

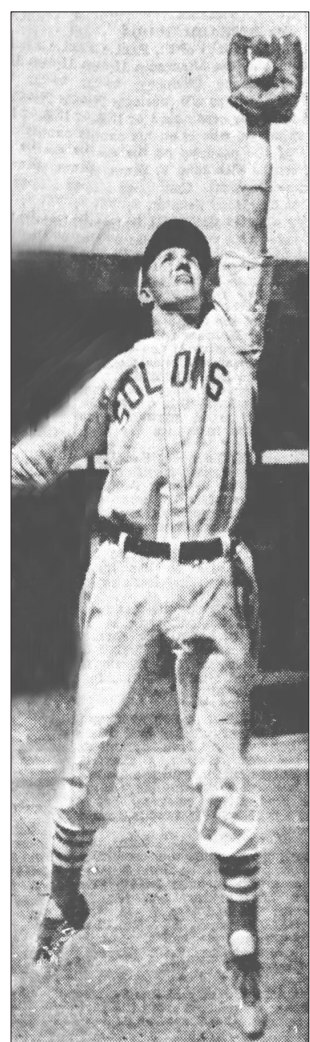
Lyle Judy, "A Thief & Another Ty Cobb"

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Playing for the Western Association's Springfield Cardinals in 1935, Lyle Judy reportedly sets baseball's modern day base-stealing record with 107 stolen bases, eclipsing the existing record of 96 set by Detroit's Ty Cobb in 1915. At the time, the actual record for organized baseball is 124 stolen bases set by James Johnston of the Pacific Coast League's San Francisco Seals in 1913.

Named the league's MVP by the circuits' official scorers, Judy steals second base 57 times, third base 32 times and *home on 18 occasions*. However, he does not have much luck against the Hutchinson Larks, with only seven steals in 13 attempts and being caught off first once.

Several newspapers opine that Judy actually has more stolen bases than he is given credit for because "Class C official scorers can be expected to overlook details like that from time to time."



Lyle Judy
1936 Sacramento Salons

It's noted by league scribes that as his steal totals mount up, more and more middle infielders and catchers are deliberately dropping the ball on his attempts so that they would be given a passed ball or an error rather than Judy be awarded a steal.

When you add three stolen bases against Ponca City in the playoffs and two while playing with the St. Louis Cardinals after being called up in September, the fleet-footed infielder totaled 112 stolen bases over 152 games with Springfield (144) and St. Louis (8).

A 10.2 sprinter in the 100-yard dash while his high school, his 107 thefts lead organized baseball in 1935.

Even though he has played only two seasons in the C-level Western Association, and is hitless with the Cardinals in 11 at bats as a late season call-up, St. Louis officials are vocal in the off-season that the slick-fielding Judy is the heir apparent to succeed 38-year-old player/manager Frankie Frisch as the team's regular second baseman at some point during the 1936 season.

However, misfortune strikes Judy on November 5, when on his way to work at an oil plant in his hometown of Louisville, Judy is seriously injured when his automobile skids and crashes into a stationary street car. Unconscious, he is taken to a local hospital where it is determined that he has fractured his skull, broken his shoulder and severely lacerated the right side of his face. He is unconscious for two days.

Rickey, who regards Judy as another Ty Cobb, said the loss would be the "biggest in 10 years" to be suffered by the Cardinals.



Lyle Judy
1936 Columbus Red Birds

Minor League Stolen Base Leaders

Billy Hamilton, B'field/Pensacola	2012	155
Vince Coleman, Macon	1983	145
Donell Nixon, Bakersfield	1983	144
James Johnston, San Francisco	1913	124
Jeff Stone, Spartanburg	1981	123
Alan Wiggins, Lodi	1980	120
Allan Lewis, Leesburgh	1966	116
Ovid Nicholson, Frankfort	1912	111
Marcus Lawton, Columbia	1985	111
Chris Morris, Peoria	2001	111
Maynard DeWitt, Zanesville	1946	110
Otis Nixon, Columbus/Nashville	1982	108
Lyle Judy, Springfield	1935	107

Lyle Judy [2 of 7]:

Lyle Judy Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Lev	W-L	Finish	Age	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	SLG	OPS	AVG	
1933	Messick Miniatures	Louisville Federation	Amt.	-	-	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	
1934	Springfield Red Wings	Western Assoc.	C	76-58	1 of 6	20	343	66	108	19	5	2	62	6	.417	.732	.315	
1935	Springfield Cardinals	Western Assoc.	C	87-48	1 of 6	21	496	127	167	33	20	0	65	*107	.484	.821	.337	
1935	St. Louis Cardinals	NATIONAL	MLB	96-58	2 of 8	21	11	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	.000	.000	.000	
1936	4 Teams	4 Leagues	AA-D-C			22	286	41	71	5	7	1	25	16	.325	.573	.248	
	Sacramento Solons	Pacific Coast	AA	65-111	8 of 8	22	100	10	22	3	1	0	5	4	.270	.490	.220	
	Columbus Red Birds	American Assoc.	AA	76-78	6 of 8	22	102	10	26	1	2	1	14	2	.333	.588	.255	
	Huntington Red Birds	Middle-Atlantic	C	60-69	6 of 8	22	10	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	.200	.400	.200	
	Hopkinsville Hoppers	Kitty	D	46-72	7 of 8	22	74	21	21	1	4	0	6	10	.405	.689	.284	
1937	3 Teams	2 Leagues	A-AA			23	288	35	61	9	0	1	23	11	.253	.464	.211	
	Baltimore Orioles	International	AA	76-75	4 of 8	23	7	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	.143	.286	.143	
	Albany/Trenton Senators	New York-Penn	A	54-80	8 of 8	23	281	35	60	9	0	1	23	11	.256	.470	.214	
1938	St. Augustine Saints	Florida State	D	70-70	5 of 8	24	461	82	132	12	2	2	44	35	.334	.620	.286	
1939	St. Augustine Saints	Florida State	D	68-70	5 of 8	25	529	103	161	23	7	0	53	*51	.374	.678	.304	
1940	Reading Chicks	Inter-State	B	76-52	1 of 8	26	478	*107	140	21	3	5	41	*46	.381	.674	.293	
1941	3 Teams	2 Leagues	B-C			27	306	60	86	14	0	0	32	15	.327	.606	.281	
	Dayton Ducks	Middle-Atlantic	C	50-75	6 of 8	27	82	12	22	4	0	0	11	5	.317	.585	.268	
	Trenton/Reading	Inter-State	B	68-57	4 of 8	27	224	48	64	10	0	0	21	10	.330	.616	.286	
1942	Louisville Metaleers	Bluegrass	SPro	-	-	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	
1943	Reynolds Metal Company	War Plant League	SPro	-	-	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	
1944	Louisville Metaleers	War Plant League	SPro	-	-	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	
1945	Louisville Metaleers	War Plant League	SPro	-	-	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	
1946	St. Augustine Saints	Florida State	D	75-62	3 of 8	32	361	67	102	8	0	1	42	31	.313	.596	.283	
1947	St. Augustine Saints	Florida State	D	85-51	1 of 8	33	431	98	131	24	1	2	45	32	.378	.682	.304	
1948	St. Augustine Saints	Florida State	D	71-69	5 of 8	34	506	99	146	24	2	3	87	24	.362	.650	.289	
1949	St. Augustine Saints	Florida State	D	75-60	3 of 8	35	509	85	131	20	2	1	57	24	.310	.568	.257	
1950	St. Augustine Saints	Florida State	D	57-83	6 of 8	36	447	97	119	12	0	1	32	21	.300	.566	.266	
1951	Palatka Azaleas	Florida State	D	80-59	3 of 8	37	503	100	139	23	2	2	46	23	.342	.618	.276	
Major League Totals							1 Season	11	2	0	0	0	0	2	.000	.000	.000	
Minor League Totals							14 Seasons	5940	1167	1693	247	51	21	664	442	.354	.639	.285

*Denotes League Leader

ML Debut: September 17, 1935, at Sportsman Park, St. Louis: pinch ran for Bill DeLancey in the sixth inning and scored on a double by Joe Medwick in a 8-7 loss to the Brooklyn Dodgers.

ML Finale: September 29, 1935, at Sportsman Park, St. Louis: started and went 0-for-4 with a stolen base and grounded into one double play in a 2-1 win over the Chicago Cubs.

All-Star Honors:

1938-Florida State League; 1939-Florida State League; 1940-Interstate League; 1946-Florida State League; 1947-Florida State League; 1951-Florida State League

Managerial Record:

1936	Hopkinsville Hoppers	Kitty League	2-4
1938	St. Augustine Saints	Florida State League	70-70
1950	St. Augustine Saints	Florida State League	9-16
			81-90 (.474)

In February, Judy informs the Cardinals that his recovery is going well and that he should be "ready to go," for spring training.

