

RYNE SANDBERG DAY

SEPTEMBER 20, 1997 • WRIGLEY FIELD



Ryne Sandberg

IN TRIBUTE TO A CLASSIC CUB
SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM





September 20, 1997

Dear Cubs fans:

In 15 years of playing baseball in Chicago, you have given me an unbelievable amount of support. You've allowed me to take the field and feel comfortable. Not only that, but you've allowed me to be the person that I wanted to be, respecting my privacy and the way that I am.

I've enjoyed the handshakes at the ballpark, and the hellos on the street and in the restaurants. Day-in and day-out, I've heard fans say things like "Good job," "Good game" or "Nice win." Those comments have given me a good feeling. Everybody needs positive reinforcement, and you definitely have provided that.

In all my time in Chicago, I've never had a problem with being approached by fans—not one incident. That's all part of you letting me be the way I want to be while also being supportive. I think Chicago is the only place where I could get that. I've chosen to spend almost half of my life here, and I'll really miss this city.

But most of all, I'll miss the fans. My relationship with you really began in '84, and I think it's been constant ever since. I remember hitting some big home runs throughout that year when I'd get curtain calls, and that really meant something. It was a great feeling.

Something else I'll never forget is the reception I got in '96 in the first game of my comeback. During that first at-bat—actually every at-bat that day—I got a standing ovation. I had goose bumps. Whenever I've heard something as loud as that, I've wanted to hit one out of the park about five houses down the street. I also always have gotten goose bumps when you stand up in the ninth inning of games we have a chance to win. You don't see that for the home teams in all the other stadiums. When you're standing up and cheering for the last out, that's unique to Wrigley Field. Those are all exciting moments—moments that don't happen in other places. I can sit back, think about those times and cherish them. Those are the types of moments that I'll remember.

My most enduring memory of Cubs fans, however, will be of you coming out to the ballpark each day to see the Cubs win *that game*—no matter what happened the day before or the week before. That offers support for the whole ballclub and also has enabled me to go out and do the best job I could do every single day.

I'd like to thank each and every one of you for being a fan. Thanks for the support, and thanks for spending my career with me. It's been a great time, a great experience, and I've had a lot of fun. Thanks for sharing that with me.

RYNE SANDBERG DAY

**Special
Commemorative
Program**

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An Appreciation

By Ed McGregor

HAVE YOU EVER watched Ryne Sandberg run? Really watched him run? Sorry, trick question. He doesn't run. Even now, at age 38 and in the final precious innings of a Hall of Fame-caliber career, Sandberg glides like a champion racehorse. Some guys run like they're desperately trying to catch up to their arms and legs. Sandberg runs—no, glides—as though he has everything under total control, like reaching the next base safely is a foregone conclusion.

The great ones can do that. They can make almost anything appear effortless while everyone else looks like a bunch of klutzes, only less coordinated. Maybe that's why Sandberg's teammates nicknamed him "Kid Natural" in 1984, when he won the National League MVP Award. Maybe it's why former Cardinals manager Whitey Herzog called Sandberg "Baby Ruth" after he went yard twice against the game's best closer, Bruce Sutter, on a sunny Saturday in '84. Maybe it's why the Royals' George Brett once turned down a night out to watch the Cubs on cable, saying, "I always watch Ryne Sandberg play." And maybe it's why Yankees legend Mickey Mantle—*Mickey Mantle!*—once said Sandberg was "as good an all-around player as I've ever seen."

Sandberg captured nine Gold Gloves. He has the most home runs and best fielding percentage



...though he leaves
the game without a
World Series ring,
he is a champion.

of any second baseman in history. In Cubs annals, he has more hits than Gabby Hartnett, more homers than Hack Wilson, more stolen bases than both Joe Tinker and Johnny Evers, and more runs scored than Phil Cavarretta. He is the first major-leaguer with a 40-homer season and a 50-steal season in his career. He had a 123-game errorless streak, a record for a second baseman. He participated in 10 All-Star games. He had "The Game." And check this out: Between the 1989 and '90 All-Star breaks, he hit 43 homers and committed just three errors.

Ryne Sandberg may be the greatest second baseman ever to play major-league baseball. But

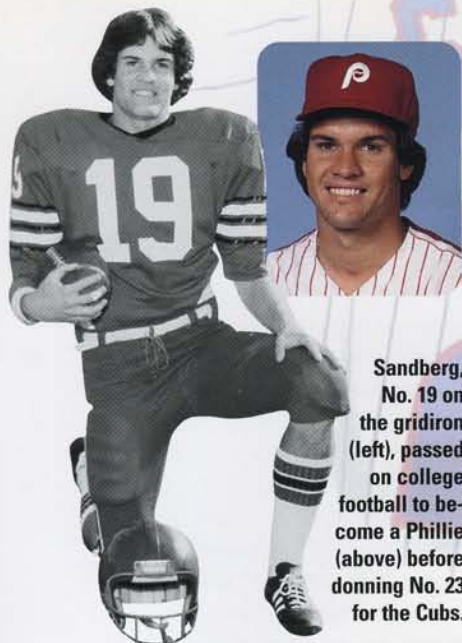
his value to the Cubs, and even more so to the city of Chicago, extends far beyond the statistics and records he has amassed. Here's the heart of it: Nobody symbolizes the rebirth of the Cubs more than Sandberg. Think about it. After the infamous collapse of 1969, the Cubs languished through the '70s and limped into the '80s. Even with all of Wrigley Field's charm—not to mention the charisma of "Mr. Cub," Ernie Banks—the club never drew two million fans until 1984. With the exceptions of 1986 and two strike-shortened years of which Sandberg was retired for part or all (1994-95), attendance has surpassed that mark every year since.

Sandberg—his actions speaking much louder than his characteristically few words—put the Cubs back on the major-league map. Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Carl Sandburg called Chicago the "City of the Big Shoulders"; Ryne Sandberg put the Cubs on his shoulders and delivered them to Chicago's fans. For that reason, though he leaves the game without a World Series ring, he is a champion. On Aug. 2 of this year, he stood before the microphones and cameras, and said, "I just think that it's perfect that I retire as a Cub." Well, as far as Cubs fans are concerned it's just as perfect that he wore blue pinstripes for 15 years, especially considering those pinstripes could have been maroon.

In 1978, the Phillies drafted Sandberg out of high school in

From 1983-91, Sandberg collected a record nine straight Gold Gloves.





Sandberg, No. 19 on the gridiron (left), passed on college football to become a Phillie (above) before donning No. 23 for the Cubs.

the 20th round of the June draft. He became a steady minor-league shortstop who hit for average but little power, and the Philadelphia front office gave him mixed reviews. According to Sandberg, he was told he'd never play in the major leagues, that he wasn't good enough and didn't have the ambition. He did, however, have a cup of coffee with the Phillies in 1981, getting his first big-league hit—a single off of Mike Krukow—at Wrigley Field that September. Sandberg only remembers that the Cubs were bad and the stands were bare.

