

## **In-Season Exhibition Games (or ISEGs)**

**By Walter LeConte**  
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In-Season Exhibition Games (or ISEGs, no hyphen, is an acronym created by moi and pronounced eye seg, that last syllable rhyming with egg), have been around since the beginnings of Major League baseball. I have found evidence from historical newspapers that these games have been around prior to the inaugural season of the National League in 1876. See the two companion files ([1871 - 1920](#) and [1921-2009](#)) for detailed listing of ISEGs discovered to date. For technical reasons related to the website, they must be presented as separate lists.

While creating “cash cows” for owners, these games were a way for players to practice their skills on the road, while providing meager “pocket change” for them. As a result, many players were presented with a great opportunity to “tryout” with a club. Sometimes, ISEGs were also vehicles through which such events as charity games and “special days” honoring specific players could be staged.

Many ISEGs offered the opportunity for local heroes to be honored. One of the most memorable of these occurred in Los Angeles, California. In the Memorial Coliseum on 5/7 1959, Roy Campanella was honored as a record crowd of 93,103 looked on. In that game, the New York Yankees (A) defeated the Los Angeles Dodgers (N), 6-2. Examples of other such “days” included such players as: Zach Wheat (1927)—Brooklyn NY, Billy Rhiel (1929)—Brooklyn, NY, Honus Wagner (1933)—Paterson NJ, Rabbit Maranville (1934)—Boston MA, John McGraw (1938)—Truxton NY, Monte Stratton (1939)—Chicago IL, and George “Specs” Toporcer (1952)—Buffalo NY. Also, many ISEGs were played so that charitable funds could be created for disasters such as the San Francisco earthquake (1906) and the Titanic (1912). Through the decades, ISEGs have provided a means through which numerous other special/charitable events could be staged.

The heyday of ISEGs was the four-year period 1942 through 1945, the World War II years, when 332 were played, an average of exactly 83 per season. In the year 1943, there were 106 ISEGs played, this being the *most in any one season*. In the United States during World War II, there was a dramatic rise in patriotism. ISEGs played an important role whereby national solidarity could be demonstrated in such ways as allowing fans to purchase War Bonds and to celebrate the heroism of thousands of veterans who were fighting overseas. On numerous occasions, soldiers, in large numbers, were guests at these games. A touching example of such a tribute which involves Purple Heart recipients will be presented later in the section called “interesting games”, entry #3. Also, see entry #5 in the same section regarding a tribute to veterans of World War I.

Many clubs had ISEGs scheduled annually with their farm teams, college clubs and against other Major League teams. Examples of such games (which no longer exist) are the Mayor’s Trophy Game pitting the Yankees (A) against the Mets (N) and the Boston Red Sox (A)/Boston Braves (N) games versus the Holy Cross Crusaders, a university team. Also, it was customary, many years ago, for Major League clubs to schedule and play ISEGs the Monday before the annual All-Star Game.

Such players as Dizzy Dean, Bob Feller and Frank “Home Run” Baker and others made a stink about playing in ISEGs. In fact, in 1917, Home Run Baker refused to play in an exhibition game believing he was not

under contract to play such a game. New York Yankees (A) owner, Jacob Ruppert, suspended Baker for a couple of days for failure to play. It seems that owners felt that players should play in ISEGs whenever and wherever directed to do so. This was the case until the Collective Bargaining Agreements of the 1970s regulated the number of in-season exhibition games. At one time, three ISEGs were permitted through the CBA, and then two could be scheduled. For several years now, the only one allowed is the annual Hall of Fame Game in Cooperstown, New York, which is the longest-running ISEG.

To commemorate baseball's centennial in 1939 and on the day that the Hall of Fame Museum was dedicated, an all-star squad was put together by Eddie Collins and Honus Wagner to play a game at Cooperstown, New York. On 6/12 at Doubleday Field, a team called the "Collineses" met the "Wagners" and every Major League club had a representative play in the game except the Chicago White Sox (A). In addition, Babe Ruth made a hitless appearance as a pinch hitter (popping out to the catcher) in the 5<sup>th</sup> inning. The Wagners came out on top, 4-2, in a 7 inning contest.

My interest in ISEGs was rekindled in 2006, when Dr. Dave W. Smith of Retrosheet fame elicited volunteers with a post on RetroList. To pursue this, I hardily delved into this research full bore! I volunteered to become the "central person" that would begin to compile and coordinate a list of ISEGs. I say a rekindled interest in this subject as I had scratched the surface in the early 80s when I was compiling New York Yankee game scores from the New York Times. As I was doing microfilm research of game scores, mainly at my alma mater of Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, I also began to enumerate a list of ISEGs, usually including mostly New York teams (Yankees-AL, Giants-NL and Dodgers-NL) among others, which began revealing themselves to me through my efforts. The game score work was completed over a period of several years and eventually this research became a major focal point in my book entitled *The Ultimate New York Yankees Record Book*, which was published in 1984 by Leisure Press. Since 1984, I have minimally researched ISEGs—but then, pow (!), Dave came along as a catalyst for me to continue research on these games. I am grateful to him for presenting me with this opportunity to delve into a relatively unknown research area. What made this project easier and more attractive to me was the advent of the digitization of major newspapers, making them searchable for specific term queries. The Mid-Continent Library, near my home in Lee's Summit, Missouri, had (and still has) ProQuest available to patrons online and so my research began in earnest. First, it was necessary to operationally define what was and wasn't an ISEG. I came up with:

**“it is a game that was not a league contest in which at least one Major League club or a combination of Major League clubs participated during the championship season of the league that it was a part”.**

It was common in the early days for leagues to open their respective schedules a week apart. In situations like this, if one Major League team started its season and the other one did not and they played one another, *it was counted* as an ISEG. I used the opening and closing dates of each league (from official schedules found on RetroSheet) to determine if my ISEG parameters were met. In order to verify that a game qualified as an ISEG, I used the information found (sometimes a narrative only—no linescore or box but score included, narrative with linescore, narrative with box score and often times, a score only) to search in reference works such as *Total Baseball*. If the pitchers/batters were listed in their respective registers, I then performed one more step. Generally, I'd check the RetroSheet game logs often to see if the team or teams had an idle date. At this point, I credited this particular game as an ISEG.

