

# 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

## MOST CONSECUTIVE HITLESS AT BATS

The Records Committee has found a new leader in its search for the major league non-pitcher with the most consecutive hitless at-bats. Joe Dittmar discovered that Bill Bergen (right), of the 1909 Dodgers, went hitless in 46 consecutive at-bats. The streak started after Bergen singled in his first at-bat against the Giants on June 29 and ended during the second game of a doubleheader against Chicago on July 17. After sitting out the first game, and being retired in his first at-bat of game two, Bergen had a fourth-inning infield single off Cubs' pitcher Ed Reulbach. Unlike previous co-leaders Luis Aparicio and Tony Bernazard, Bergen's futility at the plate is characteristic of his career batting efforts. In fact, Bergen is arguably the worst hitting non-pitcher ever. He was evidently a fine receiver, a skill which kept him in the big leagues for 11 years. But in that time, over 947 games and more than three thousand at-bats, he batted a minuscule .170 with a slugging average of .201.



## SOME 1996 HOME RUN FACTS YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

Ever since the 1996 season ended, we have been inundated with data pertaining to the record-setting number of home runs hit in each league. Dave Vincent, who with Bob McConnell keeps track of every major league home run, sent along a few lists that helps us put last season's home run barrage in historical perspective. Possibly overlooked in all the record-shattering team totals are these individual accomplishments, which I've plucked from those lists.

I. Seattle's Ken Griffey (49) and Jay Buhner (44) hit a combined total of 93 home runs. That ties them with Jimmie Foxx (58) and Al Simmons (35) of the 1932 Philadelphia A's and Hack Wilson (56) and Gabby Hartnett (37) of the 1930 Chicago Cubs as the third most productive one-season pair of teammates ever. Only Roger Maris (61) and Mickey Mantle (54) of the 1961 Yankees and Babe Ruth (60) and Lou Gehrig (47) of the 1927 Yanks had more. Baltimore's Brady Anderson (50) and Rafael Palmeiro (39) are now tied for tenth place on this list.

II. Three teams had their top three home run hitters make the list of the ten most productive one-season trios. The first four spots on this list are held by different combinations of players from the '61 Yanks. But number five now belongs to the Mariners: Griffey, Buhner and Alex Rodriguez (36). And number six is Colorado, with Andres Galarraga (47), Ellis Burks (40) and Vinny Castilla (40). Oakland is tied for the tenth spot with Mark McGwire (52), Geronimo Berroa (36) and Terry Steinbach (35).

III. Only Roger Maris, Babe Ruth and Johnny Mize, among left handed batters, have hit more home runs in one season than Brady Anderson. Following Anderson on the list is Ken Griffey who tied Lou Gehrig for the next highest total by a left handed batter.

IV. Mickey Mantle has the top three one-season switch-hitting home run totals, but the Mets' Todd Hundley (41) now holds the fourth spot, and San Diego's Ken Caminiti (40) is tied with Mantle for number five.

V. With his 50 homers, Brady Anderson tied Jimmie Foxx (1938) for second place in having the most home runs without leading the league. (Mickey Mantle is the leader.) Ken Griffey is now fourth on this list, and Albert Belle (48 with Cleveland) is fifth.

VI. Eddie Murray joined Reggie Jackson, Al Kaline and Carl Yastrzemski as players who have hit at least ten home runs in 20 consecutive seasons. The only man with more is Hank Aaron who did it in 23 consecutive seasons.

VII. Greg Vaughn, who played for Milwaukee and San Diego, homered in 15 different parks, breaking the record of 14 held by Rickey Henderson (OAK 1990) and Frank Thomas (CHI 1995). For obvious reasons, that record will not last long.

## MAJOR LEAGUE RECORDS

I received several responses concerning my proposal on the best way to treat records in the age of interleague play. The consensus was that because interleague games will increase, and because the possibility of a realignment across leagues is likely, the recognition of "major league" leaders makes sense. All respondents agreed that league leaders 1876-1996 should be preserved, and most felt that the new system should begin with the 1997 season. Cliff Kachline had a slightly different approach for game-records set in interleague games. Cliff believes that they should be handled as a separate category, at least temporarily. For instance, he would list in the record books my example of Andy Pettitte striking out 21 Mets as an interleague record, while Roger Clemens striking out 20 would still be listed as the American League record. Sadly, but clearly befitting the times, everyone who responded believed that the integrity of baseball records was not important to those in power and held out little hope for a solution that would satisfy serious fans.

