

Dave Davenport, "Too good for his own good"

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On July 15, 1921, in the northern Utah town of Ogden, former major league pitcher Dave Davenport achieves the unique distinction of being the only player ever released from a professional baseball team because he is *too good*.

Only four years removed from a 17-win season with the American League's St. Louis Browns, Davenport is handed his walking papers by the Ogden Gunners after the other teams in the Northern Utah League complain that the lanky 31-year-old right-hander is simply "too good" for the independent circuit.

"They were defeated before they went onto the playing field," is the reason given by the league when requesting Davenport's departure.

Davenport finishes his brief stay in the Northern Utah League with a perfect 7-0 mark with seven complete games and 112 strikeouts in 63 innings pitched ... after being "honorably discharged", Davenport signs with the Casper (Wyoming) club of the independent Midwest League.

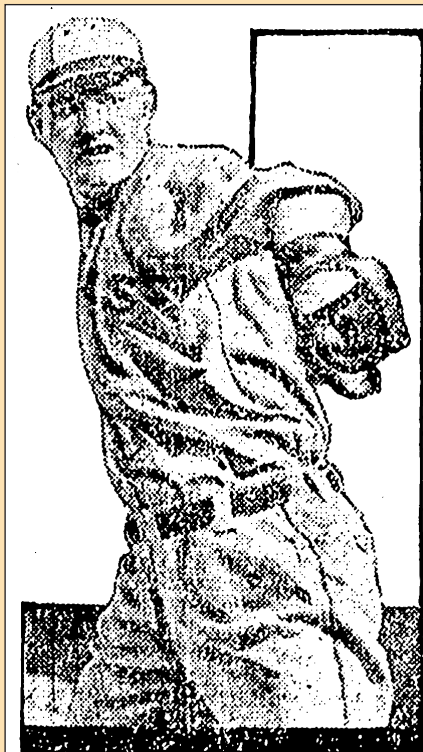
The 6-foot-6 hurler is first noticed by the San Antonio Bronchos of the Texas (B) League after pitching five no-hitters for a semi-pro team in Runge, Texas ... beginning his professional baseball career at the age of 23, Davenport is 15-16 with the Bronchos in 1913.

As a rookie with the Cincinnati Reds in 1914, Davenport is noted for his "dazzling speed" and wildness (30 walks in 54 innings) ... he is 2-2 with a 2.50 ERA when on June 14, he and 26-year-old outfielder Armando Marsans defect to the Federal League's St. Louis Terriers.

Davenport Honorably Discharged
Flinger Is Too Strong for Loop
Peterson Presents Honor Sheet



DAVE DAVENPORT AND STUBBY PETERSEN



Dave Davenport..

After jumping to the Terriers, Davenport comes under the influence of manager Fielder Jones, considered one of the great developers of pitchers in organized baseball.

Under Jones, Davenport develops into one of the premier pitchers in the Federal League in 1915 ... in six starts in June, he hurls one no-hitter, two two-hit games and two three-hit contests ... he finishes his second major league season with the second-place (by percentage points) Terriers 22-18 and leads the circuit in complete games (30), shutouts (10), innings pitched (392), strikeouts (229).

Following the 1915 season, the Federal League meets its demise when the owners of the American and National Leagues buy four of its franchises - Brooklyn, Buffalo, Pittsburgh, Newark ... Phil Ball, owner of the Terriers, buys the American League's St. Louis Browns and merges the two franchises together.

A native of Alexandria, Louisiana, Davenport has three solid seasons with the Browns (1916-1918) going 39-39 with a 3.03 ERA with 45 complete games, including five shutouts ... in 1919, he slips to 2-11 with a 3.94 ERA and his season ends prematurely on August 30, when manager Jimmy Burke fines him \$100 and suspends him for the remainder of the season for misconduct and being absent without leave.

Dave Davenport (2 of 9):

Dave is the oldest of three brothers who eventually play in professional baseball ... Claude, the youngest of the trio, wins 112 games over 10 minor league season and makes one two-inning appearance with the New York Giants in 1920 ... Ben, who plays for San Antonio in 1915, and Mexia in 1916, joins the Army in 1917, and is killed in World War I.

Following a long illness, Davenport passes away in El Dorado, Arkansas, on October 16, 1954, at the age of 61.

DAVENPORT CHRONOLOGY

September 1, 1912

Davenport does not allow a Beaumont Oiler to reach first for six innings en route to picking up his first victory in professional baseball, pitching a complete game three-hitter.

August 15, 1913

The San Antonio Bronchos sell Davenport to the Cincinnati Reds for \$4,000 ... Davenport, who makes \$60 per month with the Bronchos during the 1913 season, will be paid \$6,000 a year by the Reds.

