

Cups of Coffee: Dave Skeels

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On September 14, 1910, 18-year-old Detroit Tigers rookie pitcher Dave Skeels earns the starting nod against visiting Cleveland ... the Addy, Washington, native allows eight runs on 10 hits in six-plus innings, striking out two, walking four and hitting one batter (future Hall of Famer Nap Lajoie).



In his second season of professional baseball, Dave Skeels appears on his first (and last) baseball card ... Skeel's 1911 Obak (red back) card (#139) is valued at \$350.00 in N/M condition.

For the Gonzaga College product, that Wednesday afternoon tilt against the fifth-place Naps will unexpectedly be the only major league game Skeels will play in his brief (3 year) professional baseball career.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer account of Skeels' debut:

"An Indian named Skeels, reputed to be a second Bender, was yanked off the Detroit bench to heave for the Tigers and what the Naps did to him was amply sufficient. They pummeled him for the whole eight runs and probably would have continued scoring until dark had (Ed) Summers not been pressed into the thick of the fray."

However, Skeels arrival in Motown is not without controversy.

Stating the season with the Moose Jaw Robin Hoods before being traded to Regina in mid-June, the 6-1, 187-pound Skeels is 10-14 on August 23, when it is announced that Skeels has "jumped" to the Detroit Tigers of the American League ... Detroit's earlier \$1,200 option on Skeels had expired on August 15, but Tiger scouts persuade Skeels (who hasn't been paid in 19 days by the Robin Hoods) to leave with them.

On September 8, baseball's National Commission hands down a decision allowing the Tigers' to keep Skeels ... in addition, the Western Canada League, which assumed control of the faltering Regina franchise on August 3, is also held accountable for 19 days of Skeels' salary from August 3 to August 22.

At the end of the 1910 season, Skeels is assigned to the Fort Wayne Brakies of the Central (B) League ... however, in January Skeels asks Detroit owner Frank J. Navin to be sent to a West Coast team to be nearer his mother ... the Seattle Giants of the Northwestern (B) League purchase his contract for \$300.

Dave Skeels Major League Debut September 14, 1910

CLEVELAND AT DETROIT SEPTEMBER 14.—The home club bunched a single, double, triple and Crawford's home run, with an error, in the second inning, scoring six runs. Cleveland got five in the seventh on four singles and two doubles. Summers relieved Skeels, with two men on and nobody out, and checked the rally. Score:

Detroit.					Cleveland.				
A.	B.	R.	E.	P.	A.	B.	R.	E.	P.
D. Jones, lf	3	2	1	3	Hohnh't, 1b	4	2	2	11
O'Leary, 2b	2	1	0	5	Callahan, lf	4	2	1	2
McIntyre, cf	4	2	3	1	Turner, 3b.	4	1	2	1
Crawford, rf	4	1	1	0	Lajoie, 2b.	3	1	2	1
Moriarty, 3b	4	0	1	0	Easterly, rf.	5	1	2	1
Iathers, ss	4	1	1	0	Birmin'm. cf	5	0	1	2
T. Jones, 1b	4	2	2	11	Knaupp, ss.	4	0	0	2
Schmidt, c.	3	0	1	7	Land, c...	1	1	1	0
Skeels, p.	3	0	0	4	Adams, c...	2	0	1	3
Summers, p	1	0	0	2	Fanwell, p.	0	0	0	2
					Doane, p.	0	0	0	0
					Falkenb'g, p	3	0	0	1
					*Demott ...	1	0	0	0
					†Niles	1	0	0	0
Totals..	32	9	10	27	Totals...	37	8	12	24

*Batted for Land in third inning.
†Batted for Adams in ninth inning.
Detroit 2 6 0 0 0 1 0 0 x-9
Cleveland 2 1 0 0 0 0 5 0 0-8
Hits—Off Skeels 10 in 6 innings (none out in seventh), Summers 2 in 3 innings, Fanwell 3 in 1½ innings, Doane 2 in ½ inning. At bat—Against Skeels 26, Summers 11, Fanwell 7, Doane 3, Falkenberg 22. Two-base hits—D. Jones, McIntyre, Lajoie, Birmingham. Three-base hit—McIntyre. Home run—Crawford. Sacrifice hits—O'Leary, Schmidt, Fanwell. Stolen bases—D. Jones, O'Leary, T. Jones, Hohnhorst. First on balls—Off Skeels 4, Summers 1, Fanwell 1, Doane 1. Hit by pitcher—By Skeels 1. First on errors—Cleveland 2. Left on bases—Detroit 3, Cleveland 4. Struck out—By Skeels 2, Summers 2. Double play—D. Jones, Schmidt. Passed ball—Land. Wild pitch—Skeels. Time—2.01.

