

Jack Onslow, "Only in the Texas League"

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For a catcher with a major league career batting of .169, it's perhaps fitting that Jack Onslow may be best known for a "home run" that he *strikes out into* while playing as a 20-year-old for the Dallas Giants on May 28, 1909.



Jack Onslow
1923 Portland Beavers

Batting in the seventh inning of a Texas (C) League game against the Fort Worth Panthers, Onslow swings and misses at low pitch from 5-foot-8 right-hander Sandy Burk. Burk's pitch strikes home plate and bounces up and lodges in an old scoring stand (press box) on top of Haines Field's grandstand.

While Fort Worth players stand around wondering what should be done, Onslow walks around the bases scoring the Giants' third run in a 5-3 loss to the last-place Panthers. Not overly impressed with Onslow's "slugging exploits", Dallas manager Jim Maloney will later call on Charley Miller to pinch hit for Onslow in the ninth inning.

Onslow, despite the headlines, is not credited with a home run and finishes the game 0-for-3 with a run scored. Burk strikes out a season-high 14 batters for Fort Worth, including four in the seventh inning, and allows only three runs (one earned) on three hits. According to the *Fort Star Telegram*, Burk walks five batters, with three coming as a result of "Sheehan's bad eyesight." Obviously Sheehan is the game's umpire.

Born on October 13, 1888, Onslow breaks into the major leagues with the Detroit Tigers in 1912, but hits only .159 with a double and four RBIs in 36 games with the sixth-place Bengals. The Scottdale, Pennsylvania, native doesn't make another appearance in the big leagues until 1917, when he hits .250 (2-for-8) in nine games with the National League champion New York Giants.

Jack Onslow Year by Year:

| Year | Team | League | Lev | G | AB | HT | 2B | 3B | HR | AVG |
|----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----|------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|-----------|-------------|
| 1909 | Dallas Giants | Texas | C | 53 | 141 | 21 | 4 | 0 | 0 | .149 |
| 1910 | Dallas Giants | Texas | C | 132 | 421 | 81 | 10 | 1 | 2 | .192 |
| 1911 | Fort Wayne Brakies | Central | B | 104 | 339 | 82 | 15 | 8 | 1 | .242 |
| 1912 | Detroit Tigers | AMERICAN | AL | 36 | 69 | 11 | 1 | 0 | 0 | .159 |
| 1913 | Providence Grays | International | AA | 88 | 251 | 57 | 5 | 3 | 0 | .227 |
| 1914 | Providence Grays | International | AA | 91 | 290 | 76 | 8 | 3 | 0 | .262 |
| 1915 | Buffalo Bisons | International | AA | 74 | 229 | 48 | 9 | 2 | 0 | .210 |
| 1916 | Buffalo Bisons | International | AA | 108 | 351 | 98 | 12 | 4 | 3 | .279 |
| 1917 | Buffalo Bisons | International | AA | 93 | 271 | 59 | 7 | 4 | 0 | .218 |
| | New York Giants | NATIONAL | NL | 9 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | .250 |
| 1918 | Kansas City Blues | American Assoc. | AA | 67 | 179 | 47 | 9 | 1 | 1 | .263 |
| 1923 | Portland Beavers | Pacific Coast | AA | 80 | 252 | 67 | 11 | 1 | 0 | .266 |
| 1924 | Richmond Colts | Virginia | B | 127 | 418 | 103 | 16 | 1 | 8 | .246 |
| Major League Totals | | | | 2 seasons | 45 | 77 | 13 | 2 | 0 | .169 |
| Minor League Totals | | | | 3 seasons | 1033 | 3165 | 746 | 107 | 28 | .236 |

Make Home Run on Strike Out; Rare Stunt in Baseball

Some discussion has arisen among students of the game in Fort Worth as to what to call the play upon which Catcher Onslow of Dallas made a "home run" after striking out in the seventh inning of Friday's game. This was the inning in which Burk got four strike outs.

Burk plainly gets an error. The rules are simple upon this point. No wild pitch is given to the twirler, neither is a passed ball marked up against the catcher on the play. The rules state that if a wild pitch on the third strike allows a batsman to reach first base, then the pitcher shall be given an error. Likewise, if a passed ball on the third strike gives the batter his base, the catcher shall receive an error.

The ball, which Onslow struck at, was a wild pitch. Probably never before in the history of the game did this same play arise. Burk cut a drop across Onslow's knees. The ball dropped eighteen inches, more or less, and struck the rubber plate, bounding high into the air and lodging in the old scoring stand on the top of the grandstand. Onslow had been fooled by the drop and had swung wildly, so he walked around the bases while the Fort Worth players wondered what ought to be done.

Somebody ought to have gotten the ball out of the scoring stand and put Onslow out before he reached home.

| Fort Worth | | | | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|----|----|------|-------|
| | A. | B. | R. | H. | P.O. | A. E. |
| Fillman, 3b. | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Cavender, cf. ... | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Kinneally, ss. ... | 4 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| Northern, rf. ... | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nance, 2b. | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| Miller, 1b. | 3 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| Pendleton, lf. ... | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Green, c. | 2 | 1 | 1 | 11 | 4 | 0 |
| Burk, p. | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| Totals | 28 | 5 | 4 | 27 | 12 | 5 |

| Dallas | | | | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|----|----|------|-------|
| | A. | B. | R. | H. | P.O. | A. E. |
| McAvoy, ss. | 4 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Truesdale, 2b. ... | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Maloney, cf. | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Tullos, 3b. | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Connaway, 1b. ... | 3 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 2 | 0 |
| Burleson, rf. ... | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Jackson, lf. | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Onslow, c. | 3 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Ogles, p. | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| (1) Miller | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| (2) Storch | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals | 31 | 3 | 3 | 24 | 11 | 4 |

(1) Miller batted for Onslow in ninth.
 (2) Storch batted for Ogles in ninth.
 Summary—Stolen bases, Truesdale, Tullos, Connaway; sacrifice hits, Cavender, Miller; struck out, by Burk 14, by Ogles 4; bases on balls, off Burk 5, off Ogles 3; two-base hit, Green; three-base hit, Pendleton; double plays, Nance to Kinneally to Miller, Kinneally to Miller; hit by pitcher, Jackson and Green; passed balls, Green 2, Onslow 1; left on bases, Fort Worth 5, Dallas 7; first base on errors, Fort Worth 3, Dallas 4. Time of game—1 hour and 58 minutes. Umpire—Sheehan.