

Herald Sports

3 Join Group Of 400 Home Run Hitters

in the major leagues there are long standing records which are surpassed and the 1963 season was no exception.

Encompassed in the present-day system of classifying things, it has been the tendency to list persons and things in the group known as the "Top Ten".

It seems that everything is being classified and headed by the leading ten.

There are the top ten hitters in baseball, the top ten records of the day, the top ten contenders for the boxing title, and the ten most wanted men in the United States.

Being classified in the first ten in any category has proven to be the "thing".

And now, there is another "Top Ten" group which has come into being recently.

This list includes the baseball players who have hit more than 400 home runs during a career.

Until the 1963 season there were only seven hitters who accomplished the hard-to-do feat.

But, during the season, there were three players, all in the National League, who entered this category.

The senior circuit veterans joined the select 400-homer society in 1963 and as the '64 season wears on, no additions to the list are in sight.

The trio of new entries into the elite group consisted of Eddie Matthews of the Milwaukee Braves, Duke Snider of the New York Mets (he is now with the Giants), and the incomparable Willie Mays of San Francisco.

The newly inducted threesome rounded out the "400 Club" to an even ten with Matthews becoming the first to attain the mark. The 31-year-old third baseman-outfielder did it with a two-run drive off Philadelphia's Jack Hamilton at Milwaukee's County Stadium April 16, 1963 as the Braves romped to an 8-0 victory behind pitcher Warren Spahn.

Snider, long-time Dodger outfielder purchased by the Mets during spring training, rapped his 400th round tripper off Bob Purkey in the first inning at Cincinnati, June 14. The 36-year-old slugger thus became the oldest active player to attain the mark.

And Wondrous Willie belted his 400th during a 7-2 victory over the St. Louis Cardinals at San Francisco, August 27. The blow came off southpaw Curt Simmons, and as is so often the case, sparked a Giants rally which netted a San Francisco victory.

Mantle Is 7th, Matthews, Mays, Are Tied

Through Saturday night's games, of the active players who are still in the running for increased outputs, Matthews and Mays have 435 round-trippers each. Matthews started the '64 season with 422 homers, fifty-three behind the recently retired Stan Musial, who had a career total of 475.

Musial is currently ranked No. 6 on the all-time home run leaders list.

Mantle became a member of the group in 1962 with a career total of 404. Due to injuries during the '63 season he managed only 15 homers, but was only used in 65 of the season's games.

Mantle is currently resting in the No. 7 spot with 439, thirty-six behind Musial.

Of the six top home run leaders, there is only one who has a solid lock on his present position.

The immortal Babe Ruth's record of 714 is more than safe because Ruth's nearest challenger, Mantle, is 275 from tying the mark, and he would have to hit 46 homers for the next six seasons to move ahead.

Mays, 32, is 279 behind Ruth and it doesn't seem possible for him to reach the 700 bracket.

But, Mantle is only 95 behind Jimmie Foxx, who is in second place with 534 and Mays is 99 behind. It is very possible that both Mantle and Mays may surpass Foxx's mark.

Resting in the No. 3 position is the Boston Red Sox immortal, Ted Williams, who registered 521 homers during his career, which was interrupted on two occasions by war. He missed four or five years during his prime due to the Second World War and the Korean conflict and finished 193 behind Ruth. Assuming that he missed four years (the exact number is not known), Williams would have had to hit over 45 homers each year to surpass Ruth, but he definitely would be well planted in second place.

Foxx, Williams, and fourth place holder, Mel Ott, who played with the New York Giants during the 30's and early 40's and slammed 511 round-trippers, find their current positions in extreme jeopardy as the seasons come and go.

Ruth's teammate at New York, Lou Gehrig is ranked No. 5 on the all-time list with 493 circuit clouts, with Musial only 18 behind in sixth place.

Active Players Will Definitely Move-Up

The threesome of Mantle, Mays and Matthews will definitely advance in the standings as all three have several years of active play remaining. Mays is probably the most likely to move into the No. 2 spot at the close of his career. If the present pace continues, he should have four or five more seasons to play, while Mantle has been plagued with leg injuries for several seasons and is not likely to be an active player for many more years.

