

Society for American Baseball Research

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

From The Chairman: Welcome to new member Ron Rakowski; 1517 N. Hoffman, Park Ridge, IL 60068; phone number--708-698-4513. Bob Bailey has moved from Kentucky to Pennsylvania. His address is now 121 South Drive; Newtown, PA 18940; phone number--215-504-0345.

Ron Rakowski, who has devoted a great deal of time studying the 1961 season has made a startling discovery. Working with Retrosheet, he has analyzed for every game that year newspaper accounts and boxscores, along with the official daily records and scoresheets that he obtained from various teams and sportswriters. As a result of his research, Ron discovered that Roger Maris was mistakenly credited with an extra run batted in 1961. This is extremely significant because Maris won the RBI total that season by one over Jim Gentile, 142 to 141. Rocky Colavito had 140.

The error occurred on July 5 in a game against Cleveland at Yankee Stadium. Tony Kubek (who had struck out but reached when John Romano couldn't hold the third strike) was at first with no one out when Maris singled to right. Right fielder Willie Kirkland threw to third baseman Bubba Phillips in an unsuccessful attempt to get Kubek at third. Phillips then tried to catch Maris who had rounded first, but his throw went into the seats. The umpires waved Kubek home and sent Maris to third. It was an unearned run with no RBI given. Maris later hit a solo homer in the seventh, but the official scorer reported two RBI's to the league office.

The following sources show Maris with just one RBI on July 5, 1961: *The New York Times*, *The New York Daily News*, *The New York Journal American*, *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*, and *The Sporting News*. Also play-by-play sheets from the Indians and Yankees and scoresheets from Dick Young of the *Daily News* and Harold Rosenthal of the *New York Herald Tribune*.

Ron has made an important find and has gathered an impressive amount of documentation to support it. In future editions of the encyclopedias and record books Maris's lifetime RBI total should be 850, and Gentile should be credited as the American League's RBI co-leader in 1961.

The question of how to handle the protested games of 1910-1919, so often alluded to in this newsletter, will get a full airing at the national convention in Pittsburgh. Jack Carlson has agreed to set aside some time during Saturday afternoon's research presentations for a debate over whether these games, presently excluded, should be made part of the official record. Bob Tiemann or Rich Topp will speak in favor of inclusion and Pete Palmer will speak against. Everyone is welcome.

The Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book (1995 edition) is out, and, as always, is a pleasure to have. I am not surprised that my one-man campaign to have them include every twentieth century major league franchise in the Team Records section has again failed. Once more, every team is included with the exception of two: the 1901 Milwaukee Brewers, and the 1901-02 Baltimore Orioles. My other complaint here is the lack of 19th century data. At a minimum this should appear for the National League franchises that existed prior to the turn of the century. Teams such as the Cardinals, Reds, Cubs etc., did not spring fully grown from the ashes in 1901. They had previous histories that should be preserved in these sections of team records.

TSN corrected several errors found by Records Committee members, including: NL--Most consecutive hits allowed, game (p.81). Heinie Meine, 10; from Bob Fulton.

Nine innings pitched for Ernie Shore and zero innings pitched for Babe Ruth in Shore's no-hitter, June 23, 1917 (p. 195); from Ed Brown.

Jesus Alou added to the list of those who had the Most at-bats, doubleheader (more than 18 innings) (p.16). Alou had 14 on May 31, 1964; from Joe Dittmar.

Following Are Some Corrections That The Record Book Failed To Include

Most consecutive games won from one club at home. TSN still lists the NL record as 18, by Milwaukee/Atlanta against New York in 1964-66 (p.130). Seymour Siwoff and Jim Smith say it should be 25, by St. Louis against Cincinnati in 1929-31. TSN lists the AL record as 22, by Boston against Philadelphia in 1949-50. Seymour Siwoff says the AL record is 27 by Cleveland against St. Louis/Baltimore.

Most consecutive road games lost, season. TSN still lists the NL record as 22, by Pittsburgh in 1890 and New York in 1963 (p.131). Bob Tiemann discovered that the 1890 Pittsburgh club actually lost 41 consecutive road games, and that is the NL and major league record.

