

# On This Date

# March 9, 1896

One of nine players from Gettysburg College to make it to the major leagues, **Byron Wardsworth Yarrison** is born on March 9, 1896, in Montgomery, Pennsylvania.

A pre-med major at Gettysburg, where he plays baseball under Hall of Fame pitcher Eddie Plank, a 26-year-old Yarrison makes his major league debut with the Philadelphia Athletics against the Boston Red Sox on April 13, 1922. In the first of three career starts, the 5-11, 165-pound right-hander allows four runs (all earned) on seven hits, two walks and one strikeout. In parts of two major league seasons with the Athletics (1922) and Brooklyn (1924), Yarrison is 1-4 with a 7.86 ERA while allowing 62 hits in 44 2/3 innings.



During his senior year at Gettysburg, Plank convinces the side-winding Yarrison to become a true underhander, saying that it would increase his chances of making it to the major leagues. In 1920, Yarrison makes his pro debut hitting .216 in 25 games as a left fielder with Hanover of the Blue Ridge (D) League.

Bought by Connie Mack and the Philadelphia Athletics, Yarrison is assigned to the Rocky Mount Tar Heels of the Virginia (B) League in 1921, where he is second in innings pitched (307) and tied for fourth in wins (20). In eight minor league seasons, Yarrison is 70-54, including an 1-2 mark in his final season in 1928 with the South Atlantic (B) League Greenville Spinners.

Forced to give up his mound duties because of reoccurring arm problems, Yarrison signs with the South Atlantic (B) League Greenville Spinners. In 31 games for the Spinners, Yarrison hits .308 with one home run in his final season.