



## **Suggested Candidates for the Lou Gehrig Memorial Award**

**The Player Who Most Exemplifies the Character of Lou Gehrig Both On & Off the Field**

### **BILLY BUTLER. First Base- Kansas City Royals**

**Nominated by Kansas City Royals-2010**

**Age: 23. MLB Service: 3 Years. Born: Orlando Park, Florida.**

**Off the Field:** Butler and his wife, Katie, volunteer at the Bishop Sullivan Center, Kansas City's largest single site provider of emergency assistance and helped the organization raise \$100,000 through the "Hit a Ton" Campaign to feed the hungry. In 2009, every time Butler hit a home run, Butler and sponsoring companies donated two tons of food. Butler has also actively encouraged fans to get involved by offering autographed memorabilia and attendance at a pre-game tailgate party with him for fans that have contributed food over time. In addition to their work with the "Hit a Ton" campaign, Billy and his wife led the charge for the 27<sup>th</sup> annual Royals Wives Food Drive and hosting silent auction events, selling grab bags and by appearing at autograph sessions at local Hy-Vee grocery stores.

**On the Field:** After making his debut in 2007, Butler has had a very strong start to his young career. After showing great potential in 2007 being named the American League Rookie of the Month in July, Butler lived up to his potential in 2009 as the American League Player of the Week twice and the American League Player of the Month in the month of September finishing the season strong. For his 2009 year, he was unanimously named the Les Milgram Royals Player of the Year, leading the team batting average, RBIs, walks and on base and slugging percentage.

### **TIM HUDSON. Pitcher- Atlanta Braves**

**Nominated by Atlanta Braves-2010**

**Age: 34. MLB Service: 11 Years. Born: Columbus, Georgia.**

**Off the Field:** Since arriving in Atlanta in 2005, Tim and his wife, Kim, have become staples in the community establishing the Hudson Family Foundation, impacting the lives of children with a genuine need for assistance in regard to a physical, emotional, or financial circumstance. In 2009, \$29,000 was raised at the Foundation's launch event. The Hudsons also have a strong relationship with the Make-a-Wish Foundation (MAWF), serving as the ambassadors for the program in Georgia and Alabama. The Hudsons have hosted 10 critically-ill children at Turner Field during the 2009 season. He has also helped (MAWF) raise money for other wishes by serving as an honorary co-chair of their annual black-tie dinner. In 2008, this award raised \$300,00 and in 2009, \$140,000. Each holiday season, the Hudsons invite 75 children to Toys 'R Us and provide a \$50 gift card to all of the children while hosting a party featuring games, clowns, and food.

**On the Field:** During his 11-year career with the Oakland A's and Atlanta Braves, Tim Hudson has been a stalwart of a pitcher in his team's rotation. With a lifetime ERA of 3.49, Hudson has had a winning record in each season of his career. He was recognized as an All Star in 2004 and 2000 when he also led the American League in wins. In 2001 and 2006 he led his respective league in starts.

### **ALBERT PUJOLS. First Base- St. Louis Cardinals**

**Nominated by St. Louis Cardinals-2009**

**Age: 30. MLB Service: 9 Years. Born: Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.**

**Off the Field:** Pujols, who's daughter Isabella has Down Syndrome, created the Pujols Foundation in 2005 to support the individuals with the disease and their families. Since then the foundation has served more than 500 families affected by Down syndrome in the greater St. Louis area and through its "High Five" program the Pujols Foundation has enabled adults with Down Syndrome to become active members of the St. Louis community. The Pujols Foundation also has an international outreach providing dental care and

improving living conditions for children in Haiti, and his home country, the Dominican Republic. Additionally, Pujols has donated signed items to over 45 organizations, including Ronald McDonald House, Autism Speaks, the Boys and Girls Club and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Pujols is also active with the Make-a-Wish Foundation and the Caps for Kids program, which provides children undergoing cancer treatment or chemotherapy and a cap signed by their favorite celebrity.

**On the Field:** In 2009 Albert hit 47 homers and had 135 RBI to extend his record of 30 homer & 100 RBI seasons to bring a career to nine and won his second consecutive National League MVP (1<sup>st</sup> in 2005). He is currently the active league leader in career batting average (.334) and slugging percentage (.628). In only eight seasons of play, Pujols already ranks 69th in home runs hit all-time and recorded his 300th career home run in 2008, becoming the fifth-youngest player in MLB history to reach that milestone.

**JEFF SUPPAN. Pitcher- Milwaukee Brewers**

**Nominated by the Milwaukee Brewers-2009**

**Age: 35. MLB Service: 17 Years. Born: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**

**Off the Field:** Over the last three seasons Suppan has donated \$50 for every strikeout to the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund, an organization that helps children and families of U.S. soldiers killed in the line of duty and has presented a \$10,000 check to the fund on 9/11. He also contributes \$100,000 each year to Brewers Charities, Inc., whose mission is to support activities and programs targeted at youth recreation, scholarship and education throughout Wisconsin. Additionally Suppan designates time and effort in support of Baseballers Against Drugs, is a member of the Pontifical Council of Church and Sport, and visited Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican during the 2005 offseason.

