Cups of Coffee: Lafayette Henion

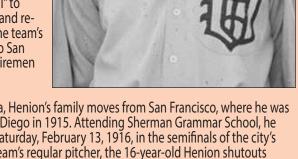
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"He flashed considerable speed after he recovered from his first nervousness. He also had quite an effective spitball and used it to strike out Jack Smith and Milton Stock in the eighth inning, which was the last for the Cardinals." - Brooklyn Eagle, September 11, 1919

On September 10, 1919, San Diego sandlot phenom **Lafayette Marion Henion** makes his only major league appearance, pitching three innings for the Brooklyn Robins in an 11-8 loss to the St. Louis Cardinals at the Redbirds' Robison Field.

Relieving starter Al Mamaux (a 21-game winner for Pittsburgh in 1915 and 1916) in the bottom of the sixth inning, Henion allows a pair of runs on two hits in his first inning before settling down to hurl two scoreless frames. His final line reads two earned runs allowed in three innings pitched on two hits, two walks and three strikeouts.

Henion's one game major league career comes to an end in the top of the ninth inning when he is pitch hit for by 26-year-old Mack Wheat. Brooklyn manager Wilbert Robinson is of the opinion that 5-foot-10, 150-pound Henion is "too small" to make it as a pitcher in the major leagues and releases him two days later, but keeps on the team's 36-man reserve roster. Returning home to San Diego, Henion resumes pitching for the Firemen and Standard Oil teams over the winter.



Born on June 7, 1899, in Eureka, California, Henion's family moves from San Francisco, where he was a member of the Pescadero team, to San Diego in 1915. Attending Sherman Grammar School, he joins the school's baseball team and on Saturday, February 13, 1916, in the semifinals of the city's playoffs, and as a late substitute for the team's regular pitcher, the 16-year-old Henion shutouts defending champion Logan 2-0, allowing only two hits, while striking out 20, including the first 15 batters to face him.

A week later, Henion pitches a no-hitter as Sherman wins the city title with a 14-0 win over Florence. He strikes out 21 and faces the minimum 27 batters.

In 1918, he guits San Diego High School after his junior year to "go to work." Henion joins the San Diego Fire Department, at the age of 17 with the provision that he receives six months leave without pay to play baseball.

Two months after he fans 22 in a game against Company B of the 159th infantry, The Los Angeles Herald reports on March 12, that Los Angeles Angels' manager "Red" Killifer has added San Diego schoolboy Lafayette "Laffy" Henion to the team's roster. However, two days later, the Oakland Tribune reports that Henion has left the Oakland Oaks "flat on their back" by not

showing up to training camp despite being sent transportation money 10 days earlier.

On the move again, Henion's name pops up on March 30, "Henion, the young pitcher whom Killifer of the Los Angeles team tied to sign recently," reappears, pitching the San Diego Fire Department team to a 2-1 win over the city's Naval Training Station nine.

SAN DIEGO SCHOOL BOY MAKES PITCHING RECORD

SAN DIEGO Feb. 19 .- What is considered a record in interscholastic baseball was set here Lafayette Henion, today by pitcher for the Sherman school club, when he shut out the Florence school without a hit, fanned 21 batsmen and allowed only 27 men to face him during the entire nine innings.

Sherman won the game, 14 to 0 and the city grammar school championship.

September 10, 1919 St. Louis Browns at Brooklyn Robins Robison Field, St. Louis, Missouri

ST. LOUIS DEFEATS DODGERS BY 11-8

Brooklyn Makes Big Rally in Ninth But Fails to Cop

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Sept. 10.-St. Louis pounded Mamaux for six runs in the third inning today and wor a loosely played game from Brooklyn, 11 to 8. Score:

Brooklyn

	AB.	. R.	H.	Ο.	A.	Ε.
Olson, ss	4	2	1	3	4	0
Johnston, 2b	5	2	2	3	3	0
Griffith, rf	5	1	3	2	0	0
Z. Wheat, It		0	1	1	0	0
Hickman, If	2	0	0	0	0	0
Myers. cf	5	1	3	1	0	0
Konetchy, 1b	3	0	0	6	1	0
Schmandt, 1b	2	0	0	4	1	0
Kilduff, 3b		0	2	1	3	0
Baird, 3b		0	0	0	0	0
Miller, c	4	1	0	2	3	1
Mamaux, p		0	0	0	0	1
Henion, p		0	0	1	0	0
xM. Wheat		1	0	0	0	0

