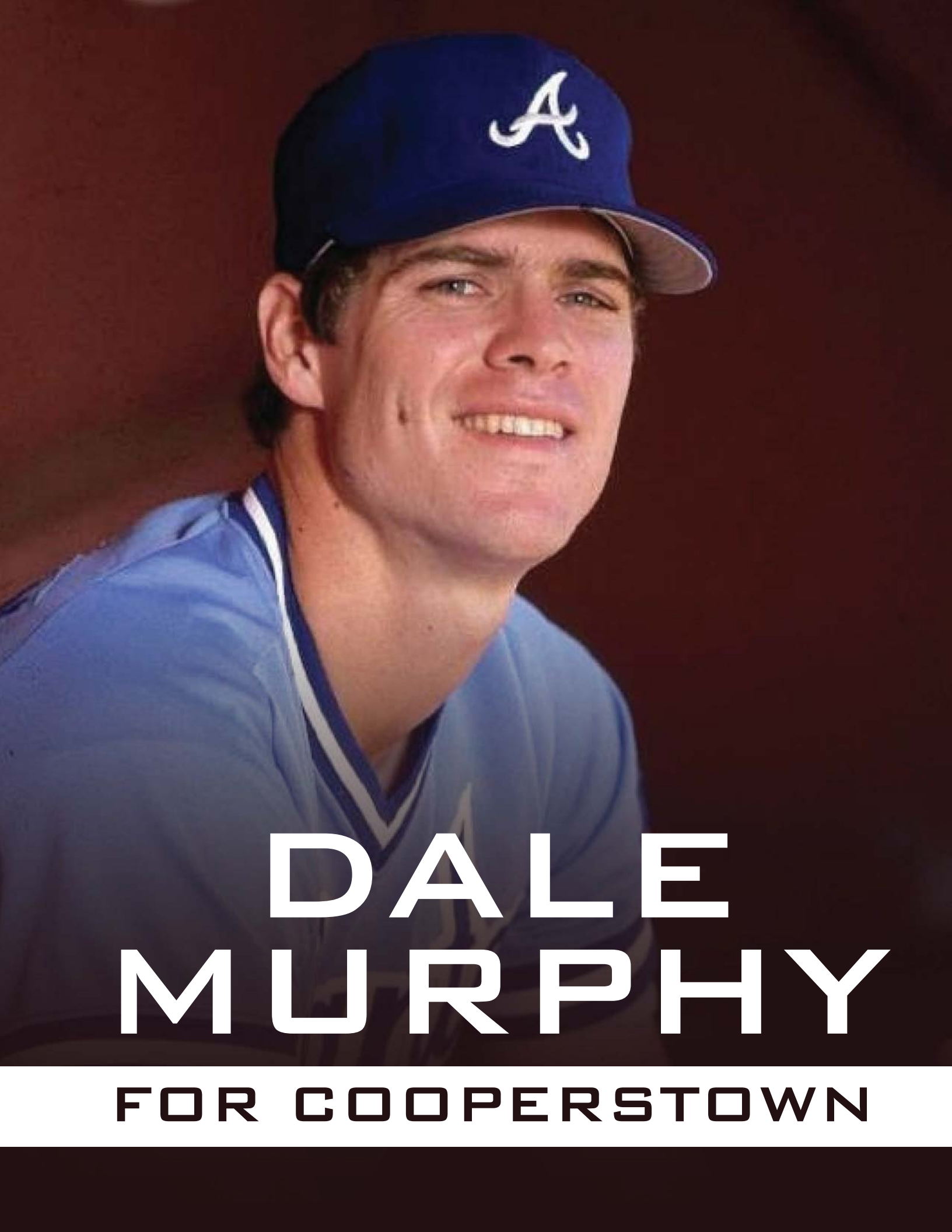




DALE
MURPHY

FOR COOPERSTOWN



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National Baseball Hall of Fame

25 Main Street

Cooperstown, New York 13326

ATTN: Contemporary Era Hall of Fame Committee Members

Greetings,

On behalf of the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame, we would like to advocate for the candidacy of Dale Murphy for the upcoming vote on the Contemporary Era Hall of Fame ballot.

We have included a study that will hopefully make the case Murphy belongs on the final ballot and should be an electee for the Class of 2026.

The study includes a statistical breakdown of Murphy's career, along with comparisons of his numbers with statistics of players already inducted into the Hall of Fame, and of those who are also possibly on the 2026 ballot.

