

slowest pitchers in mlb history

slowest pitchers in mlb history have fascinated baseball enthusiasts for generations. While most pitchers aim to overpower hitters with blistering fastballs, there is an intriguing subset of Major League Baseball players who have made their mark by mastering the art of the slow pitch. This article explores the world of the slowest pitchers in MLB history, examining the legends who defied convention, the strategies behind throwing slow, and the impact these pitchers have had on the game. We'll delve into famous names, unique pitching styles, memorable moments, and the evolution of the slow pitch across baseball eras. Whether you're a dedicated fan or a curious newcomer, this comprehensive guide provides valuable insights and plenty of fascinating trivia about the slowest pitchers ever to take the mound. Read on to discover how these pitchers changed the game and why their legacy continues to spark discussion among baseball historians and fans alike.

- Understanding the Role of Slow Pitchers in MLB History
- Legendary Slowest Pitchers and Their Styles
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Understanding the Role of Slow Pitchers in MLB History

Pitch velocity is often considered a measure of dominance in Major League Baseball. However, the slowest pitchers in MLB history have demonstrated that effectiveness isn't always about speed. These pitchers leverage deception, movement, and pinpoint accuracy to keep hitters off balance. Slow pitching challenges conventional wisdom and offers a counterpoint to the modern obsession with velocity. Historically, slow pitchers have carved out unique roles, keeping batters guessing and disrupting timing. Their contributions highlight the diversity of pitching approaches that have shaped MLB over the decades.

Legendary Slowest Pitchers and Their Styles

Some of the most memorable pitchers in the league were known for their slow deliveries

and ability to make batters wait. These players often relied on finesse, guile, and a deep understanding of the game to succeed. Let's examine the most iconic slowest pitchers in MLB history and explore what made each unique.

Steve Trachsel: The Human Rain Delay

Steve Trachsel earned his nickname thanks to his deliberate pace and long pauses between pitches. His methodical approach was legendary, often frustrating both hitters and fans. While not possessing dazzling velocity, Trachsel's ability to disrupt rhythm made him one of the slowest pitchers in terms of pace and tempo. His career is a testament to how time management on the mound can influence the outcome of games.

Mark Buehrle: Master of the Changeup

Mark Buehrle was renowned for his quick games but also his mastery of the changeup, a pitch designed to look like a fastball but arrive much slower. Buehrle's changeup was one of the slowest effective pitches in the game, and he used it to keep hitters off balance. His control and command allowed him to thrive without relying on high velocity.

Jamie Moyer: Ageless Wonder with Slow Pitches

Jamie Moyer pitched into his late 40s and became famous for his slow fastball and off-speed repertoire. He often threw pitches in the low 70s mph range, relying on movement and precision rather than speed. Moyer's longevity and success highlight the potential for slow pitchers to excel even in an era dominated by power arms.

Other Noteworthy Slow Pitchers

- Tommy John – Known for his deceptive off-speed pitches and pioneering the “Tommy John” surgery.
- Greg Maddux – While not always slow, Maddux's changeup was a key weapon and often arrived much slower than his fastball.
- Doug Jones – Reliever famous for his slow changeup and off-speed pitches.
- Chris Young – Tall pitcher whose fastball often hovered in the mid-80s, relying on angles and deception.

Notable Moments Featuring Slow Pitches

The slowest pitchers in MLB history have produced some unforgettable moments. These instances showcase the effectiveness and entertainment value of slow pitches under high-pressure situations.

Jamie Moyer's 69 mph Fastball

In a 2012 game, Jamie Moyer threw a fastball clocked at just 69 mph, baffling batters accustomed to much higher speeds. This pitch became a symbol of his unique approach and demonstrated how timing and placement can be just as powerful as velocity.

Steve Trachsel's Marathon Innings

Trachsel's slow pace led to some of the longest innings in MLB history. These marathon sessions were notable for the mental battle waged between pitcher and hitter, emphasizing the psychological aspect of pitching slowly.

Doug Jones Strikes Out Sluggers with Changeups

Doug Jones routinely struck out top hitters using his exceptionally slow changeup, proving that a well-placed slow pitch can be devastating even against power bats.

The Science and Strategy Behind Throwing Slowly

Pitchers who specialize in slow deliveries employ a variety of strategies to maximize effectiveness. These include changing speeds, varying arm angles, and using movement to compensate for lack of velocity. The science behind slow pitching revolves around disrupting hitters' timing and exploiting their anticipation for faster pitches.

Changeups and Off-Speed Pitches

Changeups are the quintessential slow pitch, designed to resemble a fastball in delivery but arrive significantly slower. Mastery of the changeup requires precise mechanics and deceptive arm action. Off-speed pitches, such as curveballs and sliders, also contribute to a pitcher's slow arsenal, further confusing hitters and inducing weak contact.

Mental Games and Deception

Slow pitchers often rely on psychological tactics, forcing hitters to wait and second-guess their timing. Extended pauses, varied rhythms, and unpredictable pitch sequences can mentally fatigue opponents and shift momentum in favor of the pitcher.

Evolution of Pitching Speeds in MLB

Over MLB history, average pitching speeds have steadily increased, especially in recent decades. However, the slowest pitchers stand out for resisting this trend, maintaining effectiveness through alternative means. Early baseball featured more slow pitchers, while the modern game emphasizes velocity, making today's slow pitchers even more distinctive.

Historical Pitching Velocities

In the early 20th century, fastballs rarely exceeded 85 mph, and off-speed pitches were common. As training methods improved and radar guns became standard, the average fastball velocity climbed into the 90s. Despite this, slow pitchers like Moyer and Trachsel continued to carve out successful careers, proving that variety is key in pitching strategy.

Modern Trends and Analytics

Advanced analytics have shifted teams' focus toward velocity and strikeouts, making slow pitchers rarer. However, data also reveals the value of mixing speeds and the importance of deception. Teams increasingly utilize pitchers who can change speeds effectively, blending high-velocity arms with those capable of throwing slow and confusing hitters.

Impact of Slow Pitchers on the Game

The slowest pitchers in MLB history have influenced the game in several ways. They challenge hitters to adapt, force managers to adjust strategies, and provide fans with memorable moments. Their presence underscores the importance of diversity in pitching styles and the enduring appeal of baseball's chess-like battles between pitcher and hitter.

Advantages for Teams

- Disrupts hitters' timing and rhythm.
- Forces opposing managers to adjust lineups.

