

# Unique Events of The 1941 Baseball Season

*2016 marked the 75th anniversary of the 1941 baseball season that fans across the country were treated to two events that have not since been repeated: Joe DiMaggio's 56 game hitting streak and Ted Williams batting 0.400. DiMaggio was already the star player for the Yankees: four World Series rings in his first five seasons and winning the batting titles in 1939 and 1940. His career batting average at the start of the season was 0.343 and he was 26 years old. Williams was 22 years old and in his two seasons with the Red Sox had a batting average of 0.336.*

*Both were starters in the All-Star game played at Detroit's Briggs Stadium. DiMaggio's streak was at 48 games and Williams' batting average was 0.405. In the bottom of the ninth inning with the American League losing 5-4, Williams hit a three run homer for a 7-5 walk-off win. Nine days later at Cleveland, DiMaggio's streak was stopped by Indian pitchers Al Smith and Jim Bagby aided by two great plays from third baseman Ken Keltner.*

*Prior to the final day of the season double-header at Philadelphia, Williams had 179 hits in 448 times at bat for a 0.39955 average, technically 0.400. Joe Cronin, his manager, suggested he sit out the games but Ted declined. He was 4 for 5 in the first game and 2 for 3 in the second, ending the season at 0.406 and the youngest player to achieve that feat.*

*DiMaggio was the American League MVP with Williams second in the voting. Both played in the 1942 season and each served in WWII, missing the 1943-1945 seasons, prime years of their illustrious playing days and significantly impacting their career totals. Williams, as a Marine fighter pilot, was recalled during the Korean War and missed most of the 1952-1953 seasons as well.*

*DiMaggio retired in 1951 at age 36 with a career batting average of 0.325. Williams played until 1960, retiring at age 41 with a career batting average of 0.344. In 1957, at age 38, he led the league in batting with a 0.388 average.*



