

Society For American Baseball Research

Baseball Records Committee

Lyle Spatz, Editor

August 2007

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

RECORDS COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER REACHES 100

I started publishing this newsletter in February 1991 and have done it bimonthly ever since. I am currently working on an index, to be posted online, which will allow members to find all issues in which a specific player's name appeared.

SABR 37 IN ST. LOUIS

Bravo to **Steve Gietschier** and all the men and women who worked with him to make SABR 37 the smoothest run convention we've ever had. And congratulations to **Andy McCue** on winning the Bob Davids Award, a terrific and well-deserved choice. Our committee meeting was devoted primarily to a discussion of "The SABR Baseball List & Record Book," and an entertaining slide show by **Stan Tyler** on his quest to find the longest streaks of consecutive games with a triple.

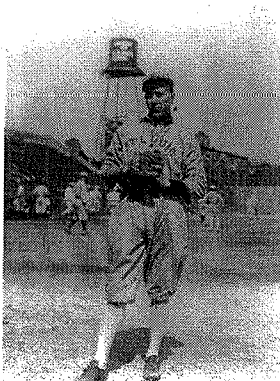
MOST CONSECUTIVE BATTERS HIT BY PITCHER

Mike Grahek came across a pitching performance by Earl Hamilton of the St. Louis Browns that, at the time it occurred, would have established an American League record for Most hit batters in an inning by a pitcher. It had happened several times previously in the National League and has happened several times since in both leagues.

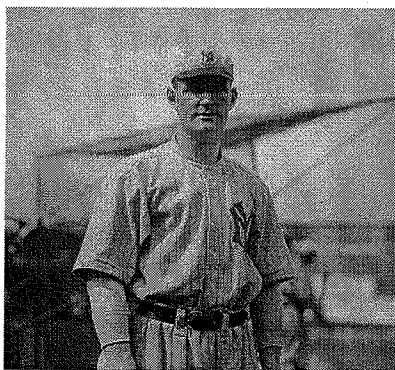
On September 10, 1912, Hamilton started at home against the New York Yankees. In the sixth inning, after retiring Del Paddock on a grounder for the first out, Hamilton proceeded to hit Ed Sweeney, George McConnell, and Tommy McMillan in succession to load the bases. Hamilton was then relieved by Mack Allison, and Hal Chase lined into a double play to end the inning with no runs scoring.

According to *The Sporting News Complete Baseball Record and Fact Book*, and *The Elias Book of Baseball Records*, pitchers hitting three batters in one inning had occurred four times in the National League in the 1890's and once in 1905, by Deacon Phillippe, but never in the American League. The first previously known American League pitcher to hit three batters in an inning was Bert Gallia of Washington, in 1913. Two of the 19th century incidents involved hitting consecutive batters, but Hamilton was the first 20th century pitcher to hit three in a row.

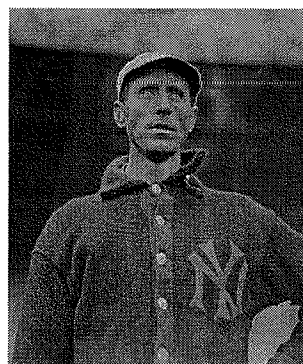
Mike found his information in game accounts from the September 11, 1912 editions of the *New York Times*, the *New York Press*, and the *New York Herald*. All agree on the details, as do the September 10, 1912 play-by-play accounts in the *New York Mail* and *New York Evening Telegram*. The official records also confirm that Hamilton hit three consecutive batters in this game.



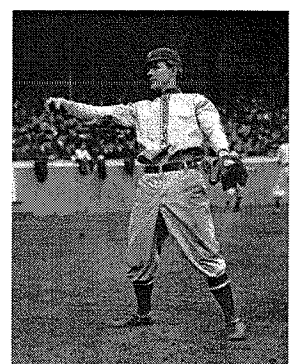
Earl Hamilton



Ed Sweeney



George McConnell



Tommy McMillan

A MEMORABLE WEEK FOR BROOKLYN'S JIMMY JOHNSTON

Jimmy Johnston batted .292 in ten seasons for the Dodgers (1916-25), and only Zack Wheat, Pee Wee Reese, Carl Furillo, Gil Hodges, Duke Snider, and Jackie Robinson played in more games and had more at-bats for Brooklyn than Johnston. He was also a member of Brooklyn's pennant-winning teams of 1916 and 1920, yet Johnston is mostly forgotten today. But **Trent McCotter** found a streak by Johnston in 1923 that makes him only the third player to have Six consecutive games with three or more hits. The other two are Hall-of-Famers: Sam Thompson of the Philadelphia Phillies in 1895, and George Brett of the Kansas City Royals in 1976.