- Provides a change of pace in pitching rotations.
- Contributes to lower scoring games and defensive battles.

Legacy and Influence

Slow pitchers have left a lasting legacy, inspiring future generations to focus on control, movement, and deception. Their success proves that pitching is as much about mental acumen and skill as it is about raw power. As the game continues to evolve, the lessons learned from the slowest pitchers remain relevant in teaching adaptability and strategic thinking.

Frequently Asked Questions about Slowest Pitchers in MLB History

Q: Who is considered the slowest pitcher in MLB history?

A: Jamie Moyer is often regarded as one of the slowest pitchers in MLB history, regularly throwing fastballs in the low 70s mph range throughout his career.

Q: What is the slowest recorded pitch in MLB?

A: The slowest recorded pitch in MLB frequently belongs to position players or specialty pitchers, with some eephus pitches clocking under 50 mph. Among regular pitchers, Jamie Moyer and Doug Jones are known for pitches in the high 60s mph.

Q: How do slow pitchers succeed against modern power hitters?

A: Slow pitchers rely on deception, movement, and changing speeds to keep power hitters off balance, often inducing weak contact and strikeouts through strategic pitch sequencing.

Q: Are there any advantages to throwing slow in MLB?

A: Yes, throwing slow can disrupt hitters' timing, increase ground balls, and create unpredictable outcomes, making slow pitchers valuable assets in certain matchups.

Q: Has the average pitching speed in MLB increased over time?

A: The average pitching speed has increased significantly, with modern pitchers regularly throwing in the 90s mph. Slow pitchers are now rare but still effective in specialized roles.

Q: Why are slow pitchers nicknamed things like "The Human Rain Delay"?

A: Nicknames like "The Human Rain Delay" highlight a slow pitcher's methodical pace and prolonged time between pitches, which can extend the length of games and frustrate opponents.

Q: Which pitches are typically thrown slowest by MLB pitchers?

A: Changeups, curveballs, and specialty pitches like the eephus are usually the slowest, often delivered 10–30 mph slower than a pitcher's fastball.

Q: Are slow pitchers effective in postseason play?

A: Slow pitchers can be highly effective in postseason play, as their unique style can disrupt the rhythm of high-pressure lineups and provide a strategic advantage.

Q: Do teams specifically seek out slow pitchers?

A: While most teams prioritize velocity, some value pitchers who offer a different look by throwing slow, especially as a contrast in the pitching rotation.

Q: Who are some current MLB pitchers known for slow pitches?

A: As of recent seasons, pitchers like Zack Greinke and Rich Hill have been noted for their use of slow curveballs and changeups, continuing the legacy of slow pitching in MLB.

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The Slowest Pitchers in MLB History: A Deep Dive into Underhand Success (and Failure)

Have you ever watched a baseball game and wondered, "How slow can a pitch really be?" While the blazing fastballs of Aroldis Chapman and others often steal the headlines, the history of Major League Baseball is also punctuated by pitchers who relied on guile, deception, and sheer, agonizing slowness. This post delves into the fascinating world of the slowest pitchers in MLB history, exploring their techniques, their successes, and ultimately, why the slow pitch, while intriguing, rarely dominates the highest level of professional baseball. We'll explore the challenges, the strategies, and the intriguing stories behind these underappreciated hurlers.

Defining "Slowest": The Challenges of Measurement and Context

Before we dive into specific pitchers, it's important to clarify what we mean by "slowest." Unlike fastball velocity, which is consistently measured with radar guns, there's no single, universally accepted metric for the slowest pitch. Pitch speed varies wildly based on pitch type (e.g., knuckleball vs. curveball), pitcher release point, and even the wind. Furthermore, historical data on pitch speed is incomplete, especially for earlier eras in MLB history. Therefore, our analysis will rely on a combination of documented anecdotes, available velocity data (where applicable), and the general perception of a pitcher's deliberate slowness.

The Reign of the Knuckleball: A Slow Pitch's Best Chance

The knuckleball, often cited as baseball's most baffling pitch, is inextricably linked to the discussion of slow pitches. Its unpredictable movement, achieved by throwing the ball with minimal spin, makes it difficult to hit, even at slow speeds. While not always the slowest pitch thrown, knuckleballers frequently feature pitches in the 50-60 mph range, far slower than the average fastball.

Notable Knuckleballers and their Slow Stuff:

R.A. Dickey: While Dickey's knuckleball wasn't consistently in the slowest bracket, its erratic movement more than compensated for its relatively slower speed, making him a highly effective pitcher.

Phil Niekro: A Hall of Famer, Niekro was a master of the knuckleball, consistently baffling hitters with his slow, dancing pitch. While precise speed measurements weren't readily available during his career, his pitch was undoubtedly one of the slowest regularly used in MLB history.

Tim Lincecum: Another successful knuckleball pitcher, Lincecum's slow pitch, often hovering in the low 60s mph, frustrated hitters for years.

Beyond the Knuckleball: Other Approaches to Slow Pitching

While the knuckleball is the most common way to achieve slow pitch speeds, other pitchers have experimented with exceptionally slow pitches, often employing unusual grips or release points to create deception. These attempts, however, are less common and usually less effective at the major league level. The sheer power advantage hitters have generally makes incredibly slow pitches very difficult to consistently use successfully.

The Downside of Slowness: Vulnerability and Adaptation

The inherent vulnerability of extremely slow pitches is obvious. Power hitters can easily crush a slow pitch, and even a slight miscalculation in the pitch's trajectory can lead to a home run. This is why pitchers who rely heavily on slow pitches often need exceptional control, deception, and a complementary arsenal of faster pitches to keep hitters off balance. A purely slow-pitch strategy is extremely rare, and rarely successful, in the major leagues.

The Legacy of the Slow Pitch: Intrigue and Adaptation

The slowest pitches in MLB history, despite their limited success, represent a fascinating aspect of the game's evolution. They highlight the ongoing battle between offense and defense, the constant search for new ways to outsmart the opposition. While a fastball might dominate headlines, the enduring mystique of the knuckleball, and the challenge of mastering a truly slow pitch, ensures that the legacy of these slow-pitch masters will remain a compelling part of baseball's rich history.

