

Shine Rumble, "Lenoir-Rhyne Bear"

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On September 29, 1942, 35-year-old Eugene "Shine" Rumble, a former minor league pitcher and now an oil rig contractor from Odessa, Texas, dies at a hospital in the nearby town of Iraan as a result of injuries suffered in an automobile accident two days earlier.

A native of Statesville, North Carolina, Rumble is regarded as one of the "fastest" pitchers in the Tar Heel state. But like many southpaws of his era, his success is hampered by poor control.

Born on April 9, 1907, and one of three sons to Jasper and Mary Bell Rumble, he first garners media attention at nearby Lenoir-Rhyne College as the starting tackle on the football team and then in 1929, as the outstanding pitcher in the "Little Six" Conference.

Leaving Lenoir-Rhyne following his sophomore year, Rumble works the next two years (1929-1930) as a farmer and as a railway employee while finding time to pitch for the semi-pro Kannapolis Towelers.

Rumble signs his first professional contract in February 1930 with the Detroit Tigers but fails to earn a roster spot with the Piedmont League's Raleigh Capitals in spring training.



"Shine" Rumble
1929 Lenoir-Rhyne Bears

March 30, 1928

Wake Forest 2, Lenoir-Rhyne 1 (10 innings)
Gore Field, Wake Forest, North Carolina

WAKE FOREST					LENOIR RHYNE						
ab	r	h	o	a	ab	r	h	o	a		
Las'ter, cf	2	0	0	1	1	Hager, ss	3	0	1	1	3
Kuy'all, c	3	0	0	3	1	Frick, 3b	3	0	0	3	2
Dow'n, 2b	4	1	1	2	5	Lentz, 1b	4	0	0	3	0
Cly'tn, ss	4	0	1	1	3	Hodge, 2b	3	0	1	0	1
Scr'bro, lf	2	0	1	2	0	Kiser, cf	3	0	1	3	4
P. J'n'r, 3b	3	0	0	3	1	Conlier, lf	2	0	0	3	0
Rey'lds, 1b	3	0	1	1	3	Miller, rf	4	0	0	1	0
Foust, rf	1	0	0	0	0	Wine'f, c	4	1	2	7	4
a--Dor'st	2	1	0	1	0	Rumble, p	3	0	2	1	1
b--Joy'r, p	3	0	0	0	8						
Lanning, p	1	0	0	0	1						

Totals 27 2 4 30 33 Totals 30 1 7 29 15

a--Hit for Foust in 4th.

b--Out when winning run was made.

Score by innings: R
Lenoir-Rhyne000 000 010 0--1
Wake Forest000 000 001 1--2
Errors--Kuykendall, Scarboro, Joyner.
Lentz, Hodge, Winecoff.

Summary:--Earned runs--Wake Forest 1. Two-base hits--Scarboro. Three-base hits--Dowtin. Double plays--Lassiter to Kuykendall. Hamer to Hodge to Lentz. Struck out--by Joyner 7, by Rumble 3. Hit by pitcher--Lassiter by Rumble. Winning pitcher--Lanning. Losing pitcher--Rumble. Left on bases--Lenoir-Rhyne, 8; Wake Forest, 7. Umpire--Holdins.



Making his collegiate debut on March 30, 1928, against Wake Forest College, Rumble pitches a four-hit complete game, but loses 2-1 in the bottom of the 10th inning when Wake's "Tanker" Dorsett scores on an infield grounder by catcher Kuykendall. Senior Tom Lanning (left) picks up the win for the Deacons. The Biltmore, North Carolina, native will pitch three games for the Philadelphia Phillies in 1938.

A year later, pitching for Stuart (Va.) of the Bi-State League, an 18-team semipro circuit with 10 franchises in North Carolina and eight in Virginia, Rumble wins his first two starts for Stuart before signing with the Greensboro Patriots in September.

After two summers of bouncing around the Carolinas and Virginia, Rumble makes the opening day roster of the Piedmont League's Winston-Salem Twins in 1933. Finishing fourth among league hurlers in innings pitched (247) and eighth in strikeouts (135), he wins a career-high 15 games for a last-place team that manages to win only 42 games while losing 99, and finishing 49 1/2 games behind the front-running Greensboro Patriots.

Unfortunately for Rumble, he also leads the league in runs allowed (165) wild pitches (15), is third in walks (106) and hit batters (14), fourth in hits allowed (253), and sets a Piedmont League single season record with 24 losses, eclipsing the circuit's previous mark of 21 set by Durham's Lee Reid in 1928.

Lutheran Line Weakest In Years; Coley And Rumble Lose Places By Studies

November 22, 1928 - Lenoir-Rhyne will be without starting linemen Bill Coley and Eugene Rumble for its upcoming football game with Guilford College at Memorial Stadium in Greensboro. The "Black Hand" of exams sounds the "death knell" for the "hefty" linemen, leaving head coach Dick Gurley's Lutherans with only 17 players. Guilford will claim a 34-6 win in a "featureless game."