However, on March 20, Cardinals' team physician Dr. George Hyland, tells General Manager Branch Rickey that Judy will require an immediate operation on his right shoulder, which has a "dislocation of the acromial end of the right clavicle."

Judy, despite being unable to raise his right arm above his head, wants to postpone the operation until next fall and tells the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, "I believe I could play through the season as the shoulder is now. I did not have any pain while I was working out at Bradenton, but my hitting was not very good and throwing was not as strong as last year, so they decided I ought to undergo an examination."



Lyle Judy [3 of 7]:

Rookie's Injury Hits Cardinals

Fear Lyle Judy Lost to Team For Season

Rickey, who considers Judy as another Ty Cobb, says the loss will be the "biggest in 10 years" to be suffered by the Cardinals.

On March 23, Rickey announces that the operation will be postponed and his prized second baseman is being sent to one of the organization's minor league teams, which a month later turns out to be Sacramento of

the Pacific Coast League.

Unfortunately for Judy, that rainy morning in Louisville continues to extract more payment over the next two years, as he will total just over 200 at bats at the AA level, before settling into a lengthy career in lower echelons of the minor leagues and independent ball.

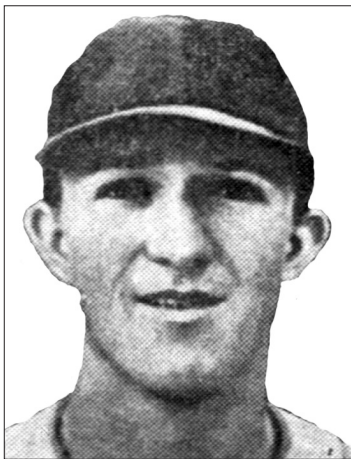
A neck injury caused by yet another car accident in Florida during the 1951 season, effectively finishes his career.

In 14 minor league seasons, the fleet-footed second baseman will total 442 stolen bases, including 10 seasons with 20 or more steals. He hits over .300 four times, including a career-high mark of .337 in 1935. He finishes with a career batting average of .285 with 247 doubles, 51 triples and 21 home runs in 1,648 minor league games.

Playing eight of his 14 minor league seasons in the Florida State League, Judy holds that league's record for most games played (1,013) and most walks in a single-season with 153 in 1950.



Lyle Judy
1930 Manual High School



Lyle Judy
1935 Springfield Cardinals

Born November 15, 1913, in Lawrenceville, Illinois, Judy begins his professional career with Springfield in 1934. He makes his major league debut as a 21-year-old with the St. Louis Cardinals on September 17, 1935. Appearing in eight games with the Redbirds, he is hitless in 11 at bats. He plays in his final big league game on September 29, 1935.

Following his playing days, Judy remains in the St. Augustine area and becomes an executive in the railroad industry. Judy passes away on January 15, 1991, in Ormond Beach, Florida, at the age of 77.

JUDY CHRONOLOGY

November 1, 1930

In his first high school football game for Manual High School, quarterback Lyle Judy "scampers" 90 yards for a touchdown in a 13-6 loss to Junior Order High School in

Tiffin, Ohio.

October 1, 1931

Judy misses football practice to attend the World Series in St. Louis.

March 1934

Judy opts to sign with the Springfield Cardinals instead of the hometown Louisville Colonels.

May 1, 1935

Columbus releases Judy back to Springfield.

July 28, 1935

With three steals against Joplin, Judy pushes his steal total to 70, breaking the Western Association single season mark of 67 set by Guy Sturdy in 1922



Lyle Judy
1935 Springfield Cardinals

Lyle Judy [4 of 7]:

August 22, 1935

St. Louis Cardinals Vice President Branch Rickey announces the purchase of Judy ... he has 93 stolen bases in 121 games and is leading Springfield in hitting with a .327 average.

Lyle Judy Pilfers Three More Bases To Reach 100 Mark

August 29, 1935

Named league MVP earlier in the day, Judy runs his steal total to 100 when he steals second, third and home in the first inning of a 12-6 win against Bartlesville Reds.

No Respect

May, 1936

In a game between Sacramento and the Los Angeles Angels, Judy, in apparent indignation at an umpire's call, throws his glove to the ground, resulting in his ejection from the game by base umpire Engeln. When Solons' manager Bill Killefer storms out of the dugout to protest Judy's ejection, the umpire quickly reverses himself and allows Judy to remain in the game. Later, when asked why he permitted the umpire to allow Judy to stay in the game, Los Angeles manager Jack Lelivelt (above) snorts, "That's easy. Taking Judy of the game would have strengthened the Sacramento lineup."



