

# May 3, 1946

## Robert E. Lee Debut

### JOPLIN, MISSOURI

Eighty-one years after surrendering his Army of Northern Virginia to Union General Ulysses S. Grant at the Appomattox Court House near Petersburg, Virginia, 20-year-old Robert E. Lee begins his professional baseball career on May 3, 1946, with the Joplin Miners of the Western (C) Association.

Batting sixth and starting in center-field, Lee collects two of the three hits that the Miners can muster off of Topeka lefty Lewis Hester in a 9-0 loss. Hester a native of High Point, North Carolina, strikes out 15 (including every batter at least once) before 2,800 at Joplin's Joe Beckers Stadium in the season opener for both teams.



Robert E. "Bob" Lee  
1952 Sioux City Soos

A native of Topeka, Kansas, and a *United States Army* veteran, Lee has a fairly respectable minor league career by all accounts. Three times in his seven-year (1946-1952) minor league career, the left-handed hitter will hit .300 or better, including a career-best .311 in 1948, while playing for the Nashua Dodgers in the New England (B) League.

Playing for the Sioux City Soos of the Western (A) League in 1952 (27 years before the advent of ESPN), Lee suffers a broken arm during a July batting practice and hits a career-low .229 in his final season.