

ISEG Information Update

By

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In my prior update of 2010 I stated, “it seems unlikely that the 5,000 barrier will be broken”. I am now pleased to report, and much to my amazement, that a milestone in my quest for ISEGs has been attained! The new total now stands at 5,000, which is 600 more than the prior release of 2010. A vast majority of these “new” exhibition games were found in the National Association, which operated from 1871 through 1875 and was the predecessor to the National League.

In-Season Exhibition Games (or ISEGs, no hyphen, is an acronym created by moi and pronounced eye seg, that last syllable rhyming with egg), have been around since the beginnings of major league baseball. I have found evidence from historical newspapers that these games have been around prior to the inaugural season of the National League in 1876. (See [companion file](#) for detailed listing of ISEGs discovered to date). This companion file, arranged in chronological order in one large listing, consists of 5,000 total exhibition games. Entries, that are interfiled, may then be broken down into 1) games played between major league and non-major league clubs (4,249 games) and 2) those involving major league teams versus other major league teams, a total of 751 exhibition games.

While creating “cash cows” for owners, these games were a way for players to practice their skills on the road, while providing meager “pocket change” for them. As a result, many players were presented with a great opportunity to “tryout” with a club. Sometimes, ISEGs were also vehicles through which such events as charity games and “special days” honoring specific players could be staged.

Many ISEGs offered the opportunity for local heroes to be celebrated. One of the most memorable of these occurred in Los Angeles, California. In the Memorial Coliseum on 5/7, 1959, Roy Campanella was honored as a record crowd of 93,103 looked on. In that game, the New York Yankees (A) defeated the Los Angeles Dodgers (N), 6-2. Examples of other such “days” included such players as: Zach Wheat (1927)—Brooklyn NY, Billy Rhiel (1929)—Brooklyn, NY, Honus Wagner (1933)—Paterson NJ, Rabbit Maranville (1934)—Boston MA, John McGraw (1938)—Truxton NY, Monte Stratton (1939)—Chicago IL, and George “Specs” Toporcer (1952)—Buffalo NY, among others. Also, many ISEGs were played so that charitable funds could be created for disasters such as the San Francisco earthquake (1906) and the Titanic (1912). Through the decades, exhibition contests have provided a means through which numerous other special/charitable events could be staged.

With the dawn of the National Association in 1871, this forerunner of the National League issued in the start of numerous (686) games that comprise my listing of 5,000. This period was also the start of the 19th Century wave, if you will, for ISEGs! In fact, the earliest National Association In-Season Exhibition Game found occurred on Monday, 5/8, 1871. On this date, the Boston Red Stockings, who will eventually evolve into the Braves, defeated the Brooklyn Atlantics on their home turf, 25-0. In the 20th Century, the next heyday for exhibition games was the four-year period 1942 through 1945, the World War II years, when 328 were played, an average of exactly 82 per season. In the year 1943, there were 105 ISEGs played, the most for any season in the 20th Century. In the United States during World War II, there was a dramatic rise in patriotism. These games played an important role whereby national solidarity could be demonstrated in such ways as allowing fans to purchase War Bonds and to celebrate the heroism of thousands of veterans who were fighting overseas. On numerous occasions, soldiers, in large numbers, were guests at these games. A touching example of such a tribute, which involves Purple Heart recipients, will be presented later in the

section called “interesting games”, entry #3. Also, see entry #5 in the same section regarding a tribute to veterans of World War I.

Many clubs had ISEGs scheduled annually with their farm teams, college clubs and against other major league teams. Examples of such games (which no longer exist) are the Mayor’s Trophy Game pitting the Yankees (A) against the Mets (N) and the Boston Red Sox (A)/Boston Braves (N) games versus the Holy Cross Crusaders, a university team. Also, it was customary, years ago, for major league clubs to schedule and play exhibitions the Monday before the annual All-Star Game and sometimes on the day of the game itself.

Such players like Dizzy Dean, Bob Feller and Frank “Home Run” Baker and others made a stink about playing in ISEGs. In fact, in 1917, Home Run Baker refused to play in an exhibition game believing he was not under contract to play such a game. New York Yankees (A) owner, Jacob Ruppert, suspended Baker for a couple of days for failure to play. It seems that owners felt that players should play in exhibition games whenever and wherever directed to do so. This was the case until the Collective Bargaining Agreements of the 1970s regulated the number of In-Season Exhibition Games. There was a time when only three exhibition games were permitted through the CBA. Over time, the number would be reduced to two. For several years, the only “official” ISEG allowed was the annual Hall of Fame Game in Cooperstown, New York. The last of these games was scheduled to occur in 2008, but unfortunately became a rainout. I consider the All-Star Game as an ISEG because it is both an in-season game as well as an exhibition game.

To commemorate baseball’s centennial in 1939 and on the day that the Hall of Fame Museum was dedicated, an all-star squad was put together by Eddie Collins and Honus Wagner to play a game at Cooperstown, New York. On 6/12 at Doubleday Field, a team called the “Collineses” met the “Wagners” and every major league club had a representative play in the game except the Chicago White Sox (A). In addition, Babe Ruth made a hitless appearance as a pinch hitter (popping out to the catcher) in the 5th inning. The Wagners came out on top, 4-2, in a 7-inning contest and was among three other such games played in Cooperstown in 1939.

My interest in ISEGs was rekindled in 2006, when Dr. Dave W. Smith of Retrosheet fame elicited volunteers with a post on Retrolist. To pursue this, I delved hardily into this research full bore! I volunteered to become the “central person” that would begin to compile and coordinate a list of In-Season Exhibition Games. I say a rekindled interest in this subject as I had scratched the surface in the early 80s when I was compiling New York Yankee game scores from the New York Times. As I was doing microfilm research of game scores, mainly at my alma mater of Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, I also began to enumerate a list of exhibition games. These usually included the three New York City teams (Yankees-AL, Giants-NL and Dodgers-NL) among others, which began revealing themselves to me. The game score work was completed over a period of several years and eventually this research became a major focal point in my book entitled *The Ultimate New York Yankees Record Book*, which was published in 1984 by Leisure Press. Since 1984, I have minimally researched ISEGs—but then, pow (!), Dave came along as a catalyst for me to continue research on these games. I am grateful to him for presenting me with this opportunity to delve into a relatively unknown research area. What made this project easier and more attractive to me was the advent of the digitization of major newspapers, making them searchable for specific term queries. The Mid-Continent Library, near my home in Lee’s Summit, Missouri, had (and still has) ProQuest available to patrons online and so my research began in earnest. The first task was to come up with a workable name for these games. In-Season Exhibition Games was a mouthful and exhibition games was not specific enough, so I came up with the acronym ISEG, without the hyphen. Next, it was necessary to operationally define what was and wasn’t an ISEG. I came up with:

“It is a game that was not a league contest in which at least one major league club or a combination of major league clubs participated during the championship season of the league that it was a part”.

It was common in the early days for leagues to open their respective schedules a week apart. In situations like this, if one major league team started its season and the other one did not and they played one another, *it*

was counted as an ISEG. I used the opening and closing dates of each league (from official schedules found on Retrosheet) to determine if my game parameters were met. In order to verify that a game qualified according to my definition, I used the information found (sometimes a narrative only—no line score or box score included, narrative with line score, narrative with box score and often times, a score only) to search in a reference work such as *Total Baseball*. If the pitchers/batters were listed in their respective registers, I then performed one more step. Generally, I'd check the Retrosheet game logs often to see if the team or teams had an idle date. At this point, I credited this particular game as an In-Season Exhibition Game. Since my research beginning in October 2006, some 2,800 ISEGs had originally been found then 4,400 and now 5,000. **When looking at the data, I ask my readers to keep found “so far” in the back of your mind.** I suspect numerous additional ISEGs are to be found in the 19th Century and this is coming to fruition as my research shows.

ISEGs did not have to be comprised of players from *one team* as in the annual All-Star Game or a game where members of different clubs would play a contest against a minor league club. I did not include so-called Old Timers Day games as ISEGs. Usually these games were limited to three innings or so and thus were not games of regulation length. Using ProQuest Historical Newspapers, baseball resources available through online sites, such as Nineteenth Century Historical Newspapers, Newspaper Archives and Chronicling America, I generally made queries under such search terms as “exhibition game”, “exhibition baseball” and “exhibition contest”, the former having the most hits by far. Boolean searches using “and” and “or” (exhibition *and* baseball, exhibition *and* game) were also utilized, but not with much success. It took well over three years (give or take a few months) to find a majority of the 5,000 ISEGs included in my list presented on this site.

Since there were no season schedules for such games, it is improbable that EVERY ISEG can be found. There is not a season total that a researcher can compare their findings with, so one can ever be certain that their research is 100% complete. From time to time, I found a listing of upcoming ISEGs (generally, the week before or day before the game) in various newspapers but only one exhaustive in-season schedule was ever found. In April 1940, the New York Yankees (A) released a schedule of seven Minor League opponents they would be facing during the championship season. Some exhibitions were arranged hastily over a period of days so that clubs, on a road trip, could engage in such a game. Many of such games were found only through careful scrutiny. Sometimes, daily blurbs in newspapers (such as “baseball brevities”) in major league cities, such as New York and Chicago, could reveal details about forthcoming exhibition games.

A common challenge that would crop up when searching the term “exhibition game” was getting hits regarding a plethora of other sporting activities. Examples of these that were actually found included: football (college and pro), basketball (college and pro), hockey (college and pro), soccer, tennis, golf, lacrosse, jai alai, bowling, billiards, polo, cricket, table tennis (ping pong), darts, croquet, badminton, squash, softball and of course, baseball, even down to the high school level of play! Tiddlywinks anyone?!

At a minimum, I tried to find basic information such as game date, game score, location (state, city and stadium name), teams participating (if major league, their league; if non-major league, their league or affiliation and nickname), attendance figures and time of game, day or night game and weather conditions at game time. Innings played were noted if more or less than nine. Tie games would have innings played regardless of length. In addition, notable feats for teams and individual players such as no-hitters, triple plays, hitting for the cycle, multi-homer games, grand slams, strikeouts by pitcher and so forth were noted when available. Also, an attempt was made to cite the reason for the game (for example, selling War Bonds, the Mayor's Trophy Game, etc.) Many examples of **notable feats** are presented elsewhere in this narrative.

Although, I spent many fun (well, mostly) hours working on this project, I could not have done this massive body of work alone... Grateful thanks to the following helpful hands that made my ISEG research easier (updated from an earlier list):

Kathy Hartley, my better half, who listened incessantly to my struggles and joys regarding this research. A really nice touch was her naming me “**The ISEG King**” and then awarding me with a large sign inscribed with that title!

David W. Smith for soliciting volunteers for this ISEG research and then me taking the bait in a big way!!

Bill Nowlin for graciously sharing his list of Boston Red Sox (A) ISEGs. Bill was the **biggest contributor** to my project as far as adding “new” ISEGs to my ever-expanding list, contributing almost 100 BoSox games!

Clifford Blau--19th Century ISEGs.

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John Flynn--for lots of help with New England ISEGs, especially those played in Rhode Island.

Joe Hoppel---for details of the St. Louis Cardinal game at the Air Force Academy, 4/8, 1971.

(Walter) Lloyd Johnson, THE Minor Leagues expert and editor of *Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball* and using his excellent research, I was able to find league names and team nicknames. **Check this book out!**

Troy Kirk---thanks for your ongoing contributions to my ever-growing list of ISEGs.

Sabrina Polidoro---Santa Clara University ISEGs.

