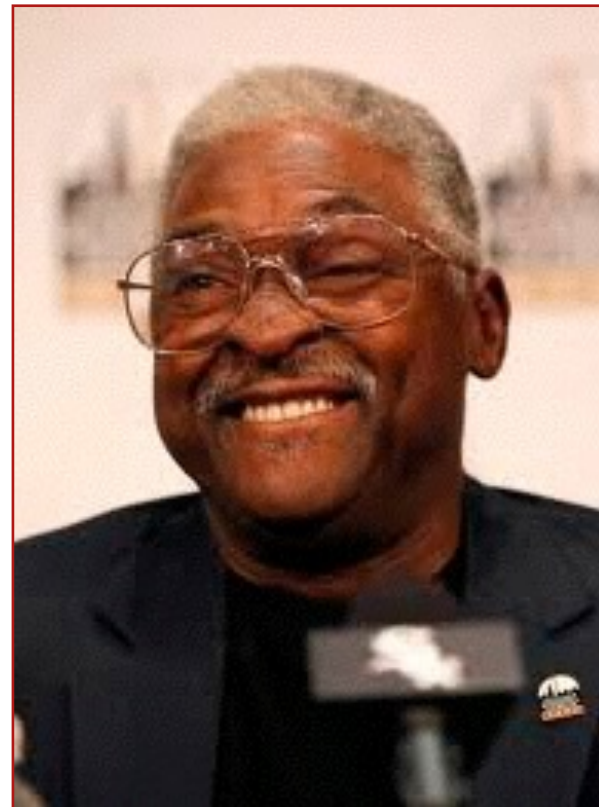


He Won't Campaign So We'll Explain...



**...Why Dick Allen Belongs In
The Hall of Fame**



A SON'S MOST SINCERE HOPE....

Dear Friends:

I humbly request that you review the following information as you consider which players to include in the 2014 Hall of Fame Golden Era ballot.

My father, Dick Allen, played for the Philadelphia Phillies (twice), St. Louis Cardinals, Los Angeles Dodgers, Chicago White Sox, and Oakland Athletics during his 15-year career in the major leagues. As you will see on the following pages, his statistics compare favorably to -- and in many cases exceed -- other players of his era who are already enshrined in the hall.

But the numbers and the legendary home run power he displayed -- people still marvel at the titanic shots that appeared to still be rising as they rocketed over the leftfield stands at Connie Mack Stadium -- are just part of my dad's story.

Please pay particular attention to the words of the players and managers he competed with and against, to the front office executives who signed his paycheck, to members of the media who covered him. I have a feeling they may correct some misperceptions that have been lingering unchallenged for too many years.

You see, my father somehow developed a reputation as a malcontent, a bad teammate, a guy who caused trouble in the clubhouse. Perhaps it had to do with the fact that he came from a small town in western Pennsylvania and was the first black superstar to play baseball in Philadelphia during a time of high racial tension. Regardless, I've come to understand that he was a dedicated ballplayer whose actions were often misinterpreted.

Why else would Goose Gossage call him the best teammate he ever played with? Why else would Phillies manager Gene Mauch insist he never caused a problem? Why else would the Phillies invite him back at the end of his career to help their young players adjust to playoff competition? Why else would he be credited with saving the Chicago White Sox franchise with his MVP season in 1972?

The answer is simple -- my father was perhaps the most misunderstood man in the history of professional sport. It hurts me to hear people say negative things about him. And it especially hurts when my son Tre -- Dick's grandson -- hears the same inaccurate statements.

After all these years, it's time to set the record straight. You can do it by having the courage to include him on the 2014 Golden Era ballot so he has a chance to be elected to the Hall of Fame.

It is significant that this presentation was compiled with the help of Mark "Frog" Carfagno, a longtime member of the Phillies grounds crew who became a good friend to my dad. Frog is the kind of person, along with secretaries, security guards, and clubhouse attendants, who meant a lot to my dad.

Sincerely,

Richard Allen Jr.

P.S.: For the record, my father wanted no part of this campaign -- he's much too proud to beg for an honor he so richly deserves. But understand he would be thrilled to take a spot in Cooperstown along with the other stars of his era.

**A Hall of Famer By
The Traditional
Numbers**

CAREER STATISTICS

G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	OBP	SA	OPS
1,749	6,332	1,099	1,848	320	79	351	1,119	133	.292	.398	.534	.912

ALL-TIME RANKINGS

Home Runs -- **90th (351)**

RBI -- **196 (1,119)**

Batting Average -- **336 (.292)**

On Base Percentage -- **185 (.378)**

Slugging Average -- **42 (.534)**

OPS -- **55 (.912)**

PLEASE PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THESE THREE STATS:

- On Base Percentage -- **185th (.378)**
- Slugging Average -- **42nd (.534)**
- OPS -- **55th (.912)**

THESE ARE IMPRESSIVE CAREER NUMBERS!

