

SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN BASEBALL RESEARCH BASEBALL RECORDS COMMITTEE

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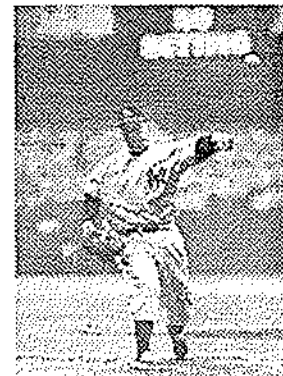
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Not everything that counts can be counted; not everything that is counted is worth counting.
Albert Einstein

ED LOPAT AND THE CLEVELAND INDIANS

Ed Lopat pitched in the American League for the Chicago White Sox from 1944 to 1947; for the New York Yankees from 1948 through mid-1955; and finished the '55 season, and also his career, with the Baltimore Orioles. In that time, Lopat won 166 and lost 112, with his best years coming with the Yankees. He was a member of, and key contributor to, the Yanks' five successive world championships from 1949 to 1953. With an assist from *The Sporting News'* Steve Gietschier and a citation from *"The Little Red Book"* by Pete Palmer, here is the breakdown of Lopat's lifetime wins and losses against each club along with a yearly breakdown vs Cleveland.

Boston	16-19	<u>Year-by-Year vs Cleve.</u>	
Chicago	15-10	1944 3-0	1950 6-0
Cleveland	40-13	1945 3-0	1951 5-2
Detroit	14-21	1946 3-1	1952 2-1
New York	6-8	1947 4-1	1953 2-2
Phila./KC	18-16	1948 5-2	1954 3-1
STL/Balt.	29-13	1949 4-2	1955 0-1
Washington	28-12	Total 40-13	
Total	166-112		



Clearly, Lopat had his greatest success against Cleveland. Almost a quarter of his total wins were against the Indians, despite their being one of the league's better teams in those years. Cleveland fans were so frustrated after 11 straight losses to Lopat, dating back to July 20, 1949, that on June 4, 1951, they staged a "Rabbit's Foot Night" at Municipal Stadium. Coincidentally, the Indians, behind Mike Garcia, defeated Lopat that night. That was one of the 13 times he lost to Cleveland; the others were 8/31/1946, 5/30/1947 (1G), 5/23/1948 (2G), 8/6/1948, 6/12/1949, 6/17/1949, 7/14/1951, 5/8/1952, 6/27/1953, 8/28/1953, 7/23/1954, and 5/3/1955. Yet Zita Carno, a Lopat fan of long standing, has come across numerous references to Lopat having lost only 12 times to Cleveland. To wit: Mark Gallagher and Walter LeConte's The Yankee Encyclopedia (Fifth Edition) (p. 151). "*In his career, Ed had a 40-12 record against Cleveland.*"

Sal Maiorana's A Lifetime Of Yankee Octobers (p. 215). "*He looked harmless, but batters couldn't hit him, especially the Indians, who (sic) he beat 40 times in 52 decisions.*"

Harvey Frommer's A Yankee Century (p. 175). "*He gave fits to free-swinging batters and teams like the Indians, who he was 40-12 lifetime against.*"

And Lopat himself from Dom Foraker's The Men of Autumn (p. 27). "*Lifetime, I was 40-12 against the Indians.*"

The Men of Autumn also has this same error along with an additional one on page 24. "*His career mark against Cleveland was 40-12. In fact, when the Indians won an American League record 111 games in 1954, Lopat defeated them five of five times.*" His record against Cleveland in 1954 was actually 3-1. Phil Rizzuto makes this same "5-0 in 1954" mistake in The October Twelve: Five Years of Yankee Glory 1949-1953 (p. 268).

Zita also found an error concerning Lopat on page 240 of Glenn Stout's Yankees Century: 100 Years of New York Yankee Baseball, where it says this about the 1951 World Series. "*In game five the Yankees hit like they knew what was coming, while the Giants appeared clueless against Reynolds.*" But it wasn't Allie Reynolds who pitched that fifth game, a complete-game 13-1 victory, it was Eddie Lopat.