Totals39 8 12 24 1...
xBatted for Henion in ninth.
St. Louis
AR. R. H. O. A .39 8 12 24 15

	$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{B}$. R.	H.	. О.	Α.	E.
Schultz, rf	. 3	2	2	0	0	0
J. Smith, rf	. 1	1	0	0	0	0
Heathcote, cf .	. 4	.2	2	1	0	0
Stock, 3b	. 4	1	2	2	2	0
Hornsby, 3b	. 2	1	2	2	6	0
McHenry, lf	. 3	1	1	2	0	0
Shotten, If	. 1	0	0	1	0	0
Dilhoefer, c	. 4	0	1	6	0	0
Mollwitz, 1b	. 3	0	0	12	0	0
Lavan, ss	. 3	1	2	0	1	0
Janvrin, ss	. 1	0	0	1	2	1
Goodwin, p	. 3	2	0	0	1	0
Koenigsmark, p	0	. 0	0	0	0	0
Woodward, p	. 0	0	0	0	0	0
Parker, p	. 0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuero, p	. 0	0	0	0	0	0

Tuero, p 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

Totals 32 11 12 27 12 1

Brooklyn ... 1 0 0 1 0 0 0 2 4— 8

St. Louis ... 0 0 6 3 0 2 0 0 x—11

Two base hits—Lavan, McHenry,
Hornsby. Three base hits—Myers

2. Stolen base—Heathcote. Sacrifice fly—Hornsby. Double plays—
Olson, Johnston and Schmandt;
Konetchy, Miller, Kilduff and Olson; Stock, Hornsby and, Mollwitz

Left on bases—Brooklyn, 7; St.

Louis, 4. Base on balls—off Mamaux

4; off Henion, 2. off Goodwin, 1; off
Koenigsmark, 1. Hits—off Goodwin, 6 in 7 innings; off Woodward,

1 in 1 inning; off Parker, 1 in einning, none out in ninth; off Koenuigsmark, 2 in 0 inning, none out in eighth; off Mamaux, 10 i 5 innings. Hit by pitcher—by Pafker,

(M. Wheat). Balk—Mamanx. Struck out—by Mamaux, 1; by Henion, 2; by Goodwin, 4; by Tuero, 1. Wild pitch—Tuero. Winning pitcher—Mamaux.

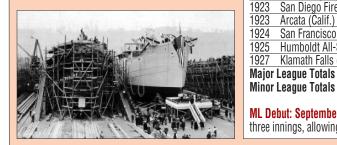
After w for the man te fornia Henion

Lafayette Henion [2 of 6]:

On April 3, Vancouver Beaver President Bob Brown receives Henion's signed contract in the mail. With pitcher Jose Acosta being denied entry into Canada for an invalid Cuban passport, Henion, "who has more curves than a scenic railroad," is able to make the Beavers' opening day roster as a 19-year-old.

Henion (also spelled Hennion in various newspapers) is 5-5 for the Beavers before being released in late June. He pitches one game for Aberdeen before the Pacific Coast International League disbands on July 7.

Henion joins dozens of other players scurrying from shipyard to shipyard looking for employment and a team to play for with the best obtainable salaries. He eventually finds a "position" as a pipe fitter/pitcher with the Patterson-McDonald shipbuilding company in Seattle.



