

John "Tacks" Neuer, "First and Last"

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"It is reported that Neuer has developed a new pitch called the 'Milk Ball' where he wraps a small baby's rubber nursing nipple around one of his fingers, giving the ball a "decidedly different movement."

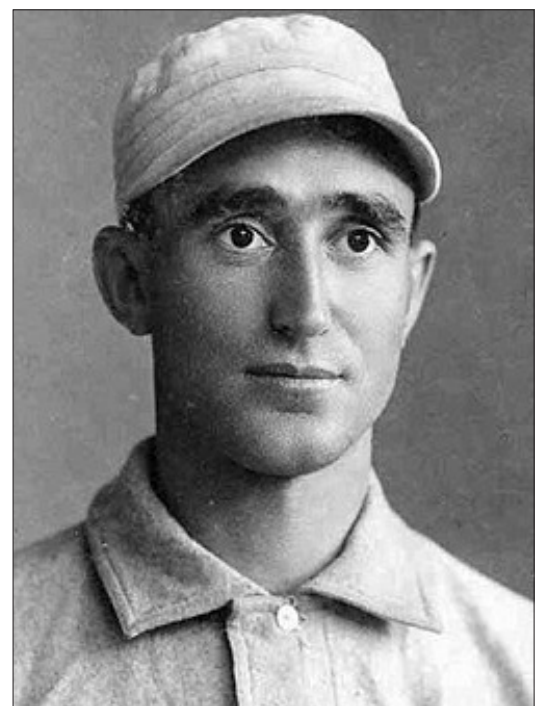
John "Tacks" Neuer, a 30-year-old rookie pitcher with the New York Highlanders takes the American League by storm late in the 1907 season. Completing each of his six starts for the Highlanders, including three by shutout, Neuer finishes his rookie campaign with a 4-2 mark and a 2.17 ERA (the league ERA was 2.54).

The mercurial left-hander is the only pitcher in major league history to pitch a shutout in both his major league debut and his final game.

Neuer is 18-14-2 with the Savannah (S.C.) Indians of the South Atlantic (C) League when his contract is purchased by the Highlanders on August 22, 1907.

Born on June 8, 1877, in Fremont, Ohio, the "Southern Southpaw" makes his major league debut on August 28, blanking the Boston Americans 1-0 on three hits. Five weeks later on October 3, Neuer concludes his stellar rookie campaign with another three-hitter in a 8-0 shutout of the visiting Chicago White Sox.

Unfortunately for Neuer, the three-hitter against the Pale Hose is destined to be his final appearance in a major league uniform.



Tacks Neuer
1907 New York Highlanders

Tacks Neuer Major League Debut
Boston Americans at New York Highlanders
Hilltop Park, New York, N.Y.
August 28, 1907

PITCHER NEUER MADE 'EM NOTICE

BOSTON.				NEW YORK.			
A.	B.	H.	P.A.	A.	B.	H.	P.A.
Barrett lf.	3	0	0	Hoffm'n cf.	4	1	1
Sullivan cf.	4	0	1	Keeler rf.	3	0	2
Cong'ton rf.	4	0	1	Elberf'd ss.	3	0	2
Grims'w 1b.	4	0	0	Mori'ty 1b.	3	0	1
Ferris 2b.	4	0	0	La Porte 3b.	4	0	0
Knight 3b.	3	0	0	Willi'ns 2b.	3	0	0
Wagner ss.	3	0	0	Conroy lf.	3	0	1
Criger c.	2	0	0	Thomas c.	3	0	0
Kroh p.	2	0	0	Neuer p.	3	0	0
*Parent	1	0	0				
†McGuire	1	0	0	Totals	29	1	7
Shaw c.	0	0	0				
Pruitt p.	0	0	0				

Totals ..30 0 3 24 16
*Batted for Criger in eighth.
†Batted for Kroh in eighth.

Boston	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New York	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

Errors, Boston, Kroh 1; New York, Hoffman 1; left on bases, New York 6, Boston 5; bases on balls, off Neuer 2, off Pruitt 2; struck out, by Neuer 6, by Kroh 1; stolen base, Moriarity; double plays, Neuer, Elberfeld to Moriarity; Criger to Knight to Ferris to Wagner; time, 1.35; attendance, 5,000; umpire, O'Loughlin.