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

- 1964 NL Rookie of the Year Award
- 1964 Topps All-Star Rookie Team
- 7-time All-Star (1965-1967, 1970 & 1972-1974)
- AL MVP (1972)
- 2-time League On-Base Percentage Leader (1967/NL & 1972/AL)
- 3-time League Slugging Percentage Leader (1966/NL, 1972/AL & 1974/AL)
- 4-time League OPS Leader (1966/NL, 1967/NL, 1972/AL & 1974/AL)
- NL Runs Scored Leader (1964)
- NL Total Bases Leader (1964)
- NL Triples Leader (1964)
- 2-time AL Home Runs Leader (1972 & 1974)
- AL RBI Leader (1972)
- AL Bases on Balls Leader (1972)
- 20-Home Run Seasons: 10 (1964-1972 & 1974)
- 30-Home Run Seasons: 6 (1966, 1968-1970, 1972 & 1974)
- 40-Home Run Seasons: 1 (1966)
- 100 RBI Seasons: 3 (1966, 1970 & 1972)
- 100 Runs Scored Seasons: 2 (1964 & 1966)
- 200 Hits Seasons: 1 (1964)

Did He Play Enough Games To Be Considered a Hall of Famer?

YES!

In fact, Dick Allen played more games than Chuck Klein, Joe DiMaggio, Tony Lazzeri, Earl Combs, Lou Boudreau, Hank Greenburg, Ralph Kiner, and Kirby Puckett.

All Are Hall of Famers!

Digging Deeper Into the Numbers

Consider the 10 Seasons Between 1964 and 1973

Dick Allen had a OPS+ of 165. Eleven Hall of Famers played 1,000 or more games during those 10 seasons.

Dick Allen's OPS+ was higher than all for them, including:

Hank Aaron	161	Carl Yastrzemski	145
Willie McCovey	161	Al Kaline	140
Frank Robinson	161	Billy Williams	139
Harmon Killebrew	152	Ron Santo	136
Willie Stargell	152		
Roberto Clemente	151		
Willie Mays	148		

What is OPS+?

On-base Plus Slugging Plus (OPS+) normalizes a player's OPS — it adjusts for small variables that might affect OPS scores (e.g. park effects) and puts the statistic on an easy-to-understand scale. A 100 OPS+ is league average, and each point up or down is one percentage point above or below league average. In other words, if a player had a 90 OPS+ last season, that means their OPS was 10% below league average.

162-Game Averages

(Compared to These Hall of Fame Contemporaries)

G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	OBP	SA	OPS
Allen	586	102	171	30	7	33	104	12	.292	.378	.534	.912
Santo	588	82	163	26	5	25	96	3	.277	.362	.464	.826

vs. Ron Santo, Dick Allen is better in 11 offensive categories

G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	OBP	SA	OPS
Allen	586	102	171	30	7	33	104	12	.292	.378	.534	.912
Cepeda	605	86	179	32	2	29	104	11	.297	.350	.499	.849

.vs Orlando Cepeda, Dick Allen is better in seven offensive categories.

G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	OBP	SA	OPS
Allen	586	102	171	30	7	33	104	12	.292	.378	.534	.912
Stargell	544	82	153	29	4	33	106	1	.282	.360	.529	.880

.vs Willie Stargell, Dick Allen is better in 9 offensive categories.

G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	OBP	SA	OPS
Allen	586	102	171	30	7	33	104	12	.292	.378	.534	.912
Killebrew	542	85	139	19	5	35	98	1	.256	.376	.509	.884

vs. Harmon Killebrew, Dick Allen is better in 10 offensive categories.

G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	OBP	SA	OPS
Allen	586	102	171	30	7	33	104	12	.292	.378	.534	.912
Matthews	578	102	157	24	5	25	96	5	.271	.376	.509	.885

vs. Eddie Matthews, Dick Allen is better in 10 offensive categories, and equal in one.

G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	OBP	SA	OPS
Allen	586	102	171	30	7	33	104	12	.292	.378	.534	.912
Bench	575	82	154	29	2	29	103	5	.267	.342	.476	.817

vs. Johnny Bench, Dick Allen is better in 11 offensive categories.

G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	OBP	SA	OPS
Allen	586	102	171	30	7	33	104	12	.292	.378	.534	.912
McCovey	513	77	138	22	3	33	97	2	.270	.374	.515	.889

vs. Willie McCovey, Dick Allen is better in 10 offensive categories, and equal in one

How Dick Allen Compares To Other Hall of Famers

Black Ink Test*

Dick Allen is ranked **70th** all-time with a score of **27**.

