

SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN BASEBALL RESEARCH BASEBALL RECORDS COMMITTEE

Lyle Spatz, Editor

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

Albert Einstein

GEORGE KEEFE TIES NL RECORD FOR MOST WALKS IN AN INNING

John O'Malley found this record-tying event while working at recompiling the National League statistics for 1889. John, who is nearing completion of his study of the home games of the New York Giants for that year, discovered that on May 1, 1889, Washington's George Keefe walked seven Giants in the fifth inning. They were: Ed Crane, John Montgomery Ward, Danny Richardson, Mike Tiernan, Mike Stattery, Art Whitney, and Willard Brown. Actually Keefe's seven walks in one inning set a new record, and the two record-holders listed in *The Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book*, Tony Mullane of Baltimore (June 18, 1894) and Bob Ewing of Cincinnati (April 18, 1902) tied Keefe's mark. Craig Carter, the editor of the TSN Record book has agreed to make this change.

Craig also has agreed to show Matt Kilroy's 46 wins in 1887 for Baltimore of the American Association under the category of Most games won by a lefthander, season. (TSN does list Kilroy's 46 wins in their section devoted to 20-game winners.)

THE 1954 CLEVELAND INDIANS:

Among the greatest teams ever

Morris Eckhouse alerted me to a glaring omission in the December 1998 newsletter. The 1954 Indians, who finished 111-43, were left out of Ted DiTullio's list of teams that won at least 60 more games than they lost in a single season. Cleveland's "plus 68" ties the 1909 Pirates (110-42) for the third highest major league total. The 1908 Cubs (116-36) are first with a "plus 80," and the 1884 Union Association's St. Louis Maroons (94-19) are second with a "plus 75." I apologize for the error and any resulting anguish it may have caused along Lake Erie.

MARK LEMKE: He had to be more *agile* than Bill Bergen because he couldn't have been less feared

In the December 1998 newsletter, I reported John Schwartz's finding that the notoriously weak-hitting Bill Bergen made 3,228 plate appearances without ever being hit by a pitch. John thought that might be the major league record. It isn't. Two days after the newsletter went out, back came an e-mail from Clem Comly saying that Mark Lemke has 3,664 plate appearances without an HBP. Of course, Lemke is still active, or at least he was in 1998, so he could eventually lose this distinction. By the way, Clem says that no other player besides Bergen and Lemke have had even 2,500 at bats without being hit.



Bobby Avila batted a league-leading .341, and Al Rosen batted in 102 runs to help lead Cleveland to 111 wins in 1954. The New York Giants swept the Indians in the World Series, making it three consecutive seasons that the best team in baseball didn't win the World Series. (At least many of us will go to our graves believing that was the case.)

A SERIES OF STATISTICAL COMPILATIONS FROM JOHN SCHWARTZ

John sent these four lists, which he compiled following the close of the 1998 season. Players with asterisks after their names were active in '98.

MOST RBI PER GAME FOR NON-HALL OF FAMERS

These are the top ten non-HOFers in the category of runs driven in per game. John includes only those players who have at least 1000 RBI. That left Juan Gonzalez just short. Gonzalez has 947 RBI in 1104 games (.858) and should with a typical season move to the top of the list at the end of the 1999 season.

	<u>RBI</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>RBI/G</u>		<u>RBI</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>RBI/G</u>
Albert Belle*	1019	1237	.824	Mark McGwire*	1130	1535	.736
Jose Canseco*	1214	1600	.759	Rudy York	1152	1603	.719
Bob Meusel	1067	1407	.758	Jim Rice	1451	2089	.695
Hal Trosky	1012	1347	.751	Bob Johnson	1283	1863	.689
Ken Griffey, Jr.*	1018	1375	.740	Cecil Fielder*	1008	1470	.686

TOTAL GAMES PITCHED IN MIDDLE RELIEF

These 12 pitchers, eight of whom are lefthanders, have made the most appearances in games that they neither started nor finished.

