

# Pinch Hits, "Billy Joe Moore"

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**JUNE 3, 1954**

One day after being paroled from an Oklahoma State prison, 24-year-old first baseman Billy Joe Moore makes his professional baseball debut with the Grand Forks Chiefs of the C level Northern League.

In four plate appearances, the 24-year-old Clinton, Oklahoma native walks twice, reaches base on an error, strikes out once and commits two errors in a 12-3 loss to the Superior Blues.

Convicted of first degree burglary in 1948, and sentenced to a 15-year jail term, Moore signs with Tom Greenwade, the same New York Yankee scout who earlier had signed Mickey Mantle. Greenwade says that Moore is "headed straight to the to the big leagues."



Moore departs for Grand Forks, North Dakota, after being paroled to the New York Yankees from a burglary sentence. Handing Moore his jacket and glove is Bunny Mick (L), manager of the McAlester Rockets of the Sooner State League

A prison standout in baseball, boxing, basketball and football, the 6-foot-2, 220-pound right-handed hitter is signed to a \$250 per month contract pending approval of Oklahoma State Prison warden Jerome J. Waters, Jr., and the Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board. Moore is then released to the Yankees on a 60-day leave and if all goes well, his parole could be extended until his scheduled release date of May 25, 1955.

## Yanks' Burglar No Big Success In First Start

**Billy Joe Moore Hitless,  
Makes 2 Errors In North-  
ern League Debut.**

SUPERIOR, Wis. — Billy Joe Moore, paroled this week from the Oklahoma penitentiary, made his first appearance in professional baseball here tonight. It was no ringing success.

Moore, a 24-year-old Negro whose athletic exploits in prison attracted New York Yankee scouts, walked twice, was safe on an error and struck out in four plate trips for Grand Forks of the Class C Northern League against Superior. Superior won 12-3.

Moore was charged with two errors at first base in 12 chances.

Moore, serving a term for burglary, hit 77 home runs and averaged close to .400 in 129 games during three seasons with the prison team. Yankee scouts predict he should be good enough for Class AAA competition next year.



After suffering a knee injury with Grand Forks, Moore has his parole canceled and returns to the Oklahoma state penitentiary. Seen here talking with Warden Waters, Moore will play with a prison team called the Outlaws.

While in prison, Moore hits 46 home runs and hits .390 in 67 games in 1952 and .389 with 20 home runs in 1953. He is hitting .405 with 11 home runs in 22 games when signs his contract with the Yankees.

Moore hits his first home run, a grand slam, against the Aberdeen Pheasants, on June 13. On July 8, two weeks after injuring his knee while chasing a foul ball, Moore is batting a lowly .202 with 26 hits, including three doubles and two home runs in 37 games for Grand Forks when he is released.

As a result of his release, Moore's parole is canceled and he returns to the penitentiary to complete his jail term. Moore later resurfaces with the Birmingham Black Barons and in 1956 will lead the Negro American League (NAL) in hitting with a .376 average.