



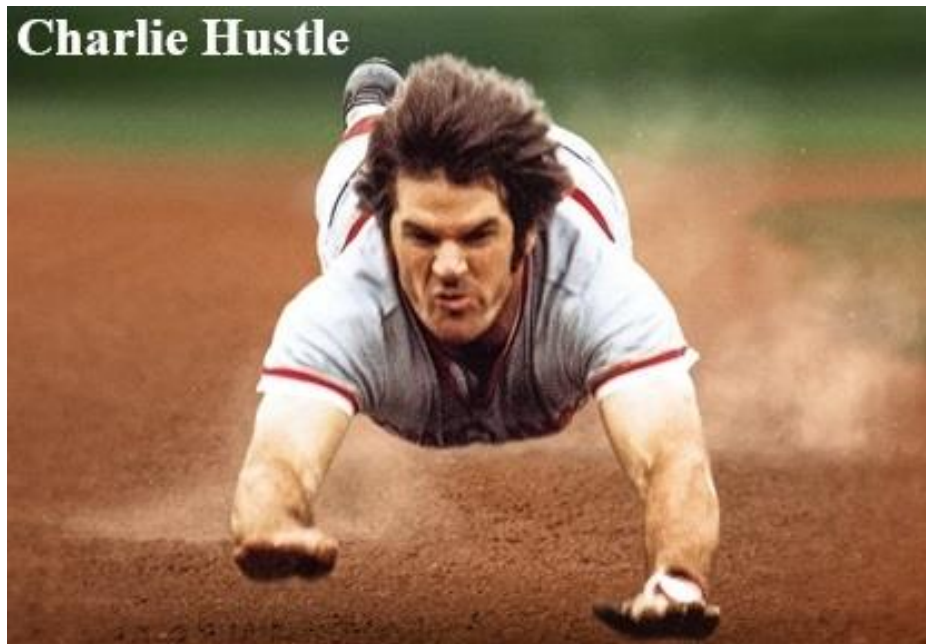
## **My Drift**

**Title: Pete Rose**

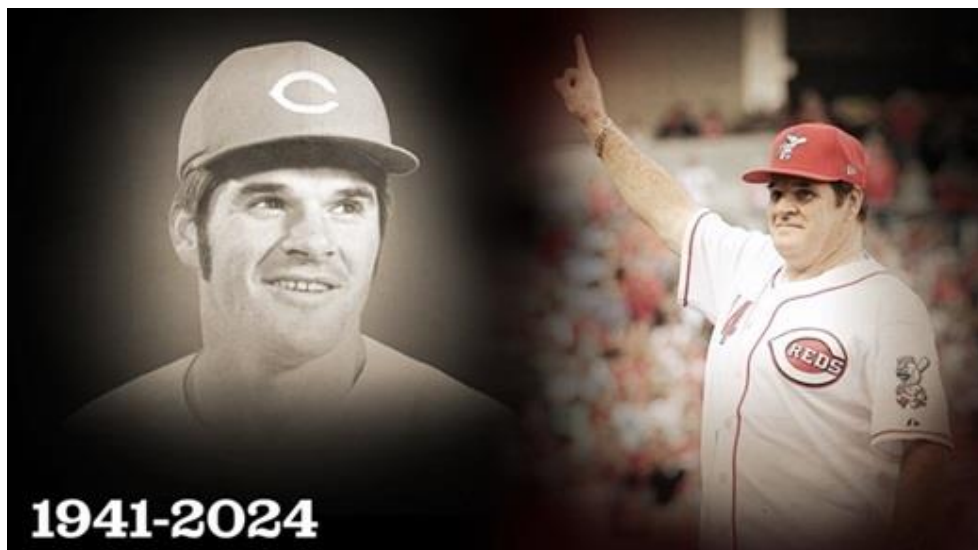
**Written By: Jerry D. Petersen**

**Date: 1 Nov 2024**

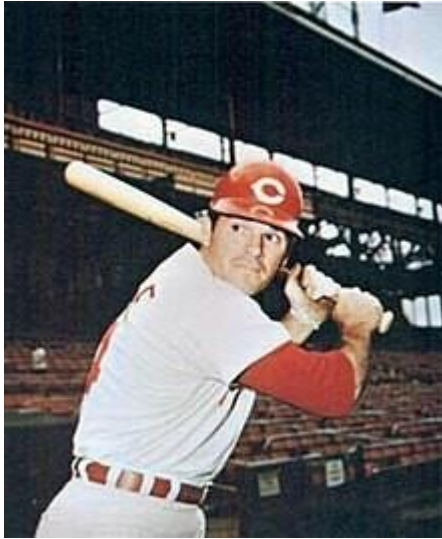
**Article Number: (478-2024-37)**



**Pete Rose, Major League Baseball's all-time hit king and one of the best baseball players ever has died at age 83.**



## **Pete Rose – Snapshot of his Baseball Career**



**Rose in 1972**

**Outfielder / Infielder / Manager**

**Born: April 14, 1941  
Cincinnati, Ohio**

**Died: September 30, 2024 (aged 83)  
Las Vegas, Nevada**

**Batted: Switch  
Threw: Right**

### **MLB debut**

**April 8, 1963, for the Cincinnati Reds**

### **Last MLB appearance**

**Aug 17, 1986, for the Cincinnati Reds**

### **MLB statistics**

<b>Batting average</b>	<b>.303</b>
<b>Hits</b>	<b>4,256</b>
<b>Home runs</b>	<b>160</b>
<b>Runs batted in</b>	<b>1,314</b>
<b>Managerial record</b>	<b>412–373</b>
<b>Winning %</b>	<b>.525</b>

### **Teams**

**As player**

**Cincinnati Reds (1963–1978)  
Philadelphia Phillies (1979–1983)  
Montreal Expos (1984)  
Cincinnati Reds (1984–1986)**

**As manager**

**Cincinnati Reds (1984–1989)**

### **Career highlights and awards**

**17× All-Star (1965, 1967–1971, 1973–  
1982, 1985)**

**3× World Series champion (1975,  
1976, 1980)**

**NL MVP (1973)**

**World Series MVP (1975)**

**NL Rookie of the Year (1963)**

**2× Gold Glove Award (1969, 1970)**

**Silver Slugger Award (1981)**

**Roberto Clemente Award (1976)**

**3× NL batting champion (1968, 1969,  
1973)**

**Cincinnati Reds No. 14 retired**

**Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame**

**Major League Baseball All-Century  
Team**

### **MLB records**

**4,256 career hits**

**3,215 career singles**

**3,562 career games played**

**14,053 career at-bats**

**15,890 career plate appearances**

### **Cause of Death**

A spokesperson for the Clark County Office of the Coroner/Medical Examiner in Las Vegas, Nevada identified the causes as "hypertensive and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease with a significant condition of diabetes mellitus."

