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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

From The Chairman: As many of you already have learned, Bill Deane is no longer working at the National Baseball Library in Cooperstown. In his years there as the Senior Research Associate, Bill was of continual and invaluable help to all SABR members. His replies to requests for information, or confirmation, were always quick, knowledgeable, friendly, courteous, and above all, reliable. Many of the corrected records that appeared in the Baseball Records Update--1993, or that appear in the Records Committee newsletters, were submitted to Bill for confirmation, while many others were first discovered by him. That he is no longer with the Hall of Fame is a major setback for all serious baseball researchers, but perhaps more than any other group, his departure is especially disturbing to members of the Records Committee. On their behalf, and also personally, I want to thank Bill for his unwavering good service and wish him the best as he moves on to other things. Tom Heitz, the Librarian at the National Baseball Library, says that plans for the Reference Department have not been made final, but in the interim the Reference Department is in the charge of Bob Browning.

Welcome to new member Tom Henning; 16 Hillock Court; Glenville, NY 12302. Tom would like to know if anyone is aware of a record for consecutive games by a batter reaching first base safely--by hit, walk, hit-by-pitch, catchers interference. Obviously it's at least 56 games.

In a similar request, Mike Colley wants to know if anybody can identify the holders of the National and American League record for consecutive multi-hit games.

Madison McEntire informs us that in 1993 Phil Plantier of San Diego drove in 100 runs while collecting only 111 hits. That broke Rudy York's record for fewest hits by a player with at least 100 RBI. York batted in 103 runs with 115 hits for the 1937 Tigers. I would add that Plantier had 462 at bats, while York had only 307.

Bob Davids informs us that Carlton Fisk, at age 45 years and three months, became the third oldest major leaguer ever to hit a home run when he hit one for the Chicago White Sox on April 7, 1993. Fisk retains the distinction of being the oldest player to homer with the bases loaded, which he did on October 3, 1991, at age 43 years and ten months.

Following is Bob's list of the Oldest Major League Players To Hit A Home Run.

Player	Pos	Team	Date	Age
Jack Quinn	P	PHI NL	June 27, 1930	45/11
Cap Anson*	1B	CHI NL	Oct. 3, 1897 (1)	45/06
Carlton Fisk	C	CHI AL	Apr. 7, 1993	45/03
Pece Rose	1B	CIN NL	Sep. 6, 1985	44/04
Tony Perez	1B	CIN NL	Oct. 4, 1986	44/04
Sam Rice	RF	CLE AL	June 15, 1934	44/03
Carl Yastrzemski	DH	BOS AL	Sep. 10, 1983	44/00
Mervin Shea	C	PHI NL	Aug. 6, 1944 (2)	43/11
Deacon McGuire	PH	BOS AL	July 27, 1907	43/08
Graig Nettles	PH	MGN NL	Apr. 16, 1988	43/07
Dazzy Vance	P	STL NL	Sep. 11, 1934	43/06
Phil Niekro	P	ATL NL	Oct. 1, 1982	43/05
Warren Spahn	P	MIL NL	July 22, 1964	43/03
Enos Slaughter	RF	NY AL	July 4, 1959 (1)	43/02

\* Anson hit two home runs in this game.

To continue on the subject of home runs by players past 40, here from Dave Vincent and the Tattersall/ McConnell Home Run Log is a list of home runs by 40-year-old batters hit against 40-year-old pitchers.

Date	Batter	Team	Pitcher	Team	Site
07/08/1886	Joe Strauss	LOU AA	Ted Kennedy	PHI	LOU
09/20/1888	Deacon White	DET NL	Ed Crane	NY	DET
07/20/1928	Cy Williams	PHI NL	Pete Alexander	STL	STL
08/08/1945 (2)	Joe Kuhel	CHI AL	Joe Berry	CLE	CHI
05/30/1958 (2)	Mickey Vernon	CLE AL	Murry Dickson	KC	KC
06/11/1960 (1)	Ted Williams	BOS AL	Early Wynn	CHI	BOS
05/25/1979	Willie McCovey	SF NL	Phil Niekro	ATL	SF
09/22/1979	Rico Carty	TOR AL	Jim Kaat	NY	TOR
05/19/1984	Lou Piniella	NY AL	Tommy John	CAL	NY
09/03/1985	Hal McRae	KC AL	Tom Seaver	CHI	KC
09/14/1985	Hal McRae	KC AL	Tommy John	OAK	OAK
07/11/1986	Reggie Jackson	CAL AL	Tom Seaver	BOS	BOS
07/11/1986	Reggie Jackson	CAL AL	Tom Seaver	BOS	BOS
09/17/1986	Hal McRae	KC AL	Don Sutton	CAL	CAL
08/17/1990	Carlton Fisk	CHI AL	Charlie Hough	TEX	TEX
07/04/1992	Dave Winfield	TOR AL	Bert Blyleven	CAL	TOR

