

# 13 Things to Know about Slim Love

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**“Grace and Love are strangers as unbelievable that may seem. He loped around on the hillock after the fashion of a dromedary in a frightened state. When a ball came within his sphere of influence, which was from first to third and second to the plate, he climbed up on his own neck.”**  
 - *Memphis Commercial Appeal*, March 18, 1912

## Personal

Born Edward Haughton Love on August 1, 1890, in Love's Station, Mississippi, a town named after his grandfather. Love is fatally injured in a car wreck on November 30, 1942, in Memphis, Tennessee. He is 52 years old.



Slim Love  
1913 Atlanta Crackers

## All in the Family

The Memphis Chickasaws claim that Love, their 6-foot-7 rookie pitcher, is not only the tallest player in baseball, but that he also comes from the tallest family with two brothers, Chapel and John, standing 6-foot-5 and 6-foot-3 respectively, a 6-foot-6 father and a 6-foot-3 mother.

## The Beginning

In an interview with *The Los Angeles Times* in 1915, Love says it was an engineer on the Illinois Central Railroad, that first gets him interested in a career in baseball. Pitching for the Love's Station team in a semipro league in Northwestern Mississippi, he was returning to Love's Station from a game in Grenada one day and was riding in the cab of the train when the engineer asked him what he intended to do when he was old enough to get a job. Love told him that his goal in life was to "get a job on this railroad." The engineer told him that with his arm he had a future in baseball. "If I get you a tryout," asked the engineer. "Will you do your best to make good?" Love agreed to take the chance and the engineer got his friend Bill Bernhard, then manager of the Memphis

club, to give the tall one a tryout. The angular one showed up well in the exhibition games and was signed up, but when the season opened he pulled a "bloomer" and was sent home.

However, Art Riggs, manager of the Selma club in the Cotton States League eventually signs Love and the rest is history.



Slim Love  
1915 Los Angeles Angels

April 26, 1912  
Meridian Metropolitans at Greenwood Scouts  
Greenwood, Mississippi

GREENWOOD.					MERIDIAN																
Ab.	r.	h.	po.	e.	Ab.	r.	h.	po.	e.												
Hett	rf.	4	0	0	0	1	Wright	ss.	5	1	0	4	0	1							
Rollins	2b.	4	0	1	2	0	Kennedy	cf.	5	1	1	0	0	0							
Collins	cf.	3	0	0	2	0	Denny	1b.	5	1	1	1	4	0							
Dodson	3b.	3	0	1	2	3	0	Wall	3b.	3	2	1	1	0							
Murphy	ss.	3	0	1	2	3	1	Coleman	lf.	4	0	0	5	0							
Law	1b.	3	1	0	9	1	0	Irwin	2b.	4	0	3	2	2							
Mitchell	lf.	2	0	0	3	0	0	Muller	c.	4	0	1	3	0							
M'Cormick	c.	3	1	0	6	2	0	Blackwood	rf.	3	0	0	1	0							
Love	p.	3	0	0	1	2	1	Chappelle	p.	3	0	2	0	7							
Totals					28	2	3	27	13	3	Totals					36	5	9	27	13	2

Summary: Two-base hits—Rollins, Denny. Sacrifice hits—Murphy, Mitchell. Stolen bases—Wright 2, Kennedy, Wall 3. Wild pitch—Love. Balk—Love. Base on balls—Off Love 3, off Chappelle 3. Struck out—By Love 6, by Chappelle 2. Time—1:55. Umpire—Noreum.

Love makes his **pro baseball debut** on April 26, 1912, against the visiting Meridian Metropolitans. Love allows nine hits, strikes out six while walking three with a balk and a wild pitch, in a 5-2 loss.

## Chick of Memphis

Out of Mississippi for the first time in his life, a 21-year-old Love talks his way into a spring training tryout with the Memphis Chickasaws. On March 17, 1912, in an exhibition game against the Brooklyn Dodgers and wearing tennis shoes on the mound, "the tallest player in captivity," pitches two scoreless innings, allowing one hit and walking one. The *Memphis Commercial Appeal* opines, "There appears to be a considerable lot of natural ability to the slim slabbist Love. He has an easy windup and does not waste any energy in delivery of the sphere." Released by the Chicks to the Greenwood Scouts on April 17, Love is winless in two decisions, hitless in five at bats and makes two errors in three chances with the Scouts before returning to Memphis in May. He later leaves Memphis to pitch for semipro teams, first in Arkansas and then in Coldwater, Mississippi.

