

Pinch Hits, "The Game That Time Simply Forgot"

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On August 17, 1915, the Pittsburgh Pirates, behind the six-hit pitching of newly-acquired John "Rube" Benton, win the first game of a doubleheader against the visiting Chicago Cubs, 3-2. One week later on August 24, the game's results are simply erased when the National Baseball Commission upholds a protest by the last-place New York Giants.

On August 14, one day after Benton pitches a one-hitter against the Youngstown Steelmen in an exhibition game, the Pirates acquire the sturdy left-hander from the Cincinnati Reds for \$4,000, with no other players involved. At the time of the purchase, Benton is 6-13 for the last-place Reds with a 3.35 ERA

CUBS AND PIRATES SPLIT

Rube Benton Hurls And Wins The First Game For Pittsburgh.

Declares Status Of Former Reds Pitcher Is Undecided—Chicago Takes Second By Hard Hitting

PITTSBURGH.		CHICAGO.	
Costello,rf.	3 0 0 2 0 0	Good,rf.	3 0 0 1 0 0
Collins,cf.	4 0 1 4 0 1	Murray,rf.	0 0 0 1 0 0
Johns'n,lb.	4 0 0 9 0 0	Fisher,ss.	4 0 0 3 4 0
Hinch'n,lf.	3 0 0 2 0 0	Schulte,lf.	4 0 1 1 0 0
Wagner,ss.	3 1 1 1 3 0	Zim'an,2b.	3 0 0 0 0 0
Viox,2b.	3 1 1 2 3 1	Saier,lb.	4 1 2 7 1 0
Baird,3b.	3 1 1 0 3 0	Will'ns,cf.	4 1 1 8 0 0
Gibson,c.	3 0 0 7 1 0	Phelan,3b.	4 0 0 0 1 0
Benton,p.	3 0 1 0 0 0	Bres'han,c.	4 0 2 2 0 0
		Humph's,p.	3 0 0 1 1 0
Totals	29 3 5 27 10 2	Totals	33 2 6 24 7 0
Pittsburgh	0 0 0 0 3 0 0 0 x-3		
Chicago	0 0 0 2 0 0 0 0 0-2		

Two-base hits—Bresnahan, Wagner, Baird. Three-base hit—Saier. Stolen base—Good. Double plays—Viox to Wagner to Johnston; Wagner to Viox to Johnston. Earned runs—Chicago, 2; Pittsburgh, 3. First base on error—Chicago, 1. Bases on balls—Off Humphries, 1; off Benton, 2. Struck out—By Humphries, 1; by Benton, 8. Passed ball—By Gibson. Umpires—Eason and Byron. Time—1:30.

"RUBE" BENTON IS NOW A PITTSBURG PIRATE

Cincinnati, O., August 14—Pitcher John "Rube" Benton of the Cincinnati Club has been sold to the Pittsburgh National League Club, according to President Herrmann of the Cincinnati Club.

President Barnel Dreyfuss of the Pittsburgh National League team said last night that the purchase of Benton was a purely cash transaction and that no other players figured in the deal. He refused to disclose the amount paid for the twirler. Benton will report to the Pirates here tomorrow.

However, the New York Giants quickly assert that they have the rights to Benton and Cincinnati agrees saying it simply overlooked the option and tells Benton to report to New York. The Giants convince the Commission that they have the proper waiver claim on Benton because they had a 21-day verbal option on the portsider that had yet to expire when he was sold to the Corsairs.

Rube Benton Is Claimed By the Giants; Pirates Will Fight to Keep Him

Both Pirates' president Barney Dreyfuss and manager Fred Clarke declare that they will fight for Benton's services. "Nothing was said about the Giants having an option on Benton when the deal was closed with Manager Herzog here Friday night," said Dreyfuss. "Mr. Herzog named his price and we met it. Mr. Herrmann confirmed the deal over the long-distance telephone."

RUBE'S FATE IN BALANCE.

Rube Benton, who was delivered by the Reds at Forbes Field and then claimed by the Giants, still is being carried along by the Pirates as extra baggage. The new southpaw pitched one game in a Pittsburgh uniform, defeating the Cubs in part of last Tuesday's bargain. Some time this week, it is alleged, the National League directors—that is, the two of them who are not directly interested—will decide where the Rube is at.

COMMISSION AWARDS BENTON TO GIANTS

New York, August 24.—The National Baseball Commission this afternoon decided that Rube Benton, formerly of the Cincinnati Reds, is legally the property of the Giants. In announcing its decision the commission exonerates from all blame the Pittsburgh club, which it says acted in good faith in holding the pitcher.

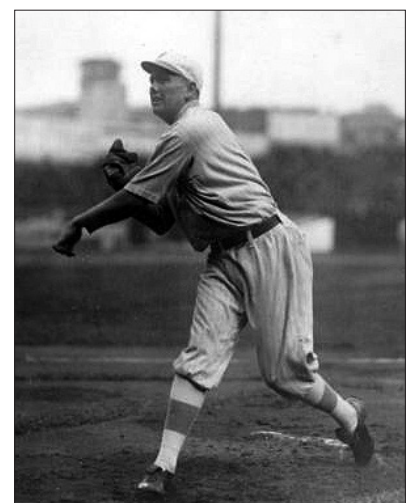
The commission also announced that the game between the Cubs and the Pittsburgh teams played on August 17 in which Benton pitched for the Pirates has been thrown out and will be replayed.

Following the announcement Manager McGraw, of the Giants, said Benton would in all probability pitch one of the games tomorrow against the Pirates.

The Commission however, awards Benton to the Giants, but also tells the Pirates that since they had acted in good faith, the game will not be forfeited, but will be replayed when the two teams are scheduled to play again in the first week of September.

To add insult to injury, New York Giants' manager John McGraw starts Benton against the Pirates the very next day (August 25) in the second game of a doubleheader at the Polo Grounds. The Corsairs gain a measure of satisfaction however, driving Benton from the box in the fifth inning, scoring six earned runs on 12 hits en route to a 9-7 win.

The Cubs and Pirates eventually play a doubleheader on September 4, instead of the single game that was originally scheduled. Chicago wins the first game 5-2 before Pittsburgh rebounds to capture the second game, which is the rematch of the disqualified game of August 17, by a 2-to-1 score. In 15 major league seasons, Benton is 150-144 with 23 shutouts and a 3.09 ERA.



Rube Benton
New York Giants