ISEGs did not have to be comprised of players from *one team* as in the annual All-Star Game or a game where members of different clubs would play a contest against a minor league club. I did not include so-called Old Timers Day games as ISEGs. Usually these games were limited to three innings or so and thus

were not games of regulation length. Using ProQuest Historical Newspapers, baseball resources I possess in my home and other online sites, such as Newspaper Archives, I generally made queries under such search terms as “exhibition game” and “exhibition baseball”, the former having the most hits by far. Boolean searches using “and” and “or” (exhibition *and* baseball, exhibition *and* game) were also utilized, but not with much success. It took about 5 months to find a majority of the ISEGs included in my list presented on this site.

**Since there were no season schedules for such games, it is improbable that EVERY ISEG can be found.** There is not a season total that a researcher can compare their findings with, so one can never be certain that their research was 100% complete. From time to time, I found a listing of upcoming ISEGs (generally, the week before or day before the game) in various newspapers but only one exhaustive in-season schedule was ever found. In April 1940, the New York Yankees (A) released a schedule of seven Minor League opponents they would be facing during the championship season. Some ISEGs were arranged hastily over a period of days so that clubs on a road trip could engage in such a game, some of those being found only through careful scrutiny. Sometimes, daily blurbs in newspapers (such as “baseball brevities”) in Major League cities, such as New York and Chicago, could reveal details about a forthcoming ISEG.

A common challenge that would crop up when searching the term “exhibition game” was getting hits regarding a plethora of other sporting activities. Examples of these that were actually found included: football (college and pro), basketball (college and pro), hockey (college and pro), soccer, tennis, golf, lacrosse, jai alai, bowling, billiards, polo, cricket, table tennis (ping pong), darts, croquet, badminton, squash, softball and of course, baseball! Tiddlywinks anyone?!

At a minimum, I tried to find basic information such as game date, game score, location (state, city and stadium name), teams participating (if Major League, their league; if non-Major League, their league or affiliation and nickname), attendance figures and time of game, day or night game and weather conditions at game time. Innings played were noted if more or less than nine. Tie games would have innings played regardless of length. In addition, notable feats for teams and individual players such as no-hitters, triple plays, hitting for the cycle, multi-homer games, grand slams, strikeouts by pitcher and so forth were noted when available. Also, an attempt was made to cite the reason for the game (for example, selling War Bonds, the Mayor’s Trophy Game, etc.) Many examples of **notable feats** are presented elsewhere in this narrative.

**Grateful thank yous to the following helpful hands that made my ISEG research easier:**

**Kathy Hartley**, my better half, who listened incessantly to my struggles and joys regarding this research

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**Some salient findings—**

Since my research beginning in October 2006, some 2,800 ISEGs have been found SO FAR--**when looking at the data, keep found SO FAR in the back of your mind.** I suspect numerous additional ISEGS are to be found in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century—125 have now been discovered. Of the seven principal leagues that have represented the Major Leagues since 1871, At least one ISEG has been found for the following four leagues: National League, American League, American Association and Federal League. For the remaining three leagues, no ISEGs have been found for: National Association, Union Association and Players League. It's finding them that's the rub!

**Description of the type of ISEG game information found—**

Some games may have a brief narrative in addition to the information listed below. A few play-by-plays were discovered, usually involving ISEGs of the Pittsburgh Pirates (N).

Linescores*	1402 games	50.1 %
Box scores	766	27.3 %
Scores only@	593	21.2 %
R-H-E#	39	1.4 %
Totals>>>>>>	2800	100.0 %

\*an Inning-by-inning account with runs, hits, errors, pitcher and catcher and sometimes info about homers  
 @Some include short (usually) narratives with score given, others include score only  
 #Runs, hits and errors listed (no inning-by-inning totals)

**ISEGs found by opposition description (20+)—**

So far, the most common opposition description (530) involves one Major League club against another. On the ISEG spreadsheet, found elsewhere on this site, This represents 19% of the total ISEGs found so far.

Major vs. Major League	530
No league found*	399
International League	363
Eastern League	252
Military clubs	228
American Association	185
Semi-Pro	109
Inter-State League	91
Pacific Coast League	57
New York State League	55
College teams	54
Three-I League	42
Middle Atlantic League	40
New York—Penn League	39
New England League	34

\*Indicates an opponent's league was not found listed in  
*Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball*—A TERRIFIC tome!

**Non-Major League opponent clubs vs. Major League clubs (30+ games)—**

Baltimore Orioles (61 games), Toronto Maple Leafs (48 games), Indianapolis Indians (46 games), Buffalo Bisons (44 games), Rochester Red Wings (39 games), Albany Senators (37 games), Toledo Mud Hens (33 games), Great Lakes Bluejackets (32 games) and Army Cadets (30 games), the latter 2 being military clubs.

**College teams faced in ISEGs—**

Major League clubs played 54 games versus college teams. The most frequent opponent for the big leaguers were the Santa Clara Broncos (10 games), the Holy Cross Crusaders (8 games) and the Yale Elis with three games. The San Francisco Giants (N) faced the most collegians with 10 games, followed by the Boston Braves (N) with 7 games, the Boston Red Sox (A) with six and 3 clubs tied with three apiece: the Chicago Cubs (N), New York Yankees (A), Philadelphia Phillies (N) and the Saint Louis Cardinals (N).

