

# **Most Runs Batted In Individual Player American League Lifetime**

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**SABR-42**

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***Lou Gehrig's RBI Record***

# ***The Elias Book of Baseball Records*** **2012 Edition (page 26)**

## **Most Runs Batted In, League**

- **2202 – Hank Aaron, NL: MIL/ATL 1954-1974**
- **1994 – Lou Gehrig, AL: NY 1923-1939**

# ***The Elias Book of Baseball Records***

## **Lou Gehrig's RBI Record**

- 1994 RBIs – 2012 Edition
- 1996 RBIs – 2007-2011 Editions
- 1995 RBIs – 1996-2006 Editions
- 1990 RBIs – 1974-1995 Editions
- 1991 RBIs – 1973 Edition\*

\* Also *The Little Red Book of Baseball* – 1940-1963 Editions

# How Many Career RBIs Did Gehrig Actually Have?

## RESEARCH PROCEDURE:

Ascertain complete details for *each* and *every* run scored by the Yankees in *each* and *every* game Gehrig played.

# RETROSHEET

## Enabler of Baseball Research

- (1) Compare RBI stats in unproofed Retrosheet PBPs with RBI stats in official DBD records.
- (2) Get RBI stats from newspaper accounts for games with no Retrosheet PBPs and compare with RBI stats in official DBD records.
- (3) Resolve RBI discrepancies via multiple newspaper accounts.
- (4) Report findings – RBI-Errors and Corrections.

# Lou Gehrig's RBI Record (1923-1930)

*The Baseball Research Journal* (Fall-2011)

| <u>Year</u>   | <u>DBD</u> | <u>SABR</u> | <u>Elias</u>   | <u>Actual</u> |
|---------------|------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|
| <b>1923</b>   | <b>9</b>   | <b>9</b>    | <b>?</b>       | <b>→ 8</b>    |
| <b>1924</b>   | <b>5</b>   | <b>5</b>    | <b>?</b>       | <b>5</b>      |
| <b>1925</b>   | <b>68</b>  | <b>68</b>   | <b>?</b>       | <b>• 68</b>   |
| <b>1926</b>   | <b>107</b> | <b>112</b>  | <b>?</b>       | <b>→ 109</b>  |
| <b>*1927*</b> | <b>175</b> | <b>175</b>  | <b>175→173</b> | <b>→ 173</b>  |
| <b>*1928*</b> | <b>142</b> | <b>142</b>  | <b>146→147</b> | <b>→ 147</b>  |
| <b>1929</b>   | <b>126</b> | <b>126</b>  | <b>?</b>       | <b>→ 125</b>  |
| <b>*1930*</b> | <b>174</b> | <b>174</b>  | <b>174→173</b> | <b>→ 173</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>806</b> | <b>811</b>  | <b>?</b>       | <b>→ 808</b>  |

# Lou Gehrig's RBI Record (1931-1939)

| <u>Year</u>   | <u>DBD</u>  | <u>SABR</u> | <u>Elias</u> | <u>Actual</u> |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|
| <b>*1931*</b> | <b>184</b>  | <b>184</b>  | <b>184</b>   |               |
| <b>1932</b>   | <b>151</b>  | <b>151</b>  | <b>?</b>     |               |
| <b>1933</b>   | <b>139</b>  | <b>139</b>  | <b>?</b>     |               |
| <b>*1934*</b> | <b>165</b>  | <b>165</b>  | <b>165</b>   |               |
| <b>1935</b>   | <b>119</b>  | <b>119</b>  | <b>?</b>     |               |
| <b>1936</b>   | <b>152</b>  | <b>152</b>  | <b>?</b>     |               |
| <b>1937</b>   | <b>159</b>  | <b>159</b>  | <b>?</b>     |               |
| <b>1938</b>   | <b>114</b>  | <b>114</b>  | <b>?</b>     |               |
| <b>1939</b>   | <b>1</b>    | <b>1</b>    | <b>?</b>     |               |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>1184</b> | <b>1184</b> | <b>?</b>     |               |

# 1931 – 15 RBI-error games (12 players)

## 6 RBI-error games for Gehrig

| <u>Date</u> | <u>DBD</u> | <u>ACT</u> | <u>RBI-Error</u>                 |
|-------------|------------|------------|----------------------------------|
| 4-21        | 2          | 3          | Mix-up – Babe Ruth               |
| 4-22        | 2          | 1          | Mix-up – Tony Lazzeri            |
| 5-03        | 0          | 1          | Botched decision – RBI grounder  |
| 7-01        | 2          | 1          | Mix-up – Ben Chapman             |
| 7-02        | 2          | 1          | Mix-up – Jimmy Reese             |
| 7-08(1)     | 0          | 2          | Mix-up – Sammy Byrd              |
| Total       | 8          | 9          | ➔ Gehrig had 185 RBIs (not 184). |



**1932 – 5 RBI-error games (6 players)**

**0 RBI-error games for Gehrig**

- **Gehrig had 151 RBIs.**

# 1933 – 13 RBI-error games (11 players)

## 1 RBI-error game for Gehrig

| <u>Date</u> | <u>DBD</u> | <u>ACT</u> | <u>RBI-Error</u>   |
|-------------|------------|------------|--|
| 9-29        | 1          | 2          | Botched Decision – 1 runner scored on bases-loaded walk; 1 runner scored on sacrifice fly. |
| Total       | 1          | 2          | ➔ Gehrig had 140 RBIs (not 139).   |

