

# BASEBALL HISTORY

by  
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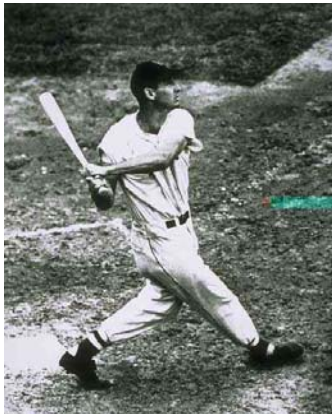


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## Long Major League At-Bat Was a Home Run

Every so often you hear about a ballplayer who hits a home run in his very first major league at-bat. New Orleanian Will Clark comes to mind.

Recently I ran across a listing of forty major leaguers who homered in their final at-bat. Some of these men knew it was their last chance and some, probably most of them, did not.



*Boston slugger Ted Williams*

Take, for example, the cases of two Hall of Famers, Ted Williams and Mickey Cochrane. Everyone knew Williams' last game would be on September 28, 1960. Ted's final blast has been well chronicled by many, including author John Updike in *Hub Fans Bid Kid Adieu*.

Cochrane, on the other hand, made another plate appearance, in the fifth inning following his final home run on May 25, 1937. With a count of 3 – 1 against Yankees' pitcher Bump Hadley, Cochrane suffered a near-fatal beaming which ended his playing career.

Other notables who homered in their last big league at-bat were such stars as Chuck Stahl, Tony Kubek, Joe Rudi, Willie Aikens, former LSU Tiger Albert Belle, and former New Orleans Zephyr Matt Mieske.

As you might expect, there are some on the list not only homered in their final at-bat, but that home run was the only round-tripper of their careers. They are listed below:



*Mickey Cochrane*

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Name	POS	Date	Team	G	AB	H	Years
Frank O'Connor	P	08-07-1893	Phillies	3	2	2	1
Mahlon Higbee	OF	10-01-1922	Giants	3	10	4	1
Clay Van Alstyne	P	05-07-1928	Senators	6	8	2	2
George Jumonville	IF	05-20-1941	Phillies	17	41	6	2
Ed Hobaugh	P	09-02-1963	Senators	62	55	7	3
Kevin Pasley	C	10-01-1978	Pilots	55	122	31	4
Eddie Miller	OF	09-30-1984	Padres	138	332	79	7
Tony Brewer	OF	09-30-1984	Dodgers	24	37	4	1
Tim Stoddard	P	06-18-1986	Padres	485	20	2	13
Chris Jelic	OF	10-03-1990	Giants	4	11	1	1
Gregg Olson	P	04-20-1998	D'Backs	622	4	1	14

The following are some tidbits gleaned from the above list:

- In his 3 games O'Connor went 2-for-2 and slugged 2.500, but in 4 innings of work he posted an 11.26 ERA.
- Higbee went 4-for-10 with 5 RBIs in his 3-game stay in the majors, but apparently there was no room in John McGraw's star-studded outfield.
- Miller had far and away the most at-bats in the group. He finally circled the bases after seven years and four different teams.
- Brewer, from Coushatta, Louisiana, was the 1984 PCL batting champ. Note that he and Eddie Miller homered on the same day, but not in the same game.
- Stoddard appeared in 485 games, all in relief. After his one home run in 1986 he pitched 3+ seasons more without making another plate appearance.
- Olson, like Stoddard, was actually a relief pitcher. He racked up 217 saves in his big league career. Also like Stoddard, however, in the final 3+ years of his career he never had another chance at the plate.

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