

# Gaylord Reppy, "Not the Least Bit Excitable"

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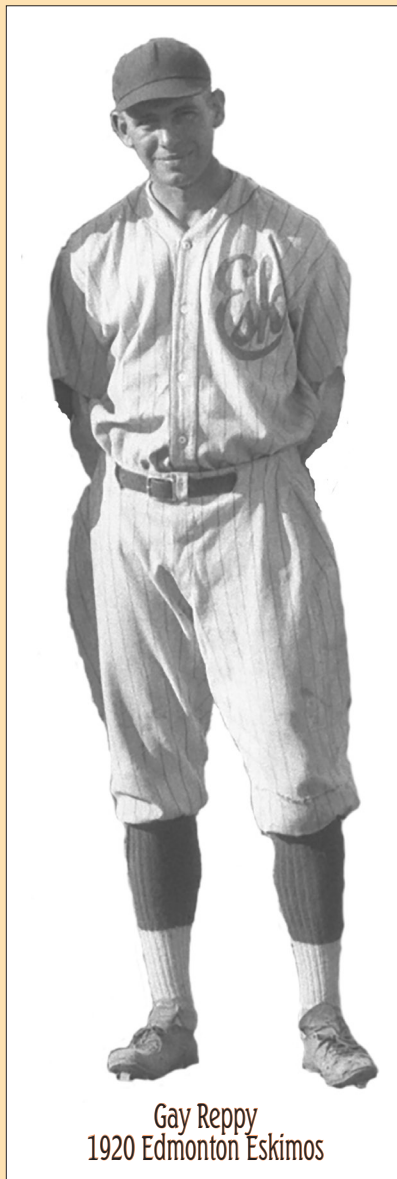
A nascent World War I is only nine days old when a strapping 16-year-old Californian with the wonderfully melodious name of Gaylord Loyal Reppy takes to the mound late on a beautiful Sunday afternoon in Oaks Park on August 9, 1914.

It's the top of the eighth inning in the second game of Pacific Coast League doubleheader with the visiting Los Angeles Angels and the teenager better known as "Gay," probably isn't aware of his lengthening shadow, or the score of the game, as he finishes his warm up tosses with Carl Mitze, an outspoken and feisty veteran catcher already in his 10th pro season, despite being only 27 years old.

But, with his future still ahead of him and fueled by the audacity of youth and adrenaline, the dark-haired Reppy, the latest addition to the Oakland Oaks' roster, responds by pitching two scoreless innings, allowing only an eighth inning triple by Angel infielder Charley Moore in the process.

Reppy has less success at the plate, striking out in the ninth inning against 35-year-old curveball artist Tom Hughes, a man more than twice his age and a 132-game winner in 13 major league seasons.

In their respective game stories, the *Oakland Tribune* refers to Reppy as "Ray Reppy, a grammar school boy." The *San Francisco Examiner* is a little more expansive, "This Gay person is large for his age, has a wide pair of shoulders and a lot of speed. Also, he is not in the least excitable."



Gay Reppy  
1920 Edmonton Eskimos

August 9, 1914  
Los Angeles Angels at Oakland Oaks  
Oaks Park, Oakland, California

## Oaks Split Double-Header and Just Do Cop Series

LOS ANGELES		AB.	R.	PH.	SB.	PO.	A.	E.
Wolter, rf.	4	2	1	0	2	0	0	0
Metzger, 3b.	4	1	3	0	1	1	0	0
Maggart, cf.	4	1	0	0	4	0	0	0
Abstejn, 1b.	4	2	1	0	11	1	2	
Ellis, lf.	5	1	4	0	1	0	0	
Moore, ss.-2b.	8	1	2	1	1	3	1	
Johnson, ss.	4	1	3	1	4	4	0	
Boles, p.	5	1	1	1	0	6	0	
Hughes, p.	5	1	1	1	0	6	0	
Page, 2b.	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>4</b>	

