

Team Triple Crown Winners
Poster presentation by Clem Comly
SABR 2004

I thought it would be interesting to look at triple crowns from a team point of view (TTC). Obviously league triple crowns (LTC) were rare and may be extinct. One thought was that a player who dominated his team but played in a pitcher's park would show up on such a list. Another would be to compare players on the TTC list to see if the great players show up and if only they only show up. Also of interest is how TTC and LTCs correlate (though not in the rigorous mathematical sense).

Table 1
Best TTC Career Totals

PLAYER	TTC	FIRST-LAST	LTC
HOF Hornsby	8	1916-1928	2
HOF Musial	8	1943-1956	0
Howard, Fr.	7	1965-1971	0
HOF Heilmann	7	1921-1930	0
HOF Mays	7	1954-1965	0
Thomas, Fr.	7	1991-2000	0
HOF Ruth	7	1918-1926	0
HOF Williams, T	6	1941-1951	3
HOF Foxx	6	1932-1938	2
HOF Robinson, Fr.	6	1960-1973	1
Bonds, Barry	6	1993-2003	0
Berger	5	1930-1935	0
HOF Crawford	5	1901-1914	0
HOF Aaron, H.	5	1957-1969	0
Jackson, J.	5	1911-1919	0
HOF Simmons, A.	5	1925-1933	0
Kluszewski	5	1950-1955	0
HOF Murray	5	1981-1988	0
Piazza	5	1993-2001	0

KEY:

LTC = League Triple Crown

TTC = Team Triple Crown

Triple Crown for this poster means leading or tied in HRs, RBIs, and BA after any extra ABs are added so that

$AB+BB+HP+SH+SF = 3.1 * \text{Games played by team in that season.}$

First is first year to win TTC

Last is last year to win TTC

Table 2

LTC PLAYERS WITH 0-4 TTC

PLAYER	TTC	FIRST-LAST	LTC	
Hines, Paul	4	1873-1886	1	(1878)
HOF Klein	3	1930-1933*	1	
HOF Lajoie	3	*1901-1910	1	
HOF Cobb	3	1907-1911	1	(1909)
HOF Mantle	3	*1956-1958	1	
HOF Medwick	2	1935-1937*	1	
HOF Gehrig	2	*1934-1935	1	
HOF Yastrzemski	2	*1967-1974	1	
HOF Duffy	1	*1894	1	
O'Neill	1	*1887	1	

*LTC year

Using my definition of TC, Ted Williams gets a third LTC and Foxx a second. I also should note that mlb.com's list of LTC winners includes the Cubs' Heinie Zimmerman in 1912. My sources (www.retrosheet.org and www.baseball-reference.com) do not show Zimmerman leading the league in RBI so he is not included. The 14 LTC players won 18 LTC and 50 TTC for an average of 2.8 TTC per LTC. All of the multiple LTC winners are on the list of most TTCs. Of the 3 19th century LTC winners, two are the only LTC winners who did not win any additional TTCs while the third, Hines, is one of several who won TTCs more than a decade apart. This is another way of seeing for what long periods these players were dominant. At the end is Graph 1, a graph of TTCs and LTCs broken down into hall of fame (HOF) members and hoi polloi. As the TTCs increase, the HOF dominance manifests. The other 2 attached figures graph LTC vs number of leagues by decade and TTCs vs number of teams by decade (the data used to generate these graphs are in table 4 at the very end of this document). Obviously, as the number of teams in a league grows, the difficulty of an LTC increases but TTCs are not affected in that way. In recent decades the numbers of TTCs has shown no trend despite the creeping increase in the number of teams. But now the decade of the 2000s has a record of rate of TTCs both in absolute numbers and as a percentage of teams in the decade—in 5 years there have been 40 TTCs (out of a possible 120 for a 1:3 ratio) while the best decade ever had only 53.

HOFers, the unfortunate Joe Jackson, and active players with good chances of being HOFers dominate table 1. Of the rest, perhaps the most interesting is Frank Howard who is the only man to win a TTC in seven straight years. His career numbers were

badly hurt because of his career occurring in a pitcher dominated era. Still, Bill James ranked Howard 175 among non-pitchers (for comparison, there are only 149 non-pitchers in the hall of fame and James' rankings include players not yet eligible for the hall). For the readers' interest, I will include here the results of HOF voting for Howard: in the 1979 BBWAA vote needing 324 of 432 ballots cast to be elected Frank Howard got 6. Not 60, not 16, 6.

