

The member institutions of their former coaches and players have provided the following biographical and statistical information.

Criteria Hall of Fame Enshrinement - Coaches

Coaches Coaches become eligible after ending active collegiate career, not to include an active coach on a professional baseball team.

Coaches must have achieved 300 career wins, or have won at least 65% of his games.

Coaches and Players will also be evaluated for their citizenship both during and after their active career.

Coaches Post-1947

Bibb Falk, Texas

1940-42, 1946-67

* A three-year letterman for the Longhorns (struck out 17 Texas A&M batters in 1920), who went on to play for the Chicago White Sox. He not only replaced the legendary Joe Jackson in left field when he arrived in the Major Leagues upon graduating from UT in 1920, but also posted a .314 career average in the majors. Notably, he hit .352 during one of his seasons, drove in 99 or more runs in three consecutive years and led the American League in pinch hits over the final two campaigns of his playing career while with the Cleveland Indians.

* Returned to the Forty Acres as the head coach of the program he once played for in 1942.

Over his 25 seasons as UT head coach, Falk led the Longhorns to their first two National Championships (1949 and 1950), 20 Southwest Conference titles and a 478-176 (.730) overall record. He also coached nine consecutive Southwest Conference Championship teams during his tenure as between 1946-54 the Horns went 111-19 in league action.

* Currently ranks among the top 15 Division I baseball coaches all-time in CWS history for appearances (10), games (37), winning percentage (.541) and victories (20).

* Inducted into the American Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame and the Longhorns Hall of Honor.

* Texas' home venue was named Disch-Falk Field

Jerry Kindall, Arizona

In 1956, Kindall was an All-American shortstop for Minnesota's NCAA National Championship team that beat Arizona in the College World Series title game...He still remains the last player in CWS history to hit for the cycle...After a stint as head coach at his alma mater, Kindall left for the University of Arizona, where he coached the Wildcats to 3 National Championships in 1976, 1980 and 1986. After 24 years, five trips to Omaha, and three national "Coach of the Year" Awards, Jerry retired in 1996 as the winningest coach in the history of the University of Arizona (861-580-7). The UA college diamond in Tucson bears the name Jerry Kindall Field; served as Head Coach of TEAM USA, and presently serves on the Executive Committee as Senior Advisor for USA Baseball. He is on the Board of Directors for the ABCA (Hall of Fame member); presently broadcasting college baseball for Fox Sports Network, as well as ESPN television. As a professional, he played eight years as an infielder in the MLB with the Cubs, Cleveland Indians and Minnesota—playing on the 1965 American League Champion Twins his last year before retiring. Coined the term "Friendly Confines" forever linked to Wrigley Field.

Jim Brock, ASU

Arizona State's second of only three varsity baseball coaches in the history of the program, Brock led the Sun Devils to a pair of national championships in 1977 and 1981 and recorded a 1,100-440 record during his 23 years at the helm of the Sun Devils. He led ASU to 13 College World Series appearances, including winning a pair of National Championships. He was inducted into the ABCA College Baseball Hall of Fame in 1998, and was the 1977 and 1981 NCAA Coach of the Year. Additionally, Brock was a five-time winner of the Pac-10 Coach of the Year award (1981, 1982, 1984, 1988, 1993). Additionally, Brock earned three degrees from Arizona State, including a bachelor, master's and doctorate degrees.

Brock coached a handful of Sun Devil legends, including first-round draft picks Eddie Bane, Floyd Bannister, Bob Horner, Hubie Brooks, Oddibe McDowell, Barry Bonds and Mike Kelly. All three of ASU's Golden Spikes Award winners (Horner, McDowell, Kelly) also played under Brock. His number 33 is retired at Arizona State, and the baseball facility, Winkles Field-Packard Stadium at Brock Ballpark, was named in honor of the late Dr. Brock in 2006.

