



JOE MAUER HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

The speech was 100% Joe

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. - Joe Mauer began to realize the enormity of the moment on Saturday during the Hall of Fame Legends parade when he rode in the back of a truck with his family and looked out at a crowd that was predominantly Twins fans.

"To see that many Twins fans out there, I just felt the love," he said. "And I was just hoping that I could deliver the speech I wrote down."

Mauer forged his career on keeping composure when jousting with opposing pitchers. Where many sped up the game, Mauer slowed it down to something manageable. And he did so for most of the most

Precise and efficient while thanking all who helped, Mauer joins the legends

Story by LA VELLE E. NEAL III • Photo by CARLOS GONZALEZ • Star Tribune staff

important moment of his life on Sunday as he entered the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

The pressure was amplified by an estimated crowd of 28,000 that mostly were Twins fans wearing various styles of Mauer gear. One fan even wore Joe Mauer

sideburns from a 2006 giveaway. Mauer strode to the podium to receive his Hall of Fame ring and hear MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred read from his new plaque. The phrase "precise lefthanded swing" summed up what fans watched from him for 15 seasons as he accumulated 2,123

career hits while winning three American League batting titles.

Mauer then proceeded to blow past his request to keep his speech around 10 minutes long. But part of that was because he paused for applause 22 times.

It took about 40 seconds for the first round of applause, when he spoke about his roots and the remarkable feat of being one of four St. Paul natives who lived within a 3½-mile radius of each other and now have plaques in Cooperstown.

He choked up near the three-minute mark, when he spoke about his grandfather, See **MAUER** on C4 ►

MLB

MILWAUKEE 8, TWINS 7

Bullpen falters as Brewers sweep

Twins' struggles vs. MLB's best teams continued.

By PHIL MILLER
phil.miller@startribune.com

Lurking beneath the surface of the Twins' midsummer resurgence, of their swelling confidence and postseason potential, is a troublesome reality that they will have to address over the next 10 weeks.

Though doing so over the next three days wouldn't be a bad idea, either.

The Twins hit three home runs Sunday, but the Brewers hit four, three of them off the Twins bullpen, and Milwaukee walked away with an 8-7 victory and a sweep of the two-game series at Target Field.

"Two-game series, we lost both of them. And looking in the mirror, we should win both of those games," Twins manager Rocco Baldelli said.

But they didn't, and perhaps that was predictable. The Twins have a big problem this season with the league's best teams, the sort they will meet in the playoffs if they get there.

Six teams currently own a better record this season than the Twins (54-44), and the best of them, Philadelphia, arrives Monday for a three-game series. The other five? With Milwaukee's sweep, that quintet has beaten the Twins 14 consecutive times and owns a cumulative 19-2 record against them in 2024.

"If we want to get where we expect ourselves to get, where we want to be, those are the teams we're going to be playing," pitcher Pablo López said. "You're not going to encounter many situations where you have the luxury of making mistakes.... That sense of urgency always has to be there."

More success at the plate would help, too. The Twins have been outscored 118-60 in those 21 games and have batted .185 as a team. They managed nine hits and drew seven walks Sunday, but they sabotaged their chances by



JERRY HOLT • jerry.holt@startribune.com

The Brewers' Rhys Hoskins, left, celebrates his two-run homer in the eighth inning with teammate Sal Frelick on Sunday. The Twins asked for a review because the ball was caught by a fan as Austin Martin leapt for it, but the call on the field was upheld.

going 1-for-12 with runners in scoring position, after going 2-for-14 Saturday.

Then again, their bullpen gave up home runs in the seventh, eighth and ninth innings, the first time this year Twins relievers have given up three homers in a game.

"We scored seven runs. That's plenty of runs to win a game," Baldelli said. "Coming back off the break, we've got to play a complete game at some point. We have to really play better baseball as a team. Execute better, make

better pitches, when there's people on base find a barrel somehow. That will lead to winning more games."

