

SAMPLE EXCERPTS FROM

**THE
ROLLIE FINGERS
BASEBALL
BIBLE**

**Written by
ROLLIE FINGERS
And
YELLOWSTONE RITTER**

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THE ROLLIE FINGERS BASEBALL BIBLE

Baseball FACTS, FOLKLORE and FOLLY

**VOLUME TWO
OF THE
ROLLIE'S BASEBALL FOLLIES COLLECTION**

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Willie Mays and Me**

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EXCERPT ONE

Willie Mays and Me By ROLLIE FINGERS

You might be surprised to know that baseball wasn't a huge part of my early childhood. Even though my family only lived about 45 miles from Pittsburgh, attending games at Forbes Field was never that much of a priority.

In 1955, the Fingers family left Ohio and moved out to Southern California. I guess you could say my parents had the exact same idea that Walter O'Malley had---only 3 years earlier.

When his Los Angeles Dodgers debuted in 1958, my Dad took me out to ballgames at the LA Coliseum. In short order, the men in blue became heroes to me. We were even there for some of the original moon shots (courtesy of Wally Moon) over that 40-foot high screen in left field.

For some reason, the most exciting Dodger games were always against the San Francisco Giants. I hated that team with an orange hot passion. However, SF had one player who I couldn't boo no matter how hard I tried and that was Willie Mays.

Whether he was in center field, up at home plate or running the bases, he was the most riveting player I had ever seen. Watching Willie take a pitch was more exciting than watching anyone else swing. Of course, I always hated to see my favorite team lose, but when it was Willie Mays who did the damage, at least it seemed fair.

In 1962, the Dodgers moved into their brand new stadium in Chavez Ravine. It was a vast improvement over the old place and I'm not just saying that because the left field fence was *more* than 250 feet away from the plate.

After one game, I was in the parking lot with a bunch of other teenagers shagging autographs when off in the distance something

electric caught my eye. Could it be? Yes! It was Willie Mays, in street clothes, getting ready to leave.

Before my brain could react, my legs broke into a windsprint that would have made Maury Wills proud. Zigzagging inbetween a number of cars (some of which were parked), I caught up to the legend, instantly composed myself and breathlessly asked for his signature.

Thankfully, the Dodger cap on my head didn't seem to bother him for he scribbled an autograph out anyway. Willie couldn't have known at the time that he was signing for a kid who would become the last person in history to ever strike him out.

Eleven years later, I was handed the ball in Game 1 of the 1973 World Series. The A's had a slim one-run lead over the visiting New York Mets and it was my job to protect it. I did okay and managed to work my way through the first eight hitters without giving up a run.

But at that point, Willie Mays came up to the plate. It was an incredibly surreal sight. I found myself shaking my head a little even though Ray Fosse had yet to throw down any fingers. Willie seemed a lot older than he'd been in that Dodger parking lot, but my respect for him had only increased with age. I took a deep breath, stared beyond the legend into Fosse's mitt and began serving up my best.

Eventually, I had two strikes on him. It was crunch time. I took another deep breath, dropped one in and struck him out looking. Watching Willie take that pitch was more exciting than watching anyone else swing and miss.

The very next day, he got another crack at me. Baseball is filled with such chances for redemption.

We were all tied up in the top of the 12th inning and the Mets were threatening with runners on first and third. With two outs, Willie came back up to the plate.

The nearly 50,000 fans at the Oakland Coliseum were on the edge of their seats. More than anything, they wanted another strikeout. However, some in the crowd, especially the ones with

Giants caps wanted to see Willie get one last hurrah...so sentimental were they for the Bay Area legend. Not me thoughI wanted the strikeout!!

*The conclusion of “Willie Mays and me” can be found
in the
Rollie Fingers Baseball Bible.*

FOLLIES FACTOIDS

The Angels would have originated in Long Beach had Gene Autry not balked at the city’s ultimatum to name the franchise the *Long Beach Angels*.

Willie Mays’ final All-Star Game (in 1973) also happened to be Rollie Fingers’ first.

EXCERPT # 2

(note: this excerpt is merely a 50% abbreviated version of the chapter by the same name that is presented in the book).

