

# Society for American Baseball Research Baseball Records Committee Newsletter

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

## ORIGINAL 1876 AND 1887 TREATMENT OF WALKS RESTORED

The recent publication of *Total Baseball VII* included the announcement (excerpted in the March SABR Bulletin) by Jerome Holtzman, Major League Baseball's Official Historian, that the statistical treatment of walks in 1876 and 1887 would be returned to their original scoring definitions. Those definitions, which scored a walk as an at bat in 1876 and as a hit in 1887, were redefined by a special committee in 1968 to make their scoring consistent with the scoring of walks in all other years. Holtzman's explanation as to why the 1968 revision was being abandoned is this.

Revisionist history is admirable when new and undisputed evidence is brought forth. But this was an abomination, an absolute falsehood and twisting of the known facts for the singular purpose of regulating history to conform to previous and subsequent standards. It was a grievous corruption. If a walk was a hit in 1887 it should stand as a hit forevermore.

Those sentiments are in full accord with the basic tenets of the Baseball Records Committee, whose goal is to make baseball's "historic record" as accurate as possible. This restoration does just that.

Two of the most significant changes to the 1887 batting averages are those made to the records of Tip O'Neill (St. Louis AA) and Cap Anson (Chicago NL). The restoration of 50 hits to O'Neill raises his American Association league-leading average to an all-time major league high of .485. The restoring of 60 hits to Anson raises his average from .347 to .421, and gives him the National League batting championship. It also returns Anson to the list of those players with 3,000 hits—and acknowledges him as the first to reach that mark.

So, does that make Anson's 3,000 hits comparable to those of, say Tony Gwynn? Of course not. Nevertheless, Gwynn accomplished the feat under the rules and conditions of his time and Anson under the much different rules and conditions of his, and no doubt we are all capable of making the intellectual adjustment.

The 1876 change adds 20 walks to National League batting champion Ross Barnes's total at bats, thereby dropping his average from .429 to .404. (To their credit, the TSN Record Book never did accept the 1968 changes.)



CAP ANSON



TIP O'NEILL



ROSS BARNES

## A DIFFERENT LOOK AT PITCHERS WITH 300 VICTORIES

John O'Malley's ranking of the length of time and the number of games it took each of the 300-game winners to achieve that milestone appeared in the February newsletter. Herm Krabbenhoff looked at the six most recent additions (Gaylord Perry, Steve Carlton, Tom Seaver, Phil Niekro, Don Sutton, and Nolan Ryan) and suggested that the varying amount of relief appearances each made had an impact on the rankings. He cites particularly the many relief appearances made by Perry and Niekro early in their careers. Herm threw out those relief appearances to determine how many starts it took for each to get to 300, strictly as a starter.

Gaylord Perry, who had nine wins as a reliever, won number 300 as a starter on April 26, 1983, in his 665th start.  
 Steve Carlton, who had zero wins as a reliever, won number 300 as a starter on September 23, 1983, in his 605th start.  
 Tom Seaver, who had one win as a reliever, won number 300 as a starter on September 8, 1985, in his 615th start.  
 Don Sutton, who had two wins as a reliever, won number 300 as a starter on July 4, 1986, in his 688th start.  
 Phil Niekro, who had 14 wins as a reliever, won number 300 as a starter on June 1, 1987, in his 701st start.  
 Nolan Ryan, who had five wins as a reliever, won number 300 as a starter on May 1, 1991, in his 711th start.

The list at the left is John's showing how many games it took for each pitcher to reach 300 wins. The list on the right is Herm's showing how many starts it took each to reach 300 wins as a starter. Herm points out that neither Lefty Grove nor Early Wynn, both of whom finished with exactly 300 wins, won 300 as a starter. Grove had 33 relief wins and Wynn had 11.