Finally, for fun (and to appeal to the youth of SABR), I include a list of all players who recently won a TTC.

Table 3

TEAM TRIPLE CROWN WINNERS (TTC) WITH LAST SINCE 1999

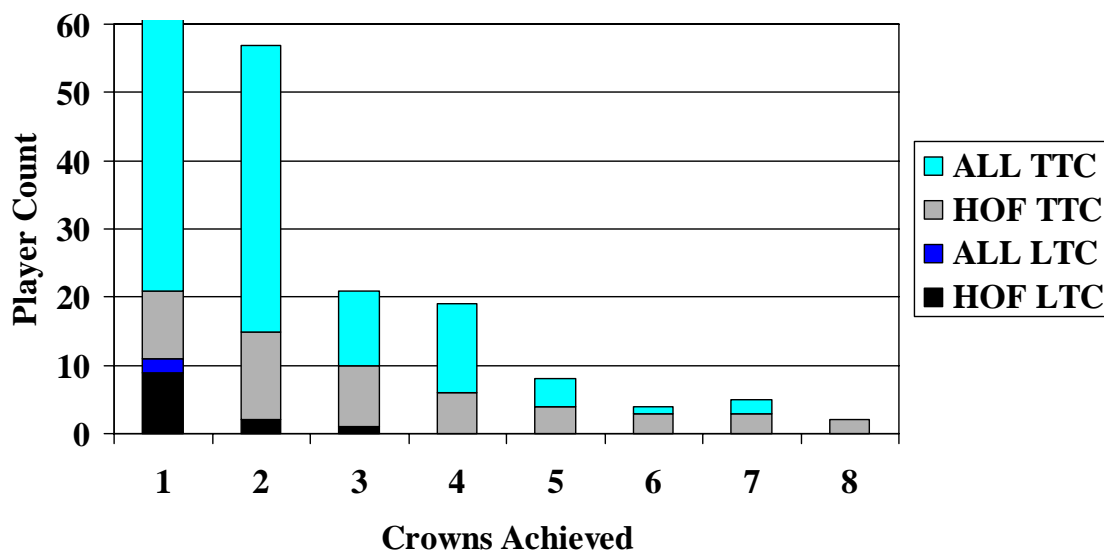
Player ID	TTC	First-Last	LTC
Anderson, G.	1	2003	0
Beltran	1	2003	0
Berkman	1	2002	0
Bonds, Ba.	6	1993-2003	0
Delgado	1	2000	0
Floyd	2	1998-2001	0
Giambi, Ja.	3	1998-2001	0
Giles	2	1999-2002	0
Gonzalez, L.	1	2001	0
Green, S.	1	2002	0
Guerrero, V.	4	1998-2002	0
Helton	1	2000	0
Huff, A.	1	2003	0
Jones, Chip.	1	2000	0
Klesko	1	2002	0
Nevin	2	2000-2001	0
Ordonez	1	2002	0
Piazza	5	1993-2001	0
Pujols	3	2001-2003	0
Ramirez, M.	4	1998-2001	0
Rodriguez, A.	1	2002	0
Sexson	1	2001	0
Sheffield	2	1996-2000	0
Simonra01	1	2002	0
Sosa, S.	4	1994-2002	0
Tejada	1	2002	0
Thomas, Fr.	7	1991-2000	0
Thome	1	2002	0
Young, D.	1	2003	0

Table 4 (data from graphs 2 and 3)

TTC Decade	Leagues	LTC	Teams
23 1870s	9	1	78
35 1880s	19	1	159
24 1890s	13	1	138
45 1900s	19	2	152
40 1910s	22	0	176
46 1920s	20	2	160
46 1930s	20	5	160
41 1940s	20	3	160
45 1950s	20	1	160
53 1960s	20	2	198
49 1970s	20	0	246
38 1980s	20	0	260
52 1990s	20	0	278
40 2000s	8	0	120

