

Lou Gehrig

True/False Questions

1. Lou Gehrig played 2,130 consecutive games without missing a single one.
True
2. Lou Gehrig was born in Germany and moved to the United States when he was a teenager.
False (He was born in New York City, and his parents were German immigrants.)
3. Lou Gehrig attended Columbia University and studied engineering before becoming a professional baseball player.
True
4. Lou Gehrig's disease, ALS, affected his ability to play baseball, but he continued to play for 5 more years.
False (He stopped playing shortly after being diagnosed in 1939.)
5. The New York Yankees retired Lou Gehrig's number 4 in 1939, the same year he stopped playing baseball.
True

Open-Ended Questions and Answers

1. **Where was Lou Gehrig born, and what were the origins of his parents?**
Lou Gehrig was born in New York City on June 19, 1903. His parents were immigrants from Germany who came to the United States for a better life.
2. **What sports did Lou Gehrig play when he was in high school and college?**
Lou Gehrig played several sports, including baseball, football, and track, during his time in high school and college.
3. **How did Lou Gehrig get the nickname "The Iron Horse"?**
Lou Gehrig earned the nickname "The Iron Horse" because he played 2,130 consecutive games without missing a single one, showing his toughness and dedication to the sport.
4. **What major records did Lou Gehrig set during his baseball career?**
Lou Gehrig set several records, including hitting over 400 home runs, driving in more than 1,900 runs, and holding the record for the most grand slams in Major League Baseball history with 23.
5. **Why did Lou Gehrig leave Columbia University to pursue a career in baseball?**
Lou Gehrig left Columbia University because he was offered the chance to play professional baseball for the New York Yankees. His talent on the baseball field was noticed by scouts, and he decided to follow that opportunity.
6. **How did Lou Gehrig's relationship with his mother influence his early life and career choices?**
Lou Gehrig was very close to his mother, who worked hard to support their family. His mother wanted him to get a good education and have a stable career, so Lou initially studied engineering to please her. However, his love and talent for baseball led him to pursue a professional career in the sport.
7. **What was significant about Lou Gehrig's farewell speech at Yankee Stadium?**
Lou Gehrig's farewell speech at Yankee Stadium on July 4, 1939, was significant

because he called himself "the luckiest man on the face of the earth" despite being diagnosed with ALS. His positive attitude and courage in the face of his illness moved many people and made the speech one of the most famous moments in baseball history.

8. **What disease ended Lou Gehrig's baseball career, and how did it affect him physically?**

Lou Gehrig was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a disease that weakens the muscles and nerves. It made him lose strength, preventing him from playing baseball and eventually leading to his retirement in 1939.

9. **How did Lou Gehrig's legacy continue after his death, particularly with his connection to ALS?**

Lou Gehrig's legacy continued after his death because ALS became widely known as "Lou Gehrig's Disease." He remains a symbol of strength and courage in the face of adversity. His connection to the fight against ALS has kept his memory alive, and efforts continue to find a cure for the disease.

10. **Why is Lou Gehrig considered both a great athlete and an inspiration to people facing challenges?**

Lou Gehrig is considered both a great athlete and an inspiration because of his extraordinary achievements in baseball and his strength and humility in battling ALS. Even in difficult times, he remained positive, setting an example for others facing challenges in life.