



# NEWS

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## AROUND THE HORN

*News & Notes from the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum*

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### 2007 VETERANS COMMITTEE ELECTION

**VETERANS IN SPOTLIGHT:** The results of the 2007 Veterans Committee election will be announced on Feb. 27...The 84-member Veterans Committee (comprised of 61 Hall of Famers; 14 Frick winners; 8 Spink winners and 1 former Veterans Committee member) reviewed two ballots – one featuring 27 players, and another featuring 15 managers, umpires and executives...The Historical Overview Committee pared the ballots from all eligible candidates down to 200 players and 60 managers, umpires and executives...During the fall, a BBWAA-appointed Screening Committee and a Hall of Fame Screening Committee narrowed those lists, featured below...More information on the candidates is available online at [www.baseballhalloffame.org](http://www.baseballhalloffame.org)... Any candidate to receive 75 percent of votes on ballots cast will earn election to the Hall of Fame and will be inducted on July 29...The candidates on the 2007 Veterans Committee ballots:

#### PLAYERS BALLOT

Dick Allen	Mickey Lolich	Tony Oliva
Bobby Bonds	Sparky Lyle	Al Oliver
Ken Boyer	Marty Marion	Vada Pinson
Rocky Colavito	Roger Maris	Ron Santo
Wes Ferrell	Carl Mays	Luis Tiant
Curt Flood	Minnie Minoso	Joe Torre
Joe Gordon	Thurman Munson	Cecil Travis
Gil Hodges	Don Newcombe	Mickey Vernon
Jim Kaat	Lefty O'Doul	Maury Wills

#### COMPOSITE BALLOT

Buzzie Bavasi	Whitey Herzog	Gabe Paul
August Busch Jr.	Bowie Kuhn	Paul Richards
Harry Dalton	Billy Martin	Bill White
Charlie Finley	Marvin Miller	Dick Williams
Doug Harvey	Walter O'Malley	Phil Wrigley

**LEARN MORE:** Bios of all 27 players are being released daily, exclusively at [baseballhalloffame.org](http://baseballhalloffame.org), alphabetically through Feb. 25...Bios of the 15 candidates on the composite ballot were released on Jan. 29...Bios for all candidates are archived on the Web site.

**CREDIT AN ASSIST:** Thanks to [Elias Sports Bureau](http://Elias Sports Bureau) for its assistance in verifying the names of players eligible for consideration, and to [Ernst and Young](http://Ernst and Young) for its assistance in verifying the vote, year in and year out.

**THE ANNOUNCEMENT:** A press release will be distributed at 2 p.m. ET on Tuesday, Feb. 27 to announce the results of Veterans Committee election...A conference call with any living members, along with Hall of Fame officials, would follow...If any candidates are elected, a press conference will be held at the St. Petersburg Renaissance Vinoy at 12 noon on Wednesday, Feb. 28...Any electees and/or their families, along with Hall of Fame executives, would be available...To RSVP or learn more, please contact the Hall of Fame's communications department at (607) 547-0215.

## HISTORY OF THE VETERANS COMMITTEE

**A BRIEF OVERVIEW:** The 2007 Veterans Committee election marks the third vote of players in the revised Committee, revamped in 2002, joining elections in 2003 and 2005...The Committee is considering the Composite Ballot of managers, umpires and executives for a second time, first done in 2003...In the previous elections of 2003 and 2005, no candidates have earned election on either ballot....After this election, the Committee will next vote on players in 2009 and on managers, umpires and executives in 2011.

**FORMER VETERANS COMMITTEE:** The former Committee on Baseball Veterans was established in 1953 and met annually from 1961 until 2001, when it was disbanded...In the 41 meetings from 1961-2001, the committee elected 101 members...They failed to elect a candidate three times in those 41 meetings: 1988, 1990 and 1993.

**INCREASING VOTE TOTALS:** In the first two Veterans Committee elections, total votes cast and average votes per ballot both increased, indicating more consideration by the Committee for players...In 2003, a total of 433 total votes were cast on the players ballot, an average of 5.3 votes per ballot cast...In 2005, 458 total votes were cast, an average of 5.7 votes per ballot.