OAKLAND		AB.	R.	PH.	SB.	PO.	A.	E.
Middleton, lf.	5	1	2	1	3	0	0	
Guest, ss.	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	
Arbogast, 1b.	4	0	0	0	14	0	0	
Ness, 2b.	4	2	8	0	1	3	1	
Gardner, rf.	3	1	2	0	2	0	0	
Zacher, cf.	5	1	2	0	1	0	0	
Hetting, 3b.	4	0	2	1	3	2	0	
Mitze, c.	3	1	0	0	3	1	0	
Killilay, p.	2	0	0	0	0	3	0	
Pruett, p.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Christian, p.	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	
Reppy, p.	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	
Menges, ss.	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	

Los Angeles 0. 0 1 0 6 1 2 0 0-10  
Base hits..1 1 2 4 2 3 1 0-15  
Oakland ...0 1 0 2 0 0 1 3-7  
Base hits..0 1 1 2 2 1 1 1 3-13  
Six runs, 7 hits off Killilay, 17 at bat, in 4 1-3 innings, taken out in fifth, 2 on, 1 out; one run, 2 hits off Pruiett, 2 at bat, taken out in fifth, 2 on, 1 out; 3 runs, 5 hits off Christian, 12 at bat in 2 2-3 innings. Charge defeat to Killilay. Three-base hits—Metzger, Wolter, Ness, Moore. Two-base hits—Ellis (2), Johnson. Sacrifice hits—Moore (2), Gardner, Boles, Wolter. Sacrifice fly—Gardner, Arbogast. Bases on balls—Off Hughes 2, off Killilay 2. Struck out—By Hughes 2, by Killilay 3. Hit by pitcher—Wolter by Killilay. Double plays—Hughes to Johnson to Abstejn. Passed ball—Boles. Left on bases—Los Angeles 9, Oakland 8. Runs responsible for—Hughes 3, Pruiett 1, Killilay 5, Christian 3. Time of game—2h. 07m. Umpires—Hayes and Gutrie.

### Butte Man, Victim of Bandit, Succumbs

BUTTE, July 5.—(AP)—Gaylord Reppy, 34, former baseball pitcher, died in a hospital here early this morning from a bullet wound in his back.

Officers said he was shot in the back by a holdup late last night at his gasoline station on Butte's west side. They said he was placing the receipts of the evening in a sack when the holdup stepped into the station and commanded him to raise his hands.

He complied and the bandit took the sack. Reppy told officers, just before he died, that as the bandit took the sack he (Reppy) half turned and took a step. The bullet struck him in the back a moment later.

It will be his only appearance in an Oak uniform that season. The following fall, he enters Santa Clara University before transferring to St. Mary's College in time for the 1916 season. Leaving college to pursue a promising baseball career, Reppy will pitch briefly in two more seasons as a teenager with Oakland in 1916 and with the Seattle Giants a year later.

It won't be until July 7, 1920, that Reppy, now with the Edmonton Eskimos, wins his first career game after four years and five decisions, when he goes eight innings in a 6-4 win over the Saskatoon Quakers.

## Gay Reppy [2 of 5]:

Still only 21 years old, 1920 proves to be an interesting season for Reppy as he plays for three Western Canada League team, including Edmonton three times. Starting the season with the Eskimos, Reppy is 1-6 when he is either traded, or loaned, to the Winnipeg Maroons for one-game on June 27.

Returning to Edmonton for another two starts, Reppy is then dispatched to the Saskatoon Quakers for five games, including an 8-2 game win over the Eskimos on July 12. The travelled one returns to Edmonton during the first week in August.

Finishing his career with a one-game appearance for the Quincy Redbirds in 1927, Reppy exits the minor leagues with a 42-44 mark in 133 appearances spanning nine minor league seasons.

Following his diamond career, Reppy moves his family first to Billings, Montana, before eventually relocating some three hours west to Butte. It's at his gas station in Butte, that on July 4, 1934, that his life comes to a tragic end when during a robbery, and after surrendering that night's receipts of over \$100, he is shot in the back by an unmasked bandit.

