

NOTEWORTHY TRIPLE PLAYS

By Chuck Rosciam

[SABR Researcher]

- **5/13/1876:** First triple play in major league baseball. New York Mutuals at Hartford Dark Blues, 5th inning on a 4*-3*-4* play. [David Arcidiacono, SBK]
- **9/13/1876:** First "End Of Game" triple play when the Philadelphia Athletics shut down the Cincinnati Red Stockings in the 9th inning. [Frank Hamilton]
- **8/1/1877:** Louisville Grays vs. St. Louis Brown Stockings where the ball changed hands 7 times, 3 of which was by the catcher who recorded the 2nd & 3rd outs. [SBK]
- **5/8/1878:** Providence Grays centerfielder Paul Hines turned, what is now disputed, unassisted triple play. [Total Baseball, Kathy Torres]
- **6/26/1879:** First Triple Play to have started with a strikeout in the 6th inning of a game when the Boston Beaneaters turned one against the Providence Grays. [Chuck Rosciam]
- **6/6/1882:** Two triple plays were turned on this date. One by the Cleveland Blues against Troy Trojans and the other by the Cincinnati Red Stockings versus the Baltimore Orioles. [David Ball & Jim Weigand]
- **10/21/1887:** Triple Play turned by the St. Louis Browns (AA) versus the Detroit Wolverines (NL) in *World Series* action. [Frank Hamilton]
- **6/2/1883:** First triple play when all outs were by tagging the runner in the Buffalo Bisons at the Boston Beaneaters. [Chuck Rosciam]
- **6/7/1884:** Second time that two triple plays were turned on the same day. This time it was by the Boston Beaneaters over the Providence Grays and the Cincinnati Red Stockings against the Brooklyn Atlantics. [Cliff Blau, Frank Hamilton, Chuck Rosciam]
- **8/15/1894:** First triple play wherein an outfielder recorded the third out, 9th Inning - Boston Beaneaters vs. Pittsburgh Pirates. [SBK]
- **9/5/1901:** Larry Hesterfer of the New York Giants hit into a triple play in his only major-league game. He is the first player to hold that distinction (batter, runner or fielder) of being involved in a TP in his brief *cup of coffee*. [Kevin Harlow]
- **7/15/1902:** Harry O'Hagan of the New York Giants recorded the third out of a 1*-4*-3* triple play turned against Cincinnati. O'Hagan subsequently was sent to the minors (Rochester, Eastern League) and he turned an *unassisted triple play* as a first baseman a month later (8/18/1902) against Jersey City. [Frank Hamilton, Paul Wendt]
- **7/1/1903:** Quadruple Play - but only the first three outs were counted. Sixth inning, New York Giants vs. St. Louis Cardinals. [Frank Hamilton]
- **6/6/1908:** The Detroit Tigers turned triple plays against the Boston Red Sox on two consecutive days (June 6-7). Detroit's Germany Schafer started both of them (once

as a third baseman and then as a second baseman). Boston's Gavy Cravath batted into the first one and was on base for the second one. [Kevin Harlow, Frank Hamilton]

- **6/7/1908:** Second day in a row that Detroit turned the TP (see previous entry). Also this was the ALL TAG triple play. [Chuck Rosciam]
- **10/9/1911:** Phillies catcher John Quinn was the second out and a runner on second base for the triple play in the only major-league game in his career. He is the second player to hold that distinction (batter, runner or fielder) of being involved in a TP in his brief *cup-of-coffee*. [Bob McConnell]
- **5/16/1913:** The ball changed hands 10 times in a 6-2-5-1-5*-4*-5-6-5-7* triple play, 7th Inning - Philadelphia Athletics at Cleveland Indians. The fielders involved were Jack Barry, Ira Thomas, Frank Baker, Byron Houck, Baker (2x), Eddie Collins, Baker (3x), Barry (2x), Baker (4x), and Rube Oldring. [Chuck Rosciam, Frank Hamilton]
- **5/22/1920:** Art Fletcher was put out in a triple play twice in one season (5/22/1920 and 7/7/1920) for two different teams — the only player to have that distinction. [Frank Hamilton]
- **5/31/1927:** End-Of-Game Unassisted Triple Play by 1B Johnny Neun Detroit Tigers vs. Cleveland Indians. [Chuck Rosciam]
- **9/26/1927:** Washington Senators batter Joe Judge hit into a triple play and was not charged with a time at bat. It was a sacrifice fly. [John Schwartz]
- **9/19/1929:** St. Louis Browns second baseman Ski Melillo made all three continuous putouts and did not receive credit for an unassisted triple play on 9/19/1929 at Washington Senators. The play began as a groundball to the pitcher, George Blaeholder, and was scored 1-4*-4*-4*. [John Schwartz]
- **7/27/1930:** Cincinnati relief pitcher Ken Ash entered the game in the sixth inning with runners on first and third, nobody out. Charlie Grimm of the Cubs swung at Ash's first pitch and hit into a 4-5-2*-3*-5* All-Tag triple play, making it a one-pitch inning for Ash. [Rob Neyer, Chuck Rosciam]
- **7/26/1936:** First triple play in which there were 2 outfielder assists in the New York Giants vs. Cincinnati Reds. Scored as 8-7*-6-5*-3* [Chuck Rosciam, Sam Clements]
- **8/22/1942:** First time that a triple play forced another extra inning when the Chicago Cubs vs Cincinnati Reds killed a potential loss in the 11th inning with the score tied at 4-4. [Chuck Rosciam]
- **5/22/1946:** The ball changed hands 8 times in a 3-2-5*-4-6-4*-3-6* triple play, 8th inning – New York Yankees at Detroit Tigers, which was also an All-Tag triple play and the first turned at Briggs Stadium. [Chuck Rosciam]
- **9/30/1962:** Mets catcher Joe Pignatano's final major-league at-bat was hitting into a triple play at Wrigley Field versus the Cubs. [David Mostardi]