So will home runs — hitting them. Byron Buxton homered twice, a 411-foot solo shot into the Brewers bullpen in the third inning and a 386-footer down the line in the ninth. Trevor Larnach also connected, putting the Twins in front with a two-run shot to right in the fifth.

But Milwaukee No. 9 hitter Eric Haase also homered twice, and he drove in another

run during the Brewers' three-run fifth by following Jackson Chourio's two-run double with an RBI single.

In the seventh, Jorge Alcalá surrendered a 443-foot upper-deck blast to Chourio to tie the score at 5-5. An inning later, Griffin Jax watched Rhys Hoskins hit a two-run homer that appeared headed for the flower gardens atop the left field wall, though a fan in the first row caught it before it landed — or before, the Twins maintained, Austin Martin could make an amazing catch.

It was the first homer Jax has given up at home since Sept. 13, 2023.

Haase hit his second home run in the ninth inning off Caleb Thielbar, and that run proved costly when the Twins scored twice in the bottom of the inning.

"We didn't lose because of bad luck. We lost because we didn't execute and we didn't do enough to win," Baldelli said. "When you play the good teams, you've got to play even better. That's all it is — just play better."

TWINS NOTES

Martin misses out after fan grabs Hoskins' homer

By PHIL MILLER
phil.miller@startribune.com

Austin Martin might have made the catch of the year Sunday, a well-timed leap to reach over the planters atop the left field wall and "a snowcone [catch] off the end of my glove," he said, to keep **Rhys Hoskins'** deep fly from turning into a tiebreaking home run.

"But we'll never know." That's because a fan in a Twins jersey reached out and made a far easier catch, standing in the front row of the bleachers. It wasn't quite a **Jeffrey Maier** moment — that's the 12-year-old who reached over the Yankee Stadium wall during the 1996 playoffs and caught a **Derek Jeter** fly ball before Orioles outfielder

Tony Tarasco could — but the Twins asked the umpires to review the play.

"That's a boundary call, we get a free ask on those," manager **Rocco Baldelli** said.

Did he think the fan interfered with Martin? "I really, truthfully, couldn't tell," he said.

That was Martin's opinion, too. "I'd like to say I had an opportunity to possibly get there. I was up there, I thought my glove was right where the ball was coming down.... But I don't know," he said. "When I jumped up, I looked up and saw it go into his glove before I came down. So it was just frustration after that."

The frustration only increased when umpires ruled that the fan didn't reach into play and interfere, so the

home run, which put Milwaukee ahead for good, stood.

Griffin Jax, who had given up only two home runs in 43½ innings this season, gave up the blast, the first since Sept. 13, 2023, that he had served up a homer at Target Field.

"I made my pitch. It was a four-seam [fastball], top of the zone. I'll live with it," Jax said. "It's not a pitch I regret throwing."

But shouldn't Martin have gotten the chance to catch it? Jax said he can't be too angry. "It was a Twins fan," he said.

Paddack's theory

Injured righthander **Chris Paddack** said the mental stress of wondering if his twice-replaced elbow ligament was damaged again was worse than the actual pain.

Shorthanded

The Twins played a man short Sunday, though it didn't come into play. Before the game, they placed lefthander **Kody Funderburk** on the 15-day injured list because of a strained left oblique.

Funderburk last pitched July 12, so the problem caught the Twins off guard. They summoned Class AAA righthander **Ronny Henriquez** from Toledo — where the Saints were completing a three-game sweep with a 10-3 victory behind a 4-for-4 game from **Chris Williams** — but his flight didn't arrive in time for him to get to Target Field before the game ended.

Funderburk is the 11th Twins player currently on the IL, and the sixth pitcher.

