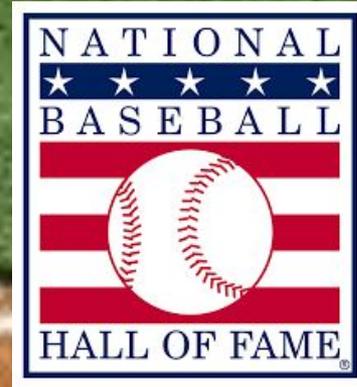




Dick Allen

*For the induction into the National Baseball
Hall of Fame*



By: Golda Meir High School

Sports Analytics Club

Milwaukee, Wisconsin



Career Achievements

<u>Career Hits:</u> 1847	<u>Runs Batted In:</u> 1119	<u>OPS:</u> .912
<u>Stolen Bases:</u> 133	<u>On Base Percentage:</u> .378	<u>OPS+:</u> 156
<u>Batting Average:</u> .292	<u>Home Runs:</u> 351	<u>WAR:</u> 58.7
<u>Runs:</u> 1099	<u>Slugging Percentage:</u> .534	<u>JAWS:</u> 52.3

1972 AL Most Valuable Player
1964 Rookie of the Year
7-time All-Star

10 seasons in the top 10 in OPS
8 seasons in the top 10 in Slugging Percentage
8 seasons in the top 10 for Offensive WAR
6 seasons in the top 10 in Batting Average

A photograph of Dick Allen in a white St. Louis Cardinals uniform with red pinstripes, a red cap, and red batting gloves. He is in a batting stance, holding a wooden bat. The background is a blurred green field.

Iconic Seasons

Dick Allen was a prolific power hitter which is embodied in his most historic seasons.

Dick Allen's 1964 season is one of the all-time great rookie seasons in MLB history. He out performed his peers with an OPS+ of 162 and an 8.8 WAR.

Dick Allen's AL MVP 1972 season is iconic. Although 1968 is considered the "Year of the Pitcher", pitching in 1972 was *historically good*. His hitting that season, relative to other players, was extraordinary. He had a 199 OPS+.

Up to 1972, the list of players who had that good of an OPS+ were almost entirely iconic players. Players like Mickey Mantle, Ted Williams, Stan Musial, and Babe Ruth.

Rookie Season: 1964

Slugging: .557

OPS: .939

OPS+: 162

WAR: 8.8*

*Second best WAR for rookie position player only to Mike Trout

AL MVP Season: 1972

Slugging: .603

OPS: 1.023

OPS+: 199

WAR: 8.6

GOLDEN ERA ARGUMENT

The website Cooperstowncred.com offers the best argument for the peak performance of Dick Allen.

In the so called “Golden Era” of baseball spanning the years from 1964 to 1974, Dick Allen topped this list of players, many of the all time greats, for OPS+ during this span.

OPS+ takes each players on base percentage + slugging percentage and normalizes it across the entire league. A score of 100 is the league average.

This shows that Dick Allen was the very best hitter in baseball as measured by OPS+ for these ten years.

This is the list (ranked by OPS+) of players with at least 5,000 plate appearances from 1964-74:

Highest OPS+ 1964-74 (min. 5,000 PA)

1964-1974	OPS+	PA	HR	RBI
Dick Allen	165	6270	319	975
Willie McCovey	161	5713	327	933
Hank Aaron	159	6508	391	1081
Frank Robinson	159	6442	312	978
Willie Stargell	153	6118	335	1056
Roberto Clemente	151	5195	148	735
Harmon Killebrew	148	6100	336	981
Willie Mays	148	5159	254	724
Frank Howard	147	5524	283	806
Carl Yastrzemski	145	7086	259	939



Method

We will show that Dick Allen deserves to be inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame by comparing him to his peers already inducted into the Hall of Fame. We compared our candidate to selected members at the same positions: 1B, 3B and Left Field. We will show using key statistics, histograms and box plots that our candidate is statistically comparable to members already inducted into the Hall of Fame and is also worthy of that distinction.

To enter the Hall of Fame a player must demonstrate both longevity and high peak performance. Longevity is demonstrated in career total numbers and high peak performance is demonstrated by OPS+ and WAR.

Both longevity and high peak performance are factored into a statistic called JAWS, which is one of the standard statistics used to determine a player's Hall of Fame worthiness.



