

Clyde Kluttz, "Nobody Wants Me"

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One of nine Catawba College players to play in the major leagues, Clyde Kluttz makes national headlines on May 1, 1946, when he belongs to three major league teams in the same day.

Starting out in the morning as a New York Giant, Kluttz is traded just before noon to the Philadelphia Phillies for outfielder Vince DiMaggio ... two hours later Kluttz becomes a St. Louis Cardinal when the Phillies exchange him straight-up for infielder Emil Verban.

Signing with the National League's St. Louis Cardinals in the spring of 1938, following his sophomore year at Catawba, the Rockwell, North Carolina, native plays nine major league seasons with the Cardinals, Boston Braves, New York Giants, Pittsburgh Pirates, St. Louis Browns and the Washington Senators.

A journeyman major league catcher, Kluttz is a .268 career hitter with 90 doubles, eight triples, 19 home runs and 212 RBIs ... his best season comes in 1947 when he hits .302 with career-high six home runs and 42 RBIs in 73 games with the Pirates.

Over an 11-month period from June, 1945 to May, 1946, Kluttz is traded for a future Hall of Famer - Joe Medwick - and a pair of two-time National League All-Stars - Vince DiMaggio and Emil Verban.

Clyde's younger brother Alvin plays nine minor league seasons (1941-43, 1946-51) in the Cardinal, Giant and Red Sox organizations.

Following his playing days, Kluttz remains in organized baseball as manager of the Savannah A's (2 years), a scout for the Kansas City Athletics (12 years) and the New York Yankees (7 years) ... in 1964, he is responsible for convincing Kansas City owner Charles Finley to sign Hertford, North Carolina high school pitcher George "Catfish" Hunter to a \$75,000 bonus.

The scouting director for the Yankees from 1974 to 1975 and the director of player development for the Baltimore Orioles from 1976 to 1979, Kluttz dies in Salisbury, North Carolina from heart and liver problems on May 12, 1979, at the age of 61.

3 Owners for Kluttz in 1 Day!

Giant-Phillie-Card Trade Involves V. DiMag, Verban

Compiled from Press Dispatches.

Catcher Clyde Kluttz Wednesday enjoyed the weird distinction of belonging to three major league teams in one afternoon.

Just before noon Kluttz was traded by the New York Giants to the Philadelphia Phillies for Outfielder Vince DiMaggio.

Two hours later the St. Louis Cardinals authored a player swap by which they sent Infielder Emil Verban to the Phils for Kluttz.

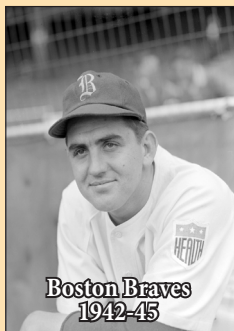
Kluttz, being in St. Louis for the Giants-Cardinals series, didn't move an inch throughout the three-way transaction.

Verban played regularly at second base for the Cards in 1944 and 1945, but became surplus material with the return of Lou Klein.

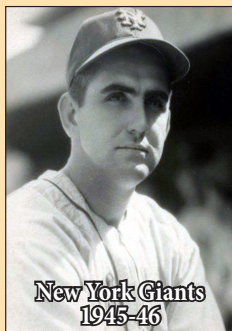
The deal gives the Phillies a good second baseman and the Cards a badly-needed catcher.

Kluttz will take the place of the injured Ken O'Dea in the Cards' lineup.

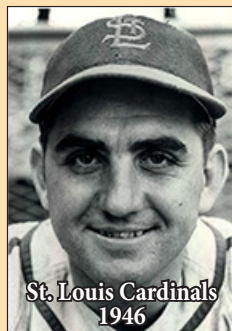
DiMaggio hit 19 home runs for Philadelphia last year. The Giants will be his fifth major league team.



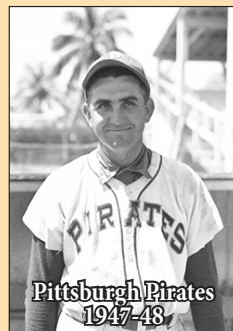
Boston Braves
1942-45



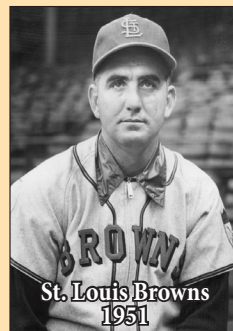
New York Giants
1945-46



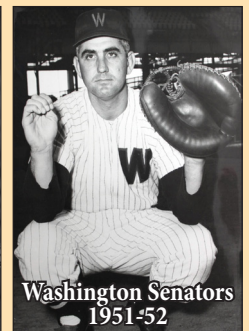
St. Louis Cardinals
1946



Pittsburgh Pirates
1947-48



St. Louis Browns
1951



Washington Senators
1951-52

Clyde Kluttz [2 of 4]:

Kluttz Chronology

July 18, 1938

In the first game of a Appalachian (D) League double header, Johnson City Soldiers rookie catcher Clyde Kluttz relieves starting pitcher Allen Krist with one out in the fourth inning and allows two runs on three hits in five 2/3 innings of strong relief ... Kluttz strikes out four and walks one ... Krist absorbs the loss in a 5-2 opening game setback, but bounces back to pick up the win in the nightcap ... the 19-year-old Krist goes 4-13 in his only season in professional baseball.

