

For Buehrle, Gold Glove wait proves to be twice as nice

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After Mark Buehrle pitched a perfect game last summer, the man who had almost everything said only the Gold Glove and Cy Young Awards were left on his to-do list.

At this rate, the White Sox pitcher has to be considered an early favorite for Cy Young honors next season.

On Tuesday, Rawlings announced that Buehrle had earned his first Gold Glove Award in a vote of managers and coaches that was conducted before the conclusion of the regular season. Eleven days earlier, the Fielding Bible selected him as the best defensive player at his position.

Buehrle was the only local player to be named for either award.

“It’s weird to say, but it does rank just as high up as the perfect game,” Buehrle said in a conference call. “In this case, you’re doing 95 percent of the work. During a perfect game, you are making the pitches, but you also have to depend on everyone making the plays behind you.”

Last season Buehrle had more fielding chances (55), assists (41) and pickoffs (eight) than any American League pitcher. He was charged with one error.

Of Buehrle, the Fielding Bible said, “(He) has defensive chops, but his ability to hold runners is legendary. In the last four years, he’s allowed a total of 15 stolen bases, picked off 14 baserunners, and thrown over to first—only to have the runner break for second and be thrown out—16 times.”

The 10-member panel included Fielding Bible author John Dewan, ESPN analyst Peter Gammons, author Bill James and Strat-O-Matic game creator Harold Richman among others.