# Classic Baseball Era Hall of Fame Ballot: Voting Results

By Adam Darowski, @baseballtwit

**Update:** Listen to Episode 28 of Building the Ballot where Adam Darowski and Dave Metter discuss the results of this election.

This winter, the <u>National Baseball Hall of Fame's Classic Baseball Era Committee</u> will face the challenge of selecting eight candidates for the Hall of Fame from a pool of individuals who made their greatest impact on the game before 1980. The task requires condensing 140 years of players, managers, executives, umpires, and pioneers into a single eight-person ballot.

As part of my <u>Building the Ballot</u> podcast, I'm diving deep into the various types of candidates eligible for consideration this cycle. With such a vast number of options, I turned to baseball fans online to help identify the most compelling names. I created a ballot that included <u>250</u> <u>candidates</u>, grouped into six categories. Participants could vote for as many as they believed worthy of the Hall.

This report will analyze the results group by group. Rather than an overall ranking, I focused on group-based engagement. With a ballot this large, many voters engaged selectively, prioritizing the candidates they cared about most, leading to uneven participation across groups.

While recent players tend to dominate ballots like this, the committee's task spans over a century of baseball history. My focus over the past 15 years has included 19th-century baseball, early pioneers, the Negro Leagues, and pre-integration "outsider baseball." I recognize these groups are often less popular with Hall of Fame voters, but I believe the Negro Leagues should be a priority on this ballot. These candidates have received minimal Hall of Fame consideration—completely ineligible from 2007 to 2020—and significant scholarship over the past two decades has uncovered strong contenders. The 42 for 21 Committee has highlighted the need for more Negro League inductees in Cooperstown, given the quality of candidates and their relative underrepresentation.

For instance, <u>John Beckwith</u> is likely my top player outside of the Hall of Fame. He was considered in 1982 and again as one of 29 finalists in 2006 by the Committee on African-American Baseball, but has not been reconsidered since. Meanwhile, Allie Reynolds, who played in the AL/NL before integration, has been considered by Veterans Committees <u>at least 19 times</u> between 1980 and 2022 (according to historian Graham Womack).

These were the groups on the ballot:

- 1. Integrated Major Leagues (74 candidates)
  - a. Players from the AL & NL who made their largest impact post-integration.
- 2. Pre-Integration: White Players (20th Century) (51 candidates)
  - a. Players from the AL & NL who made their largest impact between 1900 and 1947.
- 3. Pre-Integration: White Players (19th Century) (28 candidates)
  - a. Players from the white major leagues who made their largest impact in the 19th century.
- 4. Non-Players from the Previously Recognized Major Leagues (31 candidates)
  - a. Managers, executives, umpires, and pioneers from the AL/NL and other previously recognized major leagues.
- 5. Pre-Integration: Black Baseball (52 candidates)
  - a. Players, managers, executives, umpires, and pioneers from the Negro Leagues and pre-1920 Black Baseball.
- 6. Pre-Integration: Outsider Baseball (14 candidates)
  - a. Candidates from the pre-integration era who didn't necessarily play the bulk of their career in recognized major leagues.

Among these groups, I see #1 and #5 as the priorities—and the 312 voters agreed. Groups #2, #3, and #4 have all been evaluated many times before and are relatively "picked over." Group #6 (the outsiders) were added mostly as a curiosity on my part because under the current Hall rules, none would be eligible. But I believe many of these players stacked up talent-wise with the very best of the other groups.

## Voting Breakdown

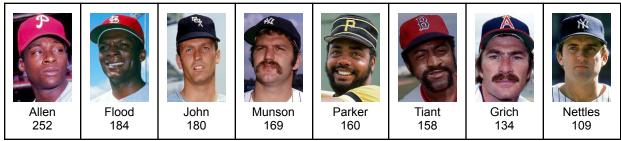
There were 312 voters in this project.

