



Collin's Corner

Three 200-K Pitchers On Staff A Rarity in Major Leagues

by Lee Collin
March 2003

Every pitching coach in major league baseball hopes he has an overpowering starter who can give his team a good number of innings and strikeouts. Traditionally, a 200-strikeout season is part of what defines power pitching.

Since 1900, only two pitching staffs can boast of having three starters who reached the 200-strikeout total in the same season.

With **Dean Chance** (220), **Jim Kaat** (211), and **Dave Boswell** (204) in the rotation, the 1967 Minnesota Twins became the first 20th century team to put together three 200-strikeout pitchers. The three hurlers combined for an average of 7.42 Ks per 9 innings of pitching, while the rest of the Minnesota staff averaged 6.06 strikeouts per 9 innings. The Twins finished in a tie for second that season, with a record of 91 – 71, one game behind the pennant-winning Boston Red Sox.

Even with all that strikeout power, the Twins staff could finish no better than second in the American League in strikeouts in 1967. The Cleveland Indians staff, led by **Luis Tiant** and **Sam McDowell**, led the majors with a total of 1,189 Ks, an even hundred more than the Twins' total of 1,089.

The only other team to have three pitchers with 200 strikeouts was the Houston Astros of 1969. The Astros staff set a new standard for strikeouts in a season with 1,221 while averaging 7.65 strikeouts per game. Despite all the strikeouts, Houston was only a .500 club (81 – 81) in 1969.

Larry Dierker (232), **Don Wilson** (235), and **Tom Griffin** (200) combined for 667 strikeouts in 718 innings pitched, for an average of 8.35 whiffs per nine innings.

1967		
Pitchers With 200 Ks in AL		
Pitcher, Club	IP	SO
Jim Lonborg, Boston	273.1	246
Sam McDowell, Boston	236.1	236
Dean Chance, Minnesota	283.2	220
Luis Tiant, Cleveland	213.2	219
Gary Peters, Chicago	260.0	215
Jim Kaat, Minnesota	263.1	211
Dave Boswell, Minnesota	222.2	204

Lee Collin
42150 Yokim Road
Ponchatoula, LA 70454



Collin's Corner

1969		
Pitchers With 200 Ks in NL		
Pitcher, Club	IP	SO
Fergie Jenkins, Chicago	311.1	273
Bob Gibson, St. Louis	314.0	269
Bill Singer, Los Angeles	315.2	247
Don Wilson, Houston	225.0	235
Gaylord Perry, San Francisco	325.1	233
Larry Dierker, Houston	305.1	232
Don Sutton, Los Angeles	293.1	217
Bob Veale, Pittsburgh	225.2	213
Steve Carlton, St. Louis	236.1	210
Tom Seaver, New York	273.1	208
Juan Marichal, San Francisco	299.2	205
Tom Griffin, Houston	188.0	200

Copyright © 2003 by Lee Collin. All Rights Reserved.
This article first appeared in the March 2003 issue of *Bleacher Creature*.