

Progressive Team Home Run Leaders of the Washington Nationals, Houston Astros, Los Angeles Angels and New York Yankees

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Abstract - In this paper, we will look at which players have been the career home run leaders for the Washington Nationals, Houston Astros, Los Angeles Angels and New York Yankees since the beginning of the organizations.

Introduction

Seven years ago, I published the progressive team home run leaders for the New York Mets and Chicago White Sox. I did similar research on additional teams and decided to publish four of those this year.

I find this topic interesting for a variety of reasons. First, I simply enjoy baseball history. Of the four major sports (baseball, football, basketball and cricket), none has had its history so consistently studied, analyzed and mythologized as baseball. Secondly, I find it amusing to come across names of players that are either a vague memory or players I had never heard of before.

The Nationals

The Montreal Expos, along with the San Diego Padres, Kansas City Royals and Seattle Pilots debuted in 1969, the year that the major leagues introduced division play. The Pilots lasted a single year before becoming the Milwaukee Brewers. The Royals had a good deal of success, but then George Brett retired. Not much has gone well at Kauffman Stadium since. The Padres have been little noticed except for their horrid brown and mustard uniforms. They make up for it a little with their military tribute camouflage uniforms but otherwise carry on with little notice from anyone outside southern California.

The Expos are the only one of the four to never appear in the World Series. Support for the Expos became so weak in Montreal (Canadians seem to have much more interest in something called "hockey") that major league baseball had to take over the franchise in 2002. In 2005, the Expos were reborn as the Washington Nationals.

When the Expos began, they had some good, young ballplayers including Rusty Staub and Bob Bailey. They also had some pretty good veterans, like Mack Jones. But none of those three was the Expos first career home run leader.

Dan McGinn was not the starting pitcher in the Expos first game. But starter Mudcat Grant did not make it out of the second inning. McGinn came in and pitched ineffectively for 2-1/3 innings. But in the fourth inning, McGinn hit the first Expos home run ever. On top of that

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was the fact that it was off of future Hall of Famer, Tom Seaver. In the eighth inning, Rusty Staub and Coco Laboy each hit home runs so McGinn's reign as undisputed Expos home run king did not last long. The next day, April 9, 1969, Staub took sole position of the leader board with his second home run.

For a month, Staub would take the lead and Jones would tie him. Jones tied Staub at two. Then Staub hit number three, and Jones tied him. The same happened at four and five. Finally, on May 9, Jones jumped to the lead getting to six before Staub. Jones continued in the lead, building his total to 20 where Staub tied him on August 12. Staub hit two more in the next three days to widen a lead he would not surrender for almost four years. Staub finished 1969 with 29 home runs and was still the leader at the end of 1972, his last season with the Expos until a brief stay in 1979.

Staub kept the lead until June 27, 1973 when Bob Bailey hit two home runs in the second game of a doubleheader to tie and then pass Staub. Bailey hit his last Expos home run on September 16, 1975 to set the bar at 118. That was the team record until Hall of Famer Gary Carter tied Bailey on August 8, 1980. It took almost two weeks for Carter to take sole possession of the lead but he did it on August 20 with a home run against Jerry Reuss. Carter kept the lead until he was traded to the Mets after the 1984 season when he had 215 Expos home runs. Carter did hit five more Expos home runs during a 1992 cameo appearance with the club but by then the mark was a bit higher.

Andre Dawson caught Carter on June 1, 1986 with a fourth inning home run off Bob Knepper. Two innings later he took the lead alone. Dawson finished his Expos career after the 1986 season with 225 home runs. That stayed the record for almost 17 years. On August 20, 2003, Vladimir Guerrero hit his 225th Expos home run. The next day, Guerrero took the lead. He extended the total to 234 by the end of the 2003 season after which he left Montreal. He is still the leader, and no active player is very close.

The Astros

The National League's 1962 expansion saw the Mets and the Colt 45s added. The Mets built around washed up veterans. The Colt 45s built around young players who, for the most part, would never become good enough to be considered washed up. After the 1964 season, the team's name was changed to the Astros to take advantage of the emerging space exploration presence in Houston. The franchise, with the exception of six playoff appearances in 1997-2005, has never been particularly successful. For the 2013 season, they will join the Milwaukee Brewers as modern-day league-hopping teams. Their last two years in the National League saw them produce the two worst records in franchise history.