Did He, or Didn't He?

Official baseball records lists Skeels' major league record as 0-0 with a 12.00 ERA. The box score that is carried in the newspapers of the day and *The Sporting Life*, show Skeels entering the seventh inning with a 9-3 lead before he is relieved by Ed Summers. The Tigers hang on to win the game 9-8. The September 24 edition of *The Sporting Life* shows Skeels' record as 1-0. Where did he lose the victory?

PITCHERS' RECORDS.

Player-Club.	W.	L.	Pct.	Player-Club.	W.	L.	Pct.
Criss, St. L...	2	0	1.000	Young, Cle...	7	10	.412
Nelson, St. L.	2	0	1.000	Croons, Was...	11	16	.407
Childwell, N.Y.	1	0	1.000	Kocstner, Cle.	6	9	.400
Skeels, Det...	1	0	1.000	Lajo, St. L...	11	17	.393
Blanding, Cle.	1	0	1.000	Gray, Was...	9	15	.375
Render, Ath.	22	5	.815	Olnstead, ChL	6	10	.375
Coombs, Ath.	27	7	.794	Powell, St. L.	7	12	.368
Ford, N. Y...	21	6	.773	Stroud, Det...	5	9	.357
Atkins, Ath...	3	1	.750	F. Smith, Bos.	5	10	.333
Karger, Bos...	13	5	.708	Pelty, St. L...	6	12	.333
Willett, Det...	16	7	.688	Itay, St. L...	4	9	.308
Donovan, Det.	13	6	.684	Scott, ChL...	7	16	.304
Kaler, Cle...	4	2	.667	Works, Det...	2	5	.286
Mullin, Det...	19	10	.655	H. Young, Chi.	3	8	.278
Hill, Bos...	12	7	.632	Kinsella, St.L.	1	3	.250
Morgan, Ath.	17	10	.630	Dynert, Ath...	1	3	.250
Plank, Ath...	17	10	.630	Fanwell, Cle.	2	8	.200
C. Smith, Bos.	10	7	.588	Bailey, St. L.	2	16	.111
Wood, Bos...	11	8	.579	Hall, St. L...	0	6	.000
Pernoll, Det...	4	3	.571	Moyer, Was...	0	1	.000
Quinn, N. Y.	16	12	.571	Malloy, St. L.	0	1	.000

Dave Skeels [2 of 6]:

Skeels goes 10-5 for Seattle in 1911 despite being limited to only 17 appearances because arm troubles and an in-season suspension.

After sitting out the entire 1912 season with reoccurring arm problems, Skeels returns to the Western Canada League in 1913 to play one last season as an outfielder hitting .307 with seven home runs splitting time between the Edmonton Gray Birds and Calgary Bronchos.

Born on December 29, 1891, in Washington's Colville County, to Mr. and Mrs. Harvet Skeels ... at the age of 16, he is sent to Gonzaga College where he "makes good" for the college's football, basketball and baseball teams ... following his professional baseball career, Skeels returns home to Addy, where he plays for various semi-pro teams until 1922.



Dave Skeels
1910 Moose Jaw Robin Hoods

Chewelah Loses Game and Respect

A special train and three automobiles carried 175 of the Colville people to Chewelah last Sunday to witness the closing ball game of the season for the Colville regular team.

The first four innings looked bad for Colville, and the Chewelah enthusiasts were offering to bet as high as 5 to 1 for their team. Many bets were offered that Colville would not score at all, and the demands for Colville to show her sporting blood were so strong, money even being thrust into the faces of Colville people, that about \$500 was brought back to the city as a souvenir of the occasion.