Matthews is the youngest challenger at 31, but he has been having his troubles at bat for the past couple of years. He should have five or six more years in which to challenge the front runners.

Snider, who has registered 403 circuit clouts during his illustrious career, will add a few to his total this season, but at 36, he will probably call it quits as an active player after the '64 season.

Records are made to be broken, but these top ten home run hitters will be remembered for years to come, even if they do eventually slip from their present positions.

There are many newcomers who could be a challenge to the present home run totals. Such players as Harmon Killebrew of the Minnesota Twins, Frank Howard of the Los Angeles Dodgers, Hank Aaron of the Braves, Ron Santo of the Chicago Cubs, Ken Boyer of the St. Louis Cardinals, and rookies Richie Allen of Philadelphia and Tony Oliva of the Twins have shown tremendous ability to hit the long ball, and these performers will be watched as their careers unfold, and as the seasons pass, one of them may become the greatest home run hitter who ever lived, but there is one thing for sure, the name **BABE RUTH** will live forever as "King of the home run hitters".

Here are the top ten home run hitters: (Totals of active players include games through Saturday, August 1).

Player	Home Runs	Team
1. Babe Ruth	714	Yankees-Red Sox
2. Jimmie Foxx	534	Athletics-Red Sox
3. Ted Williams	521	Red Sox
4. Mel Ott	511	Giants
5. Lou Gehrig	493	Yankees
6. Stan Musial	475	Cardinals
*7. Mickey Mantle	439	Yankees

Kings Mountain Is Negro Little League Champ

It was the battle of the league leaders Friday afternoon in the Negro Little League season finale as Kings Mountain blanked Galilee, 3-0 to win the championship by a slim one game.

The two teams were tied for the league lead going into the crucial contest.

The Kings Mountain lads, who finished the season with a record of ten wins against two losses, had their hands full for five innings as Galilee pitcher Nob Cole retired the opposition with ease and struck out 13 batters, but in the fifth the eventual winners broke the scoring ice as William Davis opened the inning with a double and Charlie Barnes followed with a one base hit. Tommy Rhodes was issued a base on balls to load the bases with none out, and N Hunter delivered a three-run double which gave Kings Mountain the victory.

Galilee had loaded the bases in the third with none out but was unable to score.

Loser Cole limited the winners to but three hits, all in the decisive fifth as he participated in his last Little League contest.

Galilee finished the season in second place with a 9-3 record and was followed by Grover and Compact which registered 7-5 records. Ebenezer finished at an even 5-5 (6-6), and Hilltop finished sixth with a 2-10 mark.

FINAL STANDINGS

Team	Won	Lost	Pct.
Kings Mtn.	10	2	.833
Galilee	9	3	.750
Grover	7	5	.583
Compact	7	5	.583
Ebenezer	6	6	.500
Hilltop	2	10	.167

Police Lads Winner In L. League Finale

The final game of the 1964 Little League schedule was played Friday afternoon with the Police Club downing the Kiwanis lads, 8-1.

There were two games scheduled which were not played due to conflicting times. A rained out game between the league-leading Bur Mill team and the Rescue Squad was cancelled because the outcome would not have any effect on the final standings.

Park Grace and the Rescue Squad also cancelled a regularly scheduled game.

A 14-game schedule was played by five of the eight teams with leader Bur Mill playing only thirteen contests and posting a season record of eleven wins against two defeats.

The Rescue Squad played the fewest number of games, twelve, and Park Grace played thirteen contests.

The Friday final game went to the Police lads who finished the regular season's play with 6-8 record.

The Friday winners trailed, 1-0 after one inning of play but scored three times in the bottom of the second frame. The Kiwanis lads, who finished the regular season with a 3-11 record, scored their only run as Buddy Oliver walked after one was out in the first. After Smith rolled to first for the second out, Jack Bell doubled to score Oliver.

The Kiwanis lead was short lived however as the Police scored three in the bottom of the second inning on two bases on balls, a fielder's choice, and a single.

