



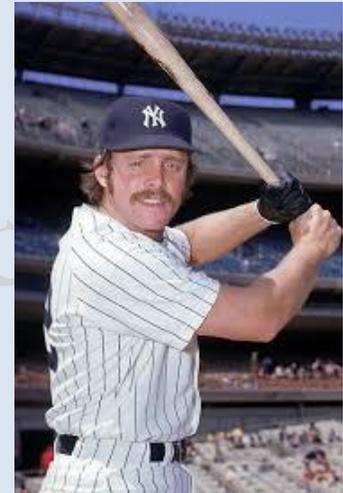
## **Ron Blomberg**

Ron will always be remembered by baseball fans as the first Designated Hitter in the history of Major League Baseball. In fact, the bat that he used that game now resides in the Baseball hall of Fame in Cooperstown.

However, not everything went that easily for Blomberg. As one of just a few Jewish players ever to play in the majors, Ron was subjected to abuse and persecution for his heritage. Not only did a segment of fans reject him but he was even shunned by some teammates. But Ron persevered and overcame those challenges to the point where he was twice voted the most popular person in New York.

Blomberg was chosen #1 overall in the nation by the New York Yankees, a team he idolized as a child back in his native state of Georgia, in the 1967 amateur draft. Expectations for him were high as he was projected to be the “next Mickey Mantle”. He made his big league debut just two years later in September of 1969, just two weeks past his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.

Ron came back with strong seasons in 1971 and 1972 and it was in 1973 that the American League chose to institute the position of Designated Hitter as a player to bat in place of the pitcher. On April 6, 1973, Blomberg became the first player ever to come to the plate as a DH. History records that he got an RBI on a bases loaded walk from Red Sox star pitcher Luis Tiant. Ron was injured for much of 1975 and for all but one game in 1976. He played the game hard and paid the price for it with four knee injuries and two shoulder injuries. In the 3 seasons in which Ron got 260 plus at-bats, he hit over .300 in all of them. He finished his big league career in 1978 with one season with the Chicago White Sox and batting a very strong .293 for his career.



Following his playing career, Ron went to Israel to manage the Bet Shemesh Blue Sox of the Israel Baseball League in 2007, a highlight for anyone of Jewish heritage. He also wrote his biography titled *Designated Hebrew: The Ron Blomberg Story* designed to inspire others to overcome challenges and to set a positive example. He is involved in many charities and was inducted into the National Jewish Sports Hall of Fame in 2004.

Ron is an inspirational speaker who would love to share his experiences with your organization.