

# A Schott From The Bleachers

## Comparing Rusty Staub and Will Clark

by

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At a recent gathering of baseball buffs, there was a discussion about the comparative career batting performance of New Orleans heroes Rusty Staub and Will Clark.

Including the 2000 season, Clark had played 15 years, eight less than Staub, who enjoyed a 23-year major league career from 1963 through 1985.

Evaluating players with such a disparity in total career output is difficult.

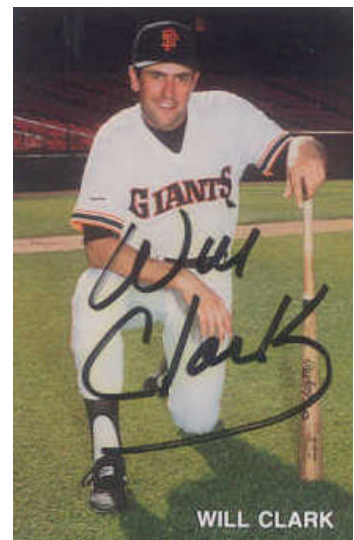
Some years ago I developed a system of ranking players on the basis of a 600 at-bat season. This process was selected because it closely represented the old 154-game schedule that the major leagues played until the expansion year of 1961.

In a 154-game schedule, a player who can get an average of four official at-bats per game would accumulate 616 at-bats for the season. I rounded this off to 600 to represent an average full season's performance for an everyday player.

	YR	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	TB	RBI	BB	SO	SB	BA	SLG
Clark	14	1846	6746	1108	2040	410	45	263	3329	1135	868	1121	62	.302	.493
Staub	23	2951	9720	1189	2716	499	47	292	4189	1466	1255	888	47	.279	.431



***Both native New Orleanians attended Jesuit High School. Both were considered "pure" hitters. How do they compare statistically?***



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Per 600 times at-bat:

	<b>AB</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>2B</b>	<b>3B</b>	<b>HR</b>	<b>TB</b>	<b>RBI</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>SO</b>	<b>SB</b>	<b>BA</b>	<b>SLG</b>
Clark	600	99	181	36	4	23	296	101	77	100	6	.302	.493
Staub	600	97	168	31	3	18	259	90	77	55	3	.279	.431

Will Clark continues to add to his career numbers this season with the St. Louis Cardinals. His 1998 season was remarkable for his 100+ totals in runs, walks, and RBIs.

Among Rusty Staub's amazing accomplishments is the strikeout total of 35 in a 642 at-bat season in which he drove in a career high 121 runs with the Detroit Tigers in 1978.

The most productive five seasons for each:

### Clark

<b>Year</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>AB</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>2B</b>	<b>3B</b>	<b>HR</b>	<b>RBI</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>SO</b>	<b>SB</b>	<b>BA</b>	<b>SLG</b>
1988	SF	162	575	102	162	36	4	29	101	100	129	9	.282	.508
1989	SF	159	588	104	196	38	9	23	111	74	103	8	.333	.546
1990	SF	154	600	91	177	25	5	19	95	62	97	8	.295	.448
1991	SF	148	565	84	170	32	7	29	116	51	91	4	.301	.538
1992	SF	144	513	69	154	40	1	16	73	73	82	12	.300	.476

### Staub

<b>Year</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>AB</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>2B</b>	<b>3B</b>	<b>HR</b>	<b>RBI</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>SO</b>	<b>SB</b>	<b>BA</b>	<b>SLG</b>
1969	MON	158	549	89	166	26	5	29	79	110	61	3	.302	.536
1971	MON	162	599	94	186	34	6	19	97	74	42	9	.311	.482
1975	NYM	155	574	93	162	30	4	19	105	77	55	2	.282	.448
1976	DET	161	589	73	176	28	3	15	96	83	49	3	.299	.433
1978	DET	162	642	75	175	30	1	24	121	76	35	3	.273	.435

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