

TRANSPARENCY ANNEX C

METHODOLOGY FOR DETERMINING THE BEST PLAYERS IN EACH LEAGUE FOR THE 20TH CENTURY

There are numerous lists of the best players in major league baseball history. All of them, as far as I can tell, tend to rank the best players according to the totality of their careers. Inherent in most of these rankings, I am certain, are what each individual player accomplished during the best years of his career. Lifetime achievement is wonderful and must be acknowledged in any list of the greatest players ever. If you're building a *best team*, however, what you would rather have are these players in their *best seasons*.

My determination of the best players in each league's twentieth century history presumes to look *only* at each individual player's *best consecutive years*, not the totality of his career. Consequently, there are probably many instances in which my determination of the best players and pitchers of the century (and up to 2010) has a particular player lower in the rankings than he would be if the totality of his career was taken into account, because others had better consecutive "best years." Immediate examples that come to mind are Hall of Famers Willie Stargell, Tony Gwynn, and Don Sutton. Taking into account the totality of their careers, they certainly deserve a greater historical legacy than many of those who make my list as being among the best position players and pitchers since 1901. I do not rate any of the three, however, as having either a half-century or full-century-plus legacy because their minimum of five best consecutive seasons were not sufficient to supersede others' best consecutive years, at least according to me, with that judgment informed by WAR—Wins Above Replacement-level Player or Pitcher.

This annex ultimately identifies my selection of the 50 best position players, 30 best starting pitchers, and 6 best relief pitchers for both leagues from 1901 to date in 2010. These players have a “century-plus” legacy, according to me. To get there, this annex also includes the 25 best position players, 15 best starting pitchers, and 3 best relief pitchers in the each league for the first half of the twentieth century (1901-1950) and the 30 best position players, 18 best starting pitchers, and 5 best relievers for the second half of the twentieth century (1951-2000).

My methodological approach for determining the best players based on their best consecutive seasons relies primarily on the Wins Above Replacement (WAR) metric developed by Sean Smith of *BaseballProjection.com* and available on the website *baseball-reference.com*. This metric combines all of the contributions a position player or pitcher makes to his team, taking into account the position he plays and context to determine the number of wins he provides above what a replacement player from the highest levels of the minor leagues would contribute. I vetted my judgment in ranking players and pitchers by comparing the WAR scores for each player against Win Shares—an earlier metric developed by baseball historian and pre-eminent godfather of sabermetrics Bill James for calculating each player’s contributions to his teams total victories.

- My baseline for determining *five or more best consecutive years* was generally a WAR score of 5.0, defined in *baseball-reference* as an “All-Star” quality performance. This is a flexible baseline, however, and any player’s five or more best consecutive years are likely to include—and may begin or end with—a WAR player value somewhat below All-Star quality. Those judgments are mine, based on any number of factors that might include meeting the minimum five-year requirement for best consecutive years. For many truly great players with five or more consecutive years with WAR scores around or higher than 7.0 or 8.0—denoting an “MVP-caliber” performance—I nonetheless identified their best consecutive years as encompassing the string of years bookended by merely “All-Star” quality play. Their ultimate ranking by me, however, would be based primarily on their five or more consecutive years with the highest scores, even while identifying their best consecutive years as extended beyond those exceptional performances.
- As just indicated, my rankings of position players and pitchers are based on their *highest sustained level of performance* for five or more consecutive years, within which, of course, might be seasons—depending on length of time—of somewhat lesser value. Babe Ruth, for example, had a very poor season (for him) in 1925 in the midst of a long string of “best seasons” extending from 1919 to 1933. Very few, after all, are great every year. I also made allowance for best years to be interrupted by seasons lost (in their entirety or in large part) to injuries, illness, or military service. (This does not include years in which a player played all or a significant portion of the season despite being injured.) I took account of “lost” seasons by noting the number of years missed in parenthesis, such as (for example) the best consecutive seasons for Ted Williams being 1939-57 (-5), for

1943 to 1945 when he was in the military during World War II and 1952 and 1953 when he fought in the Korean War.

