

# Tigers Stripes

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Mayo Smith Society

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## J.D. IS K.T., A-OK! -- By Mark Pattison

There was no doubt about it. J.D. Martinez burst out to an early lead in the voting, was never headed and in fact lapped the field before it was all over. This makes the Tigers' right fielder King Tiger for 2015. The Mayo Smith Society will give the award to J.D. at some point during the Society's annual Spring Training Trip.

Martinez, whose 2014 season was nothing to sniff at, bettered his numbers across the board, but it could have been expected for someone playing full time from Opening Day. He finished his first full season with the Tigers and established career highs in games played (158), at-bats (596), runs scored (93), hits (168), doubles (33), home runs (38), RBI (102) and walks (53).

It should also be noted that second baseman Ian Kinsler finished second and first baseman and four-time American League batting titlist Miguel Cabrera finished third. Also garnering voters were starter Justin Verlander, reliever Alex Wilson and former catcher Alex Avila, who signed a free-agent deal Nov. 25 with the White Sox.

Now let's read what you, the voters, had to say about the winner: "I vote for J.D. Martinez; he makes all of us note-takers look good."--Brad Battson; "My vote for 2015 King Tiger goes to J.D. Martinez. He not only had an outstanding year at the plate, but showed great improvement defensively in right field. He's also emerged as a good influence in the clubhouse and in the community."—Nick Edson; "With all due respect to Tom Gorzelanny and Buck Farmer, there really is only one choice here -- J.D. Martinez -- he be hustlin', hustlin', hustlin'!!!!" – Scott Byrne; "I see I can't split my vote, so let's give it to J.D."—Rick Vosik; "My vote for King Tiger has to go to J.D. Martinez. Overall, down seasons for Miggy (how spoiled he's made me -- winning the batting title in what was for him an off year}, Victor and Justin, and while David Price and Yoenis Cespedes had amazing seasons, through no fault of their own they spent only half a year in Detroit. Kinsler came on hard later in the season, but he didn't wind up exceeding expectations -- and who predicted 38 home runs and a decent BA for a guy who'd been released by the Astros(!) just last season! It has to be J.D."—Stephen Mitros.

But wait, there's more! "Tough season, yet King Tiger has to go to J.D. Martinez. Great second-year season for J.D. He also appears to be a great person. Miggy is obviously the best ballplayer on the club, yet his season was cut short. I also considered Ian Kinsler and Alex Wilson. And a great finish by Justin Verlander. Very good season for these ballplayers, also. Yoenis Cespedes was heading toward 'King Tiger' consideration, but was traded. Enjoyed watching him bat and run the bases, and I'm not sure if I've seen a better defensive left fielder in my 50+ years of being a Tiger fan. Would have considered our new GM Al Avila as top Tiger, but he went ahead and kept our field Manager. Ooops, ouch, sorry! Well, hoping everyone wearing the 'Ol' English D' gets better next year. That includes myself, Brad, as I have part of my wardrobe, with the 'Ol' English D' proudly displayed. Hooaah!" -- Dean A. Ross; "This was a tough choice this year. There were only a couple of worthy candidates, in my opinion. I am voting for J.D. Martinez. It seemed like there were many games where the Tigers were out of it in the eighth inning only to have J.D. come up with runners on and hit a home run to tie the game or put us ahead. Every time he came up late in the game, I felt like we still had a chance. Unfortunately, it didn't happen enough with other players. He has started getting a reputation with his good throwing arm, too, and runners started being held at third."—Deana Carr

But there was solid support for Kinsler: "Our choice for King Tiger is Ian Kinsler. Even in the dark days of a dismal season he always gave 100 in effort and enthusiasm -- the ultimate professional. His value to the team was not only on the field but could be seen in the clubhouse as well, particularly his relationship with some of the younger players." – Norm & Evelyn Young; "Got to go with Ian Kinsler this year. Yes his defense was not so great at times, but he remains the most versatile player on the team. Of course I'm taking Miggy for

granted; all he did was win another batting title. But he wasn't playing when the season was disintegrating, and Ian was in there competing day in and day out."—Paul Dent; "My vote for King Tiger goes to Ian Kinsler. His unwavering professionalism and on-field results during a difficult year, along with his Kinsler's Kids charity in which he and his wife, Tess, enable children and families associated with The Children's Center and Children's Hospital of Michigan to experience the joy of Tigers baseball, make Ian most deserving of this award."—Todd Miller