Conclusion

While precise rankings of the "slowest" pitchers in MLB history are difficult to compile due to inconsistent data and the variety of factors influencing pitch speed, the stories of knuckleballers and other pitchers who dared to challenge the norm remain intriguing and demonstrate the creative possibilities within baseball pitching. Ultimately, the success of slow pitches depends on more than just speed, highlighting the complex interplay of skill, strategy, and sheer unpredictability.

FAQs

1. Was there ever a pitcher who only threw slow pitches? No, successful major league pitchers almost always incorporate a mix of pitches, with faster pitches used to keep hitters honest. A purely slow-pitch strategy is highly vulnerable.
2. Why are slow pitches so difficult to hit effectively? While they are easily hit for power, the unpredictable movement of pitches like the knuckleball, often combined with deception, makes them difficult to consistently make solid contact with.
3. What is the slowest pitch ever recorded in MLB? Precise recordings of the absolute slowest pitch are hard to verify, and varied across different eras, with less reliable technology. But knuckleballs regularly fall in the low 50s mph range.
4. How do slow pitches affect the batter's timing? Slow pitches severely disrupt a hitter's timing, as they require a significant adjustment to the usual pace of pitches.
5. Are slow pitches more effective against certain types of hitters? The effectiveness of slow pitches isn't directly tied to hitter type. Instead, it depends on the hitter's ability to adjust to the unusual speed and movement of the pitch, making it difficult to generalize.

slowest pitchers in mlb history: The Greatest Game Ever Pitched Jim Kaplan, 2013-04 The Braves' Spahn and the Giants' Marichal began their duel in San Francisco's cold and windy Candlestick Park. Four hours later, the two pitching legends were deadlocked in a scoreless tie when Willie Mays hit a walk-off home run to end the greatest game ever pitched. In between, Marichal and Spahn each threw more than 200 pitches and went 16 innings without relief--Publisher marketing.

slowest pitchers in mlb history: The Baseball Codes Jason Turbow, Michael Duca, 2011-03-22 An insider's look at baseball's unwritten rules, explained with examples from the game's most fascinating characters and wildest historical moments. Everyone knows that baseball is a game of intricate regulations, but it turns out to be even more complicated than we realize. All aspects of baseball—hitting, pitching, and baserunning—are affected by the Code, a set of unwritten rules that governs the Major League game. Some of these rules are openly discussed (don't steal a base with a big lead late in the game), while others are known only to a minority of players (don't cross between the catcher and the pitcher on the way to the batter's box). In The Baseball Codes, old-timers and all-time greats share their insights into the game's most hallowed—and least known—traditions. For the learned and the casual baseball fan alike, the result is illuminating and thoroughly entertaining. At the heart of this book are incredible and often hilarious stories involving national heroes (like Mickey Mantle and Willie Mays) and notorious headhunters (like Bob Gibson and Don Drysdale) in a century-long series of confrontations over respect, honor, and the soul of the game. With The Baseball Codes, we see for the first time the game as it's actually played, through the eyes of the players on the field. With rollicking stories from the past and new perspectives on baseball's informal rulebook, The Baseball Codes is a must for every fan.

slowest pitchers in mlb history: Just Tell Me I Can't Jamie Moyer, Larry Platt, 2013-09-10 An extraordinary -- and surprising -- memoir from Jamie Moyer, who at age 49 became the oldest pitcher to ever win a game in the major leagues. Long-time fans of the National Pastime have known Moyer's name for more than 25 years. That's because he's been pitching in the bigs for all those years. With his trademark three pitches - slow, slower, and slowest - the left-handed Moyer is a pinpoint specialist whose won-lost record actually got better as he got older -- from his 20s to his 30s and into 40s. He's only a few wins shy of 300 for his amazing career. But this is where the book takes an unusual turn. Moyer was just about finished as a big leaguer in his mid-20s until he fatefully encountered a gravel-voiced, highly confrontational sports psychologist named Harvey

Dorfman. Listening to the in-your-face insights of Dorfman, Moyer began to re-invent himself and reconstruct his approach to his game. Moyer went on to become an All-Star and also a World Series champion. Yogi Berra once observed that Half of this game is 90% mental. And Moyer's memoir proves it.

slowest pitchers in mlb history: *Cool of the Evening* Jim Thielman, 2005 In 1965, the Minnesota Twins were an endless surprise. Baseball was the nation's sport, and it gave people a little break from the world. The Minnesota Twins powerful lineup drew huge crowds in cities such as New York, Boston, and Los Angeles. But in an upper Midwest storm-filled year, the Minnesota Twins were the perfect storm. When the World Series between the Twins and the Dodgers arrived Minneapolis was vibrant with red, white, and blue bunting. The Twins scored six times in the third inning of the first World Series game ever played in Minnesota. Decades after the 1965 World Series fans lined up for autographs of their heroes. This is the story of the team, the players, the games of the 1965 Minnesota Twins.

slowest pitchers in mlb history: *The MVP Machine* Ben Lindbergh, Travis Sawchik, 2019-06-04 Move over, Moneyball -- this New York Times bestseller examines major league baseball's next cutting-edge revolution: the high-tech quest to build better players. As bestselling authors Ben Lindbergh and Travis Sawchik reveal in *The MVP Machine*, the Moneyball era is over. Fifteen years after Michael Lewis brought the Oakland Athletics' groundbreaking team-building strategies to light, every front office takes a data-driven approach to evaluating players, and the league's smarter teams no longer have a huge advantage in valuing past performance. Lindbergh and Sawchik's behind-the-scenes reporting reveals: How undersized afterthoughts José Altuve and Mookie Betts became big sluggers and MVPs How polarizing pitcher Trevor Bauer made himself a Cy Young contender How new analytical tools have overturned traditional pitching and hitting techniques How a wave of young talent is making MLB both better than ever and arguably worse to watch Instead of out-drafting, out-signing, and out-trading their rivals, baseball's best minds have turned to out-developing opponents, gaining greater edges than ever by perfecting prospects and eking extra runs out of older athletes who were once written off. Lindbergh and Sawchik take us inside the transformation of former fringe hitters into home-run kings, show how washed-up pitchers have emerged as aces, and document how coaching and scouting are being turned upside down. *The MVP Machine* charts the future of a sport and offers a lesson that goes beyond baseball: Success stems not from focusing on finished products, but from making the most of untapped potential.

