

# Society For American Baseball Research

## Baseball Records Committee

Lyle Spatz, Editor

February 2006

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

---Albert Einstein

### RESEARCHING NINETEENTH CENTURY BATTING STATISTICS

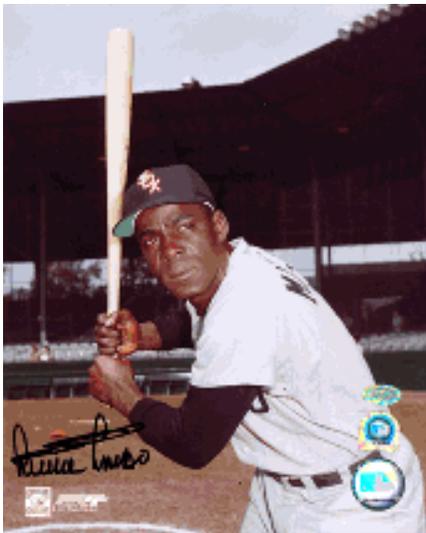
The December 2005 newsletter contained a note from **David Nemeč** bemoaning the fact that while there were a large number of people working on amending and revising 19th century pitchers' stats, there appeared to be no one, or at least very few, working on 19th century hitters' stats. David, himself a major contributor to 19th century research, feels that "there is a ton of work to be done," in this area and was seeking researchers willing to help. I received the following response from **Bob McConnell**, who has been doing baseball research for more years than most SABR members have been alive.

"This is regarding Dave Nemeč's concern about 19th Century stats, particularly RBI. As you probably know, Ernie Lanigan compiled unofficial RBI for 1907 thru 1919. These stats were used in Big Mac. Stats prior to 1907 were compiled by a bunch of college boys hired by Dave Neft and they were used in Big Mac. I am amazed that these stats are accepted as gospel by most baseball people. I have done a great deal of research on 19th Century baseball and it is impossible to compile accurate RBI. Many years ago, I compiled Ty Cobb's RBI for his first two years (1905 & 1906). There were a few games where I could not determine who had the RBI. I was lucky to determine that Cobb did NOT bat them in. My compilation includes the inning, who scored, and how Cobb knocked them in. I gave my results to Lee Allen and he sent out a press release. My figures do not agree with those in Big Mac. My guess is that half of the 19th Century RBI can be questioned."

Bob McConnell

### OLDEST MAJOR LEAGUER TO HIT SAFELY

Players have been known to lie about or "misremember" their birthdays, especially those born before World War II and those from Latin American countries. Over the years, chairman **Bill Carle** and the folks on SABR's Biographical Research Committee have done an amazing amount of detective work in uncovering correct birth (and death) dates for hundreds of players. Nevertheless, while age-related records are interesting to track, for the most part they are "unofficial." One of the ones we do track, however, is the oldest player to hit safely in a major league game. For nearly the last 30 years we have thought that person to be Minnie Minoso, who batted safely as a DH for the White Sox on September 12, 1976. At the time, Minoso was 53 years and ten months old. But a member of Bill's committee discovered that Jim O'Rourke, playing for the Giants, was 54 years and 21 days old when he hit safely on September 22, 1904. Thus, O'Rourke, not Minoso holds this "record." Keep in mind that both men got their final hits in gimmick-type appearances well after their regular playing days were over.



## UNRECORDED RUNS BATTED IN: AMERICAN LEAGUE (1920-1921)

**Trent McCotter**, who received one of the Yoseloff-SABR Baseball Research Grants to study "AL Anomalies 1920-30," has found some of those anomalies related to unrecorded RBI in 1920 and 1921. Trent went through the 1920-21 American League daily sheets and found the following cases of players hitting a home run and not being credited with a run batted in for a solo home run or the requisite number of runs batted in for home runs hit with men on base.

### 1920

April 26, Roger Peckinpaugh (New York) solo HR. Peckinpaugh should have 55 RBI.

May 12, Aaron Ward (New York) solo HR. Ward should have 55 RBI.

June 11, Buck Weaver (Chicago) solo HR. Weaver should have 75 RBI.

July 5, Stuffy McInnis (Philadelphia) solo HR. McInnis should have 72 RBI.

### 1921

April 14, Wally Pipp (New York) solo HR. Pipp should have 98 RBI.

April 15, Patsy Gharrity (Washington) HR with one on. Gharrity should have 57 RBI.

April 16, Bob Meusel (New York) solo HR. Meusel should have 136 RBI.

July 5 and August 18, Baby Doll Jacobson (St. Louis) Solo HR on each date. Jacobson should have 92 RBI.

August 14, Marty McManus (St. Louis) HR with two on. McManus should have 67 RBI.

August 17, Bing Miller (Washington) HR with one on. Miller should have 73 RBI.

August 18, Earl Smith (Washington) solo HR. Smith should have 13 RBI for Washington and 27 for the season.

September 11, Elam Vangilder (St. Louis) solo HR. Vangilder should have 4 RBI.

September 28, Del Pratt (Boston) HR with one on. Pratt should have 104 RBI.

