



June 2020

# COVERING THE BASES

Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Club  
Alumni Newsletter

## The Milwaukee Brewers at 50

*Special commemorative hardcover book to be released this Spring*

It's been 50 years in the making.

And for diehard Brewers fans, it may be hard to imagine that their team, their franchise, is celebrating its Golden Anniversary in 2020. Time seems to have passed in a blink of an eye. But the memories of a baseball team so near and dear to many will never fade.

Thanks, in part, to *MLB.com* sportswriter Adam McCalvy, who collaborated with the Brewers and sports publishing leader Triumph Books, there is now a special commemorative hardcover book appropriately entitled, *The Milwaukee Brewers at 50: Celebrating a Half-Century of Brewers Baseball*.

The book retails for \$40. Pre-orders are welcomed through *Triumphbooks.com* and where fine books are sold, including Barnes and Noble and *Amazon.com*.

Fans will relive the passion and excitement of the Brewers' 50-year journey in Major League Baseball through the 256-page treasure chest filled with stories, anecdotes and many never-before published photographs.

This official commemorative book rekindles the memories of iconic moments, the legendary players, managers and coaches, and so much more. This is a deluxe coffee table size book every Brewers fan must have. It also includes introductions from former Owner and Commissioner of Baseball Allan H. (Bud) Selig and current Chairman and Principal Owner Mark Attanasio. The foreword is written by Hall of Famer Robin Yount.

A New Berlin native, McCalvy graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a journalism degree and interned in the Brewers' Media Relations Department before working for *MLB.com* since the online service's inception in 2001. He has tirelessly documented every game played at Miller Park and across the country as the team's beat writer.

Now, he has authored *The Milwaukee Brewers at 50*, which essentially revels in Brewers baseball, from the field to the clubhouse and beyond.

The following is an excerpt from the book: *The Kid*

*Robin Yount was 18 years old when he reported to his first spring training in 1974, about eight months and only 64 minor league games removed from being the third overall pick in the draft. He had no way to know that he was mere weeks from being the Brewers' Opening Day shortstop, much less on the doorstep of a 20-year Major League career spent entirely in Milwaukee that would net him two American League MVP Awards, take him to the World Series, the 3,000-hit club, and ultimately to Cooperstown.*

*The first day, Yount had a more immediate concern.*

*He had shown up in Sun City, Arizona, with no baseball equipment.*

*"I forgot it," Yount said. "All of it."*

*Yount realized his error when his father dropped him off at Los Angeles International Airport. They were a solid hour from the family's home in the San Fernando Valley.*

*"We pull up to the curb," he said. "I grab my suitcase and then go, 'Oh, s—t.' No baseball bag. And you've got to remember, FedEx did not exist in those days. So the first three days of spring training, somebody loaned me a glove, shoes. I don't remember who. That's a pretty good question."*

*In the months before the '73 draft, Yount had been universally regarded as one of the nation's top prospects in a crop that included fellow Hall of Famers Dave Winfield and Eddie Murray. Brewers GM Jim Wilson and scouting director Jim Baumer were split on who the team should pick third overall. Wilson was a former major league pitcher who threw the first no-hitter at County Stadium for the Braves in 1954. He favored Rich Shubert, a left-handed pitcher from New York. Baumer was a former infielder who'd reached the big leagues with the White Sox in 1949 at 18 years of age. He favored a shortstop from Woodland Hills, California, named Yount.*

*"I do remember finally being called into a scouting meeting, which never happened," Selig said. "Wilson and Baumer were having a tremendous disagreement. So much so that it affected their relationship forever. It was ugly. Wilson wanted the pitcher. We needed pitching, and Wilson was a pitcher. Baumer wanted this kid from Woodland Hills."*

*They battled furiously, Selig remembers. But in the end, it was the scouting director's call. Baumer chose Yount.*

*"And thank God he did," said Selig.*

*At the start of spring training in '74, Brewers manager Del Crandall intended to start Tim Johnson at shortstop. But Yount quickly made an impression, especially with the glove. With about 15 games left on the exhibition slate, club officials decided to go with The Kid.*

**Rookie Robin Yount posed for a photo at County Stadium in 1974.**



# On a Mission

## Lorenzo Cain finally strikes gold

By Mario Ziino

Photos by Scott Paulus and Kirsten Schmitt

What proved to be a rally cry from the outset last season rang loud and clear when it came time to vote for the best defensive center fielder in the National League.