The following year in spring training, Neuer starts experimenting with what the media of the day terms "trick" pitches including the "single" and "double" knuckleball and a "spitball." His control seemingly deserts him and he will win only three more games (in 22 decisions) during his professional baseball career.

A veteran of the Spanish-American War, a 21-year-old Neuer enlists in the military in the summer of 1898, and is discharged eight months later on February 15, 1899.

After playing several seasons with local semipro teams he makes his pro baseball debut with Wilkes-Barre of the New York (B) League in 1905.

Following a 7-3-1 mark with the Barons, the eccentric Neuer spends most of 1906 working at the Valley Hotel (right) and occasionally pitching for the semipro Hazelton Barons.

Limbering Up

December 28, 1907

Unable to restrain himself during balmy weather, Neuer gets out his glove and a ball and decides to limber up in front of the Valley Hotel in Hazelton, Pennsylvania, where he is staying. He "lines" them into a drum on Broad Street, much to the amusement of a big crowd that gathers on the sidewalk. The 43-year-old hotel is closed the following March when the property is bought by the Lehigh & Wilkes-Barre Coal Company.



Tacks Neuer [2 of 7]:

In five minor league seasons, Neuer is 28-37-3 with 54 complete games, including 10 shutouts, in 69 starts

Baseball Reference list Neuer's official height at 5 feet 8 inches, however his 1942 draft card has his height at 6-foot-1 1/4 and his weight at 138 pounds.

NEUER CHRONOLOGY

May 6, 1903

Playing with the Harrisburg Athletic Club, Neuer pitches 11-8 complete game victory over Allentown.

May 10, 1903

Acquired by Mechanicsburg from Harrisburg, Neuer strikes out nine but allows 15 hits and three walks in a 11-5 loss to his former team.

September 19, 1903

Hazleton, behind Neuer's eight-hitter, clinches the championship of Luzerne County with a 5-4 win over the Luzerne Reds.

John Neuer No-Hitter Hazleton Barons vs. Bethlehem Preparatory May 27, 1905

HAZLETON AND BETHLEHEM PREP.				
HAZLETON May 27 (Special)—Neuer did not allow Bethlehem Preparatory a hit to-day.				
The score:				
HAZLETON.		BETHLEHEM.		
P.	B.	O.	A.	E.
Brown, 3b	1	0	1	3
Walt, c.	0	2	9	1
Brad, cf.	1	0	1	0
Brehm, rf.	0	1	0	0
Kelly, lf.	0	1	0	0
McBride, 2b	0	0	0	0
Stecker, ss	0	0	0	0
Brennan, 1b	0	0	12	0
Neuer, p.	0	0	1	3
Totals	2	4	24	9
Bethlehem	1	0	0	0
Hazleton	1	0	0	0

December 12, 1904

The Philadelphia Inquirer reports that a "J.S. Neuer" of Pottsville, Pa., a southpaw pitcher who played for Cleveland in 1904, and who is employed by the Pennsylvania Railroad as a fireman during the winter, has signed with the Detroit Tigers.

◀ May 27, 1905

Starting his third season with the Hazleton (Pa.) Barons semipro team, Neuer twirls his first career no-hitter, beating Bethlehem Preparatory 2-1.

NEUER IS PROMISING BUT ECCENTRIC PITCHER



June 7, 1905

Hazleton splits a doubleheader with the Royal Giants, losing the first game 4-0 before rallying to capture the nightcap 4-2 ... Neuer starts, and completes both games for Hazleton.

July 2, 1905

Signed by Atlantic City manager Kid Melcher, Neuer walks five and allows seven hits in a 10-3 complete game victory over the P.R.R. YMCA.

July 18, 1905

Returning to Hazleton, Neuer responds with a four-hit 4-0 shutout of Lehighton.

July 27, 1905 ▶

Making his professional baseball debut with the Wilkes-Barre Barons of the New York State (B) League, Neuer allows the Syracuse Stars only one hit, by 3B George Helmund, in a 5-0 shutout.

NEUER PITCHED WELL.

Hazleton's Eccentric Twirler, the Second Rube Waddell, Did Finely.

