

Society for American Baseball Research Baseball Records Committee

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

Albert Einstein

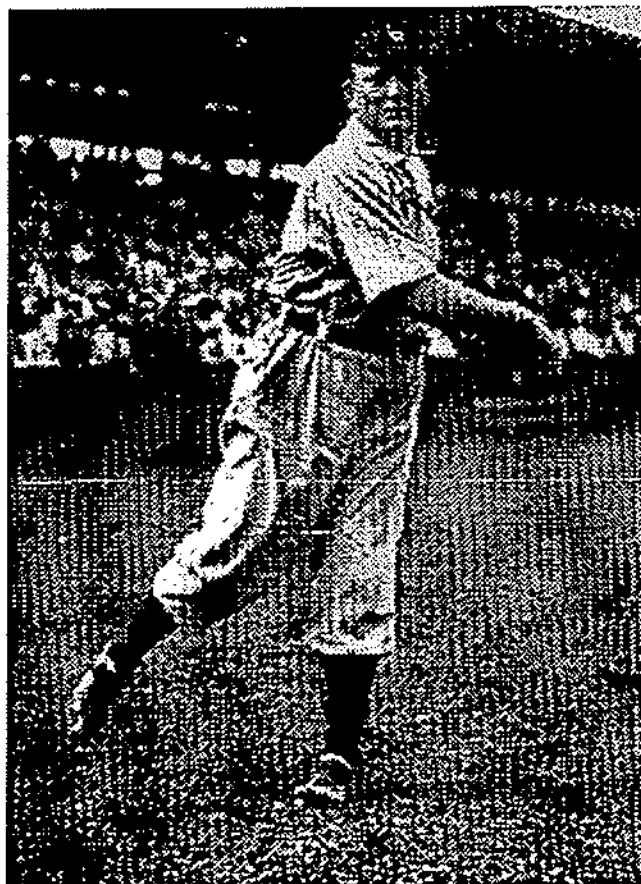
ERROR FOUND IN JOE BUSH'S WINNING STREAK AGAINST THE BROWNS

Various publications state that Yankee pitcher Joe Bush had a 17-game winning streak against the St. Louis Browns, which included seven wins in 1922, six in 1923, and four in 1924. The streak allegedly ended when the Yanks traded Bush to the Browns in December 1924. I happened to mention this to Jim Charlton, who then pointed out that his *Baseball Chronology* entry for June 12, 1922 shows the Browns hitting Bush freely and winning the game, 7-1. Thinking that Bush might have taken that pasting in relief, I checked the game and found that he not only started, he pitched a complete game. Bush, who'd beaten St. Louis in May, then went on to defeat them five more times in 1922. The point is, however, that Bush's winning streak against the Browns was 15, not 17.

Jim and I got to discussing other pitchers winning streaks against a particular team and using the record books and personal knowledge we came up with the lists on the inside pages. They are, as you will see, far from complete. We would like to call on the members of the Baseball Records Committee to help complete them. Please mail or email Jim or me with any winning or losing streak against one team that you think might be the longest, as well as any other winning or losing streak of ten games or more.

A RECORD NOT LIKELY TO BE BROKEN

One of the questions that we are often asked is which records do we think are unbreakable. We all have our favorites, whether they be Jack Taylor's run of complete games, Owen Wilson's one-season triples record, or any of a number of Cy Young's career marks. Yet, having seen other records that once were in this category surpassed, like Ty Cobb's total hits and single season stolen base totals I always use the word "likely" when discussing records we won't see broken. However, here's one from Scott Flatow that looks safe, unless, as Scott said, "there is an unbelievably drastic change in the structure of the game." The record is for consecutive innings pitched without allowing a home run, and it belongs to Ed Killian. After giving up a home run to Boston's Fred Parent on September 19, 1903, while pitching for Cleveland, Killian went the next 1,001 innings before giving up another. The streak ended on August 7, 1907, when Socks Seybold of the A's connected against Killian, then pitching for Detroit.



CY YOUNG: His lifetime wins and innings pitched are among those records that likely will stand forever.

LONGEST AMERICAN LEAGUE WINNING STREAKS

This is one in a series of streak-lists supplied by Bob Tiemann.