slowest pitchers in mlb history: *The Neyer/James Guide to Pitchers* Bill James, Rob Neyer, 2008-06-16 Preeminent baseball analyst Bill James and ESPN.com baseball columnist Rob Neyer compile information on pitches and their origins, nearly two thousand pitchers, and more in this comprehensive guide. Pitchers, the pitches they throw, and how they throw them—they're the stuff of constant scrutiny, but there's never been anything like a comprehensive source for such information...until now. Bill James and Rob Neyer spent over a decade compiling the centerpiece of this book, the Pitcher Census, which lists specific information for nearly two thousand pitchers, ranging throughout the history of professional baseball. Their guide also includes a dictionary describing virtually every known pitch, biographies of great pitchers who have been overlooked, and top ten lists for fastballs, spitballs, and everything in between. James and Neyer also weigh in on the debate over pitcher abuse and durability, offer a formula for predicting the Cy Young Award winner, and reveal James's Pitcher Codes. Learn about the origins and development of baseball's most important pitches and more knuckleballers and submariners than you ever thought existed! Baseball's action always starts with the pitchers. Begin to understand them and join in on entertaining debates while having a great deal of fun with the history of the game that captivates so many with this one-of-a-kind guide.

slowest pitchers in mlb history: *Baseball's Most Baffling MVP Ballots* Jeremy Lehrman, 2016-10-04 From its colorful beginnings more than a century ago, baseball's annual Most Valuable Player Award has become the most prestigious (and contentious) individual honor in the sport. No accolade means more to players, fans or the media. No other award can claim a voting history so

rich in alleged snubs, grudges, conspiracies and incompetence. Examining the most controversial ballots, this book attempts to settle some arguments and answer some compelling questions: Which of the so-called worst MVPs holds up to modern statistical analysis? Who cast the single worst vote in MVP history? Does racial bias influence the vote? Who really deserved the award in a given year?

slowest pitchers in mlb history: Wee Willie Sherdel John G. Coulson, 2018-06-08 Wee Willie Sherdel was a very humble, courageous left-handed pitcher who became one of the all-time great southpaws in St. Louis Cardinals history. The son of a German blacksmith in a small Pennsylvania village, Willie's dream was to become a major league pitcher – a rather big dream for a small boy. Not the most talented or biggest, he worked hard and learned from greats like Eddie Plank, Branch Rickey and Grover Cleveland Alexander. Sherdel's best years were in the 1920s while Rickey was developing the farm system concept and the Cards were playing in two World Series. Known for his slow ball, Willie was given the honor of pitching the first game against Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig and the powerful Yankees in both Series. Although labeled a hard-luck pitcher in the Series, Sherdel performed many great feats on the diamond. Since his retirement in 1932, he remains the Redbirds' winningest left-hander and fourth all-time winner. Willie also has pitched the third-most games and the fourth-most innings. Like all pitchers, he loved to talk about his hitting. Among Cardinals' pitchers, Sherdel owns the fourth-most career home runs and the fifth-best batting average for his .337 in 1923. His contemporaries included over 90 Hall of Famers and some of the greatest players of all-time including Ruth, Gehrig, Ty Cobb and Rogers Hornsby.

slowest pitchers in mlb history: Analyzing Baseball Data with R, Second Edition Max Marchi, Jim Albert, Benjamin S. Baumer, 2018-11-19 Analyzing Baseball Data with R Second Edition introduces R to sabermetricians, baseball enthusiasts, and students interested in exploring the richness of baseball data. It equips you with the necessary skills and software tools to perform all the analysis steps, from importing the data to transforming them into an appropriate format to visualizing the data via graphs to performing a statistical analysis. The authors first present an overview of publicly available baseball datasets and a gentle introduction to the type of data structures and exploratory and data management capabilities of R. They also cover the ggplot2 graphics functions and employ a tidyverse-friendly workflow throughout. Much of the book illustrates the use of R through popular sabermetrics topics, including the Pythagorean formula, runs expectancy, catcher framing, career trajectories, simulation of games and seasons, patterns of streaky behavior of players, and launch angles and exit velocities. All the datasets and R code used in the text are available online. New to the second edition are a systematic adoption of the tidyverse and incorporation of Statcast player tracking data (made available by Baseball Savant). All code from the first edition has been revised according to the principles of the tidyverse. Tidyverse packages, including dplyr, ggplot2, tidyr, purrr, and broom are emphasized throughout the book. Two entirely new chapters are made possible by the availability of Statcast data: one explores the notion of catcher framing ability, and the other uses launch angle and exit velocity to estimate the probability of a home run. Through the book's various examples, you will learn about modern sabermetrics and how to conduct your own baseball analyses. Max Marchi is a Baseball Analytics Analyst for the Cleveland Indians. He was a regular contributor to The Hardball Times and Baseball Prospectus websites and previously consulted for other MLB clubs. Jim Albert is a Distinguished University Professor of statistics at Bowling Green State University. He has authored or coauthored several books including Curve Ball and Visualizing Baseball and was the editor of the Journal of Quantitative Analysis of Sports. Ben Baumer is an assistant professor of statistical & data sciences at Smith College. Previously a statistical analyst for the New York Mets, he is a co-author of The Sabermetric Revolution and Modern Data Science with R.

slowest pitchers in mlb history: The Politics of Glory Bill James, 1994 Takes a close look at the Baseball Hall of Fame, explaining how it operates, who controls it, how they make decisions, and how players are elected, using the continuing battle over former Yankee Phil Rizzuto to illuminate the controversy. 25,000 first printing. \$50,000 ad/promo.

slowest pitchers in mlb history: The Physics of Baseball Robert K. Adair, 2015-01-20

Blending scientific fact and sports trivia, Robert Adair examines what a baseball or player in motion does-and why. How fast can a batted ball go? What effect do stitch patterns have on wind resistance? How far does a curve ball break? Who reaches first base faster after a bunt, a right- or left-handed batter? The answers are often surprising—and always illuminating. This newly revised third edition considers recent developments in the science of sport such as the neurophysiology of batting, bat vibration, and the character of the sweet spot. Faster pitchers, longer hitters, and enclosed stadiums also get a good, hard scientific look to determine their effects on the game. Filled with anecdotes about famous players and incidents, *The Physics of Baseball* provides fans with fascinating insights into America's favorite pastime.

