

Society for American Baseball Research Baseball Records Committee Newsletter

Lyle Spatz, Editor

June 1997

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

—Albert Einstein

IN HOW MANY GAMES DID CARLTON FISK CATCH?

On June 24, 1993 Carlton Fisk caught in his 2,226th and final major league game, surpassing Bob Boone's major league record of 2,225 games. However, Wayne McElreavy has discovered that while The Baseball Encyclopedia (tenth edition) has Fisk with 2,226 games caught, both Total Baseball (fifth edition) and The Sports Encyclopedia--Baseball (1997) show him with a total of 2,229. The Sports Encyclopedia--Baseball does not give career totals, but if you add up the individual seasons, disregarding the typo in 1985 (it says 13 but is actually 130) you get 2,229. The discrepancy is in 1981, where The Baseball Encyclopedia credits Fisk with 92 games caught, and Total Baseball and The Sports Encyclopedia--Baseball credit him with 95. A check with Dave Smith at Retrosheet revealed that Fisk had caught in 92 games in 1981, starting in 89 and relieving behind the plate in three others. I then called Pete Palmer who after a thorough check confirmed that there was a clerical error which gave Fisk the three additional games at catcher. (By the way, in their ninth edition, The Baseball Encyclopedia also credited Fisk with 95 games caught in 1981.) And although The 1982 Sporting News Baseball Guide shows Fisk with 95 games caught in 1981, The 1997 Sporting News Complete Record Book and The 1997 Elias Book of Baseball Records both correctly show him with 2,226 games caught lifetime. In summation, Carlton Fisk caught in 92 games in 1981 and a total of 2,226 in his career.



A FEW ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

The Records Committee meeting in Louisville, which is scheduled to last for an hour, will be on Sunday morning June 22 at eight a.m. Be sure to double check the time as these meeting-times are subject to change. Except through the newsletter, we seldom get a chance to find out what other committee members are doing. I would like to use the meeting as a chance for each of us to exchange ideas and information. If you have something specific that you would like to present at the meeting, please let me know by e-mail, mail, or phone. For those of you who don't already have it, my e-mail address is LMSPATZ@PRODIGY.NET.

Welcome to three new members of the Records Committee: Rich Hansen; 513 Braemar, Naperville, IL 60563; 630-717-0624; Scott Nelson; 219 Westwood Drive; Mankato, MN 56001; 507-345-6455; and Wally Philips; 7 North Ridge; Lake Luzerne, NY 12846; 518-654-9373. Also, new address es for Mike Attiyeh: 1460 Luning Drive, San Jose, CA 95118, and Dave Smith; 20 Sunset Road; Newark, DE 19711

EARLY SEASON RUNS BATTED IN

We all cringe (I hope) when we hear the media raving about new RBI highs for the month of April. However, generally overlooked, and more meaningful was the fact that Tino Martinez had 40 runs-batted-in in the Yankees' first 30 games. He's the first player to have at least 40 in the season's first 30 games since Brooklyn's Roy Campanella in 1953. Campy had 44.

UPDATES FROM THE APRIL NEWSLETTER

Franks Williams, who double-checked and confirmed the errors that Dixie Tourangeau found in the official records of Red Sox pitchers Ed Cicotte and Jack Ryan for June 9, 1909, now offers a follow-up. Based on the official sheets sent to him by the Hall of Fame, Frank has ascertained that there is also an error in strikeouts. Ryan should have only one strikeout (not three) reducing his 1909 total from 24 to 22 and his lifetime total from 32 to 30. Cicotte should have three strikeouts (not one) raising his 1909 total from 82 to 84 and his lifetime total from 1374 to 1376. There are no errors in either pitchers batting or fielding statistics.

Frank also informs us that Detroit's Bill Donovan should be added to those pitchers listed in the April newsletter who won at least 15 consecutive games over two seasons. Donovan won 16 straight: his final eight in 1907 (Sept. 6 through Oct. 3) and his first eight in 1908 (May 10 through July 7). Before Donovan, says Frank, the longest winning streak by an American League pitcher was New York's Jack Chesbro's 14 straight in 1904. And now, of course, we also have to add Randy Johnson who won 16 straight for Seattle over three seasons.

One of the 1996 Home Run Facts submitted by Dave Vincent was that Eddie Murray had joined Hank Aaron, Reggie Jackson, Al Kaline and Carl Yastrzemski as players who had hit at least ten home runs in 20 consecutive seasons. John Schwartz believes that Stan Musial belongs on this list. Musial did it 21 times between 1942 and 1963, missing only 1945 when he was in the Navy. John believes that military service is a special circumstance that should not interfere with any consecutive-season streaks or records. We'd both like to know what everyone else thinks about this.

