

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.

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%
Totals	71,767	23,849	4,820	33.23%	20.21%

The data summarized by situation:

	Opportunities	Attempts	3-6-3 Double Play	Opportunities Attempted	Attempts Turned
<i>No Outs</i>					
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%
Subtotal	36,245	10,612	2,034	29.28%	19.17%
<i>One Out</i>					
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%
Subtotal	35,522	13,237	2,786	37.26%	21.05%
Totals	71,767	23,849	4,820	33.23%	20.21%

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)

Opportunities	Attempts	Double Plays
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)

Opportunities	Attempts	Double Plays
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)

Opportunities	Attempts	Double Plays
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)

Opportunities	Attempts	Double Plays
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		