Paul Assenmacher *	(L) 561
Jesse Orosco*	(L) 560
Mike Jackson*	(R) 444
Larry Andersen	(R) 431
Rob Murphy	(L) 416
Tony Fossas*	(L) 413
Kent Tekulve	(R) 412
Rick Honeycutt	(L) 411
Bob McLure	(L) 392
Eric Plunk *	(R) 384
Tom Burgmeier	(L) 372
Dan Plesac*	(L) 369

PERCENTAGE OF GAMES FINISHED (RELIEF APPEARANCES ONLY)

Of those pitchers who finished at least 400 games in relief, these 11 have the highest percentage of relief appearances finished.

	<u>Relief Games</u>	<u>Finished</u>	<u>Pct.</u>
Rick Aguilera *	528	472	.894
Tom Henke	642	548	.854
John Wetteland*	477	407	.853
Rod Beck*	497	416	.837
Dan Quisenberry	674	553	.820
John Franco*	832	677	.814
Dennis Eckersley*	710	577	.813
Doug Jones*	718	583	.812
Jeff Reardon	880	695	.790
Lee Smith	1016	802	.7894
Jeff Montgomery*	650	513	.7892

MOST PUTOUTS PER GAME BY PITCHERS

This is a list of the ten pitchers with the highest rate of putouts per game, or putouts per nine innings pitched. (Minimum 200 putouts) Those with asterisks (six of the 10) were active in 1998, and surprisingly, at least to me, all pitched within the last twenty years.

	<u>PO</u>	<u>IP</u>	<u>PO/IP</u>		<u>PO</u>	<u>IP</u>	<u>PO/IP</u>
Kevin Brown*	271	2178.1	1.120	Mark Gubicza	237	2223.1	.959
Dan Petry	255	2080.1	1.103	Doug Drabek*	266	2535.0	.944
Greg Maddux *	349	2849.1	1.102	Jack Morris	387	3824.0	.911
Mike Boddicker	245	2123.2	1.038	Mike Moore	277	2831.2	.880
Orel Hershiser*	312	2926.2	.960	Dave Stieb*	272	2895.1	.846

CORRECTIONS TO PITCHERS' WON-LOST RECORDS

Most of us in SABR, and particularly those of us on the Baseball Records Committee, are familiar with the work Joe Wayman, Frank Williams, and Walt Wilson have done to correct pitching statistics. I have tried through this newsletter to make their findings available to those (God help us) who care that, for instance, Joe Bush really had 12 starts and not 11 for the 1926 Pirates. The following data comes from Frank, among whose other accomplishments is the groundbreaking article All the Record Books Are Wrong, which appeared in the 1982 issue of *The National Pastime*. In that essay, Frank explained the qualifications used to award wins and losses in the pre-1920 American League. Those qualifications were substantially different than the present ones, in use since 1950. Because the present qualifications had been applied retroactively to the earlier period, and because he also found numerous transcription errors in the scoresheets, Frank has spent the time since correcting the won-lost records and the awarding of saves for the pitchers of that era.

The following American League corrections are a compilation of the most recent Frank has found. Pete Palmer has accepted them all and says they will appear in the sixth edition of *Total Baseball*. However, because there generally is no indication in *Total Baseball* that a particular historical statistic has been changed from the previous edition, say by putting it in italics, or a different colored ink, or footnoting it, I hope by publishing this data I can alert researchers to the coming changes.

Along with these changes in season records, it is, of course, also necessary to adjust each pitcher's lifetime record.

1901 CHICAGO: Roy Patterson lost 15, not 16; Erwin Harvey lost 7, not 6

1901 DETROIT: Ed Siever lost 14, not 15; Jack Cronin lost 16, not 15

1901 MILWAUKEE: Ned Garvin won 8, not 7, and saved 1, not 2; Bert Husting won 9, not 10; Pete Dowling lost 3, not 4; Tully Sparks lost 17, not 16

1902 CLEVELAND: Earl Moore lost 18, not 17; Gene Wright lost 10, not 11

1902 PHILADELPHIA: Highball Wilson lost 4, not 5; Fred Mitchell lost 8, not 7

1902 WASHINGTON: Case Patten won 18, not 17, lost 17, not 16, and saved 0, not 1; Jack Townsend won 8, not 9; Watty Lee lost 6, not 7

1904 DETROIT: Ed Killian won 15, not 14, and saved 0, not 1; Frank Kitson, won 9, not 8, and saved 0, not 1; Bill Donovan won 16, not 17; Jesse Stovall won 2, not 3