In the fifth and sixth innings the tide turned for Colville. Skeels had thrown himself out, but refused to leave the box, and Colville pounded him all over the field. In the eighth Colville ran far into the lead, and when Chewelah saw her money in prospects of traveling north, the trouble began. The Colville people received a class of treatment unknown in any intelligent city where ladies and gentlemen are accustomed to visit ball games. The frantic desire to wreak vengeance over lost money seemed to so stimulate the losers that epithets and foul language from both men and women filled the air from the eighth inning until Colville left the town in disgust. Even physical violence was resorted to, two of the team being struck by rocks, two of the visitors by eggs, and all by the unexpected manner of treatment.

On December 2, 1926, Skeels dies in a Spokane, Washington, tuberculosis sanitarium at the age of 33.

SKELS CHRONOLOGY

July 11, 1909

Pitching for Chewelah against the Colville Crackerjacks in a Stevens County semipro league game, Skeels strikes out seven and allows only two hits but loses 2-1 ... Skeels' mound opponent that afternoon, Steltz strikes out 15 of the 25 Chewelah batters he faces.

◀◀ July 18, 1909

In the final game of the 1909 season, Colville rallies from a 5-1 deficit to post a 12-9 victory over Chewelah in a game marred by 16 errors and rowdy fans ... pitching for home standing Chewelah, Skeels strikes out 15, but allows 11 hits and is backed by a defense that makes eight errors.

May 6, 1910

Skeels makes his professional baseball debut with the Moose Jaw Robin Hoods ... starting in left field and batting eighth against the Brandon Angels, he collects a single in three at bats against Angel starter Monte Woods.

May 7, 1910 ▶▶

The following afternoon, in his professional baseball *pitching* debut, Skeels garners his first career victory with an 11-5 complete game decision over the visiting Angels ... in a game called after six innings because of darkness, the 18-year-old right hander allows 11 hits while striking out five and walking three.

Dave Skeels Pitching Debut May 7, 1910

MOOSE JAW 10; BRANDON 5													
Moose Jaw, Sask., May 7.—After going six innings, "Doc" Voss called the game today on account of darkness, Moose Jaw winning from Brandon by 10-5.													
	AB	R	H	PO	A	SB		AB	R	H	PO	A	SB
Hodges, 2b	4	1	1	2	1	1		3	1	1	1	1	0
Hollstream, c.f. .. .	4	0	2	2	0	1		4	2	2	2	0	0
Sullivan, r.f. .. .	3	1	1	0	0	1		3	2	2	0	0	0
Rodney, r.f. .. .	3	1	1	0	0	1		3	1	1	0	0	1
Casper, c. .. .	1	1	0	0	0	0		1	0	0	0	0	0
Bues, 1b. .. .	3	1	2	3	0	0		3	1	2	3	0	0
Hartford, 3b .. .	3	0	0	0	0	1		3	0	0	0	0	1
Bitting, s.s. .. .	1	0	0	0	1	0		1	0	0	0	1	0
Earl, p. .. .	1	0	0	0	0	0		1	0	0	0	0	0
Wing, p. .. .	1	0	0	0	0	0		1	0	0	0	0	0
Woods, r.f. .. .	3	5	11	15	2	5		3	5	11	15	2	5
Totals .. .	28	5	11	15	2	5		28	10	9	18	10	0
	AB	R	H	PO	A	SB		AB	R	H	PO	A	SB
Jones, 2b .. .	3	1	1	1	1	1		3	1	1	1	1	0
McIntosh, c. .. .	4	2	2	2	0	0		4	2	2	2	0	0
Crocker, c.f. .. .	3	2	2	2	0	0		3	2	2	2	0	0
Hurley, 1b. .. .	0	0	0	0	7	1		0	0	0	7	1	0
Grigware, 3b .. .	3	1	1	1	1	2		3	1	1	1	1	2
Davis, r.f. .. .	3	1	1	0	0	0		3	1	1	0	0	0
Bell, s.s. .. .	1	2	1	2	1	4		1	2	1	2	1	4
Gilchrist, l.f. .. .	3	0	0	0	0	0		3	0	0	0	0	0
Skeels, p. .. .	3	1	1	1	1	0		3	1	1	1	1	0

Totals .. . 28 10 9 18 10 0
Called in sixth, darkness.
Summary—Three base hits, Sullivan; two base hit, Davis; double play, Bell to Hurley to Bell to Grigware; struck out: by Skeels 5, by Earl 1, by Wing 2; base on balls, off Skeels 3, off Earl 6, off Wing 2; sacrifice hits, Hurley; stolen base, Hurley. Umpire Voss.