- For the sake of providing some transparency to my rankings, I provide *an average annual WAR* for the years I judge to fall within any player's five or more best consecutive seasons. I do not provide a total WAR score for those years because I am not limiting a player's best consecutive years to only five. Cumulative WAR scores would be unfair to players making my list with the minimum five best consecutive years being compared to those having ten or more best consecutive seasons, while, on the other hand, limiting everyone to five best consecutive years would be unfair to the likes of Babe Ruth and Willie Mays and other transcendently great players. Players and pitchers are *not* ranked according to their average annual WAR from highest to lower because the annual average can be misleading, especially for players that might have had one or two truly exceptional years, or (much less often) very poor seasons, that are way off the mean of his typical All-Star quality (or above) performance. *Remember, I am ranking according to a sustained high level of performance over the player's best consecutive seasons, not according to one or two outlier years.* Consequently, I have examined the pattern of WAR scores falling within the range of bookend (for the most part) All-Star quality seasons that determine a player's best consecutive years, looking at high and low anomalies, their frequency, and at what level of performance he maintained for most of those years.
- To ensure the most rigor in rankings that are inevitably somewhat subjective, *I ranked the 10 best position players, 5 best starting pitchers, and the best relief pitcher for successive 10-year "decade" periods.* I overlapped the decade periods by three years so that a player's five best consecutive seasons were not inadvertently missed. Therefore, I ranked the 10 best position players and 5 best pitchers in each league for 1901-10, 1908-17, 1915-24, 1922-31, 1929-38, 1936-45, 1943-52 for the first half-century (although the cut for the first half-century was 1950), and similarly for the second half-century, beginning in 1951 through 2002 (with the cut for the full century in 2000). I also ranked players and pitchers from 2001 to 2010 for the purpose of inclusiveness in my selection of players with a century-plus legacy.
- *As each of these "decades" was completed, I sorted the best players in each decade against those previously selected as the best in each league to that point in time.* My expectation in doing so is that such a dynamic ranking—with additions of players as the century progressed, causing lower-rated predecessors to drop out—would most accurately reflect the appropriate rank ordering of the best players of the century for both the American and National Leagues.
- Once a player's ranking according to his "best consecutive years" was established in comparison to his contemporaries, he could not drop relative to them unless one or more of his contemporaries had additional best seasons in the next 10-year period that improved *that* player's overall position. If one player ranked ahead of

a contemporary according to his best seasons, he could not drop behind the other player even if the remainder of his career was a bust, while the other player had more good (but not “best”) seasons that might have made him a better player taking their full careers into account. Again, this is about *best consecutive years*.

- Similarly, once a player’s ranking according to his “best consecutive years” was established, he could not rise ahead of those ranked higher than him to that point in time unless he extended his best consecutive years into the next decade, or had even better best consecutive seasons.
- *In either case, once a player’s position relative to that point in the century is locked, his ultimate standing depends on the number of players following whose “best consecutive years” were better than his.*
- I will emphasize again that the Wins Above Replacement metric is used to *inform*, not *dictate*, how players’ “best consecutive years” compared to each other. This is not a ranking based only on descending order of the most average annual wins above replacement. WAR scores did not quantitatively determine my rankings of the *best* players of the century, but did significantly influence them. Other considerations included the *number* of best consecutive years any particular player had and the era of baseball during which he played—whether, for example, pitching or hitting dominated at the time.
- The most significant “other consideration” I allow, however, is for the first two generations of black African-American and Latin American players, who in the 1950s had to endure the challenges of being among the trailblazers of integration when there was still considerable clubhouse and institutional hostility, and who into the mid-to-late 1960s still had to endure discrimination and even segregation off the field while trying to establish their careers. Many, like Willie Mays and Hank Aaron, were easy to rank and needed no “consideration” because their WAR scores were exceptional by any standard. Others, like Roy Campanella, Larry Doby, and even Frank Robinson when he was with the Cincinnati Reds, I ranked higher than an assessment of their WAR scores might otherwise have merited because—being among major league baseball’s black trailblazers—their social-psychological burdens while playing the game at a sustained high level were much greater than for white players.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: BEST POSITION PLAYERS