No wonder Chicagoans hadn't heard of him when then-Cubs GM Dallas Green acquired Sandberg

and veteran shortstop Larry Bowa on Jan. 27, 1982, for shortstop Ivan DeJesus, who had hit just .194 the previous season. The *Chicago Tribune* headline read, "DeJesus traded for Bowa, rookie," and the story called that rookie "an untested minor-leaguer with good speed but a light bat." *Sports Illustrated* labeled Sandberg "a 22-year-old utility player." DeJesus called the trade a mistake by the Cubs, a bold statement for a .194 hitter.

Today, Sandberg is to Phillie fanatics what Lou Brock is to Cubs fans: the one that got away. "I still own up to the fact that we messed it up," legendary scout Hugh Alexander, who worked for the Phillies before joining the Cubs, said in 1990. "We thought he had talent, but would we have traded him if we knew he was going to be so good? Absolutely not."

Sandberg's road to baseball stardom, however, wasn't nearly as smooth as his stride. He grew up in Spokane, Wash., just a few miles from football's Mark Rypien and basketball's John Stockton. Yep, the premier second baseman of his era, a Super Bowl MVP and the NBA's all-time assists leader all attended Spokane high schools at the same time. In fact, Sandberg played prep hoops against Stockton and was a *Parade Magazine* All-America

quarterback headed for Washington State University until his older brother, Del, urged him to take the shot at baseball that he had missed. Years later, Sandberg, a master of understatement, would say, "I guess I made the right choice in baseball."

He wasn't so sure during his first days as a Cub. Sandberg reported to 1982 spring camp as a utilityman without a position. Bowa was clearly the shortstop, with 1975 Gold Glove-winning third baseman Ken Reitz to his right. Then, second baseman Bump Wills was acquired in a March 26 trade with Texas. With no infield position available, the Cubs put Sandberg in centerfield. "It was terrible in the outfield, a whole new world," he later admitted. He was quickly reprieved, however, when the club released Reitz in early April and inserted Sandberg at third. Adjusting to a new position, he started the '82 season 1-for-32 at the plate. But then he batted .284 the rest of the way and scored 103 runs, still a record for a Cubs rookie.

On Sept. 3 of that same season, he changed positions again, replacing Wills at second base for the remainder of the year. Still green at second, Sandberg called Gold Glover Bowa during the off-season and asked him to report early for 1983 spring training.

Sandberg runs—no, glides—as though he has everything under total control....



They worked one-on-one for three weeks, developing continuity on the double play and increasing Sandberg's confidence.

The sessions paid off. Basehits started dying in Sandberg's glove, and the throw to first base became automatic. By the '83 All-Star break, Cubs manager Lee Elia said of Sandberg, "I think he's the best second baseman in the league." The league agreed, and Sandberg became the first NL player to win a Gold Glove in his first season at a new position. Oh, and that started a string of nine Gold Gloves in nine years, a record for a second baseman.

In 1984, the Cubs' new manager, Jim Frey, looked at his 6-2, 180-pound second baseman and saw more than met everyone else's eyes. Frey saw a player who should smack the ball instead of just meeting it; he saw a power hitter hiding behind the punch hitter. So he worked on Sandberg's stroke, as well as his psyche, teaching him to recognize which pitches to drive and telling him he could be a star.

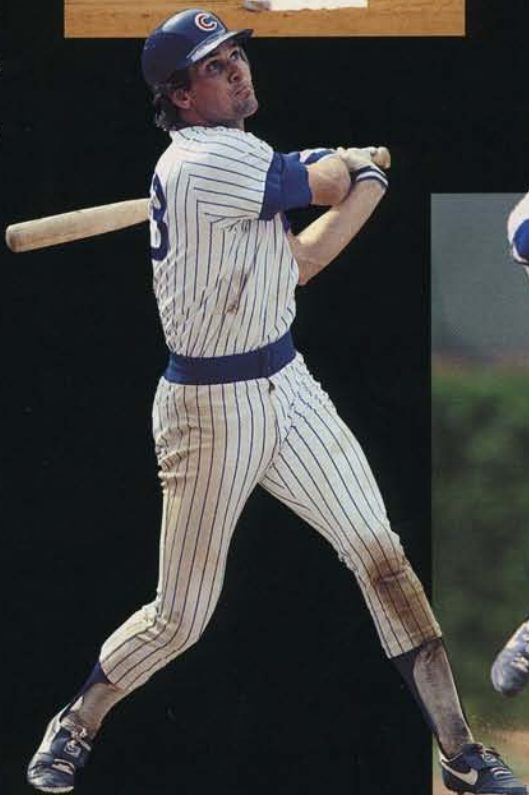
Frey turned out to be as right as DeJesus was wrong. Now the Cubs really had something: a fielder of dreams, a speedster, a team player and even a home run hitter. The rest is Cubs history.

Indeed, such Sandberg stories are now a part of Chicago baseball folklore. Between the lines, they reveal that not everything came naturally for Kid Natural, that his success is grounded in discipline and preparation as much as raw ability. Sandberg's work ethic and professionalism are renown. "In all the years, I've never seen him miss a day of fielding grounders or [taking] batting practice," Cubs veteran Mark Grace said recently. "He has hit more home runs than any second baseman, but he never has stood and watched one or shown up an opponent. He plays the game the way it's supposed to be played."

The game is the main thing

for Sandberg. It always has been. When he returned to the Cubs last year after his abbreviated retirement, he said he had missed the butterflies in his stomach. The concomitant fame and fortune were secondary. To wit: He doesn't know half of his statistics and records, and he forfeited \$16.8 million when he retired the first time.

Sandberg never pursued endorsements or public appearances. He once said that he would rather play a doubleheader than speak at a banquet. Imagine, then, the butterflies he'll have at the podium in Cooperstown. #23



Clockwise from left: Bowa (with ball) helped Sandberg make leaps and bounds defensively, while Frey (not pictured) helped "Ryno" develop his power stroke.





“Ryno,” So

AFTER RYNE SANDBERG'S Aug. 2 announcement of his intention to retire from baseball at the end of the 1997 season, free-lance writer Carrie Muskat picked the minds of many baseball VIPs for their thoughts on the future Hall of Famer.

The Early Years

“I don't know if I envisioned ‘Hall of Fame,’ but I certainly envisioned a fine athlete who was going to be a consistent hitter and a sound defensive guy. He went above that. There aren't many better defensive second basemen who played the game. He was a special kid.”

“There were questions throughout the Phillies organization about his potential power. He didn't hit a lot of home runs in his minor-league career. We all felt that with his athletic ability and how smart he was in baseball, he was eventually going to learn to hit, and if he learned to hit consistently enough, he'd have power.”

—Dallas Green, *Cubs GM 1981-87, acquired Sandberg on Jan. 27, 1982*



“I was glad I had a part, coming [to the Cubs in a trade] with him. I took him under my wing when he first came up....He became a much more productive player than I thought he would be. I knew he was going to be a good player, but if someone said he'd be the [all-time] highest home run hitter for second basemen, I'd say, ‘Well, I don't know.’”

“He had a great mental discipline for the game of baseball. If you walked [into the clubhouse], you wouldn't know if he was 0-for-10 or 10-for-10. You knew when you saw his name in there, he'd give everything he had.”