June 24: 1-for-2, 1BB

June 25: 5-for-5

June 27: 3-for-4, 2BB

June 28: 4-for-5

June 29: 3-for-5, 1BB

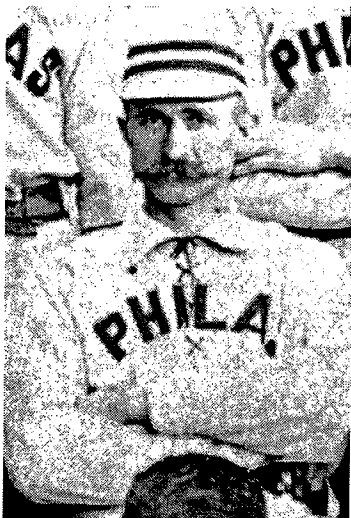
June 30 (1G): 4-for-5, 1BB

June 30 (2G): 4-for-4

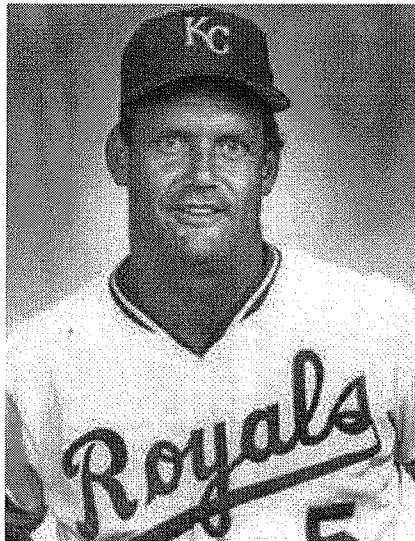
Trent asked **Dave Smith** of *Retrosheet* to check Johnston's play-by-play files and his official sheets, both of which confirm the six straight 3-hit games. There is some disagreement about whether he had 3 or 4 hits in one of the games, but that does not affect this particular streak.

Here are some other feats Johnston accomplished during his sensational week last week of June in 1923:

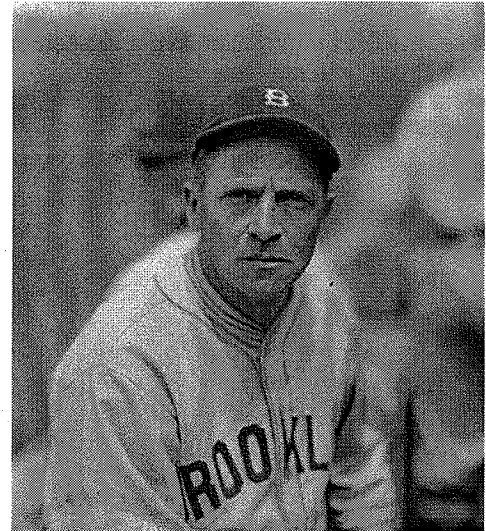
- Most hits over five consecutive games (19); only Cal McVey in 1876 (21) has tied or beaten that.
- Most hits over six consecutive games (23); only Cal McVey (24) has tied or beaten that.
- He reached base safely 25 times in 30 plate appearances; only Barry Bonds (26/30 in 2004) has beaten that, and only a handful have reached in 25/30.
- He had 20 hits in 25 at bats; in the past 51 years, the best by anyone was 19-for-25 (Albert Pujols in 2003).
- He had 24 hits in 30 at-bats; in the past 51 years, the best by anyone was 21-for-30 (Rico Carty 1970, Al Oliver 1976, Rod Carew, 1977, Pete Rose 1979).
- He reached base safely 4+ times in each of six games; only four other players have even done that in five straight games.
- His marks for times on base over four consecutive games (18), five consecutive games (23), six consecutive games (27), and seven consecutive games (29) have only been beaten by Billy Hamilton in 1894.



