

Medical Philately: Lou Gehrig

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Stamp Profile

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Personality Profile

Lou Gehrig, born Henry Louis Gehrig in 1903, was an iconic figure in American sports history, renowned for his exceptional talent and unwavering determination on the baseball field. Gehrig spent his entire Major League Baseball career with the New York Yankees, earning the nickname “The Iron

Horse” for his incredible endurance and consecutive games played streak, which stood as a record for decades. His prowess as a first baseman, combined with his remarkable hitting ability, solidified his place as one of the greatest players in the history of the sport. Off the field, Gehrig was known for his humility and integrity, earning him the respect and admiration of fans and fellow athletes alike.

Tragically, Gehrig’s life was cut short by amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a progressive neurodegenerative disease now commonly referred to as Lou Gehrig’s disease. In 1939, at the age of just 36, Gehrig was diagnosed with the illness, which gradually robbed him of his physical abilities. Despite the devastating impact of ALS, Gehrig faced his diagnosis with characteristic grace and courage, delivering his famous farewell speech at Yankee Stadium on July 4, 1939. His poignant words, “Today, I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of the earth,” remain etched in the annals of sports history as a testament to his resilience and dignity in the face of adversity. Lou Gehrig’s legacy extends far beyond his achievements on the baseball diamond, serving as an enduring inspiration to millions and catalyzing efforts to raise awareness and support for ALS research.

References

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