

Society for American Baseball Research

Records Committee Newsletter

Lyle Spatz, Editor

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

--- Albert Einstein

From The Chairman: Welcome to new committee member Tom Bernard, 28003 Charles Drive, Saugus, CA 91350, (805) 296-8564. Tom says he is interested in finding missing basic data and correcting inconsistent data. Those, of course, are the primary tasks of the Records Committee, so we look forward to Tom's input.

Please note the following change of address: Enrico Federighi, P.O. Box 718, Ocean View, DE, 19970, (302) 537-2642.

In the last newsletter I passed on a request from Alan Hirsch for information pertaining to the results of doubleheaders. Thanks to Herm Krabbenhoft who referred Mr. Hirsch to various articles chronicling such results, and to Rick Johnson who sent the doubleheader history of the Dodgers (1890-1993). Rick says that in over 1,500 doubleheaders, the Dodgers or their opponents swept 55% of them, while a split occurred in 45% of them. I'm surprised, I thought it would be a little closer to 50-50, but obviously we can't draw any conclusions from the results of only one team. Has anybody done any work similar to Rick's for another team?

Most of us know that Roric Harrison was the last American League pitcher to hit a home run. But how many know that Lindy McDaniel was the next to last, or that Steve Dunning hit three of the last ten. Here from Dave Vincent, and the Tattersall/McConnell Home Run Log are all you want to know about the last ten home runs by AL pitchers. All were in 1972, the last year before the cursed designated hitter rule went into effect.

Date	Batter	Team	Pitcher	Team	Site	Inning
Oct 3	Roric Harrison	BAL	Ray Lamb	CLE	CLE	6
Sept 28	Lindy McDaniel	NY	Mickey Lolich	DET	DET	9
Sept 26	Marty Pattin	BOS	Bill Parsons	MIL	BOS	2
Sept 19	Steve Dunning	CLE	Mickey Lolich	DET	CLE	2
Sept 11	Bill Lee	BOS	Ray Lamb	CLE	CLE	5
Sept 8	Clyde Wright	CAL	Dave Lemonds	CHI	CHI	2
Sept 7	Sonny Siebert	BOS	Steve Kline	NY	BOS	6
Sept 6	Steve Dunning	CLE	Jim Colborn	MIL	CLE	5
Sept 4	John Odom	OAK	Tom Dukes	CAL	OAK	5
Sept 2	Steve Dunning	CLE	Dick Woodson	MIN	MIN	6

RECORDS POTPOURRI: I am always pleased to report the discovery of a correction, or an addition, to one of the baseball Encyclopedias or Record Books. These discoveries, and there are several this month, make baseball's "historical record" more precise and they more faithfully reflect the accomplishments or failures of individual players and teams.

As I've said before, these Encyclopedias and Record Books, which are of inestimable value to all baseball fans, are overwhelmingly accurate. Furthermore, it has been my experience that nobody is more eager to improve them than their editors.

The relationship between the Records Committee and men such as **Craig Carter** of the TSN Record Book, **Pete Palmer** of Total Baseball, **Seymour Siwoff** of the Elias Book of Baseball Records, and **Rick Wolff** of The Baseball Encyclopedia has been one of cooperation, not confrontation. And while they don't always agree with our proposed changes, they invariably give us a fair hearing.

Jim Smith has a correction to the National League record for "Most Games Won from One Club, League, at Home." The TSN Complete Baseball Record Book (1993 edition, page 166) says the record is eighteen by Milwaukee-Atlanta vs New York, 1964-1966.

Jim says that the Cardinals also won eighteen straight at home against one team, Philadelphia (1926-1928), but that the record is actually *twenty-one* straight wins, by Pittsburgh against Cincinnati at Forbes Field (1936-1938).

The streak began after Wild Bill Hallahan of the Reds beat Cy Blanton of the Pirates 7-3 in the second game of a Forbes Field doubleheader on August 11, 1936. The Pirates won the remaining six in 1936, all twelve in 1937, and the first three in 1938.

The streak ended when Johnny Vander Meer (with his ninth straight win) beat Russ Bauers and the Pirates 5-2 at Forbes Field on June 28, 1938.

Joe Dittmar has a correction to the 20th century National League, and major league, record for "Most Caught Stealing, Game." The record, as listed in the TSN Complete Baseball Record Book (1993 edition, page 83), and in the Elias Book of Baseball Records (1993 edition, page 68) is seven.

In this game, which was played on August 23, 1909, seven Cardinal base runners were said to have been caught stealing by Brooklyn catcher Bill Bergen.

"Caught stealing" was not an official statistic at that time, nor was it listed in the boxscores, but by examining the detailed play-by-play account of the game in the New York Evening Telegram, Joe was able to determine that Bergen caught only six men attempting to steal.

The six were: Jap Barbeau (1) and Rube Ellis (2) in the first inning, Jack Bliss (3) in the third inning, Alan Storke (4) in the fourth inning, Jack Bliss (5) again in the sixth inning and Steve Evans (6) in the seventh inning.

Bergen did get a seventh assist in this game when he threw out Bliss on a sacrifice attempt in the fifth inning. This perhaps is the source of the error.

While Bergen, with six, still holds the National League record, he must now share the major league record. Wally Schang of the Athletics caught six St. Louis Browns stealing on May 12, 1915, and a month later on June 18, 1915, three Philadelphia catchers caught six members of the White Sox attempting to steal.

Joe also found an error in a similar record, "Most Men Caught Off Base, Game, One Club." This record too appears on page 83 of the TSN Complete Baseball Record Book (1993 edition). The record claimed is five, in a game between Brooklyn and Chicago on June 24, 1901.