The 36-year-old Reppy dies at midnight at Butte's St. James Hospital. Police later arrest and charge Charles Ludtke, alias Lawrence St. Clair, with Reppy's murder.

Born on June 1, 1898, in Fisher, Polk, Minnesota, Reppy is variously listed as both a left-handed and right-handed pitcher. However, during his tenure in the Pacific Coast League, he is more often listed as a right-hander.

## REPPY CHRONOLOGY

July 30, 1914

After several weeks with the Oakland club, Reppy and shortstop Gussie Smith are told by manager Tyler Christian that they will be released soon ... Smith will get into one game with the Oaks, going hitless in four at bats.

August 9, 1914

Reppy, a "husky grammar school pitcher" from Oakland makes his professional baseball debut as a 16-year-old with the Oakland Oaks, pitching two scoreless innings in a 10-7 loss to Los Angeles in the second game of a Pacific Coast League doubleheader.

## Gay Reppy Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Level	W-L	GP	INN	H	BB	SO	ERA
1912	Baracas	Examiner League	Amt	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1914	Avalons	Industrial League	Amt	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1914	Oakland Oaks	Pacific Coast	AA	0-0	1	2.0	1	0	0	0.00
1915	Santa Clara University	California Collegiate	College	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1916	St. Mary's College	California Collegiate	College	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1916	Jerome	Southern Idaho	SPro	1-3	4	36	16	-	-	--
1916	Oakland Oaks	Pacific Coast	AA	0-0	2	5.1	9	2	1	13.50
1917	Seattle Giants	Northwestern	B	0-3	3	8.1	2	3	4	--
1917	Willits (Calif.)	-	SPro	0-2	3	-	-	-	10	--
1917	Berkeley Maccabees	East Bay Cities	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1917	Vampires (Oakland)	-	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1917	Southern Pacific	East Bay Cities	SPro	1-2	-	-	-	-	-	--
1918	Wedgewoods	Mission	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1918	Melrose	Mission	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1918	Vampires (Oakland)	-	SPro	16-3	-	-	-	-	-	--
1918	US Shipping Board	-	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1919	Maxwell Hardware	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1919	Modern Woodman of America	-	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1919	Moore Shipyard	-	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
<b>1919</b>	<b>2 Teams</b>	<b>1 League</b>	<b>AA</b>	<b>0-2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>--</b>
	Portland Beavers	Pacific Coast	AA	0-2	3	14.2	17	4	9	--
	Los Angeles Angels	Pacific Coast	AA	0-0	1	2.0	7	4	1	--
1919	Twin Falls (Idaho) Greys	-	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1919	Union Construction	Tribune Midwinter	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1920	Ambose Independents	-	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
<b>1920</b>	<b>3 Teams</b>	<b>1 League</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>3-12</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>118.2</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>--</b>
	Edmonton Eskimos	Western Canada	B	2-9	10	74.1	81	40	41	--
	Winnipeg Maroons	Western Canada	B	0-1	1	10.1	13	7	3	--
	Saskatoon Quakers	Western Canada	B	1-3	5	34.0	39	14	6	--
1921	Mayrose Butters	Tri-County	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1922	Mel Anderson's Smart Set	Tribune	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1922	Boyes Springs (Calif.)	California	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1923	Vernon Tigers	Pacific Coast	AA	0-2	7	34.0	41	17	11	7.68
1923	Independent Order of Forresters	Midwinter	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1924	Anaconda Copper Mines	Mines	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1924	Independent Order of Forresters	Midwinter	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1925	Independent Order of Forresters	Midwinter	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
<b>1925</b>	<b>2 Teams</b>	<b>2 Leagues</b>	<b>B/AA</b>	<b>15-10</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>210.1</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>--</b>
	Syracuse Stars	International	AA	0-0	9	14.1	22	10	4	--
	Quincy Red Birds	Three-I	B	15-10	27	196.0	212	88	-	4.87
1926	St. Joseph Saints	Western	A	13-11	49	222.0	280	95	-	--
<b>1927</b>	<b>2 Teams</b>	<b>2 Leagues</b>	<b>B/A</b>	<b>1-4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>37.1</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>--</b>
	Amarillo Texans	Western	A	1-4	11	35.0	56	18	11	--
	Quincy Red Birds	Three-I	B	0-0	1	2.1	5	4	1	--
1927	Anaconda Copper Mines	Mines	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1928	General Petroleum	Oakland Winter	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1928	Klamath Pelicans	Oregon-California	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1928	Twin Falls Bruins	Utah-Idaho	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1928	Kelso (Wash.) Red Wings	Lumber	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1929	Johnson Clothiers	Oakland Winter	Spro	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
<b>Minor League Totals</b>			<b>9 Seasons</b>	<b>42-44</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>521.2</b>	<b>589</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>--</b>

