



Whitey Ford

Whitey played for 15 seasons of a New York Yankee dynasty. He was the big game pitcher on the great Yankee teams of the 1950's and 1960's, earning him the nickname "Chairman of the Board". He boasts a .690 winning percentage as an ace left-handed pitcher having won 236 career games while losing only 106; this is the second best winning percentage of any pitcher in history. He played in 11 World Series, winning six of them, and earned enshrinement in the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1974.

Whitey is one of the best-loved Yankee players from the fifties and sixties. He's the World Series leader with 94 strikeouts and holds the all-time record with 10 wins. Ironically, Ford is also the leader with 8 losses in World Series games. In 1953, Ford's career took a two-year hiatus when he was drafted for military duty to serve in the Korean War. When he returned in 1955, he was a model of consistency, posting large numbers of innings pitched and continuing to win a high percentage of his games. In 1961, Ford finished the season with a 25-4 mark, two World Series victories, and the 1961 American League Cy Young award. He holds numerous records, many of which came at the most crucial of times in World Series competition.

But the awesome stats hardly tell the whole story. Whitey and Billy Martin joined the Yankees in 1950; Mickey Mantle followed a year later. The three of them knew how to have fun during their playing years. The stories of the escapades of the three of these Yankee legends are hysterical. Fortunately, Whitey is a funny man who loves to tell stories: stories about the wins and losses, about the wild times at Toots Shor's, and about winning the World Series.

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