

# A Schott From The Bleachers

## Mel Ott's First Home Run

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Mel Ott hit his first major league home run at the Polo Grounds in New York on July 18, 1927 in the first game of a doubleheader against the Chicago Cubs. Hal Carlson, the Cubs' right-hander, was the victim of Ott's initial homer, a shot to center-field which would have resulted in only a single had Hack Wilson not misplayed the ball.

The blow came in the first inning and is described in the *New York Times* as follows:

*"Ott's homer started the Giants off properly in the first game. Hack Wilson tried to make a shoe-string catch of the low liner, but was hampered by the heavy going and the ball got past him to the fence."*

The *Chicago Tribune* had this to say:

*"With two gone, young Ott shoved a single to center and in some fashion Wilson let it sneak through him. Hack went chasing the ball and captured it somewhere down near the Harlem River, Ott meanwhile making the circuit and being credited with a cheap home run."*

The Gretna, LA youngster, then just 18 years of age, went on to accumulate a total of 511 major league home runs, all in the National League. On August 12, 1937, Mel hit his 299<sup>th</sup> homer and passed Rogers Hornsby as the all-time National League home run king. It wasn't until May 4, 1966, nearly 29 years later when Willie Mays hit his 512<sup>th</sup> home run, thus surpassing Ott's mark. Willie's reign lasted slightly over six years until Hank Aaron dethroned him on August 6, 1972.

The box score of the game in which Mel Ott hit his first major league home run at the Polo Grounds, New York, follows.

CHICAGO	AB	H	PO	A	NEW YORK	AB	H	PO	A
Sparky Adams, 2b	6	2	2	6	Andy Reese, 3b	5	1	2	3
Eddie Pick, 3b	4	1	1	0	Freddie Lindstrom, lf	5	1	3	0
Earl Webb, rf	5	2	2	0	Mel Ott, cf	3	2	2	0
Hack Wilson, cf	5	1	2	0	b – Heinie Mueller, pr-cf	1	0	2	0
Riggs Stephenson, lf	3	1	2	0	Rogers Hornsby, 2b	5	0	4	2
Charlie Grimm, 1b	4	3	13	0	Bill Terry, 1b	5	0	7	2
Gabby Hartnett, c	5	2	6	0	Travis Jackson, ss	4	4	3	1
Woody English, ss	5	1	2	6	George Harper, rf	4	2	4	0
Hal Carlson, p	5	0	0	2	Al DeVorner, c	3	0	2	1
					Freddie Fitzsimmons, p	3	0	1	4
					a – Zack Taylor, ph	1	0	0	0
					Don Songer, p	0	0	0	0
Totals .....	42	13	30	14	Totals .....	39	10	30	13

a – batted for Fitzsimmons in the 9th  
b – ran for Ott in the 8th

Errors – Pick, Jackson 2. Runs – Web, Wilson, Grimm 2, Hartnett, English, Ott 2, Terry, Jackson. RBI – Ott, Jackson 3, Stephenson, Grimm, Hartnett 3 (English scored on Jackson's error). GWRBI – Hartnett. 2B - Pick, Reese, Jackson. 3B – Grimm, English, Ott. HR – Hartnett, Ott, Jackson. SB – Stephenson. SH – Stephenson, Grimm. DP – Adams to English to Grimm.

Umpires – Cy Rigler, Lou Jorda, Bob Hart.  
Time of game – 2 hours and 20 minutes.

Score by innings:										R	H	E	LOB		
Chicago .....	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	2	-	6	13	1	10
New York .....	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	-	4	10	2	7

Pitching	IP	R	H	BB	SO	Pitching	IP	R	H	BB	SO
Carlson (W)	10	4	10	2	3	Fitzsimmons	9	4	11	2	2
						Songer (L)	1	2	2	0	0
						Totals	10	6	13	2	2

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