

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

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MLB announces top 10 moments in Game 4

The Battalion's top ten MLB historic moments

TUESDAY TALKING Points

Gary Livingston



On Wednesday night, during Game 4 of the 2002 World Series, Major League Baseball will announce the greatest moments in baseball history which were voted on by fans all season.

Moments are times that can only be described by a single picture in time. They are the times that bring goose bumps to people's skin and are talked about for generations.

Because of this, the following list has left off some important events because they do not describe a single image. Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in 1947 and had an exceptional career. To classify his achievement as a moment is an insult to him and his greatness. If the list was "greatest achievements in baseball history" there is no question he would be number one.

Based on the criteria above, here are my picks for the 10 greatest moments in baseball history:

10. Cal Ripken Jr. breaks Lou Gehrig's Iron Man streak

To get to this point, he played in 2,130 consecutive games. Therefore, the streak is not what is important. The moment I am talking about is when the game became official in the 5th inning.

On Sept. 6, 1995, the baseball world concentrated on Camden Yards in Baltimore as Ripken became the new Iron Man. He was given a 22-minute

standing ovation and took a victory lap around the ballpark.

9. Don Larsen becomes the first person to pitch a perfect game in a World Series.

The moment fans will remember is when Brooklyn Dodger Dale Mitchell was struck out and Yankee catcher Yogi Berra ran and jumped into Larsen's arms as his teammates rushed him.

8. The Boston Red Sox sell Babe Ruth to the New York Yankees

Most people don't realize how good the Red Sox were before this fatal move. They had won three World Series from 1915-1918. In January of 1920, to avoid bankruptcy and pay for a Broadway play, the Red Sox owners sold Ruth to the Yankees for \$125,000. Since then, the Yankees have won 38 American League titles, 26 World Series Championships and have had the greatest players to ever play. Ruth went on to be one of the greatest players the game has ever seen. The Red Sox have not won a World Series since selling Ruth.

7. Willie Mays makes "The Catch" in 1954 World Series

In Game 1 of the World Series, Cleveland Indian Vic Wertz hit a 460-foot blast that would have easily been a homerun in any stadium today. Mays got a good jump on Wertz's blast and somehow caught up to it just enough to make an incredible over the shoulder catch. "The Catch" set the tone for the World Series as the Giants swept the heavily favored Indians.

6. McGwire becomes the new single season homerun king with No. 62

The great homerun chase by McGwire and Sammy Sosa captivated

the nation and every night people would watch to see if Roger Maris' record of 61 homeruns would fall. On Sept. 8, playing against Sosa's Cubs and while Maris' children watched from the crowd, McGwire hit No. 62 off Steve Trachsel. McGwire was so caught up in the moment, he looked like a schoolboy running around the bases, almost missing first base in the process.

5. Hank Aaron becomes all-time Homerun King

In 1974, in the midst of racial slurs and bigotry, "Hammerin' Hank" became the new Homerun King by hitting No. 715 off Al Downing. The Hall of Famer finished his career with 755 homeruns, a record which stands to this day.

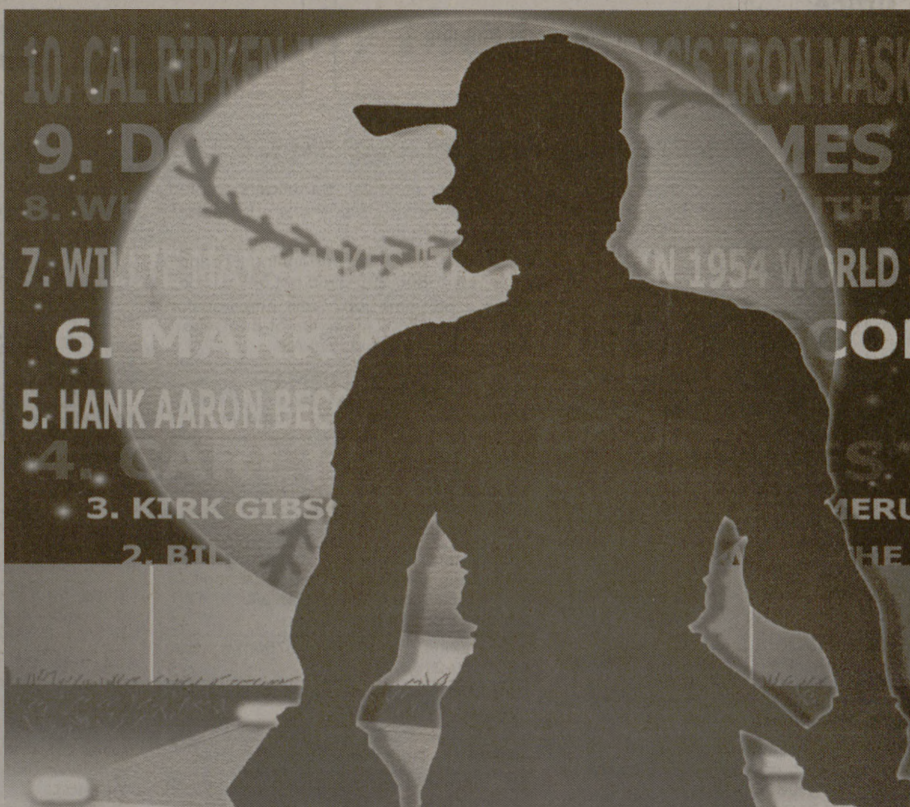
4. Carlton Fisk waves historic homerun fair in 1975 World Series