Here are Society members' justifications for Miguel Cabrera: "I still say Cabrera. He won a batting title giving Tigers fan something to cheer about in an otherwise dismal season and some people who followed the Tigers all season argue that his injury during the series against the Blue Jays marked the beginning of the end for the Tigers. Without him, the bottom fell out." —Maxwell Kates; "Despite a disappointing season by our Tigers there was some good stories. Yoenis Cespedes was a great addition but unfortunately he didn't last. The same for David Price, sorry to him go as well. A great turnaround by Justin Verlander gives us faith for next season for sure, I just can't wait for opening day when he resumes his role as opening day starter. And how about the numbers J. D. Martinez put up!!! My vote is for Miguel Cabrera. He had another Miggy type year, we expect that from him and he delivered once again. This year was he was a little quiet then in the past, it seemed, mostly due to an injury down the stretch, but his quiet year would be a roar for anyone else in the league. Hay, it's just #24 being #24, and best if all he is OUR #24!!! Thanks again Miguel."—Ed Jackson.

And we can't forget our pair of Alexes. First, Alex Wilson: "My choice for King Tiger comes from out of a much-maligned bullpen. Alex Wilson wasn't even on the roster on Opening Day, but once he was called up, he shut the door and stopped the bleeding, frequently going multiple innings and even making a spot start. Despite our team's offensive prowess in 2015, it was the inconsistencies from the pitching staff that brought the Tigers under .500. Alex Wilson was a rare bright spot."—Mark Pattison

And now for Alex Avila, who recently signed with the White Sox as a free agent: "I'm voting for a guy that was an overlooked key part of our success the last few years, catcher Alex Avila. He personifies hard work and toughness. I have never seen a player nicked up more who continued to go about his job and continue to work. I think he sets a great example for the younger players and hope his dad sees fit to bring him back to our team."—Eric Shellhouse

Here's some more detail on our honoree:

- Selected to the American League All-Star Team for the first time in his career.
- Finished the season with 38 home runs and 102 RBI -- became the seventh player in Tigers history to hit 38 or more homers and drive in 100 or more runs in a season, joining Cabrera (2010, 2012-13), Norm Cash (1961), Rocky Colavito (1961), Cecil Fielder (1990- 91), Hank Greenberg (1937-38, 1940, 1946) and Dean Palmer (1999).
- Drove in 100 runs for the first time in his career -- the first Tigers outfielder to record 100+ RBI in a season since Magglio Ordonez had 103 in 2008.
- Ranked tied for third in the AL with 15 outfield assists, while he was fifth with 319 total bases and 73 extra base hits, seventh with 102 RBI and eighth with 38 home runs and a .535 slugging percentage.
- Had a season-best, 11-game hitting streak May 9-20, batting .410 (16x39) with seven runs scored, two doubles, two home runs and three RBI during the stretch.
- Homered in three straight games three times during the season (June 13-15 and 24-26, July 4-6).
- Recorded the first multi-homer game of his career June 21 at Yankee Stadium, hitting three home runs in the win -- became the first visiting player to hit three home runs at Yankee Stadium and the first Tiger to hit three homers vs. the Yankees since Charlie Maxwell May 3, 1959, at Briggs Stadium. ... Also established career high with six RBI.
- Reached base safely in a career-best 19 straight games June 4-26 -- during the 19-game stretch, he hit .320 (24x75) with 14 runs scored, three doubles, 10 home runs and 24 RBI.
- Named Tigers Player of the Month for June after batting .290 (27x93) with 16 runs scored, three doubles, 11 home runs and 26 RBI -- tied for the American League lead in RBI, while he was second in home runs. ... His 11 homers in June were tied for the third most in club history and were the most since Mickey Tettleton hit 11 in June 1993.

