.7
1990	MON	35	32	11.7	12.2	1.5	0.4	-
1991	MON	36	32	14.4	12.8	2.7	1.5	0.2
1992	MON	37	32	14.1	12.6	2.8	1.5	0.2
1993	MON	38	36	13.3	12.0	2.3	1.2	0.1
1994	CLE	39	24	10.2	7.9	2.3	1.2	0.2
1995	CLE	40	28	10.7	7.9	2.7	1.7	0.6
1996	CLE	41	20	6.6	5.2	1.5	0.9	0.2
1997	SEA	42	9	2.7	4.3	-0.3	-0.7	-
1998	ATL	43	53	4.5	5.0	0.3	-0.3	-
	<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>		<b>694  </b>	<b>229.8</b>	<b>216.4</b>	<b>34.4</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>4.8</b>
	PostSeason (career)		12	2.0	2.3	0.1	-0.1	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1976	BAL	21	4	1.4	1.0	0.3	0.2	0.1
1977	BAL	22	42	9.1	7.9	1.5	0.6	-
1978	BAL	23	40	15.9	14.6	2.2	0.7	-
1979	BAL	24	40	17.6	14.8	3.0	1.6	0.2
1980	BAL	25	25	5.0	5.7	0.2	-0.4	-
1981	BAL	26	25	10.4	9.2	1.8	0.8	-
1982	BAL	27	40	14.1	16.0	0.8	-0.6	-
1983	BAL	28	32	8.0	10.4	-0.2	-1.1	-
1984	BAL	29	34	7.6	9.4	-0.0	-0.8	-
1985	BAL	30	33	9.6	11.8	0.2	-1.0	-
1986	BAL	31	23	6.0	6.6	0.5	-0.1	-
	BAL		4 /	0.3	0.3	0.0	-0.0	-
	MON		19 /	5.8	6.3	0.5	-0.1	-
1987	MON	32	22	8.5	7.6	1.7	0.9	0.2
1988	MON	33	34	14.4	15.4	1.5	0.2	-
1989	MON	34	34	14.6	14.1	2.2	0.9	-
1990	MON	35	32	13.9	12.3	2.7	1.5	0.4
1991	MON	36	32	13.5	12.1	2.5	1.3	0.2
1992	MON	37	32	14.0	11.6	3.1	1.9	0.7
1993	MON	38	36	14.0	15.2	1.3	-0.0	-
1994	CLE	39	24	11.2	8.5	2.6	1.5	0.3
1995	CLE	40	28	11.7	9.2	2.7	1.5	0.4
1996	CLE	41	20	7.2	6.0	1.5	0.7	-
1997	SEA	42	9	2.7	4.2	-0.3	-0.7	-
1998	ATL	43	53	4.5	4.6	0.5	-0.0	-
	<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>		<b>694  </b>	<b>235.0</b>	<b>228.2</b>	<b>32.2</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>2.3</b>
	PostSeason (career)		12	2.5	2.4	0.3	0.1	

## **#106: Ron Santo**

### **Career Highlights**

Ron Santo was the best National League third baseman of the 1960s and a beloved Chicago icon who sadly died before he was finally elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 2012.

Five highlights of Ron Santo's career:

- In his SABR Biography of Ron Santo, Joseph Wancho tells a story of the Cubs' 1959 rookie camp.  
  
"At the conclusion of the three-week camp, [Cubs hitting instructor and Hall-of-Famer Rogers] Hornsby assembled the prospects in the bleachers. He went down the line critiquing every player.... He got to Santo and said, 'You can hit in the big leagues right now.' He made similar comments to [Billy] Williams, the only other player Hornsby said would make the major leagues.... Of the whole group, only Santo and Williams made it to the major leagues."
- Ron Santo was named to nine All-Star teams in his career. He received MVP votes seven times and won five Gold Gloves.
- Ron Santo led the National League in walks four times, in on-base percentage twice, in games played twice (including 164 games played in 1965), and in triples once (in 1964 with 13). Santo hit 30 or more home runs four times, had 100 or more RBI four times, and scored 90 or more runs four times.
- Ron Santo played the ninth-most games at third base in major-league history (2,130). He is sixth all-time in assists as a third baseman (4,581) and ninth in major-league history among third basemen in double plays (395).
- On May 28, 1966, Ron Santo hit a three-run home run with two out in the bottom of the twelfth inning to beat the Atlanta Braves, 8-5. On May 29, 1966, Ron Santo hit a solo home run leading off the bottom of the tenth to beat the Braves, 3-2. This feat – back-to-back walk-off extra-inning home runs – was not repeated in the National League until 2011 (by Albert Pujols, #18).

### At What Was Ron Santo Elite?

Ron Santo was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 2012, 38 years after he played his last game. Ron Santo probably spent at least 25 of those 38 years being regarded by sabermetricians and sabermetric baseball fans as the best baseball player not in the Hall of Fame.

On the one hand, Ron Santo seems to have been appreciated during his career. He was named to nine All-Star teams, starting four times. But most people did not really appreciate just how good Ron Santo was.

Ron Santo was one of the best players in baseball in the 1960s. But, for reasons mostly outside of his control (i.e., poor choice in teammates), his performance did not translate into as many wins for his teams as those of other players. But if you control for context, as eWins do, Ron Santo was one of the top ten players of the 1960s.

Top 10 Players, 1960 - 1969 (Ranked by eWORLD)					
		eWins	eLosses	eWOPA	eWORLD
1	Hank Aaron	243.3	180.7	21.9	39.1
2	Willie Mays	221.3	165.6	21.9	37.5
3	Frank Robinson	218.5	160.7	19.6	35.0
4	Juan Marichal	163.9	136.6	20.9	34.0
5	Bob Gibson	162.1	136.5	19.8	33.0
6	Harmon Killebrew	187.1	137.5	17.3	30.5
<b>7</b>	<b>Ron Santo</b>	<b>207.4</b>	<b>171.9</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>30.1</b>
8	Mickey Mantle	151.4	106.1	17.6	28.1
9	Don Drysdale	171.4	161.4	12.9	27.4
10	Jim Bunning	164.6	153.0	12.6	26.7

## Ron Santo's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1960	CHN	20	95	10.4	10.3	0.6	-0.2	-
1961	CHN	21	154	17.3	18.7	0.7	-0.9	-
1962	CHN	22	162	17.2	21.7	-0.9	-2.3	-
1963	CHN	23	162	23.0	20.5	2.7	1.0	-
1964	CHN	24	161	22.8	18.6	3.3	1.7	0.0
1965	CHN	25	164	23.6	18.9	3.5	1.8	0.1
1966	CHN	26	155	21.6	18.7	2.6	1.0	-
1967	CHN	27	161	23.4	17.1	4.4	2.7	1.0
1968	CHN	28	162	24.0	18.2	4.4	2.7	1.0
1969	CHN	29	160	23.3	18.2	4.1	2.3	0.5
1970	CHN	30	154	20.7	17.0	2.9	1.3	-
1971	CHN	31	154	19.8	17.4	2.2	0.7	-
1972	CHN	32	133	17.0	14.5	2.4	1.1	-
1973	CHN	33	149	19.8	18.5	1.7	0.1	-
1974	CHA	34	117	10.2	10.9	0.6	-0.3	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,243  </b>	<b>294.0</b>	<b>259.3</b>	<b>35.1</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>2.7</b>
PostSeason (career)			0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1960	CHN	20	95	10.1	10.6	0.3	-0.5	-
1961	CHN	21	154	18.8	17.6	2.0	0.4	-
1962	CHN	22	162	18.5	20.3	0.5	-1.0	-
1963	CHN	23	162	23.7	19.7	3.5	1.8	0.1
1964	CHN	24	161	22.9	16.7	4.3	2.7	1.2
1965	CHN	25	164	23.2	17.6	4.0	2.3	0.7
1966	CHN	26	155	24.0	18.0	4.1	2.5	0.9
1967	CHN	27	161	23.6	16.7	4.7	3.0	1.3
1968	CHN	28	162	20.9	16.8	3.4	1.9	0.3
1969	CHN	29	160	21.6	17.9	3.3	1.6	-
1970	CHN	30	154	18.0	15.9	1.9	0.5	-
1971	CHN	31	154	18.6	16.8	1.8	0.4	-
1972	CHN	32	133	17.3	14.0	2.8	1.5	0.2
1973	CHN	33	149	17.4	16.6	1.3	-0.1	-
1974	CHA	34	117	8.8	10.4	0.2	-0.7	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,243  </b>	<b>287.5</b>	<b>245.6</b>	<b>38.1</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>4.8</b>
PostSeason (career)			0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	

## **#107: Jimmy Wynn**

### **Career Highlights**

Jimmy Wynn was a generally underappreciated center fielder in the 1960s and 1970s with an awesome nickname, “The Toy Cannon”.

Five highlights of Jimmy Wynn’s career:

- Jimmy Wynn was named to three All-Star teams in his career and received MVP votes three times, peaking with a fifth-place MVP finish in 1974, his first year in Los Angeles.
- In 1967, Wynn hit a career-high 37 home runs, which was a Houston Astros record until 1994 (when Jeff Bagwell hit 39). In 1974, Wynn hit 32 home runs for the Los Angeles Dodgers, which was the most by a Dodger since the team moved to Los Angeles (Steve Garvey would hit 33 in 1977).
- Wynn led the National League in home runs on the road in 1967 (22) and 1968 (17).
- Wynn had more than 100 walks in a season six times, leading the league twice. Wynn had more walks than hits in a full season three times, in 1969, 1975, and 1976.
- In 1969, Wynn had 133 hits and 134 unintentional walks. This is the most hits by a player who had more unintentional walks than hits since 1949. In 1976, Wynn had 127 walks (126 unintentional) and only 93 hits. The difference between Wynn’s unintentional walks and hits that season (33) was the most by any player since 1892.

### At What Was Jimmy Wynn Elite?

The 1965 season was Jimmy Wynn's first season as a full-time player. He batted .275/.371/.470 with 22 home runs, 43 stolen bases (with only 4 caught stealing), and 90 runs scored. The 1965 season was Willie Mays's second, and final, MVP season.

In the June 6, 1966 issue of *Sports Illustrated*, the cover story looked at the Houston Astros ("Space Shot by the Ambitious Astros"), who were surprisingly in second place (they would finish the season in eighth place at 72-90). Regarding Jimmy Wynn, the story's author Jack Mann had this to say:

"Men will die waiting for another Willie Mays to come along, and Wynn isn't the one they're waiting for. But he's only 24, and he can do everything nicely. For a few years after Willie packs it in, Wynn may be the not-too-inferior substitute."

Of course, Willie Mays did not "pack[] it in" for seven more years after this was written. But, as measured by eWins over positional average in center field, Jack Mann was right that Jimmy Wynn replaced Willie Mays as the best center fielder in baseball.

#### Top 10 Center Fielders, 1965 - 1975 (Ranked by eWOPA)

		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	eWOPA
1	<b>Jimmy Wynn</b>	<b>159.8</b>	<b>123.8</b>	<b>0.563</b>	<b>13.7</b>
2	Willie Mays	136.9	107.2	0.561	10.9
3	Cesar Cedeno	116.1	94.0	0.553	8.0
4	Bobby Murcer	97.7	81.3	0.546	5.8
5	Rick Monday	146.1	128.4	0.532	4.8
6	Amos Otis	123.1	108.7	0.531	4.6
7	Reggie Smith	105.5	91.1	0.537	4.3
8	Dusty Baker	52.3	44.1	0.542	2.6
9	Fred Lynn	21.3	15.8	0.575	2.6
10	Cesar Tovar	58.5	50.6	0.536	2.3

The man in third place on this list (#135 on my list here), Cesar Cedeno, pushed Jimmy Wynn first to right field (in 1971) and eventually to Los Angeles (in 1974).

## Jimmy Wynn's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1963	HOU	21	70	8.7	9.0	0.3	-0.3	-
1964	HOU	22	67	7.9	8.8	0.0	-0.7	-
1965	HOU	23	157	25.0	20.6	3.3	1.5	-
1966	HOU	24	105	15.9	13.3	1.9	0.8	-
1967	HOU	25	157	23.7	20.0	3.0	1.2	-
1968	HOU	26	156	24.4	19.1	3.5	1.7	-
1969	HOU	27	149	22.0	16.7	3.7	2.1	0.4
1970	HOU	28	157	22.1	17.9	3.0	1.3	-
1971	HOU	29	123	13.6	14.1	0.4	-0.6	-
1972	HOU	30	145	21.4	16.5	3.4	1.9	0.3
1973	HOU	31	139	18.9	16.2	2.3	0.8	-
1974	LAN	32	150	23.5	17.1	4.1	2.6	1.1
1975	LAN	33	129	17.2	14.5	2.2	0.9	-
1976	ATL	34	147	18.5	17.0	1.6	0.2	-
1977		35	66	4.0	6.0	-0.6	-1.1	-
	MIL		36 /	2.4	3.8	-0.5	-0.8	-
	NYA		30 /	1.6	2.2	-0.1	-0.3	-
CAREER (reg. season)			1,917	266.8	226.7	32.3	12.3	1.8
PostSeason (career)			9	0.9	0.7	0.1	0.1	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1963	HOU	21	70	8.3	8.8	0.2	-0.4	-
1964	HOU	22	67	7.5	7.9	0.2	-0.4	-
1965	HOU	23	157	24.5	18.7	4.0	2.3	0.6
1966	HOU	24	105	15.6	13.3	1.7	0.6	-
1967	HOU	25	157	25.0	20.2	3.7	1.8	-
1968	HOU	26	156	25.1	18.8	4.0	2.2	0.5
1969	HOU	27	149	23.6	15.4	5.2	3.5	1.8
1970	HOU	28	157	22.4	17.8	3.2	1.5	-
1971	HOU	29	123	13.4	13.9	0.4	-0.7	-
1972	HOU	30	145	23.5	17.8	3.8	2.2	0.5
1973	HOU	31	139	17.8	16.2	1.8	0.3	-
1974	LAN	32	150	22.4	16.7	3.8	2.3	0.8
1975	LAN	33	129	16.6	13.1	2.6	1.4	0.3
1976	ATL	34	147	18.6	15.5	2.3	1.0	-
1977		35	66	4.3	5.4	-0.2	-0.7	-
	MIL		36 /	2.6	3.3	-0.2	-0.4	-
	NYA		30 /	1.7	2.1	-0.0	-0.2	-
CAREER (reg. season)			1,917	268.5	219.4	36.7	16.9	4.4
PostSeason (career)			9	1.2	0.9	0.2	0.1	

## **#108: Amos Otis**

### **Career Highlights**

Amos Otis was the smooth center fielder for the Kansas City Royals of the 1970s and early 1980s that won four AL West division titles and one AL pennant.

Five highlights of Amos Otis's career:

- Amos Otis was named to five All-Star teams, starting for the American League in center field in 1973. He won three Gold Gloves and received MVP votes five times, finishing third in MVP voting in 1973 and fourth in 1978.
- Amos Otis led his league in doubles twice, in 1970 and 1976. He led the American League in doubles for the decade of the 1970s with 286.
- Otis led the American League in stolen bases in 1971 with 52 (with only 8 caught stealing). On April 30 and May 1, 1975, Otis tied an American League record with 7 stolen bases over two consecutive games.
- Otis played in one World Series in his career, in 1980, the Royals' first World Series appearance. In the six games, Otis batted .478/.538/.957 with 3 home runs and 7 RBI.
- Amos Otis is third in Kansas City Royals history (through 2017) in home runs with 193. He is second in Royals history in stolen bases with 340. He is first in Royals history in "Power-Speed #", a Bill James creation designed to reward players who combine excellent power and excellent speed. Power-Speed # is the harmonic mean of home runs and stolen bases:  $2 \cdot (\text{HR} \cdot \text{SB}) / (\text{HR} + \text{SB})$ .



### At What Was Amos Otis Elite?

Amos Otis was one of the most well-balanced players in major-league history (see #98 Carlos Beltran), an excellent hitter, baserunner, and fielder. But as measured by Player won-lost records, where Otis really stands out is fielding.

The top 10 players in net (context-neutral) fielding wins in center field since 1947 are shown in the next table.

**Top 10 Fielding Center Fielders, since 1947**  
**(Ranked by Net Fielding eWins)**

		<b>eWins</b>	<b>eLosses</b>	<b>eWinPct</b>	<b>Net eWins</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Amos Otis</b>	<b>72.4</b>	<b>64.5</b>	<b>0.529</b>	<b>7.9</b>
2	Andruw Jones	69.4	61.7	0.530	7.8
3	Willie Davis	84.4	76.7	0.524	7.8
4	Curt Flood	64.2	56.8	0.531	7.4
5	Duke Snider	52.4	45.4	0.536	7.0
6	Paul Blair	58.3	52.1	0.528	6.2
7	Jim Edmonds	64.6	59.2	0.522	5.4
8	Mickey Mantle	63.5	58.3	0.521	5.2
9	Jim Piersall	46.3	41.1	0.530	5.2
10	Carlos Beltran	62.4	57.8	0.519	4.6

I showed a similar table in my first book (the data here have been updated since then) and wrote somewhat about Otis at that time.

## Amos Otis's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1967	NYN	20	17	1.1	2.0	-0.4	-0.5	-
1969	NYN	22	45	2.2	2.6	-0.1	-0.3	-
1970	KCA	23	159	19.2	18.7	1.3	-0.4	-
1971	KCA	24	147	23.1	18.6	3.3	1.7	0.1
1972	KCA	25	143	18.9	18.4	1.2	-0.3	-
1973	KCA	26	148	21.5	17.2	3.5	1.9	0.2
1974	KCA	27	146	17.7	16.9	1.4	0.1	-
1975	KCA	28	132	16.7	14.0	2.4	1.2	0.0
1976	KCA	29	152	20.2	16.7	2.9	1.5	0.2
1977	KCA	30	142	17.7	12.8	3.6	2.3	1.1
1978	KCA	31	141	23.3	15.2	5.4	3.9	2.4
1979	KCA	32	151	20.5	16.2	3.4	2.0	0.6
1980	KCA	33	107	13.6	10.8	2.3	1.3	0.4
1981	KCA	34	99	13.3	12.1	1.4	0.4	-
1982	KCA	35	125	19.0	15.0	3.2	2.0	0.7
1983	KCA	36	98	11.5	11.6	0.8	-0.1	-
1984	PIT	37	39	2.9	3.9	-0.4	-0.6	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>1,991  </b>	<b>262.4</b>	<b>222.7</b>	<b>35.5</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>5.6</b>
PostSeason (career)			22	2.8	2.5	0.3	0.1	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1967	NYN	20	17	1.4	1.7	-0.1	-0.2	-
1969	NYN	22	45	2.2	2.9	-0.2	-0.4	-
1970	KCA	23	159	21.3	18.3	2.5	0.9	-
1971	KCA	24	147	21.3	17.5	2.9	1.4	-
1972	KCA	25	143	20.8	19.2	1.9	0.3	-
1973	KCA	26	148	21.1	18.2	2.8	1.1	-
1974	KCA	27	146	20.1	17.9	2.2	0.8	-
1975	KCA	28	132	17.7	15.7	2.1	0.8	-
1976	KCA	29	152	19.2	16.1	2.7	1.3	0.0
1977	KCA	30	142	17.0	14.4	2.4	1.2	-
1978	KCA	31	141	19.7	14.8	3.6	2.3	1.0
1979	KCA	32	151	20.5	16.9	3.1	1.6	0.2
1980	KCA	33	107	12.5	12.1	1.1	0.1	-
1981	KCA	34	99	13.3	11.8	1.6	0.6	-
1982	KCA	35	125	15.3	14.6	1.4	0.3	-
1983	KCA	36	98	10.4	11.0	0.4	-0.4	-
1984	PIT	37	39	2.7	3.7	-0.4	-0.6	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>1,991  </b>	<b>256.2</b>	<b>226.9</b>	<b>30.2</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>1.2</b>
PostSeason (career)			22	3.0	2.5	0.5	0.3	

## **#109: Darrell Porter**

### **Career Highlights**

Darrell Porter was the starting catcher for five Missouri-based MLB playoff teams in the 1970s and 1980s.

Five highlights of Darrell Porter's career:

- Darrell Porter was the first draft pick in the history of the Milwaukee Brewers. He was taken with the fourth pick in the first round of the 1970 draft.
- Darrell Porter was the youngest player in major-league baseball when he made his major-league debut on September 2, 1971 at the age of 19.
- Darrell Porter was named to four All-Star teams in his career. He was the starting catcher for the American League in 1979. Porter received MVP votes twice, finishing tenth in 1978 and ninth in 1979.
- In 1979, Darrell Porter had 121 walks, 101 runs scored, and 112 RBI. The only other catcher in major-league history with at least 100 walks, 100 runs scored, and 100 RBI in a season was Mickey Cochrane in 1932. Porter is one of only nine catchers with at least 100 runs scored and 100 RBI in the same season.
- Darrell Porter was voted MVP of both rounds of the 1982 playoffs as he led the St. Louis Cardinals to an NLCS win over the Atlanta Braves and World Series win over the Milwaukee Brewers. For the 1982 postseason, Porter batted .351/.442/.568 in 43 plate appearances.

### **At What Was Darrell Porter Elite?**

By some measures, including, obviously, the measure I used to construct this list, Darrell Porter ranks as one of the best catchers in baseball history (see, for example, #15 Johnny Bench).

Darrell Porter was a solid, above-average catcher for most of the final 15 seasons of his career. But one particular season stands out in Darrell Porter's career record, as measured by either Player won-lost records or traditional statistics.

In 1979, Darrell Porter batted .291/.421/.484 with 10 triples, 20 home runs, 121 walks, 8 hit-by-pitches, 13 sacrifice flies, 155 hits, 258 total bases, 101 runs scored, and 121 RBI. Each of those numbers represented a career high (with the arguable exception of his .484 slugging percentage; Porter slugged .535 in 1986 in 178 plate appearances) and the 121 walks and 13 sacrifice flies led the league, the only two offensive statistics in which Darrell Porter ever led the league.

To contrast just how much better his 1979 season was than the rest of his career, here are Darrell Porter's second-highest totals in those statistics. Note that the numbers quoted in this paragraph were all single-season numbers but earned across multiple different seasons. Outside of 1979, Darrell Porter's career highs were .275/.371/.457 (the .371 and .457 were in different seasons; his second-best OPS was .820 in 416 plate appearances in 1973), 6 triples, 18 home runs, 89 walks, 5 HBP, 7 SF, 138 hits, 231 total bases, 77 runs scored, and 78 RBI.

Per Player won-lost records, Darrell Porter led baseball in 1979 in eWins over positional average and eWins over star.

<b>Top 10 Players, 1979</b>					
<b>(Ranked by eWOPA)</b>					
		<b>eWins</b>	<b>eLosses</b>	<b>eWOPA</b>	<b>eWORL</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Darrell Porter</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>4.1</b>
2	Fred Lynn	20.6	14.7	2.8	4.2
3	George Foster	19.0	12.7	2.6	3.9
4	Dave Concepcion	21.8	18.1	2.6	4.1
5	Mike Schmidt	23.3	17.4	2.5	4.1
6	Tommy John	15.8	11.4	2.4	3.6
7	J.R. Richard	18.1	15.0	2.4	3.7
8	Bobby Grich	19.9	16.0	2.4	3.8
9	Gorman Thomas	21.2	16.1	2.4	3.8
10	Dave Winfield	26.0	19.5	2.2	4.0

<b>Top 10 Players, 1979</b>				
<b>(Ranked by eWins over Star)</b>				
		<b>eWins</b>	<b>eLosses</b>	<b>eWO*</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Darrell Porter</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>1.6</b>
2	Fred Lynn	20.6	14.7	1.4
3	George Foster	19.0	12.7	1.4
4	Tommy John	15.8	11.4	1.2
5	J.R. Richard	18.1	15.0	1.1
6	Bobby Grich	19.9	16.0	1.0
7	Dave Concepcion	21.8	18.1	1.0
8	Mike Schmidt	23.3	17.4	1.0
9	Gorman Thomas	21.2	16.1	0.9
10	Oscar Gamble	10.8	7.2	0.8

One interesting thing about the 1979 season is that not only was it by far Darrell Porter's finest offensive season but that it was also by far his finest defensive season. This is somewhat evident in the traditional defensive statistics: he had career highs in runners caught stealing (57, second in the American League), CS percentage (47%, third in the AL), and double plays (15, which led the AL), but is even more evident in Player won-lost records.

For his career, Player won-lost records see Darrell Porter as essentially an average defensive catcher, with a won-lost record of 22.7 – 22.3, a .504 winning percentage. In 1979, though, Darrell Porter had one of the 10 best fielding seasons by a catcher since 1947.

**Top 10 Fielding Seasons, Catcher, 1947 - 2017**  
**(Ranked by Net Fielding eWins)**

			<b>eWins</b>	<b>eLosses</b>	<b>eWinPct</b>	<b>Net eWins</b>
1	Gary Carter	1983	3.1	1.8	0.623	1.2
2	Tony Pena	1984	3.2	2.1	0.599	1.1
3	Gary Carter	1980	2.8	1.8	0.606	1.0
4	Ivan Rodriguez	1996	2.1	1.2	0.639	0.9
5	Gary Carter	1979	2.6	1.8	0.595	0.8
6	Jerry Grote	1969	1.8	1.0	0.651	0.8
7	Jim Sundberg	1976	2.8	1.9	0.587	0.8
8	Lance Parrish	1990	2.4	1.6	0.601	0.8
9	Rick Dempsey	1976	1.6	0.8	0.665	0.8
<b>10</b>	<b>Darrell Porter</b>	<b>1979</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>0.607</b>	<b>0.8</b>

Most of the players on that list were excellent defensive catchers through most of their careers. And then there's Darrell Porter. In fact, if you subtract his 1979 season from the career numbers that I quoted above, outside of 1979, Darrell Porter was actually a slightly below-average defensive catcher over the rest of his career.

But the 1979 season actually happened. And Darrell Porter was excellent in it.

## Darrell Porter's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1971	MIL	19	22	1.7	1.7	0.1	-0.0	-
1972	MIL	20	18	0.8	1.7	-0.3	-0.4	-
1973	MIL	21	117	11.4	8.9	2.4	1.4	0.5
1974	MIL	22	130	12.5	11.3	1.9	0.9	0.0
1975	MIL	23	129	12.3	10.7	1.9	1.0	0.1
1976	MIL	24	119	9.7	10.9	0.5	-0.3	-
1977	KCA	25	130	11.2	10.1	1.4	0.6	-
1978	KCA	26	150	15.1	13.2	2.4	1.3	0.2
1979	KCA	27	157	19.0	12.5	4.8	3.5	2.3
1980	KCA	28	118	10.5	9.4	1.6	0.7	-
1981	SLN	29	61	6.1	4.5	1.3	0.8	0.4
1982	SLN	30	120	11.0	9.2	1.7	1.0	0.2
1983	SLN	31	144	13.4	11.7	1.9	1.0	0.0
1984	SLN	32	127	13.1	11.6	1.9	1.0	0.0
1985	SLN	33	83	7.5	6.0	1.3	0.8	0.3
1986	TEX	34	64	4.2	3.4	0.8	0.4	0.1
1987	TEX	35	80	3.4	2.4	0.8	0.5	0.1
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>1,769  </b>	<b>163.0</b>	<b>139.2</b>	<b>26.5</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>4.3</b>
PostSeason (career)			37	3.2	3.0	0.4	0.1	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1971	MIL	19	22	1.8	1.7	0.2	0.0	-
1972	MIL	20	18	1.0	1.6	-0.2	-0.3	-
1973	MIL	21	117	10.9	9.1	2.0	1.1	0.2
1974	MIL	22	130	12.6	11.1	2.0	1.0	0.1
1975	MIL	23	129	13.5	11.2	2.4	1.4	0.4
1976	MIL	24	119	9.3	10.6	0.4	-0.4	-
1977	KCA	25	130	11.7	10.9	1.4	0.4	-
1978	KCA	26	150	14.4	12.7	2.2	1.2	0.1
1979	KCA	27	157	18.1	12.9	4.1	2.8	1.6
1980	KCA	28	118	10.3	10.0	1.2	0.3	-
1981	SLN	29	61	5.2	5.0	0.5	0.1	-
1982	SLN	30	120	11.2	10.4	1.3	0.4	-
1983	SLN	31	144	12.6	10.9	1.8	0.9	0.1
1984	SLN	32	127	12.1	11.8	1.3	0.3	-
1985	SLN	33	83	6.6	6.4	0.7	0.2	-
1986	TEX	34	64	4.8	3.6	1.0	0.6	0.2
1987	TEX	35	80	3.4	3.0	0.6	0.2	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>1,769  </b>	<b>159.3</b>	<b>143.1</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>2.7</b>
PostSeason (career)			37	3.4	2.9	0.5	0.3	

## **#110: Andruw Jones**

### **Career Highlights**

Andruw Jones was one of the best defensive center fielders in major-league history and a key contributor to the Atlanta Braves' incredible run of division titles in the 1990s and early 2000s.

Five highlights of Andruw Jones's career:

- Andruw Jones made his major-league debut on August 15, 1996, at the age of 19. Andruw Jones was the youngest player in Major League Baseball in each of his first two seasons, 1996 and 1997.
- Andruw Jones was named to five All-Star teams, received MVP votes five times, won one Silver Slugger (in 2005), and ten (consecutive) Gold Gloves.
- Andruw Jones's highest finish in MVP voting was in 2005, when he finished second to Albert Pujols (#18). In 2005, Jones led the National League with 51 home runs and 128 RBI (both career highs), winning his only Silver Slugger in addition to his eighth Gold Glove.
- Andruw Jones made his first World Series appearance in 1996 at the age of 19. He batted .400/.500/.750 with 2 home runs and 6 RBI. Jones was the youngest player to hit a home run in World Series history.
- Jones went to Japan for the 2013 season, where he helped the Tohoku Rakuten Golden Eagles win their first Japan Series title.

### At What Was Andruw Jones Elite?

Andruw Jones was a brilliant defensive center fielder. In fact, some have argued that he was the best defensive center fielder ever. In my discussion of Amos Otis (#108), I showed the top 10 center fielders since 1947 ranked by net fielding eWins over their careers. Otis ranks first, although he beats Andruw Jones (who is #2) by a mere 0.1 net eWin.

The next table moves to the season level: the top 10 seasons ranked by net center field fielding eWins.

<b>Top 10 Fielding Seasons, since 1947</b> <b>(Ranked by Net Fielding eWins, Center Field)</b>						
			<b>eWins</b>	<b>eLosses</b>	<b>eWinPct</b>	<b>Net eWins</b>
1	Willie Davis	1964	6.7	4.6	0.594	2.1
2	B.J. Upton	2008	7.6	5.5	0.579	2.1
3	Franklin Gutierrez	2009	6.5	4.6	0.587	1.9
<b>4</b>	<b>Andruw Jones</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>0.574</b>	<b>1.8</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Andruw Jones</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>0.561</b>	<b>1.8</b>
6	Willie Davis	1963	6.4	4.6	0.580	1.8
7	Darrin Jackson	1992	6.4	4.7	0.577	1.7
<b>8</b>	<b>Andruw Jones</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>0.558</b>	<b>1.7</b>
9	Mickey Rivers	1971	3.8	2.2	0.636	1.6
10	Willie Davis	1962	6.6	5.0	0.570	1.6

As measured by Player won-lost records, Andruw Jones had 3 of the top 10 fielding seasons by a center fielder over the past seventy years. Clearly, Jones has a case as the best defensive center fielder at least since 1947 (although Willie Davis has a similar case).



## Andruw Jones's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1996	ATL	19	31	3.3	3.1	0.2	-0.0	-
1997	ATL	20	153	16.6	13.2	2.5	1.3	0.1
1998	ATL	21	159	21.7	17.0	3.5	2.0	0.5
1999	ATL	22	162	24.6	19.3	4.0	2.3	0.5
2000	ATL	23	161	24.0	18.4	4.1	2.4	0.7
2001	ATL	24	161	23.1	19.7	3.2	1.4	-
2002	ATL	25	154	21.8	18.2	3.1	1.5	-
2003	ATL	26	156	22.7	18.7	3.4	1.8	0.2
2004	ATL	27	154	21.6	18.1	3.0	1.5	-
2005	ATL	28	160	24.7	18.3	4.4	2.9	1.3
2006	ATL	29	156	22.5	18.1	3.4	1.9	0.5
2007	ATL	30	154	19.2	19.2	1.1	-0.2	-
2008	LAN	31	75	4.8	7.4	-0.9	-1.4	-
2009	TEX	32	82	7.1	6.7	0.8	0.1	-
2010	CHA	33	107	9.8	9.5	0.8	0.0	-
2011	NYA	34	76	5.9	4.0	1.3	0.9	0.5
2012	NYA	35	94	5.9	6.5	0.1	-0.4	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,195  </b>	<b>279.3</b>	<b>235.5</b>	<b>38.1</b>	<b>17.9</b>	<b>4.3</b>
PostSeason (career)			76	8.3	7.9	0.7	0.1	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1996	ATL	19	31	3.2	3.2	0.2	-0.1	-
1997	ATL	20	153	15.3	13.6	1.6	0.5	-
1998	ATL	21	159	20.8	16.5	3.3	1.8	0.4
1999	ATL	22	162	22.8	19.1	3.1	1.5	-
2000	ATL	23	161	22.7	17.7	3.8	2.2	0.5
2001	ATL	24	161	22.8	19.6	3.1	1.3	-
2002	ATL	25	154	21.1	17.0	3.3	1.7	0.2
2003	ATL	26	156	20.0	17.7	2.4	0.9	-
2004	ATL	27	154	20.1	18.1	2.2	0.7	-
2005	ATL	28	160	22.0	18.1	3.1	1.7	0.2
2006	ATL	29	156	20.6	16.4	3.2	1.9	0.5
2007	ATL	30	154	17.3	17.5	0.9	-0.4	-
2008	LAN	31	75	5.5	7.2	-0.4	-0.9	-
2009	TEX	32	82	6.8	6.8	0.6	-0.1	-
2010	CHA	33	107	9.9	8.7	1.2	0.5	-
2011	NYA	34	76	6.1	5.0	1.0	0.5	0.0
2012	NYA	35	94	7.1	7.0	0.6	-0.0	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,195  </b>	<b>264.2</b>	<b>229.3</b>	<b>33.1</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>1.9</b>
PostSeason (career)			76	9.0	7.5	1.3	0.6	

## **#111: George Foster**

### **Career Highlights**

George Foster was the starting left fielder for the two-time World Series winning Big Red Machine.

Five highlights of George Foster's career:

- George Foster was named to five All-Star teams and received MVP votes in the same five seasons. He finished first, second, and third in MVP voting in 1977, 1976, and 1981, respectively.
- Foster led the National League in home runs twice, in 1977 and 1978, in RBI three times (1976 – 1978), and in runs scored, slugging percentage, OPS, and total bases once apiece, all in his 1977 MVP season.
- In 1977, George Foster hit 52 home runs. This was the only 50-homer season in MLB between 1965 (#20, Willie Mays) and 1990 (Cecil Fielder). It was the most home runs hit in a season by any player between 1965 and 1996 (#46, Mark McGwire).
- George Foster was named NL player of the month twice each in 1976 (May, July), 1977 (June, August), and 1979 (April, June). He was also named MVP of the 1976 All-Star game, in which he was the starting center fielder for the National League and hit a two-run home run in the third inning off Catfish Hunter (#96).
- George Foster's first postseason appearance was as a pinch runner in the bottom of the ninth inning of Game 5 of the 1972 NLCS. Foster scored the series-winning run on a two-out wild pitch.

### **At What Was George Foster Elite?**

George Foster was named to five All-Star teams and received MVP votes five times. These were the same five seasons, four of which were consecutive from 1976 through 1979. Over these four years, Foster finished second, first, sixth, and twelfth in MVP voting, respectively.

George Foster was perceived by MVP and All-Star voters as one of the best players in baseball over this time period. And Player won-lost records agree.

Adding 1975 to make a nice round half-decade, the next four tables show the top 10 players of the second half of the 1970s as rated by pWins over positional average (pWOPA), pWins over replacement level (pWORL), eWins over positional average (eWOPA), and eWins over replacement level (eWORL), respectively.

George Foster ranks in the top five in all four tables.