In the last newsletter I questioned how representative of their abilities were the National or American League career totals for players like Frank Robinson, Dave Winfield, and Dennis Martinez as compared to their major league career totals. More and more players now fall into that category and foremost among them is Eddie Murray (pictured below). John Schwartz points out that with his ten sacrifice flies in 1996 (the first time he reached double figures) Murray now has 125 (89 in the AL and 36 in the NL) and is the post-1954 major league leader in sacrifice flies. Not the AL leader, that's Robin Yount with 123; not the NL leader, that's Hank Aaron with 113 (of his total 121), but the major league leader. Neil Munro supplied a list of the major league leaders in sacrifice flies since 1954, when the sac fly was reintroduced.

1. Eddie Murray*	125
2. Robin Yount	123
3. Hank Aaron	121
4. George Brett	120
5. Rusty Staub	119
6. Andre Dawson*	118
7. Don Baylor	115
8. Brooks Robinson	114
9. Mike Schmidt	108
10. Tony Perez	106
11. Carl Yastrzemski	105
12. Al Kaline	104
13. Amos Otis	103
14. Frank Robinson	102
15. Ruben Sierra*	102
15. Ted Simmons	100
17. Gary Carter	99
17. Cal Ripken*	99
19. Bill Buckner	97
20. Ernie Banks	96
20. Willie Davis	96
20. Don Mattingly	96
20. Joe Morgan	96



The players with an asterisk were active in 1996. Other active players high on the sacrifice fly list are Joe Carter (28<sup>th</sup>) with 92, Harold Baines (35<sup>th</sup>) with 89, and Gary Gaetti (36<sup>th</sup>) with 88.

John also provided some interesting information regarding Murray, the first baseman. Murray, who holds the career records for games played and assists by a first baseman, has taken part in 2,033 double plays. That leaves him just 11 double plays short of the major league record of 2,044, held by Mickey Vernon. However, it's a record he may not break. Murray played only 18 games at first base in 1995 and only one in 1996. He took part in 12 double plays in '95 and none last year.

The Records Committee welcomes Everett Parker; 221-67 92<sup>nd</sup> Ave.; Queens Village, NY 11428; (718) 479-9013 and Keith Carlson; 3540 Gordon Ave; St. Louis, MO 63114; (314) 423-4537.  
A new address for Rick Johnson; 4110 205<sup>th</sup> Place SW; Lynwood, WA 98036.

## THE RECORDS COMMITTEE AND THE SPORTING NEWS

Recently, *The Sporting News* published its Complete Baseball Record Book for 1997, and I was pleased to see that they included the great majority of changes proposed by Records Committee members. Most of those proposals appeared in the newsletter over the past year, while some I sent directly to Craig Carter, the TSN Record Book editor. There are, however, a group of revisions that we have proposed over the years that remain unchanged. Joe Dittmar, the committee vice chairman, and I have compiled a representative list of such items, ones in which the Records Committee respectfully disagrees with TSN. They are included as a supplement to the newsletter.

Unlike those, the following three proposed corrections come as a result of events from the 1996 season.

(1) As correctly shown on page 39, Baltimore's Bobby Bonilla tied Roy White's American League record for most sacrifice flies by a switch-hitter, season. But under most sacrifices flies, season, White is listed as the AL leader, but Bonilla is omitted (p. 38).

(2) The Red Sox individual record for most shutouts, career is 38, by Cy Young. Roger Clemens tied that record in 1996. (p. 213).

(3) Greg Beston spotted this one. Cal Ripken's name appears twice on the list of players with 1,500 Extra Bases. He is correctly shown in 36<sup>th</sup> place with 1,632, but appears again in 49<sup>th</sup> place with his post-1995 total of 1,512. (p. 164)

## ANOTHER NOTEWORTHY LEADOFF PERFORMANCE

Now that we've thoroughly documented Brady Anderson's heroics as a leadoff batter in 1996, Herm Krabbenhoft furnishes information on another record-tying feat by a leadoff man. Minnesota's Chuck Knoblauch produced 199 runs from the leadoff spot last season. Playing in 151 games, Knoblauch scored 140 runs and batted in 72, which when you subtract his 13 home runs sums to 199. He tied the record set by Boston's Dom DiMaggio who batted first in 143 games in 1949. (DiMaggio had 124 runs, 84 rbi's and nine home runs.) Herm says the major league record is 200, set by Augie Galan in 154 games for the 1935 Cubs.

