

A Schott From The Bleachers

Rogers Hornsby Ranks Among 20th Century's Top Hitters

by

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When great hitters of the 20th century are discussed, the name of Rogers Hornsby belongs among the most outstanding.

In 23 years of major league play, *The Rajah*, as he was called, posted the following batting totals:

G	AB	R	H	TB	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BA
2,259	8,173	1,579	2,930	4,712	541	169	301	1,584	.358
Career BB: 1,038 Career SO: 679 Career OBP: .434 Career Slugging Percentage: .577									

Among the all-time batting feats in baseball history, Hornsby accomplished one that is likely to stand a long test of time. From 1971 through 1925 (five consecutive years), Hornsby went to bat 2,679 times and made 1,078 hits, for a .402 batting average. To bat .400 for one year is a feat that hasn't happened since 1941. To bat .400 over a period of five years is unheard of in baseball.

The Rajah accumulated 48 league titles in various offensive categories, including the National League in slugging percentage nine times. He led the league at least twice in ten different offensive categories. Hornsby led or tied for the league lead as follows:

Category	Years	Total
Runs	1921-22-24-27-29	5
Hits	1920-21-22-24	4
Doubles	1920-21-22-24	4
Triples	1917-21	2
Home Runs	1922-25	2
RBI	1920-21-22-25	4
Walks	1924-27-28	3
Batting Average	1920-21-22-23-24-25-28	7
On Base Pct.	1920-21-22-23-24-25-27-28	8
Slugging Pct.	1917-20-21-22-23-24-25-28-29	9
Totals:		48

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His spectacular batting performance for five consecutive years; **bold** denotes league leaderships:

YEAR	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
1921	592	131	235	21	126	.397
1922	623	141	250	42	152	.401
1923	424	89	163	17	83	.384
1924	536	121	227	25	94	.424
1925	504	133	203	39	143	.403
	2,676	615	1,078	144	598	.402

You'll notice that Hornsby won two Triple Crowns (the league championship for home runs, RBIs, and batting average) during the five-year period. Has anybody dominated a major league like this lately?

Following Hornsby's major league career he managed the Chattanooga Lookouts of the Southern Association in 1938. He also played in three games, recording two hits in three times at bat, for a .667 batting average. On his first time at bat in the Southern Association, the Rajah blasted a home run off pitcher Woodrow Rich of Little Rock.

As a home run hitter Hornsby produced 301 round trippers in 8,173 times at-bat – a HR frequency on one homer for every 27.2 times at bat. His biggest power day in the majors came on April 24, 1931, when he slugged three in one game.