This will not be to exclude or disregard any other candidate, but instead to demonstrate Murphy's place among the best in the history of the sport. We believe so many of the potential candidates are worthy, but admittedly, we're a little biased toward a player whom we saw play in the state of Georgia for parts of 15 years. For many of those seasons, Dale Murphy *was* the Atlanta Braves. He was the face of an era of Braves baseball that, while not always successful in the win-loss column, was led by one of the best players in the sport during the 1980s.

We know it's easy to make the case of Dale Murphy being a great guy and a fan favorite. If that was the qualifications, Murphy would already be in Cooperstown. But this project is to also prove that there is no way he can be omitted from the players who have a place in Baseball's storied Hall of Fame. He proved it on the field, and that is what really makes him worthy.

We value Dale Murphy as a member of our Hall of Fame for his contributions to sports in the state of Georgia, and we hope you will also believe he is a tremendous candidate to join the best in Baseball in Cooperstown.

Sincerely,

Jim McLendon
Executive Director

Bill Shanks
Authority Member

WHO IS DALE MURPHY?

Born March 12, 1956 in Portland, Oregon, Dale Bryan Murphy quickly became a baseball star at Woodrow Wilson High School. He was the fifth overall draft pick in the 1974 Amateur Draft by the Atlanta Braves – as a six-foot-four catcher with power potential. Just two years later, at the age of 20, Murphy made his MLB debut. It wasn't until the 1978 season Murphy stuck and became an everyday player, splitting time behind the plate and at first base. Before the 1980 season, future Hall of Fame manager Bobby Cox moved Murphy to the outfield.

In 1982, with help from future HOF manager Joe Torre, Murphy went from a young player with great potential to a star. Murphy helped the Braves win the first division title in 13 years and became the NL's Most Valuable Player. He followed with another MVP campaign in 1983, becoming just the fourth National League player at the time to win back-to-back MVP awards.

Murphy became the face of a franchise that was broadcast all over the country on cable television. Ted Turner's WTBS broadcast the games nationwide, which was before all games were offered to fans of every team. Murphy was not only a star in the southeast, but he also became a fan favorite all over the country to fans who only had the Braves games on television.

From 1982 through 1987, Murphy was in the All-Star game each season, finished in the top 11 in the National League MVP race five times, and was a five-time Gold Glove winner. In 1983, Murphy became just the sixth player in MLB history to join the 30/30 club.

Unfortunately, after Torre's firing in 1984 and an unsuccessful season in 1985, the Braves started a rebuild. They were the worst team in baseball from 1986 through 1990, averaging only 64.6 wins. During the 1990 season, with his contract expiring, Murphy decided to move on from the Braves and requested a trade. Murphy was sent to the Phillies in August 1990.

Murphy finished with 398 home runs, 1266 RBI, 161 stolen bases, 2111 hits, a .265 batting average, a .346 on base percentage and an OPS of .815.

Murphy's knee issues cut his career short. As a young catcher, he had an arthroscopic procedure to remove damaged cartilage in 1979 and then more surgery to repair structural damage following the 1989 season. After the surgery, he dealt with a blood infection that led to further deterioration of his knee. Three years later, Murphy had another arthroscopic procedure in May 1992. Dr. Joe Chandler, who had performed the surgeries, reportedly expressed surprise of the deterioration between the two procedures. From 1991-1993, when Dale was 35-37 years old, he hit only .236 with a .291 on base percentage, so the knee injuries had taken a toll on his ability and kept him from being more productive in his mid-late 30s.

Known as one of the most popular and well-liked baseball players in the 1980s, Murphy established himself as a "good guy" throughout his career with tremendous charity work and outreach to his fans. Murphy was a role model to all young Braves fans who grew up watching him on cable television. He was named the 1988 Roberto Clemente Award Winner, given to the MLB Player who "best exemplifies the game of baseball, sportsmanship, community involvement and the individual's contribution to his team."

THE 1980s

In the Hall of Fame’s mission statement, the purpose is to represent the history of baseball. How can the history of the 1980s be told without highlighting and celebrating the tremendous accomplishments of Dale Murphy? Like Schmidt, Dawson, Rice, and Raines, Murphy was a huge part of the baseball world during that decade, and his statistics show that.

The strongest case for Dale Murphy centers on his concentrated peak and the unusual nature of his decline, along with looking at his raw career totals. Murphy was one of the most dominant players in the 1980s, and his post-peak drop-off should not overshadow the fact he defined the decade in his prime.

