

BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

Jones, Thome headline Hall of Fame class

Six players make up Class of 2018

By JOHN KEKIS
Associated Press

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. — Larry Wayne Jones Jr. was a throwback, a guy who played for only one major league club and always stayed focused on a single goal — trying to get better every day.

Pressure was an afterthought for the man dubbed Chipper, except perhaps in 1990 at the beginning of his career with the Atlanta Braves organization.

“Maybe my first year in rookie ball there was some pressure. Obviously, I didn’t perform,” said Jones, who batted just .229 with one homer and 18 RBIs in 140 at-bats in the Gulf Coast League while dealing with a hand injury. “There was some pushback for the Braves taking me.”

Any doubts about the switch-hitting overall No. 1 pick of the 1990 draft from the Bolles School in Jacksonville, Florida, quickly faded. In Class A ball the next season, Jones batted .326, hit 15 homers, drove in 98 runs and stole 40 bases. Four years later he was a regular in the Atlanta lineup at age 23 and relishing the journey.

“For me, it was just having fun and playing the game,” said Jones, whose nickname surfaced at a young age after family members called him a chip off the old block because he looked so much like his dad. “I never saw a pay stub during my time in the big leagues. I didn’t care



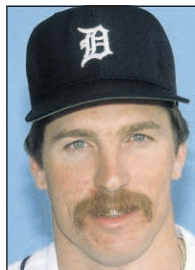
Jones



Thome



Guerrero



Morris



Trammell



Hoffman

what I was making. As long as I walked in the clubhouse and I saw my name in the three hole playing third for the Atlanta Braves, that’s all that really mattered.

“I just kept my head down and tried to do whatever I could to help us win and let the numbers take care of themselves.”

Those numbers — .303 career batting average, 549 doubles, 468 home runs, 1,623 RBIs — earned Jones baseball’s highest honor, election to the Hall of Fame on the first try. He’ll be inducted Sunday with Jim Thome, Vladimir Guerrero, Trevor Hoffman, and former Detroit Tigers teammates Jack Morris and Alan Trammell. Thome also is a first-ballot selection, while Morris and Trammell were picked by a veterans committee last December.

Jones, only the second overall No. 1 draft pick to reach the Hall (Ken Griffey Jr. is the other), couldn’t have arrived at a better time for the Braves, who were perennial cellar-dwellers in the NL West. He became a force on most of the Atlanta teams that did a quick about-face and won 14 straight division titles — and a World Series in his rookie season (1995).

Also part of those Atlanta teams were pitchers Greg

Maddux, Tom Glavine, and John Smoltz, manager Bobby Cox, and general manager John Schuerholz. All five were elected to the Hall of Fame in the past four years, and now Jones will join them.

“Somebody had to score some runs for that pitching staff,” Jones said with a chuckle. “It’s nice the day has finally come.”

Thome hit 612 home runs, eighth all-time, and had an MLB record 13 walk-off homers, mostly for the Cleveland Indians. When he toured the Hall of Fame in late February to prepare for induction day, Thome got misty when he walked into the Plaque Gallery where his bronze likeness will hang after Sunday’s ceremony.

Expect more of the same when he stares out at the big crowd during his speech.

“It’s been an absolute dream,” Thome said. “I try to keep that (life) pretty simple, but it’s been very special to enjoy this with the ones you really care about and the people that are ... happy for you. That means so much.

“To go there and now call that home is just incredible.”

Hoffman, chosen in his third year on the ballot, played the bulk of his career with the San Diego Padres before finishing with the Milwaukee Brewers. After

failing to impress the front office in three years as a shortstop, he switched to the bullpen and became a star. Using a stultifying changeup, Hoffman recorded 601 saves over 18 seasons, second all-time to former Yankees star Mariano Rivera’s 652.

Guerrero was elected on his second try, receiving 92.9 percent of the vote. The nine-time All-Star outfielder batted .318 with 449 homers and 1,496 RBIs and was a notorious bad-ball hitter, a skill he learned as a kid growing up in the Dominican Republic playing a game similar to cricket.

