

SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN BASEBALL RESEARCH BASEBALL RECORDS COMMITTEE

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

DR. SIMON "SAMMY" CURRAN

Pitcher Sammy Curran made his major league debut for the hometown Boston Doves on August 1, 1902. Curran relieved starter Mal Eason during a 6-1 loss to the visiting Chicago Cubs. The encyclopedias credit Curran with 6.2 innings pitched that day, meaning that he would have relieved Eason with one out in the third inning--an inning in which the Cubs scored five runs. But Dixie Tourangeau found that Curran did not enter the game until the start of the fourth inning, and so pitched just six innings, not 6.2, during which time he allowed just one run. Dixie confirmed this in five different Boston newspapers. This, for example, is from the *Boston Post*.

"Eason started the game for the locals, but after the third inning when Chicago scored five runs, (manager Al) Buckenberger called him to the bench and Curran took his place."

Despite his fine performance, this would be Curran's only big league appearance. For in fact, Sammy Curran was also Dr. Simon Curran, a 27-year-old Dorchester physician who would go on to a most distinguished career in medicine. He was a major in WW I, and later served and oversaw many medical boards in the Boston area until his death in 1936. More than 200 local doctors attended his funeral, an indication of the respect in which he was held. Why did he choose medicine over baseball and never pitch again? As Moonlight Graham would say, "it would have been a shame if I had only been a doctor for five minutes."



Mal Eason

AN UNPRECEDENTED ACCOMPLISHMENT BY THE SEATTLE MARINERS

Walt Wilson noted that in the course of their sensational 116-46 season in 2001, the Seattle Mariners won the season series from every one of the 18 teams they faced--13 in the American League and five in the National League. Their record against AL teams was : Anaheim (15-4); Baltimore (8-1); Boston (6-3); Chicago (7-2); Cleveland (5-2); Detroit (5-2); Kansas City (6-3); Minnesota (8-1); New York (6-3); Oakland (10-9); Tampa Bay (7-2); Texas (15-5); Toronto (6-3). And against NL opponents: Arizona (2-1); Colorado (2-1); Los Angeles (2-1); San Diego (4-2); San Francisco (2-1).

The last team to win every season series was the 1968 Detroit Tigers. The Tigers, who went 103-59, defeated each of their nine AL opponents as follows: Baltimore (10-8); Boston (12-6); California (13-5); Chicago (13-5); Cleveland (12-6); Minnesota (10-8); New York (10-8); Oakland (13-5); Washington (10-8)

The Mariners broke the record of the 1899 Brooklyn Dodgers, who won the season series from each of the other 11 National League clubs on their way to a 101-47 record. Brooklyn defeated Baltimore (8-6); Boston (8-6); Chicago (8-5); Cincinnati (7-6); Cleveland (14-0); Louisville (11-3); New York (10-2); Philadelphia (8-6); Pittsburgh (8-6); St. Louis (8-4); Washington (11-3).

The 1955 Dodgers (98-55) were the last NL team to accomplish the feat, compiling these records against the league's seven other members. Chicago (14-7); Cincinnati (12-10); Milwaukee (15-7); New York (13-9);

CORRECTIONS AND COMMENTS ON 2001 RECORDS

From Bill Deane: Randy Johnson didn't *set* an NL mark with his 20 K's, he *tied* Kerry Wood's record.

From Mike Attiyeh: Sammy Sosa's five three home run games tied an *NL* record, not an *ML* record.

From Mike Spatz: The picture of Albert Pujols is incorrectly labeled Luis Pujols.

The Baseball Records Committee sadly announces the death of longtime member Woody Wilson.

FEWEST STARTS BEFORE PITCHING A NO-HITTER

Inspired by Cardinals rookie Bud Smith's no hitter, Brian Rash compiled this list of post-1893 pitchers who took 20 or fewer career starts before throwing a no hitter. (I've added the two pre-1893 pitchers who had no hitters in their first start.) Please note that not all pitchers on this list were rookies.

