

Rolla Mapel, "Lefty of St. Looney"

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"Where do ball players grab off them trick names? A guy which insists his legal handle is Rolla Mapel (Sweet Cookie!) has just been signed by the St. Looney Americans. Of course he's a pitcher, and I'll lay eight to five he's a Lefthander!"
 -- Camden Morning Post, September 4, 1919

Late in the 1919 season, 29-year-old St. Louis Browns' pitcher Rolla Mapel makes his major league entrance with back-to-back complete games against the Detroit Tigers. On August 31, he takes to a major league mound for the first time and fashions a 11-hit, complete game 4-1 loss to the visiting Bengals before a crowd of 6,000 at St. Louis' Sportsman Park.

TIGERS BEAT FORMER MINER
 Rolla Mapel, Sold to Browns by Joplin. Loses First Big League Start, 4 to 1—Mays Trims Macks and

A notoriously bad hitter, Mapel is 1-for-3 at the plate, collecting a fifth-inning single off of Doc Ayers, a veteran of seven major league seasons and yet at 28, one year younger than Mapel. His route-going effort is aided by a second inning triple play turned in by second baseman Joe Gedeon, shortstop Wally Gerber and first baseman George Sisler.

"This Mapel person, who arrived with his battery partner, Pat Collins, early in the week, was sent to the hill against the Tigers in the final game of the series on Sunday without previous notice of announcement. Such a relief. True, the newcomer out loser 4 to 1, but he at least pitched like a man who had his heart in it and intended to give the fans a run for their money. He got off to a bad start but righted and in the face of it worked splendidly until the ninth when the only real hitting of the game was done against him by the Tiger wrecking crew. Mapel made an auspicious start, win or lose and the fans have warmed up to him and will be for him strong until 'final judgment' is passed. He is cocky even in the face of defeat and before a big Sunday crowd he finished with head up and shoulders swinging."
 -- The Sporting News of September 4, 1919

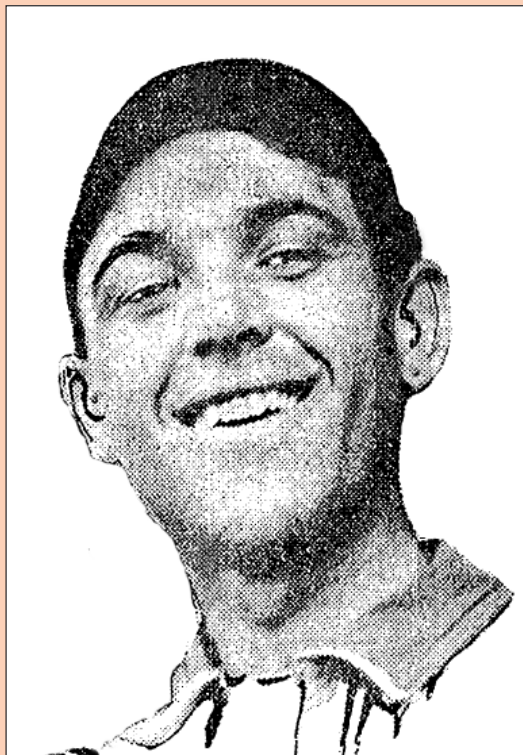
Major League Debut

Detroit Tigers at St. Louis Browns
 Sportsman Park, St. Louis, Missouri
 August 31, 1919

DETROIT (A)					ST. LOUIS (A)							
	abr	h	o	a	e		abr	h	o	a	e	
Bush,ss	3	2	6	2	0	Austin,3b	4	0	1	2	1	
Young,2b	4	1	1	7	0	Gedeon,2b	4	0	4	2	0	
Cobb,cf	4	0	1	0	0	Jacobson,cf	4	0	1	0	0	
Veach,lf	4	1	0	0	0	Sisler,1b	3	1	0	2	0	
Heilman,1b	4	0	1	4	2	Tobin,lf	2	0	0	0	0	
Flagg'd,rf	3	0	1	3	1	Demmitt,rf	2	0	1	1	1	
Jones,3b	4	0	1	0	0	Gerber,ss	3	0	1	5	4	
Ainsmith,c	3	0	1	2	0	*Smith	0	0	0	0	0	
Love,p	1	0	1	0	0	Severeld,c	1	0	2	0	1	
Ayers,p	3	0	2	0	1	Billings,c	2	0	1	1	0	
						Mapel,p	3	0	0	5	0	
						†Bronkie	1	0	0	0	0	
Totals	33	4	10	27	19							
						Totals	30	1	4	27	15	4

*Batted for Gerber in the ninth inning.
 †Batted for Mapel in the ninth inning.
 Detroit 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 2—4
 St. Louis 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0—1
 Two base hit—Demmitt. Three base hit—Bush. Stolen base—Bush. Sacrifice hits—Young, Flaggstead. Sacrifice fly—Veach. Triple play—Gedeon, Gerber and Sisler. Left on bases—Detroit, 10; St. Louis, 8. First base on balls—Off Love, 2; off Ayers 4; off Mapel, 4. Hits—Off Love, 1 in 1 1-5 innings. Hit by pitched ball—By Mapel (Heilman). Struck out—By Ayers, 1; by Mapel, 1. Wild pitch—Ayers—Winning pitcher—Love.

Pitching for the fifth-place St. Louis Browns, Mapel makes his major league debut with a complete game effort against the visiting Detroit Tigers. Allowing two first inning runs Mapel strikes out one, allows 10 hits and walks four in a 4-1 loss before an estimated crowd of 6,000 in Sportsman Park. Mapel benefitted from a triple play in the second inning.



