

BASEBALL HISTORY

by
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Long Major League Career With One Club a Rarity



Hank Aaron, Jim Kaat, Pete Rose, Babe Ruth, Willie McCovey, and New Orleanian Rusty Staub are all among a select group of major leaguers whose careers lasted twenty or more years.

An even more select group are those players who spent their entire careers of 20+ years with the same team. With their retirement at the end of the 2001 campaign, Tony Gwynn and Cal Ripken, Jr. became only the 16th and 17th major leaguers to accomplish this feat. Two Louisianians – Mel Ott (Gretna) and Ted Lyons (Lake Charles) – are included on this elite list.

Player	Club	Years	
Brooks Robinson	Baltimore Orioles	23	1955 – 1977
Carl Yastremski	Boston Red Sox	23	1961 – 1983
Cap Anson	Chicago (NL)	22	1876 – 1897
Mel Ott	New York Giants	22	1926 – 1947
Al Kaline	Detroit Tigers	22	1953 – 1974
Stan Musial	St. Louis Cardinals	22	1941 – 44, 1946 – 63
Walter Johnson	Washington Senators	21	1907 – 1927
Ted Lyons	Chicago White Sox	21	1923 – 42, 1946
Willie Stargell	Pittsburgh Pirates	21	1962 – 1982
George Brett	Kansas City Royals	21	1973 – 1993
Cal Ripken, Jr.	Baltimore Orioles	21	1981 – 2001
Red Faber	Chicago White Sox	20	1914 – 1933
Mel Harder	Cleveland Indians	20	1928 – 1947
Luke Appling	Chicago White Sox	20	1930 – 43, 1945 – 50
Tony Gwynn	San Diego Padres	20	1982 – 2001
Alan Trammell	Detroit Tigers	20	1977 – 1996
Robin Yount	Milwaukee Brewers	20	1974 - 1993

It is amazing that nearly half (eight) of the players on the list played either all or part of their careers during the era of free agency.

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As of this writing there are fourteen players in their eleventh year or more with the same ball club. Barry Larkin, in his 17th season with Cincinnati, heads the list. He will be 38-years old at the end of the 2002 season.

Player	Club	Years	Age
Barry Larkin	Cincinnati Reds	17	38
Tom Glavine	Atlanta Braves	16	36
Edgar Martinez	Seattle Mariners	16	39
Craig Biggio	Houston Astros	15	36
John Smoltz	Atlanta Braves	15	35
Frank Thomas	Chicago White Sox	13	34
Charles Nagy	Cleveland Indians	13	35
Jeff Bagwell	Houston Astros	12	34
Eric Karros	Los Angeles Dodgers	12	34
Ivan Rodriguez	Texas Rangers	12	30
Jim Thome	Cleveland Indians	12	32
Bernie Williams	New York Yankees	12	34
Javy Lopez	Atlanta Braves	11	31
Shane Reynolds	Houston Astros	11	34

Who do you think has the best chance at being the next player to join Gwynn and Ripken?

Only time will tell. Perhaps the 18th member of this elite group hasn't even tied his first pair of spikes yet.

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