Baseball quotes

Hitting is 50% above the shoulders. -Ted Williams

Hitting is timing. Pitching is upsetting timing. -Warren Spahn

Fundamentals are the most valuable tools a player can possess. Bunt the ball into the ground. Hit the cutoff man. Take the extra base. Learn the fundamentals. -Dick Williams

If you can't outsmart people, outwork them. -Bill Veeck

A hitter's impatience is the pitcher's biggest advantage. -Pete Rose

Mental attitude and concentration are the keys to pitching. -Ferguson Jenkins

Good fielding and pitching, without hitting, or vice versa, is like Ben Franklin's half pair of scissors - ineffectual. -Moe Berg

The pitcher has to throw a strike sooner or later, so why not hit the pitch you want to hit and not the one he wants you to hit? -Johnny Mize

Players who commit errors need reassurance from the pitcher, who must harbor no grudges. -Roger Craig

Control is what kept me in the big leagues for twenty-two years. -Cy Young

Playing without the fundamentals is like eating without a knife and fork. You make a mess. -Dick Williams

You can't think and hit at the same time. -Yogi Berra

When you step into the batter's box, have nothing on your mind except baseball. -Pete Rose

The best possible thing in baseball is winning the World Series. The second best thing is losing the World Series. -Tommy Lasorda
Don't worry about your individual numbers. Worry about the team. If the team is successful, each of you will be successful, too. –Branch Rickey

Ninety feet between bases is perhaps as close as man has ever gotten to perfection. –Red Smith

In baseball, you can't kill the clock. You've got to give the other man his chance. That's why this is the greatest game. –Earl Weaver

Managing is like holding a dove in your hand. Squeeze too hard and you kill it, not hard enough and it flies away. –Tommy Lasorda

Pitch within yourself. –Tom Seaver

Associate with those who help you believe in yourself. –Brooks Robinson

If you get fooled by a pitch with less than two strikes, take it. –Ted Williams

Be on time. Bust your butt. Play smart. And have some laughs along the way. –Whitey Herzog

Most one-run games are lost, not won. –Gene Mauch

It takes pitching, hitting and defense. Any two can win. All three make you unbeatable. –Joe Garagiola

Little League is great because it keeps parents off the streets. –Yogi Berra

The saddest day of the year is the day baseball season ends. –Tommy Lasorda

Don't be afraid to take advice. There's always something new to learn. –Babe Ruth

You owe it to yourself to be the best you can possible be – in baseball and in life. –Pete Rose

Show me a guy who's afraid to look bad, and I'll show you a guy you can beat. –Lou Brock

Take time to thank everyone who has helped you along the way. –Brooks Robinson
"I never thought home runs were all that exciting. I still think the triple is the most exciting thing in baseball. To me, a triple is like a guy taking the ball on his 1-yard line and running 99 yards for a touchdown." - Hank Aaron, Milwaukee Braves OF

"I used to love to come to the ballpark. Now I hate it. Every day becomes a little tougher because of all this. Writers, tape recorders, microphones, cameras, questions and more questions. Roger Maris lost his hair the season he hit sixty-one. I still have all my hair, but when it’s over, I’m going home to Mobile and fish for a long time." - Hank Aaron, as he closed in on Babe Ruth’s career home run record

"Mickey meant an awful lot to me. He was a tremendous athlete. People didn’t understand him the way they should have. He played 10 years on one leg. But more than that, he was a tremendous person." - Hank Aaron on Mickey Mantle

"Looking at the ball going over the fence isn’t going to help." - Hank Aaron

"I had just turned 20, and Jackie told me the only way to be successful at anything was to go out and do it. He said baseball was a game you played every day, not once a week." - Hank Aaron, on Jackie Robinson

"The pitcher has got only a ball. I’ve got a bat. So the percentage of weapons is in my favor and I let the fellow with the ball do the fretting." - Hank Aaron

"He’s been very talkative. But it is usually under oath." - Sandy Alderson, Oakland A’s GM, on Albert Belle

"Some plays just come out of me, just on instincts. I’ll make a play and wonder, How did I do that?" - Baltimore’s Roberto Alomar

"It can be life or death in the fire service and it definitely felt like life and death on the ballfield." - Allen Anderson, on training to become a firefighter

"I was only halfway to the record and it seemed like it took me a long time. I feel like that one will never be broken. That record will never be touched." - Garret Anderson (Anaheim Angels, OF), on Joe Dimaggio’s 56 game hitting streak, after Anderson’s streak ended at 28 games.

"You're only young once, but you can be immature forever" - Larry Andersen, relief pitcher

"How come we drive on parkways and park on driveways?" - Larry Anderson

"If Americans throw rice at weddings, do Chinese throw hot dogs?" - Larry Anderson
"Why does sour cream have an expiration date?" - Larry Anderson

"How do you know if you run out of invisible ink?" - Larry Anderson

"I sent Kruk one of those fruit and nut baskets at the hospital. I don't know if he likes fruit, but I know he'll appreciate the nuts." - Larry Anderson, on John Kruk, after John Kruk had surgery

"Any baseball is beautiful. No other small package comes as close to the ideal in design and utility. It is a perfect object for a man’s hand. Pick it up and it instantly suggests its purpose: it is meant to be thrown a considerable distance—thrown hard and with precision. Its feel and heft are the beginning of the sport’s critical dimensions; if it were a fraction of an inch larger or smaller, a few centigrams heavier or lighter, the game of baseball would be utterly different.

Hold a baseball in your hand ... Feel the ball, turn it over in your hand; hold it across the seam or the other way, with the seam just to the side of your middle finger. Speculation stirs. You want to get outdoors and throw this spare and sensual object to somebody or, at the very least, watch somebody else throw it. The game has begun." — Roger Angell, in *Five Seasons*

"The press box at Wrigley Field in Chicago is an extended narrow shed, two rows deep, that is precariously bolted to the iron rafters just underneath the park's second deck. To gain access, one must climb a steeply angled ramp and clamber down a little starboard companionway, guarded at its foot by a uniformed minion and then proceed giddily along a catwalk that hangs directly above the tiered, circling rows of seats and spectators behind home plate.

Seen from this vantage point, the preoccupied fans below sometimes suggest a huddled, uncomplaining horde of immigrants stuffed into steerage on some endless voyage toward better luck—not an inappropriate image if we remind ourselves that this famous rustbucket, the good ship Cubbie, last dropped anchor in the shining harbor of the World Series in 1945 ..." - Roger Angell, in *Fortuity*

"This is a linear sport. Something happens and then something else happens, and then the next man comes up and digs in at the plate. Here's the pitch, and here, after a pause, is the next. There’s time to write it down in your scorecard or notebook, and then perhaps to look about and reflect on what’s starting to happen out there now. It’s not much like the swirl and blur of hockey and basketball, or the highway crashes of the NFL.

Baseball is the writer’s game, and its train of thought, we come to sense, is a shuttle, carrying us constantly forward to the next pitch or inning, or the sudden double into the left-field corner, but we keep hold of the other half of our ticket, for the return trip on the same line. We anticipate happily, and, coming home,
reenter an old landscape brightened with fresh colors. Baseball games and plays and mannerisms—the angle of a cap—fade stubbornly and come to mind unbidden, putting us back in some particular park on that special October afternoon or June evening. The players are as young as ever, and we, perhaps not entirely old." - Roger Angell, in Once More Around the Park

"Cub fans, by consensus, are the best in baseball. Year after year, in good times and (mostly) bad, they turn out in vociferous numbers, sustaining themselves with a heavenly ichor that combines loyalty, criticism, cheerfulness, durability, rage, beer and hope, in exquisite proportions." — Roger Angell in Season Ticket

"Since baseball time is measured only in outs, all you have to do is succeed utterly; keep hitting, keep the rally alive, and you have defeated time. You remain forever young." - Roger Angell

"Trying to sneak a fastball past Hank Aaron is like trying to sneak the sunrise past a rooster." - Joe Adcock

"When we played softball, I'd steal 2nd base, feel guilty and go back." - Woody Allen

"I hope the car they give him has an extra large glove box." - Sparky Anderson, on Brooks Robinson receiving a car for being the MVP of the 1970 World Series.

"I'm beginning to see Brooks [Robinson] in my sleep. If I dropped a paper plate, he'd pick it up on one hop and throw me out at first." - Sparky Anderson

"He's such a big, strong guy he should love that porch. He's got power enough to hit home runs in any park, including Yellowstone." - Sparky Anderson, on Willie Stargell batting in Tiger Stadium in the 1971 All Star game.

"The great thing about baseball is when you are done, you'll only tell your grandchildren the good things. If they ask me about 1989 I'll tell them I had amnesia." - Sparky Anderson

"That's why I don't talk. Because I talk too much." - Joquin Andujar

"There's one word that describes baseball -- 'You never know.'" - Joquin Andujar

"You can't let any team awe you. If you do, you'll wind up a horseshit player." - Luke Appling

"Grantland Rice, the great sportswriter once said, 'It's not whether you win or lose, it's how you play the game.' Well Grantland Rice can go to hell as far as I'm concerned." - Gene Autry, owner of the Anaheim Angels
"He's like an amusement-park ride - Even for guys who play." - Ruben Amaro, on Mark McGwire

"Let's play two!" - Ernie Banks, Chicago Cubs

"Baseball is dull only to dull minds." Red Barber, announcer

"If a woman has to choose between catching a fly ball and saving an infant's life, she will choose to save the infant's life without even considering if there are men on base." - Dave Barry

"I remember one game I got five hits and stole five bases, but none of it was written down because they forgot to bring the scorebook to the game that day." - James "Cool Papa" Bell, Homestead Grays OF

"They say I was born too soon. I say the doors were opened too late." - James "Cool Papa" Bell

"Jimmy Connors plays two tennis matches and winds up with $850,000, and Muhammad Ali fights for one bout and winds up with five million bucks. Me, I play 190 games--if you count exhibitions -- and I'm overpaid!" - Johnny Bench

"I was thinking of making a comeback until I pulled a muscle - vacuuming." - Johnny Bench, on how he felt about Charlton Fisk breaking his record for career home runs by a catcher.

"An ardent supporter of the home town team should go to a game prepared to take offense, no matter what happens." - Robert Benchley

"In batting practice, I don't think I hit one ball hard. It was frustrating, that bat was no good." - Dante Bichette, Colorado Rockies OF, after Bichette hit for the cycle after flinging into the stands the bat he was using for batting practice

"I didn't get over 1300 walks without knowing the strike zone." - Wade Boggs, on being ejected for the first time in the 17th year of his career for arguing a called third strike

"That's the nicest thing a returning player could ever ask for. It shows how classy the New York Fans are. It gave me a warm feeling inside." - Wade Boggs, on the standing ovation he received on his first return to Yankee Stadium (6-3-98)

"This is nothing. I've got nine writers standing here. McGwire had 200 writers when he had 30 home runs." - Barry Bonds (SF Giants OF), on being the first player to hit 400 home runs and steal 400 bases.
"A lot of long relievers are ashamed to tell their parents what they do. The only nice thing about it is that you get to wear a uniform like everybody else." - Jim Bouton, NY Yankees pitcher

"The older they get, the better they were when they were younger." - Jim Bouton, on Old Timers Days.
Note: Jim Bouton was invited to return to Yankee Stadium on July 26, 1998 for his first Old Timers Game after 30 years. There were bad feelings for many years after Jim wrote a book revealing that ballplayers weren't the angels that everybody had expected.