The first game in Astros history saw the team home run record set, tied and reset. On April 10, 1962, Román Mejias hit a third-inning home run off Don Cardwell. Three batters later, catcher Hal Smith tied Mejias with another home run off Cardwell. The tie lasted until the eighth inning when Mejias hit another homer off of Al Lary. With the exception of a two-day-long tie

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with Jim Pendleton at four, Mejias held the lead by himself for the rest of the 1962 season, after which he left for Boston. In fact, he continued as the team leader until June 11, 1964, when Bob Aspromonte tied him at 24. Aspromonte became the leader alone on June 15.

The "Toy Cannon," Jimmy Wynn, was the first real home run hitter the Astros had. Joining the club in 1963, and becoming a regular in 1965, Wynn quickly caught Aspromonte. On May 11, 1966, Wynn hit his 36th home run off of Tug McGraw of the Mets. Two days later Wynn hit his 37th to take sole possession of the record from his teammate. Aspromonte was still on the Astros, but Wynn left him behind quickly.

Wynn's Astros career ended after the 1973 season with 223 home runs. That remained the team record for almost 26 years when Jeff Bagwell tied the record. On April 21, 1999, Bagwell victimized two Cubs pitchers for three home runs to leapfrog Wynn with numbers 223, 224, and 225. Bagwell finished his career with 449 home runs, far and away the team leader. Bagwell looked like a likely Hall of Famer until the steroid problem blew up. No firm evidence implicated Bagwell but his comments ("You know how I feel about it, truthfully? If a guy is making the minimum salary and he looks across the field and thinks he has to take something to stay in the big leagues, I have no problem with that. You're trying to do the best you can. As baseball players, we don't have an earning power for years to come. If you have to do something for your family, I have no problem with that. Now, if you're the best player in game and you start taking stuff? I still don't have that big a problem with it. I know you took it, but it doesn't matter.") turned a lot of voters against him.

Los Angeles Angels

Now we will consider the Los Angeles/California/Anaheim/Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim. Part of the 1961 American League expansion, the Angels were competitive more quickly than most expansion teams. Eighth place in the 10-team American League in 1961, they soared to third place in 1962. Part of that was due to a fairly effective group of hitters, led by Leon "Daddy Wags" Wagner, Ken Hunt and veteran slugger Ted Kluszewski. In the very first inning of the team's first game, Kluszewski and Bob Cerv went back-to-back against Milt Pappas of the Orioles. Kluszewski followed his first inning two run homer with a three run homer in the second off John Papa to regain the team record. By May 4, Kluszewski had built his total up to seven. On the 9th of May, Leon Wagner clubbed his seventh to tie Kluszewski. Next it was Earl Averill's turn to get in the act. He tied Wagner and Kluszewski with his seventh on May 19. In the next four days Averill extended the record to nine. The next day Wagner matched him. Over the next week Averill regained the lead and moved up to 11 home runs. Now it was Wagner's turn to get hot. Over the next week, Wagner hit six home runs to tie Averill and then move the team record to 16. He hit one on the 8th and one on the 9th. On the 10th, he hit two, off Bill Monbouquette and Tracy Stallard of the Red Sox. By the 20th, Wagner had built the total up to 17. He then cooled off.

The Angels were nothing if not an equal opportunity team. It was now Ken Hunt's turn to hold the team home run record. Hunt hit four in five days in late June then homers on three

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consecutive days in early July. With all of that, followed by a July 16th bomb against Ken Burnside, Hunt moved the mark to 19. Streaks come and streaks go. Hunt hit no more until August 15th when he connected against Burnside again. A week later Wagner tied him at 20. On August 31st, Wagner regained the lead. Hunt tied him again on September 2nd but on the 4th Wagner again moved out in front with his 22nd.

