

Society for American Baseball Research Records Committee Newsletter ©

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

---Albert Einstein

In his research into the 1961 American League season, Ron Rakowski has uncovered numerous errors in individual, team and league records. As he and, other Retrosheeters move on to other years, we can assume they will find similar problems. Ron has run into some stonewalling from the American League in getting these changes incorporated, and has raised the question of what the role of the Records Committee should be in this quest; or if we should even attempt to play a role. As you know, we have been fairly successful in getting the changes we submit (many the result of Retrosheet) recognized by the different record books and encyclopedias. However, we have not yet attempted to get the "official establishment" to recognize a large set of corrections. Remember, although Ron's discoveries are beyond doubt, and are mainly what the great unwashed would call nitpicking, they would take an undisputed RBI title from Roger Maris and an undisputed runs-scored title from Mickey Mantle. While we might not like it, taking titles away from players is generally frowned upon. We, as a committee, have wrestled with the concept before--remember John Thorn's "Compromise at Kingston," which changes numbers but not league leaders. Also keep in mind that baseball is leaderless, therefore who has the power to make such a decision. Anyway, let's kick it around in Kansas City.

Back in February 1995, I passed on Greg Beston's finding concerning the record for an AL third baseman for what The Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book calls the Longest game with no chances offered and Elias's The Book of Baseball Records calls Fewest chances accepted, game. Both credited the record to Jim Tabor of the Red Sox on July 7, 1943. Elias lists the length of the game at 14 innings, and TSN at 12 2/3. But, in TSN's 1962 One For The Book, the game is listed at 13 2/3 innings. The game was played at Chicago, and the White Sox won 3-2, scoring the winning run with two out in the 14th inning. That means that TSN had it right back in 1962, but in the intervening years a digit had been slipped. But in doing research for Retrosheet, Greg discovered that on June 11, 1975, in a game at Chicago between these same two teams, Bill Stein, the White Sox third baseman, also had no chances in 14 innings. Elias corrected this record in their 1996 edition, crediting both Tabor and Stein at 14 innings. However, TSN still lists just Tabor, and they still show him with just 12 2/3 innings played. Now, with all that being said, Greg claims that while researching the year 1980 for Retrosheet he found that in a game at Minnesota on June 20, 1980, Cleveland third baseman Toby Harrah played 15 innings without a chance. So, in the 1997 editions of the Record Books, wipe out Tabor and Stein and substitute Harrah. This, of course, in no way means that we close the books on this record. As this committee grows, and as Retrosheet steamrollers its way back into history, we will, along with finding errors and additions to the "historical record," also begin finding corrections to our previous "corrections." This is something to be welcomed and is germane to the questions raised by Ron Rakowski. Perhaps, now is the time for our committee, the commercial record books and encyclopedias, the Hall of Fame, and above all, major league baseball, to agree on an intelligent approach to incorporating what computers and an ever-increasing army of researchers will be uncovering.

My suggestion in the last newsletter that Art Fletcher be credited with the nine wins and four losses the Yankees had while he filled-in for Joe McCarthy in the first 13 games of 1944 prompted responses from Rich Topp and Bob Tiemann. A few years back, Rich and Bob undertook a study of interim managers that greatly improved the accuracy of managerial records. However, given the size of the task, they set a cutoff point in which they recognized a manager as being eligible to be credited with the teams wins and losses (with some exceptions), only if they were there for at least 30 games. I think that is too high. Actually, it seems to me we are dealing with two separate issues: (1) when a manager is absent for an "extended" period of time, at what point do we decide that he is no longer in charge, and (2) can we determine the "manager of record" for every single game. For the extended period, Bob and Rich chose 30 days because they felt it would allow the interim man to have an impact, and it would be long enough to make it more easy for researchers to find. But I believe that when manager X is sitting in the dugout and deciding what his starting lineup should be, when to change pitchers, when to pinch hit, when to play his infield in, or whether to sacrifice or go for the big inning, etc., he is having an impact and he is making the decisions that result in victory or defeat. The issue here is "bench-managing," not whether the manager is a nice guy or whether he has a better theory on the cut-off play. Accounting for individual games is a separate problem. However, I think even there, some cases are clear-cut. If the manager is away at a funeral, graduation, wedding, dentist, etc. the interim guy should get the win or loss. If the manager is tossed out during the game, we would have to set some convention. We could do it by innings, or by a rule similar to awarding decisions to winning and losing pitchers, or in some other way. Maybe we will never get every game that an interim manager worked, but then, of course, we won't get perfection in other areas either. In player, team, and league records, when we find errors, we correct them. Why shouldn't we treat managerial records in the same way. Bob and Rich already have a list of some of interim managers that served for an extended period, but less than 30 games. We could build on that. I am not quite ready to propose that every time we find a new case of a man serving as an interim manager, even for one game, we make the proper adjustment, but I'm leaning that way. I'd also like to talk about this in Kansas City.

