

Elmer Klumpp, "YooHoo"

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Subbing for starting catcher and future Office of Strategic Services spy Moe Berg in the 10th inning of a 6-to-5 win over the Boston Red Sox, Washington Senators rookie Elmer "YooHoo" Klumpp makes his major league debut on April 17, 1934, before 33,336 at Fenway Park in the season opener for both teams.

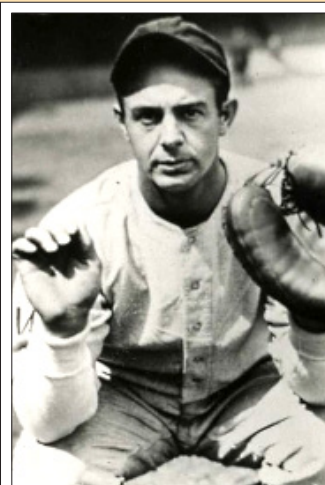
A product of Milwaukee sandlot baseball, Klumpp earns a spot on the Senators' 1934 opening day roster, but is regarded as the team's bullpen catcher unless both Luke Sewell and Berg "fall into slumps."

On April 20, the 27-year-old Klumpp again subs for Berg and collects the first two of his three major league career hits with a pair of singles in three at bats in a 9-6 loss to the Philadelphia Athletics at Shibe Park.

However success is short-lived for the husky (6-0, 185-pound) receiver as he goes hitless in his next 10 at bats over the next two weeks before Senators manager Joe Cronin sends him to Albany of the International (AA) League. He finishes his rookie season hitting .133 with two singles and two runs scored in 15 at bats. Klumpp strikes out only once in 17 plate appearances.

Klumpp returns briefly to the majors in 1937 and goes 1-for-11 (.091) in five games for the National League's Brooklyn Dodgers. In 17 major league games, Klumpp hits .115 with three hits and two RBIs in 26 at bats.

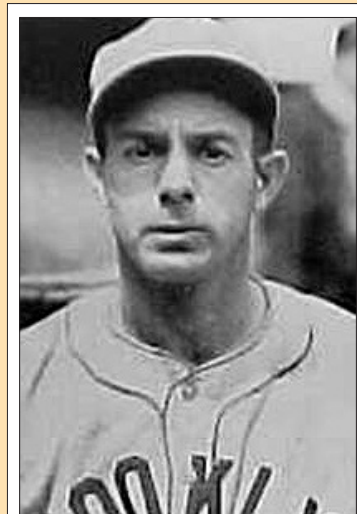
However short and undistinguished his major league career is, Klumpp does enjoy a lengthy and well-traveled minor league career. Playing for 19 different teams in 14 seasons, Klumpp fashions a solid .318 career batting average with 179 doubles, 56 triples and 45 home runs.



Elmer Klumpp
1934 Washington Senators

April 17, 1934
Fenway Park
Boston, Massachusetts

Washington	A	B	R	H	P	A	E
Myer, 2b	3	1	0	3	3	0	0
Stone, rf	5	0	1	3	0	0	0
McNish, lf	5	1	2	4	0	0	0
Cronin, ss	4	2	1	4	2	0	0
Schulte, cf	4	1	1	3	0	0	0
Kuhel, 1b	4	0	1	7	1	2	0
Bluege, 3b	4	0	0	2	1	1	0
xDugas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Travis, 3b	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Berg, c	4	0	0	2	0	0	0
xxHarris	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Klumpp, c	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whitehill, p	2	1	2	0	0	0	0
Russell, p	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crowder, p	2	0	1	0	1	0	0
Totals	39	6	9	33	8	3	0
x Batted for Bluege in 11th.							
xx Batted for Berg in 11th.							
Boston	A	B	R	H	P	A	E
Bishop, 2b	5	0	0	3	0	0	0
Werber, ss	6	0	1	1	4	0	0
Judge, 1b	4	1	2	13	0	0	0
R. Johnson, lf	5	1	2	3	0	0	0
Reynolds, cf	5	1	1	2	0	0	0
Soeters, rf	5	2	2	2	0	2	0
Ferrell, c	4	0	2	4	1	0	0
Walter, 3b	5	0	1	5	6	1	0
Rhodes, p	1	0	0	0	4	0	0
zSeeds	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pennock, p	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
zzCooke	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
H. Johnson, p	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	44	5	11	33	15	3	0
z Batted for Rhodes in 5th.							
zz Batted for Pennock in 6th.							
Washington	400	010	000	01-6			
Boston	000	004	010	00-5			



Elmer Klumpp
1937 Brooklyn Dodgers

Klumpp twice earns all-star recognition in the minors, first with the Mississippi Valley (D) League in 1929 and again as a player/manager in the Pennsylvania State (D) League in 1940.

