



Consecutive Game Hitting Streaks

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In baseball we count everything – balls, strikes, wins, losses, wild pitches, passed balls, inside-the-park home runs, on-base percentage – anything and everything is tallied and recorded. Thanks to Henry Chadwick we have an enormous body of baseball statistics dating back to 1867. And we have rules for just what constitutes the criteria for a particular statistic.

Rule 10.24 provides us with the guidelines for cumulative performance records, specifically those dealing with consecutive game hitting streaks. It states:

A consecutive hitting streak shall not be terminated if the plate appearance results in a base on balls, hit batsman, defensive interference or a sacrifice bunt. A sacrifice fly shall terminate the streak.

Consecutive Game Hitting Streaks: A consecutive game hitting streak shall not be terminated if all of the player's plate appearances (one or more) result in a base on balls, hit batsman, defensive interference or a sacrifice bunt. The streak shall terminate if the player has a sacrifice fly and no hit. The player's individual consecutive game hitting streak shall be determined by the consecutive games in which the player appears and is not determined by his club's games.



The 56-game streak set by Joe DiMaggio in 1941 is the gold standard by which all other hitting streaks are measured. But what few fans today recall is that after being held hitless on July 17th by the Cleveland Indians, DiMaggio turned around and began another streak that lasted for 16 games – he hit safely in 72 out of 73 games!

The following is a list of the leading consecutive game hitting streaks:

Rank	Year	Name	Team	League	Games
1	1941	Joe DiMaggio	New York	AL	56
2	1896/1897	Willie Keeler	Baltimore	NL	45
3	1978	Pete Rose	Cincinnati	NL	44
4	1894	Bill Dahlen	Chicago	NL	42
5	1922	George Sisler	St. Louis	AL	41
6	1911	Ty Cobb	Detroit	AL	40
7	1987	Paul Molitor	Milwaukee	AL	39
8	2005/2006	Jimmy Rollins	Philadelphia	NL	38
9	1945	Tommy Holmes	Boston	NL	37
10	1895	Fred Clarke	Louisville	NL	35
	1917	Ty Cobb	Detroit	AL	35
	2002	Luis Castillo	Florida	NL	35
	2006	Chase Utley	Philadelphia	NL	35



DiMaggio, of course, holds the major league and American League record with 56-games set in 1941 while the National League record of 45-games is held by Wee Willie Keeler, set in 1896/1897.

The distribution of players throughout the history of baseball is fairly even, with three players from the 19th century (Wee Willie Keeler, Bill Dahlen, and Fred



Clarke), two from the Deadball Era (Ty Cobb and George Sisler), and the remaining five from the modern era. It is interesting to note that no player from the 1950's or 1960's made it into the top ten. Stan Musial racked up a 30-game streak in 1950 and Willie Davis made it to 31-games in 1969.



Wee Willie Keeler
45 games (1896-1897)



Bill Dahlen
42 games (1894)



Fred Clark
35 games (1895)



Ty Cobb
40 games (1911)
35 games (1917)



George Sisler
41 games (1922)

As one might expect, the prolific Ty Cobb appears twice on this list – in 1911 (40 games) and again in 1917 (35 games).



A list of other consecutive game hitting streaks follows.

Year	Name	Team	League	Games
1925	George Sisler	St. Louis	AL	34
1938	George McQuinn	St. Louis	AL	34
1949	Dom DiMaggio	Boston	AL	34
1987	Benito Santiago	San Diego	NL	34
1893	George Davis	New York	NL	33
1907	Hal Chase	New York	AL	33
1922	Rogers Hornsby	St. Louis	NL	33
1933	Heinie Manush	Washington	AL	33
1899	Ed Delahanty	Philadelphia	NL	31
1906	Nap Lajoie	Cleveland	AL	31
1924	Sam Rice	Washington	AL	31
1969	Willie Davis	Los Angeles	NL	31
1970	Rico Carty	Atlanta	NL	31
1980	Ken Landreaux	Minnesota	AL	31
1999	Vladimir Guerrero	Montreal	NL	31
1876	Cal McVey	Chicago	NL	30
1898	Elmer Smith	Cincinnati	NL	30
1912	Tris Speaker	Boston	AL	30
1934	Goose Goslin	Detroit	AL	30
1950	Stan Musial	St. Louis	NL	30
1976	Ron LeFlore	Detroit	AL	30
1980	George Brett	Kansas City	AL	30
1989	Jerome Walton	Chicago	NL	30
1997	Sandy Alomar, Jr.	Cleveland	AL	30
1997	Nomar Garciaparra	Boston	AL	30
1998	Eric Davis	Baltimore	AL	30



Year	Name	Team	League	Games
1999	Luis Gonzalez	Arizona	NL	30
2003	Albert Pujols	St. Louis	NL	30
2006	Willy Taveras	Houston	NL	30
2007	Moises Alou	New York	NL	30
2009	Ryan Zimmerman	Washington	NL	30

Data complete through the 2009 season.

DiMaggio's consecutive game hitting streak may eventually be broken, but the odds are high against it. Technically speaking, it's easier to throw a perfect game than it is to hit safely in 56 consecutive games.