

= Ryan Braun =

Ryan Joseph Braun (born November 17 , 1983) is an American baseball left fielder for the Milwaukee Brewers of Major League Baseball (MLB) . While currently the starting left fielder for the Brewers , Braun has also played right field during his career and was also a third baseman during his rookie season .

Braun was a two @-@ time All @-@ American at the University of Miami , where he was named " National Freshman of the Year " by Baseball America in 2003 . The Brewers drafted him in the first round (fifth overall) in the 2005 MLB draft . He was the team 's Minor League Player of the Year in 2006 .

Braun is considered a five @-@ tool player for his ability to hit for power and average , his baserunning speed , and his excellent fielding and arm strength . He was ranked number seven by the Sporting News in its 2012 list of the 50 greatest current players in baseball . He was awarded the National League 's Rookie of the Year in 2007 , has won five Silver Slugger awards (2008 ? 12) , and won the National League (NL) Most Valuable Player (MVP) in 2011 . He was named to five straight All @-@ Star games (2008 ? 12) , and then a team @-@ high sixth game in 2015 . Braun has led the NL three times in slugging percentage (in 2007 , while setting the major league rookie record , 2011 , and 2012) , three times in extra @-@ base hits (2008 , 2011 ? 12) , and once each in hits (2009) , home runs (2012) , and runs (2012) . On defense , he led all major league outfielders in fielding percentage in 2008 , led NL left fielders in fielding percentage twice (2009 and 2011) , and led NL left fielders in range factor in 2009 and 2012 . His 128 home runs through 2010 were the 8th @-@ most by any major leaguer ever through their first four seasons . Through 2015 , he was sixth among all active ballplayers in career slugging percentage , and third among active left fielders in career fielding percentage .

Braun came under scrutiny for a testosterone test that he failed in 2011 , and then for his connection in 2012 to the Biogenesis of America clinic that provided performance @-@ enhancing drugs to professional baseball players . After MLB 's investigation following the Biogenesis scandal , on July 22 , 2013 , Braun was suspended without pay for the remainder of the 2013 season and playoffs (totaling 65 regular season games) for violating the league 's drug policy . The two seasons following Braun 's return from the suspension have seen his career @-@ lows for full seasons in the major leagues in terms of hits , batting average , RBI and home runs .

= = Amateur career = =

Ryan Braun was born on November 17 , 1983 to Joe and Diane Braun . He and his younger brother Steve were raised in Los Angeles . Ryan began playing tee @-@ ball around the age of four , on a team coached by his father . PONY League teammates included Jack and Matt Cassel , Jason and Jarron Collins , as well as Jon Garland . Braun later picked up basketball , which became his favorite sport , and soccer , in which he played forward . By the time he entered high school , Braun chose to focus solely on baseball .

Braun attended Granada Hills High School in Granada Hills , Los Angeles , California . He was a four @-@ year letterman on the school 's baseball team , and three @-@ year team captain and Most Valuable Player (MVP) . He played shortstop , and pitched through his junior year . As a sophomore in 2000 , he recorded the highest batting average of his prep career (.456) , while posting a .654 on @-@ base percentage (OBP) . During his junior year , he hit .421 , with a .668 OBP . Braun capped off his high school career by batting .451 as a senior , with an OBP of .675 , and breaking the school record for career home runs with 25 .

He was a two @-@ time all @-@ area selection by the Los Angeles Times , and a three @-@ time choice by the Los Angeles Daily News . As a senior , Braun was rated the sixth @-@ best shortstop prospect in the country by Team One Baseball , and among the top 100 overall prospects by Baseball America . He graduated in 2002 , but went undrafted as he told teams that he intended to attend college .

Braun excelled academically as well ? his worst grade was one B , in Advanced Placement

Chemistry .

= = College career = =

Offered baseball scholarships by Stanford University and the University of California , Berkeley , he instead attended the University of Miami on an academic scholarship , due to his excellent high school grades . He chose Miami for its academics , its athletics , and its social scene , noting : " I think the girls were the deal closer on the recruiting trip . "

There , Braun was named " National Freshman of the Year " , and a first @-@ team " Freshman All @-@ American " , by Baseball America in 2003 , as well as first team All American by the Jewish Sports Review . He was also named first @-@ team All @-@ American by Collegiate Baseball .

During his junior year , his final and most successful at Miami , Braun batted .396 with 18 home runs , a .726 slugging percentage , 76 RBIs and 23 stolen bases . He was ninth in slugging and 10th in RBIs in NCAA Division I , and was named to Baseball America 's 2005 College All @-@ American Team as the DH . He moved from shortstop to third base during the year . His performance earned Braun the Atlantic Coast Conference Baseball Player of the Year award , and a spot as one of the finalists for the Golden Spikes Award , the most prestigious individual award in college baseball .

= = Professional career = =

= = = Draft and minor leagues = = =

The Milwaukee Brewers drafted Braun in the first round (fifth overall) in the 2005 major league draft as a third baseman , and he signed for \$ 2 @. @ 45 million .

Assigned to the Helena Brewers in the Advanced Rookie Pioneer League in 2005 , Braun batted .341 / .383 / .585 in 10 games . He was then promoted to the West Virginia Power in the Class A South Atlantic League , where he hit .355 / .396 / .645 , and was rated the fifth @-@ best prospect in the league . His most memorable moment there was when he hit a walk @-@ off grand slam to lead the Power into the playoffs .

Braun began 2006 playing for the A @-@ Advanced Brevard County Manatees . He earned a spot in the Florida State League All @-@ Star game , and played in the All @-@ Star Futures Game . He was rated the top third base prospect in the FSL , and Baseball America rated him the best batting prospect in the league . On June 21 , Braun was promoted to the Class AA Huntsville Stars (Alabama) of the Southern League . In July he was voted the Brewers ' Organizational Player of the Month , and at the end of the season he was voted the sixth @-@ best prospect in the Southern League . Collectively between Class A and Class AA , Braun finished with a .289 average , 22 home runs , 77 RBIs , and 26 stolen bases . He received the 2006 Robin Yount Performance Award as the Milwaukee Brewers Minor League Player of the Year .