That's better than 33 current Hall of Famers, including contemporaries:

- Ernie Banks (73rd)
- Lou Brock (76th)
- Roberto Clemente (88th)
- Johnny Bench (109th)
- Billy Williams (132nd)
- Willie Stargell (142nd)

** Named so because league leading numbers are traditionally represented with boldface type. The definition for the test used here was written up in Bill James's *The Politics of Glory*, p. 65-67. The essential point is to measure how often a player led the league in a variety of "important" stats. This method penalizes more recent players as they have 14-16 teams per league, while the older players had just 8. To get a point you must lead the league in that category.*

Grey Ink Test*

Dick Allen is ranked **75th** all time with a score of **159**.

That's better than 47 current Hall of Famers, including contemporaries:

- Roberto Clemente (81st)
- Rod Carew (90th)
- Ron Santo (96th)
- Brooks Robinson (133rd)
- Joe Morgan (137th)
- Tony Perez (129th)

** Essentially the same as the Black-Ink Test, but it counts appearances in the top ten of the league. As with the Black Ink Test, this method penalizes more recent players as they have 14-16 teams per league, while the older players had just 8. To get a point you must be in the top 10 in the league in that category.*

Hall of Fame Career Standards Test*

Dick Allen is ranked 172 with a score of 36, the same as:

- Roy Campanella
- Tony Lazzeri
- Kirby Puckett
- Pee Wee Reese
- Hack Wilson

And better than:

- Jackie Robinson
- Orlando Cepeda
- Earl Combs

**This test gives a score of 50 for an average Hall of Famer, with 100 as the max. It is used to measure the overall quality of a player's career as opposed to singular brilliance (peak value).*

**An Incomparable Slugger
For the Ages**

“SINGLE MIGHTIEST HITTER”

“...based upon the record of batsmen without the benefit of PEDs, Dick Allen is the single mightiest hitter that Major League Baseball has produced in the last half century.”

**Bill Jenkinson,
Baseball Historian**

[Read Bill Jenkinson's Article](#)

**What Others
Are Saying
About Dick Allen**

“A TEAM PLAYER”

“I played and roomed with Dick Allen three years. His statistics speak for themselves. They are HOF stats. Dick Allen always gave 100% in the field. Despite wrecking his hand pushing his old car in front of his home (That night I went to his home as soon as I heard of the accident and saw the blood on the broken head lamp), Dick recovered and became one of the best players of his era after moving from third base to the outfield and finally to first base.

*“One could talk to those who played with Dick Allen and they would vouch for his on-field abilities. Allen could hit, hit with power, run the bases well, **and was a team player.** I enjoyed the times we were teammates even though he took my job.”*

Bill White
Player: New York/SF Giants, St. Louis Cardinals, Philadelphia Phillies
National League President, 1989-1994

“Ultimate Team Guy”

"I actually thought that Dick was better than his stats. Every time we needed a clutch hit, he got it. He got along great with his teammates and he was very knowledgeable about the game. He was the ultimate team guy."

*Stan Bahnsen
Pitcher, 1966-1982*

“Predictor”

“Hitting a baseball in the major leagues is one of the toughest things to do in sports; predicting things that you would do with that bat in your hands would seem almost impossible. On July 7, 1967 we were playing at home against the St. Louis Cardinals. We were losing, 3-2, in the bottom of the eighth inning. The Cardinals brought in hard throwing right-hander Nelson Briles to close out the game.

“With a runner on first base Dick said to me, “This will be our last at bat.” I saw him tell batboy Kenny Bush to put all the equipment away because he wouldn’t need it in the ninth. Sure enough, on a 1-1 pitch, Dick hit a tremendous blast over the roof in center field. I couldn’t believe it, and neither did my teammates. We won the game 4-3.”

Tony Taylor
Infielder, 1958-1962

[Read Tony Taylor’s Full Letter](#)

DICK ALLEN'S PITCHING ADVICE TO GOOSE GOSSAGE

In the July 26, 2008 issue of the New York Times, the Hall of Fame hurler talks about how Dick Allen helped him learn to pitch:

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. — Rich (Goose) Gossage's first three seasons as a major league pitcher were spent with Dick Allen as a Chicago White Sox teammate. The slugger turned out to be a pretty good pitching coach for a right-hander with heat, who would reach the acme of his powers as a closer with the Yankees.

"We'd talk for hours on end about pitching and how to make pitches and what a hitter's looking for," said Gossage, who will be inducted Sunday into the National Baseball Hall of Fame. Allen told Gossage to make a right-handed hitter's elbow a target. "He'd say, 'We see it as hitters and this is something that really isn't being taught anymore. Everything's away, away, away, away.' Money couldn't pay for Allen's teachings," Gossage said.

Allen advised him to control the inner part of the plate. Pitch there, he said, and "God can't get the barrel on the bat." When Gossage fretted that he might drill a batter in the head if his body got in front of his arm, Allen said, "What's wrong with that? Every guy out there in the dugout is watching what you're doing. They don't want any part of you, Goose."

MORE FROM GOOSE GOSSAGE

The New York Post also talked to Gossage about how Dick Allen taught him the essence of being a power pitcher and how it led to a Hall of Fame career.

