



# Society For American Baseball Research Baseball Records Committee

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

## “BENEFITS” OF NEW EXTRA-INNING RULE EVEN LESS THAN BELIEVED

In the Summer issue, we discussed the 2020 gimmick whereby extra innings would begin with a runner on second base, ostensibly designed to save time in extra-inning games. We estimated that about 150 games would enter extra innings this season, and the new rule would save about 110 total extra innings--working out to about 2.5 minutes saved per game on average.

Committee member **Al Yellon** noticed that this estimate was actually far too generous. Because of a calculation error in the newsletter, there would actually be only about 75 games that would go into extra innings (not 150), meaning the new rule would save about 55 extra innings over the course of the shortened season. Given the average time of an inning, that amounts to about 75 seconds saved per game.

## THE HOME RUN OF ERRORS

On August 9, 2020, **Jo Adell** of the Angels misplayed a long fly ball off the bat of **Nick Solak**, where the ball bounced off Adell's glove and over the fence. The play was called a homer--but then later changed to a four-base error, meaning Solak was credited only with an 0-for-1.

**Bill Arnold** reports that there have been just 8 fielders charged with four-base errors in the last 30 years:

**Jo Adell**, LAA, Aug. 9, 2020 (off the bat of **Nick Solak**)  
**Steven Tolleson**, TOR, Apr. 24, 2015 (off the bat of **Kevin Kiermaier**)  
**Hunter Pence**, HOU, Apr. 21, 2011 (off the bat of **Jason Bay**)  
**Trayvon Robinson**, SEA, Sept. 25, 2011 (off the bat of **Esteban German**)  
**Chris Young**, ARI, Apr. 23, 2010 (off the bat of **Jayson Werth**)  
**Jose Guillen**, KC, May 8, 2009 (off the bat of **Howie Kendrick**)  
**Tom Goodwin**, KC, May 3, 1995 (off the bat of **Chuck Knoblauch**)  
**Terry Shumpert**, KC, Aug, 23, 1991 (off the bat of **Juan Gonzalez**)

All of these were miscues by outfielders, except for Shumpert, a second baseman who apparently misplayed a line drive to short right field.

## UNKNOWN 154-GAME RECORD FOR MOST WINS AT HOME

The **Elias Sports Bureau**'s annual record book divides many team records by era, ostensibly so older teams playing under shortened schedules wouldn't be overtaken in every category by modern teams with long schedules. As **Frank Williams** and **Pete Palmer** have pointed out, however, the 1898 Boston Beaneaters went 62-15 at home, which is the record for wins at home with a 154 (or less) game schedule. But because Elias doesn't list a record for pre-1900, the Beaneaters' feat is omitted.

## SIBLING RIVALRY

On August 17, 2020, brothers **Kyle Seager** and **Corey Seager** both hit homers in the same game--but for opposing teams. It has been reported that they are just the 8th set of brothers to homer in the same game against each other. The previous were:

**Cesar & Felipe Crespo** (June 7, 2001)  
**Aaron & Bret Boone** (Sept. 1, 1999; May 11, 2000)  
**Hector & Jose Cruz** (May 4, 1981)  
**Graig & Jim Nettles** (June 11, 1972; Sept. 14, 1974)  
**Joe and & Dom DiMaggio** (June 30, 1950)  
**Al & Tony Cuccinello** (July 5, 1935)  
**Rick & Wes Ferrell** (July 19, 1933)

## GIMME 50?

In September, member **Steve Steinberg** noted on SABR-L that **Lefty O'Doul** had a stretch in July 1931 where he went 32-for-51 (a .627 average). Steve asked whether anyone had ever hit .700 over a 50-at-bat stretch.

The answer appears to be no. The highest known mark over 50 at-bats is .680 (34-for-50) by **Willie Keeler** from August 30 to September 11, 1897. **Rogers Hornsby** is runner-up, with a stretch of .660 (33-for-50) in August 1924. Not to be outdone, Hornsby also had a separate .640 stretch (32-for-50) in July 1923.

In more recent years, the highest has been .620 (31-for-50) by **Pete Rose** in September 1979 and matched by **Lance Berkman** in May 2008.

## A NEW, OLD RECORD FOR CONSECUTIVE WINS BY A PITCHER

**Frank Williams** and **Pete Palmer** note that **Al Spalding**'s record winning streaks in 1875--originally thought to be 24 and 22 games long--are actually "only" 23 and 19 in a row. The change is a result of **Bob Tiemann**'s work recompiling proper National Association W/L records 20 years ago.