



THE SIXTEEN GREATEST BASEBALL PLAYERS SINCE 1964



Why 16? Because I am not including pitchers, so since there are eight position players, I decided to double that and there you go. 16. Why 1964? Because I like commenting on players that I actually saw play and '64 was the first year of my life that I vividly remember and let's face it, it's an infamous year in our city's history. So after months of arguing and going back and forth with hundreds of e-mails and Facebook messages, here are the Final 16. And please remember there were no pitchers and that Mays and Clemente did not make it because too many of their great years were BEFORE '64. Thanks to the hundreds of fans who contributed to this.



MIKE SCHMIDT... Wanted to start with a Phil, and who better than the greatest third baseman of all time? 3 MVP's, 12 All-star appearances, 548 homers, not to mention he gobbled everything his way down at the Hot Corner. I once filled in for Dennis Malloy at a long gone radio station called KISS 100. Schmidt was in to promote his charity golf outing. He had a rep as being a "difficult" guy, but I had heard that he was a fan of classic soul artists like the Spinners, the Delfonics, and the O'Jays. Well, I know that music like the back of my hand, so that's what we did on the show, play Mike's favorites, and we had a ball. That morning was a real thrill for me. MICHAEL JACK SCHMIDT!



REGGIE JACKSON... Simply put, my all time favorite home run hitter and the original MR. OCTOBER. 14 All-Star appearances. 3 WS MVP'S. Interviewed him once and I knew he was a car collector and I know someone who has worked with him in that department and I made the mistake of bringing him up, and the rest of the conversation was dominated by cars which I'm sure was boring my listeners. Nice guy, though.



BARRY BONDS... I had to make a decision here. There's no denying his enormous stats, and it pains me to nominate him because of the steroid mess, but I have no idea if any of the other players that I am going to nominate took them either. Everyone says Griffey Jr. is clean, and he probably is, but how the hell do I know? Bonds' eight Gold Gloves certainly didn't hurt either.



DEREK JETER... Mr. October Jr! Year after year, he's the hallmark of those Yank teams, setting records on a team where records really mean something.



ALEX RODRIQUEZ... An odd bird. A RICH odd bird, but his numbers are overwhelming. 3 MVP's, 12 All Star appearances and unfortunately, at our expense, a world champion.



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PETE ROSE... Yeah, he's a dufus in a bowling shirt, but his numbers are indisputable. Put him in the Hall and be done with it.



HANK AARON... Wonder if he makes the final cut. He played 11 years BEFORE '64. But even his numbers AFTER '64 are impressive.



MANNY RAMIREZ... "Manny being Manny!" One of the best pure hitters ever. Period.



ICHIRO! He only needs one name. He's 36 now and there's a chance his numbers don't stack up, but we gotta nominate him at least.



KEN GRIFFEY, JR... Things went a little sour in Cincy, but I can't see how he doesn't make the final 16.



ALBERT PUJOLS... Maybe the best player EVER. Forget since '64.



EDDIE MURRAY... One of the great switchhitters ever.



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ROD CAREW... A hitting machine and used as a rhyme in the Beastie's SURE SHOT!



CARL YASTREMZSKI... Made the All star team 17 times AFTER '64. Last man to win the triple crown.



JOHNNY BENCH... Greatest catcher of his time.



GEORGE BRETT... Pine tar, anyone?