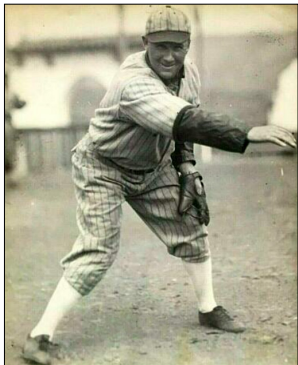


On This Date

December 25, 1898



Thirteen days before his 24th birthday, Sacramento Solons' pitcher Earl "Pinches" Kunz, coming off a 15-win season in the highly-competitive Pacific Coast League, is traded to the Pittsburgh Pirates for four players - pitchers Chief Yellowhorse and Bill Hughes and outfielders Claude Rowher and Harry Brown - and \$7,500.

"All of these four players are good men and will be an improvement to our club," says Sacramento manager Charles Pick, "The pitchers are promising for our club and the deal will go a long way toward putting our team in the pennant fight"

Pick proves to be prophetic as the last-place Solons (76-124) will improve by 36 games in 1923 and finish second (112-87) to San Francisco. Yellowhorse (22) and Hughes (14) combine to win 36 games while Brown hits .276 with a team-high 14 home runs and Rowher chips in with a career-high .296 average in 126 games.

Despite receiving a \$1,500 "cut" of his \$7,500 purchase price, Kunz is disdainful of the contract tendered by the Pirates and elects to hold out. However, following a visit by Pirate scout Chick Fraser, and chicken dinner at the Hotel Sacramento the disgruntled one signs his contract.

Born on December 25, 1898, Kunz is 1-2 in 21 appearances with a 5.12 ERA for the Corsairs when on August 24, he is sent to Wichita Falls of the Texas League where he is 3-4 with a 4.36 ERA. Kunz returns to the PCL for the 1924 season, winning a career-high 23 games with the Oakland Oaks.

In 11 minor league seasons, the Sacramento native is 101-116, including five seasons with 13 or more wins. Following his playing days, Kunz buys and trains thoroughbreds in his native California before dying of a heart attack on April 14, 1963, at the age of 64.