

Moose Clabaugh, "Monarch of Maul"

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On the afternoon of August 22, 1926, in the final game of a disappointing season for his Tyler Trojans, **John "Moose" Clabaugh** sets a new minor league home run record for a second-straight day when he clouts home run No. 62, a three-run shot off of lefty **Noel Haynes** some 20 feet over the right-field wall in the bottom of the third inning during a 7-6, 10-inning loss to the cellar-dwelling Paris Bearcats.

The previous afternoon, the 24-year-old Clabaugh hit home run No. 61 off of Paris' **James Emmons** in a 3-2 Tyler victory, eclipsing the existing home run record of 60 established the year before by **Tony Lazzeri** of the Salt Lake City Bees.

Despite playing for a team that finishes 57-64 and 25 1/2 games behind the first-place Longview Cannibals, Clabaugh captures the East Texas League's "Triple Crown," leading the circuit in home runs, RBIs (164) and batting average (.376).

Clabaugh's record is even more impressive when you consider that his 62 home runs are achieved in only 123 games and Tyler's elevation is only 544 feet. Lazzeri totals his 60 home runs over 197 games and Salt Lake City's elevation is listed at 4,226 feet. On the average, Clabaugh hit a home run every two games.



**Moose Clabaugh
1926 Tyler Trojans**

Clabaugh Hits 62d Home Run

Brooklyn Buys Slugger From Tyler—Reports Immediately

TYLER, Texas, Aug. 22.—In the third inning of a baseball game here Sunday between Paris and Tyler of the East Texas League Big Moose Clabaugh, Tyler left fielder, hit his sixty-second home run of the season. The blow came in the third inning with two runners on base and the local club trailing by five runs. By doing this he broke his own world record, set here Saturday.

The Brooklyn National League club has purchased Clabaugh. The big fellow will report immediately. He is 24 years old, stands six feet and four inches and weighs 178 pounds. He is a Missourian by birth and has been in professional baseball three years, coming to Texas from Ardmore, Western Association. Last year Clabaugh knocked forty-five homers while playing on the Paris team, East Texas League.

The former record, held by Tony Lazzeri of the New York Yankees, was made in a total of 197 games with Salt Lake City in the Pacific Coast League. Clabaugh's remarkable count was hung up in around 120 games, although many of the drives were clouted in small parks.

Both Lazzeri and Clabaugh play in what would be described as "hitter friendly," home ballparks. A 1991 Baseball Research Journal article described Salt Lake City's Bonneville Park as having both foul lines measuring at 325 feet, "but dead center field was only 360 feet, and the power alleys were short as well." Lazzeri hits 39 of his 60 home runs at Bonneville Park, while Clabaugh, playing in another hitter-friendly park, a field that measures only 275 feet to right field (the shortest in the East Texas League), hits 39 of his 62 round-trippers in the cozy confines of Trojan Park.

Despite playing in the lowest level of all the minor leagues, Clabaugh, who played first base during the first half of the season and left field in the last half, catches the attention of several major league teams as well as that of other minor league organizations. The day after his record-setting home run, its reported by the *Waco News-Tribune* that the local Waco Cubs and the Tyler Trojans have completed an undisclosed financial agreement to bring Clabaugh to Waco for the remainder of the Texas League season.

Meanwhile, the National League's Brooklyn Robins, on the advice of local scout Joe Gardner, also reach an agreement with Tyler for Clabaugh's services. The Trojans sell his contract to the National League team for a reported \$15,000. An undefined amount of the payment is paid up front with the remainder due if the Robins keep Clabaugh after April 8, 1927. Waco appeals to organized baseball that they had closed their deal with Tyler before the Robins had completed theirs. However, the Cubs are denied when Baseball Commissioner **Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis** awards Clabaugh to Brooklyn.

Minor League Home Run Leaders

Joe Bauman, Roswell.....	1954	72
Joe Hauser, Minneapolis.....	1933	69
Bob Crues, Amarillo.....	1948	69
Dick Stuart, Lincoln.....	1956	66
Bob Lennon, Nashville.....	1954	64
Joe Hauser, Baltimore.....	1930	63
Moose Clabaugh, Tyler.....	1926	62
Ken Guettler, Shreveport.....	1956	62
Tony Lazzeri, Salt Lake City.....	1925	60
Frosty Kennedy, Plainview.....	1956	60

