

THE ART OF PITCHING: THE PITCHER REGISTER

Pitching has always been thought of as an *art*, in contrast to hitting, which has generally been considered a *science*. Perhaps this is because the pitcher starts the action and controls the tempo of the game. Perhaps this is because good pitching is seen as aggressive, while hitting seems reactive. “Going after a hitter” is a sign of strength, and giving in to a hitter is a sign of weakness.

Good pitchers are creative, adjusting to the situation while inventing new ways to confound enemy batters. Pitchers who simply rock back and hurl the ball as hard as they can are derided as “throwers” and not “pitchers” – most throwers don’t last long unless they can master the art of pitching. Pitchers of modest talent can fashion successful careers if they learn the art. Pitchers blessed with a *lot* of talent can achieve greatness if they combine their physical gifts with the art.

Two of the greatest books ever written on the subject of pitching show how similar the approach of the great pitchers has been over time, even under very different playing conditions. Christy Mathewson’s *Pitching in a Pinch* and Tom Seaver’s *The Art of Pitching* are both classics of baseball literature. Matty’s book (with ghostwriter John Wheeler) was first published in 1912; it was reprinted by the University of Nebraska Press in 1993. Tom Terrific’s book, co-authored with Lee Lowenfish, was first published in 1984 and remains in-print today.

During Mathewson’s day, each at bat was a game of cat-and-mouse between the man on the mound and the man at the plate. It was mostly a contest of deception, especially from the pitcher’s end. It was not a power game – pitchers didn’t have to throw that hard, but they were expected to start 35–40 games and complete almost all of them. If he remained healthy, a star pitcher could expect to log 350 or more innings, and pitch in relief 5–10 times in key games since the failed starters in the bullpen were relegated to mop-up and emergency duty.

What is now called “little ball” was the way of the day in the early twentieth century. Mathewson knew that the secret to being a successful pitcher was letting hitters get themselves out. “All batters who are good waiters, and will not hit at bad balls, are hard to deceive, because it means a twirler has to lay the ball over, and then the hitter always has the better chance,” he said. “A pitcher will try to get a man to hit at a bad ball before he will put it near the plate.”

What the “Big Six” didn’t say – but what he understood and what he presumed the reader would understand as well – was that a *good* pitcher tries to get the batter to swing at *bad* pitches.

Mathewson also understood the critical nature of pacing himself. In his day, a batted ball wouldn’t travel nearly as far as it would today, and the fences were usually farther away. Therefore, he could save his very best stuff, especially his devastating screwball (then called a “fadeaway”) for when he needed it most: The term *pinches* refers to what would be called *clutch* situations today.

“Many persons have asked me why I do not use my ‘fade-away’ oftener when it is so effective,” he wrote, “and the only answer is that every time I throw the ‘fade-away’ it takes so much out of my arm. It is a very hard ball to deliver. Pitching it ten or twelve times a game kills my arm, so I save it for the pinches.”

Decades later, another dominant NL right-hander named Tom Seaver also talked about a pitcher pacing himself. Seaver wrote about pacing himself *during the at bat* as well as during the game in order to get the job done. In the 1970s Seaver knew that batters could connect for a long ball at almost any time, so he had to be able to reach back and strike a hitter out if necessary.

“If he is thinking ahead,” Seaver wrote, “[a pitcher] will select pitches in sequence—for instance, throwing a sinking fastball in spot A in order to get the batter out with a slider in Spot B.”

Seaver was the archetype of the modern power pitcher. He made his big league debut immediately after Sandy Koufax retired, and within three years he had joined the corps of great power pitchers of the 1960s like Don Drysdale, Bob Gibson, Jim Maloney, Jim Bunning, Juan Marichal, Bob Veale, and Sam McDowell. Seaver had better control than all of them except Marichal, and he clearly thought about the art of pitching in a very rigorous way.

The game in which Mathewson and Seaver pitched was fundamentally different. Scoring was much higher in Seaver’s era, and the bullpens of the 1970s and 1980s were certainly more important than before World War II, so Seaver might expect to finish only about half the games he started.

As Seaver said, “You always have to throw more pitches when you walk batters. Even if they don’t score, you are making pitches that you could save for key situations late in the ballgame.”

While the game of 1970 was very different than the game of 1910, there is very little difference between Mathewson’s “pitching in a pinch” and the following quote from Seaver:

“A game may ride on just three or four pitches that the pitcher must choose carefully and throw with accuracy . . . [Y]ou can train yourself to identify the outs that you *must* get, and within the bounds of sportsmanship, go about getting them.” Sage advice, indeed.

