



Baseball's Longest Games

A COMPREHENSIVE WORLDWIDE RECORD BOOK

PHILIP J. LOWRY

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*A Comprehensive
Worldwide Record Book*

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Preface

This work examines in detail the length of baseball games at all levels, in all countries, and all eras. If a game lasted 20 or more innings, or five or more hours, or ended after 1 A.M., you will find it here. This effort represents 46 years of work, begun in 1963. I am very thankful for the tremendous assistance along the way by fellow baseball researchers, many of whom are members of the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR).

Those most helpful have included David Black, Patrick Gallagher, Karl Knickrehm, Tim Copeland, Richard Musterer, John Thorn, Miles Wolff, Lloyd Johnson, Tom Kayser, Branch Rickey, Miwako Atarashi, David Skinner, Yuyo Ruiz, Yogo Suzuki, Jon Clark, Tito Rondon, Mike Welsh, Paul Wendt, Eddie Almada, Cuqui Cordova, Jorge Colon Delgado, Eric Dickey, Carlos Fragoso, Kit Krieger, Kensuke Okutani, Charlie O'Reilly, Doug Raynie, Ken Tazawa, Tim Hayburn, Joanne Hulbert, Maseru Ikei, Marty Kuehnert, Brian Larson, Angus Macfarlane, Alexandre Nita, Tom Perry, Stephan Reifenberg, Bill Selnes, Kevin Seldana, Hidehiro Shinkoi, Wayne Subica, Alain Usereau, Beto Villa, Matt Wall, Bill Young, and Chunwei Yu.

Following the Preface is a list of the 69 "triple crown" games, so-called because they meet all three minimum criteria for marathon games: they lasted 20 innings or longer, they took five hours or more, and they finished after 1 A.M. In the chapters that follow, each of the triple-crown components receives similarly comprehensive coverage. Chapter One analyzes games lasting 20 or more innings; Chapter Two, games lasting five or more hours; and

Chapter Three, games ending after 1:00 A.M. local time.

My interest in marathon games stems from baseball experience I had on August 9, 1963. On that day my father and I attended a 26-inning two-night doubleheader at Forbes Field in Pittsburgh. After a long rain delay, the first game went 15 innings. Roberto Clemente's RBI single ended the second game in the bottom of the 11th at 2:30 A.M. The next day, we discovered that nobody at KDKA Radio or any Pittsburgh newspaper could answer the question, "Is that the longest-ever night of baseball?"

To my knowledge, nobody has ever before explored such questions as: What is the probability a game will go 10 innings, or 20 innings, or 30 innings, or 40 innings, or x number of innings? How often might we expect a marathon game of 20 or more innings? Of 40 or more innings? What is the probability the 26-inning major league record will be broken this year? What is the probability the 33-inning minor league record will be broken in the next ten years? What is the probability the 45-inning "other" category (which includes any number of kinds of amateur contests) record will be broken in the next 75 years?

How long a wait would give us a 50 percent chance to see the 26-inning major league record broken, or a 95 percent chance to see the 33-inning minor league record broken, or a 99 percent chance to see the 45-inning "other" category record broken? Which is rarer, the 26-inning major league record, the 33-inning minor league record, or the 45-inning "other" category record? As you read further, we will answer all these questions.

Research Methodology: In All Nations and at All Levels

One of my research goals is to treat all levels of play and all countries equally. Most baseball research has unfortunately failed to consider the various levels and countries in which the game is played, focusing almost entirely on major league baseball in the United States.

If you ask baseball historians who hit the most triples in a season, they will reply Chief Wilson of the Pirates, with 36 triples in 1912, because they automatically assume you are asking about the major leagues. However, when it comes to all of baseball, including Negro Leagues, minor leagues, high schools, colleges, American Legion, Babe Ruth League, town ball, Cuba, Japan, Italy, and all other nations, I would guess no one has ever even asked the question, much less answered it.

I believe we should ask and answer such questions. It is hoped that my research is one small contribution towards taking a global approach to baseball research, in which all levels of competition and all nations of the world are given equal treatment.

Joe DiMaggio's 56-Game Hitting Streak

There are important — and, admittedly, surprising — parallels between this research on the probability that marathon games will occur and published research concerning the probability that a batter will ever break Joe DiMaggio's 1941 56-game major league or Joe Wilhoit's 1919 69-game minor league (Western League) hitting streaks.

The 56-game major league streak is considered the prime example of a baseball event that defies the laws of probability. The late Stephen Jay Gould once wrote that DiMaggio's streak is the "most extraordinary thing that has ever happened in sports." These parallels should be further explored in the future.

I have been very fortunate to experience many fantastic and fun times while conducting research on baseball marathons at every major league park, a little over half the existing minor

league fields, and many overseas diamonds in Latin America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia.

I especially treasure my "Croix de Candlestick." This may be the most innovative baseball marketing device ever devised by the mind of man. Trapped in Candlestick Park, a frigidly cold ballpark nicknamed the "Cave of the Winds," with shivering fans huddled under blankets amidst swirling foggy mists and blustery arctic winds, manager Dusty Baker brilliantly convinced Giants players their ballpark gave them a unique advantage over visiting teams, and Giants management awarded the "Croix de Candlestick" pin to all fans still shivering in the ballpark at the conclusion of any night extra-inning contest at the 'Stick.