Four days later, in his second start, against the same Bengals, he allows only four hits, but drops a 2-0 decision to Dutch Leonard at Detroit's Navin Field. In the two games, Mapel limits Detroit's Ty Cobb to one double in six at bats.

Mapel will make four appearances for the Browns in his brief major league career, including three starts, over a 12-day period. The Fort Scott, Kansas, native allows 10 earned runs on 17 hits and 17 walks in 20 innings pitched. He finishes 0-3 with the two complete games and a 4.50 ERA.

A master of the spitball and the "sailor," Mapel is 132-117 in 12 minor league seasons. His two best years come back-to-back. With the McAlester Miners in 1916, he is 21-11 with a Western (D) Association-leading 2.03 ERA. The following season he is 19-10 with a 2.19 ERA for the Joplin Miners. In 1910, he leads the Kansas State (D) League in strikeouts with 205 and in 1913 he is the winningest pitcher in the Nebraska State (D) League with 17 wins while toiling for the Kearney Kapitalists.

ROLLA MAPEL TO THE BROWNS

The Joplin Pitcher and Catcher Collins Will Report Next Spring.

JOPLIN, Mo., Aug. 15.—Pat Collins, catcher, and Rolla Mapel, pitcher for the Joplin Western League Club, have been sold to the St. Louis Americans, according to telegraphic report from St. Joseph, where the Miners are playing. Collins is one of the league's crack backstops and Mapel is the league's star southpaw.

The two players will remain with the Miners this season, reporting to the Browns next spring.

Rolla Mapel [2 of 8]:

Rolla Mapel Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Level	W-L	Finish	W-L	GP	INN	HIT	BB	SO	ERA
1907	Fort Scott Eagles	Eastern Kansas	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1908	Fort Scott Eagles	Eastern Kansas	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1909	Great Bend Millers	Kansas State	D	49-48	4 of 8	14-13	30	-	-	63	142	--
	Clinton	Missouri	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1910	Great Bend Millers	Kansas State	D	54-55	5 of 8	15-15	31	-	-	50	205	--
	Medford Cowboys	Oklahoma	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1911	Great Bend Millers	Kansas State	D	39-20	1 of 8	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
	Pueblo Indians	Western	A	92-75	3 of 8	0-1	1	9.0	6	-	-	--
	Kearney Buffaloes	Nebraska State	D	48-64	7 of 8	9-6	16	-	-	55	136	--
1912	New Orleans Pelicans	Southern	A	71-64	3 of 8	0-3	3	24.0	24	11	9	--
	Fort Worth Panthers	Texas	B	59-81	7 of 8	11-14	38	226.2	205	54	114	--
1913	Kearney Kapitalists	Nebraska State	D	67-45	1 of 8	17-9	27	-	-	-	-	--
1914	Kearney Kapitalists	Nebraska State	D	38-74	8 of 8	2-5	7	46.0	25	25	25	--
1915	Keokuk Indians	Central Associaton	D	51-52	3 of 8	1-0	1	9.0	4	4	7	0
	Bridgeport Indians	Sugar Beet	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
	Brush, Colorado	North Platte Valley	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1916	McAlester Miners	Western Association	D	79-58	3 of 8	21-11	38	265.1	201	85	148	2.03
	Kansas City All-Nations	Western Independents	Negro	5-6-2	4 of 8	2-0	-	-	-	-	-	--
1917	Joplin Miners	Western	A	79-68	4 of 8	19-10	43	263.0	233	67	203	2.19
1918	Joplin Miners	Western	A	34-31	4 of 8	5-2	8	84.0	59	24	43	--
	Camp Funston	Army	Military	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1919	Joplin Miners	Western	A	57-78	7 of 8	10-15	34	226.0	259	77	133	--
1919	St. Louis Browns	AMERICAN	MLB	67-72	5 of 8	0-3	4	20.0	17	17	2	4.50
1920	Brush, Colorado	North Platte Valley	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1921	Casper Refiners	Midwest	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
	Brush, Colorado	North Platte Valley	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
	Denver Broncs	Midwest	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1922	Simmons Bed Company	Midwest	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1923	Simmons Bed Company	Midwest	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1924	Simmons Bed Company	Midwest	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
	Kenosha Twin Sixes	Midwest	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1925	Kenosha Twin Sixes	Midwest	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1926	Cheyenne Indians	-	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1927	M&O Cigars, Denver	-	SPro	-	-	20-6	-	-	-	-	-	--
1928	Avoca, Colorado	-	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
	Racine, Wisconsin	Wisconsin-Illinois	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1929	Louisville Colonels	American Association	AA	75-90	5 of 8	2-7	25	78.0	98	27	-	4.85
	Mobile Bears	Southern Association	AA	57-95	7 of 8	6-6	13	99.0	122	52	-	5.09
1930	Sedalia (Mo.) Athletics	-	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1931	Sedalia (Mo.) Athletics	-	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1932	Casper Mechants	-	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
	House of David	-	Touring	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1933	Old Timers	-	Touring	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
Major League Totals				1 Season		0-3	4	20.0	17	17	2	4.50
Minor League Totals				12 Seasons		132-117	315	1330.0	1236	542	1217	--

Minor league statistics incomplete

ML Debut: August 31, 1919 at Sportsman Park, St. Louis: started and pitched a complete game in a 4-1 loss to the Detroit Tigers, allowing four runs, all earned, on 10 hits and four walks and one strikeout.

ML Finale: September 11, 1919 at Fenway Park, Boston: started and pitched two innings in a 6-0 loss to the Boston Red Sox, allowing six runs, four earned, on three hits, six walks and no strikeouts.