Later in 2006 , in the Arizona Fall League he hit .326 / .396 / .641 in 92 at bats for the Scottsdale Scorpions . He led the AFL with 16 extra @-@ base hits , tied for tops with 9 doubles , ranked second in slugging percentage and HR / AB ratio (1 / 15) , tied for second in home runs (6) , and tied for third in RBIs (25) . He was rated one of the top three prospects in the league , and was voted to the AFL All @-@ Prospects Team .

Baseball America rated Braun the Brewers ' # 2 prospect for 2007 . He began the year with the Nashville Sounds of the AAA Pacific Coast League . Before being called up to the majors in late May , in 113 at bats he led the PCL with a .726 slugging percentage while batting .354 (6th) , with 10 home runs (T @-@ 2nd) and a .426 on @-@ base percentage (5th) .

= = = Milwaukee Brewers (2007 ? present) = = =

= = = = 2007 : Rookie of the Year = = = =

The Brewers brought Braun to spring training in 2007 . Their regular third baseman Corey Koskie was suffering from post @-@ concussion syndrome , and missed the entire year . In 11 spring training games , Braun tied for 10th in the majors in home runs (5) , and second in RBIs (15) .

In 2007 , Braun had what some sportswriters called one of the most dominant rookie seasons in baseball history . Called up on May 24 by the Brewers , he hit his first major league home run two nights later . Braun was voted the National League (NL) Rookie of the Month for June , ranking first in RBIs (21) and tied for first in home runs (6) among NL rookies that month . He also recorded a .716 slugging percentage and a .435 OBP . In July , Braun became the fastest in Brewer history to hit 10 major league home runs , doing so in his 38th game . He hit his 15th home run in the 50th game of his career , and his 20th in his 64th game , making him the fastest to those milestones since Albert Pujols in 2001 . He was also the fastest to 20 homers in Brewers history . At month 's end , he received his second consecutive NL Rookie of the Month Award , as well as his first NL Player of the Month Award (making him the first player to have won both awards in the same month) . He hit a league @-@ leading 11 home runs , with 25 RBIs , while batting .345 .

In mid @-@ August , Yost moved Braun from third in the batting order to cleanup , switching him with Prince Fielder . The move was expected to allow Braun to steal more , as batting before Fielder was not conducive to him risking being thrown out on steal attempts . Additionally , successfully stealing a base would hypothetically allow opponents to intentionally walk Fielder and avoid pitching to him . At the end of the month , however , Yost reverted to his previous batting order . On August 26 , Braun hit his 25th home run in his 82nd game , quicker than any major leaguer since Mark McGwire in 1987 .

On September 9 , the Brewers became the third team in major league history to start a game with three straight home runs , as Rickie Weeks , J. J. Hardy , and Braun homered in consecutive at bats . Braun said , " That was pretty cool . I was never part of something like that before . " Braun 's home run in that game also broke the Brewers rookie record for home runs (28) . Braun hit his 30th homer in his 94th game , a pace no player had set to start a career since McGwire hit 30 in 84 games during 1986 and 1987 .

Braun finished with an NL @-@ leading .634 slugging percentage , a mark that set new all @-@ time rookie and Brewers records . He was fifth in the league in at bats per home run (13 @.@ 3) and OPS (1 @.@ 004) , tied for fifth in home runs (34) , and eighth in batting average (.324) among hitters with at least 490 plate appearances . He led the Brewers in batting average and slugging percentage , and was second behind Fielder in home runs , runs (91) , and RBIs (97) , tied for second in triples (6) , and third in OBP (.370) and steals (15) , despite not having played in the first 48 games of the season . Braun obliterated the club rookie records of 28 home runs and 81 RBIs , set by Fielder in 2006 .

Braun had considerable success against left @-@ handed pitchers . He had the best batting average (.450) , OBP (.516) , and slugging percentage (.964) of any major league hitter with at least 125 plate appearances against lefties , and was tied for second in the majors in home runs (15) . Braun credits his father with his success against lefties . " My dad is left @-@ handed , so growing up , the majority of time , I took batting practice off of him . "

Braun collected several awards at season 's end . He won the 2007 NL Rookie of the Year Award in a vote by 32 members of the Baseball Writers ' Association of America . He beat out Troy Tulowitzki by 2 points in the closest NL vote since the system was revised in 1980 . Of all prior NL Rookies of the Year , only Pujols and Willie McCovey hit for higher batting averages in their rookie year . Braun was voted the 2007 NL Sporting News Rookie of the Year by 488 major league players and 30 managers . Braun also received the 2007 Players Choice NL Most Outstanding Rookie in a vote by his fellow major league players . " When your peers recognize you with an award , that 's great " , he said . " Those are the guys out there on the field with you , competing against you . Their opinion counts the most , for a player . " In voting for the NL Most Valuable Player (MVP) Award , Braun received two 10th @-@ place votes and finished 24th overall .

=== 2008 : All @-@ Star and Silver Slugger ===

In March 2008 , the Brewers renewed Braun 's contract for \$ 455 @, @ 000 , a \$ 75 @, @ 000 increase . Braun then signed an 8 @-@ year , \$ 45 ? \$ 51 million contract extension (the total depending on his " Super 2 " service @-@ time ranking after the 2009 season) on May 15 , 2008 . The contract is through the year 2015 . The deal included Braun 's \$ 455 @, @ 000 salary for 2008 , and a \$ 2 @. @ 3 million bonus in 2008 . It could increase to \$ 51 million through incentives . Braun also has a no @-@ trade clause for the first four years , and then a limited no @-@ trade clause allowing him to block deals to 12 teams from 2012 to 2013 , and 6 teams from 2014 to 2015 . The contract will keep Braun locked up through his age @-@ 31 season . It was the largest contract in Brewers ' history , surpassing Jeff Suppan 's . It was also the largest contract in baseball history given to a player with less than three years ' experience . Braun 's agent , Nez Balelo , crunched enough numbers to show him what he potentially could have made over the life of this contract if he had chosen not to sign it . " But the question I ultimately asked myself was , `What can 't I buy with that amount of money ? " ' Braun said .