Although he played half his career with the Montreal Expos, Guerrero will be the first player to enter the Hall wearing the cap of the Los Angeles Angels, the team where he enjoyed his greatest success. He helped lead the Angels to the postseason five times in six seasons, reaching career highs for runs (124), hits (206), and RBIs (126) in 2004 when he won AL MVP honors.

“I was happy to be in a situation where the team was playing for something,” Guerrero said through translator Jose Mota. “That inspired me and the rest of the team.”

Morris pitched 18 seasons for the Tigers, Twins,

Blue Jays and Indians, and played on four World Series champions. In the 1980s, he led all pitchers with 2,444.2 innings pitched and 162 wins and topped all AL pitchers in strikeouts with 1,629.

The crowning achievement of Morris’ career was his 1-0 complete-game victory in Game 7 of the 1991 World Series while pitching for his hometown Twins against the 24-year-old Smoltz and the Braves. Minnesota manager Tom Kelly wanted to take him out after nine innings and the 36-year-old Morris convinced him not to.

“That was Jack Morris,” Trammell said. “That just tells you what’s inside of him. He wasn’t going to give up anything.”

That Morris had to wait so long to be picked for the Hall promises to make his speech memorable.

“I’ve had a long time to think about writing one,” he said. “I wanted this to be an impactful speech. I wanted it to be something that had meaning. When I started actually putting it into words, it was not as easy as I thought it was going to be.

“If I was going to do it justice, I’d probably have to write a 1,500-page book, but we don’t have time for all of that.”

Trammell played short-

stop for 20 seasons — all for the Tigers — and earned six All-Star Game selections, four Gold Glove Awards and three Silver Slugger Awards. His .977 fielding percentage ranks sixth among shortstops with at least 2,000 games played.

“It’s overwhelming, to be honest with you,” said Trammell, now 60. “To say that you’re part of that group, it’s hard to comprehend.”

This year’s class matches the biggest lineup of living players to be inducted since 1955, when Joe DiMaggio, Gabby Hartnett, Ted Lyons, Dazzy Vance, Home Run Baker and Ray Schalk were enshrined. That means the inductees won’t have much leeway in the length of their speeches.

It’s difficult to imagine what a nerve-wracking scenario it promises to be for Jones — his wife is pregnant with a son whose name will be Cooper in honor of the special day.

Talk about pressure. “It’s going to be a pretty nervous time for me personally,” Jones said. “The fact that my wife is due the day after, I’ll be looking down at her making sure she’s giving me the thumbs-up, making sure she’s not going into labor while I’m up on stage.

“If it does happen, it’s going to be an exciting time.”

Induction Ceremony

When: Sunday, 10:30 a.m.
Watch: MLB Network, MLB.com, MLB At Bat app



Chris Rogers via AP

In this image made from video, surfer Koa Smith rides a wave off the coast of Namibia, on the Western shore of Africa. Smith rode for nearly a mile over a 120-second span and stayed upright as he traveled through eight barrels — the hollow formed by the curve of the wave as it breaks over the surfer’s head.

Two minutes, eight barrels

Surfer takes an epic ride into history

By EDDIE PELLIS
AP National Writer

To say Koa Smith was at the right place at the right time is perfectly accurate.

To say he got lucky — that’s missing the point. Perched precariously on his surfboard, the 23-year-old from Hawaii rode a wave off the coast of Namibia, on the western shore of Africa, for 120 straight seconds. He stayed upright for nearly a mile as he traveled through an unheard-of eight barrels — the hollow formed by the curve of the wave as it breaks over the rider’s head.

Almost as amazing — Smith and videographer Chris Rogers filmed the entire ride using both a drone that hovered overhead, and a GoPro attached to a mouthpiece that Smith wore while he rode.

“I’d like to think that everything I’ve done my whole life led up to that moment,” Smith said of his masterpiece over a one-of-a-kind wave last month, the likes of which has never been documented before.

