

Lowell Creighton, "One Shining Moment"

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Creighton Blanks Padres in Seal Debut, 1-0

On July 3, 1955, in the second game of a Pacific Coast League doubleheader, 18-year-old San Francisco Seals pitcher Lowell "Porky" Creighton makes his professional debut shutting out the first-place San Diego Padres, 1-0, before 6,016 fans at Seals Stadium.



Only five days after signing with the Seals, Creighton "with poise and a slow curve," limits San Diego to only three hits en route to handing the hard-hitting Padres their first shutout in 93 games.

When Creighton strikes out San Diego left fielder Dick Sisler (a two-time All-Star and a .276 career hitter in eight major league seasons) in the sixth inning for his first professional strikeout, a group of over 100 supporters from his hometown of Daly City cheer for their hometown hero.

"I looked up at them for the first time then," said Creighton. "and the temptation was strong to wave to them from the mound. But I decided this would be strictly bush. Gee, what a thrill. I honestly never dreamed I could win. I'm tired. I'm going home to bed."

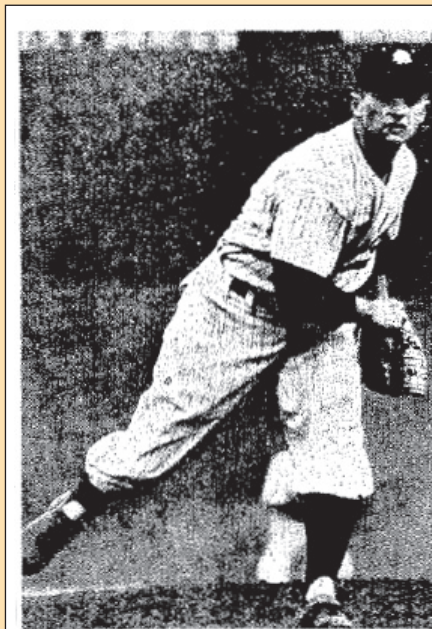


Lowell Creighton
Jefferson High School, 1955

For Creighton, the son of a former semi-pro player and a product of Jefferson High School in Daly City, the shutout will be the only victory in his brief two-year minor league career.

The 5-11, 180-pound right hander will finish his rookie campaign with the Seals 1-1 with a 8.20 ERA ... in 18 2/3 innings, he allows 28 hits and walks 22 while striking out only three; including the unfortunate Sisler.

Creighton signs with Seals' scout Al Fioresi off the campus of Jefferson High School after earlier turning down an offer by the New York Yankees.



HAD PADRES ON KNEES

This 18-year-old youngster did something Sunday no other Pacific Coast League pitcher has been able to do all season—shut out the league-leading San Diego Padres. Lowell Creighton (above), blanked the Padres for the San Francisco Seals with a 1-0 perfect. The game was his first professional start. Lowell was signed by the Seals last week—without a bonus!

Seals' Rookie Blanks Padres in O. B. Debut

Porky Creighton, 18, Yields Three Hits in 1 to 0 Victory

**San Francisco Seals 1
San Diego Padres 0**

San Francisco, California, July 3, 1955

| San Diego | AB | R | H | O | A | E |
|------------------------|----|---|---|----|---|---|
| Al Federoff, 2b..... | 4 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Milt Smith, 3b..... | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Julio Becquer, 1b..... | 3 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Earl Rapp, rf..... | 3 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Dick Sisler, lf..... | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Ed Bailey, c..... | 3 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Jack Merson, ss..... | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Dick Faber, cf..... | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Bob Kerrigan, p..... | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Clarence Maddern, ph 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Eddie Kazak, ph..... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lloyd Dickey, pr..... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals..... | 22 | 0 | 3 | 18 | 3 | 0 |

| San Francisco | AB | R | H | O | A | E |
|--------------------------|----|---|---|----|---|---|
| Jimmy Moran, 2b..... | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Sal Taormina, rf..... | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ted Beard, rf..... | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Dave Melton, cf..... | 3 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Bill Serena, 3b..... | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Wally Judnich, lf..... | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Mike Baxes, ss..... | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Chuck Stevens, 1b..... | 2 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 0 |
| Anthony Torney, c..... | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Lowell Creighton, p..... | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Totals..... | 28 | 1 | 4 | 21 | 7 | 0 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Padres..... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | = | 0 | 3 | 0 | |
| Seals..... | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | x | = | 1 | 4 | 0 |

SB: none. **RBI:** Moran. **2B:** Smith, Torney. **SH:** Creighton, Merson. **LOB:** Padres 7, Seals 3. **BB:** Creighton 4. **SO:** Creighton 1, Kerrigan 3. **HITS:** Kerrigan 4 in 6, Creighton 3 in 7. **E-ER:** Kerrigan 1-1, Creighton 0-0. **W:** Creighton (1-0). **L:** Kerrigan (4-6). **U:** Valanti, Muiart, Orr. **Att:** 6,016. **T-1:35**

Lowell Creighton [2 of 4]:

"What chance would I have signing with the Yankees?" said Creighton. "They have nearly 200 pitchers in their chain. At the rate that Ed Cereghino (a former Jefferson High School product) is progressing, I'd be 30 years old before I met Casey Stengel."