Brock Career Record: 1,100-440 (.714)

NCAA Championships: 2 (1977, 1981)

College World Series Appearances: 13 (1972, 1973, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1981, 1983, 1984, 1987, 1988, 1993, 1994)

Conference Titles: 11 (Joined Pac-10 in 1979)

Dick Siebert, Minnesota

1948-78

Siebert compiled a 754-360-8 (.676) record in 31 years as Minnesota's Head Baseball Coach; a two-time NCAA Coach of the Year (1956, 60), Siebert is one of only five coaches in NCAA history to win three College World Series Championships (1956, 1960, 1964). He was the second coach in NCAA history to win three NCAA titles, and also coached Jerry Kindall who ended up winning three NCAA titles as a coach as well; Siebert won 11 Big Ten titles, which is the second-most in conference history; he is third on the Big Ten's all-time victory list with 295; Siebert is also second among Big Ten coaches in NCAA Tournament appearances with 12; One of three Division I coaches to ever coach two Major League Hall of Famers in Dave Winfield (1971-73) and Paul Molitor (1975-77) (Only other possibilities include Fordham – Frankie Frisch (1919) and Ed Walsh (1903) and Columbia (Eddie Collins (1907) and Lou Gehrig (1923); also managed former Major Leaguers Paul Giel, Jerry Kindall and former Gopher manager George Thomas. Minnesota named their venue Siebert Field in 1979. A St. Paul native who played baseball with the Brooklyn Dodgers, St. Louis Cardinals and Connie Mack's Philadelphia Athletics (where he was an All-Star in 1943), Siebert was named head baseball coach at the University of Minnesota in 1947.

Chuck "Bobo" Brayton, Washington State

When Fredrick Charles "Bobo" Brayton retired from Washington State University at the conclusion of the 1994 season, he ranked as the fourth winningest baseball coach in NCAA D-I history, as well as the winningest Cougar coach of all-time. However, his final record of 1,161 wins, 523 losses and eight ties only tells part of the story. During his 33 years at the helm, Brayton was not only a winning coach, but also an innovative leader in NCAA baseball. He has received the NCAA's Distinguished Service Awards on behalf of the College World Series and the NCAA Rules Committee and the Lefty Gomez Award for service and contributions to collegiate baseball. He has been inducted into numerous halls of fame, including the WSU Athletic HOF and the AACBC HOF. He championed several rule changes during his career to make college baseball safer and more popular and helped develop the College World Series post-season playoff system that was so popular for many years. He was chair of the NCAA Baseball Rules and College World Series committees for seven years and was chair of the committee to relocate the ABCA Baseball Hall of Fame. Regionally he was named Pacific-10 Conference Northern Division coach of the year five times, West Coast NCAA regional coach of the year once. His teams won 21 conference titles in his 33 years. Now retired Brayton lives on his farm near Pullman and is still a frequent visitor at Bailey-Brayton Field, named in his honor and the home of WSU Cougar baseball.

Criteria Hall of Fame Enshrinement - Players

Players become eligible 5 years after the student-athlete's final collegiate season, not to include any active player on a professional baseball team roster.

Players must have completed one year of competition at a 4-year institution.

Players must have made an All American team (post-1947) or

All League team (pre-1947 or have earned verifiable national acclaim).

Veteran and Historical Committees will have the right to nominate individuals from pre-1947 era.

Players and Coaches will also be evaluated for their citizenship both during and after their active career.

Players Post-1947

Derek Tatsuno, Hawai'i, P

1977-79

Career Statistics

1977 11-2, 2.87 ERA. Led nation in Ks with 146

1978 9-3, 1.45 ERA. Led nation in Ks with 161

1979 20-1, 1.86 ERA. Led nation in Ks with 234.

Led nation in Wins--1st NCAA 20-game winner (season)*

Career: 40-6, 2.04 ERA. 541 Ks

20 consecutive wins 1978-79

10 Shutouts

34 Complete Games

20 K in one game in 1979

PLAYER OF THE CENTURY: In a poll conducted by *Baseball America* in 1999, **Derek Tatsuno** ranked 10th as college baseball's "Player of the Century." Also on that list, Pete Incaviglia (#1, Oklahoma State), Bob Horner (#2, Arizona State), Robin Ventura (#3, Oklahoma State), Burt Hooten (#4, Texas), Dave Winfield (#5, Minnesota), Phil Stephenson (#6, Wichita State), John Olerud (#7, Washington State), J.D. Drew (#8, Florida State), and Eddie Bane (#9, Arizona State).

