

WHY JIM RICE IS WORTHY OF HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

A Hall of Famer should have produced at least one superlative season, a strong 3-year stretch, hitting or pitching dominance for over a decade and career totals which compare favorably to the best in Major League Baseball history. Jim Rice has performed to this standard. In an era when few hitters featured power and average, he was an extraordinary ballplayer. The following statistics prove that Jim Rice is worthy of a Hall of Fame induction.

CAREER (1974-1989)

- Led A.L. with 382 HR and 1451 RBI during his 16-year career, all with Boston.
- Rare Power & Average: The retired players with career HR & AVG as high as Rice are Aaron, Foxx, Gehrig, Mantle, Mays, Musial, Ott, Ruth, T. Williams (all HOF).
- Seventeen players with 350+HR and a .290+ AVG have been on the HOF ballot. All but Rice are HOF: Aaron, Cepeda, J. DiMaggio, Foxx, Gehrig, Kaline, Mantle, Mays, Mize, Musial, Ott, F. Robinson, Ruth, Snider, B. Williams, T. Williams.
- 11-time 20+HR
- 8-time All-Star
- 8-time 100 RBI
- 7-time .300 hitter
- 6-time Top 5 in A.L. MVP – more than anyone else during his career (Murray 5)
- 4-time 200 hits
- 4-time 39+HR – more than any other M.L. player during his career (Schmidt 3)
- 4-time A.L. TB leader
- 3-time A.L. HR leader

1978 A.L. MVP (.315 AVG, 46 HR, 139 RBI, 406 TB, .600 SLG, 213 H, 121 R, 15 3B)

- Only M.L. player to lead either league outright in 3B, HR, and RBI
- Only A.L. player with 400+ TB since 1937 (Joe DiMaggio)
- A.L. record for biggest margin in TB (113 over Murray)
- Only A.L. player with 46+ HR between 1969 (Killebrew) and 1987 (McGwire)

3-YEAR STRETCH (1977-1979)

- Only player in M.L. history with 3 consecutive seasons of 35+ HR and 200+ hits
- Tied A.L. record with 3 straight seasons of leading league in TB (Williams, Cobb)
- Ruth and Foxx are the other A.L. players with 3+ straight 39+HR, .315 seasons.

DOMINANT DECADES

Twenty-five M.L. players have hit **.300 with 300 HR in a 10-season stretch** (Ruth was the first, from 1916-1925), but Jim Rice stands **alone** in ***his*** decades. Rice accomplished the feat in three 10-year spans (1975-84, 1976-85, 1977-86). He is the only M.L. player of his generation who did so even once, and is the only retired player on the list not in the Hall of Fame.

.300 with 300 HR in a 10-season stretch

(Date listed indicates final year of 10-season stretch)

| | | | | | |
|------|--------------------|------|----------------------------------|------|---|
| 1925 | Ruth | 1952 | T. Williams | 1979 | |
| 1926 | Ruth | 1953 | T. Williams | 1980 | |
| 1927 | Ruth | 1954 | T. Williams | 1981 | |
| 1928 | Ruth | 1955 | T. Williams | 1982 | |
| 1929 | Ruth | 1956 | Musial, Snider | 1983 | |
| 1930 | Ruth | 1957 | Musial, Snider | 1984 | Rice |
| 1931 | Ruth | 1958 | Snider | 1985 | Rice |
| 1932 | Ruth | 1959 | Snider | 1986 | Rice |
| 1933 | Ruth | 1960 | Mantle, Snider | 1987 | |
| 1934 | Gehrig, Ruth | 1961 | Mantle, Mays | 1988 | |
| 1935 | Foxx, Gehrig, Ruth | 1962 | Mantle, Mays | 1989 | |
| 1936 | Foxx, Gehrig | 1963 | Aaron, Mantle, Mays | 1990 | |
| 1937 | Foxx, Gehrig, Ott | 1964 | Aaron, Mantle, Mays | 1991 | |
| 1938 | Foxx, Gehrig, Ott | 1965 | Aaron, Mantle, Mays, F. Robinson | 1992 | |
| 1939 | Foxx, Gehrig, Ott | 1966 | Aaron, Mantle, Mays, F. Robinson | 1993 | |
| 1940 | Foxx, Ott | 1967 | Aaron, Mays, F. Robinson | 1994 | |
| 1941 | Foxx, Ott | 1968 | Aaron, Mays, F. Robinson | 1995 | |
| 1942 | Foxx | 1969 | Aaron, Mays, F. Robinson | 1996 | |
| 1943 | Foxx | 1970 | Aaron, F. Robinson | 1997 | |
| 1944 | Foxx | 1971 | Aaron, F. Robinson | 1998 | Griffey Jr. |
| 1945 | | 1972 | Aaron, B. Williams | 1999 | Bonds, Griffey Jr. , Thomas |
| 1946 | Greenberg | 1973 | Aaron, B. Williams | 2000 | Bagwell, Bonds, Thomas |
| 1947 | Greenberg | 1974 | | 2001 | Bagwell, Bonds, Gonzalez, Piazza, Thomas |
| 1948 | J. DiMaggio | 1975 | | 2002 | Bagwell, Bonds, Gonzalez, Piazza, Ramirez, Thomas |
| 1949 | | 1976 | | 2003 | Bagwell, Bonds, Gonzalez, Piazza, Ramirez, Rodriguez, Sheffield, Thomas |
| 1950 | | 1977 | | 2004 | Bonds, C. Jones, Piazza, Ramirez, Rodriguez, Sheffield |
| 1951 | T. Williams | 1978 | | 2005 | Bonds, V. Guerrero, C. Jones, Piazza, Ramirez, Rodriguez, Sheffield |