Braun drove in 134 runs in his first 162 games in the majors , more RBIs than any active player . He reached the 150 @-@ RBI milestone faster than any major leaguer since Boston 's Walt Dropo needed only 155 games , in 1949 ? 51 . On June 17 , 2008 , he drove in his 152nd career RBI , in his 182nd game .

Braun was named the NL 's Player of the Month , after batting .366 in July (6th in the NL) with 9 home runs (3rd) , and 23 RBIs (7th) . He also led the league with 76 total bases and 18 extra base hits , and was among NL leaders with 37 hits (2nd) , 3 triples (2nd) , and a 1 @. @ 163 OPS (3rd) . He had back @-@ to @-@ back 4 @-@ hit games , just the 5th player in team history to accomplish that feat . " It 's a huge honor " , Braun said . " The way I look at it , you 're the MVP of the National League for that month . It 's definitely a big accomplishment .

As of August 8 , Braun 's major league career start was one of the best ever . In 227 games to start a career , he was first with 558 total bases and 133 extra base hits , second with 64 home runs , and tied for second with 181 RBIs .

On August 9 , Braun strained the intercostal muscles around his oblique ribcage . That led to him missing a number of games , and shortening his swing for a few weeks . After returning , on September 25 he hit his first grand slam in " grand " fashion . With the bases loaded , he delivered a 2 @-@ out , 2 ? 2 pitch from the Pirates ' Jesse Chavez into the left field bleachers of Miller Park in the bottom of the 10th inning , winning the game 5 ? 1 , and keeping the Brewers ' 2008 postseason hopes alive . Three days later , Braun helped put the Brewers into the postseason for the first time since 1982 , by hitting a go @-@ ahead 2 @-@ run homer in the bottom of the 8th against the Chicago Cubs . The homer was the difference in the game , which gave the Brewers a one @-@ game lead over the New York Mets for the NL wild card .

Braun was a starting outfielder for the NL in the 2008 All Star Game . He finished first in fan voting among NL outfielders , and second among all NL players , with 3 @, @ 835 @, @ 840 votes , behind only Chase Utley of the Phillies (3 @, @ 889 @, @ 602) . He also finished first in player voting . Braun was the first Brewers outfielder voted to start an All Star game . He was one of seven first @-@ time starters in the game , and ? along with Kosuke Fukudome and Josh Hamilton ? one of only three who had not reached the major leagues until 2007 or 2008 .

Braun came in third in the Home Run Derby at Yankee Stadium . " It 's something you dream about " , Braun said . " That 's as big a stage as you can get on it 's going to be a lot of fun . " He had his friend and agent , Nez Balelo , a former minor league infielder , pitch to him . Braun 's longest homer was estimated at 448 feet . He hit seven home runs in each of the first and second rounds , finishing with 14 (three behind finalist Justin Morneau , who hit five in the final round to win the Derby) .

On June 3 , Braun became the third @-@ fastest major leaguer to reach 50 career home runs . He did so in 171 career games ; the only players to reach that plateau sooner were Rudy York and Mark McGwire . On July 8 , Braun hit his 56th home run in his 200th game , the third @-@ highest total ever in a major leaguer 's initial 200 games , behind McGwire (59) and York (59) .

In early August , Braun hit his 30th home run , becoming just the second player in MLB history to hit

30 or more homers in each of his first two seasons . Braun hit 71 home runs in his first two seasons , tying him with Pujols for fourth all @-@ time . Joe DiMaggio tops the list with 75 home runs , followed by Ralph Kiner (74) and Eddie Mathews (72) .

In 2008 , in 151 games Braun hit 37 home runs (tied for 4th in the NL , behind Ryan Howard , Adam Dunn , and Carlos Delgado) , with 106 RBIs (9th) , and batted .285 with a .553 slugging percentage (5th) . He also led the league with 83 extra base hits , and had 338 total bases (2nd in the NL) , 7 triples (6th) , 16 @.@ 5 at @-@ bats @-@ per @-@ home @-@ run (10th) , and 611 at bats (10th) . 12 @.@ 5 % of his plate appearances were extra base hits (3rd in the NL ; behind Ryan Ludwick and Pujols) , he had 29 infield hits (7th) , and he stole third base 6 times (9th) .

Against starting pitchers , Braun hit .244 the first time he faced them in a game , .331 the second time , and .328 with a .672 slugging percentage the third time . Braun led the Brewers in batting average , slugging percentage , triples , home runs , RBIs , extra base hits , total bases , at @-@ bats @-@ per @-@ home run , OPS (.888) , runs (92) , and hits (174) .

Braun hit .313 in October against the Phillies in his first postseason series , which the Brewers lost 3 ? 1 .

Braun was voted to the 2008 NL Sporting News All Star Team , by a panel of 41 major league general managers and assistant general managers . He also won the 2008 NL Outfielder Silver Slugger Award , in a vote by major league coaches and managers who select the top offensive performer at each position in both leagues . The award , sponsored by Louisville Slugger , is based on a combination of statistics , including batting average , on @-@ base percentage , and slugging percentage , as well as the coaches ' and managers ' general impressions of a player 's overall offensive value . In voting for the 2008 NL MVP award , Braun was third (with 139 points) , behind Pujols and Ryan Howard .

= = = 2009 : All Star , Silver Slugger , and Team USA = = =

In 2009 , Braun was named to Sporting News ' list of the 50 greatest current players in baseball , ranking No. 32 . A panel of 100 baseball people , many of them members of the Hall of Fame and winners of major baseball awards , were polled to arrive at the list .

Braun was invited to play for Team USA in 2009 in the second World Baseball Classic . " I'm really excited to get to represent my country " , he said . " It 's an honor just to get invited for the event . " He batted .381 as the team 's starting left fielder , helping it reach the semi @-@ finals .