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- Chosen AL Player of the Week for the week ending July 5 after hitting .458 (11x24) with six runs scored, a double, four home runs and 10 RBI in six games -- his second career player of the week honor.
- Hit 15 home runs and drove in 35 runs over 24 games June 7-July 6 -- became the first Tiger to put together a 24-game stretch as such since Hank Greenberg from Sept. 4-29, 1946, when he hit 15 home runs and had 36 RBI.
- Recorded 25 home runs prior to the All-Star break, tied for third most in franchise history.
- Named Tigers Player of the Month for July after hitting .320 (33x103) with 21 runs scored, four doubles, one triple, eight home runs and 20 RBI -- finished tied for second in the AL in runs scored during July, while he was tied for fourth in home runs and tied for seventh in RBI.
- Finished the July 30-Aug. 2 series in Baltimore with eight RBI. According to the Elias Sports Bureau, the eight RBI were the most by a Tigers player in one series at Baltimore since 1986, when Kirk Gibson had nine RBI in a three-game set at Memorial Stadium.
- Hit .265 (31x117) against lefthanders...batted .286 (137x479) vs. right-handed pitchers.
- Posted a .282 (84x298) batting average at Comerica Park...hit .282 (84x298) on the road.
- Hit .289 (95x329) with 57 runs scored, 16 doubles, 25 home runs and 59 RBI before the All-Star break.  
... Hit .273 (73x267) with 36 runs scored, 17 doubles, two triples, 13 home runs and 43 RBI following the All-Star break.

#### **THAT'S "ZIMMERMANN" WITH TWO "N"'S – By David Raglin**

Dave Dombrowski was known for making his offseason moves early, and it seems like Al Avila is picking up where Dombrowski left off. The Tigers fired the first bullet in the 2015-16 free agent market by signing former Washington Nationals starter Jordan Zimmermann to a five-year, \$110 million contract on the last day of November. It seems like the Tigers and the Nats exchange starting pitchers every offseason these days; two years ago, Doug Fister was traded from the Tigers to the Nationals and last year, Max Scherzer went the other way as a free agent for seven years and \$210 million. (The Scherzer-Zimmermann comparison is apt; as good as Scherzer is, the difference between the two is not worth two years and \$100 million more.)

The Tigers made it clear in the press conference after the signing that Zimmermann was their first choice and they went after him hard. Zimmermann said that influenced him; other teams he was talking to had him as their second or third choice. Zimmermann wanted to get it all over with as soon as possible, which matched the Tigers' wishes.

So, what did the Tigers get? Zimmermann is a Wisconsin native and played ball at Division III Wisconsin-Stevens Point before the Nats picked him in the second round of the 2007 draft at the behest of Mike Rizzo (who was not the Nat's GM yet). He shot through the minor leagues, becoming a member of the Washington rotation early in the 2009 season. However, after 16 starts, he hurt his elbow and had to have Tommy John surgery that August. He made it back on the mound about 11 months later and had a few appearances for the Nats in 2010 before having a breakout season in 2011 as the Nationals reached respectability. He was a mainstay in their incredible 2012 season, and had his best season in ERA, strikeouts per nine innings, walks per nine innings in 2014 as the Nationals won their second National League Eastern Division crown in three seasons. Reportedly the Nationals offered him a five-year, \$105 million contract to take effect in 2016 but Zimmermann turned it down.

The 2015 season was a huge disappointment for the Nats, and Zimmermann did not have a very good season. The first half of the season was good for both the team and the pitcher. Zimmermann's seven-inning, one run mastery over the defending World Series champion Giants gave Zimmermann a 3.04 ERA on the season and put the Nationals up by 4.5 games in the East. It was downhill for both from that point. The Washington baseball team was almost as dysfunctional as the elected representatives fifteen blocks north, fueled in part by Zimmermann's 4.36 ERA in his last 16 starts, and after the fighting in the dugout was over, the Nationals were long past being in the pennant race.

