

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

"CININNATI BASE HITS"

I had never heard of a "Cincinnati Base Hit," and, as I learned, neither had Bill Deane, Joe Dittmar, Tom Ruane, or Dave Smith, some of our committee members most knowledgeable on the history of official scoring: Or will you find the term mentioned in the Dickson Baseball Dictionary. So what exactly is a "Cincinnati Base Hit?" Well, according to SABR member Tom Voll, who sent me a stack of clippings on the subject, it was a one-year scoring practice used in 1913.

In that year, when a batter hit to the infield with a man on base, and the infielder chose to try for a force play or fielder's choice and was unsuccessful, the batter was given a hit. There is no way of knowing how many batters benefitted by this rule, or to what extent. However, we do know of one example of a "Cincinnati Base Hit." It occurred in the final game of the 1913 World Series. In the top of the third inning, Philadelphia had Rube Oldring on second base and Eddie Murphy on third, when Frank Baker rolled a grounder to first. Giants first baseman Fred Merkle picked up the ball and went to tag Baker. But Baker stopped running and Merkle got confused. He then threw to the plate but it was too late to get Murphy and everyone was safe. Baker was given a hit.

Following the season, The Baseball Writers Association voted 35-26 to abolish "Cincinnati Base Hits."

CONSECUTIVE GAME ON BASE STREAKS

Herman Krabbenhoft found that a CGOBS streak of 50 games or more in a single season has been achieved at least 39 times. The list is composed of 19 players from the American League - including Ted Williams who appears three times and has the longest CGOBS streak - 84 games. Joe DiMaggio and Ty Cobb are the only other AL players who reached the 50 CGOBS streak plateau more than once. The National League is represented by 16 players - including Duke Snider whose CGOBS streak of 58 games is the longest one found in the senior circuit. The only NL player to achieve a CGOBS streak of at least 50 games more than once was Bill Joyce. Herm believes that Williams's 84 CGOBS streak may actually be more difficult to break than DiMaggio's 56-game hitting streak.

Ted Williams	BOS	AL	1949	84	Derek Jeter	NY	AL	1999	53
Joe DiMaggio	NY	AL	1941	74	Shawn Green	LA	NL	2000	53
Ted Williams	BOS	AL	1941	69	Denny Lyons	PHI	AA	1887	52
Ted Williams	BOS	AL	1948	65	Ty Cobb	DET	AL	1914	52
Jack Tobin	STL	AL	1922	58	Tris Speaker	CLE	AL	1920	52
Duke Snider	BKL	NL	1954	58	Lou Gehrig	NY	AL	1934	52
Cupid Childs	CLE	NL	1892	57	Mel Almada	STL	AL	1938	52
George Kell	DET	AL	1950	57	Jimmy Wynn	HOU	NL	1969	52
Wade Boggs	BOS	AL	1985	57	Greg Gross	HOU	NL	1975	52
Ed Delahanty	PHI	NL	1896	56	Tony Phillips	DET	AL	1993	52
Bill Joyce	WAS-NY	NL	1896	56	Frank Thomas	CHI	AL	1996	52
Arky Vaughan	PIT	NL	1936	56	Gary Sheffield	ATL	NL	2002	52
Ryan Klesko	SD	NL	2002	56	Joe Kelley	BAL	NL	1896	51
Billy Hamilton	BOS	NL	1896	55	Babe Ruth	NY	AL	1923	51
Ty Cobb	DET	AL	1915	55	Ken Williams	STL	AL	1923	51
Stan Musial	STL	NL	1943	55	Joe DiMaggio	NY	AL	1937	51
Jim Thome	CLE	AL	2002	55	George Brett	KC	AL	1980	51
Bill Joyce	WAS	NL	1894	54	Vince Coleman	STL	NL	1987	50
Ray Blades	STL	NL	1925	54					

This list was painstakingly researched and compiled by Herm, with assists from Bill Deane, Alex Haas, Pete Palmer, Tom Ruane, John Schwartz, Dave Smith, and Tim Wiles and the staff at the Hall of Fame.

AL OLSEN=LEON CULBERSON=JOHN LAZOR

In the section on "Phantom Ballplayers" in *Total Baseball I* and II, Cliff Kachline discusses Al Olsen's alleged pinch-hitting appearance for the Boston Red Sox in the first game of their doubleheader at Chicago on May 16, 1943. Because we know that Olsen never appeared in that game, *Total Baseball* gave the game played, walk, and stolen base, for which he was credited, to Leon Culberson. It remained that way in all subsequent editions. However, Bob Hoie believes it has since become apparent that it was likely John Lazor, not Culberson, who was mistaken for Olsen.

