



Lester is lead contender for Spahn Award

OKLAHOMA CITY (September 28, 2010) — With less than a week to go in the regular season, Jon Lester of the Boston Red Sox is the lead contender for the Warren Spahn Award, honoring the top lefty in Major League Baseball.

Lester is followed by David Price of the Tampa Bay Rays in second and Clayton Kershaw of the Los Angeles Dodgers in third. Also in the top five are three-time Spahn Award winner CC Sabathia of the New York Yankees and Francisco Liriano of the Minnesota Twins.

The Warren Spahn Award winner will be announced on October 5, 2010.

Spahn Award rankings are based on a pitcher's wins, strikeouts and earned run average. The award is named after Oklahoman and National Baseball Hall of Famer Warren Spahn, who holds the Major League Baseball record of 363 wins as a left-handed pitcher. The award is presented annually to the best left-handed pitcher in Major League Baseball.

The Spahn Award is presented at the annual Warren Spahn Award Gala, hosted by Oklahoma City's Bricktown Rotary Club in January at the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame & Jim Thorpe Museum.

Past Spahn Award winners include: CC Sabathia (2007 — 2009); Johan Santana (2004, 2006); Dontrelle Willis (2005); Andy Pettitte (2003); and Randy Johnson (1999 — 2002).

Current 2010 Warren Spahn Award Standings

(Qualified Pitchers only. Standings based on statistics compiled on September 28, 2010. Standings subject to change.)

1. Jon Lester, BOS
2. David Price, TB
3. Clayton Kershaw, LAD
4. CC Sabathia, NYY
5. Francisco Liriano, MIN

Warren Spahn Background

Warren Spahn pitched for 21 years in the major leagues after serving his country with distinction in World War II. Spahn is considered one of the most "enduring great" pitchers in Major League Baseball history. He won 21 games in 1947, when he was 26

years old and he won 23 games in 1963 when he was 42. Spahn had 20 or more wins in 13 seasons, including six in a row. He also had eight seasons of leading the majors in victories and nine seasons of leading the league in complete games. He pitched his first no-hitter at the age of 39 and his second no-hitter at the age of 40. Spahn was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1973 and Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 1988. The Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame Museum-Guthrie created the Spahn Award, which is embodied in a bronze trophy modeled after Spahn's famous high kicking windup.