

# Society for American Baseball Research

## Baseball Records Committee Newsletter

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Lyle Spatz, Editor

December 1998

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

### RALPH HORTON

Ralph's death on October 27 is a loss to all of us in SABR. He was a kind, knowledgeable, gentle man, and a most valuable member of the Baseball Records Committee. As Steve Gietschier said in reporting Ralph's death, "He loved his family, he loved his country and he loved baseball with a passion."

### THE 1889 NEW YORK GIANTS

In the August newsletter I mentioned John O'Malley's suggestion that a combined effort be made by the Baseball Records Committee and the Nineteenth Century Committee to recompile the National League statistics for 1876-1890. Fred Ivor-Campbell and John Husman, the outgoing and incoming chairmen of the Nineteenth Century Committee, and I discussed the proposal at our committee meetings in San Francisco. While some members thought it was "a pretty good idea," no one volunteered to work on such a project. John, however, is undeterred. He has spent many hours in the New York Public Library putting together the stats for both the Giants and the visitors for each of the 1889 Giants home games.

For batters, John is recording at bats, runs, hits, doubles, triples, home runs, walks, strikeouts, and stolen bases. For pitchers, it's decisions, games started, complete games, shutouts, saves, innings pitched, runs, hits, home runs, walks, and strikeouts.

To get a complete season for the Giants, John would need the numbers from the home games of the seven other clubs in the league in 1889 (Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Indianapolis, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Washington). Obviously, this is not a one-man project. So if anyone is interested in doing one of these teams for 1889, or any team for any year, please let John know and he will help get you started.

### THE 1937 NEWARK BEARS

When the Atlanta Braves lost the first three games of the NLCS to San Diego, many in the media instructed us that no team had ever come back to win a post-season series after being down three games to none. Some others said that it happened in hockey before, but never in baseball. Well, in case any of you didn't know, or had forgotten, Lowell Blaisdell reminds us it has indeed happened in baseball---in the 1937 Little World Series. The Newark Bears, the Yankees' affiliate in the International League, lost the first three games, all at home, to the Columbus Redbirds, the Cardinals' affiliate in the American Association. The Bears, considered by many the greatest minor league team ever, then went to Columbus, which also was an outstanding club, and swept the next four.

## FEWEST PASSED BALLS PER GAME CAUGHT

Here are the top twenty, courtesy of John Schwartz.

Player	PB	Games	Pct.	Player	PB	Games	Pct.
Sherm Lollar	53	1571	.0337	Bill Dickey	76	1708	.0445
Al Lopez	66	1918	.0344	Yogi Berra	76	1699	.0447
Phil Masi	39	1101	.0354	Ed Bailey	48	1064	.0451
Rick Dempsey	61	1633	.0374	Jim Hegan	75	1629	.0460
Bob O'Farrell	54	1338	.0404	Roy Campanella	56	1183	.0473
Del Crandall	60	1479	.0406	Buck Martinez	49	1008	.0486
Gary Carter	84	2056	.0409	Butch Wynegar	61	1247	.0489
Muddy Ruel	59	1412	.0418	Terry Kennedy	68	1378	.0493
Spud Davis	54	1282	.0421	Rollie Hemsley	75	1482	.05061
Bob Boone	97	2225	.0436	Sammy White	52	1027	.05063

## ALL STAR GAME FIELDING

Craig Carter, Editor of *The Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book* has agreed to make the following corrections to the All Star fielding section of the 1999 edition. All the errors were found by committee member Steve Kanehl.

### SHORTSTOPS

Most games played (p. 532). Cal Ripken, with 14 (1983-1996), is tied with Ozzie Smith.

Most chances accepted, career (p. 532). Ozzie Smith, with 39, (16 putouts, 23 assists) replaces Joe Cronin who had 38.

### SECOND BASEMEN

Most errors, career (p. 531). Willie Randolph is correctly shown as sharing the record with two, but as playing in only three games. Randolph also played second for the AL in 1987 and the NL in 1989.

Most errors, career (p. 531). Steve Sax is correctly shown as sharing the record with two, but as playing in only two games. Sax also played second for the NL in 1986 and the AL in 1989 and 1990.

Most double plays, career (p. 531). Bill Mazerowski is correctly shown as sharing the record with four, but as playing in only four games. Mazerowski also played second for the NL in both 1962 games and in 1967.

## REVISED GAMES STARTED DATA, 1926-1929

Below are more of Walt Wilson's corrections to pitchers' Games Started totals.

### 1926

BOSTON (AL): *Tony Welzer* had 5, not 6; *Del Lundgren* had 2, not 1.

CHICAGO (NL): *Tony Kaufmann* had 22 not 21; *Guy Bush* had 15, not 16.

CINCINNATI (NL): *Dolf Luque* had 31, not 30; *Pete Donohue* had 36, not 38; *Art Nehf* had 1, not 0.

PHILADELPHIA (NL): *Claude Willoughby* had 19, not 18; *Dutch Ulrich* had 16, not 17.

PITTSBURGH (NL): *Don Songer* had 15, not 14; *Joe Bush* had 12, not 11; *Tom Sheehan* had 2, not 4.

ST. LOUIS (NL): *Jesse Haines* had 20, not 21; *Hi Bell* had 8, not 7.

### 1927

PHILADELPHIA (AL): *Rube Walberg* had 33, not 34. *Jack Quinn* had 26, not 25.

