

Society for American Baseball Research Baseball Records Committee

Lyle Spatz, Editor

June 1999

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

THE AMERICAN LEAGUE'S YOUNGEST PLAYER

Since 1943 we have all accepted that the American League's youngest player was pitcher Carl Scheib of the Philadelphia Athletics. Scheib was born on New Year's Day 1927 and made his debut on September 6, 1943 at the age of 16 years, 8 months, and 5 days.

But Brian Rash, a new member of our committee, has found someone even younger. Second baseman Jim Curry, who was born on March 10, 1893 and made his debut (also with Connie Mack's Athletics) on October 2, 1909. That makes Curry 16 years, six months, and 22 days at the time of his debut. I looked at a list provided by Ted DiTullio who tracks oldest and youngest players, and Ted also had Curry as the AL's youngest.

I then checked with Pete Palmer who said that Curry was originally listed as having been born in 1889, but that the 1893 date seemed "more reasonable." Bill Carle, chairman of SABR's Biographical Committee, said he too carries the 1893 date.

I could find no specific mention of Curry's age in the Philadelphia newspapers, one of which referred to him as "the youngster from Cape May," and another as "a find from the wilds of New Jersey."

The game, by the way, was the first of a season-ending doubleheader against Washington, and Curry had one hit in four at bats against Walter Johnson. This was not the most serious of games as the Senators played pitcher Bob Groom in left field and pitcher Dolly Gray in center field.

Isn't it remarkable that nuggets like this are still out there waiting to be discovered?

WHEN IS THE MANAGER THE MANAGER

The recent decision by *Elias* to credit the Yankees' first 36 decisions this season to Joe Torre rather than to Don Zimmer is controversial, to say the least. As you know, some years back Rich Topp and Bob Tiemann undertook a study of interim managers that greatly improved the accuracy of managerial records. However, given the size of the task, they set a cutoff point in which they recognized a manager as being eligible to be credited with the team's wins and losses (with some exceptions), only if they were there for at least 30 games. I first brought this up in the June 1996 newsletter, saying that I thought the 30 game cutoff was too high and I still think so. Actually, it seems to me we are dealing with two separate issues: (1) when a manager is absent for an "extended" period of time, at what point do we decide that he is no longer in charge, and (2) can we determine the "manager of record" for every single game.

Bob and Rich chose 30 games for the extended period because they felt that was the time necessary to allow the interim man to have an impact, and that it would be long enough to make it easier for researchers to find. But I believe that when manager X is sitting in the dugout and deciding what his starting lineup should be, when to change pitchers, when to pinch hit, when to play his infield in, or whether to sacrifice or go for the big inning, etc., he is having an impact and he is making the decisions that result in victory or defeat. The issue here is "bench-managing," not whether the manager is a nice guy or whether he has a better theory on the cut-off play.

Accounting for individual games is a separate problem. However, I think even there, some cases are clear-cut. If the manager is away at a funeral, graduation, dentist, etc. the interim guy should get the win or loss. If the manager is ejected during the game, we would have to set some convention. We could do it by innings, or by a rule similar to awarding decisions to winning and losing pitchers, or in some other way.

Maybe we can never get every game that an interim manager worked, but then, of course, we can't get perfection in other areas either. In player, team, and league records, when we find errors, we correct them. Why shouldn't we treat managerial records in the same way. Bob and Rich already have a list of some of interim managers that served for an extended period, but less than 30 games. We could build on that. I am not quite ready to propose that every time we find a new case of a man serving as an interim manager, even for one game, we make the proper adjustment, but I'm leaning that way. Let's talk about this in Phoenix.

A CHRONOLOGY OF SINGLE SEASON BATTING RECORDS

This list for the American League and post-1900* National League was compiled by Scott Nelson.