Although Brooklyn catcher Deacon McGuire was reported to have caught five men off base, Joe says that this is a fallacious "record", consisting of a combination of events none of which are records in themselves.

According to play-by-play accounts in the Brooklyn Standard Union and the Chicago Daily News McGuire caught three men stealing, and picked one off second, and Brooklyn pitcher Jay Hughes picked a man off second.

As stated, none of these are records in themselves, and Joe properly suggests that this entry should be removed from the record books.

While doing research on the Yankees, I found an error in the Trades section of The Baseball Encyclopedia, (ninth edition). On page 2576, it says that Harry Wolter was traded from the Red Sox to the Yankees for Clyde Engle on May 10, 1910.

However, on April 14, 1910, when the Yankees played Boston on opening day, Wolter was in right field for the Yankees and Engle was in left.

A letter to **Bill Deane** resulted in the following clarification; Wolter came to New York for the \$1,500 waiver price in January 1910 and Engle went to Boston for the same \$1,500 waiver price on May 10, 1910.

I also discovered what I consider another error with a Yankee connection. According to the TSN Complete Baseball Record Book (1993 edition, page 91) the American League record for "Most Games Won, Rookie Season" is held by Ed Summers, who won twenty-four for Detroit in 1908.

When I pointed out to **Craig Carter** that Russ Ford had won twenty-six games as a Yankee rookie in 1910, Craig said that because Ford had pitched in a game in 1909 (three innings) he could not be considered a rookie.

I realize that there were no specific rules governing rookie status back then. However, in the mid-1980's when SABR conducted its Retroactive Rookie Of The Year survey, we used *forty-five* previous innings as a cut-off, the amount used for a 154 game schedule when the BBWAA began their selections in 1947.

Russ Ford was chosen as the American league's rookie-of-the-year for 1910 in both the survey done by SABR¹, and in the Hypothetical Rookie of the Year Award² chosen by **Bill Deane** for Total Baseball.

Although this can not truly be considered a factual error, but rather a matter of different interpretations, I believe that while there is no official guideline here, there are sufficient precedents in baseball's mores and "natural law" to recognize someone whose major league experience consists of three innings in one game as a rookie.

¹ Lyle Spatz, "SABR Picks 1900-1948 Rookies of the Year," Baseball Research Journal, 1986, pp. 2-4.

² Bill Deane, "Awards and Honors," Total Baseball, ed. John Thorn and Pete Palmer, (New York: Harper Collins, 1993), pp. 277-309.

The following list, from Jim Fredlund's Memories and Milestones, is of those players who hit at least ten home runs as a rookie and never hit that many again. Jim's list was alphabetical, mine is chronological. Also I have omitted from Jim's list Chito Martinez, who is still active.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Player</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>LG</u>	<u>HR</u>
1884	Ed Crane	Boston	UA	12
1914	Charlie Hanford	Buffalo	FL	13
1921	Earl Sheely	Chicago	AL	11
1925	Mandy Brooks	Chicago	NL	14
1928	Otis Brannan	St. Louis	AL	10
1931	Vince Barton	Chicago	NL	13
1937	Don Padgett	St. Louis	NL	10
1938	Ernie Koy	Brooklyn	NL	11
1945	Bill Salkeld	Pittsburgh	NL	15
1947	Jack Lohrke	New York	NL	11
1954	Harry Agganis	Boston	AL	11
1963	Ron Hunt	New York	NL	10
1967	Ramon Webster	Kansas City	AL	11
1969	Coco Laboy	Montreal	NL	18
1973	Bob Coluccio	Milwaukee	AL	15
1980	Joe Charboneau	Cleveland	AL	23
1984	Jerry Willard	Cleveland	AL	10
1988	Joey Meyer	Milwaukee	AL	11

Tom Zocco informs us that Frank Thomas set a major league record in 1993 when he had seventy-seven extra-base-hits without hitting a triple. Here is his list of the twenty-four major leaguers (all since 1950) to have at least sixty extra-base-hits in a season without hitting a triple.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Player</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>2B</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>Total</u>
1993	Frank Thomas	CHI AL	36	41	77
1988	Jose Caneco	OAK AL	34	42	76
1979	Gorman Thomas	MIL AL	29	45	74
1971	Willie Stargell	PIT NL	26	48	74
1955	Ted Kluszewski	CIN NL	25	47	72
1970	Carl Yastrzemski	BOS AL	29	40	69
1991	Cecil Fielder	DET AL	25	44	69
1973	Davey Johnson	ATL NL	25	43	68
1970	Orlando Cepeda	ATL NL	33	34	67
1958	Jackie Jensen	BOS AL	31	35	66
1959	Rocky Colavito	CLE AL	24	42	66
1953	Ted Kluszewski	CIN NL	25	40	65
1990	Paul O'Neill	CIN NL	36	28	64
1992	Mark McGwire	OAK AL	22	42	64
1963	Harmon Killebrew	MIN AL	18	45	63
1966	Willie Stargell	PIT NL	30	33	63
1970	Boog Powell	BAL AL	28	35	63
1971	Deron Johnson	PHI NL	29	34	63
1982	Jason Thompson	PIT NL	32	31	63
1987	Mike Schmidt	PHI NL	28	35	63
1950	Ted Kluszewski	CIN NL	37	25	62
1967	Orlando Cepeda	STL NL	37	25	62
1969	Boog Powell	BAL AL	25	37	62
1978	Don Baylor	CAL AL	26	34	60