SCORECARD

SECOND INNING
Twins: Milwaukee starter Aaron Civale walked Max Kepler. Carlos Santana walked. Brooks Lee popped out to first. Austin Martin struck out. Edoardo Julien walked to load the bases. Christian Vazquez singled up the middle. Kepler scored and Santana scored on a throwing error by second baseman Bryce Turang. Twins 2, Milwaukee 0

THIRD INNING
Milwaukee: With two outs, Eric Haase hit a home run to left off Twins starter Joe Ryan.
Twins: Byron Buxton hit a home run to center.
Twins 3, Milwaukee 1

FIFTH INNING
Milwaukee: Rhys Hoskins singled to left. Joey Ortiz hit into a fielder's choice, Hoskins out at second. Garrett Mitchell reached on a bunt single, Ortiz to second. Jackson Chourio doubled to center, Ortiz and Mitchell scored. Haase singled to center, Chourio scored.
Twins: Willi Castro walked. Trevor Larnach hit a two-run homer to right-center. Twins 5, Milwaukee 4

SEVENTH INNING
Milwaukee: With Jorge Alcalá pitching, Chourio hit a home run to left-center. Twins 5, Milwaukee 5

EIGHTH INNING
Milwaukee: With Griffin Jax pitching and one out, Sal Frelick singled to left. Hoskins hit a two-run homer to left-center. Milwaukee 7, Twins 5

NINTH INNING
Milwaukee: With Caleb Thielbar pitching and one out, Haase hit a home run to center.
Twins: With Trevor Megill pitching, Buxton hit a home run to left. Kepler doubled to center. Santana flied out to center, Kepler to third. Lee grounded out to pitcher, Kepler scored. Milwaukee 8, Twins 7

| MILWAUKEE | AB | R | H | BI | BB | SO | NP | Avg. |
|---------------|----------------------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----|------|
| Turang 2b | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 271 | |
| Contreras dh | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 284 | |
| Adames ss | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 248 | |
| Frelick rf | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 273 | |
| Hoskins 1b | 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 216 | |
| Ortiz 3b | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 260 | |
| Mitchell cf | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 212 | |
| Chourio lf | 4 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 253 | |
| Haase c | 4 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 429 | |
| TOTALS | 38 | 8 | 11 | 8 | 1 | 9 | | |
| TWINS | AB | R | H | BI | BB | SO | NP | Avg. |
| Castro ss | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 265 | |
| Larnach dh | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 248 | |
| Jeffers ph-dh | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 235 | |
| Buxton cf | 5 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 282 | |
| Kepler rf | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 255 | |
| Santana 1b | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 241 | |
| Lee 3b | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 264 | |
| Martin lf | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 252 | |
| Wallner ph-lf | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 216 | |
| Julien 2b | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 208 | |
| Vazquez c | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 198 | |
| Margot ph | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 234 | |
| Camargo c | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 000 | |
| TOTALS | 35 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 10 | | |
| Milwaukee | 001 030 121 — 8 11 1 | | | | | | | |
| Twins | 021 002 002 — 7 9 0 | | | | | | | |

E—Turang (3). LOB—Milwaukee 4, Twins 9.
2B—Chourio (13), Adames (24), Castro (24), Kepler (17). HR—Haase (2), off Ryan; Chourio (10), off Alcalá; Hoskins (15), off Jax; Haase (3), off Thielbar; Buxton (10), off Civale; Larnach (10), off Civale; Buxton (11), off Megill. RBI—Haase 3 (8), Chourio 3 (40), Hoskins 2 (48), Vazquez (17), Buxton 2 (40), Larnach 2 (32), Lee (10). SB—Ortiz (6).

| MILWAUKEE | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO | NP | ERA |
|--------------|----|---|---|----|----|----|----|------|
| Civale | 4½ | 4 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 87 | 5.74 |
| Zastryzny | ⅔ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 0.00 |
| Wilson | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 14 | 4.07 |
| Koenig W 8-1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 24 | 1.62 |
| Peguero | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 28 | 3.18 |
| Megill S 19 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 15 | 2.48 |
| TWINS | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO | NP | ERA |
| Ryan | 6 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 6 | 88 | 3.65 |
| Alcalá | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 16 | 1.72 |
| Jax L 3-4 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 15 | 2.23 |
| Thielbar | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 16 | 5.79 |

HBP—Civale (Castro). Umpires—Home, Ryan Blakney; First, Sean Barber; Second, Charlie Ramos; Third, Jim Wolf. T—3:02. A—36,327 (38,544).