Rich “Goose” Gossage said none of this would have been possible if not for the unlikely help of slugger Dick Allen, who drove up from Pennsylvania with old manager Chuck Tanner to visit Gossage yesterday. When Goose talks about Allen in his Hall of Fame speech today, you can expect him to get emotional. That’s how much he thinks of the slugger.

“He taught me how to pitch,” Gossage said.

“Dick was a no-nonsense guy. What you saw is what you got and he was the greatest player I ever saw play the game,” Gossage said.

[Read the full article](#)

“A LEADER, A WINNER”

“[Dick Allen] was of one the greatest baseball players and teammates that I ever played with during our Philadelphia Phillies years, which were 1975-1976. He was a leader, a winner and our fearsome cleanup hitter.

“He was and still is a kind man who would always make you comfortable as a friend and teammate. I am proud and honored to have been and able to say that he was my teammate, friend, and as a baseball player, he deserves to be enshrined in the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

“Dick Allen’s name has been mentioned in HOF’er discussions as a player and his statistics prove that he belongs. The era he played in has to be considered and matched against players in the HOF that also played during his era. You will find that he belongs!”

**Larry Christenson
Phillies Pitcher 1972-1983**

“IN THE ELITE CLASS”

“If you look at his numbers, he was probably one of the most feared hitters when he played. And from what I understand, is when they pick the Hall of Fame, is when you play in that era, were you in the elite class? I would have to say when he played, he was in the elite class.”

Larry Bowa
Infielder, 1970-1985

“SMART, WELL-ROUNDED”

“There is not a player alive that ever played the game that knows him that wouldn’t sit on a camera and say that he was one of the most talented, intimidating, smart, well rounded five-tool baseball players in history.”

Mike Schmidt
Phillies Infielder, 1972-1989

“THE BEST HITTER”

“I mean I played against Mantle and Maris and Aaron and Mays...and everybody, all those people I played against...Allen's somewhere in that mix...Yeah, I think if you could get a group of veterans to understand that from '64 through '74 he was the best hitter, best RBI, best home run and everything, I think you've got a case.”

Jim Bunning
Pitcher, 1955-1971

“GREAT GUY, TRUE GENTLEMAN”

“Richie was a great competitor. In my career I love playing against the best, he definitely fit that category. I had the pleasure to be teammates with Richie in the 1967 All-star game in Anaheim. No only did I witness how professional he was between the lines but he was also a good friend, great guy and true gentleman.”

Tony Perez
Infielder, 1964-1986

“SMART, KNOWLEDGEABLE”

“Dick Allen was a very private and misunderstood person, but he was a very smart and knowledgeable baseball man, something that many people wouldn’t know. I was fortunate to be his teammate on the 1970 St. Louis Cardinals and also competed against him numerous times. As a teammate, he treated me with respect and I considered him my best friend on the team. He also was extremely well-liked by his teammates.

“Talking the game of baseball with him and by watching him perform on the field definitely made me a better player and person. He was a great all-around player and a really great hitter who had tremendous power. I can honestly say, I never saw a right handed hitter hit a ball with power to right and right centerfield better than Dick Allen. He also was a very smart base runner, who went from first to third base as well as any player I know.

“Another thing that impressed me was the way he could dig the ball out of the dirt while playing first base and saved our Cardinals team many runs with his scoops out of the dirt. Dick Allen may have taught me more in one year than I learned in the 48 years I was involved with professional baseball. To me, Dick Allen is a 100% No Doubt About It Hall of Fame Player.

“Dick Allen has been overlooked too many times as far as the Hall of Fame. I think now would be a great time to put him with his peers, some who I believe are less worthy than Dick Allen.”

Jose Cardenal
Outfielder, 1963-1980

“One of the best players I’ve ever seen in my life. You talk about ability, well he could run, throw, played the game, loved the game and the most power that I’d seen of any right-handed hitter in a long, long time.”

Cookie Rojas
1962-1977

“He could hit a ball farther than anybody that I’ve seen. Richie Allen was and still is a Hall of Famer as far as I’m concerned. “

Willie Mays
Outfielder, 1951-1973

“One of the best hitters I’ve ever seen, Richie Allen.”

Willie McCovey
First Baseman, 1959-1980

“Kind, Courteous, Considerate, and Generous”

“...I know Dick Allen pretty well. He is a “hall of famer” but with capital letters. He always was and continues to be a “First Class” individual. It’s a privilege to know him. Great consideration is warranted. “

Connie Newman
Former Phillies Batting Practice Pitcher

“TERRIFIC WITH ALL THE YOUNG GUYS...”

In 2012, when the Chicago White Sox honored the historic 1972 team, Roland Hemond, who was general manager that put that team together and traded for Dick Allen, had this to say:

“Everything a ballplayer could do or should do, he did for us: hitting, fielding or running the bases. Plus, he was terrific with all the young guys we had on the team. It was one of the most impactful seasons a ballplayer ever had, and I’m delighted the White Sox are recognizing it.”

