

Society for American Baseball Research

Records Committee Newsletter

Lyle Spatz, Editor

August 1993

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

From The Chairman: As usual, the SABR convention was informative and great fun. They seem to get better, and better run, every year. Hats off to the Ted Williams Chapter, our hosts in San Diego for making the convention the success that it was. Also congratulations to Bill Carle, the hard working chairman of the Biographical Committee for his well deserved Bob Davids Award, and to Records Committee member Dave Vincent on being elected to the SABR Board of Directors.

At the Records Committee's meeting we heard from these members.

Ted DiTullio gave us some of the details of his research into batters with the most official at-bats in a season.

Al Blumkin spoke about his lists of "un-batting champions", and batters with large strikeout totals. If you converge these two paths you naturally arrive at Al's favorite player--Rob Deer.

Woody Wilson is working on a very detailed study of All-Star games. He brought us up to date on where he stands in his quest for all the play-by-plays, and appealed for help for those game that he still hasn't obtained.

David Stephan had given a detailed and well researched presentation on consecutive game hitting streaks and various other batter "hot streaks". At the committee meeting he focused on errors in those records (our favorite subject) that he had come across in the course of his research.

Pete Palmer was the only member of the sub-committee on forfeits and protests at the convention. Pete spoke a bit about the problems involved in reconciling these games. It seemed to be a topic that stirred a lot of interest, so if anyone wishes to help the committee on these games, call Pete.

Joe Wayman who has a wealth of information and research on these games was unable to attend. Joe was going to speak to us on the ICI data--maybe next year in Texas.

Finally, SABR Director Morris Eckhouse and Publications Director Mark Alvarez informed us of the excellent reception that the 1993 Baseball Records Update had gotten from the membership, and suggested that a 1995 Baseball Records Update was quite possible. They said that they were now getting ready to send it out to the "Baseball Establishment." I will keep you informed of the reaction, if any, that we get from them.

Welcome to the following new members of the Records Committee:

Frank D'Amico	4460 Overland Ave.	Culver City, CA 90230
Tim Hannan	28 Shady Lane	Fairport, NY 14450
Tom Howell	2614 Sunnyside Ave.	Langhorne, PA 19053
Dave Smith	6 Penncross Circle	Newark, DE 19702
Mike Welsh	PO Box 1192	St. Joseph, MO 64502
Walt Wilson	PO Box 30133	Chicago, IL 60630

And to our first member from Japan--"youkoso"; Hiroshi Takagi 2-24-7-406 Kyomachi; Kawasaki-Ku; Kawasaki 210 Japan

Also a new address and telephone number for Madison McEntire. Madison is now at 38 Edgehill Cove, Maumelle, AR 72113. His number is (501) 851-0239.

Finally, we all wish for a full and speedy recovery for Rich Topp who suffered a heart attack last Spring.

Fred Ivor-Campbell, Nineteenth Century Committee Chairman, is looking for help with a project on the American Association. Anyone on the Records Committee with a particular interest in the AA can get all the details from Fred or Bob McConnell.

A gentleman from California, Lefty Blasco, wrote to enlist the support of the Records Committee in getting acknowledgement of major league status for the 1900 American League. My personal feeling has always been that the AL that year was a good minor league, but should not be considered a major league. Blasco says that quite a few people in the Los Angeles chapter, as well as others, believe that it should be considered a major league. Among those that Blasco claims hold this position are Bob Hoie, Joe Overfield, and Joe Wayman. Because these are three of the most knowledgeable men in SABR, I feel that I should, at the least, re-investigate my position. However, the official position of the Records Committee is for the members to decide. How many of you have an informed opinion on this? Let me hear it, so we can get a discussion going.

Bob Boehm points out a slight discrepancy in Bill Gilbert's list of players with multi-seasons of a .300 batting average, 30 home runs, and 100 RBI's that appeared in the June newsletter. Lou Gehrig is listed as having done it ten times, but the years given are 1927-1937, which is eleven times. It should read ten times, 1927, 1929-1937. In 1928, Gehrig hit .374 and had a league-leading 142 runs-batted-in, but hit only 27 home runs.

Some of you may have missed this item from Lisa Winston in Baseball Weekly---Charlie Hough became the first pitcher in major league history to start 400 games and relieve in 400 games. Also, Hough and Hoyt Wilhelm are the only two pitchers to appear in 400 games in each league.

Many of us remember when Cy Young stood atop the list of pitchers who had appeared in the most games. Young is now seventh on the list, with nine of the top ten having made their debut after 1950.

Pitcher	Years	Games
1. Hoyt Wilhelm	1952-1972	1,070
2. Kent Tekulve	1974-1989	1,050
3. Lindy McDaniel	1955-1975	987
4. Rich Gossage#	1972-1993	953
5. Rollie Fingers	1968-1985	944
6. Gene Garber	1969-1988	931
7. Cy Young	1890-1911	906
8. Sparky Lyle	1967-1982	899
9. Jim Kaat	1959-1983	898
10. Don McMahon	1957-1974	874

Gossage still active. Total is through June 30, 1993.

The following pitchers had the most relief victories in a single season.

