

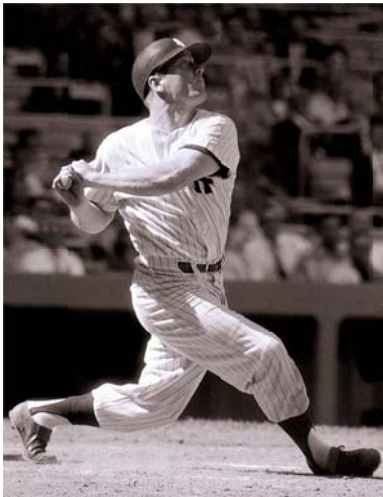
# A Schott From The Bleachers

## Mantle Missed .300 by .002

by

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Bleacher fan Phil Margavio posed an interesting question regarding Mickey Mantle's potential as a .300 hitter had he played one more season.

What were the Mick's chances of reaching the coveted .300 mark?

The answer is that they were very slim indeed, and we base our conclusion on the following facts:

At the end of the 1968 season, Mantle had accumulated 2,415 basehits in 8,102 times at bat for a lifetime mark of .298. If Mickey were to go to bat twelve times and secure a perfect record with 12 basehits, his mark would be increased by a mere point, showing 2,427 hits in 8,114 times at bat for an average of .299.

Let's take a more practical approach and assume that Mickey were to play enough to bat 100 times, in which case he would have to produce 45 basehits (a .450 batting average) in order to boost his mark two points and reach .300.

Extending his season to a 250-AB affair, he would require 91 basehits or an average of .364 in order to close out his career with a .30 figure.

It isn't necessary to probe the statistics any further. Suffice it to say that a .300 batting average is not an easy mark, and once out of the picture after a long career, it becomes an insurmountable task.

Despite the fact that he did not reach the .300 plateau, Mickey will always be remembered for his courageous efforts on the diamond. He had no r as a power switch-hitter, and his tape-measure home runs will always be a subject of baseball conversation.

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