Comparison Groups Used

Group 1: Hall of Fame 1st Basemen

Cap Anson, Jeff Bagwell, Jake Beckley, Jim Bottomley, Dan Brouthers, Orlando Cepeda, Frank Chance, Roger Connor, Jimmie Foxx, Lou Gehrig, Hank Greenberg, Gil Hodges, George Kelly, Harmon Killebrew, Buck Leonard, Willie McCovey, Fred McGriff, Johnny Mize, Eddie Murray, Tony Perez, George Sisler, Mule Suttles, Ben Taylor, Bill Terry, Frank Thomas, Jim Thome

Group 2: Hall of Fame 3rd Basemen

Jimmy Collins, Home Run Baker, Judy Johnson, Pie Traynor, Jud Wilson, Freddie Lindstrom, Ray Dandridge, George Kelly, Eddie Mathews, Brooks Robinson, Ron Santo, Mike Schmidt, George Brett, Paul Molitor, Wade Boggs, Chipper Jones, Scott Rolen

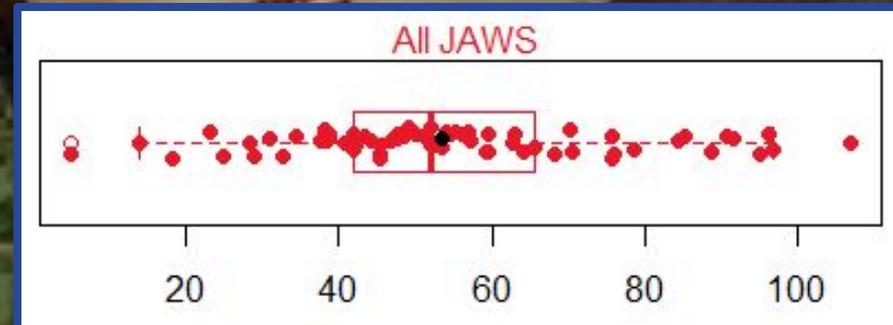
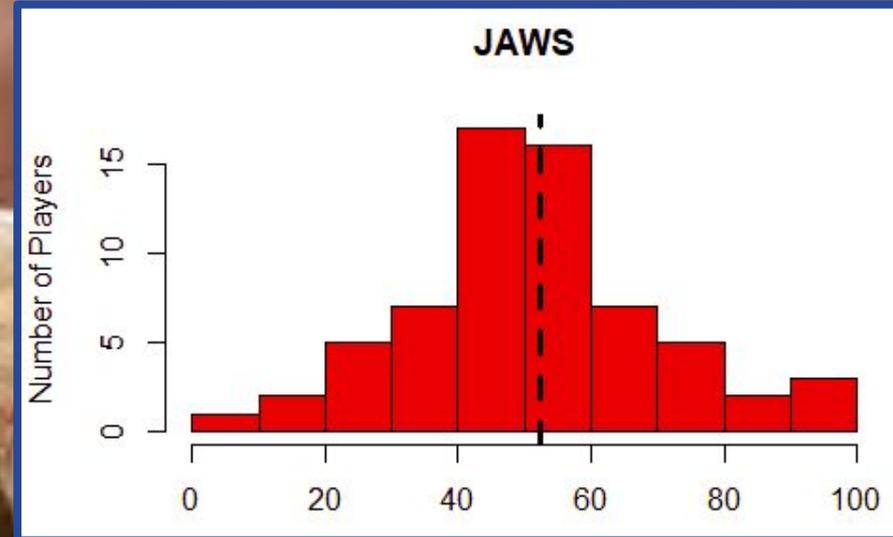
Group 3: Hall of Fame Left Fielders

Jim O'Rourke, Ed Delahanty, Jesse Burkett, Joe Kelley, Fred Clarke, Zack Wheat, Goose Goslin, Lou Brock, Rickey Henderson, Monte Irvin, Ralph Kiner, Jim Rice, Tim Lincecum Sr., Stan Musial, Minnie Minoso, Heinie Manush, Joe Medwick, Ted Williams, Carl Yastrzemski, Al Simmons, Willie Stargell, Billy Williams

JAWS (Jaffe Wins Above Replacement) is a metric for Hall of Fame worthiness used to combine both a player's longevity and their peak performance.

