



FROM THE BENCH/Jack Kavanagh

## STARTING AND RELIEF ERAS A NEW DIMENSION IN REPLAYS

We try to bring as much realism into replays, particularly season length playouts, as possible. Realizing that many pitchers worked both as starters and relievers, we reasoned that such pitchers should be affected by their relief earned run average, when in that role, not their overall ERA.

The 1969 edition of MacMillan's "The Baseball Encyclopedia" provided statistics buffs, for the first time, with ERAs for relief innings. The 1974 edition, as one of too many space economies, discontinued that feature.

However, most of the teams included with the Historic Team Rosters (39 teams) are covered by the 1969 MacMillan's. The first problem we faced was dealing with the need to adjust the full season ERA after the relief innings ERA had been deducted. When we did we found that we had materially affected the capability of many starters, usually adversely, sometimes substantially.

The team most substantially affected was the 1942 St. Louis Cardinals. The pitching staff of this team has long been regarded as one of the truly great collections of pitchers. Collectively they produced a league leading staff ERA of 2.55. This team presented a raft of outstanding starting pitchers, most of whom also were used extensively in relief. Mort Cooper, the team's top pitcher, was used as a starter exclusively. He had 22 wins and a league topping 1.78 ERA.

Johnny Beasley, the team's other twenty game winner, with 21 and a full season ERA of 2.13, pitched 37 innings in relief with a 1.96 ERA for that part of his record. Subtracted from his total ERA it doesn't affect it too adversely; it increases from 2.13 to 2.17 (within the same range on "EI's" ERA Adjustment Chart.

However, other Cardinal pitchers have their season-long ERAs affected to a marked degree when they are adjusted to remove the low relief ERA figures. Try these: Howie Krist, from a 2.51 to 3.67; Max Lanier, from a 2.98 to 3.48; Harry Gumbert, from a 3.26 to 4.23; Howie Pollet, from 2.88 to 2.96; Ernie White, from 2.52 to 2.76; and Murray Dickson from 2.91 to 7.45.

Dickson started seven games. If you were conscientiously replaying the 1942 Cardinals you would be honor bound to send Dickson to the mound to start seven times in a 154 game schedule. Nominally, you would work him, as a starter, to a 2.91 ERA (a minus three on the ERA Adjustment Chart.)

But, if you wanted Dickson to have the same effect on batters as a starter as he did in 1942, you'd now rate him at 7.45, a plus 14 if you stop at the top of the chart, or a plus 21 if you extend to the 7.40 - 7.65 range.

Obviously Dickson got bombed when he started games as he worked only 29 innings as a starter, with seven starts, which means he lasted only a shade more than four innings for his average start.

The technique of extracting the data is complicated and depends on resource material not many table gamers have on hand. Obviously, a 1969 edition of MacMillan's "The Baseball Encyclopedia" is required as it is the only source of relief inning ERAs.

The next problem is that earned runs is not a stat included in MacMillan's or "The Sports Encyclopedia: BASEBALL" or anywhere else we know of except Official Baseball Guides (Spalding or Reach until 1942 and Spink/The Sporting News since then).

Finally the "Rosetta Stone" is "Batting and Pitching Averages at a Glance", published by The Sporting News. This book has ERA

charts already worked out once you apply innings pitched and earned runs.

If you don't know, a pitcher's earned run average is computed this way: divide innings pitched into earned runs multiplied by nine.

Alright, let's work out Wilcy Moore, who was not only a premier relief pitcher for the 1927 Yankees, but a starter in 12 games, with six complete games among his total of 19 wins. He had an impressive full season ERA, all innings pitched, of 2.28, with an even better 1.95 for his relief innings.

Moore gave up a total of 54 earned runs in all innings pitched. First we have to find out how many of these earned runs were yielded in relief innings. We consult "Batting and Pitching Averages, etc." using as an index the factor we know, relief innings pitched. We know he pitched 120 innings in relief. Once we locate the other known factor, his relief ERA (1.95), we identify that he gave up 26 earned runs in relief. Now, subtract those 26 runs from the total of 54 and we know he gave 28 earned runs as a starter. Subtract his 120 relief innings from his total innings pitched, 213, and we have 93 innings worked as a starter.