TWINS STATISTICS

(Through Sunday)
Note: * - Player on injured list. Totals include players no longer on the team.

| BATTERS | AVG | AB | R | H | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| Miranda* | .325 | 255 | 35 | 83 | 21 | 1 | 9 | 43 |
| Correa | .308 | 279 | 51 | 86 | 16 | 2 | 13 | 47 |
| Lewis* | .292 | 89 | 18 | 26 | 5 | 0 | 10 | 18 |
| Buxton | .282 | 255 | 45 | 72 | 19 | 3 | 11 | 40 |
| Lee | .264 | 53 | 6 | 14 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 10 |
| Castro | .265 | 347 | 56 | 92 | 24 | 5 | 7 | 30 |
| Kepler | .255 | 255 | 33 | 65 | 17 | 0 | 6 | 32 |
| Martin | .252 | 119 | 27 | 30 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 9 |
| Larnach | .248 | 202 | 26 | 50 | 8 | 0 | 10 | 32 |
| Santana | .241 | 315 | 37 | 76 | 17 | 0 | 14 | 43 |
| Jeffers | .235 | 265 | 36 | 62 | 17 | 0 | 14 | 47 |
| Margot | .234 | 197 | 28 | 46 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 23 |
| Wallner | .216 | 51 | 4 | 11 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 8 |
| Julien | .208 | 173 | 24 | 36 | 6 | 0 | 7 | 17 |
| Kirilloff* | .201 | 159 | 20 | 32 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 20 |
| Castillo | .200 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Vazquez | .198 | 182 | 14 | 36 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 17 |
| Farmer* | .189 | 132 | 15 | 25 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 15 |
| Camargo | .000 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTALS | .253 | 3336 | 477 | 843 | 196 | 15 | 119 | 453 |

Stolen bases (46): Castro 10, Julien 6, Martin 6, Buxton 5, Margot 4, Farmer 3, Jeffers 2, Larnach 2, Miranda 2, Santana 2, Vazquez 2, Kepler, Lee.
Errors (46): Castro 6, Correa 5, Lewis 4, Jeffers 4, Miranda 4, Santana 4, Vazquez 4, Woods Richardson 3, Margot 2, Farmer, Funderburk, Julien, Lee, Lopez, Martin, Thielbar, Ryan.

| PITCHERS | W-L | ERA | IP | H | ER | BB | SO |
|---------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Henriquez | 0-0 | 0.00 | 3.0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Stewart* | 0-0 | 0.68 | 13.1 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 17 |
| Staumont | 1-0 | 1.64 | 22.0 | 13 | 4 | 9 | 17 |
| Alcalá | 2-3 | 1.72 | 36.2 | 20 | 7 | 15 | 35 |
| Jax | 3-4 | 2.23 | 44.1 | 30 | 11 | 12 | 59 |
| Duran | 5-4 | 2.84 | 31.2 | 20 | 10 | 10 | 31 |
| Woods Rich. | 3-1 | 3.51 | 82.0 | 70 | 32 | 24 | 71 |
| Ryan | 6-6 | 3.65 | 120.2 | 103 | 49 | 19 | 130 |
| Sands | 4-1 | 3.74 | 43.1 | 36 | 18 | 7 | 51 |
| Ober | 8-5 | 4.14 | 100.0 | 84 | 46 | 24 | 106 |
| Okert | 3-1 | 4.40 | 28.2 | 28 | 14 | 12 | 27 |
| Lopez | 8-7 | 4.86 | 111.0 | 104 | 60 | 24 | 128 |
| Paddack* | 5-3 | 4.99 | 88.1 | 102 | 49 | 21 | 79 |
| Funderburk* | 1-0 | 5.61 | 33.2 | 36 | 21 | 15 | 31 |
| Thielbar | 2-2 | 5.79 | 23.1 | 28 | 15 | 13 | 24 |
| TOTALS | 54-44 | 4.16 | 870.1 | 780 | 402 | 247 | 891 |