In researching one-hitters, William Ruiz has so far found eleven pitchers that threw one both for and against the same team. Lon Warneke did it for two different teams.

Vida Blue	KC	Dean Chance	MIN	Luis Tiant	NY(A)
Bert Blyleven	MIN	Danny Darwin	BOS(A)	Virgil Trucks	DET
Joe Bush	STL(A)	Jerry Reuss	HOU	Lon Warneke	STL(N)
Steve Carlton	PHI(N)	Nolan Ryan	TEX	Lon Warneke	CHI(N)

According to a combined effort by Greg Beston, Joe Dittmar, and Dave Smith, Luis Aparicio, of the 1971 Red Sox, had 44 official consecutive at-bats without a hit. Aparicio had a hit in his last at-bat on May 19, and didn't get another one until his first at-bat on June 1. So far, that's the longest hitless streak by a non-pitcher that we can find, although I would guess there are longer ones.

Bob McConnell has discovered that there were 59 players who appeared in a game in both the National and American Leagues in 1995, an all-time high, passing the 43 who did it in 1993. Neither Bob nor I offer this as any kind of legitimate record, just an interesting fact (to SABR people anyway). Bob further points out that in six seasons: 1905, 1906, 1908, 1924, 1925, and 1932, there was only one player who appeared in both leagues.

Here are a few more comments from Greg Beston on the the 1996 TSN Complete Baseball Record Book. The Baltimore Orioles won their last five games of 1995 by shutouts. This ties the American league record the Orioles set in 1974 for Most consecutive shutout games won, season (page 85).

The AL record for Most putouts by outfielders from both clubs, doubleheader (page 111) is listed at 34 on June 28, 1931. However, Detroit is shown with 24 and Philadelphia with 19; that adds to 43.

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 (page 185).

The game in which Carlos Baerga got six hits (6-9) on April 11, 1992 went *19 innings*, not 18 (page 177).

Jim Smith has found an error in the Home/Road performance section of The Baseball Encyclopedia, (ninth edition). The 1930 National League totals (page 534) show New York's home record as 47-31 and Brooklyn's as 49-27. New York's record should read 46-31 and Brooklyn's 49-28. The error stems from April 27 when the Giants' Fred Fitzsimmons beat the Robins in a game played at *Ebbets Field*, not the Polo Grounds. The score was 10-4 so you can make the required adjustments to each team's home and road run totals.

