

Society for American Baseball Research Baseball 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

FIELDING DATA FOR PITCHERS

The following is from John Schwartz who has been compiling fielding data for pitchers for a long time.

Major League Career Fielding Records for Pitchers. 1876-1997

	Right-handed Pitcher		Left-handed Pitcher	
Putouts	Jack Morris	387	Jim Kaat	262
Putouts per 9 IP	Kevin Brown	1.12	Ted Breitenstein	.741
Assists	Cy Young	2,014	Eppa Rixey	1,195
Assists per 9 IP	Ed Walsh	3.67	Doc White	2.84
Chances Accepted	Cy Young	2,243	Eddie Plank	1,337
C. A. per 9 IP	Ed Walsh	4.38	Doc White	3.53
Total Chances	Cy Young	2,389	Eddie Plank	1,377
Total Chances per 9 IP	Ed Walsh	4.55	Doc White	3.68
Fielding Pct.	Grover Alexander	.985	Eppa Rixey	.978
Double Plays	Phil Niekro	83	Warren Spahn	82
Triple Plays	Will White, Charlie Getzien	2	Wilbur Cooper	2
Errors	Tim Keefe	167	Toad Ramsey	107

Assists per nine innings(at least 800); Chances Accepted per nine innings (at least 900 putouts+assists); Total Chances per nine innings (at least 1,000 putouts+assists+errors)

I think the general disparity between right and left-handed pitchers is interesting. When John computed putouts per nine innings, he found that only four pitchers (minimum of 200 putouts) have averaged more than one putout per game. Through the 1997 season, they are: Kevin Brown, Dan Petry, Greg Maddux, and Mike Boddicker. The rest of the top ten, in descending order, are Orel Hershiser, Doug Drabek, Jack Morris, Mike Moore, Chick Fraser, Dave Steib. Obviously, all are right-handed and all but Fraser are of recent vintage. John says that because most righties face a lot of left-handed hitters, there are many more balls hit to the right side on which they are required to cover first base. He notes that all the assist leaders among first baseman are also "modern-day" players.

The annual meeting of the Baseball Records Committee will be Sunday, June 28, at nine a.m.

RECORD BOOK ADJUSTMENTS

While inputting data for *Retrosheet*, Greg Beston found these items that have been omitted from *The 1998 Sporting News Complete Book of Baseball Records*.

TSN omits two pitchers (one from each league) from their list of Three strikeouts on nine pitched balls, inning. (p. 81). In the AL, add Detroit's Billy Hoefft against Chicago in the seventh inning (2G) on September 7, 1953. In the NL, add Chicago's Milt Pappas against Philadelphia in the fourth inning on September 24, 1971.

On page 112, TSN has a listing for Most assists from outfielder to catcher with runner thrown out, game. They show the NL record as three, with the last occurrence in 1905. However, this happened again in a game at St. Louis between the Cardinals and Giants on July 7, 1975 when the Cardinals had three runners thrown out at the plate directly by Giants' outfielders. Marc Hill was the Giants' catcher on all three plays.

1. In the first inning, Ken Reitz was thrown out at home by left fielder Gary Thomasson (7-2) while trying to score from second base on Mike Tyson's single.
2. In the sixth inning, Ron Fairly was thrown out at home by right fielder Bobby Murcer (9-2) when he tried to score on Mike Tyson's fly ball.
3. In the seventh inning, Bake McBride was thrown out at home by left fielder Chris Arnold (7-2) when he tried to score on Willie Davis's fly ball.

Ed Brown found errors in the RECORDS listings of *The 1998 Sporting News Baseball Register* for Nomar Garciaparra (page 197) and Cal Ripken (page 476).

The Register says Garciaparra "Holds major league rookie-season record for Most consecutive games batted safely--34 (August 25-October 2, 1987)." That record, correctly shown under his name, belongs to Benito Santiago.

The Register says Ripken "Holds major league record for Most consecutive years leading league in games played--9." Ripken did lead the league in games played in nine years, but they were not consecutive. The years he did lead are listed on page 13 of *The 1998 Sporting News Complete Book of Baseball Records*.

And while everyone was talking about Kerry Wood's 20-strikeout game against Houston on May 6, Joe Dittmar reminded us not to forget Sandy Martinez, Wood's catcher. Martinez had 20 putouts in the game to tie the major league record for a nine inning game, which is jointly held by Jerry Grote of the Mets (April 22, 1970), and Rich Gedman of the Red Sox (April 29, 1986).

