

# Society for American Baseball Research

## Records Committee Newsletter ©

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Lyle Spatz, Editor

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Not everything that counts can be counted;  
not everything that is counted is worth counting.  
---Albert Einstein

The Records Committee welcomes **Bob Collins**; 20405 NE 19th Court; Miami, FL 33179; (305) 931-7611; **Cliff Kachline**; RD 2 Box 214; Cooperstown, NY 13326; (607) 547-8728, and **Wayne McElreavy**; PO Box 1154; Claremont, NH 03743; (603) 543-1593.

It was good to see so many of you in Kansas City. As always, it was one of the great weekends of the year. I chatted with several committee members informally to get a sense of where they stood on my proposal to adjust managerial records to include games managed by substitute managers. I asked if they believed (1) the records should remain as they now exist; (2) they should they be updated, but use some sort of cutoff lower than the 30 games presently being used; or (3) we should include every case where we find a game that was managed by a substitute. I found people who favored each of the approaches, however, I also had one member tell me that he thought that even the 30-game adjustment should be rescinded; he felt that as long as someone was the official manager of record, he should be credited with all the teams wins and losses. As I said, these were basically one-on-one conversations; we ran out of time before it could be discussed at the Records Committee meeting. The major topic of the meeting was what to do about effecting an orderly, cooperative, and rational approach to incorporating the ever-increasing new information being uncovered by **Dave Smith's** crew at Retrosheet and other researchers into baseball's historic record. We will continue to search for the proper approach to getting the baseball establishment to recognize the problem and to take action.

The inaccuracies in the record books and encyclopedias continue to surface, affecting Hall of Famers, players known only to their families and SABR members, and everyone in-between. Most often the errors are discovered while researching something else. For example, on the bus returning from the Royals-Mariners game in Kansas City, a young man named **David Marasco** handed me an envelope that contained the New York Times boxscores for **Satchel Paige's** 21 games pitched in 1948, his rookie season. David, whose interest he said was in the Negro Leagues, had found that when he added Paige's numbers in these box scores, he came up with 72 2/3 innings-pitched, 61 hits allowed, 22 walks and 43 strikeouts. But when he compared his results to those in the encyclopedias, they checked out in innings-pitched and hits, but he found that his totals showed Paige with three fewer walks and two fewer strikeouts. He mentioned this to **Dick Clark**, chairman of the Negro Leagues Committee, who suggested he show it to me. David believed that the error was in Paige's line for the August 8 game against the Yankees. In that game, the first of a doubleheader at Cleveland, Paige was credited with three walks and two strikeouts, which, coincidentally, were the same amount of walks and strikeouts that Yankee pitcher **Joe Page** had in the game. I got both Paige and Page's 1948 day-by-day sheet from Cooperstown, which confirmed that both men had been credited with three walks and two strikeouts for the game. (The other items in their line for the game were correct.) I then looked at the play-by-play of the game from the Cleveland Plain Dealer, and sure enough, while Page in his 1 1/3 innings walked three and struck out two, Paige in his 1 2/3 innings neither walked a batter nor struck one out. Like some other changes we have made, this is a small one that will in no way affect how anyone regards the ability of the player concerned. But it makes the historical record more accurate and we thank David for giving us the information.

**Thomas Assicurato** did some checking at the Hall of Fame to clear up some questions as to whether Sandy Koufax or Lou Gehrig is the Hall's youngest inductee. He found that Koufax, elected on January 19, 1972, was the youngest player ever elected. At the time, Koufax's age was 36 years, one month. He was inducted on August 7, 1972, at the age of 36 years, seven months. Gehrig was elected in a special election on December 7, 1939, at age 36 years, 6 months. However, because there was no formal induction in the summer of 1940, Gehrig's election and induction were simultaneous. So, officially, Koufax is the youngest player ever elected, and Gehrig is the youngest player ever inducted.

**David Stephan's** finding of previously unknown batting streaks (verified by **Bill Deane**, then the Senior Research Associate at the Hall of Fame) appeared in the February 1992 newsletter. The streaks were: 31 by **Nap Lajoie** (CLE AL) in 1906; 33 by **Hal Chase** (NY AL) in 1907; and 34 by **Ty Cobb** (DET AL) 1912. The Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book now includes these three in their list of 30-Game Batting Streaks (page 172). However, in the section on the Cleveland Indians club records on page 225, they still show **Bill Bradley** (29 in 1902) as holding the team record for the longest batting streak. None of the above three batting-streaks are carried in The Elias The Book of Baseball Records (page 354). Also, Elias still carries **John Stone's** (DET AL) 34-game streak of 1930, although David found (and Bill confirmed) that an 0-3 performance in the first game of a doubleheader on July 12 had been inadvertently omitted from the compilation of Stone's streak, thereby nullifying it.