Bob notes that Cliff's article in the first edition said the player was identified as Culberson based on the "Culbeson" entry in a *Boston Post* box score. The assumption was that Olsen was listed in the official score sheet because the pinch hitter was wearing Olsen's spring training number. In the second edition Cliff adds the information that in spring training Olsen was #14 (Lazor was #82). Olsen was sent to San Diego shortly before the start of the AL season and Lazor was assigned #14. However, as Cliff pointed out, several weeks into the season Olsen and Lazor were still listed in scorecards with their spring training numbers. Thus it is fair to assume that when #14 pinch hit for the Red Sox in Chicago, the official scorer entered him as Olsen when it was in fact Lazor.

Cliff's article in the next three editions, said the identity of "Olsen" had become a mystery that probably couldn't be solved because the incident was of no particular significance to the players. That, says Bob, ignores the reality that a player's major league debut is of great significance to that player. In an interview with Red Sox historian Ed Walton, Culberson contended that he did not pinch hit in the first game and made his debut in the second.

Bob believes that had all this been known initially there is no doubt that Lazor would have been credited with Olsen's data, particularly given Culberson's contention that he made his major league debut in the second game and did not pinch hit in the first game. He says the case for it being Culberson is solely based on the *Boston Post* report that listed "Culberson" rather than Olsen in its box score. Bob suspects somebody in the sports department knew Olsen wasn't with the club and changed the wire service box to Culberson, the new player who had just been called up from Louisville.

DON HOAK

In the second game of a May 14, 1958 doubleheader, Cincinnati's Don Hoak accepted 14 chances, tying the National League record for Most chances accepted by a third baseman in an extra inning game. However, Greg Beston, working with a scoresheet for *Retrosheet*, found that Hoak also had four chances in the first game. Therefore, Greg feels that Hoak should also be the National League coholder of the records for Most chances accepted by a third baseman in two consecutive games, and Most chances accepted by a third baseman in a doubleheader, both of which are 18.



Don Hoak

BOB BOONE WAS NL DP LEADER IN 1973

Joe Ferguson of the Los Angeles Dodgers is listed as the 1973 National League leader among Catchers in both Double Plays, with 17, and Passed Balls, with 18. However, Clem Comly, in checking Ferguson's day-by-day sheets, noticed a significant error. His PBs from one sheet were added to his DPs from another, creating an error in his Double Play total. Ferguson actually participated in just five DPs in 1973. The NL leader should be Philadelphia's Bob Boone, with 16.



Bob Boone



Joe Ferguson

I said in the April newsletter that first baseman Diego Segui had a .999 fielding average in 1998. Norman Macht and Dave Paulson were the first to remind me that it was first baseman David Segui, the son, and not pitcher Diego Segui, the father, who had the .999 fielding average in 1998.

HOME RUN LEADERS FOR SIX RANDOMLY SELECTED TEAMS

Here, courtesy of Lee Sinins, are the top ten home run hitters for six randomly selected teams, three from each league. Home runs are in the uniform of those teams only. I have updated the lists through Memorial Day. Players in italics are active.

ANAHEIM ANGELS

1	<i>Tim Salmon</i>	276
2	Brian Downing	222
3	Garret Anderson	171
4	Troy Glaus	159
5	Chili Davis	156
6	Bobby Grich	154
7	Don Baylor	141
8	Doug DeCinces	130
9	Reggie Jackson	123
10	Jim Edmonds	121

BOSTON RED SOX

1	Ted Williams	521
2	Carl Yastrzemski	452
3	Jim Rice	382
4	Dwight Evans	379
5	Mo Vaughn	230
6	Bobby Doerr	223
7	Jimmie Foxx	222
8	Rico Petrocelli	210
9	Jackie Jensen	170
T10	Carlton Fisk	162
T10	Tony Conigliaro	162

CHICAGO WHITE SOX

1	<i>Frank Thomas</i>	385
2	Harold Baines	221
3	Carlton Fisk	214
4	Robin Ventura	171
5	<i>Magglio Ordonez</i>	157
6	Bill Melton	154
7	Ron Kittle	140
8	Minnie Minoso	135
9	Sherm Lollar	124
10	Greg Walker	113

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES

1	Mike Schmidt	548
2	Del Ennis	259
3	Chuck Klein	243
4	Greg Luzinski	223
5	Cy Williams	217
6	Dick Allen	204
7	Johnny Callison	185
8	Willie Jones	180
9	Scott Rolen	150
10	Darren Daulton	134