June 3, 1914

Prior to that day's game with the St. Louis

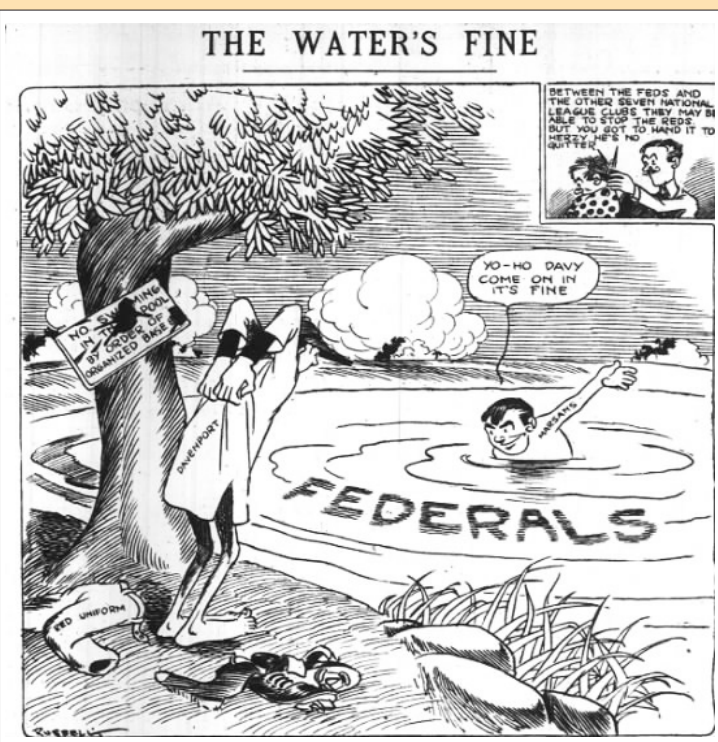
Dave Davenport Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Level	W-L	INN	BB	SO	ERA
1912	Runge, Texas	South Texas	Ind.	-	-	-	-	---
1912	San Antonio Bronchos	Texas	B	1-0	9	-	-	---
1913	San Antonio Bronchos	Texas	B	15-16	270	80	-	---
1914	2 Teams	NATIONAL/FEDERAL	ML	10-15	269	110	164	3.27
	Cincinnati Reds	NATIONAL	ML	2-2	54	30	22	2.50
	St. Louis Terriers	FEDERAL	ML	8-13	215	80	142	3.46
1915	St. Louis Terriers	FEDERAL	ML	22-18	392	96	229	2.20
1916	St. Louis Browns	AMERICAN	ML	12-11	290	100	129	2.85
1917	St. Louis Browns	AMERICAN	ML	17-17	280	105	100	3.08
1918	St. Louis Browns	AMERICAN	ML	10-11	180	69	60	3.25
	Alameda Bethlehem	Shipbuilders	Ind.	-	-	-	-	---
1919	St. Louis Browns	AMERICAN	ML	2-11	123	41	37	3.94
1920	Rexburg Giants	Snake River-Yellowstone	Ind.	-	-	-	-	---
1920	Rapid City	Midwest City	Ind.	-	-	-	-	---
1921	Coalinga	San Joaquin Valley	Ind.	-	-	-	-	---
1921	Ogden Gunners	Northern Utah	D	7-0	63	-	112	---
1921	Casper Refiners	Mid-West	Ind.	19-4	-	-	-	---
1922	Fairbanks-Morse Fairies	Mid-West	Ind.	-	-	-	-	---
1923	Beloit Fairies	Mid-West	Ind.	-	-	-	-	---
1924	Beloit Fairies	Mid-West	Ind.	13-6	-	-	-	---
1925	Mount Carmel Possums	Anthracite Assoc.	Ind.	-	-	-	-	---
1926	Chehalis Timber Wolves	Timber	Ind.	-	-	-	-	---
1927	Rosenberg, Freeport	Gulf Coast	Ind.	-	-	-	-	---
1927	Mobile Bears	Southern	A	0-0	3.2	3	0	4.90
1927	Del Rio, Texas	Copper League	Ind.	-	-	-	-	---
Major League Totals			6 Years	78-83	1537.0	521	719	3.39
Minor League Totals			3 Years	23-16	345.2	83	112	-

ML Debut: April 17, 1914 at Redland Field, Cincinnati: relieved Red Ames at the start of the fifth inning in 6-5 to the Chicago Cubs; allowed 1 unearned run on 2 hits, 1 walk and 2 strikeouts in four innings (no decision).

ML Finale: September 1, 1919 at Sportsman Park, St. Louis: relieved Bert Gallia at the start of the 9th inning in a 5-3 loss to the Cleveland Indians; allowed 0 runs on 0 hits and 1 strikeouts in 1 innings (no decision).

1915 - Led Federal League in complete games (30), shutouts (10), innings (392), strikeouts (229).



Cardinals, Davenport and outfielder Armando Marsans meet with manager Buck Herzog and "demand" new contracts which should contain mutuality and pay increases for both players ... the disgruntled duo informs Herzog that if their demands are not met within the next 10 days, they both will quit the team ... after listening to their requests, an irritated Herzog orders the "mutinous ones" off of the field.

June 12, 1914

Still with the team, but now one day shy of his 10-day ultimatum, Davenport asks Herzog if he can "stay over" in Philadelphia to visit with friends ... Herzog agrees to the request and even authorizes team business manager Frank Bancroft to advance his rookie hurler \$15 (\$471 in today's money) on his salary ... instead of visiting his "alleged" friends, Davenport boards a train to St. Louis.

June 15, 1914

When Herzog returns to the team hotel after that day's game with the Brooklyn Dodgers is rained out, he dis

Dave Davenport (3 of 9):

D. DAVENPORT, PITCHER, JUMPS TO FEDERALS.

St. Louis, June 16.—Pitcher Dave Davenport of the Cincinnati Nationals signed a three-year contract with the St. Louis Federal league team today, according to a statement made here tonight by Willis Johnson, business manager of the St. Louis team. Mr. Johnson said the details of Davenport's contract or that of Armando Marsans, the Cincinnati outfielder, who jumped to the St. Louis Federals yesterday, would not be made public at present.

covers that Davenport has joined Marsans in defecting to the Federal League, signing a three-year contract with the St. Louis Terriers.