**Wayne McElreavy** noticed that on page 203 of The Sports Encyclopedia--Baseball **Johnny Rizzo** is credited with playing only six game in the outfield for the 1939 Pirates. Rizzo actually played 86 games in the outfield that season. Also, in the summary section for batters, 1901-1919 (page 94), **Fred Clarke** is shown as having played and managed Pittsburgh in each season from 1900 to 1915. The managing part is correct, however, Clarke did not play in 1912, so that part of his record should be changed to 1900-1911, 1913-1915.

In the April newsletter, I printed **Greg Beston's** discovery that the Boston at Oakland game of June 6, 1980 should be added to the list of American League games in which teams combined to use five right fielders in a nine-inning game. Well Greg has found another game to add to this list, which appears in The Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book on page 10. On September 8, 1974, New York used **Bobby Murcer**, **Larry Murray** and **Otto Velez**, while Detroit used **Jim Nettles** and **Leon Roberts**.

Greg also claims that in Boston's 13-inning 3-2 victory at Yankee Stadium on June 29, 1979, Red Sox shortstop **Rick Burleson** had no assists (he had four putouts). That would break the American League record for Fewest assists in longest extra-inning game by a shortstop. The Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book (p.99) shows the record belonging to **John Gochnaur** of Cleveland--12 innings on July 14, 1903. Gochnaur, by the way, had no putouts in that game and so still holds the record for Longest game with no chances offered.

And, in our quest to find the player (non-pitcher) with the highest number of consecutive at-bats without a hit, Greg offers the name of Cleveland's **Tony Bernazard** at 44 in 1984. That would tie our current leader, **Luis Aparicio** who went 0-44 in 1971. However, Greg cautions that he got the information from Bernazard's bio in The Ballplayers, and has not checked it himself.

**Jim Smith** wants to correct an error in the 1932 record of pitcher **Dick Coffman**. Coffman pitched for the Browns and the Senators that year and the three encyclopedias disagree on the number of shutouts he threw. Total Baseball gives him none with St. Louis and one with Washington. The Sports Encyclopedia--Baseball gives him two, one with each team. And The Baseball Encyclopedia, while not breaking down shutouts by team, also gives him two. But, says Jim, Coffman had only one shutout in 1932, and it was for St. Louis, not Washington. It came on April 17, when he blanked the Tigers, 1-0 at Detroit. The shutout for which he is credited as a Senator was in a game against Boston at Fenway Park on September 21. Coffman was removed for a pinch hitter in the top of the tenth with the score 0-0. The Senators scored a run and won 1-0, but **Lloyd Brown** pitched the last of the tenth. Coffman got the win, but, obviously, should not be credited with a shutout.

Joe Dittmar and Clem Comly were so intrigued by the list of home run leaders by letter of the alphabet that they decided to extend it to other categories. The totals are through the 1995 season, so by now the active players among the leaders (Andre Dawson, Dennis Eckersley, Marquis Grissom, Ricky Henderson, Pete Incaviglia, Otis Nixon, Tim Lincecum and Ozzie Smith) will have increased their totals. Joe and Clem, who combined on the list, point out that there are several other active players who have a reasonable shot at eventually taking over the lead in specific categories, including Wade Boggs, Joe Carter, Tony Gwynn, Alan Trammell and Fernando Valenzuela. Kirby Puckett was also on that list, but unfortunately will now be unable to add to his totals.

