

# April 17, 1943

## Elmer Padgett

Out of baseball for two years since fracturing a leg while pitching for the Gadsen Pilots of the Southeastern (B) League in 1940, lanky Elbert Padgett attempts a comeback with the New Orleans Pelicans of the Southern (A1) Association.

Padgett's presense is the good news for New Orleans manager Ray Blades. The bad news is that the "gimpy giant" is one of only three pitchers in camp with the season opener only six days hence.



The two other hurlers currently under contract to the Pelicans are Vernon "Thader" Horn and Jesse Dana. Both holdovers from a year ago, Horn was 8-9 in 20 starts with a 4.03 ERA while Dana was 2-9 with a 5.75 ERA.

Padgett, a 6-foot-4 right-hander was 63-39 in five seasons prior to the injury, including a 26-6 mark with 25 complete games and a league-record 1.48 ERA for the Gainesville G-Man of the Florida State (D) League in 1937. Padgett's comeback with the Pelicans is short-lived however, pitching three innings in two games before being released by General Manager Charlie Hurth on April 30.

Despite the scarcity of pitchers in camp, New Orleans (using 14 pitchers) will finish the 1943 season second to Nashville in the league race with a 78-58 record.

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