

# Society for American Baseball Research Baseball Records Committee

Lyle Spatz, Editor

April 1999

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

## SAM THOMPSON AND THE 1885 DETROIT WOLVERINES

Hall of Famer Sam Thompson played 1,407 games in his big league career. The encyclopedias have always shown him with 1,405 games as an outfielder, one as a first baseman, and one as a third baseman. The one at third base was on August 27, 1885, Thompson's rookie season. The game was in Chicago, and Thompson scored the only run in Detroit's 1-0 victory.

But David J. Thompson, a SABR member and Sam's great nephew, wasn't convinced. Based on a story he'd read in the *Detroit Free Press* more than twenty years ago, David believed that Sam had played his usual spot in right field that day. The story, which ran on August 29, 1885, two days after the game, said:

**The wires made a sad mess of the Detroit-Chicago game Thursday. They made Thompson play third base, whereas right field is his position. Bennett was reported in right field when left field was his place. McQuery and Donnelly were stationed in left field and first base respectively; yet McQuery played first base and Donnelly third. McQuery was credited with one putout when he should have had eight, and Donnelly was credited with thirteen when he made only three. McGuire was given but nine, when he made 12.**

As indicated, the game story and box score in the *Detroit Free Press* (and also in the *New York Times*) were from wire service reports. Dave found that the hometown *Chicago Daily Tribune* had all the Detroit players at their normal positions, including Sam Thompson in right field. He then checked each of Thompson's 62 other games in 1885 to make sure he hadn't played third base in any of them. Not surprisingly, he hadn't. Also: Mox McQuery is credited with 68 games at first base in 1885 and 416 at first in his career. The one game he is credited with as an outfielder in 1885 is the only one of his career. This seemingly should be changed to all 417 in the outfield. Jim Donnelly is shown with two games in the outfield in 1885, so further study is needed on him.

We salute David for his persistence; as I said, this discrepancy has been bothering him for more than twenty years.



Harvey Kuenn

## CUTTING HARVEY KUENN'S 1952 RUNS SCORED TOTAL IN HALF

Dixie Tourangeau discovered this error while working on a Harvey Kuenn feature for the 2000 version of his always informative "Play Ball" calendar. Kuenn, who would be the AL Rookie of the Year in 1953, played 19 games for the Tigers in September 1952. Dixie noticed that while the encyclopedias show Kuenn with two runs scored for 1952, a list in the *Detroit News* credited him with only one. A check of the day-by-days by Scot Mondore at the Hall of Fame showed Kuenn with a run scored in Detroit's home game against Boston on September 11. It also showed no runs scored by the Tigers' Fred Hatfield in that game. At Dixie's request, I checked the *Detroit Free Press*, *Boston Globe*, and *Boston Herald*. All showed Hatfield scoring a run, and Kuenn scoring no runs. In fact, the *Free Press* describes Hatfield's run as the winning run. So drop Kuenn's lifetime Run total from 951 to 950, which, courtesy of information supplied by Sean Lahman, drops him from 290th on the all-time list, where he stood alone, into a tie with Elmer Flick and Rick Monday. Hatfield goes from 48 runs in 1952 to 49, and from 258 lifetime to 259,

## DICK COFFMAN'S 1932 SHUTOUT WAS FOR BROWNS, NOT SENATORS

Pitcher Dick Coffman began the 1932 season with the St. Louis Browns. He had a 5-3 record when the Browns traded him to Washington on June 9. Coffman then went 1-6 for the Senators to finish the season with six wins and nine losses. Among his six wins was one shutout, correctly shown in the encyclopedias. However, Coffman is listed as having thrown the shutout for Washington, when he actually threw it for St. Louis. Walt Wilson sent along the article from the April 18, 1932 *New York Times* describing Coffman's previous day's 1-0 blanking of the Tigers at Detroit.

### MOST OUTS MADE IN A CAREER

According to Ted DiTullio, these players have made the most outs during their careers. Rickey Henderson, with 6,795 outs, is the only active player on the list. If you are interested, Ted has a more complete list.

Pete Rose	9797
Hank Aaron	8593
Carl Yastrzemski	8569
Eddie Murray	8076
Dave Winfield	7893
Robin Yount	7866
Brooks Robinson	7806
Willie Mays	7598
Cal Ripken	7555
Luis Aparicio	7553
Paul Molitor	7510
R. Maranville	7473
Stan Musial	7342
Lou Brock	7309
Reggie Jackson	7280
Ty Cobb	7246
George Brett	7195
Al Kaline	7109
Frank Robinson	7063
Tony Perez	7046
Honus Wagner	7018
Rusty Staub	7004
Andre Dawson	6943
Ozzie Smith	6936
Vada Pinson	6888
Ernie Banks	6838
Rickey Henderson	6795
Graig Nettles	6761
Joe Morgan	6760
Darrell Evans	6750
Max Carey	6698

### LOWEST EARNED RUN AVERAGE PER DECADE

Ken Richard has put together lists by decade of the top five players for various hitting and pitching categories. While I find accomplishments over specific ten-year periods more meaningful than accomplishments by an artificial construct like decades, these lists are informative, nevertheless, Ken's definition of a decade begins with the year "0" and ends with the year "9." His ERA leaders are limited to those who pitched at least 1,000 innings in the decade.