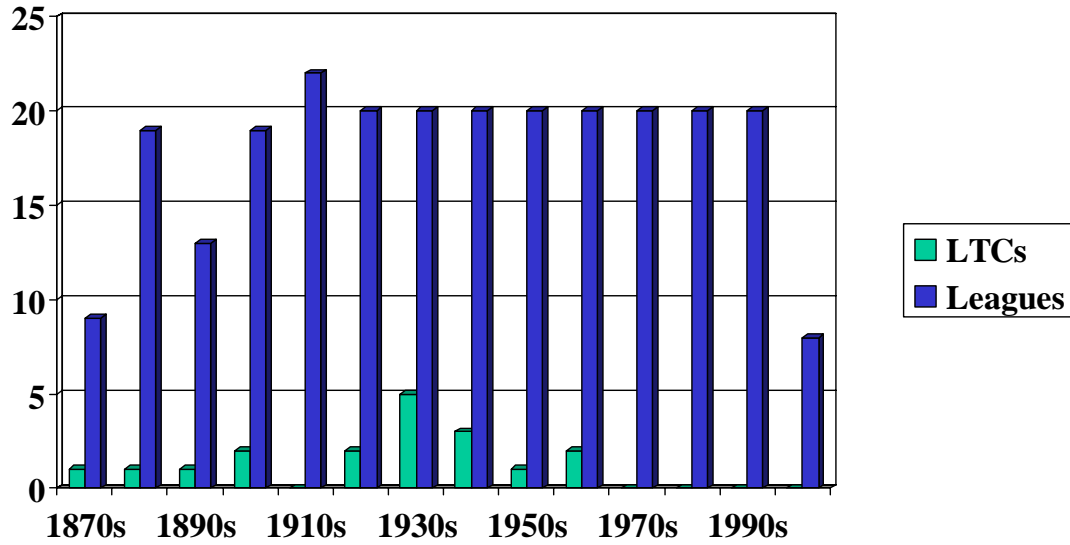
Graph 1

HOF LTC and TTC



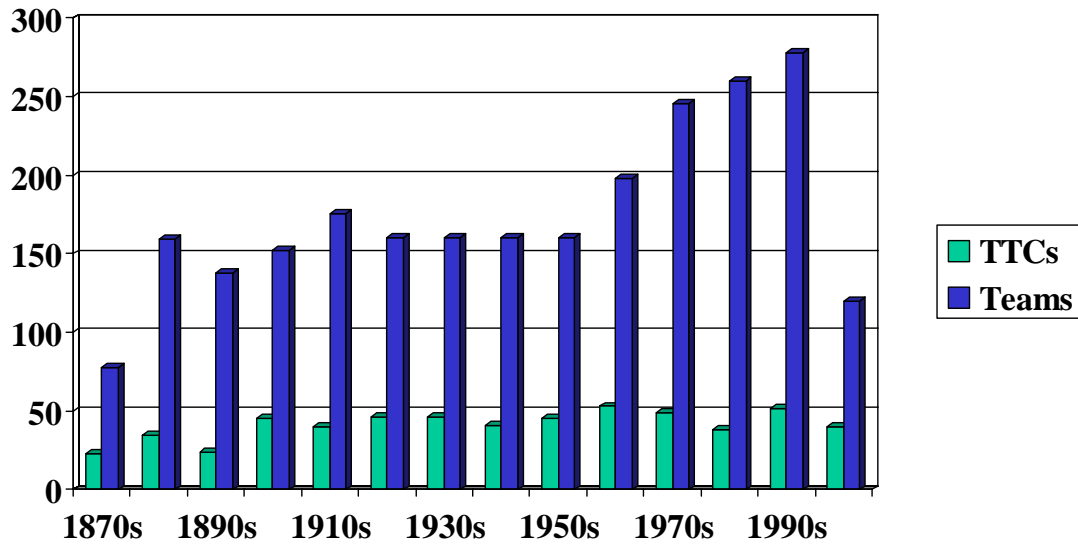
Graph 2

LTC vs Opportunity



Graph 3

TTC vs Opportunity



All players with at least 1 TTC in alphabetical order

Player ID	TTC	First	Last	LTC	Player ID	TTC	First	Last	LTC
aaronha01	5	1957	1969	0	cobbty01	3	1907	1911	1
ageeto01	1	1966	1966	0	colavro01	1	1958	1958	0
allendi01	4	1966	1972	0	colliri02	1	1934	1934	0
allisar01	1	1873	1873	0	comisch01	1	1883	1883	0
alvisma01	2	1963	1967	0	coninje01	1	1995	1995	0
anderga01	1	2003	2003	0	connoro01	2	1880	1884	0
anderjo01	1	1901	1901	0	cowenal01	1	1977	1977	0
averiea01	1	1933	1933	0	cravaga01	3	1913	1917	0
bagweje01	2	1994	1996	0	crawfsa01	5	1901	1914	0
baineha01	1	1986	1986	0	crossla01	1	1898	1898	0
bakerfr01	1	1918	1918	0	cruzjo01	2	1979	1984	0
bankser01	4	1955	1959	0	cutshge01	1	1918	1918	0
barrysh01	1	1902	1902	0	dalyto01	1	1893	1893	0
bechtge01	1	1875	1875	0	davisch01	1	1994	1994	0
becklja01	4	1890	1899	0	daviser01	2	1987	1989	0
belleal01	2	1994	1998	0	davisge01	1	1897	1897	0
beltrca01	1	2003	2003	0	davisgl01	1	1989	1989	0
bennech01	1	1883	1883	0	davisha01	1	1905	1905	0
bergewa01	5	1930	1935	0	davisto02	1	1967	1967	0
berkmla01	1	2002	2002	0	daviswi02	1	1972	1972	0
bicheda01	1	1995	1995	0	delahed01	4	1896	1902	0
bondsba01	6	1993	2003	0	delahji01	1	1907	1907	0