League Leadership

1910 Kansas State League - Strikeouts.....	205
1913 Nebraska State League - Wins.....	17
1916 Western Association - ERA.....	2.03

However, Mapel is best remembered for a game "outside" the realm of organized baseball. On September 21, 1915, playing for a semipro team from Brush, Colorado, the portly left-hander etches his name in the record book when he strikes out 27 batters in a 6-2 win in 12 innings over the Lithias Water Bottling team.

Mapel is first associated with the Fort Scott Eagles, a semipro team in southeastern Kansas, in 1907 and 1908. He makes his pro debut in 1909 with the reinvented Great Bend Millers, who are returning to the Kansas State (D) League for the first time since 1905.

A immediate sensation, he wins eight of his first nine decisions, including two shutouts and one game with 14 strikeouts, before finishing 14-13 in 30 appearances for the fourth-place Millers. In late July he is drafted by the Wichita Jobbers of the Western League, but he chooses not to sign with the Jobbers and is then pursued by the Denver Grizzlies of the same league.

Rolla Mapel [3 of 8]:

After the close of the 1909 Kansas State League season, Mapel joins a semipro team in Clinton, Missouri. On August 19, in a game against rival Uric, he breaks his wrist after colliding with his catcher. He is philosophical about his injury, "Yes, but not as bad as it might have been. It might have been my leg or even my neck."

Professional Debut

Lyons at Great Bend Millers
League Park, Great Bend, Kansas
May 8, 1909

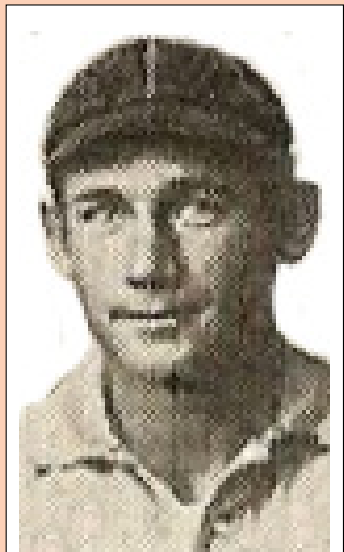
Great Bend.						
	AB	R	H	PO	A	E
Horack, 3b	4	1	2	4	0	0
McDowell, c	4	1	1	3	2	0
Block, cf	4	1	2	5	0	0
Jokerst, rf	2	1	0	1	1	0
Kling, 2b	3	1	0	1	2	0
Kennedy, 1b	4	0	0	8	1	1
Bowen, lf	4	0	0	0	0	0
Epling, ss	2	0	0	4	2	0
Maple, p	3	0	0	0	1	1
Totals	30	5	5	26	9	2

Lyons.						
	AB	R	H	PO	A	E
Kneaves, ss	5	0	0	1	4	4
Hamlin, rf	5	0	3	1	0	0
Riggert, lf	4	1	1	0	0	0
Weisner, cf	4	1	1	1	0	0
Manda, 3b	3	0	2	1	2	0
Bankhead, 2b	4	0	0	4	1	0
Turgeon, 1b	4	0	0	7	0	0
McNamara, c	4	1	1	9	0	1
Power, p	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bailey, p	4	1	2	0	3	1
Totals	34	4	11	24	10	6

Mapel makes his pro baseball debut defeating the visiting Lyons Lions 5-4. The lefty strikes out four, walks one and yields 11 hits in collecting the first of 132 minor league career wins.

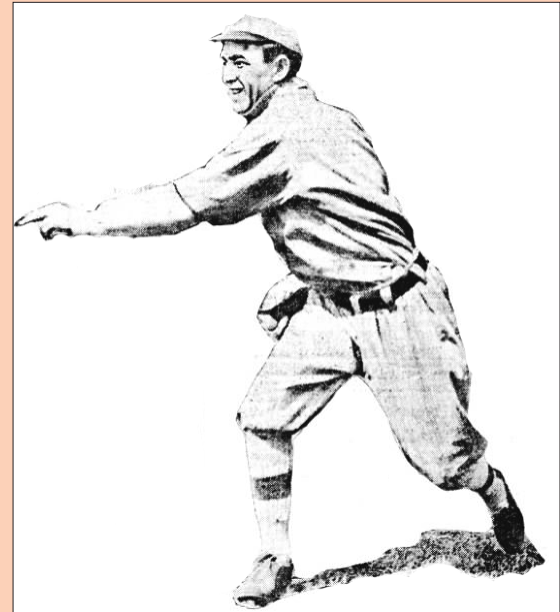
**"In those days they had to hit all kinds of trick pitching - the emery ball which can be broken three ways, the spitball, the sailer, they would blacken one side and leave the other side white and they would always use licorice, tobacco and slippery elm for discoloring the ball."
-- Rolla Mapel**

In 1910, a 20-year-old Mapel is 15-15 with the Millers and leads the Kansas State League in strikeouts with 205. He's back with Great Bend for a third season in 1911, but when the Kansas State League disbands on July 12 (with the Millers holding a half-game lead on Newton), his contract is secured by the Pueblo Indians of the Western (A) League.



Rolla Mapel
1910 Great Bend Millers

He pitches one game in his A-ball debut before being shipped down two levels to the Nebraska State (D) League's Kearney Kapitalists, where he is 9-6. After being scouted by the Boston Red Sox and the Philadelphia Phillies during the season, he is eventually drafted by the Cleveland Indians in September, who send him to New Orleans for further seasoning.



Mapel joins the New Orleans Pelicans in time for the team's 1912 spring training, which is held early on in Panama.

