

= Hitting for the cycle =

In baseball , hitting for the cycle is the accomplishment of one batter hitting a single , a double , a triple , and a home run in the same game . Collecting the hits in that order is known as a " natural cycle " . Cycles are rare in Major League Baseball (MLB) , and have occurred only 309 times since the first by Curry Foley in 1882 . The most recent example was accomplished by Rajai Davis of the Cleveland Indians on July 2 , 2016 , against the Toronto Blue Jays . To this day , the Miami Marlins are the only MLB franchise who have never had a player perform the feat .

Nine days earlier , just a few weeks after his Texas Rangers teammate Shin Soo Choo hit for the cycle on July 21 , 2015 , against the Colorado Rockies , Adrián Beltré hit for the cycle on August 3 , 2015 , against the Houston Astros . With the cycle hit on August 3 , 2015 , Beltre became only the fourth ever MLB player to hit for the cycle three times , and the only baseball player to hit for the cycle three times in the same ballpark (Globe Life Park in Arlington) .

The cycle is about as uncommon as a no @-@ hitter (288 occurrences in MLB history) ; it has been called " one of the rarest " and " most difficult feats " in baseball . Based on 2009 offensive levels , the probability of an average MLB player hitting for a cycle against an average team in a game is approximately 0 @. @ 00590 % ; this corresponds to about 2 @. @ 5 cycles in a 162 @-@ game season with 30 teams .

In other baseball leagues , the cycle is achieved less frequently . Through September 4 , 2008 , 63 players in Nippon Professional Baseball (NPB) , the top @-@ level baseball organization in Japan , have hit for the cycle , the most recent being Rainel Rosario . Two players have hit for the cycle on the same day once in NPB history ; this has occurred twice in MLB history . One NPB player has also hit for the cycle in an NPB All @-@ Star game . No player has ever hit for the cycle in the MLB All @-@ Star Game or the postseason .

= = Components = =

= = = Single = = =

Pursuant to Major League Baseball (MLB) Rule 6 @. @ 09 (a) , " [the] batter becomes a runner when he hits a fair ball " . The single is the most common type of hit in baseball : for example , there were 25 @, @ 838 singles hit during the 1988 MLB season , compared to 6 @, @ 386 doubles or 3 @, @ 180 home runs . The MLB leader in singles is Pete Rose , who is also the league 's all @-@ time hit leader . The single @-@ season leader in singles is Ichiro Suzuki , who broke Willie Keeler 's 106 @-@ year @-@ old record in 2004 by notching 225 , 19 more than the previous record . None of the top five players in singles (Rose , Ty Cobb , Eddie Collins , Cap Anson , and Keeler) in MLB history have hit for the cycle ; of those five , only Rose had more than 150 home runs , and two (Collins and Keeler) , who both played during the dead @-@ ball era , had fewer than 50 , lessening the probability of their completing the cycle .

= = = Double = = =

A double is a safe hit in which the batter reaches second base without being called out . This scenario often occurs when a ball is hit into the gaps between the outfielders , or down the foul line on either side of the playing field . Tris Speaker is the all @-@ time leader in doubles in MLB history , with 792 , one of which was part of a cycle ; Speaker accomplished the feat for the Boston Red Sox on June 9 , 1912 , against the St. Louis Browns . Two of the other top five players in MLB history in doubles have hit for the cycle : Stan Musial (725 doubles ; third all @-@ time) completed the cycle on July 24 , 1949 ; and Craig Biggio (668 ; fifth all @-@ time) accomplished the feat on April 8 , 2002 . The single @-@ season MLB leader is Earl Webb , the left @-@ handed outfielder who hit 67 in 1931 .

=== Triple ===

The triple , in which the batter reaches third base without being put out and without the benefit of a fielding error , is often called the " hardest part of the cycle " to complete . Hitting a triple often comes under similar hit placement as a double , but may require impressive speed on the part of the runner . Because of this , it is rare to see a player with slower @-@ than @-@ average running speed complete the cycle , but it has happened , such as when catcher Bengie Molina hit for the cycle on July 16 , 2010 ; Molina described himself as " the [slowest] guy in baseball " earlier that season . The MLB all @-@ time leader in triples is Sam Crawford , who completed the three @-@ base hit 309 times in his career ; however , none of those triples was ever part of a cycle . Of the top five players in MLB history in triples , two ? Honus Wagner and Roger Connor ? have hit for the cycle : Connor in 1890 and Wagner in 1912 . The MLB single @-@ season record holder for triples , Chief Wilson , hit for the cycle in 1910 , two years before his record @-@ setting season in which he hit 36 triples .

