

## Former Aggie pitcher Casey Fossum signs with Boston Red Sox

BY REECE FLOOD  
The Battalion

Casey Fossum is now an official member of the Boston Red Sox organization. After making a trip to Boston last week, Fossum signed a contract with the team July 19 while visiting with team officials.

The former Aggie pitcher was taken by the Red Sox in the Major League Baseball Draft with the 48th overall pick.

Fossum signed a standard contract and received a \$660,000 signing bonus and four semesters of tuition. The Red Sox will have rights to Fossum for the next three years.

Fossum flew up to Boston on July 18 and had dinner

with a Red Sox scouting director. The following day he met with team doctors for a physical.

Later in the day, he signed a contract and watched the Red Sox play a home game.

Fossum is currently at Fort Myers rehabilitation and training facility in Florida. The left hander is warming up his throwing arm in anticipation of joining his minor league team.

Fossum said training is like going through rehabilitation even though he is not hurt.

"They're getting the arm in shape for me to throw," Fossum said.

Eventually Fossum will leave Florida and go back to Massachusetts where he will join a Minor League Baseball team.

"I was told I was going to be here for about 10 days," Fossum said. "After the 10 days are up or if they felt like I was ready to go throw then I would be sent

off to Lowell, Mass."

Once in Lowell, Fossum will begin playing with the team for the last month of the season, which ends Sept. 2.

Lowell is approximately a 30-minute drive from Boston and will give Fossum the opportunity to be near the Red Sox.

Fossum is excited about finally getting a chance to play again.

"Hopefully by the beginning of August I'll go up there and make a couple of starts," he said.

Fossum said he is confident about his future and knows what it will take to be successful.

"I've taken a major step," he said. "This is my job and I've got to work hard at it. I've always worked hard at baseball, so it won't be a problem for me.

"At first it's going to be kind of slow, but once I get started, it will be a very enjoyable time."

### Aggies drafted who have signed professional contracts

Chance Caple	St. Louis Cardinals
Casey Fossum	Boston Red Sox
John Scheschuk	San Diego Padres
Shawn Schumacher	St. Louis Cardinals
Steven Truitt	Milwaukee Brewers
Steve Scarborough	Milwaukee Brewers
Matt Ward	Florida Marlins

## Thanks for the memories

### Newly elected Hall of Famer Nolan Ryan left more than stats for the game of baseball

For every pitch Nolan Ryan has under his belt in Major League Baseball, there's more than likely to be a story behind it. Even though the man who was known as "John Wayne with a baseball cap" threw the ball harder and for a longer period of time than any other major league pitcher, Ryan's legacy is the many stories and memories he has left behind for baseball and all of its fans.

With his induction into the Hall of Fame on the first ballot, along with George Brett, Robin Yount and Orlando Cepeda, it was a chance to honor the man they call the "Ryan Express" for all the wonderful things he did for baseball.

Just to look at Ryan's career numbers leaves no doubt that he belonged in Cooperstown.

He was the most prolific strikeout pitcher in history, setting major league marks for all-time (5,714) and single-season (383) strikeouts. His all-time record is over 1,500 strikeouts more than second place and fellow hall-of-famer Steve Carlton.

Not only was he the stingiest pitcher of all-time, only giving up 6.6 hits per game, he was the hardest to hit off of, with opponents only batting a meager .204 off of Ryan.

There was also the matter of the seven no-hitters he pitched, three more than the record formerly held by hall-of-famer Sandy Koufax. Almost as amazing, if not more, than his seven no-hitters is the fact that Ryan threw 12 one-hitters and had five no-hitters broken up in the ninth inning.

But through all the numbers and accolades, Ryan



DOUG SHILLING

left everyone he touched with some sort of lasting memory.

Former teammate and current Oakland A's manager Art Howe described playing with Ryan as playing with a legend who is still playing.

Former Cleveland Indian Oscar Gamble summed up facing Ryan the best: "A good night against Nolan is 0 for 4 and don't get hit in the head."

Major league baseball's all-time hit king Pete Rose has his share of Ryan memories. One of his more fond memories is when Rose tied the all-time National League hits record against Ryan in the first at-bat of the game.

When Rose reached base, Ryan told him that he would not set the record against him. Ryan was right. Rose struck out his next three times at the plate, swinging only once. Rose just tipped his hat each time and went back to the dug out.

There are countless more memories of Ryan among his peers, but the main memories he left were for his fans — a group he thanked at the end of his induction speech into the Hall of Fame and a group that I consider myself a very big part of.

