

SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN BASEBALL RESEARCH BASEBALL RECORDS COMMITTEE

LYLE SPATZ, EDITOR

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

BEEN DOWN SO LONG: A BRIEF LISTING OF THE WORST CASES OF EXTENDED FUTILITY

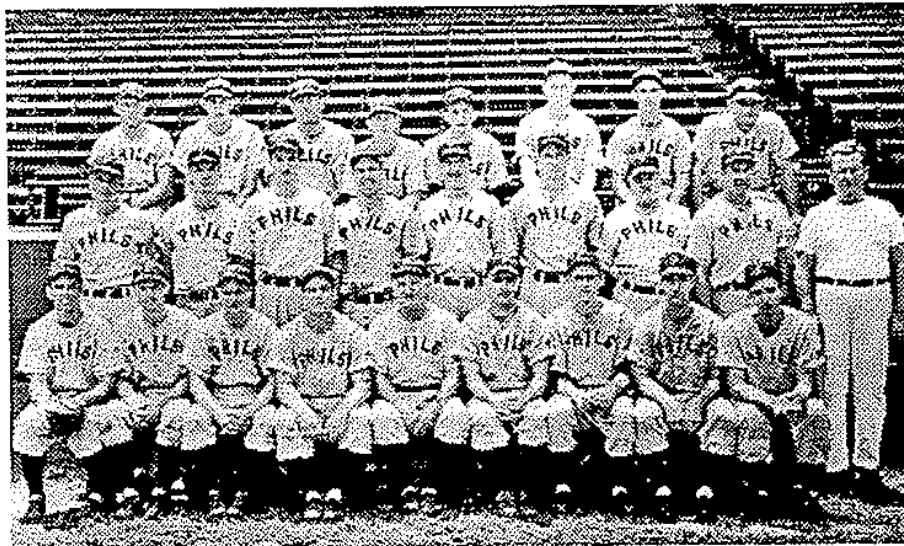
Lee Sinins reports that as a result of having losing seasons in 2002, Milwaukee and Pittsburgh join this group of teams with at least ten consecutive losing seasons.

And the Tampa Bay Devil Rays second consecutive 100-loss season inspired this list from Bill Arnold. It's of teams that have lost 100 or more games in three or more consecutive seasons, with their average number of losses over that span.

16 Philadelphia Phillies	1933-1948
15 Boston Red Sox	1919-1933
15 Kansas City Athletics	1953-1967#
14 Philadelphia Phillies	1918-1931
14 Seattle Mariners	1977-1990
13 Philadelphia Athletics	1934-1946
12 St. Louis Browns	1930-1941
11 Washington Senators	1901-1911
11 Boston Braves	1903-1913
11 Brooklyn Dodgers	1904-1914
11 Cincinnati Reds	1945-1955
11 St. Louis Browns	1946-1956*
10 Philadelphia Athletics	1915-1924
10 Boston Braves	1922-1931
10 Chicago Cubs	1953-1962
10 Montreal Expos	1969-1978
10 Milwaukee Brewers	1993-2002
10 Pittsburgh Pirates	1993-2002
# Philadelphia Athletics	1953-1954
* Baltimore Orioles	1954-1956

Philadelphia Phillies	1938-1942	107
Boston Braves	1909-1912	102
Pittsburgh Pirates	1952-1954	105
Washington Senators	1961-1964	102
New York Mets	1962-1965	113
St. Louis Browns	1910-1912	105
Philadelphia Athletics	1919-1921	103
Boston Braves	1922-1924	100
Boston Red Sox	1925-1927	105
Toronto Blue Jays	1977-1979	106

The Philadelphia Phillies of the 1930s and 1940s sit alone atop both these lists of teams that experienced extended periods of futility. No other team has had 16 consecutive losing seasons and no other team has had five consecutive 100+ loss seasons. Pictured below are the 1942 Phillies, a team that added to both of those distinctions.