The Decade of the 2000's

It was the decade when the Red Sox and White Sox
both ended their lengthy droughts.

It was a time that spelled the end for the Montreal Expos and the
rebirth of baseball in the nation's capital.

Despite the harsh shadow cast by steroids, baseball hit new
attendance records.

It was the decade of the 2000's.

THE THREE MOST DOMINANT TEAMS

1. THE NEW YORK YANKEES

2 world championship

4 pennants

9 playoff appearances

1,017 total wins

Icons: Joe Torre, Joe Girardi, Derek Jeter, Hideki Matsui, Mike Mussina, Andy Pettitte, Jorge Posada, Mariano Rivera, Alex Rodriguez, George Steinbrenner, Brian Cashman, Bobby Murcer

2. THE BOSTON RED SOX

2 world championships

2 pennants

6 playoff appearances

954 total wins

Icons: Terry Francona, Josh Beckett, Johnny Damon, Pedro Martinez, David Ortiz, Jonathan Papelbon, Dustin Pedroia, Manny Ramirez, Curt Schilling, Jason Varitek, Jerry Remy

3. THE ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

1 world championship

2 pennants

7 playoff appearances

946 total wins

Icons: Tony La Russa, Albert Pujols, Chris Carpenter, David Eckstein, Jim Edmonds, Jason Isringhausen, Scott Rolen, William DeWitt Jr., Walt Jocketty, Joe Buck, Jack Buck

A TIMELINE OF THE DECADE

2000 – Pacific Bell Park (San Francisco), Comerica Park (Detroit) and Enron Field (Houston) open for business.

Nomar Garciaparra and Colorado's Todd Helton both win batting titles after hitting .372. The season ends up as history's high-water mark for home runs. The Yankees beat the cross-town Mets to win their 4th world championship in 5 years.

2001– Miller Park (Milwaukee) and PNC Park (Pittsburgh) open for business. Manny Ramirez joins the Red Sox just as Mike Mussina joins the Yankees. Lenny Harris tops Manny Mota to become history's top pinch hitter with 151. Barry Bonds surpasses Mark McGwire's single-season HR record and ends with 73. The 9/11 terrorist attacks force the cancellation of the minor league playoffs and postpone major league baseball for 6 days. *God Bless America* replaces *Take Me out to the Ballgame* at numerous ballparks. The Arizona Diamondbacks win the world championship in only their 4th year of existence.

2002 – 83-year old legend Ted Williams passes away. Jason Giambi joins the New York Yankees The All-Star game ends in a tie. Bob Costas refers to the period as “The Steroid Era”, essentially coining the phrase in the process. The Oakland A's win 20 consecutive games. Two cities that have never won a world championship (San Francisco and Anaheim) collide in the World Series. With the help of a rally monkey and thousands of thundersticks, the Angels prevail.

2003 – Cincinnati debuts the Great American Ballpark. Barry Bonds steals his 500th base. 72-year old Jack McKeon takes over the 16-22 Florida Marlins. Despite their low payroll, “Trader Jack” McKeon leads the Marlins past the mighty Yankees to win their 2nd world championship in 7 years.

2004 – Citizens Bank Ballpark (Philadelphia) and PETCO park (San Diego) debut. Alex Rodriguez joins the Yankees. Ichiro Suzuki sets the all-time single season record for hits with 262. Barry Bonds hits his 700th home run and also draws his 2,191st walk (surpassing Rickey Henderson) to become the all-time leader. Bonds wins his 7th and final league MVP award. Roger Clemens wins his 7th and final Cy Young Award. The Expos play their final game in Montreal. The Boston Red Sox come back from an 0-3

deficit in the ALCS to win their first world championship since 1918.

2005- Congress summons a number of superstars to testify about steroid usage. The sport began suspending players for steroid usage. The Giants franchise becomes the first to win 10,000 games. The Chicago White Sox come back from being 15 games under .500 to win the World Series (their first since 1917).

2006 – 45-year old legend Kirby Puckett passes away. The World Baseball Classic debuts and it is Japan that comes out on top. The Cardinals begin playing in the new Busch Stadium. Trevor Hoffman surpasses Lee Smith to become the all-time saves leader. Kenny Rogers pitches 23 consecutive scoreless innings. The St. Louis Cardinals win the World Series, despite having won only 83 games in the regular season.

