



# INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE HALL OF FAME

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## - International League Announces 2010 Hall of Fame Class - 7 Former Players and Managers Comprise Historic Class

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The International League announced today that seven individuals will be inducted into the circuit's Hall of Fame as members of the Class of 2010. The IL Hall, dormant since 1964, was formally revived in 2008 during the League's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary season with a class of 27 former players, managers, and executives. On the heels of a 14-member class in 2009, the Class of 2010 is the third of a three-year transition period as the Hall of Fame heads towards an annual induction of no more than three individuals beginning in 2011.

Six of the seven members of the Class of 2010 won a Governors' Cup and/or a pennant during their time in the International League. The Class also includes two League Most Valuable Players, three hitting champions, two home run champions, and two players who were recognized by the *Sporting News* as the Minor League Player of the Year.

Both Minor League Players of the Year came from the Rochester Red Wings teams of the early 1970's. **Don Baylor** won the honor in 1970 during his first of two All-Star campaigns with the Red Wings. He was immediately succeeded by teammate **Bobby Grich**, who led the 1971 Red Wings to the Governors' Cup and Junior World Series championships as the IL Most Valuable Player.

Another Rochester legend elected to the IL Hall of Fame in 2010 is pitcher **Mike Ryba**, who remains among the franchise leaders in winning percentage and ERA seven decades after receiving the League's Most Valuable Player Award. Ryba won 42 games for the Red Wings in two seasons, posting a 2.82 ERA.

**Bob Seeds**, another of the League's pre-World War II stars, earned his way into the IL Hall of Fame by virtue of his offensive prowess. Seeds hit .305 in six IL seasons, helping his teams win a pennant and two Governors' Cups along the way, but he is perhaps best remembered for hitting seven home runs in a two-game stretch in 1938 as a member of the Newark Bears.

Two Buffalo Bisons stars from the late 1940's and early 1950's are also members of the Class of 2010. **Coaker Triplett** hit .324 in over 620 International League games, winning a batting title and a pennant during his fabled career with the Bisons. Triplett's teammate, **Frank Carswell**, nearly won the Triple Crown in 1952. After hitting better than .300 and averaging 20 homers and 86 RBI in four seasons with Buffalo, Carswell went on to become a successful manager in the International League with Syracuse, guiding the Chiefs to three straight playoff appearances in the 1960's.

The lone member of the Class of 2010 being inducted purely based on his managerial career is National Baseball Hall of Famer **Walter Alston**, who won two pennants, two Governors' Cups, and a Junior World Series title in a remarkable four-year run at the helm of the Montreal Royals. Alston's teams posted a record of 365-245 before he was hired as manager of the Dodgers in 1954.

Members of the Class of 2010 have been added to the International League Hall of Fame plaque display. Inductees or their families will be presented with "The Curtain Call" during a series of enshrinement ceremonies to be held throughout the League this season. The IL Hall of Fame plaque display does not have a permanent home, but rather serves as a traveling testament to the storied legacy of the International League.

Complete statistical data and biographical information on all 101 members of the IL Hall of Fame, along with a copy of the International League Hall of Fame policies, procedures, and guidelines are available at [www.ILBaseball.com](http://www.ILBaseball.com).

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Walter Alston – Following a brief IL playing career with Rochester in the 1930's and 1940's, Alston assumed the reigns as manager of the Monarchs in 1950 and proceeded to win two Governors' Cups, two IL pennants, and a Junior World Series championship during those seasons. His Monarchs posted a record of 365-245 (.598) during his stint as manager. In 1954, Alston began a 23-year tenure managing the Dodgers, which would eventually earn him a place in the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY. Alston was the first of only two (Frankie Frisch) to win multiple Governors' Cups and multiple World Series championships.

Don Baylor – In two full seasons as the Red Wings center fielder, Baylor awed Rochester fans with his combination of speed and power. In 1970, he batted .327 with 22 HR, 107 RBI, and 26 SB while leading the League in runs (127), doubles (34), and triples (15). That year he was named the Sporting News Minor League Player of the Year with teammate Roger Freed. The following season, Baylor helped guide the Red Wings to a Junior World Series championship, hitting .313 with 20 HR and a team-best 95 RBI. The two-time postseason IL All-Star was inducted into the Red Wings Hall of Fame in 1990, and ten years later was selected to the franchise's All Century Team.

Frank Carswell – After one game with Buffalo in 1946, outfielder Frank Carswell returned to the Herd five years later and became one of the best players in franchise history. In 500 games from 1951-54, he hit .323 with 78 HR and 342 RBI. In 1952 Carswell fell just shy of the IL Triple Crown, leading the circuit with a .344 average and 30 HR. Three times he led the Bisons in hitting, and twice he paced the team in RBI. He remains among Buffalo's top ten producers of homers (9<sup>th</sup>), and doubles (1<sup>st</sup>), and was inducted into the Buffalo Baseball Hall of Fame in 1986. Carswell also managed five seasons in the IL (Syracuse 1963-66; Toledo 1970). He took the Chiefs to the playoffs in his first three seasons at the helm.

Bobby Grich – Grich spent just two seasons in the IL with Rochester, but they were spectacular ones. In 1970, he hit .383 with 9 RBI and 42 62 games at second base before being promoted to Baltimore. He was returned to Rochester for the 1971 season with orders to stop and improve his power hitting. He delivered one of the great seasons in IL history, leading the circuit with a .336 average and 62 RBI as the Red Wings surged to the Governors' Cup and Junior World Series titles. He was named IL Most Valuable Player as well as the Minor League Player of the Year. The future MLB All-Star was inducted into the Red Wings Hall of Fame as part of the inaugural class.

Mike Ryba – In two seasons with Rochester, Mike Ryba won 42 games. His .677 winning percentage and 2.82 ERA rank in franchise history. In 1939, he won 18 games as Rochester won its first Governors' Cup. The following year, he won the IL Most Valuable Player award by leading the League in victories, innings pitched, complete games, and shutouts. He was also one of four men to manage the Red Wings during its winning campaign.

Bob Seeds- Journeyman ballplayer "Suitcase Bob" Seeds played in over 600 games in the IL between 1935 and 1942, posting a 205 game career. He was a key member of the Newark club that won consecutive Governors' Cups in 1937 and 1938. He hit .305 and clubbed 102 HR in 1937 champs, but it was in 1938 that he displayed an almost unbelievable amount of power. After an already red-hot start to the season, Seeds put together arguably the greatest two-game stretch in League history in early May, going 9-10 with 7 HR and 17 RBI. In just 59 games that year his contract was purchased by the New York Giants, Seeds hit .335 with 28 HR and 95 RBI.

Coaker Triplett – After playing in the Major Leagues during World War II, Coaker Triplett joined the Buffalo Bisons in 1946. In six seasons with the Bisons, he never hit below .300. He paced the team in average three times, including an IL-best .353 mark in 1946. He led the IL pennant in 1949 by hitting 22 HR with 102 RBI. During his last year in Buffalo, Triplett was made manager part way through the season when Specs Toporcer lost his eyesight. He piloted the Bisons to a playoff berth. Triplett retired in 1952 following a brief stint with the Orioles, finishing with a .324 career average in 623 IL games. He is tied for all-time in Bisons history with 69 HR, and all-time with 359 RBI, and is a member of the Buffalo Baseball Hall of Fame.