**2005 VOTING RECAP:** The Veterans Committee featured 83 voting-eligible members...Eighty members (96%) cast paper ballots, 60 votes were necessary for election and the top two recipients – Gil Hodges and Ron Santo – each missed by eight votes. The final results, in order of voting percentage (total votes, percentage): Gil Hodges (52, 65.0%); Ron Santo (52, 65.0%); Tony Oliva (45, 56.3%); Jim Kaat (43, 53.8%); Joe Torre (36, 45.0%); Maury Wills (26, 32.5%); Vada Pinson (23, 28.8%); Luis Tiant (20, 25%); Roger Maris (19, 23.8%); Marty Marion (16, 20.0%); Ken Boyer (15, 18.8%); Joe Gordon (14, 17.5%); Carl Mays (12, 15.0%); Minnie Minoso (12, 15.0%); Dick Allen (12, 15.0%); Curt Flood (10, 12.5%); Wes Ferrell (9, 11.3%); Mickey Lolich (9, 11.3%); Don Newcombe (8, 10.0%); Sparky Lyle (7, 8.8%); Elston Howard (6, 7.5%); Bobby Bonds (4, 5.0%); Rocky Colavito (4, 5.0%); Thurman Munson (2, 2.5%); Smoky Joe Wood (2, 2.5%).

**2003 VOTING RECAP, PLAYERS BALLOT:** The 2003 Veterans Committee vote of players featured 85 members (58 living Hall of Famers, 13 Frick Award winners, 12 Spink Award winners and 2 former Veterans Committee members)...Eighty-one of 85 (95%) players ballots were returned...61 votes were necessary to earn the 75% of ballots cast for election...A total of 26 candidates were featured on the ballot, with totals and percentages, in order of finish: Gil Hodges (50, 61.7%); Tony Oliva (48, 59.3%); Ron Santo (46, 56.8%); Joe Torre (29, 35.8%); Maury Wills (24, 29.6%); Vada Pinson (21, 25.9%); Joe Gordon (19, 23.5%); Roger Maris (18, 22.2%); Marty Marion (17, 21.0%); Carl Mays (16, 19.8%); Minnie Minoso (16, 19.8%); Allie Reynolds (16, 19.8%); Dick Allen (13, 16.0%); Mickey Lolich (13, 16.0%); Wes Ferrell (12, 14.8%); Ken Boyer (11, 13.6%); Don Newcombe (11, 13.6%); Curt Flood (10, 12.3%); Ken R. Williams (8, 9.9%); Rocky Colavito (7, 8.6%); Elston Howard (6, 7.4%); Bob Meusel (6, 7.4%); Bobby Bonds (5, 6.2%); Ted Kluszewski (4, 4.9%); Thurman Munson (4, 4.9%); Mike G. Marshall (3, 3.7%).

**2003 VOTING RECAP, COMPOSITE BALLOT:** Seventy-nine of 85 (92%) composite ballots were returned...60 votes were necessary to earn the required 75% of ballots cast for election...As the top vote-getter, umpire Doug Harvey missed election by 12 votes...15 managers, umpires and executives were considered, with the totals and percentages, in order of finish: Doug Harvey (48, 60.8%); Walter O'Malley (38, 48.1%); Marvin Miller (35, 44.3%); Buzie Bavasi (34, 43.0%), Dick Williams (33, 41.8%), Whitey Herzog (25, 31.6%); Billy Martin (22, 27.8%); Bill White (22, 27.8%); Bowie Kuhn (20, 25.3%); Gabe Paul (13, 16.5%); August Busch (11, 13.9%); Paul Richards (10, 12.7%); Charley Finley (9, 11.4%); Phil Wrigley (9, 11.4%); Harry Dalton (6, 7.6%).

**HISTORICAL OVERVIEW COMMITTEE:** The first phase of the 2007 Veterans Committee election took place in December 2005, when a ten-member committee of writers and historians, appointed by the Baseball Writers' Association of America's Board of Directors, traveled to Cooperstown to develop the two ballots for the Screening Committee...The Committee took the lists of all eligible players (more than 1500) and the universe of managers, umpires and executives, and developed two ballots: a players ballot of 200 candidates and a composite ballot of 60 managers, umpires and executives...The results of which can be found at [baseballhalloffame.org](http://baseballhalloffame.org).