It was Game 6 of the 1975 World Series and the Red Sox managed to tie the game against the favored Reds. The game was dragging on into the 12th inning when Fisk belted a homerun that seemed to be going foul. After making contact, Fisk was jumping up and down waving the ball to stay fair. The ball bounced right off the foul pole, staying fair by inches. The Red Sox won Game 6 7-6 in 12 innings, but lost Game 7. If it wasn't for Fisk's reaction, this moment might not be on many lists.

3. Kirk Gibson hits improbable homerun in 1988 World Series.

Gibson, 1988 National League MVP, was injured playing in the National League Championship Series against the defending champion New York Mets.

During Game 1 of the World Series against the heavily favored Oakland Athletics, Gibson was sitting



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in the clubhouse, unable to start.

Inspired by what he heard on the radio, Gibson started taking batting practice and then told manager Tommy Lasorda he would bat if needed. In the ninth inning, the Dodgers were down 4-3 with two outs and a runner on base. Lasorda gave Gibson the nod and he limped to home plate. Gibson got the perfect pitch and blasted it into the stands. Gibson, barely able to walk, slowly trotted around the bases pumping his fist into the air.

2. Bill Mazerowski's homerun wins the 1960 World Series.

Macroski's shot in the ninth inning gave the Pirates the World Series title

over the New York Yankees. The shot was the first time a World Series ended on a homerun. The fact that the Pirates won the World Series was remarkable because they were outscored 56-26 in the seven games.

1. Bobby Thomson hits "The shot heard 'round the world"

Thomson hit the most historic homerun in baseball history, giving the Giants the win and the National League Championship. The play will forever be remembered by Ross Hodges historical radio call. After Thomson hit the ball, Hodges screamed hysterically "The Giants win the pennant! The Giants win the pennant!"

Rockets' Yao Ming enjoys his first day of practice, ready to play

HOUSTON (AP) — Yao Ming eased onto the court for his first NBA practice Monday and promptly missed his first jump shot. Then he went to the free throw line and made that shot.

Before long, the NBA's No. 1 draft pick was chatting with Houston Rockets guard Steve Francis during stretching exercises and later, he was exchanging high-fives with his new teammates who can't wait to get him ready to play.

Yao joined the team prior to Sunday night's game against Orlando and says he's ready to play in

Wednesday night's game at San Antonio or Thursday when the Rockets host the Philadelphia 76ers in their final exhibition game.

"I think so (ready to play) but it's best to ask the coach," Yao said.

Yao noticed immediately the NBA is a quicker game than international basketball.

"It's really fast," he said in English. "How quickly? I guess every time we (the Chinese team) were waiting for the shot clock to get to eight seconds. Here, maybe only 10 seconds or maybe 15

seconds to shoot. But I like it, a lot of shooting."

Rockets coach Rudy Tomjanovich won't say when Yao will get into a game, but Yao was thrown right into the scrimmage mix at the team's workout Monday.

"We've got to be careful not to throw the weight of the world on this guy," Tomjanovich said.

Yao was an attentive student during his first practice session. Although he spoke frequently in English, his interpreter, Collin Pine, was by his side to lend assistance.

"We have to understand that even the players that have played in the U.S. and been through summer league and in their towns working out, it's still a big jump to the NBA," Tomjanovich said. "I'm sure he's going to have some adjustments to make." Yao is quickly adjusting to the idea of living in America.

"Yesterday (Sunday) in San Francisco one guy asked, 'Can I have your autograph,' and he said 'I live in Houston,'" Yao said. "I told him I live in Houston too. I just haven't been there."

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