2007 – Roger Clemens comes out of retirement (again) to play a partial season for the New York Yankees and reaches 350 career victories. The Philadelphia Phillies become the first franchise to lose 10,000 games. Brandon Webb pitches 42 consecutive scoreless innings. Barry Bonds surpasses Hank Aaron's storied "755" mark to become baseball's all-time home run champion. Greg Maddux wins his 17th Gold Glove. 68-year old Bruce Froemming retires after 37 seasons of major league umpiring.

2008 – The New York Mets acquire Johan Santana from the Minnesota Twins. Instant replay debuts on a limited basis. President George W. Bush throws out the first pitch at Washington D.C.'s brand new *Nationals Park*. South Korea wins the Gold Medal at the Olympics. Omar Vizquel plays his 2,584th game at shortstop, surpassing Luis Aparicio as the all-time leader. Greg Maddux reaches 350 wins. Francisco Rodriguez sets the single-season saves record with 62. The Cubs reach the century mark for not winning a championship. The World Series pits the losingest

team in baseball history (the Phillies) against the franchise with the worst lifetime winning percentage (Tampa Bay).
The Phillies prevail.

2009 – Japan successfully defends their crown at the 2nd World Baseball Classic. Both the Mets and Yankees open up brand new ballparks. New President Barack Obama throws out the ceremonial first pitch at the All-Star game. Andy Pettitte surpasses Kenny Rogers to become baseball's all-time pickoff leader. Ivan Rodriguez catches his 2,275th game behind the plate, surpassing Carlton Fisk to become the all-time leader. Derek Jeter surpasses Lou Gehrig to become the all-time Yankees hit leader. Tony La Russa reaches 2,500 managerial victories. For the 3rd consecutive season, a tiebreaker game is needed to determine the 8th playoff spot. The Metrodome in Minneapolis hosts its final baseball game. For the 2nd time, the Yankees christen a new ballpark in the Bronx with a World Championship.

2000-2009 OVERVIEW

THE MULTIPLE CY YOUNG AWARD WINNERS

Randy Johnson – 3

Roger Clemens – 2

Johan Santana – 2

THE MULTIPLE LEAGUE MVP AWARD WINNERS

Barry Bonds – 4

Alex Rodriguez – 3

Albert Pujols – 3

THE TEN ALL-STAR GAME OUTCOMES

American League – 9 victories

National League – 0 victories

One tie

THE MOST ALL-STAR GAME SELECTIONS

Manny Ramirez – 9

Alex Rodriguez – 9

Ichiro Suzuki – 9

Derek Jeter – 8

Albert Pujols – 8

Mariano Rivera – 8

THE MOST REGULAR SEASON WINS

BY A MANAGER

Joe Torre - 952

Tony La Russa – 913

Mike Scioscia – 900

THE HIGHEST REGULAR SEASON

HOME ATTENDANCES

New York Yankees – 37,781,051

Los Angeles Dodgers – 34,497,148

Chicago Cubs – 30,339,604

FROM 2000-2009---

**---Curt Schilling was the only player to win
3 World Series championships**

---Barry Bonds was the only 2-time NL batting champion.

**---only 5 of the decade's 88 big-league managers helmed teams
for 10 consecutive seasons (Bruce Bochy, Bobby Cox, Tony La
Russa, Mike Scioscia and Joe Torre).**

**However, only Joe Torre guided his teams to the postseason
each of the 10 years.**

**---The New York Yankees and St. Louis Cardinals
both played in 5 league championship series.**

**However, not once did they concurrently advance
to oppose one another in the World Series.**

**--- Andy Pettitte won more games than any other pitcher, despite the
fact that he never once led his league in wins.**

**---Only Bobby Cox and Lou Piniella managed to take home more
than one league manager of the year award (2 apiece).**

**---Despite missing 39% of the decade to injury, rest, or forced
retirement, Barry Bonds still drew 90 more walks
than the next closest player (Bobby Abreau).**