**Jordan Zimmermann Career Stats**

Year	Age	Team	G	IP	H	R	ER	HR	BB	SO	W	L	WHIP	ERA
2009	23	Washington	16	91.1	95	51	47	10	29	92	3	5	1.36	4.63
2010	24	Washington	7	31.0	31	20	17	8	10	27	1	2	1.32	4.94
2011	25	Washington	26	161.1	154	62	57	12	31	124	8	11	1.15	3.18
2012	26	Washington	32	195.2	186	69	64	18	43	153	12	8	1.17	2.94
2013	27	Washington	32	213.1	192	81	77	19	40	161	19	9	1.09	3.25
2014	28	Washington	32	199.2	185	67	59	13	29	182	14	5	1.07	2.66
2015	29	Washington	33	201.2	204	89	82	24	39	164	13	10	1.21	3.66
Total in 7 Major League Seasons			178	1094.0	1047	439	403	104	221	903	70	50	1.16	3.32

Was this a good signing? In general, the baseball press, both conventional and sabermetric, have been more positive than not. Fangraphs has a poll each year where people can predict what players will get in free agency, and the consensus for Zimmermann was six years, \$120 million. Most of the time, the eventual contract is for more than the Fangraphs crowd-sourcing consensus, so that is good. Their analyst August Fagerstrom looked at a reasonable expectation at what Zimmermann will produce in Wins Above Replacement (WAR) and the expected cost per WAR and concluded that the contract will be very fair if Zimmermann is healthy.

That is one concern about it. Jordan Zimmermann is the first pitcher with Tommy John surgery to get a nine-figure contract. According to Tom Boswell of the Washington Post, the Nationals have a rule of thumb is that a pitcher has eight seasons after a Tommy John surgery and 2016 will be Year 7. (Of course, that begs the question of why they reportedly offered him that \$105 million deal.) Part of that concern is that his 2015 season was a more-than-small dropoff from his career-best 2014 season. As you can see, his fastball velocity (almost all four-seam fastballs) dropped in 2015. Looking at a graph on the Fangraphs site of his velocity by start, it was pretty consistent throughout the 2015 season.

**Jordan Zimmermann Fastball Speed and Pitch Selection, 2012-2015**

Season	Avg FB Speed	Pitches 95+	Pitches 94+	% Fastball	% Slider	% Cutter	% Changeup
2012	93.8	236	883	63%	24%	12%	2%
2013	93.9	272	987	64%	20%	12%	5%
2014	93.7	159	928	72%	17%	8%	3%
2015	93.0	31	296	62%	22%	15%	0%

A reason for concern? Yes, certainly anytime a pitcher with that injury history loses that much on his fastball at one time, you have to look closely. He threw the fastball more often in 2014 than he had in previous years, but it was not unprecedented; his pitch selection in 2015 looks a lot like the pitch selection in 2012 and 2013. He was an effective pitcher last year, especially before the Nationals as a group fell apart in the second half, doing that with a drop in velocity. Remember, he still threw 93; it's not like he turned into a junkballer.

Giving that much money for that long to a player at the most fragile position in the game is always a risk, and if Zimmermann gets hurt early in the contract, it will look like a bad risk. That is, unless, the Tigers accomplish Mike Ilitch's goal that he reiterated at Zimmermann's press conference: to win the World Series. He made it clear that the spending is not done and he will overspend, to the point of even hitting the luxury tax, if it can bring the Detroit the championship. The Tigers know they need another decent starter and some bullpen help (and let's hope they agree with us that a lefthanded-hitting left fielder is worth getting). If Zimmermann plays a key role in a 2016 World Series championship, it will be money well-spent by the guy who, after all, is the one spending the money. Since, after all, it's not my money, I'm fine with that. ☺

**K-ROD’S THE NEW CLOSER** – By David Raglin

New General Manager Al Avila set the foundation for the Zimmermann signing by filling a couple of needs by trading for players who did not cost much, either in money or in players. The first move was acquiring closer Francisco Rodriguez for a moderate prospect and a player to be named later. That was an especially notable move given the lack of proven relief pitchers available in the free agent market this winter. We have to take a moment to contrast this trade with the deal Avila’s mentor, Dave Dombrowski, made for his new club in Boston to get a closer. Yes, the Sox got a better closer (how much better, we are not sure), but Dombrowski traded four highly-regarded prospects for Craig Kimbrel, much less than the price for Rodriguez.

