

SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN BASEBALL RESEARCH BASEBALL RECORDS COMMITTEE

LYLE SPATZ, EDITOR

APRIL 2002

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

BOB DAVIDS

SABR, the Baseball Records Committee, and everyone whose life he touched was saddened by Bob Davids' death this past February. As one of the fortunate people who got to know Bob personally, I feel a particular sense of loss.

I first met Bob Davids in 1973, shortly after I joined SABR. He called and asked to meet me, and we arranged to do so at a place we both frequented, the Library of Congress. SABR was obviously a much smaller group then, and I believe Bob not only knew every member personally, but he also seemed to know what their specific baseball interests were.

As part of our conversation Bob asked questions on different baseball topics, one I clearly remember concerned the new designated hitter rule. Most likely he didn't intend to do this, but I had a sense that he was the teacher and I was the student and that my baseball knowledge was being tested. It was almost as if he were weaving one of his delightful little quizzes into the conversation, and unless I was able to demonstrate at least a basic familiarity with the game's history I would not be accepted as a SABR member.

But Bob had that wonderful knack of putting people at ease, and like everyone who knew him, I was impressed by his courtliness and gentleness. And when the conversation turned to our respective families and jobs, I could tell that he was genuinely interested in my responses. I, of course, was fascinated by his knowledge and story telling. It turned out to be one of the most enjoyable conversations I've ever had.

Bob and I had many more conversations at the library and on the phone over the next 28 years, and we also worked together on various projects. He always stressed the fact that we were working together as colleagues, but to me, he was always the teacher and I the student. I will greatly miss those conversations and collaborations.

SHOULD THE 1884 UNION ASSOCIATION BE CONTRACTED?

Back in 1994, committee member Lefty Blasco asked the committee to back a proposal which would recognize the American League of 1900 as a major league, with the records compiled by all the players that season added to their major league totals. At our committee meeting in Arlington, Texas that year, Tom Shieber, representing Lefty, made a solid case for the proposal, although he personally was opposed to the idea. A spirited debate followed, with excellent arguments on both sides, at the meeting and also in the pages of the newsletter. By my unofficial count, the vote was running about 2-1 against, and because it would have taken overwhelming support by the membership for me to agree to have the committee endorse the idea, it was dropped.

Now comes a similar proposal, although with a reverse twist. Instead of adding, John Schwartz, citing some of the arguments Bill James has made, suggests that the committee endorse the elimination of the Union Association's one year (1884) status as a major league. Does anyone have strong feeling on this, either pro or con? If so, let me know, by letter or email (LSpatz@att.net), and I'll run it in the next newsletter.

TRACKING THE COMMITTEE'S CONTRIBUTIONS

The newly-published 2002 *Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book* includes these record corrections found by committee members and detailed in the past year's newsletters.

Most triples by rookie, season N.L. (p. 29) Jimmy Williams had 28 in 1899, not 27. (Dixie Tourangeau)

Most major league ball parks, one or more home runs, season N. L. (p. 32) Mike Piazza, the co-holder of this record with 18 in 2000, hit 14 in NL parks, one in Japan, and three, not two in AL parks. (Scott Flatow)

Most total bases by pitcher, nine-inning game (as a batter) A.L. (p. 38). One of the record-holders, with ten, is Lewis "Snake" Wiltse, not his brother George "Hooks" Wiltse. (Scott Flatow)

Most grounding into double plays by lefthander, season A.L. (p. 47) The record-holder is Ben Grieve, with 32 in 2000. (Scott Flatow)

Most games held hitless, season (p. 55) The 1996 Colorado Rockies are now included among those teams who were no-hit twice in one season. (Lee Sinins)

Most strikeouts, inning N.L. Jerry Spradlin and Steve Kline both struck out four batters in an inning in 1999, not 2000. (Lee Sinins)

Most putouts by left fielder, extra-inning game A.L. (p.111). Now includes Rickey Henderson, on September 11, 1988 (Dave Smith) and Darin Erstad, on July 24, 2000 (Joe Dittmar)

Most Division Series errors by a second baseman, career A.L.(p. 372) Randy Velarde had three, not two, which ties him with Jim Gantner and Chuck Knoblauch. (Steve Kanehl)

The Managerial Records for Dick Howser, Bobby Cox, Larry Dierker, and Lou Piniella in Division Series (p. 392) and Championship Series (p. 460) are now correct. (John Schwartz)

Most double plays, career, in All-Star games The record-holder at second base (p.531) is Roberto Alomar, with five. The record-holder for catchers (p. 533) is Ivan Rodriguez, with two. (Steve Kanehl)

These finds by committee members will have to wait until the 2003 edition.