19 Strikeouts

Kearney Kapitalists at Freemont Pathfinders
Freemont, Nebraska
August 9, 1911

KEARNEY.					FREMONT.						
	AB	H	O	A	E		AB	H	O	A	E
Jarrott, cf	5	2	1	0	0	Rondeau, 2b	5	1	1	1	1
Synek, lf	4	1	1	0	0	Fullen, 1b	2	0	8	0	0
Downey, rf	5	0	1	0	0	Neff, rf	1	0	0	0	0
Pagles, 3b	5	4	2	0	0	Rouse, cf	3	1	0	0	0
Chilgord, 2b	4	1	3	1	0	Bohner, c	3	0	13	3	0
Claire, 1b	4	1	3	1	0	Thompson, p	3	1	1	2	0
Berte, ss	4	1	0	0	0	Turpin, lf	4	0	2	0	0
Gray, c	4	0	19	2	0	Carey, 3b	3	0	1	2	0
Maple, p	4	0	0	3	0	Smith, p	3	1	2	1	1
						Bennett, cf	3	0	1	0	0
Totals	29	10	30	7	0	Campbell, rf	1	0	1	1	0
						Totals	31	5	30	10	2

*Neff batted for Fullen in tenth.
Kearney0 0 0 0 0 2 1 0 1-4
Freemont3 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0-3
Two-base hits: Thompson, Pagles. Three-base hit: Claire. Home run: Rouse. Sacrifice hits: Thompson, Fullen. Stolen bases: Synek, Thompson, Carey. Bases on balls: Off Maple, 7; off Smith, 0. Struck out: By Maple, 19; by Smith, 12. Left on bases: Freemont, 8; Kearney, 5. Time: 2:06. Umpire: Held.

In a battle of future major leaguers, Mapel outduels Freemont's Harry Smith 4-3 in 10 innings. Mapel strikes out a career-best and Nebraska State League single-game record 19 batters in the come-from-behind win. Mapel walks seven and allows 10 hits, including a first-inning home run to centerfielder Walter Rouse.

Veteran Pelicans' manager Charlie Frank says that if Mapel were to put on "15 more pounds of flesh" he would be as good as any pitcher in the major leagues. "Maples" (sic) is 0-3 on when on May 15 the Pelicans option their "lightweight lefty" to Fort Worth of the highly-competitive Texas (B) League. In 38 appearances with the Panthers he is 11-14. He allows five or fewer hits five times, but perhaps more importantly he walks only 54 batters in 226 innings.

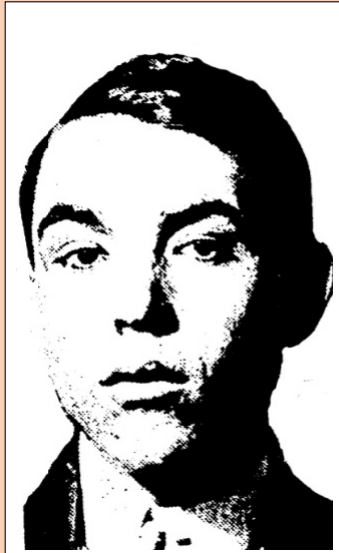
New Orleans recalls him from Fort Worth and on January 20, 1913, they release him back to the Texas League, this time with Beaumont. Instead he returns to Kearney.

The team's opening day pitcher (a 5-0 four-hit shutout of York), Mapel is 17-9 for the pennant-winning Kapitalists. After the season, but before he suffers an appendicitis in December, the Kapitalists sell their talented left-hander to the Muscatine Buttonmakers for some much needed cash.

Still recovering from his appendicitis, Mapel is unable to report to Muscatine and is sent back to Kearney. Finally able to pitch in the season's final month, Mapel makes a triumphal return on August 2, shutting out York on five hits, 2-0. However, he wins only two of seven decisions in his final injury-shortened stint in the Nebraska State League.

Rolla Mapel [4 of 8]:

After signing in February with the Keokuk Indians of the Central (D) Association, Mapel will spend most of 1915 toiling for semipro teams in Bridgeport, Nebraska, and Brush, Colorado. His signing with Keokuk is noteworthy in that not only does he receive a substantial salary, but the contract also contains a privilege seldom granted ball players in that era - the elimination of the reserve clause. His contract allows him to become a free agent at the end of the season if he is not sold to higher company.



Rolla Mapel
1917 Joplin Miners

After pitching in only one game for Keokuk, Mapel is released by the Indians in mid-May in order for the team to comply with the league's four-veteran rule. Signing with a semipro team in Bridgeport, he wins his first 18 games, including two no-hitters and one game against Central City where he fans 20 batters. In September he moves to Brush, Colorado, where on September 21, in the inaugural Denver Post Tournament, he strikes out 27 batters in a 6-2, 12-inning win over the Lithias Water Bottling team. With the victory, Brush moves to 3-0 in a tournament it will eventually win.

Mapel returns to the ranks of organized baseball in 1916, signing with the Texas League's Fort Worth Panthers. Panthers' manager Jakey Atz remarks that the team's only left-hander looks "much better physically," than when he was with the team in 1912. In late April, "Sugar" Mapel is surprisingly farmed out to the Oklahoma mining town of McAlister in the Western (D) Association. On the strength of a nine-game win streak, he opens the season 18-3 en route to winning a career-high 21 games, that includes a no-hitter and seven shutouts.

