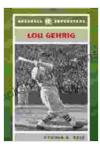
## Lou Gehrig: The Iron Horse, Baseball's Immortal Legend





#### Lou Gehrig (Baseball Superstars) by Ronald A. Reis

***	5 out of 5
Language :	English
File size :	4119 KB
Text-to-Speech:	Enabled
Print length :	130 pages



Lou Gehrig, the legendary first baseman for the New York Yankees, was a true baseball superstar. Known for his unwavering determination and incredible endurance, Gehrig earned the nickname 'The Iron Horse' and became one of the most beloved athletes in American history. His remarkable career was cut short by the devastating disease amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS),but his legacy continues to inspire generations of baseball fans.

#### **Early Life and Career**

Heinrich Ludwig Gehrig was born on June 19, 1903, in New York City to German immigrant parents. He grew up in a poor neighborhood and began playing baseball at a young age. In 1923, he was signed by the New York Yankees and quickly made his way to the major leagues.

Gehrig made his debut with the Yankees in 1925 and quickly established himself as one of the best hitters in the game. He was a powerful hitter with a keen eye for the strike zone and a remarkable ability to get on base. In 1927, he became the first player to hit four home runs in a single game, a feat that would not be matched for nearly 50 years.

#### The Iron Horse

Gehrig's incredible endurance earned him the nickname 'The Iron Horse.' He played in 2,130 consecutive games, a record that stood for more than 50 years. Gehrig's durability was legendary, and he was known to play through pain and injuries that would have sidelined most other players.

#### Hall of Fame Career

Gehrig's accomplishments on the field were remarkable. He was a seventime World Series champion with the Yankees and a six-time American League batting champion. He was also named the league's Most Valuable Player in 1927 and 1936.

In 1939, Gehrig was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame, becoming one of the youngest players ever elected. His plaque in the Hall of Fame reads, "A powerful hitter and a remarkable fielder, Gehrig was one of the most durable players in baseball history."

#### **ALS and Retirement**

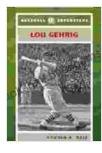
In 1939, Gehrig began to experience symptoms of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects the nervous system. ALS gradually weakened Gehrig's muscles and eventually left him paralyzed.

In 1941, Gehrig announced his retirement from baseball at the age of 37. His farewell speech at Yankee Stadium is considered one of the most moving speeches in sports history. In it, he said, "Today, I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of the earth."

#### Legacy

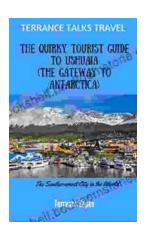
Lou Gehrig died from ALS on June 2, 1941, at the age of 37. His death shocked the baseball world and the nation. Gehrig's legacy continues to live on, both through his remarkable accomplishments on the field and his courageous battle against ALS. The Lou Gehrig Memorial Award is given annually to the Major League Baseball player who best exemplifies the qualities of Gehrig's character, including integrity, courage, and determination. The award is a reminder of Gehrig's legacy and his enduring impact on the game of baseball.

Lou Gehrig was a true baseball superstar and a beloved American icon. His incredible accomplishments on the field, his unwavering determination, and his courageous battle against ALS have made him an inspiration to generations of baseball fans. Gehrig's legacy continues to live on, both through the Lou Gehrig Memorial Award and the countless fans who remember his greatness.



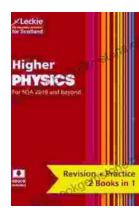
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