

TEAM SNAPSHOT: 1908 Oakland Commuters

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“Sacramento fans are being entertained this afternoon at Oak Park by an alleged baseball team from Oakland and the score this afternoon will likely be runs for the Sacramento boys and doughnuts for the visitors. The Oaks will also eat doughnuts tomorrow afternoon.”

-Sacramento Bee

Poor Walt McMemony.

And who exactly is Walt McMemony? From 1905 to 1908, McMemony is the manager of the Oakland Commuters of the “outlaw” California State League, a circuit not in the National Association and that the *Spalding Baseball Guide* calls “one of the most formidable outlaw baseball organizations in existence”.

In his four seasons at the helm of the luckless Bay-area Commuters, the unfortunate, but likeable McMemony is 24-145, resulting in a 14 percent winning percentage, or a 86 percent losing percentage, or an average of six wins a year. And those totals include the imminently forgettable 1908 campaign.

Oakland opens 1908 with a 28-game losing streak and they finish on the short end of their last 20 games. In between those book-end losing steaks, the Commuters are 4-23, which adds up to a 4-71 mark and a 56-game deficit to league champion Stockton.

Not surprisingly, the Commuters are no-hit by Stockton’s Doc Moskiman on opening day and at 0-1, it’s the closest they will be to .500 all season long.

Esola Is Sentenced to Five Years in Folsom



Frank Esola, San Jose Santa Cruz, Fresno, Oakland

On June 14, 1913, four months after receiving a \$1,400 Studebaker and \$500 in cash for winning the *San Francisco Chronicle's* Popularity Contest, San Francisco Detective Frank “Big Chief” Esola, a 16-year veteran of the department, is convicted by a Grand Jury for conspiracy with a \$300,000 bunco ring and is given a five-year sentence at Folsom Prison. Signed by Oakland from an independent team in Santa Rosa, Esola debuts with the Commuters on July 25 and will eventually play with four California State League teams in 1908.



Tom Feeney, Oakland, San Jose

A senior and teammate of Tom Fitzsimmons at St. Mary’s college, Feeney had already played two seasons of pro ball with San Jose and Seattle, when he signs with the Commuters on June 24. Feeney debuts with Oakland one day later, starting at second base as the Commuters snap their 28-game losing streak with a 4-3 win over Santa Cruz. He hits .286 in four games before leaving the team. He later joins San Jose and finishes the season with a .153 batting average (17-for 111) with 10 steals. Following the season he graduates from St. Mary’s with a degree in civil engineering.

1908 Oakland Commuters Game by Game Results

Month	Opponent	W/L	Score	Record	Pitcher of Decision	
March	28 at Stockton	L	0-7	0-1	Van	0-1
	29 at Stockton	L	2-5	0-2	Doane	0-1
April	4 at Sacramento	L	0-18	0-3	Doane	0-2
	5 at Sacramento	L	1-13	0-4	Van	0-2
	11 Fresno	L	2-4	0-5	Waterbury	0-1
	12 Fresno	L	0-8	0-6	Doane	0-3
	18 San Francisco	L	0-2	0-7	Waterbury	0-2
	19 San Francisco	L	0-2	0-8	Symons	0-1
	25 at San Jose	L	0-2	0-9	Streib	0-1
26 at San Jose	L	2-3	0-10	Symons	0-2	
May	2 at Santa Cruz	L	6-9	0-11	Waterbury	0-3
	3 at Santa Cruz	L	5-12	0-12	Goldy	0-1
	9 at San Francisco	L	3-5	0-13	Seaton	0-1
	10 at San Francisco	L	3-4	0-14	Streib	0-2
	16 at Santa Cruz	L	2-3	0-15	Goldy	0-2
	17 at Santa Cruz	L	2-5	0-16	Waterbury	0-4
	23 at San Jose	L	1-5	0-17	Goldy	0-3
	24 at San Jose	L	2-7	0-18	Jenkins	0-1
	30 at Alameda (7)	L	0-6	0-19	Goldy	0-4
	30 at Alameda	L	0-4	0-20	Peterson	0-1
	31 at Alameda	L	3-4	0-21	Waterbury	0-5
June	6 at Stockton	L	0-5	0-22	Goldy	0-5
	7 at Stockton	L	1-6	0-23	Waterbury	0-6
	13 Alameda	L	1-2	0-24	Goldy	0-6
	14 Alameda	L	0-1	0-25	Waterbury	0-7
	20 at Sacramento	L	2-5	0-26	Waterbury	0-8
	21 at Sacramento	L	3-10	0-27	Goldy	0-7
	24 at Santa Cruz	L	1-3	0-28	Goldy	0-8
	25 at Santa Cruz	W	4-3	1-28	Waterbury	1-8
	26 at Santa Cruz	L	6-7	1-29	Goldy	0-9
	27 at Santa Cruz	L	0-15	1-30	Waterbury	1-9
	28 at Santa Cruz	L	7-9	1-31	Mosher	0-1
July	4 at San Jose	L	0-18	1-32	Sheperd	0-1
	5 at San Jose	L	2-5	1-33	Goldy	0-10
	5 at San Jose (15)	L	1-2	1-34	Goldy	0-11
	6 at San Jose	L	0-5	1-35	Waterbury	1-10
	11 Fresno (11)	W	4-3	2-35	Goldy	1-11
	12 Fresno	L	4-5	2-36	Seaton	0-2
	18 at Stockton	L	2-3	2-37	Seaton	0-3
	19 at Stockton	L	2-6	2-38	Goldy, M.	0-6
	25 San Francisco	L	2-3	2-39	Seaton	0-4
	26 San Francisco	W	13-8	3-39	Goldy, H.	2-7
	August	1 Fresno	L	2-9	3-40	Seaton
2 Fresno		L	0-9	3-41	Conway	0-1
8 at Sacramento		L	0-5	3-42	Goldy, H.	2-8
9 at Sacramento		L	1-6	3-43	Skaggs	0-1
15 at Alameda		L	7-8	3-44	Goldy, H.	2-9
16 at Alameda		L	6-7	3-45	Skaggs	0-2
19 at Santa Cruz		L	5-10	3-46	Goldy, H.	2-10
20 at Santa Cruz		L	3-5	3-47	Skaggs	0-3
21 at Santa Cruz		L	3-4	3-48	Schimpff	0-1
22 at Santa Cruz		L	2-14	3-49	Conway	0-2
23 at Santa Cruz		L	2-8	3-50	Skaggs	0-4
30 San Francisco	L	0-6	3-51	Skaggs	0-5	
San Francisco	W	2-1	4-51	Gaffney	1-0	

1908 Oakland Commuters [2 of 10]:

A total of 77 players will don Oakland flannels that summer, including 24 who will take at least one turn on the mound.