June 27, 1939

Kilgore Boomers catcher Clyde Kluttz and third baseman Lew Coletta are fined \$50 each and indefinitely suspended for a run in East Texas League umpire Leo Enger in the Tyler-Kilgore game the night before.

August 15, 1941

In a Pacific Coast League doubleheader with the San Francisco Seals, Sacramento Salons catcher Clyde Kluttz collects six hits in seven at bats, including four singles, a double and a triple.

September 30, 1941

Kluttz is selected by the Boston Braves in the annual Rule 5 Minor League Draft.

April 20, 1942

Kluttz makes his major league debut with the Boston Braves in a 9-2 loss to the Brooklyn Dodgers before 4,374 at Ebbets Field ... replacing starting catcher Ernie Lombardi, Kluttz goes 1-for-2 as the Braves drop their third straight game after starting the season 4-0 ... 21-year-old Braves' rookie lefthander Warren Spahn relieves starter Tom Early in the fourth inning and allows four runs on five innings pitched ... two days later Spahn is optioned to the Hartford Bees of the Eastern (A) League where he will go 17-12 with a 1.96 ERA before being recalled in September.

June 16, 1945

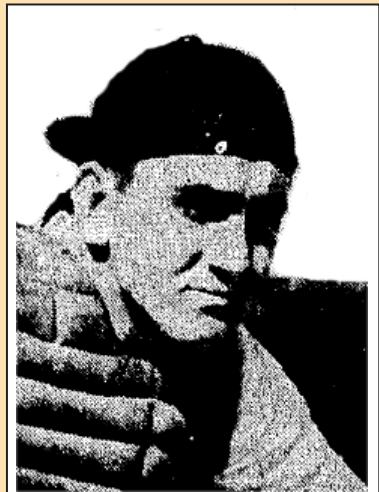
Kluttz is batting .296 in 25 games when the Boston Braves trade him to the New York Giants for future Hall of Fame outfielder Joe Medwick and pitcher Ewald (Lefty) Pyle.

May 1, 1946

The 28-year-old Kluttz is traded twice in one day ... starting the days with the New York Giants, Kluttz is traded to the Philadelphia Phillies for outfielder Vince DiMaggio ... the Phillies then trade Kluttz to the St. Louis Cardinals for shortstop Emil Verban.

Clyde Kluttz Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Lev	AB	HT	2B	3B	HR	RBI	AVG	
1938	Johnson City Soldiers.....	Appalachian	D	280	89	18	6	2	-	.318	
1939	Kilgore Boomers.....	East Texas	C	376	119	22	5	4	-	.316	
1940	2 Teams.....	2 Lgs	B	306	76	25	6	1	-	.248	
1940	Columbus Red Birds.....	South Atlantic	B	105	24	10	0	1	-	.229	
1940	Decatur Commodores	Illinois-Indiana-Iowa	B	201	52	15	6	0	-	.259	
1941	2 Teams.....	2 Lgs	AA-B	275	90	15	5	1	22	.327	
1941	Decatur Commodores.....	Illinois-Indiana-Iowa	B	43	12	4	1	0	-	.279	
1941	Sacramento Solons	Pacific Coast	AA	232	78	11	4	1	22	.336	
1942	Boston Braves	NATIONAL	ML	210	56	10	1	1	31	.267	
1943	Boston Braves	NATIONAL	ML	207	51	7	0	0	20	.246	
1944	Boston Braves	NATIONAL	ML	229	64	12	2	2	19	.279	
1945	2 Teams.....	NATIONAL	ML	303	86	18	1	4	31	.284	
1945	Boston Braves	NATIONAL	ML	81	24	4	1	0	10	.296	
1945	New York Giants.....	NATIONAL	ML	222	62	14	0	4	21	.279	
1946	2 Teams.....	NATIONAL	ML	144	39	7	0	0	15	.271	
1946	New York Giants.....	NATIONAL	ML	8	3	0	0	0	1	.375	
1946	St. Louis Cardinals	NATIONAL	ML	136	36	7	0	0	14	.265	
1947	Pittsburgh Pirates.....	NATIONAL	ML	232	70	9	2	6	42	.302	
1948	Pittsburgh Pirates.....	NATIONAL	ML	271	60	12	2	4	20	.221	
1949	Indianapolis Indians	American Assoc.	AAA	129	32	8	1	0	14	.248	
1950	Baltimore Orioles.....	International	AAA	282	82	13	1	11	56	.291	
1951	2 Teams.....	AMERICAN	ML	163	51	10	0	1	23	.313	
1951	St. Louis Browns	AMERICAN	ML	4	2	1	0	0	1	.500	
1951	Washington Senators	AMERICAN	ML	159	49	9	0	1	22	.308	
1952	Washington Senators	AMERICAN	ML	144	33	5	0	1	11	.229	
1953	Baltimore Orioles.....	International	AAA	99	19	3	0	1	4	.192	
1954	Savannah A's.....	South Atlantic	A	2	-	-	-	-	-	----	
Major League Totals.....				9 years	1903	510	90	8	19	212	.268
Minor League Totals				8 years	1749	507	104	24	20	-	.290