## PITCHERS' WINNING STREAKS

Both The Elias Book of Baseball Records and The Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book have comprehensive lists of the longest one-season winning streaks by pitchers. The following list, furnished by Pete Palmer, intersperses among those one-season streaks those that stretched over two seasons. It begins with Carl Hubbell's 24-game winning-streak and includes all those who won at least 15 straight games.

24	Carl Hubbell	NY (NL)	1936-37	16	Alvin Crowder	WAS (AL)	1932-33
22	Roy Face	PIT (NL)	1958-59	16	Schoolboy Rowe	DET (AL)	1934
20	Rube Marquard	NY (NL)	1911-12	16	Ewell Blackwell	CIN (NL)	1947
19	Tim Lincecum	NY (NL)	1888	16	Jack Sanford	SF (NL)	1962
18	Charley Radbourne	PRO (NL)	1884	16	Tom Seaver	NY (NL)	1969-70
18	Pat Luby	CHI (NL)	1890-91	16	Rick Sutcliffe	CHI (NL)	1984-85
17	Mickey Welch	NY (NL)	1885	15	Scott Stratton	LOU (AA)	1890
17	Johnny Allen	CLE (AL)	1936-37	15	Dazzy Vance	BKL (NL)	1924
17	Dave McNally	BAL (AL)	1968-69	15	Phil Regan	LA (NL)	1966-67
16	Jim McCormick	CHI (NL)	1886	15	Bob Gibson	STL (NL)	1968
16	Walter Johnson	WAS (AL)	1912	15	Steve Carlton	PHI (NL)	1972
16	Joe Wood	BOS (AL)	1912	15	Gaylord Perry	CLE (AL)	1974
16	Lefty Grove	PHI (AL)	1931	15	LaMarr Hoyt	CHI (AL)	1983-84

## A NEW-FOUND WIN FOR EDDIE CICOTTE

**D**ixie Tourangeau has turned up an uncredited win for onetime American League pitcher Ed Cicotte (right). The game in question took place on June 9, 1909. Cicotte was then a member of the Boston Red Sox who were playing at home against the St. Louis Browns. The Red Sox won the game, 3-2, scoring the winning run in the bottom of the eighth. American League pitching sheets credit starter Jack Ryan with eight innings pitched and a Win, and Cicotte with one inning pitched and a Game Finished. Retroactively, Cicotte is credited with a Save. However, Dixie's review of the Boston newspapers (double-checked by Frank Williams) reveals that Ryan pitched only six innings. In the bottom of the sixth, with Boston trailing 2-1, Manager Fred Lake sent Jack Thoney up to hit for Ryan. The Sox tied the score in the inning and Cicotte took over in the seventh and pitched the rest of the way. As the *Boston Post* said, "Cicotte pitched the last three innings and gets credit for the win, the Browns making but one hit off him."



We have alerted the three encyclopedias of the following changes that should be made to the records of Eddie Cicotte and Jack Ryan. As of this writing, I have not heard from David Neft, but Pete

Palmer has agreed to make the changes in Total Baseball VI (it's too late for Total Baseball V) and Ken Samelson will include them in the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of The Baseball Encyclopedia. There are some slight differences among the three encyclopedias on some of Cicotte's statistics, so for consistency I used Total Baseball as the base.

	Category	Incorrect 1909	Correct 1909	Incorrect Lifetime	Correct Lifetime
Eddie Cicotte	Wins	13	14	208	209
Eddie Cicotte	Relief Wins	4	5	24	25
Eddie Cicotte	Saves	2	1	25	24
Eddie Cicotte	Innings pitched	159.2	161.2	3223.1	3225.1
Jack Ryan	Wins	4	3	5	4
Jack Ryan	Innings pitched	61.1	59.1	103	101

Following are some further implications of this change in Cicotte's record.