Saves (29): Duran 15, Jax 7, Thielbar 3, Sands 2, Funderburk, Okert.
Home attendance (47 dates)
Year Total Avg.
2024 1,065,183 22,663
2023 1,100,913 23,424

SERIES PREVIEW TWINS VS. PHILADELPHIA

Three-game series at Target Field; all games on BSN, 830-AM, 102.9-FM

Monday, 6:40 p.m.: LHP Ranger Suárez (10-4, 2.76 ERA) vs. RHP Bailey Ober (8-5, 4.14)

Tuesday, 6:40 p.m.: RHP Zack Wheeler (10-4, 2.70) vs. RHP Simeon Woods Richardson (3-1, 3.51)

Wednesday, 12:10 p.m.: RHP Aaron Nola (11-4, 3.54) vs. TBA

Twins host MLB-leading Phillies

Philadelphia update: The Phillies (63-36), who have the best record in the majors, make their first visit to Target Field since 2016 after ending a three-game losing streak with a 6-0 victory at Pittsburgh on Sunday. The Phillies set a franchise record with 62 victories before the All-Star break and tied an MLB record (since 1961) with eight All-Star selections.... 1B Bryce Harper is hitting .297 with 22 home runs and 63 RBI and reached 700 career extra-base hits Saturday.... C J.T. Realmuto was activated from the 10-day injured list Saturday.

Twins update: The Twins (54-44) fell to 10-12 in interleague play after losing twice to Milwaukee this weekend. They took two of three in Philadelphia last August.... The Twins are 47-31 since April 22. The 47 victories in that period are the most in the AL and second most in the majors behind the Phillies' 49.... CF Byron Buxton, who hit two home runs Sunday, is hitting .364 with 20 extra-base hits in his past 30 games.... LF Trevor Larnach, who hit a two-run homer Sunday, is hitting .302 in 13 interleague games.
JOEL RIPPEL

ROUNDUP

Lugo pitches complete game in sweep of White Sox

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seth Lugo retired 14 straight batters in his first career complete game as the Kansas City Royals rallied past the Chicago White Sox for a 4-1 victory and series sweep on Sunday.

Lugo (12-4) surrendered one run while striking out six on 103 pitches. He allowed an infield hit to Tommy Pham leading off the game before retiring the next 14 batters.

"The efficiency, the strike throwing, all that was phenomenal," Royals manager Matt Quatraro said. "I'm just happy that he got, not only the complete game, but the win."

"Over my career I've always said I want to play every inning in the game," Lugo said. "Finally got to do that today."

Tampa Bay 6, N.Y. Yankees 4: Richie Palacios led off the game against Marcus Stroman with the first of Tampa Bay's four home runs and the Rays beat the host Yankees.

7 JOE MAUER HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

IN HIS OWN WORDS EXCERPTS FROM JOE MAUER'S HALL OF FAME INDUCTION SPEECH



CARLOS GONZALEZ • carlos.gonzalez@startribune.com

Inductees Jim Leyland, Adrian Beltré, Todd Helton and Joe Mauer pose with their plaques after the National Baseball Hall of Fame ceremony on Sunday in Cooperstown, N.Y.

‘TODAY, I’M GRATEFUL’

As tough as it is to get into the National Baseball Hall of Fame, it might be just as tough to sum up what this game, this honor and this moment truly means to me. Even if I had all the time in the world, I’m still not sure I could properly put it into words. But today, I am grateful. For the chance to try my best to describe what it means to be here with all of you. For as long as I can remember, the game of baseball has been a central part of my life and the life of my family. I grew up in St. Paul, Minnesota, with my parents, two older brothers, and my grandpa Jake Mauer. Much of my early childhood was spent watching Twins games and pretending to be a big leaguer in my backyard and at various neighborhood parks with my brothers. Many of those parks were the same fields that fellow Hall of Famers Dave Winfield, Paul Molitor and Jack Morris played on as well. How lucky and unique it was to have three big leaguers and future role models hail from my same city. Watching them as a kid was my first glimpse of hope that maybe I could make it in baseball as well. It will never be lost on me that the same guys I pretended to be in my yard, are men I grew up to know personally, and I even had one of them become my manager.