—Larry Bowa, *Cubs shortstop 1982-85*



“He was a boy who was very gifted physically. When I said to him, ‘You've got the ability to be an MVP type of player,’ he said, ‘I never thought of myself in that way.’ He was always a speed guy and a line-drive hitter and base stealer. I said, ‘You can be more than that.’ He has a very, very introverted personality and has kind of a blank look most of the time and is not very vocal. And one time I remember he hit a couple [home runs], and I said, ‘You like that, don't you?’ And he had this little grin. Before the year was over, he hit 19 home runs and became the Most Valuable Player.”

—Jim Frey, *Cubs manager 1984-86, GM 1987-91*

The Work Ethic

“In all the years he has played, I have never seen him miss a day of ground balls or batting practice because he's tired or he's too hot. His leadership by example is something that will be missed.”

“He was constant. That's a good word: ‘constant.’ The year he retired [1994], it was weird. I'd look over, and No. 23 wasn't there. It was tough for me. Players like Ryno and [Baltimore's] Cal Ripken, you expect them to be there every day and never leave. You expect them to play forever and play at the same level every year. It's not fair, but that's what happens when [a player] does it for such a long time.”

—Mark Grace, *Cubs first baseman 1988-present*



“He is what you see. He's a blue-collar worker. He thrives on winning. He thrives on having fun when he plays the game. He's a great guy to play with.”

“He was really consistent and really a clutch ballplayer during the years we were together. He played unselfishly. The main thing is that he was happy to play.”

—Gary “Sarge” Matthews, *Cubs outfielder 1984-87*

To Speak



The Prankster

"Even though he was quiet, he was one of the more comical characters on the team, an instigator

type....Dwight [Smith, an ex-Cub] was one of those guys you could set up very easily. Dwight thought more of Ryno than anybody else on that team. Ryno was an idol to him. But Ryno would pull pranks—nothing real bad—and 'Smitty' would find that real amusing. Every time he did it, Smitty knew who it was."

—Andre Dawson,
Cubs outfielder 1987-92



"One time he waited for a guy to sit down in the bathroom, and then he poured a trail of rubbing alcohol from the stall all the way into the clubhouse, about 30 feet.

"Then, he lit it on fire, and just sat back and watched. Booom! There was this big explosion, and the guy came running out, thinking the whole building was on fire. Ryno just sat at his locker smiling, while everyone else got blamed.

"That was him. He'd play the practical jokes, and then just sit back and watch. People don't know that about Ryno, but he was a real troublemaker."

—Shawon Dunston,
Cubs shortstop 1985-95, 1997

"The Sandberg Game"

"[Sandberg's two-home run performance in a 1984 game against St. Louis] was pretty remarkable. Cardinals fans remember that game because that very seldom happened to Bruce Sutter....[Sandberg] always did a lot of damage against the Cardinals, and players like that stand out. The Cubs had a big following here, as we did when we went there to Chicago."



—Ozzie Smith,
Cardinals shortstop 1982-96



The Fan Favorite

"Every day after the game, regardless of win, lose, home run, strikeout... we'd always sign autographs for 10 minutes in the parking lot. It proves how important the fans were to Ryno."

—Rick Sutcliffe,
Cubs pitcher 1984-91

The Legacy

"He was one of those guys who you admired his approach to the game because he worked very hard, and he wanted to be the best at what he did. I think as a teammate, his work ethic could easily rub off on you....He practiced a lot of plays that he made, and that's why it seemed so easy."

—Andre Dawson



"I think the Cubs were fortunate to have a guy like him. He and [Andre] Dawson were two good models of what ballplayers should be."

—Yosh Kawano,
Cubs equipment manager

The Quiet Man

"People criticized him for being quiet, but I think quiet guys can concentrate more. Some guys become flamboyant, and they're extroverts. They develop an image, and they have to live up to that image. Sandberg never had that burden. He was a guy who loved coming to the park, putting on the uniform and playing the game."

—Jim Frey

"Because he's a low-key guy and doesn't draw attention and hasn't gotten in trouble, because he's maintained a professional part of his life, I think that he is sometimes overlooked. Everybody looks at the people who get the headlines, but Ryne played baseball the way it's supposed to be played."

—Dallas Green



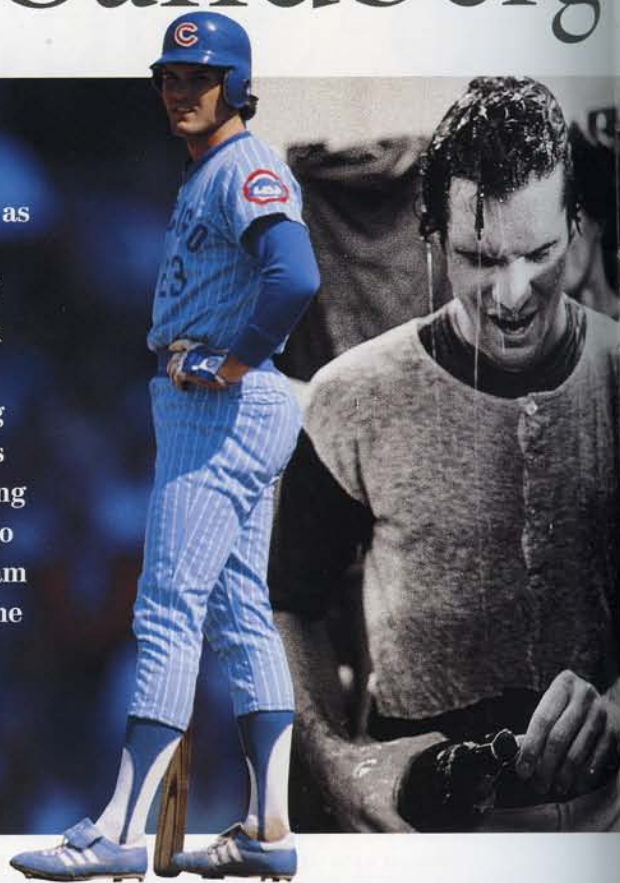
"Ryne Sandberg is the greatest second baseman I ever saw. And I saw Rogers Hornsby, I saw Charlie Gehringer, I saw Joe Morgan, I saw Red Schoendienst, I saw Bobby Doerr, I saw Joe Gordon and I have seen Billy Herman."

—Harry Caray,
WGN-TV broadcaster

The Ryne Sandberg



When Ryne Sandberg retires as an active player from major-league baseball at the end of the 1997 season, he will rank as one of the elite players in Cubs history. As the following career chronology attests, his all-around performance during parts of 15 seasons in Chicago puts him squarely in the cream of the Cubs' all-time crop—one of the finest athletes ever to play for the franchise.



By Jay Rand and Ernie Roth

1981 Sandberg rounds out his four-season minor-league career as the American Association's all-star shortstop at Class-AAA Oklahoma City. He hits .293 and scores 78 runs in 133 games, efforts which earn him a September promotion to the defending-world champion Phillies. He makes his major-league debut Sept. 2 in Atlanta as a pinch runner for catcher Bob Boone. On Sept. 27 at Wrigley Field, Sandberg collects his first big-league hit, a single off the Cubs' Mike Krukow.

1982 At first glance, the centerpiece of the Cubs' Jan. 27 trade with the Phillies is veteran shortstop Larry Bowa. The *Chicago Tribune* headline above the trade story reads: "DeJesus traded for Bowa, rookie." And the article describes Sandberg as "an untested minor-leaguer."