WILKES-BARRE, July 27.—Manager Sharrott gave Neuer, an amateur from Hazleton, a trial today, and though wild, giving eight bases and hitting two men, he had good control when in a pinch and shut out Syracuse with but one hit.

Neuer is a left hander, and at the beginning of several innings had trouble in getting the ball over. In the second he passed Crisham and Crough and then retired the next three men. He pulled out of another hole in the fifth with the bases full and repeated the trick in the eighth. Syracuse's only hit came in the first, when Helmund doubled and was thrown out at third by Seigle. Neuer also helped win his own game at the bat. The locals batted Carter hard and fielded in brilliant style, and the game was cinched in the first. The score:

WILKES-BARRE.

	A.	B.	R.	H.	O.	A.	E.
O'Hara, l.f.	5	1	2	1	0	0	
Seigle, c.f.	5	1	2	1	1	0	
Smith, r.f.	4	0	1	1	0	0	
Brown, 1b.	4	0	1	14	0	0	
Donovan, s.s.	4	0	2	4	4	0	
Hinchman, 2b.	4	0	1	0	5	0	
Shaw, 3b.	4	0	1	2	1	0	
Therre, c.	3	2	2	4	0	0	
Neuer, p.	2	1	1	0	7	0	
Totals	35	5	13	27	18	0	

SYRACUSE.

	A.	B.	R.	H.	O.	A.	E.
Mylett, s.s.	1	0	0	4	3	1	
Helmund, 3b.	3	0	1	1	0	0	
Murray, 2b.	4	0	0	2	8	0	
Crisham, 1b.	2	0	0	11	0	0	
Vroughn, l.f.	3	0	0	1	0	0	
Magie, r.f.	2	0	0	0	0	0	
Trainer, c.f.	4	0	0	0	1	0	
Luskey, c.	2	0	0	5	1	1	
Carter, p.	2	0	0	0	1	1	
Totals	23	0	1	24	14	2	

Score by innings:
 Wilkes-Barre 2 1 0 1 0 1 0 0 x—5
 Syracuse 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0—0
 Summaries—Two-base hits—O'Hara, Helmund. Sacrifice hits—Neuer, 2; Therre, Magie, Carter. Stolen bases—Hinchman, Neuer. Struck out—By Neuer, 4; by Carter, 5. Bases on balls—Off Neuer, 8. Hit by pitched ball—By Neuer, 2 (Crisham, Luskey.) First base on errors—Wilkes-Barre, 1. Left on bases—Wilkes-Barre, 9; Syracuse, 8. Wild pitch—Carter. Time—1:40. Umpire—Buckley. Paid attendance—732.

Tacks Neuer [3 of 7]:

August 2, 1905

In his second start for Wilkes-Barre, Neuer strands 10 base runners en route to shutting out the Scranton Miners 6-0 on seven hits and four walks ... Neuer has three hits in four plate appearances and starts a triple play in the fourth inning that aids in the shutout.

August 10, 1905

Neuer goes 2-for-4 with a double and remains undefeated in four decisions with a 9-3 complete game victory over the Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown (AGJ) Jags.

August 18, 1905

Neuer suffers his first professional baseball defeat, losing to the Albany Senators 2-0, despite allowing only four hits ... Neuer's mound opponent, lefty Jim (Sunny Jim) Pastorius faces only 28 batters en route to a one-hit shutout ... Pastorius will later pitch four seasons in the majors (1906-1909) with the Brooklyn Superbas, finishing 31-55 with a 3.12 ERA.

August 22, 1905

Neuer moves to 5-1 on the year with a 7-1, 10-hit complete game win over the Troy Trojans.



August 25, 1905

Pitching on only two days rest, Neuer is touched up for eight hits, but improves to 6-1 on the season with a 9-5 complete game victory over the Syracuse Stars.

August 31, 1905

Neuer pitches both ends of a key New York State League doubleheader with Syracuse ... he allows two hits and strikes out three in a 2-1 complete game win in the opener ... in the nightcap, Neuer is handed his second defeat of the year, yielding six hits in a 5-0 setback.