1. Boston's league-leading save total in 1909 changes from 15 to 14.
2. Cicotte had been 208<sup>th</sup> on the all-time win list. His 209<sup>th</sup> win moves him into a tie for 79<sup>th</sup> place with Vida Blue, Don Drysdale and Milt Pappas.
3. Cicotte's additional two innings-pitched moves him past Freddie Fitzsimmons to 83<sup>rd</sup> on the all-time list.
4. Frank points out that changing Cicotte's relief wins from four to five (5-0), makes him the American League leader in that category for 1909. Previously, he was thought to have been tied with Detroit's George Mullin, Philadelphia's Harry Krause, and New York's Jack Quinn and Jack Warhop. It also increases Boston's league-leading total of team relief wins to 22 (22-6)

Cicotte issued two walks and had one strikeout, one assist and one error in the seventh and eighth innings. He also batted and made out. Frank is investigating to determine whether the official sheets credit all these events to Cicotte or to Ryan.

## Previously Proposed Changes To The Sporting News Record Book

The following records listed in the 1997 Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book are among those that the SABR Baseball Records Committee has long believed should be revised. They are in no particular order.

The Boston Braves' record for the longest 1-0 game won is 13 innings. TSN says it happened five times, the last against Pittsburgh on May 11, 1921. RC says the last time it happened was against Brooklyn on May 4, 1923. (p. 282)

The post-1900 record for most runs scored in the National League in one day is shown as 118 on July 21, 1923. RC says that the record should be the 123 runs scored by National Leaguers on August 18, 1995. (For this record, TSN does not differentiate for 8, 10, 12, or 14-team leagues.) (p. 60)

TSN has a listing for the longest game with no chance offered by a third baseman. They say the AL record belongs to Boston's Jim Tabor, 12 2/3 innings on July 7, 1943. RC says that aside from the fact that that game actually ended after 13 2/3 innings, the record-holder should be Cleveland's Toby Harrah, who played 15 innings at third without a chance on June 20, 1980. (p. 96)

RC says that TSN correctly shows the AL record for most consecutive shutout games won in a season as five, set by Baltimore in 1974, but omits the 1995 Orioles who tied the record in the last five games of 1995. (p. 85)

RC says the game on April 11, 1992 in which Cleveland's Carlos Baerga got six hits went 19 innings, not 18. (p. 176)

In the year-by-year listing of team home runs, TSN gives the Braves credit for 68 homers in 1936 and the NL a total of 607. RC says the Braves had only 67, and therefore the NL had only 606. The difference here is that Al Lopez is sometimes mistakenly shown with eight HR's when he actually had only seven. (p. 182)

TSN has a listing for the fewest assists in the longest extra-inning game by a shortstop. They say the AL record belongs to Cleveland's John Gochnaur, 12 innings on July 14, 1903. RC says that the record-holder should be Boston's Rick Burleson, who played 13 innings at short without a chance on June 20, 1980. (p. 99)

The NL record for most pinch hitters used in a nine inning game is nine. RC says Atlanta used nine pinch hitters against Montreal on Sept. 21, 1993 and should be added to this list. In that game, Atlanta also tied the records for most pinch hitters in an inning (6) and most consecutive pinch hitters in an inning (5) and should be added to the teams sharing those records. (p. 9)

Also on page nine are the records for most pinch hitters used in an extra-inning game and most pinch-hitters used by both clubs in an extra-inning game. For both, TSN correctly shows the AL mark was set in a 15-inning Oakland-Chicago game on September 17, 1972. However, RC says the date was September 19, not the 17<sup>th</sup>. (p. 9)

TSN shows the AL record for most bases on balls by both clubs in an extra inning game as 28, set in a 12-inning game between Boston (20) and Detroit (8), Sept. 17, 1920. RC says the record should be 30 by Washington (19) and Cleveland 11 in a 20-inning game that began on Sept. 14, 1971 at Cleveland, was suspended, and then completed in Washington on Sept. 20. (P.56)

In that same Washington-Cleveland game, Washington left 25 runners on base. That set the AL record for most left on base in an extra-inning game and should precede the 1991 KC-Texas game that is shown. (p.67)

TSN lists the AL record for most assists by both clubs in a nine-inning game as 45 set in the NY-Chicago game, August 21, 1905. RC found only 41 assists in that game and believe the record is 44, set in the Cleveland-St. Louis game of May 27, 1909. (p. 110)

For this same record, most assists by both clubs in a nine-inning game, the NL mark is shown as 44, set in the Brooklyn-New York game, April 21, 1903 and tied in the New York-Cincinnati game, May 15, 1909. RC research shows only 43 in the Brooklyn-New York game, which still should be the lone record holder because we found only 42 in the New York-Cincinnati game. (p. 110)