### **Life and Trials**

Pete Rose, a baseball legend, faced many trials and tribulations in his life, including a lifetime ban from Major League Baseball (MLB) and a stint in prison.

### **Early life**

Peter Edward Rose was born April 14, 1941, in Cincinnati, Ohio, one of four children born to Harry Francis "Pete" Rose and LaVerne Rose. Encouraged by his parents to participate in sports, Rose played baseball and football at Western Hills High School.

Although small for his age, Rose earned the starting running back position on his freshman football team. When he was not promoted to the varsity football team in his sophomore year, Rose was dejected and soon lost interest in his studies. He ended up repeating his sophomore year of high school.

When Rose reached his senior year, he had used up his four years of sports eligibility. In the spring of 1960, he played in the Dayton Amateur League for a team sponsored by Frisch's Big Boy of Lebanon, Ohio. Rose played catcher, second base, and shortstop and compiled a .626 batting average. This would have been the pinnacle of Rose's baseball career if not for the help of his uncle, Buddy Bloebaum, a "bird dog" scout for the Cincinnati Reds. At Bloebaum's urging, the Reds, who had recently traded away a number of prospects who turned out to be very good, decided to take a chance on Rose. Upon his graduation from high school in 1960, he signed a professional contract for \$7,000.

### **Professional career**

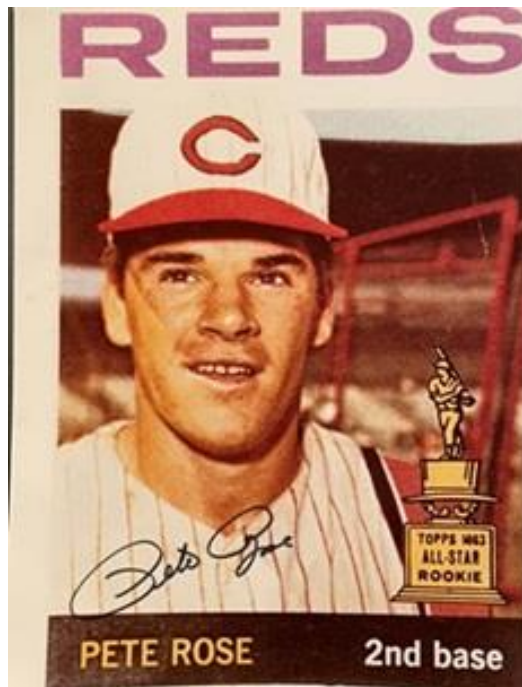
#### **Cincinnati Reds (1963–1978)**

#### **NL Rookie of the Year**

During a spring training game against the Chicago White Sox in 1963, the Reds' regular second baseman, Don Blasingame, pulled a groin muscle; Rose got his chance and made the most of it. During another spring training game against the New York Yankees, Whitey Ford gave Rose the derisive nickname "Charlie Hustle" after he sprinted to first base after drawing a walk. Rose adopted that

nickname as a badge of honor. In Ken Burns' documentary *Baseball*, Ford's teammate (and best friend) Mickey Mantle claimed that Ford gave Rose the nickname after Rose, playing in left field, made an effort to climb the fence to try to catch a Mantle home run that was about a hundred feet over his head. According to Mantle, when he returned to the dugout, Ford said, "Hey, Mick, did you see ole Charley Hustle out there trying to catch that ball?"

On April 8, 1963, Rose made his Major League debut against the Pittsburgh Pirates at Crosley Field and drew a walk in his first plate appearance. After going 0-for-11, Rose got his first career Major League hit on April 13, a triple off Pittsburgh's Bob Friend. He hit .273 for the year and won the National League (NL) Rookie of the Year Award, collecting seventeen of twenty votes.



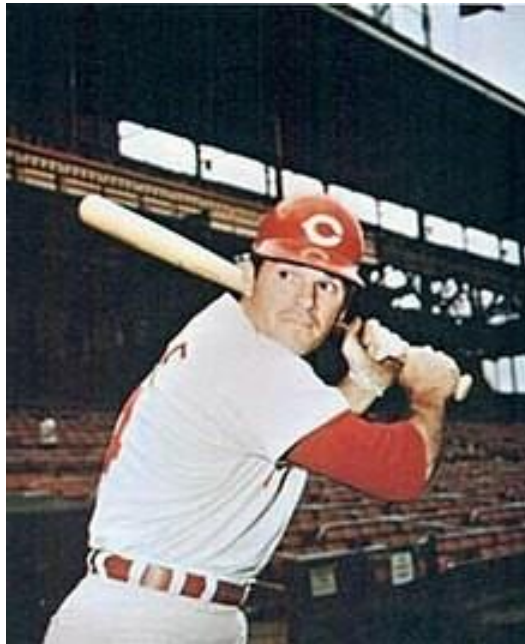
**Pete Rose Rookie Baseball Card**

Rose entered the United States Army Reserves after the 1963 baseball season. He was assigned to Fort Knox for six months of active duty, followed by six years of attendance with a 478th Engineering Battalion USAR unit at Fort Thomas, Kentucky. At Fort Knox, Rose was a platoon guide. Rose remained at Fort Knox to assist his sergeant in training the next platoon and to help another sergeant train the fort's baseball team. Later in his Fort Thomas service, Rose served as a company cook, which entailed coming in early for the one-weekend-per-month meeting so that he could leave early enough to participate in the Reds home games. Other Reds players in the unit included Johnny Bench and Alex Johnson.