## Gay Reppy [3 of 5]:

March 24, 1915

Reppy pitches a complete game five-hitter as Santa Clara improves to 2-1 on the year with a 3-2 win over Stanford.



Gay Reppy  
1915 Santa Clara University

June 26, 1915

*The Oakland Tribune*, in announcing that Santa Clara star left-hander Tom Hickey has signed with the PCL's Portland Beavers says, "Though no one is supposed to know it, young Reppy, a right-hand pitcher at Santa Clara University, is already signed to an Oakland contract."

September 5, 1916

Reppy makes his second career appearance for the Oakland Oaks, allowing five runs on five hits, two walks, a hit batter and a wild pitch over 2 1/3 innings in a 13-5 loss to Salt Lake City.

January 29, 1916

The outlook for the St. Mary's College baseball team is "brighter" with the "acquisition" of former University of Santa Clara pitcher Reppy.

May 29, 1916

Pitching for Jerome in the semipro Southern Idaho League, Reppy allows only one hit in a 5-1 win over Kimberly.

May 9, 1917

Reppy is 0-3 in three appearances with the Seattle Giants when he and fellow pitchers Fred Libke and "Dutch" Rock, are released as the team attempts to get down the league roster limit of 15.

May 12, 1917

Reppy signs with a semipro team from Willits, California, where he likes the fans so much he elects to stay the summer.

September 15, 1917

In a "remarkable baseball game" that goes 20 innings, the Naval Training Station beats the Vampires of Oakland, 1-0 ... Reppy strikes out 13 and allows nine hits, but is out-pitched by the Sailors' Brouse who yields but five hits and strikes out 23 ... the game's lone run is unearned.

July 12, 1919

Reppy, who "showed nothing" and "who failed to twirl the sphere in a mysterious manner," is released by the Portland Beavers.

September 10, 1919

Reppy signs with the PCL's Los Angeles Angels.

January 11, 1920

Halton-Didier, behind the nine-hit pitching of Babe Hollis, shuts out Union Construction 7-0 ... pitching for the Construction nine, Reppy relieves Shaderi in the fourth inning and allows only one run and one hit, one walk and three strikeouts six innings of work ... Reddy also collects a single in three at bats against Hollis, a legendary pitcher in the California semipro ranks ... with the win Halton-Didier moves to 10-2 in the Oakland Tribune Midwinter League while last-place Union Construction drops to 1-11.

February 20, 1920

Still only 21 years old, Reppy is one of eight pitchers listed on the Los Angeles Angels' spring training roster.

Babe Hollis

## STANFORD PITCHER SPURNS BIG OFFER

**Babe Hollis Will Stick to Banking and Pass Up \$3000 Offer Made by the Agent of Detroit Tigers—Won't Play Professional Ball**

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 7.—It's a wise man who can let well enough alone and be perfectly happy and contented.

Therefore, "Babe" Hollis, leading semi-professional twirler of California, takes rank with Solomon.

Billy Sullivan, scout for Detroit, heard about Hollis' ability the other day, so he hied himself over to San Rafael, where Hollis works in a bank, to have a chat with "Babe."

"Would you play professional ball if I made it worth your while?" Sullivan asked Hollis. "I am prepared to offer you \$3000 a season." Sullivan was astonished when Hollis informed him that he would not play professional ball under any conditions.

