Barney DeForge "Luckie No More"

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On a seasonably warm Friday evening in Winston-Salem's venerable Southside Park, the homestanding Cardinals, behind the two-hit pitching of lefty Jack Frisinger, take the measure of visiting Reidsville 5-0 in one of four Carolina (D) League games played that day.

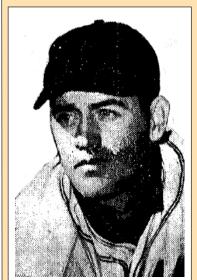
At first glance, it seems like just another day of minor league baseball in the Tar Heel State.

After all, Winston-Salem, the league's preseason favorite, currently resides in first place with an impressive 18-7 mark while the fifth-place Luckies drop to 9-12 and a full seven games behind their hosts.

And being shutout by the 20-year-old Frisinger, a rising star in the St. Louis Cardinals farm system, comes as no surprise to Carolina League fans. Said "to be faster than Harvey Haddix," the burgeoning Cardinals ace limits the Luckies to a pair of singles en route to securing the third of an eventual team-high 18 wins. The 6-foot-1 Kalamazoo, Michigan, native strikes out seven and walks three in the route-going effort.

However, several events that take place during the game that are suspicious and, unfortunately, a harbinger of problems to come, both for DeForge and the Carolina League.

First, Winston-Salem officials report to the police there is a person in the stands "making heavy bets," giving Reidsville and two runs which meant that if the Cardinals won by three or more runs, he will win all bets placed.



Barney DeForge Reidsville Luckies - 1948

In his previous two seasons with Cambridge of the Eastern Shore League (1946) and Natchez of the Evangeline League (1947), the right-handed De-Forge walked only 39 batters in 274 innings ... with the Luckies (other than his one inning against Winston-Salem on May 14) DeForge had walked only four in 18 innings of work.



Ed Weingarten

Weingarten is the prinicpal stockholder and general manager of the Florence Steelers of the Tri-State (B) League and president of the Leaksville Tripletts of the Blue Ridge (D) League club ... a former general manager of the Carolina League's Greensboro Patriots, Weingarten passes away on June 9 in Greensboro from kidney failure having continually maintained his innocence.

May 14 Southsi	4, 1948 de Park	
Southside Park Winston-Salem, North Carolina		
Frisinger H	urls Cards	
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Totals 27 0 2 19 Reidsville Winston-Salem E-Downing, RBI- Mason, Frisinger, 20 Frisinger, S-Frisinge Frisinger to Frye to singer 2, DeForge 4, Abernathy 4, HOff LOB - Reidsville Wildp ItchDeForge Roytelle, Schurba	Williams, Blackwell, 	

Second, in the bottom of the eighth inning, trailing 2-0 with one man on base, Reidsville manager/pitcher Barney DeForge unexpectedly pulls starting pitcher Tal Abernathy despite the talented lefthander having allowed only seven hits to that point. DeForge, noted for his excellent control, promptly walks the first four batters he faces, and tosses in a wild pitch for good measure, as Winston-Salem tallies three more runs for a comfortable (and profitable) 5-0 win.

Third, after the game is over, several disgruntled fans come out the stands and gather around the Reidsville dugout, yelling at the players and accusing them of "laying down." The following evening, the Winston-Salem management hires plain clothes policemen to keep watch for the reported gambler, but he fails to show.

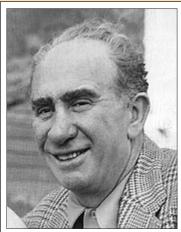
Within a matter of days, events would soon transpire that will rock the Carolina League to its core.

Gambling was reported to be heavy at Southside Side Park the previous year and club authorities thought they had it "suppressed," but reports of large sums of money being wagered that Friday night prove to be sadly accurate and the person at the very epicenter of the brewing maelstrom is Reidsville manager Barney DeForge.

Page 1 of 6:

Barney DeForge [2 of 6]:

With the stories of a "betting coup" in circulating in Winston-Salem and around the Carolina League, George M. Trautman, president of Professional baseball Leagues has DeForge and Reidsville Business Manager Phil Lundeen meet with him on May 18, in Columbus, Ohio.