Fred Lynn, Southern California, OF

(1971-73)

*Played in 158 career games at USC from 1971-73. He batted .320 in his career (159-for-497) with 28 home runs and 111 RBI.

*Member of three USC national championship squads all three seasons

*He was a first team All-American in 1972 after batting .326 with 14 home runs and 46 RBI

*Earned All-College World Series honors in 1971 and Named to the 1970s All-Decade Team for the College World Series *1972 all-region and all-conference selection

Phil Stephenson, Wichita State

1979-82

Named an All-American in 1981 and 1982, and NCAA Player of the Year in 1982; Named one of the three best college players of the 20th century by Collegiate Baseball; Named a finalist for the Golden Spikes Award in 1982; Named the Missouri Valley Conference Player of the Year in 1982 and named an Academic All-American in 1982; Named all-Missouri Valley Conference three times; Holds NCAA records for career hits (418), runs (420), total bases (730), stolen bases (206) and walks (300); Led the NCAA in 1981 in hits (119), runs (112), and runs scored per game (1.60) and in 1982 in doubles (30), stolen bases (87) and walks (97); Ranks in the Shocker record books in nine career categories.

Pete Incaviglia, Oklahoma State, OF

1984-85

Pete Incaviglia is the most recognized power hitter in Oklahoma State and NCAA baseball history. He had the most impressive offensive year in NCAA history as a junior in 1985 in which he set NCAA single-season records for home runs (48), RBI (143), total bases (285) and slugging percentage (1.140). He set the NCAA career records for home runs (100) and slugging percentage (.915) and holds the Big Eight career records for RBI (324) and total bases (635).

He was named first-team All-America in 1984, and 1985, by the American Baseball Coaches Association, The Sporting News and Baseball America. Incaviglia was also named first-team All-Big Eight by the conference coaches in 1984 and 1985. He is one of only two players who were ever voted the Most Valuable Player of the Big Eight Tournament twice, earning the honor in 1984 and repeating in 1985.

He was a first-round draft choice of the Montreal Expos in the 1985 amateur draft and the 15th player selected overall. He was one of only five position players since the draft began in 1965 to go directly from amateur baseball to the major leagues.

He became the 49th player in major league history to reach 100 home runs in the first four seasons.

Incaviglia retired in 1999 after going to spring training with the Arizona Diamondbacks.

On Jan. 14, 1999, Incaviglia was named college baseball's Player of the Century by Baseball America.

Jim Abbott, Michigan, P

1986-88

LHP; Golden Spikes Award winner College Player-of-the-Year in 1987, AAU Sullivan Award for Amateur Athlete of the Year (first baseball player ever nominated, let alone win award), Big Ten Athlete of the Year (1988), Big Ten Player of the Year (1988), two-time winner Geoff Zahn Award as Michigan's Most Valuable Pitcher (1986 & 1987), second highest UM draft pick ever, eighth by California in 1988. Abbott has never considered himself as handicapped. He would explain that he played baseball the way he learned to play as a kid, just like anybody else.

Abbott was 11-3 as a sophomore in 1987 with a 2.08 ERA. He had a streak of 31 scoreless innings and the nine-game winning streak and his fame was still growing as he went to play for Team USA. In the summer he was 8-1 with a 1.70 ERA for Team USA and on July 18, 1987 Abbott gained international attention as he beat Cuba 8-3 in Havana. He was the first American pitcher to beat Cuba in Cuba in 25 years. The winner for Team USA on July 19 was the first American pitcher to win since 'yesterday' as once again Abbott's timing was excellent.

In August of 1987 Abbott had the honor of carrying the American Flag in the opening ceremonies of the Pan American Games in Indianapolis. He pitched the semi-final game, a win over Canada, qualifying Team USA for the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, South Korea.