Shine Rumble [2 of 3]:

With the Richmond Colts in 1934, Rumble is 3-6 with a 8.26 ERA in mid-May when he is one of four Colts "suspended" to allow the team to reach a league-mandated 15-player roster limit.

A disgruntled Rumble quits the team in early July and resumes his semipro career signing with the Duchess Fabrics of Greensboro's Tri-County League.

In 1936, Rumble moves to Odessa, Texas where he takes a job as an oil rig contractor.

Shine Rumble Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Level	W-L	INN	H	BB	SO	ERA
1928	Lenoir-Rhyne College	Little Six	College	-	-	-	-	-	--
1929	Lenoir-Rhyne College	Little Six	College	-	-	-	-	-	--
	Kannapolis Towelers	Carolina	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	--
1931	Stuart (Va.)	Bi-State	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	--
	Greensboro Patriots	Piedmont	B	-	-	-	-	-	--
1932	Greensboro Patriots	Piedmont	B	0-1	18.0	-	-	-	--
1933	Winston-Salem Twins	Piedmont	B	15-24	247.0	253	106	135	6.01
1934	Richmond Colts	Piedmont	B	3-6	73.0	99	31	-	8.26
	Duchess Fabrics	Tri-County	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	--
1935	Chatham Blanketeers	-	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	--
1936	Chatham Blanketeers	-	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	--
1939	Odessa	Permian Basin	Spro	-	-	-	-	-	--
Minor League Totals		4 Seasons		18-31	338.0	352	137	135	--

1933 - Led Piedmont League in hits allowed (253), wild pitches (15)

RUMBLE CHRONOLOGY

March 30, 1928

Rumble makes his collegiate debut for Lenoir-Rhyne College against Wake Forest College ... the 21-year-old Rumble pitches a four-hit complete game, but loses 2-1 in the bottom of the 10th inning.



Eugene Rumble
1928 Lenoir-Rhyne College
Yearbook

March 24, 1929

Pitching for Lenoir-Rhyne, Rumble hurls a five-hitter and strikes out 11 in a 5-2 season opening win over the Oak Ridge Cadets.

April 12, 1929

The "state's best left-hander" allows only six hits in a 8-1 win over Wake Forest.

April 27, 1929

Lenoir-Rhyne head coach Dick Gurley announces that he plans to use Rumble in every remaining "Little Six" contest.

June 11, 1929

Rumble is one of four Lenoir-Rhyne players to sign with the Kannapolis Towelers of the semipro North

Carolina State League.

March 27, 1930

Rumble and Harold Messimer are missing from Lenoir-Rhyne's pitching staff when the Bears open the season against Springfield College ... Rumble has "attached" his signature to a contract with the Detroit Tigers, while Messimer flunks out and enrolls at rival Catawba College in Salisbury, North Carolina.

July 8, 1931

Rumble strikes out 16 as Stuart wins for only the second time in 22 games with a 13-inning, 5-4 win over Martinsville.

September 4, 1931

Rumble signs with the Greensboro Patriots of the Piedmont League and is given the opportunity to pitch for the third-place Patriots during the final week of the season ... Rumble, who opened the season with the Raleigh Capitals before



"Shine" Rumble
1933 Winston-Salem Twins

STUART WINS BI-STATE GAME IN 13TH BY 5-4

(Special to Daily News)

Martinsville, Va., July 8.—Two left-handers, Williams for Martinsville and Rumble for Stuart, hooked up in a great pitchers' battle this afternoon at Stuart, it requiring 13 innings before Stuart won out by a count of 5 to 4.

Both pitchers were in rare form and were tight with men on bases. Rumble struck out 16, while Williams fanned 11.

With the score four runs all in the fifth it was shutout baseball until the last of the 13th, as darkness appeared. It was Stuart's second victory in 22 starts this season. Brown, Bell and Payen, of Stuart, and Boulding and Hurd, of Martinsville, led in the hitting. Dixon, of Stuart, hit for the circuit.

Shine Rumble [3 of 3]:

PATS TO TRY OUT 'SHINE' RUMPLE

Former Lenoir-Rhyne College
Pitcher Will Show His
Wares As Season Closes

drawing his release, is regarded as one of the best pitchers in the Bi-State league, an 18-team semi-pro league with 10 teams from North Carolina and eight from Virginia.

June 2, 1932

Greensboro Patriots' business manager Oliver French announces that Rumble is "suspended" to make room on

the roster for former N.C. State pitcher John Lanning recently signed by the St. Louis Cardinals.

Dear Sir:

Shine Rumble told me to write you. He thought you would give me a try out for baseball, I would like to get a try out for outfield. Please let me know soon.

Yours truly,

JOHN MILLER

June 12, 1932

Greensboro releases Rumble saying that he lacks a fastball to make it in Piedmont League.

May 6, 1933

Signing by the Winston-Salem Twins in the

off-season, Rumble allows only three hits and strikes out five in a 2-0 shutout of the Durham Bulls.