The *Cincinnati Times-Star* opines on the departure of Marsans and Davenport:

"The prospect of being on a winning team seems to have meant nothing to Marsans and Davenport. Offered a few additional dollars, they were off, apparently without a thought for the team loyalty. The fans have plenty of sporting spirit. They have a right to expect at least a little of it from the players."

or the Cincinnati fans, who had backed them up so loyally. The fans have plenty of sporting spirit. They have a right to expect at least a little of it from the players."

June 18, 1914

Cincinnati Reds president Gary Herrman announces that the team will file a lawsuit stopping Davenport and Marsans from playing in the Federal League.

June 19, 1914
Davenport's Federal League Debut
Handlan's Park, St. Louis, Missouri

DAVE FORCED OUT.

SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE ENQUIRER.

St. Louis, June 19.—After St. Louis had tied up the game in the sixth round by scoring four runs the Brookfeds scored two in the ninth and won to-day, 8 to 6. Dave Davenport was taken out in the fifth after six runs were scored off him. He was wild, passing four men, hitting two and making two wild pitches. Score:

ST. LOUIS					BROOKLYN				
AB.	H.	P.	O.	A.	AB.	H.	P.	O.	A.
Mars's, 2b	5	2	2	0	Anderson, cf	3	1	3	0
Tobin, rf	3	0	1	1	Evans, lf	5	1	1	0
W. Miller, lf	5	1	4	0	Griggs, 1b	5	3	8	0
Kom'r's, cf	4	1	0	0	Cooper, rf	4	0	2	0
Drake, 1b	4	1	5	0	Hofman, 2b	5	1	0	1
Bouch'r, 3b	4	1	0	0	West'zll, 3b	5	2	3	1
Brid'ell, ss	3	2	3	2	Gagnier, ss	5	2	4	2
Simon, c	4	0	12	0	Owens, c	4	2	6	2
Daven't, p	0	0	0	0	Marion, p	4	0	0	2
*Hartley	1	1	0	0					
Herbert, p	1	1	0	0	Totals	40	12	27	8
†Crandall	1	0	0	0					
Totals	35	10	27	6	2				

*Batted for Davenport in fifth. †Batted for Herbert in the ninth.

Innings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
St. Louis	0	0	1	0	1	4	0	0	0
Brooklyn	0	0	4	1	1	0	0	0	2

Runs—Brooklyn, Anderson, Evans, Hofman, West'zll 2, Gagnier, Owens, Marion; St. Louis, Drake, Boucher, Bridwell 2, Davenport, Herbert. Two-Base Hits—Gagnier, Hofman, Drake, Herbert. Home Run—Evans. Double Plays—Gagnier to Griggs; Marsans to Bridwell to Drake. Stolen Bases—W. Miller, Tobin. Hit by Pitched Ball—By Marion, Davenport; by Davenport, Anderson. Wild Pitches—Davenport 2. Bases on Balls—Off Davenport, 4; off Marion, 2. Struck Out—By Davenport, 7; by Herbert, 4; by Marion, 6. Time—2:10. Umpires—Vansickle and Anderson.

September 7, 1915

Davenport's No-Hitter vs. Chicago Whales
Handlan's Park, St. Louis, Missouri

ST. LOUIS					CHICAGO					
AB.	R.	H.	O.	A.	AB.	R.	H.	O.	A.	
Tobin, rf	4	1	1	1	Zelder, 2b	4	0	0	3	
Vaughn, 2b	4	0	1	0	Flack, rf	3	0	0	1	
Miller, lf	4	0	0	3	Zwilling, cf	3	0	0	1	
Marsans, cf	4	0	0	0	Wilson, c	3	0	0	3	
Horton, 1b	3	1	2	10	Hausen, 3b	0	0	0	0	
Walsh, 3b	2	1	1	1	West'zll, 3b	2	0	0	1	
Hartley, c	3	0	1	0	Mann, lf	3	0	0	2	
Johnson, ss	3	0	2	5	Beck, 1b	3	0	0	13	
Davenport, p	2	0	0	0	Doolan, ss	3	0	0	2	
					Brennan, p	1	0	0	0	
					Hartford	0	0	0	0	
					Fischer	1	0	0	0	
Totals	31	3	8	27	5	Totals	28	0	0	21

*Ran for West'zll in the eighth.
†Batted for Brennan in the ninth.

Score by Innings:

St. Louis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Chicago	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Summary: Error—Hartley. Two-base hit—Walsh. Three-base hit—Vaughn. Double plays—Johnson to Horton, 1. Stolen base—Vaughn. First base on balls—Off Davenport, 2. Struck out—By Davenport, 3; by Brennan, 11. Time of game—1 hour 15 minutes. Umpires—O'Brien and McCordick.

June 19, 1914 ▶

Davenport lasts 5 2/3 innings and takes the loss in his Federal League debut ... despite striking out seven, he also walks four batters, hits two and makes two wild pitches in an 8-6 decision to the visiting Brooklyn Tip Tops.