But first-year Cubs general manager

Dallas Green insists on receiving the 22-year-old Sandberg along with Bowa in order to close the deal. When the Cubs open spring training, Sandberg doesn't have a position. By Opening Day, he's the starting third baseman after the club gives up on veteran Ken Reitz. Sandberg's first Cubs hit comes April 13, a single off St. Louis' Joaquin Andujar at Wrigley Field. It's the only hit he manages in his first 32 at-bats.

From that point on, however, he bats .284 and finishes at .271 overall. In the process, Sandberg breaks Billy Herman's Cubs record for runs scored by a rookie (103) and sets a team mark for steals by a third baseman (32). He blasts his first major-league homer April 23 off of Pittsburgh's Eddie Solomon.

Sandberg makes just 11 errors in 140 games at third before making a permanent move to second base on Sept. 3. He finishes sixth in the Nation-

al League Rookie of the Year voting, behind Steve Sax, Johnny Ray, Willie McGee, Chili Davis and Luis DeLeon.

1983 Sandberg's tenure as baseball's best defensive second baseman begins. He becomes the first National Leaguer to win a Rawlings Gold Glove in his first year at a new position, while ranking first in fielding percentage (.986), assists (571), double plays (126) and total chances (914). No Cub had earned Gold Glove recognition since 1970.

From May 21-June 29, he puts together a 38-game errorless streak, the first of 20 stretches of 30 or more error-free games he would amass as a Cub. His 12 assists vs. St. Louis on June 12 tie a record for a second baseman in a nine-inning game.

Offensively, Sandberg collects 37 stolen bases—more than any Cub since Johnny Evers stole 46 in 1907. He hits his first career grand slam

Era: A Chronology



From near left: a rookie in 1982; celebrating an Eastern Division flag in '84; a fourth-time Gold Glover in '86; and division champ again in '89 (with Andre Dawson).

May 31 and bats .312 with runners in scoring position.

1984 In Chicago, it's known simply as "The Sandberg Game."

On the afternoon of June 23, 1984, at Wrigley Field, Sandberg single-handedly overwhelms the St. Louis Cardinals. The Cubs prevail 12-11 in 11 innings, thanks to Sandberg's 5-for-6, seven-RBI performance that includes two dramatic game-tying home runs off ace closer Bruce Sutter.

"He's the best baseball player I've ever seen," St. Louis manager Whitey Herzog says after the game. "That's right—the best all-around player I've ever seen."

Sandberg faces Sutter leading off the bottom of the ninth inning with the Cubs trailing 9-8. His first homer of the day comes on Sutter's third pitch. It ties the score and caps a comeback from a 7-1 deficit after two innings.

The Cards score twice in the 10th

against Cubs closer Lee Smith, and Sutter retires the Cubs' first two hitters in the bottom of the inning before walking Bob Dernier. Sandberg follows with a blast into the bleachers that is nearly identical to his earlier one as the crowd of 38,079 fans erupts.

"I remember I felt confident coming to the plate for those last two homers," Sandberg says. "I was aware that I already had three hits and [four] RBIs, and the team was playing well. That might have had a lot to do with my approach to batting against Sutter.

"After the game, I really didn't realize what I had done. I was in shock. All the ingredients—a nationally televised game, a great pitcher on the mound, Wrigley Field—it was a great thrill for me."

The Cubs are on their way....to a victory the next inning and to the National League Eastern Division title, their first championship of any kind since 1945. Sandberg, dubbed "Kid Natural" by his teammates, goes on to win NL Most

Valuable Player honors with a .314 batting average, a league-leading 114 runs scored, 19 homers, 84 RBIs and defensive play that earns him his second Gold Glove.

"You don't even dream of getting five-out-of-six hits with seven RBIs and two home runs," Sandberg says. "It just happened. That made me, and many others, believe that 1984 was going to be our year, and my year to make something special happen."

The game propels Sandberg to national prominence. He overtakes Sax and Alan Wiggins during the final few days of fan balloting and is voted the NL's All-Star starter at second base. He goes 1-for-4 in his first All-Star appearance.

While hitting second in the Cubs' lineup, Sandberg teams with leadoff man Dernier as the "Daily Double." Sandberg ties for the NL lead with 19 triples, collects 200 hits, 331 total bases, 19 home runs, 36 doubles, 32 stolen bases and a .520 slugging percentage. He falls one

"I've really enjoyed myself here."

homer and one triple short of becoming the first player in major-league history to have at least 200 hits and 20 or more home runs, doubles, triples and steals in a single season.

As the Cubs clinch the division title with a 4-1 victory at Pittsburgh Sept. 24, Sandberg goes 2-for-5 with two doubles and two runs scored. In the five-game NL Championship Series with the Padres, he hits safely in each game while batting .368.

Sandberg becomes the seventh MVP in Cubs history and the first since Ernie Banks in 1959. His litany of postseason awards includes the Gold Glove, his first Silver Slugger Award from *The Sporting News* and *The Sporting News*' Major League Player of the Year award.



June 23, 1984: "I remember I felt confident...."

1985 Though the Cubs don't repeat their 1984 success, Sandberg continues to play the superstar. He joins Joe Morgan and Cesar Cedeño as just the third player in major-league history to have 25 or more home runs (26) and 50 or more steals (54) in a single season. His 54 stolen bases are a team record for a second

baseman and the most by any Cub since Frank Chance had 57 in 1906.

After missing seven games in a row in early June with a rib-cage injury, Sandberg collects his second career five-hit game June 29 in Pittsburgh. He makes the NL All-Star team again, this time as a substitute. He's moved into the No. 3 spot in the Cubs' batting order Aug. 12 and hits .332 with 11 homers and 42 RBIs to finish the season. He wins a third Gold Glove—more than any Cub except Ron Santo—and a second Silver Slugger Award.

1986 En route to a fourth consecutive Gold Glove, Sandberg commits just five errors in 806 total chances while leading major-league second basemen in assists (492) and fielding percentage (.994). His second-to-none defense includes three errorless streaks of 36 games or more.

His 34 steals give him five consecutive 30-plus stolen base seasons, tying Chance (1906-10) for the club record. In his fifth year with the Cubs, Sandberg moves into sixth place on the team's all-time stolen bases list. The club's Top 5 base thieves all played prior to 1916.

He makes his third All-Star Game appearance and his second start.

1987 After missing just 33 games during his first five full major-league seasons, Sandberg sits out 26 contests from June 14-July 11 with a severely sprained right ankle. The injury limits him to 21 steals in 23 attempts but doesn't prevent him from making another All-Star start July 14.

Offensively, Sandberg records his 1,000th major-league hit in his 872nd game, on Aug. 7 off of New

York's Ron Darling. Once again, he leads the team in multihit games with 52.

Sandberg remains a fielder of dreams, matching former third baseman Santo's string of five straight Gold Glove seasons. On May 17 at Houston, he makes his first error on artificial turf since July 2, 1985. After five seasons at second base, he has made just 47 errors, an average of 9.4 per season.