<u>PITCHER</u>	<u>TEAM</u>	<u>OPPONENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAREER START</u>
Ted Breitenstein	STL (AA)	LOU	Oct. 4, 1891	1
Bumpus Jones	CIN (NL)	PIT	Oct. 15, 1892	1
Bobo Holloman	STL (AL)	PHI	May 6, 1953	1
Jim Hughes	BAL (NL)	BOS	April 22, 1898	2
Wilson Alvarez	CHI (AL)	BAL	Aug. 11, 1991	2
Nick Maddox	PIT (NL)	BKL	Sept. 20, 1907	3
Earl Moore*	CLE (AL)	CHI	May 9, 1901	4
Charles Robertson#	CHI (AL)	DET	April 30, 1922	4
Bo Belinsky	LA (AL)	BAL	May 5, 1962	4
Burt Hooton	CHI (NL)	PHI	April 16, 1972	4
Bill Stoneman	MON (NL)	PHI	April 17, 1969	5
Deacon Phillippe	LOU (NL)	NY	May 25, 1899	6
Vida Blue	OAK (AL)	MIN	Sept. 21, 1970	8
George Davis	BOS (NL)	PHI	Sept. 9, 1914	9
Hoyt Wilhelm	BAL (AL)	NY	Sept. 20, 1958	9
Steve Busby	KC (AL)	DET	April 27, 1973	10
Bud Smith	STL (NL)	SD	Sept. 3, 2001	11
Sam Jones	CHI (NL)	PIT	May 12, 1955	12
Don Wilson	HOU (NL)	ATL	June 18, 1967	12
Kent Mercker	ATL (NL)	LA	April 8, 1994	12
Johnny Lush	PHI (NL)	BKL	May 1, 1906	13
Tommy Greene	PHI (NL)	MON	May 23, 1991	15
Bill McCahan	PHI (AL)	WAS	Sept. 3, 1947	17
Carl Hubbell	NY (NL)	PIT	May 8, 1929	18
Jose Jimenez	STL (NL)	ARI	June 25, 1999	18
Don Nottbart	HOU (NL)	PHI	May 17, 1963	19
Jim Bibby	TEX (AL)	OAK	July 30, 1973	19
Johnny Vander Meer	CIN (NL)	BOS	June 11, 1938	20

*Moore lost on two hits in the 10th inning.

#Robertson pitched a perfect game

One pitcher who came extremely close to joining this list at the very top was the Cardinals' Hank Gornicki. On May 3, 1941, Gornicki, making his first start (although not his first game) tossed a 6-0, one-hitter against Philadelphia. Stan Benjamin's sixth-inning single was the spoiler. (Information provided by Walt Wilson.)



Ted Breitenstein

Bobo Holloman

Jim Hughes

Wilson Alvarez

Hank Gornicki

THE SACRIFICES OF TOM GLAVINE

According to John Schwartz, Tom Glavine now holds the career record for most sacrifice bunts by a pitcher. Glavine's 17 sac bunts in 2001 gives him a lifetime total of 155, eight more than the previous record holder, Joe Niekro. Here are the top ten, courtesy of Lee Sinins.

1. Tom Glavine	155	6. Greg Maddux	126
2. Joe Niekro	147	7. Tom Seaver	121
3. Don Sutton	136	8. Bob Friend	120
4. Rick Reuschel	135	9. Burt Hooton	117
5. Phil Niekro	129	10. Bob Forsch	115



Joe Niekro (L) in baseball's ugliest uniform ever, and Tom Glavine (R) in one of the classiest.



KEITH LUUOLA

Ed Brown sent this in while suggesting that only a Records Committee member would notice or care about an error in Keith Luuola's record. Luuola played in six games for the Anaheim Angels in 2000, and he is listed in *The 2001 Sporting News Baseball Register*, on page 338. However, he is listed as playing in 28 games for Arizona of the National League in 1994. There was, of course, no such team in the NL in 1994.

