

Lincoln Boyd, "Alabama A&M"

©DiamondsintheDusk.com

**"And Lincoln Boyd, the man with a big swing and a grunt to match, continued his display of power as he poked another out of the park.
- Clovis News-Journal, May 14, 1954**

[Lincoln Boyd's](#) brief pro career lasts four seasons with two teams in three different southern minor leagues. Nicknamed "Pepperball," the native Floridian first gains attention earning All-America honors on the gridiron for [Alabama A&M](#).

However, it's his two-and-a-half years spent with the Clovis (NM) Pioneers that defines his time in organized baseball. A two-time [West Texas-New Mexico League](#) mid-season All-Star, Boyd hits .323 with 73 doubles, 7 triples and 95 home runs. He will drive in 338 runs in exactly 338 games.

Following five solid seasons in the Negro Leagues (1948-1952) with the New Orleans Creoles, Atlanta Black Crackers, Cleveland Buckeyes and the Indianapolis Clowns, two brief sojourns north (1950) and south (1951-1952) of the border, and a spring training tryout with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1952, the 25-year-old right-handed power hitter makes his minor league debut in 1953 with the Leesburg Lakers of the Florida State (D) League, where hits .238 with eight home runs and 57 RBIs.

At the same time, Boyd's younger brother (by one year) [Laramie](#), makes his minor league debut in 1953 with the Pioneer (C) League's Pocatello Bannocks. After four games with the Bannocks, he is either released, or sold to the Ada (Oklahoma) Herefords of the Sooner State (D) League in early May. Laramie hits .250 for Lou Brower's Herefords with five doubles and three home runs in 31 games before leaving the team in July. From La Crescente, California, the younger Boyd is a three-sport star for the Nitros of Glendale High School and later attends [Glendale Community College](#) for one year prior to entering the pro ranks.



**Lincoln Boyd
1948 Atlanta Black Crackers**



**Lincoln Boyd
1955 Clovis Pioneers**

Sold to the Miami Beach Flamingos in the off-season, Lincoln Boyd is on the move when in March, 1954, when the Flamingos' General Manager Joe Ryan announces that Boyd and infielder [Jimmie Lewis](#) have been traded to the Clovis (NM) Pioneers of the distant West Texas-New Mexico (D) League for slugging outfielder [Roy Parker](#), coming off a season where he hits .353 with 41 home runs and 160 RBIs, yet fails to make the league's all-star team.

Boyd responds to the change of scenery and the increase of elevation from Leesburg (95') to Clovis (4,268'), by hitting .315 with 23 doubles, 30 home runs and 112 RBIs. In addition to being named to the league's mid-season all-star team, Boyd quickly becomes a favorite with the Clovis fans. On June 2, the *Clovis New-Journal* opines, "It has been a long time since a player has caught the delight of the fans as quickly as Lincoln Boyd, who through Monday's games was leading the league in home runs with 11. Boyd's mean swing, his facial contortions after every swing and his song-and-dance routine collecting greenbacks from the customers have gone a long way toward making him the favorite of the fans."

In 1955, Boyd has a career year with the Pioneers, leading the league in home runs (44) and RBIs (157) and finishing 12th in batting average (.340). And, for a second-straight year, he makes the league's mid-season all-star team, but fails to land a spot on the official season-ending all-league squad. That winter, in a cost saving move, the Columbia League's Kola Roman franchise, mired in last place, releases Lincoln Boyd in early January.

Lincoln Boyd [2 of 2]:

Boyd's final season in organized baseball in 1956 sees Clovis (45-95) finishing last in the 10-team Southwestern League, 44 games behind the first-place Hobbs Sports. The Pioneers go through three managers during the course of the season, including Roy Parker, whom Boyd was traded for four years earlier. After the season is over, Clovis President Eddie Jones signs a working agreement with the Cincinnati Reds, but Boyd is long gone by then.

On July 3, "[Red McQuillan](#)" takes over the Pioneers and Boyd is soon gone from the box scores. On July 2, Boyd is 1-for-4 with a home run, a stolen base and a RBI in a 5-3 loss to the Ballinger Ponies, but after that, nothing. He simply disappears. No mention of his leaving the team or anything else is found.

