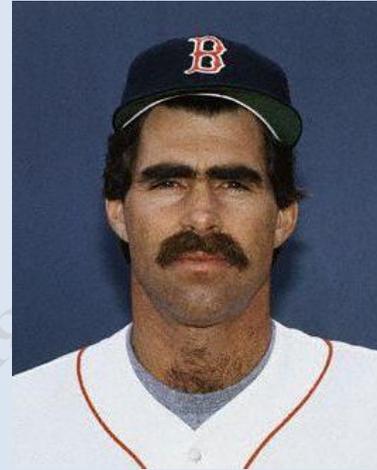


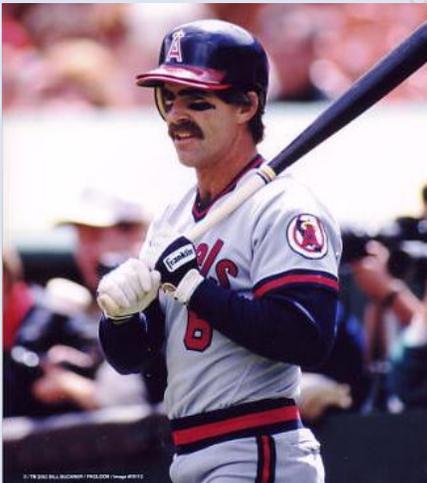


Bill Buckner

Over his career, Bill accumulated 2,715 career hits, far more than many players in Baseball's hallowed Hall of Fame. He collected over 1,200 career Runs Batted In and seven times batted .300+ in a season. In fact, with the Cubs in 1980, he won the National League Batting Championship with a .324 average. Bill was also known in his early years as someone with great outfield speed as demonstrated by his 31 stolen bases for the Dodgers in 1974. He was a tremendous Major League Baseball player for an astonishing 22 seasons. Bill starred for teams such as the Los Angeles Dodgers, Chicago Cubs and Boston Red Sox.



And, interestingly, he was known as a solid glove man. Yet it's amazing how one unfortunate play can over-shadow an outstanding career! Move the clock to October 26, 1986 and place yourself in Shea Stadium in New York City. It is the 10th inning of the sixth game of the World Series between the Red Sox and the New York Mets. The Red Sox are ahead 5-3 going into the bottom of the 10th inning. The Mets rally to tie the score in the 10th and have a runner on second base with two out and Mookie Wilson



batting. Wilson slaps a 3-2 pitch which rolls down the first baseline toward Bill. Unfortunately, Bill doesn't get his glove low enough and the ball rolls through his legs onto the lip of the outfield grass. The Mets runner scores from second to give them a 6-5 victory. Contrary to popular lore, Bill's error did not cost the Red Sox the World Series as the series did not end with this play. The Red Sox still had a chance to win Game 7 but went on to lose.

Yet, this adversity has helped Bill become a stronger man. Bill's faith in God, the same savior that Mookie Wilson serves, has sustained him. He states, "In the eyes of the baseball world, I lost the game," he says. "It was a tough thing to deal with. I had to look at it like this: God had a plan for me, and he wouldn't put me in a situation that I couldn't handle."

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