**On the Field:** In 2009, Suppan went 7-12 with a 5.29 ERA in 30 starts during his second season with the Brewers and made 30 (+) starts for the tenth consecutive season. He has pitched 2,410 career innings, with a career ERA of 4.68 and was a member of the 2006 World Series Champion, St. Louis Cardinals.

**KERRY WOOD. Pitcher- Cleveland Indians**

**Nominated by Iowa Alpha- 2009**

**Age: 32. MLB Service: 11. Born: Irving, Texas**

**Off the Field:** Wood and his wife, Sarah, began holding an annual Strike Zone Celebrity Bowling Tournament for charity in 2004. The tournament has raised more than \$2.0 million since its inception with the 2008 proceeds of \$720,000 being donated to the Organic School Project in conjunction with the Chicago Public School System. In the past the event has also supported the Chicago's Children's Memorial Hospital and Derek Lee's Project 300 (supporting blind youth).

**On the Field:** Now the closer for the Cleveland Indians with 54 lifetime saves, Wood, the 1998 National League Rookie of the Year and a 2003 National League All-Star, has held major league batters to a .216 average during his eleven-season big league career, allowing 995 hits in 1,274 innings while striking out 1,470 batters. He has also struck out at least 200 batters four times, including a big league-high 266 in 2003 and has had three straight 200-strikeout campaigns from 2001-2003. He is currently a closer for the Cleveland Indians and has accumulated 34 lifetime saves.

**MICHAEL YOUNG. Shortstop/Third Base- Texas Rangers**

**Nominated by Texas Rangers-2009**

**Age: 33. MLB Service: 10 Years. Born: La Puente, California.**

**Off the Field:** Michael Young and his wife, Cristina Barbosa-Young, have been actively involved with Wipe Out Kids' Cancer (WOKC) since the 2002 season. For the past seven seasons as well as the 2009 season, Michael and Cristina have hosted the Wipe Out Kids' Ambassadors to a Texas Rangers home game,

providing tickets, food, souvenirs and a private meet and greet as well pre-game field presentation. In 2005, Michael help furnish the the outpatient physical therapy room at Children's Medical Center providing much needed equipment through WOKC. In 2006, he began the Young Heroes Scholarship program and awarded four cancer survivors \$2,500 college scholarship as well as a laptop computer. In addition, he awarded six other survivors a \$1,000 college scholarship. In 2007,2008, and 2009 Michael awarded six survivors a \$2,500 scholarship and four survivors a \$1,000 scholarship and each a laptop computer and printer for school. Michael and Cristina also provided over 300 jackets to the Trinity River Mission program for youngsters and Michael actively participates in the Major League Players Association Buses for Baseball and Action Team Programs, bringing underprivileged youth to a Rangers game with a pregame meeting with players. He was also selected as the recipient of the Rangers' 2003 Harold McKinney Good Guy Award by the Baseball Writers Association.

**On the Field:** A shortstop and third basemen, Young has been an American League All Star 6 times and in 2005, led the American league in batting average at .331 and hits with 221. During his 2006 All Star appearance he was awarded the Ted Williams Major League Baseball All Star MVP award after hitting a 2-run, game winning triple in the 9<sup>th</sup> inning. He holds a number of Rangers' season franchise records including hits (221) in 2005, and doubles (52) and at-bats (691) in 2006. He is also second overall in franchise history with 43 career triples. In the field, Young also received a Golden Glove award in 2008.

**BARRY ZITO. Pitcher- San Francisco Giants  
Nominated by San Francisco Giants-2009**

**Age: 31. MLB Service: 9 Years. Born: Las Vegas, Nevada.**

**Off the Field:** In 2005, Zito founded Strikeouts for Troops to provide the comforts of home to war-wounded troops returning from Afghanistan and Iraq. Zito provides game tickets to groups of veterans and individuals who have volunteered their time to help people who have served their country and raises money for wounded soldiers. In 2008, he received an award from Disabled American Veterans for his work. Also in 2008, Zito helped inaugurate the new Barry Zito Giants Field in Stockton, California that benefits the Stockton Junior Giants League that over 1,000 children participate in. He also received the Sporting News "Good Guy" Award in 2006 and was the recipient of Dave Stewart's Community Service Award while a member of the A's.

**On the Field:** A 3 time all-star and 2002 winner of the American League Cy Young Award, Barry Zito has finished in the top 10 in strikeouts in 3 of his nine full major league seasons in his respective league, and led the American League in starts in four of his six seasons with the Oakland Athletics. In 2009, Zito finished 10-13 for the Giants with a 4.03 ERA

**The Lou Gehrig Memorial Award Committee**

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Trey Wingo

Sean S. Wagner, Contact for the Lou Gehrig Memorial Award

\*The noted player bios have been compiled with the assistance of the player's team and Major League Baseball player profiles.