

Jewish Baseball

by Justice Robert E. Gordon

The Jewish players in the major leagues are:

1. Ryan Braun, age 34, Milwaukee Brewers outfielder in a 12-year career. Ryan's father was born in Israel and Ryan became the 24th player to combine 300-plus homers with 200-plus stolen bases. Ryan will eclipse Hank Greenberg's 331 homeruns this year. He was nine short at the start of the year.
2. Alex Bregman, age 24, Houston Astros third-baseman, was named Most Valuable Player in the American League in the All-Star Game in 2018, and finished 5th for the American League Most Valuable Player Award. Alex was a first-round draft pick.
3. Richard Bleier, age 30, is a left-handed pitcher for the Baltimore Orioles in his third big-league season, and had a 1.93 ERA last year. He had season-ending surgery and is on the DL.
4. Max Fried, age 24, is a left-handed pitcher for the Atlanta Braves, and is a promising star with a low ERA and may be one of the best relief pitchers in baseball. Max is a former first-round draft pick.
5. Ty Kelly, age 29, was a star for Team Israel, but this infielder and outfielder has yet to show such promise for the New York Mets.
6. Ian Kinsler, age 36, had a terrific major-league career as a great second-baseman, but this should be his last year in the majors with the San Diego Padres.
7. Ryan Lavanway, age 30, a catcher, was a star on Team Israel, but has yet shown such promise for the Pittsburgh Pirates and now with the New York Yankees.
8. Joc Pederson, age 25, is over six-foot-five, blond hair, blue eyes, and yes, he is Jewish and was born Jewish. A homerun hitter, he plays centerfield for the Los Angeles Dodgers.
9. Kevin Pillar, age 29, a centerfielder, was recently traded from the Toronto Blue Jays to the San Francisco Giants. He is in his sixth year in the big leagues.
10. Ryan Sherriff, age 27, is a left-handed pitcher who recently had Tommy John surgery and is on the DL with the Tampa Bay Rays and formerly with the St. Louis Cardinals.
11. Robert Stock, age 28, is a right-handed pitcher with the San Diego Padres, who throws over 100 mph. Last year, he finished the season with a 1-1 record and an impressive 2.50 ERA in 39.2 innings pitched, making 32 relief appearances.
12. Ryan Tellez, age 23, is a first-baseman with the Toronto Blue Jays. He was a September call-up in 2018, and hit three consecutive doubles his first three times at bat, making him the first player in major-league history to record three extra-base hits in his first three times at bat. He hit .314 with 4 homers and 14 RBIs in 19 games.
13. Zack Weiss, age 25, was a right-handed pitcher with the Cincinnati Reds who is now with the Minnesota Twins.
14. Craig Breslow, age 37, a left-handed relief pitcher, who had a wonderful 12-year major-league career was released by the Cleveland Indians and then signed by the Toronto Blue Jays and sent to the minors.
15. Danny Valencia, age 33, an infielder, outfielder, was released by the Baltimore Orioles and remains unsigned, possibly because of a reputation as a problem in the clubhouse, even though he had a .263 batting average.
16. Garrett Stubbs, age 24, a catcher with Houston, is the player to watch when he arrives in the majors. He had a good spring, and last year was voted on the AAA All-Star Team and batted .310. He is with the Fresno Grizzlies in the PCL, but he should be in the majors soon.

Between 1900 and 1966, 28 players had the last name of Cohen, but only two used their real names: Andy Cohen and Hyman Cohen, who pitched for the Cubs. Today, when we look at the roster of the 16 players above, only 4 have Jewish names.

Brad Ausmus is the new manager of the Los Angeles Angels, as is Gabe Kapler with the Philadelphia Phillies. Zach Borenstein, age 28, the outfielder from Buffalo Grove, is playing for the Chicago Cubs' AAA Iowa team and had a good spring with the Cubs. The White Sox traded pitcher Brad Goldberg to the Arizona Diamondbacks, and he is pitching for the Jackson Generals.

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