

# Society for American Baseball Research Baseball Records Committee Newsletter ©

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Lyle Spatz, Editor

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

—Albert Einstein

In case you missed it, Mike Greenwell batted in all nine runs in Boston's 10-inning 9-8 victory over Seattle on September 2. The game was played in Seattle and did not make a lot of morning papers in the East. It didn't get much mention, but Greenwell established a new major league record for Most runs batted in accounting for all club's runs, game. The old record was eight, held by George Kelly of the New York Giants (June 14, 1924) and Bob Johnson of the Philadelphia Athletics (June 12, 1938). Kelly retains the NL record.



BOB JOHNSON



GEORGE KELLY

Thanks to Joe Dittmar for the idea, the technology involved, and supplying the photos for use in the newsletter.

**FOUR PINCH RUNNERS IN ONE INNING:** Both the 1996 edition of The Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book (page 9) and the 1996 edition of The Elias Book of Baseball Records (page 119) include the record for Most pinch runners used by one team in an inning. The American League record is four, set by Chicago against Minnesota in the 9th inning on Sept. 16, 1967 and tied by Texas against California in the ninth inning on Sept. 10, 1987. Greg Beston has found a third game where this occurred. In the seventh inning of a 13-2 victory against Chicago on September 24, 1975, Oakland used Matt Alexander to run for Joe Rudi, Ted Martinez to run for Bert Campaneris, Cesar Tovar to run for Phil Garner, and Gaylen Pitts to run for Sal Bando. (Thanks to Dave Smith of Retrosheet for confirmation of the details.)

Congratulations to Ken Samelson and the people at Macmillan for their work on the tenth edition of The Baseball Encyclopedia. Naturally, I'm pleased at all the corrections that Ken accepted from the Record Committee's Baseball Records Update—1993, along with the corrections of several other discrepancies uncovered by committee members. Many of them were the work of Frank Williams. Frank is the man who discovered that Walter Johnson had 33 wins (33-12) in 1912, not 32, which gave him 417 lifetime wins, not 416. Macmillan now joins Total Baseball and The Sports Encyclopedia—Baseball in recognizing Frank's correction to Johnson's win total.

Even more rewarding was The Baseball Encyclopedia's acceptance of Ron Rakowski's finding that Roger Maris had 141 RBI's in 1961, not 142. Maris is now shown as the co-leader with Baltimore's Jim Gentile, who also had 141. Ron, of course, also discovered that Mickey Mantle scored 131 runs that year, not 132, and rather than being the co-leader with Maris, finished one behind him. That correction did not make into the edition of the encyclopedia, but, in a phrase I haven't used since 1956, "Wait til next year."

Ron found the Mantle and Maris errors while conducting an exhaustive day-by-day review of the 1961 season. In the process he found inaccuracies in the individual records of numerous players and has documented them by team and date, comparing various newspaper accounts, individual sportswriters scorecards, and team scoresheets against the player's "official" record. The errors are primarily errors of omission (e.g. failing to record a strikeout) and crediting a statistic to the wrong player (e.g. giving Yogi Berra an at-bat that should have gone to Hector Lopez). This four-page newsletter does not provide sufficient space to describe the errors in full detail, but following is a list of season totals for players on the 1961 Yankees that should be corrected.

Keep in mind that a correction to a player's at-bats may also affect his batting average, slugging average and on-base percentage. Also, these corrections must be made to the player's lifetime totals.

PLAYER	CATEGORY	OLD	NEW
Yogi Berra	Caught Stealing	0	1
Yogi Berra	At Bats	395	394
Clete Boyer	Walks	63	64
Clete Boyer	Intentional Walks	4	5
Clete Boyer	Grounded Into DP	13	14
Clete Boyer	Strikeouts	83	82
Bob Cerv	Grounded Into DP (as Yankee)	6	7
Bob Cerv	Grounded Into DP (season total)	10	11
Whitey Ford	Strikeouts (as pitcher)	209	210
Jesse Gonder	Caught Stealing	0	1
Elston Howard	Stolen Bases	0	1
Elston Howard	Caught Stealing	3	2
Elston Howard	Strikeouts	65	64
Tony Kubek	Caught Stealing	3	4
Tony Kubek	Walks	27	26
Hector Lopez	At Bats	243	244
Hector Lopez	Grounded Into DP	8	7

**SO WHAT REALLY CONSTITUTES A SHUTOUT?** Shutout maven Joe Wayman disputes an item in the last newsletter concerning a "shutout" pitched by Dick Coffman of Washington against Boston on September 21, 1932. Jim Smith claimed that because Coffman left for a pinch hitter in the top of the tenth with the score 0-0, and the Senators scored a run and won 1-0 (Lloyd Brown pitched the last of the tenth) Coffman should get the win, but not the shutout. However, says Joe, the scoring practice in 1932 was that if you pitched at least nine innings of an extra-inning game, and won, you were credited with a shutout. Therefore, because Coffman earlier in the season had a shutout while pitching for St. Louis (April 17, against the Tigers at Detroit) he did indeed have two for the 1932 season. The Sports Encyclopedia--Baseball correctly gives him two, one with each team, and The Baseball Encyclopedia, while not breaking down shutouts by team, also gives him two. But Total Baseball, while giving him credit for the one with Washington, fails to give him the one with St. Louis.