Klumpp ends his professional baseball career in 1940 as a player/manager for the McKeesport Little Braves/Oil City Oilers in the Class D Pennsylvania State Association. Following his retirement, Klumpp is named the president of the Industrial Baseball League in Milwaukee.

Klumpp passes away in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin on October 18, 1996, at the age of 90.

KLUMPP CHRONOLOGY

1927

Klumpp begins his professional baseball career as a third baseman for the Ottumwa Packers of the Mississippi Valley (D) League ... Klumpp hits .327 and despite making 24 errors in only 69 games for the Packers, it is reported in early August that the Cleveland Indians are interested in acquiring his services.

July 6, 1927

Klumpp goes 1-for-5 against 17-year-old Mel Harder and extends his league-record consecutive games hitting streak to 29 games in a row with a fifth inning single.

Elmer Klumpp [2 of 3]:

August 22, 1927

Ottumwa sells Klumpp to the Hollywood Stars of the Pacific Coast (AA) League.

June 18, 1928

It appears that the jump from D ball to the AA Pacific Coast League is a bit much for the 21-year Klumpp as he, outfielder Stanley Casper and southpaw pitcher Art Jacobs (see below) are released outright ... it is reported that the Stars had spent \$10,000 in acquiring the three players ... Casper signs with the Boise Senators of the six-team Utah-Idaho (C) League, where he hits .264 in 108 games.

July 7, 1928

Ottumwa trades Klumpp to the Burlington Bees in exchange for outfielder Eddie Stock and \$500 in cash.

June 4, 1932

Klumpp draws his release from the Little Rock Travelers after his brother, a Milwaukee physician, advises the team that Elmer is suffering from high blood pressure and kidney problems and that he should not play again this year.

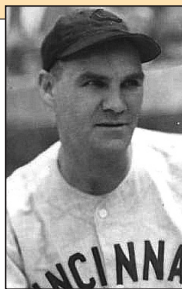
June 6, 1932

The Birmingham Barons announce the signing of catcher Elmer Klumpp.

June 6, 1932

The Chattanooga Lookouts purchase free agent catcher Elmer Klumpp ... to make

Following his release by the Stars, Art Jacobs will go on to pitch another 12 years in the minors ... in 1941, at the age of 38, the Luckey, Ohio, native ends a 17-year career with a record of 154 wins and 107 losses ... exactly 11 years later to the day he was released by Hollywood, a 36-year-old Jacobs will make his first and only appearance in a major league game ... on June 18, 1939, pitching for the Cincinnati Reds, Jacobs relieves Lee Grissom in the ninth inning of a 12-6 win over the Boston Braves ... Jacobs allows one run on two hits in one inning of work, finishing his major league career with a 9.00 ERA.



room for Klumpp, the Lookouts release "utility" outfielder Elmer Thompson and sell infielder Wescott Kingdom to the Washington Senators ... Thompson is batting .211 while Kingdom is hitting .329.

January 1935

Klumpp is traded by Wilkes-Barre to the Scranton Miners of the New York-Penn (A) League for pitcher Milt Shoffner ... five years earlier, on July 20, 1929, Shoffner, pitching for the Cleveland Indians makes his major league debut against the New York Yankees by striking out the first batter he faces, who just happened to be Babe Ruth ... in addition, on May 12, 1930, Shoffner, still pitching for the Indians, sets a major league record by being called for three balks in the third inning against the Philadelphia Athletics.

