

Clarence Currie, "A Canadian Prodigy"

©DiamondsintheDusk.com

On September 31, 1901, Clarence Franklin (Midget) Currie, a native of Windsor, Ontario, Canada, signs a major league contract with the National League's Cincinnati Reds.

Coming off a spectacular 22-0 season for Appleton of the Wisconsin State League that summer, the 22-year-old right-hander is signed by Reds scout Ted Sullivan and is told to report to Cincinnati's pre-season training camp the following spring.

Currie pitches two seasons in the majors with Cincinnati (1902), the St. Louis Cardinals (1902-1903) and the Chicago Cubs (1903) He completes his major league career with a solid 3.23 ERA despite a 15-23 record that includes 31 complete games (in 38 starts), with four shutouts and two saves.

As a 23-year-old rookie in 1923, he is 10-9 with a 2.98 ERA with 16 complete games (including three shutouts) splitting time between the Reds and Cardinals. After being released by the Reds on July 14th, the Canadian is picked up by St. Louis on July 23. On July 29, Currie rewards the Cardinals' confidence by pitching a six-hit complete game in a 5-1 win over the New York Giants.

On August 17, Currie relieves starter Alex Pearson in the third inning and limits visiting Brooklyn to two runs (one earned) in a career-best 16-inning performance. Currie strikes out one and walks five as the Cardinals and Superbas battle to a 7-7 tie when the game is stopped on account of darkness.

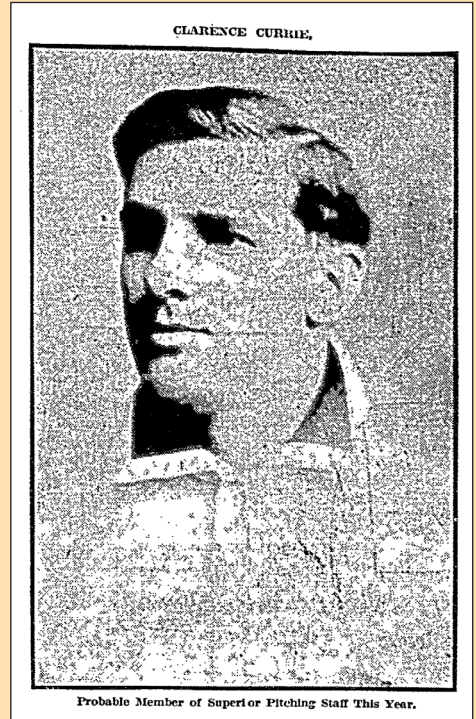
St. Louis' opening day starter in 1903, Currie drops to 5-14 with a 3.82 ERA, splitting time between the Cardinals and the Chicago Cubs in his second, and final, major league season.

Following the 1903 season, Currie will never appear in another major league game, pitching six more seasons in the minor leagues and with semi-pro teams in the Great Lakes region.

Currie is one of a number of players when faced with a cut in salary, prefers to play independent ball rather than accept the lower salary.



CLARENCE CURRIE, ST. LOUIS NATIONAL PITCHER.



Probable Member of Superior Pitching Staff This Year.

Clarence Currie Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Level	W-L	INN	BB	SO	ERA
1899	Muskegon Reds		S-Pro	-	-	-	-	-
1900	Appleton	Wisconsin State	S-Pro	-	-	-	-	-
1901	Appleton	Wisconsin State	S-Pro	22-0	-	-	-	-
1902	Cincinnati Reds	NATIONAL	ML	3-4	65.1	17	20	3.72
	St. Louis Cardinals	NATIONAL	ML	7-5	124.2	35	30	2.60
1903	St. Louis Cardinals	NATIONAL	ML	4-12	148.0	60	52	4.01
	Chicago Cubs	NATIONAL	ML	1-2	33.1	9	9	2.97
1904	Toronto Maple Leafs	Eastern	A	15-10	-	90	79	-
1905	Toronto Maple Leafs	Eastern	A	16-19	303.0	77	-	-
1906	Toronto/Buffalo Bisons	Eastern	A	14-15	250.0	93	-	-
1907	Buffalo Bisons	Eastern	A	4-4	56.0	26	24	-
1908	Menasha	Lake Shore	S-Pro	-	-	-	-	-
1909	Moose Jaw Robin Hoods	Western Canada	D	6-6	92.0	29	41	-
	Kenosha	Lake Shore	S-Pro	-	-	-	-	-
1910	Superior Red Sox	Minnesota-Wisconsin	D	-	-	-	-	-
Major League Totals			2 Years	15-23	371.1	121	111	3.39
Minor League Totals			6 Years	49-48	609.0	196	144	-