- Ballot with the fewest votes: 0 (+1 write-in)
- Ballot with the most votes: 139 (+36 write-ins)
- Average ballot: 25.6 votes
  - Integrated Major Leagues 11.1
  - Pre-Integration 20th Century Players 3.5
  - o Pre-Integration 19th Century Players 2.4
  - Non-Players 2.3
  - Black Baseball 5.7
  - Outsider Baseball 0.5

Let's take a look at the most popular candidates, group by group (with Top 8 eligible vote-getters featured).

## **Integrated Major Leagues**

Players from the AL & NL who made their largest impact post-integration.



Not pictured: Pete Rose (banned 122 votes)

Featuring a large group of recent players (many of whom are still living), this was unsurprisingly the most popular of all the groups. The average voter checked 11 names in this section alone, showing how difficult this task will be for the committee.

#### Some observations:

- Dick Allen was the only candidate to be named on 75% of ballots (80.8%).
- Five of the top eight eligible candidates are living.
- Despite his lifetime ban, Pete Rose (also living) garnered enough votes to finish eighth.
- After Allen, the consensus top candidate, voters were next drawn to candidates who
  were excellent players but also had a pioneering aspect to their case in Curt Flood and
  Tommy John.
- Improbably, 249 of the 250 candidates received at least one vote. Only Milt Pappas (209-164, 3.40, 43.7 WAR) was left out.

- 1. Dick Allen 252
- 2. Curt Flood 184
- 3. Tommy John 180
- 4. Thurman Munson 169
- 5. Dave Parker 160
- 6. Luis Tiant 158
- 7. Bobby Grich 134
- 8. Pete Rose 122
- 9. Graig Nettles 109
- 10. Bill Freehan 99
- 11. Felipe Alou 97
- 12. Ken Boyer 96
- 13. Vida Blue 92
- 14. Roger Maris 90

- 15. Don Newcombe 77
- 16. Steve Garvey 67
- 17. Vada Pinson 67
- 18. Reggie Smith 67
- 19. Al Oliver 65
- 20. Rick Reuschel 64
- 21. Darrell Evans 63
- 22. Bobby Bonds 62
- 23. Elston Howard 61
- 24. Fred Lynn 60
- 25. Maury Wills 59
- 26. Dave Concepcion 57
- 27. Rusty Staub 53
- 28. Sal Bando 43
- 29. Mickey Lolich 39
- 30. Jim Wynn 37
- 31. Bill Madlock 36
- 32. Bert Campaneris 31
- 33. Billy Pierce 31
- 34. Frank Howard 30
- 35. Gene Tenace 29
- 36. César Cedeño 27
- 37. Norm Cash 26
- 38. Willie Davis 26
- 39. Rocky Colavito 25
- 40. Jerry Koosman 25
- 41. George Foster 23
- 42. Al Rosen 23
- 43. Frank Tanana 21
- 44. Ron Cey 20
- 45. Wilbur Wood 20
- 46. Ted Kluszewski 19
- 47. Steve Rogers 17
- 48. Jim Fregosi 13
- 49. Mark Belanger 11
- 50. Jim Gilliam 11
- 51. Dick Groat 11
- 52. Ken Singleton 10
- 53. Al Dark 9
- 54. Sam McDowell 8
- 55. Amos Otis 8
- 56. Rico Petrocelli 8
- 57. Lew Burdette 7
- 58. John Hiller 7

- 59. Roy White 7
- 60. Toby Harrah 6
- 61. Sal Maglie 6
- 62. Camilo Pascual 6
- 63. Bobby Shantz 6
- 64. Hank Thompson 6
- 65. Paul Blair 4
- 66. Gil McDougald 4
- 67. Darrell Porter 4
- 68. Bobby Avila 2
- 69. Larry Jackson 2
- 70. Sherm Lollar 2
- 71. Eddie Stanky 2
- 72. Jim Sundberg 2
- 73. Del Crandall 1
- 74. Milt Pappas 0

# Pre-Integration: White Players (20th Century)

Players from the AL & NL who made their largest impact between 1900 and 1947.