Front row: Bragan, May, L. Waner, Culp, Lober, Murtaugh, Marnie, Northey, Naylor.
Middle: Pearson, Elten, Melton, Warren, Beck, Hoerst, Johnson, Koy, Miller(trainer)
Back: Litwhiller, Benjamin, Nahem, Podgajny, Hughes, Jones, Glossop, Klein(coach)

GROUNDING INTO DOUBLE PLAYS

The 2002 *Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book* listing of the record for Most grounding into double plays by lefthander, season (p. 47) shows the National League record as 26, shared by Willie Montanez, playing for the Phillies and Giants in 1975, and Dave Parker of the 1985 Reds. But Wayne McElreavy says that Montanez also had 26 GIDP in 1976 (10 with the Giants and 16 with the Braves), as shown in the 1977 *Sporting News Baseball Guide* and in the files of *Retrosheet*.



Willie Montanez



Dave Parker

NICK POLLY AND PAT COOPER

In all honesty, I've never heard of either one of these guys. But because they were major leaguers, when we find possible errors in their official records, as Greg Beston did while doing *Retrosheet* research, we want to get them corrected. And while these corrections obviously will not generate the interest that those to Hack Wilson's 1930 RBI total or Ted Williams's 1941 walk total did, in the quest for the elusive "perfect record book," they are equally as important.

Nick Polly, who'd appeared in ten games for Brooklyn in 1937, played in four for the Red Sox during the war year of 1945. Both the seventh edition of *Total Baseball* and the 2002 edition of *The Sports Encyclopedia: Baseball* show Polly with no strikeouts in 1945. But Greg says that according to newspaper accounts of the game of April 20, at home against the Philadelphia A's, Polly, leading off the second inning, struck out against Don Black.

The pitching career of righthander Pat Cooper consisted of one game. On May 11, 1946 at Shibe Park, Cooper pitched one inning in relief for the Philadelphia A's against the Washington Senators. The second batter he faced, Mickey Vernon hit a ground ball back to him, which Cooper snared and threw Vernon out at first. But *The 1947 Sporting News Baseball Guide* (p. 99), as well as the various websites that list fielding data show Cooper with zero assists in 1946.

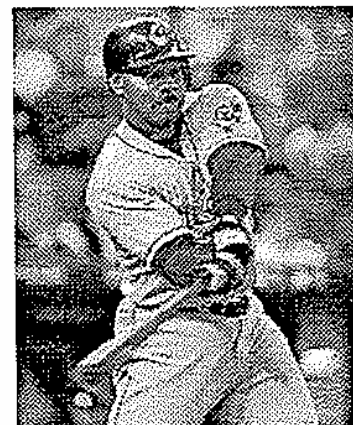
A MATTER OF RESPECT

Back on August 23, Barry Bonds added to his own single-season record of intentional bases on balls by drawing his 50th. To further accentuate how much pitchers are avoiding pitching to Bonds, Lee Sinins listed these sluggers with 250+ HR who hadn't totaled 50 intentional bases on balls in their careers.

	HR	IBB
Ellis Burks	340	28
Ron Gant	317	37
Jay Buhner	310	41
Alex Rodriguez	285	23
Dean Palmer	275	21
Roger Maris	275	42
Dante Bichette	274	32
Tom Brunansky	271	43
Gorman Thomas	268	41
Eric Karros	266	19
Tim Salmon	265	41
Danny Tartabull	262	47
Bob Allison	256	30
Tony Armas	251	37



Barry Bonds



Ellis Burks

PASSED BALLS

Wayne McElreavy noticed an omission of a date in *The 2002 Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book* listing of the National League record for Most passed balls, game (p. 116). While they correctly show the record-holder as Boston's Pat Dealy, and the month and year as May 1886, they omit the day. It was May 3.

SACRIFICES AND SWITCH HITTERS

Page 45 of *The 2002 Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book* shows Kid Gleason of Philadelphia as the holder of the National League record for Most sacrifices by righthander, season with 43 in 1905, none of which, incidentally, were sacrifice flies.

However, Wayne McElreavy notes that *Total Baseball*, *The Baseball Encyclopedia*, and other sources all list Gleason as a switch hitter, not a right-handed hitter. And while *Total Baseball* and *The Baseball Encyclopedia* have notes for players who were switch hitters for parts of their careers, there is no such notation for Gleason.

Because of this, Wayne suggests that the NL record for sacrifices by a righthander should be co-held by Otto Knabe of the 1908 Phillies and Bob Fisher of the 1915 Cubs, both of whom had 42. Those totals do include sacrifice flies.

