

Pinch Hits, "Double Forfeits Texas Style"

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On August 27, the final day of the 1903 season, with only percentage points separating the Dallas Giants (.609) and the Corsicana Oil Citys (.604) for the second half pennant of the four-team Texas League, Oil Citys manager Mike O'Connor stands on Corsicana's field with nine of his players at their respective positions before he instructs his pitcher to throw the game's first pitch at the scheduled time of 4:30 p.m.

Only one problem. The Giants, that day's opponent, despite an early morning entree by Waco manager Ted Sullivan, are still back in Dallas, or as the Ft. Worth Telegram says, "Manager Gardner and his cohorts are sulking in their tents in Dallas."

Meanwhile, around 53 miles to the north and 15 minutes later, at the Fair Grounds Baseball Park in Dallas, Giants' pitcher Charles Moran throws four pitches to catcher Claud Berry, three for strikes, at which time umpire Mackey declares the game forfeited to the homestanding Giants.

So, how did we get to these dueling forfeits on the plains of North Texas?

The trouble begins in mid-June when Fort Worth owner Mike Ward announces that standout pitcher Clarence Gray has "agreed to terms" with the Panthers and will report any day. Gray even has his mail forwarded to a Fort Worth address, but nothing more is heard of the Oklahoman until Ward learns that a pitcher for Corsicana going by the name of "George" is actually the erstwhile Gray.

At a league meeting in late July, Gray is ordered to report to Fort Worth and every game that he appeared in for Corsicana is to be thrown out. Voting in the 3-to-1 majority is Dallas Giants' owner Joe Gardner.

Gray, now 5-2 for the Oil Citys, shows up in Ward's Fort Worth's office, offering to sign with the Panthers if they will loan him \$75 to pay back money he owes the Corsicana franchise.

When Ward demurs, Gray asks for an hour to consider the matter and then simply disappears.

A couple of weeks later on July 31, Fort Worth releases speedy (10.2 in

Page 1 of 2:

1903 Texas League - Final Standings

(source: The History of the Texas League)

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB	Manager
Dallas Giants	61	47	.565	--	Charles Moran
Corsicana Oil Citys	54	54	.500	7.0	Mike O'Connor
Paris/Waco Steers	52	56	.481	9.0	Ted Sullivan
Ft. Worth Panthers	49	59	.454	12.0	Con Lucid/Billy Disch/Fred Schatzke

First Half					Second Half				
Team	W	L	Pct.	GB	Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Paris	32	20	.615	--	Dallas	35	19	.648	--
Dallas	26	28	.481	7.0	Corsicana	31	25	.554	5.0
Fort Worth	25	29	.463	8.0	Fort Worth	24	30	.444	11.0
Corsicana	23	29	.442	9.0	Waco	20	36	.357	16.0
April 25-June 25					June 26-August 26				

1903 Texas League - Final Second Half Standings

(source: Fort Worth Star-Telegram, August 27)

With Games Counted as Played					With Games Forfeited				
Team	W	L	Pct.	GB	Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Dallas	35	19	.648	--	Corsicana	30	19	.612	--
Corsicana	31	27	.534	6.0	Dallas	28	19	.595	1.0
Fort Worth	24	30	.444	11.0	Fort Worth	24	30	.444	8.5
Waco	22	34	.392	14.0	Waco	18	30	.375	11.5

Manager Roberts of Corsicana Team Will Claim Wednesday's Game from Dallas on a Forfeit.

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS.

Corsicana, Tex., Aug. 25.—Manager Doak Roberts of the Corsicana ball team will claim today's game from Dallas on a forfeit, as he instructed his pitcher to throw a ball over the plate at the time to call game today, and claim the game because the Dallas team failed to appear. Roberts protests vigorously against the explanation made by Managers Gardner of the Dallas team as to the cause of his refusal to play the game in Corsicana.

Mr. Roberts says: "There was absolutely no question of Gardner playing his team here today for the \$17.50 guarantee, as I told him in my conversation with him that I did not expect him to play for the guarantee, but asked him to name terms on which he would be willing to play and he refused to play on any terms. The public may not know the facts in the case as to this game, which I think they should. The fact is that, according to the agreed schedule, Dallas was to play in Corsicana Aug. 14, 15 and 18. However, under compulsion, I consented to give the game of the 16th to Dallas and insisted in return that Dallas would play in Corsicana on the 15th. I am going to claim the second series under the action of the league at the Fort Worth meeting, which threw out the Barrett games, and the game today gives the Corsicana club a clear leadership in that series. In this I am backed up by President Ward, who wired me today to stand pat—that he would stay with me."

DECLARES GAME FORFEITED:

Umpire Mackey Awards Last Contest of Regular Season to Dallas—Corsicana Did Not Appear.

At the Fair Grounds Baseball Park yesterday afternoon at 4:45 o'clock Umpire Mackey declared that Corsicana had forfeited the last scheduled game of the series, and awarded it to Dallas by the baseball statutory score of 9 to 0.

Many were present when the members of the Dallas team marched to their positions. Moran appeared as pitcher. He threw four balls to Berry, three of which were declared to be strikes, and then the announcement of the forfeiture of the game was made.

Preparations are now being made for the saw-off with Waco. It is understood that Ted Sullivan has selected Jarvis of Fort Worth as his umpire, and there is talk that Maloney of Corsicana will officiate in that capacity for Dallas.

Double Forfeits Texas Style [2 of 2]:

the 100-yard dash) but weak-hitting (.187 in 71 games) outfielder Charley Barrett. Corsicana and Barrett verbally agree to terms before he changes his mind and signs with Dallas after receiving a better offer from the Giants.