January 23, 1906

Neuer, a brakeman for the Pennsylvania R.R. company in the off season, is reported to be recovering at a Pottsville (Pa.) hospital after a fall from a box car ... he is expected to be discharged in a few days.

Tacks Neuer Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Level	W-L	GP	GS	CG	SHO	INN	R	H	BB	SO	ERA	
1902	Sunbury (Pa.)		SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	
1903	Harrisburg (Pa.) Athletic Club		SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	
1903	Mechanicsburg (Pa.)		SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	
1903	Hazleton Barons		SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	
1903	Reading (Pa.)		SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	
1904	Hazleton Barons		SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	
1905	Hazleton Barons		Spro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	
1905	Wilkes-Barre Barons	New York	B	7-3-1	12	11	10	2	96	24	71	48	39	--	
1906	Hazleton Barons		SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	
1907	3 Teams	2 Leagues	A/C	18-15-2	34	34	33	7	315	64	212	102	187	--	
1907	Providence Grays	Eastern	A	0-1	1	1	1	0	9	5	8	4	3	--	
1907	Savannah Indians	South Atlantic	C	18-14-2	33	33	32	7	306	59	204	98	184	--	
1907	New York Highlanders	AMERICAN	ML	4-2	7	6	6	3	54	13	40	19	22	2.17	
1908	4 Teams	3 Leagues	A/B	3-18	26	23	14	1	161	100	146	96	102	--	
1908	Newark Indians	Eastern	A	1-7	10	10	6	0	60	48	52	54	38	--	
1908	Toronto Maple Leafs	Eastern	A	0-1	2	2	1	0	9	8	6	5	5	--	
1908	Little Rock Tavelers	Southern	A	2-6	10	7	4	1	61	22	50	24	22	--	
1908	Johnstown Johnnies	Tri-State	B	0-4	4	4	3	0	31	22	38	31	14	--	
1908	Carteret (N.J.)	Middlesex County	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	
1909	Rochester Bronchos	Eastern	A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	
1909	Savannah Indians	South Atlantic	C	0-0	1	0	0	0	6	3	6	3	2	--	
1910	Binghamton Bingoes	New York State	B	0-1	1	1	0	0	5	7	7	3	2	--	
1912	New York Knickerbockers	United States	Ind.	*0-1	2	1	1	0	9	11	15	7	1	--	
1913	New Brunswicks	--	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	
1914	Passaic (N.J.) City Club	Hudson County	SPro	0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	
Minor League Totals				5 seasons	28-37-3	74	69	54	10	583	198	442	252	332	--
Major League Totals				1 season	4-2	7	6	6	3	54	13	40	19	22	2.17

*denotes incomplete statistics

ML Debut: August 28, 1907, at Hilltop Park, New York, N.Y.: Started and shutout the Boston Americans 1-0 on three hits with six strikeouts and two walks.

ML Finale: October 3, 1907, at Hilltop Park, New York, N.Y.: Started and shutout the Chicago White Sox 8-0 on three hits with three strikeouts and four walks.

BULLDOG TOOK PART IN GENERAL FIGHT

Hazleton, June 23.—"Jack" Neuer, the lanky Hazleton baseball pitcher, until recently a member of the Wilkes-Barre team and a number of Lehigh University students from South Bethlehem, had a lively set-to at the Valley hotel here yesterday morning. In the melee a bulldog owned by the hotel mistook him for one of the students and badly bit him on the legs and body.

The students spent ten days here visiting the surrounding mines, to get a practical knowledge of mining engineering, and spent last night skylarking at the hotel. Neuer was a lodger, and was aroused by being struck with missiles which, he declares, were thrown through the transom of his bedroom door by the college men.

This morning he challenged any one of them to square things. A scuffle followed, and in the mix-up the hotel bulldog took a part.

Tacks Neuer [4 of 7]:

March 19, 1906

After holding out for more money, Neuer signs his contract to play a second season with Wilkes-Barre.

May 8, 1906

Three days before the season opener, Wilkes-Barre releases Neuer and youthful short-stop Bert Dow, of Denver, Colorado.

June 22, 1906

Back in Hazleton after being released by Wilkes-Barre, Neuer starts on the mound against the Philadelphia Giants, a black all-star team ... Neuer allows nine hits in a 3-0 loss.

