

# Henry Mathewson, "Kid Matty"

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On October 5, 1906, making his first and only major league start, New York Giants rookie pitcher Henry Mathewson, the younger brother of Hall of Famer Christy Mathewson, sets a modern National League single game record walking 14 Boston Beaneaters in a 7-1 loss before 400 less than enthused spectators at the Polo Grounds ... the game starts off badly for the Bucknell University product as he walks two, allows two hits and hits a batter in the first inning ... his final line shows seven runs allowed on seven hits, 14 walks and one hit batter.

Mathewson's dubious record stands for nine years before Philadelphia Athletics' left-hander Bruno Haas walks 16 (and issues three wild pitches) in his professional baseball debut on June 23, 1915, in a 15-7 loss to the New York Yankees ... much like Mathewson, Haas will pitch in several more games at the major league level before playing nearly 2,100 games over an ensuing 20 minor league seasons.

For Mathewson, the second-youngest player to make his major league debut during the 1906 season, the Friday afternoon contest will be his only career complete game and his only decision ... the 6-foot-3 right-hander will pitch only two more innings over two years before being released on July 12, 1907.

## "KID MATTY" GIVES 14 BASES ON BALLS

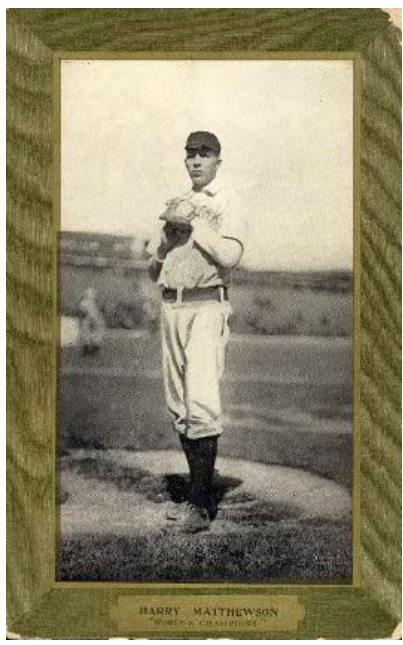
Big Matty's Little Brother so Liberal Bostons Can't Help Winning.

Boston.	AB.	B.	P.	A.	E.	New York.	AB.	B.	P.	A.	E.
Dolan, lf.	4	1	3	1	0	Shannon, lf	4	0	2	0	0
Tenney, 1b.	1	1	8	2	0	Browne, rf.	3	3	0	0	1
Brain, 3b.	4	0	4	2	0	Seymour, cf	4	0	2	0	0
Bates, cf.	3	0	4	0	0	Devlin, 3b.	4	1	1	4	0
Howard, 2b	5	1	1	4	0	Smith, 1b.	4	2	12	1	0
Conna'n, ss	4	0	2	1	0	Hannifin, ss	4	0	3	4	0
Camer'n, rf	3	0	1	0	0	Strang, 2b.	3	2	3	5	0
Brown, c.	3	1	4	2	0	Bower'n, c.	3	1	4	0	0
Pfeffer, p.	3	1	0	4	0	H.Math'n,p	2	0	0	4	0

Totals..	30	5	27	16	0	Totals..	31	9	27	18	1
Boston .....	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	4	7		
New York .....	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1			

Runs—Dolan 2, Tenney, Brain, Bates, Connaughton, Cameron, Strang. Left on bases—New York 7, Boston 11. First on bases—Off Mathewson 14, Pfeffer 2. Struck out—By Mathewson 2, Pfeffer 4. Two-base hits—Strang 2. Sacrifice hit—Mathewson. Stolen bases—Smith, Brain, Bates, Brown, Pfeffer. Double plays—Mathewson, Hannifin, Smith; Hannifin, Strang; Smith, Mathewson, Bowerman; Brown, Howard, Brain; Connaughton, Tenney, Howard. Passed ball—Bowerman. Hit by pitcher—By Mathewson 1, Pfeffer 1. Umpire—Klein. Time—1.45. Attendance—400.

