

# MLB EXTRA

BY MIAMI HERALD SPORTSWRITER MIKE PHILLIPS

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

### SHOULD CURT SCHILLING BE INDUCTED TO THE BASEBALL HALL OF FAME?

Curt Schilling might pitch again, but the question popped up this week because if Schilling retires, he will be eligible for Cooperstown in five years.

Is his résumé good enough? Will his timing be right?

Both questions will dictate how the members of the Baseball Writers Association of America vote in five years.

If 300 victories is the magic number to enter the Hall, then Schilling, with 216 wins, is not only short, but far too short to be considered.

But there are many other ways to enter, and Schilling's victory total could be enough.

Not only did he win 216 games in 436 starts and 569 appearances, but he also struck out 3,116, and 3,000 strikeouts is somewhat magical.

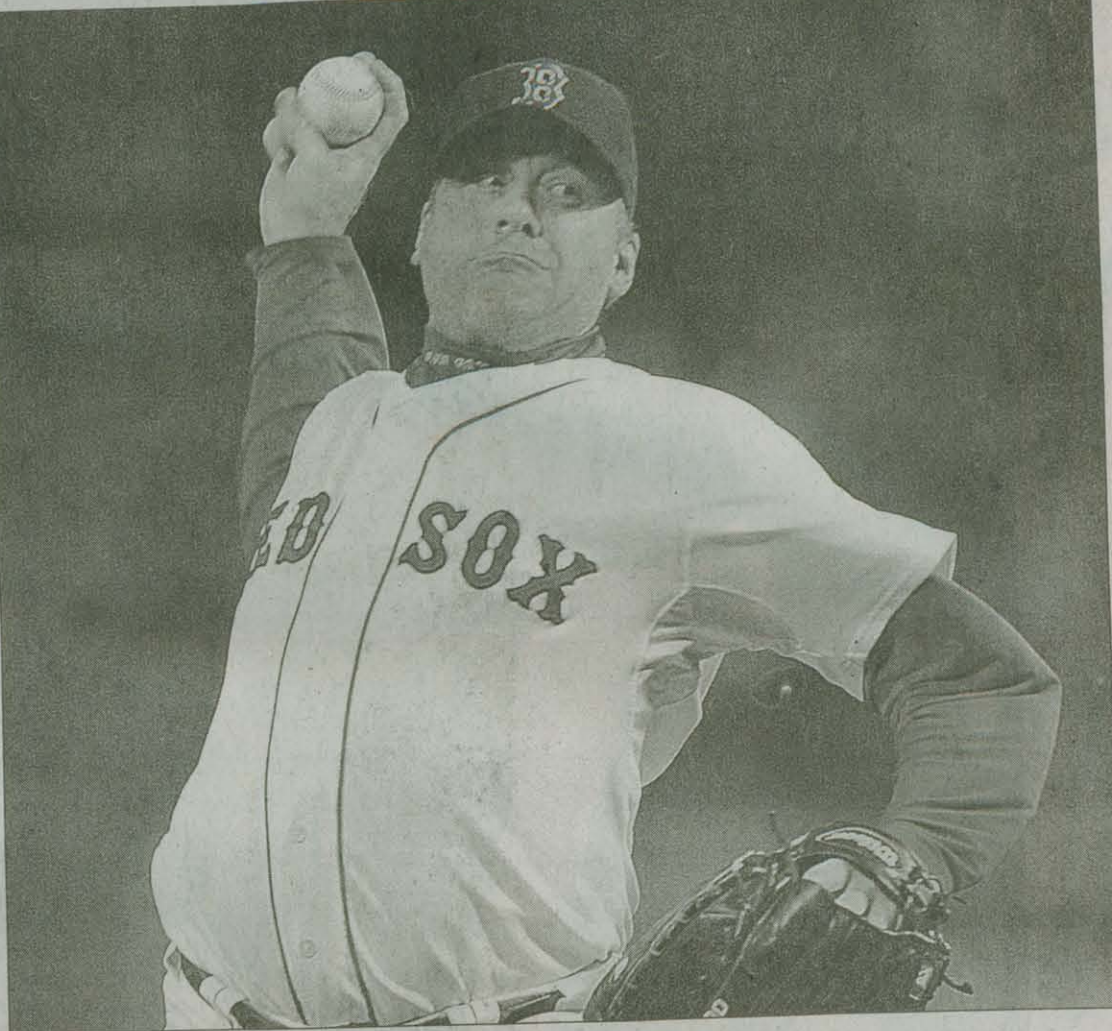
Schilling's résumé also includes one of the most impressive postseason records in history. He's 11-2 and won a co-MVP Award in the 2001 World Series with Arizona teammate Randy Johnson. He will long be remembered in Boston for his gutsy bloody sock victory over the Yankees in the 2004 American League Championship Series.