Peak-Centric Argument (“7-Year Peak Dominator”)

- Murphy’s 1982–1988 peak included:
- 2 MVPs
- 5 Gold Gloves
- 4 Silver Sluggers
- Peak WAR ~46.5, OPS+ 137
- Multiple top-10 finishes in HR, RBI, and OPS in NL
- Murphy wasn’t just good; he was arguably the best all-around player in the National League for a multi-year stretch. Many HOF outfielders accumulated stats over longer careers without a peak this intense or balanced.

Two-Way Excellence (Offense + Defense)

- Murphy’s combination of power, run production, and elite center field defense is rare.
- While other 1980s stars (e.g., Dale’s contemporaries like Kirby Puckett or Andre Dawson) excelled in some areas, Murphy contributed at an elite level on both sides of the ball, enhancing his decade impact.

Unusual Decline

- Murphy’s sharp decline after age 31 was partly due to injuries, knee surgeries, and wear from the demanding Braves outfield.
- Rather than a mark against him, this makes his 7-year peak even more remarkable — he maintained MVP-caliber play despite the physical toll.
- Comparisons: Sandy Koufax, Juan González, and others also had short but brilliant careers; peak dominance can outweigh longevity in assessing “decade impact.”

The Case for Dale Murphy as a Dominant Player of the 1980s

1. Era Ownership

- 1st in Games, At-Bats, Total Bases (1980–89).
- 2nd in HR (308), 2nd in RBI (929), 2nd in Extra-Base Hits (596).

No other player in any decade has ever combined #1 in volume with top-2 in power production across all these categories. Murphy literally defined the 1980s box score.

2. Awards & Recognition

- 2x MVP (back-to-back, 1982–83) — one of only 13 players in history.
- 7 All-Star selections, 5 Gold Gloves, 4 Silver Sluggers — all in his 1980s prime.
- 740 consecutive games played (1981–86), the era's iron man.

One of only two players in MLB History to win all 3 awards: The Bart Giamatti Award, The Roberto Clemente Award and The Lou Gehrig Memorial Award. To win one is amazing—it is extremely rare to win all 3. He also was the 1986 Sports Illustrated Sportsman of the Year

3. Defensive/Positional Value

- Did this as a Gold Glove center fielder, not a corner bat.
- Only Willie Mays, Ken Griffey Jr., and Dale Murphy combined multiple 30-HR seasons with multiple Gold Gloves in CF.

4. Modern Metrics Back It Up

- 46 WAR in the 1980s — 3rd-highest among NL position players, top 7 in MLB (behind only all-time greats like Schmidt, Henderson, Raines, Boggs, Ripken).
- 135 OPS+ — 35% better than league average, sustained over 10 full seasons.
- His decade “JAWS” (~46) equals or surpasses the full-career totals of HOFers Jim Rice and Andre Dawson.

5. Narrative & Integrity

- The clean superstar of the 1980s, bridging Schmidt and Bonds.
- Face of a struggling Braves franchise yet still recognized nationally as MVP.
- Revered for character — a rare superstar who was as respected off the field as on it.

Dale Murphy is 10th for total WAR for the 80s. Dale Murphy's OPS+ at 132 for the decade is just behind Rickey Henderson (137) and ahead of Andre Dawson (128), both of whom are in the Hall of Fame.

Dale Murphy wasn't just very good — he was one of the two or three most dominant position players of the 1980s. He led the decade in volume, ranked top-two in power, played Gold Glove defense in center, and stood shoulder-to-shoulder with inner-circle Hall of Famers in WAR and OPS+. To leave out the defining NL star of an entire decade is to leave the Hall of Fame's story incomplete.

PEAK DOMINANCE

Dale Murphy's six-year (1982-1987) prime ranks among the best in baseball history. During this stretch, he averaged 36 home runs, 109 RBI and had a .281/.371/.540 slash line with an OPS+ of 147. He led the National League in RBI three times, home runs twice, and runs scored once.

Murphy played during the offensive nadir of the 1980s, when run scoring was at its lowest since the dead-ball era. His 398 home runs translate to roughly 450-500 in a neutral offensive environment. His career OPS+ of 121 means he was 21% better than league average over his entire career, with his peak years reaching 150+ OPS+.