bondsbo01	1	1971	1971	0	delgaca01	1	2000	2000	0
bonilbo01	1	1989	1989	0	demarfr02	1	1936	1936	0
bonurze01	1	1937	1937	0	demetdo01	1	1962	1962	0
boyerke01	2	1960	1961	0	demonge01	1	1901	1901	0
branski01	1	1908	1908	0	dennyje01	1	1887	1887	0
brettge01	1	1980	1980	0	devermi01	1	1992	1992	0
brognri01	1	1995	1995	0	dimagjo01	4	1938	1948	0
broutda01	3	1882	1885	0	donlimi01	1	1908	1908	0
brownpe01	2	1885	1888	0	doughpa01	1	1909	1909	0
brownto01	2	1882	1885	0	duffech01	1	1891	1891	0
brunato01	1	1992	1992	0	duffyhu01	1	1894	1894	1
bucknbi01	1	1981	1981	0	edench01	1	1879	1879	0
burnsji01	1	1889	1889	0	elliobo01	1	1947	1947	0
caldeiv01	2	1989	1991	0	ennisde01	4	1946	1952	0
cansejo01	1	1988	1988	0	evansst01	1	1914	1914	0
carpehi01	1	1882	1882	0	fairlro01	1	1972	1972	0
carrofr01	1	1887	1887	0	falkbi01	2	1926	1927	0
cashno01	1	1972	1972	0	felscha01	1	1917	1917	0
castijo01	1	1980	1980	0	flemile01	1	1942	1942	0
cepedor01	1	1961	1961	0	flickel01	1	1900	1900	0
cervbo01	1	1958	1958	0	floydcl01	2	1998	2001	0
chancfr01	1	1905	1905	0	foranji01	1	1871	1871	0
chaseha01	1	1916	1916	0	fostege01	1	1977	1977	0
clarkja01	1	1980	1980	0	fournja01	1	1923	1923	0
clarkto02	1	1998	1998	0	foxxji01	6	1932	1938	2
clarkwi02	1	1987	1987	0	freambu01	2	1899	1901	0
clemero01	2	1963	1967	0	fregoji01	1	1965	1965	0