Hitting triple and home run with bases filled, game (p. 30) Still missing from the list is Adam Kennedy of the Anaheim Angels. Kennedy accomplished this feat in a game against Toronto on April 18, 2000. (Greg Beston)

Most consecutive games with one or more long hits, season (p.39) TSN correctly lists the record-holder, as Pittsburgh's Paul Wager with 14, between June 3 and June 19, 1927. However, their breakdown of hits--12 doubles, four triples, and four home runs-- is incorrect. It should be 12 doubles, five triples, and three home runs. (Greg Beston and Dave Vincent).

Most players scoring one or more runs, game, single team (p. 50) The record of 13 shown by TSN for both the A.L and the N.L.is incorrect. On October 3, 1999, 15 different Atlanta runners scored to set the N.L record, and on September 30, 2000, 14 Oakland runners scored to set the A.L record. (Lyle Spatz)

Most players scoring one or more runs, game, both teams A.L. (p. 51) The record of 18 shown by TSN is incorrect. On August 12, 1993, 19 different runners scored in the Detroit-Baltimore game--Detroit (12) and Baltimore (7). (Jim Charlton)

Most chances accepted by left fielder, extra-inning game A.L. (p 111). While the addition of Rickey Henderson and Darin Erstad was made to the record for Most putouts by left fielder, extra-inning game A.L. (see above), it was not made to this record.

Clubs With 100 Losses In Season (p. 222) The Pittsburgh club that lost 113 games in 1890 was in the National League, not the American Association. There was no Pittsburgh club in the AA in 1890. (John Schwartz)

FOUR HOME RUNS IN A GAME OFF FOUR DIFFERENT PITCHERS

Of the 12 players who hit four home runs in a game, Gil Hodges of Brooklyn and Joe Adcock of Milwaukee are the only two to connect off four *different* pitchers. Both Hodges and Adcock were first basemen, two of the only three first basemen to hit four HRs in a game (Lou Gehrig was the other), and both did it at Ebbets Field. Adcock was a rookie with Cincinnati when Hodges had his four HR game, on August 31, 1950 against the then Boston Braves. And four years later, on July 31, 1954, Hodges was the Dodger first baseman when Adcock had his four HR game for the Braves, then located in Milwaukee. Here is a breakdown of the home runs courtesy of *Retrosheet*.

Gil Hodges' four home runs

1. 2nd Inning; off Warren Spahn; nobody out; Carl Furillo on first base
2. 3rd Inning; off Norman Roy; nobody out; Carl Furillo on first base and Jackie Robinson on third base
3. 6th Inning; off Bob Hall; nobody out; Carl Furillo on first base
4. 8th Inning; off Johnny Antonelli; one out; Carl Furillo on second base

Joe Adcock's four home runs

1. 2nd Inning; off Don Newcombe; nobody out; nobody on base
2. 5th Inning; off Erv Palica; nobody out; Hank Aaron on first base and Eddie Mathews on third base
3. 7th Inning; off Pete Wojey; nobody out; Hank Aaron on second base
4. 9th Inning; off Johnny Podres; nobody out; nobody on base

Incidentally, Mike Schmidt eliminated a good trivia question when he had his four HR game in 1976. The question, in effect since 1961, was, "What player has played in or watched from the bench each of the last four games in which four home runs were hit?" The answer was Billy Loes, who was with Brooklyn for the Hodges and Adcock games; with Baltimore when Rocky Colavito of the Indians did it in 1959, and was the complete game winner for the Giants when Willie Mays did it against Milwaukee in 1961.