In Seattle's 6-0 loss to Toronto on May 7, the Mariners left 16 men on base. That breaks the American league record and ties the major league mark for Most runners left on base in a nine-inning shutout defeat.

When Mike Morgan was the Twins' losing pitcher in a game this spring, it was the tenth major league team for whom he had recorded a loss. That is a record. Morgan has won games for nine of those teams (he was 0-3 with Toronto). I believe the only other pitchers who were with ten different clubs were Bob Miller and Ken Brett. I guess you could also count Dick Littlefield who was with the 1953 St. Louis Browns and the 1954 Baltimore Orioles. In any case, none of the three won games for as many nine of the clubs they were with. So, unless someone comes up with somebody else, I'm assuming that Morgan has also won games for more different teams than any pitcher ever.

Walt Wilson found another player to add to Bob Davids's list in the December 1997 newsletter of players who tripled and then stole home. On July 9, 1948, Alvin Dark of the Boston Braves did it in the fourth inning of a game at Braves Field. The pitcher was Ken Heintzleman of the Phillies

LONGEST NATIONAL LEAGUE LOSING STREAKS

This is one in a series of streak-lists supplied by Bob Tiemann.

Lost	Team	Year	First Loss	Last Loss	Pos. At Start	Pos. At End	Home/Road
24	Cleveland	1899	Aug. 26	Sept. 16	12 th -55 1/2	12 th -75	5/19
23	Pittsburgh	1890	Aug. 12	Sept. 2	8 th -40 1/2	8 th -56 1/2	1/22
23	Philadelphia	1961	July 29	Aug. 20 (1G)	8 th -29	8 th -42 1/2	6/17
20	Louisville	1894	May 28 (1G)	June 18 (2G)	10 th -71 1/2	12 th -21	0/20
20	Montreal	1969	May 13	June 7	6 th -3	6 th -23	12/8
19	Boston	1906	May 17	June 8	6 th -31 1/2	8 th -20 1/2	3/16
19	Cincinnati	1914	Sept. 5	Sept. 23 (1G)	6 th -12	8 th -27	6/13
18	Cincinnati	1876	July 11	Aug. 22	8 th -19 1/2	8 th -34	9/9
18*	Louisville	1894	Aug. 15	Sept. 5	11 th -28	12 th -42 1/2	0/18
18	St. Louis	1897	Sept. 3	Sept. 26 (2G)	12 th -47 1/2	12 th -62	4/14
17	Washington	1894	May 3	May 23	11 th -5	12 th -16 1/2	4/13
17	New York	1962	May 21	June 6 (2G)	8 th -12	10 th -24	7/10
17	Atlanta	1977	April 23	May 11	2 nd -11 1/2	6 th -15 1/2	8/8
16#	Troy	1882	Aug. 17	Sept. 18	6 th -31 1/2	7 th -18	5/11
16	Buffalo	1885	Sept. 16	Oct. 10 (2G) (E)	6 th -38	7 th -49	12/4
16	Detroit	1883	July 28	Aug. 21	1 st +1	3 rd -12	5/11
16	Cleveland	1899	Sept. 18 (2G)	Oct. 15 (2G) (E)	12 th -74 1/2	12 th -84	0/16
16	Boston	1907	Aug. 2	Aug. 17	6 th -28 1/2	7 th -39 1/2	5/11
16	Boston	1911	July 17 (1G)	Aug. 1	8 th -28	8 th -38 1/2	2/8
16^	Brooklyn	1944	June 28 (1G)	July 16 (1G)	3 rd -11	7 th -22	0/16
15	Louisville	1895	May 12	June 1	10 th -6	12 th -15	10/5
15	Boston	1909	Aug. 3	Aug. 15 (2G)	8 th -38 1/2	8 th -48 1/2	0/15
15	St. Louis	1909	Sept. 6 (1G)	Sept. 24	6 th -42	7 th -55 1/2	11/4
15	Boston	1927	Sept. 5 (2G)	Sept. 17 (2G)	6 th -20	7 th -32 1/2	0/15
15	Boston	1935	July 6 (2G)	July 21	8 th -28	8 th -34 1/2	0/15
15	New York	1963	June 28	July 14	9 th -14 1/2	10 th -26 1/2	8/7
15	New York	1982	Aug. 15 (2G)	Aug. 31	5 th -15 1/2	6 th -24 1/2	6/9

(*) Does not include Aug. 25 (1G) lost but later thrown out of the official standings.