Other great moments included watching the Yakult Swallows play through a monsoon in beautiful ancient Meiji Jingu Stadium in Tokyo, without the slightest thought of a rain delay; freeing a beautiful yellow moth which got stuck in my scorebook down the third base line in Erie, Pennsylvania, at a Sailors game; taking the subway to Yankee Stadium after hearing on the radio at midnight that a rain-delayed game was then only in the fifth inning and getting my picture taken with the scoreboard clock by a visiting group from Raynelle, West Virginia, as the game concluded at 1:23 A.M.; roaming around Fenway Park in the snow in the dead of winter; finding autographed baseballs in the bullpen at Dodger Stadium, also in the middle of winter; getting lost in 12-foot high bushes where Shibe Park used to be, before a church was later built on the site; being imprisoned during a family vacation in an empty Candlestick Park as a teenager after I easily climbed over two fences to get into the outfield but discovered barbed wire preventing me from climbing back over the same two fences to get out again; and having the good fortune to be present when the St. Paul Saints, trailing with two outs in the bottom of the ninth, and down to their last out, scored seven consecutive runs, climaxed by Marc Mirizzi's walk-off grand slam to win the Northern League championship 10–6 over the Schaumburg Flyers September 19, 2004, only the second season-ending walk-off grand slam ever hit in

the history of baseball, the first being on September 20, 1999, when Milton Bradley's grand slam for the Harrisburg Senators defeated the Norwich Navigators 12–11 for the Eastern League title.

I hope that this work will contribute to the wealth of baseball knowledge being created by SABRmetricians and baseball historians throughout the world. To all who have helped me, I am very appreciative and grateful.

Triple Crown Games by Decade

(The following is a list of 69 games lasting 20 or more innings, taking five or more hours to play, and finishing after 1 A.M.)

1930s (2)

20—Hook Ball Park, Paducah, Kentucky—7/8/1938—Kentucky-Illinois-Tennessee (Kitty) League—Fulton Eagles 14 Paducah Indians 9 in 5:28, rhubarb delay top 15th when Fulton Manager Ray Clonts unsuccessfully requested umpires to allow 15-minute delay so players could eat some steaks for strength, vote delay top 19th when Paducah Manager Pete Mondino successfully asked umpires to have remaining fans vote whether the game should continue or not—fans voted unanimously that game should continue—finished at 1:45 A.M. in the early morning of 7/9.

21—Clintonville, Wisconsin—6/15/1939—Northern State League—Clintonville Four Wheel Drive Truckers 1 Two Rivers Polar Bears 0 in 5:15—finished at 1:45 A.M. in the early morning of 6/16.

1940s (1)

21—Municipal Park, Sanford, Florida—5/27/1948—Florida State League—Sanford Giants 8 Palatka Azaleas 7 in 5:15—finished at 1:15 A.M. in the early morning of 5/28.

1950s (4)

20—Golden Park, Columbus, Georgia—4/24/1954—South Atlantic (Sally) League—Macon Peaches 7 Columbus Cardinals 5 in 5:13—finished at 1:13 A.M. in the early morning of 4/25.

20—Disch Field, Austin, Texas—9/7/1956—Texas League—Austin Senators 4 Dallas Eagles 3 in 5:01—2157 fans—finished at 1:05 A.M. in the early morning of 9/8.

20—Jacksonville Ball Park (later Municipal Stadium, then Wolfson Park), Jacksonville, Florida—5/21/1958—South Atlantic (Sally) League—Savannah Redlegs 6 Jacksonville Braves 6 in 5:00—902 fans—finished at 1:00 A.M. in the early morning of 5/22.

21—Jacksonville Ball Park (later Municipal Stadium, then Wolfson Park), Jacksonville, Florida—4/22/1959—South Atlantic (Sally) League—Jacksonville Braves 3 Knoxville Smokies 2 in 5:01—1814 fans, 200 fans at end—finished at 1:01 A.M. in the early morning of 4/23.

1960s (13)

24—Mission Stadium, San Antonio, Texas—4/29/1960—Texas League—Rio Grande Valley Giants 4 San Antonio Missions 2 in 5:42, scoreboard fire delay bottom 23rd—820 fans—finished at 1:27 A.M. in the early morning of 4/30.

21—Fairground Park, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin—7/31/1963—Fox River Valley League—Little Chute-Kimberly Papermakers 11 Fond du Lac 5 in 6:01—finished at 2:01 A.M. in the early morning of 8/1.

21—Dunn Field, Elmira, New York—6/25/1965—Eastern League—Pittsfield Red Sox 1 Elmira Pioneers 1 in 5:33—called off at 1:03 A.M. in the early morning of 6/26, then rhubarb delay top 22nd, Pioneers owner argued there was no curfew rule, by the time the league president told the umpires the owner was correct and the game should continue, all the players had showered and gone home, called off at 1:xx A.M. for the second time—530 fans—finished at 1:03 A.M. in the early morning of 6/26.

24—Sioux Falls Stadium (later Howard Wood Field), Sioux Falls, South Dakota—8/3/1965—Basin League—Pierre Cowboys 5 Sioux Falls Packers 3 in 6:15—421 fans—finished at 1:45 A.M. in the early morning of 8/4.

29—Al Lang Field (I), St. Petersburg, Florida—6/14/1966—Florida State League—Miami Marlins 4 St. Petersburg Cardinals 3 in 6:59—740 fans, 175 fans at end—finished at 2:29 A.M. in the early morning of 6/15.

23—Lawrence Hardball Park, Lodi, California—8/31/1966—California League—Reno Silver Sox 6

Lodi Crushers 5 in 6:00 — 502 fans, 20 fans at end — finished at 2:00 A.M. in the early morning of 9/1.

20 — Frank Lawrence Stadium, Portsmouth, Virginia — 4/18/1967 — Carolina League — Kinston Eagles 5 Tidewater Tides 5 in 5:50 — 526 fans, 25 fans at end — finished at 1:21 A.M. in the early morning of 4/19.

22 — DC (later RFK) Stadium, Washington, D.C. — 6/12/1967 — American League — Senators 6 White Sox 5 in 6:38 — 7236 fans, 2000 fans at end — finished at 2:44 A.M. in the early morning of 6/13.

20 — Metropolitan Stadium, Bloomington, Minnesota — 8/9/1967 — American League — Senators 9 Twins 7 in 5:40 — 16,901 fans, 4000 fans at end — finished at 1:44 A.M. in the early morning of 8/10.