Back to "Batting and Pitching Averages, etc." and we establish that, as a starter his earned runs, 28, multiplied by nine, 252, divided by innings pitched as a starter, gives us a new, and higher, ERA of 2.71.

That's still an impressive ERA for Moore to work from each of the 12 times he starts in a season-long replay; yet, it's three lines higher on the ERA Adjustment Chart. This might tip the balance in some of his starting roles.

## FROM THE GRANDSTAND

Tom Davis of Alexandria, Virginia, has responded to our request for a list of preferred past seasons to be issued for "EI" with the following selections:

- 1904 - 41 wins for Chesbro, 35 for McGinnity, Waddell's 349 strikeouts (110 more than his nearest rival), an AL race decided on the last day of the season, the incredible flying feet of the Giants (283 steals) and a chance to play the Series that never was
- 1908 - 3-team, down-to-the-wire races in each league, 40 wins for Ed Walsh, Mathewson's finest season
- 1916 - a masochist's dream, featuring probably the worst team in history - the Athletics - so bad that the 7th place team was only one game under .500
- 1919 - a chance to improve baseball history by bringing the Indians in ahead of the White Sox, and to answer the 57-year-old question, was Cincinnati good enough to win an unfixed Series?
- 1927 - the season for Ruth, another tight NL race and the startling emergence of Carmen Hill as a 22-game winner for the Pirates (this may be our only chance to find out who he was)
- 1930 - forget it if you like pitcher's duels, but if you're as skeptical of Hack Wilson's 190 RBIs as I am...
- 1950 - close races again in each league, with the Whiz Kids pulling it out in the National League and hopefully not falling on their faces in the World Series all over again
- 1951 - as many times as you might try it, he probably won't hit it out, but you can at least hope for a sacrifice fly
- 1956 - Aaron's first batting title, Frank Robinson's rookie year, a Triple Crown for Mantle and an excellent three-team NL race, featuring 577 home runs by the contenders
- 1959 - Roy Face falls unconscious, winning 17 in a row but misjudges the end of the season and wakes up in time to finish 18-1, the White Sox and Dodgers (after a playoff) meet in a surprise World Series, and please try to get a run for Harvey Haddix before he tires after 12 perfect innings
- 1966 - the Orioles win with mediocre pitching and a Triple Crown performance from Frank Robinson, the Dodgers with outstanding pitching (in Koufax's final season) but Baltimore blanks LA in the last 33 innings of the Series
- 1967 - Cardiac arrest the final weekend of the AL season, but Gibson carries the Series
- 1968 - Nobody remembers what mediocre pitching was, Denny McLain has a career in one year, the Tigers somehow win with a shortstop who hits .135 and a third baseman who hits .200, and Bob Gibson is likely the stingiest pitcher ever with a 1.12 ERA

1933 ALL-STARS FOR EXTRA INNINGS

1933 AMERICAN LEAGUE

DP 3-1-1 to 3-4-3

ERRORS 3-5-1 to 3-5-5

B PLAYER	K/W	AB	BA	DEF	POS	RNG	HR	3B	2B	L/R
R B.Chapman		573	.305		LF-RF	S	1-1-4	1-2-2	1-4-5	2-6-3/2-5-5
L C.Gehring	MK	623	.311	SD	2B	AAR	1-1-5	1-2-2	1-4-5	2-5-4/2-6-2
L B.Ruth	PW	458	.321	SD/T-1	RF	AR	1-3-6	1-4-2	1-5-4	2-6-1/2-6-4
L L.Gehrig	PW	595	.341		1B	AAR	1-2-6	1-3-4	1-6-1	2-6-6/3-1-2
R A.Simmons		638	.326	SD/T-1	CF-LF	AAR	1-2-2	1-2-5	1-4-3	2-6-6/2-6-4
R J.Dykes		556	.263	SD	3B	AR	1-1-2	1-1-4	1-3-2	2-4-6/2-4-2
R J.Cronin		580	.313	SD	SS	AAR	1-1-2	1-3-1	1-5-5	2-6-4/2-6-1
R R.Ferrell	MK	466	.302	SD	C	AR	1-1-1	1-1-3	1-3-3	2-5-6/2-5-5

