

WHO IS THE BEST HITTER IN MLB HISTORY?

By Daniel

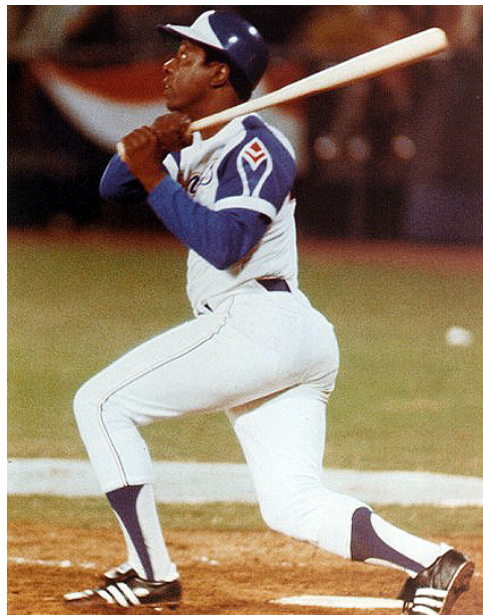
Who really is the best player in MLB history? Is it some of the great power hitters like Hank Aaron, Willie Mays, Alex Rodriguez, and Babe Ruth. Or some of the great pure hitters like Ted Williams, Ty Cobb, Joe DiMaggio, and Carl Yaskranski.

There really is no best hitter in MLB history. If you compare pure hitters to power hitters, it's like comparing apples and oranges. But there is a best power hitter and best pure hitter.

The Big, Bad Power Hitter

What's the definition of a power hitter? A power hitter is a hitter that hits home runs in situations that call for a home run. A power hitter is feared by pitchers and fielders. A power hitter is a hitter that can hit home runs to all sides of the field.

That's the definition of a power hitter.



Some would argue that Hank Aaron is the best power hitter in MLB history. Hank Aaron, or Hammerin' Hank, held the record for most home runs in a career, 755, for more than 30 years! But Barry Bonds now holds the record with 762 home runs.



He also still holds the record with most career RBIs [Runs Batted In] with 2,297, the most career extra base hits with 1,477, and the most career total bases with 6,856. That's like running THREE MILES!!! He has been an All-Star 24 times! He has won the World Series and been MVP once. He is also in the top 5 in hits, runs, at-bats, and games played. That is definitely a lot for one player to do!

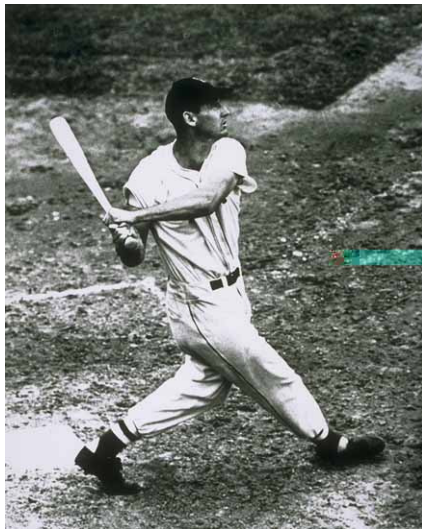
Hank Aaron did not have the glamorous life-style that the high-profile players in the MLB have now. He was black, so people didn't like him. He would get constantly get phone calls and letters telling him "Quit baseball now!" or "You stink so QUIT". Sometimes people would threaten to kill him or his family. He also wasn't the favorite player on the Braves (Milwaukee from 1954-65: Atlanta from 1966-74).

Hank went through terrible things in his career, from bricks thrown at his house to letters. But he is still known as one of the best power hitters ever.

Mr. Clutch

What is the definition of a pure hitter? A pure hitter can hit from the left field corner to the right field corner. A pure hitter consistently gets multi-hit games. A pure hitter has a consistently high batting average. But most of all, a pure hitter gets clutch hits in key situations. That's the definition of a pure hitter.

Some would argue that Ted Williams is the best pure hitter in MLB history. Ted Williams, or "The Kid" as some call him, was best known for his career year in 1941 when his batting average was .406, which was the last year that someone hit .400 or better, with 37 home runs and 120 RBIs.



Ted Williams had an AMAZING career with a career average of .344 and 521 home runs. Ted's career was stopped twice for military service in the Korean and Gulf of Vietnam wars. He was a pilot in the Navy. One of the most memorable highlights of Ted's career was in the 1946 All-Star

game when he hit a home run off Rip Sewell's famous eephus pitch. Ted Williams was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame and the Fishing Hall of Fame. But Ted is best known as an amazing pure hitter.

Great Hitters*

There were many players who looked as if they could be great hitters. But, we have now realized that they are bad, cheating people. First off, I would like to talk about Sammy Sosa.

Sammy Sosa looked as if he was going to be the best power hitter ever. His best season was in 1998, when he was chasing history for most Home runs in a single season. The mark was set at 61 by Roger Maris in 1961. Sammy ended with 68 home runs at the end of the season but Mark McGwire was also chasing history and ended up with 70 home runs and the record.

But a few years later, Sammy's bat shattered, revealing cork all in it. The umpire saw this and called him out. Sammy said it was a mistake. He said he must have picked up one of the batting practice bats. But people thought he had cheated. That gave baseball a beating.



Another player to talk about is Mark McGwire. Mark McGwire had an amazing rookie season. He hit 49 home runs, which was a rookie record.

But the next few years he was not good. He hit under .250 for 5 straight seasons. Even through the bad batting average, the Oakland A's (which was the team he was on at the time) went to three straight World Series appearances from 1988-90 and won it in 1989.



But in 1998, it seemed as he was redeemed. Playing with the St. Louis Cardinals, Mark hit a record (at the time) 70 home runs. He also got 152 hits, scored 130 runs, had a .299 batting average, and had 147 RBIs.

But, a few years later, a book called "Juiced" by Jose Canseco stated that Mark McGwire had used performance-enhancing drugs. Mark denied ever using steroids (which is a performance-enhancing drug) and stated he never used steroid in front of the House of Congress. Still, in the mind of every day citizens, he is a cheater.

But the biggest name in the so called "steroid era" of baseball is Barry Bonds. Barry bonds was an amazing hitter playing for the Pittsburgh Pirates and early with the San Francisco Giants. Barry, in 1996 with the Giants, became the third player ever to hit 40 home runs and steal 40 bases. He continually led his team to the playoffs. But he could not succeed in winning a championship.

But one year Barry came into spring training looking as if was benching 250 every day for 4 hours! In the regular season, he was smashing home runs like there was no tomorrow. In 2001, he broke Mark McGwire's single season record for most home runs in a single season with 73 home runs!

In 2004, something really bad happened to Barry. His trainer, Brian Anderson, was accused of supplying steroids. That raised a few eyebrows about Barry. One year he's



really skinny and slim, the next year he's big and muscular.

Then a book came out by Jose Canseco saying Barry used steroids. Barry testified

in the House of Congress and said he never took steroids.

Barry two years later broke the biggest record in baseball, the most home runs in a career. He has the record and right now he has 762 career home runs. Now Barry indicted on charges of perjury and obstruction of justice. In the mind of the world, he is a cheater.

That concludes "Who is the Best Hitter in MLB History?" Baseball has its highs with hitters and it's lows with hitters. But that is how life is, so parts of life are better than other parts. But you have to hang on tight when things get rough.

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