

History of the World Series
Father of the World Series

Chapter 10

*The interesting facts for **Chapter 10** will focus on the how the World Series of Baseball came into being and the person most responsible for its creation.*

Learning Statistics with Baseball

World Series History

Before 1903, many attempts were made by baseball to declare a champion between existing leagues. Leagues were made and disappeared throughout the 19th Century. In 1894, Pittsburgh's owner William Temple offered a championship trophy to the winner of a best-of-seven-game series between the first and second-place teams in the National League. This experiment lasted three years and its popularity became the forerunner of the World Series as we know it today. In 1900, The Pittsburg Pirates were sold to a man named Barney Dreyfuss.

Barney Dreyfuss was born in Freiburg, Germany in 1865. He came to this country as a young man of age 18. Due to his poor health, he was encouraged by his doctor to play the game of baseball. In 1890, Dreyfuss obtained part ownership of the Louisville Colonels, a Major League team in the American Association. Upon purchasing the Pirates, a team in the National League, he brought with him from the Louisville team future Hall-of-Famers Honus Wagner, Rube Waddell, and Fred Clarke.

With the founding of the American League in 1901, a rivalry between the two leagues was created. The two leagues fought over getting fans and getting players. In 1903, a truce between the two leagues was established. Dreyfuss led the successful battle to obtain a commissioner over both leagues. Dreyfuss was the leading force in establishing a document between the two leagues establishing player procurement and player salaries. Also, the document established the World

Series to be played between the top team in each league. Because of his efforts, Barney Dreyfuss was called the “**Father of the World Series**”.

The first World Series was between the Pittsburgh Pirates of the National League and the Boston Americans of the American League. The first series was a best of nine-game series. The Boston Americans won the series 5 to 3. Even though the first official World Series was a success, the 1904 series was cancelled. John Brush, president of the National League champion New York Giants, refused to play the Boston Americans. The reason he gave was that the American League was an inferior league. However, through negotiations the series was resumed in 1905 as a best-of-seven series. The New York Giants defeated the Philadelphia Athletics 4 to 1. The World Series has remained a best-of-seven series. The exception is for the years 1919 to 1921. For those years, it was a best-of-nine game series. There was no 1994 World Series due to a player’s strike.

The contributions of Barney Dreyfuss to baseball led to his induction into the baseball’s Hall of Fame in 2008. He owned the Pittsburg Pirates from 1900 to 1932. He built the first modern steel-frame stadium, Forbes Field, in 1909. His Pirates won the World Series in 1909 and 1925.

Some Interesting World Series Facts

- For the first World Series in 1903, each player on the winning team was paid \$1182.00; each player on the losing team was paid \$1316.25. Even though the Pittsburgh lost to Boston, Dreyfuss, the owner of Pittsburg, donated his ownership share to the players. This was the only year in baseball history when the players’ share was larger for the losing team players. Also, Dreyfuss had the checks made out to the wives of the players. His belief was that their wives would be more inclined to save some of their winnings.
- Though 2007 the American League has won 61 titles and the National League has won 42 titles.
- The New York Yankees have the most series wins at 26.
- Mickey Mantle holds several World Series career hitting records including most base-on-balls (43), most extra base hits (26), most home runs (18), most RBIs (40), Most run scored (42), most strike outs (54), and most total bases (123). It should be noted that

because of the Yankee success Mantle participated in several World Series.

- Paul Molitor is tied with Pepper Martin for the highest BA of .418. Molitor also has the highest OBP of .478. Molitor is also the only player to get five hits in a World Series game. He accomplished this feat in Game 1 of the 1982 Series when he collected five singles for the Milwaukee Brewers.
- Reggie Jackson has the highest SLG of .755.
- Yogi Berra has the most at-bats (259), most hits (71), and most singles (49). Yogi Berra was one of only two players to hit a grand slam in a World Series game that their team lost. In Game 2 of the 1956 Series, Berra hit his grand slam against Don Newcombe. The Dodgers came back and won the game 13 to 8.
- Since 1903, the only two years in which there was no World Series were 1904 and 1994.
- On October 20, 1996, at Yankee Stadium, 19-year-old Andruw Jones of the Atlanta Braves hit homers in his first two at-bats in the World Series. This equaled the feat of Gene Tenace in the 1972 World Series. Jones' homers also broke Mickey Mantle's record of being the youngest player to homer in a World Series.
- Reggie Jackson is the only player in World Series history to hit three consecutive home runs in one game. This occurred in game number six of the 1977 Series against the Los Angeles Dodgers. Each of these home runs was hit on the first pitch of his at-bat. Jackson actually homered on four consecutive swings. In game number five at LA, Jackson homered in his last at-bat on his first swing. In game number six, Jackson walked on four consecutive pitches before hitting his three consecutive homers in his next at-bats.
- It seemed like the Brooklyn Dodgers played in the World Series against the New York Yankees throughout the 1950s. Pee Wee Reese is the only player to appear in all 44 World Series games played between the Brooklyn Dodgers and the New York Yankees.
- Some of the greatest hitters in the history of baseball had horrible results in the World Series. Willie Mays, despite hitting 660 career home runs, never homered in the World Series. He went 17 for 71 with only three extras base hits – all doubles.
- The New York Yankees lost the 1960 World Series to the Pittsburgh Pirates 4 to 3. What is interesting is that the Yankees outscored the Pirates 55 to 27 in that Series. Game 7 ended on Bill Mazerowski's famous home run in Forbes Field. The final score was 10 to 9. Game 7 also marked the only game in World Series history in which no player on either

team struck out. Remember, there was no designated hitter so pitchers had to bat unless a pinch hitter was used.

- Sandy Alomar, Jr. (1997), Barry Bonds (2002), and David Ortiz (2004) are the only players to homer in the All-Star Game, the Division Series, the League Championship Series, and the World Series in the same season.

Sandlot Stats

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