- **5/31/1964:** A 14th inning game tied at 6-6 triple play by the New York Mets vs. the San Francisco Giants in a game that went to 23 innings in a losing cause (8-6). [Chuck Rosciam]
- **7/9/1971:** Atlanta Braves rookie Leo Foster hit into a double play (fifth inning) and a triple play (seventh inning) in his major-league debut at Pittsburgh. [David Jenkins]
- **7/23/1977:** The California Angels batter, Lyman Bostock, and the Minnesota Twins first baseman, Tony Solaita, who put him out in a 6*-4*-3* triple play, were both later shot to death. [Stew Thornley]
- **7/17/1990:** The Minnesota Twins became the first team to turn TWO triple plays in the same game against the Boston Red Sox in the fourth and eighth innings. [Frank Hamilton, Chuck Rosciam]
- **8/6/2001:** Boston's Scott Hatteberg lined into a triple play in the fourth inning, but made amends with a grand slam in the sixth inning.
- **4/14/2002:** In his only major-league game, Seattle's Ron Wright had three at-bats which included a strikeout (second inning), a 1-6*-2-5-1*-4* triple play (fourth inning), and a double play (sixth inning) for possibly the worst-ever major-league career. [Jeff Wayman]
- **9/2/2006:** Tampa Bay's 2*-6*-2* triple play against Seattle is the first triple play where the catcher (Dioner Navarro) made the first and third outs. [Chuck Rosciam]
- **8/27/2007:** Cleveland reliever Rafael Perez entered the game with runners on first and second and nobody out. Minnesota's Mike Redmond hit into a triple play on an 0-2 pitch, making it a three-pitch inning for Perez as Cleveland turned a 5*-4*-3* TP. [Neil Cohen]
- **5/30/2008:** San Francisco reliever Keiichu Yabu entered the tie game (3-3) with runners on first and second and nobody out. San Diego's Kevin Kouzmanoff swung at the first pitch, right into a 5*-4*-3* triple play, making it a one-pitch inning for Yabu. [Dan Comfort]
- **5/9/2015:** Pittsburgh Pirates second baseman Neil Walker started and ended the first 4*-5*-4* triple play in major-league history against the St. Louis Cardinals in the second inning.
- **7/25/2017:** The Cincinnati Reds became the eighth major-league team in the Live Ball Era (since 1920) to allow a run to score while turning a triple play, against the New York Yankees. The other known instances of run-scoring triple plays are: 5/27/2006 (Twins triple play vs. Mariners), 6/3/1977 (Orioles vs. Royals), 6/13/1973 (Expos vs. Padres), 9/10/1964 (Senators vs. Orioles), 6/23/1954 (Red Sox vs. Orioles), 5/20/1944 (White Sox vs. Red Sox), and 4/30/1937 (Pirates vs. Cubs). Earlier run-scoring triple plays include: 6/2/1919 (Indians vs. Browns), 5/25/1919 (White Sox vs. Senators). [Jacob Pomrenke and Doug Kern]

[SBK= John Schwartz, Steve Boren & Herm Krabbenhoft]

See Chuck Rosciam's **Triple Play Analysis** for dozens of details and data breakdowns.