Dick Allen has a JAWS of 52.3, which is at the 52nd percentile of Hall of Famers (indicated by a dotted line in the histogram and the black dot in the box plot). This shows his composite score of both longevity and peak performance is better than half of the comparable Hall of Famers. Considering the less than average longevity of our candidate's career, this means he has a measurably higher peak performance than most Hall of Fame players.

Players who are in the 50th to 75th percentile with Dick Allen include Johnny Mize, Frank Thomas, Ed Delahanty, Paul Molitor, Jim Thome, Al Simmons, Scott Rolen, Tim Lincecum, Goose Goslin, Home Run Baker, Willie McCovey, Eddie Murray, Billy Williams, George Sisler, and Fred Clarke.



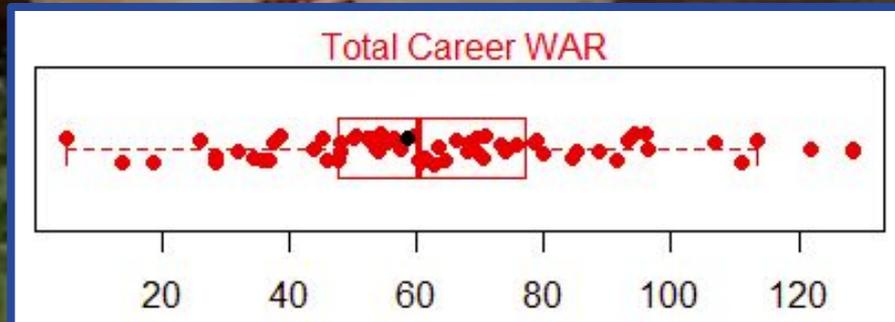
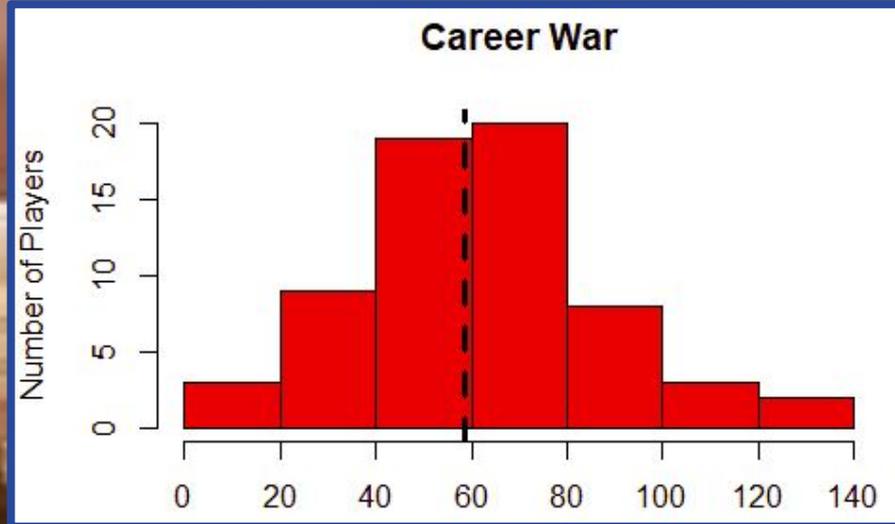
Career Wins Above Replacement

Dick Allen: 58.7

Wins Above Replacement (WAR) is a way of calculating the value a specific player gives a team over any other freely available player who could replace them.

Dick Allen's WAR of 58.7 falls just slightly under the 50th percentile of the Hall of Fame average career WAR. This places him near the median WAR for Hall of Famers, further demonstrating his value to his team was comparable to these already inducted members of the Hall of Fame.

Players in the middle 50th percentile with Dick Allen include Tim Raines Sr., Eddie Murray, Al Simmons, Fred Clarke, Goose Goslin, Willie McCovey, Billy Williams, Home Run Baker, Jake Beckley, Zack Wheat, Harmon Killebrew, Jesse Burkett, Willie Stargell, George Sisler, Bill Terry, Hank Greenberg, Joe Medwick, Tony Perez, and Minnie Minoso.

