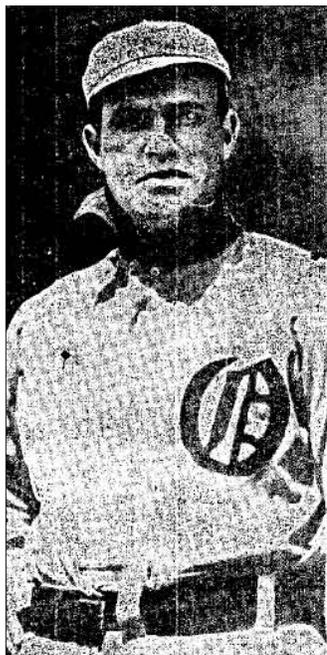


Heine Heitmuller, "Posthumous Batting Champion"

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On October 8, 1912, 29-year-old Los Angeles Angels' outfielder William Frederick (Heine) Heitmuller succumbs to typhoid fever and dies at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Angeles ... the Angels' game versus the Vernon Tigers later that day is cancelled and his body is shipped home to San Francisco for the funeral on the 11th.



Heine Heitmuller, Oakland Oaks, 1908

At the time of his death, Heitmuller has a career-high 15 home runs and is second in the Pacific Coast League hitting race with a .335 average, trailing teammate Pete Daley (.338) by three points ... over the remaining 22 games, Daley eventually slips to .332 and Heitmuller becomes the only player in professional baseball history to win a league batting title posthumously.

After collecting six hits in a double header on September 27, Heitmuller plays in his final game for the Angels a day later, going 0-for-3 with a sacrifice in a 3-2 win over Vernon.

On September 29, Heitmuller is unable to play in a double header against the Tigers ... 24 hours later, the Angels announce that their star right fielder has been admitted to the hospital and will not travel with the team for its upcoming series in San Francisco.

Heitmuller's roommate, 21-year-old catcher Hugh Smith, has already left the team for what is later diagnosed as typhoid fever ... the entire team later receives inoculation shots for the disease ... Smith recovers from his illness but doesn't play again in professional baseball.

Heitmuller Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Level	HR	RBI	AVG
1904	Oakland Heesmans	California State	Ind			
1905	Everett Smokestakers	Northwestern	B	3		.304
1906	Seattle Siwashes	Pacific Coast	A	1		.284
	Oakland Oaks	Pacific Coast	A			
1907	Oakland Oaks	Pacific Coast	A	4		.262
1908	Oakland Oaks	Pacific Coast	A	12		.284
1909	Philadelphia Athletics	American	ML	0	15	.286
1910	Philadelphia Athletics	American	ML	0	7	.243
1910	Baltimore Orioles	Eastern	A	1		.331
1911	Baltimore Orioles	Eastern	A	1		.257
1911	Los Angeles Angels	Pacific Coast	A	4		.343
1912	Los Angeles Angels	Pacific Coast	AA	15		.335

Bold denotes league leader

Born in San Francisco in 1883, Heitmuller attends the University of California where he letters in both football and baseball ... while still in college, Heitmuller begins his professional baseball

career at the age of 21 in 1904 with Oakland Heesmans of the independent California State League.

HEITMULLER IS DEAD

Los Angeles Outfielder Succumbs to Typhoid Fever.

CAREER AS ATHLETE GREAT

Popular Ball Player Who Led All Coast Batters Until Recently Was Star Football Man at University of California.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Oct. 8.—William ("Heine") Heitmuller, right fielder for the Los Angeles Pacific Coast League team, died at the Good Samaritan Hospital at 3 o'clock this morning of typhoid fever.

Heitmuller was taken to the hospital a week ago last Sunday. Last Saturday his condition became so alarming that his relatives in Oakland were sent for.

Early this week he rallied and his physicians believed he was out of danger. Late last night, however, his condition suddenly changed for the worse, and, sinking into unconsciousness, he remained in that condition until death came.

Heitmuller entered professional baseball from the University of California, where he captained the football and baseball teams. He played with the Philadelphia Americans two years ago.

Today's game between Vernon and Los Angeles was declared off because of Heitmuller's death.

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 8.—William Heitmuller began his baseball career in 1900 at the University of California. He, as captain of the varsity football team, won fame in the Stanford and California game in 1903.

In college baseball, Heitmuller was both pitcher and catcher, alternating in the battery positions with "Nick" Williams, now manager of the Portland team of the Northwest League. His professional career began when he signed with Everett, Wash., in 1905. In 1906 he played with the Oakland Coast League team in the outfield. The Philadelphia Americans took him in 1907 and he remained with the Athletics through 1908. In 1909 he went to Baltimore and returned to the Pacific Coast League in 1910, signing with Los Angeles. He led the league this season in hitting for many weeks, being passed only a short time ago by Del Howard, of the San Francisco team. He hit .336 for the year. Heitmuller was a San Franciscan. He was 31 years old.

Heine Heitmuller [2 of 2]:

Heitmuller sets record

April 1, 1904

A two-sport star at the University of California, Heitmuller is taking a course in mining when he garners attention after setting a class record for "drilling."

With the entire class drilling holes in large granite boulders for the practice of blasting during mining operations, Heitmuller drills to a depth of 30 inches, eclipsing the previous class record of 28 1/3 inches.

In 1905, Heitmuller leads the Everett Smokestackers to the Northwestern (B) League title, hitting .304 with 20 doubles, 10 triples and three home runs ... begins the 1906 season with the Seattle Siwashers but is traded to the Oakland Oaks, where he plays the next two seasons ... in 1908, Heitmuller leads the PCL in hits (225) and home runs (12).

Drafted by the Philadelphia Athletics during the 1908 World Series, the *San Francisco Bulletin* notes:

"If Heitmuller hits for the Athletics like he did for Oakland last year his job will be secure. There will be nothing to it. San Francisco cranks have scant idea of Heitmuller's ability as a fielder. The Recreation Park right field is too small to give a player an opportunity to display his skill, but Heitmuller has a strong arm and gets over a lot of ground in quick time. The Dutchman was delighted when he heard that Mack drafted him, for he has been anxious to try his hand in faster company for a year or more."

Heitmuller makes his major league debut on April 26, 1909, getting one hit and an RBI in three at bats in a 3-to-1 win over the Washington Senators ... in two seasons (1909-1910) with the Athletics, Heitmuller will hit .271 in 360 career at bats.

At 6-2, 215-pounds Heitmuller is known around the American League for his hitting, not his fielding ... an article in the *Seattle Daily Times* notes that Heitmuller "is as graceful an outfielder as an elephant would be throwing confetti."

After acquiring Bris (The Human Eyeball) Lord from the Cleveland Indians in late July, Philadelphia manager Connie Mack decides that he has too many outfielders on the roster and ships Heitmuller, whose average has slipped to .243, to the Baltimore Orioles of the Eastern League ... Mack's A's go on to win the American League pennant and defeat the Chicago Cubs four games to one in that year's World Series ... Philadelphia players later vote Heitmuller a \$500 share of the winners' proceeds.