



## **Bob Watson**

Bob Watson joined Major League Baseball's Office of the Commissioner in 2002 as Vice-President of On-Field Operations to oversee all aspects of on-field operations, including player discipline.

Bob became Major League Baseball's first African-American General Manager when the Houston Astros named him to that position on October 5, 1993. He served as General Manager of the Astros until 1995. He was named General Manager of the New York Yankees on October 23, 1995 and during his first season, in 1996, he led the club to its first World Series appearance since 1981 and its first World Championship since 1978.

Bob began his professional baseball career on January 31, 1965 when he signed with the Houston Astros. In a 19-year Major League career

that included stints with the Houston

Astros (1966 – 1979), Boston Red Sox (1979), New York Yankees (1980-1982) and Atlanta Braves (1982 – 1984), Bob hit .295 with 1,826 hits, 184 HRs and 989 RBI.



In 1973, Bob was named to the National League All-Star team, representing the Houston Astros. He hit .312, with 16 HRs and 94 RBI that season. He is only one of two players to hit for the cycle in each league, accomplishing that feat with the Houston Astros on June 24, 1977 and with the Boston Red Sox on September 15, 1979. He was an integral part of the New York Yankees during the

1981 World Series, starting all six games and leading the Yankees with 2 HR's and 7 RBI. The spikes he wore on May 4, 1975 while scoring Baseball's One Millionth Run, are on display in The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

After his playing career, Bob spent four seasons as a hitting and bench coach for the Oakland Athletics and then joined the Houston Astros organization on November 22, 1988 as Baseball's first African-American Assistant General Manager, before his promotion to General Manager.



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Bob has held key positions supporting the efforts of United States national teams in international competition. In 1999, Bob was the Co-Chairman of the Pan-Am Baseball Steering and Selection Committee for USA Baseball. In 2000 he was Co-Chairman of the 2000 USA Olympic Baseball Steering and Selection Committee, leading the selection and preparation of the team that went on to win the Olympic Gold Medal in Sydney, Australia. He chaired the 2003 USA Baseball Olympic Steering and Selection Committee that guided the USA team in Olympic qualification. In 2008 he once again was part of the 2008 USA Olympic Baseball Steering and Selection Committee, leading the selection and preparation of the team that went on to win the Olympic Bronze Medal in Beijing, China.



In 1994, Bob underwent successful surgery to defeat prostate cancer and has become a strong advocate of the PSA blood-screening test for men over the age of 40.

The former two-time All-Star, was recognized as the Executive of the Year” by the Boston Chapter of the Baseball Writers Association of America. He was also honored by the Houston BBWAA Chapter for “Long and Meritorious Service” and by the New York Chapter of the NAACP for career accomplishments, civic awareness and advocacy of equal rights.

Bob wrote his autobiography, “Survive to Win” in May 1997. In this speak he speaks comprehensively about his Christian faith and how God sustained him, not just during his trials with cancer, but throughout his entire lifetime.

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