

# **The Minor League Baseball**

## **Research Journal**



### **In this Issue:**

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**Art Cantu**  
**Bob Hoie**  
**Lloyd Johnson**  
**Ray Nemec**  
**Ron Selter**  
**Dick Thompson**  
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**Bill Weiss**  
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**Volume One**

# The Minor League Baseball Research Journal Volume One

Edited by Carlos Bauer & Bob Hoie  
Published by the Society for American Baseball Research  
under the direction of Carlos Bauer  
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This journal, we hope, represents a return to what SABR has traditionally respected: Solid Research. A return, moreover, to a time when large budgets were not needed to put out a quality publication. A return to the early, heady days of the Society for American Baseball Research, when ideas and ideals invariably scored the winning run in the bottom of the ninth over the hero-worshipping baseball publications of that—thankfully—bygone era.

*The Minor League Baseball Research Journal* seeks to carry out the SABR mission by publishing works too long for its two flagship SABR publications, *The National Pastime* and *The Baseball Research Journal*, and likewise too short— or, we admit, too obscure— to be considered for publication by commercial publishers. (Of course, we don't aspire to be popular— we aspire to be good!) Where SABR publications consider a six-page article “too long,” we might view a ten-page manuscript as “too short.” Our commitment is, simply, to give authors all the pages they need— even if it means turning the whole publication over to one work, and not to edit everything down to fit into a pre-determined amount of space no matter how much it hurts the article in question (which, unfortunately, has been the case on more than a few occasions in the past). The length of the articles in this volume— along with our no-compromises approach to the esoteric themes— will bear this out.

The use of the term “research journal” in our name did not come about by happenstance: We picked it because our desire is, ultimately, to emulate— as much as humanly possible— that revered journal founded and edited for many years by Bob Davids, *The Baseball Research Journal*. As many of you know, much great work was published on meager budgets in those years. Moreover, we hope that this publication— and by our previously published *SABR Guide to Minor League Statistics*— will serve to illuminate the way for other research committees, and other groups within the Society for American Baseball Research, to disseminate first-rate baseball research, which is, after all, the stated mission of this organization. We, therefore, envision a time when there might be a *Negro Leagues Baseball Research Journal*, or a *Baseball Research Journal for Ballparks*. In short, niche publications that serve the wildly varied interests of our membership.

*The Minor League Baseball Research Journal* is elitist in some respects, no doubt about it. For that, we plead guilty. Yet we are egalitarian in that we don't care a whit about who writes our articles, only that they be good.

This volume of *The Minor League Baseball Research Journal* is divided into two sections, a narrative section that contains articles— with ample statistics— on two leagues (the West Texas—New Mexico League, by Ron Selter; and the Pacific Coast League, by Carlos Bauer), and what we believe to be a seminal work on ballparks (ballparks in the Los Angeles area, with detailed park drawings, by Larry Zuckerman). In this section, we have a marvelous portrait (written by Ed Brooks) of what has to be one of the most unique personalities ever to don a uniform— Bill Sisler. Plus, Ray Nemeč and Bob Hoie present Bill Sisler's most complete pitching record to date. (The Sisler article, some may remember, first appeared a number of years ago in *The Baseball Research Journal*, in a very abbreviated— some less generous souls have called it “butchered”— form. We present it here in its entirety, including much new material.) Our second section comprises what we call the “Statistical Abstract” section, where we hope to draw attention to the foot soldiers of minor league baseball research, those unsung heroes who spend day after day, month after month, year after year, compiling final league averages from newspaper box scores on grainy microfilm so we, today, are able to get some idea of the statistical record of leagues and players long past, players and leagues that have come to be

honored in such publications as the series of *Minor League Stars* and *The Minor League Register*, as well as *The Minor League Encyclopedia*. Lloyd Johnson presents his compilation of detailed pitching records from four leagues that played across the Great Plains in 1905. Dick Thompson gives us his compilation of the 1899 New England League— and, because of that, we are now able set the record straight on Christy Mathewson's first year in baseball. (*Daguerreotypes* lists him as having gone 5-2, when in fact Matty had a terribly rocky start in O. B., winning only two out of fifteen decisions.) Finally, we present the seldom seen 1879 National Association statistics from the extremely rare *1880 National Association Guide*, generously shared with us by Joe Wayman and Art Cantu.

As for future plans, we already have the material for our second volume. Volume Two will be a special issue dedicated exclusively to home runs in the minor leagues. Bob McConnell— whose work is the basis for *The Home Run Encyclopedia*— will take up almost the whole issue of the journal with much of his life-

long study of home runs hit in the hinterlands of America. His article combines both text and never-before-published statistics. In the Statistical Abstract section, Carlos Bauer will present his *Pacific Coast League Home Run Log, 1903-18*, which lists every home run hit— by date, by whom, against whom, and at which ballpark the blow was struck— during the first two decades of that fabled league. *They'll have to rewrite the record books!*

See you at Spring training!

*Carlos Bauer & Bob Hoie*

## The Starting Lineup:

### Articles:

A Short History of the West Texas—New Mexico League by Ron Selter	page 3
<i>West Texas—New Mexico League Batting &amp; Pitching Leaders</i>	page 15
Bill Sisler— A Good Baseball Man by Ed Brooks	page 21
<i>The Career Record of Bill Sisler</i> compiled by Bob Hoie & Ray Nemec	page 27
Ballparks of Los Angeles, and Some of the History Surrounding Them by Lauren Ted Zuckerman	page 29
<i>Los Angeles Ballpark Drawings</i>	page 50
The Creation of the Pacific Coast League, and the Civil War with the Pacific National League that Ensued During its First Year in Existence, 1903 by Carlos Bauer	page 70
<i>The 1903 Coast League Season in Stats</i>	page 85

### The Statistical Abstract:

The 1879 National Association presented by Joseph Wayman & Art Cantu	page 97
Pitching Performances in 1905 Great Plains Area Leagues compiled by Lloyd Johnson	page 103
The 1899 New England League compiled by Dick Thomson	page 118

### The Final Out:

It Was Just One of Those Years by Carlos Bauer & Bill Weiss	page 126
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## A SHORT HISTORY OF THE WEST TEXAS—NEW MEXICO LEAGUE

by Ron Selter © 1996

One league that forever seems to captivate both fans and researchers alike is the West Texas—New Mexico League. The reason for that is simple: Numbers. As Bill James noted in his *Historical Abstract*, “There were five of these leagues down there, the West Texas—New Mexico League, the Big State League, the Arizona—Texas League, the Lone Star league and the Longhorn League. They were all hitter’s leagues; they had lots of people who hit .380, hit 50 home runs.”<sup>1</sup> Premier among those leagues stood the West Texas—New Mexico League. In fact, the batting statistics of the West Texas-New Mexico became so legendary that still, some forty years after its demise, the league remains a topic of conversation among minor league aficionados.

### Origin of the League:

The West Texas-New Mexico (WT-NM) League was founded at a meeting held at Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico in February, 1937. Unlike similar organizational efforts in prior years, this meeting in a most unusual location turned out to be successful. The story in *The Sporting News* under the title, *Seven Miles Underground Organizing Meeting for League*, stated: “The most novel league meeting in the history of the game will be held seven miles underground in one of the huge chambers of the Carlsbad Caverns, near here, on February 28, when representatives of towns expected to become members of the West Texas League [*sic*] will gather to perfect their organization.

“Baseball men from other sections of the country including President W. G. Bramham of the National Association, officials from every club in the Texas League and many from the East Texas and Cotton States leagues, also will be in attendance and plans are being made for a chain hook-up over NBC, to describe the unique setting.”<sup>2</sup> Milton E. Price was elected as the first president of the Class D WT-NM League, a post he would fill until he retired following the 1951 season. At the meeting, they officially awarded the original six West Texas-New Mexico League franchises to four towns in Texas: Midland, Monahans, Odessa, and Wink; and two in New Mexico: Hobbs and Roswell.

The article also noted that one-time Fort Worth star pitcher of the 1920s, Joe Pate, had been one of the most active people attracting professional baseball to the area.

The West Texas—New Mexico League was founded to serve a fast growing region of western Texas and southeastern New Mexico that was a result of the Permian Basin oil and natural gas development that occurred in the area in the 1930s. While the area experienced rapid population growth, the combined population of the entire six counties in the WT-NM League area in 1937 only amounted to about 76,000.<sup>3</sup> The towns could be classified as small to very small. For instance, the city of Wink, Texas had a population of less than 2,000. In its inaugural season, the league was geographically very compact, and all of the six teams were in counties that were contiguous. The four Texas towns fell within a 80 mile stretch of West Texas, and the distance between the two most distant towns—Midland, Texas and Roswell, New Mexico—was only about 225 miles by road.

Actually, this was not the first time that this area had been served by organized baseball. In the early 1920s, there was a West Texas League (followed, in 1923 by the Panhandle-Pecos Valley League) that had many of the towns that would later compete in the WTNM League. Then in 1928 the West Texas League was revived. The Class D league survived through 1929, but never answered the bell for the depression year of 1930.

The predominant importance of the oil and gas industry in the area was reflected in the team nicknames in the early years of the West Texas—New Mexico League: the Hobbs Drillers, Borger Gassers, Wink Spudders and Odessa Oilers. That tradition would more or less carry on until the league ceased to exist after the 1955 season.

Before WWII, as a Class D operation,, the West Texas-New Mexico League was subject to a number of restrictions. Player salaries had a ceiling, the roster limits were 14 or 15 players, with an even lower limit for players with more than limited minor league experience.<sup>4</sup> One result of the roster and salary limits turned out to be the great number of player-managers in the league. The other impact of the roster limits was the use of many position players as part-time pitchers, and the use of pitchers as part-time position players. In fact, the

distinction between pitchers and non-pitchers sometimes became very blurred in the WT-NM League.

### The Early Years:

The league commenced play on the afternoon of May 4, 1937 at Roswell, New Mexico, with an overflow crowd of fans attending the Hobbs-Roswell game; Midland also played Monahans that day.<sup>5</sup> Late that same month the Wink Spudders became the first team in the league to install lights. At the same time, the Hobbs franchise ran into trouble as the team drew only about 100 fans per game. After starting off with a 3-9 record, the owner-manager, Ned Pettigrew quit, and the franchise had to be reorganized. James Murray became president, and Fincher Withers took over as both field and business manager. They added lights at the Hobbs ball park later in the season, which helped attendance.

At the start of June, the Wink team replaced its manager (D. E. Perry), not an unusual move then or now, but his replacement, the great Texas League pitcher of the 1920s, Joe Pate, was unusual. Until then Pate had been a league umpire. Joe Pate also assumed an ownership stake in the franchise. Ned Pettigrew, who had just given up ownership of the Hobbs franchise, was named by league president Milton Price to assume the presidency of Wink.

The league operated with six teams for only its first month and a half. Then on June 17<sup>th</sup>, the Odessa franchise abruptly folded despite being in second place and having a winning percentage of .622. Lack of attendance was cited as the reason for the team's demise. The league stumbled on with five teams, which necessitated always having one team being off during every series, until the Midland franchise, a farm club of the St. Louis Cardinals, also folded on July 9<sup>th</sup>, a little less than a month later. Midland threw in the towel despite being in 1<sup>st</sup> place. Apparently, Midland attendance had been hampered by the lack of night games. At the time the team folded, Midland was the only club in the league without lights.

None of the Midland players joined other WTNM teams: being a Cardinal farm club, all the players were assigned to other teams within the Cardinal farm system. By contrast, eleven of the Odessa players were picked up by other league teams. The attractiveness of the Odessa players to other clubs probably stemmed from the fact that they had been hitting at a .329 clip when the team folded. In the 16 seasons of the West Texas—New Mexico League's operation, no team ever topped this mark.

Wink assumed league leadership in the standings when the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place teams dropped out. At the end of the regular season, all four teams conducted a playoff, which 1<sup>st</sup> place Wink wound up the winner.

After the playoffs, Wink beat the Albuquerque Dukes, the champions of the Arizona-Texas League, 9 to 7 and 5 to 4 in the best two out of three series played in Albuquerque.

Individual achievements during the league's inaugural season included Bob Hood of Wink, who won the Triple Crown (.372 Avg., 30 HR, 145 RBI), as well as leading the league in

slugging percentage, HR percentage., total bases, and extra base hits. Mel Reist of Monahans also had a fine season: losing the batting title by one point, and hitting 21 HR with 119 RBI.

As far as pitching was concerned, Red Hay of Wink led pitchers with an 18-8 record and a league leading 3.97 ERA. Roswell pitcher Marshall Scott went 18-6 with a 4.36 ERA.

For the 1938 season, the WT-NM League again began play with six teams. To resume operations as a six team league, Midland (with a remodeled ball park, including the installation of lights) returned to the league, and was joined by three new teams: Lubbock, Texas replaced Odessa; Big Spring, Texas replaced Monahans; and Clovis, New Mexico replaced Roswell. Thus, after only one full year of play, only 50% of the league's original cities remained. (While Clovis "officially" replaced Roswell, the Hobbs team actually came away with the players from the 1937 Roswell club.)

For the 1938 season, three teams had major league affiliations: Midland, St. Louis Cardinals; Lubbock, Dallas of the Texas League, which was part of the Chicago White Sox farm system; and Hobbs had a working agreement with Beaumont in the Texas League, which was part of the Detroit Tigers system. Only three clubs had lights installed before the season began, but all had them in place before the middle of June. In early June, with attendance very poor, Clovis decided to bring the fences in, hoping the long ball would help fill some seats: Left went from 370' to 335'; center from 428' to 380'; and right from 355' to 325'. Attendance improved markedly.

Lubbock finished first, nine games ahead of Clovis, and also won the post-season playoffs defeating first Wink (3 games to 0) and then Clovis (4 games to 1). As a hint of slugging feats in the league's future, the pennant winning Lubbock Hubbers hit 175 home runs during their 130 game schedule. The Clovis team that started the season was nothing short of horrible. Clovis management picked up just about every decent player released in the early part of the year, and managed to put together a winning lineup by mid season. Wink, the only truly independent team, jumped out to a 12-5 record in the early going, but could not keep pace with the better stocked teams in the league and finished a distant fourth.

The top hitter that season was Lance Donaldson of Hobbs who was leading the league after 67 games with a torrid .437 batting mark before being sold to Alexandria of the Evangeline League. The .437 batting average complied by Donaldson was the highest ever recorded by a player with more than 250 At Bats in the 16 year history of the league. The batting title (with a minimum 350 AB), however, was won by his Hobbs teammate, Cecil Smyly, with a .367 average.

The most notable pitcher that season was Ralph Marshall of Lubbock who threw a no-hitter that season, had an ERA of 1.55 in 58 innings, and tied the league single game strikeout record of 22. His tenure in the league was cut short when National Association President W. G. Bramham declared Marshall a free agent because of a rule violation involving a signing bonus. Also of note: Clovis' Ernie Nelson became the league's first 20 game winner, going 20-10 in 238 innings with a mind-boggling 4.88 ERA.

Unlike 1937, every club in the West Texas—New Mexico League finished out the 1938 season. Although Lubbock drew more than 30,000 during the regular season, and Big Spring and Clovis also had satisfactory fan support, attendance at the three other league towns did not measure up. During the latter part of the season, games scheduled for Midland, Wink and Hobbs had to be transferred to Lubbock and Big Spring because fan support was so abysmal. All tolled, attendance for the league as a whole averaged no more than between 300 and 400 per game.

Notwithstanding poor attendance in some markets, the WT-NM League expanded to an eight team circuit in 1939. The Wink franchise transferred to Lamesa Texas, and three new franchises— Abilene, Amarillo, and Pampa, all in West Texas— joined the league. With both Wink and Hobbs having dropped out before the start of the 1939 season (and never to return), only Midland survived from the original six cities in the league.

The Abilene franchise did not do well (either at the gate or on the field), and moved to Borger on July 9, 1939, officially becoming the Borger Gassers. For the first time in 1939, the league played a split season, with Lubbock winning both the first and second halves as well as the playoffs. The Lubbock team was a real powerhouse. The Chicago White Sox controlled team finished 16 games ahead of its nearest rival, Big Spring, over the course of the whole season. The plan for the playoffs had been for the first-half winner to face the second-half winner, but because of Lubbock's dominance, a modified Shaughnessy playoff was held. Lubbock defeated Big Spring (which had the second best record for the whole season) 3 games to none; and Pampa (second in the second half) defeated Midland (which had finished third in the second half) 3 games to 2. In the finals, Lubbock defeated Pampa 4 games to 1. In all this, Lamesa— which had finished the first half in 2<sup>nd</sup> place— became the odd man out.

While 1939 might have been the Lubbock Hubbers' year, 1939 had Gordon Nell's name written all over it. The Pampa outfielder *merely* led the league in runs (152), hits (207), 2B (60), HR (44), RBI (189) and in batting average (.392). Lamesa centerfielder, Emmitt Fullenwider, had a fine season with 43 HR and 140 RBI while hitting .335. As to pitching, Jodie Marek of Big Spring upped the league record for wins to 23 in spite of giving up 302 hits in 275 innings, and a 4.22 ERA.

As hitting inched up even further in 1939, league attendance shot up. 1939 saw 260,000 fans go through the turnstiles compared to 110,000 in 1938. Even taking into account the two new teams and slightly longer schedule, the gains are impressive. The first four teams, in terms of attendance, were: Amarillo (51,000), Lubbock (50,000), Pampa (35,000), Big Spring (31,000).<sup>6</sup>

After the 1939 experience with a split season, the league in 1940 reverted to a format of an undivided season with a regular post-season Shaughnessy playoff system. Pampa won a close pennant race by a mere 1½ games over of Amarillo. Amarillo jumped out to a 14-4 record in the early going, but then Pampa overtook them in late June. Pampa maintained its 1<sup>st</sup> place position until overtaken by Amarillo in early August, but

surrendered its lead to Lubbock in late August, with Amarillo only 3 games out. After that, Pampa got it all together.

Nevertheless, fourth place Borger swept Pampa in the first round of the playoffs, and Borger then went on to win it all by overcoming Lubbock in seven games. In early August, Borger signed former Yankee great Wilcy Moore, who went 5 and 1 the rest of the way with an impressive (for the WTNM) 2.81 ERA, and helped solidify the team during the post season.

The 1940 season saw the first— but certainly not the last— .400 hitter in West Texas-New Mexico League history. Lubbock outfielder Ed Schweda posted a .422 batting mark to win the batting crown and established a new league record. This mark also topped all batting averages in organized baseball that year.<sup>7</sup> (Schweda's 1940 season was his big one. In 1941, he went to the Western Association where he didn't do much, and then went off to war for four years. After his return, he had a credible year in 1946 in both the Carolina and Piedmont leagues, but dropped out of Organized Baseball.) Coming in with fine seasons once again were Gordon Nell (40 HR, 175 RBI, .389 BA for Borger) and Emmitt Fullenwider (39 HR, 149 RBI, .332 for Amarillo).

The 1940 season, in general, saw an upsurge in slugging, with home runs for the league increasing from 664 in 1939 to 833. The league also posted a .294 batting average that season, which was tops to date. While hitting appeared to be the story in 1940, Jim Ramsdell and Rex Dilbeck both tied the league record for wins with 23. Ramsdell went 23-18 with a 4.00 ERA for Big Spring/Odessa, and lefty Dilbeck had an exceptional 23-7 3.45 ERA season for the league leading Pampa Oilers. Pat Ralish led the league in ERA with a 3.25, which helped him to a 20-4 record. Kid Crider raised the league record for strike outs to 266.

Also of note, Bob Crues (slugger supreme of the post-war West Texas—New Mexico League) first made his presence felt— but as a pitcher with an exceptional 20-5 win-loss record, and good (in WTNM terms) but not great 4.21 ERA for Lamesa and Borger.

Off the field, not all teams were financially successful, as the Big Spring franchise had to be moved in mid-season to Odessa, Texas, on June 20, 1940. Thus, Odessa returned to the WT-NM League some three years after its mid-season demise in 1937. Nonetheless, the mid-season transfer of Big Spring to Odessa proved not to be a success, and the move was reversed before the start of the 1941 season. Odessa never returned to the West Texas-New Mexico League. When the league totaled up attendance after the season, they found that almost 8% less fans had found their way into WTNM League parks in 1940.

Midland also battled attendance problems throughout the 1940 season, and had to be transferred to Wichita Falls for the 1941 season. In Wichita Falls, the team added lights at Spudder Park, the old Texas League grounds, to permit night games. The first night game would be played on May 12, 1941.

The Big Spring Bombers had a very successful season in 1941, winning a record 91 games and taking the pennant by two games over Borger. Borger, in fact, dogged Big Spring all season, and even once in July managed to grab the lead. Big Spring finished on top despite a sub par team batting mark of

.262 (when compared to the league mark of .270). Big Spring made up in pitching and defense what it lacked in hitting, as the club led the league in both fielding and ERA. Wichita Falls, on the other hand, lost 95 games, finishing last (49 games out). The Wichita Falls Spudders hit only 18 HR and had a team batting average of .241, some 19 points below the next worst team, Lamesa. Being eighth in batting, pitching, and fielding, it was not surprising they finished a distant eighth in the standings.

In the playoffs, Big Spring made it through the first round by sweeping Amarillo, but lost to the fourth place Clovis Pioneers in the finals.

As to individual achievements, pitching shone brighter than all else. Pitcher after pitcher came in with sub-3.00 ERA years, led by John McPartland of Pampa with a 2.03. Jim Ramsdell set a league record with 25 wins in leading the Big Spring Bombers to the top.

Hitting in general, and home runs in particular, dropped substantially from 1940 to 1941. The league batting average dropped 24 points (.270 versus .294), and home runs declined nearly 50% (833 to 466). Gordon Nell, the perennial home run champ, led the league with only 28, with perennial bridesmaid, Emmitt Fullenwider, two behind him. Though Frank Hargrove led the league in batting with a respectable .388 average, only 15 full time players topped the .300 mark, just about half as many as the year before. During the 1941 season, stolen bases were nearly three times as prevalent as home runs, and the WT-NM League was not by any stretch the slugger's haven it would become in future years.

As the season wound down, writers began to comment on the lack of offense during the 1941 season. The consensus was that the league had the finest crop of pitchers ever, and that led to the fall off.<sup>8</sup> (After the war, it would be generally conceded that the real reason was the use of a dead World War Two ball.)

### The Impact of the War:

The 1942 season began with a contemplated split-season arrangement, and with only one change in the league's lineup. Albuquerque, New Mexico, left the Arizona-Texas League to join the West Texas-New Mexico League, replacing Big Spring. (Actually, Albuquerque replaced Big Spring when the Big Spring franchise moved to Pampa, and the Pampa franchise moved to Albuquerque.) The 1942 competition could be characterized as two good teams, Clovis and Lamesa, and one very bad team, Wichita Falls, with everyone else in the middle. Clovis won the first half, and had a very impressive— a league record, as a matter of fact— .732 winning percentage for the whole season.

The Wichita Falls team was neither an artistic nor a commercial success. The club stumbled out of the gate with a horrible 1-11 record, and talk centered around moving the team to an abandoned Arizona-Texas League territory, El Paso, Texas. The franchise, however, transferred to Big Spring,

Texas, less than two weeks into the season (May 9<sup>th</sup>), and the Big Spring Pirates began life with a 4-14 record. Even with their re-christening the club didn't do any better in Big Spring, and by late May the team had also abandoned Big Spring to become a "road team," playing exclusively as the visitors for the remainder of the first half of the season. The club changed its name from the Wichita Falls Spudders to the Big Spring Pirates and, finally, they became simply the Pirates when they became homeless. The team finished the first half of the split season with only 8 wins against 47 losses. The resulting .145 W-L percentage would be the worst ever recorded in the history of the league. The team batted at a paltry .223 clip, and connected for only seven home runs, which produced an average of only 3.1 runs per game. (To show how bad the club's batting average had been, the second worst team batting average was a .277 by Clovis.) At the same time, the team's pitchers gave up a whopping 7.5 runs per game. This more than explains the Pirates dismal W-L record— and, probably, why the club finished the season without a hometown. This has to qualify the Pirates as one of the truly awful teams in minor league history.

By contrast, in the first half of the 1942 season, the Clovis Pioneers established the highest winning percentage ever in the history of the WT-NM League (.754). The Clovis success was due in large measure to the pitching of Ken Wyatt and Bill Hewitt, who combined for a 30-4 record. For the season, Lamesa placed ahead of Clovis in batting, runs scored, fielding and ERA. The Lamesa Dodgers only managed, however, to finished second, 8½ games behind Clovis in the most important category—the standings.

For the start of the second half of the split season, the hapless and homeless Pirates, as well as the Albuquerque Dukes, dropped out of the league, leaving only six teams to continue. (In truth, Albuquerque withdrew, and so the league felt obliged to disband the traveling Pirates.)

After only 15 games into the second half, with Lubbock a half a game ahead of Clovis, the effects of WWII forced the league to stop play and disband. What happened was that four teams— Clovis, Amarillo, Pampa and Borger— abruptly dropped out of the league after July 4<sup>th</sup> doubleheaders, leaving only Lubbock and Lamesa. These two teams spent several days trying to line up two other teams in an effort to finish out the season, but were unsuccessful, and the West Texas—New Mexico League bit the dust. The manpower drain, and to a lesser extent the travel restrictions of the war, severely curtailed minor league play throughout the nation. The West Texas-New Mexico League, like the majority of the minor leagues, had been forced to suspend operations for the duration of the war.

In a sidelight, Monty Stratton— the former White Sox pitcher who lost his leg in a hunting accident, and whose life was portrayed by Jimmy Stewart in the 1949 movie, *The Stratton Story*— managed the Lubbock Hubbers. On May, 15<sup>th</sup> he quit his post, lamenting to *The Sporting News* stringer, "Bus travel is just too hard on a fellow."<sup>9</sup> Probably getting shelled unmercifully in his only appearance on the mound didn't help, either.

Clovis left-handed pitcher Ken Wyatt topped the league in individual achievements. He led the league in wins, W-L Pct., complete games, strikeouts, and ERA. Wyatt went unbeaten for the season en route to winning 17 straight. Frank Warren of Borger became the second .400 hitter in the league's history when he won the batting crown with a .402 average. After Warren, the second most notable season had to be that of Amarillo left fielder Frank Hargrove. He hit .373 with 22 HR and 84 RBI in only 67 games; one is left to imagine what his numbers would have been like had he been able to play whole schedule of games. 1942 would also turn out to be Hargrove's final year in organized ball, and one can imagine what his career might have been.

### Sluggers of the Southwest—The Post War Years:

In the post war era, the West Texas-New Mexico League attained its final configuration and enjoyed its golden age, both on and off the field. The postwar years produced the slugging feats that made the West Texas—New Mexico League legendary in minor league history. With the postwar year of 1946 the West Texas—New Mexico League began a ten season run of hitting exploits during which the league produced no less than 16 single-season batting marks of .400 or better.

The league resumed play in 1946 as a Class C league and would continue to operate as a Class C league through the 1954 season, when it became Class B for its final season. The only franchise change from 1942 was Abilene, Texas, replacing the ill-fated Wichita Falls/Big Spring team. The league established in 1946 a configuration that it would maintain, with only two franchise changes, for the next ten years. The eight teams were comprised of six from West Texas and two from New Mexico. The West Texas—New Mexico League now spread from Albuquerque, New Mexico, in the west to Abilene, Texas, in the east, a distance of about 500 miles. This was a far cry from the very compact six team operation that began 1937 season. Expansion and the replacement of smaller markets with larger towns contributed to the increase of the league's population base: going from 76,000 in 1937 to 440,000 in 1946. In addition, the other factor leading to an increase in the league's base was the general growth of population in the West Texas—New Mexico area. Between 1940 and 1950 the population base in the two New Mexico cities (Albuquerque and Clovis) increased some 93% and the increase for the Texas portion of the league (Abilene, Amarillo, Borger, Lamesa, Lubbock, Pampa) had increased 52%.<sup>10</sup>

In 1946 the league played 140 game schedule, and the first place team, Abilene— which led the league in batting, pitching, and fielding— won an up-to-then record 97 games. Early on, though, Amarillo and Pampa were in the pennant race. Pampa, in fact, set a league record of thirteen straight wins, and Amarillo was tied for first as late as June 17, but Abilene pulled away from there on. By contrast, Lamesa lost 104 games and finished a far-distant last, 62½ games off the pace. The Lamesa pitching staff, "assisted" by a defense that contributed 406

errors, gave up 8.6 runs per game, and totaled 1205 runs allowed for the season. Lamesa was so bad that the team officially petitioned the league in July to spit the season, which the league rejected.

In 1946, the league held a Shaughnessy playoff as they had in the prewar years, with the exception that the first round would change to the best four out of seven games. Abilene was surprised by fourth place Lubbock 4 games to 1, and Pampa defeated Amarillo 4 games to 2. Pampa took the championship by defeating Lubbock in six games. Pampa destroyed Lubbock 13 to 1 in the final game. After winning the championship, Pampa went to Henderson, Texas, to face the winners of the East Texas League. Pampa beat the Henderson Oilers three straight at Henderson. Back in Pampa to finish up the series, the hometown Oilers scored 14 runs in the first two innings, and went on to crush the Henderson Oilers by a 25-9 score.

The total league offensive effort reverted to the same general levels as in the pre-war 1940 season, with a league batting average of .288 and 888 home runs. A soon to be famous minor league slugger named Joe Bauman of Amarillo led the league with 48 home runs, which broke the old league record of 44, set in 1939 by Gordon Nell. Bauman, of course, would move on to the Longhorn League, where, in 1954, he would set the all-time organized baseball record of 72 home runs in a season. Sportswriters around the league, however, voted Hayden "Stubby" Greer, short stop-manager of pennant winning Abilene, the Most Valuable Player. Greer hit .358 with 23 HR and 131 RBI. He also led the league with 38 stolen bases. Stubby Greer would wind up a with a lifetime .330 batting average in a 15 year minor league career ending in 1957.<sup>11</sup>

While pitching, in general, once again took a back seat to hitting, pitcher Bill Evans set two league records: 26 wins in a season, and 297 strike outs. Future Cub pitcher Warren Hacker also had a fine season at 20-4 3.67, as did John Hall of Abilene with a 20-9 and league-leading 2.45 ERA.

In 1947, the West Texas—New Mexico League reached incredible levels in terms of pitcher-pounding offensive numbers. The league batting average jumped nearly 20 points to .304, and the league, with some 1,200 home runs, established a minor league record (for an eight team league). Three teams exceeded 200 home runs, and six teams scored over 1,000 runs, all accomplished in a 140 game season. The Lubbock Hubbers that year were one of the greatest offensive minor league teams in minor league history. The Hubbers hit .315 with 210 home runs and had a slugging percentage of .533, which was good for 1,247 runs, an average of 8.9 runs per game. The Hubbers also came in first in pitching and second in fielding. They finished with a record 99 victories, placing first by a comfortable margin of 14 games and took the playoffs while winning 8 and losing 2. The Hubbers were led by Bill Serena, the all-time slugging shortstop. He hit .374 while establishing new league records in home runs with 57 and RBIs with 190. He topped off his great regular season by leading the Hubbers to victory in the playoffs, clobbering an amazing 13 home runs in only 10 games. For the regular season, his league record slugging percentage of .832 is still one of the highest in minor league history.

Through the middle of July, Lubbock and Amarillo battled for first, tied more often than not. But by August 20<sup>th</sup>, Lubbock had pulled out to a six game lead, and coasted home to a final 5½ game lead over Amarillo.

Besides Serena, Bob Crues had an excellent season (with 52 HR, 178 RBI and a .380 BA), foreshadowing his great 1948 season. And Gordon Nell had another of his typically great seasons: .344 with 49 HR and 173 RBI. Also, three players with more than 100 games hit .400: Leon Cato (.410), Buck Fausett (.409), and George Studivant (.404).

League pitchers, obviously, had a hard time in 1947, but two posted pretty good ERAs: Paul Hinrichs of Lubbock led the league with 3.34 ERA, 18-5 record; and Billie Jones went 24-4 with a 3.91 ERA. But two 20 game winners give a better picture of where ERAs went to in 1947: Al Johnston (21-11) finished with 5.02, and Lenny Heinz (20-6) had a 4.69 ERA.

The league was not only an artistic success, it turned out to be a commercial one as well. Attendance for the regular season was 619,901 in 1947 (the first year for which complete attendance data are available), with an additional 54,406 for the playoffs.<sup>12</sup> Lamesa, a town of only 8,000 inhabitants, drew over 66,000 fans, and the town began to be known as "The biggest little town in baseball."<sup>13</sup>

In 1948, the West Texas-New Mexico League had its greatest season, and arguably the greatest offensive season ever in the minors. The hitting exploits of the year before were completely overshadowed by what happened in 1948. The season produced four .400 hitters (100 games or more) and an additional thirty-five .300 hitters, counting only the regulars. The top four teams in the standings— Albuquerque, Amarillo, Lubbock and Pampa—had team batting averages grouped between .322 to .324 (six of the league teams hit above .300 for the year). All four of these teams scored more than 1,150 runs during the 140 game regular season. The league minor league home run record— which the WTNM set the year prior— was broken when the league clubbed a total of 1,217 home runs. The season also saw league records in runs (9,090), batting average (.310), and slugging percentage (.485). These marks would never again be approached, much less topped in future years.

The best offensive club in the league was Amarillo, which scored a record high 1,267 runs in only 140 games, and has to be considered one of the all-time great hitting teams in the minor league history.

The Amarillo Gold Sox were led by outfielder Bob Crues, who probably had the greatest all-time season ever. Crues drove in an all-time organized baseball record 254 RBIs, breaking Tony Lazzeri record set in the PCL in 1925 by 32 RBIs.<sup>14</sup> (As noted before, Crues started out as a pitcher in the pre-war WT-NM League, winning as many as twenty games in a season before hurting his arm. After going 20-5 in 1940 for Borger, his contract was bought by Scranton in the Eastern League. During spring training with Scranton in 1941, he came up with a sore arm. He struggled through that year and the next before going into the service. Once in the service, he gave up pitching— primarily because his arm was gone, and began playing first base and his hitting blossomed. Crues returned to

the WTNM in 1946, but was released by Lamesa before hooking on with Amarillo, where he finished with 29 HR, 120 RBI and .341 BA.)<sup>15</sup> The incredible RBI total was made possible by hitting 69 home runs, combined with a .404 batting average and a record setting .848 slugging percentage. To give some idea of the magnitude of his season, the runner up in RBIs was Ron Bowen of Albuquerque, 82 RBIs behind at 172; and 2<sup>nd</sup> place Virgil Richardson of Lubbock hit only 38 HRs, 31 HRs behind Crues' 69 round trippers. To go with those totals, Bob Crues hit .404 during the season. Yet, surprisingly, Crues didn't even win the triple crown, as his batting average wound up only fourth best in the league that season. The batting crown went to Hershel Martin of Albuquerque, who set a new league record with a .425 batting average. Martin also had another notable individual batting achievement in 1948, a record-setting On-Base Percentage of .572 that would stand for the life of the league. Martin, a former major league outfielder (.285 BA lifetime), turned 39 at the end of the 1948 season; he would finish his career in the league in 1953, ending a minor league career that began with Monroe in the Cotton States League in 1932 with a .317 lifetime batting average.<sup>16</sup>

The following records were also set in 1948: Attendance, 118, 788, set by Albuquerque; Doubles, 61, by Hershel Martin; triples, 22, by Len Attyd; hits, 232, by Ron Bowen.

As one would expect, pitching stats were less than stellar. Only one pitcher had an ERA below 4.50, although Abilene's Bernie Coapland did manage to register three shutouts. The Lamesa Lobos pitching staff did manage some impressive figures— not good figures but figures impressive in their magnitude. With a considerable "assist" from the defense (373 errors), the lamentable Lobos gave up a hard to imagine 10.3 runs per game— an all-time high in the league's run-filled history.

The Bob Crues-led Amarillo Gold Sox were not a one man team, by any means, as three other regulars and one reserve hit over .350 in an offense which averaged better than nine runs per game. Nevertheless, despite outscoring competitor Albuquerque by 101 runs, the Gold Sox finished a full four games behind the first place Albuquerque Dukes. The Dukes finished first despite a notably less potent offense thanks to their better defense and pitching. The results of the pennant race showed once again that while hitting and offense are extremely important, they are not, by themselves, sufficient to always bring home the bacon.

In the playoffs, it was quite another story as Amarillo prevailed over Lubbock in six games, and blew Pampa away 4 games to 1 in the finals. Pampa defeated league leader Albuquerque in the first round.

As to the season itself, Borger and Lamesa jumped out to an early lead; but by June 17<sup>th</sup> the first four teams were only separated by four games, with Pampa slightly ahead. Gradually, however, Albuquerque proved to be the best team over the long haul, pulling away to a 6½ game lead by August 19<sup>th</sup>, and coasting home to a final 4 game lead over Amarillo.

The West Texas—New Mexico League was not the only league that put up great numbers that year. So, after the

1948 season, the National Association, at their annual meeting, decided that all minor leagues would introduce for the 1949 season a baseball of "uniform resiliency" for the 1949 season.<sup>17</sup>

With the introduction of the new ball in 1949, offensive numbers subsided a bit in the West Texas—New Mexico League: the league's batting average dropped to .296 (from .310), and home runs fell 23% from the record level of 1948. Still, the league managed to produce two .400 hitters, and saw one of the all-time minor league home-run-slugging performances by D. C. "Pud" Miller of Lamesa. Miller smashed 52 home runs for Lamesa in only 109 games. (Miller joined Lamesa after they had already played 31 games, and didn't miss a game the rest of the season.) His marks of an .866 Slugging Percentage, and hitting homers in 13.4% of his at bats were league records that would never be approached in subsequent years. His batting average of .404 was good for second place in the batting race, trailing Abilene's Roberto Fernandez's .408 mark. Miller also drove in 135 RBIs.

As would be expected, pitching improved to a great degree: Six pitchers achieved ERAs of below 4.00, led by Cuban native Rene Vega of Abilene with 2.95, though he went only 11 and 10 for the season. Pampa's Roy Parker only posted a 4.51 ERA, but that turned out to be good enough to notch him 23 wins against only 10 losses.

The league reached a peak in attendance in 1949 with a total regular season record of 674,465 fans. One should note that this peak attendance amounted to only 1,213 per game, which is very modest when compared to the minor league attendance figures of the 1990s. Lamesa continued on with its reputation as "the biggest little town in baseball" by drawing over 76,000 fans (population had only grown to 11,000).

Attendance might have even been greater, had there been a pennant race of some sort during the second half of the season. Attendance outpaced that of 1948 by a small margin, when only 4½ games separated the first four teams (with Albuquerque closely followed by Abilene, Lubbock and Lamesa). Unfortunately for the league, Albuquerque gradually pulled away from the pack, and finished 10 games ahead of both Abilene and Amarillo.

In the playoffs, Albuquerque showed, once again, that they were the class of the league by defeating Amarillo 4 games to 1 in the finals after having eliminated Lamesa in the first round 4 games to 3.

The 1950 season saw hitting rebound, with the league as a whole achieve its second highest batting average with a composite mark of .306. Home runs also increased to a total of 1,026 in the regular season, recouping about half of what it lost the season before. Five batters posted averages of .389 or better, and a future major-leaguer, Harry Bright of Clovis, won the batting championship with an impressive .413 mark. Good hitting was widespread in the league that season, with nearly three quarters (47 of 64) of the regulars compiling averages of .300 or better. In fact, three teams (Pampa, Albuquerque, and Borger) had every one of their regulars in the lineup hitting .300 or better.

The top ERA was posted by Ed Carnett of Borger with a 3.15 figure. This same Ed Carnett also happened to be a

slugging outfielder when not on the mound, who two seasons earlier had a .409 batting average and .725 slugging percentage. While this was an exceptional case, the league had a tendency to blur the distinction between position players and pitchers. Another outstanding pitcher/hitter for the 1950 season was Roy Parker of Pampa. Besides leading the league with a record 27 wins and 256 strikeouts, Parker also played part-time in the outfield, where he compiled a .346 batting average and .703 slugging percentage. As to pitching records there were a total of 5 pitchers who won 20 or more games. All except Lubbock's Bob Clodfelter posted ERAs well above 4.00. Record-setting Roy Parker (27-12), for instance, had a 4.55 ERA, and Ron Cantrell of Albuquerque (20-6) posted an unbelievable (for a twenty-game winner) 5.75 ERA.

The pennant race was won by the Pampa Oilers by four games over the second place Albuquerque Dukes. Pampa, though, didn't have an easy time of it. In fact, the Oilers didn't take over 1<sup>st</sup> place until the beginning of August. For the first two months of the season, Borger led the league. Then Lubbock tied them for the lead before falling back. After that, Lamesa took the lead until Pampa came on.

The post-season playoffs were won by Albuquerque 4 games to 1 over Lamesa with one game ending in a tie. In the first round the Dukes beat Lubbock, also 4 games to 1, while Lamesa defeated pennant winner Pampa in seven games.

Attendance for the league declined by nearly 100,000 from 1949—the start of an ominous trend that would continue through the 1954 season. This was part of an overall trend as attendance for the minors as a whole was down 17% for the season, which was one of the greatest one-year drops in history. The only bright spot was Lamesa which set another season attendance record with 87,438 going through the turnstiles, though Lubbock and Pampa did have slight increases. But on the debit side, Amarillo came in with a decrease of 45,854 fans, Abilene down 42,854, Albuquerque sliding 22,306. Borger and Clovis posted slight decreases.

Eight leagues that had played in 1950 decided to suspend operations before the 1951 season began, the largest one-year decrease in leagues since the 1914 to 1915 decline (with the exception of the war years declines during the First and Second World Wars).<sup>18</sup> Attendance in the minors for 1951 decreased 20% from the total achieved in 1950. While attendance woes are generally thought to be the cause of the decline in leagues, the Korean War probably had as great, if not greater, effect on the existence of individual leagues. During the Korean conflict, fully 1,600 players from organized ball had been or were in service by the start of the 1952 season. The West Texas—New Mexico League's attendance held up better than most leagues with 43,574 decline, but the long-term picture did not appear good. 1951 also was notable for the fact that blacks appeared in the league for the first time.

The 1951 season saw the West Texas—New Mexico League experience another drop-off similar to the 1949 slump. While the league posted a healthy .292 batting average, the mark was still down 14 points from 1950, and home runs declined by a whopping 25%. In fact, while the West Texas—New Mexico League was still very much a hitters league as far

as batting average was concerned, the league that season averaged 10% fewer home runs per game than even the majors: the WT-NM averaged 1.36/game, the majors leagues, 1.51/game.

The Abilene Blue Sox— with 90 victories and 51 losses— won the pennant by some 8½ games over the second place Albuquerque contingent. Abilene jumped out to 9 and 2 record in the early going— and never looked back, clinching the pennant before the end of August. The Blue Sox pennant drive can be mainly attributed to their league-leading pitching rotation. The staff was led by Isadoro Leon, who posted the league's best winning percentage (.895), winning 17 and dropping only 2. He was joined by two 20 game winners on the Blue Sox pitching staff, Fred Schmidt and James Melton, with 22 wins apiece.

In the playoffs, Abilene again demonstrated its superiority by defeating first Lubbock and then Lamesa in successive playoff rounds. After going the distance with Lubbock in the first round, they blew away Lamesa in four straight after having lost the opening game of the series.

For the first time, the West Texas—New Mexico League and Longhorn League planned to get together for a championship of West Texas after each league determined its playoff winner. But Odessa, the champion of the Longhorn League, declined to meet Abilene at the last moment.

In contrast to prior years, only one team— Lamesa— achieved a team batting average above .300. Still, in what turned out to be a sub-par year offensively, three teams topped the 1,000 mark in runs scored.

Glenn Burns of Lamesa— an outstanding minor league hitter (.337 lifetime BA)— headed up the list of notable individual achievements for that season. Burns led the league in batting (.392), slugging (.647), and RBIs. His RBI total of 197— in only 141 games— was the fifth highest RBI total in minor league history. Les Mulcahy of Amarillo led the league with 35 home runs, the lowest total since the war-shortened season of 1942. On the other hand, 35 players who appeared in more than a hundred games hit .300 or better.

Pitchers of note included Jesse Priest of Albuquerque, who went 19-4 with a league-leading 3.15 ERA. Former National Leaguer Fred Schmidt tossed 5 shutouts for Abilene on the way to 22-5 3.17 season. Ed Arthur tied the league record for wins (27), but had a 4.53 ERA.

After the season finished, the league's only president Milton Price decided to retire, announcing in early October that he would not seek re-election. It would take a couple of votes before Lubbock Business Manager, Ray Winkler, was voted in as new league president.

The 1952 season saw the Clovis Pioneers run away with the pennant, as they finished 17½ games ahead of 2<sup>nd</sup> place Albuquerque. Abilene jumped out to the league after the first week, but by the end of the second week Clovis had moved into first with an 11-3 .786 record. From there on, it was all Clovis. The Clovis Pioneers led all teams in offense, scoring 1,028 runs in 141 games, and finished second in both team fielding and ERA. Amarillo pounded out a league-leading 216 home runs. Despite this impressive accomplishment, and a .305 team

batting average, Amarillo came in only fourth in runs scored. The league as a whole had a tidy .300 batting average— the fourth and, as it turned out to be, the final time the West Texas—New Mexico League reached the .300 mark in its history. Despite an increase in both league batting (up 8 points) and home runs (an increase of 163) over 1951, total runs scored actually decreased (7,043 versus 7,194). The explanation may lie in improved defense and control by the pitching staffs. Total league errors declined by 127, walks by 489, and hit-by-pitchers by 56, which more than offset the increase in hits (240).

Though both Lubbock and Abilene had the largest opening night crowds seen in years, league attendance declined for the third straight year, to 493,707. This amounted to a drop of more than 25% from the peak year of 1949. In a region where population was growing rapidly, the trend in attendance was ominous. No doubt, the lack of a pennant race had an effect on the numbers, but, still, the trend had been running against the league for some time. The most troubling decline, however, occurred at Lamesa, where the season's attendance (41,541) came in at less than half of the total only two years earlier. After the season finished, the league shifted the Lamesa franchise to Plainview, Texas, a small city located between Amarillo and Lubbock. Plainview, while not large, still had about a 50% larger population base than Lamesa, and the league hoped that attendance would improve.

Attendance in the playoffs also dropped from 51,520 (2,862 per game) in 1951 to 35,684 (2,378 per game), despite Clovis going down in the first round to Amarillo, 4 games to 1.

The batting crown that year was won by Patricio Lorenzo, an outfielder/third baseman with Lamesa and Borger, with a .415 average. Despite lacking the 369 At Bats required to qualify for the batting crown, Lorenzo was awarded the batting crown as his average would, by adding the At Bats required (under rule 10.18a of the Official Baseball Rules), still produced a batting average (.390) that exceeded the runner-up, Jim Eldridge of Borger, who *only* hit .363. His league-leading average (.415) was also the best in all of organized baseball that year.<sup>19</sup>

In addition to leading the league in batting, he led all WT-NM third basemen in errors with 35. This in itself was not remarkable, as third basemen in the WT-NM League would often be charged with as many as 50 or 60 errors over the course of a season. What, at first blush, appeared remarkable about Lorenzo's record at third base— is that he played, according to the Guide, only 15 games at third!<sup>20</sup> What a great piece of trivia that would be— until one figured out that Lorenzo's range factor would come out to a 9.5<sup>21</sup> (34 putouts, 73 assists). If those figures were true, Patricio "Pat" Lorenzo would have been called "Speedy" Lorenzo for the rest of his life. In a call to Bill Weiss, who became league statistician the following year, he confirmed that the league sheets also had Lorenzo playing in only 15 games at third, but was positive that the number games played represented a typo of some sort. Weiss speculated that the true number was 45 or 54 games played.<sup>22</sup> (If Lorenzo played in 45 games, his range would have been 3.2; if 54 games, then it would be 2.6. Lorenzo had 2.1 TC/G in the outfield that year. On the other hand, his batting record indicates he appeared in 85

games; therefore he would have had to play in 11 games where he split time between 3B and the outfield, and 3 games if the figure were 45 games played at third.)

Les Mulcahy came back to win back-to-back home run titles with a more WT-NM-like 45 HRs. I. B. Palmer, Lubbock catcher and manager, set a league record with 62 Doubles, surpassing the mark of 61 established by Hershel Martin in the 1948 season.

Carroll "Red" Dial of Clovis won 20 games for the second of five straight seasons he achieved that distinction in league play. Dial won 27 games to lead all hurlers (which also tied the league record for most wins in a season); he also ranked among the top five in W-L Percentage (.730), strikeouts (170) and innings pitched (269). The only two negatives that season were his 111 walks, and his 5.09 ERA. Jesse Priest won his second ERA title with a 3.06 ERA to go along with his 19-9 record and league-leading 5 shutouts.

Between seasons, five leagues (including the West Texas—New Mexico) in the southwestern United States met a couple of times to discuss possible realignment/consolidation of those leagues, but nothing came out of those meetings.

The 1953 season saw the new Plainview team (called the Ponies) contend for the pennant, and the franchise enjoyed a marked increase in attendance over the 1952 totals at Lamesa (79,780 versus 41,541 the previous year in Lamesa). The Ponies that season had not one but two .400 hitters. Outfielder Don Stokes led the league in batting on the way to setting a new league record with an average of .426. And his teammate 3B/1B Frosty Kennedy came in second at .410. Stokes and Kennedy combined to knock in 343 runs to go with their .400 plus batting averages. Stokes clubbed 27 round trippers, while Kennedy, who in 1956 would hit 60 HR, hit 38 HR.

Despite the nearly 100% increase in attendance at Plainview (over Lamesa's totals the year before), total regular season attendance for the league dropped 1%, to 489,852, with Borger drawing only 35,335. (Borger had drawn 74,999 in 1949 with a 7<sup>th</sup> place club.) The league was still surviving, but the attendance situation had becoming worrisome, especially at small towns like Borger and Clovis. And the nearby Class C Longhorn League—which also operated in the New Mexico and West Texas area—had two teams fold during the 1953 season.

1953 saw the Albuquerque Dukes win the pennant by seven games over Clovis, Plainview and Lubbock, all of whom tied for second. As the season began, Lubbock appeared to be the team to beat. The Hubbers led throughout the first half of the season, only being overtaken by the eventual winners near the end of July. Clovis, Plainview and Lubbock all finished 7 games back, though Clovis finished second by one percentage point.

The Dukes then prevailed in the playoffs, defeating first Lubbock 4 games to 2, and then overcoming Clovis in seven games. Plainview lost to Clovis in six games in the first round. Attendance in the playoffs increased from 35,684 to 37,903; however, that increase only served to mask a per game decline from 2,378 in 1952 to a paltry 1,994 in 1953.

The Dukes had a fine hitting team as every regular—and two of the reserves—had a .300 or better average. The

Albuquerque pitching staff was led by George Socha, who was unbeaten in 14 decisions, and Grover Blacksher, who led the league with a 2.84 ERA.

Individual accomplishments included Jim Matthews of Amarillo, who led in home runs, slugging percentage, on-base percentage and walks. His 50 home runs were the fifth highest in the league's history. Don Stokes set a new record for hits (242); and also, with 64 doubles, broke the old record of 62 set the year before by I. B. Palmer; however, he was surpassed by Doug Lewis of Pampa, who finished the season with the new league record of 66 two-base hits. Left-handed hitting Win Eldridge of Borger finished in third place in the batting title race with a .407 average.

1953 also marked slugger Bob Crues retirement from the game. Crues was released by Borger after having appeared in only 11 games. His batting average had been .195 at the time. Crues injured his back while jumping for a line drive, and was unable to continue in the lineup, so he had been given his release.

Pitchers were again led by Red Dial of Clovis, who established a new league record 28 wins in a season, and by Jack Venable of Amarillo, who set a league record by striking out 295 batters (*and walking 172!*). In all, seven pitchers topped the 20 win mark in 1953, and an additional four struckout over 200 batters. Former Negro Leaguer (with the Birmingham Black Barons from 1950 through 1952)<sup>23</sup>, Sad Sam Williams of Pampa went 25-12, which got him named as the league's Rookie of the Year, despite his 5.13 ERA and 124 base on balls.

In 1954—for the first time in history—no club in the West Texas—New Mexico League had an affiliation with a major league club. The 1954 season also saw the first franchise failure in the post war era as the Borger club suspended operations on July 16. Borger, never a large market, drew a mere 35,335 in 1953 (the worst in the league). In 1954, Borger was holding down last place in the standings, and had a total home attendance of 22,500, when the franchise folded after 86 games. The league finished the year with only seven clubs competing. Six of the eight Borger regulars and six of the team's pitchers would be picked up by other teams in the league.

Pampa came home first in a close race for the pennant, beating out the second-place Clovis club by half a game. Clovis led for most of the season, but Pampa—after sweeping three doubleheaders in three days—took the lead in early August. For the remainder of the season, the two teams sea-sawed back and forth for first place. Pampa, by winning 7 of its last 8 games finally edged out Clovis for the pennant.

Pampa also prevailed in the playoffs, defeating Abilene first and then knocking off Clovis.

While three teams had batting averages above .300, no team managed to reach the 1000 mark in runs scored for the first time in the postwar era. Total runs scored in the league dropped to the lowest level for a full season since the pre-war 1941 season. Don Stokes of Plainview won the batting crown for the second year in a row, once again with a .400 plus season (.405). The dominant pitcher was Lubbock's John Isenhart with the league's all-time best ERA of 1.81. Isenhart also led the

league in W-L Pct.(.786), while on his way to striking out 164 batters in 124 innings. An indication of the decline in hitting that season was the establishment of a league record for shutouts by Leon Ruyle of Amarillo, who notched 6. Another notable achievement was attained by Red Dial of Clovis, as he led the league in wins (25) for the third straight season—and he even found the time to hit .366 as a part-time outfielder.

For the 1955 season, the West Texas-New Mexico League became a Class B league when they added El Paso to replace the failed Borger franchise. The selection of El Paso proved to be a success as the new franchise's attendance of 71,771 more than tripled the level recorded by Borger in 1954. In total, 1955 league attendance (659,817) was up a whopping 45% over 1954 totals, and was within 2% of the league record set in 1949. In addition to the increase due to the replacement of Borger by El Paso, five other clubs enjoyed attendance increases, with first place Amarillo up more than 150%.

Obviously, a tight pennant race contributed to the upsurge in attendance. In that race, Pampa took the early lead, but lost it to Amarillo when they were swept in a three games series by the Gold Sox in late July. Amarillo then held on to edge Albuquerque by ½ game (the second straight season the WT-NM race had been decided by that margin). Pampa finished in third place, 4½ games back, but went on to win the playoffs, knocking off both Albuquerque and Amarillo. Pampa then moved on to represent the West Texas—New Mexico League at

the Little Dixie Series, where Corpus Christi of the Big State League swept them in four games.

Hitting increased over the prior season as the league average reached .294 and home runs increased nearly 25% to a total of 1,210, the second highest in league history. Pampa, which hit 225 homers in 140 games, broke the team home run record. The Pampa Oilers were led by a trio of home run sluggers: first baseman Joe Fortin (41); third baseman Curt Hardaway (43); and outfielder Paul Halter (37). The batting crown was won by Plainview catcher I. B. Palmer with a .406 mark. Palmer also finished as the league leader in total bases, slugging pct., and extra base hits. Among pitchers, Red Dial of Pampa turned in a 20 win season for the fifth year in a row, and combined that with a league leading ERA of 3.55. For good measure, Dial also led the league in innings pitched, games pitched and shutouts thrown.

#### Demise of the West Texas—New Mexico League:

Total 1955 regular season attendance for the league had been only 2% below the league record set in 1949. This attendance total was considered quite good for minor league baseball in the mid 1950's, as the West Texas-New Mexico League topped all other Class B leagues, and in addition exceeded the attendance of all Class A leagues, as the table shown below indicate:

**Table 1 1955 Regular Season Attendance**

League	Class	No. Teams	Attendance
Eastern	A	8	633,484
South Atlantic	A	8	616,640
Western	A	6	497,437
Big State	B	8*	415,211
Carolina	B	8	414,557
Northwest	B	7	395,557
Piedmont	B	8	421,490
Three I	B	8**	460,776
Tri-State	B	4	173,785
<b>West Texas-New Mexico</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>659,817</b>

\* Two teams withdrew during season

\*\* One team withdrew during season

This success turned out to be short-lived. By the following season, the apparently popular league no longer existed. Half of the league's former teams had taken refuge, along with six teams from the Class C Longhorn League, and formed the short-lived Southwestern League. What caused such a well known—and apparently successful minor league—to suddenly disappear?

In 1955 the West Texas-New Mexico League consisted of franchises in eight cities, five of which were located in markets of (by Class B standards) moderate size and three in small markets, as shown by the market size and attendance data in Table 2:

**TABLE 2 WT-NM League Market and Attendance Data**

City	1955 Attendance	1955 Population*
Amarillo Texas	132,128	118,300
Abilene Texas	125,714	102,900
Albuquerque New Mexico	78,432	145,700
El Paso Texas	71,771	254,500
Pampa Texas	65,931	28,100
Clovis New Mexico	64,017	28,000
Plainview Texas	63,269	33,000
Lubbock Texas	58,555	128,700

\* Metropolitan Area or County Population estimated for 1955; Interpolated between 1950 and 1960 Census

Several unrelated events occurred in distant parts of the baseball world after the 1954 season that would have a devastating impact on the West Texas-New Mexico League. At the winter meetings in December, 1954, the sale and transfer of the Philadelphia Athletics to Kansas City was approved. This resulted in the move of that city's American Association franchise to Denver. Concurrent with that announcement, the St. Louis Cardinals shifted their Columbus franchise in the same league to Omaha after years of declining attendance. Both Denver and Omaha had been longtime members of the Western League, which was then reduced to six teams. The league operated with this reduced number of clubs in 1955, but would be seeking two additional cities for the 1956 season.

During the same 1955 season, the Big State League, a Class B league operating in central and eastern Texas, fell upon hard times with two of its franchises ceasing operation during the season (Galveston on June 12<sup>th</sup>, and Tyler on July 1<sup>st</sup>). The Big State League finished the 1955 season with just six teams, and like the Western League was looking to return to an eight team operation for the 1956 season. Several WT-NM League clubs indicated an interest in joining the Western League. Eventually, Albuquerque and Amarillo— the two northern most of the five moderate sized WTNM markets— were selected and the teams posted the necessary bonds with the Western League. On November 19, 1955, the West Texas—New Mexico League (at a meeting originally scheduled to discuss realignment) granted permission to Albuquerque and Amarillo to become members of the Western League, and for Lubbock and Abilene to enter the Big State League. The following day— at a joint meeting with the Longhorn League— the four remaining members of the West Texas—New Mexico League voted to merge the two leagues, creating a ten team Southwestern League for the 1956 season.

What became of baseball in the cities of the West Texas-New Mexico League?

Minor league baseball in Lubbock soon ended as the Lubbock team failed to finish the 1956 season in the Big State League. What a sad end for the town that had been by far the best drawing city in the West Texas—New Mexico League during the 1940s and early 1950s. Baseball in Abilene continued for two more years, both of which were spent in the Big State League. The team folded with the league's demise after the 1957 season. Amarillo and Albuquerque continued in the Western League until the league ceased operations after the 1958 season. Minor league baseball continued in Amarillo— missing only two seasons— as a member of the Texas League until 1982. Baseball in Albuquerque fared better than any of the other cities that had been members of the West Texas—New Mexico League. Fast-growing Albuquerque became a member of the Texas League in 1962, and continued in the league until 1971, whereupon it joined the Pacific Coast League. The Dukes remain a member of the PCL.