September 1, 1935
Judy celebrates "Lyle Judy Day" stealing four bases as Springfield sweeps the visiting Joplin Miners 7-4 and 2-1 in a Western Association doubleheader.



Lyle Judy
1936 St. Louis Cardinals



Lyle Judy
1936 St. Louis Cardinals

September 8, 1935

St. Louis has a one-game lead on Chicago when manager Frankie Frisch sends a "hurry-up" call for Judy to join the team as quick as possible.

September 17, 1935

Judy makes his major league debut,

pinch-running for Bill DeLancey in the sixth inning ... he scores on a double by Joe Medwick in a 8-7 loss to the Brooklyn Dodgers.

November 5, 1935

On his way to work at an oil plant in his hometown of Louisville, Judy is seriously hurt when his automobile skips and crashes into a street car ... unconscious, he is taken to a hospital where it is determined that he has fractured his skull and the right side of his face severely lacerated.

LYLE JUDY FAILS TO JOIN HUNTINGTON CLUB

Young Infielder Missing Since He Left Columbus Club

HUNTINGTON, Aug. 1—Lyle Judy, who was ordered to report to the Huntington Red Birds, has failed to show up and Manager Bergmann is worried. He has received indirect information that Judy refuses to join the local club. Efforts to locate the young speed merchant have so far failed. He left Columbus Tuesday.

November 7, 1935

Listed in critical condition since the accident, his condition is upgraded to "better."

March 21, 1936

Dr. George Hyland, the St. Louis Cardinals' club physician tells team General Manager Branch Rickey that Judy requires an immediate operation on his right shoulder, which he fractured in an automobile accident last winter.

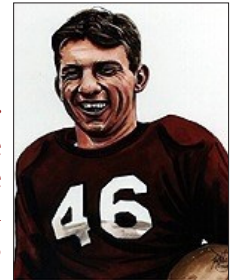
June 16, 1936

Judy is hitting .200 with five RBIs and four stolen bases for the Sacramento Salons when he is traded to the Columbus Red Birds of the American Association for former major league outfielder Frank Doljack.

No Respect, II

July, 1936

Kansas City sportswriter Parke Carroll says the Columbus second base combination of Lou Bush (right) and Lyle Judy, is the poorest the Red Birds have had in 10 years. Commenting on Judy, "He was heralded as the next all-star second baseman of the major league. Now he can't throw, is only fair on a ground ball and there are a lot of men in this league faster on the bases."



Judy Signs Contract With Hopkinsville 9

Special to The Courier-Journal.

Hopkinsville, Ky., Aug. 24.—Lyle Judy, young Louisville infielder, has signed with the Hopkinsville Hoppers and will play second base against Owensboro here tomorrow, it was announced tonight. Judy, who expects to rejoin the St. Louis Cardinals next season, has a clause in his contract here granting him his unconditional release at the end of the season. He is trying to get back in shape here after being injured seriously in an automobile wreck last winter.

Lyle Judy [5 of 7]:

July 1, 1936

Before he reports to Columbus, Judy goes to St. Louis for an examination of his shoulder by Dr. George Hyland, the Cardinals' club physician ... Hyland believes that his shoulder has improved so much that Judy may not have to undergo an operation.

Lyle Judy Recovering After Bone Operation

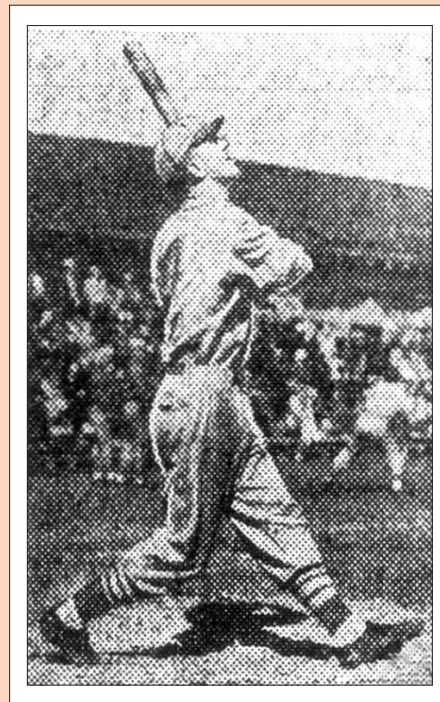
Lyle Judy of Louisville, manager and shortstop of Hopkinsville of the Kitty League, is recovering from an operation to correct a bone misplacement in his right shoulder at St. Joseph's Infirmary. The operation is expected to enable Judy to regain the form he showed before he was injured in an automobile accident last winter.

