

Society For American Baseball Research Baseball Records Committee

Lyle Spatz, Editor

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

HARRY HEITMANN'S INFINITE EARNED RUN AVERAGE

Harry Heitmann is listed in the encyclopedias as having appeared in one major league game, pitching 1/3 of an inning for Brooklyn against St. Louis at Ebbets Field on July 27, 1918. In that third of an inning he gave up four earned runs, and so is listed with an ERA of 108.00. However, according to reports in the *New York Times* and *The New York Evening Telegram*, Heitmann faced only four St. Louis batters: Cliff Heathcote singled, Bobby Fisher tripled, Gene Paulette singled, and Rogers Hornsby tripled. At that point Heitmann was removed and replaced by Burleigh Grimes. Heitmann was on leave from the US Navy and never pitched in another major league game. Therefore, because all four batters Heitmann faced got hits and eventually scored, his ERA should be infinite rather than 108.00.

I asked **Bill Deane** to check into this game and Bill found that the official sheet is just as confusing. It shows Heitmann with 1/3 IP, 4 AB, 4 H, 4 R and 4 ER, all else zeroes. Nor does the *Sporting News* help solve it. TSN says that Grimes went 5-2/3 innings and Jack Coombs went three, which leaves 1/3 inning for Heitmann. Yet how can Heitmann have recorded an out if he started and all four batters he faced wound up scoring? I posed this question to the committee, hoping that someone with access to other New York papers, one of the St. Louis papers, or what appeared the best source, the Brooklyn Eagle, could solve this mystery.

Several members, including **J. P. Caillault**, **Steve Gietschier**, **Herm Krabbenhoft**, and

Dave Smith checked the various New York and St. Louis papers but came up with nothing new. Several only added to the confusion. According to Herm, the box scores in both the *New York Sun* and *New York Tribune* credited Heitmann with 1/4 of an inning pitched. Finally, Herman was able to locate the *Brooklyn Eagle's* account of the game, which said this:

"The poor start made by Harry Heitman in the second game should be discounted and the "Iron Man" of the International League given another big league trial. Umpire Rigler put him in a bad way right off the reel by calling Heathcote safe on what seemed a perfect throw from O'Mara. The Brooklyn lad appeared to lose all of his steam after that one decision and it was a Dempsey-Fulton episode during the few moments he lingered in the box. Fisher tripled to the centerfield wall. Paulette singled to left and Hornsby wafted another three bagger toward the flagpole. Heitmann was groggy with Paulette's hit and went out on Hornsby's wallop. Burleigh Grimes took up the burden right there with three runs across, a man on third and none out. But the Cards had found the groove and nobody could stop them. McHenry's single scored Hornsby."

Once again, the boxscore gives -- Heitmann 1-3 innings; 4 AB, 4 R; 4 ER; 4 H; 0 BB; 0 SO; 0 HP; 0 WP. Grimes has 5 2-3 innings; Coombs has 3 innings. It seems evident to me that Heitmann is mistakenly given this 1/3 inning pitched and that his ERA should be changed from 108.00 to infinity.

THE 2004 BASEBALL ENCYCLOPEDIA

We welcome this comprehensive new research tool, but no work of this magnitude appears without errors. Co-editor Pete Palmer informs us that you can find an errata sheet for The Baseball Encyclopedia at www.247baseball.com.

THE INFINITE ERA CLUB

Here, courtesy of Sean Holtz of Baseball Almanac are some other pitchers (in some cases position players) who had infinite ERA seasons. For those in **bold**, the infinite ERA is also their career total.

