

Beltrán, Jones appear on track for Baseball Hall of Fame

NEW YORK (AP) — Center fielders Carlos Beltrán and Andruw Jones appear on track to gain election to the Hall of Fame on Tuesday when voting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America is announced.

As of Monday evening, Beltrán had been picked on 89.2% of the 223 ballots revealed early and tabulated on Ryan Thibodaux's online vote-tracker, just over half of the estimated total submitted. Jones was at 83%, like Beltrán well over the 75% needed for induction to the shrine in Cooperstown, New York.

Making his fourth ballot appearance, Beltrán has moved up steadily from 46.5% in 2023 to 57.1% the following year and 70.3% in 2025, when he fell 19 votes short as Ichiro Suzuki, CC Sabathia and Billy Wagner were elected.

Jones is on the ballot for the ninth of a maximum 10 times. He received just 7.3% in his first appearance in 2018 — his 31 ballots were just over the 22 needed to remain eligible for future BBWAA votes. He didn't get half the total until receiving 58.1%

in 2023, then increased to 61.6% and 66.2%, falling 35 votes short in 2025.

Anyone elected would be inducted on July 26 along with second baseman Jeff Kent, voted in last month by the contemporary era committee after he received a peak of 46.5% of votes from the BBWAA during his time on the ballot from 2014-23.

BBWAA members with 10 or more consecutive years in the organization were eligible to vote.

Beltrán's case

A nine-time All-Star, Beltrán hit .279 with 435 homers and 1,587 RBIs over 20 seasons with Kansas City (1999-2004), Houston (2004, '17), the New York Mets (2005-11), San Francisco (2011), St. Louis (2012-13), the New York Yankees (2014-16) and Texas (2016).

He was the 1999 AL Rookie of the Year and won three Gold Gloves, also hitting .307 in the postseason with 16 homers and 42 RBIs in 65 games.

Beltrán was hired as Mets manager on Nov. 1, 2019, then fired on Jan. 16 without having managed a game, three days after he was the only Astro player mentioned by name in a report by Major League Baseball regarding the team's illicit use of electronics to steal signs during Houston's run to the 2017 World Series championship.

"We all did what we did. Looking back today, we were wrong," Beltrán said on a YES Network broadcast in 2022, after he was hired as an analyst. "I wish I would've asked more questions about what we were doing. I wish the organization would've said to us, 'Hey man, what you guys are doing, we need to stop this.'"

Jones' case

Jones hit .254 with 434 homers, 1,289 RBIs and 152 stolen bases in 17 seasons with Atlanta (1996-2007), the Los Angeles Dodgers (2008), Texas (2009), the Chicago White Sox (2010) and the Yankees (2011-12). He finished his career with the Tohoku Rakuten Golden

Eagles of Japan's Pacific League from 2013-14.

His batting average would be the second-lowest for a position player voted to the Hall of Fame, just above the .253 of Ray Schalk, a superior defensive catcher, and just below the .256 of Harmon Killebrew, who hit 573 homers.

A five-time All-Star, Jones earned 10 Gold Gloves.

In the 1996 World Series opener at Yankee Stadium, at 19 years, 5 months, Jones became the youngest player to homer in a Series game, beating Mickey Mantle's old mark by 18 months. Going deep against Andy Pettitte in the second inning and Brian Boehringer in the third of a 12-1 rout, Jones became the second player to homer in his first two Series at-bats after Gene Tenace in 1972.

Appearing to fall short

Chase Utley (68.2%), Pettitte (57.4%) and Félix Hernández (56.5%) were the only other candidates to get at least half the votes

revealed on the tracker before the announcement.

Utley was on the ballot for the third time after getting 28.8% and then 39.8% last year, and Hernández received 20.6% last year in his first ballot appearance.

Pettitte, on the ballot for the eighth time, has moved up substantially. He got 9% in his initial appearance in 2019, 13.5% in 2024 and 27.9% last year.

Cole Hamels at 31.4% had the highest total among a dozen newcomers on the 27-man ballot.

Alex Rodriguez (43% in fifth appearance) and Manny Ramirez (40.4% in 10th appearance) are well shy. Both served suspensions for performance-enhancing drug violations.

Looking ahead

Buster Posey and Jon Lester are the top first-time candidates on the 2027 BBWAA ballot, followed by Albert Pujols and Yadier Molina in 2028, and Miguel Cabrera, Zack Greinke and Joey Votto in 2029.

Hoops

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BOYS

MP 80, Rocky Grove 66

ERIE — Trent Bengel, Jake DiBello-Millimaci and Ryan Harris collaborated on a 64-point effort as Mercyhurst posted an 80-66 victory over visiting Rocky Grove in a non-region matchup.