Moose Clabaugh Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Lev	W-L	Finish	Age	AB	R	HT	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	SLUG	AVG
1923	2 Teams	Southwestern	C			21	335	48	85	13	3	10	-	3	.400	.254
	Topeka Kaws	Southwestern	C	67-66	5 of 8	21	250	31	67	10	2	7	-	0	.408	.268
	Hutchinson Wheat Shockers	Southwestern	C	84-50	1 of 8	21	85	17	18	3	1	3	-	3	.376	.212
1924	Bartlesville/Ardmore Bearcats	Western	C	75-82	5 of 8	22	263	52	94	18	8	11	64	6	.612	.357
1925	3 Teams	3 Leagues	D-B-C			23	500	106	174	37	6	33	-	20	.644	.348
	Ardmore Boomers	Western	C	86-64	2 of 6	23	33	5	14	2	0	1	11	0	.576	.424
	Paris Bearcats	East Texas	D	76-46	1 of 8	23	304	78	117	26	3	31	-	14	.796	.385
	Decatur Commodores	Three-I	B	62-73	5 of 8	23	163	23	43	9	3	1	-	6	.374	.264
1926	Tyler Trojans	East Texas	D	57-64	4 of 6	24	444	106	167	23	1	62	164	-	.851	.376
1926	Brooklyn Dodgers	National League	ML	71-82	6 of 8	24	14	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	.143	.071
1927	2 Teams	2 Leagues	C-B			25	558	112	199	45	6	21	-	21	.572	.357
	High Point Pointers	Piedmont	C	62-82	7 of 8	25	515	103	187	40	6	21	86	16	.586	.363
	Jacksonville Tars	Southeastern	B	90-63	1 of 8	25	43	9	12	5	0	0	-	5	.395	.279
1928	2 Teams	2 Leagues	B-A			26	577	108	207	27	15	17	111	21	.546	.359
	Jacksonville Tars	Southeastern	B	71-78	4 of 8	26	380	83	139	21	9	15	81	19	.587	.366
	Mobile Bears	Southern	A	74-76	4 of 8	26	197	25	68	6	6	2	30	2	.467	.345
1929	2 Teams	Southern	A			27	421	76	133	37	8	10	77	17	.513	.316
	Mobile Bears	Southern	A	57-95	7 of 8	27	46	3	12	4	1	0	1	1	.391	.261
	Birmingham Barons	Southern	A	93-60	1 of 8	27	375	73	121	33	7	10	76	16	.528	.323
1930	2 Teams	2 Leagues	B-AA			28	536	131	180	37	7	30	158	40	.599	.336
	Quincy Indians	Three-I	B	78-58	2 of 8	28	516	130	174	35	7	30	154	40	.607	.337
	Buffalo Bisons	International	AA	74-91	6 of 8	28	20	1	6	2	0	0	4	0	.400	.300
1931	2 Teams	2 Leagues	A-B			29	488	77	184	26	6	24	110	8	.603	.377
	Quincy Indians	Three-I	B	67-49	2 of 8	29	49	8	18	5	0	1	6	3	.531	.367
	Nashville Volunteers	Southern	A	51-102	8 of 8	29	439	69	166	21	6	23	104	6	.611	.378
1932	Nashville Volunteers	Southern	A	75-78	4 of 8	30	445	101	170	26	5	32	107	16	.679	.382
1933	Baltimore Orioles	International	AA	84-80	*2 of 4	31	372	82	125	20	8	16	82	14	.562	.336
1934	2 Teams	2 Leagues	AA-A			32	517	94	160	26	8	20	94	18	.507	.310
	Atlanta Crackers	Southern	A	77-74	4 of 8	32	74	15	25	2	3	4	21	1	.608	.338
	Portland Beavers	Pacific Coast	AA	66-117	8 of 8	32	443	79	135	24	5	16	73	17	.490	.305
1935	Portland Beavers	Pacific Coast	AA	87-86	4 of 8	33	565	112	193	56	7	16	116	21	.550	.342
1936	Portland Beavers	Pacific Coast	AA	96-79	1 of 8	34	559	108	177	29	4	20	112	6	.490	.317
1937	Portland Beavers	Pacific Coast	AA	90-86	4 of 8	35	571	96	186	39	15	17	114	11	.536	.326
1938	Toledo	Oregon State League	SPro	-	-	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	--
1939	Trois-Rivieres	Quebec Provincial	Ind.	42-30	1 of 7	37	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	--
	Grants Pass Cave Shop	Oregon Softball		-	-	37	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	--
1940	2 Teams	2 Leagues	B-AA			38	244	-	71	13	1	7	-	-	.439	.291
	Portland Beavers	Pacific Coast	AA	56-122	8 of 8	38	34	6	4	1	0	1	5	1	.235	.118
	Salem Senators	Western International	B	69-77	5 of 6	38	210	40	67	12	1	6	50	4	.471	.319
1945	Ames Grocery	Portland City League	Amt	-	-	43	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	--
1946	Ames Grocery	Portland City League	Amt	-	-	44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	--
	Majors (1 season)						14	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	.143	.071
	Minors (16 seasons)						7395	1465	2505	472	108	346	1297	244	.572	.339

*International League - 2 Divisions of 4 teams each

Pro debut: April 26, 1923, Salina (0) at Topeka (9), 3 hits

Gardner, described as a local "baseball dabbler," had previously been asked by the Dodgers to look at Marshall pitcher [Charlie Sullivan](#), but Gardner reports back favorably about Clabaugh and wires Brooklyn Tyler's asking price. The Dodgers accept and inform Clabaugh to report to the team immediately. The jilted Sullivan eventually makes his way to major leagues with the Detroit Tigers at the start of the 1928 season.

On August 30, 1926, Moose Clabaugh makes his major league debut against Brooklyn in-town rival the New York Giants. In the bottom of the eighth inning with the Robins trailing 8-1, Clabaugh is sent to pinch hit for relief pitcher Jesse Barnes. With Jack Fournier on first, Clabaugh hits a "savagely" line drive off Hughy McQuillan that Giants' first baseman Bill Terry "speared the ball stylishly" and steps on first to complete an inning-ending unassisted double play. The inning over, he heads back to Brooklyn dugout holding a mere six inches of what's left of his shattered bat. In 11 games, including one start against Pittsburgh on September 19, the 24-year-old Clabaugh is 1-for-14 (.071) with a double, two runs scored and one RBI.

TYLER SELLS KID STAR TO INDIANS

TYLER, June 17.—Willie Andrus, 18, rookie discovered by Frank Kitchens, Trojan manager, has been sold to the Cleveland Indians to be delivered at the close of the East Texas League season for \$1,000 and in further consideration of the Indians releasing to Tyler outright the home run leader of this circuit, Clabaugh. Andrus plays any infield position and can pitch a neat game.

Bolstering up his pitching staff, Kitchens has procured L. H. McNeil, formerly a Beaumont hurler of some success, from Terre Haute in the Three-I League. McNeil also played with Mount Pleasant when that town was in this circuit. McNeil has already reported to Tyler.

Moose Clabaugh [3 of 9]:



Moose Clabaugh
1926 Tyler Trojans

The following afternoon during batting practice, Clabaugh hits a line drive that knocks the hands off a clock above the right field scoreboard. Some people say the line drive simply jammed the clock's hands, forever freezing the franchise in time.