Al Yellon—suggestion about including 1981 games just prior to the resumption of the season to my ISEG list---I added all 23 of them!

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Some salient findings—

ISEG appearances by the EXISTING major league 30 franchises (through 5,000 games)—

| | <u>National League will celebrate its 138th season beginning in 2013</u> |
|------|---|
| 3 | Arizona Diamondbacks NL |
| 444# | Braves**NL (Boston 376, Milwaukee 28, Atlanta 40) |
| 229 | Chicago Cubs NL |
| 274 | Cincinnati Reds NL |
| 7 | Colorado Rockies NL |
| 4 | Florida Marlins (now Miami) NL |
| 28 | Houston Astros NL (Colt 45’s 2, Astros 26) |
| 215 | Los Angeles Dodgers NL (Brooklyn 199, Los Angeles 16) |
| 2* | Milwaukee Brewers NL |
| 73 | New York Mets NL |
| 198 | Philadelphia Phillies NL |
| 282 | Pittsburgh Pirates NL |
| 205 | Saint Louis Cardinals NL |

10 San Diego Padres NL
 276 San Francisco Giants NL (New York 243, San Francisco 36)
19 Washington Nationals NL (Montreal Expos 19, Washington Nationals 0
 #Braves have a grand total of 600 when 156 National Association ISEGs are included.
 **Further breakdown of the Boston National League nicknames, excluding Milwaukee and Atlanta: Boston Braves 187 ISEGs, Boston Red Stockings 130, Boston Beaneaters 35, Boston Doves 10, Boston Rustlers 10 and Boston Bees 4 for a total of 376 games.
 *Milwaukee Brewers has AL total of 19 games.

American League

15 Anaheim Angels AL (Los Angeles 3, California 11, Anaheim 1)
 155 Baltimore Orioles AL (Saint Louis Browns 103, Baltimore Orioles 52)
 235 Boston Red Sox AL
 190 Chicago White Sox AL
 156 Cleveland Indians AL
 182 Detroit Tigers AL
 25 Kansas City Royals AL
 136 Minnesota Twins AL (Washington Senators-original club 98, Minnesota Twins 38)
 334 New York Yankees AL (New York Highlanders 32, Yankees 302, Baltimore Orioles 5)
 215 Oakland Athletics AL (Philadelphia 192, Kansas City 10, Oakland 13)
 13 Seattle Mariners AL
 2 Tampa Bay Devil Rays (now Rays) AL
 33 Texas Rangers AL (Washington Senators-expansion club 12, Texas Rangers 21)
27 Toronto Blue Jays AL
 *Excludes Milwaukee AL (Brewers 17 and Seattle Pilots 2 games-1969 only), now member of the NL where the Brewers have a total of 2.

ISEG appearances by EXTINCT National League franchises (20+)—

72 Saint Louis Brown Stockings (NL)
 70 Louisville Grays (NL)
 65 Hartford Dark Blues (NL)
 34 Providence Grays (NL)
 31 Detroit Wolverines (NL)
 27 Worcester (MA) (NL)
 26 Buffalo Bisons (NL)
 25 Cleveland Blues (NL)
 24 Troy Haymakers (NL)
21 New York Mutuals (NL)

New details about ISEGs from leagues not available until recently---

In 2008, I wrote: “additional details relating to leagues other than American and National will be presented in a future update. These would include: National Association, American Association, Union Association, Players League and the Federal League.” Well, further research has yielded a lot of new information, especially ISEGs for the National Association and American Association. Of the seven principal leagues that have represented the major leagues since 1871, **at least one ISEG has now been found for all seven of the leagues in baseball history.** These new findings will be explored later in this narrative.

ISEG appearances by National Association (NA) clubs (1871 through 1875)---

So far, there have been 765 ISEGs found for 23 National Association clubs. The Boston Red Stockings (NA) has played the most exhibitions of any NA team with 156 or about 21% of the total. Here is a listing of teams with 20+ game appearances:

| | |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| 156 | Boston Red Stockings (NA) |
| 93 | New York Mutuals (NA) |
| 76 | Chicago White Stockings (NA) |
| 61 | Philadelphia Athletics (NA) |
| 52 | Brooklyn Atlantics (NA) |
| 51 | Hartford Dark Blues (NA) |
| 29 | Cleveland Forest Citys (NA) |
| 27 | Troy Haymakers (NA) |
| 23 | Philadelphia White Stockings (NA) |
| 23 | Rockford Forest Citys (NA) |
| 21 | Baltimore Canaries (NA) |
| 21 | Saint Louis Red Stockings (NA) |
| <u>20</u> | <u>New Haven Elm Citys (NA)</u> |

ISEG appearances by American Association (AA) clubs (1882 through 1891) (10+)---

So far, there have been 158 ISEGs found for 19 American Association clubs. The Cincinnati Reds (AA) has played the most exhibition games of any AA team with 21.

| | |
|-----------|------------------------------------|
| 21 | Cincinnati Reds (AA) |
| 19* | Brooklyn (AA) |
| 18 | Saint Louis Browns (AA) |
| 15 | New York Metropolitan (AA) |
| 13 | Baltimore Orioles (AA) |
| 12 | Columbus Senators (AA) |
| <u>12</u> | <u>Pittsburgh Alleghenies (AA)</u> |

*different team nicknames

ISEG appearances by Union Association (1884), Players League (1890) and Federal League (1914-15)-

As stated in my 2008 narrative, there were no ISEGs found for the Union Association and Players League. Since that time, very few games were discovered for the Union Association and Players League. Research findings for the National Association and American Association may be found elsewhere in this narrative. Finally, all seven leagues are now represented on my list of 5,000! Forthwith is a list detailing the total number of ISEGs found and the names of the teams for these three leagues noted in the heading in bold type.

Union Association (1884)—6 clubs, 7 seven games

| | |
|----------|-----------------------------|
| 2 games | Pittsburgh Stogies (UA) |
| 1 | Baltimore Unions (UA) |
| 1 | Boston Reds (UA) |
| 1 | Cincinnati Outlaw Reds (UA) |
| 1 | Saint Louis Maroons (UA) |
| <u>1</u> | <u>Washington (UA)</u> |

Players League (1890)---3 clubs, 4 games

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| 2 | Chicago Pirates (PL) |
| 1 | Boston Reds (PL) |

1 Brooklyn Wonders (PL)

Federal League (1914-15)---4 clubs, 16 games

9 Chicago Whales (FL)
4 Baltimore Terrapins (FL)
2 Newark Peppers (FL)
1 Saint Louis Terriers (FL)

Description of the type of ISEG game information found—

Some games may have a brief narrative in addition to the information listed below.

| | | |
|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| Box scores | 1,795 | 35.9 % |
| Line scores* | 1,722 games | 34.4 % |
| Scores only@ | 1,434 | 28.7 % |
| <u>R-H-E#</u> | <u>49</u> | <u>1.0 %</u> |
| Totals | 5,000 | 100.0 % |

*an inning-by-inning account with runs, hits, errors, pitcher and catcher (the battery) and sometimes info about homers.

@Some include short (usually) narratives with score given, others include only a score.

#Runs, Hits and Errors listed (no inning-by-inning totals).

ISEGs won, lost and tied all-time by franchise (listed by total games in descending order) (200+)---

| <u>Franchise</u> | <u>total</u> | <u>won</u> | <u>lost</u> | <u>ties</u> | <u>win%</u> | <u>162**</u> |
|------------------|--------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Braves | 600 | 444 | 151 | 15 | .742 | 120 |
| Cubs | 451 | 313 | 117 | 13 | .728 | 118 |
| Yankees | 334 | 210 | 116 | 8 | .644 | 104 |
| Pirates | 283 | 167 | 109 | 6 | .605 | 98 |
| Giants | 276 | 203 | 63 | 10 | .763 | 124 |
| Reds | 274 | 151 | 114 | 9 | .570 | 92 |
| Red Sox | 235 | 141 | 84 | 10 | .627 | 102 |
| Athletics | 215 | 132 | 79 | 4 | .626 | 101 |
| Dodgers | 215 | 139 | 73 | 3 | .656 | 106 |
| <u>Cardinals</u> | <u>205</u> | <u>138</u> | <u>63</u> | <u>4</u> | <u>.687</u> | <u>111</u> |

**games won in a hypothetical 162-game season based on the winning percentage presented.

Highest winning percentage of franchises playing in 100+ ISEGs---

An unbelievable domination of opponents has been found involving the Hartford Dark Blues (1874 and 1875) of the National Association and the Hartford Dark Blues (1876 and 1877) of the National League. A good example of this may be found in the chart provided where the Hartford NA club **won 49 of 51 games**, an incredible winning mark of .961! This seems to be, by far, the highest win percentage of franchises playing in 100+ ISEGs. The Hartford NL club didn't do too shabby either, winning 81% of their games. Note on the chart line that the NA Hartfords scored 13 more runs per game than their opponents. Both Hartford teams were 20-0 versus colleges, mostly those of the Ivy Leagues, Yale being the most common with 13 ISEGs. The most runs by either Hartford club was 66 in a game played in Hartford on 4/21, 1874 versus the T.B.F.U.S. club of Bridgeport, Connecticut, who scored a mere 3 runs. Incidentally, that team acronym stands for (The Bridgeport Friendly United Social club). On the other side of the ledger, opponents of the Hartford teams scored the most in an 18-14 defeat of the Princeton University nine at Hartford NA on 7/3, 1874. The two Hartford clubs played 116 ISEGs combined.

| Hart | G | W | L | T | W% | *162 | #10+ | 20+ | 30+ | Runs | @r/g | +OR | @r/g |
|---------|-----|----|----|---|------|------|------|-----|-----|------|------|-----|------|
| NA | 51 | 49 | 2 | 0 | .961 | 156 | 37 | 13 | 7 | 852 | 16.7 | 189 | 3.7 |
| NL | 65 | 50 | 12 | 3 | .806 | 131 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 404 | 6.2 | 193 | 2.8 |
| Totals: | 116 | 99 | 14 | 3 | .876 | 142 | 47 | 14 | 7 | 1256 | 10.8 | 382 | 3.3 |

*games won in a hypothetical 162-game season based on the winning percentage presented.

#games scoring 10+ runs

@runs scored per game

+ runs scored by opponent

ISEGs involving only major league versus other major league clubs (10+)---

| | |
|-----------|---|
| 84 games* | American League A vs. National League N |
| 36 | Chicago White Sox A versus Chicago Cubs N |
| 33 | Cincinnati Reds N versus Detroit Tigers A |
| 24 | Cincinnati Reds N versus Cleveland Indians A |
| 21 | Cleveland Indians A versus Pittsburgh Pirates N |
| 19 | Boston Red Stockings NA## versus Philadelphia Athletics NA |
| 18 | New York Mets N versus New York Yankees A |
| 14 | New York Giants N versus New York Yankees A |
| 12 | Philadelphia Athletics A versus Philadelphia Phillies N |
| 10 | <u>Boston Red Stockings NA## versus New York Mutuals NA</u> |

*consists of 83 All-Star Games plus one non-Hall of Fame Game played in Cooperstown, NY in 1939.

##National Association, precursor of the National League, existed from 1871 through 1875.