Not pictured: Shoeless Joe Jackson (banned, 154 votes) and Eddie Cicotte (banned, 38 votes)

This group, in my opinion, is the most picked over and has the fewest remaining viable Hall of Fame candidates. Voters selected just 3.5 candidates from this section per ballot.

#### Some observations:

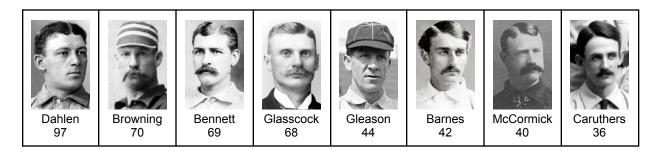
- Lefty O'Doul continues the trend of solid showings from top players who also were pioneers.
- Despite his lifetime ban, Shoeless Joe Jackson was the top candidate in this group, by far. His teammate Eddie Cicotte finished fifth.
- O'Doul is followed by a pair of non-traditional pitching candidates. Smoky Joe Wood was an incredible talent that flamed out by age 25. Wes Ferrell was one of the greatest hitting pitchers of all time, which augmented his valuable pitching.

- 1. Shoeless Joe Jackson 154
- 2. Lefty O'Doul 85
- 3. Smoky Joe Wood 69
- 4. Wes Ferrell 65
- 5. Eddie Cicotte 38
- 6. Charlie Keller 38
- 7. Stan Hack 37
- 8. Bob Johnson 35
- 9. Sherry Magee 33
- 10. Urban Shocker 29
- 11. Vern Stephens 28
- 12. Johnny Sain 26
- 13. Gavvy Cravath 25
- 14. Heinie Groh 24
- 15. Dolf Luque 24
- 16. Babe Adams 22
- 17. Wally Schang 20
- 18. Johnny Pesky 19
- 19. Bucky Walters 19
- 20. Dom DiMaggio 18
- 21. Noodles Hahn 17
- 22. Allie Reynolds 17
- 23. Hippo Vaughn 17
- 24. Carl Mays 16
- 25. Ken Williams 15
- 26. Tommy Bridges 14
- 27. Dolph Camilli 12
- 28. Roy Face 12
- 29. Harvey Kuenn 11
- 30. Dizzy Trout 11
- 31. Wilbur Cooper 10
- 32. Bob Elliott 10
- 33. Mickey Vernon 10
- 34. Firpo Marberry 9
- 35. Bobo Newsom 9
- 36. Cy Williams 9
- 37. Phil Cavarretta 8
- 38. Mel Harder 8
- 39. Tommy Leach 8
- 40. Cecil Travis 8
- 41. Larry Doyle 7
- 42. Ken Keltner 7
- 43. Hal Trosky 7

- 44. Marty Marion 5
- 45. Jimmy Sheckard 5
- 46. Lon Warneke 4
- 47. Jack Quinn 3
- 48. Eddie Rommel 2
- 49. Nap Rucker 2
- 50. Art Fletcher 1
- 51. George Uhle 1

# Pre-Integration: White Players (19th Century)

Players from the white major leagues who made their largest impact in the 19th century.



I tend to believe that there are actually more viable Hall of Fame candidates remaining in the 19th century than the first half of the 20th century. Voters didn't find this group particularly compelling, choosing only 2.4 per ballot.

#### Some observations:

- Dahlen and Glasscock have been historical sabermetric darlings for quite a while now.
   Dahlen fell two votes shy in 2013, but has seen his support drop off since then.
   Meanwhile, the last time Glasscock was on a ballot was 1995.
- Charlie Bennett is another rising star (131 years after his last game) thanks to the historical application of analytics.
- The 1919 White Sox remained popular on the ballot with Kid Gleason (manager of the maligned squad) finishing a surprising fifth.

