

## Learn about Baseball Legends at Your Public Library

It's April, which means the opening of baseball season. This is the time of year when every team's fans believe their team can win it all, even Cubs fans. The championship team celebrating in the fall will no doubt get excellent contributions from players at all positions. With that in mind, here are some player-specific materials we have at the Public Library. In true baseball fashion, we've got one item for each position on the field. Sorry, designated hitters don't count.

Playing **left field**, it's *Ted Williams: The biography of an American hero* by Leigh Montville. This large volume covers the full scope of this Boston Red Sox legend's life, with a particular emphasis on his military service and post-baseball life. Manning **center field**, it's *Willie Mays: The life, the legend* by James Hirsch. This biography is authorized by the "Say Hey" Kid himself. In over 600 pages, the author paints a complete portrait of perhaps the best center fielder in the history of the game. Included is an extensive ten page detail of the "The Catch" made by Mays in the 1954 World Series. In **right field**, we have *Clemente: The passion and grace of baseball's last hero* by David Maraniss. The author covers the too-short life of the first Latino superstar in the major leagues and uses newly uncovered documents to trace the final tragic days of his life, as Clemente's plane bound for Nicaraguan earthquake aid crashed into the sea.

At **first base**, it's the biography of Lou Gehrig, *Luckiest Man* by Jonathan Eig. Eig draws on dozens of new interviews and pages of Gehrig's own correspondence to create the definitive biography of the legendary New York Yankees first baseman of the 1920s and 1930s. Playing **second base**, we have *Opening Day: The story of Jackie Robinson's first season* by Jonathan Eig. The author focuses on the season of 1947, the year that Jackie Robinson of the Dodgers broke the "color barrier" to begin the integration of major league baseball. At **third base**, we have the DVD *This Old Club*, which chronicles the career of Chicago Cubs legend Ron Santo, discussing his career, his battle with diabetes, and his struggles to make the Hall of Fame. At **shortstop**, we have *Get in the game* by Cal Ripken, Jr. Ripken, the Baltimore Orioles Hall of Famer and all-time leader in consecutive games played, uses examples from his life to provide tips on how to persevere in whatever situation life presents.

At **pitcher**, we have *Sixty feet, six inches* by Bob Gibson. Gibson was a master on the mound in the 1960s for the St. Louis Cardinals and the ultimate intimidator. He teams with hitting legend Reggie Jackson to present points about pitching mechanics and scenarios in a conversational style. Finally, playing **catcher**, we have *When you come to a fork in the road, take it* by Yogi Berra. We have newer books by and about Berra, but this particular book is a compendium of his most famous quotes and misquotes combined with wit and wisdom by the New York Yankees catcher.

Come into the library today and discover many other materials that we have on baseball and the legends that add to the great history of the sport!

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