ISEGs involving specific major league clubs versus non-major league clubs (12+)---

| | | |
|----|---------------------------|---|
| 27 | New York Mets N | Tides (Tidewater 19, Norfolk 8) (both VA) |
| 25 | Baltimore Orioles A | Rochester Red Wings (NY) |
| 23 | Cincinnati Reds N | Indianapolis Indians (IN) |
| 21 | Detroit Tigers A | Toledo Mud Hens (OH) |
| 19 | Philadelphia Phillies N | Reading Phillies (PA) |
| 18 | New York Yankees A | Army Cadets* (NY) |
| 17 | Boston Red Sox A | Pawtucket Red Sox (RI) |
| 15 | New York Yankees A | Baltimore Orioles (MD) |
| 15 | New York Yankees A | Syracuse Chiefs (NY) |
| 15 | Saint Louis Cardinals N | Rochester Red Wings (NY) |
| 14 | Boston Red Stockings NA+ | Harvard% (MA) |
| 14 | Chicago White Stockings N | Syracuse Stars (NY) |
| 13 | Kansas City Royals A | Omaha# (NE) |
| 13 | San Francisco Giants N | Santa Clara Broncos% (CA) |
| 12 | Atlanta Braves N | Richmond Braves (VA) |
| 12 | <u>New York Giants N</u> | <u>Hoboken** (NJ)</u> |

+National Association

*Military club

% College club

#Club had different nicknames

**Semi-pro club

Most ISEGs between non-major league clubs and major league clubs (40+)---

65 Syracuse Chiefs

| | |
|-----------|------------------------|
| 65 | Syracuse Stars |
| 63 | Indianapolis Indians |
| 54 | Toronto Maple Leafs |
| 53 | Baltimore Orioles |
| 52 | Buffalo Bisons |
| 50 | Rochester Red Wings |
| 49 | Toledo Mud Hens |
| 43 | Yale* |
| 41 | Buffalo Bisons |
| <u>40</u> | <u>Albany Senators</u> |
| | *College club |

The now defunct Hall of Fame Game played at Doubleday Field, Cooperstown, New York---

The Hall of Fame Game at Cooperstown, New York was an annual affair initially played in 1940 and concluded with the 2007 game. More about that 2008 game that *did not occur* will be discussed later. There was to be another game in 2008 but it was rained out and this was to be its last. Although a grand total of 60 games were played at Doubleday Field, there were 69 that were actually scheduled with 9 being *unplayed*. Of those nine games not played, six were rainouts: 1944, 1962, 1990, 1993, 2006 and 2008. The remaining three contests that did not come to fruition were in 1945, 1981 and 1989. Prior to the first Hall of Fame Game in 1940, three ISEGs were played in Cooperstown. All three of these games were played in 1939 on 6/12, 7/24 and 8/21. See companion file for game information.

In 1981, the Cincinnati (N) Oakland (A) game not played due to the player's strike. This would be the only time that the Oakland (A) club would ever be scheduled to play in this annual event.

In 1989, the Cincinnati (N) was scheduled to play the Boston Red Sox (A) club but could not get a charter flight out of Montreal due to a mechanical problem. This would prove the only time that a major league club had not made it to Cooperstown to play their scheduled game. The Reds were in the midst of an eight game losing streak, having just been swept four times by the Montreal Expos (N). However, the Red Sox did arrive on time and it was decided that a game would take place in spite of the Reds not making it to Cooperstown. Instead, Boston played a split squad game, pitting their regulars against players from the single A Elmira Pioneers of the New York-Penn League, a Red Sox farm team. They called themselves the Yastrzemski's, the Red Sox veteran of 23 seasons, who had been inducted into the Hall of Fame, celebrating its 50th year, the day before. The 7-inning contest, played to a crowd of 9,100, ending in a 4-4 tie.

In 1945, the HOF game was scheduled for July 9, the Detroit Tigers (A) and New York Giants (N), who had been postponed by rain in 1944, could be the combatants. These two clubs would eventually play in Cooperstown in 1946, after a two year hiatus. In February, 1945, it was decided that the July game would be cancelled due to travel restrictions because of World War II. In 1945, there was to be a wartime reduction of transportation of 25%. The HOF game was to be the last ISEG played except for the annual All-Star Game. The last *played* Hall of Fame Game was on 5/21, 2007 when the Baltimore Orioles (A) beat the Toronto Blue Jays (A), 13-7, and thus this traditional game said goodbye to Cooperstown forever! Of course, there was the last game that was *scheduled* to be played on 6/16, 2008 but the Chicago Cubs (N)-San Diego Padres (N) contest was rained out! It seems that the powers that be in Major League Baseball decided to end this annual game "because of the complexities of the major league schedule and its inherent challenges." SAY WHAT?! Well, so much for a tradition that was in place since 1940! An old-timers game was created in its stead. Good luck with that! Baseball executives have said that this last Hall of Fame Game was to be the last exhibition game due to the Collective Bargaining Agreement. However, I maintain that the annual All-Star Game is an in-season exhibition game and thusly include them on my ISEG list found elsewhere on this site.

To honor the memory of the Hall of Fame Game, a **complete list of the 60 games played** by the different **franchises** during its long history is presented here. The club (not franchise) with the best overall record in the HOFG is the Texas Rangers, who were undefeated in 4 games. The ChiSox have the most losses—7.

Note that the Milwaukee Brewers are the only club to represent both leagues in the HOF, one in 1976 (AL) and the other in 2001 (NL).

| GAMES | (WINS-LOSSES-TIES) |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 9 | Chicago White Sox (A) (1-7-1) |
| 7 | Boston Red Sox (A) (4-3-0) |
| 7 | Braves (N) (Boston-1 (1-0-0), Milwaukee-2 (0-2-0) and Atlanta 4 (2-2-0)) |
| 7 | Detroit Tigers (A) (3-3-1) |
| 7 | Washington Senators (A) (original club)-2 (2-0-0) and Minnesota Twins-5 (A) (3-2-0) |
| 6 | Chicago Cubs (N) (3-2-1) |
| 6 | Cleveland Indians (A) (3-2-1) |
| 6 | Philadelphia Phillies (N) (1-5-0) |
| 6 | Saint Louis Browns-1 (A) (1-0-0) and Baltimore Orioles-5 (A) (3-2-0) |
| 5 | Dodgers (N) (Brooklyn-2 (2-0-0) and Los Angeles-3 (2-1-0)) |
| 5 | Giants (N) (New York-3 (2-1-0) and San Francisco-2 (0-2-0)) |
| 5 | New York Mets (N) (1-2-2) |
| 5 | New York Yankees (A) (3-2-0) |
| 5 | Pittsburgh Pirates (N) (1-3-1) |
| 5 | Washington Senators (A) (expansion club)-1 (1-0-0) and Texas Rangers-4 (A) (4-0-0) |
| 4 | Cincinnati Reds (N) (2-2-0) |
| 4 | Saint Louis Cardinals (N) (3-1-0) |
| 3 | Athletics (A) (Philadelphia-2, (0-2-0) Kansas City-1 (0-0-1), and Oakland (0-0-0--none)) |
| 2 | Houston Astros (N) (1-1-0) |
| 2 | Kansas City Royals (A) (0-2-0) |
| 2 | Milwaukee Brewers-2 (AL--1-0-0) and NL--1-0-0) and Seattle Pilots (A) (0-0-0--none) |
| 2 | Montreal Expos (N) (1-0-1) |
| 2 | San Diego Padres (N) (0-2-0) |
| 2 | Toronto Blue Jays (A) (0-2-0) |
| 1 | Arizona Diamondbacks (N) (1-0-0) |
| 1 | Angels (A) (Los Angeles-(0-0-0--none), California-1 (0-0-1) and Anaheim-(0-0-0--none)) |
| 1 | Colorado Rockies (N) (1-0-0) |
| 1 | Florida Marlins (N) (0-1-0) |
| 1 | Seattle Mariners (A) (1-0-0) |
| 1 | Tampa Devil Rays (A) (0-1-0) |
| <hr/> | |
| 120 games (that is, 60 x 2=120) | |

Hall of Fame Game appearances of individual major league clubs (not franchises) in 5+ contests---

| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 9 | Chicago White Sox (AL) |
| 7 | Boston Red Sox (AL) |
| 7 | Detroit Tigers (AL) |
| 6 | Chicago Cubs (NL) |
| 6 | Cleveland Indians (AL) |
| 6 | Philadelphia Phillies (NL) |
| 5 | Baltimore Orioles (AL) |
| 5 | Minnesota Twins (AL) |
| 5 | New York Mets (NL) |
| 5 | New York Yankees (AL) |
| 5 | Pittsburgh Pirates (NL) |

Hall of Fame Game appearances of major league franchises (2+ clubs) in 5+ contests---

| | |
|---|--|
| 7 | Braves (all NL) (Atlanta 4, Boston 1, Milwaukee 2) |
| 7 | Washington (original) Senators (AL) 2, Minnesota Twins (AL) 5 |
| 6 | Saint Louis Browns (AL) 1, Baltimore Orioles (AL) 5 |
| 5 | Dodgers (all NL) (Brooklyn 2, Los Angeles 3) |
| 5 | Giants (all NL) (New York 3, San Francisco 2) |
| 5 | <u>Washington (expansion) Senators (AL) 1, Texas Rangers 4</u> |

HOF Game brief facts---

| | |
|--|--|
| Most wins, one club---4 | Texas Rangers (AL) |
| Highest win %, one club---1.000 (4-0) | Texas Rangers (AL) |
| Most wins, franchise (2+ clubs)---5 | Wash. (original) Senators (AL) 2, Minnesota Twins (AL) 3 |
| Most wins, franchise (2+ clubs)---5 | Wash. (expansion) Senators (AL) 1, Texas Rangers 4 |
| Highest win %, franchise---1.000 (5-0) | Wash. (expansion) Senators (AL) 1, Texas Rangers 4 |
| Most losses, one club---7 | Chicago White Sox AL |
| Most losses, franchise (2+ clubs)---4 | Braves (all NL) (Atlanta 2, Boston 0, Milwaukee 2) |
| Most ties, one club---2 | New York Mets (NL), twice |
| No HOF game appearances---5 clubs | Anaheim Angels (AL), Los Angeles Angels (AL) Oakland Athletics (AL) (was scheduled in 1981, but was no-go due to player strike), Seattle Pilots (AL) and Washington Nationals (NL) |

ISEGs by professional leagues of non-major league teams (40+)—

So far, the most common opposition description involves the play of the International League (467 games) versus major league opponents. On the ISEG spreadsheet, found elsewhere on this site, this represents just over 9% of the total 5,000 ISEGs found so far.

| | |
|-----|-----------------------------|
| 467 | International League |
| 314 | Eastern League |
| 255 | American Association |
| 147 | League Alliance |
| 114 | Pacific Coast League |
| 97 | Inter-State League |
| 95 | International Association |
| 66 | New York State League |
| 52 | New England League |
| 50 | Three-I League** |
| 50 | Middle Atlantic League |
| 46 | National Association |
| 43 | <u>New York—Penn League</u> |
| | **Illinois-Iowa-Indiana |

ISEGs by description of opponents involving non-professional teams (50+)—

Generally, I used the descriptive term stated in the game narrative (if available) to differentiate between a team being, for example, *semi-pro* versus *amateur*, as a “fine line” exists when defining each. The “no league found” category represents just over 25% of the 5,000 total opponents.

| | |
|-----------|------------------|
| 1268 | No league found* |
| 236 | Military clubs |
| 189 | Semi-Pro |
| 171 | College teams |
| <u>57</u> | <u>Amateurs</u> |

*Indicates an opponent’s professional league was not found listed in the *Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball*—A TERRIFIC tome!

