

BASEBALL HISTORY

by

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0 For the World Series

Nearly 1,700 World Series participants have had 12 or more at bats in an individual World Series. Of that number, a mere 20 were hitless in the fall extravaganza. This group contains a few good-field-no-hit players, a pair of teammates, a cousin duo, two opponents (3 times), a near Hall of Famer, and a likely HOFer. Nearly half (9) of these men never had another chance at World Series glory. Exactly half of them, despite their ineffectiveness at the plate, eased their pain with a world championship.

Before we take a look at these individuals, some reading directions are necessary.

1. NOWSA means no other World Series appearances.
2. The winning team will be listed on the left.
3. The individual player's team is underlined.
4. The designation JAWS is a measure of a player's HOF worthiness at his primary position. A few of the men in this study did not meet JAWS criteria and therefore will not have such a score.

Now here they are in chronological order:

1905 New York Giants vs Philadelphia A's

Bill Dahlen (1891-1911) was a turn of the century superstar. In 1894 he banded out hits in 42 consecutive games, then a hitless game and followed that with a 28 game streak. Unfortunately in the 2nd WS ever, Bad Bill was a dismal 0-for-15. He was in the Top Ten in yearly statistics multiple times both offensively and defensively. In early 2013 he missed election to the HOF by a meager 2 votes. NOWSA; JAWS (ss)-12th.

1906-Chicago White Sox vs Chicago Cubs

Billy Sullivan (1896-1916) spent 16 seasons in the majors as a catcher but never was much of a hitter, accumulating a .213 career average. In this 3rd WS he was 0-for-21, striking out 9 times. However, he became the first of this group to win a championship despite a lack of offense. His forte was his defense and he still ranks 12th all-time in caught stealing. NOWSA; JAWS (c)-284th.

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1906- Chicago White Sox vs Chicago Cubs

Jimmy Sheppard (1897-1913) was an outstanding LF and saw action in 4 WS (1906-08, 1910) as a member of the Cubs, winning twice. In this, his first WS, he struggled badly at the plate going 0-for-21 in a losing cause. He managed 5 hits apiece in his other Fall Classics. Like Dahlen he frequently ranked in the top ten statistics. JAWS (LF)-26th.

1911- Philadelphia A's vs New York Giants

Red Murray (1906-1917), beginning in 1911, was on the wrong end of the WS stick for 3 consecutive years with the Giants. His 1st WS had him stinking up the ballpark with a miserable 0-for-21. His performance improved dramatically as he stroked the ball for a combined 14-for-47 (.298) in the 1912 and 1913 WS. He sported a career .270 average and led the NL in homers (7) in 1909. JAWS (RF)-135th.

1935- Detroit vs Chicago Cubs

Flea Clifton (1934-1937) played in only 87 regular season games (34 at 3B) in parts of 4 seasons. The Tigers, led offensively in this WS by RF Pete Fox and HOFers Gehring, Goslin and Cochrane, brought home the victory. Clifton, regardless of his 0-for-16 showing, became the 1st of this group to earn a Championship ring as that tradition first occurred in 1922 and then, in 1926, became permanent. NOWSA.

1938- New York Yankees vs Chicago Cubs

Carl Reynolds (1927-1939) batted .302 in 1938, his last season as a starter. That was also his career BA. Through the years there have been many more likely candidates for this list but his 0-for-12 bomb places him here. He sat out the final regular season game as player-manager Gabby Hartnett rested some of his starters. Prior to that, Reynolds had reeled off a 9 game hitting streak swatting at a .360 clip. NOWSA; JAWS (RF)-112th.

1939- New York Yankees vs Cincinnati Reds

Wally Berger (1930-1940) was a 4-time All-Star and a career .300 hitter. However, his .258 BA in 1939 was a career low. His 0-for-15 coupled in 1939 with his 0-for-3 in 1937 left him with a .000 BA and a .000 OBP in WS play. Ironically he batted an even .300 (6-for-20) in the last 7 regular season games in 1939. JAWS (CF)-32nd.

Lonny Frey (1933-1948) was a teammate of Berger's from 1938-1940. He was a 3-time All-Star and 1939 marked his highest BA (.291) as a starter. His 0-for-17 in the second slot in 1939 hampered the Reds, but the rest of his teammates managed only 6 hits in the first 2 contests before breaking out for 21 hits in the final 2 sessions. He won a WS in 1940 (Reds) and 1947 (Yanks) but remained hitless (0-for-20) in WS play. JAWS (2B)-35th.

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1946- St. Louis vs Boston

Hal Wagner (1937-1949) was a 2-time All-Star in 1942 and 1946. He caught 100+ games in a season 3 times, but 1946 would be the only year that he had more than 400 PA's. He played in 4 of the last 7 regular season games that year scratching out 1 hit in 10 AB's before closing out the WS with a 0-for-13. NOWSA; JAWS (c)-258th.

1952- New York Yankees vs Brooklyn Dodgers

Joe Collins (1948-1957) spent his entire 10 year career with NYY and was their primary 1B from 1952-1954. In 7 WS with the Bombers, he acquired 5 rings. He only parked 86 balls in his career, but all 4 of his WS dingers led to Yankee victories. He sat out the last 2 games in 1952, but went 9-for-21 (.429) in the 5 games before that. He earned one of his rings in 1952 notwithstanding his 0-for-12 debacle. JAWS (1B)- 157th.

