

HOW TO HIT .175 AND BE A NET POSITIVE? MEET PETER JONES

SONS OF THE OCEAN SS HAS PULLED OFF DEFENSIVE FEATS THAT HAVE NO EQUAL

NEW BEDFORD, MASS. (Oct. 14, 1875) – At the end of the 1874 season there stood one of the most peculiar players in N.B.B.O. history, a man with the following stat line for the season:

- **.175/.201/.198, .398 OPS (17 OPS+), 43 R, 47 H, 6 2B, 0 3B, 0 HR, 24 RBI, 4 BB, 13 SB, -0.7 WPA, 1.9 WAR**

For those who don't follow the game closely, it made for a most bizarre read. *How could a man who hit .175 with an OPS under .400, both marks the lowest of any regular batsman in the entire N.B.B.O., finish the season with a WAR higher than that of nearly ten All-Stars?*

To answer that question, allow us to introduce you to the man who made such a strange season happen: Sons of the Ocean infield maestro Peter Jones.

Peter Jones is a 27-year-old Shortstop who spent who debuted in the N.B.B.O. in 1871 with Salem, one of the dozen teams that joined the competition after the league split. As a 23-year-old Greenhorn, Jones' work with the bat was weaker than that of many pitchers. Jones finished his debut season with a Batting Average of .226, an OPS of .527 (47 OPS+), and just 10/65 Hits went for extra bases. Based on his work with the bat, Jones appeared to be easily the worst batsman in a Salem team that surprised everyone by finishing 2nd in New England in its debut season in organized baseball.

However, at the same time Jones *immediately* established himself as the slickest fielder in the Northeastern League, and perhaps the entire N.B.B.O. While his arm was merely pretty good, his range was peerless, his hands could catch anything, and his ability to turn a Double Play was perhaps the best of anyone outside the A.P.B.L.

The result: He made up for the sub-pitcher batting with a Zone Rating of +26.3 in just 70 games, finishing with 1.3 WAR.

Jones' 1872 was more of the same: a .215 Average, .498 OPS (51 OPS+), and just six Extra-Base Hits, but a +23.3 Zone Rating that gave him 1.7 WAR on the season.

After the season Salem decided that Jones' fielding didn't make up for his bat, and they told him to leave. Just a couple of months later he signed with fellow New Englanders Sons of the Ocean, and his first season in New Bedford saw Jones take his fielding to levels never seen before while improving with the bat.

Jones was an All-Star, hitting a career-high .275 with a career-best .607 OPS, but it was his fielding that made him the talk of the N.E.L. Jones established a new record with a +37.8 Zone Rating at SS over the 70-game season (that would be a +87.5 ZR over 162 games), which nearly saw him become the first non-Catcher to earn a Team of the Year spot while batting under .300.

However, it was Jones' 1874 season that *really* left people scratching their heads. Jones' ability with the bat fell off a cliff, and as mentioned he ended the season as the worst-performing regular batsman in the N.B.B.O. However, he was again so prolific in the field that it more than made up for his offensive shortcomings, as adding in his Zone Rating will show:

- .175/.201/.198, .398 OPS, 43 R, 47 H, 6 2B, 0 3B, 0 HR, 24 RBI, 4 BB, 13 SB, +35.5 ZR, -0.7 WPA, 1.9 WAR

Jones had the highest ZR of any player in the NBBO by a full ten points (~40%), and it was roughly double that of the man in sixth place. That allowed him to finish 1874 with a more valuable WAR than eight of the N.B.B.O.'s sixty All-Stars in what was the single largest no-offense, all-defense outlier of a season ever seen.

Jones' 1875 was a bit of a return to form. His Batting Average was back up to .271, his OPS was back up to .610, and he had career highs with eleven Extra-Base Hits and 49 Runs Batted In. However, with a Zone Rating of "just" +26.3 Jones finished the season with 2.5 Batsman WAR instead of the 3.5 he had in his All-Star year.

To consider Peter Jones is to consider a player who lies at both extremes of the spectrum at the same time. He frequently looks like a highschooler on offense while performing like a magician on defense. In a competition with nearly nine hundred players in its rosters, Jones might be the single most unique man of the entire lot.



