

Jim Riley, "He Shoots, He Scores"

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On July 3, 1921, a little less than three months from after scoring his 23rd goal playing for the Seattle Metropolitans of the Pacific Coast Hockey League, Jim Riley makes his major league debut with the American League's St. Louis Browns and in the process becomes the first and only athlete to play both major league baseball and major league hockey.



Jim Riley
1926 Dallas Steers

Born on May 25, 1895, in Bayfield, New Brunswick, Canada, Riley begins his pro hockey career in 1916, splitting time between the Victoria Aristocrats and the Metropolitans. That spring Riley receives a tryout with the Northwestern League's Tacoma Tigers and despite a favorable review by Seattle Giants' manager Tealy Raymond, he fails to make the team, with manager Russ Hall citing "lack of experience."

"Riley is a first baseman and a good free-style hitter. Riley is working out on the Park in Seattle with Tealy Raymond and others of the Seattle squad waiting for word from Russ Hall to join the Tacoma bunch. Raymond picks Riley to make good with the Tigers."

-Spokane Chronicle, March 13, 1916.

Back on the ice in 1917, Riley's Metropolitans beat the Montreal Canadiens, champions of the National Hockey Association (NHA) three games to one to capture what some refer to as the Stanley Cup championship. The following year, three days after being married on April 12, 1918, Riley enlists in the Canadian military with the Sixth Field Canadian Engineer Company and serves in France, attaining the rank of sergeant.

Riley will eventually play seven seasons with the Metropolitans (between 1916 and 1924), winning two league championships and earning four all-star team selections. He also finishes second among league goal scoring leaders twice in 1921 and 1922. In addition, Riley is playing semipro baseball in locations

like Cedar Lake, Washington (1919) and Rossland, British Columbia (1920).

Nicknamed "The Fighting Irishman" for his pugnacious behavior on the ice, Riley gets his pro baseball baptism in 1921 with the Pacific Coast International League's Vancouver Beavers. He is hitting .303 with nine doubles, three triples and nine or 12 home runs (depending on your source) when on June 26 he is purchased by the American League's St. Louis Browns for \$5,000.

Riley makes his major league debut on July 3, 1921 at Sportsman Park in St. Louis. Substituting for Jimmy Austin at second base, Riley strikes out against Red Faber in his only at bat in a 5-1 loss to the Chicago White Sox.

Two weeks later, hitless in 11 at bats and charged with two errors in the field, the Browns send him to Terre Haute of the Three-I (B) League on June 19. With the Tots he hits .296 with 19 extra base hits.

In the spring of 1923, Riley signs with the Shreveport Gassers of the Texas League, but is a hold out because he feels the team has sent him insufficient money for transportation.

Riley returns the majors one final time with the Washington Senators at the end of the 1923 season. In his six-game major league career, Riley is hitless in 14 at bats with three strikeouts and three walks.



Jim Riley
1920 Seattle Metropolitans



1917 Seattle Metropolitans

Top row: Harry Holmes, Bobby Rowe, Eddie Carpenter, Jack Walker; **Middle:** Frank Foyston, Pete Muldoon, mgr.; **Bottom:** Bernie Morris, Cully Wilson, Roy Rickey, Jim Riley.

The Metropolitan name is derived from the Metropolitan Building Company, which owns the Seattle Ice Arena where the team plays. The PCHL Mets capture the 1917 professional hockey championship by defeating the NHL's Montreal Canadiens three games to one by a combined score of 23 to 11.

Jim Riley [2 of 4]:

In 11 minor league seasons between 1921 and 1932 (he does not play baseball in 1931), Riley dons uniforms for the Vancouver Beavers (1921), Salt Lake City Bees (1922), Terre Haute Tots (1921-1922), Shreveport Gassers (1923-1924), Mobile Bears (1925), Dallas Steers (1926-1928), Fort Worth Panthers (1928-1929), San Antonio Indians (1929-1930), Topeka Senators (1930) before ending his career in 1932 with the Baton Rouge Senators.