Keith Moss opened the inning with a base on balls, but was picked off first base for the initial out of the inning. Kiwanis pitcher Robbie Goforth issued his second straight free pass to Mike Blanton, who scored the first run after moving to second on a passed ball. Pete Hicks got on as a result of a Kiwanis error and first baseman Ronnie Miller singled two runs home and scored the third as the Kiwanis lads made their second error of the inning.

The winners added insurance with two runs in the third and three in the fourth frame.

Hicks was credited with the win for the Police and starter Goforth suffered the loss for the Kiwanians.

Wallace Posts Win In 100-Lap Feature

YORK, S. C. — Larry Wallace of Charlotte driving a '56 Ford began at the rear of the starting field at York-Clover Speedway Friday night and on the 94th lap had lapped every car. Lefty Bolton, driving a '56 Chevrolet from Gastonia was in second place. Eddie Mac McCarter of Clover in a '55 Chevrolet was third and Bill Montie of Clover was fourth in a '55 Ford.

Another big 50-lap feature has been set for Friday night's race along with the usual racing program getting underway at 8:15 p.m.

Little League Final Standings

Team	Won	Lost	Pct.
Bur Mill	11	2	.846
Optimist	9	5	.643
Jaycees	9	5	.643
Lions	8	6	.571
Rescue Squad	6	6	.500
Police Club	6	8	.429
Kiwanis	3	11	.214
Park Grace	2	11	.154

*8. Willie Mays 435
*9. Eddie Matthews 435
*10. Duke Snider 403
*Active Players



PONY LEAGUE WINNERS AND PLAYOFF RIVALS — The 1964 Pony League schedule was completed last weekend and the Spangler's entry finished in a tie with Foote Mineral for the league championship. Both teams posted identical 7-3 records in the four-team league. VFW and Margrace finished in a tie for third place with 3-7 records. A single elimination tournament is underway and the two league leaders will meet today (Wednesday) to determine the tournament championship. The Spangler's players, top photo, are (front row, l. to r.) Vernon Rupe, Charles Canipe, Johnny Reynolds, and Bobby Smith. Second Row (l. to r.) Dennis Connor, Darryl Putnam, Chuck Gladden, Richard Carroll, and Jimmy King. Players not pictured include: Danny Dyke, Tommy Goforth, Nelson Connor, and Billy Suber. The Foote Mineral players are: (Front Row, l. to r.) Joe Cornwell, Mike Smith, Billy Early, Bobby Parker, and Rocky Goforth. Second Row (l. to r.) Eddie Black, Dennis Goforth, Keith Carroll, Paul Gaffney, and Donald Mace. Not pictured: Joe Dover.

Pony League Race Finishes In Ties; Spangler's Play Foote In Tourney

See-Saw Battle At Gaffney Oval

The action was fast and furious at Gaffney's Cherokee Speedway Saturday night as the lead changed hands five times before a winner was declared in the main event.

The main event race, declared one of the best in track history, winner was Charlie Blanton with Tommy Eskew finishing in the number two position.

Carl Falls, Kings Mountain driver, was forced from the race at the midway point because of mechanical difficulties, but reports that his car will be ready this weekend. Falls won the second heat race, which was held prior to the main event.

The Cherokee races feature semi-modified cars, along with modifieds.

WCL North-South Game Is Friday

The fifth annual Western Carolinas League North-South baseball game will be played at Gastonia's Sims Legion Park Friday night at 7:30.

The All-Star game will be preceded at 7 o'clock by a beauty contest which crowns Miss Western Carolinas League of 1964. Eight beauties, representing the eight teams in the league, will vie for the title, and the winner will be selected by judges who will include sportscasters and sportswriters in the league area.

Lieutenant governor candidates Clifford Bell and Bob Scott will be on hand for the pre-game festivities also.

The All-Star game will match players from the four southern division teams: Shelby, Greenville, Rock Hill, and Spartanburg, against the four teams from the North: Gastonia, Lexington, Statesville and Salisbury.

The players have been selected by popular vote of the sportscasters and sportswriters throughout the league, along with the umpires and the league's eight managers.