August 9, 1933

After absorbing the loss in each of the previous two nights, Rumble gains a measure of revenge against the team that released him the previous summer, hurling a two-hit shutout of the Greensboro Patriots, striking out five.

August 20, 1933

Eugene (Shine) Rumble vs. Rube Eldridge
Willis Park, High Point, North Carolina

WINSTON-SALEM					GREENSBORO						
	ab	r	h	o	a		ab	r	h	o	a
Mathis,rf	4	0	0	3	0	G.Br'n.ss	4	1	1	1	2
Wh'an.cf	4	0	0	3	0	And'on.lb	4	1	1	0	2
White,3b	4	1	2	0	3	Og'aki.rf	4	1	1	1	1
Bourz.lb	4	0	1	2	0	Martin,2b	4	0	2	2	3
Smith,2b	4	0	1	0	2	Wh'ad.cf	4	0	0	5	0
H.Bro'n.lf	4	0	3	1	0	Rice,3b	4	0	1	1	2
McK'ley.c	4	0	0	1	0	Clarke.lf	3	0	0	1	0
McG'n.ss	2	0	1	1	4	Maus.c	3	0	1	5	0
Rumble.p	3	0	0	3	2	Eldridge.p	3	0	1	1	2
						aSims	0	1	0	0	0

Totals 33 18 24 11 Totals 33 48 27 13
aRn for Eldridge in eighth and Rice during game.

Score by innings: K
Winston-Salem 100 000 000— 1
Greensboro 100 000 03x— 4
Summary: Errors—Bourz, McKinney.
Runs batted in—Whitehouse, Martin, 2;
Anderson, 2. Home run—Whitehouse.
Three-base hit—Martin. Two-base hits—
Ogrodowski, H. Brown, 3; Martin. Stolen
bases—Whitehouse, Smith, Clarke. Base
on balls—Off Eldridge, 1. Struck out—By
Rumble, 1; Eldridge, 2. Left on bases—
Winston-Salem, 6; Greensboro, 5. Wild
pitch—Rumble. Umpires—Brundon and
Lennox. Time of game—1:21.

May 13, 1934

To reach a league-mandated 15-player roster limit, the Richmond Colts place Rumble, pitcher Vernon Greene, infielder Willie Powell and catcher Louis Cohen on the suspended list.

July 1934

Rumble quits the Richmond Colts.

August 22, 1934

Tom Compton is 4-for-4 and Charlie Tuttle out-duels Rumble as manager Bennie Brown's East Monbo Riversiders edge the Duchess Fabrics 4-3 in a North Carolina Tri-County League contest.

September 27, 1942

Rumble dies in a car accident in Odessa, Texas, where he has lived for the past seven years and was employed as an oil rigger contractor ... he

is survived by his wife Ruth and two daughters, Elizabeth and Faye.

Expect Lanning To Join Patriot Outfit Tonight

John Lanning, ace pitcher of the N. C. State college team, who recently signed with the St. Louis Cardinals, will join the Greensboro Patriots in Raleigh tonight, according to announcement here today by Oliver French, business manager of the club.

The addition of Lanning is the start of a shake-up expected to take place in the Patriot roster, and several other changes are anticipated for next week.

Eugene "Shine" Rumble, south-paw "hurler" who formerly pitched for the Lenoir-Rhyne Bears, will be suspended to make room on the roster for Lanning, who will probably get a chance to hurl in one of the games next week.

'Shine' Rumble Is Fatally Hurt In Wreck In Texas

E. P. (Shine) Rumble, 35, well known baseball player, native of Irrell county, was killed in an automobile accident Thursday at Odessa, Texas. He played baseball for several years with the Piedmont League and was later pitcher for the Twins baseball team in Winston-Salem. He is a son of Mr. Jasper Rumble, who lives in the Sharon school community of Irrell county.

The following item is from today's issue of the Winston-Salem Journal:

The body of Eugene Presley (Shine) Rumble, 35, formerly of Winston-Salem and one-time pitcher for the Twins baseball club, will arrive here Thursday morning for funeral rites and burial, arrangements to be announced later.

Services are to be held at 2 o'clock this afternoon at his home in Odessa, Texas, and the body will be put on a train there tonight, scheduled to arrive here at 8:10 a. m. Thursday.

Mr. Rumble, injured in an automobile accident Thursday, died at an Irrelan, Texas, hospital Saturday morning. He had been making his home in Texas for the past seven years, employed as an oil rigger contractor.

Reports received here Saturday asserting that his wife, the former Miss Ruth Snow, of this city, was in the automobile accident with him proved erroneous, it was learned last night Mrs. Rumble has been ill and was a hospital patient, but has already returned to her home.

Mr. Rumble was born near Statesville on April 9, 1907, a son of J. M. and Mary Bell Rumble. He spent his early life in Statesville, attended the public schools and Lenoir-Rhyne College, and then was employed as a farmer and railway worker for some time before entering professional baseball. He played for several years in the Piedmont League and was widely known in this section.

He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church at Odessa, and was well known in fraternal circles.