| Hits                 | Runs Scored          | Runs Batted In       | Stolen Bases       | Wins             |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| H. Aaron 3,771       | H. Aaron 2,174       | H. Aaron 2,287       | L. Aparicio 508    | G. Alexander 373 |
| G. Brett 3,154       | J. Burkett 1,718     | E. Banks 1,838       | L. Brock 938       | B. Blyleven 287  |
| T. Cobb 4,189        | T. Cobb 2,245        | T. Cobb, 1881        | T. Cobb 892        | S. Carlton 329   |
| A. Dawson 2,758      | E. Delahanty 1,601   | A. Dawson 1,577      | Willie Davis 388   | P. Derringer 223 |
| Dw. Evans 2,446      | Dw. Evans 1,470      | Dw. Evans 1,384      | J. Evers 324       | D. Eckersley 192 |
| F. Frisch 2,880      | J. Foxx 1,751        | J. Foxx 1,921        | F. Frisch 419      | B. Feller 266    |
| C. Gehring 2,839     | L. Gehrig 1,888      | L. Gehrig 1,800      | M. Grissom 285     | P. Galvin 360    |
| R. Hornsby 2,930     | R. Henderson 1,719   | R. Hornsby 1,584     | R. Henderson 1,149 | C. Hubbell 253   |
| F. Isbell 1,056      | C. Irwin 555         | P. Incaviglia 591    | F. Isbell 253      | B. Inks 27       |
| R. Jackson 2,584     | R. Jackson 1,551     | R. Jackson 1,702     | F. Jones 359       | W. Johnson 417   |
| A. Kaline 3,007      | W. Keeler 1,727      | H. Killebrew 1,584   | W. Keeler 398      | T. Keefe 342     |
| N. Lajoie 3,242      | N. Lajoie 1,503      | N. Lajoie 1,588      | D. Lopez 557       | T. Lyons 260     |
| S. Musial 3,630      | W. Mays 2,062        | S. Musial 1,951      | J. Morgan 889      | C. Mathewson 373 |
| G. Nettles 2,225     | G. Nettles 1,193     | G. Nettles 1,314     | O. Nixon 444       | K. Nichols 361   |
| M. Ott 2,876         | M. Ott 1,859         | M. Ott 1,881         | A. Oles 341        | A. Orth 204      |
| V. Pinson 2,757      | V. Pinson 1,368      | T. Perez 1,852       | F. Patek 385       | E. Plank 326     |
| Joe Quinn 1,787      | Joe Quinn 891        | Joe Quinn 798        | Joe Quinn 268      | Jack Quinn 247   |
| P. Rosa 4,256        | B. Ruth 2,174        | B. Ruth 2,211        | T. Raines 777      | M. Ryan 324      |
| T. Speaker 3,514     | T. Speaker 1,882     | A. Simmons 1,827     | Oz. Smith 573      | W. Spahn 363     |
| P. Traynor 2,416     | M. Tiernan 1,313     | P. Traynor 1,273     | J. Tinker 338      | F. Tanana 240    |
| D. Unser 1,344       | D. Unser 817         | W. Upshaw 528        | W. Upshaw 88       | G. Uhle 200      |
| G. Van Haltren 2,532 | G. Van Haltren 1,839 | M. Vernon 1,311      | A. Van Slyke 245   | D. Vance 187     |
| H. Wagner 3,415      | T. Williams 1,788    | T. Williams 1,838    | H. Wagner 1,703    | M. Welsh 307     |
| C. Yastrzemski 3,419 | C. Yastrzemski 1,818 | C. Yastrzemski 1,844 | R. Yount 262       | C. Young 511     |
| H. Zimmerman 1,568   | H. Zimmerman 895     | H. Zimmerman 800     | R. Zeider 223      | T. Zachary 188   |

The following list from the Tattersall/McConnell Home Run Log, sent by Dave Vincent, details the ten batters with the most lifetime home runs on the day that selected members of the 500 home run club hit their last one.

*Babe Ruth*                      *Mel Ott*                      *Ted Williams*                      *Mickey Mantle*                      *Mike Schmidt*  
 05/25/1935                      04/15/1946                      09/28/1960                      09/20/1968                      05/02/1989 (still in effect)

|             |     |              |     |             |     |             |     |                           |     |
|-------------|-----|--------------|-----|-------------|-----|-------------|-----|---------------------------|-----|
| B. Ruth     | 714 | B. Ruth      | 714 | Ruth        | 714 | B. Ruth     | 714 | H. Aaron                  | 755 |
| L. Gehrig   | 352 | J. Foxx      | 534 | J. Foxx     | 534 | W. Mays     | 585 | B. Ruth                   | 714 |
| R. Hornsby  | 300 | M. Ott       | 511 | T. Williams | 521 | M. Mantle   | 538 | W. Mays                   | 680 |
| J. Foxx     | 278 | L. Gehrig    | 493 | M. Ott      | 511 | J. Foxx     | 534 | F. Robinson               | 588 |
| Cy Williams | 251 | A. Simmons   | 307 | L. Gehrig   | 493 | T. Williams | 521 | H. Killebrew              | 573 |
| A. Simmons  | 245 | R. Hornsby   | 301 | S. Musial   | 429 | E. Mathews  | 512 | R. Jackson                | 563 |
| H. Wilson   | 244 | C. Klein     | 300 | R. Kiner    | 389 | M. Ott      | 511 | M. Schmidt                | 548 |
| M. Ott      | 219 | Bob Johnson  | 288 | D. Snider   | 388 | H. Aaron    | 508 | M. Mantle                 | 536 |
| G. Goslin   | 213 | H. Greenberg | 283 | J. DiMaggio | 381 | L. Gehrig   | 483 | J. Foxx                   | 534 |
| C. Klein    | 213 | Cy Williams  | 251 | J. Mize     | 358 | S. Musial   | 475 | T. Williams<br>W. McCovey | 521 |

