

Society For American Baseball Research

Baseball Records Committee

Lyle Spatz, Editor

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

THE BASEBALL RECORDS COMMITTEE NOW HAS AN E-GROUP

I am pleased to announce that there is now a Yahoo! eGroup set-up strictly for the Baseball Records Committee and its members and potential members. For those of you who use Retrolist, the Yahoo! eGroup for Retrosheet, our e-list will be essentially the same. It differs slightly from SABR-L, but it's the same idea—a great way to facilitate communication, foster research, and provide a place to just ask questions or sound off about Records Committee topics. The purpose of the eGroup will be to:

- 1) Discuss happenings in the Records Committee (information on the convention, newsletters, etc).
- 2) Provide a place for SABR members to send in, keep track of, seek assistance with, or inquire about possible errors in the historical record and also about various record-setting and -tying achievements in Major League Baseball. Questions like, "What's the record for most passed balls in a season?" and "How many hits did Ty Cobb really have?" are examples of proper subjects for this group.

Other SABR committees, such as the 19th Century Committee, already have discussion groups like this one, so I think the creation of an easy way to discuss baseball records and the Records Committee will be a welcome addition for SABR members.

The only requirement for joining is to be a member of SABR. For those of you that are potential Records Committee members, I recommend that you sign up to give it a try and see if you would like to be active in the Records Committee in the future.

Trent McCotter, whose idea it was to set up this site, has agreed to run all the technical aspects involved. To join, Trent says, you must have a Yahoo! ID and password (which are available free of charge from Yahoo!), and just go to http://sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/SABR_Records/ and click 'JOIN THIS GROUP!' Once he confirms that you're a SABR member, you'll be added to the group and can immediately partake in discussions about anything having to do with the SABR Records Committee! Once you've joined, you can choose to have all the day's messages emailed to you one-by-one or in a daily digest containing all of the previous day's messages and discussion in one email.

To speed up the joining process, he asks that you please include your first and last name in the comments section when you sign up for the eGroup (you should be prompted to send a note to the Administrator, so that would be the place to put your name). If you have any questions or problems in signing on, please address them to Trent at treant985@triad.rr.com.

SABR CONVENTION

This year's convention will be in Seattle from June 28 through July 2. It promises to be one of our best ever, and I hope to see you there. I do not as yet have the day and time for our committee's annual meeting but should have it for inclusion in the June newsletter.

Those of you who were at our meeting in Toronto remember that it was dominated by a lively and spirited discussion of the steroids issue and how it did or did not affect records. Many people voiced their opinions, some in rather forceful terms, but all agreed that steroids were just one more factor in judging records and had no place in their measurement. We also heard an excellent presentation by **Dan Levitt** arguing for the restoration of pitcher Ferdie Schupp's 1916 National League ERA title, which, if done, would make Schupp's ERA of 0.90 the major league's single season record.

So if anyone has a records-related presentation he'd like to make this year, or a records-related topic he thinks the committee should discuss, please let me know so we can put it on the agenda.

TWEAKING THE RECORD OF HONUS WAGNER AND TWO (MUCH) LESSER-KNOWN PLAYERS

The following information came from **Greg Beston**, who uncovered it while inputting games for *Retrosheet*.

In Pittsburgh's July 21, 1913 game at Brooklyn, Honus Wagner went to center field in the bottom of the eighth inning after having pinch hit in the top half of the inning. The 2005 Baseball Encyclopedia does not list Wagner as having played any games in the OF in 1913.

According to the Baseball Encyclopedia, Fritz Mollwitz played two games for the Chicago Cubs in 1913, debuting on September 26. Mollwitz entered the September 26 game in the eighth inning as a defensive replacement at first base and did not bat. On October 5, he started at first base and went 2-4 with a run scored. These offensive numbers do not match those of the encyclopedia, which show him with three hits in seven at-bats. Greg thinks that Mollwitz perhaps played in a third game somewhere at the end of the season and one of the games was not included in his final statistics.

Skip Dowd pitched in one game in his career, for Pittsburgh at Chicago on July 5, 1910. His statistics in the Baseball Encyclopedia (where his name is listed as Kip) show him as having pitched two innings, allowing 4 runs, but with a 0.00 ERA. However, based on the play-by-play accounts Greg believes that at least two of the four runs he allowed in the top of the eighth inning should have been scored as earned. The inning went as follows: Johnny Kling singled; Mordecai Brown struck out; Johnny Evers walked; Jimmy Sheckard walked, loading bases; Frank Schulte singled, scoring Kling and Evers and sending Sheckard to 3rd, while Schulte took 2nd. Pirates catcher George Gibson threw wildly over 2nd, allowing Sheckard to score and Schulte to go to 3rd. Gibson dropped Frank Chance's foul, and then Chance was hit by a pitch. The runners then worked a double steal, with Schulte scoring. Harry Steinfeldt popped out, and then Solly Hofman flied out to end the inning.