Braun was named NL Player of the Week for May 4 ? 10 , after leading the NL with 12 RBIs for the week while hitting .458 / .567 / .958 with 3 home runs . He hit the second grand slam of his career and recorded a career @-@ high six RBIs on May 6 , and on May 9 he reached base in all five of his plate appearances .

Braun led all NL outfielders in fan voting for the All Star Game for the second year in a row , with 4 @.@ 1 million votes , ahead of Raúl Ibáñez and Carlos Beltrán . He was third among all NL vote @-@ getters , trailing Pujols and Chase Utley . He was the first Brewer to be voted in as a starter in consecutive years since Robin Yount (in 1982 and 1983) , and the third Brewer position player voted to start twice , along with Yount and Paul Molitor (1980 and 1988) . Braun started in right field , the first time he had ever played the position , and batted cleanup , going 0 ? 2 .

Braun was second all @-@ time , with 79 home runs over his first two calendar years in the major leagues , to Phillies Hall of Famer Chuck Klein (83) ; ahead of third @-@ place Joe DiMaggio and Mark McGwire (77) . If Braun continues to hit home runs at the rate he had hit them through July 1 , 2009 , he will reach 600 home runs in his 15th major league season . In September , Braun became the second @-@ fastest active player to hit 100 home runs (behind only Ryan Howard) , as he hit his 100th homer in his 400th major league game . Later in the month , he became the second player in major league history to hit 30 or more home runs in each of his first three seasons . Braun 's 103 home runs in his first three Major League seasons are sixth @-@ most in baseball history , behind Pujols (114) , Mark Teixeira (107) , and three Hall of Famers ? Kiner (114) , Matthews (112) , and Joe DiMaggio (107) .

As in 2007 , in 2009 Braun had even greater success against left @-@ handed pitchers . Against

them he had the second @-@ best OBP (.475) , slugging percentage (.723) , and OPS (1 @-@ 198) , and third @-@ best batting average (.395) , of all NL hitters with at least 125 plate appearances .

He finished the season with an NL @-@ leading 203 hits , becoming the first Brewer to lead his league in hits since Molitor topped the AL in 1991 . Braun became the fourth Brewer in team history to collect 200 or more hits in a season , and the first in 18 years . His .320 batting average at the end of the season was the highest by a Brewer since Jeff Cirillo hit .326 in 1999 .

In 2009 , in addition to leading the NL in hits , Braun was 2nd in runs (113) , 4th in RBIs (114) , total bases (350) , extra base hits (77) , and hit by pitch (13) , 7th in batting average (.320) and power @-@ speed number (24 @-@ 6) , 8th in OPS (.937) , 9th in slugging percentage (.551) and doubles (39) , tied for 10th in triples (6) , and tied for 11th in home runs (32) . He was also 4th in the league in infield hits (25) .

He became only the second Brewer ever to hit 30 home runs and steal 20 bases in the same season . Braun also became the eighth player in major league history with at least 100 runs , 100 RBIs , 200 hits , 30 homers , 20 stolen bases , and a .300 average in the same season .

Braun was voted to the NL Sporting News All Star Team in 2009 , making it for the second year in a row . He received votes from all 14 voting NL team executives (as did Pujols and Utley ; Mauer was named on all AL ballots) . Braun was awarded the 2009 NL Outfielder Silver Slugger Award , winning it for the second year in a row . He became the first Brewer since Molitor , more than two decades prior , to win a Silver Slugger Award in consecutive years . Cecil Cooper is the only other Brewer to have done it .

== == 2010 : All Star and Silver Slugger == ==

Braun was named to Sporting News ' 2010 list of the 50 greatest current players in baseball , ranking No. 22 .

He was elected a starting NL All Star outfielder for the third year in a row , in 2010 . Braun led all major league outfielders in All Star votes for the third straight year , with 2 @-@ 972 @-@ 525 , despite Milwaukee being the smallest media market in the majors . As in 2009 , he received more votes than any NL players other than Pujols and Utley . He became the first Brewer to be a three @-@ time All Star starter , passing Yount and Molitor .

Braun was named NL Player of the Week for August 1 ? 8 , after leading the majors with a .538 batting average , 14 hits , and 8 runs scored , and notching a career @-@ best five @-@ hit performance in one game .

For the season , Braun was second in the NL in hits (188) and doubles (45) , 5th in total bases (310) , 6th in runs (101) , 7th in RBIs (103) and extra base hits (71) , and 9th in batting average (.304) .

Braun hit the eighth @-@ most home runs by any major leaguer through his first four seasons (128) . He also became the fifth player in major league history to hit at least 125 homers with a .300 average over his first four seasons . His 94 home runs in 2008 ? 10 were the most by any right @-@ handed outfielder .

He was the first player in Brewers history to hit 20 or more home runs in each of his first four seasons , and the third Brewer to have 100 or more RBIs in three consecutive seasons . He also became the second player in Brewers history to have consecutive 100 @-@ RBI , 100 @-@ run seasons .

Braun was awarded the 2010 NL Outfielder Silver Slugger Award , winning it for the third year in a row . He became the second Brewer to win a Silver Slugger Award in three consecutive years . Robin Yount is the only other Brewer to have won the award three times (1980 , 1982 , and 1989) . Braun was also voted to the 2010 NL Sporting News All Star Team , making the team for the third year in a row .

== == 2011 : NL MVP , All Star , Silver Slugger , and 30 ? 30 club == ==

In 2011 , Braun was again named to Sporting News ' list of the 50 greatest current players in baseball , ranking No. 16 . A panel of 21 MLB executives was polled to arrive at the list .

He was named NL Player of the Month for April , after tying for the NL lead in home runs (10) and runs scored (24) , while setting a new team record by reaching base in 28 consecutive games to start a season (erasing Yount 's record of 23 games , set in 1983) . He was also named NL Player of the Week , for the week ended April 25 .

He led all National League players in All Star balloting , with an NL @-@ record 5 @.@ 93 million votes , as he garnered more votes than any other NL outfielder for the fourth year in a row . He was voted an NL All Star starter for a franchise record fourth time . Braun had a 23 @-@ game hitting streak , the third @-@ longest in team history .