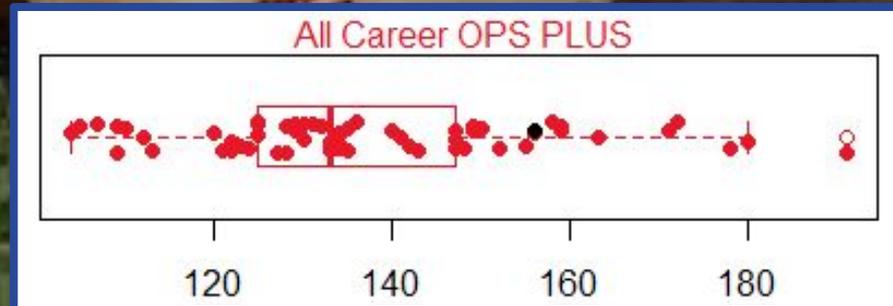
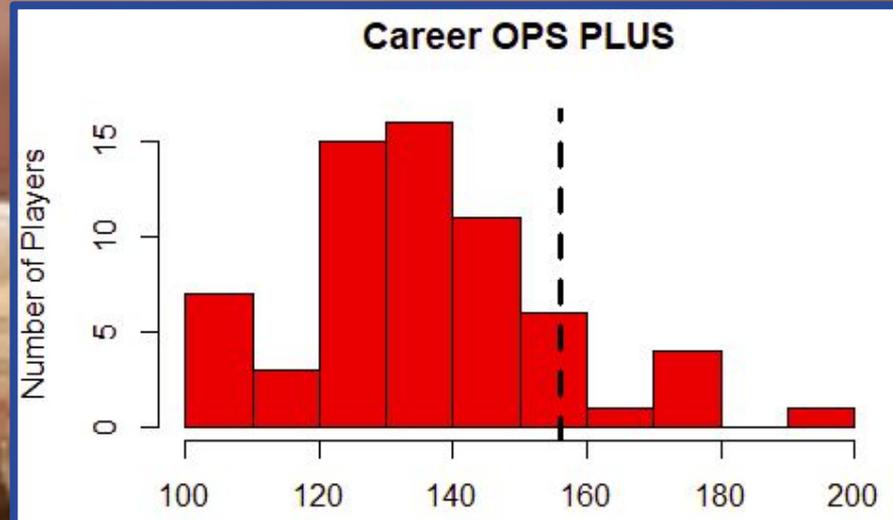


Career On Base Plus Slugging PLUS

Dick Allen: 156

On-base percentage plus (OPS+) normalizes OPS across the league in order to compare players. With 100 representing the average of the league an OPS+ of 150 would mean a player is 50% better than the average of the league for that year.

Our Hall of Fame comparable players had an average OPS+ of 136. Dick Allen had an OPS+ of 156, 56% better than the league average during his career and is 14.7% better than the average for Hall of Famers, which places him in the 86th percentile (the top quartile) of our Hall of Fame players. These players include: Ted Williams, Buck Leonard, Lou Gehrig, Mule Suttles, Dan Brouthers, Jimmie Foxx, Hank Greenberg, Stan Musial, Johnny Mize, Frank Thomas, Jud Wilson, Ed Delahanty, Roger Connor, Jeff Bagwell, and Ralph Kiner.