Elmer Klumpp Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Lev	AB	HT	2B	3B	HR	AVG
1927	Ottumwa Packers	Mississippi Valley	D	-	-	-	-	-	.327
1928	2 Teams	Mississippi Valley	D	452	175	31	7	11	.387
	Burlington, Ottumwa	Mississippi Valley	D	452	175	31	7	11	.387
1929	Burlington Bees	Mississippi Valley	D	387	125	28	1	3	.322
	Bloomington Bloomers	3-I League	B	3	0	0	0	0	.000
1930	2 Teams	2 Leagues	B-AA	344	113	11	19	7	.328
	Milwaukee Brewers	American Association	AA	22	7	1	2	0	.318
	Terre Haute Tots	3-I League	B	322	106	10	17	7	.329
1931	3 Teams	2 Leagues	D-B	207	68	18	5	5	.329
	Manitowac Shipbuilders	State League	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	.230
	Quincy Indians	3-I League	B	-	-	-	-	-	----
	Springfield Senators	3-I League	B	42	4	0	0	1	.095
	Cedar Rapids Bunnies	Mississippi Valley	D	165	64	18	5	4	.388
1932	3 Teams	1 League	A	202	59	7	4	2	.292
	Chattanooga, Birmingham, Little Rock	Southern	A	202	59	7	4	2	.292
1933	Chattanooga Lookouts	Southern	A	256	79	12	3	2	.309
1934	Washington Senators	AMERICAN	ML	15	2	0	0	0	.133
1934	2 Teams	2 Leagues	A-AA	154	37	6	4	1	.240
	Albany Senators	International	AA	72	16	2	3	1	.222
	Wilkes-Barre Barons	New York-Penn	A	82	21	4	1	0	.256
1935	Scranton Miners	New York-Penn	A	189	57	15	2	3	.302
	Jacksonville Floridians	Florida	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	----
1936	2 Teams	New York-Penn	A	468	158	20	8	2	.338
	Wilkes-Barre, Elmira	New York-Penn	A	468	158	20	8	2	.338
1937	Brooklyn Dodgers	NATIONAL	ML	11	1	0	0	0	.091
1937	Jersey City Giants	International	AA	156	36	4	1	1	.231
1938	2 Teams	2 Leagues	A-AA	182	50	4	1	1	.275
	Portland Beavers	Pacific Coast	AA	2	0	0	0	0	.000
	Carbondale Cardinals	NEP	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	----
	Elmira Pioneers	Eastern	A	180	50	4	1	1	.278
1939	4 Teams	1 League	A1	282	77	12	1	3	.273
	Knoxville, Nashville	Southern	A1	-	-	-	-	-	----
	Birmingham, New Orleans	Southern	A1	282	77	12	1	3	.273
1940	McKeesport/Oil City	Pennsylvania State	D	186	64	11	0	4	.344
1941	Milwaukee Heils	-	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	----
1942	Milwaukee Falks	-	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	----
Major League Totals				26	3	0	0	0	.115
Minor League Totals				3468	1098	179	56	45	.317

All-Star Team: 1929-Mississippi Valley League (OF); 1940-Pennsylvania State League (C)

ML Debut: April 17, 1934 at Fenway Park, Boston: replaced Moe Berg at C in the bottom of the 10th inning; no plate appearances in a 6-5 (11 inn.) win over the Boston Red Sox.
ML Finale: May 3, 1937 at Ebbets Field, Brooklyn: pinch hit for pitcher Harry Eisenstat in the ninth inning, walked against Orville Jorgens in a 12-6 loss to the Philadelphia Phillies.

Milwaukee's Errant Elmer Settles Down

Milwaukee, April 2 (AP) — Once again Milwaukee baseball bugs have the answer to their almost traditional early spring question: "Where's Elmer?"

This year the response is backed with encouraging data to the effect that Elmer Klumpp, widely traveled product of Milwaukee's sandlots, is doing nicely at the Biloxi camp of the Washington Senators.

Baseball's champion nomad—that's what they call Elmer in Milwaukee—has seen service in the American association, Southern association, Pacific Coast league and the Mississippi Valley league.

Some years ago he stayed with Milwaukee's Brewers long enough

to knock out a single as a pinch-hitter, then went on the road as an outfielder. Through five years as a minor leaguer his batting average was .375.

Now he has turned catcher, and went to the Senators' camp on the recommendation of Joe Engel, Washington scout.

"You can take my word for it—Elmer's good," Engel reported to Joe Cronin, manager of the American league champions. "He is one of the most intelligent players I ever met."

Milwaukee hears that Cronin thinks highly of Elmer, well enough to keep him as a third-string catcher if he is not sent back to Chattanooga for more seasoning.

Elmer Klumpp [3 of 3]:

July 12, 1935

Despite a .302 batting average, Klumpp is released by Scranton because of "defensive problems" ... Klumpp receives an offer from the Newark Bears, but decides to sign with the semi-pro Jacksonville Floridians ... in his first two games with the Floridians, Klumpp hits a double, a triple and three home runs.

