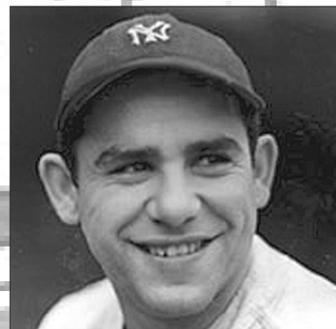


# Italian American Baseball Inductees

Poster One



**Lawrence "Yogi" Berra**

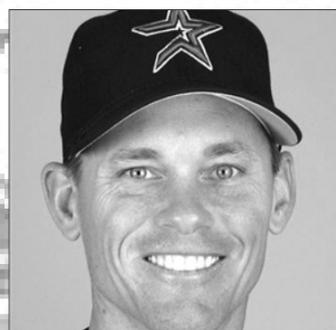
(1925-2015) Catcher

Lawrence Peter "Yogi" Berra was a most unlikely looking athlete, but he was blessed with one of the game's most graceful swings. During the 19 years Berra played for the Yankees, they won 14 pennants.

There never was any question about his hitting. Often swinging at pitches far out of the strike zone, golfing line drives over the first baseman's head, he had 10 straight years with 20 or more home runs and 5 times knocked in over 100 runs in a season. A power hitter with a keen eye, he struck out just 12 times in 597 at bats in 1950. He was particularly dangerous in the late innings with men on base.

Yogi was voted the league's Most Valuable Player 3 times, in 1951, 1954, and 1955. Berra was one of the shrewdest handlers of pitchers and most deft defensive catchers in the game, once handling 950 chances over 148 straight games without an error, a major-league record for catchers.

Inducted in 1972



**Craig Biggio**

(1965- ) Catcher

Craig Alan Biggio; born December 14, 1965, played his entire career from 1988 through 2007 for the Houston Astros. A seven-time National League (NL) All-Star often regarded as the greatest all-around player in Astros' history, he is the only player ever to be named an All-Star, both as a catcher and second base. He helped lead Houston to six play-off appearances from 1997 to 2005, culminating in the franchise's only World Series appearance in 2005.

Biggio, who batted .300 four times and scored 100 runs eight times, holds the Astros franchise records for most career games, at bats, hits, runs scored, doubles, and total bases. A four-time Gold Glove Award winner, he was the ninth player in the 3,000 hit club to collect all his hits with one team.

One of the most admired players of his generation, the Astros retired the #7 in his honor the year following his retirement.

Inducted in 2015



**Roy Campanella**

(1921-1993) Catcher

Campanella was known as a tough competitor whether at bat or catching. "Campy" played professional baseball from age 15, with the Negro National League for seven seasons. He joined the Brooklyn Dodgers at spring camp in 1948, and was sent to Dodgers' St. Paul farm club. By midseason Roy was back with the Dodgers and there he remained for 10 years, a power hitter, a flawless defensive catcher, and a shrewd handler of pitchers.

Playing on what was virtually an all-star team, Roy was a standout, being voted the National League's Most Valuable Player in 1951, 1953, and 1955. Catching 144 games in 1953, Roy batted .312, hit 41 home runs, and drove in a league-leading 142 runs. The home runs and runs batted in stand as single season major-league records for a catcher.

A star with both bat and glove, Roy was agile behind the plate, had a rifle arm and was an expert at handling pitchers.

Inducted in 1969



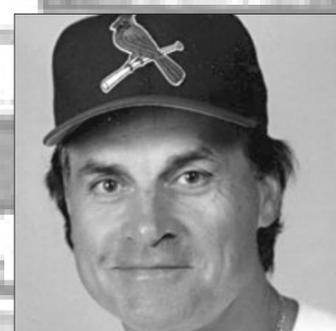
**Joe DiMaggio**

(1914-1999) Outfielder

Joe DiMaggio is remembered as one of the game's most graceful athletes - a picture player both at bat and in center field. His consecutive game hitting streak in 1941 is regarded as the top baseball feat of all time. The Yankee Clipper used an unusually wide stance in winning two batting titles and three MVP awards. In 13 seasons he amassed 361 homers, averaged 118 RBI annually and compiled a .325 lifetime batting mark.

In his rookie year, 1936, Joe hit .323 (2 points under what would ultimately be his lifetime batting average) and drove in 125 runs. A year later he batted .346, drove in 167 runs, and hit a league leading 46 home runs, an incredible number for a right handed hitter in Yankee Stadium. He kept getting better. In 1939 he led the league with a .381 batting average, then led again in 1940 with a .352 mark. He batted .357 in 1941 and dominated baseball in that year. He was a player who set records and a man who set standards.

Inducted in 1955



**Tony LaRussa Jr.**

(1944- ) Manager

Anthony "Tony" La Russa, Jr., born October 4, 1944, is an American professional baseball player, manager, and executive, currently serving as Chief Baseball Officer for the Arizona Diamondbacks. He is best known for his tenures as manager of the Chicago White Sox, Oakland Athletics, and St. Louis Cardinals of Major League Baseball. As a manager, La Russa guided his teams to three World Series titles, six league championships and twelve division titles in 33 seasons. His 2,728 wins as a manager ranks third all-time in major league history, behind Connie Mack and John McGraw.

La Russa retired after winning the 2011 World Series for the St. Louis Cardinals and 33 seasons as a major league manager. In 2014, he became the Chief Baseball Officer for the Arizona Diamondbacks. LaRussa was unanimously elected to the Hall of Fame by the 16-member Veterans' Committee.

Inducted in 2013



**Tommy Lasorda**

(1927- ) Manager

Thomas Charles "Tommy" Lasorda, born September 22, 1927, was for more than sixty-years in the Dodgers' organization. Tommy Lasorda remains the embodiment of Dodger Blue. In 2009, he marked his sixth decade in one capacity or another with the Brooklyn/Los Angeles Dodgers organization, the longest tenure anyone has had with the team, edging Dodger broadcaster Vin Scully by a single season. Tommy became third base coach for the LA Dodgers in 1973, and in 1976, Lasorda took the reins as team manager. Lasorda managed the Los Angeles Dodgers from 1976-1996; he won 1,599 games, two World Series and two more National League pennants all with the Dodgers.

After retiring in 1996, Lasorda stayed busy working in baseball. In 2000, he managed the US Olympic Baseball Team to a gold medal in the Sydney games.

Inducted in 1997



**Tony Lazzeri**

(1903-1946) 2nd Baseman

Lazzeri had a reputation for being one of the smartest players in baseball. He was loved and admired by all who knew him. For most of his career, Tony played for the Yankees. He was a star in a team loaded with stars, including Ruth, Gehrig, and DiMaggio. Nevertheless, Tony Lazzeri was the power-hitting second sacker for the Murderers' Row Yankees.

A key member of six pennant winners, he was a .300 hitter five times and drove in over 100 runs seven times. Lazzeri established an American League single game record with 11 RBI on May 24, 1936. Also in 1936, he hit the second Grand Slam in Series history. In 1937, his last year with the Yankees, he led all Series hitters with a .400 average.

Prior to the Yankees, Tony belted 60 home runs and drove in 222 runs in 1925 for Salt Lake City of the Pacific Coast League.

Inducted in 1991



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