On September 19, in his only major league start, Clabaugh is hitless in four at bat against Pittsburgh and misplays several plays in the field. Nonetheless, most of the 11,000 fans on hand applaud his every plate appearance.

**East Texas League Lad
Weak at Bat, Poor on
Defense, Will Not Stay**

"Judging by the wretched exhibition turned in the home run king of the South Texas League, when he was assigned to left field in yesterday's game, it appears as though he will need about a year or more of seasoning with a minor league club."

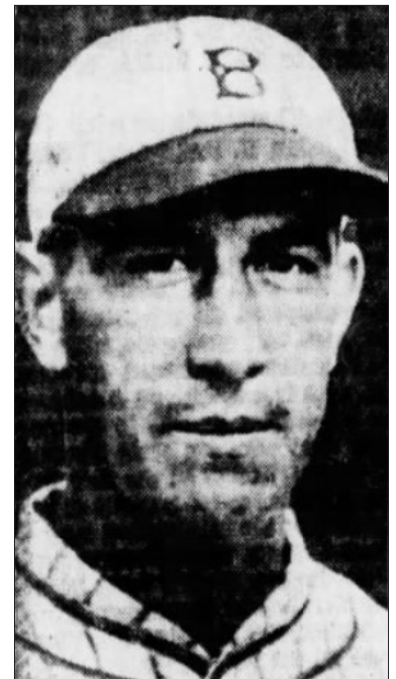
- The Brooklyn Citizen, September 20, 1926.

Despite his numerous misadventures, On October 30, Clabaugh is one of 39 players listed by the Dodgers on their reserve list for 1927. On November 11, the Dodgers claim [Norman Plitt](#) and [Ray Gordinier](#), a pair of right-handed pitchers recently reinstated by Commissioner Landis. Three days later, on November 14, Brooklyn sends Clabaugh back to the Tyler Trojans, his first and only major

league experience over after only 11 games. Never to receive another invitation to a major-league spring training camp.

"As a big league rookie. Clabaugh was probably unique. He was the only lad to come from the sticks who could neither hit nor field. He made one hit in more than a dozen trials. He caught one fly in about a half-dozen chances.

- The Brooklyn Times Union, November 15, 1926



Moose Clabaugh
1926 Brooklyn Robins



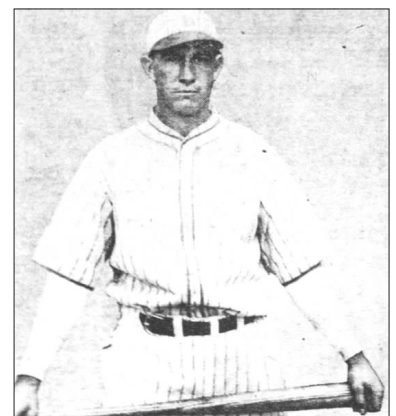
Moose Clabaugh
1932 Nashville Volunteers

In 1931 and 1932, Clabaugh wins back-to-back Southern Association batting titles with the Nashville Volunteers before running afoul of manager Charlie Dressen. The Volunteers cut his pay \$100 per month and eventually sell him to the Baltimore Orioles for a reported \$1,000. The "lumbering" Clabaugh hits .336 with 18 home runs and 82 RBIs while playing the outfield, first base and third base in his only season with the Orioles.

After the season Clabaugh is one of five players traded to the Galveston Buccaneers for 26-year-old shortstop [Keith Molesworth](#). Despite his initial verbal enthusiasm for the transaction, he refuses to report to the Buccaneers and is told to make his own deal. Landing back in the Southern Association with the Atlanta Crackers, he is hitting .338 with four home runs and 21 RBIs when the Crackers obtain Prince Henry Oana for Clabaugh and cash.

It's with Portland that the much-travelled slugger finally puts down some roots. In three full seasons and parts of two others with the Beavers, including the pennant-winning season of 1936, Clabaugh hits .320 with 149 doubles (including a PCL-best 56 in 1935), 31 triples and 70 home runs and drives in 420 runs.

From the "region of the high fogs," comes word in the spring of 1938, that following yet another contract dispute between Clabaugh and the Portland management, "I asked for \$600 a month," he takes a much-desired job with the Oregon State Police. Clabaugh will sit out the entire 1938 season.



Moose Clabaugh
1926 Tyler Trojans

Moose Clabaugh [4 of 9]:

In 1939, Clabaugh signs with Trois-Rivieres of the outlawed **Provincial League**. Released by the team on July 13, Clabaugh is quickly banned from organized baseball by Judge **Roy Branham**, the head of the minor leagues.



Moose Clabaugh
1933 Baltimore Orioles

Clabaugh professes his innocence saying that all of the newspapers in Trois-Rivieres were in French and that he wasn't able to read anything and thus unable to know that the team was in an "outlaw league." Branham buys into his explanation and reinstates the 37-year-old into the good graces of organized baseball.

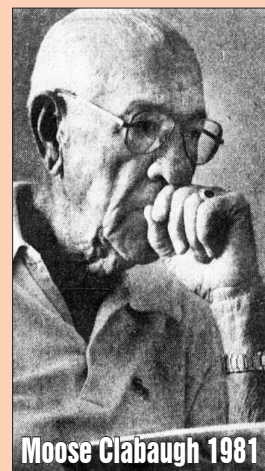
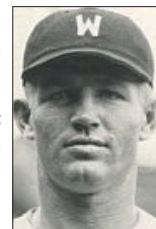
In 1940, a 38-year-old Clabaugh begins his final season in pro baseball back with the Portland Beavers. In early May, he is hitting .118 with one home run, when he is released after only 14 games. He signs with the Salem Senators of the Western International (B) League where he lasts only two months. Clabaugh's pro career comes to an end on July 5, when he is given his release by his own request.