When I heard of the trade, my reaction was, “Isn’t he a really old guy? He’s been around forever!” I was right on the second part, wrong on the first. K-Rod has 14 years in the majors but will be only 34 this season.

Rodriguez came up in 2002 as a 20-year-old, gaining the nickname “K-Rod,” a play on A-Rod and the fact he struck out 28 guys in 18.2 innings in the 2002 postseason and playing a key role in the Angels’ only World Series championship run. He even being in the postseason was precedence-setting; he made his major league debut on September 18, 2002, and only pitched in five games in the regular season. The rule was that a player had to be on the major league roster on August 31, but Rodriguez was not called up until September 15. However, the Angels had a pitcher on the 60-day disabled list who had not pitched all season, and there was a rule that a player on the 40-man roster and on the disabled list could be replaced on the postseason roster by another player in the organization. The Angels were the first team to do that, but many have done it since.

He’s also the answer to a trivia question, as the first pitcher since Detroit’s Virgil Trucks to have not won a game during the regular season, but to win a game that postseason. K-Rod did that in 2002. Trucks did it in 1945; after being discharged from the Navy, he started one game in the Tigers’ final-weekend series in St. Louis against the Browns – and won in the Fall Classic against the Cubs (who haven’t been back since).

Rodriguez remained with the Angels through the 2008 season, saving 40 or more games in each of the last four seasons, with a still-record 62 saves in 2007. He declared free agency and signed with the Mets, where he played for two-and-a-half seasons before being traded to the Brewers, where he was a set-up man for the first time, for closer John Axford for the rest of 2011 and the 2012 season. He was made the closer in 2013 again but traded to the Orioles in midseason before returning to Milwaukee the last two seasons, where he was the closer again. As you can see below, he has had pretty good stats the last couple of seasons for the Brewers:

**Francisco Rodriguez Stats for Milwaukee, 2014 and 2015**

Year	G	IP	H	R	ER	HR	BB	SO	W	L	SV	BS	ERA
2014	69	68.0	49	23	23	14	18	73	5	5	44	5	3.04
2015	60	57.0	38	15	14	6	11	62	1	3	38	2	2.21

He even had a better 2015 season than his strong 2014 season. His ERA was lower, he only blew two saves, and he allowed many fewer home runs in 2014. He still strikes out lots of hitters, but differently now.

**Francisco Rodriguez Pitch Selection and Results, 2007-2015**

Year	Team	Changeup	Fastball	Other	Avg FB Velocity	Saves	ERA
2007	LA Angels	10%	53%	37%	94.4	40	2.81
2008	LA Angels	16%	51%	33%	92.2	62	2.24
2009	NY Mets	22%	57%	21%	92.7	35	3.71
2010	NY Mets	17%	60%	22%	91.1	25	2.20
2011	NY Mets/Milwaukee	19%	60%	21%	90.2	23	2.64
2012	Milwaukee	19%	62%	19%	91.7	3	4.38
2013	Milwaukee/Baltimore	22%	56%	21%	91.0	10	2.70
2014	Milwaukee	28%	56%	16%	90.5	44	3.04
2015	Milwaukee	43%	45%	12%	89.5	38	2.21

Rodriguez used to blow hitters away. In 2007, for example, he threw a pitch over 104 mph. His velocity started falling but he still relied on the fastball, even throwing it more often during his New York days. The last couple of seasons, especially last year, he started relying on his changeup. He threw his changeup almost as often as his fastball last year. His percentage of changeups, 43 percent, was the highest in the majors in 2015—only one other pitcher had even 40 percent and only nine others had 30 percent or more with 30 or more innings pitched. Most of those names are obscure, including three Colorado relievers; the only “names” on the list were onetime Tiger Fernando Rodney and Tyler Clippard with 38 percent, and Ryan Madson and Jake Odorizzi with 30 percent. There were more pitchers with a fastball percentage under 50 percent, but most of those relied on either a cutter or a slider, not a changeup.