The Commuters' roster includes four players who will eventually make it to the major leagues, and three players whose major league careers are in the rear view mirror.

In addition, the team employs a San Francisco police detective who the next spring will be playing on the Folsom Prison nine after being found guilty of racketeering.

One of a handful of players to play the entire season with Oakland, Henry Goldy is the ace of the staff with a 2-13 mark and a team-high 13 complete games. Prior to his signing with the Commuters, the "little fellow" is a popular player/manager of the Clarion semipro team. His brother, M.C., spends the summer taking turns playing for both Oakland and the Imperials of San Francisco.

Throughout the course of the season, McMemory is forced to cull the ranks of California's vaunted amateur and semipro leagues to fill out his roster as players, frustrated with the mounting losses (and their own lackluster accomplishments) leave the team left and right, often immediately following yet another loss.

Yet in all of this chaos, McMemory deserves some credit for maintaining a modicum of organization and purpose, evidenced in the fact that the Commuters don't forfeit a single game until the final weekend of the season when they fail to show up for a double-header in Stockton.

1908 Oakland Commuters Game by Game Results

Sept	Opponent	W/L	Score	Record	Pitcher of Decision	
5	at Fresno	L	1-10	4-52	Goldy, H.	2-11
6	at Fresno	L	0-8	4-53	Skaggs	0-6
9	at San Jose	L	0-8	4-54	Conway	0-3
	at San Jose	L	0-5	4-55	Goldy, H.	2-12
12	at Stockton	L	0-8	4-56	O'Neill	0-1
13	at Stockton	L	5-11	4-57	Conway	0-4
19	at Sacramento	L	0-5	4-58	O'Neill	0-2
20	at Sacramento	L	0-7	4-59	Conway	0-5
26	at San Jose	L	3-13	4-60	O'Neill	0-3
October						
3	at Santa Cruz	L	0-8	4-61	O'Neill	0-4
4	at Santa Cruz	L	2-13	4-62	Hughes	0-1
11	at Alameda	L	7-9	4-63	O'Neill	0-5
	at Alameda	L	1-4	4-64	O'Neill	0-6
17	at Fresno	L	0-10	4-65	Goldy, H.	2-13
18	at Fresno	L	1-9	4-66	Miller	0-1
24	Sacramento	L	2-8	4-67	O'Neill	0-7
25	Sacramento	L	0-3	4-68	Iberg	0-1
31	at Alameda	L	1-4	4-69	Miller	0-2
November						
14	at Stockton	(forfeit) L	0-9	4-70	--	--
	at Stockton	(forfeit) L	0-9	4-71	--	--



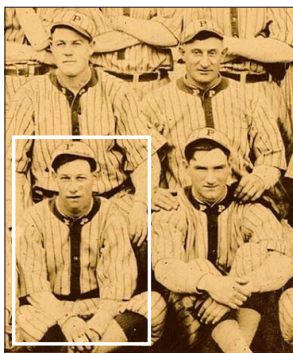
Tom Fitzsimmons, Oakland

Despite leaving the Commuters for several weeks during the season, Fitzsimmons will tie for the team lead in doubles with five. After hitting .316 for Butte in 1916, Fitzsimmons, who was with Detroit during spring training three years earlier, is drafted by Brooklyn but refuses to sign the contract fendered him and is placed on the suspended list. Reinstated, he begins the 1917 season with Spokane, but when that league folds he enlists in the US Army. Upon his return from France, he goes straight to Brooklyn and makes his major league debut on June 12, 1919.



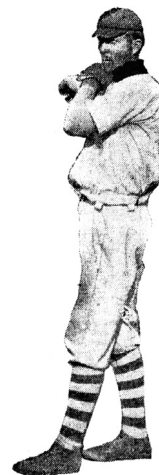
Ham Iburg, Oakland

On October 25, Iburg, the "Fredericksburg Brewery Boy," makes his only California State League appearance against Stockton. The 34-year-old right-hander and his repertoire of "floaters" allows only six hits and strikes out four in a 3-0 loss to the eventual champions. It is said that Iburg throws a pitch so slow that the batter can read the trade mark on the baseball. In his lone major league season, Iburg is 11-18 with 20 complete games for the Philadelphia Phillies in 1902. Following the end of the season, Iburg signs with the hometown San Francisco Seals.



Eddie Mensor, Oakland

Mensor (highlighted) is pictured above as a rookie with the 1912 Pittsburgh Pirates. The fellow behind Mensor's left shoulder should be recognizable as well. Nicknamed the "Midget," the 5-foot-6 Oregon native begins his pro career in 1908, hitting .229 in eight games with the Oakland Commuters. In 1911, he hits .287 with 42 steals for Portland of the Northwestern League when the Pirates pay the Pippins \$3,000 for his services. An infielder in the minors, Mensor is moved to the outfield by the Pirates' manager Fred Clarke. In his three major league seasons, Mensor hits .221 with one home run and six RBIs.



Roscoe Miller, Oakland, Fresno

A 15-game winner playing most of the season with Fresno, Miller is 0-2 in two starts with the Commuters. A 39-game winner in four major league seasons (1901-1904) with Detroit, the New York Giants and Pittsburgh, the "Parson" wins a career-best 23 games with the Tigers in 1901. The following July he jumps to the National League's New York Giants. His stay in the major leagues is brief and his fall well documented. The hard-throwing right-hander dies on April 18, 1913 from Tuberculosis at the age of 36.

1908 Oakland Commuters [3 of 10]:

Over the course of the season they are shutout 25 times in 73 games, including six times in their first nine games. Twice they have four-game scoreless streaks. In games decided by two runs or less, Oakland is 3-23.

In contests designated as road games (they share Alameda's home grounds for a portion of the season), the Commuters are 1-58. Road Warriors they are not.

They fail to win a game in March (0-2), April (0-8), May (0-11), September (0-9), October (0-9) and November (0-2). Their best month is July when they are 2-8.