Abbott was named winner of the Golden Spikes Award in October of 1987 as the top amateur baseball player in the United States. Winning the Golden Spikes qualified him to become the first baseball player to ever win the AAU's James E. Sullivan Award as the top amateur athlete in the nation. In fact, Abbott was the first baseball player nominated for the Sullivan Award, let alone win it.

By the time he was Wolverine junior in 1988, Abbott's national attention included a feature in Sports Illustrated, Parade Magazine, People Magazine, Weekly Reader, Baseball America and Collegiate Baseball. He did beat the 'SI Jinx' as he pitched a 10-0 complete game victory over Rider in NCAA regional action in Atlanta the week the story appeared in the magazine at the end of his sophomore season.

Abbott had added some off season awards being named the U.S. Olympic Committee's player of the year for baseball in January of 1988 and in February he was presented with the Academy Awards of Sport Award for Courage by the National Sports Academy in Birmingham, Ala.

Abbott added Time and Newsweek to his national press clipping list during his junior season that included a 9-3 record with eight complete games for a 26-8 career mark at Michigan with 13 complete games.

Abbott dropped his first start of 1988 in a national ESPN telecast from Texas but he then won eight straight starting with a spring trip win over St. John's. His next seven wins came against Grand Valley, Ball State, Northwestern, Minnesota, Purdue, Adrian and Wisconsin. He followed the streak with tough back-to-back extra-innings complete game losses to Ohio State and Indiana.

Abbott collected his final Wolverine win in the Big Ten Tournament vs. Ohio State and had a no decision in his final career start in NCAA regional action at Texas in an elimination game that Michigan lost 5-4 to the host Longhorns on an eighth inning homer.

An All-Big Ten first team selection as a junior, Abbott was named winner of the Geoff Zahn Award as Michigan's Most Valuable pitcher for the second straight year, was named Big Ten Baseball Player of the Year and became the first baseball player to be named winner of the Jesse Owens Award as the Big Ten Male Athlete of the Year.

A first round selection of the California Angels in the Major League Entry Draft in June of 1987, Abbott was the eighth player selected, second highest for a Wolverine ever behind Barry Larkin (fourth in 1985). With the Olympics held in South Korea in September and October, Abbott's professional career with the Angels would be delayed until spring training in 1989...While the Pan-Am gold would have been nice, reaching the championship game was more important in 1987. In 1988 the gold medal was important and Abbott beat Japan, 5-3, in the championship game for the gold medal. He retired 11 of the final 12 batters for the complete game victory. Once again Abbott's timing was key

Jim Abbott - Michigan career stats

Year G GS CG SAV W-L IP H R-ER BB SO ERA
 1986 14 10 1 0 6-2 50.1 49 34-23 34 44 4.11
 1987 15 15 4 0 11-3 86.1 71 24-20 39 60 2.08
 1988 17 16 8 0 9-3 97.2 88 54-36 56 82 3.32
 U-M 46 41 13 0 26-8 243.1 208 112-79 129 186 3.03
 Winning Percentage: 26-8 (.765)

John Olerud, Washington State, 1B/P (please also see attached document) 1987-89

In three seasons for the Cougars, Olerud combined to hit .434 (160-369) with 37 doubles, 33 home runs, 131 RBI and a .824 slugging percentage. Even more impressively, as a pitcher he was 26-4 with a 3.17 ERA (85 ER/241.1 IP) and 169 strikeouts in 39 career appearances (34 starts). He left Pullman as WSU's career leader in batting average (.434), slugging percentage (.824) and in the top five in home runs (33) and pitching wins (26). Olerud was inducted into the WSU Athletic Hall of Fame in 2001. Olerud posted arguably the greatest all-around season in college baseball history in 1988 and was honored as the *Baseball America* NCAA Player of the Year. At the plate, he hit .464 (108-233) with 83 runs, 21 doubles, 3 triples, 23 home runs, 81 RBI and a .876 slugging percentage. On the mound, he was a perfect 15-0 with a 2.49 ERA (34 ER/122.2 IP) in 19 games/16 starts. Also named Pac-10 North Player of the Year, first-team All-American by ABCA and *Baseball America*. He set WSU single-season records for batting average (.464), hits (108), home runs (23), total bases (204), slugging percentage (.876), hitting streak (22 games), wins in season (15), consecutive wins (16), innings pitched (122.2), and strikeouts (113) and tied marks for RBI (81) and games started (16). Helped lead the Cougars to a 52-14 record, winning the Pac-10 North and advancing to the NCAA West Regional.

