



## Tony La Russa



Tony La Russa led his teams to three World Series titles (1989, 2006, and 2011) as a professional baseball manager and accumulated the third most managerial wins (2,728) in Major League Baseball history. That total is only 35 wins behind John McGraw, and 1,003 behind Connie Mack. La Russa, inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 2014, currently serves as Baseball Operations Special Advisor for the Los Angeles Angels.

A Florida native, La Russa signed to play baseball with the Kansas City Athletics (or "A's") at age 17, made his Major League debut in 1960 at age 18, and went on to play professional baseball for 16 seasons. He played with the A's (both in Kansas City and Oakland), the Atlanta Braves, and the Chicago Cubs. Towards the end of his playing career, he earned a law degree before he was named the manager of a minor-league affiliate of the Chicago White Sox in 1978. He took over as manager of the White Sox in August of the 1979 season through June, 1986. The highlight of his White Sox tenure was a 99-win season and the Western Division Championship in 1983. It was the team's first play-off berth in 24 years.

Following his time in Chicago, he led the Oakland A's for 10 years to their highest total wins for three straight seasons, winning the American League pennant each year (1988, 1989, and 1990). In 1989, the team defeated the San Francisco Giants to win the 1989 World Series championship.

His managerial career culminated with 16 seasons with the St. Louis Cardinals. The team's success during this period featured nine playoff appearances, including two World Series titles (2006, 2011) and three League Championships (2004, 2006, 2011). He moved into second place on the all-time post-season wins list with his 70th win in the 2011 World Series.

La Russa's honors include Manager of the Year recognition in four seasons. He served as manager of six All-Star games. After retiring following the 2011 World Series, he was invited to manage his last game, the 2012 All-Star game in Kansas City. The National League's win brought his All-Star record to 4-2. La Russa and Sparky Anderson are the only two managers to win World Series in both leagues. La Russa and Leo Durocher are the only managers in Major League history to have 500 or more wins with three different teams.

La Russa's post-managerial career activities include: authoring *One Last Strike: Fifty Years in Baseball, Ten and a Half Games Back*, and *One Final Championship Season*, working for Commissioner Bud Selig and Major League Baseball, front office duties with the Arizona Diamondbacks, Boston Red Sox, and currently with the Los Angeles Angels.

During a 1990 televised game between the A's and the Yankees, a stray cat ran onto the field, causing a delay until she was secured in the A's dugout. It was only after La Russa and his wife Elaine tried to find a suitable adoption resource for "Evie" that they discovered the lack of a no-kill shelter in the East Bay region. The couple co-founded Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF) as a progressive resource for animal welfare.

Since 1991, the foundation has grown into not only a rescue and adoption source for animals, but also a much-lauded center for education and enrichment for people and animals. Located in Walnut Creek, California, ARF's 37,700 square-foot national headquarters offers programs including an emotional support and service-dog training program for military veterans; animal therapy teams who interact with hospital patients, elderly and at-risk students; humane education for all ages and Pet Safety Net programs for families at-risk of surrendering an animal to a shelter.

La Russa holds a degree in Industrial Management from the University of South Florida in Tampa, and received his Juris Doctor from Florida State University. In 2014 he received an honorary degree from St. Louis University and Washington University in St. Louis. In addition to his work with Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation, he serves on the board of directors for the Workday Foundation.

La Russa makes his off-season home in Alamo, California with his wife Elaine, and numerous dogs and cats. Their daughters Bianca and Devon are also active, passionate animal rescuers.

### Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation

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