

Society for American Baseball Research Baseball Records Committee

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

JIMMY WILLIAMS SETS A "NEW" ROOKIE RECORD FOR TRIPLES

In the June 2000 newsletter I reported on Dixie Tourangeau's strong suspicion that the encyclopedias and records books that show Pittsburgh rookie Jimmy Williams with 27 triples in 1899 (it's the record for most triples by a rookie) are incorrect. Dixie believed the number should be 28, that the encyclopedias and records books had failed to include the triple Williams hit in Pittsburgh's second game that season, at Cincinnati on April 17. Dixie had a great deal of evidence supporting this claim, including the game account in the *Pittsburgh Post*, and Bill Deane's discovery of a 1927 *Pittsburgh Post* biographical story from Williams's Cooperstown file, which said his first hit "was a triple in his second game."

Dixie, Bill, and I agreed that because our policy on changes has always been a conservative one, we needed more than just the game accounts from the *Pittsburgh Post* and *Boston Globe* (Dixie's original source). At the least, we needed some confirmation from a Cincinnati newspaper. That came when Records Committee member Herm Krabbenhoff told Dixie about a SABR member named Tom Davis, who lives in Cincinnati and had done much research with Herm. Dixie asked Tom if he could help. Tom said he would, and on his next library visit found stories in the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, and *Cincinnati Commercial Tribune* that described in detail how Williams' fly ball went over left fielder Elmer Smith's head.

To sum up those accounts, Williams's hit may have been a bit "tainted," but it was a triple. Smith never touched it and no error was charged to him. One of the papers didn't actually list the triple in its boxscore, although it did describe the play the same way and gave no error. As a final check, Dixie looked at *The Sporting News* and *Sporting Life* box scores in several issues following the game and neither showed a change -- no error was added, as would be in a change of scoring. No "talk" of a change was given in any column of "notes" in either paper. We had accounted for the other 27 triples, so when Bill later discovered that the *National League official sheets for 1899 show Williams with a triple on April 17 and a season total of 28*, that clinched it; we felt our quest was over.

So after 102 seasons, we now can say that while Pittsburgh's Jimmy Williams still holds the record for most triples by a rookie, that record is 28, not 27.

In recounting this six-month saga, Dixie said that it had "all the purest elements of a classic SABR research victory: a little off-beat curiosity, simple number-crunching, a discrepancy found, help received from other SABRites whose location and generous giving of their time ultimately becomes crucial."



Jimmy Williams

RETROSHEET TO THE RESCUE (AGAIN)

Previous editions of *Total Baseball* and the late *Baseball Encyclopedia* show Tom Patton's major league career to have consisted of one game for the 1957 Baltimore Orioles in which he had two at bats, and two strikeouts. But in a telephone conversation with the Hall of Fame Library's Eric Enders, who was researching one-game players, Patton told Eric that he had not struck out twice in that game. In fact, he claimed he hadn't struck out in either at bat. Eric passed that information on to Matt Silverman of *Total Sports*, who in turn passed on to Pete Palmer. Pete then asked Dave Smith to check the *Retrosheet* play by play data for this game, and Dave verified that Tom was right.

He found that Patton's one game in the majors was at Chicago on April 30, 1957, when he took over for Joe Ginsberg behind the plate in the fourth inning. Both of Patton's at bats were against Billy Pierce, but as he had said, in neither at bat did he strike out. In the sixth inning, he reached on third baseman Bubba Phillips's error, and in the ninth he bounced back to Pierce.

Using Jack Smalling's address book, Pete was able to write to Patton and inform him that he had made the adjustment and that the corrected record will appear in *Total Baseball VII*. Fortunately, *Retrosheet* had this game in its files, but many other games are still waiting to be catalogued. If you would like to volunteer in this most worthy effort, get in touch with Dave via email at dwsmith@udel.edu, or by phone at (302) 731-1570.

ONE MAJOR LEAGUE START, ONE MAJOR LEAGUE SHUTOUT

Walt Wilson found just four pitchers, all righthanders, who threw shutouts in their only major league starts. Fisher's and Anderson's shutouts came on the last day of the season.