Red Sox fans don't get to vote if they did, Schilling would get in by a landslide. But it's up to the writers.

Don't know if I would vote for him today or not, but it's something I don't have to worry about for five years," said Hall of Fame baseball writer Rick Hummel, who has covered the game for four decades.

"I think his chances are OK to get in," he said. "I kind of want to wait and see how his win-loss record will stack up five years from now, because [today's pitchers] aren't winning games like they used to, and 200 wins might look a lot bigger in five years. But you don't know if that's enough."

"Chuck Finley won 200 games, and he received one vote last year, and 216 is not much different," Hummel said. "Bert



CHARLES KRUBA/AP

Blyleven won 287, and he's not in. So you don't know. But Schilling has a terrific postseason record. He was great in the postseason and good in the regular season."

Still, Schilling has a strong argument: Exhibits A, B and C are Jim Bunning, Don Drysdale and Bob Lemon, all members of the Hall of Fame.

Bunning won 224 games in 519 starts (591 games) and struck out 2,855 with a 3.27 ERA.

Drysdale won 209 in 465 starts (518 games) and struck out 2,486 with a 2.95 ERA.

Lemon mirrors Schilling (207 wins in 460 starts) but struck out only 1,277 with a 3.23 ERA.

All had much lower ERAs than Schilling, but Schilling is in the

same ballpark based on wins per start.

It's true Blyleven isn't in, despite 287 victories (685 starts), 3,701 strikeouts and a 3.31 ERA, but he might get in before anyone votes for Schilling.

Blyleven has been gaining support. He received just 83 votes (17.5 percent) on his first ballot in 1998, but 336 (61.9 percent) of the writers voted for him last year.

It takes 75 percent to get in, and Blyleven is gaining momentum.

If Schilling does retire after this season, he will be part of an historic first-ballot vote, because Roger Clemens and possibly Barry Bonds could be in the class of 2013, and no one is certain

how those two will affect the voting.

One part of the equation that could affect Schilling's chances is the Atlanta Braves factor. None of the Braves' legendary pitchers has announced his retirement yet, but it is possible John Smoltz, Tom Glavine and Greg Maddux all could decide to retire after this season.

If they do, those three could sweep their way into the Hall together, and the timing could kill Schilling because his body of work doesn't compare to that of any of those Braves pitchers.

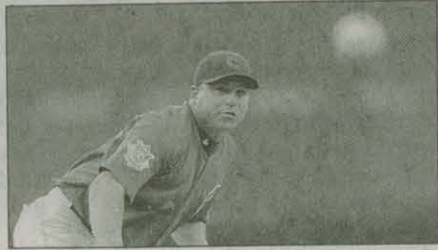
"If those three guys are together, then I don't think Schilling would get in," Hummel said. "All three would go in together."

## AROUND THE BASES



### WRONG WAY, RIGHT START

OK, so he was a little late. Reds rookie **Daryl Thompson** had a fine big-league debut, pitching five scoreless innings in Yankee Stadium, and that wasn't the best part of this story. Thompson took the wrong subway and ended up in Brooklyn. He must have been a sight, carrying his equipment bag with him on the subway, a nervous wreck. Thompson said he was so nervous about pitching in Yankee Stadium that he barely ate for 24 hours, and woke up at 4:30 a.m. the day of the game and couldn't go back to sleep.