DOC WHITE'S FOUR-STRIKEOUT INNING

The first two pitchers to record four strikeouts in an inning are generally listed as Bobby Mathews (Philadelphia, AA) on September 30, 1885, and Ed Crane (New York, NL) on October 4, 1888. The third, and recognized as the first to do at 60' 6," is "Hooks" Wiltse (New York, NL) on May 15, 1906. However, Jim Charlton has reason to believe that the first to do it at the modern pitching distance was actually Doc White (Philadelphia, NL) on July 21, 1902 at Brooklyn. Jim found White's feat in the August 2, 1902 *Sporting News*, which reprinted a story that appeared in the July 21 *Brooklyn Eagle*. The story began, "Doc" White had the unusual record of four strikeouts in one inning yesterday," and goes on to tell of each strikeout. They came in the fifth inning as Brooklyn was scoring four runs on the way to their 10-1 victory.

Bill Dahlen and Charlie Irwin were the first two to fan. Ed Wheeler was next, and he swung and missed at strike three, but the ball got by catcher Red Dooin, and Wheeler reached first safely. Frank Kitson followed with a single, after which White fanned Jimmy Sheckard for the third out and his fourth strikeout of the inning.



Doc White

RECENT HOME RUN BARRAGE HAS TOPPLED NL RECORDS, BUT AL MARKS REMAIN

Wayne McElreavy notes that the home run explosion of recent years has toppled the single-season records for lefthanded batters, righthanded batters, and switch hitters in the National League, but has left the comparable American League records untouched.

Most Home Runs By a Lefthanded Batter

Johnny Mize's NL record of 51 had stood since 1947, until 2001 when Barry Bonds hit 73 & Luis Gonzalez hit 57. In the AL, Roger Maris's 61 in 1961 is still the record.

Most Home Runs By a Righthanded Batter

Hack Wilson's NL record of 56 had stood since 1930, until 1998 when Mark McGwire hit 70 & Sammy Sosa hit 66. In the AL, the record is still 58, by Jimmie Foxx (1932) & Hank Greenberg (1938.) McGwire hit 58 in 1997, but only 34 were hit in the AL.

Most Home Runs By a Switch Hitter

Ripper Collins's NL record of 35 in 1934 stood until Howard Johnson hit 36 in both 1987 & 1989. Johnson then hit 38 in 1991, but was topped in 1996 by Todd Hundley (41) & Ken Caminiti (40), then Chipper Jones hit 45 in 1999. In the AL, Mickey Mantle's 54 in 1961 is still the record. Since then, only Mantle in 1964 and Ken Singleton in 1979 have had as many as 35.

LUIS APARICIO, RECORD-HOLDER FOR MOST GAMES AT SHORTSTOP, ADDS TWO MORE

Luis Aparicio played his last major league game on September 28, 1973. All the encyclopedias and record books show him with 2,599 games played, with 2,581 of them at shortstop. In fact, the 2,581 games that Aparicio played at shortstop is the record for games played at that position. However, while inputting 1968 data for *Retrosheet*, Tom Ruane discovered that an error in addition on Aparicio's "official" sheets had robbed him of two games played that year, both at shortstop. That is, while Aparicio's official sheets for 1968 show that he played in 157 games, with 156 of those at shortstop, when they totaled the lines, they simply miscounted them.

So, Aparicio's correct Games Played total for his career should be 2,601, and his Games Played at shortstop should be 2,583---which is now the major league record for games played at short.

TEAMS WITH FIVE OR MORE 100+ RUN SCORERS

Ten teams since 1901 have had at least five men score 100 runs in the same season. Two of the ten had six men score 100 runs: the 1931 New York Yankees and the 1953 Brooklyn Dodgers (the only National League club on the list). Here, in chronological order, is the full list.

