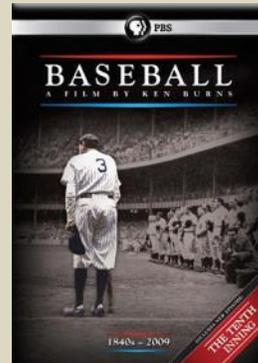


# TOP 10 BASEBALL MOVIES EVER

OBC members were asked to vote on their version of the 10 best baseball movies ever, ranking them from 1 to 10. Of 130 OBC members in February 2015, 23 voted. Points were assigned giving 10 to each voter's first choice, 9 to their second choice, down to 1 for their 10th place movie. The points were added and the movies with the most points were listed in order. George Vrechek conducted the poll. Any movie could be nominated and the voting was public. The only requirement was that the movie appeared in theatres (where they sold popcorn) and could not be a TV-only movie.

Arguably one of the best baseball movies ever was produced by Ken Burns and called Baseball. However, it was 18.5 hours long and only appeared on TV, therefore it was not eligible for the poll nor were other excellent TV movies like 61\* and The Bronx is Burning. The movie The Babe (with John Goodman 1992) was also not eligible, per George Vrechek, because it was so bad.



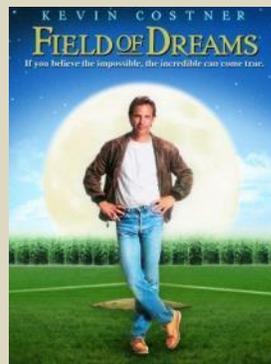
The results likely reflect the favorite movies of voters rather than necessarily the best movies about baseball. Not all voters had seen every movie; some of the older movies suffered in the voting due to lack of familiarity, sort of like old-timers getting into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

The results and some comments are as follows. The quotes are primarily courtesy of member Sal Domino.

## 1. Field of Dreams, Kevin Costner 1989

"One constant through the years Ray, has been baseball...."

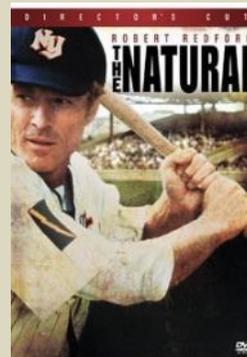
Field of Dreams was picked first or second by 14 members and its point total of 181 was 50% greater than the next highest-rated movie. It was never close in the voting.



## 2. The Natural, Robert Redford 1984

"God, I love baseball!"

The clear second place finisher with 126 points and in the top 10 of 17 of the 23 voters.



### 3. Bull Durham, Kevin Kostner 1988

"The only church that feeds the soul day in, day out, is the church of baseball."

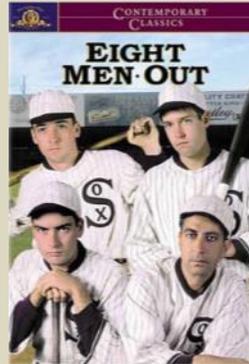
Or how to cause a rainout. Edged out Eight Men Out with 108 points.



### 4. Eight Men Out, John Cusack and Charlie Sheen 1988

"These guys don't look so tough" "yeah that's what Custer said when the indians took the field."

104 Points



### 5. 42, Chadwick Boseman 2013

"Maybe tomorrow we'll all wear 42 so nobody could tell us apart."

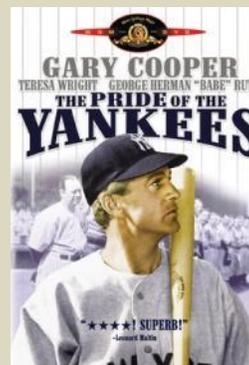
70 points, the newest movie elected



### 6. Pride of the Yankees, Gary Cooper 1942

"Today I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of the earth."

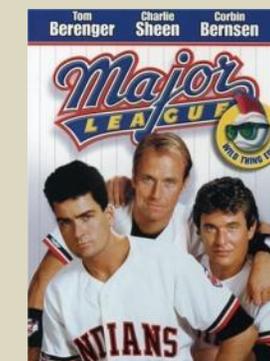
68 points for the oldest movie in the top 10. Babe Ruth appears in the movie as do many other Yankees who were only a few years away from their playing days. Gehrig died one year before the movie was released. Ruth died 6 years later. A tear jerker.



### 7. Major League, Tom Berenger and Charlie Sheen 1989

"Juuuuuust a bit outside."

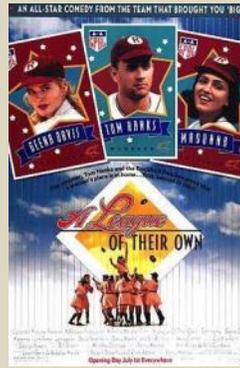
64 points. A knee-slapper with Bob Uecker.



## 8. A League of Their Own, Geena Davis and Tom Hanks 1992

"There's no crying in baseball!"

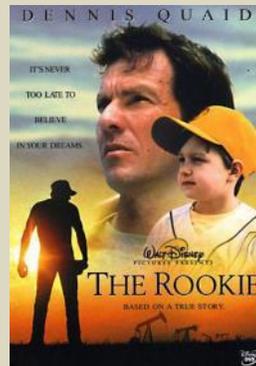
Sixty percent of the voters included it in their top 10. 58 points.



## 9. The Rookie, Dennis Quaid 2002

"Jimmy, I've been a scout for a long time, and the number one rule is, arms slow down when they get old. Now, if I call the office and tell 'em I got a guy here almost twice these kids' age, I'm gonna get laughed at. But, if I don't call in a 98-mile-an-hour fastball, I'm gonna get fired! I'm just saying there's a chance you might get a call on this."

57 points. Everyman's dream.



**Tenth place** was a virtual toss-up among 6 movies. Ranked in order of points:

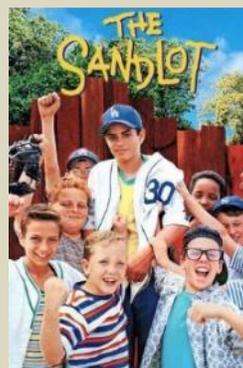
### 10.a. Bad News Bears, Walter Matthau and Tatum O'Neal 1976

"Jesus! Just who in the heck you think you are?"  
"The goddamned manager, that's who! "



### 10.b. The Sandlot, Tom Guiry 1993

"You're killing me Smalls!"



### 10.c. Moneyball, Brad Pitt 2011

"The problem we're trying to solve is that there are rich teams and there are poor teams. Then there's fifty feet of crap, and then there's us."



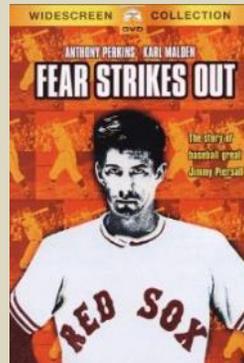
**10.d. Bang the Drum Slowly, Robert DeNiro and Michael Moriarty 1973**

“Everybody knows everybody is dying; that's why people are as good as they are.”



**10 e. Fear Strikes Out, Anthony Perkins and Karl Malden 1957**

"Put your things together and go down there and tell that doc that we gotta get back so we can tell those wiseguys we're not through, we're not washed up."



**10.f. The Stratton Story, Jimmy Stewart 1949**

“Honey, do you know there's a tailor in Chicago that gives a suit of clothes away to any ballplayer that hits the scoreboard in center field? As of yesterday the New York Yankees are the best dressed team in baseball.”



Views change and new movies are produced. The poll should be re-run periodically.

George Vrechek, March 2015