The good news about that pitch selection is that we are concerned about what pitchers will do once they get older and the fastball is not the same. Rodriguez has been through that but he has developed an alternative, so there is no reason to believe he won't be an effective closer for the 2016 Tigers.

### **WELCOME BACK, CAMERON** – By David Raglin

The Tigers continued their steps towards rebuilding the team by acquiring former Detroit center field prospect Cameron Maybin from the Atlanta Braves for reliever Ian Krol and prospect Gabe Speier. The right-handed Maybin will basically replace Rajai Davis, who is a free agent. The Tigers had made an offer to Davis but they decided to go in a different direction with this trade.

Maybin has come full circle. He was the #10 pick in the 2005 draft and was considered to be a coup for the Tigers. After a strong season at West Michigan as a 19-year-old, Baseball America rated him the #6 prospect in baseball. He rose quickly in 2007, going from Lakeland to Erie to Detroit, making his major league debut on August 17, 2007, at the tender age of 20. Three and a half months later, rated again the #6 prospect in baseball after the 2007 season, he was no longer a Tiger, going to Florida along with fellow top prospect Andrew Miller and four other players for some guy named Cabrera (who worked out pretty well in Detroit) and Dontrelle Willis (who didn't).

When the trade happened, I was of two minds. I was excited to get Cabrera (even though I had no idea he was this great), but I remember lamenting having to give up Maybin. I know that sounds silly now, but Cabrera was somebody else's star, like Ivan Rodriguez and Maglio Ordonez. I wanted our star, a player we could see grow from minor league prospect to major league star wearing the Old English D, much like the kids of the late Seventies became the World Series champions of 1984. Now, I reasoned at the time, he would become a star for the Marlins.

Except that did not happen. Maybin spent most of the 2008 at AA Carolina, being named the #8 prospect in baseball after that season. He began the 2009 season as the regular center fielder for Florida but after hitting .203 with one home run and three RBIs in 26 games, he was sent to AAA New Orleans, where he remained until September. He had a good September and was again the Opening Day center fielder in 2010, but after hitting .225, albeit with five home runs and 19 RBIs, he was demoted once more to New Orleans, returning to South Florida in late August for the rest of the season.

The Marlins gave up on him after the 2010 season, sending him west to San Diego for relievers Ryan Webb and Edward Mujica. Maybin enjoyed his best major league season in 2011 for the Padres, hitting .264 with nine home runs and 40 steals playing his home games in an extreme pitchers park. The San Diego Union-Tribune felt he was the team's MVP, and the next spring, he signed a five year, \$25 million deal with an option for a sixth season. Maybin had similar stats in 2012 before injuries ruined his 2013 season. His 2014 campaign was marred by a suspension for amphetamines, which Maybin said were to treat an ADHD disorder. Maybin hit only one home run and had an on-base percentage of .290.

The Padres decided to “go for it” in 2015, trading for Justin Upton from the Braves, sending Maybin to Atlanta in the deal to even up the outfielders going both ways. That was odd since the Padres did not really have a centerfielder on the team, and the strategy did not work as the Padres were a disaster in 2015. Maybin had a so-so 2015 season, and the Braves are getting rid of their players making higher salaries, which made him available to the Tigers. Detroit will pay \$5.5 million of the \$8 million he is owed for 2016. The Tigers have an

option for \$9 million for 2017 with a \$1 million buyout, so the Tigers will pay at least \$6.5 million to Maybin under this contract.

