

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: The meeting of the Records Committee at the convention will be on Saturday morning, June 29th, at 8:30 A.M. We don't have a room as yet but it will be somewhere on the 6th floor. I look forward to seeing you there.

In the last newsletter I told you about Joe Dittmar's attempt to have corrected an entry in the recordbooks for most hit batsmen in a game, both teams. The modern record is carried as seven, having occurred several times. One instance is claimed to have happened in a game between the Giants and the Braves (then called the Beaneaters) in Boston on August 1, 1903. With much perseverance and some very convincing boxscores and news accounts, Joe has finally persuaded Seymour Siwoff of Elias to agree to delete that date in his next edition. Siwoff also agreed to correct another error that Joe had discovered. Elias has been carrying as the record for most runs scored at the start of a game before a team made its first out, as ten. The record-holding team they claimed was the Giants, who supposedly scored ten runs before their first batter was retired in a game against St. Louis at the Polo Grounds on May 13, 1911. Using accounts from the New York Sun, Herald, World, Tribune and the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Joe proved that only seven runs had scored before Larry Doyle, the eleventh batter in the inning made the first out. The confusion here may lie in the fact that the first ten batters all did indeed score, but not before an out was made. Another of Joe's discoveries, Harley Parker having faced only 48 batters rather than a record-tying 49, in a game for the Reds at Brooklyn on June 21, 1901 has not been accepted by Mr. Siwoff. Craig Carter of The Sporting News has accepted none of the three. Congratulations Joe on your discoveries and your tenacity.

Congratulations also to Pete Palmer and everybody that contributed to Total Baseball II, an indispensable resource.

Rich Topp informs us that two sets of brothers credited with a combined 100 wins by Ted Di Tullio were not really brothers. The Radbourns were in fact cousins, and the Galvins were unrelated.

A special thanks to Joe Dittmar who has volunteered to do the photocopying for the newsletters.

Jim Weigand is continuing his research on home runs by player by park. He has completed it back to 1923. Jim's plan is to go back to 1920, I am trying to convince him to go back to 1876. Perhaps some of you would like to volunteer to help him in this worthwhile endeavor.

Jim has discovered that in 1991 Rickey Henderson homered in all 14 American League parks. No other A.L. player had done this since the expansion to 14 teams in 1977. And in the years between 1969 and 1976, when the league had 12 teams, only Reggie Jackson in 1975 homered in all 12 parks.

In the National League, which also expanded to 12 teams in 1969 and is still at 12, it has been done six times. Willie McCovey, Willie Stargell, and Joe Pepitone did it in 1970; Johnny Bench in 1973; George Foster in 1977; and Mike Schmidt in 1979.

A valuable by-product of Jim's research is the discovery of several errors in the home run record. As of this time only one has been confirmed by Bob McConnell. A grand slam home run hit by Phillies pitcher Phil Collins on June 23, 1929 has been erroneously credited to Walt Lerian.

We should all be very pleased that Jim and Joe and others on the committee are turning up these errors in the historical record and getting them corrected. That is the major purpose of the committee, so if you find one send it along.

On the subject of corrections, congratulations to John Schwartz on being named chairman of the newly created Box Score committee. As you read in the last SABR bulletin this committee will attempt to balance the box scores for every major league game ever played, a most formidable task but a very exciting one. All of us who have done research from box scores are aware of the many potential pitfalls. For instance, if you had looked at the box score on April 19th this year for the previous day's game between the Orioles and the Brewers at Milwaukee, you would have noted that Baltimore first baseman, Glenn Davis had been charged with three errors. However, that night during a game against Texas, it was announced in the press box at Memorial stadium that an error in the previous night's game that had been charged to second baseman Bill Ripken had been changed and was now charged to Davis. This gave Davis four errors, tying him with Hal Chase, George Sisler, and Jimmy Wasdell for the one game American League record. The point is that, as we all know, box scores can often be misleading. This box score was in balance, but it was also in error. Because Davis' performance was a record-tying one, it was well covered in the next days newspapers. Had one of Davis' first three errors been switched to someone else, it probably would have been noted in the next day's paper, but finding it would have involved reading all the notes. What I'm trying to say in a rather long-winded way is that just looking at box scores is not enough, and that those of us who become involved in this project should keep that in mind.