Coach Ben Anderson's Orioles remained within striking distance in the first half as the Lakers led 20-17 after one quarter and 40-33 at half-

time, but RG wasn't able to gain any ground in the final two frames as Mercyhurst used a 19-14 advantage in the third and a 21-19 edge in the fourth to secure the win.

Bengel led the Lakers with 25 points, DiBello-Millimaci followed with 21 points and Harris added 18 points.

Landen Carter amassed a game-high 27 points to go with seven rebounds, five assists and five steals for the Orioles, Noah Baughman collected 19 points, four assists and three boards, Connor Ritchey contributed nine points and six caroms, Landon Jones chipped in with six points while Haydon Bevier added five assists.

Hafley to take over as Dolphins' coach

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP) — The Miami Dolphins and Jeff Hafley have reached an agreement to make the former Boston College head coach and Packers defensive coordinator their coach, a person with knowledge of the decision told The Associated Press on Monday.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because a contract hadn't been finalized.

Hafley replaces Mike McDaniels, who was fired after going 35-33 in four seasons. The Dolphins also fired longtime general manager Chris Grier

during the season.

Hafley, who spent two seasons in Green Bay, met with the Dolphins for a second interview earlier Monday before he was offered the job. He will rejoin new GM Jon-Eric Sullivan in Miami.

The 46-year-old Hafley left his job at Boston College in 2024 to become defensive coordinator in Green Bay, where he worked with Sullivan for the past two seasons. Hafley also coached San Francisco's defensive backs from 2016-2018 after spending two years as Cleveland's secondary coach.

THE DAILY SCOREBOARD

NBA STANDINGS						
NBA Conference Glance				EASTERN CONFERENCE		
W	L	Pct	GB	GP	W	L
Detroit	30	10	.750	42	50	31
Boston	26	15	.634	42	49	30
New York	25	18	.581	61/2	49	30
Toronto	25	19	.581	7	49	27
Philadelphia	23	18	.561	71/2	49	28
Orlando	23	19	.548	8	49	28
Cleveland	24	20	.545	8	48	27
Miami	22	20	.524	9	48	27
Chicago	20	22	.476	11	48	27
Atlanta	20	25	.444	121/2	48	27
Milwaukee	18	24	.429	13	47	27
Charlotte	16	27	.372	151/2	48	27
Brooklyn	12	29	.293	181/2	48	27
Washington	10	32	.238	21	48	27
Indiana	10	34	.227	22	49	27
WESTERN CONFERENCE						
Oklahoma City	36	8	.818	51/2	47	34
San Antonio	30	13	.698	51/2	50	28
Denver	29	14	.674	61/2	49	27
L.A. Clippers	19	23	.542	45/2	47	27
Memphis	18	23	.439	16	47	27
Dallas	18	26	.409	18	47	27
Utah	14	29	.326	211/2	48	27
Sacramento	12	31	.279	231/2	48	27
New Orleans	10	35	.222	261/2	48	27

NHL STANDINGS							
EASTERN CONFERENCE				WESTERN CONFERENCE			
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GP	W	L
Carolina	50	31	15	4	66	173	145
Tampa Bay	47	30	13	4	64	166	120
Detroit	50	30	16	4	64	157	153
Montreal	49	27	15	7	61	168	164
Boston	49	28	19	2	58	164	150
Buffalo	48	26	17	5	57	158	145
Pittsburgh	48	23	14	11	57	156	147
N.Y. Islanders	48	24	17	5	57	141	134
Toronto	49	24	17	8	56	165	164
Washington	50	24	20	6	54	159	148
Florida	48	25	20	3	53	146	160
Philadelphia	47	22	17	8	52	141	149
Ottawa	48	22	19	7	51	159	163
Columbus	48	22	19	7	51	148	160
New Jersey	48	24	22	2	50	127	149
N.Y. Rangers	49	21	22	6	48	132	150
MIDLAND'S GAMES							
Carolina 2, Buffalo 1							
Colorado 5, Washington 2							
Pittsburgh 6, Seattle 3							
San Jose 4, Florida 1							
Minnesota 6, Toronto 3							
Philadelphia 8, Vegas, late							
Winnipeg at Chicago, late							
New Jersey at Calgary, late							
N.Y. Rangers at Vancouver, late							
N.Y. Rangers at Anaheim, late							
Seattle 2, Buffalo 1							
Colorado 5, Washington 2							
Pittsburgh 6, Seattle 3							
San Jose 4, Florida 1							
Minnesota 6, Toronto 3							
Philadelphia 8, Vegas, late							
Winnipeg at Chicago, late							
New Jersey at Calgary, late							
N.Y. Rangers at Vancouver, late							
N.Y. Rangers at Anaheim, late							
TUESDAY'S GAMES							
Minnesota at Montreal, 7 p.m.							
Ottawa at Columbus, 7 p.m.							
San Jose at							