"Baseball players are smarter than football players. How often do you see a baseball team penalized for too many men on the field?" - Jim Bouton

A ballplayer spends a good piece of his life gripping a baseball, and in the end it turns out that it was the other way around all the time." - Jim Bouton, NY Yankees

"If I stay healthy, I have a chance to collect three thousand hits and one thousand errors." - George Brett, Kansas City Royals 3B

"Yeah, he's in pain except between the first and ninth innings." - Dave Bristol (Reds' manager), on Sandy Koufax and his elbow pains that forced him into early retirement.

"Show me a guy who's afraid to look bad and I'll show you a guy you can beat every time." - St. Louis' Lou Brock

"No one wants to hear about the labor pains, they just want to see the baby." - Lou Brock

"In high school I took a little English, some science, some hubcaps and some wheel covers." - William James Gates Brown (Detroit Tigers OF)

When asked if his curve was helped by the absence of an index finger, Mordecai Brown replied, "To know for sure, I'd have to throw with a normal hand, and I've never tried it." - Mordecai "Three-Finger" Brown

"I can't conceive of either team winning a single game." - Warren Brown (Chicago writer), when asked for a prediction as to the outcome of the 1945 World Series between the Cubs and the Tigers and an obvious reference to the wartime look of both teams.

"I can sit in a ballpark after a game and love looking at the field. Everybody's gone, and the ballpark is empty, and I'll sit there. I sit there and think, 'Is this as close to heaven as I'm going to get?' Or, 'If I get to heaven, will there be baseball?'" - Kim Braatz-Voisard, Silver Bullets' center fielder, 1997
"Jackie was the greatest competitor I ever saw. He didn't win. He triumphed." - Ralph Branca, Dodger pitcher, 1947

Don Baylor, New York Yankees DH, on Billy Martin and his predecessor Yogi Berra: "Playing for Yogi is like playing for your father; playing for Billy is like playing for your father-in-law." - Don Baylor

Dale Berra, Pittsburgh Pirate shortstop and son of noted linguist Yogi Berra, "The only thing my father & I have in common is that our similarities are different."

"You mix two jiggers of scotch to one jigger of Metrecal. So far I've lost five pounds and my driver's license." - Rocky Bridges, minor league manager, on his new diet drink

"The players are too serious. They don't have any fun any more. They come to camp with a financial adviser and they read the stock market page before the sports pages. They concern themselves with statistics rather than simply playing the game and enjoying it for what it is." - Rocky Bridges, from The Sporting News, December 12, 1970

"It's a good thing I stayed in Cincinnati for four years -- It took me that long to learn how to spell it." - Rocky Bridges

"Coaching third with a pitcher on base is like being a member of a bomb disposal squad. The thing could blow up in your face at any moment." - Rocky Bridges

"You know when you've got it made? When you get your name in the crossword puzzles." - Rocky Bridges

"I prefer fast food." - Rocky Bridges, on why he won't eat snails

"No little boy in the hospital asked me to hit one, I didn't promise it to my kid for his birthday, and my wife will be too shocked to appreciate it. I hit it for me." - Rocky Bridges, after hitting his first home run in two seasons

"The more I played with them, the more I found that no one could take a joke - my batting average." - Rocky Bridges, on his two seasons with the Dodgers and his .237 batting average

"Coaching third with a pitcher on base is like being a member of a bomb disposal squad. The thing could blow up in your face at any moment." - Rocky Bridges

"The trouble with having a wired jaw is that you can never tell when you're sleepy. You can't yawn." - Rocky Bridges
On Jose Gonzalez changing his name to Jose Uribe: "He was definitely the player to be named later." - Rocky Bridges

"Kids today are looking for idols, but sometimes they look too far... They don’t have to look any farther than their home because those are the people that love you. They are the real heroes." - Bobby Bonilla

"Every member of our baseball team at West Point became a general: this proves the value of team sports." - Gen. Omar Bradley

"They can hollar at the uniform all they want, but when they hollar at the man wearing the uniform, they're in trouble." - Umpire Joe Brinkman

"Nobody's gone after Reds with this much vigor since Joe McCarthy." - Jeff Blair of the Montreal Gazette, on the Expos' Shane Andrews, who hit .471 (16-for-34) with six homers and 21 RBI against Cincinnati in August 1996

"The best place to catch a baseball hit by (Mark) McGwire is definitely not within the confines of the playing field, or sometimes even the ballpark. Other players dial '1' for long distance. McGwire has to ask for an international operator." - Thomas Boswell, writing in the Washington Post

"Last year [1986], in 415 at bats, he had 27 homers and 80 steals. That's 40 home runs and 120 steals for a full year. [...] This year [1987], in 93 at bats, he's hitting .409 with those 12 homers, 27 RBI, 28 runs and 13 steals. For a full year, that projects to ... well, it doesn't project to anything. It's nonsense. More than 70 home runs, 170 RBI, 180 runs, 80 steals. Wayne Gretzky stats for baseball." - Thomas Boswell on Eric Davis

"Baseball is religion without the mischief." - Thomas Boswell

"This is a tough park for a hitter when the air conditioning is blowing in." - Bob Boone on the Astrodome in Houston

"There have been only two geniuses in the world: Willie Mays and Willie Shakespeare." - Tallulah Bankhead, Actress (1903-1968)

"Expansion's coming up (in 1998), pitching is thin and I'm left-handed." - Former pitcher Tom Browning, who is eyeing a comeback after retiring last spring when he was unable to make the Royals' pitching staff

"I was hoping we'd be opening at Joe Robbie Stadium against Elmer Milktoast and the Gigiville nine. But unfortunately, it's Bobby Cox and the world champion Atlanta Braves in Atlanta." - Florida Marlins manager John Boles on his managerial debut
"This is the type of thing that as a kid you dream about. Something I've done in my backyard a hundred times. And you never know if you're going to get the opportunity to do it." - Scott Brosius (NY Yankees 3B) on hitting the game winning home run in Game 3 of the 1998 World Series. Brosius went on to win the 1998 World Series MVP.

"There were only two Bash Brothers (Mark McGwire and Jose Canseco), and one's in Boston now. Maybe I can be a Bash Stepchild." - Oakland's Scott Brosius, who has 10 homers, after suggestions he's ready to become a Bash Brother.

"It's hard to win when you can't keep the ball in the ballpark. I don't think they could hit more home runs if you told them what was coming. I don't think they could hit any more if it was batting practice." - Dusty Baker (SF Giants manager), on the Giants giving up 24 home runs in one seven game stretch.

"The only people I ever felt intimidated by in my whole life were Bob Gibson and my Daddy." - Dusty Baker

"For five years in the minor leagues, I wore the same underwear and still hit .250, so no, I don't believe in that stuff." - Dusty Baker, on superstitions

"I'm tired of it. I don't want to hear about it anymore." - Bill Buckner

"I get tired of hearing my ballplayers bellyache all the time. They should sit in the press box sometime and watch themselves play." - San Diego Padres president Buzzie Bavasi, 1973

"How can a guy win a game if you don't give him any runs?" - Robert "Bo" Belinsky, after losing a game 15-0

"Everybody in the park knows he is going to run, and he makes it anyway." - Larry Bowa, on Lou Brock

"He seemed to have an obligation to hit." - Lou Brock, on Pete Rose

"Why Mr. Summers, don't you know that the spitter has been outlawed for years? How would I ever learn to throw one?" - Thomas Jefferson Davis Bridges, to plate umpire Bill Summers, after being accused of throwing the spitter

"There'll be two buses leaving the hotel for the park tomorrow. The two o'clock bus will be for those of you who need a little extra work. The empty bus will leave at five o'clock." - David Bristol, Milwaukee Brewers manager

"I threw about 90% fastballs and sliders, 50% fastballs and 50 % sliders...I'm starting to sound like Mickey Rivers." - John Butcher
"I exploit the greed of all hitters." - Lew Burdette

"Let them think I throw it. That gives me an edge because it is another pitch they have to worry about." - Lew Burdette, on throwing the spitball

"They were starting to hit the dry side of the ball." - Lew Burdette, on when he knew it was time to retire

Yogi Berra

80 percent of the balls that don't reach the hole, don't go in." - on golf

"The wind always seems to blow against catchers when they are running."

"A good ball club." - on what makes a good manager

"If you can't imitate him, don't copy him."

"Baseball is 90 percent mental. The other half is physical." 

"You can observe a lot by watching."

"In baseball, you don't know nothing."

"A nickel ain't worth a dime anymore."

"It's like deja vu all over again."

"If you come to a fork in the road, take it."

"I usually take a two-hour nap, from one o'clock to four."

"If the people don't want to come out to the park, nobody's going to stop them."

"Why buy good luggage? You only use it when you travel."

"Think! How the hell are you gonna think and hit at the same time?"

"I didn't really say everthing I said."

"Bill Dickey is learning me his experience."

"You've got to be very careful if you don't know where you are going because you might not get there."
"If you don't know where you are going, you will wind up somewhere else."

"Nobody goes there anymore because it's too crowded."

"I'm not going to buy my kids an encyclopedia. Let them walk to school like I did."

"I think Little League is wonderful. It keeps the kids out of the house."

"Little League Baseball is a very good thing because it keeps the parents off the streets."

"It gets late early out there."

"He hits from both sides of the plate. He's amphibious."

"I don't know. They had bags over their heads." - when asked if the fans that ran naked on the field were men or women

"I want to thank you for making this day necessary." - on Yogi Berra Appreciation Day in St. Louis in 1947

"The other teams could make trouble for us if they win." - on the American League situation

After receiving a check made out to "Bearer" for his appearance on Jack Buck's pregame show in St. Louis: "How long have you known me, Jack? And you still don't know how to spell my name."

Asked if first baseman Don Mattingly had exceeded his expectations this season: "I'd say he's done more than that."

On the acquisition of fleet Ricky Henderson: "He can run anytime he wants. I'm giving him the red light."

On a fancy White House dinner he attended: "It was hard to have a conversation with anyone, there were so many people talking."

Reminiscing during a TV interview about New York Yankee battery mate Don Larsen's perfect game in the 1956 World Series: "It's never happened in the World Series competition, and it still hasn't."

"I don't see how he lost five games during the season." - on Sandy Koufax during the 1963 World Series. Koufax's record during the regular season was 25-5.

"So I'm ugly. So what? I never saw anyone hit with his face."
"You give 100 percent in the first half of the game, and if that isn't enough in the second half you give what's left."

"The game isn't over until it's over."

"You should always go to other people's funerals, otherwise, they won't come to yours."

Yogi's wife Carmen: "Yogi, you are from St. Louis, we live in New Jersey, and you played ball in New York. If you go before I do, where would you like me to have you buried?"
Yogi: "Surprise me."

"It ain't the heat, it's the humility."

"I never blame myself when I'm not hitting. I just blame the bat and if it keeps up, I change bats. After all, if I know it isn't my fault that I'm not hitting, how can I get mad at myself?"

"The towels were so thick there I could hardly close my suitcase."

When told by the New York mayor's wife that he looked cool in his new summer suit, Yogi said, "You don't look so hot yourself."

"I always thought that record would stand until it was broken."

Dining at an Italian restaurant, a waitress asked Berra how many slices she should cut his pizza, he replied, "You better make it 4, I don't think I could eat 8."

"We made too many wrong mistakes."

Jerry Coleman

"There's a long fly left centerfield, he got all of that one, it's to the wall, at the wall, and that ball is caught, no I mean he dropped it, wait a minute he caught it! That was the best play Greg Vaughn made of his life!"

"There's a one hopper gloved by the third baseman! (pause) Pardon me it was liner."

"And the Padres win the National League Wes.. oh just got a little excited." - during the '96 season, the Padres were one pitch away from clinching it, after a ground ball was hit foul

"Ohhh doctor. You can hang a star on the whole season!"
"Right now Andy Larkin is pitching just like young Andy Larkin."

