

# Babe Ruth Named 'Greatest Player'

Babe Ruth, baseball's all-time home run king, has—not surprisingly—been named the "Greatest Player Ever" in balloting by Houston Astros' fans.

The Centennial Season voting has been completed and all votes tabulated. Approximately 950 Astro fans sent in ballots.

Ruth is one of three all-time New York Yankee greats to be named to positions on the "Greatest Team Ever" by the Houston voters.

The legendary "Iron Horse," Lou Gehrig, was an overwhelming selection at first base, and actually drew eight more votes (812-804) than did Ruth. The two Yankee stars easily ran 1-2 in the voting.

One of their successors, Catcher Yogi Berra, rounded out the Yankees' trio on the 10-man team. Berra staged a late rally in the voting to move ahead of still another ex-New York standout, Bill Dickey, to win the catching job.

Most positions saw overwhelming winners. Berra's 64-vote margin over Dickey for the catching slot was by far the closest battle for a position. The second closest duel came between Ted Williams (447) and Willie Mays (353) for the third starting outfield position. Although Mays scored heavily in the late voting, Williams' early edge kept him in the starting unit.

Ruth and Ty Cobb, the great old base-stealer of the Detroit Tigers, were the only two players given serious consideration as the "Greatest Player Ever." Ruth piled up 422 votes to Cobb's 261.

## Blackmons To Join Aggie Track Team

Willie Blackmons, one of the most highly sought-after track stars in the nation, signed a grant in aid Tuesday to attend Texas A&M.

Coach Charlie Thomas and assistant coach Ted Nelson were both on hand at a press conference in the Rice Hotel in Houston when the signing was announced.

"He is one of the best half-milers in the nation," Thomas said. He has run the fastest time for the 880 dash this season in the country with a 1:50.5 clocking last week in the Meet of Champions in Houston.

Blackmons, a Houston Wheatley star, has also run a 46.2 anchor leg on the state AAAA record setting mile relay unit timed in 3:13.5.

Thomas expects to combine Blackmons with Southwest Conference champ Curtis Mills (45.5), Rockie Woods, and incoming freshman Marvin Mills (47.5), Curtis' brother, and Harold McMahon of El Paso (46.8) on future relay teams.

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Mays, with 54, was a remote third-place finisher.

Only two players of really recent vintage, Berra and Los Angeles Dodgers lefthanded pitching ace Sandy Koufax were named to the dream team.

Behind Gehrig's 812 votes and Ruth's 804, the most impressive vote totals were garnered by shortstop Honus Wagner (607), Koufax (544), second baseman Rogers Hornsby (439) and right-handed pitcher Walter Johnson (439).

Except for Berra's overtaking Dickey and winning the catching assignment, there were no changes in leaders at the various positions since a mid-point some weeks ago.

Following is a rundown of voting by positions:

**FIRST BASE**—Gehrig was an overwhelming selection with his 812 votes. George Sisler finished second with 33, Hank Greenberg third with 24.

**SECOND BASE**—Hornsby's 439 made him an easy winner

over Jackie Robinson's 114. Others with support: Eddie Collins 68, Bobby Richardson 62, Charley Gehringer 43.

**THIRD BASE**—Pie Traynor was a clear winner with 343 votes. Brooks Robinson, current Baltimore Orioles' star, has 171. Others: Eddie Mathews 52, Frank (Home Run) Baker 35.

**SHORTSTOP**—Wagner's 607 made him a big winner. Pee Wee Reese (123) was second. Others: Phil Rizzuto 71, Lou Boudreau 38.

**OUTFIELD**—The starting unit is made up of Ruth (804), Cobb (522) and Williams (447). Others with major support: Mays 353, Joe DiMaggio 245, Mickey Mantle 151, Stan Musial 123, Tris Speaker 104.

**CATCHER**—Berra beat out Dickey, 326-262. Others: Mickey Cochrane 160, Roy Campanella 142.

**RIGHTHANDED PITCHER**—Johnson's 438 game him a big margin over runner-up Bob Fel-

ler's 153. Others: Christy Mathewson 88, Denton T. (Cy) Young 69, Dizzy Dean 62.

**LEFTHANDED PITCHERS**—Koufax was an overwhelming winner with 544. Runner-up was Warren Spahn with 138. Others:

Lefty Grove 131, Carl Hubbell 64, **GREATEST PLAYER EVER**

—Although there were no players close to Ruth (422) or Cobb (261), some other totals include: Mays 54, Williams 32, Mantle 30, Koufax 24.



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