George M. Trautman

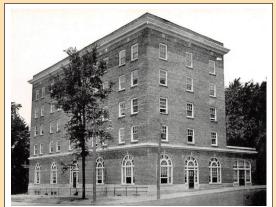
A former president of the American Association for 10 years (1936-1945) and General Manager of the Detroit Tigers for two (1946-47), Trautman is named President of the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues, succeeding William Bramham. Trautman holds that position from 1947 until his death in 1963. A three-sport letter winner at Ohio State in football, basketball and baseball, Trautman is the school's head basketball coach for three seasons (1920-1922) compiling a 29-33 record, including a 10-26 mark in Big Ten league play.

On May 22, DeForge is on the mound in the first game of a doubleheader with the Burlington Bees, when in the second inning he is handed a telegram from Trautman informing him of his suspension.

DeForge leaves the game, his baseball career likely over and his future in doubt.

On June 1st, DeForge becomes the first North Carolinian since Homer Triplett in 1946 to be placed on the permanently ineligible list of Organized Baseball.

In addition to DeForge, Trautman also suspends Ed Weingarten, the principal stockholder and



Belvedere Hotel, Reidsville, N.C.

Opened on July 1, 1922, the Belvedere Hotel in Reidsville, North Carolina, is the site of the May 10 meeting between DeForge, Ed Weingarten and W.C. McWaters where a plan to "make a lot of money out of betting on baseball games" is conceived ... Weingarten is the principal stockholder and general manager of the Florence Steelers of the Tri-State League as well as the president of the Leaksville franchise of the Blue Ridge League while McWaters is a used car salesman and professional gambler.

general manager of the Florence club of the Tri-State League and president of the Leaksville Blue Ridge League club, for his involvement in the plan.

Trautman also rules that the game of May 14 be replayed from the "point of misconduct," or as close as possible to the game situation at the end of seven and one-half innings of play.

Trautman also reveals that DeForge admitted to throwing the game in Winston-Salem for \$300. Deforge says that Weingarten and W.C. McWaters, a used car dealer in Clover, South Carolina, were involved in the arrangement. Weingarten, who was also at the hearing, denies any involvement.

Twenty-four hours later, on June 2, DeForge and Weingarten are arrested by Winston-Salem police on charges of bribery in connection with "throwing" the game. DeForge is released that

night on a \$1,000 bond, while Weingarten posts his \$2,500 bond a day later.

Police Chief John Gold says DeForge is arrested under a statute prohibiting the acceptance of bribes by players, umpires, and club officials. Violation calls for a penitentiary sentence from one to five years.

Weingarten denies he had any part in the game fixing and that he will appeal Trautman's ruling.

Both DeForge and Weingarten are ordered for a hearing on July 7 on the charges. However, before the scheduled court appearance, Weingarten enters St. Leo's Hospital in Greensboro on July 5, for treatment of a blocked kidney. Four days later, on June 9, Weingarten passes away.

DeForge says that after he walked the first batter, "I was so unnerved and upset that I didn't know what I was doing after that. I didn't really want to go on, and I was afraid not to go through with it."

On October 21, DeForge pleads guilty and is sentenced to one year in prison. Two Clover, South Carolina, used car dealers are acquitted. Five days later, saying that "Organized Baseball would not be helped by sending the convicted man to prison," Judge Allen Gwynn, after 30-minute hearing with several law enforcement officers, including former major league pitcher and current Forsyth County Sheriff Ernie Shore, suspends the one-year prison term he had given out earlier to DeForge.

Gwynn puts DeForge on probation for five years and urges him, "to rise above what has come out of this."



Hooper Triplett Columbus Red Birds -1940

On August 11, 1946, 26-year-old Columbus Cardinal outfielder Hooper Triplett becomes the first North Carolinian to be suspended from baseball for gambling

... the Triplett, North Carolina, native is fined \$500 and suspended by the South Atlantic League for betting \$20 against his team ... 10 days later, the National Association makes the ban permanent.