=== Home run ===

A home run is a hit in which the player reaches home plate , and scores a run on the same play without being called out . Most often in modern baseball , this occurs when a player hits the ball over the outfield wall in fair territory . However , it can occur on a ball hit to the outfield with a fast runner when the ball does not leave the field of play ; this is called an inside @-@ the @-@ park home run . Home @-@ run hitters are often likely to be larger , slower players due to their strength , and may not be fast enough to complete the triple . The MLB single @-@ season and all @-@ time leader in home runs is Barry Bonds , who hit 73 home runs in the 2001 season and notched 762 in his 22 @-@ season career . Bonds never hit for the cycle . The highest on the list to do so is Alex Rodriguez (fourth all @-@ time ; 695 home runs as of June 25 , 2016) , who hit for the cycle on June 5 , 1997 .

== Accomplishments ==

=== Major League Baseball ===

==== Multiple MLB cycles ====

The most cycles hit by a single player in Major League Baseball is three , accomplished by four players :

John Reilly was the first to hit a third when he completed the cycle on August 6 , 1890 , after hitting his first two in a week (September 12 and 19 , 1883) for the Cincinnati Reds .

Bob Meusel became the second man to complete three cycles , playing for the New York Yankees ; his first occurred on May 7 , 1921 , the next on July 3 , 1922 , and his final cycle on July 26 , 1928 .

The third , Babe Herman (not to be confused with the famous George Herman " Babe " Ruth) , was the first three @-@ cycle player to accomplish the feat for two different teams ? the Brooklyn Robins (May 18 and July 24 , 1931) and the Chicago Cubs (September 30 , 1933) .

Adrián Beltré became the fourth player to hit for the cycle three times in his career and the second three @-@ cycle player to hit for the cycle with two different teams (one with the Seattle Mariners and two with the Texas Rangers) . Even though Beltré hit his cycles with two different teams , all the cycles occurred in the same ballpark , Globe Life Park . Beltré 's third cycle on August 3 , 2015 only took 5 innings , it was the fastest cycle since 1974 at the time .

Reilly (1884) , Tip O 'Neill (1887) , Herman (1931) , and Aaron Hill (2012) are the only players in MLB history who have hit for the cycle twice in one season .

The most cycles hit in a single major league season is eight . Cycles have occurred on the same

day twice in Major League Baseball history : on September 17 , 1920 , hit by Bobby Veach of the Detroit Tigers and George Burns of the New York Giants ; and again on September 1 , 2008 , when the Arizona Diamondbacks ' Stephen Drew and the Seattle Mariners ' Adrián Beltré each completed the four @-@ hit group . Conversely , the longest period of time between two players hitting for the cycle was 5 years , 1 month , and 10 days , a drought lasting from Bill Joyce 's cycle in 1896 to Harry Davis ' in 1901 .

= = = Natural cycles in MLB = = =

The natural cycle , in which the hits come in order from least total bases to most (single , double , triple , and home run) , has been accomplished 14 times in MLB history . Bill Collins was the first to collect the hits in order on October 6 , 1910 . The natural cycle happened most commonly in the 1960s , occurring three times in a four @-@ year span (Jim Hickman in 1963 , Ken Boyer in 1964 , and Billy Williams in 1966) . It also occurred three times in a seven @-@ season timeframe from 2000 to 2006 : José Valentín in 2000 ; Brad Wilkerson in 2003 ; and Gary Matthews , Jr. in 2006 . The natural cycle has also been accomplished in reverse (home run , triple , double , single) by six players : Bid McPhee (1887) ; Gee Walker (1937) ; Jim Fregosi (1968 ; his second cycle) ; Luke Scott (2006) ; Carlos Gómez (2008) ; and Rajai Davis (2016) .

= = = Other related accomplishments = = =

Eight players have hit a grand slam as the home run of their cycle ; in the 21st century , that list has included Miguel Tejada , Jason Kubel , and Bengie Molina . Five players have hit a walk @-@ off home run to win the game as the final hit of their cycles : Boyer , César Tovar , George Brett , Dwight Evans , and Carlos González . In 2009 , Ian Kinsler had six hits in the game when he hit his cycle ; the accomplishment came on Jackie Robinson Day , honoring the African @-@ American pioneer who had himself hit for the cycle on August 29 , 1948 .