On August 31 , he hit a ball deep to left @-@ center field and tried for an inside @-@ the @-@ park home run , but fell on his way to home plate and was tagged out . The crowd gave him a standing ovation for his effort .

On September 23 , Braun hit a three @-@ run , 450 @-@ foot home run that sealed the Brewers ' NL @-@ Central @-@ clinching victory .

He was named the NL Player of the Month for the fourth time in his career in September , after tying for second in the league with 8 home runs and 22 RBIs , while batting .330 .

In 2011 , Braun led the National League in slugging percentage (.597) , OPS (.994) , and extra base hits (77) . He was 2nd in the NL in batting average (.332) , runs (109) , and total bases (336) , 4th in RBIs (111) and doubles (38 ; tied) , 5th in on @-@ base percentage (.397) and hits (187) , 6th in home runs (33 ; T) , and 7th in stolen bases (33 ; a career high) . On defense , he led all major league left fielders in fielding percentage , at .996 .

Braun became the 7th player to have at least four 30 @-@ homer , 100 @-@ RBI seasons in his first five years . He also became the 11th major leaguer to hit at least 30 home runs in four of his first five seasons .

In 2011 , Braun became the second Brewer (and 56th player in MLB history) to join the 30 ? 30 club . He was also the second player in Brewers ' history to have two 20 @-@ steals / 20 @-@ homers seasons . He became the first Brewer to post three 100 @-@ run , 100 @-@ RBI seasons . In addition , he became one of three Brewers who have had four 100 @-@ RBI seasons .

Through 2011 , he was third among active ballplayers in career slugging percentage (.563) , behind Pujols and Alex Rodriguez , and first among left fielders in career fielding percentage (.994) . He was also the Brewers ' all @-@ time leader in career batting average (.312) , slugging percentage , and OPS (.933) , and fourth in on @-@ base percentage (.371) .

In the 2011 playoffs , through October 14 Braun set the major league postseason record by reaching base in the first inning in nine consecutive playoff games . He also tied Yount and Molitor for the Brewers ' team record with his 22nd career postseason hit , and tied Charlie Moore for team 's longest postseason hitting streak , at 7 games . In the postseason he led the Brewers with a .405 batting average , while driving in a team @-@ best 10 RBIs .

Braun was awarded the 2011 NL Outfielder Silver Slugger Award , winning it for the fourth year in a row . That set a Brewers team record , and he became the fourth NL outfielder to win the award four years in a row . He was named the team 's 2011 MVP in unanimous voting by the Milwaukee chapter of the BBWAA .

On November 22 , Braun was named the NL MVP award winner for the 2011 season , receiving 20 of 32 first place votes .

== == 2012 : All Star , Home Run Champion , Silver Slugger , 40 ? 30 club == ==

On April 30 , 2012 , he became the first player to hit 3 home runs in one game at Petco Park . Braun was named to his fifth consecutive NL All @-@ Star team as a reserve outfielder . It marked Braun 's fifth All @-@ Star honor , tying him with Cecil Cooper and Paul Molitor for the most in Brewers franchise history . On July 20 , Braun had his 1,000th career hit . He accomplished the feat in his 815th game , sooner in his career than Pete Rose , the all @-@ time hits leader , who did it in his 831st game .

On September 16 , Braun hit his 200th career home run , against the New York Mets . In his following at bat , Braun hit another home run , his 40th of the year , the first time he had reached the 40 @-@ home @-@ run mark .

In 2012 , Braun led the National League in home runs (41) , runs scored (108) , total bases (356) , and power @-@ speed number (34 @.@ 6) , and led the league in OPS (.987) and extra @-@ base hits (80) for the second consecutive year . He was 2nd in the NL in RBIs (112) , slugging percentage (.595) , and hits (191) , 3rd in batting average (.319) , 4th in on @-@ base percentage (.391) , and 9th in stolen bases (30) . On defense , he led all NL left fielders in putouts (276) and in range factor / game (1 @.@ 87) . By driving in more than 100 runs in 2012 for the fifth consecutive year , Braun became the first player in Brewers history to have five 100 @-@ RBI seasons . Cecil Cooper and Prince Fielder each drove in 100 runs four times . Braun became the ninth player in major league history to have a season of 40 home runs and 30 stolen bases .

Braun was awarded the 2012 NL Outfielder Silver Slugger Award , winning it for the fifth year in a row . His five consecutive awards are the longest active streak in the major leagues .

Braun finished second in National League MVP voting for 2012 , behind Buster Posey .

===== 2013 season =====

In 2013 , Braun played in 61 games with a .298 batting average including 14 doubles , 9 home runs , and 38 RBIs in 225 at @-@ bats . On July 22 , 2013 , Braun was suspended without pay for the remainder of the season for violations of the Basic Agreement and its Joint Drug Prevention and Treatment Program .

===== 2014 season =====

After the Brewers traded right fielder Norichika Aoki to the Royals for pitcher Will Smith , Braun moved to right field to open a spot for Khris Davis to play left field .

In 2014 , Braun batted a career @-@ low .266 , with 19 home runs while leading the Brewers with 81 RBIs and tying for the team lead with 6 triples . He finished the season with 230 career home runs , tied with Prince Fielder for second on the all @-@ time Brewers list , trailing only Robin Yount (251) , and during the season he tied Brewers records with 3 home runs and 7 RBIs in one game . He also became the 12th player to appear in 1 @,@ 000 games with the Brewers .

Braun underwent surgery in October to desensitize the pain receptors near the nerves at the base of his right thumb . The problem was affecting his grip on the bat . The surgery was performed by Dr. Vernon Williams . Through 2014 , he was fifth among all active ballplayers in career slugging percentage , and second among active left fielders in career fielding percentage .

===== 2015 season =====

In 2015 , Braun was named to the All Star Team representing the National League . It was the sixth time he was selected as an All Star , a team record , surpassing the prior record shared with Cecil Cooper and Paul Molitor .