*Don Fisher (New York Giants), 1-0 at Boston on Sept. 30, 1945 (1G). Catcher--Clyde Kluttz
Luis Aloma (Chicago White Sox), 9-0 at Philadelphia on June 17, 1951 (2G). Catcher--Phil Masi
Larry Anderson (Milwaukee Brewers), 7-0 vs Detroit on Sept. 28, 1975. Catcher--Darrell Porter
#Frank Williams (SF Giants), 7-0 at St. Louis on May 5, 1984. Catcher--Bob Brenly

* Thirteen innings. Won on a Nap Reyes home run in the top of the 13th.
Five innings--called on account of rain.

UPDATES FROM LAST MONTH'S NEWSLETTER

Craig Carter, editor of *The Sporting News Record Book*, and David Nemecek both pointed out that Mike Piazza of the Mets did not tie an NL record with his RBIs in 15 consecutive games. While it would have been a record in the American League, the NL record is 17, held by Ray Grimes of the 1922 Chicago Cubs.

Craig also questioned whether Ugueth Urbina's ninth-inning strikeout of the side against LA came on just nine pitches. That's what was on the Major League Baseball website, but Craig said that the Expos said it was on ten pitches, not nine. They didn't know which of the three batters had four pitches thrown to him rather than three, but "knew" it was one of them.

Finally, while Troy Glaus's 44th home run as a third baseman did indeed break Al Rosen's American League single season record at that position, Glaus actually hit 46 of his 47 homers while playing third.

1,000 AT-BATS-NO HOME RUNS

Ted Di Tullio supplied this list of major leaguers who batted at least a thousand times without hitting a home run.

Bill Holbert	NL/AA	2,335
Tom Oliver	AL	1,931
Irv Hall	AL	1,904
Pat Deasley	NL/AA	1,466
Tommy Bond	NL/AA	1,441
Roxy Walters	AL	1,426
Paul Cook	NL/AA/PL	1,364
Don Sutton	NL/AL	1,354
Joe McGinnity	NL/AL	1,297
Waite Hoyt	AL/NL	1,287
George Latham	AA/NL	1,277
Gil Torres	AL	1,271
Tim Johnson	AL	1,269
Mike McGeary	NL	1,252
Luis Gomez	AL/NL	1,251
Dave Egger	NL/AA	1,247
Benny Bengough	AL	1,125
Charles Reipschlager	AA	1,109
Billy Pierce	AL/NL	1,102
Connie Berry	AL	1,087
Mick Kelleher	NL	1,081
Maury Shannon	AL/NL	1,070
Ed Cicotte	AL	1,063
Emil "Dutch" Leonard	AL/NL	1,054
Howard Ehmke	AL/FL	1,009
Bump Hadley	AL/NL	1,004
Tommy Bridges	AL	1,003

A SURPRISING ANSWER (AT LEAST TO ME)

One morning, as I went searching for the answer to an emailed question from John Zajc, a question he'd received in the mail, I was already assuming the answer to it would be "Many Times." The letter writer wanted to know in how many World Series games did neither team strike out. Much to my surprise it's happened only once--on October 13, 1960--in the seventh game between the Pirates and the Yankees. That, you may remember, is the Series where the Yanks overwhelmingly won the popular vote, outscoring Pittsburgh, 55-27, but lost in the Electoral College, four games to three.

LONG-LASTING MANAGERS

In light of the post-season firing of six managers, here, courtesy of Bill Arnold, are those skippers that spent the most years (including partial years) with each of the current franchises. Of course, Connie Mack led the Athletics when they were in Philadelphia, Bucky Harris led the Minnesota Twins when they were the Washington Senators, John McGraw led the Giants when they were in New York, four of Walter Alston's seasons as manager of the Dodgers were when they were in Brooklyn, and Phil Garner's tenure as manager of Milwaukee was when the club was in the American League.

