



## Triple Play the Hard Way

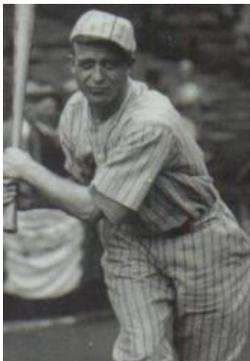
by

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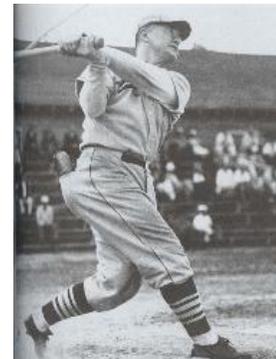
A triple play is one of baseball's more unusual occurrences. During a game between the St. Louis Cardinals and the Chicago Cubs on September 4, 1927 at Wrigley Field, one of the more sensational triple plays on record occurred. After all was said and done, it involved five players and took seven steps to complete.



**Jim Bottomley**

In the bottom of the seventh inning the Cubs came to bat. Stephenson singled to lead off the inning. Cubs' centerfielder Hack Wilson then doubled into the overflow crowd. With runners on second and third and no outs, Charlie Grimm then grounded to Cardinals' second baseman Frankie Frisch who threw to Jim Bottomley at first base for the first out (4 – 3). However, from this ordinary beginning the ensuing play unfolded.

Wilson, it seems, paused between second and third to watch the play and was cut off when Bottomley threw to Cardinals' shortstop Rabbit Maranville. The third base runner, Stephenson, broke for home on the throw to Maranville, but was chased back to third base when Maranville relayed the throw to Cardinals' catcher O'Farrell.



**Frankie Frisch**

Wilson was still standing between second and third when Stephenson reached third base safely, but O'Farrell threw to Frisch who ran down Wilson for the second out (6 – 2 – 4).

Stephenson again broke for home when Frisch was chasing Wilson. Frisch threw to first baseman Bottomley who was covering the plate and the Cardinals now had Stephenson in a run-down. Bottomley threw to Cardinals' third baseman Les Bell who tagged out Stephenson for the third out (3 – 5).



**Bob O'Farrell**

The last triple play of the 1927 season turned out to be one of the most unusual in all of baseball history, involving five players and requiring seven steps to complete. The St. Louis Cardinals would finish the season in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the National League, 1½ games behind the Pirates, but 7 games in front of the 4<sup>th</sup> place Chicago Cubs.

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The box score from the game at Chicago on September 4, 1927.

| ST. LOUIS (NL)           |    |   |   |    |    |   | CHICAGO (NL)             |    |   |   |    |    |   |
|--------------------------|----|---|---|----|----|---|--------------------------|----|---|---|----|----|---|
|                          | AB | R | H | PO | A  | E |                          | AB | R | H | PO | A  | E |
| Orsatti, cf . . . . .    | 3  | 1 | 1 | 5  | 0  | 0 | Adams, 3b . . . . .      | 3  | 0 | 1 | 1  | 3  | 0 |
| Bottomley, 1b . . . . .  | 4  | 0 | 0 | 7  | 2  | 1 | English, ss . . . . .    | 4  | 0 | 0 | 2  | 5  | 0 |
| Frisch, 2b . . . . .     | 4  | 0 | 1 | 3  | 3  | 0 | Scott, rf . . . . .      | 4  | 0 | 1 | 2  | 1  | 0 |
| Clark, lf . . . . .      | 4  | 1 | 2 | 4  | 0  | 0 | Stephenson, lf . . . . . | 4  | 0 | 1 | 1  | 0  | 0 |
| Helm, lf . . . . .       | 0  | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 0 | Wilson, cf . . . . .     | 3  | 0 | 1 | 2  | 0  | 0 |
| Hafey, rf . . . . .      | 4  | 6 | 3 | 3  | 0  | 0 | Grimm, 1b . . . . .      | 4  | 0 | 0 | 13 | 0  | 0 |
| L. Bell, 3b . . . . .    | 3  | 0 | 1 | 2  | 3  | 0 | Hartnett, c . . . . .    | 3  | 0 | 0 | 4  | 0  | 0 |
| O'Farrell, c . . . . .   | 3  | 0 | 0 | 3  | 1  | 0 | a – Heathcote . . . . .  | 0  | 1 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 0 |
| Maranville, ss . . . . . | 3  | 0 | 0 | 0  | 5  | 0 | Gonzales, c . . . . .    | 0  | 0 | 0 | 1  | 0  | 0 |
| Sherdel, p . . . . .     | 3  | 0 | 0 | 0  | 1  | 0 | Beck, 2b . . . . .       | 3  | 0 | 1 | 1  | 6  | 0 |
|                          |    |   |   |    |    |   | Root, p . . . . .        | 2  | 0 | 1 | 0  | 1  | 0 |
|                          |    |   |   |    |    |   | b – Tolson . . . . .     | 1  | 0 | 1 | 0  | 0  | 0 |
|                          |    |   |   |    |    |   | c – Pick . . . . .       | 0  | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 0 |
|                          |    |   |   |    |    |   | Carlson, p . . . . .     | 0  | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  | 0 |
| Total . . . . .          | 31 | 2 | 7 | 27 | 15 | 1 | Total . . . . .          | 31 | 1 | 7 | 27 | 16 | 0 |

a – Ran for Hartnett in 8th  
 b – Batted for Root in 8th  
 c – Ran for Tolson in 8th

|                     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| St. Louis . . . . . | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | - | 2 |
| Chicago . . . . .   | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | - | 1 |

**SUMMARY**

Two-base hits – Orsatti, Scott, Beck, Clark, Hafey, Wilson, Tolson. Sacrifices – Adam. Double Plays – Beck to English to Grimm 2; Bell to Frisch to Bottomley. Triple Play – Frisch, Bottomley, Maranville, O'Farrell, Frisch, Bottomley, and L. Bell. Left on Bases – St. Louis 3, Chicago 5. Bases on balls – Off Root 1, Sherdel 1. Struck out – By Sherdel 3, Root 3. Hits – Off Root 5 in 8 innings, Carlson 2 in 1 inning. Losing pitcher – Root.

Umpires – McCormick, Moran and Reardon.  
 Time – 1 hour 45 minutes.

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