(Does not count military service against Greenberg, DiMaggio, Williams, or Mays)

12-YEAR STRETCH (1975-1986)

From 1975 to 1986 Jim Rice was the most dominant player in the American League. During that 12-year stretch he led the league in 12 categories and ranked among the top five in two others. His numbers are indicative of a player who was dangerous in nearly every situation. He led the league over that period with 350 home runs but unlike most sluggers of his day, he ranked fourth with a .304 batting average. He collected the most hits over that time period and also ranked first with a .520 slugging percentage. He legged-out 73 triples, including 15 in 1977 and 1978, and he was the most dangerous outfielder to run on in the American League. In every category he ranks above or among existing Hall of Famers.

American League Leaders (1975-1986)

(Italics indicates existing Hall of Famers)

| G | | AB | | R | | H | | 3B | | HR | | RBI | |
|-----------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|---------------------|------------|--------------------|------------|-------------------|-------------|
| J. Rice | 1766 | J. Rice | 7060 | J. Rice | 1098 | J. Rice | 2145 | <i>G. Brett</i> | 107 | J. Rice | 350 | J. Rice | 1276 |
| D. Baylor | 1706 | <i>R. Yount</i> | 6693 | <i>G. Brett</i> | 1021 | C. Cooper | 1975 | W. Wilson | 97 | <i>R. Jackson</i> | 330 | C. Cooper | 1030 |
| <i>R. Yount</i> | 1704 | C. Cooper | 6525 | <i>R. Yount</i> | 995 | <i>G. Brett</i> | 1961 | <i>R. Yount</i> | 77 | D. Baylor | 283 | <i>R. Jackson</i> | 1030 |
| Dw. Evans | 1663 | D. Baylor | 6313 | D. Baylor | 974 | <i>R. Yount</i> | 1933 | J. Rice | 73 | <i>E. Murray</i> | 275 | D. Baylor | 1026 |
| C. Cooper | 1656 | <i>G. Brett</i> | 6178 | Dw. Evans | 974 | <i>R. Carew</i> | 1787 | A. Cowens | 67 | Dw. Evans | 270 | <i>E. Murray</i> | 1015 |
| AVG | | SLG | | TB | | XBH | | Go-Ahead RBI | | Multi-Hit G | | OF Assists | |
| <i>W. Boggs</i> | .352 | J. Rice | .520 | J. Rice | 3670 | J. Rice | 752 | J. Rice | 325 | J. Rice | 640 | J. Rice | 125 |
| <i>R. Carew</i> | .331 | <i>G. Brett</i> | .518 | <i>G. Brett</i> | 3201 | <i>G. Brett</i> | 719 | <i>G. Brett</i> | 293 | C. Cooper | 580 | Dw. Evans | 122 |
| <i>G. Brett</i> | .317 | <i>E. Murray</i> | .505 | C. Cooper | 3108 | D. Evans | 643 | C. Cooper | 273 | <i>G. Brett</i> | 560 | F. Lynn | 101 |
| J. Rice | .304 | <i>D. Winfield</i> | .498 | <i>R. Yount</i> | 2903 | C. Cooper | 640 | <i>R. Jackson</i> | 251 | <i>R. Yount</i> | 545 | A. Cowens | 99 |
| T. Munson | .304 | F. Lynn | .494 | <i>E. Murray</i> | 2840 | <i>R. Jackson</i> | 623 | <i>E. Murray</i> | 251 | <i>R. Carew</i> | 526 | B. Oglivie | 91 |

The table on the following page demonstrates that in addition to being the best player in the American League for 12 years, Rice's numbers were among the best in all of baseball. He led the majors in five categories and ranked among the top three in seven others. His power numbers are comparable to, or better than Mike Schmidt's, Dave Winfield's and Reggie Jackson's. He had more hits over that period than George Brett and Robin Yount, more multi-hit games than Rod Carew, and a higher slugging percentage than Eddie Murray.