ISEGs involving major league clubs versus military teams---

As a proud veteran myself, I thought that I would devote some time paying tribute to the exhibition games as it relates to the Armed Forces of the United States. Most of these 236 contests occurred during World War II. Dominating the GIs, major league clubs won 178, lost 52 with 6 ties. That’s a winning percentage of .774 for the pros, which translates to 125 wins in a 162-game season! As far as scoring goes, the bigs had 1,714 runs (7.3 per game), the military clubs had 810 (3.4 runs per game).

ISEGs relating to major league teams playing the most games versus military competition (10+)---

| | |
|-----------|---|
| 26 | New York Yankees (A) (played 18 games versus Army at West Point, NY, most all-time of any team against any military team) |
| 20 | Boston Red Sox (A) |
| 20 | Philadelphia Athletics (A) |
| 19 | Boston Braves (N) |
| 19 | Brooklyn Dodgers (N) |
| 18 | Chicago Cubs (N) |
| 17 | Philadelphia Phillies (N) |
| 15 | New York Giants (N) |
| 14 | Washington Senators (A) (original franchise) |
| 11 | Chicago White Sox (A) |
| <u>11</u> | <u>Cleveland Indians (A)</u> |

ISEGs relating to the most games of military teams playing major leaguers (7+)---

| | |
|----------|--|
| 34 | Army Cadets (NY) |
| 32 | Great Lakes Bluejackets (IL) |
| 10 | Mitchel Field (NY) (spelling is correct) |
| 9 | Fort Dix (NJ) |
| 9 | Navy Midshipmen (MD) |
| 8 | Bainbridge Commodores (MD) |
| 7 | Boston Coast Guard (MA) |
| <u>7</u> | <u>Camp Shanks (NY)</u> |

College teams facing major league clubs in ISEGs (4+)—

Major league clubs played 164 games versus 47 college teams. The Boston Red Stockings (14) of the National Association and the National League (3) faced the Harvard team 17 times, more than any other major league club facing collegians. Yale is in 2nd place, facing the Hartford Dark Blues 13 times, 10 times with the National Association and 3 with the National League.

| | |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| 43 | Yale Elis |
| 25 | Harvard** |
| 13 | Santa Clara Broncos |
| 10 | Princeton** |
| 9 | Holy Cross Crusaders |
| <u>4</u> | <u>California Golden Bears</u> |

**nicknames unknown, especially since most of the ISEGs involving these teams were played in the 19th Century

Opponents vs. major league clubs in ISEGs (40+ games)—**

Some opposition was members of established professional leagues.

| | |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| 65 | Syracuse Stars |
| 63 | Indianapolis Indians |
| 54 | Toronto Maple Leafs |
| 53 | Baltimore Orioles |
| 50 | Rochester Red Wings |
| 49 | Toledo Mud Hens |
| 43 | Yale* |
| 41 | Buffalo Bisons |
| 40 | Albany Senators |
| <u>40</u> | <u>New York Metropolitans</u> |

**professional but non-major league teams

*University team

Combined teams involving ISEGs—

Numerous ISEGs were comprised of players from different major league teams that faced non-major leaguers. A good example of this was the contest that occurred at Yankee Stadium on 7/28, 1943. After Cleveland (A) whipped the Yankees (A) in the first game, 11-6, a second game was on the way. Chapel Hill's (South Carolina) Navy Pre-Flight School club, known as the Cloudbusters, played a combined squad of New York Yankees (A) and Cleveland Indians (A), cleverly named the Yank-Lands. The latter team was managed by none other than Babe Ruth, who appeared in the 6th inning and walked. He was then replaced by a pinch-runner. In the game witnessed by a crowd of 27,281, the Cloudbusters blasted the Yank-Lands by a score of 11-5. Of course, the most common exhibition game with combined teams is the annual All-Star Game.

ISEGs found by state (100+ games, 11 states plus one Canadian province)—

No ISEGs were found for 5 states: Alaska, Hawaii, New Hampshire, Vermont and Wyoming. These 5 states have *only one* ISEG played—Arkansas (Little Rock, 1963), Idaho (Boise, 1958), Mississippi (Jackson, 1997), Montana (Billings, 1961) and South Dakota (Aberdeen, 1964). Canada has hosted 158 exhibitions. Of the 8 Canadian provinces, at least one was played in each, with *only one* in British Columbia, Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan. I attended an ISEG in my hometown of New Orleans on Monday, May 16, 1977. Playing at the Louisiana Superdome, the Saint Louis Cardinals (N) defeated the New Orleans Pelicans of the American Association, 11-2 before a crowd of 9,049! Thought that fact may help some readers sleep better at night—ha!

| | |
|-----|---------------|
| 951 | New York |
| 546 | Pennsylvania |
| 479 | Ohio |
| 364 | Massachusetts |

| | |
|------------|-----------------|
| 358 | New Jersey |
| 303 | Connecticut |
| 296 | Illinois |
| 218 | Indiana |
| 147 | Rhode Island |
| 143 | Maryland |
| 134 | Michigan |
| <u>113</u> | <u>Ontario*</u> |

*most of any Canadian province, Quebec being in 2nd place with 28.

ISEGs found by city (80+ games, 12 cities plus 2 New York City boroughs)—

Regarding most games on *foreign soil*, Toronto has hosted the most ISEGs with 70. Was thinking of breaking ISEGs down by zip code but decided against it—just kidding!

| | |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| 318 | New York, NY* |
| 175 | Brooklyn, NY% |
| 145 | Philadelphia, PA |
| 124 | Boston, MA |
| 124 | Chicago, IL |
| 122 | New Haven, CT |
| 115 | Indianapolis, IN |
| 102 | Rochester, NY |
| 95 | Baltimore, MD |
| 93 | Manhattan, NY% |
| 89 | Cincinnati, OH |
| 83 | Syracuse, NY |
| <u>81</u> | <u>Pittsburgh, PA</u> |

*totals by boroughs— Brooklyn--175, Manhattan--93, the Bronx--29, Queens--15 and Staten Island—6

% New York City borough—not officially a stand-alone city

Total ISEGs found involving only major league teams (100+ games, 16 clubs)—

| | |
|------------|---|
| 444* | Braves franchise-Boston (N), Milwaukee (N) and Atlanta (N) |
| 367# | Chicago Cubs (N) |
| 334 | New York Yankees (A) and Baltimore (A), 1901 and 1902 (A) |
| 276 | Giants franchise-New York (N) and San Francisco (N) |
| 270% | Pittsburgh Pirates (N) |
| 256@ | Cincinnati Reds (N) |
| 235 | Boston Red Sox (A) |
| 215 | Athletics franchise-Philadelphia (A), Kansas City (A) and Oakland (A) |
| 198 | Philadelphia Phillies (N) |
| 196& | Dodger franchise-Brooklyn (N) and Los Angeles (N) |
| 190 | Chicago White Sox (A) |
| 187+ | Saint Louis Cardinals (N) |
| 182 | Detroit Tigers (A) |
| 156 | Cleveland Indians (A) |
| 155 | Baltimore Orioles (A) and Saint Louis Browns (A) |
| <u>136</u> | <u>Washington Senators (A) (original club) and Minnesota (A)</u> |

* 600 if the Boston Red Stockings total of 156 of the National Association are included.

451 if the Chicago White Stockings total of 84 of the National Association are included.
 % 283 if the Pittsburgh Alleghenies total of 13 of the American Association are included.
 @ 274 if the Cincinnati total of 18 of the American Association are included.
 & 215 if the Brooklyn club totals of 19 of the American Association are included.
 + 205 if the Saint Louis Browns total of 18 of the American Association are included.

Most ISEGs played at game sites involving two major league clubs (20+ games)—

So far, 530 ISEGs have been found that involve one major league club against another.

| | |
|----|---|
| 63 | Cooperstown, New York (Hall Of Fame Game plus three <i>non-Hall of Fame Games</i>) |
| 59 | New York-Manhattan (18), Brooklyn (15), The Bronx (14), Queens (12) and Staten Island (0) |
| 46 | Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania |
| 41 | Cleveland, Ohio |
| 38 | Cincinnati, Ohio |
| 35 | Chicago, Illinois |
| 28 | Philadelphia, Pennsylvania |
| 24 | Detroit, Michigan |
| 23 | <u>Boston, Massachusetts</u> |

In 4,249 games involving major league club, their record versus non-major league clubs is a whopping 3,030 wins, 1,133 losses and 86 ties for a winning mark of .728! That's 118 wins in a 162 game schedule! That's 1897 games above .500, folks! Looking at the numbers, major league clubs scored about twice as many runs as their opponents and dominated other categories by a wide margin. Interestingly, in one-run games they are practically even.

More information about ISEGs involving major league teams versus non-major leaguers—

| | Major league | Non-major |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Total runs scored | 35,042 | 17,603 |
| Most runs in a game | 78 | 25 |
| Average runs/game | 8.2 | 4.1 |
| One-run games won | 400 | 396 |
| Winning by 10+ runs | 625 | 37 |
| Winning by 20+ runs | 183 | 0 |
| Winning by 30+ runs | 75 | 0 |
| Greatest win margin | 78** | 16# |
| 20+ runs in a game | 292 | 12 |
| 10+ runs in a game | 1,204 | 295 |
| Shutouts won | 427 | 122 |
| <u>Extra-inning games won</u> | <u>79 (.577 %)</u> | <u>58</u> |

**The town of Ogdensburg, in upstate New York, has a prominent place in ISEG history. I say this because the all-time record (so far) of runs scored and winning margin is 78 by the Rockford Forest Citys of the National Association that occurred in that town. The Forest Citys shut out the Maple City club of Ogdensburg, 78-0, in a five 5-inning (!) game on 8/14, 1871.

Providence Grays (Eastern League) beat the Washington Senators (N) 19-3 on 6/21, 1896, a +16 margin. This is the 20th Century mark of a winning margin by a non-major league team versus a major league club. The record for the 20th Century is the Yankees 31-6 (+25 runs) win versus Mitchel (correct spelling—WL) Field, a military team, on 7/20, 1943.

