
A CENTURY OF BATTING CHAMPIONS

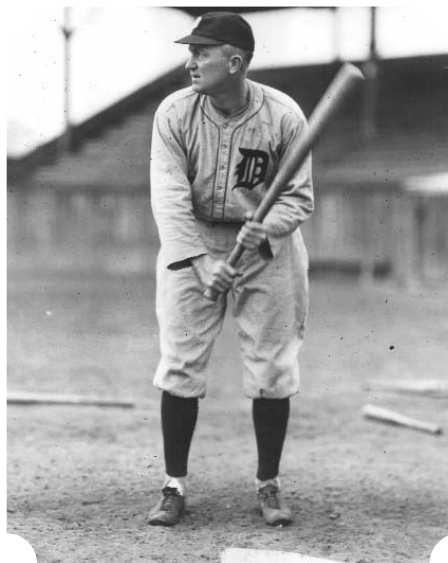


ORDONEZ JOINS ELITE GROUP OF TIGERS

Magglio Ordonez delivered one of the greatest statistical seasons in Detroit Tigers history in 2007. Ordonez won the American League batting title with a .363 batting average, while also leading the league with 54 doubles and finishing second with 216 hits and 139 RBI. He reached statistical landmarks not reached by a Tigers player in decades. His .363 batting average was the highest by a Tigers player since Charlie Gehringer batted .371 to win the American League batting title in 1937. The 216 hits were the most by a Tigers player since George Kell finished with 218 in 1950 and his 54 doubles marked the most by a Tigers player since Kell collected 56 doubles in 1950. His 139 RBI were the most since Rocky Colavito collected 140 in 1961. It was during that 1961 season that Norm Cash batted .361 to win the batting title, the last batting title by a Tigers player prior to Ordonez achieving the feat in 2007. While it had been over 40 years since the last Tigers batting title, Ordonez joined an elite group of Tigers players that comprise the club's rich history of top hitters.

TY COBB: THE ORIGINAL BATTING CHAMP

A history of Tigers batting champions would be incomplete without the most prolific batting champion in baseball history. Ty Cobb batted .350 during the 1907 campaign for the Tigers, helping lead the club to its first World Series berth. Cobb won the batting title running away that season, outpacing teammate Sam Crawford by 27 points to become the franchise's first batting champion. The 1907 season kicked off a remarkable run in which Cobb won nine consecutive batting titles. Over that nine-season stretch, Cobb batted .376 and collected nearly 1,800 hits. He finished second in the batting race to Cleveland's Tris Speaker in 1916, but rebounded to win the batting title again in each of the next three seasons. Following his run of 12 batting titles, Cobb batted .389 in 1921, but finished second to teammate Harry Heilmann. Cobb topped the .400 mark for the third time in his career in 1922, but again finished second as St. Louis' George Sisler batted .420 to lead the league. Cobb's 12 batting titles mark the most by a single player in modern baseball history.



HEILMANN CONTINUES THE REIGN

Cobb's reign of batting titles ended after the 1919 season, but it didn't take long for another Tigers player to step up and continue the Tigers dominance at the top of the American League batting race. Harry Heilmann pounded 237 hits and batted .394 in 1921 to win his first American League batting title and the 13th batting title in franchise history. He batted .403 in 1923 to claim his second batting championship and added two more titles with a .393 batting average in 1925 and .398 batting average in 1927. Heilmann won all four batting titles with batting averages of .390-or-better and is tied with Cobb and Rogers Hornsby for the most seasons since 1900 with a batting average of .390-or-better. He finished in the top five in the American League batting race two other times during his career and his .342 career batting average ranks 12th on the all-time list. His four batting titles rank second to Cobb in franchise history.



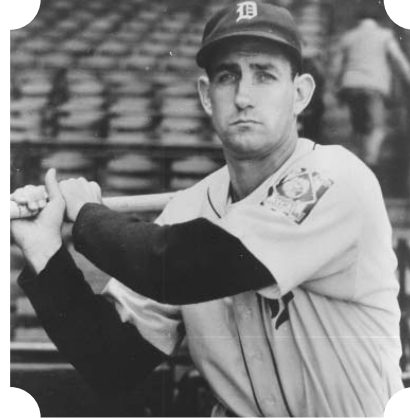


MANUSH WINS 1926 AL BATTING CHAMPIONSHIP

In the midst of Heilmann's four batting titles, outfielder Heinie Manush batted .378 in 1926 to win the American League batting title, edging the Yankees' Babe Ruth who finished the season with a .372 batting average. Manush joined Cobb and Heilmann during a remarkable run in which the Tigers claimed the batting title in 17 of the first 27 seasons in the American League through 1927. The 1926 season marked Manush's only career batting title, although he totaled five other top-five finishes in the batting race after departing the Tigers organization following the 1927 season.