"Larry Moffett is 6-3, 190. Last year he was 6-6."

"I've made a couple of mistakes I'd like to do over."

"A day without newspapers is like walking around without your pants on."

"If Pete Rose brings the Reds in first, they ought to bronze him and put him in cement."

"It's a basehit on the error by Roberts."

"Thomas is racing for it, but McCovey is there and can't get his glove to it. That play shows the inexperience, not on Thomas' part, but on the part of Willie McC ... well, not on McCovey's part either."

"Grubb goes back, back... He's under the warning track and makes the play."

"They throw Winfield out at second, but he's safe."

"They've taken the foot off Johnny Grubb. Uh, they've taken the shoe off Johnny Grubb."

"Jesus Alou is in the on-deck circus."

"From the way Denny's shaking his head, he's either got an injured shoulder or a gnat in his eye."

"Ozzie makes a leaping, diving stop, shovels to Fernando and everybody drops everything."

"There is someone warming up in the Giants' bullpen, but he's obscured by his number."

"Johnny Grubb slides into second with a standup double."

"Turner pulls into second with a sun-blown double."

"Edwards missed getting Stearns at third base by an eyeball."

"All the Padres need is a flyball in the air."

"Davis fouls out to third in fair territory."

"There's a shot up the alley. Oh, it's just foul."
"The new Haitian baseball can't weigh more than four ounces or less than five."

"That's the fourth extra base hit for the Padres -- two doubles and a triple."

"Houston has its largest crowd of the night here this evening."

"Montreal leads Atlanta by three, 5-1."

"Last night's homer was Willie Stargell's 399th career home run, leaving him one shy of 500."

"The first pitch to Tucker Ashford is grounded into left field. No, wait a minute. It's ball one. Low and outside."

"That's Hendrick's 19th home run. One more and he reaches double figures."

"Well, it looks like the all-star balloting is about over, especially in the National and American Leagues."

"The Padres, after winning the first game of the doubleheader, are ahead here in the top of the fifth and hoping for a split."

"At the end of six innings of play, it's Montreal 5, Expos 3."

"Tony Taylor was one of the first acquisitions that the Phillies made when they reconstructed their team. They got him from Philadelphia."

"Mike Caldwell, the Padres' right-handed southpaw, will pitch tonight."

"The ex-left-hander Dave Roberts will be going for Houston."

"Hector Torrez, how can you communicate with Enzo Hernandez when he speaks Spanish and you speak Mexican?"

"Rich Folkers is throwing up in the bullpen."

"I sure hope you're staying alive for the upcoming Dodgers series."

"National League umpires wear inside chest protesters."

"The Phillies beat the Cubs today in a doubleheader. That puts another keg in the Cubs' coffin."

"Reggie Smith of the Dodgers and Gary Matthews of the homers hit Braves in that game."
"Gaylord Perry and Willie McCovey should know each other like a book. They've been ex-teammates for years now."

"Sanguillen is totally unpredictable to pitch to because he's so unpredicatable."

"Ron Guidry is not very big, maybe 140 pounds, but he has an arm like a lion."

"The way he's swinging the bat, he won't get a hit until the 20th century."

"There's two heads to every coin."

"Billy Almon has all of his inlaw and outlaws here this afternoon."

"If ever an error had "F" written on it, that grounder did."

"On the mound is Randy Jones, the left-hander with the Karl Marx hairdo."

"Over the course of a season, a miscue will cost you more than a good play."

"The game in St. Louis has been halted in the fourth inning because of rain. I'll bet they have the jacuzzis going there."

"Shirley and Griffey get along like a rattler and a parrot."

"If Rose's streak was still intact, with that single to left, the fans would be throwing babies out of the upper deck."

"He can be lethal death."

"Sometimes, big trees grow out of acorns. I think I heard that from a squirrel."

"Gonzo leaps like a giraffe and grabs it."

"Hats off to drug abusers everywhere."

"That noise in my earphones knocked my nose off and I had to pick it up and find it."

"Hi folks, I'm Gerry Gross!"

"Winfield goes back to the wall. He hits his head on the wall -- and it rolls off! It's rolling all the way back to second base! This is a terrible thing for the Padres." - Jerry Coleman (San Diego Padres radio announcer), describing a fly ball to Dave Winfield

"It's off the leg and into the left field of Doug Radar."
At Royals Stadium: "The sky is so clear today you can see all the way to Missouri."

"They throw Winfield out at second, but he's safe."

Upon hearing Glenn Beckert's planned retirement: "Well, I hope before Glenn goes, he'll come up here so we can give him a big hug and a kiss, because that's the kind of guy he is."

"McCovey swings and misses, and its fouled back."

"You didn't have to say it was gone. It was gone before it got outta here. It was gonna that fast."

"Kent Abbott is in the on-deck circuit."

"Those numbers with Tony (Gwynn) are so often and so interesting."

"Many people think the Cards at the end of the wire will cross the finish line first."

"Even though the ball was doubled, they got it anyway."

"Finley is going over to get a new piece of bat."

"At the end, excitement maintained its hysteria."

"Tony Gwynn, the fat batter behind Finley, is waiting."

"I don't mean he missed him, but he just didn't get him when he put the tag on him."

"The ballgame is over...in this inning."

Pro sports are a tough business—whether you're in baseball, football, or something else. But when you're running around the bases after hitting a home run or jumping up and down after a touchdown, a little boy comes to the surface."
- Roy Campanella

"Yankees tradition is Robert Merrill belting out the national anthem in full operatic voice. Padres tradition is Roseanne grabbing her crotch after singing the national anthem." - Steve Campbell (Albany Times Union reporter), comparing the history of the 1998 World Series participants.

"There's no person alive who got his money's worth better than my old man." - Skip Caray
"I did it for the wife and kids."
- Eddie Cicotte, on his participation in the 1919 "Black Sox" World Series fix, Chicago White Sox pitcher

"I refuse to call a 52 year old man Sparky."
- Al Clark, umpire, on Sparky Anderson

"With grace and steely determination, he pushed open a door that should never have been closed and held it open for the countless talented young men and women who followed him."
- President Bill Clinton, on Jackie Robinson, April 15, 1997

"In Chicago, Harry was a larger-than-life symbol of baseball and like all Chicagoans, I valued him not only for his contributions to the game but also his love and zest for life. ... Nobody could sing 'Take Me Out to the Ball Game' like he could. And I hope he's doing a seventh-inning rendition in heaven."
- First Lady Hillary Clinton, on Harry Caray, February 18, 1998

"Pro-rated at 500 at-bats per year, my 1,081 strike-outs would mean that for 2 years out of the 14 I played, I never touched the ball."
- Norm Cash

"I owe my success to expansion pitching, a short right field fence, and my hollow bats."
- Norm Cash, First Baseman for the White Sox and Tigers 1958-74

"I think a baseball field must be the most beatiful thing in the world. It's so honest and precise. And we play on it. Every star gets humbled. Every mediocre player has a great moment."
- Lowell Cohn in "The Temple of Baseball" (1981)

"I wasn't scared. I just told them to give me all that hockey equipment."
- Roger Clemens, who wore Mo Vaughn's forearm pad and Kevin Mitchell's shinguard to get his first major-league hit, after a series of shifts put the DH in left field, forcing the Boston pitcher to bat.

"I thought I had it. I was twisting around like this. It grazed my glove, hit me on the head, and bounced over. I'll be on ESPN for about a month."
- Jose Canseco

"Raise the urinals."
- Darrel Chaney on how management could keep the Braves on their toes

"This boy throws so fast you can't see 'em and he knows where he is throwing, because if he didn't there would be dead bodies all over Idaho."
- Joe Cantillion, on Walter Johnson before joining the Washington Senators

"I get a kick out of watching a team defense me. A player moves two steps in one direction and I hit it two steps in the other direction. It goes right by his glove and I laugh."
- Rod Carew

"If a Latin player or even an American Negro is sick, they say it is all in the head. Felipe Alou once went to his team doctor and the doctor said, 'You don't have
anything.' So he went to a private doctor and the doctor said, 'You have a broken foot.'" - Roberto Clemente, Pittsburgh Pirates OF

"I want to be remembered as a ballplayer who gave all he had to give." - Roberto Clemente

"I have never slept under the same roof with a nigger, and I'm not going to start here in my own native state of Georgia." - Ty Cobb, on sleeping in the same hunting lodge as Babe Ruth, who Cobb believed to be part black.

"I think being able to play the infield, especially shortstop, is something you are born with. You can't learn it." - David Concepcion

"How do you say, "Adios" in Spanish?" - Clay Carrol, former Reds reliever

"If you're not having fun in baseball, you miss the point of everything." - Chris Chambliss

"At night time, you just try to keep him out of jail." - David Cone (New York Yankees pitcher), on teammate David "Boomer" Wells.

"The guys put their careers on the line. One pitch could have blown out their arms. You hear the rap people put on the modern-day player -- I, I, I and me, me, me -- well, this series (1995 Division playoffs between New York and Seattle) was anything but that. If this doesn't do a lot to diminish the greedy ballplayer image, I don't know what will." - David Cone, Yankees pitcher

"There are Opening Day pitchers and pitchers who start on Opening Day." - Roger Lee Craig, San Francisco Giants manager

"The debut of Jackie Robinson was quite uneventful, even though he had the unenviable distinction of snuffing out a rally by hitting into a remarkable double play. The muscular Negro minds his own business and shrewdly makes no effort to push himself. He speaks quietly and intelligently when spoken to and already has made a strong impression." - Arthur Daley, NY Times coverage of Robinson's debut, 15 Apr 47

"Let me get this straight. The owners are about to shut down baseball when it's more prosperous than it's even been, and the players are the ones who have to get their urine tested?" - Ron Darling (New York Mets pitcher), on the eve of the 1990 lockout.

"He's part of Americana, part of the folklore of this country: a guy who grew up in Oklahoma and became arguably the greatest power-hitting switch-hitter ever." - Ron Darling, Oakland A's pitcher, on Mickey Mantle
"I knew I was in trouble when they had to call a proctologist to set my thumb." - Rick Dempsey, Baltimore Orioles, after blocking home plate against Bo Jackson

"It's always the same, Combs walks, Koenig singles, Ruth hits one out of the park, Gehrig doubles, Lazzeri triples. Then Dugan goes in the dirt on his can." - Joseph Anthony Dugan, NY Yankees 3B

"Born? Hell, Babe Ruth wasn't born. He fell from a tree." - Joseph Anthony Dugan, NY Yankees 3B

"This guy don't come to the ballpark to beat you. He comes to beat you bad. This Robinson, he plays a ton." - Leo Durocher, Dodger Manager 1947, on Jackie Robinson

"I never questioned the integrity of an umpire. Their eyesite...yes." - Leo "The Lip" Durocher

"Some guys are admired for coming to play, as the saying goes. I prefer those who come to kill." - Leo 'The Lip' Durocher, Brooklyn Dodgers manager

"Nice guys finish last." - Leo Durocher, former manager

"If I were playing third base and my mother were rounding third with the run that was going to beat us, I'd trip her. Oh, I'd pick her up and brush her off and say, 'Sorry, Mom,' but nobody beats me." - Leo 'The Lip' Durocher

"A ball player's got to be kept hungry to become a big-leaguer. That's why no boy from a rich family ever made the big leagues." - Joe DiMaggio

"You look forward to it like a birthday party when you're a kid. You think something wonderful is going to happen." - Joe DiMaggio, on Opening Day

"All pitchers are born pitchers." - Joe DiMaggio

"The phrase 'off with the crack of the bat', while romantic, is really meaningless, since the outfielder should be in motion long before he hears the sound of the ball meeting the bat." - Joe DiMaggio

"If I'da known he was gonna throw one, I'da thrown one, too." - Dizzy Dean (St. Louis Cardinals pitcher), after his brother Paul threw a no-hitter in the second game of a double-header, after Dizzy threw a two-hitter in the first game.