*Not today* was the message that echoed throughout ballparks each time the Brewers' athletic leaper, Lorenzo Cain, made a game-saving or home run-robbing catch. And like a trumpet call that unified the masses, the inference was understood as the season progressed.

"I'm always on a mission," Cain said. "To make plays you have to have the opportunities. So, I got a lot of opportunities to make plays last year."

As one of the top defensive outfielders in the game who consistently awed crowds from coast to coast, no longer would he be overlooked for the coveted prize. For in 2019, Cain's daring defense would not be denied.

"I go out with the same intensity, and I make plays with the same attitude and try to catch everything," he added.

Cain made it nearly impossible this time – his 10th season in the big leagues – to be passed over, again, for the elusive and prestigious Rawlings Gold Glove Award.

"It's something I've wanted for a while," he admitted. I almost gave up on it. I didn't think it would ever happen.

"I'm glad and proud I finally won it. I'll keep making the plays no matter what. But, I must admit, it feels good being recognized for my play in the outfield."

Cain not only played stellar defense, but was a catalyst in the Brewers' repeat trip to the postseason. He helped jumpstart the team's winning ways in April by putting an exclamation point on his star-studded performance in the outfield not once, not twice, but three times in that first month of the season alone, earning Major League Baseball's 'Play of the Week' honors each time.

In all, his five homer-saving catches in 2019 tied for the most ever in a single season as documented by *Baseball Info Solutions*, which began tracking sensational defensive plays 15 years ago. Cain and Astros' right fielder Josh Reddick matched the record first set by former Brewers' center fielder Carlos Gómez in 2013.

"I've never robbed five home runs before," Cain shared. "But like I said, I got the opportunities and made the best of them. I think robbing the first homer in the opener last season said something."

Cain is only the sixth Brewers player to win a Gold Glove in the franchise's first 50 seasons – only the third outfielder to do so. Sixto Lezcano was the first outfielder to earn the award back in 1979 and Gómez was the last in 2013.

Brewers legendary first baseman George Scott won the most Gold Gloves, earning five straight in the American League from 1972-76. Another celebrated first baseman Cecil Cooper won a pair in 1979 and '80. The other Brewers player to earn a Gold Glove was Hall of Fame shortstop Robin Yount, who was honored in 1982.

“He’s unbelievable, he really is, teammate and fellow outfielder Christian Yelich said last year. “He’s a gamer. “I think we all thought he deserved to have won one last year. But the thing about LoCain is he doesn’t care about those things.”

Manager Craig Counsell agreed. “In my opinion, his defense was better last year than the year before if that’s possible,” the skipper shared. “His defense won us a number of games.”

Cain recorded 20 Defensive Runs Saved for the second straight season, finishing runner-up among non-catchers to the Nationals center fielder Víctor Robles (22). In 2018, Cain tied Boston’s Mookie Betts with 20 Defensive Runs Saved to lead Major League outfielders.

Cain also finished sixth in the majors with a 2.2 Defensive WAR, right behind Cleveland’s Roberto Pérez, Arizona’s Nick Ahmed and Robles, each at 2.6.

Cain, who battled thumb, knee and ankle injuries throughout last season, had an off-year at the plate, batting .260 with 11 home runs and 48 RBI while stealing 18 bases. But the nagging injuries did not affect his ability in the field, committing only two errors in 313 total chances over 148 games.

He injured his thumb in May while swinging the bat in a game against the Mets. In August, he fouled a ball off his knee against the Pirates. And in September, following a homer against the Padres, he felt some discomfort in his ankle as he rounded the bases.

But heading into 2020, he said he is healthy and ready.

“I didn’t feel right until December,” Cain pointed out. That’s when I was able to work out. I now feel healthy. I did a lot of physical therapy. My knee and ankle feel really good. So does my thumb. It’s been good throwing.

I was banged up last year but we all were banged up, especially come September. If you’re not hurting, you’re not doing something right. You just have to play through stuff.