(#) Includes one tie game.

(^) Includes a suspended loss that was completed with one scoreless inning on August 21.

(E) Streak continued through the final game of the season.

Buffalo's 12 losses at home in their 1885 streak included two games played at Elmira, NY.

TWO WINS IN ONE DAY

Here from Bob Davids is a list of relief pitchers who won both games of a doubleheader. Bob says there may be some others who accomplished this feat more recently. If you are aware of any, please let me know and I will update the list in the August newsletter.

09/10/02 Rube Waddell, A's vs Orioles
 08/23/15 Hub Perdue, Cards vs Giants
 10/07/23 Ted Lyons, White Sox vs Indians
 07/04/27 Guy Bush, Cubs vs Reds
 07/27/32 Bill Harris, Pirates vs Giants
 09/24/40 Johnny Murphy, Yanks vs Nats
 06/27/43 Howie Krist, Cards vs Reds
 09/21/44 Harry Brecheen, Cards vs Braves
 10/01/44 Joe Berry, A's vs Indians
 08/04/46 Tom Ferrick, Browns vs A's
 09/02/46 Al Brazie, Cards vs Reds
 06/17/48 Bill Voiselle, Braves vs Cubs
 07/05/48 Gerry Staley, Cards vs Cubs
 08/28/48 Jim Hearn, Cards vs Giants

05/30/50 Gerry Staley, Cards vs Pirates
 05/20/51 Dutch Leonard, Cubs vs Braves
 08/22/51 Clyde King, Dodgers vs Cards
 07/15/56 Hersch Freeman, Reds vs Giants
 05/19/57 Tom Acker, Reds vs Pirates
 07/31/57 Ed Roebuck, Dodgers vs Cubs
 07/01/60 Ernie Broglio, Cards vs Braves
 08/07/60 Gerry Staley, White Sox vs Nats
 05/14/61 Jim Coates, Yanks vs Tigers
 05/12/62 Craig Anderson, Mets vs Braves
 04/14/63 Jack Baldschun, Phillies vs Cards
 05/26/63 Wes Stock, Orioles vs Indians
 05/03/64 John Wyatt, A's vs Twins
 07/26/64 Chi Chi Olivo, Braves vs Mets

08/23/64 Willard Hunter, Mets vs Cubs
 07/06/66 Don McMahon, Red Sox vs Yanks
 04/21/68 Phil Regan, Dodgers vs Mets
 07/07/68 Phil Regan, Cubs vs Pirates
 09/16/69 Jim Brewer, Dodgers vs Reds
 06/23/71 Bob Miller, Padres vs Astros
 06/01/76 John Hiller, Tigers vs Brewers
 09/08/76 Joe Kerrigan, Expos vs Cards
 07/14/78 Ken Forsch, Astros vs Expos
 09/29/78 Kent Tekulve, Pirates vs Phillies
 08/26/82 Jeff Reardon, Expos vs Astros
 07/31/83 Jesse Orosco, Mets vs Pirates
 08/24/84 Frank Williams, Giants vs Mets
 07/17/89 David Wells, Blue Jays vs Angels



A pair of
 double
 winners,
 ← Ferrick
 &
 Forsch ⇒



NOT QUITE THE RECORD

Committee members have questioned two recent accomplishments that the media reported as "records."

Kerry Wood was credited with breaking the record for strikeouts in two consecutive games with 33. But as **Ralph Horton** and others have pointed out Fred "Dupee" Shaw struck out 34 men in consecutive games for Boston of the Union Association in 1884. According to *The 1998 Sporting News Complete Book of Baseball Records* (p.82), Shaw fanned 18 batters on July 19 and 16 batters on July 21. Now we all know that the 1884 rules were different from those of today, but that hasn't prevented other records from being recognized. We also know that the mainstream media seldom alludes to the Union Association, nevertheless, the UA is generally accorded major league status and therefore Shaw's performance should be acknowledged.

Scott Flatow read this *America On Line* game summary when Colorado's Larry Walker hit safely in his 19th consecutive game on May 24. "Walker's streak is the longest ever by a Canadian big leaguer—Pete Ward (1963) and Terry Puhl (1978) each had 18-game strings."

However, as Scott recalled, the February 1998 committee newsletter carried Bob Davids's list of 20 or more game hitting streaks from the American Association. On that list was Canadian-born Tip O'Neill who had a 25-game streak in 1887 and a 20-game streak in 1888. (Walker's streak ended at twenty.)