



Johnny Pesky
Boston Red Sox

Honored Guest



Johnny Pesky, nicknamed “The Needle”, is a Red Sox icon. Johnny pesky has been associated with the Boston Red Sox for 56 of his 68 years in baseball. He played for the Sox from 1942-1952, missing the 1943-1945 seasons while serving in World War II, and he was selected to the All-Stat game in 1946. Originally a shortstop, Johnny Pesky moved to third base in 1948. As a hitter he specialized in getting on base.

Johnny Pesky led the American league in base hits three times, his first three seasons in the majors. In 1952, he was traded to the Detroit Tigers, and in 1954, he retired. After his playing days were over, Pesky became a manager, and in 1963, he became the Red Sox manager, but was replaced in 1964. In 1975 he became the Red Sox first base coach, and in 1980, he moved to a bench and batting coach role.

Johnny Pesky played a prominent role in the World Series Championship ceremony. He helped raise the 2004 World Series Championship banner with Carl Yastrzemski. On his 87th birthday, September 27th, 2006, the Red Sox honored him by officially naming the right-field foul pole “Pesky Pole”, in honor of his 1948 home run down the short right field line. He recently received his doctorate in Human Letters from Salem State College. Around the same time, Johnny’s baseball number 6 was retired.

Johnny Pesky remains a visible member of the community, making personal appearances for the Red Sox.