

David Ortiz 34ever

By Jesse Almeida

The moment Red Sox fans were waiting for is here. David Ortiz is not only a beloved person in Boston and the Dominican Republic, but throughout the world. When you think of David Ortiz you think of a humble guy who loves people no matter who they are, and a legend on the baseball field. Today Big Papi makes history. David Ortiz is officially a first ballot hall of famer. He is the only player on the ballot to make it and David is the first designated hitter in MLB history to be a first ballot hall of famer, and rightfully so. What David Ortiz did on the baseball field made him a baseball legend. On top of that, he became an icon in Boston for all that he did for the city.

There is zero debate that David Ortiz is the greatest designated hitter of all time and he is definitely a top 20 power hitter of all time. If you wanted to argue that he is a top 20, top 30 greatest overall hitter of all time, that argument is definitely reasonable. To add in with that, David Ortiz is one of the greatest clutch hitters of all time. If you were up by a run or tied late in games, pitchers would be scared to see Ortiz step up. David Ortiz had a monstrous career. David hit a total of 2472 hits, 541 home runs, a batting average of .286, and drove in 1768 RBIs. He is 1 of only 3 players in MLB history with at least 500+ home runs and 600+ doubles and those other two names are Barry Bonds and Hank Aaron. Big Papi played 20 years in the majors, 6 of them with the Twins and 14 with Boston. To this day we thank the Minnesota Twins for releasing David Ortiz in 2003 and we thank Pedro Martinez for having the Red Sox sign him to Boston. With Boston, he was a 10x All Star, a Home Run Derby winner, a 7x silver slugger winner, and most importantly a 3x World Series champion.

One of the greatest moments in Big Papi's career was game 4 of the 2004 ALCS when he smashed a ball into the Yankees bullpen to keep the Sox's hopes alive and force a game 5. The next night he walked it off again with a base hit to force a game 6. He was a huge reason why the Red Sox ended up breaking the curse in 2004. He played a huge role in all of the 3 World Series that the Red Sox won. In 2007 he hit 35 home runs, drove in 117 runs, and batted .332.

But the greatest moments of David Ortiz came on the field at Fenway Park on April 20, 2013. David, just like us, loves the city of Boston and the people of Boston. After the horrific Boston Marathon bombing, it struck the city. Innocent people were killed, many were injured, family's hearts were broken, and the people of Boston were shocked, devastated, and angry. After the Boston police were ordered to go on a manhunt and caught the two bombers, in the first

game back at Fenway, David said some powerful words that really struck fans. "This jersey that we are wearing today, it doesn't say Red Sox. It says Boston. We want to thank you Mayor Menino, Governor Patrick, the whole police department for the great job that they did this past week. This is our f--king city, and nobody's gonna dictate our freedom. Stay strong. Thank you." It was exactly what all of Boston needed to hear. After the tragic events, Boston rejoiced, stayed strong, and David Ortiz was a huge part of bringing the city together.

In the same season the Red Sox were determined to win it all for the city to give Boston something to smile about. David was stellar in the ALDS as he hit two moonshots off of David Price in game 2 of the ALDS. Of course, we will never forget in game 2 of the ALCS where Big Papi hit a game tying grand slam to a Boston cop with his hands in the air with enjoyment in the Red Sox bullpen. In the 2013 World Series, David could not do more for the Sox as he hit 2 homers, 6 runs batted in, 2 doubles, and batted .688. This earned him the World Series MVP and his 3rd World Series. In his speech after game 6, he said, "This is for you Boston." David has always put the city of Boston before himself.

Red Sox fans know the story of the little sick fan Maverick who Ortiz promised a home run for, delivered on that promise, and then arranged to have Maverick meet him at Fenway for a game. David delivered on many people from the Make A Wish organization, Jimmy Fund, and was all about the fans all the time. David Ortiz is someone that people will look at and say he was more than a baseball player and a great person. David Ortiz is an icon. He will always put a smile on anyone's face. He is so kind, humble, loyal, and a legend forever. There is zero reason to hate on Big Papi and being a first ballot Hall of Famer is well deserved for Big Papi. A huge congratulations to David Ortiz.

Work Cited:

[David Ortiz's Final Season Will Celebrate a Man as Important Off-Field as on It | Bleacher Report | Latest News, Videos and Highlights](#)
[David Ortiz Stats | Baseball-Reference.com](#)