25 BEST, 1901-1950

30 BEST, 1951-2000

PLAYER, BEST CONSEC YRS	Ave WAR	PLAYER, BEST CONSEC YRS	Ave WAR
Honus Wagner, SS, 1901-12	8.74	Willie Mays, OF, 1954-66	9.42
Rogers Hornsby, 2B, 1919-31 (-1)	8.97	Joe Morgan, 2B, 1971-77	8.91
Stan Musial, OF/1B, 1942-50 (-1)	8.11	Hank Aaron, OF, 1955-71	7.62
Mel Ott, OF, 1929-42	6.76	Mike Schmidt, 3B, 1974-87	7.51
Arky Vaughan, SS, 1933-41	6.78	Barry Bonds, OF, 1987-2000	7.88
Johnny Mize, 1B, 1936-48 (-3)	6.44	Eddie Mathews, 3B, 1953-63	7.41
Frankie Frisch, IF-2B, 1921-27	6.54	Ernie Banks, SS, 1955-60	8.07
Frank Chance, 1B, 1903-07	6.28	Stan Musial, OF-1B, 1951-57	7.13
Bill Terry, 1B, 1929-34	6.30	Duke Snider, OF, 1952-56	7.72
Paul Waner, OF, 1926-34	5.67	Johnny Bench, C, 1969-75	6.34
Pee Wee Reese, 1942-49 (-3)	6.04	Roberto Clemente, OF, 1964-71	6.90
Roger Bresnahan, OF-C, 1903-08	4.70	Jeff Bagwell, 1B, 1993-2000	6.96
Johnny Evers, 2B, 1907-12 (-1)	5.20	Ron Santo, 3B, 1963-69	7.60
Joe Medwick, OF, 1935-39	6.22	Frank Robinson, OF, 1956-64	6.33
Heinie Groh, 3B, 1916-20	5.32	Craig Biggio, 2B, 1995-99	6.62
Hack Wilson, OF, 1926-30	6.04	Roy Campanella, C, 1951-55	4.72
Sherry Magee, OF, 1905-10	5.48	Willie McCovey, 1B, 1965-1970	6.60
Edd Roush, OF, 1917-23 (-1)	4.98	Pete Rose, OF-3B, 1968-76	6.14
Dolf Camilli, 1B, 1936-42	5.69	Gary Carter, C, 1977-85	6.02
Fred Clarke, OF, 1901-09	4.96	Barry Larkin, SS, 1991-99	5.21
Enos Slaughter, OF, 1942-49 (-3)	5.26	Ryne Sandberg, 2B, 1988-92	6.16
Travis Jackson, SS, 1927-31	5.36	Ozzie Smith, SS, 1985-89	5.98
Wally Berger, OF, 1931-35	5.20	Mike Piazza, C, 1993-98	6.48
Gabby Hartnett, C 1928-35 (-1)	3.69	Dale Murphy, OF, 1982-87	5.48
Art Fletcher, SS, 1913-17	4.96	Tim Lincecum, OF, 1983-87	6.14
		Cesar Cedeno, OF, 1972-76	6.50
		Richie Allen, 3B/OF, 1964-68	6.62
		Richie Ashburn, OF, 1953-58	5.82
		Bobby Bonds, OF, 1969-73	6.14
		Dave Parker, OF, 1975-79	6.02

Note: The first 15 of the 25 best players in the first half-century (Wagner through Groh) and all 30 of the best players in the second half-century are among the National League's 46 best position players for the full century, 1901-2000. **Stan Musial's** best consecutive years overlapped 1950. The best consecutive years for **Jackie Robinson** (1948-52) and **Ralph Kiner** (1947-51) put them among the best NL players of the century, but don't count for either half-century because they overlapped 1950.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: 50 BEST POSITION PLAYERS, 1901-2010

