



## Society for American Baseball Research Baseball Records Committee Newsletter

Lyle Spatz, Editor

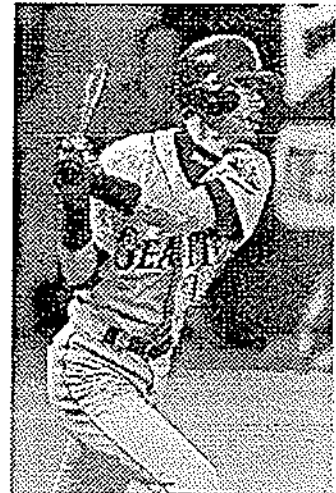
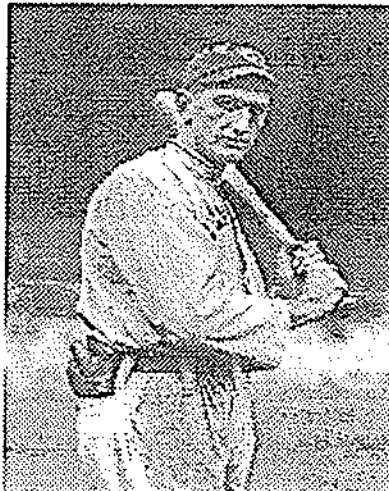
October 2001

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

### A PAIR OF QUESTIONABLE ROOKIES, SEPARATED BY NINETY YEARS IS ICHIRO A ROOKIE IN 2001? WAS JOE JACKSON ONE IN 1911?

The answer to the first question is yes. After all, Los Angeles pitcher Hideo Nomo was the NL Rookie of the Year back in 1995, and Seattle pitcher Kazuhiro Sasaki was the AL winner last year. And like Ichiro, both Nomo and Sasaki had had years of stardom in Japan's major leagues. Although those years in Japan have led many to questions whether they are truly rookies, I would agree that they are. To rule otherwise would be to acknowledge that the Japanese leagues are on a par with the American and National Leagues, and I don't think that's true. That being the case, Suzuki, who has already set the AL rookie record for singles, appears well on his way to setting a new rookie record for most hits in a season. *The 2001 Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book* (p.172) lists these rookies as having 200 or more hits.

Lloyd Waner, PIT (NL), 1927, 223  
Jimmy Williams, PIT (NL), 1899, 219  
Tony Oliva, MIN (AL), 1964, 217  
Dale Alexander, DET (AL), 1929, 215  
Harvey Kuenn, DET (AL), 1953 209  
Nomar Garciaparra, BOS (AL), 1997 209  
Kevin Seitzer, KC (AL), 1987, 207  
Johnny Frederick, BKL (NL), 1929, 206  
Hal Trosky, CLE (AL), 1934, 206  
Joe DiMaggio, NY (AL), 1936, 206  
Johnny Pesky, BOS (AL), 1942, 205  
Roy Johnson, DET (AL), 1929, 201  
Dick Allen, PHI (NL), 1964, 201  
Dick Wakefield, DET (AL), 1943, 200



The answer to the Joe Jackson question is not so clear cut. Lee Sinins pointed out that Jackson is missing from the TSN list despite having had 233 hits for Cleveland in 1911 and being credited with the rookie record by *Elias's Book of Baseball Records*. But should we consider Jackson a rookie in 1911? Bill Deane, in his *Total Baseball* section on the history of the Rookie of the Year Award, says this about rookie eligibility.

"IN 1957 FORMAL GUIDELINES WERE FINALLY ESTABLISHED FOR DETERMINING ROOKIE STATUS. A PLAYER COULD NOT HAVE ACCUMULATED MORE THAN 75 AT BATS, 45 INNINGS PITCHED, OR HAVE BEEN ON A MAJOR LEAGUE ROSTER BETWEEN MAY 15 AND SEPTEMBER 1 OF ANY PREVIOUS SEASON. SHORTLY AFTER, THE GUIDELINES WERE CHANGED TO 90 AT BATS, 45 INNINGS PITCHED OR 45 DAYS ON A MAJOR LEAGUE ROSTER BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1. FINALLY, IN 1971, THE GUIDELINES WERE SET AT 130 AT BATS, 50 INNINGS, OR 45 DAYS ON A ROSTER."

Both Bill, in his Hypothetical Rookie of the Year Award, and I, in the SABR Retroactive Rookie of the Year poll, used the pre-1971 rules (90 at bats, 45 IP) for the years 1900-1946. To us, that made Jackson, with 115 prior at bats, ineligible. Elias, evidently using the current rule, believes he is eligible.

Incidentally, Lee also noticed that Earle Combs, who had 203 hits for the 1925 Yankees is not on the list, though Bill and I believe he should be. In fact he was the AL's 1925 Rookie of the Year in both our studies.