Walt Wilson pointed out that the year Dom DiMaggio had 199 runs produced from the leadoff position was 1948, not 1949. Herm Krabbenhoft submitted this correctly, I just mistyped it.

SPORTING NEWS OFFICIAL MAJOR LEAGUE FACT BOOK

John Schwartz had some comments on this new record book. He found it well-organized with an interesting format. Because its title says it is the "official major league fact book," it uses the numbers from Total Baseball, the official major league encyclopedia, which, John noted, sometimes puts it in conflict with The Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book. John detected that on page 443, John McGraw, who won ten pennants with the New York Giants is shown with 9, and also discovered the following discrepancies in 20-win seasons on page 442.

JIM GALVIN is shown with 9; he had 10.
CHRISTY MATHEWSON is shown with 12; he had 13.
EDDIE PLANK is shown with 7; he had 8.
AMOS RUSIE is shown with 7; he had 8.
VIC WILLIS is shown with 7; he had 8.

WALTER JOHNSON is shown with 10; he had 12.
JIM MCCORMICK is shown with 7; he had 8.
CHARLEY RADBOURN is shown with 8; he had 9.
WARREN SPAHN is shown with 12; he had 13.
JIM PALMER is not shown; he had 8.

I mentioned these discrepancies to Joe Dittmar who quickly deduced that the list included only those seasons in which the pitcher had *more* than 20 wins but left out the ones where he had *exactly* 20 wins. Sounds like a programming error, although that doesn't explain the absence of Jim Palmer from the list.

LEADOFF WORLD SERIES HOME RUNS

Ev Parker was in the Polo Grounds on September 30, 1954 when Cleveland's Al Smith hit Giants' pitcher Johnny Antonelli's first pitch for a home run. That was in the second game of the World Series and recently Ev got to wondering if he had seen something unique. He investigated and learned that while other batters had homered to lead off a Series game, Smith was the first to do it on the first pitch. Only one man has done it since: Pete Rose of the 1972 Reds. Here, courtesy of Ev, are the seven men who hit home runs as the first batter in a World Series game

Date	Game	Batter	Team	Pitcher	Team	Count
Oct. 13, 1909	Five	Davey Jones	DET(A)	Babe Adams	PIT(N)	3-2
Oct. 4, 1953	Five	Gene Woodling	NY(A)	Johnny Podres	BKL(N)	1-2
Sep. 30, 1954	Two	Al Smith	CLE(A)	Johnny Antonelli	NY(N)	0-0
Oct. 6, 1968	Four	Lou Brock	STL(N)	Denny McLain	DET(A)	1-0
Oct. 20, 1972	Five	Pete Rose	CIN(N)	Catfish Hunter	OAK(A)	0-0
Oct. 21, 1986	Three	Len Dykstra	NY(N)	Dennis Boyd	BOS(A)	1-1
Oct. 28, 1989	Four	Rickey Henderson	OAK(A)	Don Robinson	SF(N)	2-0

CORRECTED 1914 GAMES-STARTED BY PITCHERS

From time to time I have included **Walt Wilson's** research into the number of Games Started by various pitchers. Walt corrected many of the errors in this category, which now appear in their corrected form in the latest editions of Total Baseball (fifth edition) and The Baseball Encyclopedia (tenth edition). David Neft of The Sports Encyclopedia—Baseball has not included them as yet, but indicated he may in the 1998 edition. Following are Walt's corrections for the 1914 season, which are not yet in any of the encyclopedias.

NATIONAL LEAGUE GAMES STARTED CORRECTIONS FOR 1914

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>PITCHER</u>	<u>INCORRECT GS</u>	<u>CORRECT GS</u>
Brooklyn	Pat Ragan	26	25
Brooklyn	Elmer Miller	4	5
Chicago	Bert Humphries	22	21
Chicago	George Pearce	16	17
Cincinnati	Rube Benton	31	35
Cincinnati	Red Ames	36	37
Cincinnati	Pete Schneider	20	15
New York	Jeff Tesreau	40	41
New York	Al Demaree	30	29
Philadelphia	Erskine Mayer	39	38
Philadelphia	Rube Marshall	19	17
Philadelphia	Joe Oeschger	10	12
Philadelphia	Stan Baumgartner	3	4
St. Louis	Slim Sallee	30	29
St. Louis	Dan Griner	16	17

