

Buster Brown, "Losing Ways"

©DiamondsintheDusk.com

Charles Edward "Buster" Brown wins 51 games during a nine-year major league career, however the sturdy six-foot, 180-pound right hander also loses 103 decisions and owns the worst career winning percentage (.331) of any pitcher with a minimum of 150 major league decisions.



Brown's 1909 American Carmel Card card (#15) is worth \$350 in near mint condition.



Buster Brown
Iowa State

The first player from Iowa State University to make the major leagues, Brown is the captain of the school's baseball team in 1905, despite having played professionally for at least two years prior to his junior season.

The Boone, Iowa native plays in the majors from 1905 to 1913 for the St. Louis Cardinals, Philadelphia Phillies and Boston Doves/Rustlers/Braves ... his best season comes in 1907 when he goes 10-12 with a 2.74 ERA splitting time with the Cardinals (1-6) and Phillies (9-6).

Buster Brown Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Level	W-L	INN	SO	BB	ERA	
1902	Onawa.....	Semi Pro							
1903	Rock Rapids Islanders.....	Three-I	B	-	-	-	-	---	
1904	Omaha Rangers.....	Western	A	27-15	-	107	63	---	
1905	St. Louis Cardinals.....	NATIONAL	ML	8-11	178.2	57	62	2.97	
1906	St. Louis Cardinals.....	NATIONAL	ML	8-16	238.1	109	112	2.64	
1907	2 Team Totals.....	NATIONAL	ML	10-12	193.2	55	101	2.74	
	St. Louis Cardinals.....	NATIONAL	ML	1-6	63.2	17	45	3.39	
	Philadelphia Phillies.....	NATIONAL	ML	9-6	130.0	38	56	2.42	
1908	Philadelphia Phillies.....	NATIONAL	ML	0-0	7.0	3	5	2.57	
1909	2 Team Totals.....	NATIONAL	ML	4-8	148.1	42	72	3.16	
	Philadelphia Phillies.....	NATIONAL	ML	0-0	25.0	10	16	3.24	
	Boston Doves.....	NATIONAL	ML	4-8	123.1	32	56	3.14	
1910	Boston Doves.....	NATIONAL	ML	9-23	263.0	88	94	2.67	
1911	Boston Rustlers.....	NATIONAL	ML	8-18	241.0	76	116	4.29	
1912	Boston Braves.....	NATIONAL	ML	4-15	168.1	68	66	4.01	
1913	Boston Braves.....	NATIONAL	ML	0-0	13.1	3	3	4.73	
1913	Toronto Maple Leafs.....	International	AA	13-13	228.1	80	94	---	
Major League Totals.....				9 Years	51-103	1451.2	501	631	3.21
Minor League Totals.....				2 Years	40-28	-	-	-	---

In 1910, Brown pitches a career-high 263 innings and is 9-23 with a 2.67 ERA for the Boston Doves ... Brown is 25-64 in four seasons in Beantown despite a respectable 3.54 ERA.

Brown first garners attention as a sophomore in 1904 at Ames Agricultural College (Iowa State) where he goes 14-0 ... Brown allows only three hits and strikes out 30 in interstate championship wins over Grinnell and Coe colleges ... following the season, Brown signs with Billy (Pa) Rourke of the Western League's Omaha Rangers.

To make room for his "college phenom," Rogers, a former scout for the Chicago Cubs, releases Glenn Liebhardt, the team's "most successful losing pitcher" who is winless in his first eight decisions ... Liebhardt, who will win 36 games in four seasons (1906-09) with the American League's Cleveland Naps, stays in the Western League and signs with the St. Joseph's Saints and finishes the season a combined record of 4-26.

Brown makes his professional baseball debut with the Rangers on June 12, 1904, allowing only one hit in a 1-0 shutout win over the Des Moines Prohibitionists before 4,000 at Omaha's Vinton Street Park ... Brown finishes his inaugural season 27-15 for the Western League champions.

BROWN'S PITCHING WAS THE FEATURE

OMAHA SHUT OUT DES MOINES IN ONE OF THE BEST PLAYED GAMES OF THE SEASON AT OMAHA.

Omaha, June 12.—Omaha shut out Des Moines today in one of the best played games of the season. The feature of the game was the pitching of Brown for Omaha. Both pitchers received excellent support. Score: R.H.E.

Omaha.....0 0 0 0 0 1 6 0—1 3 0
Des Moines.....0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0—0 1 1
Batteries—Brown and Freeze; Cushman and Towne.
Attendance, 4,000. Umpire, Kelly.

June 12, 1904
Buster Brown Professional Baseball Debut

Buster Brown [2 of 2]:

In late July, Rourke sells his star right hander to the St. Louis Cardinals for the 1905 season ... one month later, Brown says he would rather retire than play for the Cardinals and returns to Iowa State for his junior year.