**Only four players managed to hit 200 home runs *and* steal 200 bases.
(Bobby Abreau, Carlos Beltran, Mike Cameron
and Alfonso Soriano).**

**Jason Marquis was the only player whose teams made it to the
postseason during these 10 consecutive years.**

THE REVOLVING DOOR

FRESH BLOOD

- 2000 – Johan Santana and Michael Young
- 2001 – Albert Pujols and Ichiro Suzuki
- 2002 – Carl Crawford and Francisco Rodriguez
- 2003 – Miguel Cabrera and Mark Teixeira
- 2004 – Matt Holliday and David Wright
- 2005 – Jonathan Papelbon and Hanley Ramirez
- 2006 – Russell Martin and Dan Uggla
- 2007 – Ryan Braun and Tim Lincecum
- 2008 – Evan Longoria and Brad Ziegler
- 2009 – Andrew Bailey and Chris Coghlan

NOTABLE FINALES

- 2000 – Will Clark and Dwight Gooden
- 2001 – Tony Gwynn, Cal Ripken Jr.
- 2002 – Chuck Finley and Tim Lincecum
- 2003 – Rickey Henderson and Jesse Orosco
- 2004 – Roberto Alomar and Barry Larkin
- 2005 – Kevin Brown and Rafael Palmiero
- 2006 – Bernie Williams and Tim Salmon
- 2007 – Craig Biggio, Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens, Roberto Hernandez, Jose Mesa, Mike Piazza, Curt Schilling, Sammy Sosa
- 2008 – Tom Glavine and Greg Maddux
- 2009 – Randy Johnson and Troy Percival

PITCHING (2000-2009)

TWO OF THE DECADE'S GREATEST PITCHERS

Randy Johnson (Diamondbacks, Yankees, Giants)

- Nicknamed the “Big Unit”
- Lanky 6’10” mullet aficionado with omnipresent scowl
- Possessed a devastating slider and a three digit fastball
- Notched more lifetime K’s than any other southpaw
- Had a suburban upbringing in Northern California
- College teammate of Mark McGwire
- Highest strikeout ratio in history among starters
- Was eventually tutored by his idol Nolan Ryan
- Pitched effectively into his mid-40’s
- From 2000-2009, went 143-78 with 12 shutouts, 2182 strikeouts and a 3.34 ERA

Mariano Rivera (Yankees)

- Born and raised in a fishing village in Panama
- Worked as a commercial shrimper
- Righthanded
- Known for his calm and serene demeanor
- Master of the cut fastball (also known as the buzzsaw).
- Switch-hitters often hit righty against Rivera to prevent getting jammed in on their fists
- His cutter once shattered 3 bats during a lone plate appearance
- Widely considered the MVP of the late 1990’s Yankee dynasty.
- Devout Christian
- Pitched 34.1 consecutive scoreless postseason innings
- Was left unprotected by the Yankees in the 1992

- expansion draft, but went untouched by COL and FLA
- From 2000-2009, posted 397 saves, 45 victories, 669 strikeouts and a 2.08 ERA in his 651 appearances

**MORE OF THE DECADE'S TOP PITCHERS
(with their regular season statistics from 2000-2009)**

SP Roger Clemens (Yankees, Astros) (8 seasons)
107-50 – 1 shutout – 3.34 ERA – 1346K in 1454.1 innings

SP Roy Halladay (Blue Jays)
139-69 – 14 shutouts – 3.40 ERA – 1400K in 1883.1 innings

RP Trevor Hoffman (Padres, Brewers)
23 wins – 363 saves – 2.77 ERA – 523K in 533 innings

MOST PITCHING VICTORIES

Andy Pettitte - 148

Randy Johnson - 143

Jamie Moyer – 140

LOWEST ERA

(810-innings minimum)

Pedro Martinez – 3.01

Johan Santana – 3.12

Roy Oswalt – 3.23

MOST STRIKEOUTS

Randy Johnson - 2182

Javier Vazquez - 2001

Johan Santana – 1733

MOST ERA CROWNS

Pedro Martinez – 3

Johan Santana – 3

MOST APPEARANCES

Dave Weathers - 712

LaTroy Hawkins - 654

Mariano Rivera – 651

MOST SAVES

Mariano Rivera - 397

Trevor Hoffman - 363

LOWEST ERA

(162-inning minimum)

