

Society for American Baseball Research

Records Committee Newsletter ©

Lyle Spatz, Editor

February 1995



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

From The Chairman: Please make these changes to the Records Committee roster.

Bill Deane phone number--607-547-5786

Ed Brown phone number--617-527-6832

Rich Topp address--6547 North Harlem Avenue; Chicago, IL 60631.

John McMurray address--Dodge Osborn #202; Princeton, NJ 08544; phone number--609-258-7995

Add new members: Gene Noll; 1612 N. Buchanan St.; Arlington, VA 22207; 703-243-6358

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Among recently received letters with requests for information are two that I think would be of general interest. In one, the writer wanted to know which player had played the most years under one manager, and also which player had played the most games under one manager. I mentioned this in a phone conversation with Bob Davids and Bob called back the next day to remind me that Honus Wagner played under Fred Clarke at Louisville and Pittsburgh from 1897 to 1915. Without further checking, I assume that is the most in both those categories.

The writer of the second letter wanted to know which player played with the most future Hall of Famers during his career. I asked Scott Flatow, who came up with Jack Quinn. In his 23-year career Quinn played with 28 future Hall of Famers. Does anybody know of someone who played with more?

Of the thousands of major league games played, in only 13 has the leadoff hitter for both teams hit a home run. Here is a list of them from Dave Vincent and the Tattersall/McConnell Home Run Log

<u>Date</u>	<u>League</u>	<u>Visiting Batter</u>		<u>Home Batter</u>	
05/26/1884	NL	George Wood	DET	Abner Dalrymple	CHI
05/16/1889	AA	Mike Griffin	BAL	Bug Holliday	CIN
06/25/1891	AA	Curt Welch	BAL	Tom Brown	BOS
09/29/1892	NL	Jimmy Ryan	CHI	Bug Holliday	CIN
06/25/1920	AL	Harry Hooper	BOS	Roger Peckinpaugh	NY
06/03/1950	NL	Sam Jethroe	BOS	Hank Schenz	PIT
09/03/1955	AL	Eddie Yost	WAS	Hank Bauer	NY
08/15/1980	AL	Willie Randolph	NY	Al Bumbry	BAL
10/02/1983	AL	Butch Davis	KC	Rickey Henderson	OAK
07/27/1985	AL	Rickey Henderson	NY	Oddibe McDowell	TEX
10/01/1985	NL	Eric Davis	CIN	Dan Gladden	SF
06/20/1986	NL	Curt Ford	STL	Jeff Stone	PHI
06/05/1994	AL	Chuck Knoblauch	MIN	Tony Phillips	DET

In the October 1994 newsletter, I listed **Walt Wilson's** findings that some of the yearly Games Started data for selected pitchers was incorrect. For instance, all three encyclopedias (Total Baseball, Macmillan, and Neft) show Frank Kitson and Jim Hughes both starting 30 games for Brooklyn in 1902. Walt reviewed the day-by-day newspaper accounts for the 1902 season and found that Kitson actually started 31 games and Hughes started 29. Finding such errors is marvelous. I believe it's what the members of the Records Committee do better than anyone.

However, Walt recently sent me a new list of "errors." I found this group to be particularly disturbing for two reasons; one, because the errors are as recent as 1938, and two, because the three encyclopedias show different totals for the pitchers involved. Walt claims that Cy Blanton of the 1938 Pirates should be credited with 26 starts and his teammate Ed Brandt with 13. I compared their records in the three encyclopedias. For Blanton, Total Baseball and Neft show 25 starts, and Macmillan shows 26. For Brandt, Total Baseball and Neft show 14 starts, and Macmillan shows 13. Walt believes that Brandt was erroneously credited with the start on August 7 when he relieved Blanton in the third inning, pitched the rest of the way and got the win.

But even that is not the worst of it. One of the discrepancies mentioned in the October newsletter concerned Cy Swaim and Win Mercer who pitched for Washington (NL) in 1897. I learned from Frank Williams that Joe Wayman had previously discovered that, as Walt said, Swaim should have 19 GS and Mercer should have 43 GS. However, Joe said that the problem date for the error is June 30. On that day, Mercer pitched a 3-1 complete game victory against Philadelphia. The ICC sheets incorrectly credit that game to Swaim. This of course changes not only GS for these two but every other statistic for both their 1897 and lifetime records.

I find it extremely troubling that the three encyclopedias, as terrific as they all are, cannot agree on the number of a pitcher's starts in as recent a year as 1938. Furthermore, what if the problem is not just in the proper identification of the starter, but is similar to the problem that Joe found in the Swaim-Mercer game. That is, the day-by-day sheets are wrong and all the statistics credited to one pitcher for a game actually belong to another.