Smith owes his success to being every bit as much

a calculated scientist as a devil-may-care risktaker.

Much as a meteorologist tracks storms several days before they hit, Smith and many world-class surfers have mastered the art of reading weather charts to predict when and where the greatest sized ocean swells will hit. It’s one thing to know they’re coming, quite another to get to where the action is, and Smith is more than willing to drop everything in search of the perfect wave.

“He can be in one place one day, and you call him and he says, ‘I’m taking off for Africa tomorrow,’” says Smith’s publicist, Ryan Runke.

The locale of his greatest triumph is called Skeleton Beach — a mystic stretch of beach fronting the South Atlantic on the western coast of Africa.

Don’t bother trying to go unless you know someone who knows the area. It’s a two-day plane ride from Hawaii, followed by a car ride through the desert, culminating with a journey down a stretch of sandy, unmarked roads that lead to the ocean. The final stop is at a stretch of beach where a lucky handful of surfers share space with hundreds of aggressive seal colonies, thousands of jackals and, once in the water, the occasional great white shark.

Baseball

MLB AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	72	33	.686	—
New York	65	36	.644	5
Tampa Bay	53	51	.509	18½
Toronto	47	55	.461	23½
Baltimore	30	74	.288	41½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	56	46	.549	—
Minnesota	48	54	.471	8
Detroit	44	61	.419	13½
Chicago	36	67	.349	20½
Kansas City	31	71	.304	25
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	67	38	.638	—
Seattle	61	42	.592	5
Oakland	61	44	.581	6
Los Angeles	53	52	.505	14
Texas	43	62	.409	24

Friday’s Games
Kansas City at N.Y. Yankees, p.p.d.
Cleveland 8, Detroit 3
Baltimore 15, Tampa Bay 5
Boston 4, Minnesota 3, 10 innings
Texas 11, Houston 2
Toronto 10, Chicago White Sox 5
Colorado 3, Oakland 1
L.A. Angels 4, Seattle 3, 10 innings
Saturday’s Games
Kansas City (Fillmyer 0-1) at N.Y. Yankees (Severino 14-3), 10:05 a.m., 1st game
Cleveland (Clevinger 7-6) at Detroit (Liriano 3-5), 3:10 p.m.
Kansas City (TBD) at N.Y. Yankees (TBD), 4:05 p.m., 2nd game
Tampa Bay (TBD) at Baltimore (Gausman 4-8), 4:05 p.m.
Minnesota (Odorizzi 4-6) at Boston (Porcello 12-4), 4:10 p.m.
Texas (TBD) at Houston (Verlander 10-5), 4:10 p.m.
Toronto (TBD) at Chicago White Sox (Giolito 7-8), 4:10 p.m.
Oakland (Anderson 2-2) at Colorado (Senzatella 3-3), 5:10 p.m.
Texas at Houston, 11:10 a.m.
Toronto at Chicago White Sox, 11:10 a.m.
Oakland at Colorado, 12:10 p.m.
Seattle at L.A. Angels, 1:07 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	58	45	.563	—
Atlanta	54	46	.540	2½
Washington	52	51	.505	6
New York	43	58	.426	14
Miami	44	61	.419	15
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	60	43	.582	—
Milwaukee	60	46	.566	1½
Pittsburgh	54	51	.514	7
St. Louis	52	51	.505	8
Cincinnati	46	58	.442	14½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	58	46	.558	—
Arizona	57	48	.543	1½
Colorado	55	47	.539	2
San Francisco	52	53	.495	6½
San Diego	42	64	.396	17