Clyde Kluttz
1953 Baltimore Orioles

Clyde Kluttz [3 of 4]:

December 26, 1946

Fresh off winning the 1946 World Series in seven games over the Boston Red Sox, the Cardinals trade, or release several players, including Kluttz and infielder Buster Adams ... Kluttz, the third-string catcher behind Joe Garagiola and Del Rice, is purchased by the Pittsburgh Pirates in a straight cash deal "said to be the biggest since the end of the 1946 season," ... later it's revealed that the Bucs paid \$40,000 to acquire Kluttz.

Adams' Forecast of Cards' Difficulties Fulfilled

Buster Adams later tells *The Sporting News* "They got rid of the catcher all the pitchers wanted to work with – Clyde Kluttz – telling him when they let him go that they could not keep all three. The pitchers last year used to ask for him (Kluttz) to work behind the bat."

January 29, 1949

Coming off an injury-filled, career-low .221 season with the Pittsburgh Pirates, Kluttz is released to the Indianapolis Indians of the American Association ... the Bucs also pick up 31-year-old right-handed pitcher Murray Dickson from the St. Louis Cardinals for an undisclosed amount of cash ... over the next five seasons (1949-1953), Dickson will account for 24 percent of Pittsburgh's wins (66 of 274) before being traded to the Philadelphia Phillies.

April 24, 1951

St. Louis Browns' president Ham DeWitt discloses that the Detroit Tigers have "snubbed" his offer of catcher Clyde Kluttz in exchange for some pitching help ... Tigers general manager Billy Evans tells DeWitt he is interested in Sherm Lollar or Les Moss, (the Browns' top two catchers) but not Kluttz ... Evans is concerned about Kluttz's age (32) and that he has not played in the major leagues since hitting .221 with Pittsburgh in 1948.

May 5, 1951

Kluttz goes 1-for-2 with a double but breaks a finger in St. Louis' 17-6 loss to the New York Yankees ... the loss drops the Browns to 4-13 and nine games behind the front-running Yankees.

June 10, 1951

On the same day that a 33-year-old Kluttz is waived by the St. Louis Browns (bringing the team down to the 25-player limit) the Philadelphia Phillies announce the signing of Hamtramck, Michigan, high school shortstop Ted Kazanski to a contract with a \$80,000 bonus ... in six major league seasons with the Phillies, Kazanski will hit .217 with 14 home runs and 116 RBIs before playing his final major league season in 1958 at the age of 24.

June 11, 1951

Kluttz is selected off waivers by the Washington Senators from the St. Louis Browns.

Clan Kluttz

In a family of catchers, Clyde Kluttz's younger brother, Alvin enjoys a nine-year minor league career.

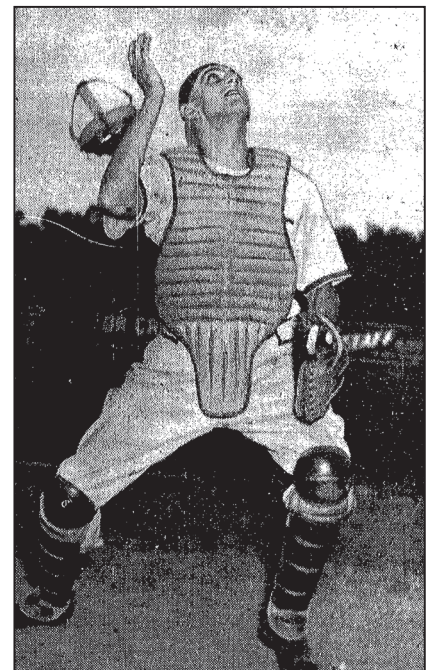
Alvin begins his organized baseball career with the Springfield Cardinals in 1941, hitting only .173 with one home run and six RBIs.

Joining the Army in 1944, Kluttz serves two years as an infantryman during World War II and is seriously wounded resulting with 47 pieces of shrapnel and one machine gun bullet lodged in his body.

