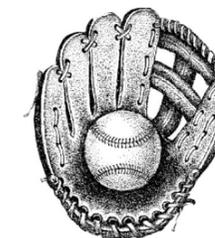


Italian American Baseball Inductees

Poster Two



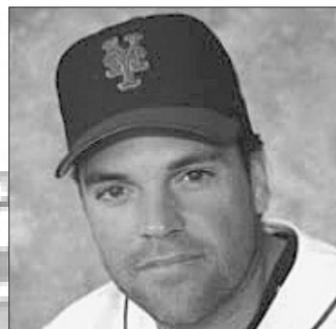
Ernie Lombardi
(1908-1977) Catcher

Ernie Lombardi was slow afoot, but he didn't let his lack of speed deter him. In his 17-year career, he compiled a .306 batting average and was recognized as a powerful presence behind the plate. Ernie hit .300 or better 10 times, earned the National League MVP Award in 1938 and won batting titles in 1938 and 1942. Lombardi had an outstanding throwing arm from a crouch position.

Ernie played 17 seasons in the big leagues, mostly with the Cincinnati Reds, from 1931 through 1947, and left behind a solid legend that he could hit a baseball as hard as any man who ever lived. The right-handed Lombardi's rockets landed in the outfield to give him a lifetime batting average of .306 and individual seasons of .343 (1935), .333 (1936), .334 (1937), a league-leading .342 (1938), and another batting title in 1942 with .330.

Ernie hit over .300 10 times and, as further evidence to his prowess at the plate, only once in his career did he strike out as many as 25 times in a single season.

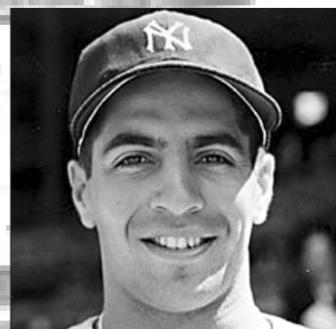
Inducted in 1986



Mike Piazza
(1968-) Catcher

Michael Joseph Piazza, born September 4, 1968, played MLB from 1992-2007. A 12-time All-Star and 10-time Silver Slugger Award winner as a catcher, Piazza produced strong offensive numbers at his position. In his career, he recorded 427 home runs, a record 396 hit as a catcher, along with a .308 batting average and 1,335 runs batted-in. Made his major league debut in 1992 and the following year was named (NL) Rookie of the Year and was an All-Star for the first of ten consecutive seasons. Piazza immediately impressed with his ability to hit for power and average. His best year came in 1997 when he batted .362, hit 40 home runs, and had 124 runs batted in finishing second in voting for the NL MVP Award. Traded to the Mets in 1998, where he spent most of the remainder of his career. He helped the Mets reach the 2000 World Series. He retired after the 2007 season. Mike is regarded as one of the best offensive catchers in baseball history.

Inducted in 2016



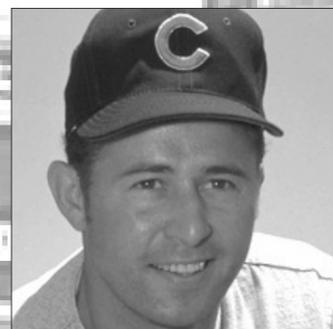
Phil Rizzuto
(1917-2007) Shortstop

Phil (Scooter) Rizzuto joined the Yankee Dynasty and played his entire career with them (1941-42 and 1946-56). He helped the Yankees win seven of nine World Series during his 13 seasons. Scooter was a durable and deft shortstop, skilled bunter and enthusiastic base runner who compiled a .273 lifetime batting average. A five-time All-Star, Rizzuto was named the American League's MVP in 1950 when he excelled with a .324 average, 200 hits and .439 slugging percentage.

Rizzuto led the AL in double plays three times and in putouts and fielding percentage twice each. His 1,217 career double plays ranked second in major league history when he retired, and his .968 career fielding average trailed only 1 other AL shortstop. He also ranked fifth in AL history in games at shortstop (1,647). In other categories he placed in the top 10.

He later spent four decades as a broadcaster for the Yankees. "Holy Cow!"

Inducted in 1994



Ron Santo
(1940-) Third Baseman

Ronald Edward Santo, February 25, 1940 - December 3, 2010, was a Major League Baseball third baseman that played for the Chicago Cubs from 1960 through 1973 and the Chicago White Sox in 1974. Santo was an All-Star for nine seasons during his 15-year career. He batted .300 or more and hit 30 or more home runs four times each, and is the only third baseman in MLB history to post eight consecutive seasons with over 90 runs batted in (1963-70). He is one of only three Hall of Fame third basemen to hit 300 career home runs. He also was a Gold Glove Award winner for five consecutive seasons.

Santo enjoyed his success despite battling diabetes since he was a teenager, a condition that was carefully and generally concealed publicly until 1971. It eventually necessitated the amputation of the lower half of both his legs.

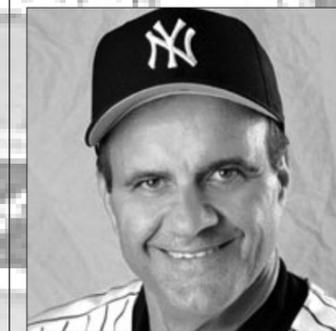
Inducted in 2012



John Smoltz
(1967-) Pitcher

John Andrew Smoltz, born May 15, 1967, played MLB from 1988 to 2009. An eight-time All-Star, Smoltz helped propel Atlanta to perennial pennant contention in the 1990s, highlighted by a championship in the 1995 World Series. He won (NL) Cy Young Award in 1996 after posting a record of 24-8. Though predominantly known as a starter, Smoltz was converted to a reliever in 2001 and spent four years as the team's closer before returning to a starting role. In 2002. He set the NL record with 55 saves, and became only the second pitcher in history to record both a 20-win season and a 50-save season. Smoltz is the only pitcher in major league history to record both 200 wins and 150 saves. Smoltz posted a record of 15-4 in 41 career postseason games. His NL total of 3,051 strikeouts ranked fifth in league history when he retired. Smoltz left the Braves after 2008. He was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility.

Inducted in 2015



Joseph "Joe" Torre
(1940-) Manager

Joseph Paul "Joe" Torre, born July 18, 1940, is ranked fifth all-time in MLB history with 2,326 wins as a manager. He became the manager of the New York Mets in 1977, when he briefly served as the Mets' player-manager. From 1996 to 2007, he was the manager of the New York Yankees, whom he guided to four World Series championships. His managerial career covered 29 seasons, including tenures with the Yankees and Los Angeles Dodgers, until 2010. Torre's greatest success came as manager of the Yankees. His club compiled a .605 regular season winning percentage and made the playoffs every year, winning four World Series titles, six American League pennants, and ten AL East division titles. In 1996 and 1998, he was the AL Manager of the Year. He also won two NL West division titles with the Dodgers for a total of 13 division titles. Torre was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame as manager.

Inducted in 2014

In The National Baseball Hall Of Fame

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