

# Society For American Baseball Research

## Baseball Records Committee

Lyle Spatz, Editor

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Not everything that counts is counted; not everything that is counted is worth counting.

---Albert Einstein

### THE 2005 SABR CONVENTION

Our thanks to **Jane Dorward**, **John Matthew** and all the other folks in Toronto for playing host to an outstanding SABR convention. Congratulations to all those who won awards for their books or research and especially to Retromeister **Dave Smith**, a colleague and a personal friend, for his long overdue and well deserved Bob Davids Award. Like all baseball researchers, members of the Records Committee have benefitted greatly from the work done by David and all the other Retrosheeters.

As always, our meeting was well attended. An item of great interest to Records Committee members is the proposal that SABR purchase microfilm of day-by-day data from the Hall of Fame. That proposal was discussed by the SABR Board, but a final decision was put off until the new position of Research Coordinator is filled.

**Dan Levitt** made a convincing case for the restoration of pitcher Ferdie Schupp's 1916 NL ERA title, which, if done, would make Schupp's ERA of 0.90 the major league's single season ERA record. The retroactive dethroning of Schupp is certainly not as headline grabbing as something like finding Hack Wilson's extra 1930 RBI, but Dan has convinced me that it is something we should actively seek to change.

I've made the point in the last few newsletters that our job is to make sure the numbers are as accurate as we can make them, and not to rate them morally or otherwise on how they were compiled. The previous week's news about Rafael Palmiero's positive test for steroids made me both want to reiterate that position and also get an idea of how other committee members felt about it. Many people voiced their opinions, some in rather forceful terms, but all agreed that steroids were just one more factor in judging records and had no place in their measurement. As someone told me the next day, there was so much agreement he thought a brawl might break out at any moment.

Committee member **Alan Schwarz**, a columnist for the *New York Times*, attended the meeting and wrote about it in the August 8 edition of the *Times*. Unlike too many in the media, Alan has written some excellent articles and one terrific book on baseball records and the people who keep track of them. He has a feel for the history of baseball, and more importantly, the awareness that some pretty significant things happened in the game before he was born. I can only repeat what I've said in the past. The SABR convention is always one of the great weekends of the year, one in which we renew acquaintances with old friends, make new ones, and finally get a chance to match faces with email addresses. If you have never been to a National Convention, I urge you to try and join us next year in Seattle. I had a chance to speak with Seattle convention chairman **Anthony Salazar** and some of the other people working with him, **Mark Armour**, **Steve Steinberg**, and **Neal Traven**, and came away with the impression that this will be one terrific get-together, with many side trips planned for both members and their families.

### STRAIGHTENING OUT THE SULLIVANS

More than a century after each man threw his last major league pitch, research by **Bob Richardson** has straightened out the pitching records of Jim and Mike Sullivan. The baseball encyclopedias show that James E. "Jim" Sullivan's final year in the big leagues was with the National League's Boston club in 1897. They also show that Michael J. "Mike" Sullivan pitched in three games for the 1898 Boston team and one more in 1899. The three 1898 games were at Baltimore on April 20, at Washington on April 30, and at home against New York on May 6.

However, Bob has established that it was Jim Sullivan who pitched in those three games, not Mike Sullivan. So the records of both pitchers will have to be adjusted, and the "last game" for James E Sullivan needs to be changed to May 6, 1898.

Bob adds that the 1899 game is definitely Mike's, who was recruited out of his law office to pitch that afternoon. He says the Boston newspapers paid much attention to this game as Mike Sullivan was a rising political force and might well have become mayor of Boston had he not died at age 39.

## THE SABR BOOK OF BASEBALL RECORDS AND LISTS

For those of you who were not at our meeting in Toronto, let me bring you up to date on our SABR Book of Records and Lists. Although we are calling it a "Record Book," it will not be a record book in the sense that *The Sporting News* and *Elias* annual publications are record books. Nor will it in any way be meant to compete with them. While there will be some overlaps, we hope to keep them to a minimum. So where TSN and *Elias* might show the record for Most RBI in a season by a Rookie, we will have a list of every rookie who batted in at least 100 runs.

In addition to going deep into the leader lists, the book's greatest appeal, we hope, will be its lists of things that SABRites and fans in general (and maybe the media too) might wonder about but would otherwise find difficult to locate. For instance a list of pitchers who won 20 games for a last-place team, or a list of the closest batting races ever, or a list every player to hit a pinch hit grand slam, or a list of the fewest errors by a first baseman in a season.

