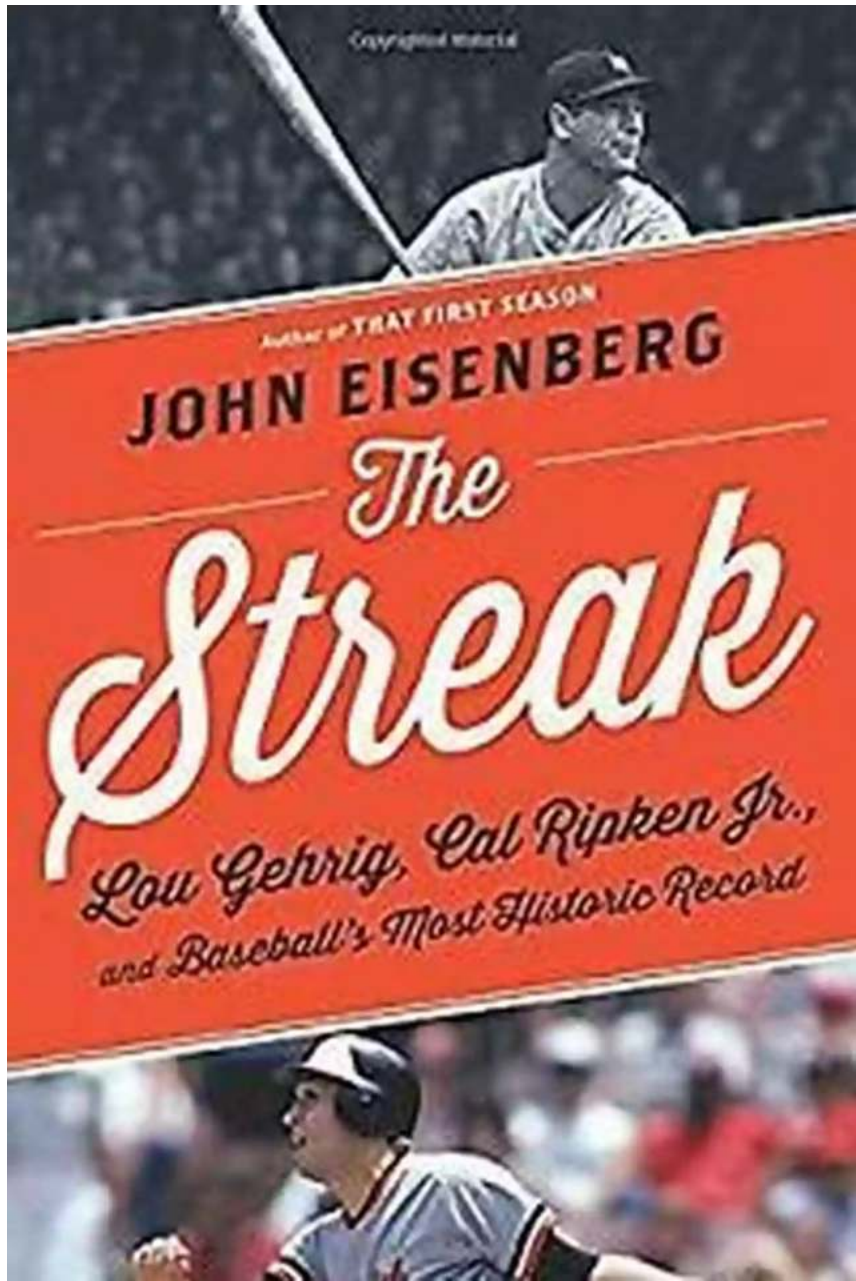


Lou Gehrig, Cal Ripken Jr., and Baseball's Most Historic Record

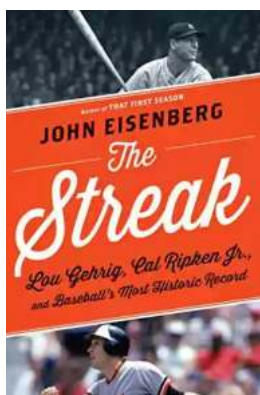


Baseball has a long and storied history with countless records and legends that have shaped the game into what it is today. From the slugfests of Babe Ruth to the unmatched pitching prowess of Cy Young, there have been many incredible achievements throughout the years. However, few records are as iconic and

revered as the consecutive games played streak held by Lou Gehrig and Cal Ripken Jr.

Who is Lou Gehrig?

Lou Gehrig, also known as the "Iron Horse," was a legendary first baseman who played his entire career with the New York Yankees from 1923 to 1939. Gehrig's durability and consistency made him one of the greatest players of his era. He was known for his remarkable batting skills, defensive prowess, and unwavering dedication to the game.



The Streak: Lou Gehrig, Cal Ripken Jr., and Baseball's Most Historic Record

by John Eisenberg (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 15629 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Lending : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

X-Ray : Enabled

Print length : 327 pages



Introducing Cal Ripken Jr.

Cal Ripken Jr, often referred to as "The Iron Man," followed in Gehrig's footsteps and became the modern face of consecutive games played. Ripken was a shortstop and third baseman for the Baltimore Orioles from 1981 to 2001. Just

like Gehrig, Ripken's work ethic and dedication to the game were unparalleled, earning him a spot among the all-time greats.