**Top 10 Players, 1975 - 1979  
(Ranked by pWOPA)**

		pWins	pLosses	pWOPA	pWORL
1	Joe Morgan	102.2	71.8	16.3	23.1
2	Jim Palmer	84.3	57.9	14.0	20.7
3	Mike Schmidt	110.6	81.5	12.8	20.3
4	Tom Seaver	84.0	66.1	12.3	18.6
<b>5</b>	<b>George Foster</b>	<b>110.1</b>	<b>81.7</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>18.5</b>
6	Amos Otis	98.4	74.9	11.0	17.8
7	Reggie Jackson	106.9	81.2	10.4	18.0
8	George Brett	102.3	81.4	10.1	17.3
9	Steve Carlton	86.5	74.4	9.9	16.5
10	Ron Guidry	48.7	30.0	9.8	13.5

**Top 10 Players, 1975 - 1979  
(Ranked by pWORL)**

		pWins	pLosses	pWOPA	pWORL
1	Joe Morgan	102.2	71.8	16.3	23.1
2	Jim Palmer	84.3	57.9	14.0	20.7
3	Mike Schmidt	110.6	81.5	12.8	20.3
4	Tom Seaver	84.0	66.1	12.3	18.6
<b>5</b>	<b>George Foster</b>	<b>110.1</b>	<b>81.7</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>18.5</b>
6	Reggie Jackson	106.9	81.2	10.4	18.0
7	Amos Otis	98.4	74.9	11.0	17.8
8	Dave Parker	118.8	90.8	9.6	17.8
9	George Brett	102.3	81.4	10.1	17.3
10	Dave Concepcion	98.7	86.7	9.5	16.7

**Top 10 Players, 1975 - 1979**  
**(Ranked by eWOPA)**

		<b>eWins</b>	<b>eLosses</b>	<b>eWOPA</b>	<b>eWORL</b>
1	Joe Morgan	97.6	72.9	13.5	20.1
2	Mike Schmidt	108.7	80.2	12.6	19.9
3	Jim Palmer	84.5	62.8	11.7	18.7
<b>4</b>	<b>George Foster</b>	<b>106.6</b>	<b>80.3</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>17.3</b>
5	Tom Seaver	80.2	66.8	9.9	16.1
6	Toby Harrah	98.4	83.0	9.7	16.8
7	Gaylord Perry	78.5	65.1	8.4	14.9
8	Dave Parker	115.4	90.0	8.4	16.4
9	Davey Lopes	95.8	81.1	8.3	15.2
10	Bobby Grich	82.8	70.7	8.2	14.1

**Top 10 Players, 1975 - 1979**  
**(Ranked by eWORL)**

		<b>eWins</b>	<b>eLosses</b>	<b>eWOPA</b>	<b>eWORL</b>
1	Joe Morgan	97.6	72.9	13.5	20.1
2	Mike Schmidt	108.7	80.2	12.6	19.9
3	Jim Palmer	84.5	62.8	11.7	18.7
<b>4</b>	<b>George Foster</b>	<b>106.6</b>	<b>80.3</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>17.3</b>
5	Toby Harrah	98.4	83.0	9.7	16.8
6	Dave Parker	115.4	90.0	8.4	16.4
7	Tom Seaver	80.2	66.8	9.9	16.1
8	Dave Winfield	115.0	91.7	7.7	15.7
9	Davey Lopes	95.8	81.1	8.3	15.2
10	Gaylord Perry	78.5	65.1	8.4	14.9

## George Foster's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1969	SFN	20	9	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	-
1970	SFN	21	9	0.7	0.7	0.0	-0.0	-
1971		22	139	15.5	16.1	0.5	-0.7	-
	CIN		103 /	12.4	12.5	0.6	-0.4	-
	SFN		36 /	3.2	3.6	-0.0	-0.3	-
1972	CIN	23	53	3.6	3.3	0.3	0.0	-
1973	CIN	24	16	1.3	1.1	0.1	0.0	-
1974	CIN	25	103	8.7	8.0	0.8	0.2	-
1975	CIN	26	133	17.0	12.7	2.9	1.7	0.6
1976	CIN	27	144	21.6	16.3	3.4	2.0	0.6
1977	CIN	28	158	27.0	19.5	4.9	3.0	1.1
1978	CIN	29	158	24.9	18.7	4.0	2.4	0.7
1979	CIN	30	121	19.5	14.4	3.3	2.0	0.7
1980	CIN	31	144	22.3	17.5	3.1	1.6	0.1
1981	CIN	32	108	17.4	12.8	2.9	1.7	0.5
1982	NYN	33	151	17.1	19.2	-0.3	-1.6	-
1983	NYN	34	157	22.1	22.0	0.9	-0.7	-
1984	NYN	35	146	19.4	17.7	1.5	0.1	-
1985	NYN	36	129	16.3	13.9	1.9	0.7	-
1986		37	87	9.2	8.9	0.5	-0.2	-
	CHA		15 /	1.2	1.9	-0.3	-0.4	-
	NYN		72 /	8.0	7.0	0.8	0.2	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>1,965  </b>	<b>263.9</b>	<b>223.1</b>	<b>30.8</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>4.2</b>
PostSeason (career)			23	3.3	2.1	0.7	0.5	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1969	SFN	20	9	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
1970	SFN	21	9	0.8	0.7	0.1	0.0	-
1971		22	139	16.1	15.1	1.3	0.0	-
	CIN		103 /	12.8	11.9	1.1	0.1	-
	SFN		36 /	3.3	3.3	0.2	-0.1	-
1972	CIN	23	53	3.9	4.4	-0.0	-0.4	-
1973	CIN	24	16	1.6	1.1	0.3	0.2	0.1
1974	CIN	25	103	9.2	8.3	0.9	0.2	-
1975	CIN	26	133	17.4	13.9	2.6	1.3	0.1
1976	CIN	27	144	22.0	17.0	3.3	1.9	0.4
1977	CIN	28	158	24.3	17.5	4.4	2.7	1.0
1978	CIN	29	158	23.9	19.3	3.2	1.5	-
1979	CIN	30	121	19.0	12.7	3.9	2.6	1.4
1980	CIN	31	144	19.0	15.4	2.3	1.0	-
1981	CIN	32	108	15.5	12.9	1.8	0.7	-
1982	NYN	33	151	18.5	17.4	1.4	-0.0	-
1983	NYN	34	157	21.0	21.3	0.7	-0.9	-
1984	NYN	35	146	17.8	16.6	1.2	-0.2	-
1985	NYN	36	129	15.8	13.7	1.7	0.6	-
1986		37	87	8.8	8.9	0.3	-0.3	-
	CHA		15 /	1.4	1.7	-0.1	-0.2	-
	NYN		72 /	7.4	7.1	0.4	-0.1	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>1,965  </b>	<b>254.7</b>	<b>216.3</b>	<b>29.3</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>3.0</b>
PostSeason (career)			23	3.0	2.5	0.4	0.2	

## **#112: Fred Lynn**

### **Career Highlights**

Fred Lynn was the first player in major-league history to win the Rookie-of-the-Year and MVP awards in the same season.

Five highlights of Fred Lynn's career:

- Fred Lynn was named to nine All-Star teams in his career. He received MVP votes four times and won four Gold Gloves.
- Fred Lynn was named American League Rookie of the Year and MVP in 1975. That season, he batted .331/.401/.566 with 21 home runs and 105 RBI. Lynn led the league in slugging percentage, OPS (on-base plus slugging, .967) doubles (47), and runs scored (103).
- Fred Lynn's best major-league season was 1979. In 1979, Lynn batted .333/.423/.637, leading the league in all three components of the slash line (batting average / on-base percentage / slugging percentage). Lynn had 42 doubles, 39 home runs, 122 RBI, and 116 runs scored.
- Fred Lynn made the postseason twice, in 1975 and 1982. His combined batting line in his 61 postseason plate appearances was .407/.450/.593. In 1982, he batted .611/.650/.889 with 5 RBI and 4 runs scored. His performance was so impressive that he was named the 1982 ALCS MVP even though his California Angels lost the series to the Milwaukee Brewers, 3-2.
- In 1983, Fred Lynn hit the first grand slam in All-Star game history, in the third inning, off Atlee Hammaker, winning Lynn the All-Star Game MVP as the AL won the game for the first time in twelve years, 13-3.

### At What Was Fred Lynn Elite?

Fred Lynn was very highly regarded as a defensive center fielder in his prime, winning four Gold Gloves between 1975 and 1980. Player won-lost records are somewhat less enamored of Fred Lynn's defense, viewing him as an essentially average defensive center fielder in his twenties and somewhat below average in his thirties.

Yet, as is evident by his appearance in my list, Player won-lost records think quite highly of Fred Lynn's overall player value.

It turns out that Fred Lynn's value was primarily in his offense. Perhaps stated more precisely, Fred Lynn was an especially valuable offensive player *for a center fielder*.

The next table, then, shows the top 10 players in eWins over positional average earned as a center fielder since 1947, excluding fielding: i.e., only batting and baserunning.

Top 10 Offensive Center Fielders, since 1947 (Ranked by non-Fielding eWOPA)					
		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	eWOPA
1	Willie Mays	312.1	213.9	0.593	37.1
2	Mickey Mantle	204.9	122.1	0.627	33.7
3	Ken Griffey Jr.	215.6	168.6	0.561	21.9
4	Duke Snider	171.9	126.6	0.576	16.1
5	Mike Trout	91.8	59.7	0.606	15.3
6	Jim Edmonds	162.0	129.4	0.556	14.5
7	Jimmy Wynn	126.9	90.5	0.584	13.6
8	Larry Doby	136.5	100.8	0.575	12.7
<b>9</b>	<b>Fred Lynn</b>	<b>150.2</b>	<b>121.5</b>	<b>0.553</b>	<b>12.7</b>
10	Andrew McCutchen	136.9	106.0	0.564	12.0

## Fred Lynn's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1974	BOS	22	15	1.9	1.5	0.3	0.2	0.0
1975	BOS	23	145	22.2	16.4	4.3	2.7	1.2
1976	BOS	24	132	17.0	16.1	1.6	0.3	-
1977	BOS	25	129	15.1	15.0	1.2	-0.0	-
1978	BOS	26	150	20.1	16.3	3.2	1.8	0.4
1979	BOS	27	147	22.1	14.6	5.0	3.6	2.2
1980	BOS	28	110	14.9	12.4	2.2	1.2	0.1
1981	CAL	29	76	8.4	10.0	-0.2	-0.9	-
1982	CAL	30	137	18.6	14.9	3.1	1.8	0.6
1983	CAL	31	117	14.8	14.9	0.9	-0.2	-
1984	CAL	32	142	17.9	16.2	1.8	0.5	-
1985	BAL	33	124	14.5	13.9	1.2	0.1	-
1986	BAL	34	112	15.6	12.5	2.5	1.5	0.4
1987	BAL	35	111	11.9	12.7	0.4	-0.6	-
1988		36	114	12.7	14.2	0.1	-0.9	-
	BAL		87 /	9.4	11.0	-0.1	-0.9	-
	DET		27 /	3.3	3.2	0.3	-0.0	-
1989	DET	37	117	10.7	12.1	0.1	-0.8	-
1990	SDN	38	89	5.6	6.8	-0.2	-0.7	-
CAREER (reg. season)			1,967	244.0	220.3	27.5	9.5	5.0
PostSeason (career)			15	2.1	2.1	0.1	-0.0	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1974	BOS	22	15	1.9	1.3	0.4	0.3	0.2
1975	BOS	23	145	20.6	15.2	3.9	2.5	1.1
1976	BOS	24	132	19.4	15.7	3.0	1.7	0.4
1977	BOS	25	129	15.4	15.5	1.1	-0.2	-
1978	BOS	26	150	20.5	18.7	2.3	0.8	-
1979	BOS	27	147	20.6	14.7	4.2	2.8	1.4
1980	BOS	28	110	15.0	12.5	2.2	1.2	0.1
1981	CAL	29	76	8.0	8.6	0.3	-0.4	-
1982	CAL	30	137	17.8	14.5	2.9	1.6	0.4
1983	CAL	31	117	15.0	14.2	1.4	0.3	-
1984	CAL	32	142	19.3	15.6	2.8	1.4	0.1
1985	BAL	33	124	14.0	13.0	1.3	0.3	-
1986	BAL	34	112	13.9	12.0	1.8	0.9	-
1987	BAL	35	111	12.2	12.2	0.8	-0.2	-
1988		36	114	13.2	12.1	1.4	0.4	-
	BAL		87 /	10.2	9.5	1.0	0.2	-
	DET		27 /	3.0	2.5	0.4	0.2	-
1989	DET	37	117	10.3	10.3	0.7	-0.2	-
1990	SDN	38	89	6.0	6.3	0.2	-0.3	-
CAREER (reg. season)			1,967	243.1	212.4	30.7	13.1	3.7
PostSeason (career)			15	2.3	1.9	0.4	0.2	



## **#113: Fernando Valenzuela**

### **Career Highlights**

Fernando Valenzuela was such a sensation his rookie season in Los Angeles that a new word, Fernando-mania, was coined to describe it.

Five highlights of Fernando Valenzuela's career:

- Fernando Valenzuela made his major-league debut on September 15, 1980, at the age of 19. That season, the Dodgers entered the final weekend of the season trailing the Houston Astros by three games with three games left to play against the Astros in Los Angeles. On Friday, October 3, 1980, Valenzuela came into the game in the top of the ninth inning with the Astros leading 2 – 1. He pitched two shutout innings with three strikeouts and the Dodgers scored single runs in the bottom of the ninth and tenth innings to give Valenzuela his second major-league win. On Sunday, October 5th, he entered the game in the top of the sixth inning with the Astros leading 3-1. Valenzuela pitched another two shutout innings (one K) and the Dodgers came back in the seventh and eighth innings to win the game and force a Game 163 the next day. On Monday, October 6th, Valenzuela pitched two shutout innings for the third time in four days, but the Astros finally beat the Dodgers, 7 – 1, to win their first division title.
- In 1981, Valenzuela became the first (and, so far, only) pitcher to win the Rookie of the Year and Cy Young awards in the same season. Valenzuela also started the All-Star game, won a Silver Slugger award, and finished fifth in MVP voting that season.
- Valenzuela led the National League in games started, shutouts, strikeouts, and innings pitched once apiece (all in 1981). He led the league once in wins, in 1986 (with 21 wins). He led the league in complete games three times (in 1981, 1986, and 1987).
- Valenzuela pitched in the postseason in four seasons. For his career, he appeared in 9 games (8 starts), and amassed a traditional won-lost record of 5-1 with a 1.98 ERA in 63.2 innings pitched.
- Fernando Valenzuela has the most career wins (173), innings pitched (2,930), and strikeouts (2,074) of any pitcher born in Mexico.

### **At What Was Fernando Valenzuela Elite?**

Fernando Valenzuela was one of the best young pitchers ever. He had a major-league ERA of 0.00 in his age-19 season (in an admittedly small sample of 17.2 innings pitched). He then began his age-20 season with 7 complete-game victories, 5 of them shutouts. Seventeen games into his major-league career, Valenzuela had a record of 9-0 and had allowed two runs (both earned) in 80.2 innings pitched, an ERA of 0.22, and was still only 20 years old.

He ended up with a record of 13-7 with a 2.48 ERA in his age-20 season (in a league-leading 192.1 innings pitched). He followed that up with a 19-13 record with a 2.87 ERA in 285 innings in his age-21 season.

The next table shows the top 10 pitchers in pWins over replacement level (pWORL) through their age-22 season (1983 in the case of Fernando Valenzuela).

Top 10 Pitchers, through age 22 (1947 – 2017) (ranked by pWORL)					
		pWins	pLosses	pWOPA	pWORL
1	Dwight Gooden	66.7	45.2	13.9	18.8
2	Bert Blyleven	65.6	56.2	6.8	12.3
<b>3</b>	<b>Fernando Valenzuela</b>	<b>51.6</b>	<b>41.0</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>11.7</b>
4	Gary Nolan	49.6	39.4	7.0	10.8
5	Frank Tanana	50.4	41.4	5.0	9.2
6	Mike McCormick	62.5	60.1	3.4	8.8
7	Don Drysdale	54.4	50.8	3.8	8.3
8	Art Houtteman	47.3	42.1	4.0	8.1
9	Felix Hernandez	41.2	35.2	3.8	8.0
10	Dennis Eckersley	38.7	30.8	4.3	7.7

Valenzuela is in impressive company, trailing only Dwight Gooden (#62 in my list) and Hall-of-Famer Bert Blyleven (#36).

In fact, this list arguably underrates Valenzuela's performance. Valenzuela's age-20 season, as impressive as it was, took place within a 110-game season because of a 50-day player strike in the middle of the season.

The next table, then, adjusts player records by normalizing all season records to their 162-game equivalent.

Top 10 Pitchers, through age 22 (1947 – 2017) (ranked by pWORL, seasons normalized to 162 games)					
		pWins	pLosses	pWOPA	pWORL
1	Dwight Gooden	66.7	45.2	13.9	18.8
<b>2</b>	<b>Fernando Valenzuela</b>	<b>58.7</b>	<b>45.9</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>13.7</b>
3	Bert Blyleven	66.7	57.3	6.9	12.5
4	Gary Nolan	49.5	39.4	7.0	10.8
5	Frank Tanana	50.4	41.3	5.0	9.3
6	Mike McCormick	65.4	62.9	3.5	9.2
7	Don Drysdale	56.9	53.2	3.9	8.7
8	Art Houtteman	49.1	43.7	4.1	8.3
9	Felix Hernandez	41.2	35.2	3.8	8.0
10	Milt Pappas	50.0	46.2	3.8	7.9

Nobody is going to touch Dwight Gooden's early career. But, adjusted for season length, the young Fernando Valenzuela takes a backseat to nobody else.

## Fernando Valenzuela's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1980	LAN	19	10	0.8	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2
1981	LAN	20	25	15.3	10.5	4.2	3.1	1.9
1982	LAN	21	38	19.3	15.0	4.5	3.1	1.7
1983	LAN	22	36	16.2	15.3	2.6	1.3	0.0
1984	LAN	23	35	16.3	16.6	2.0	0.7	-
1985	LAN	24	35	15.7	14.7	2.8	1.3	-
1986	LAN	25	39	18.4	15.0	4.1	2.6	1.2
1987	LAN	26	38	16.9	17.7	2.2	0.5	-
1988	LAN	27	23	8.3	10.0	0.3	-0.4	-
1989	LAN	28	34	11.5	13.2	0.8	-0.3	-
1990	LAN	29	35	13.1	13.7	1.7	0.5	-
1991	CAL	30	2	0.7	1.7	-0.4	-0.5	-
1993	BAL	32	32	10.7	11.2	0.9	-0.1	-
1994	PHI	33	8	1.7	2.0	0.1	-0.1	-
1995	SDN	34	29	6.1	5.7	1.1	0.5	-
1996	SDN	35	36	11.6	10.8	2.2	1.0	-
1997		36	19	6.0	8.8	-0.3	-1.1	-
	SDN		14 /	4.7	6.6	-0.1	-0.7	-
	SLN		5 /	1.3	2.2	-0.2	-0.4	-
CAREER (reg. season)			474	188.5	182.2	29.0	12.4	5.0
PostSeason (career)			9	4.6	3.3	1.2	0.9	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1980	LAN	19	10	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1
1981	LAN	20	25	12.1	10.0	2.6	1.7	0.7
1982	LAN	21	38	18.2	14.6	4.1	2.7	1.3
1983	LAN	22	36	16.2	15.9	2.3	1.0	-
1984	LAN	23	35	16.4	15.4	2.6	1.3	0.1
1985	LAN	24	35	17.3	14.5	3.7	2.2	0.7
1986	LAN	25	39	18.3	15.1	4.0	2.6	1.2
1987	LAN	26	38	15.8	18.1	1.3	-0.3	-
1988	LAN	27	23	8.1	9.7	0.4	-0.4	-
1989	LAN	28	34	12.3	13.8	1.0	-0.2	-
1990	LAN	29	35	12.9	13.9	1.5	0.3	-
1991	CAL	30	2	0.3	1.2	-0.4	-0.4	-
1993	BAL	32	32	10.4	10.4	1.1	0.1	-
1994	PHI	33	8	2.8	2.8	0.4	0.1	-
1995	SDN	34	29	5.6	6.6	0.4	-0.2	-
1996	SDN	35	36	10.6	11.3	1.4	0.2	-
1997		36	19	5.6	7.4	0.1	-0.7	-
	SDN		14 /	4.1	5.6	0.0	-0.5	-
	SLN		5 /	1.5	1.9	0.0	-0.1	-
CAREER (reg. season)			474	183.6	181.3	26.6	10.2	4.1
PostSeason (career)			9	4.1	3.5	0.8	0.5	

## #114: Kevin Appier

### Career Highlights

Kevin Appier was one of the best pitchers of the early 1990s whose greatness was somewhat lost behind the longer careers of several of his peers.

Five highlights of Kevin Appier's career:

- Kevin Appier's best season was 1993. He led the American League with a 2.56 ERA while compiling a traditional won-lost record of 18-8 in 238.2 innings pitched. Measured by Player won-lost records, Appier led all major-league pitchers in 1993 in pWins over either positional average (pWOPA) or replacement level (pWORLD).
- Kevin Appier received Cy Young and MVP votes once each, both in 1993. He was named to one All-Star team in his career, in 1995.
- Appier led the American League in FIP (Fielding Independent Pitching) – an expected ERA measure based on only strikeouts, walks, and home runs allowed – twice, in 1993 and 1996.
- Kevin Appier has the most career strikeouts by any pitcher in Kansas City Royals history, 1,458.
- Appier was the Opening Day starter for the Kansas City Royals six consecutive times from 1992 – 1997 and a seventh time in 1999. In his Opening Day start in 1995, Appier pitched 6.2 innings in which he allowed no runs on no hits. He was pulled from the game with two out and nobody on base in the top of the seventh inning with the Royals leading 2 – 0. The Orioles broke up the combined no-hitter with one out in the eighth inning on a Leo Gomez single off Rusty Meacham.

### At What Was Kevin Appier Elite?

Kevin Appier's prime lasted for five years, from 1992 through 1996. Over this time period, Appier was the second-best pitcher in baseball measured by net pitcher wins (pitching eWins minus pitching eLosses).

Top 10 Pitchers, 1992 - 1996 (Ranked by Net Pitching Wins)					
		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	Net eWins
1	Greg Maddux	64.3	40.0	0.617	24.3
2	<b>Kevin Appier</b>	<b>56.5</b>	<b>42.2</b>	<b>0.572</b>	<b>14.3</b>
3	Kevin Brown	56.7	44.2	0.562	12.5
4	Randy Johnson	52.4	40.2	0.566	12.1
5	Roger Clemens	56.0	44.9	0.555	11.1
6	Mike Mussina	56.7	46.9	0.547	9.8
7	Charles Nagy	49.0	40.1	0.550	9.0
8	David Cone	54.4	46.1	0.541	8.3
9	Tom Glavine	55.7	48.5	0.535	7.2
10	John Smoltz	58.0	51.6	0.529	6.4

## Kevin Appier's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1989	KCA	21	6	1.3	2.7	-0.5	-0.7	-
1990	KCA	22	32	10.5	9.3	1.7	0.7	-
1991	KCA	23	34	13.4	10.6	2.8	1.5	0.3
1992	KCA	24	30	13.5	9.7	3.4	2.1	0.9
1993	KCA	25	34	15.4	8.8	4.5	3.4	2.2
1994	KCA	26	23	9.3	6.9	2.2	1.3	0.3
1995	KCA	27	31	13.7	11.2	2.9	1.6	0.2
1996	KCA	28	32	13.4	10.0	3.3	2.0	0.7
1997	KCA	29	34	12.7	11.4	2.3	0.9	-
1998	KCA	30	3	0.9	1.5	-0.1	-0.3	-
1999		31	34	13.4	14.0	1.4	-0.1	-
	KCA		22 /	8.1	8.6	0.7	-0.1	-
	OAK		12 /	5.3	5.4	0.6	0.1	-
2000	OAK	32	31	11.5	11.8	1.3	0.1	-
2001	NYN	33	33	13.0	12.2	2.3	1.0	-
2002	ANA	34	32	11.6	10.7	1.8	0.6	-
2003		35	23	7.6	8.9	0.4	-0.5	-
	ANA		19 /	6.4	7.4	0.4	-0.3	-
	KCA		4 /	1.1	1.5	0.0	-0.2	-
2004	KCA	36	2	0.2	0.5	-0.1	-0.1	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>414  </b>	<b>161.3</b>	<b>140.1</b>	<b>29.8</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>4.6</b>
PostSeason (career)			7	1.8	1.8	0.2	0.0	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1989	KCA	21	6	1.2	2.0	-0.2	-0.4	-
1990	KCA	22	32	10.6	9.3	1.8	0.8	-
1991	KCA	23	34	12.9	10.3	2.6	1.4	0.2
1992	KCA	24	30	12.8	9.6	3.1	1.9	0.7
1993	KCA	25	34	15.1	9.0	4.3	3.1	2.0
1994	KCA	26	23	9.8	6.9	2.5	1.5	0.5
1995	KCA	27	31	12.6	9.1	3.2	2.0	0.8
1996	KCA	28	32	13.5	9.6	3.5	2.2	0.9
1997	KCA	29	34	14.5	11.8	3.2	1.6	0.1
1998	KCA	30	3	0.9	1.0	0.1	-0.0	-
1999		31	34	12.8	14.0	1.0	-0.4	-
	KCA		22 /	8.6	9.4	0.7	-0.2	-
	OAK		12 /	4.2	4.6	0.4	-0.1	-
2000	OAK	32	31	11.9	12.0	1.4	0.2	-
2001	NYN	33	33	13.6	12.9	2.4	1.1	-
2002	ANA	34	32	11.6	11.4	1.6	0.3	-
2003		35	23	6.2	8.4	-0.1	-0.9	-
	ANA		19 /	5.2	7.2	-0.2	-0.9	-
	KCA		4 /	1.1	1.2	0.1	-0.0	-
2004	KCA	36	2	0.2	0.3	-0.0	-0.0	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>414  </b>	<b>160.4</b>	<b>137.5</b>	<b>30.4</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>5.2</b>
PostSeason (career)			7	1.9	2.3	0.1	-0.1	

## #115: Dale Murphy

### Career Highlights

In his prime, Dale Murphy was one of the best baseball players of the 1980s.

Five highlights of Dale Murphy's career:

- Dale Murphy was named to seven All-Star teams. He received MVP votes seven times, winning twice. He won five Gold Gloves and four Silver Sluggers.
- Dale Murphy won his first MVP award in 1982. That season, he batted .281/.378/.507 with 36 home runs, a league-leading 109 RBI, 113 runs scored, and 23 stolen bases.
- Dale Murphy had an even better season in 1983, winning his second consecutive MVP award, batting .302/.393/.540 with 36 home runs, 121 RBI, and 131 runs scored. Murphy led the league in RBI, slugging percentage, and OPS. He set career highs in batting average, runs scored, RBI, and stolen bases (30 in 34 attempts).
- Dale Murphy led the National League in games played four consecutive seasons from 1982 through 1985. He played 740 consecutive games from September 26, 1981 through July 8, 1986, the 13th longest streak in major-league history.
- Dale Murphy was named one of eight co-Sportsmen of the Year by Sports Illustrated in 1987 in part for his career-high .417 on-base percentage and 44 home runs that season and in part for his charitable work.

### At What Was Dale Murphy Elite?

Dale Murphy was one of the best players of the early 1980s as evidenced by his back-to-back MVP awards in 1982 and 1983. In fact, Dale Murphy led major-league baseball in pWins for the decade of the 1980s.

#### Top 10 Players, 1980 - 1989 (Ranked by pWins)

		pWins	pLosses	pWOPA	pWORLD
1	<b>Dale Murphy</b>	<b>214.1</b>	<b>186.5</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>23.3</b>
2	Rickey Henderson	211.9	167.0	18.5	33.0
3	Andre Dawson	204.1	174.3	9.0	23.3
4	Robin Yount	201.7	169.9	18.9	33.3
5	Ozzie Smith	199.8	175.3	17.2	31.3
6	Dwight Evans	199.5	163.7	14.1	28.2
7	Mike Schmidt	187.2	145.9	16.7	29.3
8	Alan Trammell	185.0	157.8	21.0	34.0
9	Lou Whitaker	184.9	156.8	17.9	30.8
10	Dave Winfield	183.0	159.8	7.7	20.8

Being the best at any positive statistic is very impressive, of course, but it is more meaningful to evaluate player wins against some non-zero baseline, either positional average (WOPA) or replacement level (WORLD).

Dale Murphy's Player won-lost record looks better in (context-neutral) eWins than in pWins (which tie to team wins). Shifting, then, to eWins, the next table shows the top 10 players of the 1980s as measured by eWins over replacement level (eWORLD).

<b>Top 10 Players, 1980 - 1989</b>					
<b>(Ranked by eWORLD)</b>					
		<b>eWins</b>	<b>eLosses</b>	<b>eWOPA</b>	<b>eWORLD</b>
1	Rickey Henderson	213.3	165.0	20.3	34.7
2	Robin Yount	196.8	166.0	18.4	32.5
3	Mike Schmidt	183.7	137.0	19.6	31.7
4	Alan Trammell	177.6	157.6	17.3	30.0
5	Cal Ripken	177.2	155.5	17.4	29.9
<b>6</b>	<b>Dale Murphy</b>	<b>216.1</b>	<b>175.4</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>29.6</b>
7	Dwight Evans	196.0	162.0	13.3	27.2
8	Wade Boggs	156.9	124.9	15.7	26.2
9	Ozzie Smith	196.9	183.5	11.7	26.0
10	Lou Whitaker	175.1	156.6	13.0	25.5

As measured by eWORLD, Dale Murphy was one of the top ten players of the 1980s, despite having his final star-level season in 1987. Cutting off the last two seasons of the 1980s produces an eight-year period in which Dale Murphy was arguably one of the top three players in major-league baseball.

<b>Top 10 Players, 1980 - 1987</b>					
<b>(Ranked by eWORLD)</b>					
		<b>eWins</b>	<b>eLosses</b>	<b>eWOPA</b>	<b>eWORLD</b>
1	Mike Schmidt	165.6	119.6	19.4	30.3
2	Rickey Henderson	167.7	129.2	16.3	27.7
<b>3</b>	<b>Dale Murphy</b>	<b>176.7</b>	<b>138.4</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>26.8</b>
4	Robin Yount	154.6	131.5	14.6	25.8
5	Alan Trammell	145.9	129.8	14.3	24.8
6	Cal Ripken	135.1	118.4	13.6	23.1
7	Dwight Evans	160.8	132.0	11.3	22.6
8	Gary Carter	127.1	104.6	12.5	21.2
9	Fernando Valenzuela	115.1	104.1	11.3	20.8
10	Lou Whitaker	142.7	129.4	10.0	20.3

## Dale Murphy's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1976	ATL	20	19	1.7	1.6	0.2	0.0	-
1977	ATL	21	18	1.8	2.6	-0.2	-0.4	-
1978	ATL	22	151	14.5	15.0	0.3	-0.8	-
1979	ATL	23	104	10.2	11.2	-0.0	-0.8	-
1980	ATL	24	156	23.3	17.1	4.1	2.6	1.0
1981	ATL	25	104	13.5	13.0	1.0	-0.1	-
1982	ATL	26	162	24.5	18.9	3.9	2.3	0.6
1983	ATL	27	162	24.7	17.7	4.5	3.0	1.4
1984	ATL	28	162	24.1	20.4	2.9	1.2	-
1985	ATL	29	162	23.1	20.0	2.7	1.1	-
1986	ATL	30	160	21.5	18.6	2.4	0.9	-
1987	ATL	31	159	22.3	18.7	2.6	1.0	-
1988	ATL	32	156	19.1	22.1	-0.8	-2.4	-
1989	ATL	33	154	18.0	20.0	0.0	-1.3	-
1990		34	154	17.7	18.2	0.6	-0.7	-
	ATL		97 /	11.0	10.8	0.6	-0.2	-
	PHI		57 /	6.7	7.4	0.0	-0.5	-
1991	PHI	35	153	18.3	17.5	1.1	-0.3	-
1992	PHI	36	18	1.8	2.2	-0.1	-0.3	-
1993	COL	37	26	0.6	1.8	-0.5	-0.7	-
CAREER (reg. season)			2,180	280.7	256.8	24.5	4.2	3.1
PostSeason (career)			3	0.2	0.4	-0.1	-0.1	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1976	ATL	20	19	1.8	1.6	0.2	0.1	-
1977	ATL	21	18	1.9	2.0	0.1	-0.1	-
1978	ATL	22	151	13.7	14.3	0.3	-0.8	-
1979	ATL	23	104	10.6	9.6	1.0	0.2	-
1980	ATL	24	156	21.3	16.3	3.5	2.1	0.6
1981	ATL	25	104	13.4	12.4	1.2	0.2	-
1982	ATL	26	162	23.9	18.4	3.9	2.2	0.6
1983	ATL	27	162	24.2	17.3	4.4	2.9	1.4
1984	ATL	28	162	23.6	18.6	3.5	1.9	0.3
1985	ATL	29	162	25.3	19.7	3.9	2.3	0.6
1986	ATL	30	160	21.2	18.6	2.3	0.8	-
1987	ATL	31	159	23.7	17.2	4.1	2.5	0.9
1988	ATL	32	156	21.5	18.9	2.0	0.5	-
1989	ATL	33	154	17.9	18.1	0.8	-0.5	-
1990		34	154	18.7	18.0	1.2	-0.1	-
	ATL		97 /	11.8	11.1	0.9	0.0	-
	PHI		57 /	6.9	6.9	0.3	-0.2	-
1991	PHI	35	153	17.4	16.7	1.0	-0.3	-
1992	PHI	36	18	1.2	1.7	-0.2	-0.3	-
1993	COL	37	26	0.8	1.6	-0.3	-0.4	-
CAREER (reg. season)			2,180	282.1	240.8	32.9	13.1	4.4
PostSeason (career)			3	0.3	0.4	-0.0	-0.1	



## **#116: Pete Rose**

### **Career Highlights**

I presume that everybody knows who Pete Rose is.

Five highlights of Pete Rose's career:

- Pete Rose holds the major-league record for most career hits with 4,256. Pete Rose also holds major-league career records for games played (3,562), plate appearances (15,890), at bats (14,053), singles (3,215), and times on base (5,929). Rose is second all-time in career doubles (746), and sixth in runs scored (2,165).
- Pete Rose had 200 or more hits ten times, leading the league seven times. Pete Rose led his league in batting average three times and in on-base percentage twice. Pete Rose scored 100 or more runs in a season ten times. He led the National League in runs scored four times.
- Pete Rose was named National League Rookie of the Year in 1963. He won the National League MVP in 1973, when he led the National League with a .338 batting average and 230 hits, while scoring 115 runs. He was named World Series MVP in 1975, when he batted .370/.485/.481 in the Reds seven-game series victory over the Boston Red Sox.
- Pete Rose appeared in the postseason in eight seasons. He played in six World Series and played for three World Series winners, in 1975, 1976, and 1980. In his career, he had 301 plate appearances across 67 postseason games, in which he batted .321/.388/.440.
- Pete Rose is the only player in major-league history to play at least 500 games at five different positions: first base, second base, third base, left field, and right field. He also played 73 games in center field. Rose played more games at first base (939) than at any other position; yet, when he got his 3,000th hit in 1978 (on May 5, 1978), he had played a grand total of 1-1/3 innings in one game at first base.

### At What Was Pete Rose Elite?

Pete Rose was a very good player for a very long time. He also took his game to another level in the postseason, where he was truly great (see #14, Jim Palmer). Where Pete Rose excelled in his career was in counting stats: he played more games, had more plate appearances, and had more hits than any player in major-league history. Similarly, Pete Rose is among the all-time career leaders in pWins.

Top 10 Players, Ranked by Career pWins, 1925 - 2017					
		pWins	pLosses	pWOPA	pWORL
1	Hank Aaron	492.4	372.8	42.2	77.9
2	Barry Bonds	462.0	315.0	60.3	90.7
3	Willie Mays	459.7	334.6	49.7	81.8
<b>4</b>	<b>Pete Rose</b>	<b>437.9</b>	<b>394.8</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>44.1</b>
5	Rickey Henderson	426.7	353.2	28.7	59.4
6	Carl Yastrzemski	426.4	363.1	17.9	50.8
7	Stan Musial	420.9	312.1	39.9	69.4
8	Frank Robinson	394.9	304.1	30.3	59.8
9	Dave Winfield	392.8	343.0	14.8	44.6
10	Cal Ripken	383.2	350.6	28.2	56.5

Rose is one of seven players with at least 400 pWins among players for whom I have calculated Player won-lost records.

## Pete Rose's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORL	pWOPA	pWO*
1963	CIN	22	157	18.4	20.5	0.9	-0.6	-
1964	CIN	23	136	15.3	15.3	1.8	0.6	-
1965	CIN	24	162	21.5	19.0	3.2	1.6	0.0
1966	CIN	25	156	19.6	20.0	1.9	0.4	-
1967	CIN	26	148	21.4	18.7	2.3	0.6	-
1968	CIN	27	148	21.3	18.7	2.2	0.5	-
1969	CIN	28	156	24.0	17.9	3.9	2.1	0.3
1970	CIN	29	159	22.4	18.5	3.0	1.2	-
1971	CIN	30	160	22.0	19.6	2.1	0.5	-
1972	CIN	31	154	22.5	18.6	2.8	1.1	-
1973	CIN	32	160	24.1	19.8	3.1	1.2	-
1974	CIN	33	163	22.4	19.9	2.0	0.4	-
1975	CIN	34	162	22.6	17.8	3.7	2.1	0.5
1976	CIN	35	162	21.7	17.0	3.4	2.0	0.5
1977	CIN	36	162	17.4	16.7	1.3	-0.1	-
1978	CIN	37	159	20.0	17.1	2.5	1.1	-
1979	PHI	38	163	16.7	16.3	0.7	-0.6	-
1980	PHI	39	162	17.2	15.4	1.4	0.1	-
1981	PHI	40	107	11.3	10.1	1.1	0.2	-
1982	PHI	41	162	15.2	16.2	0.0	-1.2	-
1983	PHI	42	151	12.5	13.9	-0.2	-1.1	-
1984	PHI	43	121	10.6	11.5	0.0	-0.9	-
	CIN		26 /	2.3	1.9	0.2	0.1	-
	MON		95 /	8.3	9.6	-0.2	-0.9	-
1985	CIN	44	119	12.3	10.6	1.1	0.2	-
1986	CIN	45	72	5.5	5.7	0.0	-0.4	-
	<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>		<b>3,561  </b>	<b>437.9</b>	<b>394.8</b>	<b>44.1</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>1.3</b>
	PostSeason (career)		67	9.3	6.6	1.7	1.1	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORL	eWOPA	eWO*
1963	CIN	22	157	19.0	19.8	1.5	0.0	-
1964	CIN	23	136	14.5	15.9	1.1	-0.1	-
1965	CIN	24	162	22.5	20.9	3.0	1.3	-
1966	CIN	25	156	20.6	19.9	2.5	0.9	-
1967	CIN	26	148	20.7	19.9	1.3	-0.4	-
1968	CIN	27	148	23.1	19.9	2.5	0.8	-
1969	CIN	28	156	24.4	19.8	3.2	1.3	-
1970	CIN	29	159	21.2	19.3	2.0	0.3	-
1971	CIN	30	160	22.5	19.6	2.4	0.7	-
1972	CIN	31	154	23.4	19.9	2.6	0.9	-
1973	CIN	32	160	25.9	21.4	3.2	1.3	-
1974	CIN	33	163	21.4	19.0	1.9	0.4	-
1975	CIN	34	162	22.0	19.2	2.7	1.1	-
1976	CIN	35	162	21.9	19.4	2.4	0.9	-
1977	CIN	36	162	18.4	16.2	2.1	0.7	-
1978	CIN	37	159	19.2	17.9	1.6	0.2	-
1979	PHI	38	163	18.2	17.5	0.9	-0.5	-
1980	PHI	39	162	16.5	17.6	-0.1	-1.4	-
1981	PHI	40	107	11.4	10.4	1.0	0.1	-
1982	PHI	41	162	15.5	16.4	0.0	-1.2	-
1983	PHI	42	151	11.9	14.2	-0.6	-1.6	-
1984	PHI	43	121	10.5	10.6	0.4	-0.5	-
	CIN		26 /	2.8	2.2	0.4	0.2	-
	MON		95 /	7.7	8.4	0.0	-0.6	-
1985	CIN	44	119	11.6	11.1	0.5	-0.4	-
1986	CIN	45	72	5.2	5.8	-0.1	-0.6	-
	<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>		<b>3,561  </b>	<b>441.5</b>	<b>411.5</b>	<b>38.1</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>
	PostSeason (career)		67	9.2	7.5	1.2	0.6	

## #117: Joe Torre

### Career Highlights

Joe Torre is best known today as the manager of four World Series winning Yankees teams between 1996 and 2000. Before that, however, he was a power-hitting catcher, third baseman, and first baseman.

