

The Curious Case of Benjamin Bedford

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On July 30, 1924, the New York Yankees outbid four other major league teams to purchase center fielder **Benjamin Bedford** from the Austin Rangers for \$2,500 and three players ... Bedford is told to report to the American League club at the end of the Texas Association season.

In addition to the cash payment and the players, the Yankees agree to play an exhibition game in Austin the following season with both Babe Ruth and former Austin star Kid Autry in the lineup.



BEN BEDFORD, Hampdens



**Ben Bedford
1926 Springfield Ponies**

Bedford makes the unlikely jump from D ball to the Bronx Bombers spring training roster following a rookie season where he hit .290 for Austin and finished among league leaders in doubles (25) and home runs (12).

However, the Corsicana, Texas, native will fall short in his effort to make the Yankees' opening day roster and for the next six years he will not raise above A-level ball, eventually retiring after a season with the Henderson Oilers, a class C outfit in the Dixie League, in 1933.

New York manager Miller Huggins elects to send the fleet-footed outfielder to the Scranton Miners of the New York-Penn (B) League to begin the 1925 season ... hitting .257 in early June, Bedford earns a promotion to the Pittsfield Hillies of the Eastern (A) League where he hits .290 with 26 doubles, eight triples in 116 games and earns second-team all-league honors.

Bedford plays five seasons in the Eastern League, hitting a career-high .322 in 1929 while splitting time with three different clubs ... in April of 1930, Springfield transfers his contract to the Lynn Papooses of the New England (B) League, but Bedford ends up playing for the semi-pro Jacksonville Humble Oil.

Benjamin Bedford Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Level	AB	HT	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	AVG	
1924	Austin Rangers.....	Teaxs Association	D	389	113	25	5	12	-	-	.290	
1925	2 Teams	2 Leagues	B-A	558	158	30	11	2	-	23	.283	
1925	Scranton Miners.....	New York-Penn	B	109	28	4	3	0	-	-	.257	
1925	Pittsfield Hillies.....	Eastern	A	449	130	26	8	2	-	23	.290	
1926	Springfield Ponies.....	Eastern	A	587	158	23	14	6	-	-	.269	
1927	Springfield Ponies.....	Eastern	A	600	176	32	11	4	-	-	.293	
1928	Springfield Ponies.....	Eastern	A	513	150	32	7	6	74	28	.292	
1929	3 Teams	1 League	A	345	111	24	3	7	-	-	.322	
1929	Springfield Ponies.....	Eastern	A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	---	
1929	Allentown Dukes.....	Eastern	A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	---	
1929	Albany Senators.....	Eastern	A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	---	
1930	Jacksonville Humble Oil.....	Semi-Pro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	---	
1932	H.L. Hunt All-Stars.....	Semi-Pro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	---	
1933	Henderson Oilers.....	Dixie	C	107	36	7	1	1	-	-	.336	
1934	Humble Oliers.....	Semi-Pro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	---	
1935	Humble Oilers.....	Semi-Pro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	---	
Minor League Totals				7 Years	3099	902	173	52	38	74	51	.292

Bedford Chronology

February 12, 1925
The New York Yankees announce that they have received the signed contracts of third baseman Joe Dugan, infielder Lew Malone and **Benjamin Bedford** "a new outfielder from the Austin, Texas club."

March 8, 1925
Bedford is invited to the New York Yankees spring training camp in St. Petersburg, Florida ... with Yankee

Benjamin Bedford [2 of 2]:



Ben Bedford
1928 Springfield Ponies

manager Miller Huggins "sharpening his ax" Bedford is one of nine "doomed recruits" to be "decapitated" sooner or later.

July 16, 1925

Farmed out to the Pittsfield Hillies of the Eastern (A) League, Bedford is 2-for-2 with a sacrifice and a walk against future major leaguer Clay Touchstone in a 4-3 win over the visiting Waterbury Brasscos at Wahconah Park.

May 1, 1926

On the same day when Senate Democrats beat their Republican counterparts 12-9, Bedford drives in eight runs with two triples and a home run, leading the Springfield Ponies to a 13-1 victory over the Hartford Senators.

July 20, 1929

Springfield management announces that Bedford, who has been with the Ponies the last four years, has been sold outright to the Allentown Dukes.

July 28, 1929

Playing for Allentown, Bedford is 4-for-6 with a home run and an RBI in a double header loss to his former teammates.

July 29, 1929

Bedford returns to the Springfield Ponies.

September 1, 1925
Pittsfield Hillies 6, Worcester Panthers

BEDFORD'S BIG BAT

Pittsfield, Sept. 1.—Ben Bedford hit a home run, double and single out of his first three trips to the plate as Pittsfield shut out Worcester, 6 to 0, at Wahconah park this afternoon. With Vic Gouger on first base in the opening inning, one run over and two men down, a hit-and-run play was put on and Bedford slashed a double to right, scoring the North Adams boy. That blow was off Wook, a portside hurler.