Dave Skeels [3 of 6]:

May 21, 1910 ▶▶

In the second game of a doubleheader at Winnipeg's River Park, Skeels, pitching for the Moose Jaw Robin Hoods, strikes out a Western Canada League record 21 Maroons in a 4-1, 11-inning victory ... Skeels retires the side by strikeouts three times, strikes out seven in a row between the sixth and eighth innings, and allows one hit through the first nine innings and only two overall.

**PITCHER SKEELS COMES NEAR
EQUALLING A WORLD'S RECORD**

Moose Jaw Twirler Fans Twenty-One in Eleven Innings
—Retires Side Three Times on Strikes—
Table Tells the Story.

Dave Skeels, 21 Strikeouts May 21, 1910

WINNIPEG.						
	A.B.R.	H.	P.O.	A.	E.	
Piper, lf	5	1	1	1	0	0
Krueger, 2b	3	0	1	3	3	0
Lohr, cf	4	0	0	3	0	0
Isbell, rf	3	0	0	2	0	0
Beatty, 1b	4	0	0	12	2	1
Holtz, 3b	4	0	0	2	1	0
Beers, ss	4	0	0	3	2	1
Anderson, c	4	0	0	6	1	0
Miller, p	3	0	0	1	4	2
*Edmonds	0	0	0	0	0	0
	34	1	2	33	13	4

MOOSE JAW.						
	A.B.R.	H.	P.O.	A.	E.	
Jones, 2b	6	0	3	4	3	0
McIntosh, c	3	0	1	17	3	1
Crocker, cf	4	1	0	1	0	0
Hurley, 1b	5	0	1	10	2	0
Davis, rf	4	1	1	0	0	0
Parker, 3b	4	1	0	1	1	0
Bell, ss	5	1	3	0	0	0
Huber, lf	4	0	0	0	0	0
Skeels, p	5	0	0	0	3	2
	40	4	9	33	12	3

*Edmonds batted for Miller in eleventh.
Score by innings:
Winnipeg 0001000000—1
Moose Jaw 00001000003—4
Summary — Two-base hits, Jones, Piper; stolen bases, Krueger, Isbell, Skeels; sacrifice hit, Krueger; double plays, Miller to Beers, Beers to Krueger to Beatty, Jones to Parker; bases on balls, by Miller 4, by Skeels 1; struck out, by Skeels 21, by Miller 1; wild pitches, by Skeels 1, by Miller 1; wild pitches, Miller 3; left on bases, Moose Jaw 9, Winnipeg 3; time of game 2:03; umpire, Smith.

June 15, 1910

Acquired from Moose Jaw, along with W.P. Gilchrist, by the fifth-place Regina Bone Pilers for Charles Elsey, Skeels makes his first start for his new team against the visiting Medicine Hat Mad Hatters, but the game is rained out in the bottom of the first inning.

June 16, 1910

Skeels strikes out 10 and allows six hits in a 4-0 seven-inning shutout of the Lethbridge Miners.

July 3, 1910

The *Winnipeg Free Press* reports that Regina has accepted a "large sum" of money from the Detroit Tigers for Skeels.

"Big Chief" Skeels, the Gonzaga College lad of Spokane, who has been twirling for Moose Jaw and Regina in the *Canadian Twilight*, has been sold to the Detroit American League team for \$1,200, with orders to report August 15. Skeels has been pitching great ball up North, especially since his transfer over to the Reginas. Armour and Casey, two big league scouts, who have watched him throughout the season, think he is a comer, and Joe Cohn is kicking himself that he let the youngster slip through his hands. "I put forth every inducement to have Skeels sign with Spokane this year, but he was afraid of the league stuff in his first year," said the Spokane mogul. "Now he is out of my reach."