**Combined teams—**

Several ISEGs were comprised of players from different Major League teams that faced non-Major Leaguers. A good example of this was the contest that occurred at Yankee Stadium on 7/28 1943. After Cleveland (A) whipped the Yankees (A) in the first game, 11-6, a second game was on the way. Chapel Hill's (South Carolina) Navy Pre-Flight School club, known as the Cloudbusters, played a combined squad of New York Yankees (A) and Cleveland Indians (A), cleverly named the Yank-Lands. The latter team was managed by none other than Babe Ruth, who appeared in the 6<sup>th</sup> inning and walked. He was then replaced by a pinch-runner. In the game witnessed by a crowd of 27,281, the Cloudbusters blasted the Yank-Lands by a score of 11-5.

**ISEGs found by state (60+ games, 13 states)—**

ISEGs were not found for 7 states: Alaska, Hawaii, Mississippi, Montana, North Dakota, Vermont and Wyoming. Canada has hosted 102 exhibitions. I attended an ISEG in my hometown of New Orleans on Monday, May 16, 1977. Playing at the Louisiana Superdome, the Saint Louis Cardinals (N) defeated the New Orleans Pelicans of the American Association, 11-2 before a crowd of 9,049! Thought that fact may help some sleep better at night—ha!

New York	540 games
Pennsylvania	306
Ohio	272
New Jersey	252
Connecticut	163
Illinois	157
Massachusetts	128
Indiana	113
Rhode Island	106
Maryland	104
Michigan	94
Ontario*	72

Wisconsin 60

\*Canada

**ISEGs found by city (40+ games, 16 cities)—**

Was thinking of breaking ISEGs down by zip code but decided against it—just kidding!

New York, NY*	96
Baltimore, MD	66
Rochester, NY	65
Cooperstown, NY	64
Newark, NJ	62
Toronto, ON#	60
Syracuse, NY	55
Pittsburgh, PA	53
New Haven, CT	50
Indianapolis, IN	48
Cleveland, OH	47
Buffalo, NY	46
Milwaukee, WI	43
Toledo, OH	43
Albany, NY	42
<u>Cincinnati, OH</u>	<u>41</u>

\*totals by boroughs—Manhattan--29, the Bronx--25, Brooklyn--25, Queens--13 and Staten Island--4

# Canada

**ISEGs found involving only Major League teams (100+ games = 14 clubs)—**

316	New York Yankees (A)
219	Boston Red Sox (A)
217	Pittsburgh Pirates (N)
213	New York Giants (N)
198	Chicago Cubs (N)
191	Cincinnati Reds (N)
171	Boston Braves (N)
171	Philadelphia Athletics (A)
160	Saint Louis Cardinals (N)
159	Brooklyn Dodgers (N)
155	Chicago White Sox (A)
140	Detroit Tigers (A)
138	Cleveland Indians (A)
<u>138</u>	<u>Philadelphia Phillies (N)</u>

**In games involving one Major League club versus another, the most common cities in which game were played (20+ games)—**

So far, 530 ISEGs have been found that involve one Major League club against another or 19% of the total

60	Cooperstown, New York (Hall Of Fame Game)
59	New York-Manhattan (18), Brooklyn (15), The Bronx (14), Queens (12) and Staten Island (0)
46	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
41	Cleveland, Ohio
38	Cincinnati, Ohio
35	Chicago, Illinois
28	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
24	Detroit, Michigan
<u>23</u>	<u>Boston, Massachusetts</u>

In games involving *one* Major League club, their record versus non-Major League clubs is a whopping 1,559 wins, 661 losses and 46 ties for a winning mark of .688! That's 114 wins in a 162 game schedule! That's 898 games above .500, folks!

**More info about Major League games versus the non-Majors—**

	Major League	Non-Major
One-run games won	231	273
Winning by 10+ runs	167	13
Greatest winning margin	25**	16#
20+ runs in a game	25	1
10+ runs in a game	450	107
Shutout by opponent	73	231
<u>Shutouts won</u>	<u>229</u>	<u>71</u>

\*\*Yankees won 31-6 (+25 runs) versus Mitchel (correct spelling—WL) Field, a military team, on 7/20 1943  
 ##Washington Senators (N) lost to the Providence Grays (Eastern League), 19-3 (+16) on 6/21 1896

**ISEGs played by days of the week (based on 2,800 ISEGs)—**

Monday	973	34.8 %
Sunday	550	19.6 %
Thursday	438	15.7 %
Tuesday	358	12.8 %
Wednesday	269	9.5 %
Friday	188	6.7 %
<u>Saturday</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>0.9 %</u>
Total:	2800	100.0 %

**ISEGs played by months of the year (based on 2,800 ISEGs)—**

July	701	25.0 %
August	599	21.4 %
June	555	19.8 %
May	383	13.7 %
September	348	12.4 %
April	184	6.6 %

October	30	1.1 %
Total:	2800	100.0 %

**Most ISEGs played in one year (50+)—**

Not surprisingly, the most were played during the U.S. involvement in World War II.

1943	106 ISEGs
1944	87
1942	75
1945	64
1915	63
1916	60
1923	59
<u>1917</u>	<u>57</u>

**Most ISEGs played by a Major League team in one year—**

<u>G</u>	<u>year</u>	<u>club</u>
16	1923	NY (A)
14	1915	NY (N)
14	1943	PHI (A)
13	1943	PHI (N)
12	1876	LOU (N)
12	1912	NY (A)
12	1915	NY (A)
12	1921	BOS (A)
11	1928	NY (A)
11	1932	NY (A)
<u>10</u>	<u>6 times, 6 clubs</u>	

**ISEGs by ten-year periods—**

1870-79	43 games
1880-89	27
1890-99	46
1900-09	232
1910-19	408
1920-29	438
1930-39	337
1940-49	526 (most)
1950-59	241
1960-69	225
1970-79	164
1980-89	70
1990-89	28



2000-07      15  
Total>>>>>> 2800 games

**Most ISEGs played in a month (25+ games)—**

32      August 1943  
30      July 1943  
29      July 1945  
28      June 1944  
27      June 1943  
25      August 1944

**Most ISEGs played on one day (6+)—**

On Monday 7/9 1945, ten ISEGs (!) took place involving 12 Major League clubs and 7 non-Major League squads. The Cleveland Indians (A) played two games on July 9. All of the games were played at night. Generally, this Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in July were part of the All-Star break but due to travel restrictions, the gala event was cancelled. Have not found games on this day for these four teams: Boston Red Sox (A), Philadelphia Phillies (N), Saint Louis Cardinals (N) and Washington Senators (A).