PEAK COMPARISON

Dale Murphy (1980-87) – Duke Snider (1949-1956) – Andre Dawson (1977-1984)

- Home runs: Murphy (288) and Snider (289) nearly identical, while Dawson's is a bit lower
- Rate Stats: Snider hit for a higher average and power (.306 BA, .560 SLG, .153 OPS+) while Murphy held his own with a 140 OPS+, while Dawson's OBP lagged a bit
- WAR: Snider 52.9 in his 8-year peak – Murphy 46.2 – Dawson 37.4
- MVPs: Murphy 2 – Dawson 1 – Snider 0 (but finished Top-10 five times)

All three were perennial All-Star selections

Murphy's 1980-87 peak was right in line with Snider's 1949-56 peak and ahead of Dawson's.

Look at what the three players did in their best decades:

COMPARISON	MURPHY (1980s)	DAWSON (1980s)	SNIDER (1950s)
GAMES	1543	1408	1360
HR	308	225	326
RBI	929	838	1010
RUNS	898	741	971
HITS	1553	1486	1509
BA/OBP/SLG	.274/.355/.478	.282/.328/.478	.307/.389/.553
OPS+	135	123	150
WAR	46.2	37.6	52.7

UNUSUAL DECLINE

Murphy was possibly penalized by the writers primarily because, after an elite eight-year run from 1980-1987, his numbers fell off sharply after age 32, which was not uncommon at the time. After a 7.7 WAR season in 1987 (.295 average, 44 home runs and 16 stolen bases) and a 3.1 WAR season in 1988, Murphy had seasons of 1.6, 1.0, 1.0, 0.0, 0.8, -0.7 and -0.8 WAR before retiring with Colorado at age 37 in 1993.

But despite the drop off, Murphy compiled career numbers comparable to those of Hall of Famers:

PLAYER	MURPHY	RICE	KINER	BAINES	TONY PEREZ
WZAR	46.5	47.7	48.1	38.7	53.9
HR	398	382	369	384	379
BA	.265	.298	.279	.289	.279
AS GAMES	7	8	6	6	7

THE MOST VALUABLE PLAYER AWARDS

Dale Murphy is on an elite list of players who have won multiple Most Valuable Player awards. Let's look at that list and see how his name sticks out as one player not in Cooperstown.

PLAYERS WITH MULTIPLE MVP AWARDS

Those in **RED** are in Cooperstown

- 7 – Barry Bonds (linked to steroids)
- 3 – Shohei Ohtani and Mike Trout - Active
- 3 – Albert Pujols (not eligible for writer's vote yet)
- 3 – Alex Rodriguez (linked to steroids)
- 3 – Mike Schmidt - HOF
- 3 – Mickey Mantle – HOF
- 3 – Roy Campanella - HOF
- 3 – Yogi Berra - HOF
- 3 – Stan Musial – HOF
- 3 – Jimmie Foxx – HOF
- 3 – Joe DiMaggio – HOF
- 2 – Frank Thomas – HOF
- 2 – Cal Ripken, Jr. – HOF
- 2 – Robin Young – HOF
- 2 – Joe Morgan – HOF
- 2 – Frank Robinson – HOF
- 2 – Johnny Bench – HOF
- 2 – Ernie Banks – HOF
- 2 – Willie Mays – HOF
- 2 – Ted Williams – HOF
- 2 – Hal Newhouser - HOF
- 2 – Hank Greenberg – HOF
- 2 – Dale Murphy
- 2 – Roger Maris
- 2 – Aaron Judge and Bryce Harper – Active
- 2 – Miguel Cabrera (not eligible for writer's vote yet)
- 2 – Juan Gonzalez (linked to steroids)

There are a number of players already in Cooperstown who did not win a Most Valuable Player award at any point in their career – Derek Jeter, Eddie Murphy, Wade Boggs, Tony Gwynn and Al Kaline – just to name a few. Dale Murphy was the best player in his league for two straight seasons, showing a dominance in an era where there were numerous players in the National League that did wind up in Cooperstown. Doesn't Murphy belong with those players – like Andre Dawson, Mike Schmidt, and Tim Lincecum – three players who finished behind Murphy in the 1983 season MVP voting?

BACK-TO-BACK MVP AWARD WINNERS

Thirty-four (34) players have won more than one MVP Award in their careers. But since the BBWAA began handing out the award in 1931, only 14 have gone back-to-back -- with one doing so multiple times. Players in **RED** are in Cooperstown.