June 23, 1906

Residing at the Valley Hotel in Hazleton, Neuer engages in a fight with several Lehigh University students after he is struck by "missiles" being thrown into his hotel room ... during the ensuing fracas, Neuer is bitten "badly" on the legs and body by the hotel's bulldog.

October 12, 1906

Despite being out of minor league baseball since May, Neuer is the starting pitcher for the Philadelphia Phillies in an exhibition game in Lock Haven, Pa., against the All Professionals ... Neuer allows four first inning runs in a game that ends in a 5-5 tie ...

playing in the bitter cold and before 1,500 fans in Lock Haven's Normal Park, both teams take the field in the ninth inning wearing winter coats ... Neuer strikes out five but allows five earned runs on 12 hits.

NEW YORK THINKS NEUER THE GOODS

New York, Aug. 29.—Boston won from the Highlanders yesterday by 5 runs to 3. Then the Broadway Swells took one from the McGuirettes that was a joy because it showed the fans the latest addition to Griffin's pitching staff, a left-hander named Frank Neuer, from the Savannah Club, who made good with a vengeance. This game the Highlanders got by 1 run to 0.

Neuer is a tall, rangy young fellow of the build, style and complexion of our old friend Roaring Bill Kennedy. He also resembles the old Brooklyn pitcher in that he hits the ball hard and on the nose and is a fearless fielder.

Neuer pitched the McGuirettes into knots from start to finish. He held them to three hits and fanned six men, Jimmy Barrett taking the count twice. The visitors' first hit was a single by Sullivan in the third inning. With two out in the eighth Jim McGuire, batting for Pitcher Kroh, cracked a single to centre. In the ninth Congalton's grounder was knocked down by Jimmy Williams, but he couldn't field the ball in time.

The young recruit issued only two passes. Barrett got one in the sixth. Sullivan hit a fierce liner at Neuer. The pitcher made a great stop and headed off Barrett at second. Congalton duplicated Sullivan's wallop. Again Neuer got his man at second, and Elberfeld and Moriarity completed the double play on Congalton.

After the game the fans surrounded the young pitcher, shaking his hand and patting him on the back.

December 18, 1906

The Philadelphia Phillies announce the signing of catchers Fred Jacklitsch and Red Dooin, and pitcher John Neuer.

April 5, 1907

Neuer pitches for the Phillies in a 14-10 exhibition game win over the Lancaster Red Roses.

April 10, 1907

The Phillies announce the sale of Neuer to Trenton of the Tri-State League.

May 10, 1907

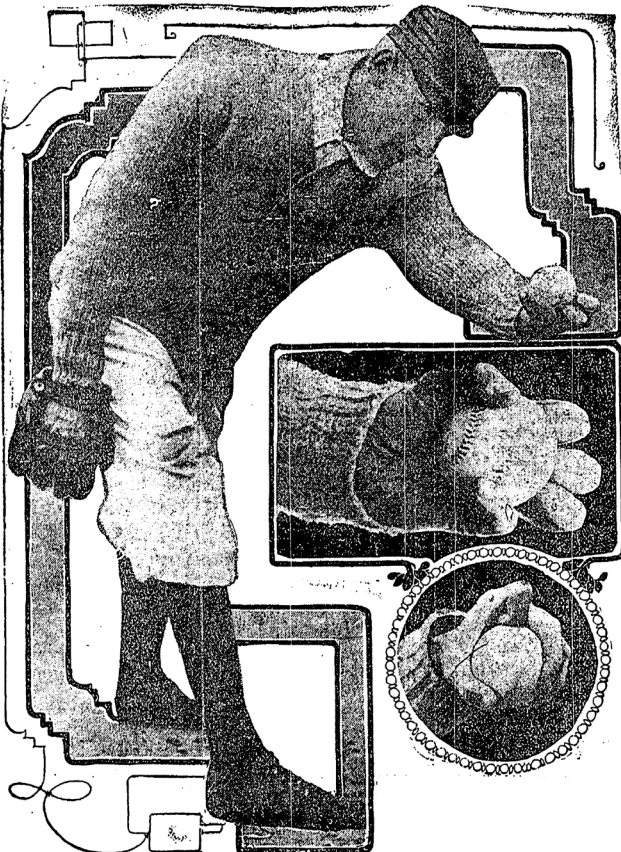
The headline in the Jersey Journal read "Newark had all the luck and won" ... the Newark Sailors take advantage of Neuer's wildness (four walks and a hit batsman) to claim a 5-to-2 victory over the Providence Grays in a Eastern (A) League contest.

