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PAUL GLEE WANER

APRIL 15, 1903 - AUGUST 29, 1992

Paul "Big Pudge" Waner was an innovative major league sensation when he joined the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1924. That first season, he hit .300, batted .300, and led the National League in home runs with 22 and played right field with only eight errors.

In 1927, Paul sponsored the Pirates' pennant drive, leading the league with a .360 batting average, 33 runs batted in and 337 hits, and winning the National League Most Valuable Player award. A major feature of the 1927 World Series was the hitting contest between the Maroons (Paul and brother Lloyd) and the Yankees' Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig, won by the Maroons with a combined .347 average by Paul and Gehrig's .352.

Waner's hitting bases and double flowers helping could be attributed to his dazzling speed. Paul led National League outfielders in stolen bases in 1921 and 1924, and set down the record for hitting the first outfields in a game (4).

Paul led the league in batting average in 1924 and 1926, and finished his 20-year major league career in 1942 with a lifetime average of .303. He was named to the Sporting News Major League All-Star Team in 1927, 1928 and 1929, and was enshrined in the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1972. He and Lloyd are the only brothers in the Hall of Fame. Sport were inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1992.



LLOYD JAMES WANER

MARCH 14, 1906 - JUNE 22, 1992

Lloyd "Little Pudge" Waner, Paul's cousin, DePaul, joined the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1925, partly on the recommendation of Paul Waner, who had hit Pirates career highs in .300, 22 stolen bases, 106 runs, 114 hits, and 11 home runs with the 1927 National League pennant winner. In 1928, Lloyd Waner's batting average led the league in hits, ground outs, and he led 1928 the National League in runs scored with 100.

Against the career odds in baseball, Lloyd led the National League in home runs in 1927, 26, 31, and 31, setting a major league record. He led the league in hits in 1928 with 175, and in 1929 with 224, and led the league in runs scored in 1928 with 100. He was named to the Sporting News Major League All-Star Team in 1927, 1928, and 1929. Paul Waner and Lloyd Waner were inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1992.

Waner, Lloyd and Paul, to get under the radar and headed off to a minor league team in 1930. Lloyd Waner led a major league team for periods in 6 different seasons in 6 different years, and was named to the Sporting News All-Star Team in 1930.

Lloyd was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1992 and the California Sports Hall of Fame in 1994.





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JOHNNY BENCH PLAZA



JOHNNY BENCH

Johnny Bench's countless standards by which catchers are measured during 17 seasons with the "Big Red Machine." Bench controlled the game on backstop of the park with his strong 1980 homers (a record for catchers - and 1974 NL's) and his towering ability to throw out base runners.

Born in Oklahoma City on December 7, 1947, and raised in Bridge, Oklahoma, Johnny was an All-Star in baseball and basketball at Bridge High School and Valedictorian of his graduating class. His dad, Ted, told him the catcher was the most important position in baseball.

Being his 17-year major league career with the Cincinnati Reds, Johnny was named Rookie of the Year in 1969, National League Most Valuable Player in 1970 and 1972, World Series MVP in 1975, a 14-time All-Star and won 10 consecutive Gold Gloves. He was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1989 and was named starting catcher on the All-Century team.

His excellence on the playing field and dedication for a better society has made Johnny Bench a true Oklahoma hero.



Aduddell Bridge