At the other end of the spectrum, here is a list of batter ineptness, at least when it comes to the ratio of home runs to strikeouts. This is a list that even Rob Deer couldn't make. It's from Walt Wilson and shows batters who had seasons in which they struck out 20 times or more for each home run they hit.

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Player</u>    | <u>Team</u> | <u>HR</u> | <u>SO</u> | <u>Year</u> | <u>Player</u> | <u>Team</u> | <u>HR</u> | <u>SO</u> |
|-------------|------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|---------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1884        | Sam Wise         | BOS-N       | 4         | 104       | 1982        | Omar Moreno   | PIT         | 3         | 121       |
| 1913        | Danny Moeller    | WAS         | 5         | 103       | 1982        | Mookie Wilson | NY-N        | 5         | 102       |
| 1914        | Gus Williams     | STL-A       | 4         | 120       | 1983        | Omar Moreno   | HOU/NY-A    | 1         | 103       |
| 1943        | Joe Hoover       | DET         | 4         | 101       | 1984        | Gary Pettis   | CAL         | 2         | 115       |
| 1953        | Bill Bruton      | MIL         | 1         | 100       | 1985        | Vince Coleman | STL         | 1         | 115       |
| 1962        | Ken Hubbs        | CHI-N       | 5         | 129       | 1985        | Bobby Meacham | NY-A        | 1         | 102       |
| 1968        | Mark Belanger    | BAL         | 2         | 114       | 1985        | Gary Pettis   | CAL         | 1         | 125       |
| 1968        | Lou Brock        | STL         | 6         | 124       | 1986        | Gary Pettis   | CAL         | 5         | 132       |
| 1968        | Bobby Knoop      | CAL         | 3         | 128       | 1987        | Vince Coleman | STL         | 3         | 126       |
| 1969        | Cito Gaston      | SD          | 2         | 117       | 1987        | Gary Pettis   | CAL         | 1         | 106       |
| 1969        | Jackie Hernandez | KC          | 4         | 111       | 1988        | Vince Coleman | STL         | 3         | 111       |
| 1973        | Eddie Leon       | CHI-A       | 3         | 103       | 1988        | Willie Wilson | KC          | 1         | 106       |
| 1976        | Ron LeFlore      | DET         | 4         | 111       | 1989        | Gary Pettis   | DET         | 1         | 106       |
| 1976        | Roy Smalley      | TEX/MIN     | 3         | 106       | 1990        | Gary Pettis   | TEX         | 3         | 118       |
| 1977        | Bill Almon       | SD          | 2         | 114       | 1990        | Mookie Wilson | TOR         | 3         | 102       |
| 1978        | Omar Moreno      | PIT         | 2         | 104       | 1991        | Manny Lee     | TOR         | 0         | 107       |
| 1980        | Dave Concepcion  | CIN         | 5         | 107       | 1992        | Pat Listach   | MIL         | 1         | 124       |
| 1980        | Omar Moreno      | PIT         | 3         | 121       |             |               |             |           |           |

\* No player has accomplished this dubious feat since 1992, although Royce Clayton of the Giant just missed in 1995. Clayton had five home runs and 109 strikeouts.

Manny Lee is the only player in ML history to strike out 100 times in a season without hitting a home run. Gary Pettis ended his career with 21 home runs and 958 strikeouts, more than 45 strikeouts for each home run.

Ross Adell has compiled a list for 1995 of leadoff HR's, HR's in 1-0 games, the final HR for notable players (remember to scratch out Darryl Strawberry), and first major league HR's. Also, a list of pitchers who struck out at least 10 batters, and a list of all pitchers who threw complete game shutouts with a notation of career-wins and career-shutouts. If you would like any of this information, sent a SASE to Ross at 141-10 28th Ave. (Apr 3G); Flushing, NY 11354.

\* My mistake, add Clayton to this list.