In 1,201 minor league games, Riley fashions a .309 career average with 256 doubles, 66 triples and 110 home runs. Over a three-year span (1924-1926), three different teams, Riley hits .320 and averages 36 doubles, seven triples, 21 home runs and 121 RBIs.

With Dallas in 1926, the Steers win a Texas League championship and a Dixie Series title over the Southern League's New Orleans Pelicans.

A Canadian by birth, Riley becomes an American citizen on June 29, 1935. Moving to Seguin, Texas, where on May 25, 1969, exactly 74 years to the day of his birth in 1895, Riley passes away from lung and stomach cancer. He is buried at Guadalupe Valley Memorial Park in New Braunfels, Texas.

Jim Riley - Baseball Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Lev	AB	HT	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	AVG
1919	Cedar Lake (Wash.)	Big Six	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1920	Rossland	--	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1921	2 Teams	2 Leagues	B	431	129	24	9	9	-	10	.299
	Vancouver Beavers	Pacific Coast Int	B	218	66	9	5	9	-	-	.303
	St. Louis Browns	AMERICAN	MLB	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
	Terre Haute Tots	Three-I	B	213	63	15	4	0	-	10	.296
1922	2 Teams	2 Leagues	B-AA	563	171	25	16	8	-	-	.304
	Terre Haute Tots	Three-I	B	451	141	21	14	7	-	-	.313
	Salt Lake City Bees	Pacific Coast	AA	112	30	4	2	1	-	-	.268
1923	Shreveport Gassers	Texas	A	531	174	39	11	11	74	9	.328
	Washington Senators	AMERICAN	MLB	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
1924	Shreveport Gassers	Texas	A	603	188	34	7	26	127	13	.312
1925	Mobile Bears	Southern	A	587	188	34	11	27	125	7	.320
1926	Dallas Steers	Texas	A	626	206	39	4	10	111	8	.329
1927	Dallas Steers	Texas	A	580	186	35	4	7	96	8	.321
1928	Dallas/Ft. Worth	Texas	A	542	151	44	5	4	86	4	.279
1929	Ft. Worth/San Antonio	Texas	A	579	148	33	4	6	97	9	.256
1930	2 Teams	2 Leagues	A	389	98	15	3	5	-	-	.252
	Topeka Senators	Western	A	227	60	11	3	4	-	-	.264
	San Antonio Indians	Texas	A	162	38	4	0	1	20	1	.235
1932	Baton Rouge Senators	Cotton States	D	261	74	11	1	7	-	-	.284
Major League Totals				2 Seasons	14	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Minor League Totals				11 Seasons	4571	1414	256	66	110	-	.309

ML Debut: July 3, 1921 at Sportsman Park, St. Louis: substituted for Jimmy Austin at second base and struck out against Red Faber in his only at bat in a 5-1 loss to the Chicago White Sox.

ML Finale: October 7, 1923 at Griffith Stadium, Washington, D.C.: started at first base and batted fifth ... went 0-for-2 with two walks and scored a run in a 5-2 win over the Boston Red Sox.

RILEY CHRONOLOGY

September 3, 1919

The Nanaimo Daily News reports that Riley and J.C. Gardner have purchased Shades Hotel and now are conducting the "well-known hostelry."

April 13, 1921

Following a 23-goal season with the Seattle Metropolitans, Riley and teammate Jake "Muzz" Murray work out with the Vancouver Beavers of the Pacific Coast International (B) League ... both players have signed contracts and are expected to make the team ... Murray is released on April 16, but later appears in two games with the Kitchener Beavers of the Michigan-Ontario (B) League.

May 3, 1921

In his professional baseball debut with Vancouver, Riley is 1-for-4 with a single and two runs scored in a 15-5 win over the Victoria Bees in the season opener for both teams.

June 22, 1921

Riley hits his fifth home run in six days, and 12th of the year, in Vancouver's 8-2 win over Tacoma.

Jim Riley Goes to St. Louis Americans
 Home Run King of Beavers Sold for \$5 000

June 26, 1921

In a little less than three months, Riley goes from the sandlots of Vancouver to the major leagues when he is sold to the American League's St. Louis Browns for \$5,000 ... Riley is leading the Pacific International League in home runs with 12 at the time of his purchase.

