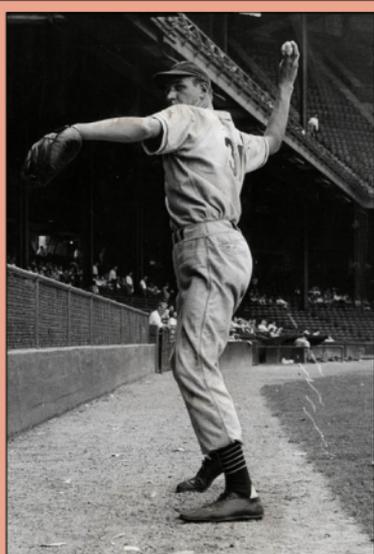


### Size Seventeen

The Cleveland Indians war-depleted pitching staff receives a much-needed bump when 25-year-old rookie Mike Naymick is classified 4-F for the duration of World War II because the pitcher's feet are too big ... after trying several times to enlist, only to be turned down because of his foot size, the 6-foot-8 Naymick is finally designated 4-F after his second physical because the military does not have boots large enough for his size 17 feet ... plagued by wildness through his first six years in the minor leagues (566 walks in 725 innings), Naymick makes the team's 1943 opening day roster and turns in a solid season, finishing 4-4 with a 2.30 ERA.



Mike Naymick  
1943 Cleveland Indians



Elbert Padgett  
1937 Gainesville G-Men

### Elbert Is Back

Lanky Elbert Padgett, out of baseball since fracturing a leg with the Gadsden Pilot of the Southeastern (B) League in 1940, attempts a comeback with the New Orleans Pelicans of the Southern (A1) Association ... the 6-foot-4 right hander was 63-39 in five seasons prior to the injury, including a 26-6 mark with 25 complete games and a 1.48 ERA

for the Gainesville G-Man of the Florida State (D) League in 1937 ... Padgett's comeback with the Pelicans is short-lived, pitching three innings in two games before being released by General Manager Charlie Hurth on April 30.

### Wasp Survivor

Navy Lieutenant Don Patrick, a survivor of the sinking of the aircraft carrier USS Wasp (CV-7) off the coast of Guadalcanal, pays his way to the Detroit Tigers spring training camp in Evansville, Illinois, in hopes of being signed as an outfielder ... following the workout, the Tigers feel that Patrick will do better as a pitcher and assign him to the Hagerstown Owls of the Interstate (B) League ... let go by the Owls prior to the season opener, Patrick signs with the York White Roses and goes 1-2 in four appearances before being released at the end of June.



The sinking of the USS Wasp (CV-7)  
September 15, 1942

### Shuck Shaughnessy

The Southern Association directors, at a specially-called meeting in Birmingham, Alabama, on April 12, abolish the Shaughnessy playoff system and adopt the split-season format ... with no post-season Dixie Series scheduled because the Texas League has suspended operations, the league's directors establish a \$1,000 bonus for the first-half winner, a \$1,000 bonus for the second-half winner and an additional \$1,000 bonus should a team win both the first and second halves of the regular season.