September 5, 1915

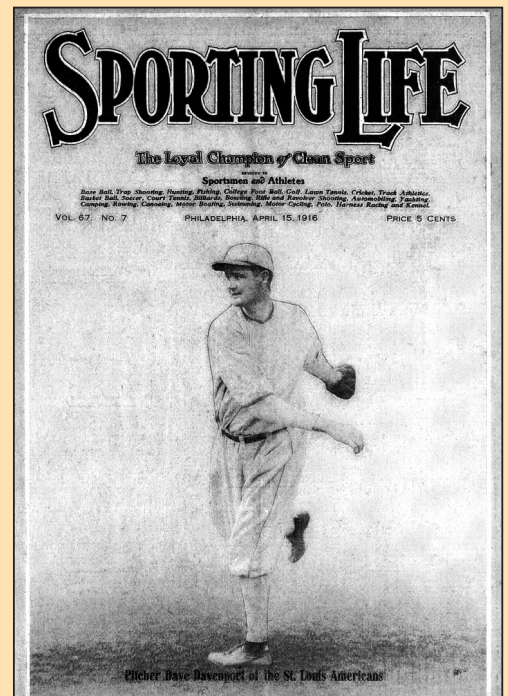
Davenport picks up his 16th win (against 15 losses) with a 6-0 five-hit shutout of the Pittsburgh Rebels.

◀ September 7, 1915

Pitching on one day of rest, Davenport turns in the Federal League's fourth no-hitter of the season with a 3-0 win over the visiting Chicago Whales striking out eight and walking three.

September 10, 1915

Returning to the mound three days following his no-hitter, Davenport allows only two "scratch" hits in a 2-0 shutout against the visiting Newark Pepper ... allowing only one runner to reach second base, the win enables the Terriers to close to within two and 1/2 games behind the front-running Pittsburgh Rebels who drop a 2-0 decision to seventh-place Brooklyn.



Dave Davenport (4 of 9):

July 29, 1916
Davenport's pitches both game of DH
Sportsman Park, St. Louis, Missouri

YANKEES SET BACK.
ST. LOUIS, July 29.—The Browns gave the Yanks a setback in the race for the pennant today by copping a double-header from Davenport's men. The scores:

First game—

ST. LOUIS				NEW YORK					
A.	B.	P.	O.	A.	B.	P.	O.		
Shotton, lf...	3	0	2	0	Miller, cf...	4	1	2	0
Austin, 3b...	1	1	1	0	Hugh, lf...	3	1	1	0
Miller, rf...	2	1	0	0	Peckinpah, 3b...	3	0	1	0
Sisler, lf...	4	1	12	0	Pipp, 1b...	4	0	0	0
Pratt, 2b...	4	0	5	0	Oldring, rf...	4	1	1	0
Marsans, cf...	3	1	1	0	Bedson, 2b...	3	0	2	1
Severold, c...	4	1	4	0	Boone, 3b...	2	0	3	4
Johnson, ss...	1	0	2	0	Neumaker, c...	2	0	7	0
Davenport, p...	3	0	0	0	Walters, c...	1	1	1	0
					Caldwell, p...	2	0	0	0

Totals... 28 5 27 0 Totals... 28 4 24 1

Score by innings:
New York.....0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0-1
St. Louis.....0 0 0 0 0 0 3 *-3

Summary: Runs—Oldring, Austin, Miller, Sisler. Two-base hit—Marsans. Double plays—Davenport to Johnson to Sisler. Bases on balls—Off Davenport 3, off Caldwell 5. Struck out—By Davenport 3, by Caldwell 6. Umpires—Brans and Nalla.

Second game—

NEW YORK				ST. LOUIS					
A.	B.	P.	O.	A.	B.	P.	O.		
E. Miller, cf...	6	2	1	0	Shotton, lf...	4	1	2	0
Hugh, lf...	4	1	2	0	Austin, 3b...	3	0	0	0
Peck, s...	4	1	2	0	W. Miller, rf...	3	1	2	0
Pipp, 1b...	3	1	5	0	Sisler, 3b...	4	0	11	0
Oldring, rf...	4	0	3	0	Pratt, 2b...	4	2	1	0
Bauman, 2b...	3	0	1	0	Marsans, cf...	2	0	0	0
Boone, 3b...	4	0	0	0	Severold, c...	3	0	5	0
Walters, c...	4	2	0	0	Davenport, p...	3	1	0	1
Russell, p...	3	0	0	0	Rumber, 1b...	1	0	0	0
Magee...	1	0	0	0	Johnson, ss...	1	0	0	0
					Lavan, s...	1	0	3	0

Totals... 35 7 24 1 Totals... 27 5 27 1

Magee batted for Russell in ninth.
Rumber batted for Johnson in fifth.
Score by innings:
New York.....0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 1-3
St. Louis.....0 0 0 0 2 0 0 1 *-3

Summary: Runs—E. Miller, Hugh, Shotton, Pratt, Marsans. Two-base hits—W. Miller, Davenport, Shotton. Home run—E. Miller. Double play—Pipp to Walters. Stolen bases—E. Miller, Pipp, Pratt, W. Miller. Bases on balls—Off Davenport 3, off Russell 3. Struck out—By Davenport 7, by Russell 6. Umpires—Nalla and Evans.

September 12, 1915

Making his fourth start in seven days, Davenport responds by striking out five Newark batters and allowing only seven hits but fails to pick up a decision as the game is called on account of darkness after the ninth inning with the game tied 2-2.

November 23, 1915

A free agent after his \$6,500 contract with the St. Louis Terriers expires, the Cincinnati Reds offer Davenport \$8,000 to return to the club ... Davenport reportedly holds out for \$10,000.

March 2, 1916

Arriving at the St. Louis Browns' spring training camp in Palestine, Texas, Davenport signs his contract and begins working out with the other pitchers at once.

◀ July 29, 1916

Now with the St. Louis Browns, Davenport pitches both end games of a double header, defeating the first-place New York Yankees twice 3-1 and 3-2 ... with temperatures reaching 100 degrees, Davenport limits the Yankees to four hits in the opener and seven in the second game ... in the afternoon tilt, Davenport hits a key two-run double off of Allen Russell in the fifth inning.

