

On This Date **December 10, 2002**

On December 10, 2002, following a year-long illness, former Cincinnati Reds outfielder **Michael Kosman** passes away in Lafayette, Indiana, at the age of 82.

Kosman has a brief major league career when he pinch runs for Chuck Mesner in the seventh inning of a 2-1 win over the visiting Chicago Cubs on April 20, before 897 fans at the Reds' Crosley Field.

Replacing Mesner at third base with one out, Kosman is promptly thrown out at home plate on a throw by Cubs' shortstop Bill Schuster to catcher Billy Holm. Kosman's major league career comes to a quick end when he is replaced by Chuck Aleno in the top of the eighth inning. Five days later on April 25, Kosman is sent to the Birmingham Barons of the Southern Association.

Following graduation from Hamtramck High School, where he plays football and baseball, Kosman contracts an unnamed illness and is sent to a sanitarium to recover. In the Fall of 1937, he enrolls at the University of Indiana and plays varsity baseball for three seasons (1939-1941), leading the team in hitting as a senior with a .413 batting average. On March 18, 1942, he is named the Hoosiers' freshman baseball coach.

Originally classified as 4-F, Kosman is reclassified I-A in January of 1943 and enlists in the Marine Corp on February 10. Following a quick medical discharge in early April, Kosman returns to the diamond with the Lafayette Red Sox. Following two years of minor league baseball, Kosman elects not to return to Birmingham in the spring of 1946. On August 5, 1947, Kosman is hitting .256 when the Lafayette Red Sox release him, ending his baseball career.