1988 Sandberg makes NL history as the first second baseman to win six straight Gold Gloves. He leads major-league second basemen in assists (522) and total chances (824) and ranks second in the NL with a .9867 fielding percentage. He plays the entire season without making a throwing error and has just the third two-error game of his career on Sept. 2.

On offense, Sandberg hits .264 and ties Atlanta's Ron Gant for the most homers among major-league second basemen (19). On June 19 vs. Montreal's Neal Heaton, Sandberg hits his 100th career home run. His 618 at-bats are the third-highest total in the NL.

He picks up his second All-Star hit in his fifth straight appearance in the midsummer classic. At year's end, Sandberg is named to the Associated Press' major-league all-star team and to *The Sporting News*' all-star team.

1989 As the "Boys of Zimmer" rise to the top in the NL East, Sandberg is a man for all seasons. After the All-Star break, he bats .321, scores 60 runs, drives in 42 and hits 19 homers. After the Cubs trail Montreal by 3.5 games in late-July, Sandberg hits .346 the rest of the way with 18 home runs and 38 RBIs.



In August 1989, Sandberg tied Hack Wilson's club record with home runs in five straight games.

The Cubs win their second and final NL Eastern Division title, and Sandberg finishes with a career-best 30 homers, a league-best 104 runs scored and a 90-game errorless streak that's a single-season record for a second baseman. The most recent two-bagger to reach the 30-homer mark had been California's Bobby Grich in 1979.

Sandberg's postseason prowess continues as he bats .400 with five extra-base hits, four RBIs and six runs scored in the five-game NLCS vs. San Francisco. His career postseason average stands at .385, thanks to his 10-game playoff hitting streak.

Other milestones include All-Star Game No. 6, Gold Glove No. 7 and Silver Slugger Award No. 4.

1990 Sandberg becomes a star of stars during one of the best-ever all-around seasons for a second baseman. He wins the NL home run title with 40 and out-homers the likes of Mark McGwire, Jose Canseco and Ken Griffey Jr. in the All-Star Home Run Derby at Wrigley Field.

His 40 homers are the third-highest total in history for a second baseman, behind the 42 that Rogers Hornsby (1922) and Davey

Johnson (1973) both hit. Sandberg is the first second baseman to lead the league in homers since Hornsby had 39 roundtrippers in 1925, as well as the first to have back-to-back 30-homer seasons.

By adding 25 stolen bases to his power numbers, Sandberg joins the 40-25 club that previously included just Hank Aaron (1963) and Canseco (1988). He also is the only player to have a 40-homer season and a 50-steal season during his career. His statistics place him among the major-league leaders in a number of categories. Sandberg again leads the NL in runs scored with 116, while his 344 total bases top all of baseball.

In the field, Sandberg completes a 123-game errorless streak, the longest of his career, on May 17. The stretch began June 21, 1989, and covered 584 flawless chances. In the process, he breaks the previous record for consecutive errorless games by an infielder (other than a first baseman), which was 97. He's good-as-gold defensively for the eighth time.

As the NL's leading vote-getter, Sandberg makes his seventh straight All-Star appearance, this

one at Wrigley Field. At season's end he receives more votes than any other member of the Associated Press' major-league all-star team. *The Sporting News* awards him, too, with an all-star spot and a fifth Silver Slugger Award.

1991 In his ninth year at second base, Sandberg shows he's truly second-to-none by winning his ninth Gold Glove, more than any other second baseman in major-league history. He leads the majors at that position with a .995 fielding percentage and 515 assists while making a career-low four errors in a NL-high 157 games.

He reaches the 100-RBI plateau for the second straight year, becoming the first major-league second baseman to accomplish that feat since Bobby Doerr of the Red Sox in 1949-50. He's the only Cubs second baseman to do so.

At All-Star time, Sandberg is baseball's leading vote-getter, garnering 2,526,747 votes, the highest total since 1982. He makes his sixth start in a row—a Cubs record—and collects a double, his third career All-Star hit.

Sandberg's 26 homers include the 200th of his career (Aug. 18),



Ryno was all smiles on Aug. 2, 1997. After announcing that morning he would retire at season's end, he blasted two homers vs. L.A.

his second career inside-the-park home run (July 27) and his second career grand slam (Sept. 2). He becomes just the fourth Cub to achieve consecutive 100-RBI/100-run seasons, as well as the first since Billy Williams from 1964-66 to score at least 100 runs three straight years.

1992 The Cubs continue to bank on Sandberg by signing him March 2 to what is at the time the richest contract in major-league history: an extension reported to be worth \$28.4 million.

He scores 100 runs for the seventh time, joining Stan Hack as the only Cubs to accomplish the feat. Sandberg bats higher than .300 for the fourth time and has a club record-tying eight straight hits July 29-Aug. 1. Of his 186 hits, 66 go for extra bases. The only other second baseman to record 60 or more extra-base hits in four consecutive seasons is Juan Samuel (1984-87).

For the first time in nine seasons, Sandberg loses out on the Gold Glove Award (to Pittsburgh's Jose Lind) despite committing just eight errors, making no throwing

errors, compiling a 60-game errorless streak (May 26-Aug. 1) and leading NL second basemen in assists (539) for the seventh time. He reaches the 500-assists mark for the sixth time, the only second baseman in history to do so other than Charlie Gehringer.

Sandberg starts his eighth All-Star Game, receiving more votes (2,434,660) than any other NL player for the third year in a row.

1993 The Cubs catch a tough break in their spring training opener as Sandberg sustains a fractured fifth metacarpal in his left hand when hit by a pitch from San Francisco's Mike Jackson. The injury keeps Sandberg on the disabled list through April 30 and necessitates a week of minor-league rehabilitation at Class-A Daytona and Class-AA Orlando.

He comes back, however, to have yet another noteworthy season. His May 5 throwing error is his first of that kind since July 4, 1990, a span of 393 games and 1,298 assists. Three weeks later, he's ejected by umpire Charlie Williams from the Cubs' win over the Giants, his first career ejection.

On July 3, Sandberg reaches the 2,000-hit mark with a first-inning single in Colorado off Curt Leskanic. He becomes a double-digit Cubs All-Star in mid-July, making his 10th appearance. Sandberg becomes the first second baseman in history to make nine All-Star starts, including eight such consecutive.

By hitting safely in 24 of 25 late-season games, Sandberg raises his average to .309. But while sliding into home Sept. 13 in San Francisco, he dislocates the fourth finger of his right hand. The injury forces him to sit out the remainder of the season, as he plays in just 117 games for the year.

1994 Before announcing his first retirement June 13, Sandberg appears in 57 games and bats .238 with nine doubles, five triples, five homers, 36 runs and 24 RBIs. He hangs up his spikes in the midst of a 1-for-28 slump. Sandberg's final hit preceding his first retirement is a run-scoring single off former Cub Heathcliff Slocumb in Philadelphia on June 7. His last major-league home run prior

"It's perfect that I retire as a Cub."

to '94 retirement comes June 1 at Wrigley Field off of former teammate Shawn Boskie.

1995 Addressing a media swarm at a downtown Chicago hotel on Oct. 31, Sandberg delivers an early Halloween treat. Cubs general manager Ed Lynch opens the press conference with these words: "It is my pleasure to announce at this time that the Chicago Cubs and Ryne Sandberg have agreed on a one-year contract for Ryne to return to the Cubs in 1996."