Shohei Ohtani – 2023-2024

Miguel Cabrera – 2012-2013

Albert Pujols – 2008-2009

Barry Bonds – 2001-2004

Barry Bonds – 1992-1993

Frank Thomas – 1993-1994

Dale Murphy – 1982-1983

Mike Schmidt – 1980-1981

Joe Morgan – 1975-1976

Roger Maris – 1960-1961

Ernie Banks – 1958-1959

Mickey Mantle – 1956-1957

Yogi Berra – 1954-1955

Hal Newhouser – 1944-1945

Jimmie Foxx – 1932-1933

The top three players on this list (Ohtani, Cabrera, and Pujols) will undoubtedly be in Cooperstown one day. The Bonds debate will continue. It is important to show the difference between Murphy and Roger Maris, who was most-known for hitting 61 home runs in 1961, one of the best single seasons in baseball history. That mark broke Babe Ruth's record for most home runs in a single season.

DALE MURPHY vs. ROGER MARIS

STATS WHERE MURPHY HAS THE LEAD

CATEGORY	Dale Murphy	Roger Maris
WAR	46.5	38.2
Games	2180	1463
Hits	2111	1325
HR	398	275
RBI	1266	850
SB	161	21
BA	.265	.260
OBP	.346	.345
All-Star Games	7	7
MVP	2	2
Gold Gloves	5	1
Silver Slugger	4	0

THE HOME RUNS

Dale Murphy finished with 398 home runs in his MLB career. Sixty-one (61) players have hit 399 or more home runs. Thirty-five (35) - or 57% - of those players are in the Hall of Fame.

Of the 26 players who have not made it in:

- 9 have been connected to steroids (Juan Gonzalez, Jason Giambi, Jose Canseco, Barry Bonds, Mark McGuire, Alex Rodriguez, Sammy Sosa, Rafael Palmiero, Manny Ramirez)
- 6 didn't make it on the writer's ballot (Alfonso Soriano, Paul Konerko, Andres Galarraga, Dave Kingman, Adam Dunn, Darrell Evans)
- 5 are not on the writer's ballot yet (Mark Teixeira, Edwin Encarnacion, Nelson Cruz, Miguel Cabrera, Albert Pujols)
- 2 are active (Giancarlo Stanton and Mike Trout)
- 2 are on the writer's ballot now (Andruw Jones and Carlos Beltran)
- 2 are also possibly on the ballot with Murph (Carlos Delgado and Gary Sheffield)

Does Murphy, with 398 home runs, belong in the Hall of Fame, or does he belong on the list of players on the above list who are not in the Hall of Fame?

MURPHY COMPARED TO THE SIX WHO DID NOT MAKE IT ON WRITER'S BALLOT:

PLAYER	WAR	HITS	ALL-STAR GAMES	MVP
Dale Murphy	46.5	2111	7	2
Darrell Evans	58.7	2223	2	0
Andres Galarraga	31.7	2333	3	0
Alfonso Soriano	28.6	2095	7	0
Paul Konerko	28.0	2340	6	0
Adam Dunn	18.0	1631	2	0
Dave Kingman	17.3	1575	3	0

Would Murphy already be in the Hall of Fame if he had gotten 400 or more home runs? Murphy might have exceeded that mark if not for the seven-week Player's Strike in 1981. This may sound silly, but did Fred McGriff having only 493 home runs – and not 500 – cause him to take longer to get into Cooperstown? McGriff would have possibly had seven more home runs if not for the 1994 lockout. Would McGriff had been voted in by the BBWAA writers if he had 500 home runs instead of having to wait on this same level Murphy is on now? If McGriff was penalized for not having 500 home runs, has Murphy been penalized for not having 400?

DALE MURPHY vs. FRED MCGRIFF STATS WHERE MURPHY HAS THE LEAD

INDUCTED IN 2023

CATEGORY	Dale Murphy	Fred McGriff
SB	161	72
All-Star Games	7	5
MVP	2	0
Gold Glove	5	0
Silver Slugger	4	3

THE ATLANTA BRAVES FACTOR

Would Dale Murphy perhaps be in Cooperstown if he had played on a better team or even in a larger market? The Braves were the worst team in baseball for the last five years of Murphy's career in Atlanta. They averaged 64 wins per season. How much did playing on that type of team hurt Murphy's statistics? He was often the only legit member of the lineup in those seasons.

Let's compare Murphy's numbers to a player who was in the largest market – Yankees first baseman Don Mattingly.