Name	Year	Tm	Lg	IP	ER	Name	Year	Tm	Lg	IP	ER
Nick Altrock	1919	WAS	AL	0	4	Will Koenigsmark	1919	STL	NL	0	2
Wilson Alvarez	1989	TEX	AL	0	3	Dave Koslo	1955	MIL	NL	0	1
Bob Apodaca	1973	NYN	AL	0	1	Rick Kreuger	1977	BOS	AL	0	2
Kirtley Baker	1894	BKL	NL	0	5	Steve Luebber	1979	TOR	AL	0	1
Lou Bauer	1918	PHI	AL	0	1	Bob McGraw	1918	NY	AL	0	4
Ed Blake	1953	CIN	NL	0	2	Cal McLish	1946	BKL	AL	0	2
Fred Bruckbauer	1961	MIN	AL	0	3	Doc Medich	1972	NY	AL	0	2
Joe Brown	1927	CHI	AL	0	3	Al Milnar	1946	PHI	NL	0	4
Bobby Burke	1937	PHI	NL	0	1	Bill Moore	1925	DET	AL	0	2
Tom Cheney	1961	PIT	NL	0	4	Julio Navarro	1966	DET	AL	0	3
Bill Childers	1895	LOU	NL	0	6	Bob Owchinko	1983	PIT	NL	0	1
Mort Cooper	1949	CHI	NL	0	3	Phil Paine	1956	MIL	NL	0	2
Ed Coughlin	1884	BUF	NL	0	3	Mike Palagyi	1939	WAS	AL	0	3
Vic Davalillo	1969	STL	NL	0	1	Jay Parker	1899	PIT	NL	0	2
Paul Dean	1937	STL	NL	0	3	Brad Pennington	1998	TB	AL	0	1
Pedro Dibut	1925	CIN	NL	0	2	Dave Pierson	1876	CIN	NL	0	2
Frank Dupee	1901	CHI	AL	0	3	Jim Ray	1966	HOU	NL	0	1
Joe Engel	1919	CLE	AL	0	2	Erik Sabel	2002	DET	AL	0	2
Ed Farmer	1977	BAL	AL	0	1	Jim Schelle	1939	PHI	AL	0	3
Bill Ford	1936	BOS	NL	0	2	Paul Stuffle	1953	PHI	NL	0	4
Clark Griffith	1912	WAS	AL	0	1	Billy Sunday	1890	PIT	NL	0	2
Doc Hamann	1922	CLE	AL	0	6	Gordie Sundin	1956	BAL	AL	0	1
Brian Harvey	1995	FLA	NL	0	3	Bob Uhl	1940	DET	NL	0	4
Bob Kammeyer	1979	NY	AL	0	8	Marty Walker	1928	PHI	NL	0	2
Al Kellett	1924	BOS	AL	0	2	John Wood	1896	STL	NL	0	1

RECORDS COMMITTEE MEETING

I look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones at our July convention in Cincinnati. The Baseball Records Committee will meet Saturday morning, July 17, at 10:30. Our featured speaker will be our colleague, Steve Gietschier, the editor of The Sporting News Record Book. As many of you may remember, at this time last year, following some personnel cutbacks at TSN, the TSN Record Book, as well as the Guide and Register, were in danger of disappearing. Steve stepped into

the breach and with an Herculean effort produced a Record Book that was in many ways an improvement over recent issues. But Steve is not satisfied. One area he felt needed improvement is the section devoted to individual team records. So he asked for, and received, SABR volunteers to monitor each of the thirty teams. He also has several other ideas to improve the book, ideas he would like to discuss with us. This is a chance for our voices to be heard, and I urge you to attend this meeting.

BEST STRIKEOUTS TO WALK RATIOS

Randy Klipstein has compiled the best pitching staff K/BB ratios for the AL and for the post-1900 NL.

			K	BB	Ratio				K	BB	Ratio
2003	NY	AL	1,119	375	2.98						
2002	NY	AL	1,135	403	2.82	2002	ARI	NL	1,303	421	3.10
1967	MIN	AL	1,089	396	2.75	1966	LA	NL	1,084	356	3.04
2001	NY	AL	1,266	465	2.72	2001	ARI	NL	1,297	461	2.81
2002	BOS	AL	1,157	430	2.69	1994	MON	NL	805	288	2.80
1904	BOS	AL	612	233	2.63	1996	ATL	NL	1,245	451	2.76
1966	MIN	AL	1,015	392	2.59	1990	NY	NL	1,217	444	2.74
2001	OAK	AL	1,117	440	2.54	1968	SF	NL	942	344	2.74
2003	MIN	AL	997	402	2.48	1963	LA	NL	1,095	402	2.72
1904	PHI	AL	887	366	2.42	1988	NY	NL	1,100	404	2.72

GETTING OFF TO A SHAKY START

On page 83 of the 2004 Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book is a listing for Most Consecutive hits allowed from start of game. As shown, the American League record is five, held by three Pitchers: Frank Tanana and Luis Leal in 1980, and Ross Baumgarten, in 1981. Actually, as Greg Beston pointed out, Boston, Red Sox pitcher Willard Nixon was the first to do it, giving up hits to the first five Yankee batters on September 27, 1957.