Barney DeForge [3 of 6]:

DeForge passes away on December 29, 1998, in Hermitage, Tennessee, at the age of 81.

DEFORGE CHRONOLOGY

May 12, 1937

Tabbed by Beatrice Blues manager Lee Riley to be the team's opening day starter, DeForge makes his organized baseball debut with a 7-4 seven-hit complete game win over the Norfolk Elks in a Nebraska State League game.



Anniston Rams -1941 DeForge is 12-11 with a 3.92 ERA for the Anniston Rams of the Southeasten (B) League .

May 25, 1938

Pitching for the Superior Blues, DeForge allows 10 hits, but strikes out 15 and walks only one en route to 5-4 complete game victory visiting Eau Claire.

July 9, 1938

Superior, behind the four-hit pitching of DeForge, knocks the visiting Crookston Pirates out of first place in Northern League with a 7-1 win.

August 14, 1938

Superior moves back into first place in a tight Northern League race with an 11-1 win over the now secondplace Duluth Dukes ... DeForge is 2-for-3 at the plate and pitches a five-hit complete game.

September 6, 1938

The Superior Telegram reports that the Brooklyn Dodgers have assigned DeForge, pitcher Dick Scott, outfielders Red Randall and Lynn Rumfield and infielder Pete Reiser to the Elmira Pioneers of the Eastern (A) League.

October 24, 1938

Selected by the Durham Bulls of the Piedmont League,



Southside Park, Winston-Salem, N.C.

Opened in 1896, Southside Park is the home field of Winston-Salem's minor league teams and the Winston-Salem Pond Giants, the town's most prominent black baseball team, until a fire destroys the grandstand in 1955. The Pond Giants began play in 1914 and continue to field a team until 1998. Named for an area along Northwest Boulevard and North Cherry Street in Winston-Salem that flooded after a reservoir broke in 1904. The team was originally known as the Old Prince Albert Pond Giants.

DeForge is one of 12 lower classification players drafted by a B league-level team in the annual minor league draft.

June 26, 1940 In his final game with the Durham Bulls, DeForge a "slender speedball merchant" shuts out the Asheville Tourists 7-0 on six hits for his 13th win in 18 decisions ... following the game, DeForge is sold on a 30-day conditional basis, to the Birmingham Barons. November 1, 1935

Barney DeForge is 18 years old when his mother Marie is murdered by his father George. Following the shooting, DeForge, a former Jersey City policeman, simply walks into the city's police headquarters and gives himself up, admitting that he had just shot his wife to death while wounding his son Francis, his daughter Grace and her husband.

EX-POLICEMAN IS HELD FOR MURDER

Surrenders After Killing His Wife and Shooting Four Others

JERSEY CITY, Nov. 2 (AP)-George De Forge, former Jersey City policeman who allegedly killed his wife and critically wounded four other persons, was ordered held without bail today on a charge of murder.

Judge Anthony Botti, who presided at the arraignment in the First Criminal Court, postponed De Forge's hearing until next Saturday pending the outcome of the injuries of the wounded. Three of the four persons were on the "danger list" at the Medical Center.

De Forge, police said, surrendered at headquarters last night and calmly admitted shooting his wife, Marie, to death and wounding his son, Francis; his daughter, Mrs. Grace Deveney; her husband, James and their guest, Fred Messenbach.

The motive for the shooting was not revealed by the authorities. De Forge will be araigned before Judge Anthony Botti in First Criminal Court.

The wounded were taken to the Medical Center where emergency operations were performed early today.

DeForge walked into police headquarters after the shooting, greeted Desk Sergeant Frank Merrigan cordially and then laid a revolver on the desk.

"Well, I guess you can't make any honorable mention out of this," Sergt. Merrigan quoted him as saying.

The sergeant said he then told of shooting his wife and the others.

The police said De Forge shot his wife in her home at 228 Dwight street, and then wounded his son. They said he next went to his daughters home at 50 Jackson street and shot the others.

