

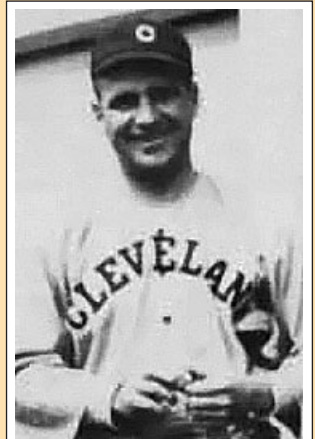
# Rivington Bisland, "Bisland Baseline"

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In the flimsiest batting order of baseball history, the "Mendoza Line" hits cleanup and the "Bisland Baseline" hits eighth.

In parts of three major league seasons (1912-1914), Rivington Martin Bisland fashions a less-than-sterling .118 career batting average with 12 hits (11 singles and one double) in 102 at bats ... his slugging percentage is .127 and his OPS a rugged .317.

The 5-9, 155-pound Bisland makes his major league debut on Sept. 13, 1912, going 0-for-1 as a pinch hitter for the Pittsburgh Pirates in a 6-5, 10-inning win over the Philadelphia Phillies.



Rivington Bisland  
Cleveland Naps 1914

## Rivington Bisland Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Lev	AB	HT	2B	3B	HR	RBI	AVG
1909	Pottsville Patriots	Atlantic League	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	---
1910	Wheeling Stogies	Central	B	340	61	5	5	0	-	.254
1911	Indianapolis Indians	American Assoc.	A	32	7	0	0	0	-	.219
1911	Youngstown Steelmen	Ohio-Penn	C	343	92	-	-	-	-	.268
1912	Springfield Reapers	Central	B	446	128	34	4	0	-	.287
1912	Pittsburgh Pirates	NATIONAL	ML	1	0	0	0	0	0	.000
1913	Atlanta Crackers	Southern	A	452	136	19	10	2	-	.301
1913	St. Louis Browns	AMERICAN	ML	44	6	0	0	0	3	.136
1914	Cleveland Naps	AMERICAN	ML	57	6	1	0	0	2	.105
1914	Atlanta Crackers	Southern	A	243	62	5	2	0	-	.255
1915	Atlanta Crackers	Southern	A	436	100	14	6	1	-	.229
1916	Empire Tire	Delaware River	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	---
<b>Minor League Totals</b> ..... 7 years				<b>2129</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>3</b>	-	<b>.276</b>
<b>Major League Totals</b> ..... 3 years				<b>533</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>.118</b>

Unable to dislodge incumbent Pittsburgh shortstop

Honus Wagner, Bisland is drafted in the annual Rule 5 draft by the American League's St. Louis Browns in 1913 ... Bisland enjoys a "career" year with the hapless Browns, ripping out six hits in 44 at bats for a robust .136 average.

In the off-season, Bisland verbally agrees to a contract with the Pittsburgh Rebels of the newly-formed Federal League, but never signs.

Fort Wayne Sentinel  
September 3, 1909

### LAWYERS TAKE APPEAL.

Not Satisfied With the Result of the Ball Game.

An appeal to the supreme court of the state with sixty days to file a bill of exceptions was taken this morning from the ruling in the Blackstone-Esculapius combat that took place at Lawton park yesterday afternoon in which the doctors got the verdict about 21 to 16. About as near the score as anybody kept.

The doctors and lawyers worked a brand of base ball out of their systems yesterday that nobody else could have produced on short notice and some of the things were really wonderful. The most prominent feature of the game was the errors. There were all kinds on tap and some new brands invented just for the occasion. John Eggeman was the umpire and nobody called him rotten. He's too big.

In April, 1914, the Cleveland Naps acquire Bisland from the Browns on waivers ... Bisland responds to his new surroundings totaling six hits for the second year in a row, including his first and only career double (in 57 at bats) for a .105 average ... on June 12, 1914, Bisland goes 0-for-2 in a 6-1 loss to the Philadelphia Athletics in his final major league appearance.

Bisland plays one final season in professional baseball with the Atlanta Crackers of the Southern (A) League in 1915 ... in his three seasons with the Crackers (1913-1915), Bisland is one of the team's more popular players and the *Atlanta Journal Constitution* proclaims him as the Southern League's best shortstop.

Following the 1916 season, Bisland is acquired on waivers by the Chattanooga Lookouts ... however, after the Lookouts tender Bisland a contract for the 1916 season at the minor league limit of \$250 per month, it is revealed that Bisland was being paid \$350 a month by the Crackers, with the extra \$100 a payment to prevent him from jumping to the Federal League ... rather than face suspension for exceeding the salary limit, Bisland retires from baseball prior to the start of the 1916 season.