By their nature, some of the lists will have very few players on them while others will be quite extensive. So far I have entered more than 500 lists and my working index of players has more than 2,400 different names. I want to thank all the SABR members who have contributed, especially **Pete Palmer**, **David Vincent**, and **Dan Levitt**, who have sent me multiple lists. Still, there are many more potential lists of interest, lists that need only members willing to contribute them. I was pleased that so many people approached me with promises of lists to come. I look forward to receiving them. Also, and equally as important, are those who promised to help with fact checking.

All the lists I now have go through the 2004 season. They will have to be rechecked at the end of this season for additions, subtractions, and adjustments to totals and/or rankings. Publications Director **Jim Charlton** would like to have it all by May 2006 for layout, design, etc. It will then be made available as a downloadable pdf file for any committee members to review and comment on. Another update will be made to include the 2006 season, and we hope to have the book in your hands and in bookstores early in 2007. Incidentally Jim reported that he is still in the process of searching for a publisher.

One more thing. Please don't read this and decide that you have a great list, but because it will change after each of the next two seasons, you can wait until then to submit it. For us, and specifically for **Glenn LeDoux**, to lay out the format of the book I need them now.

## PENNANT RACE COLLAPSES

**Bob Tiemann** supplied this list of National League teams that blew leads of seven games or more in the pennant or division race. Some bounced back to win anyway.

### 1876-1968

Year	Team	Lead	Date	Finish	GB	Winner
1891	Chicago	7.0	Sep 4	2nd	-3.5	Boston
1921	Pittsburgh	7.5	Aug 22	2nd	-4.0	New York
1934	New York	7.0	Sep 6	2nd	-2.0	St. Louis
1935	New York	9.0	Jul 4	3rd	-8.5	Chicago
1937	Chicago	7.0	Aug 3	2nd	-3.0	New York
1938	Pittsburgh	7.0	Sep 1	2nd	-2.0	Chicago
1942	Brooklyn	10.0	Aug 6	2nd	-2.0	St. Louis
1946	Brooklyn	7.5	Jul 2	2nd	-2.0	St. Louis
1948	Boston	8.0	Jul 18	1st	+6.5	Boston
1951	Brooklyn	13.0	Aug 11	2nd	-1.0	New York
1964	Philadelphia	7.5	Aug 23	T2nd	-1.0	St. Louis

### 1969-2004

Year	Team	Lead	Date	Finish	GB	Winner
1969	Chicago(E)	8.5	Aug 16	2nd	-8.0	New York
1973	Chicago(E)	8.0	Jun 29	5th	-5.0	New York
1973	Los Angeles(W)	8.5	Jul 17	2nd	-3.5	Cincinnati
1977	Chicago(E)	8.5	Jun 29	4th	-20.0	Philadelphia
1979	Houston(W)	10.0	Jul 4	2nd	-1.5	Cincinnati
1982	Atlanta(W)	9.0	Jul 29	1st	+1.0	Atlanta
1992	Pittsburgh(E)	7.0	Jun 23	1st	+9.0	Pittsburgh
1993	San Francisco(W)	10.0	Jul 22	2nd	-1.0	Atlanta
2000	Atlanta(E)	7.0	May 31	1st	+1.0	Atlanta
2001	Philadelphia(E)	8.0	Jun 1	2nd	-2.0	Atlanta

## A PAIR OF 1906 HOME RUNS THAT NEVER HAPPENED

**Ron Selter** discovered that two home runs listed in the [SABR Home Run Log](#) never happened. The phantom home runs, both of which supposedly came in the seventh inning with the bases empty, are mistakenly credited to Mike Grady of the Cardinals and Billy Gilbert of the Giants. The date was July 16, 1906, and the site was Robison Field in St. Louis.

The error was likely picked up from the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat's* listing of both home runs in their box score, although they make no mention of them in their game account. However, neither the *New York Times* nor the *New York Herald* show home runs for Grady or Gilbert, either in their box score or game account. Instead, the *Times* box score has Grady and Gilbert with sacrifice hits rather than home runs.

The final score was NY 3, STL 1. The Cardinals run came in the 7th inning, but not from a Grady home run. It was the result of an error and a couple of hits. All the box scores show Grady with zero runs scored.