- 1. Bill Dahlen 97
- 2. Pete Browning 70
- 3. Charlie Bennett 69
- 4. Jack Glasscock 68
- 5. Kid Gleason 44
- 6. Ross Barnes 42
- 7. Jim McCormick 40

- 8. Bob Caruthers 36
- 9. Harry Stovey 34
- 10. Tommy Bond 28
- 11. Bobby Mathews 23
- 12. Joe Start 20
- 13. George Van Haltren 20
- 14. Paul Hines 18
- 15. Tony Mullane 18
- 16. Cal McVey 17
- 17. Cupid Childs 15
- 18. Billy Hoy 14
- 19. Charlie Buffinton 13
- 20. Lave Cross 12
- 21. Dick McBride 10
- 22. Jimmy Ryan 10
- 23. Mike Tiernan 9
- 24. George Gore 8
- 25. Ed Williamson 8
- 26. Hardy Richardson 6
- 27. Ezra Sutton 4
- 28. Jack Stivetts 2

# Non-Players from the Previously Recognized Major Leagues

Managers, executives, umpires, and pioneers from the AL/NL and other previously recognized major leagues.



White 130



Finley 93



Adams 63



Murtaugh 55



Bavasi 41



Creighton



Kauffman 30



Von der Ahe

Bill White was the runaway candidate here, though you could make the case that I should not have included him. Thanks to his multifaceted candidacy, he appeared on the most recent Contemporary Era Ballot just a year ago. I included him here because he fell only two votes shy and if the Hall really wanted to prioritize him as a candidate (as he is still living), they could place him on the ballot again. Voters (who chose 2.3 players from this section, on average) suggest they think that would be a good idea.

Some observations:

- One voter asked why I included Ewing Kauffman on the ballot but not George Steinbrenner. I'm confident Steinbrenner would be considered a Contemporary Baseball Era candidate by the Hall and there's a decent chance Kauffman would be, too.
- Additionally, one voter correctly noted I should have placed Emmett Ashford in this group rather than the Black Baseball group.
- I did not expect to see Charlie Finley finish so strongly here. He has been on three ballots since 2003, never generating more than 12% of the vote.
- Doc Adams fell two votes shy on his first and only ballot appearance in 2016. His vote total suggests voters need to do a little brushing up on their pioneers.

- 1. Bill White 130
- 2. Charlie Finley 93
- 3. Doc Adams 63
- 4. Danny Murtaugh 55
- 5. Buzzie Bavasi 41
- 6. Jim Creighton 32
- 7. Ewing Kauffman 30
- 8. Chris Von der Ahe 28
- 9. Ralph Houk 27
- 10. Al Reach 26
- 11. Lip Pike 21
- 12. Dickey Pearce 19
- 13. Bob Howsam 17
- 14. Bill Dinneen 16
- 15. Charlie Grimm 14
- 16. Horace Stoneham 14
- 17. Sam Breadon 11
- 18. Ben Shibe 11
- 19. Gabe Paul 10
- 20. William Wheaton 9
- 21. Jimmy Dykes 8
- 22. John McHale 7
- 23. Cy Rigler 7
- 24. John Fetzer 6
- 25. Gary Hermann 5
- 26. John Heydler 5
- 27. Jim Mutrie 5
- 28. Steve O'Neill 5
- 29. Louis Wadsworth 5
- 30. Bob Emslie 4
- 31. Beans Reardon 3

## Pre-Integration: Black Baseball

Players, managers, executives, umpires, and pioneers from the Negro Leagues and pre-1920 Black Baseball.



I was definitely disappointed in the voting turnout for this group since I believe many of the best candidates come from Black Baseball. Still, 5.7 votes were cast for this group by the average voter (the second most popular group). Interestingly despite the <u>advances in major Negro Leagues statistics</u> over the last few years, the top three candidates were not selected because of these stats. This reminds me of how the two Black Baseball inductees in 2022 (Bud Fowler and Buck O'Neil, both worthy) also were not selected for statistical reasons. This tells me we still have a long way to go before the impact of this statistical research is felt in Cooperstown.