Most games won by visiting clubs, season. For the NL as an 8-club league, TSN still has the record at 307 in 1948 (p. 134). Jim Smith says NL visiting clubs won 308 games in both 1917 and 1923.

Most runs by both clubs, 12th inning. TSN lists the AL record as 11 (New York 11, Detroit 0) on July 26, 1928 1G (p. 48). While that is correct, Greg Beston says there is an earlier game, May 14, 1923, where the same two teams combined for 11 runs in the 12th inning (New York 8 Detroit 3).

Home run in first major league at-bat TSN still shows Earl Averill of Cleveland as the first in the AL to accomplish this on April 16, 1929 (p. 27). Herm Krabbenhoft says that Luke Stuart of St. Louis hit one (against Walter Johnson) in his first big-league at bat on August 8, 1921.

Most runs scored at start of game with none out. TSN still has the NL record at seven, by New York vs St. Louis on May 13, 1911 (p. 46). Jim Smith discovered that in a game against New York, on August 13, 1948, Philadelphia scored *nine* runs before an out was made.

Boston Braves' record for longest 1-0 game won. The record is 13 innings. TSN says it happened five times, the last being May 11, 1921 vs Pittsburgh (p.288). Greg Beston found a 13-inning 1-0 Braves victory against Brooklyn on May 4, 1923.

Joe Dittmar also discovered that The Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book (1995 edition) continues to carry an incorrect date for two records, which occurred in the same game. The records, which appear on page 9, are for Most pinch-hitters used, extra-inning game and Most pinch-hitters used by both clubs, extra-inning game. These records were set in a game between Oakland and Chicago on September 19, 1972, not on September 17, 1972.

Joe has an additional list of verifiable corrections related to games that he has researched, including several relating to the 13 pinch-hitters used in the Atlanta-Montreal game of September 21, 1993. Many of the others were published in past newsletters, however if you would like the list, send a SASE to Joe at 3112 Hayes Road; Norristown, PA 19403.

Because of his continuing research into batters hit-by-pitch, Neil Munro has update the list of all-time leaders that appeared in the February 1995 newsletter. This is the new list of leaders. Those that have been changed have an asterisk.

Hughie Jennings	287*	Art Fletcher	141	Steve Evans	111
Tommy Tucker	272	Bill Dahlen	140*	George H. Burns	110
Don Baylor	267	Frank Chance	137*	Jimmy Dykes	109
Ron Hunt	243	Nap Lajoie	134	Sherry Magee	109*
Dan McGann	230*	Dummy Hoy	133	Bill Joyce	108
Frank Robinson	198	Steve Brodie	132	Wally Schang	107
Minnie Minoso	192	John McGraw	132*	Pete Rose	107
Jake Beckley	183*	Brian Downing	129	#Dan Brouthers	105
Curt Welch	171	Willie Keeler	129*	Tris Speaker	103
Kid Elberfeld	165*	Honus Wagner	124	Orlando Cepeda	102
Fred Clarke	153*	Buck Herzog	120	@Andre Dawson	102
Chet Lemon	151	Sherm Lollar	115	Henry Larkin	100
Carlton Fisk	143	Bill Freehan	114	Elmer Flick	99
Nellie Fox	142	Frank Crosetti	114	Bucky Harris	99
				Eddie Yost	99

@Dawson is the only player on the list who is still active.

#Brouthers also played in the NL from 1879 to 1886 before HBP were counted.

While hit-by-pitch data is interesting in itself, its major significance is its inclusion in a players on-base-percentage. Bob Davids has used Neil's list to calculate those who were hit most frequently per plate appearance. For example Jennings was hit approximately once in every 20 plate appearances.

	<u>PA</u>	<u>HBP</u>	<u>FREQ.</u>		<u>PA</u>	<u>HBP</u>	<u>FREQ.</u>
Hugh Jennings	5657	287	19.7	Steve Evans	3893	111	35.1
Ron Hunt	6158	243	25.3	Don Baylor	9401	267	35.2
Dan McGann	6047	230	26.3	Frank Chance	5099	137	37.2
Tommy Tucker	7268	272	26.7	John McGraw	4945	132	37.5
Curt Welch	4937	171	28.9	Bill Joyce	4154	108	38.5
Kid Elberfeld	5272	165	32.0	Minnie Minoso	7710	192	40.2

Here, from Dave Vincent, is a continuation of the roster of first home runs hit at selected major league parks. More to follow in future newsletters.