Jonathan Papelbon – 1.84

Takashi Saito – 2.05

Mariano Rivera – 2.08

THE DECADE'S MOST OFFENSIVE PITCHERS

Livan Hernandez collected 157 hits and 59 RBIs

Carlos Zambrano smashed 20 home runs

Micah Owings tallied a .547 slugging percentage

Greg Maddux stole 7 bases

Tom Glavine put down 92 sacrifice hits

FEWEST EARNED RUNS SURRENDERED

Los Angeles Dodgers – 6,360

Atlanta Braves – 6,398

Oakland A's – 6,533

IRONIES AND ODDITIES

2000 – Though the first game of the regular season takes place in Tokyo, the “World Series” ends up being played by two teams from the very same place (New York City). Numerous sluggers, most notably Barry Bonds, begin launching moon shots into the San Francisco Bay. The bobbing souvenirs are retrieved by an array of kayakers, yacht captains, swimmers and trained Portuguese water dogs.

2001 – A fraction of a second after delivering to the plate, Randy Johnson drills a bird that had the misfortune of crossing the path of his fastball, resulting in an explosion of feathers. A leadoff hitter (Ichiro Suzuki) wins the AL MVP award. His team, the Seattle Mariners, wins a record 116 regular season games, yet fails to win the pennant.

2002 – A pitcher (Joaquin Benoit) records a 7-inning save. Kevin Millar is rewarded with a ground-rule double after lodging a ball skyward into the catwalk grid of Tropicana Field. Jose Rijo wins his first game in 7 years.

2003 – The Astros utilize 6 different pitchers to no-hit the Yankees. The Expos play 22 of their home games in Puerto Rico. The Detroit Tigers lose 119 games. Eric Gagne converts all 55 of his save opportunities for the Dodgers, yet blows one in the All-Star game.

2004 – The Cincinnati Red's Adam Dunn literally hits a home run that lands in Kentucky. Barry Bonds is intentionally walked 120 times (he ends the season with a .609 on base percentage). Eric Gagne's streak of consecutive save conversions tops out at 84. The Boston Red Sox find the best possible time to string together an 8-game winning streak.

2005 – A pitcher (Dontrelle Willis) is slotted 7th in his team's batting order. Every team in the NL East finishes with at least 81 victories. The Astros beat the Braves 7-6 in an 18-inning postseason game. The Angels play 3 games on successive nights in 3 different cities (traveling 4,700 miles within 32 hours to do so).

2006 – 94-year old Buck O'Neil bats in a Northern League All-Star game. Cory Sullivan triples twice in the same inning. A catcher (Joe Mauer) wins a batting title. The Red Sox post \$51.1 million in a sealed bid auction for the exclusive right to negotiate

with a Japanese superstar (Daisuke Matsuzaka). It later surfaces that the second-closest suitor had only offered \$38 million.

2007 – Former pitcher Rick Ankiel makes his way back to the Cardinals as a slugging outfielder. Ichiro Suzuki hits an inside-the park home run at the All-Star game. A pitcher (Trevor Miller) somehow appears in 76 games without getting a single decision. The Colorado Rockies win 14 out of their final 15 games to just barely push their way into the playoffs.

2008 – A preseason game is played in China. After 60 years, the Dodgers vacate their spring training camp in Vero Beach. The Tampa Bay franchise exorcises the “Devil” from their name to become known as the “Rays”. The Dodgers and Red Sox draw 115,300 fans to the LA Coliseum for an exhibition game. The Cincinnati Reds bat out of order. Due to a hurricane, the Astros and Cubs play 2 games in Milwaukee. Slugger Adam Dunn hits exactly 40 home runs for the 5th consecutive season. Roger Clemens doesn’t come out of retirement for the 1st time in 4 years.

2009 – Alan Embree wins a game without so much as throwing a pitch (he picked off a runner). Jayson Werth steals 3 bases after a lone at-bat. The Yankees go 18 games without a fielding error. Carl Crawford swipes 6 bases in one game. The Pittsburgh Pirates suffer through their 17th consecutive losing season. The Red Sox sell out their 500th consecutive game at Fenway Park.