**Slim Love [2 of 4]:**

**First Pro Season**

In his first full pro season in 1913, Love runs the gambit from Class D ball and the Selma Centralites to the major leagues and the Washington Senators, with a brief stop in between with the Crackers in Atlanta. Returning to the Cotton States League to begin the season, Love says that getting Brooklyn Dodgers out is easier than facing Cotton States hitters. With Selma he is 11-11 in 28 appearances, including a no-hitter on May 2 against the Jackson Lawmakers and a string of 35 scoreless innings where he allows only 15 hits. Purchased by Atlanta on July 28, he is 2-3 against Southern League opposition when on August 9, Love and Wally Smith are sold to the Washington Senators. Love is told to report to the Senators on September 6, while Smith is to report the following season.

September 8, 1913

New York Yankees at Washington Senators  
Griffith Stadium, Washington, D.C.

WASH'N.	AB.	R.	H.	SO.	BB.	SB.	PO.	A.	E.
Moeller, rf.	2	0	1	0	2	0	2	1	0
Milan, cf.	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
Foster, 3b.	4	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	0
Gandil, 1b.	3	0	0	1	1	0	10	0	0
Spencer, lf.	4	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0
Henry, c.	3	0	0	0	0	0	6	2	0
McBride, ss.	3	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	0
Morley, 2b.	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Engel, p.	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Gallia, p.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
Love, p.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Schaefer*	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>

\*Batted for Gallia in the eighth.

NEW YORK.	AB.	R.	H.	SO.	BB.	SB.	PO.	A.	E.
Maisel, 3b.	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0
Wolter, cf.	5	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	0
Cree, lf.	3	1	1	0	1	0	3	0	0
Hartzell, 2b.	3	0	1	0	0	0	4	3	0
Knight, 1b.	4	1	1	0	0	0	7	0	0
Gilhooley, rf.	3	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	0
Zelder, ss.	3	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0
Sweeney, c.	3	0	1	1	1	0	6	1	0
Caldwell, p.	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>
Washington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New York	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0

Left on bases—Washington, 5; New York, 7. First base on balls—Off Engel, 1; off Gallia, 4. Innings pitched—By Engel, 3½; by Gallia, 4½; by Love, 1. Hits made—Off Engel, 7; off Gallia, 1. Struck out—By Engel, 2; by Gallia, 1; by Love, 1. Two-base hits—Milan and Cree. Sacrifice hit—Hartzell. Double play—Milan to Gandil. Passed ball—Henry. Umpires—Messrs. Egan and Connolly. Time of game—1 hour and 55 minutes.

Love pitches a 1-2-3 scoreless ninth inning and strikes out centerfielder Harry Wolter in his **major league debut** against the visiting New York Yankees in front of 1,200 in Griffith Stadium. The *Washington Evening Star* notes that Love is scarcely 20 years old (he is 22) and has excellent control (he will lead the American League in walks with 116 in 1918).

the Commission didn't reverse its decision In November, the Commission agreed to reopen the Lowe case and eventually sided with the Angels.

**On the Move**

It was a busy off-season for the Mississippian in 1918, as he was first traded by the Yankees on December 18, along with Ray Caldwell, Frank Gilhooley, Roxy Walters and \$15,000 to Boston Red Sox in exchange for Duffy Lewis, Dutch Leonard and Ernie Shore. One month later, on January 17, 1919, he is on the move again, this time with Eddie Ainsmith and Chick Shorten to the Detroit Tigers for Ossie Vitt.

**MLB Starting Debut**

At the time the tallest player in major league history, Love is impressive in his first major league start against the Detroit Tigers on September 19, 1913. In eight innings he allows eight hits, strikes out one and walks two in a 2-1 win over the visiting Bengals. In a sign of things to come, he commit a pair of errors in his only two fielding chances.

