

May 24, 2006

## **The People's Record\***

Congratulations #25 of the San Francisco Giants (I refuse to say his name, because...well, I just refuse to) As of today, you were sitting with 714\* career home runs – tied with Babe Ruth and only 41 shy of the great Hank Aaron, and he still holds the single season homerun record of 73\* from 2001.

Remember how Roger Marris lit up the American League sky way back in 1961, with is 61 homeruns, passing Ruth's single season record of 60? Those were the days...when baseball was pure. That record stood for 37 years until "The Chase" occurred.

"The Chase" took place in 1998. Thanks to two men on rival teams, baseball fans began to finally come back after the strike a few years back. America fell in love when Slammin' Sammy Sosa hit 66\* homeruns, and Big Mac Mark McGwire surpassed Marris' record of 61, when he hit 70\* dingers.

Of course, Big Mac's record only lasted a few years. That's when #25 of the San Francisco Giants hit his 73\* homers.

So why is it when I mention Big Mac, or Slammin' Sammy, or #25 of the San Francisco Giants, I have to put an \* beside their numbers? Because, if all allegations are true, none of these guys deserve to have their names in the record books.

Roger Marris, Hank Aaron, and even Babe Ruth are the people's record holders. There is no asterisk by their names. Marris had one great season. Aaron did it with class, and Ruth did it on hot dogs and beer.

In those days, baseball was golden. I just turned 30...I don't remember those days. I've seen shows on them, read books on them, but never witnessed them. Instead, thanks to some ballplayers who I once looked up to, my baseball memories will be of my Royals winning the Series in 1985. George Brett coming out of the dugout in the pine-tar game, and three ambassadors who have forever tarnished the game I once loved.

I say "once loved"...because my love affair with baseball is coming to a slow death. How can I like a sport that consists of cheaters, liars and fraud?

What we, the hard working, lower-middle income backbone of American people need, is a people's champion. Maybe an Albert Pujols. Yeah...Pujols. Maybe he can hit 62 home runs this season. If he does, and he is clean, then his 62 will have far more value than Sosa's 66\*, McGwire's 70\*, and #25 of the San Francisco Giants' 73\*.

And, there wouldn't be an \* at the end of the number either.