Pampa, Plainview, and Clovis remained in the Southwestern League until it stopped operations after the 1957 season. This proved to be the last gasp for baseball in both Pampa and Clovis. As for Plainview, it survived a further two years as a member of the Sophomore League. El Paso also was a part of the ill-fated Southwestern League (1956-57). Baseball in El Paso, however, survived the demise of that league. In 1996, El Paso remains a member of the Class AA Texas League, as it has been, with the exception of one season, since 1962.

In summary, the demise of the West Texas-New Mexico League was due not to declining interest and attendance, but was caused by the departure of four clubs for the "greener pastures" of the Western and Big State Leagues, neither of which survived past 1958.

## Notes

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- <sup>1</sup> Bill James. *The Bill James Historical Baseball Abstract*.
- <sup>2</sup> *The Sporting News*, February 25, 1937.
- <sup>3</sup> Population data are for the counties or in later years the metropolitan areas in which the league cities were located. Interpolated from data in *Population Abstract of the U.S.*, John L. Andrist, Androit Associates.
- <sup>4</sup> *Baseball Blue Books*, 1937-42.
- <sup>5</sup> *The Sporting News*, May 13, 1937.
- <sup>6</sup> *The Sporting News*, October 12, 1939.
- <sup>7</sup> "Unknown and Phenomenal: Minor League Batting Champions" SABR Baseball Research Journal, Vol. 16. John E. Spalding.
- <sup>8</sup> *The Sporting News*, September 21, 1941.
- <sup>9</sup> *The Sporting News*, May 22, 1942.
- <sup>10</sup> John L. Andrist. *Population Abstract of the U. S.*
- <sup>11</sup> Lloyd Johnson, ed. *The Minor League Register*.
- <sup>12</sup> Attendance taken from Official Baseball Guides 1948-56.
- <sup>13</sup> *The Sporting News*, October 8, 1947.
- <sup>14</sup> *The Minor League Register*. op. cit.
- <sup>15</sup> *The Sporting News*, August 4, 1948.
- <sup>16</sup> *The Minor League Register*. op. cit.
- <sup>17</sup> *The Sporting News*, December 22, 1948.
- <sup>18</sup> Bob Hoie. "The Minor Leagues" in *Total Baseball*.
- <sup>19</sup> "Unknown and Phenomenal: Minor League Batting Champions," op. cit.
- <sup>20</sup> Charles C. Spink & Son. *Baseball Guide and Record Book, 1953*.
- <sup>21</sup> Range factor calculated including errors, or Total Chances per Game.
- <sup>22</sup> Phone conversation with William J. Weiss. March 26, 1996.
- <sup>23</sup> Dick Clark and Larry Lester. *The Negro Leagues Book*.

## West Texas—New Mexico League Single Season Batting Records

### BATTING AVERAGE

(Min. 350 AB)

1 Don Stokes 1953 Plainview	.426
2 Hershel Martin 1948 Albuquerque	.425
3 Ed Schweda 1940 Lubbock	.422
4 Patricio Lorenzo 1952 Lamesa-Borger	.415
5 Harry Bright 1950 Clovis	.413
6 Forrest Kennedy 1953 Plainview	.410
7 Buck Fausett 1947 Albuquerque	.409
8 Ed Carnett 1948 Borger	.409
9 Roberto Fernandez 1949 Abilene	.408
10 Win Eldridge 1953 Borger	.407

### SLUGGING PERCENTAGE

(Min. 350 AB)

1 Pud Miller 1949 Lamesa	.866
2 Bob Crues 1948 Amarillo	.848
3 Bill Serena 1947 Lubbock	.832
4 Jim Mathews 1953 Amarillo	.793
5 Gordon Nell 1939 Pampa	.786
6 Bob Crues 1947 Amarillo	.772
7 Gordon Nell 1940 Pampa	.764
8 George Sturdivant 1947 Lamesa	.744
9 Virgil Richardson 1948 Lubbock	.741
10 Leon Cato 1947 Borger	.732

### ON BASE PERCENTAGE

(Min. 400 TPA)

1 Hershel Martin 1948 Albuquerque	.572
2 Art Bowland 1948 Abilene	.547
3 Verdun Gilchrist 1947 Borger	.536
4 Tony Fiarito 1948 Lamesa	.534
5 Jim Matthews 1953 Amarillo	.533
6 Verdun Gilchrist 1946 Borger	.527
7 Art Bowland 1947 Abilene	.527
8 Joe Bauman 1947 Amarillo	.526
9 Win Eldridge 1953 Borger	.517
10 Verdun Gilchrist 1948 Borger	.517

### HOME RUNS

1 Bob Crues 1948 Amarillo	69
2 Bill Serena 1947 Lubbock	57
3 Pud Miller 1949 Lamesa	52
4 Bob Crues 1947 Amarillo	52
5 Jim Matthews 1953 Amarillo	50

### HR PERCENT

(Min. 350 AB)

1 Pud Miller 1949 Lamesa	13.4
2 Bob Crues 1948 Amarillo	12.2
3 Bill Serena 1947 Lubbock	11.3
4 Jim Matthews 1953 Amarillo	10.6
5 Bob Featherstone 1953 Lubbock	10.1

### RUNS

1 Bob Crues 1948 Amarillo	184
2 Bill Serena 1947 Lubbock	183
3 Cecil Smyly 1938 Hobbs	182
4 R. C. Otey 1948 Pampa	181
5 Roy Parker 1953 Clovis	177

### RBI

1 Bob Crues 1948 Amarillo	254
2 Glenn Burns 1951 Lamesa	197
3 Virgil Richardson 1948 Lubbock	196
4 Bill Serena 1947 Lubbock	190
5 Gordon Nell 1939 Pampa	189

### RBI per GAME

(Min. 125 Games)

1 Bob Crues 1948 Amarillo	1.81
2 Virgil Richardson 1948 Lubbock	1.44
3 Gordon Nell 1939 Pampa	1.40
4 Glenn Burns 1951 Lamesa	1.40
5 Bill Serena 1947 Lubbock	1.39

**West Texas—New Mexico League Single Season Batting Records**  
continued

**HITS**

1	Don Stokes 1953 Plainview	242
2	Roberto Fernandez 1949 Abilene	241
3	Joe Fortin 1950 Pampa	236
4	Ron Bowen 1948 Albuquerque	234
5	Roberto Fernandez 1953 Lubbock	233

**AT BATS**

1	R. C. Otey 1948 Pampa	635
2	Earl Harriman 1950 Albuquerque	627
3	Ron Bowen 1948 Albuquerque	626
4	Sam Malvica 1940 Pampa	626
5	Frank Okrie 1947 Amarillo	624

**DOUBLES**

1	Doug Lewis 1953 Pampa	66
2	Don Stokes 1953 Plainview	64
3	Hershel Martin 1948 Albuquerque	61
4	Gordon Nell 1939 Pampa	60
5	Don Stokes 1951 Lamesa	59
5	Ed Carnett 1948 Borger	59

**TOTAL BASES**

1	Bob Crues 1948 Amarillo	479
2	Bob Crues 1947 Amarillo	427
3	Bill Serena 1947 Lubbock	421
4	Gordon Nell 1939 Pampa	415
5	Leon Cato 1947 Borger	409

**TRIPLES**

1	Len Attyd 1948 Albuquerque	22
2	Buck Fausett 1947 Albuquerque	21
2	Gordon Goldsberry 1946 Albuquerque	21
2	Cliff McClain 1949 Albuquerque	21
5	Three tied at 19	

**BASE-ON-BALLS**

1	Verdun Gilchrist 1947 Borger	183
2	Verdun Gilchrist 1948 Borger	170
3	Hershel Martin 1948 Albuquerque	153
3	Jim Matthews 1953 Amarillo	153
5	Joe Bauman 1947 Amarillo	151

**EXTRA BASE HITS**

1	Gordon Nell 1939 Pampa	112
2	Bob Crues 1948 Amarillo	110
3	Bill Serena 1947 Lubbock	109
4	Bob Crues 1947 Amarillo	105
5	Gordon Nell 1940 Borger	103

**STOLEN BASES**

1	Ozzie Walker 1954 Abilene	68
2	Bob Decker 1938 Big Spring	67
3	Ozzie Walker 1955 Abilene	63
4	Oscar Bates 1938 Wink	61
5	Cecil Smyly 1937 Roswell	60

## West Texas—New Mexico League Career Batting Records

### BATTING AVERAGE (Min. 800 AB)

1	Buck Fausett	.407
2	Roberto Fernandez	.391
3	Don Stokes	.388
4	Patricio Lorenzo	.378
5	Jim Eldridge	.377
6	Frosty Kennedy	.374
7	George Sturdivant	.372
8	Hershel Martin	.372
9	Jodie Beeler	.366
10	Dutch Prather	.363

### ON BASE PERCENTAGE (Min. 1,000 TPA)

1	Verdun Gilchrist	.523
2	Hershel Martin	.501
3	Murl Prather	.487
4	Win Eldridge	.483
5	Joe Bauman	.481
6	Art Bowland	.474
7	Jim Matthews	.474
8	Bob Pascual	.472
9	Buck Fausett	.471
10	Don Stokes	.460

### SLUGGING PERCENTAGE (Min. 800 AB)

1	Bob Crues	.719
2	Joe Bauman	.685
3	Gordon Nell	.681
4	Jodie Beeler	.675
5	Forrest Kennedy	.658
6	Jim Matthews	.653
7	Roy Parker	.652
8	Patricio Lorenzo	.636
9	George Sturdivant	.630
10	Roberto Fernandez	.629

### HOME RUNS

1	Gordon Nell	270
2	Virgil Richardson	230
3	Emmitt Fullenwider	178
4	Joe Fortin	168
5	Isaac Palmer	167

### HOME RUN PERCENTAGE (Min. 800 AB)

1	Joe Bauman	9.2
2	Jim Matthews	8.7
3	Bob Crues	8.5
4	Lincoln Boyd	7.9
5	Gordon Nell	7.5

### GAMES

1	Virgil Richardson	1202
2	I. B. Palmer	1185
3	Gordon Nell	921
4	Jay Haney	904
5	Don Moore	895

### RUNS

1	Virgil Richardson	1100
2	I. B. Palmer	949
3	Gordon Nell	846
4	Carl Sawyer	837
5	Doug Lewis	825

### RBI

1	Virgil Richardson	1156
2	Gordon Nell	1124
3	I. B. Palmer	1070
4	Joe Fortin	944
5	Doug Lewis	722

### RBI/GAME

1	Gordon Nell	1.24
2	Glenn Burns	1.21
3	Bob Crues	1.21
4	Dutch Prather	1.16
5	Ron Bowen	1.14

**West Texas—New Mexico League Career Batting Records**  
**continued**

<b>HITS</b>		<b>DOUBLES</b>		
1	I. B. Palmer	1670	1 I. B. Palmer	398
2	Virgil Richardson	1425	2 Virgil Richardson	349
3	Gordon Nell	1267	3 Gordon Nell	309
4	Doug Lewis	1250	4 Doug Lewis	294
5	Joe Fortin	1225	5 Don Stokes	269

<b>TRIPLES</b>		<b>EXTRA BASE HITS</b>		
1	Al Carr	58	1 Gordon Nell	615
2	Pedro Santiago	54	2 Virgil Richardson	608
3	Carl Sullivan	50	3 I. B. Palmer	607
3	Earl Harriman	50	4 Joe Fortin	449
5	Don Moore	49	5 Carl Sullivan	427

<b>TOTAL BASES</b>		<b>BASE-ON-BALLS</b>		
1	I. B. Palmer	2653	1 Virgil Richardson	997
2	Virgil Richardson	2522	2 Verdun Gilchrist	650
3	Gordon Nell	2458	3 Art Bowland	563
4	Joe Fortin	2035	4 Jack Wilcox	524
5	Carl Sullivan	1902	5 Hershel Martin	514

<b>STOLEN BASES</b>		
1	Jay Haney	156
2	Hayden Greer	133
3	Bob Decker	132
4	Ozzie Walker	131
5	Grover Seitz	130

## West Texas—New Mexico League Single Season Pitching Records

### WINS

1	Red Dial 1953 Clovis	28
2	Roy Parker 1950 Pampa	27
2	Ed Arthur 1951 Lamesa	27
2	Red Dial 1952 Clovis	27
5	Red Dial 1953 Clovis	25

### LOSSES

1	Mike Gazella 1953 Abilene	23
2	Jack Hauptert 1946 Lamesa	21
3	George Socha 1954 Albuquerque	21
Three tied at 20		

### WIN-LOSS PERCENTAGE

(Min. 14 Decisions)

1	Ken Wyatt 1942 Clovis	1.000
1	George Socha 1953 Albuquerque	1.000
3	Marshall Bridges 1955 Amarillo	.933
4	Isidoro Leon 1951 Abilene	.895
5	Joe Tysko 1946 Abilene	.867

### STRIKEOUTS

1	Willard Ramsdell 1940 Big Spr/Odessa	351
2	Red Dial 1953 Clovis	308
3	Bill Evans 1946 Amarillo	297
3	Roy Parker 1950 Clovis	297
5	Jack Venable 1953 Amarillo	295

### ERA

(Min. 122 Innings Pitched)

1	John Isenhardt 1954 Lubbock	1.81
2	John McPartland 1941 Pampa	2.11
3	Charles Whelchel 1941 Big Spring	2.18
4	Udell Moore 1941 Borger	2.44
4	John Hall 1946 Abilene	2.44

### SHUTOUTS

1	Len Ruyle 1954 Amarillo	6
2	Ed Locke 1953 Amarillo	5
2	Jesse Priest 1952 Albuquerque	5
2	Fred Schmidt 1951 Abilene	5
5	Several tied at 4	

### INNINGS PITCHED

1	Willard Ramsdell 1940 Big Spr/Odessa	351
2	Red Dial 1953 Clovis	308
3	Roy Parker 1950 Pampa	297

### COMPLETE GAMES

1	Willard Ramsdell 1940 Big Spr/Odessa	33
2	Roy Parker Pampa	30
3	Ray Lucas 1941 Wichita Falls	29
3	Red Dial 1953 Clovis	29

### BASE-ON-BALLS

1	John Kelly 1948 Albuquerque	205
2	George Payte 1951 Pampa	199
3	Roy Parker 1950 Pampa	188

### GAMES PITCHED

1	Andres Alonso 1954 Albuquerque	58
2	Stu Williams 1954 Pampa	52
3	Red Dial 1952 Clovis	50
4	Three tied at 47	

## West Texas—New Mexico League Career Pitching Records

WINS		LOSSES	
1	Red Dial	122	1 George Payte
2	Ed Arthur	99	2 Joe Borrego
3	George Payte	93	3 Mel Kramer
4	Mel Kramer	74	4 Chris Haskins
5	Roy Parker	71	5 Red Dial
			93
			73
			69
			67
			65

WIN-LOSS PERCENTAGE (Min. 45 Decisions)		ERA (Min. 400 Innings Pitched)	
1	Gil Archuleta	.733	1 Clovis Bridwell
2	Frank Shone	.731	2 Frank Shone
3	Marshall Scott	.712	3 Jesse Priest
4	Bill Evans	.674	4 John McPartland
5	Jesse Priest	.672	5 Willard Ramsdell
			3.24
			3.46
			3.52
			3.67
			3.74

GAMES PITCHED		SHUTOUTS	
1	George Payte	280	1 George Payte
2	Red Dial	237	2 Red Dial
3	Mel Kramer	234	3 Two tied at 8
			11
			9

INNINGS PITCHED		STRIKEOUTS	
1	George Payte	1487	1 George Payte
2	Red Dial	1417	2 Red Dial
3	Mel Kramer	1287	3 Jack Venable
			1017
			1012
			974

COMPLETE GAMES		BASE-ON-BALLS	
1	Red Dial	126	1 George Payte
2	George Payte	104	2 Mel Kramer
3	Ed Arthur	99	3 Roy Parker
			1022
			775
			639

## BILL SISLER— A GOOD BASEBALL MAN

by Ed Brooks © 1996

The trip from Elmira to Auburn, through New York State's Finger Lakes region, is a journey which takes less than two hours by automobile. For William F. Seeler, better known as Bill Sisler, it encompassed many miles of train and bus travel, included stops in innumerable boarding houses and cheap hotels, the consumption of an unknown number of *blue plate specials* in long-forgotten cafés, and— even for a guy as upbeat as the little lefty appears to have been— many, many disappointments. Fifty contracts signed, and appearances in forty-five cities and towns, resulted in an odyssey unrivaled in the annals of professional baseball.

In 1987, a long search for information concerning Sisler's whereabouts ended successfully with the discovery that Sisler was alive and well, and living in Florida. In an exchange of correspondence, Bill Sisler expressed a reluctance to discuss his career, feeling that it had not been important and was best forgotten. Based solely on the record, one would have to agree: 211 games pitched, 48 wins and 65 losses— and a managerial career in which he never finished out the season. But it is not the record, noteworthy only for its longevity, that makes Bill Sisler's career a worthy subject for investigation. The story of this little gamester is prototypical of the hardships, the misfortunes, the periodic triumphs and the occasional flashes of brilliance which were the lot of thousands of young men who took their skills to the professional game. In Sisler's career, the vagaries of a minor league career are graphically illustrated.

Sisler's reticence to discuss his career makes it risky to reach conclusions as to his motivations. Any analytical effort to demonstrate "what made Sisler run" would be subjective, indeed. Nevertheless, some conclusions about the man and his record may be ventured. These conclusions, as they apply to this career minor leaguer extraordinaire, might in turn be useful in gaining some insight into other baseball Bedouins who trod the trails of minor league ball, particularly in the first half of this century.

Without doubt Sisler loved the game of baseball, particularly the professional variety. After early setbacks in his professional career, he could have easily settled for combining playing semi-pro ball with a regular job during the week and done quite well— even during deepest depths of the Depression. Indeed, Bill Sisler was, at various times, listed in the Rochester, New York city directories as an iron worker, a warehouseman, an optical worker and a painter. In fact, this latter trade was plied up to age 83, when Bill painted his son's house in Rochester. But who settles for the dream of merely being a semi-pro performer? There is something about being a "pro," pulling on his uniform every day, performing before much larger

crowds, seeing one's name in the paper more often than just on Monday morning, hobnobbing with "names," making a commitment to a career, and holding membership— no matter how tenuous— in an elite. Why settle for anything less? Sisler insisted that he would not. And he held to that position longer— amid more setbacks and disappointments— than most, if not all, of his baseball brethren. To this end he demonstrated a little talent and a much greater willingness to go anywhere on short notice, to sign a contract knowing that the job might only be temporary, and to leave without creating a fuss. He certainly was not intent upon compiling this kind of career record in order to amaze future baseball historians, or to become a piece of diamond trivia. He simply wanted to play baseball on a professional level.

This willingness to fill in with some talent for an indeterminate period of time helps to account in part for his knack to keep "hooking on." Bill Sisler also became quite good at cultivating connections in the baseball world. Over and over it was apparent from research that Sisler had been a garrulous gent, and that several of his contracts were directly attributable to relationships with well known baseball figures, including the likes of Fred Merkle and Rabbit Maranville.

But, other than connections, how did Bill Sisler manage to keep those contracts coming? How did he manage to keep finding employment despite his no better than mediocre pitching records year after year? And as many as five contracts in a single season (1947)? Well, it is apparent from the many newspaper accounts of his signings that the little lefty had a great knack for promoting himself in the press. He acquired the name Sisler, he said, "...because of the way I learned to hit, as George Sisler of the St. Louis Browns." He adopted the name as his undoubtedly because it served to provoke the inevitable question of a relationship with the Hall of Famer. Bill Sisler never claimed kinship— but even the denial served to give our man an extra line or two in the press, so that the local fans could be satisfied by the local beat reporter. Already as a young semi-pro player in Rochester in 1923 he had begun using the famous last name. Further, this writer became acquainted with and was made constantly aware of the name "Bill Sisler" through reading the sports columns and "game notes" in the Rochester papers in the 1930s and 1940s. Periodic mention of Sisler appeared in the press, always to the effect that "Bill Sisler was in the press box last night," or "Bill Sisler is back in town and expects to sign with —," or "Bill Sisler has just returned from (*fill in any one of 45 cities*)." The mentions in the press were predictable, but they did serve a purpose (*see coda*).

One of the finest examples of self-promotion was demonstrated early on in his career. Just prior to signing with Moline in 1925, the following note appeared in that city's *Daily*

*Dispatch* for May 15<sup>th</sup>. "Tri-city semi-pro baseball clubs who are without a pitcher for tomorrow may have one for the asking. His name is Bill Sisler and he is stopping at the Manufacture's Hotel. Sisler came to Moline for a trial with the Plows, and probably will be given one within the next few days. He wants to keep in practice by hurling for some independent club tomorrow. Bill claims no relationship with George Sisler of the Browns."

There was no evidence that he "connected" but the *chutzpah* is indisputable. Most prospects would lie low awaiting their tryout, taking no chances of jeopardizing it. Even after his release from Moline and Ottumwa, Sisler wired the *Dispatch*, informing them of his whereabouts. Also, throughout his career, *The Sporting News* was a major medium for Sisler self-advertisements, both during the summer and in the winter when he would be active in playing and managing basketball teams.

Techniques for successful job hunting aside, even Sisler's most ardent admirer must admit that his checkered career reflects his inability to get the job done, especially during his brief trials with teams. Of course, some of this can probably be attributed to being asked to pitch on short notice after some days of travel, and possibly after a long layoff period. Be that as it may, the record shows that in some instances his first appearances proved to be a disaster, and he was gone before he got to unpack his bags—or even, perhaps, before being asked if he were related to George Sisler. Possibly the most extreme example of this occurred with Minneapolis in 1945. In his first start, he lasted a total of 2/3 of an inning, giving up a hit and walking four. The very next day he started again. Apparently, this time he decided he would at least get the ball over. Result: Sisler lasted 1 2/3 innings, gave up six hits and one walk. Whether he asked manager Bill Kelley for a second start (an expression of the "o'l confidence"), or whether Kelley became irate and shoved him back in, is not known. On another occasion—in his first and last appearance with Oneonta in 1940—he blew a six-run lead in relief. And there were other such appearances.

Yet, anyone who admires this little southpaw must, of necessity, be his apologist and offer at least an explanation. One of Bill Sisler's tactics for finding work involved a careful perusal of *The Sporting News*: Which clubs were in trouble? Which needed pitching? What new, independent clubs were being organized? What new leagues? Of all the clubs with which he signed player contracts, thirty were in the second division, many in last place for most, if not all, of the season. Job security on a club of that sort, particularly in the low minors over fifty years ago, was not guaranteed. Clubs mired in the second division tended to develop a "revolving door" policy, with players coming and going every week—and a panicky independent owner or manager would give up on a newcomer, especially a well-traveled veteran, if he couldn't supply a quick fix for the club's problems. George Steinbrenner didn't pioneer this phenomenon. Therefore, one supposes, Bill Sisler learned to accept his lot—and accept the fact that a revolving door carries one inside, but that it also can and does deposit one out on the street.

In pursuing the factors involved in Sisler's short stays, we must not overlook his pitching style. He was not a big man, he was not over-powering, and, consequently, did not impress on first appearance. Some of his quick releases may have been attributable to the fact that he had to perform better a lot more quickly than the average pitching signee. Bill Sisler may have revealed a touch of bitterness over this handicap when he wrote: "You don't pitch with a huge body, you pitch with brains." A study of the game accounts (where available) revealed that he relied on breaking stuff, changes of speed on his breaking ball, and, therefore, needed to rely on control. So pronounced and unique was his delivery that in his short stay in Bluefield he acquired his nickname of "Hippy." One supposes that his motion must have involved some hiding of the ball behind his hip until the last possible moment...and then releasing it with a side-arm delivery. In both good and bad appearances, his tendency was to wind up with more hits than innings pitched, while producing few strike outs; but, more importantly, on good days very few walks. As those of us who remember Frank Tanana after he lost his fast ball, a pitcher with those characteristics can't afford to make many mistakes.

Finally, in further explanation—if not defense—of his record, one should remember our subject's complete fascination and devotion to the professional game, the willingness to travel anywhere, pitch on a moment's notice—under any circumstances, no questions asked.

Bill Sisler always took care to announce that he was in great shape and ready to go; but landing in a town and being called to take the mound, after not having pitched for a week or longer, is not apt to result in a sharp performance. Sisler's 8-10 record at Staunton of the Virginia League in 1942, where they called him "Pop," is very revealing when one takes into consideration the circumstances under which he pitched. He was 41 years old; the team he pitched for would finish dead last in the standings; the club's batting average of .239 was 21 points worse than the second worst team; and the club backed him up with the worst fielding percentage in the league. Despite all of that, Pop won a quarter of the team's games that season. The key to his performance, I believe, is that he started off well, and was given more than one or two quick shots, as well as a chance to have a poor outing once in a while.

Even when Sisler was good, he was not always lucky. Early on the strain of misfortune that ran through his career made its first appearance. In 1925, he pitched two games for Moline, winning both of them, working a total of 16 innings, giving up only one walk and five runs. A fine performance in one of the few Class D leagues operating at the time (which, therefore, made the Mississippi Valley League a good professional circuit) that would send many players on to higher classifications, including the majors. After those two outings, he was released on June 2, signing with Ottumwa that very morning, and in the afternoon pitched against his former teammates, chalking up a complete-game victory. A few days later Ottumwa released him. What happened? Couldn't Sisler get along with the manager? Did he go off on a drunk?

Nothing of the sort. Let the *Moline Daily Dispatch* of June 10<sup>th</sup> supply the explanation: "Lefty Bill Sisler, southpaw

who was released by Moline and Ottumwa after having won two games for the former and one for the latter, wires the *Dispatch* that he has signed for a trial in the box with the Cherokee, Iowa semi-pro club. Sisler was dropped by Sholly and Mattick because of doubt as to his rookie rating." (Each lower classification league, generally at their winter meeting, would decide how many players on the roster had to be rookies [players with out any experience], players with limited service, and veterans [players who might have three or more season in pro ball]. Leagues, especially those at the lower level, appeared to be very strict in enforcing those rules. — eds.)

The Mississippi Valley League experience may have been very significant in determining Bill Sisler's future professional career. In 1925, he was young, pitching excellent ball in the starting rotation, and receiving fine press notices. He was getting his feet on the ground in a good Class D league. A successfully completed season might have established his credentials, might have even led to a contractual tie with a major league club. Instead, it was off to Cherokee. His success with this latter club lends credence to the notion that this could have been a big year for Bill Sisler professionally. The Cherokee club was a member of a "fast" semi-pro circuit in northwestern Iowa. It included the Sioux City Giants, a "colored" club, and played as many as three to four times a week. The *Cherokee Daily Times* opined that this "independent ball is a stronger article than the Mississippi Valley League, the Three-Eye League, or the Western League," a view that possibly owed less to objectivity than to boosterism. The loop seemed strong enough, though. And "Lefty" Sisler continued his fine work of that year, going 11-2 (he may have won another game for which there was neither a box score or line score, plus he did win another game while on loan to the non-league Cushing, Iowa team for a game). The entire 1925 season wound up an excellent one for the little pitcher; but, after it concluded, it did not enhance his career one iota. The baseball rule limiting the number of players with "class" or "veteran" status on lower classification teams would dog him for the rest of his career, and account in part for his many quick looks and releases. In Bluefield (Mountain St. League, 1938), for example, his release was accompanied by the signing of three rookie pitchers who proceeded to pitch no better and, in two cases, worse than Bill Sisler.

Sisler probably signed many contracts knowing full well that as soon as a pitcher with "rookie" status could be obtained, or if another pitcher with "class" status arrived, he'd be gone. It didn't seem to matter— what he desired most was the affiliation with professional baseball.

Injury, or freedom from it, can be a determinant of the fate of a professional player's career. While there is no evidence that Sisler had been injury prone, his Syracuse (International League, 1944) experience illustrates how luck and a minor injury can play a role in one's career. "Pop" Sisler managed to hook on that year as a pitcher-coach with a club that boasted a pitching staff that included Jim Konstanty, Bob Mallory, John Beber, Bob Katz and Hod Lisenbee. After one good relief appearance, he got his first start in early May. He made the most of it. Facing Tom Sunkel and the Montreal

Royals, he won a ten-inning contest, giving up eight hits and only two runs. War or not, he turned in a pretty good performance for a guy 43 years of age. But then, a few days later he pulled a leg muscle in a pre-game workout, and spent the next three weeks out of action. Upon his return, they used him sparingly and he did not pitch as effectively as before. Sisler drew his release at the end of the season, perhaps hampered by the injury and the long layoff, and his appearances limited as well by the many complete games thrown by the starting rotation.

Nevertheless, of one thing we can be sure: Bill Sisler's checkered career did not stem from problems of behavior, either on or off the field. In no press account of his stay with any club was there any hint that Sisler was a slacker, a drinker, or in anyway an undesirable character. In fact, in those towns where he achieved some degree of success, he appears to have been a popular figure. His size, his pitching style, his spirit, his versatility in playing the outfield and pinch hitting, all appear to have won Sisler what has become to be called "a good guy to have on the club." His long career is probably enough to attest to this.

Bill Sisler's managerial experience demonstrates the pitfalls and problems facing a minor league skipper in those days— as well as that ubiquitous but ill-defined career impediment known as *politics*.

His debut as field leader ended on a dual note: sour and confused. In February of 1946, President M. Homer Cabana announced his appointment as manager of the Granby, Quebec, Red Sox in the newly organized Border League. The February 14<sup>th</sup> issue of *The Sporting News* indicated that Sisler had a half interest in the club, but this apparently does not seem to be the case. During Sisler's affiliation with the Red Sox, there never was any evidence in the local press that Sisler had been anything other than field manager. Cabana hired Bill Sisler and, according to the version in Granby's daily, the French language *La Voix De L'Est*, he fired him. Between these two events, there was never any doubt that Cabana was in complete charge of club offices.

Upon Sisler's signing, there followed the usual fanfare associated with the promotion of the ball club. The press made much of Sisler's ability and experience. Newspaper interviews with Cabana, and with his new manager, referred to the president's signing of the manager as a "master stroke." Bill Sisler's own philosophy of how the game should be played, his many baseball connections, and the usual managerial promises and predictions were featured in the articles. These stories even included the skipper's forecast of "several" mound victories for himself. When the Baltimore Orioles visited Montreal for an International League series, manager Tommy Thomas, along with Frank Skaff and a couple of other Birds, depicted the Sisler appointment as a "triumph," and Thomas, moreover, averred that Bill Sisler was one of the "...grand figures in the American National Pastime."

And, indeed, the team did get off to a fine start, playing well over .500 ball in the first few weeks of the season that Bill Sisler held the reins. The full coverage given the club by *La Voix De L'Est* gave no hint of trouble. Even when

Kingston bombed the manager in his first and only mound appearance, no derogatory comments appeared. In the early going, Sisler had his pitching rotation in good order, and some of his hitters, led by Charlie Small, were among the league leaders.

Then came the bolt out of the blue: *La Voix* carried a cryptic report dated June 15<sup>th</sup>, out of Watertown, New York, where the Granby Red Sox were playing. President Cabana had fired Sisler, and had given the players the right to choose the manager's successor. (The team's choice turned out to be Hank Washburn, a pitcher who went 4 and 3 with a 4.03 ERA for the team that year.)

As we shall see, this freedom of player choice may have signified more than it seemed. At this point, the local baseball writer began to reflect a behavior common to the press: The disclosure of harsh criticism— held in reserve, but never even hinted at— after the axing of the incumbent manager. President Cabana was never quoted, so we can't be sure whether the criticism of Sisler had been that of the owner or that of the beat reporter. In the articles, references were made to the effect that the team should have performed better than it had, considering the material, and the move was the usual "change for the better."

A longer article followed a day or two later. Again, Cabana was not directly quoted. It disclosed "low player morale" and "incompetence" and a managerial failure to perform up to the level of his salary. The article referred to Sisler as being an "errant" American. (In French, the word refers to one who goes from country to country, a wanderer. In the context of Sisler's alleged shortcomings, it was tantamount to calling him a "carpetbagger.")

As one would expect, Bill Sisler's version of things never appeared in the Granby paper. That— or at least another view— appeared in *The Sporting News*, and threw the whole affair into confusion. A brief note in the June 26<sup>th</sup> issue of "baseball's bible" reported: "Claiming interference from the front office, pitcher Bill Sisler, playing manager of the second-place Granby club of the Border League, tendered his resignation while the club was at Watertown, effective as soon as a successor could be named."

So, was he fired or did he quit? A longer piece the following week revealed much more. In the piece, President Cabana explained that he had fired his manager because he had refused to pitch even though he had been hired as a "player-manager." Considering his only mound appearance, it would seem that the manager Bill Sisler made the right move in not using the pitcher Bill Sisler. Furthermore, the article revealed that fourteen players had signed a letter voicing their confidence in "Pop" Sisler, and threatening to strike if he were fired. This does not add up to "low player morale," and may explain Cabana's apparently generous gesture of allowing the players to choose a successor. In a July 3<sup>rd</sup> article in *The Sporting News* it was noted that Sisler himself had appealed to National Association president W. G. Bramham. As a result of this, Bramham notified Border League president John Ward that he was studying reports of "internal irregularities" in the operation of the club. None of this, of course, was reported in *La Voix*.

(The *Sporting News* article erroneously reported that pitcher Washburn had taken over as manager on June 20<sup>th</sup>. As noted above, this actually took place on the 15<sup>th</sup>, when the team had been in Watertown. As indicated by *La Voix*, Sisler had already returned to his home in Rochester by the 20<sup>th</sup> of June.) In the July 10<sup>th</sup> issue, *The Sporting News* released the news that Tommy Richardson, Eastern League president and National Association vice president, would inquire into the operation of the Granby club. No evidence has been found to indicate that the report from Richardson was ever made public, although, in a note to this writer, Sisler gave a clear impression that he had made some serious charges. At any rate, further insight into Homer Cabana's methods of operation was provided just before the league playoffs, when he threatened to withdraw his club unless guaranteed a larger share of the receipts. Considering these events, it is probably no coincidence that the franchise was shifted to Geneva, New York, for the 1947 season.

When all is said and done, perhaps the Granby events may best be understood if it is viewed as a clash between a feisty old professional warrior from the United States— an "errant" American— and a locally prominent French-Canadian sports impresario used to having his own way. As will be seen, Bill Sisler would continue to brook no front office, or any outside, interference in his managerial responsibilities.

(Incidentally, Hank Washburn— the "player's choice"— remained manager only until July 2<sup>nd</sup>, when he was replaced by a twenty year-old catcher by the name of Elmer Cleves. The club, which had been a close second under Sisler, continued to drop in the standings, and wound up in fourth place with a .474 win-loss percentage.)

Politics of a kind raised its head once again in the little lefty's second managerial opportunity. On March 21, 1948, he was named manager of the new independent Harlan, Kentucky club of the Mountain States League. He took over, as one has come to expect, with great energy and enthusiasm, recruiting players, supervising both park construction and field construction. Bill Sisler did not have a car, so a local volunteer drove him down to North Carolina to minor league tryout camps in order to round up players. The citizen had been greatly impressed with Bill Sisler, mentioning on his return that the new manager received two phone calls one evening offering him managerial jobs, explaining that he was in great demand because Sisler "knew all the answers."

The team got off to a great start, playing well over .500 ball into July. At that point, the young club began to falter, and on July 24<sup>th</sup> came a brief announcement from Sisler: "I hereby resign as manager of the Harlan Baseball Club effective Sunday July 25 because of general considerations."

A puzzling development, considering that it had come with no prior hint of trouble. The reason soon became clear in two separate columns by Clarence Greene, sports writer for the local newspaper *The Enterprise*. In one, he criticized Sisler's handling of the club. In the other, Greene revealed that it was he who had successfully contacted Boston Braves president Lou Perini, and had arranged for a working agreement with the major league team. The agreement provided for not only the assignment of players, but the assignment of a new manager.

Sisler apparently had gotten wind of it before it was announced, got justifiably miffed—and quit!

Sisler remained popular with the fans of Harlan, and this is demonstrated by the fact that a long planned “Bill Sisler Day” went on as scheduled a week later (perhaps a first, and last, in baseball history). Rain forced the ceremonies from the field into the showroom of a local car dealer. There the ex-manager received a watch, suit, shirts ties and some money. Club president M. L. Tucker—who apparently stood by while sportswriter Greene carried out his machinations against the team’s skipper—called Bill Sisler a “tireless worker, a good baseball man, and a good friend of the Harlan club.”

At the end of the day, the deposed manager, still without a car, hitched a ride out of town with Braves regional scouting director Jack Reider, who had been directing the club pending the arrival of a new manager. One can not help but wonder if Hippy Sisler resisted the temptation to ask Reider if the Braves needed help some place in their organization.

(As a footnote to this incident, the club finished the season exactly .011 points better than when Bill Sisler left the team. The club, however, dropped a notch in the standings.)

Sisler’s next managerial assignment came the following year at Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, in the Eastern Shore League. He kept the club over .500 through July 6<sup>th</sup>, when he was released. Again, “politics” was involved. Many years later, Fred Lucas, who had been Eastern Shore League president at the time, told this author that Sisler had done a good job with the club, but that it had not been drawing well at the gate, and so a shake up was deemed necessary and, in typical baseball fashion, the club owners fired the manager. After Sisler’s departure, the team’s performance declined and eventually finished under .500.

Sisler would try managing one more time. In the Spring of 1950, he signed to manage Auburn, New York, in the Border League. After many “Hot Stove League” speeches in and around the Auburn area, and after taking the club through spring training, Sisler announced on opening day that—in consideration of the difficulties involved in managing at the minor league level, and “poor health would not permit me, in my present condition, to do a satisfactory job”—he was therefore resigning.

(For the record, years later Sisler supplied me with the real reason: lack of bank funds, and unpaid salaries and expenses.)

After he was no longer active on the field, Bill Sisler’s commitment to the National Game continued until he was well into his seventies. The old ballplayer did some scouting for the Dodgers and other clubs, but his main interest was in the “Bill Sisler Baseball School and Juvenile Program.” He conducted this enterprise throughout Eastern Canada, in Florida, New Jersey, and, probably, elsewhere. It was Sisler’s belief, expressed in a Peterborough, Ontario, newspaper, that “...the best way to curb juvenile delinquency is to keep the minds and activities of youth centered around baseball and competitive sport.” Emphasizing the skills of baseball as well as its discipline, Sisler argued that “...any community that assists its

young people toward good clean living, whether it be in sports or creative interests, is doing good work.”

Testimony to his teaching ability came from the *St. Catherines Ontario Standard*. Jack Gatecliff, sports editor, quoted St. Catherines Minor Hockey Association president, Pete Secord, as follows: “You wouldn’t believe how much he showed the kids in such a short time. They probably learned more than I could ever have taught them in a year.”

Here, then, a small portion of the saga of the consummate career minor leaguer has been presented. And the reader may say, “So what?” When all is said and done, the record—the numbers—of Bill Sisler as player and manager, by itself, merits only passing attention, although what has been presented in these pages should demonstrate to the reader that there was much more to that record than meets the eye. Of his own career, Sisler expressed the feeling to this writer that it had been “a poor one,” limited by hardships, and that he wanted to forget about it. He further expressed the belief that the National Pastime is only for the successful few who make it big.

One begs to differ, however. Sisler’s poignant and bitter comment, made after years of service to the game, disregards his own real contribution—and that of those many like him who labored in obscurity.

What, then, is the final significance of Bill Sisler’s career? Perhaps it should serve to forever remind us of the contribution to the National Game made by that unique species now made virtually extinct by the changing structure of the game: the career minor leaguer. Career minor leaguer, Bill Sisler, becomes more than an obscure tramp who preferred playing baseball than “working for a living,” if we view his career experiences as representative and symbolic of those of the Julian Morgans, the Burt Solomons, the Pappy Lehmans, the Al Reitzes and other well-traveled minor leaguers of the past 100 some years. These spear carriers, in the arena of the diamond sport, are akin to the movie extra, that face on the screen with no name, whose mere presence makes the stars’ performance possible. In their absence, the show could not go on: Maurice Cunningham played alongside Willie Mays in the 1950 Trenton outfield; Robert MacConnell played second base next to Hank Aaron’s shortstop position at Eau Claire; and Mickey Mantle had no fewer than three second base partners while he played short during his debut year at Independence. Bill Sisler himself played on teams that featured such future major leaguers as Jim Konstanty, Gene Bearden, Chad Kimsey, Joe Collins, Whitey Lockman and Del Ennis, to list but a few.

History seldom acknowledges the role of the ordinary citizen. General MacArthur’s ceremonial “I have returned” photograph completely ignores the fact that far out ahead of him were many anonymous infantry men and other combat troops who had taken the beach and secured the surrounding area, at great cost, prior to the “super star’s” arrival. In an era when anything less than “number one” is labeled “mediocre,” what is ignored is the anonymous performance that makes an indispensable contribution to a successful total effort by all involved. To fail to acknowledge the role—and contribution—of the career minor leaguer is to fail to understand an essential

part of what was the professional game of baseball throughout most of its history.

### Coda:

My own connection with Bill Sisler began when I was about twelve years old, in Rochester, New York. Sisler was pitching a playoff game in a very strong semi-pro league. It was the practice of teams to load up with "ringers" from the pro ranks after the minor leagues finished their seasons. Bill was his team's ringer, but the other team had a lot more ringers. Betting was always heavy at these games, and interest was, therefore, fierce. My recollection is that Sisler lost the game by a 5 to 2 score, but I took a shine to this underdog right then.

Over the years it was easy to keep track of Bill Sisler because, after his inevitable return to Rochester from some ball club, he always showed up at the press box at Red Wing Stadium to keep the beat writers apprised of where he'd been and where he'd be going. The scribes would dutifully report these wandering the next day in the "notes" section. So I literally grew up with reports like "Bill Sisler has signed with ..." and "Bill Sisler has returned from..." I was fascinated, and the feeling never left me.

A few years ago I spoke with Bill Sisler's granddaughter, and offered the family a copy of my article. She appeared very eager to have a copy of it— but I never heard a word from her after I sent it. I fear that Sisler may have embellished his career record to his family much like he did wherever he stopped. Under the headline "Former Cleveland Indian to Conduct Professional Baseball Clinic Here" appears the following text: "Mr. Sisler comes to this community [Kempville, Ontario] with very impressive credentials. In 1934 Bill graduated from the minor leagues and hit the big time with the Cleveland Indians of the American League. In 1940 he moved on to the Philadelphia Athletics and eventually settled into a coaching job with Syracuse of the International League. Bill's coaching career included time spent in the International

League and the Southern league and the Eastern League." In another article we find: "He later managed teams at virtually all levels, coached, scouted and is now connected with Los Angeles Dodgers through their supervising scout Dale Jones." I fear that the reality disappointed the grand-daughter and the rest of Sisler's family.

After Bill Sisler died on July 6, 1988, *The Sporting News* carried the following obituary: "**William F. (Bill) Sisler**, who played, coached or managed in the minor leagues from 1924 to 1950, then operated summer baseball schools in Canada, Delaware and Florida, with headquarters in Rochester, N. Y., died July 6 in St. Petersburg, Fla. He was 87.

"A pitcher-outfielder, Sisler played with more than 25 different clubs in the minors, many several times over, but never spent more than one season at any one location. He was said to have signed more than 50 minor league contracts in 30 years. He was a playing manager and manager in the minors from 1945-50.

"His baseball camps, for youngsters between 9 and 16 years of age, were designed to teach fundamentals and were conducted on scaled-down diamonds. Sisler retired to St. Petersburg in 1966."

On July 10, 1988, the *St. Petersburg Times* carried the following death notice: "**SISLER, WILLIAM F.**, 87, died Wednesday (July 6, 1988) at Beverly Manor. Born in Rochester, N. Y., he came here in 1966. He was a retired professional baseball coach and a Catholic. Survivors include a son, William Seeler, and a daughter, Marilyn DeForest, both of Rochester. National Cremation Society, St. Petersburg."

Dust to dust...

## The Career Record of Bill Sisler

compiled by Bob Hoie & Ray Nemecek, additional stats by Ed Brooks & Merritt Clifton

### BILL SISLER

William F. Sisler Birth Name: William F. Seeler

(Nicknames: Pop; Hippy)

Born, November 17, 1900, Rochester, NY

Died, July 6, 1988, St. Petersburg, FL

Ht. 5:06 Wt. 150

Batted and threw lefthanded

Year	Club	League	G	CG	IP	W	L	PCT	H	BB	SO	R	ER	ERA
1923	Elmira	New York-Penn	3	0	9	0	0	.000	11	2	3	7		
1924	Montreal-Rutland	Que.-Ont.-Vt.	2			0	0	.000						
1925	Moline/Ottumwa	Miss. Valley	3	2	25	3	0	1.000	28	3	3	8		
1926	Lawrence	New England	1	0	2	0	0	.000	3	0	0	3		
1927	Shamokin	New York-Penn	<b>Under Contract, Did Not Play</b>											
	Muskogee	Western Assn.	4		17	0	1	.000	21	6	2	16		
1928	Martinsburg	Blue Ridge	2		15	1	0	1.000	13	6	9	4		
	Clarksburg/Charleroi/ Cumberland	Middle Atlantic	9			3	1	.750						
1929	Lewiston	New England	2			1	0	1.000						
1930	Scranton	New York-Penn	5	0	9	0	0	.000	18	6	2			
	St. Thomas	Ontario	11		78	5	2	.714	85	13	16	45		
1931	Clarksburg	Middle Atlantic	1		5	1	0	1.000						
1932	Dayton	Central	<b>Under Contract, Did Not Play</b>											
1933	Johnstown	Middle Atlantic	16		109	5	8	.385	154	28	25	79	59	4.8
	York	New York-Penn	5		27	1	3	.250	42	13	2	27		
1934	Muskegon	Central	<b>Under Contract, Did Not Play</b>											
1935	Terre Haute	Three-I	<b>Under Contract, Did Not Play</b>											
1936	Ogdensburg	Can-Am	8	2	52	2	2	.500	74	23	10	42	33	5.7
1937	South Boston	Bi-State	3		17	1	1	.500	27	6	3	16	14	7.4
	Thomasville	N. Carolina St.	15	7	92	5	4	.556	94	19	28	46	35	3.4
1938	Portsmouth	Piedmont	<b>Under Contract, Did Not Play</b>											
	Bluefield	Mountain St.	2	0	11	0	1	.000	12	7	4	8		
	Danville	Bi-State	1	0	0.3	0	1	.000	3	0	0	3		
1939	Drummondville	Provincial	3			1	1	.500						<b>Not in O. B</b>
1940	Sunbury	Interstate	2	0	7	0	1	.000						
	Brattleboro	Vermont Northern	2											<b>Not in O. B</b>
	Oneonta	Can-Am	1	0	0	0	0	.000	3	3	0	5		
	St. Joseph	Michigan St.	1	0	4	0	1	.000	7	2	2	6		
	London	PONY	6	0	22	0	2	.000	22	7	5	15	11	4.5
1941	Newport News	Virginia	4	2	32	3	0	1.000	32	12	7	19	16	4.5
	Gadsden	Southeastern	2	0	6	0	0	.000						

continued

Year	Club	League	G	CG	IP	W	L	PCT	H	BB	SO	R	ER	E
1942	Ft. Lauderdale	Florida E. Coast	<b>Under Contract, Did Not Play</b>											
	Staunton	Virginia	23	10	134	8	10	.444	186	45	24	102	82	5
	Quebec City	Can-Am	2	1	15	1	1	.500	18	9	2	9	9	5
1943	Trenton	Interstate	9	5	51	1	6	.143	68	14	9	40	31	5
	Springfield	Eastern	16	6	84	1	8	.111	121	38	16	74	61	6
1944	Syracuse	International	8	0	27	1	0	1.000	25	13	5			
1945	Binghamton	Eastern	2	0		0	0	.000						
	Memphis	Southern Assn.	6	0	19	0	2	.000	21	9	6	17	11	5
	Minneapolis	American Assn.	2	0	2	0	2	.000	7	5	0	8	7	31
1946	Granby, mgr. to 6/15	Border	1			0	1	.000						
	Anderson	Tri-State	8	0	14	0	0	.000						
1947	Gainesville	Big State	6	1	16	1	1	.500	12	8	4	11	8	4
	Daytona Beach	Florida St.	2			0	1	.000						
	Bridgeport	Colonial	1			0	1	.000						
	Nyack	North Atlantic	6		27	2	2	.500						
	Smithfield-Selma	Tobacco St.	1	0	7	0	0	.000						
1948	Harlan, mgr. to 7/24	Mountain States	4	2	24	1	1	.500	31	13	5	15		
1949	Rehoboth Beach	Eastern Shore	<b>Manager to 7/6</b>											
1950	Auburn	Border	<b>Manager to 5/9, quit post on opening day</b>											
<b>totals:</b>			<b>211</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>.425</b>	<b>1120</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>377</b>	

## BALLPARKS OF LOS ANGELES, AND SOME OF THE HISTORY SURROUNDING THEM

by Lauren Ted Zuckerman © 1996

**A**lthough there were hundreds of baseball clubs in the United States by the early 1850s, the organized and professional game of baseball had not yet migrated to the west coast. Former New York Knickerbocker players William and James Shepard are generally credited with bringing the game west.

The Shepards formed the first professional team on the Pacific Coast, the San Francisco Eagles in 1859. The first recorded game of this club was a 33-33 tie with the Red Rovers, ultimately awarded to the Eagles on appeal to the umpire (February 22, 1860).

The first enclosed baseball facility on the west coast was located at 26th and Folsom in San Francisco. Known as Recreation Grounds, the park opened on November 26, 1868, when the Eagles defeated the (Oakland) Wide Awakes 37-23.

In 1886, the California League was formed with franchises in San Francisco, Sacramento and Oakland. While Los Angeles, at the time, may have been populous enough to support a club in this league, transportation costs were the more telling factor in its absence.

The same held true for the country as a whole. When the West Coast became a first class supporter of minor league baseball, during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, it had absolutely no chance of acquiring a major league club.

In 1900, the train from Los Angeles to Chicago took 66 hours, not a practical period of time for a "road trip" from one of the eastern cities. Clearly, the inclusion of the west coast in the major leagues would have to wait for air travel to reach its own level of maturation.

### Early Baseball In Los Angeles:

In her history of the Los Angeles Athletic Club, Betty Lou Young notes that they played amateur baseball in Los Angeles at least as far back as 1860, particularly after bullfighting, cockfighting and bear-baiting had been outlawed. These early games took place in the dirt street of the Los Angeles Plaza.

In 1866, Ozro W. Childs was granted a tract of land from 6th to 12th Streets and from Main to Figueroa. Of this, he donated the 6th to 7th (north and south) and Broadway to Olive (east and west), plot to St. Vincent's College.

The college then laid out a diamond on the east side of Broadway, between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, which was the center of Los Angeles baseball until the shift to Central Park, later called Pershing Square, in the late 1860s.

For the next decade there were a variety of sites on which the national game was played and it was not until 1880

that the first professional game was played in Los Angeles, at Agricultural Park. That site, and its successors, are the subject of this article.

While the focus of my own research is generally restricted to ballparks used in Organized Ball (O. B.), I have included the few non-O. B. parks of Los Angeles in this article as well. In the case of the O. B. parks, the leagues and dates which are noted under the name of the park represent the dates and scores of the first and last home games at them.

### Agricultural Park, Los Angeles:

Agricultural Park (*park diagrams begin on page 50*), in Los Angeles, was located between the Southern Pacific Railway tracks (later Exposition Boulevard.), and Santa Barbara Avenue (now Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.), north and south, and between Figueroa Street and Agricultural Avenue (now Menlo), east and west.

The grounds had been used for horse racing, both thoroughbred and standardbred, as far back as 1873. In addition, they held every imaginable type of sporting event there. For example, on May 30, 1888, they held a bicycle race; on July 4, 1888, a track and field meet. On May 18, 1879 there was a four hour "pedestrian contest" ("go as you please") featuring a first prize of \$70.00.

The hotel and exhibition building had been in place since 1879 and the hotel converted to a turf club at the turn of the century. In 1894, a massive Victorian grandstand, with three decorative towers, replaced the smaller stand on the same site.

Apparently, these grounds were the site of the first professional baseball game ever held in Los Angeles on October 19, 1880 (Orange 21, Acme of L. A. 17) and continued to be the sole professional baseball venue through July 17, 1885 (Orange 9, Athletics 8).

Although it seems improbable, and is probably attributable to poor newspaper coverage, there is no record of any professional baseball games between the final game at Agricultural Park and the opening of the Sixth Street Baseball Park on October 24, 1886.

The notion of playing baseball at a racetrack is not as strange as it seems, when one considers that the grandstand and public facilities were already in place. Further, early players, particularly in non-major league situations, rarely enjoyed grass infields or the type of playing surface that we take for granted today.

Even in the major leagues, many of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century baseball parks had been converted cricket grounds, polo grounds, or horserace tracks. For example, Sacramento's first baseball park (Agricultural Park) was a diamond set up at a

racetrack. Similarly, Exposition Park (Allegheny Exposition Grounds) in Pittsburgh, a racetrack, the major league American Association *Alleghenies* used for the 1882 and 1883 seasons, and in a slightly altered configuration, by the Union Association *Stogies* for five games in August of 1884.

Daniel Bonk ("Ball Park Figures: The Story of Forbes Field," *Pittsburgh History*, Summer 1993, Volume 76, No. 2) states that when Forbes Field was designed in 1908, there was not a single architect in the United States who had any baseball park design experience. Consequently, club owner Barney Dreyfuss was led to Charles Leavitt, who had designed and executed several concrete and steel racetrack grandstands.

Today, the L. A. Agricultural Park site is occupied by the Coliseum and Sports Arena Complex, as well as the Museum of Natural History, Museum of Science and Industry, and the IMAX Theater.

### **Sixth Street Base Ball Park, Los Angeles:**

The Sixth Street Base Ball Park (*diagram on page 51*) was the first enclosed ballpark in Los Angeles, and was constructed on the site of a previous hay market. The facility had also been called Athletic Grounds and the Sixth Street Grounds, and was used for other sports such as the very popular bicycle racing of the late 19th century.

The first professional baseball game at 6th Street was held on October 24, 1886 (Los Angeles 14, Damiana 13) featuring the popular players Sweeny and Cusick.

Although the newspapers did not report any professional baseball games between January and August of 1888, it is my belief that a great many games were played during that period, but that they never made it into the papers.

The Sixth Street Base Ball Park site has been confused with another park that was located between Hill and Olive Streets and between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Streets, and was listed in late 19<sup>th</sup> century city directories as the 6th Street Park (but not 6<sup>th</sup> Street Base Ball Park) as well as Los Angeles Park or Central Park. It is now known as Pershing Square.

The Sixth Street Base Ball Park was located between Flower and Hope Streets, west and east, and between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Streets, north and south. Currently, Wilshire Boulevard intersects the lot from north to south, between Flower and Hope Streets, and an alley runs east-west between Wilshire Boulevard and 6<sup>th</sup> Street.

The General Petroleum Building, eleven stories, occupies what was the right field portion of the diamond, while the sixty story high First Interstate Building sits upon the site of the grandstand and infield.

### **Prospect Park, Los Angeles:**

The grand opening of Prospect Park (*diagram on page 52*) happened September 1, 1888 (Los Angeles 5, Pasadena 4). On February 22, 1889, the Los Angeles Athletic Club held its Fifth Annual Track & Field Meet on the grounds.

Although the local newspapers gave quite a bit of attention to the opening of the new grounds, no additional games were reported following the September 1, 1888 inaugural.

The Park is heart shaped and enclosed within a circular street called Echandia, in the Brooklyn Heights section of Los Angeles, two blocks north of Brooklyn Avenue. Small by today's standards for a professional park, it would be considered adequate in size during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Presently, Prospect Park, absent the baseball diamond, remains in the same location. One might assume that the grandstand was located at the south end of the park. However, no pictures or descriptions of Prospect Park have been discovered. Consequently, the illustration does not include a speculative depiction of the diamond or grandstand details.

### **First Street Park, Los Angeles:**

Although the California League had its initial period of existence between 1886 and 1893, Los Angeles did not field a league team until 1892, the next to last season. This can probably be attributed to a combination of population (lack of) and distance (nearly 400 miles), although both the Southern Pacific and Santa Fe had connected San Francisco to Los Angeles by train since 1886.

Left outside of Organized Baseball, Los Angeles filled the void with two distinct varieties of professional baseball prior to March 26, 1892, and the coming of the California League: Los Angeles was a hotbed of winter baseball. These clubs played, roughly, between November and March and were comprised of a combination of California Leaguers, big leaguers and local professionals (non-leaguers) and semi-pros.

Sometimes the winter clubs organized leagues and kept standings, such as the "Southern California League" of 1900-1901. Frequently, the winter league was called the "California League," despite the lack of connection with the "real" California League.

The other type of Los Angeles professional baseball was conducted during the regular season, and was comprised of local teams, usually in leagues and sometimes organized specifically for prize money tournaments.

Often these clubs bore the names of their cities, such as San Bernardino, Los Angeles or San Diego, and with equal regularity they carried the name of a prominent local business such as Maier-Zoeblein, Levy's or Tuft-Lyons.

Although most baseball historians would be inclined to categorize these later clubs as "semi-pro," an examination of their personnel suggests that they were, in terms of professional quality, nearly interchangeable with California League clubs.

During the years when Los Angeles did not have a California League franchise, the rosters of the Maier-Zoeblein, and other similar Southern California ballclubs, contained players who were demonstrably superior to those who were then in the lower minors.

That point of view aside, the new park (*diagram on page 53*) was inaugurated in a game between the Los Angeles winter league club and the American Association St. Louis

Browns, on December 20, 1889 (St. Louis 5, Los Angeles 0). The new park was called the First Street Park as well as Baseball Grounds or Athletic Park.

Although the exact location of the park is unknown, it has been described as being directly over the First Street Bridge on the east side of the Los Angeles River. Consequently, the author's illustration of the location and configuration is speculative.

Moreover, there is some doubt as to the overall appointments at the new grounds. Following the inaugural game, the *L. A. Times* stated that the capacity of the park was between 7,000 and 10,000. After the January 1, 1890 Riverside-Los Angeles contest, the *Times* noted that the park included a bleacher, grandstand and space for carriages.

Conversely, the day after the November 26, 1891 winter league game featuring the L. A. Apollos, the *Los Angeles Herald* complained that the seating capacity was inadequate and that the management should enlarge the grounds at once: "The carriage room is inadequate but Messrs. Turner and Peartree promise to have the right field fence extended and thus furnish plenty of room for a large number of carriages."

On December 25, 1891, the Apollos, then billed as "Reorganized Los Angeles" but with four of the five "old" infielders, began the third season of winter league play at First Street Park, but the inaugural game at the new L. A. Athletic Park (7<sup>th</sup> and Alameda) had been played the previous month, on November 2, 1891.

Other teams active that winter included San Francisco, a second San Francisco club called *All Star California*, Sacramento and the San Jose *Dukes*.

Even though the new Athletic Park was open for baseball, games that winter were played at both parks until the final game of the Winter Series, at First Street Park, on February 7, 1892, a doubleheader between Los Angeles and San Jose.