The south team will be coached by a duo of mentors, Hal Smith of the Rock Hill Cardinals and Bill Steinecke of the Greenville Braves. The North squad will be managed by Salisbury Dodger mentor, George Schreger, who will be assisted by Max Lanier of Lexington and Ray Hathaway, newly assigned manager of the Gastonia Pirates.

Area players who will be participating include: George Vasquez, Gastonia pitcher; Car Moore, Gastonia catcher; and Harry Billie, Pira's utility infielder. They will be members of the North squad. Shelby's Gary Blalock will be a coach for the South squad and pitcher Fritz Peterson, first baseman Dave McDonald, and second baseman Jerry Kinney, along with utility outfielder Rick Kayla are scheduled to see action.

WCL North-South Game Is Friday

Make-up games which were played in the Pony League race this week forced the final standings into a two-way tie for first and third places.

The Foote Mineral team had moved into a tie for the league lead last Tuesday with a 6-3 win over league-leading Spangler's and both teams won their final games to finish the regular season's play with identical 7-3 records.

The VFW lads tied with the Margrace boys for third place, both posting 3-7 season records.

A single elimination playoff tournament got underway Monday afternoon with Foote Mineral downing VFW, 5-3 and Spangler's eliminating Margrace by the same score.

Spangler's will meet Foote Mineral today (Wednesday) at 4:30 for the playoff championship.

FOOTE MINERAL - VFW

In Monday's opening playoff tournament game Foote Mineral gained the early lead with a single run in the first inning on a base on balls and a base hit. The winners cushioned the lead to 3-0 in the top of the third, but the VFW lads knotted the score in the fourth inning.

A two-run output in the fifth insured the victory for the Foote Mineral lads with Gaffney and Cornwell scoring after collecting back-to-back singles to open the frame.

SPANGLER - MARGRACE

The Spangler's Margrace game began with each team scoring single runs in the initial frame, and the underdog Margrace boys moved out into a 3-2 lead in the fifth inning after Spangler's had pulled ahead with a singleton in the third inning.

But the Margrace lead was short lived as pitcher Connor opened the Spangler's fifth with a base hit, and three bases on balls knotted the score.

A two-run rally in the bottom of the sixth gave Spangler's the victory as Smith opened the frame with a two-base hit and Connor was hit by a pitch with one out. Gladden was safe on an error and both runs crossed the plate.

Wallace Posts Win In 100-Lap Feature

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L. League Tourney In Semi-Finals

Bur Mill Faces Optimist; JC's Play R. Squad

The single elimination playoffs are underway in the Little League post-season tournament and the semi-finals will be played Wednesday (today) with the finals being held on Thursday.

The post season tournament is a single elimination affair with the teams seeded according to their finishing position during the regular season play.

The first place team (Bur Mill) was paired with the number eight team (Park Grace); the number two team with the seventh place team; third against sixth; and fourth against fifth.

The Optimist and Jaycees finished in a tie for second place and the Optimist lads won the toss of a coin to determine the second place seeding, which took on seventh place Kiwanis.

In the opening round of play Monday the Bur Mill boys humbled the Park Grace lads by a 21-5 count to move into the semi-final round of play. The loss eliminated Park Grace.

In Monday's second game the Optimist team defeated Kiwanis, 10-2, and will meet Bur Mill in the semi-final round on Wednesday (today).

The Jaycees edged the Police Club by a 2-1 count to earn the right to meet the Rescue Squad in the semi-final round. The Rescue Squad eliminated the Lions with an 8-3 victory.

The semi-final round winners will play Thursday evening at 6:30 for the playoff championship.

BUR MILL-PARK GRACE GAME

It was all Bur Mill in the opening game of the tournament as the regular season winners jumped off into a four-run lead in the first inning and added seven in the second, four in the third, three in the fourth and three in the fifth to coast to a one-sided 21-5 victory over last place finisher Park Grace.

The winners rapped two Park Grace pitchers for 10 hits in posting the win with Larry Carroll delivering the big blow with a home run in the second inning. Carroll added a double to his hitting performance and was issued a base on balls in four at bats. Richard Hayes collected three singles in four official at bats to pace the hitting.