The California State League, despite the abundance of talent, albeit some of it "on the lamb" from major league baseball, has some quirkiness to it.

The league schedule, released in late January, has Alameda playing 51 home games and Sacramento 47, **while Oakland is slated to be a host only 14 times.** When the season comes to an end on November 22, Santa Cruz will have played 106 games, while no



Frank Waterbury, Oakland

A veteran pitcher who suffers from a chronic knee injury, Waterbury is 1-10 for the Commuters with 80 innings pitched and eight complete games. An Oakland policeman, the pitcher/outfielder hits .212 with one home run.

1908 Oakland Commuters Pitching Statistics

Pitching	GP	GS	CG	(W-L)	INN	R	H	SO	W
Goldy, Henry.....	17	14	13	(2-13)	122	103	153	31	52
Waterbury.....	11	9	8	(1-10)	80	44	66	25	25
O'Neill.....	7	7	6	(0-7)	53	55	61	20	29
Conway, Con.....	7	6	3	(0-6)	36.2	44	48	10	26
Skaggs.....	6	6	6	(0-6)	49	40	56	37	16
Goldy, M.C.....	5	5	3	(0-3)	48	32	55	13	17
Seaton.....	5	5	4	(0-5)	37.2	19	39	20	21
Doane.....	3	3	3	(0-3)	24	31	31	8	11
Streib.....	3	2	1	(0-3)	18	9	15	3	6
Miller, Roscoe.....	2	2	2	(0-2)	16	14	21	5	10
Van.....	2	2	2	(0-2)	16	20	19	3	11
Symons.....	2	2	2	(0-2)	15	5	16	4	3
Schwartz, Lou.....	2	0	0	(0-0)	5	7	4	0	5
Brennan.....	1	1	1	(0-1)	8	7	7	3	6
Iberg, Jack "Ham".....	1	1	1	(0-1)	8	3	6	4	1
Mosher.....	1	1	1	(0-1)	8	9	10	4	1
Schimpf, Artie.....	1	1	1	(0-1)	8	4	9	4	4
Sheperd.....	1	1	1	(0-1)	8	18	19	0	3
Gaffney.....	1	1	1	(1-0)	7	1	4	8	2
Jenkins.....	1	0	0	(0-1)	5	7	6	1	2
Bliss.....	1	0	0	(0-0)	3	0	2	0	1
Hughes.....	1	0	0	(0-1)	3	8	5	2	6
Reilly.....	1	0	0	(0-0)	3	5	8	0	0
Zamloch.....	1	0	0	(0-0)	1	2	5	0	3
Team Totals	83	69	59	(4-69)	582.1	487	665	205	261

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Runs - Runs are total runs allowed. Most box scores also listed earned runs, but for team totals only, not individuals.

Goldy - Henry and M.C. Goldy, both play for Oakland during the 1908 season. Early season box scores did not always distinguish between the two. However, game stories and mid-week note packages, both in previews and summaries, usually list which Goldy did what during the games. Luckily, my W-L totals match those issued by the league at the end of the season.

Loaners - Down to eight available players on June 28, Oakland is loaned two players - Pat Mosher and Frank Arellanes - by Santa Cruz prior to that day's game.

*Loaned from Santa Cruz June 28

1908 Oakland Commuters Hitting Statistics

Hitting	AB	R	H	2B	3B	SB	SLUG	AVG
Broquison.....	4	0	3	0	0	0	.640	.640
Brown.....	3	1	2	1	0	0	1.000	.667
Houghton.....	13	3	8	1	1	0	.846	.615
Shea, Jimmy.....	24	3	10	2	0	0	.500	.417
Brennan.....	12	1	5	2	1	0	.833	.417
Burke.....	11	0	4	0	0	0	.364	.364
Iberg, Jack "Ham".....	6	0	2	0	0	0	.333	.333
Lambert.....	6	0	2	0	0	0	.333	.333
Mosher, Pat*.....	3	2	1	0	0	1	1.333	.333
Thornton.....	3	1	1	0	0	0	.333	.333
Zamloch, Carl.....	30	6	10	1	0	1	.466	.300
Esola, Frank.....	31	2	9	1	2	0	.451	.290
Feeney, Tom.....	14	3	4	0	0	0	.286	.286
Warner.....	7	1	2	0	0	0	.286	.286
Ralston.....	19	1	5	0	0	0	.263	.263
Warren.....	55	5	14	0	0	0	.255	.255
Cobb, Paul.....	4	0	1	0	0	0	.250	.250
Morgan.....	4	0	1	0	0	0	.250	.250
Schimpf, Art.....	4	1	1	0	0	0	.250	.250
Volquardson.....	4	1	1	0	0	0	.250	.250
Fitzsimmons, Tom.....	107	9	25	5	1	0	.299	.238
Mensor, Eddie.....	35	5	8	0	0	4	.229	.229
Doane.....	9	0	2	0	0	0	.222	.222
Walthour, Dave.....	138	6	30	5	1	3	.290	.217
Waterbury, Frank.....	118	9	25	4	0	1	.271	.212
Hughes.....	48	3	10	1	0	2	.229	.208
Conway, Con, "Swag".....	116	8	24	5	0	2	.302	.207
Smith, Hugh.....	44	0	9	0	1	0	.250	.205
Waters.....	15	1	3	2	0	0	.333	.200
Westphal.....	5	0	1	0	0	0	.200	.200
Bliss, Chris.....	214	16	41	4	1	0	.220	.192
Heister, Al.....	153	13	29	2	0	1	.222	.190
Barnes.....	11	1	2	1	0	0	.273	.182
O'Neill.....	29	1	5	0	0	0	.172	.172
Moran.....	47	2	8	1	1	0	.234	.170
Brackett.....	6	0	1	0	0	0	.167	.167
Peralta.....	37	1	6	1	0	0	.189	.162
Perkins.....	31	3	5	1	0	0	.194	.161
Hearne.....	19	0	3	1	0	0	.211	.158
Brarens, George.....	39	1	6	1	0	0	.180	.154
Schwartz, Lou.....	235	9	36	5	0	0	.174	.153
Hamish.....	14	0	2	0	0	0	.143	.143
Knight.....	7	0	1	1	0	0	.286	.143
Symons.....	7	0	1	0	0	0	.143	.143
Ward.....	7	0	1	0	0	0	.143	.143
Reilly, Josh.....	112	6	16	3	0	1	.205	.142
Gorman.....	29	1	4	0	0	0	.137	.137
Ballagh.....	15	0	2	0	0	0	.133	.133
Van.....	15	1	2	0	0	0	.133	.133
Goldy, Henry.....	95	2	12	1	0	0	.137	.126
Husk.....	8	0	1	0	0	0	.125	.125
Wuizen, Richard.....	97	6	10	1	0	0	.113	.103
Moriarty.....	30	3	3	0	0	0	.100	.100
Rodgers, Chester.....	11	1	1	0	0	0	.091	.091
Seaton.....	12	1	1	0	0	0	.083	.083
Goldy, M.C.....	61	5	5	0	0	0	.082	.082
Skaggs.....	20	0	1	0	0	0	.050	.050
McCaffery.....	1	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
Gaffney.....	2	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
Riesser.....	2	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
Hurd.....	3	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
Jenkins.....	3	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
McCabe.....	3	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
McFede.....	3	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
Smith, Carl.....	3	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
Arellanas, Frank*.....	4	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
Hebrons.....	4	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
Merriman, William.....	4	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
Nichols.....	4	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
Sheperd.....	4	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
Miller, Roscoe.....	5	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
Richardson.....	5	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
Causley.....	7	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
Peterson.....	7	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
Sweeney.....	7	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
Streib, Tom.....	8	1	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
Williams.....	8	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000
Team Totals	2340	145	428	53	9	8	.227	.182

