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## ***Fred McGriff***



Few players in major league baseball history have been as consistent as Fred McGriff. For 15 seasons, from 1988 to 2002, “The Crime Dog” averaged 31 home runs and 97 RBI with a .288 average. He played in the Majors from age 22 to age 40 for the Toronto Blue Jays, San Diego Padres, Atlanta Braves, Tampa Bay Devil Rays, Chicago Cubs and Los Angeles Dodgers.

Fred’s career statistics make him a very strong candidate for induction in the Hall of Fame. His statistics rank him among the best in most offensive categories. Consider these highlights: 493 career home runs (tied with Lou Gehrig) ranking him 26<sup>th</sup> all-time. Of the 25 ahead of him, 15 are enshrined in the Hall of Fame and 9 are not yet eligible.

Drove in 100+ runs in a season 8 times

Had ten seasons of 30+ home runs, including 7 consecutive seasons from 1988 to 1994. Fred is one of only 18 players in history to have ten 30+ HR seasons

Fifteen seasons of 20+ home runs. Again, Fred is one of only

13 players in history to accomplish this feat

Became the first player to lead both leagues in home runs in a season – 1989 with Toronto in the AL and 1992 with San Diego in the NL

Played in 2,239 games at first base, third among first baseman all-time

In Fred’s core 15 seasons, his ranking in cumulative offensive statistics are as follows:

#6 in home runs with 458, behind Bonds, McGwire, Sosa and Palmeiro, all suspected or admittedly linked to steroids (Griffey Jr, #5, is not)

#3 in RBI with 1,460, behind Bonds and Palmeiro

#4 in hits with 2,329

#3 in extra base hits with 890

One could write a novel on Fred’s feats and where they stand in the annals of baseball history. And his awards are almost as lengthy:

Five time all-star

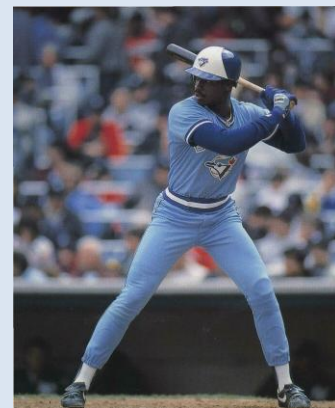
All-Star game MVP

Top 10 in MVP voting 6 times in his career

Three time Silver Slugger Award

World Series Champ in 1995 for the Atlanta Braves

Given Fred’s stature amongst the all-time legends in the game, he has on occasion been overlooked. Perhaps in the era of bravado and steroids, his low-key, reliable and amiable nature didn’t grab the headlines. But if you are looking for an athlete who played the game with integrity and reliability and is a tremendous role model, look no further than Fred McGriff.



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