"If Satch and I were pitching on the same team, we'd cinch the pennant by July 4 and go fishing until World Series time." - Dizzy Dean, on Satchel Paige, St. Louis Cardinals pitcher
"It ain't braggin' if you can back it up." - Dizzy Dean

When he couldn't broadcast weather: "I can't tell you why there's a delay, but stick your head out of the window and you'll know why." - Dizzy Dean

"It puzzles me how they know what corners are good for filling stations. Just how did they know gas and oil was under there?" - Dizzy Dean

"The doctors x-rayed my head and found nothing." - Dizzy Dean

"If I were catching blindfolded, I'd always know when it was Foxx who connected. He hit the ball harder than anyone else." - Bill Dickey, on Jimmie Foxx

"I managed a team that was so bad we considered a 2-0 count on the batter a rally." - Rich Donnelly, on managing in the minors

"He hit a pop-up against us one day that went so high, it was higher than the sun. It was up there so high, all nine guys on our team called for it." - Rich Donnelly, Florida Marlins coach, on Mark McGwire

"The pitcher has to find out if the hitter is timid. And if the hitter is timid, he has to remind the hitter he's timid." - Don Drysdale

"I told [GM] Roland Hemond to go out and get me a big name pitcher. He said, 'Dave Wehrmeister's got 11 letters. Is that a big enough name for you ?'" - Eddie Eichorn, White Sox owner

"When I was a small boy in Kansas, a friend of mine and I went fishing. I told him I wanted to be a real Major League baseball player, a genuine professional like Honus Wagner. My friend said that he'd like to be President of the United States. Neither of us got our wish." - Dwight D. Eisenhower, 34th President of the USA

"Not only will I be changing diapers at home, now I will be changing them in the clubhouse." - Jim Eisenreich, 38 year old Marlins outfielder and father of three children 6 and younger, on the youthful look of Florida's roster

"I've had a pretty good success facing Stan (Musial) by throwing him my best pitch and backing up third base." - Carl Erskine

"My favorite umpire is a dead one." - John Joseph "Johnny" Evers

He fakes a bluff." - Ron Fairly, announcer

"Last night, I neglected to mention something that bears repeating." - Ron Fairly, announcer
"Let no one accuse baseball of not being tough on drugs. During his baseball career, Steve Howe was given 7 lifetime suspensions." - Bill Ferraro, baseball fan

"‘Meyer Wolfsheim? No, he’s a gambler.’ Gatsby hesitated, then added coolly: ‘He’s the man who fixed the World’s Series back in 1919.’ ‘Fixed the World’s Series?’ I repeated. The idea staggered me. I remembered of course that the World’s Series had been fixed in 1919 but if I had thought of it all I would have thought of it as a thing that merely happened, the end of some inevitable chain. It never occurred to me that one man could start to play with the faith of fifty million people – with the single-mindedness of a burglar blowing a safe." - F. Scott Fitzgerald, in The Great Gatsby

"I could never play in New York. The first time I came into a game there, I got into the bullpen car and they told me to lock the doors." - Mike Flanagan, Baltimore Orioles

"I'm superstitious. Every night after I got a hit I ate Tex-Mex food and drank tequila. I had to stop hitting or die." - Tim Flannery, SD Padres, on the end of his hitting streak

"If you do this, you will be suspended from the league. You will be outcasts. I don't care if half the league strikes. Those who do it will encounter quick retribution. All will be suspended and I don't care if it wrecks the National League for five years. This is the United States of America and one citizen has as much right to play as another. The National League will go down the line with Robinson, no matter the consequences. You will find if you go through with your intentions that you will have been guilty of complete madness." - NL President Ford Frick, on the threatened boycott by the St Louis Cardinals, 1947

"Nellie was the toughest out for me. In twelve years I struck him out once, and I think the umpire blew the call." - Whitey Ford, New York Yankees pitcher, on Nellie Fox

"He is the greatest player I ever played with and one of my best friends. Mickey and I had a lot of fun." - Whitey Ford, Hall of Fame pitcher on Mickey Mantle

"It was as though I had my own tool bench out there with me." - Whitey Ford, Yankee pitcher, on himself cheating

"That just shows you how this league has gone to hell." - Left-hander Chuck Finley, on his selection as American League player of the week

"He makes too many senseless errors. He has this little gong that goes off, saying, 'Hey, this time I'll do something different.' That's when I swallow my tobacco." - San Francisco Giants manager Charlie Fox, on Tito Fuentes, his second baseman, 1973
"I'm supposed to be writing a book, and I can hardly read." - Mark "The Bird" Fidrych

"Everybody thinks of baseball as a sacred cow. When you have the verve to challenge it, people look down their noses at you. There are a lot of things wrong with a lot of industries...baseball is one of them." - Curt Flood (Cardinals OF)

"There are three things in my life which I really love. God, my family and baseball. The only problem - once baseball season starts, I change the order around a bit." - Al Gallagher, SF Giants

"When I'm at bat, I'm in scoring position." - Oscar Gamble, when asked about hitting with runners in scoring position

"Never trust a baserunner who's limping. Comes a base hit and you'll think he just got back from Lourdes." - Joe Garagiola, St. Louis Cardinals

"Baseball gives you every chance to be great. Then it puts every pressure on you to prove that you haven't got what it takes. It never takes away that chance and it never eases up on the pressure." - Joe Garagiola

"When I covered the Yankees in the '60s, they had players like Horace Clarke, Ross Moschitto, Jake Gibbs and Dooley Womack. It was like the first-team missed the bus." - Joe Garagiola, broadcaster

On his own scouting report: "Very deceptive. Slower than he looks." - Joe Garagiola

"I heard Billy Buckner tried to commit suicide over the winter. He stepped in front of his car, but it went through his legs." - Billy Gardner, KC Royals

"I would have jumped off a tall building. But the way I'm batting, I wouldn't have hit the ground." - Phil Garner

"The difference between the old ballplayer and the new ballplayer is the jersey. The old ballplayer cared about the name on the front. The new ballplayer cares about the name on the back." - Steve Garvey

"The Babe is one fellow, and I'm another and I could never be exactly like him. I don't try, I just go on as I am in my own right." - Lou Gehrig (NY Yankees 1B)

"I worked real hard to learn to play first. In the beginning, I used to make one terrible play a game. Then, I got so I'd make one a week, and finally, I'd pull a real bad one maybe once a month. At the end, I was trying to keep it down to one a season." - Lou Gehrig, New York Yankees 1B
"There is no room in baseball for discrimination. It is our national pastime and a game for all." - Lou Gehrig

"We were mighty short of infielders in those days." - Lou Gehrig

"Baseball breaks your heart. It is designed to break your heart. The game begins in the spring, when everything else begins again, and it blossoms in the summer, filling the afternoons and evenings, and then as soon as the chill rains come, it stops and leaves you to face the fall alone." - A. Bartlett Giamatti, ex-commissioner, in *The Green Fields of the Mind*

"A homer a day will boost my pay." - Josh Gibson

"I'm not out here to win a beauty contest." - Kirk Gibson

"You can play for the three-run homer there a lot. Like every inning." - Former Rockies and current Yankees catcher Joe Girardi, on playing at Coors Field

"There don't seem to be any quote-unquote pitcher's ballparks in the American League. At least in the National League you can catch a break in St. Louis, Houston, Montreal. In the AL, it's like every park is Coors Field." - Braves left-hander Tom Glavine, on why he thinks there are more home runs hit in the American League

"People come to see the players. Nobody ever bought a ticket to see a manager." - Larry Goetz, umpire, on why managers should be thrown out before players

"Roomie, you keep playing Greenberg shallow and you're going to make them forget Lefty Gomez." - Lefty Gomez, after giving up a triple to centre, responding to rookie OF Joe DiMaggio's comment that he was going to make people forget Tris Speaker. DiMaggio had been playing a shallow outfield.

"I've got a new invention. It's a revolving bowl for tired goldfish." - Lefty Gomez

"I talked to the ball a lot of times in my career. I yelled, 'Go foul. Go foul.'" - Lefty Gomez

"I was the worst hitter ever. I never even broke a bat until last year when I was backing out of the garage." - Lefty Gomez

"A lot of things run through your head when you're going in to relieve in a tight spot. One of them was, 'Should I spike myself ?'" - Lefty Gomez

"The secret of my success was clean living and a fast outfield." - Lefty Gomez
"I am throwing twice as hard as I ever did. It's just not getting there as fast." - Lefty Gomez, on aging

"I was never nervous when I had the ball, but when I let go I was scared to death." - Lefty Gomez

"He's in a rut. Gehringer goes two for five on opening day and stays that way all season." - Lefty Gomez, on Charlie Gehringer

"One rule I had was make your best pitch and back up third base. That relay might get away and you've got another shot at him." - Lefty Gomez

"I'd rather be lucky than good." - Lefty Gomez, pitcher

"I don't want to throw him nothing. Maybe he'll just get tired of waiting and leave." - Lefty Gomez, answering Bill Dickey's question: What do you want to throw to Jimmy Foxx.

"Do they still play the blues in Chicago, When baseball season rolls around? When the snow melts away, do the Cubbies still play In their ivy-covered burial ground? When I was a boy, they were my pride and joy, But now they only bring fatigue To the land of the brave, the home of the free And the doormat of the National League." - Steve Goodman, A Dying Cub Fan's Last Request

"Jose Canseco leads off the 3rd inning with a grand slam." - John Gordon, Twins announcer

"Isn't that cute? He kisses her on the strikes, and she kisses him on the balls." - Curt Gowdy, on a couple in the stands

"This team makes your ulcers have a baby." - Mark Grace (Chicago Cubs 1B), after a 10th inning victory during a race for a playoff spot late in the 1998 season.

"The music sounds better, the wine tastes sweeter and the girls look better when we win." - Mark Grace, after the Chicago Cubs ended a six-game losing streak

"When you're playing, awards don't seem like much. Then you get older and all of it becomes more precious. It is nice to be remembered." - Hank Greenberg (Tigers' 1B)

"The only way you can get along with newspaperman is to say something one minute and something different the next." - Hank Greenberg (Tigers' 1B)
"How many games was it before they told you about the mask?" - Hank Greenwald, sportscaster, to one-time catcher, Ken Dito

"Hello, everybody, and welcome to Three Rivers Stadium, where tonight...Hello, everybody, and welcome to Two Rivers Stadium." - Hank Greenwald, taping a pregame intro was told that it had run a little long and that he should eliminate something, so he tried again.

"Bats right, throws up." - Hank Greenwald, speaking of the newborn son of agent Jeff Moorad and wife, Jan

"Three more saves and he ties John the Baptist." - Hank Greenwald, on Bruce Sutter

"He's hitting .450. Of course, everybody is hitting .450." - Braves center fielder Marquis Grissom on his son D'Monte, who is playing T-ball at the age of 4

"Hey, let's just get into the goddamned game." - Dwight 'Doc' Gooden (New York Mets pitcher), to Joe Brinkman right before Brinkman tosses him from Game 2 of the 1998 Red Sox-Indians wild-card series in the first inning.