"As I was leaving the field between games, (manager) Jones told me that he was going to send me back. I changed my shirt and was ready."

February 13, 1917 ▶

Davenport is listed in serious condition from a self-inflicted gun shot wound to the chest at his home in Runge, Texas ... Davenport is injured when he lays down his gun and it discharges with the bullet striking a gold watch ... attending physicians at a Correo, Texas, hospital announce there are no complications and that he will be able to leave in a few days.

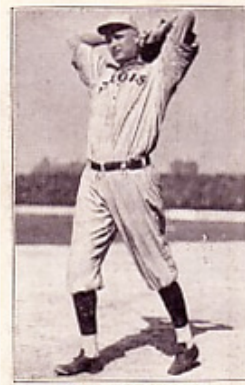
Feared lost for the season, Davenport recovers quickly and makes his 1917 debut six games into the season on April 18, with a five-inning performance in a 3-2 win over the Cleveland Indians.

July 23, 1918

Davenport hits the only home run in 548 major league career plate appearances with a third inning solo blast against New York Yankee lefty George Mogridge in a 4-1 loss.

September 1, 1919

In his 259th and final major league appearance, Davenport relieves starter Bert



DAVE DAVENPORT
P.—St. Louis Americans

Davenport's 1921 Standard Biscuit card No. 19 is one of the rarer cards of the 80-card set as only five or six copies of the black and white card are known to exist.

DAVE DAVENPORT DRAWS FINE AND SUSPENSION

St. Louis, Mo., Sept. 4.—David Davenport, pitcher with the St. Louis Americans, was suspended yesterday for the season and fined \$100 by Manager Jimmy Burke following an altercation in the clubhouse with Burke and Business Manager Bob Quinn. Police were called and ejected the pitcher. The trouble started when Davenport resented being reprimanded by Burke. It was said, Davenport, who has been with the Browns since 1916 announced he would retire from professional baseball.

PITCHER DAVENPORT IS ACCIDENTALLY SHOT

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, Feb. 13.—Dave Davenport of the St. Louis Americans' pitching staff was seriously wounded this afternoon when a rifle was accidentally discharged at his home in Runge, Texas. Davenport had just returned from a hunting trip. A high-powered bullet passed through his chest and also inflicted a scalp wound. Davenport was taken tonight to a hospital at Cureo, Texas.

Dave Davenport (5 of 9):



Gallia and pitches a scoreless ninth inning in a 5-3 loss to the visiting Cleveland Indians.

September 3, 1919

Davenport's major league career comes to an abrupt end when he is fined \$100 and suspended by St. Louis manager Jimmy Burke following an altercation in the clubhouse with Burke and team business manager Bob Quinn ... police are called and Davenport is escorted from the stadium.

Davenport, 2-11 with a career-high 3.94 ERA, is upset after being "reprimanded" by Burke and immediately announces that he is retiring from baseball.

January 1, 1920

Davenport turns down an offer by the Cleveland Indians and that he plans to pitch semi-pro ball in Cleveland, Ohio, next summer.

February 11, 1920

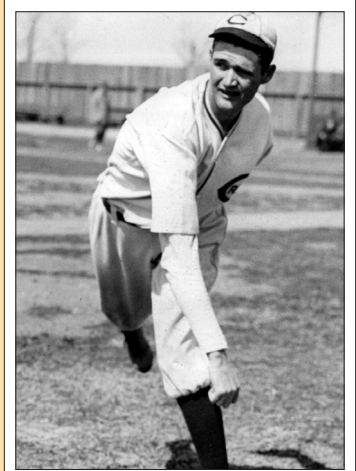
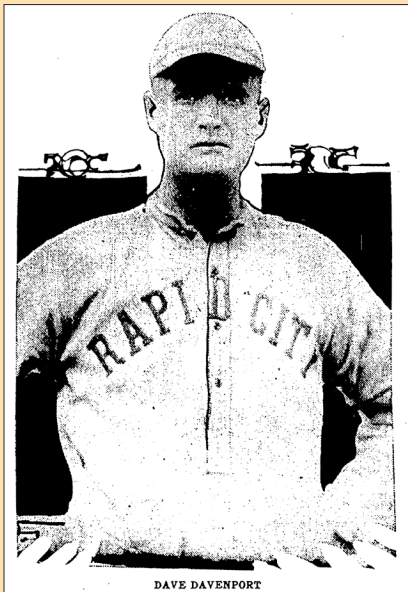
The St. Louis Browns sell Davenport to the Washington Senators ... known as a "bad actor", Davenport is expected to report the team's training camp next spring.

March 3, 1920

Washington Senators President Clark Griffith tells the media, "If Dave Davenport isn't here next Monday ready to begin training, I shall notify the St. Louis club that the deal is off. I can get along without him, though I had expected to give him a trail."

June, 1920

Refusing to report to the Washington Senators, Davenport "retires" from professional baseball and elects to play for the Rexburg Giants, the defending champions of the Snake River-Yellowstone League, one of the "fastest" in the inter-mountain region of Washington and Idaho.



Dave Davenport
1914 Cincinnati Reds

Idaho Falls Ties for Snake League Pennant

Idaho Falls, Idaho, July 1.—The Snake River-Yellowstone league first half season ended with Idaho Falls tying for the pennant, and will be played off on some date the president will make. The results of the games Wednesday were:

Idaho Falls 9, St. Anthony 8. Batteries—Idaho Falls, Davis and McNulty; St. Anthony, Johnson and Brooks.
Rexburg 2, Blackfoot 6. Batteries—Blackfoot, Anderson and Johnson; Rexburg, Davenport and Spencer.