Roland Hemond
Baseball Executive, 1961 - present

“LEADER OF OUR TEAM”

"Dick was the leader of our team, the captain, the manager on the field. He took care of the young kids, took them under his wing. And he played every game as if it was his last day on earth."

**Chuck Tanner, Manager
Chicago White Sox Manager, 1970-1975**

Cardinals manager Red Schoendienst recalled that when he was asked, before Allen's acquisition, if he wanted Allen, he had said "no" because he'd heard Allen had a bad attitude, and the team didn't need him.

After the season, when Schoendienst was asked if Allen should be traded, he said "no" since Allen had helped the team and his attitude was not a problem.

“A DOMINATING HITTER”

“I knew Dick personally from the day he signed and can attest that his ‘bad boy’ image was blown way out of proportion. As you know, the Phillies brought Dick back into the organization in 1975, and he was instrumental in helping the 1976 team reach the LCS against the Reds. After our family sold the team in 1981, Dick worked for the Phillies in various capacities such as roving minor league hitting instructor and as an ambassador of goodwill for the organization. Obviously, the new ownership felt he was not a problem or they would not have hired him.”

“The stats Dick Allen generated occurred during an era when pitchers dominated the game (1963-1977). One reason pitchers dominated in those days was that they could use the high and inside part of the plate without being penalized as is the case today. I’m sure you will recall Drysdale and Gibson used this tactic on many occasions.”

Ruly Carpenter
Philadelphia Phillies Principal Owner and President, 1972-1981

“HE BELONGS...”

“When Dick Allen was scrawling words in the infield dirt around first base, one of them was “Coke.” Allen was referring to the Coca-Cola sign atop the left field bleachers at Connie Mack Stadium, and how fans lusted for him to hit the ball over that roof. Allen was writing in the infield dirt in an effort to get paroled from the prison of high expectations and crude excoriations he encountered in Philadelphia. Allen hit 351 home runs in the major leagues, many of them over that roof at Connie Mack Stadium.

Enough to earn him a place in the Hall of Fame? The writers said no, ignoring the dazzling length of some of those home runs, the game-changing nature of those home runs. Maybe they concentrated too much on the controversy Allen stirred up off the field.

What they didn't factor into their thinking was how beloved Allen was by his teammates. The analytics trend ignores the intangibles and focuses only on numbers. Allen's numbers seem Hall of Fame worthy to me, and I have been covering baseball for 55 years. His lifetime average was .292. He drove in 1,119 runs, He scored 1,099.

In his rookie season, playing a new position (third base) he hit .318, with 29 homers and drove in 95 runs.

I once asked his brother, Hank, while Dick was hitting .312, if he might hit .340 if he conformed to all the rules. Hank thought for a moment and said, “He might hit .240.” Allen, indeed, marched to the beat of his own drummer, but what an exciting march it was. He belongs in the Hall of Fame.

Stan Hochman
Reporter/Columnist, Philadelphia Daily News, 1959-Present

“ONE OF THE FINEST MEN...”

“Career statistics are how players are normally judged. Sadly, despite his Hall of Fame worthy numbers, this seems not to be the case with Dick Allen, and more is the pity. For Mr. Allen is one of the finest men I ever met, either on or off the field. And, my dad, who was in Mr. Allen’s company more than any other writer, felt the same.”

“We both found it sad and ironic that a man, who was labeled a rabble-rouser and malcontent never raised his voice or spoke harshly of others while still fostering changes for good upon an organization with a “plantation” mentality and a city that embraced brotherly love everywhere except the ballpark.”

**Ray W. Kelly Jr.
N.J. Sportswriter of the Year 1981**

“Dick Allen is the best and most productive offensive player in Phillies history!”

Bill Werndl
TV Sports Producer
Radio Talk Show Host

“His home runs left the ball park more rapidly than any I ever watched. There was an air of excitement that filled the stadium each time he stepped to the plate. He constantly produced in the clutch and also hit for average.

*“Off the field he was a truly wonderful person. When I was a young broadcaster, Dick treated me with warmth and respect and helped me acquire the confidence that was vital to my future success. **Dick Allen is a Hall of Famer in every respect.**”*

Merrill Reese
Philadelphia Broadcaster

“UP THERE WITH THE BEST”

“During my broadcasting days I saw all the great players; including Willie Mays, Hank Aaron, Willie Stargell , Willie McCovey and Stan Musial. Believe me when I tell you that I have no problem putting Dick Allen right up against all of them.

“Allen was a well-tooled player. He could run, hit for average, hit with power, field and could also throw until an injury to his right shoulder hindered his ability to do so at an above average rate.”

Bill Campbell
Phillies Broadcaster 1963-1969

[Read Bill Campbell's Full Letter](#)

[Listen to Bill Campbell Call a Dick Allen Home Run](#)

“The combination of power and speed which he displayed was never seen in Philadelphia before. What a thrill it was to watch him play...after watching other African-American superstars lead their teams to great success...we finally had one of our own.