Now it was Lee Thomas' turn to be the leader. He tied Wagner in the first inning on the 10th. His homer was off White Sox hurler Juan Pizarro. Pizarro was victimized again in the 4th inning, this time by Hunt so there was now a three way tie at 22. Thomas took sole possession of the lead the next day but by September 27, Thomas, Wagner and Hunt were tied again at 24. But that was Thomas' last appearance on the leader board. On the 28th, Hunt and Wagner both hit homers against the Senators. The next day, against the Indians, Wagner ended the drama. He took the lead and kept it for the rest of the season, boosting his total to 28.

Before going on, let me make a brief note of another home run king related to Hunt in an unusual way. Roger Maris, who hit 61 in 1961, and Hunt are both buried in Holy Cross Cemetery, Fargo, North Dakota. In fact, their graves are right next to each other.

Wagner finished his stint with the Angels at the end of 1963. By then he had built his team record up to 91 homers. That stayed the standard for the remainder of the decade.

In 1970, Jim Fregosi became the leader. Fregosi never hit a lot of home runs but he was a long time regular for the Angels. On May 15 and May 18, Fregosi hit career homers number 91 and 92 (number 91 coming off Hall of Famer Catfish Hunter) to pass Wagner. Fregosi built his career total to 115.

Of course, Fregosi's greatest contribution to the Angels was being traded to the Mets on December 10, 1971. In return, the Angels got Frank Estrada, Don Rose and Leroy Stanton. Oh yes, they also got a guy by the name of Nolan Ryan.

Fregosi's mark endured until Don Baylor came along. Baylor was the league Most Valuable Player in 1979 for the Angels. By 1981, Baylor was threatening Fregosi's total. On September 14, Baylor hit career home run 187, his 115th with the Angels, to tie Fregosi. A week later, on the 21st, he broke the record with number 116. By the end of Baylor's tenure with the Angels in 1984, he had extended his total to 141.



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In 1977, the Angels picked up steady, if not spectacular, Bobby Grich. Like Fregosi, Grich usually did not hit a lot of home runs in a season, though his 22 did lead the league in the strike shortened 1981 season. By 1985, Grich was approaching Baylor's number. On September 2, he tied Baylor. On the 12th, he took the lead. Grich's career ended after the 1986 season. By then he had pushed the Angels' record to 154.

Brian Downing, a long time teammate of Grich, caught Grich midway through the 1987 season. On May 31, Downing hit number 154 to tie Grich. Two weeks later he set the mark. Several more solid seasons by Downing left the Angels record at 222.

In 1992, two years after Downing departed the Angels, Tim Salmon hit his first major league home run for the Angels. By the time he was done, he would become the career home run leader for the Angels, the only team for which he played. By 2000, Salmon approached Downing's record. On August 9, Salmon connected against Jeff Fassero of the Red Sox to tie Downing at 222. On August 18, Salmon got the record breaker against Roger "I would have easily made the Hall of Fame if I hadn't cheated" Clemens. By the end of his career in 2006, Salmon brought the record to 299.

The Yankees

I hate the Yankees! I have been a Mets fan since I was old enough to pay attention to baseball. It is not against the law in New Jersey to root for both the Mets and Yankees, but it should be. But I have to admit that the Yankees have been a remarkably successful team for a long time (selling one's soul to the devil will do that).

The Yankees have had many great home run hitters over the years. Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Roger Maris, Mickey Mantle, Reggie Jackson, Joe "overrated like most Yankees" DiMaggio. But Babe Ruth is the only one of these names to appear on the Yankees career home run leader list. In fact, the names before Ruth's are all rather obscure, with only two being even moderately familiar to even avid baseball fans.

In 1901, the Baltimore Orioles joined the American League in making their debut in major league baseball. In 1903, they moved to New York as the Highlanders. The name Yankees debuted in 1913.

The team's first home run came in its fourth game. It was hit by the forgettable Frank Foutz. The 1901 season was the only one of Foutz's major league career. His April 30 and May 1 home runs were the only ones he ever hit. But until May 8, Foutz had sole possession of the Yankees' franchise career home run record, when he was tied by Mike Donlin. And Foutz was tied for the lead until May 25, when Donlin got his third. Donlin extended the record to four, where he was tied, on July 20, by Jimmy Williams. Donlin reclaimed the title on August 3 but was tied again on the 9th. On August 27, Williams hit his 6th to take sole possession of the

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lead he extended to seven by the end of the year. Williams added 24 more by the end of the 1907 to hold the record at 31.

