

Mark Belling's Brewers/Braves Walk Of Fame Ballot

I have long railed about the exclusion of many Milwaukee Braves and Brewers greats from what passes as the Milwaukee Baseball Hall of Fame, the Walk of Fame at Miller Park. The voting is done by local media and many of its members are young and uninformed, particularly those who work at local sports radio stations. If you are uninformed, you have no business voting. It took years, for example, for Lew Burdette, one of the six or seven greatest players in Milwaukee history, to make it.

You need 65 percent of the votes to get in. These are the players already in:

BRAVES: Hank Aaron, Eddie Mathews, John Quinn (general manager), Warren Spahn, Lew Burdette, Johnny Logan, Joe Adcock.

BREWERS: Rollie Fingers, Paul Molitor, Robin Yoiunt, Cecil Cooper, Bud Selig, Harry Dalton (general manager), Bob Uecker, Jim Gantner, Gorman Thomas, Harvey Kuenn (manager), Don Money, Teddy Higuera, Geoff Jenkins.

Here are my votes, in alphabetical order (Brewers first, then Braves), and a brief reason;

JERRY AUGUSTINE

He's been part of the organization for a staggering 45 years, in one capacity or another. Besides, he's my friend.

MIKE CALDWELL

He won 102 games for the Brewers over eight seasons and had arguably the greatest season ever by a Brewers starting pitcher when, in 1978, he went 22-9 with an unbelievable 23 complete games and an ERA of a miniscule 2.36.

TED SIMMONS

He's in the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame for crying out loud. If you're in the Hall of Fame, shouldn't you be in the local Walk of Fame???

JIM SLATON

He's the Brewers' all-time winningest pitcher, winning 117 games despite spending much of his career on losing teams.

PETE VUCKOVICH

He won the Cy Young Award and he's not in the Brewers Walk of Fame???? Vuke's exclusion is a disgrace and an embarrassment to the dummies who vote. He went 18-6 in 1982 when the Brewers won the American League pennant and won the Cy Young Award as the best pitcher in the American League. If you win the Cy Young, you belong in the Walk of Fame.

BOB BUHL

The third greatest pitcher in Milwaukee Braves history. He won 109 games in Milwaukee over ten seasons and had an excellent 3.27 ERA over that entire decade. He was an outstanding 18-7 with a 2.74 ERA in 1957, the only year Milwaukee ever won a World Series.

DEL CRANDALL

The starting catcher for the Braves for a decade, anchoring the great World Series teams. He also managed the Brewers and was a Brewers TV announcer. A deep body of work.

FRED HANEY

Another outrageous omission. Haney was the manager of the ONLY MILWAUKEE TEAM TO WIN A WORLD SERIES. Heck, Harvey Kuenn is in and his team lost a World Series. Haney's Brewers record was 341-231. Milwaukee has been in three World Series and Haney was manager in two of them. He led the Brewers during the greatest era in Milwaukee baseball history. It is an indictment of the lack of knowledge of some of the goofs on sports talk radio that they don't even know who Fred Haney is.

WRITE-IN: LOU PERINI

The owner who moved the Braves from Boston to Milwaukee. Without him it is questionable if Milwaukee would have ever gotten Major League Baseball.

WRITE-IN: EARL GILLESPIE

The radio voice of the Braves for their first decade and at a time in which there was virtually no TV coverage. Earl was an institution, every bit as big as Bob Uecker. His deep voice and enthusiastic calls were radio classics and he is one of the greatest radio baseball announcers of all time. He deserves this recognition. In addition, Earl was a TV sports anchor in Milwaukee for decades and one of the biggest TV personalities in Milwaukee history.