“I don’t care how I feel, just put me out there. Couts (Manager Counsell) trusts me out there and that’s all that matters.”

Perhaps, it was said best by the Reds’ new infielder Mike Moustakas, who played with Cain in both Kansas City and Milwaukee and watched him perfect his skills as a center fielder.

“I’ve seen everything this guy has done,” Moustakas observed. “He’s an unbelievable baseball player. Good things happen to guys who play hard and play the game the right way. Lo plays hard and does the right things.”

And now, the rest of the baseball world has acknowledged that Cain is Gold Glove worthy.

“I pride myself on making plays out there,” Cain replied with his signature smile.



**BREWERS**<sup>TM</sup>

## Lorenzo Cain's five noted home run-saving catches of 2019

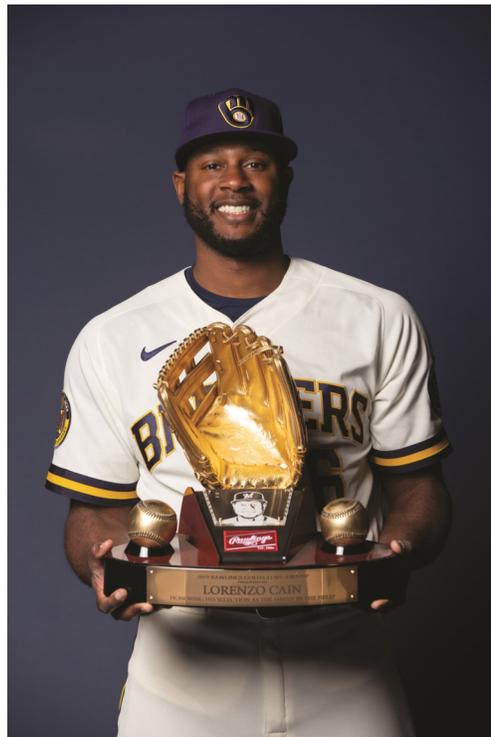
**March 28:** The Brewers were one out away from an Opening Day victory when Cardinals slugger José Martínez launched a fly ball that threatened to tie the game. Cain made a spectacular grab at the wall to rob Martínez of a home run to end the game. Cain earned Major League Baseball's 'Play of the Week' for March 28-31.

**April 15:** With the Cardinals leading 2-0 in the top of the second inning and a runner on second base, Cain robbed Matt Carpenter of a home run with another sensational catch at the wall in right-center field. The Brewers rallied to win the game, 10-7, at Miller Park.

**April 26:** In the bottom of the second inning of a Friday night game at Citi Field, Cain ranged back to deep right-center field, jumped and reached over the wall to rob Todd Frazier of the Mets of a home run. Cain became the first multiple 'Play of the Week' honoree in 2019.

**July 18:** In the bottom of the first inning of a Thursday night tilt at Chase Field, Cain ranged back to deep right-center field and made a leaping catch at the wall to rob Eduardo Escobar of the Diamondbacks of a home run. Cain earned his third MLB 'Play of the Week' for July 15-21.

**September 28:** Cain robbed the Rockies' Garrett Hampson of a two-run home run in the seventh inning to protect a 2-0 lead for Gio Gonzalez in Colorado. The Brewers eventually lost the game, 3-2. Afterwards, Gonzalez said of Cain's catch: "I don't know if we have to literally go to Tiffany's or wherever we have to go to buy this Gold Glove for him. That guy deserves it."



**In 2019, Lorenzo Cain made an MLB record-tying five home run-robbing catches.**

## In Memoriam

Sam Hinds – (1977) – September 9, 2019 (66)  
Ed Sprague – (1973-76) – January 10, 2020 (74)  
Narcisco Elvira – (1990) – January 28, 2020 (52)  
Angel Echeverria – (2000-01) – February 7, 2020 (48)  
Tony Fernandez – (2001) – February 15, 2020 (57)  
Jimmy Wynn – (1977) – March 26, 2020 (78)  
Ed Farmer – (1978) – April 1, 2020 (70)



If you have ticket requests or any other alumni needs,  
please contact

Katina Shaw at (414) 902-4532 or via email  
[katina.shaw@brewers.com](mailto:katina.shaw@brewers.com)