slowest pitchers in mlb history: *The Big Field* Mike Lupica, 2008-03-04 From the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Heat*, *Travel Team* and *Million-Dollar Throw*. Playing shortstop is a way of life for Hutch—not only is his hero, Derek Jeter, a shortstop, but so was his father, a former local legend turned pro. Which is why having to play second base feels like demotion to second team. Yet that's where Hutch ends up after Darryl D-Will Williams, the best shortstop prospect since A-Rod, joins the team. But Hutch is nothing if not a team player, and he's cool with playing in D-Will's shadow—until, that is, the two shortstops in Hutch's life betray him in a way he never could have imagined. With the league championship on the line, just how far is Hutch willing to bend to be a good teammate?

slowest pitchers in mlb history: *100 Things A's Fans Should Know & Do Before They Die* Susan Slusser, 2015-06-01 With traditions, records, and team lore, this lively, detailed book explores the personalities, events, and facts every Athletics fan should know. This guide to all things A's covers the team's amazing history including the Connie Mack and Charlie O. Finley dynasties, the Earthquake Series, and all of their World Series titles. Author Susan Slusser has collected every essential piece of A's knowledge and trivia, including Billy Beane and *Moneyball*, *Catfish Hunter*, *Stomper*, and the Bash Brothers, as well as must-do activities, and ranks them from 1 to 100, providing an entertaining and easy-to-follow checklist for fans of all ages.

slowest pitchers in mlb history: *100 Greatest Pitchers* Brent P. Kelley, 1988 An alphabetical arrangement of the 100 greatest pitchers including their career data.

slowest pitchers in mlb history: *Billy Ball* Dale Tafoya, 2020-03-24 In the early 1970s, the Oakland Athletics became only the second team in major-league baseball history to win three consecutive World Series championships. But as the decade came to a close, the A's were in free fall, having lost 108 games in 1979 while drawing just 307,000 fans. Free agency had decimated the A's, and the team's colorful owner, Charlie Finley, was looking for a buyer. First, though, he had to bring fans back to the Oakland Coliseum. Enter Billy Martin, the hometown boy from West Berkeley. In *Billy Ball*, sportswriter Dale Tafoya describes what, at the time, seemed like a match made in baseball heaven. The A's needed a fiery leader to re-ignite interest in the team. Martin needed a job after his second stint as manager of the New York Yankees came to an abrupt end. Based largely on interviews with former players, team executives, and journalists, *Billy Ball* captures Martin's homecoming to the Bay area in 1980, his immediate embrace by Oakland fans, and the A's return to playoff baseball. Tafoya describes the reputation that had preceded Martin—one that he fully lived up to—as the brawling, hard-drinking baseball savant with a knack for turning bad teams around. In Oakland, his aggressive style of play came to be known as Billy Ball. A's fans and the media loved it. But, in life and in baseball, all good things must come to an end. Tafoya chronicles Martin's clash with the new A's management and the siren song of the Yankees that lured the manager back to New York in 1983. Still, as the book makes clear, the magical turnaround of the A's has never been forgotten in Oakland. Neither have Billy Martin and Billy Ball. During a time of economic uncertainty and waning baseball interest in Oakland, Billy Ball filled the stands, rejuvenated fans, and saved professional baseball in the city.

slowest pitchers in mlb history: *The Pitcher* John Thorn, John Holway, 1987

slowest pitchers in mlb history: *The Curious Case of Sidd Finch* George Plimpton, 1988 Plimpton continues the astounding and (almost) true story of baseball's craziest legend--Sidd Finch,

a name every sports fan will remember from Sports Illustrated's 1985 April Fool's issue. Sidd Finch cannot hit, field or steal bases, but with a 168-mph fastball, he's the best pitcher in the sport.

slowest pitchers in mlb history: Bottom of the 33rd Dan Barry, 2011-04-12 In "a worthy companion to . . . Boys of Summer," a Pulitzer prize winning journalist "exploits the power of memory and nostalgia with literary grace" (New York Times). From award-winning New York Times columnist Dan Barry comes the beautifully recounted story of the longest game in baseball history—a tale celebrating not only the robust intensity of baseball, but the aspirational ideal epitomized by the hard-fighting players of the minor leagues. On April 18, 1981, a ball game sprang eternal. For eight hours, the night seemed to suspend a town and two teams between their collective pasts and futures, between their collective sorrows and joys—the shivering fans; their wives at home; the umpires; the batboys approaching manhood; the ejected manager, peering through a hole in the backstop; the sportswriters and broadcasters; and the players themselves—two destined for the Hall of Fame (Cal Ripken and Wade Boggs), the few to play only briefly or forgettably in the big leagues, and the many stuck in minor-league purgatory, duty bound and loyal forever to the game. With *Bottom of the 33rd*, Barry delivers a lyrical meditation on small-town lives, minor-league dreams, and the elements of time and community that conspired one fateful night to produce a baseball game seemingly without end. An unforgettable portrait of ambition and endurance, *Bottom of the 33rd* is the rare sports book that changes the way we perceive America's pastime—and America's past. "Destined to take its place among the classics of baseball literature." —Kirkus Reviews (starred review) "Bottom of the 33rd is chaw-chewing, sunflower-spitting, pine tar proof that too much baseball is never enough." —Jane Leavy, author of *The Last Boy* and *Sandy Koufax*

slowest pitchers in mlb history: Curveball Barry Zito, Robert Noland, 2019-09-17 The painfully honest and personal story of one of baseball's most intriguing players. In *Curveball*, Zito shares his story with honesty and transparency. The ups and the downs. The wins and losses. By sharing his experiences as a man who had everything except happiness, Zito offers readers a path through adversity and toward a life defined by true success. Despite achieving the kind of fame and fortune that most people only dream about, Barry Zito was plagued by both internal forces and external circumstances that robbed him of any sense of peace—until he finally found a purpose worth living for. Barry explores the twists and turns of his own journey, including: his dad's constant push and pursuit for excellence, which translated into a toxic father-son relationship, how achieving superstardom in the major leagues created crippling fear, the personal destruction brought on by fame and fortune, and the disastrous seasons with the San Francisco Giants, including being benched for the 2010 playoffs and World Series. Zito comes face-to-face with the destructiveness of his own ego—his need to be viewed as the best. He also comes face-to-face with God and with the truth that he was loved no matter what he achieved.