"I'm glad I don't have to face that guy every day. He has that look that few hitters have. I don't know if it is in his stance, his eyes or what. But you can tell he means business." - Dwight "Doc" Gooden, on Don Mattingly - faced in a spring training game 1989

"The bigger the guy, the less he argues. You never heard a word out of Stan Musial or Willie Mays or Roberto Clemente. They never tried to make you look bad." - Tom Gorman, umpire

"Billy could never say anything that smart." - Calvin Griffith (Minnesota Twins owner), on a comment that Billy Martin had denied making about Reggie Jackson and George Steinbrenner: "One's a born liar, and the other's been convicted."

"First I pray to God that nobody hits the ball to me. Then I pray to God that no one hits the ball to Steve Sax." - Pedro Guerrero

"I said it all year. All roads go through Atlanta." - Tony Gwynn (San Diego Padres OF), 1998 Playoffs

"I've got to check the history books to find a pitch that was slower than that." - Tony Gwynn, on the ultra loop in Bobby Jones' curveball

"It is the sport that a foreigner is least likely to take to. You have to grow up playing it, you have to accept the lore of the bubble gum card, and believe that if
"the answer to the Mays-Mantle-Snider question is found, then the universe will be a simpler and more ordered place." - David Halberstam

"He [Lew Burdette] would make coffee nervous." - Fred Haney

"I have a good feeling about this club. But that could be gas." - Mike Hargrove (Cleveland Indians manager), upon the Indians advancing to the 1998 ALCS.

"Sparky is the only guy I know who's written more books than he has read." - Ernie Harwell (broadcaster), on Sparky Anderson's autobiography "They Call Me Sparky".

"You know Earl. He's not happy unless he's not happy." - Elrod Hendricks, Baltimore Orioles catcher, on Earl Weaver and his complaining to umpires

"Catching a flyball is a pleasure, but knowing what to do with it after you catch it is a business." - Tommy Henrich

"We're ballplayers. We fail most of the time." - Dave Henderson

"Sometimes the hitter get a hit, sometimes I strike them out, but in neither case does anyone die." - Orlando 'El Duque' Hernandez (NY Yankees pitcher)

"A slick way to outfigure a person is to get him figuring you figure he's figuring you're figuring he'll figure you aren't really figuring what you want him to figure you figure." - Whitey Herzog, St. Louis Cardinals manager

"With those who don't give a damn about baseball, I can only sympathize. I do not resent them. I am even willing to concede that many of them are physically clean, good to their mothers and in favor of world peace. But while the game is on, I can't think of anything to say to them." - Art Hill, "I Don't Care if I Never Come Back"

"I'd rather him pitch a crucial game for me drunk, then anyone I've ever known sober. He was that good." - Rogers Hornsby (Cardinals 2B, Manager), on Grover Cleveland Alexander

"People ask me what I do in winter when there's no baseball. I'll tell you what I do. I stare out the window and wait for spring." - Rogers Hornsby

"I don't want to play golf. When I hit a ball, I want someone else to go chase it." - Rogers Hornsby

"I'll tell you, I don't know what we ate during the off day, but we better eat more of it." - A's manager Art Howe, after Oakland hit a club record eight homers against California. Seven different players homered, tying a big league record.
"I slipped and the ball got away from me with nothing on it. Maybe it is lucky it hit Lou, instead of going over the plate." - Carl Hubbell (NY Giants pitcher), on Lou Gehrig in the World Series

"The sun don't shine on the same dog's ass all the time." - Catfish Hunter, pitcher

"No baseball fan has to explain his mania to any other baseball fan. They are a fraternity. It is less easy, often it is hopeless, to try to explain it to anyone else. You grow technical, and you do not make sense. You grow sentimental, and you are deemed soft in the head. How, the benighted outsider ask you with no little condescension, can you grow sentimental about a cold-blooded professional sport?" - John K. Hutchens

"It was his solemn duty to catch a ball that wasn't in the stands." - Monte Irvin (Newark Eagles OF, May 6, 1981), on Willie Mays

"Baseball has done more to move America in the right direction than all of the professional patriots with all their cheap words." - Monte Irvin, OF for Newark Eagles

"I didn't come to New York to be a star. I brought my own star with me." - Reggie Jackson

"Ryan is the only guy who puts fear in me. Not because he can get you out but because he can kill you." - Reggie Jackson (Oakland A's OF), on Nolan Ryan

"Ryan's the only guy to put fear in me. You just hoped to mix in a walk so you could have a good night and go 0-for-3." - Reggie Jackson, on Nolan Ryan

"The only reason I don't like playing in the World Series is I can't watch myself play." - Reggie Jackson

"Fans don't boo nobodies." - Reggie Jackson

"The only way I'm going to get a Gold Glove is with a can of spray paint." - Reggie Jackson

"The guy's ridiculous. No one hits home runs like that. I'm telling you, man, it's ridiculous." - Derek Jeter (New York Yankees, SS), on Yankee rookie left fielder Shane Spencer, who in his first 67 regular season at bats hit 10 dingers (three grand slams) and two homers in his first postseason series.
"When they operated, I told them to put in a Koufax fastball. They did - but it was Mrs. Koufax’s." - Tommy John (NY Yankees pitcher), on his arm surgery - now known as the "Tommy John" procedure

"I'm a light eater. When it gets light, I start eating." - Tommy John, NY Yankees pitcher

"Maybe they should see if his body is corked." - Howard ‘Hojo' Johnson (NY Mets), on Bo Jackson, from Sports Illustrated, October 19, 1986

"There is a catcher that any big league club would love. His name is Gibson...he can do everything. He hits the ball a mile. And he catches so easy he might as well be in a rocking chair. Throws like a rifle. Too bad this Gibson is a colored fellow.” - Walter Johnson (Washington Senators pitcher), on Josh Gibson, catcher for the Kansas City Monarchs

"I went through Cleveland once and it was closed." - Jay Johnston (Philadelphia Phillies OF)

"I don't know why ballplayers like to moon. Maybe it's the only way some of them can figure out how to express themselves." - Jay Johnston, on mooning Merv Griffin

"Some guys live for crunch time. I'm one of them." - Chipper Jones, Atlanta third baseman

"They can't get any rougher on us unless they show up with Uzis." - David Justice (Cleveland Indians OF), on the New York fans, before playing Game 6 of the 1998 ALCS.

"When he took BP everybody would kind of stop what they were doing and watch." - Jim Kaat, former pitcher, on Mickey Mantle

"Every ballpark used to be unique. Now, it's like women's breasts - if you've seen one, you've seen 'em both." - Jim Kaat, former pitcher

"Baseball is a lot like life. The line drives are caught, the squibbers go for base hits. It's an unfair game." - Ron Kanehl

"I keep my eyes clear and I hit 'em where they ain't." - Wee Willie Keeler

"I told him I wasn't tired. He told me, 'No, but the outfielders sure are.'" - Texas Rangers pitcher Jim Kern on the manager who removed him from a game, 1979

"I'm working on a new pitch. It's called a strike." - Jim Kern
RALPH KINER

"[Burleigh Grimes] always looked like a man who was about to commit assault and battery when he threw the ball." - John Kieran

The best umpired game is the game in which the fans cannot recall the umpires who worked it. If they don't recognize you, you can enjoy your dinner knowing you did a perfect job. - William J Klem, umpire.

"Baseball is more than a game to me, it's a religion."- William J Klem (umpire), seen on Klem's Hall of Fame plaque

"Son, when you pitch a strike Mr. Hornsby will let you know." - William J Klem (umpire), to a rookie pitcher who complained that the pitches Rogers Hornsby didn't swing were called balls.

"The game has a cleanness. If you do a good job, the numbers say so. You don't have to ask anyone or play politics. You don't have to wait for reviews." - Sandy Koufax

"I played with him for nine years and marveled at how hard he hit and how fast he ran. How can anyone ever forget the catch he made on Gil Hodges' line drive to save Don Larsen's perfect game?" - Tony Kubek, former shortstop, on Mickey Mantle

"We're 24 morons and a Mormon." - John Kruk (Philadelphia Phillies 1B), describing the Phillies when Dale Murphy joined the team.

"It's amazing that fans want to see me play. It's kind of scary. I guess that's what is wrong with our society." - John Kruk (Philadelphia Phillies 1B), on being chosen an All-Star starter in 1993

"I'd rather have my leg cut-off than do that all day. You just hope it hits your bat in a good spot." - John Kruk (Philadelphia Phillies 1B), on hitting a knuckleball.

"I try to dumb down out there. They tell you to stay within yourself, so that's what I do. Mentally, I'm not gonna out-think myself to often." - John Kruk (Philadelphia Phillies 1B), on hitting.

"I would think I drive most hitting coaches crazy. During one single at-bat I used six different stances on six pitches. Oh yeah, I also struck out. So what do I know?" - John Kruk (Philadelphia Phillies 1B)

"I wanted to kill Mitch. But they told me I couldn't, it was illegal." - John Kruk, on Mitch Williams, after the Phillies closer blew a save and the game stretched on for 6 hours
"I'd rather be in a prison cell with Mike Tyson, and let him beat my butt all day long, than go through that again." - John Kruk, Philadelphia Phillies 1B, on the last place '92 season

"I'm not an athlete. I'm a professional baseball player." - John Kruk

When told they would be raising the fences the following year, Jerry Koosman asked, "Won't there be a lot of balls rolling under?" - Jerry Koosman

"He had about him a touch of royalty." - Bowie Kuhn (commissioner), on Roberto Clemente

"The door would be opened wide to the buying of success by the more affluent clubs, public suspicion would be aroused, traditional and sound methods of player development and acquisition would be undermined and our efforts to preserve competitive balance would be greatly impaired." - Bowie Kuhn, on voiding the sale of Rudi, Fingers and Blue for $3.5 million by the World Champion Oakland A's, June 1976

"I believe in the Rip Van Winkle Theory: that a man from 1910 must be able to wake up after being asleep for seventy years, walk into a ballpark and understand baseball perfectly." - Bowie Kuhn, Commissioner of Baseball (1969-1984)

"When he went up for his last at-bat, I looked up at the scoreboard and saw his stats: 69 home runs, 144 RBIs, and I'm thinking, 'Look at that; that's not a season, that's a career.'" - Tom Lampkin (St. Louis Cardinals catcher), on best friend and teammate Mark McGwire, 1B, after the 1998 season

"Casey Stengel just can't keep from being Casey Stengel." - Kenesaw Mountain Landis, Commissioner of Baseball, on Stengel's thumbing his nose at Colonel Jacob Ruppert during a World Series game after an inside the park home run by Stengel

"I don't know how anyone can put on a uniform and not care about winning." - Dave LaPoint

"There are only two things that will prevent him from greatness: a knife and a fork." - Frank Lane, on Boog Powell

"I remember he used to get very mad at himself if he failed to hit. I'll never forget how hard he played all the time, especially the catch he made in my perfect game." - Don Larsen, who pitched a perfect game in the 1956 World Series, on Mickey Mantle
"I say this from the bottom of my heart, that if you don't root for the Dodgers, you might not get into Heaven." - Tommy Lasoda

"I'm in a slump. I go to bed and I'm hungry. I sit down at the table and I get romantic." - Tommy Lasoda, LA Dodgers manager

"The only problem with success is that it does not teach you how to deal with failure." - Tommy Lasoda

"There really is a Big Dodger in the Sky and I think he has come down and taken over Hersheiser's body." - Tommy Lasorda, after Hersheiser's eighth no-run job in ten starts 1988

"I knew June was Pedro [Guerrero]'s favorite month, so I told him that in the U.S., June had sixty days. I'd see him in July and say, 'Well, Pedro, it's June 52 and I see you're still hot.'" - Los Angeles Dodgers Manager Tommy Lasorda, after Pedro Guerrero hit 15 home runs in June and .460 in July

