

HATFIELD SPORTS SOUNDS OFF!

“Through the Years” Not Johnson & Johnson, but Rogers & Rogers

When you hear the name Kenny Rogers, what first pops into your mind? Probably the music artist, right? Well, there’s been another successful one out there and he actually plays the game of baseball.

Rangers pitcher Kenny Rogers turns 41 years old this November. Last season he went 18-9, finishing tied for third in the American League in wins with Bartolo Colon of the Angels. On his career, Rogers has 180 wins, 36 complete games, nine shutouts pitched, 28 saves and 1686 strikeouts. Hall-of-Fame numbers? Not nearly. However, they are pretty good numbers for someone that has changed teams eight different times. Oddly enough, Rogers never won 18 games in a single season until last year.

That begs the question: are these two guys, both named Kenny Rogers, getting better with age? It took several attempts for the music man Kenny Rogers to become a star. But “Through the Years,” one of Rogers’ hits, he has gotten better just like the other man he is sometimes mistaken for (or vice versa). His *42 Ultimate Hits* was a top seller and songs like “She Believes In Me,” “You Decorated My Life,” and “The Gambler” are suggested by many as all-time classics.



It took numerous attempts for the music man Kenny Rogers to become a star. Same goes for the Rangers pitcher.
(Photo Courtesy of Yahoo! Music)

Yes, through the years, Rogers has pitched more like a star. He’s had decent success in the past. The southpaw has had 13 .500 or better seasons, while only four losing seasons have prevented him from finding a home. **Right now, Rogers has a record setting streak going that should keep him in Texas for the rest of his career. His 30 consecutive scoreless innings pitched by a 40-year-old since 1969 is the most ever.**

On the 2005 season, he has a record of 4-2, an ERA of 1.49, and only once has he been hit for a home run in 54.1 innings. If it weren’t for Johan Santana of the Minnesota Twins and Chicago’s Jon Garland, he would be the favorite entering June for the AL Cy Young honors. Also, with the way he is throwing now, could he do the unthinkable: throw another perfect game? It would be 11 years after his first one back in 1994. Good

Morning America (ABC) and CBS TV's Late Show with David Letterman had him on following the impeccable achievement.

Don't stop there. There's more correlation between these two men. Buck Showalter's Rogers may have been born in Savannah, Georgia, but the country western star claims Houston, Texas as his birthplace. And on my birthday, August 13th, in 1994, the two men embraced to confuse the entire universe. Rogers and Rogers (no it's not a law firm or new product you must buy now) appeared at a function together in Arlington, Texas 11 years ago. If you ask me, it's time for them to come together once more.