ISEGs played by days of the week (based on 5,000 ISEGs)—

| | | |
|-----------|-------|---------|
| Monday | 1,446 | 28.9 % |
| Thursday | 859 | 17.2 % |
| Sunday | 661 | 13.2 % |
| Tuesday | 634 | 12.7 % |
| Wednesday | 600 | 12.0 % |
| Friday | 530 | 10.6 % |
| Saturday | 270 | 5.4 % |
| Total: | 5,000 | 100.0 % |

ISEGs played by months of the year (based on 5,000 ISEGs)—

| | | |
|-----------|-------|---------|
| August | 1,042 | 20.8 % |
| July | 1,021 | 20.4 % |
| June | 934 | 18.7 % |
| May | 747 | 15.0 % |
| September | 696 | 13.9 % |
| April | 377 | 7.6 % |
| October | 180 | 3.6 % |
| November | 2 | <1.0% |
| March | 1 | <1.0% |
| Total: | 5,000 | 100.0 % |

Most ISEGs played in the 20th Century by all major league teams in one year (60+)—

Not surprisingly, the most were played during the U.S. involvement in World War II.

| | |
|-----|------|
| 106 | 1943 |
| 91 | 1944 |
| 69 | 1915 |
| 66 | 1917 |
| 65 | 1916 |
| 64 | 1923 |
| 61 | 1919 |
| 60 | 1945 |

Most ISEGs played in the 19th Century by all major league teams in one year (40+)—

As shown, the most played in a season was in 1876, the inaugural season of the National League.

| | |
|-----|------|
| 228 | 1876 |
| 214 | 1877 |
| 179 | 1871 |
| 164 | 1875 |
| 159 | 1874 |
| 96 | 1872 |
| 91 | 1873 |
| 87 | 1882 |
| 73 | 1878 |
| 42 | 1883 |
| 41 | 1881 |
| 40 | 1884 |

Most ISEGs played by all major league teams in one year since 1871 (80+)—

Notice that each of the 5 seasons of the National Association, which existed from 1871 through 1875, are found in the list presented.

| | |
|-----------|-------------|
| 228 | 1876 |
| 214 | 1877 |
| 179 | 1871 |
| 164 | 1875 |
| 159 | 1874 |
| 106 | 1943 |
| 96 | 1872 |
| 91 | 1873 |
| 91 | 1944 |
| <u>87</u> | <u>1882</u> |

Fewest ISEGs played by all major league teams in one year, 19th Century (15 or fewer)—

| | |
|-----------|-------------|
| 1 | 1893 |
| 9 | 1898 |
| 11 | 1887 |
| 11 | 1891 |
| 11 | 1896 |
| 11 | 1899 |
| 13 | 1895 |
| 14 | 1886 |
| 14 | 1892 |
| <u>15</u> | <u>1890</u> |

Most ISEGs played in one year by a single major league team, 20th Century (10+)—

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 16 | 1923 | New York Yankees (A) |
| 14 | 1915 | New York Giants (N) |
| 14 | 1943 | Philadelphia Athletics (A) |
| 13 | 1943 | Philadelphia Phillies (N) |
| 12 | 1912 | New York Yankees (A) |
| 12 | 1915 | New York Yankees (A) |
| 12 | 1921 | Boston Red Sox (A) |
| 11 | 1928 | New York Yankees (A) |
| 11 | 1932 | New York Yankees (A) |
| <u>10</u> | <u>6 times, 6 clubs</u> | |

Most ISEGs played in one year by a single major league team, 19th Century (30+)—

| | | |
|----|------|---------------------------------|
| 48 | 1877 | Chicago White Stockings (N) |
| 46 | 1873 | Boston Red Stockings (NA)* |
| 43 | 1877 | Boston Red Stockings (N) |
| 41 | 1876 | Chicago White Stockings (N) |
| 38 | 1876 | Boston Red Stockings (N) |
| 38 | 1876 | Louisville Grays (N) |
| 38 | 1877 | Saint Louis Brown Stockings (N) |

| | | |
|----|------|---------------------------------|
| 37 | 1877 | Hartford Dark Blues (N) |
| 34 | 1871 | Chicago White Stockings (NA)* |
| 34 | 1876 | Saint Louis Brown Stockings (N) |
| 32 | 1877 | Louisville Grays (N) |
| 31 | 1874 | Boston Red Stockings (NA)* |
| 31 | 1875 | Boston Red Stockings (NA)* |
| 30 | 1874 | Hartford Dark Blues (NA)* |

*National Association

ISEGs by ten-year periods—

| | | <u>Rank</u> |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1871-79 | 1,230 games | 1st |
| 1880-89 | 326 | 7th |
| 1890-99 | 125 | |
| 1900-09 | 331 | 6th |
| 1910-19 | 478 | 4th |
| 1920-29 | 490 | 3rd |
| 1930-39 | 410 | 5th |
| 1940-49 | 532 | 2nd |
| 1950-59 | 246 | 8th |
| 1960-69 | 241 | 9th |
| 1970-79 | 224 | 10th |
| 1980-89 | 189 | |
| 1990-99 | 144 | |
| 2000-09 | 31 | |
| <u>2010-12</u> | <u>3</u> | |
| Total | 5,000 games | |

ISEGs by month---

| | | |
|--------------|----------|---------------|
| March | 1 | <1% |
| April | 379 | 7.6% |
| May | 751 | 15.0% |
| June | 931 | 18.6% |
| July | 1,021 | 20.4% |
| August | 1,040 | 20.8% |
| Sept | 692 | 13.8% |
| October | 183 | 3.7% |
| <u>Novem</u> | <u>2</u> | <u><1%</u> |
| Total | | 5,000 games |

Most ISEGs played on specific numbered DATES during a month—

For the record, on the first of the month, 171 ISEGs were played and the 31st of the month had 90. You may be wondering “what possible significance could these stats have”? The answer is: I DON’T KNOW! Perhaps, of value to numerologists? Or maybe, I’m trying to outdo the Elias Sports Bureau with such minutia!

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| 8 th of the month | 213 ISEGs |
| 2 nd of the month | 189 |
| 24 th of the month | 183 |
| 28 th of the month | 183 |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| 4 th of the month | 181 |
| 23 rd of the month | 180 |
| 7 th of the month | 178 |
| <u>29th of the month</u> | <u>175</u> |

Most ISEGs in a month for 19th Century and all-time (40+ games)

| | |
|-----------|-------------------|
| 49 | August, 1876 |
| 47 | September, 1876 |
| 44 | August, 1877 |
| 43 | September, 1877 |
| 42 | June, 1942 |
| 41 | May, 1877 |
| <u>40</u> | <u>June, 1877</u> |

Most ISEGs in a month for 20th Century only (25+ games)

| | |
|-----------|---------------------|
| 32 | August, 1943 |
| 30 | July, 1943 |
| 29 | July, 1945 |
| 28 | June, 1944 |
| 27 | June, 1943 |
| <u>25</u> | <u>August, 1944</u> |

Most ISEGs played on one day (6+)—

On several occasions, it became customary to schedule ISEGs the Monday before the annual All-Star Game. Sometimes, exhibition games were played the same day as the ASG. The best example of this was Tuesday, 7/8, 1941 when 9 such games were played that included the All-Star Game. This total of nine would be a record for ISEGs played until 1981—more on that later. Six of those nine games involved both clubs from Boston, Philadelphia and Saint Louis in addition to games with the Chicago White Sox and Detroit Tigers. On Friday, 8/7, 1981, **ten exhibitions**, the most ever for one day, were played prior to the resumption of the season due to the strike. I have classified all of the games played (24) during this period as ISEGs since they actually occurred during what was originally scheduled to be the championship season. Nine of those games pitted major league clubs against each other, while the tenth had the New York Yankees (A) playing their minor league farm team, the Bradenton Yankees at Yankee Stadium before an announced crowd of 10,200.

ISEG frequencies, one day—ten (once), nine (once), eight (twice), seven (twice) and six (13 times).

ISEGs occurring in 1st or 2nd games of doubleheaders—

In-Season Exhibition Games were sometimes played as part of a doubleheader to attract a greater crowd as well as to sponsor some sort of charitable endeavor. Generally, the major leaguers would play the non-major league club that was usually hosting the contest. However, there was a twinbill that was an exception to this rule in that it was the only game discovered so far that involved *four different major league teams* playing in a minor league host city! In fact, the newspapers confirmed the originality of these two games by billing it as the first interleague doubleheader exhibitions for charity. The proceeds of the games went to the erection of an addition to the local Hillcrest Hospital. On Monday 6/14, 1937, these games were played in Charleston, West Virginia, which was the home of the Charleston Senators of the Middle Atlantic League. (An aside is the fact that the Senators were a farm team of the Detroit Tigers in spite of possessing the nickname associated with the Washington American League club). Now on to the game. The four major league clubs involved were the Philadelphia Phillies (N)—the winner, 9-5--versus the Washington Senators (A) in the 1st game. This was followed by the Philadelphia Athletics (A) pitted against the Cincinnati Reds (N)—the

winner, 6-4-- in the nightcap. An estimated crowd of 6,000 were entertained for several hours by this historic event. Boy, what a memorable afternoon in Charleston! **This may be the only ISEG of this type—4 different teams, 2 AL, 2 NL---ever played** and perhaps a second such game may be uncovered! However, only time will tell, especially as research using digitized newspapers is always speedily evolving! The most recent doubleheader occurred at Reading (PA) on 7/18, 1968. In the 1st game, the Philadelphia Phillies (N) beat the Reading Phillies, 7-3. In the nightcap, the Reading club defeated Waterbury in a regular Eastern League contest, 3-2. So far, I've uncovered 73 doubleheaders and they are listed on the ISEG spreadsheet in the column labeled with the letter "D" and indicated by 1st g or 2nd g.

Some notable ISEG feats—

Many ISEGs found only had the score, date and site of the game. So, the information below is based on the available research completed so far. It's sort of an **"unofficial and incomplete" record book for ISEGs**. Enjoy!

Triple steals—

On 6/9, 1943 at Great Lakes, Illinois, the Great Lakes Bluejackets, a military team, executed a triple steal in the 6th inning. The Blues beat the Chicago Cubs (N), 4-0, for their 13th consecutive victory. So far, this is the only triple steal documented in an ISEG.

Stolen bases—

On 8/1, 1960, the Los Angeles Dodgers (N) stole 8 bases, two each by Maury Wills and Tommy Davis and one apiece by Johnny Roseboro and Norm Sherry. Playing in St. Paul, Minnesota, the Dodgers beat their farmhands, 8-1.

Runs batted in—

On 5/31, 1950, Brooklyn Dodger (N) rookie, Bobby Morgan had 9 RBI, coming on two homers, one a slam in the 3rd inning. So far, this is the best RBI display in an ISEG. Three players, Babe Ruth, Chick Hafey and Joe Kelly each had 7 RBI. Kelly, playing for the Reading International League club, is the only non-major league player to have as many RBI in an ISEG.

At the Toronto Maple Leafs of the International League, the great Babe Ruth of the New York Yankees (A) had **six RBI in an inning** and two homers in the game. Playing on 7/11, 1930, the Babe blasted a grand slam and a double in the 2nd frame, finishing with 7 ribbies for the day, his last coming on a solo homer. The Yanks bested the Leafs, 16-11, in a slugfest.

Runs by a major league team (all-time) ---

The town of Ogdensburg, in upstate New York, has a prominent place in ISEG history. This is so because two of the top three run totals by one team in a game occurred there. The all-time record (so far) of runs scored is the 78-0 plastering that the Rockford Forest Citys of the National Association put on the Maple City club of Ogdensburg in 5-innings (!) on Monday, 8/14, 1871. The other record-setting game was the 66-1 shellacking of the Pastimes of Ogdensburg at the hands of the Boston Red Stockings, also of the National Association. This debacle was on Saturday, 8/24, 1872. The 3rd high-scoring game was the 68-0 rout of the Dauntless team in Toronto by the Boston Red Stockings of the National Association. This ISEG was played on Wednesday, 8/28, 1872. Note that all 3 of these games occurred in the month of August and exemplified the true dogs of summer! For these three high-scoring games, I tried in vain to find inning-by-inning totals, especially the 78-0 debacle in Ogdensburg, but to no avail.

Runs by a major league team in an ISEG in the 20th Century—

The New Yankees (A) overwhelmed the Mitchel Field club of Long Island, New York by a count of 31-6 for the most runs by a team in the 20th Century. In a game where 37 runs were tallied, it was completed in 2 hours and 17 minutes, a run scoring about every 3 minutes and 45 seconds! The Mitchel Field nine scored

four runs in the bottom of the 9th to fall 25 runs short of tying the game!! New York's Roy Weatherly hit for the cycle.

On 7/12, 1935, the Boston Braves (N) defeated Wisconsin Rapids, 26-9, the 2nd most tallies in an ISEG.

Only once has a non-major league club scored 20+ runs against a big league foe in an ISEG. This occurred on 6/5, 1944 when the Sampson Naval Training Center team whipped the Boston Red Sox (A), 20-7.

20+ runs were scored in a game on 27 different occasions, their frequencies in descending order are: 31 runs (once), 26 (once), 25 (once), 24 (3 times), 23 (6 times), 22 (thrice), 21 (thrice) and 20 (9 times).