"Guys ask me, don't I get burned out? How can you get burned out doing something you love? I ask you, have you ever got tired of kissing a pretty girl?" - Tommy Lasorda

"If he raced his pregnant wife he'd finish third." - Los Angeles Dodgers manager Tommy Lasorda, on catcher Mide Scioscia, 1988

"There are two theories on hitting the knuckleball. Unfortunately, neither of them works." - Charlie Lau, Royals' batting coach

"George Brett could roll out of bed Christmas morning and hit a line drive." - Charlie Lau

"Experience is a hard teacher because she gives the test first, and the lesson afterwards." - Vernon Law, Pittsburgh Pirates pitcher

"When you're through learning, you're through." - Vernon Law

"The lefthander's first good look at the leftfield wall, the Green Monster in Fenway, is an automatic reason for massive depression. And that's when it's viewed from the dugout." - Bill 'Spaceman' Lee, Boston Red Sox pitcher

"The more self-centered and egotistical a guy is, the better ballplayer he's going to be. You take a team with twenty-five assholes and I'll show you a pennant. I'll show you the New York Yankees." - Bill "Spaceman" Lee
"We're on a first-number basis with each other. He calls me 3 and I call him 2." - Bill Lee (1977 Red Sox uniform number 37) on Mark "The Bird" Fidrych (number 20 for the Tigers)

"Something was definitely happening to me...my brain would start clicking into another dimension or time warp... it was as if everything was in 3-D, and I could visually grasp all three sides at once. Aside from that, I didn't get much of a buzz." - Bill "Spaceman" Lee on using pot

"Winning is better than the next worse thing." - Bill Lee

"The other day they asked me about mandatory drug testing. I said I believed in drug testing a long time ago. All through the '60s I tested everything." - Bill Lee

"Do they leave it there during the game?" - Bill Lee, on first seeing Fenway's Green Monster

"I think about the cosmic snowball theory. A few million years from now the sun will burn out and lose its gravitational pull. The earth will turn into a giant snowball and be hurled through space. When that happens it won't matter if I get this guy out." - Bill Lee, on how he stayed relaxed in pressure situations

"Our pain isn't as bad as you might think. Dead people don't suffer." - Red Sox pitcher Bill Lee, whose team had blown six games against the Yankees late in the 1978 season

"You have two hemispheres in your brain -- a left and a right side. The left side controls the right side of your body and right controls the left half. It's a fact. Therefore, left-handers are the only people in their right minds." - Bill Lee

"You should enter a ballpark the way you enter a church." - Bill Lee

"The only way to pitch to Tony is throw the ball down the middle and hope he hits it at someone." - Al Leiter (NY Mets pitcher), on Tony Gwynn

"He's a very lucky man. He escapes the dictatorial reign of a ruthless tyrant and ends up working for George Steinbrenner." - David Letterman (talk show host), on Orlando Hernandez

"I heard doctors revived a man who had been dead for 4-1/2 minutes. When they asked him what it was like being dead, he said it was like listening to Yankees announcer Phil Rizzuto during a rain delay." - David Letterman

"Police have arrested the man who was pictured throwing snowballs at Giants Stadium. If convicted, he may face six months in jail and a $1,000 fine. If it turns
out he was under the influence of alcohol or drugs, he'll be signed by the Yankees." - David Letterman

"The fattest man in all of professional sports. I mean the guy is a balloon. He must weight 300 pounds. The guys doing the ballgame, not once do they mention that this guys is enormous. They pretend the guy couldn't be in better shape. He's a load. Not once, when they see this mammonth figure, this silo, get up in the bullpen ... I just want them to say, "Terry Forster's warming up. He's a lefthander, an ERA of 3.5. What a fat tub of goo." - David Letterman

"The Cubs are just never quite good enough, and have invested 90 years in the proof....of all the fine examples of consistent imperfection, the Cubs are the poster bunch..." - Bernie Lincicome (Chicago Tribune sports columnist), discussing the Chicago Cubs' 1998 season

"Rome wasn't born in a day." - Johnny Logan, Milwaukee Braves shortstop

"I'll have pie a la mode with ice cream." - Johnny Logan

"I heard his footprints coming down the hall." - Johnny Logan

"I will perish this trophy forever." - Johnny Logan

"I know the name but I can't replace the face." - Johnny Logan

"Best player ever? I'd have to go with the immoral Babe Ruth." - Johnny Logan

After playing an exhibition game in Canada, Logan was surprised to learn that "even the kids speak French."

"I felt fine a week ago, so I was getting pretty anxious. There's only so much rehab you can do, only so much batting practice you can take, and my wife is already pregnant. I needed to get back out there and play again." - Brewers Pat Listach in July, finding his options limited as he waited to come off the DL, where he'd been since June 28

"When you're in a slump, it's almost as if you look out at the field and it's one big glove." - Vance Law

"Throwing people out of a game is like learning to ride a bicycle--once you get the hang of it, it can be a lot of fun." - Ron Luciano, umpire

"No one ever grew up intending to be an umpire, except perhaps my friend Bill Haller. His brother Tom wanted to be a catcher, so an affinity for masks must run in that family." - Ron Luciano, umpire
"Umpire’s Heaven is a place where he works third base every game. Home is where the heartache is." - Ron Luciano

"I had bad days on the field. But I didn't take them home with me. I left them in a bar along the way home." - Bob Lemon, New York Times, August 15, 1976

"The two most important things in life are good friends and a strong bullpen." - Bob Lemon

"They should move first base back one step to eliminate all those close plays." - John Lowenstein

"October doesn't care what your name is." - Mike Lupica

"I knew I was in for a long year when we lined up for the national anthem on opening day and one of my players said, 'Every time I heard that song I have a bad game.'" - Pittsburgh Pirates manager Jim Leyland, 1986

"The bases were drunk, and I painted the black with my best yakker. But blue squeezed me, and I went full. I came back with my heater, but the stick flares one the other way and chalk flies for two bases. Three earnies! Next thing I know, skipper hooks me and I'm sipping suds with the clubby." - Ed Lynch, Mets' pitcher

M

Quotes from Mike Marshall, Mark McGwire, Joe Magrane, Tug McGraw, Billy Martin, and more!

N

"Y is for Young, the magnificent Cy. People batted against him, but I never knew why." - Ogden Nash

"When I was a little boy, I wanted to be a baseball player and join the circus. With the Yankees, I've accomplished both." - Graig Nettles

"It's a good thing Babe Ruth isn't here. If he was, George Steinbrenner would have him bat seventh and say he's overweight." - Graig Nettles

"We've got a problem here. Luis Tiant wants to use the bathroom and it says no foreign objects in the toilet." - Graig Nettles

"People recognize me wherever I go, where it used to be just New York. I guess people who aren't even baseball fans watch the World Series. I was driving down the freeway in Los Angeles over the winter and a guy pulled up next to me and gave me the finger." - Graig Nettles
"What we need is a second-base coach." - Graig Nettles

O

"I believe salaries are at their peak, not just in baseball, but all sports. It's quite possible some owners will trade away, or even drop entirely, players who expect $200,000 salaries. There's a superstar born every year... But still there is no way clubs can continue to increase salaries to the level some players are talking about." - Peter O'Malley, 1971.

"He knows what that piece of wood is made for, and it's not to clean off his shoes." - Johnny Oates (Texas manager) on Shane Spencer

"We set the table, but no one ate." - Johnny Oates (Rangers manager), said after his team left 14 runners on base in an 8-3 loss to Oakland

"No one can stop a home run. No one can understand what it really is, unless you have felt it in your own hands and body. As the ball makes its high, long arc beyond the playing field, the diamond and the stands suddenly belong to one man. In that brief, brief time, you are free of all demands and complications." - Sadaharu Oh, Tokyo Giants Outfielder and All-Time Homerun Leader

"When I was in the big leagues, I was a big fundamental guy. I moved runners over. I squeezed them in. I played good defense. I've seen a lot of guys who didn't make the major leagues because they didn't know how to play the fundamentals." - Jose Oquendo, on his managerial debut

P

"I ain't ever had a job. I just always play baseball." - Satchel Paige (Kansas City Monarchs pitcher)

"How old would you be if you didn't know how old you was?" - Satchel Paige

"Just take the ball and throw it where you want to. Throw strikes. Home plate don't move." - Satchel Paige

"I wasn't trying to show anybody up. It just takes me a long time to get around the bases. By the time I got to shortstop I was exhausted." - Mark Parent (Phillies catcher), on being accused of running out a home run too slowly.

"Hitters get paid a lot of money to hit. Let's face it, man, sometimes they just do." - Andy Pettitte (NY Yankees pitcher, 8-27-98)

"Don Larsen used to pitch so slow it ought to have been equipped with backup lights." - Shirley Povich
"One thing anyone can go through is a slump. Unless you're Greg Maddux, it's going to happen to everybody." - Mike Piazza, Dodgers' catcher

"I have no clue what any of this means. For all I know, we don't even have signs." - Angels reliever Troy Percival, who didn't understand any of third base coach Rick Burleson's signs when asked to go to the plate for his first career at-bat

"I took the two most expensive asprins in history." - Wally Pipp on his decision to sit out a game with a headache which let Lou Gehrig into the lineup

"I don't believe in ice. It's too cold, for one thing." - Paul Quantrill (Toronto Blue Jays pitcher), one of the few pitchers who doesn't ice his arm after each outing.

"The batter still hits a grounder. But in this case the first bounce is 360 feet away." - Dan Quisenberry (Kansas City Royals pitcher), on what happens when his sinker isn't working.

"Natural grass is a wonderful thing for little bugs and sinkerball pitchers." - Dan Quisenberry (Kansas City Royals pitcher)

"It helps to be stupid if you're a relief pitcher. Relievers had to get into a zone of their own. I just hope I'm stupid enough." - Dan Quisenberry, former Royals' reliever

"I've seen the future and it's much like the present, only longer." - Dan Quisenberry

On the best thing about baseball: "There's no homework." - Dan Quisenberry

"Most pitchers fear losing their fastball and, since I don't have one, the only thing I have to fear is fear itself." - Dan Quisenberry

"I became a better pitcher when I found a delivery in my flaw." - Dan Quisenberry

"Maybe they'll trade me for a bag of balls...." - Bob Tewksbury (Twins' pitcher), on being a hot commodity before he went on the disabled list.

"I got a sore throat and a cough just from spending two weeks on the phone talking to those clowns [other general managers]. I think when it comes to trading, the American League is 98 percent air and about two percent balloon." - Syd Thrift, as Yankee general manager, 1989

"[Before that,] I couldn't drive home Miss Daisy." - Boston outfielder Lee Tinsley, on driving in his first three RBIs of the season

"The majority of American males put themselves to sleep by striking out the batting order of the New York Yankees." - James Thurber
"Willie Mays and his glove: where triples go to die." - Dodgers executive Fresco Thompson.