**Tough Times**

Sold by the Senators to the Los Angeles Angels of the Pacific Coast League, Love experiences a rough start to the 1914 season. First, his mother, father and one brother die in their home in Mississippi. Then he throws his arm out twice and splits his finger before deciding to quit the game. Los Angeles manager Pop Dillon convinces Love to "stick it out," for another month and he does, finishing 10-9 with a 2.39 ERA.

**Legal Battle**

After the conclusion of the 1916 season, our lanky slabster finds himself at the center of a legal battle between Los Angeles Angels' owner Cal Ewing and the American League's Washington Senators. The National Commission had ordered Ewing to pay the Senators the \$2,500 that the Yankees paid the Angels to draft Love the previous season. Ewing vowed legal action if

June 2, 1913  
Jackson Lawmakers at Selma Centralites  
Selma, Alabama

JACKSON—	AB.	R.	H.	PO.	A.	E.
Stephenson, lf.	4	0	0	5	0	0
Brewster, 3b.	4	0	0	1	3	0
Mills, cf.	4	0	0	3	0	0
Robertson, c.	3	0	0	5	1	0
Steele, 1b.	2	0	0	9	4	1
Erwin, ss.	3	0	0	1	0	0
Clemens, 2b.	2	0	0	0	1	0
White, rf.	3	0	0	0	1	0
Fairecloth, p.	3	0	0	0	1	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>

SELMA—	AB.	R.	H.	PO.	A.	E.
Hanna, lf.	4	1	1	1	0	0
Mayer, cf.	3	1	2	0	0	0
E. Cowan, 3b.	4	0	1	1	1	0
Vasterling, 1b.	4	0	0	15	1	0
Holtz, rf.	4	0	2	1	0	0
Spratt, ss.	3	0	1	1	5	0
W. Cowan, 2b.	3	0	1	1	3	2
Mueller, c.	3	0	0	7	1	0
Love, p.	3	0	0	0	2	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>

Score by innings:	R.
Selma	000 020 000—2
Jackson	000 000 000—0

**Summary**

Struck out: Fairecloth 5; Love 6.  
Bases on balls: Love 2.  
Stolen bases: Erwin, Mayer.  
Hit by pitcher: Mayer.  
Two-base hits: Holtz 2; Hanna.  
Three base hits: Mayer.

Love pitches the first **no-hitter** of his career, blanking the visiting Jackson Lawmakers 2-0. He strikes out six and walks two and fields his position flawlessly in two opportunities. Former Selma manager Artie Riggs, made his debut as an umpire.



Slim Love  
1913 Washington Senators

## Slim Love [3 of 4]:

### THE LONG AND SHORT OF THE GRIFFMEN



Slim Love      Marito Acosta      Doc Hedgepeth  
1913 Washington Senators

On February 24, Love sends a letter to Tiger president Frank Navin announcing his retirement because the salary offered by the Tigers is \$100 less than what he was paid by the Yankees three years earlier. He tells Navin that he has a job at the Westinghouse Plant in Newark at the auto-starter department at 78 cents per hour and he also has a "flattering" offer to play semipro ball.

### Bird Beater

Love is the hero of the seventh annual Dixie Series between Dallas and New Orleans in 1926, when he wins three of the Steers' four victories against the Pelicans, including a 3-2 win in the series' clincher.

### Leaderboard

Love leads the PCL in ERA (1.95) and walks (138) in 1915 ... leads AL in walks (116) in 1918 ... leads Texas League in strikeouts (172) in 1923 ... leads Texas League in strikeouts (204) and walks (144) in 1924 ... leads Texas League in strikeouts (216) in 1926.

### WHEN "SLIM" LOVE FANNED LAJOIE

The tallest pitcher in baseball, "Slim" Love, is going back to the majors next spring as a member of the Yankees, who drafted him from Los Angeles of the Pacific Coast league. Love had a trial with Washington two seasons ago, but was so high in the air that bunted balls rolled past him before he could get his hands down to the earth. This cost him his job.