This Pitcher Register chronicles the changes in pitching throughout baseball history, as shown by the records of the practitioners of the art. It allows for meaningful comparisons between Mathewson and Seaver, between Walter Johnson and Roger Clemens – the kind of reflection and analysis that adds so much to our understanding of the National Pastime.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

There are 7,726 pitchers in this Pitcher Register, of which 313 are also in the Batter Register. In order for a pitcher to be included in the batter register, he must have one season of 10 or more games where pitcher was not his prime position, or he must have 150 more career games played than games pitched. In order for a batter to be shown in the pitcher register, he must have at least 9 career innings pitched (as well as more games at another position than pitcher).

More details on many of the statistics and formulas shown in this register can be found in the glossary at the end of the encyclopedia.

Every pitcher has (at least) a last name and a debut date. If an Hispanic pitcher has a matronymic name, it is placed in parentheses – for example, Marichal, Juan Antonio (Sanchez). Commonly used nicknames are also included on the biographical line; if a player was primarily known by his nickname during his career, it will be part of his listed name – such as Waddell, Rube. Other features and abbreviations for biographical information follow.

B (mm.dd.yyyy) is the place and date of birth.

D (mm.dd.yyyy) is the date and place of death.

The arm a pitcher threw with is expressed *TR* (throws right) or *TL* (throws left). The side of the plate a pitcher bats from is expressed *BR* (bats right), *BL* (bats left), or *BB* (bats both sides). In rare cases when a pitcher throws with both hands during a season, *TB* (throws both) is used and the season is included in parentheses. (The only pitcher to do this since 1901 is Greg A. Harris, who threw with both hands in one game in 1995.)

Height is shown by feet followed by inches. Weight is expressed in pounds. Many pitchers after 1950 now have expanded information about their playing weights; see page 6 in the Batter Register introduction for details.

Pitchers selected in the annual amateur/first-year player drafts since 1965 now have their draft information shown in their biographical line. See page 6 in the Batter Register introduction for complete details.

Debuts are marked *d*, followed by the date the pitcher made his first major league appearance. The debut year is the first year listed in the register, so it is not included in the biographical line.

Besides these basic pieces of information available in the biographical line, there are several other designations for players whose career, family, or duty took them beyond the norm.

If a pitcher on a major league roster missed significant parts of any season serving the United States during wartime, the following abbreviations are used to identify how the player served:

Mil indicates military service in the Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marines;

Mer indicates service in the Merchant Marine during World War II;

Def indicates defense plant work during World War II;

NG indicates National Guard service during the Vietnam War.

The seasons the pitcher missed at least a part of are listed after the abbreviation for duty. At least one major leaguer missed time during the seasons below as a result of the following wars (dates include post-war service by some veterans):

Spanish-American War, 1898;

World War I, 1917–19;

World War II, 1941–46;

Korean War 1951–59;
Vietnam War 1962–72.

Negro Lg indicates years spent playing in big-league caliber Negro Leagues prior to playing in the major leagues. If a former Negro League player also served in the military during wartime, his military service will be shown even if it predates his major league debut.

If the pitcher spent time as a coach, manager, or umpire, that is indicated by the following symbols, which are followed by the number of seasons during which he performed those jobs. Abbreviations are:

C: Coach;
M: Manager;
U: Umpire.

HF indicates that the player is a member of the Hall of Fame; the year of election follows *HF*.

If the player had a close family member in the major leagues, the relative's relationship is identified by the codes listed below followed by the relative's first name (and, if it is different, the last name):

b: brother;
twb: twin brother;
f: father;
s: son;
gf: grandfather;
gs: grandson;
ggf: great grandfather;
ggs: great grandson.

Col indicates that the player played collegiate baseball at the university, college, or junior college shown. (See Batter Register introduction for full explanation.)

▲ at the end of the biographical information indicates that the pitcher is also listed in the Batter Register.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Symbols for the first two columns:

† before the team name means the pitcher participated in postseason play that season;

★ after team name means that the pitcher participated in the All-Star Game;

☆ after team name means that the pitcher was selected to the All-Star team that season but did not play;

* after team name means that the pitcher was selected to the All-Star team but replaced due to injury.

Boldface statistics in any category indicates a league-leading total or average.

The columns that appear in the pitcher register after **Year**:

TM: Team. Each team is identified by a three-letter code that is usually the first three letters of the city, state, or area where the team is located.

LG: League. The leagues in this book include the National League (N), the American League (A), the Federal League (F), the Players League (P), the Union Association (U), the National Association (NA) and the American Association (AA).

W: Wins.

L: Losses.