27 Strikeouts

Brush, Colorado vs. Lithias Water Bottling
Boadway Park, Denver, Colorado
September 21, 1915

BRUSH.					LITHIAS.				
Players—	AB.	H.	PO.	A.E.	Players—	AB.	H.	PO.	A.E.
Gilmore, 1f.	6	1	0	0	Whitehead, ss.	4	1	4	0
Jones, cf.	5	1	0	0	Roehl, 1f.	5	0	1	0
Harmon, ss.	4	1	0	0	McDonner, 2b.	5	0	1	0
Piney, 3b.	5	1	0	1	Roehl, 1f.	5	0	0	0
Marlek, 2b.	4	1	1	5	Lang, cf.	5	1	2	0
Odell, 1b.	5	1	1	0	Roehl, 1f.	5	0	1	0
Garrett, 1f.	4	0	1	0	James, 1b.	5	1	1	0
Bollinger, c.	4	0	2	2	Weir, c.	4	0	1	0
Mapel, p.	5	2	0	0	Donelson, p.	1	1	1	0
Jacken, 1f.	1	1	0	0	McCoy, c.	1	0	2	0
					Shoen's, p.	0	0	0	0

Totals	...	43	9	11	5	Totals	...	42	4	10	2
Score by Innings—											
B.U.F.											
Brush	...	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	4-6
Lithias	...	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0-2

Summary—Earned runs: Brush 4, Lithias 2. Two-base hits: Lang, Mapel. Base on balls: Of Donelson 1. Struck out: By Mapel 27, by Donelson 12, by Shoenker 1. Stolen base: Whitehead, Gilmore, Jones, Harmon, Piney, B. Luzzet. Sacrifice hit: Harmon. Hit by pitcher: Whitehead, Mattick. Passed ball:

In the annual Denver Post Baseball Tournament, Raleigh (Rollo) Mapel, pitching for the Brush, Colorado team, strikes out 27 Lithias batters in a 6-2 win in 12 innings. With the victory, Brush moves to 3-0 in a tournament it will eventually win while Lithias is eliminated. After the game, many of the Brush players leave for home as they have harvesting to do but will return when asked.

THOUSANDS OF PIPEFULS OF TUXEDO ARE SMOKED IN KEARNEY EVERY DAY

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Mr. Rolla H. Mapel, popular pitcher of the Kearney Ball team, endorses Tuxedo in terms of highest praise and finds, as do millions of other pipe smokers, that Tuxedo may be smoked without fear of tongue bite and assurance of exceptional mildness, flavor and fragrance. Mr. Mapel says:

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Rolla H. Mapel

MR. ROLLA H. MAPEL
Pitcher of Kearney Base Ball Club

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In the off-season, Mapel signs with the Topeka Savages of the Western League for 1917, but when the franchise is transferred to Joplin, he and most of the players make the 200-mile move south. Before the season starts, Joplin management offers him a unique \$100 bonus if he wins more than half of the games he appears in. Unfortunately for the off-sider his 19 wins, despite being the second-most wins of his career, fall short when he appears in 43 games. He and Herb Hall (52 appearances, 23 wins) and Roy Sanders (45, 18), combine to participate in 140 of the team's 154 games and win 60 games.

In 1918, Mapel is 5-2 with Joplin when he enters into the US Army on May 28 and is assigned to the 54th infantry at Camp Funston, near Junction City, Kansas, where he plays for the camp baseball team. Following his discharge, he rejoins Joplin for the 1919 campaign and is 10-15 with the Miners when on August 16, he and catcher Pat Collins are sold to the St. Louis Browns for a reported \$6,000.

Mapel Demands

During the team's 1918 spring training, Joplin's star left-hander Rolla Mapel demands a left-handed toilet set in the team's shower room. Mapel, the only southpaw on the team, has threatened to refuse to practice unless he is supplied with a left-handed comb and brush set in the clubhouse under the bleachers. Jim Danberry, the Miners' veteran clubhouse custodian, stands accused of including last year's comb and brush sets with a shipment of baseball equipment that was sent to the soldiers last winter. Danberry denies any wrong doing.

"Recruit Rolla Maple Shows Big League Caliber on Hill, though beaten by Tigers, 4-1"
- The St. Louis Post-Dispatch, September 1, 1919

Rolla Mapel [5 of 8]:

Less than a month after signing a Browns' contract for 1920, Mapel refuses to report to the team because of salary issues. His friends believe the eccentric and somewhat enlarged left-hander has wasted his best, and maybe his last, chance for a big league berth in order to take a job with the Mid-West Refinery in Casper, Wyoming. Mid-West (now Standard Oil) has a well-earned reputation for paying players top salaries during the summer months and then giving players a year-around job.

On July 31, Mapel's younger brother John, the "backbone" of Casper's pitching staff is offered a contract by the Pittsburgh Pirates.

However, Mapel picks a bad time to jump a major league contract as Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis is named baseball's first Commissioner on January 12, 1921, and one of his first actions is to bar more than 100 contract jumpers, including Mapel, from organized baseball for a five year period.

Mapel was probably travelling when Landis issued his proclamation as he was playing baseball almost all winter long, first with a barnstorming team that played primarily in the south before venturing into Mexico, and then with a "Babe" Ruth's team on the west coast.

"They're eccentric, those left-handers. And that's about the nicest thing that can be said about 'em, but we can't get along without 'em."
- Joplin Miners Manager Jim Hamilton, March 1920

Pittsburgh Offers J. Mapel Contract

Casper, Wyo., July 31.—John Mapel, backbone of the pitching staff of the Casper Midwest team, has been offered a contract by the Pittsburgh Nationals, with the option of beginning now or at the opening of next season. He has not made up his mind regarding acceptance. Mapel, who is 22 years old, is a brother of Rolla Mapel, formerly of the St. Louis Browns, who now is managing the Brush, Colo., team.