◀◀ July 13, 1910

Skeels is officially sold to the American League's Detroit Tigers for a future payment of \$1,200 ... Skeels is told to report to the Tigers on August 15.

August 3, 1910

The Western Canada League takes over management of the Regina franchise.

August 15, 1910

The Detroit Tigers fail to meet the deadline to pay

Regina the \$1,200 for the rights to Skeels.

August 22, 1910

Skeels, who hasn't been paid in three weeks, packs his bags and leaves a Winnipeg hotel with two scouts from the Tigers, to board a train bound for Detroit ... Regina manager Tom Letcher is not aware of Skeels' decision until his star pitcher is already on the train.

September 1, 1910

One hundred and fifteen minor league players are selected

1910 Regina Bone Pilers



THE REGINA BASEBALL TEAM.

Regina was originally known as "Pile of Bones" which is the English translation of the aboriginal name of its location ... officially renamed "Regina" in 1882.

Dave Skeels [4 of 6]:

in baseball's annual minor league draft ... National League teams select 67 players while the American League drafts 48.

Brooklyn leads all teams with 15 players selected, while the Detroit Tigers draft only one player: "Skeels, the Indian pitcher of Regina, who has played under various aliases".

SPOKANE BOY MAKES GOOD WITH DETROIT

SPOKANE, Tuesday, Oct. 11.—Dave Skeels, last year a star pitcher for Gonzaga College, and during the last summer a brilliant performer in the Twilight League, is back in Spokane visiting with friends. Skeels is now the property of the Detroit Club and after the close of the Twilight season, was called up for a tryout by Manager Jennings. Skeels worked in one game against the White Sox and won it, and was leading in his second game, when taken out to try another twirler. He lost his third game.

Skeels will go back to Detroit next spring, Jennings having pronounced the Spokane boy a "comer." Skeels formerly lived at Chewelah, Wash., where he was a sensation. He has some Indian blood.

"It looks all Philadelphia to me in the world's series," Skeels told a lot of enthusiasts at Gonzaga last night. "The 'dope' in the East is all in their favor, at least in Detroit, which, of course, is an American League stronghold."

September 8, 1910

The National Baseball Commission allows the drafting of Skeels by the Detroit Tigers ... in addition, the Commission finds that the Western Canada League is responsible for Skeels' salary from August 3 to August 22.

◀◀ September 14, 1910

Skeels makes his only major league appearance as Detroit's starting pitcher in a 9-8 win over the Cleveland Naps ... pitching six-plus innings, he allows eight runs on 10 hits, striking out two, walking four and hitting one batter.

October 7, 1910

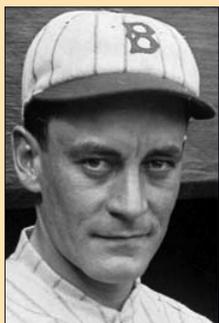
The final statistics for the 1910 Western Canada League season are released and Skeels finishes second to Lethbridge's Phil Lezie in strikeouts per nine innings ... Lezie, 16-10 for the Miners, strikes out 191 batters in 219 innings (7.85) while Skeels whiffs 151 in 178 innings pitched (7.64).

October 10, 1910

The Seattle Daily Times reports that Skeels has been sent home for the remainder of the season by the Tigers ... Skeels' prediction that the Philadelphia Athletics will win the World Series proves accurate as they beat the Chicago Cubs in five games to win their first championship.

November 10, 1910

Fort Wayne Brakies' owner Claude H. Varnell, announces the purchase of three pitchers - Skeels, George Harden and Clarence Mitchell - from the Detroit Tigers ... Harden is coming off a 14-10 season with the Williamsport Millionaires of the Tri-State (B) League while Mitchell was 14-13 for the Red Cloud Cloud of the Nebraska State (D) League ... of the three players, Harden is the only one who will don a Fort Wayne uniform in 1911 ... Skeels returns to the West Coast to pitch for the Seattle Giants while Mitchell will split time between the Saginaw Krazy Kats of the Southern Michigan (C) League and the parent Detroit Tigers.