#### 1900-1909

Mordecai Brown	1.62
Ed Walsh	1.67
Addie Joss	1.86
Christy Mathewson	1.97
Rube Waddell	2.11

#### 1910-1919

Walter Johnson	1.56
Dutch Leonard	1.83
Jeff Pfeffer	2.19
Eddie Plank	2.25
Eddie Cicotte	2.38

#### 1920-1929

Eppa Rixey	2.92
Burleigh Grimes	3.09
Dolf Luque	3.09
Dazzy Vance	3.10
Wibur Cooper	3.29
Stan Coveleski	3.29

#### 1930-1939

Carl Hubbell	2.71
Lefty Grove	2.91
Dizzy Dean	2.99
Bill Lee	3.20
Lon Warneke	3.22

#### 1940-1949

Hal Newhouser	2.60
Harry Brecheen	2.70
Bob Feller	2.89
Mort Cooper	2.91
Claude Passeau	2.94
Tex Hughson	2.94

#### 1950-1959

Whitey Ford	2.65
Warren Spahn	2.91
Billy Pierce	3.05
Johnny Antonelli	3.18
Sal Maglie	3.19

#### 1960-1969

Sandy Koufax	2.25
Juan Marichal	2.57
Bob Gibson	2.75
Dean Chance	2.77
Joel Horlen	2.82

#### 1970-1979

Jim Palmer	2.58
Tom Seaver	2.86
Bert Blyleven	2.88
Gaylord Perry	2.91
Andy Messersmith	2.93

#### 1980-1989

Orel Hershiser	2.69
John Tudor	3.10
Nolan Ryan	3.13
Fernando Valenzuela	3.19
Bob Welch	3.21

#### 1990-1998

Greg Maddux	2.44
Roger Clemens	2.87
Tom Glavine	3.10
Randy Johnson	3.13
David Cone	3.18

## SINGLE-SEASON HITTING STREAKS OF THIRTY GAMES OR MORE

Chuck Lumb compiled this detailed look at hitting streaks with statistics provided by Bob Davids, Bill Deane, Pete Palmer, and David Stephan.

G	Player	Team	YR	Duration	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BAV	SAV
56	Joe DiMaggio	NY	AL	1941	May 15-Jul 16	223	56	91	16	4	15	.408	.717
44	Willie Keeler	BAL	NL	1897	Apr 22-Jun 18	202	50	85	12	10	0	.421	.579
44	Pete Rose	CIN	NL	1978	Jun 14-Jul 31	182	30	70	14	0	0	.385	.462
42	Bill Dahlen	CHI	NL	1894	Jun 20-Aug 6	186	66	74	14	7	4	.398	.613
41	George Sisler	STL	AL	1922	Jul 27-Sep 17	174	43	79	14	7	0	.454	.615
40	Ty Cobb	DET	AL	1911	May 15-Jul 2	166	40	80	12	8	1	.482	.669
39	Paul Molitor	MIL	AL	1987	Jul 16- Aug 25	164	43	68	17	3	7	.415	.683
37	Tommy Holmes	BOS	NL	1945	Jun 6- Jul 8	156	43	66	11	3	9	.423	.705
36	Billy Hamilton	PHI	NL	1894	Aug 15-Sep 25	163	65	76	7	5	2	.466	.607
35	Fred Clarke	LOU	NL	1895	Aug 5-Sep 9	151	28	58	8	1	1	.384	.470
35	Ty Cobb	DET	AL	1917	May 31-Jul 5	138	28	64	13	9	3	.464	.754
34	George Sisler	STL	AL	1925	Apr 14-May 19	148	29	59	3	1	2	.399	.473
34	George McQuinn	STL	AL	1938	Jul 24-Aug 25	145	30	56	12	0	5	.386	.572
34	Dom DiMaggio	BOS	AL	1949	Jun 29-Aug 7	143	35	51	11	1	3	.357	.510
34	Benito Santiago	SD	NL	1987	Aug 25-Oct 2	136	17	47	12	1	5	.346	.559
33	George Davis	NY	NL	1893	Aug 3-Sep 9	138	38	60	5	8	3	.435	.652
33	Hal Chase	NY	AL	1907	Jun 24-Jul 26	143	26	58	13	2	2	.406	.566
33	Rogers Hornsby	STL	NL	1922	Aug 13-Sep 19	146	38	68	11	6	9	.466	.808
33	Heinie Manush	WAS	AL	1933	Jul 22-Aug 5	138	28	50	3	3	3	.362	.471
31	Ed Delahanty	PHI	NL	1899	Jul 15-Aug 19	128	31	53	11	2	0	.414	.531
31	Nap Lajoie	CLE	AL	1906	Jun 4-Jul 4	122	21	54	NA	NA	NA	.443	.631
31	Sam Rice	WAS	AL	1924	Aug 23-Sep 24	132	22	53	10	1	0	.402	.492
31	Willie Davis	LA	NL	1969	Aug 1-Sep 3	124	20	54	7	1	1	.435	.532
31	Rico Carty	ATL	NL	1970	Apr 8-May 15	113	31	51	8	0	8	.451	.735
31	Ken Landreaux	HIN	AL	1980	Apr 23-May 30	125	13	49	5	1	2	.392	.496
30	Elmer E. Smith	CIN	NL	1898	Apr 15-May 30	124	19	53	3	4	0	.427	.516
30	Tris Speaker	BOS	AL	1912	Jun 17-Jul 16	125	30	53	16	4	1	.424	.640
30	Goose Goslin	DET	AL	1934	May 6-Jun 5	126	31	47	11	2	5	.373	.611
30	Stan Musial	STL	NL	1950	Jun 27-Jul 26	121	21	47	12	0	7	.388	.661
30	Ron LeFlore	DET	AL	1976	Apr 17-May 27	130	21	51	12	3	1	.392	.554
30	George Brett	KC	AL	1980	Jul 18-Aug 18	122	29	57	10	3	6	.467	.746
30	Jerome Walton	CHI	NL	1989	Jul 21-Aug 20	136	20	46	5	2	2	.338	.449
30	Sandy Alomar, Jr.	CLE	AL	1997	May 25-Jul 10	116	19	47	11	0	2	.405	.552
30	Nomar Garciaparra	BOS	AL	1997	Jul 26-Aug 29	141	35	51	9	2	8	.362	.624
30	Eric Davis	BAL	AL	1998	Jul 12-Aug 15	126	37	50	10	1	9	.397	.706

