



# Lyman Bostock: The Inspiring Life and Tragic Death of a Ballplayer

*K. Adam Powell*

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Lyman Bostock Jr. had baseball in his blood. The son of a former Negro League standout, Bostock began his professional career with the Minnesota Twins in 1975. Two years later, he became one of the first players in major league baseball to cash in on the new era of free agency, signing with the California Angels for more than \$2 million—one of the richest contracts in sports history at that time. But Bostock's true potential would never be known. On September 23, 1978, Bostock was shot and killed in Gary, Indiana. He was just 27 years old.

In *Lyman Bostock: The Inspiring Life and Tragic Death of a Ballplayer*, K. Adam Powell tells the story of Bostock's humble beginnings in Birmingham, Alabama, his coming-of-age in Los Angeles, his involvement in the Black Power movement, his brief yet impactful baseball career, and his senseless murder in 1978. Those who knew Bostock and played alongside him believed he was good enough to win multiple batting titles, and perhaps even make the Hall of Fame some day. More than just a ballplayer, Bostock was known as a stand-out citizen who never forgot where he came from, investing hours of his time giving back to his community, visiting with local youth, and hosting baseball clinics.

*Lyman Bostock* captures a remarkable era in professional baseball, an era when ballplayers such as Bostock still engaged closely with their fans even as power shifted from management and owners to the players. Through careful research, exclusive interviews, and rarely-seen photographs, Bostock's life and the times in which he lived are conveyed in intimate detail. For baseball fans of all ages, Lyman Bostock's biography is a poignant and inspiring story of an upcoming star whose life was cut much too short.

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