1929 PHI (AL): Jimmie Foxx (123), Mule Haas (115), Al Simmons (114), Mickey Cochrane (113), Max Bishop (102)
1931 NY (AL): Lou Gehrig (163), Babe Ruth (149), Ben Chapman (120), Earle Combs (120), Joe Sewell (102), Lyn Lary (100)
1934 DET (AL): Charlie Gehringer (134), Hank Greenberg (118), Billy Rogell (114), Goose Goslin (106), Pete Fox (101)
1938 NY (AL): Red Rolfe (132), Joe DiMaggio (129), Lou Gehrig (115), Frankie Crosetti (113), Tommy Henrich (106)
1941 NY (AL): Joe DiMaggio (122), Tommy Henrich (109), Red Rolfe (106), Joe Gordon (104), Charlie Keller (102)
1950 BOS (AL): Dom DiMaggio (131), Vern Stephens (125), Johnny Pesky (112), Bobby Doerr (103), Walt Dropo (101)
1953 BKL (NL): Duke Snider (132), Jim Gilliam (125), Jackie Robinson (109), Pee Wee Reese (108), Roy Campanella (103), Gil Hodges (101)
1997 SEA (AL): Ken Griffey, Jr. (125), Joey Cora (105), Jay Buhner (104), Edgar Martinez (104), Alex Rodriguez (100)
1999 CLE (AL): Roberto Alomar (138), Manny Ramirez (131), Omar Vizquel (112), Kenny Lofton (110), Jim Thome (101)
2000 CHI (AL): Ray Durham (121), Frank Thomas (115), Carlos Lee (107), Jose Valentin (107), Magglio Ordonez (102)

ST. LOUIS BROWNS PITCHERS --1889

David Nemeč's indispensable work, *The Great Encyclopedia of 19th Century Major League Baseball*, along with the *STATS All-Time Major League Handbook* show the following data for pitchers Silver King and Elton Chamberlain of the 1889 American Association St. Louis Browns:

	G	GS	CG	W	L
Silver King	56	53	47	34	16
Elton Chamberlain	53	51	44	32	15

Total Baseball agrees, with one exception. They credit King with 35 wins.

But after an extensive look at each game of the Browns' 1889 season, in which he used the prevailing wisdom in deciding wins and losses, JP Caillaud concluded that the numbers should actually read:

	G	GS	CG	W	L
Silver King	55	52	46	34	17
Elton Chamberlain	54	52	45	34	15

JP also found some discrepancies in the won-lost records of two other pitchers on that team: Jack Stivetts and Jim Devlin.

STATS and *Total Baseball* have Stivetts at 12-7, while *The 19th Century Encyclopedia* has him at 13-7. JP believes it should be 12-7.

STATS, *Total Baseball*, and *The 19th Century Encyclopedia* all have Devlin at 5-3. JP believes it should be 4-2.

After reviewing JP's findings, David Nemeč accepted them all and suggested that the appropriate changes be made to King's, Chamberlain's, and Devlin's 1889 and career totals.

CHUCK COLES

Chuck Coles's major league career consisted of five games played for Cincinnati in September 1958. He had two hits in 11 at bats and defensively is credited by *The 1959 Sporting News Guide*, *The Baseball Encyclopedia*, and various Websites with 12 putouts and no assists.

But Greg Beston found that Coles did have an assist. It came against the Milwaukee Braves on September 28, the final day of the season. In the third inning, Coles, playing left field, threw out Joe Koppe who was trying to go from first to third on Johnny Logan's pinch single.

PITCHERS WHO HAD SEASONS WITH MORE SHUTOUTS THAN WINS

Wayne McElreavy furnished this list of four pitchers who had more shutouts than wins in a season.

1. Grover Lowdermilk of the 1911 St. Louis Cardinals was 0-1, but was credited with a shutout in a 0-0 game against Boston on September 17.
2. Herb Bradley of the 1928 Boston Red Sox was 0-3, but was credited with a shutout in a 0-0 game against Washington on April 14.
3. Ray Moss of the 1928 Brooklyn Dodgers was 0-3, but was credited with a shutout in a 0-0 game against Cincinnati on July 12.
4. Rip Coleman of the 1957 Kansas City A's was 0-7, but was credited with a shutout in a 0-0 game against Baltimore on May 19.