American League

Anaheim--Bill Rigney, 9 (1961-1969)
 Baltimore--Earl Weaver, 17 (1968-1982, 1985-1986)
 Boston--Joe Cronin, 13 (1935-1947)
 Chicago--Jimmy Dykes, 13 (1934-1946)
 Cleveland--Lou Boudreau, 9 (1942-1950)
 Mike Hargrove, 9 (1991-1999)
 Detroit--Sparky Anderson, 17 (1979-1995)
 Kansas City--Whitey Herzog, 6 (1974-1979)
 Minnesota--Bucky Harris, 18 (1924-28, 1935-42, 1950-54)
 New York--Joe McCarthy, 16 (1931-1946)
 Oakland--Connie Mack, 50 (1901-1950)
 Seattle--Lou Piniella, 8 (1993-2000) current manager
 Tampa Bay--Larry Rothschild, 3 (1998-2000) current manager
 Texas--Bobby Valentine, 8 (1985-1992)
 Toronto--Cito Gaston, 9 (1989-1997)

National League

Arizona--Buck Showalter, 3 (1998-2000)
 Atlanta--Bobby Cox, 15 (1978-81, 1990-2000) current manager
 Chicago--Charlie Grimm, 14 (1932-1938, 1944-1949, 1960)
 Cincinnati--Bill McKechnie, 9 (1938-1946)
 Sparky Anderson, 9 (1970-1978)
 Colorado--Don Baylor, 6 (1993-1998)
 Florida--Rene Lachemann, 4 (1993-1996)
 Houston--Bill Virdon, 8 (1975-1982)
 Los Angeles--Walter Alston 23, (1954-1976)
 Milwaukee--Phil Garner, 8 (1992-1999)
 Montreal--Felipe Alou, 9 (1992-2000) current manager
 New York--Davey Johnson, 7 (1984-1990)
 Philadelphia--Gene Mauch, 9 (1960-1968)
 Pittsburgh--Fred Clarke, 15 (1901-1915)
 Danny Murtaugh, 15 (1957-64, 1967, 1970-71, 1973-76)
 St. Louis--Red Schoendienst, 14 (1965-1976, 1980, 1990)
 San Diego--Bruce Bochy, 6 (1995-2000) current manager
 San Francisco--John McGraw, 31 (1902-1932)

ON THE ROAD TO 300 WINS

John O'Malley, with assistance from Bill Deane, Frank Williams, and Bob Richardson, did a study comparing the length of time and number of games it took for each of the 300-Game Winners to reach that lofty total. Not surprisingly, both measures are much higher for modern-day pitchers than they were for those who pitched in the Nineteenth Century. Both Jim Galvin and Tim Keefe won their 300th game in their tenth seasons, while Mickey Welch, Charles Radbourn, John Clarkson, Kid Nichols, and Cy Young did it in their eleventh seasons. By contrast, it took 23 seasons for Early Wynn and Nolan Ryan to notch number 300. And while Clarkson's 300th win came in his 465th game, Phil Niekro's didn't come until his 804th game. Warren Spahn's time span is misleading. Although he made his debut in 1942, Spahn pitched in only four games that season, then went into the service and didn't win his first game until 1946. Below is the complete list in the order in which they reached 300.

<u>Pitcher</u>	<u>Debut</u>	<u>300th Win</u>	<u>No. of Games</u>
Jim Galvin	5/1/1879	10/5/1888	571
Tim Keefe	8/6/1880	6/4/1890	502
Mickey Welch	5/1/1880	8/11/1890	537
Charles Radbourn	5/5/1881	5/14/1891	505
John Clarkson	5/2/1882	9/21/1892	465
Kid Nichols	4/23/1890	7/7/1900	500
Cy Young	8/6/1890	7/3/1901	522
Christy Mathewson	7/17/1900	7/5/1912	491
Eddie Plank	5/13/1901	9/11/1915	557
Walter Johnson	8/2/1907	5/14/1920	551
Pete Alexander	4/15/1911	9/20/1924	531
Lefty Grove	4/14/1925	7/25/1941	610
Warren Spahn	4/19/1942	8/11/1961	598
Early Wynn	9/13/1939	7/13/1963	676
Gaylord Perry	4/14/1962	5/6/1982	721
Steve Carlton	4/12/1965	9/23/1983	623
Tom Seaver	4/13/1967	8/4/1985	618
Phil Niekro	4/15/1964	10/6/1985	804
Don Sutton	4/14/1966	6/18/1986	702
Nolan Ryan	9/11/1966	7/31/1990	729



John Clarkson needed the fewest number of games to get to 300 wins (465); Phil Niekro the most (804).