“Dick was one of those offensive players whose every at bat had to be seen. His home runs left the ballpark quicker and went farther than just about any other hitter in the 1960s.

“Hearing some of the experiences that Dick had to endure off the field gives one a greater appreciation for what he accomplished on the field.

“His career statistics compare favorably with a number of players already enshrined in the Hall of Fame. It's one thing for me as a fan to admire his enormous talent, but most of his teammates would tell you the same thing, Dick Allen belongs in the Baseball Hall of Fame!

Dan Baker
Phillies PA Announcer
1972-present

“ONE OF THE KINDEST MEN...”

“Of all the great memories I have, there are none that compare to watching Richie Allen hit a baseball...no one ever hit a baseball with the thunder that he did. Watching him for the first time in batting practice made me a follower forever. As majestic as his shots were in practice, his game homers were second to no one. Balls disappeared into the night !

“I knew Dick Allen to be one of the kindest men I have ever met and I can truthfully say my father loved him. Our families shared some tragedies together and those bonds are never broken.

“This is a man who will never promote himself and deserves to be in the Baseball Hall of Fame.

“Thanks for the opportunity to speak out for my childhood hero and as an adult I am honored to be a friend of this humble man.’

***Richard Ashburn
Son of Hall of Famer Richie Ashburn***

“A GREAT ROLE MODEL”

“Since 1989, I have dedicated my life to providing inner city children with opportunities to play and develop their talents in the game of baseball. Through our Jackie Robinson Baseball League and Major League Baseball’s RBI (Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities) program, we’ve been able to help thousands of inner city kids learn and play the national pastime.

“One of the highlights of my career has been getting to know Mr. Dick Allen. I have known Dick for over 10 years and, in that time, he has proven himself to be one of the most sincere and caring individuals I’ve ever known.

“Whenever he’s in town, he is always eager to spend time with our kids - sharing his experiences with them and instructing them on the finer points of the game. He has proven to be a great role model for our kids – inspiring them to work hard and chase their dreams.

“I am too young to remember much about Dick Allen as a player but I can say, with the utmost conviction, that he is truly a Hall of Fame person.”

**Steve Bandura
Director
Philadelphia Youth Organization**

“A HALL OF FAME PERSON”

“Dick Allen is a first-class person. He treats me with respect and when he stops by the office he makes it a point to come and see me and always ask about my family and children. Even when he calls the office asking for another party, he will first ask about myself and family.

“I heard that he was a very powerful and great hitter and that pitchers feared him when he came up to bat. All I can add to that is, some say he is a Hall Of Fame Player. I say he is definitely a Hall of Fame Person.”

*Sincerely, Kelly Di Giacomo
Secretary
Philadelphia Phillies*

[Read Kelly DiGiacomo's Full Letter](#)

EVEN THE GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS DICK ALLEN

This spring, Philadelphia City Council Jim Kenny, a lifelong Phillies fan, introduced a resolution calling for Dick Allen's name to be included on the Golden Era Ballot. The resolution passed unanimously.

[Read the Philadelphia City Council Resolution](#)

[Read Stan Hochman's Story](#)

In July, New Jersey State Assemblyman Gilbert "Whip" Wilson of the 5th Legislative District introduced a similar resolution. As Mr. Wilson said: "I spent many days at Connie Mack Stadium watching and admiring the sportsmanship of Dick Allen, so much so that to this day I still inscribe the number 15 on all my jerseys. I consider Dick our Jackie Robinson...and will do everything I can to make his induction possible."

The resolution will be considered by both the New Jersey Assembly when they reconvene in September.

[Read the New Jersey Legislature Resolution](#)

Time to Enshrine Dick Allen; He Deserves a Spot in Cooperstown, Not the Shots He Endured in Philly.

In the July 6, 2009 Philadelphia Inquirer, writer Allen Barra made the case for Dick's Allen's election to the Hall of Fame.

“Let's put his career in perspective: From 1964 through 1972, **Allen was the best hitter in baseball.** He may be more than just a player who deserves to be in the Hall of Fame. At his peak, he might have been better than any other player - Shoeless Joe Jackson and Pete Rose not excepted - who doesn't have a plaque in Cooperstown. He was a much better player than Jim Rice, who was voted in this year.”

Read Allen Barra's Full Article

In the January 9, 2012 issue of The Atlantic, Barra again wonders why Dick Allen is not in the Hall.

That Allen has been virtually forgotten by HOF voters—both the regulars and members of the Veteran's Committee—is puzzling. Orlando Cepeda, a contemporary of Allen's who also played most of his games at first base, hit 379 home runs to Allen's 351. Cepeda, despite being involved in a post-career drug scandal, was voted into the Hall in 1999. But Cepeda batted nearly 1,600 more times than Allen to produce those 28 more home runs. Another HOF first baseman who played in that era, Harmon Killebrew, hit 573 home runs in 22 seasons, but Allen hit him .292 to .256, won three slugging titles to Killebrew's one, and hit more doubles, triples and stolen bases while batting 1800 fewer times.