**In an April 23, 1964, road contest against the Houston Colt .45's, Rose reached first base on an error in the top of the ninth inning of a scoreless game and scored on another error. The Colt .45s lost the game in the bottom of the ninth inning, and Ken Johnson became the first pitcher to lose a complete game no-hitter.**

**Rose slumped late in the season and was benched; he finished with a .269 average. In order to improve his batting, Rose played in the Venezuelan Winter League with Leones del Caracas during the 1964–1965 offseason. Rose came back to the Reds in 1965, leading the league in hits (209) and at-bats (670), and finishing sixth in NL MVP balloting. It was the first of his ten seasons with 200-plus hits, and his .312 batting average was the first of nine consecutive .300 seasons. He hit a career-high sixteen home runs in 1966, then switched positions from second base to right field the following year.**



**In 1968, Rose started the season with a 22-game hitting streak, missed three weeks (including the All-Star Game) with a broken thumb, then had a 19-game hitting streak late in the season. He had to finish the season 6-for-9 to beat out the Pirates' Matty Alou and win the first of two close NL batting-title races with a .335 average. He finished second to St. Louis Cardinals pitcher Bob Gibson for the NL MVP award, earning six first place votes. The following year, Rose set a career-high in batting (.348) and tied his career-best sixteen homers. As the Reds' leadoff man, he had 218 hits, walking 88 times and pacing the league in runs with 120. He hit 33 doubles and 11 triples, drove in 82 runs, slugged .512**

(by far the highest mark of his long career), and had a .432 OBP (also a career best). Despite Pittsburgh's Roberto Clemente going 3-for-4 in the final game, Rose's 1-for-4 was good enough for the title; Rose finished .348; Clemente .345.

### **1970 All-Star Game**

Brand-new Riverfront Stadium had been open for only two weeks on July 14, 1970, when Rose was involved in one of the most infamous plays in All-Star Game history. Facing the California Angels' Clyde Wright in the twelfth inning, Rose singled and advanced to second on another single by the Los Angeles Dodgers' Billy Grabarkewitz. The Chicago Cubs' Jim Hickman then singled sharply to center. Amos Otis's throw went past Cleveland Indians catcher Ray Fosse, as Rose barreled over Fosse to score the winning run. Fosse suffered a fractured and separated shoulder, which went undiagnosed until the next year. Fosse continued to hit for average and finished the season at .307, but with diminished power. He had sixteen home runs before the break but only two afterwards. He played with the Indians until the 1972 season, but never approached his first-year numbers. The collision also caused Rose to miss three games with a bruised knee.

### **1973 NL MVP season**

In 1973, Rose led the league with 230 hits and a .338 batting average in route to winning the NL MVP award and leading "the Big Red Machine" to the 1973 National League Championship Series against the New York Mets.



**During the fifth inning of Game Three of the series, Rose was on first base when Joe Morgan hit a double play ball to Mets first baseman John Milner. Rose slid into second base in an attempt to break up the double play. This incited a fight with Mets shortstop Bud Harrelson that resulted in a bench-clearing brawl. When the Reds took the field, the game was nearly called off after the Shea Stadium crowd threw objects at Rose from the stands. The disruption caused Reds manager Sparky Anderson to pull his team off the field until order was restored. Mets manager Yogi Berra and players Willie Mays, Tom Seaver, Cleon Jones and Rusty Staub were summoned by NL President Chub Feeney out to left field to calm the fans. The Reds ended up losing the game, 9–2, and the NLCS, 3–2, despite Rose's .381 batting average in the series, including his eighth-inning home run to tie Game One and his 12th-inning home run to win Game Four.**



**Rose walks onto the field at Dodger Stadium with the Cincinnati Reds in 1976. The Cincinnati Reds of the 1970s earned the nickname "the Big Red Machine" as one of the greatest teams in MLB history, including future Hall of Famers Johnny Bench, Joe Morgan and Tony Pérez. Rose was viewed as one of the club's leaders.**

**Rose was a significant factor in the Reds' success in 1975 and 1976 when he successfully moved from the outfield to third base. Earlier in his career, the Reds and then-manager Don Heffner tried to force Rose to third base, but Rose chafed at the move and it was soon abandoned. In the spring of 1975, manager Sparky Anderson, knowing how Rose would react to being forced to move,**

instead asked him if he would do so for the good of the team. Rose immediately agreed. This move strengthened third base and helped to solidify the Reds for those two championship seasons, because it made room for power hitting outfielder George Foster. In 1975, Rose earned World Series MVP honors in leading the Reds to their first championship since 1940, a seven-game triumph over the Boston Red Sox. Rose led the team with ten hits and a .370 batting average in the seven games. He was awarded the Hickok Belt as the top professional athlete of the year, as well as Sports Illustrated magazine's "Sportsman of the Year" award.



**The Big Red Machine**

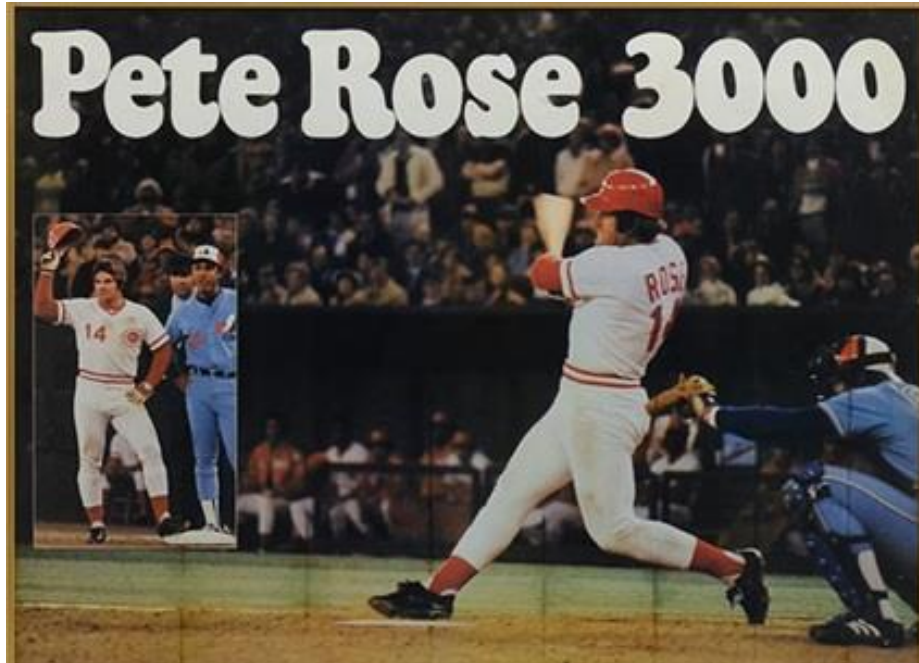
*Arguably the greatest baseball team ever assembled were the 1975-1976 Cincinnati Reds. The starting eight were: front catcher Johnny Bench; second row from left to right, third baseman Pete Rose, shortstop Dave Concepcion, second baseman Joe Morgan and first baseman Tony Perez; third row left to right, left fielder George Foster, center fielder Cesar Geronimo and right fielder Ken Griffey Sr.*