Other ISEG frequencies, one day—nine (1 time), eight (twice), seven (twice) and six (9 times)

**1st or 2<sup>nd</sup> games of doubleheaders—**

In-Season Exhibition Games were sometimes played as part of a doubleheader to attract a greater crowd as well as to sponsor some sort of charitable endeavor. Generally, the Major Leaguers would play the non-Major League club that was usually hosting the contest. However, there was a twinbill that was an exception to this rule in that it was the only game discovered so far that involved four different Major League teams playing in a Minor League host city! In fact, the newspapers confirmed the originality of these two games by billing it as the first interleague doubleheader exhibitions for charity. The proceeds of the games went to the erection of an addition to the local Hillcrest Hospital. On Monday 6/14 1937, these games were played in Charleston, West Virginia, which was the home of the Charleston Senators of the Middle Atlantic League. (An aside is the fact that the Senators were a farm team of the Detroit Tigers in spite of possessing the nickname associated with the Washington American League club). Now on to the game. The four Major League clubs involved were the Philadelphia Phillies (N)—the winner, 9-5--versus the Washington Senators (A) in the 1<sup>st</sup> game. This was followed by the Philadelphia Athletics (A) pitted against the Cincinnati Reds (N)—the winner, 6-4-- in the nightcap. An estimated crowd of 6,000 were entertained for several hours by this historic event. Boy, what a memorable afternoon in Charleston! This may be the only ISEG of this type—4 different teams, 2 AL, 2 NL---ever played and perhaps a second such game may be uncovered! However, only time will tell, especially as research using digitized newspapers is always speedily evolving! So far, I've uncovered 42 doubleheaders and they are listed on the ISEG spreadsheet in the column labeled with the # mark.

**Some notable ISEG feats—**

Many ISEGs found only had the score, date and site of the game. So, the items below are based on the best available research completed so far. It's sort of an "unofficial and incomplete" record book for ISEGs. Enjoy!

**Triple steal—**

On 6/9, 1943 at Great Lakes, Illinois, the Great Lakes Bluejackets, a military team, executed a triple steal in the 6<sup>th</sup> inning. The Blues beat the Chicago Cubs (N), 4-0, for their 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive victory. So far, this is the only triple steal documented in an ISEG.

**Stolen bases—**

On 8/1, 1960, the Los Angeles Dodgers (N) stole 8 bases, two each by Maury Wills and Tommy Davis and one apiece by Johnny Roseboro and Norm Sherry. Playing in St. Paul, Minnesota, the Dodgers beat their farmhands, 8-1.

**Runs batted in—**

On 5/31, 1950, Brooklyn Dodger (N) rookie, Bobby Morgan had 9 RBI, coming on two homers, one a slam in the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning. So far, this is the best RBI display in an ISEG. Three players, Babe Ruth, Chick Hafey and Joe Kelly each had 7 RBI. Kelly, playing for the Reading International League club, is the only non-Major League player to have as many RBI in an ISEG.

At the Toronto Maple Leafs of the International League, Babe Ruth of the New York Yankees (A) had six RBI in an inning and two homers in the game. Playing on 7/11 1930, the Babe blasted a grand slam and a double in the 2<sup>nd</sup> frame, finishing with 7 ribbies for the day, his last coming on a solo homer. The Yanks bested the Leafs, 16-11, in a slugfest.

**Runs in a game by teams—**

The New Yankees (A) defeated the Mitchel Field team by a score of 31-6 on 7/20/1943, the most in an ISEG

On 7/12 1935, the Boston Braves (N) defeated Wisconsin Rapids, 26-9, the 2<sup>nd</sup> most tallies in an ISEG

Only once has a non-Major League club scored 20+ runs against a big league foe in an ISEG. This occurred on 6/5 1944 when the Sampson Naval Training Center team whipped the Boston Red Sox (A), 20-7.

20+ runs were scored in a game on 27 different occasions, their frequencies in descending order are:  
31 runs (once), 26 (once), 25 (once), 24 (3 times), 23 (6 times), 22 (twice), 21 (thrice) and 20 (10 times)

Not surprisingly, the New York Yankees (A) lead the way with ten 20+ run games, Boston Braves (N) are in 2<sup>nd</sup> place with 5 such games

There have been 39 ISEGs played where both clubs, Major League and non-Major League, scored 10+ runs

**Runs scored in an inning—**

13 is the most by BOS (N) on 7/12 1935

Eleven other times, teams have accomplished this with the New York Yankees (A), Pittsburgh Pirates (N) and Philadelphia A's (A) each turning the trick twice

**There were two scoreless ties—**

9/21 1913—Cleveland (A) versus Albany & Troy (combined team), 10 innings

9/19 1943—Philadelphia (N) versus the Camp Endicott Seabees, 7 inning

### **Grand slams—**

13 have been found, Babe Ruth leads with three, the other twelve have one each

The earliest slam found thus far by a non-Major League player was named Fagan (no first name found) of the Troy club. On Sunday 6/23/1907 at Troy, New York, Fagan hit his slam in the 8<sup>th</sup> inning. He led his Trojans of New York State League to a 6-3 victory over the Bostons (N). This would be the first ever game played at Troy's "Sunday park".