RUNS SCORED

<u>AMERICAN LEAGUE</u>			
Nap Lajoie	PHI	1901	145
Ty Cobb	DET	1911	147
Babe Ruth	NY	1920	158
Babe Ruth	NY	1927	177

<u>NATIONAL LEAGUE</u>			
Roy Thomas	PHI	1900	131
Jesse Burkett	STL	1901	139
Rogers Hornsby	STL	1922	141
Kiki Cuyler	PIT	1925	144
Rogers Hornsby	STL	1929	156
Chuck Klein	PHI	1930	158

* Billy Hamilton of Philadelphia scored 196 runs in 1894.

HITS

<u>AMERICAN LEAGUE</u>			
Nap Lajoie	PHI	1901	232
Ty Cobb	DET	1911	248
George Sisler	STL	1920	257

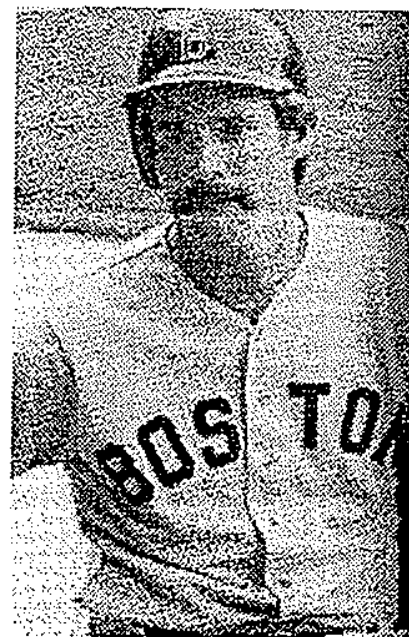
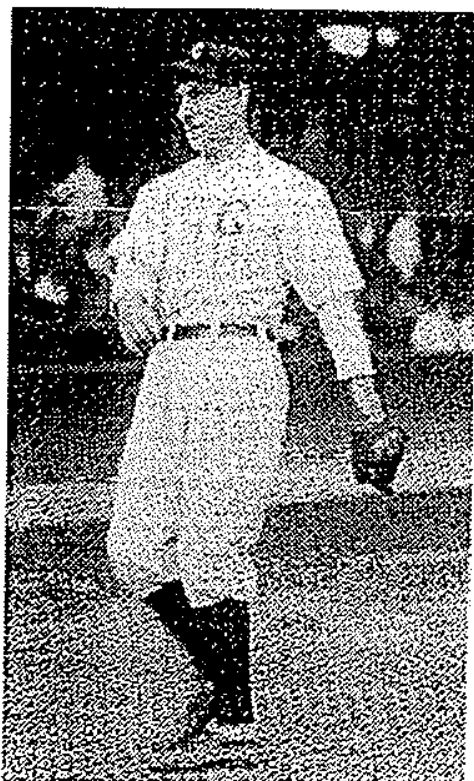
<u>NATIONAL LEAGUE</u>			
Willie Keeler	BKL	1900	208
Jesse Burkett	STL	1901	228
Rogers Hornsby	STL	1921	235
Rogers Hornsby	STL	1922	250
Lefty O'Doul	PHI	1929	254
Bill Terry	NY	1930	254

SINGLES

<u>AMERICAN LEAGUE</u>			
Nap Lajoie	PHI	1901	154
Patsy Dougherty	BOS	1903	161
Willie Keeler	NY	1904	164
Willie Keeler	NY	1906	166
Ty Cobb	DET	1911	169
George Sisler	STL	1920	171
Jack Tobin	STL	1921	179
Sam Rice	WAS	1925	182
Willie Wilson	KC	1980	184
Wade Boggs	BOS	1985	187

<u>NATIONAL LEAGUE</u>			
Willie Keeler	BKL	1900	179
Jesse Burkett	STL	1901	180
Lloyd Waner	PIT	1927	198

*Willie Keeler of Baltimore had 202 singles in 1898.



Wade Boggs now holds the AL one season record for singles formerly held by Nap Lajoie and Sam Rice.