## MOST SACRIFICE HITS IN AN INNING

Both *The Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book* and *The Elias Book of Baseball Records* list the major league record for Most sacrifice hits in an inning (excluding sacrifice flies) as three. It's been done several times in each league, but while checking games for *Retrosheet*, **Greg Beston** found an inning which appears to have had four sacrifice hits, none of which were sacrifice flies. We all know that next-day newspaper accounts can be unreliable, but if this one is accurate it would of course be a new record.

The apparent record-breaker was in the eighth inning of a game Pittsburgh played at Brooklyn on May 21, 1913. "Four sacrifice hits in one inning, yes, and all in consecutive order, too," said the *Pittsburgh Post* in their game report. The accompanying play-by-play described the Pirates' eighth inning as follows:

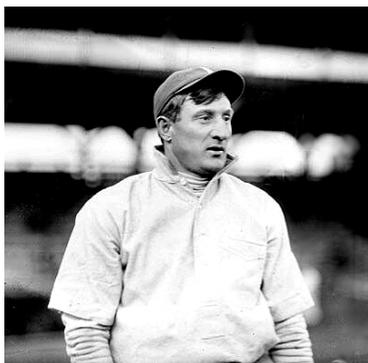
Jim Viox singled

Honus Wagner sacrificed (1) and was safe on a throwing error by Brooklyn pitcher Pat Ragan

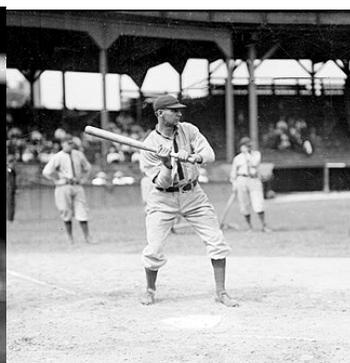
Dots Miller sacrificed (2) but reached second on a throwing error by Brooklyn third baseman Red Smith; both Viox and Wagner scored

Owen Wilson sacrificed (3) Miller to third

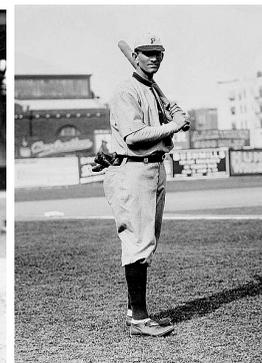
Bobby Byrne executed a squeeze sacrifice bunt (4) and Miller scored.



**Honus Wagner**



**Dots Miller**



**Owen Wilson**



**Bobby Byrne**

## JOE EVERS, RED LONG, AND CHICK HARTLEY

The only thing that Joe Evers, Red Long, and Chick Hartley had in common was the length of their major league careers. Each played in only one game, yet they all seem to have errors in the encyclopedia listings of their "career records."

**Scott Brandon**, who is researching the careers of all one-gamers, believes he has found errors in the career records of Evers and Long, and **Greg Beston**, while inputting data for Retrosheet, believes he has found one in Hartley's.

**JOE EVERS:** Unlike his older brother Johnny, a Hall-of-Famer, Joe Evers had the briefest of major league careers. In the one game he played, it was as a pinch runner for the New York Giants against the Philadelphia Phillies on April 24, 1913. He had no at bats, and spent no time in the field. Aside from the "1" in the games played column, his official line shows zeroes across the board. However, Scott believes that Evers should be charged with one caught stealing attempt. According to the game account in the next day's *New York Times*, Evers entered the game in the third inning as a runner for Chief Myers but was caught stealing at third base on the front end of a double steal (catcher Bill Killefer to third baseman Hans Lobert). Grover Hartley then entered the game as Myers' defensive replacement behind the plate and Evers' Major League career came to an end.

**RED LONG:** Long's one major league appearance was as a pitcher for the Boston Beaneaters against the St. Louis Cardinals on September 11, 1902. He is credited, correctly, with an eight-inning complete game, yet his batting statistics show him with only one at-bat, with no walks, hit-by-pitches, or sacrifices. Scott checked the *Boston Globe's* box score for the game, which reported that Long went to bat three times with no hits.

**CHICK HARTLEY:** Hartley's one major league game was with the New York Giants on June 4, 1902. He is listed as having no stolen bases, but according to the play-by-play source Greg used, as well as the box score in the *Chicago Daily Tribune*, Hartley stole a base in the bottom of the tenth inning after reaching first on a fielder's choice.

## MOST RUNS SCORED IN THE SECOND INNING

*The Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book* and *The Elias Book of Baseball Records* agree that the record for Most runs scored by one team in the second inning is 13 and that it has happened four times. New York, of the National League, was thought to be the first to do it, in the first game of a July 19, 1890 doubleheader against Cleveland. It's been done twice since in the NL, by Atlanta against Houston on September 20, 1972 and by San Diego against Pittsburgh on May 31, 1994. The only American League team to score 13 runs in the second inning was the Kansas City A's who did it against Chicago on April 21, 1956.