GEHRINGER TOPS THE IRON HORSE

After Heilmann's batting title in 1927, the Tigers would have to wait another decade for a batting champion. Charlie Gehringer became the fourth batting champion in club history in 1937, finishing the season with a .371 batting average and 209 hits en route to winning the American League Most Valuable Player Award. Gehringer's .371 batting average outpaced the Yankees' Lou Gehrig, who finished second in the league at .351. Despite nearly 3,000 career hits and a .320 career batting average, 1937 marked Gehringer's only batting title. He finished in the top five in the American League batting race four other times in his career and batted over .350 three times. Gehringer recorded a second-place finish with a .356 batting average in 1934 with Gehrig winning the batting title after finishing the season at .363. Additionally, Gehringer finished fifth in both 1933 and 1935.



KELL EDGES TED WILLIAMS IN 1949

George Kell became the fifth batting champion in club history in 1949, edging one of the greatest hitters in baseball history to earn the crown. Kell batted .343, narrowly topping Boston's Ted Williams by a fraction of a point to earn his only career batting championship. Kell finished in the top five in batting in the American League during six of his seven seasons with the Tigers, including the partial seasons with the club in 1946 and 1952. He finished second in the batting race to Boston's Billy Goodman in 1950, while leading the American League with 218 hits. He led the American League again in 1951 with 191 hits, while finishing third in the batting race.

KALINE WINS AMERICAN LEAGUE BATTING TITLE IN 1955

In just his second full season at the major league level, Al Kaline finished the 1955 season with a .340 batting average to earn the American League batting title. At age 20, Kaline became the youngest player ever to lead the American League in hitting. Kaline also led the American League with 200 hits and 321 total bases in 1955, recording career bests in both categories. The 1955 season marked his only batting title, but Kaline finished in the top five in the American League batting race six other times during his career. He finished second to teammate Harvey Kuenn in 1959 and second to teammate Norm Cash in 1961. Kaline also finished second to Boston's Carl Yastrzemski in 1963.

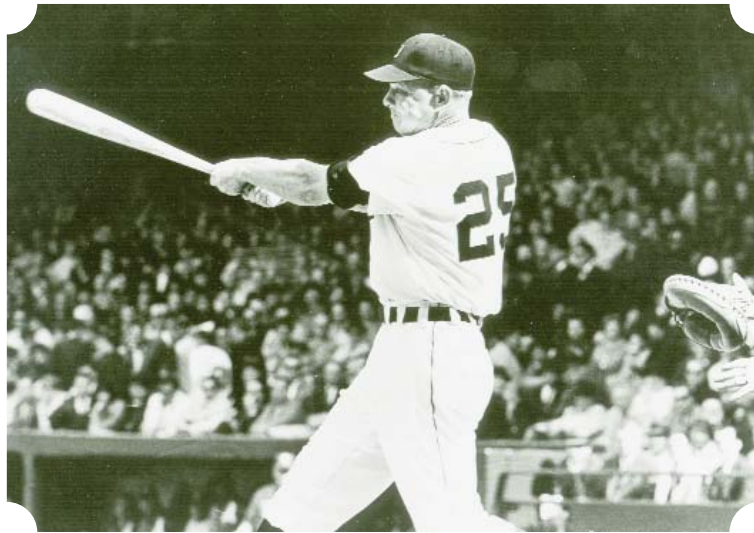
KUENN TOPS AMERICAN LEAGUE IN HITTING BEFORE BEING DEALT

After finishing third in the batting race in two of the previous three seasons, Harvey Kuenn batted .353 in 1959 to win his only career batting title. Kuenn outpaced teammate Al Kaline for the batting title and led the American League with 42 doubles in 1959 before being dealt to the Cleveland Indians at the beginning of the 1960 season in exchange for American League home run champion Rocky Colavito. The trade marked the only time in major league history that the current batting champion has been traded for the current home run champion.



CASH COMBINES AVERAGE AND POWER FOR FANTASTIC 1961 SEASON

Norm Cash entered his fourth major league season in 1961 with 22 career home runs and 128 career hits. He ended the 1961 season with one of the most prolific single-season outputs in club history. He batted .361 to win the American League batting title, while belting 41 home runs and collecting 132 RBI. The 41 home runs are the most ever by a Tigers batting champion, while his 123 walks rank first among Tigers batting champions. His 132 RBI rank fifth among Tigers batting champions.