1-25

26-50

PLAYER, BEST CONSEC YRS	Ave WAR	PLAYER, BEST CONSEC YRS	Ave WAR
Willie Mays, OF, 1954-66	9.42	Pete Rose, OF-3B, 1968-76	6.14
Honus Wagner, SS, 1901-12	8.74	Gary Carter, C, 1977-85	6.02
Barry Bonds, OF, 1987-2004	8.92	Andruw Jones, OF, 1998-2006	6.14
Albert Pujols, 3b-1B, 2001-10	8.38	Todd Helton, 1B, 2000-04	7.34
Joe Morgan, 2B, 1971-77	8.91	Chase Utley, 2B, 2005-09	6.48
Hank Aaron, OF, 1955-71	7.62		
Stan Musial, OF/1B, 1942-57 (-1)	7.65	Barry Larkin, SS, 1991-99	5.21
Rogers Hornsby, 2B, 1919-31 (-1)	8.97	Ryne Sandberg, 2B, 1988-92	6.16
Mike Schmidt, 3B, 1974-87	7.51	Chipper Jones, 3B-1f, 1998-2002	6.32
Eddie Mathews, 3B, 1953-63	7.41	Frankie Frisch, IF-2B, 1921-27	6.54
		Ozzie Smith, SS, 1985-89	5.98
Mel Ott, OF, 1929-42	6.76	Mike Piazza, C, 1993-98	6.48
Jackie Robinson, 2B, 1948-53	8.18	Dale Murphy, OF, 1982-87	5.48
Ernie Banks, SS, 1955-60	8.07	Frank Chance, 1B, 1903-07	6.28
Arky Vaughan, SS, 1933-41	6.78	Tim Lincecum, OF, 1983-87	6.14
Duke Snider, OF, 1949-56	6.66	Cesar Cedeno, OF, 1972-76	6.50
Johnny Mize, 1B, 1936-48 (-3)	6.44		
Johnny Bench, C, 1969-75	6.34	Bill Terry, 1B, 1929-34	6.30
Roberto Clemente, OF, 1964-71	6.90	Paul Waner, OF, 1926-34	5.67
Jeff Bagwell, 1B, 1993-2001	6.78	Pee Wee Reese, SS, 1942-49 (-3)	6.04
Ron Santo, 3B, 1963-69	7.60	Scott Rolen, 3B, 1998-2004	5.93
		Roger Bresnahan, OF-C, 1903-08	4.70
Frank Robinson, OF, 1956-64	6.33	Richie Allen, 3B/OF, 1964-68	6.62
Craig Biggio, 2B, 1995-99	6.62	Johnny Evers, 2B, 1907-12 (-1)	5.20
Roy Campanella, C, 1949-55	4.66	Joe Medwick, OF, 1935-39	6.22
Willie McCovey, 1B, 1965-1970	6.60	Hanley Ramirez, SS, 2006-10	5.82
Jim Edmonds, OF, 2000-05	7.15	Richie Ashburn, OF, 1953-58	5.82

