

Clauson Vines, "Bessemer Born"

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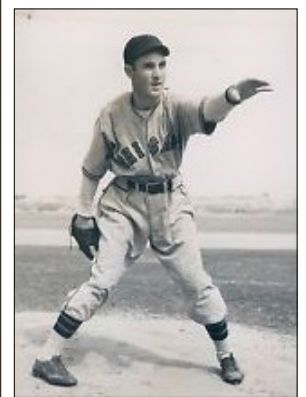
On May 14, 1935, 20-year-old Jeanerette Blues left-hander Clauson Vines picks up his seventh-straight victory to open the season with a 4-0 shutout of visiting Lake Charles, limiting the Skippers to five hits and striking out 10.

In his third year of minor league baseball, Vines leads the Blues to a the Evangeline League pennant with an stellar 25-7 record ... he finishes the season leading the two-year-old Louisiana centric D-level circuit in wins, strikeouts (273) and innings pitched (281) and yet fails to make the league's all-star team in lieu of teammate Bernard Cornitus (19-8) and Lafayette White Sox lefty Red Dowie (24-6) ... in addition, Vines wins two games as the Blues defeat the White Sox four games to two in the Shaughnessy post season playoff system.

Vines' 25 wins are an Evangeline League record and will remain the league standard until Houma's Bill Thomas goes 35-7 in the scandal-plagued 1946 season.

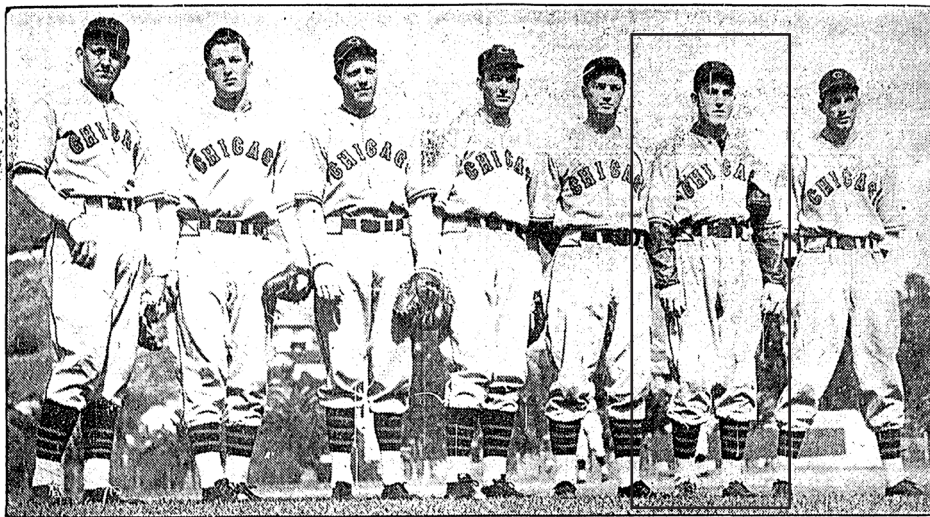


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1936 Chicago Cubs Spring Training



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Chicago Cubs' Batterymen at Catalina Island



(Wide World Photo)
Pitchers and a catcher of the Chicago Cubs ball team are now at Catalina Island (Cal.) where they have started their spring training grind. Left to right: Charles Flowers, pitcher; John Hutchings, pitcher; Harold Sueme, catcher; Gene Ford, pitcher; Kenneth Waefer, pitcher; Clauson Vines, pitcher and Clyde Shoun, pitcher.

His performance with Jeanerette catches the attention of the National League's Chicago Cubs ... after being sold to the Birmingham Barons at the conclusion of the season, Vines' contract is then transferred to the Memphis Chickasaws before being sold to the Cubs who invite him to the team's spring training camp on Catalina Island off the coast of California.

One of nine minor leaguers in the Cub camp, Vines sees very little action before he, 20-year-old pitcher John Hutchings and 25-year-old infielder Joe Vitter are optioned to Portsmouth of the Piedmont (B) League ... when asked why Vines did not see much work during spring training, Cub manager Charley Grimm replies, "I hate to take his mind off of his porker playing."

At Portsmouth, the card-playing Vines allows 15 hits in nine innings and is 0-1 in two appearances before being optioned to Augusta of the South Atlantic (B) League ... in a seven day span with Dixie Parker's Tigers, Vines appears in four games and is less than successful, going 0-2 with a 24.84 ERA while allowing 23 hits and five walks in 8 1/3 innings pitched.

Clauson Vines Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Level	W-L	INN	H	BB	SO	ERA
1933	Panama City	Florida	SPro	24-4	-	-	-	-	---
1933	Jackson Senators	Dixie	C	0-0	10.2	13	8	-	9.28
1934	Greenville Buckshots	East Dixie	D	11-7	118.0	124	52	-	4.35
1935	Jeanerette Blues	Evangeline	D	25-7	281.0	230	45	184	---
1936	2 Teams	2 Leagues	B	0-3	17.1	38	9	2	---
	Portsmouth Cubs	Piedmont	B	0-1	9.0	15	4	-	---
	Augusta Tigers	South Atlantic	B	0-2	8.1	23	5	2	24.84
Minor League Totals				5 Seasons	36-17	427.0	405	114	-

1935: Led Evangeline League in Wins (25), Strikeouts (184), Games (40) and Innings Pitched (281)

Clauson Vines [2 of 2]:

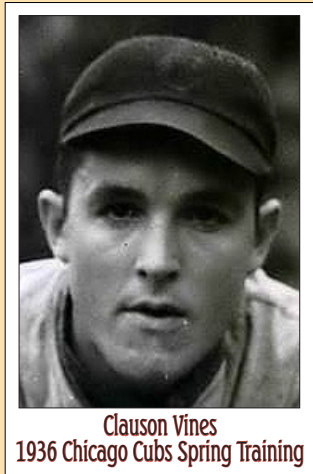
On May 23rd, following a one-inning outing in the second game of a doubleheader loss to the Macon Peaches where he allows five runs on seven hits and one walk, Vines and right hander Bob Smith are released and manager Parker is fired and replaced by former major leaguer and current Augusta second baseman Pee Wee Wanninger ... Wanninger takes over a team that is mired in last place with an 11-23 record and 12 games behind first-place Columbus.

NEW INFIELDER, MOUNDSMAN JOIN AUGUSTA TODAY

Lefty Clauson Vines and Bob
Barrett Due to Report
This Afternoon

A native of Bessemer, Alabama, Vines plays two years of varsity baseball at Hueytown High School, serving as team captain his senior year in 1933 ... following graduation, Vines plays that summer for a semipro team in Panama City, Florida where is 24-4 and catches the eye of scout Bill Pierre ... the 18-year-old portsider closes out his summer making three appearances for the Jackson Senators in the Dixie (C) League.

After his release from the Tigers, not much of Vines is heard of again.



At the same time President Troy Agnew disclosed that Clauson Vines, a lefthander, Bob Smith, a righthander, had been turned back to their major league owners. Vines was sent back to the Chicago Cubs of the National league and the Boston Bees were asked to advise about Smith's disposition.