September 19, 1935

Klumpp is awarded a half-share (\$28.89) of Scranton's runner-up share of the New York-Penn League playoff series.

July 25, 1936

Playing for the Elmira Pioneers, Klumpp sets a New York-Penn (A) League

record when he doubles and singles in his first two at bats against Trenton Senator pitcher Lefty Dixon extending his consecutive base hit streak to seven in a row ... Klumpp was 5-for-5 a day earlier.

May 7, 1937

The Brooklyn Dodgers reduce their roster to 26, releasing Klumpp and outfielder Eddie Wilson to the Jersey City Giants of the International (AA) League ... Klumpp is hitting .091 with one hit in 11 at bats while Wilson is hitting .222.

September 3, 1937

The Portland Beavers of the Pacific Coast League sell right-handed pitcher William "Navy Bill" Posedel to the Brooklyn Dodgers for \$10,000 and Jersey City catcher Elmer Klumpp and outfielder Eddie Wilson.



Elmer Klumpp
1935 Scranton Miners

December 28, 1939

Klumpp is released by New Orleans.

February 2, 1940

Klumpp is named the player/manager of the Oil City Oilers of the Pennsylvania State (D) Association.

February 25, 1942

Klumpp's two-year reign as the manager of the Oil City Oilers comes to an end when he is released by the team's management.

1943

Klumpp is a player (catcher) manager for the Falk Corporation of Milwaukee, one of the top semi-pro teams in Wisconsin.

The Scranton Republican - April 20, 1935

How Klumpp's College Career Ended

Brown-eyed Elmer Klumpp, the Miners' polished catcher, actually attended Seton Hall College for three days before he was exposed while in chapel one morning when he was recognized by a friend with leather lungs.

This was revealed the other day when Al Reiss, the Miners' second-sacker, casually remarked that he was once a student at Seton Hall. Reiss' remarks inspired Klumpp to plunge into the tale of his brief stay at the East Orange, N. J., school.

Klumpp was catching for Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in the Mississippi Valley League back in the Summer of 1930. Playing in the same circuit was Red Smith, baseball coach at Seton Hall. Klumpp today looks to be no more than 22 and five years ago he could pass for a high school senior.

Smith's ambition was to have a whale of a nine at Seton Hall and he asked Klumpp to matriculate at the Jersey school.

"But how can I play ball out there?" said Klumpp. "I've been playing professional ball for five years."

"Don't worry about that," said Smith. "I'll take care of everything. All you have to do is get out there. Get yourself a different name. That'll help us both."

Klumpp liked Smith so well that he obliged the red-headed coach. While at high school in Milwaukee he had a classmate by the name of Harvey Fleming, who had a high ranking in class. He thereupon applied for and secured Fleming's credits, forwarded them to Seton Hall and thus embarked on a collegiate career as Harvey Fleming. The principal at the high school did not know Klumpp from Adam and so when Elmer said he was Harvey, the prexy took his word for it.

All Well Until Mr. Friend Shows Up

Klumpp finished out the season with Cedar Rapids and in order to be punctual at Seton Hall he traveled by plane from Milwaukee to Newark. Everything had been arranged beforehand as Smith had promised. He was registered under the name of Harvey Fleming and to help him along in his studies he was quartered with two boys who knew more about books than they did about athletics.

Never rated highly as a football player but broadcast as a star athlete in every branch of sport, Klumpp went out on the gridiron on the second day after his arrival at Seton Hall and threw the pigskin about. Elmer wouldn't be anything but a quarterback and he carried out his role like a professional actor.

Everything went well for the first forty-eight hours. He was getting along famously in the classroom and out and Smith was in high glee. On the third day the axe fell.

Klumpp was in chapel when a visitor at the school recognized Elmer as Elmer Klumpp and not as Harvey Fleming. Not knowing Smith's little scheme, the visitor shouted out to Klumpp: "Hel-loo, Elmer! How did you do in baseball this past Summer!"

The man's voice boomed through the chapel. A member of the Seton Hall faculty sitting near Klumpp was amazed.

"Harvey, are you a professional ball player? Playing here under an assumed name?"

Klumpp gulped.

"Yes," he whispered. A moment later Klumpp was out of the chapel and two hours later he was on his way back to Milwaukee—an ex-collegian.