

Society for American Baseball Research Records Committee Newsletter ©

Lyle Spatz, Editor

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

The Records Committee welcomes **Clem Comly**; 308 Colonial Drive, Wallingford, PA 19086. Clem's telephone number is 610-565-7948.

Let's hope that Cal Ripken's magnificent performance both on and off the field sets baseball back on the right path. It certainly got a lot of people talking about baseball and "baseball records." That's a positive development even though much of what we heard from the media was nonsense. Get ready for more nonsense. Now that the "playoffs," (featuring baseball's latest abomination, the "wild-card") are here, we will again be hearing comparisons of post-season accomplishments by players who can conceivably play 19 post-season games this year against those whose only post-season play was in the World Series, (e.g. Mark Lemke and Babe Ruth).

The Baseball Encyclopedia and Total Baseball correctly list Ty Cobb with one game played at second base in 1918 (the Neft-Cohen Baseball Encyclopedia doesn't show this) but none of the three encyclopedias show Cobb playing a game at second base for Detroit in 1913. However, **Dick Thompson** discovered an account of a Detroit-Philadelphia game on July 12, 1913 in Sporting Life in which Cobb played the entire game at second base (Hugh High played center field). Committee vice chairman, and box score maven **Joe Dittmar** verified Dick's discovery with game accounts and play-by-play from the Detroit Free Press and the Detroit News Tribune. Both Detroit newspapers discuss at length Cobb's terrible play at second base, in which he had one assist, one putout and three errors. Subtracting three errors from Cobb's play as an outfielder raises his Fielding Average as an OF in 1913 from .947 to .953. It also makes him perhaps the worst fielding second baseman of all time.

In the last newsletter, I conveyed **Frank William's** request for teams other than those he had listed who, either before or after 1900, had started their season with at least eight consecutive victories. Both **Ralph Horton** and **Jim Smith** responded that the Union Association's St. Louis Unions won their first 20 games in 1884. Jim has the score and opponent in each game if anyone is interested. He also pointed out that after their first loss, the Unions won their next four to give them a 24-1 start.

Here's a request from Joe Dittmar. On September 10, 1969, Andy Messersmith, pitching for the Angels at home, defeated Kansas City, 11-4. Messersmith, who went all the way, faced 20 different Kansas City hitters in the game. Joe wants to know if anybody is aware of another game in which a pitcher faced 20 or more different batters.

Joe also has two suggested additions/corrections to the 1995 edition of The Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book (with boxscores and game accounts).

1. Most catchers used by both clubs, game (page 11). The record is six, four times in the AL and three times in the NL. Add a fourth time to the NL. New York at Chicago (17 innings), May 2, 1956: Giants used Ray Katt, Wes Westrum and Jim Mangan; Cubs used Hobie Landrith, Elvin Tappe, and Harry Chiti.

2. Most assists by a catcher in a nine-inning game (page 110). Fred Jacklitsch should be added to the list of four players who share the record with seven. Jaclitsch, catching for Brooklyn, had seven assists in a 2-1 loss to the Giants on April 21, 1903.

Bob Hoie believes that Cincinnati's Larry Kopf has been credited with one run-batted-in too many in the 1919 World Series. Of course, runs-batted-in was not then an official statistic, nevertheless, Bob believes that Kopf had two RBI's, as shown in early editions of The Baseball Encyclopedia, and not the three awarded to him by all the modern reference books. The RBI in question occurred in the fifth inning of the fourth game. With Pat Duncan on second, Kopf singled to left with Duncan stopping at third. Then, according to accounts that Bob provided from The 1920 Spalding Guide, The 1920 Spalding Record Book, The 1920 Reach Guide, The Sporting News, and The New York Times, Duncan scored and Kopf went to second when left fielder Joe Jackson's throw-in was either muffed or deflected by pitcher Ed Cicotte. In either case, clearly not an RBI for Kopf.

A while back, Norman Macht pointed out what seemed to be an error in Cy Buker's 1945 pitching record with Brooklyn. Macmillan's The Baseball Encyclopedia shows Buker with four starts, a 7-2 record overall, and a 2-0 record in relief. Obviously, this doesn't add up. On a visit to Cooperstown, I had the opportunity (with the help of Scott Mondore) to look at Buker's day-by-day sheet. Below is a breakdown of Buker's nine decisions that reveal he was actually 2-0 as a starter and 5-2 in relief, the reverse of the way he is listed in the MAC.

<u>Date</u>		<u>IP</u>		
June 21	PHI Start	7.0	W	1-0
June 23	BOS Relief	1.0	W	2-0
June 29	CHI Relief	2.0	W	3-0
July 18 (2G)	CHI Start	6.1	W	4-0
July 20	CHI Relief	4.1	W	5-0*
July 24	STL Relief	0.1	L	5-1
Sept 11 (1G)	CIN Relief	2.1	L	5-2
Sept 11 (2G)	CIN Relief	6.0	W	6-2
Sept 19	NY Relief	3.0	W	7-2

* This game was suspended and completed on Sept. 15.

On August 18 the Cubs beat the Rockies, 26-7. Greg Beston discovered the following record-breaking and record-tying feats from that game.

1. Nine Cub players scored two or more runs in the game, tying the post-1900 NL record.
2. Cubs increased their NL record of scoring 20 or more runs in a game the most times, to 39.
3. Cubs tied the major league record of most players with one or more hits in a nine-inning game, with 14. Scott Flatow wrote to say that the Cubs tied the record of the Giants (against the Padres, June 23, 1986) and the Indians (second game of a DH against the Browns on August 12, 1948).
4. The Cubs tied the NL record for most runs-batted-in in a game, with 26.