20 — Yankee Stadium (I), New York, New York — 8/29/1967 — American League — Red Sox 2 Yankees 1 in 2:10, then Yankees 4 Red Sox 3 in 6:09 — 40,314 fans — finished at 1:57 A.M. in the early morning of 8/30.

21 — Crosley Field, Cincinnati, Ohio — 9/1/1967 — National League — Giants 1 Reds 0 in 5:40 — 13,745 fans, 200 fans at end — finished at 1:45 A.M. in the early morning of 9/2.

24 — Astrodome, Houston, Texas — 4/15/1968 — National League — Astros 1 Mets 0 in 6:06 — 14,219 fans, 3000 fans at end — finished at 1:37 A.M. in the early morning of 4/16.

22 — Parque Deportivo del Seguro Social (Social Security Stadium), Mexico City, Distrito Federal (Federal District), Mexico — 7/14/1969 — Mexican League — Reynosa Broncos 5 Mexico City Diablos Rojos (Red Devils) 3 in 5:38 — 3895 fans — finished at 1:08 A.M. in the early morning of 7/15.

1970s (13)

21 — RFK Stadium, Washington, D.C. — 6/4/1971 — American League — rain delay 0:17 at start, Athletics 6 Senators 3 in 5:19 — 6159 fans — finished at 1:36 A.M. in the early morning of 6/5.

22 — Recreation Park, Visalia, California — 6/19/1971 and 6/20/1971 — California League — Visalia Mets 11 Bakersfield Dodgers 9 in 7:00, suspended after 4:50 and 15 innings, called a tie, however league president later reversed tie game ruling and ordered game to be continued — 867 fans on 6/19, 449 fans on 6/20 — suspended at 1:05 A.M. in the early morning of 6/20.

20 — Oakland-Alameda County (later UMAX, then Network Associates, then McAfee) Coliseum, Oakland, California — 7/9/1971 — American League — Athletics 1 Angels 0 in 5:05 — 22,938 fans — finished at 1:05 A.M. in the early morning of 7/10.

22 — Ray Winder Field, Little Rock, Arkansas — 7/21/1971 — Dixie Association — Arkansas Travelers 5 Dallas-Fort Worth Spurs 4 in 5:56 — 7030 fans, 600 fans at end — finished at 1:26 A.M. in the early morning of 7/22.

20 — Cleveland Stadium, Cleveland, Ohio and RFK

Stadium, Washington, D.C. — 9/14/1971 and 9/20/1971 — American League — Indians 3 Senators 1 in 1:54, then Senators 8 Indians 6 in 6:15, suspended after 5:00 and 16 innings in Cleveland, completed 9/20 in Washington — 2639 fans on 9/14 in Cleveland, 100 fans at suspension, 1743 fans on 9/20 in Washington, 333 fans top 17th — suspended at 1:00 A.M. in the early morning of 9/15.

22 — Metropolitan Stadium, Bloomington, Minnesota — 5/12/1972 and 5/13/1972 — American League — Brewers 4 Twins 3 in 5:47, suspended after 5:35 and 21 innings — 8628 fans on 5/12, 7871 fans on 5/13 — suspended at 1:05 A.M. in the early morning of 5/13.

21 — Comiskey Park (I), Chicago, Illinois — 5/26/1973 and 5/28/1973 — American League — White Sox 6 Indians 3 in 6:03, rain delay 0:17 top 14th, suspended after 4:39 and 16 innings — 19,486 fans on 5/26, 17,419 fans on 5/28 — suspended at 1:01 A.M. in the early morning of 5/27.

24 — Regional Park, Midwest City, Oklahoma — 7/??/1973 — American League — Post 170 Midwest City 2 Post 170 Choctaw 1 in 6:06 — 50 fans, 15 fans at end — finished at 2:06 A.M. in the early morning of 7/??.

23 — Estadio (Stadium) Alberto Hoeffler, Nogales, State of Sonora, Mexico — 7/29/1973 — Liga (League) Norte de Sonora — Cananea Mineros (Miners) 4 Nogales 2 in 6:23 — 1800 fans — finished at 1:53 A.M. in the early morning of 7/30.

21 — Danville Stadium, Danville, Illinois — 6/4/1974 — Midwest League — Waterloo Royals 7 Danville Warriors 5 in 5:35 — 722 fans, 94 fans at end — finished at 1:10 A.M. in the early morning of 6/5.

25 — Shea Stadium, New York, New York — 9/11/1974 — National League — Cardinals 4 Mets 3 in 7:04 — 13,460 fans, 1000 fans at end including Commissioner Bowie Kuhn — finished at 3:13 A.M. in the early morning of 9/12.

23 — Estadio (Stadium) Cordoba, Cordoba, State of Veracruz, Mexico — 4/28/1977 — Mexican League — Aguascalientes Rieleros (Railroadmen) 6 Cordoba Cafeteros (Coffee Growers) 2 in 6:30 — 4000 fans, 800 fans at end — finished at 3:00 A.M. in the early morning of 4/29.

21 — Stade Olympique (Olympic Stadium), Montreal, Province of Quebec, Canada — 5/21/1977 — National League — Padres 11 Expos 8 in 5:33 — 16,892 fans, 8000 fans at end — finished at 1:15 A.M. in the early morning of 5/22.

1980s (18)

22 — MacArthur Stadium, Syracuse, New York — 7/30/1980 — International League — Richmond Braves 12 Syracuse Chiefs 6 in 5:55 — 3117 fans, 1000 fans at end — finished at 1:28 A.M. in the early morning of 7/31.

20 — San Diego (later Jack Murphy, then Qualcomm) Stadium, San Diego, California — 8/15/1980 —

National League — Astros 3 Padres 1 in 6:17 — 14,177 fans — finished at 1:26 A.M. in the early morning of 8/16.