At the top of this piece, we stated that Maybin is basically a replacement for Rajai Davis. Let's compare the offensive stats of the two right-handed hitting center fielders:

**Rajai Davis and Cameron Maybin: Tiger Right-Handed Hitting Center Fielders Past and Present**

Year	Tm	Age	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	CS	BB	SO	BA	OBP	SLG	OPS	RC	RC/G
Rajai Davis	Det	34	112	341	55	88	16	11	8	30	18	8	22	76	.258	.306	.440	.746	45	4.5
Cameron Maybin	Atl	28	141	505	65	135	18	2	10	59	23	6	45	102	.267	.327	.370	.697	61	4.1

Davis did not play as much as Maybin, often sitting about against right-handers, while Maybin was a regular. Davis had better percentage stats than Maybin in 2015, but that was in part that he did better than usual against righties, against whom he traditionally struggles.

I think this is a good exchange. Why? First of all, the age difference. Davis is 34 and there is evidence that he is losing some of his speed, which is the key to his game. Bill James has a state called baserunning gain, which takes into account both stolen bases/caught stealing and advancements on hits. Davis was +48 in 2013 and +37 in 2014, but dipped to +4 (just about average) in 2015. Second of all, Maybin has traditionally had a very small platoon differential; for 2015 his slash line was .237/.338/.373 against southpaws and .273/.323/.370 against righties. For his career, it is .241/.298/.347 against left-handers and .255/.318/.373 against right-handers. Given the overabundance of right-handed hitters on the Tigers, they need right-handed hitters who can at least hold their own against right-handed pitchers.

This does not solve the Tigers' outfield situation, though. Maybin does not fill the need for a left-handed hitting left fielder, since he is a right-handed hitting center fielder. Tyler Collins is a left-handed hitting left fielder, but neither he nor Anthony Gose are good enough hitters to be a regular on a team that is trying to win. Acquiring a decent lefty left fielder would also give the Tigers some pretty good outfield depth, and maybe Collins or the other outfielder could get time at first to give the Tigers an option at first if Miggy gets hurt again. The Tigers have had a bad bench the last few years, and it has hurt them when injuries occur or players underperform.

**TWO-TIME TIGERS** -- By David Raglin and Mark Pattison

The reacquisition of Cameron Maybin by the Tigers got Dave and Mark thinking about players with two stints with Detroit. We started naming players, and in a few minutes, we had come up with the All-Time Two-Time Tigers Team, using the roster of all-time Tigers in the media guide to identify players. To qualify for the team, a player must have played for another major league team between his periods with the Tigers. We were actually a bit surprised how good this team turned out. Here it is:

**All-Time Two-Time Tigers Team**

Position	Name	1 <sup>st</sup> Stint	2 <sup>nd</sup> Stint	Comments
C	Brad Ausmus	1996	1999-2000	Part of four Randy Smith trades, also had two stints with HOU
1B	Roy Cullenbine	1938-39	1945-47	Started and ended with DET, had .412 OBP as a Tiger
2B	Omar Infante	2002-07	2012-13	One of three Tigers to play in both 2006 & 2012 World Series
SS	Ramon Santiago	2002-03	2006-13	Traded to SEA in a deal with Juan Gonzalez (not <u>that</u> Juan!)
3B	Darnell Coles	1986-87	1990	In all-20 HR infield in 1986 (w/ Evans, Whitaker, Tram, Parrish)
LF	Hoot Evers	1941, 46-52	1954	Worked in Tigers front office from 1971 to 1990
CF	Cameron Maybin	2007	Will start in 2016	#10 pick by Tigers in 2005, just before Andrew McCutcheon
RF	Vic Wertz	1947-52	1961-63	Finished in top 10 in HRs seven times, four as a Tiger
DH	Pete Incaviglia	1991	1998	Hitting coach for DET AA team in Erie from 2004 to 2006
SP	Dan Petry	1979-87	1990-91	Made MI his post-career home, son Jeff plays for the Canadiens