slowest pitchers in mlb history: Wherever I Wind Up R.A. Dickey, 2013-03-26 The perfect gift for baseball fans, now with a new epilogue by author R.A. Dickey, winner of the 2012 Cy Young award. An astounding memoir—haunting and touching, courageous and wise.—Jeremy Schaap, bestselling author, Emmy award-winning journalist, ESPN In 1996, R.A. Dickey was the Texas Rangers' much-heralded No. 1 draft choice. Then, a routine physical revealed that his right elbow was missing its ulnar collateral ligament, and his lifelong dream—along with his \$810,000 signing bonus—was ripped away. Yet, despite twice being consigned to baseball's scrap heap, Dickey battled back. Sustained by his Christian faith, the love of his wife and children, and a relentless quest for self-awareness, Dickey is now the starting pitcher for the Toronto Blue Jays (he was previously a star pitcher for the New York Mets) and one of the National League's premier players, as well as the winner of the 2012 Cy Young award. In *Wherever I Wind Up*, Dickey eloquently shares his quintessentially American tale of overcoming extraordinary odds to achieve a game, a career, and a life unlike any other.

slowest pitchers in mlb history: The Cooperstown Casebook Jay Jaffe, 2017-07-25 The *Cooperstown Casebook* by Jay Jaffe provides a definitive guide to the greatest players in baseball history, and the Hall of Fame.

slowest pitchers in mlb history: *Doc* Todd Zolecki, 2021-05-25 Nobody's baseball story is like Roy Halladay's. He was born and raised to be a superstar. He was a first-round draft pick in 1995. He nearly threw a no-hitter in his second big-league start in 1998. But two years later, Halladay suffered arguably the worst season by any pitcher in baseball history. He was months away from being out of the game. Hall of Fame pitchers do not struggle like that. But Halladay vowed to change. He altered his pitching mechanics and rewired his brain to become one of the greatest pitchers of all time. How did Doc do it? *Doc: The Life of Roy Halladay* tells the remarkable story; based on more than 100 interviews with Halladay's family, friends, managers, coaches, teammates, and competitors, including extensive interviews with his wife, Brandy; comprehensive archival research; and previously unpublished commentary from Halladay himself. Doc not only tells the story of Halladay's illustrious baseball career in Toronto and Philadelphia, but his hard-driven adolescence, his lifelong personal struggles, and his motivation to pay forward the knowledge and philosophies that helped him achieve baseball greatness before his tragic death in 2017. This essential biography is a testimonial for baseball players and pitchers from high school to the big leagues still searching for their path to excellence, like Halladay. It's also a celebration and a profound exploration of a generational pitcher and a beloved teammate, friend, and family man.

slowest pitchers in mlb history: *If These Walls Could Talk: St. Louis Cardinals* Stan McNeal, 2023-05-09 Fully revised and updated for 2023! The St. Louis Cardinals are one of baseball's most storied franchises, and as much a part of St. Louis as Anheuser-Busch and the arch. From Lou Brock to Matt Carpenter, Ozzie Smith to Yadier Molina, Bob Gibson to Adam Wainwright, from Hall of Famers to rookie busts, the Cardinals are beloved in St. Louis. In this book, Stan McNeal provides a closer look at the great moments and the lowlights that have made the Cardinals one of the baseball's keystone teams. Through the words of the players, via multiple interviews conducted with current and past Cardinals, readers will meet the players, coaches, and management and share in their moments of greatness and defeat. This book shares stories behind such Cardinal memories as the little-known clubhouse antics of backup catcher Bob Uecker during the teams' memorable run in the 1960s, the excitement at Busch Stadium in the 1980s as the Cardinals reached the World Series three times, and the elation of the 2006 and 2011 World Series championships.

slowest pitchers in mlb history: *Dynastic, Bombastic, Fantastic* Jason Turbow, 2017-03-07 "An exciting and engrossing book. . . will engage fans of Charlie O. Finley and the Oakland Athletics, along with anyone captivated by baseball history." —Library Journal, starred review The Oakland A's of the early 1970s: Never before had an entire organization so collectively traumatized baseball's establishment with its outlandish behavior and business decisions. The high drama that played out on the field—five straight division titles and three straight championships—was exceeded only by the drama in the clubhouse and front office. Under the visionary leadership of owner Charles O. Finley, the team assembled such luminary figures as Reggie Jackson, Catfish Hunter, Rollie Fingers, and Vida Blue, and with garish uniforms and revolutionary facial hair, knocked baseball into the modern age. Finley's need for control—he was his own general manager and dictated everything from the ballpark organist's playlist to the menu for the media lounge—made him ill-suited for the advent of free agency. Within two years, his dynasty was lost. A history of one of the game's most unforgettable teams, *Dynastic, Bombastic, Fantastic* is a paean to the sport's most turbulent, magical team, during one of major league baseball's most turbulent, magical times. "Masterfully recounts a thrilling period in Oakland A's history." —Billy Beane, executive vice president of baseball operations, Oakland A's "Not to be believed, and yet 100 percent true." —Steve Fainaru, senior writer for ESPN and author of *League of Denial* "A must-read for any fan of the sport." —Chris Ballard, *Sports Illustrated* senior writer and author of *One Shot at Forever* "Carefully researched and often hilarious." —San Francisco Chronicle "A chance to relive a period of outlandish moments in America's pastime." —Publishers Weekly

slowest pitchers in mlb history: *Sandy Koufax* Jane Leavy, 2009-10-13 "Leavy has hit it out of the park...A lot more than a biography. It's a consideration of how we create our heroes, and how this hero's self perception distinguishes him from nearly every other great athlete in living

memory... a remarkably rich portrait.” — Time The New York Times bestseller about the baseball legend and famously reclusive Dodgers’ pitcher Sandy Koufax, from award-winning former Washington Post sportswriter Jane Leavy. Sandy Koufax reveals, for the first time, what drove the three-time Cy Young award winner to the pinnacle of baseball and then—just as quickly—into self-imposed exile.