22 — Estadio (Stadium) Quisqueya, Santo Domingo, Dominican — 1/12/1981 — Winter League — Orientales Estrellas (Oriental Stars) 4 Licey Tigres (Tigers) 3 in 5:40 — finished at 3:30 A.M. in the early morning of 1/13.

33 — McCoy Stadium, Pawtucket, Rhode Island — 4/18/1981 and 6/23/1981 — International League — power failure delay 0:30 at start, Pawtucket Paw Sox 3 Rochester Red Wings 2 in 8:25, suspended after 8:07 and 32 innings — 1740 fans, 150 fans Midnight, 100 fans top 21st, 60 fans 1 A.M., 27 fans top 27th, 19 fans at suspension, 5756 fans on 6/23 — suspended at 4:07 A.M. in the early morning of 4/19, dawn was at 5:00 A.M., finished at 6:18 P.M. on 6/23.

20 — Disch-Falk Field, Austin, Texas — 5/15/1981 and 5/16/1981 — National Collegiate Athletic Association — University of Texas Longhorns 7 Rice University Owls 6 in 6:07, rain delay 2:00 top 13th, suspended after 3:10 and 12 innings — 4700 fans on 5/15, 300 fans at suspension, 3000 fans on 5/16 — suspended at 1:15 A.M. in the early morning of 5/16, finished at 3:02 P.M. on 5/16.

20 — Fenway Park, Boston, Massachusetts — 9/3/1981 and 9/4/1981 — American League — Mariners 8 Red Sox 7 in 6:01, suspended after 5:39 and 19 innings — 13,355 fans on 9/3, 1000 fans at suspension, 20,836 fans on 9/4 — suspended at 1:16 A.M. in the early morning of 9/4.

20 — Anaheim Stadium (later Edison International Field, then Angels Stadium), Anaheim, California — 4/13/1982 and 4/14/1982 — American League — Angels 4 Mariners 3 in 6:06, suspended after 5:24 and 17 innings — 33,574 fans on 4/13, 23,905 fans on 4/14 — suspended at 1:05 A.M. in the early morning of 4/14.

23 — Smith-Wills Stadium, Jackson, Mississippi — 7/6/1982 — Texas League — Tulsa Drillers 11 Jackson Mets 7 in 6:39 — 1105 fans, 200 fans at end — finished at 2:09 A.M. in the early morning of 7/7.

25 — Comiskey Park (I), Chicago, Illinois — 5/8/1984 and 5/9/1984 — American League — White Sox 7 Brewers 6 in 8:06, suspended after 5:29 and 17 innings — 14,754 fans on 5/8, 17,715 fans on 5/9 — suspended at 1:05 A.M. in the early morning of 5/9.

27 — MacArthur Stadium, Syracuse, New York — 6/19/1985 and 6/20/1985 and 6/21/1985 — International League — Pawtucket Paw Sox 3 Syracuse Chiefs 1 in 7:07, suspended after 5:36 and 22 innings, continued 6/20, rain delay 0:13 top 23rd, 2nd rain delay 0:50 bottom 24th, suspended again after 6:07 and 23½ innings, finally completed 6/21 — 1233 fans on 6/19; 200 fans when suspended after 22 innings; 3020 fans on 6/21 — suspended at 1:12 A.M. in the early morning of 6/20, suspended again at 9:05 P.M. on 6/20, finished at 7:31 P.M. on 6/21.

21 — V.J. Keefe Stadium, San Antonio, Texas — 5/21/1987 — Texas League — Shreveport Captains 4 San

Antonio Dodgers 3 in 6:04 — 1144 fans — finished at 1:04 A.M. in the early morning of 5/22.

21 — Riverside Sports Complex, Riverside, California — 5/22/1988 — California League — San Jose Giants 8 Riverside Red Wave 5 in 6:19 — finished at 1:19 A.M. in the early morning of 5/23.

20 — Al Lang Field (II), St. Petersburg, Florida and Holman Stadium, Vero Beach, Florida — 4/29/1988 and 5/28/1988 — Florida State League — Vero Beach Dodgers 6 St. Petersburg Cardinals 5 in 5:59, suspended after 5:29 and 18 innings, completed in Vero Beach — suspended at 1:04 A.M. in the early morning of 4/30.

27 — Burlington Athletic Stadium, Burlington, North Carolina — 6/24/1988 — Appalachian League — Bluefield Orioles 3 Burlington Indians 2 in 8:15 — 2204 fans, 84 fans at end — finished at 3:27 A.M. in the early morning of 6/25.

26 — V.J. Keefe Stadium, San Antonio, Texas — 7/14/1988 and 7/16/1988 — Texas League — San Antonio Missions 1 Jackson Mets 0 in 7:23, suspended after 7:10 and 25 innings — 3792 fans on 7/14, 3260 fans on 7/16 — suspended at 2:15 A.M. in the early morning of 7/15.

21 — Estadio (Stadium) Emilio Ibarra, Los Mochis, State of Sinaloa, Mexico — 11/26/1988 — Mexican Pacific League — Los Mochis Caneros (Sugar Cane Growers) 4 Mazatlan Venados (Deer) 2 in 7:14 — finished at 2:44 A.M. in the early morning of 11/27.

22 — Astrodome, Houston, Texas — 6/3/1989 — National League — Astros 5 Dodgers 4 in 7:14 — 34,425 fans — finished at 2:50 A.M. in the early morning of 6/4.

22 — Stade Olympique (Olympic Stadium), Montreal, Province of Quebec, Canada — 8/23/1989 — National League — Dodgers 1 Expos 0 in 6:14 — 21,742 fans — finished at 1:25 A.M. in the early morning of 8/24.

1990s (11)

20 — Municipal Stadium, Phoenix, Arizona — 6/23/1990 — Pacific Coast League — Calgary Cannons 12 Phoenix Firebirds 9 in 6:39 — finished at 1:49 A.M. in the early morning of 6/24.