#### Some observations:

- While I have nothing against Ted "Double Duty" Radcliffe, seeing him rank first signaled to me that there was an element of popularity at play here. Duty was an incredible storyteller and lived to 103. But he was nowhere near the player many of these other candidates were. For example, he tied for 23rd among Negro League candidates in a similar vote done by the 42 for 21 Committee (voted by Negro League historians).
- John Donaldson and Moses Fleetwood Walker would be excellent choices as pioneers. Donaldson is a popular candidate but can be somewhat polarizing as his major league statistics aren't particularly strong. But I believe his importance lies in his barnstorming dominance that paved the way for Satchel Paige and other stars forced to play outside of the major leagues. Walker, of course, was the last Black player in the (previously classified) major leagues ahead of Jackie Robinson.
- Finally, fourth and fifth we get (arguably) the top hitter (John Beckwith) and pitcher (Dick Redding) outside the Hall.
- Personally, I voted for 24 candidates in this category and felt that was somewhat conservative.

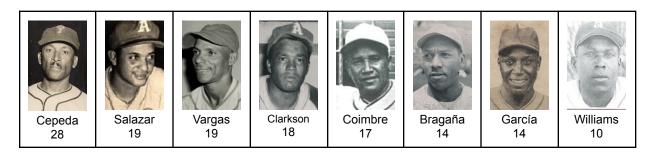
- 1. Ted "Double Duty" Radcliffe 99
- 2. John Donaldson 95
- 3. Moses Fleetwood Walker 91

- 4. John Beckwith 84
- 5. Cannonball Dick Redding 84
- 6. Oscar "Heavy" Johnson 77
- 7. Grant "Home Run" Johnson 75
- 8. Vic Harris 57
- 9. Rap Dixon 56
- 10. Luke Easter 56
- 11. Dobie Moore 52
- 12. Gus Greenlee 50
- 13. Sam Jethroe 50
- 14. Dick Lundy 50
- 15. George "Tubby" Scales 50
- 16. Emmett Ashford 49
- 17. Candy Jim Taylor 47
- 18. Alejandro Oms 46
- 19. Newt Allen 37
- 20. George Stovey 37
- 21. Sam Bankhead 36
- 22. Chet Brewer 35
- 23. Quincy Trouppe 35
- 24. Spottswood Poles 31
- 25. Octavius Catto 30
- 26. Charlie "Chino" Smith 29
- 27. Burnis "Wild Bill" Wright 29
- 28. Bingo DeMoss 24
- 29. Bill Byrd 23
- 30. Hurley McNair 23
- 31. Bob Motley 21
- 32. C.I. Taylor 20
- 33. Nip Winters 20
- 34. Ed Bolden 19
- 35. Dave Malarcher 19
- 36. Oliver Marcell 19
- 37. William Bell 18
- 38. Fats Jenkins 17
- 39. Sammy Hughes 14
- 40. Henry Kimbro 11
- 41. Roy Parnell 9
- 42. Alex Radcliff 9
- 43. Walter Ball 8
- 44. Juan Padrón 8
- 45. Bill Pettus 8
- 46. Dave Barnhill 6
- 47. Frank Wickware 6

- 48. Webster McDonald 5
- 49. Neil Robinson 5
- 50. Edgar Wesley 4
- 51. Barney Brown 2
- 52. Bonnie Serrell 1

# Pre-Integration: Outsider Baseball

Candidates from the pre-integration era who didn't necessarily play the bulk of their career in recognized major leagues.



None of these candidates are technically eligible because they did not spend ten seasons in the major leagues (Black or white). But most were Latin American ballplayers who found it more palatable (to both their pride and their wallets) to largely avoid playing in the United States altogether. These <u>Outsider Baseball All-Stars</u> are the subject of my most recent research and I strongly believe several of them were Hall of Fame-quality players. Does that mean I would vote for them? It merely comes down to a question of the rules.