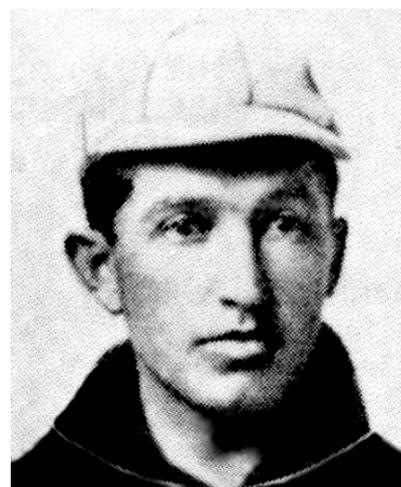
Now, **Trent McCotter** reports on what has to be the first incidence of a 13-run second inning, by Chicago against Cincinnati on August 7, 1877. Trent found it listed in **David Fleitz's** book on Cap Anson, "The Grand Old Man of Baseball," and verified it in the *Chicago Daily Tribune*.

The two teams also became the first to combine for 13 runs in the second inning (Chicago 13, Cincinnati 0) setting the National League record (since tied) for Most runs scored by both teams in the second inning.

## CHARLIE DEXTER

The various baseball encyclopedia do not list any games played at shortstop for Charlie Dexter during the part of the 1902 season he spent with Chicago of the National League. But **Greg Beston** found that Dexter did play shortstop for a portion of the June 23, 1902 game against Pittsburgh. Chicago shortstop Joe Tinker was ejected in the top of the fourth inning, and Dexter, who had been playing first base, moved to shortstop in the bottom half of the inning. This is shown in both the play-by-play account and the *Chicago Daily Tribune's* box score.

Charlie Dexter



## CATCHING JIM PALMER AND JUAN MARICHAL

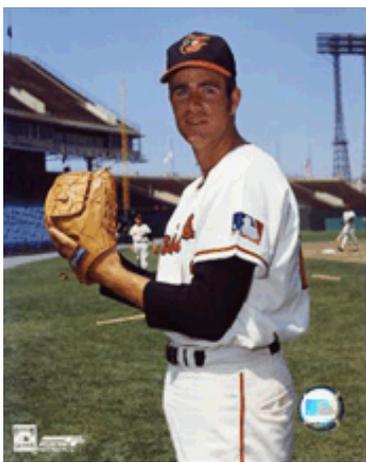
Walt Wilson's list of battery mates for Hall of Fame pitchers during their starts and shutouts continues with two righthanders: Jim Palmer, who spent his entire career with the Orioles, and Juan Marichal, who spent all but two years of his with the Giants.

### CATCHING JIM PALMER

Jim Palmer pitched for Baltimore (AL) 1965-67, 1969-84. He made 521 starts and pitched 53 shutouts.

	<u>Starts</u>	<u>Shutouts</u>
Rick Dempsey	158	8
Elrod Hendricks	101	16
Andy Etchebarren	98	8
Dave Duncan	41	8
Earl Williams	30	3
Dave Skaggs	19	2
Dan Graham	18	0
Joe Nolan	16	2
Johnny Oates	15	3
Larry Haney	7	0
John Orsino	5	0
Clay Dalrymple	4	0
Vic Roznovsky	4	0
Ken Rudolph	2	0
Dick Brown	1	0
Cam Carreon	1	0
Jim Hutto	1	1
Total	521	53

Two of Palmer's shutouts were with more than one catcher.



### CATCHING JUAN MARICHAL

Juan Marichal pitched for San Francisco (NL) 1960-73; Boston (AL) 1974, and Los Angeles (NL) 1975. He made 457 starts and pitched 52 shutouts.

	<u>Starts</u>	<u>Shutouts</u>
Tom Haller	125	17
Dick Dietz	94	14
Ed Bailey	62	8
Dave Rader	45	2
Jack Hiatt	29	2
Bob Barton	22	3
Del Crandall	12	0
John Orsino	12	3
Russ Gibson	11	0
Bob Schmidt	7	0
Dick Bertell	6	1
Fran Healy	5	0
Hobie Landrith	5	1
Mike Sadek	5	0
Tim Blackwell	3	0
Bob Montgomery	3	0
Joe Ferguson	2	0
Carlton Fisk	2	0
Johnny Stephenson	2	0
Ozzie Virgil	2	0
Chris Arnold	1	0
Randy Hundley	1	1
Tim McCarver	1	0
Total	457	52



### Please make these adjustments to the December 2005 newsletter:

Special accomplishments year should read **2005**, not 2004.  
 Jeff Kent played for **Los Angeles** in 2005, not Houston.  
 The Yankees have **80** seasons with 100 or more HRs, the AL record.  
 The Giants have **69** seasons with 100 or more HRs, the NL record.  
 Alex Rodriguez did **not** tie the AL record for Most Extra-Base Hits in a Game on April 18.  
 Minnesota's Jesse Crain, with 11, set the **AL** record for Most consecutive wins in relief to start a career.  
 The Cubs 97 years without a World Series win adds to their record of futility, rather than tying it.

### ROSS ADELL

The members of the Baseball Records Committee wish Ross all the best as he battles to recover from his health problems. We all look forward to seeing him in Seattle, wearing his ever-present Mets cap perched above his perpetually smiling face. Godspeed, Ross.