### BIG Z HAS EXTRA ALL-STAR MOTIVE

Cubs ace **Carlos Zambrano** wants to make sure a Game 7 in this year's World Series would be played in Wrigley Field. That's why Zambrano says he wants to pitch in the All-Star Game. "With a little help from me and Brandon Webb and Edinson Volquez and the rest of the Pitchers and hitters, we can finally win one," Zambrano told The Associated Press this week. The NL hasn't won since 1996, and the AL has had the home-field advantage in the Series since the rule was implemented in 2003.



### SOFT, FLUFFY AND DANGEROUS

The next contract in Detroit may have a pillow clause. That's because **Brandon Inge** was sent to the DL after a four-week-old oblique injury was aggravated by the bedtime aid. "It was the stupidest, most freakish thing," Inge told The Detroit Free Press. "I have a 3-year-old son who sleeps in the bed with my wife and me. I was trying to push the pillow down behind his head, and when I did, I repped [the oblique]. You take swings in baseball, and it's not as bad as pushing a pillow down."

## THE REPLACEMENTS

For the rest of the 2008 season, The Miami Herald will make weekly comparisons between former Marlins Dontrelle Willis and Miguel Cabrera and Marlins newcomers Andrew Miller and Jorge Cantu:

### THIRD VS. FIRST BASE



**MARLINS 3B JORGE CANTU**  
G.....76  
AB.....304  
BA.....280  
HR.....14  
RBI.....43  
R.....47



**TIGERS 1B MIGUEL CABRERA**  
G.....77  
AB.....289  
BA.....273  
HR.....11  
RBI.....44  
R.....36

• **The word:** After batting .371 during his nine-game hitting streak, Cabrera cooled off, hitting just .167 over his past six games, with one RBI (a homer) entering the weekend. Cantu proved he is a better fielder at first base in road interleague games but batted .193 with one RBI during a six-game stretch.

### PITCHER



**MARLINS LHP ANDREW MILLER**  
G.....16  
W-L.....5-6  
IP.....81.2  
ERA.....5.07  
BB.....35  
SO.....63

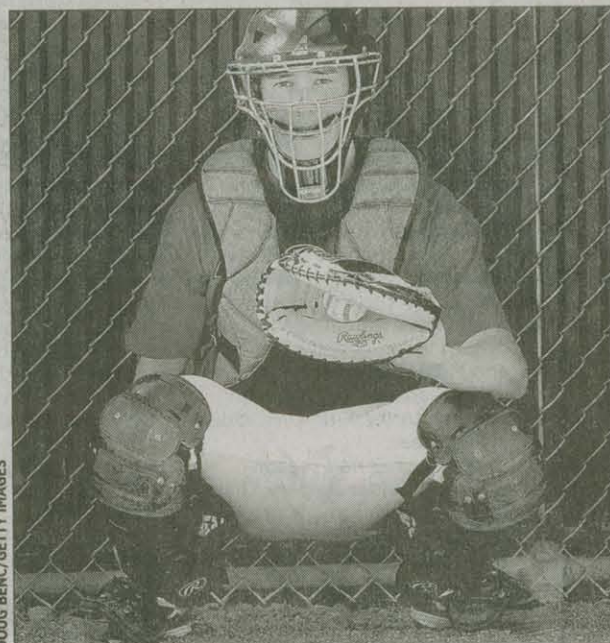


**TIGERS LHP DONTRELLE WILLIS**  
G.....5  
W-L.....0-1  
IP.....11.1  
ERA.....10.32  
BB.....21  
SO.....5

• **The word:** After two impressive outings, Miller had bad luck in a four-inning start against Oakland. In the third, catcher Mike Rabelo didn't tag a runner at home for the third out, opening up a costly four-run inning. Willis, demoted more than two weeks ago, still hasn't pitched for Single A Lakeland.

