

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Cal Ripken Jr.: The Iron Man of Baseball

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Cal Ripken Jr.'s consecutive games played streak is of immense historical significance in baseball. It not only broke Lou Gehrig's previous record but also showcased his remarkable durability and dedication to the game. Ripken's streak set a new standard for what is possible in the sport and inspired generations of players to prioritize consistency and reliability. It changed the culture of baseball by emphasizing the value of showing up and contributing to the team day in and day out.
2. Cal Ripken Jr. was a legendary figure in baseball due to his incredible work ethic, sportsmanship, and leadership. He was known for his versatility, consistency, and ability to adapt to different positions, making him a valuable asset to any team. Off the field, his contributions to youth development and philanthropy further solidified his legacy as a role model for aspiring athletes.
3. Cal Ripken Jr. used his platform to give back to the community through the Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation. The foundation's focus on teaching life lessons through baseball to underprivileged youth helps instill character, discipline, and positive values in young people. Ripken's involvement and commitment to making a difference in the lives of children exemplify his dedication to leaving a lasting impact beyond his playing days.
4. Cal Ripken Jr.'s induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 2007 is a significant honor that recognizes his extraordinary contributions to the sport. It represents his status as one of the greatest players in baseball history and solidifies his place among the sport's legends. Ripken's induction also serves as a reminder of his remarkable career and the impact he had on the game, both as a player and as an ambassador for the sport.

