



The Baseball Game Project

Or, How I Spent The Pandemic

By Jerry Miller



During the 2020 pandemic, we had
far too little baseball, and far too
much time on our hands.





Just as in 1981 and 1994, the obvious solution for the resulting boredom and baseball withdrawal was to draw upon the past, and to rekindle memories of the game. In addition, I wanted to satisfy my curiosity regarding the answer to a question that I had long been asked. . . .

WOW, HOW MANY BASEBALL GAMES HAVE YOU BEEN TO?



You see, this is not some academic exercise. I've always been into lists, especially when it comes to sports, including the total number of MLB stadiums (34 and counting), hockey arenas (12) and college football stadiums (12) I have been to.

So, I decided to create a log of every major league game I have ever attended.

This was no small undertaking. In 2020, I was 65 years old, and had been attending baseball games since I was three, particularly after Dodger Stadium opened, when I was six. So I had over six full decades to account for.

Fortunately, the tools were all there. In answering that question, and in identifying and getting information on the games that I had attended, I had a number of resources, including some that, until only recently, didn't exist.



Next, as a Dodger season ticket holder since 1982, I had lists of all their home games and who got the tickets for them, including the ones that I kept for myself.

I even had bank records to show my purchase of hot dogs at the stadium.

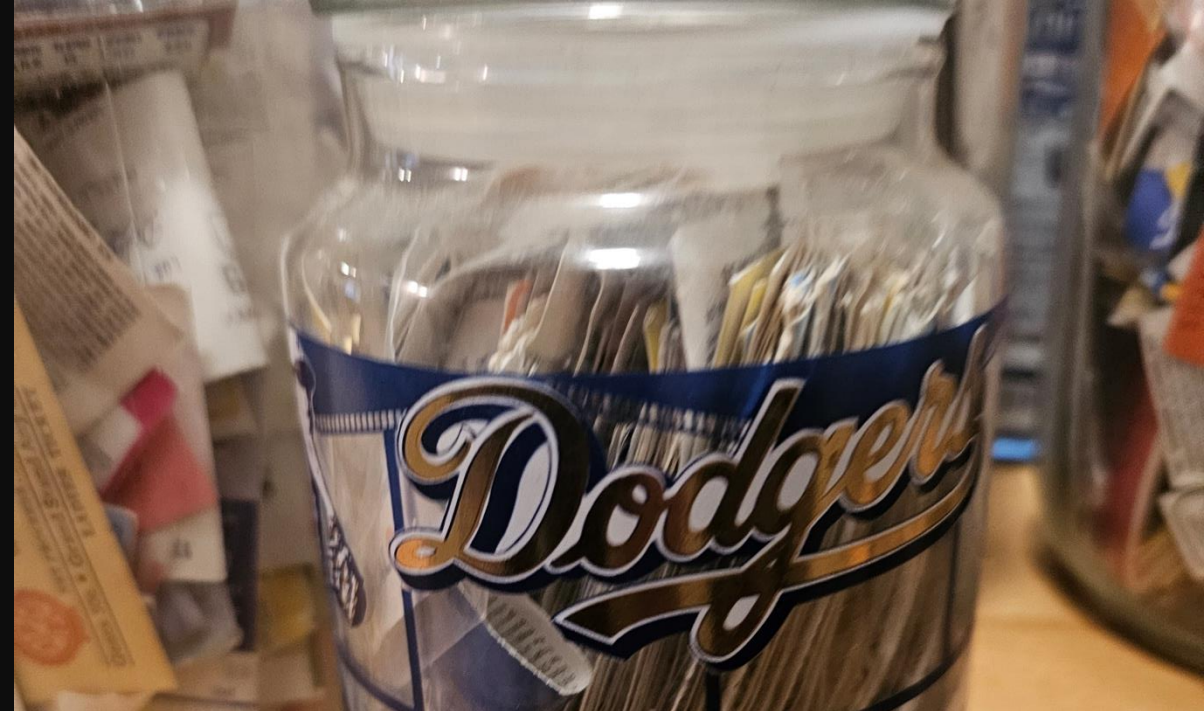




In addition, as an inveterate pack rat, it had long been my habit to purchase a program for every game (baseball, football, basketball, hockey) that I ever attended. Although cost, storage space, and practicality ultimately forced me to give up that habit (after only about 40 years), I still have hundreds of programs (most of which I kept score with) that I had meticulously organized into folders and binders that, to my wife's chagrin, occupy their very own large shelf in my garage.