The following year, Rose was a major force in helping the Reds repeat as World Series champions. The 1976 Reds swept the Philadelphia Phillies in the best-three-of-five NLCS, followed by a four-game sweep of the Yankees in the World Series. The 1976 club remains the only team since the expansion of the playoffs in 1969 to go undefeated in the postseason, and the Reds franchise has not lost a World Series game since game six in 1975 (wins in game seven in 1975, and four-game sweeps in 1976 and 1990).



### **Three home-run game and 3,000th hit**

On April 29, 1978, at Shea Stadium, in a 14–7 rout against the New York Mets, Rose hit a career-high three home runs off of three different pitchers and went 5-for-6, which was perhaps the greatest performance of his career.



Six days later, on May 5, Rose became the thirteenth player in MLB history to garner his 3,000th career hit when he singled off Montreal Expos pitcher Steve Rogers in front of 37,823 fans at home field Riverfront Stadium.

### **44-game hitting streak**

On June 14, 1978, Rose singled in the first inning off Cubs pitcher Dave Roberts; Rose would proceed to get a hit in every game he played until August 1, making a run at Joe DiMaggio's record 56-game hitting streak, which had stood virtually unchallenged for thirty-seven years. The streak started quietly, but by the time it had reached thirty games, the media took notice and a pool of reporters accompanied Rose and the Reds to every game. On July 19, in a game against the Phillies, Rose was hitless going into the eighth inning when he walked. His team was trailing in the ninth inning and the streak appeared over, but the Reds batted through their entire lineup and gave Rose another chance to bat. Rose faced Ron Reed and laid down a perfect bunt single to extend the streak to thirty-two games.

Rose would eventually tie Willie Keeler's 1897 single-season NL record at forty-four games, but the streak came to an end on August 1 when Gene Garber of the Atlanta Braves struck out Rose in the ninth inning. With two outs and a 2–2 count, Garber decided not to challenge Rose with a fastball. He took full advantage of Rose's predicament by throwing him an off-speed pitch out of the strike zone, which Rose swung at and missed. Rose was livid after the game, blasting Garber and the Braves for treating the situation "like it was the ninth inning of the seventh game of the World Series". Garber took the comment as a compliment: "I said to myself, 'Well, thanks, Pete. That's how I try to pitch every time I'm in a game.'"

### **Philadelphia Phillies (1979–1983)**

The Philadelphia Phillies had won the National League East three years running (1976–1978)—two of which were won with 101-win seasons—but they were unable to make it to the World Series. In 1979, the Phillies believed that Rose was the player who could bring them over the top, and they temporarily made him the highest-paid athlete in team sports when they signed him to a four-year, \$3.2-million contract as a free agent. With perennial All-Star Mike Schmidt firmly entrenched at third, Rose moved to first base.

Although the Phillies missed the postseason in Rose's first year with the team, they earned three division titles (one in the first half of the strike-shortened 1981 season), two World Series appearances and their first World Series title (1980) in the following four years.



Rose had the worst season of his career in 1983, which was also the season that the Phillies played in their second World Series in four years. The 42-year-old Rose batted only .245 with 121 hits and found himself benched during the latter part of the 1983 season when he appeared periodically to play and pinch hit. Rose did blossom as a pinch-hitter, with eight hits in 22 at-bats, a .364 average.

Rose bounced back during the postseason, batting .375 (6-for-16) during the NLCS against the Los Angeles Dodgers, and .312 (5-for-16) in the World Series against the Baltimore Orioles. Rose went 1-for-8 in the first two games in Baltimore and was benched for game three in Philadelphia, though he grounded out in a pinch-hitting appearance. In a pre-game interview with Howard Cosell of ABC Sports, Rose objected to manager Paul Owens' decision to bench him. Rose bounced back with four hits in his last seven at-bats in the remaining two games, though the Phillies lost the Series to the Orioles, four games to one.

### **Montreal Expos (1984)**

Rose was granted an unconditional release from the Phillies in late October 1983. Phillies management wanted to retain Rose for the 1984 season, but he refused to accept a more limited playing role. Months later, he signed a one-year contract with the Montreal Expos.



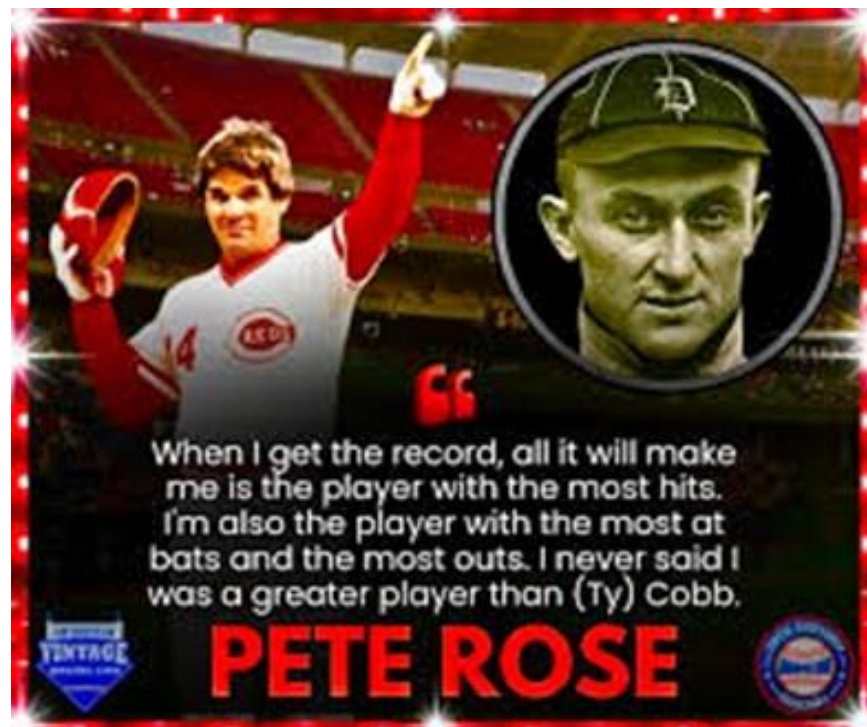
On April 13, 1984, the 21st anniversary of his first career hit, Rose doubled off the Phillies' Jerry Koosman for his 4,000th career hit, becoming the second player in the 4,000 hit club (joining Ty Cobb). Rose played 95 games with the Expos, accumulating 72 hits and 23 RBIs while batting .259.