# Joe DiMaggio's 56 Game Hitting Streak

| GAME | DATE      | OPPONENT       | W/L | BATTING LINE |   |   |    |    |    |    |     |
|------|-----------|----------------|-----|--------------|---|---|----|----|----|----|-----|
|      |           |                |     | AB           | R | H | 1B | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI |
| 1    | 15-May-41 | Chicago        | L   | 4            | 0 | 1 | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1   |
| 2    | 16-May-41 | Chicago        | W   | 4            | 2 | 2 | 0  | 0  | 1  | 1  | 1   |
| 3    | 17-May-41 | Chicago        | L   | 3            | 1 | 1 | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0   |
| 4    | 18-May-41 | St. Louis      | W   | 3            | 3 | 3 | 2  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 1   |
| 5    | 19-May-41 | St. Louis      | L   | 3            | 0 | 1 | 0  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0   |
| 6    | 20-May-41 | St. Louis      | W   | 5            | 1 | 1 | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1   |
| 7    | 21-May-41 | Detroit        | W   | 5            | 0 | 2 | 2  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1   |
| 8    | 22-May-41 | Detroit        | W   | 4            | 0 | 1 | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1   |
| 9    | 23-May-41 | Boston         | T   | 5            | 0 | 1 | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 2   |
| 10   | 24-May-41 | Boston         | W   | 4            | 2 | 1 | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 2   |
| 11   | 25-May-41 | Boston         | L   | 4            | 0 | 1 | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0   |
| 12   | 27-May-41 | @ Washington   | W   | 5            | 3 | 4 | 3  | 0  | 0  | 1  | 3   |
| 13   | 28-May-41 | @ Washington   | W   | 4            | 1 | 1 | 0  | 0  | 1  | 0  | 0   |
| 14   | 29-May-41 | @ Washington   | T   | 3            | 1 | 1 | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0   |
| 15   | 30-May-41 | @ Boston       | W   | 2            | 1 | 1 | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0   |
| 16   | 30-May-41 | @ Boston       | L   | 3            | 0 | 1 | 0  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0   |
| 17   | 01-Jun-41 | @ Cleveland    | W   | 4            | 1 | 1 | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0   |
| 18   | 01-Jun-41 | @ Cleveland    | W   | 4            | 0 | 1 | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0   |
| 19   | 02-Jun-41 | @ Cleveland    | L   | 4            | 2 | 2 | 1  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0   |
| 20   | 03-Jun-41 | @ Detroit      | L   | 4            | 1 | 1 | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1  | 1   |
| 21   | 05-Jun-41 | @ Detroit      | L   | 5            | 1 | 1 | 0  | 0  | 1  | 0  | 1   |
| 22   | 07-Jun-41 | @ St. Louis    | W   | 5            | 2 | 3 | 3  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1   |
| 23   | 08-Jun-41 | @ St. Louis    | W   | 4            | 3 | 2 | 0  | 0  | 0  | 2  | 4   |
| 24   | 08-Jun-41 | @ St. Louis    | W   | 4            | 1 | 2 | 0  | 1  | 0  | 1  | 3   |
| 25   | 10-Jun-41 | @ Chicago      | W   | 5            | 1 | 1 | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0   |
| 26   | 12-Jun-41 | @ Chicago      | W   | 4            | 1 | 2 | 1  | 0  | 0  | 1  | 1   |
| 27   | 14-Jun-41 | Cleveland      | W   | 2            | 0 | 1 | 0  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 1   |
| 28   | 15-Jun-41 | Cleveland      | W   | 3            | 1 | 1 | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1  | 1   |
| 29   | 16-Jun-41 | Cleveland      | W   | 5            | 0 | 1 | 0  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0   |
| 30   | 17-Jun-41 | Chicago        | L   | 4            | 1 | 1 | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0   |
| 31   | 18-Jun-41 | Chicago        | L   | 3            | 0 | 1 | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0   |
| 32   | 19-Jun-41 | Chicago        | W   | 3            | 2 | 3 | 2  | 0  | 0  | 1  | 2   |
| 33   | 20-Jun-41 | Detroit        | W   | 5            | 3 | 4 | 3  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 1   |
| 34   | 21-Jun-41 | Detroit        | L   | 4            | 0 | 1 | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1   |
| 35   | 22-Jun-41 | Detroit        | W   | 5            | 1 | 2 | 0  | 1  | 0  | 1  | 2   |
| 36   | 24-Jun-41 | St. Louis      | W   | 4            | 1 | 1 | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0   |
| 37   | 25-Jun-41 | St. Louis      | W   | 4            | 1 | 1 | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1  | 3   |
| 38   | 26-Jun-41 | St. Louis      | W   | 4            | 0 | 1 | 0  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 1   |
| 39   | 27-Jun-41 | @ Philadelphia | L   | 3            | 1 | 2 | 1  | 0  | 0  | 1  | 2   |
| 40   | 28-Jun-41 | @ Philadelphia | W   | 5            | 1 | 2 | 1  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0   |
| 41   | 29-Jun-41 | @ Washington   | W   | 4            | 1 | 1 | 0  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0   |
| 42   | 29-Jun-41 | @ Washington   | W   | 5            | 1 | 1 | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1   |
| 43   | 01-Jul-41 | Boston         | W   | 4            | 0 | 2 | 2  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1   |
| 44   | 01-Jul-41 | Boston         | W   | 3            | 1 | 1 | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1   |
| 45   | 02-Jul-41 | Boston         | W   | 5            | 1 | 1 | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1  | 3   |
| 46   | 05-Jul-41 | Philadelphia   | W   | 4            | 2 | 1 | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1  | 2   |
| 47   | 06-Jul-41 | Philadelphia   | W   | 5            | 2 | 4 | 3  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 2   |
| 48   | 06-Jul-41 | Philadelphia   | W   | 4            | 0 | 2 | 1  | 0  | 1  | 0  | 2   |
| 49   | 10-Jul-41 | @ St. Louis    | W   | 2            | 0 | 1 | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0   |
| 50   | 11-Jul-41 | @ St. Louis    | W   | 5            | 1 | 4 | 3  | 0  | 0  | 1  | 2   |
| 51   | 12-Jul-41 | @ St. Louis    | W   | 5            | 1 | 2 | 1  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 1   |
| 52   | 13-Jul-41 | @ Chicago      | W   | 4            | 2 | 3 | 3  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0   |
| 53   | 13-Jul-41 | @ Chicago      | W   | 4            | 0 | 1 | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0   |
| 54   | 14-Jul-41 | @ Chicago      | L   | 3            | 0 | 1 | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0   |
| 55   | 15-Jul-41 | @ Chicago      | W   | 4            | 1 | 2 | 1  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 2   |
| 56   | 16-Jul-41 | @ Cleveland    | W   | 4            | 3 | 3 | 2  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0   |

