



## Unfazed Sosa Begins Climb Back to Top

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This week Sammy Sosa received a mere 71 votes (12.5 percent) on his first try in the Hall of Fame election -- 14 fewer than Don Mattingly – but the former Cubs slugger isn't done yet.

“Even if we weren’t inducted on our first time, we are still winners and there is always a next time,” the greatest home run hitter in Chicago history said via [@TheRealMr609](#), his Twitter handle.

I won't rule out Sosa as a Hall of Famer one day. The Baseball Writers' Association of America has set the bar for Steroids Era candidates, but voters will come and go in the years ahead. Attitudes may change with them.

Nonetheless, recent history tells us that Sosa faces a challenge every bit as monstrous as the longballs that were his trademark not long ago.

Since the turn of the century, Bert Blyleven is the only Hall of Famer who earned less than 20 percent of the vote (17.5) in his debut on the ballot. He made the cut on his 14th and second-to-last try.

Sosa has as many as 14 swings left, and he may need every one of them.

