

= Duff Cooley =

Duff Gordon " Sir Richard " Cooley (March 29 , 1873 ? August 9 , 1937) was a professional baseball player whose career spanned 17 seasons , 13 of which were spent in Major League Baseball (MLB) . Cooley , an outfielder and first baseman , had a career batting average of .294 in 1 @,@ 317 games played . He compiled 849 runs , 1 @,@ 579 hits , 180 doubles , 102 triples , 26 home runs , and 557 runs batted in (RBI) . In Major League history , he is tied in 148th place for most all @-@ time triples and , his 224 career stolen bases , place him equal 279th on the all @-@ time list . Cooley made his Major League debut at the age of 20 , and spent the majority of his career there , but he also appeared in minor league baseball . After breaking his leg with the Tigers in 1905 , he was replaced with future Hall of Fame outfielder Ty Cobb . Cooley , nicknamed " Sir Richard " due to his aristocratic manner , was listed as standing 5 feet 11 inches (180 cm) and weighing 158 pounds (72 kg) .

= = Career = =

Cooley was born on March 29 , 1873 , in Leavenworth , Kansas . He began his Major League career in 1893 , playing for Topeka , Kansas , before playing for the St. Louis Browns of the National League (NL) . Although the seventh youngest player in the league during his first season , he batted .346 , which remained a career @-@ high . Defensively , Cooley was a utility player , starting at multiple positions for the Cardinals . On September 30 of 1873 , Cooley recorded six hits against the Boston Beaneaters . He played for St. Louis in 1894 , nearly doubling his at bats (206) and games played (54) .

Cooley played more regularly in 1895 and averaged 4 @.@ 2 at bats per game throughout the season . One of the most successful batters on the team , he had the highest batting average at .342 and led the Cardinals in hits , triples , runs scored and total bases . His slugging (.466) and on @-@ base plus slugging (.851) percentages remained the highest of his career . His 20 triples and 264 total bases were both the fifth @-@ highest total in a season for the Cardinals franchise from between the years of 1892 when they entered the NL to 1920 , which marked the end of the Dead @-@ ball era . At the end of the year , he had played 133 games , two behind Major League leader and teammate , Joe Quinn . Offensively , Cooley tied for seventh in most hits and finished fourth in triples .

At the beginning of the 1896 season , Cooley continued to play for the Browns . However , after 40 games in which he had a .307 batting average , he was moved to the Philadelphia Phillies in exchange for Joe Sullivan , Tuck Turner , and an unknown sum of money . The Phillies , under manager Billy Nash , finished 62 ? 68 , eighth in the NL . Cooley remained with the Phillies in 1897 , when he tied with Fred Tenney , George Van Haltren , and Gene DeMontreville for the MLB lead in at @-@ bats . Cooley led his team in runs scored and stolen bases , and finished third , behind Ed Delahanty and Nap Lajoie , in hits . The following two seasons , playing for Philadelphia , he hit .312 in 1898 and .276 in 1899 , before he was purchased by the Pittsburgh Pirates for US \$ 1 @,@ 000 in April 1900 . In his only season with the Pirates , Cooley recorded a batting average of .201 , the worst of his career . He also compiled 30 runs , 50 hits , and 22 RBI .

After being purchased by the Boston Beaneaters in 1901 , Cooley made his minor @-@ league debut for the Syracuse Stars of Syracuse , New York . After recording a team @-@ high in batting average and slugging percentage , Cooley was promoted to the Major League Beaneaters . Next season , under manager Al Buckenberger , Cooley played in 135 games , more than double the previous year for the Beaneaters . He finished the year eighth in the NL in both hits and total bases , and third in doubles .

Cooley remained with the Beaneaters for the following two seasons , hitting .289 in 1903 . On June 20 , 1904 , Cooley hit for the cycle (a single , double , triple , and home run in the same game) , becoming the second Beaneater to do so . Cooley finished the 1904 season with six total errors , five in the outfield and one at first base . Cooley 's 70 RBIs were eighth most in the NL . After the season , in October 1904 , he was selected off the Beaneater 's waivers by the Detroit Tigers .

In his final Major League season , Cooley played in 97 games before breaking his leg , which led to Ty Cobb , a future inductee to the National Baseball Hall of Fame taking his place as center fielder for the rest of the season . He was sold to the Beaneaters following the 1905 season , but decided to retire instead .

= = After MLB = =

Following his retirement from baseball , Cooley moved to Dallas and began to work as a salesman . In his final years , he battled alcoholism , which partially contributed to his death from heat stroke in Dallas on August 9 , 1937 . By then , he and his wife Louise were divorced and he left no children . Cooley was buried in Grove Hill Memorial Park in Dallas .