Gil Hodges



Joe Adcock

CAL RIPKEN NOW THE ALL-TIME LEADER IN SAC FLIES

Because hitting a fly ball that scores a runner from third base has been treated inconsistently through baseball history, citing an all-time leader in sacrifice flies may not be completely accurate. Nevertheless, *the Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book* includes it, and the 2002 edition (p. 46) shows Robin Yount as the AL career leader, with 123. John Schwartz points out that this is no longer true, as Cal Ripken surpassed Yount's total last season. Ripken who entered 2001 with 118 sac flies, added nine more to finish his career with 127. That left him one short of the major league leader, Eddie Murray, Ripken's longtime teammate whose 128 sac flies came while playing in both leagues.

EARLY CAREER NO-HITTERS

Bill Carle noted that missing from Brian Rash's list of pitchers who threw no-hitters with the least amount of career starts was Mike Warren of the Oakland A's. Bill says that Warren's no hitter, against the White Sox on September 29, 1983, came in just his eighth career start.



Mike Warren

FEWEST PLAYERS USED IN A SEASON

In the June 2001 newsletter, I mentioned the discrepancy that Wayne McElreavy found in the record for the fewest players used in a season by one team.

Both *The Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book* and *The Elias Record Book* list the 1904 Boston Americans as the post-1900 team that used the fewest players in a season—18. Both also agree that the 1905 Chicago Cubs used the fewest in the National League—20.

However, Wayne found that both *The Sports Encyclopedia Baseball* and *Total Baseball* show the 1903 Boston National League team as having used just 17 players.

The players are Fred Tenney, Ed Abbaticcio, Harry Aubrey, Ed Gremminger, Pat Carney, Charlie Dexter, Dick Cooley, Pat Moran, Joe Stanley, Frank Bonner, Mal Kittredge, Tom McCreery, Togie Pitinger, Vic Willis, John Malarkey, Wiley Piatt, and Pop Williams.

I ask again. Does anyone know if some player(s) have been omitted from that 1903 Boston NL roster? If not, then Boston's 17 players used in 1903 should be both the NL and major league records.

CATCHING DAZZY VANCE AND BURLEIGH GRIMES

Walt Wilson's listing of battery mates for Hall of Fame pitchers during their starts and shutouts continues with Dazzy Vance and Burleigh Grimes, Brooklyn teammates from 1922 to 1926.

CATCHING DAZZY VANCE

Dazzy Vance pitched for Pittsburgh (NL) 1915; New York (AL) 1915, 1918; Brooklyn (NL) 1922-32, 1935; St. Louis (NL) 1933-34; and Cincinnati (NL) 1934. He made 349 starts and pitched 29 shutouts.

	Starts	Shutouts
Hank DeBerry	245	22
Al Lopez	43	4
Val Picinich	11	1
Zack Taylor	10	1
Ernie Lombardi	10	0
Bob O'Farrell	7	0
Charlie Hargreaves	6	0
Bill DeLancey	4	0
Jimmie Wilson	4	0
Others	9	1

The nine games Vance started that were caught by others were by seven different catchers. The one shutout was caught by Bernie Hungling.



Dazzy Vance



Hank DeBerry

CATCHING BURLEIGH GRIMES

Burleigh Grimes pitched for Pittsburgh (NL) 1916-17, 1928-29, 1934; Brooklyn (NL) 1918-26; New York (NL) 1927; Boston (NL) 1930; St. Louis (NL) 1930-31, 1933-34; Chicago (NL) 1932-33, and New York (AL) 1934. He made 497 starts and pitched 35 shutouts.

	Starts	Shutouts
Zack Taylor	118	4
Otto Miller	117	9
Charlie Hargreaves	83	6
Jimmie Wilson	36	2
Gabby Hartnett	20	2
Mack Wheat	14	3
Ernie Krueger	14	2
Gus Mancuso	14	2
Johnny Gooch	11	1
William Fischer	10	1
Others	60	2

The 60 games Grimes started that were caught by others were spread over 13 different catchers. The two shutouts were caught by Jimmy Archer and Jim Hamby. One of his shutouts came in a game with more than one catcher.



Burleigh Grimes



Zack Taylor