DAVENPORT TRADED TO CASPER FOR ROLLA MAPEL AND HEWITT

The baseball deal whereby Dave Davenport, star pitcher, will be traded by Denver to Casper for Rolla Mapel and Hewitt, was closed Thursday morning. Mapel and Hewitt will join the Denver Midwest leaguers at once.

Davenport has been playing with Casper, tho properly belonging to Denver. The trade just completed has been under consideration for several days.

In 1921, he plays for the Casper Refiners before returning to the Brush, Colorado team, where as a player-manager, they win the Colorado State title. Still under contract with Casper, Mapel is traded to the Denver Broncs on August 10, for former major league pitcher Dave Davenport, four years removed from a 17-win season with the St. Louis Browns.

Moving eastward to Wisconsin, he pitches three seasons (1922-1924) with Simmons Bed Company of

Kenosha where two of his teammates - Dickie Kerr and Larry Kopf - are also former major leaguers. In 1924 he moves across town and signs with the high-powered Kenosha Twin Sixes. In two seasons with the Twin Sixes, he reportedly wins 42 games while losing only six. Over the next couple of summers he plays for teams in Wyoming, Colorado and Wisconsin.

BAN AGAINST MAPEL LIFTED IN BASEBALL

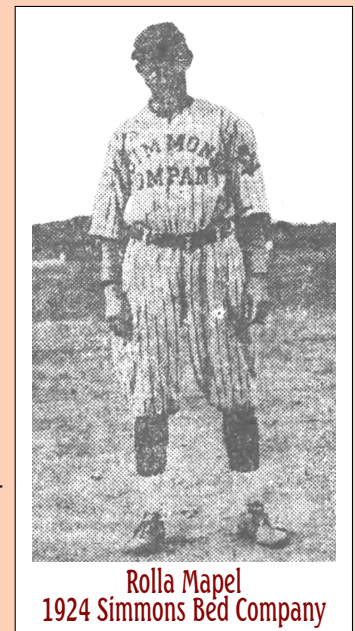
Rolla Mapel, former "outlaw" pitcher for Casper in the Midwest league, has been reinstated in organized baseball and is now working out with the Louisville club of the American association at Mobile, Ala. Mapel was going strong as a southpaw with the St. Louis Browns of the American league, when he held out against renewal of his contract and was banished temporarily from organized ball. Fans here will watch his attempted comeback with interest.

Reinstated to the good graces of organized baseball in 1929, St. Louis hasn't a need for an over-weight 39-year-old pitcher, so they consent to him signing with Louisville of the American Association. Mapel is the "dynamic sensation" of the Colonels' spring training camp after pitching five hitless innings against Mobile. He is released on July 14 after going 2-7 with a 4.85 ERA. Signing with the Southern League' Mobile Bears and tagged as "the nonchalant left-hander," Mapel is 6-6 with a 5.09 ERA in his final 13 appearances in organized baseball.

He returns to Kenosha to spend the off-season and tells the Kenosha News that he now considers himself to be a free agent and that he intends to sign with a team in either the American Association or the International League.

Returning to Mobile for 1930 spring training, Mapel is reunited with Jimmy Hamilton, his manager with Joplin some 11 years earlier. Sentiments aside, Hamilton releases the portly

40-year-old on April 19. He signs to manage the Sedalia (Mo.) team and is credited with helping to establish the first night baseball among independent leagues in Missouri. Over the next four years he plays with various touring teams - Babe Ruth All-Stars, Cy Young All-Stars, Casey Stengel All-Stars, House of David and the Old Timers.



Rolla Mapel
1924 Simmons Bed Company

Rolla Mapel [6 of 8]:



Rolla Mapel
1929 Louisville Colonels

Following his playing days, Mapel moves to Casper and takes a position in a cigar store while serving as a part-time scout in the region for the St. Louis Cardinals.

In 1933, Mapel becomes a part-time scout for the St. Louis Cardinals while a clerk at a cigar shop in Casper. In 1958, Mapel contracts a serious illness and is sent to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. After being released, he moves to San Diego to be near his brother John, who had retired to the California port city a couple of years earlier. Seriously ill since January, Mapel passes away on April 6, 1966, at the Navy Hospital in San Diego. He was 76 years old.

MAPEL CHRONOLOGY

June 17, 1908
Pitching for the semipro Fort Scott Athletics, Mapel, "who is fast developing into a star twirler," pitches a 3-0 four-hit shutout of the Pleasanton Millers.

July 16, 1915
Pitching for Bridgeport, Nebraska, Mapel strikes out 20 in a three-hit 6-2 complete

game win over Central City.

July 18, 1915
Mapel strikes out 18 and pitches his third no-hitter of the season as Bridgeport posts a 6-0 win over Central City.