The November 2, 1891 Apollos' game at the First Street Park featured the ownership debut of G. A. Vanderbeck, who had previously owned the Seattle franchise in the Pacific Northwest League. In late 1891, Vanderbeck indicated to the press that he intended to field a California League team in Los Angeles for the upcoming 1892 season.

As indicated in the speculative illustration, the ballpark stood directly across the street from the Santa Fe Depot. Atlas records of Los Angeles— from the time of the park— suggest the location as noted in the depiction, because most of the other lots in the area were occupied with structures.

Even the speculative illustration required that the author arbitrarily "erase" a hay barn and out-structure which otherwise would have occupied the center field area.

Today, this area is still served by railway tracks and occupied by light industrial tenants.

## Athletic Park, Los Angeles:

*California League Los Angeles Angels (1892—1893)*

March 26, 1892: Los Angeles 10, San Francisco 5

August 6, 1893: Los Angeles 13, San Francisco 5

G. A. Vanderbeck was the owner of the Los Angeles Apollos, a 1891-1892 winter league ballclub. The games shifted back and forth between the First Street Park (*diagram on page 54*) and the "new" Los Angeles Athletic Park.

Owned by the Los Angeles Athletic Club, the initial sporting event at the new facility was a lacrosse contest between Los Angeles and Riverside held on November 26, 1891.

Athletic park was first used for baseball on December 25, 1891, in a doubleheader between Los Angeles and the All Star Californias [All Star 3, Los Angeles 1 (7 innings); All Star 5, Los Angeles 4 (11 innings)].

The park was located on the northeast corner of 7<sup>th</sup> and Alameda Streets, and the November 23, 1891 *Los Angeles Herald* noted that the grandstand had a capacity of 1,500, and that the bleachers could accommodate several thousand more.

The field, like most others of the time, was designed to include a quarter-mile track for both running and bicycle racing. Football was also played at the park. As usual, one of the local newspapers described the grandstand as being "...one of the finest on the coast."

The winter league continued through February 7, 1892, and the *Los Angeles Times* noted that whichever of these two parks Vanderbeck chose would require renovation and enlargement for the coming league season. After the winter league season concluded, Vanderbeck was granted a franchise in the (O.B.) California League for the 1892 season.

The California League, as of February 1892, had been operating more or less successfully, as a four (five in 1886) team league with clubs (variously) in San Francisco, Oakland, Sacramento, Stockton or San Jose, since 1886.

Vanderbeck hired a new manager, Robert J. Glenalvin (born Dowling) who had played with Chicago (NL) in 1890 and would play with them again in 1893.

The *Seattle Post Intelligencer* noted, at the time, that Glenalvin was one of the finest minor leaguers in the country, the best second baseman on the coast, and had no superior in the Northwest League as an "emergency hitter."

The new players reported to L. A. on March 10, and proceeded to play a series of exhibition games in San Diego, and elsewhere, for the next few weeks. The *L. A. Times* did a thoroughly modern job of hyping the locals, running a biography on each of the players— every two or three days— as the season drew near.

Similar to some minor leagues today, the California League in 1892 employed a split season. The *Angels* opened at home on March 26<sup>th</sup> before a crowd of 2,500, including some 500 ladies, beating the San Francisco club 10 to 5 at Athletic Park.

For L.A., the final game of the first half was held at home on July 4, 1892, with 3,500 in the stands. This would be the largest crowd ever to watch a baseball game in Los Angeles up till then. The admission to the "league" games was 50 cents,

and 25 cents for children under 12. There was a *Ladies Day* once every week.

There is a conflict between the final league standings published in 1892 and those that are today accepted as correct. However, the only instance in which this discrepancy becomes material is in the case of the first half of the 1892 season.

As noted below, the *Los Angeles Times* rendition of the standings shows L. A. as the pennant winner, while the "official" standings show that San Jose came out victorious. It should be noted that the *Los Angeles Times* stated, along with their "league standings" that San Jose had been granted the pennant "...on a technicality."

<u>Los Angeles Times</u>		<u>Official Standings</u>	
L. A.	49—37	SAN JOSE	49—36
SAN JOSE	48—37	L. A.	50—37
S. F.	44—41	S. F.	43—43
OAKLAND	29—55	OAKLAND	29—55

Los Angeles opened the second season, also at home, on July 27, 1892, losing to Oakland 5-4. The final home date of the season was a doubleheader with San Jose on November 6, swept by the Angels by scores of 10 to 1 and 9 to 1. The second half concluded with the Angels on the road, on November 26, 1892.

**Official 2<sup>nd</sup> Season Standings**

L. A.	51—35
OAKLAND	48—38
S. F.	37—49
SAN JOSE	35—49

The Angels then engaged in a best of seven playoff, held entirely in Los Angeles, against the San Jose Dukes. This series began with an L. A. victory over the Dukes (4-3) on December 4<sup>th</sup>, and concluded on December 16<sup>th</sup> with the Angels fourth win (2-1). Overall, Los Angeles won the series 4 games to 2.

The League did not sanction the playoff, and they had already declared separate champions (San Jose and Los Angeles) for the season. On December 14, 1892, before the playoff had concluded, a league meeting was held in which Los Angeles was dropped from the league and Vanderbeck's franchise annulled.

Although the manager (today we call him G. M. or owner) had only a few weeks to put the club together, he seems to have done an excellent job. Nearly all of the players on the Los Angeles club played in the major leagues, either before or after the 1892 season. The entire home season was played at Athletic Park, which was also used for football games during the latter part of the season.

Following the banishment of Vanderbeck and the L. A. franchise, a new owner, Al Lindley, convinced the northern faction of the League that they needed a club in the south. Prior to the start of the 1893 season, Stockton replaced San Jose in the four club league.

For 1893, eight players returned ( Pete Lohman, Bob Glenalvin, John Roach, Al McCauley, Billy Hulen, Pop Lytle, Phil Knell and Rasty Wright) to the club, while several new faces appeared as well.

The 1893 club opened at home on March 25, 1893, defeating Stockton 12 to 3. The *Times* reported that over 3,500 were in the crowd, including over 1,000 women and also over 200 persons in carriages.

Obviously, there was no outfield fence at Athletic Park. The first season ended on July 4<sup>th</sup>, with the Angels at home (Stockton 5, Los Angeles 4).

**Official 1<sup>st</sup> Season Standings**

L. A.	42—30
OAKLAND	40—30
S. F.	36—35
STOCKTON	21—44

The second season opened on July 6, 1893, with the Angels losing to San Francisco on the road (S. F. 12, L. A. 7). The L. A. Angels opened their second season at Athletic Park on July 26<sup>th</sup> (L. A. 5, Oakland 1) and their final home game was August 6, 1893 (L. A. 13, S. F. 5). The Angels were scheduled to play Sacramento on the 9<sup>th</sup> at Athletic Park. On that date, Sacramento refused to come south for the upcoming series unless the Angels agreed to a guarantee of \$100.00 plus expenses. This was not forthcoming.

On Sunday, August 13, 1893, San Francisco and Oakland played the final California League game of the season, after which the demise of the League was announced. These two clubs then agreed to play a thirty-five game series with each other but the plan failed to materialize.

The *L. A. Times* never provided the final league standings for the second season, but from my own research I came up with the following records for the teams:

**Final Non-Official 2<sup>nd</sup> Season Standings**

OAKLAND	20—9
SAN FRANCISCO	14—14
LOS ANGELES	9—14
SACRAMENTO	8—14

Los Angeles was declared champion of the first half, and Oakland of the second half. The California League did not reemerge again until the 1898 season, and Los Angeles, despite its tremendous population growth between 1883 and 1898, was not granted a place in the league until 1901. (By that time, Washington Gardens had become the local grounds.)

On August 13<sup>th</sup>, at Athletic Park, the Angels played a benefit game (for themselves) with a "picked nine," whom they defeated 11-6.

It has been noted elsewhere that a night game was played on July 2, 1893, at Athletic Park. In actuality, there were two night games played there, each beginning at 9:00 P. M. The first was held on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, L. A. 5, Stockton 3, and the second on

July 4<sup>th</sup>, score unknown. In both cases, regular league games were played earlier in the day.

The night games were strictly exhibition affairs. Illumination was provided by twenty arc lights hung over the diamond and a search light, positioned over the grandstand, was used to follow the batted ball. The press described these contests as "play as you please" games.

Batters, in some instances, went to the plate carrying brooms or umbrellas, rather than bats. Fair balls were called foul and vice versa. The *Times* referred to the second game as a "burlesque."

Following the final California League game in August 1893, L. A. Athletic Park continued to be used for baseball during both the winter league season and the regular season, just the same as Los Angeles had enjoyed its professional baseball in the pre-California League era.

The final (non-O. B.) baseball game at Athletic Park was a 19-6 defeat of Los Angeles by the "colored team, Trilby's," played on October 3, 1897. Following that game, the Los Angeles baseball scene shifted to Fiesta Park, at the intersection of Pico and Grand.

For the next two years, a variety of non-baseball sporting events, including bicycle racing, football, track and field and girls basketball, were held at Athletic Park.

#### **Fiesta Park, Los Angeles:**

Fiesta Park (*diagram on page 55*) was located between 12<sup>th</sup> Street and Pico Boulevard (north and south), and between Grand Avenue and Hope Street.

Following the final professional baseball game at Los Angeles Athletic Park (October 3, 1897), the Los Angeles and Trilby's ballclubs christened Fiesta Park on October 10, 1897 with Los Angeles reversing the result of the previous week and defeating the Trilby's 10 to 3 before a crowd of 500. After this initial game, the local newspapers noted that the grandstand had not yet been roofed over.

The following Sunday, a doubleheader featuring all four clubs in the "Merchants Tournament" was played. The newspapers reported that the grounds in good condition, and that the grandstand had been "put in shape." The tourney purse was announced as \$200.00.

Like nearly all ballparks of the era, Fiesta served both baseball and football. Local high schools and colleges played on these grounds, along with the baseball winter leagues and regular season "professional" leagues from October, 1897 to December 1900.

After four years of drifting outside of Organized Ball, a new power in Los Angeles baseball emerged. James F. Morley, along with Dr. H. Bert Ellis, John Brink, Al Levy (of the Levy's) and J. F. Edwards, filed articles of incorporation in Los Angeles on July 8, 1900 under the name "Los Angeles Baseball Association."

This group stated that their purpose was to organize a 1900-1901 winter league (Southern California League),

featuring two Los Angeles clubs and one each from San Bernardino and San Diego.

Additionally, the group declared that they had already secured a California League franchise for Los Angeles for the 1901 season, although this was not "formally" announced by the league until the following February. Finally, they announced their intention to construct and manage a new baseball park at Washington and Grand.

Fiesta Park was used extensively during the fall of 1899 and spring of 1900 by the winter leagues, and throughout the 1900 regular season by the non—O. B. Southern California League professional clubs.

This almost weekly activity continued through the fall of 1900, and up through the transition to the new grounds at Washington Gardens. Even after the move, Fiesta Park continued to be utilized as a high school and college baseball and football facility, and for regular season "minor" (non-California League) league baseball for several additional years. For example, college football games were played there on December 16, 1904, and the Los Angeles City Directory, as late as 1921, listed the park as a place which was "rented for exhibitions." U.S.C. leased Fiesta in July 1916, and remodeled the grandstands so that they held 6,000 on either side of the field.

The orientation of the park, which is noted in the illustration, with the grandstand on the west (Hope Street) side of the field, is confirmed by a variety of property atlas records of the time. However, in its later configuration, a substantial grandstand was located on the east side (Grand Avenue) of the lot, and/or both sides, as noted above.

#### **Washington Gardens—Chutes Park (1901—1910):**

*California League: Los Angeles Angels (1901—1902)*  
*March 31, 1901: Oakland 1, Los Angeles 0*  
*December 7, 1902: Los Angeles 6, Oakland 0*

*Pacific Coast League: Los Angeles Angels (1903—1910)*  
*March 26, 1903: Los Angeles 2, Seattle 1*  
*October 30, 1919: Portland 1, Los Angeles 0 (10)*

*Pacific Coast League: Vernon Tigers (1909—1910)*  
*April 7, 1909: Los Angeles 12, Vernon 4*  
*November 6, 1910: Vernon 7, Portland 5*

In his 1992 history of the California League, *Always On Sunday*, John Spalding notes that the league had three distinct periods of existence: 1886-1893, 1898-1910 and 1913-1915. The Los Angeles franchise during the first period, 1892 and 1893, at Los Angeles Athletic Park, has been discussed previously.

In 1898, the league was back in business with franchises in nine cities, all in the northern part of the state. The

next year, this number was reduced to six teams, and by 1900, essentially the original four (Sacramento, San Francisco, Stockton and Oakland).

At a meeting in San Francisco on January 11, 1901, it was announced that Los Angeles had been readmitted to the League. James F. Morley was the owner of this new franchise, and plans were announced to play the upcoming season on the grounds at Washington Gardens.

Washington Gardens (*diagram on page 56*) was located between Grand Avenue and Main Street (west and east) and between Washington Boulevard and 21<sup>st</sup> Street (north and south), although there were residential and commercial strips located between the park boundaries on both the Grand Avenue and 21<sup>st</sup> Street edges.

The park had been a Los Angeles landmark as far back as 1878. Up to the turn of the century, it featured a theater, beer garden, ostrich farm, aviary, miniature railway and zoo. It frequently served as a site for traveling circuses, and tethered balloon ascensions had taken place at the park as early as July, 1888.

In December, 1900, an athletic field, suitable for both baseball and football, was constructed. The baseball infield was of the skinned variety. The first athletic event at these new grounds, called Washington Gardens, was a USC-Pomona college football contest held on November 29, 1900.

The following week winter baseball—in a league, nurtured by Morley—shifted from Fiesta Park. The opening game at Washington Gardens, on December 9, 1900, saw the Levy's edge the Maier-Zoeblein's by a score of 3-2.

On February 22, 1900, there was a grand opening for the chute-the-chutes, advertised as being the highest and steepest in the world. With a midway, bandstand and eateries, the park enjoyed a great popularity in the city, and was conveniently served by several major trolley lines. Washington Gardens had become a "trolley park," an early American twentieth century phenomena.

Ilene Herman in her 1984 unpublished paper on Idora Park in Oakland, makes the following points about trolley parks: "The first public pleasure park in the world was London's Vauxhall (1651-1850). U.S. impetus for the genre came in 1893 with the Columbian Exposition in Chicago. In 1895, entrepreneur Paul Boynton opened Coney Island which became the U.S. prototype.

"By 1915, there were over 1500 amusement parks in the U.S. which were accessible by electric trolley cars. Typically, a trolley park included some of the following attractions: Chute-the-chutes, boat ride, toboggan slide, arcade, skating rink, bear pit, monkey house, ostrich farm, aviary, scenic railway, ferris wheel, circle swing, roller coaster, fun house, haunted house, balloon ascensions, and many more."

At Washington Gardens, the ballgrounds featured a grandstand that was placed diagonally behind the plate, with arms extending down both base lines to just beyond the bases. At this point, there was a right angle between the outfield facing side of the grandstand and the surrounding fence, and a great deal of empty space between the distal end of the grandstand and the outfield fence.

While the underlying design of the grandstand appeared standard, what made it somewhat unusual was the asymmetric configuration of the roof which covered only the diagonal and third base sides (*see illustration on page 56*), leaving the first base portion uncovered.

The catwalk standing room, noted in the illustration, is based upon a 1901 photograph of Chutes Amusement Park, taken from the south, which reveals the ballpark in its background. The long stretches of unused (for seating) fence space, extending down both base lines, persisted until at least 1905, at which time bleacher extensions were added.

In 1907, these bleachers were slightly lengthened and reoriented with respect to the foul lines. However, for the final two seasons at the facility, 1909 and 1910, the bleachers were moved away from the foul lines so as to be, once again, in line with the grandstands. The diamond was surrounded on the east and south by the Gardens.

Washington Gardens was sometimes called "McCartney's Washington Gardens" or "Waldron's Washington Gardens," when those men were the directors. When Morley was awarded the 1901 California League franchise, the park was often referred to as Morley's Bleachers.

The names Chutes Park and Washington Gardens were used interchangeably from 1900 through 1910, with "Chutes" becoming more prevalent with time. However, since the park was located on Washington Boulevard, it was also sometimes called the Washington Street Park or simply Washington Park, the name of the later facility.

Perhaps this is why Washington Gardens/Chutes Park (1901-1910) and Washington Park (1911-1925) have been accidentally amalgamated by some authors.

Owner Morley opened the 1901 California League season at Washington Gardens on March 31, 1901, losing a 1-0 shutout to Oakland. The press estimated the crowd at 5,000. While the Los Angeles club was officially known as the Angels, the teams also was called the *Looloos*, and sometimes *Redlegs*.

Spalding points out that although San Francisco had a population four times that of Los Angeles (roughly 400,000 to 100,000 in 1900), the Angels came within five percent of the Bay City's gate for the 1901 season. Los Angeles (81-67) finished second to San Francisco in the 1901 pennant race, and duplicated that with a second place finish (with 91-83 record) behind Oakland in 1902.

On December 7, 1902, Los Angeles defeated Oakland 6 to 2 to finish the season. While it is correct to say that this second phase of the California League (1898-1910) had eight more seasons to go, the League as we knew it up to that point ceased to exist.

The successor California League, of 1903-1910, as well as the third phase, 1913-1915, were both low classification minor — or outlaw—leagues, and featured franchises in small communities such as Lodi, Merced, Modesto, Vallejo and Watsonville. This is in contrast to the 1901-1902 California League, which was considered a very high caliber minor league, if not the highest.

Only three days after the final out of the 1902 season, owners of the various California League clubs met in San

Francisco and announced the formation of the Pacific Coast League. At first, they stated that the new league would take the place of the California League and part of the Pacific Northwest League, which had been operating intermittently since 1890.

They noted that this merger would result in the strongest organization outside of the major leagues. In their initial dispatch, they pointed out that arrangements had been made for Portland and Seattle to "join our league."

In 1902, the Pacific Northwest League had franchises in Spokane, Tacoma, Seattle, Portland, Butte and Helena, the final two having been added for the 1902 season.

Historically, the league had operated in the Pacific Northwest with mixed results, beginning in 1890-1892, then again with partial seasons in 1896 and 1898 (and was also called the New Pacific League in these instances), and, finally, under the stewardship of president W. H. Lucas, with successful full seasons in 1901 and 1902.

Following the 1902 California League season, the tranquillity abruptly ended, particularly when the new Pacific Coast League announced its intention to establish franchises in Portland and Seattle. The California League was not a member of the National Association, so it was not bound by any formal agreements. In a countermeasure, the Pacific Northwest League announced their intention to place franchises in the two largest Pacific Coast League markets, Los Angeles and San Francisco, and to change its name to the Pacific National League.

To make a very long and complex story short, the Pacific Coast League won the war. (For an elaboration of the Pacific National League season, see Prager Park, Los Angeles below; and see Carlos Bauer's article that follows this one, *The Creation of the Pacific Coast League, and the Civil War With the Pacific National League that Ensued During its First Year in Existence, 1903* for a more detailed account of the Pacific Coast League—Pacific National League War).

For the Los Angeles Angels, not only did the Pacific Coast League come out victorious in the war, but the Angels won the inaugural pennant and went on to repeat as league champion in 1905, 1907 and 1908. Furthermore, the outlaw PCL became a member in good standing of the National Association prior to the start of the 1904 season.

As far back as 1901, in an article associated with the Maier-Zoebelein baseball club, playing at Washington Gardens, the local papers stated that the seating capacity of the park was "taxed" and that the management (of the Maier club) was looking for bigger grounds elsewhere.

In response to a demand for additional seating, the bleachers were, as noted, added in 1905 after which the park probably held 6000 fans in their seats with standing room for thousands more.

After operating the league for two years as a four club organization (1907-1908), two new clubs joined the league for the 1909 season. The league readmitted Sacramento, which had dropped out after the 1903 season, and added a new franchise, Vernon, owned by L. A. brewer Frederick Maier.

The Vernon club constructed its own ballpark at the corner of 38th and Santa Fe, in the City of Vernon. The ballpark (Vernon Park I or Southside Park) was intended to be

used, by both the Tigers and Angels in the same way that the Oakland and San Francisco clubs used Freeman's Park in Oakland (one day during the week, and on Sunday morning).

Consequently, the Angels and the Vernon "Tigers," (Venice Tigers from 1913 to mid-1915), merged their home/road schedules with each other for the next seventeen seasons (1909-1925). The Tigers franchise was then transferred to San Francisco to become the second "Missions" franchise.

In 1909, Vernon and Los Angeles began using the Oakland-San Francisco method of park exchange. Whichever club was in Los Angeles used Vernon Park for the Sunday 10:30 A. M. half of the split venue doubleheader, and in 1909 also played each Tuesday at Vernon. In 1910, they changed the Tuesday game to Friday. They also split holiday doubleheaders between the parks.

In 1911, with the opening of (new) Washington Park, the splitting of the holiday doubleheader and the weekday game were both dropped.

Between the 1910 and 1911 seasons, Chutes Park was razed and replaced with Washington Park, only 300 feet to the south. And Los Angeles finally had a grass infield.

Washington Gardens-Chutes Park became the spring training site for the Chicago National League club for both 1902 and 1903, and for the Chicago White Sox in 1908.

Currently, the Washington Gardens/Chutes site is bisected by Hill Street, which was extended through the site when Washington Park was constructed in 1911, and Olive Street. Between Olive and Grand stands the Metropolitan Branch of the Los Angeles Municipal Court.

St. Vincent's College, located across Grand from Prager Park, is now a parking lot for the Olympic Auditorium. The school later became Loyola (of Los Angeles), and later merged with Marymount College to become Loyola Marymount University.

When Washington Park was constructed on the east portion of the original site, and Hill Street (partially) established, most of the former Chutes Park proper, as well as the site of the baseball diamond, were used as a parking lot for the new park.

#### **Prager Park, Los Angeles (1903):**

*Pacific National League: Los Angeles Nationals*

*April 14, 1903: Los Angeles 4, Helena 3*

*August 20, 1903: Los Angeles 7, San Francisco 6*

As has been noted, the Pacific National League in 1902 had franchises in Spokane, Tacoma, Seattle, Portland, Butte and Helena. As has also been noted, the Pacific Coast League "invaded" the territory of the Northwest League by placing franchises in both Seattle and Portland for the 1903 season.

The Pacific Northwest League changed its name to the Pacific National League, and responded to the invasion by starting franchises in both Los Angeles and San Francisco. With that, the baseball war of 1903 had started.

The two leagues raided each other, declared blacklists, attempted to interfere with each others' park contracts and adopted confrontational head-to-head schedules in the four cities where both leagues were present (Portland, Seattle, San Francisco and Los Angeles).

In Los Angeles, the outlaw "Angels" retained control of their California League Park, Washington Gardens (Chutes Park) so that the "Nationals" were forced to build a new park, Prager Park (*diagram on page 57*).

The new Los Angeles ballpark was located between an alley south of 18th Street and Washington Boulevard (north and south) and between Grand Avenue and Hill Street (west and east), on what had previously been a vacant lot owned by Charles Prager.

The park was constructed in less than two months. A photograph of the parks reveals a covered single deck grandstand attached to open bleachers down both lines. A wooden fence, about twelve feet high, surrounded the park on all sides, with the ticket office at 1820 South Grand. The exterior of the fence they painted white with "Pacific National Base Ball League" emblazoned repeatedly along it.

On opening day at Prager, the PCL game across the street ended two innings earlier than the PNL contest. Many of the PCL spectators remained in their seats and enjoyed the final two innings of the Prager contest. The Nationals stretched long strips of canvas in an unsuccessful attempt to thwart such an occurrence.

Almost from the beginning, the PNL did poorly at the gate, particularly in Los Angeles and San Francisco. However, it was the Portland PNL club that blinked first, moving to Salt Lake City (Walker's Field) following their home game of June 30, 1903.

On August 16, 1903, both Helena and Tacoma threw in the towel, leaving six clubs in the league. Four days later, following the August 20 L. A. versus San Francisco game at Prager Park, with only 200 fans in the seats, they announced that the two California clubs had disbanded.

Following the collapse of the Los Angeles and San Francisco clubs, which was said to have lost Harry Hart (of San Francisco) between \$40,000 and \$50,000, the magnate said, "It was my money and it is gone—the incident is closed."

The four remaining PNL clubs rescheduled with each other, and completed the season with Butte winning the pennant.

At the time of the Los Angeles and San Francisco disbanding, Los Angeles had been leading the league with a record of 67-42.

In 1904, the PNL replaced Seattle with Boise and completed the season without incident. In 1905, they changed their name back to the Pacific Northwest League and played on, under a variety of different names, through mid-season in 1922 (Western International League).

The W. I. L. was then resurrected in 1937, and this lineage can be traced all the way down to the current Northwest League, a short season Class A organization.

The Prager site is presently bisected by Olive Street. On the west side, between Grand and Olive, stands a Burger

King and on the east side, between Olive and Hill, stands a McDonald's.

Following the demise of the PNL, Prager Park continued to be used for a number of years for a variety of sporting events. As late as 1917, in an aerial photograph of Washington Park, grandstands can be seen on the Prager site which surround a bicycle racing track.

The Prager site was also used for parking for Washington Park. In fact, it was the need for additional parking that the Angel owners used as an excuse to abandon Washington Park in late 1925 and construct their new park (Wrigley Field).

The illustration of the Prager Park area is an accurate scale depiction of the site in 1903. The grandstand and bleachers are approximations, based upon a newspaper photo of the park taken from a location close to the corner of Washington and Hill Streets.

The fence distances are accurate (as per *Sporting Life*, May 16, 1903), but the distance from home plate to the leading edge of the seating may have been more or less, depending on the actual width of the grandstand.

#### **Washington Park, Los Angeles (1911—1925):**

*Pacific Coast League: Los Angeles Angels (1911—1925)*

*March 28, 1911: Los Angeles 6, Portland 4*

*September 20, 1925: Seattle 6, Los Angeles 3*

*Los Angeles 9, Seattle 0*

*(game forfeited, score 6 to 6 in 8<sup>th</sup> inning)*

*Pacific Coast League: Vernon Tigers (1911—1912)*

*April 4, 1911: Portland 2, Vernon 1*

*October 27, 1912: Vernon 6, Portland 3*

*Pacific Coast League: Venice Tigers (1913—mid 1915)*

*April 8, 1913: Venice 3, San Francisco 2*

*July 8, 1915: Venice 4, Salt Lake City 1*

*Pacific Coast League: Vernon Tigers (mid 1915—1925)*

*July 9, 1915: Vernon 3, Salt Lake City 1*

*September 27, 1925: Vernon 4, Portland 3*

*Vernon 6, Portland 4*

Following the conclusion of the 1910 season, the Washington Gardens Amusement Park (Chutes Park) and the baseball park of the same name, were razed. In their place, a new baseball diamond was erected (*diagram on page 58*), about 300 feet to the southeast of the previous facility.

The orientation remained the same, so that some of the grandstand and about half of the infield of the new park overlapped what would have been center field at the old park (*see illustration*).

There have been differing opinions, in the literature, whether or not Hill Street extended from Washington to 21<sup>st</sup> Street, before or after the lifetime of Washington Park.

During the Washington Gardens years (1901-1910), Hill Street clearly came to a dead-end at the south side of Washington Boulevard.

I am not certain that Hill Street was a thoroughfare, but every photograph of the park that I have seen indicates that Hill Street was, in fact, alive and well on the west edge of the ballpark. However, it may have been a private "driveway" owned by the club, leading to the parking lots which occupied most of the previous Chutes Park space. In some pictures, the street is dirt, and in others it is paved, but it is always there in the same place.

As noted, Washington Park had the first grass infield in Los Angeles. What is less known is that the physical plant itself, but not the underlying lot, was jointly owned by both the Los Angeles and Vernon Baseball Clubs.

The original facility featured a single decked covered grandstand with bleachers extending down both base paths. On the third base side the roofed portion extended almost to the base, and was parallel to the foul line. The bleachers were attached to the end of the grandstand, and continued some distance down the line.

The first base side of the grandstand was a mirror image of third. Directly behind home plate, there was a short diagonal junction between the two long forward edges of the stand, about 40 feet in length.

The fences were square and, assuming a 60 foot distance from home plate to the backstop, the opening park would have been about 350 feet to left, 460 to dead center, and 350 to right. The opening capacity of the park was listed as 8,000.

Either during or after the 1911 season, the accommodations were altered. The roofed portion of the third base grandstand was extended to about half-way between third base and the left field fence. The bleacher, which continued past this point, angled in toward the baseline, until almost touching it near the fence.

On the first base side, the roofed portion of the grandstand was also extended, although not quite as far into the outfield as in left field. However, on the first base side, the roofed portion extension began to angle in toward the baseline and the bleacher continued this until it actually intersected the foul line at about 333 feet. The right field bleacher extension then wrapped around the foul line and continued across the outfield fence until it was half way from the foul pole to the dead center.

In other words, the front of the new bleachers became the new outfield fence. It was then approximately 333 feet down the right field line (*see illustration*). At the junction of the two fences, a somewhat diagonal fence joined them, with the clubhouse and dressing rooms located behind. The grandstand and bleacher extensions raised the capacity to about 12,000, (in 1912 it was listed at 11,500 and in 1913 at 14,000).

I am discounting the 14,000 figure because during that same two years (1913-1914), the Venice club listed the capacity at 12,000, and in 1915, the Angels began to list the capacity at 12,035 or 12,200, finally returning to 12,000 in 1921 and remaining there.

The Tiger franchise, whether in Vernon (1911-1912 and mid-1915 to 1925) or Venice (1913 to mid-1915), shared Washington Park with the Angels as they had at Chutes, except, as noted, that they stopped using Vernon for the a.m. portion of holiday doubleheaders and single week-day games, as had been their practice in 1909 and 1910.

Likewise, when the Angels were in town they utilized either Vernon Park (I) in Vernon, or Venice Park in Venice, only for their Sunday morning 10:30 a. m. game, with the afternoon contest being held at Washington Park.

When the Angels were out of town, the Tigers used the two parks in the exact same fashion. This practice was finally abandoned in July of 1920. After that, both clubs used only Washington Park.

From 1911 through 1925, not counting the shortened 1918 season ("only" 104 games played), both the Angels and Tigers averaged 200 regular season games a year, 100 of them at home. Assuming that six out of every seven games were played at Washington Park, the L. A. fans were able to watch 172 games a year at Washington Park and an additional 28 more at the Sunday morning facility.

In addition, Washington Park and the alternate site were used in spring training nearly every year, so that there were 20-30 additional games.

The Angels won pennants at Washington Park in 1916 and 1921, and won the playoff in 1918, the shortened season. Vernon won pennants in 1918, 1919 and 1920, and that ballclub is considered to be one of the better minor league clubs of all time.

Moreover, in the thirty combined seasons at Washington Park, between the two local clubs, the Angels finished last only once, in 1911, and the Tigers only three times, 1917, 1923 and 1925. Combined, the two clubs finished either first or second in 14 of 30 tries, so that the L. A. faithful frequently had a contender to root for.

On October 30, 1919, Babe Ruth put on an hour long power hitting demonstration before an audience of the local press, during which he hit "the longest ever" to the thirteenth row of the right field bleachers. This "record" was broken by Ruth the following day, in an exhibition game, when he reached the fourteenth row of the same seats.

His best shot to center, "tied" the record of Bob Meusel, landing two feet short of the wall. At the time of the exhibition, no one had ever hit the ball over either the left or center field fences at Washington Park. Ruth, so they said, had hit the ball over the wall of every major league park he had played in.

### **Vernon Park I (1909—1912):**

*Pacific Coast League: Vernon Tigers (1902—1912)*

*April 6, 1909: Los Angeles 4, Vernon 1*

*October 27, 1912: Vernon 5, Portland 4*

*July 11, 1915: Vernon 7, Salt Lake City 1*

*Vernon 5, Salt Lake City 4*

*October 24, 1915: Vernon 5, Portland 4*

*Pacific Coast League: Los Angeles Angels (1909—1915)*

*April 4, 1909: Los Angeles 2, Portland 1*

*October 20, 1912: Los Angeles 4, Portland 3*

*August 8, 1915: Los Angeles 3, Portland 2*

*October 17, 1915: Los Angeles 13, Portland 3*

In 1909, the Pacific Coast League readmitted Sacramento and added Vernon, growing from four to six clubs in the process. Vernon was a small independent city located four miles south of downtown Los Angeles.

The City of Vernon was the creation of one John B. Leonis, a Basque, born on April 20, 1872 in the town of Cambo in the southern French Pyrenees, near the Spanish Border. Leonis landed in California in 1887 and lived with his uncle in Calabasas. He was naturalized in 1889, and lived until 1953.

In 1894, at the age of 22, he married Adelina Frances Clos (d. 1980) with whom he had two children, John B. Leonis, Jr. and Adeline Leonis (d. 2/20/1956).

After working for his uncle as an accountant, and at a downtown Los Angeles winery, he moved to Vernon in 1896 and opened a general store, winery and feed barn. At the time, the city was unincorporated and populated by mostly Mexican and Chinese gardeners.

Leonis began to acquire large parcels of land cheaply and then offered them to industrialists at no cost, so long as they agreed to construct factories, lumber yards, slaughterhouses, and so forth, on the sites.

On September 16, 1905, Leonis, along with the Furlong Brothers (James and Thomas) were successful in incorporating the four square mile sized City of Vernon, which became the first "industrial city" in the southwest U.S.

When Vernon was added to the league, a small recreational park (South Side Park) was already in place at the southwest corner of East 38th Street and Santa Fe Avenue, behind the famous Vernon Athletic Club (boxing emporium) and Doyle's Tavern.

Both of these landmarks were owned by Jack Doyle, a Runyonesque character of his day, and friend of the Maier family who owned the ballclub. Doyle purchased the land, in cooperation with the Maier family, and constructed Vernon Park I (*diagram on page 59*).

The depiction of this park, which stood from the beginning of the 1909 season through the close of 1915, is based on the known shape and configuration of the lot.

Since 90% of the home runs were hit to left field, I have arbitrarily assigned the distance of 290 feet (*see illustration on page 59*) to that foul pole, but it may have been much shorter than that.

The park was a home run paradise. Between 1909 and 1912, the league average (not counting Vernon) home runs per game was 0.34. During those same four years, the Vernon average was 1.03. There are no known photographs of the park.

Given the vacant space west of the ballpark, we must assume that Doyle had not able to acquire as much land as he needed, and that the short left field porch was the result. In the successor ballpark, Maier Park (1916-1920), the grandstand was placed 200 feet to the west.

When the Tigers moved back to Vernon from Venice (July 1915), the press noted that the right field bleachers were missing. They were replaced the following week. The capacity of the park was only 4,000.

As indicated before, Vernon Park I was used in 1909 and 1910 for one day game a week by whichever club was not on the road (Tigers or Angels), as well as for the first half of the a.m./p.m. Sunday doubleheaders. Beginning in 1911, the teams eliminated the weekday game.

Consequently, while the park was used (by both clubs) for about fifty-five games a season in both 1909 and 1910, this fell to about twenty-eight games a season in 1911 and 1912, and seventeen games in the later months of 1915. Altogether, 192 games were played at the park, 102 by Vernon and 90 by Los Angeles.

In 1913, the Vernon Tigers moved to Venice and became the Venice Tigers, using the park in Venice as they had used Vernon Park I. In mid-1915, the Tigers returned to Vernon and played out the remainder of the 1915 season in the original park.

Prior to the start of the 1916 season, the Venice grandstand was moved to Vernon, resulting in the creation of Vernon Park II or Maier Park. That is why there are split dates for the first and last home games played by the Tigers and Angels at Vernon Park I (*see above*).

### **The Maier Family:**

Fred and Eddie Maier were the two oldest sons of Los Angeles Brewer Joseph Maier, who died in July of 1905, leaving the brewery to his sons.

At the time, Fred was Vice President of the Los Angeles Angels, and owned a share of the team.

Eddie, who had played baseball at L. A. High School, was involved with the team as well. Prior to the start of the 1909 season, Fred sold his interest in the Angels and was allowed to organize his own PCL franchise.

It has been frequently noted that Eddie's personal friendship with Henry "Hen" Berry, president of the Angels, cleared the way for the sweetheart deal that ensued. (Berry also "sold" his rights to a competing Los Angeles area franchise to the Maiers' for one dollar).

Most of the other clubs in the league either gave, or sold at a low price, players to the Tigers for the 1909 season. Berry, of the Angels, gave up his starting catcher, Hap Hogan, for nothing. Hogan then went on to manage the Tigers until his death in May 1915.

By March 4, 1909, the *Los Angeles Times* noted that "...the new Vernon Ball ground is beginning to look like the real article." On the same day, the Vernon team defeated the St. Vincent College team 7-0 at what was still called "South Side Park" by the local papers.

Sadly, Fred died on April 11, 1909, before he had a chance to see his Tigers on the playing field in a league contest. Eddie then took over as president and manager of both the brewery and the ballclub.

Braven Dyer, writing in the December 14, 1943 *L. A. Times*, stated that the Vernon crowds were so rowdy that, after three seasons at the park (1909-1911), the league directors were about to evict Vernon from the association. Since the park was only being used once each week, this seems rather questionable. In any case, after the close of the 1912 season, rumors of a move began to circulate.

The Vernon franchise played its first game as a benefit for the Elks. It was a spring training game between the Angels and Vernon and took place played at Chutes Park on February 28, 1909 (Vernon 4, L. A. 2), drawing 1,500. The White Sox II (Yannigans) arrived in L. A. in early March and defeated the Angels 8-3 at Vernon Park (March 7, 1909) before only 200 spectators. On March 10, 1909, Vernon beat the Sox II 6-3 at Vernon Park.

#### **Venice Park, a.k.a. Tiger Field, Venice (1913—1915):**

*Pacific Coast League: Venice Tigers (1913-mid 1915)*

*April 13, 1913: Venice 2, San Francisco 1*

*June 13, 1915: Venice 3, Los Angeles 2*

*Pacific Coast League: Los Angeles Angels (1913—mid 1915)*

*April 6, 1913: Los Angeles 3, Venice 2 (8)*

*July 5, 1915: Los Angeles 8, Salt Lake City 2*

From today's perspective, it is difficult to imagine why a club would go to the effort and expense of moving to another city, and changing its name, just for the sake of a ball park which would only be used for 10:30 a. m. Sunday games. Equally baffling is why, under those circumstances, a city would grant liberal concessions to the team.

Nevertheless, speculation that the Vernon Tigers might move to Venice began to circulate in late 1912. On January 20, 1913, the *Venice Daily Vanguard* noted that the Tigers might hold their spring training in Venice. At the time, Venice was a small independent beachside community located some ten miles west of downtown Los Angeles.

Three days later, the Abbot Kinney Company, which both developed and controlled Venice, suggested that the

Vernon club might be induced to move to Venice if the local citizens were willing to help out financially.

On January 23, Kinney stated that he was willing to secure land and build a stadium, at his own expense, in exchange for the concessions. The Tigers growled. On January 24<sup>th</sup>, Santa Monica, which bordered Venice on the north, announced that it was prepared to build the Tigers a new ball park for free and allow the club to keep all of the concessions.

On February 1, 1913, the *Vanguard* announced "...well, we've got 'em." It was revealed, in the accompanying article, that the grandstand would hold 3,000, the bleachers 4,000, and that the grounds would occupy six acres. The cost was put at \$12,500 and the workmen and surveyors were already on the job. "Gondolier Paddlers" they suggested as a possible name change for the ball club.

From that day forward, a daily list of contributors, all the way down to one dollar, appeared in the *Daily Vanguard*. On February 3, 1913, Howard Lorenz, a city trustee, who had been one of the prime supporters of the ballpark, said that the city had underestimated the construction cost and that, "upon further review" it now might go as high as \$20,000.

By March 23, the *L. A. Examiner* was describing the \$50,000 ball park in glowing terms.

The park (*diagram on page 60*) was compared with Washington Park (1911), a state of the art facility, with a nearly identical grandstand and bleacher configuration.

In one of only a handful of instances in the history of Organized Ball, the outfield fence was equidistant to all fields (325 feet). The fence itself unique in that it was comprised of three feet of wood topped by six additional feet of wire mesh. This see-through design was purposeful in that eighty designated spaces for automobiles surrounded the outfield.

Venice thus— probably— became the first "drive-in" ballpark for automobiles. The modern feature of a "batters eye" was installed in center field, with a 50 foot high scoreboard over it. Two persons were needed to staff the scoreboard which enjoyed telephonic communication with the press box, perched atop the grandstand.

An additional phone link was constructed between the players pit of the home team and their clubhouse, a feature absent in many major league parks of the day. A megaphone system was affixed in the grandstand to announce batteries, outs, and other information.

In spite of the seemingly short 325-foot fence at Venice, only twenty-one home runs were hit at the park in the seventy-eight games played there. In the 1913-1914 seasons, the league home runs per game average (Venice excluded) was 0.32. In those same two seasons, the Angels and Tigers hit only 18 homers in 64 games, for an average of 0.28.

Angels right fielder Ivan (Ivy) Howard hit the first regular season home run at Venice Park on April 6, 1913. The final home run was hit on June 27, 1915, by Venice pitcher Willis Mitchell.

The park was served by The Pacific Electric Streetcar system, which put extra cars on their routes whenever there was a game, and by the Venice Miniature Railway.

The grand opening of the park took place on March 26, 1913. The event was heralded for several weeks and the school children of Venice were given a half-day holiday. The dedication was preceded by an auto parade which began at the corner of Temple and Broadway, in downtown Los Angeles and proceeded through the L. A. business district before arriving at the new park.

Once on the grounds, the celebration was sustained by both Los Angeles and Venice luminaries, a brass band and a large fireworks display.

Five thousand brass medals, the size of a gold dollar, were given away by Ward McFadden, owner of the famous Ship Cafe, located on Maier Pier.

Although the grandstands and bleachers purported to hold 8,000 (and as many as 12,000 jammed in according to some of the newspapers) only 4,000 fans (6,000 as per the *Los Angeles Examiner*), including all of the schoolchildren who were given free admission, attended the inaugural. Mayor Holbrook threw out the first pitch, with Abbot Kinney acting as the catcher.

The dedication game featured the Chicago White Sox (second team) who defeated the Tigers 7 to 4. Although this was the official dedication game, the Tigers had been working out at the park for some time and their first "game" was a practice against the Harris & Frank clothiers on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

The first Pacific Coast League game at Tiger Field was on Sunday, April 6, 1913, when the Angels defeated Venice (the visitor) 3-2 in 8 innings. The game was called following the Tiger half of the 8th because all Venice Sunday games were subject to a two hour and fifteen minute time limit. This was to allow the clubs to catch the streetcar to Washington Park in time for the 2:30 p.m. portion of the doubleheader.

Venice inaugurated its own park on the following Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, with a 2-1 victory over San Francisco.

As had been the case with the Vernon Tigers, the Sunday morning games were the only time the Venice club played at home, with all other games being held at Washington Park. Likewise, the Angels used Venice Park for their own Sunday morning games, as they had at Vernon Park I.

On March 28, 1913, prior to the start of the season, club owner Eddie Maier told the Vanguard that if the Venice fans demonstrated that they were worthy, the team would consider playing more than one game a week at the new stadium. The honeymoon turned out to be short lived. By April 30, 1914, the *Times* announced "...wake up Venice" in an effort to persuade the locals to get out to the park.

The article noted that the league had become dissatisfied with the size of the Venice crowds, and that the attendance figures never totaled enough to even pay the interest on the \$40,000 invested in the plant. It was pointed out that the crowd of the April 26, 1914 game, had been only 550.

An *L. A. Times* article covering the October 18, 1914 game at the Venice Park, won by Venice, said that the game was saddened by the fact that a ball was fouled over the stands and lost in the second inning, thus leaving both teams in the hole financially. In the 1915 season, there was an escalation of this

type of humor in the local press. On June 28, 1915, the idea of moving back to Vernon was first announced.

The club did not know it at the time, but they had already played their final game at Tiger Field, a June 13, 1915 victory over Los Angeles. The final Angel game at the Venice park took place on July 5, 1915, featuring an L. A. win over Salt Lake City by a score of 8-2.

Braven Dyer, writing in the December 15, 1943 *L. A. Times*, stated that the Venice Park had been constructed at a cost of \$125,000 (probably a typographical error of \$12,500). He went on to note that the Venice Park had been dismantled, and "moved in sections" back to Vernon at a cost of \$75,000, (probably, also, a typographical error of \$7,500).

There are no known photographs of Venice Park. However, the depiction is based upon the known size and location of the lot as well as the known shape and configuration of the grandstand and bleachers of the successor facility, Maier Park or Vernon Park II.

In addition, there are two aerial photographs of Ince Flying Field in Venice (same site as the ballpark), dated 1918, where the outline of both the grandstand and playing field is clearly visible.

Only 78 regular season games were ever played at Tiger Field, including all games by both clubs. The Tigers were 21-17 with 3 ties, and the Angels went 20-17.

On July 8, 1915, the Tigers, at Washington Park, beat Salt Lake 4-1. The next day, they beat them again by a score of 3-1, but this time playing as Vernon, because they had returned to their original domicile.

When the Tigers returned to Vernon in July 1915, both they and the Angels continued the Washington Park—Venice Park pattern of park utilization. The Vernon Park was as the club had left it at the close of the 1912 season. As has been noted, after the finish of the 1915 season, the Venice grandstand was moved to Vernon at which time the park became known as Maier Park (or Vernon Park II by historians).

#### **Vernon Park II, a.k.a. Maier Park, (1916—1920):**

*Pacific Coast League: Vernon Tigers (1916—1920)*

*April 16, 1916: San Francisco 2, Vernon 1*

*July 25, 1920: Los Angeles 9, Vernon 6*

*Pacific Coast League: Los Angeles Angels (1916—1920)*

*April 9, 1916: Los Angeles 5, Vernon 0*

*July 18, 1920: Oakland 7, Los Angeles 1*

As noted, on July 9, 1915, the Tigers beat Salt Lake City 3-1 in their first game as "Vernon," after having "moved back" to the city of Vernon the week previous.

Two days later (July 11, 1915), the club returned to Vernon Park I and played a rare doubleheader there (Vernon 7, Salt Lake City 4, and Vernon 5, Salt Lake City 4).

When the Tigers played this doubleheader, the *L. A. Times* took note that Jack Doyle had "dolled up" the premises

and that the pig pen which had previously adjoined the park was now absent and planted with geraniums.

As they had in 1911 and 1912, both the Tigers and Angels used Vernon Park I only for Sunday morning games.

The Tigers played their final game at Vernon Park I on October 24, 1915 (a.m.), defeating Portland 5-4, while the last Angels game took place a week earlier, October 17, 1915, with the Angels beating Portland 13 to 3.

When the clubs returned to the Vernon grounds for the start of the 1916 season, the Venice plant had been moved and installed. Since it was a completely different facility (*diagram on page 61*), it is historically correct to call the 1916-after facility Vernon Park II. The new facility would also frequently be called Maier Park, and large signs with this name sat atop the stand.

The depiction of Vernon Park II, unlike that of Vernon Park I, is highly accurate and based upon not only a Sanborn Fire Insurance Atlas of the entire structure, but several excellent aerial photographs of the facility. The photos reveal a park nearly identical to Washington Park (1911-1925) in every respect.

Although the illustration differentiates the grandstand from the bleachers, in reality the stand was one continuous structure, about sixteen rows deep, which stretched almost from foul pole to foul pole. The only difference between one section and the other was the presence or absence of a roof.

As in Venice, the press box was perched on top of the roof, without a roof of its own.

The fence distances included on the illustration are based upon an arbitrary placement of home plate sixty-five feet from the backstop. There was a screen about twenty feet above the fence from right center to the foul pole to counteract the short (about 315 foot) porch.

The transplanted Venice facility employed a curved fence, similar to the one from Venice, that ran from the left field foul pole until it intersected the original right field fence at the south property line.

The bottom of the curved fence was about three feet of wood, and the next seven feet comprised of wire mesh. The straight portion of the fence was about 10 feet high and made of wood only (*see illustration on page 60*).

Unlike Vernon Park I, which had a home run per game average (1909-1915) of 1.08, triple that of the rest of the league, Maier Park was like trying to hit the ball out of the Grand Canyon. In the 110 games played there by both clubs between 1916 and 1920, only six home runs were ever hit. In the shortened 1918 season and the partial (at Maier Park) 1920 season, no one hit any homers at all.

During the period (1916-1919), the league (less Maier Park) home runs per game averaged 0.39. During those same four seasons, the average at Maier Park was 0.05. In other words, it was eight times more difficult to hit the ball out of Maier Park than the league average.

The first home run ever hit at Maier Park came on July 16, 1916, by L. A. third baseman James Galloway. The last home run ever hit at Maier park came on July 6, 1919, by Vernon first baseman Babe Borton.

By 1919, the pasture which abutted the south (right field) fence of the ballpark had been replaced by a large steel mill (Rich Steel Products).

As before, both the Tigers and Angels used Vernon Park II for only the a.m. half of their Sunday doubleheaders. Attendance was never good at either the old or new Vernon ballpark, or in Venice. Consequently, it was finally decided to abandon the park altogether and play traditional doubleheaders at Washington Park.

The Tigers played their final game at Vernon II/Maier Park on July 25, 1920 (L. A. 9, Vernon 6) while the Angels had played their last game at the park on the previous Sunday, July 8th, losing 7-1 to Oakland.

For the remainder of the 1920 season, and until the final Vernon home game in Los Angeles on September 27, 1925, Vernon played all of their home games at Washington Park. The Tigers continued to use Vernon Park II as a spring training site through 1925.

At the close of the 1925 season, the Angels moved into newly completed Wrigley Field, and the Tigers played the final six games of their franchise at the new park, but as the visiting club.

After returning from Venice, the Tigers won PCL pennants in 1919 and 1920 (they also finished first in 1918 but lost the playoffs to L. A.).

Nevertheless, Eddie Maier, at the close of the 1925 season, sold the Tigers, for a reported \$300,000 to a San Francisco group headed by brewer Herbert Fleischaker. They then moved the team to the bay area and revived the "Mission" name.

The Vernon Park site today is occupied by Hannibal Industries, Inc. The corner of 38<sup>th</sup> and Santa Fe, site of Doyle's tavern, is the present home of the City of Vernon Chamber of Commerce.

Maier Park was also used for outdoor boxing matches. There is a 1920 photograph of the park that shows a ring erected in the infield and bleachers set up facing inward from second base. Although the Pacific Coast League abandoned the facility in the summer of 1920, it remained standing and in excellent physical condition for at least ten years more.

In *Leonis Of Vernon*, James Kilty's rambling and uneven 1963 history of Vernon and John Leonis, he fails to note the Vernon-Venice-Vernon sequence, although he does discuss baseball.

This is unfortunate, because he had been an eye witness to both of the ballparks, and could have provided us with a more detailed physical description of Vernon Park I as well as its precursor, South Side Park.

#### **The Break in the Maier Ownership:**

Thomas J. Darmody had been secretary and business manager of the Los Angeles Angels. In late 1915, when Frank Chance decided to come out of retirement, Darmody sold Chance most, or all (depending on who you want to believe), of his shares in the Angels.

On July 11, 1916, Darmody purchased a block of stock from Eddie Maier. This purchase was characterized in different newspapers as "huge," or "one-third." Later descriptions noted that Darmody gave Maier \$65,000 and a note for an unspecified amount. The note was a secret.

Otto Schons, who was secretary, business manager and a director of the Vernon club, was replaced in all three positions by Darmody. Since a sizable portion of Darmody's purchase was "paid for" with a note, it is not illogical to take the position that the sale was a partial or a total sham engineered by Eddie Maier.

Nevertheless, the advertised reality was that Darmody was the new owner of the Vernon Tigers. In fact, Darmody made a special point of noting to the public that everything had been open and above board, and that he had absolute charge of the club.

At the time of the "sale" (July 11, 1916), Maier said that he found it impossible to devote the necessary time to the club because of his other business interests.

Prior to the Darmody gambit, the league had announced meetings at the Van Nuys Hotel. One of the issues to be discussed would be Maier's possible violation of league regulations with respect to both salary limit and roster size.

Maier refused to attend the league meeting, and sent "President" Darmody in his place. Maier had convinced Darmody of his innocence and thus Darmody had the misfortune of having to repeat Maier's lies to the league directors, while not himself knowing that they were fabrications.

The directors expelled Maier from the league board of directors on July 13, 1916, and appointed Darmody in his place.

Maier's reaction, the following day, was that he was only looking out for the fans, and he continued to deny any wrongdoing. However, it was at this point that Maier began to become combative. He warned the other owners that if they persisted against him, he would air out some dirty laundry regarding two or three other clubs.

Maier went on to repeatedly put his foot in his mouth. For example, he was quoted in the January 23, 1917 issue of *Sporting Life* as stating that several league races had been fixed against him, particularly the pennant races of 1912 and 1916.

In the 1912 case, he accused the Angels of laying down against Oakland in the final series of the season, when the Vernon club finished only one game out of first place. Two problems with this accusation were that the issue was nearly three years old when Maier brought it up, and that he had subsequently hired three of the Angel "crooks" to play for his Tigers.

In the 1916 case, where Vernon lost to Los Angeles by 8 games, it was shown that the Angels had won the pennant by devastating the Tigers in their head-to-head contests. Also, Vernon had lost six out of seven games to Oakland in the second to last week of the 1916 season.

With regard to the "sale" of Vernon stock, the February 3, 1917 issue of *Sporting Life* characterized the transaction as the "longest deal in history" because it still had not been officially closed.

Nevertheless, Darmody appears to have both "owned" and directed the club for the second half of 1916 and all of 1917-1918 as well.

In September of 1917, it was briefly noted that Otto Busch, of the St. Louis Busch family, was about to acquire an interest in the Vernon club. Nothing more came of the rumor.

The names of Percy H. "Puss" Halbriter and Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle (1887-1933) first arose in connection with a local money raising banquet held on April 4, 1919, to raise a "purse" for the local clubs. The two men agreed to give the donated funds (over \$15,000) to either the Tigers or the Angels players should they win the pennant.

On April 9, 1919, Halbriter is said to have purchased a controlling interest of Vernon stock, from Tom Darmody. The next day, Halbriter signed holdout Bob Meusel to a 1919 contract.

On April 14, 1919, rumors circulated that Arbuckle, and his business manager Lou Anger, were in the market for the Vernon club.

Because of the secret Darmody note, the Halbriter-Arbuckle deal became tangled. On May 2, 1919, it was announced that all of Darmody's holdings in the Vernon club had been transferred to Halbriter.

It was then put forth that Arbuckle would become president of the club and Halbriter the vice president and business manager. Arbuckle, on May 6, 1919, proclaimed his intention to acquire certain specific players in order to win the 1919 pennant.

The 1919 club went on to win the PCL pennant over the Angels by two and one-half games, and then engaged in a minor league world series with St. Paul of the American Association.

The series was a best five out of nine, played between October 8<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> at Washington Park. With the series tied four games to four, and the final game tied 1-1, there were two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning at Washington Park. Vernon left fielder Scotty Alcock was the runner on second base, with the Vernon catcher Albert de Vormer up to bat. De Vormer was given an intentional base-on-balls, so that St. Paul could pitch to Vernon hurler Wheezer Dell. Dell, standing 6'4", hit the first pitch, a high curve, over the head of the St. Paul left fielder, to the foot of the fence, some 400 feet away, scoring Alcock easily from second and ending the game and series.

Because the spitball was illegal in the American Association, and legal in the PCL, it was only allowed in the "series" every other day. The series itself had not been sanctioned by the National Association.

Following the regular season, it became public that Arbuckle was required to produce additional funds to "complete the purchase" of the Tigers.

Arbuckle stated that he had offered Maier \$35,000 down on the \$65,000 closing price, but that Maier insisted on an all cash transaction. Arbuckle declined. As a complication, there seems to have been a problem regarding both territorial rights and the lease at Washington Park.

Maier, following his three and one-half years in the shadows, was duly allowed back into the fold by the league

directors, and Arbuckle was out of professional baseball, except, as he said, as a fan.

In an October 19, 1919 *L. A. Examiner* article, written by Maier himself, he endeavored to relieve Halbritter and Arbuckle of whatever credit they were due, by asserting that he had been responsible for every deal and move that the club had made during the 1919 season.

In view of the extensively documented Maier poor sportsmanship and deception that characterized the entire matter, I would be more inclined to believe that the pennant, and the \$30,000 profit that the club made, came at the hands of Halbritter and Arbuckle.

Interestingly, a bribery scandal, involving the final weeks of the 1919 season, emerged in June of 1920, and was investigated by the league. By mid August, the league concluded that three Salt Lake City players (Harl Maggert, Bill Rumler and Jean Dale) had accepted bribes from Vernon player Babe Borton.

When he was suspended in 1920, Borton said that the entire club had contributed to the bribery "pool" and that the management was well aware of all of the transactions. Borton, Maggert, Rumler and Dale were all expelled from the PCL.

As noted, all three Tiger franchises (Vernon-Venice-Vernon) played most of their "home" games at Washington Gardens or Washington Park:

#### **Washington Gardens/Chutes Park (1909—1910):**

*Pacific Coast League: Vernon Tigers (1909—1910)*

*April 7, 1909: Los Angeles 12, Vernon 4*

*November 6, 1910: Vernon 6, Portland 4*

#### **Washington Park (1911—1912):**

*Pacific Coast League: Vernon Tigers (1911—1912)*

*April 4, 1911: Portland 2, Vernon 1*

*October 27, 1912: Vernon 6, Portland 3*

#### **Washington Park (1913—mid 1915):**

*Pacific Coast League: Venice Tigers (1913—mid 1915)*

*April 8, 1913: Venice 3, San Francisco 2*

*July 8, 1915: Venice 4, Salt Lake City 1*

#### **Washington Park (mid 1915—1925):**

*Pacific Coast League: Vernon Tigers (mid 1915—1925)*

*July 9, 1915: Vernon 3, Salt Lake City 1*

*September 27, 1925: Vernon 4, Portland 3*

#### **Wrigley Field, Los Angeles (1925—1961):**

*Pacific Coast League: Los Angeles Angels (1925-1957)*

*September 29, 1925: Los Angeles 10, San Francisco 8*

*September 15, 1957: San Diego 5, Los Angeles 1*

*Pacific Coast League: Hollywood Stars (1926—1957)*

*April 13, 1926: Hollywood 8, Los Angeles 2*

*September 22, 1935: Hollywood 8, Missions 7*

*Missions 14, Hollywood 7 (7)*

*Pacific Coast League: Hollywood Stars (1938)*

*April 5, 1938: Hollywood 5, San Francisco 4*

*August 31, 1938: Seattle 9, Hollywood 2*

*Hollywood 11, Seattle 2 (7)*

*American League: Los Angeles Angels (1961)*

*April 27, 1961: Minnesota 4, Los Angeles 2*

*October 1, 1961: Cleveland 8, Los Angeles 5*

The history of Wrigley Field (*diagram on page 62*) is so long and fascinating, that it deserves a book of its own, not simply a chapter. Such a book, exists, in the form of *The Angels*, by Richard Beverage. Consequently, I will be brief in my treatment of the ballpark.

The Los Angeles Angels were purchased by Cub owner William K. Wrigley, Jr. in 1921 for a sum of \$150,000. Wrigley soon began to pester the city regarding an underground parking facility at Washington Park. When he threatened to take the club elsewhere, and build a new stadium, the city laughed.

