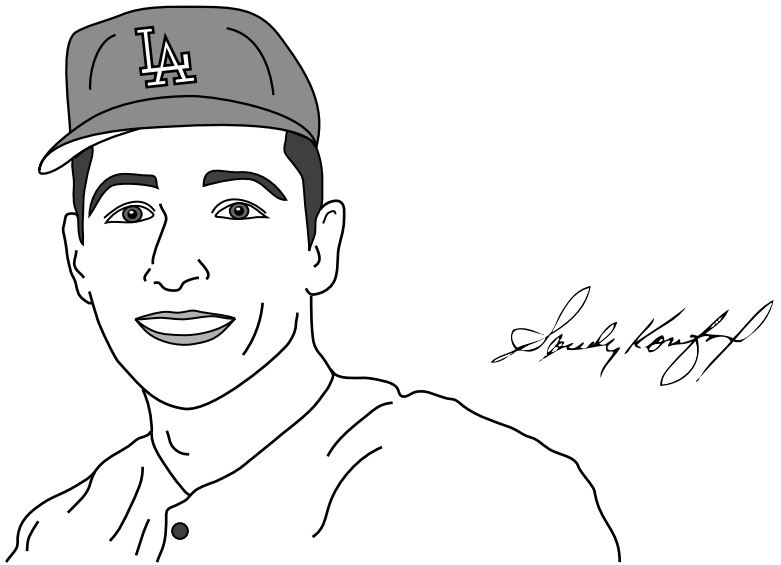


Jewish-American History:

SANDY KOUFAX



Sanford “Sandy” Koufax was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1935. From the time Sandy was a young boy, he loved playing baseball and basketball. It was basketball that captured most of his attention. He even went to the University of Cincinnati on a basketball scholarship. Soon, however, he made the varsity baseball team. There, he found his calling.

He tried out for the Giants, who were then a New York team, and the Pittsburgh Pirates. The pirates offered him a contract, but he had already signed with the Brooklyn Dodgers. He would stay a Dodger for the remainder of his career.

His first two seasons with the team were uneven. He was sent down to the Chicago Cubs minor league team, where he pitched well. He also pitched well when he returned to the Dodgers again, but injuries kept him from playing consistently. By 1960, he was considering quitting baseball, and even threw his equipment in the trash. He decided to try for one more year, however, and he began working out and learning to control his pitches.

That year, he led the league in strikeouts, with 269. In 1962, when the Dodgers moved to their new stadium Koufax lowered his ERA, or earned run average, to an impressive 1.23. His career took off from there. He struck out some of baseball’s best hitters, won awards, and set or broke several records. He helped the Dodgers win the 1963 World Series against the New York Yankees.

A 1964 injury to his pitching arm made the next two years of play difficult. Still, his record and statistics were strong. Even in pain, Koufax pitched well in the 1966 World Series, though the Dodgers were defeated that year by the Baltimore Orioles. Koufax retired after the Series. At age 36, he became the youngest player ever to be elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

1. What kind of scholarship got Sandy into college? _____
2. What does the abbreviation “E.R.A.” stand for? _____
3. What years did Sandy pitch in the World Series? _____