...

Long before my big-league days, my parents coached all of our little league teams throughout the years. Rides to and from games consisted of conversations on good sportsmanship and ways to improve. And our dinner table talks were more of the same. At our home, baseball was a family affair. My dad and grandpa loved the game and they loved to share their knowledge of the sport. They were the first to see a potential in me and believed in my abilities long before I did. They taught me that being successful takes a lot more than just athletic talent. At a young age, they instilled in me the values of hard work and dedication. They raised me on the golden rule of treating others the way you wanted to be treated, and always showing respect to my teammates, coaches, umpires and opponents. They were my first and greatest role models, coaches and mentors, and they supported me every step of my baseball journey. From the very early days of homemade pitching machines in the garage, to lengthy voice mails left after my big-league performances, their guidance never wavered. Even at the end of my career, as my grandpa’s eyesight was failing, he would stand right next to his TV in a batting stance and go through my every at-bat as if he was swinging alongside me. I hope they are both looking down this afternoon with pride knowing that all their time and hard work helped me get to this podium, standing here as a Hall of Famer. From Day 1, they led by example and truly walked the walk, a path I was blessed to follow.

...

Another very important person who was there every step of the way was my Mom. She is the ultimate example of humility. Truth be told, she’s the best athlete in our family, but she never wanted to take any of the credit for it, and the skills and knowledge she passed along to me and my brothers. I want to thank you, Mom, for always being there, for being my greatest cheerleader and fan and for always reminding me to have fun. You taught me that I could be a fierce competitor, but that it’s far more important to be a good person. The example you set helped mold me into who I am today, and for that I am more grateful than you will ever know. I love you, Mom.

I was very fortunate to have a family who always nurtured my love of baseball. They were my first support system. But I was also fortunate to have a lot of great coaches over the years, and one in particular was my high school baseball coach, Jim O’Neill. For those of you who wondered why I rarely swung at the first pitch, it dates back to the advice he gave me my senior year at Cretin-Derham Hall. He once told me, “Joe, when you step in the box, you’re most likely going to hit the ball, so why not wait for the pitch you want?” Simple advice, but I credit him for helping me develop a plan every time I stepped up to the plate, and giving me the confidence to hit deep into counts. He taught me patience and control, and I carried those lessons with me throughout my career. Thank you, Jim.

...

I’d like to thank my managers Ron Gardenhire and Paul Molitor, two men who I greatly respect and admire. You were both highly effective in your approach, and I learned so much under your guidance. You created an atmosphere for players to thrive in, and I want to thank you for your wisdom, support and friendship throughout my career. Thanks, guys.

...

I especially want to thank my teammates, many of them who are here today, for your support, encouragement and the amazing brotherhood you’ve provided me for so many years. It was an absolute honor to suit up alongside you and battle it out every night. You each brought something different to the table, and collectively taught me so much about this game, but also about life in general. Many of us grew up together, starting out as young ballplayers trying to navigate a new world, to becoming gray-haired dads who plan golf trips around our kids’ schedules, and I am grateful for the lifelong friendships I’ve been given to by this game. Thank you for being here today and for sharing with me a milestone that you all had a role in helping me achieve.

...

I also want to thank the Minnesota Twins fans. You guys came out today, thank you, thank you, for your many years of support throughout my career, with a special thank you to all who have traveled here today. You were there for my highs and lows and believed in me and our team through it all. Your energy and cheers brought life to our games, and it was truly an honor to play at home in front of such an incredible and loyal fan base.

...

And Maddie, I cannot thank you enough for all that you do for me and our family. You wear many hats. You are an incredible wife, mother, mentor, role model, keeper of everyone’s schedules, and as I call you, the curator of fun in our family. And somehow you manage to do this, do it all, with patience and grace. You’ve been a staple of love, support and guidance all while holding down the fort so I could go out and play the game that I love. The kids and I are so grateful for all that you do and so blessed to have you in our lives. Thank you for everything, honey. I love you.

