

Herman Fink, "Textile League Graduate"

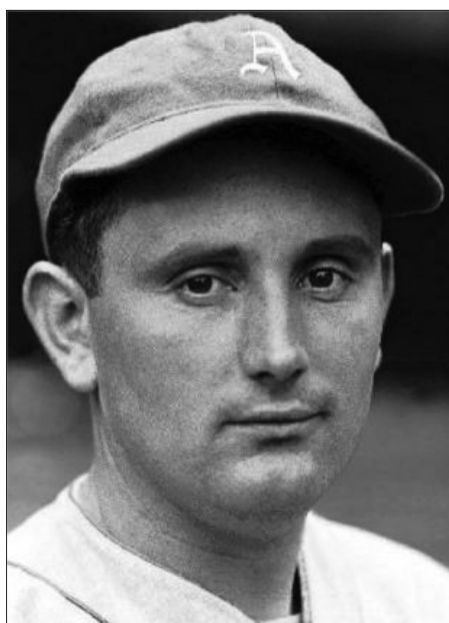
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On September 16, 1935, Concord, North Carolina native Herman Fink makes the unlikely leap from the semipro Carolina Textile League, where is 13-6 with the Landis Cardinals, to the major leagues when he makes his major league debut in Philadelphia's Shibe Park with a 4 1/3 inning relief performance in an 8-5 loss to the Cleveland Indians.

In front of a season-low 500 fans, Fink relieves Athletics' starter Johnny Marcum with one out in the fifth inning and gets Bill Knickerbocker and Bill Brenzel to ground out to second and short, respectively. The 24-year-old righthander allows two unearned runs on one only hit (to Knickerbocker in the seventh) one walk and one hit batsman.

In addition to his impressive mound debut, he is 1-for-2 at the plate. The loss drops the Connie Mack's Athletics to 55-81 and 33 1/2 games behind first place Detroit.

James Isaminger of *The Philadelphia Inquirer* had this to say about Fink:



Herman Fink
1936 Philadelphia Athletics

"Marcum's relief chap was no other than a great hulk of a youth from North Carolina bearing the entitlements of Herman Fink. It was the first time in his life that this giant ever looked into the whites of the eyes of major league umpires.

He never saw a big league hitter before and as for Cleveland, he thought Cleveland was a former President of the United States now dead. His grandfather voted for him down in North Carolina.

Anybody imagining that Herman Fink was to be the concoctor of guffaws, raspberries and the like had a big surprise."

Fink will play all of his three major league seasons for the Athletics (1935-37), appearing in 67 games

and finishing with a 10-20 mark, 10 complete games and a 5.22 ERA. In 284 1/3 career innings, he allows 24 home runs, including two by Lou Gehrig and one each by Jimmie Foxx, Charlie Gehringer and Joe DiMaggio. Fink's best season comes in 1936, when he is 8-16 with a 5.39 ERA and nine complete games. He also picks up three saves, good for sixth in the American League.

Fink had made his minor league debut (albeit a short one) in May of 1934 with the Charlotte Hornets of the Piedmont (B) League. After what can be termed a "less-than-successful" two-game stint (nine runs on eight hits and three walks in one inning) with Tommy Taylor's Hornets, he leaves the team and signs with the Landis (N.C.) Cardinals. As a result of his unexcused departure, Fink is placed on baseball's suspended list.

September 16, 1935
Shibe Park, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

CLEVELAND TOPS ATHLETICS BY 8-5

Philadelphia, Sept. 16 — (AP) — Cleveland took the series opener from the Athletics today, 8 to 5, before a crowd of less than 500, the season's low. Both starting pitchers, Clint Brown for the Indians and Marcum for the A's, failed to last. Brown being knocked out in the second inning. The score:

CLEVELAND (A I)

	ab	r	h	po	a	e
Galatzer, rf	4	1	1	3	0	0
Hughes, 2b	4	1	2	2	2	0
Averill, cf	5	0	0	3	0	0
Vosmik, lf	4	2	2	4	0	0
Hale, 3b	5	3	2	1	2	0
Trosky, 1b	5	1	2	9	0	0
Knickerbocker, ss	4	0	1	3	6	0
Brenzel, c	3	0	1	2	0	0
Brown, p	0	0	0	0	1	0
Pearson, p	4	0	0	0	0	0
Hildebrand, p	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	38	8	11	27	12	0

