Limited Chances Hinder Smith in HOF Election

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By Paul Ladewski

Of the 27 candidates on the current Hall of Fame ballot, former Cubs bullpen ace Lee Smith is among the easiest to overlook.

His 478 saves rank behind only future Hall of Famers Mariano Rivera and Trevor Hoffman on the all-time list. Unfortunately, the big right-hander took part in only two postseason series, and he was pinned with a crucial loss each time.

Smith is in my Hall of Very Good, but his career lacks a defining moment to be in a higher place.