Jack Kavanagh has often talked to me about a reconciliation of the statistics in the various encyclopedias and record books. We all know how frustrating those differences can be. Perhaps this is a way to begin to address this problem. Perhaps the Records Committee should attempt to compile an updated day-by-day listing of starting pitchers, by year and team? People like Walt and Frank and Joe, among others, have been uncovering errors in pitching records for years, but there has never been a concerted effort to attack the whole problem. Maybe the time has come. What do you think of it as a Records Committee project? As one possibility we could, for each game, list the starting pitcher, and all relief pitchers, with the number of innings that each pitched. Anything more, runs, hits, BB, strikeouts, etc. would be just too massive. That, however, does not mean that individual researchers could not for their own information track these other statistics. However, just looking at the basics would give us, when we are finished, a "definitive" list of each pitchers' starts, games, complete games, innings pitched and shutouts. This would be an extremely valuable contribution to the "historic record." We could set our goal as a complete review of all the pitching numbers, to be completed by the year 2000.

Let me know what you think of the feasibility of such a project and if you would have any interest in participating.

In 1989, William Ruiz and I co-authored an article in the Baseball Research Journal on the five 20th century pitchers who threw shutouts in their final major league *appearance*. William, with the help of Bill Deane and Ray Gonzalez has expanded that list to include all 20th century pitchers who threw a shutout in their last major league *start*. The number in the last column indicates how many relief appearances were made after that final start.

10/02/1906	Jesse Whiting	BKL (N)	1	09/23/1942	Larry French	BKL (N)	2
10/05/1908	King Brady	BOS (A)	1	09/30/1943	Howie Krist	STL (N)	15
09/11/1911	Joe Hovlik	CHI (A)	1	09/30/1945	Don Fisher	NY (N)	0
08/02/1912	Ed Warner	PIT (N)	2	06/17/1951	Luis Aloma	CHI (A)	69
10/10/1914	Kaiser Wilhelm	BAL (F)	5	08/27/1951	Jocko Thompson	PHI (N)	4
08/05/1918	Mike Regan	CIN (N)	1	08/05/1966	Steve Hamilton	NY (A)	235
08/22/1918	Roy G. Sanders	PIT (N)	2	08/28/1967	Jack Lamabe	STL (N)	49
08/27/1920	Rube Bressler	CIN (N)	2	06/29/1971	Tony Cloninger	CIN (N)	28
09/06/1921	Bill Bailey	STL (N)	16	09/28/1974	Don Wilson	HOU (N)	0
09/16/1928	Slim Harriss	BOS (A)	1	09/28/1975	Larry Anderson	MIL (A)	6
10/05/1929	Rube Ehrhardt	CIN (N)	0	10/02/1982	Brian Denman	BOS (A)	0
07/23/1932	Sam Gibson	NY (N)	18	05/05/1984	Frank Williams	SF (N)	323
09/02/1932	Lew Krausse Sr.	PHI (A)	0				

The following is for those of us who remember when Ty Cobb's 96 stolen bases in 1915 was high on most people's list of baseball records that would never be broken. This breakdown of Cobb's 96 steals by base and catcher is provided by Ray Gonzalez. Cobb was caught stealing 38 times in 1915. Does anyone have a detailed list of those that could be added to this table?

		<u>Second</u>	<u>Third</u>	<u>Home</u>	<u>Total</u>
Bill Carrigan	BOS	4	1	1	6
Hick Cady	BOS	2	2	0	4
Pinch Thomas	BOS	3	0	0	3
Ray Schalk	CHI	5	2	0	7
Steve O'Neill	CLE	7	2	0	9
Ben Egan	CLE	7	1	0	8
Howie Haworth	CLE	2	1	0	3
Les Nunamaker	NY	5	1	1	7
Jeff Sweeney	NY	1	1	0	2
Pius Schwert	NY	1	0	0	1
Walt Alexander	NY	1	0	0	1
Jim McAvoy	PHI	5	1	0	6
Jack Lapp	PHI	5	0	0	5
Wally Schang	PHI	4	1	0	5
Sam Agnew	STL	10	3	1	14
Hank Severeid	STL	3	1	0	4
John Leary	STL	1	0	0	1
Buff Williams	WAS	4	1	0	5
John Henry	WAS	3	0	1	4
Eddie Ainsmith	WAS	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
		74	18	4	96

Here, from Dave Vincent, is a list of the first home run hit at selected major league parks. More to follow in future newsletters.