slowest pitchers in mlb history: The Matheny Manifesto Mike Matheny, Jerry B. Jenkins, 2015-02-03 St. Louis Cardinals manager Mike Matheny's New York Times bestselling manifesto about what parents, coaches, and athletes get wrong about sports; what we can do better; and how sports can teach eight keys to success in sports and life. Mike Matheny was just forty-one, without professional managerial experience and looking for a next step after a successful career as a Major League catcher, when he succeeded the legendary Tony La Russa as manager of the St. Louis Cardinals in 2012. While Matheny has enjoyed immediate success, leading the Cards to the postseason four times in his first four years—a Major League record—people have noticed something else about his life, something not measured in day-to-day results. Instead, it’s based on a frankly worded letter he wrote to the parents of a Little League team he coached, a cry for change that became an Internet sensation and eventually a “manifesto.” The tough-love philosophy Matheny expressed in the letter contained his throwback beliefs that authority should be respected, discipline and hard work rewarded, spiritual faith cultivated, family made a priority, and humility considered a virtue. In *The Matheny Manifesto*, he builds on his original letter by first diagnosing the problem at the heart of youth sports—it starts with parents and coaches—and then by offering a hopeful path forward. Along the way, he uses stories from his small-town childhood as well as his career as a player, coach, and manager to explore eight keys to success: leadership, confidence, teamwork, faith, class, character, toughness, and humility. From “The Coach Is Always Right, Even When He’s Wrong” to “Let Your Catcher Call the Game,” Matheny’s old-school advice might not always be popular or politically correct, but it works. His entertaining and deeply inspirational book will not only resonate with parents, coaches, and athletes, it will also be a powerful reminder, from one of the most successful new managers in the game, of what sports can teach us all about winning on the field and in life.

slowest pitchers in mlb history: Me and the Spitter Gaylord Perry, 1974

slowest pitchers in mlb history: Supreme Myths Eric J. Segall, 2012-02-22 This book explores some of the most glaring misunderstandings about the U.S. Supreme Court—and makes a strong case for why our Supreme Court Justices should not be entrusted with decisions that affect every American citizen. *Supreme Myths: Why the Supreme Court is Not a Court and its Justices are Not Judges* presents a detailed discussion of the Court's most important and controversial constitutional cases that demonstrates why it doesn't justify being labeled a court of law. Eric Segall, professor of law at Georgia State University College of Law for two decades, explains why this third branch of the national government is an institution that makes important judgments about fundamental questions based on the Justices' ideological preferences, not the law. A complete understanding of the true nature of the Court's decision-making process is necessary, he argues, before an intelligent debate over who should serve on the Court—and how they should resolve cases—can be held. Addressing front-page areas of constitutional law such as health care, abortion, affirmative action, gun control, and freedom of religion, this book offers a frank description of how the Supreme Court truly operates, a critique of life tenure of its Justices, and a set of proposals aimed at making the Court function more transparently to further the goals of our representative democracy.

slowest pitchers in mlb history: The Science of Baseball A. Terry Bahill, 2018-12-04 This augmented, new edition adds discussion of the bat’s vertical sweetness gradient, eye-hand cross-dominance, models for the swing of a bat, and accuracy of simulations. The book retains its description of dynamic collisions between baseballs, softballs, and bats, and the intricate modeling of these interactions, using only basic math and physical principles. Veteran baseball science author Terry Bahill explains models for the speed and spin of balls and bats and calculations for bat-ball collisions at a level accessible to most students of the science of baseball. Demystifying the most

important factors for understanding bat performance—bat weight, moment of inertia, the coefficient of restitution, and characteristics of humans swinging the bats—Dr. Bahill also explains physical aspects of the optimal bat and the sweet spot. Praise for the First Edition “Dr. Bahill’s book is the perfect tool for teaching how to solve some of baseball’s basic science problems. Using only simple Newtonian principles and the conservation laws, Dr. Bahill explains how to model bat-ball collisions. Also, he derives equations governing the flight of the ball, and proceeds to show what factors affect air density and how this density affects the ball’s flight. And as a unique addition to his fine book, he provides advice for selecting the optimal bat—a surprising bonus!” Dave Baldwin, PhD Major League pitcher, 1966-1973, lifetime Major League ERA, 3.08 “If I were the General Manager of a baseball team, I would tell my people to write a ten-page paper describing what this book contains that could improve our performance. I think the book provides the foundation for change.” Bruce Gissing Executive VP-Operations (retired) Boeing Commercial Airplanes “[I] had a chance to read your research, and I fully agree with your findings.” Baseball Legend Ted Williams, in a 1984 letter to the author

slowest pitchers in mlb history: *The Wrong Stuff* Bill Lee, Richard Lally, 2007-12-18 The return of a sports classic with a new foreword by the author Finally back in print after many years, here is Bill Lee’s classic tale of his renegade life on and off the mound. Whether walking out on the Montreal Expos to protest the release of a valued teammate or telling sportswriters eager for candid and offbeat comments more about the game than his bosses wanted anyone to know, pitcher Bill “Spaceman” Lee became celebrated as much for his rebellious personality as for his remarkable talent. Add to the mix his affinity for Eastern religions and controversial causes, and you can see why Lee infuriated the establishment while entertaining his legion of fans. In this wildly funny memoir that became a massive bestseller in the United States and Canada when it was first published, Lee recounts the colorful story of his life—from the drugged-out antics of his college days at USC (where he learned that “marijuana never hammered me like a good Camel”) to his post-World Series travels with a group of liberal long-distance runners through Red China (where he discovered that conservatives don’t like marathons because “it’s much easier to climb into a Rolls-Royce”). Lee also describes his minor league days, joining the Reserves during the Vietnam War, his time with the Red Sox, and the 1975 World Series. He spares no detail while recalling his infamous falling-out with Red Sox management that led to his trade to Montreal. Full of irreverent wit, and an inherent love of the game, *The Wrong Stuff* is a sports classic for a new generation.

slowest pitchers in mlb history: *Pitching in a Pinch* Christy Mathewson, 2013-03-27 An inside baseball memoir from the game’s first superstar, with a foreword by Chad Harbach Christy Mathewson was one of the most dominant pitchers ever to play baseball. Posthumously inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame as one of the “Five Immortals,” he was an unstoppable force on the mound, winning at least twenty-two games for twelve straight seasons and pitching three complete-game shutouts in the 1905 World Series. *Pitching in a Pinch*, his witty and digestible book of baseball insights, stories, and wisdom, was first published over a hundred years ago and presents readers with Mathewson’s plainspoken perspective on the diamond of yore—on the players, the chances they took, the jinxes they believed in, and, most of all, their love of the game. Baseball fans will love to read first-hand accounts of the infamous Merkle’s Boner incident, Giants manager John McGraw, and the unstoppable Johnny Evers and to learn how much—and just how little—has really changed in a hundred years. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

slowest pitchers in mlb history: *The Cultural Encyclopedia of Baseball* Jonathan Fraser Light, 1997 Articles covers such diverse topics as alcoholism in baseball, baseball in France, the dumbest player, perfect games, and famous players.