Won	Team	Year	First Win	Last Win	Pos. At Start	Pos. At End	Home/Road
19*	Chicago	1906	Aug 26	Aug 23	4 th -7 1/2	1st +5 1/2	11/8
19	New York	1947	Jun 29(2)	Jul 17(2)	1st +3 1/2	1st +11 1/2	6/13
18	New York	1953	May 27	Jun 14(2)	1st +2	1st +10 1/2	3/15
17	Washington	1912	May 30(2)	Jun 18	6th -10 1/2	2nd -1 1/2	1/16
17	Philadelphia	1931	May 5	May 25(2)	T4th -2 1/2	1st +5	5/12
16	New York	1926	May 10	May 26	T2nd -1/2	1st +8 1/2	12/4
16	Kansas City	1977	Aug 31	Sep 15(2)	1st +2	1st +10 1/2	9/7
15	New York	1906	Aug 29	Sep 8	3rd -5 1/2	1st +1 1/2	12/3
15	Philadelphia	1913	May 27(1)	Jun 10	T1st 0	1st +4	13/2
15	Boston	1946	Apr 25	May 10	3rd -1	1st +5 1/2	11/4
15 E	New York	1960	Sep 16	Oct 2	T1st)	1st +8	9/6
15	Minnesota	1991	Jun 1	Jun 16	5th -5 1/2	1st +1/2	10/5
14	Detroit	1909	Aug 19	Sep 2	3rd -1 1/2	1st +1/2	14/0
14	St. Louis	1916	Jul 23	Aug 4	7th -13 1/2	7th -7	13/1
14	Detroit	1934	Jul 31(2)	Aug 14(2)	T1st 0	1st +6 1/2	9/5
14	New York	1941	Jun 28	Jul 13 (2)	2nd -1	1st +5	6/8
14	Chicago	1951	May 15	May 30(2)	T3rd -3	1st +2	3/11
14	Baltimore	1973	Aug 12	Aug 27	2nd -1 1/2	1st +5	10/4
14	Oakland	1988	Apr 23	May 9	1st +1/2	1st +8	5/9
14	Texas	1991	May 12	May 27	6th -5 1/2	1st +1	7/7
14	Kansas City	1994	Jul 23	Aug 5	3rd -9 1/2	3rd -1	12/2

(*) Includes one tie game.

(E) Streak continued through the final game of the season.

TEAMS THAT USED THE MOST AND THE FEWEST PLAYERS IN A SEASON, BY POSITION

Tom Ruane furnished this list in response to my question as to whether the ten shortstops used by the 1944 Dodgers was the most any team had used at that position in a season.

The Most

Pitcher: AL (29) CAL 1996; NL (27) NY 1967, FLA 1995

Catcher: AL (8) CLE 1910, STL 1912, WAS 1937, CLE 1944; NL (13) PHI 1884; NL post-1900 (9) PHI 1911, PIT 1914

First Base: AL (12) CLE 1976; NL (13) LOU 1895; NL post-1900 (12) STL 1988

Second Base: AL (11) OAK 1972, OAK 1973; NL (11) PIT 1916

Third Base: AL (14) PHI 1915; NL (12) BOS 1911

Shortstop: AL (9) CLE 1910, NY 1913; BOS 1925; NL (14) WAS 1895; NL post-1900 (10) BKL 1944

Outfield: AL (20) PHI 1916; NL (25) PIT 1890; NL post-1900 (23) NY 1902

The Fewest

Pitcher: AL(5) WAS 1901, BOS 1904; NL (1) LOU 1877; NL os7-1900 (5) BOS 1901

Catcher: AL (2) 49 times, last by TEX 1998; NL (1) PRO 1880; NL post-1900 (2) 39 times, last by ATL 1998

First Base: AL (1) 21 times, last by WAS 1953; NL (1) 34 times, last by BKL 1951

Second Base: AL (1) nine times, last by NY 1944; NL (1) 23 times, last by CHI 1955

Third Base: AL (1) nine times, last by DET 1995; NL (1) 23 times, last by CHI 1965

Shortstop: AL (1) 18 times, last by BAL 1986; NL (1) 14 times, last by CHI 1958

Outfield: AL (4) PHI 1907, PHI 1922, CHI 1940; NL (4) PIT 1895, BKL 1904, CIN 1933

THE BEST PITCHERS NOT IN THE HALL OF FAME

Let's face it; no matter how many pitchers get inducted there is always going to be a best pitcher, or pitchers, not in the Hall of Fame. Recently, two Records Committee members have put forth their candidates. At the convention in Scottsdale and via the SABR-L, Dick Thompson has laid out an excellent case for Wes Ferrell. And Dan Heisman made an equally strong case for Bert Blyleven in the most recent issue of his informative newsletter "Baseball's Active Leaders."

