



## [From the Bill Chuck Files](#)

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Bill Chuck's weekly list of odd baseball facts.

1. In 1989, Jose Oquendo played 163 games and struck out 59 times. In 1979, Steve Garvey played 162 games and struck out 59 times. In 1989, Kirby Puckett played 163 games and struck out 59 times. In 2009, in his first 38 games, Chris Davis struck out 59 times.

2. Foreclosures - With the renewed outbreak in the stealing of home, it should be noted that since Jackie Robinson retired, only two players have stolen home 10 or more times in their careers: Rod Carew (17 times) and Paul Molitor (10 times).

3. Three closures – Coming into this season there had been 30 triple plays since 2000, with 2002 being the high watermark with six. After only two last season, after the Tigers hit into one on Wednesday we have had three already this season.

4. Roy Halladay led the majors with 31 decisions last season, which makes it even less likely that we will see a pitcher equal Bob Welch's 1990 season in which he went 27-6 games, the last pitcher to win at least 25 games in a season.

5. Amos Otis and Reggie Smith were hit visionaries as they ended their careers with 2020 hits.

6. As the Seattle Mariners sink back to their appropriate depths we will watch Ken Griffey increase his standing as the player who has hit the most homers without ever appearing in a World Series.

7. Everything about Grady Sizemore is out of sync. Not only is he perilously close to the Mendoza Line, but he's been thrown out in six of 12 steal attempts.

8. So far since 2000, the batter with the most hits is Ichiro with 1,851. It may surprise you to learn that the batter with the most hit in the 1990's was Mark Grace with 1,754.

9. Coco Crisp is off to a swift start with 11 stolen bases; his high is 28 in 2007. For those of you keeping score, Jacoby Ellsbury has 16.

10. In the 53 games Manny B Manny played with Dodgers last season, he hit 17 homers. His replacement, Juan Pierre, in over 1,300 games has hit 13 homers.

11. John Gibbons, fired last year by the Blue Jays, had a 305-305 career record as a manager.

12. When Tom Glavine returns to active duty he will be the leader amongst current pitchers with 1,500 walks, although Randy Johnson is chasing him with 1,482 BB.

13. Konnichawa- Chiba Lotte Marines second baseman Tadahito Iguchi, who won a World Series ring with the Chicago White Sox in 2005, is batting .356 and has 28 RBIs in 39 games this season.

14. If Pedro Martinez doesn't return to an active roster he will end his career with 99 losses like 11 other pitchers including Andy Messersmith, Ralph Terry and Ross Grimsley. None of the other 11 have as many

wins as Petey's 214.

15. If you are not following me on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/BillyBall>) are you at least following Barry Zito? <http://twitter.com/BarryZito>

16. Jason Kendall became the 253rd player to reach 2,000 career hits and just the eighth catcher to reach that number. Kendall may catch up in total hits but he won't catch any of the others in extra-base hits. Here are their numbers through Wednesday: Pudge Rodriguez (2,637 hits – 880 extra-base hits), Ted Simmons (2,472 – 778), Pudge Fisk (2,356 – 844), Yogi Berra (2,150 – 728), Mike Piazza (2,127 – 779), Gary Carter (2,092 – 726), Johnny Bench (2,048 – 794), and Jason Kendall (2,001 – 467 extra-base hits).

17. Todd Helton joined Jason Kendall in the 2,000 hit club this past week and barring anything unforeseen they both will continue to collect hits. Roberto Clemente's last hit was his 3000th; the only player between these three who ended his career with "00" was Clyde Milan who had 2,100 hits between 1907 and 1922.

18. The Mets' Daniel Murphy has great potential to become the next Kevin Youkilis. In Youk's first 287 at bats he had a .265 avg. with 8 homers, 44 RBI and a .787 OPS. In Murphy's first 241 at bats he has a .295 avg. with 5 homers, 29 RBI and a .817 OPS. Like Youkilis, Murphy is a third baseman who may find a home at first thanks to Carlos Delgado's injury.

19. He entered this season with a .498 slugging average and 241 homers in 13 big league seasons and has 100+ RBI each of the last six seasons, so when did Bobby Abreu become a singles hitter? Abreu is hitting over .300 for the Angels but has one triple and seven doubles to go with his no homers.

20. Between 2000 and 2008 Tim Wakefield has averaged 11 wins a season. With five already this season he has 183 career wins, putting him on track to pick up #200 sometime next season.

21. While B.J. is struggling trying to reach the .200 mark, younger brother Justin Upton is putting together a really nice season in Arizona, hitting .300 and has more homers than his brother has RBI.

22. When there was no homer hit at Detroit's Comerica Park on Tuesday it left the new Yankee Stadium, and Tampa Bay's Tropicana Field as the only ballparks in which at least one homer has been hit in every game this season.

23. One of my favorite writers, Mike Celizic of MSBC.com shared this very cool site that shows the deceptive break of a curveball: <http://illusioncontest.neuralcorrelate.com/2009/the-break-of-the-curveball/>

*Bill Chuck is the creator of Billy-Ball.com ([www.Billy-Ball.com](http://www.Billy-Ball.com)) and, with Jim Kaplan, is the author of the book, "Walk-Offs, Last Licks, and Final Outs – Baseball's Grand (and not so Grand) Finales," with a Foreword by Jon Miller, published by ACTA Sports, and available worldwide.*

## 1 Comment so far

1. Raul on May 25th, 2009

I forget who it was, but a few months ago I remember some readers of this site arguing over who would have a better season - Pat Burrell or Ben Zobrist.

Burrell is on the DL, but to date both have similar at-bats and Zobrist is clearly ahead.

It will be interesting to see how the season turns out for both players.