Wrigley then oversaw the construction of what became one of the most famous minor league baseball parks in history. However, Wrigley's pretext of needing more parking turned out to be nothing more than a pretext, as Wrigley Field never had much more parking than old Washington Park, even in the early years.

Wrigley acquired a nine acre plot of land at 42<sup>nd</sup> and Avalon, three miles south of Washington Park, and commissioned architect Zachary Taylor Davis to build the finest minor league ballpark ever.

Davis had previously designed Comiskey Park in Chicago, which was erected in 1910 for \$750,000, and Wrigley Field in Chicago, built in 1914 for \$250,000.

Given the lineage of the architect, the coincidences between the Chicago and L. A. Wrigleys were clearly by design. In fact, the double decked wrap around concrete and steel grandstand in L. A. preceded the double decking of the Chicago Wrigley in 1926. Moreover, the L. A. ballpark was the first in Organized Ball to be known as Wrigley Field. The Chicago park in 1925 was still called "Cubs Park."

Dimensionally, the Chicago Park was 15 feet farther down the left field line (355 versus 340), 14 feet farther down the right field line (353 versus 339), and 12 feet less to dead center (412 versus 400). Home plate in Chicago was originally 62 feet to the backstop, and in L. A. it measured 56 feet.

The original Chicago park was called Weeghman Park for 1914 and 1915, then became Cubs Park from 1916-1926. It originally held only 16,000 which increased to 20,000 in 1922. When it was double decked in 1927, the capacity was raised to

37,741. The Los Angeles Wrigley held 22,457 fans from start to finish.

The biggest difference between the two Wrigleys, and in fact between the L. A. park and most other ballparks, was that at the Los Angeles park the outfield walls were not perpendicular to the foul lines. And, of course, the magnificent tower that rose up above the grandstand behind home plate, and could be seen from miles away. The tower housed team offices, and—for many of those years—Pacific Coast League offices. In fact, they slanted inward toward center field so that the distances to the power alleys did not increase as rapidly as they do at other “square” parks. The power alleys at L. A. Wrigley were in the 340-350 foot range. Therefore it did not come as a big surprise to anyone when the 1961 American League expansion Angels occupied the park and the all time single season major league home run record of 248 was set, more than twice that year’s league average.

The final major league home run at Wrigley Field was hit by one of the most popular and famous minor league baseball players of all time, Steve Bilko, who played three of his most productive years with the PCL Angels. Bilko hit number 248 on the last day of the 1961 season, October 1.

The \$1.1 million price of L. A. Wrigley seems somewhat expensive when compared with the Chicago Wrigley (\$250,000), but reasonable when compared with Comiskey (\$750,000).

Unlike most parks which open up at the start of a new season, Wrigley opened late in the 1925 season, when the Angels and Vernon Tigers were sharing Washington Park. Although the Tigers played a series with the Angels at Wrigley, they did so as the visiting club.

For the 1926 season, the Salt Lake City PCL club transferred to Los Angeles and became the original Hollywood Stars. This club, owned by Bill “Hardrock” Lane, shared Wrigley Field with the Angels from 1926 through the close of the 1935 season. Lane then moved his club to San Diego where they became the “Padres” (1936-1968).

In fact, Lane had originally made known his intention to move from Salt Lake City, following the 1924 season. At that time, he announced that he would move the club to Los Angeles and play under a Long Beach (rather than Hollywood) banner. This was accompanied by a rumor that Walter Johnson might purchase the Vernon club and move it to the bay area, prior to the start of the 1925 season.

Between 1926 and 1935, while the Angels and Stars shared Wrigley Field, over 1,900 home games were played at the park. In other words, by today’s standards (81 home games per season), twenty-three years of minor league baseball were played at Wrigley during those ten years.

For the 1936 and 1937 seasons, the Angels became the lone tenants of Wrigley, as the original Stars left for the south. Then in 1938, the San Francisco Missions (1926-1937), originally the Vernon Tigers (1909-1925), returned to Los Angeles and reestablished their roommate relationship with the Angels at Wrigley Field. However, the Angels imposed a time limit, so that the second Hollywood Stars franchise would be

allowed but a single season as the house guest before finding other accommodations.

Walter O’Malley, owner of the Brooklyn Dodgers, purchased the Angels and Wrigley Field from the Chicago Cubs in February of 1957, the Dodgers final year in Brooklyn. The purchase price was said to be \$3,000,000 plus the Dodgers Fort Worth farm club. The purchase also gave the Dodgers certain territorial rights in Los Angeles.

In the October 16, 1957 *Sporting News*, there is a photograph of Wrigley Field and an accompanying article which describes the park as the new home of the Dodgers for the 1958 season “...until the new park is built at Chavez Ravine.” Plans to increase the seating at Wrigley to 28,000 were elaborated upon.

Physically, the enlargement of the park would have been quite simple. Since there were no homes on the south side of 41<sup>st</sup> Place, the street could have been annexed by the ball park with the purchase of only 15 houses (less than \$300,000) on the north side of the street. Because there was already empty space between the right field fence and Avalon Boulevard, the outfield fences could have been reoriented perpendicular to the foul lines, and extensive outfield bleachers added.

There are two possible reasons why the Dodgers declined this option: First, the surrounding neighborhood was already in a state of decay with indications that it would become worse; but more importantly, there was a lack of parking at Wrigley, even though it was originally built to alleviate that very problem.

Entire blocks of homes would had to have been razed in order to create the amount of parking space required for a 28,000 seat ballpark in Los Angeles, where everyone had a car.

Despite these problems, the Los Angeles Angels picked Wrigley as their home field when Los Angeles was awarded an expansion franchise in 1961. Unlike the San Francisco Giants, who added bleachers to their inherited PCL ballpark (Seals Stadium), the Angels made no changes.

Given the poor attendance that the American League Angels enjoyed in 1961, perhaps they did the right thing. The next year, 1962, the Angels shifted the American League action to the newly constructed Dodger Stadium, which the Angels referred to as *Chavez Ravine*, and stayed for four seasons before moving to their own park in Anaheim.

While the PCL Angels were certainly not the Yankees of the west, they won pennants in 8 out of 32 seasons at Wrigley Field. When they went head to head with the Hollywood Stars (1926-1935), the Angels won pennants in three out of ten seasons. However, the Stars were very much the better club during the 1926-1935 era, finishing in one of the top three spots, in the eight team league, seven out of ten times, winning two pennants (1929 and 1930) and compiling the best (cumulative) won-loss record in the league.

By the time the American League Angels left Wrigley Field, over four thousand baseball games had been played at the park. Using the 81 games per season as the benchmark, this equates to nearly 50 normal seasons of baseball. Only a very few parks, such as Tiger Stadium, Fenway Park, Yankee Stadium and the Polo Grounds have seen that many games.

They tore Wrigley Field down in 1966 and it is currently the site of the Gilbert Lindsay Playground, located in what now is a residential neighborhood.

Wrigley Field was also the site of many other sporting events, including world championship prize fights and professional football. For example, it was the site of the first NFL "Pro Bowl," a format which matched the previous year NFL champion against an all star team comprised of the rest of the league. This game, held on January 15, 1939, was won by the N. Y. Giants over the All Stars, 13-10.

Several Hollywood motion picture companies used Wrigley as a backdrop for major league baseball movies, because of the authentic look of L. A.'s only double decked ballpark. Most famous of these is the Ray Milland classic *It Happens Every Spring*. Wrigley Field was also the filming site of the made for television *Home Run Derby*.

Wrigley also took a turn as the spring training home of the Giants in 1932 and 1933.

#### **Gilmore Stadium (1939) & Gilmore Field (1939—1957):**

##### **Gilmore Stadium (1939):**

*Pacific Coast League: Hollywood Stars (1939)*

*April 4, 1939: Hollywood 9, Portland 5*

*April 9, 1939: Portland 8, Hollywood 5*

*Portland 12, Hollywood 8*

##### **Gilmore Field (1939—1957):**

*Pacific Coast League: Hollywood Stars (1939—1957)*

*May 2, 1939: Seattle 8, Hollywood 5*

*September 5, 1957: Hollywood 6, San Francisco 0*

The original Hollywood Stars were co-occupants of Wrigley Field from 1926 through 1935. For the 1936 and 1937 seasons, the Angels were alone at Wrigley Field. But the beautiful new Wrigley Field was too attractive a ballpark to be used by only one club, and Los Angeles had, by that time, established something of a tradition as a two-club town.

To fill the void created by the departure of the Hollywood Stars, local interests purchased the PCL Seals co-tenant at Seals Stadium, the San Francisco Missions (originally Vernon Tigers 1909-1925).

This time, perhaps weary of twenty-seven years of roommates, the Angels informed the "new" Hollywood Stars (nee Missions) that they could share Wrigley Field for only the 1938 season.

As a result, the construction of Gilmore Field (*diagram on page 64*), located just to the east of Gilmore Stadium, was begun [between Beverly Boulevard and Third Street (north and south) and between Fairfax Avenue and a driveway which could be thought of as an extension of Stanley Avenue (west and east)]. However, the new ballpark could not be completed in time for the opening of the 1939 season, which saw the Stars open "on the road" for a three-game series with the Angels at Wrigley. As a stopgap measure, Gilmore Stadium (*diagram on page 63*), a football and midget auto racing arena,

was quickly adapted for the Stars opening series against the Portland Beavers.

Home plate was placed a few feet outside of the west (football) side line, between the five and ten yard lines, with the third base line (northbound) diverging slightly away from the gridiron.

Both players benches were on the field, parallel to the basepaths, exactly as they had been in most 19<sup>th</sup> Century ballgames. A small portable chain link screen served as the backstop, and a field was marked out on the gridiron.

Surprisingly, all of the distances to the outfield fence, which was actually a four foot high midget auto racing crash wall, worked out admirably— from the left field foul pole to about 35 feet to the right of dead center field. From that point onward, to the right field foul pole, was unnaturally short in distance. The right field pole stood only 270 feet from home plate, and the power alley only 300 feet. As a result, an area between the right field foul pole and right center field was marked off and designated as a ground rule double.

Gilmore Stadium had been built in 1934 for \$134,000. It was one of four major structures located on what was called Gilmore Island, so called because the land was not then part of the City of Los Angeles, and not finally annexed as such until 1947.

Owned by oilman Earl Bell Gilmore (sole surviving son of Arthur Freemont Gilmore), the island also featured a drive-in movie theater, Gilmore Field, and the Farmers Market (still managed today by the Gilmore Company).

Gilmore Stadium was a steel and concrete bowl shaped structure with a capacity of 18,500, and was used for football by several high schools, Los Angeles City College, Loyola and Pepperdine Universities, and the minor league pro football Los Angeles "Bulldogs" and Hollywood "Bears."

It was also the site of two NFL All-Star Games (January 14, 1940 and December 29, 1940) as well as a Lions-Packers exhibition game in 1936. Razed in 1952, the site today is occupied by CBS Television Studios (Television City).

Hollywood opened at the Stadium on April 4, 1939, with a 9-5 victory over the Portland Beavers. The 3,500 fans saw the first homer in the makeshift park struck by Hollywood first baseman Babe Herman. Herman had a 13-year major league career, mostly prior to 1939, with a lifetime .324 major league batting average. He had a monster year with the Dodgers in 1930 hitting .393 with 35 home runs and 135 RBIs. The Babe also hit two homers in the first game of the April 9<sup>th</sup> double-header, the final date at Gilmore Stadium.

The other home run of the opening game was hit by Stars left fielder George "Count" Puccinelli, who, unlike Herman, had only a brief major league career, with both St. Louis clubs (1930-1934) and the A's in 1936, hitting .283 in just 607 at bats. Three days later, the Count hit two more in Hollywood's 9-7 victory over the Beavers.

In the seven games with Portland, the Stars went 4 and 3, before embarking on a three week road trip to allow for the completion of Gilmore Field. Assuming 3,500 fans for the April 7<sup>th</sup> game, the Stars drew a handsome 27,000 at the converted

football field. On May 2, 1939, the Stars opened at their permanent new home, Gilmore Field.

### **The Brief Career of Gilmore Stadium as a Pacific Coast League Ballpark:**

<i>April 4, 1939 (3,500):</i>	<i>Hollywood 9, Portland 5</i>
<i>April 5, 1939 (2,500):</i>	<i>Hollywood 4, Portland 3</i>
<i>April 6, 1939 (4,000):</i>	<i>Portland 11, Hollywood 2</i>
<i>April 7, 1939 (3,500):</i>	<i>Hollywood 9, Portland 7</i>
<i>April 8, 1939 (4,500):</i>	<i>Hollywood 6, Portland 1</i>
<i>April 9, 1939 (9,000):</i>	<i>Portland 8, Hollywood 5</i> <i>Portland 12, Hollywood 8</i>

In their final season in Hollywood, the Stars were a Pirate farm club. When the Dodgers moved to Los Angeles for the 1958 season, the PCL franchise moved to Salt Lake City where they continued to be a Pirate triple A club in the PCL. However, there was not a continuity of ownership, as Stars owner Bob Cobb sold his interests in the club to Salt Lake City individuals late in 1957.

Gilmore Field was razed in early 1958, and the site is currently part of the parking lot of the CBS Television City production complex. The Farmers Market is still in its original location. Only the palm trees that stood beyond the outfield fence in center still remain.

### **Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum (1958—1961)**

*National League: Los Angeles Dodgers (1958—1961)*

*April 18, 1958: Los Angeles 6, San Francisco 5*

*September 20, 1961: Los Angeles 3, Chicago 2 (13)*

The American Association was a major league from 1882 through 1891. In 1884, Brooklyn was granted a franchise. This club played at Washington Parks I and II, from 1884 through 1889.

In 1890, this Brooklyn club was allowed into the National League, remaining at Washington Park II for only their first season. In 1891, they moved to Eastern Park, built in 1890 by the Brooklyn Players League club.

Now called the Dodgers, the club played at Eastern Park from 1891 through the close of the 1897 season. The Dodgers then moved to Washington Park III, located kitty-corner from parks I and II, and played there from 1898 through 1912.

In 1913, the Dodgers moved into what became one of the most famous ballparks in major league history, Ebbets Field. The design influence of this former Brooklyn monument can be seen, along with Shibe Park (Philadelphia), in the "classic revival" movement currently in vogue in ballpark design (i.e., Camden Yards in Baltimore, The Ballpark in Arlington, Jacobs Field in Cleveland and Coors Field in Denver).

After 45 years at Ebbets Field, the Dodgers moved to Los Angeles and took up residence at the Memorial Coliseum

(diagrams on pages 65 & 66). The Coliseum was originally constructed in 1921-1923, renovated for the 1932 Olympic Games, and then again for the 1984 Olympics.

Converted for baseball, it was the first 20<sup>th</sup> Century football-only facility to ever be used for major league baseball (Toronto's Exhibition Stadium was the second).

Best known for the short porch in left field (251 feet) and its accompanying 42-foot high screen (the famous "Chinese Wall"), the Coliseum was home to the Dodgers for their first four seasons in Los Angeles.

During their long years in Brooklyn, the Dodgers had only won the World Series once, in 1955. At the Coliseum, they turned the trick in their second season, 1959, defeating the Chicago White Sox four games to two. Moreover, one of the two 1959 All Star games was played at the Coliseum.

The first home run at the park was hit on opening day by Giant outfielder Hank Sauer, and the last on closing day by Dodger catcher Norm Sherry. The most famous home runs there, however, would be those of Wally Moon with his famous "Moon shots" over the left field screen. To compensate for this, right field had enormous dimensions.

Before the Dodgers moved to Los Angeles, the generally accepted thinking was that they were going to move into Wrigley Field. In fact, an architectural rendition of Wrigley Field, with bleachers added in left field and the fences altered to counteract the short power alleys, appeared in *The Sporting News* and other newspapers. However, the Dodgers moved into the Coliseum, leaving Wrigley Field for the 1961 expansion American League "Angels".

Nineteen sixty-one was a strange year indeed for Los Angeles baseball. The expansion Los Angeles "Angels" were playing in an oddly configured (non converted) minor league park while the transplanted Brooklyn Dodgers were playing on a football field, just as the Hollywood Stars had done at the start of the 1939 season at Gilmore Stadium.

The next year, both clubs moved into Dodger Stadium.

Many world records in track and field have been set at the Coliseum. The Memorial Coliseum has been home to five different professional football franchises as well, including the AAFC Dons (1946-1949), the NFL Rams (1946-1979), the AFL Chargers (1960), the NFL Raiders (1982-1995) and the USFL Express (1983-1985).

The NFL Pro Bowl was played at the Coliseum twenty-two times from 1951 to 1972, and again in 1979, along with the 1982 All Star Game and Super Bowls I and VII.

### **Dodger Stadium, Los Angeles (1962—present)**

*National League: Los Angeles Dodgers (1962—present)*

*April 10, 1962: Cincinnati 6, Los Angeles 3*

*American League: Los Angeles Angels (1962—1965)*

*April 17, 1962: Kansas City 5, Los Angeles 3*

*September 22, 1965: Los Angeles 2, Boston 1*

Called "Chavez Ravine" by the Angels, Dodger Stadium (*diagram on page 57*) is located between Academy Road and Lilac Terrace (north and south) and between Stadium Way and the Pasadena Freeway (west and east).

It was the first privately financed ballpark to be built since Yankee Stadium was erected in 1923. The park has natural grass, is designed for baseball only, and had been constructed at a cost of \$23 million.

The Chavez Ravine land had previously been acquired by the federal government for a housing project. When the project fell through, the federal government sold the land to the city of Los Angeles at a four million dollar loss, for \$1,300,000, with a proviso that the land be used for "public purposes only."

The city of Los Angeles met the spirit of the law by trading the Chavez parcel to the Dodgers for the nine acres of Wrigley Field at 42<sup>nd</sup> and Avalon, which was then converted into a neighborhood recreational park.

When Dodger Stadium first opened, the 56,000 seat facility measured 330 feet down the lines, 380 to the alleys, and 410 to center. At the present time, it is 395 feet to center and the other figures remain unchanged.

The Los Angeles (later California) Angels moved into Dodger Stadium following their opening season (1961) at Wrigley Field. The Angels shared the park with the Dodgers from 1962 through 1965.

The first American League home run hit at the park was by second baseman Billy Moran, of the Angels, on April 19, 1962. The last, on the second game of the September 15, 1965 doubleheader, was struck by Angel outfielder Rick Reichardt.

The first National League home run at Dodger Stadium was hit on opening day at the park, April 10, 1962, by Cincinnati outfielder Wally Post.

Dodger Stadium played host to the 1980 All Star game, and also named as the official baseball park for the 1984 Summer Olympic Games.

Following up on their winning play at the Coliseum, the Dodgers have won the Western Division of the National League seven times since moving to Dodger Stadium. In five out of these seven instances, they have gone on to win the League Championship Series and the Pennant.

Despite heartbreaking defeats in the world series at the hands of Oakland in 1974 and the Yankees in 1977 and 1978, the Dodgers came through in their two most recent tries, beating the Yankees 4 games to 2 in 1981 and Oakland 4 games to 1 in 1988.

The 1988 World Series victory featured one of the most dramatic moments in World Series history, the Kirk

Gibson pinch hit home run with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning

In the 25 years since division play began, the Dodgers, as noted, have won their division 7 times. At the gate, however, they have finished first in their division 21 out of the 25 seasons, and never finished worse than third. In fact, 1993 was the first and only time they failed to finish first or second, because of the Rockies drawing 4.5 million and Atlanta winning the National League pennant for the second consecutive year. The "third place" 1993 finish was 3,162,576, which would have been first place in either the A. L. West or the N. L. East.

Strange as it seems, Dodger Stadium is one of the oldest in the majors, behind Fenway (1912), Tiger (1912), Wrigley (1914), Yankee (1923), Milwaukee County (1953), Candlestick (1960) and Atlanta (1965). Therefore, when Atlanta moves into its new stadium, following the 1996 Summer Olympic Games, Dodger Stadium will be the seventh oldest major league ballpark.

### **White Sox Park I & II, Los Angeles:**

Although Black ballplayers were excluded from Organized Baseball for the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Black professional clubs traditionally played white teams during the California "winter leagues." In fact, the final professional game played at L. A. Athletic Park (1891-1896) was a contest between a local Black team called the Trilby's and the L. A. Angels (Trilby's 19, the Angels 6).

Local Black clubs and winter Black all-star teams regularly played at Fiesta Park (1897-1900), and the three Pacific Coast League parks in Southern California: Chutes Park/Washington Gardens (1901-1910), Washington Park (1911-1925), and Vernon Park/Southside Park (1909-1915).

The latest of the "mixed" games took place in the winter of 1912, for example, December 1, 1912 where the "colored" American Giants played the semi-pro Tufts-Lyons at Vernon Park.

As late as 1915 (November 28, 1915: Pantages 4-Chicago Colored Giants 2) mixed games were still being played, but no longer at PCL parks, the above game taking place at Athletic Park in San Diego.

There was very little, if any, winter ball in 1913 and 1914, except for "town ball" (i.e., Riverside versus El Centro).

In other words, at some point in time the Black all-star clubs or winter ball were no longer welcome at PCL parks. In all likelihood, there was an official edict to that effect issued by the league following the 1912 winter league season.

The next time that a Black club played at a PCL park in Southern California was in 1935, at Wrigley Field.

It was, to some extent, in response to this segregation, that the two White Sox Parks, in Los Angeles, were constructed.

White Sox Park I (*diagram on page 68*) opened in 1920, and was in continuous use through the 1923 Winter League season. The park was located just across the 4<sup>th</sup> Street bridge, on East 4<sup>th</sup> Street, on the northwest corner of Clarence

Street and E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, between the Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad Yard and Clarence.

Most of the games at this park, also called East Fourth Street Park, were between Pirrone's All Stars, similar clubs, and the "colored" L. A. White Sox. The first game was November 14, 1920, with the L. A. White Sox beating Casey Stengel's All Stars 6-4.

White Sox Park II (*diagram on page 69*), at 38<sup>th</sup> (which is now 41<sup>st</sup>) and Compton, opened in October 1924. Both the *L. A. Times* and the *L. A. Examiner* announced, in connection with the inaugural game, that the park was the first facility built solely for the winter pro leagues.

Other researchers, Phil Dixon (*Negro Leagues*), for example, believes that the park was built specifically for the use of the Black clubs, not the winter leagues.

The cost of the park was put at \$14,000 by the *Express* and \$16,000 by the *Times*.

The park was previously reported as having been located at 38<sup>th</sup> and Hooper. This error is compounded by the fact that what was then 38<sup>th</sup> Street is now 41<sup>st</sup>.

The *L. A. Times* contributed to the faulty location. In their description of the second game at the park (October 26, 1924), they noted that Joe Pirrone's All-Stars "made it two straight at Pirrone Park, 38th & Hooper."

The entire facility was surrounded by a twenty foot fence. An aerial photograph in the UCLA (Fairchild) collection shows a single deck covered wooden grandstand with a back and oblique arms of about seventy-five feet each, in what became a standard WPA design. The capacity was probably around 2,000.

A photograph of the ballpark (in the Dixon book) taken from down the first base line, facing west, shows part of the backstop and a long row of bleachers down the third base line. Directly in the background of the photograph is the Science & Arts Building at Jefferson High School, as it appeared in the mid-1920s.

At the present time, none of the three buildings shown in the depiction are standing, but have been replaced with others, in similar locations, at the still active high school and the school itself remains within the boundaries noted on the depiction.

A trucking company and warehouse now occupy the trapezoidal lot where the ballpark previously stood, and a large recreational park, including a baseball diamond (Ross Snyder Playground, Chet Brewer Field) is situated directly to the east of the warehouse, on the other side of where Ascot Avenue had been located.

The closing date of the park, with regard to high level professional baseball, seems to have been during the winter of 1938. The dated UCLA photograph indicates that the park and grandstand were still standing as late as 1940.

There is very little, if any, winter baseball after 1935. As noted, by 1935, the Black all-star clubs, such as the Royal Giants, played at Wrigley Field. It may be that the last regular use of White Sox Park, for winter league games, last took place in the 1934 winter season.

The depiction of White Sox Park II is based on an accurate planview of the property, which includes the strip of

houses located on the south side of Jefferson Street (now Martin Luther King Boulevard). In the photograph there is an additional house located between the left field fence and the rear of the strip of houses on Jefferson.

Lou Almada— who managed winter league all star clubs in the 1930s, and played ten years in the Pacific Coast League— recalls that there was an 80 foot screen in right field, although none of the articles I read noted it, and it is not visible in the photograph. Almada notes that home plate was very close to the backstop, about 30 feet, and that the left field pole was about 360 feet.

Using those numbers as a guideline, within the parameters of the planview, and using the photograph as a reference, yields the depiction.

Some newspapers called the park "Pirrone's" in the beginning, and White Sox Park later, others (the *L. A. Express*) called the new facility White Sox Park, or L. A. White Sox Park, right from the start.

The local Black newspaper (the *California Eagle*) initially called the park the "38<sup>th</sup> & Ascot Park," and implied that it was the home park of the Los Angeles White Sox.

This club was managed by Lonnie Goodwin and contained players from the Kansas City Monarchs, the Baltimore Black Sox and other eastern "colored" clubs.

By November, the *Eagle* was using "38th & Ascot" and "White Sox Park" interchangeably. They did not mention the issue, noted by Dixon, of Black players being forbidden to play at PCL parks.

In fact, reading the *Eagle* leads one to the conclusion that Goodyear Park, located at 64<sup>th</sup> and South Park, was the real hub of Los Angeles Black baseball in the winter of 1924.

Interestingly, Goodyear Park, as the focus of Black baseball, seems to be strictly a one year phenomenon.

White Sox Park on East 4<sup>th</sup> Street, through 1923, and then Pirrone's White Sox Park, starting in 1924 and exclusively in 1925, occupy that niche. It may be that the Pirrone's real reason for building White Sox Park in 1924 was to displace Goodyear Park as a competitor.

The grand opening of the new park was noted by all four Los Angeles daily newspapers (and the weekly *Eagle*). Several of them announced on Friday (October 24<sup>th</sup>), that the Saturday and Sunday games at the new park would be between the Pirrone All Stars and the Eastern Colored Giants, a team composed of player from the Philadelphia Hilldales and the Kansas City Monarchs.

To further enhance the inaugural Saturday game (October 25, 1924), Walter Johnson, fresh from his World Series conquests, was scheduled to make an appearance and sign autographs. In fact, Johnson came to the game, along with brass bands and the Mayor (George Cryer), who threw out the first pitch to I. J. Weinreich, president of the Greater Southern California Baseball Association.

The Colored Giants didn't show as scheduled, so on Friday night arrangements were made to substitute a team called the Sawyer Stars, team made up of white players, for the Saturday and Sunday games at the new park. The Sawyer Stars

were led by Carl Sawyer and featured several major league players.

For the Saturday inaugural, Pirrone's Stars (a.k.a. Pirrone's Major Leaguers) beat the Sawyer Stars 9-5 in a twenty hit slugfest that featured homers by Ken Williams, Rod Murphy

and Johnny Bassler. The Williams drive was said to still be rising as it crossed Ascot Avenue, east of the right field fence.

The same clubs played on Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> with the Pirrone's winning 12 to 9.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

I would like to express my gratitude to the following individuals and organizations for their generous assistance in the preparation of this paper.

**PHOTO ARCHIVES:** UCLA Special Collections, UCLA Cartography department, USC Photo Archives (Dace Taube), L. A. Museum of Natural History (Seaver Collection), Huntington Library (Jennifer Watts), Getty Museum (Special Collections), Amateur Athletic Foundation Library (Michael Salmon).

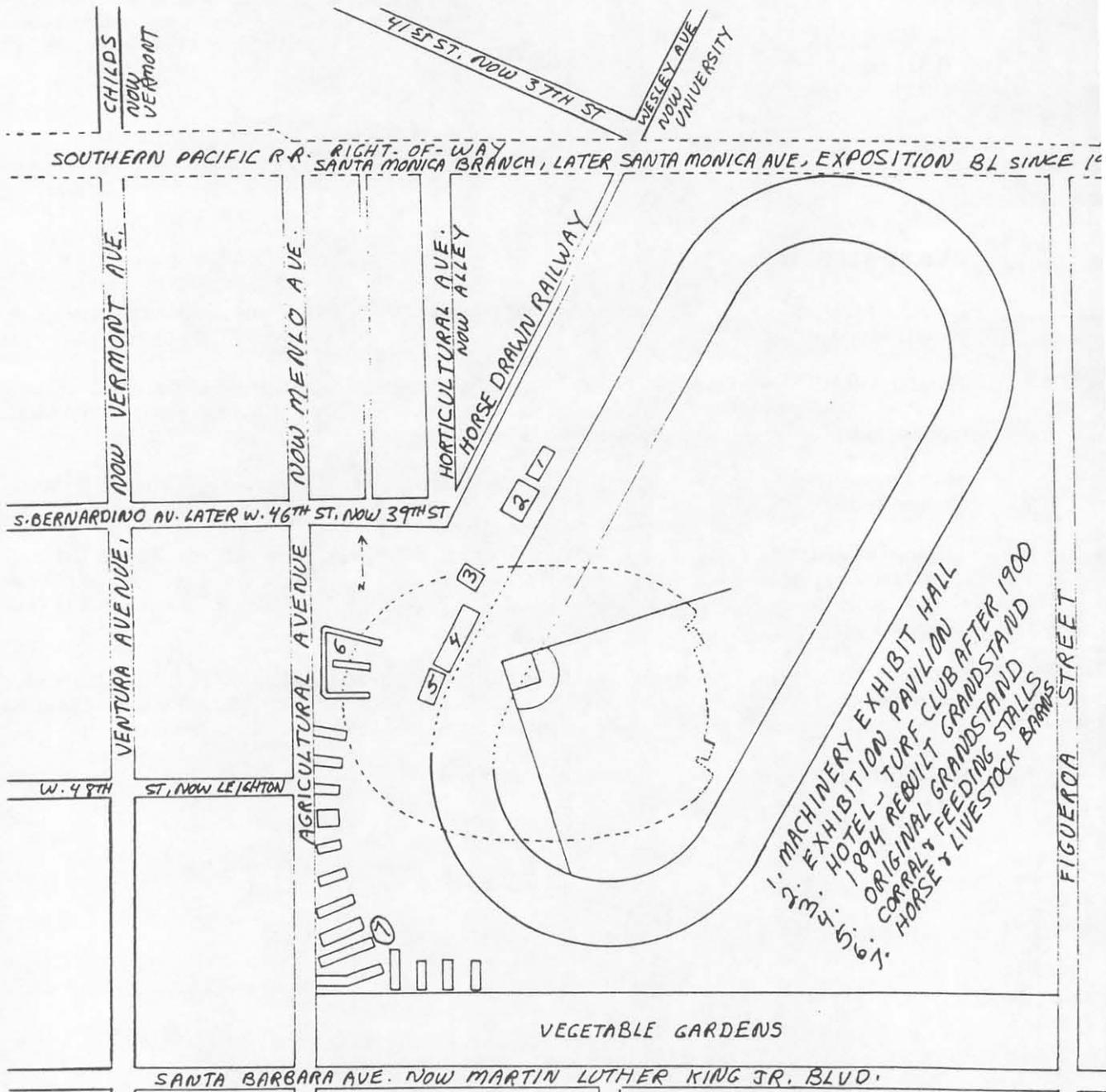
**MAP LIBRARIES:** UCLA (Jonnie Hargis), U.C. Berkeley (John Creaser), California State University Northridge (Michael Swift).

**LIBRARIES AND HISTORICAL SOCIETIES:** UCLA and CSUN Microforms, Pasadena, Burbank and L. A. Central Libraries (Glen Creason), USC Archives, UCLA Special Collections, Amateur Athletic Foundation Library (L. A.), Venice Historical Society (Betsy Goldman and Elayne Alexander, Ph.D.), and the Baseball Hall of Fame Library in Cooperstown.

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**PROOFREADERS:** Gloria Drexler, Brad Raisin, Brian Conlan.

**AGRICULTURAL PARK:**



AGRICULTURAL PARK  
LOS ANGELES. ALSO  
KNOWN AS STATE EXPO-  
SITION OR EXPOSITION  
PARK BY 1910.

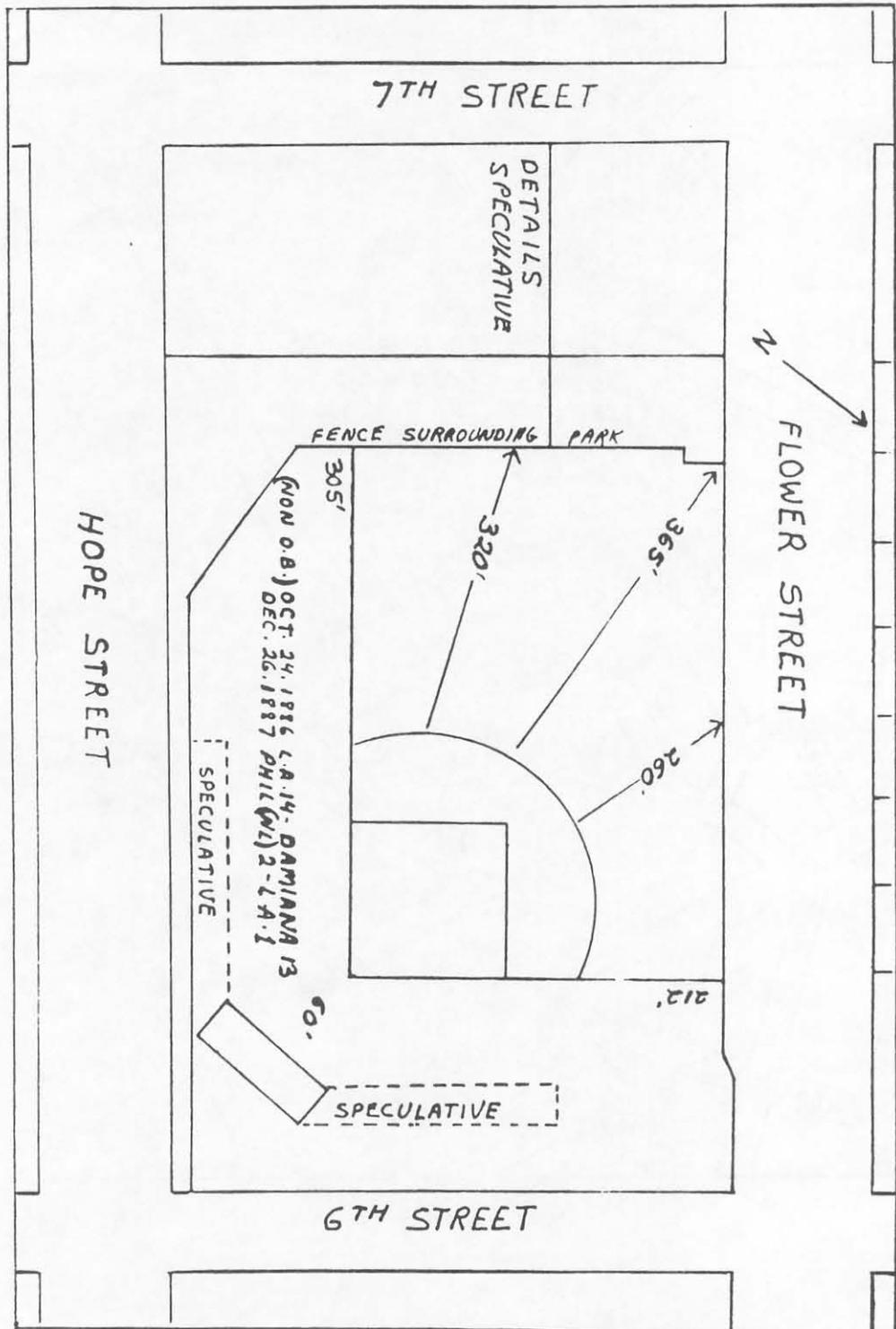
HORSE RACING & FAIR  
EXHIBITS SINCE 1873.  
MULTIPLE ATHLETIC USE  
THROUGH 1888.

NON O.B. BASEBALL:  
OCT. 19, 1880 ORANGE 21-ACME (LA) 17  
JUL. 17, 1885 ORANGE 9-ATHLETICS 8

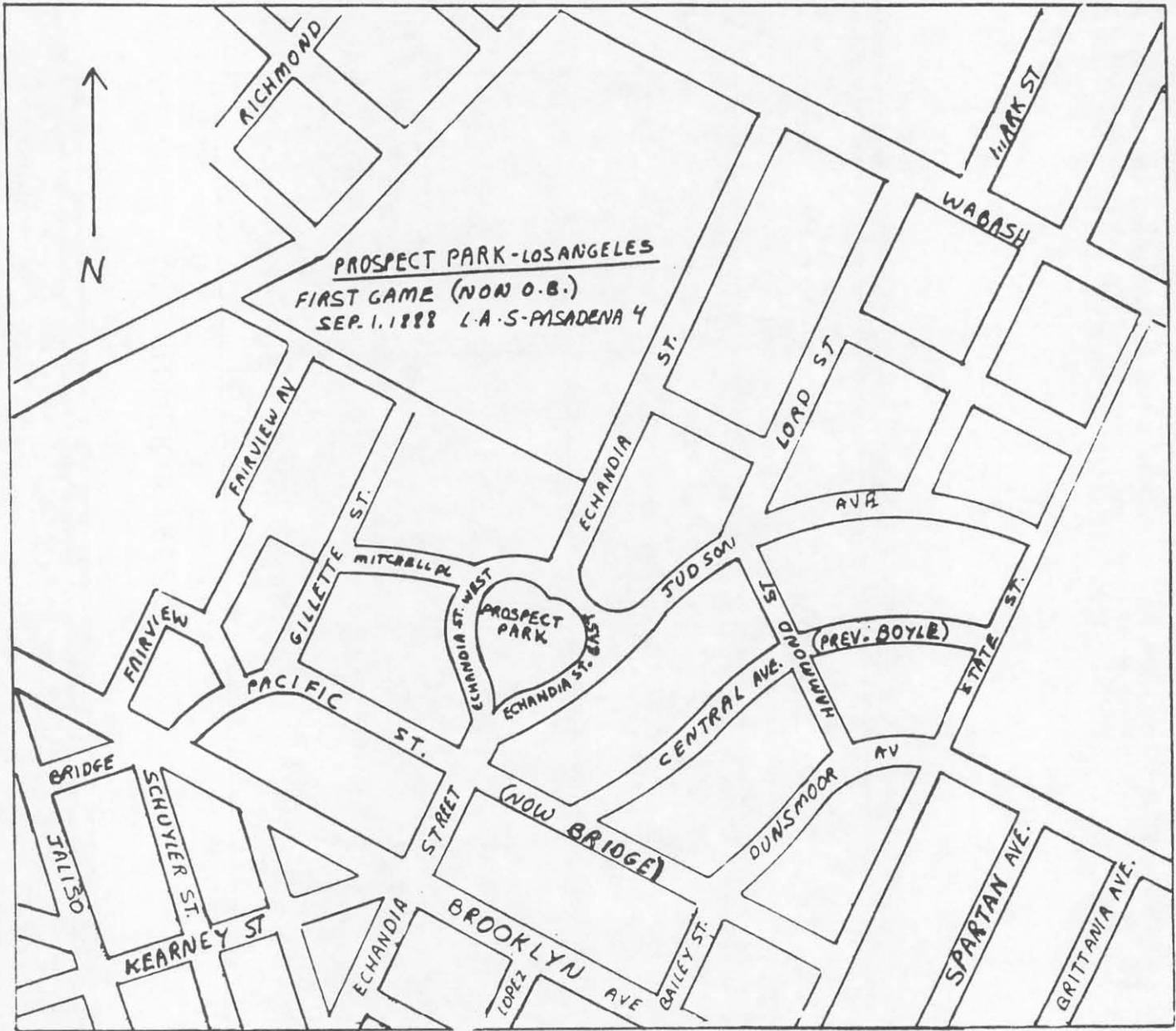
LOS ANGELES COLISEUM ILLUSTRATED  
IN OUTLINE ABOVE. CALIFORNIA  
MUSEUM OF SCIENCE & INDUSTRY,  
L.A. MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY,  
IMAX THEATRE, AND SPORTS  
ARENA ARE ALSO ON THIS SITE,  
STILL CALLED EXPOSITION PARK.

W. 52ND ST.

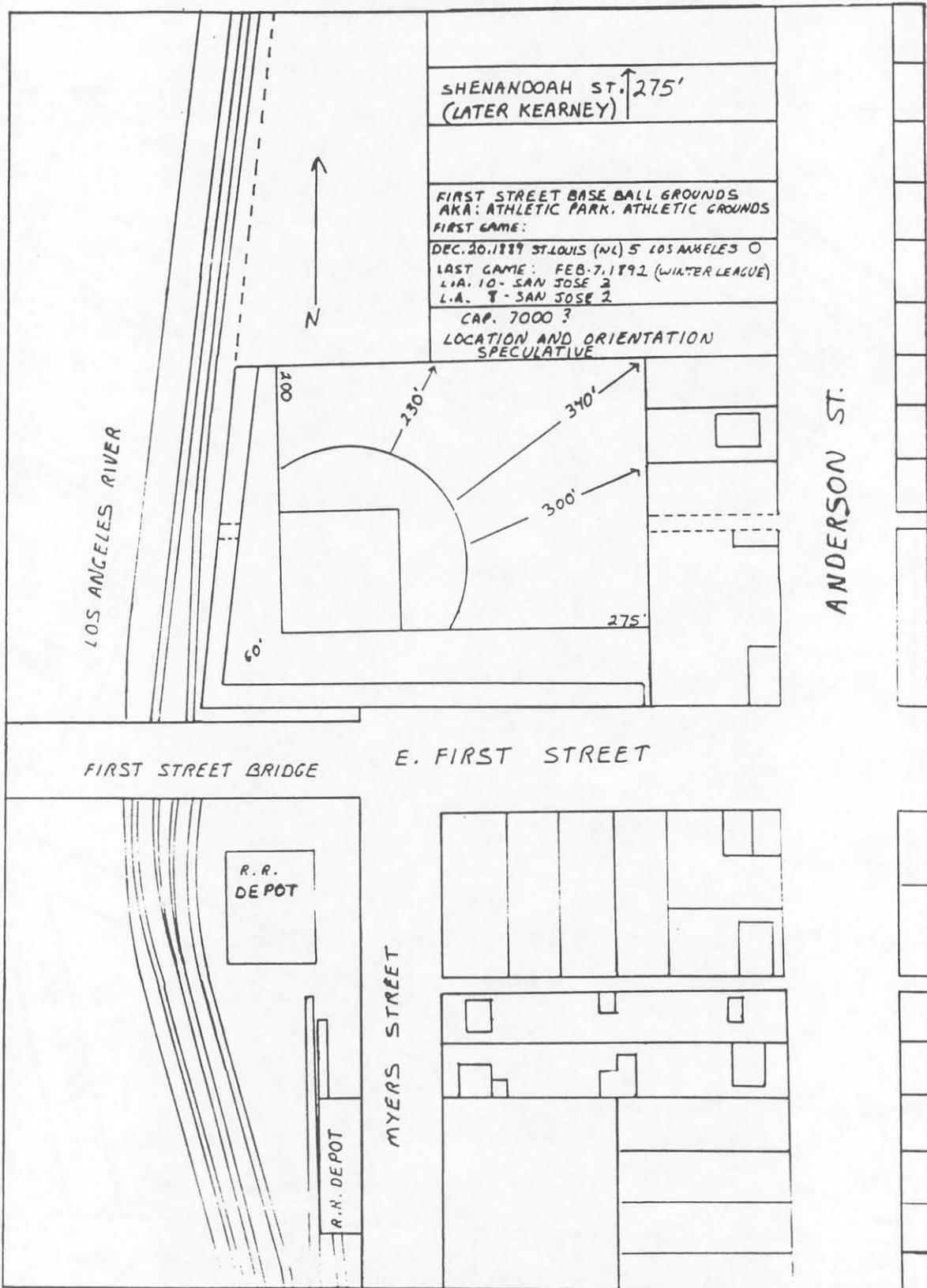
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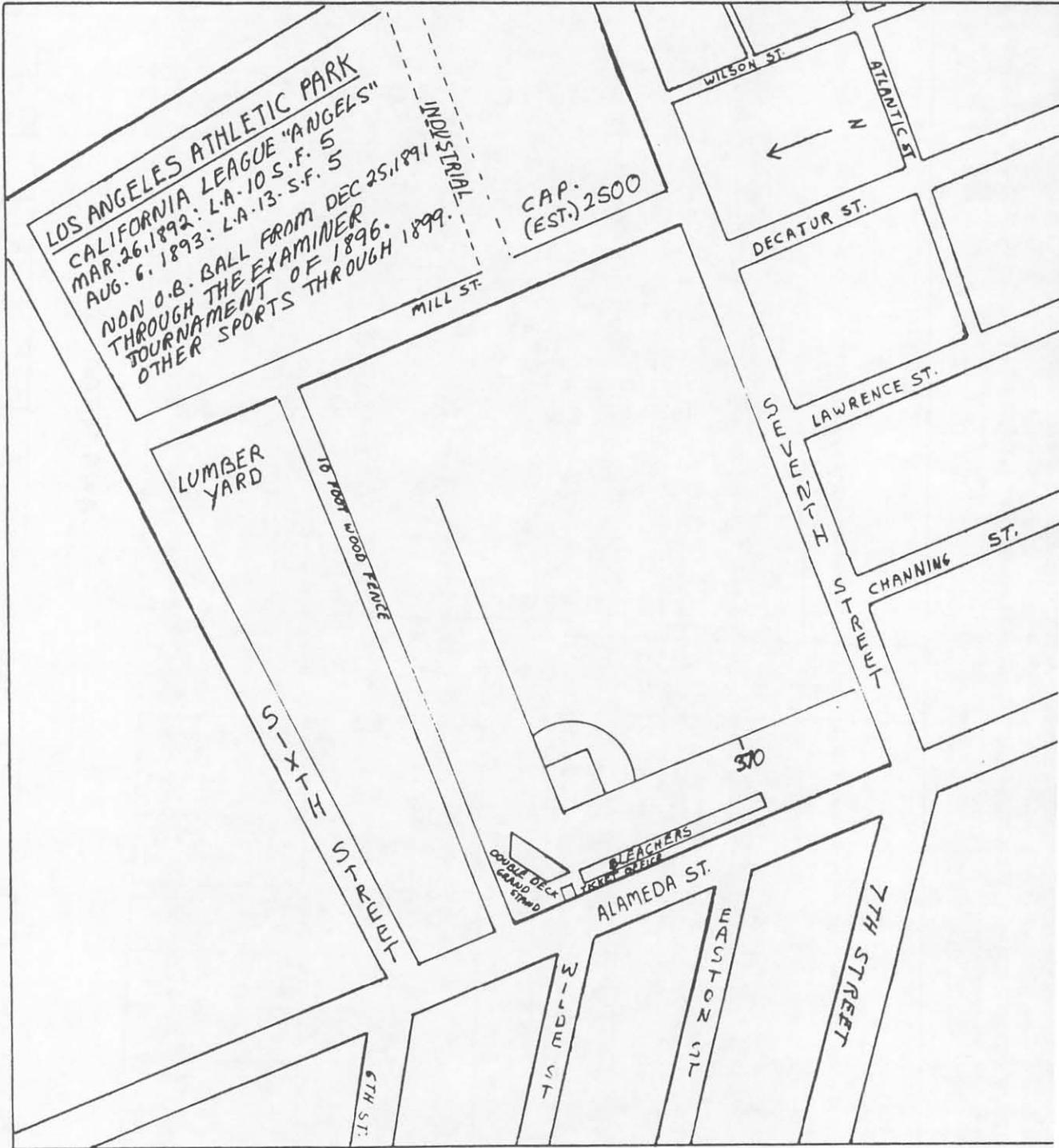
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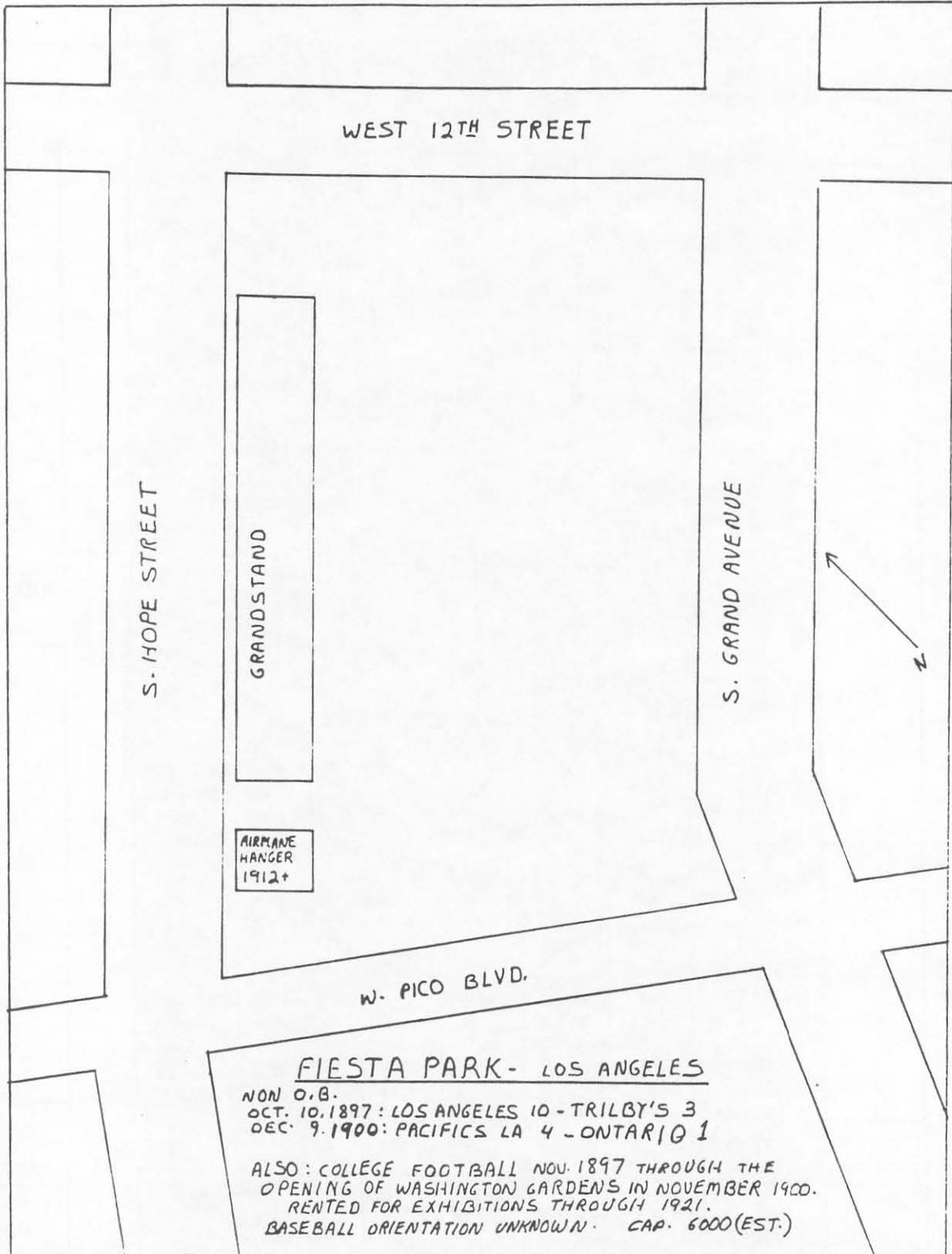
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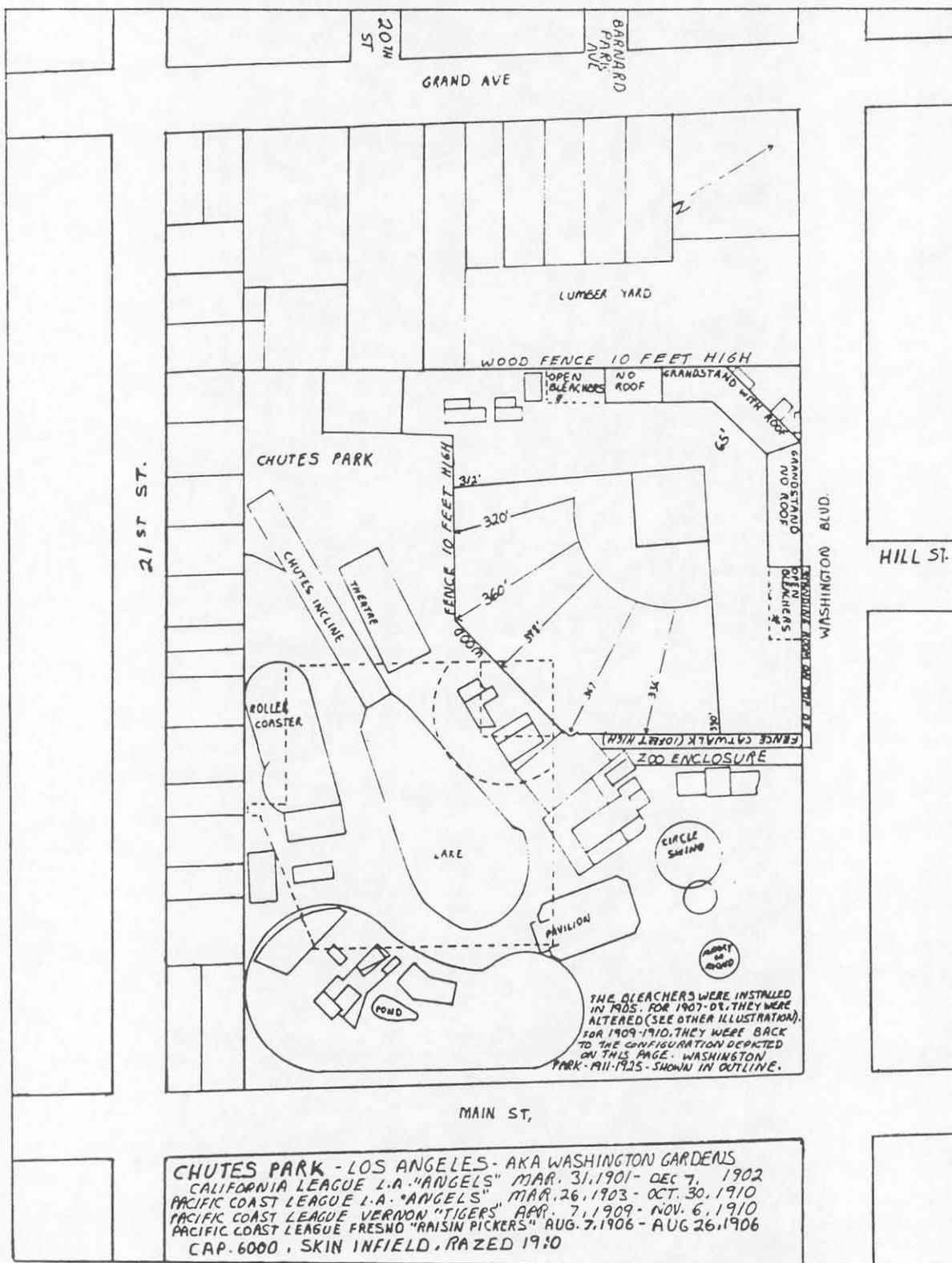
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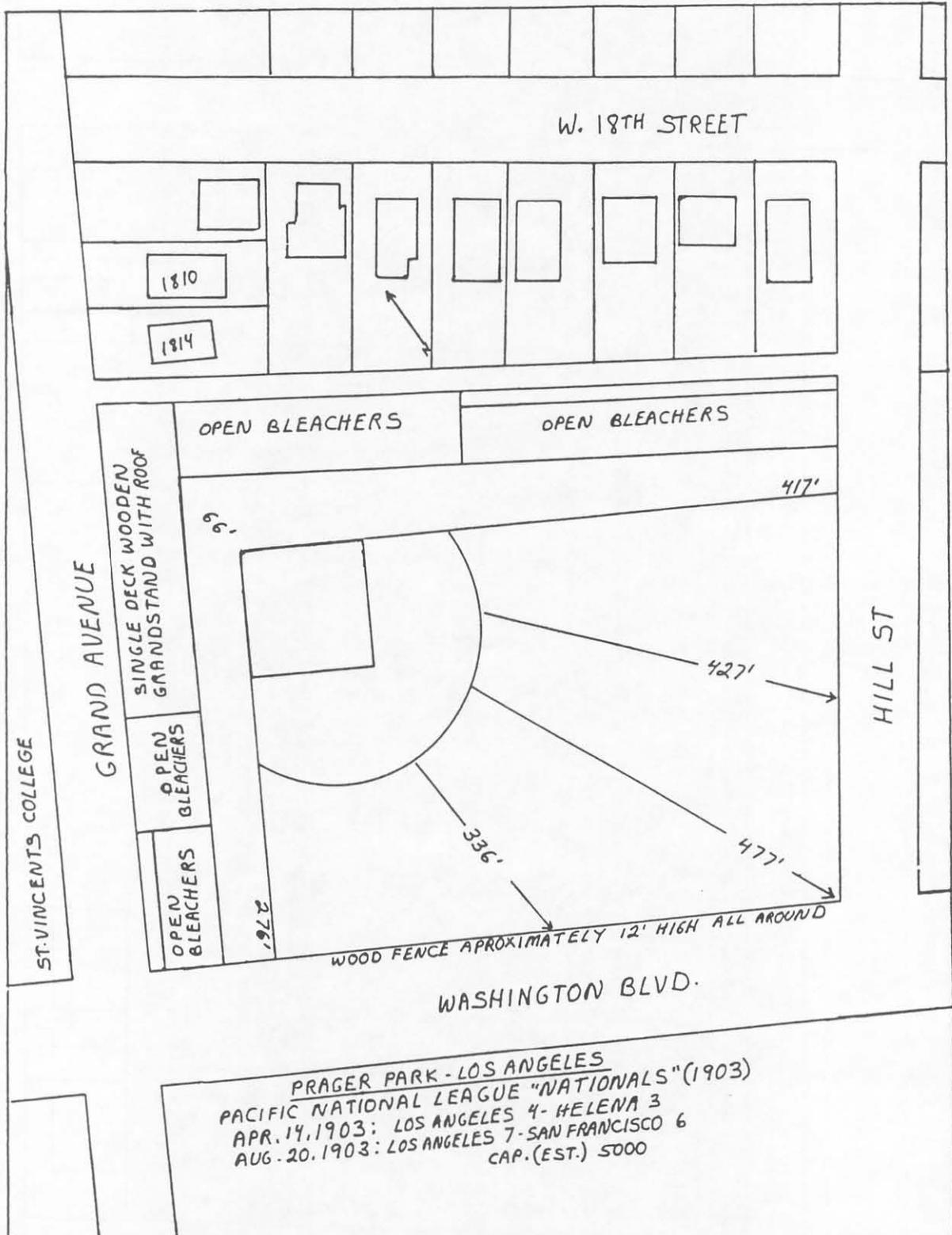
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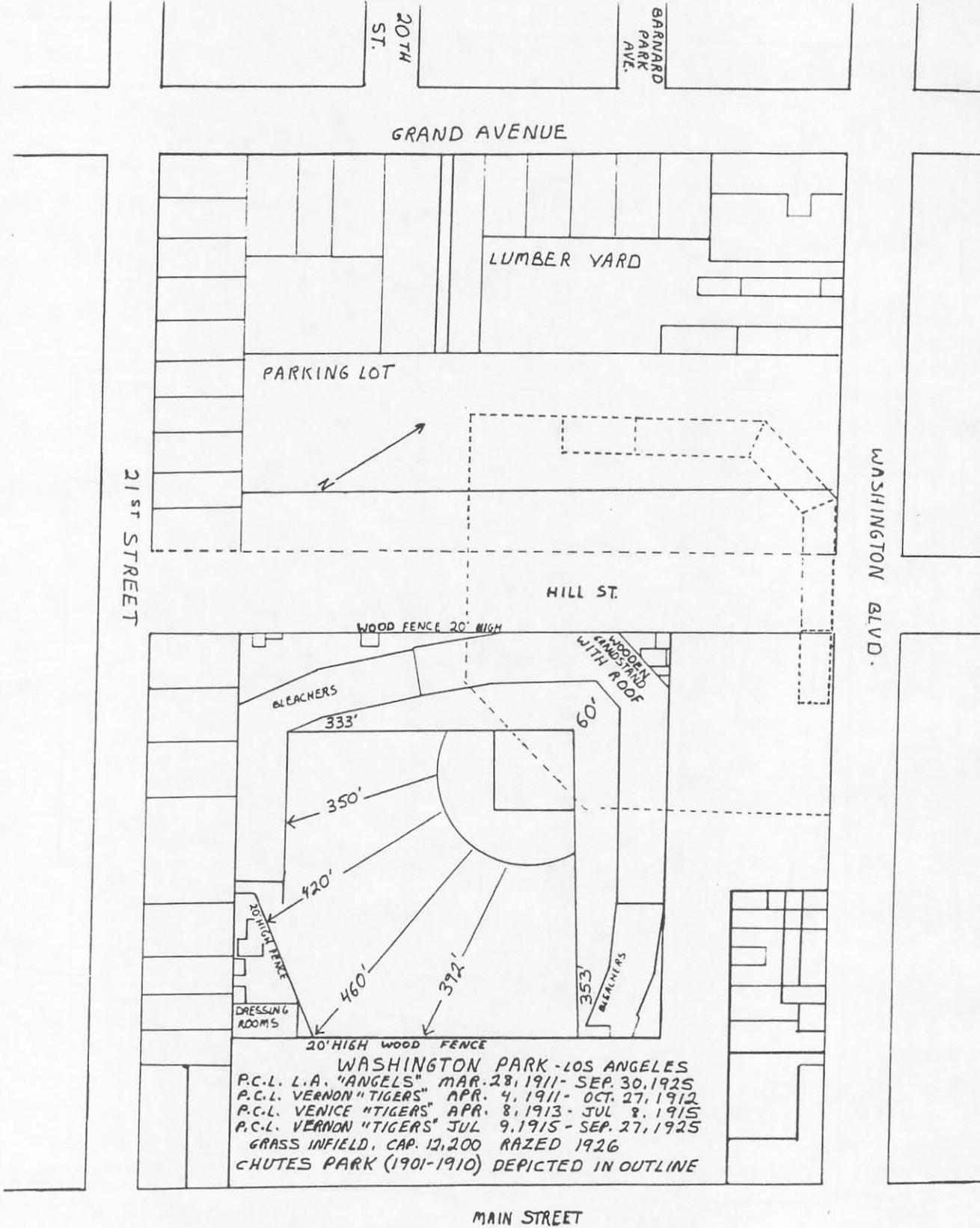
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**PRAGER PARK:**

