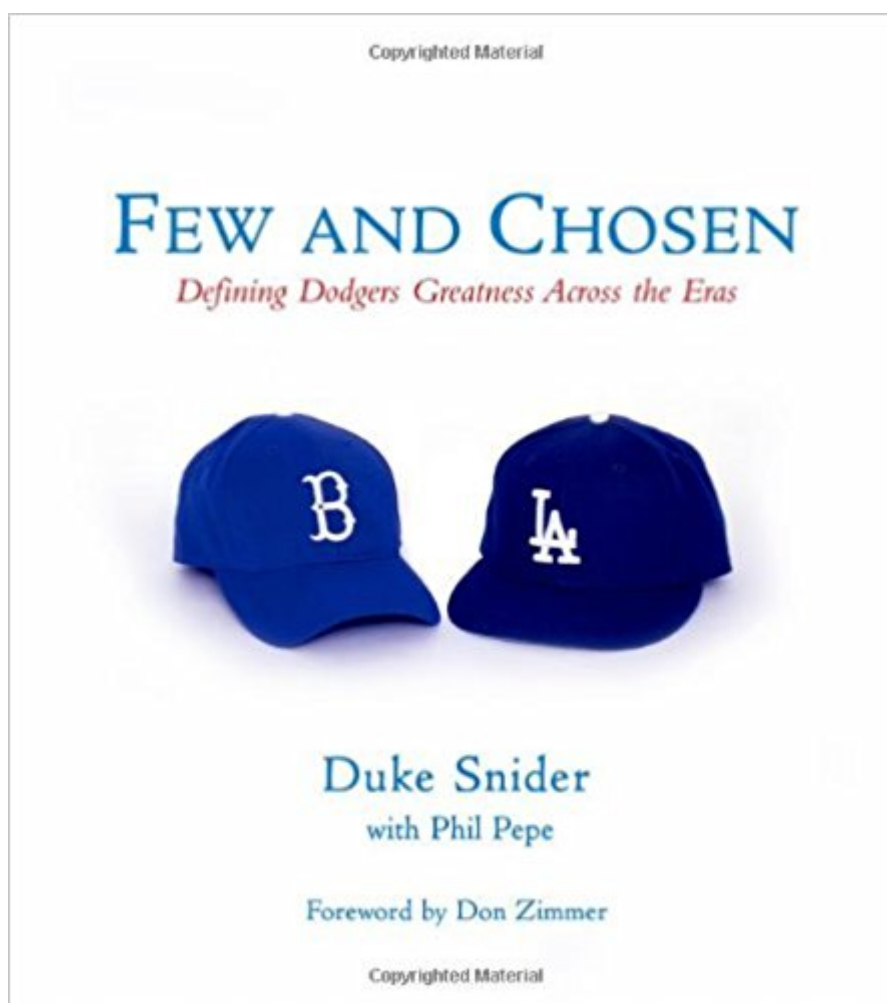


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Few And Chosen Dodgers: Defining Dodgers Greatness Across The Eras



Synopsis

Duke Snider, former Dodgers great and Hall of Famer who played on both coasts, selects the top five players at each position and the top five Dodgers managers in this exciting compilation. Evoking cherished memories of one of the richest histories in sports and spotlighting the luminescent talent that has worn Dodgers blue, the book includes profiles of Zach Wheat, Burleigh Grimes, Jackie Robinson, Sandy Koufax, Gil Hodges, Steve Garvey, and Fernando Valenzuela.

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Customer Reviews

Talk about a dream team: imagine what it would be like to take a franchise with as rich a history as the Brooklyn/Los Angeles Dodgers; with all of the wonderfully gifted athletes who graced the uniform over the past century; and assemble a lineup using only the very best players from that elite group? You'd probably take Sandy Koufax as your top left-handed pitcher, although who could forget Fernando Valenzuela or Johnny Podres? Would Don Drysdale be your choice as top right-handed pitcher or would you go with Dazzy Vance, the best thing going on for some very mediocre Dodgers teams of the '20s, or maybe you'd choose a couple of other Dons, Newcombe or Sutton? It doesn't get any easier at other positions. Would it be Hall of Famer Roy Campanella or future Hall of Famer Mike Piazza behind the plate? Jackie Robinson seems the best choice at second base but how do you ignore 10-time All Star and Hall of Famer Billy Herman? With all the incredible talent the Dodgers have had over the years, whether in Brooklyn or Los Angeles, it becomes a fairly enticing and challenging exercise. Former Dodger great

Duke Snider, who spent 16 seasons with the Dodgers and played in both Brooklyn and Los Angeles and who has witnessed more than half a century of Dodgers baseball, is up to that challenge. In *Few and Chosen*, he has ranked the top five Dodgers at each position and the top five managers. Breaking down the strengths and weaknesses of dozens of ballplayers from different eras, Snider reveals his conclusions in this richly illustrated compilation of Dodgers memories. The finished product is an entertaining and informative inside look at the best players to be part of this great and revered franchise. By bringing together the legends of Dodgers lore, as well as the team's contemporary superstars, Snider has created the ultimate tribute to the Brooklyn/Los Angeles Dodgers; while sparking lively debate among fans who hail from both coasts.