Within a week of retiring, Clabaugh is appointed to the Western International League's umpiring staff. One of the first umpires in pro ball to wear glasses, he also continues to manage, and play semi-pro baseball in the Portland area. Later, Clabaugh takes a job as a security officer at the Bonneville Dam in Oregon.

Clabaugh plays in over 2,100 games spread out over 16 minor league seasons for 19 different teams from 1923 to 1940. He ends his career with a lifetime batting average of .339 with 346 career home runs and 1,297 RBIs. He has 10 seasons with 20 or more home runs and captures five batting titles, including back-to-back titles in the Southern (A) Association in 1931 and 1932. He will lead three different leagues - East Texas League (1926) 62; Three-I League (1930) 30; Southern Association (1931) 23 - in home runs. With the Quincy Indians in 1930, he sets a Three-I League record with 154 runs batted in.

Art "The Great" Shires

March 8, 1930
Moose Clabaugh claims Judge Landis' decision prohibiting **Art Shires** from indulging in any more box fights cost him at least \$1,500. The Moose had been guaranteed \$1,500 for a bout with Shires in Florida. And before the articles could be signed, Judge Landis ended Shires' ring career. I was sure rearing for a match with Art Shires," said Clabaugh. "Art is a one-handed puncher and I believe I could lick him anywhere, anytime. I am sorry the judge stopped him from fighting; it cost me at least \$1,500."



Moose Clabaugh 1981

Professional Debut

April 26, 1923

Salinas Millers at Topeka Kaws
Topeka Ball Park, Topeka, Kansas

Salina		Topeka	
H	P	O	A
Rhodes, ss	2	1	3
Routfrow, 3b	1	1	2
Muro, 3b	1	3	5
Chesno, 1b	1	1	0
Moyer, cf	0	1	0
Uttall, rf	1	1	0
Denny, lf	0	1	0
Dunn, c	0	1	0
Sarlund, p	0	0	4
Hahn, cf	1	1	0
Miller, lf	0	0	0
Strohm, 2b	1	2	0
Bockskopf, 1b	2	12	1
Claybaugh, rf	3	0	0
Mayer, 3b	0	0	2
Kneaves, ss	1	2	3
Benn, c	0	2	0
Pierce, p	0	1	10

Totals ... 0-12 14 Totals ... 11 27 18
*Claybaugh out for interference.

Score by Innings:
Salina 000 000 000-0
Topeka 001 313 01x-9
Summary—Earned runs, Topeka 5. Salina 0. 2-base hits, Chesno, Claybaugh. 3-base hits, Pierce 2. Sacrifice hits, Moyer, Claybaugh, Mayer. Sacrifice flies, Hahn, Bockskopf. Home on balls, off Pierce 1, off Sarlund 0. Struck out, by Pierce 8, by Sarlund 2. Hit by pitcher, by Sarlund (Miller). Stolen bases, Nuttall, Kneaves, Pierce. Double plays, Pierce to Kneaves to Bockskopf 2; Rhodes to Muro to Chesno. Left on bases, Salina 7, Topeka 11. Time of game, 1:59. Umpires, Dodson and Keltner.

"John" Clabaugh makes his pro debut collecting three hits, including a double in the Topeka Kaws 9-0 win over the visiting Salinas Millers in both team's Southwestern (C) League opener. Topeka's Ray Pierce pitches a six-hit shutout and records the first of 23 wins on the season.

Clabaugh passes away on July 11, 1984 in Tucson, Arizona, 1, 1984, at the age of 82.

CLABAUGH CHRONOLOGY

December 1919

Clabaugh enlists in the United States Navy at the recruiting station in St. Joseph's Missouri ... he is sent to the **Mare Island Navy Yard** in San Francisco and is eventually assigned to the battleship **USS New Mexico**.

October 28, 1922

Starting at fullback for the Palmer College football team, Clabaugh scores a second-half touchdown and kicks an extra point in a 13-0 win over **St. Joseph's Junior College** ... Palmer College opens in 1889 as LeGrand Christian College in LeGrand, Iowa, and is renamed in 1897 after a wealthy benefactor ... the college moves to Albany, Missouri, in 1912 and closes sometime in the 1920s.

October 27, 1923

Clabaugh scores a touchdown and has a 75-yard punt as Palmer College beats the American Legion team from Weston, Missouri, 12-6.

◀◀ **April 26, 1923**

In his pro debut, Clabaugh, starting in right field and batting fifth, has three hits, including a double, in Topeka's 9-0 win over Salinas in the Southwestern League opener for both teams.

Moose Clabaugh [5 of 9]:

First Career Home Run

April 30, 1923

Topeka Kaws at Hutchinson Wheat Shockers
Hutchinson, Kansas

Topeka—	AB	R	H	PO	A	E
Hahn, cf	5	0	0	0	1	0
Kneaves ss	5	2	2	2	3	0
Strohm, 2b	4	2	3	3	4	0
Bockskopf 1b	4	1	0	0	0	0
Claybaugh rf	6	1	2	0	0	0
Miller lf	3	0	0	0	1	0
Gear x	1	0	0	0	0	0
Mayer 3b	5	0	1	3	3	1
Benn c	2	0	1	5	0	1
Johnson, o	0	0	0	1	0	0
Bunton p	0	0	0	1	0	0
Walker p	3	0	1	0	1	0
Roth p	0	0	0	0	0	0
Broker xx	1	0	0	0	0	0
McCarty p	0	0	0	0	1	0

Totals	38	6	10	24	14	2
Hutchinson	AB	R	H	PO	A	E
Robbins lf	4	0	1	0	0	0
Lemon, 2b	4	1	3	2	7	1
Shoots lf	3	2	1	1	0	0
Soloman 1b	4	2	3	10	0	1
Pick rf	4	1	0	3	0	0
Foster 3b	2	1	0	2	2	0
Purtell ss	5	1	0	2	1	0
Wales, c	2	1	2	6	0	0
Henry p	2	0	0	0	3	0
Morbitzer p	2	0	0	0	1	1

Totals 32 9 10*26 14 3
*—Mayer out in sixth, bunting third strike.

x—Batted for Miller in the ninth.
xx—Batted for Roth in eighth.