**RECORDS POTPOURRI:** One of late winter's simple, although increasingly expensive, pleasures is a visit to the local bookstore to pick up The Sporting News' Baseball Guide, Register, and Record Book. Nobody does it better. Which is not to say that there isn't room for improvement. I don't understand why in the Team Records section every twentieth century major league franchise is included with the exception of two; the 1901 Milwaukee Brewers, and the 1901-02 Baltimore Orioles. If the Seattle Pilots are included, as they should be, then why not these two teams. I also think they should start including the nineteenth century teams. They couldn't all be included in each edition, but maybe four or five each year until all the teams were exhausted. Not only would TSN earn the

appreciation of baseball fans, but it would undoubtedly boost their sales of Record Books. Also, I was disappointed at their failure to correct several of the errors discovered by various Records Committee members and discussed in the Baseball Records Update 1993. Among these are:

Most Games Won By Visiting Club, Season, NL—307 in 1948. Jim Smith found 308 in 1917 and 1923.

Most Runs Start Of Game, With None Out—7, New York Giants, May 13, 1911. In earlier editions TSN listed ten runs for this game, but Joe Dittmar discovered that although ten runs did score, only seven scored before the first out. Subsequently Joe discovered a game on August 13, 1948 in which the Phillies scored nine runs before the first out, and that should be shown as the record.

Home Run, First Major League At Bat Although Charlie Bevis and Herm Krabbenhoft found a home run by Luke Stuart in his first at bat (against Walter Johnson) on August 3, 1924, TSN still doesn't show it.

They did acknowledge Frank William's and Pete Palmer's correction of Bob Groom's losing streak, correcting it from 19 to 15. At least they did on page 199, the losing streak is still 19 on page 76. Maybe next year.

Greg Beston found a couple of omissions in the 1993 TSN Record Book that are still there in the 1994 edition.

(1) The record for Most runs by both clubs, 12th inning--AL (p. 48)  
New York 11, Detroit 0, July 26, 1928 first game

Greg discovered an earlier game in Detroit, between these same teams, in which they also combined for 11 runs in the twelfth inning.  
New York 8, Detroit 3, May 14, 1923.

(2) The Boston Braves team record for longest 1-0 game won (p. 286)  
13 innings, 5 times; last time vs Pittsburgh, May 11, 1921.  
Greg found a 13-inning 1-0 Boston win over Brooklyn on May 4, 1923.

The National League record for most consecutive strikeouts by a pitcher in his first major league game is six, shared by Karl Spooner of Brooklyn, September 22, 1954 and Pete Richert of Los Angeles, April 12, 1962. However Dave Smith, while entering these games in the Retrosheet data base, noticed that Richert's strikeouts came against the first six batters he faced. Richert relieved Stan Williams with two outs in the second inning and struck out Vada Pinson. In the third inning he struck out Frank Robinson, Gordy Coleman (who reached first on a passed ball), Wally Post and Johnny Edwards. He got the first batter in the fourth inning, Tommy Harper, looking—the first five were swinging. Dave and I believe that there should be a separate record for Most consecutive strikeouts, start of career. Anybody know the American League mark?

A gentleman from Pittsburgh, Frank Cunliffe, wrote to ask about a game between the Pirates and Phillies played at Exposition Park, Pittsburgh on June 20, 1907. As described by the Pittsburgh Daily Dispatch, in the third inning Honus Wagner pulled up lame while running out a long triple. Harry Smith, who was allowed to serve as a courtesy runner, then scored on a sacrifice fly by Ed Abbaticchio. In the top of the fourth, Wagner went back into the game. The problem is that Wagner, who scored a run in the first inning, is given credit for two runs scored in this game, while Smith doesn't appear anywhere in the box score. It seems Smith should be credited with one more game played, and one more run scored, and Wagner should be credited with one fewer run scored. I checked with Bob Browning at the Hall of Fame and he confirmed that there is no record on the official sheets of Smith having played in this game.

