

Out of baseball since 1940 because of a broken leg, pitcher [Elbert Padgett](#), attempts a comeback in 1943 with the Southern Association's New Orleans Pelicans.

When the team's spring training camp opens on April 5, Padgett is one of only three pitchers to report to manager Ray Blades. The other two are [Vernon "Trader" Horn](#), considered the team ace, and [Jesse Dana](#). Horn will go 10-10 with a 4.35 ERA in 1943 while Dana, a 25-year-old left-hander, will lead the league with 22 wins.

Padgett's debut comes in the season opener against the Birmingham Barons on April 23. Relieving Horn at the start of the seventh inning in a 5-1 loss, Padgett turns in two hitless and scoreless innings. Unfortunately for Padgett his comeback ends the next day when the Barons batter him for 13 runs on 10 hits and two walks in only 2/3rds of an inning in a 22-7 Birmingham victory. He is released six days later.

Out of baseball since fracturing his right leg while playing with the Gadsden Pilot of the Southeastern (B) League in 1940, the 6-foot-4 right-hander was 63-39 in five seasons prior to the injury, including a 26-6 mark with 25 complete games and a league-leading 1.48 ERA for the Gainesville G-Man of the Florida State (D) League in 1937. Following the season, Padgett has his contract purchased by the Pittsburgh Pirates.

