

Pinch Hits, "Piggy Gets Caught"

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On April 4, 1909, minor league pitcher Albert "Piggy" Minor is arrested in Greensburg, Indiana, and charged with stealing corn from the crib of Mrs. A.C. Russell of nearby Milford. Minor, George Barnes and Edo Barnes are held under \$500 bond in the Greensburg city jail.

After Mrs. Russell reports to the police that she had been missing corn "for some time," the case is assigned to the Horse Theft Detective Association. Bloodhounds are brought in from Indianapolis and arrests are soon made.

JAILED FOR THEFT

A Well Known Central League Pitcher Under Grave Charge.

Greensburg, Ind., April 5.—Albert ("Piggy") Miner, known throughout the Central League cities in recent years, is facing a charge of stealing corn from the crib of Mrs. A. C. Russel, of Milford, eight miles northwest of this city, and George Barnes and Edo Barnes are also held under bond with him. Mrs. Russell has been missing corn for some time and the theft was placed in charge of the Clifty Horse Thief Detective Association. Bloodhounds from Indianapolis were placed on the trail, resulting in evidence which caused the arrest of Miner and the Barnes boys, each now being held under \$500 bond. Miner was a pitcher for Evansville and also Terre Haute in the Central League and made a good record, but last season "jumped" a Terre Haute contract. The arrests have caused a sensation here, where all the persons are well known.

A seven-year veteran of the minor leagues (1903-1908, 1911) in the Central, Western and Three-I leagues, Minor is serving a three-year suspension from organized baseball and is pitching for a semipro team in his hometown of Greenberg, Indiana, at the time of his arrest.

The enigmatic right-hander had been banished as a result of his "contract jumping" from the Central League's Terre Haute Hottentots the previous summer.

HAS HONOR OF PITCHING FIRST
GAME FOR THE EVANSVILLIANS



MINOR FACING A BATTER.

For Minor, his leaving the Hottentots marks the second time in his brief minor league career that he leaves a team unexpectedly during a season. Four years earlier on August 21, 1904, pitching for the Evansville River Rats against the Dayton Veterans, Minor throws the ball into the stands while attempting a pick off in the fifth inning. Frustrated by a personal six-game losing streak, or by the poor play of his teammates, Minor throws his glove on the ground and leaves the field.



Albert "Piggy" Minor
1904 Evansville River Rats

Minor is severely disciplined by team president Bement. Six days later, Minor and former major league catcher Frank Cross leave the River Rats as a result of "renewal of dissensions" that have "been injuring the team all season." Minor is fined \$200 and is suspended by team and is barred from playing with any other organization until he pays the fine.

That February, the National Association declares the fine and suspension to be null and void since the Evansville team folded and did not finish the season. Minor returns to organized baseball in 1911 when he signs with the Davenport Prodigals of the Three-I (B) League.

Albert "Piggy" Minor Year by Year:

| Year | Team | League | Level | W-L | GP | INN | H | BB | SO | ERA | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------|-------|-------|------------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| 1903 | Evansville River Rats | Central | B | - | - | - | - | - | - | --- | | |
| 1904 | Evansville River Rats | Central | B | - | 46 | - | - | - | - | --- | | |
| 1905 | Colorado Springs/Pueblo | Western | A | 18-13 | 38 | 291 | 295 | 144 | - | --- | | |
| 1906 | Pueblo Indians | Western | A | 10-17 | 27 | - | - | - | - | --- | | |
| 1907 | Terre Haute Hottentots | Central | B | 15-16 | 34 | - | - | - | - | --- | | |
| 1908 | Terre Haute Hottentots | Central | B | 6-6 | 16 | 110 | 95 | 58 | 37 | --- | | |
| 1911 | Davenport Prodigals | Three-I | B | - | - | - | - | - | - | --- | | |
| Minor League Totals | | | | | 4 Seasons | 49-52 | 115 | 401 | 390 | 202 | 37 | --- |

Piggy Minor [2 of 2]:

MINOR CHRONOLOGY

April, 1903

Minor signs with Evansville of the Central (B) League after playing the previous season with a Greenberg, Illinois, semipro team.

August 27, 1903

Minor allows only one hit in an 8-0 shutout of Grand Rapids.

"Piggy" Minor, who was playing left yesterday, ran into the crowd to catch a foul fly and collided with a boy whose name was not learned. The lad's right knee was dislocated and Dr. W. W. Barnett was called to attend him. When Minor came to bat in the next inning he swung once at the ball and the effort pained him so that he retired and an examination revealed that his right thumb was dislocated.

▶▶ **May 22, 1904**

Rough day for Piggy ... playing left field for the Evansville River Rats, Minor collides with a fan while chasing a foul ball and dislocates his right thumb and the youngster's knee at the same time.

June 1, 1904

Minor returns from the injured list in time to pitch an 11-inning, 2-1 two-hit complete game win over visiting Terre Haute ... Minor is noted as one of the more popular players on the Evansville team.

August 28, 1904

Minor is 10-2 when he and catcher Frank Cross (.253) leave the River Rats as a result of "renewal of dissensions" that have "been injuring the team all season." ... Minor is fined \$100 and is suspended by team and is barred from playing with any other team until he pays the fine ... Cross played one game in the major leagues with the Cleveland Indians in 1901, collecting three hits in five at bats, finishing his brief major league stints with a .600 career batting average ... 19-year-old "Bunny" Pearce replaces Cross as the team's catcher.

November 22, 1904

Minor reportedly signs with Newark of the International League ... however Newark refuses to pay a \$100 fine imposed by the National Association for Minor jumping his contract with Evansville in August.

January 29, 1905

Still property of the Evansville River Rats, Minor is traded to the Colorado Springs Millionaires for catcher Charles Baerwald ... a disgruntled Minor says he will not report to the Millionaires.

April 4, 1909

Minor is arrested in Greensburg, Indiana, and charged with stealing corn from the crib of Mrs. A.C. Russell of nearby Milford. Minor, George Barnes and Edo Barnes are held under \$500 bond in the Greensburg city jail.

**OLD EVA STAR
IN LAW'S TOILS**

WILL PLAY WITH DAVENPORT

"Piggy" Minor Returns to Game After Long Suspension.

SOUTH BEND, Ind., March 16 — "Piggy" Minor, one of the best-known pitchers to work in the Central League, will, after having been suspended and blacklisted for nearly three years, return to the national game. J. D. Smith, owner of the Terre Haute Central League club, having agreed to the reinstatement of the player. Minor will play with Davenport of the Three I League. He jumped the Terre Haute club in 1908 and since that date has been playing independent ball.

◀◀ **March 14, 1911**

Returning from a three-year suspension and a spot on baseball's "black list", Minor is permitted to sign with Davenport ... since jumping his contract with Terre Haute in 1908, Minor has been playing independent ball.

Terre Haute owner L.D. Smith is extremely lenient in allowing Minor to be reinstated to the good graces of organized baseball ... Smith does not demand purchase money from Davenport nor does he require Minor to return any of the salary which Smith claims was overdrawn back in 1908.

May 12, 1911

Minor is released by Davenport.

June 16, 1911

Signs with Racine with the Three-I League.