MOST PLAYERS SCORING RUNS IN A GAME

The 2001 Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book (p.43) lists the American League record for Most players scoring one or more runs in a game by both clubs as 18: Boston vs Philadelphia, June 29, 1950, and Oakland vs Texas, May 5, 2000. However, Jim Charlton found an AL game where the two teams combined had a total of 19 different players scoring runs. It was on August 12, 1993. Detroit defeated Baltimore 17-11. Twelve players scored for the Tigers: Gary Thurman, Kirk Gibson, Dan Gladden (2), Travis Fryman (3), Cecil Fielder, Alan Trammell, Rob Deer (2), Tony Phillips, Rich Rowland, Mickey Tettleton, Skeeter Barnes, and Chad Kreuter (2). And seven players scored for the Orioles: Brady Anderson, Harold Reynolds (2), Mike Devereaux, Harold Baines, Cal Ripken (2), Tim Lincecum, and Jack Voigt.

While checking Jim's finding, I noticed that both the AL and NL records for Most players scoring one or more runs in a game by a single club (page 42) was also incorrect. Both the NL and AL records are listed as 13 and as occurring three times in each league. But it should be 15 in the NL, as that many different Braves scored runs in Atlanta's 18-0 win over Florida on October 3, 1999, and it should be 14 in the AL, as that many Athletics scored in Oakland's 23-2 win over Texas on September 30, 2000.

THE WORST FIELDING SHORTSTOP

That distinction officially belongs to Bill Keister of the 1901 Baltimore Orioles. *The 2001 Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book* (p.97) shows Keister with an .861 fielding average in 114 games. But Wayne McElreavy discovered that Keister was even worse than previously thought. Wayne points out that both *Total Baseball* and the late *Baseball Encyclopedia* show Keister with an .851 fielding average in 112 games. This is based on 231 putouts, 322 assists, and 97 errors.

MOST CONSECUTIVE HOME GAMES WITHOUT BEING SHUT OUT

Jim Smith notes that on August 3, 1933, when Philadelphia's Lefty Grove ended the Yankees record streak of consecutive games without being shut out at 308, he also ended their streak of 233 games of not being shut out at home. The previous visiting pitcher to throw a shutout at Yankee Stadium was Rube Walberg, also of the A's, on July 8, 1930.

Jim believes, however, that the record for consecutive games not being shut out at home belongs to the Philadelphia Phillies. The Phillies streak was 367 (369 if you count two protested games with Cincinnati in 1894). It began after Kid Nichols of Boston blanked them on August 16, 1893 and ended when Cy Seymour of the Giants shut them out on October 3, 1898. Does anyone know of a longer such streak?



Kid Nichols



Cy Seymour

CATCHING TIM KEEFE AND MICKEY WELCH

Walt Wilson's listing of battery mates for Hall of Fame pitchers during their starts and shutouts continues with Tim Keefe and Mickey Welch. Keefe and Welch were one of the greatest one-two punch pitchers in major league history. While teammates with the Troy Haymakers in 1880-1882 and the New York Giants in 1885-1889 and 1891, they accounted for 434 of their team's 510 victories.

CATCHING TIM KEEFE

Keefe pitched for Troy (NL) 1880-82; New York (AA) 1883-84; New York (NL) 1885-89, 1891; New York (PL) 1890; and Philadelphia (NL) 1892-93. He made 594 starts and pitched 39 shutouts.

	Starts	Shutouts
Bill Holbert	185	13
Buck Ewing	164	15
Jim O'Rourke	60	1
Jack Clements	50	2
Pat Deasley	41	5
Willard Brown	40	2
Lave Cross	14	0
Charlie Reipschlager	9	0
Pat Murphy	7	0
Others	24	0

The 24 games Keefe started that were caught by others were spread over ten different catchers. One of his shutouts came in a game with more than one catcher.



Tim Keefe

CATCHING MICKEY WELCH

Welch pitched for pitched for Troy (NL) 1880-82; and New York (NL) 1883-92. He made 549 starts and pitched 41 shutouts.

	Starts	Shutouts
Buck Ewing	277	28
Bill Holbert	73	5
Pat Deasley	42	2
Jim O'Rourke	32	1
Willard Brown	20	1
Pat Murphy	20	0
Artie Clarke	18	1
John Humphries	16	0
Dick Buckley	14	1
Others	37	1

The 37 games Welch started that were caught by others were spread over 15 different catchers. The one shutout caught by others was by Bill Harbidge. One of his shutouts came in a game with more than one catcher.



Buck Ewing



Mickey Welch