HOCKEY PLAYERS ARE AFTER BASEBALL JOBS

**Jim Riley and "Muzz" Murray
Out With the
Beavers.**

Jim Riley [3 of 4]:

July 3, 1921
Chicago White Sox at St. Louis Browns
Sportsman Park, St. Louis, Missouri

CHICAGO						ST. LOUIS							
Ab.	R.	H.	O.	A.	E.	Ab.	R.	H.	O.	A.	E.		
Johnson,ss.	5	1	2	2	6	0	Tobin,rf.	4	0	2	0	0	0
Mulligan,3b	3	1	2	1	1	0	Ellerbe,3b.	3	1	1	0	2	0
Strunk,rf.	4	1	2	3	0	0	Wetzel,cf.	3	0	0	3	1	0
Falk,lf.	3	1	1	0	0	0	Williams,lf.	4	0	0	6	0	0
Mostil,cf.	2	0	1	5	0	0	Jacobson,lb	3	0	2	6	3	0
Sheely,lb.	3	0	1	10	0	1	Collins,c.	4	0	0	6	1	0
McClell'n,2b	4	0	0	3	3	0	McM's,2b,ss.	4	0	0	3	3	0
Schalk,c.	4	0	0	3	0	0	Austin,ss.	2	0	0	2	1	0
Faber,p.	4	1	1	0	1	0	Riley,2b.	1	0	0	0	0	0
							Davis,p.	2	0	0	1	0	0
							Deberry,p.	0	0	0	0	1	0
							Severaid.	1	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	32	5	19	27	11	1	Totals	31	1	5	27	12	0

Chicago..... 0 0 0 0 0 2 2 0 1-5
St. Louis..... 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1-1
Two-base hit—Tobin. Three-base hits—Strunk, Mulligan. Sacrifices—Mulligan, Ellerbe, Falk. Double play—McClellan to Johnson to Sheely. Left on bases—Chicago, 7; St. Louis, 6. Bases on balls—Off Faber, 2; off Davis, 4. Hits—Off Davis, 8 in 8 innings; off Deberry, 2 in 1 inning. Hit by pitcher—By Davis (Mostil). Struck out—By Faber, 2; by Davis, 4. Losing pitcher—Davis. Umpires—Hildebrand and Wilson. Time—1:40.

July 3, 1921

Riley makes his major league debut at Sportsman Park in St. Louis ... substituting for Jimmy Austin at second base, Riley strikes out against Red Faber in his only at bat in a 5-1 loss to the Chicago White Sox.

July 4, 1921

In the first game of a doubleheader with the visiting Detroit Tigers, Riley makes his first start in the major leagues ... he is hitless in three at bats with a walk but handles five chances in the field flawlessly in a 4-1 loss.

July 19, 1921

Riley is hitless in 12 at bats with St. Louis when he is released to the Terre Haute Tots of the Three-I (B) League ... his throwing motion is said to give the Browns concern.

1922

After hitting .328 with 39 double and 11 home runs for Shreveport, Riley earns Three-I League all-star honors as a first baseman.

March 16, 1923

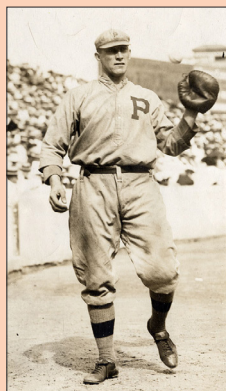
Riley is a holdout with the Gassers, but not for an increase in salary, but rather for increased car fare ... Riley says that unless Shreveport comes up with more money for transportation they won't see him at all.

June 29, 1923

Riley is sold to the Washington Senators and told to report in the "Autumn."

December 1, 1924 - Dumb Move

Coming off a career year with Shreveport in 1924 (.312 average, 26 home runs, 127 RBIs), Riley is released to make room for 39-year-old former major leaguer Fred Luderus (right) who the Gassers have hired to be the team's player/manager in 1925. The 39-year-old Luderus will hit .296 with seven home runs before leaving the team on June 2, mired in next-to-last place with a 16-25 record.