22 — Billy Hebert Field, Stockton, California — 9/5/1990 and 9/6/1990 — California League playoffs — Bakersfield Dodgers 5 Stockton Ports 4 in 6:20, suspended after 5:53 and 21 innings — 1497 fans on 9/5; 175 fans when suspended; 1559 fans on 9/6 — suspended at 1:27 A.M. in the early morning of 9/6; finished at 6:25 P.M. on 9/6.

20 — Greer Stadium, Nashville, Tennessee — 9/7/1990 — American Association playoffs — Omaha Royals 8 Nashville Sounds 7 in 6:25, rain delay 1:46 bottom 11th — 14,482 fans, 500 fans top 12th, 300 fans at end — finished at 3:50 A.M. in the early morning of 9/8.

20 — Tim McCarver Stadium, Memphis, Tennessee — 6/17/1991 and 6/18/1991 — Southern League —

Huntsville Stars 9 Memphis Chicks 7 in 6:32, suspended after 5:33 and 16 innings — 6845 fans on 6/17, 2349 fans on 6/18 — suspended at 1:12 A.M. in the early morning of 6/18, finished at 7:40 P.M. on 6/18.

21— Mulcahy Stadium, Anchorage, Alaska — 6/23/1992 — Alaska League — Anchorage Glacier Pilots defeated Kamloops in 6:39 — 12 fans at end — finished at 2:00 A.M. in the early morning of 6/24.

20— Veterans Stadium, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania — 7/7/1993 — National League — Phillies 7 Dodgers 6 in 6:10 — 41,730 fans — finished at 1:47 A.M. in the early morning of 7/8.

22— Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome, Minneapolis, Minnesota — 8/31/1993 — American League — Twins 5 Indians 4 in 6:17 — 17,968 fans, 1500 fans at end — finished at 1:22 A.M. in the early morning of 9/1.

22— Estadio (Stadium) Teodoro Mariscal, Mazatlan, State of Sinaloa, Mexico — 10/26/1993 — Mexican Pacific League — Mazatlan Venados (Deer) 2 Guasave Algodoneros (Cotton Pickers) 1 in 7:02 — finished at 2:32 A.M. in the early morning of 10/27.

20— Al Lang Field (II), St. Petersburg, Florida — 4/14/1994 — Florida State League — St. Petersburg Cardinals 8 Lakeland Tigers 7 in 7:07 — 1021 fans — finished at 2:42 A.M. in the early morning of 4/15.

20— Estadio (Stadium) Angel Flores, Culiacan, State of Sinaloa, Mexico — 10/27/1995 — Mexican Pacific League — Culiacan Tomateros (Tomato Growers) 3 Mazatlan Venados (Deer) 2 in 6:01 — finished at 1:31 A.M. in the early morning of 10/28.

20— Estadio (Stadium) Teodoro Mariscal, Mazatlan, State of Sinaloa, Mexico — 10/19/1997 — Mexican Pacific League — Culiacan Tomateros (Tomato Growers) 5 Mazatlan Venados (Deer) 2 in 6:55 — finished at 2:25 A.M. in the early morning of 10/20.

2000s (7)

20— Estadio (Stadium) Tetelo Vargas, San Pedro de Marcoris, Dominican — 10/19/2002 — Winter League — Orientales Estrellas (Oriental Stars) 4 Escogido Leones Rojos (Red Lions) 3 in 6:41 — finished at 3:17 A.M. in the early morning of 10/20.

20— Frank Myers Field at Tointon Family Stadium, Manhattan, Kansas — 4/9/2004 — National Collegiate Athletic Association — University of Texas Longhorns 10 Kansas State University Wildcats 6 in 6:28 — 874 fans — finished at 1:35 A.M. in the early morning of 4/10.

21— Wolff Stadium, San Antonio, Texas — 8/14/2004 — Texas League — Midland RockHounds 7 San Antonio Missions 5 in 6:40 — 4286 fans, 90 fans at end — finished at 1:46 A.M. in the early morning of 8/15.

20— Whataburger Field, Corpus Christi, Texas — 6/1/2005 — Texas League — Wichita Wranglers 7 Corpus Christi Hooks 2 in 6:09 — 6609 fans, 325 fans at end — finished at 1:19 A.M. in the early morning of 6/2.

22— Falcon Park, Auburn, New York — 7/7/2005 and 8/14/2005 — New York–Pennsylvania League — Auburn Doubledays 6 Batavia Muckdogs 5 in 6:34, suspended after 6:02 and 20 innings — 3242 fans on 7/7, 250 fans left at suspension, 1871 fans on 8/14 — suspended at 1:09 A.M. in the early morning of 7/8, finished at 5:35 P.M. on 8/14.

24— Greer Stadium, Nashville, Tennessee — 5/5/2006 and 5/6/2006 — Pacific Coast League — New Orleans Zephyrs 5 Nashville Sounds 4 in 8:07, suspended after 6:23 and 18 innings — 9124 fans on 5/5, 300 fans at suspension; 10,016 fans on 5/6 — suspended at 1:25 A.M. in the early morning of 5/6; finished at 7:44 P.M. on 5/6.

22— Petco Park, San Diego, California — 4/17/2008 — National League — Rockies 2 Padres 1 in 6:16 — 25,984 fans — finished at 1:21 A.M. in the early morning of 4/18.

One

Longest Games by Innings

I. HIGHLIGHTS, ANALYSIS AND PREDICTING EXTRA INNINGS

Baseball is thankfully free of artificial boundaries of time which confine other sports. This freedom helps to shape the unique magical charm that is an evening at the ballpark. Fans never know whether it will be a two-hour squeaker or whether they may be enchanted until past sunrise by the first-ever wild 12-hour 46-inning slugfest.

In the bottom of the seventh, baseball fans worldwide stand up to sing Albert von Tilzer's music and Jack Norworth's lyrics for the 1908 baseball anthem, "Take Me Out to the Ball Game." When games go into extra innings, the song is sung again, with much more meaning, in the bottom of the 14th, bottom of the 21st, bottom of the 28th, etc.:

Take me out to the ball game,
Take me out with the crowd,
Buy me some peanuts and Cracker Jack,
I don't care if I *Never* get back.

