

Pinch Hits: "The Trade"

©DiamondsintheDusk.com

The Trade:

On June 26, 1926, Piedmont (C) League fans are surprised when Durham Bulls President "Red" Rowe announces that his team has acquired popular Winston-Salem Twins outfielder Hobe Brummette in exchange for Bulls' manager/first baseman Art Bourg ... the two teams also exchange pitchers with Durham southpaw Orin (Lefty) Masters exchanging roster spots with Winston-Salem right-hander Joe Gufford ... the 28-year-old Bourg will take over Winston-Salem's managerial duties from Walt Christenson.

The Reaction:

The trade is a disappointment to Winston-Salem fans as Brummette is considered "one of the most popular players to ever don a Twins uniform" and that newly-acquired Masters is "advanced in years".

The Results:

Mired in last place in the six-team Piedmont League with a 27-44 record at the time of the trade, Durham will show marked improvement, going 48-29 in the second half of the season and finishing a respectable third with an overall mark of 73-71 ... Winston-Salem, 30-42 in the first half, goes 39-42 after the trade and finish fifth with a 64-81 mark.

Stars In Deal



Art Bourg, left, manager of the Durham Bulls, will come to Winston-Salem in the near future to take over the first base position according to announcement made yesterday. Hobe Brummette, right, the most reliable hitter on the Winston-Salem club, who will go to Durham in exchange for the Bulls manager. Masters will also come here, while Joe Gafford has been traded to the Bulls.

The Participants:

Hobe Brummette
Outfield

Brummette hits a solid .291 in 1926 with four home runs, splitting time between the Twins and Bulls ... he finishes 14th among Piedmont League leaders with 27 doubles and 13th with 10 triples.

In a 14-year minor league career, Brummette hits .329 with 91 triples and 107 home runs ... falls one shy of 300 career doubles ... hits .300 or better in all but three of his minor league seasons.

In 1924, Brummette leads the Piedmont League in hitting with a .356 batting average ... plays eight seasons in the Piedmont League.

Joe Gufford
Right-handed Pitcher

The "hard-throwing" Gufford will go 9-16 with a 4.63 ERA in his rookie season pitching for three Piedmont League teams - Winston-Salem, Durham, Greensboro.

A native of Winter Park, Florida, Gufford is 31-32 in three minor league seasons (1926-1928) ... his best season comes in 1927, when he goes 19-9 with a 2.93 ERA for the Rocky Mount Buccaneers ... Gufford is 3-7 with a 7.64 ERA in his final season with the Charlotte Hornets in 1928.

Following his minor league career, Gufford returns home to play for the Winter Park Parkers of the Lake-Orange League in Tampa, Florida.



Art Bourg
First Base

In his seventh minor league season, the veteran first baseman finishes seventh in the Piedmont League in 1926 with a career-high .334 average ... also has career-highs in doubles (26) and triples (12).

In 12 minor league seasons (1918-1930; 1933), the Dubuque, Iowa, product fashions a solid .313 career batting average with 1,365 hits, including 163 doubles, 70 triples and 12 home runs.

On July 24, 1928, because of "public sentiment," Bourg is relieved as manager of the Jacksonville Tars ... Bourg is succeeded by Hardin Herndon.

Orin (Lefty) Masters
Left-handed Pitcher

Masters, who starts his career with the Muskogee Mets of the Western (A) Association in 1915, is 13-14 in 1926 with a 5.48 ERA in his ninth and final season in professional baseball.

Earlier in the season, Masters, pitching for Durham, hurls a 5-1 six-hit win against Winston-Salem ... Masters is 4-0 versus Twins prior to trade, including a complete-game victory five days prior to the trade.

In the team's first meeting following the trade, Durham claims a 7-5 win with Masters absorbing the loss and Gufford picking up the victory working six scoreless innings.