Hollis will continue to handle the good folks' money of San Rafael during the week and pitch in the bushes on Sunday.

August 1916 - In a matter of one week, Stanford University star pitcher Babe Hollis turns down contract offers from both the Philadelphia Athletics and the Detroit Tigers, preferring to remain as a banker in San Rafael, California. The trip isn't a total loss for Tiger "Ivory Hunter" Billy Sullivan, who signs Colusa shortstop Len Hollywood. Hollywood will play two years with the PCL's San Francisco Seals (1916-1917) before being released.

On September 8, 1918, in the championship game of Marin County, Hollis, on loan for the game from the Navy, strikes out 24 en route to pitching a perfect game for San Rafael in a 4-0 win over the Sausalito Merchants.

### Babe Hollis Is Hero of No-Hit, No-Score Game

**BABE HOLLIS** pitched a no-hit, no-run game at San Rafael yesterday for the San Rafael Y. M. I. and defeated the Sausalito team 4-0. He struck out twenty-four men and did not allow a man to reach first base. Hollis and Tifer were the battery for San Rafael and Wosser and Smith worked for Sausalito.

The game was for the championship of Marin county and Hollis was borrowed from the Navy to win it for San Rafael.

## Gay Reppy [4 of 5]:

April 20, 1920

Reppy, now listed a southpaw, appears ready make the Los Angeles Angels' opening day roster.

May 16, 1920

After failing to make the Angels' opening day roster, Reppy makes his way north and joins the Edmonton Eskimos of the Western Canada League ... in his second Edmonton appearance, Reppy allows only five hits but Winnipeg's Lafayette Henion gets a 2-1 win.

### Young Boy Twirler Will Get Tryout

G. Reppy, a young right hand pitcher, will be given a tryout by the magnates of the Sacramento Coast League. Reppy has reported to the local team and Lewis Moreing said he expected to sign him up to-day.

He is but 22 years old, and has had experience in the Idaho and Canadian League. He was recommended to the local club by "Spike" Hennesey, former trainer of the Senators. Reppy was at the Park yesterday and showed up well in his first appearance. He is a husky lad and seems to have something on the ball. He tried out with the Oakland team several years ago when he was but a schoolboy.

May 30, 1920

"Gerald" Reppy drops his third one-run decision of the season in a 4-3 loss to Moose Jaw.

July 12, 1920

With his third team of the season, Reppy debuts with Saskatoon, allowing only six hits in a 8-2 win over Edmonton.

February 22, 1924

The Independent Order of Foresters take a 1-0 lead in the championship series of San Francisco's Midwinter League with a 14 inning, 1-0 win over Granats ... due to report to the Vernon Tigers at the end of the series, Reppy allows only seven hits, strikes out five and walks only one in picking up the win.

October 1924

St. Louis scout Charley Barrett signs Reppy to a Cardinals'

contract, who invite him to the team's spring training.

### If Gay Says So

#### Schreck Dismissed.

Umpire Schreck was dismissed by President Dale Gear, Barney Burch was advised by telephone last night from Gear's headquarters at Topeka, Kans. Burch filed a complaint against Schreck immediately after yesterday's game and with a similar "kick" from Lincoln, where there was a near riot Thursday, was enough to warrant his dismissal. Burch said that Schreck called them as he saw them but "couldn't see well enough to suit any manager." The decision on which Burch protested was a ball on Reppy of St. Joe, which he said, was a perfect strike and which he also said Reppy admitted was perfect.

May 8, 1926 - A near riot ensues in Lincoln as a result of the ball and strike decisions by Schreck, the home plate umpire. The protest, is filed by Quincy after team president Barney Burch talks with Reppy who admits that he threw a perfect pitch that was called a ball.

February 15, 1925

Pitching for the Independent Order of Foresters, Reppy is "nicked" for 11 "bingles," including three double by Gus Shur in a 6-4 loss to Fleischmanns in a San Francisco Midwinter League game.