August 21, 1925

Playing for the Mobile Bears, his third team in as many years, Riley initially sets a Southern Association record with his 27th home run in the third week in August, breaking the league record of 26 set a year earlier by Chattanooga's John Anderson ... Atlanta's Nic Cullop eventually passes Riley and finishes as the league leader with 30 round trippers.

June 16, 1928

Two days after being benched by Dallas manager Babe Ellison, Dallas sells Riley to the Fort Worth Panthers.

May 7, 1929

Riley is traded from Fort Worth to San Antonio for 35-year-old first baseman Ray Grimes ... in six major league seasons (1920-1924, 1926), Grimes fashioned a .329 career batting average with 27 home runs and 263 RBIs.

Leroy Goldsworthy



Leroy Goldsworthy is an outstanding two-sport athlete, playing both minor league baseball and NHL hockey. A native of Two Harbors, Minnesota, Goldsworthy plays nine seasons in the NHL, including two years with the Montreal Canadiens and the Chicago Black Hawks. He scores 66 goals in his NHL tenure, including a career-high 20 with the Canadians in 1935.

During the summer months, he is a pitcher of some note playing for the Springfield Ponies of the Eastern League (1928-1929) and the Northern League's Winnipeg Maroons (1933-1935). In his five seasons on the diamond, Goldsworthy posts a 41-22 mark. In 1933, the 27-year-old right-hander is 22-6 with 195 strikeouts in 250 innings pitched. His 22 wins and 195 strikeouts lead the league.



Jim Riley
1927 Chicago Blackhawks

Jim Riley [4 of 4]:

July 1, 1930

San Antonio announces that Riley has been "transferred" to the Topeka Senators of the Western (A) League ... this follows the Indians' acquisition of first baseman Sam Leslie and pitcher Ray Lucas from the New York Giants for pitcher Tiny Chaplin.

1931

Returning to Dallas, Riley plays for the Ice Kings hockey team of the Southwestern League.

April 4, 1932

It is announced that Riley (37) and Josh Billings (40) plan to purchase the Baton Rouge Senators of the Cotton States League ... Riley and Billings "clean house" releasing all nine players under contract from the previous year's last-place team.

May 11, 1932

Riley is arrested for attacking pitcher Joe Berry in Pine Bluff's 5-2 win over visiting Baton Rouge ... league president Frank Scott suspends Riley indefinitely.

March 21, 1933

Riley is named manager of the Coleman franchise in the West Texas League.

May 1933

Riley is the manager of the Alamo Heights Red Men of the Mountain League in Texas ... his Red Men win the league championship.

May 25, 1969

A Canadian by birth, Riley becomes an American citizen on June 29, 1935. Moving to Seguin, Texas, where on May 25, 1969, exactly 74 years to the day of his birth in 1895, Riley passes away from lung and stomach cancer. He is buried at Guadalupe Valley Memorial Park in New Braunfels, Texas.

Jim Riley - Hockey Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	GP	Goal	Ast	Pts	PIM
1915	Calgary Vics	Alberta	-	-	-	-	-
1916	Victoria Aristocrats	PCHA	-	-	-	-	-
1916	Seattle Metropolitans	PCHA	-	-	-	-	-
1917	Seattle Metropolitans	PCHA	-	-	-	-	-
1918	Seattle Metropolitans	PCHA	17	4	0	4	0
1919	Military Service	-	-	-	-	-	-
1920	Seattle Metropolitans	PCHA	22	11	4	15	0
1921	Seattle Metropolitans	PCHA	24	23	5	28	19
1922	Seattle Metropolitans	PCHA	24	16	2	18	27
1923	Seattle Metropolitans	PCHA	29	23	4	27	50
1924	Seattle Metropolitans	PCHA	13	2	2	4	11
1927	Detroit Cougars	NHL	2	0	0	0	0
1927	Chicago Blackhawks	NHL	15	0	2	2	14
1928	Dallas Ice Kings	Southwestern	-	-	-	-	-
1929	Los Angeles Richfields	California	-	-	-	-	-
Professional Totals		13 Seasons	146	79	19	98	121