ML Debut: April 24, 1902, at Palace of the Fans, Cincinnati, Ohio: relieved Bill Phillips in sixth inning; allowed no runs over three innings in a 9-8 loss to the St. Louis Cardinals in 10 innings.
ML Finale: September 21, 1903, at West Side Grounds, Chicago, Illinois: started and pitched a complete game; allowed 8 runs (4 earned) on 12 hits, 2 walks and 2 strikeouts in a 8-3 loss to Christy Matthewson and the New York Giants; went 1-for-3 against Matthewson.

1903 - Led National League in games finished (8)

Clarence Currie [2 of 3]:

CURRIE CHRONOLOGY:

September 31, 1901

Coming off a 22-0 mark for Appleton, the champions of the semi-pro Wisconsin State League, Currie signs with the National League's Cincinnati Reds.

July 14, 1902

Erve "Dutch" Beck and Currie are released by the Reds ... Beck, batting .305 with 10 doubles, three triples and one home run at the time of the release, will sign with American League's Detroit Tigers on July 17, where he will end his major league career with a lifetime batting average of .296 in 41 games with the Bengals.

July 23, 1902

The fifth-place St. Louis Cardinals sign Currie.

July 29, 1902

In his first game with the Cardinals, Currie pays immediate dividends pitching a complete game six-hitter in a 5-1 win over the New York Giants.

August 17, 1902

Robison Field, St. Louis, Missouri
Brooklyn at St. Louis

Games Played Sunday, Aug. 17.

ST. LOUIS VS. BROOKLYN AT ST. LOUIS AUG. 17.—These teams battled for eighteen innings to a tie, darkness ending the contest. It was the longest professional game ever played in St. Louis. Pearson was very nervous, five of the seven runs scored by the visitors being in the two innings he pitched. Currie was substituted and held the visitors down for sixteen innings to two runs. In the ninth the Superbas registered off Currie's error, tying the score. The Superbas made their seventh and last run in the thirteenth off a single, a bunt and an error by Hartman. In their half of the thirteenth the Cardinals again tied the game, two scratch hits and an error by Dahlen being responsible. The score:

ST. LOUIS	A.B.R.	B.F.	A.	E.	BROOKLYN	A.B.R.	B.F.	A.	E.						
Brashear, 1b	8	1	1	26	0	0	0	0	Sheckard, lf	6	4	3	4	1	0
Smoot, cf	8	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	Keeler, rf	7	0	2	2	1	0
Barclay, lf	6	2	1	6	1	0	0	0	Dolan, cf	9	1	1	2	0	1
P. Don'n, rf	5	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	Dahlen, ss	7	0	2	4	6	2
F. Farrell, 2b	8	1	2	9	0	0	0	0	M'Cree'y, 1b	2	0	0	1	0	0
Kruger, ss	6	0	2	5	13	2	0	0	C. Far'l, c	1	7	0	2	13	2
Hartm'n, 3b	2	0	2	1	3	1	0	0	Flood, 2b	8	1	4	1	7	0
Kyan, c	8	1	2	3	4	0	0	0	W. Don'n, p	7	1	1	1	4	0
Pearson, p	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	Wheeler, 3b	7	0	0	4	3	0
Currie, p	5	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	Ahearn, c	4	0	2	12	0	0
O'Neil	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Total	64	7	17	54	24	3
*Total	63	7	14	53	37	3									