NATIONAL LEAGUE: BEST STARTING PITCHERS

15 BEST, 1901-1950

18 BEST, 1951-2000

PITCHER, BEST CONSEC YRS	Ave WAR	PITCHER, BEST CONSEC YRS	Ave WAR
Grover Alexander, 1911-20 (-1)	7.91	Greg Maddux, 1992-98	7.27
Christy Mathewson, 1903-13	7.28	Sandy Koufax, 1961-66	7.93
Carl Hubbell, 1932-36	7.26	Tom Seaver, 1967-77	7.17
Three-Finger Brown, 1906-10	6.86	Bob Gibson, 1964-72	7.33
Dizzy Dean, 1932-36	6.24	Juan Marichal, 1963-69	7.11
Dazzy Vance, 1924-30	6.31	Phil Niekro, 1974-79	7.50
Lon Warneke, 1932-36	5.22	Robin Roberts, 1951-55	7.46
Nap Rucker, 1908-12	6.56	Kevin Brown, 1996-2000	6.92
Hippo Vaughn, 1916-20	5.72	Ferguson Jenkins, 1967-72	7.07
Wilbur Cooper, 1916-22	4.84	Warren Spahn, 1951-59	5.93
Bucky Walters, 1939-44	4.42	Tom Glavine, 1991-98	4.70
Ed Reulbach, 1905-09	5.28	Gaylord Perry, 1966-70	6.84
Jeff Pfeffer, 1914-19 (-1)	5.34	Steve Carlton, 1977-83	5.31
Eppa Rixey, 1921-25	4.78	Don Drysdale, 1959-64	6.28
Jack Taylor, 1902-06	4.66	Curt Schilling, 1996-2000	5.06
		John Smoltz, 1995-99	4.52
		Orel Hershiser, 1985-89	5.80
		Jim Maloney, 1963-67	5.88

Note: The first 10 of the 15 best pitchers in the first half-century (Alexander through Cooper) and all 18 of the best pitchers in the second half-century are among the National League's 28 best starting pitchers for the full century, 1901-2000.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: 30 BEST STARTING PITCHERS, 1901-2010

1-15

16-30

PITCHER, BEST CONSEC YRS	Ave WAR	PITCHER, BEST CONSEC YRS	Ave WAR
Greg Maddux, 1992-98	7.27	Dizzy Dean, 1932-36	6.24
Sandy Koufax, 1961-66	7.93	Warren Spahn, 1949-59	5.80
Grover Alexander, 1911-20 (-1)	7.91	Dazzy Vance, 1924-30	6.31
Randy Johnson, 1999-2004 (-1)	8.08	Tom Glavine, 1991-98	4.70
Tom Seaver, 1967-77	7.17	Gaylord Perry, 1966-70	6.84
Christy Mathewson, 1903-13	7.28	Steve Carlton, 1977-83	5.31
Bob Gibson, 1964-72	7.33	Don Drysdale, 1959-64	6.28
Juan Marichal, 1963-69	7.11	Lon Warneke, 1932-36	5.22
Robin Roberts, 1950-54	8.04	Nap Rucker, 1908-12	6.56
Carl Hubbell, 1932-36	7.26	John Smoltz, 1995-99	4.52
Phil Niekro, 1974-79	7.50	Orel Hershiser, 1985-89	5.80
Three-Finger Brown, 1906-10	6.86	Hippo Vaughn, 1916-20	5.72
Kevin Brown, 1996-2000	6.92	Brandon Webb, 2003-08	4.92
Curt Schilling, 1997-2002	5.85	Jim Maloney, 1963-67	5.88
Ferguson Jenkins, 1967-72	7.07	Wilbur Cooper, 1916-22	4.84

NATIONAL LEAGUE: BEST RELIEF PITCHERS

3 BEST, 1901-50	Ave WAR	6 BEST, 1901-2010	Ave WAR
RELIEVER, BEST CONSEC YRS		RELIEVER, BEST CONSEC YRS	
Hugh Casey, 1940-47 (-3)	1.72	Bruce Sutter, 1976-80	3.48
Doc Crandall, 1909-13	1.28	Lee Smith, 1982-87	2.93
Charlie Root, 1934-38	2.12	Roy Face, 1955-62	1.93
5 BEST, 1951-2000		Trevor Hoffman, 1994-98	2.88
RELIEVER, BEST CONSEC YRS		Billy Wagner, 1999-2005 (-1)	2.87
		Kent Tekulve, 1978-83	2.42
Bruce Sutter, 1976-80	3.48		
Lee Smith, 1982-87	2.93		
Roy Face, 1955-62	1.93		
Trevor Hoffman, 1994-98	2.88		
Kent Tekulve, 1978-83	2.42		