Five highlights of Joe Torre's career:

- Joe Torre was named to nine All-Star teams. He started six All-Star games for the National League, four as a catcher (1964 – 1967 as an Atlanta Brave) and two as a third baseman (1971 – 1972 as a St. Louis Cardinal).
- Joe Torre was traded from the Atlanta Braves to the St. Louis Cardinals for Orlando Cepeda on March 17, 1969 in a straight one-for-one trade of Hall-of-Famers. Two years prior to the trade, Orlando Cepeda won the 1967 National League MVP award as a member of the St. Louis Cardinals. Two years after the trade, Joe Torre won the 1971 National League MVP award as a member of the St. Louis Cardinals.
- In Joe Torre's 1971 MVP season, he led the National League with career highs in batting average (.363), hits (230), and RBI (137). Torre also had career highs that season in on-base percentage (.421), slugging percentage (.555), and runs scored (97).
- Joe Torre is the only person in major-league history with at least 2,000 hits as a player (Torre had 2,342) and 2,000 wins as a manager (2,326).
- Joe Torre played the sixth-most regular-season games in major-league history without appearing in a postseason game, 2,209 (see #30, Fergie Jenkins). Torre also failed to make the postseason in his first fifteen seasons as a manager (1,897 games) – a combined 4,106 major-league games without reaching the postseason. Joe Torre finally made the postseason in his 16th season as a manager in 1996, at the age of 55, the first of fourteen consecutive postseason appearances for Torre as a manager, during which time Torre's teams won six American League pennants and four World Championships.

### At What Was Joe Torre Elite?

Joe Torre was (arguably) the best catcher in baseball in the 1960s.

#### Top 10 Catchers, 1960 - 1969 (Ranked by eWins over Positional Average, Catcher only)

		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	eWOPA
1	Joe Torre	84.2	70.3	0.545	8.3
2	Bill Freehan	85.7	73.5	0.538	7.8
3	Johnny Romano	74.0	62.7	0.542	6.8
4	Tom Haller	90.4	80.8	0.528	6.4
5	Elston Howard	89.6	83.1	0.519	4.6
6	Jim Pagliaroni	65.6	59.2	0.526	4.2
7	Earl Battey	84.4	79.6	0.515	3.7
8	Ed Bailey	47.3	43.1	0.523	2.8
9	Johnny Bench	33.3	29.4	0.531	2.7
10	Tim McCarver	85.1	83.5	0.505	2.5

## Joe Torre's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1960	MLN	19	2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1961	MLN	20	113	10.0	10.0	1.0	0.1	-
1962	MLN	21	80	5.9	6.4	0.3	-0.2	-
1963	MLN	22	142	15.4	13.8	1.8	0.7	-
1964	MLN	23	154	18.2	15.1	2.7	1.4	0.0
1965	MLN	24	148	16.5	13.4	2.8	1.6	0.4
1966	ATL	25	148	18.1	14.1	3.2	2.0	0.7
1967	ATL	26	135	14.8	13.3	2.3	1.1	-
1968	ATL	27	115	13.5	11.6	1.9	0.9	-
1969	SLN	28	159	18.5	14.5	2.4	1.0	-
1970	SLN	29	161	18.6	17.3	1.9	0.4	-
1971	SLN	30	161	26.4	17.1	5.8	4.1	2.4
1972	SLN	31	149	18.0	16.4	1.9	0.5	-
1973	SLN	32	141	15.4	13.3	1.5	0.4	-
1974	SLN	33	147	15.4	13.1	1.6	0.5	-
1975	NYN	34	114	11.1	10.7	0.8	-0.0	-
1976	NYN	35	114	8.3	8.0	0.4	-0.2	-
1977	NYN	36	26	1.0	2.0	-0.4	-0.5	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,209  </b>	<b>245.0</b>	<b>210.1</b>	<b>32.2</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>3.6</b>
PostSeason (career)			0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1960	MLN	19	2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1961	MLN	20	113	10.6	10.3	1.2	0.3	-
1962	MLN	21	80	5.6	5.4	0.6	0.2	-
1963	MLN	22	142	15.4	12.8	2.2	1.1	0.0
1964	MLN	23	154	17.2	14.2	2.6	1.4	0.1
1965	MLN	24	148	15.5	12.8	2.5	1.4	0.2
1966	ATL	25	148	17.7	13.7	3.2	2.0	0.8
1967	ATL	26	135	14.3	11.9	2.6	1.5	0.4
1968	ATL	27	115	12.1	10.5	1.7	0.8	-
1969	SLN	28	159	17.8	14.9	1.9	0.5	-
1970	SLN	29	161	20.8	17.0	3.2	1.6	-
1971	SLN	30	161	23.3	16.8	4.3	2.7	1.1
1972	SLN	31	149	16.8	15.6	1.6	0.2	-
1973	SLN	32	141	16.3	13.7	1.9	0.6	-
1974	SLN	33	147	15.1	13.4	1.3	0.2	-
1975	NYN	34	114	9.9	10.3	0.4	-0.4	-
1976	NYN	35	114	8.8	7.6	0.9	0.3	-
1977	NYN	36	26	1.0	1.4	-0.1	-0.2	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,209  </b>	<b>238.2</b>	<b>202.5</b>	<b>32.0</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>2.6</b>
PostSeason (career)			0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	

## #118: Will Clark

### Career Highlights

Will Clark was one of best first basemen of the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Five highlights of Will Clark's career:

- Will Clark won the 1985 Golden Spikes award as the top amateur baseball player in the United States. He was the second player taken in the 1985 MLB draft, two picks before Hall-of-Fame shortstop Barry Larkin and four picks before Barry Bonds.
- Will Clark was named to six All-Star teams. He started four consecutive All-Star games for the National League from 1988 through 1991. He received MVP votes five times with four top-5 finishes.
- Will Clark led his league once apiece in games played (162 in 1988), plate appearances (689 in 1988), runs scored (104 in 1989), RBI (109 in 1988), walks (100 in 1988), slugging percentage (.536 in 1991), and total bases (303 in 1991).
- Will Clark had 91 or more RBI for five consecutive seasons from 1987 to 1991. He was the only National League player with more than 500 RBI over these five seasons (522).
- Will Clark was named NLCS MVP in 1989 when he batted .650/.682/1.200 with two home runs, 8 runs scored and 8 RBI in five games. For his career, Clark batted .333/.409/.547 with 5 home runs and 16 RBI in 31 postseason games (132 plate appearances).

### At What Was Will Clark Elite?

Measured by eWins over either positional average or replacement level earned only at first base, Will Clark was one of the best first basemen since integration (see #56, Jeff Bagwell). He was a very good hitter, although he had less power than most other elite first basemen. But he made up for his (relative) lack of power (Clark had above-average power – he hit 20 or more home runs five times and had a career slugging percentage of .497; his “lack” of power is only when one compares him to players like Mark McGwire, Jim Thome, Harmon Killebrew, and Willie McCovey), at least in part, by being one of the best defensive first basemen of the past seventy years.

#### Top 10 Fielding First Basemen, since 1947 (Ranked by Net Fielding eWins)

		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	Net eWins
1	Albert Pujols	32.3	26.7	0.548	5.6
2	Adrian Gonzalez	31.0	26.2	0.542	4.8
3	John Olerud	34.0	29.2	0.538	4.8
4	Todd Helton	38.9	34.5	0.530	4.4
5	Gil Hodges	29.3	25.1	0.539	4.2
<b>6</b>	<b>Will Clark</b>	<b>34.8</b>	<b>30.6</b>	<b>0.532</b>	<b>4.1</b>
7	Wally Joyner	34.2	30.3	0.530	3.8
8	Mark Grace	40.1	36.3	0.525	3.8
9	Tino Martinez	29.7	26.1	0.533	3.7
10	Pete O'Brien	24.3	20.7	0.540	3.6

## Will Clark's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1986	SFN	22	111	11.0	10.2	0.7	-0.0	-
1987	SFN	23	150	17.0	12.3	2.5	1.3	0.2
1988	SFN	24	162	21.2	14.4	3.9	2.5	1.2
1989	SFN	25	159	23.0	13.8	4.6	3.3	2.0
1990	SFN	26	154	18.6	15.7	1.8	0.5	-
1991	SFN	27	148	19.5	14.0	3.3	2.0	0.6
1992	SFN	28	144	17.7	12.9	2.7	1.6	0.4
1993	SFN	29	132	17.0	12.6	2.6	1.4	0.2
1994	TEX	30	110	11.4	9.3	1.5	0.6	-
1995	TEX	31	123	14.8	12.5	1.6	0.6	-
1996	TEX	32	117	12.5	11.0	1.3	0.3	-
1997	TEX	33	110	11.6	9.9	1.2	0.3	-
1998	TEX	34	149	15.7	14.4	1.2	-0.0	-
1999	BAL	35	77	7.3	6.9	0.5	-0.0	-
2000		36	130	13.9	9.6	2.4	1.5	0.5
	BAL		79 /	7.4	6.1	0.9	0.3	-
	SLN		51 /	6.5	3.5	1.5	1.1	0.7
CAREER (reg. season)			1,976	232.2	179.5	31.8	15.7	5.1
PostSeason (career)			31	4.2	3.2	0.5	0.2	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1986	SFN	22	111	12.2	10.7	1.1	0.2	-
1987	SFN	23	150	17.0	12.9	2.2	1.0	-
1988	SFN	24	162	19.6	13.8	3.3	2.0	0.8
1989	SFN	25	159	20.5	13.1	3.7	2.5	1.4
1990	SFN	26	154	18.1	15.2	1.7	0.5	-
1991	SFN	27	148	19.2	13.4	3.4	2.1	0.9
1992	SFN	28	144	17.5	13.3	2.4	1.3	0.1
1993	SFN	29	132	14.3	12.7	1.1	0.0	-
1994	TEX	30	110	12.2	9.4	1.9	1.0	0.1
1995	TEX	31	123	13.1	11.3	1.4	0.4	-
1996	TEX	32	117	11.6	10.6	1.0	0.1	-
1997	TEX	33	110	11.3	9.2	1.3	0.5	-
1998	TEX	34	149	15.7	13.7	1.6	0.4	-
1999	BAL	35	77	7.7	6.8	0.8	0.2	-
2000		36	130	13.0	9.8	1.9	1.0	0.0
	BAL		79 /	7.3	6.0	0.9	0.3	-
	SLN		51 /	5.7	3.8	1.0	0.6	0.2
CAREER (reg. season)			1,976	223.0	175.8	28.8	13.3	3.2
PostSeason (career)			31	3.7	2.8	0.5	0.3	

## **#119: Gene Tenace**

### **Career Highlights**

Gene Tenace was a catcher and sometime first baseman for the three-time World Champion Oakland A's of the 1970s.

Five highlights of Gene Tenace's career:

- In 1972, Gene Tenace was the first player in major-league history to homer in his first two World Series plate appearances. Overall, Tenace batted .348/.400/.913 with 4 home runs and 9 RBI in the A's seven-game victory and was voted World Series MVP.
- Gene Tenace was named to one All-Star team in his career. Ironically, Tenace's only All-Star appearance was as the starting first baseman for the American League in 1975.
- Tenace walked 100 or more times in a season six times. He led the league in walks twice. He also led the league once in hit-by-pitch.
- Gene Tenace had a career batting line of .241/.388/.429. Bill James created a statistic, Secondary Average, which measures offensive contributions outside of batting average - walks, hit-by-pitch, extra-base hits, stolen bases - on a scale comparable to batting average. Tenace's career secondary average of .431 (note: I include hit-by-pitches, which differs from some online versions of this statistic) is the 25th-highest since 1901 (min. 1,000 plate appearances) and the fifth-highest among players whose careers fell entirely between 1947 and 1992 (i.e., post-integration, pre-"sillyball").
- Gene Tenace played for four World Series winners, the 1972 – 1974 Oakland A's and the 1982 St. Louis Cardinals, and was bench coach for two more, the 1992 and 1993 Toronto Blue Jays.



## At What Was Gene Tenace Elite?

Gene Tenace was an elite catcher. Which virtually nobody noticed at the time he was playing for three reasons. First, historically, even as recently as Gene Tenace's time, catcher value was viewed primarily as defensive value, and Gene Tenace was at least perceived as a poor defensive catcher (Player won-lost records see him as a slightly below-average defensive catcher for his career with a catcher fielding win percentage of .493). Second, much of Tenace's offensive value (and, hence, much of his overall value) was tied to his ability to draw walks (and get hit by pitches), a skillset that has been underrated for most of baseball history. Third, Gene Tenace did not play all that much at catcher. He played catcher more than any other position, but he only caught 892 games in his career and he only caught more than half of his team's games in four seasons.

The first two of these are automatically corrected, of course, by Player won-lost records, which objectively evaluate Tenace's fielding based on the actual record and properly value Tenace's on-base abilities. The third, however, is a real factor in determining Gene Tenace's value and is why he does not generally show up on the lists of top catchers elsewhere in this book (e.g., #16, Carlton Fisk).

To shift from a counting stat to a rate stat, one could look at player winning percentages. As I explained in more detail in my first book, player winning percentages are not ideal for comparing players, especially across different positions, because expected winning percentages differ by position (and over time even for a given position). But if we are only interested in comparing players at a single position – e.g., catcher, in this case – player winning percentages may be useful to at least some extent (although obviously playing time matters, too).

The next table, then, looks at player winning percentage for eWins (and eLosses) earned in games played at catcher among players with at least 10 eWins as a catcher.

<b>Top 10 Catchers, since 1947</b>					
<b>(Ranked by eWinPct as Catcher only, min. 10 eWins)</b>					
		<b>eWins</b>	<b>eLosses</b>	<b>eWinPct</b>	<b>eWOPA</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Gene Tenace</b>	<b>84.6</b>	<b>65.7</b>	<b>0.563</b>	<b>10.2</b>
2	Frank Fernandez	19.7	15.7	0.556	2.3
3	Johnny Bench	185.1	148.1	0.555	20.0
4	Mike Piazza	185.9	150.3	0.553	21.1
5	Evan Gattis	24.9	20.5	0.548	2.5
6	Joe Mauer	96.6	80.1	0.547	11.6
7	Roy Campanella	122.2	101.5	0.546	11.6
8	Joe Torre	94.9	79.1	0.545	9.3
9	Yogi Berra	179.5	150.0	0.545	16.8
10	Mike Napoli	48.9	41.0	0.544	5.6

There's Gene Tenace!

## Gene Tenace's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1969	OAK	22	16	0.6	1.0	-0.1	-0.2	-
1970	OAK	23	38	3.9	3.0	0.8	0.5	0.1
1971	OAK	24	65	5.7	4.3	1.2	0.8	0.4
1972	OAK	25	79	7.8	6.9	1.1	0.5	-
1973	OAK	26	160	16.9	13.2	2.7	1.5	0.2
1974	OAK	27	158	14.8	13.3	1.7	0.6	-
1975	OAK	28	158	17.1	12.8	3.3	2.2	1.0
1976	OAK	29	128	13.6	10.5	2.4	1.5	0.6
1977	SDN	30	147	12.3	13.1	0.3	-0.7	-
1978	SDN	31	142	13.1	10.5	2.0	1.1	0.2
1979	SDN	32	151	15.7	11.7	2.8	1.7	0.6
1980	SDN	33	133	10.5	10.0	1.0	0.2	-
1981	SLN	34	56	4.9	3.1	1.2	0.9	0.6
1982	SLN	35	59	4.9	3.9	0.9	0.5	0.2
1983	PIT	36	52	1.1	2.0	-0.3	-0.5	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>1,542  </b>	<b>142.9</b>	<b>119.5</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>3.8</b>
PostSeason (career)			42	3.3	3.5	0.2	-0.1	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1969	OAK	22	16	0.8	1.0	-0.0	-0.1	-
1970	OAK	23	38	4.1	2.7	1.0	0.7	0.4
1971	OAK	24	65	5.9	4.7	1.1	0.7	0.2
1972	OAK	25	79	6.6	6.6	0.5	-0.0	-
1973	OAK	26	160	16.4	13.2	2.4	1.2	-
1974	OAK	27	158	15.0	12.1	2.4	1.3	0.3
1975	OAK	28	158	16.3	12.4	3.1	2.0	0.9
1976	OAK	29	128	14.0	10.8	2.5	1.6	0.6
1977	SDN	30	147	15.2	12.6	2.1	1.0	-
1978	SDN	31	142	14.5	10.7	2.6	1.6	0.6
1979	SDN	32	151	16.0	12.3	2.7	1.6	0.5
1980	SDN	33	133	12.2	9.8	2.0	1.2	0.3
1981	SLN	34	56	4.5	3.4	0.9	0.6	0.3
1982	SLN	35	59	5.1	3.5	1.1	0.8	0.5
1983	PIT	36	52	1.5	1.7	0.0	-0.1	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>1,542  </b>	<b>148.0</b>	<b>117.6</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>4.6</b>
PostSeason (career)			42	3.4	3.5	0.2	-0.1	

## **#120: Andre Dawson**

### **Career Highlights**

Andre Dawson began the 1980s as one of the top center fielders in baseball and ended the decade as one of the top right fielders in baseball. He was elected to the Hall of Fame in his ninth year of eligibility, 2010, with 77.9% of the vote.

Five highlights of Andre Dawson's career:

- Andre Dawson was named to eight All-Star teams in his career. He started seven All-Star games for the National League, five in center field and two in right field. He won eight Gold Gloves, won four Silver Sluggers, and received MVP votes nine times.
- Andre Dawson was voted National League Rookie of the Year in 1977. Eddie Murray (#58) won the American League Rookie of the Year award that year. This is the most recent season in which both Rookie-of-the-Year award winners have subsequently been elected to the Hall of Fame (this is likely to change when 2001 Rookie-of-the-Year winners Ichiro Suzuki and Albert Pujols become eligible for the Hall of Fame).
- Andre Dawson finished second in MVP voting twice, in 1981 and 1983. He won the National League MVP award in his first year in Chicago, 1987, when he led the National League in home runs (49), RBI (137), and total bases (353). Dawson was the first player to win an MVP award while playing for a last-place team.
- On May 22, 1990, Dawson set a major-league record when he received five intentional walks in a 16-inning game against the Cincinnati Reds. Dawson received his fifth intentional walk with runners on first and third and one out in the bottom of the sixteenth inning. Dave Clark followed with an RBI single to score Ryne Sandberg and give the Cubs a 2-1 victory.
- Andre Dawson finished his career with 438 home runs and 314 stolen bases. He is one of five players with more than 400 career home runs and 300 career stolen bases. All five players made my top 150 list here: Barry Bonds (#1), Alex Rodriguez (#5), Willie Mays (#20), Carlos Beltran (#98), and Dawson.

### At What Was Andre Dawson Elite?

Andre Dawson was one of the most celebrated outfielders of the 1980s. He was named to six All-Star teams in the decade, starting five of them. He received MVP votes six times in the 1980s with one first-place and two second-place finishes. He won eight Gold Gloves and four Silver Sluggers.

Put it all together and Andre Dawson was one of the best outfielders of the 1980s.

<b>Top 10 Outfielders, 1980 - 1989</b>				
<b>(Ranked by eWOPA at LF, CF, RF only)</b>				
		<b>eWins</b>	<b>eLosses</b>	<b>eWOPA</b>
1	Rickey Henderson	207.8	164.1	18.0
2	Dale Murphy	215.6	177.0	13.8
3	Dwight Evans	169.1	141.6	10.7
4	Darryl Strawberry	135.6	106.0	10.4
<b>5</b>	<b>Andre Dawson</b>	<b>197.0</b>	<b>168.0</b>	<b>8.8</b>
6	Tim Lincecum	178.2	149.0	8.7
7	Jesse Barfield	144.1	123.9	7.8
8	Eric Davis	83.2	63.8	7.8
9	Kirk Gibson	128.3	107.9	7.5
10	Dave Winfield	178.6	157.7	6.5

## Andre Dawson's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1976	MON	21	24	2.5	3.4	-0.3	-0.5	-
1977	MON	22	139	16.3	15.7	1.2	-0.1	-
1978	MON	23	157	22.3	18.9	2.9	1.3	-
1979	MON	24	154	22.7	18.9	3.0	1.3	-
1980	MON	25	150	22.2	18.8	2.8	1.3	-
1981	MON	26	103	17.8	13.5	3.0	1.7	0.5
1982	MON	27	147	23.9	17.1	4.6	3.0	1.5
1983	MON	28	159	23.2	20.1	2.6	1.1	-
1984	MON	29	138	20.1	18.2	1.5	0.0	-
1985	MON	30	139	20.7	17.6	2.5	1.0	-
1986	MON	31	130	16.4	16.7	0.5	-0.7	-
1987	CHN	32	153	23.0	20.3	2.2	0.5	-
1988	CHN	33	157	21.6	18.9	2.0	0.5	-
1989	CHN	34	118	15.2	13.1	1.6	0.6	-
1990	CHN	35	147	19.8	20.2	0.7	-0.7	-
1991	CHN	36	149	16.6	16.8	0.6	-0.7	-
1992	CHN	37	143	18.0	17.7	1.1	-0.3	-
1993	BOS	38	121	11.2	11.2	1.2	-0.1	-
1994	BOS	39	75	5.8	7.1	-0.0	-0.8	-
1995	FLO	40	79	6.0	7.6	-0.5	-1.0	-
1996	FLO	41	42	1.7	2.0	0.0	-0.2	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,624  </b>	<b>347.2</b>	<b>313.7</b>	<b>33.2</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>2.0</b>
PostSeason (career)			15	1.2	2.3	-0.5	-0.6	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1976	MON	21	24	2.6	3.0	-0.1	-0.3	-
1977	MON	22	139	17.4	15.6	1.9	0.5	-
1978	MON	23	157	22.3	18.6	3.1	1.5	-
1979	MON	24	154	21.0	18.7	2.2	0.6	-
1980	MON	25	150	22.2	18.0	3.2	1.7	0.1
1981	MON	26	103	17.0	12.2	3.2	2.0	0.9
1982	MON	27	147	22.4	17.7	3.5	2.0	0.5
1983	MON	28	159	24.0	19.2	3.4	1.9	0.3
1984	MON	29	138	18.8	16.9	1.4	0.1	-
1985	MON	30	139	16.9	15.8	1.3	0.1	-
1986	MON	31	130	17.7	16.0	1.4	0.2	-
1987	CHN	32	153	22.1	18.7	2.5	0.9	-
1988	CHN	33	157	22.2	19.0	2.3	0.7	-
1989	CHN	34	118	14.7	13.5	1.2	0.2	-
1990	CHN	35	147	19.5	17.7	1.8	0.4	-
1991	CHN	36	149	18.4	16.8	1.5	0.1	-
1992	CHN	37	143	18.2	16.2	1.8	0.5	-
1993	BOS	38	121	10.4	11.1	0.8	-0.4	-
1994	BOS	39	75	5.3	6.4	-0.0	-0.8	-
1995	FLO	40	79	6.1	7.3	-0.3	-0.9	-
1996	FLO	41	42	1.4	1.6	0.1	-0.1	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,624  </b>	<b>340.5</b>	<b>300.0</b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>1.8</b>
PostSeason (career)			15	1.4	1.8	-0.1	-0.3	

## **#121: Nomar Garciaparra**

### **Career Highlights**

Nomar was the third great shortstop to debut in the American League in the mid-1990s.

Five highlights of Nomar Garciaparra's career:

- Nomar Garciaparra was named to six All-Star teams. He started the 1999 All-Star game for the American League. He received MVP votes seven times with five top-10 finishes.
- Nomar Garciaparra won the American League Rookie of the Year award unanimously in 1997. He batted .306/.342/.534 that season and led the American League in at bats (684), hits (209), and triples (11). He added 44 doubles, 30 home runs, 98 RBI, and 122 runs scored.
- Garciaparra scored 100 or more runs in a season six times – the only six seasons in his career in which he had at least 500 at bats. He drove in 90 or more runs seven times.
- Nomar Garciaparra led the American League in batting average in 1999 and 2000 with batting averages of .357 and .372. Garciaparra's .372 batting average in 2000 was the highest by a shortstop since Luke Appling hit .388 in 1936.
- Garciaparra was named the National League's Comeback Player of the Year in 2006. That season, Garciaparra had 523 plate appearances for the Los Angeles Dodgers, his most plate appearances in three seasons. He batted .303/.367/.505 with 20 home runs, 93 RBI, and 82 runs scored. This earned Garciaparra his sixth and final All-Star appearance and his only All-Star appearance for the National League.

### At What Was Nomar Garciaparra Elite?

In 1996, Derek Jeter was named American League Rookie-of-the-Year at the age of 22 and Alex Rodriguez finished second in MVP voting at the age of 20 (having exhausted his rookie eligibility the previous season). The next year, in 1997, Nomar Garciaparra won the Rookie-of-the-Year award at the age of 23.

At that point, A-Rod, Jeter, and Nomar became linked as the next three great shortstops. Alex Rodriguez quickly set himself ahead from the other two before eventually moving to third base, establishing himself statistically as one of the greatest players of all-time, but also running into issues that seem likely to keep him out of the Hall of Fame. Meanwhile, Jeter and Nomar seemed poised to be ready to battle for supremacy for the next decade, buoyed by the fact that they played for the New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox, classic rivals playing in a classic rivalry, bringing back memories (perhaps hyperbolically) of Joe DiMaggio and Ted Williams in the early and late 1940s (damn World War II interrupting that great rivalry in its middle). In 1998, Jeter and Nomar finished second and third in MVP voting (Juan Gonzalez won it). In 1999, Jeter again edged Nomar by one slot in MVP voting, sixth to seventh, but Nomar was elected the starting shortstop for the American League in that summer's All-Star game. In 2000, all three shortstops finished in the top 10 in MVP voting for the first time and Nomar edged Jeter (for the first time since 1997) with Nomar finishing ninth to Jeter's tenth (Rodriguez finished third).

In 2001, an injured wrist (and subsequent surgery) limited Garciaparra to 21 games. But he came back strong in 2002 and 2003 with eleventh and seventh-place finishes in MVP voting, beating Jeter both times.

The 2003 season was the age-29 season for both Nomar Garciaparra and Derek Jeter, although Garciaparra was actually eleven months older than Jeter: Garciaparra turned 30 on July 23, 2003; Jeter turned 30 on June 26, 2004; baseball ages traditionally refer to the player's age as of July 1st. The next table, then, shows the top 10 shortstops ranked by eWins over positional average at shortstop through the players' age-29 seasons.

#### Top 10 Shortstops through age 29, 1947 - 2017 (Ranked by eWOPA, SS only)

		eWins	eLosses	eWOPA
1	Alex Rodriguez	182.3	146.4	23.2
2	Cal Ripken	188.4	167.8	17.7
3	Ernie Banks	153.4	125.4	17.2
4	Alan Trammell	174.1	161.5	14.1
5	Robin Yount	195.5	188.0	12.9
<b>6</b>	<b>Nomar Garciaparra</b>	<b>130.1</b>	<b>113.7</b>	<b>12.1</b>
7	Jim Fregosi	183.7	169.9	12.1
8	Derek Jeter	159.2	146.5	11.3
9	Hanley Ramirez	136.2	117.6	10.8
10	Troy Tulowitzki	130.3	112.6	10.2

Jeter, of course, remained productive for nine more seasons (through 2012). Garciaparra had a very good half-season in 2004 and the equivalent of perhaps two to two-and-a-half more seasons thereafter. Which is why Jeter is ranked #24 in this book while Nomar Garciaparra is down here at #121. But in his prime, when he was healthy, Nomar Garciaparra was every bit as good as – no, better than – Derek Jeter.

## Nomar Garciaparra's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1996	BOS	22	23	2.5	2.3	0.4	0.2	-
1997	BOS	23	153	22.9	19.3	4.3	2.7	1.0
1998	BOS	24	143	23.4	18.6	4.8	3.2	1.6
1999	BOS	25	135	18.8	15.6	3.5	2.2	0.8
2000	BOS	26	140	19.9	16.9	3.5	2.1	0.6
2001	BOS	27	21	2.6	2.3	0.4	0.2	0.0
2002	BOS	28	156	21.8	18.5	3.8	2.2	0.5
2003	BOS	29	156	22.4	18.2	4.3	2.7	1.1
2004		30	81	9.3	10.9	0.2	-0.6	-
	<i>BOS</i>		38 /	4.1	5.9	-0.4	-0.8	-
	<i>CHN</i>		43 /	5.2	5.0	0.6	0.2	-
2005	CHN	31	62	7.1	7.8	0.2	-0.4	-
2006	LAN	32	122	13.6	12.6	0.7	-0.2	-
2007	LAN	33	121	10.2	12.4	-0.6	-1.5	-
2008	LAN	34	55	6.3	5.6	0.8	0.3	-
2009	OAK	35	65	3.4	4.9	-0.4	-0.8	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>1,433  </b>	<b>184.4</b>	<b>165.9</b>	<b>25.8</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>5.6</b>
PostSeason (career)			32	3.6	3.5	0.4	0.1	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1996	BOS	22	23	2.5	2.7	0.2	-0.0	-
1997	BOS	23	153	23.1	20.5	3.9	2.2	0.5
1998	BOS	24	143	21.7	18.4	3.9	2.4	0.8
1999	BOS	25	135	19.2	14.8	4.1	2.7	1.4
2000	BOS	26	140	19.3	15.7	3.7	2.3	0.9
2001	BOS	27	21	3.0	2.8	0.5	0.2	-
2002	BOS	28	156	20.6	18.2	3.2	1.7	0.1
2003	BOS	29	156	21.9	19.4	3.4	1.8	0.2
2004		30	81	10.0	10.4	0.7	-0.1	-
	<i>BOS</i>		38 /	4.5	5.1	0.2	-0.2	-
	<i>CHN</i>		43 /	5.5	5.3	0.5	0.1	-
2005	CHN	31	62	7.1	7.4	0.3	-0.2	-
2006	LAN	32	122	12.2	11.7	0.5	-0.4	-
2007	LAN	33	121	10.1	11.6	-0.3	-1.1	-
2008	LAN	34	55	5.4	5.3	0.5	0.1	-
2009	OAK	35	65	3.4	3.6	0.2	-0.2	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>1,433  </b>	<b>179.4</b>	<b>162.4</b>	<b>24.8</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>4.0</b>
PostSeason (career)			32	4.2	3.2	0.9	0.6	



## **#122: Ron Cey**

### **Career Highlights**

Ron Cey was the starting third baseman for four Dodgers teams which won the National League pennant and was the starting third baseman for the 1984 Chicago Cubs, the first Cubs team to make the playoffs since 1945.

Five highlights of Ron Cey's career:

- Ron Cey was named to six All-Star teams during his career. He was the National League's starting third baseman three times, in 1974, 1975, and 1977. Ron Cey received MVP votes five times, with a high finish of eighth in 1977.
- Cey hit 20 or more home runs 10 times in 11 seasons from 1975 to 1985 (the strike-shortened 1981 season was the exception – Cey hit 13 home runs in 85 games that season). He had 90 or more RBI five times. Cey led the 1984 Cubs in home runs (25) and RBI (97).
- In 1977, Ron Cey hit a career-high 30 home runs. His teammates Steve Garvey (33), Reggie Smith (32), and Dusty Baker (30) joined him in the 30-home run club making the 1977 Dodgers the first team to ever have four players with 30 or more home runs in the same season.
- Ron Cey was voted co-MVP of the 1981 World Series with teammates Pedro Guerrero and Steve Yeager. Cey batted .350/.458/.500 with one home run and six RBI in the six-game Series.
- In 1976, Ron Cey recorded a song entitled "Third Base Bag" that was played somewhat regularly for a few years at Dodger Stadium. Cey also made acting appearances on *Columbo* and *Murder She Wrote* during his playing career.

### At What Was Ron Cey Elite?

Ron Cey was the starting third baseman for the Los Angeles Dodgers for a decade, from 1973 through 1982. During most of that time, Cey shared the infield with the same three teammates – Steve Garvey, Davey Lopes (#148), and Bill Russell – and the Dodgers won four National League pennants (1974, 1977, 1978, 1981).

It was not generally recognized at the time, but Cey was the best of the Dodgers' four infielders. As measured by pWins over replacement level, Ron Cey was one of the best players in the history of the Los Angeles Dodgers (i.e., the Dodgers since they moved to Los Angeles in 1958; excluding the old Brooklyn Dodgers).

<b>Top 10 Los Angeles Dodgers (Ranked by pWORLD)</b>					
		<b>pWins</b>	<b>pLosses</b>	<b>pWOPA</b>	<b>pWORLD</b>
1	Don Sutton	238.6	217.1	20.4	39.8
2	Clayton Kershaw	134.8	96.5	26.0	37.1
3	Sandy Koufax	146.4	113.8	21.6	33.3
4	Don Drysdale	200.3	186.6	15.7	32.5
<b>5</b>	<b>Ron Cey</b>	<b>195.4</b>	<b>157.6</b>	<b>15.2</b>	<b>28.9</b>
6	Maury Wills	206.9	192.8	11.9	27.9
7	Willie Davis	251.5	224.3	6.3	25.6
8	Fernando Valenzuela	151.8	141.9	12.7	25.4
9	Bill Russell	235.7	235.5	6.6	25.1
10	Orel Hershisier	135.9	121.9	13.4	25.1

In fact, looking at that table, Ron Cey is (at least arguably) the best non-pitcher in the history of the Los Angeles Dodgers. To be honest, I would not have guessed that.

<b>Top 10 Los Angeles Dodger Non-Pitchers (Ranked by pWORLD)</b>					
		<b>pWins</b>	<b>pLosses</b>	<b>pWOPA</b>	<b>pWORLD</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Ron Cey</b>	<b>195.4</b>	<b>157.6</b>	<b>15.2</b>	<b>28.9</b>
2	Maury Wills	206.9	192.8	11.9	27.9
3	Willie Davis	251.5	224.3	6.3	25.6
4	Bill Russell	235.7	235.5	6.6	25.1
5	Davey Lopes	158.0	135.7	12.9	24.3
6	Steve Garvey	198.9	165.6	8.6	22.8
7	Mike Piazza	88.7	65.3	12.6	18.9
8	Pedro Guerrero	136.0	110.7	9.0	18.4
9	Matt Kemp	148.6	127.4	7.7	18.0
10	Jim Gilliam	137.4	124.2	5.8	16.2

## Ron Cey's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1971	LAN	23	2	0.0	0.1	-0.0	-0.0	-
1972	LAN	24	11	1.4	0.9	0.3	0.2	0.1
1973	LAN	25	152	17.5	15.8	1.8	0.4	-
1974	LAN	26	158	22.2	16.4	4.0	2.6	1.1
1975	LAN	27	158	23.8	17.4	4.5	2.9	1.3
1976	LAN	28	145	21.8	15.4	4.3	2.9	1.5
1977	LAN	29	153	21.9	17.6	3.3	1.7	0.1
1978	LAN	30	159	19.6	18.4	1.7	0.2	-
1979	LAN	31	150	17.7	15.3	2.1	0.8	-
1980	LAN	32	157	19.1	14.9	3.1	1.8	0.5
1981	LAN	33	85	12.3	8.5	2.4	1.6	0.8
1982	LAN	34	149	18.0	16.9	1.5	0.1	-
1983	CHN	35	159	17.9	19.8	-0.1	-1.4	-
1984	CHN	36	146	16.8	14.2	2.3	1.1	-
1985	CHN	37	145	14.6	15.9	0.4	-0.8	-
1986	CHN	38	96	8.5	7.5	0.9	0.3	-
1987	OAK	39	45	2.6	2.6	0.2	-0.1	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,070  </b>	<b>255.8</b>	<b>217.6</b>	<b>32.7</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>5.4</b>
PostSeason (career)			45	6.1	5.2	0.8	0.3	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1971	LAN	23	2	0.0	0.1	-0.0	-0.0	-
1972	LAN	24	11	1.3	1.1	0.2	0.1	0.0
1973	LAN	25	152	17.0	16.1	1.4	-0.0	-
1974	LAN	26	158	19.8	17.0	2.5	1.1	-
1975	LAN	27	158	20.4	16.5	3.1	1.7	0.3
1976	LAN	28	145	20.4	16.2	3.1	1.7	0.4
1977	LAN	29	153	19.8	16.7	2.6	1.2	-
1978	LAN	30	159	20.1	16.5	2.8	1.4	0.0
1979	LAN	31	150	17.3	13.5	2.8	1.6	0.4
1980	LAN	32	157	18.4	15.6	2.4	1.1	-
1981	LAN	33	85	11.1	8.8	1.7	0.9	0.1
1982	LAN	34	149	18.3	17.7	1.2	-0.2	-
1983	CHN	35	159	18.7	17.4	1.5	0.2	-
1984	CHN	36	146	16.1	14.3	1.8	0.7	-
1985	CHN	37	145	15.3	15.6	0.9	-0.3	-
1986	CHN	38	96	9.9	7.3	1.7	1.1	0.4
1987	OAK	39	45	2.5	2.4	0.3	-0.0	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,070  </b>	<b>246.3</b>	<b>212.7</b>	<b>29.9</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>1.6</b>
PostSeason (career)			45	5.8	4.7	0.8	0.4	

## **#123: Dave Stieb**

### **Career Highlights**

Dave Stieb has an argument as the best pitcher of the 1980s and the best pitcher in Toronto Blue Jays history.

Five highlights of Dave Stieb's career:

- Dave Stieb was named to seven All-Star teams in his career. He started the 1983 and 1984 All-Star games for the American League. Stieb received Cy Young votes four times and MVP votes three times.
- Stieb led the American League in innings pitched twice (1982 and 1984), in complete games and shutouts once each in 1982 (19 and 5, respectively), and in ERA once, in 1985 at 2.48.
- On September 24 and 30, 1988, Dave Stieb pitched back-to-back games in which he threw 8-2/3 innings of no-hit ball only to lose the no-hitter on the final out of the game. On August 4, 1989, Stieb had a third no-hitter broken up with two out in the ninth inning, this time having retired the first 26 baserunners without allowing a baserunner.
- Finally, on September 2, 1990, Dave Stieb threw a no-hitter against the Cleveland Indians. This is the only no-hitter in the history of the Toronto Blue Jays.
- Dave Stieb leads the Toronto Blue Jays in career wins (175), innings pitched (2,873), complete games (103), shutouts (30), and strikeouts (1,658). He was elected to the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame in 2005.

