

Heritage Auctions Reveals Baseball's Top-Selling Players of All Time as 2026 MLB Season Opens

Mickey Mantle tops \$162M as historic baseball collectibles sales exceed \$550M



1952 Topps Mickey Mantle (\$12.6M); 1932 Babe Ruth "Called Shot" (\$24.12M)

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DALLAS, TEXAS (March 25, 2026) – As the 2026 Major League Baseball season begins, [Heritage Auctions](#) is releasing new data highlighting its top-selling baseball players of all time—offering a window into the broader strength and evolution of the sports collectibles market. The data underscores a clear trend: vintage baseball icons continue to anchor the high-end collectibles market, with long-term value driven by rarity, historical significance, and sustained collector demand.

At the top of the list is **Mickey Mantle**, whose memorabilia has generated **\$162,241,529.64** across **16,319 lots** sold at Heritage Auctions - the highest total of any player tracked. Mantle's total not only leads the category but reflects both high transaction volume and consistent demand across a wide range of items, from trading cards to game-used artifacts.

Babe Ruth ranks second with **\$131,321,504.51** across **6,944 lots**, followed by **Ty Cobb** at **\$49,315,187.16** across **3,786 lots**.

Rounding out the top 10:

- Willie Mays — **\$42,102,350.70** (6,420 lots)
- Lou Gehrig — **\$38,360,967.48** (2,702 lots)
- Jackie Robinson — **\$36,957,341.09** (2,364 lots)
- Roberto Clemente — **\$29,436,834.90** (4,177 lots)
- Honus Wagner — **\$24,177,326.38** (1,322 lots)
- Sandy Koufax — **\$21,595,111.45** (3,499 lots)
- Hank Aaron — **\$18,173,887.25** (3,033 lots)

Together, these ten players account for more than **\$553 million** in sports collectibles sales through Heritage Auctions alone.

“What we’re seeing is the perfect storm of nostalgia, rarity, and global demand,” said Chris Ivy, Director of Sports Auctions at Heritage. “Mantle sits at the center of it. His cards, story, and era check every box for collectors. And when you combine that with sheer volume, it creates a market force we’ve never seen before.”

Heritage's [April 3-4 Spring Sports Card Catalog Auction](#) is currently underway, headlined by a historic relic from the early career of Shoeless Joe Jackson. The [1910 T210 Old Mill Cigarettes Series 8 Joe Jackson SGC VG3](#) is currently bidding above \$400K.

Heritage Auctions surpassed \$2.15 billion in total sales in 2025, marking its fifth consecutive year of record-breaking performance. The company's sports category also delivered a standout year, generating \$189 million in sales.

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About Heritage Auctions:

Heritage Auctions is the largest fine art and collectibles auction house founded in the United States, and the world's largest collectibles auctioneer. Heritage maintains offices in New York, Dallas, Beverly Hills, Chicago, Palm Beach, London, Paris, Amsterdam, Brussels, Hong Kong and Tokyo.

Heritage also enjoys the highest Online traffic and dollar volume of any auction house on earth (source: SimilarWeb and Hiscox Report). The Internet's most popular auction-house website, [HA.com](#), has more than 2 million registered bidder-members and searchable free archives of 7,000,000 past auction records with prices realized, descriptions and enlargeable photos. Reproduction rights routinely granted to media for photo credit.

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