

# Cliff Fannin, "Two Losses, Two Leagues, One Day"

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Quite a few pitchers have lost two games in one day, but not many can say they lost two games in two different leagues on the same day. However on May 26, 1952, 28-year-old right-hander Cliff Fannin however defies the odds and does just that.

In an American League game that begins on April 20, Fannin is the starting pitcher for Rogers Hornsby's St. Louis Browns in a Sunday afternoon tilt against the visiting Chicago White Sox. The Louisa, Kentucky native allows three runs on five hits in 2 2/3 innings and leaves the game trailing 3-0. The game is eventually suspended in the bottom of the seventh inning because of darkness with the Pale Hose ahead 10-2.

Three weeks later, on May 15, saddled with a 9.31 ERA while allowed 21 hits in 9 2/3 innings, Fannin, along with pitcher Bob Mahoney and catcher Darrell Johnson, is one of three players sent to the San Antonio Missions of the Texas (AA) League.

The suspended Browns/White Sox contest is resumed in St. Louis on May 26, prior to that day's regularly scheduled game. Chicago eventually records a 10-5 victory, with Fannin absorbing the last of his 51 major league losses.



Cliff Fannin's 1950 Bowman card No. 106 is worth \$8.00 in near-mint condition

## Loss No. 1 Sportsman Park, St. Louis, Missouri

(SUSPENDED GAME, APRIL 20)

CHICAGO (A)		ST. LOUIS (A)	
ab.r.h.o.a.			
Carrasquel ss	4 2 1 4 4	Young 2b	1 0 0 3 0
Fox 2b	5 1 4 3 1	Gollat 2b	2 0 0 2 1
Minoso cf-lf-rf	5 1 1 2 1	Michaels 2b	0 1 0 1 3
Miranda 3b	0 0 0 0 1	Demaestri ss	4 0 2 2 4
Robinson 1b	5 0 1 6 2	Rivera cf	4 0 0 2 0
Lollar c	5 0 1 10 0	Nieman rf	3 0 1 0 0
Coleman rf-cf	4 1 1 0 0	Dyck lf	4 0 0 2 0
Stewart lf	2 2 2 0 0	Goldsberry 1b	2 0 0 7 1
Bushy cf	0 0 0 1 0	Kryhoski 1b	2 0 0 6 0
Zarilla rf-lf	1 0 0 0 0	Thomas 3b	3 0 1 0 3
Rodriguez 3b	4 1 2 1 1	Moss c	2 0 1 2 1
Dente 3b-rf	1 0 0 0 0	Pilletto c	0 1 0 0 0
Pierce p	2 2 1 0 0	Sleater p	0 0 0 0 0
Dorish p	1 0 0 0 0	Bearden p	1 1 0 0 0
Kennedy p	0 0 0 0 0	Schmees	0 0 0 0 0
		cMarion	1 0 0 0 0
		Fannin p	0 0 0 0 1
		Hudson p	1 0 0 0 0
		Harrist p	0 0 0 0 3
		Johnson c	1 1 1 0 0
		Courtney c	1 1 1 0 0
Totals	30 10 14 27 10	Totals	32 5 7 27 17

aAnn for Moss in 8th.  
bAnnounced for Bearden in 9th.  
cAnnounced for Schmees in 9th.

Chicago	003 502 000-10
St. Louis	000 002 030-5

F—Thomas, 2.  
RBI—Stewart, Fox, 4; Minoso, Rodriguez, Carrasquel, Nieman, Lollar, 2; Rivera, Demaestri, 3. 2B—Fox, Stewart, Lollar, Demaestri, Nieman. 3B—Fox. HR—Stewart, DP—Thomas, Gollat and Kryhoski; Demaestri, Michaels and Kryhoski. Left—Chicago, 8; St. Louis, 5. BB—Pierce, 1; Dorish, 3; Kennedy, 1; Fannin, 1; Hudson, 2; Harrist, 2; Sleater, 1. SO—Pierce, 7; Dorish, 1; Kennedy, 1. HO—Pierce, 2 in 7 innings; Dorish, 3 in 1 1-3; Kennedy, 1 in 2-3; Fannin, 5 in 2 1-3; Hudson, 2 in 2-3; Harrist, 6 in 3; Sleater, 0 in 1; Bearden, 1 in 2. R and ER—Pierce, 2-2; Fannin, 3-3; Hudson, 4-4; Harrist, 3-2; Sleater, 0-0; Dorish, 3-3. Winner—Pierce (3-4). Loser—Fannin (0-1). U—Rommel, Berry, Honohech (first seven innings); Soar, McGowan, McKinley (final two innings). T—2:30. A—25,301 (paid, April 20).