May 15, 1907

Five days following his one-game stint with Providence, Neuer is on the move again, signing with the Savannah Indians of the South Atlantic (C) League.

MASTER OF "KNUCKLE BALL" ILLUSTRATES ITS DELIVERY

In these photographs Jack Neuer, the Yankees' twirler, shows the three methods of using the "knuckler" ball. The picture of the player shows how Neuer grasps the ball when using the "double knocker" style. In the lower picture the "single knuckle" style is illustrated, and the center photograph gives a good idea of how to hold the ball for the "single knuckle" throw.



Tacks Neuer [5 of 7]:

May 18, 1907

Neuer makes his South Atlantic League debut an impressive one, striking out nine and allowing only one run on two hits and one walk in a 2-to-1 complete game victory over the Columbia Gamecocks.

May 22, 1907

Neuer pitches a two-hitter as Savannah beats the Jacksonville Jays 5-0.

May 31, 1907

Neuer allows only seven hits but hits five batters as Savannah and the Macon Brigands battle to a 3-3 tie in a game that is called after 10 inning because of darkness.

Joe Briskey

September 1 1907

Diving into shallow water, 22-year-old Savannah Indians' outfielder Joe Briskey dies after breaking his neck. Briskey, a four-year minor league veteran, leaves behind a wife and a three weeks' old baby in Houston.

June 3, 1907

In one of the better pitchers' duels of the season, Macon's Jack Quinn pitches a one-hitter as the Brigands edge Savannah 1-0 ... Neuer allows only three hits and strikes out eight, but takes the loss when recently-acquired left fielder **Joe Briskey** commits a first inning error allowing the game's only run to score.

June 7, 1907

Pitching his third game in five days, Neuer snaps his two-game losing streak, pitching a six-hit, 4-1 complete game victory over Charleston.

June 11, 1907

Savannah, behind the five-hit pitching of Neuer, shutouts Columbia 2-0 ... Neuer strikes out six and walks six.

August 23, 1907

Neuer is purchased by the New York Highlanders ... the price is not announced.

August 28, 1907

Neuer makes his major league debut against Boston, limiting the visiting Red Sox to four hits en route to a 4-0 shutout victory.

October 3, 1907 ►

In his final major league game, Neuer picks up his third shutout of the season, holding the Chisox to three hits in an 8-0 win.

March 12, 1908

In a spring training game against the Atlanta Crackers, Neuer relieves starter Jack Chesboro in the fourth inning but refuses to throw a curveball because of the chilly weather, and allows four runs in two innings.

April 26, 1908

Following a rough spring training with the New York Yankees, Neuer is purchased by the Newark Sailors of the Eastern (A) League ... in his debut with the Sailors, an 8-5 loss to the visiting Montreal Royals, Neuer walks nine, hits a batter and uncorks a wild pitch and is described as being as being "wild as a March hare."

May 5, 1908

In his second start with Newark, Neuer continues to have control problems, issuing eight walks, hitting one batter and throwing a wild pitch in a 5-3 setback to the Rochester Bronchos who win the game with a 3-run ninth inning aided by a pair of walks ... in his first two starts with the Sailors, Neuer allows 13 runs while walking 17 in 18 innings.

May 18, 1908

Behind the four-hit pitching of Neuer, Newark takes over first place in the Eastern League with an 11-1 win over Rochester ... Neuer strikes out 13 and walks only two in his third complete game of the season.