Marathon Extra-Inning Games

In my research since 1963, I have identified 540 baseball marathons lasting 20 or more innings, at all levels of the game, in all nations of the world. These games are hard to discover. Leagues either keep no records, or keep track only of their longest game. The only minor league which keeps exact records of all marathons is the Texas League. If you know of a marathon not listed here, please let me know via e-mail at plowryl176@aol.com.

Rewriting the Record Books

This research has resulted in rewriting four records in three different record books on marathons by innings. Since 1964, the NCAA record for most innings had been recorded as 22 innings. However, this research uncovered a 23-inning game played in Lafayette, Louisiana on March 27, 1971, between McNeese State and Southwestern Louisiana (now called Louisiana-Lafayette). And since 2003, the NCAA rec-

ord for most innings in a doubleheader had been 29 innings, but the McNeese State-SW Louisiana 23-inning game was the opener of a 30-inning doubleheader.

Since 2005, the NAIA record was also 22 innings, but I discovered a second 22-inning NAIA game played in Arkadelphia, Arkansas April 28, 1970, between Harding and Henderson State.

Since 1976, the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFSHSA) record for most innings in the U.S.A. had been recorded as 28 innings. However, there was never a 28-inning game played; it was actually three games: a 10-inning 2-2 tie, an 11-inning scoreless tie, and a 7-inning 5-2 game. The U.S.A. high school record properly belongs to two 25-inning games, played March 25, 1967, at Honolulu Stadium (aka the Termite Palace) in Hawaii between the Kamehameha Warriors and McKinley Tigers; and April 9 and May 2, 1975, at Farmers Field, Hayward (first 17 innings) and Rebels Field, San Lorenzo (last eight innings) in California between the Hayward Farmers and San Lorenzo Rebels.

Longest Marathon Never Played:

54 Innings in Iowa

The record for longest game has been increasing ever since the first baseball game was played. But the record has unfortunately been cluttered with games that were never played.

At the Delaware County Fairgrounds in Manchester, Iowa on September 25, 1925, or so the story goes as told in the *Des Moines Register*, the Cascade Reds and Ryan Shamrocks (also referred to in local papers as the Micks and Fighting Irish respectively) town ball teams started a game they never dreamed would last two years! Called on account of darkness after 16 innings with the score knotted at 1, the game continued nine days later on October 4 in Ryan, but was again called due to darkness with the score tied 6-6 after another 15 innings, for a total of

31 innings. It was then scheduled to be continued at Legion Park in Cascade, but was rained out and snowed out respectively the next two weekends. Because of cold weather and snow, it was decided to continue the game the next summer. On July 1, 1926, after a delay of some nine months, the Reds and Shamrocks got together again to finally settle matters in Cascade.

Incredibly, for the third time, the game was called on account of darkness after another 14 innings, for a total of 45 innings, still tied 8–8. Three months later, on September 26, this time back in Ryan, Cascade finally emerged victorious by a score of 9–8 after another 9 innings, for a total of 54 innings. Both pitchers, Heinie Featherstone for Cascade and J.B. “Highball” McAreavey for Ryan, were spitballers. The final totals of 367 days over two years and 54 innings were thought to be incredible all-time baseball records which would never be broken. This great 54-inning Iowa game served as inspiration for the 2,614-inning game in W.P. Kinsella’s novel, *The Iowa Baseball Confederacy*, probably the greatest baseball novel ever written.

On May 8–9, 1984, the Chicago White Sox hosted the Milwaukee Brewers and set the current AL record of 25 innings. Shortly thereafter, on May 21, sports columnist Maury White recalled the 54-inning game in the *Des Moines Register*, and wondered what all the fuss was about for a mere 25-inning game in Chicago, when Iowa had hosted a 54-inning game? White partially based his column on Tait Cummins’ “Tait’s Scrapbook” columns in the November 5 and November 12, 1970, *Cedar Rapids Witness*.

As I attempted to track down elusive microfilm records from local papers in Cascade, Dubuque, and Cedar Rapids, I discovered that, alas, as is so often the case, all is not as it seems! Thanks to SABR member R.J. Lesch of Adel, Iowa, the mystery was unraveled when we obtained original newspaper accounts from the *Cascade Pioneer*, *Dubuque Telegraph-Herald*, and *Cedar Rapids Gazette*.

What we discovered was documentary proof that the supposed 54-inning game was actually four separate games. When Cascade scored twice and Ryan scored once in the first inning played on the supposed second day of the game, the game continued, which proves it was a separate second game. Were it the 17th inning of the earlier 1–1 game called after 16 innings, then the game would have been over at that point, with Cascade winning 3–2 in 17 innings.

Newspaper accounts also proved that the supposed fifth day of the game (the third and fourth days were rainouts) was a separate third game and not a continuation of the second game. Cascade scored a run in the first inning and Ryan did not score, but the game continued, which it could not have done were it the continuation of an earlier game. And lastly, the events of the supposed sixth day of the game were a separate fourth game and not a continuation. Cascade scored

a run in the sixth and Ryan did not score, but the game continued.

Although the 1970 *Cedar Rapids Witness* columns by Tait Cummins had the dates correct, the 1984 *Des Moines Register* column by Maury White had the dates wrong for three of the four games. The first game was September 4, 1925, not September 25. The second game was September 13, 1925, not October 4. The third game was July 4, 1926, not July 1. The *Register* did get the date of the fourth game correct: September 26, 1926.