Jim also discovered that in TSN's 1962 One For The Book they showed the National League home run total for 1932 to be 649. But beginning with 1963, they showed the total as 549, even though the individual club totals added to 649. On page 183 of the 1996 edition of The Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book that total is still listed at 549 (again, adding the individual team totals gives you 649). TSN credits Brooklyn with 109 home runs and Pittsburgh with 47. The Baseball Encyclopedia, (ninth edition) in their records section (page 252) and Elias's The Book of Baseball Records (1996 edition page 343) also shows the NL with 649 home runs, Brooklyn with 109, and Pittsburgh with 47. Now, Jim says, after checking The SABR Home Run Encyclopedia, the NL total is actually 651, that Brooklyn, in fact, had 110 HR's and Pittsburgh had 48. These are also the totals shown in Total Baseball IV in their records section (page 2,108) and by the The Sports Encyclopedia--Baseball, 1996. I looked at the individual home run totals for Brooklyn and Pittsburgh in 1932 in Total Baseball, The SABR Home Run Encyclopedia, The Baseball Encyclopedia, and The Sports Encyclopedia--Baseball, 1996 and found the differences to be in the home run totals of Brooklyn's Glenn Wright and Pittsburgh's Earl Grace. The Baseball Encyclopedia shows Wright with *ten* home runs in 1932 and Grace with *seven*. Total Baseball, The SABR Home Run Encyclopedia, and The Sports Encyclopedia--Baseball, 1996 give Wright *eleven* home runs and Grace *eight*. I checked with **Bob McConnell** who informed me that **David Neft** had discovered some time ago that the "official" sheets had missed Wright's home run on April 21, 1932, and Grace's home run on July 8, 1932. So, the correct numbers for 1932 are: 651 HR's in the NL; 110 for Brooklyn; 48 for Pittsburgh; 11 for Glenn Wright; and 8 for Earl Grace.

Bob says there is a similar mistake in 1936. The Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book, The Baseball Encyclopedia, (ninth edition), and Elias's The Book of Baseball Records give the 1936 NL total as 607 with Boston having 68. But Total Baseball IV, The SABR Home Run Encyclopedia, and The Sports Encyclopedia--Baseball, 1996 gives the NL total as 606 with Boston having 67. The error in this year, is in the awarding of an extra home run to Boston's Al Lopez. The correct numbers for 1936 are: 606 HR's in the NL; 67 for Boston; and *seven* (not eight) for Al Lopez.

Steve Kanehl wrote to **Craig Carter**, editor of The Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book, to ask why the fielding records have entries for most consecutive years leading the league in assists for second basemen and shortstops, but not for other positions. His letter was inspired by the discovery that Jay Bell led NL shortstops in assists for four straight years, 1991-1994 which tied the NL record of Germantny Schaefer and Ozzie Smith for Most consecutive years leading league in assists as shown on page 99. Bell missed by two assists of leading again in 1995. Craig responded that in the future TSN will eliminate that category for the two positions previously carried.

Steve also pointed out that last season Greg Maddux led the NL in total chances for the seventh time. This ties Burleigh Grimes's league record for Most years leading league in chances accepted (page 109).

Two items that are not carried by TSN as records, but Steve suggests should be: Atlanta became the first NL team to lead the league in fewest runs allowed for four straight seasons; and Greg Maddux has led the NL in innings-pitched for five consecutive seasons, tying Robin Roberts. Pete Alexander led in this category seven times, but they were not consecutive.

By the way, Steve has compiled various lists of league-leaders that don't regularly appear in record books that he is willing to share. Send a SASE to 881 Yorkshire Lane, Newport News, VA 23608.

Bob Davids sent in a list of the first ten players to catch 1,000 games, 1,100 games, etc. on up to 2,200 games. Following is a list of the first three catchers to reach each goal, and Bob's register of The All-Time Leaders.

<u>1,000</u>	Jack Clements	1898	Wilbert Robinson	1898	Deacon McGuire	1898
<u>1,100</u>	Wilbert Robinson	1899	Deacon McGuire	1899	Chief Zimmer	1901
<u>1,200</u>	Deacon McGuire	1901	Wilbert Robinson	1901	Chief Zimmer	1902
<u>1,300</u>	Deacon McGuire	1902	Wilbert Robinson	1902	Ray Schalk	1922
<u>1,400</u>	Deacon McGuire	1904	Ray Schalk	1923	Steve O'Neill	1924
<u>1,500</u>	Deacon McGuire	1905	Ray Schalk	1924	Steve O'Neill	1927
<u>1,600</u>	Deacon McGuire	1906	Ray Schalk	1925	Gabby Hartnett	1938
<u>1,700</u>	Ray Schalk	1926	Gabby Hartnett	1939	Al Lopez	1944
<u>1,800</u>	Al Lopez	1945	Rick Ferrell	1947	Bob Boone	1986
<u>1,900</u>	Al Lopez	1947	Bob Boone	1987	Carlton Fisk	1989
<u>2,000</u>	Bob Boone	1988	Carlton Fisk	1990	Gary Carter	1992
<u>2,100</u>	Bob Boone	1989	Carlton Fisk	1991	-----	
<u>2,200</u>	Bob Boone	1990	Carlton Fisk	1993	-----	