John Neuer's Final Major League Appearance Chicago White Sox vs. New York Highlanders October 3, 1907

NEW YORK VS. CHICAGO AT NEW YORK
OCT. 3.—Neuer shut the White Sox out with three hits. Neither Chicago pitcher was effective. The feature was Hoffman's home-run hit to center field in the third inning. Score:

Chicago	AB	R	B	P	A	E	New York	AB	R	B	P	A	E
Hahn, rf.	4	0	1	2	0	0	Hoffman, cf	2	1	1	1	0	0
Jones, cf.	2	0	0	2	0	0	Conroy, cf.	2	1	1	1	0	0
Atz, cf.	1	0	0	0	0	0	Elberfeld, ss	3	1	1	0	2	0
Isbell, 2b.	3	0	0	1	6	2	Bell, ss.	5	0	0	0	1	0
Donohue, 1b	3	0	1	1	2	1	Chase, 1b.	3	1	2	7	0	0
Davis, ss.	4	0	0	2	5	0	Thomas, 1b	0	0	0	4	1	0
Hickman, lf	3	0	0	0	0	0	Moriarty, 3b	4	0	2	1	5	0
Rohe, 3b.	4	0	1	1	2	0	Laporte, rf.	4	1	1	0	0	0
Sullivan, c	3	0	0	3	2	0	Bell, lf.	4	0	1	5	0	0
Walsh, p.	2	0	0	0	2	0	Williams, 2b	4	2	2	3	5	0
Altrock, p.	1	0	0	1	4	0	Kleinow, c	4	0	2	4	1	0
							Neuer, p.	4	1	1	1	0	1
Totals	30	0	3	24	22	3	Totals	34	8	14	27	15	1

Chicago 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0—0
New York 0 2 2 1 0 0 3 0 x—8
Two-base hit—Williams. Home run—Hoffman.
Hits—Off Walsh 6 in three innings. Altrock 8 in five innings. Sacrifice hits—Chase, Elberfeld. Stolen bases—Isbell 2. Rohe, Moriarty 2. Chase, Neuer. Double plays—Rohe, Davis, Donohue; Moriarty, Williams, Chase. Left on bases—Chicago 7, New York 4. First on balls—Off Neuer 4. Struck out—By Neuer 3. Altrock 1. Time—1:42. Umpires—Egan and Evans. Attendance—2560.

John Neuer [6 of 7]:

May 25, 1908

Newark splits a Victoria Day doubleheader with the Montreal Royals, winning the morning contest 7-3, but losing in the afternoon by a 9-5 count ... Neuer's wildness returns as he hits four batters to go along with four base on balls while allowing 12 hits in taking the second game loss ... prior to the double header, Newark manager George Stallings promises the players a tour of Quebec city at his expense if they were to sweep the doubleheader.

June 19, 1908

Neuer returns to the Newark Indians for the second time in less than two weeks ... sent back to the Yankees twice, a confused Neuer returns to Newark manager George Stallings for assignment ... Stallings tells the media that he will "probably" start Neuer in the upcoming series with Rochester.

June 1908

Neuer, announces that he has already discovered how to evade the new "soiled-ball" rule ... Neuer plans to fill his pockets with emery dust as a first aid to the grip.

June 25, 1908

Released by Newark, Neuer signs with the Toronto Maple Leafs of the Eastern (A) League ... Neuer debuts with the Maple Leafs allowing six hits and five walks in a 7-2 loss to the Jersey City Skeeters.

July 9, 1908

Released by Toronto, Neuer signs with the Little Rock Travelers of the Southern (A) Association.

July 11, 1908

In his Little Rock debut, Neuer pitches a two-hit shutout as the Travelers beat the Birmingham Barons 16-0 ... Neuer strikes out four and walks two ... Little Rock center fielder Tris Speaker collects two hits, giving the 20-year-old future Hall of Famer an even 100 on the season.

John Duggan

Franklin College pitcher John Duggan is 51-54 in four seasons with the Nashville Volunteers. After a 14-13 mark in 1909, Duggan is traded to the Indianapolis Indians for pitcher Harry Keupper and then later is sent to Syracuse where he is 21-7 before returning to his alma mater as the pitching coach.



July 20, 1908

Neuer pitches his second-consecutive complete game for Little Rock, but loses a pitcher's duel to Nashville's **John Duggan** 2-1 in 14 innings.

August 1, 1908

Neuer is relieved by 32-year-old Elwood Eyler after he opens the game walking the first two Birmingham Barons he faces ... following the game, Traveler manager Duke Finn gives Neuer his walking papers.