### At What Was Dave Stieb Elite?

As I said above, Dave Stieb has an argument as the best pitcher of the 1980s. So, here is that argument.

The top 10 pitchers of the 1980s, ranked by pWins over replacement level (pWORL).

Top Pitchers of the 1980s (Ranked by pWORL)					
		pWins	pLosses	pWOPA	pWORL
1	<b>Dave Stieb</b>	<b>138.7</b>	<b>117.3</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>25.2</b>
2	Bob Welch	132.2	116.9	12.9	23.9
3	Fernando Valenzuela	138.7	128.2	12.2	23.8
4	Jack Morris	147.3	131.6	10.4	23.7
5	Dwight Gooden	89.7	65.8	16.2	22.9
6	Nolan Ryan	136.8	127.8	10.5	22.0
7	Roger Clemens	81.5	56.6	13.7	20.4
8	Orel Hershisser	92.2	76.8	11.9	19.4
9	Bert Blyleven	121.4	110.4	7.8	18.9
10	Rick Sutcliffe	114.4	105.9	8.7	18.6

And the top 10 pitchers of the 1980s, ranked by eWins over replacement level (eWORL).

Top Pitchers of the 1980s (Ranked by eWORL)					
		eWins	eLosses	eWOPA	eWORL
1	<b>Dave Stieb</b>	<b>136.3</b>	<b>115.3</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>24.8</b>
2	Fernando Valenzuela	135.4	127.6	10.8	22.2
3	Roger Clemens	80.4	55.9	13.4	20.1
4	Bob Welch	127.2	120.0	8.9	19.8
5	Bert Blyleven	122.4	110.8	8.1	19.3
6	Jack Morris	140.8	134.7	5.6	18.7
7	Orel Hershisser	89.8	75.3	11.4	18.7
8	Nolan Ryan	128.1	124.2	7.6	18.6
9	Bret Saberhagen	79.7	59.3	11.3	18.2
10	Rick Rhoden	116.7	112.2	7.6	17.6

## Dave Stieb's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1979	TOR	21	19	7.8	8.5	0.5	-0.2	-
1980	TOR	22	36	14.0	12.6	2.0	0.8	-
1981	TOR	23	28	11.6	9.0	2.5	1.5	0.5
1982	TOR	24	38	18.0	14.6	3.6	2.1	0.6
1983	TOR	25	36	15.6	11.4	3.6	2.3	1.1
1984	TOR	26	35	15.8	12.3	3.3	2.0	0.8
1985	TOR	27	36	15.8	13.0	3.2	1.6	0.1
1986	TOR	28	38	11.0	13.7	0.1	-1.1	-
1987	TOR	29	34	11.0	9.5	2.0	0.9	-
1988	TOR	30	33	12.6	10.4	2.4	1.2	0.1
1989	TOR	31	33	13.3	10.8	2.6	1.5	0.3
1990	TOR	32	33	14.0	9.4	3.7	2.5	1.4
1991	TOR	33	9	3.6	3.6	0.4	0.0	-
1992	TOR	34	21	5.1	6.6	-0.1	-0.7	-
1993	CHA	35	4	1.1	1.8	-0.2	-0.4	-
1998	TOR	40	19	1.5	2.3	-0.2	-0.4	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>452  </b>	<b>171.8</b>	<b>149.5</b>	<b>29.3</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>4.9</b>
PostSeason (career)			5	1.8	2.0	0.1	-0.1	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1979	TOR	21	19	7.3	7.6	0.7	-0.0	-
1980	TOR	22	36	13.9	11.4	2.5	1.4	0.3
1981	TOR	23	28	10.5	8.3	2.2	1.3	0.4
1982	TOR	24	38	17.2	13.6	3.5	2.1	0.7
1983	TOR	25	36	16.0	12.0	3.5	2.2	0.9
1984	TOR	26	35	15.7	12.3	3.2	2.0	0.8
1985	TOR	27	36	15.7	12.4	3.4	1.9	0.4
1986	TOR	28	38	12.2	15.0	0.1	-1.2	-
1987	TOR	29	34	11.1	10.3	1.7	0.6	-
1988	TOR	30	33	12.1	9.6	2.4	1.4	0.3
1989	TOR	31	33	12.0	10.4	2.1	1.0	-
1990	TOR	32	33	12.0	9.9	2.4	1.3	0.2
1991	TOR	33	9	3.6	3.0	0.7	0.3	-
1992	TOR	34	21	5.1	5.4	0.5	-0.1	-
1993	CHA	35	4	1.3	1.6	0.0	-0.1	-
1998	TOR	40	19	2.6	2.6	0.3	-0.0	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>452  </b>	<b>168.4</b>	<b>145.4</b>	<b>29.3</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>4.0</b>
PostSeason (career)			5	2.0	1.8	0.3	0.1	

## **#124: Sal Bando**

### **Career Highlights**

Sal Bando was the starting third baseman for the three-time World Champion Oakland A's of the 1970s.

Five highlights of Sal Bando's career:

- Sal Bando was named to four All-Star teams in his career. He started the 1969 All-Star game at third base for the American League, snapping a string of five consecutive starts by Brooks Robinson (#134).
- Bando received MVP votes seven times. He finished second, third, and fourth in MVP once apiece, in 1971, 1974, and 1973, respectively.
- Bando led the American League in games played four times (1968-69, 1973, 1975). He played 150 or more games ten times in his career (1968 – 1973, 1975 – 1978). Bando led the league in doubles (32) and total bases (295) in 1973.
- Sal Bando got the first postseason hit and scored the first postseason run in Milwaukee Brewers history. In Game 1 of the divisional series against the New York Yankees on October 7, 1981, Bando doubled with two out in the bottom of the second inning against Ron Guidry (#89) and scored on a Charlie Moore single. The Brewers lost the game 5-3 and the series 3-2.
- Sal Bando played for the first two Arizona State teams to reach the College World Series, the latter being the first ASU team to win the National Championship. He was elected to the College Baseball Hall of Fame in 2013.

### At What Was Sal Bando Elite?

Sal Bando is the second of four players clumped in my rankings between #122 (Ron Cey) and #128 (Tony Perez) who was a starting third baseman for at least one pennant winner in the 1970s.

By at least one measure, Sal Bando was the best third baseman of the 1970s. The next table shows the top 10 players in pWins over replacement level (pWORLD) during the 1970s among players who earned a majority of their player decisions as a third baseman.

<b>Top 10 Third Basemen, 1970 - 1979</b>					
<b>(Ranked by Career pWORLD)</b>					
		<b>pWins</b>	<b>pLosses</b>	<b>pWOPA</b>	<b>pWORLD</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Sal Bando</b>	<b>190.5</b>	<b>159.1</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>27.8</b>
2	Graig Nettles	198.8	169.8	12.7	27.2
3	Mike Schmidt	150.3	111.6	16.9	27.1
4	Ron Cey	146.0	117.4	11.7	22.0
5	Darrell Evans	160.6	137.2	8.4	20.1
6	George Brett	115.9	97.0	9.1	17.3
7	Richie Hebner	148.2	130.0	5.8	16.8
8	Joe Torre	114.0	98.0	5.0	13.6
9	Brooks Robinson	116.7	105.4	4.1	13.0
10	Rico Petrocelli	103.4	95.0	3.9	11.9

And that's not an easy competition for Bando to win: eight of the ten players in that table make my top 150.



## Sal Bando's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1966	KC1	22	11	0.7	1.0	-0.1	-0.1	-
1967	KC1	23	47	4.1	5.1	-0.2	-0.6	-
1968	OAK	24	162	19.5	19.7	1.3	-0.3	-
1969	OAK	25	162	23.6	17.0	4.8	3.0	1.3
1970	OAK	26	155	20.1	16.6	2.8	1.2	-
1971	OAK	27	153	20.8	15.4	3.6	2.2	0.8
1972	OAK	28	152	21.6	16.3	3.9	2.4	0.9
1973	OAK	29	162	20.8	16.3	3.5	1.9	0.3
1974	OAK	30	146	19.2	15.3	3.1	1.8	0.5
1975	OAK	31	160	18.8	15.6	3.0	1.6	0.3
1976	OAK	32	158	20.0	15.6	3.5	2.2	0.9
1977	MIL	33	159	17.2	18.8	0.6	-0.9	-
1978	MIL	34	152	19.8	15.9	3.3	1.9	0.5
1979	MIL	35	130	12.3	13.2	0.5	-0.5	-
1980	MIL	36	78	6.2	7.9	-0.3	-0.9	-
1981	MIL	37	32	1.8	1.5	0.3	0.1	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,019  </b>	<b>246.4</b>	<b>211.3</b>	<b>33.6</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>5.5</b>
PostSeason (career)			44	5.0	4.6	0.5	0.2	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1966	KC1	22	11	0.9	0.8	0.1	0.0	-
1967	KC1	23	47	4.5	4.0	0.5	0.2	-
1968	OAK	24	162	20.0	19.5	1.7	0.1	-
1969	OAK	25	162	25.1	17.7	5.2	3.4	1.6
1970	OAK	26	155	18.6	14.6	2.9	1.5	0.0
1971	OAK	27	153	19.2	15.7	2.7	1.3	-
1972	OAK	28	152	19.3	16.9	2.5	1.0	-
1973	OAK	29	162	20.9	16.6	3.4	1.8	0.2
1974	OAK	30	146	17.1	14.8	2.3	1.0	-
1975	OAK	31	160	16.2	15.5	1.6	0.4	-
1976	OAK	32	158	19.5	16.3	2.9	1.6	0.2
1977	MIL	33	159	16.3	16.0	1.4	0.1	-
1978	MIL	34	152	17.4	15.6	2.1	0.8	-
1979	MIL	35	130	12.6	14.2	0.3	-0.8	-
1980	MIL	36	78	6.3	7.3	0.1	-0.5	-
1981	MIL	37	32	1.9	1.8	0.2	0.0	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,019  </b>	<b>235.9</b>	<b>207.3</b>	<b>29.9</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>2.1</b>
PostSeason (career)			44	5.6	4.5	0.9	0.5	

## **#125: Graig Nettles**

### **Career Highlights**

Graig Nettles was the starting third baseman for the Yankees teams of the late 1970s who won three consecutive American League pennants and back-to-back World Championships in 1977 and 1978.

Five highlights of Graig Nettles's career:

- After going 0-for-2 in his first two major-league appearances (as a pinch hitter), Nettles got a double in his final plate appearance of 1967 (also as a pinch hitter). He then got hits in each of his first seven games in 1968 – his first seven games playing the field (as a right fielder). At the end of play on September 10, 1968, Nettles had a career batting line of .310/.310/.897 in 32 plate appearances in 10 games with 5 home runs, 8 runs scored, and 7 RBI.
- Graig Nettles was named to six All-Star teams in his career. He started three All-Star games at third base: for the American League in 1975 and 1980 and for the National League in 1985. Nettles won two Gold Gloves and received MVP votes four times, finishing fifth and sixth in 1977 and 1978 (his two Gold Glove winning seasons).
- Graig Nettles' 252 home runs in the 1970s was the second-most in the American League during that decade behind Nettles' teammate for three seasons, Reggie Jackson (#27). Nettles hit 20 or more home runs eleven times (nine times in the 1970s) and led the American League with 32 home runs in 1976.
- In 1971, Graig Nettles set single-season records for most assists (412) and most double plays (54) by a third baseman, both of which still hold. In 1973, Nettles had 410 assists, which is tied with Brooks Robinson (in 1974) for the second-highest single-season total in major-league history.
- Graig Nettles played in five World Series: with the Yankees in 1976, 1977, 1978, and 1981, and with the San Diego Padres in 1984. Nettles was named MVP of the 1981 ALCS in which he went 6-for-12 with 2 doubles, 1 home run, and 9 RBI in the Yankees' 3-game sweep of the Oakland A's.

## At What Was Graig Nettles Elite?

Graig Nettles was one of the top two or three third basemen of the 1970s (see #124, Sal Bando) and one of the top 20 third basemen since integration (see #97, Toby Harrah). His 1971 season, when he set major-league records for assists and double plays by a third baseman ranks as one of the top 10 defensive seasons by a third baseman since at least 1947 (see #134, Brooks Robinson).

Graig Nettles was an excellent defensive third baseman in his prime (Nettles was a regular third baseman through his age-41 season; Player won-lost records rate him as somewhat below-average from about age 35 onward). In the biography of Graig Nettles written by Joseph Wancho for the SABR Biography Project, he describes several key defensive plays made by Nettles in Game 3 of the 1978 World Series. One particular play caught my eye:

“In the fifth inning [Reggie] Smith came up with runners on first and second and two out. Again he hit a shot toward Nettles, who was only able to knock it down, holding Smith to a single and loading the bases.”

In most defensive analyses, this play would be scored as a negative against Nettles: a ball hit toward Nettles became a hit. But by knocking the ball down, Nettles turned what could have been at least an RBI single and perhaps a two-run double into an infield hit with no runners scoring.

The ability to limit the number of extra bases on hits is measured in Player won-lost records via Component 6. Component 6 is most important for outfielders but it is measured for infielders as well. And, in fact, Graig Nettles was historically great at this very sort of play through his career: limiting hard-hit base hits to infield singles instead of outfield singles (which generate more baserunner advancement) and doubles.

The top 10 infielders in net Component 6 wins since 1947 are shown in the next table.

Top 10 Infielders, since 1947 (Ranked by Net Component 6 Fielding Wins)					
		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	Net eWins
1	Dick Allen	0.4	0.1	0.846	0.3
2	Ron Santo	0.9	0.6	0.599	0.3
<b>3</b>	<b>Graig Nettles</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.591</b>	<b>0.3</b>
4	Al Rosen	0.3	0.1	0.786	0.2
5	Jim Ray Hart	0.2	0.0	0.939	0.2
6	Bill Melton	0.3	0.1	0.741	0.2
7	Billy Cox	0.3	0.1	0.813	0.2
8	Aramis Ramirez	0.5	0.3	0.607	0.2
9	Matt Williams	0.8	0.6	0.569	0.2
10	Ken McMullen	0.5	0.3	0.613	0.2

## Graig Nettles's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1967	MIN	22	3	0.0	0.1	-0.0	-0.0	-
1968	MIN	23	22	2.8	2.2	0.4	0.2	0.0
1969	MIN	24	96	7.5	7.1	0.7	0.0	-
1970	CLE	25	157	18.5	16.0	2.2	0.7	-
1971	CLE	26	158	20.0	17.7	2.1	0.7	-
1972	CLE	27	150	18.2	17.7	1.5	0.1	-
1973	NYA	28	160	20.4	18.2	2.4	0.8	-
1974	NYA	29	155	20.0	17.8	2.4	1.0	-
1975	NYA	30	157	19.5	18.5	2.0	0.5	-
1976	NYA	31	158	22.0	15.6	4.6	3.2	1.8
1977	NYA	32	158	21.3	15.3	4.4	2.9	1.4
1978	NYA	33	159	20.7	16.8	3.3	1.8	0.4
1979	NYA	34	145	18.3	16.2	2.3	1.0	-
1980	NYA	35	89	11.0	8.8	1.8	1.1	0.3
1981	NYA	36	103	13.8	10.2	2.6	1.6	0.7
1982	NYA	37	122	13.1	13.2	0.9	-0.2	-
1983	NYA	38	129	15.8	14.1	1.8	0.7	-
1984	SDN	39	124	13.6	11.7	1.8	0.8	-
1985	SDN	40	137	14.9	14.0	1.4	0.3	-
1986	SDN	41	123	10.7	11.1	0.3	-0.5	-
1987	ATL	42	112	4.4	5.4	-0.1	-0.5	-
1988	MON	43	75	2.7	3.0	0.2	-0.1	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,692  </b>	<b>309.1</b>	<b>270.7</b>	<b>39.2</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>4.6</b>
PostSeason (career)			53	5.2	5.9	0.0	-0.4	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1967	MIN	22	3	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	-
1968	MIN	23	22	2.6	2.4	0.2	-0.0	-
1969	MIN	24	96	7.7	7.3	0.7	0.0	-
1970	CLE	25	157	18.3	16.4	2.0	0.5	-
1971	CLE	26	158	21.9	17.4	3.3	1.7	0.2
1972	CLE	27	150	19.1	16.9	2.4	0.9	-
1973	NYA	28	160	18.9	17.0	2.2	0.7	-
1974	NYA	29	155	18.8	17.5	1.9	0.6	-
1975	NYA	30	157	17.7	17.6	1.5	0.1	-
1976	NYA	31	158	20.4	16.7	3.2	1.8	0.5
1977	NYA	32	158	18.8	16.0	2.7	1.3	-
1978	NYA	33	159	19.0	17.0	2.3	0.9	-
1979	NYA	34	145	16.0	15.5	1.4	0.2	-
1980	NYA	35	89	10.4	10.1	0.9	0.1	-
1981	NYA	36	103	11.3	10.4	1.2	0.3	-
1982	NYA	37	122	12.4	13.3	0.4	-0.5	-
1983	NYA	38	129	15.4	14.3	1.5	0.4	-
1984	SDN	39	124	13.7	12.2	1.6	0.6	-
1985	SDN	40	137	15.7	13.1	2.3	1.2	0.1
1986	SDN	41	123	11.1	11.1	0.5	-0.3	-
1987	ATL	42	112	4.7	5.1	0.3	-0.2	-
1988	MON	43	75	2.1	3.0	-0.1	-0.4	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,692  </b>	<b>296.2</b>	<b>270.6</b>	<b>32.3</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>0.7</b>
PostSeason (career)			53	5.7	5.9	0.3	-0.1	

## #126: Roberto Clemente

### Career Highlights

Roberto Clemente is one of the few baseball players whose fame and legend truly transcended baseball. Clemente is a legend in his native Puerto Rico. Major League Baseball renamed their humanitarian award in his honor after his tragic death in a plane crash trying to deliver support to Nicaraguan earthquake victims. To give a small example of the legendary status of Roberto Clemente, there is a public high school in Chicago named Roberto Clemente High School. Clemente's only direct connection to Chicago was the 159 games he played in Wrigley Field as a member of the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Roberto Clemente was also, of course, a wonderful baseball player. In his 159 games played at Wrigley Field, for example (the equivalent of about one full season), Clemente batted an excellent .328/.380/.525 with 26 home runs, 107 runs scored, and 110 RBI.

Five highlights of Roberto Clemente's career:

- Roberto Clemente was named to an All-Star team in twelve seasons. He won twelve Gold Gloves and received MVP votes twelve times.
- Roberto Clemente won four batting titles – in 1961 (.351), 1964 (.339), 1965 (.329), and 1967 (.357).
- Roberto Clemente won the National League MVP award in 1966. Somewhat ironically, Clemente won his MVP award in the only season from 1964 through 1967 in which he did *not* win the batting title. In 1966, Clemente batted .317/.360/.536 with career highs in home runs (29), total bases (342), runs scored (105), and RBI (119).
- Clemente had the highest batting average of any player in the 1960s at .328. He also led all of baseball in the 1960s in hits (1,877) and triples (99).
- Roberto Clemente was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame on March 20, 1973 via special election. Clemente was the second player elected to the Hall of Fame in the offseason following his final season (Lou Gehrig was the first). He was the first Latin American elected to the Hall of Fame.

## At What Was Roberto Clemente Elite?

Roberto Clemente was elite at most aspects of baseball.

On offense, he won four batting titles and had the highest batting average in baseball in the 1960s. The two aspects of offense where Clemente was perhaps not quite elite were power – he had a career high of only 29 home runs – and baserunning – he had a career high of only 12 stolen bases. Which is not to say that he was bad at either of these things. His one genuine offensive weakness was his reluctance to take a walk. Although if you can bat .317 with good doubles and triples power, you can get away with a career high in unintentional walks of 40. For examples of Roberto Clemente's offensive excellence, see Frank Robinson (#43), George Brett (#45), and Rod Carew (#81).

Roberto Clemente is perhaps best remembered, however, for his elite fielding. Many, perhaps most, people view him as the best defensive right fielder in major-league history. And I would not necessarily disagree (see, for example, #69, Dwight Evans). There are four components of outfielder fielding in Player won-lost records.

- Component 5, which measures whether balls-in-play become hits or outs
- Component 6, which measures whether hits-in-play become singles, doubles, or triples
- Component 8, which measures baserunner outs, and
- Component 9, which measures baserunner advancements

Clemente was pretty good at Component 5, but where he truly excelled was in the other three components. Between his speed, the power and accuracy of his arm, and his tremendous instincts, Roberto Clemente was exceptional at throwing out baserunners (his 266 outfield assists are the most by any player who has played since integration) and discouraging baserunner advancements, whether that meant holding runners to singles instead of doubles, discouraging runners from trying to go first-to-third on singles to right field, or preventing runners from tagging and trying to score from third base on would-be sacrifice flies.

The next table shows the top 10 players at net wins across these three components – 6, 8, and 9 – across all positions.

Top 10 Players, Components 6, 8, and 9, since 1947, Fielding only					
		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	Net Wins
1	<b>Roberto Clemente</b>	<b>57.0</b>	<b>49.2</b>	<b>0.537</b>	<b>7.8</b>
2	Jesse Barfield	30.9	23.6	0.567	7.3
3	Al Kaline	48.0	40.9	0.539	7.0
4	Willie Mays	60.6	54.0	0.529	6.6
5	Ellis Valentine	21.4	15.5	0.581	6.0
6	Andy Van Slyke	28.4	23.2	0.549	5.1
7	Jose Bautista	24.6	19.6	0.556	4.9
8	Raul Mondesi	30.4	25.5	0.544	4.9
9	Paul Blair	28.8	24.1	0.544	4.6
10	Dwight Evans	44.1	39.7	0.527	4.5

## Roberto Clemente's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1955	PIT	20	124	13.4	16.3	-0.7	-2.0	-
1956	PIT	21	147	18.9	19.2	0.8	-0.8	-
1957	PIT	22	111	12.2	15.8	-1.0	-2.2	-
1958	PIT	23	140	19.2	15.7	2.4	1.1	-
1959	PIT	24	105	13.9	14.1	0.4	-0.7	-
1960	PIT	25	144	22.2	16.2	3.9	2.4	0.9
1961	PIT	26	146	21.3	18.7	2.0	0.2	-
1962	PIT	27	144	21.3	17.4	2.5	1.0	-
1963	PIT	28	152	21.2	19.6	1.3	-0.3	-
1964	PIT	29	155	21.7	18.9	2.0	0.4	-
1965	PIT	30	152	22.3	18.5	2.7	1.0	-
1966	PIT	31	154	26.3	19.3	4.2	2.5	0.7
1967	PIT	32	147	25.3	18.1	4.5	2.6	0.8
1968	PIT	33	132	19.3	17.5	1.8	0.3	-
1969	PIT	34	138	20.8	16.6	2.7	1.1	-
1970	PIT	35	107	16.3	12.3	2.7	1.5	0.3
1971	PIT	36	132	21.9	14.7	4.4	3.0	1.5
1972	PIT	37	102	15.1	10.0	3.2	2.1	1.1
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,432  </b>	<b>352.5</b>	<b>299.1</b>	<b>39.7</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>5.3</b>
PostSeason (career)			26	3.9	2.8	0.7	0.4	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1955	PIT	20	124	14.5	16.2	-0.1	-1.4	-
1956	PIT	21	147	18.1	17.5	1.2	-0.3	-
1957	PIT	22	111	12.5	14.2	-0.1	-1.2	-
1958	PIT	23	140	17.1	16.3	1.0	-0.2	-
1959	PIT	24	105	13.8	13.4	0.6	-0.4	-
1960	PIT	25	144	20.0	17.7	2.0	0.5	-
1961	PIT	26	146	21.5	16.9	3.0	1.2	-
1962	PIT	27	144	18.5	17.1	1.2	-0.1	-
1963	PIT	28	152	22.1	19.7	1.7	0.1	-
1964	PIT	29	155	22.5	18.9	2.5	0.9	-
1965	PIT	30	152	22.4	18.2	2.9	1.2	-
1966	PIT	31	154	25.0	20.2	3.1	1.3	-
1967	PIT	32	147	25.1	18.0	4.4	2.6	0.8
1968	PIT	33	132	20.8	17.1	2.7	1.1	-
1969	PIT	34	138	21.0	15.9	3.2	1.6	0.0
1970	PIT	35	107	16.7	12.5	2.9	1.6	0.3
1971	PIT	36	132	20.2	15.2	3.3	1.9	0.5
1972	PIT	37	102	13.6	11.7	1.6	0.5	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,432  </b>	<b>345.4</b>	<b>296.8</b>	<b>37.1</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>1.6</b>
PostSeason (career)			26	4.0	3.0	0.7	0.4	

## **#127: Jim Bunning**

### **Career Highlights**

Jim Bunning was one of the best and probably one of the most underappreciated starting pitchers of the late 1950s and early-to-mid 1960s.

Five highlights of Jim Bunning's career:

- Jim Bunning was named to the All-Star team in seven seasons. He started three games – in 1957, 1961, and 1962 – all for the American League. Bunning received MVP votes five times.
- Jim Bunning received Cy Young votes only once in his career, finishing second in 1967. Before 1967, a single Cy Young award was given for all of major-league baseball. Cy Young voting also only allowed for a single-person ballot – voters voted for one candidate with no second-place, third-place, etc. votes. Bunning received one first-place vote in 1967 as Mike McCormick of the San Francisco Giants won the first NL-only Cy Young award.
- Jim Bunning earned 20 traditional pitcher wins one time, in 1957. He won exactly 19 games four times in five seasons between 1962 and 1966. Bunning led his league in games started, shutouts, and innings pitched twice each. He led his league in strikeouts three times.
- On July 20, 1958, pitching for the Detroit Tigers, Bunning threw a no-hitter against the Boston Red Sox (2 walks, 12 strikeouts). On June 21, 1964, pitching for the Philadelphia Phillies, Bunning threw a perfect game (10 strikeouts) against the New York Mets. Bunning was the first pitcher since Cy Young to throw a no-hitter in both leagues. His perfect game was the first by a National League pitcher since 1880.
- Jim Bunning received 74.2% of the vote in his 12th year on the BBWAA's Hall-of-Fame ballot in 1988, missing induction by four votes. His vote total dropped by 34 votes the next year and 26 more votes the year after that before recovering to 63.7% in his final year on the writers' ballot (1991). Bunning was finally elected to the Hall of Fame by the Veterans' Committee in 1996.



### At What Was Jim Bunning Elite?

Jim Bunning's first full season was 1957 and he wasted no time announcing himself as one of the best pitchers in baseball. He led the American League in traditional pitcher wins and innings pitched with a record of 20-8 with a 2.69 ERA in 267.1 innings pitched.

From there, Jim Bunning settled into a stretch of eleven consecutive seasons of full-time pitching (Bunning averaged 269 innings per season from 1957 through 1967 with a low of 219.2 innings pitched in 1958) that ranged from solidly above average to elite.

He capped this stretch off with a 1967 season in which, at least as evaluated by Player won-lost records, he was clearly the best pitcher in the National League. He had a mediocre won-lost record of 17-15 (for a Phillies team that finished seventh in the 10-team National League in runs scored) that probably cost him a well-deserved Cy Young award but his other traditional statistics were excellent: a 2.29 ERA (second in the National League) with 253 strikeouts in 302.1 innings pitched across 40 games started with 6 shutouts, all of which led the National League.

Putting all of this together, Jim Bunning ranks as the best pitcher in baseball over the totality of his prime, 1957 – 1967, as measured by pWins over either positional average (barely) or replacement level, the latter by a healthy margin.

#### Top 10 Pitchers, 1957 - 1967 (Ranked by Career pWOPA)

		pWins	pLosses	pWOPA	pWORL
1	<b>Jim Bunning</b>	<b>192.7</b>	<b>174.5</b>	<b>22.6</b>	<b>38.0</b>
2	Juan Marichal	134.6	104.1	22.6	32.9
3	Sandy Koufax	151.7	130.9	21.4	33.6
4	Whitey Ford	141.9	124.2	20.3	31.5
5	Don Drysdale	195.3	186.6	16.7	33.0
6	Warren Spahn	150.9	134.5	15.8	27.9
7	Larry Jackson	176.4	158.2	15.8	30.6
8	Bob Gibson	130.7	111.6	15.7	26.5
9	Camilo Pascual	146.7	128.8	14.1	26.2
10	Jim Maloney	100.2	84.9	11.9	20.2

#### Top 10 Pitchers, 1957 - 1967 (Ranked by Career pWORL)

		pWins	pLosses	pWOPA	pWORL
1	<b>Jim Bunning</b>	<b>192.7</b>	<b>174.5</b>	<b>22.6</b>	<b>38.0</b>
2	Sandy Koufax	151.7	130.9	21.4	33.6
3	Don Drysdale	195.3	186.6	16.7	33.0
4	Juan Marichal	134.6	104.1	22.6	32.9
5	Whitey Ford	141.9	124.2	20.3	31.5
6	Larry Jackson	176.4	158.2	15.8	30.6
7	Warren Spahn	150.9	134.5	15.8	27.9
8	Bob Gibson	130.7	111.6	15.7	26.5
9	Camilo Pascual	146.7	128.8	14.1	26.2
10	Bob Friend	147.6	137.8	8.6	21.4

## Jim Bunning's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1955	DET	23	15	3.1	5.6	-0.8	-1.1	-
1956	DET	24	15	3.3	2.3	0.9	0.6	0.3
1957	DET	25	45	18.1	14.1	4.0	2.7	1.4
1958	DET	26	36	14.7	14.7	1.8	0.7	-
1959	DET	27	40	16.1	16.3	1.9	0.5	-
1960	DET	28	37	15.1	13.5	2.6	1.4	0.2
1961	DET	29	38	18.5	14.3	4.1	2.7	1.4
1962	DET	30	42	18.1	14.3	4.1	2.7	1.3
1963	DET	31	40	15.1	16.1	1.6	0.2	-
1964	PHI	32	41	18.2	13.5	4.7	3.0	1.4
1965	PHI	33	39	19.3	14.1	4.8	3.4	1.9
1966	PHI	34	43	20.3	16.7	4.0	2.4	0.9
1967	PHI	35	40	19.3	15.1	4.3	2.8	1.4
1968	PIT	36	27	8.2	12.0	-0.7	-1.5	-
1969		37	34	12.6	12.7	1.7	0.5	-
	LAN		9 /	2.8	2.9	0.3	0.1	-
	PIT		25 /	9.8	9.8	1.3	0.4	-
1970	PHI	38	35	11.9	13.1	1.0	-0.1	-
1971	PHI	39	31	7.4	9.1	0.1	-0.7	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>598  </b>	<b>239.2</b>	<b>217.5</b>	<b>40.3</b>	<b>20.2</b>	<b>10.1</b>
PostSeason (career)			0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1955	DET	23	15	2.9	4.5	-0.4	-0.8	-
1956	DET	24	15	2.9	3.1	0.3	-0.0	-
1957	DET	25	45	17.3	16.0	2.8	1.4	0.0
1958	DET	26	36	14.4	14.8	1.6	0.5	-
1959	DET	27	40	15.6	16.3	1.6	0.3	-
1960	DET	28	37	16.8	13.3	3.7	2.4	1.1
1961	DET	29	38	16.8	15.3	2.8	1.4	0.1
1962	DET	30	42	17.0	15.9	2.8	1.3	-
1963	DET	31	40	15.6	17.9	1.2	-0.4	-
1964	PHI	32	41	18.1	16.0	3.6	1.8	0.1
1965	PHI	33	39	20.0	16.4	4.2	2.6	1.1
1966	PHI	34	43	19.5	16.7	3.6	2.0	0.5
1967	PHI	35	40	19.1	15.9	3.8	2.3	0.9
1968	PIT	36	27	8.9	12.4	-0.5	-1.4	-
1969		37	34	12.8	13.3	1.5	0.3	-
	LAN		9 /	3.4	3.8	0.3	-0.0	-
	PIT		25 /	9.4	9.5	1.2	0.3	-
1970	PHI	38	35	13.4	13.4	1.7	0.5	-
1971	PHI	39	31	7.3	7.5	0.8	0.1	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>598  </b>	<b>238.4</b>	<b>228.7</b>	<b>35.1</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>3.7</b>
PostSeason (career)			0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	

## **#128: Tony Perez**

### **Career Highlights**

Tony Perez was the cleanup hitter for the two iterations of the Big Red Machine that won the World Series.

Five highlights of Tony Perez's career:

- Tony Perez was named to seven All-Star teams in his career. He started the 1970 All-Star game for the National League at third base. Perez received MVP votes seven times with four top-10 finishes.
- Tony Perez had 90 or more RBI in a season twelve times (the first eleven consecutively from 1967 – 1977). His 954 RBI was the second-most RBI of the 1970s behind long-time teammate Johnny Bench (#15).
- Tony Perez was the MVP of the 1967 All-Star game. He hit a solo home run off Catfish Hunter (#96) in the top of the 15th inning to give the National League a 2-1 victory.
- On July 16, 1970, Tony Perez hit the first home run in the history of Three Rivers Stadium in Pittsburgh.
- Tony Perez was inducted into the Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame in 1998. He had his number, 24, retired by the Reds in 2000. And he was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his ninth year of eligibility, 2000, with 77.2% of the vote.

### At What Was Tony Perez Elite?

Tony Perez is best remembered as a first baseman, where he played in 1,778 of his 2,777 games (64.0%). But Tony Perez played five full seasons as a third baseman early in his career and, in fact, made his only All-Star game start at third base in 1970.

As measured by Player won-lost records, the 1970 season was Tony Perez's finest season. He batted .317/.401/.589 with 40 home runs, 107 runs scored, and 129 RBI, while playing an average defensive third base (for his career, Player won-lost records show him with a defensive winning percentage of .503 at third base). All the offensive numbers in this paragraph were career highs for Perez. Player won-lost records see Perez as the best third baseman in baseball that season and one of the top 10 players across all positions.

While 1970 was probably the only season where Tony Perez was the best third baseman in baseball he was among the best third basemen in his other four seasons there as well.

The next table shows the top ten third basemen, measured by eWins over positional average (eWOPA) at third base only for the five seasons in which Tony Perez was a full-time third baseman.

<b>Top 10 Third Basemen, 1967 - 1971</b> <b>(Ranked by eWOPA at 3B only)</b>					
		<b>eWins</b>	<b>eLosses</b>	<b>eWinPct</b>	<b>eWOPA</b>
1	Ron Santo	101.9	83.8	0.549	7.2
<b>2</b>	<b>Tony Perez</b>	<b>100.5</b>	<b>82.5</b>	<b>0.549</b>	<b>7.2</b>
3	Sal Bando	87.2	72.1	0.547	6.0
4	Brooks Robinson	96.2	84.5	0.532	4.0
5	Harmon Killebrew	40.3	31.9	0.558	3.4
6	Dick Allen	34.9	27.6	0.559	3.0
7	Joe Torre	33.1	25.6	0.564	3.0
8	Richie Hebner	42.1	35.9	0.540	2.3
9	Ken McMullen	90.4	82.7	0.522	2.2
10	Bill Melton	49.3	43.3	0.532	2.1

Ron Santo was probably better, but (a) only Santo was particularly close to Perez, and (b) if Santo was better, he was just barely so.

## Tony Perez's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1964	CIN	22	12	0.3	0.8	-0.2	-0.3	-
1965	CIN	23	103	8.0	7.0	0.8	0.2	-
1966	CIN	24	97	7.1	7.9	-0.2	-0.8	-
1967	CIN	25	156	19.7	16.0	2.9	1.3	-
1968	CIN	26	160	20.4	18.6	2.3	0.7	-
1969	CIN	27	160	23.2	17.6	4.3	2.6	0.8
1970	CIN	28	158	23.6	16.3	4.7	3.0	1.3
1971	CIN	29	158	22.2	18.0	3.2	1.6	0.0
1972	CIN	30	136	16.2	11.1	2.5	1.4	0.3
1973	CIN	31	151	19.5	13.4	3.5	2.2	0.8
1974	CIN	32	158	19.1	15.2	2.4	1.2	-
1975	CIN	33	137	17.2	13.2	2.3	1.1	-
1976	CIN	34	139	15.2	12.9	1.5	0.4	-
1977	MON	35	154	17.0	14.7	1.7	0.4	-
1978	MON	36	148	14.5	13.4	1.0	-0.1	-
1979	MON	37	132	14.3	13.0	1.1	0.0	-
1980	BOS	38	151	15.2	15.7	0.6	-0.6	-
1981	BOS	39	84	7.5	6.7	0.9	0.3	-
1982	BOS	40	69	4.9	4.4	0.7	0.1	-
1983	PHI	41	91	7.9	7.3	0.6	0.0	-
1984	CIN	42	71	3.4	3.8	0.0	-0.3	-
1985	CIN	43	71	6.5	5.0	0.9	0.5	0.0
1986	CIN	44	77	5.2	5.1	0.2	-0.2	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,773  </b>	<b>308.1</b>	<b>257.3</b>	<b>37.8</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>3.3</b>
PostSeason (career)			47	5.9	4.9	0.6	0.2	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1964	CIN	22	12	0.4	0.7	-0.1	-0.1	-
1965	CIN	23	103	7.7	7.3	0.5	-0.2	-
1966	CIN	24	97	6.1	7.0	-0.2	-0.8	-
1967	CIN	25	156	18.5	16.1	2.2	0.7	-
1968	CIN	26	160	22.0	19.0	3.0	1.3	-
1969	CIN	27	160	22.8	17.3	4.2	2.5	0.8
1970	CIN	28	158	21.8	15.1	4.3	2.8	1.2
1971	CIN	29	158	19.7	17.6	2.0	0.5	-
1972	CIN	30	136	15.6	11.5	2.1	1.0	-
1973	CIN	31	151	18.2	13.3	2.9	1.6	0.3
1974	CIN	32	158	16.5	13.9	1.7	0.6	-
1975	CIN	33	137	15.6	12.2	2.0	0.9	-
1976	CIN	34	139	15.2	13.1	1.4	0.4	-
1977	MON	35	154	15.4	14.0	1.2	0.0	-
1978	MON	36	148	16.1	13.3	1.8	0.7	-
1979	MON	37	132	12.9	12.3	0.7	-0.3	-
1980	BOS	38	151	15.2	14.6	1.1	-0.1	-
1981	BOS	39	84	7.6	7.3	0.7	0.0	-
1982	BOS	40	69	4.4	4.2	0.5	0.0	-
1983	PHI	41	91	6.8	6.8	0.3	-0.2	-
1984	CIN	42	71	3.2	3.8	-0.1	-0.4	-
1985	CIN	43	71	5.8	4.7	0.7	0.3	-
1986	CIN	44	77	5.1	5.3	0.1	-0.3	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,773  </b>	<b>292.5</b>	<b>250.1</b>	<b>33.1</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>2.3</b>
PostSeason (career)			47	5.0	4.7	0.3	-0.1	

## **#129: Fred McGriff**

### **Career Highlights**

Fred McGriff was one of the top home run hitters of the early 1990s and had one of the all-time great nicknames, “The Crime Dog”.