On August 19 , Braun hit his 252nd during a game against the Miami Marlins setting the record as All @-@ Time Home Run leader in Milwaukee Brewers franchise history . The record was previously held by Robin Yount .

== Performance @-@ enhancing drugs ==

== Disputed testosterone test ==

On December 10 , 2011 , a confidential urine test conducted in October 2011 was leaked to ESPN 's Outside the Lines . They reported that Braun had tested positive for an elevated level of

testosterone caused by a performance @-@ enhancing drug and faced a 50 @-@ game suspension . The Daily News quoted a source who said that the test results were " insanely high , the highest ever for anyone who has ever taken a test , twice the level of the highest test ever taken " . A second test conducted by an independent laboratory showed normal testosterone levels . Braun appealed the positive drug test in January 2012 , and a three @-@ member panel overturned the results on a 2 @-@ to @-@ 1 vote on February 22 , 2012 . It was the first time that a MLB player had successfully challenged a drug test result . The arbitration panel , consisting of MLB representative Rob Manfred , players ' union lawyer Michael Weiner , and Shyam Das , determined that Braun had raised valid questions about the manner in which test collector Dino Laurenzi , Jr. had handled his sample .

The New York Times wrote that Braun " won on a technicality " . Braun 's sample was collected and sealed on a Saturday . Laurenzi said that no FedEx delivery center was open , and he subsequently followed established protocol and stored the samples in a Rubbermaid container ; he dropped the samples off to an open FedEx center on Monday . Braun , though , said there were at least five FedEx locations within 5 miles that were open until 9 p.m. and there also was a 24 @-@ hour location . MLB argued that there was no evidence of tampering of the sample , and the United States Anti @-@ Doping Agency said the testosterone levels in the samples would not grow in a refrigerator over a weekend . MLB 's drug @-@ testing program states that the samples should be sent to the laboratory on the same day they are collected " absent unusual circumstance " .

= = = Links to Biogenesis clinic and MLB suspension = = =

In February 2013 , Yahoo ! Sports reported that Braun 's name appeared three times in records of Biogenesis of America , a Coral Gables clinic alleged to have distributed performance @-@ enhancing drugs to a number of Major League Baseball players who tested positive for banned substances . One entry noted that Braun owed the clinic between \$ 20 @,@ 000 and \$ 30 @,@ 000 . Braun 's name was not listed next to any specific PEDs , unlike some of the other players mentioned in the records . Braun released a statement maintaining that his attorneys had retained the clinic 's operator , Anthony Bosch , as a consultant during his appeal of his positive drug test the previous season , and denied any further dealings with the clinic .

Later that month , ESPN 's Outside the Lines obtained a new Biogenesis document from April 2012 listing Braun among three other MLB players with the notation : " MLB Ryan Braun + 1500 . " An ESPN source said to be familiar with Bosch 's operation claimed the list was of players who obtained PEDs from Bosch and their respective balances , with a circle around the plus sign next to a player 's name indicating his balance was paid off . In late April , Bosch confirmed to ESPN that Braun 's legal team merely consulted with him during Braun 's appeal , and confirmed that he never spoke to Braun himself .

On June 4 , 2013 , ESPN reported that MLB was preparing suspensions for players linked to using PEDs provided by Biogenesis of America , and its founder , Anthony Bosch . ESPN reported that Braun could have been suspended for as many as 100 games if found guilty , although the appeals process could take months and not yield a suspension until 2014 .

On July 22 , 2013 , MLB suspended Braun for the remaining 65 games of the regular season , plus the entire postseason , for his involvement with the Biogenesis clinic . Braun , who will lose \$ 3 @.@ 25 million as a result , did not appeal the suspension . In a statement , he said , " I realize now that I have made some mistakes . I am willing to accept the consequences of those actions . " ESPN reported that Braun decided to " strike a deal " with MLB after being presented with the evidence against him . Called a " liar " , he was heavily criticized by the media and other players , particularly for tarnishing Laurenzi 's reputation . In particular , it was later exposed that Braun engaged in a campaign for support from players around the league , accusing Laurenzi Jr. of being an anti @-@ Semite .

Although the standard suspension for a first offense under MLB 's drug policy is 50 games , Braun was suspended an additional 15 games for his actions during and after his appeal of the 2011 test . According to the Milwaukee Journal @-@ Sentinel , MLB officials were particularly angered by a

speech Braun made during 2012 spring training in which he attacked Laurenzi 's integrity and the integrity of the drug program as a whole . MLB considered Braun 's speech , as well as his earlier attacks on Laurenzi , to be conduct detrimental to baseball ? an offense punishable under the collective bargaining agreement , not the drug policy . Braun accepted the additional suspension without appeal because of overwhelming evidence in the Biogenesis case . On August 22 , Braun released a statement in which he apologized for using PEDs . He admitted he used PED 's during the later part of the 2011 season to nurse a nagging injury . The products he used were a cream and a lozenge that would expedite his rehabilitation .

= = = Civil lawsuit = = =

On August 17 , 2013 , Braun was sued for fraud and defamation by Ralph Sasson , a former close friend with whom Braun attended middle school , high school , and college at the University of Miami . In the lawsuit , Sasson , who claims to be a law student , alleges that he assisted Braun in his original arbitration resulting from a positive drug test in 2011 and that afterwards , Braun refused to pay him . Sasson also alleges that Braun 's use of performance @-@ enhancing drugs dates back to Braun 's days at the University of Miami . After filing the suit , Braun 's attorneys attempted to have the lawsuit dismissed , but in January 2014 , a Milwaukee County judge refused to dismiss the lawsuit . In June 2014 , the lawsuit was dismissed by presiding Judge Paul R. Van Grunsven citing Sasson 's " egregious " misconduct and bad faith throughout the pre @-@ trial process . In January 2014 , the judge granted a motion to seal the entire case and ordered Sasson to not speak about the case in any respect whatsoever . After the case was dismissed , Sasson posted a portion of his own videotaped deposition on YouTube . Sasson 's actions prompted Braun and his attorneys to motion the court to have Sasson held in contempt . On July 23 , 2014 , Sasson was arrested outside of the courtroom after a hearing on Braun 's contempt motion . Roughly 3 weeks later , the Milwaukee County District Attorney notified Sasson that no contempt charges would be filed as Sasson 's YouTube posting was not in violation of any law or valid court order . Sasson has appealed the decision to dismiss the case . On appeal , Sasson argued that he never acted in bad faith and never violated the seal order ; that the seal order violated his First Amendment rights by placing " prior restraints " on his " pure speech " ; and that the seal order was " instituted in violation of Sasson 's due process . " Braun responded by arguing that Sasson waived his First Amendment right to free speech and his Fourteenth Amendment right to due process . In June 2015 the appeals court ruled that the dismissal was properly exercised due to the fact that Sasson had never provided evidence that Braun had made disparaging remarks in writing .

