

# The 3-6-3 Double Play

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## Purpose

The purpose of this study is to determine which major league first baseman turned the most 3-6-3 double plays.

## Data Sources

The information used in this study was obtained free of charge from and is copyrighted by Retrosheet. Interested parties may contact Retrosheet at [www.retrosheet.org](http://www.retrosheet.org).

## Definitions

**3-6-3 Double Play** - the first baseman fields a ground ball and throws to the shortstop to retire the runner on first. The shortstop returns the throw to the first baseman to retire the batter/runner.

**Opportunity** - all ground balls (including bunts, excluding base hits) fielded by the first baseman with a runner on first (additional runners may be on second and/or third) and less than two outs.

**Attempt** - all opportunities where the first play by the first baseman is a throw to the shortstop.

## Methodology

I used play-by-play data from Retrosheet to support my analysis. The available data includes the American and National Leagues for 1952-2009.

I processed the data for each season to generate a list of all players with at least one opportunity in any one of these eight situations:

- No outs, runner on first
- No outs, runners on first and second
- No outs, runners on first and third
- No outs, bases full
- One out, runner on first
- One out, runners on first and second
- One out, runners on first and third
- One out, bases full

## Results

Filtering out the non-ground balls and base hits, I found:

- **1,319 players** with at least one opportunity
- **71,767 opportunities**
- **23,849 attempts**
- **4,820 3-6-3 double plays**

The table below summarizes the results based on the throwing hand of the first baseman:

Throws	Opportunities	Attempts	Double Plays	Opportunities Attempted	Attempts Turned
Right Handed	43,139	13,670	2,814	31.69%	20.59%
Left Handed	28,628	10,179	2,006	35.56%	19.71%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>71,767</b>	<b>23,849</b>	<b>4,820</b>	<b>33.23%</b>	<b>20.21%</b>

The data summarized by situation:

	Opportunities	Attempts	3-6-3 Double Play	Opportunities Attempted	Attempts Turned
<b><i>No Outs</i></b>					
Runner on 1st	27,284	8,178	1,783	29.97%	21.80%
Runners 1st and 2nd	6,168	1,752	144	28.40%	8.22%
Runners 1st and 3rd	1,649	401	96	24.32%	23.94%
Bases Full	1,144	281	11	24.56%	3.91%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>36,245</b>	<b>10,612</b>	<b>2,034</b>	<b>29.28%</b>	<b>19.17%</b>
<b><i>One Out</i></b>					
Runner on 1st	20,723	8,255	2,229	39.83%	27.00%
Runners 1st and 2nd	8,477	3,283	170	38.73%	5.18%
Runners 1st and 3rd	3,368	997	335	29.60%	33.60%
Bases Full	2,954	702	52	23.76%	7.41%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>35,522</b>	<b>13,237</b>	<b>2,786</b>	<b>37.26%</b>	<b>21.05%</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>71,767</b>	<b>23,849</b>	<b>4,820</b>	<b>33.23%</b>	<b>20.21%</b>

## Individual Records - Season

### Led Majors in All Three Categories - Opportunities, Attempts, and Double Plays - in One Season

1959 - Ed Bouchee  
1971 - Ron Fairly  
1997 - Jeff King  
2006 - Albert Pujols  
1966 - George Scott

### Most Opportunities (Season)

94 Gil Hodges (1954)  
82 Todd Helton (2003)  
80 Walt Dropo (1953)  
76 Donn Clendenon (1968)  
75 Jeff Bagwell (1992)  
Bill Buckner (1982)  
Mark Grace (1990)  
Gil Hodges (1952)

### Most Attempts (Season)

37 John Olerud (2000)  
36 Wally Joyner (1988)  
34 Keith Hernandez (1979)  
Don Mattingly (1992)  
33 Gil Hodges (1954)  
32 Todd Helton (2003)

### Most 3-6-3 Double Plays (Season)

13 Albert Pujols (2007)  
12 Derrek Lee (2003)  
11 Rod Carew (1977)  
Kent Hrbek (1986)  
Kendry Morales (2009)  
George Scott (1966)

### Most Opportunities with No Attempts (Season)

31 Steve Garvey (1986)  
15 Ron Blomberg (1972)  
Marv Throneberry (1959)  
14 Tony Taylor (1967)  
13 Cliff Floyd (1994)  
12 Doug Mientkiewicz (2007)  
Gene Tenace (1975)

### Most Attempts with No Double Plays (Season)

20 Mark Grace (1989)  
Adam LaRoche (2008)  
George Scott (1975)  
Todd Zeile (2000)  
19 Cecil Cooper (1983)

## Individual Records - Career

### Most Opportunities (Career)

750 Jeff Bagwell  
717 Keith Hernandez  
716 Mark Grace  
705 Chris Chambliss  
677 Eddie Murray

### Most Attempts (Career)

332 Keith Hernandez  
288 John Olerud  
263 Eddie Murray  
250 Jeff Bagwell  
243 Rafael Palmeiro

### Most 3-6-3 Double Plays (Career)

72 Keith Hernandez  
71 Don Mattingly  
66 Kent Hrbek  
64 Eddie Murray  
60 George Scott

### Most Opportunities with No Attempts (Career)

21 Ron Blomberg  
16 Jose J. Leon  
15 Ben Oglivie  
11 Carlos Baerga  
Harvey Kuenn  
Jamie Quirk

### Most Attempts with No Double Plays (Career)

34 Lee Thomas  
21 Reggie Jefferson  
19 Dale Murphy  
18 Gary Thomasson  
15 Brad Fullmer

### Highest Percentage of Opportunities Attempted (Career) (Min. 150 Opportunities)

53.62% Carlos Pena  
50.21% Lyle Overbay  
50.17% John Olerud  
48.95% Lee Stevens  
46.75% Don Mattingly