Not surprisingly, the New York Yankees (A) led the way with seven 20+ run games. In 2nd place with 3 each is: Boston Red Sox (A), Saint Louis Browns (A)! and Pittsburgh Pirates (N).

There have been 39 ISEGs played where both clubs, major league and non-major league, had 10+ runs in games of the 20th Century.

Incredible ISEG run totals by one team in 9 consecutive games!

From 8/20 through 8/29, 1872, the Boston Red Stockings of the National Association scored a remarkable 469 runs in a span of 9 consecutive games involving ISEGs. That's 52 runs per game! Three of the contests were played in the USA and six in Canada. Here are the details:

| Date | Bos R | Opp R | Mar* | Opponent | Game site |
|-------|-------|-------|------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 8/20 | 40 | 3 | 37 | Ypsilanti | Ypsilanti, Michigan |
| 8/21 | 35 | 2 | 33 | Empires of Detroit | Detroit, Michigan |
| 8/22 | 52 | 3 | 49 | Athletics of London | London, Ontario# |
| 8/23 | 29 | 7 | 22 | Maple Leafs | Guelph, Ontario# |
| 8/24 | 68 | 0 | 68 | Dauntless of London | London, Ontario# |
| 8/26 | 52 | 4 | 48 | Dauntless of London | London, Ontario# |
| 8/27 | 64 | 0 | 64 | Ottawa | Ottawa, Ontario# |
| 8/28 | 66 | 1 | 65 | Pastimes | Ogdensburg, New York |
| 8/29 | 63 | 3 | 60 | Montreal | Montreal, Quebec# |
| Total | 469 | 23 | +446 | | |

*Margin=run difference between Boston and Opponent

#games played in Canada

Runs scored in an inning of an ISEG—

In the 19th Century, the Hartford Dark Blues (NA) of the National Association, scored 24 times (!) in the fifth frame on the way to a 66-3 drubbing of the T.B.F.U.S. club of Bridgeport, Connecticut. No further details could be found about that inning. The Blues also had 19 tallies to lead off the contest. The game, a 5-inning affair, was played on 4/22 1874 at Hartford. I also discovered a game of 8/17, 1871 when the Washington Olympics (NA) of the National Association scored 20 runs in the 8th inning against the Aetnas of Chicago. Washington won 41-5. It seems certain that additional very high run-by-inning totals took place, especially in the 19th Century, but have yet to be discovered.

In the 20th Century, the most is 13 by BOS (N) on 7/12, 1935. Eleven other times since 1901, teams have accomplished this with the New York Yankees (A), Pittsburgh Pirates (N) and Philadelphia A's (A) each turning the trick twice.

Scoring in all 9 innings, 19th Century---

Five instances of this rarity have been found so far. The last time was 9/21, 1876 when the Chicago White Stockings (N) won at the Toledo Athletics, 43-2. I say rarity because in all of major league history, this occurred only 9 times! None were found in the 20th Century.

There were seven scoreless ties---

The first game was a scoreless tie between the Syracuse Stars of the League Alliance and the Saint Louis Browns (N). The game was played on 5/1, 1877 at Saint Louis and lasted 15 innings with no verdict. The most recent was played on 4/19, 2001, the Kansas City Royals (A) versus the Omaha Golden Spikes. Incidentally, this was also the last American League (A) ISEG played other than the annual All-Star Game!

Singles—

On 5/4, 1882, the Providence Grays (N) whacked 17 singles as part of their 25-hit attack against the Metropolitan of Manhattan at the Polo Grounds in New York City.

Doubles—

No significant findings were found for individual players or teams.

Triples—

BOS (N) hit 8 triples among their 31 hits against the Providence Steam Rollers on 9/9, 1923.

WAS (A) made 3 triples in the 3rd inning as part of a 10-run frame on 6/28, 1956.

Lloyd Waner (PITN) had a bases-loaded triple in the 3rd inning on 6/28, 1931.

Grand slams—

So far, 13 have been found, Babe Ruth leads with four, and the other twelve have one each.

The earliest slam found thus far by a non-major league player was named Fagan (no first name found) of the Troy club. On Sunday 6/23, 1907 at Troy, New York, Fagan hit his slam in the 8th inning. He led his Trojans of New York State League to a 6-3 victory over the Bostons (N). This would be the first ever game played at Troy's "Sunday Park".

The earliest slam found thus far by a player on a major league club is by Josh Devore of the New York Giants (N). In a game at Jersey City, New Jersey, on 7/2, 1911, Devore blasted his slam in the 8th inning of the 5-1 win by the New Yorkers over the Skeeters of the Eastern League.

Home run winning a 1-0 game (once)—

Benny Kauff (NYN) hit a homer in the 4th inning off Bert Gallia (WASA) in Akron, Ohio on 6/17, 1917.

Home runs in a game by batters—

On six occasions, three homers were hit in a game by four different players. The great Babe Ruth (NYA) had three 3-homer games, one being the consecutive variety; Joe Gordon (NYA), Billy Hitchcock (PHIA) and Joe Kelly of the Reading Keystones of the International League each had one 3-homer game apiece.

Home runs in a game by teams—

On 8/17, 1924 at Warren, Ohio, and the Pittsburgh Pirates (N) blasted nine homers, all over the fence. Three Pirate batters had two homers apiece in the 14-3 drubbing of the Warren club.

At Minnesota on 7/20, 1964, the Minnesota Twins (A) blasted 6 homers and the Milwaukee Braves (N) belted four for a total of ten in the game. The Twins won 12-7.

Multi-home run games by batters—

One George Herman Ruth of the New York Yankees (A) easily leads the way with 18 games in which he hit two or more homers!! The Sultan of Swat hit 3 roundtrippers three times. A distant second to Ruth are Lou Gehrig of the New York Yankees (A) and Gates Brown of the Detroit Tigers (A), who both have posted two-homer games twice.

Consecutive home runs by a batter—

Mr. Ruth of the New York Yankees (A) was at it again in his hometown of Baltimore, Maryland. The Bambino whacked three successive homers to lead the Yanks to a 12-3 win over the 3rd Corps Army team. Ruth blasted homers in the 4th, 6th and 9th innings, two off pitcher Ellis and one versus Henderson. The game was played on 9/3, 1922 at Oriole Park.

Consecutive home runs by a team—

On 6/25, 1964, the Chicago White Sox (A) blasted three consecutive homers in the 3rd inning. Playing the annual contest between the ChiSox and the Chicago Cubs (N), the Comiskey Park crowd was a record 52,712. In the 3rd frame, Cub lefty Dick Scott gave up consecutive roundtrippers to Ron Hansen, Tom McGraw and Gerry McNertney. The Cubs were the home team in spite of playing at the White Sox' park.

Walk-off home runs—

In a ten-inning contest on 5/6, 1927 at Fort Wayne, Indiana, and the New York Yankees (A) won the game versus the Lincoln Lifes, a local semi-pro club. Before 35,000 fans (a VERY large crowd for an ISEG in a non-major league city), the Babe, in the bottom of the 10th, **signaled to the crowd** that they may start for home and then hit a tremendous blast way over the right field fence, scoring Mike Gazella before him. The walk-off homer enabled the Yanks to win, 5-3. Ruth played 1st base in the game. This dramatic home run was not as significant as his "called shot" versus the Chicago Cubs in the 1932 World Series, but it undeniably added to the body of work that constitutes Ruth's mythic career. As usual, Babe the showstopper, did not disappoint the large crowd, slamming a walk-off job!

On 7/8, 1940, Tony Criscola of the Toledo club of the American Association defeated the Boston Braves (N) with a three-run shot in the bottom of the 9th.

On 8/13, 1964, Ron Swoboda of the homestanding Williamsport Mets of the American Association beats the parent New York Mets (N) club with a solo homer in the bottom of the 11th.

On 6/18, 1970, Rich McKinney of the Tucson Toros of the Pacific Coast League beats the Chicago White Sox (A) with a three-run roundtripper in the bottom of the 10th inning.

Hits in a game by batters—

Eight players have made the most hits found, five.

Hits in a game by teams in the 19th Century—

With the large run totals, the hit totals were also abundant. For some of the highest scoring games, no hit totals were available.

Hits in a game by teams in the 20th Century—

Two clubs have made 31 hits in an ISEG. On 9/9, 1923, the Boston Braves (N) crushed the Providence Steam Rollers, 19-9 with a 31-hit attack. The Braves would add 8 triples to the mix. On 7/20, 1943, the New York Yankees (A) blasted 31 safeties against the Mitchel Field club of Long Island, New York.

On 48 occasions, teams have whacked 20+ hits in a game, two by non-major league teams.

On three occasions, both clubs made 20+ hits in a game.

Hitting for the cycle (single, double, triple and home run) twice—

Billy Southworth (PITN) hit for the cycle, going 4 for 5, on 7/1, 1918.

Roy Weatherly (NYA) hit for the cycle as part of the Yankees 31-hit attack on 7/20, 1943.

Total bases—

On 7/20, 1943, the New York Yankees (A) blasted the Mitchel Field club of Long Island, New York by a count of 31-6!! The Bronx Bombers lived up to their name by hitting for 66 total bases: 6 homers (24 bases), 6 triples (18 bases), 5 doubles (10 bases) and 14 singles (14 bases)!

Errors—

The Boston Red Stockings (N) made 16 in a game played on 9/20, 1876.

Triple plays—

Five triple killings have been found, two being by non-major league clubs.

Strikeouts by pitchers in a game—

Righty Bob Lee of the Pittsburgh Pirates (N) struck out 16 Detroit Tigers (A) in a sandlot benefit game in the Motor City. On 8/1, 1963, Mr. Lee tossed a 7-1 complete game victory.

Most pitchers used by one club in a game—

In a game played on 7/10, 1945, the Saint Louis Browns (A) used 9 different pitchers against the Saint Louis Cardinals (N). Luke Sewell, the manager for the Browns, had each pitcher work for **exactly one inning**. The Cardinals used but four pitchers in the game. The Browns shutout the Cards in Saint Louis, 3-0.

Low-hit games by pitchers—

9 no-hitters and six 1-hitters have been pitched in ISEGs. The nine no-nos follow:

8/10, 1902 Alex Pearson (STLN) complete game 7-0 win in 6 innings at Bayonne, New Jersey versus the West Side Athletic Club.

9/12, 1903 Bob Rhoads (CLEA) tosses a no-no at the Albany Senators of the New York State League. Albany would defeat Cleveland, 1-0.

7/17, 1910 Chick Evans (BOSN) complete game 4-0 win at Canton Daubers, Ohio-Pennsylvania League.

7/7, 1914 at Dayton Veterans of the Central League beats CIN (N) 2-1 in 10 innings. Two Dayton pitchers combine for the no-hit job versus the Reds.

7/19, 1914 at Long Branch, New Jersey, Jose Acosta tosses a no-hitter against the Saint Louis Browns (A). Long Branch would best the Brownies, 3-0.

8/22, 1926 at Akron, Ohio, the General Tires team no-hits the World Series champs, Pittsburgh Pirates (N), 6-0. Akron hurler, Charley Ketchum, who had a no-hitter only 8 days earlier, would never play in the major leagues.

9/3, 1940 Carl Miles (PHIA) tossed 11-0 complete game no-hitter at the Springfield (Mass.) Nationals of the Eastern League. Miles was to appear in only 2 major league games in his career, both with the A's.

7/15, 1953 at Quebec Braves of the Provincial League is no-hit by the Milwaukee Braves (N), 6-0. It takes six Milwaukee pitchers to turn the trick!