OLERUD'S WASHINGTON STATE CAREER HITTING STATISTICS

YEAR CLASS	AVG	G	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SF	BB	SO	SB	CS	SLG	PO	A	E	FLD%
1987 Freshman.	.414	38	58	12	24	44	5	0	5	20	2	13	6	0	1	.759	133	27	1	.987
1988 Sophomore	.464	66	233	83	108	204	21	3	23	81	3	50	22	1	0	.876	240	47	2	.993

1989 Junior	.359	27	78	19	28	56	11	1	5	28	2	32	6	0	0	.718	25	1	0	1.000
COLLEGE TLS	.434	131	369	114	160	304	37	4	33	131	7	95	34	1	1	.824	398	75	3	.994

YEAR CLASS	W-L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SV	IP	H	R	ER	HR	BB	SO	WP
1987 Freshman	8-2	3.00	14	12	5	0	90.1	97	46	30	6	35	44	3
1988 Sophomore	15-0	2.49	19	16	5	1	122.2	100	46	34	7	39	113	4
1989 Junior	3-2	6.68	6	6	2	0	28.1	42	23	21	3	2	12	0
COLLEGE TLS	26-4	3.17	39	34	12	1	241.1	239	115	85	16	76	169	7

Bios of 2007 National College Baseball Hall of Fame Veteran Inductees

John "Jack" Barry, Holy Cross 1905-08, 1921-60

The "Knut Rockne" of college baseball, as Barry has been called many times, was born in Meriden, CT. He starred in sports at Meriden and then became a baseball brilliant with the Crusader Prep and college teams of 1905-08.

As a player, Barry was named captain of the 1908 Crusader team and helped lead his team to their first 20 win season. His speed, glove, arm and bat qualify him as the greatest shortstop in Holy Cross history.

As a coach, Barry returned to coach the Crusaders in 1920 after playing eight years of professional baseball. Barry led the Crusaders to glory as a player in the early 1900s, and sought to do the same as a coach. He returned to Holy Cross in 1921 and started a career that earned him the reputation as the number one man among college baseball coaches.

In his first season he guided the team to a school record 30-win season. Barry would continue to coach the Crusaders for an unprecedented 39 seasons (1921-1960) finishing with a 616-150-6 (.802) record. He stands as the all-time winningest coach (by both number of wins and winning percentage) in Holy Cross Athletics history. Holy Cross had 68 consecutive non-losing seasons from 1893-1960. Barry coached the Crusaders from 1921-60 (40 years), and had two .500 seasons. He never lost more than 8 games in a season (and then only once), and his best seasons were 1924 (19-0), 1935 (22-1) and 1940 (15-1). He coached 25 players who played in the major leagues.

His 1924 team was undefeated, 19-0. Two other teams finished with only one loss and eight others had just two losses. His teams recorded eight Eastern Intercollegiate Championships and made six NCAA College World Series appearances. The 1952 team was NCAA Champion. The Crusaders made the NCAA Tournament the next three seasons ('53-56), but lost their first game each year. HC returned to the College World Series in 1958, winning its first two games before dropping two-straight to Missouri and USC, but finished ranked third in the nation. It was HC's highest ranking since the 1952 National Championship team. The 1960 club went 12-5 and returned to the NCAA Tournament for the sixth time in nine years in Jack Barry's final season at the helm of the Crusaders. Barry was inducted into the Holy Cross Hall of Fame in 1956.

