



DiMaggio's Other Streak

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In 1933, Joe DiMaggio was an 18-year old rookie playing for his hometown San Francisco Seals in the Class AA Pacific Coast League (PCL). An unknown who had been playing semi-pro ball two years earlier as a newsboy, his name was often misspelled in the press of the day as *De Maggio*, even after he broke the PCL record for hitting safely in consecutive games set in 1915 by Jack Ness. It wasn't until Seals owner and PCL vice-president Charley Graham was making arrangements to have DiMaggio's name engraved on a gold watch presented to him for breaking the record that the question arose. After all, Joe's older brother Vince, a former Seal who was then playing with the Hollywood Stars, spelled his name DiMaggio.



Joe had actually played 3 games at shortstop with the Seals at the end of the 1932 season and had only been invited to spring training in 1933 after his brother Vince argued his case to manager Lefty O'Doul. It worked out well for Joe, who the team signed, but not so well for Vince, who the team released.

Luckily for DiMaggio and for the fans in San Francisco, O'Doul moved him from shortstop to right field. DiMaggio was very erratic, always overthrowing the first baseman. His throwing arm was better suited to an outfielder and he was a pretty fair hitter. No one had any idea of what was to come.

It began modestly on May 28th with a single off of Art Jacobs of the Portland Beavers. For the next 61 consecutive games, DiMaggio would hit safely, posting a .405 batting average during the streak. He would collect a total of 104 hits.

The Seals played a 187-game schedule in 1933. During DiMaggio's streak he would only have 11 days off to travel between cities, rest, and deal with the pressure that came with chasing a record. The press took notice of his output a little earlier in the streak than they would in 1941, making it all the more impressive that the young rookie could handle the pressure. In typical DiMaggio fashion he kept any emotions he felt inside and maintained his stoic demeanor throughout it all.

And he would dramatically impact the financial fortunes of the San Francisco Seals, attracting more fans to the old stadium at the corner of 16th and Bryant Street than they had seen in a

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decade. He filled the stands on the road as well and was presented with gifts three times during the streak at opponent's ballparks by the fans.

The schedule was a grueling one – 61 games played over the course of 56 days, including 13 doubleheaders. As he approached the PCL record during a series with the Los Angeles Angels on July 11th the strain was beginning to become evident in the gaunt face of the young slugger. He managed 2 hits in the first game off the Angels' Dick Ward. He pounded out 4 hits in the July 12th doubleheader, the first off former teammate LeRoy Hermann in the top half and 3 hits off righthander Fay Thomas – the first of which tied Jack Ness' 1915 record of 49 consecutive games. He would have all day on Thursday, July 13th to think about breaking the record.

Facing 25-year old Louis Norman Newsom – better known as Bobo – a big righthander who had played briefly for the Brooklyn Dodgers and the Chicago Cubs prior to landing with the Los Angeles club, stood the seemingly diminutive DiMaggio. He managed to crank out two hits during his 5 at-bats that day, setting a new PCL record. For a while at least the pressure seemed to ease and DiMaggio could once again enjoy the game.

However, looming in the distance was Joe Wilhoit's record of 69 games and soon the pressure was back on young DiMaggio. He began to lose weight and hit line drives, once crisp off his bat, seemed to be fading. Clearly the pace and the pressure was taking its toll on Joe. After his 60th consecutive game in Sacramento on July 23rd the police were forced to escort scorer Steve George from the stadium to avoid an unruly crowd of Senators fans. As would happen again in 1941, there were those who felt that DiMaggio was being given preferential treatment during the streak.

In the ninth inning DiMaggio laid down a bunt which tailed in towards Sacramento shortstop Ray French who raced in to grab the ball, bobbling it momentarily before deciding that any attempt to throw out DiMaggio was futile. Scorer George ruled that the runner was to be given the benefit of the doubt and scored accordingly, allowing DiMaggio a hit and the streak to remain alive at 60 games.

After hitting safely in his 61st consecutive game at home against the Oakland Oaks on July 24th, the Seals were set to face off against Ed Walsh, son of the former Chicago White Sox spitballer. DiMaggio grounded out, flied out twice, and was safe on a fielder's choice. The streak which had begun on May 28th was over, but the fans throughout the Pacific Coast League circuit were given a glimpse of the greatness that was to come.

The son of a San Francisco fisherman, DiMaggio had learned to play baseball with an old oar handle for a bat and a ball held together with bicycle tape. But with his performance in 1933 he had captured the hearts of Bay Area fans and had also captured his first hitting record. He would finish the 1933 season with 259 hits and a .340 batting average along with 28 home runs.

The following table provides a game-by-game summary of Joe DiMaggio's incredible 61 consecutive game hitting streak from 1933.