Were this not enough, I had hundreds of remnants of the pre-digital age, i.e. jars of ticket stubs that had been equally meticulously kept.

Taken together, I was able to put together a list of games that I attended that I estimate is 90-95% accurate. Iue games that I had ever attended.



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	AL	W	L	GB	SRS
East					
Y-BAL	101	61	--	0.8	
W-TBR	99	63	2.0	1.2	
W-TOR	89	73	12.0	0.5	
NYN	82	80	19.0	0.0	
BOS	78	84	23.0	0.1	
Central					
Y-MIN	87	75	--	0.6	
DET	78	84	9.0	-0.6	
CLE	76	86	11.0	-0.8	

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Chicago Cubs vs Los Angeles Dodgers Box Score: September 9,

MLB Scores — Septe

MIN	10	Final	NYM	2	Final	CAL	7	Final	CHC	0	Final	HOU	0	Final
CHW	4		CIN	3		KCA	2		LAD	1		SFG	4	

MLB Scores & Standings


 Chicago Cubs
 0
 65-77

Finally, there was the ultimate modern baseball tool from those wonderful folks at baseball-reference.com, that allowed me to match the list to include box scores, play by play, and other information about each of those games.

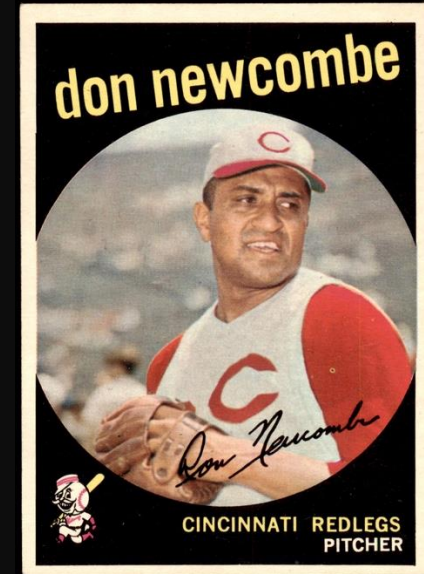
MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL LOG

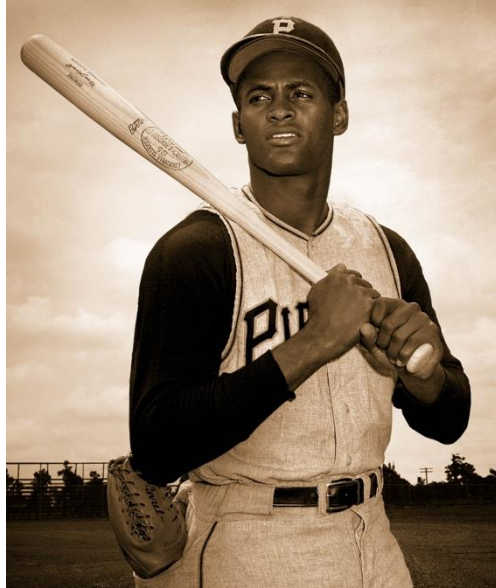
DATE	HOME	VISITOR	W/L	WP	LP	HR
1959						
6/21	@LAD 3	CIN 17	L	Newcombe	Podres	Dotterer Pendleton Neal
1961						
6/7	@LAD 7	PIT 3	W	Koufax	Francis	Clement Hoak Roseboro
1962						
4/27	@LAD 7	PIT 3	W	Drysdale	Veale	
4/30	@LAD 3	CHC 1	W	Williams	Ellsworth	
6/9	@LAA 8	KCA 1		Chance	Wyatt	Wagner

The result is a 46 page document setting forth every game I have ever been to, together with the winning and losing pitcher, and any home runs hit during the game. It reminded me of some of the memorable games I have been to over the years, including:

My first game at age 3 at the L.A. Coliseum, where Don Newcombe (then pitching for the Reds) defeated the Dodgers, 17 to 3 (still the most runs in that I have seen by a team in a single game).

