UPDATED: 10/16/2020

As you may know, I have my own metrics of how I determine HOF candidacy (many others won't- but essentially it's 2 levels of each category; and a player either has to meet 2 at the qualifying level, or 1 at the automatic level.

They are:

For Hitting Stats:

HR: Automatic is 500, qualifier is 400

Hits: Automatic is 3,000, qualifier is 2,500

R: Automatic is 1,800, qualifier is 1,500

RBI: Automatic is 1,800, qualifier is 1,500

SB: Automatic is 800, qualifier is 500

For Pitching Stats:

W: Automatic is 300, qualifier is 200

K: Automatic is 3,000, qualifier is 2,500

SV: Automatic is 500, qualifier is 400

For Awards/Other Achievements:

Gold Gloves: 12 is Automatic, qualifier is 7

Silver Sluggers: 12 is Automatic, qualifier is 7

Cy Young: 3 is Automatic, qualifier is 2

MVP: 3 is Automatic, qualifier is 2

All-Star: 15 is Automatic, qualifier is 10

Batting Titles: 5 is Automatic, 3 is qualifier

Pitching Titles: 5 is Automatic, 3 is qualifier

Triple Crowns: 2 is Automatic, 1 is qualifier

So a player could be HOF worthy in my eyes if he had 400 HR & 1,500 R scored as two qualifiers, as an example. Or a player would be worthy in my eyes if they had 10x All-Star Appearances and 7 Silver Sluggers. Or if a player had won the Pitching Triple Crown twice. Yes, I am aware this system leans quantitative (counting) stats as opposed to qualitative stats).

They say that in any given year, there are 40 active players on average that will someday be HOFers. Some will be on their way out and retiring, many in their prime, and some just starting out- or even could be rookies. This is my prediction of who those players are following the 2020 season. It will be fun to watch and see how many I get right in 20-30 years!

**I'd Vote For Them If They Retired Today**

1.Albert Pujols (Is in the top 5 all-time for: HR & RBI, has 3 MVPs and is in the 3,000 Hit Club).

2.Clayton Kershaw (3 CY Youngs, and will be in the 3,000 K Club)

3. Miguel Cabrera (Should wind up in BOTH the 500 HR Club & 3,00 Hit Club)

4. Mike Trout (Do I really need to tell you why?)

5. Justin Verlander (3,000 K Club Member)

6. Max Scherzer (has won 3 CY Youngs, and will be in the 3,000 K Club)

7. Zack Greinke (2,500+ K & 200+ W already. Could crack 3K & 250)

8. Felix Hernandez (A true test case, but 2,500+ K & 2 Pitching Titles get him in)

**On The Doorstep/Have Met Once of My Qualifiers Already**

9. Yadier Molina (9 Gold Gloves, and the defense. Not a fan, but think he gets in)

10. Cole Hamels (Already 2,500+ K, and 37 W away from 200. I think he gets there)

11. Nolan Arenado (7x Gold Glover, Insane Pace)

12. Jacob DeGrom (2x Cy Young Qualifer, but needs more hardware or serious longevity)

13. Jose Altuve (Has 3x Batting Title, but needs to beef up stats on backside of career. The Astros scandal fallout could seriously hurt his career. Not to mention- was he just cheating and not that good?)

**Closest to hitting 1 Qualifer/Next Tier Down**

14. Jon Lester (7 W from 200, and 107 K from 2,500. Also insane postseason)

15. Madison Bumgarner (80 W from 200, and 676 K from 2,500. Needs a strong second act)

16. Craig Kimbrel (Current Reliever with best chance, 152 Saves from 500)

17. Chris Sale (91 W from 200, and 493 K from 2,500. Good shot at 3,000 K Club)

18. Edwin Encarnacion (Close to 500 HR, he has 424. Will be a good test case if he makes it- since he's 37 years old)

**Purely Speculation**

19. Buster Posey (Has hardware, catchers are amongst the hardest to predict worthiness- and name recognition. I think he's a future veteran's committee inductee)

20. Freddie Freeman (has to have longevity, and maintain his current pace for a while)

21. Mookie Betts (Is one of four players currently in the game that could end up with 400 HR/2,500 H/500 SB/1,500 R/1,500 RBI- and that is very rare)

22. Manny Machado (Started young, and is still early in his prime. 200+ HR, 1,200+ H, 500+R/500+RBI- he's on track)

23. Bryce Harper (Started young, solid numbers in multiple categories)

24. Gerrit Cole (Will be at 100 W and 1,500 K before 30- needs to produce more hardware/keep pace)

25. Giancarlo Stanton (Easily forgotten about, but IF he can stay healthy- has a great chance to get to 500 HR. Already has over 300, and still possesses crazy power).

26. Alex Bregman (Good start, super early in career)

27. Ronald Acuna Jr. (Here's another one of them. 5 category player by my metrics. Started at young age, should have lots of hardware by the time his career ends.)

28. Juan Soto (Him and Acuna should battle it out in the NL East, and for NL MVP, and for best young superstar for years to come. Already has a WS ring and pedigree. Also got his start super young).

29. Cody Bellinger (Young, talented, has an MVP and is off to a great start at the age of 25.)

30. Christian Yelich (Has been very good in his short career. Has some hardware already too)

**Now I'm Really Throwing Darts**

31. Jose Ramirez (He's one of the 4 aforementioned players on pace for 400 HR/2,500 H/500 SB/1,500 R/1,500 RBI- He could also win the 2020 AL MVP).

32. Fernando Tatis Jr. (Multi-tool talent. Super Good at a super young age in MLB)

33. Shane Bieber (Good, young pitcher that I just like his stuff. He's 24, and I'm guessing. I was saying this before he had a pitching triple crown in 2020.)

34. Trevor Bauer (Call me crazy..or him; but if he can stay at an elite level, and pitch into his late 30s- he has a shot.)

35. Nick Markakis (Has an outside shot at 3,000 H. He's at 2,388- I don't think he gets there; but that's why he made my list).

36. Ozzie Albies (I'm allowed 1 homer pick right? Atleast he plays a shallow position in modern MLB...)

37. Walker Buehler (I think he is THE future at SP in the next wave. 'nuf ced).

38. Eloy Jimenez (Lots of potential, solid 2020, resurgent White Sox this year/for the future- and is going into his age 24 season. If I'm going to speculate, might as well back a blue-chip prospect if I'm going to back a prospect).

39. Luis Robert (again, another pure guess- but the ball just sounds different coming off his bat. Also getting his MLB start at just 22. If he can fix the swing-and-miss, the potential is monstrous).

40. Pete Alonso (Light-tower power in year one, over 50 HR--Can he do that another 9 seasons? haha)