Duke Snider is a former MLB center fielder who played for the Brooklyn and Los Angeles Dodgers. He is a member of the National Baseball Hall of Fame. Phil Pepe is the author of more than 40 books on sports, including collaborations with Yankees legends Mickey Mantle, Billy Martin, and Whitey Ford. He is a former Yankees beat writer for the New York Daily News and a former president of the Baseball Writers Association of America. Don Zimmer is a former MLB infielder, manager, and coach. He made his MLB playing debut with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1954.

The Duke has written a wonderful book here that really brings the reader down baseball's memory lane in fine style. It's printed on very high quality glossy paper & the photos therefore are shown with great clarity. Duke was the best of the three great Centerfielders when they all played together as starters in New York City from 1954-1957 (the other two being Willie Mays & Mickey Mantle). Unfortunately, The Duke's career ended sooner than those two (due to injuries), so today he is not as well remembered & not as often spoken or written about. Some of my favorite parts of this book are Johnny Podres' description of the greatest catch he ever saw (in 1953, by The Duke), & Don Zimmer's explanation for why The Duke didn't receive all of the credit as a great fielder that he deserved. In this book, Duke lists the Top 5 Dodgers of all-time at each position. I agree with just about all of his choices; he surprised me by remembering how good Preacher Roe was & ranking him as #2 Lefty Pitcher behind Sandy Koufax, which I believe is accurate. The one ranking I don't agree with is his listing of Centerfielders, because his own modesty prevented him from ranking himself in the Top 5. C'mon Duke, we all know that you're Number 1! A very high class book in all respects.

A great book on so many great Dodgers in history. I grew up rooting for the L.A. Dodgers and this

book filled in my understanding of the past history of great ones I didn't know about it. Only flaw is Duke Snider doesn't rate himself as highly as he should.

I recommend this book to all old dodger fans that is circa Brooklyn. The Duke was my favorite player and he waxes eloquently about those he played with and against.

Three points about "Few and Chosen" by Duke Snider: (1) All of Duke's choices are highly defensible, except, of course, his unwillingness, out of modesty, to list himself as the greatest centerfielder in Dodger history. (2) Most of his choices are players the Duke played with: Roy Campanella as catcher, Gil Hodges at first, Jackie Robinson at second, Pee Wee Reese at short, Carl Furillo in right. Sandy Koufax as the best Dodger lefthander ever, of course, could be the best lefthander ever on any team. The Duke's choices are wise and interesting. (3) Perhaps most interesting is that a recent, excellent book about writing uses Duke Snider's reputation to make an interesting point. The book is "Honesty in the Use of Words" by Martin Naparsteck, and it's about using ethical choices, rather than mechanics like spelling and organization of an essay, to determine what is well written. If we had more honesty in writing, like Naparsteck wants us to, we would have fewer Enrons. Naparsteck refers to "The Duke Snider Syndrome." It is a reference to the fact that Snider, in the 50's, was as good as, maybe better, than the other two centerfielders playing in New York at the same time, Willie Mays and Mickey Mantle. He hit more home runs and had more RBIs in the years they all played in New York. But many people today don't know who the Duke was, while they remember Mickey and Willie. The Duke Snider Syndrome, therefore, according to Naparsteck, is the tendency we have to narrow everything down to two choices, when, in effect, there is always a third, and maybe a fourth and fifth and sometimes dozens of other choices. The Duke Snider Syndrome: a fine reference to great, almost forgotten, baseball player. (Hey, read both books, Snider's and Naparsteck's, ya know).

Perhaps there should have been two books: The Few & Chosen Brooklyn Dodgers and The Few & Chosen Los Angeles Dodgers. The Duke of Flatbush has basically wrote about the former. Did he forget the Dodgers moved to L.A. back in '57? Which is funny because he went with them and he is from SoCal. There are some glaring omissions to Duke's top five lists for each position from not selecting more deserving LA Dodgers. How Steve Sax (2nd base), Eric Karros (first base), Mike Scioscia (catcher), Jim Brewer and Mike Marshall (relief pitcher) and especially Orel Hershiser and Don Sutton (right handed pitcher) are not included in Edwin Donald's rankings is beyond me. His

Brooklyn memories are wonderful, but he needs some guidance evaluating LA Dodgers as the Dodgers have now been in Los Angeles (50 years) almost as long as they were in Brooklyn (67).

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