

A Schott From The Bleachers

Foxx Reached For Babe's Mark

by

Arthur O. Schott

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The passing of Jimmy Foxx reduces the old guard of baseball by another famous name. Here was a man who closed his baseball career second only to Babe Ruth as a home-run hitter.



Jimmy, a product of Sudlersville, MD, entered the majors with Connie Mack's Athletics in 1925 and stayed around to play 2,317 games in the big leagues. He hit a total of 534 homers in 8,134 times at bat, giving him a lifetime frequency of 15.2 times at bat per home run.

Among the books on the shelves of Cooperstown Jr. is a 1932 scrapbook containing all of the box scores and accounts of the American League for that season, and in it we found some interesting dope about Jimmy Foxx as he pursued the 60-homer mark of Ruth. Foxx ended the season by hitting his 58th home run in the Athletics' last game of the campaign and thus became the first major leaguer to finish so close to the Babe in a season.

At the end of May, Foxx had chalked up seventeen homers, and when July 15th rolled around Jimmy's log book showed 35 homers. When August 31 went into the record books, Foxx was at 48, and the A's had 23 more games to play, so Jimmy would have to collect 12 homers in 23 games if Ruth's mark was to be equaled. Sentiment was divided as some fans pulled for Foxx and others strung along with the ever-popular Ruth. Jimmy finally wound up with 58 home runs, his last coming on September 25th, and is our box score presentation of the day.

Connie Mack was fighting for a fourth consecutive pennant in this 1932 season, but Joe McCarthy's Yankees were too hot to handle and the A's finished in second place, 13 games behind the Yanks.

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Louisiana's Official Baseball Historian

Jimmy Foxx hit his 58th home run at Washington on September 25, 1952:

PHILADELPHIA					WASHINGTON				
	AB	H	PO	A		AB	H	PO	A
Williams, 2b	4	1	1	1	Rice, lf	3	1	3	0
Haas, cf	4	0	2	0	Kerr, 2b	3	0	2	6
Modjeski, c	4	0	6	1	Reynolds, rf	4	1	0	0
Simmons, lf	4	1	4	0	Cronin, ss	4	2	4	1
Foxx, 1b	3	3	6	0	Kuhel, 1b	3	1	10	0
McNair, ss	4	0	2	2	West, cf	3	1	4	0
Miller, rf	4	0	1	0	Bluege, 3b	3	0	2	0
Dykes, 3b	3	0	2	1	Spencer, c	3	1	2	0
Cain, p	3	1	0	1	Crowder, p	3	0	0	5

Totals	33	6	24	6	Totals	29	7	27	12
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Score by innings:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E	
PHILADELPHIA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	=	1	7	1
WASHINGTON	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	X	=	2	6	1

Summary: Runs – Rice, Reynolds, Foxx. Errors – McNair, Cronin. RBI – Kuehl, Cronin, Foxx. 2B – Cronin. HR – Foxx. SH – Kerr. DP – McNair to Foxx; Cronin to Kerr to Kuehl; Modjeski to Williams. LOB – Philadelphia 6, Washington 6. BB – Off Cain 2, Crowder 1. SO – by Cain 4, Crowder 1. Umpires – McGowan, Van Grafian, and Nallin. Time – 1:17.