## ERRORS FOUND IN TSN'S POSTSEASON AND ALL-STAR GAME RECORDS

Steve Kanehl found these errors in *The 2001 Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book*.

1. Page 392 lists Tino Martinez with 211 Division Series career putouts as a first baseman. This should be 221 putouts. (Martinez is correctly listed as the record holder with 21 assists and 242 chances accepted;  $221+21=242$ ).
2. Page 393 lists Randy Velarde with three Division Series career errors as a second baseman. However, one of the errors he committed, the one in Game Three of the 1995 Division Series, came while he was playing left field. Thus his career total should be two, which ties him with Jim Gantner. Also, Velarde only played nine games at 2<sup>nd</sup> base, not ten.
3. Page 554 lists the career record for double plays by a catcher in an All-Star game as one. However, Ivan Rodriguez now has two career double plays. He was credited with the first in the 1996 game (3<sup>rd</sup> inning) as Fred McGriff was called out on strikes and Barry Bonds was caught stealing – Rodriguez to Cal Ripken. His second double play came in the 1999 game (2<sup>nd</sup> inning) as Jeff Bagwell struck out and Matt Williams was caught stealing – Rodriguez to Roberto Alomar.

Steve also found these errors in *The 2001 Sporting News Baseball Register*.

1. Javy Lopez is listed as having only nine Division Series career assists at catcher. It should be ten (shown correctly in TSN's CBRB). Lopez is shown as having only one assist in the 1996 Division Series; he actually had two, one in Game One and one in Game Three).
2. Derek Jeter is listed as having two Division Series career errors at shortstop. It should be one. (CBRB correctly lists the AL record as one (shared jointly). The mistake is in the 1996 Division Series, where Jeter is listed as having committed two errors. However, he committed only one (in Game 4).

## ADD A GAME STARTED FOR CURT SIMMONS; SUBTRACT ONE FROM DUTCH LEONARD

Walt Wilson discovered that the game-started credited to the Phillies Dutch Leonard on September 21, 1948 was actually made by Curt Simmons. Simmons went 2.2 innings, followed by Monk Dubiel (2.1) Jim Konstanty (1.0) Leonard (2.0), and Blix Donnelly (1.0). So Leonard, credited with 31 starts in 1948, should have 30, and Simmons, credited with 22, should have 23. Pete Palmer adds that the Game Finished credited to Konstanty should go to Donnelly. Walt and Pete theorize that the error occurred when Andy Seminick pinch-hit for Konstanty in the sixth and then stayed in the game as a replacement for catcher Hal Wagner, and Leonard, who came in to pitch, was listed in the eighth position above the other four pitchers.



CURT SIMMONS



DUTCH LEONARD



JIM KONSTANTY



BLIX DONNELLY

## UPDATES TO THE AUGUST NEWSLETTER

The back-to-back one hitters by Charles Sweeney and Charley Radbourn of Providence were in 1884, not 1894. (Fred Ivor-Campbell). Eddie Plank was in the Federal League in 1915 only. He was with the St. Louis Browns in 1916-17. (David Stephan)

### MOST GROUNDED INTO DOUBLE PLAYS

The 2001 Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book (p. 39) shows the AL record for Most grounding into double plays by a lefthander, season as belonging to Carl Yastrzemski of Boston, with 30 in 1964. The record-holder should be Ben Grieve of Oakland, who grounded into 32 DPs in 2000. (Scott Flatow)

Scott also informed me that when Albert Pujols of the Cardinals grounded into a double play against LA on September 2, it was his 21st of the season. That broke the record for the most GDP by an NL rookie. The previous mark of 20 was held by Ken Hubbs of the 1962 Cubs and George Foster of the 1971 Giants.

### NO-HIT TWICE IN ONE SEASON

This year the San Diego Padres joined the list of teams that have suffered two no hitters in the same season. All such victims are listed on page 46 of *The 2001 Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book*. However, Lee Sinins noticed that the most recent team to be no-hit twice in a season, the 1996 Colorado Rockies, is omitted. The Rockies were no-hit in '96 by Al Leiter of Florida and by Hideo Nomo of Los Angeles.



AL LEITER



HIDEO NOMO

### IS THE AMERICAN OR THE NATIONAL THE STRONGER LEAGUE?

Well, if you use interleague play as a guide, they're just about dead even. Walt Wilson tracks these games and says that of the 1,192 interleague games played, the NL has won 597 (a .501 percentage), while the AL has won 595 (.499). In the NL, the most successful teams have been the Marlins (51-33, .607) and the Giants (43-31, .581). The least successful are the Rockies (25-39, .391) and the Diamondbacks (25-33, .431). In the AL, the most successful teams have been the Athletics (50-36, .581) and the Yankees (48-36, .571) The least successful are the Devil Rays (28-42, .400) and the Royals and Orioles (37-48, .435).