Years later, I met Newcombe and asked him about the game, and he remembered it!

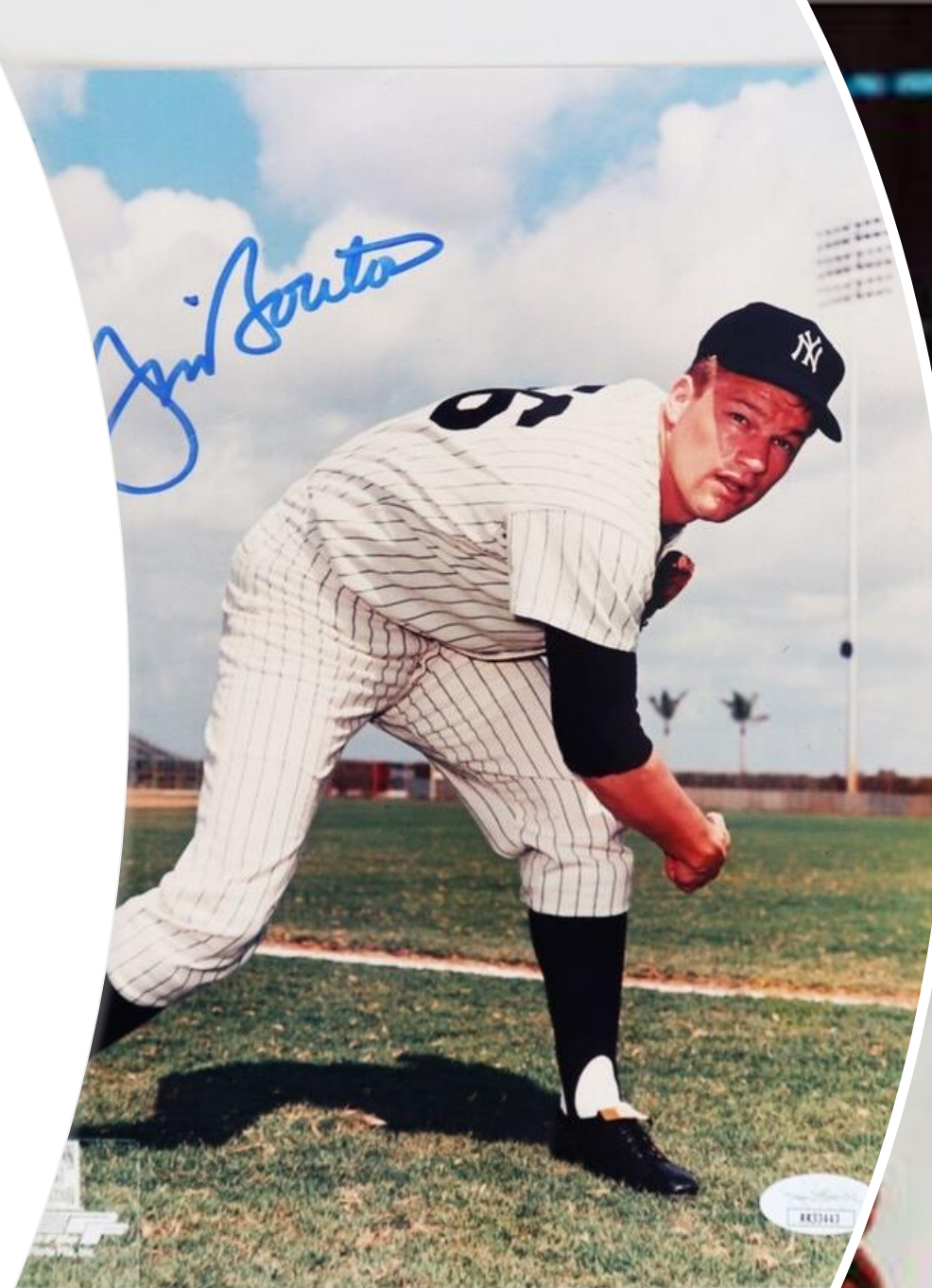


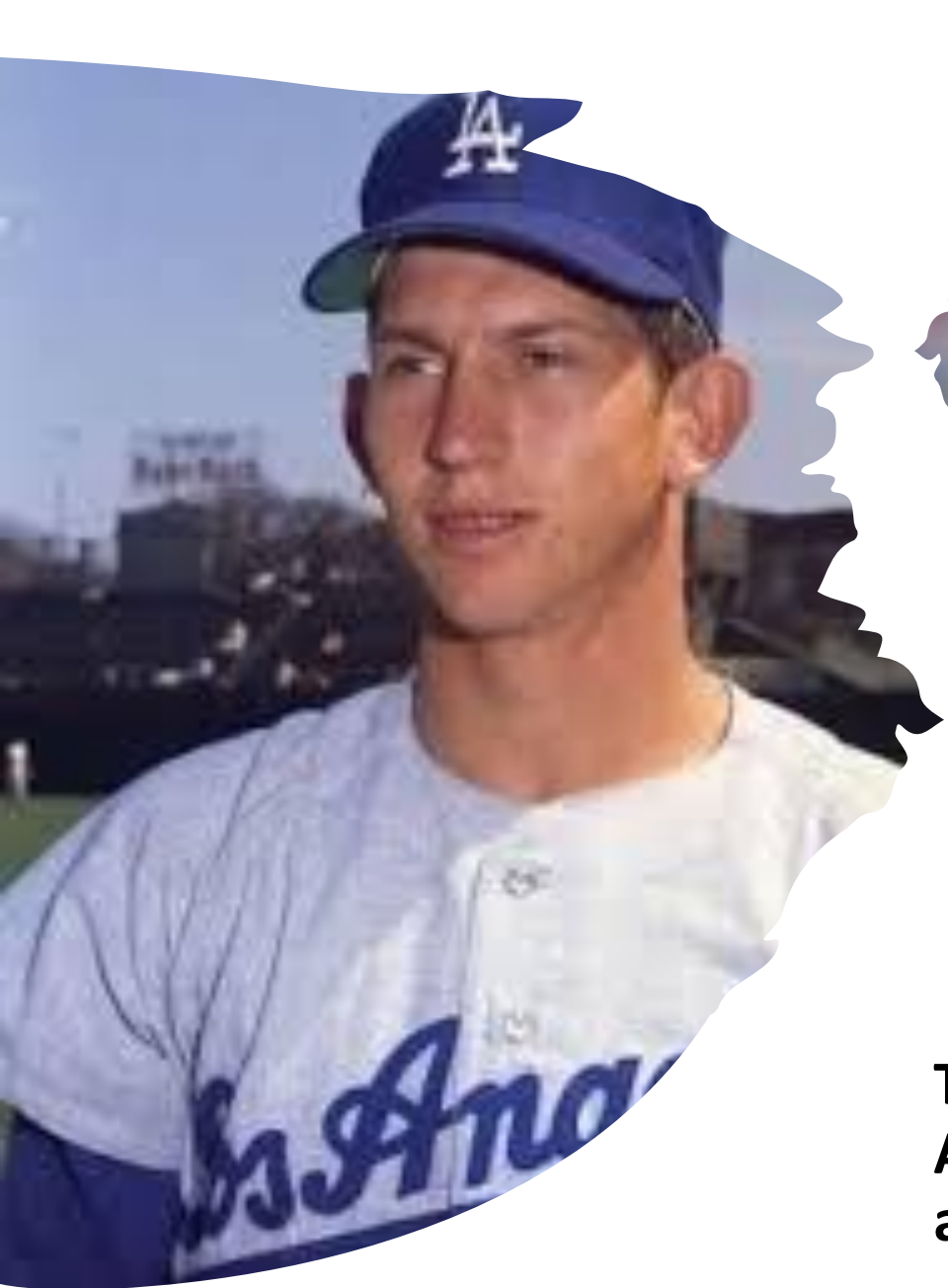


My second game and only other game (that I know of) at the Coliseum