

Baseball Trivia



ANSWERS

1. None of them ever won the Triple Crown.
2. Grover Cleveland Alexander donned his first big-League uniform with the Philadelphia Phils in 1911 and impressed from the start, compiling 28 victories in his freshman year.
3. Walter "Big Train" Johnson of the Washington Senators fanned the grand total of 3,497 batters.
4. Bill "Dummy" Hoy, an outstanding outfielder who played for St. Louis, Cincinnati and Washington from 1888 to 1902, was a deaf mute. Since he couldn't hear the umpire's call when he was batting, the umpires began the arm gestures to tell him what the count was. And the custom has prevailed.
5. His name was Edward Gaedel, and he wore the number 18. He was signed by Bill Veeck and used as a pinch hitter against the Detroit Tigers on August 19, 1951. He was walked on four straight pitches thrown by Herb Cain, and he was only 43 inches tall.
6. Detroit's Deny McLain ended the 1968 season with a 31-6 record. The last pitcher to achieve 30 wins in the National League was Dizzy Dean in 1934.
7. With the games tied in game 7 of the 1969 World Series, Pittsburgh second baseman Bill Mazeroski made history by driving Ralph Terry's pitch out of the park to give the Pirates a 10-9 victory and the World series win.
8. Dave Winfield, originally drafted by the Baltimore Orioles in 1969, decided to attend college instead. Winfield was eventually drafted by the San Diego Padres, Minnesota Vikings, and the Atlanta Hawks.
9. The National League Rookie of the Year in 1949, Brooklyn's Don Newcombe finished the hat trick in 1956 when he captured both the National League MVP and Cy Young awards after a stellar campaign in which he won 27 games and struck out 219 batters.
10. On August 4, 1985, Tom Seaver, and his Chicago White Sox beat the Yankees 4-1 giving "Tom Terrific" win number 300.

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USA TEAM WINS 20TH ANNIVERSARY GERMAN TOURNAMENT

Softball USA Team Wins Championship Game Over Frankfurt Team

The Softball USA team topped several German teams to win a special 20th anniversary tournament in Germany in June of 2012. The USA team exploded in the championship game, beating a younger Frankfurt team 22-13 to win the title. Among the members of Team USA was Bill Codner and Gene Stracco who both play in the Morris Essex Tuesday Senior Softball (M.E.T.S.S.) League. Bill plays for the Jersey Boyz and Gene plays for the Golden Masters.

The event was sponsored by the Dreieich Vultures, who sent a special invitation to Senior Softball-USA players to help them celebrate their 20th anniversary with a tournament on June 23-24. The tournament capped a week-long trip to Germany that included a trip up the Rhine River, a visit to the medieval walled city of Rothenberg ob der Tauber, and a banquet with the other teams featuring delicious German cuisine.

"Winning the tournament was one of the highlights of the trip. However, what truly impressed me was the mutual camaraderie and genuine sportsmanship exhibited by all teams in the tournament," said Gene.

By: Gene Stracco



TEAM USA

Notable Quotables

"The way to make coaches think you're in shape in the spring is to get a tan."

—Whitey Ford

"Slump? I ain't in no slump. I just ain't hitting."

—Yogi Berra

75+ NJ SENIOR SOFTBALL INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT

Old Bridge, New Jersey, June 18, 2012

A four team 75+ NJ Senior Softball Invitational tournament was held at Veterans Park in Old Bridge. The tournament was run by Dick Raymond.

The Metss League team of: Bob Coyer, Bob Palasits, George Merlo, Bob Hoffman, Bob Smith, Sal Lagreca, Paul Oliver, Jerry Massone, Al Overbaugh, Joe Crofton, Bob Thourot and Harry Keyshian won both games. The two middlesex teams split and the other METSS team (naturals) lost two games.

The games were played with a 1-1 count, no walks, 7 innings, and no throwing out a runner from the outfield.

It is hoped the 75+ tournament can expand to 3 games each team in 2013.

Note: Paul Oliver, 86 years old, I played both

games and had 4 hits for the METSS team.

By: Bob Thourot, Mgr. of METSS Team



Standing L to R: Bob Palasits, Al Overbaugh, Jerry Massone, Bob Hoffman, Bob Thourot, Sal Lagreca & Bob Smith.
Middle L to R: Joe Crofton, Bob Coyer, Harry Keyshian & George Merlo.
Front: Paul Oliver.

Notable Quotables

"When you start the game, they don't say 'Work ball!' They say 'Play ball!'" —Willie Stargell

"The way to catch a knuckleball is to wait until the ball stops rolling and then to pick it up."

—Bob Uecker