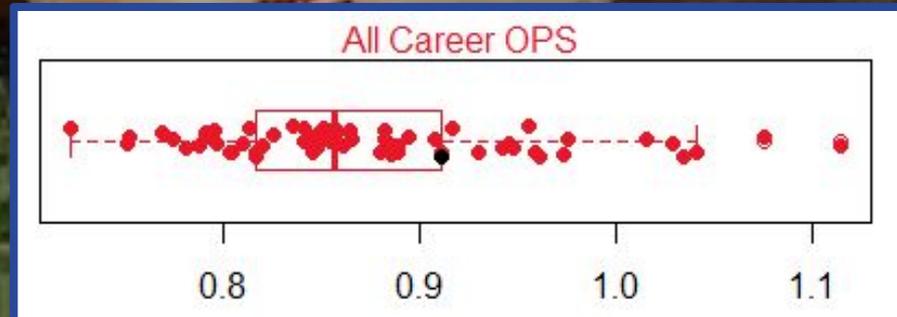
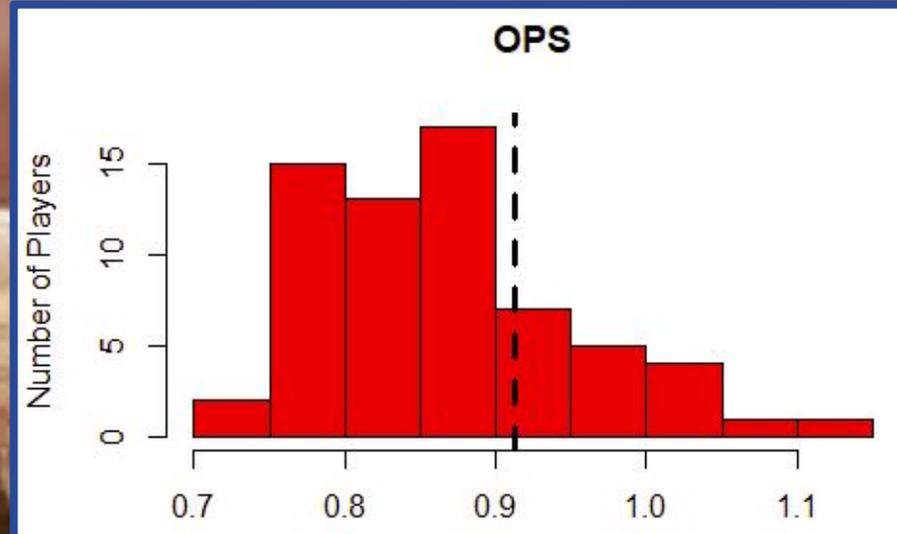
Career On Base Plus Slugging

Dick Allen: .912

On base plus slugging (OPS) combines how well a hitter can reach base with how well they can hit for average and for power. OPS is a great measure of a power hitter.

Dick Allen is above the Hall of Fame average with an OPS of 0.912 placing him at the 75th percentile (indicated with the dotted line on the histogram and the black dot in the box plot).

Dick Allen's career OPS put him in the same conversation as the top quartile of our Hall of Fame players: Ted Williams, Lou Gehrig, Buck Leonard, Jimmie Foxx, Mule Suttles, Hank Greenberg, Stan Musial, Frank Thomas, Jud Wilson, Johnny Mize, Jim Thome, Jeff Bagwell, Ralph Kiner, Dan Brouthers, Chipper Jones, and Ed Delahanty.



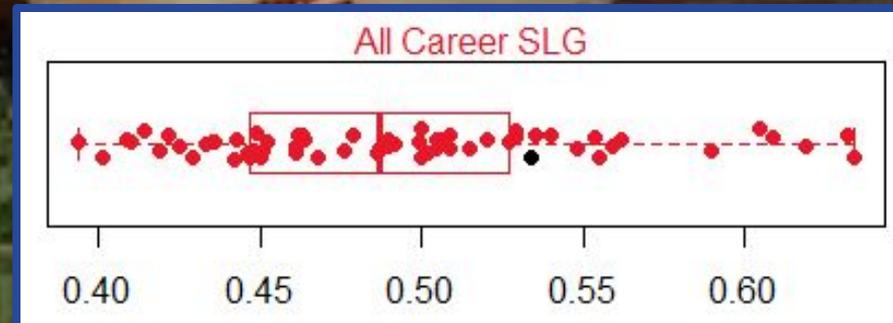
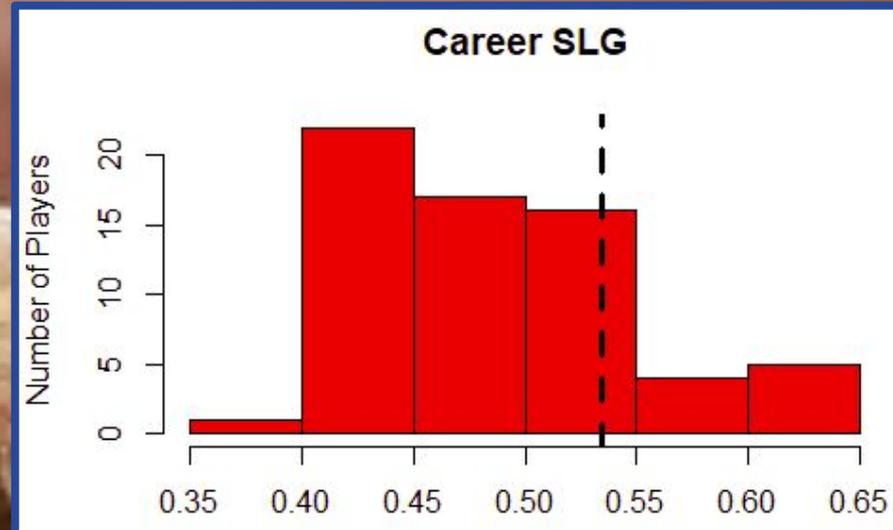
Career Slugging Percentage

Dick Allen: .534

Slugging Percentage is the number of total bases the player records divided by the number of total at bats.