◀◀ **Clarence Mitchell** will pitch 18 seasons in the major leagues (1911; 1916-32), posting a 125-139 mark with a 4.12 ERA ... however, he may be best remembered for one at bat in the fifth game of the 1920 World Series between the Brooklyn Dodgers and the Cleveland Indians ... pitching for Brooklyn, Mitchell comes to bat with two men on and no outs in the fifth inning and hits a line drive that Cleveland second baseman Bill Wambsganss turns into the only unassisted triple play in World Series history.

Western Canada League Meetings

November 19, 1910

Following a "red hot debate" at the annual Western Canada League meeting in Lethbridge, Alberta, the Calgary Bronchos are awarded the league championship for the 1910 season ... Calgary and Edmonton had been declared co-champions following a decision by League President C.J. Eckstrom to forfeit the Calgary-Edmonton game of August 29 to Edmonton, giving the Eskimos the lead in the second-half standings and leaving the overall league championship in a tie.

The host Lethbridge delegation is successful in its attempt to bring the lengthy discussion to an "amicable close" and it is decided to award the pennant on a straight basis of the total number games won during the entire season ... Calgary with a winning percentage of .701 versus Edmonton's .656, is declared the league champion in a unanimous vote.

The secretary-treasurer's report shows that not one of the league's eight teams is fully paid up in their league dues, "although Calgary and Winnipeg are practically square on the books." ... league receipts and disbursements show a deficit of \$2,773.20 ... maintenance of the Regina franchise, after becoming the property of the league in early August, is the primary reason for the deficit ... the deficit would have been greater if not for \$400 forfeited by Regina and an additional \$400 for the sale of pitcher Skeels to the Detroit club of the American League.

Winnipeg led the league in attendance with 50,000 "adults" and over 5,000 "children" ... Edmonton is second and Calgary third ... Lethbridge shows a 2,000 increase over the 2009 season.

Dave Skeels [5 of 6]:

January 17, 1911

The Detroit Tigers sell Skeels to the Seattle Giants of the Northwestern (B) League for \$300.

January 22, 1911

Detroit owner Frank J. Navin writes a letter to Fort Wayne owner Claude Varnell explaining why he sent Skeels to the Seattle Giants of the Northwest-

ern League instead of Fort

Wayne as promised ... Fort

Wayne manager Doc Casey supports Navin decision and tells Varnell that the Fort Wayne club is well-stocked

with capable pitchers ... Navin's letter regarding Skeels:

Dave Skeels Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Level	H-AB	HR	AVG	INN	SO	W-L	ERA
1908	Gonzaga College	Western Inter.	College	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1909	Gonzaga College	Western Inter.	College	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1909	Chewelah	Valley League	Semi-Pro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1910	Moose Jaw/Regina	Western Canada	D	29-128	0	.227	178	151	10-14	-
1910	Detroit Tigers	AMERICAN	ML	0-3	0	.000	6	2	0-0	12.00
1911	Seattle Giants	Northwestern	B	15-47	1	.319	-	-	10-5	-
1912	Colville Crackerjacks	Valley League	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1913	Edmonton/Calgary	Western Canada	D	111-361	7	.307	-	-	-	-
1914	Colville Crackerjacks	Valley League	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1915	Colville Crackerjacks	Valley League	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1921	Chewelah	Valley League	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1922	Addy	Valley League	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Major League Totals			1 Year	0-3	0	.000	6	2	0-0	12.00
Minor League Totals			3 Years	155-536	8	.289	-	-	20-19	-

"I have yours of January 19th. I have explained to Casey about the Skeels proposition. Skeels wrote me and stated that if he was not to be with the Detroit club next year, he wanted to go to a club on the coast, as his mother, who is old and in poor health, resides in Addy, Washington, and he wants to be near her. I explained this to Casey, and showed him Skeels' letter. By the way, Skeels is an Indian. His request is a very reasonable one and should I ignore it, I do not think he would do you very much good.

I still have just as good pitchers for you at the price, under optional agreement, of five hundred dollars. As soon as I get waivers I will turn you over pitcher Hardin, but the other two men you better wait for until the spring training trip of Tigers has been completed. I can then give you two men in the best of condition.

