



I Bet You Didn't Know! Sports Trivia

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Should pitcher Curt Schilling make the baseball Hall of Fame? Remembered for his gritty “bloody sock” performance in Game 6 of the 2004 ALCS, Schilling retired at the end of 2008 with 216 career wins – hardly a Hall of Fame statistic. But hold on. Of the 87 pitchers with 200 wins since 1901, Schilling holds the best strikeouts-to-walks ratio (4.38) in history. Moreover, he was one of the best big-game pitchers ever, with an amazing postseason record of 11-2 with a 2.23 ERA as part of three world championship teams.

The Tampa Bay Rays shocked the baseball world in 2008 by going from worst to first and capturing the American League pennant. But incredibly, their leading hitter for average was Akinori Iwamura at a mere .274, only 40th best in the AL. Only two other teams in major league history won a pennant without a .280 hitter – the 1906 Chicago White Sox and the 1983 Philadelphia Phillies. So how did the Rays do it? They had three players among the top 20 in walks and were sixth in the league in on-base percentage, despite finishing 13th in batting average.

If you love an underdog, root for the baseball team from the University of Maine at Presque Isle. Located in upper Maine 400 miles north of Boston where winter lasts into May, the Owls play their entire 37-game schedule on the road. Their closest opponent is about seven hours away. They travel everywhere in a bus with no bathroom, stay four to a room in \$60 motels and get \$15 a day for food. The Division III program offers no athletic scholarships and – get this – practice takes place in the basketball gymnasium.



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