

THE LEGAL ONE

A Legal Memo from Your Legal Advisor

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Baseball Has Been Very, Very Good To Me!

Cumberland County Sheriff's Office

Earl R. "Moose" Butler, Sheriff

October 2009

Let Us Pause to Recognize Derek Jeter

Last month (in September 2009) Derek Jeter, who plays shortstop for the New York Yankees Major League baseball club, got a hit against the Baltimore Orioles during a game in Yankee Stadium.

This is important for you to know because Mr. Jeter thus became the Yankee baseball player with the most hits in the history of that storied organization, he did it without the aid of any performance enhancing drugs or substances and he is a nice, polite and well-spoken man whose parents often come to watch him play. Think: the American Dream lived.

Now, let me put this in proper perspective. Derek Jeter has more hits in a Yankee uniform than either Babe Ruth or Mickey Mantle or Joe DiMaggio or Roger Maris or Reggie "Mr. October" Jackson or even Lou Gehrig. And those guys were some kinda baseball players.

Lou Gehrig held the Yankee record for most hits for a Yankee for a whopping seven decades (70 years!) until Mr. Jeter broke it. Mr. Gehrig, a nice, polite and well-

spoken man himself, was known as the “Iron Horse” because he played in the most successive games in major league history until his record was broken by Cal Ripken, Jr. (himself a nice, polite and well-spoken man.) In fact, Mr. Gehrig’s number, 4, was the first known in sports history to be retired when the Yankees did so two years before his death.

Perhaps Gehrig’s name is familiar to you because he was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (a motor neuron disease always fatal) in 1939 and died from it in 1941 when he was only thirty-seven years old. He was inducted in the Baseball Hall of Fame posthumously and now in the United States the disease made famous simply because he suffered from it, ALS, is generally named after him – Lou Gehrig’s disease.

And that is why Derek Jeter is so very important to all of us. He sets such a positive example for everyone. He has the most hits of any Yankee and yet he did it quietly and by showing up and playing hard every day. Major League Baseball has had its World Championship since 1903 in the form of the World Series. The Yankees have won the most – 26. The team with the second most World Series Championships is the St. Louis Cardinals. They have won a mere 10.

Therefore, to have the most hits in the history of a team so consistently dominating in its field with so very many well-know baseball stars and heroes in its history is no small, mean feat. And to have done it with natural talent, quiet grace, gritty self-motivation, unflinching

initiative and gentle humbleness is all the more reason that everyone should stop and ponder Derek Jeter's accomplishment. Stop and ponder Derek Jeter's accomplishment.

Just as Lou Gherig, Mickey Mantle, Ted Williams, Roger Maris, Hank Aaron, Joe DiMaggio and my personal baseball hero Stan "The Man" Musial (St. Louis Cardinals) and so many others before him, Derek Jeter did not cheat and use performance enhancing drugs or substances. He is a positive role model on the national scene where there are so many negative, selfish, whining, child-like criminal-behaving professional athletes for whom money, fame and "me-ism" is all it's about. I am very sorry to say that, but it is so obviously true.

By the way, Ted Williams, who played all his games for the Boston Red Sox, was affectionally called "Teddy Ballgame." I have always thought that was far and away the greatest nickname in all sports. You may have your own favorite. Teddy Ballgame was also the last major leaguer to have a batting average of .400 or higher for an entire season when he hit .406 (actually .40570) in 1941.

You could look it up.