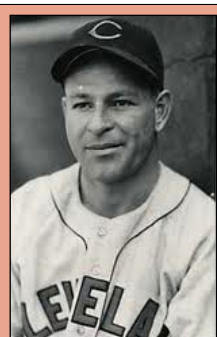


Hercules

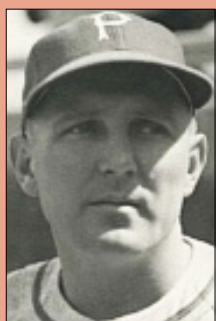
Coming off a season where he hits .281 with five home runs for the Milwaukee Brewers of the American (AA) Association, new Nashville Vols outfielder Oris Hockett wants to be called by his nickname "Hercules" ... the 30-year-old Hockett says, "They called me that at Southern Military Institute because they said my arms look like those of Hercules." ... Hockett will play seven years in the majors, finishing with 13 home runs, 214 RBIs and a .276 batting average ... in 1943, the Amboy, Indiana native leads the American League in number of times being caught stealing (18).



Oris Hockett
1938 Cleveland Indians

Player Moves

The Knoxville Smokies sell pitcher Bill Brandt, outfielder Bob Mohr and 145-pound catcher Quinto Valentino to the Gadsden Pilots of the Southeastern (B) League ... Brandt, signed as an amateur free agent by the Pittsburgh Pirates prior to the 1938 season, goes 17-11 with the Pilots and will eventually play three seasons with the Pirates (1941-1943), finishing with a 5-3 mark and a 3.57 ERA ... Valentino is released to Auburn of the Canadian-American (C) League where he hits .238 for the Colts ... Mohr, another Pirate farmhand, hits .246 with 18 doubles, 11 triples and four home runs for the Pilots.



Bill Brandt
1941 Pittsburgh Pirates

No A's? No Problem

Despite losing their affiliation with the American League's Philadelphia Athletics, the Lexington Indians of the North Carolina State (D) League announce plans to compete as an independent team in the upcoming season ... first year manager Reece Harris is confident that his team will be just as successful as the second-place team in 1939 ... the 1940 Indians don't miss the mark by much, finishing in third place with a 64-48 record as compared to a 60-46 mark the previous season.

Hurley Tells Utica "No"

In an effort to rebuild the last-place Utica Braves, general manager Amby McConnell purchases first baseman Len Hurley from the Ogdensburg Colts of the Canadian-American (C) League where he hit an even .300 with 11 doubles, four triples and two home runs in 1939 ... unfortunately for the Braves, Hurley elects to retire from professional baseball to become the player/manager of the vaunted General Electric semipro team in Schenectady, New York, at a "fat salary" ... despite the unexpected loss of Hurley, the Braves finish fourth with a 69-56 record, 16 games off of the pace.

Savino's Rough Week

Dallas Rebels catcher George Savino, acquired from Buffalo of the International League, has a rough first week with his new team ... first, his holdout for more money from the Rebels is unsuccessful, then he is told that the Texas League plays seven days a week after he inquires about Mondays being an "off-day".

Breaking Up The Twins

The Spartanburg Spartans of the South Atlantic (B) League break up their twin brother combination by optioning 19-year-old outfielder Royce Cofer (and catcher Don Revelle) to the Ocala Yearlings of the Florida State (D) League ... 20-year-old shortstop Troyce Cofer, remains with the Spartans and hits .241 in 14 games before joining his younger brother in the Sunshine State.