DALE MURPHY vs. DON MATTINGLY STATS WHERE MURPHY HAS THE LEAD

CATEGORY	Dale Murphy	Don Mattingly
WAR	46.5	42.4
Games	2180	1785
HR	398	222
RBI	1266	1099
SB	161	14
All-Star Games	7	6
MVP	2	1
Silver Slugger	4	3

If Murphy had put up these numbers in New York, would he already be in Cooperstown? He would have gotten much better publicity and would have been on the minds of national writers compared to being in Atlanta on a team that was having losing seasons.

In December 1988, Murphy was the subject of trade rumors between the Braves and the New York Mets. Since the Braves were rebuilding, the thought of trading Murphy for young prospects intrigued general manager Bobby Cox. But trading the franchise player then, at least, was too much for Cox, who targeted players like Howard Johnson, Len Dykstra, and Rick Aguilera.

But what if Murphy had been traded to New York and had been on a winning team like the Mets, who had won the World Series in 1986. Would Murphy have had more success with that lineup, with better protection with Darryl Strawberry and Kevin McReynolds than Gerald Perry and Dion James? Would the New York and national media have paid more attention to Murphy's career? Would Murphy have had slightly better numbers that would already have him in Cooperstown?

Considering the bad teams Murphy played on in Atlanta, these are logical questions when examining his career and his candidacy.

PLAYER COMPARISONS

It's important to see how Dale Murphy compares to Hall of Famers and other candidates. While it may come off as saying Murphy belongs more than they do, it is sincerely a chance to compare the numbers and show how Murphy simply belongs with these players in Cooperstown or in the discussion. Most all of these players DO belong in Cooperstown, but it's our goal to demonstrate how Dale Murphy simply should be on that stage in July of 2026 as its newest member.

MURPHY vs. PLAYERS RECENTLY ELECTED

DALE MURPHY vs. DAVE PARKER

INDUCTED IN 2025

STATS WHERE MURPHY HAS THE LEAD

CATEGORY	Dale Murphy	Dave Parker
WAR	46.5	40.1
HR	398	339
SB	161	154
OBP	.346	.339
OPS	.815	.810
OPS+	121	121
All-Star Games	7	7
MVP	2	1
Gold Glove	5	3
Silver Slugger	4	3

DALE MURPHY vs. DICK ALLEN

INDUCTED IN 2025

STATS WHERE MURPHY HAS THE LEAD

CATEGORY	Dale Murphy	Dick Allen
Hits	2111	1848
HR	398	351
RBI	1266	1119
SB	161	133
All-Star Games	7	7
MVP	2	1
Gold Glove	5	0
Silver Slugger	4	0

DALE MURPHY vs. SCOTT ROLEN

INDUCTED IN 2023

STATS WHERE MURPHY HAS THE LEAD

CATEGORY	Dale Murphy	Scott Rolen
Games	2180	2038
Hits	2111	2077
HR	398	316
SB	161	118
All-Star Games	7	7
MVP	2	0
Silver Slugger	4	1

DALE MURPHY vs. HAROLD BAINES**INDUCTED IN 2019****STATS WHERE MURPHY HAS THE LEAD**

CATEGORY	Dale Murphy	Harold Baines
WAR	46.5	38.7
HR	398	384
SLG	.469	.465
OPS+	121	121
All-Star Games	7	6
MVP Awards	2	0
Gold Glove Awards	5	0
Silver Slugger Awards	4	1

Baines played in 650 (just over four more complete seasons) more games than Dale Murphy. What if Murphy's knees had not given out and he had played in the same amount of games? – OR what if Murphy had been healthy enough to even become a designated hitter in the American League at the time and had gotten half of the 2051 at bats that Baines had more than Murphy? Baines played 1643 games as a designated hitter and only 1061 as an outfielder.