L E.Averill	MK	615	.307		OF	AAR	1-2-2	1-3-1	1-5-2	2-5-4/2-6-1
L B.Dickey	MK	451	.314	SD	C	AR	1-2-1	1-2-4	1-4-3	2-6-1/2-6-2
R T.Lazzeri		517	.297	SD	2B	AAR	1-2-1	1-3-1	1-4-5	2-5-5/2-5-4
R J.Foxx	PW	579	.360		1B	AR	1-4-1	1-4-4	1-6-5	3-2-2/3-1-5
L S.West		536	.293	SD	OF	AAR	1-1-3	1-3-2	1-4-6	2-5-1/2-5-4

PITCHER	T	DEF	G	GS	IP	ERA	BB	SO
L.Gomez	L		36	31	250	3.73	1-4-1	5-6-6
C.Crowder	R	SD	51	37	313	3.64	1-2-6	6-4-1
L.Grove	L		45	29	284	3.02	1-3-1	6-2-2
W.Ferrel	R		33	30	245	3.88	1-3-4	6-4-3
O.Hildebrand	R	SD	32	23	175	3.74	1-4-1	6-3-3

1933 NATIONAL LEAGUE

DP 3-1-1 to 3-4-1

ERRORS 3-5-1 to 3-5-5

B PLAYER	K/W	AB	BA	DEF	POS	RNG	HR	3B	2B	L/R
R P.Martin		461	.289	LD	3B	AAR	1-1-3	1-2-1	1-4-2	2-5-4/2-5-2
B F.Frisch	MK	536	.298	SD	2B/SS	AAR	1-1-1	1-1-3	1-3-3	2-5-6/2-5-4
L C.Klein		628	.357	T-1	RF	AAR	1-2-5	1-3-3	1-6-1	3-1-5/3-1-5
R C.Hafey		411	.315	SD/T-1	LF	AR	1-1-2	1-1-4	1-3-6	2-6-2/2-6-2
L B.Terry	MK	559	.338	SD	1B	AR	1-2-1	1-2-4	1-4-4	3-1-1/3-1-1
R W.Berger		565	.310		CF	AR	1-2-2	1-2-5	1-5-1	2-6-1/2-6-1
R R.Bartell		601	.290		SS	AR	-	1-1-3	1-3-4	2-5-5/2-5-2
R J.Wilson		322	.252	SD	C	AR	1-1-1	1-1-2	1-3-1	2-4-2/2-3-6

R A.Cuccinello		541	.268		2B/3B	AR	1-1-4	1-1-6	1-4-1	2-5-1/2-4-3
R W.English		495	.248		SS	AR	1-1-1	1-1-3	1-2-6	2-4-2/2-3-5
R G.Hartnett		448	.273	SD	C	Slo	1-2-1	1-2-3	1-4-2	2-4-5/2-4-5
L L.O'Doul	MK	592	.335		OF	AR	1-2-2	1-2-4	1-3-4	2-6-4/3-1-1
R P.Traynor	MK	569	.316	SD	3B	AR	1-1-1	1-1-4	1-3-2	2-6-3/2-6-2
L P.Waner	MK	624	.325	T-1	OF	AAR	1-1-3	1-2-2	1-5-1	2-6-1/2-6-5

PITCHER	T	DEF	G	GS	IP	ERA	BB	SO
B.Hallahan	L		31	27	210	3.34	1-3-6	6-2-5
L.Warneke	R		36	33	282	2.19	1-2-6	6-3-2
C.Hubbell	L		43	33	297	2.06	1-2-1	6-2-3
H.Schumacher	R	SD	31	23	180	2.55	1-3-4	6-3-4