1. Roy Face	Pittsburgh (N)	1959	18
2. John Hiller	Detroit (A)	1974	17
3. Bill Campbell	Minnesota (A)	1976	17
4. Jim Konstanty	Philadelphia (N)	1950	16
5. Ron Perranoski	Los Angeles (N)	1963	16
6. Dick Radatz	Boston (A)	1964	16
7. Tom Johnson	Minnesota (A)	1977	16

The source of the two above lists is Major League Baseball.

And one more list of pitchers. Here are those, who since 1958, have batted in at least five runs in a game. It was furnished by Tom Zocco.

					AB	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI
July 10 1958	Lew Burdette	(N) MIL at LA	5	2	0	0	2*	5		
May 18 1959	Jim Bunning	(A) DET at BOS	4	4	0	1	1	5		
May 30 1962	Pedro Ramos	(A) CLE at BAL	4	2	0	0	2*	5		
Apr. 27 1965	Camilo Pascual	(A) MIN at CLE	4	2	0	0	1*	5		
June 3 1966	Al Downing	(A) NY at BOS	5	2	0	1	0	5		
June 16 1966	Tony Cloninger	(N) ATL at NY	5	3	0	0	2	5		
July 3 1966	Tony Cloninger	(N) ATL at SF	5	3	0	0	2**	9		
Aug. 13 1966	Earl Wilson	(A) DET at BOS	4	3	0	0	1*	5		
Aug. 21 1966	Dave Giusti	(N) HOU vs CIN	4	2	2	0	0	6		
Aug. 26 1968	Dave McNally	(A) BAL vs OAK	4	2	0	0	1*	5		
May 4 1969	John Odom	(A) OAK vs SEA	3	3	1	0	1	6		
May 17 1970	Jim Rooker	(A) KC at CHI	5	2	2	0	0	5		
June 26 1971	Sonny Siebert	(A) BOS vs BAL	4	2	1	0	1	5		
Aug. 28 1971	Rick Wise	(N) PHI vs SF	3	2	0	0	2*	5		
Aug. 11 1972	Milt Pappas	(N) CHI vs NY	3	3	1	0	1	5		
July 26 1973	Bob Gibson	(N) STL vs NY.	5	2	0	0	1*	5		
Sept 27 1977	Larry Christenson	(N) PHI at CHI	3	1	0	0	1*	5		

* Grand Slam

RECORDS POTPOURRI: It is important for our new members to be familiar with the primary task of the Records Committee. It is the correction and reconciliation of the "historical record" of the various major leagues. The word 'record', as we use it has two meanings. We use it in the sense that someone, or some team, has the most or least of something. For example Roger Maris has the record for most home runs in a season (61), or Lefty Grove holds the record for most doubles allowed in an inning (6). We also use the record to refer to a player's game-by-game, season-by-season and lifetime accomplishments. Such as Roy Patterson has a lifetime won-lost record of 81-72, or in 1883, Joe Battin scored 42 runs. Both aspects of the 'record' are of equal importance to us, and many errors can still be found in both. In fact Records Committee members, and others, keep finding them. This newsletter has become a forum for getting these discoveries to a wider audience, and nothing pleases me more than doing so. The following error corrections came either directly to me from the member that found it, or through Bill Deane at the Hall Of Fame. As usual other Members helped verify the discoveries.

From William Ruiz: On June 8, 1928, Alex Ferguson of the Phillies was mistakenly credited with the pitching line of reliever Bob McGraw (except for the win, correctly assigned to McGraw). McGraw's line is correct, but these totals should be added to Ferguson's record for 1928 and for his career: three innings, one strikeout, four walks, six hits, and five earned runs.

From Walt Wilson: On September 26, 1917, Harry Weaver of the Cubs pitched a complete game 6-0 shut out against Brooklyn. The encyclopedias credit him with the complete game and the victory, but fail to credit him with the shutout. He should have one shutout in 1917 and two for his career. Chicago's total shutouts for 1917 should be 16.

From Walt Wilson: The record books list Wally Berger as being a co-holder of the record for most assists by an outfielder in one game (four). Berger supposedly tied it while playing center field for the Boston Braves on April 27, 1931. A check of the official records for Berger and for the Braves, as well as various game accounts and box scores, reveals that Berger had no assists that day. This was a typographical error that got transmitted over the wire and worked its way into the record book.

From Walt Wilson: In a game against Brooklyn, June 15, 1942, Jimmie Foxx of the Cubs hit a seventh inning triple that scored Bill Nicholson from first. Although all descriptions of this hit describe it as a triple, it was inadvertently entered on Foxx's official sheet as a double. As a result Foxx's corrected totals for 1942 are 11 doubles (4 with Red Sox, 7 with the Cubs) and one triple. His corrected lifetime totals are 457 doubles, 126 triples, and 4,957 total bases.

From Joe Dittmar: Joe found that a run batted in was credited to the wrong member of the White Sox in a game played September 11, 1936. In the seventh inning, Mike Kreevich scored on a long fly hit by Larry Rosenthal. The RBI was incorrectly given to Zeke Bonura. Therefore for Rosenthal add one RBI to his 1936 and lifetime totals, and for Bonura subtract one.