



UPDATE: The BBWAA reports that no players elected in this year's class. Select Read More to see the vote details.

Let's get some things clear first before we get started....

I don't have a vote (I'm not yet in the BBWAA, and it would be 10 years after that before I'd be allowed to vote for the Hall of Fame).... I believe that the Baseball Hall of Fame is a wonderful museum and research facility built at the fictitious location where the birth of baseball is said to have occurred.... People are not all "rainbows and unicorns.".... Cheating in baseball began long before steroids were the lightning rod they are today... The HOF isn't Church, so don't vote like it is.... Those that are not filling out their ballots as a form of protest are weak, making the story about them, and need to get in the trenches, deal with it or step aside. Your vote is a privilege, not a right. Deal with the complexities of it all.

With that all out of the way, if I had a ballot to fill, here's how I would have voted this year:

- Roger Clemens
- Barry Bonds
- Tim Lincecum
- Curt Schilling
- Jeff Bagwell
- Craig Biggio
- Mike Piazza
- Edgar Martinez

My ballot has 8 votes, which leads to a real issue that may come up this year: there may not be enough votes for a given player to garner the 75% threshold needed for inclusion. With the PED controversy surrounding Bonds, Clemens, Bagwell, and potentially Piazza (see how that

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creates this silly slippery slope?), along with the strong ballot could create the conundrum. The last time there were no inductees on the player ballot was in 1996 with Phil Niekro (68% of the ballot) and 1971 when the best Yogi Berra pulled was 67%. So, it has happened, and this year is a good chance it could happen again. If there's a player that has a shot, I'm giving it to Raines.

The best thing about all this is it creates debate. The issue this year is the addition of suspected steroid users. Baseball isn't Church. The voting body isn't judge, jury, and executioner. The lone exception for me is Rafael Palmeiro. In his case, he did test positive for steroids. Beyond that, "suspected" isn't the same.

I get that people don't want PEDs in the game, and no one could be more agreeable on that than I. But, what people are really concerned about are the "sacred numbers." You don't really care about PEDs in the game. No one cares about the fact that [this year saw the most Minor League drug suspensions since testing began](#)

. No, you like your HOF plaques clean and memorable. No one drank. No one womanized. No one was a racist. No one cheated. No one Juiced. As I said at the beginning, the Baseball Hall of Fame is in Cooperstown, the fictitious birthplace of baseball. That's somehow appropriate.

Name	Votes (Pct.)	Ys on ballot
Craig Biggio	388 (68.2%)	1
Jack Morris	385 (67.7%)	14
Jeff Bagwell	339 (59.6%)	3
Mike Piazza	329 (57.8%)	1
Tim Lincecum	297 (52.2%)	6
Lee Smith	272 (47.8%)	11
Curt Schilling	221 (38.8%)	1

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Roger Clemens	214 (37.6%)	1
Barry Bonds	206 (36.2%)	1
Edgar Martinez	204 (35.9%)	4
Alan Trammell	191 (33.6%)	12
Larry Walker	123 (21.6%)	3
Fred McGriff	118 (20.7%)	4
Dale Murphy	106 (18.6%)	15
Mark McGwire	96 (16.9%)	7
Don Mattingly	75 (13.2%)	13
Sammy Sosa	71 (12.5%)	1
Rafael Palmeiro	50 (8.8%)	3
Bernie Williams	19 (3.3%)	2
Kenny Lofton	18 (3.2%)	1
Sandy Alomar Jr.	16 (2.8%)	1

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Julio Franco	6 (1.1%)	1
David Wells	5 (0.9%)	1
Steve Finley	4 (0.7%)	1
Shawn Green	2 (0.4%)	1
Aaron Sele	1 (0.2%)	1
Jeff Cirillo	0 (0%)	1
Royce Clayton	0 (0%)	1
Jeff Conine	0 (0%)	1
Roberto Hernandez	0 (0%)	1
Ryan Klesko	0 (0%)	1
Jose Mesa	0 (0%)	1
Reggie Sanders	0 (0%)	1
Mike Stanton	0 (0%)	1
Todd Walker	0 (0%)	1
Rondell White	0 (0%)	1
Woody Williams	0 (0%)	1

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