Wayne adds that the only pitcher with more shutouts than *complete games* in a season is Neil Allen of the 1988 Yankees. Al Leiter of the Yanks started the May 31 game against Oakland, but had to leave with an injury after leadoff batter Carney Lansford singled on the only pitch he threw. Allen came in and pitched nine innings of relief in a 5-0 Yankee victory. Under rule 10.19 (f), that qualified him to be credited with a shutout. Allen finished the season with two starts, no complete games, and one shutout.

MOST HITS IN FIRST 1,000 AT BATS

This past season, Ichiro Suzuki jumped into a tie for fifth place on Bill Deane's list of post-1900 players who had the most hits in their first 1,000 at bats. The surprise name on the list is clearly Benny Kauff, and second to Joe Jackson, no less. Keep in mind, however, that 358 of those 361 hits came in 1914-15, when Kauff was in the Federal League.

Joe Jackson	387
Benny Kauff	361
Chuck Klein	360
Paul Waner	358
Lefty O'Doul	352
Ichiro Suzuki	352
Kiki Cuyler	351
Jimmie Foxx	351
Wade Boggs	351
Johnny Mize	347
Lloyd Waner	344
Joe DiMaggio	341
Jim Bottomley	340
Earl Averill	340
Bill Madlock	340



Benny Kauff

CATCHING RUBE WADDELL AND ADDIE JOSS

Walt Wilson's listing of battery mates for Hall of Fame pitchers during their starts and shutouts continues with two American League greats of the Deadball Era, Rube Waddell and Addie Joss.

CATCHING RUBE WADDELL

Rube Waddell pitched for Louisville (NL) 1897, 1899; Pittsburgh (NL) 1900-01; Chicago (NL) 1901; Philadelphia (AL) 1902-07; and St. Louis (AL) 1908-1910. He made 340 starts and pitched 50 shutouts.

	Starts	Shutouts
Ossee Schreckengost	198	37
Jim Stephens	26	5
Tubby Spencer	23	4
Chief Zimmer	21	2
Mike Kahoe	16	0
Mike Powers	11	0
Johnny Kling	10	0
Syd Smith	10	1
Lou Criger	6	0
Tacks Latimer	6	1
Others	13	0
Totals	340	50

Waddell pitched 37 shutouts with the Philadelphia Athletics (1902-1907), all of them were caught by Schreckengost. The 13 games Waddell started that were caught by others were by nine different catchers.

CATCHING ADDIE JOSS

Addie Joss pitched for Cleveland (AL) 1902-1910. He made 260 starts and pitched 45 shutouts.

	Starts	Shutouts
Nig Clarke	99	19
Harry Bemis	87	14
Fritz Buelow	27	4
Fred Abbott	19	2
Ted Easterly	16	2
Bob Wood	8	2
Howard Wakefield	2	0
Bob Higgins	1	0
Harry Ostdick	1	0
Totals	260	45

Two of Joss's shutouts were caught by more than one catcher.



Rube Waddell



Ossee Schreckengost



Addie Joss



Nig Clarke

UNASSISTED DOUBLE PLAYS BY AN OUTFIELDER

In the October newsletter we reported that the National League record for Most unassisted double plays, game by an outfielder, which is one and held by many players, was last accomplished by Orlando Merced of Pittsburgh against the Cubs on July 1, 1996. However, Ed Luteran wrote to say that there have been two more recent occurrences. Cliff Floyd of the Marlins did it in the tenth inning of a game against the Cubs on August 28, 2001, and the most recent was by Joe McEwing of the Mets against Pittsburgh on April 4, 2002. McEwing, playing left field, caught a first-inning looper by Armando Rios in shallow left, and then tagged Jason Kendall, who had been running from second on the pitch.