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For an American baseball player and manager for the president of Chrysler, see Thomas W. LaSorda. Tommy LasordaPitcher / ManagerBorn: (1927-09-22) September 22, 1927 (age 93)Norristown, Pennsylvania Batted: Left Heed: Left MLB debutAugust 5, 1954, Brooklyn DodgersLast MLB appearanceJuly 8, 1956, Kansas City AthleticsMLB statsWin loss record-breaking0-4Alled running average6.48Strikeouts37Managerial record1,599-1,439Winning % .526 Teams as a player for the Brooklyn Dodgers (1 1954–1955) Kansas City Athletics (1956) Manager Los Angeles Dodgers (1976–1996) Coach los angeles dodgers (1973–76) Career highlights and Awards 2× World Series Champion (1981, 1988) 2× NL Manager of the Year (1983, 1988) Los Angeles Dodgers No. 2 retired Nationals member Baseball Hall of Fame Induction1997VraktiomenetelmäVeterans Committee Medals Manager for United States Olympic Games 2000 Sydney Team Thomas Charles Lasorda (born September 22, 1927) is an American former baseball pitcher. , coach and manager best known for two decades as manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers. In 2020, he marked the 71st president of the United States. He was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame as manager in 1997. Since Red Schoendienst's death in June 2018, he has been the oldest living Hall of Famer. Lasorda signed with the Philadelphia Phillies as an untouchable free agent in 1945 and began his pro career that season with the Concord Weavers of the Class D North Carolina State League. He skipped the 1946 and 1947 seasons because of a U.S. Army stint. He served from October 1945 to spring 1947. He returned to baseball in 1948 with the Schenectady Blue Jays of the Canadian and American League. On May 31, 1948, he struck out 25 Amsterdam Rugmakers in 15 indoor games, set a professional record (after breaking) and drove in a winning run with one. [2] In his next two starts, he struck out 15 and 13, getting the attention of the Dodgers, who recruited him from the Phillies chain and sent him to the Greenville Spinners in 1949. Lasorda also pitched for Cristobal Mottas in the Canal Zone Baseball League in Panama from 1948 to 1950, winning the championship in 1948. Lasorda played for Almendares (Cuba) from 1950 to 1952 and from 1958 to 1960 and set a record of 16-13 in four seasons, including an 8-3 and 1.89 ERA between 1958 and 1959. Lasorda made his Brooklyn Dodgers debut on May 5. He made his only start for the Dodgers in Game 5. third wild pass. Lasorda was demoted after the game and no longer pitched for the Dodgers. Although he did not play in the 1955 World Series, he won the World Series ring as a member of the 1955 Brooklyn Dodgers. After two seasons with the Dodgers, he was sold to the Kansas City Athletics, where he pitched one more season. Kansas City traded him to the New York Yankees in 1956. He appeared in 22 games for the Yankees' affiliate, the Triple-A Denver Bears, from 1956 to 1957, and was then sold back to the Dodgers in 1957. During his season at the Bears, Lasorda was deeply influenced by Denver manager Ralph Houk, who became Lasorda's role model as a major league manager. Ralph taught me that if you treat players like people, they play like Superman, he told Bill Plaschke in his biography I Live for This: Baseball's Last True Believer. He taught me how a pat on the shoulder can be as important as a kick in the bush. Lasorda was first selected to the Montreal Royals of the International League in 1950. He also played winter baseball for almendares (Cuba) from 1950 to 1952 and from 1958 to 1960 and set a record of 16-13 in four seasons, including an 8-3 and 1.89 ERA between 1958 and 1959. He pitched for Montreal from 1950 to 1954 and from 1958 to 1960 and is the winningest pitcher in team history (107-57) (Lasorda was sent back to Montreal in 1954 when the Dodgers had to keep young Sandy Koufax in their lineup because of a bonus rule. He later joked that Koufax kept him away from The Dodger's pitching staff). He led Montreal to four straight Governors' Cups from 1951 to 1954 and fifth in 1958. On June 24, 2006, he was inducted into the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame. [5] He played only for the Yankees minor team, and the Dodgers returned him to montreal, where he was voted the International League's most valuable pitcher in 1958, when he won his fifth minor league title. He was released by the Dodgers on September 9. Coaching career Minor leagues This part of a living person's biography does not contain any references or sources. Help by adding reliable sources. Controversial material living people who are unanswered or poorly acquired must be removed immediately. Find sources: Tommy Lasorda – news · newspapers · books · researcher · JSTOR (December 2015) (Learn how and when to delete this model message) Lasorda's first off-field assignment with the Dodgers was as a scout from 1961 to 1965. In 1966, he became manager of the Pocatello Chiefs in rookie leagues, then led the Ogden Dodgers to three Pioneer League titles in 1966-68. He became manager of the Dodgers' AAA