

Pinch Hits, "Shoeless Joe's Mound Debut"

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JUNE 4, 1908

In a mid-week Carolina (D) Association game, the visiting Anderson Electricians pound out 17 hits en route to a 15-4 win over the homestanding and first place Greenville Spinners.

The game is notable for Spinners' manager Tom Stouch putting Billy Eskew, the team's nine year old mascot in center field and the less-than-sterling pitching debut of 20-year-old Greenville native Shoeless Joe Jackson.

The fourth and final Greenville pitcher to take to the mound in the mid-week afternoon game, Jackson is "wild as a buck" and plunks five different Electricians in his three innings of work. Among Jackson's victims are future major league first baseman Eddie Hohnhorst (foot) and 18-year-old third baseman Lee Meyers who suffers a broken arm from one of Jackson's errant fastballs.

A REGULAR FARCE AT GREENVILLE

Special to The Observer.

Greenville, S. C., June 4—The game this afternoon was a regular farce. Anderson batted Tribble, Laval and Barre out of the box and finally in the eighth inning Joe Jackson was sent in. He held the visitors safe but they had already scored fifteen runs. The locals, after they saw that the game was lost, turned it into a joke, allowing the visitors to do as they pleased. The farce was rather enjoyed by the crowd, the grandstand being in a roar of laughter most of the time.

Meyers, the visitors' third sacker, was hit on the arm in the last inning and painfully hurt. His arm was not broken, however.

There were no features at all to the game.

		R	H	E
Greenville	.. 300 000 001—	4	8	1
Anderson	... 040 132 500—	15	17	2
Batteries	Tribble, Barre	Laval,		
	Jackson and Kelly	and Midkiff	Oak-	
			ley and Cooper.	

Light-hitting outfielder George Schmick, who hits an even .200 in 66 games for the Electricians that summer, gets into the act with a second inning home run off of 30-year-old Greenville starter Walter Tribble.

The following day, an angry *Anderson Mail* takes Stouch to task:

"There is another kick against that game yesterday. After Anderson had won Stouch put the Greenville's team mascot, a lad of 9 or 10 years, in center field. That should not be allowed. Such action should be taken to headquarters for judgment, and it is believed that it will be.

It does seem that there should be some rule against the managers putting in men in the box who are not pitchers. Jackson hit and severely hurt five of Anderson's players in the three innings he pitched yesterday. He hit Meyers and broke his arm. Hohnhorst got one on his feet, and he is in bad trim. Three other players suffered likewise."

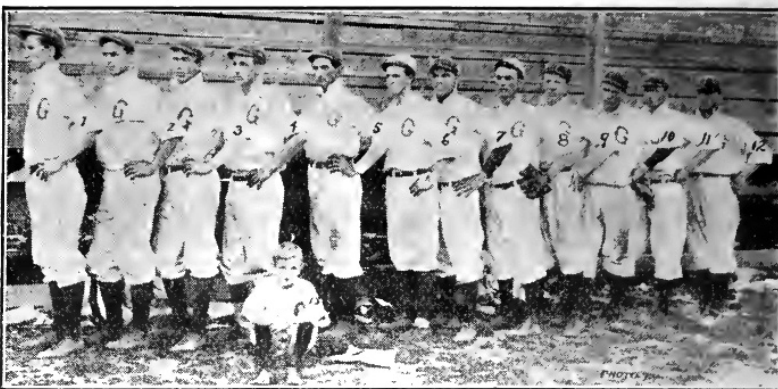
The grand stand and bleachers yesterday were severely down on Stouch for putting Jackson in the game. It was said on all sides that Stouch put him in to cripple Anderson's men. I don't believe that he did it with this intention, but there should be some rule against a manager putting in the box an inexperienced man. He cripples the opposing team, and Anderson can't stand any crippling.

After Anderson had knocked out of the box three of Greenville's pitchers and after the game was conceded to Anderson, Joe Jackson, Greenville's center fielder was sent



GEORGE SCHMICK
Released on May 12 by the Augusta Tourists, George "Doc" Schmick is signed by Anderson four days later ... the Cincinnati native begins his career in 1906 as a pitcher with the Canton Chinamen of the Central (B) League ... on August 13, 1906, Schmick allows the American League's Washington Senators only six hits in a 3-1 exhibition game loss played in Massillon, Ohio ... Schmick will play nine seasons in the minor leagues, ending in 1914 with the Central League's South Bend Greens.

1908 Greenville Spinners



1, Pressly; 2, Clark; 3, Tribble; 4, Barr; 5, Jackson; 6, Scott; 7, Stouch, Mgr.; 8, McFarlin; 9, Quigley; 10, Brumfield; 11, Laval; 12, Kelly; 13, Eskew, Mascot.
Wheeler & Son, Photo.
GREENVILLE TEAM—CAROLINA ASSOCIATION.

in by Stouch to complete the game. Jackson was as wild as a buck. He is no pitcher, and he has never claimed to be one. His aim seemed to be to hurl the ball as hard as he could with no real objective point.

Shoeless Mound Debut [2 of 2]:

He hit several of Anderson's players, five in fact. Hines told his men to go to the bat and strike out. The game was won and Anderson could not afford to have her players subjected to the fire of a gatling gun which was firing at random. Well, Meyers came to the bat. He is a left handed batter, as you know. Jackson delivered a swift ball, which struck Meyers on the right arm just above the elbow. Everybody on the grand stand heard Meyers' arm pop.

Isn't that horrible? It is really more dangerous than charging up San Juan Hill with Teddy or playing football. But they have queer baseball ideas in the shadow of Paris Mountain."

With the loss, Greenville's lead over second place Spartanburg, a 7-3 winner over last place Charlotte, drops to two games, while Anderson improves to 12-18.

Lee Meyers, third baseman on the Anderson baseball team, who had his arm broken by a thrown ball while at the bat in Greenville recently, has been sent to his home in Cincinnati. So well liked here is Meyers that the fans voluntarily presented him with a purse containing \$114. The baseball association also decided to remit him his salary every two weeks. Meyers is quite popular among the fans here, and the accident has taken a good man off the Anderson team. It has developed that Manager Dexter, of Augusta, offered Anderson \$300 for him on the day before the accident. The lad is only 18 years of age.—Greenville News.

LEE MEYERS

One week after having his arm broken by Jackson's pitch, Anderson's Lee Meyers returns to his Cincinnati home \$114 richer courtesy of grateful fans ... Meyers is hitting .196 (11-for-56) in 20 games for the Electricians at the time of his injury ... on July 14, 1909, following a bidding war between the Brooklyn Superbas and the Boston Doves, Meyers is sold to Brooklyn for \$1,200 - a record paid for a player from the Carolina Association ... Meyers makes his major league debut on September 26, 1909, collecting two hits in four at bats in a 4-to-2 loss to Cincinnati at the Reds' Palace of the Fans where Meyers had previously been an assistant ground keeper.

Carolina League Standing.

	Won.	Lost.	P.C.
Greenville.. . . .	19	11	.633
Spartanburg	17	13	.567
Winston-Salem	15	12	.556
Greensboro	14	13	.519
Anderson	12	18	.419
Charlotte	9	19	.321

Greensboro eventually captures the league championship on the second to last day of the season, finishing with a 51-38 mark, edging out Greenville (48-36) by a mere .002 percentage points. Jackson captures the league's batting title with a .346 average while Hohnhorst finishes sixth at .293.