

QUOTE
OF THE DAY

'If things like that are able to happen and the team can make it happen, then why not? He definitely would be. He would be.'

— **Jarvis Landry, Browns receiver, to cleveland.com on him lobbying for the team to trade for Giants star Odell Beckham Jr.**



Odell Beckham Jr.

281

Stolen bases by Mookie Wilson with the Mets, which ranks second in franchise history

Mookie's lasting mark

Wilson accepts his baseball legacy

BY ANDREW COHEN
Special to amNewYork

As the protagonist to one of the most storied plays in New York baseball history, Mookie Wilson's 12-year playing career often is boiled down to one whimsical World Series grounder for the Mets in Game 6 that went through the legs of Red Sox first baseman Bill Buckner, leading to a championship one game later.

But there's more to the man. The swift Wilson ranks second in Mets history in stolen bases (281) and triples (62), and he recorded the sixth-most hits (1,112) and runs scored (592). According to go-to sabermetric stat WAR, he is the franchise's ninth-most valuable position player (20.8).

"Everyone wants to be recognized and remembered for their accomplishments," Wilson, 62, told amNewYork in a phone interview while promoting a StubHub initiative with Citi Field, "and although that play was a big part of my career, it wasn't my [entire] career."

"It did bother me initially, but at this point now, no it doesn't," he added. "You



Mookie Wilson is best known for his game-winning hit, which led to the 1986 World Series crown.

have to embrace the history. Your history, the organization's history — that's one thing I've learned. It took me awhile to get to that point."

Wilson remains passionate about the Mets, for whom he played nine-plus seasons during the 1980s. The team has been decimated by injuries this season and hovers near the National League basement. It's a far cry from the magical 1986 season, when they led the majors with a franchise-best 108 regular season victories.

"People always look at that team as a barometer for the Mets. I think that might be a little unfair because that team was unbelievable," he said. "That was a once in a generation team right there. That was such a rare group of guys, it would be very tough to duplicate that."

One facet of the '86 Mets that this year's won't match is speed. Centerfielder Wilson was one of three to swipe at least 25 bases that year. Meanwhile, shortstop Amed Rosario leads the cur-

rent roster with just 10 entering Tuesday's game against the visiting Reds — part of a greater trend in baseball that de-emphasized stolen bases from its '80s post-integration peak.

"I don't know if I fit in [with the modern MLB] right now," Wilson said, "because my game revolved around speed, and I don't know if the value of that is the same now. Some clubs might have one or two guys. But as a whole, there's a big drop off in the ability of guys to run."

BRIEFS

Ellsbury to miss six months after surgery

Jacoby Ellsbury will miss six months after having left hip surgery, the Yankees announced Tuesday.

The Yankees said Ellsbury, 34, underwent arthroscopic surgery to repair a torn labrum at the Hospital for Special Surgery in Manhattan on Monday. The typical recovery time to resume playing is six months, according to the team.



Ellsbury

Ellsbury hasn't appeared in a game this season for the Yankees. He started the season on the disabled list with a right oblique strain, then had a hip issue, a bout of plantar fasciitis and a problem with the sacroiliac joint in his back that required him to see a specialist. Ellsbury, however, said in June that he would be back with the Yankees at some point this season. He reiterated that late last month but also acknowledged that time was running out on this season. (NEWSDAY)

Oakley pleads no contest in Vegas

Charles Oakley pleaded no contest to a misdemeanor disorderly conduct charge Tuesday morning, his attorney said. The deal with Las Vegas prosecutors eliminated the possibility of jail time following the former Knicks player's arrest a month ago at a casino.

Oakley was accused by Las Vegas authorities last month of attempting to change his wager "after the outcome was known," according to the Nevada Gaming Control Board. That charge, a felony in Nevada, carried a potential jail sentence between one and six years and a fine of \$10,000.

Oakley's no-contest plea "fully resolves this situation," Oakley's attorneys David Chesnoff and Richard Schonfeld said in a statement. (NEWSDAY)

'98 Yanks back in Bronx for reunion

The 2018 Yankees are eyeing a playoff spot, but they'll have a hard time matching the accomplishments of their counterparts from 20 years ago.

In 1998, the Pinstripes put together one of the best seasons in the history of the game, winning 114 games and taking the AL East by 22 games before a World Series run that included just two postseason losses.

The current team isn't quite there, but it will get some inspiration at the ballpark later this month.

The Yankees will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the 1998 championship team (which went 125-50 overall) on Saturday, Aug.

Expected attendees

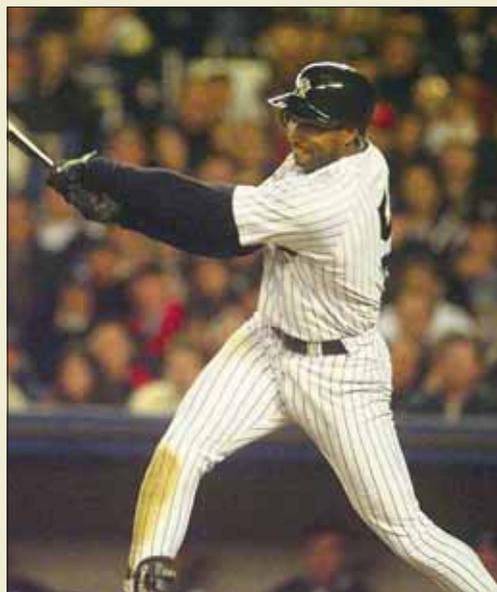
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|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Ryan Bradley | Chuck Knoblauch | Willie Randolph |
| Jim Bruske | Graeme Lloyd | Mariano Rivera |
| Mike Buddie | Tino Martinez | Luis Sojo |
| Homer Bush | Ramiro Mendoza | Shane Spencer |
| Jose Cardenal | Gene Monahan | Darryl Strawberry |
| Chris Chambliss | Jeff Nelson | Joe Torre |
| David Cone | Paul O'Neill | David Wells |
| Todd Erdos | Andy Pettitte | Bernie Williams |
| Mike Figga | Jorge Posada | Soot Zimmer |
| Mike Jerzembeck | Tim Lincecum | (widow of Don Zimmer) |

18, the club announced Tuesday. An on-field reunion will take place ahead of the afternoon matchup with the Toronto Blue Jays including Mariano Rivera, Andy Pettitte, Jorge Posada, Joe Torre, Bernie Williams, Tino Martinez and more.

According to a news re-

lease, the ceremony will include video messages from Derek Jeter, who currently is CEO of the Marlins, and Scott Brosius, now a coach with the Mariners.

Fans are asked to be in their seats for the ceremony by noon. First pitch has been moved back to 1:25 p.m. (NEWSDAY)



Bernie Williams will join in the festivities on Aug. 18.