**SCREENING COMMITTEE:** Sixty BBWAA members – two from each major league city with one team and four from cities with two teams – comprised the Screening Committee...In the fall, they each identified 25 candidates for the Players Ballot and 15 candidates for the Composite Ballot (managers, umpires and executives)...In addition, the Hall of Fame's Board of Directors appointed an independent Screening Committee of six Hall of Fame members who identified five candidates for the Players Ballot...The two players ballots were integrated...The top 27 players, and 15 managers, umpires and executives, based on vote totals, comprise the final two ballots.

**2001 RECAP:** At its March 6 meeting, the final Veterans Committee meeting produced Bill Mazerowski from the category of former players, and Hilton Smith from the Special Ballot for Negro Leagues stars...The committee did not elect anyone from the composite ballot (managers, umpires, executives and Negro Leaguers), nor did it elect anyone from the Special Ballot for 19<sup>th</sup> century stars...14 of the 15 members were present, with Ted Williams being the only absentee.

**VETERANS COMMITTEE SELECTIONS:** A list of all players selected through the Hall of Fame's Veterans Committee is available through the Hall of Fame's Web site at [www.baseballhalloffame.org](http://www.baseballhalloffame.org).

## HALL OF FAME WEEKEND 2007

**HOF WEEKEND 2007:** Hall of Fame Weekend 2007 will be held July 27-30 with the annual Induction Ceremony scheduled to take place on Sunday, July 29 at 1:30 pm EDT...The Weekend will feature a variety of special events and public programs, all to be announced soon...BBWAA electees Tony Gwynn and Cal Ripken Jr., as well as anyone to emerge from the Veterans Committee (Feb. 27) election will be honored during the Induction Ceremony, as will the Ford C. Frick Award winner (Feb. 22) and J.G. Taylor Spink Award winner Rick Hummel...Admission to the Ceremony is free and will be broadcast on an ESPN channel and streamed at the Hall of Fame Web site.

**WEEKEND CREDENTIALS:** If you are planning to cover Hall of Fame Weekend, please apply for credentials soon...The deadline for Weekend applications is **JUNE 30**...Letters of application must be submitted in writing, to Brad Horn, Baseball Hall of Fame, 25 Main Street, Cooperstown, NY 13326...Letters must be submitted on original company letterhead and be directed by a sports, news or photo editor (print), or, a news or sports director (electronic)...No faxes or e-mail requests will be accepted...No freelance journalists, unless on assignment for a news gathering organization, will be considered...Wire services and daily papers will be given first priority...For an up-to-date schedule of events, feel free to visit the "Digital News Room" under "What's New" at [baseballhalloffame.org](http://baseballhalloffame.org).

**BOOK NOW FOR FUTURE WEEKENDS:** At the conclusion of Hall of Fame Weekend 2005, it was announced that future Hall of Fame Weekends will be held over the last Sunday in July in upcoming years... Future dates of Hall of Fame Weekend: **2008** – July 25-28; **2009** – July 24-27; **2010** – July 23-26...A partial list of eligible first-time players for upcoming Hall of Fame elections includes: **2008:** Shawon Dunston, David Justice, Robb Nen, Tim Lincecum. **2009:** Mark Grace, Rickey Henderson, Matt Williams. **2010:** Roberto Alomar, Barry Larkin, Edgar Martinez, Fred McGriff, Robin Ventura, **2011:** Jeff Bagwell, John Franco, Juan Gonzalez, Rafael Palmeiro, Larry Walker ...For complete details, visit [www.baseballhalloffame.org](http://www.baseballhalloffame.org).

**THE IRON MAN:** With the third highest percentage in Hall of Fame history – and the highest vote total – Cal Ripken Jr. earned election to the Hall on his first ballot...Ripken played 21 seasons, all with the Baltimore Orioles...He is best known for "The Streak," his MLB-record of 2,632 consecutive games, breaking Lou Gehrig's mark, which many thought untouchable...Ripken, a power-hitting shortstop for most of his career, opened the door for the larger, slugging shortstops of today...He also played third base...Ripken was a 19-time All-Star, two-time American League MVP (1983, 1991) and the AL Rookie of the Year (1982)...He won eight Silver Slugger awards and is one of eight players in MLB history to amass 3,000 hits and 400 home runs...Ripken won two Gold Gloves for defense (1991-92), and recorded only three-errors in 1990 – the lowest single-season total for any shortstop in history.