Larry Lajoie doubtless remembers Love by a little incident that transpired at Memphis in the spring of 1912. Love was the rawest sort of a rookie and wore tennis slippers in the box. Along about the fifth inning the Naps filled the bags with two down and Larry coming up.

Love began to quake at the knees. He looked over to the bench, where Bill Bernhard, then manager of the club, sat, and pleaded for instructions. "Must I pass him, Bill?" Love inquired. But Bernhard's assuring message was: "Pitch, you big boob, pitch!" And be darned if he didn't fan the Frenchman!



During his six seasons with the Texas League's Dallas Steers, Love earns the nickname "Magnolia," because he is almost as tall as the city's Magnolia Building.

### Forgettable Year

Love's career takes a step back in 1928 when an attack of influenza causes a late start to the season for the 37-year-old portsider. Unable to regain the form that allowed him to win 86 games the previous five years with the Dallas Steers, Love will finish with a 4-7 mark while pitching for three teams - Dallas (twice), San Antonio and Wichita Falls. He is given his outright release in August when Dallas attempts to send him to the Akron Tyrites of the Central (B) League. After the season, Love goes to work for an oil company in Texon, Texas, where his duties as a "switcher" are to see that tanks receiving oil do not exceed their capacity.

### Final Farewell

On May 4, 1930, Slim Love signs with the Memphis Chicks, the team that gave him his professional start 18 years earlier. Playing with a semipro team in Ennis, Texas,

Love replaces pitcher Clarence Griffin, who has suffered a finger injury. Released by the Chicks 11 days later, Love signs with the Baton Rouge Highlanders of the Cotton States (D) League where he ends his pro career with a 4-2 mark and 3.43 ERA. Following nine appearances with Baton Rouge, he is released on August 15, and ends the summer pitching for a semipro team in Osceola, Tennessee.

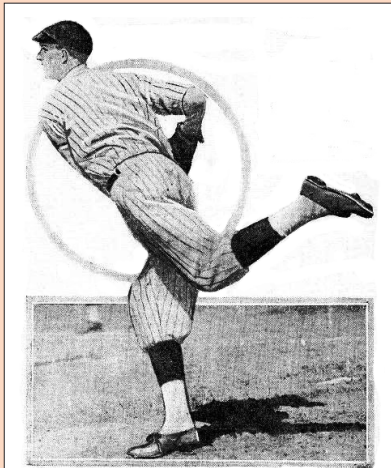


Slim Love  
1916 New York Yankees

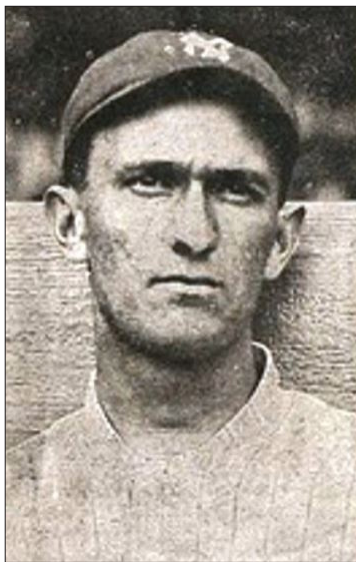


Slim Love  
1916 New York Yankees

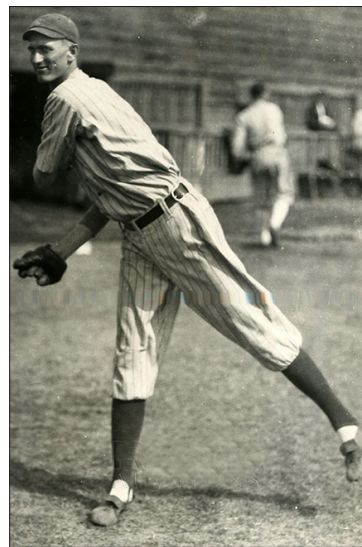
Slim Love [4 of 4]:



Slim Love  
1918 New York Yankees



Slim Love  
1918 New York Yankees



Slim Love  
1918 New York Yankees



Slim Love  
1920 San Francisco Seals



Slim Love  
1921 Vernon Tigers



Slim Love  
1926 Dallas Steers