The earliest slam found thus far by a player on a Major League club is by Josh Devore of the New York Giants (N). In a game at Jersey City, New Jersey, on 7/2 1911, Devore blasted his slam in the 8<sup>th</sup> inning of the 5-1 win by the New Yorkers over the Skeeters of the Eastern League.

### **Home run winning a 1-0 game (once)—**

Benny Kauff (NYN) hit a homer in the 4<sup>th</sup> inning off Bert Gallia (WASA) in Akron, Ohio on 6/17 1917

### **Home runs in a game by batters—**

On six occasions, three homers were hit in a game by four different players. Babe Ruth (NYA) had three 3-homer games, one being the consecutive variety; Joe Gordon (NYA), Billy Hitchcock (PHIA) and Joe Kelly of the Reading Keystones of the International League each had one 3-homer game apiece.

### **Home runs in a game by teams—**

On 8/17 1924 at Warren, Ohio, and the Pittsburgh Pirates (N) blasted nine homers, all over the fence. Three Pirate batters had two homers apiece in the 14-3 drubbing of the Warren club.

At Minnesota on 7/20 1964, the Minnesota Twins (A) blasted 6 homers and the Milwaukee Braves (N) belted four for a total of ten in the game. The Twins won 12-7.

### **Multi-home run games by batters—**

One George Herman Ruth of the New York Yankees (A) easily leads the way with 17 games in which he hit two or more homers!! The Sultan of Swat hit 3 roundtrippers three times and hit two homers in 14 games. A distant second to Ruth are Lou Gehrig of the New York Yankees (A) and Gates Brown of the Detroit Tigers (A), who both have posted two-homer games twice.

### **Consecutive home runs by a batter—**

Again, Mr. Ruth of the New York Yankees (A) was at it again in his hometown of Baltimore, Maryland. The Bambino whacked three successive homers to lead the Yanks to a 12-3 win over the 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps Army team. Ruth blasted homers in the 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> innings, two off pitcher Ellis and one versus Henderson. The game was played on 9/3 1922 at Oriole Park.

### **Consecutive home runs by a team—**

On 6/25 1964, the Chicago White Sox (A) blasted three consecutive homers in the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning. Playing the annual contest between the ChiSox and the Chicago Cubs (N), the Comiskey Park crowd was a record 52,712. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> frame, Cub lefty Dick Scott gave up consecutive roundtrippers to Ron Hansen, Tom McGraw and Gerry McNertney. The Cubs were the home team in spite of playing at the White Sox' park.

### **Walk-off home runs—**

In a ten-inning contest on 5/6 1927 at Fort Wayne, Indiana, the New York Yankees (A) won the game versus the Lincoln Lifes, a local semi-pro club. Before 35,000 fans (a VERY large crowd for an ISEG in a non-Major League city), the Babe, in the bottom of the 10<sup>th</sup>, signaled to the crowd that they may start for home and then hit a tremendous blast way over the right field fence, scoring Mike Gazella before him. The walk-off homer enabled the Yanks to win, 5-3. Ruth played 1<sup>st</sup> base in the game. This dramatic home run was not as significant as his “called shot” versus the Chicago Cubs in the 1932 World Series, but it undeniably added to the body of work that constitute Ruth’s mythic career and he did not disappoint the large crowd!

On 7/8 1940, Tony Criscola of the Toledo club of the American Association defeated the Boston Braves (N) with a three-run shot in the bottom of the 9<sup>th</sup>.

On 8/13 1964, Ron Swoboda of the homestanding Williamsport Mets of the American Association beats the parent New York Mets (N) club with a solo homer in the bottom of the 11<sup>th</sup>.

On 6/18 1970, Rich McKinney of the Tucson Toros of the Pacific Coast League beats the Chicago White Sox (A) with a three-run roundtripper in the bottom of the 10<sup>th</sup> inning.

#### **Triples—**

BOS (N) hit 8 triples among their 31 hits against the Providence Steam Rollers on 9/9 1923

WAS (A) made 3 triples in the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning as part of a 10-run frame on 6/28 1956

Lloyd Waner (PITN) had a bases-loaded triple in the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning on 6/28 1931

#### **Doubles—**

No significant findings were made for individual players or teams

#### **Singles—**

On 5/4 1882, the Providence Grays (N) whacked 17 singles as part of their 25-hit attack against the Metropolitans of Manhattan at the Polo Grounds in New York City.

#### **Hits in a game by batters—**

Eight players have made the most hits found, five

#### **Hits in a game by teams—**

Two clubs have made 31 hits in an ISEG

On 48 occasions, teams have whacked 20+ hits in a game, two by non-Major League teams

On three occasions, both clubs made 20+ hits in a game

On 9/9 1923, the Boston Braves (N) crushed the Providence Steam Rollers, 19-9 with a 31-hit attack. The Braves would add 8 triples to the mix.

On 7/20/1943, the New York Yankees (A) overwhelmed the Mitchel Field club of Long Island, New York by a count of 31-6!! New York’s Roy Weatherly hit for the cycle. In a game where 37 runs were tallied, it was completed in 2 hours and 17 minutes, a run scoring about every 3 minutes and 45 seconds! The Mitchel Field nine scored four runs in the bottom of the 9<sup>th</sup> to fall 25 runs short of tying the game!!

**Hitting for the cycle (single, double, triple and home run) twice—**

Billy Southworth (PITN) hit for the cycle, going 4 for 5, on 7/1 1918

Roy Weatherly (NYA) hit for the cycle as part of the Yankees 31-hit attack on 7/20 1943

**Total bases—**

On 7/20/1943, the New York Yankees (A) blasted the Mitchel Field club of Long Island, New York by a count of 31-6!! The Bronx Bombers lived up to their name by hitting for 66 total bases: 6 homers (24 bases), 6 triples (18 bases), 5 doubles (10 bases) and 14 singles (14 bases)!