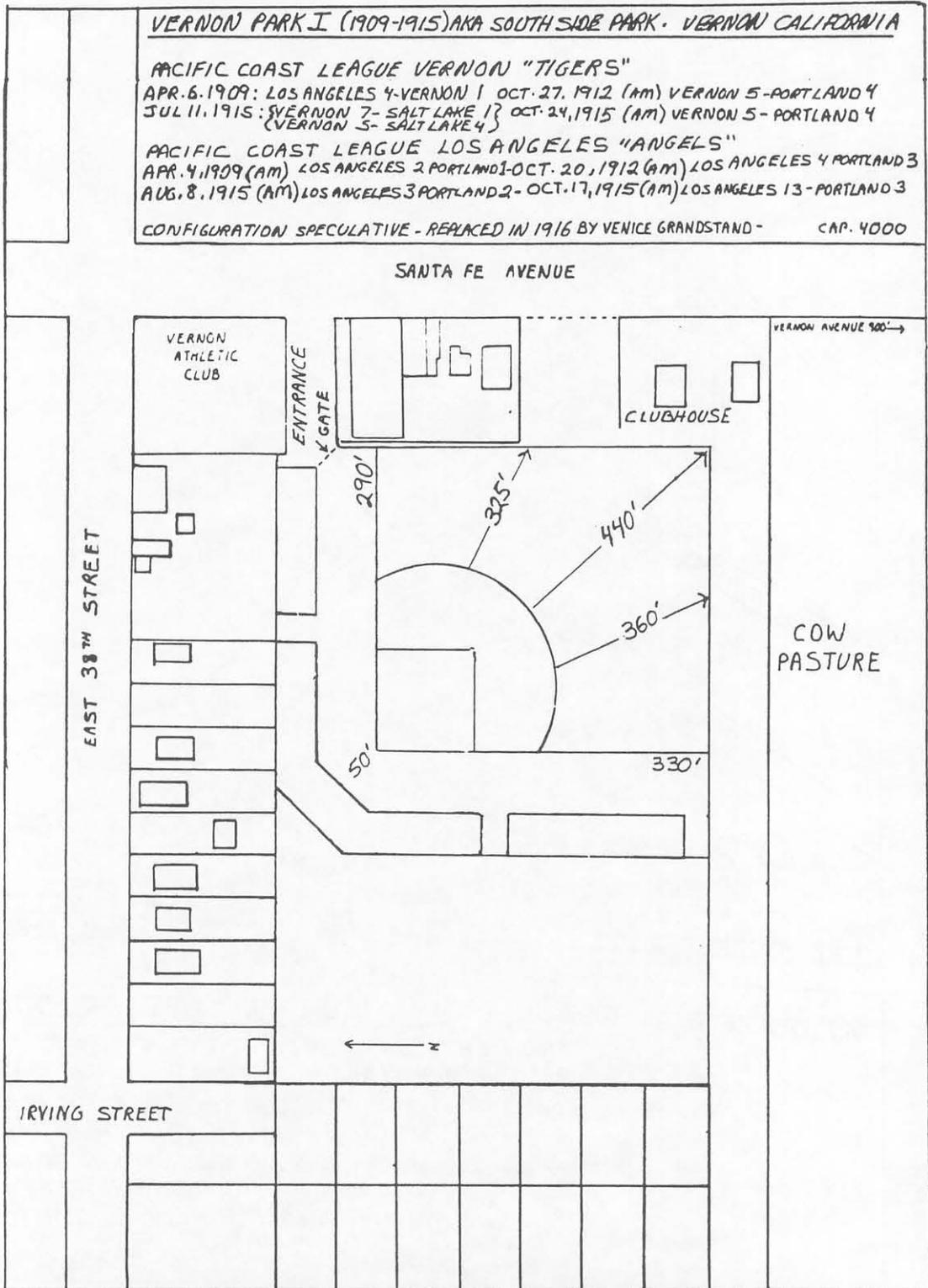


**WASHINGTON PARK:**



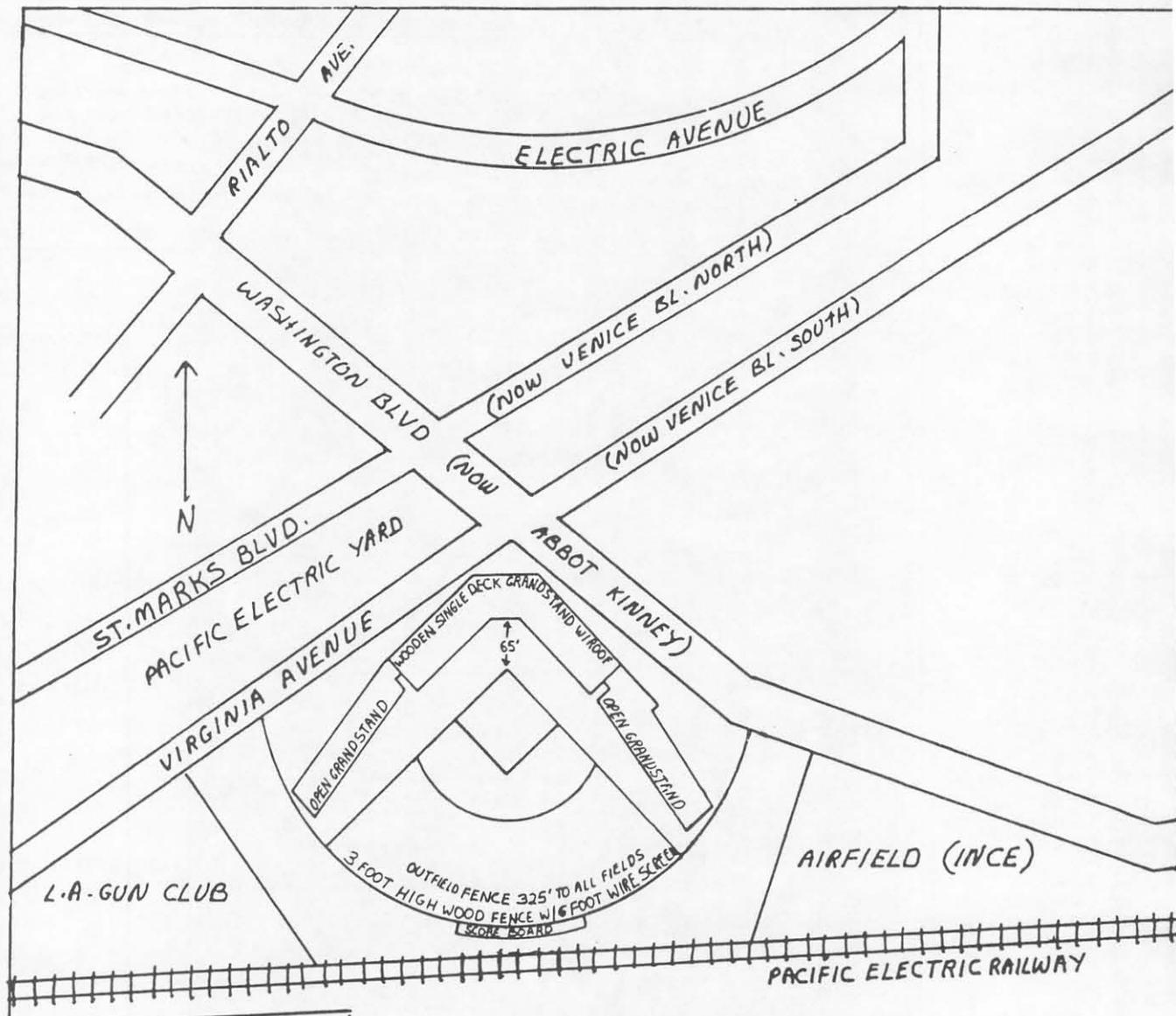
WASHINGTON PARK - LOS ANGELES  
 P.C.L. L.A. "ANGELS" MAR. 28, 1911 - SEP. 30, 1925  
 P.C.L. VERNON "TIGERS" APR. 4, 1911 - OCT. 27, 1912  
 P.C.L. VENICE "TIGERS" APR. 8, 1913 - JUL 8, 1915  
 P.C.L. VERNON "TIGERS" JUL 9, 1915 - SEP. 27, 1925  
 GRASS INFIELD, CAP. 12,200 RAZED 1926  
 CHUTES PARK (1901-1910) DEPICTED IN OUTLINE

**VERNON PARK I:**



ALSO: SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LEAGUE: JUNE 1, 1913: LONG BEACH 5 - PASADENA 2 (AM)

**VENICE PARK, a. k. a. VENICE PARK, TIGER FIELD:**

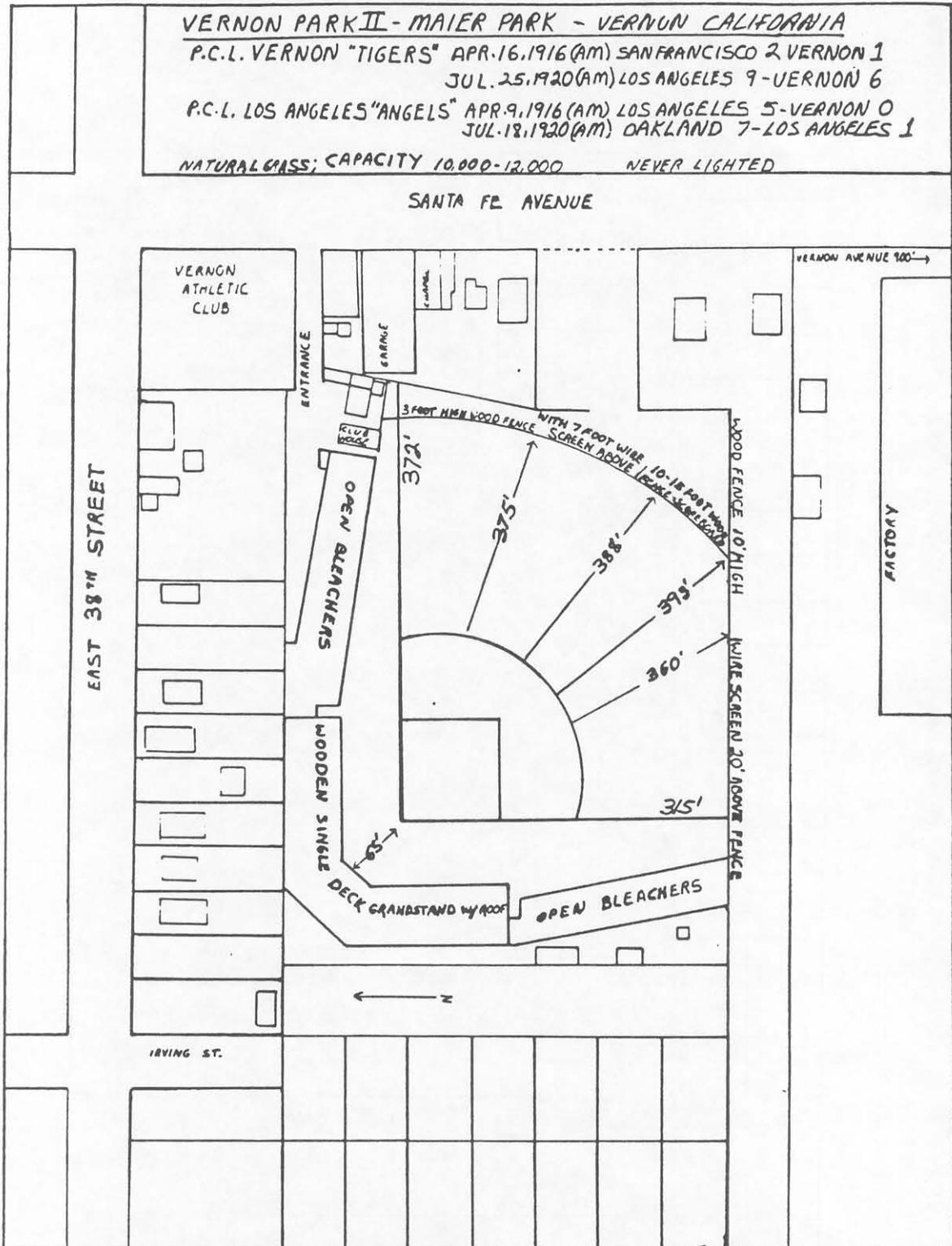


MATER PIER - MILDRED AVE.

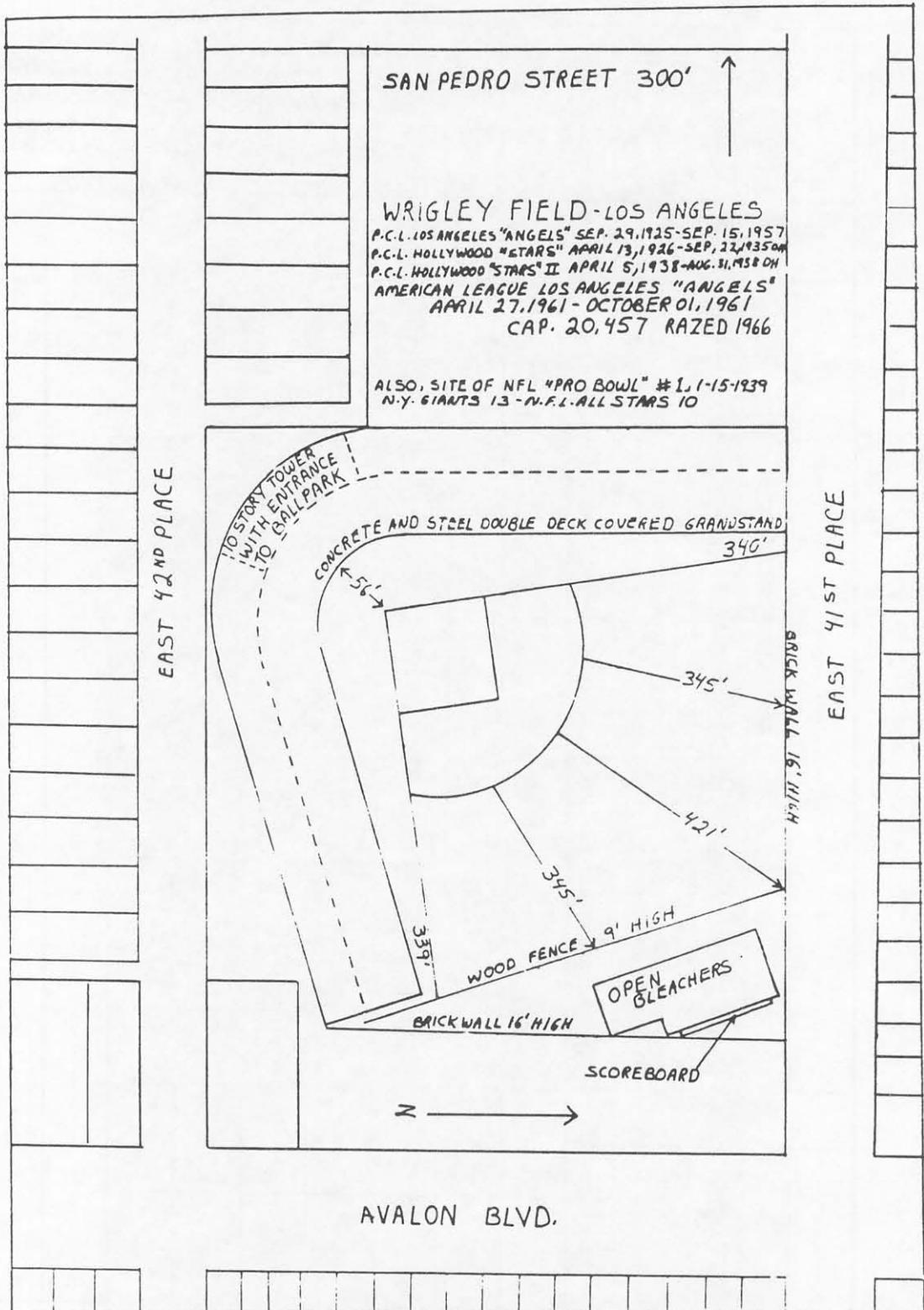
VENICE PARK-VENICE FIELD-TIGER PARK

PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE VENICE "TIGERS"  
 APR. 13, 1913 (AM) VENICE 2 - SAN FRANCISCO | JUN. 13, 1915 (AM) VENICE 3 - L.A. 2  
 PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE LOS ANGELES "ANGELS"  
 APR. 6, 1913 (AM) L.A. 3 - VENICE 2 (8-TIME LIMIT) | JUL. 5, 1915 (AM) L.A. 8 - SALT LAKE 2  
 USED BY BOTH CLUBS FOR SUNDAY 10:30 AM GAMES ONLY  
 COST: APPROX \$ 20,000 CAP. 8000-10,000 (EST.)  
 THIS IS AN APPROXIMATE REPRESENTATION. THE PARK WAS  
 DISMANTLED AND MOVED TO THE VERNON GROUNDS PRIOR  
 TO THE START OF THE 1916 SEASON.

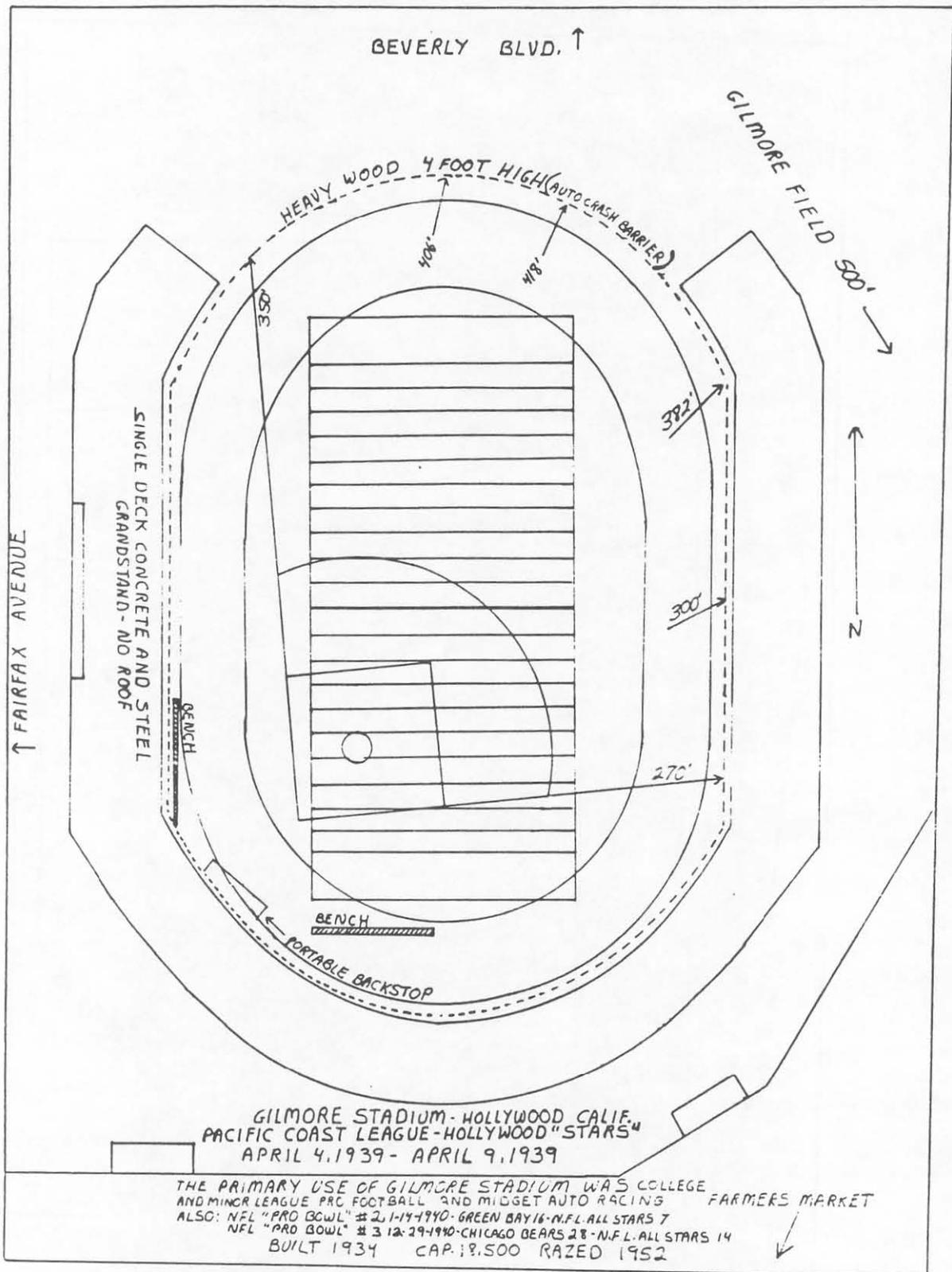
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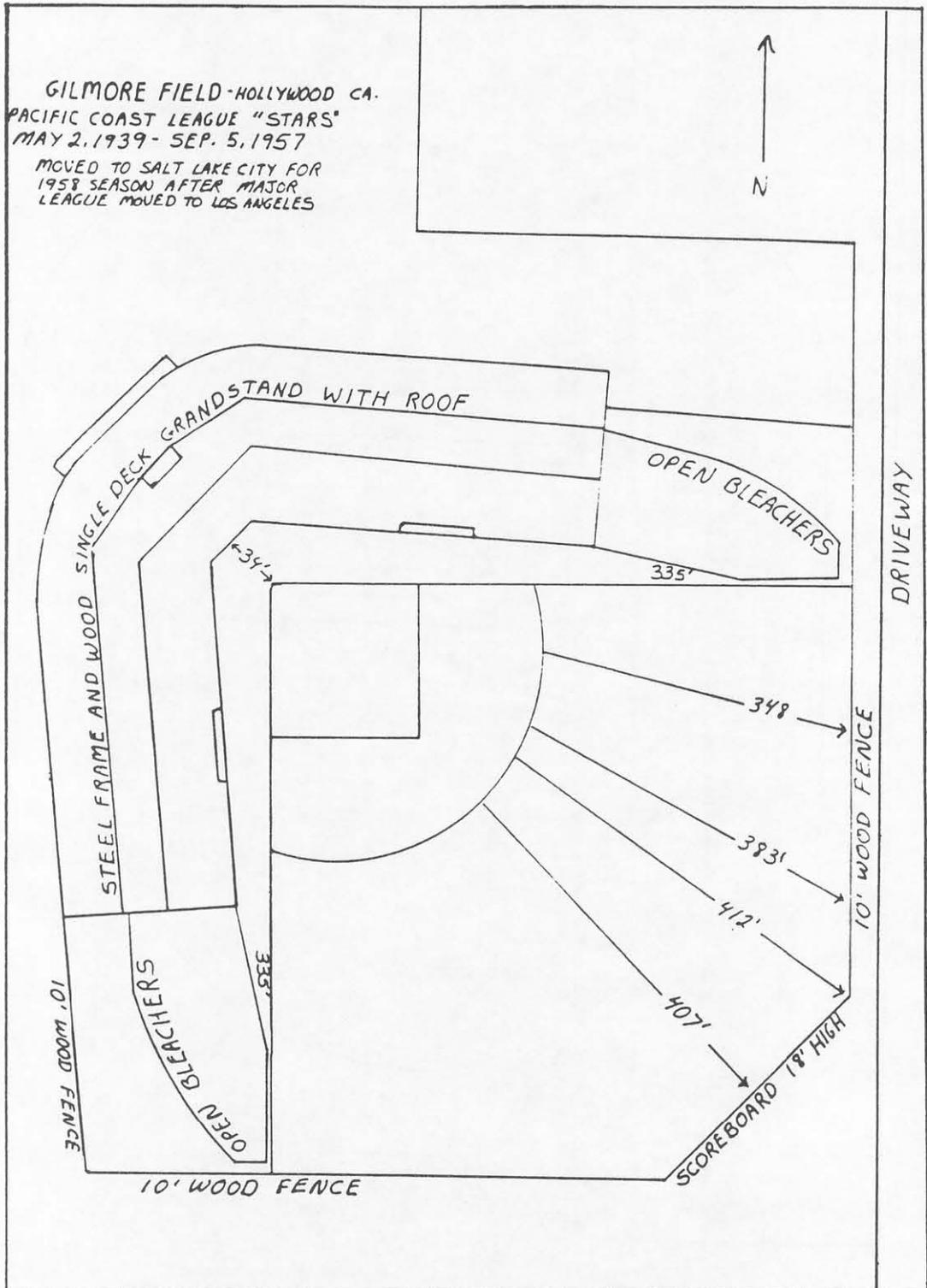
**WRIGLEY FIELD, LOS ANGELES:**



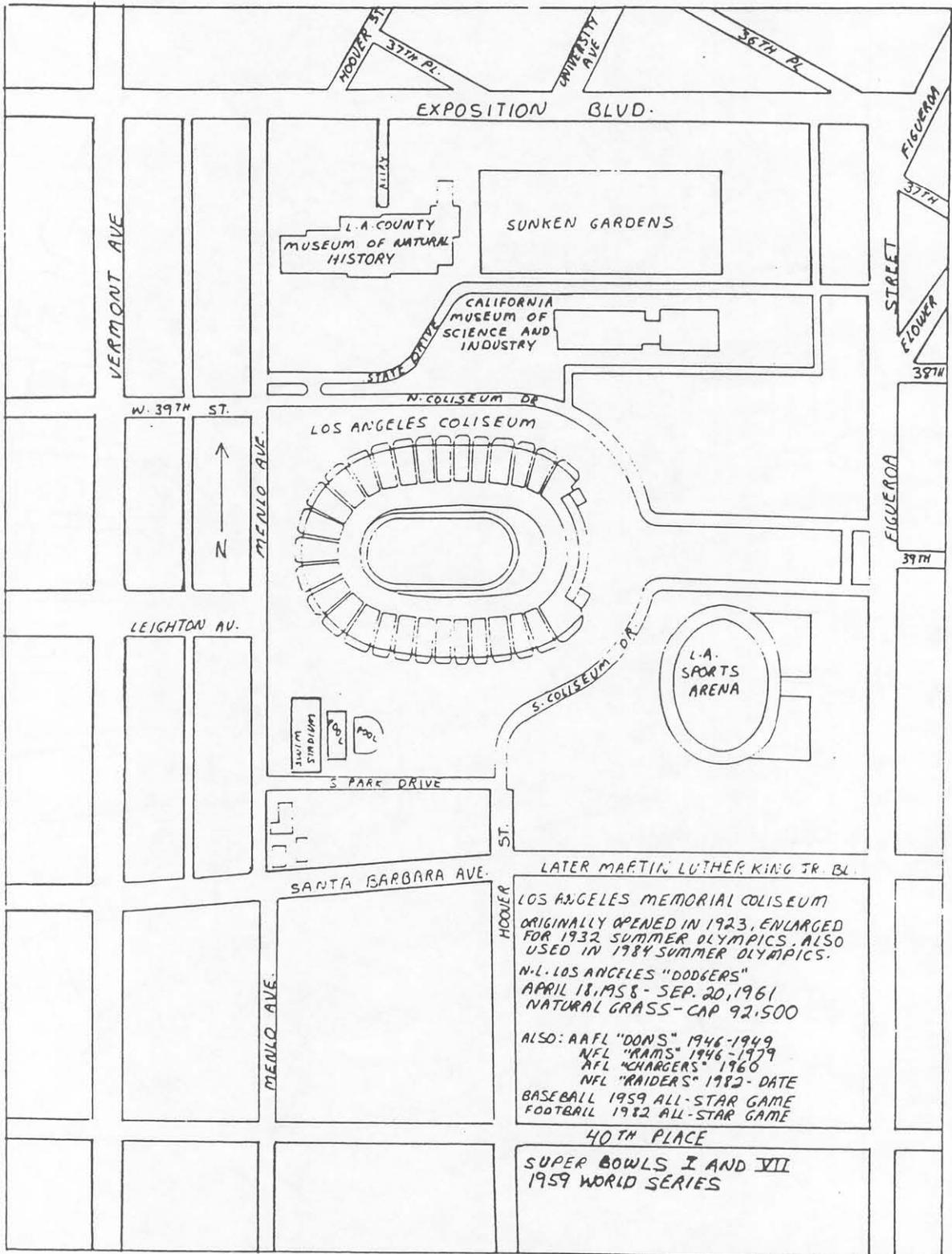
**GILMORE STADIUM:**



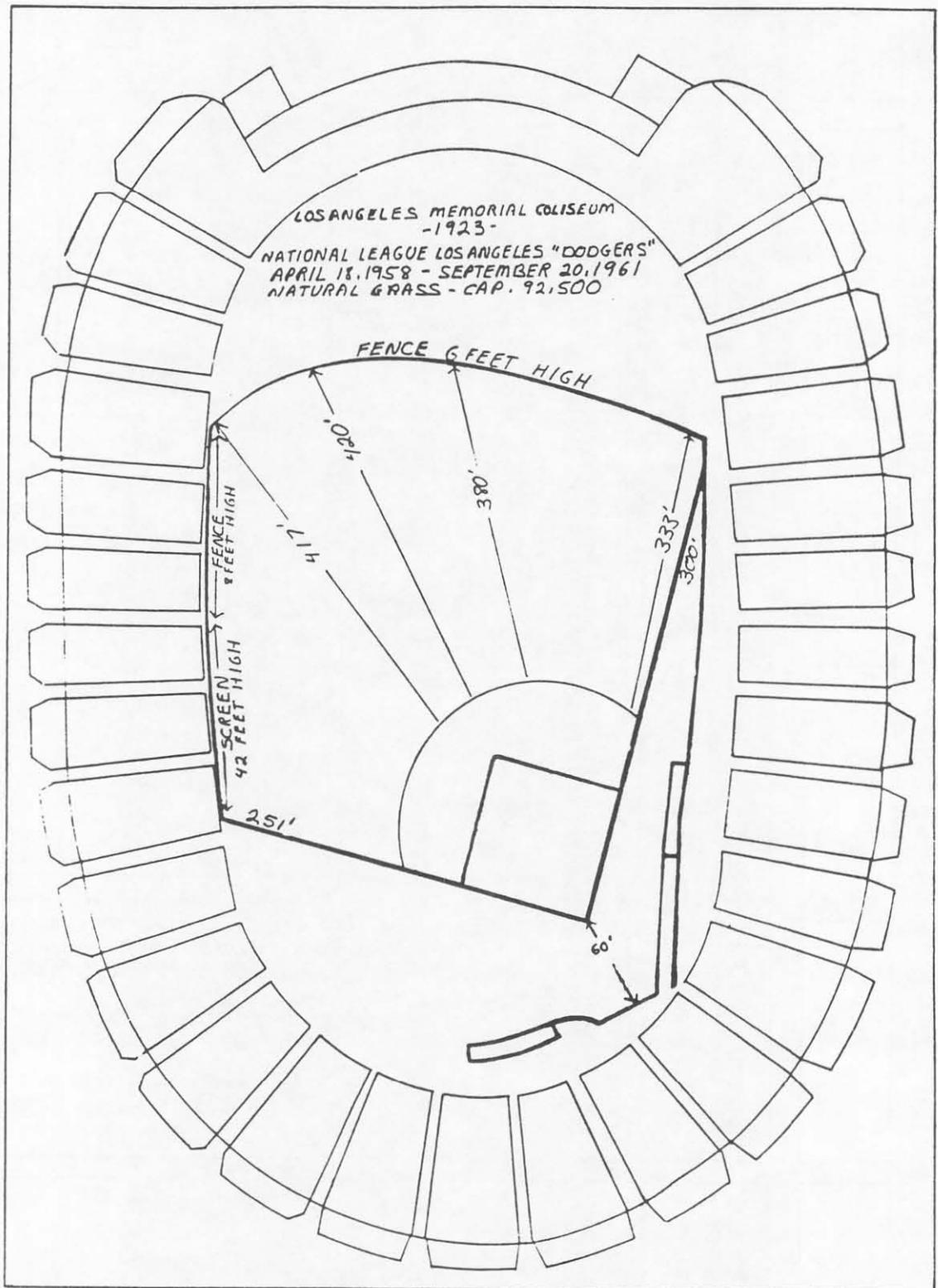
**GILMORE FIELD:**



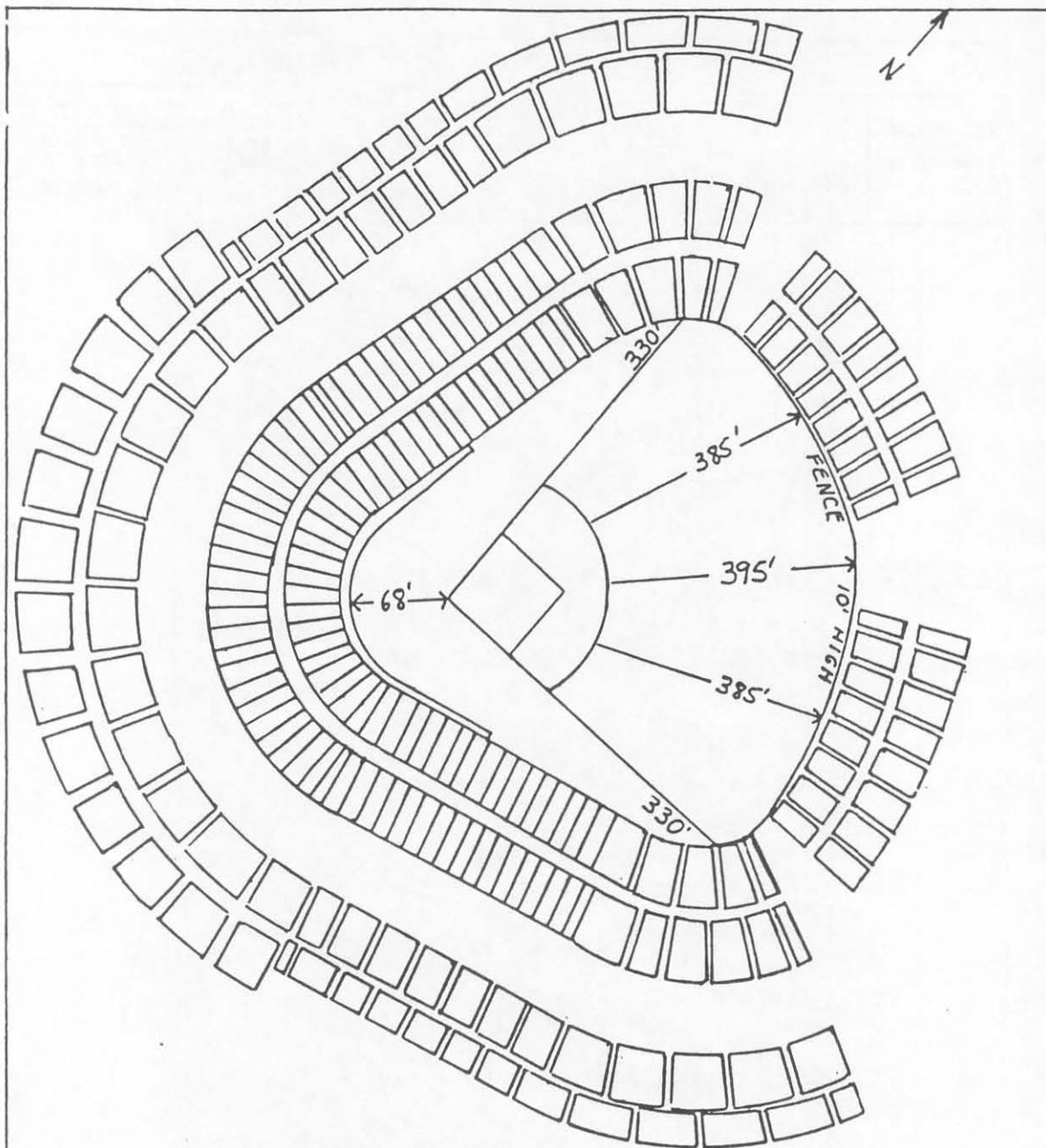
**LOS ANGELES MEMORIAL COLISEUM overview:**



**LOS ANGELES MEMORIAL COLISEUM detail:**

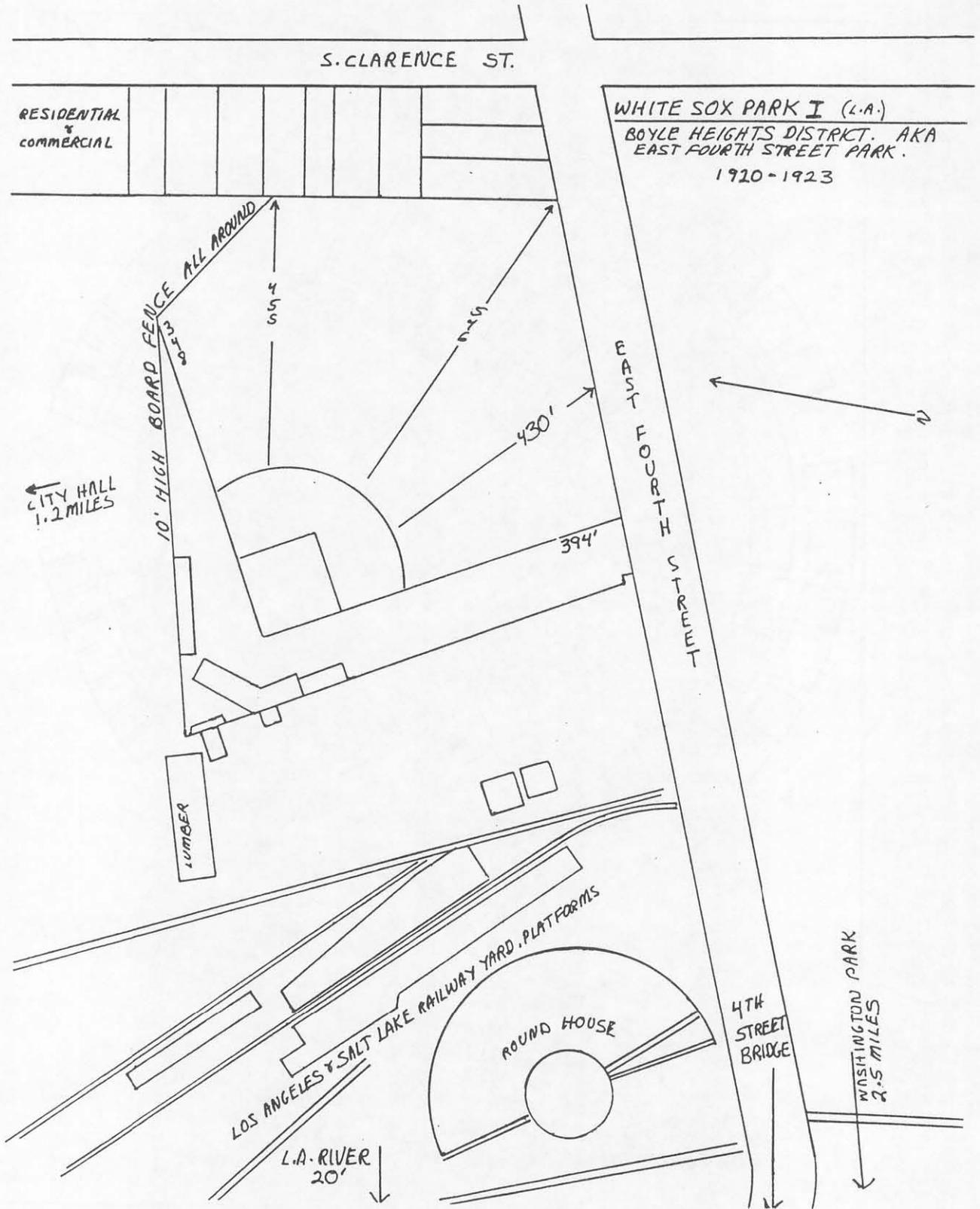


**DODGER STADIUM, a. k. a. CHAVEZ RAVINE STADIUM:**

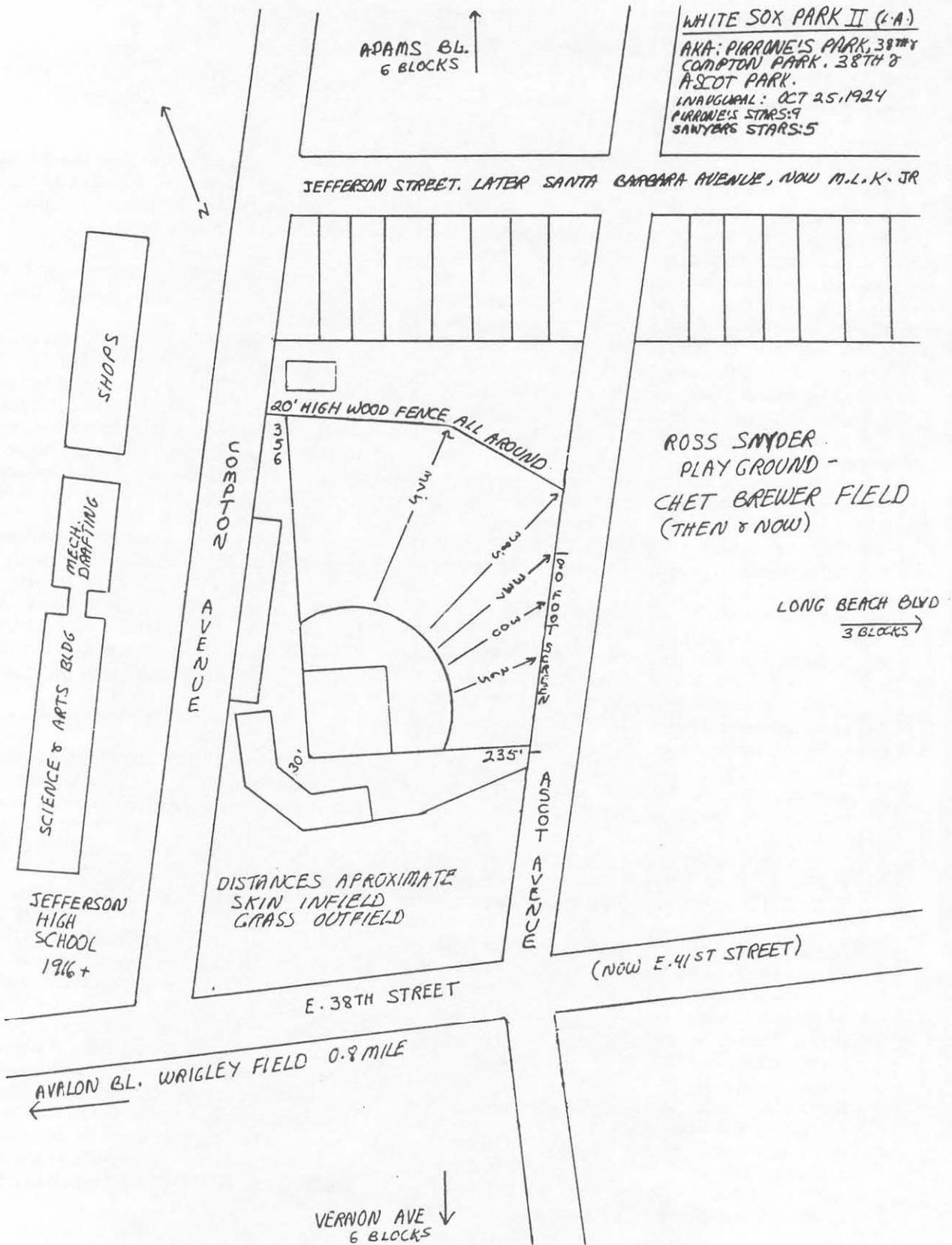


DODGER STADIUM  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA  
A.L. LOS ANGELES "ANGELS" APR. 17, 1962 - SEP. 22, 1965  
N.L. LOS ANGELES "DODGERS" APRIL 10, 1962 -  
CALLED CHAVEZ RAVINE STADIUM BY ANGELS  
BASEBALL ONLY, NATURAL GRASS, CAP. 56,000

**WHITE SOX PARK I:**



**WHITE SOX PARK II:**



WHITE SOX PARK II (I.A.)  
 AKA: PIRRONE'S PARK, 38TH &  
 COMPTON PARK, 38TH &  
 ASCOT PARK.  
 INAUGURAL: OCT 25, 1924  
 PIRRONE'S STARS: 9  
 SAN YERS STARS: 5

JEFFERSON STREET. LATER SANTA BARBARA AVENUE, NOW M.L.K. JR

ROSS SNYDER  
 PLAYGROUND -  
 CHET BREWER FIELD  
 (THEN & NOW)

LONG BEACH BLVD  
 3 BLOCKS

DISTANCES APROXIMATE  
 SKIN INFIELD  
 GRASS OUTFIELD

(NOW E. 41ST STREET)

AVLON BL. WRIGLEY FIELD 0.8 MILE

VERNON AVE  
 6 BLOCKS

## The Creation of the Pacific Coast League, and the Civil War With the Pacific National League that Ensued During its First Year in Existence, 1903

by Carlos Bauer © 1996

Historians invariably gloss over the facts surrounding the formation of the Pacific Coast League, either by stating that the California League simply expanded north into Portland and Seattle for 1903 season, thereby necessitating a name change to the Pacific Coast League; or that the Coast League began in 1903 by incorporating four of the teams in the California League, and then just adding two teams from the Pacific Northwest, implying that the league was a brand-new entity. A sentence; sometimes a paragraph. Never any more. Actually, a *Pacific Coast League* had been on people's minds for years before it became a reality. Its birth, however, had proved to be both long and difficult.

In tracing the origins of the Pacific Coast League, one has to go way back in history to find the seeds of the league, and to delve into the hopes of Californians for a true "major league" on the West Coast, one that stretched from Seattle on the north down to Los Angeles in the south. The origins of the league that would finally be formed in the wake of the 1902 California League season pre-date its actual formation by more than 20 years:

- As far back as 1878, a city league in San Francisco (the only place in the West where top flight ball was being played, and which in those years was nothing more than a loose-knit semi-pro outfit, playing the majority of their games on weekends) called itself the Pacific League, according to minor league historian Robert Hoie. The following year it was challenged by the California League and it folded, leaving the California preeminent in the West.
- Then in 1887, another league sprang up with the name of the Pacific Coast League; it battled the established California League until it folded after the games played on May 29, 1887. That same year the Pacific Northwest League proposed that some inter-league contests be played between them and the California League. However, the Pacific Northwest League itself folded on August 1, before the proposal proceeded any further than the talking stage.
- In 1891, President W. E. Bushnell— of a revitalized Pacific Northwest League— suggested that the two leagues might combine. Henry Harris of the California League thought that the new league would be too large and unwieldy. Harris favored a league made up of the strongest teams from both leagues; i. e., San Francisco, Oakland and San Jose culled from the California League; Seattle, Portland and Tacoma from the Pacific Northwest League. High travel costs, and the fear of low attendance in the smaller

cities prevented a *pacific coast league* from forming then, some dozen years prior to the PCL's 1903 beginning. In those years, rail travel was the most important cost consideration to club management. That, and food and lodging for a team on four to six week road trips. Management, in those days, only hoped to break even— or close to it— on the road. Usually, however, road trips meant loses.

But not only did the *Pacific Coast League* idea fail, the old California League folded as well. The league failed to finish out the 1893 season. The eastern depression had finally reached the Pacific Slope. While many felt that the California League could be reorganized in time to start the 1894 season, it would turn out to be four long years before organized ball reappeared in California. And it left a profound void for both players and fans alike. As John Spalding, in his fine book on the old California League, *Always on Sunday*, writes: "The California League did not exist from 1894 through 1897 and baseball fans had to look elsewhere for a game:

"Amateurs played baseball, and there were teams at Stanford University and three area Catholic Colleges, Santa Clara, St. Mary's and St. Ignatius (now the University of San Francisco). Some of the old pros from the California League continued to play for fun and, hopefully, for profit in weekend games.

"But most of the proficient players went East to other minor leagues in 1894."

Not until 1898 season did the California League reconstitute itself. This California League was a completely new league, even though Henry Harris had been an owner and power in both leagues. At the same time an opposition league sprang up: The Pacific States League. Both leagues probably should be considered little more than semi-pro outfits, and neither league was willing to risk a good deal of money, so the two leagues merged on April 27<sup>th</sup> to form a league called, strangely enough, the Pacific Coast League. This semipro setup had an unwieldy eight teams, and it became all too apparent that it had two teams— at least— too many. Nevertheless, many noted players participated in this weekend only league, including future Coast Leaguers George Hildebrand, Charles "Demon" Doyle, Charley Irwin, Pete Lohman, Phil Knell, Ham Iburg, Doc Moskiman and Jimmy Whalen, among others.

While the Pacific Coast League of 1898 wasn't much of a league, two men who were instrumental in the formation of the 1903 Coast League appeared for the first time in baseball circles: J. Cal Ewing, owner of the Oakland team and later president of the PCL, and Eugene Bert, later appointed president

of the Coast League during its inaugural season, and who would long be a power in Coast League circles.

In 1899, the California League was formed— or reformed— depending on how you view the 1898 circuit: Was it really a pro league, or just a semipro organization? As John Spalding notes in *Always on Sunday*, “The old league that collapsed in August, 1893, featured a mixture of local players and others recruited from minor leagues across the country. It was composed mainly of veteran players who could cope with all the problems created by playing through a season involving more than 150 games.

“The play-for-pay game that surfaced in 1898 was more like the one seen in the early 1880s, when young men who had regular jobs during the week played baseball on weekends for a share of the gate receipts. The turnover of players was nearly complete and fewer than 20 men who performed during 1898 were on any of the 1893 California League rosters.”

The 1899 California League, on the other hand, was a serious league, no doubt about it. Henry Harris of the old California League had rejoined as an owner in 1898 (he organized the famous Haverly team), but he took a much more active part in 1899, and his imprint is all over this league: Six solid teams, and a more ambitious 92 game schedule. In other words, a small number of strong teams, and a schedule worthy of its name.

This 1899 league is the real father of the Pacific Coast League that we all know. From the moment he joined the California League, Harris set his sights on forming a league that would span the whole Pacific coast, from Southern California right up to the Canadian border.

The California League existed for four years before becoming the Pacific Coast League. To sum up the evolution of the loop from an organizational standpoint, it would go something like this:

- 1899 had six teams, and a set, moderately ambitious schedule of about 90 games.
- 1900 was basically a repeat of 1899, six teams and 90 some games per team.
- 1901: The league reduced to four very strong cities, which included Los Angeles for the first time. James F. Morley, poolroom impresario, brought the *Looolos* into the league, replacing a poor drawing Stockton franchise. (Los Angeles participated in the old California League for three years, 1891-3. The City of Los Angeles only had 51,000 inhabitants in the early 1890s, by the late 1890s, Los Angeles had become the second largest city in the State of California. When the California league reformed, none of the owners involved knew if the league would be strong enough to support 400-mile road trips to Southern California. California League teams played between 144 and 161 games in 1901, roughly equivalent to the number of games played during the heyday of the old California League of the 1890-2 period.
- 1902: The California League retained the same four teams, but increased its schedule to between 168 games and 182 games, which showed just how much fan interest had come

back in just a few years. A booming economy didn't hurt, either.

### The Rehearsal Season, 1902:

The 1902 season provided the final tune up for the league that would become the Pacific Coast League. Prior to the start of the season, ballpark facilities were greatly improved. For the first time fields were sodded with grass, so that the famous “skinned infields” of California were a thing of the past, at least in San Francisco and Oakland. Sacramento would have a skinned infield throughout the 1902 and 1903 seasons. Teams also donned road uniforms for the first time. And, probably the most important thing, rowdiness and umpire baiting were checked by heavy league fines of up to \$100.

As to playing conditions and the fields of the California League, a player from the East— whose name, alas, has been lost in the mists of time— lamented to friends about playing in turn-of-the-century California, which the *Sacramento Bee* reported just after the start of the 1903 season: “You strike three climates in California. In Los Angeles the air is dry and thin; in San Francisco you run against a good deal of cold and windy weather, and in Sacramento it is very hot. The sun comes out warm in Los Angeles, but the air is cool. I have started for the clubhouse after the game in perspiration and been dry before I reached the dressing-room. When you strike the shade you dry quickly. In Sacramento I've seen it so hot that players would have to put their feet in pools of water to cool them. The spikes of the shoes would get hot.

“There isn't a spear of grass on the California grounds. The footing is sort of a gravel substance and the ground gets as hard as a mosaic floor. It's hard on the feet and makes them sore. There is no green about the grounds to relieve the eye and there's a glare that increased the difficulty of batting. A batting average of .250 out there is equal to at least .310 in the East.

“The ball cuts some funny capers on the Coast, owing to the condition of grounds and climate. After it has been knocked about on the hard surface of the field for a while it gets wingy—the leather cover chips and frays and has little wings on it. Another thing, and this is a fact— I've seen it so hot in Sacramento that the heat would moisten the cement which holds the yarn together in the center of the ball, so that the ball would swell and get light and then it is hard for a pitcher to control the ball.

“In San Francisco, between the trade winds, outfielders have their troubles in judging the flight of the ball. The hardest hit balls are the easiest to get to if you know how to play them. The wind takes the ball and holds it up. I've seen new men chase a ball all around the outfield, not knowing where it was going to drop, while others, who knew the ropes, would simply wait and gather in a ball which looked as if it were going to sail over their heads. The best way to hit there is just to meet them. On account of the wind in San Francisco the dust from the skin diamond is something fierce. They tried oil on the grounds once to hold the dust down. But some dust got away

and the wind blew the oil-laden dust over the clothes of the spectators. The dust could be brushed off, but the oil stuck and I guess some of those spectators still have oil spots on the clothing they wore that day.”

In the pennant race, Oakland proved to be the class of the 1902 California League, taking the flag by 13 games over Los Angeles, with San Francisco 22 games out— and Sacramento staggered in at 33 games off the pace. Oakland had not been expected to do much, but manager and part owner Pete Lohman put together a pennant winner on the cheap. Los Angeles, on the other hand, spent a great deal of money to get eastern players, like Rube Waddell, to supplement local ballplayers, only to finish way off the pace. Waddell pitched great ball, when he pitched, but his off-field antics contributed to the club's second place finish, some 13 games back. Oscar Jones, the other eastern import of note, had a 36-25 record, while Waddell finished 12 and 7 in his half-season in Los Angeles

#### **The Actual Formation of the Pacific Coast League— 1903 & All That:**

First mention of the possible formation of some sort of *pacific coast league* for the 1903 season came on December 9, 1902, shortly after the close of the California League season that ended in late November. A short note in the San Francisco papers stated that Mr. Henry Harris— owner of the California League San Francisco franchise— was in Portland en route to Seattle to see if he could induce the owners of the ball clubs in those two cities to join the California League for the 1903 season.

(Much later Henry Harris would tell *The Sporting News* that he began acting on the expansion idea in July, but kept it under his hat until the end of the season, so the proposed expansion could not be sidetracked before they even began to put their plan into action.)

On December 11, 1902, Henry Harris found the first opposition to the formation of a coast loop in the form of Seattle owner D. E. Dugdale and Pacific Northwest League President William H. Lucas. (Dan Dugdale had been a major league catcher years before for the Washington and Kansas City clubs before moving west in 1894.) Both Dugdale and Lucas stated they would have nothing to do with the interlopers from California. Dugdale and Lucas were the big fish in a small pond (the Pacific Northwest League), and wanted to remain big fish. Joining the California League (the soon-to-be-called Pacific Coast League) would mean a loss of power for Owner Dugdale, and more than likely a job for President Lucas.

*Uncle* Henry Harris, as the San Francisco press dubbed him, wasn't any dummy, however. Before meeting with Lucas and Dugdale, he secured a lease on the grounds where Dugdale's Seattle team had played the 1902 season, Recreation Park. If Dugdale didn't join the California League, he would be in the awkward position of having a team without a place to play. Nevertheless, Dugdale and Lucas got mad and walked out of the meeting with Harris. Of course, Harris— never at a

loss— had an owner in waiting, Lou Cohen, a local businessman with very deep pockets.

The next day Dugdale announced he would build a new park. Lucas, for his part, chimed in that the Pacific Northwest League found itself in much better financial shape than the California League, and could and would pay higher salaries than the raiders from the South.