Tom Seaver	618	Steve Carlton	605
Steve Carlton	623	Tom Seaver	615
Don Sutton	702	Gaylord Perry	665
Gaylord Perry	721	Don Sutton	688
Nolan Ryan	729	Phil Niekro	701
Phil Niekro	804	Nolan Ryan	711

Herm also took a look at how these six fared against each other head-to-head. The listing shows wins, losses, and no decisions. For example, Carlton and Niekro faced each other 12 times. Carlton had three wins, six losses, and three no-decisions. Niekro had seven wins and five losses. A personal note: As one who believes Tom Seaver is the greatest pitcher of his generation, I'm not surprised that he fared the best.

<u>Steve Carlton</u>	<u>Phil Niekro</u>	<u>Gaylord Perry</u>	<u>Nolan Ryan</u>	<u>Tom Seaver</u>	<u>Don Sutton</u>
Niekro 3-6-3	Carlton 7-5-0	Carlton 0-1-0	Carlton 1-2-1	Carlton 11-3-3	Carlton 3-2-2
Perry 1-0-0	Perry 3-2-1	Niekro 2-3-1	Niekro 1-1-0	Niekro 6-5-0	Niekro 9-4-3
Ryan 3-1-0	Ryan 1-1-0	Ryan 0-1-0	Perry 1-0-0	Perry 3-2-0	Perry 4-5-3
Seaver 3-12-2	Seaver 4-6-1	Seaver 2-3-0	Seaver 0-0-0	Ryan 0-0-0	Ryan 1-0-2
<u>Sutton 2-3-2</u>	<u>Sutton 4-9-3</u>	<u>Sutton 6-4-2</u>	<u>Sutton 0-1-2</u>	<u>Sutton 7-4-2</u>	<u>Seaver 6-7-0</u>
Total 12-22-7	Total 19-23-5	Total 10-12-3	Total 3-4-3	Total 27-14-5	Total 23-18-10

## AN ADDITIONAL GAME FOR MICKEY WELCH

John O'Malley, perhaps our foremost expert on the career of Mickey Welch, recently found that Welch has one more game pitched in his career than he'd been credited with. *Spalding's Official Baseball Guide* for 1888, as well as all the encyclopedias have always credited Welch with 40 games pitched for the 1887 New York Giants, all of which were starts. However, John found that Welch also made one relief appearance in 1887, on May 30, against Chicago.

Bill George started for the Giants that day and took an 11-6 lead into the last of the ninth. Chicago scored five runs to tie the score and had Cap Anson on third when George was relieved by Danny Richardson. But after Richardson walked the first man he faced, he was replaced by Welch. The first batter Welch faced hit a ground ball to shortstop John Montgomery Ward, who threw to catcher Jim O'Rourke in an attempt to cut down Anson. When Anson headed back to third, O'Rourke threw the ball to third baseman Pete Gillespie, who let it get by, and Anson came home with the winning run.

So Welch should have 41 games pitched in 1887, not 40, and 565 lifetime, not 564. Incidentally, Gillespie is credited with only one game at third base in his 714-game career. Evidently, this was that game, and he was put there only when Welch came in.



**MICKEY WELCH**

John says this added appearance, which is accounted for in *Total Baseball VII*, is included in Welch's total needed to reach 300 wins.

## ADAM KENNEDY TIES A RECORD

On page 21 of the 2001 *Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book* there is a list of those players Hitting a triple and a home run with the bases filled, game. The list includes eight players: Dan Brouthers, Kid Nichols, Jake Stenzel, Del Bissonette, Eddie Phillips, and Luis Olmo from the National League, and George Sisler and Harry Heilmann from the American League.



Greg Beston points out that Adam Kennedy of the Angels accomplished this feat during the 2000 season and should be on that list. Kennedy did it in consecutive innings on April 14 during Anaheim's 16-10 win at Toronto.

ANAHEIM 4TH: Spiezio doubled to deep right. E. Molina hit by pitch. Gil singled to left, Spiezio to third, Molina to second. Erstad grounded into fielder's choice to pitcher, Molina to third, Gil to second, Spiezio out at home. Kennedy homered to right, Molina, Gil, and Erstad scored.

ANAHEIM 5TH: G. Anderson flied out to center. Glaus doubled to left. Glaus stole third. Spiezio struck out looking. Molina singled to center, Glaus scored. Gil hit by pitch, Molina to second. Erstad walked, Molina to third, Gil to second. Kennedy tripled to deep right center, Molina, Gil, and Erstad scored.