## ASK A MARLIN

**TO: FIRST-ROUND PICK KYLE SKIPWORTH**  
**TOPIC: WHAT'S THE FIRST THING YOU WILL BUY AFTER GETTING A \$2.3 MILLION SIGNING BONUS?**



DOUG BENC/GETTY IMAGES

"I'm going to take care of the people who took care of me. I'll take my mom and my sister on a shopping spree. [Skipworth said he doesn't want to buy an expensive car.] I'll just get a Tahoe."

## POWER RANKING

**01 CHC** "Emotion to me is good pitching and good hitting and solid defense," manager Lou Piniella said after the Cubs dropped two of three to Baltimore. The Cubs could get emotional over Jim Edmonds, who entered the weekend hitting .363 with five homers and 14 RBI during an 11-game stretch.

Last week's power ranking 1

**02 BOS** David Ortiz took 25 swings this week but said he won't be back for another few weeks, and J.D. Drew entered the weekend in an 0-13 funk. The Red Sox have the game's best knuckleballer in Tim Wakefield, but they also have Charlie Zink, who is 8-2 with a 2.33 ERA at Triple A Pawtucket (R.I.). Zink is a knuckleballer who also throws a fastball in the high 80s, low 90s.

Last week's power ranking 2

**03 LAA** The Angels missed John Lackey at the start of the season, but he has been a rock since returning May 14. Lackey is 5-1 and has the lowest ERA (1.65) in the majors since that date. He and has gone at least seven innings in each of his eight starts.

Last week's power ranking 3

**04 TBR** The Rays would run away with the AL East if they could just play the Marlins every week. They set a team record with their sixth sweep of the season and their first on the road, scoring 27 runs in the three games.

Last week's power ranking 4

**05 PHI** Shane Victorino stole his 18th base Tuesday his first off Oakland catcher Kurt Suzuki, who will never hear the end of it. Victorino and Suzuki were high school rivals from Wailuku, Hawaii, who became friends.

Last week's power ranking 5

**06 STL** Albert Pujols (calf) returned to the lineup Thursday and had four hits to raise his batting average to .358. The Cardinals went 7-7 while he was on the disabled list.

Last week's power ranking 8

**07 NYY** They began the weekend Subway Series just 5 1/2 games behind the Red Sox after winning nine of 12 and climbing above .500 against what has to be the easiest interleague stretch (Astros, Reds, Padres and Pirates) anyone will play this season.

Last week's power ranking 10

**08 MIL** The good news is Ben Sheets is 9-1 with a 2.59 ERA and has pitched an MLB-high three complete games. The bad news? Sheets is so upset the Brewers didn't offer him an extension before the season that he said this week he'll likely be a free agent at season's end. "That's the direction I'm heading," he said. "You can't invite yourself back."

Last week's power ranking 9

**09 MIN** The Twins entered the weekend as the hottest team in baseball, riding a nine-game winning streak, and made up six games on the White Sox. Twins starters went 8-0 with a 2.17 ERA during the streak, and Livan Hernandez was 2-0 with a 1.29 ERA.

Last week's power ranking NR

**10 CHW** Manager Ozzie Guillen, who calls the Twins "The Piranhas," said he wasn't surprised when they charged to within half a game of the White Sox this week. He reminded everyone he talked more about the Twins than Cleveland and Detroit in spring training. Cuban defector Alexei Ramirez entered the weekend hitting .295.

Last week's power ranking 6

## BY THE NUMBERS

**2.70** Greg Maddux's ERA over his past nine starts. Maddux hasn't won any of them and has been stuck on 350 victories since May 10.

**8** Left fielders used by Detroit, including Marcus Thames, who apparently has won the job after hitting home runs in five consecutive games last week.

**14** Consecutive wins by the Cubs at Wrigley Field, their longest streak since 1936, which ended Tuesday.

## QUOTABLE



**'It's good footwork from having a 6-year-old running all over the house.'**

- **KEN GRIFFEY JR.**, Red Sox outfielder, talking about the move he put on Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez to avoid a tag between second and third.