Meanwhile in Portland, the directors of the old Portland franchise of the Pacific Northwest League announced that they had formed a new team in the California League, leased back to themselves their old grounds for the new team, and signed all the players from the old team to contracts with the new team. This left the Pacific Northwest League with a shell of a team in Portland— and without a park to play in, as one might say.

After overseeing the coup in Portland, and having set up Lou Cohen with a Seattle franchise, Harris returned to San Francisco. Not much appeared in the press, but Harris' fingerprints were all over two crime scenes.

On December 29, at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco, the Pacific Coast Baseball League was formed, and the following measures were adopted:

- James T. Moran, one of the founders of the famous *Greenhood & Moran* team of the 1880s, was appointed League President, but he turned out to be little more than a figurehead, and shortly thereafter was replaced by attorney Eugene F. Bert, who had served as President of the California League and who, as we mentioned before, would long be a power in the Coast League. In fact, Gene Bert would be the savior of the league after the 1906 earthquake: If it weren't for Bert, the Pacific Coast League would have been nothing more than a footnote in the history of baseball on the West Coast. At that moment, the real power never went very far from the hands of Henry Harris and his associates (including his silent partner, the bookmaker Teddy Goodman)— and, of course, Jim Morley, the Los Angeles owner and Gene Bert.
- The league established roster limits of 15 players to take effect after the 15th of May.
- All Blacklisted players became eligible to play in the newly named Pacific Coast League. (And this is what makes the 1903 Coast League an “outlaw league”: Not respecting the contracts of Organized Baseball. The California League was a member of the National Association [or its predecessor the National Agreement] when it suited league interests, and dropped membership, like in 1900, to accommodate the signing of star pitcher Jay Hughes, a Sacramento native who refused to sign with the Brooklyn Nationals after his great 28-6 season with the *Superbas*.)
- Games were to be played every day except Monday, which became a travel day. A series would be a week long, Tuesday through Sunday. (Doubleheaders would be played in the Bay Area, a morning game played in Oakland at Freeman's Park, followed by an afternoon game at Recreation Park in San Francisco. This had become a tradition in the Bay Area for a few years already. Because

of its small population base, Oakland—as in years past—would play most of its home games in San Francisco’s Recreation Park.)

- All teams were to wear white uniforms at home, and the following road uniforms were to be worn:
  - San Francisco: Black & Yellow
  - Los Angeles: Green & White
  - Sacramento: Blue & Red
  - Portland: Blue & White
  - Seattle: Olive Drab
  - Oakland: Grey

While they did not formally set the schedule for the league at that meeting, the league directors let it be known shortly thereafter that the season would run from March 26<sup>th</sup> through November 29<sup>th</sup>, well over 200 scheduled games for every team.

Meanwhile—also on the 29<sup>th</sup> of December—President Lucas of the Pacific Northwest League announced in Portland that the old Portland franchise had been forfeited by its owners, and he then formally established a new Pacific Northwest League team there, reserving all the players from the old team. The note in the press also stated that the National Association had wired its full support to Bill Lucas, Dan Dugdale and the Pacific Northwest League in their struggle against the Pacific Coast League.

The next day, President Lucas secured an option for land to construct a new park in Portland, and declared war on the Coast league: “It’s simply the case of the survival of the fittest,” he stated, “Portland cannot support two teams.”

A week after New Year’s, the National Association officially announced that it would lend complete support to a newly reconfigured Pacific Northwest League. The new setup would extend the league from its base in the Pacific Northwest south into four cities in California: San Francisco, Oakland, Los Angeles and Sacramento. The Pacific Northwest League fired a shot across the Coast League’s bow with this announcement to invade California League territory, but the new Pacific Coast League didn’t flinch, and so on February 18<sup>th</sup> the National Association announced it would send a delegation of mediators to California to resolve the problems between the two leagues.

(Here it should be noted that the Coast League had already announced—in mid-February—the rosters of its teams, while Pacific Northwest League hadn’t even settled on the final composition of cities for the league, much less the parks to be played in, or even any of the players for those new California teams.)

On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Charley Schaffer the crack first baseman of Dan Dugdale’s Seattle club became the first player to jump his contract for the PCL Portland team.

On March 5<sup>th</sup>, the National Association emissaries arrived in San Francisco and met with Henry Harris, but nothing could be resolved in what the press described as “a very short meeting.”

Two days later James F. “Jim” Morley, owner of the Los Angeles Angels, or *Looloos* as they were more commonly called, announced that he had signed Joe Corbett, brother of the

former Heavyweight boxing Champion, Gentleman Jim Corbett. Brother Joe, as they called him in the Bay Area, had been a 20 game winner for Baltimore in 1897 in the National League, but quit baseball in 1898 because he didn’t want to play “back East.” Since then, he had been working as a sports reporter for the *San Francisco Call*, and pitching an occasional semipro game outside the reaches of Organized Baseball.

Finally, on March 8<sup>th</sup>, the Pacific Northwest League announced the final composition of their league. The new setup would have eight teams, the six cities from 1902, plus Los Angeles and San Francisco in California. The Pacific Northwest League decided not to compete in the small markets of Sacramento and Oakland. Only Portland and Seattle could be considered the linchpins of the reconfigured Pacific Northwest League, and even they were facing fierce competition. The other four cities, Butte, Helena, Spokane and Tacoma, never were thought of as either great baseball towns—or even urban centers. One problem that this new configuration presented turned out to be the same one that had prevented a “pacific coast league” from forming for years: Travel costs. The new league covered a vast area, from Southern California to Montana. Anything above travel costs could hardly be expected to be made on those long road trips.

Shortly after announcing the cities that would form part of the league, the new Pacific Northwest League spread a rumor that Owner Morley of the *Looloos* had tried to join the Pacific Northwest League, but had applied too late, and so Lucas and Dugdale were forced to reluctantly turn him down. (It’s hard to believe that story on the face of it. Probably what happened was that the Pacific Northwest League had approached Morley, but he rejected them out of hand. Jim Morley was nobody’s fool, and too much a part of the Coast League to waver—even for a single moment.)

After the short and unfruitful meeting with Henry Harris in San Francisco on March 6<sup>th</sup>, the National Association emissaries went north and reported to Lucas and Dugdale. They also told them that their cause was already lost, that Harris in fact “held all the good cards,” as the reporter in *The San Francisco Examiner* wrote. But Lucas and Dugdale demanded that the National Association support their fight—to the bitter end.

Meanwhile, in California, the Pacific Coast League clubs had almost completed spring training by the time the middle of March rolled around. The Pacific Northwest League, on the other hand, had yet to name any of its players for its two new California teams, except for playing manager Charlie Reilly in Los Angeles.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of March Harry Hart and Johnny Coleman, the new San Francisco owners, and W. V. Garrett in Los Angeles, who had previously owned the Butte franchise in the 1902 Pacific Northwest League (later it would become known that Garrett was financed to a great degree by Hart and Coleman), finally announced what parks their Pacific Northwest League clubs would use, though they still failed to provide any details about their players, save the tantalizing tidbit that “people would be surprised” when they announced their rosters. On the same date, the National Association issued another press

release, or what passed for it in those days, restating their support for the Pacific Northwest League, but this time their communication included a statement to the effect that all Pacific Coast League players would henceforth be placed on the disqualified list. Yet only the day before, the 14th, did the San Francisco Pacific Northwest League club become incorporated, and Los Angeles owner Garrett got a severe case of cold feet—and nearly dropped out of the league—until manager Charlie Reilly held his hand and reassured him that they could compete with Jim Morley's Coast League team.

Once the PNL Los Angeles team came under the control of Charlie Reilly, the player-manager started a counter attack against the PCL, and against Jim Morley in particular, for whom he both played and managed the year before in Los Angeles. Obviously, there was some bad blood between them. On March 20<sup>th</sup>, Reilly announced the signing of Sacramento PCL center fielder Jack Walters. In the last week before the season started, and the first ten days of the season, a number of players jumped their contracts, or tried. Things got very confused—and nasty:

- Four days before league action started, the Pacific Northwest League offered four of Oakland's players \$500 a month to jump their contracts. None accepted the offer.
- Sacramento pitcher Martin Glendenon was arrested for contract jumping. Someone saw him boarding a southbound train in neighboring Yolo County, apparently running off to join up with Charlie Reilly. Mike Fisher was immediately notified, and he in turn wired ahead to Benicia, where sheriffs' deputies pulled Glendenon off the train and threw him into jail. He remained locked up until Harry Hart, the San Francisco PNL magnate, sent him money to post bail. Once out, he jumped bail, and headed south anew.
- Pitcher Win Cutter and outfielder "Demon" Doyle were charged with obtaining money under false pretenses when they tried jumping their contracts with Mike Fisher in Sacramento. They patched things up with their boss during a jailhouse heart to heart—and, thus, got out of the clink.
- Jim Morley brought Wallace "Holly" Hollingsworth out to Los Angeles to play second base, even giving Hollingsworth a winter job in his pool hall to tide him over until the new season began. Four days into the season, Holly jumped Morley's Angels for the Pacific Northwest League team of Reilly. Shortly after, he repented—but owner Morley told him to effectively "get lost."
- Much in the same vein John Burns, the San Francisco second baseman, declared to a San Francisco paper shortly before the season started: "I am more likely to cut my throat than I am to play with [Charlie] Reilly," said Burns to *The Examiner* correspondent at Palo Alto yesterday. "Harris has treated me royally, and I intend to stick by the contract I made with him. The terms I was offered were not better than those I made with my present manager." Johnny Burns would play only ten games with San Francisco before jumping his contract.

- Outfielder Bill O'Hara had even signed with two Coast League teams, Oakland and Seattle. Somewhere along the line he also signed a Pacific Northwest League contract. O'Hara admitted that he signed first with Seattle, but he only did so because Oakland's contract had been delayed in the mail. He stated that he had always intended to sign with Oakland. The league forced him to play for Seattle, where he appeared for a week, before jumping to the opposition, at which point arrangements were made for him to rejoin Pete Lohman and the Oakland Recruits, and so he jumped back to the Coast League.
- Even manager Charlie Reilly in Los Angeles had his own contract problems, having signed over the winter with Joe Cantillon in Milwaukee. After the 1902 season, Reilly had stated in the press that he would never again play for Jim Morley, and he decided to head east before the new Los Angeles job appeared. It took several weeks to straighten that contract mess out.
- Other dirty tricks were attempted. The Pacific Northwest League group in Los Angeles tried to get Morley evicted from Chutes Park by getting the owners of the property to state that Morley had broken his lease. The owners had workmen go as far as nailing up the entrances to the park. Morley, however, managed to get a civil injunction against the Los Angeles Improvement Company, owners of the ballpark and adjacent amusement park, the night before the *Loo-loos* were to begin a series of exhibition games against the Chicago Cubs less than two weeks before the regular season began.

#### Play Begins:

The first Pacific Coast League season began on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March, almost three weeks prior to the start of the Pacific Northwest League season on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

On opening day, Ed Pabst hit the first home run that season (and the first PCL home run ever) off of Ike Butler of Portland in San Francisco's Recreation Park. It also turned out to be Pabst's only Coast League home run.

The Coast League began with four of its six teams having similar rosters to those with which they ended 1902. Oakland lost about half their starters, and Seattle was a completely new team. Seattle's manager was Parke Wilson, an old catcher—and an old fox. With another manager the team might have folded early on in the season. But Wilson dealt with all the reverses thrown at him during the season.

Rain swept the Pacific slope that first week of the season, but that didn't stop the Los Angeles Angels from sweeping the Portland Browns. L. A. went on to win its first 15 games under Manager Frank "Cap" Dillon (years later he would be called "Pop"); Portland, after getting beat up in Los Angeles, did not stop until they had lost their first 12 games.

Looking over the league, this is how the teams stacked up at the beginning of the season:

- **Oakland:** This club had won the pennant the year before, and on paper looked much better in the eyes of Manager Pete Lohman. Lohman and owner Cal Ewing thought they

could get away with another pennant on the cheap. The team lost ¾ of its infield, and never really had a solid middle infield until late in the season. Its top three pitchers had also been lost.

- **Los Angeles** looked at least as good as or somewhat improved from its second place finish the year before. They were solid at every position until second baseman Hollingsworth jumped, but that was the only problem position they had all year. As far as fielding was concerned, the *Looloos* sported gold gloves at almost every position. Owner Jim Morley also greatly improved the pitching by importing Doc Newton from the East, and signing Joe Corbett. Los Angeles also figured to be better off because they didn't have the disruptive influence of Rube Waddell.
- **San Francisco** finished under .500 the year before, but had retained their star pitcher in Jimmy "The Whale" Whalen, and also players at four positions. Whalen was the star pitcher on the West Coast around the turn of the century, winning 30 games in each of the previous two seasons. Three of the new position players figured to be an improvement over those they replaced. Charlie Irwin became the new *captain*, which really meant field manager in those days, and the team's third baseman, who would wind up as one of his team's best hitters. Irwin had finished up a 10 year major league career (.267 BA, mainly with Chicago and Cincinnati) the year before with the Brooklyn *Superbas*.
- **Sacramento** returned all of its position players, the only problem with that was that Sacramento finished 33 games off the pace in 1902, and in dead last place. Included in that group is the player whom I consider to be one of the best fielding second basemen in the history of the Pacific Coast League, Pearl Casey. Casey, whose last name was actually Barnes, blossomed during the 1903 season. He would go on to lead Coast League second basemen in fielding average five times out of the six years he played a full season. Casey's range was either the best or right near the top every year he played. Pearl Casey never would be much of a hitter, but in 1903 he did have a fine season, hitting .288— by far his best season ever. After his playing career ended, he spent over 20 years as an umpire. The star of the team, however, was Truck Eagan the first PCL slugging star. In an era when home runs came all too rarely, Eagan put together back to back 21 home run years in 1904-5. Because he played shortstop, and was a fine hitter, many contemporaries considered him the West Coast version of Honus Wagner. Years later one of his contemporaries, long-time Seals part-owner Charley Graham, told a beat reporter that Eagan "was a great hitter of the dead ball ...and I have often wished he could have batted against the extremely lively ball later." Most observers considered Mike Fisher — which he even admitted— the least competent owner/general manager in the league. *Mique* Fisher was a former policeman and California League player who moved to Sacramento from

his native San Francisco early on in his baseball career. (Later it would be revealed that the club had been secretly owned by *Uncle* Henry Harris and his partner Teddy Goodman, the San Francisco magnates. Reportedly, they paid him \$250 a month to guide the team.) Fisher spent no money on pitchers, instead deciding to bring in a raw "kiddy corps" to start the season, after having lost star Martin Glendenon to the opposition. Win Cutter appeared to be his only experienced pitcher on the staff when the season opened, but he had only gone 13 and 24 in 1902. All in all, it looked like another long season in the Central Valley.

- **Portland** retained the nucleus of its 1902 Pacific Northwest League club, but like Sacramento, it too had finished in the cellar of that league. Sammy Vigneaux remained at the helm, and management brought in a couple of heavy hitters, southern import Carlos Smith and Quebecer Phil Nadeau, to bolster established players like Deacon Van Buren and left-handed second baseman Andy Anderson. Reportedly, Carlos Smith came from a family of rich plantation owners, and played ball for diversion rather than for financial gain. Nadeau had played for a number of years in New England and New York, hitting over .300 seven times.
- **Seattle** was a completely new team, built from the ground up by field manager Parke Wilson. Wilson also caught and played first. His .201 BA showed that he was nearing the end of the trail as a player. The manager started playing in the old California League in 1892. The Seattle franchise had been placed in the city to compete with Dugdale's Pacific Northwest League outfit. Parke Wilson put an early team together that had been overly influenced by management. Lou Cohen even signed University of California football sensation John "Locomotive" Smith (football sources state that Smith's name was Warren W. rather than John), but he proved to be a complete bust on the mound, pitching only 4 games and winding up with a 5.75 ERA. The team appeared an unknown quantity. It would take Wilson almost the whole year to get the group of players he wanted: Of the 44 players who appeared for Wilson that year, only two starters from the opening day line up would be with the club at the end of the season, Wilson himself and third baseman Henry Jansing. Fortunately, Wilson and the Seattle organization had time: the arrogant Dugdale was not at all well liked in Seattle.

#### Team Nicknames:

In the California League, and in the first years of the Pacific Coast League, team nicknames changed a great deal, sometimes even during the season— and more often than not a team would have more than one nickname.

A case in point is the Los Angeles team. While officially called the *Angels*, the press invariably called them the *Looloos*, though on occasion they were even called the *Seraphs* at that early date. *Looloos* derived from the team playing at Chutes Park, and the loop-the-loop ride carried over to the team

in the form of *Looloos*. Of course, the Angels were also a "looloo" of a team in some of those early years.

Oakland received their nicknames to reflect the team on the field in any given year. The pennant winning team of 1902 had been called the *Dudes*; the 1903 team the *Recruits*, because they had to recruit so many players to fill in for players who had gone elsewhere. Quite often the Oakland team was called the *Athenians*, and on the rare occasion, the *Oaks*. In subsequent years, Oakland's predominant nickname would be *Commuters*, with *Oaks* gradually being used more and more, until 1907 when *Oaks* was more commonly used in the press than *Commuters*. In 1905, Oakland was occasionally called the *Greeks*. (The reason for the name *Athenians*— and *Greeks* for that matter— is because Oakland at that time was called the "Athens of the West.")

Portland, in 1903 and 1904, was called the *Browns*, and sometimes the *Webfoots*. They wore blue and white uniforms, so the reason for being named *Browns* is not apparent. In 1905 and 1906, when a great number of their players were over six feet tall, the team became known as the *Giants*. In 1907, they became the *Beavers* for the first time, though the team would be called *Webfoots* or *Ducks* occasionally for years, and even, once in the 20s, the *Rosebuds*. (Portland is called the Rose City.)

The Sacramento team was known as the *Senators*, but they were many times called the *Blues* for their uniform color. In the teens they start to be occasionally called the *Solons*.

San Francisco had been known as the *Wasps* in 1902, and occasionally the press called them that in 1903, but day in and day out they were known as the *Stars*. In 1904, management let it be known that the owners wanted the team to be called the *Seals* and nothing else. Legend has it that the name *Seals* came from Seal Rock, where sea lions (popularly called seals) would sun themselves.

Seattle would be known as the *Siwashes*, an Indian tribal name, until they dropped out of the Coast League after the disastrous earthquake season of 1906. Sometimes they were called simply the *Indians*. When the team returned to the league in 1919, management tried to call the team the *Purple Sox*, but had to change the name back to *Indians* when fans rebelled. During the 20s, the team was occasionally called the *Rainiers*, even though the name was not changed officially to that until Emil Sick bought the club in the 30s.

### Grounds, Fields & Ballparks:

The ballparks of the California League, as noted before, had seen improvements made prior to the 1902 season. John Spalding lists the 1902 improvements in his book, *Always on Sunday*: "More seats were added in Los Angeles and the grandstand at San Francisco's Recreation Park was converted from benches to chair back seats. The owners of Freeman's Park purchased land and added 50 feet to the left field line to reduce the number of cheap home runs at the Oakland grounds. In Sacramento, the left field fence at Oak Park was moved 100 feet away from home plate for the same reason."

The fields used during the inaugural season stacked up like this (I am greatly indebted to Larry Zuckerman, the foremost ballpark historian in the country, for a good deal of the following information; all distances should be considered approximate):

- **Chutes Park, Los Angeles:** The skinned infield was sodded for the 1903 season. The left and right field distances were of normal dimensions, 330 and 312 feet respectively. What made this park a good home run park (29 were hit there in 1903) was the short center field; it had distances of 348 feet in dead center to 367 feet at its deepest point. A bowling alley building formed part of the center field fence.
- **Freeman's Park, Oakland:** Originally, the park was all dirt; then the outfield was sodded; finally for 1903 the infield was sodded with grass. At Freeman's Park, a herd of sheep acted as the "lawn mowers." Park distances down the lines were more or less normal: 307 to right, 293 to left; the power alleys were on the short side at 325 to left center and 335 to right center; dead center measured about 425 feet from home plate.
- **Vaughn Street Grounds, Portland:** Because of the quantity of rain in Portland, both the infield and outfield were always of grass, as far as can be determined. According to Zuckerman, the 1903 configuration had a small grandstand behind home plate. The grandstand was enlarged after the 1904 season. Vaughn Street Grounds was a spacious park. (When analyzing distances, one must take into consideration that it was the "Dead Ball Era" and that the baseballs traveled not nearly as far in 1903 as they would only a few years later.) Foul lines were a long 346 to left, but only 290 to right. What made it spacious were the distances to left and right center at 380 feet, and 450 feet to straight center field.
- **Oak Park, Sacramento:** Little— except the location and that left field was lengthened some hundred feet— of Oak Park is presently known. We also know from press accounts that the infield remained "skinned" during the 1903 season. However, statistics (which I compiled from box scores) show that 192 doubles, 132 triples and only 7 home runs were hit in 89 games at the park during 1903. From that one might hazard a few assumptions about the park. First, the fences must have been distant, because only 7 home runs were hit, while the team had the premier slugger in the PCL, Truck Eagan, on its roster. Also adding to that supposition would be the fact that relatively few doubles and an incredible amount of triples were hit. More than twice as many triple as the league average occurred in Sacramento: per 100 games, the league average is 67 triples; Oak Park averaged some 148 triples per 100 games.
- **Recreation Park, San Francisco:** Recreation Park sported a grass infield for the first time in 1903. This park, located at 8th and Harrison Street, would burn down in the aftermath of the 1906 Earthquake, and later be replaced by another park of the same name. The grounds were irregular, and had a very large foul area. Right field was a very short 265 feet down the line, then jugged out to 330

feet where buildings cut substantially into the right center and center field areas, making dead center somewhat less than 330 feet from home plate. The deepest part of the park was to left center, some 385 feet from the plate. The power alley in left measured 345 feet, and it was 338 down the left field line.

- **Recreation Park, Seattle:** Recreation Park in Seattle was another irregular-shaped ballpark, with a slightly larger than normal foul area. Down the left field line it measured only 275 feet, then jutted out to 300 feet in left, and 360 feet to left center. Dead center was 420 feet from home, and then the fence continued out to a distance of 520 feet in right center. The right field fence down the line was an exceeding long 435 feet from the plate. Both infield and outfield were of grass.

### **Contract Jumping Redux & Attendance in the Two Leagues:**

The pirating of players and contract jumping continued, so the Coast League employed a new tactic: judicial injunctions. The Pacific Coast League got an injunction against pitcher Martin Glendenon, and the courts prevented him from playing in the early part of the season. But injunctions and jailing players turned out to be hit and miss, depending on judicial whims and outright payoffs to the judges.

Raiding reached its high—or low—point on April 17<sup>th</sup>, when groundskeeper Billy Johnson, who had taken care of Recreation Park in San Francisco since its construction, got an offer from the opposition to take care of their new park a block and a half away.

But not all the contract jumping had an adverse effect on the team that lost a starter. The Angels, for instance, lost regular outfielder Jack Lawler to Tacoma, but that only opened up a spot for Gavy Cravath, who would turn out to be a great player in both the minors and majors, and one of the best players ever to come out of Southern California.

Just before the Pacific Northwest League season began, the league officially changed its name to the Pacific National League. But even a change of name couldn't make up for a late start—or the lack of tradition in California. As early as April 18<sup>th</sup>, the Pacific Nationals were drawing only 500 fans to their games, while former major leaguer Jay Hughes—who had been signed by Parke Wilson of Seattle—and Billy Thomas faced each other in Sacramento in front of 6,000 spectators, and star pitchers Jimmy Whalen and Doc Newton went at it in Los Angeles with 7,000 looking on.

In May, the two Portland teams went head to head at the box office. The Coast League club one Sunday outdrew its Pacific National League rivals by a 2,000 to 260 margin according to press reports. Even though Charlie Reilly put together a fine club in Los Angeles for the opposition league, on April 21<sup>st</sup>, for instance, the *Looloos* outdrew his team at the box office 2,000 to 200, almost the same as the Portland results. The opposition league team in Los Angeles drew 1,400 on its opening day, but that was followed by a mere 150 spectators the next day. That set the tenor for the whole season.

As the season progressed, the Portland Coast League club appeared to be having problems, but those problems had nothing to do with Portland attendance. Manager Sammy Vigneaux seemed to be facing derision from of his star players, and suddenly in the middle of May he released his two best hitters, Carlos Smith and Zizzie Zinzer. The press hinted at personality conflicts on the team, and there must of been something there as Smith had been hitting over .300 at the time of this release. (Parke Wilson of Seattle immediately signed both players, and they went on to help the Siwasches to their later success.) Then Charlie Schaffer, who had jumped from Dan Dugdale's Seattle team to Portland, jumped back to the Pacific National League. And, finally, Frank Huelsman, imported from the East, jumped after only playing one game for Vigneaux. Huelsman went on to lead the Pacific National League in batting that year with a .392 average. He probably would not have done anywhere near as well in the Coast League, though. Most players—with a few exceptions—who performed in both leagues during the 1903 season had better stats in the Pacific National League.

### **March, April and May:**

In the early going, the league races turned into an all-Los Angeles affair as the L. A. clubs in both leagues pulled way out in front in their respective races. Yet most observers considered the Angel team of the Coast League to be the class of the West.

After their 15-game winning streak at the beginning of the season, Los Angeles "cooled off" to a 23-16 record, but it must be noted that the club had been mostly on the road, including having spent the whole month of May in other cities. The Angels led the surprising second place Sacramento team by 6 games after the first two months of the season. The Portland Browns and the Oakland *Recruits* fell 17 and 22 games off the pace by the end of May, and seemingly out of the race. Charlie Irwin had his Stars only a game behind Sacramento, and just barely still in the race. Parke Wilson's charges were doing better than anyone could have expected from a club thrown together at the last moment by holding down fourth place.

The league, after only two months, took on the appearance of "haves and have nots:" the first division bunched in a group not too far off the pace, and the second division clubs in a bunch pretty much out of the race. The league would maintain that kind of dichotomy until nearly the end of the season—when the *Looloos* pulled even further away from all the rest of the clubs.

As to the records of individual players through May, Warren Hall of the Angels jumped out to a 12 and 3 win-loss record, but young Billy Thomas of Sacramento was the talk of the league in the early going with a 17 and 6 record and 5 shutouts, but you could see that he was being over-worked. With every new game, Thomas got hit just a little bit harder, and he struck out fewer batters. Cap Dillon led the league in batting with a .357 average, and long ball hitter Truck Eagan had already smashed 5 HR, including two in one game up in Seattle. Also starting out very hot were Angels pitchers Doc Newton at

10 and 4, and Dolly Gray, who had an 8 and 2 record. Long-time star San Francisco pitcher Jimmy "The Whale" Whalen got off to a no better than so-so start at 9 and 6. Both player-manager Charlie Irwin and right fielder Pat Meaney started out hot for San Francisco, with .338 and .311 batting averages respectively.

(Pat Meaney had an interesting career. He started out as a left-handed pitcher, but after two years of pitching an excessive amount of innings he blew his arm out. That would have signaled the end of a career for most, but not the notoriously hard-working Meaney. He spent the off season and part of the next learning how to throw right-handed, and came back as a good-hitting, weak-armed right-handed outfielder. Meaney played in the high minors through the 1909 season, winding up with a solid career .293 average in the minors.

Later on in the 1903 Coast League season, Meaney—while catching a fly ball with his ungloved right hand—injured his hand so badly to grasp the ball. The next day he showed up at the park with an old, heavily-padded glove on his right hand, and with the intention of throwing with his left. As the *Oakland Herald* reported, "Pat took a forlorn chance. He fielded the ball with his left and threw to home. The ball sped far and true as a die." But, shortly after that, Meaney's left arm would go dead on him again, and he switched back to being a righty.

Pat Meaney ended his career in his native Philadelphia in 1912 as a replacement player in the famous Ty Cobb strike game. In his only major league game, he played shortstop for the Detroit Tigers some three years after he had quit Organized Ball. Pat Meaney, thus, was the oldest rookie ever until Satchel Paige came along in the late 40s to take the title away from him, though he still remains the oldest rookie to debut as a position player.

Meaney put together a number of .300 plus years in the minors, and if he had any sort of arm probably would have made it to the big leagues as a regular player for a few years.)

### June and July:

On the field, the summer months of June and July had the *Looelos* continuing their lead over the league, but by the end of July the San Francisco Stars had surged into second place, dropping the Sacramento Senators down a notch. They were followed by Seattle, Portland, tail- end Oakland.

Oakland—so far out of the race—announced they had signed another shortstop by the name of Quinlan, but en route the player decided to stop off in Kentucky on some personal business, and wound up playing there. But it was just one of those years: Prior to that, the Oaks had tried four shortstops, each one worse than the other.

Over the winter Jack Fillman had been imported from the East with much hoopla to fill slick-fielding Buck Francks place at short. Fillman played 31 games for the *Recruits* at the beginning of the season, but hit a paltry .082 with a poor .882 fielding average before they got rid of him. At second base, the team started the season with somebody named Al Johnson, who lasted about as long as Fillman before being released. At short, Lohman replaced Fillman with someone even worse, a poor

wretch named Harry Bird who lasted all of 25 games, and had an even worse fielding average of .840. Johnson then was replaced by outfielder Moose Baxter as a supposedly stopgap measure, but Moose wound up logging 73 games at second over the course of the season as the club searched for someone to fill the position on a permanent basis. After the *Recruits* released Bird, Lohman tried two local semipro at shortstop, each lasting but a game: Jack Hanrahan and Harry Spencer. They made two errors apiece in their only appearances.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of June, Rudy Kling and Lou Walters arrived from Terre Haute to give Oakland its first good keystone combination since the season began. They played two games, and the press began to rejoice, but failed to show up for the team's next game. When members of the team went to check on them, all they found in their rooms were "...an apple core, a cigar butt and one lone sock," according to the *San Francisco Examiner* reporter. To boot, they left with a month's advance on their pay. Pete Lohman and owner Cal Ewing swore out arrest warrants, but the two got away with Ewing's money.

Meanwhile, Harry Hart of the opposition San Francisco franchise had to deny a rumor that he bought into the money-losing Los Angeles Pacific National franchise to keep it afloat. (After the season closed, he would declare he had lost some \$50,000 on both teams, which was really big money in those days.)

In another indication of things going wrong, the Pacific National League announced that San Francisco would spend an extra week in the Pacific Northwest before returning home. Obviously, they did not want to go head to head with the Coast League San Francisco Stars.

Back on the field, by the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July, the surging Sacramento team had closed within a game and a half of the *Looelos*. This was as close as any team had come since the beginning of the season—or as close as any team would get at all season. But Sacramento had primarily relied on phenom Bill Thomas, and his arm began to wear out about that time. The young pitcher had worked on short rest the first two months of the season, and also pitched a number of extra inning games during the hot July weather in Sacramento. As a pitcher, he would never be the same the rest of the year, though he did wind up with a fine 29-14 record in 1903.

After that surge, reality set in as the *Blues* lost their July 3<sup>rd</sup> game, and blew a double header on the 4<sup>th</sup>, and a single game on the 5<sup>th</sup> of July. With that, Sacramento found themselves out of the race for good.

In the opposition league, Spokane only drew 600 fans for a doubleheader in a town without any Coast League challenger. That, of course, didn't bode well for the Pacific National League as a whole. Nevertheless, on the first of July, Los Angeles correspondent R. L. Ransom wrote in *Sporting Life* that the Pacific Coast League was on its last legs (the article would not appear on the stands until July 11<sup>th</sup>). The correspondent went on to state that Portland was on the verge of throwing in the towel, and it was even worse for the Coast League in Seattle. Only in San Francisco, he stated, had the PCL been outdrawing the Pacific National League, but only by a

little; in Los Angeles, the teams were practically even in attendance.

The same day that the Ransom article appeared, the Pacific National League announced the transfer of their "strong" Portland franchise to Salt Lake, completely discrediting the spin Ransom had tried to give the situation.

Around the same time, James Hart of the Chicago National League team invited National Association Secretary James H. Farrell, along with Dugdale and Lucas from the Pacific Nationals and Henry Harris and Jim Morley of the Coast League to meet with him in Chicago.

All the parties met in Chicago on July 14th, but the meeting broke up without any resolution, much like the earlier meeting in San Francisco. But a short time later, Harry Hart and his partners in the Pacific National League California teams made an offer to sell out to Morley and Harris; when that was rejected, they made an offer to buy out Harris and Morley. Both deals were rejected out of hand by the two Coast League magnates.

By then, it was becoming all too apparent that the Pacific National League was having grave financial problems in California, no matter what their friends in the press, like Ransom, tried to say.

On the field, things in the Coast League proceeded much the same as before, except that by the end of July, the Sacramento Senators had slipped into third place, with San Francisco moving up and really making a run at Los Angeles. The San Francisco Stars closed to within 7½ games behind the leaders after games played on July 31<sup>st</sup>. The surge by the Stars had been led by pitchers Ham Iburg with his 15 and 11 record, and Jimmy Whalen at 18-10; Charlie Irwin and Pat Meaney hovered around .300, and Ed Pabst was hitting a solid .280.

No matter, for by the end of July, Warren "Rusty" Hall of the Angels had already won 21 games, while having lost only 7; and Doc Newton had a 17-9 record up to that date. So no matter how hard the second place team tried, the *Looloos* just cruised.

Other players of note included Harry Lumley, the eventual league batting leader, who joined the Seattle Siwashes in July, and finished his first month at a .360 clip— only to do even better in the following months. Seattle pitcher Jay Hughes, who was his steady self amid the storm of changes around him, checked in with a solid 14-10 record. And Hughes' record would only get better as the club stabilized.

Jake Thielman joined the Portland Browns in July, and won four out of his first five games. That, and the hitting of Phil Nadeau (.346) and Deacon Van Buren (.354) provided the only bright spots for the fifth place club.

Oakland didn't have much to cheer about, though veteran Doc Moskiman was hitting .341 and playing several infield and outfield positions when not on the mound. Moskiman's record was 11-14 through the end of July.

(It is also at the end of July that we pick up the trail of our wayward double play combo of Kling and Walters. After sneaking out of town, they made their way east and wound up signing with Indianapolis, though Terre Haute—the team they had originally jumped— would not release them. Indianapolis

could not work out a deal and the two were forced to return to Terre Haute. In short order, Terre Haute traded Kling to Colorado Springs. And then shortly thereafter traded Lou Walters to Pine Bluff. Walters— doncha know!— failed to report to Pine Bluff.)

Oakland's problems finally were solved at second when Kid Mohler— the 1902 incumbent— returned from Denver to the Coast League halfway through the season. Although he signed with Parke Wilson in Seattle, apparently refusing to play for cheap Pete Lohman in Oakland again, that enabled Wilson to give up rights to Charlie Schwartz, a pretty fair infielder, who then joined the *Recruits* as their second baseman. Buck Francks, Lohman's shortstop the year before, jumped his Denver contract in the Western League and rejoined Oakland on July 29<sup>th</sup>; Schwartz made it down from Seattle two days later.

In the weeks leading up to Francks and Schwartz taking over at second and short, Oakland tried Bull Croll— who had failed to stick with both San Francisco and Sacramento as a reserve earlier in the year— at second base. They also tried moving Brick Devereaux to shortstop. They called Devereaux "Brick" or "Red Dog" for the color of his hair, and sometimes called him "Wild Bill" because of his fierce temperament. Brick had been a fixture at third in the California League since 1898. In desperation, the *Recruits* even brought in center fielder Bill O'Hara in to play short, second and third. The shortstop crisis hit a low point the week of July 21, when Oakland came north to Seattle without a shortstop. In Seattle, Oakland picked up journeyman infielder Hugh McGilligan (who, besides playing for Oakland, had played earlier in the year for Seattle, Spokane, Butte and Salt Lake City in the Pacific National League) for the series. Only Kid Mohler's fortuitous arrival in Seattle put an end to Oakland's misfortunes at second base. Released, Charlie Schwartz followed the Oakland club south only a few days after the team returned home.

One would think that that would be the end of Oakland's infield miseries. But that was not the case: Buck Francks played only until September 15, when he injured himself so badly that it ended his season right then. The *Recruits* then returned to their shortstop by committee approach until late October, when they picked up Pacific National League second baseman Ike Rockenfield who filled in at short for the duration. Rockenfield had been hitting .301 in the PNL; he only .156 for the *Recruits* in Coast League play.

In 1906 Oakland manager Pete Lohman would go crazy and have to be institutionalized. I can't help wondering if he spent his days there muttering about shortstops.

#### August:

August turned out to be the end of the end as far as the Pacific National League was concerned. When Jim Morley and Hank Harris returned from the Chicago meeting on August 4th, they told the press that they had nothing new regarding a settlement. The Coast League held tough, and with every passing day, the Pacific National League teams attracted less and less fans, if that were possible.

What happened next did not seem to be what could have ever been foreseen: Tacoma and Helena unexpectedly dropped out of the league on August 16<sup>th</sup>. So unforeseen, in fact, that both the Pacific National League San Francisco and Los Angeles owners hadn't even known about it until after the fact. What was more amazing was that neither the Helena and Tacoma franchises ever had any direct competition from Coast League teams in their cities. A few of the players from those teams did join Coast League teams during the 1903 season, but generally the Pacific National League players were not quite up to Coast League standards, and thus did not do very well after jumping except in isolated cases; therefore, the failure of Helena and Tacoma at the box office could not even be blamed on having all their star players raided by the Pacific Coast League.

After a game on Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup> (which the AP man reported had been seen by "a very small crowd" at Praeger Park), between the San Francisco Nationals and the Los Angeles Nationals, the management of both teams announced they would immediately suspend operations. The teams didn't even choose to play their normally better attended weekend games to try to pick up a few last bucks, that was how bad attendance must have been.

With that—the war was over. The Pacific National League had lost four teams in four days. The league struggled on to finish the season, but there was not much of a league left: A four team outfit, consisting of Seattle, Spokane, Butte and Salt Lake.

It now appears the only reason league play continued was to keep Dugdale's ego intact, and for the Pacific National League to retain rights to league cities the following year. (Leagues automatically lost the rights to their own territories if they failed to finish out a season.)

Harry Hart later on would state why he quit: he was stabbed in the back twice by people in the north over a two week period. Shortly before they dropped out, the Tacoma ownership had assured Henry Hart and W. V. Garrett that they would fight on till the finish, no matter what. After Tacoma and Helena dropped out, Hart was then assured by Dan Dugdale that he would get complete support by the remaining northern teams, only to get a wire from Dugdale himself a few days later stating that his Seattle team would not be traveling to San Francisco for their scheduled series with Hart's team.

The *Los Angeles Times* eulogized the passing: "Saying that the local fans were not surprised is stating the plain truth, for the demise of the California end of the Pacific National was expected any time before September 1. It was only a question of how long the good angel [Henry Hart] would continue to shake the money out of his wings, and when he quit on Thursday the end came."

On the field in August, the Angels maintained a solid 10 game lead over the San Francisco Stars. Warren Hall had another good month, improving his record to 25 and 9, but this turned out to be the high point of his season. He started hitting the bottle pretty heavily with teammate Doc Newton, a well-known drinking man in his years pitching for both Cincinnati and Brooklyn. The more Hall drank, the worse he pitched, not winning a game in the whole month of September. Doc Newton,

on the other hand, pitched better ball the more he drank. During one of Newton's best stretches pitching, he once fell off the mound dead drunk, and had to be removed before he could throw the first pitch of the game. On August 7<sup>th</sup> Newton began a streak of two months where he would not lose a game, putting together 11 wins in a row. His drinking buddy, Warren Hall, went 4 and 8 over the same period.

San Francisco's Jimmy Whalen improved his record to 22 and 10, but only pitched 5 games because of illness, winning four without a loss. Truck Eagan, the Sacramento star shortstop, increased his home run totals to 11 while playing in a park, Oak Park in Sacramento, that yielded the fewest—by far—home runs in the league. Harry Lumley in Seattle continued at the same pace, hitting .356 through games played on August 31<sup>st</sup>.

The really big news in August was provided by the signing of Indian pitcher Sammy Morris by the Portland Browns. Large photos of him appeared on the sports page of several newspapers. (In those days, an Indian player represent a good box-office draw.) Morris had torn up Southern Washington with his pitching and hitting. Sammy Morris hit a home run and a double in his first game, but his pitching never lived up to advance billing, and he wound up with a 3-3 record with a 4.43 ERA before being released. Later in the season he got another trial in Sacramento, but pitched only one bad game before being released. The *Sacramento Bee* indelicately put it that Sammy was "...too fond of firewater."

### September through November:

The Coast League went on to finish the season with Los Angeles taking the flag by some 27½ games over Sacramento, the Blues coming back at the end of the season from third place. The only real excitement in those last three months was provided by Seattle, which in one stretch won 19 straight games with one tie mixed in. They finished third, but at times it seemed like they may have had a chance to catch the Angels. Their star pitcher, Jay Hughes won 12 in a row, with only one no decision mixed in. Hughes won on September 8<sup>th</sup>, and did not lose again until November 4<sup>th</sup>.

San Francisco went cold late in the season and finished fourth. The press blamed player-manager Charlie Irwin for being too lax with his players. If there had been a Manager of the Year then, it would have had to have gone to Parke Wilson. Wilson built his club, as noted before, from the ground up, and he didn't stop making changes until he had the players he wanted on the field. Bringing the team in third was a marvelous bit of work.

In the last stages of the season, teams began trying out players for the 1904 season, some of whom would never be heard from again, like a second baseman from Santa Ana, Clare Head, who hit a mammoth home run earlier in the year when his amateur team traveled to near-by Fiesta Park. (Clare Head, it would turn out, got his friend Walter Johnson his first pro contract.) Another player, Spider Baum, got a tryout in the Coast League in 1903 and would pitch for various clubs through the 1920 season.

Portland and Seattle tried to play games in the Pacific Northwest during October, but it turned out financially disastrous for both clubs. If games were not canceled because of rain, the games more often than not had to be played in a steady drizzle, which didn't do much for the box office receipts.

In November, the weather turned rainy in California, and a number of games had to be canceled in the Bay Area as all the teams played out the schedule without much interest.

Fans continued to attend games in Los Angeles, however, and on Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 5,000 fans turned out to see Doc Newton pitch against Oakland. They were treated to the first no hitter ever pitched in the Pacific Coast League. Only two men reached base on errors, and both were erased by double plays. As the *San Francisco Chronicle* waxed: "It is said by the best-posted baseball authority in this city that Newton's feat has never been equaled and that it established a new record in the baseball world. There have been other no-hit games pitched, but to-day's was the first on record where there were no bases on balls and no one left on bases." While the *Chronicle* reporter didn't know there had been many such no hitters pitched, he was right about it being an exceptional performance. The *Los Angeles Times*, for its part, only noted: "There were no particularly bright features about the game aside from Newton's performance..."

The 1903 season provided many outstanding individual performances. Jay Hughes (erroneously listed in all the encyclopedias as "Jim") of Seattle tied Doc Newton for the lead in wins with 34. (Sacramento native Hughes hated pitching in the East, and on several occasions refused to sign contracts with eastern clubs so he could remain on the West Coast. 1903 was one of those years. His 83-41, 3.00 career major league record included 28-6 and 23-12 years for Baltimore and Brooklyn.)

Jimmy Whalen of the San Francisco Stars and Bill Thomas of Sacramento both won 29 games. (After putting together three straight 20-win seasons in the PCL, Thomas decided to give the East a try, but there his luck ran out. Sacramento boy Billy Thomas' demise is one of the saddest tragedies in the history of baseball. George Stallings of Buffalo, hoping to bolster his Bisons, signed Thomas to a contract for the 1906 season. Thomas got off to a good start, winning his first start in Baltimore. The team then played a series in Providence, Rhode Island. After the series concluded on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, the team took a train to New Bedford, Massachusetts, from where they embarked on the night boat *Richard Peck* to New York City en route to Newark. Thomas left word with the porter and his roommate, pitcher Joe Galaski, that he wished to be called very early so he would be able to view the New York City skyline in the dawn. When the porter came into the cabin to wake Thomas early the next morning, he found an empty but slept in bunk where the pitcher had apparently slept the night before. The porter assumed Bill Thomas had awakened early, and was on the deck. Pitcher Galeski assumed the same thing, though he later reported not having heard Thomas get up. Only when the boat docked did it become evident that Bill Thomas arose in the early hours of May 4<sup>th</sup>, 1906 and, somehow, managed to fall overboard into the cold waters of Long Island

Sound. A body was never found, and Bill Thomas' death remains a mystery to this day. )

Jake Thielman, of the Portland Browns, managed to win 17 games in just over half a season; he also struck out 11 in his first game in the league, which was the most by any pitcher that year. Thielman's ERA of 2.12 lead the league (*see note on statistics at end*). Thielman's teammate, Ike Butler, my research shows could not have lost a league record 31 games, as carried by the *PCL Record Book*; his record appears to have been 22 wins and "only" 27 losses. Another new record was lefty Oscar Graham's 53 complete games, which bests Cack Henley's 48 in 1910 by a good margin. Truck Eagan led the league in home runs with 13 and triples with 23, while hitting a solid .322 with 50 stolen bases and 57 doubles.

Also noteworthy was the season of Phil Nadeau of Portland: .337 batting average with 267 hits along with what appears to be a league record 233 singles, two more than Ox Eckhardt's currently recognized record (1933).

Kid Mohler and Carlos Smith both had fine seasons for Seattle, as did Harry Lumley who led the league with a .383 average. Lumley is credited by the *PCL Record Book* as having led the league in batting even though he only played in a little more than half of Seattle's games. If one uses the first criteria ever used (years later) by the PCL to determine qualifiers for the batting crown (playing in 2/3's of one's team's games), the title would pass to a much more deserving Cap Dillon. Nevertheless, Lumley was a great hitter. He joined Brooklyn in 1904, and remained there until 1910 when he finally managed to eat himself out of the National League. They didn't call him Chub for nothing.

Something also should be said about the work of Doc Moskiman in Oakland. While Doc's record as a pitcher was only 14 and 24, his ERA was below the 3.17 league average with 3.03. But what is really notable is that Moskiman, when not pitching, played every position except catcher on the team. No matter where manger Lohman played him, he acquitted himself well. And he finished the season with a .316 batting average in 135 games. Moskiman began pitching for Oakland in the California League in 1898, and wound up his Coast League career with San Francisco in 1911. He jumped to the outlaw California League in 1906, and remained a mainstay of the league through the 1910 season, winning as many as 31 games in 1909.

#### **The Team That Won:**

When one looks at the Los Angeles club man by man, I believe the '03 Angels have to be viewed as one of the great Coast League teams of all time: Almost every position was manned by an all-star. And the pitching of Doc Newton, Warren Hall, Joe Corbett and Dolly Gray was absolutely the best rotation of the pre-World War One years. The rundown:

- At first base was Cap Dillon, maybe the best fielding first sacker the league ever had, including the infamous Hal Chase. He led the league in fielding, and finished second to Harry Lumley (if you accept Lumley as batting leader) with a .364 BA. Frank Dillon also held down the position of Los

Angeles *captain*, which in those years was really field manager, rather than what we today call “team captain.” Cap Dillon, who in later years would be known as Pop, was a cousin of Clark Griffith.

- George Wheeler held down second base, and that presented the only weak spot in the whole lineup. Wheeler had been pressed into service at second when Holly Hollingsworth jumped his contract with Jim Morley to join the opposition. His normal position was pitcher and part-time third baseman. The newspapers came down hard on him right at the start, clamoring for an immediate replacement, but he managed to hang in there and do an adequate job. (Wheeler also pitched 12 games, when not at second base, and wound up with an extremely fine record of 8 and 1. His pitching may also have dampened the clamor for his head.) Wheeler was one of two ambidextrous players who appeared in the Coast League in 1903, the other being San Francisco outfielder Pat Meaney.
- Jimmy Toman played the Angel shortstop position. He was a slick fielding, no-hit type of player. He led all shortstops in Fielding Percentage and Range by a wide margin—year after year. Toman, reportedly, had not missed an inning or an at bat since the 1899 season. But Jimmy was forced to leave the team in October because of the death of his father back East. He did not return until the following season. Toman held forth at short for the Angels through the 1906 season.
- Hard hitting and slick fielding veteran Jud Smith was the Angel’s third baseman. He led all third basemen in fielding average, and had good range. He hit a solid .290 in 1903, with 42 doubles, 12 triples and 56 stolen bases.
- Art Ross became the full-time left fielder early on in the season, after Jack Lawler jumped his contract. Ross was an above average player, not flashy but steady. He played for the Angels through the 1906 season, and then returned for a second stint in 1909. Ross hit a solid .288 with 56 stolen bases, but didn’t have much power, even for those years.
- Dummy Hoy patrolled center field for the Angels. William Ellsworth Hoy was one of the most amazing and multi-faceted people every to play baseball. Hoy was a deaf-mute who had a solid 14-year major league career. Hoy is the one who is credited with inventing baseball signs. In his life out of baseball, he became a very wealthy man; and he and his wife— also deaf, but who apparently able to speak— adopted Paul Hoy Helms, who later went on to found the Helms Bakery and the Helms Athletic Foundation. In 1903, Hoy began to show that he was nearing the end of the road as a player. He hit only .257, though he did manage to get 42 doubles, 10 triples and stole 47 bases. His fielding average was a credible .957, but his range was the worst of any regular center fielder, considerably below those of the leaders.
- Right fielder Gavvy Cravath played the first of five years with the Angels in 1903. Later, he would go on to a fine, 11-year career in the majors, which included leading the league in home runs some six times. He also had several

fine seasons with Minneapolis in the American Association. In 1903, he hit a respectable .274 with a team leading seven home runs. Many believe it has been a mistake for the Hall of Fame to have overlooked him. After his career in baseball ended, he became a justice of the peace in Laguna Beach, California.

- Catching chores were handled by veteran Heinie Spies. Spies began his career in the California League in 1892 with San Francisco. His hitting was just average (.251), but he stole 35 bases, and his fielding was far superior to any other catcher in the league. His .973 FA surpassed his nearest competition by 13 points. Henry Spies would play in the Coast League through the 1906 season, all the time— except for part of his last season— with the Angels. Backing him up were two veterans: Ed Hurlburt who relieved Spies for most of the season, and then, near the end of the season, the Angeles picked up Bobby Eager, who wound up catching for L. A. through the 1907 season.
- Tealy Raymond took over Jimmy Toman’s place at shortstop when Toman went east after the death of his father. Raymond proved to be an adequate replacement for the departed shortstop, though nowhere near his equal in abilities. Raymond had been given a shot to play for San Francisco earlier in the year, but they released him; he just happened to be available when Toman left for the East.
- While other teams had some good pitchers, the *Looelos* possessed the dominant rotation in the league, and one would be hard pressed to come up with a better one in the whole history of the Pacific Coast League. Doc Newton lead the staff with a league leading 34 victories, and only 12 losses. Warren “Rusty” Hall wound up with a record of 32-19. During the first part of the season, Hall was unbeatable, but trailed off because of overwork— and a few too many nights out with Doc Newton. Hall threw 7 shutouts, while sporting a 2.31 ERA, second best in the league. Rusty Hall would pitch in the Coast League through the 1906 season, though he never would reach the heights he did in 1903. His second best season came in 1905, when he went 19-16 for the Angels. Joe Corbett got off to a rocky start— and had to battle a sore arm throughout the season— but came on very strong at the end. He threw the most shutouts (8) in the league, and also led in strikeouts (196) on the way to a 23 and 16 record. Not bad for someone who hadn’t pitched against top-flight competition on a regular basis for several years. Corbett’s 2.36 ERA should have led to a much better won-loss record, but he did have some bad luck and frequently faced the toughest opposing pitchers (because of his drawing power) along the way. Dolly Gray rounded out the rotation with a respectable 23-20 win-loss record with a 3.55 ERA. Gray would pitch in the Coast League until 1913. Virgil Drinkwater and second baseman George Wheeler rounded out the staff as spot starters. Both pitched a couple of shutouts— and Wheeler’s 8 and 1, 1.92 ERA sparked the team on a number of occasions. Both players began their careers in New England, and Wheeler had a four-year

major league career, winding up in 1899 with a 21-20 4.24 ERA record.

The Angels led the league in fielding by five percentage points, and were only three points off the pace in batting. But the team ERA of 2.67 beat the second best Portland (3.06) by an exceedingly wide margin, and that is what really made the 1903 Angels one of the greatest PCL teams of all time.

Even though the *Looloos* did as well as they did, they probably should have done better. What other team could lose their regular second baseman less than a week into the season (replaced by somebody who had never played second regularly, if at all); lose their regular shortstop (the best in the league, by far) for the last month or so of the season—and still finish so far ahead. And add to that, Manager Cap Dillon taking off for the better part of two weeks to get married and take a short honeymoon. And during one series late in the season, the Seattle papers even accused the Los Angeles players of “jaking it.” Whether that were true or not, it would seem that a team so far ahead would let up from time to time, especially during a season of well over 200 games.

Only a super team could not only survive but thrive with those personnel losses. If the Angels had played at top speed—and with the whole team together—they would have won, maybe, by another 10 games or so over the next best team. They were, in fact, that good. No question about it.

### The Wild West:

While the Pacific Coast League cut down on rowdiness and umpire baiting, the game on the field still remained rough and tumble. Much of the untamed West still remained. There were fights on the field, gambling and booze in the stands.

Late in the season, the Acting League President, Eugene Bert, suspended Los Angeles' George Wheeler indefinitely for punching out umpire Jim McDonald after an October 3<sup>rd</sup> game.

It should be noted, however, that umpire McDonald was about to throw a baseball at Wheeler's head just as the second baseman/pitcher coldcocked him. Apparently McDonald hadn't thought much of Wheeler's critique of the arbiter's play-calling skills.

As the *San Francisco Examiner* put it in their own unique style: “The ball game at Recreation Park yesterday was a curtain raiser to a thrilling and sanguinary battle. Just as the last man popped out Umpire McDonald charged the Los Angeles bench, like a regiment of cavalry answering mess call. He had a mouthful of repartee to empty.

“He used some copyrighted figure of speech in regard to Wheeler. The Los Angeles second baseman suggested an unpleasant country as a permanent abode for McDonald and all others who plied the nefarious trade of umpiring.

“McDonald paused undecided whether to use a regulation baseball or a catcher's mask to wipe out the insult. As he pondered, Wheeler swung at his ear and landed a right cross on his olfactory organ.”

Wheeler admitted his wrongdoing in a late-night, man-to-man talk with Eugene Bert a few days after the incident, and so the President decided to cut his suspension to ten days.

Also, the late season antics that became sort of a hallmark of the old Coast League (for instance, 59-year-old Lefty O'Doul pinch hitting, along with his 51-year-old coach, Eddie Taylor, at the end of the 1956 season; or Manager Wade Killefer plucking people out of the stands in 1925 to participate in the losing end of a blowout) got its start in the 1903 season. Late in November, with attendance flagging, Los Angeles and Portland decided to stimulate fan interest by having their two most famous pitchers, Doc Newton and Oscar Jones, switch teams for a game. Jones, who had pitched the whole season for Brooklyn in the National League en route to a fine 19-14 record before signing with Portland, had pitched the year before for Los Angeles in the California League. Oscar won the shoot-out by a 3 to 2 score. Newton had won their previous and only meeting by a 5 to 1 score.

(In the guides and record books, Doc Newton is listed with 35 victories, but my research shows that he in fact only won 34 games. What seems to have happened is that the game between Portland and Los Angeles where Newton and Jones switched teams, someone in the league office thought the scorer had inadvertently written the pitchers' names under the wrong teams. Los Angeles won the game 3 to 2, so the league office then corrected the supposed mistake, and gave the win to Doc Newton, who had been with the Angels all year.)

The game off the field was also wild and woolly. Gambling thoroughly pervaded Coast League ball. Ban Johnson, during the Black Sox Scandal of 1919, bitterly complained that the whole mess stemmed from the influence of Coast Leaguers, who came from an environment where league officials looked the other way at fixed games and gambling in the stands.

(Five of the eight banned Black Sox players had Coast League careers, only Joe Jackson, Eddie Cicotte and Happy Felsch didn't. There were also a number of other ex-Coast Leaguers supposedly involved in the 1919 fix, most notably Hal Chase, Sleepy Bill Burns, Joe Gedeon and Jean Dubuc.)

In 1905, the *San Francisco Examiner* published an exposé of gambling at Recreation Park. While the facts deal with 1905, one can assume that the 1903 season had many of the same types of things going on. The bar on the grounds—which was the predecessor of what would eventually become popularly called the “Booze Cage” in the new Recreation Park, built after the 1906 Earthquake—was the center of bookmaking. Owners Uncle Henry Harris and Teddy Goodman also owned a nearby cigar stand where bookmaking, presumably, increased their profits, according to the *Examiner* reporter who placed a bet there.

The *Examiner* exposé detailed the persuasiveness of the gambling: “So open was the bookmaking that the women in the grandstand took a hand in it. These women had their betting patronage solicited by boys who went through the stands announcing the odds and who carried the money of the fair ones to the bookmakers, who held forth in a sort of mezzanine section below the grandstand and to the right of the entrance. It has

become notorious that many women are regular patrons of the betting ring at the ball park.

"And the policemen are there all the time. Those policemen are supposed to enforce the law. There is a law against bookmaking in the city and county of San Francisco. There is no effort to disguise the breaking of the law.

"And now see to what this sort of thing leads. Already the 'national game' has become so smirched with suspicion on this Coast that comparatively few people patronize it. There is a rather more than a suspicion that many of the games are 'fixed,' and that the bookmakers and their friends know just what the result of the so-called contest is to be.

"Frequently when a stranger goes up to bet he is told that all the money is taken on the side on which he wishes to bet. No matter how he offers to increase or diminish the odds, he is not permitted to place his money. Then the game results just as the bookmakers knew it would. They and their friends reap their harvest accordingly. And now Jimmy Whalen freely confesses that he was offered \$400 to throw a game.

"Yes, I was offered \$400 to lose a game," said Whalen yesterday. "I refused to consider the proposition. The man who made me the offer was a man I played for about six years ago [probably Ed Struve, who "owned" Watsonville, but secretly was financed by Harris]. The game upon which the attempted bribe was based was played earlier in the season of this year."

Further on the reporter brought up the case of former major leaguer Henry "Heinie" Schmidt: "Though President Hawbaker, of the Oakland Club, after he had freely accused Pitcher Schmidt of having "thrown" a game to Seattle, tried to take back his declaration, it is noteworthy that Schmidt has not been reinstated [he would be, after his wife begged the owner to reinstate him because the family was destitute, and the pitcher had gone off on a drunken binge] on the slab for Oakland—a team whose singular fluctuations of 'luck' during the season have caused many men to shake their dubious heads.

"But no matter whether the bribery of players is merely suspicion, or whether it is morally certain, there is no question that Harris and Goodman, with the connivance of the police, permit open bookmaking on the ball games played at Eighth and Harrison streets..."

By 1905 gambling on Coast League games reached its peak, but it had gone on for many years prior—and would continue until the "1920 Betting Scandal" forced the league to clean up its act for good. (The 1920 scandal led to the banning of several Coast League stars for taking money, including Bill Rumler and Harl Maggert.) With the exposure, Henry Harris and Teddy Goodman were forced sell out to Oakland owner Cal Ewing just before the 1906 season began, some eight days prior to the Earthquake. I don't suspect the fix was in, though.

