

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: Please note the following change of address:
Frank D'Amico, 225 Baker Street # 4, West Roxbury, MA 02132.
Frank's new phone number is 617-325-1562.

In his always interesting newsletter Baseball's Active Leaders, Dan Heisman had in his October 1993 issue an article that I think would be of interest to all Records Committee members. It would be of particular value to those newer members who have not yet run into the many problems related to baseball's "historic record." I often get calls and letters from people who say that different sources show different statistics for the same player or the same season. I guess it's discouraging the first time you run into this, sort of like the first time you discovered that governments lie. I tell them that resolving these differences, or more accurately attempting to resolve them, is one of the main purposes of the Records Committee, and that we would love to have their help in doing so.

Speaking of help, in a recent issue of the SABR newsletter, Andy McCue of the Bibliography Committee discussed his committee's work on the Baseball Online project. Essentially it is an attempt to create a central source of available research references. The obvious value of such a resource should be apparent to any researcher. This is a vast undertaking, and one that desperately needs volunteers to catalog sources and articles. There are numerous ways that people can help so I appeal to newer Records Committee members who are looking for a worthwhile project in which to get involved to volunteer. Write to Andy McCue, 4025 Beechwood Place, Riverside, CA 92506, or call him at 909-787-4954 (H), or 909-782-7505 (W).

I received a letter from a man named Alan Hirsch, who asked if there are any data available pertaining to the results of doubleheaders, i.e. how many are swept and how many are split. Anybody out there have this information?

Some of you may have missed this. In the Atlanta-Montreal game of September 21, there were 13 pinch hitters used, a new major league record for a nine-inning game, both clubs. Thanks to Stan Cohen, who called to tell me about it.

Each year Bob Boehm tapes the American and National League Championship Series and the World Series, and compares the scoring in USA Today and Baseball Weekly to what he has on tape. This year he found twenty-seven discrepancies in the eighteen games played. If anyone is interested in getting this list, send a SASE to Bob at 81 Rivercliff Road, Lowell, MA 01852. Because his tape ran out, Bob is looking for the scoring for both Philadelphia and Toronto in the ninth inning of the fourth game of the WS. If anyone has this, please send it on to Bob.

There still seems to be a lot of disagreement on the question of the status of the American League in 1900--major league or minor league. One of those who votes "major" is Joe Wayman. Joe will make his case in the 1994 edition of his Grandstand Baseball Annual. The GBA is an excellent well-researched publication. Whether you agree with Joe or not, this is an article that should be read by everyone who has an interest in the subject.

In the October newsletter there was a list from Ted DiTullio of pitchers with the most games in organized baseball. Bob Hoie sent in the following additions and corrections to Ted's list.

1. Joe McGinnity pitched in 594 minor league games for a total of 1,061. The extra game was with Springfield (IL) of the Three-Eye League in 1925. (Not listed in Daguerreotypes)
2. Bill Thomas pitched in 1,016 minor league, and total games. The extra game was with Wenatchee (WA) of the Western International League in 1937. (Not listed in Minor League Stars I)
3. Bobo Newsom pitched in 600 major league games and 351 minor league games for a total of 951. That would make him 23rd on the all-time list dropping Jeff Reardon to 24th and Cy Young to 25th.

Here is another offering from Ted DiTullio. It is of players who have had at least 680 official at-bats in a single season.

Willie Wilson	1980	Kansas City	AL	705
Juan Samuel	1984	Philadelphia	NL	701
Dave Cash	1975	Philadelphia	NL	699
Matty Alou	1969	Pittsburgh	NL	698
Woody Jensen	1936	Pittsburgh	NL	696
Maury Wills	1962	Los Angeles	NL	695
Omar Moreno	1979	Pittsburgh	NL	695
Bobby Richardson	1962	New York	AL	692
Kirby Puckett	1985	Minnesota	AL	691
Lou Brock	1967	St. Louis	NL	689
Sandy Alomar Sr.	1971	California	AL	689
Dave Cash	1974	Philadelphia	NL	687
Tony Fernandez	1986	Toronto	AL	687
Horace Clarke	1970	New York	AL	686
Lloyd Waner	1931	Pittsburgh	NL	681
Jo-Jo Moore	1935	New York	NL	681
Pete Rose	1973	Cincinnati	NL	680
Frank Taveras	1979	Pittsburgh	NL	680
Kirby Puckett	1986	Minnesota	AL	680