THE GOLF STREAM?

When the new Yankee Stadium debuted in 2009, folks quickly took notice that home runs were being launched with far greater frequency. This phenomenon seemed especially mystifying since the outfield dimensions of the new park were identical to that of its predecessor. It was quickly determined that wind patterns unique to the modern structure were the culprit. However, upon further examination, it appears that the “golf stream” effect has been somewhat exaggerated. Here is why.

During the final year of the original Yankee stadium, the park yielded 160 home runs. The following season, the new place yielded 237. Now, that’s a whopping 48% increase, but it fails to take into account two significant factors.

Firstly, we can determine from road totals that Yankee hitters became far more adept at hitting home runs in 2009 as compared to the year prior (in part, due to the addition of Mark Teixeira).

Secondly, we can determine that Yankee pitchers became less effective at keeping the ball in the park—no matter what stadium they were at. As it turns out, the 2008 Yankees (hitters and pitchers combined) saw 163 homers during their games away from the Bronx, but in 2009, that aggregate total ticked upward to 188.

So, when crunching the numbers, it can be determined that the true home run differential between the old Yankee Stadium and the new Yankee Stadium (at least from 2008 to 2009) was (+ 28.4%).

What does this all boil down to? Basically, this means that a slugger who put up a 50-homer season while playing his home games at the old Yankee Stadium could expect to hit 57 in the new

one (and probably more if he was especially prone to hitting balls out to right field).

By contrast, the “true home run differential” between Shea Stadium and Citi Field from was merely nominal (-minus 2.4%).

HITTING (2000-2009)

TWO OF THE GREATEST BATS FROM THIS DECADE

Todd Helton (Rockies)

- Nicknamed “The Toddfather”
- Scruffy, calm, intense, likable demeanor
- All-time Colorado Rockies leader in hits, home runs, RBIs, runs, walks and games played.
- 6’ 2” lefthanded first baseman.
- Knoxville native who once passed for 2,722 yards as a high school quarterback.
- Also played QB for the University of Tennessee, where he was briefly slotted ahead of Peyton Manning
- Through 2009, has hit .294 on the road with 1,576 total bases and 531 walks.
- His #17 uniform is a nod to fellow 1B Mark Grace
- From 2000-2009, hit .331 with 1756 hits, 1001 walks, 260 homers, 1017 runs and 981 RBIs
- Led the majors in doubles from ’00-’09 with 431.

Albert Pujols (Cardinals)

- 6’3” righthanded first baseman and 3-hole hitter known for terrifying managers and pitchers alike
- Born and raised in the Dominican Republic but played his high school baseball in Independence, Missouri
- Tried out for the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, but the brass was unimpressed with Albert. The scout quit in protest

- Made his major league debut early as a result of a hamstring injury to Cardinal 3B Bobby Bonilla
- Upon the signing of 3B Scott Rolen in 2002, Pujols became the Cardinal's left fielder.
- Once had 7 assists in a game (as a first baseman)
- Never hit lower than .314 across his first 9 seasons
- Never hit fewer than 32 homers and 103 RBIs across his first 9 seasons
- 2-time MVP (and 3-time runner-up). XXX CHECK THIS at end of season
- Launched a foundation to support people with Down's Syndrome
- Active in trying to bring a major league soccer franchise to St. Louis
- From his debut in 2001 through 2009, hit .334 with 1717 hits, 1071 runs, 366 homers and 1112 RBIs

MORE OF THE DECADE'S TOP HITTERS
(with their regular season STATISTICS FROM 2000-2009)

LF Barry Bonds (Giants) (8 seasons)

.322 – 925 hits – 772 runs – 317 HR – 697 RBIs – 54 SB

SS Derek Jeter (Yankees)

.317 – 1940 hits – 1088 runs – 161 HR – 727 RBIs – 219 SB

C Joe Mauer (Twins) (6 seasons)

.327 – 844 hits – 419 runs – 72 HR – 397 RBIs – 34 SB

HIGHEST BATTING AVERAGE

(800 plate appearance minimum)