= = Player profile = =

= = = Hitting = = =

Braun has the ability to hit for average and significant power . His fluid swing is compact and short , with tremendous bat speed and a protracted follow @-@ through . Braun waits well on offspeed pitches , and uses the entire field . He drives the ball , no matter where it is in the strike zone . Brewers hitting coach Jim Skaalen observed : " He 's got tremendously quick hands and really hits through the ball . He stays on the ball as well as anyone we 've got . "

= = = Speed = = =

In addition , his speed garnered him comparisons to New York Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez . Braun has been timed at 4 @. @ 2 seconds to first base from the right side of the plate . In spring training in 2007 , he was second @-@ fastest in the Brewers ' 60 @-@ yard dash .

= = = Defense = = =

== == Third base == ==

A shortstop most of his life and in college , Braun was inconsistent on defense after switching to third base in 2006 . However , he was noted for his athleticism , his occasional web gems , and particularly for his powerful throwing arm , which was rated the best infield arm in the Brewers ' minor league system by Baseball America in early 2007 . Braun was charged with 34 errors in 2006 , the majority on throws . " It 's a matter of proper footwork " , said Ash in early 2007 . " Most of his problems come because he relies on his arm , which is very strong . "

While Yost removed Braun from a number of games in September 2007 for defense , he praised Braun for his improvements . " The great thing about it is it doesn 't involve throwing at all now " , said Yost , referring to Braun 's biggest issue in the spring . " It involves first @-@ step quickness to the ball , which will increase his range . [He needs to] soften his hands a little bit . [His] hand @-@ eye coordination to the ball needs to be a little better . That comes with repetition , repetition , repetition . " Braun finished 2007 last of all eligible third basemen in fielding percentage (.895 , with 26 errors ; only the fourth third baseman since 1916 to play 100 games or more in a season and have a fielding percentage under .900) , range factor (2 @.@ 11) , and zone rating (.697) . His target at first base was Prince Fielder , who finished 2007 last of all eligible major league first basemen in range factor (8 @.@ 49) , and first in errors (14) . Similarly , his target at second base , Rickie Weeks , had the lowest fielding percentage of all NL second basemen (.976) , and the lowest zone rating among all major league second basemen (.737) .

It was suggested that it was possible that Braun would learn to play the position adequately , given that David Wright (who tied for the major league lead in errors by a third baseman in 2005 , his second in the league) in 2007 became a " passable defender " (and won the NL Gold Glove at third base) .

Braun , for his part , noted after the 2007 season : " It 's only my second full (professional) year of playing third base . I don 't expect to be perfect , but I certainly expect to be better than I have been . I have to continue to work hard , and hopefully I 'll improve . "

== == Left field == ==

In January 2008 , however , the Brewers acquired three @-@ time Gold Glove @-@ winning center fielder Mike Cameron , prompting the team to move center fielder Bill Hall to third base and Braun to left field .

Before the news broke , Braun was taking ground balls at Pepperdine University near Los Angeles . General Manager Doug Melvin left him a voicemail , and after returning the call and learning of the team 's plans Braun grabbed his outfield glove , and started taking fly balls . Braun supported the switch . " [The outfield glove] is not broken in yet , but it will get there . I feel like I 'm a good enough athlete and have a good enough work ethic to make the transition pretty easily . "

While Braun 's outfield experience until then had consisted of " two games in center field my freshman year in high school , " Braun had speed , arm strength that would make him stand out against other left fielders , and athleticism to make the transition . Early reports were good , as in spring training in 2008 he showed an ability to cover ground , go back on the ball , to his left into the gap , and to his right to cut off balls down the line . Braun looked good tracking liners and high fly balls , and took good routes when cutting off balls down the line or in the gap , holding batters to singles . In March 2008 Manager Ned Yost said that Braun has been " spectacular " in left , and " he 's got an opportunity one day to win a Gold Glove in left field . He certainly does . "

In July , by which time Braun was being mentioned in the press as a Gold Glove candidate , Ed Sedar , the Brewers ' outfield defense expert , said : " He probably has the best arm in baseball in left field . He can cover more ground than 90 % of the outfielders out there . "

In 2008 , Braun led all major league outfielders with a 1 @.@ 000 fielding percentage . He also led all NL left fielders in putouts (275) , and was second in the league in range factor (1 @.@ 95) and

fourth in assists (9) , in 1 @, @ 310 @. @ 1 innings .

On May 23 , 2009 , Braun was charged with his first error ever in 190 games in left field , when his throw to third was not caught by either Bill Hall or Craig Counsell , one of whom should have caught it according to Manager Ken Macha , but both of whom were confused as to who was covering the base . In July 2009 , ESPN 's Jon Heyman wrote that Braun had " become a terrific left fielder in no time " . Braun led all NL left fielders in 2009 with a .994 fielding percentage . He also led them in putouts (304) and range factor (2 @. @ 06) , was tied for the lead in double plays (2) , and was third in assists (8) , in 1 @, @ 364 innings .

In 2010 , Braun led NL left fielders in putouts for the third year in a row (279) , was second in range factor per game (1 @. @ 86) , and 4th in assists (6) .

= = = = Right field = = = =

In 2014 , Braun moved to right field for the Brewers after right fielder Norichika Aoki was traded to the Royals , opening a spot for Khris Davis to play left field . In 2016 , Braun moved back to left field .

