



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

2024 SABR RECORDS COMMITTEE MEETING IN MINNEAPOLS

The annual Records Committee meeting will be held at some point during SABR52 in Minneapolis this Summer. A specific date and time has not yet been determined.

A NEW WAY TO END A STREAK

As of April 6, 2024, the Angels' **Nolan Shanuel** had reached base safely in all 37 games played in his career. But then his streak ended at 30 games. Didn't catch that math? It's because Shanuel's sole time on base safely in his 31st game—a scratch single on March 30 against Baltimore—was retroactively changed by MLB a week later to be a reach-on-error instead. Shanuel's streak had thus ended at 30 games. Or maybe his streak continued for a week after it had ended?

I can't recall a similar situation where a lengthy streak ended so much later via a retroactive scoring change. Feel free to email me if you are aware of one.

In the meantime, Shanuel's 30-game on-base-safely streak is still the third-longest to begin a career:

LONGEST CONSECUTIVE ON-BASE-SAFELY STREAK TO BEGIN CAREER

47: **Alvin Davis**, SEA AL, 4/11/1984-6/7/1984

38: **Truck Hannah**, NYY AL, 4/15/1918-6/9/1918

30: **Nolan Shanuel**, LAA AL, 8/18/2023-3/28/2024

THE CURSE OF THE BONDS

In 2007, the **San Francisco Giants'** Opening Day left fielder was **Barry Bonds**, who retired after that season. Since then, the Giants have had 17 more Opening Days, and they have 17 different Opening Day left fielders to start the season. That means a total of 18 seasons in a row without a repeat at the same position.

Amazingly, that isn't the all-time record, even for left fielders. The **Elias Sports Bureau** reports that, since 1900, the record for consecutive Open Days with a different starter (no repeats) is 19 seasons in a row by the **St. Louis Browns/Baltimore Orioles** from 1937 to 1955. Coincidentally, that was also left fielders. We will have to wait til Opening Day 2025 to see whether the Giants can tie that mark.

SCORE THAT: 7/8/9 → 6

Committee member **Dan Hill** passes along the following research about players who moved from being regular outfielders to being regular shortstops:

Mookie Betts's defensive versatility gives him a chance in 2024 to become the third player in the modern era (since 1900) to have his first 100-game season in the outfield followed by his first 100-game campaign at shortstop. The seasons do not have to be consecutive.

The six-time Gold Glove right fielder, who has played shortstop in nine of the Los Angeles Dodgers' first 12 games, would join Hall of Fame player **Honus Wagner** and 13-year veteran **Tony Womack**. Wagner was an everyday outfielder for the 1900 Pittsburgh Pirates and recorded the first of 13 consecutive 100-game seasons at short for the team in 1903. Womack played the outfield regularly for the 1999 Arizona Diamondbacks and started at shortstop for Arizona from 2000-2002.

Betts, who is playing his age-31 season, made 70 appearances at shortstop and 16 at second base last season while earning his fourth top-2 finish in Most Valuable Player voting.

Note: Former New York Yankee **Tom Tresh** was close to qualifying, as he sandwiched four 100-game seasons in the outfield between 100-game campaigns at shortstop in 1962 and 1968.

WORTH THE WAIT

Dan Hill passes along this additional note: **Domingo German** and **Michael Lorenzen** didn't hold onto an expansion-era record for long, but it looks as if **Ronel Blanco** will for quite a while. On April 1, the Houston right-hander twirled a nine-inning no-hitter against Toronto in his eighth career start, making him since 1961 the pitcher with the fewest career starts at the time of his no-hitter among those at least 30 years old. The New York Yankees' German threw a perfect game at Oakland on June 28, 2023, in his 85th lifetime start. Lorenzen, then with Philadelphia, about five weeks later stymied Washington in the 64th start of his career.

The seven expansion-era pitchers at least 30 years old to throw a no-hitter with fewer than 100 career starts when they completed their no-hitters:

Name	Team	Date	Career Start No.	Age (years-days)
Ronel Blanco	Houston	4-1-2024	8	30-214
Michael Lorenzen	Philadelphia	8-9-2023	64	31-217
Domingo German	NY Yankees	6-28-2023	85	30-328
Ken Johnson	Houston	4-23-1964	86	30-312
Hisashi Iwakuma	Seattle	8-12-2015	88	34-122
Al Leiter	Florida	5-11-1996	91	30-201
Ken Forsch	Houston	4-7-1979	98	32-211

In the modern era (since 1900), only Bobo Holloman in 1953 was a less experienced starter than Blanco while throwing a no-hitter as a 30-plus pitcher. He hurled nine hitless innings against the Philadelphia A's in his first career start.

ERRATA

The Winter 2023 newsletter included former Chair **Lyle Spatz**'s annual listing of individual and team records, which requires a significant amount of time to compile each year. With so many listings, an error or two are bound to slip through. Member **Mark Schremmer** points out that Esteury Ruiz was listed as setting the Royals' team record for most stolen bases by a rookie (67), but he should have been listed as setting the Athletics' team record instead.