PITTSFIELD (BL)					WORCESTER (BL)					
ab	r	h	po	a	ab	r	h	po	a	
M'Phee, s	4	0	3	5	0	H'Th'm, 2	3	0	3	5
CT'h'm, 1	3	3	1	1	0	Kibble, s	4	2	1	2
Gouger, 2	4	2	5	5	0	Wright, 3	3	1	0	1
Collins, 1	4	2	1	0	0	Wayne, cf	3	0	4	0
Bedford, cf	4	3	2	0	0	Hogan, 1	4	0	5	0
Long, 3	4	0	3	3	0	McW'dar	4	1	1	0
Purcell, 1	4	1	1	0	0	Rod'g's, 1	3	0	8	0
Caulway, c	3	0	1	0	0	Cronin, 4	1	3	0	0
Sul'van, p	3	0	0	3	0	Wooch, p	0	0	0	1
						Werts, p	1	0	0	1
	33	11	27	17	0		20	5	24	10

Pittsfield 2 1 1 0 0 0 2 0 —6
Runs, C. Thomas 2, Gouger 2, Bedford Purcell. Two-base hits, Bedford, Purcell, C. Thomas, Gouger, Collins. Home run, Bedford. Stolen base, C. Thomas. Sacrifices, Caulway, Sullivan. Double plays, M'Phee, Gouger and C. Thomas; C. Thomas, MacPhee and C. Thomas; Gouger, MacPhee and C. Thomas; Kibble, H. Thomas and Rodriguez. Left on bases, Worcester 8, Pittsfield 6. Base on balls, off Werts 1, off Sullivan 6. Struck out, by Werts 1, by Sullivan 1. Hits, off Wook 6 in 1, 3-3 innings, off Werts 6 in 6, 1-3 innings. Losing pitcher, Wook. Umpires, Kuhn and Kory. Time, 1h 40m.

July 30, 1929

Bedford joins the Albany Senators on loan from Springfield.

April 27, 1930

Springfield transfers Bedford and first baseman Elmer Bowman to the Lynn Paposes of the New England (B) League

April 12, 1935

Bedford's grand slam in the seventh inning keys the Humble Oilers 9-6 win over the Jacksonville Jax.

August 8, 1935

The Humble Oilers, behind three home runs by Bedford, remain undefeated in the Denver Post semi-pro tournament with a 9-6 victory over the Colorado Ice ... with the win, the Oilers advance to play the White Elephants, a "Denver negro aggregation" in the championship game.

1936

Bedford goes to work for an East Texas Oil company.

May 1, 1926
Springfield (13), Hartford (1)
Ben Bedford 8 RBIs

SPRINGFIELD										
	ab	r	h	po	a	*				
Alberts, 1 f	5	3	2	5	0	0				
Gutierrez, 2 b	5	3	4	2	6	1				
Bedford, c f	5	1	5	2	0	0				
Purcell, r f	5	0	1	1	0	0				
Post, 1 b	3	0	0	10	1	0				
Benes, s s	5	1	2	0	2	0				
Dreesen, 3 b	4	1	2	3	1	0				
O'Neil, c	2	1	1	4	1	0				
Metevier, p	4	3	3	0	4	0				
Totals	40	13	18	27	13	1				
HARTFORD										
	ab	r	h	po	a	*				
Hesse, c f	4	0	0	3	0	0				
Miller, 2 b	3	0	0	3	4	0				
Schinkel, 1 f	4	0	1	0	0	1				
Comiskey, 3 b	4	0	2	0	1	1				
Taggart, r f	4	1	1	1	0	0				
Sheridan, s s	3	0	0	1	0	0				
Heltman, 1 b	3	0	0	12	0	0				
Mangum, c	3	0	0	2	0	0				
Lynch, p	2	0	1	0	2	0				
Johnson, c	0	0	0	0	0	0				
O'Connor, p	1	0	0	0	1	0				
Totals	31	1	5	24	13	2				
Springfield	0	0	0	0	4	0	3	—13		
Hartford	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	—1		

Two-base hits, Dreesen 2, Purcell, Gutierrez, Benes. Three-base hits, Metevier, Bedford 2, Home run, Bedford. Sacrifices, O'Neil 2, Miller. Double plays, Dreesen, Post Gutierrez and O'Neil; Gutierrez, Benes and Post. Left on bases, Springfield 5, Hartford 4. Struck out, by Lynch 1 (Post), by Metevier 1 (Heltman). Hits, off Lynch 9 in 5 innings (none out in 6th), off Johnson 4 in 1-3 inning, off O'Connor 3 in 2, 33 innings. Losing pitcher, Lynch. Umpires, Kuhn and Keating. Time, 1h 45m.

June 28, 1929
Healey Field, Roslindale, Mass.

GATE OF HEAVEN GETS 10 RUNS IN 9TH TO WIN

Gate of Heaven ball club of South Boston scored 10 runs in the ninth inning to defeat Mt. Hope T. T., 14 to 10, at Healey field, Roslindale, yesterday.

The heat bothered Corrigan in the final stanza and he was nicked for four singles, two doubles and a triple, which combined with two passes and two stolen bases for the 10 runs.

GATE OF HEAVEN					MT HOPE T T				
	ab	bb	po	a		ab	bb	po	a
Norton, 2	4	1	3	4		G Doyle, s	6	3	3
R Linehans	5	1	2	7		Mc' thys, 3	6	2	3
Dowdes, 1	5	1	0	0		Cuniff, 1	5	2	0
Wals, 3	4	1	1	1		J Doyle, cf	5	3	0
Wilk's, cf	4	1	3	0		Burns, lf	5	3	0
DLin'n, lf	4	1	0	0		Corrigan, 2 p	5	2	0
Byrne, c	4	0	0	0		Land, r	5	0	0
Mullane, c	4	0	0	0		Kelly, c	5	0	0
Paavo, p	5	0	0	0		Stewart, 2 p	5	0	1
Totals	40	15	15			Totals	42	15	7
Innings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
G of Heaven	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	10—14
Mt Hope	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	5	0—10

Errors—G. Doyle, Keller, R. Linehan, Wals, Paavo. Two-base hits—Byrne, Paavo, Keller, Corrigan. Three-base hits—R. Linehan, Kelley. Home runs—Burns. Stolen bases—Mullane, R. Linehan, Norton, Kelly. Sacrifice hits—Mullane. First base on balls—Off Paavo 4, off Stewart 5, off Corrigan 1. Struck out—By Paavo 1, by Stewart 3. Umpire—Morenz.