Five highlights of Fred McGriff’s career:

- Fred McGriff was named to five All-Star teams in his career. He started three games at first base for the National League – 1992, 1995, and 1996. McGriff won three Silver Sluggers. He received MVP votes eight times with six top-10 finishes.
- Fred McGriff led the American League in home runs in 1989 and the National League in home runs in 1992. He was the first player to lead both the American and National League in home runs. He hit 30 or more home runs ten times in his career for a record five different franchises.
- The Atlanta Braves acquired McGriff in a trade on July 18, 1993. Prior to acquiring McGriff, the Braves were in second place in the National League West, nine games behind the San Francisco Giants. McGriff batted .310/.392/.612 with 19 home runs, 59 runs scored, and 55 RBI in 68 games for the Braves, who went 51-17 with McGriff in the lineup to win the National League West by one game over the San Francisco Giants.
- Fred McGriff was voted the MVP of the 1994 All-Star game. In his only at bat in the game, McGriff hit a pinch-hit two-run home run off Lee Smith to tie the game at 7-7. The National League won the game in the bottom of the tenth inning on a Moises Alou double to score Tony Gwynn.
- Fred McGriff was the first first baseman and first cleanup hitter in Tampa Bay (Devil) Rays history.

### At What Was Fred McGriff Elite?

My first thought, in trying to figure out how Fred McGriff was elite, was that one way in which he was elite was that he maintained his value well into his thirties. He had his first 30-home run season in 1988 at the age of 24 and his last two 30-home runs seasons in 2001 and 2002 at the ages of 37 and 38. He batted .300 for the first time in 1990 at age 26. That season, he batted .300/.400/.530 with 35 home runs. In 2001, at the age of 37, he batted .306/.386/.544 with 31 home runs.

So, my first thought was to look at how McGriff ranked among first basemen after the age of 30.

It turns out, however, that the perception that Fred McGriff was as valuable in his thirties as he was in his twenties is an illusion of context. Fred McGriff came of age in an era when it was possible to lead the league in home runs with 35 or 36 home runs – as McGriff did in 1989 and 1992. From 1988 – 1994 (McGriff's age-30 season), Fred McGriff hit 242 home runs, 35 per season. This led baseball by 24 home runs.

From 1999 – 2002, McGriff hit 120 home runs (30 per season). This ranked McGriff 24th in baseball over these four years. Even if McGriff had matched his earlier pace of 34.6 home runs per season (138 total) that would have still only been good for 18th place (tied with Gary Sheffield).

In fact, my initial thought about Fred McGriff – he was elite based on his performance after age 30 – was exactly backwards. Instead, Fred McGriff turns out to rank at an elite level among first basemen *through* age 30.

#### Top 10 First Basemen, through age 30, 1947 - 2017 (Ranked by eWOPA, 1B only)

		eWins	eLosses	eWORL
1	Albert Pujols	155.4	104.8	18.4
2	Jeff Bagwell	151.6	109.9	12.9
3	Frank Thomas	110.9	78.2	12.4
4	Eddie Murray	155.5	123.9	12.0
5	Todd Helton	132.7	98.2	10.4
6	Will Clark	149.4	114.4	10.1
7	<b>Fred McGriff</b>	<b>125.2</b>	<b>95.6</b>	<b>9.4</b>
8	Willie McCovey	99.0	70.7	9.3
9	Gil Hodges	116.3	91.8	9.1
10	Paul Goldschmidt	112.2	85.4	8.7

# Fred McGriff's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Fred McGriff

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1986	TOR	22	3	0.1	0.2	-0.0	-0.0	-
1987	TOR	23	105	7.9	6.2	1.5	0.7	-
1988	TOR	24	154	16.3	12.9	2.4	1.3	0.2
1989	TOR	25	161	19.3	13.5	3.2	2.1	0.9
1990	TOR	26	153	17.5	13.7	2.5	1.3	0.2
1991	SDN	27	153	19.6	15.8	2.5	1.1	-
1992	SDN	28	152	18.4	15.8	1.7	0.4	-
1993		29	151	19.5	14.3	2.9	1.6	0.2
	ATL		68 /	10.1	5.4	2.5	1.9	1.3
	SDN		83 /	9.4	8.9	0.4	-0.3	-
1994	ATL	30	113	17.0	9.9	3.8	2.6	1.5
1995	ATL	31	144	17.2	14.4	1.6	0.3	-
1996	ATL	32	159	17.7	16.7	0.9	-0.5	-
1997	ATL	33	152	17.6	14.5	1.6	0.3	-
1998	TBA	34	151	14.2	15.3	-0.0	-1.2	-
1999	TBA	35	144	15.4	12.8	2.0	0.8	-
2000	TBA	36	158	16.0	16.0	0.6	-0.7	-
2001		37	146	15.7	13.6	1.7	0.4	-
	CHN		49 /	6.2	4.5	1.0	0.5	0.1
	TBA		97 /	9.5	9.1	0.7	-0.2	-
2002	CHN	38	146	16.8	15.0	1.2	-0.1	-
2003	LAN	39	86	9.0	8.5	0.5	-0.2	-
2004	TBA	40	27	1.6	1.9	0.0	-0.1	-
	<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>		<b>2,458  </b>	<b>276.9</b>	<b>230.8</b>	<b>30.5</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>3.0</b>
	PostSeason (career)		50	6.8	5.4	0.8	0.3	

Fred McGriff

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1986	TOR	22	3	0.0	0.1	-0.0	-0.0	-
1987	TOR	23	105	8.1	6.5	1.5	0.7	-
1988	TOR	24	154	17.4	12.9	3.0	1.8	0.7
1989	TOR	25	161	19.2	14.5	2.7	1.5	0.3
1990	TOR	26	153	17.9	13.2	2.9	1.8	0.6
1991	SDN	27	153	18.5	14.4	2.5	1.2	-
1992	SDN	28	152	19.6	15.0	2.7	1.4	0.1
1993		29	151	18.9	13.9	2.9	1.6	0.2
	ATL		68 /	9.0	6.0	1.7	1.1	0.5
	SDN		83 /	9.9	7.9	1.2	0.5	-
1994	ATL	30	113	14.2	10.2	2.2	1.2	0.1
1995	ATL	31	144	15.2	14.6	0.5	-0.7	-
1996	ATL	32	159	17.5	16.1	1.1	-0.3	-
1997	ATL	33	152	15.1	15.0	0.1	-1.1	-
1998	TBA	34	151	14.9	14.1	0.9	-0.3	-
1999	TBA	35	144	16.0	12.4	2.4	1.3	0.1
2000	TBA	36	158	14.8	14.5	0.7	-0.6	-
2001		37	146	15.3	12.4	2.0	0.8	-
	CHN		49 /	5.4	4.3	0.6	0.2	-
	TBA		97 /	9.9	8.1	1.4	0.5	-
2002	CHN	38	146	15.3	12.7	1.5	0.4	-
2003	LAN	39	86	7.7	7.7	0.2	-0.4	-
2004	TBA	40	27	1.2	1.7	-0.1	-0.3	-
	<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>		<b>2,458  </b>	<b>266.5</b>	<b>221.8</b>	<b>29.7</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>2.1</b>
	PostSeason (career)		50	5.9	4.9	0.6	0.2	



## **#130: Lance Berkman**

### **Career Highlights**

Lance Berkman was a big hitter who starred for the Houston Astros in the first decade of the twenty-first century and was especially dangerous in postseason play.

Five highlights of Lance Berkman's career:

- Lance Berkman was named to six All-Star teams in his career. He started three All-Star games at three different positions: center field (2004), first base (2008), and right field (2011). Berkman received MVP votes seven times with six top-10 finishes. He was voted National League Comeback Player of the Year in 2011.
- Berkman had 100 or more RBI six times. He scored 100 or more runs four times. He drew 100 or more walks three times. He did all three in the same season twice, in 2002 and 2004.
- Lance Berkman hit a home run on September 21st for seven consecutive seasons from 2001 through 2007. This tied the major-league record for consecutive seasons hitting a home run on the same date originally set by Lou Gehrig who homered on June 8th from 1932 through 1938. After going 1-for-4 with a double on September 21, 2008, Berkman homered again on September 21, 2009 (Gehrig also homered on June 8th eight times in nine years, from 1930 through 1938).
- Lance Berkman appeared in the postseason five times. He batted .317/.417/.532 with 9 home runs, 38 runs scored, and 41 RBI in 224 postseason plate appearances. In two World Series appearances (2005 and 2011), Berkman batted .410/.520/.564 with 9 runs scored and 11 RBI in 11 games.
- In 1997, Berkman was voted College Player of the Year by the National College Baseball Writers Association (NCBWA) for his part in leading Rice to its first College World Series appearance. Berkman was elected to the College Baseball Hall of Fame in 2015.

## At What Was Lance Berkman Elite?

Lance Berkman is most memorable as a hitter. In terms of defensive position, my memory of Berkman is mostly as a first baseman or designated hitter late in his career. But Berkman came to the major leagues as an outfielder and, in fact, was sufficiently adept defensively that the Astros actually started him in 40 games in center field in 2001 and in 2002 made him their regular center fielder, with 118 starts (and 122 total games played).

As measured by Player won-lost records, Berkman was not a good defensive center fielder (career winning percentage there of .470). But he batted .292/.405/.578 with 42 home runs and a league-leading 128 RBI in 2002, which is an outstanding offensive performance for a player at any position, moreso in center field.

One other thing that was somewhat unusual about Lance Berkman – probably not as unusual as his foray into center field, but still somewhat unusual – was that the Astros (and Cardinals in 2011) played him interchangeably in left and right field. Most corner outfielders tend to settle into one of the two corner outfield positions: Carl Yastrzemski was a left fielder; Hank Aaron was a right fielder. Lance Berkman played whichever outfield position his manager put him in. Berkman had five seasons in his career in which he played 100 or more games in the outfield. As noted earlier, in one of these (2002), he played 122 games in center field. In 2001 and 2003, he played over 100 games in left field (128 and 153). In 2011, he played over 100 games in right field (110 to be exact). And in 2004, he played 160 games in the outfield, 90 of them in right field and 70 in left field.

Overall, for his career, Berkman was essentially an average defensive corner outfielder (winning percentage of .505 as a left fielder, .495 as a right fielder), but, as in center field in 2002, he more than made up for that with elite hitting.

For his career, here is how Lance Berkman's (context-neutral) player won-lost record breaks down by defensive position.

Position	eWins	eLosses	eWOPA
First Base	84.6	68.0	4.3
Left Field	64.4	51.9	3.9
Center Field	22.9	17.2	2.5
Right Field	49.7	39.9	3.4

For his career, Lance Berkman earned at least 2.0 eWOPA at each of the three outfield positions (as well as at first base). The next table shows every player who earned at least 2.0 eWOPA at each of the three outfield positions since 1947.

### Players With 2.0 eWOPA At All Three Outfield Positions, since 1947

Player	eWins over Positional Average			
	LF	CF	RF	Total (OF)
Hank Aaron	2.0	2.7	27.8	32.5
Stan Musial	5.6	3.6	6.6	15.8
<b>Lance Berkman</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>9.8</b>
Kirk Gibson	3.2	2.0	2.6	7.8

That turns out to be a shorter list than I expected.

## Lance Berkman's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1999	HOU	23	34	2.3	2.6	-0.0	-0.2	-
2000	HOU	24	114	12.8	12.4	0.8	-0.2	-
2001	HOU	25	156	25.1	19.0	4.2	2.3	0.4
2002	HOU	26	158	23.7	17.6	4.2	2.6	0.9
2003	HOU	27	153	20.3	17.0	2.3	0.8	-
2004	HOU	28	160	23.0	17.0	3.9	2.3	0.8
2005	HOU	29	132	17.2	13.2	2.5	1.4	0.2
2006	HOU	30	152	20.2	14.1	3.5	2.3	1.0
2007	HOU	31	153	17.7	14.5	2.1	0.9	-
2008	HOU	32	159	21.6	13.9	4.3	3.0	1.7
2009	HOU	33	136	16.0	13.6	1.3	0.3	-
2010		34	122	12.2	11.1	1.0	0.0	-
	<i>HOU</i>		85 /	10.2	8.3	1.1	0.4	-
	<i>NYA</i>		37 /	2.0	2.8	-0.2	-0.4	-
2011	SLN	35	145	19.9	13.8	3.7	2.4	1.1
2012	SLN	36	32	2.2	2.6	-0.1	-0.3	-
2013	TEX	37	73	6.3	5.6	1.1	0.4	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>1,879  </b>	<b>240.5</b>	<b>187.9</b>	<b>34.7</b>	<b>17.9</b>	<b>6.2</b>
PostSeason (career)			52	7.3	5.4	1.2	0.7	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1999	HOU	23	34	2.6	2.8	0.1	-0.2	-
2000	HOU	24	114	13.8	11.6	1.7	0.7	-
2001	HOU	25	156	25.1	18.1	4.7	2.8	0.9
2002	HOU	26	158	22.4	17.7	3.5	1.9	0.3
2003	HOU	27	153	19.6	15.4	2.7	1.3	-
2004	HOU	28	160	22.0	17.3	3.2	1.7	0.2
2005	HOU	29	132	16.4	13.1	2.1	1.0	-
2006	HOU	30	152	19.5	13.8	3.2	2.0	0.8
2007	HOU	31	153	17.3	14.8	1.8	0.6	-
2008	HOU	32	159	18.6	13.6	2.9	1.8	0.6
2009	HOU	33	136	14.9	12.3	1.4	0.4	-
2010		34	122	11.3	10.9	0.6	-0.3	-
	<i>HOU</i>		85 /	9.2	8.1	0.7	0.0	-
	<i>NYA</i>		37 /	2.1	2.8	-0.1	-0.4	-
2011	SLN	35	145	20.9	15.7	3.3	1.9	0.5
2012	SLN	36	32	2.3	2.0	0.2	0.1	-
2013	TEX	37	73	5.4	5.8	0.4	-0.2	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>1,879  </b>	<b>232.1</b>	<b>184.8</b>	<b>31.9</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>3.3</b>
PostSeason (career)			52	7.3	5.3	1.2	0.7	

## #131: Matt Williams

### Career Highlights

Matt Williams was the best third baseman of the 1990s.

Five highlights of Matt Williams's career:

- Matt Williams's grandfather, Bert Griffith, was an outfielder for the 1922-23 Brooklyn Robins who batted .299 in 620 major-league plate appearances.
- Matt Williams was named to five All-Star teams in his career. He started the 1994 and 1999 games at third base for the National League. Williams won four Gold Gloves and four Silver Sluggers in his career. Williams received MVP votes four times in his career with one second-place, one third-place, and two sixth-place finishes.
- In 1994, Matt Williams hit 43 home runs in 112 games. The San Francisco Giants only played 115 games that season because of the players' strike. Williams's rate of a home run every 2.60 games was better than Roger Maris's 1961 pace (61 HR in 161 G = 1 HR every 2.64 games). Williams's HR per-game pace in 1994 is the tenth-best in major-league history (min. 52 games played) and at the time was the best HR pace since Babe Ruth's 1927 season (60 HR in 151 G = 1 HR every 2.52 games).
- Matt Williams was the first third baseman and first cleanup hitter in Arizona Diamondbacks history.
- Matt Williams was named National League Manager of the Year in his first season as manager of the Washington Nationals in 2014 as he led the Nationals to a record of 96-66 and the National League East title.

### At What Was Matt Williams Elite?

Keeping it simple, as I said earlier, Matt Williams was the best third baseman of the 1990s – by a comfortable margin.

#### Top Third Basemen of the 1990s (Ranked by eWOPA, 3B only)

		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	eWOPA
1	<b>Matt Williams</b>	<b>167.5</b>	<b>143.2</b>	<b>0.539</b>	<b>10.1</b>
2	Robin Ventura	161.5	144.1	0.529	8.7
3	Chipper Jones	95.0	76.8	0.553	7.6
4	Ken Caminiti	162.9	144.5	0.530	6.7
5	Edgar Martinez	60.8	51.7	0.540	4.7
6	Jim Thome	59.3	50.8	0.539	4.2
7	Scott Rolen	59.3	49.4	0.545	4.1
8	Dave Hollins	93.0	84.0	0.526	3.7
9	Jeff Cirillo	85.1	77.9	0.522	3.1
10	Chris Sabo	73.8	65.8	0.528	3.0

## Matt Williams's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1987	SFN	21	83	6.6	8.3	-0.1	-0.7	-
1988	SFN	22	52	4.9	5.4	0.1	-0.2	-
1989	SFN	23	84	11.2	7.8	2.3	1.7	1.0
1990	SFN	24	159	21.1	16.2	3.6	2.3	0.9
1991	SFN	25	157	20.9	19.1	2.2	0.6	-
1992	SFN	26	146	17.3	18.0	0.7	-0.7	-
1993	SFN	27	145	22.0	15.3	4.5	3.0	1.6
1994	SFN	28	112	16.9	13.3	2.9	1.7	0.4
1995	SFN	29	76	11.1	8.0	2.1	1.3	0.6
1996	SFN	30	105	13.8	12.6	1.3	0.3	-
1997	CLE	31	151	18.9	16.3	2.7	1.3	-
1998	ARI	32	135	15.3	17.1	0.1	-1.1	-
1999	ARI	33	154	22.8	17.3	4.1	2.6	1.0
2000	ARI	34	96	9.7	11.6	-0.1	-1.0	-
2001	ARI	35	106	11.8	11.1	1.2	0.2	-
2002	ARI	36	59	6.9	6.3	0.8	0.2	-
2003	ARI	37	44	4.1	4.1	0.3	-0.0	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>1,864  </b>	<b>235.4</b>	<b>207.9</b>	<b>28.8</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>5.4</b>
PostSeason (career)			51	6.9	5.5	1.1	0.6	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1987	SFN	21	83	7.1	8.7	-0.0	-0.7	-
1988	SFN	22	52	5.1	4.9	0.5	0.1	-
1989	SFN	23	84	9.1	7.7	1.3	0.7	0.1
1990	SFN	24	159	19.8	16.8	2.7	1.3	-
1991	SFN	25	157	20.9	17.1	3.1	1.6	0.2
1992	SFN	26	146	16.8	16.3	1.2	-0.1	-
1993	SFN	27	145	18.9	15.4	2.9	1.5	0.2
1994	SFN	28	112	16.1	11.8	3.2	2.0	0.9
1995	SFN	29	76	11.4	7.6	2.5	1.7	1.0
1996	SFN	30	105	14.0	11.3	2.0	1.0	-
1997	CLE	31	151	17.5	16.1	2.1	0.7	-
1998	ARI	32	135	15.3	15.0	1.1	-0.1	-
1999	ARI	33	154	18.6	16.8	2.1	0.8	-
2000	ARI	34	96	9.2	10.1	0.3	-0.5	-
2001	ARI	35	106	10.6	10.3	0.9	0.0	-
2002	ARI	36	59	6.2	5.7	0.6	0.2	-
2003	ARI	37	44	3.9	4.2	0.2	-0.1	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>1,864  </b>	<b>220.7</b>	<b>195.7</b>	<b>26.6</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>2.2</b>
PostSeason (career)			51	6.1	5.6	0.7	0.2	

## #132: Vladimir Guerrero

### Career Highlights

Vladimir Guerrero was one of the best and most fun players in the late 1990s and early 2000s with a nose-to-toes strike zone and a rocket arm in right field.

Five highlights of Vladimir Guerrero's career:

- Vladimir Guerrero was named to nine All-Star teams in his career, starting seven times at four different positions (all three outfield positions and DH). He won eight Silver Sluggers and received MVP votes twelve times.
- Guerrero won the American League MVP award in his first season in the American League, 2004. That season, Guerrero batted .337/.391/.598 with 39 doubles, 39 home runs, 126 RBI, a league-leading 366 total bases, and a league-leading 124 runs scored.
- Guerrero had back-to-back 30 home-run, 30 stolen-base seasons in 2001 and 2002. He missed by one home run having a 40-40 season in 2002 with 39 home runs and 40 stolen bases.
- Vladimir Guerrero hit 449 home runs in his career and struck out 985 times. He is the only player since Stan Musial (who retired in 1963) to hit more than 400 home runs with fewer than 1,000 career strikeouts.
- Vladimir Guerrero was elected to the Hall of Fame in his second year of eligibility, 2018, with 92.9% of the vote. Guerrero's 92.9% vote total is a record for a non-first-year player in Hall-of-Fame voting by the BBWAA. Guerrero is the first player whose Hall-of-Fame plaque shows him wearing an Angels cap.

### At What Was Vladimir Guerrero Elite?

In his prime, Vladimir Guerrero was one of the best outfielders in baseball: excellent power, batting average, strong throwing arm, solid baserunning as a young man. In fact, measured against positional average, Vladimir Guerrero was one of the best right fielders in major-league baseball over the past seventy years.

#### Top 10 Right Fielders since 1947 (ranked by eWOPA, RF only)

		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	eWOPA
1	Hank Aaron	337.2	256.0	0.568	27.8
2	Reggie Jackson	275.1	221.7	0.554	19.7
3	Al Kaline	278.0	222.6	0.555	17.4
4	Frank Robinson	187.8	140.3	0.572	16.0
5	Larry Walker	234.5	189.0	0.554	14.7
6	Dwight Evans	273.4	234.5	0.538	14.0
7	Darryl Strawberry	180.0	143.4	0.557	12.5
8	Bobby Abreu	275.3	234.3	0.540	12.4
9	<b>Vladimir Guerrero</b>	<b>231.0</b>	<b>193.9</b>	<b>0.544</b>	<b>11.7</b>
10	Dave Winfield	260.5	223.6	0.538	11.2

## Vladimir Guerrero's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1996	MON	21	9	0.6	1.0	-0.2	-0.2	-
1997	MON	22	90	10.8	12.2	-0.3	-1.2	-
1998	MON	23	159	22.9	20.0	2.1	0.4	-
1999	MON	24	160	24.4	21.3	2.3	0.5	-
2000	MON	25	154	24.2	20.7	2.8	1.0	-
2001	MON	26	159	25.0	22.4	2.3	0.3	-
2002	MON	27	161	26.1	19.3	4.3	2.4	0.6
2003	MON	28	112	17.2	13.6	2.4	1.2	-
2004	ANA	29	156	22.8	18.0	3.7	2.1	0.4
2005	ANA	30	141	20.6	14.8	3.9	2.6	1.2
2006	ANA	31	156	21.2	19.1	2.4	0.8	-
2007	ANA	32	150	22.6	15.8	4.6	3.0	1.4
2008	ANA	33	143	18.8	14.8	3.1	1.6	0.2
2009	ANA	34	100	8.5	8.7	0.7	-0.3	-
2010	TEX	35	152	16.5	13.5	3.0	1.3	-
2011	BAL	36	145	10.3	12.6	-0.1	-1.5	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,147  </b>	<b>292.3</b>	<b>247.7</b>	<b>37.0</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>3.9</b>
PostSeason (career)			44	4.2	4.7	0.1	-0.3	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1996	MON	21	9	0.6	0.8	-0.1	-0.1	-
1997	MON	22	90	11.8	10.4	1.1	0.2	-
1998	MON	23	159	22.8	17.7	3.2	1.6	0.0
1999	MON	24	160	23.1	19.5	2.5	0.8	-
2000	MON	25	154	22.9	18.1	3.4	1.8	0.1
2001	MON	26	159	24.1	20.4	2.8	0.9	-
2002	MON	27	161	26.1	19.9	4.0	2.1	0.3
2003	MON	28	112	15.5	12.8	2.0	0.8	-
2004	ANA	29	156	22.2	18.2	3.4	1.7	0.1
2005	ANA	30	141	19.1	15.4	2.9	1.6	0.2
2006	ANA	31	156	20.1	18.1	2.2	0.7	-
2007	ANA	32	150	19.3	16.1	2.6	1.2	-
2008	ANA	33	143	16.9	15.2	1.9	0.5	-
2009	ANA	34	100	8.1	8.4	0.7	-0.3	-
2010	TEX	35	152	15.5	14.1	2.2	0.5	-
2011	BAL	36	145	11.5	12.2	0.8	-0.7	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,147  </b>	<b>279.8</b>	<b>237.1</b>	<b>35.5</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>0.8</b>
PostSeason (career)			44	3.9	4.7	-0.0	-0.4	

## **#133: Darrell Evans**

### **Career Highlights**

In his *New Historical Baseball Abstract*, Bill James called Darrell Evans “the most underrated player in baseball history, absolutely number one on the list.”

Five highlights of Darrell Evans’s career:

- Darrell Evans was drafted in the MLB draft five times: in June 1965, January 1966, June 1966, January 1967, and June 1967. He finally signed with the Kansas City Athletics, who drafted him in the seventh round of the June 1967 draft.
- Darrell Evans led Major League Baseball in walks twice, in 1973 and 1974. He walked 100 or more times in a season five times and 90 or more times in a season eight times. His career total of 1,605 walks is the 12th highest total in major-league history.
- In 1973, Darrell Evans had career highs in batting average (.281), on-base percentage (.403), slugging percentage (.556), home runs (41), runs scored (114), and RBI (104). Evans and teammates Hank Aaron and Davey Johnson became the first trio of teammates to each hit at least 40 home runs in a season.
- In 1985, Evans led the American League with 40 home runs at the age of 38. This made Evans the oldest player to lead the American League in home runs. He was also the first player to hit 40 home runs in a season in both the American and National Leagues.
- On May 26, 1988, Darrell Evans hit a home run in a 4-3 Tigers win on his 41st birthday. This made Evans the oldest player to hit a home run on his birthday. Evans’s record was tied by Jim Thome (#42) in 2011.



### At What Was Darrell Evans Elite?

Darrell Evans was a great hitter who aged extremely well. As noted earlier, his 40 home runs at the age of 38 made him the oldest player to lead the American League in home runs. In fact, three of his four seasons with 30 or more home runs came after age 35 (as well as a 29-homer season).

Overall, as the next table shows, Darrell Evans was one of the best hitters after age 35 in major-league history.

Top 25 Batters, Age 35 and Older, since 1947 (Ranked by Batting Wins over Non-Pitcher Average)					
		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	eWOPA
1	Barry Bonds	108.7	53.7	0.669	26.1
2	Ted Williams	83.7	47.9	0.636	16.7
3	Hank Aaron	95.4	66.5	0.589	13.2
4	Willie Mays	85.5	61.3	0.583	10.7
5	David Ortiz	78.4	58.3	0.573	9.9
6	Edgar Martinez	84.4	64.4	0.567	9.8
7	Jim Thome	65.5	48.6	0.574	8.3
8	Nelson Cruz	60.2	44.9	0.573	7.5
<b>9</b>	<b>Darrell Evans</b>	<b>85.8</b>	<b>70.2</b>	<b>0.550</b>	<b>7.3</b>
10	Brian Downing	77.5	62.9	0.552	7.3
11	Rafael Palmeiro	77.8	63.3	0.551	7.1
12	Willie Stargell	56.9	41.2	0.580	6.9
13	Andres Galarraga	76.8	60.7	0.559	6.9
14	Chipper Jones	66.2	50.7	0.566	6.8
15	Stan Musial	83.7	67.5	0.554	6.7
16	Mike Schmidt	57.1	41.9	0.577	6.7
17	Frank Thomas	55.1	41.5	0.571	6.6
18	Frank Robinson	52.5	39.7	0.570	6.0
19	Mark McGwire	33.0	20.5	0.616	5.7
20	Carl Yastrzemski	94.5	83.7	0.530	5.4
21	Willie McCovey	65.9	53.1	0.554	5.4
22	Dwight Evans	56.4	45.8	0.552	5.3
23	Mickey Vernon	70.0	57.0	0.551	5.3
24	Manny Ramirez	43.5	32.5	0.573	5.2
25	Dave Winfield	82.0	72.0	0.533	5.0

## Darrell Evans's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1969	ATL	22	12	0.4	0.9	-0.2	-0.2	-
1970	ATL	23	12	1.2	1.6	-0.1	-0.3	-
1971	ATL	24	88	9.3	7.5	1.4	0.7	0.1
1972	ATL	25	125	16.3	13.9	2.2	1.0	-
1973	ATL	26	161	21.9	16.6	3.6	2.0	0.4
1974	ATL	27	160	23.0	17.1	4.1	2.6	1.1
1975	ATL	28	156	20.9	18.6	2.4	0.9	-
1976	ATL	29	135	12.0	11.3	0.7	-0.2	-
			43 /	3.7	4.1	-0.1	-0.4	-
	SFN		92 /	8.4	7.2	0.8	0.2	-
1977	SFN	30	144	16.4	14.9	1.6	0.3	-
1978	SFN	31	159	20.6	17.5	2.7	1.2	-
1979	SFN	32	160	18.9	18.1	1.5	0.1	-
1980	SFN	33	154	20.2	18.7	1.9	0.4	-
1981	SFN	34	101	11.6	9.8	1.5	0.6	-
1982	SFN	35	141	15.4	13.3	1.8	0.7	-
1983	SFN	36	142	18.0	14.4	2.4	1.2	0.1
1984	DET	37	131	10.9	9.9	1.3	0.3	-
1985	DET	38	151	15.8	12.6	2.4	1.2	-
1986	DET	39	151	16.1	12.0	2.9	1.7	0.5
1987	DET	40	150	15.5	11.1	2.9	1.7	0.5
1988	DET	41	144	11.0	10.6	1.0	-0.0	-
1989	ATL	42	106	7.4	9.0	-0.5	-1.1	-
CAREER (reg. season)			2,683	303.0	259.4	37.5	14.9	2.6
PostSeason (career)			13	1.1	1.3	-0.0	-0.2	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1969	ATL	22	12	0.4	0.8	-0.1	-0.2	-
1970	ATL	23	12	1.3	1.2	0.1	0.0	-
1971	ATL	24	88	9.3	8.3	1.0	0.3	-
1972	ATL	25	125	15.9	13.7	2.1	0.9	-
1973	ATL	26	161	23.8	16.6	4.7	3.0	1.3
1974	ATL	27	160	21.3	17.1	3.2	1.8	0.3
1975	ATL	28	156	20.9	18.9	2.3	0.7	-
1976	ATL	29	135	11.6	10.9	0.7	-0.2	-
			43 /	3.6	3.9	-0.0	-0.3	-
	SFN		92 /	8.0	7.1	0.7	0.1	-
1977	SFN	30	144	15.7	14.0	1.6	0.4	-
1978	SFN	31	159	19.9	17.3	2.4	1.0	-
1979	SFN	32	160	19.5	18.2	1.7	0.3	-
1980	SFN	33	154	19.7	17.2	2.3	0.9	-
1981	SFN	34	101	12.2	10.2	1.6	0.7	-
1982	SFN	35	141	16.0	13.9	1.8	0.7	-
1983	SFN	36	142	17.4	13.4	2.6	1.5	0.4
1984	DET	37	131	10.5	9.4	1.3	0.4	-
1985	DET	38	151	15.8	13.0	2.2	1.0	-
1986	DET	39	151	14.1	11.7	2.0	0.9	-
1987	DET	40	150	14.9	12.3	2.0	0.8	-
1988	DET	41	144	11.1	10.5	1.1	0.1	-
1989	ATL	42	106	7.9	8.2	0.1	-0.5	-
CAREER (reg. season)			2,683	299.1	256.7	36.7	14.3	2.0
PostSeason (career)			13	1.2	1.5	-0.0	-0.1	

## **#134: Brooks Robinson**

### **Career Highlights**

Brooks Robinson was the starting third baseman on four American League pennant winners and is widely regarded as the greatest defensive third baseman in major-league history. He was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility, 1983, with 92.0% of the vote.

Five highlights of Brooks Robinson's career:

- Brooks Robinson was named to the American League all-star team in 15 seasons. He started 11 All-Star games. Robinson won 16 consecutive Gold Gloves. This is the most Gold Gloves won by any non-pitcher in major-league history. He received MVP votes 12 times with seven top-10 finishes.
- Robinson holds major-league records at third base for games played (2,870), putouts (2,697), assists (6,205), and double plays (618). He is third in major-league history with a .971 fielding percentage at third base (minimum 500 games played).
- Brooks Robinson won the American League MVP Award in 1964. That season, Robinson batted .317/.368/.521 with 28 home runs and a league-leading 118 RBI, while winning his fifth consecutive Gold Glove award. This was the first MVP award won by a Baltimore Oriole.
- Brooks Robinson was elected World Series MVP in 1970. In the Orioles' 5-game victory over the Cincinnati Reds, Robinson batted .429/.429/.810 with 2 home runs, 6 RBI and 5 runs scored as well as making several highlight-reel defensive plays. For his career, Robinson batted .303/.323/.462 in 156 postseason plate appearances.
- Brooks Robinson does everything left-handed except for throwing and hitting a baseball.

### At What Was Brooks Robinson Elite?

As said earlier, Brooks Robinson was the greatest fielding third baseman in major-league history. As measured by Player won-lost records, his fielding record at third base dwarfs all other third basemen since at least MLB integration (see #87, Scott Rolen). Attempting to control for position, Brooks Robinson also rates as the best fielding non-shortstop since at least MLB integration, as measured by fielding wins over replacement level (see #67, Ozzie Smith).

The next table shows the top 15 seasons in net fielding wins (wins minus losses) by a third baseman since 1947.

**Top 15 Fielding Third Basemen, since 1947**  
(Ranked by Net Fielding eWins)

			eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	Net eWins
<b>1</b>	<b>Brooks Robinson</b>	<b>1967</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>0.601</b>	<b>2.1</b>
2	Terry Pendleton	1986	6.1	4.3	0.587	1.8
3	Clete Boyer	1961	5.5	3.9	0.583	1.5
4	Tim Wallach	1988	5.3	3.7	0.585	1.5
5	Manny Machado	2013	5.3	3.8	0.582	1.5
6	Buddy Bell	1979	5.5	4.0	0.578	1.5
7	Aurelio Rodriguez	1970	5.6	4.1	0.577	1.5
8	Mike Schmidt	1975	6.2	4.7	0.567	1.4
9	Graig Nettles	1971	6.0	4.6	0.568	1.4
<b>10</b>	<b>Brooks Robinson</b>	<b>1962</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>0.575</b>	<b>1.4</b>
11	Edgardo Alfonzo	1997	4.6	3.2	0.588	1.4
<b>12</b>	<b>Brooks Robinson</b>	<b>1960</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>0.577</b>	<b>1.3</b>
13	Don Wert	1965	4.7	3.4	0.581	1.3
14	Jeff Cirillo	1997	5.2	3.9	0.573	1.3
15	Robin Ventura	1998	4.9	3.6	0.578	1.3

Brooks Robinson has three of the top 12 defensive seasons by a third baseman in at least the past 70 years and is the only third baseman for whom I have calculated Player won-lost records to have accumulated more than 2.0 net fielding wins within a single season.

## Brooks Robinson's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1955	BAL	18	6	0.3	0.7	-0.2	-0.2	-
1956	BAL	19	15	1.3	1.3	0.1	-0.0	-
1957	BAL	20	50	3.3	3.1	0.4	0.1	-
1958	BAL	21	145	12.5	16.2	-0.9	-1.9	-
1959	BAL	22	88	10.1	9.2	1.0	0.2	-
1960	BAL	23	152	20.7	16.8	3.0	1.5	0.0
1961	BAL	24	163	20.0	18.3	2.3	0.6	-
1962	BAL	25	162	20.7	18.8	2.4	0.9	-
1963	BAL	26	161	18.1	17.0	1.7	0.4	-
1964	BAL	27	163	24.5	17.5	4.8	3.1	1.4
1965	BAL	28	144	20.9	16.6	3.2	1.7	0.2
1966	BAL	29	157	22.5	17.2	3.6	2.1	0.6
1967	BAL	30	158	21.0	19.0	2.3	0.6	-
1968	BAL	31	162	21.9	16.7	4.0	2.4	0.8
1969	BAL	32	156	20.5	17.1	3.1	1.5	-
1970	BAL	33	158	20.0	16.1	2.9	1.4	-
1971	BAL	34	156	20.9	16.3	3.3	1.8	0.4
1972	BAL	35	153	18.1	18.0	1.3	-0.2	-
1973	BAL	36	155	17.4	16.3	1.7	0.3	-
1974	BAL	37	153	19.9	15.3	3.5	2.2	0.9
1975	BAL	38	144	14.5	14.0	1.4	0.2	-
1976	BAL	39	71	4.6	7.5	-1.0	-1.5	-
1977	BAL	40	23	1.4	1.8	-0.1	-0.2	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,895  </b>	<b>355.0</b>	<b>310.6</b>	<b>43.8</b>	<b>17.1</b>	<b>4.4</b>
PostSeason (career)			39	5.7	3.9	1.2	0.8	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1955	BAL	18	6	0.3	0.7	-0.2	-0.2	-
1956	BAL	19	15	1.2	1.4	0.0	-0.1	-
1957	BAL	20	50	3.2	3.4	0.2	-0.1	-
1958	BAL	21	145	13.3	15.0	0.1	-1.0	-
1959	BAL	22	88	9.4	8.9	0.7	-0.0	-
1960	BAL	23	152	18.6	16.7	1.9	0.5	-
1961	BAL	24	163	18.2	18.5	1.3	-0.4	-
1962	BAL	25	162	21.4	17.7	3.2	1.7	0.3
1963	BAL	26	161	17.7	17.0	1.5	0.2	-
1964	BAL	27	163	21.9	16.8	3.7	2.2	0.7
1965	BAL	28	144	18.6	16.5	2.0	0.6	-
1966	BAL	29	157	21.3	18.0	2.6	1.1	-
1967	BAL	30	158	20.8	17.5	2.9	1.3	-
1968	BAL	31	162	19.4	15.9	3.0	1.6	0.2
1969	BAL	32	156	18.5	17.4	1.9	0.4	-
1970	BAL	33	158	18.5	16.7	1.9	0.3	-
1971	BAL	34	156	18.7	16.3	2.1	0.8	-
1972	BAL	35	153	16.4	16.0	1.3	0.0	-
1973	BAL	36	155	15.8	15.9	1.0	-0.3	-
1974	BAL	37	153	18.4	17.6	1.6	0.3	-
1975	BAL	38	144	13.0	14.9	0.2	-0.9	-
1976	BAL	39	71	5.1	6.8	-0.4	-0.8	-
1977	BAL	40	23	1.2	1.8	-0.2	-0.3	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,895  </b>	<b>330.9</b>	<b>307.4</b>	<b>32.5</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>1.1</b>
PostSeason (career)			39	4.9	4.0	0.7	0.4	

## **#135: Cesar Cedeño**

### **Career Highlights**

Cesar Cedeño was a five-tool superstar for the Houston Astros of the early 1970s.