"I bought the Braves for two reasons. To get an autographed baseball without pleading for it and to get good seats." - Ted Turner (Atlanta Braves owner)

"When they smile, blood drips off their teeth." - on agents, Ted Turner, Atlanta Braves owner

"I'm not very smart. I think I can prove that. Who would accept a job with Marge Schott's dog, Ted Turner, and George Steinbrenner as your boss?" - Peter Ueberroth, commissioner

"Good pitching will always beat good hitting and vice versa." - Bob Veal

"I played third base like Brooks ... Mel Brooks." - Andy Van Slyke

"I couldn't have driven Miss Daisy home today." - Andy Van Slyke

On his Earth Day contributions: "I plan to replace all divots in the outfield." - Andy Van Slyke

On the difference between being home or on the road: "On the road when you do downstairs for coffee in your underwear, they throw you out of the kitchen." - Andy Van Slyke

"They had better defense at Pearl Harbor." - Andy Van Slyke

"He (Ozzie Smith) plays like he's on a mini-trampoline or wearing helium kangaroo shorts." - Andy Van Slyke

"The biggest adjustments from the minors was learning to spend $45 in meal money." - Andy Van Slyke

"I have an alka seltzer bat. You know, plop, plop, fizz, fizz. When pitchers see me walk to the plate, they say 'Oh what a relief it is'" - Andy Van Slyke

When asked if he died and could be reincarnated who would he come back as? "My wife. Then I could see how wonderful I am." - Andy Van Slyke

"A rabbit didn't have to think to know what to do to dodge a dog...The same kind of instinct told Babe Ruth what to do and where to be." - Sammy Vick

"That's the true harbinger of spring, not crocuses or swallows returning to Capistrano, but the sound of a bat on the ball." - Bill Veeck, 1976
"I have discovered in 20 years of moving around a ballpark, that the knowledge of the game is usually in inverse proportion to the price of the seats." - Bill Veeck

"We used to go to the racetrack after spring training practice in my day. Four of us would chip in fifty cents each to go to the two-dollar window. Yesterday I asked a player how he did at the track. He said 'my horse won.' I said, 'how much did it pay?' The player said, 'no, coach, I didn't bet on the horse, I own it.'" - Mickey Vernon, Yankee coach, 1985

"Who cares how long they are as long as they're over the fence." - Robin Ventura on a tape-measure homer

"I don't think my insurance company would think that's a good idea." - Boston's Tim Wakefield, who pitched a complete-game six-hitter a day after being involved in a minor car accident, when it was suggested that he copy the pre-game routine before every start

"The shutout doesn't matter. It's the 'W'. You want to have the 'W' instead of the 'L'." - David Wells (NY Yankees' pitcher), following Game 1 of the 1998 ALCS in which Wells had a shutout going into the ninth when he gave up a two-run homer with one out (Yankees beat Indians 7-2).

"It was a real cliff-dweller." - Wes Westrum, on an extra-inning game

"How baseball is like a church -- Many attend but few understand." - Wes Westrum

"In retrospect, you are always looking back." - Jimy Williams (Boston Red Sox manager, 10-1-98)

"Just because I have money, does that make me any different from these guys here?" - Mitch "Wild Thing" Williams, on bartending in his bar and grill in Pennsauken, PA

"I have an idea what to do about the bullpen, napalm." - Stan Williams (Mariners' pitching coach), after his Mariners relief pitchers blew another lead late in the (1998) season

"Think. Don't just swing. Think about the pitcher, what he threw you last time up, his best pitch, who's up next. Think." - Ted Williams (Boston Red Sox OF)

"All I want out of life is when I walk down the street people say 'There goes the greatest hitter that ever lived'." - Ted Williams

"I got a lot of energy ready to be wasted on somebody." - Mookie Wilson
"All good balls to hit are strikes, though not all strikes are good balls to hit." - Dave Winfield

"Let us go forth awhile, and get better air in our lungs. Let us leave our closed rooms... The game of ball is glorious." - Walt Whitman

"I slept a real sleep last night for the first time in many a night. When I wasn't lying awake thinking and planning and fighting over that furious pennant race, I was dreaming restless dreams about it." - Joe Wood, on the Cleveland Indians 1920 pennant race

"We hit the ball right where they could show off their defensive ability." - Earl Weaver (Baltimore Orioles manager), after the Orioles lost the 1969 World Series to the Mets.

"I'd rather you walk with the bases loaded." - Earl Weaver, replying to a religious member of the Orioles who had said: "Gee, Earl, you got to walk with the Lord."

"Economics played a role in coming back, sure it did. Ralieghs have gone from $6.50 a carton to $9. But they have these coupons on the back. You get all kinds of things with them, blenders, everything. I saved up enough once and got Al Bumbry." - Earl Weaver

"You can't sit on a lead and run a few plays into the line and just kill the clock. You've got to throw the ball over the goddamn plate and give the other man his chance. That's why baseball is the greatest game of them all." - Earl Weaver

"My best game plan is to sit on the bench and call out specific instructions like 'C'mon Boog,' 'Get ahold of one, Frank,' or 'Let's go, Brooks.'" - Earl Weaver

"It's what you learn after you know it all that counts." - Earl Weaver

"When you think about it, a home run is a mistake. The idea is to hit the ball hard, on a line, so the defense can't react to it. Hit it high in the air, which is how most home runs are hit, and most of the time it will be caught. It's a mistake." - Matt Williams, Indians third baseman, always a threat to make a mistake

"When my career is over, and I sit down at the gas station or wherever, and people ask me, 'What was one of your biggest moments?' I'll say, 'Facing Nolan Ryan.'" - Glenn Wilson

"What can you say about Mickey after you say he was one of the greatest? He had talent he didn't realize he had. If he had [Joe] DiMaggio's serious bear-down attitude, there's no telling how great he could have been. With his one good leg, he could outrun everyone." - Gene Woodling on former teammate Mickey Mantle
"Anything less would not have been worthy of me. Anything more would not have been possible." - Boston's Carl Yastrzemski

"[The 1892 Cleveland Spiders are] highly successful in the manufacture of nothingness, surrounded by an elliptical fence." - Unknown

Rex Barney would have been the greatest pitcher of all time if the strike zone was high and outside." - Unknown

Rex Barney could throw a baseball through a brick wall if he could hit the brick wall. - Unknown

Ueuker

"Anybody with ability can play in the big leagues. But to be able to trick people year in and year out the way I did, I think that was a much greater feat."

"If a guy hits .300 every year, what does he have to look forward to? I always tried to stay around .190, with three or four RBI. And I tried to get them all in September. That way I always had something to talk about during the winter."

"In 1962 I was named Minor League Player of the Year. It was my second season in the Bigs."

"I signed with the Milwaukee Braves for $3,000. That bothered my dad at the time because he didn't have that kind of dough. But he eventually scraped it up."

"People don't know this but I helped the Cardinals win the pennant. I came down with hepatitis. The trainer injected me with it."

"The biggest thrill a ballplayer can have is when your son takes after you. That happened when my Bobby was in his championship Little League game. He really showed me something. Struck out three times. Made an error that lost the game. Parents were throwing things at our car and swearing at us as we drove off. Gosh, I was proud."

"I had slumps that lasted into the winter."

"I led the league in 'Go get 'em next time.'"

"I set records that will never be equaled. In fact, I hope 90% of them don't even get printed."

"Career highlights? I had two. I got an intentional walk from Sandy Koufax and I got out of a rundown against the Mets."
"I remember one time I'm batting against the Dodgers in Milwaukee. They lead, 2 - 1, it's the bottom of the ninth, bases loaded, two out and the pitcher has a full count on me. I look over to the Dodger dugout and they're all in street clothes."

"When I looked at the third base coach, he turned his back on me."

"Wait until it stops rolling and pick it up." - on how to catch a knuckleball

"I hit a grand slam off Ron Herbel and when his manager Herman Franks came out to get him, he was bringing Herbel's suitcase."

"Sporting goods companies pay me not to endorse their products."

"I didn't get a lot of awards as a player. But they did have a Bob Uecker Day Off for me once in Philly."

"Sure, women sportswriters look when they're in the clubhouse. Read their stories. How else do you explain a capital letter in the middle of a word?"

"I knew when my career was over. In 1965 my baseball card came out with no picture."

"One time, I got pulled over at 4 a.m. I was fined $75 for being intoxicated and $400 for being with the Phillies."

"A doctor told me to drink lemon juice after a hot bath. But I have never finished the bath."

"The highlight of my career? In '67 with St. Louis, I walked with the bases loaded to drive in the winning run in an intersquad game in spring training."

"Baseball hasn't forgotten me. I go to a lot of Old-Timers games and I haven't lost a thing. I sit in the bullpen and let people throw things at me. Just like old times."

Stengel

"Yeah? For what paper?" - on being told that Ernest Hemingway was a great writer.

"I'll never make the mistake of being 70 again." - after being fired by the Yankees for being too old to manage

Managing is getting paid for home runs that someone else hits.

"They have shown me ways to lose I never knew existed." - on his 1962 Mets
"The only thing worse than a Mets game is a Mets double header." - on his 1962 Mets

"Nobody knows this [yet], but one of us has just been traded to Kansas City." - to outfielder Bob Cerv

"They examined all my organs. Some of them are quite remarkable and others are not so good. A lot of museums are bidding for them." - after being hospitalized for two weeks

"Well, I made up my mind, but I made it up both ways." - on the question if he quits in case his Yankees lose the World Series to the Pirates in 1960

"I broke in with four hits and the writers promptly declared they had seen the new Ty Cobb. It took me only a few days to correct that impression."

"All right, everybody line up alphabetically according to your height."

"The secret of managing is to keep the guys who hate you away from the guys who are undecided."

"I couldn't have done it without my players." - on winning the 1958 World Series

"Well, we've got this Johnny Lewis in the outfield. They hit a ball to him yesterday, and he turned left, then he turned right, then he went straight back and caught the ball. He made three good plays in one. And Greg Goossen, he's only twenty and with a good chance in ten years of being thirty." - on being asked how the Mets were doing

"How the hell should I know? Most of the people my age are dead. You could look it up." - on being asked about his future in the spring of 1965

"The trouble is not that players have sex the night before a game. It's that they stay out all night looking for it."

"You gotta learn that if you don't get it by midnight, chances are you ain't gonna get it, and if you do, it ain't worth it."

"You have to have a catcher because if you don't you're likely to have a lot of passed balls."

"You can't get into the Hall of Fame unless you limp."

"I'd always heard it couldn't be done, but sometimes it don't always work."
"Johnny Sain don't say much, but that don't matter much, because when you're out there on the mound, you got nobody to talk to."

"Jerry Lumpe looks like the best hitter in the world until you put him in the lineup."

"Ability is the art of getting credit for all the home runs somebody else hits."

"I was such a dangerous hitter I even got intentional walks in batting practice."

"I would not admire hitting against Ryne Duren, because if he ever hit you in the head you might be in the past tense."

"I don't like them fellas who drive in two runs and let in three."

"They say some of my stars drink whiskey. But I have found that the ones who drink milkshakes don't win many ballgames."

"Lefthanders have more enthusiasm for life. They sleep on the wrong side of the bed and their head gets more stagnant on that side."

"The way our luck has been lately, our fellas have been getting hurt on their days off."

"We are in such a slump that even the ones that are drinkin' aren't hittin'."

"You look up and down the bench and you have to say to yourself, 'Can't anybody here play this game?'"

"There comes a time in every man's life and I've had plenty of them."

"I don't know if he throws a spitball, but he sure spits on the ball."

"A shave, please, but don't cut my throat. I may want to do it later myself." - to his barber, when Stengel managed the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1935

"Look at him. He doesn't drink, he doesn't smoke, he doesn't chew and he doesn't stay out late -- and he still can't hit." - as Yankees manager in 1956, on second baseman Bobby Richardson

"Now there's three things you can do in a baseball game: You can win or you can lose or it can rain."

"Bobby Brown reminds me of a fellow who's been hitting for 12 years and fielding one."
"See that fella over there? He's 20 years old. In 10 years, he's got a chance to be a star. Now that fella over there, he’s 20 years old, too. In 10 years he's got a chance to be 30."

"I stayed up last night and watched the Republican Convention all night long. I watched all of them talk, and listened to them and seen them and I'm not interested in politics. If you watch them and listen to them you can find out why."

"You gotta lose 'em some of the time. When you do, lose 'em right."