ORDONEZ AND BEYOND

The Tigers held two of the top three spots in the American League batting race in 2007 with Placido Polanco finishing third with a .340 batting average. The Tigers also acquired Edgar Renteria from the Atlanta Braves, who finished fourth in the National League with a .332 batting average in 2007 and Miguel Cabrera from the Florida Marlins, who finished eighth in the National League with a .320 batting average. The Tigers enter the 2008 season with 23 American League batting titles, second-most in American League history, trailing only the Boston Red Sox with 24.

DETROIT TIGERS BATTING CHAMPIONS

| Year | Player | AVG | G | AB | R | H | TB | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | BB | SLG |
|------|-------------------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|-----|-----|------|
| 1907 | Ty Cobb | .350 | 150 | 605 | 97 | 212 | 286 | 29 | 15 | 5 | 116 | 24 | .473 |
| 1908 | Ty Cobb | .324 | 150 | 581 | 88 | 188 | 276 | 36 | 20 | 4 | 108 | 34 | .475 |
| 1909 | Ty Cobb | .377 | 156 | 573 | 116 | 216 | 296 | 33 | 10 | 9 | 107 | 48 | .517 |
| 1910 | Ty Cobb | .385 | 140 | 509 | 106 | 196 | 282 | 36 | 13 | 8 | 91 | 64 | .554 |
| 1911 | Ty Cobb | .420 | 146 | 591 | 147 | 248 | 367 | 47 | 24 | 8 | 144 | 44 | .621 |
| 1912 | Ty Cobb | .410 | 140 | 553 | 119 | 227 | 324 | 30 | 23 | 7 | 90 | 43 | .586 |
| 1913 | Ty Cobb | .390 | 122 | 428 | 70 | 167 | 229 | 18 | 16 | 4 | 67 | 58 | .535 |
| 1914 | Ty Cobb | .368 | 97 | 345 | 69 | 127 | 177 | 22 | 11 | 2 | 57 | 57 | .513 |
| 1915 | Ty Cobb | .369 | 156 | 563 | 144 | 208 | 274 | 31 | 13 | 3 | 99 | 118 | .487 |
| 1917 | Ty Cobb | .383 | 152 | 588 | 107 | 225 | 336 | 44 | 23 | 6 | 102 | 61 | .571 |
| 1918 | Ty Cobb | .382 | 111 | 421 | 83 | 161 | 217 | 19 | 14 | 3 | 64 | 41 | .515 |
| 1919 | Ty Cobb | .384 | 124 | 497 | 92 | 191 | 256 | 36 | 13 | 1 | 70 | 38 | .515 |
| 1921 | Harry Heilmann | .394 | 149 | 602 | 114 | 237 | 365 | 43 | 14 | 19 | 139 | 53 | .606 |
| 1923 | Harry Heilmann | .403 | 144 | 524 | 121 | 211 | 331 | 44 | 11 | 18 | 115 | 74 | .632 |
| 1925 | Harry Heilmann | .393 | 150 | 573 | 97 | 225 | 326 | 40 | 11 | 13 | 134 | 67 | .569 |
| 1926 | Heinie Manush | .378 | 136 | 498 | 95 | 188 | 281 | 35 | 8 | 14 | 86 | 31 | .564 |
| 1927 | Harry Heilmann | .398 | 141 | 505 | 106 | 201 | 311 | 50 | 9 | 14 | 120 | 72 | .616 |
| 1937 | Charlie Gehringer | .371 | 144 | 564 | 133 | 209 | 293 | 40 | 1 | 14 | 96 | 90 | .520 |
| 1949 | George Kell | .343 | 134 | 522 | 97 | 179 | 244 | 38 | 9 | 3 | 59 | 71 | .467 |
| 1955 | Al Kaline | .340 | 152 | 588 | 121 | 200 | 321 | 24 | 8 | 27 | 102 | 82 | .546 |
| 1959 | Harvey Kuenn | .353 | 139 | 561 | 99 | 198 | 281 | 42 | 7 | 9 | 71 | 48 | .501 |
| 1961 | Norm Cash | .361 | 159 | 535 | 119 | 193 | 354 | 22 | 8 | 41 | 132 | 124 | .662 |
| 2007 | Magglio Ordonez | .363 | 157 | 595 | 117 | 216 | 354 | 54 | 0 | 28 | 139 | 76 | .595 |