## MANAGERIAL TENURE

Walt Wilson notes that the February newsletter's list of each team's longest serving manager should have indicated it was from 1901 forward. By including all of National League history, Cap Anson, with 19 seasons (1879-1897), is the all-time Chicago leader; Harry Wright, with ten seasons (1884-1893), is the all-time Philadelphia leader, and Pittsburgh's Fred Clarke's total should be 16 seasons, not 15 (1900-1915).

Whitey Herzog's total at Kansas City was five seasons (1975-1979), not six. That ties him with Dick Howser, who managed the Royals from 1982 to 1986.

## CATCHING TED LYONS

Walt Wilson's listing of Hall of Fame pitchers' batterymates during their starts and shutouts continues with Ted Lyons. In his 21-year career (1923-1942, 1946), all with the Chicago White Sox, Lyons made 484 starts and pitched 27 shutouts.

Mike Tresh caught 86 of Lyons's last 90 starts. The exceptions were two games caught by Ken Silvestri in 1939 and two caught by Tom Turner in 1942.

Note that Ed Madjeski, who appeared among Carl Hubbell's and Lefty Grove's catchers, also appears on Lyons's list. All of Madjeski's 14 starts with Lyons were in 1934, his one year with the Sox. Chicago won seven and lost seven of those games.



TED LYONS

Mike Tresh	88	7
Luke Sewel	74	5
Buck Crouse	48	2
Ray Schalk	48	5
Frank Grube	45	2
Moe Berg	38	1
Harry McCurdy	29	1
Bennie Tate	21	1
Johnny Grabowski	16	1
Charlie Berry	15	2
Ed Madjeski	14	
Tony Rensa	9	
Johnny Riddle	9	
Merv Shea	8	
Chick Autry	7	

Fifteen additional games were caught by ten other catchers.

## PAUL WANER'S 14 CONSECUTIVE GAMES WITH LONG HITS

The 2001 *Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book* (page 31) correctly lists Paul Waner as the National League record holder in the category Most consecutive games with one or more long hits, season. Between June 3 and June 19, 1927, Waner had at least one long hit in 14 consecutive games.

However, while inputting Pittsburgh Pirates games for *Retrosheet*, Greg Beston found that TSN's breakdown of those long hits was incorrect. TSN says that during the streak Waner had 12 doubles, 4 triples, and 4 home runs. Greg found that while the play-by-play agreed with TSN on doubles, it had Waner with 5 triples and 3 home runs.

I checked with David Vincent to see how many home runs the *SAER Home Run Log* credited Waner with during the period, and David confirmed that there were indeed just three. All three were hit at Forbes Field: on June 3 off Claude Willoughby of Philadelphia; on June 6 off Clarence Mitchell of Philadelphia; and on June 13 off Jesse Earnes of Brooklyn.

David added that Waner's last home run prior to the streak was on April 28, and his first one after the streak was on August 3.



PAUL WANER

## THE WRONG CLARKSON

The list of 300-game winners in the February newsletter included pictures of John Clarkson, who needed the fewest number of games to get to 300, and Phil Niekro, who needed the most.

John O'Malley, who compiled the list, informs me the picture I used of Clarkson was not John, who never pitched for St. Louis, but his brother Arthur, who did.



Arthur "Dad" Clarkson



John Clarkson

## AN ASSIST FOR DAVE MADISON

Dave Madison made his major league debut with the Yankees in the first game of a doubleheader against Washington on September 26, 1950. Madison pitched three innings in what would be his only American League appearance of the season and the only one he would ever make as a Yankee.

Neither the 1951 *Sporting News Baseball Guide*, nor any of the subsequent written or on-line fielding summaries show Madison with an assist in that game.

Bill Deane checked Madison's official sheet and found that it too failed to credit him with an assist that day.

However, Greg Beston found that Madison did have an assist in the game. It came in the seventh inning when he fielded an attempted sacrifice bunt by Washington pitcher Al Sima and threw to second baseman Billy Martin to force the runner, Mickey Grasso.