No-Hitter
Bridgeport Indians vs. Alliance
Fort Robinson, Nebraska
July 5, 1915

BRIDGEPORT							
	AB	R	H	O	A	E	
Hurd, 3rd	5	1	3	1	0	0	0
Youman, rf	5	2	2	1	0	0	0
Tripp, ss	3	2	2	2	0	0	0
Farrell, 2d	4	2	2	0	1	1	
Landreth, 1st	4	3	3	5	2	1	
Gray, D., c	4	2	3	11	2	0	
Maple, p	4	0	1	0	2	0	
Gadd, lf	3	1	1	0	0	0	
Leach, cf	2	0	1	1	0	0	
Total	35	13	18	21	7	2	
ALLIANCE							
	AB	R	H	O	A	E	
Fenning, 2nd	2	1	0	3	2	2	
McNulty, ss	3	0	0	0	1	0	
Morgan, c	2	0	0	1	0	0	
Cherry, 1st	3	0	0	7	0	1	
Fenning, p	3	0	0	1	4	1	
Nation, cf	3	0	0	1	0	0	
Dolan, rf	2	0	0	6	0	0	
Morris, 3rd	2	0	0	3	2	0	
Register, lf	2	0	0	1	0	0	
Totals	24	1	0	25	9	4	
Youman out for interference.							
Alliance	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Bridgeport	3	1	2	0	2	7	x-15

Mapel has his second no-hitter in two weeks for the Bridgeport Indians, beating visiting Alliance 15-1 in seven innings. Mapel's batterery mate, catcher Dolly Gray is hit on the head by a bat and the game is delayed for several minutes until the wound is closed.

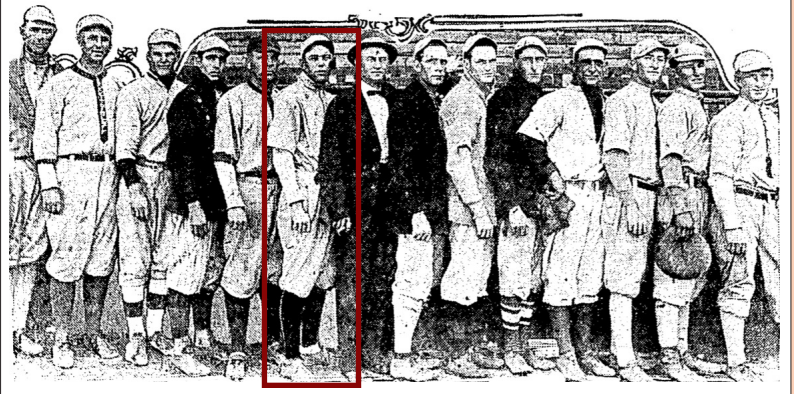
1913 Kearney Kapitalists



Kearney Kapitalists 1913 Nebraska State League Champions

- 1. Woodruff; 2. Plympton; 3. Maples; 4. Wright; 5. Herriott; 6. Patrick; 7. Gray; 8. Ernxson; 9. Singleton; 10. Lotz; 11. Berte; 12. Synek; 13. Schuren; 14. Acočk

1915 Brush (Colorado)



March 17, 1917
Mapel signs with the Western League's Joplin Miners.

May 12, 1918
On the same day that he is notified that he is one of seven Western League players to be drafted into the army on May 28, Mapel allows only five hits in a 1-0 win over Wichita. His induction into the Army is delayed until later in the year and he finishes 19-10 with a 2.19 ERA and is second among league strikeout leaders with 203 in his first full season at the A-ball level.

May 28, 1918
Mapel is inducted into the Army and sent to Camp Funston, where he pitches on the post's baseball team.

**MAPEL IS MAKING
RECORD IN NEBRASKA**

Former Indian Pitcher. Released
Last Spring. Wins Eighteen
Straight Gamca.

September 16, 1918
Mapel shuts out Jefferson Barracks 3-0 in front of 6,000 spectators in St. Louis' Sportsman Park.

Rolla Mapel [7 of 8]:

August 15, 1919

Joplin sells Mapel and catcher Pat Collins to the St. Louis Browns for a reported \$6,000. The two Joplin players leave for St. Louis on August 28.

June 22, 1919

Joplin's Mapel pitches a 3-0 11-hit shutout of Sioux City.

August 7, 1919

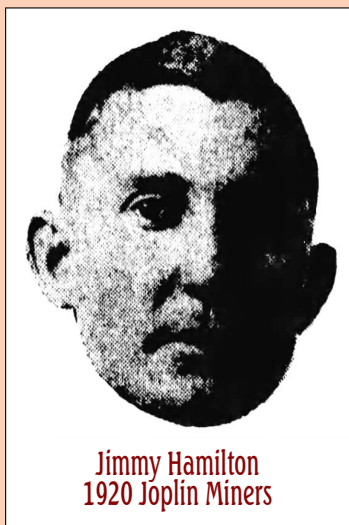
Joplin turns down a \$1,500 offer from Kansas City for Mapel's services.

August 15, 1919

Joplin sells Mapel and catcher Pat Collins to the St. Louis Browns for a reported \$6,000. The two Joplin players leave for St. Louis on August 28.

OUT OF THE BUSHES.

JOPLIN, Mo., Aug. 15.—Pat Collins, catcher, and Rolla Mapel, pitcher, for the Joplin Western league club, have been sold to the St. Louis American league club. The players will remain with Joplin the remainder of the season.



August 31, 1919

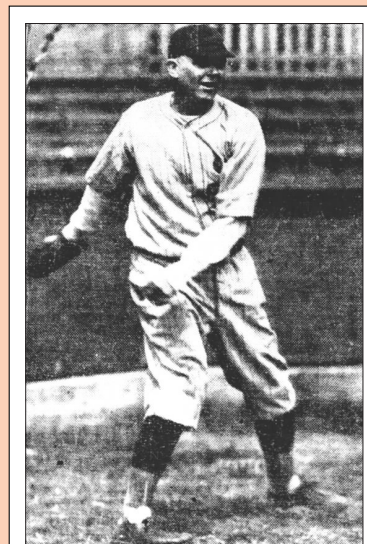
Mapel makes his major league debut with a complete game effort against the visiting Detroit Tigers. Allowing two first inning runs Mapel strikes out one, allows 10 hits and walks four in a 4-1 loss before an estimated crowd of 6,000 in Sportsman Park. Mapel benefitted from a triple play in the second inning.

