

## THE NATURALS: THE HALL OF FAME

While lesser sports have copied the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, no other athletic Hall of Fame commands nearly so much respect, interest, or passion. In a cynical modern era when very few athletic heroes are idolized, those fortunate few inducted into Cooperstown have achieved a kind of immortality. Many of these bronze demigods were *naturals* in the true sense of the word, whether they triumphed over their demons like Robert Redford in Barry Levinson's 1984 film *The Natural*—or whether they succumbed like Roy Hobbs in Bernard Malamud's classic novella on which the movie was based.

In 1934 in the middle of the Great Depression, Alexander Cleland, a civic leader in Cooperstown, New York, came up with an idea to boost tourism in his small city: He decided that Cooperstown could benefit from building a baseball museum. Cooperstown was (and still is) an out-of-the-way place. However, the town was home to a rich foundation—Cleland's employer, the Clark Foundation—that would support these types of projects, and it was also the supposed birthplace of baseball. Even then, many people realized that Abner Doubleday most certainly did *not* invent baseball in Cooperstown, and that neither the famous general nor the picturesque town had even played a role in the development of baseball. Nonetheless, creation myths are very powerful, and Cooperstown has been able to take great advantage of its part in this fictional tale.

Once Cooperstown officials were convinced of the wisdom of building a baseball museum, they contacted Major League Baseball. Coincidentally, NL President Ford Frick had come up with an idea of his own that would enhance any baseball museum: a Hall of Fame. Frick had recently visited the Hall of Fame for Great Americans at New York University and been inspired to do something similar for baseball's legendary stars.

While the phrase "Hall of Fame" was well known at the time, it was almost always used as a metaphor. Today there are more Halls of Fame in the United States than anyone has the patience to count—there's even a Shuffleboard Hall of Fame in Texas—but the Hall for Great Americans was the first of its kind when it opened in 1900. The Baseball Hall of Fame would be the first such institution devoted to a sport. So Cooperstown leaders and baseball officials reached an agreement to build the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in upstate New York.

Though the museum would not be ready to open until 1939, the process of electing players to the Hall began in 1936. Two groups were formed to elect players—a large group of more than 200 writers from the Baseball Writers Association of America and a 78-member Old-Timers Committee. While the Old-Timers Committee was formed specifically to evaluate long-retired players, the two sets of voters were given almost no further guidance on whom to elect. Several active players received significant support from the BBWAA, while other players received votes from both the writers and the Old Timers. A 75-percent vote of either group was needed to earn induction in the Hall. In the end, the writers selected five of the all-time greats: Ty Cobb, Babe Ruth, Honus Wagner, Christy Mathewson, and Walter Johnson. A divided and confused Old-Timers Committee elected no one.

The BBWAA would hold three more elections before the official opening of the Hall of Fame, electing Nap Lajoie, Tris Speaker, and Cy Young in 1937, Grover Cleveland Alexander in 1938, and George Sisler, Eddie Collins, and Willie Keeler in 1939. Afterward, the BBWAA held a vote only once every three years. The organization went back to having an annual election in 1946, then reduced the frequency of their balloting to every two years after 1956. Finally, the BBWAA permanently returned to an annual election in 1966. In 1954, it was decided that all future candidates would not appear on the BBWAA ballot until five years after retirement. After Roberto Clemente's death in 1972, the rules were modified so that any player who died before eligibility could be considered by the writers only six months later.

After the failure of the Old-Timers Committee to elect anyone in 1936, a smaller Centennial Commission was formed to elect executives, managers, and other pioneers. This commission elected Morgan B. Bulkeley, Ban Johnson, Connie Mack, John McGraw, and George Wright in 1937, and added Alexander Cartwright (though not Abner Doubleday) and Henry Chadwick in 1938. The idea of an Old-Timers Committee was revived in 1939, electing various players and officials in 1939, 1944, 1945, 1946, and 1949. The committee's election of 21 players and executives in 1945 and 1946 started a long tradition of questionable choices, which didn't stop the formation of a permanent Veterans Committee in 1953. The Veterans Committee continued to elect managers and executives—as well as players that the writers had passed over—until it was disbanded after 2001.

While the Veterans Committee certainly made some worthy selections, its voting process was politicized from the start: The number of friends or teammates a player under consideration had on the committee was often the best indicator of whether he would be elected. Separate committees for the Negro Leagues and for the nineteenth century did a much better job dealing with leagues and eras of which previous voters showed little knowledge. However, even the Negro Leagues Committee was criticized for relying too much on the opinion of one man, Buck O'Neil.