PHILADELPHIA (A L)

	ab	r	h	po	a	e
Warstler, 2b	4	0	1	0	4	1
Gramer, cf	3	0	1	5	0	0
Finney, rf	4	1	1	2	0	0
Foxx, 1b	4	1	2	10	1	0
Higgins, 3b	4	0	0	1	0	0
Johnson, lf	4	2	2	2	0	0
McNair, ss	4	0	0	3	4	0
Richards, c	4	1	1	3	0	0
Marcum, p	2	0	2	1	0	0
Fink, p	1	0	1	0	1	1
Totals	34	5	11	27	10	2

Cleveland 0 0 1 2 3 0 2 0 0-8
Philadelphia 0 3 1 0 0 0 1 0-5
Runs batted in—Johnson 2, Richards, Warstler, Higgins, Averill, Brenzel 3, Hale, Trosky, Knickerbocker 2. Two base hits—Johnson, Trosky. Home run—Johnson. Stolen bases—Hughes. Sacrifice hit—Brenzel. Double plays—Warstler, McNair to Foxx; Knickerbocker, Hughes to Trosky. Left on bases—Cleveland 7, Philadelphia 3. Base on balls off—Marcum 1, Pearson 1, Fink 1. Struck out by—Marcum 1, Pearson 1. Hits off—Brown 5 in 1 2-3 innings; Pearson 6 in 6 1-3; Hildebrand 0 in 1; Marcum 10 in 4 1-3; Fink 1 in 4 2-3. Hit by pitcher by—Fink (Hughes). Winning pitcher—Pearson, losing pitcher—Marcum. Umpires—Summers, Marberry and McGowan. Time—1:58.

Herman Fink [2 of 4]:

In his two seasons with the Cardinals, Fink becomes a Carolina Textile League star. On July 18, 1934, he strikes out a league-record 18 Concord Weavers and then follows that up with a perfect game against the same Weavers on August 31, striking out 10 in a 3-0 win.

On May 10, 1943, playing for the Landis Millers of the short-lived Carolina Victory League, Fink and teammate Reid Gowan are suspended for the remainder of the season following an attack on umpire Chock Ross in the team's season opener two days earlier.

In six minor league seasons, the strapping 6-foot-2, 185-pound North Carolinian is 33-39 with a 4.63 ERA.

On August 24, 1980, Fink passes away in Salisbury, North Carolina, at the age of 69.

Herman Fink Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Level	W-L	INN	H	BB	SO	ERA	
1931	Franklin-Hartsell		Ind.	-	-	-	-	-	--	
1932	Mount Pleasant Cadets		Ind.	-	-	-	-	-	--	
1933	Mount Pleasant Red Stockings		Ind.							
1934	Charlotte Hornets	Piedmont	B	-	1	8	3	0	9.00	
1934	Landis Cardinals	Carolina Textile	Ind.	-	-	-	-	-	--	
1935	Landis Cardinals	Carolina Textile	Ind.	13-6	-	-	-	-	--	
1935	Philadelphia Athletics	AMERICAN	ML	0-3	15.2	18	10	2	9.19	
1936	Philadelphia Athletics	AMERICAN	ML	8-16	188.2	222	78	53	5.39	
1937	Philadelphia Athletics	AMERICAN	ML	2-1	80.0	82	35	18	4.05	
1938	Buffalo Bisons	International	AA	8-8	145.0	190	59	-	6.02	
1939	2 Teams	2 Leagues	A1-AA	2-3	17.0	12	2	-		
	Buffalo Bisons	International	AA	1-1	4.0	12	2	-		
	Birmingham Barons	Southern	A1	1-2	13.0	-	-	-		
1940	Landis Senators	North Carolina	D	5-6	86.0	97	32	-	5.13	
1941	Mooresville, Landis	North Carolina	D	8-11	137.0	162	31	-	4.80	
1942	Mooresville Moors	North Carolina	D	0-0	-	-	-	-	--	
1943	Landis Millers	Carolina Victory	Ind.	0-0						
1943	Erwin Aces	Appalachian	D	1-6	53.0	59	22	-	--	
1944	2 Teams	2 Leagues	A-AA	9-5	129.0	141	70	14	5.09	
	Toledo Mud Hens	American Assoc.	AA	0-2	30.0	44	17	14	9.90	
	Elmira Pioneers	Eastern	A	9-3	99.0	97	53		3.64	
Major League Totals				3 Years	10-20	284.1	322	123	73	5.22
Minor League Totals				6 Years	33-39	567.0	661	389	14	4.63

FINK CHRONOLOGY:

July 19, 1934

Landis Cardinals' 22-year-old Herman Fink, with "blinding speed," strikes out a Carolina Textile League record 18 Concord Weavers in a 14-1 win ... Rusty McCall accounts for the Weavers' lone run with a home run ... Landis and Concord are 9.6 miles apart.