#### Some observations:

- Yes, <u>Perucho Cepeda</u> is Orlando's father. The son claimed the father was the better player. Perucho never played for a team in the mainland United States because he would not accept the racial prejudice. Instead, he was a Hall of Famer in Puerto Rico. His countryman <u>Pancho Coimbre</u> played four seasons in the Negro Leagues and hit .334.
- A trio of talented Cubans are near the top of the list. <u>Silvio García</u> was originally Branch Rickey's target to integrate the Dodgers. He hit .322 in the Negro Leagues and well over .300 across seven countries. <u>Ramón Bragaña</u> was a workhorse starting pitcher who won at least 300 games (and probably 400+) while also swinging a solid bat. He was the only 30-game winner in Mexican League history and finished second in the league in home runs (to Monte Irvin) two years prior. <u>Lázaro Salazar</u> was an All-Star caliber player on the mound and as a first baseman/outfielder. But perhaps he is best known as a manager with 14 league titles in four different countries.
- Lastly, Dominican <u>Juan "Tetelo" Vargas</u> deserves mention. Known as "El Gamo Dominicano" (The Dominican Deer), Vargas may be best known for currently holding the

single season batting average record on Baseball Reference (<u>.471 in 1943</u>). But he was far more than a statistical quirk. He played 33 seasons in six countries and hit well everywhere he went. If he was allowed in the major leagues, he had all the tools of a 3,000 hit man.

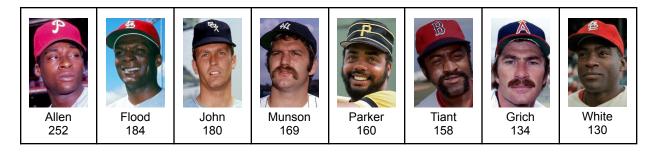
I voted for seven players here (and they all finished in the top seven).

## Complete results:

- 1. Pedro "Perucho" Cepeda 28
- 2. Lázaro Salazar 19
- 3. Juan "Tetelo" Vargas 19
- 4. Buster Clarkson 18
- 5. Pancho Coimbre 17
- 6. Ramón Bragaña 14
- 7. Silvio García 14
- 8. Marvin Williams 10
- 9. José Muñoz 8
- 10. Carlos Morán 6
- 11. León Kellman 4
- 12. Julián Castillo 3
- 13. Agustín Bejerano 1
- 14. Regino García 1

## **Composite Ballot**

So what did the composite ballot of the 312 voters look like? If we only went by raw vote totals of eligible candidates, it would be:



While all strong candidates, this ballot seems unlikely because seven of the eight candidates came from the "Integrated Major Leagues" players category. In fact, the eighth (Bill White) also classifies there. As previously noted, White is not likely to be on this ballot because of his inclusion on the Contemporary Baseball Era ballot (post-1980).

I think a more likely ballot construction might be:

4 Players from "Integrated Major Leagues"

- 1 Non-Player from the Previously Recognized Major Leagues
- 1 Player from white Pre-Integration (19th and 20th Century)
- 2 Candidates from Black Baseball

Personally, I would include even more candidates from Black Baseball. The last time Negro League candidates were considered (for the 2022 Early Baseball Era Committee election) seven of ten candidates came from the Negro Leagues. This time, however, they are competing with some living candidates.