"Oldtimers weekends and airplane landings are alike. If you can walk away from them, they're successful."

"Good pitching will stop good hitting and vice-versa."

"Without losers where would winners be?"

"Once someone gave me a picture and I wrote 'Do good in school.' I looked up and the guy was 78 years old"

"Well, God is certainly getting an earful tonight." - Jim Murray, sportswriter, penning the perfect eulogy upon Stengel's death in 1975

My motto was always to keep swinging. Whether I was in a slump or feeling badly or having trouble off the field, the only thing to do was keep swinging

~ Hank Aaron

Looking at the ball going over the fence isn't going to help.

~ Hank Aaron

Any baseball is beautiful. No other small package comes as close to the ideal in design and utility. It is a perfect object for a man's hand. Pick it up and it instantly suggests its purpose: it is meant to be thrown a considerable distance-thrown hard and with precision.

~ Roger Angell

If a woman has to choose between catching a fly ball and saving an infant's life, she will choose to save the infant's life without even considering if there are men on base.

~ Anonymous

There have been only two geniuses in the world, Willie Mays and Willie Shakespeare.
~ Tallulah Bankhead

The only way to prove you’re a good sport is to lose.

~ Ernie Banks

The game isn't over till it's over.

~ Yogi Berra

Baseball is 90 percent mental. The other half is physical.

~ Yogi Berra

Baseball players are smarter than football players. How often do you see a baseball team penalized for too many men on the field?

~ Jim Bouton

If a tie is like kissing your sister, losing is like kissing you grandmother with her teeth out.

~ George Brett

Baseball to me is still the national pastime because it is a summer game. I feel that almost all Americans are summer people, that summer is what they think of when they think of their childhood. I think it stirs up an incredible emotion within people.

~ Steve Busby

I think a baseball field must be the most beautiful thing in the world. It's so honest and precise. And we play on it. Every star gets humbled. Every mediocre player has a great moment.

~ Lowell Cohn

When I was a small boy in Kansas, a friend of mine and I went fishing...I told him I wanted to be a real Major League Baseball Player, a genuine professional like Honus Wagner. My friend said that he'd like to be President of the United States. Neither of us got our wish.

~ Dwight D. Eisenhower

Nothing flatters me more than to have it assumed that I could write prose-unless it be to have it assumed that I once pitched a baseball with distinction.
~ Robert Frost

No game in the world is as tidy and dramatically neat as baseball, with cause and effect, crime and punishment, motive and result, so cleanly defined.

~ Paul Gallico

There is no room in baseball for discrimination. It is our national pastime and a game for all.

~ Lou Gehrig

It is the sport that a foreigner is least likely to take to. You have to grow up playing it, you have to accept the lore of the bubble gum card, and believe that if the answer to the Mays-Mantle-Snider question is found, then the universe will be a simpler and more ordered place.

~ David Halberstam

People ask me what I do in winter when there’s no baseball. I’ll tell you what I do. I stare out the window and wait for spring.

~ Rogers Hornsby

I don't want to play golf. When I hit a ball, I want someone else to go chase it.

~ Rogers Hornsby

The only way I'm going to get a Gold Glove is with a can of spray paint.

~ Reggie Jackson

The one constant through all the years, Ray, has been baseball. America has rolled by like an army of steamrollers. It's been erased like a blackboard, rebuilt, and erased again. But baseball has marked the time. This field, this game, is a part of our past, Ray. It reminds us of all that once was good, and that could be again. Oh people will come, Ray. People will most definitely come.

~ James Earl Jones as Terence Mann in the movie Field of Dreams

Baseball is a lot like life. The line drives are caught, the squibbles go for base hits. It's an unfair game.

~ Rod Kanehl
I feel an invisible bond between our three generations, an anchor of loyalty linking my sons to the grandfather whose face they never saw but whose person they have already come to know through this most timeless of all sports, the game of baseball.

~ Doris Kearns Goodwin

Growing up is a ritual-more deadly than religion, more complicated than baseball, for there seemed to be no rules. Everything is experienced for the first time. But baseball can soothe even those pains, for it is stable and permanent, steady as grandfather dozing in a wicker chair on a verandah.

~ W.P. Kinsella

Love America and hate baseball? Hate America and love baseball? Neither is possible, except in the abstract.

~ John Krich

The difference between the impossible and the possible lies in a man's determination.

~ Tommy Lasorda

Guys ask me, don't I get burned out? How can you get burned out doing something you love? I ask you, have you ever got tired of kissing a pretty girl?

~ Tommy Lasorda

Do they leave it there during the game?

~ Bill Lee, On first seeing Fenway's Green Monster

Baseball is a game where a curve is an optical illusion, a screwball can be a pitch or a person, stealing is legal and you can spit anywhere you like except in the umpire's eye or on the ball.

~ Jim Murray

No one can stop a home run. No one can understand what it really is, unless you have felt it in your own hands and body.... As the ball makes its high, long arc beyond the playing field, the diamond and the stands suddenly belong to one man. In that brief, brief time, you are free of all demands and complications.

~ Sadaharu Oh

Don't look back. Something might be gaining on you.
~ Satchel Paige

Age is a question of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter.

~ Satchel Paige

A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives.

~ Jackie Robinson

I'd walk through hell in a gasoline suit to keep playing baseball.

~ Pete Rose

The greatest thrill in the world is to end the game with a home run and watch everybody else walk off the field while you're running the bases on air.

~ Al Rosen

Baseball was, is and always will be to me the best game in the world.

~ Babe Ruth

Do you know what my favorite part of the game is? The opportunity to play.

~ Mike Singletary

Ninety feet between bases is perhaps as close as man ever come to perfection.

~ Red Smith

The majority of American males put themselves to sleep by striking out the batting order of the New York Yankees.

~ James Thurber

Baseball is democracy in action: in it all men are "free and equal," regardless of race, nationality, or creed. Every man is given the rightful opportunity to rise to the top on his own merits...It is the fullest expression of freedom of speech, freedom of press, and freedom of assembly in our national life.

~ Francis Trevelyan Miller

That's the true harbinger of spring, not crocuses or swallows returning to Capistrano, but the sound of a bat on the ball.
~ Bill Veeck

Baseball is the only field of endeavor where a man can succeed three times out of ten and be considered a good performer.

~ Ted Williams

Don't look back. Something might be gaining on you.
Satchel Paige

You win a few, you lose a few. Some get rained out. But you got to dress for all of them.
Satchel Paige

Ain't no man can avoid being born average, but there ain't no man got to be common.
Satchel Paige

It ain't over till it's over.
Yogi Berra

You observe a lot by watching.
Yogi Berra

My motto was always to keep swinging. Whether I was in a slump or feeling badly or having trouble off the field, the only thing to do was keep swinging.
Hank Aaron

Set your goals high, and don't stop till you get there.
Bo Jackson

The way a team plays as a whole determines its success. You may have the greatest bunch of individual stars in the world, but if they don't play together, the club won't be worth a dime.
Babe Ruth

Winners make goals, losers make excuses.
Anonymous

Since baseball time is measured only in outs, all you have to do is succeed utterly; keep hitting, keep the rally alive, and you have defeated time. You remain forever young.
Roger Angell

Ideally, the umpire should combine the integrity of a Supreme Court judge, the physical agility of an acrobat, the endurance of Job and the imperturbability of Buddha.
Time Magazine, 8/25/61
Baseball is the only thing beside the paper clip that hasn't changed.
Bill Veeck

Every day is a new opportunity. You can build on yesterday's success or put its failures behind and start over again. That's the way life is, with a new game every day, and that's the way baseball is.
Bob Feller

One of the beautiful things about baseball is that every once in a while you come into a situation where you want to, and where you have to, reach down and prove something.
Nolan Ryan

No one can stop a home run. No one can understand what it really is, unless you have felt it in your own hands and body.... As the ball makes its high, long arc beyond the playing field, the diamond and the stands suddenly belong to one man. In that brief, brief time, you are free of all demands and complications.
Sadaharu Oh

Nothing flatters me more than to have it assumed that I could write prose-unless it be to have it assumed that I once pitched a baseball with distinction.
Robert Frost

You don't save pitchers for tomorrow. Tomorrow it may rain.
Leo Durocher

Any time you think you have the game conquered the game will turn around and punch you right in the nose.
Mike Schmidt

I'm never satisfied. I can't stand satisfaction. To me, greatness comes from that quest for perfection.
Mike Schmidt

The only way to prove you're a good sport is to lose.
Ernie Banks

You start chasing a ball and your brain immediately commands your body to Run forward! Bend! Scoop up the ball! Peg it to first! Then your body says who me?
Joe DiMaggio

I was never nervous when I had the ball, but when I let go I was scared to death.
Lefty Gomez

I don't get upset over things I can't control, because if I can't control them there's no use getting upset. And I don't get upset over the things I can control, because if I can control them there's no use in getting upset.
Mickey Rivers
There is no room in baseball for discrimination. It is our national pastime and a game for all.
Lou Gehrig

General

Haven't they suffered enough
Beano Cook, on giving free passes to former Iranian hostages

The first big league game I ever saw was at the Polo Grounds. My father took me, I remember it so well, the green grass and green stands. it was like seeing Oz
John Curtis, MLB Pitcher

Baseball is the only sport I know when you're on the offensive the other team controls the ball
Ken Harrelson

Baseball is the belly of society. Straighten out baseball and you'll straighten out the rest of the world
Bill Lee

Baseball is a lot like the Army, there aren't many individuals. About the only difference is that baseball players get to stay in nice hotels instead of barracks.
Bill Lee

I'm glad I don't play anymore. I could never learn all those handshakes.
Phil Rizzuto

If God wanted football played in the spring, he would not have invented baseball.
Sam Rutigliano, on the USFL

Ninety feet between bases is perhaps as close as man ever come to perfection
Red Smith

I've had many years that I was not so successful as a ballplayer, as it was a game of skill.
Casey Stengal

The hitter asks the owner to give him a big raise so he can go somewhere he's never been, and the owner says "You mean third base?"
Henny Youngman

The game of baseball has always been linked in my mind with mystic texture of childhood, with the sounds and smells of summer nights and with the memories of my farther.
*from the Boston Globe October 6, 1986 "Doris Kearns Goodwin"

Baseball gives every American boy a chance to excel. Not just to be as good as someone else, but to be better. This is the nature of man and the name of the
game.

"Ted Williams"

The pitcher has got only a ball. I've got a bat. So the percentage in weapons is in my favor and I let the fellow with the ball do the fretting.

"Hank Aaron" from the Milwaukee Journal July 1956

This is a simple game: you throw the ball, you hit the ball, you catch the ball. You got it.

"Skip, from the movie Bull Durham"

Why do people sing "Take me out to the ball game" when they are already there?

"unknown"

Well, there are three things that the average man thinks he can do better than anybody else. Build a fire, run a hotel and manage a baseball team.

"Rocky Bridges"

Pitching is the art of instilling fear.

"Sandy Koufax" Brooklyn Dodgers pitcher 1955-1966

It helps if the hitter thinks you're a little crazy.

"Nolan Ryan"

Any time you think you have the game conquered, the game will turn around and punch you right in the nose.

"Mike Schmidt" Philadelphia Phillies third baseman 1972-88

We lost 13 straight one year. I decided if we got rained out, we'd have a victory party.

"Lefty Gomez" on managing in the minors

We made too many wrong mistakes.

"Yogi Berra" his explanation for the yankees losing the 1960 world series.

Hitting is timing, Pitching is upsetting timeing

"Warren Spahn"

There is NO crying in baseball

"Tom Hanks" from the movie a league of there own