Dick Allen's .534 Slugging Percentage is better than 81% of our Hall of Fame players (indicated with the dotted line on the histogram and the black dot in the box plot).

Dick Allen is located in the top 25% of all comparable players in the Hall of Fame. These players include the elite: Ted Williams, Lou Gehrig, Mule Suttles, Jimmie Foxx, Hank Greenberg, Buck Leonard, Johnny Mize, Stan Musial, Frank Thomas, Jim Thome, Ralph Kiner, Jeff Bagwell, Al Simmons, Willie Stargell, and Chipper Jones. This supports Dick Allen's consistency and power behind the plate throughout his career.





Civil Rights

In 1947, Jackie Robinson heroically broke the color barrier in Major League Baseball. The integration was referred to as Branch Rickey's "great experiment". Jackie Robinson and Branch Rickey intentionally made a political statement. They planned for and prepared Jackie to carefully navigate the racial tensions he faced that followed from breaking the color barrier.

Jackie Robinson and others led the first generation of African-American MLB players. These players were coached on how to respond to the backlash. Dick Allen was in the second generation of African-American players, who were not as supported as they challenged societal norms and broke other color barriers.

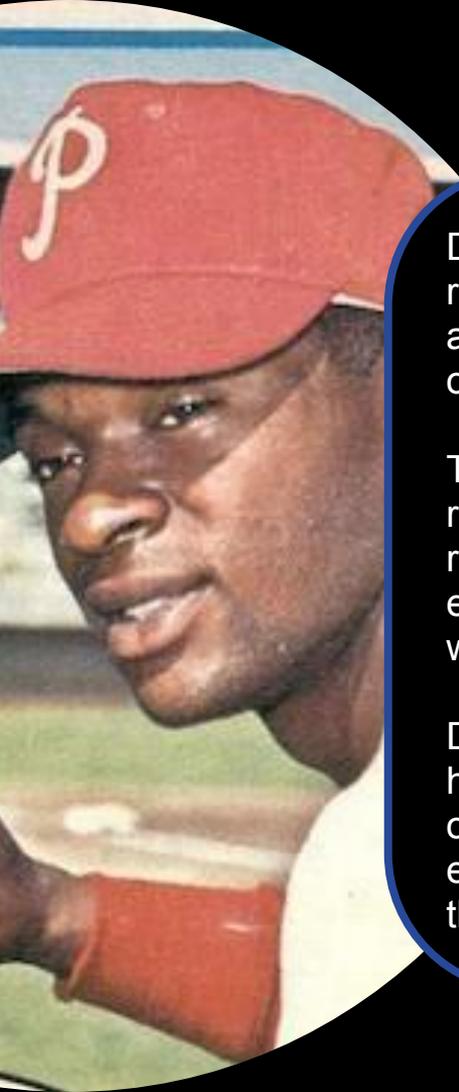
Dick Allen's first AAA minor league game was in 1963. As the first Black player for the Arkansas Travellers in Little Rock, Allen was met with a hostile crowd. The game was attended by Governor Orval Faubus, who six years earlier had opposed integration of the Little Rock 9. The crowd was holding signs, "Don't Negro-ize our baseball". Allen was quoted later as saying "I didn't want to be a crusader. I kept thinking, 'Why me?' It's tough to play ball when you're frightened." Despite his intentions, his inclusion in the game was enough to be seen as a political act.