**Highest Percentage of Attempts Turned (Career) (Min. 50 Attempts)**

41.46% Mike Jorgensen  
36.90% Roy Sievers  
36.36% Jim Thome  
36.21% Lee Stevens  
36.07% Kent Hrbek

**Lowest Percentage of Opportunities Attempted (Career) (Min. 150 Opportunities)**

9.90% Steve Garvey  
16.20% Frank Thomas  
17.92% Dick Stuart  
19.25% Gerald Perry  
21.39% Jack Clark

**Lowest Percentage of Attempts Turned (Career) (Min. 50 Attempts)**

5.15% Orlando Cepeda  
5.45% Al Oliver  
7.06% Greg Brock  
9.76% Norm Siebern  
10.34% Greg Colbrunn

**Most Seasons with Most Opportunities**

5 Jeff Bagwell  
Todd Helton  
George Scott  
4 Bill Buckner  
Bill White

**Most Seasons with Most Attempts**

7 Keith Hernandez  
4 George Scott  
3 John Olerud  
Albert Pujols  
Bill White

**Most Seasons with Most 3-6-3 Double Plays**

4 Don Mattingly  
George Scott  
3 John Mayberry  
Lee Stevens  
Albert Pujols

## Individual Situation Records - Career

### No Outs - Runner on First (Career)

Opportunities	Attempts	Double Plays
279 Keith Hernandez	116 Keith Hernandez	34 Keith Hernandez
277 Willie McCovey	99 Mark Grace	25 Jeff Bagwell
274 Mark Grace	Eddie Murray	23 Don Mattingly
267 Jeff Bagwell	90 John Olerud	22 Tony Perez
265 Will Clark	89 Jeff Bagwell	20 Wally Joyner

### No Outs - Runners on First and Second (Career)

Opportunities	Attempts	Double Plays
70 Chris Chambliss	29 Todd Helton	6 Rod Carew
69 Jeff Bagwell	26 Rafael Palmeiro	5 Richie Sexson
63 Todd Helton	24 John Olerud	3 by 5 players
59 Rafael Palmeiro	23 Keith Hernandez	
57 Steve Garvey	Wally Joyner	
Eddie Murray		

### No Outs - Runners on First and Third (Career)

Opportunities	Attempts	Double Plays
25 Andres Galarraga	6 Chris Chambliss	4 Lee Stevens
22 Chris Chambliss	Fred McGriff	3 Paul Konerko
19 Rafael Palmeiro	Eddie Murray	3 Jim Thome
18 Rod Carew	Lee Stevens	
17 Jeff Bagwell	5 by 3 players	
Mo Vaughn		

### No Outs - Bases Full (Career)

Opportunities	Attempts	Double Plays
19 Eddie Murray	10 Todd Helton	2 Lee Stevens
18 Todd Helton	6 Rafael Palmeiro	1 by 9 players
14 Will Clark	5 Adam LaRoche	
Tony Perez		
13 Gil Hodges		
Rafael Palmeiro		

**One Out - Runner on First (Career)**

<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Attempts</b>	<b>Double Plays</b>
232 Jeff Bagwell	107 Keith Hernandez	36 Kent Hrbek
225 Mark Grace	93 Eddie Murray	35 Eddie Murray
208 Chris Chambliss	89 Chris Chambliss	33 Don Mattingly
Keith Hernandez	John Olerud	30 Chris Chambliss
204 Andres Galarraga	87 Jeff Bagwell	29 John Olerud

**One Out - Runners on First and Second (Career)**

<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Attempts</b>	<b>Double Plays</b>
102 Keith Hernandez	56 Keith Hernandez	9 Albert Pujols
100 Rafael Palmeiro	52 Rafael Palmeiro	6 George Scott
92 Steve Garvey	50 John Olerud	5 Jim Thome
88 Mark Grace	44 Todd Helton	4 Cecil Cooper
87 Jeff Bagwell	38 Tino Martinez	Don Mattingly
	Albert Pujols	Mo Vaughn

**One Out - Runners on First and Third (Career)**

<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Attempts</b>	<b>Double Plays</b>
45 Todd Helton	17 Keith Hernandez	10 Keith Hernandez
42 Bill Buckner	15 John Olerud	6 Wally Joyner
41 George Scott	14 Todd Helton	John Mayberry
36 Eddie Murray	13 Paul Konerko	Eddie Murray
34 Wally Joyner		George Scott

**One Out - Bases Full (Career)**

<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Attempts</b>	<b>Double Plays</b>
37 Todd Helton	14 Don Mattingly	4 Don Mattingly
35 Jeff Bagwell	12 Rafael Palmeiro	2 by 9 players
George Scott	11 John Olerud	
34 Mark Grace	10 Eric Karros	
33 Rafael Palmeiro		