## Rivington Bisland [2 of 3]:

Following his professional baseball career, Bisland becomes a well-known boxing promoter handling the ticket sales for several Joe Louis fights ... Bisland dies in Salzburg, Austria on January 11, 1973 at the age of 82.

### Bisland Chronology

December, 1908

Eighteen-year-old Pleasantville, Pennsylvania, high school outfielder Rivington Bisland, signs with Tom Golden's Pottsville (Pa.) club of the independent Atlantic League.

July 26, 1909

Bisland signs with the Pittsburgh Pirates and is assigned to Scranton of the New York (A) League after the Pottsville team ceases operations.

September 1910

Bisland is hitting .254 in 61 games for the Wheeling Stogies of the Central (B) League when he is seriously injured during a game in late July ... Bisland is spiked in the foot by Fort Wayne Billikens infielder Grover Redden ... Bisland develops a severe case of blood poisoning and amputation of the foot seems a possibility.

November 1910

Bisland leaves a Wheeling hospital in late November ... it is determined that the Stoogies have defaulted in both the payment of his salary and the hospital bill ... Pittsburgh Pirates President Dreyfuss sends a letter to Central League Secretary Irwin asking for payment of both Bisland's salary, travel expenses and his hospital bill ... Lynn tells the Wheeling club that they owe Bisland \$384.95 for unpaid salary ... the Stoogies inform Lynn that the team "has no funds" available.



RIVINGTON BISLAND.  
The best shortstop the Southern League  
ever saw.

February 1911

The Indianapolis Indians of the American (A) Association acquire Bisland from Wheeling in an off-season trade ... Indianapolis secretary Locke says Bisland is a "well-appearing youth."

March 1911

The kudos for Bisland continue when Pittsburgh officials opine that no other teams have landed a "finer looking boy" than Bisland ... "Matinee Idol" are words often used to describe Bisland.

April 12, 1911

Batting third in the lineup, Bisland goes 2-for-3 as the starting left fielder for Indianapolis in their 1911 season opener.

March, 1912

Bisland is sold to the Springfield Reapers of the Central (B) League.

May 22, 1912

Bisland collects four hits in six at bats as Springfield beat Fort Wayne, 15-6, totaling 22 hits off of Railroader pitchers Art Loudell, a former major league pitcher with the Detroit Tigers in 1910, and reliever Bradley Valliere.

April 28, 1913

Pittsburgh sells Bisland to the Atlanta Crackers of the Southern Association.

### Harbinger of things to come

*Fort Wayne Sentinel, September 3, 1909*

### Central League Notes

*Rivington Bisland, who is said to be the son of a wealthy eastern manufacturer and now a student in an eastern university, and who plays ball, according to the story, because he has nothing else to do. He is a clean cut ball player, but he can't hit.*

*He went through the whole of last week without a hit. He can bunt and run bases but he cannot get the screeching line drives. Bisland is' also a classy fielder and guards left field with an eagle eye.*

## Rivington Bisland [3 of 3]:

September 16, 1913

Bisland is selected by the St. Louis Browns of the American League from the roster of the Atlanta Crackers in the annual minor league draft.

November 23, 1913

Infielders Bill McKechnie and Rivington Bisland agree to contracts with the Pittsburgh franchise of the Federal League.

April 17, 1914

Cleveland acquires Bisland from the St. Louis Brown via the waiver route.

August 9, 1915

Bisland is ejected from a game with the Chattanooga Lookouts ... tossed in the fifth inning by Umpire O'Toole for protesting a decision, it takes four policemen to remove Bisland from the field.

August 27, 1915

Bisland, captain and shortstop of the Atlanta Crackers, is lost for the remainder of the season when he is spiked on the wrist by Nashville Vols right fielder Howard Baker on an attempted steal of second base.

January 20, 1916

Chattanooga manager Kid Elberfield announces that the Lookouts have acquired Bisland on waivers.

February 7, 1916

Chattanooga returns Bisland back to Atlanta and requests through Southern League President Baugh that the \$500 waiver fee paid for Bisland be refunded ... the action is taken following a letter from Bisland in which he offers to produce evidence that he was paid \$350 a month by Atlanta in 1915 ... his salary is officially listed as \$260 a month.

April 1917

Bisland announces his retirement from professional baseball.

January 1, 1917

Bisland announces that he is coming out of retirement and will sign with Chattanooga ... Lookout manager Kid Elberfield sees Bisland as a "bench leader."

February 9, 1917

Chattanooga announces that they have offered Bisland to the New Orleans Pelicans for former major league outfielder Jimmy Eschen ... the deal is never completed.

February 17, 1918

After being out of organized baseball for the past two years, Bisland informs Atlanta Crackers manager Mike Finn that the Crackers' terms are "unacceptable" and that he will retire.

January 11, 1973

Bisland dies in Salzburg, Austria, at the age of 82.