### HE AIN'T HEAVY, HE'S MY BROTHER

The list of Baseball Families on page 169 of *Total Baseball, VII* is missing these sets of brothers: Joibert and Orlando Cabrera, Bengie and Jose Molina, and Chan and Herbert Perry. (Wayne McElreavy)



JOLBERT

ORLANDO



BENGIE

JOSE



CHAN

HERBERT

### RIGHT DATE, WRONG YEAR

The 2001 Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book lists pitchers who have struck out four batters in an inning (p.80). The dates for the last two National Leaguers to do it is correct as to month and day but incorrect on the year. Both Jerry Spradlin of San Francisco (July 22) and Steve Kline of Montreal (August 17) accomplished the feat in 1999, not 2000. (Lee Sinins)



JERRY SPRADLIN



STEVE KLINE

## CATCHING WAITE HOYT

Walt Wilson's listing of battery mates for Hall of Fame pitchers during their starts and shutouts continues with Waite Hoyt and Herb Pennock. Although he is remembered primarily for his success with the Yankees, Hoyt pitched for seven different clubs in a 21-year career (1918-38). He made 425 starts and pitched 26 shutouts.

	<u>Starts</u>	<u>Shutouts</u>
Wally Schang	117	7
Pat Collins	44	4
Benny Bengough	41	3
Tom Padden	28	2
Johnny Grabowski	27	0
Fred Hoffman	27	1
Ray Hayworth	20	0
Bill Dickey	19	0
Babe Phelps	15	0
Earl Grace	13	2
Mickey Cochrane	11	1
Shanty Hogan	11	0
Roxy Walters	9	2
Others	43	4

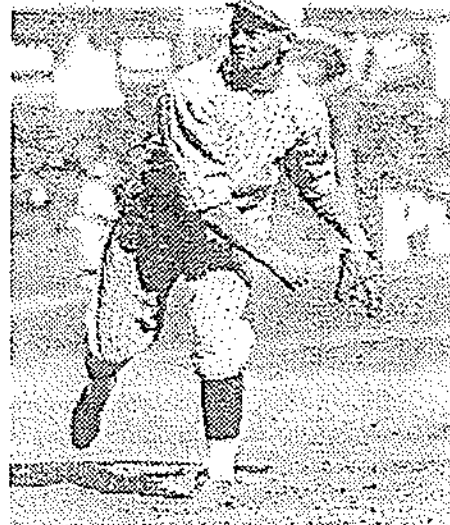
The 43 games Hoyt started that were caught by others were spread over 17 different catchers. The four shutouts caught by others were by Pinky Hargrave (his only start with Hoyt), Johnny Heving, Hank Severeid, and Roy Spencer.

## CATCHING HERB PENNOCK

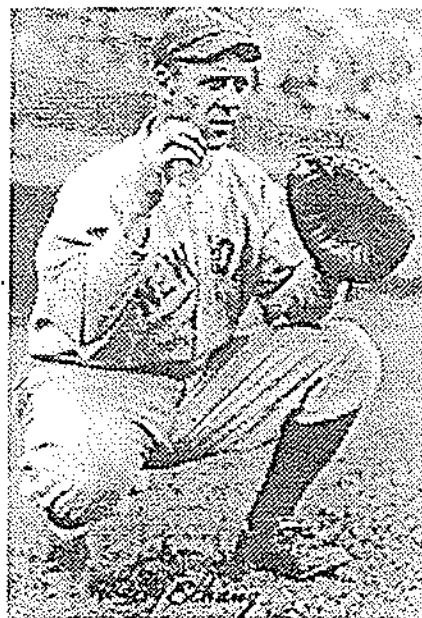
Pennock pitched for the Red Sox, A's, and Yankees in his 22-year career (1912-17, 1919-34), and like Hoyt, had his best years in New York. He made 419 starts and pitched 35 shutouts.

	<u>Starts</u>	<u>Shutouts</u>
Wally Schang	77	12
Bill Dickey	62	3
Roxy Walters	48	6
Pat Collins	45	3
Benny Bengough	40	3
Muddy Ruel	32	0
Fred Hoffman	25	1
Johnny Grabowski	22	2
Jack Lapp	15	1
Art Jorgens	14	1
Others	39	2

The 39 games Pennock started that were caught by others were spread over 17 different catchers. The two shutouts caught by others were by Sam Agnew and Bubbles Hargrave. Pennock also had one shutout in a game caught by more than one catcher.



WAITE HOYT



WALLY SCHANG



HERB PENNOCK