## Loss No. 2 Mission Stadium, San Antonio, Texas

SHREVEPORT		SAN ANTONIO	
ab.h.po. a.			
Koppe.s	4 1 0 4	Balcena.cf	5 1 7
Garcia.2	5 2 6 3	Schwmm.2	3 1 3
Elliott.lf	5 2 6 3	Hancock.s	2 0 1
Dunlap.1	5 0 7 0	Fleming.1	1 0 6
Belford.1	0 0 0 0	Heslet.r	3 0 2
Szekely.cf	3 2 4 0	Grant.3	4 0 0
Lyngstin.c	1 0 0 1	Johnson.c	4 1 6
Jones.c	3 0 5 0	Hopkins.lf	1 0 0
Brown.r	4 0 2 0	Fannin.p	4 0 0
Ackert.3	3 1 0 3		
Willis.p	4 1 0 1		
Manville.p	0 0 0 0		

Total 36 9 27 11 Total 27 3 27  
Shreveport .....001 000 600-  
San Antonio .....011 000 010-  
R—Koppe, Garcia, Elliot, Dunlap, Brown, Ackert, Balcena, Schwkmz, Fleming. E—Schwegman, Grant. RBI Koppe, Garcia, Elliot, Brown, Ackert, H let 2. Grant. 2B—Willis. Elliot. 3E Ackert. SH—Hancock, Hopkins. DP Koppe to Garcia to Dunlap. Left—Shreveport 9, San Antonio 7. BB—Off Willis Fannin 7. SO—By Willis 4, Fannin Manville 2. HO—Willis. 3 in 7 innin (none out in eighth), Manville 0 in 2 nings. HBP—Willis (Heslet). WP—Wil 2. Fannin 1. Winner—Willis. U—Re erts, Williamson and Andrews. T—2: A—2,026 (1,463 paid).

Meanwhile, 780 miles to the Southwest in San Antonio, Fannin starts the nightcap of a Texas League doubleheader with the visiting Shreveport Sports. Fannin enters the seventh inning with a 2-1 lead but yields six runs en route to a 7-3 loss that evens his San Antonio mark at 1-1.

Signing with the St. Louis Browns in the spring of 1942, Fannin begins his professional baseball career going 12-8 with the Huntington Jewels of the Mountain State (C) League

On August 31, 1945, Fannin is 11-9 with the Toledo Mud Hens when he is sold to the St. Louis Browns. Two days later he makes his major league debut on September 2, allowing one run on two hits in two innings of relief in a 6-0 loss to the Chicago White Sox.

Nicknamed "The Mule", Fannin spends his entire major league career with the Browns. In eight seasons, Fannin is 34-51 with 28 complete games, including six shutouts, and a 4.85 ERA. Three of six career shutouts come against the Chicago White Sox.

In 1948, Fannin wins a career-high 10 games with the sixth-place Browns and is 32nd in American League MVP balloting with two votes.

Fannin dies on December 11, 1966, in Sandusky, Ohio, at the age of 42.

# FANNIN CHRONOLOGY

## June 5, 1946

Making his first major league start, Fannin shutouts the Chicago White Sox 1-0 on two hits.

## June 14, 1948

Fannin is 4-8 with a 4.56 ERA when the New York Yankees decline to purchase his contract for a reported \$50,000. He proves to be a thorn in the Yankees' side, going 3-1 against the Bronx Bombers with a save over the remainder of the season.

## June 8, 1950

Twenty-four hours after being manhandled 20-4 by the Boston Red Sox, St. Louis manager Zack Taylor sends Fannin to the mound in a bid to gain a measure of revenge for the last-place Browns. However the Red Sox prove

June 5, 1946  
First Career Shutout

## Stephens' Single In Ninth Gives Browns 1-0 Edge

Trim White Sox, 1-0;  
Rookie Cliff Fannin Turns in Two-Hitter

Chicago, July 5 (AP) Vern Stephens' ninth inning single to deep short with two men on base tonight gave the St. Louis Browns a 1 to 0 victory over the Chicago White Sox before 22,830 fans.

Rookie Cliff Fannin, making his first start for the Browns, set the Chicago White Sox down, 1 to 0, on two hits. Fannin also starred at bat. He led off the ninth with a single and moved around on hits by John Lucadello and Stephens.

St. Louis—	AB	R	H	O	A	E
Lucadello, 3b	4	0	2	2	0	0
Berardino, 2b	5	0	2	1	2	0
Stephens, ss	5	0	1	1	7	0
Heath, lf	5	0	2	2	0	0
Zarilla, cf	0	0	0	0	0	0
Laabs, rf	4	0	1	1	0	0
Judnich, of	3	0	1	3	0	0
Stevens, 1b	4	0	1	10	0	0
Helf, c	6	0	4	6	0	0
Fannin, p	3	1	1	1	2	0

Totals	AB	R	H	O	A	E
Chicago—	37	1	12	27	13	0
D.P.						
Tucker, cf	4	0	0	2	0	0
Appling, lf	3	0	0	4	0	1
Kennedy, if	4	0	1	3	0	0
Wright, rf	4	0	0	0	0	0
Trosky, 1b	3	0	0	5	0	0
KoKiloway, 2b	3	0	0	3	4	0
Wells, 3b	3	0	1	1	2	0
Tresh, c	1	0	0	3	3	0
Hamner, p	3	0	0	0	1	0