PlayerID	TTC	First	Last	LTC	PlayerID	TTC	First	Last	LTC
galaran01	1	1988	1988	0	jonescl01	1	1971	1971	0
garvest01	1	1979	1979	0	jordati01	1	1908	1908	0
gehrich01	1	1933	1933	0	joynewa01	1	1987	1987	0
gehrilo01	2	1934	1935	1	kalinal01	2	1963	1967	0
gentiji01	1	1961	1961	0	kauffbe01	1	1915	1915	0
gessldo01	1	1908	1908	0	kempst01	1	1979	1979	0
giambja01	3	1998	2001	0	kennete02	2	1982	1983	0
gilesbr02	2	1999	2002	0	kinerra01	3	1947	1951	0
gonzaju03	1	1993	1993	0	kingmda01	1	1979	1979	0
gonzalu01	1	2001	2001	0	kleinch01	3	1930	1933	1
gordosi01	2	1951	1952	0	kleskry01	1	2002	2002	0
gosligo01	4	1924	1928	0	kluszte01	5	1950	1955	0
greenda01	1	1903	1903	0	koneted01	3	1909	1915	0
greenha01	2	1938	1940	0	krukjo01	1	1991	1991	0
greensh01	1	2002	2002	0	kurowwh01	1	1945	1945	0
griffke02	2	1993	1994	0	lajoina01	3	1901	1910	1
griffto01	1	1915	1915	0	langebi01	1	1895	1895	0
grimera01	2	1921	1922	0	lankfra01	1	1997	1997	0
guerrpe01	3	1982	1987	0	larkihe01	1	1892	1892	0
guerrvl01	4	1998	2002	0	lemonch01	1	1979	1979	0
hafeych01	1	1931	1931	0	lennoed01	1	1914	1914	0
hallge01	1	1876	1876	0	litwhda01	1	1942	1942	0
halliji01	1	1876	1876	0	loberha01	1	1908	1908	0
harpege02	1	1925	1925	0	luderfr01	1	1911	1911	0
harpeto01	1	1970	1970	0	luffhe01	1	1875	1875	0
hattogr01	1	1946	1946	0	lumleha01	1	1904	1904	0
hausejo01	1	1923	1923	0	luzingr01	2	1972	1977	0
heathje01	1	1941	1941	0	lyonsde01	1	1887	1887	0
heilmha01	7	1921	1930	0	mageesh01	4	1906	1915	0
heltoto01	1	2000	2000	0	mannija01	1	1884	1884	0
hermaba01	4	1926	1933	0	mantlmi01	3	1956	1958	1
hinespa01	4	1873	1886	1	manushe01	1	1932	1932	0
hintoch01	1	1962	1962	0	matheed01	1	1953	1953	0
hollibu01	4	1889	1894	0	mattido01	2	1985	1986	0
holmeto01	1	1945	1945	0	maybejo01	1	1981	1981	0
hornebo01	1	1979	1979	0	mayswi01	7	1954	1965	0
hornsro01	8	1916	1928	2	mccorfr01	4	1940	1944	0
hortoto01	1	1969	1969	0	mccovwi01	2	1968	1969	0
hortowi01	1	1975	1975	0	mcgrifr01	2	1994	1995	0
howarfr01	7	1965	1971	0	mcgwima01	2	1987	1996	0
huffau01	1	2003	2003	0	mckeaed01	1	1888	1888	0
hummejo01	1	1909	1909	0	mcquige02	1	1939	1939	0
jacksjo01	5	1911	1919	0	medwijo01	2	1935	1937	1
jacksre01	2	1973	1979	0	mejiaro01	1	1962	1962	0
johnsbo01	3	1938	1942	0	mertesa01	1	1900	1900	0
johnsho01	1	1989	1989	0	meyerle01	2	1871	1873	0
johnsro02	1	1933	1933	0	milledo03	1	1911	1911	0
jonesch01	1	1876	1876	0	milledu01	1	1895	1895	0
jonesch06	1	2000	2000	0	minosmi01	2	1953	1954	0

