

Do You Know—

Lefty Grove set an all-time major league record by leading the American League in winning percentage in five different seasons while with the Athletics and Red Sox.

The Sporting News

Do You Remember—

Joe Cunningham is the only major leaguer ever to hit three home runs in his first two games in the Big Time—while with the St. Louis Cardinals in 1954.

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25 Years Later--Gehrig Streak Still Supreme

Lou Stopped After 2,130 Tilts in Row

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

It was 25 years ago, on May 2, 1939, that the Yankees opened a series in Detroit with Lou Gehrig absent from the lineup. It was the first time in approximately 14 years that the famed Iron Horse's name had not appeared in a Yankee box score.

Awkward in the field and a mere shadow of the old Bronx Bomber at bat, he asked Manager Joe McCarthy to remove his name from the lineup. This not only ended his long streak of continuous play but also his playing career, for a medical checkup revealed he was suffering from a dreaded paralysis which, because of its rarity and the fame of this victim, became known as "Lou Gehrig's disease."

Thus ended one of baseball's greatest records, a playing streak of 2,130 games. When fans talk about records that will never be broken, this one heads the list. It grows with the passing years and probably never has loomed larger than right now, when playing streaks are very short.

Bill White of the Cardinals had a string of 275 games as of May 5, the longest among active players. The top streak among American leaguers is much shorter, for in 1963 not one member of the junior circuit took part in the full schedule.

Entire Career Covered

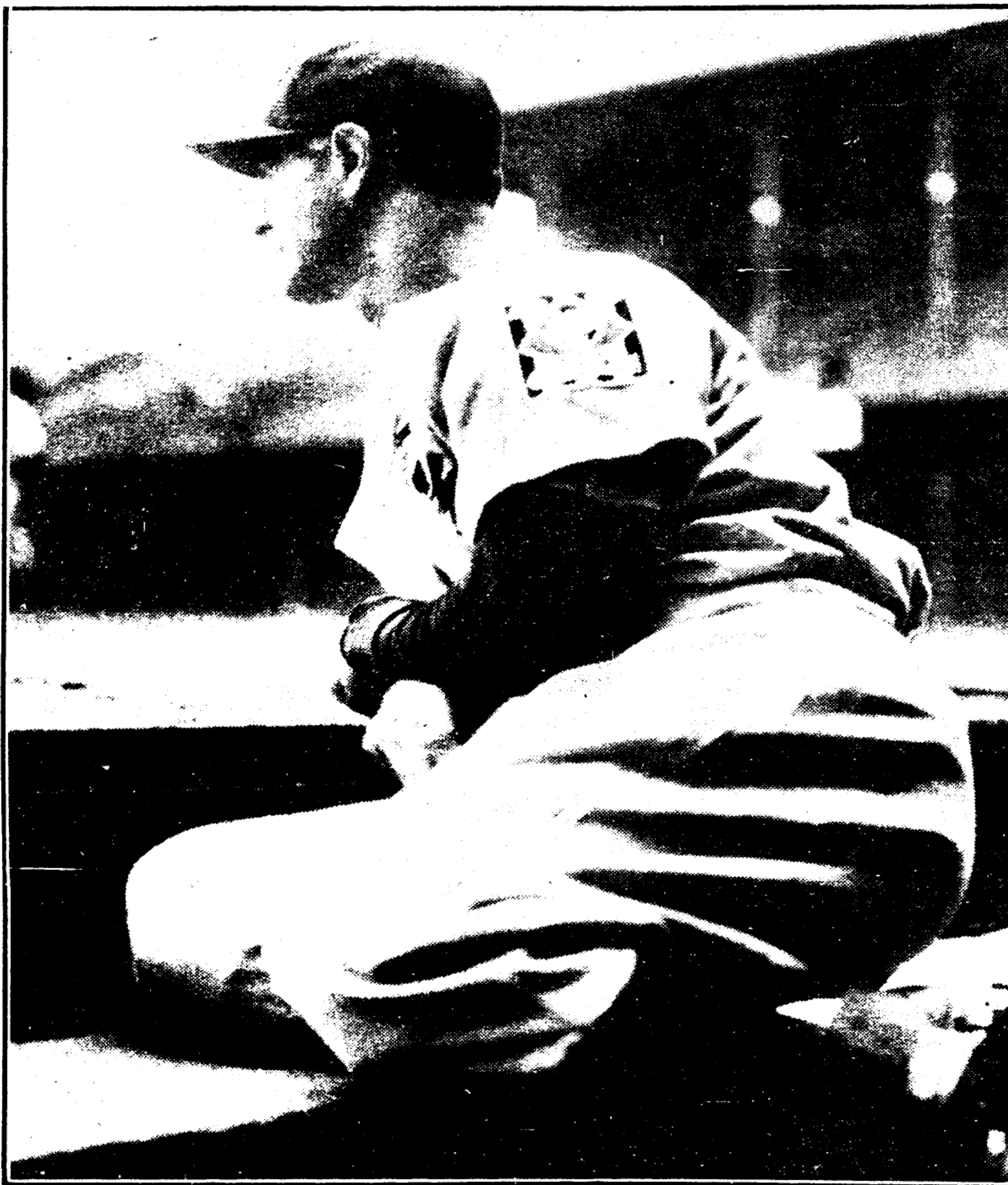
Another overwhelming feature of the Gehrig record is the fact that it encompassed a player's entire career. It covered all but 34 of Lou's major league games. The streak of 2,130 games covered more tilts than any active A. L. player has in his career total. Minnie Minoso of the White Sox started this season with 1,800 major league games to his credit, but never during his 15-year career did he put together a streak that lasted more than one season.