Major League Leaders (1975-1986)

(Italics indicates existing Hall of Famers)

| G | | AB | | R | | H | | 3B | | HR | | RBI | |
|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|---------------------|------------|--------------------|------------|--------------------|-------------|
| S. Garvey | 1821 | S. Garvey | 7153 | <i>M. Schmidt</i> | 1194 | J. Rice | 2145 | <i>G. Brett</i> | 107 | <i>M. Schmidt</i> | 440 | J. Rice | 1276 |
| <i>M. Schmidt</i> | 1800 | J. Rice | 7060 | J. Rice | 1098 | S. Garvey | 2121 | W. Wilson | 97 | D. Kingman | 365 | <i>M. Schmidt</i> | 1221 |
| J. Rice | 1766 | <i>R. Yount</i> | 6693 | <i>D. Winfield</i> | 1069 | C. Cooper | 1975 | O. Moreno | 87 | J. Rice | 350 | <i>D. Winfield</i> | 1147 |
| <i>D. Winfield</i> | 1763 | <i>D. Winfield</i> | 6648 | <i>G. Brett</i> | 1021 | <i>G. Brett</i> | 1961 | G. Templeton | 86 | <i>R. Jackson</i> | 330 | G. Foster | 1114 |
| J. Cruz Sr. | 1744 | B. Bell | 6548 | <i>R. Yount</i> | 995 | <i>R. Yount</i> | 1933 | P. Garner | 82 | G. Foster | 321 | S. Garvey | 1076 |
| B. Bell | 1729 | C. Cooper | 6525 | D. Baylor | 974 | D. Parker | 1922 | <i>R. Yount</i> | 77 | D. Baylor | 283 | D. Parker | 1050 |
| Da. Evans | 1727 | P. Rose | 6494 | Dw. Evans | 974 | P. Rose | 1919 | J. Cruz Sr. | 76 | <i>D. Winfield</i> | 282 | C. Cooper | 1030 |
| K. Hernandez | 1707 | B. Buckner | 6459 | K. Hernandez | 966 | <i>D. Winfield</i> | 1912 | L. Herndon | 74 | R. Cey | 278 | <i>R. Jackson</i> | 1030 |
| D. Baylor | 1706 | D. Parker | 6368 | P. Rose | 948 | B. Buckner | 1890 | J. Rice | 73 | <i>E. Murray</i> | 275 | D. Baylor | 1026 |
| 2 Tied | 1704 | D. Concepcion | 6355 | K. Griffey Sr. | 940 | B. Bell | 1874 | 3 Tied | 67 | 2 Tied | 270 | <i>E. Murray</i> | 1015 |
| AVG | | SLG | | TB | | XBH | | Go-Ahead RBI | | Multi-Hit G | | OF Assists | |
| <i>W. Boggs</i> | .352 | <i>M. Schmidt</i> | .545 | J. Rice | 3670 | <i>M. Schmidt</i> | 803 | J. Rice | 325 | J. Rice | 640 | <i>D. Winfield</i> | 128 |
| <i>R. Carew</i> | .331 | J. Rice | .520 | <i>M. Schmidt</i> | 3448 | J. Rice | 752 | <i>D. Winfield</i> | 312 | S. Garvey | 597 | J. Rice | 125 |
| <i>G. Brett</i> | .317 | <i>G. Brett</i> | .518 | S. Garvey | 3222 | <i>G. Brett</i> | 719 | <i>M. Schmidt</i> | 301 | C. Cooper | 580 | Dw. Evans | 122 |
| A. Oliver | .309 | P. Guerrero | .514 | <i>D. Winfield</i> | 3221 | D. Parker | 682 | S. Garvey | 298 | <i>G. Brett</i> | 560 | D. Parker | 119 |
| B. Madlock | .306 | B. Horner | .508 | <i>G. Brett</i> | 3201 | <i>D. Winfield</i> | 679 | <i>G. Brett</i> | 293 | P. Rose | 550 | G. Mathews | 115 |
| T. Raines | .305 | R. Smith | .506 | D. Parker | 3147 | Dw. Evans | 643 | D. Parker | 285 | <i>R. Yount</i> | 545 | G. Foster | 106 |
| P. Guerrero | .304 | <i>E. Murray</i> | .505 | C. Cooper | 3108 | C. Cooper | 640 | G. Foster | 276 | B. Buckner | 536 | J. Cruz | 105 |
| J. Rice | .304 | F. Lynn | .494 | G. Foster | 2993 | <i>R. Jackson</i> | 623 | C. Cooper | 273 | D. Parker | 536 | A. Dawson | 103 |
| T. Munson | .304 | D. Parker | .494 | <i>R. Yount</i> | 2903 | G. Foster | 620 | K. Hernandez | 262 | <i>R. Carew</i> | 526 | S. Lezcano | 103 |
| C. Cooper | .303 | G. Foster | .493 | <i>E. Murray</i> | 2840 | S. Garvey | 617 | 2 Tied | 251 | <i>D. Winfield</i> | 522 | F. Lynn | 101 |