PETER JONES | #20

SS | Sons of the Ocean | Bats: Left | Age 27 | 5' 8" - 150 lbs | Salary: \$164

YESTERDAY
TODAY
TOMORROW
WED. OCT. 13
THU. OCT. 14

No Game.
Most Valuable Player

CONTINUE >

Auto-play until next week.

PROFILE RATINGS BATTING STATS PITCHING STATS FIELDING STATS HISTORY EDITOR

Ratings relative to: NBBO

OSA Ratings

HEADSPLIT

SUMMARY CONTRACT STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT SCOUTING INJURY HISTORY BNN PAGE BASEBALL CARDS

ACTIONS...

PERSONAL DETAILS

Age 27 years, 267 days
Date of Birth January 17th, 1848
City of Birth New York, NY
Nationality American
Position Shortstop
Bats / Throws Left / Right
Team Sons of the Ocean (NBBO)
Salary \$164
Signed through 1876 (arbitration)
Acquired Free Agent Signing (01/28)
Morale Good
Expectation Starting lineup
Major Service 5 Years, 0 Days

BASIC BATTING RATINGS

Contact 45 / 45
BABIP 35 / 35
Avoid K's 60 / 65
Gap Power 40 / 40
Power 25 / 25
Eye 35 / 35

SUMMARY

Overall
Potential
Scouting Accuracy
Development Risk

OTHER BATTING RATINGS

Batted Ball Profile
Groundball Tendency
Flyball Tendency
Speed
Stealing Aggressiveness
Stealing Ability
Baserunning
Sacrifice Bunt
Bunt for Hit

POSITION RATINGS

Second Base
Third Base
Shortstop
Infield Range
Infield Error
Infield Arm
Turn DP

PERSONALITY

He works hard at his craft and is the cerebral type. Jones gets along with everyone.
High: Work Ethic, Baseball IQ

Year	Age	TM	LVL	G	PA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS	OPS+	TB	HP	WPA	WAR
1871	23	SAL	NBBO	70	318	288	53	65	6	3	1	40	5	3	15	6	.226	.249	.278	.527	47	80	5	-0.10	1.3
1872	24	SAL	NBBO	70	284	256	32	55	4	2	0	18	5	4	9	3	.215	.252	.246	.498	51	63	8	-0.53	1.7
1873	25	SotO	NBBO	70	276	262	41	72	3	3	0	37	7	1	23	1	.275	.298	.309	.607	77	81	3	1.09	3.5
1874	26	SotO	NBBO	70	282	268	43	47	6	0	0	24	4	2	13	0	.175	.201	.198	.398	17	53	5	-0.72	1.9
1875	27	SotO	NBBO	70	300	280	50	76	9	2	1	49	5	0	16	3	.271	.282	.329	.610	75	92	1	0.77	2.5
TOTAL				350	1460	1354	219	315	28	10	2	168	26	10	76	13	.233	.256	.273	.529	54	369	22	0.52	11.0
162 AVG				162	675	627	101	146	13	5	1	78	12	5	35	6	.233	.256	.274	.531	54	172	10	0.00	5.0

Year	Age	TM	LVL	POS	G	GS	IP	TC	PO	A	E	DP	PCT	RNG	ZR	EFF	PB	RTO	RTO%	CERA	FRM	ARM
1871	23	SAL	NBBO	SS	70	70	623.1	505	165	286	54	28	.893	6.51	28.7	1.213	0	0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0
1872	24	SAL	NBBO	SS	70	70	602.2	489	212	228	49	19	.900	6.57	23.3	1.170	0	0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0
1873	25	SotO	NBBO	SS	70	70	577.2	494	194	242	58	13	.883	6.79	37.8	1.340	0	0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0
1874	26	SotO	NBBO	SS	70	70	587.1	521	215	241	65	18	.875	6.99	35.5	1.282	0	0	0.0	0.00	0.0	0.0
1875	27	SotO	NBBO	SS	70	70	589.0	487	196	226	65	14	.867	6.45	26.3	1.256	0	0	0.0	0.00	0.0	-0.1
Total SS		SotO	NBBO	SS	350	350	2980.0	2496	982	1223	291	92	.883	6.66	151.6	1.252	0	0	0.0	0.00	0.0	-0.1