### **Return to Cincinnati (1984–1986)**

On August 15, 1984, the Expos traded Rose back to the Reds for infielder Tom Lawless. Upon rejoining the Reds, Rose was immediately named player-manager, replacing Vern Rapp as manager. Despite his .259 average for the season prior to joining the Reds, he hit .365 for the Reds in 26 games (with 35 hits and 11 RBIs), finishing with a .286 overall average—a 41-point improvement over the 1983 season. Furthermore, Rose managed the Reds to a 19–22 record for the remainder of the season. Though the role was once common, to date Rose is the last person to serve as a player-manager in MLB.

On September 11, 1985, Rose broke Cobb's all-time hits record with his 4,192nd hit, a single to left-center field off San Diego Padres pitcher Eric Show. According to MLB.com, MLB continues to recognize Cobb's final hit total as 4,191, though independent research has revealed two of Cobb's hits were counted twice. It has been suggested because of this, that Rose actually broke Cobb's record against the Cubs' Reggie Patterson with a single in the first inning of a Reds' 5–5 called game against Chicago on September 8. ABC's Wide World of Sports named Rose its Athlete of the Year after Rose broke Cobb's record. Rose accumulated a total of 4,256 hits before his final career at-bat, a strikeout against San Diego's Goose Gossage on August 17, 1986.





In 2010, Deadspin reported Rose used corked bats during his 1985 pursuit of Cobb's record. Two sports memorabilia collectors who owned Rose's game-used bats from that season had the bats x-rayed and found the telltale signs of corking. Rose had previously denied using corked bats.

In a report for ESPN: The Magazine, it was noted that Rose had associated with Tommy Gioiosa, the manager of a Gold's Gym in suburban Cincinnati that sold anabolic steroids in the late 1980s. Gioiosa had first met and befriended Rose in 1978 during spring training, becoming a companion and runner to Rose over the next six years before bringing Rose to his gym in 1984. Rose reportedly had thought about taking a shot to help his bat speed near the end of his career but told Gioiosa that it was "too late to try something new". Attempts to tell Rose about dealing in the gym fell on deaf ears. Gioiosa was later noted as the one individual Rose made bets with, along with later being convicted of conspiracy to sell 110 pounds (50 kg) of cocaine alongside filing a false tax return that included claiming a winning gambling ticket that had actually been Rose's.

### **Retirement as a player**

On November 11, 1986, Rose was dropped from the Reds' forty-man roster to make room for pitcher Pat Pacillo, and he unofficially retired as a player. Rose finished his career with a number of MLB and NL records that have lasted for many years. Rose, always proud of his ability to hit .300 or better in fifteen of his twenty-four playing seasons, had a lifetime .303 batting average.

### **Managerial career - Cincinnati Reds (1984–1989)**

After retiring as a player, Rose remained with the Reds as manager until August 24, 1989. With a career record of 426–388 as a manager, Rose ranks fifth in Reds history for managerial wins. During his four full seasons at the helm (1985–1988), the Reds posted four second-place finishes in the NL West division.

### **Suspensions as a manager**

#### **Thirty-day suspension**

On April 30, 1988, during a home game against the New York Mets, with two out in the top of the ninth inning, Mookie Wilson hit what looked like a routine ground ball to shortstop Barry Larkin, but the throw to first base was wide and pulled first baseman Nick Esasky's foot off the bag. Umpire Dave Pallone did not immediately make the safe call and Esasky waited for the call instead of making a play at the plate, allowing Howard Johnson to score all the way from second base with what would turn out to be the game-winning run. Rose, visibly

angry and animated, vehemently argued the call. Within seconds, the dispute escalated to the point where Rose forcefully pushed the umpire twice with his shoulder and forearm, knocking Pallone several feet backward. Pallone promptly ejected Rose, as touching an umpire is grounds for immediate ejection. Rose had to be forcibly restrained by his coaches as he came back at Pallone, claiming Pallone had initiated the physical contact. He can be seen in the footage of the incident pointing to his cheek, attempting to explain to umpire Eric Gregg that Pallone had poked him in the face. In his book, Pallone wrote an entire chapter on the incident and denied touching Rose, writing that NL personnel who investigated the incident later agreed with him.

In the time it took to remove Rose, Cincinnati fans began showering the field with objects that included radios and cigarette lighters. Even though the inning was not over, all of the players retreated to the dugouts. Reds' owner Marge Schott posted a message onto the electronic billboard, asking fans to stop throwing objects onto the field. After a fifteen-minute suspension of play, Pallone left the field and the game was completed with the remaining three umpires. NL president A. Bartlett Giamatti suspended Rose for thirty days, which as of 2024 remains the longest suspension levied against a manager for an on-field incident. He also fined Rose "a substantial amount" which was not disclosed. Giamatti said, "Such incidents are not business as usual and will not be allowed to become so."

Giamatti also summoned Marty Brennaman and Joe Nuxhall, the Reds' on-air radio announcers, to his office in New York City and chastised them for inciting the fan response with "inflammatory and completely irresponsible remarks". Giamatti told Brennaman and Nuxhall, "There is no excuse for encouraging a situation where the physical safety and well-being of any individual is put significantly at risk. Nothing justifies such unprofessional behavior."

