During Yom Kippur, many Jews fret over whether Jewish Major League players will play on the holiest of holidays. This has become a growing problem, because the number of Jews playing Major League Baseball (MLB) has been increasing.

This season, for example, 13 Jews — Brewer Ryan Braun; the Mets’ Ike Davis and Josh Satin; Padres pitcher Jason Marquis; Phillies reliever Michael Schwimer; Rangers’ Scott Feldman and Ian Kinsler; the Rays’ Sam Fuld; Red Sox’s Craig Breslow, Ryan Kalish, Ryan Lavarnway and Danny Valencia; and White Sox’s Kevin Youkilis — wore big league uniforms. Another 53 Jews played professional baseball in the minor leagues this year.

There have been more than 160 Jews out of the roughly 17,000 players who have played professional baseball in the minor leagues this year.

While Jews were inscribing themselves in the Book of Life, I was inducting the greatest players into the Jewish All-Time All-Star team.

**First base:** Hammerin’ Hank Greenberg (1911-1986) was the first Jewish baseball superstar. On Sept. 18, 1934, when Greenberg was leading the American League (AL) in RBIs and his Detroit Tigers were in a close battle for first place, he chose to attend Yom Kippur services rather than play. When he arrived at the synagogue, the congregation gave him a standing ovation.

Playing between 1930 and 1947 (interrupted by the equivalent of four full seasons during his World War II service), Greenberg hit 331 homes, had a slugging average of .605 and batted .313. He led the AL in homers and RBIs four times. He had more than 100 RBIs in seven seasons, including an astounding 183 in 1937. Greenberg played in three World Series, was a five-time All-Star, and was the AL’s Most Valuable Player in 1935 and 1940. In 1935, when the previous year’s pennant-winning managers selected the All-Star teams, Greenberg’s own skipper, Mickey Cochrane, didn’t pick the Tigers slugger for the AL team even though he already had 103 RBIs at the All-Star break, a record that still stands. (Cochrane picked Lou Gehrig and Jimmy Foxx as the All-Star first basemen.) The Bronx native was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1956.

**Second base:** Since joining the Texas Rangers in 2006, Ian Kinsler (born 1982) has been selected to the All-Star team three times (2008, 2010 and 2012). He is one of only 12 players in baseball history to join the 30/30 club — to hit at least 30 homers and steal 30 bases — which he’s done twice (in 2009 and 2011). On April 9, 2009, Kinsler went 6-for-6 and hit for the cycle. During his career he’s averaged 25 homers, 81 RBIs and a .273 batting average.

**Shortstop:** The roster of good Jewish shortstops is pretty thin, so we’ve moved second baseman Charles Solomon

"Buddy" Myer, an all-around infielder, to this position. Myer (1904-1974) played in the majors for 17 years. Except for two years (1927-28) with the Red Sox, he spent his entire career with the Washington Senators.
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Coming out of Mississippi A&M University (now Mississippi State), he joined the Senators in 1925 and had a lifetime batting average of .303, leading the AL in 1935 with a .349 average. He also led the league in stolen bases (30) in 1938. During his career, he had 2,131 hits in 8,190 at-bats. He played most of his career before the All-Star game began in 1933, but was selected to the AL teams in 1935 and 1937. Myer is probably the greatest player never elected to the Hall of Fame; his career statistics are equal to or better than those of other infielders, like Billy Herman and Bobby Doerr, who were voted into Cooperstown.

Third base: Al Rosen (born 1924) has been a superstar since he first arrived in the majors in 2007. He was selected by the Milwaukee Brewers out of the University of Miami in the first round of the 2005 draft (fifth overall). He was the first Jew to win Rookie of the Year honors, receiving 25 home runs and 87 RBIs. He was selected to the NL All-Star team four consecutive years (2002-2005) and was the NL's MVP award winner in 2004.

Outfield: By the time Sandy Koufax (born 1935) had a lifetime batting average of .303, leading the AL in 1935 with a .349 average. He also led the league in stolen bases (30) in 1938. During his career, he had 2,131 hits in 8,190 at-bats. He played most of his career before the All-Star game began in 1933, but was selected to the AL teams in 1935 and 1937. Myer is probably the greatest player never elected to the Hall of Fame; his career statistics are equal to or better than those of other infielders, like Billy Herman and Bobby Doerr, who were voted into Cooperstown.

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