THREE PLAYERS COMBINING FOR 17 HITS IN ONE GAME

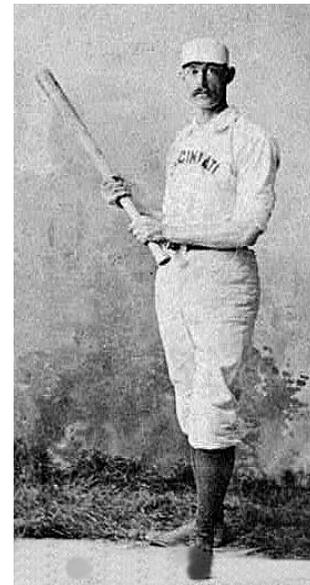
I had a note from **David Nemec** asking if the combined 17 hits that Willie Keeler, Jack Doyle and Joe Kelley made for the Baltimore Orioles against St. Louis on September 3, 1897 was the most ever by three teammates in a 9-inning game. I told David that while the Record Books do not list such a record, there was one possibility of it happening previously. On September 12, 1883 Hick Carpenter and John Reilly each had six hits for the American Association Cincinnati Red Stockings against Pittsburgh. So if one of their teammates had five hits in that game, that would also make for a combined 17 hits. David went digging and found that Charley Jones did indeed have five hits in that day, so the three Orioles merely tied the mark first set by Reilly, Carpenter and Jones.



Hick Carpenter



Charlie Jones



John Reilly

FINE-TUNING THE HISTORICAL RECORD OF THE BOSTON RED SOX

Make that extremely fine-tuning. **Bill Nowlin**, author of several Red Sox-related books and diligent researcher of their history, has uncovered several cases where he believes the individual records of marginal Boston players may be slightly off.

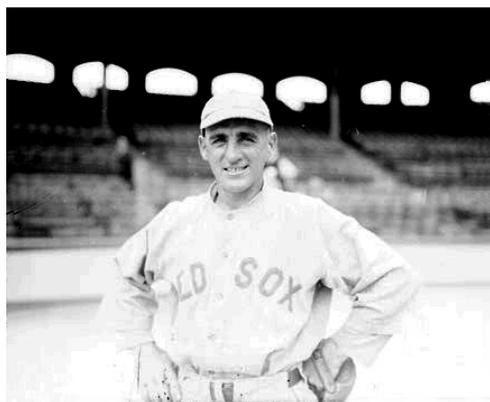
SQUANTO WILSON

Bill thinks that pinch-runner Squanto Wilson was not credited with the run he scored for the Red Sox in the bottom of the eighth inning of a 9-9 tie game against Philadelphia on April 22, 1914. I've summarized his findings, which he based largely on the *Boston Globe* account and was corroborated by four or five other newspapers.

In the bottom of the eighth, with Boston trailing, 9-5, Hal Janvrin grounded out and Everett Scott drew a walk. Hick Cady flied to right, but Eddie Murphy muffed the ball and the Red Sox had runners on first and second with just the one out. Wilson was put in as a pinch-runner for catcher Cady at first. Pinch-hitter Olaf Hendriksen struck out, but Harry Hooper doubled, driving in Scott and sending Wilson to third. Clyde Engle walked and the bases were loaded. On a 3-2 count, with Tris Speaker up, the outfielders were playing deep and the runners were off with the pitch. Speaker purposely tapped a ball into short left field, while the runners tore around the bases and all three scored, retying the game, 9-9. Curiously, and correctly, all the box scores of the day awarded Wilson a run scored, but none of today's reference works have the run recorded. He is shown with no runs scored in 1914.

JACK STANSBURY

The *Boston Globe* and the *Chicago Tribune* both credit Boston's Jack Stansbury with a triple in the July 26, 1918 game against the White Sox. This was Stansbury's only big league season and none of the record books show him with any triples in 1918.



Jack Stansbury

GARY WILSON

The standard references show Gary Wilson as playing in just two games in his big league career, both with Boston in 1902. But Bill discovered that while Wilson played on two DAYS, he actually was in three games: two on September 27 and one on September 29. The second game on September 27 seems to have been omitted from the record books. I checked the *Boston Globe* for those dates and Wilson in that second game. He was 1-for-3, a single, and had one assists, two putouts, and one error at second base, all of which should be added to his 1902 and lifetime totals.