PCT: Winning Percentage. This is calculated by dividing wins by (wins plus losses).

G: Games.

GS: Games Started.

CG: Complete Games.

SHO: Shutouts.

SV: Saves. This became an official statistic in 1969. Saves are calculated based on the official definition of saves at the time. Saves before 1969 are based on how many winning games a relief pitcher finished for his team without getting a win.

BS: Blown Saves. From 1969–present, the number of times a pitcher entered the game in a save situation and allowed the opposing team to tie the game or take the lead. From 1957–69, we have now calculated blown saves for the vast majority of games based on available Retrosheet play-by-play accounts.

IP: Innings Pitched. Exact innings pitched, including thirds of an inning, are available for all of baseball history, but thirds were not included in official innings pitched totals until 1982.

H: Hits Allowed.

R: Runs Allowed. This includes unearned runs.

HR: Home Runs Allowed.

HB: Hit Batsmen. The rule awarding first base to batters hit by pitches was instituted in 1884 by the American Association. It was adopted in 1887 by the National League.

BB: Bases On Balls Allowed. Generally referred to today as walks.

IB: Intentional Walks Allowed. Walking an opponent on purpose was first counted as a distinct category in 1955.

SO: Strikeouts. Unlike batter strikeouts, these are available for all pitchers in all seasons.

ERA: Earned Run Average. ERA is calculated by dividing earned runs by innings pitched and multiplying by 9.

AERA: Adjusted Earned Run Average. AERA is calculated by normalizing ERA for the context of the offensive level of the league and the player's home park(s) and converting to a scale in which 100 is average.

OAV: Opponents Batting Average. Hits allowed divided by opponent at bats.

OOB: Opponents On-Base Percentage.

AB: At Bats. At Bats by the pitcher as a batter.

HR: Home Runs. Home runs hit by the pitcher while batting.

SH: Sacrifice Hits. Sacrifice hits by the pitcher. (Sacrifice flies were counted as sacrifice hits from 1908–30 and in 1939.)

AVG: Average. The pitcher's batting average. No average is listed if he did not have an official at bat for a season or a career.

PB: Pitcher Batting Runs. Pitcher batting runs are calculated exactly the same way as adjusted batting runs except that the pitcher's offense is compared to the average offensive level of a pitcher, not an everyday player. The symbol * appears after pitcher batting if the pitcher played in games in addition to the ones in which he pitched.

SUP: Run Support. This is calculated by dividing the total number of runs scored for the pitcher's team(s) in his starts by the pitcher's total Games Started, normalizing the product for the context of the offensive level of the league and the player's home park(s), and converting to a scale in which 100 is average.

APR: Adjusted Pitching Runs. How many runs the pitcher allowed compared to the average pitcher. APR leaders are bolded for both starters and relievers.

DL: Disabled List. Days spent on the DL during the regular season. Before 1941, when there was no DL, an em dash (—) is shown. (See the introduction to the Batter Register for full explanation.)

PW: Pitcher Wins. This adds the pitcher's adjusted pitching wins, batting wins, and fielding wins to calculate how many wins the pitcher added to or subtracted from his team compared to what the average pitcher would have done.

