

Ballinger Cat Player, 'Stormy' Davis, Dies

James "Stormy" Davis, a Ballinger Cats outfielder, dies in a Sweetwater, Texas, hospital from a brain hemorrhage resulting from an injury received a week earlier when he is struck in the head by a pitched ball in a Class D Longhorn League game with the Sweetwater Sports.

On July 3, in a 10-6 loss to the Sports, Davis is hit behind the left ear on a pitch thrown by Sweetwater's Stan "Midnight" Wilson ... Davis is immediately taken to the Sweetwater Hospital where emergency surgery is performed by Dr. Albert D'Drico, a Dallas specialist who finds "no evidence of a blood clot but rather swollen tissues."

For the next six days Davis shows steady improvement and the 20-year-old Mobile, Alabama, native is conscious and talking with his nurse only moments before he dies.



James "Stormy" Davis
1947 Ballinger Cats

July 3, 1947 - Sportsman Park, Sweetwater, Texas

Ballinger right fielder Stormy Davis is struck by a pitch in the eighth inning of a 10-6 loss to Sweetwater ... after hitting Davis, for his second hit batter of the inning and third of the game, Sweetwater pitcher Stan "Midnight" Wilson "removes himself" from the game and is replaced by team ace Lee Roy Jones ... Davis' roommate, and future major league shortstop, Roy McMillan is 3-for-5 with three RBIs.

BALLINGER	AB	R	H	O	A
Smithhart, 2b	4	1	0	4	1
McMillan, ss	5	1	3	0	3
Williams, 1b	6	1	2	9	1
Hixon, cf	4	0	1	0	0
Harrison, lf	4	0	1	1	0
Davis, rf	4	1	1	2	0
Geiger, 3b	4	0	0	3	2
Hanchens, c	3	1	0	5	0
Bardwell, p	4	1	2	0	3
TOTALS	38	6	10	24	10

SWEETWATER	AB	R	H	O	A
Haddican, 3b	5	1	3	0	4
Dotlich, 1b	5	2	3	6	1
Brocato, 2b	5	3	3	2	2
Cowsar, lf	2	2	1	1	0
Dunlap, rf	2	1	0	1	0
Peacock, ss	4	1	2	1	1
Murphy, cf	3	0	0	2	0
Samek, c	4	0	0	14	1
Wilson, p	4	0	0	0	0
Jones, p	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	34	10	12	27	9

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Sweetwater 201 130 30x—10

Errors — Smithhart, Dotlich, Peacock
3. Runs batted in — Williams, Smithhart, McMillan 3. Cowsar 2. Dotlich, Brocato, Dunlap, Peacock 5. Two base hits — McMillan, Williams 2. Bardwell. Three base hits — Peacock. Home runs — Cowsar, Peacock, Dotlich, Stolen bases — Smithhart, Haddican, Brocato 2. Murphy. Sacrifice — Harrison. Left on bases — Ballinger 15. Sweetwater 5. Bases on balls — Wilson 2. Bardwell 3. Struck out — Wilson 12. Bardwell 4. Jones 1. Hit by pitcher — Wilson 3. Passed balls — Samek. Umpires — Curd and McClain. Time — 2:26.

Davis is hitting .333 with eight doubles, 19 home runs and 64 RBIs in 48 games for the Cats at the time of the injury and is tied with Sweetwater's Bob Cowsar for the league lead in homers.

In his first season of professional baseball, Davis reports to the Dallas Rebels' 1947 spring training camp as a free agent pitcher ... Rebel management decides Davis "doesn't have the stuff to make the grade" as a pitcher, but Cincinnati scout Jack Knott likes the way he swings the bat and asks the Rebels to release him to Tyler to play the outfield.

Davis hits a home run in professional baseball debut and is hitting .271 with four doubles and two home runs in 23 games for the Tyler Trojans of the Longstar (C) League before being sent to Ballinger in late May for more "seasoning."

Born October 6, 1926, in Waco, Texas, where his father Cecil "Stormy" Davis had played with the old Waco entry in the Texas League ... Davis finishes grammar school in Fort Worth before graduating from Murphy High School in Mobile, Alabama, where he is a three-sport star in football, basketball and baseball ... he attends Spring Hill College in Mobile for one year before turning pro.