May 13, 1911 Mathewson's easiest win

New York Giants Hall of Fame pitcher Christy Mathewson wins 373 games over 17 seasons, but none are easier than victory No. 268 when the Giants tally 13 runs in the bottom of the first inning, including 10 before an out is made, en route to a 19-5 win over the visiting St. Louis Cardinals.

With the 13-run lead, Giant manager John McGraw replaces Mathewson, his starting pitcher and team ace, in the top of the second inning with another future Hall of Famer, lefty Rube Marquard ... the 24-year-old Marquard proceeds to strike out 14 Cardinals in eight innings of relief, setting a single-game record for relievers.

Under the scoring rules of the day, Mathewson gets credit for his fifth victory of the season despite pitching only one inning while Marquard picks up his second save of the season.



Third on the major league career win list, Mathewson wins at least 22 games for 12 straight years (1903-1914), including four seasons with 30 or more wins ... he leads the National League in ERA five times and in victories on four occasions.

Mathewson enlists in the Army during World War I and is accidentally exposed to poison gas during training drills ... the exposure causes severe lung damage that eventually causes

his death on October 7, 1925, at the age of 45.