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YEAR	TM LG	W	L	PCT	G	GS	CG-SHO	SV-BS	IP	H	R	HR	NB	BB-IB	SO	ERA	AERA	OAV	OQB	AB-HR-SH	AVG	PB	SUP	APR	DL	PW
AARSDMA, DAVID David Allan; B12.27.1981 Denver CO; BR/TR/6'5"/(200-205); Dr 2003 SFN 1/22; d4.6; Col Rice																										
2004	SF N	1	0	1.000	11	0	0	0-1	10.2	20	8	1	2	10-0	5	6.75	64	.417	.525	0	0	—	-3	0	0	-0.2
2006	Chi N	3	0	1.000	45	0	0	0-0	53	41	25	9	1	28-0	49	4.08	114	.214	.313	2-0-1	.000	-0	—	4	0	0.2
2007	Chi A	2	1	.667	25	0	0	0-3	32.1	39	24	4	1	17-3	36	6.40	74	.300	.383	0	0	—	-5	0	-0.4	
Total	3	6	1	.857	81	0	0	0-4	96	100	57	14	4	55-3	90	5.16	90	.270	.366	2-0-1	.000	-0	—	-4	0	-0.4
AASE, DON Donald William; B9.8.1954 Orange CA; BR/TR/6'3"/(185-222); Dr 1972 BosA 6/136; d7.26; [DL 1983 Cal A 182]																										
1977	Bos A	6	2	.750	13	13	4-2	0-0	92.1	85	36	6	1	19-1	49	3.12	144	.244	.283	0	0	0	80	12	0	1.0
1978	Cal A	11	8	.579	29	29	6-1	0-0	178.2	185	88	14	2	80-4	93	4.03	90	.270	.348	0	0	0	125	-7	0	-0.7
1979	Cal A	9	10	.474	37	28	7-1	2-1	185.1	200	104	19	1	77-7	96	4.81	85	.277	.344	0	0	0	121	-13	0	-1.3
1980	Cal A	8	13	.381	40	21	5-1	2-2	175	193	83	13	1	66-3	74	4.06	97	.287	.347	0	0	0	69	0	0	-0.1
1981	Cal A	4	4	.500	39	0	0	11-0	65.1	56	17	4	0	24-2	38	2.34	157	.234	.303	0	0	0	—	11	0	1.7
1982	Cal A	3	3	.500	24	0	0	4-4	52	45	20	5	0	23-2	40	3.46	118	.243	.327	0	0	0	—	4	0	0.5
1984	Cal A	4	1	.800	23	0	0	8-5	39	30	7	1	0	19-5	28	1.62	247	.221	.312	0	0	0	—	11	0	1.7
1985	Bal A	10	6	.625	54	0	0	14-5	88	83	44	6	1	35-7	67	3.78	107	.258	.330	0	0	0	—	1	0	0.2
1986	Bal A★	6	7	.462	66	0	0	34-9	81.2	71	29	6	0	28-2	67	2.98	140	.234	.296	0	0	0	—	11	0	2.3
1987	Bal A	1	0	1.000	7	0	0	2-0	8	8	2	1	0	4-0	3	2.25	197	.276	.364	0	0	0	—	2	159	0.3
1988	Bal A	0	0	0	35	0	0	0-1	46.2	40	22	4	0	37-5	28	4.05	97	.240	.374	0	0	0	—	0	36	0.0
1989	NY N	1	5	.167	49	0	0	2-1	59.1	56	27	5	1	26-3	34	3.94	84	.245	.320	5	.000	-1	—	-4	0	-0.4
1990	LA N	3	1	.750	32	0	0	3-1	38	33	24	5	0	19-4	24	4.97	74	.232	.323	0	0	0	—	-6	0	-0.7
Total	13	66	60	.524	448	91	22-5	82-29	1109.1	1085	503	89	7	457-45	641	3.80	104	.259	.331	5	.000	-1	104	22	569	4.5
ABBEY, BERT Bert Wood; B11.29.1869 Essex VT; D6.11.1962 Essex Junction VT; BR/TR/5'11"/175; d6.14; Col Vermont																										
1892	Was N	5	18	.217	27	22	19	1	195.2	207	139	7	6	76	77	3.45	94	.261	.330	75	.120	-3	88	-7	—	-0.9
1893	Chi N	2	4	.333	7	7	5	0	56	74	52	1	4	20	6	5.46	85	.308	.371	26	.231	-0	97	-6	—	-0.5
1894	Chi N	2	7	.222	11	11	10	0	92	119	74	3	3	37	24	5.18	109	.310	.375	39-0-2	.128	-5	75	5	—	-0.1
1895	Chi N	0	1	.000	1	1	0	0	8	10	8	0	1	2	3	4.50	113	.303	.361	3	.333	-0	42	0	—	0.0
	Bro N	5	2	.714	8	6	5	0	52	66	34	0	3	9	14	4.33	102	.304	.341	19	.263	1	111	0	—	0.1
	Year	5	3	.625	9	7	6	0	60	76	42	0	4	11	17	4.35	103	.304	.343	22	.273	1	100	1	—	0.1
1896	Bro N	8	8	.500	25	18	12	0	164.1	210	135	7	9	48	37	5.15	80	.308	.361	63-0-4	.190	-1	109	-21	—	-1.6