AMERICAN LEAGUE GAMES STARTED CORRECTIONS FOR 1914

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>PITCHER</u>	<u>INCORRECT GS</u>	<u>CORRECT GS</u>
Boston	Vean Gregg	(a)	9
Boston	Ernie Shore	(b)	16
Chicago	Red Faber	(c)	19
Chicago	Ed Cicotte	(d)	30
Philadelphia	Bob Shawkey	31	30
Philadelphia	Joe Bush	22	23
Philadelphia	Eddie Plank	22	23
Philadelphia	Boardwalk Brown	8	7
Washington	Doc Ayres	(e)	32
Washington	Jack Bentley	(f)	11

(a) Mac and TB have 9; Neft has 10. (b) TB and Neft have 16; Mac has 17. (c) TB has 19; Mac and Neft have 20. (d) TB has 30; Mac and Neft have 29. (e) TB has 32; Mac and Neft have 31. (f) TB has 11; Mac and Neft have 12.

Walt has also found discrepancies among the several encyclopedias in the 1914 shutout totals of specific teams and individuals. He believes the following to be correct.

1. BOSTON (NL) had 19 team shutouts (one combined on 7/20).
2. CINCINNATI had 15 team shutouts (one combined on 5/14). Larry Benton had 4 and Red Ames had 4.
3. BOSTON (AL) had 24 team shutouts (one combined on 8/15). Dutch Leonard had 7; Ray Collins had 6; Rube Foster had 5; Rankin Johnson had 2; and Hugh Bedient, Joe Wood, and Ernie Shore each had one.
4. CLEVELAND had 9 team shutouts, all individual. Guy Morton did not have a shutout.
5. NEW YORK (AL) had 9 team shutouts, all individual. Ray Caldwell had 5.
6. ST. LOUIS (AL) had 15 team shutouts, all individual. George Baumgardner had 3.

AMENDING THE RECORD BOOKS

Over the last few years, while doing research for Retrosheet, Greg Beston has uncovered numerous oversights and omissions in the record books. Here are some more.

Most intentional bases on balls, nine-inning game The 1997 Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book lists the Yankees among the clubs that hold the AL record with five, against California on Aug. 29, 1978 (p. 57). Yankee batters did receive five IBB's in that game, but it was in 11 innings, not nine. This game should be listed under the AL record for Most intentional bases on balls, extra-inning game, (also five) on the same page. Elias's 1997 The Book of Baseball Records (p. 115) lists this game correctly under extra-inning games, but also lists it incorrectly under nine-inning games. They do the same for the 13-inning game on July 16, 1991 when Oakland drew five IBB's against Cleveland.

On Sept. 8, 1995, four different Boston batters (Scott Hatteberg, Lee Tinsley, Carlos Rodriguez, and Chris Donnels) pinch-hit safely in the eighth inning of a game at New York. Although the four pinch hits in an inning tied two different American League records, they are not listed as such in The 1997 Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book. One record that was tied is for Most hits by pinch-hitters, nine inning game (p. 47), and the other is for Most hits by pinch-hitters, inning (p. 49). And, because the hits by Tinsley, Rodriguez, and Donnels were consecutive, it should be listed as the "last AL time" under Most consecutive hits by pinch-hitters inning (p.49). TSN also omits the Texas-Kansas City game of June 8, 1995 when the Rangers had four pinch hits in the eighth inning.

Elias shows both these game under Most Pinch-Hits, Inning (p.118), but omit both from the list of Most Pinch-Hits, Game (p. 118) although the record there is also four.

Under the category of individual fielding by catchers, the AL record for Most chances accepted, inning is four (p. 106). TSN says the last AL catcher to have four was Oakland's Gene Tenace in the fifth inning on May 24, 1975. There may be others, but Greg has found three more recent cases in 1978-1979. Two were by Oakland's Jeff Newman (8/24/78 and 6/17/79), but the latest was by Detroit's Lance Parrish (two assists, two putouts) in the seventh inning of a game at Toronto on July 28, 1979. (p. 64). Elias just says the record is held "By many players."

The record for Most first basemen used, extra-inning game by one club is four (p. 10). TSN shows it happening one time in the NL and one time in the AL. Greg found another occurrence in the AL. Texas used four in their ten-inning 8-7 win at Oakland on June 29, 1978. Mike Hargrove was the Rangers' first baseman through the seventh inning, Sandy Alomar (Sr.) played the eighth, Pat Putnam the ninth, and Mike Jorgensen the tenth. (No such category in Elias.)

