

# A Schott From The Bleachers

## N.O. Native Connie Ryan Had an Impressive Big League Career

by

**Arthur O. Schott**

Member, Society for American Baseball Research



Connie Ryan, a New Orleans native, began a career in organized baseball with the Atlanta Crackers of the Southern Association in 1940. With the exception of one year in the military, Connie went on to play 16 years as a pro, including 12 seasons in the majors. Following his playing career, Connie spent eleven seasons as a major league manager and coach.

### **Six-For-Six**

On April 16, 1953, Connie Ryan had six hits in six times at bat in a single game. Although Rennie Stennett of Pittsburgh later established the major league record with 7-for-7 on September 16, 1975, at the time Ryan had his 6-for-6, it tied a record. A total of 25 batters in all have posted a 6-for-6 game. The first player of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to make the list was George Cutshaw of Brooklyn on August 9, 1915. The latest National League player to do it was Paul LoDuca of the Los Angeles Dodgers on May 28, 2001.

### **Rare Accomplishments**

Some years ago, the late Bob Davids (the founder of SABR) sent me two separate lists of unusual baseball accomplishments: (1) players who stole home in an extra-inning game, and (2) players who hit a grand slam in an extra-inning game. Connie Ryan was the only player whose name appeared on both lists. He stole home after the 9<sup>th</sup> inning in a game in 1950, and he hit a grand slam after the 9<sup>th</sup> inning in a game in 1951.

### **Triple Play Was in Order**

Ryan made his debut in the National League on April 14, 1942, with the New York Giants. One month later on May 12<sup>th</sup>, he participated in a major league triple play at New York against Pittsburgh. In the 7<sup>th</sup> inning, Pirate runner John Lanning was on second, and Pete Coscarart was on first when the batter lined to second baseman Ryan, who started a triple play. A report in the *New York Times* indicated that Ryan could have made the triple play unassisted.

Arthur O. Schott

Louisiana's Official Baseball Historian

The box score of the game in which Connie Ryan had six hits in six times at bat at Pittsburgh on April 16, 1953.

**PHILADELPHIA**

|                          | AB | H  | PO | A  |
|--------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| Connie Ryan, 2b          | 6  | 6  | 6  | 3  |
| Richie Ashburn, cf       | 4  | 2  | 2  | 0  |
| Mel Clark, rf            | 3  | 0  | 0  | 0  |
| b – John Wroostek, ph-rf | 2  | 1  | 1  | 0  |
| Del Ennis, lf            | 6  | 2  | 1  | 0  |
| Earl Torgenson, 1b       | 4  | 3  | 8  | 4  |
| Granny Hamner, ss        | 3  | 1  | 2  | 3  |
| Willie Jones, 3b         | 4  | 1  | 1  | 3  |
| Stan Lopata, c           | 5  | 0  | 1  | 0  |
| Karl Drews, p            | 2  | 0  | 1  | 2  |
| Bob Miller, p            | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1  |
| a – Bill Nicholson, ph   | 1  | 1  | 0  | 0  |
| Paul Stuffle, p          | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  |
| Andy Hansen, p           | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  |
| d – Jackie Mayo, ph      | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0  |
| Steve Ridzik, p          | 1  | 0  | 1  | 2  |
| Totals                   | 42 | 17 | 24 | 18 |

a – Doubled for Miller in 5<sup>th</sup>  
 b – Walked for Clark in 5<sup>th</sup>  
 d – Flied out for Hansen in 6<sup>th</sup>

**PITTSBURGH**

|                           | AB | H  | PO | A  |
|---------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| Cal Abrams, rf            | 6  | 3  | 4  | 0  |
| Pete Castiglione, 3b      | 4  | 1  | 2  | 5  |
| Felipe Montemayor, cf     | 5  | 2  | 4  | 1  |
| Ralph Kiner, lf           | 4  | 2  | 2  | 1  |
| Paul Smith, 1b            | 4  | 1  | 6  | 1  |
| Danny O'Connell, 2b       | 4  | 2  | 3  | 0  |
| Joe Garagiola, c          | 4  | 1  | 4  | 0  |
| Dick Cole, ss             | 3  | 2  | 2  | 3  |
| Howie Pollet, p           | 1  | 1  | 0  | 0  |
| Bob Hall, p               | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  |
| Roy Face, p               | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  |
| Johnny Hetki, p           | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  |
| c – Catfish Metkovich, ph | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  |
| Murray Dickson, p         | 2  | 0  | 0  | 0  |
| Totals                    | 37 | 15 | 27 | 11 |

c – Walked for Hetki in 5<sup>th</sup>

Summary:

- E - Lopata, Ryan, Jones, Hamner
- R - Ryan 3, Ashburn, Clark, Ennis, Hamner, Jones 2, Nicholson, Torgenson 2, Castiglione, Abrams 2, Montemayor 2, Kiner, Smith 2, O'Connell 2, Garagiola, Cole, Pollet, Metkovich.
- RBI - Castiglione 2, Montemayor, Kiner 2, Smith 2, O'Connell 3, Garagiola, Pollet 2
- 2B - Ashburn, HAMner, Montemayor, Ennis, Nicholson, Ryan 2, Cole
- 3B - Smith, Abrams
- HR - Jones, Castiglione, O'Connell
- SH - Ashburn, Castiglione, Pollet, Cole, Smith
- DP - Ridzik to Hamner, Jones to Ryan

| Pitching:   | IP  | H  | BB | SO |
|-------------|-----|----|----|----|
| Drews       | 3.2 | 8  | 0  | 1  |
| Miller      | 0.1 | 2  | 1  | 0  |
| b - Stuffle | 1.0 | 0  | 2  | 0  |
| Hansen (L)  | 1.0 | 3  | 0  | 0  |
| Ridzik      | 3.0 | 2  | 2  | 0  |
| Totals      | 8.0 | 15 | 5  | 1  |

b – pitched to 2 batters in 5<sup>th</sup>  
 HBP – Kiner (by Ridzik)

|             | IP  | H  | BB | SO |
|-------------|-----|----|----|----|
| Pollet      | 4.1 | 9  | 2  | 4  |
| a - Hall    | 0.0 | 0  | 2  | 0  |
| Face        | 0.1 | 4  | 1  | 0  |
| Hetki       | 0.1 | 0  | 1  | 0  |
| Dickson (W) | 4.0 | 4  | 0  | 0  |
| Totals      | 9.0 | 17 | 6  | 4  |

a – pitched to 2 batters in 5<sup>th</sup>

Umpires – Frank Secory, Hal Dixon, Larry Gortz, Frank Dascoli  
 Time – 3 hours 25 minutes  
 Attendance – 16,220