Pacific Coast League in 1969 with the Spokane Indians (1969-71). He remained manager of team AAA when the Dodgers transferred a farm club to Albuquerque Dukes (1972). Ihs The Dukes won the PCL championship. Lasorda also served as manager of tigres del Likey (Lickey Tigers), a Dominican winter baseball league team. He led the team to the 1973 Caribbean World Series title in Venezuela with a series-record 5 wins and 1 loss. The Dodgers' third base coach In 1973, Lasorda became the third base coach of Hall of Fame manager Walter Alston's staff, serving nearly four seasons. [6] He was widely regarded as Alston's heir, and he turned down several major leaguers who run jobs elsewhere to stay in the Dodger Series. He also temporarily returned to the third-base coach's box during control of the Dodgers. Dodgers 1980 Los Angeles Dodgers manager #2 Tommy Lasorda's road shirt Tommy Lasorda's No.2 retired with the Los Angeles Dodgers in 1997. Lasorda became manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers on April 29. He set a 1,599-1,439 record as Dodgers manager, winning two World Series titles (1981 and 1988), four National League pennants and eight division titles in his 20 career as Dodgers manager. His 16 wins in 30 NL championship games were the most by any manager since he retired. His 61 postseason games managed to finish fourth all time behind Bobby Cox, Casey Stengel (whose all games took place during the World Series on the playing days of baseball's pre-division) and Joe Torre. He also managed four All-Star games. Lasorda led the nine players who won the National League Rookie of the Year award. There were two consecutive players. From 1979 on 1982, he led Rick Sutcliffe, Steve Howe, Fernando Valenzuela and Steve Sax. From 1992 on 1995 he led Eric Karros, Mike Piazza, Raúl Mondesí and Hideo Nomo. Before retiring in the 1996 season, he had also led rookie of the year Todd Hollandsworth. His last game was a 4-3 victory over the Houston Astros at Dodger Stadium (att. 35,467), 23. The next day (June 24), he drove himself to the hospital complaining of stomach pains, and in fact had a heart attack. He officially retired on 29 July 1996. His 1,599 wins are the 20th in MLB history. He was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1997[8] as manager in his first year of eligibility. The Dodgers ended their uniform number (2) on July 15. In 2014, a new restaurant called Lasordan Trattoria opened at Dodger Stadium. Lasorda, the 2000 Summer Olympics, came out of retirement to lead the U.S. team at the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney, Australia. [10] He led the Americans to the gold medal by beating favored Cuba, which had won the gold medal at the previous two Olympics. This is how he became the first manager to win the World Cup and lead the team Olympic gold. The 2001 All-Star Game Lasorda coached the 2001 All-Star Game as a third-base coach. On the plate, Vladimir Guerrero lost his bat while swinging, and it flew towards Lasorda, causing him to fall backwards, but Tommy was unharmed. [11] As a joke, Giants outfielder Barry Bonds gave Lasorda a chest protector that he had to wear when manning the third-base coaching box. 2008 spring training During spring training in 2008, the Dodgers were invited to play a series of exhibition games in Taiwan. Dodger manager Joe Torre included a group of players in that league. Most of the team stayed in Florida to finish the Grapefruit League season. Lasorda briefly came out of retirement to lead a team that stayed in Florida while Torre was away. [12] Season 2011 birthday coach An unnamed Dodger manager came up with the idea of Dodger manager Don Mattingly asking Lasorda to be honorary coach on Lasorda's 84th birthday against the San Francisco Giants. [13] Awards Sporting News Minor League Manager of the Year (1970) UPI and AP Manager of the Year (1977) AP Manager of the Year (1981) Baseball America Manager of the Year (1988) Sporting News Co-Manager of the Year (1988) Amos Alonzo Stagg Coaching Award, awarded by the United States Academy of Sport (2000)[14] Minor planet 6128 Lasorda has been named in his honor. [15] The University of Pennsylvania's updated baseball field was named after Lasorda in 2020. [16] Dodger leader Tommy Lasorda at the White House Tee Ball Initiative in 2007 Tommy Lasorda was named vice chairman of the Dodgers when he retired from management in 1996. On June 22, 1998, he became interim general manager of the Dodgers midway through Fred Claire's season. He resigned as General Manager after the season and was appointed executive vice president of the Dodgers. After the team was on sale to Frank McCourt, Lasorda began his current position as a special advisor to the chairman, where his duties include scouting, evaluating and teaching minor league players, acting as an advisor and ambassador for the Dodgers' international contacts, and representing the organization in more than 100 speaking engagements and appearances for various charities, private groups and military personnel each year. [17] Manager record since games played on 25 June 1996. Team From To Regular