BOSTON (NL): *Bob Smith* had 31, not 32; *Charlie Robertson* had 21, not 22; *Hugh McQuillan* had 12, not 11. (Braves played 155 games but pitchers' GS added to 156. Smith was given one too many.)

### 1928

BOSTON (NL): *Ed Brandt* had 32, not 31; *Bob Smith* had 26, not 25; *Kent Greenfield* had 20, not 23; *Ben Cantwell* had 10, not 9; *Johnny Cooney* had 5, not 6; *Bill Clarkson* had 2, not 1.

CHICAGO (NL): *Percy Jones* had 19, not 18; *Hal Carlson* had 4, not 5.

CINCINNATI (NL): *Ray Kolp* had 23, not 24; *Carl Mays* had 6, not 7; *Pete Appleton* had 3, not 1.

NEW YORK (NL): *Larry Benton* had 36, not 35; *Vic Aldridge* had 16, not 17.

### 1929

BOSTON (AL): *Red Ruffing* had 32, not 30; *Milt Gaston* had 28, not 29; *Danny MacFayden* had 27, not 26; *Ed Carroll* had 2, not 3; *Ray Dobens* had 1, not 2.

BROOKLYN (NL): *Watty Clark* had 39, not 36; *Dazzy Vance* had 27, not 26; *Doug McWeeny* had 22, not 24; *Clise Dudley* had 20, not 21; *Cy Moore* had 3, not 4; *Alex Ferguson* had 2, not 3; *Win Ballou* had 2, not 1.

CHICAGO (NL): *Guy Bush* had 30, not 29; *Sheriff Blake* had 29, not 30; *Art Nehf* had 14, not 15; *Hal Carlson* had 13, not 14; *Mike Cvangros* had 4, not 2.

NEW YORK (NL): *Larry Benton* had 31, not 30; *Fred Fitzsimmons* had 30, not 31.

PHILADELPHIA (NL): *Claude Willoughby* had 35, not 34; *Ray Benge* had 26, not 27; *Les Sweetland* had 26, not 25; *Lou Koupal* had 11, not 12; *Luther Roy* had 11, not 12; *Harry Smythe* had 9, not 7; *Sam Dailey* had 4, not 5.

ST. LOUIS (NL): *Hal Haid* had 14, not 12; *Fred Frankhouse* had 10, not 12.

## HARRY EISENSTADT

**Jim Charlton** remembered reading Eisenstadt's claim that while pitching for Detroit he'd relieved and won both games of a doubleheader against Cleveland. Jim mentioned this to **Bob Davids**, whose list of pitchers that won both games of a doubleheader in relief appeared in the June 1998 newsletter. Bob checked and found that both Eisenstadt and Jim were correct. It was on July 31, 1938. Eisenstadt allowed one run in two innings in the first game and no runs in four innings in the second.

## GAMES ABOVE .500

The Yankees' great 1998 season led to heated discussions as to who is (or was) the best team of all time. While it is in no way an argument for or against any team by either **Ted DiTullio** or me, this is Ted's list of those teams that finished sixty or more games above .500. Length of schedule is not considered, so the teams are ranked not by winning percentage, but by most games above .500.

Chicago	1906	NL	116	36	.763	+80	Chicago	1885	NL	87	25	.777	+62
St. Louis	1884	UA	94	19	.832	+75	Chicago	1907	NL	107	45	.704	+62
Pittsburgh	1909	NL	110	42	.724	+68	Phila.	1931	AL	107	45	.704	+62
Pittsburgh	1902	NL	103	36	.741	+67	New York	1939	AL	106	45	.702	+61
New York	1927	AL	110	44	.714	+66	New York	1932	AL	107	47	.695	+60
New York	1998	AL	114	48	.704	+66							

## WALTER JOHNSON OR FRANK OWEN

*The 1998 Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book* (page 108) and *Elias's The Book of Baseball Records* (page 61) list Walter Johnson as the American League leader for the Highest Fielding Average With Most Chances Accepted, Season. Johnson had 103 chances with a 1.000 fielding average for the 1913 Washington Senators.

**Bob Fulton** claims that this is incorrect. Bob says that Frank Owen of the 1904 Chicago White Sox had 151 errorless chances (121 assists and 30 putouts). Bob cites as his source *The Baseball Encyclopedia* and *Stats All-Time Major League Handbook*. All agree that the National League record holder is Randy Jones of the 1976 San Diego Padres with 112 errorless chances.

## BILL BERGEN

In the April 1997 newsletter, we reported that **Joe Dittmar** had labeled Bill Bergen, with 46, as the major leaguer with the most consecutive hitless at bats. At least, he's the leader until someone finds somebody with more. Well, in researching catchers, **John Schwartz** found another interesting item on Bergen. In 3,228 plate appearances, the hapless Bergen was never hit by a pitch. I guess that's not surprising. The man had a lifetime .170 batting average and is generally recognized as the worst hitting non-pitcher ever. Why would any opposing pitcher want to put him on base? John said he has more work to do on this, but he thinks Bergen's failure to be hit in that many appearances may be a record.

## CLAUDE JONNARD AND ERNIE MAUN

**Pete Palmer**, with an assist from **Bill Deane**, discovered that both Art Nehf and Claude Jonnard had been credited with the Giants' win on June 30, 1924. Nehf was the actual winner, but in the past, to make the record balance, the win was incorrectly taken away from a third Giants' pitcher, Ernie Maun. Pete and Bill determined that it should be taken from Jonnard. So change Maun's 1924 record from 1-1 to 2-1 and Jonnard's from 4-5 to 3-5.