### **Permanent ineligibility Investigation**

Amid reports that he had bet on baseball, Rose was informally questioned in February 1989 by Giamatti and Commissioner of Baseball Peter Ueberroth. With his lawyer present, Rose stated that he had bet on football, basketball and horseracing, but vehemently denied the allegations of betting on baseball. By this time, MLB owners had elected Giamatti to succeed Ueberroth, and the outgoing Commissioner decided to defer the matter to his successor. In the meantime, Sports Illustrated gave the public their first detailed report of the allegations that Rose had placed bets on baseball games on March 21, 1989, in

**the cover story of the issue dated April 3, 1989. Giamatti assumed office as the seventh Commissioner of Baseball on April 1. Three days later, lawyer John M. Dowd was retained to investigate the charges against Rose.**

**Dowd interviewed many of Rose's associates, including alleged bookmakers and bet runners. He delivered a summary of his findings to the Commissioner in May. In it, Dowd documented Rose's alleged gambling activities in 1985 and 1986 and compiled a day-by-day account of his alleged betting on baseball games in 1987. The Dowd Report documented alleged bets on fifty-two Reds games in 1987, citing Rose wagered a minimum of \$10,000 a day; whereas others allegedly involved in the activities claim that number was actually \$2,000 a day.**

**Although the Dowd Report states that "no evidence was discovered that Rose bet against the Reds", Dowd himself stated in a December 2002 interview that he believed Rose probably bet against the Reds while managing them. Those critical of Rose's behavior, including Ohio's own Hall of Fame baseball reporter, Hal McCoy, have observed that "the major problem with Rose betting on baseball, particularly the Reds, is that as manager he could control games, make decisions that could enhance his chances of winning his bets, thus jeopardizing the integrity of the game." The MLB rule that Rose violated prohibits any bet on a game the bettor is involved in, making no distinction between betting for or against one's team. The rule is: "Rule 21 Misconduct, (d) Betting on Ball Games, any player, umpire, or club, or league official, or employee, who shall bet any sum whatsoever upon any baseball game in connection with which the bettor has a duty to perform shall be declared permanently ineligible."**

**Rose continued to deny all of the accusations against him and refused to appear at a hearing with Giamatti on the matter. He filed a lawsuit in the Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas, the state trial court covering Cincinnati, alleging that the Commissioner had prejudged the case and could not provide a fair hearing. The Court of Common Pleas issued a temporary restraining order to delay the hearing, but Giamatti sought to remove the case to the federal United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio. The Southern District of Ohio granted Giamatti's removal petition. The parties thereafter entered settlement negotiations.**



### **Aftermath**

On August 24, 1989, Rose voluntarily accepted a permanent place on baseball's ineligible list. He accepted that there was a factual reason for the ban. In return, MLB agreed to make no formal finding with regard to the gambling allegations. According to baseball's rules, Rose could apply for reinstatement in one year but Giamatti said, "There is absolutely no deal for reinstatement. That is exactly what we did not agree to in terms of a fixed number of years." Rose, with a 412–373 record, was replaced as Reds manager by Tommy Helms.

Giamatti died of a heart attack on September 1, 1989, eight days after announcing Rose's suspension.

### **National Baseball Hall of Fame Eligibility**

On February 4, 1991, the Hall of Fame voted formally to exclude individuals on the permanently ineligible list from being inducted by way of the Baseball Writers' Association of America (BBWAA) vote. A longstanding unwritten rule already barred permanently ineligible players from enshrinement. At the beginning of the 2024 season, Rose, Tucupita Marcano (banned in 2024 for betting on his own team's games) and Roberto Alomar (banned in 2021 for sexual misconduct towards a female Toronto Blue Jays staffer) were the only living former players on the ineligible list (although former executive Chris Correa is also on the list for other infractions); Alomar was enshrined several years before his banishment, and his plaque remains in the hall. Players who were not selected by the BBWAA could be considered by the Veterans



Committee in the first year after they would have lost their place on the Baseball Writers' ballot. Under the Hall's rules at the time, players could appear on the ballot for only fifteen years, beginning five years after they retired. Had he not been banned from baseball, Rose's name could have been on the writers' ballot beginning in 1992 and ending in 2006. Rose would have been eligible for consideration by the Veterans Committee in 2007, but did not appear on the ballot. In 2008, the Veterans Committee barred players and managers on the ineligible list from consideration. Eight years later, Rose petitioned the Hall of Fame to permit his name to be submitted for induction, saying that he had not expected to be prevented from consideration when agreeing to the lifetime ban.

Although he remains ineligible for the Hall of Fame, artifacts from Rose's career are on display inside the Hall's museum, located on the floor above the plaque gallery. Rose was also inducted into the Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame in 2016.

### **Reinstatement efforts**

In 1992, Rose applied for reinstatement. Fay Vincent, who as deputy commissioner had played a key role in negotiating the agreement banning Rose before becoming Commissioner after Giamatti's death, never acted on Rose's application. In September 1998, Rose applied for reinstatement with Vincent's successor Bud Selig, but Selig also never acted on it.

In public comments, Selig said he saw no reason to reconsider Rose's punishment. In March 2003, he acknowledged that he was considering Rose's application, leading to speculation that Rose's return might be imminent. Ultimately, Selig took no action.

Representatives for Rose applied in 2015 for reinstatement with Selig's successor, Rob Manfred. On December 15 of that year, Manfred rejected the request. Manfred stated that Rose had not been forthcoming about his gambling and that Rose (who by this time was living in Las Vegas) was still betting on baseball. Although Rose was placing legal bets by this time, MLB had long barred players, managers and coaches from any form of gambling on baseball, legal or otherwise. He also felt that Rose did not have "a mature understanding of his wrongful conduct" and the damage it had done to the game. For these reasons, Manfred concluded that allowing him back in the game would be an "unacceptable risk".