**MR. PADRE:** With the seventh-highest percentage in Hall of Fame history – and second-highest vote total – Tony Gwynn earned election to the Hall on his first ballot...Gwynn played 20 seasons, all with the San Diego Padres...A 15-time All-Star, Gwynn retired with a .338 career batting average, good for 20<sup>th</sup> in MLB history...He amassed 3,141 hits, batting better than .300 every season except his rookie year (1989), when he hit .289...Gwynn won eight N.L. batting titles, tying Hall of Famer Nap Lajoie for the MLB career lead...He also led the league in hits seven seasons, five of which included more than 200 hits...Gwynn won five Gold Glove awards for defense and seven Silver Slugger awards for hitting prowess.

**THE PEN IS MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD:** Longtime *St. Louis Post Dispatch* reporter and columnist Rick Hummel was named the 2006 J.G. Taylor Spink Award winner, presented annually for contributions to baseball writing...He'll be honored during the 2007 Induction Ceremony...Having covered his first major league game in 1973, Hummel was the *Post-Dispatch* baseball beat man for the Cardinals for 24 years and in 2007 is entering his seventh season as a baseball columnist for the paper...He has covered 29 World Series and 28 All-Star Games and, counting backup roles in the early 1970s, has covered Cardinals baseball from Bob Gibson to Albert Pujols...He's also has reported on pro basketball, hockey, college basketball and boxing for the *Post-Dispatch*, for whom he has worked for nearly 37 years...Hummel served as national president of the Baseball Writers Association of America in 1994 and was a former Pulitzer Prize nominee...He serves on the Baseball Hall of Fame Overview Committee which reviews the candidacies of former players, managers and executives for possible selection to the Hall by the Veterans Committee...He has been named Missouri sportswriter of the year on four occasions and has won both the Jack Buck Award and the Bob Burnes-Bob Broeg Award at St. Louis sports banquets...He's a University of Missouri graduate and native of Quincy, Ill.

**BROADCAST NEWS:** The winner of the 2007 Ford C. Frick Award for baseball broadcasting excellence will be announced on Feb. 22...The 10 finalists for the Award are **Tom Cheek, Dizzy Dean, Ken Harrelson, Bill King, Tony Kubek, France Laux, Denny Matthews, Graham McNamee, Dave Niehaus** and **Joe Nuxhall**...Throughout November, more than 75,000 fan votes were cast at the Hall of Fame's Web site – the fourth consecutive year that fans have had a part of the balloting process – with King (11,943), Nuxhall (8,049) and Harrelson (6,795) selected by fans for the ballot...The final ballot, also containing seven selections from a Hall of Fame research committee, features a mix of pioneers, early radio stars and current-day broadcasters...Candidates biographies can be found at [www.baseballhalloffame.org](http://www.baseballhalloffame.org)...Gene Elston was named the winner of the 2006 award.

## HALL OF FAME GAME WEEKEND, MAY 20-21

**‘98 REWRITE:** The 2007 Baseball Hall of Fame Game will feature a rematch of the 1998 contest as the Toronto Blue Jays and the Baltimore Orioles will play on Monday, May 21 at historic Doubleday Field in Cooperstown, N.Y...The Blue Jays replaced the New York Mets after ESPN selected the Mets-Yankees game on May 20 as its marquee match-up, causing a travel conflict for the Mets...The Hall of Fame Game will begin at 2 p.m., with pre-game festivities starting at 12 noon with the Hall of Fame Game Day Parade on Main Street and the always-popular Home Run Derby at 1 p.m. at Doubleday Field... The Orioles will be making their sixth scheduled appearance in the Hall of Fame Game, the first for the franchise since 1998, when they beat the Blue Jays, 7-1, in Toronto’s only prior appearance...Baltimore owns a 2-2 record in Hall of Fame Game play, with their 1990 scheduled game against the Montreal Expos canceled due to rain...For ticket information, please visit [www.baseballhalloffame.org](http://www.baseballhalloffame.org).

**THE GAME STANDS ALONE:** The 2007 Game marks the fifth consecutive year that it has been held independently of Hall of Fame Weekend, which is scheduled for July 27-30...The 2007 date marks the third time in five years that the game has been played in May...Prior to 2003, the Game was held in conjunction with Weekend ceremonies, as a stand alone game on the Monday following induction ceremonies since 1977...The Hall of Fame Game tradition started in 1940 and continues today as the only in-season exhibition game on the Major League Baseball schedule.