August 31, 1934
Landis, North Carolina

HERMAN FINK HURLS A NO-HIT CONTEST

(Special to Daily News)

Landis, Aug. 31.—Herman Fink entered the hall of fame by pitching the perfect game, no hits, no runs, no man reached first base, in an hour ball game in which Landis defeated Concord, 3 to 0, in the Carolina league. Fink struck out 10 men and led in hitting with a double and single. Hickory plays at Landis next Wednesday in their series.

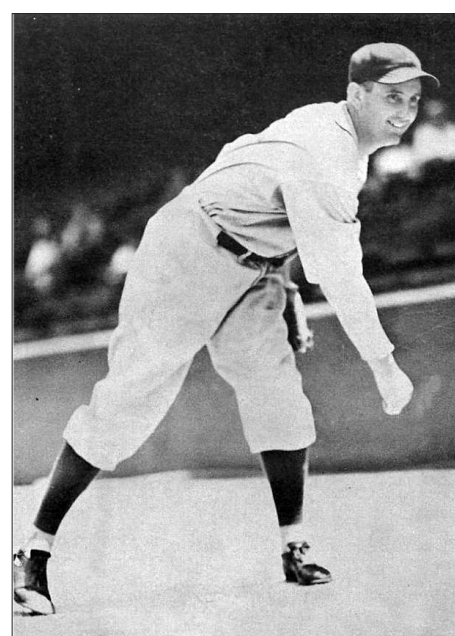
Score by innings: R H E
Concord 000 000 000—0 0 1
Landis 003 000 000—3 0 0
Batteries: Page and Burns; Fink and Hahn.

◀ August 31, 1934

Fink pitches a perfect game against the Concord Weavers in a Carolina Textile League game ... striking out 10, Fink bests Concord ace "Red" Page 3-0.

September 16, 1935

Fink makes his major league debut with Connie Mack's Philadelphia Athletics in an 8-5 loss to the visiting Cleveland Indians ... relieving starter Johnny Marcum with two outs in the fifth inning, Fink allows two earned runs on one hit, one walk and one hit batsman in 4 1/3 innings.



Herman Fink
1936 Philadelphia Athletics

Herman Fink Hurls Landis To Victory Over Lexington

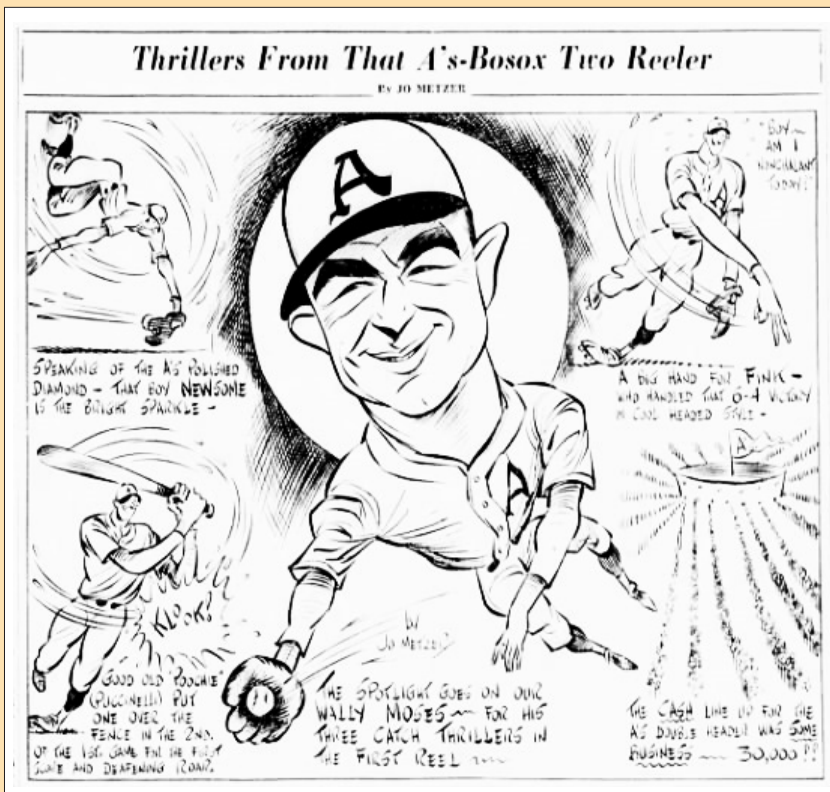
Former Philadelphia Athletics Pitcher Returns to Landis to Hurl Win Over Indians—Two Home Runs Account For All Three Lexington Scores.