Creighton Chronology

May 5, 1953

Sophomore Lowell Creighton strikes out 12 and allows only three hits as Jefferson High School beats Half Moon Bay High School 12-0 in a Peninsula Athletic League game ... Creighton goes 3-for-4 at the plate and scores a run.

Creighton Fans 21 Batters In 1-1 Duel With Schmidt

| JEFFERSON | | | BURLINGAME | | | |
|--------------|------|-----|------------|---------------|------|----|
| AB | R | H | AB | R | H | |
| Villar, 2b | 5 | 0 | 1 | Angus, rf, 2b | 5 | 1 |
| Madden, c | 6 | 0 | 3 | Simpson, cf | 5 | 0 |
| Ellison, ss | 3 | 0 | 0 | Minkin, ss | 5 | 0 |
| Figone, 3b | 5 | 1 | 2 | Medaris, lf | 5 | 0 |
| Gargero, rf | 5 | 0 | 1 | Schmidt, p | 5 | 0 |
| Creighton, p | 4 | 0 | 1 | Wheeler, 2b | 5 | 0 |
| Murphy, lf | 3 | 0 | 0 | Waleott, 3b | 5 | 0 |
| McNeal, cf | 3 | 0 | 1 | Metkinn, lb | 5 | 0 |
| Balloy, lb | 6 | 0 | 1 | Conner, c | 4 | 0 |
| Delbon, lf | 4 | 0 | 0 | Dodge, rf | 3 | 0 |
| Smith, ss | 5 | 0 | 2 | | | |
| Guisti, cf | 5 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| | 52 | 1 | 12 | | 45 | 1 |
| JEFFERSON | .000 | 100 | 000 | 000 | 00-1 | 12 |
| BURLINGAME | .000 | 000 | 100 | 000 | 00-1 | 5 |

◀ May 11, 1954

Creighton strikes out a Peninsula Athletic League record 21 batters while allowing only nine hits and one base on balls as Jefferson and Burlingame battle to a 14-inning 1-1 tie ... Burlingame's Bob Schmidt allows 12 hits and six walks while striking out 12.

Creighton's 21 strikeouts eclipse the previous single game mark of 18 set by former Jefferson High standout Ed Cereghino four years earlier ... Cereghino, a bonus baby signed by the New York Yankees out of high school in

1951 for \$74,000, pitches eight seasons in the minors, finishing with a 52-66 career mark.

May 26, 1954

Two Jefferson High School players - Creighton (pitcher) and Al Figone (utility) - are named to the North Peninsula Athletic League All-Star team.

January 23, 1955 ▶

Pitching for the Sarto Athletic Club, Creighton teams with Cleveland Indians' left hander Don Mossi on a combined no-hitter against Cherolis Nursery in a San Francisco Winter League game ... coming off a six-win season with the Indians and a former star at Jefferson High School, Mossi strikes out 10 and walks one in six innings while Creighton fans three in his three innings of work in Sarto's 6-0 win.

April 29, 1955

Pitching for Jefferson High School, Creighton wins for the first time in three decisions, but suffers an apparent season-ending fracture of his right ankle in the sixth inning of a 6-2 win over Carlmount High School.

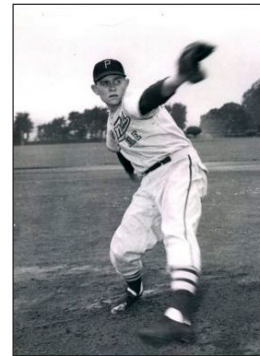
Team Up to Hurl 6-0 No-Hit Game

Jefferson High school of Doly City, which has turned out more top pitchers than any other school on the Peninsula, can point with pride today to a pair of its celebrated hurlers.

Don Mossi, a three-year star at Jeff, who won six games for the Cleveland Indians last year, and all-Peninsula Athletic league right hander Lowell Creighton combined yesterday to throw a 6-0 no-hitter at Cherolis Nursery in semipro action.

Mossi struck out 10 and walked one in six innings, while Creighton fanned three in three frames. Mossi and Creighton, who is a senior at Jeff, pitch for Sarto AC.

Déjà vu First Cereghino then Creighton



Exactly four years and two days prior to Lowell Creighton's debut, another Jefferson High School graduate, Ed Cereghino, makes his professional baseball debut.