was in 1961, where Sandy Koufax defeated the Pirates, despite a home run by Roberto Clemente.

A 1964 Angels-Yankees game at Chavez Ravine, where Jim Bouton defeated Bo Belinsky in a matchup of future baseball pariahs.

This was also the only time I saw Mickey Mantle play in person.





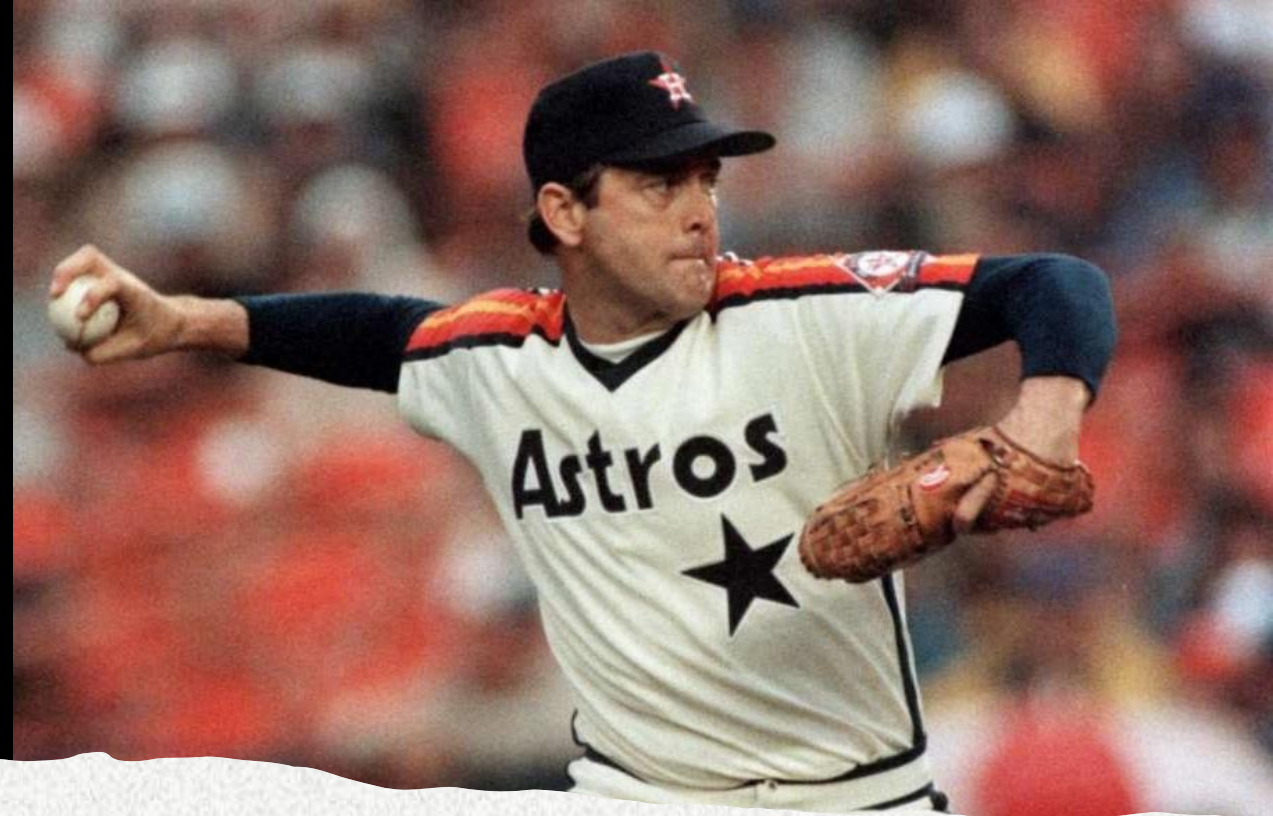
**The April 14, 1966 debut of Hall of Famer Don Sutton.
Also the debuts of future HOFers Clayton Kershaw
and Bryce Harper.**