Sam Thompson



George Brett



Jimmy Johnston

MOST PRODUCTIVE PLAYERS WHO MADE THEIR DEBUTS IN THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

David Frank has compiled lists of players who debuted in a specific year and went on to compiled the highest totals in various categories: games, hits, home runs, etc. This first list is for those who made their debuts between 1871 and 1875.

1871

Games: Cap Anson, 2524; Deacon White, 1560; Ezra Sutton, 1263; Joe Start, 1071; Davy Force, 1029
Runs: Cap Anson, 1996; Deacon White, 1140; Ezra Sutton, 992; Joe Start, 854; Tom York, 743
RBI: Cap Anson, 2075; Deacon White, 977; Ezra Sutton, 671; Joe Start, 544; Tom York, 502
Hits: Cap Anson, 3435; Deacon White, 2066; Ezra Sutton, 1574; Joe Start, 1418; Tom York, 1095
2B: Cap Anson, 582; Deacon White, 268; Ezra Sutton, 227; Tom York, 217; Joe Start, 147
3B: Cap Anson, 142; Ezra Sutton, 97; Deacon White, 96; Tom York, 89; Joe Start, 67
HR: Cap Anson, 97; Ezra Sutton, 25; Deacon White, 23; Lip Pike, 20 Tom York, 15; Joe Start, 15

1872

Games: Jim O'Rourke, 1999; Paul Hines, 1659; Jack Burdock, 11187; Candy Nelson, 1817; John Clapp, 588
Runs: Jim O'Rourke, 1729; Paul Hines, 1217; Jack Burdock, 777; Candy Nelson, 648; John Clapp, 457
RBI: Jim O'Rourke, 1203; Paul Hines, 855; Jack Burdock, 503; John Clapp, 275; Candy Nelson, 208
Hits: Jim O'Rourke, 2643; Paul Hines, 2134; Jack Burdock, 1230; Candy Nelson, 833; John Clapp, 714
2B: Jim O'Rourke, 465; Paul Hines, 399; Jack Burdock, 164; John Clapp, 91; Candy Nelson, 90
3B: Jim O'Rourke, 151; Paul Hines, 93; Jack Burdock, 50; Jack Remsen, 39; John Clapp, 35
HR: Jim O'Rourke, 62; Paul Hines, 57; Jack Burdock, 18; Jack Remsen, 8; John Clapp, 7

1873

Games: Joe Gerhardt, 1071; Pop Snyder, 930; Jack Manning, 834; Lou Say, 298; Jim Devlin, 266
Runs: Jack Manning 563; Joe Gerhardt, 493; Pop Snyder, 433; Lou Say, 181; Jim Devlin, 180
RBI: Pop Snyder, 385; Joe Gerhardt, 380; Jack Manning 361; Jim Devlin, 132; Lou Say, 50
Hits: Joe Gerhardt, 939; Jack Manning, 924; Pop Snyder, 855; Jim Devlin, 340; Lou Say, 287
2B: Jack Manning 172; Pop Snyder, 124; Joe Gerhardt, 122; Jim Devlin 46; Lou Say, 44
3B: Joe Gerhardt, 55; Pop Snyder, 41; Jack Manning, 37; Jim Devlin, 14; Lou Say, 8
HR: Jack Manning 14; Pop Snyder, 9; Joe Gerhardt, 7; Lou Say, 5; Jim Devlin 1; Johnny Ryan 1