### Notes

George McQuinn's, Hal Chase's, and Stan Musial's streaks began in the first games of doubleheaders.

George McQuinn's, and Hal Chase's streaks carried through the first games of doubleheaders.

Fred Clarke's, George Davis's, and Nap Lajoie's streaks carried through the second games of doubleheaders.

Willie Keeler's streak, George Sisler's 1925 streak, and Ron LeFlore's streak began on Opening Day.

Benito Santiago, Jerome Walton, and Nomar Garciaparra had their streaks in their rookie seasons.

## HIGHEST BATTING NUMBERS FOR NON HALL OF FAMERS

These lists from John Schwartz comprise the top ten non Hall of Famers in batting average, slugging average, and on-base percentage. This is, of course, an ever-changing list. It's likely that most, if not all, the active players shown will eventually be Hall of Famers. So too will those like Winfield, Murray, and Molitor when they become eligible. But when they do, there will be others to take their places.

### Batting Average

Tony Gwynn*	.339
Wade Boggs*	.329
Kirby Puckett	.318
George Van Haltren	.316
Bobby Veach	.310
Stuffy McInnis	.3075
Don Mattingly	.3074
George H. Burns	.3070
Jimmy Ryan	.3065
Paul Molitor	.3063

### Slugging Average

Jim Rice	.502
Andre Dawson	.482
Eddie Murray	.476
Dave Winfield	.475
Dave Parker	.471
Dwight Evans	.470
Harold Baines*	.466
Tony Perez	.463
Al Oliver	.451
Paul Molitor	.448

### On Base Percentage

Wade Boggs*	.416
Barry Bonds*	.411
Rickey Henderson*	.404
Stan Hack	.39399
Eddie Yost	.39396
Bob Johnson	.3928
Buddy Myer	.3893
Tony Gwynn*	.3890
Ken Singleton	.388
Tim Lincecum*	.386

\* indicates active player

Minimums = 2,000 hits for BAV; 4,000 Total Bases for SAV; 3,000 times reached for OBA



Jimmy Ryan



Al Oliver



Bob Johnson

## CORRECTIONS TO TSN COMPLETE BASEBALL RECORD BOOK

The *Sporting News 1999 Complete Baseball Record Book* is out, and as usual is a joy to possess. Another great effort by Craig Carter and his staff, but, according to the indomitable Retro-researcher Greg Beston, not without the need for some additional data. While doing his research for *Retrosheet*, Greg found the following.

1. On page 10, the CBRB shows the National League record for Most first basemen used by both clubs, Game as five, accomplished five times, most recently in 1968. Greg found a sixth occurrence. In the San Diego at Houston game of September 7, 1974, the Padres used Mike Ivie and Randy Elliott at first base, while the Astros used Cliff Johnson, Dave Campbell, and Lee May.

2. On page 21, the CBRB shows the National League record for Most doubles by pinch-hitter, three consecutive games as three, held by Brooklyn's Bert Haas (Sept. 18, 19, 20, 1937) and Philadelphia's Doug Clemens (June 6, 6, 7, 1967). Greg found that Pittsburgh's Bob Robertson equaled the record in three games against Atlanta in 1974. On July 18, batting for Frank Taveras, Robertson hit a ninth-inning double off Tom House; on July 19, again batting for Taveras, he hit a ninth-inning double off Danny Frisella; and on July 20, batting for pitcher John Moran, he hit a seventh-inning double off Lew Krause.