Runs Tallied

BARRY CODELL

The homer hitter is the only player who scores or drives in a run without the assistance of a teammate. This new statistic gives the circuit clout full recognition.

RUNS TALLIED ("RT") is a simple measure of offensive production ("tally" was Henry Chadwick's term in the first box score). The team with the most runs tallied invariably wins the game; the player who tallies most for his team has been most valuable toward this victory.

Runs Tallied reinstates the primacy of the home run — the only scoring a player accomplishes without the aid of a teammate. It is based on the premise that all other runs are collaborative efforts. Virtually all team runs, aside from home runs, are a combination of a run scored and a run batted in (except for defensive lapses ["DL's"] or double play grounders ["GIDP's"], which score those runs not batted in). The batters or baserunners contributing to these runs are equally important; no run can exist without both of them. So a "non-homer" team run is generally ½ R and ½ RBI (occasionally ½ R and ½ DL), while a home run is one full run tallied.

The ultimate offensive payoff for team and individual is in Runs Tallied, as is shown by the following formula:

$$[(R - HR) \div 2] + [(RBI - HR) \div 2] + HR = RT$$

This formula separates the contributory tallies (runs and RBI) from the solo tally (home runs). This formula can be further reduced to

$$\frac{R + RBI}{2} = RT$$

Note that this simplified formula gives a credit of one RT for a home run, since a home run produces both a R and a RBI for the player. In other words, the simple averaging of runs and RBI results in Runs Tallied (RT). No computer — not even a calculator — is needed here.

The essence of RT is that home runs are already given their true doubled value when runs and runs batted in are added. The well-known "strength" of Runs Produced (subtracting homers or R + RBI − HR = RP) is actually its fatal weakness. Let's go to two examples to see this:

the 1988 statistics of Kirby Puckett and Jose Canseco, and the all-time bests of Lou Gehrig and Babe Ruth.

	G	R	RBI	HR	RP	RT
Puckett	158	109	121	24	206	115
Canseco	158	120	124	42	202	122

Canseco's 1988 supremacy is reaffirmed by the RT. His singluar 40/40 season added up to 0.77 Runs Tallied per Game — the best in the majors.

Interesting applications of the RT could include RT/Team, RT/Game, RT/Plate Appearance, but what is undeniable is this: However gaudy the hitting or baserunning, if a player does not tally runs, it's all window dressing. For the score, after all, is the essential stat.

Gehrig's famous 301 Runs Produced (1931) get knocked down a peg by Babe Ruth (who else?) and his all-time single-season (1921) RT:

	G	R	RBI	HR	RP	RT
Gehrig	155	163	184	46	301	173.5
Ruth	152	177	171	59	289	174

Ruth's 1.14 Runs Tallied per Game is also an all-time best, but Gehrig's 0.89 RT/G reigns supreme career-wise. New Hall of Famers Johnny Bench (0.56 RT/G) and Carl Yastrzemski (0.55 RT/G) and all-time hit leader, Pete Rose (0.49 RT/G!) are surprisingly low in this latter category.

The comparisons, as with all statistics, are endless (see accompanying charts). Perhaps they will be done by a new generation of statisticians, without PC's, armed only with baseball cards and minds, following this simple commandment: Average those runs and RBI! It's all right there — in RT.

Barry Codell is a nursing home director in Chicago, winner of the Governor's Award for Innovation in Gerontology, and the inventor of the base-out percentage ("BRJ," 1979).

1988 Leaders (90 or More RT)

Player, Team	Games	Runs	RBI	RT	RT/G
1. Canseco, OKA	158	120	124	122	0.77
2. Puckett, MNA	158	109	121	115	0.74
3. Evans, BSA	149	96	111	103.5	0.69
4. Winfield, NYA	149	96	107	101.5	0.68
5. Henderson, NYA	146	100	94	97	0.66
6. Strawberry, NYN	153	101	101	101	0.66
7. Van Slyke, PIN	154	101	100	100.5	0.65
8. Clark, SFN	162	102	109	105.5	0.65
9. Greenwell, BSA	158	86	119	102.5	0.65
10. Burks, BSA	144	93	92	92.5	0.64
11. Mattingly, NYA	144	94	88	91	0.63
12. Tartabull, KCA	146	80	102	91	0.62
13. McReynolds, NYN	147	82	99	90.5	0.62
14. Brett, KCA	157	90	103	96.5	0.61
15. Galarraga, MNN	157	99	92	95.5	0.61
16. Gibson, LAN	150	106	76	91	0.61

Runs Tallied Per Game
1988 Career Leaders (1,000 or More RT)

Player, Team	Games	Runs	RBI	RT	RT/G
1. Rice, BSA	2033	1227	1423	1325	0.65
2. Schmidt, PAN	2362	1487	1567	1520	0.64
3. Murray, LAN	1820	1048	1190	1119	0.61
4. Brett, KCA	2013	1233	1231	1232	0.61
5. Winfield, NYA	2269	1314	1438	1376	0.61
6. Murphy, ATN	1675	1005	1004	1004.5	0.60
7. Dawson, CHN	1753	996	1054	1025	0.58
8. Lynn, DTA	1762	1001	1042	1021.5	0.58
9. Parker, OKA	2033	1098	1245	1171.5	0.58
10. Dw. Evans, BSA	2236	1287	1183	1240	0.55
11. Fisk, CHA	2038	1108	1098	1103	0.54
12. Yount, MLA	2131	1234	1021	1127.5	0.53
13. Carter, NYN	1958	941	1128	1034.5	0.53
14. Da. Evans, ATN	2580	1313	1315	1314	0.51
15. Bell, TXA	2371	1147	1103	1125	0.48
16. Buckner, KCA	2416	1066	1189	1127.5	0.47

Runs Tallied Per Game
Past Career Leaders (1,000 or More RT)

Player	Games	Runs	RBI	RT	RT/G
1. Lou Gehrig	2164	1888	1991	1939.5	0.89
2. Babe Ruth	2503	2174	2209	2191.5	0.88
3. Joe DiMaggio	1736	1390	1537	1463.5	0.84
4. Hank Greenberg	1394	1051	1276	1163.5	0.83
5. Ted Williams	2292	1798	1839	1819.5	0.79
6. Jimmie Foxx	2317	1751	1921	1836	0.79
7. Al Simmons	2215	1507	1827	1667	0.75
8. Earl Averill	1669	1224	1165	1194.5	0.72
9. Roger Hornsby	2259	1579	1579	1579	0.70
10. Ty Cobb	3033	2244	1954	2104	0.69
11. Charlie Gehringer	2323	1773	1427	1610	0.69
12. Hank Aaron	3298	2174	2297	2235	0.68
13. Goose Goslin	2287	1483	1609	1546	0.68
14. Mel Ott	2732	1859	1860	1859.5	0.68
15. Chuck Klein	1753	1168	1201	1184.5	0.68
16. Mickey Mantle	2401	1677	1509	1593	0.66