A new Veterans Committee (which includes all living Hall of Famers and all living recipients of either the Frick or the Spink awards) has now been assembled to consider players every two years; the group also votes on umpires, managers, and executives every four years. No one came remotely close to winning induction into the Hall in the new committee's voting in 2003 and 2005. Unless the rules or composition of the committee is changed, it seems unlikely that it will elect many candidates since Hall of Famers usually want the Hall to be more exclusive after they've been elected. In a group far too big for the kind of personal politicking that was so effective on the old Veterans Committee, it will probably be very hard to reach consensus. In 2005, a new 12-member committee of Negro League historians was appointed to vote in February 2006 on a pre-selected group of 30 Negro League players and 9 pre-Negro League pioneers. Candidates receiving 75 percent of that vote will be inducted into the Hall in summer 2006 along with Bruce Sutter.

What follows is a listing of every member of the Hall of Fame. Also listed are those not in the Hall of Fame who have ever received a vote (not including 2006), plus the leading vote-getters each year. The first and last years of everyone's **Career** is shown, regardless of whether their seasons were consecutive. Voting totals include the candidate's first-year percentage of votes (**1st Yr/Pct**) and the final year totals (**Last Yr/Pct**) through 2005, as well as the year the player received his highest vote total and the percentage of that vote he received (**Max Yr/Pct**). (Hall of Fame election results for 2006 were announced as this edition went to press; therefore, only the voting for new HOF member Bruce Sutter is reflected in this section.) For Hall of Fame members, their actual **Votes** received are also shown alongside the number of votes **Needed** to be elected. The Year-by-Year section includes the totals of all candidates who received at least 25 percent of the BBWAA votes in a given year; also provided are the number of votes (which fluctuate each year) required to gain induction.

Hall of Famers and other candidates are listed by their primary position (**Pos**); non-players are listed as executives (*Exe*), managers (*Mgr*), pioneers (*Pio*), or umpires (*Ump*). Special elections and abbreviations include *1936V* (for Veteran's Election) and *1946N* (for Nominating Ballot, where no one was to be elected). The Negro Leagues Committee is represented by an *N*, while *C* stands for Centennial, *V* for Veterans, and *S* for Special. An *R* after a year indicates a run-off election, held after no one was elected on the regular ballot. A maximum of one player could be elected in the three run-off elections, even if more than one received 75 percent of the run-off vote.