**In 2020, Rose, along with his lawyers, once again applied for reinstatement. In his petition he stated that his gambling did not affect the outcome of games, whereas other players who used steroids or used electronic signs to steal catchers' signals, did affect games, yet were not banned. He also sent a petition to the Hall of Fame's board of directors, asking them to repeal their 1991 ban on players on the ineligible list. Neither Manfred nor the Hall of Fame's directors have responded to this petition, as of 2024.**

**In 2022, Rose again applied for reinstatement. In a letter to Manfred, he stated that he "still think[s] every day about what it would mean to be considered for the Hall of Fame". Manfred quickly rejected the request and stated that any Hall of Fame discussions would be deferred to the Veteran's Committee.**

**When asked in March 2023 about whether or not MLB's emerging partnerships with sportsbooks would have an effect on Rose's ban, Manfred quickly shot down speculation about possible reinstatement, and later affirmed his stance when further asked about it at that season's All-Star Game.**



**Rose in 1995**

### **Post-baseball life**

#### **Tax evasion**

**On April 20, 1990, Rose entered a plea of guilty to two charges of filing false income tax returns not showing income he received from selling autographs and memorabilia and from horseracing winnings. On July 19, he was sentenced to five months at the minimum security prison camp at the federal Penitentiary in Marion, Illinois, and fined \$50,000. Rose was released on January 7, 1991, after having paid \$366,041 in back taxes and interest and was required to perform 1,000 hours of community service.**

### **MLB All-Century Team**

**In 1999, Rose was selected as an outfielder on the Major League Baseball All-Century Team. To select the team, a panel of experts first compiled a list of the 100 greatest players from the past century. Fans then voted on the players using paper and online ballots.**

**An exception was made to Rose's ban to allow him to participate in the pre-game introduction of the All-Century team before Game Two of the 1999 World Series between the Atlanta Braves and the New York Yankees. Despite never having been a member of the Braves, Rose received the loudest ovation of the All-Century team members from the crowd at Turner Field in Atlanta, Georgia.**

**After the ceremony on live television, NBC's Jim Gray repeatedly asked Rose if he was ready to admit to betting on baseball and apologize. Many people were outraged over Gray's aggressive questioning, feeling that it detracted from the ceremony. In protest, Yankees outfielder Chad Curtis refused to speak with Gray after his game-winning home run in Game Three. Earlier that season, Rose had been ranked at number 25 on The Sporting News' list of the 100 Greatest Baseball Players.**

**In 2002, Rose appeared during the 2002 World Series in a Mastercard-sponsored event recalling "Baseball's Most Memorable Moments". Fans voted Rose's record-breaking hit over Ty Cobb as the sixth most memorable moment in baseball history.**

**While allowing him to participate in the All-Century Team, and a September 2010 celebration at Great American Ball Park of the 25th anniversary of his 4,192nd hit, MLB has refused to allow Rose to participate in other events in Cincinnati, such as the 25th anniversary reunion of the Big Red Machine, the closing of Cinergy Field and the opening of Great American Ball Park, as well as the closing of Veterans Stadium in Philadelphia and 1980 Phillies anniversary celebrations. The year before his retirement in 2015, Selig stated that Rose could participate in the festivities for the 2015 MLB All-Star Game, which was held in Cincinnati (within subjective guidelines), and Rose took the field alongside Reds teammates prior to the game. In 2016, Rose had his jersey retired by the Reds, which had to be approved by MLB.**

### **Sports gambling admission**

In his autobiography *My Prison Without Bars*, published by Rodale, Inc. on January 8, 2004, Rose admitted publicly to betting on baseball games and other sports while playing for and managing the Reds. He also admitted to betting on Reds games, but said he never bet against the team. Rose repeated his admissions in an interview on the ABC news program *Primetime*. In the book he stated that he hoped his admissions would help end his ban from baseball so he could reapply for reinstatement. Later in 2004, ESPN broadcast the television film *Hustle*, starring Tom Sizemore and directed by Peter Bogdanovich, which was primarily based on the Dowd Report.

In March 2007, during an interview on *The Dan Patrick Show* on ESPN Radio, Rose said, "I bet on my team every night. I didn't bet on my team four nights a week. I bet on my team to win every night because I loved my team, I believed in my team ... I did everything in my power every night to win that game."

The criticism of Rose did not diminish after this admission—some Rose supporters were outraged he would reverse fifteen years of denial as part of a book publicity tour. In addition, the timing was called into question; by making his admission just two days after the Hall of Fame announced its class of 2004 inductees, Rose appeared to be linking himself publicly to the Hall.

### **WWE**

Between 1998 and 2000, Rose appeared at World Wrestling Federation's (now WWE) annual *WrestleMania* pay-per-view event, in what became a running gag. At *WrestleMania XIV* he served as "guest ring announcer" prior to a match between Kane and the Undertaker. Rose took to the ring and started to taunt the Boston crowd about the Reds beating the Red Sox in the 1975 World Series, before he took a Tombstone Piledriver from Kane (also nicknamed "The Big Red Machine"). Even though portrayed as a villain, Kane's Tombstone of Rose was cheered by the crowd. For the next year's *WrestleMania XV*, Rose was portrayed as seeking revenge. To do so, he dressed as the San Diego Chicken and "attacked" Kane before his scheduled match, only to take another Tombstone. He returned for a third time the following year, at *WrestleMania 2000*, but again was thwarted by Kane, as well as Rikishi, his tag team partner that night.



**Kane Body Slams Rose**



In addition to these three appearances, Rose appeared in a Halloween-themed commercial for WWE's No Mercy event in 2002 and was choke slammed by Kane. In 2004, Rose was inducted into the "Celebrity Wing" of the WWE Hall of Fame class of 2004. He was the first celebrity to go into the Hall and was inducted at a ceremony prior to WrestleMania XX by Kane.

### **Fox Sports**

On April 16, 2015, it was announced that Rose had been hired by Fox Sports to serve as a guest studio color analyst for MLB coverage on Fox and Fox Sports 1, appearing on the MLB on Fox pregame show as well as MLB Whiparound, America's Pregame and Fox Sports Live. He made his Fox Sports 1 debut on May 11, 2015. He was let go in August 2017 when the details of his sexual relationship with a teenager in the 1970s was revealed after he attempted to sue John Dowd.

### **Autograph shows**

Rose became a fixture at baseball card and autograph shows. As of March 2014, Rose earned more than \$1,000,000 annually from many paid public appearances and autograph signings. These included appearances in Cooperstown, New York, around the time of the Hall of Fame induction weekend each year. Although Rose did not stay at the Otesaga Resort Hotel with other baseball people and could not attend the ceremonies, many fans gathered outside for his autograph. He became known for signing baseballs with the phrase "I'm sorry I bet on baseball" and, if paid to, would sign anything, including his mugshot after being arrested for tax evasion and copies of the Dowd Report. He was known to spend over 20 hours a week greeting fans and signing autographs at casinos in Las Vegas.