|                               | AB  | R   | H   | BB  | 1B  | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | BA    | TB  | SLG   | OBP   | SO | HBP |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|-----|-------|-----|-------|-------|----|-----|
| STREAK TOTALS                 | 223 | 56  | 91  | 21  | 56  | 16 | 4  | 15 | 55  | 0.408 | 160 | 0.717 | 0.463 | 7  | 2   |
| SEASON TOTALS                 | 541 | 122 | 193 | 76  | 109 | 43 | 11 | 30 | 122 | 0.357 | 348 | 0.643 | 0.440 | 13 | 4   |
| TED WILLIAMS<br>SEASON TOTALS | 456 | 135 | 185 | 147 | 112 | 33 | 3  | 37 | 120 | 0.406 | 335 | 0.735 | 0.553 | 27 | 3   |

**NOTES:**

**1. References:**

**BASEBALL ALMANAC**

**BASEBALL-REFERENCE.COM**

**TOTAL BASEBALL**

2. Games 9 and 14 were tie games (the Yankees played 156 games in 1941).
3. In games 30 and 31, Dan Daniel, the official scorer, ruled that two ground balls to shortstop Luke Appling were base hits. The first was a "bad bounce" and the second a "hard shot" that Appling could only knock down. Both were the only hits.
4. In 34 games, DiMaggio got only one hit and several were in the last at bat. In 29 home games, his average was 0.383. In 27 away games he batted 0.435.
5. After he tied the record in game 44, DiMaggio was 25 for 49 (0.510).
6. After the streak was stopped in Cleveland, DiMaggio hit in 16 consecutive games.
7. The Yankees were 43-11 during the streak.
8. When the streak started, the Yankees were in 4th place, 6½ games behind. When the streak ended, they were in 1st place with a 7 game lead.
9. The Yankees were 101-53 in 1941, winning the pennant by 17 games and beat the Brooklyn Dodgers in the World Series in 5 games. DiMaggio batted 0.263.



Saturday, September 27, 1941, Shibe Park, Philadelphia  
Boston Red Sox vs Philadelphia Athletics

| Batting                   | AB       | R        | H        | RBI      | BB       | SO       | PA       | CUMULATIVE SEASON STATS |             |             |
|---------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|
|                           |          |          |          |          |          |          |          | BA                      | OBP         | SLG         |
| <u>Dom DiMaggio</u> CF    | 5        | 1        | 3        | 3        | 0        | 0        | 5        | .280                    | .383        | .407        |
| <u>Lou Finney</u> RF      | 5        | 0        | 2        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 5        | .291                    | .342        | .405        |
| <u>Al Flair</u> 1B        | 5        | 0        | 1        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 5        | .238                    | .273        | .333        |
| <b>Ted Williams</b> LF    | <b>4</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>.39955</b>           | <b>.550</b> | <b>.725</b> |
| <u>Jim Tabor</u> 3B       | 4        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 4        | .279                    | .327        | .440        |
| <u>Bobby Doerr</u> 2B     | 3        | 1        | 2        | 1        | 0        | 0        | 3        | .281                    | .338        | .446        |
| <u>Tom Carey</u> 2B       | 1        | 0        | 1        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 1        | .167                    | .167        | .167        |
| <u>Skeeter Newsome</u> SS | 3        | 1        | 1        | 0        | 1        | 0        | 4        | .226                    | .293        | .281        |
| <u>Johnny Peacock</u> C   | 4        | 0        | 1        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 4        | .289                    | .343        | .375        |
| <u>Mickey Harris</u> P    | 3        | 1        | 0        | 0        | 1        | 0        | 4        | .109                    | .319        | .127        |