But, according to Trent McCotter, that total was superseded by Kenny Rogers of Minnesota against Seattle on June 1, 2003. Rogers allowed hits to the first seven Mariner batters.

Randy Winn singled
Carlos Guillen singled
Bret Boone singled
Edgar Martinez singled
Mike Cameron singled
Greg Colbrunn tripled
Jeff Cirillo singled

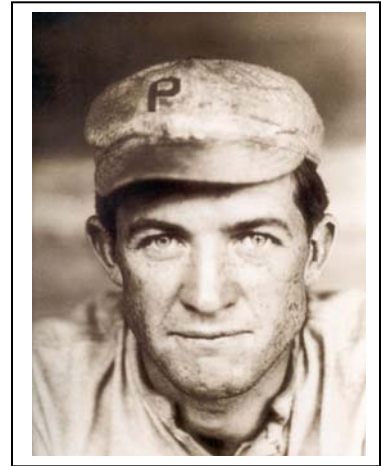
MORRIE RATH'S 1912 SEASON WAS THE AL'S LEAST PRODUCTIVE

Sean Holtz found an error in The 2004 Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book's listing of the record for Fewest runs batted in, season (150 or more games) (p. 40). TSN shows the American League record-holder to be Alvaro Espinoza, who had 20 rbi in 150 games for the 1990

Yankees. But Sean found that Morrie Rath of the 1912 White Sox had 19 rbi in 157 games (591 at bats), and therefore it is he who holds this undesirable record in the AL. The NL leader, as shown by TSN, is Richie Ashburn of the 1959 Phillies, with 20 rbi in 153 games.

CATCHING GROVER ALEXANDER

Walt Wilson's listing of battery mates for Hall of Fame pitchers during their starts and shutouts continues with Pete Alexander. Alexander pitched for Philadelphia (NL) 1911-1917, 1930; Chicago (NL) 1918-1926; St. Louis (NL) 1926-1929. He made 600 starts and pitched 90 shutouts. Five of Alexander's shutouts were with more than one catcher.



Starts	SHO	
Bill Killefer	250	54
Bob O'Farrell	103	13
Gabby Hartnett	64	0
Red Dooin	40	4
Jimmie Wilson	28	0
Ed Burns	20	4
Frank Snyder	14	2
Earl Smith	11	0
Mike Gonzalez	9	1
Johnny Schulte	8	0
Tom Daly	7	0
Pat Moran	7	1
Bunny Madden	6	3
Peaches Graham	4	0
Bubber Jonnard	4	0
Ernie Vick	4	1
Kettle Wirts	4	0
Dick Cotter	3	1
Gus Mancuso	3	0
Bert Adams	2	0
Harry McCurdy	2	0
Tubby Spencer	2	0
Jimmy Walsh	2	1
John Churry	1	0
Spud Davis	1	0
Dan Howley	1	0
Totals	600	90

PITCHERS IN THE FIELD, 1969-2003

The following table, from **Phillipe Cousineau**, lists all instances when a pitcher has been used at another position in the field during a regular season or playoff game since the beginning of the divisional era in 1969. According to Phillipe, the list does not include pitchers whose name was written in the starting line-up at various positions, but who were substituted for before they could take the field. For example, Gene Garber was listed as the starting center fielder for the Braves on 1978-07-04 at Los Angeles, but Rowland Office pinch hit for him in the top of the 1st inning. Also not listed are pitchers who

pinch ran or pinch hit for the designated hitter but never took an at-bat as the “scheduled” DH.

The list also excludes so-called “joke pitchers,” i.e. fielders asked to pitch mop-up relief in a blow-out or when their team has run out of available pitchers. Players who have made a full-time conversion from fielder to pitcher or vice-versa, such as Ron Mahay are also excluded. Brooks Kieschnick is also not listed as he became the first two-way player in the majors since John Upham in 1968. On April 9, 2004, Boston’s Dave McCarty joined Kieschnick in this very small class of players.