DiMaggio's 61-Game Hitting Streak

Date	Opponent	Pitcher(s)	AB	R	H
May 28	Portland Beavers	Art Jacobs – Carl Boone	4	0	1
May 30	Seattle Rainiers	Hal Haid – Rip Sewell	6	1	3
May 30	Seattle Rainiers	George Caster – Bill Radonits	4	3	3
May 31	Seattle Rainiers	Phil Page – George Caster	4	1	2
June 1	Seattle Rainiers	Rip Sewell – George Caster	5	0	1
June 2	Seattle Rainiers	Herman Pillette – Hal Haid – George Caster	5	1	2
June 3	Seattle Rainiers	Bill Radonits	4	3	2
June 4	Seattle Rainiers	Phil Page – George Caster – Augie Ulrich	4	1	2
June 4	Seattle Rainiers	Hal Haid	3	0	1
June 6	Oakland Oaks	Roy Joiner	4	0	1
June 7	Oakland Oaks	Mike Salinsen	3	0	1
June 8	Oakland Oaks	Willie Ludolph – Lou McEvoy	5	1	2
June 9	Oakland Oaks	Glenn Gabler	4	1	1
June 10	Oakland Oaks	Lou McEvoy – Roy Joiner – Willie Ludolph	5	2	2
June 11	Oakland Oaks	Ed Walsh – Glenn Gabler	5	2	3
June 11	Oakland Oaks	Mike Salisen – Lou McEvoy	4	2	1
June 13	Seattle Rainiers	Hal Haid – Rip Sewell	4	1	2
June 14	Seattle Rainiers	Bill Radonits – George Caster	2	0	1
June 15	Seattle Rainiers	Herman Pillette	4	2	2
June 15	Seattle Rainiers	George Caster	5	0	2
June 17	Seattle Rainiers	Phil Page	4	2	3
June 18	Seattle Rainiers	Bill Radonits	3	1	1
June 18	Seattle Rainiers	Hal Haid	2	0	2
June 20	Mission Reds	John Babich	2	0	1
June 21	Mission Reds	Bill Phebus – Herman Pillette – Wayne Osborne	5	0	2
June 22	Mission Reds	Bert Cole	4	0	2
June 23	Mission Reds	Lloyd Johnson – Wayne Osborne	4	1	1
June 24	Mission Reds	Dutch Lieber	4	0	2
June 25	Mission Reds	Herman Pillette – Wayne Osborne	4	3	2
June 25	Mission Reds	Bill Phebus	4	1	1
June 27	Los Angeles Angels	Bobo Newsome – Win Ballou	4	1	2
June 28	Los Angeles Angels	Fay Thomas	5	1	2
June 29	Los Angeles Angels	LeRoy Hermann	5	0	1
June 30	Los Angeles Angels	Dick Ward	4	0	1
July 1	Los Angeles Angels	Bobo Newsome	4	1	1
July 2	Los Angeles Angels	Fay Thomas	4	0	1
July 2	Los Angeles Angels	Win Ballou	4	1	2
July 4	Hollywood Stars	Archie Campbell	5	0	1
July 4	Hollywood Stars	Buzz Wetzel	5	0	2
July 5	Hollywood Stars	Tom Sheehan	4	1	1
July 6	Hollywood Stars	Martin Dumovich	3	1	1
July 7	Hollywood Stars	Vance Page	5	1	1
July 8	Hollywood Stars	Frank Shellenback	5	2	2
July 8	Hollywood Stars	Archie Campbell	3	0	1
July 9	Hollywood Stars	Martin Dumovich	3	1	1
July 9	Hollywood Stars	Tom Sheehan	6	1	3
July 11	Los Angeles Angels	Dick Ward	4	0	2
July 12	Los Angeles Angels	LeRoy Hermann	4	1	1
July 12	Los Angeles Angels	Fay Thomas	4	1	3
July 14	Los Angeles Angels	Bobo Newsome – Win Ballou	5	0	2
July 15	Los Angeles Angels	Dick Ward	4	1	4
July 16	Los Angeles Angels	LeRoy Hermann – Emmett Nelson	4	1	1
July 16	Los Angeles Angels	Buzz Wetzel – Win Ballou	3	1	1
July 18	Sacramento Senators	Berly Horne	4	2	3
July 19	Sacramento Senators	Ed Bryan	5	1	3
July 20	Sacramento Senators	Bill Hartwig	5	0	1
July 21	Sacramento Senators	Lauri Vinci	5	0	1
July 22	Sacramento Senators	Tom Flynn – Herb Saunders – Joe Noonan	4	0	1
July 23	Sacramento Senators	Berly Horne – Bill Hartwig	5	0	1
July 23	Sacramento Senators	Ed Bryan	4	1	1
July 24	Oakland Oaks	Mike Salinsen – Lou McEvoy – Clarence Fieber	5	1	1

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