As a professional, Barry started his career with the Philadelphia A's when he was drafted by the legendary Connie Mack who stated that Barry was "the greatest shortstop there ever was." Mack traveled to Worcester personally to sign him up for the A's in 1908. As the starting shortstop, Barry figured prominently with his defensive play as a member of the old "\$100,000 infield" of the Philadelphia Athletics. This "Baseball Hall of Fame" infield had Stuffy McInnis at first, Eddie Collins at second, Jack Barry at short and Home-Run Baker at third. They led the A's to the World Series in 1910, 1911, 1913 and 1914. Jack was then traded to the Red Sox and led them to the World Series in 1915 and 1916. He became player-manager in 1917 and managed the team to a second place American League finish that year. He was in the Navy in 1918, the year the Red Sox won the World Series. He returned in 1919 to the Red Sox but retired after being sold back to the A's and suffered a career-ending knee injury. Although his lifetime batting average was only .243, it was his defensive skills and timely clutch hitting that determined his greatness.

**Joe Sewell, Alabama
1918-20, 1964-69**

There is no doubt that Joe Sewell was one of the finest baseball players to ever play for the Alabama Crimson Tide ... He was surrounded by an all-star cast of players that produced some of the greatest seasons in Crimson Tide lore ... As UA's starting second baseman from 1918-20, Sewell teamed with another future Major Leaguer, Riggs Stephenson (SS), to form a solid double-play combination ... Also, Sewell and Stephenson were regarded as two of the hardest hitters in baseball ... Sewell played on teams that posted a 42-4 (.913) record against college teams ... Overall, the Crimson Tide went 44-8 (.846) en route to three Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association titles in 1918, 1919 and 1920 ... The 1918 team featured five future MLB players -- Sewell, Stephenson, Dan Boone, Francis Pratt and Lena Stiles ... They posted a 13-4 record, including a 13-2 mark against college teams ... The 1919 team was just as successful, as Alabama went 16-2, including a 15-1 slate against college teams ... The Tide won its third straight SIAA title with a 15-2 record in 1920, including a 14-1 mark against college teams ... Sewell was the cornerstone on those successful Bama teams ... In 1920, he set every hitting and fielding record at Alabama was a named to the All-SIAA team and very mythical All-America team college baseball had to offer ... He batted over .300 but even more impressive was his defensive prowess at second base ... He was also captain of the 1920 team ... After leading UA to the 1920 SIAA title, Sewell signed with Cleveland and played in New Orleans in the Southern League, leading them to the AA Championship ... Sewell was then called up to the big leagues, where he replaced Ray Chapman, who was struck in the face and accidentally killed by a line drive, and became the Indians starting SS and helped them to the 1920 World Series championship over the Brooklyn Nationals ... Sewell had already won the college and minor league world series ... before joining the Indians and winning the World Series....That gave Sewell three World Series wins in a season. Not a bad year for the Titus, Alabama native ... He played 14 years in the big leagues for Cleveland and the New York Yankees, where he was Lou Gehrig's roommate ... Mr. Joe batted .312 during his career as he amassed over 2,200 career hits ... Sewell also set MLB records for fewest strikeouts in a season (4) and career (114) -- records that will never be broken ... He played on two World Series championship teams with Cleveland (1920) and NY Yankees (1932) ... He was inducted in the MLB Hall of Fame in 1977 ... Sewell returned to Alabama in 1964, at the age of 65, to coach the Crimson Tide baseball team ... He compiled a 106-79 (.603) overall record in five seasons ... He was forced to retire after the 1969 season at the state mandatory retirement age of 70 ... He led the 1968 team to a 24-14 record and the SEC Championship.