Five highlights of Cesar Cedeño's career:

- Cesar Cedeño was named to four All-Star teams in his career. He won five Gold Gloves and received MVP votes five times with a top finish of sixth in 1972.
- Cesar Cedeño stole 50 or more bases six consecutive seasons. His career total of 550 stolen bases ranks 27th in major-league history.
- In 1972, Cedeño became the second player in major-league history to hit 20 home runs and steal 50 bases in a season. In 1973, he became the first player in major-league history to do so twice. He did so for a third consecutive season in 1974. Cedeño is the only player in major-league history to hit 20 or more home runs and steal 50 or more bases in three consecutive seasons.
- Cedeño led the National League in doubles twice, in 1971 and 1972. From 1971 – 1975, Cedeño was second in major-league baseball in doubles (174), third in stolen bases (238), and fifth in runs scored (462), while playing his home games in what might have been the worst hitting environment in baseball, the Houston Astrodome.
- Cedeño was acquired by the St. Louis Cardinals on August 29, 1985. In 28 games for the Cardinals, he batted .434/.463/.750 with 6 home runs and 19 RBI. The Cardinals went 17-11 in these 28 games and held off the New York Mets to win the NL East by three games before eventually losing to the Kansas City Royals in the World Series.

### At What Was Cesar Cedeno Elite?

As noted earlier, Cesar Cedeno made four All-Star teams and won five Gold Gloves. He made his first All-Star team, won his first Gold Glove, and received his first MVP votes in 1972 at the age of 21. He made his final All-Star team and won his final Gold Glove in 1976 at the age of 25.

The next table, then, shows the top 25 players in pWins over replacement level earned through their age-25 season.

**Top 25 Players, through age 25, since 1947**  
(Ranked by pWORLD)

		<b>pWins</b>	<b>pLosses</b>	<b>pWOPA</b>	<b>pWORLD</b>
1	Mickey Mantle	153.3	93.9	25.8	35.9
2	Mike Trout	137.3	95.9	19.7	28.4
3	Alex Rodriguez	135.9	109.4	17.4	27.3
4	Dwight Gooden	105.1	77.9	18.7	26.6
5	Hank Aaron	138.9	103.5	13.4	23.2
6	Eddie Mathews	123.5	90.2	14.4	23.2
7	Cal Ripken	118.1	97.8	14.6	22.6
8	Bert Blyleven	114.1	95.0	12.2	21.6
9	Johnny Bench	109.9	85.6	13.0	21.1
10	Denny McLain	101.8	84.3	12.8	20.9
11	Andruw Jones	134.9	109.0	10.8	20.6
12	Albert Pujols	113.0	79.2	12.8	20.5
13	Fernando Valenzuela	101.9	87.3	12.4	20.5
14	Roberto Alomar	131.8	111.8	10.6	19.8
<b>15</b>	<b>Cesar Cedeno</b>	<b>142.4</b>	<b>117.4</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>19.1</b>
16	Clayton Kershaw	78.6	62.2	12.1	18.7
17	Jim Fregosi	116.1	101.4	10.0	18.6
18	Bret Saberhagen	80.3	59.7	11.4	18.3
19	Felix Hernandez	85.8	69.2	9.9	18.2
20	Don Drysdale	107.4	97.0	9.5	18.2
21	Bryce Harper	113.4	86.4	10.9	18.1
22	Robin Roberts	85.3	68.0	11.3	18.0
23	Eric Chavez	90.6	69.2	11.4	17.9
24	Roger Clemens	66.7	43.8	12.4	17.8
25	Tom Seaver	74.9	57.0	12.0	17.6

Cesar Cedeno was one of the best young players since MLB integration. Unfortunately, after his age-25 season, Cedeno made no All-Star teams, won no Gold Gloves, and received MVP votes only one time - finishing 13th in 1980, when he batted .309/.389/.465 and helped the Astros to the first playoff appearance in franchise history.

In many ways, Cedeno's career screams out "what might have been" and yet, "what actually was" was outstanding at its best and good enough overall for him to make this list.

## Cesar Ceden0's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1970	HOU	19	90	11.2	11.4	0.5	-0.4	-
1971	HOU	20	161	20.6	20.3	1.2	-0.4	-
1972	HOU	21	139	24.1	15.7	5.2	3.6	2.0
1973	HOU	22	139	21.8	16.0	3.9	2.4	0.8
1974	HOU	23	160	22.7	18.6	3.0	1.4	-
1975	HOU	24	131	18.9	17.0	1.9	0.5	-
1976	HOU	25	150	23.1	18.4	3.4	1.9	0.3
1977	HOU	26	140	19.4	17.8	1.9	0.4	-
1978	HOU	27	50	6.8	5.9	0.8	0.3	-
1979	HOU	28	132	16.2	13.9	1.7	0.6	-
1980	HOU	29	137	19.4	16.6	2.4	1.0	-
1981	HOU	30	82	9.1	9.2	0.4	-0.3	-
1982	CIN	31	138	15.2	19.4	-1.1	-2.4	-
1983	CIN	32	98	9.9	10.2	0.3	-0.4	-
1984	CIN	33	110	12.1	11.8	0.6	-0.4	-
1985		34	109	10.4	9.4	1.0	0.2	-
	CIN		81 /	6.8	7.2	0.1	-0.4	-
	SLN		28 /	3.6	2.2	0.8	0.6	0.4
1986	LAN	35	37	1.7	3.0	-0.5	-0.7	-
CAREER (reg. season)			2,003	262.6	234.4	26.6	7.1	3.1
PostSeason (career)			17	1.6	1.8	-0.0	-0.2	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1970	HOU	19	90	12.5	11.3	1.3	0.3	-
1971	HOU	20	161	20.8	20.0	1.4	-0.2	-
1972	HOU	21	139	24.9	16.9	5.1	3.4	1.7
1973	HOU	22	139	21.8	16.1	3.9	2.3	0.7
1974	HOU	23	160	23.2	19.4	2.9	1.3	-
1975	HOU	24	131	18.8	15.9	2.4	1.0	-
1976	HOU	25	150	22.9	18.0	3.5	1.9	0.4
1977	HOU	26	140	20.4	16.8	2.8	1.4	-
1978	HOU	27	50	7.3	6.3	0.9	0.4	-
1979	HOU	28	132	14.8	14.3	0.8	-0.3	-
1980	HOU	29	137	19.7	15.9	2.9	1.5	0.1
1981	HOU	30	82	9.4	8.6	0.9	0.1	-
1982	CIN	31	138	15.7	16.2	0.7	-0.6	-
1983	CIN	32	98	10.5	10.6	0.5	-0.3	-
1984	CIN	33	110	12.9	12.7	0.6	-0.4	-
1985		34	109	9.4	8.7	0.7	0.0	-
	CIN		81 /	6.5	7.0	0.1	-0.4	-
	SLN		28 /	2.8	1.7	0.6	0.4	0.3
1986	LAN	35	37	2.1	3.1	-0.4	-0.6	-
CAREER (reg. season)			2,003	267.1	230.7	30.7	11.3	2.9
PostSeason (career)			17	1.3	1.7	-0.2	-0.3	



## **#136: Carlos Zambrano**

### **Career Highlights**

Carlos Zambrano was the ace of the Chicago Cubs pitching staff for the first decade of the twenty-first century.

Five highlights of Carlos Zambrano's career:

- Carlos Zambrano was named to three All-Star teams in his career, received Cy Young votes three times, and won three Silver Slugger awards.
- Carlos Zambrano was the Opening Day starter for the Chicago Cubs for six consecutive seasons from 2005 through 2010, the most consecutive Opening Day starts in Cubs history.
- Carlos Zambrano hit 24 home runs in his major-league career. This is tied for the seventh-most by any pitcher in major-league history and is the most by any pitcher who has played in the past forty years.
- Carlos Zambrano's first major-league home run broke a 3-3 tie with the Colorado Rockies on May 3, 2003. Zambrano left the game after six innings with the Cubs leading 4-3 but failed to get the win as his bullpen gave up three runs in the top of the eighth inning and the Rockies came back to win the game 6-4.
- On September 14, 2008, Carlos Zambrano threw a no-hitter against the Houston Astros. This was the only no-hitter in major-league history that was pitched at a neutral site - the Cubs' series with the Astros had to be moved from Houston to Milwaukee because of Hurricane Ike – and the first no-hitter thrown by a pitcher whose last name begins with a Z.

### At What Was Carlos Zambrano Elite?

At his best, Carlos Zambrano was one of the best pitchers in the major leagues. But one thing that separated him from some other pitchers and helped to land him on this list was his hitting.

For his career, Zambrano batted .238/.248/.388 with 24 home runs in 744 plate appearances. He batted over .300 three times – in 2005 (24-for-80), 2008 (28-for-83), and 2011 (14-for-44) – and had at least 4 home runs and a double-digit RBI total three times as well (2006, 2008, 2009). Those numbers are excellent for a pitcher, especially for a pitcher in recent decades.

The next table shows the top 10 pitchers in offensive wins above positional average since 1947.

Top 10 Hitting Pitchers since MLB Integration					
		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	eWOPA
1	Bob Lemon	20.1	20.7	0.493	5.0
2	Bob Gibson	23.1	29.6	0.438	4.7
3	Don Newcombe	16.8	16.5	0.505	4.6
4	Warren Spahn	29.7	39.6	0.429	4.5
5	Earl Wilson	14.6	14.7	0.497	4.5
6	Mike Hampton	13.4	16.0	0.455	4.1
7	Early Wynn	23.0	29.9	0.435	3.6
8	Don Drysdale	19.6	26.6	0.424	3.4
<b>9</b>	<b>Carlos Zambrano</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>0.443</b>	<b>3.4</b>
10	Jim Kaat	19.9	28.1	0.415	3.3

Zambrano is one of only two pitchers on the list to have appeared in a major-league game in the past forty years.

## Carlos Zambrano's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
2001	CHN	20	6	0.8	1.7	-0.3	-0.4	-
2002	CHN	21	32	6.1	7.1	0.4	-0.3	-
2003	CHN	22	32	13.9	12.4	2.9	1.5	0.2
2004	CHN	23	31	15.4	11.5	4.2	2.9	1.5
2005	CHN	24	33	15.3	11.2	4.0	2.8	1.6
2006	CHN	25	37	15.0	12.2	3.5	2.2	0.8
2007	CHN	26	37	15.5	14.5	2.9	1.4	-
2008	CHN	27	38	13.6	11.4	3.2	2.0	0.8
2009	CHN	28	35	12.1	9.2	3.2	2.2	1.2
2010	CHN	29	42	9.2	8.7	1.5	0.7	-
2011	CHN	30	25	8.9	9.5	1.0	0.2	-
2012	MIA	31	35	8.1	10.8	-0.1	-0.9	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>383  </b>	<b>133.8</b>	<b>120.3</b>	<b>26.5</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>6.1</b>
PostSeason (career)			5	1.8	2.7	-0.0	-0.3	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
2001	CHN	20	6	0.4	0.8	-0.1	-0.2	-
2002	CHN	21	32	6.4	6.7	0.8	0.1	-
2003	CHN	22	32	14.2	11.3	3.5	2.2	0.9
2004	CHN	23	31	14.9	11.3	4.0	2.7	1.4
2005	CHN	24	33	15.6	12.4	3.7	2.4	1.1
2006	CHN	25	37	14.7	12.4	3.3	1.9	0.6
2007	CHN	26	37	14.6	13.6	2.7	1.3	-
2008	CHN	27	38	13.3	11.3	3.0	1.9	0.7
2009	CHN	28	35	11.7	9.8	2.7	1.7	0.7
2010	CHN	29	42	8.6	8.4	1.3	0.5	-
2011	CHN	30	25	9.6	10.7	0.9	0.0	-
2012	MIA	31	35	8.4	9.1	0.9	0.0	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>383  </b>	<b>132.3</b>	<b>117.7</b>	<b>26.8</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>5.4</b>
PostSeason (career)			5	2.0	2.4	0.2	-0.0	

## **#137: Steve Rogers**

### **Career Highlights**

I have always been amused by the fact that the major-league baseball player who shared his name with Captain America played his entire major-league career for the first major-league franchise outside of the United States, the Montreal Expos.

Five highlights of Steve Rogers's career:

- Steve Rogers was named to five All-Star teams in his career. He started the 1982 All-Star game for the National League. Rogers was the first Montreal Expo pitcher to start an All-Star game. He did so in the only All-Star game played in Montreal.
- Rogers' first major-league win (in his second major-league start) was a one-hit, complete-game shutout over Steve Carlton and the Philadelphia Phillies. He followed that up with a complete-game 1-0 victory over the New York Mets and a complete-game 6-1 victory over Fergie Jenkins and the Chicago Cubs.
- Rogers led the National League with a 2.40 ERA in 1982 while compiling a traditional won-lost record of 19-8. Rogers led the National League in complete games in 1980 (14) and in shutouts twice (1979 and 1983 with five apiece).
- Steve Rogers earned the first and last playoff wins in Montreal Expos history. He started and won the first playoff game in franchise history, a 3-1 victory over Steve Carlton and the Philadelphia Phillies on October 7, 1981. He won Game 3 of the NLCS that year, 3-1 over Jerry Reuss and the Los Angeles Dodgers, to give the Expos a 2-1 series lead. Overall, Rogers pitched in four playoff games in 1981 (3 starts) with a 3-1 record and a 0.98 ERA in 27.2 innings pitched.
- Steve Rogers was elected to the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame in 2005.

### At What Was Steve Rogers Elite?

Three players were inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame as Montreal Expos: Gary Carter (#52), Andre Dawson (#120), and Tim Lincecum (#140). A fourth Hall-of-Famer, Vladimir Guerrero (#132), had arguably his best years as an Expo, but is shown on his Hall-of-Fame plaque wearing an Anaheim Angels cap.

But all four of these players spent significant portions of their career outside Montreal. For example, Dawson and Guerrero won MVP awards as members of the Cubs and Angels, respectively.

In contrast, Steve Rogers played his entire career in Montreal.

The next table shows the top 10 players in Montreal Expos history ranked by pWins over replacement level (pWORLD) earned exclusively as a member of the Montreal Expos.

<b>Top 10 Montreal Expos (Ranked by pWORLD)</b>					
		<b>pWins</b>	<b>PLosses</b>	<b>pWOPA</b>	<b>pWORLD</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Steve Rogers</b>	<b>171.4</b>	<b>159.9</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>26.9</b>
2	Andre Dawson	208.2	178.8	9.5	24.3
3	Tim Lincecum	202.3	174.7	7.2	21.4
4	Gary Carter	163.0	145.5	8.9	20.8
5	Tim Wallach	209.0	197.7	1.9	17.2
6	Dennis Martinez	96.3	89.3	8.1	16.4
7	Vladimir Guerrero	151.0	130.5	4.4	15.7
8	Larry Walker	90.6	71.6	6.9	13.2
9	Javier Vazquez	78.2	76.2	5.0	12.6
10	Jose Vidro	113.1	108.0	3.0	11.9

By this measure, Steve Rogers was the greatest player in Montreal Expos history.

## Steve Rogers's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1973	MON	23	17	9.7	5.9	2.9	2.2	1.6
1974	MON	24	38	15.9	16.7	1.6	0.3	-
1975	MON	25	35	15.8	14.1	2.7	1.4	0.1
1976	MON	26	34	12.2	14.1	0.6	-0.5	-
1977	MON	27	40	19.2	16.9	3.6	2.0	0.3
1978	MON	28	30	12.7	12.2	1.8	0.8	-
1979	MON	29	37	15.8	14.3	2.7	1.5	0.2
1980	MON	30	38	15.9	14.5	2.5	1.3	0.1
1981	MON	31	22	10.2	8.2	2.3	1.5	0.7
1982	MON	32	35	17.6	12.8	4.4	3.2	1.9
1983	MON	33	36	16.3	14.8	2.8	1.5	0.2
1984	MON	34	31	8.1	12.7	-1.0	-1.8	-
1985	MON	35	8	2.1	2.7	0.0	-0.2	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>401  </b>	<b>171.4</b>	<b>159.9</b>	<b>26.9</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>5.1</b>
PostSeason (career)			4	2.0	1.3	0.6	0.4	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1973	MON	23	17	8.5	6.3	2.1	1.5	0.9
1974	MON	24	38	15.1	14.9	1.9	0.7	-
1975	MON	25	35	15.9	14.8	2.5	1.2	-
1976	MON	26	34	14.2	12.5	2.4	1.4	0.3
1977	MON	27	40	18.4	15.8	3.6	2.0	0.5
1978	MON	28	30	12.9	12.4	1.8	0.8	-
1979	MON	29	37	15.0	13.9	2.4	1.2	0.1
1980	MON	30	38	16.0	14.7	2.5	1.3	0.1
1981	MON	31	22	9.4	8.2	1.9	1.1	0.3
1982	MON	32	35	17.2	13.4	4.0	2.7	1.4
1983	MON	33	36	15.6	15.0	2.3	1.0	-
1984	MON	34	31	9.2	12.2	-0.2	-1.0	-
1985	MON	35	8	2.1	2.6	0.1	-0.1	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>401  </b>	<b>169.6</b>	<b>156.6</b>	<b>27.3</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>3.5</b>
PostSeason (career)			4	1.7	1.4	0.4	0.3	

## **#138: Miguel Tejada**

### **Career Highlights**

Miguel Tejada was the most durable and one of the best shortstops of the early twenty-first century.

Five highlights of Miguel Tejada's career:

- Miguel Tejada was named to six All-Star teams in his career, starting the 2005 All-Star game. He received MVP votes eight times with two top-10 finishes.
- Miguel Tejada won the American League MVP award in 2002. That season, Tejada batted .308/.354/.508 with 34 home runs, 131 RBI, and 108 runs scored.
- In 2004, Tejada drove in 150 runs in his first season with the Baltimore Orioles. Tejada's 150 RBI are the most by any Baltimore Oriole in their history (since 1954), the second-most by a shortstop in major-league history (Vern Stephens drove in 159 in 1949), and the 11th-most by any player since 1947.
- Miguel Tejada played in 1,152 consecutive games from June 2, 2000 through June 21, 2007. This is the longest consecutive-game streak since Cal Ripken's record streak and the fifth longest streak in major-league history. Interestingly, 3 of the top 5 consecutive-game streaks started within four dates of each other (in different years): Ripken's streak began on May 30, 1982, and Lou Gehrig's streak began on June 1, 1925.
- Tejada led his league in games played at shortstop eight times. He led his league in assists at shortstop seven times and in total assists regardless of fielding position six times. He led his league in double plays turned at shortstop three times and is tenth in major-league history in career double plays turned by a shortstop.

### **At What Was Miguel Tejada Elite?**

Miguel Tejada was one of the best players in baseball in the first decade of this century (see #5, Alex Rodriguez). Tejada combined excellent batting while playing a key defensive position with exceptional durability. Tejada played every game for six of the first seven seasons of the first decade of this century (2001 – 2006) along with seasons of 160 games (2000) and two seasons with 158 games (2008 and 2009). The only season in the decade in which Tejada missed significant time was 2007 when he only played 133 games. Playing a lot of games at a high level will naturally lead to a lot of player wins. And Miguel Tejada accumulated a lot of pWins in the first decade of the twenty-first century.

**Top 10 Players, 2000 - 2009**  
(Ranked by pWins)

		pWins	pLosses	pWOPA	pWORL
1	Bobby Abreu	220.2	187.3	10.6	26.3
2	<b>Miguel Tejada</b>	<b>217.9</b>	<b>197.7</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>30.9</b>
3	Alex Rodriguez	217.4	163.0	28.8	43.4
4	Vladimir Guerrero	206.8	167.2	14.6	30.1
5	Derek Jeter	205.3	172.0	21.7	36.1
6	Albert Pujols	200.2	133.0	25.8	38.6
7	Ichiro Suzuki	200.1	182.1	5.9	20.6
8	Carlos Lee	197.6	189.1	-0.9	14.1
9	Lance Berkman	197.6	152.1	15.7	29.2
10	Brian Giles	195.8	182.4	0.8	15.3

Outfielders tend to accumulate more player decisions than infielders (and pitchers) in part because outfielders tend to field more balls than infielders and the balls fielded by outfielders tend to be somewhat more valuable (outfielders field the majority of hits and the most extra-base hits). This can be seen in the previous table, which includes six outfielders. Miguel Tejada led all non-outfielders in pWins over this decade.

But Miguel Tejada was not merely a compiler. At his best, he was an elite player. In fact, his MVP season in 2002 is still one of the top 10 single-season performances of this century as measured by pWins over replacement level (pWORL).

**Top 10 Seasons, since 2000**  
(ranked by pWORL)

			pWins	pLosses	pWOPA	pWORL
1	Barry Bonds	2001	27.9	15.5	5.3	7.2
2	Barry Bonds	2002	25.4	13.2	5.3	6.8
3	Randy Johnson	2002	19.1	10.4	5.1	6.5
4	Barry Bonds	2004	23.2	11.6	5.1	6.5
5	Alex Rodriguez	2000	23.6	15.0	4.9	6.5
6	Pedro Martinez	2000	16.4	7.1	4.9	6.1
7	Curt Schilling	2001	19.3	12.4	4.4	6.0
8	Jim Edmonds	2004	23.5	14.0	4.5	6.0
9	<b>Miguel Tejada</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>25.7</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>5.9</b>
10	Alex Rodriguez	2007	25.2	16.2	4.4	5.9

In theory, the ranking for the above table includes all seasons through 2017 despite the most recent season in the list being 2007 (and that season just slipping in at #10). The best season from 2008 through 2017, as measured by pWORL, was Jake Arrieta's 2015 Cy Young season (5.8 pWORL, which would rank 12th if the above table were extended beyond the top 10). I will leave it to readers to draw their own conclusions as to why this might be the case.



## Miguel Tejada's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Miguel Tejada

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1997	OAK	21	26	3.0	3.0	0.3	0.1	-
1998	OAK	22	105	11.9	12.9	0.8	-0.1	-
1999	OAK	23	159	19.3	18.0	2.7	1.2	-
2000	OAK	24	160	21.3	18.0	3.8	2.2	0.6
2001	OAK	25	162	22.5	17.9	4.6	2.9	1.2
2002	OAK	26	162	25.7	18.5	5.9	4.1	2.4
2003	OAK	27	162	24.3	20.6	4.2	2.4	0.7
2004	BAL	28	162	24.8	21.7	4.0	2.1	0.3
2005	BAL	29	162	22.4	20.6	3.0	1.4	-
2006	BAL	30	162	20.8	19.8	2.4	0.9	-
2007	BAL	31	133	14.4	17.3	-0.0	-1.2	-
2008	HOU	32	158	18.5	20.4	0.8	-0.6	-
2009	HOU	33	158	23.2	22.8	2.2	0.5	-
2010		34	156	18.2	20.5	0.4	-1.0	-
	BAL		97 /	9.9	12.7	-0.5	-1.3	-
	SDN		59 /	8.3	7.9	0.9	0.3	-
2011	SFN	35	91	9.5	9.8	0.6	-0.1	-
2013	KCA	37	53	4.5	4.8	0.2	-0.1	-
CAREER (reg. season)			2,171	284.4	266.8	36.0	14.8	5.2
PostSeason (career)			20	2.1	3.2	-0.3	-0.5	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1997	OAK	21	26	2.6	3.5	-0.1	-0.3	-
1998	OAK	22	105	11.7	13.1	0.6	-0.3	-
1999	OAK	23	159	18.0	18.7	1.7	0.2	-
2000	OAK	24	160	19.7	18.7	2.6	1.1	-
2001	OAK	25	162	20.0	19.0	2.7	1.1	-
2002	OAK	26	162	22.5	20.2	3.4	1.7	0.0
2003	OAK	27	162	22.1	20.2	3.1	1.5	-
2004	BAL	28	162	23.8	20.4	3.9	2.2	0.5
2005	BAL	29	162	21.3	19.5	2.9	1.4	-
2006	BAL	30	162	22.5	20.3	3.1	1.5	-
2007	BAL	31	133	16.4	17.2	1.1	-0.1	-
2008	HOU	32	158	17.4	19.4	0.7	-0.6	-
2009	HOU	33	158	20.0	20.3	1.6	0.1	-
2010		34	156	18.6	20.0	0.9	-0.5	-
	BAL		97 /	11.0	12.6	0.1	-0.8	-
	SDN		59 /	7.6	7.4	0.8	0.3	-
2011	SFN	35	91	9.4	10.1	0.5	-0.3	-
2013	KCA	37	53	4.3	4.9	0.1	-0.3	-
CAREER (reg. season)			2,171	270.5	265.5	29.0	8.3	0.5
PostSeason (career)			20	2.6	2.6	0.3	0.1	

## **#139: Bill Freehan**

### **Career Highlights**

Bill Freehan was the best catcher in baseball in the mid-to-late 1960s and early 1970s.

Five highlights of Bill Freehan's career:

- Bill Freehan was born in Detroit and played his entire 15-year career with his hometown Detroit Tigers.
- Freehan was named to eleven All-Star games in his career. He started for the American League seven consecutive seasons from 1966 through 1972. Freehan won five Gold Gloves and received MVP votes six times with three top-10 MVP finishes.
- In Freehan's rookie season, he reached base safely in nine consecutive plate appearances from May 4 – 6, 1963. During the streak, Freehan had three walks, two singles, two doubles, and two home runs.
- When Freehan retired, he held major-league records for most putouts, most total chances, and highest fielding percentage for a catcher.
- In 1999, Freehan was voted by Tigers fans as the catcher for the All-Time Tiger team over Hall-of-Fame catcher Mickey Cochrane who won the American League MVP award in 1934 as a Detroit Tiger.

### At What Was Bill Freehan Elite?

In 1967, Bill Freehan played in 155 games batting .282/.389/.447 with 20 home runs and 74 RBI. He led the American League in hit-by-pitches, intentional walks, and games played and putouts at catcher while winning his third Gold Glove. The Detroit Tigers finished one game out of first place and Freehan finished third in MVP voting.

The next season, Freehan again played in 155 games and again led the league in hit-by-pitches. He batted .263/.366/.454 with career highs in home runs (25), RBI (84), and runs scored (73) while winning his fourth Gold Glove. The Tigers won the American League pennant (and the World Series) and Freehan finished second in MVP voting to teammate Denny McLain.

It turns out that, as measured by Player won-lost records, Freehan's 1967 and 1968 seasons are two of the top 10 seasons by a catcher since 1947, at least as measured by eWins over positional average at catcher.

#### Top 10 Seasons by a Catcher, since 1947 (ranked by eWOPA, C only)

			eWins	eLosses	eWOPA
1	Darren Daulton	1992	16.9	11.7	2.9
2	Carlton Fisk	1972	16.3	11.0	2.7
3	Javy Lopez	2003	13.9	9.2	2.6
4	Johnny Bench	1972	16.3	11.4	2.6
<b>5</b>	<b>Bill Freehan</b>	<b>1967</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>2.6</b>
6	Roy Campanella	1953	16.2	11.5	2.6
7	Roy Campanella	1951	16.4	11.5	2.5
8	Mike Piazza	1997	17.4	12.6	2.5
<b>9</b>	<b>Bill Freehan</b>	<b>1968</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>2.4</b>
10	Gary Carter	1982	18.5	13.9	2.4

I have to admit, #1 on that list surprises me. Daulton batted .270/.385/.524 in 1992 with 27 home runs and a league-leading 109 RBI.

Getting back to Bill Freehan, he is the only player to appear twice on the list since Roy Campanella.

## Bill Freehan's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1961	DET	19	4	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
1963	DET	21	98	6.7	7.6	0.1	-0.5	-
1964	DET	22	144	14.0	12.8	1.8	0.8	-
1965	DET	23	130	12.1	11.5	1.6	0.6	-
1966	DET	24	136	11.5	11.3	1.1	0.2	-
1967	DET	25	155	16.8	13.2	3.5	2.2	0.9
1968	DET	26	155	19.4	13.2	4.6	3.2	1.9
1969	DET	27	143	11.7	11.9	1.1	0.1	-
1970	DET	28	115	9.8	9.3	1.1	0.3	-
1971	DET	29	148	13.9	12.2	2.0	1.0	-
1972	DET	30	111	12.8	10.1	2.4	1.5	0.5
1973	DET	31	110	8.7	10.4	0.2	-0.6	-
1974	DET	32	130	13.7	12.5	1.6	0.6	-
1975	DET	33	120	10.5	11.8	0.4	-0.4	-
1976	DET	34	71	5.0	6.5	-0.2	-0.6	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>1,770  </b>	<b>167.2</b>	<b>154.5</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>3.5</b>
PostSeason (career)			10	1.2	1.1	0.2	0.1	

Bill Freehan Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1961	DET	19	4	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0
1963	DET	21	98	7.9	7.5	0.8	0.2	-
1964	DET	22	144	14.8	12.2	2.5	1.5	0.4
1965	DET	23	130	10.8	11.1	1.1	0.2	-
1966	DET	24	136	11.3	11.6	0.9	-0.0	-
1967	DET	25	155	17.4	12.5	4.1	2.9	1.6
1968	DET	26	155	18.7	13.6	4.0	2.7	1.4
1969	DET	27	143	12.9	11.7	1.8	0.8	-
1970	DET	28	115	10.4	10.4	0.9	0.0	-
1971	DET	29	148	15.3	13.3	2.2	1.1	-
1972	DET	30	111	11.5	9.5	2.0	1.1	0.2
1973	DET	31	110	9.4	9.9	0.8	-0.0	-
1974	DET	32	130	13.8	11.7	2.0	1.1	0.1
1975	DET	33	120	10.1	10.1	0.9	0.1	-
1976	DET	34	71	5.9	6.1	0.5	0.1	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>1,770  </b>	<b>170.4</b>	<b>151.4</b>	<b>24.6</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>3.7</b>
PostSeason (career)			10	0.9	1.0	0.0	-0.0	

## **#140: Tim Raines**

### **Career Highlights**

Tim Raines is regarded by many to be the second-best leadoff hitter in major-league history.

Five highlights of Tim Raines's career:

- Tim Raines was named to seven All-Star games. He started two of them, 1982 and 1983, in left field. He was named All-Star game MVP in 1987. In that game, Raines went 3-for-3 and drove in the only two runs of the game with a two-run triple in the top of the 13th inning.
- Tim Raines received MVP votes seven times with three top-10 finishes. His high finish was fifth in 1983.
- Tim Raines led the National League in batting average and on-base percentage once apiece (both in 1986), in doubles once (in 1984), in runs scored twice (in 1983 and 1987), and in stolen bases four times (1981 – 1984). He led the National League in times on base three times, in 1983, 1984, and 1986.
- Because of collusion, Tim Raines received no contract offers in the 1986-87 offseason despite having just made six consecutive All-Star teams and leading the league in batting average and on-base percentage in 1986. Because of the rules at the time, Tim Raines was ineligible to re-sign with the Montreal Expos before May 1, 1987, thereby forcing Raines to miss the first 21 games of the season (over which the Expos went 8-13). In his first game of the 1987 season, on May 2, Raines went 4-for-5 and hit a game-winning grand slam in the top of the 10th inning against the New York Mets. The Expos finished third in the National League East in 1987, four games behind the St. Louis Cardinals. If the team could have started 13-8 with Tim Raines instead of 8-13 without him, they could have won the first and only full-season division title in franchise history.
- Tim Raines was elected to the Montreal Expos Hall of Fame in 2000. He was elected to the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame in 2013. Finally, Tim Raines was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in his tenth and final year on the BBWAA ballot, 2017, with 86.0% of the vote.

### At What Was Tim Raines Elite?

Tim Raines was one of the best outfielders in baseball in the 1980s (see #120, Andre Dawson) and one of the best players in Montreal Expos history (see #137, Steve Rogers). But in terms of being historically elite, Tim Raines was an elite baserunner

Raines's elite baserunning extended well beyond his stolen bases – which were truly elite: 808 stolen bases (fifth all-time) at an 84.7% success rate (11th all-time per Baseball-Reference). Raines was also elite at baserunner advancement and avoiding baserunner outs (see #32, Robin Yount) and in my discussion of Albert Pujols (#18), I identified Raines as one of the 10 smartest baserunners since integration.

Put it all together and Tim Raines was second only to Rickey Henderson in modern baseball history.

#### Top 10 Baserunning Wins over Non-Pitcher Average, since 1947

		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	eWOPA
1	Rickey Henderson	52.4	36.4	7.9	<b>7.8</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Tim Raines</b>	<b>34.5</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>6.5</b>	6.6
3	Willie Wilson	26.5	14.8	5.8	6.4
4	Bert Campaneris	36.0	23.7	5.8	5.6
5	Davey Lopes	23.6	14.4	4.3	4.5
6	Paul Molitor	29.6	21.0	4.3	4.2
7	Joe Morgan	37.0	27.4	4.2	4.2
8	Luis Aparicio	30.9	21.8	4.0	4.2
9	Vince Coleman	26.1	17.6	3.9	3.7
10	Lou Brock	41.3	33.1	3.4	3.6

## Tim Raines's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1979	MON	19	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-
1980	MON	20	9	0.4	0.7	-0.1	-0.2	-
1981	MON	21	81	13.4	11.1	1.7	0.7	-
1982	MON	22	156	20.4	19.8	1.3	-0.2	-
1983	MON	23	156	25.6	19.9	3.7	2.0	0.4
1984	MON	24	160	23.9	20.5	2.7	1.0	-
1985	MON	25	150	22.1	19.0	2.4	0.9	-
1986	MON	26	151	20.7	18.8	1.7	0.3	-
1987	MON	27	139	21.6	16.4	3.4	1.9	0.4
1988	MON	28	109	15.1	13.4	1.4	0.4	-
1989	MON	29	145	18.9	16.9	1.6	0.3	-
1990	MON	30	130	17.1	15.7	1.3	0.1	-
1991	CHA	31	155	17.3	18.1	0.8	-0.7	-
1992	CHA	32	144	20.3	15.8	3.4	2.0	0.6
1993	CHA	33	115	15.0	12.0	2.4	1.3	0.2
1994	CHA	34	100	13.1	11.1	1.9	0.9	-
1995	CHA	35	133	14.7	15.8	0.5	-0.9	-
1996	NYA	36	59	6.7	5.8	0.8	0.3	-
1997	NYA	37	74	8.6	7.1	1.4	0.7	0.0
1998	NYA	38	109	9.1	7.1	1.7	0.8	0.0
1999	OAK	39	58	3.9	5.0	-0.2	-0.6	-
2001		41	51	3.4	3.3	0.3	-0.0	-
	BAL		4 /	0.3	0.7	-0.1	-0.2	-
	MON		47 /	3.0	2.5	0.4	0.2	-
2002	FLO	42	97	1.8	2.5	-0.0	-0.3	-
	<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>		<b>2,481  </b>	<b>313.1</b>	<b>276.0</b>	<b>33.8</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>1.5</b>
	PostSeason (career)		34	3.6	4.0	0.1	-0.3	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1979	MON	19	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-
1980	MON	20	9	0.7	1.0	-0.0	-0.1	-
1981	MON	21	81	13.0	10.2	1.9	0.9	0.0
1982	MON	22	156	21.0	20.7	1.2	-0.4	-
1983	MON	23	156	25.5	19.7	3.7	2.1	0.5
1984	MON	24	160	24.1	19.2	3.4	1.8	0.1
1985	MON	25	150	22.4	17.4	3.3	1.8	0.3
1986	MON	26	151	23.1	19.1	2.8	1.3	-
1987	MON	27	139	20.8	16.0	3.2	1.7	0.3
1988	MON	28	109	15.5	13.4	1.6	0.5	-
1989	MON	29	145	19.6	16.7	2.0	0.7	-
1990	MON	30	130	17.3	15.4	1.5	0.3	-
1991	CHA	31	155	18.7	18.3	1.5	-0.0	-
1992	CHA	32	144	20.3	16.1	3.3	1.8	0.4
1993	CHA	33	115	14.8	12.4	2.0	0.9	-
1994	CHA	34	100	12.1	11.7	1.0	0.0	-
1995	CHA	35	133	15.8	15.9	1.0	-0.4	-
1996	NYA	36	59	6.4	5.8	0.7	0.2	-
1997	NYA	37	74	8.5	7.8	1.1	0.3	-
1998	NYA	38	109	8.8	8.2	1.0	0.2	-
1999	OAK	39	58	3.9	3.8	0.3	0.0	-
2001		41	51	3.1	2.6	0.4	0.2	-
	BAL		4 /	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.0
	MON		47 /	2.6	2.3	0.4	0.1	-
2002	FLO	42	97	2.2	2.7	0.2	-0.1	-
	<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>		<b>2,481  </b>	<b>317.8</b>	<b>274.1</b>	<b>37.2</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>1.6</b>
	PostSeason (career)		34	3.4	4.0	-0.1	-0.4	

## **#141: Bernie Williams**

### **Career Highlights**

Bernie Williams was the starting center fielder for four World Series champions.

Five highlights of Bernie Williams's career:

- Bernie Williams was named to five All-Star teams. He started the 2000 All-Star game. He won four Gold Gloves and one Silver Slugger. He received MVP votes six times with a high finish of seventh in 1998.
- In 1998, Bernie Williams became the first player in major-league history to win a batting title (he batted .339), a Gold Glove (his second), and the World Series.
- At the time of his retirement, Bernie Williams held major-league records for postseason games played (121), doubles (29), home runs (22), and RBI (80). The last of these is still a record as of the end of the 2017 season.
- Bernie Williams is fifth in Yankees history in hits (2,336), second in singles (1,545), third in doubles (449), sixth in runs scored (1,366), and seventh in RBI (1,257).
- On May 24, 2015, Bernie Williams received a plaque in Monument Park in Yankee Stadium and had his uniform number, 51, retired by the Yankees.