Franchises in the Snake River-Yellowstone league are Blackfoot, Idaho falls, Pocatello, Rexburg, Rigby and St. Anthony ... Rexburg and Idaho Falls tie for the first half pennant with a playoff game "to be played off some date" set by the league president.

Rexburg is managed by Bart Woolums ... Arnold (Chick) Gandil, infamously regarded as the ringleader of the "Black Sox Scandal" signs for a reported \$10,000 to be a player/manager of the St. Anthony (Idaho) club ... said to be suffering from an appendicitis, Gandil leaves the team in mid-July for an operation in Los Angeles.

Win Noyes, who won 10 games with the Philadelphia Athletics in 1917, toils for the Pocatello Indians ... the champions of the Snake River-Yellowstone and Cache Valley Leagues conduct an annual "world series" at the end of their respective seasons.

Dave Davenport (6 of 9):

June 30, 1920

Pitching for Rexburg, Davenport hurls a complete game but drops a 6-2 decision to Blackfoot.

February 22, 1921

The 31-year-old Davenport makes known his desire to return to professional baseball with the Detroit Tigers ... now property of the New York Yankees, Davenport spends the early spring playing for Coalinga in the eight-team semi-pro San Joaquin Valley League ... Davenport's battery mate is Dan Murray who played for the Portland Colts and Ballard Pippins in the Northwestern (B) League in 1914.

NEW FLINGER IS 'THE GOODS'

Davenport Has Remarkable
Record As Pitcher;
To Work Sunday

Dave Davenport, the new flinger for the Ogden Gunners, showed fans his class yesterday. He retired the first six men to face him in the seventh and eighth innings via strikeouts.

April 30, 1921

The New York Yankees sell Davenport to Casper (Wyoming) of the semi-pro Midwest League.

June 3, 1921

The Denver Bronchos are 18-11 and in third place in the Midwest League, when manager Pat Downey makes two announcements, (1) he has signed Davenport to a contract and (2) Monday will be Ladies Day at the Bronchos' Broadway Park and women will be admitted free, although they will be required to pay a "war tax".

June 7, 1921

The erstwhile Davenport shuns Denver and instead signs with the Ogden Gunners of the Northern Utah (D) League.

June 12, 1921

Making his debut with the Ogden Gunners of the Northern Utah (D) League, Davenport strikes out 15 and allows only seven hits in an 11-2 win over the Brigham Peaches ... Davenport strikes out the side in the second, third and ninth innings but is no mystery to Peaches' player/manager Joe Van who goes 4-for-4 and drives in both of his team's runs.

June 15, 1921

Davenport pitches a perfect game against the Logan Collegians, striking out 11 in a 5-0 win.

June 16, 1921

Following his perfect game against Logan, the *Ogden Standard-Examiner* declares that Davenport is the sensation of the Northern Utah loop.

June 24, 1921

Davenport's success has some of the clubs in the Northern Utah league upset ... Cache Valley in particular, has taken steps to have Davenport barred from the league ... Cache Valley's complaint is that Davenport is still a "major league twirler" and that he is simply too good for D-level circuit.

1921 Northern Utah League Summary

by Ray Olson, League Secretary

The Northern Utah League, which grew out of the Cache Valley League, played as an independent organization, but had many former major and minor league players on the club rosters.

The league proved to be as fast as many Class D circuits, and considering the population and size of the towns in the league, it has hardly any rival in the West for interest aroused.

Brigham City won the championship after winning the first half. Tremonton won the second half, but not until this team had beaten Ogden in a three-game play-off series when the two clubs finished the season tied for first place. In a five-game series for the league title the Brigham Peaches won three and the Tremonton Bears two, giving the championship of the league to the former.

Brigham City won the title of the first half by beating Smithfield in the final game of that set on July 2. So close was the competition that three teams, Lewiston, Smithfield and Ogden, were tied for second place. Tremonton finished in the cellar in the first half, but came all the way to the top in the second series.

The second half was even more closely contested than the first, Ogden and Tremonton being tied for the lead at the end of the schedule. In the three-game play-off series between these two clubs, Tremonton won two of the most thrilling battles ever witnessed in Northern Utah and thereby squeezed into the lead and the right to meet Brigham City for the titular honors.

In the first game of this series Franklin Coray, pitching for Tremonton, won over Ogden with a no-hit no-run game, the score being 2 to 0 for his club. Ogden won the second game, and the third was not decided until the twelfth inning, when Tremonton won and broke up the most heated league race ever seen in Utah.

Ernie Fallentine, property of the St. Louis Americans, was the league's leading catcher. He played with Tremonton. Big Bill James, the hero of the 1914 world series, started with Lewiston, but the pace was a little too strong and he resigned from the club. Clarence Brooks, Coast League catcher, property of Vernon, finished as catcher and manager of the Logan club. Matt Hinkle, property of the Tulsa Western League club, was a Logan player. Roy Johnson, one time pitcher with the Philadelphia Americans, pitched for a while with Logan.

Spencer Adams, a Utah boy, was the sensation of the circuit in the hitting department. Batting against good pitching Adams hit .432 for the season. He not only led the batters but he also excelled in home runs, triples and total bases. So great was his work of the season that scouts from both majors and minors were on his trail during most of the season, and Walter McCreddie, who will manage Seattle of the Coast League, finally secured him. Adams is a second baseman and played last season with Tremonton.