1908 Oakland Commuters [4 of 10]:

one else plays more than 79. Fresno is the only team reported to show a profit.

OAKLAND COMMUTERS CHRONOLOGY

January 1

Officials of the Fresno franchise put up \$2,400 for team managers Spider Baum and Cliff Blankenship to start a haberdashery in the city.

OAKLAND TEAM MAY BE SUED

**STATE LEAGUE BUNCH ALLEGED
TO HAVE GONE ON DRUNK-
EN ORGY IN FRESNO**

**Take Santa Fe Train by Storm Driving
Many From Car—Road
Threatens a Suit**

Santa Fe officials are highly indignant over alleged misconduct on the part of the Oakland baseball team at the local depot on Labor Day night upon its return to Oakland says the Fresno Herald, and if they carry out their threats, the entire state league team, twelve in number, will be brought back to Fresno to answer to charges of drunkenness and disturbing the peace.

Persons at the depot on the night of the departures of the "Oaks" describe the scenes as some of the most disgraceful ever witnessed in the city. According to the special agent of the Santa Fe, who was at the depot at the time, the members of the team were "paralyzed" when they came from town. No sooner had they reached the station, it is said, than they began to use such foul language that self respecting persons were obliged to decamp to quieter spots.

Not satisfied with using vulgar language, the players, say the Santa Fe men, went to the sleeper on the siding and commenced playing havoc with the car and its occupants. A large number of passengers, claim the company officials here, were forced to leave their berths because of the actions of the men who took complete possession.

It is also said that several of the players were so intoxicated that they could scarcely get into the car. After the players had finished with the passengers, they are said to have turned to the old colored porter and forcibly ejected him from the car. He was a man about 73 years of age.

All the players are known and the officials of the Santa Fe this afternoon are seriously discussing some action.

February 8

Every contract

jumper in the California State League will have a chunk of his salary held back on him till the end of the season by his manager ... the object of doing this is that the held-out salary will act as a bond of good faith that the player won't flop back to the league from which he jumped from ... should he do so, the money is to be forfeited.

February 15

Fresno is not able to practice until shower baths are installed in the club house and hot water is available.

March 12

Uniforms have been selected by most of the teams ... Fresno's outfit will be white and red, Stockton's green and white, Santa Cruz maroon and green, San Jose white and orange and blue, San Francisco light brown, Alameda light gray and Sacramento gray ... Fresno, Alameda and San Jose will have new ball parks.

1908 California State League - Final Standings

President: Frank Herman

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB	Manager
Stockton Millers	62	17	.785	--	Cy Moreing
San Jose Prune Pickers	58	17	.773	2.0	Emil Mayer/A. Jarman
Sacramento Senators	55	20	.733	5.0	Bill Curtin
Fresno Tigers	47	31	.603	14.5	Spider Baum
Santa Cruz Sand Crabs	60	46	.566	15.5	H.R. Bradford/W. Keating
Alameda Encinals	24	50	.324	35.5	Lou Schroeder/Fred Lange
San Francisco	9	67	.118	51.5	Phil Knell
Oakland Commuters	4	71	.053	56.0	Walt McMemory

April 23 - November 22



Josh Reilly, Oakland

San Francisco native Josh Reilly makes his major league debut with the Chicago Colts on May 2, 1896. Filling in at shortstop for Bill Dahlen (who had a toothache), Reilly is 1-for-6 at the plate and commits three errors. He redeems himself in the fifth inning starting a triple play in a 15-8 win over the St. Louis Browns. After hitting .216 in nine games with a double and two steals, he contracts typhoid fever and is forced to return home to San Francisco. On July 17, 1908, a discouraged 40-year-old Reilly retires after 22 seasons. A week later he signs with the Santa Rosa team of the Tri-County League.



**Artie Schimpf, Oakland
Fresno, Santa Cruz**

Another Oakland native, Schimpf plays for three different California State League teams in 1908. A infielder-outfielder-pitcher, Schimpf appears in only two games with the Commuters (0-1), but overall he hits .226 with 26 stolen bases while compiling a 6-5 mark on the mound. On August 28, 1919, pitching for Barrel House of the Standard Oil Athletic Association league, a 33-year-old Schimpf pitches a no-hitter against the Richmond Engineers. He begins his pro career as an 18-year-old with Fresno of the California State League in 1905.



Lou Schwartz, Oakland

A veteran of the Oakland Oaks of the PCL and the Eastern and Southern leagues, Lou Schwartz is one of many California State League players banned by the National Commission for jumping a signed Oaks' contract. A good-fielding, light-hitting shortstop, Schwartz will play two years in the California State League (1908-1909) before spending several summers in California's independent leagues.

1908 Oakland Commuters [5 of 10]:

March 16

Stockton manager Cy Moreing wires Pittsburgh Hall of Famer Honus Wagner to come to this city and play for the local Millers ... Moreing offers the future Hall of Famer a poultry ranch and a nice baseball salary on the side.