Lafayette Henion Year by Year: ERA Year Team League Level W-L GP INN Н BB **SO** 1915 Pescadero San Francisco Čity 1916 Sherman Grammer School San Diego --1916 Golden Hill Juniors --1917 San Diego High School San Diego HS HS --1917 San Diego Savings Bank 1917 Pantages (San Diego) **Exposition Post** SPro San Diego Firemen 1918 **Exposition Post** SPro 29-3 --1918 Two Teams **Pacific Coast International** 6-5 13 84.1 72 47 36 В --Vancouver Beavers Pacific Coast International В 5-5 12 43 35 75.1 68 Aberdeen Black Cats Pacific Coast International В 1-0 9.0 1 4 4 1918 Patterson-McDonald Wood Shipyards SPro 1919 Standard Oil Junior Pro SPro 1919 **Two Teams** Two Leagues R 9-12 --Vancouver Beavers NW International В 1-1 Moose Jaw Robin Hoods Western Canada 8-11 1919 6.00 Brooklyn Robins NATIONAL 0-0 1919 Minot (N.D.) SPro SPro 1919 San Diego Fireman (Winter) Pembina (N.D.) SPro 1920 1920 Winnipeg Maroons Western Canada В 3-9 12 26 54 2.92 SPro 1920 Eveleth (Minn.) Iron Range 1921 Regina Senators Western Canada 10 В 1922 Pembina (N.D) SPro --

ML Debut: September 10, 1919, at Robison Field, St. Louis: Relieved Al Mamaux in the seventh inning and pitched three innings, allowing two runs on two hits, two walks and two strikeouts in a 11-8 loss to the St. Louis Cardinals.

SPro

SPro

SPro

AA

0-1

0-0

24-29

9.0

3.0

3.0

2

2

26

2 6.00

Humboldt

1 Season

5 Seasons

Pacific Coast

After winning 29 games for the San Diego Fire Department team in the vaunted California Winter League, Henion will go 6-5 splitting time between Vancouver and the Aberdeen Black Cats, both of the Pacific Coast International (B) League.

San Diego Firemen (Winter)

Arcata (Calif.)

San Francisco Seals

Humboldt All-Stars

Klamath Falls (Ore.)

1923

Winnipeg's Roster of Pitchers



1920 Winnipeg Maroons Pitchers

Top Row (L-R): Lafayette Henion, Charles Bartliff, Leo Seiffert, Tony Kaufman, Ed Schaak. First Row (L-R): Frisch, Eddie Klein, Witte, William Brusek.

On July 28, 1919, pitching for the Western Canada League's Moose Jaw Robin Hoods, "The French Boy" garners national attention when he no-hits the Winnipeg Maroons for nine innings, before losing 1-0 in the 13th inning on a pair of singles, including the game-winning safety with two outs by the opposing pitcher. Thirteen days after his near no-hitter, Henion's contract is purchased by the Brooklyn Robins.

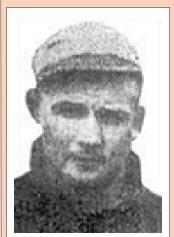
Following his one-game stint with Brooklyn, the Robins, on December 3, release pitcher Harry Heitman to Buffalo of the International League and trade Henion to the Pacific Coast League's Oakland Oaks in exchange for catcher Howard "Rowdy" Elliot.

The Oaks keep Henion on their roster until the following March, when he opts not report to the team as he feels he needs another year of experience in a league of lower classification than the highly-regarded Pacific Coast International League. Oakland then elects to send the "sturdy and brilliant little pitcher," back to the Western Canada League's Winnipeg Maroons.

Henion is set to begin the 1920 season with Winnipeg when the team sends him to a semipro team in Pembina, North Dakota, (population 802) for "seasoning." Returning to the Maroons in late July, Henion goes 3-9, but with a solid 2.92 ERA in 13 games.

Lafayette Henion [2 of 6]:

In 1921, Henion is 6-2 for the Regina Senators when he jumps the team for a "better paying" position with an independent team in South Dakota. The erstwhile one returns to the Senators and pitches a complete game 6-5 victory over Saskatoon on July 8. On July 12, Henion is suspended by Western Canada League president Bob Pearson and the July 8 victory is later forfeited to the Quakers.



Lafayette Henion 1920 Winnipeg Maroons

Henion is released by Regina on July 15.

Apparently back in the good graces of organized baseball in 1923, Henion plays for both his Fire Department team in San Diego and a semipro team in Arcata, California.

