August 14, 1947

Woody Crowson

MAYODAN, NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro Patriots' veteran pitcher Woody Crowson is killed when the team bus collides with a watermelon truck owned by former major league pitcher Van Lingle Mungo. Crowson dies at 4:30 a.m., at Greensboro's Wesley Long Hospital as the result of a compound skull fracture.

The team is en route back to Greensboro following a Carolina League game in Martinsville, Virginia, when it side swipes Van Lingle Mungo's truck at 11:45 p.m. The 28-year-old Crowson is the only person to suffer an injury other than some minor scrapes and cuts caused by flying glass.



The bus, driven by third baseman James Lambe, hit's Lingle Mungo's truck on a curve at the base of a hill near the town of Mayodan. Crowson is laying down on a seat at the back of the bus and his head receives the full impact of the collision.

Crowson is 12-13 with a 3.51 ERA for the Patriots at the time of his death.

The Fuquay Springs, North Carolina, native appears in one game in the major leagues with the Philadelphia Athletics on April 17, 1945, allowing the Washington Senators two runs on two hits, three walks and two strikeouts in three innings pitched.

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