March 18

The National Baseball Commission fines up to ten players \$100 for jumping their contacts and singing with teams in outlaw leagues.

March 19

San Francisco is considering Frank "Ping" Bodie as their opening day starter on the mound ... Bodie jumps to the Northwest League in early May.

March 27

On the eve of their respective season openers, Oakland and San Francisco are, according to the Stockton Daily Evening Record, perceived to be "mere weaklings," of the California State League.

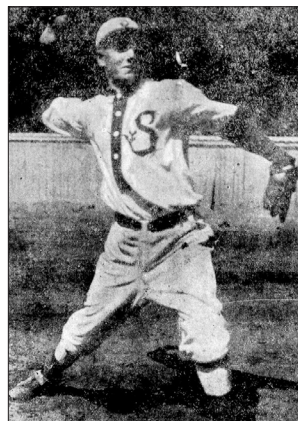
March 28 - Opening Day

Oakland is no-hit in its season opener, an 8-0 loss to the defending league champion Stockton Millers ... Stockton's Doc Moskiman strikes out seven and doesn't walk a batter in the win ... Van goes the route for the Commuters, allowing only seven hits while striking out two and walking four.



Tom Seaton, Oakland

Pitching for the Point Richmond (Calif.) amateur team, Seaton signs with the Commuters in early April and continues to pitch for both teams, often on consecutive days. In five starts for Oakland, the 20-year-old right-hander is 0-5 with 21 walks in 37 2/3 innings. A noted contract jumper during his career, Seaton will finish 92-65 in six major league seasons, including a 27-12 mark in 1913 with the Philadelphia Phillies.

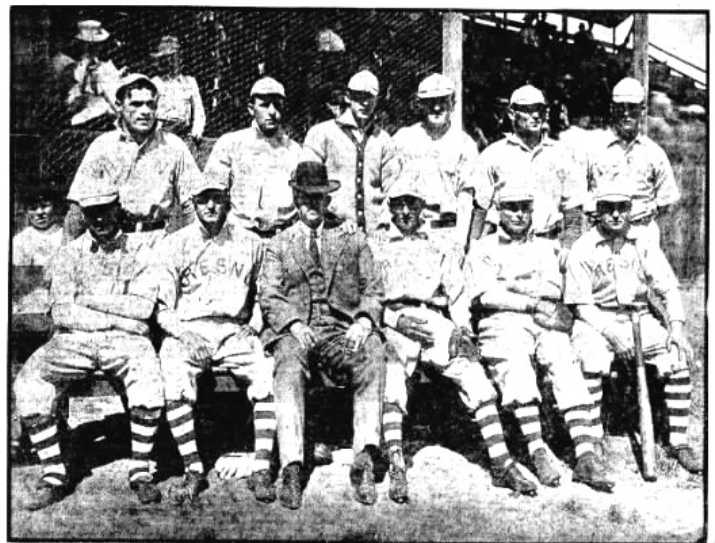


Carl Zamloch, Oakland

Another baseball nomad so prevalent in California at the turn of the century, Zamloch hits .333, with 10 hits in 30 at bats, with a double and a home run in an abbreviated appearance for the Commuters. By 1911, the 6-foot-1, 176-pound right-hander has converted to pitching full time and in 1912, pitching for Missoula, he leads the Union Association in wins with 33. In 1913, Zamloch makes the Detroit Tigers' opening day roster but because of a bad case of grippe does not make his major league debut until May 7. He is 1-6 with a 2.45 ERA in 17 appearances for the Bengals.

Former Brooklyn pitcher Elmer Stricklett limits Santa Cruz to three hits in San Jose's 5-0 win ... Sacramento's Jimmy Whalen strikes out seven en route to a nine-hit complete game win in a 5-1 win over San Francisco ... Fresno opens with a 2-0 win over Alameda on a six-hit whitewashing by Rosco Miller.

FRESNO'S BASEBALL TEAM FROM THEIR LATEST PHOTOGRAPH.



Top Row—Kennedy, Matt, Baun Hartman, Esola, M. In. Bottom Row—A. S., Blankenship, Se., Toomey, Moore, Adams, Gni.

1908 Oakland Commuters [6 of 10]:

April 1

The *Alameda Daily Argus* opines that all eight teams in the California State "show speed and appear to be quite evenly matched." ... San Jose owner Amy Meyer, despite his team opening the season 2-0, has been going after Pacific Coast League players with abandon.

April 2

McKune and Johnson desert Santa Cruz.

April 4

Oakland collects only three singles and drops to 0-3 with an 18-0 shellacking from Sacramento in game that takes only 90 minutes to play.

In Alameda, an automobile parade through the streets of Alameda and Oakland ends with the Alameda manager being arrested for advertising without a permit.

April 5

Sacramento pounds Oakland 13-1 in a game highlighted by the antics of Commuters' right fielder Dave Walthour, who after misjudging a flyball, he refuses to go after it, allowing three runs to score.

April 11

Oakland drops to 0-5 with a 4-2 loss to visiting Fresno ... Jim Corbett, a one-time

boxing champion (1892), is called put of the stands and umpires the game for the last two-and one half innings during which time none of the players protested any calls.

Basket-ball Game a No-Score Affair

The Sacred Heart College basket-ball team played a no-score practice game with the five from the Columbia Park Boys' Club in the gymnasium of the latter on Friday night. This was the first game the collegians have played with an outside aggregation, all previous contests being confined to inter-class games, and the Sacred Heart players are greatly encouraged over the showing made against the Columbia Park team, as the boys from the Mission are experienced at the indoor game. Coach Nill claims that the possibilities of the college team are most favorable and is arranging a series of games with the various high schools. Wing for the Columbia team was the sensation of the game, making many attempts at goal. The Sacred Heart boys showed their knowledge of the game by clever passing and accurate throwing, in which French, Murphy and Tracey share the honors. The two teams will meet again on Friday evening.

June 25, 1908 Oakland Commuters at Santa Cruz Sand Crabs

OAKLAND									
	AB	R	BH	SB	PO	A	E		
Feeney, 2b.....	5	0	1	0	3	2	1		
Helster, lf.....	5	2	3	0	2	1	0		
Walthour, rf, 1b 3	1	1	0	0	8	0	0		
Waterbury, p.....	4	1	2	0	0	2	0		
Burke, c.....	4	0	2	0	0	2	0		
Reilly, 3b.....	4	0	0	0	2	0	0		
Schwartz, ss.....	4	0	0	0	3	2	1		
Wulzen, 1b.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	1		
Smith, cf.....	4	0	0	0	3	0	0		
Hanush, rf.....	3	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Totals.....	36	4	9	0	*26	10	*2		

*Garry out for bunting third strike.