1904 WASHINGTON: Tom Hughes won 3, not 2, and lost 12, not 13; Beany Jacobson won 5, not 6; Barney Wolfe lost 10, not 9

1905 WASHINGTON: Case Patten lost 21, not 22; Barney Wolfe lost 14, not 13

1906 CHICAGO: Ed Walsh saved 2, not 1

1907 DETROIT: Ed Killian saved 0, not 1

1907 NEW YORK: Walter Clarkson saved 1, not 0

1913 BOSTON: Dutch Leonard lost 17, not 16; Rube Foster lost 3, not 4

1913 CHICAGO: Ed Cicotte lost 11, not 12; Jim Scott lost 21, not 20

1913 CLEVELAND: Nick Cullop lost 6, not 7; Lefty James lost 3, not 2

1913 NEW YORK: Al Schulz lost 14, not 13; Jack Warhop lost 5, not 6

1913 ST. LOUIS: George Baumgardner lost 20, not 19; Carl Weilman lost 19, not 20

1914 BOSTON: Rankin Johnson won 3, not 4; Joe Wood won 10, not 9, and saved 0, not 1

1914 CHICAGO: Joe Benz won 15, not 14; Reb Russell won 7, not 8

1914 CLEVELAND: Willie Mitchell won 11, not 12; Fred Blanding won 4, not 3, and saved 0, not 1

1914 DETROIT: Jean Dubuc won 12, not 13; Hooks Dauss won 19, not 18, and saved 3, not 4

1914 NEW YORK: Boardwalk Brown won 18, not 17, and saved 0, not 1; Boardwalk Brown won 6, not 5, and saved 0, not 1; Ray Keating won 8, not 7, and saved 0, not 1; Marty McHale won 6, not 7; King Cole won 10, not 11; Cy Pieh won 3, not 4

1914 PHILADELPHIA: Joe Bush won 17, not 16, lost 13, not 12, and saved 2, not 3; Boardwalk Brown lost 5, not 6; Bob Shawkey had 15 wins, not 16 (Also, Bush started 23 games, not 22, and Brown started 7 games, not 8)

1914 ST. LOUIS: Earl Hamilton won 16, not 17; Carl Weilman won 17, not 18, and lost 12, not 13; George Baumgardner won 16, not 14, lost 14, not 13, and saved 1, not 3

1914 WASHINGTON: Doc Ayers won 11, not 12; Joe Boehling won 13, not 12, and saved 0, not 1

1915 DETROIT: Bernie Boland saved 3, not 2

1915 NEW YORK: Boardwalk Brown won 3, not 2, and saved 0, not 1; King Cole won 2, not 3

1915 St. LOUIS: Bill James won 6, not 7; Walt Leverentz won 1, not 0, and saved 0, not 1

MOST HOME RUNS IN CONSECUTIVE SEASONS

If anyone has doubts about Mark McGwire's place in baseball history, check Dave Vincent's list of home run leaders for two, three, and four consecutive seasons. When you get to five years and beyond, it's pretty much all Ruth.