Sandberg then takes the mike: "I'm mentally ready to take on the challenge and to get back to baseball. I'm very excited about this opportunity."

1996 The comeback kid shows very little rust after a year-and-a-half layoff, batting .244 with 25 homers, 28 doubles and 92 RBIs in 150 games. He records his first hit of his second career April 4 against Los Angeles right-hander Pedro Astacio, a two-run homer. On April 22, Sandberg goes deep for the fifth time, in the process becoming just the 10th player in the history of major-league baseball to tally both 250 homers and 250 steals. He plays in his 2,000th major-league game Aug. 29 and his 2,000th game as a Cub on Sept. 10. Sandberg authors two grand slams in '96, the fourth and fifth such of his career.

In the field, Sandberg makes just six errors, ranking second among NL second basemen with a .991 fielding percentage. He posts his sixth-career errorless stretch of at least 50 games when he is flawless for 59 straight affairs from May 6-July 21. For the fifth time in his career, he goes the entire season without a throwing miscue.

Following another standout campaign that exceeds just about everyone's expectations, in November the free agent signs a one-year deal for 1997 with a club option for '98.

1997 On April 12, Sandberg collects his 1,000th career RBI with a single off of former teammate Greg Maddux. On April 26, his second homer of the season (off of Pittsburgh's Steve Cooke) marks his 273rd long ball overall and 267th since making the switch to second base. The historic shot eclipses Hall of Famer Morgan's all-time mark for homers at that position.

In something of a surprise timing-wise, Sandberg announces at an Aug. 2 press conference that the 1997 season will be his last:

"Everybody has their time, and my time has come where I'm going to go in a different direction—spend more time with my family, my wife and kids. They've had a great experience the last two years since I came back, and that's something we'll hang on to the rest of our lives.

"I've really enjoyed myself here, obviously. I've grown up here in Chicago, been here for 15 years. I've been able to play at Wrigley Field, which I think is the best place around to play, and I've been very lucky as far as that goes. I just think that it's perfect that I retire as a Cub, and so that's what I'm announcing today."

That afternoon following his announcement, Sandberg goes 3-for-3 with three runs scored, three RBIs and two home runs, the 24th multihomer game of his major-league career.

On Aug. 24, he again doubles his long-ball pleasure, going 3-for-4 with two homers, three RBIs and four runs scored.



EPILOGUE Sandberg entered the final few weeks of his playing career with a career fielding percentage of .990, the highest mark ever by a major-league second baseman. Since moving to that position on a full-time basis in 1983, he has averaged just more than seven errors per year.

Sandberg ranks in the Cubs' Top 10 in 10 major offensive categories: stolen bases, runs scored, home runs, at-bats, hits, total bases, doubles, extra-base hits, games played and RBIs.

He is one of just 33 players who rank in major-league baseball's all-time Top 100 in both hits and homers, and his home run total is the highest by a second baseman in major-league history. His eight consecutive All-Star starts from 1986-93 are the most ever by a Cub, while his 10 appearances at the midsummer classic rank second in club history to Banks' 14.

Sandberg was the NL Player of the Week seven times and a member of *The Sporting News* Silver Slugger team seven times. **#23**

Sandberg By the Numbers

All statistics and rankings are official
through games of Sept. 8, 1997. Honors
and award totals are through the com-
pletion of the 1996 season.

Sandberg at Second

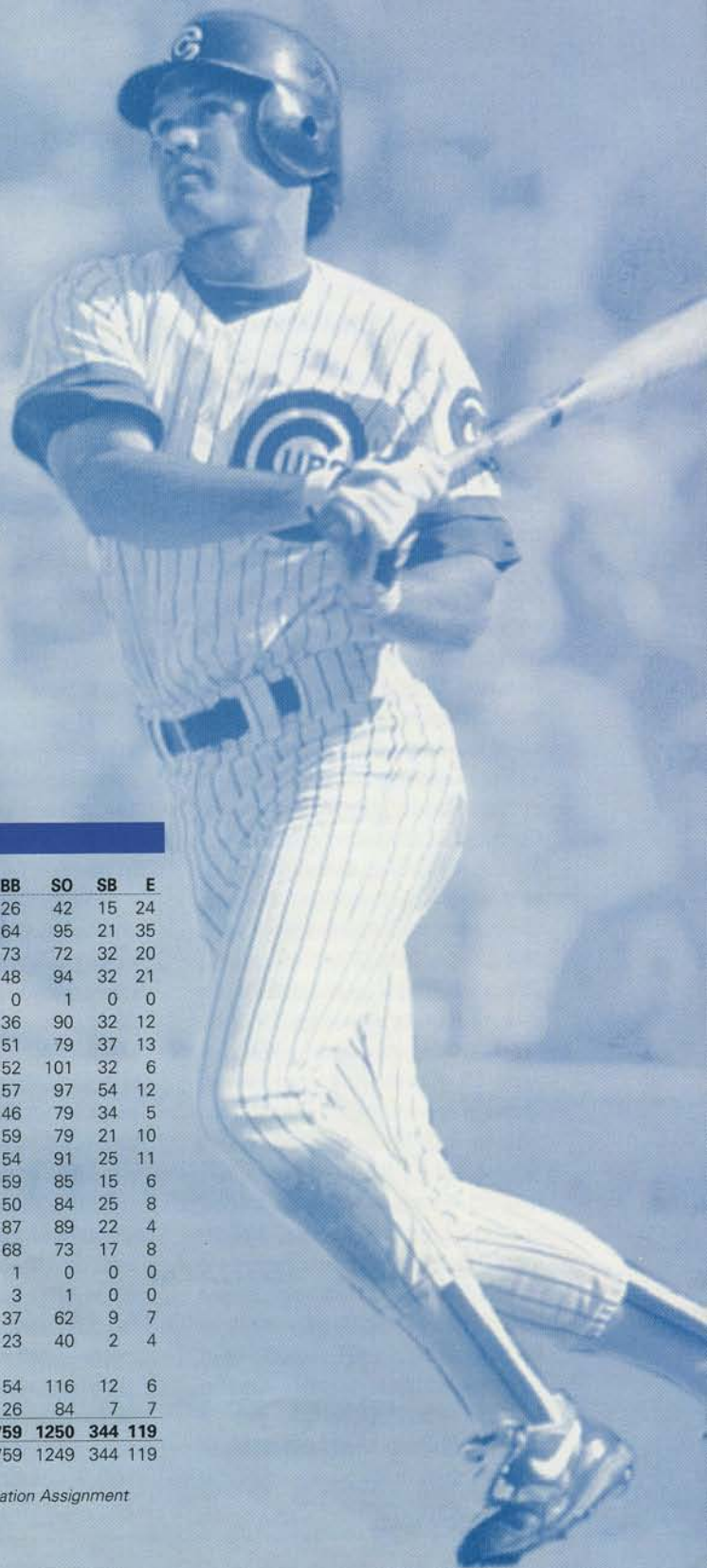
YEAR	PCT	G	PO	A	E	TC	DP
1981	1.000	1	2	0	0	2	0
1982	.993	24	57	95	1	153	9
•1983	*.986	*157	330	#571	13	#914	*126
•1984	#.993	156	314	#550	6	#870	102
•1985	.986	153	353	500	12	865	99
•1986	#.994	153	309	#492	5	806	86
•1987	.985	131	294	375	10	679	84
•1988	.987	153	291	#522	11	#824	79
•1989	.992	155	294	466	6	766	80
•1990	.989	*154	278	*469	8	755	81
•1991	#.995	*157	267	#515	4	786	66
1992	.990	157	283	#539	8	*830	94
1993	.988	115	209	347	7	563	76
1994	.987	57	96	202	4	302	35
1996	.991	146	227	422	6	655	82
1997	.985	113	189	273	7	469	55
TOTALS	+.989	1982	3793	6338	108	10,239	1154

