Little Blue Machine Is in Select Company

By Paul Ladewski
Posted on Friday, July 20

The 1970's Cincinnati Reds are the only National League team to win consecutive World Series in the last 90 years, but in the 1966-71 Cubs, the Big Red Machine has met its match.

When Ron Santo joins Ernie Banks, Ferguson Jenkins and Billy Williams in Coopertown, N.Y., this weekend, the Cubs will boast four Hall of Famers in that period. The 1972-76 Reds have only three – Johnny Bench, Joe Morgan and Tony Perez – while a fourth candidate in Pete Rose waits in the wings.

“In in era of the 1960s through the 1970s and part of the 1980s, the Cubs have as many Hall of Famers as anyone," Jenkins pointed out.

Like those Cubs teams, the 1962-71 San Francisco Giants claim four Hall Famers (Juan Marichal, Willie Mays, Willie McCovey and Gaylord Perry) without as much as one World Series title. Along with Orlando Cepeda, another Hall of Famer, they were members of the 1962 team that dropped the Fall Classic in seven games.

Said Jenkins, “That's something that won't ever be repeated – four or five guys on one ballclub who played that length of time together and are in the Hall of Fame.”