# 1934 – 5 RBI-error games (6 players)

## 1 RBI-error game for Gehrig

| <u>Date</u> | <u>DBD</u> | <u>ACT</u> | <u>RBI-Error</u>                 |
|-------------|------------|------------|----------------------------------|
| 5-18        | 1          | 2          | Mix-up – Harry Smythe            |
| Total       | 1          | 2          | ➔ Gehrig had 166 RBIs (not 165). |

# 1935 – 8 RBI-error games (10 players)

## 1 RBI-error game for Gehrig

| <u>Date</u> | <u>DBD</u> | <u>ACT</u> | <u>RBI-Error</u>                 |
|-------------|------------|------------|----------------------------------|
| 6-08 (2)    | 0          | 1          | Mix-up – Ben Chapman             |
| Total       | 0          | 1          | ➔ Gehrig had 120 RBIs (not 119). |

# 1936 – 11 RBI-error games (8 players)

## 2 RBI-error games for Gehrig

| <u>Date</u> | <u>DBD</u> | <u>ACT</u> | <u>RBI-Error</u>        |
|-------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|
| 4-15        | 0          | 1          | Mix-up – George Selkirk |
| 9-04        | 1          | 0          | Mix-up – Jake Powell    |
| Total       | 1          | 1          | ➔ Gehrig had 152 RBIs.  |

# 1937 – 9 RBI-error games (9 players)

## 1 RBI-error game for Gehrig

| <u>Date</u> | <u>DBD</u> | <u>ACT</u> | <u>RBI-Error</u>                 |
|-------------|------------|------------|----------------------------------|
| 6-07        | 2          | 1          | Mix-up – Bill Dickey             |
| Total       | 2          | 1          | ➔ Gehrig had 158 RBIs (not 159). |

# 1938 – 9 RBI-error games (9 players)

## 2 RBI-error games for Gehrig

| <u>Date</u> | <u>DBD</u> | <u>ACT</u> | <u>RBI-Error</u>   |
|-------------|------------|------------|--|
| 5-13        | 3          | 2          | Botched decision – runner scored on 2-out error; 2 runners scored on a 2-RBI single. |
| 5-28        | 1          | 2          | Mix-up – Joe DiMaggio  |
| Total       | 4          | 4          | ➔ Gehrig had 114 RBIs.   |

**1939 – No RBI-error games thru April 30**  
**0 RBI-error games for Gehrig**

- **Gehrig had 1 RBI.**



# Lou Gehrig's RBI Record (1923-1939)

| <u>Year</u>      | <u>DBD</u>  | <u>SABR</u> | <u>Elias</u> | <u>Actual</u> |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|
| <b>1923-1930</b> | <b>806</b>  | <b>811</b>  | <b>?</b>     | <b>➔ 808</b>  |
| <b>*1931*</b>    | <b>184</b>  | <b>184</b>  | <b>184</b>   | <b>➔ 185</b>  |
| <b>1932</b>      | <b>151</b>  | <b>151</b>  | <b>?</b>     | <b>151</b>    |
| <b>1933</b>      | <b>139</b>  | <b>139</b>  | <b>?</b>     | <b>➔ 140</b>  |
| <b>*1934*</b>    | <b>165</b>  | <b>165</b>  | <b>165</b>   | <b>➔ 166</b>  |
| <b>1935</b>      | <b>119</b>  | <b>119</b>  | <b>?</b>     | <b>➔ 120</b>  |
| <b>1936</b>      | <b>152</b>  | <b>152</b>  | <b>?</b>     | <b>• 152</b>  |
| <b>1937</b>      | <b>159</b>  | <b>159</b>  | <b>?</b>     | <b>➔ 158</b>  |
| <b>1938</b>      | <b>114</b>  | <b>114</b>  | <b>?</b>     | <b>• 114</b>  |
| <b>1939</b>      | <b>1</b>    | <b>1</b>    | <b>?</b>     | <b>1</b>      |
| <b>TOTAL</b>     | <b>1990</b> | <b>1995</b> | <b>1994</b>  | <b>➔ 1995</b> |

# Most RBIs – Player – Career – AL

- Elias Sports Bureau:

1991 → 1990 → 1995 → 1996 → 1994 → ?

– Lou Gehrig, AL: NY 1923-1939

- My Research:

1995 – Lou Gehrig, AL: NY 1923-1939

# Most RBIs – Player – Career – AL

## **Babe Ruth – what about him?**

### *The Little Red Book of Baseball* (1936-1971):

- 2197 – George H. Ruth, AL: BOS/NY 1914-1934

### *The Elias Book of Baseball Records* (2012):

- 1994 – Lou Gehrig, AL: NY 1923-1939

(Since 1920 – Prior seasons not compiled on official scores.)

# RETROSHEET

## Board Meeting

### Babe Ruth's AL RBI Record

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June 30, 2012

# Lou Gehrig's AL RBI Record

## **CONCLUSIONS:**

- **Corrected 48 RBI-Errors in Gehrig's record.**
- **Achieved more accurate RBI record for Gehrig.**
- **BUT, R/RBI details still needed for 51 games – 100% agreement between boxscores and DBD.**

# Acknowledgments

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