...

To stand here today and say that I’m now a small part of baseball’s history is a statement that will never fully sink in for me. This moment is truly a dream come true. Thank you again to all who believed in me, supported me and helped me achieve this remarkable honor. Thank you.



Mauer joins game's legends

◀ **MAUER** from C1
 Jake Mauer Sr., standing next to the television while watching him play, mimicking his swing. He provided some insight into his hitting approach, crediting former Cretin-Derham Hall coach Jim O'Neill for teaching him patience.

For the most part, Mauer remained composed. He was thorough. He achieved his goal of conveying how he felt about the many people who contributed to his journey.

"It wasn't as easy as Joe made it look like," fellow inductee Adrian Beltré said when asked about his speech.

Was it as easy as Beltré thought it was, Joe?

"No. No chance," Mauer said. "It was tough. It was a lot of emotions leading up to this. It was very emotional getting the call.

"Back home, a lot of people know I lost my dad recently

and my grandpa in the last few years, both grandpas. They were able to watch my whole career, and I think they were with me today making sure that I could articulate the speech that I had, and I knew they were here, and it was definitely a lot harder than what Adrian says."

Twins fans Samantha and Jon Trebesch drove up from the Tampa, Fla., area for the ceremony. She's from the Twin Cities, he's from Duluth and they met as teachers at Princeton High School. Now living in Florida for seven years, they made plans to attend the ceremony the day after the voting results were announced in January.

"We found out very early on that we both like baseball," Samantha said. "And a lot of our first dates were watching the Twins on TV."

That suggests that the



impasse between Diamond Sports, the parent company of Bally Sports Network, and Comcast might be keeping some Twins fans from falling in love with each other.

It didn't matter to them on Sunday, as Samantha and Jon brought their two children and asked the grandparents, Chuck Sell and Liz Leitch-Sell, to drive over from South

Haven, Minn., to play with and watch the children while they attended the ceremony.

South Haven is near Annandale. The drive from Annandale is 18 hours. Someone from Annandale overheard the conversation and confirmed the travel time.

It shows how Minnesota was well-represented here Sunday.

"I think Mauer's speech just showed his humility," Samantha said. "He showed exactly why we all love him and why two of every three fans here, I swear, were Minnesotan."

They weren't the only ones to travel in from afar. Former Twins coach Gene Glynn drove in from Waseca. And the funniest travel story came from former Twins pitcher J.D. Durbin, who goes back to rookie ball with Mauer. Now living in Gilbert, Ariz., he decided on Thursday to attend the cere-

mony, flew to the Twin Cities, caught a flight to Syracuse on Sunday morning and rode into Cooperstown just in time.

"I spent the night in the Minneapolis airport," said Durbin, who was nicknamed the "Real Deal" during his playing days and made four appearances for the Twins in 2004.

So fans and former teammates arrived from all directions and in various modes of transportation as the book on Mauer's career was closed shut on Sunday. The only catcher with three batting titles. The AL MVP in 2009. The first player born in the 1980s and first who began his career in the 2000s to reach baseball's Valhalla. The fifth Minnesotan.

And he did it while Twins-Fest took place in Cooperstown. Well played, Mauer.

lneal@startribune.com



“To stand here today and say that I’m now a small part of baseball’s history is a statement that will never fully sink in for me. This moment is truly a dream come true.”

Joe Mauer and his son, Chip, wave to fans, top, during the Hall of Fame Legends parade on Saturday in Cooperstown, N.Y., home of the National Baseball Hall of Fame. Mauer’s family members applaud during the St. Paul native’s speech at Sunday’s induction ceremonies, left. While presenting his speech before 28,000 people, center, the retired Twins star’s talk was delayed by applause on 22 occasions.

Photos by CARLOS GONZALEZ
carlos.gonzalez@startribune.com