Cereghino led Jefferson High School to the league championship in 1951 and was the star of the East-West All-Star Game in San Francisco ... signed by the New York Yankees as a 17-year-old, to a \$74,000 bonus contract, he fails to make it to the major leagues, retiring in 1958 after eight seasons of minor league ball ... he returns to Jefferson High School, first as a teacher and then as principal.

The similarities between Creighton and Cereghino are worth noting:

Both Creighton and Cereghino are from Jefferson High School.

Both sign professional baseball contracts within days of ending their high school careers - Creighton with the San Francisco Seals, Cereghino with the Yankees (who also attempt to sign Creighton).

Cereghino debuts on July 1, 1951; Creighton on July 4, 1955.

Both make their debuts with the San Francisco Seals.

Both pitchers debut against the San Diego Padres.

Both pitchers pitch complete games.

Cereghino strikes out two and walks seven; Creighton strikes out one and walks four.

Bob Kerrigan, a 131-game winner in 11 minor league seasons, is the opposing pitcher of decision in both debuts.

Kerrigan gets the win in relief in Cereghino's debut when the Padres rally for a 6-4 victory ... four years later, Kerrigan allows only four hits but absorbs the loss in Creighton's shutout win.

Lowell Creighton [3 of 4]:

May 2, 1955

Jefferson High School head coach Lou Martin announces that Creighton's injury is not as serious as first believed ... Creighton's ankle injury is now diagnosed as a sprain and he is expected to be back in action in 10 to 15 days.

June 1, 1955

For a second-straight year, Creighton is named to the North Peninsula Athletic League All-Star team.

SF Seals Sign Lowell Creighton, Prep Ace

SAN FRANCISCO — UP -- The faltering San Francisco Seals have signed Daly High School pitching sensation Lowell Creighton and announced he probably would be added to the regular roster to bolster a much abused mound staff. The 18 year old right hander had a four year prep earned run average of 1.06 per game and pitched five no hitters.

Creighton broke the strikeout record of another illustrious Jefferson graduate, Eddie Cereghino, now pitching for Sacramento. Creighton set a new mark of 21 strikeouts in a single game to shatter Cereghino's previous school mark of 18.

Jim Stoll, 17, Rio Vista catcher, who also was signed yesterday, racked up a four year prep batting average of .500 and was leading the Sacramento Valley League. He is 5-11 tall and weighs 175 pounds.

◀ June 28, 1955 ▶

On the same day that Harvard graduate and CBS newsman Winston M. Burdett tells a Senate subcommittee that he was a

communist spy during the Russo-Finnish war, the "faltering" San Francisco Seals of the Pacific Coast League announce the signing of high school pitcher Lowell Creighton ... in four years at Jefferson High School, Creighton hurls five no-hitters and fashions a career ERA of 1.06.

Less than 12 hours later, the Seals sign a second Bay Area high school standout, inking Rio Vista catcher Jim Stoll, a .500 hitter in his four-year high school career ... Stoll is sent directly to Reno.

Seals President Damon Miller calls Creighton and Stoll "the brightest prospects to come out of Northern California high schools" in recent years.

The Seals have lost 20 of their last 32 games and have dropped to seventh place with a 38-46 record, 14 games behind the front-running San Diego Padres.

RADIO NEWSMAN SAYS HE WAS COMMIE SPY

WASHINGTON (AP) — Winston M. Burdett, a Columbia Broadcasting system newsman, told senate investigators today he went to Finland during the Russo-Finnish war to spy for the Communists.

Devoted Member

Burdett said that for a half a dozen years—until 1942—he had been a "devoted and dedicated member of the Communist party."

He said he joined while he was working for the now-defunct Brooklyn Daily Eagle and did his spy work while he was on that paper's staff.

Burdett said he broke with the party in 1942.

CBS got out a statement saying it is convinced this is true and that it has no intention of firing Burdett.

Had Great Appeal

Burdett, a curly haired handsome young man in his late 30's, told the senate internal security subcommittee he joined the Communist party while working with the Eagle in 1937.

Lowell Creighton Year by Year:

| Year | Team | League | Level | W-L | INN | H | BB | SO | ERA | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------|------------------|------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| 1952 | Jefferson High School | Peninsula Athletic | HS | - | - | - | - | - | -- | |
| 1953 | Jefferson High School | Peninsula Athletic | HS | - | - | - | - | - | -- | |
| 1954 | Jefferson High School | Peninsula Athletic | HS | 2-3-1 | - | - | - | - | -- | |
| 1954 | Sarto Athletic Club | SF Winter League | S-Pro | - | - | - | - | - | -- | |
| 1955 | Jefferson High School | Peninsula Athletic | HS | 4-3 | - | - | - | - | -- | |
| 1955 | San Francisco Seals | Pacific Coast | Open | 1-1 | 18.2 | 28 | 22 | 3 | 8.20 | |
| 1955 | San Mateo Blues | Peninsula League | S-Pro | - | - | - | - | - | -- | |
| 1956 | Salinas Packers | California | C | 0-3 | - | - | - | - | -- | |
| 1956 | Gino Benedetti | Peninsula League | S-Pro | - | - | - | - | - | -- | |
| 1956 | Louis Stores | Abe Rose Bushrod Winter | S-Pro | - | - | - | - | - | -- | |
| 1957 | San Mateo Blues | Peninsula League | S-Pro | - | - | - | - | - | -- | |
| 1957 | Louis Stores | Abe Rose-Alemada | S-Pro | - | - | - | - | - | -- | |
| 1957 | Cook's Union | Abe Rose-Alemada | S-Pro | - | - | - | - | - | -- | |
| 1958 | California Towel | San Francisco City | S-Pro | - | - | - | - | - | -- | |
| 1959 | California Towel | San Francisco City | S-Pro | - | - | - | - | - | -- | |
| 1959 | San Mateo Blues | Peninsula League | S-Pro | - | - | - | - | - | -- | |
| 1959 | Alemeda Dodgers | Alemeda League | S-Pro | - | - | - | - | - | -- | |
| 1960 | San Mateo Blues | El Camino | S-Pro | - | - | - | - | - | -- | |
| 1964 | Flying Goose of San Francisco | City League | S-Pro | - | - | - | - | - | -- | |
| 1965 | Flying Goose of San Francisco | City League | S-Pro | - | - | - | - | - | -- | |
| 1966 | San Mateo Blue | Peninsula League | S-Pro | - | - | - | - | - | -- | |
| Minor League Totals | | | | 2 Seasons | 1-4 | 18.2 | 28 | 22 | 3 | -- |

July 3, 1955

In the second game of a double header with San Diego, Creighton makes his professional debut with a sparkling three-hit 1-0 shutout of the PCL-leading Padres ... "with poise and a slow curve," Creighton limits San Diego to three hits in handing the Padres their first shutout in 93 games.

July 8, 1955

Creighton is not as successful in his second start, allowing five runs (three earned) on five hits and six walks in three-plus innings in a 6-5 loss to the Sacramento Salons ... Creighton does get his first hit and RBI with a second inning single that scores Ted Beard for the game's first run.

Lowell Creighton [3 of 4]:



July 15, 1955

In the second game of a double header with the Hollywood Stars, Seals manager Tommy Heath decides to team 18-year-old Lowell Creighton and 17-year-old catcher Jim Stoll in, "possibly the youngest battery in Pacific Coast League history" ... the Seals win 5-2, but for a second-straight outing Creighton has control problems, issuing seven walks, allowing two runs in four-plus innings.

In his last two starts, Creighton has issued 13 base on balls in seven-plus innings.

July 22, 1955

In his fourth start of the season, Creighton lasts 1 2/3 innings, allowing three runs on four hits and a pair of walks ... he leaves the game trailing 3-1, but the Seals tally six runs in the eighth inning for a 7-3 win.

July 27, 1955

Following four straight starting assignments, Creighton makes his first relief appearance of the year, taking over for starter Bob Greenwood in the seventh inning of an 11-4 loss to the Hollywood Stars ... Creighton yields six runs on five hits and three walks in 2/3rds of an inning before giving way to Steve Nagy.

October 23, 1955

In his first start for the San Mateo Blues of the Peninsula League, Creighton is driven from the box by the Menlo Park Blue Jays in the fourth inning, allowing seven runs on 10 hits ... the Blues score nine times in the seventh inning for a 12-7 win.

January 10, 1956

San Francisco Seals President Jerry Donovan announces that the team is retaining Gene Beardon. Lowell Creighton, Jim Walsh, John Ritchey, Nini Torney, Bob DiPietro, Jim Moran, Bill.Serena, Ted Beard and Sal Taormina as a "holdover nucleus" for their 1956 team ... in addition, they are bringing in 29 Red Sox farmhands from mostly Class B and C teams.

February 16, 1956

Pitchers Lowell Creighton and Jack Thomas sign their 1956 contracts with the San Francisco Seals.

April 3, 1956 ►

San Francisco officials announce that pitcher Lowell Creighton has been optioned to the Salinas Packers of the California (C) League.

April 20, 1956

In his California (C) League debut, Creighton takes the loss in an 8-5 loss to San Jose ... Don Gile, from San Mateo, led the way against Creighton with three hits.

March 10, 2008

Creighton dies in San Ramon, California at the age of 70.

Optioned



LOWELL CREIGHTON

**Seals Option
Creighton to
Salinas Club**

Lowell Creighton:

<http://www.baseball-reference.com/minors/player.cgi?id=creigh001low>

Interesting link on Ed Cereghino:

http://www.criticalpast.com/video/65675022183_Ed-Cereghino_Seals_NY-Yankees