slowest pitchers in mlb history: *Palindromania!* Jon Agee, 2009-03-31 In this entertaining collection featuring themed sections, comic-strip-style stories, and even lengthy monologues, Jon Agee, the prime purveyor of palindromes, offers over one hundred sixty familiar and unfamiliar palindromes paired with all-new masterly cartoons in a treasury for word lovers young and old. "All hail Jon Agee, the 'Droll Lord' of palindromes!" - Will Shortz "For Jon Agee, creating palindromes is irrepressible." - Associated Press "A creative, comedic gem." -Booklist For Jon Agee, creating palindromes is irrepressible. --Associated Press A creative, comedic gem. -Booklist JON AGEE has written and illustrated five previous books of wordplay, including *Who Ordered the Jumbo Shrimp?* and *Other Oxymorons*. He lives in San Francisco, California. In this entertaining collection featuring themed sections, comic-strip-style stories, and even lengthy monologues, Jon Agee, the prime purveyor of palindromes, offers over one hundred sixty familiar and unfamiliar palindromes paired with all-new masterly cartoons in a treasury for word lovers young and old. "All hail Jon Agee, the 'Droll Lord' of palindromes!" - Will Shortz "For Jon Agee, creating palindromes is irrepressible." - Associated Press "A creative, comedic gem." -Booklist

slowest pitchers in mlb history: *Player-manager* Lou Boudreau, Ed Fitzgerald, 1949

slowest pitchers in mlb history: *High Heat* Tim Wendel, 2011-03-22 What is it about a quality fastball that brings us to the edge of our seats? How is it humanly possible to throw more than 100 mph? And the big question: Who is the fastest pitcher ever? Drawing on interviews with current and former players, managers, scouts, experts, and historians, Tim Wendel delivers the answers to some of the most intriguing questions about the fastball, providing insight into one of baseball's most exhilarating yet mystifying draws. In *High Heat* he takes us on a quest to separate verifiable fact from baseball lore, traveling from ballparks across the country to the Baseball Hall of Fame, piecing together the fascinating history of the fastball from its early development to the present form while exploring its remarkable impact on the game and the pitchers who have been blessed (or cursed) with its gift. From legends such as Nolan Ryan, Walter Johnson, Steve Dalkowski, and Satchel Paige to present-day standard bearers like Tim Lincecum, Billy Wagner, and Randy Johnson, Wendel examines the factors that make throwing heat an elusive ability that few have and even fewer can harness. Along the way he investigates the effectiveness of early speed-testing techniques (including Bob Feller's infamous motorcycle test), explains why today's radar gun readings still leave plenty of room for debate, and even visits an aerodynamic testing lab outside of Birmingham, Alabama, in order to understand the mechanics that make throwing heat possible in the first place. At its heart, *High Heat* is a reflection on our infatuation with the fastball—the expectation it carries, the raw ability it puts on display, and, most of all, the feats and trials of those who have attempted to master it. As Wendel puts it, The tale of high heat can lead in several different directions at once, and the real story has more to do with triumph and tragedy than with the simple act of throwing a baseball.

slowest pitchers in mlb history: *Baseball America 2021 Prospect Handbook Digital Edition*, 2021-03-23 A Simon & Schuster eBook. Simon & Schuster has a great book for every reader.

slowest pitchers in mlb history: *Blues & Chaos* Robert Palmer, 2011-09-06 A collection of previously published articles and criticism by famed music critic Robert Palmer.

slowest pitchers in mlb history: *The Only Rule Is It Has to Work* Ben Lindbergh, Sam Miller, 2016-05-03 The New York Times bestseller about what would happen if two statistics-minded outsiders were allowed to run a professional baseball team. It's the ultimate in fantasy baseball: You get to pick the roster, set the lineup, and decide on strategies -- with real players, in a real ballpark, in a real playoff race. That's what baseball analysts Ben Lindbergh and Sam Miller got to do when an independent minor-league team in California, the Sonoma Stompers, offered them the chance to run its baseball operations according to the most advanced statistics. Their story in *The Only Rule Is It Has to Work* is unlike any other baseball tale you've ever read. We tag along as Lindbergh and Miller apply their number-crunching insights to all aspects of assembling and running a team, following one cardinal rule for judging each innovation they try: it has to work. We meet colorful figures like general manager Theo Fightmaster and boundary-breakers like the first openly gay player in

professional baseball. Even José Canseco makes a cameo appearance. Will their knowledge of numbers help Lindbergh and Miller bring the Stompers a championship, or will they fall on their faces? Will the team have a competitive advantage or is the sport's folk wisdom true after all? Will the players attract the attention of big-league scouts, or are they on a fast track to oblivion? It's a wild ride, by turns provocative and absurd, as Lindbergh and Miller tell a story that will speak to numbers geeks and traditionalists alike. And they prove that you don't need a bat or a glove to make a genuine contribution to the game.

slowest pitchers in mlb history: They Call Me Pudge Ivan Rodriguez, Jeff Sullivan, Nolan Ryan, Jim Leyland, 2017-08-01 With 14 All-Star appearances, 13 Gold Gloves, a Most Valuable Player Award, and, of course, a World Series ring, Ivan Pudge Rodriguez has more than earned his spot in Cooperstown as one of the best Major League catchers of all time. In They Call Me Pudge, Rodriguez tells the story of his unforgettable baseball journey, from signing his first professional contract as a 16 year-old in Puerto Rico, to his years in Texas, Detroit, and beyond, to the World Series stage in Miami, and behind the doors of the Texas Rangers front office. Rodriguez's accomplishments, his teammates, and his biggest challenges all receive time in the spotlight in this refreshing memoir of a life and Hall-of-Fame career.

slowest pitchers in mlb history: The Year Babe Ruth Hit 104 Home Runs Bill Jenkinson, 2007-02-09 In an unprecedented look at Babe Ruth's amazing batting power, sure to inspire debate among baseball fans of every stripe, one of the country's most respected and trusted baseball historians reveals the amazing conclusions of more than twenty years of research. Jenkinson takes readers through Ruth's 1921 season, in which his pattern of battled balls would have accounted for more than 100 home runs in today's ballparks and under today's rules. Yet, 1921 is just tip of the iceberg, for Jenkinson's research reveals that during an era of mammoth field dimensions Ruth hit more 450-plus-foot shots than anybody in history, and the conclusions one can draw are mind boggling.

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