Friday’s Games
Pittsburgh 5, N.Y. Mets 4
Cincinnati 6, Philadelphia 4
Washington 9, Miami 1
L.A. Dodgers 4, Atlanta 1
St. Louis 3, Chicago Cubs 2
Colorado 5, Oakland 1
Arizona 6, San Diego 2
Milwaukee 3, San Francisco 1
Saturday’s Games
Chicago Cubs (Quintana 9-6) at St. Louis (Mikolas 10-3), 1:05 p.m.
Philadelphia (Velasquez 7-8) at Cincinnati (Harvey 5-6), 3:40 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (deGrom 5-5) at Pittsburgh (Williams 8-7), 4:05 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers (Wood 6-5) at Atlanta (Fried 1-3), 4:10 p.m.
Washington (Gonzalez 6-7) at Miami (Richards 3-5), 4:10 p.m.
Oakland (Anderson 2-2) at Colorado (Senzatella 3-3), 5:10 p.m.
Arizona (Corbin 7-4) at San Diego (Ross 6-8), 5:40 p.m.
Milwaukee (Chacin 9-3) at San Francisco (Cuto 3-1), 6:05 p.m.
Sunday’s Games
Philadelphia at Cincinnati, 10:10 a.m.
Washington at Miami, 10:10 a.m.
L.A. Dodgers at Atlanta, 10:35 a.m.
N.Y. Mets at Pittsburgh, 10:35 a.m.
Oakland at Colorado, 12:10 p.m.
Milwaukee at San Francisco, 1:05 p.m.
Arizona at San Diego, 1:10 p.m.
Chicago Cubs at St. Louis, 5:05 p.m.



AP Photo/Elise Amendola

Boston Red Sox’s Mookie Betts celebrates his walk-off solo home run as he rounds the bases in the 10th inning of the team’s baseball game against the Minnesota Twins at Fenway Park on Friday in Boston. The Red Sox won 4-3.

MLB NORTHWEST LEAGUE				
Second Half North Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Spokane (Rangers)	3	1	.750	—
Everett (Mariners)	2	2	.500	1
Vancouver (Blue Jays)	2	2	.500	1
Tri-City (Padres)	1	3	.250	2
South Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Hillsboro (D-Backs)	3	1	.750	—
Eugene (Cubs)	2	2	.500	1
Salem-Keizer (Giants)	2	2	.500	1
Boise (Rockies)	1	3	.250	2

Friday’s Games
Tri-City 9, Boise 6
Hillsboro 6, Spokane 4, 11 innings
Salem-Keizer 14, Everett 1
Vancouver 5, Eugene 1
Saturday’s Games
Tri-City at Boise, 6:15 p.m.
Hillsboro at Spokane, 6:30 p.m.
Everett at Salem-Keizer, 6:35 p.m.
Eugene at Vancouver, 7:05 p.m.

Soccer

MLS EASTERN CONFERENCE						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Atlanta United FC	13	4	5	44	46	25
New York City FC	13	4	4	43	42	24
New York	13	5	2	41	40	19
Columbus	9	7	6	33	27	27
Montreal	9	12	1	28	28	37
New England	7	7	7	28	33	32
Philadelphia	8	10	3	27	29	34
Chicago	6	11	5	23	34	43
Orlando City	7	13	1	22	29	47
Toronto FC	5	11	4	19	32	39
D.C. United	3	9	5	14	27	34
WESTERN CONFERENCE						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
FC Dallas	11	3	6	39	32	23
Los Angeles FC	10	5	6	36	44	37
Sporting K.C.	9	5	6	33	37	25
L.A. Galaxy	9	7	5	32	39	33
Portland	8	7	3	31	28	24
Real Salt Lake	9	9	3	30	31	39
Minnesota United	9	11	1	28	33	40
Houston	7	7	6	27	38	30
Vancouver	7	9	5	26	30	42
Seattle	6	9	5	23	19	23
Colorado	4	11	5	17	24	34
San Jose	2	12	6	12	29	40

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Saturday’s Games
Atlanta United FC at Montreal, 4 p.m.
Chicago at Toronto FC, 4 p.m.
Columbus at New York, 4 p.m.
Colorado at D.C. United, 5 p.m.
FC Dallas at Sporting Kansas City, 5:30 p.m.

Houston at Portland, 6 p.m.
Minnesota United at Vancouver, 7 p.m.
Real Salt Lake at San Jose, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday’s Games
New York City FC at Seattle, 2 p.m.
Orlando City at LA Galaxy, 6:30 p.m.