Date	Teams	Name	Pos-Inn.
1969-05-25	KC @ WAS A	Tom Burgmeier	RF-12
1970-04-16	CHI @ PHI N	Dick Selma	3B-8
1970-04-28	PHI @ LA N	Dick Selma	3B-10
1970-05-01	PIT @ CIN N	Wayne Granger	LF-9
1970-05-02	CLE @ KC A	Jim Rooker	LF-16
1970-06-28(2)	PHI @ STL N	Dick Selma	1B-9
1970-07-06	WAS @ CLE A	Sam McDowell	2B-8
1970-09-02	CLE @ WAS A	Sam McDowell	1B-6
1970-09-25	BAL @ CLE A	Jim Rittwage	3B-4
1971-08-06	PHI @ PIT N	Bill Wilson	3B-8
1972-09-22	MON @ PIT N	Steve Renko	1B-10
1977-07-01	PIT @ PHI N	Terry Forster	RF-14
1979-09-01	PIT @ SF N	Kent Tekulve	LF-9
1979-09-29	TOR @ NY A	Ron Guidry	CF-9
1980-08-03	BOS @ TEX A	Tom Burgmeier	LF-9
1980-08-28	MIN @ TOR A	Dave Stieb	LF-15
1980-09-10	LA @ HOU N	Bobby Castillo	RF-LF-11
1982-08-17	LA @ CHI N	Fernando Valenzuela	RF-LF-20
1982-08-17	LA @ CHI N	Bob Welch	LF-RF21
1982-10-03	OAK @ KC A	Rick Langford	CF-LF5
1983-07-24	KC @ NY A	Ron Guidry	CF-9
1984-09-30(2)	PIT @ PHI N	Don Robinson	LF-1
1986-06-24	PIT @ STL N	Todd Worrell	RF-9
1986-06-27	PHI @ STL N	Todd Worrell	RF12
1986-07-22	NY @ CIN N	Jesse Orosco	RF10
1986-07-22	NY @ CIN N	Roger McDowell	RF-LF-11
1986-09-28	LA @ SF N	Randy Bockus	LF-RF-14
1986-09-28	LA @ SFN	Jeff Robinson	RF15
1986-10-01	CIN @ ATL N	Jeff Dedmon	LF-7
1987-06-17	SF @ ATL N	Keith Comstock	RF-7
1987-08-07	STL @ PHI N	Ricky Horton	RF-9
1987-09-22	PHI @ STL N	Todd Worrell	RF-9
1987-10-13	SF @ STL N	Todd Worrell	RF-9
1988-05-14	ATL @ STL N	Jose DeLeon	LF-RF-16
1988-06-11	BAL @ NY A	Rick Rhoden	DH-1
1989-06-03	LA @ HOU N	Fernando Valenzuela	1B-21
1989-06-06	MIL @ TOR A	Chuck Crim	1B-9
1990-06-13	NY @ CHI N	Les Lancaster	LF-7
1991-10-01	SD @ LA N	Roger McDowell	LF-9
1991-10-06	LA @ SF N	Roger McDowell	LF-9
1993-07-15	SEA @ BOS A	Jeff Nelson	LF8
1993-08-24(2)	OAK @ MIL A	Ricky Bones	RF-10
1993-10-03	SEA @ MIN A	Randy Johnson	LF-8
1995-10-01	BOS @ MIL A	Bill Wegman	RF-9
1999-07-02	ATL @ NY N	Rick Reed	RF-9
1999-08-08	LA @ NY N	Chuck McElroy	LF-9

Pitchers of the divisional era who played at least one game in the field before 1969:

Steve Blass: one as LF for PIT N on 1968-08-31;
 Tom Burgmeier: one as LF for CAL A on 1968-09-03
 Jim Hunter: one as 1B for KC A on 1967-06-18;
 Ron Kline: one as 3B for PIT N in 1955

Jim Maloney: one as OF for CIN N in 1961;
 Al McBean: one as OF for PIT N in 1965
 Claude Osteen: one as OF for CIN N in 1961;
 Milt Pappas: one as 2B for BAL A in 1958