TED WINGFIELD'S LONE 1927 STRIKEOUT

In 1927, his final big league season, Ted Wingfield of the Boston Red Sox pitched 74.2 innings and recorded just one "strikeout. No one has ever pitched that many innings with just one batter fanned. Last fall, Jim Charlton suggested that Wingfield's one victim should not remain anonymous and that we should attempt to find him, hoping he would turn out to be a future Hall of Famer. It has taken a while but I finally did find him in the *Philadelphia Evening Bulletin's* play-by-play account of Boston's August 10 game at Philadelphia. Wingfield's one strikeout was the second out of the sixth inning and the victim was A's shortstop Chick Galloway, certainly no future Hall of Famer. (The play-by-play is of course on its way to Dave Smith at *Retrosheet*, where all pbp's belong.)

SCORING IN EVERY INNING

In addition to the Rockies on May 5, 1999, add another team to those that scored a run in every inning of a nine-inning game. Dave Vincent discovered that Pittsburgh did it at Baltimore in a Federal League game on July 1, 1915. After losing the first game, 6-0, Pittsburgh won the second, 13-5, scoring single runs in the first, second, third, sixth, seventh, and ninth innings, two runs in the fifth and eight innings, and three runs in the fourth inning.

Below, courtesy of Jim Smith, are the scores of the two American Association teams and seven National League teams that scored in all nine innings. Note that several were done by home teams who in the 19th century often chose to bat first.

5/14/1883 Columbus at Pittsburgh (AA) 25-10
05/20/1889 Kansas City vs Brooklyn (AA) 18-12
08/15/1889 Cleveland vs Boston (NL) 19-8
06/22/1894 Cleveland vs Philadelphia (NL) 20-10
06/29/1897 Chicago vs Louisville (NL) 36-7
06/01/1923 New York at Philadelphia (NL) 22-8
09/13/1964 St. Louis at Chicago (NL) 15-2
05/05/1999 Colorado at Chicago (NL) 13-6

No American League team has ever scored in all nine innings; however, four have scored in eight innings and being the home team didn't bat in the ninth.

09/16/1903 Boston vs Cleveland 14-7
07/07/1923 Cleveland vs Boston (IG) 27-3
07/26/1939 New York vs St. Louis 14-1
05/11/1949 Chicago vs Boston 12-8

Welcome to these new BRC members

Scott Horstmeier; 108 Rosetta Court: Cincinnati, OH 45246

Lee Ortenstein; 3002 Rue Renoir Rd. #100; South Bend, IN 46615

Brian Rash; 9950 Topanga Canyon Blvd. #71; Atsforth, CA 91311

MOST STARTS PITCHING FOR JUST ONE TEAM

This list, from Lee Sinins, is of pitchers who made at least 350 starts while spending their entire careers with one team.

Walter Johnson	Senators	666
Jim Palmer	Orioles	521
Bob Feller	Indians	484
Ted Lyons	White Sox	484
Red Faber	White Sox	483
Bob Gibson	Cardinals	482
Don Drysdale	Dodgers	465
Whitey Ford	Yankees	438
Mel Harder	Indians	433
Carl Hubbell	Giants	431
Steve Rogers	Expos	393
Paul Splitorff	Royals	392
Hooks Dauss	Tigers	388
Tom Glavine*	Braves	374
Vern Law	Pirates	364
Tommy Bridges	Tigers	362
Mel Stottlemyre	Yankees	356
Chuck Finley*	Angels	355
Bob Lemon	Indians	350

* Glavine and Finley are both active and could eventually move to another team. Their totals are through May 25, 1999

AN ITP HR FOR GUS ZERNIAL

SABR's *The Home Run Encyclopedia* shows that only one of Gus Zernial's 237 home runs was inside-the-park. It came in 1953, the year Zernial hit a career-high 42 home runs for the Philadelphia Athletics. But Walt Wilson has found another. On May 15, 1951 at Philadelphia, Zernial hit a first inning inside-the-park homer off Dick Starr of the Browns. Walt also found several unaccounted for inside the park home runs that were hit at the home park of the Chicago Pirates of the Players League in 1890.

The Baseball Records Committee will meet on Thursday, June 24 at three pm.