Albert Pujols - .334

Ichiro Suzuki - .333

Todd Helton - .331

MOST HITS

Ichiro Suzuki - 2030

Derek Jeter - 1940
Miguel Tejada – 1860

MOST RUNS

Alex Rodriguez - 1190
Johnny Damon - 1115
Derek Jeter – 1088

MOST HOME RUNS

Alex Rodriguez - 435
Jim Thome - 368
Albert Pujols - 366

MOST RUNS BATTED IN

Alex Rodriguez - 1243
Albert Pujols - 1112
Manny Ramirez - 1106

MOST GAMES PLAYED

Miguel Tejada – 1581
Bobby Abreau – 1574
Orlando Cabrera – 1533

MOST STOLEN BASES

Juan Pierre - 459
Carl Crawford - 362
Ichiro Suzuki – 341

MOST BATTING TITLES

Joe Mauer – 3
Barry Bonds – 2
Ichiro Suzuki – 2

MOST SEASONS LEADING THEIR
LEAGUE IN HOME RUNS

Alex Rodriguez – 5

Ryan Howard – 2
Sammy Sosa – 2

MOST SACRIFICE HITS
Omar Vizquel – 113
Juan Pierre – 110
Luis Castillo – 102

MOST SACRIFICE FLYS
Orlando Cabrera – 76
Mike Lowell – 76
Carlos Lee – 75

MOST INTENTIONAL WALKS
Barry Bonds – 390
Vladimir Guerrero – 213
Albert Pujols – 198

MOST TIMES DRILLED
Jason Kendall – 159
Jason Giambi – 138
David Eckstein – 134

MOST RUNS SCORED
New York Yankees – 8834
Boston Red Sox – 8647
Texas Rangers – 8468

FIELDING (2000-2009)

FEWEST UNEARNED RUNS SURRENDERED

Seattle Mariners – 514
Minnesota Twins – 529
Los Angeles Dodgers – 541

FEWEST ERRORS

Philadelphia Phillies – 906
Seattle Mariners – 906
San Francisco Giants – 935

MOST DEFENSIVE INNINGS

Miguel Tejada – 13,577.2
Bobby Abreau – 13,336.0
Orlando Cabrera – 13,164.1

MOST GOLD GLOVE AWARDS

CF – Torii Hunter – 9
RF – Ichiro Suzuki – 9
CF – Andruw Jones – 8
P – Greg Maddux – 8

THE IRONMEN OF THE DECADE

Jason Kendall caught 84% of his team's innings
Miguel Tejada was at shortstop for 94% of his team's innings
Derek Jeter played 93 postseason games and 8 All-Star games
in addition to his 1,500 regular season games.
Livan Hernandez led all pitchers with 332 starts, 2,201 innings
and 35,079 pitches thrown.

ELITE POSTSEASON HITTERS (2000-2009)

In 56 games, St. Louis' Albert Pujols slugged .578 with 13 homers, 36 walks, 39 runs and 36 RBIs

In 66 games, David Ortiz of the Red Sox slugged .520 with 12 homers, 41 walks, 39 runs, 47 RBIs and 3 walk-off hits.

In 93 games, the Yankees' Derek Jeter hit .307 with 16 homers, 42 walks, 64 runs and 43 RBIs.

ELITE POSTSEASON PITCHERS (2000-2009)

In 4 games, Kenny Rogers went 3-0 with a 0.00 ERA along with 22K in 24.1 innings.

In 9 games, Manny Corpas of the Rockies went 1-0 with an 0.87 ERA and 5 saves along with 7K in 10.1 innings.

In 10 games, Adam Wainwright of the Cardinals went 1-0 with an 0.51 ERA and 4 saves along with 22K in 17.2 innings.

In 22 games, Alan Embree went 1-0 with a 1.13 ERA along with 8K in 16 innings.

In 57 games, Mariano Rivera of the Yankees went 4-1 with a 0.94 ERA and 26 saves along with 68K in 86 innings.