The next two cases are not definitive but are worth further looking into.

MIKE PALM

Mike Palm pitched in three games for the 1948 Red Sox, working three innings. The record books show him as never having made a play in the field, but the AP box score for July 21, 1948 shows him with an assist.

RALPH POND

Pond played in only one ML game, on June 8, 1910. The game was in Chicago, and the *Chicago Tribune* had him at 1-for-4. All the encyclopedias also show him as having gone 1-for-4 that day, and so does *Retrosheet*. However, the box scores in all the Boston newspapers report it at 1-for-3, as does *The Sporting News*, *The New York Times*, and the *Washington Post*. Boston had at least the *Globe* correspondent at the game, so their's was not a wire service report.

CATCHING DON DRYSDALE AND SANDY KOUFAX

Walt Wilson's list of battery mates for Hall of Fame pitchers during their starts and shutouts continues with the Los Angeles Dodgers great one-two punch of the early 1960: Don Drysdale and Sandy Koufax.

CATCHING DON DRYSDALE

Don Drysdale pitched for Brooklyn (NL) 1956-57, and Los Angeles 1958-69. He made 465 starts and pitched 49 shutouts.

	<u>Starts</u>	<u>Shutouts</u>
Johnny Roseboro	283	21
Jeff Torborg	42	4
Tom Haller	38	7
Roy Campanella	25	2
Doug Camilli	21	4
Joe Pignatano	20	1
Norm Sherry	20	1
Rube Walker	16	1
Total	465	49

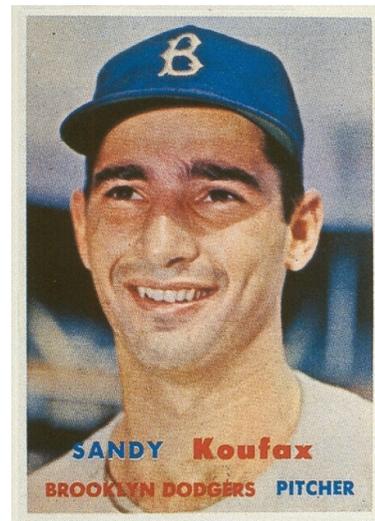
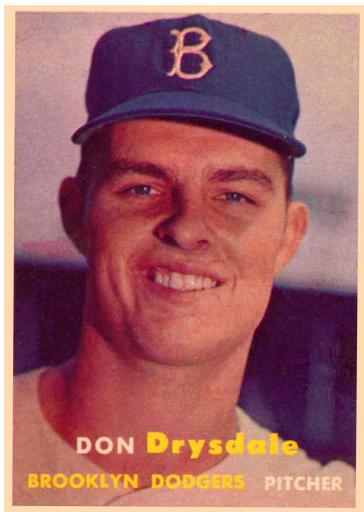
Eight of Drysdale's shutouts were with more than one catcher.

CATCHING SANDY KOUFAX

Sandy Koufax pitched for Brooklyn (NL) 1955-57, and Los Angeles 1958-66. He made 314 starts and pitched 40 shutouts.

	<u>Starts</u>	<u>Shutouts</u>
Johnny Roseboro	208	28
Jeff Torborg	21	3
Doug Camilli	20	4
Norm Sherry	19	0
Roy Campanella	18	2
Joe Pignatano	18	0
Rube Walker	10	0
Total	314	37

Three of Koufax's shutouts were with more than one catcher.



MOST HITS IN TWO CONSECUTIVE GAMES

The listing for [Most hits, two consecutive games \(since 1893\)](#) on page 18 of *The Sporting News Complete Baseball Record and Fact Book* shows three players with ten hits. No distinction is made as to the length of those games. Rennie Stennett (1975) did it in two nine-inning games and Roberto Clemente (1970) and Mike Benjamin (1995) needed one extra-inning game to amass the ten hits. But **Stan Tyler** found two earlier cases of players compiling ten hits in two consecutive games, both of which involved extra innings.

Hy Myers of Brooklyn went 5 for 6 on August 21, 1917 in a 13 inning game. The next day, August 22, 1917, he went 5 for 10 in a 22 inning game.

Lloyd Waner of the Pirates went 6 for 8 in a 14 inning game on June 15, 1929. The next day, June 16, 1929, in the first game of a doubleheader he went 4 for 6 in a 9 inning game.