MEMBER	CAREER	POS	ELECTED	MAX YR	PCT	VOTES	NEEDED	1ST YR	PCT	VOTES	NEEDED	LAST YR	PCT	VOTES	NEEDED
Hank Greenberg	1930-47	1B	1956	1956	85.0	164	145	1945	1.2	3	186	1956	85.0	164	145
Clark Griffith	1891-1907	Exe	1946O	1945	43.7	108	186	1937	2.0	4	151	1946	31.2	82	198
Burleigh Grimes	1916-34	P	1964V	1960	34.2	92	202	1937	0.5	1	151	1962	26.9	43	120
Lefty Grove	1925-41	P	1947	1947	76.4	123	121	1936	5.3	12	170	1947	76.4	123	121
Tony Gwynn	1982-2001	RF	2007	2007	97.6	532	409								
Chick Hafey	1924-37	LF	1971V	1960	10.8	29	202	1948	0.8	1	91	1962	4.4	7	120
Jesse Haines	1918-37	P	1970V	1958	8.3	22	200	1939	0.4	1	206	1962	1.9	3	120
Billy Hamilton	1888-1901	CF	1961V	1936V	2.6	2	59	1936V	2.6	2	59	1942	0.4	1	175
Ned Hanlon	1889-1907	Mgr	1996V												
Will Harridge	1931-59	Exe	1972V												
Bucky Harris	1924-56	Mgr	1975V	1958	16.9	45	200	1938	0.4	1	197	1960	11.5	31	202
Gabby Hartnett	1922-41	C	1955	1955	77.7	195	189	1936	0.4	1	170	1955	77.7	195	189
Harry Heilmann	1914-32	RF	1952	1952	86.8	203	176	1937	5.0	10	151	1952	86.8	203	176
Billy Herman	1931-47	2B	1975V	1967	20.2	59	219	1948	0.8	1	91	1967R	4.6	14	230
Pete Hill	1899-1925	CF	2006N												
Harry Hooper	1909-25	RF	1971V	1937	3.0	6	151	1937	3.0	6	151	1951	1.3	3	170
Rogers Hornsby	1915-37	2B	1942	1942	78.1	182	175	1936	46.5	105	170	1942	78.1	182	175
Waite Hoyt	1918-38	P	1969V	1956	19.2	37	145	1939	0.4	1	206	1962	11.3	18	120
Cal Hubbard	1936-51	Ump	1976V												
Carl Hubbell	1928-43	P	1947	1947	87.0	140	121	1945	9.7	24	186	1947	87.0	140	121
Miller Huggins	1913-29	Mgr	1964V	1946N	63.9	129	152	1937	2.5	5	151	1950	1.2	2	126
William Hulbert	1877-82	Exe	1995V												
Catfish Hunter	1965-79	P	1987	1987	76.3	315	310	1985	53.7	212	297	1987	76.3	315	310
Monte Irvin	1939-56	LF	1973N												
Reggie Jackson	1967-87	LF	1993	1993	93.6	396	318								
Travis Jackson	1922-36	SS	1982V	1956	7.3	14	145	1948	4.1	5	91	1962	0.6	1	120
Fergie Jenkins	1965-83	P	1991	1991	75.4	334	333	1989	52.3	234	336	1991	75.4	334	333
Hughie Jennings	1891-1903	SS	1945O	1945	37.2	92	186	1936V	14.1	11	59	1945	37.2	92	186
Ban Johnson	1901-27	Exe	1937C												
Judy Johnson	1921-38	3B	1975N												
Walter Johnson	1907-27	P	1936	1936	83.6	189	170								
Addie Joss	1902-10	P	1978V	1942	14.2	33	175	1937	5.5	11	151	1960	0.4	1	202
Al Kaline	1953-74	RF	1980	1980	88.3	340	289								
Tim Keefe	1880-93	P	1964V	1936V	1.3	1	59								
Willie Keeler	1892-1910	RF	1939	1939	75.5	207	206	1936V	42.3	33	59	1939	75.5	207	206
George Kell	1943-57	3B	1983V	1977	36.8	141	288	1964	16.4	33	151	1977	36.8	141	288
Joe Kelley	1891-1908	LF	1971V	1942	0.4	1	175	1939	0.4	1	206	1942	0.4	1	175
George Kelly	1915-32	1B	1973V	1960	1.9	5	202	1947	0.6	1	121	1962	0.6	1	120
King Kelly	1878-93	C	1945O	1936V	19.2	15	59								
Harmon Killebrew	1954-75	1B	1984	1984	83.1	335	303	1981	59.6	239	301	1984	83.1	335	303
Ralph Kiner	1946-55	LF	1975	1975	75.4	273	272	1962	3.1	5	120	1975	75.4	273	272
Chuck Klein	1928-44	RF	1980V	1964	27.9	56	151	1948	2.5	3	91	1964R	8.0	18	170
Bill Klem	1905-41	Ump	1953V												
Sandy Koufax	1955-66	P	1972	1972	86.9	344	297								
Nap Lajoie	1896-1916	2B	1937	1937	83.6	168	151	1936V	2.6	2	59	1937	83.6	168	151
Judge Landis	1920-44	Exe	1944O												
Tom Lasorda	1976-96	Mgr	1997V												
Tony Lazzeri	1926-39	2B	1991V	1956	33.2	64	145	1945	0.4	1	186	1962	5.0	8	120
