

Letter to the Editor - continued

Without the help of these people this project could not have been successfully completed.

Members of the P.E.O.P.L.E. Project
Mike Corrigan.

SPORTS SLANTS

- By Ray Shank

Remember, just two or three years ago, when most baseball fans felt that Babe Ruth's remarkable record of 714 career home runs could never be broken?

But suddenly, this year, someone realized that Atlanta Braves' Henry Aaron was starting out the 1973 season with 674 round-trippers to his credit and needed only 40 to tie the great Bambino's mark.

Aaron, of course, has been getting a lot of ink in American and Canadian papers this summer about the possibility of eclipsing Ruth's fantastic record. But, with just a little over a month remaining in the schedule now, the headlines have been taken away from Aaron. The last time he hit a homer was July 31, giving him 27 for the season -- 13 short of tying the record.

I previously predicted that Hank would break the mark this year. But I must admit, now, that the great Braves player might have to suffer through to 1974 before becoming baseball's greatest home run hitter of all time.

Ruth's home run mark is just one of many records that were tabbed "unbreakables" after they were set by various major leaguers. Now it's almost a certainty Aaron will be the new owner of the mark -- then it'll be Hank's mark that the experts will regard as "unbreakable".

Here's a list of other major league marks set in yesteryear which are tabbed as "unbreakables":

- Cy Young's 511 career pitching victories;
- Johnny Vander Meer's two consecutive no-hitters;
- Joe DiMaggio's 56-game hitting streak;
- Hack Wilson's 190 runs batted in in one season
- Lou Gehrig's 2,130 consecutive-game appearances;
- Rogers Hornsby's .424 batting average;
- Maury Wills' 104 stolen bases;

You know the old saying ... records are made to be broken. Now what will happen to the seven "unbreakables" mentioned above?

The Associated Press recently took a poll of current players and managers and asked them if those records would ever fall. The reaction was mixed.

Most of those questioned thought Gehrig's consecutive-game record was the one least likely to bite the dust. Wills' stolen base record, meanwhile was the one they felt was easiest to break.

San Francisco Giants manager Charlie Fox was one fellow who felt few, if any of the seven records, would ever be broken.

Of the seven records, many of the interviewed personnel felt that Wilson's 190 runs batted in mark could be reached. Billy Martin, manager of Detroit Tigers, stated that the record would "probably be broken" and another fellow felt that if anyone did it, it would be Cincinnati Reds' Johnny Bench.

The reason Gehrig's mark was tabbed as unattainable was because of the long seasons the players must put up with nowadays and the long hours of travelling, with a team playing, say, in Montreal one night and Los Angeles the next.

Hornsby's .424 season average was also continued page 6



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