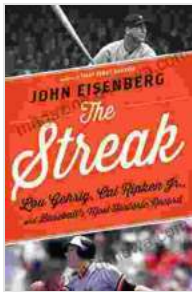


# Lou Gehrig, Cal Ripken Jr., and Baseball's Most Historic Record: Breaking the Iron Horse

In the annals of baseball history, few records stand as tall as the consecutive games played streak. For over 56 years, Lou Gehrig's mark of 2,130 consecutive games stood as an unbreakable record, a testament to his incredible durability and unwavering determination.



## The Streak: Lou Gehrig, Cal Ripken Jr., and Baseball's Most Historic Record by John Eisenberg

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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But in 1995, a young shortstop named Cal Ripken Jr. began his own pursuit of the Iron Horse's record. Game after game, Ripken took the field, extending his streak and inching closer to Gehrig's seemingly untouchable mark.

As Ripken's streak grew, so did the anticipation and excitement surrounding his chase. Fans flocked to stadiums to witness history in the making, and the media chronicled his every move. With each passing

game, the pressure mounted, but Ripken remained focused and determined.

On September 6, 1995, at Camden Yards in Baltimore, Ripken stepped to the plate in the first inning, tying Gehrig's record of 2,130 consecutive games. The crowd erupted in a thunderous ovation, recognizing the magnitude of his achievement.

But Ripken wasn't satisfied with just tying the record. He wanted to break it, to make his mark on baseball history forever. And so, he continued to play, game after game, extending his streak to 2,131, then 2,132, and beyond.

On September 20, 1995, Ripken played in his 2,215th consecutive game, breaking Gehrig's record. The crowd went wild, and Ripken was mobbed by his teammates in a joyous celebration.

Ripken's record-breaking streak stands as one of the most remarkable achievements in baseball history. It is a testament to his incredible durability, his unwavering determination, and his love of the game. And it is a story that will continue to be told for generations to come.

## **The Iron Horse**

Lou Gehrig was born in New York City in 1903. He was a natural athlete, and he excelled in baseball from a young age. In 1923, he signed with the New York Yankees, and he quickly became one of the best players in the game.

Gehrig was known for his incredible power and durability. He was a feared hitter, and he led the league in home runs six times. He was also a reliable

fielder, and he played every game with the same intensity and determination.

In 1939, Gehrig was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a fatal disease that affects the nervous system. Despite his illness, Gehrig continued to play, and he finished the season with a batting average of .314 and 14 home runs.

Gehrig's consecutive games played streak ended on May 2, 1939, when he was forced to leave a game against the Detroit Tigers. He had played in 2,130 consecutive games, a record that stood for over 56 years.

Gehrig died from ALS in 1941. He was 37 years old.

## **The Iron Man**

Cal Ripken Jr. was born in Havre de Grace, Maryland, in 1960. He was the son of Cal Ripken Sr., a former major league baseball player. Ripken Jr. began playing baseball at a young age, and he quickly showed signs of his father's talent.

In 1978, Ripken Jr. was drafted by the Baltimore Orioles. He made his major league debut in 1981, and he quickly became one of the best shortstops in the game. Ripken Jr. was known for his exceptional fielding skills, his powerful bat, and his incredible durability.

In 1982, Ripken Jr. began his consecutive games played streak. He played in every game for the Orioles, and he quickly became a fan favorite. Ripken Jr.'s streak grew year after year, and he eventually surpassed Gehrig's record of 2,130 consecutive games.

Ripken Jr. played in 2,632 consecutive games, a record that is likely to never be broken. He retired from baseball in 2001, and he was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 2007.

## Breaking the Record

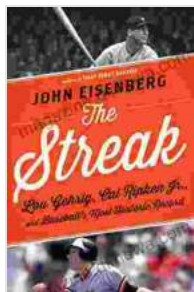
The day that Ripken Jr. broke Gehrig's record was a historic day for baseball. It was a day that celebrated the incredible achievements of two of the greatest players in the game's history.

Ripken Jr. was a humble and gracious winner. He knew that he could never truly replace Gehrig, but he was honored to have broken his record.

"Lou Gehrig was the greatest player who ever lived," Ripken Jr. said. "I'm just a kid from Maryland who played a game he loved."

## The Legacy

Lou Gehrig



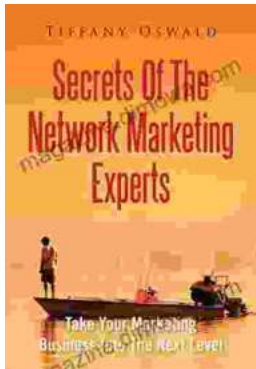
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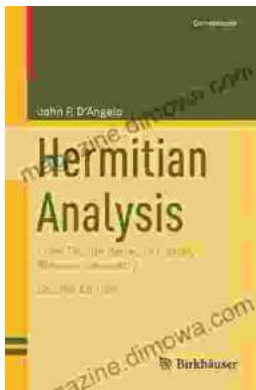
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