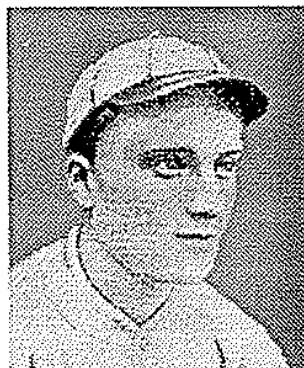
Furthermore, Gleason should be listed as the record holder for most sacrifices by a National League switch-hitter, replacing Lee Magee, who had 35 for the 1914 Cardinals. And actually, Magee shouldn't be listed as the record-holder anyway, as Max Carey had 37 sacrifices for the 1912 Pirates.



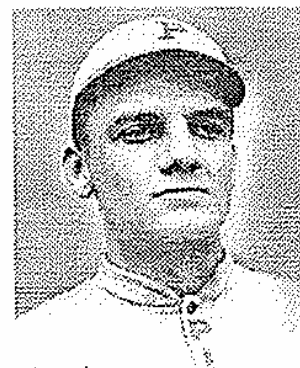
Kid Gleason



Otto Knabe



Lee Magee

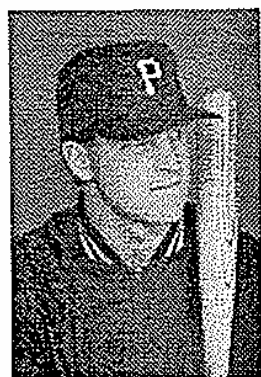


Max Carey

UNASSISTED DOUBLE PLAYS BY AN OUTFIELDER

Greg Beston pointed out an error in *The 2002 Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book* listing of the record for Most unassisted double plays, game by an outfielder (p. 113). The record is one, held by many players, but TSN's listing of the last National Leaguer to do it—Andy Van Slyke of Pittsburgh on July 7, 1992—is incorrect. As shown in *The 2002 Elias Book of Baseball Records* (p. 55), the most recent was Orlando Merced of Pittsburgh against the Cubs on July 1, 1996. The *Retrosheet* account describes it as a one-out popup to short right field which Merced caught on the run and continued to first, doubling up the runner, Scott Bullett.

Both record books show that Kansas City's Brian McRae (August 23, 1992) was the last American League outfielder to have an unassisted double play.



Andy Van Slyke



Orlando Merced



Brian McRae

CATCHING MORDECAI BROWN AND ED WALSH

Walt Wilson's listing of battery mates for Hall of Fame pitchers during their starts and shutouts continues with two Chicago deadball era stalwarts, Mordecai Brown and Ed Walsh.

CATCHING MORDECAI BROWN

Mordecai Brown pitched for St. Louis (NL) 1903; Chicago (NL) 1904-12, 1916; Cincinnati (NL) 1913; St. Louis (FL) 1914; Brooklyn (FL) 1914; and Chicago (FL) 1915. He made 332 starts and pitched 55 shutouts.

	Starts	Shutouts
Johnny Kling	140	27
Jimmy Archer	49	9
Pat Moran	30	5
Jack O'Neill	22	1
Art Wilson	15	0
William Fischer	12	3
Tom Needham	11	2
Tommy Clarke	10	1
Mike Simon	10	1
Others	33	2

The 33 games Brown started that were caught by others were by 10 different catchers. The two shutouts caught by others were by Art Weaver and Harry Chapman, who caught one each. Four of Brown's shutouts involved multiple catchers.



Mordecai Brown



Johnny Kling

CATCHING ED WALSH

Ed Walsh pitched for Chicago (AL) 1904-1916, and Boston (NL) 1917. He made 315 starts and pitched 57 shutouts.

	Starts	Shutouts
Billy Sullivan	185	31
Bruno Block	26	4
Ray Schalk	23	4
Walt Kuhn	19	2
Fred Payne	17	3
Frank Owens	12	4
Ed McFarland	11	1
Hub Hart	7	1
Ossee Schreckengost	4	2
Frank Roth	3	1
Others	8	0

The eight games Walsh started that were caught by others were by five different catchers. of his shutouts was caught by more than one catcher. Four of Walsh's shutouts involved multiple catchers.



Ed Walsh



Billy Sullivan