Although Gehrig was considered exclusively a first baseman, he did not play his full string of games at that position. In that respect, the "Pride of the Yankees" fell short of the endurance record established by Everett Scott, who played 1,307 consecutive games at one position—shortstop.

Actually, the granddaddy of all endurance records was started with Larrupin' Lou as a pinch-hitter for the Yanks. The date was June 1,



LOU GEHRIG... The game's all-time iron-man.



ONE OF THE MOST famous photos of Lou Gehrig showed the game's Iron Horse gazing out on the field from the dugout steps after his phenomenal streak of 2,130 consecutive

games came to an end on May 2, 1939. The emblem on Gehrig's left sleeve was worn by all major leaguers 25 years ago in celebration of the game's 100th anniversary.

1925, less than a month after Scott's streak had ended on the same club. In fact, the player Gehrig swung for was Pee Wee Wanninger, who had replaced Scott at short just a few weeks before. Lou was retired by Walter Johnson of the Senators, who defeated the New Yorkers and pushed them within half a game of the cellar.

Huggins Revamped Lineup

It was the next day that Manager Miller Huggins shook up his lineup and sent Gehrig to first base to replace the ailing Wally Pipp. Lou responded with three hits and played continuously there for almost the next six seasons. He compiled a streak of 885 games at first base, still the major league record.

In a last-game-of-the-season stunt on September 28, 1930, Gehrig played the entire game in left field while Babe Ruth deserted his regular garden chores to show his stuff on the

Lou Was Lethal When Fighting Illness

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Although Lou Gehrig suffered several injuries and illnesses in 1934, it turned out to be one of his greatest all-around seasons. He won the triple crown with 49 homers, 165 runs batted in and a .363 batting average.

Gehrig worked hardest when under strain. In a crucial July 13-15 series in Detroit, he went 6-for-6 in spite of illness. Lou had a similar splurge against the White Sox on May 10. He doubled in the

first inning, homered in the second, doubled again in the fourth and hit a grand-slam home run in the fifth. He then left the game because he was suffering from a severe cold.

Playing only five innings, he tied the old league record with four long hits in a game—two homers and two doubles. He scored four runs and knocked in seven. What would have happened if he had been feeling well and had played the entire game?

mound. Ruth hurled a 9-3 complete-game victory over the Red Sox.

Early the next season, another switch was made, necessitated by Ruth's leg injuries. To keep the Bambino's big bat in the lineup, the Yanks played Ruth at first base, May 4, 1931, against Washington and Gehrig

took the Babe's place in right field. Although starring at bat, Lou had one error in the garden. Both resumed their old posts the next day and Gehrig was off on another string of consecutive games at first base.

The next break in Gehrig's play at first base occurred on July 14, 1934,

Mark Likely To Stand Up For All Time

when the Iron Horse was suffering from a severe case of lumbago. Although he incurred various injuries and illnesses over the years, this was the biggest threat to his streak.

On July 13, with the Yanks playing in Detroit, Gehrig singled off Tommy Bridges in the second inning. After rounding first base, he found himself immobilized with pain. He could no longer stand erect and left the game. Jack Saltzgeber took over at first base for the Yanks and it looked like Gehrig's streak was to end at 1,426 games.

Lou Was Listed as Shortstop

However, the next day, the Detroit fans were startled to find Gehrig listed in the starting lineup. He was announced as the shortstop and lead-off batter, a managerial maneuver which took advantage of the fact that New York was first at bat. Lou, hardly able to stand, banged out a

Crowd of 61,808 Paid Lou Roaring Tribute July 4, '39

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Two months after his playing streak ended at 2,130 games, Lou Gehrig received one of the greatest tributes ever accorded a ball player. A crowd of 61,808 spectators was on hand in Yankee Stadium, July 4, 1939, when Lou was honored between games of a twin-bill.

Afflicted with the disease that was to take his life two years later, Gehrig was moved to tears by the ovation and gifts he received. He told the crowd:

"You have been reading about a bad break I got. Yet today, I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of the earth."

Gehrig's former teammates on the 1927 Yankees who were present included Babe Ruth, Tony Lazzeri, Joe Dugan, Bob Meusel, Earle Combs, Mark Koenig, Herb Pennock, Waite Hoyt, Bob Shawkey, George Pipgras, Wally Schang and Benny Bengough.

single as the first man up. He quickly gave way to pinch-runner Red Rolfe and retired to his hotel bed.

Rolfe played shortstop the full game, although Lou, a 210-pound lefty, was officially credited with a game at short. On the other hand, Gehrig's streak of games at first base was ended. Saltzgeber played the entire contest there.

Although still wobbly, Gehrig returned to the lineup at first base the next day, July 15, and collected four hits in four trips, including three doubles, off Schoolboy Rowe. Although his consecutive-game streak almost ended in that Detroit series, the slugger's batting did not suffer. In Detroit, Lou went 6-for-6, en route to his only batting title.

Gehrig continued in the Yankee lineup for the next 703 games, until May 2, 1939. It was another series with the Tigers in Detroit, but the Iron Horse sat this one out. For the first time in 14 years, his name did not appear in the Yankee lineup—in any capacity.