1874

Games: Orator Shaffer, 871; John P. Peters, 615; Steve Brady, 490; Tommy Bond, 488; Billy Geer, 232
Runs: Orator Shaffer, 601; John P. Peters, 372; Steve Brady, 313; Tommy Bond, 213; Billy Geer, 128
RBI: Orator Shaffer, 317; John P. Peters, 249; Tommy Bond, 174; Steve Brady, 114; Jack Chapman, 60
Hits: Orator Shaffer, 1000; John P. Peters, 748; Steve Brady, 529; Tommy Bond, 471; Billy Geer, 191
2B: Orator Shaffer, 164; John P. Peters, 92; Tommy Bond, 53; Steve Brady, 50; Billy Geer, 36
3B: Orator Shaffer, 53; Steve Brady, 20; John P. Peters, 12; Tommy Bond, 11; Billy Geer, 11
HR: Orator Shaffer, 11; Steve Brady, 4; John P. Peters, 3; No other Home Runs

1875

Games: Charley Jones, 894; Silver Flint, 760; Jim Galvin, 731; Doc Bushong, 672; John Cassidy, 634
Runs: Charley Jones, 733; Lon Knight, 391; Silver Flint, 380; John Cassidy, 353; Doc Bushong, 287
RBI: Charley Jones, 552; Silver Flint, 295; Bill Crowley, 225; Jim Galvin 220; Jim Keenan, 208
Hits: Charley Jones, 1114; Silver Flint, 687; John Cassidy, 650; Lon Knight, 555; Jim Galvin 552
2B: Charley Jones, 172; Silver Flint, 129; Lon Knight, 93; John Cassidy, 87; Jim Galvin 87
3B: Charley Jones, 102; George Bradley, 38; Lon Knight, 37; Jim Keenan, 36, Silver Flint 34
HR: Charley Jones, 56; Jim Keenan, 22; Silver Flint, 21; Oscar Walker, 11; Bill Crowley, 8

CATCHING CURT SIMMONS AND BILLY PIERCE

Courtesy of **Walt Wilson**, here are the battery mates for two of the great left-handers of the 1950s. Both started their careers as teenagers in the 1940s, were top-flight pitchers in the 1950s, and ended their careers in the "other" league in the 1960s.

CATCHING CURT SIMMONS

Curt Simmons pitched for Philadelphia (NL) 1947-50, 1952-60; St. Louis (NL) 1960-66; Chicago (NL) 1966-67; and California (AL) 1967. He made 462 starts and pitched 36 shutouts.

	<u>Starts</u>	<u>Shutouts</u>
Stan Lopata	107	6
Tim McCarver	74	7
Andy Seminick	69	2
Smoky Burgess	58	7
Carl Sawatski	31	4
Randy Hundley	22	1
Hal R. Smith	22	0
Bob Uecker	21	0
Gene Oliver	15	1
Joe Lonnett	13	2
Jimmie Schaffer	9	0
Don Padgett	3	0
Buck Rodgers	3	1
Jimmie Coker	2	0
Dave Ricketts	2	0
Ken Silvestri	2	0
John Boccabella	1	0
Don Bryant	1	0
Pat Corrales	1	0
Jim Hegan	1	0
Al Lakeman	1	0
Gus Niarhos	1	0
Del Rice	1	0
Hawk Taylor	1	0
Hal Wagner	1	0
Total	462	36

Five of Simmons' shutouts were with more than one catcher.

CATCHING BILLY PIERCE

Billy Pierce pitched for Detroit (AL) 1945, 1948; Chicago (AL) 1949-61; and San Francisco (NL) 1962-64. He made 432 starts and pitched 38 shutouts.

	<u>Starts</u>	<u>Shutouts</u>
Sherm Lollar	203	19
Phil Masi	42	1
Ed Bailey	22	2
Red Wilson	18	4
Earl Sheely	14	2
Cam Carreon	13	0
Les Moss	13	2
Earl Battey	12	1
Tom Haller	12	1
Matt Batts	11	2
Gus Niarhos	11	1
Eddie Malone	9	0
Joe Tipton	9	0
Don Wheeler	9	0
Johnny Romano	7	0
Joe Ginsberg	5	0
Carl Sawatski	4	0
Dick Brown	3	0
John Orsino	3	0
Bob Roselli	3	0
Bob Swift	3	0
Hank Riebe	2	0
Clint Courtney	1	0
Joe Erault	1	0
Darrell Johnson	1	1
George Yankowski	1	0
Total	432	38

Two of Pierce's shutouts were with more than one catcher.