[Read Allen Barra's Full Article](#)

In the Nov. 10, 2011 New York times, Stuart Miller wondered why Dick Allen was not included on the first Golden Era Ballot:

Allen played at the height of the pitcher's era in the 1960s, yet seemed less affected than everyone around him. Wielding a massive bat, he was an awesome power hitter who led the league in home runs twice and finished in the top 10 eight times in 11 years.

But while he fanned like a prototypical slugger, he also hit for average, with seven seasons above .300 and six in the top 10 in average. And he knew how to work the count too, with seven years among the leaders in walks and on-base percentage (he was first twice—at .404 in 1967 and .420 in 1972). He also had good speed, finishing in the top five in triples for five straight years.

That combination translates into astonishing numbers in two favorite stats of modern seam heads. In O.P.S. (on-base plus slugging percentage), Allen finished first four times and was in the top 10 every year from 1964 through 1974, except for '73. In Baseball Reference's Offensive Wins Above Replacement (measuring offensive contributions above a typical minor league replacement), Allen was the best hitter in his league three times and in the top five eight times in a nine-year span. That is a truly remarkable run, especially for someone who was constantly at war with teammates, the press, fans, society and himself.

[Read Stuart Miller's Full Article](#)

“AN IMPACT PLAYER”

“What Allen was - and why he deserves enshrinement - was an impact player, a guy without whom you cannot even imagine a team...It’s impossible to contemplate the 1964 [Phillies] team without him...while the club was blowing its 6-½ game lead by losing 10 in a row at the end of September, Allen was hitting .415 with five RBI and an extra-base hit in six of those 10 games.

“As for his place in team histories, I would argue that, despite his relatively brief tenure with both the Phillies and the White Sox, he was the second-best third baseman (behind Mike Schmidt) in Philadelphia, and the second-best first baseman (behind Frank Thomas) for the Chisox.”

Nick Acocella
Baseball Author
ESPN Classic Contributor

[Read Nick Acocella’s Full Letter](#)

IF RON SANTO, WHY NOT DICK ALLEN?

January 9, 2012

Now is a good time to bring Allen's name back to the forefront, since a contemporary of his has just been elected to the Hall after a long, and heartbreaking, wait. Ron Santo should have been elected to the Hall of Fame years ago. He should not have had to benefit from what James has called the "death boost effect" to get his plaque. In fact, back in 1994, in "The Politics of Glory," James said that, if he was in charge of the Hall of Fame selections, he would make Santo the first person he would induct. A telling statement in this debate, since Allen was clearly a better hitter than Santo... hands down, no questions asked or permitted.

To recap their careers... both were power hitting corner infielders who hit for a good average and drew a lot of walks. Santo played 15 years, from 1960 to 1974, with a slash line of .277/.362/.464. Allen also played 15 years, from 1963 to 1977, with a slash line of .292/.378/.534. And let us not forget that Santo played almost half of all his games in cozy Wrigley Field. This is reflected in comparing their career Adjusted OPS figures (on base plus slugging, taking into account their home fields and when they played). Santo's was an excellent 125. Allen's was one of the best in baseball history – 156, 19th all-time (tied with Frank Thomas), meaning that, for his entire career, he was a 56 percent better hitter than the average major leaguer.

The career Adjusted OPS list gives a better idea of Allen's stature as a hitter. He is surrounded on that list, not just by stars and Hall of Famers, but by superstars. For

instance, just ahead of Allen are Tris Speaker, Hank Greenberg and Stan Musial. More impressive, right behind Allen in these rankings is a pretty good foursome – Willie Mays, Joe DiMaggio, Hank Aaron and Mel Ott. Trailing further behind Allen are Frank Robinson, Ed Delahanty, Lajoie, Honus Wagner, Ralph Kiner, Willie McCovey and Mike Schmidt.

To return to the Allen/Santo comparison, Santo's counting stats are slightly better, since he played 500 more games than Allen. Nonetheless, these stats, given the 500 game differential, make it clear that Allen was faster, and had more power.

	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BB
Santo	1,138	2,254	365	67	342	1,331	35	1,108
Allen	1,099	1,848	320	79	351	1,119	133	894

In terms of more subjective contemporary judgments, Santo was a nine-time All-Star who received votes in the MVP voting seven times. Allen was a seven-time All-Star, the National League Rookie of the Year in 1964, the American League MVP in 1972, and also received MVP votes seven times. To use one of James' own inventions, the Black Ink Test (so-called because, when you lead the league in a statistical category, that figure is printed in bold, or black ink), Santo scores 11, Allen 27.