Greg also found a game that tied the American League record for Most strikeouts by pinch hitters, inning. On page 60 of The Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book (1995 edition) there is a list of eight instances where three pinch hitters struck out in one inning. Omitted was the Cleveland at Detroit game, June 25, 1975, in which three Indians' pinch hitters struck out in the ninth inning. John Hiller fanned Rico Carty (batting for Oscar Gamble), and Bob Reynolds struck out John Lowenstein (batting for Alan Ashby) and Bill Sudakis (batting for Frank Duffy). Gamble was the DH, but nevertheless, since Carty came off the bench to bat for him, he was a pinch hitter.

Elias's The Book of Baseball Records (1995 edition page 119) also omits this game, however they do correctly include another one missing from TSN. In the ninth inning of a game at Detroit on September 8, 1979, Goose Gossage of the Yankees fanned pinch-hitters Jason Thompson, Al Greene and Kirk Gibson. (Thanks to Bob Davids for the details on this one).

Greg has uncovered several errors relating to the 1975 season, and while they are not as dramatic as those that Ron Rakowski found in the 1961 season, both make the historical record a little more accurate and are splendid examples of the valuable information that continues to evolve from the Retrosheet project.

Here, from Dave Vincent, is the completion of the roster of the first home runs hit at selected major league parks.

Polo Grounds I	NY	05/02/1883	Monte Ward	NY
Polo Grounds II	NY	06/28/1911	Larry Doyle	NY
Shea Stadium	NY	04/17/1964	Willie Stargell	PIT
Athletics Park	PHI	06/14/1876	George Hall	PHI
Baker Bowl	PHI	04/30/1887	George Wood	PHI
Veterans' Stadium	PHI	04/10/1971	Don Money	PHI
Forbes Field	PIT	07/05/1909	2G Mike Mitchell	CIN
Three Rivers Stadium	PIT	07/16/1970	Tony Perez	CIN
Messer Park	PRO	05/15/1878	Paul Hines	PRO
Sportsman's Park	STL	07/13/1876	Lip Pike	STL
Busch Stadium	STL	05/12/1966	Felipe Alou	ATL
San Diego Stadium	SD	04/08/1969	Ed Spezio	SD
Seals Stadium	SF	04/15/1958	Darryl Spencer	SF
Candlestick Park	SF	04/12/1960	Leon Wagner	STL

Madison McEntire says that there are 12 major-leaguers who batted in more than 100 runs in a season while playing for two different teams.

Jack Glasscock	1893	NL	100	St. Louis (26)/Pittsburgh (24) ⁷⁴
Charlie Hickman	1902	AL	110	Boston (16)/Cleveland (94)
Goose Goslin	1930	AL	138	Washington (38)/St. Louis (100)
Smead Jolley	1932	AL	106	Chicago (7)/Boston (99)
Moose Solters	1935	AL	112	Boston (8)/St. Louis (104)
Chuck Klein	1936	NL	104	Chicago (18)/Philadelphia (86)
Buster Adams	1945	NL	109	Philadelphia (8)/St. Louis (101)
Gus Zernial	1951	AL	129	Chicago (4)/Philadelphia (125)
Ralph Kiner	1953	NL	116	Pittsburgh (29)/Chicago (87)
Ray Boone	1953	AL	114	Cleveland (21)/Detroit (93)
Willie Montanez	1975	NL	101	Philadelphia (16)/San Francisco (85)
Fred McGriff	1993	NL	101	San Diego (46)/Atlanta (55)

And there are only four players who have at least 500 runs-batted-in in both the National and American Leagues: Frank Robinson, Reggie Smith, Lee May and Dave Winfield. Eddie Murray could make that list if he gets traded back to the National League; Murray had 472 RBI's in his years with the Dodgers and Mets.

Madison noticed that when San Diego beat San Francisco 11-3 on August 3, the Padres scored all 11 runs in the eighth inning. He, and I, would like to know if this is the record for most runs in a game that were all scored in one inning.

Brad Sullivan has put together a summary of the 1,687 Cleveland doubleheaders played through Labor Day 1995. The three columns under Total, Home and Away represent doubleheaders won, lost and split.

<u>Team</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Home</u>	<u>Away</u>	<u>Total</u>
Chicago	241	38-30-65	20-34-54	58-64-119
Boston	224	51-23-47	28-29-46	79-52--93
Detroit	208	33-24-48	17-26-60	50-50-108
New York	207	25-31-40	17-48-46	42-79--86
St. Louis	197	37--8-48	29-18-57	66-26-105
Washington (1901-60)	161	25-20-39	25-19-33	50-39--72
Philadelphia	152	33-11-21	21-22-44	54-33--65
Baltimore (1954-1995)	78	12--9-22	6--4-25	18-13--47
Kansas City Athletics	37	9--3-13	2--4--6	11--7--19
Milwaukee 1970-1995)	36	8--3--9	4--4--8	12--7--17
Minnesota	30	5--7-10	1--3--4	6-10--14
California	28	10--6--5	1--4--2	11-10--7
Washington (1961-71)	22	4--4--9	1--0--4	5--4--13
Oakland	21	4--4--6	0--2--5	4--6--11
Toronto	16	2--2--5	1--2--4	3--4--9
Texas	13	4--2--6	0--1--0	4--3--6
Kansas City Royals	11	1--3--4	1--1--1	2--4--5
Seattle Mariners	3	1--0--1	0--0--1	1--0--2
Baltimore (1901-02)	2	0--0--1	0--1--0	0--1--1
	1,687	302-190-399	174-222-400	476-412-799

Cleveland played no doubleheaders against the 1901 Milwaukee Brewers or the 1969 Seattle Pilots.