PlayerID	TTC	First	Last	LTC	PlayerID	TTC	First	Last	LTC
mitchmi01	1	1909	1909	0	sauerha01	1	1954	1954	0
mizejo01	3	1940	1946	0	scottge02	1	1975	1975	0
mulvejo01	1	1885	1885	0	sexsori01	1	2001	2001	0
murcebo01	3	1971	1973	0	sheckji01	1	1901	1901	0
murphda05	4	1982	1985	0	sheffga01	2	1996	2000	0
murraed02	5	1981	1988	0	siebena01	3	1960	1962	0
murrare01	2	1907	1908	0	sievero01	2	1957	1958	0
musiast01	8	1943	1956	0	simmoal01	5	1925	1933	0
nevinph01	2	2000	2001	0	simmote01	2	1973	1978	0
nichobi01	1	1943	1943	0	simonra01	1	2002	2002	0
niemabo01	1	1952	1952	0	singlke01	1	1979	1979	0
norenir01	1	1950	1950	0	sislege01	2	1919	1920	0
northro01	1	1944	1944	0	slaugen01	1	1942	1942	0
obriebi01	1	1890	1890	0	smithel01	1	1896	1896	0
oneilpa01	1	1994	1994	0	smithre06	1	1971	1971	0
oneilti01	1	1887	1887	1	smootho01	1	1905	1905	0
ordonma01	1	2002	2002	0	soltemo01	1	1935	1935	0
orourji01	2	1876	1878	0	sosasa01	4	1994	2002	0
orrda01	4	1884	1889	0	southbi01	1	1919	1919	0
otisam01	2	1971	1978	0	speaktr01	2	1914	1923	0
ottme01	3	1936	1945	0	spencst01	1	1944	1944	0
pafkoan01	1	1948	1948	0	stahlch01	1	1906	1906	0
pagemi02	1	1978	1978	0	stahlja01	1	1904	1904	0
palmera01	2	1994	1995	0	stantle01	1	1977	1977	0
parkeda01	3	1978	1985	0	stargwi01	1	1973	1973	0
pendlte01	1	1992	1992	0	startjo01	2	1874	1875	0
pepitjo01	1	1966	1966	0	staubru01	2	1970	1971	0
piazzmi01	5	1993	2001	0	stephve01	2	1943	1945	0
pikeli01	3	1874	1876	0	stewabu01	1	1948	1948	0
pinsova01	1	1963	1963	0	stonege01	1	1906	1906	0
pippwa01	1	1916	1916	0	stoveha01	1	1884	1884	0
powelbo01	2	1963	1975	0	suttoez01	2	1871	1885	0
prattde01	2	1912	1921	0	tartada01	1	1991	1991	0
puckeki01	1	1992	1992	0	tejadmi01	1	2002	2002	0
pujolal01	3	2001	2003	0	thomaf03	1	1954	1954	0
ramirma02	4	1998	2001	0	thomaf04	7	1991	2000	0
reichri01	1	1968	1968	0	thomeji01	1	2002	2002	0
reilljo01	2	1884	1888	0	thompsa01	2	1889	1894	0
reynoca01	1	1929	1929	0	thomsbo01	1	1949	1949	0
riceji01	2	1977	1978	0	torrejo01	1	1971	1971	0
ripkeca01	1	1991	1991	0	tresh01	1	1965	1965	0
roberle01	1	1978	1978	0	triangu01	1	1955	1955	0
robined01	2	1949	1952	0	troskha01	2	1934	1939	0
robinfr02	6	1960	1973	1	tucketo01	2	1888	1889	0
rodrial01	1	2002	2002	0	unglabo01	1	1909	1909	0
rosenal01	1	1953	1953	0	vanhage01	1	1892	1892	0
roushed01	3	1920	1925	0	vanslan01	1	1988	1988	0
ruthba01	7	1918	1926	0	vaughar01	1	1935	1935	0
santoro01	3	1963	1967	0	vaughmo01	1	1996	1996	0

PlayerID	TTC	First	Last	LTC
vernomi01	1	1953	1953	0
wagneho01	4	1904	1908	0
walkecu01	1	1927	1927	0
walkela01	1	1992	1992	0
walketi01	1	1914	1914	0
wallabo01	1	1904	1904	0
wallati01	1	1990	1990	0
walshji01	1	1915	1915	0
wanerpa01	1	1927	1927	0
wardpe01	1	1963	1963	0
waterfr01	1	1872	1872	0
webbea01	2	1930	1931	0
welchcu01	1	1885	1885	0
wertzvi01	1	1953	1953	0
wheatza01	1	1922	1922	0
whitede01	1	1877	1877	0
whitede03	1	1998	1998	0
willibi01	3	1965	1972	0
willicy01	4	1916	1924	0
williji01	1	1899	1899	0
willite01	6	1941	1951	3
wilsoha01	2	1926	1930	0
winfida01	2	1978	1979	0
wolfji01	1	1890	1890	0
wynnji01	1	1965	1965	0
yastrca01	2	1967	1974	1
youngdm01	1	2003	2003	0
yountro01	1	1984	1984	0
zimmehe01	1	1912	1912	0
zwilldu01	1	1914	1914	0