Memorial Stadium	BAL	04/15/1954	Clint Courtney	BAL
Camden Yards	BAL	04/08/1992	Paul Sorrento	CLE
Fenway Park	BOS	04/26/1912	Hugh Bradley	BOS
Anaheim Stadium	CAL	04/19/1966	Rick Reichardt	CAL
Comiskey Park I	CHI	07/31/1910	Lee Tannehill	CHI
Comiskey Park II	CHI	04/18/1991	Cecil Fielder	DET
League Park	CLE	05/28/1910	Roy Hartzell	STL (ITP)
Municipal Stadium	CLE	08/07/1932 (1G)	John Burnett	CLE
Jacobs Field	CLE	04/04/1994	Eric Anthony	SEA
Tiger Stadium	DET	05/05/1912	Del Pratt	STL
Municipal Stadium	KC	04/12/1955	Red Wilson	DET
Royals Stadium	KC	04/10/1973	John Mayberry	KC

RECORDS POTPOURRI: Seymour Siwoff, editor of Elias's The Book of Baseball Records, graciously called to acknowledge that Bob Fulton's discovery of the Heinie Meine record, discussed in the October newsletter, should indeed be recognized as the National League record for most consecutive hits allowed in a game. Mr. Siwoff said the correction would appear in the next edition of his record book.

Three National Leaguers, Harry Steinfeldt, Heinie Groh and Tony Boeckel, share the record for the Longest game with no chances offered by a third baseman; zero chances in 15 innings. There is however a problem with the American League record, which is also zero. Both The Book of Baseball Records (1994 edition) page 48 (they call it Fewest chances accepted, game) and The Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book (1994 edition) page 101, credit the record to Jim Tabor of the Red Sox on July 7, 1943. Elias lists the length of the game at 14 innings, and TSN at 12 2/3. But, in TSN's 1962 One For The Book, the game is listed at 13 2/3 innings. I called Tom Craig, a researcher at the Hall of Fame with a request that he check the files on this game. Tom looked at The Sporting News box score and found that the game was played at Chicago, and the White Sox won 3-2, scoring the winning run with *two out in the 14th inning*. That means that TSN had it right back in 1962, but in the intervening years a digit had been slipped. Now for the reason why I was checking this record. The credit goes to Greg Beston, who in doing research for Retrosheet, discovered that on June 11, 1975, in a game at Chicago between these same two teams, Bill Stein, the White Sox third baseman, had no chances in *14 full innings*. According to the play-by-play provided by Dave Smith of Retrosheet, Boston scored two runs in the top of the 14th to win 9-7. Bill Stein should be acknowledged as the sole holder of this American League record.

There is some disagreement on whether Ernie Shore's no-hitter against Washington on June 23, 1917 should be considered a perfect game. To refresh your memory, it was the first game of a doubleheader at Fenway Park and Babe Ruth started for Boston. Ruth walked the first batter, Ray Morgan, argued about the calls, and was thrown out. Shore came in and while he was on the mound, Morgan tried to steal second and was thrown out. Shore retired the next 26 batters. This is not to argue for or against crediting Shore with a perfect game. It is about crediting him with a *complete game*. Ed Brown discovered that on page 194 of The Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book (1994 edition), Shore is credited with pitching 8 2/3 innings, and Ruth, 1/3 of an inning. This is incorrect. Morgan was retired while Shore was pitching, and therefore Shore pitched nine full innings.

Neil Munro continues to assemble historical data not yet listed in any encyclopedia. Following is Neil's register of batters who were hit by pitches at least 100 times.

Hughie Jennings	286	Kid Elberfeld	141	Frank Crosetti	114
Tommy Tucker	272	Art Fletcher	141	Steve Evans	111
Don Baylor	267	Frank Chance	135	Honus Wagner	111
Ron Hunt	243	Nap Lajoie	134	George H. Burns	110
Dan McGann	215	Steve Brodie	132	Jimmy Dykes	109
Frank Robinson	198	Dummy Hoy	131	Bill Joyce	107
Minnie Minoso	192	John McGraw	130	Wally Schang	107
Jake Beckley	178	Brian Downing	129	Pete Rose	107
Curt Welch	171	Bill Dahlen	129	Dan Brouthers	105
Fred Clarke	156	Buck Herzog	120	Sherry Magee	105
Chet Lemon	151	Willie Keeler	119	Tris Speaker	103
Carlton Fisk	143	Sherm Lollar	115	Orlando Cepeda	102
Nellie Fox	142	Bill Freehan	114	Henry Larkin	100