**Christy Mathewson, Bucknell
1898-1900**

Bucknell's most famous athlete ... often considered baseball's greatest pitcher ... one of five original members of the Baseball Hall of Fame and was inducted into the Bucknell Hall of Fame in 1979 ... three-sport athlete at Bucknell, playing football, basketball and baseball ...his football success helped him earn a contract to play baseball for Norfolk of the Virginia League his junior year ... gained his initial athletic fame as a fullback, punter and dropkicker at Bucknell from 1898-1900 ... in football, he was named the "12th man" on Walter Camp's 1900 All-America team ... was better known while at Bucknell as a hard hitting fullback and outstanding kicker. "Matty" was one of the truly outstanding players of his era, Mathewson kicked a point after touchdown in the first varsity game of his freshman year, and in the next three years added 13 touchdowns and eight field goals. Mathewson gained national attention when he dropkicked two field goals against Pennsylvania in 1899 and added a 45-yard field goal against Army the following year ... his punting was exceptional throughout his career, a three-year stretch during which he scored 106 points ... was president of his class ... was also well-known as a gentleman and a true scholar-athlete and member of the glee club. Bucknell's Christy Mathewson-Memorial Stadium (football) is named in his honor, and he is buried in the cemetery just behind the Kenneth Langone Athletics & Recreation Center.

During his 17-year professional career, Mathewson won 373 games and lost 188. His career ERA of 2.13 and 79 career shutouts are amongst the best all-time for pitchers. He recorded 2,502 career strike outs against 844 walks. All this after his original major league team, the New York Giants, were displeased with his early performances, returned him to the minors and demanded their money back.

Christy Mathewson Day is celebrated as a holiday in his hometown of Factoryville, Pennsylvania, annually on the Saturday closest to his birthday of August 12th.

Lou Gehrig, Columbia 1922-24

Columbia baseball players have come from almost every state and a number of foreign nations. But the most regarded and revered player in the University's history grew up right there on Manhattan Island, first in Yorktown and then in Washington Heights.

Lou Gehrig was indeed a chosen man. One of four children born to his parents, he was the only one to survive infancy. He starred in football and baseball at Commerce High, hitting a ninth-inning grand-slam home run in an inter-city game at Chicago's Wrigley Field and was recruited to Columbia by Robert Watt, then graduate manager of athletics. He continued in both sports at Columbia, starting at fullback and defensive tackle on the gridiron. On the baseball diamond, he soon began to attract attention for his prodigious home runs; the two most talked about were an opposite-field shot into a second-story window of the Journalism School and another that landed across College Walk, then a through city street.

On April 18, 1923, when Yankee Stadium opened for the first time, ace Yankee scout Paul Krichell wasn't on hand to see it; he was at South Field to see Gehrig play. And although the big sophomore pitched that day -- he struck out 17 in a losing effort against Williams, still a Columbia record -- Krichell realized that a man who could hit like Gehrig belonged in a Yankee uniform. "Columbia Lou", as he would come to be known, hit .444 that season and blasted seven home runs in 19 games. Both records stood for many years; the home run mark didn't fall until Mike Wilhite hit eight 55 years later, in 1978. He set a number of other records that have been surpassed over the years. But Gehrig wouldn't get to add to those totals; within two months after his last game, he had signed with the Yankees for a \$1500 bonus.

Many New Yorkers wondered how he could leave Columbia before graduation. Gehrig explained to *The New York Times* in 1939 that "a fellow has to eat. At the end of my sophomore year my father was taken ill and we had to have money ... when there was no money coming in there was nothing for me to do but sign up." By June of 1925, he had made the Yankees' starting lineup, where he would remain for 14 years, playing in 2130 consecutive games. He hit 493 home runs, batted .340 and slugged 23 grand-slam home runs, still the major league record. In a 1932 game, he became the first player in the 20th century to hit four home runs in a game.

But his body was failing him and in 1939 he was diagnosed with ALS, later to become known as Lou Gehrig's Disease. He bade farewell to the game in July 4 in one of the most stirring speeches ever uttered in sports. Although he never played again, he remained with the team the rest of that season. Gehrig was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in a special election and his number was retired, the first professional athlete ever to receive that honor. In January 1940, he became a member of the Parole Board, only to relinquish the job in the spring of 1941 when his illness intensified. He died in his sleep on June 2, 1941, 17 days short of his 38th birthday.



Official sponsor of the College Baseball Foundation and Hall of Fame