Club Standings, 1st Half

Brigham City.....	12-8	--
Lewiston.....	11-9	1
Smithfield.....	11-9	1
Ogden.....	11-9	1
Logan.....	8-12	4
Tremonton.....	7-13	5

Club Standings, 2nd Half

Tremonton.....	15-5	--
Ogden.....	15-5	--
Logan.....	9-11	6
Brigham City.....	8-12	7
Smithfield.....	7-13	8
Lewiston.....	6-14	9

Dave Davenport (7 of 9):

Al Paworth of the *Salt Lake City Telegram* opines:

"If Ogden is not violating the salary rule in working Davenport, there is no reason why he should not be able to play in the league as well as Big Bill James and a few other former big leaguers. If the Northern circuit is going to protest winning heavers who come from the big show they should make a ruling barring the same."

July 1, 1921

At a meeting of the Northern Utah League's Board of Directors, Ogden is given one week in which to release Davenport ... despite the league constitution stating that each team is allowed to keep one former major league player as long as the team stays within the salary limit of \$2,000 per month, managers of the other five clubs issue a statement that "they were defeated before they went onto the playing field," in games where Davenport pitches.

July 3, 1921 ▶

In what is anticipated to be his final appearance in the Northern Utah League, Davenport sets the last nine batters down on 27 pitches and hurls a perfect game with 16 strikeouts in a 5-0 win over visiting Tremonton before a Lorin Farr Park record-setting crowd of 4,000 ... the win is the fourth-straight shut-out for Davenport and the 12th no-hitter of his career.

Thirty-two miles down the road in Salt Lake City, Bees' second baseman Paddy Siglin hits three home runs, including two in the second inning, against the Sacramento Senators in the second game of a Pacific Coast League game ... Siglin, who had played parts of three seasons (1914-1916) with the Pittsburgh

Pirates, will go on to

hit .344 with 67 doubles and a team-high 22 home runs for Gavy Cravath's Bees.

DAVENPORT TO STAY WITH OGDEN; DIRECTORS THRESH OUT HIS CASE AT LOGAN

Dave Davenport, former St. Louis American league pitcher, and now a star flinger with the Ogden club of the Northern Utah loop, was the subject of discussion at the league meeting of the various representatives held at Logan yesterday. Several of the representatives present spoke their views on the case and the majority appeared to be in favor of barring the big star from the loop.

Orval Adams, the league representative from Ogden, however, had a few words to say. The constitution of the league states that the salary limit in the loop shall be \$2,000 per month. It also specifies that any one player can obtain any amount of money providing the team stays under the salary limit.

ASKS NEW LIMIT.

One of the directors present moved that the salary limit of any man in the league be limited to \$350 per month. This, however, failed to carry as the constitution provides that an amendment to the constitution must be carried unanimously.

Ogden's delegate stood pat and naturally the other clubs lost out in their attempts to bar the "Great" Dave from the circuit.

Davenport will remain with the Ogden club. That was the statement given to the Ogden Standard-Examiner Friday and the directors stand pat on their decision. He is one of the drawing cards here and will be retained.

Davenport, however, is not the only player in the league who has been in the "big show." There are at least ten of them listed on the various clubs.

BACK UP DAVENPORT.

Ogden fans are back of Davenport and should the big hurler be barred, the gate receipts would suffer, Ogden club officials believe.

Practically every club in the league has violated the \$2,000 per month salary limit, it was learned at the meeting.

Directors of the various clubs will meet at Brigham City next Friday, at which time plans for the coming second half of the schedule will be discussed.

TREMONTON:					
	AB.	R.	H.	PO.	A. E.
Evans, ss	3	0	0	1	2
Fitzpatrick, 3b	3	0	0	5	1
Adams, 2b	3	0	0	3	2
Borstadt, lf	3	0	0	3	0
Pallentine, c	3	0	0	6	1
Connelly, rf	3	0	0	1	0
Kilpatrick, cf	3	0	0	0	0
G. Adams, 1b	3	0	0	5	0
Shaney, p	3	0	0	0	3
Totals	27	0	0	24	9
OGDEN:					
	AB.	R.	H.	PO.	A. E.
Hardy, 3b	4	0	0	0	1
Petersen, lf	4	1	2	1	0
Samide, c	4	1	2	17	0
Murphy, 2b	4	1	1	2	3
Brown, rf	4	1	1	0	0
Snelgrove, ss	4	0	1	0	1
Wert, 1b	4	0	0	7	0
Meyers, cf	4	0	1	0	0
Davenport, p	4	0	0	0	1
Totals	34	4	8	27	6

Score by innings:
TREMONTON:
Runs000 000 000—0
Hits000 000 000—0
OGDEN—
Runs000 040 00*—4
Hits201 030 11*—3
SUMMARY: Two-base hits—Snelgrove, Murphy. Stolen bases—Murphy, Snelgrove, Brown, Meyers, Petersen, Samide. Sacrifice hit—Meyers. Bases on balls—Off Shaney 1. Struck out—By Davenport 15, by Shaney 6. Left on bases—Ogden 10, Tremonton 0. Earned runs—Ogden 2. Runs batted in—Murphy 2, Brown, Snelgrove. Hit by pitched ball—Brown by Shaney. First base on errors—Ogden 4. Attendance 4200. Time of game—1 hour 40 minutes. Umpires—Lundberg and Gwinn.