**WHO NEEDS TICKETS?:** Tickets for the 2007 Game are limited to six per customer, and will be available for purchase beginning Saturday, February 17...Prices are \$12.50 for first and third base reserved seats, while outfield reserved seats are \$11.00...Tickets will be available three ways: in person, over the phone and via the Internet.

- **At the Museum:** A limited number of tickets will be available through a one-day, over-the-counter ticket sale at the Museum on Saturday, February 17, beginning at 10 a.m....All visitors purchasing tickets to the Hall of Fame Game during the first-day sale will be admitted FREE to the Museum...Patrons for the first-day ticket sale **will not** be allowed to line-up outdoors overnight...The Museum will open at 9 a.m., at which time patrons will be allowed into the Museum...Patrons must hold their place in line.
- **Hall of Fame Members:** Hall of Fame members will have an exclusive opportunity to purchase a maximum of six Game tickets per membership beginning Feb. 17 in two convenient ways: at the Museum’s on-line store at [baseballhalloffame.org](http://baseballhalloffame.org); or by calling the mail order department at 888-HALL-OF-FAME, option 2, anytime from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., EST...Valid membership numbers are required for purchase. No member discounts apply to this sale. The sale will last until February 25 or until supplies are exhausted.
- **General Purchase:** Any remaining tickets will be available for the general public, limited to six per customer, to purchase beginning February 26 at 9 a.m., until ticket quantities are exhausted...Tickets will be available for general public purchase in two ways: at the Museum’s on-line store at [baseballhalloffame.org](http://baseballhalloffame.org), or by calling the Museum’s mail-order department at 888-HALL-OF-FAME, option 2, from Monday-Saturday, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., EST.

**EARL THE PEARL:** Hall of Fame Game Weekend will also feature an event with Hall of Fame manager Earl Weaver as part of the Museum’s ongoing *Voices of the Game* Member Series, on Sunday, May 20...The event is open exclusively to Hall of Fame and Museum members...Time and ticket prices are yet to be announced...For more information, please call 607-547-0397.

## HALL OF FAME BBWAA BALLOTING RECAP

**AND THE WINNER IS:** The 2007 ballot featured 28 candidates, including 17 newcomers and 11 returning candidates...The two electees were Tony Gwynn and Cal Ripken Jr., each of whom earned election in his first year of eligibility...Of the other first-timers, two will return for the 2008 ballot: Mark McGwire (23%) and Harold Baines (5%)...In total, 15 players received votes on less than five percent of ballots cast, and are therefore no longer eligible for consideration by the BBWAA...Steve Garvey made his 15<sup>th</sup> and final appearance on the writers ballot and will be eligible for Veterans Committee consideration...14 will return for consideration in 2008...There were a record-545 ballots cast, with 409 votes necessary for election and 28 votes necessary to remain on the ballot...The final results, in order of percentage received:

NAME	YR	%	NAME	YR	%	NAME	YR	%
Cal Ripken Jr.	1	98%	Dave Concepcion	14	13%	Tony Fernandez	1	1%
Tony Gwynn	1	97%	Alan Trammell	6	13%	Dante Bichette	1	<1%
Goose Gossage	8	71%	Dave Parker	11	11%	Eric Davis	1	<1%
Jim Rice	13	63%	Don Mattingly	7	10%	Bobby Bonilla	1	<1%
Andre Dawson	6	57%	Dale Murphy	9	9%	Ken Caminiti	1	<1%
Bert Blyleven	10	48%	Harold Baines	1	5%	Jay Buhner	1	<1%
Lee Smith	5	40%	Orel Hershiser	2	4%	Scott Brosius	1	0%
Jack Morris	8	37%	Albert Belle	2	3%	Wally Joyner	1	0%
Mark McGwire	1	23%	Paul O’Neill	1	2%	Devon White	1	0%
Tommy John	13	23%	Bret Saberhagen	1	1%	Bobby Witt	1	0%
Steve Garvey	15	21%	Jose Canseco	1	1%			

**THE VOTING ELECTORATE:** A record 545 ballots were cast by BBWAA voters in 2007, 25 more than the previous best of 520 in 2006...On five total occasions (also: 515-2001; 506-2004; 516-2005) more than 500 ballots have been cast...At least 400 ballots have been cast in every election since 1986...Voting privileges are extended to those BBWAA members meeting their organization’s Hall of Fame voting qualifications and in good standing with the BBWAA...Voters can name from zero to 10 names on their Hall of Fame ballot...75 percent of all ballots cast are necessary for election.