September 5, 1919

Mapel is impressive for a second-straight game, pitching a five-hit complete game, but losing 2-0 ... in the two games, Ty Cobb is 1-for-6 against Mapel.

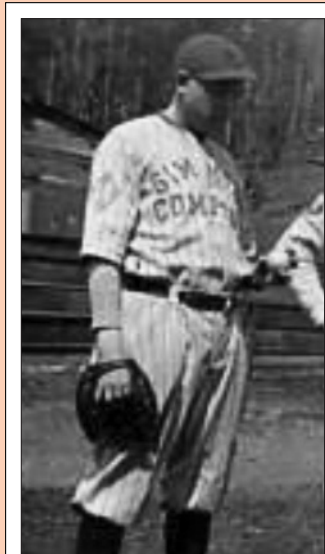
September 11, 1919

In his final major league appearance, Mapel allows the Boston Red Sox six runs on three hits and six walks before being relieved in the third inning of a 6-0 loss in the first game of a Thursday afternoon doubleheader.



September late 1919

A trip to the big league is worth considerable money to a ball player in more ways than one ... since returning to Joplin, Rolla Mapel is in demand as a pitcher in those parts and is getting \$50 a game for week day contests, and \$100 on Sundays.



May 7, 1920

Expected to go spring training with the St. Louis Browns, Mapel is an early holdout and is originally slated to go to the Louisville Colonels, but is eventually sold to a semipro team in Brush, Colorado ... drafted by Louisville, Mapel elects to play semipro ball in Colorado.

July 27, 1925

Mapel hurls one-hit ball as the Kenosha Twin Sixes trim the Racine Athletics 2-0 in a Wisconsin State League game.

September 11, 1925

Mapel yields only three hits as the Kenosha Twin Sixes defeated the Sheboygan Chairs 6 to 0 yesterday in a Wisconsin State league baseball game Hammond and Rumler both got three hits in as many tries for Kenosha.

March 12, 1929

Mapel is reinstated to organized baseball.

Old Outlaw Stars
Back in Harness

Rolla Mapel [8 of 8]:

April 1929

Mapel is the "dynamic sensation" of the Louisville spring training camp after pitching five hitless innings against Mobile ... originally slated to be sent to Dayton of the Central League, a "plump" Mapel is signed by the Colonels two weeks after the team's pre-season camp opens.

July 14, 1929

Mapel is given an "indefinite leave of absence," by Louisville.

July 18, 1929

Mapel allows eight runs in four innings in his debut with the Mobile Bears, 15-8 loss New Orleans.

March 25, 1937

Regains Prized Souvenir

CASPER, Wyo.—A note in THE SPORTING NEWS has restored to Rolla H. Mapel, former pitcher who had trials with the Cleveland Indians and St. Louis Browns, a prized souvenir of a game in which he struck out 27 batters. Maple was given a gold baseball in 1915 for the feat in a Denver Post tournament game on July 17 of that year, but lost the award. The souvenir was found about ten years ago by William Sorensen of Kenosha, Wis., who was unable to locate the owner.

Finally, Sorensen thought of the general circulation of THE SPORTING NEWS among those interested in the game, and requested publication of the fact that he had the gold baseball and would return it to the owner, if his whereabouts were made known. Through the publication in THE SPORTING NEWS of Sorensen's letter, Mapel was enabled to recover his long-lost trophy.

Mapel, now one of Casper's business men, retired from Organized Ball in 1930. He broke in with Great Bend in 1909 and subsequently was with Pueblo, Kearney, New Orleans, Fort Worth, Muscatine, Keokuk, McAlester, Topeka, Joplin, Louisville and Mobile. He was drafted by Cleveland from Pueblo in 1911 and bought by the St. Louis Browns from Joplin in 1919.

July 23, 1929

Mapel pitches the last shutout of his pro career, white-washing Chattanooga 4-0 on three hits.

January 26, 1930

Signs a 1930 contract with Mobile ... one of only four returning players from 1929 ... the "ancient and honorable"

April 18, 1930

In his final professional game, Maple is driven from the box after allowing five runs on five hits in the first two innings in a 15-4 loss to New Orleans.

April 19, 1930

One day after being driven from the box by New Orleans, Maple draws his release to make room for recently-signed Fred Pipgrass.

1933

Mapel tours with the "Forgotten Men of Baseball," on a 60-game schedule.

April 6, 1966

Mapel passes away in San Diego at the age of 76.

Casper's Great Baseball Player, Rolla Mapes, Dies

SAN DIEGO, Calif. (UPI) — Former Casper, Wyo., baseball player Rolla Mapel, who achieved fame in the major leagues, died early Wednesday at a hospital in San Diego. He was 74.

Mapel held the semi-strike-out record of all time. He struck out 27 men in 12 innings against a Pueblo, Colo., team in 1915 when he was playing for Brush, Colo., in the first Denver Post Tournament.

Mapel played baseball for a total of 25 years, most of which he spent with the St. Louis Browns.

In later years, he was a scout for the St. Louis Cardinals.

He was one of the first contract jumpers in organized baseball.

In the 1920s he signed a contract with the Browns, but refused to report for spring practice one year because he had been offered a better salary elsewhere.

Baseball High Commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis barred him from organized baseball for five years.

But in 1929, the Browns hired Mapel to play for them again.

He is survived by a sister, Mrs. William Schouboe of Casper, and a brother, John Mapel, a retired businessman.