*Batted for Currie in the eighteenth.
†Wheeler out for running out of line.
St. Louis.....3 1 0 0 0 2 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0—7
Brooklyn.....1 4 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0—7
Earned runs—St. Louis 2, Brooklyn 3. Two-base hit—Keeler. Sacrifice hits—Barclay, Wheeler, Hartman, Kruger, Keeler. Stolen bases—Kruger, Barclay, P. Donovan, Dahlen 2, Sheckard 2. Left on bases—St. Louis 12, Brooklyn 14. Double plays—Kruger, Farrell, Brashear; Kruger, Brashear; Currie, Kruger, Brashear; Barclay, Farrell; Farrell, Wheeler. Struck out—By Currie 1, Donovan 13. Hit by pitcher—By Currie 1. First on balls—Off Pearson 3, Currie 5, Donovan 7. Umpire—B.own. Time—3.30. Attendance—11,170.

August 17, 1902

In the longest game played to date in St. Louis (18 innings), Currie relieves starter Alex Pearson in the third inning and limits Brooklyn to two runs (one earned) in a career-high 16-inning performance ... Currie strikes out one and walks five as the Cardinals and Superbas battle to a 7-7 tie before the game is called on account of darkness.

November 1902

St. Louis manager Patsy Donovan declares that Clarence Currie is "one of the most promising young pitchers" in the National League.

March 4, 1903

Currie marries Miss Meta Sehreck in Milwaukee.

April 16, 1903

Named as the Cardinals' opening day pitcher against the Chicago Cubs, Currie responds with a four-hit complete game in a 2-1 victory before 4,676 at the Cubs' West Side Grounds ... Currie strikes out four and walks two.

June 23, 1903

One newspaper opines of Currie:

"Currie, better known as 'Midget,' is one of the 'real things' of the St. Louis Cardinals ... Currie is pitching a 'star game' and in fact he has been doing well since he graduated from minor league company. He (Currie) is one of the young men of the national game, but that does not seem to make him any the less reliable. He has made several highly creditable strikeout records. In a recent game with Chicago he retired eleven men to the bench."

A WONDER.

Cincinnati Signs a Young Wisconsin League Pitcher Who Made a Remarkable Record.

Pitcher Currie, of the Appleton club, of the Wisconsin State League, has signed with the Cincinnati Club. Currie is a young man who has made an excellent showing this season. Of him the Milwaukee "Daily News" says:

"Pitcher Clarence Currie, of the Appleton team, in the Wisconsin State League, has made a record this season which probably has never been equaled by a pitcher in company as fast as the Wisconsin League and the outside teams Appleton has played. During the season just closed Currie pitched 27 games and has won 23 of them. He has not lost a single League game, those lost being exhibition games. Of the total of 27 games, 25 of them were pitched for Appleton, and of them he won 22. The other two games were pitched for the Milwaukee team while on an exhibition tour. Ashland, Marshfield and Wausau are the only teams which succeeded in winning from Currie. Beside being a phenomenal pitcher, Currie is a clever infielder in any position, and should his arm ever go back on him he would still remain in the game with fast company on account of his infield work and his hitting."

April 16, 1903
Robison Field, St. Louis, Missouri
Brooklyn at St. Louis

ST. LOUIS VS. CHICAGO AT ST. LOUIS APRIL 16.—St. Louis defeated the Chicago in the opening game of the National League season before 4,676 people. At the last moment Donovan switched his pitchers, sending in Currie to turn the trick, though O'Neill was scheduled and had warmed up. Taylor twirled for the visitors. It was a good game throughout, the hits being kept down to a limited number and only one for an extra base. The day was cold and raw and the outfield in poor condition for sharp fielding. Otto Williams, Donovan's new find, scored the first hit and run, an error by Tinker being responsible for the run. Brain, the new third baseman, made a beautiful stop of Lowe's hot drive and by sharp fielding retired two men on the side. Currie's error gave the visitors the only run they scored. The score:

ST. LOUIS	A.B.R.	B.F.	A.	E.	CHICAGO	A.B.R.	B.F.	A.	E.
Farrell, 2b	4	1	3	4	2	0	0	0	0
Smoot, cf	3	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
Brain, 3b	3	0	2	3	1	0	0	0	0
Barclay, lf	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Donovan, rf	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nichols, 1b	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Williams, ss	3	1	3	4	0	0	0	0	0
Ryan, c	3	0	5	3	0	0	0	0	0
Currie, p	2	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	0
Total	27	2	6	27	15	2			
St. Louis	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Chicago	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

Earned run—St. Louis. Three-base hit—Barclay. Sacrifice hits—Smoot, Brain, Currie. Double plays—Currie and Nichols; Brain, Farrell and Nichols; Hanlon and Evers. First on balls—Off Currie, 2. Struck out—By Taylor 2, Currie 4. Left on bases—Chicago 3, St. Louis 4. Time—1. 58. Umpire—Johnstone.

pitching a 'star game' and in fact he has been doing well since he graduated from minor league company. He (Currie) is one of the young men of the national game, but that does not seem to make him any the less reliable. He has made several highly creditable strikeout records. In a recent game with Chicago he retired eleven men to the bench."

Clarence Currie [3 of 3]:

June 25, 1903

Currie pitches a two-hit 1-0 shutout in the first game of a double-header with the Boston Bees.

July 1903

The Chicago Cubs purchase both Currie and Otto Williams from the St. Louis Cardinals.

October 10, 1903

The Chicago Cubs trade Currie, Tommy Raub and send \$750 to Toronto Maple Leafs of the Eastern (A) League for pitcher Buttons Briggs.

Currie is one of the large number of players who this year received a cut in salary and prefers to play Independent ball rather than accept the lower salary.

April 15, 1904

The Toronto Maple Leafs farm Currie out to the Williamsport.

July 1906

The Toronto Maple Leafs trade Currie to the Buffalo Bisons for 40-year-old catcher and former major leaguer Bob Woods.

May 1907

Complaining of a sore arm, Currie has had his right arm examined ... physicians determine that several of the nerve centers in the forearm and elbow are affected ... the doctors advise treatment which may keep him out of the game for a month.

August 1907

Buffalo offers Currie and pitcher Ernest Greene to the Montreal Royals for infielder George Needham ... Montreal turns the trade offer down, but offers Needham straight-up for Buffalo outfielder Jake Gettman; the Bisons decline the proposal.

December 17, 1907

Currie's effort to obtain a franchise for Appleton, Wisconsin, in the Lake Shore League fails ... Currie blames the failure on the lack of a street car line out to the city's baseball field ... a petition, signed by hundreds of Appleton citizens, is presented to the Wisconsin Traction Light Heat & Power Company in an effort to extend the line, but the company refuses to do so.

March 1910

Currie signs with Superior of the Minnesota-Wisconsin League but decides not to report because of "difficulty" in the amount of salary.

June 17, 1910

With his roster above the league limit, Superior Red Sox manager Artie O'Dea drops Currie from the team.

July 15, 1941

Currie dies in Little Chute, Wisconsin, at the age of 62.

MENASHA TEAM STRONG.

**It Has Been Reorganized and Will
Open the Season Here**

Menasha News.

(Special to The Northwestern.)

Menasha, Wis., April 29.—The Menasha baseball team has undergone a thorough reorganization and will open the season shortly at Oshkosh in a game with the state league team of that city. Clarence Currie of Appleton, formerly with Buffalo of the Eastern league, will do the twirling and Tuchscherer will be behind the bat. P. Pokalski will play first base with Cobb on second, Bendt at short and McMahon of Kaukauna at third base. Gass, B. Pokalski and C. Pierce will play in the outfield. The Menasha team promises to prove one of the strongest independent teams in the state this season and a large delegation of fans will go to Oshkosh Sunday to witness the opening game.

Baseball Vet Dies

APPLETON, Wis., July 15 (AP).—Clarence Currie, 62, one-time pitcher for the Cincinnati Reds, the St. Louis Cardinals and the Chicago Cubs, died Tuesday. In recent years he had operated bowling alleys at Appleton and Little Chute, Wis.