**CAREFUL SELECTION:** 2007 marked the 64<sup>th</sup> Hall of Fame election held by the BBWAA...Starting in 1936, the BBWAA has elected someone 56 times and on seven occasions it did not elect anyone (1945, 1946, 1950, 1958, 1960, 1971, 1996)...On nine occasions, no election were held (1940, 1941, 1943, 1944, 1957, 1959, 1961, 1963, 1965)...The BBWAA membership has elected from zero to five candidates in each of its 64 elections...As qualified in the chart below, it has voted in two players and one player more than any other quantity (23 times).

ELECTED	TIMES	LAST	CLASS
5	1	1936	Cobb, Johnson, Mathewson, Ruth, Wagner
4	2	1955	DiMaggio, Hartnett, Lyons, Vance
3	8	1999	Brett, Ryan, Yount
2	23	2007	Gwynn, Ripken
1	23	2006	Sutter
0	7	1996	-----

**THE GAME’S ELITE:** The Hall of Fame is comprised of 280 elected members...Included are 198 former major league players, 23 executives, 35 Negro leaguers, 16 managers and eight umpires...The BBWAA has elected 105 candidates to the Hall while the Veterans Committee (in all of its forms) has chosen 149 deserving candidates (93 major leaguers, 23 executives, 16 managers, nine Negro leaguers and eight umpires)...The defunct “Committee on Negro Baseball Leagues” selected nine men between 1971-77 and the Special Committee on Negro Leagues in 2006, elected 17 Negro leaguers...There are currently 63 living members.

**FIRST THINGS FIRST:** With Tony Gwynn and Cal Ripken Jr., 43 players have been elected in their first year of eligibility (11 pitchers, seven RF, five LF, four CF, five SS, three second basemen, four third basemen, two first basemen, one designated hitter and one catcher)...In 6 of the last 8 elections, at least one player has been elected in his first year of eligibility...Other than the inaugural Hall of Fame election, 1999 is the only year where as many as three first-year candidates were elected at once...NOTE: Lou Gehrig (who received votes in 1936 while active and then elected by acclamation in 1939) and Roberto Clemente (by special election in 1973) were each elected through a non-traditional process and are not counted in the 43.

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

**ONE-TEAM WONDERS:** Tony Gwynn and Cal Ripken bring the total Hall of Fame players spent their careers with one major league team to 47...The others: Luke Appling, Ernie Banks, Johnny Bench, George Brett, Roy Campanella, Roberto Clemente, Earle Combs, Bill Dickey, Joe DiMaggio, Bobby Doerr, Don Drysdale, Red Faber, Bob Feller, Whitey Ford, Lou Gehrig, Charlie Gehringer, Bob Gibson, Lefty Gomez, Carl Hubbell, Travis Jackson, Walter Johnson, Al Kaline, Addie Joss, Sandy Koufax, Bob Lemon, Ted Lyons, Mickey Mantle, Bill Mazeroski, Bid McPhee, Stan Musial, Mel Ott, Jim Palmer, Kirby Puckett, Pee Wee Reese, Phil Rizzuto, Brooks Robinson, Jackie Robinson, Mike Schmidt, Willie Stargell, Pie Traynor, Bill Terry, Ted Williams, Carl Yastrzemski, Robin Yount and Ross Youngs.