5/2, 1966 at the Jacksonville Suns of the International League defeats the New York Mets (N) in a 5-inning game, 2-0. The Sun could not garner a hit off two New York pitchers in this rain-shortened contest.

Short 9-inning games, by time—

On 9/15, 1912, the Albany Senators of the New York State League defeated the Chicago Cubs (N) in 58 minutes. The Senators won at Albany, 5-2 and did not bat in the bottom of the 9th inning. Numerous ISEGs did not have time-of-game info, so this stat was extracted from the accounts that did report game times.

A most unusual extra-inning game---

At Gloucester, New Jersey on 4/29, 1875, a most unusual extra-inning game took place at a new ball yard in that city. Apparently, the game was a *scheduled 10-inning affair* between the Philadelphia Centennials and the Philadelphia Athletics, both of the National Association. The box score in the 5/8 1875 *The New York Clipper*, showed both clubs with 30 *putouts* and each team fielding 10 *players* rather than the usual nine. There were 4 outfielders playing at the same time the duration of the game. I am familiar with left (LF), center (CF) and right (RF) positions but the box score had a 4th position, *r s*. Could that be short right field? Also, the Athletics had a 17-2 lead after 9 innings of play, yet the game went on *one additional inning*, both clubs being scoreless.

Extra-inning games---

All total, 231 extra-inning games have been found. Of that total, 59 were between only major clubs, the remaining 172 against non-major leaguers. The inning totals of the 231 ISEGs:

| <u>INN#</u> | <u>games</u> |
|-------------|--------------|
| 10 | 128 |
| 11 | 50 |
| 12 | 29 |
| 13 | 13 |
| 14 | 3 |
| 15 | 7 |
| 16 | 1 |
| | 231 |

#innings

Long games—

On 6/13, 1907, BOS (A) was defeated by the Providence Grays of the Eastern League, 2-1. The game, played at Rocky Point Park in Warwick, Rhode Island, took 16 innings, the longest ISEG (by innings) found so far.

Tie games—

So far, 123 have been discovered. In addition to being called “ties”, they were called “drawn” decades ago. The most runs in a tie game were 13 occurring twice. The first such drawn game was at Cleveland on 4/20 1890 between the Saint Louis Browns and Louisville Colonels, both of the American Association. The other 13-13 game occurred in a 9-inning night affair at Cincinnati’s (N) Crosley Field versus Detroit (A) on 7/26, 1954. The longest ties by inning were contests both lasting 15 frames. The first game was a **scoreless tie** between the Syracuse Stars of the League Alliance and the Saint Louis Browns (N). The game was played on 5/1, 1877 at Saint Louis. The only other 15-inning tie game occurred fairly recently. At Wrigley Field, both Chicago clubs battled 3 hours and 44 minutes before a crowd of 25,034 with no winner. This Cubs (N) and the White Sox (A) game was part of the City Series and was played on 5/26, 1988. The inning total for seven games remains unknown and is designated as such on the master spreadsheet found on this site.

| <u>INN#</u> | <u>games</u> |
|-------------|--------------|
| 5 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 |
| 7 | 12 |
| 8 | 9 |
| 9 | 34 |
| 10 | 21 |
| 11 | 16 |
| 12 | 9 |
| 13 | 1 |
| 14 | 0 |
| 15 | 2 |
| <u>unk*</u> | <u>7</u> |
| | 123 |

#innings

*unknown inning totals

Forfeits—

On 6/15, 1913, the New York Giants (N) forfeited to the Zanesville Flood Sufferers. See entry #8 in the “interesting games” section for more details on this game. Another forfeit occurred on 7/8, 1871 at Cleveland, Ohio. The Cleveland Forest Citys (NA) played host to the Aetnas of Chicago. What is really unusual about this contest is that the Cleveland had a 20-9 lead after eight innings. Then, the Aetnas refused to take the field in the 9th as the club had wished to catch a train to Chicago. Therefore, the umpire ruled the forfeit to Cleveland, the final score ending in the 9-0 fashion, as rules dictate. There have been at least four other forfeits discovered so far.

Major league ISEG opponents found to be interesting (maybe even unusual) by yours truly—

These are not listed in any logical order and are posted here for your perusal in spite of it being an extensive run-on sentence. Bon appetit!

The clubs are the Yank-Lands--a team managed by Babe Ruth and comprised of members of both the New York Yankees (A) and Cleveland Indians (A), Zanesville Flood Sufferers, Burnhan & Morrill (Leader of Canned Beans) (no nickname found), Troy Washerwomen, New Haven MaxFeds, Quantico Devil Dogs, Taunton Lumber Company (no nickname found), Paris Cipseos, Utica Pent Ups, Grand Rapids Billbobs, Dan Neilleys (no nickname found), Fletcher General Hospital (no nickname found), Providence Clamdiggers, Hannibal Cannibals, Terre Haute Hottentots, Pekin Celestials, American Chain Company (no nickname found), Rochester Hop Bitters, Norwich Witches, Trenton Trentonians (boy, is that nickname original or what?!), Wheeling Stogies, Navy Cloudbusters, Meriden Silverites, Fort Wayne Voltmen, Lynn Shoemakers, Father Mathew Temperance Society (no nickname found), Klein Chocolate Company (no nickname found), Youngstown McElroys, Hoosier Beer team (no nickname given) Scottsdale Scotties (another one of those much-thought over nicknames!), Gloversville Glovers (whew!), Binghamton Binges (another one of those?!), Kansas City Knuckle Puppets (just kidding—made that one up myself!) and finally, the Amsterdam-Johnstown-Gloversville J-A-Gs (acronym)! And one of my favorites—T.F.B.U.S., an acronym for “The Bridgeport Friendly United Social Club” of Connecticut. Where are the nicknames such as Tigers, Lions, Bulldogs, etc?? Finis!

Interesting in-season games/events—

These are numerous, so I carefully selected 13 that I thought were cool. They are not ranked by their importance.

1) On 5/26, 1912 at Paterson, New Jersey, the New York Giants (N) assumed that their opponent would be the local Paterson club. Instead, the Giants discovered that they would be playing a team comprised of

African-American players who called themselves the Smart Sets. After some discussion, the Giants agreed to play the game before an Olympic Park crowd of about 8,000. A New York pitcher named Louis Drucke, who was from Texas, refused to pitch against “the coloreds” and after some heated debate, he consented to pitch only if he was announced as “pitcher O’Brien” instead of Drucke! There were several tense moments in the game, especially after the game was tied 3-3 in the 8th. In the last of the 9th, the game still tied, Umpire Warner handed Drucke (alias O’Brien) a new ball and the pitcher proceeded to rub dirt all over it. The Smart Set players protested this and the ump gave the pitcher another new ball and the side was retired. In the 10th, pitcher McClellan of the Smart Sets then refused to use the ball Drucke had used in the prior inning, substituting his own ball. Giant players protested but the umpire did not compel McClellan to use the new ball and the New Yorkers left the field. The crowd wanted the game to resume but the Giants went through the crowd and boarded the bus that was waiting for them. The bus was suddenly surrounded by a shouting mob that began to hurl sticks and small rocks at the Giant players. A police chief intervened in order to reason with the crowd to allow the bus safe passage and he was successful in convincing them to stop throwing objects at the players. The bus made it to the train station and they were on their way home. So, this tension-filled game ended in a tie, never to be completed. It would be 35 more years for the color barrier to be broken in the major leagues by the great Jackie Robinson!!

2) At New Haven, Connecticut on 6/4, 1934, Lou Gehrig missed his first in-season game, counting league games and ISEGs. He was detained in New York in order to undergo dental treatment. The New York Yankees (A) beat the New Haven Colonials, a semi-pro team 3-0, behind the 5-hit pitching of Johnny Broaca. The Babe was hitless in the game. Lou missed his only other ISEG when he sat on the bench at Toronto versus the International League club on 5/31, 1939, his penultimate professional game. His last would be in Kansas City, Missouri on 6/12, 1939, versus the Blues.

3) There were many ISEGs played during the World War II era. However, of the numerous contests I’ve found, the one I wish to describe tore at my heartstrings. On 5/7, 1934 at Camp Upton, Long Island, New York, the New York Giants (N) crushed the Boston Braves (N), 17-9, the New Yorkers making 22 safeties. What made this game so special was that it was played in the presence of 3,500 Purple Heart recipients who wore their medals with honor! The total crowd numbered 4,500 on the site of the Army Special Forces Convalescent Hospital at Camp Upton.

4) On 5/21, 1981 at Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, the Edmonton Trappers of the Pacific Coast League entertained their parent club, the Chicago White Sox (A). Prior to the game, hockey great Wayne Gretzky passed coonskin caps out to all players. Left fielder, Ron LeFlore, wore his coonskin during his first inning in the field! The ChiSox beat the Trappers, 4-3.

5) At Camp Sheridan, Illinois on 7/8, 1917, the Philadelphia Athletics (A) played the Chicago White Sox (A) in a morning 7-inning game attended by 5,500 soldiers of World War I and their families, the game had free admission to all! Circus seating was erected to handle the crowd but it was not sufficient and they spilled out onto the baselines. No one was injured except the egos of the ChiSox who lost the game, 3-1. Later in the afternoon, the Chicago club played a game at Comiskey Park, beating the A’s, 8-4.

6) On 7/26, 1914 at Buffalo, New York, the Chicago ChiFeds (Federal League) were beaten by the Carter Crumes, 2-0. What made the game special is that an umpire with a wooden leg named Concle called the game and shared duty with umpire Mandia. Concle completed the entire game.

7) It seems Babe Ruth was unable to appear at the ISEG scheduled at New Haven on 6/24, 1923. The Babe was supposed to accompany the team but overslept, missing the train! The Bambino attempted to drive to New Haven but along the way suffered an accident in which his foot was injured. This injury was not of a serious nature. As a result of Ruth’s absence, the New Haven Profs of the Eastern League decided to refund the extra gate money paid by fans that were expecting to see the Sultan of Swat. This rebate cost the Yankee

management \$1,000 (awwwwww, poor folks!) so that the 10,000 fans in attendance could be reimbursed. In the game, the New York Yankees (A) were defeated by the local nine, 9-5.

8) On 6/15, 1913, the New York Giants (N) traveled to Zanesville, Ohio to play the Flood Sufferers of the Inter-State League. The Giants won the game, 5-4, although Umpire Frank Newhouse declared the game forfeited to Zanesville, 9-0, following his fight with the New York's Fred Merkle. Here's the way it played out: In the 8th inning Merkle disagreed with the ump's call on a close play at 1st base. Apparently, the ump got in Merkle's face and Newhouse hit Fred over the head with his mask (!), causing a bloody gash to appear. (In my findings, there was no evidence that Fred ever struck the umpire). Then, the umpire ordered Merkle from the game (what??!!) and he refused to leave. It was at that point that the game was declared a forfeit to the home team. Surprisingly, Zanesville Manager Marty Hogan then ordered the game continued so the fans could see a 9-inning baseball game. Hogan even assumed umpiring duties and the game was then concluded.

9) On 9/25 and 9/26, 1922, the Pittsburgh Pirates (N) and Detroit Tigers (A) played ISEGs at *alternating sites*, first in Pittsburgh and the following day in the Motor City. As far as I could determine, this was the only occurrence of such an exhibition series. Detroit Manager Ty Cobb guided his club to victory in the River City, 5-4, on 9/25. The following day, the same two clubs hooked up in Detroit, the Tigers winning again by a 5-4 score. In the game, pinch-hitter Cobb was hit on the leg by a pitch from Moses "Chief" Yellowhorse in the 5th inning. Tyrus had to be carried off of the field.