MURPHY vs. OTHER CONTEMPORARY ERA CANDIDATES**DALE MURPHY vs. LOU WHITAKER****STATS WHERE MURPHY HAS THE LEAD**

CATEGORY	Dale Murphy	Lou Whitaker
HR	398	244
RBI	1266	1084
SB	161	143
SLG	.469	.426
OPS	.815	.789
OPS+	121	117
All-Star Games	7	5
MVP	2	0
Gold Glove	5	3
Silver Slugger	4	4

DALE MURPHY vs. DWIGHT EVANS**STATS WHERE MURPHY HAS THE LEAD**

CATEGORY	Dale Murphy	Dwight Evans
HR	398	385
SB	161	78
All-Star Games	7	3
MVP	2	0
Silver Slugger	4	2

DALE MURPHY vs. KEITH HERNANDEZ
STATS WHERE MURPHY HAS THE LEAD

CATEGORY	Dale Murphy	Keith Hernandez
Games	2180	2088
HR	398	162
RBI	1266	1071
SB	161	98
SLG%	.469	.436
All-Star Games	7	5
MVP	2	1
Silver Slugger	4	2

DALE MURPHY vs. JEFF KENT
STATS WHERE MURPHY HAS THE LEAD

CATEGORY	Dale Murphy	Jeff Kent
HR	398	377
SB	161	94
All-Star Games	7	5
MVP	2	1
Gold Glove	5	0
Silver Slugger	4	4

DALE MURPHY vs. BERNIE WILLIAMS
STATS WHERE MURPHY HAS THE LEAD

CATEGORY	Dale Murphy	Bernie Williams
Games	2180	2076
HR	398	287
RBI	1266	1257
SB	161	147
All-Star Games	7	5
MVP	2	0
Gold Glove	5	4
Silver Slugger	4	1

DALE MURPHY vs. CARLOS DELGADO
STATS WHERE MURPHY HAS THE LEAD

CATEGORY	Dale Murphy	Carlos Delgado
WAR	46.5	44.4
Games	2180	2035
Hits	2111	2938
SB	161	14
All-Star Games	7	2
MVP	2	0
Gold Glove	5	0
Silver Slugger	4	3

DALE MURPHY vs. KENNY LOFTON
STATS WHERE MURPHY HAS THE LEAD

CATEGORY	Dale Murphy	Kenny Lofton
Games	2180	2103
HR	398	130
RBI	1266	781
SLG%	.469	.423
OPS	.815	.794
OPS+	121	107
All-Star Games	7	6
MVP	2	0
Gold Glove	5	4
Silver Slugger	4	0

MURPHY vs. LEADING CANDIDATE TO ENTER VIA WRITERS

DALE MURPHY vs. ANDRUW JONES
STATS WHERE MURPHY HAS THE LEAD

CATEGORY	Dale Murphy	Andruw Jones
Hits	2111	1933
Stolen Bases	161	152
Batting Average	.265	.254
On Base Percentages	.346	.337
OPS+	121	111
All-Star Appearances	7	5
MVP	2	0
Silver Slugger	4	1

Andruw Jones is considered a leading candidate to be the next member elected to Cooperstown by the BBWAA writers this offseason. Obviously, we are completely in agreement that Andruw does belong in the Hall of Fame. It should not be looked at as a negative if two Atlanta Braves players were inducted together, but as a plus. It would show two outstanding outfielders from two different eras of the organization who both played at the top of the National League for many years. Andruw's defensive resume improves his chances when coupled with his offensive statistics, but Murphy was also a complete player, as shown by the advantages he has in many important categories.



DALE MURPHY BELONGS IN BASEBALL'S HALL OF FAME. IT'S CLEAR HIS DROP OFF, MAINLY DUE TO INJURIES IN THE EARLY 1990s, HAS MADE THIS MORE OF A DEBATE THAN IT MIGHT HAVE APPEARED TO BE AT THE TIME MURPHY WAS PLAYING. WATCHING HIM IN THE 1980s, IT SEEMED HIS INDUCTION WAS ALMOST INEVITABLE WITH THE TREMENDOUS SUCCESS HE HAD IN THAT DECADE. AGAIN, THE 1980s WERE DEFINED BY SEVERAL PLAYERS – SCHMIDT, MURRAY, DAWSON, BOGGS, RAINES, WINFIELD, RIPKEN, AND CARTER. BUT LEAVING MURPHY, WHO WAS DOMINANT IN THE NATIONAL LEAGUE ON A TEAM THAT DID NOT HAVE MUCH SUCCESS, OUT OF THAT GROUP IS AN ERROR. MURPHY WAS A TREMENDOUSLY POPULAR PLAYER WHO PLAYED THE GAME THE RIGHT WAY, WITH COUNTLESS AWARDS SIGNALING HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS. THE LAST PIECE OF HIS CAREER IS COOPERSTOWN, WHERE HE WILL CONTINUE TO BE A GREAT AMBASSADOR FOR THE GAME OF BASEBALL.