Four batters hit for the cycle in the same season in which they won the Triple Crown : Nap Lajoie (American League) in 1901 ; Jimmie Foxx (American League) and Chuck Klein (National League) in 1933 ; and Lou Gehrig (American League) in 1934 . Gehrig is the only player to complete the MLB Triple Crown in his cycle @-@ hitting season , leading both the National and American Leagues in batting average , home runs , and runs batted in . When Foxx and Klein won in the same season , each was playing for a team in Philadelphia : Klein for the Phillies and Foxx for the Athletics . Three players ? John Olerud , Michael Cuddyer , and Bob Watson ? have hit for the cycle in both the National and American Leagues . Family pairs to hit for the cycle include father and son Gary and Daryle Ward , who accomplished the feat in 1980 and 2004 , respectively ; and grandfather and grandson Gus and David Bell , the elder of whom hit for the cycle in 1951 , and the younger in 2004 . Harry Danning , on June 15 , 1940 , became the last player so far to hit for the cycle with his home run coming on an inside @-@ the @-@ park home run .

Two players ? Joe Cronin and Adrián Beltré ? have hit for the cycle as a member of a club and as a member of that club 's opponent (Cronin with the Washington Senators against the Boston Red Sox and later with the Red Sox ; Beltre with the Seattle Mariners against the Texas Rangers and later with the Rangers) . Beltre hit another as a Texas Ranger on August 3 , 2015 having done so by the 5th inning . All three of Beltre 's cycles came at Rangers Ballpark in Arlington , the only player to have three cycles at the same ballpark with two different teams .

= = = Nippon Professional Baseball = = =

= = = Multiple NPB cycles = = =

During his eight seasons playing for the Yokohama BayStars , Bobby Rose hit for three cycles , the most of any Nippon Professional Baseball player . Each spaced two seasons apart , his first cycle

occurred on May 2 , 1995 , the next on April 29 , 1997 , and his final cycle on June 30 , 1999 . Other than Rose , only two NPB players have hit multiple cycles : Fumio Fujimura with the Osaka Tigers and Hiromi Matsunaga with the Hankyu / Orix Braves , both with two . Fujimura is also the only player to have hit a cycle during both the single league era and the current dual league era .

The 2003 NPB season saw the most cycles hit in a single season ? five . That season also saw the only instance of cycles occurring on the same day : on July 1 , hit by Atsunori Inaba of the Yakult Swallows and Arihito Muramatsu of the Fukuoka Daiei Hawks . The next day , Shinjiro Hiyama became the third player to hit for the cycle in two days . Conversely , the longest period of time between two players hitting for the cycle was 3 years , 5 months , and 9 days , a drought lasting from Alex Ochoa 's cycle in 2004 to Julio Zuleta 's in 2007 .

== == Natural cycles in NPB == ==

The natural cycle has been accomplished five times in NPB history . Fumio Fujimura 's second cycle on May 25 , 1950 , was the first time a player collected the hits in order . On average , the natural cycle occurs approximately every 13 years . Other than Fujimura , the four players to hit for the natural cycle are Kazuhiko Kondo in 1961 , Takahiro Tokutsu in 1976 , Takanori Okamura in 1985 , and Muramatsu in 2003 . The natural cycle has only been accomplished in reverse by Ochoa (2004) .

== == Other related accomplishments == ==

When Ochoa hit his cycle with the Chunichi Dragons on April 13 , 2004 , he became the only player to hit a cycle in both Major League Baseball and Nippon Professional Baseball . Eight years earlier , Ochoa had accomplished the same feat on July 3 , 1996 , while playing for MLB 's New York Mets . Yakult Swallows catcher Atsuya Furuta is the only player to hit for the cycle in an NPB All @-@ Star game , doing so in game 2 of the 1992 series . Inaba is the only player to hit for the cycle in a rain @-@ shortened game . After hitting a triple in the first inning and hitting a home run in the fourth , Inaba collected the other two necessary hits in a seven @-@ run fifth inning when the order batted around . Kosuke Fukudome is the only player to have hit a grand slam as the home run of the cycle . Hiroshi Ohshita and Kazuhiko Kondo are the only two players have hit a walk @-@ off home run to win the game as the final hit of their cycles .