February 28, 1925

Reppy is the starting pitcher in St. Louis' first spring training game of the year and picks up a win in a 7-6 victory over the Sacramento Salons ... Roger Hornsby drives in six of the Red Birds' seven runs while Reppy allows only two walks and one run in five innings.

March 17, 1925

Reppy makes a relief appearance against his old college, St. Mary's, in a 5-2 Cardinal win.

March 28, 1925

The Butte newspaper reports that Reppy is working out with the Pittsburgh Pirates, but "is not showing well."

April 2, 1925

The Cardinals assign Reppy to Syracuse of the International (AA) League.

May 25, 1925

Following a nine-game trial with Syracuse, the Cardinals demote Reppy to Quincy of the Three Eye (B) League.

## Fred Libke



December 1916

Despite being bequeathed a \$25,000 estate by friend August Meidbrodt, Tacoma native Fred Libke says he will continue his ambition of being a professional baseball player. Libke, 10 years Meidbrodt's junior, is called to the Astoria (Oregon) hospital following Meidbrodt's accident while on the dredge Tahoma. Unable to recognize his disfigured friend, it isn't until Meidbrodt speaks that Libke recognizes him. And it is there, in the presence of doctors and nurses, that Meidbrodt makes out his will, leaving Libke \$7,500 in cash and 15 lots in the Fern Hill district in Tacoma.

August 10, 1919

Two weeks after being asked to tryout with the Portland Beavers, Libke, a southpaw toiling for the Astoria Machine Iron team, pitches a no-hitter against Hesse-Martin, striking out 16.

August 5, 1920

Released by the Moose Jaw Millers after going winless in three decisions, Libke plays most of two months with a semipro team in Viscount, Saskatchewan, before signing with the Edmonton Eskimos. On August 5, Libke gains a measure of revenge when he shuts out the Millers 2-0 on six hits.

## Gay Reppy [5 of 5]:

May 27, 1925

Reppy makes his Quincy debut, pitching eight-plus innings, walking four and allowing 12 hits in a 9-6 win over Decatur.

July 25, 1925

For the second time in five days, Quincy Redbird right-hander Gaylord Reppy pitches a complete game shutout, striking out seven and allowing only three "scratch" singles in a 5-0 win over the Springfield Senators.



### KELSO JUMPS TO LEAD

**RYDERWOOD DEFEATED IN  
LUMBER GAME, 12 TO 2.**

**Wolves Hit Garlick and Pritchard Hard, Getting 16 Safe Blows, Including Homer.**

KELSO, Wash., July 8.—(Special.)—The Kelso Timber Wolves took first place in the Lumber league today by defeating Ryderwood, 12 to 2. Reppy fanned 12 and was never in serious danger. He also fielded brilliantly, handling eight chances. The Wolves hit Pritchard and Garlick hard. Manager Duffy drove out a homer in the first. Medlock, Hobson and McKenna, Kelso, and Swift and Keene of Ryderwood got three hits each, one of Swift's being a double; and Reppy and Burke of Kelso hit a double and single each. Swift fielded great ball at first base, and Bush of Ryderwood made a fine catch and Hobson made a great stop.

Score: R. H. E.  
Ryderwood ..... 2 10 3  
Kelso ..... 12 16 1

Batteries—Pritchard, Garlick and Shepherd, Miller; Reppy and Duffy.

Longview defeated Kalama at Kalama, 18 to 2, in a regular league game.

July 12, 1926

Reppy and catcher Floyd Lisle team for a four-hit complete game win in St. Joseph's 4-1 win over Lincoln.

July 30, 1927

Pitching for the ACM team of Anaconda, Montana, Reppy strikes out four and pitches a six-inning, eight-hit complete game 4-3 win over Anodes in the Mines League ... with the win ACM ties Anodes for last place with identical 17-23 records.

July 8, 1928

Pitching for the Kelso (Wash.) Red Wings, Reppy pitches a 10-hit complete game in a 12-2 win over visiting Ryderwood in a Lumber League contest.