August 11, 1908

Neuer signs with the Chicago Cubs and joins the team in Pittsburgh ... Neuer never takes to the mound for Frank Chance's Cubs and is "exchanged" to the Johnstown Johnnies for 21-year-old pitcher Rube Kroh ... Kroh is 16-18 with Johnstown and will go 12-5 with Chicago over the next three seasons.

September 3, 1908

Winless in four decisions, Neuer is released by Johnstown manager Ed Ashenback ... Neuer says that his "hurling arm has been out of whack" since coming to Johnstown.

February 8, 1909

Neuer signs with Rochester of the Eastern League.

April 24, 1909

Rochester manager John Ganzel releases Neuer, stating that his lack of control is the reason for his release ... Neuer announces that he is to get married and tells everyone that he is heading "West".

John Neuer, 88, Spanish War Vet, Ex-Baseball Great

John S. Neuer, formerly of 880 King Street, Northumberland, died in the Northumberland County Hospital, Trevorton Road, this morning at 5:30 o'clock of complications. He had been in failing health for several years and was hospitalized since June of last year. His age was 88.

He was born in Fremont, Ohio, June 8, 1877, a son of the late Henry and Jennie Neuer and was formerly employed by the Bendix Aviation Corporation, engineering department, at Green, N.Y. and moved to this area when he retired in 1942.

He was a veteran of the Spanish - American War, enlisting June 23, 1898 and discharged February 15, 1899, serving as a Private in Company C, 21st Regiment of Infantry.

A left-handed pitcher during his competitive baseball days, Neuer once pitched for the N.Y. Highlanders, fore-runner of the New York Yankees. Wildness, however, plagued his efforts to establish himself in the majors and he voluntarily retired after a brief stint in the International and old NY-P leagues. He maintained an avid interest, however, in the diamond game and was a regular patron of the home games of the Sunbury teams in the Class B, Interstate League after World War II. He had many friends in the Central Pennsylvania area and was affiliated with the Sunbury Lodge of Elks.

John Neuer [7 of 7]:

May 14, 1909

Neuer signs with the Fort Wayne Billikens of the Central (B) League.

February 1910

Binghamton Binges' manager Robert Drury announces that the Binges have signed veteran pitcher "Rube" Neuer.

May 12, 1910

Binghamton's Neuer can't hold an early 5-1 lead and absorbs the loss in a 10-7 setback to the Scranton Miners in a New York State (B) League encounter ... Neuer allows seven runs on seven hits and three walks before being relieved by 34-year-old John Pappalau in the fifth inning.

Passaic (N.J.) Daily News
June 30, 1914

"TACKS" NEUER LOSES POSITION AS ATLANTIC LEAGUE UMPIRE

"Tacks" Neuer, the former Yankee twirler, erstwhile Passaic City Club pitcher, and more recent umpire in the newly formed Atlantic League, could not be fired quick enough from the judicial position for some of the teams of the league.

News of the release of Neuer as a member of the umpiring staff of the Atlantic League has just been announced, but the news was belated, for it was to have gone into effect last Saturday. As a result there was considerable howling of players and fans in the Paterson-Newburg Atlantic League game at Newburg last Saturday, and Paterson claims that their loss of the game is due to Neuer.

"Tacks" appeared to be making

good while with the Yankees, but his consignment to the minors was not long in coming. Soon he dropped out of that fraternity, and his entrance into semi-professional baseball was the next event in his career.

Neuer pitched several games for the Passaic City Club. He did not make any too strong an impression with local fans, and the local team soon severed connections with the former major twirler.

Then came word that he had been engaged by President Cox to act as arbitrator in the Atlantic League. But, according to some of the reports, word came from several towns in the circuit, that the new umpire's decisions "were killing the league," and the president's action followed.

May 21, 1910

Binghamton manager Jack Warner releases pitcher "Tacks" Neuer ... it is reported that he has gone to his home in New York and will play with semipro teams there.

May 9, 1912

Playing under different assumed names, Neuer reemerges on the pro scene when he plays as an outfielder and pitcher with the New York Knickerbockers of the fledging United States State League.

January 14, 1966

Neuer passes away at the Northampton County Home and Hospital in Coal Township in Northumberland, Pennsylvania at the age of 88.