1952- New York Yankees vs Brooklyn Dodgers

Gil Hodges was an 8-time All-Star and 3 time Golden Glove winner. Like his 1B counterpart Collins, he graced the WS stage 7 times. Unfortunately for him 5 of those resulted in losses to the Yankees (4 versus Collins). He played on one championship club in Brooklyn (1955), one in LA (1959) and managed the 1969 Miracle Mets to their stunning triumph in 1969. Following his 0-for-21 meltdown in 1952 he batted .364, .292, .302 and .391 in his final 4 WS. JAWS (1B)-37th.

1968- Detroit vs St. Louis

Dal Maxvill (1962-1975) was known as an excellent defender, primarily as a shortstop. Thus he formed a 14 year MLB career while batting just .217. While 1968 was a losing proposition, he gathered 3 rings - 2 with St. Louis (1964, 1967) and with Oakland (1974) - never hitting higher than .200 in any single WS. He hit (pardon the pun) rock bottom in the 1968 WS (the last year of the 2 team playoff) with a worst ever 0-for-22. He had smoked the ball for .471 BA (8-for-17) in the final week of the season. JAWS (ss)-199th.

1972- Oakland A's vs Cincinnati Reds

Mike Epstein (1966-1974) was a teammate of Maxvill in 1972. He also hit a career high of 26 HR's that season. However his fielding prowess was his true strength. His fielding percentage never dipped below .987 and he recorded an outstanding .991 percentage for his 9 year career. His 3-for-16 (.188) in the ALCS preceded a gloomy 0-for-16 WS. NOWSA;JAWS (1B)-158th.

1974- Oakland A's vs Los Angeles Dodgers

Dick Green (1963-1974) spent all of his 12 years in the majors with Oakland. In spite of batting .198 in 1967 and .190 in 1970, he finished with a career .240 average and 3 World Series rings. In his final PA in the 1974 WS and his last AB of his career, he struck out swinging concluding a 0-for-13 effort. JAWS (2B)-136th.

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1984- Detroit Tigers vs San Diego Padres

Barbaro Garbey (1984-1988) played 110 games of his 226 game career in his rookie year of 1984, batting a very respectable .287. During his time with the Tigers Garbey appeared at every position except for P, C and SS. HOF Sparkey Anderson decided to use his rookie Garbey (0-for-12) as DH/PH instead of 1B where Dave Bergman (0-for-5) and Darrell Evans (1-for-15) took over. Actually Evans obtained his 1 hit while playing 3B. Well none of it mattered as 6 other regulars averaged .278 or above with Alan Trammell showing the way at .450 as the Tigers romped. Garbey had been 8-for-22 (.364) in 6 of the last 7 and 3-for-9 in the ACLS. NOWSA.

1995- Atlanta Braves vs Cleveland Indians

Rafael Belliard (1982-1998) spent the final 8 campaigns of his career with the Braves. By the strike-shortened 1995 season he was in the 3rd year as back-up to Jeff Blauser at SS. He garnered only 180 AB's that season hitting .001 higher (.222) than his career BA. However, Blauser was not available for the playoffs and WS and Belliard stepped in. Batting only .214 in the first two rounds and 0-for-16 in the WS, he gathered his only championship in 4 tries. JAWS (ss) 332nd.

2004- Boston Red Sox vs St. Louis Cardinals

Scott Rolen (1996-2012) retired this past off season. His ML resume sparkles with such awards as 1997 ROY, 1-time Silver Slugger, 7-time All Star and 8-time Golden Glove. As a core member of the 2006 WS Champion Cardinals he walloped the ball 8 out of 19 times (.421). Such was not the case in 2004. Although his .314 BA was the highest among the regulars in 2004, he was 0-for-12 in the NLDS and 0-for-15 in the WS. Many consider him a sure-fire HOFer. JAWS (3B)-10th.

2006- St. Louis Cardinals vs Detroit Tigers

Ronnie Belliard (1998-2010), younger cousin by 14 years of Rafael Belliard, began his ML career in Rafael's final year. A 1-time All Star, Ronnie had a fine .981 career Fielding Percentage and a very decent .273 career BA. In 2006 he was traded by Cleveland to St. Louis in time to take part in only 54 games. The first two rounds of the playoffs saw him banging the ball for 12 hits in 38 attempts - a .316 average. In his 3 WS games, things went south as he was hitless in 12 tries. It's certain that his only WS ring cured whatever ailed him at the plate. NOWSA; JAWS (2B)-87th.

2006- St. Louis Cardinals vs Detroit Tigers

Placido Polanco (1998-present) began his ML stay as a Cardinal. He has 1 Silver Slugger, 2 All Star appearances and 3 Golden Gloves to his credit. In 2006, he stroked the baseball for a .471 average in the ALDS and ALCS only to slump to 0-for-16 in, thus far, his only WS. Now in his 16th year and 4th franchise (Miami), it is unlikely he will have another chance this season as the Marlins cleaned house last winter. NOWSA; JAWS (2B)-37th.

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2010-San Francisco Giants vs Texas Rangers

Pat Burrell (2000-2011) was always a high risk, high reward type of batsman. This is reflected in his nearly 1,400 career hits, 44% of which went for extra bases, but with more career K's than hits. He is 142nd on the career HR list with 292, tied with none other than *Le Grande Orange*, Rusty Staub. In both of his WS triumphs (2008 with the Phillies, 2010 Giants) the high risk side prevailed. He hit the skids with a 1-for-14 in 2008 before his miserable 0-for-13 with 11 K's in 2010. JAWS (LF)-125th.