Total	5	22	40	.355	79	65	52	1	568	686	442	18	26	192	161	4.52	92	.292	.352	225-0-6	.169	-8	94	-29	—	-3.0
ABBOTT, JIM James Anthony; B9.19.1967 Flint MI; BL/TL/6'3"/(200-210); Dr 1988 CalA 1/8; d4.8; Col Michigan																										
1989	Cal A	12	12	.500	29	29	4-2	0-0	181.1	190	95	13	4	74-3	115	3.92	98	.274	.345	0	0	0	98	-6	0	-0.7
1990	Cal A	10	14	.417	33	33	4-1	0-0	211.2	246	116	16	5	72-6	105	4.51	85	.295	.353	0	0	0	94	-13	0	-1.3
1991	Cal A	18	11	.621	34	34	5-1	0-0	243	222	85	14	5	73-6	158	2.89	143	.244	.302	0	0	0	93	33	0	4.0
1992	Cal A	7	15	.318	29	29	7	0-0	211	208	73	12	4	68-3	130	2.77	145	.263	.323	0	0	0	58	28	27	2.9
1993	NY A	11	14	.440	32	32	4-1	0-0	214	221	115	22	3	73-4	95	4.37	96	.271	.332	0	0	0	103	-5	15	-0.5
1994	NY A	9	8	.529	24	24	2	0-0	160.1	167	88	24	2	64-1	90	4.55	101	.273	.341	0	0	0	101	1	0	0.1
1995	Chi A	6	4	.600	17	17	3	0-0	112.1	116	50	10	1	35-1	45	3.36	133	.269	.324	0	0	0	116	13	0	1.0
	Cal A	5	4	.556	13	13	1-1	0-0	84.2	93	43	4	1	29-0	41	4.15	114	.280	.337	0	0	0	84	5	0	0.5
	Year	11	8	.579	30	30	4-1	0-0	197	209	93	14	2	64-1	86	3.70	124	.274	.330	0	0	0	102	16	0	1.5
1996	Cal A	2	18	.100	27	23	1	0-0	142	171	128	23	4	78-3	58	7.48	68	.306	.389	0	0	0	65	-36	0	-3.9
1998	Chi A	5	0	1.000	5	5	0	0-0	31.2	35	16	2	1	12-0	14	4.55	101	.292	.358	0	0	0	166	1	0	0.2
1999	Mil N	2	8	.200	20	15	0	0-0	82	110	71	14	2	42-3	37	6.91	67	.317	.393	21-0-3	.095	-1	95	-22	0	-2.2
Total	10	87	108	.446	263	254	31-6	0-0	1674	1779	880	154	32	620-30	888	4.25	100	.276	.340	21-0-3	.095	-1	92	-1	42	0.1
ABBOTT, KYLE Lawrence Kyle; B2.18.1968 Newburyport MA; BL/TL/6'4"/(195-215); Dr 1989 CalA 1/9; d9.10; Col Cal St.—Long Beach																										
1991	Cal A	1	2	.333	5	3	0	0-0	19.2	22	11	2	1	13-0	12	4.58	90	.301	.414	0	0	0	52	-1	0	-0.1
1992	Phi N	1	14	.067	31	19	0	0-0	133.1	147	80	2	1	45-0	88	5.13	68	.283	.338	29-0-6	.069	-1	83	-22	0	-2.5
1995	Phi N	2	0	1.000	18	0	0	0-0	28.1	28	12	3	0	16-0	21	3.81	111	.267	.361	2	.500	0	—	2	70	0.2
1996	Cal A	0	1	.000	3	0	0	0-1	4	10	9	1	0	5-0	3	20.25	25	.500	.600	0	0	0	—	-6	0	-1.0
Total	4	4	17	.190	57	22	0	0-1	185.1	207	112	26	2	79-0	124	5.20	72	.288	.358	31-0-6	.097	-1	75	-27	70	-3.4
ABBOTT, DAN Leander Franklin "Big Dan"; B3.16.1862 Portage OH; D2.13.1930 Ottawa Lake MI; BR/TR/5'11"/190; d4.19																										
1890	Tol AA	0	2	.000	3	1	1	1	13	19	14	0	1	8	1	6.23	63	.328	.418	7	.143	0	102	-3	—	-0.4
ABBOTT, PAUL Paul David; B9.15.1967 Van Nuys CA; BR/TR/6'3"/(185-205); Dr 1985 MinA 3/67; d8.21																										
1990	Min A	0	5	.000	7	7	0	0-0	34.2	37	24	0	1	28-0	25	5.97	70	.282	.410	0	0	0	75	-6	0	-0.8
1991	Min A	3	1	.750	15	3	0	0-0	47.1	38	27	5	0	36-1	43	4.75	90	.232	.365	0	0	0	85	-2	0	-0.2
1992	Min A	0	0	0	6	0	0	0-0	11	12	4	1	1	5-0	13	3.27	125	.279	.360	0	0	0	—	1	78	0.1
1993	Cle A	0	1	.000	5	5	0	0-0	18.1	19	15	5	0	11-1	7	6.38	69	.260	.357	0	0	0	92	-4	0	-0.2
1998	Sea A	3	1	.750	4	4	0	0-0	24.2	24	11	2	0	10-0	22	4.01	117	.255	.324	0	0	0	164	2	0	0.3
1999	Sea A	6	2	.750	25	7	0																			