Golf

BIG RIVER GOLF COURSE
Umatilla
Junior Golf Camp Tournament
WINNERS:
First Place: Maxton Hughes, JT Hudson, Brody Whitbeck, Mikey Payan, Connor Martin, Maxwell Adair, Jack Lathrop, Kaiden Dammeyer, Ryan Rettkowski, Carter Swanson, Brekker Edwards, Nadalie Cannell
Second Place: Gabriel Amos, Carolyn Herman, Franco Gonzalez Mendoza, Paycen Crawford, Kohen Krueger, Brody Collier, Bret Corey, Ty Hansell, Cindy Howard, Dakota Ferguson, Karter Arritt, Jace Wallace, Ian Baxter, Adam Thomas, Mykal Graham

RBC Canadian Open
Friday
At Glen Abbey Golf Club
Oakville, Ontario
Purse: \$6.2 million
Yardage: 7,253; Par 72
Second Round Leaderboard
Kevin Tway 66-65—131
Whee Kim 67-65—132
Keegan Bradley 69-63—132
Byeong Hun An 66-67—133
Johnson Wagner 68-65—133
Zac Blair 67-67—134
Joaquin Niemann 67-67—134
Aaron Baddeley 68-66—134
Dustin Johnson 68-66—134
Nick Taylor 68-67—135
Robert Garrigus 63-72—135
Andrew Putnam 68-68—135
Ian Poulter 66-69—135
Rory Sabbatini 68-67—135
Alex Cejka 69-67—136
Cameron Percy 68-68—136
Harold Varner III 69-67—136
Ben Silverman 73-63—136
Steve Wheatcroft 68-68—136
Brian Stuard 70-66—136

LPGA TOUR
Friday
At Gullane Golf Club
Gullane, Scotland
Purse: \$1.5 million
Yardage: 6,480; Par: 71
Second Round Leaderboard
Tiffany Joh 62-67—129
Anya Jutanugarn 67-65—132
Arny Yang 66-66—132
Caroline Masson 68-65—133
Su Oh 68-66—134
Sung Hyun Park 67-67—134

So Yeon Ryu	69-66—135	-7
Minjee Lee	67-68—135	-7
Peiyun Chien	70-66—136	-6
Haeji Kang	67-69—136	-6
In-Kyung Kim	66-70—136	-6
Jenny Shin	66-70—136	-6
Nasa Hataoka	70-67—137	-5
Lee-Anne Pace	68-69—137	-5
Pornanong Phatthum	73-65—138	-4

Notables
Cristie Kerr 72-68—140 -2
Paula Creamer 71-69—140 -2

Auto Racing

NASCAR MONSTER ENERGY CUP SERIES
Upcoming Schedule
GANDER OUTDOORS 400
Site: Long Pond, Pennsylvania.
Schedule: Saturday, qualifying, 12:05 p.m. (NBCSN); race, 3:20 p.m., NBCSN.
Track: Iowa Speedway (oval, 0.894 miles).
Race distance: 218.75 miles, 250 laps.
Last year: Ryan Preece won his first series race as part of a four-start season

CAMPING WORLD TRUCK GANDER OUTDOORS 150
Site: Long Pond, Pennsylvania.
Schedule: Saturday, qualifying, 7 a.m. (FS1), race, 10 a.m., FS1
Track: Pocono Raceway
Race distance: 150 miles, 60 laps.

Basketball

WNBA				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	16	9	.640	—
Washington	14	11	.560	2
Connecticut	14	12	.538	2½
Chicago	9	17	.346	7½
New York	7	18	.280	9
Indiana	3	23	.115	13½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	19	7	.731	—
Phoenix	15	11	.577	4
Los Angeles	15	11	.577	4
Minnesota	15	10	.600	3½
Dallas	14	11	.560	4½
Las Vegas	12	13	.480	6½
Thursday-Monday				
No Games Scheduled (All-Star Break)				