

# A Schott From The Bleachers

## Babe Ruth and Mel Parnell *Comparing Pitching Statistics of Boston Red Sox Lefthanders*

by  
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In a statistical comparison between two of the Boston Red Sox most effective left-handed pitchers, we'll begin by pointing out that they pitched a generation apart and in two very distinct eras in baseball.

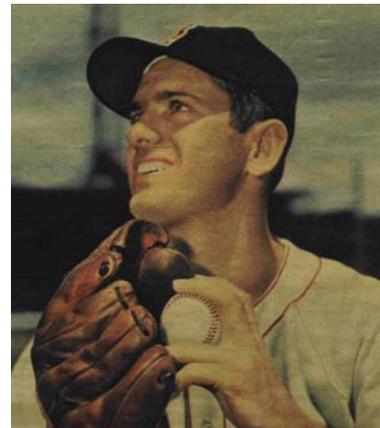
Babe Ruth pitched on a regular basis from 1914 through 1919, then appeared in five games as a pitcher between 1920 and 1933. Parnell's major league pitching career extended from 1947 through 1956.

The chart below shows that the Babe had a lifetime won-lost record of 94 – 46 for a .671 winning percentage. Parnell's career record was 123 – 75 for a .621 mark.

Ruth's career ERA was 2.28 to Parnell's 3.50. To illustrate how close the two outstanding pitchers were statistically, consider a comparison of the average 9-inning performance of strikeouts, hits allowed, and bases on balls.

Ruth allowed 7.2 hits per nine innings, 3.6 strikeouts and 3.3 walks. Parnell's line reads 8.8 hits per nine innings, 3.8 strikeouts and 3.9 bases on balls – a very close comparison given the differences in the way the game was played.

Babe Ruth pitched 1,221 innings and gave up only 10 home runs. In a much more home run productive age,



Parnell yielded 104 homers in 1,752 innings pitched. On a HR-per inning basis, Ruth gave up one every 122.1 innings while Parnell allowed one HR every 16.8 innings.

<b>CAREER STATISTICS</b>		
	<b>Ruth</b>	<b>Parnell</b>
Wins	94	123
Losses	46	75
Winning Percentage	.671	.621
Games	163	289
Games Started	148	232
Complete Games	107	113
Shutouts	17	20
Innings Pitched	1,221	1,752
Hits Allowed	974	1,715
Runs Allowed	400	797
HR Allowed	10	104
Bases On Balls	441	758
Strikeouts	488	732
Earned Run Average	2.28	3.50

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