Score by innings:  
St. Louis ..... 000 000 001—1  
Chicago ..... 000 000 000—0  
Error: Run batted in, Stephens. Three-base hit, Wells. Sacrifice, Hamner. Double plays, Berardino, Stephens and Stevens; Tresh and Appling 2. Left on base, St. Louis 12, Chicago 4. Bases on balls, Fannin 3, Hamner 3. Strikeouts, Fannin 5; Hamner 3. Umpires, Hubbard and Paparella. Time, 2:03. Attendance, 22,830.

to be poor hosts and excellent hitters as they bash Fannin and three subsequent relievers (including Cuddles Marshall) for 28 hits en route to a 29-4 victory before a small (5,105) Fenway Park crowd. Boston establishes single game major league marks for runs scored (29) and total bases (60) that includes nine doubles, seven home runs and a triple. Fannin allows eight runs in two innings, which is considerably better than the 25-year-old Cuddles who yields nine earned runs on seven hits and five walks in 1 2/3 innings, raising his season ERA from 5.79 to 17.05.

## May 9, 1955

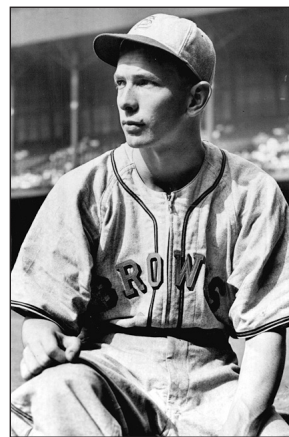
Fannin's professional baseball career come to an end when the sore-armed twirler is released by the Pacific Coast League's San Diego Padres.

## Cliff Fannin Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Level	W-L	INN	H	BB	SO	ERA	
1942	Huntington Jewels	Mountain State	C	12-8	143	157	63	-	---	
1943	2 Teams	2 Leagues	A-AA	8-2	89	87	51	8	1.92	
	Toledo Mud Hens	American Assoc.	AA	0-1	21	15	22	8	1.71	
	Elmira Pioneers	Eastern	A	8-1	68	72	29	-	1.99	
1944	Toledo Mud Hens	American Assoc.	AA	11-7	126	111	41	91	3.50	
1945	Toledo Mud Hens	American Assoc.	AA	11-9	161	165	79	126	3.41	
1945	St. Louis Browns	AMERICAN	ML	0-0	10.1	8	5	5	2.61	
1946	St. Louis Browns	AMERICAN	ML	5-2	86.2	76	42	52	3.01	
1947	St. Louis Browns	AMERICAN	ML	6-8	145.2	134	77	77	3.58	
1948	St. Louis Browns	AMERICAN	ML	10-14	213.2	198	104	102	4.17	
1949	St. Louis Browns	AMERICAN	ML	8-14	143	177	93	57	6.17	
1950	St. Louis Browns	AMERICAN	ML	5-9	102	116	58	42	6.53	
1951	Toronto Maple Leafs	International	AAA	6-8	130	126	37	72	4.36	
1951	St. Louis Browns	AMERICAN	ML	0-2	15.1	20	5	11	6.46	
1952	St. Louis Browns	AMERICAN	ML	0-2	16.1	34	9	6	12.67	
1952	San Antonio Missions	Texas	AA	9-8	139	114	41		2.65	
1953	San Diego Padres	Pacific Coast	Opn	14-12	213.2	180	70	137	3.24	
1954	San Diego Padres	Pacific Coast	Opn	8-5	131.1	98	60	99	2.54	
1955	San Diego Padres	Pacific Coast	Opn	0-1	9.2	7	6	4	2.79	
<b>Major League Totals</b>				<b>8 Seasons</b>	<b>34-51</b>	<b>733.0</b>	<b>763</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>4.85</b>
<b>Minor League Totals</b>				<b>9 Seasons</b>	<b>79-60</b>	<b>1142.2</b>	<b>1045</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>2.76</b>

**ML Debut: September 2, 1945, at Cominsky Park, Chicago:** relieved Al Hollingsworth at the start of the 6th inning in a 6-0 loss to the Chicago White Sox; pitched two innings, allowing one run on one hit, one walk while striking out one.

**ML Finale: September 27, 1952, at Cominsky Park, Chicago:** relieved Bobby Hogue at the start of the seventh inning of a 8-4 loss to the Chicago White Sox; pitches a scoreless inning with 1 walk and 1 strikeout.



Cliff Fannin  
1949 St. Louis Browns



Cuddles Marshall's 1952 Topps card No. 174 is worth \$79.00 in near-mint condition ... on May 28, 1946, Marshall is the starting pitcher for the New York Yankees in the first-ever night game ever played at Yankee Stadium ... the Washington Senators defeat the Yankees, 2-1.