Here is a list of players who had at least a ten-year gap in their major league careers. Some, such as Minnie Minoso and Satchel Paige, were publicity stunts, quite a few others were as a result of the shortage of players during World War II, and some were just cases of persistence. The list, which begins with the 1876 season, was supplied by Scott Flatow and Al Blumkin.

<u>Pitchers</u>			<u>Seasons</u>				<u>Gap</u>
Paul Schreiber	BKL	NL	1923	NY	AL	1945	22
Clay Touchstone	BOS	NL	1929	CHI	AL	1949	16
Fred Johnson	NY	NL	1923	STL	AL	1938	15
John McFetridge	PHI	NL	1890	PHI	NL	1903	13
Ken Penner	CLE	AL	1916	CHI	NL	1929	13
Al Sopperly	CHI	NL	1938	BKL	NL	1950	12
Satchel Paige	STL	AL	1953	KC	AL	1965	12
Lou Polli	STL	AL	1932	NY	NL	1944	12
Rudy Sommers	BKL	FL	1914	BOS	AL	1926	12
Ralph Bunton	PHI	AL	1938	NY	AL	1949	11
Hal Betts	STL	NL	1903	CEN	NL	1913	10
Bobby Coombs	PHI	AL	1933	NY	NL	1943	10
Chick Davies*	PHI	AL	1915	NY	NL	1925	10
Wally Hebert	STL	AL	1933	PIT	NL	1943	10
Harry Kelley	WAS	AL	1926	PHI	AL	1936	10
Sandy McDougall	BKL	NL	1895	STL	NL	1905	10
Jack Ogden	NY	NL	1918	STL	AL	1928	10
Socks Seibold	PHI	AL	1919	BOS	NL	1929	10
Ben Tincup	PHI	NL	1918	CHI	NL	1928	10
Ralph Winegarner*	CLE	AL	1936	STL	AL	1949	10

\* Davies and Winegarner played other positions, but were primarily pitchers.

<u>Batters</u>			<u>Seasons</u>				<u>Gap</u>
Charlie O'Leary	STL	NL	1913	STL	AL	1934	21
Gabby Street	NY	AL	1912	STL	NL	1931	19
Joe Cicero	BOS	AL	1930	PHI	AL	1945	15
Joe Baumer	CHI	AL	1949	CEN	NL	1961	12
Fred Lake	PIT	NL	1898	BOS	NL	1910	12
Minnie Minoso	CHI	AL	1964	CHI	AL	1976	12
Roy Schalk	NY	AL	1932	CHI	AL	1944	12
Bobby Schang (a)	NY	NL	1915	STL	NL	1927	12
Harry Smith (b)	CEN	NL	1877	LOU	AA	1889	12
Chick Keating	CHI	NL	1915	PHI	NL	1926	11
John O'Connell	BAL	AA	1891	DET	AL	1902	11
Jim O'Rourke	WAS	NL	1893	NY	NL	1904	11
Clyde Sukeforth	BKL	NL	1934	BKL	NL	1945	11
Frank Connaughton	NY	NL	1896	BOS	NL	1906	10
Frank Emmer	CEN	NL	1916	CEN	NL	1926	10
Merwin Jacobson	CHI	NL	1916	BKL	NL	1926	10
Marty Krug	BOS	AL	1912	CHI	NL	1922	10
Don Lang	CEN	NL	1938	STL	NL	1948	10
Arlie Latham	WAS	NL	1899	NY	NL	1909	10
Benny Meyer (c)	BUF	FL	1915	PHI	NL	1925	10
Hal O'Hagen (d)	WAS	NL	1892	CHI	NL	1902	10

(a) Schang also played with PIT (NL) in 1915.

(b) Smith also played with CHI (NL) in 1877.

(c) Meyer also played with BAL (FL) in 1915.

(d) O'Hagen also played with NY (NL) and CLE (AL) in 1902.