So here’s what really happened. On September 4, 1925, Cascade and Ryan played to a 1–1 tie in 16 innings in Manchester. On September 13, 1925, they played to a 5–5 tie in 15 innings in Ryan, and were then rained out September 27 and snowed out October 4 in Cascade. On July 4, 1926, the two teams played to a 2–2 tie in 14 innings in Cascade. And lastly, on September 26, 1926, Cascade defeated Ryan 1–0 in 9 innings at Ryan. If you add it all up, you *do* have Cascade scoring 9 and Ryan scoring 8 in a total of 54 innings spread out over 388 days, but it was most definitely four separate games and *not* one 54-inning game.

On August 22, 1948, a reunion was held at Cascade’s Legion Park for players who had participated in this remarkable “game,” and the oldtimers played a 7-inning game, “for old times sake.” Won by Cascade 18–11, the game was broadcast over the radio, and Tait Cummins was the broadcaster. During the radio broadcast, it was discovered that the first portion of the “game” had actually *not* been called on account of darkness. Umpire Fritz McPartland of Cedar Rapids admitted he called the game so he could get back home in time to do his farm chores!

Cascade is the birthplace of Urban “Red” Faber, who pitched for the White Sox 1914–33. Built in 1921, Legion Park is still used today for baseball by American Legion Post 528 and Cascade High School. In center field stands Iowa’s very own “Green Monster,” which used to be Cascade’s old drive-in movie screen until 1988, when it was painted green and placed in center field to help batters see the ball better.

So how did generations of baseball historians get misled? Local newspaper accounts clearly indicated that four *separate* games were played. One misleading headline in the September 17, 1925, *Cascade Pioneer* stated, “No Decision Reached at End of 31 Innings.” But the text of the story clearly stated there were separate games.

The columns by Tait Cummins in the November 5 and November 12, 1970, *Cedar Rapids Witness* also clearly indicated there were four separate games. But when Maury White’s column in the May 21, 1984, *Des Moines Register* mistakenly referred to the four separate games as a “54-inning game,” the seed was planted for the “great myth” of the 54-inning Iowa game.

Longest High School Marathon Never Played: 28 Innings in Indiana

The longest high school marathon “never played” was a supposed “28-inning 6-day long” contest in Highland, Indiana on May 7, two unknown rainout dates, then May 17, 25, and 26, 1976, between the Highland Trojans and Griffith Panthers. For 28 years, from 1976 through 2004, this game was incorrectly listed by the Indiana High School Athletic Association, Indiana High School Baseball Coaches Association, and National Federation of State High School Associations as the longest high school game ever played.

But there was never any final score given, and it was always listed simply as “1976,” with no month and no date. For over a decade, I became increasingly interested in the fact that despite dozens of letters, phone calls, and e-mails to high school coaches and principals in Highland and Griffith, and to sports editors in nearby Gary, Hammond, and Chicago, nobody could tell me either the exact date of the game or the final score.

The only facts discovered during this long decade of unsuccessful research were that neither the Griffith nor Highland high school yearbooks nor school newspapers mentioned the game; the two schools were supposed to play June 5, 1976, according to the *Hammond Times*, but the June 6 *Gary Post-Tribune* stated they played other teams on June 5; issues of the June 5 *Gary Post-Tribune* and June 6 *Hammond Times* were missing from all microfilm archives; and on November 1, 2003, Highland baseball coach Dan Miller found four former Highland players who played in the game but all they could remember was “the game was real long.”

After I contacted David Zandstra, President of the Highland Historical Society, he finally solved the puzzle by finding a scrapbook owned by Bill Helmer, a former Highland player who played in the game. This scrapbook contains articles from the *Lake Suburban Sun Journal* and *Gary Post-Tribune*.

So here’s what really happened. The first three days of the “game” were rainouts. The May 7 game was rained out at Highland’s Hilltop Park, along the Little Calumet River. It was rescheduled, but rained out a second and third time on two unknown dates between May 7 and May 17. On May 17, the fourth day, the game was called due to darkness after 10 innings with the scored tied 2–2.

In both the May 18 *Lake Suburban Sun Journal* and May 18 *Gary Post-Tribune* newspaper articles, authors Rich Lindsey of the *Sun Journal* and Al Hamnik of the *Post-Tribune* stated neither the Indiana High School Athletic Association nor Lake Suburban Conference had any rules on whether a 10-inning tie game should be continued with play commencing in the top of the 11th, or an entirely new game should be started. Griffith Athletic Director Jim Bartlett stated, “Nothing like this has ever happened before, so we have nothing to go by.”

Between May 18 and May 25, an unknown person

decided a new game would be started. However, when on May 25, the fifth day of the supposed “game,” the two teams played a second game to a scoreless tie in 11 innings before 225 fans, the “myth” was created that they had played 21 total innings and were still tied. The next day, May 26, the sixth day of the supposed “28-inning six-day” game, Griffith won the third game 5–2 in 7 innings.

The May 26 box score provides documentary proof that three separate games were played rather than one 28-inning game. Griffith scored twice in the top of the second to take a 2–0 lead. Highland did not score in the bottom of the inning, but the game continued. Had it been the bottom of the 23rd inning rather than the bottom of the 2nd, the game would have been over. The fact the game continued proves there were three games played: a 10-inning 2–2 tie May 17, an 11-inning scoreless tie May 25, and a 7-inning 5–2 Griffith victory May 26.

Here’s another example of how some people could not help but think instinctively of the whole 6-day series of events as one long 28-inning marathon. Jack Moorman of Griffith pitched the entire 10-inning 2–2 game May 17, and also the first 10 innings of the 11-inning scoreless tie May 25. Jack told me that in a locker room team meeting after Griffith won the 7-inning May 26 game 5–2, Griffith head coach Dave Price awarded him two official “saves” for his 20 innings of pitching, although his 20 innings were pitched in two games which officially had nothing to do with the May 26 game.

On August 7, 2004, I sent these facts to the following people responsible for editing the record books: John Gillis, Assistant Director, National Federation of High School Associations; Lance Patterson, Record Update Coordinator, Indiana High School Baseball Coaches Association; and Bill Jones, Executive Director, Indiana High School Athletic Association. On November 15, 2004, Mr. Gillis wrote back to confirm that the error has been corrected for all future editions of the National High School Sports Record Book.