Corsicana's newly-minted owner Edens says, "Barrett belongs to Corsicana and he will play with my club or he won't play at all. At least I will see that all games in which he plays are thrown out."

The 32-year Barrett will subsequently play in nine games for Dallas, hitting .172 (5-for-29).

On August 5, the same day that Barrett drives home the only run in a 1-0 win over Corsicana, league representatives at a meeting in Fort Worth to discuss scheduling matters, also decide that any games that Barrett plays in for Dallas are to be thrown out and all games that Gray pitched in for Corsicana are to be discounted as well.

Dallas owner Joe Gardner contends that it was a "rump" session and the decision on Barrett's eligibility takes place after he leaves the meeting. An appeal to Secretary John Farrell of the National Association results with Farrell's assertion that the league should handle these problems internally.

Even after Farrell's decision, Dallas refuses to accept the league decision, even if it is similar to the Gray ruling earlier.

The *El Paso Herald* and the *Fort Worth Telegram* carry both the original standings and the revised standings reflecting the forfeited games by both teams. The *Dallas Morning News* chooses not to carry the abridged standings.

On August 28, a day following the double forfeits and with no resolution in sight, the Corsicana Oil Citys formally dissolve and their players leave for their respective homes.

Despite the unresolved dispute, Dallas and Waco (representing first-half champion Paris) begin a best of a 13-game series for the Texas League championship. With all 10 games played in Dallas, the Giants beat the Steers 7-to-3. The league is never able to resolve the dispute and eventually Dallas is awarded the 1903 pennant.

September 6, 1903
Fair Grounds Baseball Park
Dallas, Texas

SEASON IS ENDED DALLAS WINS IT

Teams Break Even in Double-Header, But One Is Enough for Dallas to Win Pennant

FIRST GAME

DALLAS						
	AB.	R.	HI.	PO.	A.	E.
H. Clark, 3b.	2	1	0	2	2	0
Curtis, rf.	1	0	1	0	0	1
Anderson, 2b.	2	0	0	1	1	1
Moran, 1b.	2	1	1	1	1	0
Wolfe, cf.	2	1	1	1	0	0
Herry, c.	4	1	2	7	0	0
Johnson, ss.	2	1	1	1	1	0
Hashore, lf.	2	0	0	2	0	0
H. Clark, p.	2	0	1	2	2	0
Totals	21	5	5	27	12	2

WACO						
	AB.	R.	HI.	PO.	A.	E.
Bateman, p.	4	0	1	1	4	0
Fennell, cf.	4	1	0	1	0	0
McKay, lf.	4	0	0	2	1	0
Wolfe, rf.	4	0	0	2	0	0
Walsh, 2b.	4	1	1	1	4	0
Walter, 3b.	4	1	1	2	2	1
Hertz, ss.	2	0	0	2	2	1
Kelley, c.	2	0	0	2	2	0
White, 1b.	2	0	2	0	1	0
Totals	23	2	5	24	17	2

By innings:
Dallas 1 2 0 0 1 0 1 *—5
Waco 1 4 0 0 0 0 0 —2
Summary—Earned runs, Dallas 4; two-base hit, H. Clark; Walsh; home run, Herry; stolen bases, Johnson 3, Doyle 2, Herry, Johnson, Anderson, White; sacrifice hit, Curtis, Anderson, Doyle, H. Clark; double play, Johnson to Anderson to Moran; Kelley to Walter to Hertz to Walsh to White to Wolfe; base on balls, off Bateman 4; hit by pitched ball, H. Clark; struck out, by H. Clark 5, by Bateman 3; wild pitch, H. Clark 1; left on bases, Dallas 4, Waco 4. Time of game, 1 hour and 20 minutes. Umpire, O'Connor.

SECOND GAME

DALLAS						
	AB.	R.	HI.	PO.	A.	E.
H. Clark, 3b.	4	0	2	2	3	0
Curtis, rf.	4	0	1	1	1	2
Moran, c.	1	0	0	2	0	0
Johnson, ss.	2	0	1	0	2	0
Anderson, 2b.	4	0	0	0	2	1
Hashore, 1b.	4	0	2	0	1	0
Johnson, ss.	2	0	0	7	1	1
Barrett, lf.	2	0	1	0	0	2
Keenan, rf.	2	0	0	1	0	0
Conover, p.	2	0	0	0	2	1
Totals	21	0	8	21	17	7

WACO						
	AB.	R.	HI.	PO.	A.	E.
Bateman, rf.	4	1	1	1	0	0
Fennell, cf.	2	1	0	2	0	0
Hertz, 2b.	2	0	1	1	2	0
Wolfe, lf.	4	0	1	1	1	0
Walsh, 2b.	5	1	2	0	1	0
Walter, 3b.	4	0	1	0	1	0
McKay, p.	3	0	1	1	1	1
Kelley, c.	4	1	2	7	0	0
Monahan, ss.	2	1	1	2	2	0
Totals	26	7	11	24	10	1

By innings:
Dallas 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 —0
Waco 2 0 0 2 0 1 0 —7
Earned runs, Waco 7; two-base hit, H. Clark, McKay; Monahan; stolen bases, Hashore 2, Kelley, White, Monahan; Wolfe, Bateman; double play, Monahan to Hertz to White; bases on balls, off Conover 1, off McKay 1; hit by pitched ball, McKay; struck out, by Hashore 2, by Conover 1, by McKay 10; wild pitch, by McKay 1, by Conover 1. Umpire, O'Connor. Game called at end of eighth inning on account of darkness.