In proving the NY Times box score ( $PA = AB + BB + HBP + SAC = 27$  OUTS + LOB + RUNS), **Keith Carlson** found that crediting Grady and Gilbert with sacrifice hits was the only way to make the box score balance.

What appears to have happened, says Ron, is that the official scorer entered the sacrifice hits in both the sacrifice hit column **and** the home run column for both players. **Pete Palmer** confirmed that the day-by-day sheets show both players with one sacrifice hit and one home run. Ron also checked all other STL-NY games for 1906 and found no cases of home runs by both Grady and Gilbert in any game.

Based on Ron's findings, Grady's home run total for 1906 should be reduced from three to two, and his lifetime total from 35 to 34. Gilbert's 1906 total goes from one to zero and his lifetime total from five to four.



**Billy Gilbert**



**Mike Grady**

## WORLD SERIES REPEATERS...50 AND 100 YEARS LATER

The last newsletter contained **John Schwartz's** speculations on the 1904 Boston-New York World Series, the one that never happened. John reminded us that if New York had won, their WS win over Cleveland in 1954 would have made them the first franchise to win the World Series fifty years after its initial triumph. And if Boston had won, their win over St. Louis in 2004 would have made them the first franchise to have won the World Series 100 years apart.

There are, however, five teams that have won the World Series exactly fifty years apart, says John. The Yankees have done it four times: 1927-1977, 1928-1978, 1949-1999, and 1950-2000. The only other team, and the only NL team to win on the golden anniversary of a previous triumph, is Cincinnati, 1940-1990.

While it's highly unlikely, the Giants could become the first franchise to win 100 years apart, and the Dodgers could become the second NL team to win 50 years apart, should either win the World Series this year.

## CATCHING AMOS RUSIE AND JIM GALVIN

Walt Wilson's list of battery mates for Hall of Fame pitchers during their starts and shutouts continues with two righthanders: Dennis Eckersley, who pitched for many teams, and Bob Gibson, who pitched for only one.

### CATCHING AMOS RUSIE

Amos Rusie pitched for Indianapolis (NL) 1889; New York (NL) 1890-95, 1897-98, and Cincinnati (NL) 1901. He made 427 starts and pitched 30 shutouts.

	<u>Starts</u>	<u>Shutouts</u>
Dick Buckley	97	10
Duke Farrell	72	4
John Warner	58	4
Jack Boyle	32	1
Parke Wilson	32	3
Jocko Milligan	30	4
Jack Doyle	25	1
Artie Clarke	16	0
Buck Ewing	16	0
Pete Sommers	10	1
Mike Grady	6	1
Con Daily	5	0
Jack McMahon	5	0
Pat Murphy	4	0
George Myers	4	0
Jim O'Rourke	4	0
King Kelly	3	0
Danny Murphy	2	0
Pop Schriver	2	0
Jocko Fields	1	0
Mike Kahoe	1	0
Heinie Peitz	1	0
Pete Weckbecker	1	0
Total	427	30

One of Rusie's shutouts was with more than one catcher.



### CATCHING JIM GALVIN

Jim Galvin pitched for Buffalo (NL) 1879-85; Pittsburgh (AA) 1885-86; Pittsburgh (NL) 1887-89, 1891-92; Pittsburgh (PL) 1890, and St. Louis (NL) 1892. He made 681 starts and pitched 57 shutouts.

	<u>Starts</u>	<u>Shutouts</u>
Jack Rowe	197	24
Doggie Miller	178	15
John Clapp	59	4
Fred Carroll	39	2
George Myers	36	4
Sleeper Sullivan	27	2
Connie Mack	26	0
Jim O'Rourke	22	0
Deacon White	20	0
Tom Dolan	14	1
Bill Crowley	12	2
Jocko Fields	12	0
Dick Buckley	11	0
Jim McCauley	6	0
Tom Quinn	6	1
Hardy Richardson	4	1
Dell Darling	3	0
Tun Berger	2	0
Bill Farmer	1	0
Jerry Hurley	1	0
Jim Keenan	1	0
Bill Moran	1	0
Dan Stearns	1	0
Tony Suck	1	0
Dan Sullivan	1	0
Total	681	57

One of Galvin's shutouts was with more than one catcher.