10) In Kansas City, Missouri, on 6/12, 1939, Lou Gehrig plays his last professional game. Gehrig had concluded his major league career earlier in the year on 4/30, going 0 for 4 against the Washington Senators (A) at Yankee Stadium. Lou would be given his remaining salary for the season by Yankee management. On 5/31, the Yankees played an ISEG at the Toronto Maples Leafs of the International League and although Gehrig made the trip, he sat on the bench the entire game. Then, the New York Yankees (A) traveled to Kansas City on 6/12 to face their AA farm team, the Blues of the American Association at Jacob Ruppert Stadium. A large sellout crowd of 23,864 turned out to see Lou's eventual goodbye to pro ball. In the game won by the Yanks, 4-1, Gehrig played the first 3 innings, batting an unconventional 8th place in the batting order—he had historically batted clean-up for the Yankees. Lou handled four chances at first, all putouts. Facing Kansas City pitcher, Joe Vance, the great Gehrig would ground out to 2nd baseman, Jerry Priddy, on the first pitch in the 3rd inning for what would become his final pro at bat. On 6/20, 1939, the Mayo Clinic, where Lou recently had several medical tests performed, released a statement to the world revealing the severity of Lou's illness. The statement is partially presented here:

"Mr. Gehrig will be unable to continue his active participation as a baseball player". Lou died on 6/2, 1941.

11) On 8/26, 1943 at the Polo Grounds, Camp Cumberland (PA), a military team, was defeated by the War Bond All-Stars before 40,000 fans, 5-2. In order to attend this 9-inning game, one had to wait in a line that was ten blocks long in order to purchase War Bonds and thus gain a ticket. The All-Stars were comprised of members of the three New York teams: the Brooklyn Dodgers (N), the New York Giants (N) and the New York Yankees (A) and were managed by Leo "The Lip" Durocher. The Cumberland team was managed by Major Hank Gowdy. Members of the All-Star team were selected by a War Bond League popularity vote. All total, 26 members of the All-Star squad participated; likewise, 17 players for the Camp Cumberland team appeared in the contest, Captain Hank Greenburg being a member of this squad. Prior to this game, a galaxy of All-Stars from the past, many in their vintage uniforms, took the field for a time to permit Walter Johnson a chance to pitch to Babe Ruth. The Babe obliged the fans after fouling off some pitches by hitting a home run into the upper right field stands. Connie Mack managed. The infield was George Sisler at first, Eddie Collins at second, Honus Wagner at short, Frankie Frisch at third. The outfield was Duffy Lewis in left, Tris Speaker in center and Red Murray in right. Roger Bresnahan was the catcher and Bill Klem, the 37-year National League umpire, took his place behind the plate. It is uncertain how long in innings this old-timers

All total, 18 ISEGs were played: 7 in London, 3 in Manchester, 3 in Dublin, 2 in Liverpool, 2 in Sheffield and one in Richmond. Boston came out on top with a record of 10-8. Looking at the official itinerary in *The New York Clipper*, I could not ascertain exactly how many baseball games were actually scheduled. All games played in England unless noted and the details of the eighteen games follow:

| 1874* | Date | BOS | PHI | Game Site | Notes |
|---------------------|-------|------------|------|------------|--|
| Thursday | 7/30 | 11 | 14 | Liverpool | 10 innings |
| Friday | 7/31 | 23 | 18 | Liverpool | Boston 24 hits, Philadelphia 23 |
| Saturday | 8/1 | 12 | 13 | Manchester | Philadelphia 20 hits |
| Monday | 8/3 | 24 | 7 | London | Boston 25 hits |
| Wednesday | 8/5 | 14 | 11 | London | |
| Friday | 8/7 | 8 | 15 | London | |
| Saturday | 8/8 | 3 | 11 | Richmond | |
| Monday | 8/10 | 17 | 8 | London | 6 innings. Boston 20 hits |
| Tuesday | 8/11 | 8 | 19 | London | Philadelphia 27 hits |
| Thursday | 8/13 | 16 | 6 | London | |
| Friday | 8/14& | 14 | 11 | London | 6 innings |
| Saturday | 8/15 | 19 | 8 | Sheffield | |
| Monday | 8/17 | 18 | 17 | Sheffield | Boston 26 hits, Philadelphia 20. 5 hits each for McVey (Boston) and Clapp (Philadelphia) |
| Thursday | 8/20 | 2 | 7 | Manchester | |
| Friday | 8/21# | 8 | 19 | Manchester | 6 innings |
| Monday | 8/24 | 12 | 7 | Dublin+ | Irish team were members of a cricket club |
| Tuesday | 8/25 | 4 | 15 | Dublin+ | |
| Wednesday | 8/26% | 12 | 6 | Dublin+ | Irish club was allowed 5 outs per inning. Also, Dick McBride, Philadelphia pitcher, broke his thumb. |
| 18-game run totals: | | 225 | 212 | | |
| | | 12.5 | 11.8 | | |
| | | R/per game | | | |

*No Sunday games were scheduled or played

&Teams were called (Albert) Spalding's nine for Boston and (Lefty) McMullin's nine for Philadelphia.

#Teams were called (Harry) Wright's side for Boston and (Dick) McBride's side for Philadelphia.

%Teams were called Americans and the Irish team.

+Dublin, Ireland

Some notes about Babe Ruth in ISEGs—

As far as homers are concerned, Babe Ruth has 70 in ISEGs!! Of that total, 69 were hit with the New York Yankees (A) and one with the Boston Red Sox (A) in 1918. Babe also had one each with the New York Giants (N) in 1923 and Brooklyn Dodgers (N) in 1938, but these two are not counted Ruth's as he was not officially a member of either club. Also, he was retired from pro ball in 1938. Ruth's homers with the Giants and Dodgers are discussed in more detail later in this section. Among the Babe's home runs, four were grand slammers. The Bambino had three 3-homer games, 15 games with two homers and 31 contests with one 4-bagger for a total of 70! I doubt if any other player can remotely come close to the Babe's ISEG homer total! The most I've found in 2nd place to Ruth was the great Gehrig, blasting 22 roundtrippers. Babe hit 11 in 1923, the most in any one season by any player. A listing of Ruth's roundtrippers are not presented here at this time.

He hit a homer in 3 games in which he pitched.

Ruth once pitched by request of the fans prior to an ISEG. On 5/12, 1933 at Indianapolis of the American Association, Ruth pitches the 1st two innings, allowing 3 runs.

At least three games ended prior to the full 9 innings because of fans swarming the field because of Ruth. In the game at Binghamton, New York on 5/16, 1929, the Babe hit a 3-run homer in the top of the 5th. After Binghamton was retired in the bottom of the 5th, the fans swarmed onto the field as Ruth rushed from his fielding position and rapidly made it to the dugout to avoid the fans. The New York Yankees (A) beat the Triple Cities, 4-1, the game being called after the 5th inning.

At Toronto on 7/11, 1930, the Babe had 7 RBI in the 16-11 seven-inning New York Yankee (A) win versus the Maple Leafs of the International League. In the 2nd inning, the Bronx Bombers scored 11 times, Ruth supplying six of those tallies on a grand slam and a two-run double. Later, the Babe hit a solo homer to end his 7-RBI day.

On 7/25, 1938, Ruth hit his 1st homer since leaving the Majors in 1935. The Babe played in a Brooklyn Dodger (N) uniform, the Albany club of the Eastern League defeating Dem' Bums, 7-6. A record crowd of 11,724 at Albany, New York, saw the Babe blast a 2-run homer with two out in the top of the 1st inning.

In a game at Baltimore on 5/1, 1930, the Babe and everyone in attendance was entertained prior to the game by the uniformed band of St. Mary's Industrial School, Ruth's Alma Mater. The Orioles scored 4 runs in the bottom of the 9th to spoil the Babe's homecoming, the New York Yankees (A) losing to the Birds, 8-7.

Yankee shortstop, Mark Koenig, struck blows to the Babe in the 7th inning of a game at Baltimore on 9/5, 1926. Ruth did not retaliate. Apparently, Koenig felt Ruth was "ragging" him and went after Ruth as he returned to the dugout in the 7th. After the incident, Koenig left the game. The Orioles doubled the New York Yankees (A), 18-9.

In Cincinnati (N) on 7/24, 1922, fans waited patiently for about 2 hours for the New York Yankees (A) and Babe Ruth to arrive at Redland Field. Ruth and his gang had their train delayed, but the fans were eventually rewarded when the Sultan of Swat hit a solo homer in the 3rd.

Playing in a New York Giants (N) uniform, Ruth hit a homer at the Polo Grounds versus the Baltimore Orioles on 10/3, 1923.

Ruth was the manager of his New York Yankees (A) for one day. Playing at the Richmond Colts of the Virginia League on 5/28, 1923, the Yanks win, 8-5, behind Ruth's three hits. He had no homers.

At Toronto versus the Pittsburgh Pirates (N) on 6/19, 1924, Ruth hits a ball that appears to be heading into the right field stands...but wait, the wind blows the ball back into fair territory, Babe getting a double on the play. The New York Yankees (A) lost the game to the Buccos, 4-1.

Some notes about Lou Gehrig and ISEGs—

The great Gehrig has 22 home runs (2nd most to Ruth's 70) found so far, none of them grand slams. This is a bit surprising since Lou owns the major league record for slams with 23!

Lou had two 2-homer games.

On 6/29, 1934, Lou suffered a "slight" concussion after being hit in the head from a pitch by Ray White. Playing at Norfolk, Lou left the game after being hit in the 2nd inning. Lou's injury did not cause him to miss any championship games, his consecutive streak remaining intact until 1939. In the first inning, the great Gehrig hit a 2-run homer, aiding the Yankees win, 11-9.

Gehrig played left field and hit a homer in the game at Columbus, Ohio, 8/26 1929.

Ruth & Gehrig in ISEGs—

They both hit a homer in the same game on 11 different occasions. .

The dynamic duo hit 2 homers apiece just once. This occurred at the Johnstown (PA) Johnnies of the Middle Atlantic League on 6/25, 1928. No further details about their homers could be found. This is an example of not being able to find more information since I did not have access to newspapers on microfilm in such places as Johnstown, PA. The New York Yankees (A) had 19 hits in the contest.

The final ISEG in each league that was neither the Hall of Fame Game nor the All-Star Game---

American League

On 4/27, 2000, the Kansas City Royals visited their Omaha (NE) Golden Spikes farm team and the result was a scoreless 10-inning game.

National League

On 4/19, 2001, the New York Mets beat their farm club, the Norfolk (VA) Tides, 2-0 in a 7-inning game.

The last ISEG standing is our annual All-Star Game.

Additions, what is needed, corrections...

With research yielding 5,000 ISEGs so far, I am certain that some errors may exist with this endeavor. For example, it is quite possible paper dates instead of actual game dates may have been used. What is needed the most includes many **game sites** (listed in column 9) that need documentation. Also, items relating to the opposing club (column 7), especially **team nicknames**, and opponent description (Column 10) require the same documentation. Every effort I've made is a human one and therefore fallible. So, **any additions or corrections to my list are MOST welcome and any morsels of wisdom and can be submitted to me at waltlec3310@kc.rr.com**. Indeed, my research has been a very rewarding pursuit in uncovering what I consider to be a **significant part of baseball history!**

Walter LeConte

Lee's Summit, Missouri

2/12/2013 (Mardi Gras Day)