Score by Innings:
Topeka 000 320 001— 6
Hutchinson 220 100 22x— 9
Summary: 2-base hits, Strohm, Kneaves, Lemon 2, Robbins. 3-base hit, Soloman. Home runs, Soloman, Claybaugh, Strohm. Sacrifice hits, Miller, Shoots. Stolen bases, Shoots, Soloman, Foster. Winning pitcher, Morbitzer; Losing pitcher, Walker. Hit by pitcher, by Bunton, Lemon; by Walker, Pick; by McCarty, Soloman. Bases on balls: off Bunton 1, off Walker 2, off Roth 2, off McCarty 2; off Morbitzer 4. Strike outs, by Henry 3, by Morbitzer 3, Bunton 1, Walker 2, by McCarty 1. Passed balls, Johnson 2. Double play, Purtell to Lemon to Soloman. Earned runs, Hutchinson 6, Topeka 5. Left on bases, Topeka 10, Hutchinson 10. Time of game, 2:30. Umpires, Dodson and Keltner.

Moose Clabaugh is 2-for-5 with his first career home run in Topeka's 9-6 loss to Hutchinson. Clabaugh's two-run blast comes off Lee Morbitzer during the Kaws' three-run fourth inning. Hutchinson first baseman Mose Solomon is 3-for-4 with a triple, a home run and four RBIs.

◀◀ April 30, 1923

Clabaugh is 2-for-5 with his first career home run in Topeka's 9-6 loss to Hutchinson. . Clabaugh's two-run blast comes off Lee Morbitzer during the Kaws' three-run fourth inning ... on July 3, 1924, Morbitzer suffers a fractured skull in a car wreck in Columbus, Ohio, but recovers and plays semipro ball for another 10 years.

May 1, 1923

Clabaugh homers in his second-straight game in a 14-8 loss to Hutchinson.

July 20, 1923

Clabaugh is hitting .268 with a team-high seven home runs when he draws his release from Topeka ... he signs with Hutchinson that afternoon.

July 21, 1923

In his first game for Hutchinson, Clabaugh hits a three-run home run against Topeka, his former team.

April 21, 1923

Clabaugh is 3-for-4 in an 11-8 win over Okmulgee, but is replaced in right field by Leon Hexemer after misplaying several fly balls leading directly to some of the Drillers' eight runs.

Clabaugh Does Poor Fielding and Hexemer Is Sent in to Fill Right Field Hole

May 1, 1925

In 10 games for the Ardmore Boomers, Clabaugh is hitting .424 (14-for-33) with one home run when he is sent to the East Texas League's Paris Bearcats on option ... Leon Hexemer is released the following day and will play for the Montgomery Ward team in the semipro Fort Worth City League ... Hexemer later plays for the Ku Klux Klan team for a couple of weeks before going to Bisbee, Arizona, to play semipro ball there.

June 2-8, 1925

Over a seven-game stretch, Clabaugh hits 10 home runs and going only one game without a four-bagger.

July 24, 1925

Despite leading the East Texas (D) League in home runs (34) and hitting (.385), Clabaugh is sold to the Decatur Commodores of the Three-I (B) League ... to replace Clabaugh, Paris buys the contract of outfielder Travis Lowrance from Longview.

August 20, 1926

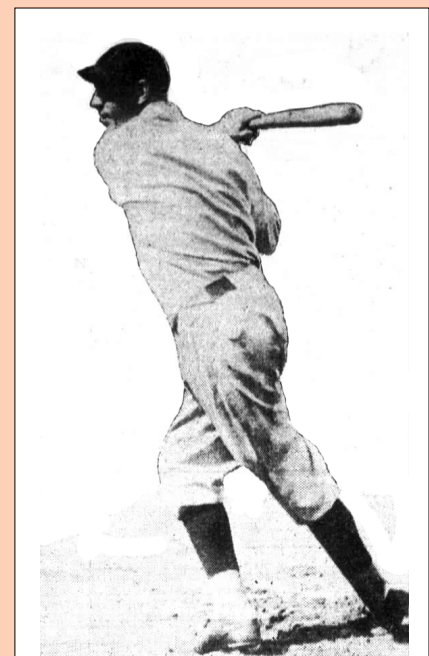
Back in the East Texas League with the Tyler Trojans, Clabaugh hits home run No. 60, tying Tony Lazzeri's organized baseball record for home runs in one season ... his eighth-inning home run off of Paris' outfielder-turned-pitcher Franklin Stone, clears the centerfield wall "by some 40 feet and sailed over the tops of several houses across the street," and keys a 13-10 Tyler victory.

**MOOSE CLABAUGH
HITS 60TH HOMER
AND TIES RECORD**



Lee Morbitzer

On April 30, 1923, Hutchinson's Leo Morbitzer yields Moose Clabaugh first career home run in Topeka's 9-6 loss to the Wheat Shockers. Also an amateur boxer, Morbitzer is 15-6 for Hutchinson in 1923. After the season is over, manager Marty Putrell, not wanting to "worry" about his 23-year-old rookie pitcher anymore, trades Morbitzer and Bob Goode to the Beatrice Blues of the Nebraska State (D) League for Wigen. The Hutchinson News opines "Morbitzer may be also no good in Class D company. He was good in the Southwestern league last year, the records show, but Purtell is still figuring how the kid earned his record. He didn't have much." After missing the entire 1924 season because of a fractured skull suffered in a car wreck, Morbitzer pitches in one game in 1925 for the American Association's Columbus Senators.