TSN shows the 1946 Boston Red Sox as co-holders of the record for Most times winning two games in one day, season (page 122). The record is 14, and the Red Sox share it with the 1943 Yankees, the 1943 Indians, and the 1945 Senators. There is also, in parentheses, a listing of how many doubleheaders each of the teams lost (splits are omitted). However, TSN incorrectly shows Boston with having lost nine doubleheaders in 1946 when they actually didn't lose any, having split the 13 they didn't win.

Joe Dittmar noticed the following omissions from the 1997 record books of these 1996 record-tying events. On September 18, 1996, Roger Clemens struck out 20 Detroit Tigers to tie his own major league record for most strikeouts in a nine inning game. Elias and TSN have that, but TSN does not have the fact that catcher Bill Haselman's eight consecutive putouts in that game (beginning with the second out in the fourth inning and ending with the third out in the sixth) tied the American League record for Most consecutive putouts, game (p.105). (No such category in Elias.) Other catchers with eight consecutive putouts are Boston's Rich Gedman, in Clemens's first 20-strikeout game (4/29/86), Washington's Mike Brumley (9/4/65), California's John Stephenson (7/9/72) and California's Art Kusyner (7/15/73). Also, TSN (p.105) and Elias (p. 64) omit Haselman's 20 chances accepted (19 putouts, one assist), which tied the American League record for Most chances accepted, nine-inning game by a catcher. The record is shared with Gedman and California's Ellie Rodriguez (8/12/74). Haselman's one assist came in the second inning when he had to throw out Travis Fryman at first base after the third strike got away from him.

In a game against Atlanta at Joe Robbie Stadium on September 24, 1996, fourteen different Florida Marlins got hits to tie the National League and major league record for Most players with one or more hits, nine inning game. Both TSN (p. 48) and Elias (p. 108) omit this game. Elias also omits the August 18, 1995 game where the Cubs also had fourteen different players get hits in a 26-7 win over Colorado.

You can learn the details of Chicago and Florida's record-tying performance as well as hundreds of other record-setting and record-tying games in Joe's highly informative new book, *Baseball Records Registry*. It's an invaluable resource for anyone doing research on baseball records, as are books by two other member of our committee: David Nemeč's *The Great Encyclopedia of 19th Century Major League Baseball* and Neil Munro's *Canadian Players Encyclopedia*.

A NEWLY DISCOVERED WIN FOR HERB PENNOCK

In the April newsletter we documented a new-found win for Eddie Cicotte; now we have one for Herb Pennock. It was a joint discovery by Pete Palmer and Walt Wilson, conveyed to me by Frank Williams. The game was on June 3, 1921. Pennock was then with the Red Sox, who defeated Cleveland, 7-6, at Fenway Park. Pennock relieved starter Allan Russell at the start of the seventh inning with a 5-4 lead (Russell had been pinch-hit for in the Boston sixth). Boston added a run in the seventh to make it 6-4 but the Indians got single runs in the eighth and ninth to tie the game at 6-6. In the last of the ninth, Boston's Sammy Vick hit a pinch single to score Stuffie McInnis with the winning run. Clearly, the win should go to the pitcher of record in the ninth inning, which was Pennock. The problem is that the official sheets switched Russell and Pennock, showing Pennock as the starter and Russell as the reliever and winner. (They do correctly have Russell with six innings-pitched, and Pennock with three.) We have copies of the *Boston Globe*, *New York Times* and *Sporting News*, all of which show that Russell was the starter and Pennock the reliever. Additionally, the Times box score, which begin listing winning and losing pitchers in 1918, shows Pennock as the winner. The records of Pennock and Russell should change as follows:

	Category	Corrected 1921	Corrected Lifetime
Herb Pennock	Won-Lost	13-14	241-162
Herb Pennock	Relief Won-Lost	1-0	24-17
Herb Pennock	Games Started	30	419
Allan Russell	Won-Loss	6-11	70-76
Allan Russell	Relief Won-Lost	3-2	33-21
Allan Russell	Games Started	14	112

All of the above corrections already appear in the fifth edition of *Total Baseball*. Ken Samelson has said that he will make the corrections to Pennock and Russell's 1921 record and to Pennock's lifetime record in the next edition of *The Baseball Encyclopedia*.

However Mac and TB disagree on some other of Russell's individual year totals, and thus his lifetime totals. Frank found these differences in Russell's career stats: Although both TB and Mac show him with 54 complete games, there are individual year differences. In 1921 TB shows him with seven complete games: Mac has eight. In 1923 TB shows him with four complete games: Mac has three. There is a one inning difference in total innings-pitched. TB has 1394.1, and Mac has 1393.1. This is a result of the one inning difference in 1919: TB, 212.0; Mac, 211.0.