Ed Brown found these typos in The Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book: On page 45, Most Innings Scored In By Both Clubs, Nine-Inning Game, the NL record since 1900 is 14. Los Angeles and Chicago tied the record on May 25, 1976. But the entry should read: Los Angeles 8, Chicago 6, not Los Angeles 8, Chicago 8. On page 192, where TSN lists pitchers with Two Complete-Game Victories In One Day, they show Ed Summers of Detroit winning two on September 25, 1908. The scores are shown as 7-2 and X1-0. The (X) is meant to indicate that this was a 10-inning game, however, that is not explained at the bottom of the table.

Below are more of Walt Wilson's discoveries of incorrectly credited Games Started by pitchers. These corrections, and those that appeared in previous newsletters, are incorporated in the new edition of The Baseball Encyclopedia. They, and others as noted previously, also appear in the fourth edition of Total Baseball. They are not in earlier editions of either, nor have any of Walt's corrections yet made their way into The Sports Encyclopedia--Baseball.

Year	Team	Pitcher	Old GS	New GS
1916	Philadelphia (NL)	Mike Prendergast	0	1
1916	Philadelphia (NL)	George Smith	20	19
1919	St. Louis (NL)	Bill Sherdel	10	11
1919	St. Louis (NL)	Eddie Schupp	9	10
1919	St. Louis (NL)	Oscar Tuero	17	16
1919	St. Louis (NL)	Red Ames	7	6
1920	Boston (NL)	Dana Fillingim	31	30
1920	Boston (NL)	Jack Scott	33	32
1920	Boston (NL)	Dick Rudolph	11	12
1920	Boston (NL)	Hugh McQuillan	26	27
1920	Brooklyn (NL)	Sherry Smith	13	12
1920	Brooklyn (NL)	Al Mamaux	17	18
1920	Cincinnati (NL)	Hod Eller	23	22
1920	Cincinnati (NL)	Ray Fisher	21	22

**A DISPUTED LOSS FOR KING KELLY:** Walt also believes that a pitching loss charged to King Kelly in 1884 might reasonably be charged to Ned Williamson. The game was played at Detroit on June 12, and Walt sent me the game account and box score from the Chicago Inter-Ocean. Kelly, who relieved starter Larry Corcoran, left after the eighth inning with Chicago leading 7-6. But Detroit scored three runs in the ninth, all off Williamson, to win the game 9-7. I checked the Detroit News, which had no box score but its game account confirmed that Williamson came on in the ninth and surrendered the three Detroit runs. By modern-day rules, this certainly would be a loss for Williamson and not Kelly, but as we know the awarding of wins and losses was rather tricky back then. In this year's Grandstand Baseball Annual, Joe Wayman discusses some of the guidelines used in determining wins and losses in the nineteenth century. One method was to give the win or loss to the pitcher who "pitched the bulk of the game." That may be the reason Kelly got the loss here. By the way congratulations to Joe who consistently puts out one of the most informative and interesting baseball publications to be had.

Mickey Mantle	Runs Scored	132	131
Mickey Mantle	Caught Stealing	1	2
Mickey Mantle	Grounded Into DP	2	3
Roger Maris	Runs Batted In	142	141
Roger Maris	Grounded Into DP	16	18
Hal Reniff	Strikeouts (as batter)	2	4
Bobby Richardson	Walks	30	28
Bobby Richardson	Intentional Walks	1	2
Bobby Richardson	Grounded Into DP	15	16
Bobby Richardson	Strikeouts	23	24
Bobby Richardson	Caught Stealing	7	8
Roland Sheldon	Strikeouts (as batter)	24	26
Bill Skowron	Runs Scored	76	77
Bill Skowron	Walks	35	36
Bill Skowron	Strikeouts	108	107
Bill Skowron	Caught Stealing	0	1
Bill Skowron	Grounded Into DP	21	23
Bill Stafford	Strikeouts (as batter)	11	12
Bill Stafford	Strikeouts (as pitcher)	101	102
Bill Stafford	Walks (as batter)	4	5
Ralph Terry	Strikeouts (as pitcher)	86	87
New York Yankees	Intentional Walks	45	47
New York Yankees	Caught Stealing	18	22
New York Yankees	Grounded Into DP	120	126
New York Yankees	Strikeouts (as batters)	785	788

John Schwartz wrote to say that while he admired the format of the new Macmillan Encyclopedia and was pleased that they had once again made Deacon McGuire a right-handed thrower, he did question the mixing of fielding statistics for players who played more than one position (e.g. Babe Ruth as an outfielder and a pitcher). He also questions (as do I) Macmillan's failure to include pitchers' fractional innings-pitched between 1970 and 1981. Also, John noticed a discrepancy between Macmillan and The Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book (page 100) concerning Ozzie Smith's lifetime double plays. TSN has Smith with 1,554 through the 1995 season, while Mac has him with 1,551. John thinks TSN is right on this one, but points out that they failed to include Eddie Murray in their list of players with more than 2,000 singles (page 164). Murray ended the 1995 season with 2,026 singles.