He is hitting a solid .302 with 17 doubles, 21 home runs and 69 RBIs in 71 games when he departs from the game at the age of 28.

BOYD CHRONOLOGY

February 5, 1949

Boyd signs with the Cleveland Buckeyes, they list him as 33-year-old 6-foot-2, 193-pound outfielder.

March 10, 1951

Boyd played in Canada last year, after spending a year with the Cleveland Buckeyes in 1949 and the Atlanta Crackers in 1948. Not only will the 22-year-old Boyd, an outfielder, hit hard, but he also will be added to the Clowns' entertainment corps.

March 1952

Boyd and pitcher [Jim Tugerson](#) have been released by the Brooklyn Dodgers and arrive in Indianapolis Clowns camp.

April 26, 1952

Lincoln Boyd and [Henry Aaron](#) "have been hitting the ball hard for the Clowns in early season games."

December 1954

Boyd returns to Clovis from a trip to Mexico where his attempt to play winter ball was denied as he did not have "written permission" from the Pioneers or the National Association ... sticking around only long enough to pick up his playoff money, Boyd elects to go to his home in Miami Beach, Florida ... "If I can get away from my wife," Boyd says. "I plan to play some winter ball somewhere."

January 16, 1956

In a cost saving move, the Columbia League's Kola Roman franchise, mired in last place, releases Lincoln Boyd.

THE CLOWNS' ROSTER		
No.	Player	Pos.
37	Henry (Speed) Merchant	cf
21	Reuben Williams	ss
17	Henry Aaron	ss
22	Ray Neil	2b
32	Lincoln (Pepperball) Boyd	lf
33	Sam (Piggy) Sands	c
27	Mgr. Buster Haywood	c
31	Jimmy Jenkins	rf
24	DeWitt Smallwood	rf
15	Ernie Nimmons	1b
10	Curtis Hardaway	3b
26	Jimmy Tugerson	p
30	Jimmy Cohen	p
36	Frank Carswell	p
20	Eddie Todd	p
29	Willie (Rip) Collins	p
38	Excell Moore	p
25	Joe Barbes	p
	Ted Richardson	p
	John Marvry	p
Comedians: King Tut and Freddie (King Tut Jr.) The Clown.		

1952 Indianapolis Clowns Roster

Lincoln Boyd Year by Year:

6-2, 195lbs

Bats: Right Throws: Right

Orlando, Florida

Year	Team	League	Lev	W-L	Finish	Age	AB	R	HT	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	SLUG	OPS	AVG
1948	New Orleans Creoles	Southern League	Negro	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	--	--
1948	Atlanta Black Crackers	American Assoc.	Negro	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	20	--	--	.319
1949	Cleveland Buckeyes	American Assoc.	Negro	-	-	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	--	.402
1950	Atlanta Brown Crackers	Southern League	Negro	-	-	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	--	--
1950	Regina Caps	Southern League	SPro	-	1 of 8	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	--	--
1951	Indianapolis Clowns	American League	Negro	-	-	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	--	--
1951	Torreon Tigers	Mexican League	Ind.	-	-	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	--	.336
1952	Indianapolis Clowns	American League	Negro	-	-	24	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	--	--	.281
1952	Torreon Tigers	Mexican League	Ind.	-	-	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	--	.345
1953	Leesburg Lakers	Florida State	D	56-77	6 of 8	25	323	56	77	15	1	8	57	15	.365	.739	.238
1954	Clovis Pioneers	West Texas-New Mexico	C	79-53	2 of 8	26	438	110	138	23	4	30	112	4	.591	1.028	.315
1955	Indios	Columbian	Winter	-	-	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	--	--
1955	Clovis Pioneers	West Texas-New Mexico	B	68-72	6 of 8	27	500	130	170	33	2	44	157	3	.678	1.125	.340
1956	Kola Roman	Columbian	Winter	-	-	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	--	--
1956	Clovis Pioneers	Southwestern	B	45-95	10 of 10	28	268	61	81	17	1	21	69	2	.608	1.025	.302
Minor League Totals							1529	357	466	88	8	103	395	24	.575	.998	.305