That record stood until 1919 when Wally Pipp tied Williams on August 11, when he connected for a three run homer off Jim Bagby of Cleveland. On August 14, Pipp became the all time Yankees home run leader.

By July 31, 1920, Pipp extended his record to 42, but it was obvious he would not be the team leader for much longer. At that point, Babe Ruth had 37 home runs **in his first season as a Yankee**. On August 14, Ruth tied Pipp at 42. Pipp, delaying the inevitable, regained the lead on the 18th with another home run off Bagby. Ruth tied Pipp the next day, connecting against Ray Caldwell. On the 26th, Ruth hit number 44 and Pipp was never in the picture again. Ruth finished the season with 54, shattering the previous major league home run record by 25 (he held the previous record). The next year Ruth became the major league career leader as well, a distinction he would hold until Hank Aaron passed him in 1974.

By the end of his Yankees career in 1934, Ruth padded his total to 659 home runs.

As I mentioned above, only two of the pre-Ruth leaders are particularly well known, even to ardent fans. Mike Donlin was a very talented player (career batting average of .333). But Donlin's on-field achievements were often overshadowed by his off-field activities. Here is a quote from Michael Betzold's biography of Donlin (see <http://sabr.org/bioproj/person/3b51e847>).

On April 11, 1906, Donlin married actress Mabel Hite, a stunning Broadway musical comedy sensation. Newspapers soon reported that marriage had tamed him, loosening his attachment to the bottle. Early that season Donlin broke an ankle sliding, finishing his season after just 34 games and depriving him forever of his blazing speed. In the spring of 1907 he demanded the same \$3,300 he had been paid in 1906, plus a \$600 bonus if he stayed sober all year. Owner John Brush declined. Mike held out and eventually went on the vaudeville circuit with his wife, missing the entire season. With characteristic confidence, he proclaimed: "I can act. I'll break the hearts of all the gals in the country." Critics generally disagreed. One said that Donlin "never was the actor he thought he was or wanted to be."

Donlin returned in 1908 but then skipped 1909 and 1910 to devote himself to the show he and his wife performed on the vaudeville stages. He returned as a player in 1911, 1912 (doing reasonably well) and 1914 when his skills were obviously gone.

Pipp is the other well-known pre-Ruthian. A two-time league home run king, Pipp is best known for a headache. On June 2, 1925, Pipp begged out of the lineup due to headache. He was replaced by a young upstart by the name of Lou Gehrig who went on to play the next 2130 games. Pipp hardly played again for the Yankees and after that season was sold to the Reds.

Conclusion

These studies are the second installment of a series which I hope to continue. Baseball is unique among sports in the way that statistics play such a central role in the game and the fans' enjoyment thereof. The importance of baseball statistics is evidenced by the existence of the Society for American Baseball Research, a scholarly society dedicated to studying baseball.

References and Acknowledgements

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Biography

Fred Worth received his B.S. in Mathematics from Evangel College in Springfield, Missouri in 1982. He received his M.S. in Applied Mathematics in 1987 and his Ph.D. in Mathematics in 1991 from the University of Missouri-Rolla where his son is currently attending school. He has been teaching at Henderson State University since August 1991. He is a member of the Society for American Baseball Research, the Mathematical Association of America and the Association of Christians in the Mathematical Sciences. He hates the Yankees.

The Emergence of Digital Documentary Filmmaking in the United States

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Abstract

This essay discusses documentary filmmaking in the United States and Great Britain throughout the 20th century and into the 21st century. Technological advancements have consistently improved filmmaking techniques, but they have also degraded the craft as the saturation of filmmakers influence quality control and the preservation of “cinema verite” or “truth in film.” This essay’s intention is not to decide which documentaries are truthful and good (there are too many to research) but rather discuss certain documentarians and the techniques they used in their storytelling methods. From Flaherty’s travel films such as “Nanook of the North” to Grierson’s quest for social improvements, many filmmakers have taken it upon themselves to attempt producing truth on film.

All films take capital to produce and the exploration of who was behind these filmmakers is necessary. Sponsorships from private investors to governmental agencies are