In recent years much has been said about players who reach the 30-30 club, that is players with 30 home runs and thirty stolen bases. In 1988 Jose Canseco became the first player to reach the 40-40 club. In contrast, Walt Wilson has submitted a list of players with at least 400 at-bats in a season, who had a combined total of home runs and stolen bases equal to zero or one. As you can see, there are some very good players on the list, including two Hall of Famers.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Player</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Lg</u>	<u>AB</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>SB</u>
1911	Lee Tannehill	CHI	AL	516	0	0
1920	Joe Gedeon	STL	AL	606	0	1
1926	Wally Gerber	STL	AL	411	0	0
1926	Zack Taylor	BOS	NL	432	0	1
1927	Hod Ford	CIN	NL	409	1	0
1928	Hod Ford	CIN	NL	506	0	1
1928	Heinie Sand	PHI	NL	426	0	1
1930	Tommy Thevenow	PHI	NL	573	0	1
1931	Tommy Thevenow	PIT	NL	404	0	0
1931	Roy Spencer	WAS	AL	483	1	0
1931	Earl Sheely	BOS	NL	538	1	0
1932	Tom Oliver	BOS	AL	455	0	1
1932	Marv Olson	BOS	AL	403	0	1
1933	Mule Haas	CHI	AL	585	1	0
1933	Ray Hayworth	DET	AL	425	1	0
1934	Tommy Thevenow	PIT	NL	446	0	0
1934	Rick Ferrell	BOS	AL	437	1	0
1934	Adam Comorosky	CIN	NL	446	0	1
1935	Hal Lee	BOS	NL	422	0	0
1935	Lloyd Waner	PIT	NL	537	0	1
1935	Tommy Thevenow	PIT	NL	408	0	1
1936	Mule Haas	CHI	AL	408	0	1
1940	Joe Vosmik	BKL	NL	404	1	0
1944	Emil Verban	STL	NL	498	0	0
1945	Len Schulte	STL	AL	430	0	0
1946	Mark Christman	STL	AL	458	1	0
1948	Mark Christman	STL	AL	409	1	0
1948	Barney McCosky	PHI	AL	515	0	1
1951	Eddie Waitkus	PHI	NL	610	1	0
1952	Pete Runnels	WAS	AL	555	1	0
1954	Dick Cole	PIT	NL	486	1	0
1956	Dick Groat	PIT	NL	520	0	0
1958	Billy Goodman	CHI	AL	425	0	1
1964	Nellie Fox	HOU	NL	442	0	0
1965	Dick Groat	STL	NL	587	0	1
1967	Woody Woodward	ATL	NL	429	0	0
1967	Dal Maxvill	STL	NL	476	1	0
1968	Dal Maxvill	STL	NL	459	1	0
1968	Jerry May	PIT	NL	416	1	0
1968	Jesus Alou	SF	NL	419	0	1
1969	Hal Lanier	SF	NL	495	0	0
1972	Marty Perez	ATL	NL	479	1	0
1975	Bill Sharp	CHI-MIL	AL	408	1	0
1976	Dave Chalk	CAL	AL	438	0	0
1976	Roger Metzger	HOU	NL	481	0	1

RECORDS POTPOURRI: The discovery of corrections and additions to the "historical record" continues.

Neil Munro, in researching Games Finished for Pete Alexander and Walter Johnson, found errors in the pitching totals for the 1913 Philadelphia Phillies and the 1908 Washington Senators. Neil was checking Games Started, Games Finished and Complete Games only, however, it seems likely that there are also errors in these teams' other pitching categories. Anybody with a special interest in the Senators or Phillies, or Johnson and Alexander?

Here are Neil's findings, with an asterisk beside the corrected totals.

1908 Washington Senators

	<u>G</u>	<u>GS</u>	<u>CG</u>	<u>GF</u>
Bill Burns	23	19	11	1
Eli Cates	19	10	7	8
Cy Falkenberg	17	8	5	5
Henry Gehring	3	1	0	1
Tom Hughes	43	31	24	11
Walter Johnson	36	30*	23	6*
Burt Keely	28	15*	12	12*
Case Patten	4	3	1	1
Charlie Smith	26	23*	14*	3*
Jesse Tannehill	10	9	5	1
Roy Witherup	6	6	4	0

1913 Philadelphia Phillies

	<u>G</u>	<u>GS</u>	<u>CG</u>	<u>GF</u>
Pete Alexander	47	36*	23	9*
Ad Brennan	40	25	12	11
Howie Camnitz	9	5	1	2
George Chalmers	26	14*	4	5*
Jack Finneran	3	0	0	3
Jim Haislip	1	0	0	1
Ray Hartranft	1	0	0	0
Doc Imlay	9	0	0	4
Roy Marshall	14	1*	0	6*
Erskine Mayer	39	19*	7	13*
Earl Moore	12	5*	0	5*
Red Nelson	2	0	0	1
Eppa Rixey	35	19	9	8
Tom Seaton	52	35	21	14

Walt Wilson found discrepancies in the Games Started totals for five National League pitchers in 1918. For documentation and lists of the dates of the games check with Walt.

1. Burleigh Grimes of Brooklyn had 30 starts, not 28.
2. Jack Coombs of Brooklyn had 20 starts, not 22.
3. Lee Meadows of St. Louis had 23 starts, not 21.
4. Bill Sherdel of St. Louis had 16 starts, not 17.
5. Jackie May of St. Louis had 15 starts, not 16.