July 27, 1936

Judy's stay with Columbus is brief as he is optioned to the Huntington Red Birds of the Mid-Atlantic (C) League.

August 1, 1936

Having been demoted for a third time since playing in a couple of pre-season games with the National League's St. Louis Cardinals, a disgruntled Judy fails to show up in Huntington and efforts to locate him have failed.



August 14, 1936

After collecting two hits in 10 at bats in three games with Huntington, Judy draws his release and is returned to Columbus.

August 15, 1936

It gets worse. One day after being released by Huntington, the St. Louis Cardinals give Judy his unconditional release.

August 24, 1936

Judy's travel saga continues when he signs with the last-place Hopkinsville Hoppers of the Kitty (D) League - his fourth team of the season.

September 6, 1936

A 22-year-old Judy assumes the managerial reigns of the last-place Hopkinsville Hoppers from 21-year-old Bud Adams ... he will finish the season with a 2-4 record in his managerial debut.

October 28, 1936

Judy submits to having shoulder surgery to correct a bone misplacement in his right shoulder ... since the Cardinals released him back in August, Judy pays for the operation himself.

November 24, 1936

Baltimore Orioles' Vice President John Ogden announces the signing of Judy ... with several teams after his services, including St. Louis (again) and Louisville, Ogden promises to give him until June 1 to get healthy, and as part of the inducement agrees to pay for his surgery back in late October.

RED HOFFNER CLAIMS ENDURANCE RECORD

Special to the Post-Dispatch.

BALTIMORE, Md. — There are marathon marks in golf and other sports, and here is one that might stack up in baseball.

Red Hoffner, a rookie shortstop who has made good with the Baltimore Orioles this spring, started in baseball in 1934, with the House of David team. Red played 96 games in 58 days, and topped off the program by playing 36 innings in practically one stretch.

He played in a double header one Sunday afternoon, and right after supper a night game which went 18 innings, winding up at 1:30 a. m. when Red stepped to the plate and hit a home run. He was pretty tired after 36 innings in 11½ hours.

March 22, 1937

Baltimore management sends Judy a warning, saying that if he is not able to play regularly with the parent club, they won't hesitate to send him to a team where he can take the field every day.

April 4, 1937

True to their word, the Orioles option Judy to the Albany Senators of the New York-Penn League.

April 29, 1937

In Albany's season opener against Binghamton, Judy injures his hand and misses the next couple of games.

May 22, 1937

Baltimore is 4-22 and is already 15 1/2 games behind first-place Newark (20-7) when General Manager John Ogden options **Red Hoffner**, who is hitting only .219, to Albany and recalls Judy back to Baltimore.

Lyle Judy [6 of 7]:

June 7, 1937

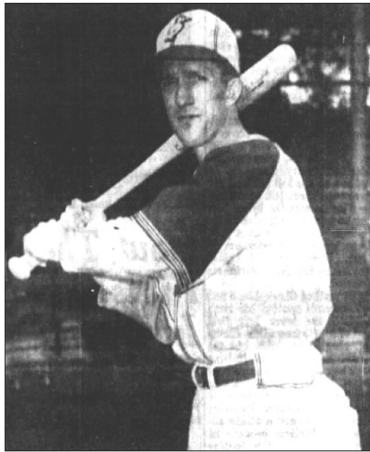
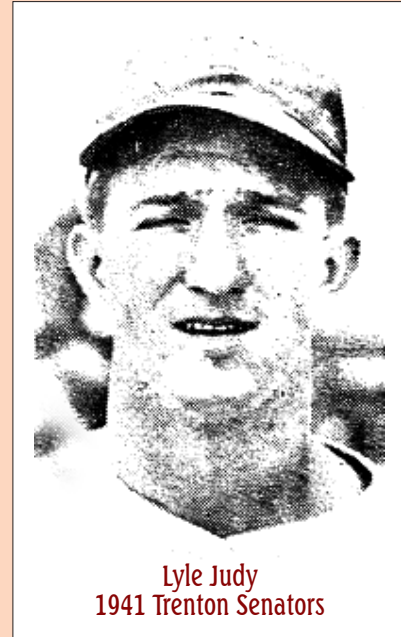
Judy has one hit in seven at bats when he is put on Baltimore's ineligible list, not because of an injury, but because of his high salary.