**Errors—**

The Boston Red Stockings (N) made 16 in a game played on 9/20 1876

**Triple plays—**

Five triple killings have been found, two being by non-Major League clubs

**Strikeouts by pitchers—**

Righty Bob Lee of the Pittsburgh Pirates (N) struck out 16 Detroit Tigers (A) in a sandlot benefit game in the Motor City. On 8/1 1963, Mr. Lee tossed a 7-1 complete game victory.

**Pitchers used in an ISEG by one club—**

In a game played on 7/10 1945, the Saint Louis Browns (A) used 9 different pitchers against the Saint Louis Cardinals (N). Luke Sewell, the manager for the Browns, had each pitcher work for exactly one inning. The Cardinals used but four pitchers in the game. The Browns shutout the Cards in Saint Louis, 3-0.

**Low-hit games by pitchers—**

6 no-hitters and six 1-hitters have been pitched in ISEGs. The six no-nos follow:

8/10 1902 Alex Pearson (STLN) complete game 7-0 win in 6 innings at Bayonne, New Jersey versus the West Side Athletic Club.

7/17 1910 Chick Evans (BOSN) complete game 4-0 win at Canton Daubers, Ohio-Pennsylvania League.

7/7 1914 at Dayton Veterans of the Central League beats CIN (N) 2-1 in 10 innings. Two Dayton pitchers combine for the no-hit job versus the Reds.

9/3 1940 Carl Miles (PHIA) tossed 11-0 complete game no-hitter at the Springfield (Mass.) Nationals of the Eastern League. Miles was to appear in only 2 Major League games in his career, both with the A's.

7/15 1953 at Quebec Braves of the Provincial League is no-hit by the Milwaukee Braves (N), 6-0. It takes six Milwaukee pitchers to turn the trick!

5/2 1966 at the Jacksonville Suns of the International League defeats the New York Mets (N) in six innings, 2-0. The Mets could not garner a hit in the 6 inning contest.

**Short 9-inning games, by time—**

On 9/15 1912, the Albany Senators of the New York State League defeated the Chicago Cubs (N) in 58 minutes. The Senators won at Albany, 5-2 and did not bat in the bottom of the 9<sup>th</sup> inning. Numerous ISEGs did not have time-of-game info, so this stat was extracted from the accounts that did report game times.

### **Long games—**

On 6/13 1907, BOS (A) was defeated by the Providence Grays of the Eastern League, 2-1. The game, played at Rocky Point Park in Warwick, Rhode Island, took 16 innings, the longest ISEG (by innings) found so far.

### **Tie games—**

So far, 66 have been discovered. In addition to being called “ties”, they were called “drawn” decades ago. The most runs in a tie game was 13 in a 9-inning night affair at Cincinnati’s (N) Crosley Field versus Detroit (A) on 7/26 1954. The longest ISEG by innings was 12, occurring on 5 occasions. The inning totals:

<u>INN</u>	<u>games</u>
5	3
6	4
7	8
8	3
9	19
10	12
11	12
12	<u>5</u>
	66

### **Forfeits—**

On 6/15 1913, the New York Giants forfeited to the Zanesville Flood Sufferers. See entry #8 in the “interesting games” section for more details on this game.

### **Major League ISEG opponents found to be interesting (maybe even unusual) by yours truly—**

These are not listed in any logical order and are posted here for your perusal in spite of it being an extensive run-on sentence. Bon appetit!

The clubs are the Yank-Lands--a team managed by Babe Ruth and comprised of members of both the New York Yankees (A) and Cleveland Indians (A), Zanesville Flood Sufferers, Burnhan & Morrill (Leader of Canned Beans) (no nickname found), Troy Washerwomen, New Haven MaxFeds, Quantico Devil Dogs, Taunton Lumber Company (no nickname found), Paris Cipseos, Utica Pent Ups, Grand Rapids Billbobs, Dan Neilleys (no nickname found), Fletcher General Hospital (no nickname found), Providence Clamdiggers, Hannibal Cannibals, Terre Haute Hottentots, Pekin Celestials, American Chain Company (no nickname found), Rochester Hop Bitters, Norwich Witches, Trenton Trentonians (boy, is that nickname original or what?!), Wheeling Stogies, Navy Cloudbusters, Meriden Silverites, Fort Wayne Voltmen, Lynn Shoemakers, Father Mathew Temperance Society (no nickname found), Klein Chocolate Company (no nickname found), Youngstown McElroys, Hoosier Beer team (no nickname given) Scottsdale Scotties (another one of those much-thought over nicknames!), Gloversville Glovers (whew!), Binghamton Binges (another one of those?!), Kansas City Knuckle Puppets (just kidding—made that one up myself!) and finally, the Amsterdam-Johnstown-Gloversville J-A-Gs (acronym)! Where are the nicknames such as Tigers, Lions, Bulldogs, etc?? Finis!

### **Interesting games—**

These are numerous, so I carefully selected 12 that I thought were cool—WL

1) On 5/26/ 1912 at Paterson, New Jersey, the New York Giants (N) assumed that their opponent would be the local Paterson club. Instead, the Giants discovered that they would be playing a team comprised of African American players who called themselves the Smart Sets. After some discussion, the Giants agreed to play the game before an Olympic Park crowd of about 8,000. A New York pitcher named Louis Drucke, who was from Texas, refused to pitch against “the coloreds” and after some heated debate, he consented to pitch only if he was announced as “pitcher O’Brien” instead of Drucke! There were several tense moments in the game, especially after the game was tied 3-3 in the 8<sup>th</sup>. In the last of the 9<sup>th</sup>, the game still tied, Umpire Warner handed Drucke (alias O’Brien) a new ball and the pitcher proceeded to rub dirt all over it. The Smart Set players protested this and the ump gave the pitcher another new ball and the side was retired. In the 10<sup>th</sup>, pitcher McClellan of the Smart Sets then refused to use the ball Drucke had used in the prior inning, substituting his own ball. Giant players protested but the umpire did not compel McClellan to use the new ball and the New Yorkers left the field. The crowd wanted the game to resume but the Giants went through the crowd and boarded the bus that was waiting for them. The bus was suddenly surrounded by a shouting mob that began to hurl sticks and small rocks at the Giant players. A police chief intervened in order to reason with the crowd to allow the bus safe passage and he was successful in convincing them to stop throwing objects at the players. The bus made it to the train station and they were on their way home. So, this tension-filled game ended in a tie, never to be completed. It would be 35 more years for the color barrier to be broken in the Major Leagues by the great Jackie Robinson!!