July 8, 1921

The directors of the Ogden baseball club postpone a meeting that was scheduled to determine the fate of Dave Davenport, the team's star pitcher ... at least 16 different petitions are being circulated around Ogden and the directors want to hear from the fans before making a decision.

◀ July 9, 1921

After receiving petitions with over 2,000 names of Ogden baseball fans protesting the actions taken by the other clubs in the league, the Ogden Gunners' board of directors announce that Davenport will remain with the team ... Ogden officials feel that their attendance will suffer if they are forced to release their star pitcher.

Dave Davenport (8 of 9):

July 10, 1921

Davenport returns to the mound and one-hits Smithfield in a 12-1 victory before 4,000 fans in Ogden.

July 15, 1921 ►

On the same day that Postmaster General Will Hayes attempts to "humanize" the U.S. Postal Service by ordering the drivers of parcel post wagons to permit mothers to weigh their babies daily providing the babies are brought to the parcel post wagon scales, Ogden bows to league pressure and announces that it is releasing their star pitcher ... Davenport finishes his brief Northern League sojourn 7-0 with seven complete games and 112 strikeouts in 63 innings pitched.

Following his "honorable discharge", Davenport says he will pitch for the Sidney, Nebraska, team in the Midwest League, but instead (no surprise here) signs with the Casper, Wyoming team in the same league.

July 16, 1921

Moving quickly to replace their star hurler, Ogden signs former Detroit Tiger pitcher Ed Willet ... Willet, a former teammate of Davenport with the St. Louis Terriers in 1914 and 1915, hasn't pitched in the major leagues since 1915, but won 102 games with a 3.08 ERA in 10 seasons with the Tigers and Terriers.

July 17, 1921

On the same day that Davenport makes his debut for the Casper Refiners in a 1-0 loss to the Denver Bronchos, Willet makes his debut for Ogden beating Lewiston 6-1 on five hits ... Davenport strikes out 19 and allows only five hits, but allows an unearned run on two errors.



August 11, 1921

First-place Denver, which now owns Davenport's contract, officially trades the tall right-hander to Casper (the team he has been playing the last three weeks with) for Rolla Mapel and "Hewitt".

August 12, 1921

Davenport signs a contract with a semi-pro team in Buhl, Idaho, and is scheduled to start the following afternoon against the Twin Falls Stars ... Stars manager Orwig says he will not protest the "employment" of Davenport on this occasion, but will hold Buhl "hard and fast" to the rules in agreement – that both teams agree to use only players who appeared in the first game between the two teams earlier in the season.

September 18, 1921

Makin' his way back to Casper, Davenport strikes out 15, including the first five batters he faces, and allows only three hits leading the Refiners to a 1-0 victory in the opening game of a best-of-nine series for the Midwest League championship.

September 29, 1921

The Casper Refiners are crowned the 1921 champions of the Midwest League follow

PITCHER IS RELEASED

Ogden Slabman Declared Too Good For Utah League.

OGDEN, Utah, July 15.—(P)—Big Dave Davenport, former St. Louis pitcher, was released today by the Ogden team of the Northern Utah league because other league teams contended he was too good for the league. Davenport pitched seven full games and won all for Ogden. He pitched one no-hit game, one one-hit game and one three-hit game. His strikeout record averaged 16 men to a game.



Dave Davenport (9 of 9):

ing a 13-8 win over Denver, winning the best-of-nine series five games to three ... although roughed up for eight runs on 11 hits, Davenport strikes out 15 en route to a complete game victory.

May 30, 1927 ►

A highly-anticipated game between Davenport's Freeport Tarpons and the Coca-Cola Red Sox proves to be a disappointment as the Red Sox pound Davenport from the box with four first-inning runs.

**COCA-COLA RED SOX TROUNCE
FREEPORT, 7-1; DAVENPORT
KNOCKED FROM BOX IN FIRST**

DAVENPORT SIGNED TO PLAY WITH BREW NINE

Columbus, O.—Big Dave Davenport, right-handed twirler of the St. Louis Browns, will join the Brewers this week for a trial, it was announced Thursday by Skipper Jack Lehelvt. Dave was recently reinstated by Commissioner Landis. He jumped the American league and for the last several seasons has been playing in the Midwest league.

◀ June 9, 1927

Davenport is reinstated to organized baseball by Commissioner Kennesaw Landis and is slated to join the Milwaukee Brewers of the American Association for a trial.

June 16, 1927

Davenport's past catches up with him as the Seattle Indians of the Pacific Coast League, in need of some help to shore up their pitching staff, decline to sign the erstwhile twirler as Indians' manager Red Killefer tells management to sign only sign pitchers, "who are certain to him some good." ... the Indians opt instead to sign Joe Conroy, who has just been released from the Navy.

July 2, 1927

Milwaukee turns Davenport's rights to the Mobile Bears of the South Association ... Davenport makes his Bears' debut allowing two runs in 3 2/3 innings of relief in an 11-8 loss to New Orleans.

October 16, 1954 ►

Following a long illness, Davenport dies in El Dorado, Arkansas, on October 16, 1954, at the age of 61.

FORMER PLAYER DIES

El Dorado, Ark., Oct. 18 (AP)—Dave W. Davenport, 64, ex-major league baseball player, died here Saturday after a long illness.

Davenport, a native of DeRidder, La., broke in with Cincinnati of the now defunct Federal League in 1911. He later was sold to the Browns, and he played with the St. Louis team until his retirement in 1920.

1914 Cincinnati Reds



J. C. Benton

Leon Ames

Earl Yingling

Dave Davenport