While recovering at a military hospital in France, Kluttz writes St. Louis Cardinals owner Sam Breadon, that despite his injuries, he was looking forward to playing one more year of baseball.

Returning stateside, a 24-year-old Kluttz, with 21 pieces of shrapnel still in his body, hits .207 in 1946, with one home run in 73 games for the Lynchburg Cardinals of Piedmont (B) League ... in 1948, Kluttz hits .296 with two home runs and 17 RBIs as player/manager for the Carthage Cardinals of the KOM (D) League.

Kluttz finishes his career with the High Point-Thomasville Hi-Toms of the North Carolina State (D) League, hitting .287 with five home runs and 42 RBIs.



Clyde Kluttz [4 of 4]:

July 18, 1951▶▶

Kluttz goes 1-for-4 with three RBIs against his former teammates as the Senators beat Satchel Paige (in his Browns' debut) 7-1 before 7,848 at Sportsman Park.

September 27, 1952

In his final major league game, Kluttz is 1-for-4 and collects the 212th RBI of his career in Washington's 4-1 loss to the Boston Red Sox before 5,168 Fenway Park faithful.

October 7, 1952

The Washington Senators unconditionally release three players - Kluttz (.229-1-11) and pitchers Joe Haynes (0-3, 4.50) and Tom Ferrick (4-3, 3.02) ... the 34-year-old Haynes, who had married the daughter of Senators' owner Clark Griffith back in 1941, is retained as the team's pitching coach and will become the team's vice-president and general manager in 1955.

Clyde Kluttz, director of player development for the Orioles and a 42-year veteran in baseball, died at his home in Salisbury, N. C., May 12. He was 61.

Kluttz, who had been hospitalized with kidney and heart problems for several weeks, was a catcher before he turned to managing, scouting and front-office assignments.

He was a well-traveled player during his major league career, which started with the Braves in 1942 and ended with the Senators in 1952. He also played for the Cardinals, the Giants, the Pirates and the Browns. His lifetime batting average was .268.

While a scout for the Yankees, he convinced Catfish Hunter, then a free agent, that New York was the place to be. Although Hunter had several offers which appeared to be better, he agreed to the terms presented by Kluttz. They were written on a napkin and called for something like \$3.75 million overall, with \$100,000 in cash.

Before he took the Oriole job in January, 1976, Kluttz had been a Yankee scout for seven years and a Kansas City scout for 12 seasons.

He managed Savannah for three years before going into scouting.

May 12, 1979

Kluttz dies in Salisbury, North Carolina, at the age of 61 from heart and liver problems.

* * *

Ol' Satchel Paige Loses First Game With Browns, 7-1

Senators Spoil Ancient Hurler's St. Louis Debut With 11-Hit Attack

St. Louis, July 18 (AP)—The Washington Senators spoiled Ol' Satchel Paige's first start with the Browns tonight by picking on him for 11 hits in eight innings to take a 7 to 1 decision from St. Louis.

WASHINGTON (AL)	ab	r	h	e	a	e
Yost, 3	3	1	1	1	1	0
Coan, lf	5	1	2	2	0	0
Noren, cf	5	1	1	2	0	0
Vernon, 1	5	2	2	10	1	0
Mele, rf	5	1	2	2	0	0
Runnels, s	4	1	3	1	2	0
Michaels, 2	5	0	2	2	3	0
Kluttz, c	4	0	1	6	2	0
Porterfield, p	5	0	0	1	1	0
Totals	41	7	14	27	10	0

ST. LOUIS (AL)	ab	r	h	e	a	e
Young, 2	4	0	1	3	3	0
Maguire, lf	3	0	2	2	0	0
Delsing, cf	4	0	1	5	0	0
Coleman, rf	3	1	1	3	0	0
Lollar, c	4	0	1	3	0	0
Arft, 1	4	0	0	10	0	0
Marsh, 3	4	0	0	0	3	0
Upton, s	3	0	0	1	3	1
Paige, p	2	0	0	0	1	0
a-Long	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suhecki, p	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	31	1	6	27	10	1

WASHINGTON	000	101	302	—7
ST. LOUIS	000	000	001	—1

RBI—Kluttz 3, Noren 2, Michaels, Vernon, Lollar; 2B—Runnels, Coan, Coleman, Lollar; HR—Vernon; DP—Kluttz to Yost, Upton to Young to Arft; Left—Washington 11, St. Louis 0; BB—Porterfield 3, Paige 4; SO—Porterfield 3, Paige 3; HO—Paige 11 in 8 innings, Suhecki 3 in 1; Winner—Porterfield (3-2); Loser—Paige (0-1); U—Duffy, Hubbard and Paparella; T—2:40; A—7848.
a—Walked for Paige in 8th.