The non-abbreviated version of this chapter in the book not only features more comprehensive lists, but an article on the transformation of the Expos into the Nationals. Additionally, there are features on

- *the decade's most enduring image*
- *the accumulative regular season standing*
- *listings of the players who entered "milestone" clubs such as the "500 homer club" and the "300 win club."*
- *The Anaheim Angels*
- *The Philadelphia Phillies*
- *Johan Santana*

And

- *Alex Rodriguez*

EXCERPT #3

TEN CENT BEER

JUNE 4, 1974

**Long before the days of the Jake
tragedy struck the mistake by the lake
Circumstances most Erie
made the fans oh so beery
that THIS story just might take the cake!!**

**The Indians were hosting the Rangers
unaware of impending dangers
Crowds in town had been sparse
so in the spirit of farce
the Tribe set out to lure strangers.**

**An idea burst forth at the time
that lacked both reason and rhyme
But the notion *seemed* clever,**

**a most creative endeavor:
Beer would sell FOR A DIME.**

**The folks - they packed to the park!
Many of who were there on a lark
They sloshed down those brews
while the flaskers drank booze
and that's when the situation turned dark.**

**Of his Rangers, Billy Martin was most proud,
so he ignored the crowd's taunts oh so loud
But the mood was corrupting
Fistfights were erupting
Soon, Billy blew kisses to the crowd.**

**From the stands, a fan stormed the field,
her breasts no longer concealed,
Chaos bounced through the air
All the players did stare
The fate of the night had been sealed.**

**More and more, the situation grew hairy,
as the mob grew more and more merry
Additional mayhem was beckoned
when a fan SLID NUDE into second
earning himself a most painful strawberry.**

**Booze continued to be wildly consumed
Soon, the air was marijuana perfumed
The Rangers played on that grass
wondering if they might lose their sass
since civility was all but entombed.**

**The bright moon shined FULL on this night
bathing the many stoned fans in loon light
Two men ran on the field – SO PROUD
to do THEIR part to full moon the crowd
causing many to regret having sight.**

Yep, the folks -- they sure like their suds!!

whether it be Strohs, Heineys or Buds
That buzz they do feel,
is a pleasure most real
for it transforms all men into studs.

One such dude lowered HIMSELF to the ground
and snatched Jeff Burroughs' cap WITH NO SOUND
When Jeff turned to confront
he tripped and fell blunt
leaving teammates to think he'd been crowned.

Liquid courage had been uncorked and unsealed
The right of way -- soon no one would yield
Billy Martin summoned his troops
Grabbing bats, they ran with loud WHOOPS
toward the riot that had come out of left field.

The din smelled of brew, firecrackers and pot
That nice family atmosphere? --- ALL BUT SHOT!!
As Mike Hargrove was nearing first base
a jug of Thunderbird whizzed by his face
MORE Cleveland fans were about to get fought!

Hargrove ensnared a trespasser at first
and pummeled him like he was cursed
The fan's skull did soon chafe
For him, NO BASE was safe
His injuries would require they be NURSED.

In left field, more fans hurdled the wall
forcing all of the baseball to stall
They darted across the green
within that mausoleum so mean
looking for Texas Rangers to brawl.

But few pranksters were part of *this* mix
for they wielded sharp knives, chains and sticks
The Rangers were surrounded,
in danger of being pounded
within this most bizarre of conflicts.

**The Tribe took notice from their dugout
and ran toward the scrum to help out
On orders from Ken Aspromonte,
whose mood was ANYTHING but jaunty,
they helped to save Texas, no doubt.**

**Brawling teams became friends in a flash
Together, they fled this monster mash
Through the bullpen tunnel they flocked,
beyond doorways that got locked
as the pissed rioters continued their bash.**

**Politeness had been more than repealed
as full fury hit the diamond unconcealed
The drunken rampage was so swollen
that the bases were literally stolen
for the field could yield no shield.**

**Twass' a night of spit, wieners and jugs,
puffs of smoke, dime beer and thugs
As the field got mauled,
a forfeit was called
leaving no fan in the mood to give hugs.**

**But amidst that violent commotion
and despite the angry emotion,
The night delivered a surprise
for it made Indians and Cowboys ALLIES
---and all because of a fire brewed potion!!**

EXCERPT #4

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- C. Some of the Most Unusual Forfeits in History
- D. Answer to Chapter 10

**Thank you for previewing
The
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