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Sean Forman (mathematics, St. Joseph’s Univ., cofounder of Baseball Think Factory http://www.baseballthinkfactory.com/ and author of Outside the Box http://www.baseballprimer.com/otb/) has assembled a wealth of statistical data in a site that is easy to navigate and quick to load. The site includes all major league players, managers, teams, and leagues back to 1871. Player entries include nicknames, major league debut date, batting and throwing handedness, and birth/death place and date. Statistical categories (batting, fielding, pitching, postseason) provide links to team and league statistics and to glossaries for each category’s abbreviations; the Compare link at the bottom of the page creates a split screen for easy player-to-player comparison. Although there are indexes for players, Hall of Famers, managers, teams, and leagues, the only search box (which appears on each page) is for players and managers. The site also includes Leaders and Awards sections, a guide to postseason information, and a Travel Guide (searchable by zip code, city, and maximum distance). Automatic player searches link to several other informative Web sites. Now in its third year, this site has no online competitor. Standard printed sources include The Baseball Encyclopedia (9th ed., CH, Sep’93; 10th ed., 1996), Total Baseball (3rd ed., CH, Jul’93), Bill James Presents—STATS All-Time Baseball Sourcebook (1998), and Bill James Presents—STATS All-Time Major League Handbook (2nd ed., 2000). The latter two provide the greatest wealth of statistics. The printed sources have content not available at the online site: e.g., Negro League statistics; essays; “situational statistics” (comparison of games at home and away); rosters of coaches, umpires, owners, and announcers; and rosters and statistics from the Girls Professional Baseball League. But Forman takes advantage of the medium, making comparative analyses easy and providing a wealth of data in readable format. Payment is voluntary, the amount determined by the user’s judgment. All collections.

—R. A. Aken, University of Kentucky

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