The following March, *The Sporting Life* reports that Brown, "the former Omaha handler of the expectoration pellet" has been given permission by the Cardinals to report to the team on June 1 ... Brown tells the club that he wants to finish his studies before reporting.

On June 22, 1905, Brown makes his major league debut against the last-place Boston Beaneaters ... allows eight runs on 11 hits and walks two in six innings before being relieved by Wish Egan in a 10-2 loss.

On February 9, 1914, a 32-year-old Brown dies in Sioux City, Iowa, as a result of blood poisoning following an operation for the removal of a growth under his right arm.

New Pitcher Didn't Last.

ST. LOUIS, June 22.—Boston drove St. Louis' new pitcher, Brown, out of the box today, scoring an easy victory. Attendance 1,100. The score:

St. L.	A.H.O.A.	Bost.	A.H.O.A.
Shannon, s	4 0 5 4	Ab'tchio, s	5 4 2 3
Arndt, 2	4 1 2 2	Dolan, r	4 2 1 1
Beckley, 1	4 1 1 0	Delehanty, 1	4 1 3 0
Brain, m	4 1 2 0	Cannell, m	4 0 2 0
Clark, r	3 1 2 0	Tenney, 1	4 2 1 3
Burke, 3	4 0 2 0	Needham, c	5 2 1 8
Grady, c	3 0 2 0	Raymer, 2	5 2 3 3
Brown, p	2 1 0 4	Willis, p	5 1 0 4
Egan, p	1 0 0 0		
Totals ... 82 6 27 12		Totals ... 41 10 27 14	
St. Louis	0 0 2 0 0 0 0 0 0	Boston	0 2 4 0 0 2 2 0 0

Runs—Arndt, Brown, Abbattichio, Dolan, Cannell 2, Tenney 3, Wolverton, Needham, Willis.
Errors—Shannon, Beckley, Abbattichio.
Two-base hits—Needham, Beckley, Willis.
Three-base hits—Brown, Abbattichio. Home run—Wolverton. Sacrifice hits—Tenney, Delehanty. Double plays—Abbattichio, Raymer and Tenney; Shannon to Arndt. Stolen base—Clark. Bases on balls—Off Brown 2, off Willis 3. Struck out—By Willis 2. Left on bases—St. Louis 0, Boston 8. Hits—Off Brown, 11 in six innings; off Egan, 5 in three innings. Time—1:48. Umpire—Bausewine.

June 22, 1905
Buster Brown Major League Debut

Brown Cronology

June 16, 1906

In an 11-2 loss to the New York Giants, Brown hits the first of three career major league home runs with a fifth inning inside-the-park home run off of Giants' starter Dummy Taylor ... Brown pitches a complete game, albeit not a good one, allowing 11 runs on nine hits and six base on balls.

Muckenfuss Speaks

February 1905

St. Louis Business Manager W. Stewart Muckenfuss says that his Cardinals, because of the addition of rookie pitcher Buster Brown, have an excellent chance for the National League pennant

"I think we have a chance to annex the flag," Muckenfuss tells *The Sporting Life* in February, 1905. "Our artillery department is A No. 1, and that our new recruit "Buster" Brown will make some of the National's batters think (Christy) Matthewson is doing the pitching before the season is half gone."

December 1906

Following a solid rookie season where he is 8-11 with a 2.97 ERA and 17 complete games (including three shutouts), Brown's name comes up in off-season trade rumours ... New York Giants manager John McGraw is said to be willing to trade Joe "Iron Man" McGinnity for Brown and 35-year-old catcher Mike Grady.

June 10, 1907

Saddled with a 1-6 mark and a 3.38 ERA, Brown is traded by the St. Louis Cardinals to the Philadelphia Phillies for 21-year-old left handed pitcher Johnny Lush and cash.

July 16, 1909

Brown is traded by the Philadelphia Phillies with pitcher Lew Richie and infielder Dave Shean to the Boston Doves for outfielder Johnny Bates and utility man Charlie Starr.

April 26, 1913

In his final major league appearance, Brown relieves

starter Hub Perdue in fourth inning of a 10-4 loss to the Philadelphia Athletics, allowing four runs on seven hits in six innings of work.

April 29, 1913

Three days after his appearance against the Athletics, Brown's nine year major league career comes to an end when Boston sends him (along with \$4,000) to the Toronto Maple Leafs for pitcher Dick Rudolph ... Rudolph has a solid rookie year for the Braves finishing 14-13 with a 2.92 ERA.

FORMER PITCHER IS DEAD.

Buster Brown, Who Played With Phillies, Dies.

BY PLAIN DEALER'S LEASED WIRE.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 20.—George (Buster) Brown, who pitched baseball for the Philadelphia National league for nearly three years, is dead at his home in Sioux City, Ia., as a result of blood poisoning following an operation for the removal of a growth under his right arm.

Brown was secured by the Phillies in 1907 and remained with the team until the middle of the season of 1909, when he was traded to the Boston Nationals. From there he was sold to the Toronto club of the International league.