SANTA CRUZ									
	AB	R	BH	SB	PO	A	E		
Shinn, 2b.....	4	0	2	0	0	3	1		
Schimpff, 1b.....	2	0	0	0	9	0	0		
Collins, lf.....	3	0	0	1	0	0	0		
Devereaux, 3b.....	3	1	1	2	1	2	0		
Waters, ss.....	4	0	1	0	5	0	1		
Garry, cf.....	4	0	0	0	2	0	0		
T. Hoag, rf.....	3	0	0	1	3	0	0		
O. Hoag, c.....	3	1	1	0	7	1	0		
Loucks, p.....	4	1	1	0	0	2	0		
Totals.....	30	3	8	4	27	8	2		

RUNS AND HITS BY INNINGS

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Oakland	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	4
Base hits..	0	1	4	0	2	0	1	1	9
Santa Cruz..	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	3
Base hits..	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	6

Two-base hits—Walthour, Shinn, Waterbury, O. Hoag, Waters. Home run—Devereaux. Sacrifice hit—Schimpff (2). Struck out—By Loucks, 7; by Waterbury, 4. Base on balls—Off Waterbury, 6. Hit by pitched ball—Wulzen, Shinn. First base on errors—Oakland, 2; Santa Cruz, 2. Earned runs—Oakland, 2; Santa Cruz, 2. Left on bases—Oakland, 7; Santa Cruz, 10. Time of game—1:45. Umpire—Moore.

After 28-straight losses to open the season, Oakland finally wins a game. Behind Waterbury's six-hitter the Commuters fall one game short of tying the existing record of 29 set by Louisville of the American Association in 1889.

April 21

Alameda baseball fans are protesting over the league schedule, which they claim does not give their team sufficient home games ... for the two opening games, the Alameda fans attended to the number of 5,000 and 2,000 ... the Alameda fans have asked the State League authorities to revise the schedule and give the team that represents that city more games at home.

May 10

Oakland drops a 4-3 decision at San Francisco to open the season 0-14, tying the league record.

May 16

It's reported that both Oakland (0-14) and San Francisco (4-10) will be dropped from league membership, if not soon, certainly at the end of the season.

June 14

Alameda portsider Slat Nelson pitches a no-hitter and homers in a 1-0 win over the visiting Commuters ... Nelson strikes out seven and walks nine in handing Oakland its 25th-straight loss to open the season ... Nelson's fifth-inning home run hit right before the right field fence and rolled into a water hole.

June 24

Oakland signs Tom Feeney after Fitzsimmons leaves the team.

July 1

Catcher Bliss is forced to leave the game against Santa Cruz with an injury ... the Sand Crabs' Graham loans outfielder Brown to the Commuters as Oakland is down to eight players and would face a fine for not having enough players.

1908 Oakland Commuters [7 of 10]:

July 2

San Francisco's game at Santa Cruz is forfeited to San Francisco when the San Crab players refuse to take the field in protest of not having been paid ... it's estimated that the Santa Cruz ownership is \$1,400 in arrears ... manager William Keating resigns and is replaced by Orlando Stevens.

July 3

Frank "Big Chief" Esola, the former Seal catcher, has been ordered to join the Oakland state league team in company with pitcher Pierce of Santa Cruz. It is hoped that these two men will help the tailenders win a game now and then.

July 17

Forty-year-old second baseman Josh Reilly is hitting .142 when retires from the game ... citing the team's poor performance, the 40-year-old is replaced as team captain by Lou Schwartz.

ALAMEDA, November 1.—The announced State League double-header between Alameda and Oakland did not materialize at Recreation Park this morning. Secretary Calder of the Alameda park and baseball corporation figured that the Oakland club would not even draw flies to the park and the games were called off.

July 26

Oakland totals season highs in runs (13) and hits (15) in a 13-8 win over visiting San Francisco.

OAKS HERE TO DROP PAIR OF GAMES

Bill Curtin's players and Sacramento fans are being entertained this afternoon at Oak Park by an alleged baseball team from Oakland, known as the Oakland State League Team, and the score this afternoon will likely be runs for the Sacramento boys and doughnuts for the visitors. The Oaks will also eat doughnuts tomorrow afternoon.

August 22

Oakland pulls off a triple play in a 14-2 loss at Santa Cruz ... Swag Conway started on the hill but was relieved by Zamlock, who was making his mound debut... Zamlock "posed on the mound like a gladiator of the old school," and allowed four runs on five hits and three walks in one inning before being relieved by Captain Schwartz, who was "far from an enigma, but before he concludes to poise as a twirler he should go into secret consultation with an oculist to improve his range of vision.

August 30

Skaggs strikes out a team season-high 15 in a 6-0 loss to San Francisco.

October 3

Another ex-Oakland pitcher comes back to haunt the Commuters as Big "Pal" Mosher, a Santa Cruz amateur, allows only eight hits in Santa Cruz's 8-0 shutout win.

November 14

Oakland closes out the season forfeiting a doubleheader to Stockton.

1908 California State League Snapshots



Charley "Spider" Baum, Fresno
One of the most accomplished pitchers in the history of West Coast baseball, Baum wins 302 games in 19 seasons with independent and minor league teams. Baum wins 20 or more games nine times, including a 30-win season with the San Francisco Seals in 1915.



Ping Bodie, San Francisco
Bodie begins his professional baseball career in 1905 with San Francisco of the California State League. He is hitting .357 in seven games with the San Francisco Orphans when on May 4 he jumps the team to join the PCL's Seals. In nine major league seasons with the Chicago White Sox (1911-1914), Philadelphia Athletics (1917) and the New York Yankees (1918-1921), Bodie hits .275 with 43 home runs, 514 RBIs and 83 stolen bases.