### At What Was Bernie Williams Elite?

The New York Yankees failed to make the postseason for twelve consecutive seasons from 1982 to 1993 (there was no postseason in 1994 although the Yankees were leading the AL East at the time of the players' strike that year), the longest stretch of regular-season failure for the Yankees since they made their first World Series appearance in 1921.

In 1995, the Yankees snapped their postseason drought by becoming the first Wild Card winner in American League history. They followed that up with four World Series titles in five seasons followed by a seven-game loss in one of the best World Series in history in 2001.

The key to the Yankees' resurgence over these years was due in large part to the contributions of five homegrown players, all of whom played up-the-middle defensive positions, and all of whom are in my top 150 here: Derek Jeter (#24), Mariano Rivera (#29), Jorge Posada (#59), Andy Pettitte (#70), and Bernie Williams.

Williams was the first of the five to make his major-league debut (by four full seasons) and the only one of the four to make a major contribution to the first Yankees' playoff team in 1995. In 1995, Williams batted over .300 for the first time, leading the Yankees with a .307 batting average and 93 runs scored. Williams continued to be a key contributor to the Yankees' regular-season and postseason success throughout their subsequent 1996 – 2001 run.

The top 10 players for the 1995 – 2001 Yankees, ranked by pWins over replacement level for both the regular-season and postseason combined are shown in the next table.

<b>Top 10 New York Yankees, 1995 - 2001</b>					
<b>(Ranked by pWORLD, regular and postseason)</b>					
		<b>pWins</b>	<b>pLosses</b>	<b>pWOPA</b>	<b>pWORLD</b>
1	Derek Jeter	142.3	118.0	16.5	27.0
2	<b>Bernie Williams</b>	<b>150.3</b>	<b>122.1</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>25.3</b>
3	Andy Pettitte	101.0	81.0	12.0	22.0
4	Mariano Rivera	58.3	26.5	14.5	20.0
5	Paul O'Neill	145.8	122.5	8.2	19.0
6	Tino Martinez	116.1	94.8	6.0	14.6
7	David Cone	62.9	51.1	7.0	13.3
8	Roger Clemens	46.4	36.9	5.6	10.0
9	Jorge Posada	56.8	50.3	5.4	9.8
10	Orlando Hernandez	48.9	40.7	5.0	9.7

Eventually, Jeter surpassed Williams as the top Yankee. And, in fact, per my ranking system, so did several of his other teammates as well. But Bernie Williams was the first one there and he was an integral part of one of the best runs in New York Yankees history. And considering the New York Yankees' history, that's saying something.

## Bernie Williams's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1991	NYA	22	85	8.9	11.5	-0.5	-1.3	-
1992	NYA	23	62	7.4	8.2	0.1	-0.5	-
1993	NYA	24	139	16.1	17.1	0.7	-0.6	-
1994	NYA	25	108	12.5	11.8	1.4	0.4	-
1995	NYA	26	144	18.4	15.9	2.9	1.5	0.1
1996	NYA	27	143	19.7	17.0	2.8	1.3	-
1997	NYA	28	129	16.9	14.1	2.6	1.4	0.2
1998	NYA	29	128	20.3	13.6	4.7	3.3	2.0
1999	NYA	30	158	22.2	19.9	2.7	1.1	-
2000	NYA	31	141	19.6	16.5	3.0	1.5	0.1
2001	NYA	32	146	21.6	16.9	4.0	2.4	0.7
2002	NYA	33	154	20.5	18.1	2.7	1.1	-
2003	NYA	34	119	15.1	15.1	1.3	0.1	-
2004	NYA	35	148	16.0	15.1	1.8	0.4	-
2005	NYA	36	141	13.8	14.1	0.9	-0.2	-
2006	NYA	37	131	11.0	11.4	0.6	-0.4	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,076  </b>	<b>259.8</b>	<b>236.2</b>	<b>31.7</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>3.0</b>
PostSeason (career)			121	15.8	13.2	2.5	1.3	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1991	NYA	22	85	9.3	10.0	0.4	-0.4	-
1992	NYA	23	62	7.8	7.6	0.6	0.0	-
1993	NYA	24	139	17.6	16.9	1.6	0.2	-
1994	NYA	25	108	13.4	12.4	1.6	0.5	-
1995	NYA	26	144	19.0	16.0	3.2	1.8	0.4
1996	NYA	27	143	18.4	17.1	2.1	0.6	-
1997	NYA	28	129	18.1	14.5	3.1	1.8	0.6
1998	NYA	29	128	17.7	14.1	3.1	1.8	0.5
1999	NYA	30	158	21.9	19.2	2.9	1.3	-
2000	NYA	31	141	17.9	15.4	2.5	1.2	-
2001	NYA	32	146	19.5	16.4	3.1	1.6	0.1
2002	NYA	33	154	20.7	18.3	2.7	1.1	-
2003	NYA	34	119	13.9	14.6	0.9	-0.3	-
2004	NYA	35	148	15.5	15.9	1.2	-0.3	-
2005	NYA	36	141	13.7	14.8	0.5	-0.6	-
2006	NYA	37	131	11.4	12.1	0.4	-0.5	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,076  </b>	<b>255.8</b>	<b>235.3</b>	<b>30.0</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>1.5</b>
PostSeason (career)			121	15.4	14.1	1.9	0.7	

## #142: Billy Williams

### Career Highlights

Sweet-swinging Billy Williams was one of the best players in Chicago Cubs' history. He was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1987, his sixth year of eligibility, with 85.7% of the vote.

Five highlights of Billy Williams's career:

- Billy Williams has been married to his wife, Shirley, since January 1960. Shirley Williams's maiden name was Shirley Williams.
- Billy Williams was named the National League Rookie of the Year in 1961. He was named to six All-Star teams and received MVP votes eight times, finishing second in National League MVP voting in 1970 and 1972.
- Billy Williams batted .300 or better five times, winning a batting title in 1972. He scored 90 or more runs nine times and drove in 90 or more runs ten times.
- Billy Williams played in 1,117 consecutive games from 1963 through 1970, which was a National League record at the time. Williams's record was broken by Steve Garvey, but his 1,117 consecutive games remains the sixth-longest consecutive games streak in major-league history.
- Billy Williams and Ron Santo (#106) played in 2,015 games together, a record for teammates which has since been broken by Jeff Bagwell (#56) and Craig Biggio (#54), who played 2,029 games together. Both Santo and Williams played every inning of every game for the Chicago Cubs in 1965.

### At What Was Billy Williams Elite?

Billy Williams was one of the best hitters in baseball through the 1960s and early 1970s, while playing a steady outfield, mostly left field. Billy Williams is one of the top 10 left fielders since the integration of major-league baseball in 1947, as measured by eWins over positional average at left field.

#### Top 10 Left Fielders since 1947

		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	eWOPA
1	Barry Bonds	422.4	293.5	0.590	51.9
2	Ted Williams	232.3	165.3	0.584	24.3
3	Rickey Henderson	345.7	287.2	0.546	22.0
4	Carl Yastrzemski	281.5	235.5	0.544	13.6
5	Willie Stargell	174.5	138.4	0.558	11.4
6	Manny Ramirez	145.7	119.6	0.549	10.0
7	<b>Billy Williams</b>	<b>241.2</b>	<b>201.4</b>	<b>0.545</b>	<b>10.0</b>
8	Matt Holliday	228.0	197.0	0.536	9.9
9	Tim Lincecum	270.1	236.8	0.533	9.4
10	Albert Belle	146.8	124.6	0.541	9.3

## Billy Williams's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1959	CHN	21	16	0.5	1.0	-0.2	-0.3	-
1960	CHN	22	12	1.3	1.4	-0.0	-0.1	-
1961	CHN	23	146	15.8	18.5	-0.4	-1.9	-
1962	CHN	24	159	20.8	19.6	1.2	-0.3	-
1963	CHN	25	161	24.7	19.3	3.4	1.7	-
1964	CHN	26	162	22.6	19.9	2.1	0.4	-
1965	CHN	27	164	24.2	19.6	3.1	1.4	-
1966	CHN	28	162	19.2	20.4	0.0	-1.5	-
1967	CHN	29	162	23.5	19.0	3.0	1.2	-
1968	CHN	30	163	26.0	19.0	4.2	2.4	0.6
1969	CHN	31	163	23.1	20.1	2.5	0.7	-
1970	CHN	32	161	25.4	19.0	3.9	2.0	0.1
1971	CHN	33	157	23.4	17.7	3.6	2.0	0.4
1972	CHN	34	150	23.5	16.9	4.0	2.4	0.7
1973	CHN	35	156	20.3	19.3	1.2	-0.4	-
1974	CHN	36	117	13.5	13.1	0.6	-0.4	-
1975	OAK	37	155	13.9	10.5	3.0	1.5	0.1
1976	OAK	38	118	8.0	7.3	1.2	0.3	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,484  </b>	<b>329.6</b>	<b>281.7</b>	<b>36.5</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>1.8</b>
PostSeason (career)			3	0.1	0.4	-0.1	-0.2	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1959	CHN	21	16	0.7	1.1	-0.1	-0.2	-
1960	CHN	22	12	1.6	1.5	0.1	0.0	-
1961	CHN	23	146	17.8	17.4	1.2	-0.3	-
1962	CHN	24	159	22.7	19.6	2.1	0.5	-
1963	CHN	25	161	24.9	18.9	3.7	2.0	0.3
1964	CHN	26	162	23.4	19.7	2.6	0.8	-
1965	CHN	27	164	24.8	19.2	3.6	1.9	0.2
1966	CHN	28	162	23.3	21.7	1.6	-0.2	-
1967	CHN	29	162	22.9	19.4	2.6	0.8	-
1968	CHN	30	163	22.5	18.2	2.8	1.1	-
1969	CHN	31	163	22.2	19.6	2.3	0.5	-
1970	CHN	32	161	23.5	18.1	3.3	1.5	-
1971	CHN	33	157	22.5	17.9	3.0	1.5	-
1972	CHN	34	150	23.0	16.9	3.8	2.2	0.6
1973	CHN	35	156	20.1	17.4	2.1	0.5	-
1974	CHN	36	117	14.4	12.4	1.5	0.5	-
1975	OAK	37	155	12.6	10.9	2.1	0.7	-
1976	OAK	38	118	8.0	8.2	0.8	-0.1	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,484  </b>	<b>331.2</b>	<b>277.9</b>	<b>39.1</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>1.1</b>
PostSeason (career)			3	0.0	0.2	-0.1	-0.1	

## **#143: Dick McAuliffe**

### **Career Highlights**

Dick McAuliffe was an under-rated middle infielder of the 1960s who was the starting second baseman for the 1968 World Champion Detroit Tigers.

Five highlights of Dick McAuliffe's career:

- Dick McAuliffe reached base safely in his first four major-league plate appearances. He walked as a pinch hitter in his major-league debut on September 17, 1960 and had hits in his first three at bats – single, single, triple – in his first major-league start on September 20, 1960.
- McAuliffe was named to three All-Star teams, starting the 1965 and 1966 All-Star games at shortstop.
- McAuliffe led off for the American League in the 1965 All-Star game. He batted 2-for-3 in the game with a two-run home run and a second run scored.
- McAuliffe received MVP votes one time, finishing seventh in 1968. That season, McAuliffe led the American League in runs scored with 95 (1968 was a very low-scoring season) with career highs in doubles (24) and triples (10).
- McAuliffe was suspended for five games for charging the mound against Tommy John (#53) on August 22, 1968. McAuliffe singled leading off the bottom of the first inning and scored to give the Tigers a 1-0 lead. In the third inning, McAuliffe walked when the 3-2 pitch went over his head to the backstop, prompting yelling between McAuliffe and John that ended with McAuliffe rushing the mound and both benches emptying. According to McAuliffe's version of events, the 3-2 pitch was the third pitch in the at bat that John threw at or behind McAuliffe. Per John, the pitch "slipped out of my hand." John's left shoulder was separated in the altercation, knocking him out for the rest of the 1968 season. (source: Dick McAuliffe's SABR Bio written by John Cizik)

### At What Was Dick McAuliffe Elite?

Dick McAuliffe was one of the top shortstops in major-league baseball in the early and mid-1960s, starting two All-Star games for the American League at the position.

The next table shows the top 10 shortstops of the 1960s as ranked by eWins over positional average earned at the position.

Top Shortstops of the 1960s (Ranked by eWOPA, SS only)				
		eWins	eLosses	eWOPA
1	Jim Fregosi	154.0	142.4	9.9
2	Rico Petrocelli	80.8	72.6	6.6
<b>3</b>	<b>Dick McAuliffe</b>	<b>79.2</b>	<b>72.7</b>	<b>4.8</b>
4	Ron Hansen	136.0	132.6	4.7
5	Ernie Banks	38.7	32.0	4.1
6	Bert Campaneris	98.4	97.1	4.0
7	Denis Menke	78.0	74.0	3.9
8	Woodie Held	51.7	46.5	3.7
9	Luis Aparicio	193.4	196.2	3.6
10	Gene Alley	75.6	73.2	3.4

In 1967, McAuliffe moved from shortstop to second base, where he immediately became one of the best second basemen in baseball. The top 10 second basemen of the 1960s, again ranked by eWOPA at the position, are shown next.

Top Second Basemen of the 1960s (Ranked by eWOPA, 2B only)				
		eWins	eLosses	eWOPA
1	Joe Morgan	78.5	69.3	6.0
2	Ron Hunt	99.8	94.9	4.7
<b>3</b>	<b>Dick McAuliffe</b>	<b>54.8</b>	<b>48.0</b>	<b>4.4</b>
4	Jerry Lumpe	119.1	119.6	3.3
5	Mike Andrews	52.0	47.1	3.2
6	Bill Mazerowski	168.6	170.6	3.2
7	Don Buford	45.0	41.7	2.7
8	Bobby Knoop	97.5	96.8	2.4
9	Pete Rose	78.8	78.2	2.3
10	Julian Javier	149.5	152.6	2.2

And, finally, combining the two: the top 10 middle infielders of the 1960s, ranked by eWins over positional average at either second base or shortstop.

<b>Top Middle Infielders of the 1960s</b>				
<b>(Ranked by eWOPA, 2B and SS only)</b>				
		<b>eWins</b>	<b>eLosses</b>	<b>eWOPA</b>
1	Jim Fregosi	154.0	142.4	9.9
<b>2</b>	<b>Dick McAuliffe</b>	<b>134.0</b>	<b>120.7</b>	<b>9.1</b>
3	Rico Petrocelli	80.8	72.6	6.6
4	Joe Morgan	78.5	69.3	6.0
5	Woodie Held	70.5	62.8	5.4
6	Denis Menke	100.8	95.3	5.1
7	Ron Hunt	99.9	94.9	4.7
8	Ron Hansen	138.2	135.7	4.3
9	Ernie Banks	38.7	32.0	4.1
10	Gene Alley	89.4	86.3	4.0

Jim Fregosi just missed this book, ranking at #153 using the weights used to construct my list.

## Dick McAuliffe's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORL	pWOPA	pWO*
1960	DET	20	8	1.1	0.9	0.2	0.1	0.0
1961	DET	21	80	8.7	8.6	1.0	0.2	-
1962	DET	22	139	15.1	14.2	1.8	0.7	-
1963	DET	23	150	18.1	18.5	1.7	0.3	-
1964	DET	24	162	20.4	18.9	2.4	0.8	-
1965	DET	25	113	13.5	12.2	2.0	1.0	-
1966	DET	26	123	18.0	12.8	4.1	2.9	1.7
1967	DET	27	153	21.8	17.7	4.1	2.4	0.7
1968	DET	28	151	20.0	16.1	3.8	2.4	0.9
1969	DET	29	74	10.6	8.4	2.1	1.2	0.4
1970	DET	30	146	18.5	17.5	2.7	1.2	-
1971	DET	31	128	15.5	13.5	2.3	1.2	0.0
1972	DET	32	121	13.8	12.5	2.0	0.9	-
1973	DET	33	105	12.3	11.2	1.7	0.8	-
1974	BOS	34	100	8.3	9.0	0.4	-0.2	-
1975	BOS	35	7	0.3	0.6	-0.1	-0.1	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>1,760  </b>	<b>216.0</b>	<b>192.5</b>	<b>32.2</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>3.8</b>
PostSeason (career)			12	1.3	1.6	-0.0	-0.1	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORL	eWOPA	eWO*
1960	DET	20	8	0.8	1.0	-0.0	-0.1	-
1961	DET	21	80	8.3	8.8	0.6	-0.1	-
1962	DET	22	139	14.9	15.2	1.2	0.1	-
1963	DET	23	150	19.3	18.7	2.2	0.8	-
1964	DET	24	162	21.1	19.6	2.4	0.8	-
1965	DET	25	113	14.0	12.1	2.3	1.3	0.2
1966	DET	26	123	17.1	12.9	3.6	2.4	1.2
1967	DET	27	153	21.1	17.2	3.9	2.3	0.6
1968	DET	28	151	19.5	16.1	3.5	2.1	0.6
1969	DET	29	74	9.5	7.8	1.7	1.0	0.2
1970	DET	30	146	17.6	16.9	2.5	1.0	-
1971	DET	31	128	14.9	14.5	1.6	0.4	-
1972	DET	32	121	12.4	12.1	1.4	0.4	-
1973	DET	33	105	12.0	11.0	1.7	0.7	-
1974	BOS	34	100	8.4	8.6	0.7	0.0	-
1975	BOS	35	7	0.3	0.7	-0.1	-0.2	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>1,760  </b>	<b>211.1</b>	<b>193.1</b>	<b>29.2</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>3.0</b>
PostSeason (career)			12	1.3	1.6	0.0	-0.1	



## **#144: John Candelaria**

### **Career Highlights**

John “Candy Man” Candelaria was the ace of the Pittsburgh Pirates of the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Five highlights of John Candelaria’s career:

- John Candelaria was named to one All-Star team in his career. He received Cy Young and MVP votes once apiece. All of these occurred in 1977.
- John Candelaria won 20 games once, in 1977. He led the National League that season with a 2.34 ERA and in the lowest walks per nine innings (2.0). Candelaria led the National League in strikeout-to-walk ratio in 1984 (3.9).
- In his first career playoff appearance, Candelaria set a National League record (and tied a major-league record) by striking out 14 Cincinnati Reds in Game 3 of the 1975 NLCS on October 7, 1975.
- Candelaria was named 1986 AL Comeback Player of the Year by the Sporting News. After missing the first three months of the season because of bone spur surgery, Candelaria made 16 starts for the California Angels, going 10-2 with a 2.55 ERA in 91.2 innings pitched.
- The two best games of John Candelaria’s career, as measured by net pWins, were within six weeks of each other in 1988. On May 22, 1988, Candelaria pitched a complete-game two-hit shutout in which he walked nobody and had 13 strikeouts in a 2-0 Yankees win over the Oakland A’s. On July 2, 1988, Candelaria threw another complete-game, two-hit, no-walk shutout, this time with 12 strikeouts in a 4-0 win over the Chicago White Sox. Candelaria threw a no-hitter (1 walk, 7 strikeouts) on August 9, 1976.

### At What Was John Candelaria Elite?

John Candelaria was very good at some of the subtler aspects of pitcher value. He was very good at controlling the opponents' running game (Component 1). He generally had excellent control with very few wild pitches, for example (Component 2). He was also a very good fielder, with, for example, a fielding percentage of 1.000 in 12 of 18 seasons (he had no fielding chances in his nineteenth and final season). He was not quite good enough, however, to make the top 10 lists in these three categories which I showed earlier in the book (#34, Gaylord Perry; #74, Luis Tiant; and #23, Tom Glavine; respectively).

But if you combine these three categories - Components 1 and 2 pitching and fielding by pitchers – Candelaria just slips into the top 10 in combined net wins.

Top 10 Pitchers, Net Component 1 & 2 Pitching Wins and Fielding Wins, Combined, 1947 - 2017					
		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	Net Wins
1	Tom Glavine	15.2	9.7	0.612	5.6
2	Livan Hernandez	11.6	7.2	0.616	4.4
3	Kenny Rogers	12.3	8.2	0.599	4.1
4	Mark Buehrle	9.9	6.2	0.613	3.6
5	Bret Saberhagen	9.2	5.5	0.623	3.6
6	Warren Spahn	16.8	13.2	0.559	3.5
7	Mike Mussina	9.7	6.2	0.609	3.5
8	Kirk Rueter	6.8	3.4	0.667	3.4
9	Claude Osteen	12.4	9.3	0.571	3.1
10	John Candelaria	7.8	4.8	0.619	3.0

Admittedly, that is perhaps a bit too “cute”.

John Candelaria's best season was 1977, when he had a traditional won-lost record of 20-5 and led the National League in ERA (2.34), winning percentage (.800), and walks per nine innings (2.0). This was not merely the best season of Candelaria's career, it was, in fact, one of the best seasons in the history of the Pittsburgh Pirates, at least since 1947.

The top 10 seasons by a Pirate since 1947, ranked by pWins over positional average (pWOPA) and pWins over star (pWO\*) are shown in the next two tables.

**Top 10 Seasons, Pittsburgh Pirates, 1947 - 2017**  
(ranked by pWOPA)

			pWins	pLosses	pWOPA
1	Barry Bonds	1991	24.3	15.8	3.7
2	Doug Drabek	1990	16.1	10.7	3.6
3	Willie Stargell	1971	22.8	14.1	3.6
<b>4</b>	<b>John Candelaria</b>	<b>1977</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>3.5</b>
5	Vern Law	1959	18.0	12.4	3.5
6	Vern Law	1960	18.5	13.5	3.3
7	Barry Bonds	1992	22.2	14.6	3.2
8	Andrew McCutchen	2015	22.5	15.4	3.1
9	Barry Bonds	1990	24.1	16.5	3.0
10	Roberto Clemente	1971	21.9	14.7	3.0

**Top 10 Seasons, Pittsburgh Pirates, 1947 - 2017**  
(ranked by pWO\*)

			pWins	pLosses	pWO*
1	Doug Drabek	1990	16.1	10.7	2.4
<b>2</b>	<b>John Candelaria</b>	<b>1977</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>2.3</b>
3	Vern Law	1959	18.0	12.4	2.2
4	Willie Stargell	1971	22.8	14.1	2.1
5	Barry Bonds	1991	24.3	15.8	2.1
6	Vern Law	1960	18.5	13.5	2.0
7	Barry Bonds	1992	22.2	14.6	1.8
8	Andrew McCutchen	2015	22.5	15.4	1.7
9	George Witt	1958	9.2	5.4	1.6
10	Roberto Clemente	1971	21.9	14.7	1.5

## John Candelaria's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORL	pWOPA	pWO*
1975	PIT	21	18	7.9	6.7	1.5	0.9	0.3
1976	PIT	22	32	14.0	11.5	2.8	1.8	0.8
1977	PIT	23	33	16.2	10.5	4.7	3.5	2.3
1978	PIT	24	31	11.7	10.7	1.9	1.0	0.1
1979	PIT	25	33	13.3	12.0	2.2	1.2	0.2
1980	PIT	26	35	13.2	13.2	1.6	0.6	-
1981	PIT	27	6	2.3	2.7	0.2	-0.0	-
1982	PIT	28	33	11.0	8.9	2.4	1.6	0.8
1983	PIT	29	33	12.9	11.1	2.5	1.5	0.5
1984	PIT	30	33	10.4	11.6	0.9	0.0	-
1985		31	50	9.2	7.9	1.6	0.6	-
	CAL		13 /	5.0	4.6	0.8	0.3	-
	PIT		37 /	4.2	3.3	0.8	0.3	-
1986	CAL	32	16	6.8	3.6	2.2	1.7	1.2
1987		33	23	8.2	7.2	1.4	0.6	-
	CAL		20 /	7.4	6.5	1.3	0.6	-
	NYN		3 /	0.7	0.7	0.1	0.0	-
1988	NYA	34	25	10.7	7.7	2.5	1.6	0.8
1989		35	22	2.6	3.7	-0.3	-0.6	-
	MON		12 /	0.4	0.8	-0.2	-0.2	-
	NYA		10 /	2.2	2.9	-0.1	-0.4	-
1990		36	47	3.2	4.0	-0.1	-0.5	-
	MIN		34 /	2.2	2.4	0.1	-0.2	-
	TOR		13 /	1.0	1.6	-0.2	-0.3	-
1991	LAN	37	59	3.1	1.7	0.9	0.6	0.3
1992	LAN	38	50	2.1	1.7	0.4	0.1	-
1993	PIT	39	24	0.8	1.3	-0.2	-0.3	-
	<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>		<b>603  </b>	<b>159.3</b>	<b>137.7</b>	<b>29.3</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>7.1</b>
	PostSeason (career)		6	2.2	2.8	0.0	-0.2	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORL	eWOPA	eWO*
1975	PIT	21	18	7.3	6.1	1.4	0.9	0.3
1976	PIT	22	32	12.8	12.7	1.6	0.6	-
1977	PIT	23	33	14.9	13.3	2.8	1.5	0.2
1978	PIT	24	31	11.8	10.9	1.9	0.9	-
1979	PIT	25	33	12.2	12.4	1.5	0.5	-
1980	PIT	26	35	13.5	13.0	1.9	0.9	-
1981	PIT	27	6	2.4	2.4	0.4	0.2	-
1982	PIT	28	33	11.2	8.6	2.6	1.8	1.0
1983	PIT	29	33	11.8	11.0	1.9	1.0	0.0
1984	PIT	30	33	10.7	11.1	1.2	0.4	-
1985		31	50	6.8	7.1	0.6	-0.2	-
	CAL		13 /	4.2	4.3	0.5	0.0	-
	PIT		37 /	2.6	2.7	0.2	-0.2	-
1986	CAL	32	16	5.7	3.4	1.7	1.2	0.8
1987		33	23	7.9	8.0	0.9	0.1	-
	CAL		20 /	7.1	6.9	1.0	0.3	-
	NYN		3 /	0.8	1.1	-0.0	-0.1	-
1988	NYA	34	25	9.6	7.8	1.8	1.0	0.2
1989		35	22	3.1	4.1	-0.1	-0.5	-
	MON		12 /	0.7	1.0	-0.1	-0.2	-
	NYA		10 /	2.5	3.0	0.0	-0.3	-
1990		36	47	3.8	4.2	0.2	-0.3	-
	MIN		34 /	2.6	2.6	0.2	-0.1	-
	TOR		13 /	1.2	1.6	-0.1	-0.2	-
1991	LAN	37	59	1.8	1.5	0.3	0.1	-
1992	LAN	38	50	1.3	1.0	0.2	0.1	-
1993	PIT	39	24	1.0	1.1	0.0	-0.1	-
	<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>		<b>603  </b>	<b>149.6</b>	<b>139.6</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>2.5</b>
	PostSeason (career)		6	2.2	2.1	0.3	0.1	

## #145: Ted Simmons

### Career Highlights

Ted Simmons was the longtime catcher of the St. Louis Cardinals through the 1970s and the starting catcher for the only Milwaukee Brewers team to reach the World Series.

Five highlights of Ted Simmons's career:

- Ted Simmons was named to eight All-Star teams in his career. He was the starting catcher once each for the National League (1978) and American League (1983). Simmons received MVP votes seven times, finishing in the top 10 three times. He won a Silver Slugger in 1980.
- Simmons had 90 or more RBI eight times. He hit 20 or more home runs six times.
- Simmons had more hits (2,472) and doubles (483) than any other catcher in the twentieth century. He was second among catchers in the twentieth century to Yogi Berra with 1,389 RBI.
- Simmons led the National League in intentional walks twice, in 1976 and 1977. He had more intentional walks in his career (188) than any other catcher (since 1955 when intentional walks became an official statistic).
- Simmons fell one vote short of election to the National Baseball Hall of Fame by the Modern Baseball Era Committee in 2018.

### At What Was Ted Simmons Elite?

Ted Simmons was one of the best-hitting catchers since integration (see #59, Jorge Posada). Simmons did not, however, have a very good defensive reputation. I think the reason for this was that Simmons shared a league with Johnny Bench (#15) and Gary Carter (#52), both of whom were among the finest defensive catchers ever (see #101, Ivan Rodriguez).

In fact, as measured by Player won-lost records, Ted Simmons was a perfectly average defensive catcher over his career (career fielding record of 24.9 – 24.9, exactly a .500 winning percentage). He was, however, among the best defensive catchers at fielding balls in play – what I call Component 5. The top 10 catchers in net component 5 wins since 1947.

#### Top 10 Fielding Catchers, Component 5 Only, 1947 - 2017 (Ranked by Net Component 5 Wins)

		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	Net eWins
1	Carlton Fisk	3.8	2.8	0.570	0.9
2	Johnny Bench	3.1	2.4	0.570	0.8
3	Bill Freehan	2.6	1.9	0.578	0.7
4	Brad Ausmus	2.6	1.9	0.575	0.7
5	Tom Haller	2.0	1.3	0.601	0.7
<b>6</b>	<b>Ted Simmons</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>0.564</b>	<b>0.6</b>
7	Brian McCann	2.3	1.7	0.570	0.6
8	Jerry Grote	2.5	2.0	0.559	0.5
9	Johnny Edwards	2.6	2.1	0.552	0.5
10	Del Crandall	3.0	2.6	0.544	0.5

## Ted Simmons's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1968	SLN	18	2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1969	SLN	19	5	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1
1970	SLN	20	82	6.1	7.0	0.1	-0.4	-
1971	SLN	21	133	14.0	12.0	2.1	1.1	0.1
1972	SLN	22	152	17.5	16.5	1.9	0.5	-
1973	SLN	23	161	19.2	17.0	2.8	1.3	-
1974	SLN	24	152	17.7	15.6	2.4	1.2	-
1975	SLN	25	157	18.0	15.2	2.7	1.4	0.1
1976	SLN	26	150	15.0	15.4	0.9	-0.2	-
1977	SLN	27	150	17.7	13.9	2.9	1.6	0.4
1978	SLN	28	152	16.7	16.0	1.6	0.4	-
1979	SLN	29	123	14.6	11.0	2.8	1.8	0.8
1980	SLN	30	145	16.8	15.2	2.1	0.9	-
1981	MIL	31	100	10.1	9.2	1.4	0.6	-
1982	MIL	32	137	13.9	12.6	2.0	0.9	-
1983	MIL	33	153	16.3	14.1	2.5	1.2	-
1984	MIL	34	132	10.1	13.1	-0.6	-1.8	-
1985	MIL	35	143	12.3	13.7	0.5	-0.8	-
1986	ATL	36	76	4.4	5.0	0.1	-0.3	-
1987	ATL	37	73	5.1	5.0	0.4	-0.0	-
1988	ATL	38	78	2.7	4.5	-0.6	-0.9	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,456  </b>	<b>248.7</b>	<b>232.3</b>	<b>28.5</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>
PostSeason (career)			17	1.7	1.6	0.2	0.1	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1968	SLN	18	2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
1969	SLN	19	5	0.3	0.5	-0.1	-0.1	-
1970	SLN	20	82	6.7	7.9	0.1	-0.6	-
1971	SLN	21	133	13.4	12.6	1.6	0.5	-
1972	SLN	22	152	16.5	15.9	1.6	0.3	-
1973	SLN	23	161	18.4	16.0	2.8	1.4	-
1974	SLN	24	152	16.2	14.8	2.0	0.9	-
1975	SLN	25	157	17.5	14.3	2.9	1.6	0.4
1976	SLN	26	150	14.7	13.5	1.6	0.6	-
1977	SLN	27	150	16.1	12.2	2.9	1.8	0.6
1978	SLN	28	152	16.8	14.3	2.5	1.3	0.1
1979	SLN	29	123	14.1	11.5	2.3	1.3	0.3
1980	SLN	30	145	15.7	12.7	2.6	1.5	0.4
1981	MIL	31	100	8.5	9.2	0.6	-0.2	-
1982	MIL	32	137	13.6	12.7	1.8	0.7	-
1983	MIL	33	153	15.2	14.4	1.8	0.5	-
1984	MIL	34	132	9.2	12.7	-0.9	-2.0	-
1985	MIL	35	143	12.1	12.4	1.0	-0.3	-
1986	ATL	36	76	3.7	3.7	0.3	-0.0	-
1987	ATL	37	73	4.6	4.8	0.2	-0.2	-
1988	ATL	38	78	2.7	3.2	0.0	-0.2	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>2,456  </b>	<b>236.2</b>	<b>219.1</b>	<b>27.7</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>1.8</b>
PostSeason (career)			17	1.5	1.5	0.1	0.0	

## **#146: Sammy Sosa**

### **Career Highlights**

Sammy Sosa was one of the greatest home run hitters in major-league history.

Five highlights of Sammy Sosa's career:

- Sammy Sosa was named to seven All-Star teams. He received MVP votes nine (consecutive) times with seven top-10 finishes. Sosa won the National League MVP award in 1998.
- Sosa had 100 or more RBI nine consecutive seasons from 1995 through 2003. He led the league in RBI twice with 158 in 1998 and 160 in 2001. Sosa had 100 or more runs scored five consecutive times from 1998 through 2002, leading the league three times (1998, 2001, and 2002).
- Sammy Sosa is the only player to hit 60 or more home runs in three different seasons. He did this within a four-year stretch from 1998 – 2001. Ironically, the only one of these four seasons in which Sosa led his league in home runs was 2000, the only one of these four seasons in which Sosa hit fewer than 60 home runs (he hit 50). Sosa also led his league in home runs in 2002 with 49 – meaning that over a five-year stretch from 1998 – 2002, Sosa either hit 60 home runs or led his league in home runs every season, but never both.
- Sosa hit a home run in 45 different major-league stadiums, which is a record.
- Sosa had 30 home runs and 30 stolen bases in the same season twice, in 1993 and 1995.

### At What Was Sammy Sosa Elite?

Sammy Sosa's career looks much more impressive in the second table on the next page, measured by eWins, than in the first table, which puts his record in context and ties it to team performance. In fact, the gap between Sammy Sosa's career eWORLD (eWins over replacement level) and pWORLD is one of the top 10 gaps since 1947.

Top 10 Player Gaps, eWORLD vs. pWORLD, since 1947				
		pWORLD	eWORLD	Difference
1	Frank J. Thomas	3.1	14.3	11.2
2	Chuck Hinton	0.7	10.3	9.6
3	Roy Sievers	10.6	20.2	9.5
4	Rusty Staub	25.0	34.0	9.0
5	Dale Murphy	24.5	32.9	8.3
6	Lee Mazzilli	4.1	12.1	8.0
7	Pete Runnels	11.5	19.1	7.6
<b>8</b>	<b>Sammy Sosa</b>	<b>29.9</b>	<b>37.3</b>	<b>7.4</b>
9	Steve Henderson	4.6	11.8	7.2
10	Don Money	12.1	19.0	7.0

Incidentally, the Frank Thomas at #1 in this table is not the two-time MVP and first-ballot Hall-of-Famer who is #48 in my list (and whose middle name was Edward). Frank Joseph Thomas played for several National League teams in the 1950s and 1960s, most prominently the Pittsburgh Pirates and New York Mets (during periods when these two teams were mostly terrible).

The reverse of this table, largest gap of pWORLD over eWORLD, was shown in my discussion of Derek Jeter (#24). As I said there, it is hard to know the extent to which differences between pWORLD and eWORLD are due to some player skill – in which case it is probably not accurate to say that Sammy Sosa was “elite” at this: pWins, which are tied to actual team wins, are better than eWins, which are tied to expected or theoretical wins – or whether they are simply due to “dumb luck”. Certainly, the players in the above table tended to play for bad teams, not necessarily because of these players but, in many cases, because of these players’ “choice” in teammates.

Regardless, for whatever reason, Sammy Sosa's career performance translated into seven or eight fewer Cubs wins than expected.



## Sammy Sosa's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1989		20	57	4.6	5.8	-0.2	-0.6	-
	CHA		33 /	2.8	3.4	-0.1	-0.3	-
	TEX		24 /	1.8	2.3	-0.1	-0.3	-
1990	CHA	21	152	18.4	17.6	1.5	0.2	-
1991	CHA	22	113	9.3	8.4	1.0	0.3	-
1992	CHN	23	67	7.9	8.2	0.2	-0.4	-
1993	CHN	24	159	21.0	21.1	1.2	-0.5	-
1994	CHN	25	105	14.9	13.9	1.2	-0.1	-
1995	CHN	26	144	20.4	17.4	2.2	0.7	-
1996	CHN	27	124	20.2	16.0	2.9	1.4	-
1997	CHN	28	162	21.7	21.7	0.7	-1.0	-
1998	CHN	29	159	25.3	18.5	4.1	2.4	0.7
1999	CHN	30	162	23.9	20.8	2.4	0.6	-
2000	CHN	31	156	23.1	20.4	2.4	0.6	-
2001	CHN	32	160	26.1	19.4	4.3	2.4	0.5
2002	CHN	33	150	21.2	20.7	1.0	-0.6	-
2003	CHN	34	137	20.4	15.5	3.1	1.7	0.3
2004	CHN	35	126	16.2	14.7	1.5	0.3	-
2005	BAL	36	102	8.6	11.4	-0.8	-1.6	-
2007	TEX	38	114	10.7	10.0	1.2	0.0	-
CAREER (reg. season)			2,349	313.7	281.3	29.9	5.9	1.4
PostSeason (career)			15	1.8	1.6	0.2	0.0	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1989		20	57	5.1	5.4	0.2	-0.2	-
	CHA		33 /	3.2	3.1	0.3	0.0	-
	TEX		24 /	1.9	2.3	-0.1	-0.2	-
1990	CHA	21	152	18.4	18.1	1.2	-0.1	-
1991	CHA	22	113	9.0	9.3	0.4	-0.3	-
1992	CHN	23	67	8.1	7.4	0.7	0.1	-
1993	CHN	24	159	21.4	18.9	2.4	0.8	-
1994	CHN	25	105	16.1	13.2	2.2	0.9	-
1995	CHN	26	144	19.8	17.3	2.0	0.5	-
1996	CHN	27	124	19.1	14.5	3.0	1.7	0.3
1997	CHN	28	162	21.6	20.6	1.2	-0.4	-
1998	CHN	29	159	25.1	19.7	3.4	1.7	-
1999	CHN	30	162	24.2	18.9	3.4	1.7	0.0
2000	CHN	31	156	25.6	19.7	4.0	2.2	0.4
2001	CHN	32	160	27.9	19.2	5.4	3.4	1.4
2002	CHN	33	150	23.5	18.7	3.2	1.6	-
2003	CHN	34	137	17.9	15.2	2.0	0.7	-
2004	CHN	35	126	16.2	14.1	1.8	0.6	-
2005	BAL	36	102	9.5	10.9	-0.0	-0.9	-
2007	TEX	38	114	9.5	9.4	0.8	-0.2	-
CAREER (reg. season)			2,349	318.0	270.5	37.3	13.6	2.1
PostSeason (career)			15	1.9	1.7	0.1	0.0	

## **#147: Derek Lowe**

### **Career Highlights**

Derek Lowe was a top-flight reliever for the Boston Red Sox who became a top-flight starter.