Mac also has Russell with 77 lifetime losses, one more than the 76 credited to him by TB. The discrepancy is in 1923, when Russell was with Washington. Mac lists his record at 10-8; TB at 10-7. There are other differences in 1923: TB lists five starts while Mac has six.

Frank is doing further research into Russell's career statistics to see if he can determine the source of these discrepancies.



RECORD BOOK CORRECTIONS

Many of the corrections that appear in this newsletter come from the dedicated volunteers at Retrosheet, in particular from Greg Beston. Below are four of Greg's findings from the 1977 season.

Most home runs with two outs, inning. The American League record is three. The 1997 Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book (p. 53), and Elias's The Book of Baseball Records (p. 112) show five different clubs sharing the record. However, the 1977 Boston Red Sox accomplished the feat on August 13 and should be added to the list. With two out in the sixth inning of a game against Seattle at Fenway Park, George Scott, Butch Hobson and Dwight Evans hit back-to-back home runs.

Players with three home runs in a game. In their list on page 172, The 1997 Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book correctly shows Boston's Jim Rice hitting three home runs against Oakland on August 29, 1977. However Rice is shown in bold face which is meant to indicate that the home runs were in consecutive times at bat. They weren't. Rice's homers were in the second, third and sixth innings, but he also batted in the fourth inning and singled. The Book of Baseball Records (p. 112) shows this correctly.

Most chances accepted, doubleheader. The 1997 Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book (p.93) lists Billy Martin and Cass Michaels as sharing the American League record for a second baseman with 24. Greg says that the score books of both the California Angels and the Texas Rangers show that California's Jerry Remy had 26 chances in a double header against the Rangers on June 26, 1977. Remy had four putouts and 12 assists in the 11-inning first game, and five putouts and five assists in the second game. The Book of Baseball Records does not list this record.

Most hit batsmen, inning. In the recent past, Bud Black of Cleveland (July 8, 1988--fourth inning, second game), Bert Blyleven of Minnesota (Sept. 28, 1988--second inning) and Mark Gardner of Montreal (Aug. 15, 1992--first inning) have hit three batters in an inning. The 1997 Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book on page 82 correctly lists them as having done so. However, in the category **Most hit by pitch, inning** in the Club Batting section on page 59, these three instances are omitted. The Book of Baseball Records (p. 93) shows this correctly.

Jim Smith found an error in the batting record of George Yeager. Playing for Boston, Yeager made his major league debut in a game at Washington on September 25, 1896. He played first base and went one for five. The next day, September 26, Yeager batted for first baseman Jack Stivetts in the top of the ninth and made out. He then replaced Stivetts at first base in the bottom of the ninth. Total Baseball and The Baseball Encyclopedia show Yeager's 1910 batting average at .200 (one for five); Jim believes it should actually be .167 (one for six). Jim also says that because the at-bats for the September 26 game add up, he believes that an extra at bat is incorrectly credited to Stivetts.

Walt Wilson found two errors in the pitching record of Paul "Shorty" Des Jardien. It would be hard to find more. Des Jardien pitched only one inning in one major league game. It was for Cleveland in a 13-3 loss at Washington on May 20, 1916. He pitched the eighth inning, allowing three runs. Total Baseball, The Baseball Encyclopedia, and The Sports Encyclopedia--Baseball all agree on that. However, they all show Des Jardien as having allowed only one walk and one base hit in the inning. Walt checked the box score and game story in the New York Times, both of which credit Des Jardien with three walks and two base hits.

GETTING OFF TO A GREAT START

This is Frank Williams's list of major league pitchers who won their first 13 games in a season. Frank reminds us however, that if the National Association is again recognized as a major league, Al Spalding (13-0 in 1874 and 24-0 in 1875) would replace Marquard as having the best start ever.

Pitcher	Team	Year	Start	Final	Pitcher	Team	Year	Start	Final
Rube Marquard	NY (N)	1912	19-0	26-11	John Smoltz	ATL(N)	1996	14-0	24-8
Eiroy Face	PIT(N)	1959	17-0	18-1	Roger Clemens	BOS(A)	1986	14-0	24-4
Dave McNally	BAL(A)	1969	15-0	20-7	Ron Guldry	NY (A)	1978	13-0	25-3
Johnny Allen	CLE(A)	1937	15-0	15-1	Brooks Lawrence	CIN(N)	1956	13-0	19-10