Signing with the San Francisco Seals of the Pacific Coast League in July of 1924, Henion makes his last venture into professional baseLafayette Henion, ex-Western Canada ball player, who once sported the livery of the Winnipeg Martons, is now a member of the San Francisco club in the Pacific Coast League. Henion at one time was slated for a tryout with the Brooklyn Dodgers, but the lure of the 'sticks' was too great and he started playing outlaw baseball across the line. Last summer he drifted up into Canada and heaved for a semi-pro team at Weyburn. How he managed to get reinstatement is not known, but it is enough to know that he is getting a chance to show his wares in the coast circuit.

HENION GETS

TRIAL WITH

'FRISCO

ball going 0-1 in five appearances at the end of the season.

Henion Pitches for Brooklyn San Diego Boy in Big League Lafayette Henion, product of San Diego sand lots, who appeared in a Brooklyn uniform fo the first time yesterday. Henion was sold to the Dodgers by the Moose Jaw club of the Western Canada league. He twirled fine ball in Canada this season and many look for him to stick in the big show.

Over the next couple of year's Henion is found playing with the Humboldt All-Stars in 1925 and with a semipro team in Klamath Falls, Oregon, in 1927. In March of 1927, Henion pitches six innings for the Western League's Denver Bears in a spring training game against the Mission Bells of the Pacific Coast League.

May 22, 1919 Seattle Giants at Vancouver Beavers

VANCOUVER, B. C., Friday, May 21.—Henion, the young Beaver twirler whose services are sought by other minor league teams in the country, led Vancouver into victory and incidentally into first place in the International Northwestern League standing at the ball yard yesterday, when he beat the league, leading Seattle Giants 2 to 0 in a fast exhibition of ball tossing. Vancouver rather expected that Joe Devine would stack up his highly touted pitcher, Gibson, against the Beavers for the first game of the series, but Tommy Lukanovic was on the mound for the visitors, while Gibson will work in one of today's games, battles being scheduled for 3:30 and 6:45.

Seattle— AB. R. H. PO. Smith, rf ... 3 0 0 2 Hoffman, 1b .2 0 0 4 Smale, cf ... 2 0 0 3 Hillyard, lf ... 3 0 1 3 Connors, 3b 3 0 0 1 3 Connors, 3b 3 0 0 0 0 Phillips, ss 4 0 1 1 Boelzle, c ... 2 0 0 7 Lukanovic, p ... 3 0 0 0 A0000111111 0 3 24 5 2 Totals26

Henion is 2-for-4 at the plate and pitches his first career shutout, limiting Seattle to three hits en route to a 2-0 win.

On June 22, 1955, Henion passes away in San Luis Obispo, California, at the age of 56.

HENION CHRONOLOGY

February 12, 1916

Earning banner headlines in the San Diego Union, 16-year-old Lafayette Henion leads Sherman School into the finals of the city's grammar school championship with a 2-0 win over defending champion Logan ... Henion strikes out 20 and allows only two hits in his route-going performance.

February 19, 1916

Henion leads Sherman School to the San Diego grammar school championship with a 14-0 no-hit victory over Florence ... strikes out 21 of the 27 men he faces in his nine-inning shutout.

May 13, 1917

Henion strikes out nine and allows only eight hits, but drops a 3-2 decision to Oceanside when Vern Thompson's two-out single in the bottom of the 14th inning scores Sanwick from second base with the winning run.

February 10, 1918

Pitching for the San Diego Fire Department team, Henion strikes out 21 soldiers of the Company B of the 159 infantry team, including the first nine batters, in a 5-2 win.

March 1918

Henion is offered an "opportunity" to tryout with the Los Angeles Angels of the Pacific Coast League by Angels' manager "Red" Killifer.

April 6, 1918

Golden Hill Blues pitching ace Lafayette Henion signs with the Vancouver Beavers of the Northwestern League, and in his final appearance in the San Diego area, drops a 4-1 decision to the San Diego Naval Air Station.

Lafayette Henion [4 of 6]:

May 1, 1918

Making his professional baseball debut with the Vancouver Beavers, Henion allows the Portland Buckaroos only two runs on two hits in seven innings ... the Beavers win 3-2 with a run in the top of the ninth inning to go to 2-0 in early season play.

