



Tigers Heroes: Remembering the Detroit Tigers Who Helped Make the 1960s Baseball's Real Golden Age

Carroll Conklin

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These were the heroes who owned the summers of the 1960s. Al Kaline and Denny McLain. Bill Freehan and Jim Bunning. Mickey Lolich and Norm Cash. Gates Brown and Rocky Colavito. During the summers of the 1960s, the heroes of Detroit wore Tigers uniforms. On their best days (which were, admittedly, too few except for 1968), they were entertaining and inspiring. They smote hated rivals and sent plenty of their best to the All-Star game, in the decade when that mid-summer classic moved under the lights ... and into prime time. On their worst days, these Tigers heroes could break our hearts, squandering late-inning leads and pre-season hopes ... but they never lost our devotion. They were the heroes of our youth. Now their stories are collected in *Tigers Heroes: Remembering the Detroit Tigers Who Helped Make the 1960s Baseball's Real Golden Age*. The book profiles the best (and a few of the worst) of the Detroit Tigers of the 1960s. In all, there are 58 profiles of the infielders, outfielders, catchers and pitchers who played for the Detroit Tigers in the 1960s. Do you remember ... The left-handed fireballer who won 3 dramatic games in the 1968 World Series, the last on 2 days' rest? (page 80) The slugging outfielder who was traded to Detroit for the reigning batting champion? (page 31) The 1962 ERA champion who may have been the worst hitter in major league history (lifetime batting average: .085)? (page 62) The 11-time All-Star catcher who won 5 Gold Gloves and batted .300 in 1964? (page 55) The Cy Young award winner who won 31 games in 1968 and was out of baseball 3 years later? (page 81) The first baseman who posted the highest batting average in the 1960s? (page 10) The pitcher who "owned" the New York Yankees with a 28-13 lifetime record against the Bronx Bombers? (page 78) The second baseman whose superb defense kept him in the major leagues for eight seasons despite a .213 lifetime batting average? (page 19) The slugging left fielder who smashed 29 home runs as a rookie and 325 in his career? (page 37) The Hall of Fame right fielder who collected 3,007 hits, 10 Gold Gloves and 15 All-Star appearances? (page 38) Their stories are here. Enjoy the memories.

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