

On This Date **January 15, 1909**

On January 15, 1909, former major league pitcher **Cal Vasbinder**, while working in the **Wolf Run Coal Mine** in **Salineville, Ohio**, is knocked from a flat car and cuts his legs so severely that it is virtually certain he will not be able to play again.

However, within a year, Vasbinder is back umpiring in the minor leagues.

Born on July 19, 1880, a 21-year-old Vasbinder makes his major league debut on April 27, 1902, with the American League's **Cleveland Bronchos**. Over a ten-day period, the **Scio, Ohio** native fashions a 9.00 ERA, allowing five runs on five hits and eight walks in five innings before being sent to the **Columbus Senators** of the American Association.



Vasbinder's major league debut against the **Chicago White Sox** doesn't go quite as planned. Relieving starter **Earl Moore** in the sixth inning, the tall right-hander pitching in front of 13,500 (larger than the whole population of his native town of Scio) walks the first six batters he faces and seven overall in three innings of work. Vasbinder will pitch one more game for the Bronchos before being released to the **Columbus Senators** of the American Association.

On June 17, 1901, a 20-year-old Vasbinder is suspended without pay for the remainder of the season by the **Marion (Ind.) Glass Blowers**. Marion manager **Pat Wright** suspends Vasbinder on the pretext that he "threw" two games against **Dayton** and **Indianapolis**, and then later refuses to pitch when called upon. Vasbinder, 2-5 at the time of the suspension, retorts that he was overworked and surprisingly signs with **Cleveland** a day later. One week later the suspension is lifted and Vasbinder returns to the mound for the **Glass Blowers**.