= = Jewish heritage = =

Braun 's father Joe , most of whose side of the family was murdered in the Holocaust , was born in Israel . His father immigrated to the United States at age seven . His father is Jewish and his mother Diane is Catholic .

Braun said " I am Jewish " , and " I 'm extremely proud to be a role model for young Jewish kids . " " It 's something I 'm really proud of . But I don 't want to make it into something more than what it is . I didn 't have a Bar Mitzvah I didn 't celebrate the holidays . " He reiterated : " It 's something that draws a lot of interest and something I take pride in . " Braun 's mother , however , said he is not Jewish .

Braun 's nickname " The Hebrew Hammer " , which was also a nickname for former All @-@ Stars Al Rosen and Hank Greenberg , refers to his Jewish heritage . It is also the nickname of former teammate Gabe Kapler and alludes to former Milwaukee star Hank Aaron (whose nickname was " Hammerin ' Hank ") , and the movie The Hebrew Hammer , starring Adam Goldberg . In response to the nickname , Braun 's mother reiterated , " He 's totally not Jewish . I heard some organization started called him ? The Hebrew Hammer . ? I said , ? Oh no . ? My mother would be rolling over in her grave if she heard that . "

Braun is one of the highest @-@ drafted Jewish ballplayers in the history of professional baseball . The New York Yankees made Ron Blomberg the number one pick in the 1967 draft . Braun was considered the best Jewish minor league baseball prospect in 2006 , and became major league baseball 's first Jewish Rookie of the Year the following season . In each of 2007 and 2008 , Braun hit more home runs (34 and 37) than all but 3 of the top 10 career Jewish home run hitters had hit in their best seasons . Only Hank Greenberg (58) , Shawn Green (49) , and Al Rosen (43) hit more in a single year . Through the 2012 season , he was 2nd on the all @-@ time career list in batting average (behind Hank Greenberg) , tied for 3rd in home runs (with Sid Gordon ; behind Hank Greenberg and Shawn Green) , 7th on the RBI list (behind Al Rosen) , and 8th in hits (behind Mike Lieberthal) , for Jewish major leaguers .

" Braun " was , coincidentally , the family name of Sandy Koufax , until his mother remarried and he took his stepfather 's name . " There 's no [family] connection that I know of " , Braun said , " but it 's kind of cool . " In another coincidence , Braun lived for a time with his maternal grandfather in a house that previously belonged to Jewish Hall of Fame first baseman Hank Greenberg . Braun 's grandfather has lived in the house for over 40 years .

In December 2007 , Braun was the only Jewish athlete invited by President George W. Bush to the annual Hanukkah Dinner at the White House , where he talked baseball with the President . Braun was later featured in the 2008 Hank Greenberg 75th Anniversary edition of Jewish Major Leaguers Baseball Cards , published in affiliation with Fleer Trading Cards and the American Jewish Historical

Society , commemorating the Jewish Major Leaguers from 1871 through 2008 . Braun was one of three Jewish players in the 2008 All @-@ Star Game and one of three Jewish players on the Team USA 2009 World Baseball Classic team . He and Feldman were voted the 2009 co @-@ Jewish MVP by Jewish Major Leaguers , and he was voted the 2010 Jewish MVP as Breslow received the Most Valuable Jewish Pitcher honors . " There aren 't too many Jewish athletes at the highest level " , said Braun . " It 's something that I certainly embrace . "

Braun was inducted into the Southern California Jewish Sports Hall of Fame in January 2010 .

The Jewish Daily Forward listed him as number five in the 2011 " Forward 50 " , its list of the 50 most significant American Jews .

In 2011 , Braun became the fourth self @-@ identifying Jewish player , and the first in nearly a half @-@ century , to win the Most Valuable Player Award , after Greenberg (1935 and 1940) , Rosen (1953) , and Koufax (1963) . In April 2012 , Shalom Life ranked him Number 5 on its list of " the 50 most talented , intelligent , funny , and gorgeous Jewish men in the world . "

= = Outside pursuits = =

Braun developed his own signature fashion t @-@ shirt line for Affliction Clothing , a California @-@ based clothing manufacturer who manufactures shirts that are garment dyed and hand distressed . In August 2008 , he filmed a YouTube video with supermodel Marisa Miller for Remington 's ShortCut clippers . In October 2008 , Apple released a commercial for a new iPhone , that showed a clip of Braun 's 10th inning walk @-@ off grand slam against the Pittsburgh Pirates on September 25 , 2008 , which kept the Brewers ' Wild Card hopes alive . Gatorade used the same clip in its November 2008 " League of Clutch " commercial .

Braun has signed endorsement deals with CytoSport , a supplement maker , Nike , Wilson , Mikita Sports for autographs and memorabilia , Sam Bat , and AirTran Airways , and is working on his own line of aluminum bats . He has appeared in commercials for Muscle Milk , Dick 's Sporting Goods , and regional convenience store chain Kwik Trip . He turned down a request by ABC that he appear on the TV show " The Bachelor " .

In 2010 , Braun opened two restaurants in Wisconsin , Ryan Braun 's Waterfront in Milwaukee 's Historic Third Ward and Ryan Braun 's Tavern & Grill in Lake Geneva . In late 2010 , Braun 's Milwaukee location closed for remodeling and re @-@ opened in April 2011 as Ryan Braun 's Graffito , an Italian restaurant . In July 2012 , Braun teamed up with Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers to open a restaurant , 8 @-@ Twelve , in Brookfield , Wisconsin .

Braun lost endorsement deals with Kwik Trip and Nike in 2013 after he was suspended for using performance @-@ enhancing drugs . In September 2013 , SURG Restaurant Group , which manages Ryan Braun 's Graffito Restaurant and 8 @-@ Twelve MVP Bar & Grill , announced that it will end its relationship with Braun . 8 @-@ Twelve MVP Bar & Grill changed its name to " Hom " after losing their affiliation with Braun. and Graffito closed in October of that year .