

June 28, 1915

Elmer Leifer 32 K's

In a Washington State semipro game between Ewan and Maiden, Ewan's Elmer Leifer, released earlier in the spring by the Spokane Indians, strikes out 32 batters in a 19-inning 6-4 win.

Born on May 23, 1893, Leifer begins a nine-year professional baseball career in 1916 as an outfielder/pitcher with the Butte Miners in the Northwestern (B) League. On July 21, 1921, Leifer, a 28-year-old player/manager with the Moose Jaw Millers of the Western Canada (B) League, is sold to the American League's Chicago White Sox for \$1,200. However, he will remain with the Millers for the remainder of the regular season.

The Clarington, Ohio., native makes his major league debut against the St. Louis Browns on September 7, 1921. Subbing for starting left fielder Johnny Mostil, Leifer is 1-for-2 with a ninth-inning RBI single against Browns pitcher Dixie Davis in a 10-2 loss, Leifer will play in 10 games for the White Sox that September, collecting three hits in 10 at bats (.300) with one RBI.

After being one of the last players cut by the White Sox coming out of spring training in 1922, Leifer signs on with the Little Rock Travelers of the Southern (A) Association. He is batting .329 in 24 games when on May 10, he collides with shortstop Travis Jackson in game against the Atlanta Crackers that fractures the frontal bone in his head and forces the removal of his left eye. The league begins a fund raising effort to assist Leifer, now recovering in a Chicago hospital and a total of nearly \$5,000 is raised.

Leifer unexpectedly returns the following season and hits .242 (36-for-142) with the Minot Magicians of the North Dakota (D) League. He will play two more years in Saskatchewan, Canada, in 1925 and 1926.

SOUTHPAW SETS RECORD

Elmer Leifer Strikes Out 32 Men in 19-Inning Game.

SPOKANE, Wash.—Elmer Leifer, a left handed pitcher of Ewan, Wash., who was with the Spokane Northwestern league team at the Boyes Springs, Cal., training camp in the spring of 1914, set a new record Sunday for semi-professional baseball for the northwest, if not for the entire United States, when, in a 19-inning game at Malden, Wash., he struck out 32 of the Malden batsmen. He won his game for Ewan 6 to 4.