PITTSBURGH PIRATES

1	Willie Stargell	475
2	Ralph Kiner	301
3	Barry Bonds	176
4	Brian Giles	153
5	Dave Parker	166
6	Frank Thomas	103
7	Dick Stuart	117
8	Bill Robinson	109
9	Bob Robertson	106
10	Wally Westlake	97

NY/SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS

1	Willie Mays	646
2	Mel Ott	511
3	<i>Barry Bonds</i>	449
4	Willie McCovey	469
5	Matt Williams	247
6	Orlando Cepeda	226
7	Johnny Mize	157
8	Bobby Bonds	186
9	Kevin Mitchell	143
10	Bobby Thomson	189

RUNS SCORED BY PINCH HITTERS

The 2003 *Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book* shows on page 53 that the record for Most runs scored by pinch hitters in an inning is three, in both the AL and NL. They list three such occurrences in each league, but Greg Beston has found a fourth in the NL.

According to Greg, on May 8, 1958, Cincinnati, playing at Chicago, used several pinch-hitters in the top of the 9th inning, and three of them scored runs. The three were Dee Fondy, Jerry Lynch, and Smoky Burgess.

MANAGERIAL WINS IN THE POSTSEASON

Should the Yankees win the pennant in 2003, Joe Torre has a good chance to become the fifth winningest manager in World Series history. Torre is also tied for second place in Championship Series games won. Courtesy of John Schwartz, here are the standings through 2002. Active managers are in italics.

World Series

Casey Stengel	37
Joe McCarthy	30
John McGraw	26
Connie Mack	24
Walter Alston	20
Joe Torre	19
Miller Huggins	18
Sparky Anderson	16
Dick Williams	12
Tom Lasorda	12

Championship Series

<i>Bobby Cox</i>	30
<i>Joe Torre</i>	20
<i>Tony LaRussa</i>	20
Sparky Anderson	18
Whitey Herzog	16
Tom Lasorda	16
Earl Weaver	15
Jim Leyland	12
Cito Gaston	10
Davey Johnson	10
<i>Mike Hargrove</i>	10



Dee Fondy Jerry Lynch Smoky Burgess

CATCHING WALTER JOHNSON AND CHRISTY MATHEWSON

Walt Wilson's listing of batterymates for Hall of Fame pitchers during their starts and shutouts continues with the two greatest Deadball Era pitchers, Walter Johnson and Christy Mathewson.

CATCHING WALTER JOHNSON

Walter Johnson pitched for Washington (AL) 1907-1927. He made 666 starts and pitched 110 shutouts.

	Starts	Shutouts
Eddie Ainsmith	210	48
Muddy Ruel	139	13
Gabby Street	98	17
Val Picinich	86	12
Rip Williams	29	6
John Henry	27	2
Sam Agnew	13	1
Heinie Beckendorf	13	3
Patsy Gharrity	12	2
Mike Kahoe	12	2
John Warner	10	1
Bennie Tate	8	1
Mike Heydon	3	0
Johnny Berger	1	0
Jack Hardy	1	0
Red Killefer	1	0
Pete Lapan	1	0
Hank Severeid	1	0
Jack Slattery	1	0

Two of Johnson's shutouts came in games with more than one catcher.

CATCHING CHRISTY MATHEWSON

Christy Mathewson pitched for the New York Giants (NL) 1900-1916, and Cincinnati (NL) 1916. He made 552 starts and pitched 79 shutouts.

	Starts	Shutouts
Chief Meyers	186	14
Frank Bowerman	133	26
Roger Bresnahan	97	15
John Warner	51	1
Aleck Smith	14	4
Admiral Schlei	13	2
Larry McLean	12	2
Art Wilson	10	1
George Yeager	7	1
Red Dooin	6	1
Bill Rariden	6	1
Tom Needham	5	2
Lew Wendell	4	0
Doc Marshall	2	0
Jack Robinson	2	0
Harry Smith	2	0
Harry Curtis	1	0
Ivy Wingo	1	0

Nine of Mathewson's shutouts came in games with more than one catcher. Roger Bresnahan caught his three shutouts in the 1905 World Series.



Eddie Ainsmith



Muddy Ruel



Chief Meyers



Frank Bowerman

SABR 33 AT THE MARRIOTT CITY CENTER IN DENVER

I look forward to seeing you all there next month. The Baseball Records Committee meeting is scheduled for Saturday, July 12, at 9:00 am. Suggestions for agenda subjects are welcome, but I would appreciate your letting me know in the next few weeks what you'd like to discuss.