Sixteen bases on balls were issued the winners, who turned the free passes into run after run to advance to the semi-finals.

OPTIMIST-KIWANIS

The second-seeded Optimist lads wasted no time in eliminating seventh-seeded Kiwanis as the winners tallied for four runs

in the first frame to ignite a scoring barrage which netted a 10-2 victory.

Shortstop Steve McNeely started things off for the victors in the first inning with a single and romped home with the go-ahead run as a result of a fielder's choice play.

Tommy Patterson, Junior Leffers, and Bridges also scored in the initial frame.

The losing Kiwanians could manage but two runs on two hits as Optimist pitcher Patterson struck out seven but issued nine bases on balls.

Phillip Grahl scored for the losers in the first inning after reaching the first corner on a base on balls, and Byers accounted for the only other run in the fourth inning as Patterson issued three straight free passes.

JAYCEES - POLICE

The Jaycees came up with two runs in the bottom of the fifth inning to edge the Police Club, 2-1 in a closely contested battle in Tuesday's opening game.

Police Club pitcher Ronnie Miller and Rayford White were locked in a scoreless pitching duel through the first three innings and Miller had retired 13 Jaycee batters via the strikeout route as the fifth inning began and held a slim, 1-0 lead as a result of a Police Club run in the top of the fourth.

Miller accounted for the only Police score as he opened the fourth with a base on balls and stole second base. Don Sessoms singled with two out to score Miller.

The Jaycees were held hitless through the first four frames, but the bats came alive in the decisive fifth as Jack King got things going with a two-base hit and pitcher White followed with a base on balls. With one out and runners on first and second, shortstop Pete Ware lined a single to left center field which scored King with the tying run, and Ted Wright put his team ahead with a single which sent White across with the decisive run.

RESCUE SQUAD - LIONS

The fifth place Rescue Squad lads (6-6) pulled a minor upset in Tuesday's second game by upending the Lions (8-6) by an 8-3 count.

The winners scored all they needed in the opening frame as John Smith, Rocky Haynes, Dale Russell, Mike McDaniell, and D. Smith crossed home plate.

The winners added three insurance runs in the sixth inning to lead 8-0 before the Lions could manage a score.

The losers tallied all three runs in the final inning with Sisk, Mike Herndon, and Warren Herndon scoring.

Darrell Bridges went the distance on the mound and was the winning pitcher and Geeper Howard suffered the Lions loss.

Fred Dixon To Play In East-West Game

Graduated senior guard Fred Dixon will play in the annual East-West All-Star game at Greensboro Thursday night.

A recipient of a four-year grant and aid scholarship to Clemson University, the 190-pounder will be among high school stars of the western half of the state who will go against the eastern North Carolina standouts.

Dixon was an outstanding offensive and defensive player for the 1963 Mountaineer football team and was instrumental in the successful 9-0-1 season record of the '63 team.

The annual game, which is sponsored by the North Carolina Coaches Association, is a terminating activity for the four-day meeting of the coaches from throughout the state who are assembled in Greensboro this week participating in the annual coaches clinic.

The All-Star game will be coached by Lincoln football mentor, Von Ray Harris, whose high school team posted a 6-2-2 record in 1963.

Other Southwest Conference players who will join Dixon on the West squad include Lincoln's All-State fullback-tackle, Dennis Byrd, and center Steve Warren.

Larry Helms, Cherryville's outstanding defensive specialist, is also a member of the West



WESTERN STAR — Fred Dixon, 1963 Mountaineer football player, will be in the lineup Thursday night at Greensboro when the high school All-Stars from western North Carolina take on the standouts from the East. Dixon is a 190-pound guard and will enter Clemson University this fall where he has accepted a grant-and-aid scholarship.

Dixon has been preparing himself all summer for the star-studded game by running and exercising to keep in shape.

He will enter Clemson this fall and reports that Coach Frank Howard has informed all squad members that a full scrimmage will be held the first day of practice.