AMERICAN LEAGUE: BEST POSITION PLAYERS

25 BEST, 1901-1950

30 BEST, 1951-2000

PLAYER, BEST CONSEC YRS	Ave WAR	PLAYER, BEST CONSEC YRS	Ave WAR
Babe Ruth, OF, 1919-34	10.01	Mickey Mantle, OF, 1952-64 (-1)	8.49
Ty Cobb, OF, 1907-19	8.92	Rickey Henderson, OF, 1980-93	6.99
Ted Williams, OF, 1939-49 (-3)	9.45	Wade Boggs, 3B, 1983-89	8.07
Eddie Collins, 2B, 1909-17	8.84	George Brett, 3B, 1975-80	7.35
Tris Speaker, OF, 1909-23	7.65	Ken Griffey, Jr., OF, 1991-98	7.11
Lou Gehrig, 1B, 1926-37	9.25	Cal Ripken, Jr, SS, 1983-91	6.89
Joe DiMaggio, OF, 1937-50 (-3)	6.90	Alex Rodriguez, SS, 1996-2000	7.56
Napoleon Lajoie, 2B, 1901-10	7.28	Reggie Jackson, OF, 1971-76	6.38
Frank Baker, 3B, 1909-14	7.47	Carl Yastrzemski, OF, 1966-70	8.12
Jimmie Foxx, 1B, 1929-39	7.23	Ted Williams, OF, 1951-57 (-2)	7.20
Joe Jackson, OF, 1911-20 (-1)	6.78	Yogi Berra, C, 1950-56	5.53
Charlie Gehringer, 2B, 1933-38	7.55	Robin Yount, SS, 1980-84	7.42
Hank Greenberg, 1B-of, '34-40 (-1)	6.92	Al Kaline, OF, 1955-67	5.68
Mickey Cochrane, C, 1930-35	5.40	Larry Doby, OF, 1950-54	5.94
Harry Heilmann, OF, 1921-27	6.69	Frank Robinson, OF, 1966-70	6.14
Al Simmons, OF, 1925-31	6.07	Brooks Robinson, 3B, 1964-68	6.34
Bill Dickey, C, 1933-39	4.73	Rod Carew, 2B-1b, 1973-77	7.94
George Davis, SS, 1902-07 (-1)	6.42	Pudge Rodriguez, C, 1996-2000	5.88
George Sisler, 1B, 1917-22	6.88	Frank Thomas, 1B/dh, 1991-97	6.57
Joe Gordon, 2B, 1939-43	6.30	Sal Bando, 3B, 1969-74	6.48
Luke Appling, SS, 1935-40 (-1)	6.12	Eddie Murray, 1B, 1982-86	5.84
Charlie Keller, OF, 1939-46 (-2)	6.02	Harmon Killebrew, 3B/1B, '66-70	5.48
Sam Crawford, OF, 1907-11	5.80	Minnie Minoso, OF, 1953-59	5.77
Joe Cronin, SS, 1930-34	6.40	Carlton Fisk, C, 1972-78 (-1)	5.07
Lou Boudreau, SS, 1943-48	6.20	Al Rosen, 3B, 1950-54	6.08
		Paul Molitor, 3B-DH, 1987-93	5.46
		Bobby Grich, 2B, 1972-76	6.40
		Alan Trammell, SS, 1986-90	6.04
		Jim Fregosi, SS, 1964-70	5.56
		Don Mattingly, 1B, 1984-88	5.84

Note: The first 23 of the 25 best players in the first half-century (Ruth through Crawford) and the first 24 of the 30 of the best players in the second half-century (Mantle through Fisk) are among the American League's 46 best position players for the full century, 1901-2000. **Ted Williams'** best consecutive years overlapped 1950.