Wrigley Field	LA	04/27/1961	Earl Averill, Jr.	LA
Metropolitan Stadium	MIN	04/21/1961	Dale Long	WAS
HHH Metrodome	MIN	04/06/1982	Dave Engle	MIN
Yankee Stadium	NY	04/18/1923	Babe Ruth	NY
Oakland Stadium	OAK	04/17/1968	Boog Powell	BAL
Shibe Park	PHI	05/29/1909	Frank Baker	PHI
Sicks Stadium	SEA	04/11/1969	Don Mincher	SEA
Kingdome	SEA	04/06/1977	Joe Rudi	CAL

RECORDS POTPOURRI: In the February newsletter, I asked if anyone could top Jack Quinn as the player who was a teammate of the most future Hall of Famers. Scott Flatow determined that Quinn played with 28. Well there are several, including Leo Durocher and Bobo Newsom, but we now have two that played with 36: Burleigh Grimes (from Scott) and Waite Hoyt (from Greg Beston). Could anyone out there have more?

Also in the February newsletter I said that Babe Ruth should not be given credit for 1/3 of an inning pitched in the Red Sox no-hitter again Washington, June 23, 1917. That is correct, he shouldn't. However, I also said that Ernie Shore should be credited with a complete game, and that is not correct. Seymour Siwoff called to inform me of my error. Subsequent letters from Jim Smith and Walt Wilson also called attention to my poor choice of words. I apologize. What I meant to say was that Shore should be credited with *nine innings pitched*, which of course is not necessarily a complete game. Then, along comes a letter from Joe Wayman, to tell me that pitchers who got all the outs in a game in that era were credited with a complete game. I welcome comments.

Following are two new changes to the The Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book (1995 edition) proposed by the Records Committee.

1. In the 1994 edition, TSN corrected an error carried in previous editions (discovered by Frank Williams) and gave the Red Sox credit for scoring 10 or more runs in an inning 24 times, and not 23. However, as Frank points out, the Red Sox did it again during the 1994 season, scoring ten runs in the first inning at Toronto on June 21. The entry in the 1995 Record Book (p.47) does not reflect this. It should now read 25.

2. On page 11 of the 1995 edition the American League record for Most pitchers used by both clubs, inning is correctly shown as seven. It happened in the ninth inning of a game between Chicago (4) and Baltimore (3) on July 16, 1955. However, while working on the 1975 Red Sox for Retrosheet, Greg Beston found another game in which seven pitchers were used in one inning. In the ninth inning at Baltimore on June 20, 1975, the Orioles used four: Mike Torrez, Grant Jackson, Doyle Alexander and Ross Grimsley, and Boston used three: Bill Lee, Reggie Cleveland and Roger Moret.

Walt Wilson submitted a copy of the June 13, 1938 New York Times with the Associated Press wire story of the previous day's doubleheader between the St. Louis Browns and the Philadelphia Athletics at Philadelphia. In the second game, called after five innings because of rain, Bud Thomas of the A's pitched a one-hit shutout. Walt points out that Total Baseball! includes this shutout in Thomas's record, but that Macmillan and Neft do not.

Gene Noll has uncovered an error in The Baseball Encyclopedia in Jack Stivetts's 1894 pinch-hitting statistics. He is listed as going 0-5, with the five at-bats leading the league. Gene has found that Stivetts (Boston NL) made seven pinch-hitting appearances and had two hits. On June 28, he hit a ninth-inning home run against St. Louis, while batting for Kid Nichols, and two days later tripled while again batting for Nichols in the ninth against St. Louis. Bob Davids, editor of the 1979 SABR publication Great Hitting Pitchers gives an account of Stivetts June 28 home run on page 46. It was the first major league pinch-hit home run by a pitcher.

I received a letter asking which "pitcher-catcher" was the major league's winningest battery. There are some obvious guesses, but if any of you track such things please let me know. My first reaction was Ruffing-Dickey.