**All-Time Two-Time Tigers Team**

Position	Name	1 <sup>st</sup> Stint	2 <sup>nd</sup> Stint	Comments
SP	Jeremy Bonderman	2003-10	2013	Played for hometown SEA, and DET, in 2013 comeback season
SP	Jim Slaton	1978	1986	Also had two stints with MIL, sandwiching 1978 season in DET
SP	Wild Bill Donovan	1903-12	1918	Tigers coach who made two spot starts late in the 1918 season
SP	Virgil Trucks	1941-43, 45-52	1956	Threw two no-hitters in 1952 while going 5-19
RP	Todd Jones	1997-2001	2006-2008	Society's only King Tiger Lifetime Achievement Award winner
RP	Jose Lima	1994-96	2001-02	Well-liked player and personality who died too young in 2010
RP	Eric King	1986-88	1992	Gave up Ken Griffey Jr.'s first major league home run
Mgr	Bucky Harris	1929-33	1955-56	Led WAS to only WS victory in 1924 as first-year manager

Honorable mentions include Reno Bertoia, Wayne Comer, Johnny Groth, Billy Hitchcock, and a special one for Sam Thompson, who played for the Detroit Wolverines of the National League from 1885 to 1888 and the Tigers in 1906. His Tiger appearance, like Donovan's, was after he'd retired as an active player; he was filling in while the Tigers battled a spate of outfield injuries.

**SHORT STRIPES** – By Mark Pattison

- Looking for something Tiger-ish under your tree? In addition to “Detroit Tigers Lists and More: Runs, Hits and Eras” and/or “Detroit Tigers 1984: What a Start! What a Finish!” (see below on how to order), or a Mayo Smith T-shirt from the Detroit Athletic Company (ditto), there's a new book, “In Cobb's Shadow,” by Dan D'Adonna, published by MacFarland & Co. It profiles the other Tigers who played the outfield during Ty's 22-season tenure with Detroit, including Hall of Famers, Sam Crawford Harry Heilmann and Heinie Manush.
- “Detroit Tigers Lists and More” features all-time teams of fellows who played for the Tigers and most of the other big-league teams; when it was published, the Rockies, Marlins, Devil Rays and Diamondbacks hadn't been around long enough to offer a full team. Such is the case with the Washington Nationals, who moved from Montreal in 2005. The starting pitching is great with Scherzer, Fister and Zimmermann, and a top-notch batterymate in Ivan Rodriguez. But then the quality starts falling off precipitously: a bullpen with Ryan Perry, Ian Krol and Robbie Ray, and Nook Logan in center field. Dmitri Young can be the DH because by the time of his Comeback Player of the Year award with the Nats, it was really a Comeback Hitter prize, because he certainly wasn't a Comeback Fielder. Unless, of course, he fielded a comebacker. Maybe.
- Are you wondering if you've ever seen an issue of *Tigers Stripes* this big? Just once, as your erstwhile newsletter crew was just pumping out reams of copy in October 2006, celebrating Detroit's first visit to the playoffs in nearly two decades. We were trying to think of something to write about the upcoming ALCS against Oakland when Columbus, Ohio, law professor Brad Smith wrote a terrific essay on the 1972 Tigers-A's ALCS that was far superior to anything we could have put together. He let us use it and he got a free Society membership in return.

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Mayo Smith Society, PO Box 119,  
Northville, MI 48167

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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For **Detroit Tigers 1984; What a Start! What a Finish!** (\$20) and **Detroit Tigers Lists and More**, (\$10), autographed by

authors David Raglin and Mark Pattison, send to:

Mark Pattison, 1221 Floral St. NW,  
Washington, DC 20012

City, St/Pr \_\_\_\_\_

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Our shirts are now sold through the Detroit Athletic Company. To purchase a shirt, call 313/961-3550.

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

*Tigers Stripes*, the official newsletter of the Mayo Smith Society, is published nine times a year. **Publisher/Society Administrator:** Todd Miller (412/848-1082, toddprmtg@verizon.net). **Editor:** Mark Pattison (202/829-9289, pattison\_mark@hotmail.com). **Writer/ Sabermetrician:** David Raglin (703/556-0332 or 703/835-1198, darags@ymail.com). **Membership Services Coordinator:** Pete Wright. The Mayo Smith Society was established in 1983 by Dale Petroskey, Dennis Petroskey, and Bill Mackay.