June 30, 1940 Four days after being acquired from Durham, DeForge picks

Barney DeForge [4 of 6]:

up his first win for Birmingham, allowing four runs on six hits in six innings of work in a 6-4 win over the Atlanta Crackers in a Southern Association game.

May 23, 1941 The Anniston Rams acquire DeForge from the Birmingham Barons.

May 25, 1941

DeForge drives in three runs and hurls a three-hit shutout to lead Anniston to a 10-0 win over the Meridian Eagles in the second game of a Southeastern (B) League doubleheader ... the game is called at the end of the fifth inning because of the state's Sunday law.

June 29, 1941

DeForge pitches a four-hit complete victory as Anniston vacates the Southeast-

ern League cellar with a twin bill sweep of the visiting Pensacola Pilots ... DeForge strikes out five and walks a pair.

July 31, 1941

Anniston's DeForge hurls a four-hit 1-0 shutout against Meridian striking out two and walking two in the victory.

August 10, 1941

In the debut of new Anniston manager Del Moore, DeForge tosses a two-hit 2-0 shutout over the visiting Pensacola Fliers ... Moore replaces popular manager Dick Porter, who earlier in the day requested that he be released from his contract in order to "straight out business matters" at his Salisbury, Maryland, packing company ... the Rams were 49-65 under Porter and in seventh place, 23 games behind first place Mobile.

December 4, 1951

DeForge is sold to Portsmouth of the Piedmont (B) League.

April 1, 1942

After training with the Portsmouth Colts, DeForge's contract is re-purchased by the Anniston Rams.

June 1, 1942

After missing two weeks with a sore arm, DeForge returns to action with a four-hit 7-1 complete game victory over Pensacola.

June 18, 1942

Anniston president Loy Gunter announces that DeForge and 27-year-old pitcher Leo Pukas have been sold to Williamsport of the Eastern (A) on a 10-day "look basis" ... DeForge, bothered by arm soreness, is 2-4 with a 4.58 ERA while Pukas is 2-7 with a 4.44 ERA ... Pukas will take advantage of the trade going 8-5 with a 3.86 ERA with the Grays.

June 23, 1942

DeForge in his Williamsport debut, hurls a complete game 7-2 victory over the Springfield Rifles



Montreal Royals - 1943 DeForge is 12-11 with a 3.92 ERA for the Anniston Rams of the Southeasten (B) League .



Leo Pukas Utica Braves -1940

Following a failed tryout in 1935 with the Texas League's San Antonio Missions, Pukas earns a berth on the Ogdensburg Colts roster a year later and earns Canadian-American League All-Star honors as a 21-yearold rookie ... the 6'5" Pukas (Pukis) is so impressive in his professional baseball debut that is reported that "the lanky right-hander" will report to the New York Yankees once the CAML season is finished ... on August 21, 1937, pitching for Ogdensburg, Pukas becomes the first pitcher in Canadian-American League history to throw a no-hitter when he shuts down the Ottawa Braves 9-0 ... in 1940, Pukas is 17-13 with a CAMLleading 165 strikeouts for the Uitca Braves,

Barney DeForge Year by Year:

Voor	Toom	Looguo	Loval	W-L	GP	IMM	н	BB	SO	EDA
Year 1936	Team Kannady Accessistion	League 7th Word Twilight	Level	W-L	GP	INN	п	DD	30	ERA
1930	Kennedy Association Beatrice Blues	7 <u>th Ward Twilight</u> Nebraska State	<u>Amt.</u> D	8-10	28	133.0	160	67	-	6.09
								• ·		
<u>1938</u>	2 Teams	2 Leagues	D-B	<u> 19-7</u>	33	233.2	212	61	178	
<u>1938</u>	Clinton Owls	Three-I	B	0-1	3	7.2	11	2	1	
1938	Superior Blues	Northern	D	19-6	30	226.0	201	59	177	
1939	Durham Bulls	Piedmont	В	8-11	41	192.0	204	65	-	
1940	2 Teams	2 Leagues	B-A1	18-8	35	200.0	205	63	-	3.15
1940	Durham Bulls	Piedmont	В	13-5	21	135.0	125	36	-	2.40
1940	Birmingham Barons Sou	thern Association	A1	5-3	14	65.0	80	27	25	4.71
1941	Anniston Rams	Southeastern	В	12-11	27	195.0	193	71	-	3.92
1942	2 Teams	2 Leagues	B-A	4-4	8	53.0	52	14	-	
1942	Anniston Rams	Southeastern	В	2-4	8	53.0	52	14	-	4.58
1942	Williamsport Grays	Eastern	А	2-0	-	-	-	-	-	
1943	Montreal Royals	International	AA	6-8	47	154.0	135	67	66	3.51
1944	Greensboro ORD Tech-Hawks	US Army	Mil	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1945	Greensboro ORD Tech-Hawks	US Army	Mil	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1946	2 Teams	2 Leagues	D-AAA	10-7	29	158.0	138	24	79	
1946	Montreal Royals	International	AAA	2-1	6	31.0	29	10	13	
1946	Cambridge Dodgers	Eastern Shore	D	8-6	23	127.0	109	14	66	2.48
1947	Natchez Giants	Evangeline	D	12-4	23	147.0	172	25	-	3.00
1948	Reidsville Luckies	Carolina	С	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Minor	League Totals	9 Seasons		97-70	271	1465.2	1,471	457	348	

Barney DeForge [5 of 6]:

April 18, 1946

The Montreal Royals' opening day starter, DeForge scatters eight hits in a 14-1 win over Jersey City, but his performance is overshadowed by the professional debut of teammate Jackie Robinson ... Robinson has three singles and a home run in five trips to the plate.

June 5, 1946

The Cambridge Dodgers, playing under new manager Barney DeForge lose to the Centreville Orioles 9-3 in an Eastern Shore League contest ... DeForge replaces Jimmy Cooney, who resigned earlier, stating he could not play the dual role of a playing manager.

February 14, 1947

Fred Lucas, business manager of the Cambridge Dodgers, announces that Barney DeForge, who piloted the Dodgers last year, has been given his release by the Brooklyn Dodgers, sponsors of the Cambridge franchise in the Eastern Shore League ... Lucas says that a new pilot, a playing-manager with Triple A experience, will be selected within the next few weeks.

February 17, 1947

DeForgé is not unemployed very long when he is named as the manager of the Carolina League's Reidsville (N.C.) Luckies.

May 14, 1948

Reidsville of the Carolina League is trailing Winston-Salem 2-0 in the bottom of the eighth inning when Luckies manager Barney DeForge elects to replace Tal Abernathy, his starting pitcher, with himself ... DeForge walks four batters and lets go a wild pitch as Winston-Salem scores three times en route to an eventual 5-0 win.

Jack Frisinger

Columbus Cardinals -1951

Frisinger debuts in 1947 with Albany of the

Georgia-Florida League and posts a 20-7

mark while setting a league record with 289

strikeouts in 219 innings ... with Winston-

Salem in 1948, Frisinger is 18-13 and again

posts a league-leading 275 strikeouts ... in

1950, the slender lefty suffers a arm injury

and is limited to a career-low 113 innings

with Allentown ... Frisinger career is de-

railed in 1952 when he is drafted into the

US Armed Forces and sent to South Korea.

May 17,1948

Reports begin to circulate that something is remiss with the results of the Reidsville/Winston-Salem game three days earlier.

May 22, 1948
Elon College Park
Burlington, North Carolina

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A May 22, 1948

DeForge is on the mound in the first game of a doubleheader with the Burlington Bees, when in the second inning he is handed a telegram from Trautman informing him of his suspension.

May 24, 1948

Reidsville pitcher Tal Abernathy is named temporary manager of the Luckies, succeeding De-Forge who has been suspended ... under Abernathy, Reidsville wins 14 of its first 16 games.