When Harris died in 1915, all his ties to gambling had been long forgotten, and he was fondly remembered as an owner who developed many famous players, and the organizer of the great Haverly team and the then present day Seals. One should add that he also had been the visionary and prime mover behind the formation of the Pacific Coast League.

## In the Wake of the 1903 Season:

In December, Dan Dugdale wrote a letter to *Sporting Life*, giving his postmortem on the 1903 season. With much bluff and bluster, he unequivocally stated that his league in fact had *not* lost the war with the Pacific Coast League. Except for Portland, where they removed their franchise, they had retained the same territories as before; therefore, the Pacific National League had, in that fact, won the war.

He went on to say that the only reason the Pacific Coast League had not been forced out of business was because the National Association had not fully supported the Pacific National League.

On the eve of the 1904 season, Dugdale sold out his interests to Lou Cohen of the PCL Seattle franchise, which ended the Battle of Seattle, and the war between the two leagues. (A week prior, Dugdale declared that he would field a team so strong that he would drive the Coast League Siwash out of Seattle in no time.)

The Pacific National League for the 1904 season dropped back to Class B status from Class A, which was the highest classification at the time; in 1905 it dropped all the way to Class D. Much the same league, with many of the same participants would reemerge in the newly formed Pacific Northwestern League (with W. H. Lucas as its president through the 1910 season) and its successors (Pacific Coast International League, Western International League), right up to the present Northwest League.

Seattle remained in the Coast League through the 1906 earthquake-devastated season, after which the league dropped to four teams. When the Coast League returned to Seattle in 1909, the Indians played at the park still owned by Dugdale. Up until his death in the '30s, Dan Dugdale could be seen in the grandstand behind home plate at every Seattle game. Players in the 20s and 30s never knew Dugdale had been an owner, much less an old-time player—they thought he was only the guy who owned the land beneath their feet.

Once the war ended, the Coast League would reign unchallenged as the best league in the West for the next fifty-four years, except for a couple of times during the earlier years when the league had been challenged by an outlaw California State League. The Pacific Coast League almost became a major league on several occasions, the closest being in the early '50s, when it became the only league ever to be awarded a classification above Triple A level: Open Classification.

The Coast League tried mightily to become the third major league, but the move west of the Dodgers and Giants put an end to that for all times.

The Coast League joined the National Association after the season—so it would no longer be outside of Organized Baseball—and as 1903 turned into 1904 both fans and owners looked forward to a great season. Peace had, finally, returned to the Pacific Slope.

## The 1903 Coast League Season in Stats

compiled by Carlos Bauer © 1996

### **A** note on the statistics:

The following stats were generated from box scores collected from newspapers up and down the West Coast. My primary source was the San Francisco Chronicle, supplemented by local papers for all the other cities in the league. In many cases, I used multiple box scores to get correct game information. The statistics carried in both the Reach and Spalding Guides are very sketchy, very incomplete and— in many cases— very inaccurate. Pitchers records, for instance, only have wins and losses and corresponding W-L percentage; batters records do not contain extra base hits.

The case in Portland presented me with the most problems: It appears that the beat reporter for the Portland Oregonian slipped hits to Deacon Van Buren over the course of the season. It appears that the beat reporter also was official scorer. When I compared

multiple box scores (I used the visiting team's box scores and those of the AP), I found that the visiting team's box score almost always conformed with those of the AP, while there always seemed to be an extra base hit for Van Buren in the Oregonian. He was the only player for whom I found this to be true. For this reason, I decided to disregard the Oregonian box scores. This lowered Deacon Van Buren's batting average from .361 to .319.

A note on ERAs: I calculated Earned Run Averages based on the average percentage of earned runs of total runs for specific team fielding averages. Team Earned run percentages for 1903 ran from 64% to 70%. No Earned Runs were tracked by the PCL in early years.

Asterisks indicate a player appeared for more than one club during the year.

## The 1903 Pacific Coast League

STANDINGS	Managers	W	L	T	PCT.	G.B.
Los Angeles Angels	Cap Dillon	133	78	2	.630	....
Sacramento Senators	Charley Graham	105	105	2	.500	27½
Seattle Siwashes	Parke Wilson	98	100	2	.495	28½
San Francisco Stars	Charlie Irwin	107	110	3	.493	29
Portland Browns	Sam Vigneaux/Bones Ely	95	108	2	.468	34
Oakland Recruits	Pete Lohman	89	126	5	.414	46

Batting	G	AB	R	H	1B	2B	3B	HR	SB	AVG
Seattle Siwashes	199	6761	1037	1820	1398	328	75	19	258	.269
Sacramento Senators	212	7200	1013	1926	1545	265	96	20	405	.268
Los Angeles Angels	212	7201	1044	1917	1468	352	74	23	381	.266
Portland Browns	205	6977	961	1847	1537	252	51	7	226	.265
Oakland Recruits	219	7292	869	1821	1454	314	37	16	336	.250
San Francisco Stars	219	7327	961	1802	1486	258	40	18	341	.246
league		42758	5885	11133	8888	1769	373	103	1947	.260

Pitching	G	CG	ShO	IP	H	R	ER	SO	BB	ERA
Los Angeles Angels	212	193	27	1906.7	1717	809	566	603	593	2.67
Portland Browns	205	185	9	1815.0	1823	936	618	529	551	3.06
Sacramento Senators	212	190	17	1837.7	1842	961	653	412	680	3.20
Seattle Siwashes	199	181	6	1738.7	1792	996	637	547	681	3.30
San Francisco Stars	219	200	18	1948.7	1969	1073	730	492	643	3.37
Oakland Recruits	219	195	10	1939.7	1990	1110	733	445	756	3.40
league		1144	87	11186	11133	5885	3937	3028	3904	3.17

Fielding	G	TC	TC/G	P.O.	A	E	DP	TP	PCT
Los Angeles Angels	212	9000	42.5	5707	2796	497	149	0	.945
Sacramento Senators	212	8788	41.5	5489	2775	524	182	1	.940
San Francisco Stars	219	9356	42.7	5825	2961	570	134	0	.939
Portland Browns	205	8723	42.6	5433	2704	586	149	0	.933
Oakland Recruits	219	9613	43.9	5811	3117	685	175	1	.929
Seattle Siwashes	199	8454	42.5	5204	2608	642	169	0	.924
league		53934		33469	16961	3504	958	2	.935

Los Angeles Angels	Pos	B	G	AB	R	H	1B	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	AVG
Cap Dillon	1b	2b	L	190	752	114	274	208	49	14	3	42	.364
George Wheeler	2b	p,ss	B	198	757	127	171	137	30	3	1	35	.226
Jimmy Toman	ss			172	594	78	133	101	25	6	1	34	.224
Jud Smith	3b		R	198	790	139	229	174	42	12	1	57	.290
Art Ross	lf	rf	L	198	747	108	215	191	17	5	2	56	.288
Dummy Hoy	cf		L	212	808	157	208	156	42	10	0	48	.257
Gavvy Cravath	rf	lf	R	209	804	108	220	149	51	13	7	34	.274
Heinie Spies	c	1b	R	184	641	67	161	128	28	3	2	35	.251
Joe Corbett		p,,2b,lf,3b,cf	R	79	262	45	88	68	14	2	4	12	.336
Ed Hurlburt		c,1b		59	189	19	48	36	9	1	2	5	.254
Warren Hall		p		53	176	10	26	17	7	2	0	2	.148
Doc Newton*		p,1b	L	58	170	20	47	37	10	0	0	5	.276
Dolly Gray		p	L	51	159	10	26	16	10	0	0	3	.164
Tealy Raymond*		ss		37	137	18	30	23	6	1	0	6	.219
Bobby Eager		c		28	85	8	18	11	7	0	0	2	.212
Virgil Drinkwater		p		21	62	10	11	8	3	0	0	0	.177
Jack Lawler		lf		9	31	3	6	4	1	1	0	3	.194
Holly Hollingsworth*		2b		4	12	2	5	3	1	1	0	2	.417
Spider Baum		p	R	3	11	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	.091
Clare Head		2b		1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Midget Briseno		2b		1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Oscar Jones*		p	R	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Willie Jacobs*		lf		1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000

Los Angeles Angels	T	G	GS	CG	ShO	W	L	PCT	IP	H	R	ER	SO	BB	ERA
Warren Hall	R	53	51	48	7	32	19	.627	468.0	422	172	120	100	116	2.31
Dolly Gray	L	51	48	41	2	23	20	.535	406.0	414	228	160	91	135	3.55
Doc Newton*	L	48	46	41	5	34	12	.739	403.3	343	156	109	146	123	2.43
Joe Corbett	R	41	39	36	8	23	16	.590	347.3	267	130	91	196	136	2.36
Virgil Drinkwater		21	18	17	2	10	8	.556	169.0	165	73	51	44	51	2.72
George Wheeler	B	12	6	6	2	8	1	.889	75.0	68	23	16	21	17	1.92
Spider Baum	R	3	3	3	0	1	2	.333	26.0	29	16	11	4	9	3.81
Oscar Jones*	R	1	1	1	0	1	0	1.000	9.0	2	2	1	0	5	1.00
Cap Dillon	R	1	0	0	0	0	0	.000	3.0	9	9	6	1	1	18.00

Sacramento Senators		Pos	B	G	AB	R	H	1B	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	AVG
Cy Townsend	1b			176	661	92	194	162	21	10	1	25		.293
Pearl Casey	2b	cf	L	211	820	116	236	207	20	8	1	59		.288
Truck Eagan	ss		R	206	819	138	264	171	57	23	13	50		.322
Tommy Sheehan	3b		R	193	689	87	181	150	27	4	0	31		.263
George Hildebrand	lf	rf	R	184	704	129	204	160	29	13	2	46		.290
Demon Doyle	cf	3b,ss,1b,p		197	790	95	194	172	19	3	0	58		.246
George McLaughlin	rf	lf,rf	L	210	800	133	224	175	30	19	0	76		.280
Charley Graham	c	1b	R	178	585	86	157	122	27	7	1	24		.268
Happy Hogan	rf,c,1b,cf,3b,ss		R	145	455	44	99	86	10	3	0	15		.218
Bill Thomas	p,rf,cf		R	57	161	21	46	35	9	2	0	4		.286
Jack Fitzgerald	p,rf			47	136	14	19	13	5	0	1	3		.140
Win Cutter*	p,rf,cf			46	134	17	24	20	2	2	0	5		.179
Bobby Keefe	p,rf,cf		R	38	119	8	25	23	0	2	0	0		.210
Fred Brown	p		R	30	100	12	14	12	2	0	0	1		.140
Phil Knell	p,1b,rf,cf		R	31	93	8	15	14	1	0	0	2		.161
Ben Thomas	3b,cf,2b			12	36	2	4	3	1	0	0	0		.111
Josh Reilly*	3b			7	31	7	9	6	2	0	1	5		.290
Irv Young*	p		L	10	29	2	8	6	2	0	0	0		.276
John Baker	p			6	17	2	4	3	1	0	0	1		.235
Bull Croll*	cf,rf		R	2	6	1	2	2	0	0	0	0		.333
Cy Russell	p			1	4	0	2	2	0	0	0	0		.500
Sammy Morris*	p		R	1	4	0	1	1	0	0	0	0		.250
Bob Killilea	p			1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		.000
Mt. Shasta Horn	p			1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		.000
Roy McFarland	p			1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		.000

Sacramento Senators	T	G	GS	CG	ShO	W	L	PCT	IP	H	R	ER	SO	BB	ERA
Bill Thomas	R	47	43	39	8	29	14	.674	376.3	374	147	100	83	81	2.39
Jack Fitzgerald	R	45	38	33	1	14	24	.368	344.3	356	226	154	74	142	4.03
Win Cutter*		39	35	33	1	16	19	.457	309.3	279	152	103	60	123	3.00
Bobby Keefe	R	32	29	28	4	15	14	.517	255.7	254	124	84	67	105	2.96
Fred Brown	R	30	27	24	1	15	13	.536	233.0	248	135	92	56	94	3.55
Phil Knell	L	20	19	18	2	10	8	.556	161.0	151	57	39	36	57	2.18
Irv Young*	L	10	10	7	0	3	5	.375	72.7	62	34	23	11	37	2.85
John Baker	L	6	6	4	0	1	5	.167	41.3	53	39	27	14	16	5.88
Demon Doyle	R	1	1	1	0	1	0	1.000	9.0	16	6	4	2	4	4.00
Sammy Morris*	R	1	1	1	0	0	1	.000	8.0	11	8	5	1	3	5.63
Mt. Shasta Horn	L	1	1	1	0	0	1	.000	8.0	9	7	5	3	3	5.63
Cy Russell		1	1	1	0	0	1	.000	8.0	16	13	9	0	8	10.13
Bob Killilea		1	1	0	0	0	1	.000	5.3	6	3	2	2	1	3.38
Truck Eagan	R	1	0	0	0	0	0	.000	3.0	3	5	3	2	2	9.00
Roy McFarland		1	0	0	0	0	0	.000	2.7	4	5	3	1	4	11.13

The 1903 Pacific Coast League

Seattle Siwashes		Pos	B	G	AB	R	H	1B	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	AVG
➤	Kitty Brashear*	1b	R	95	366	60	98	78	15	4	1	22		.268
	Kid Mohler	2b	L	115	424	86	134	110	23	1	0	33		.316
	Joe Dolan	ss		91	323	52	86	63	20	2	1	10		.266
	Henry Jansing	3b ss		155	556	86	155	115	32	7	1	17		.279
➤	Zizzie Zinzer*	lf ss,1b,rf,3b		155	596	101	171	142	25	4	1	21		.287
	Harry Lumley	cf	L	109	470	106	180	139	23	13	5	23		.383
➤	Carlos Smith*	rf lf,p,1b	R	162	661	103	215	168	31	11	5	26		.325
	Dick Boettiger	c rf,cf		77	265	25	62	49	8	4	1	10		.234
➤	Charlie Schwartz*	2b,lf	R	101	392	53	115	79	29	6	1	18		.293
	Charlie Ziegler	1b,3b,ss,rf		80	314	47	64	57	7	0	0	10		.204
	Jimmy Hannivan	lf		76	288	42	60	43	12	4	1	6		.208
	Parke Wilson	c,1b	R	75	254	31	51	39	12	0	0	9		.201
	Bill Byers	c	R	72	248	54	83	53	25	4	1	2		.335
	Jack Ward	cf,lf,p		59	219	29	45	41	4	0	0	4		.205
	Jay Hughes	p,rf,cf,1b	R	60	180	20	36	27	8	2	0	7		.200
	Guy Sample	p,rf		44	134	17	40	25	11	4	0	1		.299
	Bill Campbell	ss,rf	R	36	131	20	23	23	0	0	0	10		.176
	Frank Hemphill	cf,lf	R	35	124	16	33	21	9	3	0	12		.266
➤	Jay Andrews*	3b,cf,ss	B	25	92	7	24	17	6	2	0	3		.261
	Frank Barber	p,lf		26	83	12	25	19	5	0	1	2		.301
	Jimmy St. Vrain	p	R	23	73	12	13	9	3	1	0	0		.178
	Lew Kennedy	rf,1b,lf		19	67	6	14	10	3	1	0	1		.209
	Joe McCarthy	ss		17	62	7	10	6	4	0	0	1		.161
	Bill Carrick	p		22	61	6	9	8	1	0	0	1		.148
	James Drohan	p,rf		23	60	15	17	12	4	1	0	0		.283
	Bill Hurley	1b		15	58	8	14	14	0	0	0	6		.241
	Bill Hanlon	1b		19	57	1	2	2	0	0	0	0		.035
	Fritz Klinkhammer	p		12	35	1	7	7	0	0	0	0		.200
	Fred Schock	p		11	34	3	6	5	1	0	0	0		.176
	Jack Hickey	p	R	10	29	1	5	2	3	0	0	1		.172
➤	Bill O'Hara*	rf	L	7	22	4	9	6	3	0	0	2		.409
	Locomotive Smith	p		4	14	2	2	1	0	1	0	0		.143
	Bob Blewett	p	L	4	12	1	1	1	0	0	0	0		.083
	Jesse Stovall	p	L	5	11	0	2	2	0	0	0	0		.182
➤	George Hurlburt*	lf,cf		3	10	0	1	1	0	0	0	0		.100
➤	Irv Young*	p	L	2	9	1	3	2	1	0	0	0		.333
➤	Joe Kostal*	p	R	3	6	0	2	2	0	0	0	0		.333
	Broadhurst	rf		1	4	0	1	1	0	0	0	0		.250
➤	Dennis McCarthy*	p		1	4	1	1	1	0	0	0	0		.250
	Billie Taylor	3b		1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		.000
➤	Harry Eells*	p	R	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		.000
	Ike Durrett	rf		1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		.000
	Chief Ingalls	p		1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		.000
	Frank Perrine	p		1	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0		.500

Seattle Siwashes	T	G	GS	CG	ShO	W	L	PCT	IP	H	R	ER	SO	BB	ERA
Jay Hughes	R	51	50	49	2	34	15	.694	444.7	354	181	116	158	164	2.35
Frank Barber	R	24	21	21	1	15	9	.625	189.0	217	110	70	53	60	3.33
Jimmy St. Vrain	L	23	23	19	0	11	9	.550	187.3	196	98	63	70	83	3.03
Bill Carrick	R	21	19	18	1	4	15	.211	169.7	193	108	69	63	45	4.66
Guy Sample		25	17	15	1	11	12	.478	177.0	208	103	66	28	55	3.36
James Drohan	L	17	17	13	0	7	6	.538	132.7	151	99	63	45	69	4.27
Fred Schock	R	11	11	10	1	7	4	.636	94.0	78	36	23	47	43	2.20
Fritz Klinkhammer	L	12	11	8	0	2	6	.250	83.0	105	57	36	11	33	3.90
Jack Hickey	L	10	8	7	0	2	6	.250	73.0	65	51	33	30	50	4.07
Locomotive Smith		4	4	4	0	1	3	.250	36.0	48	36	23	5	18	5.75
Bob Blewett	L	4	4	4	0	0	4	.000	33.0	38	26	17	5	10	4.64
Carlos Smith*	R	3	3	3	0	1	2	.333	28.3	33	16	10	5	10	3.18
Jesse Stovall	R	3	3	3	0	0	3	.000	24.0	23	12	8	8	10	3.00
Irv Young*	L	2	2	2	0	1	1	.500	18.0	19	19	12	6	8	6.00
Joe Kostal*	R	3	2	1	0	1	1	.500	15.0	27	16	10	3	5	6.00
Harry Eells*	R	1	1	1	0	0	1	.000	9.0	11	10	6	0	1	6.00
Dennis McCarthy*	R	1	1	1	0	1	0	1.000	9.0	4	3	2	4	6	2.00
Chief Ingalls		1	1	1	0	0	1	.000	8.0	10	4	3	1	4	3.38
Frank Perrine		1	1	1	0	0	1	.000	5.0	9	6	4	2	3	7.20
Jack Ward		1	0	0	0	0	0	.000	3.0	3	5	3	3	4	9.00

San Francisco Stars		Pos	B	G	AB	R	H	1B	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	AVG
Ed Pabst	1b			181	672	58	171	151	17	2	1		28	.254
Bert Delmas	2b	lf,1b,ss,3b,cf	R	201	710	68	166	131	25	7	3		19	.234
Danny Shay	ss	2b	R	193	721	147	175	144	24	4	3		82	.243
Charlie Irwin (Chas E)	3b		B	208	775	135	233	189	39	4	1		35	.301
Henry Lynch	lf	cf,ss,rf	L	215	786	104	179	141	29	5	4		53	.228
Henry Krug	cf	lf,2b,ss	R	217	833	100	231	190	32	6	3		33	.277
Pat Meaney	rf	cf,lf	L	219	814	145	247	209	34	3	1		50	.303
Tom Leahy	c	1b,2b		147	545	77	142	107	31	3	1		18	.261
Dave Zearfoss	c			60	211	26	46	36	8	2	0		4	.218
Al Kelly	c,1b,lf,cf			58	207	10	39	38	1	0	0		1	.188
Jimmy Whalen (William L)	p,cf,rf,lf,1b			59	186	11	27	24	3	0	0		5	.145
Harry Lindsay	p,lf,rf			55	177	18	30	28	1	1	0		2	.169
Ham Iburg	p	R		52	158	8	13	11	2	0	0		6	.082
George Hodson	p			50	144	13	20	18	2	0	0		0	.139
Tealy Raymond*	ss,3b			27	95	6	22	18	2	1	1		3	.232
Frank Arellanes	lf,p,cf	R		19	65	6	15	14	1	0	0		0	.231
Eddie Herr*	p	R		23	57	7	7	6	1	0	0		0	.123
Win Cutter*	p,lf			17	49	6	12	8	3	1	0		0	.245
John Burns	2b	R		10	32	4	7	6	1	0	0		1	.219
Bull Croll*	2b	R		8	28	5	7	5	1	1	0		1	.250
Willie Jacobs*	c			8	28	3	6	5	1	0	0		0	.214
Dick Egan	2b	R		3	12	1	4	4	0	0	0		0	.333
Duke Carter	p,rf			2	9	2	1	1	0	0	0		0	.111
Frank O'Brien	p			2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	.000
Harry Howell	p	R		2	4	1	2	2	0	0	0		0	.500
Jack Cooney*	p			1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	.000

San Francisco Stars	T	G	GS	CG	ShO	W	L	PCT	IP	H	R	ER	SO	BB	ERA
Jimmy Whalen (WML)	R	52	50	47	7	29	21	.580	443.7	417	204	139	110	148	2.82
Ham Iburg	R	52	47	45	4	26	22	.542	437.3	406	179	122	141	101	2.51
George Hodson	R	50	44	40	3	20	24	.455	399.7	447	224	152	85	81	3.42
Harry Lindsay	L	43	41	35	3	19	19	.500	351.3	323	214	146	95	174	3.74
Eddie Herr*	R	17	16	12	0	7	8	.467	129.0	151	95	65	15	55	4.53
Win Cutter*		13	13	13	1	3	9	.250	103.7	133	87	59	23	37	5.12
Frank Arellanes	R	4	4	4	0	2	2	.500	32.0	28	21	14	8	16	3.94
Frank O'Brien	R	2	2	2	0	0	2	.000	18.0	22	18	12	8	10	6.00
Harry Howell	R	2	1	1	0	0	1	.000	12.0	13	15	10	3	11	7.50
Jack Cooney*		1	1	1	0	0	1	.000	9.0	9	7	5	3	8	5.00
Duke Carter	R	1	0	0	0	1	0	1.000	9.0	16	7	5	0	0	5.00
Henry Krug	R	2	0	0	0	0	0	.000	4.0	4	2	1	1	1	2.25

Portland Browns		Pos	B	G	AB	R	H	1B	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	AVG
Jerry Freeman	1b		L	49	184	27	53	45	6	2	0		3	.288
Andy Anderson	2b		L	175	666	80	177	136	38	3	0		27	.266
Holly Hollingsworth*	ss			97	370	42	90	79	10	1	0		9	.243
Ike Francis	3b	ss		110	407	47	115	90	21	3	1		7	.283
Phil Nadeau	lf	rf,cf,ss	R	204	793	141	267	233	26	7	1		44	.337
Deacon Van Buren	cf	1b,c	L	205	799	151	255	230	17	8	0		37	.319
Harry Blake	rf	cf,3b,lf	R	114	413	66	106	80	23	3	0		17	.257
Danny Shea	c			90	311	33	66	58	5	3	0		5	.212
Joe Raidy		ss,2b,3b,rf		98	380	52	97	86	10	0	1		19	.255
Jay Andrews*		3b	B	76	299	28	79	69	9	1	0		13	.264
George Hurlburt*		rf,c		64	250	37	67	54	9	4	0		9	.268
Sam Vigneaux		1b,c,rf,3b	L	71	247	33	50	36	13	1	0		13	.202
Tom Hess		c,1b		56	208	23	54	46	7	1	0		2	.260
Ike Butler		p,rf,lf		59	185	23	31	30	1	0	0		1	.168
Jake Thielman		p,rf,lf	R	45	153	33	46	31	10	4	1		4	.301
Charlie Shields		p,lf	L	49	150	18	31	27	4	0	0		2	.207
Charlie Eelsey		1b		36	135	12	36	28	6	2	0		3	.267
Charles Schaffer		1b	R	35	129	10	29	25	4	0	0		5	.225
Carlos Smith*		rf,cf,p	R	31	120	12	37	26	7	3	1		1	.308
Dan McFarlan		p,rf,lf		32	106	15	30	14	13	2	1		0	.283
Claude Schmeer		ss,rf,lf,3b		27	98	9	18	15	3	0	0		0	.184
George Engle		p,rf,3b		30	97	12	20	17	3	0	0		1	.206
Zizzie Zinzer*		ss,2b,rf,lf,cf		28	88	13	22	19	2	1	0		2	.250
Con Harlow		c,1b	L	22	62	9	7	6	0	1	0		2	.113
Josh Reilly*		3b		12	49	2	4	4	0	0	0		0	.082
Joe Kostal*		p	R	18	45	5	6	6	0	0	0		0	.133
Bill Hogg*		p	R	12	42	4	8	7	1	0	0		0	.190
George Clarke		c		13	40	1	8	7	1	0	0		0	.200
Arthur Anderson		c	R	10	38	8	12	11	0	1	0		0	.316
Jack Messerly*		1b		9	31	5	6	6	0	0	0		0	.194
Walt Slagle		p,rf,cf	R	10	27	2	4	4	0	0	0		0	.148
Vess Loucks		p		11	23	2	6	6	0	0	0		0	.261
Sammy Morris*		p	R	6	22	4	7	4	2	0	1		0	.318
Frank Huelsman		rf	R	1	5	2	2	1	1	0	0		0	.400
Doc Newton*		p	L	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	.000
Oscar Jones*		p	R	1	4	0	1	1	0	0	0		0	.250

Portland Browns	T	G	GS	CG	ShO	W	L	PCT	IP	H	R	ER	SO	BB	ERA
Ike Butler	R	54	50	43	2	22	27	.449	440.7	491	238	157	118	105	3.21
Charlie Shields	L	46	45	40	1	19	25	.432	366.7	340	180	119	144	121	2.92
Jake Thielman	R	27	26	25	4	17	7	.708	237.3	202	85	56	84	61	2.12
Dan McFarlan		25	24	24	1	14	10	.583	219.0	226	106	70	52	78	2.88
Joe Kostal*	R	18	14	11	0	3	10	.231	136.7	141	84	55	27	43	3.62
George Engle		18	13	13	0	5	10	.333	130.0	142	74	49	24	41	3.39
Bill Hogg	R	12	12	12	0	7	5	.583	106.3	93	56	37	46	38	3.13
Vess Loucks		11	7	4	1	3	6	.333	65.3	70	38	25	17	24	3.44
Sammy Morris*	R	6	6	6	0	3	3	.500	54.0	57	38	25	9	24	4.17
Walt Slagle	R	5	5	4	0	2	2	.500	37.0	42	25	17	7	8	4.14
Oscar Jones*	R	1	1	1	0	0	1	.000	8.0	10	5	3	0	3	3.38
Doc Newton*	L	1	1	1	0	0	1	.000	8.0	7	3	2	0	1	2.25
Carlos Smith*	R	1	1	1	0	0	1	.000	6.0	3	4	3	1	4	4.50

250-67  
10-1

Oaklnad Recruits	Pos	B	G	AB	R	H	1B	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	AVG
← Jack Messerly*	1b			105	365	43	91	74	13	1	3	12	.249
← Charlie Schwartz*	2b	3b	R	104	413	51	106	75	29	2	0	11	.257
Buck Francks	ss		R	49	188	25	36	30	6	0	0	12	.191
Brick Devereaux	3b	ss,p,rf	B	163	594	80	148	124	20	4	0	40	.249
Art Kruger	lf	cf,rf,ss	R	180	675	69	162	137	23	2	0	37	.240
← Bill O'Hara*	cf	2b,rf,ss,3b,lf	L	198	743	131	216	175	33	4	4	61	.291
Wilbur Murdock	rf	lf,cf		217	852	109	228	173	49	6	0	46	.268
Ly Gorton	c	1b,lf,cf		168	548	58	113	94	18	1	0	23	.206
Moose Baxter	2b,cf,3b,1b,lf	L	126	491	41	107	87	16	1	3		24	.218
Doc Moskiman	p,of,inf	R	135	455	64	144	109	29	3	3		9	.316
← Kitty Brashear*	1b	R	98	371	46	120	93	22	5	0		24	.323
Pete Lohman	c,2b	R	90	280	23	68	52	15	1	0		8	.243
Oscar Graham	p,lf,rf,2b	L	86	229	31	74	62	10	2	0		4	.323
Al Johnson	2b,ss		52	189	10	39	37	2	0	0		3	.206
Curley Cooper	p		53	164	10	37	26	8	2	1		1	.226
Jack Fillman	ss		31	100	12	9	8	1	0	0		5	.090
Jack Lee	p		38	100	7	15	14	1	0	0		0	.150
← Josh Reilly*	3b		27	99	10	20	16	3	1	0		4	.202
Felix Martinke	3b	L	20	76	6	15	15	0	0	0		2	.197
Harry Bird	ss		25	70	10	13	11	2	0	0		2	.186
Ike Rockinfield	ss,lf	R	19	64	11	10	6	2	1	1		1	.156
← Eddie Herr*	p	R	22	59	4	16	8	8	0	0		0	.271
Bernie McKay	p,3b,ss		18	50	6	14	10	3	0	1		2	.280
George Smith	3b		5	20	3	7	5	1	1	0		1	.350
Hugh McGilligan	ss	L	6	20	2	2	2	0	0	0		0	.100
← Bull Croll*	2b,ss	R	6	17	2	3	3	0	0	0		2	.176
Homer Hillebrand	lf		3	13	1	4	4	0	0	0		0	.308
← Harry Eells*	p,rf	R	5	12	1	1	1	0	0	0		0	.083
Rudy Kling	ss		2	8	0	1	1	0	0	0		0	.125
Harold Johnson	p		2	7	1	1	1	0	0	0		0	.143
Lou Walters	2b		2	6	0	1	1	0	0	0		1	.167
Roy Hitt (Roy W)	p	L	3	5	1	0	0	0	0	0		1	.000
← Dennis McCarthy*	p		1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	.000
Harry Spencer	ss		1	3	1	0	0	0	0	0		0	.000
Jack Hammond	ph		1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	.000
Jack Hanrahan	ss		1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	.000
Bob Whalen	p		1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	.000
← Jack Cooney*	p		1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	.000

13<sup>9</sup>  
28

The 1903 Pacific Coast League

Oakland Recruits	T	G	GS	CG	ShO	W	L	PCT	IP	H	R	ER	SO	BB	ERA
Oscar Graham	L	61	55	53	2	28	29	.491	504.7	489	292	193	136	233	3.44
Curley Cooper	L	52	47	44	3	17	29	.370	421.7	432	232	153	110	150	3.27
Doc Moskiman	R	41	37	34	0	14	24	.368	345.0	349	175	116	67	93	3.03
Jack Lee	R	37	36	30	2	15	17	.469	283.3	283	158	104	48	127	3.30
— Eddie Herr*	R	18	16	14	2	4	13	.235	140.3	172	116	77	28	54	4.94
Bernie McKay		16	14	13	1	4	9	.308	126.0	148	75	50	29	27	3.57
Brick Devereaux	R	9	5	4	0	4	1	.800	54.0	59	24	16	13	16	2.67
— Harry Eells*	R	4	3	1	0	0	2	.000	23.3	20	13	9	1	22	3.47
Harold Johnson	R	2	2	1	0	1	0	1.000	16.0	17	8	5	4	4	2.81
Roy Hitt (Roy W)	L	3	2	0	0	1	0	1.000	15.3	9	7	5	8	19	2.93
— Dennis McCarthy*	R	1	1	1	0	0	1	.000	8.0	10	5	3	0	6	3.38
— Jack Cooney*		1	1	0	0	0	1	.000	1.0	1	4	3	0	3	27.00
Bob Whalen	R	1	0	0	0	0	0	.000	1.0	1	1	1	1	2	9.00

**THE MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL  
STATISTICAL ABSTRACT**

## THE 1879 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

presented by Joseph Wayman & Art Cantu

*[Normally, we would not present any statistics previously published, especially those published in a baseball guide; however, Joe Wayman's and Art Cantu's discovery of probably one of the rarest guides every printed, the 1880 National Base Ball Association Guide, has forced our hand. After all, how many researchers would even know of the existence of these 1879 National Association statistics? And how would we get these statistic to these researchers— if not for the medium of these pages? We thank Art & Joe for sharing their great find with us.— the editors.]*

### Standings for the 1879 National Association Season

Teams	G	W	L	PCT.
Albany	51	36	15	.706
Holyoke	45	28	17	.622
National	49	29	20	.592
Springfield	46	26	20	.565
Worcester	51	25	26	.490
Manchester	33	13	19	.406
New Bedford	48	18	30	.375
Utica	31	9	22	.290
Hop Bitters	23	4	19	.174

## 1879 National Association Pitching

Pitcher	Team	G	OAB	R	ER	SH	H	R/G	ER/G	H/G	R/AB	ER/AB	OAVG
Lawrence Corcoran	Springfield	28	976	115	31	13	214	4.11	1.11	7.64	.118	.032	.219
Lee Richmond	Worcester	28	951	108	32	44	179	3.86	1.14	6.39	.114	.034	.188
M. A. Critchley	Albany	47	1709	177	67	35	400	3.77	1.43	8.51	.104	.039	.234
John Leary	Manchester	33	1231	176	50	42	290	5.33	1.52	8.79	.143	.041	.236
E. Goldsmith	Springfield	20	725	117	30	24	177	5.85	1.50	8.85	.161	.041	.244
T. J. Keefe	Utica, New Bed.	24	864	122	41	21	214	5.08	1.71	8.92	.141	.047	.248
John Lynch	National	45	1527	212	76	23	273	4.71	1.69	6.07	.139	.050	.179
Michael Welch	Holyoke	36	1417	145	85	51	394	4.03	2.36	10.94	.102	.060	.278
Fred. Cory	Hop Bitters	18	751	148	52	25	225	8.22	2.89	12.50	.197	.069	.300
Fred. C. Nichols	Worcester	12	499	98	35	20	137	8.17	2.92	11.42	.196	.070	.275
E. C. Kent	New Bedford	26	1109	194	103	43	308	7.46	3.96	11.85	.175	.093	.278

## 1879 National Association Batting &amp; Fielding (by teams)

Albany	Pos	G	AB	R	H	SH	AVG	PO	A	TC
Thomas Burns	3b	49	221	51	58	5	.262	45	71	116
Fred. Dunlap	2b,3b	51	236	53	61	3	.258	156	159	315
Edward Hanlon	lf	47	203	44	64	10	.315	79	6	85
William Tobin	1b	38	163	13	30	4	.184	422	18	440
William Thomas	2b, of	47	201	28	52	3	.259	64	14	78
Louis Say	ss	51	214	26	61	6	.285	55	189	244
Ad Rocap	rf	43	165	21	27	5	.164	61	9	70
James W. Keenan	c, 1b	51	198	25	47	10	.237	310	82	392
M. A. Critchley	p, lf	49	189	18	34	2	.180	22	298	320
D. J. Sullivan	1b, cf, c	8	35	7	11	0	.314	74	5	79
J. F. Macullar	rf	2	7	0	2	1	.286	4	2	6
John Driscoll	cf, p	4	15	0	3	2	.200	5	9	14
A. B. Clapp	1b, of	8	33	2	6	1	.182	66	2	68
Thomas Mansell	cf, rf	7	26	6	7	0	.269	9	2	11
Lipman Pike	cf	2	9	5	5	0	.556	4	0	4
M. Muldoon	3b	2	8	2	1	0	.125	1	0	1
T. J. Keefe	p	2	7	1	2	0	.286	0	13	13
<b>totals</b>			<b>1930</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>.244</b>	<b>1377</b>	<b>879</b>	<b>2256</b>

The 1879 National Association

Holyoke	Pos	G	AB	R	H	SH	AVG	PO	A	TC
William Sullivan	lf, cf, rf	38	178	32	35	5	.197	47	17	64
Martin Powell	1b, c	44	201	50	74	3	.368	443	18	461
James Roseman	rf	7	29	3	5	0	.172	12	1	13
Lipman Pike	cf	5	23	6	10	0	.435	2	1	3
Rodger Connor	3b	45	210	49	77	6	.367	60	62	122
Jerry Dorgan	c, rf, p	43	207	44	63	6	.304	223	70	293
P. Gillespie	lf, 1b, ss	39	163	31	67	4	.411	81	8	89
R. C. Winchester	2b	45	204	35	61	4	.299	142	152	294
Jerry Turbidy	ss	44	183	25	31	4	.169	44	138	182
Michael Welch	p, of	43	184	29	49	6	.266	39	243	282
James Sullivan	p, of	22	96	11	28	3	.292	28	12	40
F. G. Malone	rf, c	3	13	2	3	2	.231	3	4	7
O'Neil	c	1	3	0	0	0	.000	3	2	5
Grady	p	2	6	0	0	0	.000	1	9	10
Burns	p, of	7	29	2	3	1	.103	18	4	22
Nicholas Alcott	rf	2	7	1	0	0	.000	4	0	4
J. G. Valentine	p	3	12	2	3	2	.250	3	10	13
McGrath	c	3	12	2	2	1	.167	23	6	29
Joseph Roche	rf	3	13	3	1	1	.077	6	0	6
Burke	rf	2	7	0	1	0	.143	1	0	1
William A. Harbidge	rf, c	5	18	2	5	1	.278	21	7	28
Lawrence Corcoran	p, rf	2	9	2	2	1	.222	0	12	12
<b>totals</b>			<b>1807</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>.288</b>	<b>1204</b>	<b>776</b>	<b>1980</b>

National	Pos	G	AB	R	H	SH	AVG	PO	A	TC
"Holly"	lf	22	112	22	25	1	.223	26	6	32
Houck	rf	2	9	2	3	0	.333	1	0	1
William H. McClellan	ss, 3b, 2b	49	223	39	69	3	.309	52	177	229
G. H. Derby	rf, p	48	209	28	53	2	.254	52	75	127
Phillip Baker	cf, c	49	216	41	63	2	.292	89	13	102
John Lynch	p, rf	47	196	23	48	3	.245	28	318	346
Joseph J. Ellick	3b, rf	45	192	45	57	2	.297	35	61	96
Amos S. Booth	2b, lf	43	168	17	38	6	.226	90	92	182
Oscar Bielaski	rf, cf	4	11	2	5	0	.455	2	0	2
S. W. Trott	c, 1b, lf	49	183	16	35	5	.191	369	80	449
Levi Myerle	1b	42	173	21	52	7	.301	443	8	451
Tierney	2b	13	59	9	15	0	.254	31	40	71
John W. Glenn	lf	13	49	8	10	2	.204	16	1	17
Joseph V. Battin	2b, 3b	8	30	3	4	1	.133	16	24	40
D. J. Mack	rf, ss, 1b	5	15	3	3	1	.200	13	9	22
George W. Latham	1b, 2b	5	18	1	4	0	.222	34	5	39
M. Sweeney	1b	1	4	0	0	0	.000	14	1	15
<b>totals</b>			<b>1867</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>.259</b>	<b>1311</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>2221</b>

The 1879 National Association

Springfield	Pos	G	AB	R	H	SH	AVG	PO	A	TC
J. P. Cassidy	rf, ss, 2b, 1b	46	203	40	69	2	.340	82	52	134
George W. Latham	1b	45	185	31	45	9	.243	447	19	466
Lipman Pike	cf, 2b	46	198	38	67	6	.338	89	31	120
Robert Ferguson	ss	15	69	8	19	0	.275	17	35	52
D. J. Mack	ss	12	43	5	11	1	.256	9	32	41
Charles M. Smith	3b	46	196	26	44	9	.224	71	86	157
Samuel N. Crane	2b	33	129	24	27	2	.209	75	104	179
William A. Harbidge	cf, c	6	27	4	8	0	.296	28	6	34
Daniel O'Leary	lf	44	177	30	56	1	.316	63	6	69
Phillip Powers	cf, rf	32	119	19	27	3	.227	188	77	265
E. Goldsmith	p, rf	36	126	28	34	5	.270	37	80	117
Lawrence Corcoran	p, rf	37	104	25	29	1	.279	24	212	236
Joseph V. Battin	2b	5	17	1	1	0	.059	13	15	28
Joseph Dunnigan	c, rf	10	26	6	4	3	.154	45	20	65
Jacob Knowdell	c	3	10	0	2	0	.200	18	14	32
George H. Baker	c	1	3	0	0	0	.000	7	2	9
Thomas Dolan	c	1	3	0	0	0	.000	4	0	4
<b>totals</b>			<b>1635</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>.271</b>	<b>1217</b>	<b>791</b>	<b>2008</b>

Worcester	Pos	G	AB	R	H	SH	AVG	PO	A	TC
Stephen Brady	2b	48	218	38	54	8	.248	107	185	292
Frank Heifer	1b, cf	11	51	8	12	1	.235	35	4	39
Arthur Irwin	ss	32	136	20	37	3	.272	20	92	112
Charles Bennett	cf, c	42	174	39	57	12	.328	89	19	108
A. J. Bushong	c, cf	46	186	27	54	7	.290	225	59	284
Alonzo Knight	rf	50	229	61	84	8	.367	89	29	118
Arthur Whitney	3b	47	213	33	59	7	.277	47	85	132
Samuel Weaver	p, lf	11	46	7	13	0	.283	7	32	39
J. Lee Richmond	p, lf	28	122	36	45	2	.369	17	222	239
Fred. C. Nichols	p, lf	23	90	11	19	3	.211	13	72	85
James Mutrie	ss, p, lf	15	62	7	17	1	.274	12	43	55
George A. Wood	lf	20	102	27	39	2	.382	15	0	15
J. F. Sullivan	1b	47	207	42	58	4	.280	613	23	636
D. J. Sullivan	c	3	13	2	2	0	.154	5	4	9
Cory	3b, ss	6	23	1	5	0	.217	5	19	24
Samuel N. Crane	2b	2	11	1	1	0	.091	3	9	12
Henry Myers	lf	2	7	1	0	0	.000	2	2	4
E. G. Shattuck	lf	3	11	0	2	0	.182	3	1	4
Franklin	lf	1	4	1	0	0	.000	3	1	4
W. H. Winslow	c	4	12	0	0	0	.000	14	11	25
John Barrett	lf	2	9	1	2	3	.222	1	0	1
Frank Gardner	p, of	9	32	3	6	1	.188	3	4	7
<b>totals</b>			<b>1958</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>.289</b>	<b>1328</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>2244</b>

The 1879 National Association

Manchester	Pos	G	AB	R	H	SH	AVG	PO	A	TC
Edward Cogswell	1b	32	160	36	48	4	.300	365	9	374
George A. Wood	lf	32	145	26	52	10	.359	49	13	62
John Leary	p	32	138	10	31	1	.225	10	232	242
E. E. Stoughton	rf, c	19	85	12	26	6	.306	19	2	21
John Morrissey	3b	32	136	19	34	2	.250	44	59	103
James Tipper	lf	31	129	17	24	3	.186	52	3	55
James Woodhead	ss	32	134	16	25	5	.187	24	89	113
Edward Rowen	c, rf	31	128	9	28	5	.219	193	54	247
Charles J. Sweasy	2b	32	123	7	18	4	.146	100	115	215
Edward McGlynn	rf, c	8	31	2	9	0	.290	21	15	36
John Curran	ph, c	2	7	0	0	0	.000	3	1	4
E. G. Shattuck	rf	5	15	2	2	0	.133	7	0	7
Collins	c	1	4	0	1	0	.250	4	2	6
<b>totals</b>			<b>1235</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>.241</b>	<b>891</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>1485</b>

New Bedford	Pos	G	AB	R	H	SH	AVG	PO	A	TC
Harry D. Stovey	1b, p	47	198	40	57	7	.288	503	60	563
James Roseman	rf, 1b, p	29	129	18	38	11	.295	28	13	41
T. J. Keefe	p	15	60	3	10	0	.167	11	118	129
M. Muldoon	3b	48	202	43	57	4	.282	72	107	179
Samuel Wright	ss	48	212	21	42	14	.198	41	186	227
John J. Piggott	cf, rf, 1b	27	114	21	34	5	.298	93	14	107
Edward Kennedy	cf, rf	10	36	1	9	2	.250	16	2	18
J. T. O'Conner	c, of	32	123	19	31	3	.252	139	38	177
J. Briody	2b, c	48	191	14	47	1	.246	132	179	311
E. C. Kent	p, of	37	136	10	20	5	.147	22	107	129
William Stone	lf	48	183	27	40	5	.219	71	8	79
C. W. Reipschlager	c, rf	41	167	25	39	5	.234	121	55	176
Jacob Knowdell	c	3	11	1	0	1	.000	12	2	14
James Mutrie	1b	3	9	0	2	0	.222	17	2	19
<b>totals</b>			<b>1771</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>.241</b>	<b>1278</b>	<b>891</b>	<b>2169</b>

Utica	Pos	G	AB	R	H	SH	AVG	PO	A	TC
D. J. Mack	ss, of, 1b	31	131	20	35	4	.267	133	66	199
John J. Daily	ss, 2b	18	68	2	11	2	.162	27	62	89
M. H. Dinnin	2b, rf	24	98	15	28	3	.286	84	93	177
Joseph V. Battin	3b, 2b	31	127	23	28	6	.220	54	87	141
J. J. McGuinness	1b	21	91	17	28	0	.308	246	5	251
Edward Kennedy	lf	31	122	14	29	10	.238	57	7	64
Charles Purroy	p	2	5	0	1	0	.200	1	4	5
T. J. Keefe	p, rf	10	35	3	4	2	.114	8	25	33
Thomas Dolan	c, rf	28	109	7	18	9	.165	90	43	133
Nicholas Alcott	p, rf	19	65	4	10	1	.154	9	44	53
John J. Remson	cf	29	115	13	27	3	.235	67	8	75
Joseph Dunnigan	rf	2	8	2	3	0	.375	5	0	5
Healy	p	2	7	2	0	0	.000	1	10	11
William C. Schenck	p, rf	13	51	4	9	0	.176	7	25	32
Joseph Roche	rf, c, 2b	20	71	5	12	5	.169	50	33	83
<b>totals</b>			<b>1103</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>.220</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>1351</b>

Hop Bitters	Pos	G	AB	R	H	SH	AVG	PO	A	TC
Richard Higham	rf	22	101	20	32	3	.317	19	4	23
John Manning	lf, cf, ss	22	96	12	24	3	.250	38	11	49
Alexander McKinnon	1b	14	60	7	19	3	.317	171	2	173
Andrew J. Leonard	ss	20	86	9	26	5	.302	11	70	81
Timothy Murnane	cf, lf, 1b	22	92	14	17	2	.185	50	5	55
Harry Shaeffer	3b	22	88	7	16	6	.182	26	38	64
William C. Smiley	2b	21	83	8	18	0	.217	58	61	119
Fred. Cory	p, cf	19	72	5	14	1	.194	16	101	117
Harold McClure	cf, of	22	81	13	22	0	.272	88	27	115
Douglas Allison	c	6	23	2	3	0	.130	41	10	51
George H. Bradley	p, 1b	9	35	2	8	2	.229	60	22	82
Lewis	1b, 2b	4	16	3	5	1	.313	38	7	45
M. H. Dinnin	2b	1	4	0	0	0	.000	2	1	3
Edward Kennedy	lf	1	4	0	0	0	.000	2	1	3
P. A. McManus	p	1	4	0	0	0	.000	1	5	6
John J. Daily	ss	1	4	1	2	0	.500	0	5	5
<b>totals</b>			<b>849</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>.243</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>991</b>

## Pitching Performances in 1905 Great Plains Area Leagues

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1905 was the year of the great yellow fever epidemic that forced the Cotton States and Kitty Leagues to shut down. It was also a baseball season that was dominated by Cy Young. As a result, every young pitcher who showed promise became instantly tagged "Cy" or "Young Cy." Some of the phenoms in these four leagues—Western, Western Association, Missouri Valley, and Kansas States Leagues—made it to the big time. It appears that Pittsburgh and Chicago of the National League scouted the area. Pittsburgh had the Fred Clarke connection. The Pirates held spring training in Winfield, Kansas.

Baseball of the day emphasized pitching and fielding, yet stat-keeping in these areas was often lacking. The following statistics were compiled through line score research from the *Kansas City Journal*, a local newspaper with outstanding sports coverage through the 1930s. Figures from the Kansas State and Western Leagues are very accurate. The Western Association can use a little more fine-tuning, and the Missouri Valley stats for Vinita and South McAlester are suspect. The wire operator in Vinita never did understand the listing of the batteries. The game reports out of McAlester had four different Coopers playing and pitching. Someone (or I) will have to check the local papers to sort out the Vinita and South Mac statistics. A note on McAlester: The town was called South McAlester and the prison called McAlester. With statehood in 1907, the two had merged to form McAlester.

The best league of the four was the Western. There, Lefty Leifield jumped from obscurity to the National League on the basis of a 26-9 record. His best game of the season was a five-hit, 0-0, thirteen-inning tie versus the Omaha club. His mound opponent that day was young Glenn Liebhardt. The May 5<sup>th</sup> shutout tie would be the highlight of a truly horrible season for the right-hander. In the most dramatic turn-around in pitching history, Liebhardt lost 25 games this year and he would win 32 in 1906 to set a Southern League record that still stands. The answer to the apparent question is that he pitched mainly for St. Joseph—Omaha released him after three progressively worse starts—who had a weak-hitting lineup that made a lot errors to boot.

One notable pitching performance was that of Bill Chappelle of Des Moines, who tossed a doubleheader shutout on August 15 against St. Joseph. He allowed only four hits in each game. The second contest was a seven-inning affair. Jack Pfeister tossed

a one-hitter late in the season against the hard-hitting Denver Grizzlies.

Pitchers for Denver and Colorado Springs suffered from Rocky Mountain high fever as 9-8 scores were the rule for the teams' games. The finest game of the Western League year took place September 2, when Ralph Cadwallier battled Jack Pfeister ten innings. The future Cub star prevailed 1-0. The game halted a late season surge by Sioux City as both clubs struggled to whittle away Des Moines' early season lead. No team caught the Iowans.

In the Kansas State League, 36 games were scheduled. The competitive season started June 15. Ellsworth put the league title away with a 12-game winning streak late in the season. Art Griggs' three wins, including two shutouts, highlighted the streak. In July, Minneapolis (Kansas not Minnesota as captioned in the Ken Burns book) played games of 14, 15 and 18 innings without registering a victory. McGill pitched the latter two contests. He would move on to Wichita of the Western Association after this league's play ended. In other games, Lefty Holmes tossed a no-hitter, on August 2, during the first game of a doubleheader versus Hoisington who had joined the league with Great Bend on July 6. James Durham—who later managed one season in the Texas League—was one of the best hurlers in the State League.

In the Western Association, Jack Halla of Oklahoma City won six games in the first fourteen days of the season. He was so hot that he ever defeated Henry Gehring 3-2. It was one of only five that the big German right-hander would lose that year. The league was dominated by Gehring—who not only notched 32 victories and tossed 10 shutouts—but also paced the circuit with 9 home runs. In June, he won two straight 1-0 extra-inning contests. Then he got even better. During late July and early August, he whitewashed five consecutive opponents, putting up 53 scoreless innings in a row. Late in the season, he tossed a 1-0, 58-minute victory against Bob Groom of Springfield. Gehring's heroics were not the only outstanding pitching performances in the league that year. Sedalia's Happy Westcott fired a five-inning no-hitter on July 16, in the second game of a doubleheader against Topeka. And Westcott and George Speer of Leavenworth hooked up for an eleven-inning scorless tie late in the season.

The Missouri Valley League combined stable cities in Kansas—and Webb City, Missouri—with rowdy Indian Territory cow towns. Parsons, in Kansas, played their games at Glenwood Park, while the South McAlester squad toiled at Happy Hooligan Field—

or, perhaps, that's how the wire service guy saw it. The highlight of the year, from a pitcher's point of view, was the 16-inning, 1-0 victory by Harley Young over Charles "Babe" Adams. Nine days earlier Pittsburg's Young had tossed another 16-inning, 5-4 win over Ft. Scott's J. K. Jegglin. That victory fueled a 9-wins-in-ten-days streak that went on the line when Babe Adams toed the rubber on August 20 in an attempt to stop the Pittsburg Miners' juggernaut. He tried mightily, giving up four hits and zero runs for 15 innings. But neither he or the Parsons *Parsons*, or even the rest of the league could stop the Miners. From August 12 until the end of the season— September 5— Pittsburg lost only one game. The Miners' third pitcher was a heavy-lidded right-hander by the name of Bill Burns. (This Bill Burns should not be confused with

Sleepy Bill Burns who pitched in the majors between 1908 and 1912, and who later became one of the off-field conspirators of the 1919 World Series. In 1905, Sleepy Bill was out on the West Coast pitching for the semipro Point Richmond team— winning 35 out of 36 starts— which led to his being signed by the PCL Los Angeles Angels the following year.) Possibly the best pitcher in the league was Henry Daye, an Indian who was just magnificent the moment he stepped on the mound. Daye easily had the best runs-to-innings pitched ratio in the league.

(A question for researchers: Is the Burt Jones with Tulsa the yellow Kid from the 1890's Kansas State Leagues? If he is, then we have a Negro player in Organized ball in 1905.)

Anyway, here are the stats. I hope you have as much fun pouring over them as I had compiling them. The stats for the five leagues begin on the next page.

