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Phoenixville, Pennsylvania Babe Ruth League graduate Mike Piazza was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame, Class of 2016, in a blockbuster vote by the Baseball Writers' Association of American. A 12-time All-Star, Piazza has been described as the best defensive catcher of all time, and holds the career record for home runs hit by a catcher, with a total of 427.

Piazza, who played for the New York Mets from 1998 to 2005, came to the team in a trade from the Marlins, with whom he played five games after spending six and one-half seasons with the Los Angeles Dodgers, and at first did not know how long he would stay. "The Mets fans were so gracious to me, and even in my post-career as well," Piazza said. "Every time I go back, I can't tell you how much I feel embraced. It's very special, and it's a relationship that I can't describe how emotional it is for me."

A lot of hard work helped Piazza during his long career that started back in his youth when he played for the Phoenixville Babe Ruth League. He then played first base in high school but shifted to catcher in his later years to accelerate his ascent up the ladder to the big leagues and then allowed him to have a long, successful career.



Shown left is a photo of Mike from his days as a Babe Ruth Leaguer in the Phoenixville Babe Ruth League.