Moose Clabaugh
1926 Tyler Trojans

Moose Clabaugh [6 of 9]:

August 21, 1926

Clabaugh becomes baseball's all-time leading home run hitter when he hits home run No. 61 off of Paris' **James "Lefty" Emmons**, a product of the Corsicana sandlots, in a 3-2 Trojan win in the second-to-last game of the year.

"Big Moose" Clabaugh, Texas Leaguer, Hits 61st Homer for Record

"Big Moose" Clabaugh Breaks Home Run Record With 62

August 22, 1926

In the final game of the season, Clabaugh clouts home run No. 62, a three-run shot in the bottom of the third inning, in a 7-6, 10-inning loss to the cellar-dwelling Paris Bearcats ... Clabaugh hits his record-setting home run off of lefty **Noel Haynes**.

Dispute about a Moose: Following the announcement that Clabaugh has been sold to the Brooklyn Dodgers, a dispute quickly erupts as three minor league teams - Mission Bells (AA Pacific Coast League), Denver Bears (A Western League) and the Waco Cubs (A Texas League) - each announce that they have filed claims for the rights to Clabaugh ... Baseball Commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis makes a "unique" ruling that invalidates all four teams' claims and returns Clabaugh back to the Tyler Trojans ... Landis' ruling essentially makes Clabaugh a free agent and available to the highest bidder, which turns out to be Brooklyn.

Moose Clabaugh Sold by Trojans



Noel Haynes

In his 32nd appearance of the season, Paris left-hander Noel Haynes yields Moose Clabaugh's 62nd home run in the final game of the 1926 season. The 23-year-old pitcher/outfielder is 10-13 for the last-place Bearcats but hits a solid .318. The much-desired hurler from Lamar, Texas, retires from organized baseball in 1932 following an 11-win season for St. Joseph of the Western League.

Major League Debut

August 30, 1926

New York Giants at Brooklyn Dodgers
Ebbets Field, Brooklyn, New York

NEW YORK.					BROOKLYN.				
	AB	H	O	A		AB	H	O	A
Ott. lf.....	5	2	1	0	Fewster, 2b.3	0	4	1	
Lindst'm, 3b.4	1	0	3		Wheat1	0	0	0	
Jackson, ss.5	2	2	6		Bohne0	0	0	0	
Kelly, 2b.....	4	2	1	2	Jacobs'n, m.4	0	2	0	
Terry, 1b....	4	2	14	2	Felix, lf....	4	1	1	1
Tyson, m....	5	2	2	0	Herman, 1b.4	1	8	0	
Mueller, rf..	5	3	3	0	Cox, rf.....	4	1	1	0
Florence, c..	5	0	3	0	Marriott, 2.3	1	0	3	
McQuil'n, p.5	1	1	3		Butler, ss..	2	1	6	2
					Deberry, c..	2	0	4	2
					Fourrier ..	1	0	0	0
					O'Neil, c....	0	1	0	
					McGraw, p..	1	0	0	1
					M'Weeny, p.1	0	0	0	0
					*Standaert .1	0	0	0	0
					Barnes, p..	0	0	0	0
					Clabaugh ..	1	0	0	0
					Williams, p.0	0	0	0	1
Totals.....	42	15	27	16	Totals.....	31	6	27	11

*Batted for McWeeny in sixth.
†Batted for Deberry in eighth.
‡Batted for Barnes in eighth.
§Batted for Fewster in ninth.
¶Ran for Wheat in ninth.

New York3 0 0 0 3 1 1 0 0-8
Brooklyn0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1-2

Runs—Lindstrom, Jackson, Kelly, Terry 2, Tyson, Mueller 2—8; Felix, Cox—2. Errors—McQuillian—1; Marriott, Butler 2—3. Two-base hits—Tyson, Terry, Marriott. Three-base hit—Jackson. Home runs—Mueller 2. Stolen bases—Kelly, Terry. Sacrifices—Lindstrom, Butler. Double play—Terry (unassisted). Left on bases—New York 10, Brooklyn 3. Bases on balls—Off McGraw 2. Struck out—By McGraw 2, McQuillian 3, Barnes 1, Williams 1. Balk—Williams. Hits—Off McGraw 11 in 4 (none out in fifth), McWeeny 2 in 2, Barnes 1 in 2, Williams 1 in 1. Losing pitcher—McGraw. Umpires—Moran, Wilson and McLaughlin. Time—1:45.

Pinch-hitting for pitcher Jesse Barnes in the eighth inning, Clabaugh lines into an unassisted double play to Hall of Famer Bill Terry at first base.

◀◀ August 30, 1926

Playing with Brooklyn, Clabaugh makes his major league debut against the New York Giants ... pinch hitting for pitcher **Jesse Barnes** in the bottom of the ninth inning, Clabaugh breaks his bat and lines into a double play.

November 15, 1926

The Brooklyn Dodgers return Clabaugh back to the Tyler Trojans ... it is reported that both Denver and Waco are also interested in signing Clabaugh for 1927.

MOOSE CLABAUGH WAS BIG 'BUST' IN MAJOR LEAGUE

March 24, 1927

Tyler sells Clabaugh to the High Point Pointers of the Piedmont (C) League ... Tyler President D.M. Maynor says that Clabaugh's salary demands are "fabulous" ... **Frank "Pop" Kitchens**, manager of the Pointers agrees to purchase Clabaugh, terms of the deal are not disclosed.

September 6, 1927

High Point sells Clabaugh and pitcher **Ray Phelps** to the Jacksonville Tars.

May 14, 1928

Playing for the Jacksonville Tars, Clabaugh's 24-game hitting streak is ended by Pensacola's **Roy Appleton**.

July 17, 1928

Clabaugh is hitting .386 and leads the Southeastern (B) League in home runs with 17, when he sent to the Mobile Bears of the Southern (A) League for a 30-day trial ... the Tars also announce the release of 3B **Walter Sandquist** who is batting .265 in 31 games.



