

Society for American Baseball Research Baseball 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

HACK WILSON'S "191ST" RBI IN 1930

The major topic of discussion at the Baseball Records Committee meeting in Louisville was Cliff Kachline's suggestion that Hack Wilson record-setting runs-batted-in total in 1930 was actually 191, and not the long accepted 190. Building on the extensive research done by SABR member Bob Soderman, who carefully studied each of Wilson's 1930 games, Cliff explained that the official sheets missed a Wilson RBI that occurred in the third inning of the second game of an August 28 doubleheader against Cincinnati. Committee members were given copies of Wilson's 1930 day-by-day sheet, furnished by Scot Mondore of the Hall of Fame, and a play-by-play description of the game from the *Chicago Daily News* illustrating this discrepancy. Wilson's day-by-day sheet shows no run batted in for the game, yet the play-by-play for his third inning at-bat reads "*Wilson singled, scoring Cuyler.*" Dave Vincent and Frank Williams have corroborated Wilson's RBI in such other newspapers as *The Chicago Tribune*, *The Cincinnati Enquirer*, *The New York Times*, and *The Washington Post*.

This issue first surfaced almost 20 years ago when a former SABR member named James Braswell discovered the error while trying to confirm that Wilson had RBI's in 11 consecutive games, which was then the NL record. Cliff did his own investigation and found the evidence convincing. Based on that research, Paul MacFarlane, the editor of *The Sporting News Hall of Fame Fact Book*, showed Wilson with 191 RBI's in 1930 on page 139 of the 1982 edition of that publication. Furthermore, in the first sentence of the comments above Wilson's year-by-year statistics, MacFarlane says "Set major league record for most runs batted in, season (191), 1930."

I recognize that unlike something like "Most right fielders used in a game," this is a record that would not be easy to get Major League baseball and the baseball record books to change. But then neither was getting them to accept Walter Johnson's 417th win; now all have or will shortly.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE OUR VOICES HEARD

Also at our committee meeting, Steve Gietschier, Archivist for *The Sporting News*, broached the question of how the TSN Guide and Record Book should handle interleague games in 1998 and in future editions. In a follow-up communication, Steve and I discussed some specific choices that TSN will have to make. To help them make those choices they are seeking input from their best and most knowledgeable customers, us. Steve has asked me to get a sense of how SABR members feel about the proposed changes and assured me that our opinions will be considered in making a final decision. So think about the items below and send me your ideas

For instance, in addition to tables for all batters, the Guide now has separate tables for NL pinch hitters, AL pinch hitters, and AL Designated Hitters. Which of any of the following additional breakouts would you like to see?

- (1) NL designated hitters ; (2) AL and NL batting in interleague games; (3) AL and NL pitching in interleague games;
- (4) AL and NL fielding in interleague games; (5) Won-Lost data for teams and pitchers showing their records against all other teams in both leagues

Also think about the Record Book. I can think of three possibilities for listing game or inning records set in interleague games, although there could be others.

- (1) A separate section devoted strictly to interleague games that mirrors comparable categories in the Record Book;
- (2) Include the interleague records along with the AL, NL, and pre-1900 NL records; (3) Showing only those records set in an interleague game that exceed both the AL and NL records.

Adding even some of this material leads us to the next question. Would you prefer that TSN (1) Add pages to the Guide and Record Book, thus making it more expensive or (2) Eliminate other material in order to hold the price.

HOME TEAMS ALSO HAVE LEADOFF BATTERS

Both Dave Vincent and Herm Krabbenhoft informed me that the list of Leadoff World Series Home Runs in the June newsletter was incomplete because it showed only those leadoff home runs hit by the visiting team. Dave cited **Bob Davids**, **Bob McConnell** and **John Tattersall**, all of whom said that a home run hit by a leadoff batter for the home team is considered a leadoff home run. Far be it for me to argue with such a learned and illustrious group. The list evolved from **Ev Parker's** search to find if anyone besides Cleveland's Al Smith had homered on the first pitch of a World Series game, a game that Ev attended. My mistake was in labeling the list "leadoff home runs" and not "home runs hit by the game's first batter."

Herm, who's done extensive research on leadoff batters, sent along the *home-team* leadoff batters who homered in a World Series game. They are PATSY DOUGHERTY (1903 Red Sox, off Pirates' Sam Leever in Game 3); PHIL RIZZUTO (1942 Yanks, off Cardinals' Johnny Beazley in Game 5); DALE MITCHELL (1948 Indians, off Braves' Nelson Potter in game 5); BILL BRUTON (1958 Braves, off Yanks' Bob Turley in Game 2); DON BUFORD (1969 Orioles, off Mets' Tom Seaver in Game 1); TOMMIE AGEE (1969 Mets, off Orioles' Jim Palmer in Game 3); WAYNE GARRETT (1973 Mets, off A's Catfish Hunter in Game 3); DAVEY LOPES (1978 Dodgers, off A's Catfish Hunter in game 6). Herm notes that the leadoff batter for both teams has never homered in the same World Series game, nor have a team's first two batters ever homered to start a Series game.

