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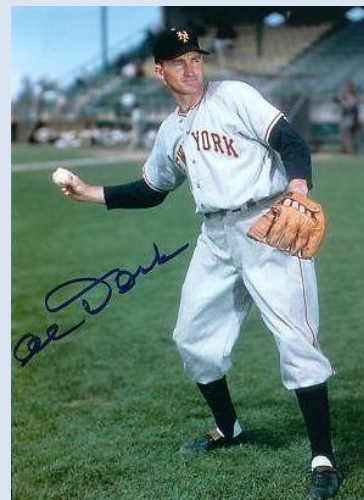
## *Alvin Dark*



Alvin has to be one of the best players NOT in the Baseball Hall of Fame. The shortstop broke into the majors with the Boston Braves and promptly won the NL Rookie of the Year Award in 1948 with a .322 average. He finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in MVP voting. After two years in Boston, Alvin was traded, along with Eddie Stanky, to the New York Giants for 4 players. In 6+ seasons in The Big Apple, Alvin continued his consistent hitting, batting over .300 three of those seasons. Each year, he was among the league leaders in hits, total bases, games played, at bats, runs scored, and thus, MVP voting. Part way into the 1956 season, Alvin was a part of another multi-player trade as he found himself on his way to the St. Louis Cardinals. In two seasons there, he batted over .290 each season. In 1950, he was traded to the Chicago Cubs then on the Philadelphia Phillies and Milwaukee Braves in this final season of 1960.

Alvin finished his playing career with a lifetime batting average of .289 and passed the .300 mark in four seasons. He was on a World Series Championship team in 1954 with the Giants and he was an all-star in 1951, 1952 and 1954. But it might be that his fielding was even better than his hitting. He led the National League in putouts three seasons and in double plays three times.

Alvin then continued into his next career as a manager. In 1961, he managed the Giants, who at that time had moved to San Francisco. In his second season there, he led the Giants to a first place finish in the NL with 103 wins. He went on to manage the Kansas City Athletics for 2 seasons and the Cleveland Indians for 4 seasons. But it was with the 1974 Oakland A's of Charlie Finley that Alvin won his first World Series. He finished his managerial career with one final year in San Diego in 1977 before retiring for good.



Canada:  
RR#5, 13332 Tenth Line,  
Georgetown, ON L7G4S8 Canada  
Phone: 954-330-6362 Fax: 905-873-8334

United States:  
49 N. Federal Hwy. #264  
Pompano Beach, FL 33062 U.S.A.  
Phone: 954-330-6362 Fax: 954-353-1962