Ray Phelps

Moose Clabaugh [7 of 9]:



Moose Clabaugh
1929 Birmingham Barons

September 25, 1929

The Birmingham Barons, behind Clabaugh's steal of home in the bottom of the seventh inning, edge the visiting Dallas Steers 1-0 to take the opening game of the 1929 Dixie World Series ... in the top of the seventh inning, Clabaugh makes a running catch and falls into the temporary stands robbing Dallas' [Rip Radcliff](#) of a home run.

February 15, 1930

Birmingham asks for waivers on Moose Clabaugh.

May 14, 1930

In the first night game in Three-I League history, Clabaugh is 1-for-5 and hits into a double-play in Quincy 7-5 loss at Decatur ... after the game he complains that he can't hit under the lights.

September 3, 1930

Quincy sells Clabaugh to the Buffalo Bisons of the International (AA) League.



Roy Appleton

A 13-year minor league veteran, Pensacola's Roy Appleton is the pitcher that stops Clabaugh's career-best 24-game hitting streak on May 14, 1928. In 1928 and 1929, Appleton is 51-21 in back-to-back seasons pitching for Pensacola (26-12) and Tampa (25-9). His older brother, Ed Appleton, pitches two seasons with the Brooklyn Robins in 1915 and 1916, compiling a 5-12 mark with a 3.25 ERA.

May 25, 1931

For the second time in as many years, Quincy sells Clabaugh, this time to the Southern League's Nashville Volunteers.

July 23, 1931

After going 17-for-26 (.654) over a seven-game span, Clabaugh raises his season average from .336 to .371 and takes over the lead of the Southern League batting race ... over the last 52 games of the 1931 season with the Nashville Volunteers, Clabaugh hits .425 (94-for-221) en route to winning the fourth of his five batting championships.

March 15, 1932

Following a season where he hits Southern Association-leading .378 with 23 home runs and 104 RBIs, despite missing 40 games with an injury, a 30-year-old Clabaugh decides to hold out for more money ... when asked if he

was adamant in his holdout, Clabaugh replies "Certainly not, I'm just not going to give in. That's all."

Clabaugh, Nashville's Slugger, Is on Market

Player Benched for Talking Back to Manager

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Aug. 13—(AP)—Moose Clabaugh, heavy hitting outfielder of the Nashville Volunteers has been placed on the market for disagreeing with his manager about how baseball should be played.

This was the statement of Charlie Dressen, Volunteer manager, when asked how long Clabaugh would remain on the bench.

Dressen said Clabaugh was through as a Volunteer, unless there were injuries necessitating the league's leading hitter returning to the line-up.

Moose was benched Thursday night at Nashville during a double-header with Little Rock when Dressen took him to task for a play on bases.

"If you don't like the way I'm playing ball, get somebody else," Dressen said the big outfielder retorted, "and I'm doing just that."

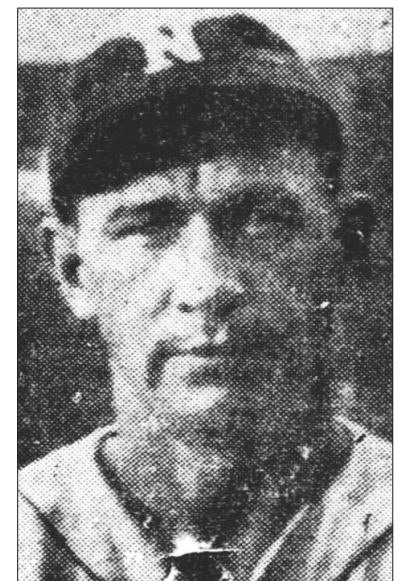
Dressen indicated he was negotiating a trade with an "AA" club in which the Southern Association's leading hitter would figure.

August 14, 1932

Clabaugh, the Southern League's leading hitter, is benched by Nashville manager [Charlie Dressen](#) for talking back during a double-header with Little Rock ... Dressen says that Clabaugh is through as a Volunteer and that he is negotiating a trade for his slugger.



Moose Clabaugh
1932 Nashville Volunteers



Moose Clabaugh
1932 Nashville Volunteers

February 2, 1933

Nashville sells Clabaugh to the Baltimore Orioles in a "straight cash" deal.

Moose Clabaugh [8 of 9]:

November 15, 1933

How far the mighty has fallen. Only six years removed from his record-setting 62 home run season, Clabaugh is among five Baltimore players traded for one 27-year-old Galveston Buccaneer shortstop coming off a .271 season with zero home runs ... a graduate of Monmouth College in Illinois and a member of the school's hall of fame, [Keith Molesworth](#) is also the starting quarterback/halfback for the NFL's Chicago Bears ... also traded along with the "Moose" are catcher [Bob Linton](#), pitchers [Harry Gumbert](#), [Glen Liebhardt, Jr.](#), and shortstop Hal King.

May, 1934

Galveston, unable to come to terms with the reluctant Clabaugh, sells the 32-year-old slugger to the Atlanta Crackers of the Southern Association for \$1,750.

May 16, 1934

After hitting four home runs in 22 games with the Crackers, Clabaugh is traded to the Portland Beavers, along with \$8,000, for [Prince Henry Oana](#).



Keith Molesworth

On November 15, 1933, 27-year-old Keith Molesworth, the starting shortstop for the Texas League's Galveston Buccaneers for the past three years is traded to the Baltimore Orioles for Moose Clabaugh and four other players. A three-sport standout at Monmouth College, he starts at quarterback for the Chicago Bears for seven seasons.



Moose Clabaugh
1937 Portland Beavers

May 14, 1938

Clabaugh announces that will play for Toledo in the Oregon State Semi-Pro League.

May 22, 1938

The Silverton Red Sox beat Toledo 8-7 in 10 innings, despite a home run by newly-acquired Moose Clabaugh.