## 1905 Western League

Des Moines	G	CG	IP	H	R	W	L	T	Pct.	ShO	SV	R/G
Peter Manske	47	30	357	327	147	20	16	2	.556	6	1	3.71
Lefty Leifield	39	29	303	251	104	26	9	2	.743	3	1	3.09
Bill Chappelle	36	25	260	239	114	20	10	0	.667	6	0	3.95
Reeves McKay	21	17	159	121	63	12	8	0	.600	2	0	3.57
William Morrison	14	11	119	115	45	7	4	0	.636	0	0	3.40
Lee Stillman	7	3	42	51	34	3	1	0	.750	0	0	7.29
Coats	5	2	32	29	12	2	1	0	.667	0	1	3.38
John A. Halla	5	2	22	37	13	1	2	0	.333	0	1	5.32
Fred Steele	4	1	21	35	15	2	0	0	1.000	0	0	6.43
Roland Wolfe	4	0	9	10	6	0	1	0	.000	0	0	6.00
Roy Hartsell	1	1	9	12	13	0	1	0	.000	0	0	13.00
Jay Towne	4	0	7	4	2	0	1	0	.000	0	2	2.57
Ben Caffeyn	1	0	6	6	4	0	0	0	.000	0	0	6.00
Owsley	2	0	5	12	9	0	0	0	.000	0	0	16.20
Howard B. Wakefield	1	0	4	3	0	0	0	0	.000	0	1	0.00
Charlie Dexter	1	0	3	2	1	0	1	0	.000	0	1	3.00
<b>totals</b>		<b>121</b>	<b>1358</b>	<b>1254</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>.628</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3.86</b>

Denver	G	CG	IP	H	R	W	L	T	Pct.	ShO	SV	R/G
Pat Bohanon	37	32	307	286	143	23	12	2	.657	5	0	4.19
Louis Schaub	36	25	258	239	146	16	14	0	.533	0	1	5.09
George Engle	33	23	241	203	87	17	10	0	.630	3	1	3.25
Adolph Vollendorff	30	22	241	205	103	16	10	0	.615	4	0	3.85
J. C. Hickman	29	20	220	193	83	13	10	0	.565	3	0	3.40
Vasbinder	3	3	27	23	14	1	2	0	.333	0	0	4.67
Art Hoelskoetter	2	0	5	8	7	1	0	0	1.000	0	0	12.60
Coats	1	0	5	4	1	1	0	0	1.000	0	0	1.80
Fred Lucia	2	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	.000	0	1	0.00
Claude Rossman	1	0	2	3	1	0	0	0	.000	0	0	4.50
Roland Wolfe	1	0	2	3	1	0	0	0	.000	0	1	4.50
Dick Brown	1	0	1	2	1	0	1	0	.000	0	0	9.00
<b>totals</b>		<b>125</b>	<b>1312</b>	<b>1171</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>.599</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4.03</b>

Omaha	G	CG	IP	H	R	W	L	T	Pct.	ShO	SV	R/G
John McCloskey	38	35	333	276	125	18	17	1	.514	6	2	3.38
Jack Pfeister	37	35	323	216	95	25	11	0	.694	9	0	2.65
Ed Quick	37	32	312	301	149	18	18	1	.500	3	0	4.30
Warfield Sanders	17	16	142	151	74	7	8	1	.467	2	1	4.69
Hall	12	8	83	82	49	7	2	0	.778	0	0	5.31
Harry Welch	6	5	52	49	22	5	1	0	.833	0	0	3.81
Paul Companion	4	3	33	26	19	2	1	0	.667	0	0	5.18
Kouklik	4	3	28	22	8	3	0	0	1.000	0	0	2.57
Glenn Liebhardt	3	2	25	29	12	0	2	1	.000	1	0	4.32
Harry Corns	3	3	24	23	15	2	1	0	.667	1	0	5.63
John Gondling	1	0	2	7	4	0	0	0	.000	0	0	18.00
W. Fort	1	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	.000	0	0	4.50
<b>totals</b>		<b>142</b>	<b>1359</b>	<b>1183</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>.588</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3.79</b>

Sioux City	G	CG	IP	H	R	W	L	T	Pct.	ShO	SV	R/G
Ralph Cadwaller	43	37	350	319	144	23	17	0	.575	3	1	3.70
Ferd Jarrott	38	30	296	289	120	18	14	0	.563	6	0	3.65
Otto Newlin	31	24	240	246	120	17	11	0	.607	3	0	4.50
Harry Hatch	22	17	176	190	88	11	9	0	.550	2	0	4.50
George Villeman	8	7	66	74	20	4	3	0	.571	1	0	2.73
Jake Volz	5	3	35	34	30	1	4	0	.200	0	0	7.71
Havilland	3	3	27	36	19	1	2	0	.333	0	0	6.33
Joe Kostal	3	2	19	19	8	1	1	0	.500	0	0	3.79
Louis Schaub	2	1	15	17	11	1	1	0	.500	0	0	6.60
John Bartos	3	1	14	18	8	1	0	0	1.000	0	0	5.14
Bills	3	1	14	18	10	0	1	0	.000	0	0	6.43
George Starnagle	3	0	7	9	4	0	0	0	.000	0	1	5.14
McDonald	1	0	7	11	10	0	1	0	.000	0	0	12.86
Freurer	1	0	7	4	2	0	0	0	.000	0	0	2.57
Allemange	2	0	6	13	9	0	1	0	.000	0	0	13.50
Leach	1	0	3	10	8	0	1	0	.000	0	0	24.00
George Berrywald	1	0	2	6	3	0	0	0	.000	0	0	13.50
John H. Shea	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1.000	0	0	0.00
<b>totals</b>		<b>126</b>	<b>1285</b>	<b>1313</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>.545</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4.30</b>

Colorado Spr./Pueblo	G	CG	IP	H	R	W	L	T	Pct.	ShO	SV	R/G
C. A. Minor	38	28	291	295	144	18	13	0	.581	2	1	4.45
Harry Lindsay	38	25	263	326	197	11	24	0	.314	0	0	6.74
Arch M. Stimmel	35	26	252	284	160	13	18	0	.419	3	0	5.71
Swormstedt	15	9	107	134	83	3	8	0	.273	0	0	6.98
H. Hester	12	6	84	99	63	2	6	1	.250	0	0	6.75
Lee Faurot	8	8	66	81	57	3	5	0	.375	0	0	7.77
Amos Hutter	7	7	54	60	37	1	6	0	.143	0	0	6.17
Paul Companion	10	3	45	71	44	1	6	0	.143	0	1	8.80
Blair	2	1	13	24	14	0	1	0	.000	0	0	9.69
P. Mitze	2	0	13	9	5	0	0	0	.000	0	0	3.46
Walsh	1	1	9	10	8	0	1	0	.000	0	0	8.00
Bill Shriver	1	0	6	6	1	0	0	0	.000	0	0	1.50
Tom Messitt	1	0	4	11	2	0	0	0	.000	0	1	4.50
Mattney	1	0	3	9	4	0	0	0	.000	0	0	12.00
<b>totals</b>		<b>114</b>	<b>1210</b>	<b>1419</b>	<b>819</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>.371</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6.09</b>

St. Joseph	G	CG	IP	H	R	W	L	T	Pct.	ShO	SV	R/G
Edward Eyler	35	31	295	281	132	15	19	0	.441	3	0	4.03
J. Albert Jones	34	30	276	298	140	11	20	0	.355	1	0	4.57
Glenn Liebrandt	31	27	246	287	198	4	24	1	.143	0	0	7.24
H. A. Souders	14	9	95	118	72	0	11	0	.000	0	1	6.82
Jimmy St. Vrain	8	7	62	75	44	2	6	0	.250	0	0	6.39
Fair	6	5	43	49	36	1	3	0	.250	0	0	7.53
John H. Shea	5	5	42	39	31	0	4	0	.000	0	0	6.64
Ernest Anderson	8	4	39	60	46	3	5	0	.375	0	0	10.62
Thomas	5	3	39	79	50	0	3	0	.000	0	0	11.54
Stoup	4	3	28	43	34	0	4	0	.000	0	0	10.93
McCall	3	3	25	30	21	1	2	0	.333	0	0	7.56
Clark	2	0	9	21	17	0	0	0	.000	0	0	17.00
Reynolds	1	1	9	7	5	0	1	0	.000	0	0	5.00
Kuss	1	0	5	4	3	1	0	0	1.000	0	0	5.40
Blaine Durbin	1	0	3	6	4	0	1	0	.000	0	0	12.00
Finch	1	0	3	6	3	0	0	0	.000	0	0	9.00
Lee Quinlan	1	0	3	8	6	0	1	0	.000	0	0	18.00
<b>totals</b>		<b>128</b>	<b>1222</b>	<b>1411</b>	<b>842</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>.268</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6.20</b>

## 1905 Western Association

Wichita	G	CG	IP	H	R	W	L	T	Pct.	ShO	SV	R/G
Harry Gehring	37	36	323		87	32	5	0	.865	10	0	2.42
Lawrence Milton	35	29	293		127	15	15	1	.500	2	1	3.90
Charles A. Bemis	35	31	273		104	20	13	0	.606	5	0	3.43
Ed Willett	16	14	124		37	10	5	0	.667	4	0	2.69
James Cravens	15	13	112		79	4	9	0	.308	0	0	6.35
Ariel Clark	3	1	18		12	0	2	0	.000	0	0	6.00
A. Solter	3	0	16		4	0	1	0	.000	0	0	2.25
Bert Shaner	1	1	8		6	0	1	0	.000	0	0	6.75
McGill	1	1	8		5	0	1	0	.000	0	0	5.63
Jack Holland	1	0	3		3	0	0	0	.000	0	0	9.00
John Green	1	0	2		2	0	0	0	.000	0	0	9.00
<b>totals</b>		<b>126</b>	<b>1180</b>		<b>466</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>.609</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3.55</b>

Leavenworth	G	CG	IP	H	R	W	L	T	Pct.	ShO	SV	R/G
John C. Ashley	36	30	294		135	15	17	0	.469	1	1	4.13
George N. Speer	37	29	288		97	19	10	2	.655	8	3	3.03
Walter Quiesser	30	23	233		75	19	8	0	.704	5	0	2.90
L. R. Fanning	11	10	89		27	5	6	0	.455	1	0	2.73
Jack W. Forrester	10	8	75		51	3	6	1	.333	0	0	6.12
Clyde Nelson	3	2	25		18	1	2	0	.333	0	0	6.48
Elmer Meredith	2	2	22		7	1	1	0	.500	0	0	2.86
H. Ellis	3	2	22		3	2	0	0	1.000	0	0	1.23
Relihan	2	1	18		8	1	1	0	.500	0	0	4.00
<b>totals</b>		<b>107</b>	<b>1066</b>		<b>421</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>.564</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3.55</b>

Oklahoma City	G	CG	IP	H	R	W	L	T	Pct.	ShO	SV	R/G
Lewis Woods	44	33	348		159	18	17	1	.514	1	2	4.11
Jack Root	34	28	278		131	13	17	1	.433	3	0	4.24
Jack Halla	26	23	204		77	15	11	0	.577	4	0	3.40
Bert Shaner	22	15	165		53	11	9	1	.550	2	0	2.89
Craig	9	7	69		18	8	0	1	1.000	0	0	2.35
Clarke	9	4	48		36	4	2	0	.667	0	0	6.75
Clyde Nelson	3	3	25		5	3	0	0	1.000	1	0	1.80
Maire	3	2	24		16	1	0	0	1.000	0	0	6.00
George Blackburn	2	2	18		4	1	1	0	.500	1	0	2.00
Risley	1	1	8		3	0	1	0	.000	0	0	3.38
A. L. Milsap	1	0	5		7	0	0	0	.000	0	0	12.60
<b>totals</b>		<b>118</b>	<b>1192</b>		<b>509</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>.561</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3.84</b>

Sedalia	G	CG	IP	H	R	W	L	T	Pct.	ShO	SV	R/G
R. E. "Happy" Westcott	44	35	325		138	21	19	0	.525	4	3	3.82
Paul S. Curtis	30	26	248		93	16	13	0	.552	3	0	3.38
James Cravens	24	22	197		74	14	8	0	.636	1	1	3.38
Bert Shaner	13	11	107		36	8	5	0	.615	1	0	3.03
Talbot	7	5	64		37	3	4	0	.429	0	0	5.20
Amos Hutter	8	5	62		46	1	5	0	.167	0	0	6.68
Red Davis	7	4	44		27	2	2	0	.500	0	0	5.52
George Blackburn	3	2	19		14	0	2	1	.000	0	0	6.63
A. H. Northcutt	2	1	11		15	1	1	0	.500	0	0	12.27
Richard Rohn	2	0	10		5	0	0	0	.000	0	1	4.50
Bruggeman	1	1	9		8	0	1	0	.000	0	0	8.00
Trestrail	1	1	9		4	1	0	0	1.000	0	0	4.00
Knarr	2	0	9		9	0	0	0	.000	0	0	9.00
Ed Page	1	1	8		2	0	1	0	.000	0	0	2.25
Abner Perch	1	0	5		0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0.00
Brigham	1	0	4		9	0	0	0	.000	0	0	20.25
Leftridge	1	0	1		2	0	0	0	.000	0	0	18.00
<b>totals</b>		<b>114</b>	<b>1132</b>		<b>519</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>.523</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4.13</b>

Guthrie	G	CG	IP	H	R	W	L	T	Pct.	ShO	SV	R/G
Harry Womack	45	35	359		180	16	25	3	.390	3	0	4.51
Benny Henderson	30	27	251		98	18	8	1	.692	4	0	3.51
Dallas Alderman	19	15	144		89	6	10	0	.375	1	0	5.56
Paul Companion	16	14	118		45	8	6	0	.571	2	1	3.43
Walter Quiesser	12	11	96		60	3	8	1	.273	1	0	5.63
Leo Hite	10	5	58		28	6	1	0	.857	1	0	4.34
Hamilton	8	6	57		38	2	5	0	.286	1	0	6.00
McKelvey	4	3	33		13	3	1	0	.750	0	0	3.55
Ned Pettigrew	4	2	22		16	1	1	0	.500	0	0	6.55
Jack W. Forrester	2	2	18		14	1	1	0	.500	0	0	7.00
Mize	2	2	14		15	1	1	0	.500	0	0	9.64
Jerome W. "Red" Downs	1	0	7		7	0	0	0	.000	0	0	9.00
Knox	1	0	2		8	0	1	0	.000	0	0	36.00
<b>totals</b>		<b>122</b>	<b>1179</b>		<b>611</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>.489</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4.66</b>

Joplin	G	CG	IP	H	R	W	L	T	Pct.	ShO	SV	R/G
Blaine Durbin	35	28	293		130	13	18	0	.419	2	1	3.99
Samuel Morris	35	29	278		70	22	10	1	.688	6	0	2.27
F. H. Smith	29	22	246		127	8	16	0	.333	1	0	4.65
Fred S. Wilkinson	20	18	153		67	8	11	0	.421	1	1	3.94
Harry Horton	19	17	148		76	7	11	0	.389	1	0	4.62
Paul Campanian	5	5	42		20	2	3	0	.400	0	0	4.29
Trestrall	3	2	25		20	0	2	0	.000	0	0	7.20
Ariel Clark	1	1	8		8	0	1	0	.000	0	0	9.00
<b>totals</b>		<b>122</b>	<b>1193</b>		<b>518</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>.455</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3.91</b>

Topeka	G	CG	IP	H	R	W	L	T	Pct.	ShO	SV	R/G
Tom Hughes	39	32	326		166	14	18	0	.438	1	1	4.58
C. L. "Nick" Carter	41	31	325		139	15	20	2	.429	3	0	3.85
William Howie	25	21	201		103	10	12	2	.455	4	0	4.61
Dallas G. Alderman	12	9	88		45	6	6	0	.500	0	0	4.60
McKelvey	10	7	62		40	3	5	0	.375	0	0	5.81
Bert Dunn	6	5	45		19	2	3	1	.400	0	0	3.80
J. W. Forrester	5	4	33		12	1	3	1	.250	0	0	3.27
George Blackburn	3	3	27		8	3	0	0	1.000	0	0	2.67
Jimmy St. Vrain	4	3	24		20	0	4	0	.000	0	0	7.50
F. H. (?) Smith	2	2	18		21	1	1	0	.500	0	0	10.50
James Cravens	2	1	17		8	0	1	0	.000	0	0	4.24
Hokenson	2	2	16		7	1	1	0	.500	0	0	3.94
Spencer A. Abbott	2	1	10		9	0	2	0	.000	0	0	8.10
Jack Henry	1	0	7		5	0	0	0	.000	0	0	6.43
Dye	1	0	5		3	0	1	0	.000	0	0	5.40
Dick Brown	1	0	5		1	0	0	0	.000	0	0	1.80
Abe Lizotte	1	0	3		3	0	0	0	.000	0	0	9.00
Elmore	1	0	2		1	0	0	0	.000	0	0	4.50
<b>totals</b>		<b>121</b>	<b>1214</b>		<b>610</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>.421</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4.52</b>

Springfield	G	CG	IP	H	R	W	L	T	Pct.	ShO	SV	R/G
Robert Groom	48	41	393		177	23	21	1	.523	3	1	4.05
Frank Olmstead	37	33	297		185	11	23	0	.324	3	0	5.61
H. E. Ellis	26	22	209		119	11	14	0	.440	1	0	5.12
Harry Horton	20	18	154		73	7	11	1	.389	2	0	4.27
A. H. Northcutt	5	3	42		28	0	3	0	.000	0	0	6.00
George N. Speer	4	4	34		25	0	4	0	.000	0	0	6.62
Howard B. Wakefield	4	4	33		15	1	3	0	.250	1	0	4.09
Rush	1	0	6		3	0	0	0	.000	0	0	4.50
<b>totals</b>		<b>125</b>	<b>1168</b>		<b>625</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>.402</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4.82</b>

## 1905 Missouri Valley League

Pittsburg	G	CG	IP	H	R	W	L	T	Pct.	ShO	SV	R/G
J. W. "Cy" Stinson	34	30	279		100	22	9		.710	6	1	3.23
Bill Burns	25	23	225		69	21	3		.875	5	0	2.76
Harley E. Young	21	20	201		56	18	3		.857	3	0	2.51
Clyde McNutt	13	11	105		50	8	4		.667	0	1	4.29
Maher	8	8	71		38	4	4		.500	1	0	4.82
Adams	1	1	9		4	1	0		1.000	0	0	4.00
Hoffmeister	1	0	3		4	0	0		.000	0	0	12.00
Tom Reed	1	0	3		1	0	1		.000	0	0	3.00
E. L. Goes	1	0	2		0	0	0		.000	0	0	0.00
<b>totals</b>		<b>93</b>	<b>898</b>		<b>322</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>24</b>		<b>.755</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3.23</b>

Parsons	G	CG	IP	H	R	W	L	T	Pct.	ShO	SV	R/G
Charles Adams	32	28	276		99	21	9		.700	4	0	3.23
James C. Skidmore	27	21	206		136	13	11		.542	3	0	5.94
Charles Rhodes	22	20	191		73	15	6		.714	2	0	3.44
Duncan	10	7	64		61	3	6		.333	0	0	8.58
Ernest (?) Wilson	4	1	18		19	0	1		.000	0	0	9.50
Saunders	2	2	18		18	1	1		.500	0	0	9.00
McLinn	3	0	11		6	1	1		.500	0	0	4.91
Pinkerton	2	1	10		5	1	0		1.000	0	0	4.50
Lorimer	1	1	8		5	0	1		.000	0	0	5.63
John Henley	1	1	8		13	0	1		.000	0	0	14.63
Leo Hite	1	0	5		6	0	1		.000	0	0	10.80
McCarthy	1	0	3		1	0	0		.000	0	0	3.00
<b>totals</b>		<b>82</b>	<b>818</b>		<b>442</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>38</b>		<b>.591</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4.86</b>

The 1905 Missouri Valley League

Muskogee	G	CG	IP	H	R	W	L	T	Pct.	ShO	SV	R/G
James Bates	26	22	203		111	14	9		.609	1	0	4.92
C. M. Brandon	22	18	172		90	8	11		.421	1	1	4.71
Bouldin	13	13	122		44	10	3		.769	3	0	3.25
Amos Hutter	12	8	86		34	7	4		.636	2	0	3.56
Adams	6	2	50		43	2	3		.400	0	0	7.74
Nester	5	3	40		24	3	2		.600	0	0	5.40
McCarthy	5	4	39		9	4	0		1.000	0	0	2.08
Findlay	4	3	30		23	0	4		.000	0	0	6.90
G. H. Schoffner	4	3	30		14	2	1		.667	1	0	4.20
Caywood	4	3	29		34	2	2		.500	0	0	10.55
A. H. Northcutt	2	1	13		7	1	0		1.000	0	0	4.85
Yost	1	1	9		3	1	0		1.000	0	0	3.00
W. H. "Cy" Torrence	1	1	9		2	1	0		1.000	0	0	2.00
Murphy	1	1	8		7	0	1		.000	0	0	7.88
Reeves	1	1	8		12	0	1		.000	0	0	13.50
H. E. Bartley	1	0	8		6	0	0		.000	0	0	6.75
Emil Houser	3	0	6		13	0	1		.000	0	0	19.50
Dillard	1	0	5		6	0	0		.000	0	0	10.80
Pierce	1	0	1		2	0	0		.000	0	0	18.00
Wayne	2	0	1		6	0	1		.000	0	0	54.00
<b>totals</b>		<b>84</b>	<b>869</b>		<b>490</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>43</b>		<b>.561</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5.07</b>

Fort Scott	G	CG	IP	H	R	W	L	T	Pct.	ShO	SV	R/G
Sullivan Campbell	29	25	227		111	13	13		.500	2	0	4.40
W. S. Richardson	29	24	225		130	13	13		.500	2	1	5.20
Roy Gill	26	23	217		82	15	9		.625	7	1	3.40
J. K. Jegglin	18	17	165		71	5	13		.278	1	0	3.87
Rugge	4	2	22		23	0	4		.000	0	0	9.41
Barrett	1	0	6		7	1	0		1.000	0	0	10.50
Mathews	1	0	3		8	0	0		.000	0	0	24.00
<b>totals</b>		<b>91</b>	<b>865</b>		<b>432</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>52</b>		<b>.475</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4.49</b>

Webb City	G	CG	IP	H	R	W	L	T	Pct.	ShO	SV	R/G
J. L. Geer	23	17	193		110	9	11		.450	1	0	5.13
Elmer Meredith	22	18	191		71	14	6		.700	4	0	3.35
A. H. Northcutt	12	9	88		61	5	5		.500	0	0	6.24
Bashore	11	10	80		47	5	7		.417	2	0	5.29
W. H. "Cy" Torrence	8	7	62		50	2	5		.286	0	0	7.26
Woolever	5	5	42		23	2	3		.400	0	0	4.93
Hayes	6	3	40		23	2	2		.500	0	0	5.18
Ferrell	6	3	33		26	1	4		.200	0	0	7.09
Hedges	4	3	28		12	2	1		.667	0	0	3.86
Kline	4	1	26		18	0	3		.000	0	0	6.23
Whitely	4	2	21		14	1	2		.333	0	0	6.00
Ed Betch	4	2	19		24	1	3		.250	1	0	11.37
Leftwich	1	1	9		5	0	1		.000	0	0	5.00
Wayne	2	0	8		6	0	1		.000	0	0	6.75
Taylor	1	1	8		11	0	1		.000	0	0	12.38
Hawkins	1	0	6		0	0	0		.000	0	0	0.00
A. Wilson	1	0	6		0	0	0		.000	0	0	0.00
Daugherty	1	0	4		3	0	0		.000	0	0	6.75
Joseph Laughlin	1	0	2		5	0	0		.000	0	0	22.50
<b>totals</b>		<b>82</b>	<b>866</b>		<b>509</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>55</b>		<b>.444</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5.29</b>

Tulsa	G	CG	IP	H	R	W	L	T	Pct.	ShO	SV	R/G
Wakefield	21	18	172		76	10	10		.500	3	0	3.98
H. A. Cummings	22	17	135		91	9	11		.450	0	0	6.07
Thompson French	17	12	127		105	4	9		.308	0	0	7.44
E. R. (?) Brandon	10	10	89		40	7	3		.700	1	0	4.04
Burt Jones	7	5	52		18	4	4		.500	2	0	3.12
Vance	6	5	52		37	1	4		.200	0	0	6.40
Roy Wilkins	5	3	37		34	1	4		.200	0	0	8.27
Atchison	2	2	18		4	2	0		1.000	0	0	2.00
Gibson	3	1	17		8	1	0		1.000	0	0	4.24
Adams	2	1	16		22	0	2		.000	0	0	12.38
Roy Bates	3	0	14		16	1	0		1.000	0	0	10.29
Hayes	3	1	12		9	1	1		.500	0	0	6.75
F. B. Hanlon	2	0	11		12	0	1		.000	0	0	9.82
Drew	1	1	9		3	1	0		1.000	0	0	3.00
Joe Crisp	1	1	8		6	0	1		.000	0	0	6.75
F. F. Dougherty	1	1	8		6	0	1		.000	0	0	6.75
Farrell	2	1	8		16	0	2		.000	0	0	18.00
Emery	1	0	6		8	0	0		.000	0	0	12.00
Barnes	1	0	4		7	0	0		.000	0	0	15.75
Crawford	1	0	3		7	0	0		.000	0	0	21.00
Sigman	1	0	3		4	0	0		.000	0	0	12.00
Hiller	1	0	3		10	0	1		.000	0	0	30.00
R. H. Bennett	1	0	2		7	0	1		.000	0	0	31.50
Hawkins	1	0	1		0	0	0		.000	0	0	0.00
<b>totals</b>		<b>79</b>	<b>807</b>		<b>546</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>55</b>		<b>.433</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6.09</b>

The 1905 Missouri Valley League

Vinita	G	CG	IP	H	R	W	L	T	Pct.	ShO	SV	R/G
Cude Harland	25	18	178		85	6	13		.316	2	1	4.30
Pearl Bluejacket	16	16	135		78	4	12		.250	0	0	5.20
Hamilton	14	13	118		79	7	7		.500	1	0	6.03
Murphy	10	8	76		35	3	5		.375	0	1	4.14
Henry Daye	9	6	67		16	6	1		.857	2	1	2.15
Loughmiller	9	6	61		26	5	3		.625	1	0	3.84
Talton K. Clark	8	7	58		76	0	8		.000	0	0	11.79
M. Vaughn	7	6	56		34	4	3		.571	1	0	5.46
Jack Jutzi	6	5	41		22	4	2		.667	1	0	4.83
Will Smith	4	3	31		28	0	3		.000	0	0	8.13
Atchison	4	3	27		21	1	3		.250	0	0	7.00
Jack Holland	2	2	18		3	2	0		1.000	0	0	1.50
Cole	1	1	8		7	0	1		.000	0	0	7.88
Brunsough	1	0	4		5	0	0		.000	0	0	11.25
Leskar	1	0	1		5	0	0		.000	0	0	45.00
<b>totals</b>		<b>94</b>	<b>879</b>		<b>520</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>61</b>		<b>.408</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5.32</b>

South McAlester	G	CG	IP	H	R	W	L	T	Pct.	ShO	SV	R/G
R. S. "Cy" Cooper	35	28	263		56	12	22		.353	0	0	1.92
W. H. "Cy" Torrence	13	11	107		65	4	7		.364	0	0	5.47
F. Cooper	10	8	78		54	2	7		.222	1	0	6.23
Leftwich	8	5	62		64	0	6		.000	0	0	9.29
J. O. Simpson	6	6	47		47	2	4		.333	0	0	9.00
Ike Cooper	5	5	43		22	2	3		.400	1	0	4.60
Hamilton	4	3	35		23	0	3		.000	0	0	5.91
Roy Wingate	4	1	25		22	0	2		.000	0	1	7.92
S. Cooper	3	1	19		21	1	0		1.000	0	0	9.95
Whittenburg	2	1	17		10	1	1		.500	0	0	5.29
W. C. White	3	1	14		6	1	0		1.000	0	0	3.86
Shammer	2	1	11		20	0	2		.000	0	0	16.36
Henrietta	2	1	10		8	1	1		.500	0	0	7.20
Latimer	2	0	10		16	0	1		.000	0	0	14.40
Vance	1	1	9		2	1	0		1.000	0	0	2.00
Cy Perkins	1	1	8		3	0	1		.000	0	0	3.38
Threagill	1	1	8		11	0	1		.000	0	0	12.38
J. Cooper	1	1	8		11	0	1		.000	0	0	12.38
Nester	1	0	7		6	0	0		.000	0	0	7.71
A. G. Jefferies	1	0	4		0	0	0		.000	0	0	0.00
Ahorn	1	0	4		7	0	0		.000	0	0	15.75
Roper	1	0	1		2	0	1		.000	0	0	18.00
<b>totals</b>		<b>76</b>	<b>790</b>		<b>476</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>63</b>		<b>.300</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5.42</b>

## 1905 Kansas State League

Ellsworth	G	CG	IP	H	R	W	L	T	Pct.	ShO	SV	R/G
Relihan	14	11	113	59	32	10	2	0	.833	2	1	2.55
Jones	11	11	104	39	18	10	1	0	.909	5	0	1.56
Wade	12	11	104	73	36	6	6	0	.500	3	0	3.12
Hayes	4	4	40	29	6	3	1	0	.750	1	0	1.35
C. (?) Sable	4	4	32	29	10	2	2	0	.500	1	0	2.81
Art Griggs	3	3	27	4	3	3	0	0	1.000	2	0	1.00
Youst	3	2	19	26	23	0	2	0	.000	0	0	10.89
Attridge	1	1	8	14	10	0	1	0	.000	0	0	11.25
<b>totals</b>		<b>47</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>.694</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2.78</b>

Grand Bend	G	CG	IP	H	R	W	L	T	Pct.	ShO	SV	R/G
James Durham	10	9	79	60	20	8	2	0	.800	1	0	2.28
Weiland	6	4	47	23	15	4	0	0	1.000	0	0	2.87
Harmison	6	2	44	23	16	1	1	0	.500	1	0	3.27
Lefty Holmes	5	4	37	29	24	4	1	0	.800	2	0	5.84
Jones	3	2	25	21	12	1	1	0	.500	0	0	4.32
Lyon	2	0	3	6	7	0	2	0	.000	0	0	21.00
Taylor	1	0	3	3	3	0	1	0	.000	0	0	9.00
Betz	1	0	2	3	5	0	1	0	.000	0	0	22.50
Hoffman	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1.000	0	0	0.00
<b>totals</b>		<b>21</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>.679</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3.81</b>

Minneapolis	G	CG	IP	H	R	W	L	T	Pct.	ShO	SV	R/G
Singleton	14	13	125	89	61	6	8	0	.429	0	0	4.39
McGill	13	10	124	88	31	4	5	1	.444	3	0	2.25
Holm	13	10	103	48	32	7	3	0	.700	0	0	2.80
Salter	9	8	73	55	37	5	6	0	.455	0	0	4.56
Brion	2	2	18	10	4	2	0	0	1.000	0	0	2.00
<b>totals</b>		<b>43</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>.522</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3.35</b>

Hutchinson	G	CG	IP	H	R	W	L	T	Pct.	ShO	SV	R/G
Henri Blackburn	18	14	146	101	61	9	7	0	.563	1	0	3.76
Mason	17	15	140	95	60	10	6	0	.625	2	1	3.86
Cook	7	4	45	40	32	0	4	0	.000	0	1	6.40
Wilson	5	5	43	31	22	2	3	0	.400	1	0	4.60
Price	4	0	14	22	20	0	3	0	.000	0	0	12.86
Ward	1	1	9	7	5	0	1	0	.000	0	0	5.00
James Durham	1	1	9	4	0	1	0	0	1.000	1	0	0.00
<b>totals</b>		<b>40</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>.478</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4.43</b>

Lincoln Center	G	CG	IP	H	R	W	L	T	Pct.	ShO	SV	R/G
J. Miller	13	12	105	86	75	2	11	0	.154	0	0	6.43
Woody	8	8	73	39	41	4	4	0	.500	0	0	5.05
McCandles	3	3	27	21	11	3	0	0	1.000	0	0	3.67
Breen	1	0	5	8	5	0	0	0	.000	0	0	9.00
Missing Games						2	4		.333	1		
<b>totals</b>		<b>23</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>.367</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5.66</b>

Lincoln Center is missing pitching records from the first six games of their season. They went 2-4, including a 1-0 shutout, for those games.

Kingman/Hoisington	G	CG	IP	H	R	W	L	T	Pct.	ShO	SV	R/G
Hayes	12	9	87	47	38	2	8	1	.200	1	0	3.93
Vaughn	6	5	61	43	23	4	2	0	.667	0	0	3.39
Betch	9	5	57	27	31	3	3	0	.500	0	1	4.89
McClure	6	6	55	24	28	2	6	0	.250	0	0	4.58
Wayne	5	2	24	16	17	1	1	0	.500	0	0	6.38
DeWeese	3	2	21	17	12	1	1	0	.500	0	0	5.14
Trestrall	3	2	21	19	15	0	3	0	.000	0	0	6.43
Wind	2	1	15	14	6	0	1	0	.000	0	0	3.60
Hines	2	1	14	15	13	0	2	0	.000	0	0	8.36
Stonewall	2	1	10	16	15	0	2	0	.000	0	0	13.50
Potter	1	1	8	0	2	0	1	0	.000	0	0	2.25
Elliott	1	1	8	10	11	0	1	0	.000	0	0	12.38
Harmison	1	0	7	7	8	1	0	0	1.000	0	0	10.29
Wilkins	1	0	6	2	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0.00
Conley	2	0	6	10	3	0	0	0	.000	0	0	4.50
Moore	1	0	2	6	5	0	1	0	.000	0	0	22.50
Cheney	1	0	1	5	7	0	1	0	.000	0	0	63.00
<b>totals</b>		<b>36</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>.298</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5.23</b>

## The 1899 New England League

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Why no final statistics were ever published for the 1899 New England League is a mystery. Former major leaguer Tim Murnane served as league president from 1892 through 1915 (the league did not operate in 1900), and he also was— for most of that time period— the *Boston Globe's* sports editor (the *Brooklyn Eagle* called him “the most highly moral character in baseball”). Harvard Graduate Jacob Morse filled the post of league secretary; he also had edited the *1884 Union Association Guide*, and was the founder of *Baseball Magazine*. If any individuals were capable of providing a league’s final record, they were certainly the two.

Six of the New England League’s entries— Portland, Maine; Manchester, New Hampshire; Brockton and Taunton, Massachusetts; and Newport and Pawtucket, Rhode Island— were tried and true baseball towns. Unfortunately, the other two cities— Cambridge and Fitchburg in Massachusetts— proved to be failures. And despite transferring the teams to Lowell and Lawrence, respectively, both clubs dropped out of the league by early June. But, then, the Brockton *Shoemakers*— led by slugger Ed “Home Run” Breckinridge and a strong pitching staff— seemed on the verge of overtaking the Portland *Phenoms* (the more commonly used nickname—for field manager Phenomenal John Smith— than that of the officially

named Seagulls) when they and the Pawtucket *Colts* dropped out of the league, due to financial losses, in early August. League directors then declared the regular season (later to be called the “first season”) over as of August 8<sup>th</sup>, and awarded Portland the pennant.

The four remaining teams then played a second season that ran through Labor Day. Newport and Manchester, vying for the second-half flag, went into the season’s final weekend neck-and-neck. Manchester beat Portland six times— that’s right, six times— on Labor Day to claim the title. It was apparent that Portland rolled over for Manchester, probably in the hopes of a Maine-New Hampshire post-season series. The league refused to recognize the last three games of the Portland-Manchester marathon (which in fact were not scheduled games). Instead the league awarded Newport— who defeated a legitimately poor Taunton club in a Labor Day tripleheader— the pennant.

The most significant aspect of the 1899 New England League had to be the professional debut of Christy Mathewson. Matty joined the Taunton *Herrings* in late July and, despite pitching several good games, ended up his season with a horrible 2 and 13 record, not a very auspicious start for a pitcher who would go on to become one of the game’s greatest stars.

The 1899 New England League’s statistics begin on the next page:

## 1899 New England League Standings

First Season	W	L	PCT.	G. B.
Portland Seagulls	48	27	.640	....
Brockton Shoemakers	44	28	.611	2½
Manchester	41	31	.569	5½
Newport	38	35	.521	9
Pawtucket Colts	36	41	.468	13
Taunton Herrings	28	49	.364	20½
Fitchburg-Lawrence	3	13	.188	
Cambridge-Lowell Orphans	3	17	.150	

Second Season	W	L	PCT.	G. B.
Newport	17	8	.680	....
Manchester	16	9	.640	1
Portland Seagulls	12	14	.462	5½
Taunton Herrings	5	19	.208	11½

Full Year	Field Captain	W	L	PCT.	Home Grounds
Brockton Shoemakers	Ed Breckinridge	44	28	.611	Highland Park
Portland Seagulls	John Smith	60	41	.594	
Manchester	Jack Carney, Fred Lake	57	40	.588	Varick Park
Newport	Red Armstrong*	55	43	.561	Freebody Park
Pawtucket Colts	George Bone, Hobe Whiting	36	41	.468	Dexter Street Grounds
Taunton Herrings	George Wiley, George Grant, Buster Burrill, Ray Kellogg	33	68	.327	Athletic Grounds
Fitchburg-Lawrence	Connie Murphy	3	13	.188	
Cambridge-Lowell Orphans	Eddie Glenn	3	17	.150	Charles River Park & Locust St. Gnds.

\*possibly other field managers

## 1899 New England League Batting Statistics

Player	Team	Pos	G	AB	R	H	1B	2B	3B	HR	SB	AVG
Thompson	Manchester	p	2	7	3	4	4	0	0	0	0	.571
Danny Murphy	Pawtucket	2b	3	11	2	6	3	2	0	1	0	.545
Stackhouse	Portland	2b, ss	2	8	0	4	3	1	0	0	0	.500
McNeet	Manchester	p	2	4	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	.500
John Irwin	Manchester	1b	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	.500
Sanborn	Taunton	p	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	.500
Callahan	Manchester	p, of	6	20	5	9	7	2	0	0	0	.450
Nelson	Portland	c	3	9	3	4	3	1	0	0	0	.444
Horace Newenham	Portland	rf	1	5	1	2	1	0	0	1	1	.400
Tom Fleming	Newport	of	42	180	37	69	60	8	1	0	11	.383
John F. Smith	Portland	of, p	85	322	69	123	88	32	3	0	13	.382
Zaider	Cambridge-Lowell	1b	20	72	24	27	19	7	0	1	1	.375
Holmes	Taunton	c	4	16	0	6	5	1	0	0	1	.375
Wilder	Portland	lf	2	8	1	3	2	0	1	0	0	.375
Frank Todd	Pawtucket	p, rf	13	57	10	21	19	2	0	0	3	.368
Dinsmore	Newport	p	4	11	1	4	4	0	0	0	0	.364
Ezra Lincoln	Taunton	p	4	14	1	5	1	4	0	0	1	.357
John Carney	Manchester	1b	93	400	83	141	96	39	2	4	19	.353
Wheeler	Fitchburg-Lawrence	ss, 3b	12	46	7	16	10	3	2	1	1	.348
John Wiley	Taunton/Pawtucket	1b, c	71	278	52	96	67	19	4	6	17	.345
Danny Cotter	Manchester	of	53	204	50	70	47	14	9	0	16	.343
Iottte	Taunton	of	15	70	14	24	20	4	0	0	7	.343
Pete LePine	Pawtucket	1b	76	311	47	106	77	25	1	3	10	.341
Adams	Fitchburg-Lawrence	inf, of, c	15	53	18	18	16	1	1	0	0	.340
George Noblitt	Portland	cf	99	423	109	143	79	33	19	12	32	.338
Hobe Whiting	Pawtucket/Taunton	of, inf	86	353	68	118	104	14	0	0	9	.334
Griffin	Taunton	1b	2	9	0	3	2	1	0	0	0	.333
Carrivean	Fitchburg-Lawrence	p	2	6	3	2	1	1	0	0	0	.333
Ernest Mains	Manchester	p, of	4	6	4	2	1	1	0	0	0	.333
Jack Mahoney	Cambridge-Lowell	P	1	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	.333
Fred Lake	Manchester	c, inf, of	93	386	69	128	98	25	3	2	13	.332
Ed Breckinridge	Brockton	1b	72	259	66	86	59	13	2	12	9	.332
Mike Hickey	Manchester	2b, ss, 3b	97	434	110	143	99	29	7	8	43	.329
Patrick Conroy	Portland	1b, p, of	101	418	73	137	83	38	9	7	14	.328
McCloud	Portland	p, rf	30	80	20	26	19	6	1	0	2	.325
Jack Tighe	Fitch-Law/Portland	1b, 2b, of	57	225	44	73	44	19	3	7	11	.324
King Kelley	Manchester	inf, of, c, p	72	288	43	92	64	24	4	0	4	.319
Shires	Newport	3b, 1b	98	420	69	133	107	23	1	2	25	.317
Tom News	Pawtucket	rf, 2b	32	140	25	44	36	7	1	5	1	.314
Gilbert	Newport	cf	94	396	94	123	98	20	4	1	53	.311
J. W. King	Taunton	3b, of, p	80	318	46	99	63	30	4	2	8	.311
O'Brien	Portland	lf	3	13	1	4	2	1	1	0	0	.308
Clancy	Brockton	ss	72	280	55	86	71	8	7	0	25	.307
Red Armstrong	Newport	inf, of, c	33	141	18	43	37	6	0	0	6	.305
Counihan	Portland	2b, c	23	105	23	32	24	7	1	0	7	.305
Jimmy Grove	Taunton/Newport	lf	82	343	52	104	62	38	2	2	22	.303
Bob Ganley	Brockton	of, p	72	298	62	90	62	25	3	0	28	.302

The 1899 New England League

PLAYER	Team	Pos	G	AB	R	H	1B	2B	3B	HR	SB	AVG
Dick Knox	Brockton	2b	72	282	69	85	45	26	3	11	25	.301
Paul Russell	Manchester/Taunton	of, 2b, 1b	62	256	46	77	51	19	4	3	8	.301
Dutch Ulrick	Manchester	inf, of, p	28	103	29	31	28	3	0	0	7	.301
Tim Moynihan	Taunton	p, rf	4	10	2	3	3	0	0	0	0	.300
Dan Shay	Brockton/Newport	3b	91	326	56	97	67	25	3	2	24	.298
Sholta	Portland	2b	6	27	7	8	7	1	0	0	0	.296
Hobe Ferris	Pawtucket	ss, 3b	77	332	55	98	74	19	0	5	23	.295
Murphy	Newport	of, c	34	139	24	41	34	6	0	1	6	.295
Tom Flanagan	Portland	p, of, 1b	37	112	24	33	27	6	0	0	1	.295
Tommy Murphy	Cam-Low/Manchester	ss, of	76	316	59	93	70	18	4	1	15	.294
George Reagan	Manchester	3b	37	136	38	40	33	7	0	0	7	.294
Pat Green	Pawtucket/Taunton	ss, 3b	18	68	2	20	17	3	0	0	5	.294
Williams	Taunton	3b	17	68	6	20	15	4	0	1	2	.294
Billy Day	Brockton	p, cf	23	82	6	24	20	4	0	0	1	.293
George Grant	Taunton	of, inf, c	70	308	66	90	65	25	0	0	31	.292
Fred Perkins	Brockton	of, c	71	284	57	83	52	23	3	5	29	.292
John F. Quinn	Brockton/Portland	c, lf	21	72	11	21	19	2	0	0	1	.292
Murray	Pawtucket	c	12	48	8	14	13	1	0	0	3	.292
Frank Burrill	Taunton	c, 1b	100	412	63	120	94	19	5	2	14	.291
Vought	Taunton	inf, of, p	99	382	79	110	78	30	0	2	24	.288
Harry Noyes	Pawtuck/Manchester	3b	86	331	60	95	70	19	5	1	20	.287
Grissinger	Taunton	ss, rf	11	42	9	12	9	3	0	0	2	.286
Bill Spratt	Portland	lf, inf	94	386	109	110	80	25	4	1	43	.285
Dave Reilly	Newport	ss	55	228	37	65	58	7	0	0	8	.285
McMahon	Cambridge-Lowell	lf	20	88	7	25	19	5	1	0	7	.284
Billy Fitzmaurice	Manchester	of, inf	93	403	80	114	62	19	8	2	25	.283
Bernard	Brockton/Taunton	of, ss	74	297	61	84	70	10	2	2	15	.283
Deacon Morrissey	Newport/Manchester	of, p	72	240	44	68	52	10	4	2	7	.283
Smith	Pawtucket	p, 2b, rf	9	32	5	9	9	0	0	0	1	.281
Dick Hawke	Brockton	p	18	65	9	18	14	3	0	1	3	.277
Ray Kellogg	Taunton	2b, ss	50	203	42	56	47	6	3	0	23	.276
Looie Weisbecker	Pawtucket	of	76	327	66	90	75	13	0	2	24	.275
Tom Smith	Cam-Low/New/Tau/Man	p, of	32	117	19	32	24	5	1	2	1	.274
Frank Quinlan	Cambridge-Lowell	c, of, 2b	7	22	4	6	5	1	0	0	1	.273
Tommy Gallagher	Newport	p, of	62	237	33	64	54	8	1	1	23	.270
Burt Everson	Brockton	p, of, inf	27	115	17	31	25	6	0	0	1	.270
Thomas J. Brady	Taunton	p, of, 2b	39	138	11	37	28	7	1	1	1	.268
Niland	Manchester	of, 3b	8	30	3	8	6	2	0	0	4	.267
Whitney	Pawtucket	c, rf	5	15	2	4	4	0	0	0	0	.267
Pat O'Brien	Newport	of, ss, 3b	91	347	50	92	81	10	1	0	11	.265
Jim Smith	Portland	ss	53	216	37	57	34	19	4	0	9	.264
Mark Hanna	Newport	2b	98	390	58	102	92	8	1	1	17	.262
Eddie Glenn	Cam-Low/Taunton	ss, 2b, p	33	145	29	38	28	10	0	0	9	.262
Bill Eagle	Taunton	cf	5	23	8	6	4	2	0	0	1	.261
Shea	Manchester	3b	5	23	2	6	4	2	0	0	0	.261
J. O'Brien	Newport	of, 2b, c	10	35	5	9	7	2	0	0	0	.257
Gallagher	Fitchburg-Lawrence	ss, 2b, of	11	47	3	12	12	0	0	0	1	.255
George Bone	Pawtuck/Manchester	2b, rf	78	310	59	78	52	19	3	4	16	.252
William McDougall	Taunton/Manchester	p, of, 1b	39	127	27	32	22	6	3	1	3	.252
John O'Rourke	Fitchburg-Lawrence	cf, ss	16	68	12	17	15	2	0	0	9	.250

The 1899 New England League

PLAYER	Team	Pos	G	AB	R	H	1B	2B	3B	HR	SB	AVG
Buttman	Cambridge-Lowell	2b, cf	7	24	4	6	5	1	0	0	3	.250
Gallagher	Cambridge-Lowell	p, of	7	20	2	5	5	0	0	0	0	.250
Murphy	Portland	3b	3	12	1	3	3	0	0	0	0	.250
Cogswell	Portland	p	2	4	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	.250
Edson	Portland	c	1	4	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	.250
Farrell	Portland	p	1	4	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	.250
Kershaw	Taunton	p	1	4	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	.250
Whipple	Pawtucket	rf	1	4	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	.250
Callahan	Pawtucket	p, of	27	89	12	22	21	1	0	0	4	.247
O'Conner	Pawtucket/Taunton	of	43	167	16	41	35	6	0	0	9	.246
John Long	Taunton	inf, of	38	138	19	34	26	8	0	0	12	.246
Jack Toft	Portland	c	65	240	39	58	51	6	1	0	3	.242
Nate Pulsifer	Portland	of, inf, c	71	262	44	63	51	10	2	0	18	.240
Stackhouse	Newport	3b, ss, of	20	84	8	20	17	2	1	0	3	.238
George Mahoney	Cam-Low/Taunt/Manch	of, p, c	33	114	16	27	19	6	1	1	1	.237
Sullivan	Portland	3b	99	379	71	89	62	16	5	6	11	.235
Christy Mathewson	Taunton	p, of	21	69	6	16	12	3	1	0	0	.232
Ritchie	Cambridge-Lowell	of, inf, p	19	69	7	16	15	1	0	0	3	.232
Cotter	Pawtucket	cf	15	56	6	13	10	3	0	0	1	.232
Jack Merriman	Cam-Lowell/Fitch-Lawr	2b	3	13	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	.231
Millerick	Newport	c, of, inf	93	367	49	84	71	13	0	0	15	.229
Jimmy Gannon	Newport	p, of	29	92	17	21	11	8	1	1	0	.228
Frank Shea	Fitchburg-Lawrence	3b	6	22	6	5	4	1	0	0	0	.227
McCarthy	Manchester	p, 3b	3	9	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	.222
Kerrins	Fitch-Law/Taunton	p, of, ss	29	92	12	20	17	3	0	0	1	.217
Wolsifer	Newport	of	4	14	2	3	3	0	0	0	1	.214
Carter	Taunton	if, of	27	82	11	17	13	4	0	0	0	.207
Stroh	Newport	3b	8	29	7	6	6	0	0	0	1	.207
Quinlan	Pawtucket	ss	12	45	3	9	8	1	0	0	0	.200
H. Smith	Taunton	3b	5	20	5	4	3	1	0	0	0	.200
Farrell	Manchester	p	3	10	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	.200
O'Brien	Manchester	of	2	10	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	.200
Johnston	Portland	p	3	5	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	.200
Kilfeather	Portland	2b	2	5	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	.200
Connie Murphy	Fitchburg-Lawrence	c, inf, of	16	61	12	12	10	2	0	0	4	.197
Frank Corridon	Newport/Pawtucket	p, rf, 1b	26	90	8	17	14	2	1	0	0	.189
John Curtis	Camb-Low/Paw/Taun	c	91	329	30	61	54	6	1	0	7	.185
Fred C. Holmes	Brockton	c	37	130	13	24	19	3	1	1	3	.185
John D. Kennedy	Manchester	p, of	23	65	7	12	12	0	0	0	2	.185
Pete Miller	Portland	p, of, 2b	44	141	12	26	18	7	1	0	0	.184
Purington	Portland	c	23	82	7	15	10	5	0	0	0	.183
Bob Moore	Taunton	of	4	17	2	3	2	1	0	0	0	.176
Clark	Portland/Taun/Pawtucket	ss	52	182	31	31	22	7	2	0	8	.170
Bald/Ball	Taunton/Portland	of	14	59	10	10	8	2	0	0	0	.169
Guy	Portland	ss, lf	6	24	3	4	3	1	0	0	1	.167
Eagan	Pawtucket	2b, rf	3	12	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	.167
Fields	Pawtucket	p, 2b	5	12	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	.167
J. McCormack	Newport	3b	31	121	9	20	18	2	0	0	2	.165
McCafferty	Pawtucket/Taunton	p, of	29	97	10	16	11	5	0	0	1	.165
Foley	Newport	p, of	36	119	15	19	14	5	0	0	3	.160

The 1899 New England League

PLAYER	Team	Pos	G	AB	R	H	1B	2B	3B	HR	SB	AVG
R. E. Haeger	Fitchburg-Lawrence	p, of	5	19	1	3	3	0	0	0	0	.158
Virgil Drinkwater	Taunton/Portland	p, rf	33	91	12	14	11	3	0	0	0	.154
Morrison	Manchester	of, p	5	13	3	2	2	0	0	0	1	.154
Putnam	Fitchburg-Lawrence	of, c	8	33	6	5	1	3	1	0	0	.152
Jimmy Sullivan	Manchester	p	3	7	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	.143
McCracken	Fitchburg-Lawrence	lf	15	58	10	8	5	2	0	1	0	.138
C. "Pop" Smith	Fitchburg-Lawrence	ss, 2b, p	7	29	1	4	3	1	0	0	0	.138
McCarthy	Fitchburg-Lawrence	p, of	7	22	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	.136
Sam Curran	Manchester	p	26	77	7	10	9	1	0	0	1	.130
Flaherty	Cambridge-Lowell	2b	8	31	2	4	4	0	0	0	0	.129
John J. Evers	Brock/Fitch-Law	c	17	60	7	7	7	0	0	0	10	.117
Brennan	Pawtucket	c	2	9	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	.111
Cook	Manchester	p	3	10	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	.100
Ahorn/Ahern	Manchester/Taunton	p, of	14	32	3	3	2	1	0	0	0	.094
W. C. Osborn	Brockton/Fitch-Lawrence	p, cf	4	12	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	.083
Joe Eagan	Cambridge-Lowell	p	7	16	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	.063
Frank Kennedy	Pawtucket	c, rf	5	19	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	.000
Libby	Portland	c	2	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	.000
Jack Abbott	Manchester	3b	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
George Bannon	Manchester	p, ph	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Quinn	Cambridge-Lowell	cf	1	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Costigan	Taunton	ss	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Finn	Pawtucket	2b	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Kelley	Portland	lf	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Riley	Portland	ss	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Boyd	Portland	ss, lf	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Clements	Taunton	cf	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Kern	Fitchburg-Lawrence	1b	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Tom Stouch	Taunton	2b	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Wright	Taunton	2b	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Adams	Newport	rf	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Casey	Newport	lf	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Casey	Brockton	c	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Edgar	Portland	2b	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Otto Rapp	Brockton	p	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Hanlon	Pawtucket	p	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
McInnes	Pawtucket	p	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Sphere	Portland	ph	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Bannon	Pawtucket	p	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Alex Ferson	Manchester	p	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
C. H. Foley	Brockton	p	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Marshall	Taunton	p	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Morrison	Cambridge-Lowell	cf	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000

## 1899 New England League Pitching Statistics

Pitcher	Team	G	GS	CG	ShO	W	L	PCT	IP	H	R	SO	BB	R/G
Bob Ganley	Brockton	2	2	2	0	2	0	1.000	18.0	20	4	3	5	2.00
Foley	Newport	33	32	31	7	19	13	.594	281.3	270	119	93	55	3.81
Jimmy Gannon	Newport	23	23	23	4	17	6	.739	200.0	199	97	54	43	4.37
Tommy Gallagher	Newport	30	30	29	3	14	16	.467	255.7	255	129	104	48	4.54
Thompson	Manchester	2	2	1	0	1	0	1.000	17.0	10	9	16	7	4.76
Billy Day	Brockton	23	23	22	4	14	9	.609	202.0	212	110	45	36	4.90
Burt Everson	Brockton	27	27	26	1	15	11	.577	231.0	242	126	54	49	4.91
Dick Hawke	Brockton	18	18	17	0	11	6	.647	160.3	154	89	75	24	5.00
Jimmy Sullivan	Manchester	3	2	1	1	1	0	1.000	12.0	13	7	5	4	5.25
John D. Kennedy	Manchester	21	13	12	1	13	6	.684	141.3	130	83	68	43	5.29
Virgil Drinkwater	Taunton/Portland	28	25	23	0	15	9	.625	226.7	255	135	56	49	5.36
Sam Curran	Manchester	26	25	20	1	12	9	.571	204.0	200	123	104	102	5.43
Pete Miller	Portland	33	30	27	1	15	13	.536	268.7	312	168	55	75	5.63
Frank Corridon	Newport/Pawtucket	22	19	19	0	8	11	.421	182.0	203	116	65	58	5.74
Tom Flanagan	Portland	35	33	29	3	20	14	.588	281.0	316	185	91	69	5.93
George Bannon	Manchester	1	1	1	0	1	0	1.000	9.0	10	6	4	2	6.00
C. H. Foley	Brockton	1	0	0	0	0	0	.000	3.0	5	2	0	0	6.00
Eddie Glenn	Cambridge-Lowell	1	0	0	0	0	0	.000	3.0	3	2	0	1	6.00
McCafferty	Pawtucket/Taunton	26	26	24	1	12	14	.462	212.7	251	143	42	42	6.05
Frank Todd	Pawtucket	8	8	8	0	7	1	.875	72.3	81	50	31	21	6.22
William McDougall	Taunton/Manchester	30	25	24	1	16	11	.593	230.0	252	160	57	79	6.26
Cook	Manchester	3	3	2	0	2	0	1.000	22.0	31	16	4	7	6.55
McCloud	Portland	28	23	19	0	15	8	.652	209.0	241	154	45	62	6.63
Deacon Morrissey	Newport/Manchester	29	21	18	0	13	11	.542	202.3	264	164	68	61	7.28
Christy Mathewson	Taunton	17	15	15	0	2	13	.133	130.0	168	106	52	33	7.34
J. W. King	Taunton	1	0	0	0	0	1	.000	6.0	4	5	1	6	7.50
Ahorn/Ahern	Manchester/Taunton	13	10	6	0	4	5	.444	81.3	103	68	20	31	7.52
Tom Smith	Cam-Low/Tau/Man	15	13	11	0	4	10	.286	116.7	115	100	30	78	7.71
George Mahoney	Cam-Low/Taun/Man	15	10	8	1	3	6	.333	92.3	86	80	44	47	7.80
John Wiley	Taunton	1	0	0	0	0	1	.000	8.0	8	7	1	4	7.88
Kerrins	Fitchburg/Taunton	23	20	17	0	10	11	.476	173.7	241	156	33	55	8.08
Callahan	Pawtucket	24	21	18	1	8	13	.381	175.0	224	162	58	62	8.33
Dinsmore	Newport	4	3	2	0	0	2	.000	28.0	44	26	10	11	8.36
Ezra Lincoln	Taunton	4	4	3	0	1	2	.333	29.0	33	27	8	14	8.38
Vought	Taunton	4	2	1	0	1	2	.333	21.3	23	20	1	9	8.44
Ernest Mains	Manchester	3	1	1	0	2	0	1.000	16.0	19	15	6	10	8.44
W. C. Osborn	Brock/Fitch-Lawrence	4	3	1	0	2	2	.500	29.0	40	28	8	11	8.69
Tim Moynihan	Taunton	4	4	3	0	1	2	.333	26.7	42	26	9	7	8.78
Farrell	Manchester	3	3	2	0	1	1	.500	22.0	31	22	11	14	9.00
Cogswell	Portland	2	1	0	0	2	0	1.000	8.0	10	8	9	6	9.00
McCarthy	Fitchburg-Lawrence	5	4	4	0	0	4	.000	36.0	52	39	11	15	9.75
McCarthy	Manchester	3	3	2	0	0	3	.000	23.0	42	25	4	6	9.78
Smith	Pawtucket	7	4	3	0	2	2	.500	47.0	68	52	9	19	9.96
Kershaw	Taunton	1	1	1	0	0	1	.000	8.0	9	9	4	6	10.13
John F. Smith	Portland	3	0	0	0	0	0	.000	8.0	8	9	2	2	10.13

The 1899 New England League

PITCHER	Team	G	GS	CG	ShO	W	L	PCT	IP	H	R	SO	BB	R/G
Callahan	Manchester	5	4	2	0	0	3	.000	35.3	38	40	22	30	10.19
Thomas J. Brady	Taunton	15	15	13	0	2	11	.154	120.0	198	137	10	39	10.28
Fields	Pawtucket	3	3	1	0	0	2	.000	19.0	28	22	4	11	10.42
Sanborn	Taunton	1	1	1	0	0	1	.000	9.0	12	11	1	6	11.00
Gallagher	Cambridge-Lowell	6	6	3	0	0	6	.000	44.7	73	55	12	19	11.08
Patrick Conroy	Portland	3	1	1	0	1	1	.500	17.0	26	21	5	16	11.12
R. E. Haeger	Fitchburg-Lawrence	4	4	3	0	0	4	.000	31.0	51	40	12	24	11.61
Joe Eagan	Cambridge-Lowell	7	6	2	0	0	5	.000	36.0	61	49	4	19	12.25
Otto Rapp	Brockton	2	2	0	0	0	1	.000	7.0	11	10	1	2	12.86
Farrell	Portland	1	1	1	0	0	1	.000	8.0	16	12	0	5	13.50
Morrison	Manchester	1	1	0	0	0	1	.000	7.0	9	11	0	5	14.14
Carrivean	Fitchburg-Lawrence	2	2	0	0	1	0	1.000	10.3	23	18	1	7	15.68
McInnes	Pawtucket	1	1	0	0	0	1	.000	4.0	8	7	0	1	15.75
Jack Mahoney	Cambridge-Lowell	1	0	0	0	0	0	.000	5.0	11	9	0	4	16.20
McNeet	Manchester	2	2	0	0	0	0	.000	5.0	7	9	0	8	16.20
Johnston	Portland	3	3	0	0	0	1	.000	11.3	30	21	4	12	16.68
Dutch Ulrick	Manchester	1	0	0	0	0	0	.000	3.0	7	6	0	1	18.00
Alex Ferson	Manchester	1	1	0	0	0	1	.000	4.0	10	9	2	2	20.25
King Kelley	Manchester	1	0	0	0	0	0	.000	2.0	5	5	0	2	22.50
C. "Pop" Smith	Fitchburg-Lawrence	1	0	0	0	0	0	.000	3.0	9	9	0	2	27.00
Bannon	Pawtucket	1	1	0	0	0	1	.000	2.0	5	8	0	4	36.00
Ritchie	Cambridge-Lowell	1	0	0	0	0	0	.000	1.0	5	7	0	0	63.00
Marshall	Taunton	1	1	0	0	0	1	.000	1.0	13	10	9	9	90.00

IT WAS JUST ONE OF THOSE YEARS

by Carlos Bauer & Bill Weiss © 1996

The difference between tragedy and just plain unadulterated bad luck is, probably, only a matter of degree. In that sense, a tragedy would be what befell the Spokane team on June 24, 1946, when the team bus plunged 250 feet down a rocky mountainside in the Cascades and nine players died. Bad luck, on the other hand, would then be what happened to San Diego's Jack Graham in the 1948 season. On July 25<sup>th</sup> Graham who had already hit 46 home runs—a pace that would project him to a 78 home run season, well above the PCL record of 60 set by Tony Lazzeri in 1925—was beamed by Red Adams in the second game of a doubleheader. Graham missed 51 games, most of the rest of the season, adding only 2 more home runs to his totals. *Tough luck, Jack.*

If we accept the above definitions, then catcher Jim Martin of the 1950 West Texas—New Mexico League Pampa Oilers has to have had one of the most incredible streaks of bad luck in the annals of organized baseball.

On the night of April 28<sup>th</sup>, in Abilene, Texas, Jim Martin crouched behind the plate waiting for the next pitch, when lightning made a direct hit on his catcher's mask. The mask flew way past second base, all the way out into center field. The catcher, of course, had been knocked unconscious. So forceful was the lightning strike that several fielders had also been thrown to the ground—not to mention that the park's lighting system had been knocked out. They revived

Martin in the dressing room, and—unbelievably—the team had him back in uniform the next night.

While the lightning incident would be enough bad luck for a lifetime, it turned out to be only one of many things that befell Jim Martin in the Spring and early Summer of 1950. Martin joined Shreveport of the Texas League in training camp, but came down with a horrible sore throat that caused him to miss most of Spring training. As soon as he got back in uniform, Martin sprained a wrist. When he got back from that, he sprained his thumb. With that, however, Shreveport decided to ship him back to Pampa, where he had finished up the 1949 season.

As luck would have it, Martin had to be rushed to the hospital for a tonsillectomy just after joining Pampa. Then, two weeks after the lightning strike, the catcher was struck in the groin by a foul ball, causing what the press called “a severe bruise.” Then on June 27<sup>th</sup> he was hit in the face by a pitched ball, resulting in nothing more than a broken nose. That injury kept Martin out of the lineup for only two days. Of course, when he made his reappearance in the lineup for the first game of a Sunday twin bill on June 29<sup>th</sup>, he was struck by a foul tip, splitting—naturally—a finger on his throwing hand.

Yet, with that, Jim Martin's macabre streak came—mercifully—to an end. Martin, in fact, went on to his best year, up to then, in pro ball. With all that befell him, the star-crossed catcher still managed to appear in 127 out of the Pampa's 145 outings. *There's got to be some type of work-ethic message in that!*

JIM MARTIN

James Harrison Martin

Year	Team	BR/TR	6:02	205	Born: July 16, 1929							Clarkesville, AR		AVG
					League	Pos	G	AB	R	H	1B	2B	3B	
1948	Kilgore	Lone Star	c	57	179	27	36	31	5	0	0	23	1	.201
1949	Alexandria	Evangeline	c	60	208	24	49	37	8	2	2	29	3	.236
1949	Pampa	WTNM	c	36	123	22	36	24	7	0	5	24	0	.293
1950	Pampa	WTNM	c	127	439	83	132	86	31	1	14	85	4	.301
1953	Shreveport	Texas	c	37	110	12	21	15	2	0	4	13	0	.191
1954	Shreveport	Texas	c	81	205	18	37	29	7	0	1	15	0	.180
1955	Shreveport	Texas	c	12	33	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	1	.091
1955	Pampa	WTNM	c	98	364	63	112	72	22	0	18	66	0	.308
1956	Pampa	SW	c	132	481	87	158	91	33	3	31	118	1	.328
<b>totals 7 years</b>				<b>640</b>	<b>2142</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>.273</b>

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