Lloyd Broadbent, Alameda
Canadian by birth, but a shortstop by choice, a 17-year-old Broadbent is playing with an independent team from Pico Rivera, California, when the injury-riddled Los Angeles Angels sign him on November 22, 1905. A day later, he is 1-for-3 against the Portland Giants in his pro debut with a stolen base and an error. Over the next two days, he garners headlines handling 18 chances without an miscue. However, on November 26, the bubble bursts in a doubleheader loss to Portland as he commits three key errors in the two games. Released the following day, Broadbent is 1-for-14 with a stolen base and five errors in five games for the first-place Angels.



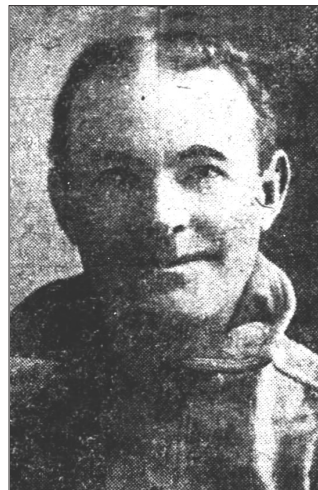
Eddie Burns, Alameda
Considered the top defensive catcher in the 1908 California State League, a 20-year-old Eddie Burns hits .222 for the Alameda Encinals. Another product of the vaunted St. Mary's College program, the 5-foot-6, 165-pound Burns hits .230 with 65 RBIs in seven major league seasons with the St. Louis Cardinals (1912) and the Philadelphia Phillies (1913-1918).



Jimmy Byrnes, Sacramento
A three-year veteran of the Pacific Coast League, Byrnes hits .243 in 67 games for Sacramento. In 1906, Byrnes is one of 11 players drafted out of the PCL. In 10 games for the Philadelphia Athletics, he hits .174 with one triple



George Croll, Fresno
Nicknamed "Bull," Croll hits .255 with 36 steals with Fresno and Sacramento in 1908. He begins his organized baseball career with the semipro Alameda Alerts in 1897. In 1907, Croll is fourth among Northwestern League hitting leaders with a .306 average.



Bill Devereaux, Santa Cruz
Following six-straight seasons in Oakland, 36-year-old Bill "Brick" Devereaux signs with Santa Cruz in 1908 as the team captain. The *Los Angeles Times* says that like Limburger cheese Devereaux seems to get better with age. Beginning his career with Oakland's Emerald team in 1891, the switch-hitting infielder plays until 1914 when he hits .266 as a 41-year-old with the California League's Watsonville Pippins



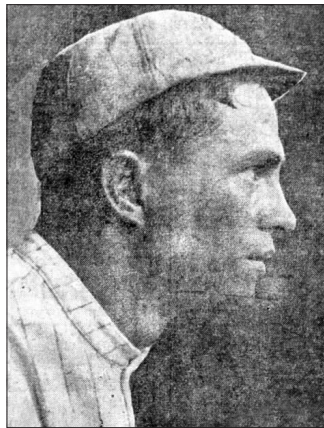
Charles Enwright, Alameda
Enwright plays collegiality at St. Mary's College, where for three years he was a member of the Phoenix, leading the team in hitting for two seasons. One of three .300 hitters for Sacramento in 1908, Enwright hits .306 with 25 steals for the hometown Senators. After the season its first reported that he was sold to the Cleveland Naps, then the Chicago White Sox. A mix-up causes a deal with the White Sox to fall through and in February a disgruntled Enwright announces his retirement. He eventually signs with the Cardinals in mid-February, but after only three games he retires, citing a desire to be with his girlfriend. On January 19, 1917, Enwright dies at the age 29 from blood poisoning.

1908 California State League Snapshots



Edward Hallinan, Alameda

San Francisco native Edward Hallinan moves straight from the campus of St. Mary's College to the starting lineup of the Alameda Encinals in time for the 1908 opener. Short of temper, the talented third baseman is asked to leave the field by the umpire three times in the Encinals' first 30 games. After hitting .201 in 104 games for the Los Angeles Angels in 1910, Hallinan is purchased by the St. Louis Browns where in two seasons as a part-time infielder he hits .212. Hallinan enlists in the Army in 1917 and serves overseas during World War I.



Harry Hooper, Sacramento

One of the premier players of his era, Hooper is elected to the Baseball of Fame in 1971 on a vote by the Veteran's Committee. In a stellar 17-year major league career, Hooper has 2,466 hits, 1,429 runs, 375 stolen bases and a .281 batting average. On March 3, 1921, Boston trades Hooper to the Chicago White Sox. Red Sox President Henry Frazee explains that every year there had been a question if Hooper was going to play or not. Hooper had reserved his decision until "very late," and the Red Sox had been placed in a very uncertain position.



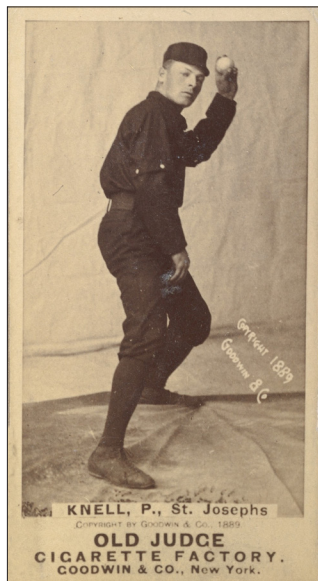
Ben Henderson, Sacramento

Despite being a multiple "jumper" of contracts, Ben Henderson is also one of the most successful minor league pitchers of his era. Over a five-year span where he plays a full season (1906-1909, 1911), the right-hander is 134-58. The "long-gear" hurler begins his career in 1902 with Fort Scott (Kansas) in the semipro Valley League. Henderson is 35-5 with Sacramento in 1908. Following three seasons in the outlaw California State League, Henderson returns to the pro ranks with Portland only after agreeing to an anti-booze contract. A year later, he is suspended again after he leaves the team in July.



Josephus Joyce, Stockton

Bill Moriarity claims that Josephus "Joe" Joyce is the finest infielder that he has ever played alongside. Joyce has a seven-year pro career, all within the state of California. Stockton's every day third baseman in 1908, Joyce hits .181 with 17 stolen bases.



Phil Knell, San Francisco

A portrister of many baseball summers, 43-year-old "slow ball" artist Phil Knell is both team president and pitcher for the San Francisco franchise in 1908. Knell is 3-10 in 17 games, which isn't so bad when you consider the Orphans only won nine games finishing ahead of only hapless Oakland.



