

### High and Tight: Hank Greenberg Confronts Anti-Semitism in Baseball

Ray Robinson



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In the 1930s Hank Greenberg of the Detroit Tigers became the most feared slugger in baseball, the only player to challenge Babe Ruth's record of sixty home runs in a single season before Roger Maris broke the record in 1961. And Greenberg was Jewish, certainly the greatest Jewish ballplayer to that time, which made him a special hero to American Jews. Throughout his career Greenberg displayed, in addition to his hitting prowess, an unusual degree of gentlemanliness that won him the admiration and respect of his fellow ballplayers, executives of the game, sportswriters, and fans. Hank Greenberg was seventy-five when he died in 1986. On the hundredth anniversary of his birth (he was born January 1, 1912), Ray Robinson remembers the man, the player, and the prejudice he overcame.'

Ray Robinson, a former magazine editor, is the author of the widely acclaimed biography Iron Horse: Lou Gehrig in His Time as well as other biographies of Knute Rockne, Christy Mathewson, Will Rogers, and Stan Musial. His writings appear frequently in the New York Times. At age ninety-one he lives in New York City with his wife of sixty-two years, Phyllis.

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