Five highlights of Derek Lowe's career:

- Derek Lowe was named to two All-Star teams, in 1999 and 2002. He received MVP and Cy Young votes once, in 2002.
- Derek Lowe led his league (or tied for his league lead) in wins, losses, and saves once apiece. He led his league (or tied for his league lead) in games started four times and in games finished once.
- Derek Lowe threw a no-hitter on April 27, 2002. Lowe was the first pitcher to throw a no-hitter after a 40-save season (Lowe saved 42 games in 1999; Dennis Eckersley and Dave Righetti both had 40-save seasons several years after throwing a no-hitter).
- Lowe earned the win in the final game of the 2004 Division Series, League Championship Series, and World Series as he helped the Boston Red Sox win their first World Championship in 86 years.
- Derek Lowe hit one home run in 550 career plate appearances (regular season and postseason combined). His home run came on August 31, 2011, in a game which Lowe won 3-1 for the Atlanta Braves (over the Washington Nationals). Chipper Jones (#26) hit career home run #450 in the same game.

### **At What Was Derek Lowe Elite?**

Derek Lowe was one of the best relief pitchers in baseball for four years from 1998 through 2001 who then converted into one of the best starting pitchers in baseball for the next seven years or so. To some extent, Derek Lowe was a poor man's Dennis Eckersley (#64) but with the order of his career reversed.

Surprisingly, to me (and, I suspect, a lot of other people), if one controls for context, Derek Lowe's best season as a relief pitcher was better than any season in Dennis Eckersley's career as was his best season as a starting pitcher. Measured by eWins over positional average as a relief pitcher (eWOPA\_rp), Derek Lowe's best season was 1999 when he pitched 109.1 innings in relief with a WHIP (walks plus hits per inning) of 0.997 and an ERA of 2.63. This is one of only 33 seasons (by 28 pitchers) since 1947 worth at least 1.0 eWOPA\_rp.

These seasons are shown in the table below.

<b>Top Relief Pitcher Seasons, since 1947 (Ranked by eWOPA, RP only)</b>					
			<b>eWins</b>	<b>eLosses</b>	<b>eWOPA</b>
1	Mark Eichhorn	1986	9.3	5.6	1.5
2	Mariano Rivera	1996	6.5	3.2	1.5
3	Eric Gagne	2003	5.2	2.3	1.3
4	Rich Gossage	1975	8.6	5.6	1.3
5	Willie Hernandez	1984	7.6	4.5	1.3
6	Bruce Sutter	1977	6.8	4.0	1.2
7	Koji Uehara	2013	4.4	1.8	1.2
8	Duane Ward	1991	6.5	3.9	1.1
9	Phil Regan	1966	6.7	4.3	1.1
10	Stu Miller	1965	6.8	4.1	1.1
11	Doug Jones	1997	5.1	2.6	1.1
12	Gabe White	2000	4.9	2.5	1.1
13	Octavio Dotel	2002	5.8	3.3	1.1
14	Dan Quisenberry	1983	7.5	4.8	1.1
15	John Hiller	1973	7.5	4.9	1.1
16	Lindy McDaniel	1960	5.9	3.4	1.0
17	Doug Corbett	1980	7.5	5.0	1.0
18	Fernando Rodney	2012	4.6	2.2	1.0
19	Billy McCool	1966	6.5	4.4	1.0
20	Rafael Betancourt	2007	4.5	2.2	1.0
21	Tim Burke	1987	5.2	2.7	1.0
22	Mariano Rivera	2004	4.8	2.5	1.0
23	Rich Gossage	1977	7.7	5.3	1.0
<b>24</b>	<b>Derek Lowe</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>1.0</b>
25	Takashi Saito	2006	4.5	2.3	1.0
26	Craig Kimbrel	2017	4.8	2.6	1.0
27	Ted Abernathy	1967	6.5	4.3	1.0
28	Stu Miller	1961	6.7	4.4	1.0
29	Mariano Rivera	2005	4.5	2.3	1.0
30	Keith Foulke	1999	6.3	4.1	1.0
31	Wade Davis	2014	4.4	2.2	1.0
32	Mariano Rivera	1999	4.1	2.0	1.0
33	Alex Claudio	2017	4.5	2.4	1.0

In Derek Lowe's next season, 2000, he became the Red Sox unquestioned closer and led the American League with 42 saves. Two seasons after that, in 2002, Lowe moved into the Red Sox starting rotation and had his finest season as a starting pitcher. Lowe pitched 219.2 innings in 2002 with a WHIP of 0.974, an ERA of 2.58, and a traditional won-lost record of 21-8. Player won-lost records calculates that season as being worth 2.0 eWOPA as a starting pitcher. While not quite as rare as a relief pitcher eWOPA of 1.0, a starting pitcher eWOPA of 2.0 is still elite.

Of the 28 pitchers who had a 1.0 eWOPA\_rp season, 15 of them had at least one season in which they were above average as a starting pitcher (i.e., had a starting pitcher eWOPA greater than zero). The next table shows the best seasons for these 15 pitchers as a relief pitcher and as a starting pitcher. They are ranked here by their maximum single-season starting pitcher eWOPA.

**Relief Pitchers with  $\geq 1.0$  eWOPA RP Seasons, since 1947  
Ranked by Best eWOPA Season as a Starting Pitcher)**

		<b>Relief Pitcher</b>		<b>Starting Pitcher</b>	
		<b>Season</b>	<b>eWOPA</b>	<b>Season</b>	<b>eWOPA</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Derek Lowe</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2.0</b>
2	Stu Miller	1965	1.1	1952	0.8
3	Lindy McDaniel	1960	1.0	1957	0.5
4	Koji Uehara	2013	1.2	2009	0.5
5	John Hiller	1973	1.1	1967	0.5
6	Eric Gagne	2003	1.3	1999	0.2
7	Billy McCool	1966	1.0	1964	0.2
8	Ted Abernathy	1967	1.0	1956	0.2
9	Wade Davis	2014	1.0	2009	0.2
10	Octavio Dotel	2002	1.1	1999	0.1
11	Tim Burke	1987	1.0	1986	0.1
12	Phil Regan	1966	1.1	1962	0.1
13	Doug Jones	1997	1.1	1991	0.1
14	Gabe White	2000	1.1	1997	0.1
15	Willie Hernandez	1984	1.3	1983	0.0

Derek Lowe is the only pitcher to have a season of at least 1.0 eWOPA as a relief pitcher and another season of at least 2.0 eWOPA as a starting pitcher. In fact, Derek Lowe is the only pitcher to have seasons of at least 1.0 eWOPA as both a starting and relief pitcher.

# Derek Lowe's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Derek Lowe

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1997		24	20	3.2	4.2	-0.0	-0.5	-
	BOS		8 /	0.4	0.5	-0.0	-0.1	-
	SEA		12 /	2.8	3.7	0.0	-0.4	-
1998	BOS	25	63	6.9	7.4	0.5	-0.3	-
1999	BOS	26	74	7.7	3.7	2.6	1.9	1.1
2000	BOS	27	74	8.9	4.4	3.0	2.1	1.1
2001	BOS	28	67	8.1	6.5	1.5	0.5	-
2002	BOS	29	32	12.9	9.0	3.3	2.1	1.0
2003	BOS	30	33	12.1	10.0	2.5	1.3	-
2004	BOS	31	33	12.1	12.0	1.8	0.4	-
2005	LAN	32	35	13.6	15.0	1.3	0.0	-
2006	LAN	33	35	13.9	10.9	3.4	2.2	0.9
2007	LAN	34	33	11.9	11.4	2.1	0.9	-
2008	LAN	35	34	12.0	10.8	2.4	1.3	0.1
2009	ATL	36	34	12.2	11.1	2.4	1.3	0.2
2010	ATL	37	34	12.4	12.8	1.7	0.5	-
2011	ATL	38	34	12.6	14.2	1.1	-0.1	-
2012		39	38	7.0	8.8	0.0	-0.7	-
	CLE		21 /	6.3	8.3	-0.1	-0.8	-
	NYA		17 /	0.7	0.5	0.1	0.1	-
2013	TEX	40	9	0.6	0.5	0.1	0.0	-
	<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>		<b>682  </b>	<b>168.1</b>	<b>152.9</b>	<b>29.6</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>4.5</b>
	PostSeason (career)		26	5.3	5.2	0.8	0.2	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1997		24	20	3.6	4.1	0.2	-0.2	-
	BOS		8 /	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1
	SEA		12 /	2.9	3.7	0.0	-0.4	-
1998	BOS	25	63	6.5	5.8	1.0	0.3	-
1999	BOS	26	74	5.0	3.2	1.3	0.8	0.3
2000	BOS	27	74	4.3	3.5	0.8	0.3	-
2001	BOS	28	67	5.0	4.3	0.8	0.2	-
2002	BOS	29	32	12.9	8.2	3.7	2.5	1.4
2003	BOS	30	33	12.5	10.4	2.6	1.3	-
2004	BOS	31	33	11.8	10.5	2.2	1.0	-
2005	LAN	32	35	14.2	13.8	2.2	0.9	-
2006	LAN	33	35	13.7	10.7	3.4	2.2	1.0
2007	LAN	34	33	12.5	10.9	2.6	1.4	0.2
2008	LAN	35	34	13.4	10.3	3.4	2.2	1.1
2009	ATL	36	34	13.2	13.3	2.0	0.8	-
2010	ATL	37	34	12.0	12.4	1.6	0.4	-
2011	ATL	38	34	12.0	12.0	1.7	0.6	-
2012		39	38	7.8	9.0	0.4	-0.4	-
	CLE		21 /	6.8	7.9	0.3	-0.4	-
	NYA		17 /	1.1	1.1	0.1	-0.1	-
2013	TEX	40	9	0.6	0.8	-0.0	-0.1	-
	<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>		<b>682  </b>	<b>161.0</b>	<b>143.3</b>	<b>30.0</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>3.9</b>
	PostSeason (career)		26	5.9	5.1	1.1	0.5	

## **#148: Davey Lopes**

### **Career Highlights**

Davey Lopes was the starting second baseman for four National League pennant winning Los Angeles Dodgers teams between 1974 and 1981.

Five highlights of Davey Lopes's career:

- Davey Lopes made his major-league debut on September 22, 1972, at the age of 27. This is the oldest debut age of any player in my top 150 by two years.
- Lopes was named to four All-Star teams, starting the All-Star game three times (1979, 1980, 1981). He won one Gold Glove (in 1978) and received MVP votes one time (also in 1978).
- Lopes led the National League in stolen bases twice, in 1975 and 1976. For his career, he stole 557 bases, which ranks 26th in major-league history. He was caught stealing 114 times for a stolen base success rate of 83.0%.
- In 1985, at the age of 40, Lopes stole 47 bases and was caught stealing only 4 times (92.2% success rate) for the Chicago Cubs. Lopes's 74 stolen bases at age 40 or beyond are the second-most in major-league history (Rickey Henderson stole 109 bases in his forties).
- Davey Lopes was the starting second baseman for the Los Angeles Dodgers from 1973 through 1981. From 1974 – 1981, the Dodgers starting infield was Steve Garvey at first base, Lopes at second, Bill Russell at shortstop, and Ron Cey (#122) at third base. Except for 1975, when injuries (a broken hand and a knee injury) limited Russell to 83 games at shortstop, all four players played at least 100 games at their primary infield position from 1974 through 1980. This is the longest that four infielders have played regularly together in major-league history. The four of them started at their primary fielding positions in the same game a total of 873 times in the nine seasons between 1973 and 1981.

### At What Was Davey Lopes Elite?

Davey Lopes was one of the best second basemen of the 1970s. He was one of the best baserunners of all time (see #140, Tim Raines). He was also very good in the postseason (see #14, Jim Palmer).

Looking at Davey Lopes's statistics in two tables on the next page, it is striking how similar Davey Lopes's record looks when measured by either pWins (in context) or eWins (context-neutral). His career pWORLD and eWORLD differ by 0.1 (29.3 versus 29.2) as do his career pWOPA and eWOPA (13.3 versus 13.2) his career pWins and eWins differ by a mere 0.5 wins (out of 217). In fact, Davey Lopes's career record is among the most similar in and out of context of any player for whom I have calculated Player won-lost records.

The next table ranks the top 10 players who debuted between 1947 and 2001 based on how close their records are based on pWins and eWins (I chose that range to limit the focus to players whose careers are entirely, or at least nearly, over). To calculate how close records are, I calculated percentage differences between pWins and eWins, pWORLD and eWORLD, and pWOPA and eWOPA. I then squared each of these and added the three together.

#### Top 10 Players, Most Similar in and out of Context (Debut, 1947 - 2001)

		Percentage Difference (eWins – pWins)		
		Wins	WORLD	WOPA
1	Jerry Koosman	-0.2%	-0.5%	-0.7%
2	Alex Gonzalez	0.4%	0.2%	0.9%
3	Barry Bonds	-1.2%	-0.5%	-0.1%
<b>4</b>	<b>Davey Lopes</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>-0.4%</b>	<b>-1.2%</b>
5	Bobby Grich	0.8%	0.8%	0.9%
6	Mike Trout	0.4%	-0.7%	-1.3%
7	Don Mattingly	-0.6%	-0.7%	-1.2%
8	Rod Carew	1.2%	0.9%	0.4%
9	Joey Votto	1.0%	1.1%	1.1%
10	Mark McGwire	-1.3%	0.2%	1.4%

The Alex Gonzalez here is the one nicknamed "Sea Bass" who played shortstop for the World Series-winning 2003 Florida Marlins, not the Alex Gonzalez whose error in Game 6 of the 2003 NLCS helped to cost the Chicago Cubs that series.

## Davey Lopes's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1972	LAN	27	11	1.3	1.2	0.2	0.1	-
1973	LAN	28	141	18.2	15.1	3.0	1.6	0.2
1974	LAN	29	143	17.8	14.9	3.0	1.7	0.5
1975	LAN	30	155	20.9	18.9	2.6	1.0	-
1976	LAN	31	115	13.9	13.2	1.4	0.4	-
1977	LAN	32	131	20.0	13.7	4.9	3.5	2.2
1978	LAN	33	150	21.0	17.6	3.5	2.0	0.5
1979	LAN	34	153	20.4	19.1	2.4	0.8	-
1980	LAN	35	140	17.4	15.6	2.5	1.2	-
1981	LAN	36	58	7.1	6.3	1.0	0.5	-
1982	OAK	37	128	13.5	14.8	0.8	-0.3	-
1983	OAK	38	147	15.2	15.0	1.5	0.4	-
1984		39	87	7.8	8.3	0.3	-0.3	-
	CHN		15 /	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.0	-
	OAK		72 /	7.4	7.9	0.3	-0.3	-
1985	CHN	40	99	10.7	9.8	1.0	0.2	-
1986		41	93	10.2	8.5	1.3	0.6	-
	CHN		58 /	6.0	5.8	0.4	-0.0	-
	HOU		35 /	4.2	2.7	0.9	0.6	0.4
1987	HOU	42	44	1.2	1.4	0.0	-0.1	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>1,795  </b>	<b>216.5</b>	<b>193.3</b>	<b>29.3</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>3.4</b>
PostSeason (career)			50	6.9	5.6	1.2	0.7	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1972	LAN	27	11	1.3	1.3	0.1	0.0	-
1973	LAN	28	141	17.1	16.4	1.8	0.4	-
1974	LAN	29	143	18.5	16.2	2.7	1.4	0.1
1975	LAN	30	155	21.4	18.0	3.3	1.7	0.2
1976	LAN	31	115	15.2	13.5	2.0	0.9	-
1977	LAN	32	131	17.6	14.4	3.2	1.9	0.6
1978	LAN	33	150	20.5	17.6	3.2	1.7	0.3
1979	LAN	34	153	21.1	17.5	3.5	2.0	0.5
1980	LAN	35	140	17.0	16.3	1.9	0.6	-
1981	LAN	36	58	6.5	6.3	0.6	0.1	-
1982	OAK	37	128	13.9	15.1	0.8	-0.3	-
1983	OAK	38	147	15.9	14.8	2.0	0.9	-
1984		39	87	9.0	7.6	1.3	0.6	-
	CHN		15 /	0.7	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.0
	OAK		72 /	8.4	7.1	1.1	0.5	-
1985	CHN	40	99	10.5	9.0	1.2	0.5	-
1986		41	93	10.1	8.5	1.3	0.5	-
	CHN		58 /	6.6	5.5	0.9	0.4	-
	HOU		35 /	3.5	3.0	0.4	0.1	-
1987	HOU	42	44	1.4	1.4	0.2	0.0	-
<b>CAREER (reg. season)</b>			<b>1,795  </b>	<b>217.0</b>	<b>194.1</b>	<b>29.2</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>1.7</b>
PostSeason (career)			50	6.2	5.8	0.8	0.3	



## **#149: Eric Davis**

### **Career Highlights**

Eric Davis was the starting center fielder and best hitter on the 1990 World Champion Cincinnati Reds.

Five highlights of Eric Davis's career:

- Eric Davis was named to two All-Star teams, won three Gold Gloves, and two Silver Sluggers. Davis received MVP votes six times, with a top finish of ninth (in 1987 and 1989).
- In 1986, Eric Davis became the second player in major-league history with at least 20 home runs and 80 stolen bases in the same season (Davis had 27 and 80). Rickey Henderson was the first player to accomplish this combination, having done so the previous year (24 home runs, 80 stolen bases). Henderson repeated the feat in 1986 (28, 87).
- In 1987, Eric Davis became the first player in major-league history with at least 30 home runs (he hit 37) and 50 stolen bases (he stole exactly 50). Barry Bonds also had a 30-50 season in 1990 with 33 home runs and 52 stolen bases. Davis's 37 home runs are still the most, then, by a player who also stole 50 bases in the same season.
- The biography of Eric Davis written by Norm King for the SABR Bio-project documents at least 18 injuries and illnesses for which Davis missed time over his 18-year career. The most serious of these were a lacerated kidney which he suffered in Game 4 of the 1990 World Series and colon cancer, which was diagnosed in June 1997.
- Davis returned from cancer treatment on September 15, 1997. Following the 1997 season, Davis received the Roberto Clemente Award from Major League Baseball, given to the player who "best exemplifies the game of baseball, sportsmanship, community involvement and the individual's contribution to his team", as well as the Hutch Award, given to the player who "best exemplifies the fighting spirit and competitive desire" of the award's namesake, former major-league pitcher and manager Fred Hutchinson.

### At What Was Eric Davis Elite?

In his prime, Eric Davis was elite at pretty much everything: the quintessential five-tool player. In his first five full seasons, 1986 – 1990, Davis won three Gold Gloves, batted as high as .293 (in 1987) with on-base percentages above .360 four times (high of .399 in 1987). He scored 80 or more runs five times (high of 120 in 1987), had more than 90 RBI three times (high of 101 in 1989), hit at least 24 home runs all five seasons (high of 37 in 1987), and stole as many as 80 bases (in 1986).

Putting all of that together, Davis was one of the best players in major-league baseball over this five-year stretch.

#### Top 10 Players, 1986 - 1990 (Ranked by pWORLD)

		pWins	pLoss	pWOPA	pWORLD
1	Roger Clemens	85.0	54.9	16.3	23.1
2	Alan Trammell	98.3	80.2	12.7	19.3
3	Darryl Strawberry	110.5	79.7	11.9	19.0
4	Rickey Henderson	103.1	77.8	10.9	17.8
<b>5</b>	<b>Eric Davis</b>	<b>98.8</b>	<b>73.0</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>17.0</b>
6	Jose Canseco	97.6	75.0	9.6	16.5
7	Tony Fernandez	104.3	94.4	8.9	16.3
8	Ozzie Smith	101.4	87.6	9.1	16.2
9	Wade Boggs	97.4	78.7	9.3	15.8
10	Teddy Higuera	67.4	50.2	9.7	15.4

Unfortunately, the one baseball skill that Eric Davis lacked was the ability to stay healthy. Eric Davis's career spanned 17 seasons in 18 years (he missed the entire 1995 season). Using 18 as the denominator, Davis averaged 90 games and 341.5 plate appearances per year. His career highs were 135 games (in 1988) and 562 plate appearances (in 1987).

## Eric Davis's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1984	CIN	22	57	6.8	5.4	0.9	0.5	0.0
1985	CIN	23	52	4.5	3.3	0.9	0.6	0.2
1986	CIN	24	127	18.5	13.5	3.2	2.0	0.8
1987	CIN	25	129	20.9	15.6	3.6	2.1	0.7
1988	CIN	26	133	20.6	14.2	4.1	2.7	1.4
1989	CIN	27	131	19.8	15.6	3.2	1.9	0.6
1990	CIN	28	127	18.9	14.0	3.1	1.9	0.7
1991	CIN	29	88	9.0	8.9	0.6	-0.1	-
1992	LAN	30	76	7.9	9.6	-0.5	-1.1	-
1993		31	130	15.0	14.6	1.0	-0.2	-
	DET		23 /	2.9	1.9	0.7	0.5	0.3
	LAN		107 /	12.1	12.7	0.3	-0.7	-
1994	DET	32	36	3.0	4.2	-0.3	-0.6	-
1996	CIN	34	129	15.7	13.9	1.8	0.6	-
1997	BAL	35	42	4.9	3.6	0.9	0.5	0.1
1998	BAL	36	131	14.4	12.1	2.1	0.8	-
1999	SLN	37	57	5.4	5.5	0.2	-0.3	-
2000	SLN	38	92	8.2	8.5	0.3	-0.4	-
2001	SFN	39	74	4.8	4.9	0.3	-0.1	-
CAREER (reg. season)			1,611	198.4	167.4	25.2	10.7	4.6
PostSeason (career)			25	2.6	2.5	0.2	0.0	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1984	CIN	22	57	7.2	5.6	1.1	0.6	0.1
1985	CIN	23	52	5.0	3.4	1.0	0.7	0.4
1986	CIN	24	127	17.9	12.7	3.2	2.1	1.0
1987	CIN	25	129	20.0	14.3	3.7	2.3	1.0
1988	CIN	26	133	17.0	13.3	2.6	1.4	0.3
1989	CIN	27	131	17.8	14.2	2.7	1.6	0.5
1990	CIN	28	127	16.9	13.8	2.1	1.0	-
1991	CIN	29	88	8.7	8.1	0.8	0.1	-
1992	LAN	30	76	8.0	8.7	0.0	-0.6	-
1993		31	130	15.4	14.0	1.5	0.3	-
	DET		23 /	2.5	2.1	0.4	0.2	0.0
	LAN		107 /	12.9	11.9	1.1	0.1	-
1994	DET	32	36	3.1	3.7	-0.0	-0.3	-
1996	CIN	34	129	15.1	12.4	2.2	1.1	-
1997	BAL	35	42	4.7	3.9	0.6	0.3	-
1998	BAL	36	131	14.1	11.7	2.1	0.8	-
1999	SLN	37	57	6.1	6.3	0.1	-0.4	-
2000	SLN	38	92	8.1	7.8	0.6	-0.1	-
2001	SFN	39	74	4.5	5.2	0.0	-0.4	-
CAREER (reg. season)			1,611	189.4	159.1	24.4	10.6	3.2
PostSeason (career)			25	2.0	2.2	-0.0	-0.2	

### How Good Could a Healthy Eric Davis Have Been?

The next table compares Eric Davis's career totals per 162 games to some players who were broadly similar to Davis in terms of skillset – outfielders with solid power, excellent baserunning, and mostly good fielding – but rate higher than him in this book.

Player	Games	Career Record per 162 Games			
		pWOPA	pWORLD	eWOPA	eWORLD
Eric Davis	162	1.1	2.5	1.1	2.5
Rickey Henderson (#11)	162	1.5	3.1	1.6	3.2
Ken Griffey Jr. (#44)	162	1.0	2.5	1.4	3.0
Andre Dawson (#120)	162	0.4	2.1	0.7	2.2
Tim Lincecum (#140)	162	0.7	2.2	0.9	2.4

Rickey Henderson is the only one of the four players whose career record per 162 games is clearly superior to Davis. What separates the other three players – especially Dawson and Lincecum – from Davis is the number of games they played. Dawson played 2,627 games and had 10,769 plate appearances; Lincecum played 2,502 games and had 10,359 plate appearances; Davis played 1,626 games and had 6,147 plate appearances.

What if 135 games were Davis's career average rather than his career high? Over 18 years, that would work out to 2,430 games and approximately 9,200 plate appearances. A career total of 2,430 games played would rate 79th all-time, falling between Chili Davis (2,435) and Willie Davis (2,429). It certainly seems reasonable to think that a healthy Eric Davis could have had a career length similar to these other Davises.

Looking at Eric Davis's career record, it seems likely that his injuries affected not only the quantity of his career but also the quality of it. This seems to be most significantly true in 1992 and 1994.

So, what might Eric Davis's career have looked like had he been able to stay healthy? To try to answer that question, here is what I did.

- I added 45 games per year to Davis's career (810 games total)
- For seasons in which Davis played fewer than 110 games, I simply added 45 games to his total
- For seasons in which Davis played 110 or more games, I capped his full-season total at 155 games
- Approximately 60% of the leftover games from this capping (165 games total) were added to his 1994 and 1995 seasons to give him 106 games played in 1994 and 125 games played in 1995 (these end up, then, being mostly full, but strike-shortened, seasons)
- For all seasons except for 1992, 1994, and 1995, I simply increased his Player won-lost record proportional to the increase in his games played
- For 1992, I set Davis's Player winning percentage equal to the average of his winning percentages in 1991 and 1993
- For 1994 and 1995, I set Davis's Player winning percentage equal to the average of his winning percentages in 1993 and 1996

Putting all of that together, the next table presents the career record, as measured by Player won-lost records, of a hypothetically healthy Eric Davis.

	<b>Games</b>	<b>pWOPA</b>	<b>pWORL</b>	<b>eWOPA</b>	<b>eWORL</b>
1984	102	0.9	1.7	1.0	1.9
1985	97	1.0	1.6	1.3	2.0
1986	155	2.4	3.9	2.6	4.0
1987	155	2.5	4.3	2.8	4.4
1988	155	3.2	4.7	1.7	3.0
1989	155	2.3	3.7	1.9	3.3
1990	155	2.3	3.7	1.2	2.6
1991	133	-0.2	0.9	0.2	1.2
1992	121	-0.2	0.9	0.2	1.3
1993	155	-0.2	1.2	0.3	1.8
1994	106	0.2	1.2	0.6	1.5
1995	125	0.2	1.4	0.7	1.8
1996	155	0.7	2.2	1.3	2.6
1997	87	1.0	1.8	0.5	1.3
1998	155	1.0	2.5	1.0	2.4
1999	102	-0.5	0.3	-0.7	0.2
2000	137	-0.6	0.4	-0.1	0.9
2001	119	-0.2	0.5	-0.7	0.0
----	----	----	----	----	----
Career (adj.)	2,369	15.8	36.8	16.0	36.2

Obviously, that is a much better career record than Eric Davis's actually one. So, who would that make Eric Davis comparable to?

The next table shows the ten players most similar to adjusted Eric Davis in terms of total career value, among players for whom I have calculated Player won-lost records.

<b>Player</b>	<b>Games</b>	<b>pWOPA</b>	<b>pWORL</b>	<b>eWOPA</b>	<b>eWORL</b>
<b>Eric Davis (adj.)</b>	<b>2,369</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>36.8</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>36.2</b>
Don Drysdale	544	17.2	35.6	15.9	34.8
Bert Campaneris	2,305	15.2	38.1	14.7	37.7
Darrell Evans	2,683	14.9	37.5	14.3	36.7
Larry Walker	1,983	17.2	36.3	17.7	36.5
Orel Hershiser	516	17.7	35.4	16.1	33.8
Rick Reuschel	569	17.0	35.1	14.9	33.0
Ron Santo	2,243	12.6	35.1	16.4	38.1
Rod Carew	2,467	16.9	39.2	17.0	39.6
Vladimir Guerrero	2,147	14.0	37.0	13.4	35.5
Scott Rolen	2,036	19.2	37.9	16.0	33.9

Four of the ten players in the list are in the Hall-of-Fame and nine of them are listed ahead of Davis in this book (Drysdale is not in this book because too much of his value fell in the 1950s). The highest-rated player in the list is Larry Walker at #76 (who, ironically, had durability issues of his own).

## **#150: Goose Gossage**

### **Career Highlights**

Rich “Goose” Gossage was the best relief pitcher in the old “fireman” model of relief pitcher usage most popular in the 1970s and early 1980s.

Five highlights of Goose Gossage’s career:

- Goose Gossage was named to nine All-Star teams in his career. He received Cy Young and MVP votes five times apiece.
- Gossage led his league in saves three times. His career total in saves, 310, was fourth in major-league history at the time of his retirement.
- More than 60% of Gossage’s career saves, 193 of 310 (62.3%), involved him getting four or more outs. Gossage is second in major-league history in saves of more than one inning (Rollie Fingers had 201 such saves).
- Gossage had 93 regular-season plate appearances in his career. He batted 9-for-85. He had one extra-base hit (a double) and two RBI in his career, both of which came in 1977. His double and first RBI came on August 16, 1977, against Al Hrabosky of the St. Louis Cardinals. His second RBI was an RBI single off fellow Hall-of-Famer Rollie Fingers of the San Diego Padres on June 20, 1977.
- Gossage was elected to the Hall of Fame in his ninth year of eligibility, 2008, with 85.8% of the vote. He was the fourth relief pitcher so enshrined.

### **At What Was Goose Gossage Elite?**

Goose Gossage is one of only two players in my top 150 who earned a majority of his value as a relief pitcher (although, see also, #64, Dennis Eckersley). Logically, then, one could make the reasonable argument that this must mean that Gossage is the second-best relief pitcher over this time period – and, by extension, given the history of relief pitching, the second-best relief pitcher in major-league history.

And yet, in the three tables of top-10 relief pitchers shown in the discussion of Mariano Rivera (#29), Goose Gossage ranks ninth, eighth, and fourth. Looking at those tables, the second-best relief pitcher over this time period (which, of course, encompasses the entire career of Goose Gossage) would seem to be Trevor Hoffman, who ranks sixth, second, and second, in the three tables, but just misses making this book, coming in at #158.

How then does Gossage pass Hoffman in my rankings?

Because in calculating my rankings I zeroed out negative values for wins over both positional average and replacement level (as well as wins over star). Goose Gossage had a very long career and, while he was outstanding in his prime (approximately 1975 – 1985), he also had several seasons at both the beginning (e.g., 1973 – 74) and end (e.g., 1988 – 92) of his careers where he was below average and even, in several seasons, below replacement level. Removing those seasons from Gossage’s record makes him look quite a bit better.

Here, then, are the three tables shown in my discussion of Mariano Rivera (#29) but with negative seasonal numbers zeroed out.

Top 10 Relief Pitchers (ranked by eWOPA, only seasons with eWOPA>0)					
		eWins	eLosses	eWinPct	eWOPA
1	Mariano Rivera	73.2	43.6	0.627	12.6
2	Billy Wagner	53.7	38.8	0.581	6.0
<b>3</b>	<b>Rich Gossage</b>	<b>87.0</b>	<b>73.2</b>	<b>0.543</b>	<b>5.8</b>
4	Kent Tekulve	77.7	63.1	0.552	5.6
5	Rollie Fingers	84.3	69.8	0.547	5.3
6	Trevor Hoffman	62.8	50.4	0.555	5.1
7	Doug Jones	63.3	52.3	0.548	5.0
8	Hoyt Wilhelm	103.4	90.1	0.534	5.0
9	Joe Nathan	44.0	32.5	0.575	4.8
10	Tug McGraw	72.2	60.3	0.545	4.8

Top 10 Relief Pitchers (ranked by pWOPA, only seasons with pWOPA>0)			
		pWins	pWOPA
1	Mariano Rivera	126.6	29.6
2	Trevor Hoffman	100.7	17.4
<b>3</b>	<b>Rich Gossage</b>	<b>131.2</b>	<b>15.5</b>
4	Frankie Rodriguez	90.0	14.8
5	Lee Smith	111.3	14.5
6	Joe Nathan	78.9	14.1
7	Billy Wagner	80.0	13.5
8	Jonathan Papelbon	67.9	13.5
9	John Franco	103.8	12.7
10	John Wetteland	71.7	12.2

Top 10 Relief Pitchers (ranked by pWORL, only seasons with pWORL>0)			
		pWins	pWORL
1	Mariano Rivera	126.6	42.3
2	Trevor Hoffman	100.7	27.9
<b>3</b>	<b>Rich Gossage</b>	<b>131.2</b>	<b>27.1</b>
4	Hoyt Wilhelm	138.6	26.0
5	Lee Smith	111.3	25.4
6	Frankie Rodriguez	90.0	24.0
7	Rollie Fingers	121.1	23.7
8	John Franco	103.8	23.2
9	Joe Nathan	78.9	22.3
10	Billy Wagner	80.0	21.9



Now, we can see the case for Gossage, who ranks third by all three measures when calculated in this way. Hoffman still beats Gossage in two of the three measures (pWOPA, pWORL), but Gossage beats Hoffman in context-neutral eWins over positional average and that - as well as Gossage's substantial lead in total wins - is enough for Gossage to just barely make my list while Trevor Hoffman just barely misses it.

Is it fair to Hoffman to remove Gossage's worst seasons? Well, I set the criteria, so I suppose I should argue that it is fair. But if you wanted to argue that Trevor Hoffman had a better career than Goose Gossage, I probably wouldn't argue too hard.

## Rich Gossage's Career as Viewed by Player Won-Lost Records

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by pWins (tied to Team Wins)								
Season	Team	Age	Games	pWins	pLoss	pWORLD	pWOPA	pWO*
1972	CHA	20	36	4.4	4.1	0.6	0.1	-
1973	CHA	21	21	1.8	3.8	-0.7	-1.1	-
1974	CHA	22	39	3.7	5.2	-0.4	-0.9	-
1975	CHA	23	62	12.1	6.8	3.5	2.4	1.3
1976	CHA	24	31	12.8	13.8	0.8	-0.4	-
1977	PIT	25	72	11.1	7.3	2.9	1.8	0.7
1978	NYA	26	63	10.3	8.3	2.0	0.8	-
1979	NYA	27	36	4.2	2.9	1.0	0.5	0.1
1980	NYA	28	64	9.0	4.5	3.0	2.1	1.2
1981	NYA	29	32	4.7	2.4	1.5	1.0	0.5
1982	NYA	30	56	8.7	4.8	2.5	1.6	0.8
1983	NYA	31	57	8.8	6.2	2.0	1.0	0.1
1984	SDN	32	62	9.5	5.8	2.5	1.7	0.8
1985	SDN	33	50	7.3	3.1	2.6	2.0	1.3
1986	SDN	34	45	6.8	6.5	0.7	-0.1	-
1987	SDN	35	40	4.0	3.3	0.6	0.2	-
1988	CHN	36	46	3.1	3.7	-0.0	-0.4	-
1989		37	42	1.5	2.0	-0.1	-0.3	-
	NYA		11	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0
	SFN		31	1.2	1.8	-0.2	-0.4	-
1991	TEX	39	44	2.0	2.7	-0.1	-0.4	-
1992	OAK	40	30	1.5	1.6	0.1	-0.1	-
1993	OAK	41	39	2.2	2.1	0.3	-0.0	-
1994	SEA	42	36	1.5	0.8	0.5	0.3	0.2
CAREER (reg. season)			1,003	131.2	101.9	25.6	11.7	6.9
PostSeason (career)			19	2.7	1.4	0.9	0.6	

Basic Player Won-Lost Records as measured by (context-neutral) eWins								
Season	Team	Age	Games	eWins	eLoss	eWORLD	eWOPA	eWO*
1972	CHA	20	36	3.5	3.9	0.2	-0.3	-
1973	CHA	21	21	2.2	3.8	-0.5	-0.8	-
1974	CHA	22	39	3.8	4.0	0.3	-0.2	-
1975	CHA	23	62	7.2	4.5	1.9	1.2	0.5
1976	CHA	24	31	12.8	13.2	1.1	-0.1	-
1977	PIT	25	72	6.7	4.8	1.6	0.9	0.2
1978	NYA	26	63	6.2	5.0	1.2	0.5	-
1979	NYA	27	36	2.5	2.4	0.3	-0.0	-
1980	NYA	28	64	4.8	3.3	1.1	0.6	0.1
1981	NYA	29	32	2.2	1.4	0.5	0.3	0.1
1982	NYA	30	56	4.5	2.8	1.1	0.6	0.2
1983	NYA	31	57	4.2	3.7	0.6	0.1	-
1984	SDN	32	62	4.8	4.3	0.7	0.1	-
1985	SDN	33	50	3.8	2.5	1.0	0.6	0.2
1986	SDN	34	45	3.3	3.9	0.0	-0.4	-
1987	SDN	35	40	2.6	2.3	0.4	0.1	-
1988	CHN	36	46	2.2	2.3	0.1	-0.1	-
1989		37	42	2.4	2.2	0.3	0.0	-
	NYA		11	0.6	0.4	0.1	0.0	-
	SFN		31	1.8	1.8	0.2	-0.0	-
1991	TEX	39	44	1.7	1.8	0.2	-0.1	-
1992	OAK	40	30	1.7	1.8	0.1	-0.1	-
1993	OAK	41	39	2.4	2.5	0.2	-0.1	-
1994	SEA	42	36	2.1	2.1	0.3	-0.0	-
CAREER (reg. season)			1,003	87.7	78.3	12.6	2.8	1.2
PostSeason (career)			19	1.5	1.1	0.3	0.1	

And there you have the top 150 players of the fifty years from 1961 – 2010, at least based on the ranking system I used here.

I hope you enjoyed it.

If you would like to do your own ranking, you can specify your own time period and set your own weights at my website at <http://baseball.tomthress.com/Leaders/UberWeights.php>.

Have fun and thanks for reading!

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