HOME RUNS IN FINAL WORLD SERIES AT-BAT

This list, from **Bill Deane**, is of players who Homered in their final World Series at-bat. Of course, Dykstra, Carter, and Justice are still active.

Date	Game	Batter	Team	Site	Opp	Pitcher	Inn	OB
10/13/1915	Five	Fred Luderus	PHI(N)	PHI	BOS	Rube Foster	4	0
10/15/1925	Seven	Roger Peckinpaugh	WAS(A)	PIT	PIT	Ray Kremer	8	0
10/09/1928	Four	Cedric Durst	NY(A)	STL	STL	Pete Alexander	8	0
10/02/1932	Four	Earle Combs	NY(A)	CHI	CHI	Burleigh Grimes	9	0
10/07/1940	Six	Bucky Walters	CIN(N)	CIN	DET	Fred Hutchinson	8	0
10/02/1954	Four	Hank Majeski	CLE(A)	CLE	NY	Don Liddle	5	2
10/08/1959	Six	Chuck Essegian	LA(N)	CHI	CHI	Ray Moore	9	0
10/13/1960	Seven	Hal Smith	PIT(N)	PIT	NY	Jim Coates	8	2
10/09/1961	Five	Wally Post	CIN(N)	CIN	NY	Bud Daley	5	1
10/15/1964	Seven	Ken Boyer	STL(N)	STL	NY	Steve Hamilton	7	0
10/15/1964	Seven	Clete Boyer	NY(A)	STL	STL	Bob Gibson	9	0
10/15/1964	Seven	Phil Linz	NY(A)	STL	STL	Bob Gibson	9	0
10/13/1965	Six	Jim Grant	MIN(A)	MIN	LA	Howie Reed	6	2
10/10/1968	Seven	Mike Shannon	STL(N)	STL	DET	Mickey Lolich	9	0
10/17/1974	Five	Joe Rudi	OAK(A)	OAK	LA	Mike Marshall	7	0
10/19/1976	Three	Jim Mason	NY(A)	NY	CIN	Pat Zachry	7	0
10/21/1976	Four	Johnny Bench	CIN(N)	NY	NY	Dick Tidrow	9	2
10/24/1981	Four	Jay Johnstone	LA(N)	LA	NY	Ron Davis	6	1
10/28/1981	Six	Pedro Guerrero	LA(N)	NY	NY	Rudy May	8	0
10/14/1984	Five	Kurt Bevacqua	SD(N)	DET	DET	Willie Hernandez	8	0
10/15/1988	One	Kirk Gibson	LA(N)	LA	OAK	Dennis Eckersley	9	1
10/23/1993	Six	Lenny Dykstra	PHI(N)	TOR	TOR	Dave Stewart	7	2
10/23/1993	Six	Joe Carter	TOR(A)	TOR	PHI	Mitch Williams	9	2
10/28/1995	Six	David Justice	ATL(N)	ATL	CLE	Jim Poole	6	0

WELCOME TO NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Baseball Records Committee welcomes **Eric Jones**: 1076 Boulevard, Apt.2; West Hartford, CT 06119; 860-232-0210; **Joe Murphy**: 2441 Delevan Way; Santa Rosa, CA 95404; 707-546-3223; and **Bob Schaefer**: 526 N. Lake Circle; Crystal River, FL 34429 ; 352-795-4690

A NEWLY DISCOVERED WIN FOR HERB PENNOCK

In the April newsletter we documented a new-found win for Eddie Cicotte; now we have one for Herb Pennock. It was a joint discovery by **Pete Palmer** and **Walt Wilson**, conveyed to me by **Frank Williams**. The game was on June 3, 1921. Pennock was then with the Red Sox, who defeated Cleveland, 7-6, at Fenway Park. Pennock relieved starter Allan Russell at the start of the seventh inning with a 5-4 lead (Russell had been pinch-hit for in the Boston sixth). Boston added a run in the seventh to make it 6-4 but the Indians got single runs in the eighth and ninth to tie the game at 6-6. In the last of the ninth, Boston's Sammy Vick hit a pinch single to score Stuffie McInnis with the winning run. Clearly, the win should go to the pitcher of record in the ninth inning, which was Pennock. The problem is that the official sheets switched Russell and Pennock, showing Pennock as the starter and Russell as the reliever and winner. (They do correctly have Russell with six innings-pitched, and Pennock with three.) We have copies of the *Boston Globe*, *New York Times* and *Sporting News*, all of which show that Russell was the starter and Pennock the reliever. Additionally, the Times box score, which begin listing winning and losing pitchers in 1918, shows Pennock as the winner. The records of Pennock and Russell should change as follows:

	Category	Corrected 1921	Corrected Lifetime
Herb Pennock	Won-Lost	13-14	241-162
Herb Pennock	Relief Won-Lost	1-0	24-17
Herb Pennock	Games Started	30	419
Allan Russell	Won-Loss	6-11	70-76
Allan Russell	Relief Won-Lost	3-2	33-21
Allan Russell	Games Started	14	112

All of the above corrections already appear in the fifth edition of Total Baseball. Ken Samelson has said that he will make the corrections to Pennock and Russell's 1921 record and to Pennock's lifetime record in the next edition of The Baseball Encyclopedia.