AMERICAN LEAGUE: 50 BEST POSITION PLAYERS, 1901-2010

1-25

26-50

PLAYER, BEST CONSEC YRS	Ave WAR	PLAYER, BEST CONSEC YRS	Ave WAR
Babe Ruth, OF, 1919-34	10.01	Al Kaline, OF, 1955-67	5.68
Ty Cobb, OF, 1907-19	8.92	Mickey Cochrane, C, 1930-35	5.40
Mickey Mantle, OF, 1952-64 (-1)	8.49	Larry Doby, OF, 1950-54	5.94
Ted Williams, OF, 1939-57 (-5)	8.26	Frank Robinson, OF, 1966-70	6.14
Eddie Collins, 2B, 1909-17	8.84	Harry Heilmann, OF, 1921-27	6.69
Tris Speaker, OF, 1909-23	7.65		
Lou Gehrig, 1B, 1926-37	9.25	Brooks Robinson, 3B, 1964-68	6.34
Alex Rodriguez, SS-3B, 2000-08	7.67	Ichiro Suzuki, OF, 2001-09	5.63
Joe DiMaggio, OF, 1937-50 (-3)	6.90	Rod Carew, 2B-1b, 1973-77	7.94
Rickey Henderson, OF, 1980-93	6.99	Pudge Rodriguez, C, 1996-2000	5.88
		Nomar Garciaparra, SS, '97-03 (-1)	6.73
Wade Boggs, 3B, 1983-89	8.07	Frank Thomas, 1B/dh, 1991-97	6.57
Napoleon Lajoie, 2B, 1901-10	7.28	Sal Bando, 3B, 1969-74	6.48
George Brett, 3B, 1975-80	7.35	Eddie Murray, 1B, 1982-86	5.84
Ken Griffey, Jr., OF, 1991-98	7.11	Harmon Killebrew, 3B/1B, '66-70	5.48
Frank Baker, 3B, 1909-14	7.47	Al Simmons, OF, 1925-31	6.07
Jimmie Foxx, 1B, 1929-39	7.23		
Cal Ripken, Jr., SS, 1983-91	6.89	Bill Dickey, C, 1933-39	4.73
Reggie Jackson, OF, 1971-76	6.38	Derek Jeter, SS, 1998-2006	5.35
Carl Yastrzemski, OF, 1966-70	8.12	Minnie Minoso, OF, 1953-59	5.77
Yogi Berra, C, 1950-56	5.53	Carlton Fisk, C, 1972-78 (-1)	5.07
		George Davis, SS, 1902-07 (-1)	6.42
Joe Jackson, OF, 1911-20 (-1)	6.78	George Sisler, 1B, 1917-22	6.88
Charlie Gehringer, 2B, 1933-38	7.55	Joe Gordon, 2B, 1939-43	6.30
Robin Yount, SS, 1980-84	7.42	Luke Appling, SS, 1935-40 (-1)	6.02
Joe Mauer, C, 2006-10 +	6.76	Charlie Keller, OF, 1939-46 (-2)	5.80
Hank Greenberg, 1B-of, '34-40 (-1)	6.92	Sam Crawford, OF, 1907-11	6.40

AMERICAN LEAGUE: BEST STARTING PITCHERS

15 BEST, 1901-1950

18 BEST, 1951-2000

PITCHER, BEST CONSEC YRS	Ave WAR	PITCHER, BEST CONSEC YRS	Ave WAR
Lefty Grove, 1926-37 (-1)	7.52	Roger Clemens, 1986-92	7.60
Walter Johnson, 1910-19	9.08	Jim Palmer, 1970-78	5.63
Bob Feller, 1938-47 (-4)	7.72	Bert Blyleven, 1971-77	6.49
Ed Walsh, 1907-12	8.07	Dave Stieb, 1980-85	6.08
Cy Young, 1901-08	6.94	Randy Johnson, 1992-97 (-1)	5.86
Hal Newhouser, 1944-49	7.18	David Cone, 1993-97	5.64
Stan Coveleski, 1917-22	6.67	Early Wynn, 1951-56	5.13
Rube Waddell, 1902-06	6.28	Nolan Ryan, 1972-77	5.82
Wes Ferrell, 1929-36	5.29	Gaylord Perry, 1972-77	6.13
Eddie Plank, 1902-07	5.43	Mike Mussina, 1994-2000	4.81
Red Ruffing, 1935-39	5.14	Kevin Appier, 1992-97	6.03
Urban Shocker, 1919-23	5.50	Billy Pierce, 1951-56	5.25
Addie Joss, 1904-08	5.40	Ron Guidry, 1977-83	4.84
Lefty Gomez, 1934-38	5.48	Camilo Pascual, 1959-63	5.06
Carl Mays, 1917-21	4.86	Catfish Hunter, 1971-75	4.84
		Whitey Ford, 1961-65	4.42
		Bob Lemon, 1952-56	4.46
		Mickey Lolich, 1969-73	5.94