LANDIS, July 22.—Two home run balls gave Lexington three runs here this afternoon but otherwise Herman Fink, late of the Philadelphia Athletics, by way of Buffalo, had things his own way and the Landis Senators copped the North State loop contest, 6 to 3.

Herman Fink [3 of 4]:

May 30, 1936 ▶

Fink out-duels Greensboro native Wes Ferrell en route to picking up his first major league win, and complete game, with a 6-4 win over the Boston Red Sox in the first game of a doubleheader ... "although his offerings were hit on the nose by each and every batter, and his teammate were stopping a barrage of line drives in self defense, he was nicked for only three official hits in the first seven innings," Fink allows eight hits and walks three and does not strike out a batter before 28,450 Shibe Park fans.



May 30, 1936

Shibe Park, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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In a battle of Tar Heel twirlers, Fink outduels Greensboro native and 193-game winner Wes Ferrell in the first game of a double-header.

Rookie Conquers Ferrell; Red Sox Bag Nightcap

PHILADELPHIA, May 30 (AP)—

The Athletics and Boston Red Sox divided a doubleheader before Shibe Park's record crowd of the season, 28,450 paid, Saturday. The Mackmen won the first game, 6 to 4, and the Red Sox the second, 6 to 2.

Wally Moses' single, scoring Finney and Warstler in the seventh inning, provided the margin of victory by which Herman Fink, rookie righthander, defeated Wes Ferrell in the opening game.

BOSTON		PHILADELPHIA	
	B.H.O.A.		B.H.O.A.
Melillo, 2b.	3 0 2 4	Finney, 1b.	4 1 11 0
Aimada, lf.	3 1 3 0	Warstler, 2b.	3 0 6 4
Cooke, rf.	4 2 2 0	Moses, cf.	4 1 2 0
Foxx, 1b.	4 1 6 0	Puccinelli, rf.	3 2 2 0
McNair, ss.	3 2 2 1	Higgins, 3b.	3 1 1 3
Werber, 3b.	4 1 3 2	Johnson, lf.	3 1 1 0
Cramer, cf.	4 0 4 1	Newsome, ss.	4 2 1 7
Berg, c.	3 1 2 1	Hayes, c.	2 0 3 0
zMiller...	1 0 0 0	Fink, p....	4 0 0 0
Ferrell, p.	3 0 0 0		

Totals. 32 8 24 9 | Totals. 30 8 27 14
 zBatted for Berg in ninth.
 Boston000 100 021— 4
 Philadelphia013 000 20x— 6

with a 4.05 with the Athletics in 1937 while Archer spent most of the season with the William-sport Grays of the Eastern (A) League, compiling a 10-16 with a 4.16 ERA.

FINK STOPS MOORS WITH FIVE HITS, 4-1

(Special to Daily News)

LANDIS, April 26.—After losing to Mooresville last night, 5 to 4, the Landis Senators came back tonight to hand the Moors a 4 to 1 defeat in the local opener of the North State loop.

Herman Fink gave the Moors only five hits and after the second inning he was never in trouble.

The line score: R. H. E.
 Mooresville ... 010 000 000—1 5 2
 Landis ... 002 010 01x—4 10 2
 Lassiter and Hicks; Fink and Tyler.

March 5, 1937 ▶

While at spring training in Mexico City, Fink has tea with United States Ambassador Josephus Daniels ... eight North Carolinians on Athletics spring training roster and attend the reception.

July 17, 1936

Fink lasts only 3 2/3 innings, allowing four runs on six hits and three walks in a 9-8 loss to the Detroit Tigers ... with his 17th appearance of the season and 22nd since joining the team the previous September, he becomes the "oldest man in point of service" on the Athletics' staff.

January 7, 1938

The Philadelphia Athletics announce the sale of Fink and pitcher Fred Archer to the Buffalo Bisons of the International (AA) League ... Fink was 2-1

July 22, 1939

Released by Buffalo after allowing 12 hits in his first four innings with the Bisons, Fink signs with the Landis Senators of the North State (D) League and pitches a five-hit complete game 6-3 win over the visiting Lexington Indians.

◀ April 26, 1940

Landis, behind the five-hit pitching of Fink, defeats the Mooresville Moors 4-1 in its home opener of the North State (D) League.

Mack Takes Tarheels to Tea With Ambassador

Mexico City, March 5—(AP)—Connie Mack took six of his Philadelphia Athletics who hail from North Carolina to tea today with United States Ambassador and Mrs. Josephus Daniels, whose home is in that state. The Tarheel guests were pitchers Grimes Parker of Cooleman, Fred Archer of Landis, Herman Fink of Concord and Lee Ross of Norwood; second baseman Richard Culler of High Point and outfielder Floyd Yount of Newton.