UPDATES TO THIRTY GAME HITTING STREAKS

Frank Williams reminded me that there were two of his discoveries left out of Chuck Lumb's list of hitting streaks of 30 games or more that appeared in the April newsletter. In the Tris Speaker streak of June 17 to July 16, 1912, Speaker had **three triples and two home runs**, not four triples and one home run. That made his slugging average .648, not .640. (Speaker's official sheet shows him with a triple on July 15, 1912, but researcher Ed Walton discovered that he should have been credited with a home run.)

Also, Cal McVey's (CHI NL) 30-game streak was omitted. McVey's streak was from June 1 to August 8, 1876. He had 152 at bats, 37 runs, 71 hits, seven doubles, no triples or home runs, a .467 batting average and a .513 slugging average.

MORE ON CAL MCVEY

In researching Cal McVey's 30 game hitting streak, Bill Deane found that twice during the streak, McVey had 18 hits in four consecutive games: July 18 (3), July 20 (3), July 22 (6), and July 25 (6) and July 22 (6), July 25 (6), July 27 (2), and July 29 (4).

The 1999 Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book (page 20) lists the NL record for Most Hits in Four Consecutive Games as 17 (credited to McVey), but it should be 18.

The 1999 Elias Book of Baseball Records (page 14) shows the record Most Hits, 3 Consecutive games as 14, by Willie Keeler. Bill says that should be changed to 15 by McVey. (Elias doesn't show a record for 4 consecutive games.)

MIKE MORGAN

When Mike Morgan pitched his first game for the Rangers this season, many in the media reported that he was the first player to appear in games with 11 different major league teams.

That's not true, *The 1999 Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book* (page 6) and *The 1999 Elias Book of Baseball Records* (page 6) both say that Pop Smith and Deacon McGuire each played for 12 clubs.

However, as Tom Shieber and Bruce Markusen discovered, while that's true for McGuire, it isn't for Smith. According to Pete Palmer, Smith never played for Baltimore in the American Association, one of the teams he is credited for having been with. Pete said that Bob Tiemann discovered that the Smith who played for Baltimore (AA) was actually L. Smith. (first name unknown)

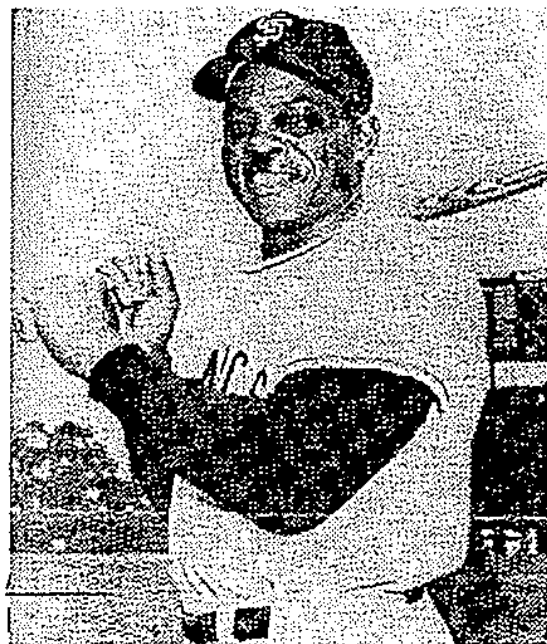
Wayne McElreavy says that Morgan has established one new benchmark. When he beat Seattle it was his first win against the Mariners since 1979. That 20-year span broke the previous mark of 18 years set by Cal McLish against Pittsburgh (1944-1962).

HOME RUN LEADERS BY STATE

Over a series of newsletters, we will feature for each state their leading home run hitters. The totals are through 1998 and come, of course, from Dave Vincent.

ALABAMA

Hank Aaron	755
Willie Mays	660
Willie McCovey	521
Billy Williams	426
Lee May	354



Steve Staggs 2

ARIZONA

Jack Howell	107
Hank Leiber	101
Ron Hassey	71
Rex Hudler	56
Billy Hatcher	54