

MORE RECORDS FALL IN 1864!

NEWCOMERS SET NEW AVERAGE & R.B.I. MARKS; CREIGHTON BREAKS MORE RECORDS

NORTHEASTERN U.S.A. (Aug. 8, 1864) – The end of the National Base Ball Organization season has arrived, and with it a number of new single-season records have been established. While the record setting was not as heavy as it was last season, some major statistical markers fell and important new milestones were reached.

Ahead of the new season, the Writers Pool declared that the most talented Newcomer for 1864 was Kings County first baseman Cormack Alexander, and this was one instance where the W.P. could not possibly have been more correct. In his first N.B.B.O. season Alexander set new records for Batting Average, batting .430, and Hits, collecting 138. He was not the only Newcomer with a historic average, as both .400 hitters in the N.B.B.O. were first-year players: Alexander and Port Jersey third baseman Walter Dudley, who hit .412.

Alexander was not the only Newcomer to break N.B.B.O. records this season. Enter first-year Syracuse center fielder Carson Law, who became the first player ever with 90 R.B.I. in a season by finishing with exactly 90. The previous R.B.I. record was 77, set by Arthur Holton in 1860, which meant that Susquehanna's Harold Miller's total of 83 and St. Johns' Collin Henderson's total of 80 made the trio of Law, Miller, & Henderson the first players with more than 80 R.B.I. in a season. Holton's record was also bested by Flour City's Charles Schuster, who had 78 R.B.I. in 1864.

While he did not reach the 70 Stolen Base mark, like it appeared he would for much of the season, Minuteman second baseman Mathius Wirtz did set a new single-season Stolen Base record with 69. Over his two seasons in the N.B.B.O, Wirtz has stolen 113 bases while being caught just fourteen times, an 88.9% success rate.

Konrad Jensen, whose old Stolen Base record of 66 was broken by Wirtz, took his famously picky plate patience to new levels this season, becoming the first player to earn more than 50 Bases on Balls in a season with 55. Utica's Fred Fowler was second with 28. Jensen also became just the second player with an O.P.S. over 1.000 in a season, finishing at 1.016.

On the defensive side of the game, Excelsior's superstar pitcher Jim Creighton broke records for the second season in a row. After breaking six records and becoming the first pitcher to win the Triple Crown last season, Creighton "only" broke two records in 1864. Creighton registered 95 Strikeouts, shattering his previous record of 73 in a season. He also broke his own single-season Pitching W.A.R. record, raising it from last season's 7.0 to 7.5.

There were also a few single-game records set in 1864. On July 7th Continental scored nine runs in the top of the ninth inning at Nassau County to win 13-8 and establish a new record for largest ninth-inning comeback. Three days later Gotham second baseman Hamish Barclay became the first player ever to record five Extra-Base Hits in a game – four doubles and a triple in a 19-10 victory at Mutual. Syracuse third baseman Theodore Cooke also established an unofficial record, becoming the first player with seven Hits in a game but doing so in a fifteen-inning contest against Flour City on May 22nd. The official record, which only nine-innings games count for, remains six.

There were also single-season team records that fell, but those will be covered in the annual N.B.B.O. Review.