Note: The first 12 of the 15 best pitchers in the first half-century (Grove through Shocker) and 14 of the 18 best pitchers in the second half-century (Clemens through Pascual) are among the American League's 28 best starting pitchers for the full century, 1901-2000. Although **Bob Lemon** in my rankings for the second half of the century falls below Pascual, his best consecutive years overall from 1948 to 1956, overlapping 1950, merit him a full-century legacy. **Mel Parnell**'s best consecutive years (1948-53) put him among the best AL pitchers of the century, but does not count for either half-century because they overlapped 1950.

AMERICAN LEAGUE: 30 BEST STARTING PITCHERS, 1901-2010

1-15

16-30

PITCHER, BEST CONSEC YRS	Ave WAR	PITCHER, BEST CONSEC YRS	Ave WAR
Lefty Grove, 1926-37 (-1)	7.52	David Cone, 1993-97	5.64
Walter Johnson, 1910-19	9.08	Mike Mussina, 1994-2003	5.05
Roger Clemens, 1986-92	7.60	Wes Ferrell, 1929-36	5.29
Bob Feller, 1938-47 (-4)	7.72	Early Wynn, 1951-56	5.13
Ed Walsh, 1907-12	8.07	Nolan Ryan, 1972-77	5.82
Jim Palmer, 1970-78	5.63	Eddie Plank, 1902-07	5.43
Bert Blyleven, 1971-77	6.49	Gaylord Perry, 1972-77	6.13
Pedro Martinez, 1998-2003	7.13	Kevin Appier, 1992-97	6.03
Cy Young, 1901-08	6.94	Billy Pierce, 1951-56	5.25
Hal Newhouser, 1944-49	7.18	Bob Lemon, 1948-56	4.50
Stan Coveleski, 1917-22	6.67	Red Ruffing, 1935-39	5.14
Roy Halladay, 2002-09	5.61	Ron Guidry, 1977-83	4.84
Rube Waddell, 1902-06	6.28	Urban Shocker, 1919-23	5.50
Dave Stieb, 1980-85	6.08	Mel Parnell, 1948-53	4.95
Randy Johnson, 1992-97 (-1)	5.86	Camilo Pascual, 1959-63	5.06

AMERICAN LEAGUE: BEST RELIEF PITCHERS

3 BEST, 1901-50	Ave WAR	6 BEST, 1901-2010	Ave WAR
RELIEVER, BEST CONSEC YRS		RELIEVER, BEST CONSEC YRS	
Firpo Marberry, 1924-28	1.52	Mariano Rivera, 1996-2010	3.52
Johnny Murphy, 1936-41	1.37	Hoyt Wilhelm, 1961-65	2.38
Joe Page, 1945-49	1.66	Dennis Eckersley, 1987-92	2.57
5 BEST, 1951-2000		Dan Quisenberry, 1980-85	3.52
RELIEVER, BEST CONSEC YRS		Joe Nathan, 2004-09	3.30
		Goose Gossage, 1978-83	3.02
Hoyt Wilhelm, 1961-65	2.38		
Mariano Rivera, 1996-2000	3.82		
Dennis Eckersley, 1987-92	2.57		
Dan Quisenberry, 1980-85	3.52		
Goose Gossage, 1978-83	3.02		