A June 14, 1966 shutout by future SABR chapter namesake Larry Dierker vs. Sandy Koufax. Also a 1971 game in which Dodger unknown Bobby O'Brien shut out Bob Gibson and the Cardinals, and a 1983 game in which Bob Welch defeated Steve Carlton, 1 to 0.

**World Series games in 1966,
1977, 1979, 1981, and 1988,
as well as the All-Star Game
in 1989.**





A 1988 game at Wrigley Field, in which Nolan Ryan defeated Jamie Moyer, in a matchup of baseball geriatrics.

The last game ever played at Mile High Stadium in Denver (the day before the baseball strike in 1994), in which Greg Maddux carved up the Rockies, 13 to 0.





The only forfeit in Dodger Stadium history (and the last one in the Major Leagues), as well as a three home run performance by the immortal Hee Sop Choi.

**Sandy Koufax's
perfect game and
Kirk Gibson's home
run, otherwise
known as The Two
Greatest Moments
Of My Life Not
Involving The Birth
Of My Children.**



Now, let's answer some questions:

I've obviously seen more games
(several seasons' worth) at Dodger
Stadium than any other ballpark.
What ballpark is in second?



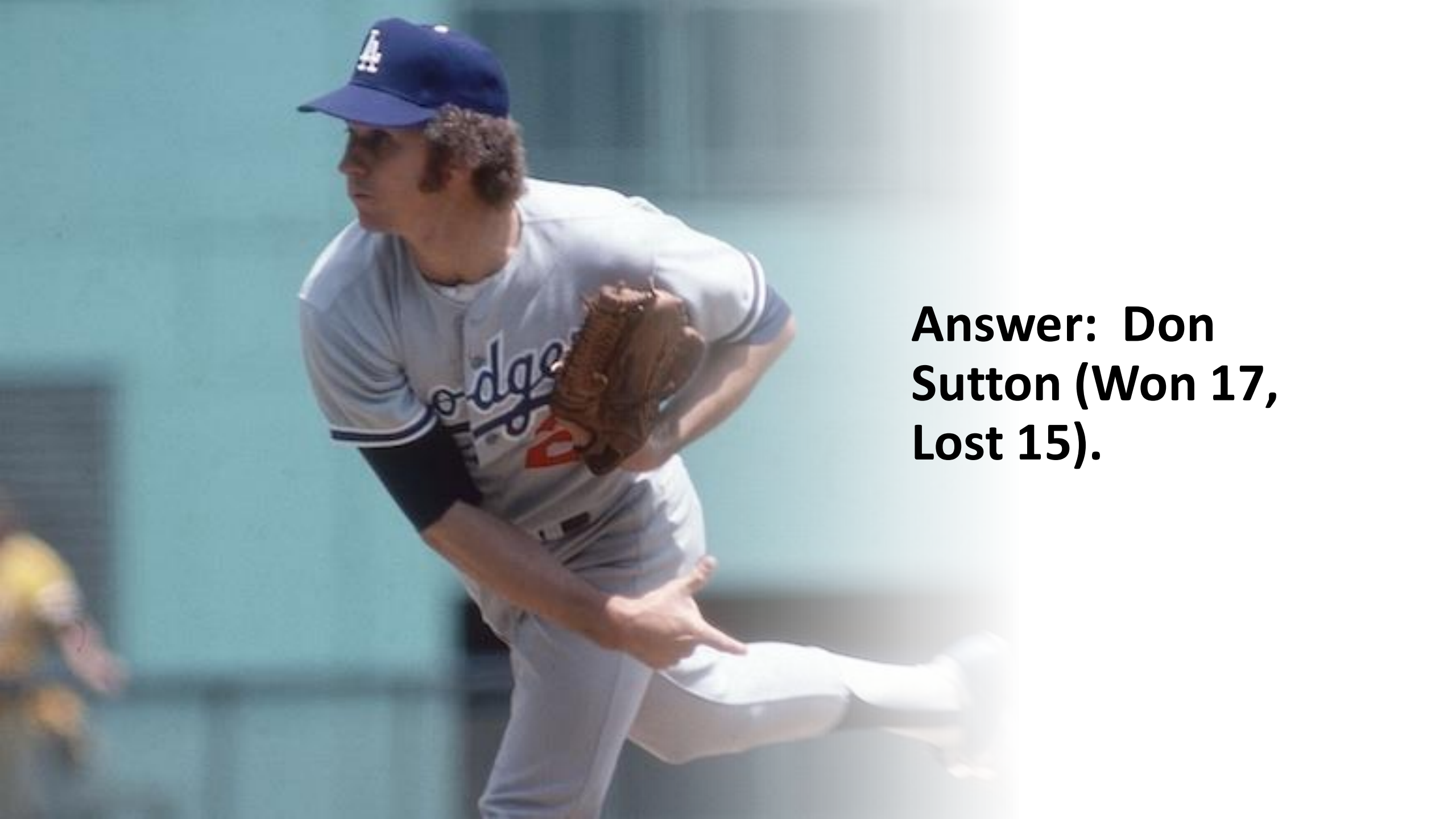
Answer:

**Memorial Stadium in Baltimore (28).
(I worked in Washington DC for five
years in the late 70s/early 80s). Angel
Stadium in Anaheim is third (20), and
the late, great Oakland Coliseum is
fourth (11).**



I've seen a total of 48 games won by Hall of Fame pitchers, 17 by one of them (the most of any one pitcher). Name him. I've also seen a total of 21 HOF pitchers that were involved in the decision. How many of them can you name?





**Answer: Don
Sutton (Won 17,
Lost 15).**

I've seen a total of 98 home runs hit by 43 different Hall of Famers. One hit 15, another hit 13. Both of them played for the Dodgers. However, neither of them went into the Hall as a Dodger, and the first one hit 9 of the 15 for another team. Can you name them?



**Answers: Eddie Murray
(15; 9 with the Orioles);
Mike Piazza (13; 12 with
the Dodgers).**



Hall of Fame pitchers (won/loss)

Koufax
Drysdale
Marichal
Sutton
Gibson
Kaat
Jenkins
Seaver
Bunning
Wilhelm

Carlton
Ryan
Eckersley
Gossage
Fingers
Sutter
Glavine
Maddux
Smoltz
Johnson
Halliday



Hall of Fame Home Run Hitters

Clemente

Banks

Santo

Snider

Stargell

Cepeda

Killebrew

F. Robinson

B. Robinson

Yastrzemski

Brock

Torre

Gibson

Aaron

Perez

McCovey

Bench

Simmons

Morgan

Winfield

B. Williams

Jackson

Schmidt

Murray

Brett

Rice

Henderson

Trammell

Gwynn

Molitor

Puckett

Smoltz

Bagwell

Walker

Piazza

McGriff

Alomar

Ripken

Larkin

Biggio

Jones

Griffey

Guerrero

Allen



And finally, the answer to the question that started it all: **WOW, HOW MANY BASEBALL GAMES HAVE YOU SEEN?**

Total (as of the end of the 2024 season):

748

(Give or take)





The End