Although I never had the chance to see Ryan in person, that does not diminish the memories he has given me. He is the reason that I am a baseball fan today. He was the reason why I was an Astros fan and I am a Rangers fan to this day.

I can remember when I was 10-years old and I stayed up way past my bedtime to watch him pitch his sixth no-hitter against the A's.

I also remember slipping off the bus before school the morning after his seventh no-hitter against the Toronto Blue Jays just so I could get the



JEFFREY SMITH/THE BATTALION

newspaper to read about his amazing feat.

I'll also never forget watching every edition of "Sportscenter" the day he head locked and then pounded on Robin Ventura after Ventura foolishly charged the mound — and paid the price for it.

As I watched the induction ceremonies yesterday, I felt a sense of joy. The man who gave myself and many others lasting memories from his times

on the baseball field, was finally being enshrined as one of baseball's immortals. It seemed a fitting honor to a man who gave so much to the game of baseball, a man that myself and many others will never forget.

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## Major League Baseball welcomes four new members into Hall of Fame in Cooperstown

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. (AP) — George Brett never hit exceptionally well against Nolan Ryan. Still, that proved a lot easier than following him on the Hall of Fame podium.

Wiping away tears, one of baseball's best pressure hitters in history broke down several times during his speech at Sunday's induction ceremonies.

"Today concludes a long journey," Brett said, choking up. "I stand humbly before you in Cooperstown."

A record crowd estimated at 50,000 jammed an open field a few miles from the shrine, watching the largest Hall class since 1972.

Robin Yount, Orlando Cepeda and Ryan preceded Brett on the stage. Late umpire Nestor Chylak, Negro leagues pitcher Smokey Joe Williams and turn-of-the-century manager Frank Selee also were honored.

Ryan spent most of his 16-minute speech thanking those who had made his career possible. Along with family members and friends, the man whose Hall plaque praised him as a "Texas legend" paid tribute to Marvin Miller, the founder of the players' union, and all fans.

"I always thought there was going to be life after baseball," the greatest power pitcher ever said, evenly. "I didn't realize the grip baseball had on me. It took me two full years to get over the fact that I was no longer a baseball player."

Ryan, 52, played a record 27 seasons and holds major league marks of seven no-hitters and 5,714 strikeouts.

"A fierce competitor and one of baseball's most intimidating figures on the pitching mound," read his bronze plaque, which bears a "T" for the Texas Rangers.

Brett and Yount each topped 3,000 hits and Cepeda hit 379 home runs. All three were Ryan strikeout victims — Brett was 29-for-101 (.287) with no home runs and 18 strikeouts against him.

Thirty-four Hall inductees — 15 of them struck out by the Ryan Express — turned out for the 60th anniversary festivities.

Ted Williams, the oldest at 80, stayed more than an hour in the sweltering heat before leaving in a wheelchair.

Williams, the hero of the recent All-Star Game at Fenway Park, and Willie Mays, who made a rare return to see former teammate

Cepeda, got some of the biggest ovations.

Also receiving a huge cheer was Texas Gov. George W. Bush, the former owner of the Texas Rangers. New York Gov. George Pataki, mentioned as a possible running mate on a presidential ticket with Bush, implored, "Let's have another great New York welcome for Governor Bush!"

Paul Molitor, Ralph Branca, umpire Rich Garcia and several team executives attended.

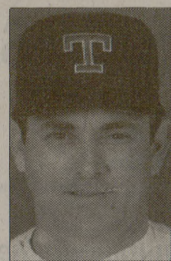
The only boos of the afternoon came for commissioner Bud Selig. He was met with calls of "Where's Pete Rose?" and "How about Charlie Hustle?"

Rose, as has become his custom, was on Main Street, signing autographs just blocks from the Hall. Banned from baseball, he is ineligible for Hall election.

*"I didn't realize the grip baseball had on me. It took me two full years to get over the fact I was no longer a baseball player."*

— NOLAN RYAN

HALL-OF-FAME PITCHER



"I've expressed my opinion to Mr. Selig. My thoughts are Pete Rose should be in the Hall of Fame," Ryan said later. "Pete Rose should be judged on his merits as a player."

This year's inductees increased the Hall membership to 244 — with space for only 240 plaques in the main gallery, extra room was found in an adjacent rotunda.

Next year, first-time candidates include Jack Morris, Goose Gosage and Kent Hrbek. Tony Perez and Carlton Fisk will again appear on the Baseball Writers' Association of America ballot.

Brett had 3,154 hits and batted .305 in a 21-year career with Kansas City. "Played each game with ceaseless intensity and unbridled passion," his plaque read.