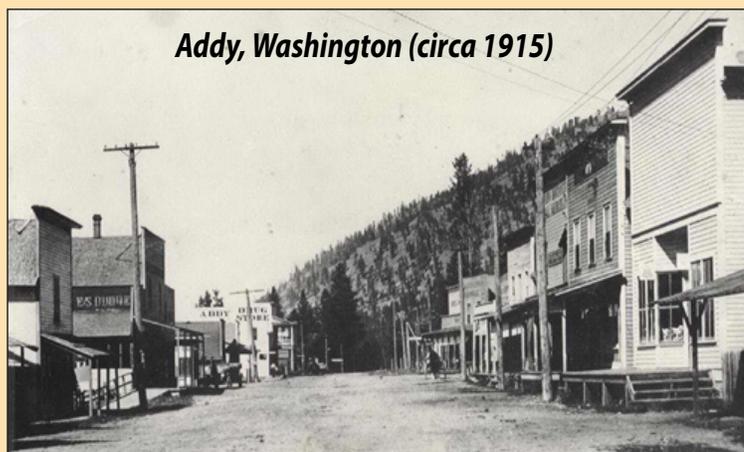
You have the right to refuse, you understand, if men I pick for you do not suit you and the money is not to be paid until papers are signed and the men declared property of Fort Wayne club."

May 7, 1911

Seattle, behind Skeels' one-hitter, beats last-place Victoria 12-1.

December 8, 1911

The Nation Baseball Commission dismisses the complaint of Skeels against the Seattle and Detroit clubs for lost salary while he was under suspension by Seattle during part of the 1911 season.



Addy, Washington (circa 1915)

February 2, 1912

The Seattle Giants announce that they have received a signed contract from Skeels for the 1912 season... Skeels says that the arm that gave him trouble the previous season feels fine and that he would like to play some outfield in the upcoming season.

March 23, 1912

Still bothered by a sore arm, Skeels leaves Seattle's pre-season camp for his home in Addy, Washington ... because of the injury, Skeels will not play in the minor leagues in 1912 ... first settled in 1851, the 2010 census lists Addy's population at 265 ... Skeels is the only major league player to have been born in Addy.

Dave Skeels [6 of 6]:

June 18, 1912

Playing for the Colville Crackerjacks, Skeels hits two home runs in a 7-0 rout of Pinhook.

September 1, 1912

Skeels goes 1-for-5 with a seventh inning grand slam keying a 10-1 win over the Inland Club of Spokane.

April 1913

Edmonton Gray Birds manager Ray Whisman announces the signing of pitcher Dave Skeels ... Edmonton is one of six teams in the Western Canada (D) League.

May 30, 1913

Skeels, now a pitcher-turned-outfielder, goes 4-for-6 as Edmonton tallies eight runs time in the third inning en route to an 11-7 win over the Regina Red Sox.

July 6, 1913

Edmonton trades Skeels and pitcher M.J. Dickenson to the Calgary Bronchos for third baseman Obie O'Brien.

July 15, 1913

Skeels goes 4-for-5 as Calgary defeats the Medicine Hat Hatters 6-3, making 15 hits off Gus Lind.

October 3, 1913

In the Western Canada League's final statistics, Skeels is sixth among league hitting leaders with a .316 average.

May 30, 1914

David Skeels and Miss Hilda Pearson, both of Addy, are married in Spokane by authority of Justice Hyde ... they plan on making their home in Addy Skeels works for his father in the feed business and is a "substantial" member of the Colville baseball team.

September 7, 1914

Playing for a semipro team in Colville, Skeels hits a grand slam against Marble Valley and apparently is so excited that he passes a couple of the runners ahead of him and has to wait for them at home plate.

The Colville Examiner:

"Skeels was next up and was given such an applause by the stands that he responded with a home run, circling the bases so fast that he had to wait at home for the other runners to cross the plate before him.

Graham was next up and landed on one for a three bagger, knocking it so far that the right fielder, Loquam, pulled a ball out of his hip pocket and threw it in rather than chase the other. Umpire Phillips immediately ordered a search of the pockets of all the fielders and put a blue pencil mark on the right ball to be used thereafter."

January, 1914

Skeels is one of three players (M. J. Dickenson, J. Heese) released by Calgary.

December 2, 1926

Skeels dies in a Spokane, Washington, tuberculosis sanitarium at the age of 33.