The three consecutive home runs by Oakland's Dave Revering, Mitchell Page and Tony Armas on June 3, 1980 were in the ninth inning, not the third. (p. 184)

TSN shows the NL record for most catchers used in a game by one team as four. They show four occurrences of this, including New York using four against Chicago on May 2, 1956. However, RC says the Giants used only three that day and therefore this game should be deleted from this list. However, the Cubs also used three in that game, and the combined six catchers used by both teams tied the NL record and should be included in the category most catchers used by both clubs in a game. (p. 10)

The AL record for most pitchers used by both clubs in an inning is seven, set by Chicago (4) and Baltimore (3) in the ninth inning on July 16, 1955. RC has found two other games that should be added. (1) June 20, 1975: In the ninth inning, Baltimore used four and Boston used three. (2) Sept. 3, 1983: In the ninth inning, Oakland used six and Cleveland used one. (p. 11)

In the list of yearly leaders in RBI, the AL leader in 1961 is shown as Roger Maris, with 142. RC says Maris was incorrectly credited with an RBI and had only 141, thus tying Baltimore's Jim Gentile for the league lead. (p. 147)

In the list of yearly leaders in runs scored, the AL lists co-leaders in 1961: Mickey Mantle and Roger Maris, each with 132. RC says Mantle was incorrectly credited with a run scored and had only 131, and that Maris is the sole leader. (p. 136)

The record in both leagues for most times facing a pitcher as a batsman in a nine-inning game is eight. TSN shows four players sharing the post-1900 NL record. RC says the last entry, the one for Andy High of St. Louis in the second game of a doubleheader on July 6, 1929, is incorrect. High had only seven at-bats in this game, and his name should be deleted from the list. (p. 16)

TSN shows the NL record for most intentional bases on balls by both clubs in an extra inning game as 10, set in an 18-inning game between New York (6) and San Diego (4). RC says the record should be 11 by New York (7) and Chicago (4) in a 17-inning game May 2, 1956. (Records for intentional bases on balls date back only to 1955.) (p. 57)

TSN shows the AL record for most runs by both clubs in the 12<sup>th</sup> inning as 11, set by NY (11) and Det (0) in the first game of a doubleheader July 26, 1928. RC says there was an earlier occurrence of this between the same two teams on May 14, 1923. In that one, New York scored eight and Detroit scored three. (p. 46)

The American League record for most players from one club scoring two or more runs in a game is nine. TSN shows five occurrences of this but RC says it omits the first, by Boston against Philadelphia on May 2, 1901. (p. 43)

In that same game, (Boston vs Philadelphia, May 2, 1901) four Philadelphia players also scored two or more runs. RC says that ties the AL record for most players from both clubs scoring two or more runs in a game. Again, this is the first occurrence, but in the only other, oddly enough, on June 29, 1950, there was the same breakdown: Boston (9) and Philadelphia (4). (p. 44)

There are three NL records concerning batters hit-by-pitch that we believe are incorrect. All were allegedly set in a doubleheader between Boston and New York on August 1, 1903.

Most hit-by-pitch by both clubs, nine-inning game: TSN says seven batters were hit in the second game, but RC says there were only four batters hit in this game. (p. 59)

Most hit by pitch, doubleheader: TSN says eight NY batters were hit in the two games, but RC says there were only five (p. 59) Most hit by pitch both clubs, doubleheader: TSN says a total of 11 batters were hit in the two games, while RC says the combined total was six. (p. 59)

We don't know what the actual NL records are in these three categories, but believe they are not what TSN shows them to be.

We also don't know what the post-1900 NL record should be for most stolen bases by both clubs in a game. TSN says it's 16, also set in a New-York Boston game, this one on June 20, 1912. However, RC could find only 14 stolen bases in this game. (p. 66)

TSN shows the post-1900 NL record for most at-bats in game allowed by a pitcher as 49, held by Harley Parker (CIN) and Bill Phillips (CIN). RC says Parker faced only 48 batters on June 21, 1901 and Phillips should be the sole record-holder. (p. 74)

Regarding a similar record, most men facing pitcher, nine-inning game, TSN says the post-1900 NL record belongs to Phillips They say he faced 53 batters for CIN on June 24, 1901 (2G). RC says he actually faced 55. (p. 74)