

PINCH HITS: Hardins of Hardball

©DiamondsintheDusk.com

Bud Hardin

One Shining Moment

On April 22, 1952, a 30-year-old Bud Hardin collects his lone major league hit when he singles in the sixth inning against Pittsburgh Pirate right hander Jim Suhecki in a 13-2 Bruin win ... nine days later Suhecki will pitch his final game in the majors finishing winless in six decision with a 5.38 ERA.

A career minor league infielder, William Edgar (Bud) Hardin hits a pedestrian .253 in 1,347 games over 13 minor league seasons (1942, 1946-57) ... makes his professional baseball debut with the Salisbury Giants of the North Carolina State (D) League in 1942 before serving three years in the military and earning a Purple Heart with the 91st Infantry Division in Europe ... in 1947, Hardin hits .271 with 74 RBIs and is the lone Richmond Colts representative named to the Piedmont League All-Star team ... one of two Hardins to ever make it to the major leagues, the Shelby, North Carolina, native gets into three games with the Chicago Cubs in 1952, collecting one hit in seven at bats (.143).



Colts' Bud Hardin

David Hardin

Not much is known about David Hardin ... what we do know that in 1909, pitching for the last-place Cottonwood Falls/Twin Citys/Larned Cowboys of the Kansas State (D) League, Hardin is a less-than-impressive 5-17 and ties teammate William Howie for the league leadership in losses ... for Hardin its his only recorded season in professional baseball while Howie is 30-71 in five minor league seasons.

One Shining Moment

On July 30, 1909, in a Kansas State League game, David Hardin hits the home plate umpire with his bat after a third strike is called on him ... Hardin is later arrested and held for trial, but he jumps bail leaves the state.

Chili Hardin



Chili Hardin
DuPont Company Team

A right-handed pitcher, Charles Hiram "Chili" Hardin shows considerable potential early in his career posting a 40-21 mark in his first three seasons of professional baseball ... unfortunately the Hickory, Tennessee, native will win only five more games before calling it quits following a 3-4 mark in 1932 with the Wilmington Pirates ... in six minor league seasons (1927-1932), Hardin is an impressive 48-27, including a 15-9 mark with the Haverhill Hillies in 1928 and a 16-4 record with the New Bedford Hillman in 1929 ... Hardin makes it as high as AA ball with the Baltimore Orioles of the International League before he is "dropped" when it discovered that his main pitch is a spitter.

One Shining Moment

On August 11, 1930, it is reported that Chili Hardin has been suspended by the International (A) League's Baltimore Orioles for refusing to go on option to a Class B League team ... having already pitched in 1930 with the Salem Witches and Orioles in the minors, Hardin also makes appearances that season with Wareham, Falmouth and Roslindale.

One Shining Moment

In late January, 1910, word comes from St. Louis that Rock Island pitcher George Hardin, under contract with the Detroit Tigers for the upcoming season, has been missing from his home since January 12 ... Mrs. Hardin "can advance no reason" why he should disappear ... Hardin spends the 1910 season with the Williamsport Millionaires and will never play a game in the majors.

George Hardin

A successful minor league pitcher, George Welleford Hardin wins 130 games over nine minor league seasons (1909-15, 1917-18) ... the St. Louis, Missouri, native has an outstanding debut in 1909 with the Rock Island Islanders, leading the Three-I (B) League in wins (26) and in strikeouts (265) ... two years later, with the Fort Wayne Railroaders, Hardin leads the Central (B) League in strikeouts (172) and ties with Dayton's Jack Compton with a league-best 22 wins ... following a 18-12 mark in 1915 with the Rockford Wakes of the Three-I (B) League, Hardin jumps his contract with the Wakes and pitches for the Jeffrey Automobile semi-pro team in Kenosha, Wisconsin.



GEORGE HARDIN