Bill Deane has been researching home/road performances of National League batters. He has looked at the careers of the league's all-time best hitters, as well as many outstanding individual seasons of other players. While he will continue with this research, Bill believes that the following will hold up as the National League's best.

BATTING AVERAGE

Season at home (min. 80 hits)	.478	Rogers Hornsby, STL, 1925
Season on road (min. 80 hits)	.419	Rogers Hornsby, STL, 1921
Career at home (min. 800 hits)	.360	Rogers Hornsby
Career on road (min. 800 hits)	.359	Rogers Hornsby

ON BASE PERCENTAGE*

Season at home (100 times reached)	.565	Rogers Hornsby, STL, 1925
Season on road (100 times reached)	.505	Rogers Hornsby, BOS, 1928
Career at home (1000 times reached)	.437	Rogers Hornsby
Career on road (1000 times reached)	.431	Rogers Hornsby

* Does not include sacrifice flies

SLUGGING PERCENTAGE

Season at home (min. 120 TB)	.902	Rogers Hornsby, STL, 1925
Season on road (min. 120 TB)	.780	Stan Musial, STL, 1948
Career at home (min. 1200 TB)	.619	Chuck Klein
Career on road (min. 1200 TB)	.568	Rogers Hornsby

RUNS SCORED

Season at home	92	Chuck Klein, PHI, 1932
Season on road	79	Mel Ott, NY, 1929
Career at home	1092	Pete Rose
Career on road	1073	Pete Rose

HITS

Season at home	144	Lefty O'Doul, PHI, 1929
Season on road	132	Stan Musial, STL, 1948
Career at home	2123	Pete Rose
Career on road	2133	Pete Rose

TOTAL BASES

Season at home	270	Chuck Klein, PHI, 1932
Season on road	248	Stan Musial, STL, 1948
Career at home	3201	Hank Aaron
Career on road	3390	Hank Aaron

Pete Palmer is compiling a list for all outfielders of games played in left, center, and right. He has complete data for the American Association, the Union Association, the Players League, the Federal League, and the American League. For the National League he has data for 1876-1910.

John O'Malley is campaigning to have the record books publish runs allowed by pitchers. The Baseball Library at Cooperstown has game-by-game runs allowed by all pitchers for the American Association (1882-1891), the Union Association (1884), the Players League (1890), the Federal League (1914-1915), the American League (1901-present) and the National League (1891 to Present). The only missing data are for the National League from 1876 to 1890. Thus, data are needed for the following teams.

Boston	1876-1890	St. Louis	1876-1877; 1885-1886
Chicago	1876-1890	Troy	1879-1882
Detroit	1881-1888	Philadelphia	1876; 1883-1890
New York	1883-1890	Cleveland	1879-1884; 1889-1890
Buffalo	1879-1885	Providence	1878-1885
Pittsburgh	1887-1890	Cincinnati	1876-1880; 1890
Washington	1886-1889	Indianapolis	1878; 1887-1889
Worcester	1880-1882	Brooklyn	1876; 1890
Hartford	1876-1877	Louisville	1876-1877
Milwaukee	1878	Kansas City	1886
Syracuse	1879		

John is willing to fill in the data for New York, Brooklyn and Philadelphia. Anybody interested in working on one or more of the other cities? If so contact John at (212) 568-7387.

RECORDS POTPOURRI: Here are a few highlights and milestones from the first six weeks of the season.

April 15: Dave Winfield played in his 2,407th game, moving past Zack Wheat for 44th place on the all-time list.

April 16: Jose Vizcaino became the 1,500th player to appear for the Cubs in at least one game.

Dick Schofield played in his 933rd game as an Angel, moving him past Buck Rodgers into fifth place on the club's all-time list.

April 21: Playing at home, Pittsburgh scored six runs in the bottom of the eleventh inning to defeat the Cubs 13-12. Chicago had scored five runs in the top of the inning. The Pirates become the first major league team ever to come from five runs behind to win an extra-inning game.

April 24: Jack Morris, of Minnesota, became the fortieth major league pitcher to have at least 2,000 strikeouts.

April 28: Morris defeated Seattle to become the major league's 89th two hundred game winner.

Jason Grimsley of the Phillies threw a wild pitch in his ninth consecutive appearance. This broke the major league record that had been held by Jaime Cocanower.

May 17: In a night game at Philadelphia, the Phillies defeated the Cubs 1-0 in sixteen innings. It was the longest 1-0 game in Phillies history.