All-Time Leaders in Games Caught (through 1995)

1. Carlton Fisk	2,226	6. Tony Pena	1,845
2. Bob Boone	2,225	7. Lance Parrish	1,818
3. Gary Carter	2,056	8. Rick Ferrell	1,806
4. Jim Sundberg	1,927	9. Gabby Hartnett	1,792
5. Al Lopez	1,918	10. Ted Simmons	1,772

Tony Pena is still active, and Lance Parrish is still a possibility to catch some more games.

Below are some more of Walt Wilson's discoveries of incorrectly credited Games Started. Pete Palmer verified these corrections and supplied the revised statistics for the pitchers involved.

Brooklyn (NL)--1902 A start and loss mistakenly given to Jim Hughes on June 23 should go to Frank Kitson. The correct 1902 season totals for Kitson and Hughes should read:

	G	GS	CG	GF	SV	SHO	W	L	IP	H	R	ER	HR	BB	HB	SO	WP
Kitson	32	31	29	1	0	3	19	13	268.2	256	105	85	4	61	7	109	4
Hughes	30	29	26	1	0	0	15	10	245.0	223	114	78	3	51	9	92	9

Philadelphia (NL)--1902 Bill Duggleby had been credited with a Game Started on June 4, with Bill Magee in relief. Actually, Magee started and Duggleby relieved. All statistics are okay, except give Duggleby 29 Games Started and 4 Games Finished; and give Magee 7 Games Started (for PHI) and 1 Game Finished. A similar thing happened on June 12. Ham Iburg was credited with a Game Started and Cy Vorhees with a relief appearance. It was actually the other way around. All statistics are okay, except give Iburg 29 Games Started and 1 Game Finished; and Vorhees 5 Games Started (for PHI) and 4 Game Finished.

The following are correction to various pitchers Games Started totals:

Boston (NL)-1904 Change Pat Carney from 2 to 3; Togie Pitinger from 38 to 37.

Boston (NL)-1905 Change Kaiser Wilhelm from 27 to 28; Chick Fraser from 38 to 37.

Boston (NL)-1906 Change Big Jeff Pfeffer from 35 to 36; Vive Lindaman from 37 to 36.

Boston (NL)-1916 Change Art Nelif from 12 to 13; Tom Hughes from 14 to 12. (already changed in TB)

Chicago (NL)-1916 Change George McConnell from 20 to 21; Gene Packard from 15 to 16; Tom Seaton from 14 to 12. (already changed in TB)

New York (NL)-1916 Change Emilio Palmero from 1 to 2; Pol Perritt from 28 to 29; Jeff Tesreau from 33 to 32; Rube Benton from 30 to 29. (already changed in TB)

Pittsburgh (NL)-1916 Change Bill Evans from 6 to 7; Al Mamaux from 38 to 37. (already changed in TB)

St. Louis (NL)-1916 Change Red Ames from 22 to 25; Bob Steele from 22 to 21; Hi Jasper from 11 to 9. (already changed in TB)

Chicago (NL)-1917 Change Vic Aldridge from 5 to 6; Jim Vaughn from 39 to 38. (already changed in TB)

Boston (NL)-1919 Change Ray Keating from 13 to 14; Dana Filingim from 19 to 18. (already changed in TB)