**NEAR PERFECTION:** With Cal Ripken Jr. earning the most votes in BBWAA history in 2007 – and Tony Gwynn the second most ever – here’s a look at the top seven highest percentages of ballots cast in BBWAA voting history:

YEAR	PLAYER	BALLOTS CAST	VOTES RECEIVED	% RECEIVED	OMITTED BALLOTS
1992	Tom Seaver	430	425	98.84%	5
1999	Nolan Ryan	497	491	98.79%	6
2007	Cal Ripken Jr.	545	537	98.53%	8
1936	Ty Cobb	226	222	98.23%	4
1999	George Brett	497	488	98.19%	9
1982	Hank Aaron	415	406	97.83%	9
2007	Tony Gwynn	545	532	97.60%	13

## MUSEUM NEWS FROM COOPERSTOWN

**2007 HAS ARRIVED:** In addition to Hall of Fame Induction Ceremonies on July 29, the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum has a full slate of activity all year in 2007...In addition to the *Voices of the Game* Member Series, which features discussions in Cooperstown with Hall of Famers such as **Bruce Sutter, Earl Weaver, Ferguson Jenkins** and **Mike Schmidt**, Frick Award broadcasters **Harry Kalas, Jaime Jarrin** and **Milo Hamilton** and other baseball notables, the Hall of Fame has activities designed for fans of all ages, offering a wide variety of educational programs and special events throughout the year...For a complete schedule of on-going activities, visit the Hall of Fame's Web site at [baseballhalloffame.org](http://baseballhalloffame.org) and click the "Events Calendar" or call 888-HALL-OF-FAME...2007 programming events are sponsored by Otesaga Resort Hotel, XM Satellite Radio and WHMT Albany...Other events may be added at later times, and the schedule is subject to change...Key dates to remember for 2007:

- Feb. 17:** Tickets on sale for annual Hall of Fame Game, Cooperstown, 10 a.m.  
Hall of Famer Bruce Sutter *Voices of the Game* event, 6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 22:** Ford C. Frick Award Winner announced at 2 p.m., exclusively at [www.baseballhalloffame.org](http://www.baseballhalloffame.org)
- Feb. 27:** 2007 Veterans Committee results, 2 p.m., exclusively at [www.baseballhalloffame.org](http://www.baseballhalloffame.org).
- March 24-25:** Special Abilities Weekend, with *Voices of the Game* guest(s) to be announced
- April 14:** *Voices of the Game* Salute to the 1967 Boston Red Sox, featuring former major leaguers Jim Lonborg and Rico Petrocelli
- May 20:** Hall of Fame manager Earl Weaver *Voices of the Game* event
- May 21:** 2007 Hall of Fame Game, featuring Toronto Blue Jays and Baltimore Orioles, 2 p.m. Doubleday Field
- June 30:** *Voices of the Game* event with 2002 Ford C. Frick Award Winner Harry Kalas, voice of the Philadelphia Phillies
- July 29:** 2007 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremonies, 1:30 p.m., Clark Sports Center
- Aug. 4:** *Voices of the Game* event with 1992 Ford C. Frick Award Winner Milo Hamilton, voice of the Houston Astros
- Sept. 2:** Hall of Famer Mike Schmidt *Voices of the Game* event
- Oct. 6:** Hall of Famer Ferguson Jenkins *Voices of the Game* event
- Nov. 3:** *Voices of the Game* event with 1998 Ford C. Frick Award Winner Jamie Jarrin, Spanish radio voice of the Los Angeles Dodgers

**HEARING VOICES:** Each remaining month of 2007 will feature an installment of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum's *Voices of the Game* Member Series, beginning with Hall of Fame reliever Bruce Sutter's program on Feb. 17...The 2007 series will also feature Hall of Famers Earl Weaver (May 20), Mike Schmidt (Sept. 2) and Fergie Jenkins (Oct. 6); three baseball broadcasters who have earned the Ford C. Frick Award for broadcasting excellence: Harry Kalas (June 30), Milo Hamilton (Aug. 4) and Jamie Jarrin (Nov. 3); as well as former major league stars Jim Lonborg and Rico Petrocelli in an April 14 salute to the 1967 Boston Red Sox...Programs for July and December, as well as March's "Special Abilities Weekend," (March 24-25) have yet to be announced...2007 programming events are sponsored by Otesaga Resort Hotel, XM Satellite Radio and WHMT Albany...*Voices of the Game* programs are open exclusively to Hall of Fame members and must be purchased in advance by calling (607) 547-0397...Tickets for the Sutter event are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12-and-under...The Sutter program begins at 6:30 p.m. and is expected last one hour...It will be followed by a photo opportunity...Tickets for future events will be made available through the Hall of Fame's membership department in advance of each event, with sale dates to be announced...Each *Voices of the Game* program is presented in conjunction with XM Satellite Radio as part of XM's Baseball confidential series on the Home Plate Channel, XM 175. Air dates and times will be announced at a late time.

