



# Collin's Corner

## Louisiana's Major Leaguers in the World Series

by Lee Collin

September 1, 2001

The state of Louisiana has contributed thirty-six players to the October Classic. The Louisiana pipeline to the fall classic started in the 1914 series when **Larry Gilbert** of the Boston Braves appeared as a pinch-hitter against the Philadelphia Phillies. Since Gilbert's initial appearance, there have been thirty-five Bayou State natives in a World Series.

The first Louisiana player to have an impact in series play was Bastrop's **Bill Dickey**. In the 1932 series against the Cubs, the Yankee catcher pounded Chicago pitching for a .438 average with 4 RBIs. Dickey played in eight World Series for the Yanks, compiling a .255 average with 5 home runs and 24 RBIs.

Gretna's **Mel Ott** set the pace for the New York Giants in the 1933 series against the Washington Senators. Master Melvin blasted a two-run homer in the bottom of the 1<sup>st</sup> inning to start the scoring in Game One of the series. His solo home run in the 10<sup>th</sup> inning of Game Five gave the Giants a 4 – 3 victory and the world title. Ott played in three World Series for the Giants, hitting .295 with 4 home runs and 10 RBIs.

The St. Louis Browns' **Jack Kramer** turned in a masterpiece in Game Three of the 1994 classic against their cross-town rival St. Louis Cardinals. The Crescent City right hander allowed no earned runs while scattering 7 hits and fanning 10 in a 6 – 2 Browns victory. In the series Kramer pitched a total of 11 innings, allowing 9 hits while striking out 12 and posting a 0.00 ERA.

**Howie Pollet** of New Orleans pitched a gem in the opening game of the 1946 fall classic against the Boston Red Sox, losing on a 10<sup>th</sup> inning home run off the bat of Boston slugger Rudy York. Pollet gave up 9 hits while whiffing 3 Red Sox batters in going the distance for the St. Louis Cardinals in a 3 – 2 defeat.

Mansfield's **Vida Blue** did not fare so well in the fall classic as a member of the Oakland A's. In three world series with the A's (1972 – 1974) Blue went 0 – 3 with an ERA of 4.05 in 8 games.

Lefthander Ron Guidry of Lafayette pitched brilliantly in his three World Series (1977, 1978, 1981) all with the New York Yankees. The Yankee southpaw threw a total of 32 innings, giving up 20 hits while striking out 26 and posting an ERA of 1.69 to go along with a 3 – 1 record.

The Yankee's **Andy Pettitte**, a Baton Rouge native, has gone 2 – 1 with a 3.82 ERA in four World Series appearances (1996, 1998 – 2000) with the Yanks. His 3 – 0 win against San Diego in Game Four of the 1998 series gave New York the world title.

**Rusty Staub's** only series appearance came in 1973 as a member of the New York Mets. The New Orleans native led all hitters with 11 hits, 6 RBIs, and a .423 average. His three-run homer in Game Four evened the series at two all with Oakland.

A complete record through the 2001 season follows.

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## World Series Participants

*Through the 2001 Season*

Player	Hometown	Team	Year(s)
Larry Gilbert	New Orleans	Boston Braves	1914
Mule Watson	Homer	New York Giants	1923 - 24
Joe Martina	New Orleans	Washington Senators	1924
Jim Lindsey	Greensburg	St. Louis Cardinals	1930 - 31
Bill Dickey	Bastrop	New York Yankees	1932, 1936 - 39, 1941 - 43
Mel Ott	Gretna	New York Giants	1933, 1936 - 37
Bill Lee	Plaquemine	Chicago Cubs	1935, 1938
Lou Chiozza	Tallulah	New York Giants	1937
Nino Bongiovanni	New Orleans	Cincinnati Reds	1939
Howie Pollet	New Orleans	St. Louis Cardinals	1942, 1946
Lou Klein	New Orleans	St. Louis Cardinals	1943
Al Jurisich	New Orleans	St. Louis Cardinals	1944
Jack Kramer	New Orleans	St. Louis Cardinals	1944
Connie Ryan	New Orleans	Boston Braves	1948
Putsy Caballero	New Orleans	Philadelphia Phillies	1951
George Strickland	New Orleans	Cleveland Indians	1954
Joe Adcock	Coushatta	Milwaukee Braves	1957 - 58
Reggie Smith	Shreveport	Boston Red Sox	1967
		Los Angeles Dodgers	1977 - 78, 1981
Earl Wilson	Ponchatoula	Detroit Tigers	1968
Curt Motton	Darnell	Baltimore Orioles	1969
Vida Blue	Mansfield	Oakland A's	1972 - 74
Rusty Staub	New Orleans	New York Mets	1973
George Stone	Ruston	New York Mets	1973
Ron Guidry	Lafayette	New York Yankees	1977 - 78, 1981
Matt Alexander	Shreveport	Pittsburgh Pirates	1979
Billy Smith	Jonesboro	Baltimore Orioles	1979
Will Clark	New Orleans	San Francisco Giants	1989
Greg Litton	New Orleans	San Francisco Giants	1989
Norm Charlton	Fort Polk	Cincinnati Reds	1990
Albert Belle	Shreveport	Cleveland Indians	1995
Andy Pettitte	Baton Rouge	New York Yankees	1996, 1998 - 2000
Chad Ogea	Lake Charles	Cleveland Indians	1997
Andy Sheets	Baton Rouge	San Diego Padres	1998
Russ Springer	Alexandria	Atlanta Braves	1999
Gerald Williams	New Orleans	Atlanta Braves	1999
Darryl Hamilton	Baton Rouge	New York Yankees	2000

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