June 1, 1948 DeForge becomes the second North Carolinian ever to be banned from organized base-

Carolina Pilot, Official Barred From Baseball on Gambling Count

ball for throwing a baseball game ... DeForge and Ed Weingarten, an official with the Florence, South Carolina, franchise of the Tri-State League and the Leaksville club of the Blue Ridge League are "banned for life" by George M. Trautman, President of the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues ... DeForge admits to Trautman that he received \$300 for making sure that the Winston-Salem Cardinals won the game by more than three runs ... Traut-

man also orders the May 14 replayed from the bottom of the eighth inning.



Tal Abernathy Reidsville Luckies -1948

A collegiate star at nearby Elon College, Abernathy is named the manager of the Reidsville Luckies on May 22, when Barney DeForge is suspended ... the Bynum, North Carolina portsider will play parts of three seasons (1940-42) with the Philadelphia Athletics finishing with an 0-3 mark and a 11.07 ERA ... he ends his career with Greensboro and Lincolnton in 1950.

> Deforge Tells Trautman He Threw Game

Pitcher-Pilot Of Carolina Club Accepted \$300

Barney DeForge [6 of 6]:



Members of the Winston-Salem Police Department who investigated and made the arrests resulting from the Winston-Salem-Reidsville game on May 14, are (L-R), Detective Captain W.R. Burke, Lt. Jim Bowles and Chief of Police John R. Gold.

June 2, 1948

DeForge and Weingarten are arrested by Winston-Salem police on charges of bribery in connection with "throwing" the game ... DeForge is released that night on a \$1,000 bond, while Weingarten, after spending a night in jail, posts his \$2,500 bond a day later.

July 5, 1948

Weingarten, a former general manager of the Carolina League's Greensboro Patriots, enters St. Leo's Hospital in Greensboro, for treatment of a blocked kidney.

July 7, 1948

With Weingarten's illness, DeForge's court hearing delayed until an appropriate date in October.

June 9,1948

October 21

Weingarten passes away from complications from kidney failure.

Ball Player Sentenced to Year in Jail

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (P)—A 31-year-old baseball manager, who turned states' evidence and pleaded guilty to throwing a Class C baseball game, was sentenced to serve a year in prison yesterday. Two other men, who pleaded innocent to the same charges, were freed by a Superior Court jury.

Bernard DeForge, former pitcher-manager of the Reidsville, (N. C.) Carolina League club was sentenced by Judge Allen H. Gwyn. W. C. McWaters and Tommy

W. C. McWaters and Tommy Phillips, used auto dealers of Clover, S. C., were acquitted by a jury, which deliberated 37 minutes.

A fourth defendant, Emmanuel Weingarten, former owner of the Florence, (S. C.) Tri-State League team, and the Leaksville, N. C., Blue Ridge League team, died before the trial.

All were charged with conspiracy and bribery in connection with the fixing of a league game between Reidsville and Winston Salem at the latter's home park last May 14.

DeForge's Baseball Penalty Suspended

dealers are acquitted.

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C. -(P) — Judge Allen Gwyn'today suspended the one-year sentence he gave to Bernard DeForge, former manager of the Reidsville Baseball Club, in connection with a baseball bribery case.

The decision was made after a 30-minute hearing in Forsyth Superior Court, Judge Gwyn ordered the one-year sentence suspended for live years.

The change in sentence, handed down Thursday, was made on the recommendation of Forsyth County Sheriff Ernie G. Shore and Chief of Police. John M. Gold.

Solicitor Waller E. Johnson, Jr., said he believed justice could be done without sending before to prison.

Two others tried with the baseball player in the case, W. C. McWaters and Tommy Phillips, used car dealers of Clover, S. C., were acquitted.

October 26

DeForge pleads guilty and is sentenced to one year in prison. Two Clover, South Carolina, used car

Saying that "Organized Baseball would not be helped by sending the convicted man to prison," Winston-Salem Judge Allen Gwynn, following a 30-minute hearing with several law enforcement officers, including former major league pitcher and current Forsyth County Sheriff Ernie Shore, suspends the one-year sentence he had issued earlier and puts DeForge on a five-year probation.

Gwynn puts DeForge on probation for five years and urges him, "to rise above what has come out of this."

December 28, 1998 DeForge passes away in Hermitage, Tennessee, at the age of