June 9, 1937

After being released by Baltimore, Judy signs with the Trenton Senators ... to make room for Judy, the Senators sale outfielder Bobby Loane to Syracuse of the International League.

June 13, 1937

Judy hits one of his 21 career home runs in Trenton's 4-3 win over Williamsport.



Lyle Judy
1941 Dayton Ducks

July 28, 1937

The Chattanooga Lookouts obtain Judy from Trenton and indicate that he will probably play shortstop.

August 6, 1937

Judy does not report to Chattanooga and remains in Trenton, miscommunication between the two teams is blamed.

September 6, 1937

Despite hitting a lowly .217 in the New York-Penn League, Judy receives four votes in the voting for league MVP ... Trenton offers Judy to the Springfield Cardinals, the team of his much-publicized success in 1933 and 1934 ... Cardinals' President Al Eckert says "we can't use Judy right now."

January 21, 1938

Judy is named manager of the St. Augustine Saints of the Florida State (D) League

February 17, 1939

Dissatisfied with the contract offered him by the St. Augustine management, Lyle announces he is seeking his unconditional release and would like to join the Louisville Colonels ... he will remain with the Saints.

FSL Will Miss Judy This Season

SILVER SPRINGS—One of the most popular players ever to appear in the Class D Florida State League has had to hang up his gloves forever.

He is tiny Lyle Judy who, while playing with St. Augustine and Palatka since 1938 and through last year, established the enviable record of having appeared in 1,013 regular season games, 174 games better than the mark of 839 regular season games so far set by Buddy Lake for Sanford and St. Augustine from 1936 through 1951.

Injuries Judy received in an auto accident near Sanford late last fall have led him to retire from the game, according to a letter he wrote Manager Bill Steinecke of Palatka recently.

X-ray pictures made last week indicate a possibility that there are bone chips in his neck that may be difficult to remove.

His loss at Palatka, and around the circuit, will be a severe one. He has had few rivals as an infielder, holds the league record in securing 153 walks in one season, and was named to the league's annual sportswriter selected all-star team five seasons—ar all-star record.

January 7, 1940

Judy's contract is purchased by the Reading Chicks of the Interstate (B) League.

May 15, 1941

Beaten out for the Reading Brooks' second base position by Al Campanis, Judy is optioned to the Dayton Ducks of the Mid-Atlantic League.

June 19, 1941

Injuries force Reading to recall Judy.

July 15, 1941

Reading acquires 6-foot-5 pitcher Ed Spaulding from Montreal and sells Judy to Trenton.

September 2, 1941

In the final game of the regular season, Judy suffers a fractured skull and receives a brain concussion when he is hit by a fastball thrown by Bridgeport's Jim Wallace ... x-rays reveal a linear fracture of the skull.

April 20, 1942

Judy is a "no show" at the Trenton spring training and asks to be placed on the voluntarily retired list.

Lyle Judy's Skull Is Fractured

TRENTON, N. J., Sept. 2 (A. P.).—Dr. A. James Fessler said tonight X-rays showed Lyle Judy, second baseman on the Trenton Senators Interstate League Baseball team, had received a linear fracture of the skull when hit by a pitched ball.

Dr. Fessler estimated the ball player would be in bed four to five weeks. He was unconscious and his condition was reported good at McKinley Memorial Hospital.

Judy was hit in the head by a fastball by Jim Wallace last night in the second game of a double-header with Bridgeport, Conn.

Lyle Judy [7 of 7]:

July 4, 1942

Judy is named to the All-Star team of the Bluegrass League of Louisville.

May 29, 1950

Judy is named interim manager of the St. Augustine Saints, replacing Ernie Jenkins ... St. Augustine is next-to-last in the Florida State League standings with a 14-33 record ... Judy will lead the Saints to a 9-16 mark before turning the reigns over to 27-year-old catcher/manager Nick Starasta on June 24.

1950

Judy sets a league record with 153 walks.

February 1951

St. Augustine forfeits its franchise, turning over all of its equipment and a total of four player contracts (including Judy) to the league.

January 15, 1991

Lyle Leroy Judy passes away at the age of 77 in Ormond Beach, Florida.

Overdue

Inter-State To Have Helmets

November, 1941

As a result of two serious beanings, the Interstate League becomes the first organized loop that will require teams to provide helmets for its players. Judy and Hagerstown's Andy Anderson were both seriously hurt during the 1941 season when both were hit in the head by a pitched ball.