Two seasons

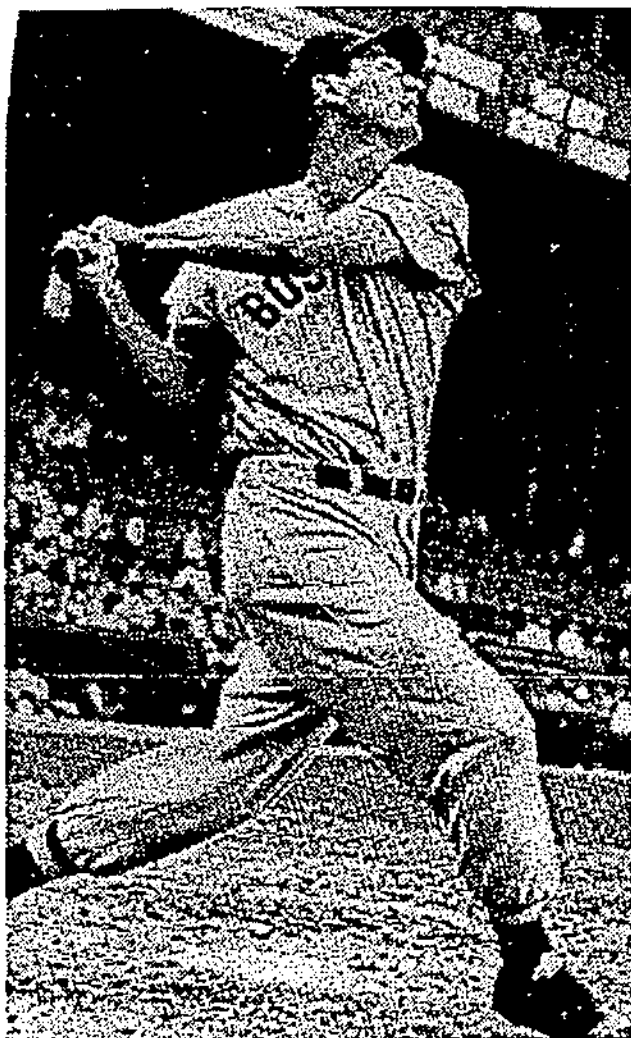
Mark McGwire, 1997-98 (128)
Babe Ruth, 1927-28 (114)
Babe Ruth, 1920-21 (113)
Ken Griffey, Jr., 1997-98 (112)
Mark McGwire, 1996-97 (110)
Babe Ruth, 1926-27 (107)
Jimmie Foxx, 1932-33 (105)
Sammy Sosa, 1997-98 (102)
Ralph Kiner, 1949-50 (101)
Babe Ruth, 1928-29 (100)
Roger Maris, 1960-61 (100)

Three seasons

Mark McGwire, 1996-98 (180)
Babe Ruth, 1926-28 (161)
Ken Griffey, Jr., 1996-98 (161)
Babe Ruth, 1927-29 (160)
Jimmie Foxx, 1932-34 (150)
Babe Ruth, 1928-30 (149)
Mark McGwire, 1995-97 (149)
Babe Ruth, 1920-22, (148)
Ralph Kiner, 1947-49 (145)
Ralph Kiner, 1949-51 (143)

Four seasons

Mark McGwire, 1995-98 (219)
Babe Ruth, 1927-30 (209)
Babe Ruth, 1926-29 (207)
Babe Ruth, 1928-31 (195)
Ralph Kiner, 1947-50 (192)
Babe Ruth, 1920-23 (189)
Harmon Killebrew, 1961-64 ((188)
Babe Ruth, 1925-28 (186)
Jimmie Foxx, 1932-25 (186)
Willie Mays, 1962-65 (186)



JEFF TACKETT and CHRIS DONNELLS: Sharing a batting accomplishment with Ted Williams

This could have been a great trivia question. What could two rather nondescript players like Tackett and Donnels have in common with the great Ted Williams. The answer, according to Bill Deane, is that all homered in their final official major league at bat. Baltimore's Tackett homered off Mike Trombley of Minnesota on August 2, 1994, and Boston's Donnels homered off Milwaukee's Scott Karl on October 1, 1995. Tackett and Donnels remain the last players to have done this.

Bill checked all the players who homered in 1997 and did not bat in 1998. Five of them homered in their final game, but none of them did it in his final at bat. (Bill's complete list of "Players Who Homered In Their Last Official At-Bat," which includes one other Hall of Famer, Mickey Cochrane," appeared in the April 1998 Baseball Records Committee newsletter.)

THEY CAME VERY CLOSE

Carlton Fisk retired with 3,999 Total Bases. He fell one single short of becoming the first catcher to reach 4,000 Total Bases. (It might have been enough to make him a first ballot Hall of Famer.)

Now, according to John Schwartz, Dennis Martinez has come even closer to reaching a statistical milestone. Unless Martinez un-retires, he will have finished his career with a total of 3,999.2 innings pitched.

The committee welcomes John Lewis; 6487 Carriage Lane; Reynoldsburg, OH 43068; (614) 866-3961, and Chuck Lumb; 1010 W. Altgeld St., Apt.5; Chicago, IL 60614; (312) 258-6108; John's email address is BUC21@MSN.com Chuck's email address is clumb@ssax.com