Paulsboro Never Stood A Chance

June 16, 1922

In a key Glouchester County (N.J.) Sunday School League game, Thorofare, with three Rambos in its lineup, "outmans" Paulsboro 3-2 ... interestingly enough,



Paulsboro's pitcher is named Henion.

111010:	f. T f f	113					
	R.	H.	Ο.	Α.	E.		
I. Heiser, rf	1	0	0	0	0		
H. Rambo, e	0	2	. 7	2	0		
W. Bowers, If	0	1	1	0	0		
Hinman, ss	0	0	0	1	1		
W. Rambo, p	0	1	1	1	0		
G. Rambo, 1b	. 1	1	. 5	. 0	0		
C. Leonard, 3b	0	0	0	0	1		
H. Carter, 2b	0	1	1	0	2		
R. De Hart, cf	0	0	. 0	0	0		
		_					
Total	2	G	15	4	4		
PAULSBORO							
•	R.	H.	O.	Α.	E.		
G. Miller, rf	0	2	1	0	.0		
Haron, 3b	0	0	. 0	0	1		
Miller, ss	0	0	1	0 -	0		
Wileraft, c	0	Ó	I	1	0		
Caldwell, 1b	0	0	9	0	2		
Henion, p	0	0	0	0	0		
Weber, 2b		.1	0	0	0		
Reed, cf		0	2	0	0		
	-						

Matson, cf 0 0 1 1 0

Total 2 3 15 2 3

June 18, 1918

In Vancouver's 5-2 win over Aberdeen, Henion starts in left field and bats third while team president Robert Brown starts in centerfield and bats ninth, going 0-for-2. Dutch Reuther starts on the mound for the Beavers and strikes out a league-record 15 in his final appearance for Vancouver before departing for Europe with an American contingent.

July 28, 1919 ▶▶

Pitching for the Moose Jaw Robin Hoods of the Western Canada League, Henion no-hits the Winnipeg Maroons for nine innings before losing 1-0 in the 13th inning on a pair of singles, including the game-winning safety with two outs by opposing pitcher Leo Seiffert.

August 10, 1919

The Brooklyn Robins announce the purchase of "Canuck Hurler" Lafayette Henion from Moose Jaw.

September 10, 1919

Henion makes his only major league appearance pitching for the Brooklyn Robins in an 11-8 loss to the St. Louis Cardinals ... Henion allows two earned runs allowed in three innings pitched on two hits, two walks and three strikeouts.

December 10, 1919

Henion is traded to the Oakland Oaks of the Pacific Coast League for catcher Rowdy Elliot and "clear title" to Buck Miller.

January 3, 1920

Brooklyn Dodger president Charlie Ebbets announces the release of two players - Henion and Harry Heitman ... Heitman is sent to Buffalo and Henion to Oakland.

February 28, 1920

Henion elects not report to the Oakland Oaks spring training camp as the "busher" thinks he needs another year of experience in a league of lower classification than the Pacific Coast League.

Regina Senators

The moguls of the Regina baseball club Friday made an announcement of great importance to the followers of the game in this city which will come as real good news for the "through thick and thin" supporters of the game here. The news was that Lafayette Henion, Locker and Doc Harstadt had joined up with the squad and had already placed their names on the dotted line of the official blue sheet of the club, tieing them up for the season.

Henion, who is a fast, clever heaver, not quite ripe enough for the majors, is still on the Brooklyn string and expects to go great guns this year both in the pitching line and also hitting, for it will be remembered that last year he did some damage at times when with the Winnipegs and the Moose Jaw Millers.

January 12, 1921

Brooklyn Dodger President Charlie Ebbets announces the sale of Henion and catcher Rowdy Elliott to the Sacramento Salons of the Pacific Coast League.

◀ April 22, 1921

The Regina Senators announce the signing of Locker "a big strapping fellow with bone and muscle and a large quantity of baseball grey matter," and former major league pitchers Lafayette Henion and Oscar "Doc" Harstadt.