The Consecutive Games Played Streak

Lou Gehrig set the initial record for consecutive games played, which stood at a remarkable 2,130 games until it was broken by Cal Ripken Jr. in September 1995. Gehrig's incredible streak began on June 1, 1925, and endured until May 2, 1939, when he was forced to sit out due to an illness that would later be diagnosed as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS).

Cal Ripken Jr. surpassed Gehrig's record on September 6, 1995, playing his 2,131st consecutive game. His streak continued until September 20, 1998, reaching an astounding total of 2,632 games. Ripken's dedication and discipline throughout his career captured the hearts of fans worldwide and solidified his status as a baseball icon.

The Significance of the Record

The consecutive games played streak is an embodiment of durability, commitment, and unwavering love for the game. It represents not only the physical endurance required to suit up day after day but also the mental fortitude to overcome obstacles and perform at the highest level consistently.

Lou Gehrig's original record symbolized the epitome of reliability and consistency in an era where players often missed games due to injuries or other circumstances. His streak was a testament to his dedication and reliability as a player, and it set a milestone that seemed unbeatable for decades.

However, Cal Ripken Jr. took the record even further, setting a new standard for generations to come. He became a symbol of baseball's resilience and

dedication, inspiring players and fans alike. Ripken's streak proved that breaking Gehrig's record was not an unreachable dream but a goal that could be achieved through hard work and determination.

The Impact on Baseball

The consecutive games played streak of Lou Gehrig and Cal Ripken Jr. had a profound impact on the sport of baseball. It brought renewed attention to the importance of durability and consistency, spawning countless discussions and debates about the significance of individual records in the modern era.

The streaks also allowed fans to witness history unfold before their eyes. Gehrig's 2,130-game streak and Ripken's 2,632-game streak created an aura of excitement and anticipation every time they took the field. It became an event in itself, with fans eagerly cheering on their favorite players as they extended their respective records.

Furthermore, the streaks exemplified the values of perseverance and determination that are essential in both sports and life. They showed aspiring athletes that success is not only about talent but also about the ability to maintain consistency and overcome adversity.

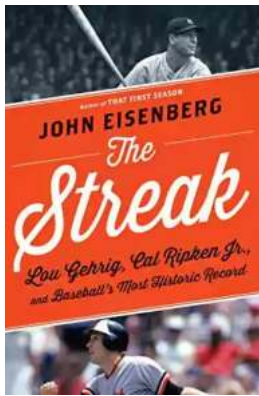
The Legacy of Lou Gehrig and Cal Ripken Jr.

Lou Gehrig's tragic early retirement due to ALS may have cut short his career, but his impact on the game of baseball extends far beyond his on-field achievements. He remains an inspiration to players young and old, his name forever associated with dedication and class both on and off the field.

Cal Ripken Jr.'s incredible streak and subsequent Hall of Fame induction solidified his place in baseball history. He became a role model for aspiring

players, proving that determination and hard work can lead to extraordinary accomplishments. Ripken's legacy goes beyond the numbers, as he continues to give back to the game and help shape the next generation of baseball players.

The consecutive games played streaks of Lou Gehrig and Cal Ripken Jr. represent more than just statistics. They embody the spirit of baseball, showcasing the dedication, perseverance, and love for the game that make it a national pastime. These iconic records will forever be etched in the annals of baseball history, inspiring generations of players and fans to strive for greatness.



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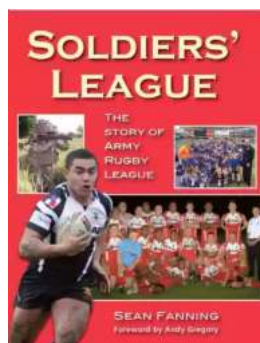
“A line-drive hit of a book” about the Iron Horse and the Iron Man—two legends from two eras of baseball—and the nature of human endurance (The Wall Street Journal).

When Cal Ripken Jr. began his career with the Baltimore Orioles at age twenty-one, he had no idea he would someday beat the historic record of playing 2,130

games in a row, a record set forty-two years before by the fabled “Iron Horse” of the New York Yankees, Lou Gehrig. Ripken went on to surpass that record by 502 games, and the baseball world was floored.

Few feats in sports history have generated more acclaim. But the record spawns an array of questions. When did someone first think it was a good idea to play in so many games without taking a day off? Who owned the record before Gehrig? Whose streak—Gehrig’s or Ripken’s—was the more difficult achievement? Through probing research, meticulous analysis, and colorful parallel storytelling, *The Streak* delves into this impressive but controversial milestone, unraveling Gehrig’s at-times unwitting pursuit of that goal (Babe Ruth used to think Gehrig crazy for wanting to play every game), and Ripken’s fierce determination to stay in the lineup and continue to contribute whatever he could even as his skills diminished with age. So many factors contribute to the comparisons between the two men: the length of seasons, the number of teams in the major leagues, the inclusion of nonwhite players, travel, technology, medical advances, and even media are all part of the equation. This is a book that captures the deeply American appreciation—as seen in the sport itself—for a workaday mentality and that desire to be there for the game every time it called.

“It tackles the allure of human endurance and the pitfalls of fame, but it is mostly a baseball book for baseball fans. It succeeds as both a thorough accounting and a love note to the game.”—The Washington Post



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