Civil Rights

Later in 1963, Dick Allen made his major league debut. He may not have walked into the same political tensions as his minor league debut, but the history of the Phillies made it tense. When the news of Jackie Robinson broke, Ben Chapman, the Phillies manager in 1947, spoke out with Anti-Black attacks on Jackie Robinson and the efforts to integrate. Ten years later, John Kennedy broke the color barrier for the Philadelphia Phillies. The Phillies were the last National League team to integrate. This historic resistance for integration on the Phillies, should be seen as a political act. Reflecting on his first year, Dick Allen stated, “Maybe if the Phillies had called me in, man to man, like the Dodgers had done with Jackie Robinson, at least I would have been prepared. Instead, I was on my own.”

Allen’s feeling of isolation in the beginning of his career and numerous other racially motivated confrontations had to impact his relationship with his teammates, his managers, the fans and ultimately the media. “In his biography, *Crash*, Allen wrote that in Little Rock he learned that two sets of rules existed: one set for the white players and one set for Allen. In the future, Allen wrote, if there were going to be two sets of rules, he would see to it that the rules governing himself were of his own choosing.” (Razer 2023)

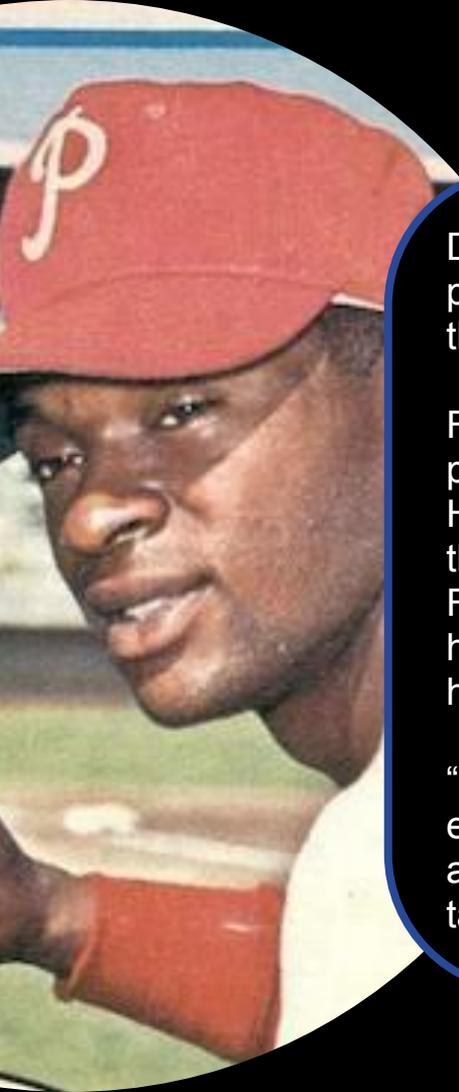


Conclusion

Dick Allen is viewed as a contentious figure. His reputation was caused by a response to the conditions of his time versus the expected societal norms, and has impacted his Hall of Fame status. However, on the field, based on his numbers, Dick Allen is one of the greatest power hitters of all time.

The longevity of his career was impacted by a car accident. His career hits, runs, and RBIs were lowered as a result of his shorter career. As such, the round numbers commonly appreciated in baseball are not present. However, even with his shorter career, his slugging percentage, OPS and OPS+ totals were well above the average.

Dick Allen's peak performance as a power hitter is best shown in having the highest OPS+ between 1964 and 1974; an era dominated by pitching. Not only was Dick Allen one of the best power hitters in baseball, he did it in an era that is particularly revered in baseball: A time when many of the heroes of the game played.



Conclusion

Dick Allen's career WAR is right in line with to the average of our comparable players. This means, statistically, Dick Allen was above the average player in the same way that our Hall of Famers were above the average player.

Finally, the JAWS balances a Hall of Fame player's longevity and peak production. Dick Allen's JAWS was above average for players currently in the Hall of Fame at the same positions. This means even when accounting for that shortened career, Dick Allen is solidly within the production of a Hall of Famer. Although his longevity may not have created the round numbers so honored in Cooperstown, his peak performance in the 'Golden Era' places him above the best players in the history of the game.

"I've been around the game a long time, and he's the greatest player I've ever seen play in my life. He's the smartest baseball man I've ever been around in my life. He taught me how to pitch from a hitter's perspective, and taught me how to play the game right. The guy belongs in the Hall of Fame."

- 'Goose' Gossage

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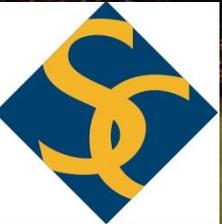


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