Harstadt pitched in 32 games for the Cleveland Indians in 1915, finishing 3-5 with a 3.40 ERA ... the Parkland, Washington, native is noted for giving up a base hit to the first batter he ever faced, Ty Cobb, and pitching four scoreless innings in relief en route to winning his first major league game, defeating Walter Johnson and Washington Senators.

July 6, 1921

Henion leaves the Senators to play for an independent team in South Dakota.

July 8, 1921

One day after returning to Regina, Henion pitches the Senators to a 6-5 win over the Saskatoon Quakers ... Saskatoon manager John Hummel contends that Henion has not been reinstated and plays the game under protest.

AFTERNOON GAME.

Moose Juw; ABR. H. P.O. A. E. Hampton, ss. 50000141
Sheehan, 3b 4011110
Pahlman, 4b 50006620
Harper, cf. 1600000
Bastley, cf. 3011200
Hood, If 5011200
Stokke, 2b 5000430
Patterson, c 5000920
Hennlon, p 500391
K. Morrison, rf 502100
Totals. 4306338212
Winniper: ABR. H. P.O. A. E. J. Sheehan, ss. 40020
Mennlon, cf. 400200
Shean, 2b 300230
Hennling, lb 201230
Lutzke, 3b 500140
Glockson, rf 511100
Jordan, c 300640000000000000
Heath, W 3001100
Seiffert, p 5011200
Totals. 371239241

xTwo out when winning run was scored.
Shore by Innings:
Moose Jaw. 5000000000000000000
Winniper: Two base hits, L. Sheehan; stolen bases, Hood, Henning; sacritue blas, Purpura, Shean, Jordan; bases on balls, off Seifert 2, Hennion 5; struck out, by Seifort 5, by Hennion 7; ieft on bases, Winnipers, Schuler and Rarkness.

July 28, 1919 Moose Jaw Robin Hoods at Winnipeg Maroons

Henion garners national attention when he no-hits the Winnipeg Maroons for nine innings, before losing 1-0 in the 13th inning on a pair of singles, including the game-winning safety with two outs by opposing pitcher Leo Seiffert.

Lafayette Henion [5 of 5]:

LAFAYETTE HENION ON SUSPENDED LIST

CALGARY, July 12—"Bob" Pearson, president of the Western Canada league, announces that Pitcher Henion, of Regina, who jumped the Senators only to return to the fold recently, is ineligible in organized baseball and will be considered suspended until his case is dealt with by the National Baseball commission. The game in which Henion pitched and won from Saskatoon at Regina last Friday has been awarded to the Quakers, the president upholding Saskatoon's protest.

◀■ July 11, 1921

Western Canada League President Bob Pearson suspends Henion for jumping his contract with Regina ... Pearson also rules that the Senators must forfeit their July 8 win over Saskatoon, upholding the Quakers' protest.

May 22, 1922

In the second game of a Victoria Day doubleheader, Henion, pitching for a Pembina, North Dakota, semipro team, shuts out the Brandon Grays 5-0, striking out 16 while allowing only four hits.

June 7, 1922

Henion strikes out 15 and allows only three hits as Pembina edges Drayton (N.D.) 3-2.

June 19, 1924

Making his first appearance with the Oakland Oaks, Henion relieves Red Shea in the eighth inning and pitches two scoreless innings in an 8-1 loss to the San Francisco Seals.

March 19, 1927

Henion allows one run on three hits in six innings for the Denver Bears in a pre-season exhibition game against the Mission Bells.

March 18, 1942

In Orville justice court, Henion is find \$10 for having ineffective brakes, no chauffeur's license and one license plate missing

June 22, 1955

Henion passes away in San Luis Obispo, California, at the age of 55.

PEMBINA DEFEATS DRAYTON 3 TO 2 IN A FAST GAME

Drayton, N. D., June 7.—In a game featured by the stellar pitching of Henion and Gooselaw. Pembina defeated Drayton on the home grounds by the close score of 3 to 2. The win gave the Pembina team the edge on the series by one game. Henion, on the mound for the Pembina nine, struck out 15 of the home team batters, allowing only three safe hits. Gooselaw, for the locals, was also in good shape, allowing five hits and striking out nine men.