2) At New Haven, Connecticut on 6/4 1934, Lou Gehrig missed his first in-season game, counting league games and ISEGs. He was detained in New York in order to undergo dental treatment. The New York Yankees (A) beat the New Haven Colonials, a semi-pro team 3-0, behind the 5-hit pitching of Johnny Broaca. The Babe was hitless in the game. Lou missed his only other ISEG when he sat on the bench at Toronto versus the International League club on 5/31 1939, his penultimate professional game. His last would be in Kansas City, Missouri on 6/12, 1939 versus the Blues.

3) There were many ISEGs played during the time of World War II. However, of the numerous contests I’ve found, the one described here tore at my heartstrings, especially considering the turmoil that is in Iraq. On 5/7 1934 at Camp Upton, Long Island, New York, the New York Giants (N) crushed the Boston Braves (N), 17-9, the New Yorkers making 22 safeties. What made this game so special was that it was played in the presence of 3,500 Purple Heart recipients who wore their medals with honor! God bless them all! The total crowd numbered 4,500 on the site of the Army Special Forces Convalescent Hospital at Camp Upton.

4) On 5/21 1981 at Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, the Edmonton Trappers of the Pacific Coast League entertained their parent club, the Chicago White Sox (A). Prior to the game, hockey great Wayne Gretzky passed coonskin caps out to all players. Left fielder, Ron LeFlore, wore his coonskin during his first inning in the field! The ChiSox beat the Trappers, 4-3.

5) At Camp Sheridan, Illinois on 7/8 1917, the Philadelphia Athletics (A) played the Chicago White Sox (A) in a morning 7-inning game attended by 5,500 soldiers of World War I and their families, the game had free admission to all! Circus seating was erected to handle the crowd but it was not sufficient and they spilled out onto the baselines. No one was injured except the egos of the ChiSox who lost the game, 3-1. Later in the afternoon, the Chicago club played a game at Comiskey Park, beating the A’s, 8-4.

6) On 7/26 1914 at Buffalo, New York, the Chicago ChiFeds (Federal League) were beaten by the Carter Crumes, 2-0. What made the game special is that an umpire with a wooden leg named Concle called the game and shared duty with umpire Mandia. Concle completed the entire game.

7) It seems Babe Ruth was unable to appear at the ISEG scheduled at New Haven on 6/24 1923. The Babe was supposed to accompany the team but overslept, missing the train! The Bambino attempted to drive to New Haven but along the way suffered an accident in which his foot was injured. This injury was not of a serious nature. As a result of Ruth's absence, the New Haven Profs of the Eastern League decided to refund the extra gate money paid by fans that were expecting to see the Sultan of Swat. This rebate cost the Yankee management \$1,000 (awwwwww, poor folks!) so that the 10,000 fans in attendance could be reimbursed. In the game, the New York Yankees (A) were defeated by the local nine, 9-5.

8) On 6/15 1913, the New York Giants (N) traveled to Zanesville, Ohio to play the Flood Sufferers of the Inter-State League. The Giants won the game, 5-4, although Umpire Frank Newhouse declared the game forfeited to Zanesville, 9-0, following his fight with the New York's Fred Merkle. Here's the way it played out: In the 8<sup>th</sup> inning Merkle disagreed with the ump's call on a close play at 1<sup>st</sup> base. Apparently, the ump got in Merkle's face and Newhouse hit Fred over the head with his mask (!), causing a bloody gash to appear. (In my findings, there was no evidence that Fred ever struck the umpire). Then, the umpire ordered Merkle from the game (what??!!) and he refused to leave. It was at that point that the game was declared a forfeit to the home team. Surprisingly, Zanesville Manager Marty Hogan then ordered the game continued so the fans could see a 9-inning baseball game. Hogan even assumed umpiring duties and the game was then concluded.

9) On 9/25 and 9/26 1922, the Pittsburgh Pirates (N) and Detroit Tigers (A) played ISEGs at *alternating sites*, first in Pittsburgh and the following day in the Motor City. As far as I could determine, this was the only occurrence of such an exhibition series. Detroit Manager Ty Cobb guided his club to victory in the River City, 5-4, on 9/25. The following day, the same two clubs hooked up in Detroit, the Tigers winning again by a 5-4 score. In the game, pinch-hitter Cobb was hit on the leg by a pitch from Moses "Chief" Yellowhorse in the 5<sup>th</sup> inning. Tyrus had to be carried off of the field.