Bob McHale, Sacramento

In his 18th season of pro baseball, a 38-year-old McHale, after hitting .237 with the Western League's Denver Grizzlies, signs with Sacramento at the end of the 1907 season. Playing in every game for the Senators during the 1908 season, McHale hits .230 with 22 stolen bases. Following a brief holdout in the spring of 1898, McHale remains in California before making his way East and making his major debut on May 9, 1898, with the Washington Senators. In 11 games, he hits .182 with seven RBIs on six hits in 33 at bats.



Bill Moriarty, Stockton

Moriarty signs with Stockton on January 26 and according to the *Stockton Evening Mail* the news is greeted with enthusiasm by the city's young ladies. Reinstated the following year, Moriarty will play six games with the Cincinnati Reds in 1909, collecting four hits in 20 at bats (.200).



Doc Moskiman, Stockton

A 22-game winner with Stockton in 1908, Moskiman is playing in the California State League after refusing his assignment to the Louisville Colonels. The Oakland native earns the nickname "Doc" having attended Cooper Medical College in Oakland eight years earlier. He appears in five games with the Boston Red Sox in 1910, collecting one hit in nine at bats. Moskiman wins 31 games in 1909 and 29 in 1901, both with Oakland.

1908 California State League Snapshots



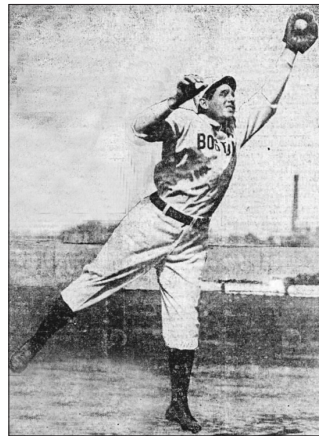
Joe Nealon,

Following two seasons as the Pittsburgh Pirates' starting first baseman, Nealon retires on December 1, 1907, to enter private business with his millionaire father who owns extensive mining interests. Signing with Sacramento, Nealon will lead the California State League in hitting with a .372 average.



Slats Nelson, Alameda

The slender lefty is 10-7 with Alameda, including a no-hitter against Oakland on June 14. Two weeks later, Nelson is sold to the PCL's Oakland Oaks where he is 10-14 in 31 games.



Fred Raymer, Sacramento

Raymer plays three years in the major leagues with the Chicago Cubs and the Boston Beaneaters. After making 42 errors in 215 opportunities with the Cubs in 1901, Raymer is blacklisted by the American League for jumping his contract with Milwaukee. Back in the good graces of organized baseball, Raymer is Boston's starting second baseman in 1904 and 1905, hitting .210 and .211, respectively. Raymer finishes his major league career with a .218 batting average. A plumber by trade, he is noted for numerous domestic disturbances with his wife.



Happy Smith, San Jose

Nicknamed "the near-bald West-erner," Smith nearly signs with the Oakland Oaks in 1908, but not wanting to be tied down to a legal Pacific Coast League contract, he instead signs with the San Jose Prune Pickers for a third-straight year and hits .333 with 14 steals. After hitting .341 for Oakland in 1909, Smith's contract is awarded to the Chicago Cubs. On April 6, 1910, the Cubs trade Smith to Brooklyn in a multi-player deal. On July 25, the Oregon native is hitting .237 when leaves the Cubs, claiming home sickness.



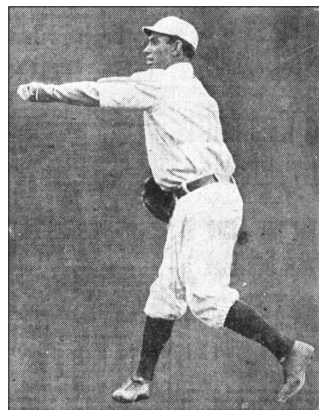
Elmer Stricklett, San Jose

A noted spitball pitcher, Stricklett is 35-51 in four major league seasons with the Chicago White Sox (1904) and the Brooklyn Superbas (1905-1907). In 1906, he wins 14 games for the Superbas. In 1907 he wins 12 games, including three consecutive shutouts in early July. In March 1908, Stricklett jumps his contract with Brooklyn to join San Jose after the Prune Pickers guarantee him two years' salary and free rent and electricity for seven years for a cigar store he opened on March 15. That November, Stricklett asks for reinstatement after it is revealed that he had not received the money promised to him by the San Jose team owners.



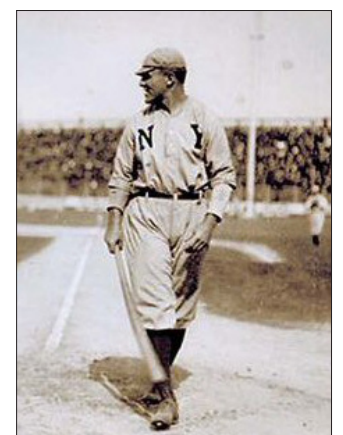
Jimmy Whalen, Sacramento

In 11 seasons of organized baseball, both minor league and outlaw, Jimmy Whalen wins 257 games. Considered one of the most popular players on the Pacific Coast, Whalen wins 29 or more games seven times. On eight occasions he pitches 300 or more innings, including three seasons with 500 or more innings. With Sacramento in 1908, he finishes second in the California State league with 31 victories. As a rookie in 1901, he wins 36 games for the San Francisco Wasps of the California League, despite missing almost three weeks with a sprained ankle.



Harry Wolter, San Jose

After making it to the major leagues and playing for three teams in 1907 - Cincinnati, Pittsburgh and St. Louis - Wolter's contract is sold to St. Paul, but the 23-year-old lefty refuses to report to the Saints and instead joins the San Jose Prune Pickers of the California State League. In addition to finishing third in the "out-law" league with a .339 average, he is the circuit's top pitcher with a 25-2 mark, which includes a 17-game winning streak. In seven major league seasons, the Santa Clara University product hits .270 with 12 home runs and 95 stolen bases.



Orth Collins, Santa Cruz

Although listed as playing with the Santa Cruz Sand Crabs in 1908, that is incorrect. Collins splits the 1908 season between Memphis and Terre Haute. **I was unable to come up with the first name of the Collins with the San Crabs.** Orth Collins begins his career in 1900 as a pitcher with the independent Memphis Chickasaws. An accomplished bowler, the Washington, D.C., product makes his major league debut with the New York Highlanders in 1904, hitting a robust .353 (6-for-17) in five June games.