The one area where Santo has an advantage is fielding. He won five Gold Gloves at third base and Allen, who played mostly first (807 games) and third (652) didn't win any. This difference gives Santo a slightly higher career Wins Above Replacement (recalling that this is also a counting stat), 66.4 to Allen's 61.2, although Allen's Offensive Wins Above Replacement is higher, 71.8 to 65.3. And, let's face it, the Hall values offense a lot more than defense.

Ron Santo was a great player. James himself said in 1994 that he should be in the Hall of Fame. Overall though, Dick Allen was better on the field, and that's the standard that the Hall of Fame voters have historically used in making their choices. If Ron Santo was Hall of Famer, then Dick Allen was, or should be. That he wasn't even on the recent veterans ballot is a travesty. True, our opinions are colored by our youthful perceptions, and those do indeed include seeing Allen launch baseballs over the Coke sign atop the double-decked left field stands of Connie Mack Stadium. Maybe the most important point to those perceptions comes when considering the somewhat amorphous concept of "fame." Ask any Phillies or White Sox fan from the sixties (Phillies) or early seventies (White Sox) what they think of Dick Allen as a player. Is he famous? Yes indeed.

John Shiffert
Baseball Historian
Author, "Base Ball in Philadelphia"

Dick Allen: Another View

Craig Wright, SABR

For all of his shortcomings, a lot of people who were actually there considered Allen a good teammate and a team player. In 1970, Gene Mauch surprised a lot of folks by publicly praising Allen and stunned them with the statement, "He's a good team man." And without any prompting, I note that both Tanner and Ozark specifically called Allen a "team player" in our interviews.

As I finished up my interview with Pat Corrales, I posed this question to him: "All of these managers felt that Allen's teammates liked him. You were there in those early years in Philly, and you tell me he was well liked as a teammate. That's all I ever hear from his old teammates. My question is, why wasn't there more resentment towards his casual approach to team rules, his chronic lateness?" This was his Pat's answer:

"I guess it's because we were ballplayers, and that's how we would judge him first. There's always going to be some guy who has trouble with the rules. Look, I played with and against him, and on the field he gave 110%. He was ready for the game, and he played it to the max. It wasn't just raw talent either. He knew how to play; he had an instinct for this game. We knew that if everyone played the way he did, there wouldn't be many losses. That's what mattered to us. If he gave it to us on the field and he was late getting to the park, that wasn't such a big deal to us."

It is time to lay some of the wilder notions to rest. When someone writes that Allen "never did anything to help his teams to win," you now know that's not true. You have heard from

the men in the best position to judge that. They unanimously disagree with that notion, and the record supports them.

When someone says that once a team had Allen around awhile, they never wanted him again, you know that's not true. The Phillies took him back and won with him. And every one of these managers, even Mauch and Skinner, said they would want him again.

[Read Craig Wright's Full Article](#)

Dick Allen and the Hall of Fame

Dick Allen was one of the top forty hitters of all-time. And that's very conservative. He averaged 31.68 Win Shares per 162 games, which is higher than any first baseman except Lou Gehrig. Dick Allen won a few major awards and was the best offensive player in the game for ten years. His career line is a little low, but his peak is remarkable. His statistical record is the record of a Hall of Fame player.

[Read Dave Fleming's Full Article](#)

HOW DICK ALLEN SAVED THE WHITE SOX FRANCHISE

Ed Gruver's upcoming book "October '72" explains how Dick Allen's remarkable season helped keep the team from moving out of town.

"Allen had a majestic quality about him and his power was prodigious. His sky-scraping homers exceeded even the most distant reaches of stadiums and sometimes even their rooftops. He was the "Chisox Colossus" to some, the "Wampum Walloper" to others. The late Hall of Fame baseball writer and historian Jerome Holtzman called Allen "as gifted a ballplayer as there ever was in the major leagues." There has been a long-running debate whether Allen belongs in baseball's Hall of Fame. Many consider him the best player not in Cooperstown."

Read an Excerpt from "October '72"

VIDEOS ABOUT DICK ALLEN

[“The Dick Allen Story”](#)

An 8:27 look at Dick Allen’s Career in Philadelphia. Great audio and video clips of some of his longest home runs.

[“Dick Allen and the Chicago White Sox”](#)

Dick Allen reflects on his career during this interview from June 13, 2012

[“Dick Allen and the 42-oz. Bat”](#)

Dick Allen talks about swinging one of the biggest bats in baseball history.

[“The Bout Between Dick Allen and Frank Thomas”](#)

Sportswriter Stan Hochman talks about the famous batting cage incident.

[Teammate Bobby Wine Talks About Dick Allen](#)

[“Does Dick Allen Belong in the Hall of Fame?”](#)

The opening to Bob Costas' Studio 42 interview with Dick Allen as players and writers discuss his qualifications.

[“Dick Allen Hall of Famer”](#)

MLB Network Prime Nine Segment

[“Lens Through Time”](#)

Dick Allen Talks about what it was like in his early days in the Philadelphia Phillies system