



## *Hall Call Takes Bite Out of Big Apple*

*By Paul Ladewski*

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How ironic that Ron Santo's induction into the Hall of Fame will take place in New York, his least favorite state of all.

In particular, Santo had an intense dislike for the Mets, who caught and passed the Cubs in the final month of the 1969 season. He never got over the bitter disappointment, a fact that I learned up close and personal decades later. When I asked him about the apparent similarities between the 1969 Mets and 2003 Cubs teams at the time, his glare turned me into a human puddle.

Fortunately, I didn't mention the name of Ron Swoboda, the former Mets outfielder.

“They didn't get along at all,” said Ferguson Jenkins, Santo's ex-teammate. “We had some old-timers games, and they wouldn't take lockers close to each other. They wouldn't exchange eye contact.”

Perhaps not coincidentally, Santo didn't fare particularly well at Shea Stadium in his career. His .254 batting average there ranked fifth among the six road venues in which he had at least 300 at-bats.