The following tables, from committee member John Schwartz are not meant to be an argument in favor of admission. For those listed John just found the numbers interesting and wanted to share them with us. The first table shows the top pitchers in winning percentage not in the Hall of Fame, and the second lists the tops in "wins minus losses" not in the Hall.

Winning Percentage (200 or more wins)

Bob Caruthers	218-99	.688	Charlie Buffinton	233-152	.605
Roger Clemens	247-133	.650	Freddie Fitzsimmons	217-146	.598
Greg Maddux	221-125	.639	Bob Welch	211-146	.591
Carl Mays	208-126	.623	Ed Cicotte	209-148	.585
Jack Stivetts	203-132	.606	Lew Burdette	203-144	.585

Wins Minus Losses

Bob Caruthers	218-99	119	Carl Mays	208-126	82
Roger Clemens	247-133	114	Charlie Buffinton	233-152	81
Greg Maddux	221-125	96	Dave Foutz	147-66	81
Sam Leever	194-100	94	Jesse Tannehill	197-117	80
Larry Corcoran	177-89	88	Deacon Phillippe	189-109	80
Dwight Gooden					

I have adjusted the numbers for the active pitchers, Clemens, Maddux, and Gooden, to include games through September 26, 1999. Just for comparison, Ferrell, who had less than 200 wins, is 193-128 .601 +65.

Blyleven is 287-250 .534 +37.



Bob Caruthers



Wes Ferrell



Bert Blyleven

A CHRONOLOGY OF SINGLE SEASON BATTING RECORDS

More American League and 1900-forward* National League single-season batting marks as compiled by Scott Nelson.

DOUBLES

<u>AMERICAN LEAGUE</u>			
Nap Lajoie	PHI	1901	48
Nap Lajoie	PHI	1904	50
Nap Lajoie	PHI	1910	53
Tris Speaker	BOS	1912	53
Tris Speaker	CLE	1923	59
George Burns	CLE	1926	64
Earl Webb	BOS	1931	67

<u>NATIONAL LEAGUE</u>			
Honus Wagner	PIT	1900	45
Rogers Hornsby	STL	1922	46
Riggs Stephenson	CHI	1927	46
Paul Waner	PIT	1928	50
Johnny Frederick	BKL	1929	52
Chuck Klein	PHI	1930	59
Paul Waner	PIT	1932	62
Joe Medwick	STL	1936	64

TRIPLES

<u>AMERICAN LEAGUE</u>			
Jimmy Williams	BAL	1901	21
Jimmy Williams	BAL	1902	21
Sam Crawford	DET	1903	25
Joe Jackson	CLE	1912	26
Sam Crawford	DET	1914	26

<u>NATIONAL LEAGUE</u>			
Honus Wagner	PIT	1900	22
Tommy Leach	PIT	1902	22
Sam Crawford	CIN	1902	22
Larry Doyle	NY	1911	25
Owen Wilson	PIT	1912	36

HOME RUNS

<u>AMERICAN LEAGUE</u>			
Nap Lajoie	PHI	1901	14
Socks Seybold	PHI	1902	16
Babe Ruth	BOS	1919	29
Babe Ruth	NY	1920	54
Babe Ruth	NY	1921	59
Babe Ruth	NY	1927	60
Roger Maris	NY	1961	61

<u>NATIONAL LEAGUE</u>			
Herman Long	BOS	1900	12
Sam Crawford	CIN	1901	16
Frank Schulte	CHI	1911	21
Gavvy Cravath	PHI	1915	24
Rogers Hornsby	STL	1922	42
Chuck Klein	PHI	1929	43
Hack Wilson	CHI	1930	56
Mark McGwire	STL	1998	70

*Ned Williamson of Chicago had 27 home runs in 1884.

TOTAL BASES

<u>AMERICAN LEAGUE</u>			
Nap Lajoie	PHI	1901	345
Ty Cobb	DET	1911	367
George Sisler	STL	1920	399
Babe Ruth	NY	1921	457

<u>NATIONAL LEAGUE</u>			
Elmer Flick	PHI	1900	305
Jesse Burkett	STL	1901	313
Cy Seymour	CIN	1905	325
Rogers Hornsby	STL	1920	329
Rogers Hornsby	STL	1921	378
Rogers Hornsby	STL	1922	450