CANNIBAL MULE

May 19, 1941

Davie Mule Gets Chicken Appetite

(Special to Daily News)

SALISBURY, May 19.—George Peebles, Davis county negro farmer, has a mule that has turned cannibal and also developed an appetite for "table" food, chicken in particular.

He likes chickens so well—even on the hoof—that Peebles has been forced to build a wire fence to protect them from his mule.

"I want my chickens," he said, "but I want my mule too. He's a good animal even if he does like our food better than feed."

On one occasion the 12-year-old mule, hungry after carrying the Peebles family to church in the farm wagon, ate the entire lunch that had been put up for the event.

Herman Fink [4 of 4]:

Fink And Gowan Are Suspended

CONCORD, May 10. — C. M. Lewellyn, president of the Carolina Victory league, has suspended Herman Fink and Reid Gowan, Landis pitchers, for the remainder of the season for their part in the argument at Landis last Saturday evening when Umpire Ross was attacked by Fink and Gowan.

Fink, hurling for the Landis team, didn't agree with Umpire Ross on ball and strike decision's after he had been touched for several straight hits. He charged in off the mound, words followed, and Fink threw the ball at the ump. Gowan came into the argument, catching hold of Ross, and in the scuffle that followed the ump was hit.

Lewellyn stated in handing down the decision: "We just can't have anything like that happening in the league. Therefore, I have suspended Fink and Gowan for the remainder of the season."

Fink is a former big leaguer with the Philadelphia Athletics and for several years was an umpire in the North State league, deciding this year to try a comeback in baseball as a pitcher with Landis.

Gowan is a former Lexington Indian hurler and spent last season with the Landis team.

January 15, 1941

Coming off a 5-6 season for the Landis Senators, Fink signs with the Kannapolis Towlers of the North State (D) League.

April 23, 1941

To get within the player classification limits, Kannapolis sends Fink to the Mooresville Moors.

May 24, 1941

Pitching for the Mooresville Moors, Fink beats Landis 7-2, allowing only six hits in the process.

July 1, 1941

Salisbury's Harold "Slugger" Harrigan hits three of his league-leading 26 home runs off of Mooresville's Fink, and drives in five runs, in a 12-3 Giants win ... Harrigan will hit 221 home runs in 10 minor league seasons.

August 15, 1942

In the ninth inning of a 7-4 loss to the Thomasville Tommies, Fink is pinch hit for by 19-year-old Mooresville rookie Hoyt Wilhelm ... Wilhelm goes 0-for-1 in his pinch hitting role ... in one inning of work, Fink allows two runs on four hits and a walk in the bottom of the eighth inning in relief of starter Ralph Jordan.

◀ May 15, 1943

In the inaugural game of North Carolina's victory league, Fink and fellow Landis pitcher Reid Gowan are thrown out of the game following an altercation with home plate umpire Ross ... disagreeing with sev-

eral of ball and strike calls, Fink confronts the umpire, ultimately throwing a ball at the arbitrator ... both Fink and Gowan later "scuffle" with Ross.

May 19, 1943

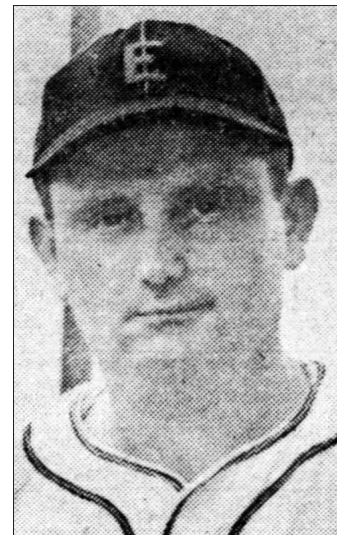
Carolina Victory League President C.M. Lewellyn suspends Fink and Gowan for the remainder of the season for their actions in the season opener five days earlier ... both Fink and Gowan surface later in the year with the Erwin Aces of the Appalachian (D) League.

April 1, 1947

Fink is one of nine umpires named to the North Carolina State opening day roster.

August 24, 1980

Fink passes away in Salisbury, North Carolina, at the age of 69.



Herman Fink
1944 Elmira Pioneers



Reid Gowan
1947 Landis Millers
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Gowan pitches 10 seasons in the minor leagues, none above D level and nine in the North Carolina State League ... despite losing two seasons to military service in WWII, the righthander wins 95 games, including 11 as a 40-year-old pitching for three different teams in his final season of 1951.