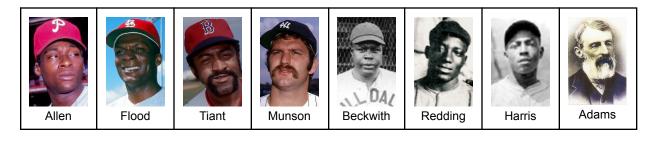
A ballot using these guidelines would look like:



#### Some observations:

- This ballot would only leave us with a single living candidate (Tommy John). I think it is much more likely that we'll see Dave Parker or Luis Tiant because of that.
- The breakdown of this ballot could be 5 players, 2 pioneers (how I'd classify Curt Flood and John Donaldson), and one executive. That leaves no managers or umpires. Personally, I'd be pretty disappointed if Double Duty Radcliffe was one of the candidates from the Negro Leagues. He was a legendary storyteller but is nowhere near the level of player we should be considering at this point. A manager like Vic Harris or a player like John Beckwith or Dick Redding would be my choices.

So what would my ballot be? It's perhaps a little closer to what the voters chose than I expected. I might choose:



But there are two problems I see with my ballot:

There is only one living candidate (Tiant).

• These candidates are all too strong and would end up splitting the vote (therefore leading to no inductions).

It's just really difficult to build a ballot from these 250 candidates that you can feel good about. What's even more difficult is committee members can only place three votes each.

## Appendix: Write Ins

The following candidates received multiple write-in votes:

- Sadaharu Oh (6)
- Luis Tiant Sr. (4)
- Frank Jobe (3)
- Will White (3)
- Hal McRae (2)
- Buck Weaver (2)
- Charles Ebbets (2)
- Clint Thomas (2)
- Frank Duncan (2)
- Fred Dunlap (2)
- Gus Weyhing (2)
- Joan Payson (2)
- Slim Jones (2)

These candidates received a single write-in vote:

- Abe Harrison
- Andrew "Pat" Patterson
- Arthur Soden
- Bert Gholston
- Bill Holland
- Bill Lange
- Bill Lucas
- Bill Monroe
- Bill Summers
- Billy Barnie
- Blainey Hall
- Bobby Veach
- Bruce Petway
- Bullet Joe Bush
- Cappy Harada
- Carlos Royer
- Chainey White
- Charles Somers

- Charley Jones
- Charlie "Hooks" Beverly
- Clarence Williams
- Cos Govern
- Crush Holloway
- Dave Brown
- Dave Foutz
- Dave Kingman
- Dave Orr
- Deacon Phillippe
- Dick Bartell
- Dizzy Dismukes
- Duncan Curry
- E.B. Lamar
- Frank Leland
- G Burns
- George Burns
- George Williams
- George Wilson (Pre-Negro Leagues)
- Goody Rosen
- Harlond Clift
- Harry Buckner
- Harry Dalton
- Harry Stevens
- Hector Espino
- Henry Bridgewater
- Henry Killilea
- Hooks Dauss
- Horatio "Rabbit" Martinez
- Howard Easterling
- Jack Powell
- J.B. Martin
- J.M. Bright
- Jack Clements
- Jack Sheridan
- Jerry Benjamin
- Jimmie Lyons
- Joe Leggett
- John "Pat" Patterson
- Johnny Wright
- John Gaffney
- Johnny Kling
- Johnny Murphy
- Judy Gans

- Justus Thorner
- Kenichi Zenimura
- Larry Brown
- Levi Meyerle
- Manny Sanguillen
- Mel Stottlemyre
- Nancy Faust
- Nat Hicks
- Nick Young
- Ray Chapman
- Red Lucas
- Rick Monday
- Roy Hofheinz
- Sam Leever
- Sparky Lyle
- Steere Noda
- Stuffy McInnis
- Ted Strong
- Thomas Fitzgerald
- Tip O' Neil
- Tommy Davis
- W.S. Peters
- William Selden
- Willie Kamm

The following candidates received write-in votes, but my system suggests they would all be candidates for the Contemporary Baseball Era ballot:

- Billy Martin
- Dwight Evans (x2)
- Frank Tanana
- George Steinbrenner
- Keith Hernandez
- Kent Tekulve
- Ron Guidry

Finally, I want to thank everyone who voted. It was very helpful to see what the general public thinks about this ballot.