Sunday, September 28, 1941  
First game of doubleheader

| Batting                   | AB       | R        | H        | RBI      | BB       | SO       | PA       | BA            | OBP         | SLG         |
|---------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| <u>Dom DiMaggio</u> CF    | 5        | 1        | 3        | 0        | 1        | 0        | 6        | .283          | .386        | .409        |
| <u>Lou Finney</u> RF      | 4        | 1        | 0        | 0        | 1        | 0        | 5        | .289          | .341        | .402        |
| <u>Al Flair</u> 1B        | 5        | 2        | 1        | 2        | 0        | 0        | 5        | .231          | .259        | .385        |
| <b>Ted Williams</b> LF    | <b>5</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>.40397</b> | <b>.552</b> | <b>.733</b> |
| <u>Jim Tabor</u> 3B       | 4        | 2        | 2        | 1        | 1        | 0        | 5        | .281          | .330        | .448        |
| <u>Bobby Doerr</u> 2B     | 5        | 3        | 2        | 3        | 0        | 0        | 5        | .282          | .339        | .450        |
| <u>Skeeter Newsome</u> SS | 3        | 0        | 1        | 1        | 0        | 0        | 4        | .228          | .294        | .281        |
| <u>Jimmie Foxx</u> PH     | 0        | 1        | 0        | 0        | 1        | 0        | 1        | .299          | .412        | .505        |
| <u>Tom Carey</u> SS       | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | .167          | .167        | .167        |
| <u>Frankie Pytlak</u> C   | 4        | 0        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 0        | 5        | .266          | .326        | .349        |
| <u>Dick Newsome</u> P     | 2        | 0        | 1        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 2        | .244          | .263        | .282        |
| <u>Charlie Wagner</u> P   | 3        | 0        | 1        | 2        | 0        | 0        | 3        | .159          | .197        | .175        |

Second game of doubleheader

| Batting                   | AB       | R        | H        | RBI      | BB       | SO       | PA       | BA            | OBP         | SLG         |
|---------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| <u>Dom DiMaggio</u> CF    | 4        | 0        | 1        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 4        | .283          | .385        | .408        |
| <u>Lou Finney</u> RF      | 2        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 2        | .288          | .340        | .400        |
| <u>Jimmie Foxx</u> RF     | 2        | 0        | 1        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 2        | .300          | .412        | .505        |
| <u>Al Flair</u> 1B        | 4        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 4        | .200          | .226        | .333        |
| <b>Ted Williams</b> LF    | <b>3</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>.40570</b> | <b>.553</b> | <b>.735</b> |
| <u>Jim Tabor</u> 3B       | 3        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 1        | 3        | .279          | .328        | .446        |
| <u>Tom Carey</u> 2B       | 3        | 0        | 1        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 3        | .190          | .190        | .190        |
| <u>Skeeter Newsome</u> SS | 3        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 3        | .225          | .290        | .278        |
| <u>Johnny Peacock</u> C   | 2        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 2        | .287          | .341        | .372        |
| <u>Frankie Pytlak</u> C   | 1        | 1        | 1        | 1        | 0        | 0        | 1        | .268          | .328        | .360        |
| <u>Lefty Grove</u> P      | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | .111          | .184        | .156        |
| <u>Earl Johnson</u> P     | 2        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 1        | 0        | 3        | .294          | .333        | .294        |

**END OF SEASON**