

# What's the criterion for Baseball Hall of Fame?

Deep down inside all athletes, whether amateur or professional, dwells the dream of achieving something notable during their careers that will give them a special place in history.

And as their careers progress, some set records in their sports that are so outstanding that history places them and their achievements above others who have performed excellently over the years.

Some of the athletes receive awards, have their numbers retired, have statues erected, or are inevitably inducted into their respective Halls of Fame.

Entrance or induction into these Halls of Fame depends on the merits of an athlete's performance in that sport field. Using this performance standard of worthiness, the election into a Hall of Fame should be based solely on the athlete's performance accomplishments.

But in some cases, following the guidelines and rules set forth for those casting ballots for athletes in various sports require electors to consider not only the athlete's record, playing ability, integrity and sportsmanship but, also, the athlete's character.

Close scrutiny into the character of baseball players like Ty Cobb, a known racist, and George Herman "Babe" Ruth, an alcoholic, would have kept them out of the Hall of Fame — and cer-



## SPORTS PACE

By Huel Washington

tainly out of the Charter Class at Cooperstown. Yet, they are in the Hall and revered as the greatest to ever to play the game.

Cobb, from Georgia, played for the Detroit Tigers and supposedly sharpened his spikes so he could slide into second or third base and cut the opposing player applying the tag. Ruth, who is second on the career home run list, had a few drinks before, during and after his games.

Based on his records alone, Pete Rose, who broke Cobb's record for most base hits in a baseball career, should be in the Baseball Hall of Fame, but he has been banned so far because of betting on his own team and gambling in general.

And now with the uproar in the baseball world about the use of steroids, there is a chance that Mark McGuire and Barry Bonds — who both established Superman-like homerun records — may not be selected for Baseball's Hall of Fame.

Both have been called cheaters for supposedly using steroids, although steroid use in baseball didn't become illegal in baseball until 2003.

McGuire hit his 70 homeruns in 1998. Bonds hit 73 in 2001.

Bonds admitted to using some topical body cream given to him by his trainer, Gary Anderson, but said he didn't realize it was a steroid. McGuire, before the Sen-

ate committee, appeared evasive about his past. Now, baseball voters have been speaking out against his baseball career and his possible selection into the Hall of Fame when he becomes eligible in two years.

On April 13, however, McGuire will be inducted into the Bay Area Sports Hall of Fame along with John McEnroe, the tennis great, and Steve Young, the San Francisco 49ers quarterback.

Will the same voters who selected "Big Mac" for

BASHOF now want to take back their votes because of his refusal to go into detail about his career with the Oakland Athletics and the St. Louis Cardinals? That would stir up the sports world. No induction for McGuire, the cheater?

Performance is what has counted in cases like Lawrence Taylor, a dope addict in football; Jim Brown, a wife beater; and Robert Parish, also, a wife beater in basketball. Each is in his respective Hall of Fame. But

they weren't baseball players, where character counts.

So, baseball players who used steroids as dietary supplements (before they were illegal in their sport) are to be ostracized, ridiculed, harassed and banned from being in the Hall of Fame because of steroids?

When McGuire comes up for consideration, some voters have already stated that they won't vote for him, and there are others who say that they want to vote for him.

We'll see in two years.

## Arizona State running back jailed in murder

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP) - Arizona State running back Loren Wade was arrested Saturday on suspicion of first-degree murder in the shooting death of a former ASU football player.

Police said Brandon Falkner, 25, of Tempe was shot in the head about 2:30 a.m. Saturday as he sat in his car outside Club CBNC, a Scottsdale nightclub. Scottsdale police detective Sam Bailey said Falkner and Wade exchanged words before the shot was fired. Wade was driving a car with three others inside when he went to the club to pick up his girlfriend, Haley van Blommestein, who played soccer at Arizona State until 2003. Bailey said Wade saw her standing next to Falkner's car, got out of his car, exchanged words with Falkner and fired once. Falkner tried to drive away, but crashed into another car, then hit a tree. He was pronounced dead at Scottsdale Healthcare Osborn.

"From everything I've heard, they didn't know each other," Bailey said. "He may have been in the wrong place, at the wrong time, talking to the wrong person."

Wade was arrested by Maricopa County sheriff's deputies who were working as security guards at the club.

"We have more than enough witnesses," Bailey said.

Football coach Dirk Koetter canceled the team's first spring practice in pads on Saturday.

"This is a tragedy that has shocked and saddened our entire community," university president Michael Crow said. "ASU has made its counseling services available this weekend to the entire football team and to any other student who feels that he or she needs to talk about this situation."

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