Bob Lemon	1941-58	P	1976	1976	78.6	305	291	1964	11.9	24	151	1976	78.6	305	291
Buck Leonard	1933-50	1B	1972N												
Freddie Lindstrom	1924-36	3B	1976V	1962	4.4	7	120	1949	0.7	1	115	1962	4.4	7	120
John Henry Lloyd	1905-31	SS	1977N												
Ernie Lombardi	1931-47	C	1986V	1964	16.4	33	151	1950	1.8	3	126	1967R	8.2	25	230
Al Lopez	1928-47	Mgr	1977V	1967	39.0	114	219	1949	0.7	1	115	1967R	16.3	50	230
Ted Lyons	1923-46	P	1955	1955	86.5	217	189	1945	1.6	4	186	1955	86.5	217	189
Connie Mack	1894-1950	Mgr	1937C	1936	0.4	1	170								
Biz Mackey	1920-50	C	2006N												
Larry MacPhail	1934-47	Exe	1978V												
Lee MacPhail	1941-85	Exe	1998V												
Effa Manley	1935-48	Exe	2006N												
Mickey Mantle	1951-68	CF	1974	1974	88.2	322	274								
Heinie Manush	1923-39	LF	1964V	1962	9.4	15	120	1948	0.8	1	91	1962	9.4	15	120
Rabbit Maranville	1912-35	SS	1954	1954	82.9	209	189	1937	12.4	25	151	1954	82.9	209	189
Juan Marichal	1960-75	P	1983	1983	83.7	313	281	1981	58.1	233	301	1983	83.7	313	281
Rube Marquard	1908-25	P	1971V	1955	13.9	35	189	1936	0.4	1	170	1955	13.9	35	189
Eddie Mathews	1952-68	3B	1978	1978	79.4	301	285	1974	32.3	118	274	1978	79.4	301	285
Christy Mathewson	1900-16	P	1936	1936	90.7	205	170								
Willie Mays	1951-73	CF	1979	1979	94.7	409	324								
Bill Mazeroski	1956-72	2B	2001V	1992	42.3	182	323	1978	6.1	23	285	1992	42.3	182	323
Joe McCarthy	1926-50	Mgr	1957V	1947	1.2	2	121	1939	1.1	3	206	1958	0.8	2	200
Tommy McCarthy	1884-96	RF	1946O	1936V	1.3	1	59								
Willie McCovey	1959-80	1B	1986	1986	81.4	346	319								
Joe McGinnity	1899-1908	P	1946O	1946N	26.2	53	152	1937	6.0	12	151	1946	17.9	47	198
Bill McGowan	1925-54	Ump	1992V												
John McGraw	1891-1906	Mgr	1937C	1936V	21.8	17	59	1936V	21.8	17	59	1937	17.4	35	151
Bill McKechnie	1922-46	Mgr	1962V	1951	3.5	8	170	1945	0.8	2	186	1951	3.5	8	170
Bid McPhee	1882-99	2B	2000V												
Joe Medwick	1932-48	LF	1968	1968	84.8	240	213	1948	0.8	1	91	1968	84.8	240	213
Jose Mendez	1908-26	P	2006N												
Johnny Mize	1936-53	1B	1981V	1971	43.6	157	270	1960	16.7	45	202	1973	41.3	157	285
Paul Molitor	1978-98	DH	2004	2004	85.2	431	380								
Joe Morgan	1963-84	2B	1990	1990	81.8	363	333								
Eddie Murray	1977-97	1B	2003	2003	85.3	423	372								
Stan Musial	1941-63	LF	1969	1969	93.2	317	255								
Hal Newhouser	1939-55	P	1992V	1975	42.8	155	272	1962	2.5	4	120	1975	42.8	155	272
Kid Nichols	1890-1906	P	1949O	1936V	3.8	3	59	1936V	3.8	3	59	1946N	0.5	1	152
Phil Niekro	1964-87	P	1997	1997	80.3	380	355	1993	65.7	278	318	1997	80.3	380	355
Jim O'Rourke	1872-93	LF	1945O												
Mel Ott	1926-47	RF	1951	1951	87.2	197	170	1949	61.4	94	115	1951	87.2	197	170
Satchel Paige	1927-53	P	1971N	1951	0.4	1	170								
Jim Palmer	1965-84	P	1990	1990	92.6	411	333								
Herb Pennock	1912-34	P	1948	1948	77.7	94	91	1937	7.5	15	151	1948	77.7	94	91
Tony Perez	1964-86	1B	2000	2000	77.2	385	375	1992	50.0	215	323	2000	77.2	385	375
Gaylord Perry	1962-83	P	1991	1991	77.2	342	333	1989	68.0	304	336	1991	77.2	342	333
Eddie Plank	1901-17	P	1946O	1942	27.0	63	175	1937	11.4	23	151	1946N	16.8	34	152
Alex Pompey	1916-50	Exe	2006N												
Cum Posey	1911-46	Exe	2006N												
Kirby Puckett	1984-95	CF	2001	2001	82.1	423	387								
Charley Radbourn	1880-91	P	1939O	1936V	20.5	16	59								
Pee Wee Reese	1940-58	SS	1984V	1976	47.9	186	291	1964	36.3	73	151	1978	44.6	169	285
Sam Rice	1915-34	RF	1963V	1960	53.2</										