post-season record G W L Win % G W L Win % Los Angeles Dodgers 1976 1996 3038 1599 1439 .526 61 31 30,508 Total 30 38 1599 1439 .526 61 31 30.508 Reference:[18] Public persona Lasorda was famous for his colorful personality and outspoken opinions about players and other baseball-related staff. He had several tirades filled with indecency, some of which were taped and became underground classics, including his explosion over Kurt Bevacqua. [19] These are his Dave Daves. In 1978, Lasorda ranted to reporter Paul Olden, who asked him kingman to hit three home runs against the Dodgers that day. In 1996, he played the role of Lucky Lasorta. He appeared in the cameo film Ladybugs (1992) alongside Rodney Dangerfield. Lasorda played the Dugout Wizard in the syndicated children's TV series The Baseball Bunch. [21] His other self-playing television credits include Silver Spoons, Who's The Boss?, CHiPs, Hart to Hart, Fantasy Island, Hee Haw, Simon & Simon, Everybody Loves Raymond and American Restoration. Lasorda partly owned the food company Lasorda Foods, known mainly for the pasta sauce announced by Lasorda, based on a family recipe passed on to his wife Jo. [22] In September 1989, the company became a wholly owned

subsidiary of Denver-based Discovery Capital Corp, of which Lasorda still held 10 %. [23] The parent company through which Lasorda retained its stake in Lasorda Foods, Lasorda Foods Holding Corp. originally operated in Fountain Valley, California, before moving to Irvine and then Paramount. Boca Raton, a Florida-based Modami Services, acquired Lasorda Foods Holding Corp Inc. in August 1993. Lasorda and Lasorda Foods President Steven Fox, who together held the majority of Lasorda Foods shares, were paid in Modami shares. [22] In June 2005, President George W. Bush asked Lasorda to become a representative of the U.S. National Day at the World's Fair in Aichi, Japan. [24] In 2008, the Japanese Government issued the Order of the Rising Sun, The Golden Rays with Rosette, which represents the fourth highest of the eight award-related categories. The ornament was a recognition of his contribution to Japanese baseball. [25] Lasorda became a local celebrity in the Dominican Republic because he visited many visits in search of young baseball talent in this country of many players known in the major leagues, especially since he became a devoted fan of chicharrones (deep-fried pork skins) commonly sold on the streets of Santo Domingo's Villa Mella neighborhood. [citation required] At the time of Red Schoendienst's death on June 6, 2018, Lasorda is the oldest surviving Hall-of-Famer. Personal Life and Health Lasorda and his wife Jo celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in 2010. They met in Jo's hometown of Greenville, South Carolina, when Lasorda played there for the Greenville Spinners. They've been staying in Fullerton, California, for over 50 years and have two children. They named a gymnasium and youth center in memory of their son Tom Jr. in Yorba Linda, California, on July 7, 2015. [17] In 1991, Tom Jr. (known as Spunky) died of AIDS-related complications. Lasorda denied that his son was. According to sportswriter Bill Plaschke, he claims his son died of cancer. Lasorda was second and one of five brothers. His brothers were Edward (dead), Harry, Morris (dead) and Joseph (dead). The Roman Catholic Lasorda was ordained in the Catholic Church with their Baptist wife, and they also raised their children in faith. He would like a priest to come to Dodger games on Sundays to offer Mass to Catholic players. Lasorda is the godfather of Thomas Piazza. Thomas was named after Lasorda, and Steve Staats has widely misspelled that Lasorda is Mike's godfather. Lasorda is also the godfather of Minnesota Twins catcher Alex Avila. Alex's grandfather, Ralph Avila, is a former scout with the Dodgers and a friend of Lasorda's for more than 50 years. Alex's middle name, Thomas, was named after Lasorda. On June 3, 2012, at the age of 84, Lasorda was hospitalized in New York City after suffering a heart attack. The heart attack wasn't considered too severe. [33] The 93-year-old Lasorda was sent to the 15th Green Party. [34] See also list of Major League Baseball managers with wins over Tommy Lasorda Baseball References ^ Holaday, Chris (2016). Professional baseball in North Carolina: Illustrated City History, 1901-1996. Jefferson. C: McFarland. ISBN 978-0786425532. ^ Hugerich, Frank (1948-05-31). LaSorda singles in 15 gives the Jays a victory over Amsterdam. Schenectady Gazette, what are you? p. 14 – via Google News. ^ Mitchell, Houston (May 5, 2015). Cinco de Mayo was a special day for Tommy Lasorda and Bo Belinsky. Los Angeles Times. Retrieved 18 August 2019. ^ Plaschke, Bill (2007). I live for this: Baseball's last true believer. New York: Hughton Mifflin Co., 85. ^ Burnett, Richard (2006-06-01). Walkie-talkie Lasorda... hour.ca. Archived from the original 2006-08-24. Turn around, Ryan. Tommy Lasorda announces his retirement. BaseballHall.org. Retrieved 31 July 2018. Peters and Ken. Lasorda announces his retirement. 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