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Maury Wills



The memory of Maury Wills swiping his 104th stolen base for the Los Angeles Dodgers in 1962 evokes images of an athlete extraordinaire. This outstanding achievement is only one in a long list of accomplishments that give insight into a man who is both an important athlete and a true sports personality. On September 23, 1962 Wills broke Ty Cobb's record of 97 stolen bases in one year. At the time, it was almost inconceivable that the century mark could be broken, but that's exactly what Maury did. By season's end with his record 104 stolen bases, he set a new major league record. Wills went on to lead the National League in stolen bases for six straight seasons, from 1960-1965, and has a lifetime total of 585 stolen bases. Maury was also a major force on the winning L.A. Dodger team for 14 years and helped lead the Dodgers to three World Series victories in 1959 (his first year wearing the Dodger cap), 1963, and 1965. In addition, he also guided the Dodgers to a National League pennant victory in 1966. Wills' many athletic achievements tell the story of a true sportsman and team player, including:

- National League Most Valuable Player (MVP) in 1962
- Shortstop of the Year in 1970-71 Season, at age 39
- Golden Glove award for Fielding in 1961-62 season
- Honored as Outstanding Fielder among National League Shortstops
- "SPORT" Magazine's man of the year
- S. Rae Hickok Pro-Athlete Award

Wills' sporting career did not end when he put away his bat in 1972, after 23 years in the pros. His goal was to become a manager in the Major League. Maury realized his dream when he became manager of the American League Seattle Mariners, during the 1980-81 seasons.

Wills' other post-Dodger highlights include six years as a baseball analyst for NBC Sports, "Major League Baseball Game of the Week," and one year as an HBO network in-studio sports personality. He also has been a trainer for 15 different Major League baseball teams, teaching the art of base running and stealing and trained the Osaka, "Hanky Braves" in Japan for four years.

Maury is an individual who truly enjoys the benefits baseball has given him. Speaking about his accomplishments working with children, he remarks, "I am proud to be a role model to children and aspiring athletes. I feel it is my obligation to give back something to this community that has done so much for me. If I can accomplish this, then I feel I have truly realized my greatest victory."

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