10) In Kansas City, Missouri, on 6/12 1939, Lou Gehrig plays his last professional game. Gehrig had concluded his Major League career earlier in the year on 4/30, going 0 for 4 against the Washington Senators (A) at Yankee Stadium. Lou would be given his remaining salary for the season by Yankee management. On 5/31, the Yankees played an ISEG at the Toronto Maples Leafs of the International League and although Gehrig made the trip, he sat on the bench the entire game. Then, the New York Yankees (A) traveled to Kansas City on 6/12 to face their AA farm team, the Blues of the American Association at Jacob Ruppert Stadium. A large sellout crowd of 23,864 turned out to see Lou's eventual goodbye to pro ball. In the game won by the Yanks, 4-1, Gehrig played the first 3 innings, batting an unconventional 8<sup>th</sup> place in the batting order—he had historically batted clean-up for the Yankees. Lou handled four chances at first, all putouts. Facing Kansas City pitcher, Joe Vance, the great Gehrig would ground out to 2<sup>nd</sup> baseman, Jerry Priddy, on the first pitch in the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning for what would become his final pro at bat. On 6/20 1939, the Mayo Clinic, where Lou recently had several medical tests performed, released a statement to the world revealing the severity of Lou's illness. The statement is partially presented here:

“Mr. Gehrig will be unable to continue his active participation as a baseball player”. Lou died on 6/2 1941.





close to the Babe's ISEG homer total! Babe hit 11 in 1923, the most in any one season. The details of all of Ruth's roundtrippers are not presented here at this time.

He hit a homer in 3 games in which he pitched

Ruth once pitched by request of the fans prior to an ISEG. On 5/12 1933 at Indianapolis of the American Association, Ruth pitches the 1<sup>st</sup> two innings, allowing 3 runs.

At least three games ended prior to the full 9 innings because of fans swarming the field because of Ruth. In the game at Binghamton, New York on 5/16 1929, the Babe hit a 3-run homer in the top of the 5<sup>th</sup>. After Binghamton was retired in the bottom of the 5<sup>th</sup>, the fans swarmed onto the field as Ruth rushed from his fielding position and rapidly made it to the dugout to avoid the fans. The New York Yankees (A) beat the Triple Cities, 4-1, the game being called after the 5<sup>th</sup> inning.

At Toronto on 7/11 1930, the Babe had 7 RBI in the 16-11 seven-inning New York Yankee (A) win versus the Maple Leafs of the International League. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> inning, the Bronx Bombers scored 11 times, Ruth supplying six of those tallies on a grand slam and a two-run double. Later, the Babe hit a solo homer to end his 7-RBI day.

On 7/25 1938, Ruth hit his 1<sup>st</sup> homer since leaving the Majors in 1935. The Babe played in a Brooklyn Dodger (N) uniform, the Albany club of the Eastern League defeating Dem' Bums, 7-6. A record crowd of 11,724 at Albany's Hawkins Stadium saw the Babe blast a 2-run homer with two out in the top of the 1<sup>st</sup> inning.

In a game at Baltimore on 5/1 1930, the Babe and everyone in attendance was entertained prior to the game by the uniformed band of St. Mary's Industrial School, Ruth's Alma Mater. The Orioles scored 4 runs in the bottom of the 9<sup>th</sup> to spoil the Babe's homecoming, the New York Yankees (A) losing to the Birds, 8-7.

Yankee shortstop, Mark Koenig, struck blows to the Babe in the 7<sup>th</sup> inning of a game at Baltimore on 9/5 1926. Ruth did not retaliate. Apparently, Koenig felt Ruth was "ragging" him and went after Ruth as he returned to the dugout in the 7<sup>th</sup>. After the incident, Koenig left the game. The Orioles doubled the New York Yankees (A), 18-9.

In Cincinnati (N) on 7/24 1922, fans waited patiently about 2 hours for the New York Yankees (A) and Babe Ruth to arrive at Redland Field. Ruth and his gang had their train delayed, but the fans were eventually rewarded when the Sultan of Swat hit a solo homer in the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Playing in a New York Giants (N) uniform, Ruth hit a homer at the Polo Grounds versus the Baltimore Orioles on 10/3 1923.

Ruth was the manager of his New York Yankees (A) for one day. Playing at the Richmond Colts of the Virginia League on 5/28 1923, the Yanks win, 8-5, behind Ruth's three hits. He had no homers.

At Toronto versus the Pittsburgh Pirates (N) on 6/19 1924, Ruth hits a ball that appears to be heading into the right field stands...but wait, the wind blows the ball back into fair territory, Babe getting a double on the play. The New York Yankees (A) lost the game to the Buccos, 4-1.

### **Some notes about Lou Gehrig in ISEGs—**

The great Gehrig has 11 home runs found so far, none of them grand slams. This is surprising since Lou owns the Major League record for slams with 23!

On 6/29 1934, Lou suffered a “slight” concussion after being hit in the head from a pitch by Ray White. Playing at Norfolk, Lou left the game after being hit in the 2<sup>nd</sup> inning. Lou’s injury did not cause him to miss any championship games, his consecutive streak remaining intact until 1939. In the first inning, the great Gehrig hit a 2-run homer, aiding the Yankees win, 11-9.

Gehrig played left field and hit a homer in the game at Columbus, Ohio, 8/26 1929

### **Ruth & Gehrig in ISEGs—**

They hit homers in the same game on 11 different occasions. In five games, they had one each; in five games Ruth had 2 and Lou 1 and once had two roundtrippers apiece.

The dynamic duo hit 2 homers apiece once. That occurred at the Johnstown (PA) Johnnies of the Middle Atlantic League on 6/25 1928. No further details about their homers could be found. This is an example of not being able to find more information since I did not have access to newspapers on microfilm in Johnstown, PA. The New York Yankees (A) had 19 hits in the contest

### **Additions, what is needed, corrections...**

With 2,800 ISEGs found so far, it seems likely that the 3,000 barrier can be broken. Many of these additional games will probably be found in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century! I am certain that some errors may exist with this research. For example, it is quite possible paper dates instead of actual game dates may have been used. What is needed the most include many **game sites** (listed in column 9) that need documentation. Also, items relating to the opposing club (column 7), especially **team nicknames**, and opponent description (Column 9) require the same documentation. Every effort I’ve made is a human one and therefore fallible. So, **any additions, corrections, etc. to my list are MOST welcome and can be submitted to me at [waltlec3310@kc.rr.com](mailto:waltlec3310@kc.rr.com).**

**Walter LeConte**

**Lee’s Summit, Missouri**

**1/10 2008**