•Rawlings Gold Glove Award Winner +Major League Record
#Major League Leader *National League Leader

Ryne Sandberg's Professional Career

YEAR	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	E
1978	Helena-R	.311	56	190	34	59	6	6	1	23	26	42	15	24
1979	Spartanburg-A	.247	*138	*539	83	133	21	7	4	47	64	95	21	35
1980	Reading-AA	.310	129	490	95	152	21	12	11	79	73	72	32	20
1981	Okla. City-AAA	.293	133	519	78	152	17	5	9	62	48	94	32	21
	Philadelphia	.167	13	6	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
1982	CUBS	.271	156	635	103	172	33	5	7	54	36	90	32	12
1983	CUBS	.261	158	633	94	165	25	4	8	48	51	79	37	13
1984	CUBS	.314	156	636	*114	200	36	+19	19	84	52	101	32	6
1985	CUBS	.305	153	609	113	186	31	6	26	83	57	97	54	12
1986	CUBS	.284	154	627	68	178	28	5	14	76	46	79	34	5
1987	CUBS	.294	132	523	81	154	25	2	16	59	59	79	21	10
1988	CUBS	.264	155	618	77	163	23	8	19	69	54	91	25	11
1989	CUBS	.290	157	606	+104	176	25	5	30	76	59	85	15	6
1990	CUBS	.306	155	615	*116	188	30	3	*40	100	50	84	25	8
1991	CUBS	.291	158	585	104	170	32	2	26	100	87	89	22	4
1992	CUBS	.304	158	612	100	186	32	8	26	87	68	73	17	8
1993	Daytona-A#	.200	2	5	2	1	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0
	Orlando-AA#	.222	4	9	0	2	0	0	0	1	3	1	0	0
	CUBS	.309	117	456	67	141	20	0	9	45	37	62	9	7
1994	CUBS	.238	57	223	36	53	9	5	5	24	23	40	2	4
1995														
1996	CUBS	.244	150	554	85	135	28	4	25	92	54	116	12	6
1997	CUBS	.273	121	406	52	111	24	0	11	58	26	84	7	7
M.L. TOTALS		.285	2150	8344	1316	2379	401	76	281	1055	759	1250	344	119
CUBS TOTALS		.285	2137	8338	1314	2378	401	76	281	1055	759	1249	344	119

*Led League +Tied for League Lead #Injury Rehabilitation Assignment



All-Star Game

YEAR	CLUB/SITE	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	E
1984	N.L./SF	.250	1	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
1985	N.L./Min	.000	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
1986	N.L./Hou	.000	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
1987	N.L./Oak	.000	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1988	N.L./Cin	.250	1	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
1989	N.L./Cal	.000	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
1990	N.L./CUBS	.000	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1991	N.L./Tor	.333	1	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1992	N.L./SD	.000	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
1993	N.L./Bal	.000	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
ASG TOTALS		.115	10	26	1	3	1	0	0	0	2	5	1	1

League Championship Series

YEAR	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	E
1984	CUBS vs. SD	.368	5	19	3	7	2	0	0	2	3	2	3	1
1989	CUBS vs. SF	.400	5	20	6	8	3	1	1	4	3	4	0	0
LCS TOTALS		.385	10	39	9	15	5	1	1	6	6	6	3	1

Award-Winning Ryne

- 10 All-Star appearances (eight starts): 1984-93
- 9 Gold Glove Awards: 1983-91
- 7 Silver Slugger Awards: 1984-85, 1988-92
- 1 NL MVP: 1984

Man for All Seasons (1982-96)

- 9 seasons with eight or fewer errors
- 7 seasons with at least 100 runs scored
- 7 seasons leading NL second basemen in assists
- 5 seasons with a batting average of at least .300
- 5 seasons with at least 30 stolen bases
- 4 seasons leading NL second basemen in fielding percentage
- 4 seasons leading NL second basemen in total chances
- 3 seasons leading the NL in runs scored
- 2 seasons with at least 100 RBIs
- 1 season leading the NL in home runs
- 1 season leading the NL in triples

Ryne Sandberg and the Cubs' All-Time Top 10 List

CATEGORY	RANK	TOTAL	NEXT ON LIST	RANK	TOTAL
Stolen Bases	2nd	344	Frank Chance	1st	400
Runs Scored	3rd	1314	Jimmy Ryan	2nd	1409
Extra-Base Hits	3rd	758	Billy Williams	2nd	881
Home Runs	4th	281	Ron Santo	3rd	337
Hits	4th	2378	Billy Williams	3rd	2510
Doubles	4th	401	Billy Williams	3rd	402
Total Bases	4th	3774	Cap Anson	3rd	4062
Games	4th	2137	Billy Williams	3rd	2213
At-Bats	4th	8338	Billy Williams	3rd	8479
Runs Batted In	6th	1055	Gabby Hartnett	5th	1153
Triples	—	76	Bill Lange	10th	80

Good as Gold

Ryne Sandberg has compiled 12 career errorless streaks of at least 40 games, including one in 1997:

Errorless Games	Streak Dates
123*	6/21/89 - 5/17/90
61	6/30/84 - 9/7/84
60	5/26/92 - 8/1/92
59	5/6/96 - 7/21/96
58	8/21/91 - 4/27/92
52	8/25/90 - 4/27/91
48	9/22/83 - 5/20/84
48	8/3/85 - 9/24/85
47	6/25/91 - 8/19/91
45	9/26/85 - 5/18/86
42	8/5/93 - 4/11/94
42	7/6/97 - 9/2/97

*major-league record for an infielder other than a first baseman

Historic Happenings

Firsts	Date	Noteworthy
Game	9/2/81	pinch runner for Phillies
Hit	9/27/81	single, off Mike Krukow (CUBS)
Appearance at second base	10/3/81	defensive replacement
Hit with Cubs	4/13/82	single, off Joaquin Andujar (STL)
Home run	4/23/82	off Eddie Solomon (PIT)
Start	4/5/82	third baseman
Game with Cubs	4/5/82	Opening Day at Cincinnati
Start at second base	9/3/82	at San Diego

Miscellaneous Milestones	Date	Pitcher/Club
1,000th career hit	8/7/87	Ron Darling (NYM)
100th career home run	6/19/88	Neal Heaton (MTL)
150th career home run	6/2/90	Greg Mathews (STL)
1,500th career hit	6/29/90	Greg Harris (SD)
200th career home run	8/18/91	Danny Cox (PHI)
2,000th career hit	7/3/93	Curt Leskanic (COL)
250th career home run	4/22/96	Marvin Freeman (COL)