So how did generations of baseball historians get misled a second time? Many people, remembering earlier newspaper articles, believed the game lasted $10 + 11 + 7 = 28$ innings, even though May 27 newspaper accounts of the May 26 game clearly indicated three separate games were played. One such person sent in official notification to those who back then kept records for Indiana high school baseball. Thus began the chain of events which led to Indiana and national high school baseball records being wrong for almost three decades.

Other Marathons Never Played: Knickerbockers and Killer Tomatoes

On July 18, 1951, Harman Nichols wrote a sports column for the *Washington Post* which discussed a 33–

inning game in the Illinois-Indiana-Iowa (3-I) League. The game supposedly took place in 1906 between the Decatur Commodores and Davenport Knickerbockers.

After 17 innings of scoreless ball July 28, 1906, in Davenport, the game was suspended due to darkness and continued August 24 in Decatur with another 16 innings of scoreless ball, resulting in a 33-inning scoreless tie. However, with the help of public library reference librarians in Decatur and Davenport, I discovered that these were clearly referred to in the newspapers of the time as two separate games.

So how did generations of baseball historians get misled a third time? Mr. Nichols' article stated, "And you talk about the longest game on record. You think it was the 26 innings Brooklyn and the Boston Braves played a few years back. It wasn't. The Davenport team in 1906 fought tooth and nail with Decatur July 28 for 17 innings without a score being made. The game was called when the sun disappeared. On August 24, the same two teams picked up where they had left off. Sixteen more innings, and still no score. Again came darkness. One game with 33 innings—and not a run."

Another supposed "28-inning" game which was never actually played occurred in South Dakota July 19 and 26, 1948, between Bonesteel and the Platte Killer Tomatoes. Supposedly, the game was suspended in Platte at 2 A.M. in the early morning hours of July 20 with the score 1-1, and concluded in Bonesteel a week later, with Bonesteel winning 4-3. Winning pitcher Spud Grosshuesch supposedly had 62 strikeouts in the game. During my effort to find the box score, I enlisted the help of Ralph Nachtigal, editor of the *Platte Enterprise*. After digging out the old 1948 newspaper accounts, we discovered the game did not actually last 28 innings.

On July 19, 1948, the two teams met in Platte, and the game was called after 15 innings, tied 1-1. When the teams met a week later in nearby Bonesteel on July 26, however, they started all over again and played an entirely separate game, which went 13 innings. Bonesteel took an early 3-0 lead. The Killer Tomatoes, back then known as the 5-Milers, scored one in the 8th to cut the lead to 3-1, and two in the 9th to send the game into extra innings. Bonesteel won 4-3 with a run in the bottom of the 13th. Winning pitcher Spud Grosshuesch did pitch all 28 innings for Bonesteel, and he did have 62 strikeouts, but 34 of them were in the first game, and 28 in the second game.

How did generations of baseball historians again get misled, for a fourth time? Just as in the Indiana case, someone confused the facts, and reported to the South Dakota Amateur Baseball Association that Bonesteel had defeated Platte 4-3 in 28 innings.

The fifth longest game never played was a supposed "22-inning" game July 3, 1932, in the Mississippi Valley League. The Keokuk Indians and Burlington Bees "played" to a scoreless tie cited many times in baseball literature on longest games. During my research,

I always wondered how this game could be so similar, in so many ways, to another game also played in Burlington, Iowa 17 years earlier in the Central Association June 27, 1915. In both games, Keokuk visited Burlington, the game was scoreless, it lasted 22 innings, and the time of game was 3:50. The only difference was the date.

Although I wrote dozens of letters over the last decade to sports editors and journalists in Keokuk, Burlington, and Des Moines, I had no answer to the dilemma until Tim Rask of Iowa City solved the puzzle by researching the *Burlington Hawk-Eye* newspaper archives at the Iowa Historical Library in Iowa City.

How did generations of baseball historians once more get misled, for a fifth time? *Hawk-Eye* sports editor Ed Dent thought it was very interesting that Larry Brown, a player in the 22-inning 1915 Keokuk at Burlington game was umpiring in the Mississippi Valley League in 1932, which included teams from both Keokuk and Burlington. So Dent ran a copy of the June 29, 1915, *Hawk-Eye* article about the June 27, 1915, game in his July 3, 1932, edition, with an accompanying article about Brown. What is most interesting is that the date ascribed to the phantom game was July 3 rather than July 2, since the July 3 article should reasonably have been expected to concern a game played the previous day on July 2.

Another marathon never played was a supposed "20-inning" 2-2 tie in just 2 hours 50 minutes in the Cotton States League in Greenville, Mississippi July 11, 1904, between the Greenville Cotton Pickers and Vicksburg Hill Billies. Just as in the case of the Keokuk at Burlington game, baseball literature on longest games makes numerous mentions of this game.

Dave Black, from Highlands Ranch, Colorado, discovered an article in the July 12, 1904, *Chicago Daily Tribune* which proves this game was called due to darkness after only 19 innings.

How did generations of baseball historians get misled for a sixth time? The mistaken belief the game lasted 20 innings derived from the *Daily Tribune's* headline writer. Knowing the game had been called as the top of the 20th was about to begin, he wrote the following headline, "Play Twenty Innings to a Tie." Reflective of sports writing in the early 20th Century era, the article concluded, "The game abounded in brilliant ball playing."

Longest Massachusetts Rules

Marathon: 172 Innings in Worcester

During the Nineteenth Century, many teams played under Massachusetts Rules requiring the winning team to score a minimum number of runs or "tallies," sometimes 25, sometimes 50, sometimes 65, sometimes 100. Sixteen such games have been identified as having taken 20 or more innings. Massachusetts Rules were established at Dedham, Massachusetts, and the