**BRINGING BASEBALL HISTORY TO THE CLASSROOM:** On Feb. 13, the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum will partner with Ball State University to present a sixth Electronic Field Trip... "Desert Diamonds Behind Barbed Wire" will debut from the Manzanar War Relocation Center in California...Advance registration already stands at 18.6 million students who are scheduled to participate...The EFT will focus on Japanese internment camps during World War II...When Japanese-Americans were relocated to internment camps following the attack on Pearl Harbor, one way they were able to maintain their pride and morale was through baseball...Survivors of this appalling experience will participate in the EFT, teaching students first-hand what really happened during this bleak time in American history...It will also draw parallels to contemporary problems of discrimination and intolerance in American society...For more information on the Hall of Fame's education programs, please call 607-547-0345.

**A YEAR OF MEMORIES, PRESERVED IN COOPERSTOWN:** The 2006 MLB regular season was a great hit, with the Museum collecting a number of artifacts from milestone moments and historic achievements...Among the highlights collected by the Hall of Fame during 2006: the ball used by Trevor Hoffman to record his major league record 479<sup>th</sup> save; a ball used in Florida Marlins' Anibal Sanchez's no-hitter on Sept. 6; the spikes worn by Philadelphia's Chase Utley during his 35-game hitting streak; the cap worn by Mariano Rivera for his 400<sup>th</sup> career save; the Roberto Clemente tribute wristband worn by Michael Young for his game-winning hit as MVP of the All-Star Game; the jersey worn by Mike Piazza for his 400<sup>th</sup> career home run on April 26; the jersey worn by Luis Gonzalez for his 500<sup>th</sup> career double; and the bat used by Carlos Lee to record the first hit in the new Busch Stadium in St. Louis.

**SEE IT BEFORE YOU EXPERIENCE IT:** Before planning your trip to Cooperstown, visit [www.baseballhalloffame.org](http://www.baseballhalloffame.org) for the most comprehensive baseball history site on the Web...Learn about new acquisitions, shop the Museum Store for the perfect baseball gift, plan your trip, read about Hall of Famers and explore baseball history in a way that fans of all ages can enjoy...Stop by [www.baseballhalloffame.org](http://www.baseballhalloffame.org) today!

## COOPERSTOWN TRAVELS AMERICA

**TWIN TOURS THROUGH HISTORY:** *Baseball As America*, the national exhibition tour which examines the relationship between baseball and American culture, opened its 11<sup>th</sup> tour stop on Nov. 24 in Minneapolis/St. Paul at the Minnesota Historical Society...The exhibit will be on display there until March 7...The tour was extended on May 31, 2006, and continues at The Great Lakes Science Center in Cleveland will present the exhibition from April-Sept. 2007...More than 2 million people have visited the exhibit over the last four years...By comparison, the Museum welcomes about 2 million visitors to Cooperstown every seven years...The exhibit is sponsored nationally by **Ernst & Young**...For more information, visit [baseballasamerica.org](http://baseballasamerica.org).

**TOUR SCHEDULE:** To date, *Baseball As America* has traveled to 10 cities across the country...The 10 museums: American Museum of Natural History in New York; Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County; Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago; Cincinnati Museum Center; Florida International Museum in St. Petersburg, Fla.; National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC; Missouri Historical Society in St. Louis, Mo.; Museum of Fine Arts in Houston; Oakland Museum at California; and the Henry Ford Museum in Detroit.

**WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?:** Organized by the Hall of Fame and drawn from its collections, this unprecedented exhibition marks the first time that these Hall of Fame treasures have left their legendary home in Cooperstown...Through the exploration of a broad range of themes, including immigration, nationalism, integration, technology and popular culture, *Baseball As America* reveals how baseball has served as both a reflection and a shaper of American society...*Baseball As America* is organized in thematic sections to explore the changing roles baseball has played in American culture and history, and examines its unique position in our national life...The exhibit examines such aspects of the game as the rituals of fans and players; myth making and the role of heroes; the impact of technology on performance; segregation, integration and baseball's role as a ladder of mobility for ethnic groups; the game's evolution as a business; the physics of the home run and the curveball; and baseball's presence throughout popular culture as a subject and metaphor, among many other aspects.