Brett, 46, brought his family, including son

Robin — named for Yount — and two of his three brothers. Ken was a former big league pitcher and Bobby was a minor leaguer.

Crying, George Brett looked at his older brothers and said, "Sometimes I wonder why all this happened to me and not you. All I ever wanted to do was be as good as you."

Yount, a two-time AL MVP, had 3,142 hits in a 20-year career with the Milwaukee Brewers.

"A bastion of consistency and durability," read his plaque, which also denoted his "stic demeanor."

Yount, 43, was afraid his emotions might get the best of him. So he called Hall officials about three weeks ago and asked to speak first.

"I never dreamed of being in the Hall of Fame," he said. "And with all due respect, Mr. Gehrig, today I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of the earth."

Cepeda, 61, was the second player from Puerto Rico to be elected, following Roberto Clemente.

"His ability to drive the ball with authority was respected and feared by the opposition," his plaque read.

Cepeda rose to stardom with the San Francisco Giants, and entered the Hall wearing their cap. His final season was 1974, when he played two months with Brett for the Royals.

"This kid is never going to make it," Cepeda recalled himself thinking, drawing a laugh from Brett. "Sometimes, you make mistakes."

Chylak, who worked in the AL from 1954-78, was only the eighth umpire elected. Accepting on his behalf was his son, Bob — Chylak was working when Bob was born, learning of the birth on the Yankee Stadium scoreboard.

Williams played in the Negro leagues from 1910-32. In a 1952 poll by the Pittsburgh Courier, he beat out Satchel Paige as black baseball's best pitcher.

Selele managed the Boston Beaneaters and Chicago Cubs from 1890-1905. He is credited with turning catcher Frank Chance into a first baseman, creating the Tinker-to-Evers-to-Chance infield.

Also honored were Bob Stevens of the San Francisco Chronicle and late announcer Arch McDonald. Stevens won the J.G. Taylor Spink Award for writing and McDonald got the Ford C. Frick Award for broadcasting.

## Armstrong completes comeback with Tour win

PARIS (AP) — Lance Armstrong's smile seemed as wide as the Champs-Elysees.

For three weeks, his face had been creased by stress and determination. Now, he was grinning giddily, draped in an American flag, savoring his victory lap along the majestic avenue where he'd just completed one of the most improbable comebacks in sports history.

Armstrong rode to victory in the Tour de France on Sunday just three years after he was diagnosed with testicular cancer that spread to his brain and lungs.

Thousands of fans lined the route to cheer him as he finished one of the most grueling tests in all of sports and became only the second American to win cycling's showcase race.

"This is an awesome day," the 27-year-old Texan said. "This is beyond belief."

Armstrong dedicated his victory to cancer survivors around the world.

"I hope it sends out a fantastic message," he said. "We can return to what we were before — and even better."

Armstrong's victory also should help remove some of the stain from the Tour de France, which nearly ended last year because of a drug scandal.

The 20th and final stage was won by Australia's Robbie McEwen. He edged Germany's Erik Zabel in a furious sprint. Silvio Martinelli of Italy was third. Armstrong was 86th — in the 86th Tour de France.

His final margin in the overall standings was 7 minutes, 37 seconds, a lead that for the past week had almost assured him victory, barring a disastrous fall.

Alex Zulle finished second and

Spain's Fernando Escartin was third.

The only other American to win the race was Greg LeMond, a three-time champion whose last victory was in 1990.

Armstrong was diagnosed with cancer in 1996. After four rounds of chemotherapy and two operations — one to remove a testicle and one for brain lesions — he began his comeback early last year. His doctors say there is a tiny chance the cancer will return.

One of the keys to Armstrong's cycling victory was his ability to master the mountain climbs that had always given him trouble. After he easily won the first stage in the Alps, he became the prohibitive favorite.

Still, he said he would have never imagined this moment, even before he got sick.

"I never expected to be here," he said, after "The Star-Spangled Banner" had echoed across the Champs-Elysees and Texas Gov. George Bush called on the cell phone.

"Even in my first career, I never had plans for this."

The finish under brilliant skies couldn't have been more different from last year's. The 1998 race ended in rain after the drug scandal placed the entire sport under suspicion.

In fact, Armstrong was dogged by accusations in the French media that he used performance-enhancing drugs. Many people could not believe that a cyclist recovering from cancer could prevail in the brutal three-week event.

There was no proof, however. The sport's ruling body, which tests cyclists during the race, said the only drug Armstrong used was an approved prescription cream for saddle sores.