July 30, 1939

Clabaugh is branded an "outlaw" from organized baseball by minor league head Judge Bramham ... Branham bans Clabaugh after he plays for the Three Rivers team in the outlaw Provincial League earlier in the year.

July 31, 1939

Now officially an "outlaw," Clabaugh arrives in Grants Pass, Oregon, and says he will play in a local softball tournament instead of playing baseball ... he is assigned to a team that has lost 13-straight games.

August 21, 1939

On the same day that Germany announces that it has signed a non-aggression pact with Soviet Russia, thus freeing its army to invade luckless Poland without interference, Clabaugh, plays for the Grants Pass Pave Shop and goes 1-for-1 as a pinch-hitter in a 3-1 loss to Square Deal Radio of Salem in the opening game of the seventh annual Oregon state softball tournament.

Clabaugh Banned By Boss of Minors

PORTLAND, Or., Monday, July 31. —(AP)—John (Moose) Clabaugh, former Portland Pacific Coast Baseball League slugger, has been "outlawed" from organized ball.

Clabaugh, who recently signed to play with Edwards' Furniture semi-pro club here, was banned by Judge Bramham, minor league head, for having played earlier in the season with the Three Rivers, Canada, team in the outlaw Provincial League.



Moose Clabaugh
1938 Portland Beavers

October 28, 1939

Clabaugh is reinstated to the "good graces" of organized baseball.

April 28, 1940

Reducing its roster to 18, the Portland Beavers release Clabaugh and 32-year-old left-handed pitcher [Ralph Birkofer](#), who is 0-2 in three appearances.

Moose Clabaugh [9 of 9]:

May 5, 1940

Clabaugh signs with the Salem Senators of the Western International (B) League.

Final Career Game

June 29, 1940

Salem Senators at Tacoma Tigers
Athletic Park, Tacoma, Washington

Salem	AB	R	H	PO	A
Wilson, cf	5	2	4	2	0
Knoll, 2b	4	0	0	2	1
Coscarart, lf	3	0	0	0	0
Harris, 1b	5	0	1	4	1
Clabaugh, rf	4	0	0	1	0
Williams, c	5	1	2	3	2
Lightner, 3b	5	1	2	1	3
Griffiths, ss	5	2	2	5	2
Helser, p	4	2	4	1	1
*Petersen, lf	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	40	8	15	24	10

*--Batted for Coscarart in 8th.

Tacoma	AB	D	H	PO	A
Harriman, ss	3	2	1	3	4
Garretson, 1b	3	2	2	9	1
Firpo, rf	3	2	1	3	0
White, lf	4	2	2	2	0
Shirley, 2b	3	2	1	2	6
Farrell, 3b	4	0	2	1	0
Rickert, cf	4	0	1	2	1
O'Brien, c	4	0	1	4	1
Porter, p	0	0	0	0	0
Schanz, p	3	0	0	0	2
Medeghini, p	1	0	0	1	1
Totals	32	10	11	27	16

Score by innings:

Salem	140	300	000-8
Tacoma	301	110	40x-10

Summary: Winning pitcher —

Schanz. Six hits five runs off Porter in 1 plus innings. 8 hits and three runs off Schanz in 6 plus innings. 1 hit and no runs off Medeghini in two innings. Runs responsible for—Porter 5, Schanz 1. Struck out—Helser 8, Porter 2, Schanz 1. Base on balls—off: Helser 5, Porter 1, Schanz 2, Medeghini 1. Wild pitches—Porter, Schanz. Passed balls—Williams. Left on bases—Salem 9, Tacoma 3. Home runs—White, Harriman. Three base hit—Garretson. Two base hits—Helser 2, Griffiths, Wilson, White. Runs batted in—Harris, Coscarart, Helser 3, Harriman, Firpo, White 3, Shirley, O'Brien. Stolen bases — Farrell. Double plays—Harriman to Shirley to Garretson, Harriman to Garretson, Rickert to Shirley to O'Brien, Lightner to Harris, Griffiths to Knoll to Harris.

Clabaugh is hitless in four at bats in his final game as a professional in Tacoma's 10-8 win over the visiting Salem Senators.

◀◀ June 29, 1940

Clabaugh is 0-for-4 against the Tacoma Tigers in final professional game

July 5, 1940

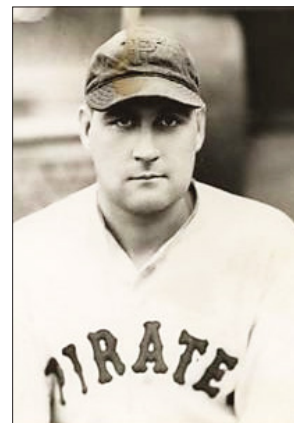
Salem Senators manager [Biddy Bishop](#) announces that Clabaugh has been given his release at his own request ... Clabaugh is hitting .319 with six home runs in 60 games with the Senators ... Bishop gives no reason for the release, but is thought that Clabaugh may have a managing or umpiring position available ... pitcher [Joe Kralovich](#), recently released by the Vancouver Capilanos of the Western International (B) League is signed to take his place.

July 12, 1940

Clabaugh is appointed to the umpiring staff of the Western International League.

July 11, 1984

Clabaugh dies in Tucson, Arizona, at the age of 82.



Ralph Birkofer

On April 28, 1940, the Portland Beavers, in an effort to get their roster down to 18, release Moose Clabaugh and 32-year-old left-handed pitcher [Ralph Birkofer](#), who is 0-2 in three appearances. He pitches five seasons in the major leagues, including four seasons (1933-1936) with the Pittsburgh Pirates where he is 31-26 with a 4.04 ERA. Following his release, Birkofer signs to play with the Coca-Cola team of the independent Tri-State League.



Moose Clabaugh
1940 Salem Senators