### **Personal life**

#### **Relationships and children**

Rose married Carolyn Englehardt on January 25, 1964. The couple had two children, daughter Fawn (born 1964) and son Pete Rose Jr. (born 1969). The marriage ended in divorce in 1980. In 1978, a paternity suit was filed naming Rose as the father of Morgan Erin Rubio. In a 1996 settlement of the lawsuit, Rose acknowledged that Rubio was his daughter.

Rose married his second wife, Carol J. Woliung, a former Playboy Bunny and Philadelphia Eagles cheerleader, in 1984. They had two children, son Tyler (born 1984) and daughter Cara (born 1989), who was born two days before Rose's banishment from MLB. Rose filed for divorce from Carol in March

**2011, citing irreconcilable differences, but his petition did not offer any additional details. Rose did not include a date for their separation. Documents in the filing said that Rose was looking to obtain all memorabilia and other possessions he had acquired before the marriage.**



**Rose and Kiana Kim**

**While separated from his second wife, Rose began a relationship with Kiana Kim, a Playboy model 40 years his junior. During a 2009 interview, Rose discussed this relationship, stating, "My girl has finally decided to try to shoot for Playboy, and they were kind enough to give her an opportunity to come to Houston for an interview, and we're excited about that." A 2013 reality show called Pete Rose: Hits and Mrs. which followed the couple, and his two stepchildren Cassie and Ashton, premiered on TLC on January 14, 2013. Rose and Kim had been engaged since 2011 but never married.**

**Two of Rose's children have lived public lives. Cara has worked as a television actress, appearing as a regular in the first season of the NBC soap opera Passions and playing a recurring role on Fox's Melrose Place. She uses the stage name "Chea Courtney". His son, Pete Jr., spent 16 years as a minor league player, advancing to the majors once for an 11-game stint with the Reds in 1997.**

## **Records and achievements**

Aside from the numerous records he set and individual titles he won, Rose was also honored with the 1968 Hutch Award, the 1969 Lou Gehrig Memorial Award, and the 1976 Roberto Clemente Award. Despite his status of permanent ineligibility for the Hall of Fame, Rose received 9.5% of the votes (17th place overall) in his first year on the ballot for the BBWAA. He continued to receive votes for the next two years but failed to achieve the minimum of 5% to keep him on the ballot. Rose was inducted into the Baseball Reliquary's Shrine of the Eternals in 2010.

Rose made the National League All-Star roster seventeen times. Only three National League players (Hank Aaron, Willie Mays, and Stan Musial) and five American League (AL) players (Mickey Mantle, Cal Ripken, Ted Williams, Rod Carew, and Carl Yastrzemski) have more appearances. He was voted the National League's Most Valuable Player in 1973, but also finished in the top five vote-getters in 1968, 1969, 1975, and 1976. He led the league in batting average three times (1968, 1969, 1973), in plate appearances and hits seven times, in games played and doubles five times, in at-bats and runs scored four times, and in on-base percentage twice (1968, 1979).

Pete Rose's number 14 was retired by the Cincinnati Reds in 2016.

## **Major League records:**

**Most career at-bats – 14,053**

**Most career plate appearances – 15,890**

**Most career hits – 4,256**

**Most career singles – 3,215**

**Most career times on base – 5,929**

**Most career outs – 10,328**

**Most career games played – 3,562**

**Most career winning games played – 1,972**

**Only player to play at least 500 games at five different positions – 1B (939), LF (671), 3B (634), 2B (628), RF (595)**

**Most seasons of 200 or more hits – 10 (shared)**

**Most consecutive seasons of 100 or more hits – 23**

**Most consecutive seasons with 600 or more at-bats – 13 (1968–1980) (shared)**

**Most seasons with 600 at-bats – 17**

**Most seasons with 150 or more games played – 17**

**Most seasons with 100 or more games played – 23**

**National League records:**

**Most years played – 24**

**Most consecutive years played – 24**

**Most career runs – 2,165**

**Most career doubles – 746**

**Most career games with 5 or more hits – 10**

**Modern (post-1900) NL record for longest consecutive-game hitting streak NL – 44**

**Modern record for most hitting streaks of 20 or more consecutive games – 7**

**Rose also accumulated 63 four-hit games in his MLB career.**

**Rose retired in 1986 with the highest modern-day career fielding percentage for a right fielder at 99.14% and the highest National League modern-day career fielding percentage for a left fielder at 99.07%, behind only the AL's Joe Rudi and then-active players Gary Roenicke and Brian Downing, who also primarily played in the AL.**

### **My Comments**

**In my humble opinion Pete Rose belongs in the Baseball Hall of Fame!!!!**

**The Hall of Fame should be for the best baseball players in history based on their performance on the field. Not based on their problems off the field.**

**Rose had a gambling problem along with several other issues. He was not a smart man (He funk'd out of the 10<sup>th</sup> grade and never went to college). All he knew was baseball!**

**Why didn't somebody try to help him?**

**Let's see –**

**Babe Ruth and Mickey Mantle had a drinking problem. Maybe we should kick them out of the Hall of Fame?**

**Ty Cobb was a jerk! Let's kick him out too.**

**Who do all these baseball Commissioners and the Baseball Writers' Association of America (BBWAA) members think they are anyway? GOD? I bet we can find "skeletons in the closets" of all these people. No person on earth is perfect!**

**Barry Bonds and Roger Clements definitely belong in the Hall of Fame! Because of steroid use later in their careers, the BBWAA members will not vote them in.**



**A seven-time NL MVP, Bonds set the career home run record with 762 and the season record with 73 in 2001. A seven-time Cy Young Award winner, Clemens went 354-184 with a 3.12 ERA and 4,672 strikeouts, third behind Nolan Ryan (5,714) and Randy Johnson (4,875).**



**Barry Bonds and Roger Clements**

**I wrote this article after Pete Rose's death during the 2024 baseball post season and before the World Series starts between the Los Angeles Dodgers and the New York Yankees on Friday, 25 October. The last time the Dodgers played the Yankees in the World Series was back in 1981. Should be a great series!**

**GO DODGERS!**

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