Ryne Sandberg's Career Bests

- Most hits:** 5 (twice), most recently 6/29/85 @ Pittsburgh
- Most RBI:** 7, 6/23/84 vs. St. Louis
- Last 2-homer game (career):** 8/24/97 vs. Montreal (25)
- Career grand slams:** 5/31/83 vs. Houston (LaCorte)
9/2/91 @ San Diego (Lewis)
9/9/92 @ Pittsburgh (Cox)
5/24/96 @ Houston (Swindell)
8/9/96 @ Montreal (Manuel)
- Last inside-the-park home run (career):**
7/27/91 vs. Atlanta (Smoltz) (2)
- Last steal of home (career):** 5/20/85 vs. Cincinnati (4)
- Longest hitting streak:** 18 games (twice), most recently 6/18-7/6/85

Cooperstown Bound

Ryne Sandberg's numbers are good enough to put him in this class

Meet the Hall of Fame's Second Basemen:

- 1 Nap Lajoie (enshrined in 1937):** The three-time batting champ played for the Phillies (1896-1900), Athletics (1901-02, 1915-16) and Cleveland Bronchos/Naps (1902-14).

- 2 Eddie Collins (1939):** During his career with the Athletics (1906-14, 1927-30) and White Sox (1915-26), Collins set records for games and assists by a second baseman.

- 3 Rogers Hornsby (1942):** The "Rajah" played for the Cardinals (1915-26, 1933), Giants (1927), Braves (1928), Browns (1933-37) and Cubs (1929-32), recording a .358 lifetime batting average.

- 4 Johnny Evers (1946):** The scrappy pivot man in the famed double-play combination during his years as a Cub (1902-13), Evers was also a Brave (1914-17, 1929), Phillie (1917) and White Sox (1922).

- 5 Frankie Frisch (1947):** During his career with the Giants (1919-26) and Cardinals (1927-37), Frisch batted .300 for 11 straight seasons and won an MVP award (1931).

- 6 Charlie Gehringer (1949):** A lifetime Tiger (1924-42), Gehringer hit above .300 in 13 seasons and was named MVP in 1937.

- 7 Jackie Robinson (1962):** During his 10 seasons with the Dodgers

Here's how Ryne Sandberg's career offensive statistics compare with the 14 second basemen currently enshrined in baseball's Hall of Fame.

Player	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	AVG.
1 Nap Lajoie	2480	9589	1504	3242	657	163	83	1599	380	.338
2 Eddie Collins	2826	9949	1821	3312	438	186	47	1300	744	.333
3 Rogers Hornsby	2259	8173	1579	2930	541	169	301	1584	135	.358
4 Johnny Evers	1784	6137	919	1659	216	70	12	538	324	.270
5 Frankie Frisch	2311	9112	1532	2880	466	138	105	1244	419	.316
6 Charlie Gehringer	2323	8860	1774	2839	574	146	184	1427	181	.320
7 Jackie Robinson	1382	4877	947	1518	273	54	137	734	197	.311
8 Billy Herman	1922	7707	1163	2345	486	82	47	839	67	.304
9 Bobby Doerr	1865	7093	1094	2042	381	89	223	1247	54	.288
10 Red Schoendienst	2216	8479	1223	2449	427	78	84	773	89	.289
11 Joe Morgan	2649	9277	1650	2517	449	96	268	1133	689	.271
12 Tony Lazzeri	1740	6297	986	1840	334	115	178	1191	148	.292
13 Rod Carew	2469	9315	1424	3053	445	112	92	1015	353	.328
14 Nellie Fox	2367	9232	1279	2663	355	112	35	790	76	.288
Ryne Sandberg*	2150	8344	1316	2379	401	76	281	1055	344	.285

*Statistics include games through Sept. 8, 1997. Bold type indicates those who have played with Cubs.

(1947-56), Robinson broke baseball's color barrier as a rookie, and won MVP honors and a batting title in 1949.

- 8 Billy Herman (1975):** Herman started his career with the Cubs (1931-41), made stops with the Dodgers (1941-43, 1946), Braves (1946) and Pirates (1947), and finished with a .304 lifetime average.

- 9 Bobby Doerr (1986):** The lifetime Red Sox (1937-51) had 100 or more RBIs six times and led American League second basemen in fielding percentage four times.

- 10 Red Schoendienst (1989):** In a career spent with the Cardinals (1945-56, 1961-63), Giants (1956-57) and Braves (1957-60), Schoendienst was the league's top fielder at his position six times and a .300 hitter seven times.

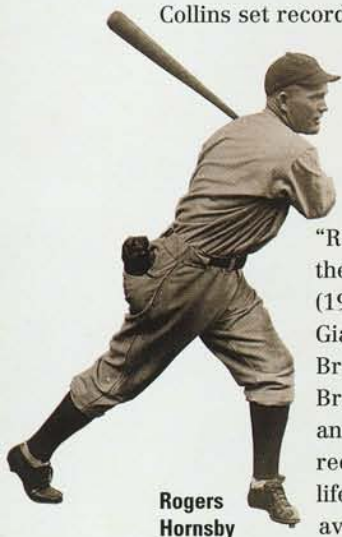
- 11 Joe Morgan (1990):** Morgan played for the Colt .45s/Astros (1963-71, 1980),

Giants (1981-82), Phillies (1983) and Athletics (1984) but is most-remembered as a Red (1972-79), for whom he was a two-time National League MVP (1975 and '76).

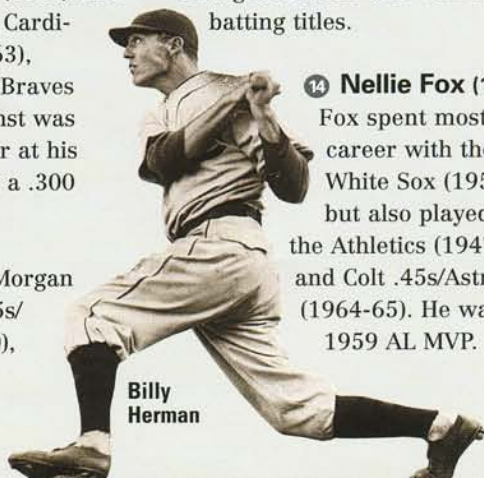
- 12 Tony Lazzeri (1991):** The Yankee second baseman from 1926-37 also played for the Cubs (1938), Dodgers (1939) and Giants (1939), batting .300 five times and driving in 100 runs seven times.

- 13 Rod Carew (1991):** The .328 lifetime hitter and 1977 AL MVP spent his career with the Twins (1967-78) and Angels (1979-85). Carew batted above .300 for 15 straight seasons and won seven batting titles.

- 14 Nellie Fox (1997):** Fox spent most of his career with the White Sox (1950-63) but also played for the Athletics (1947-49) and Colt .45s/Astros (1964-65). He was the 1959 AL MVP.



Rogers Hornsby



Billy Herman

The Sandberg Collection



1983



1984



1985



1986



1987



1988



1989



1990



1991



1992



1993



1994



1996



1997