However Mac and TB disagree on some other of Russell's individual year totals, and thus his lifetime totals. Frank found these differences in Russell's career stats: Although both TB and Mac show him with 54 complete games, there are individual year differences. In 1921 TB shows him with seven complete games: Mac has eight. In 1923 TB shows him with four complete games: Mac has three. There is a one inning difference in total innings-pitched. TB has 1394.1, and Mac has 1393.1. This is a result of the one inning difference in 1919: TB, 212.0; Mac, 211.0.

Mac also has Russell with 77 lifetime losses, one more than the 76 credited to him by TB. The discrepancy is in 1923, when Russell was with Washington. Mac lists his record at 10-8; TB at 10-7. There are other differences in 1923: TB lists five starts while Mac has six.

Frank is doing further research into Russell's career statistics to see if he can determine the source of these discrepancies.



RECORD BOOK CORRECTIONS

Many of the corrections that appear in this newsletter come from the dedicated volunteers at Retrosheet, in particular from Greg Beston. Below are four of Greg's findings from the 1977 season.

Most home runs with two outs, inning. The American League record is three. The 1997 Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book (p. 53), and Elias's The Book of Baseball Records (p. 112) show five different clubs sharing the record. However, the 1977 Boston Red Sox accomplished the feat on August 13 and should be added to the list. With two out in the sixth inning of a game against Seattle at Fenway Park, George Scott, Butch Hobson and Dwight Evans hit back-to-back home runs.

Players with three home runs in a game. In their list on page 172, The 1997 Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book correctly shows Boston's Jim Rice hitting three home runs against Oakland on August 29, 1977. However Rice is shown in bold face which is meant to indicate that the home runs were in consecutive times at bat. They weren't. Rice's homers were in the second, third and sixth innings, but he also batted in the fourth inning and singled. The Book of Baseball Records (p. 112) shows this correctly.

Most chances accepted, doubleheader. The 1997 Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book (p.93) lists Billy Martin and Cass Michaels as sharing the American League record for a second baseman with 24. Greg says that the score books of both the California Angels and the Texas Rangers show that California's Jerry Remy had 26 chances in a double header against the Rangers on June 26, 1977. Remy had four putouts and 12 assists in the 11-inning first game, and five putouts and five assists in the second game. The Book of Baseball Records does not list this record.

Most hit batsmen, inning. In the recent past, Bud Black of Cleveland (July 8, 1988--fourth inning, second game), Bert Blyleven of Minnesota (Sept. 28, 1988--second inning) and Mark Gardner of Montreal (Aug. 15, 1992--first inning) have hit three batters in an inning. The 1997 Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book on page 82 correctly lists them as having done so. However, in the category **Most hit by pitch, inning** in the Club Batting section on page 59, these three instances are omitted. The Book of Baseball Records (p. 93) shows this correctly.

Jim Smith found an error in the batting record of George Yeager. Playing for Boston, Yeager made his major league debut in a game at Washington on September 25, 1896. He played first base and went one for five. The next day, September 26, Yeager batted for first baseman Jack Stivetts in the top of the ninth and made out. He then replaced Stivetts at first base in the bottom of the ninth. Total Baseball and The Baseball Encyclopedia show Yeager's 1910 batting average at .200 (one for five); Jim believes it should actually be .167 (one for six). Jim also says that because the at-bats for the September 26 game add up, he believes that an extra at bat is incorrectly credited to Stivetts.

Walt Wilson found two errors in the pitching record of Paul "Shorty" Des Jardien . It would be hard to find more. Des Jardien pitched only one inning in one major league game. It was for Cleveland in a 13-3 loss at Washington on May 20, 1916. He pitched the eighth inning, allowing three runs. Total Baseball, The Baseball Encyclopedia, and The Sports Encyclopedia--Baseball all agree on that. However, they all show Des Jardins as having allowed only one walk and one base hit in the inning. Walt checked the box score and game story in the *New York Times*, both of which credit Des Jardins with three walks and two base hits.

GETTING OFF TO A GREAT START

This is Frank Williams's list of major league pitchers who won their first 13 games in a season. Frank reminds us however, that if the National Association is again recognized as a major league, Al Spalding (13-0 in 1874 and 24-0 in 1875) would replace Marquard as having the best start ever.

Pitcher	Team	Year	Start	Final	Pitcher	Team	Year	Start	Final
Rube Marquard	NY (N)	1912	19-0	26-11	John Smoltz	ATL(N)	1996	14-0	24-8
Elroy Face	PIT(N)	1959	17-0	18-1	Roger Clemens	BOS(A)	1986	14-0	24-4
Dave McNally	BAL(A)	1969	15-0	20-7	Ron Guidry	NY (A)	1978	13-0	25-3
Johnny Allen	CLE(A)	1937	15-0	15-1	Brooks Lawrence	CIN(N)	1956	13-0	19-10