Henry Mathewson  
Pitcher, New York Giants  
1906 Ullman Art Frame Postcard (#7)



"Pitching talent was hardly an inherited Mathewson characteristic."

- New York Giants manager John McGraw

Not predisposed to playing professional baseball despite attaining success playing with independent teams in Lewisburg and Scranton and at Bucknell College, Mathewson is recommended to McGraw by his brother Christy ... Mathewson signs with the Giants on January 18, 1906, and is told to report to the team's spring training in Memphis, Tennessee, when it begins in March.

"He now has as much speed as I had when I broke into the game. He has control and a splendid assortment of curves. All he wants is experience, and with that I am sure he will develop into a star."

- New York Giants pitcher Christy Mathewson

Henry Mathewson  
1914 Lowell Greys



Mathewson has a difficult spring training ... on March 27, during warm-ups, he loses the grip on his bat and it smashes into the face of catcher Roger Bresnahan, shattering four of his teeth.

In addition to his three games with the Giants, Mathewson either signs with, or plays for, the Wilmington Peaches (1907), Sharon Giants (1908), Savannah Indians (1909), Columbus Foxes (1909), Jacksonville Braves (1909), Rome Romans (1913), Kingston Colonials (1913) and the Lowell Grays (1914).

## Henry Mathewson [2 of 3]:

### Major League Career Wins by Brothers

Phil (318) and Joe (221) Niekro	539
Gaylord (314) and Jim (215) Perry	529
Greg (355) and Mike (39) Maddux	394
John (328), Art (39) & Walt (18) Clarkson	385
Christy (373) and Henry (0) Mathewson	373

Henry and his older brother (by six years) Christy, a charter member to the Hall of Fame, combine for 373 major league wins in their careers - good for fifth place among major league brother combinations.

In his final season of professional baseball in 1914, Mathewson plays for the Lowell Grays of the New England (B) League ... on May 4, after going 0-4 in a 4-2 win over the Lewiston Cupids, Lowell manager Jim Grey releases Mathewson (now an outfielder) because of "poor play."

**"He was brought up before he was ready because I got the diphtheria at the start of the '06 season. The Giants' management thought they could sell tickets if there was still a Mathewson pitching at the Polo Grounds. But they should have waited. It cost them a good ballplayer. Hank just wasn't ready."**

- New York Giants pitcher Christy Mathewson

In mid-June, reports have Matthewson, who has been living in Arizona for health reasons, returning to Factoryville, Pennsylvania to visit his parents ... on July 1, 1917, Mathewson passes away from tuberculosis at the age of 30.

## MATHEWSON CHRONOLOGY

January 17, 1906

After declining an offer from the Chicago Cubs, Henry Mathewson signs with the New York Giants.

### Henry Mathewson Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Level	W-L	G	INN	SO	BB	ERA
1906	New York Giants	NATIONAL	ML	0-1	2	10	2	14	5.40
1907	New York Giants	NATIONAL	ML	0-0	1	1	0	0	0.00
1907	Wilmington Peaches	Tri-State	B	0-1	-	-	-	-	--
1907	Orange Valley	-	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	--
1907	Pottsville Quakers	Atlantic	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1908	Sharon (Pa.) Giants	Ohio-Penn	C	-	-	-	-	-	--
<b>1909</b>	<b>Three Teams</b>	<b>Two Leagues</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>--</b>
1909	Savannah Indians	South Atlantic	B	-	-	-	-	-	--
1909	Columbus Foxes	South Atlantic	B	-	-	-	-	-	--
1909	Jacksonville Braves	Central Association	B	-	-	-	-	-	--
1910	Douglass	Cactus League	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	--
1911	Brooklyn Dexters	-	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	--
1913	Rome Romans	Appalachian	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1913	Kingston Colonials	New York-New Jersey	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1914	Lowell Grays	New England	B	-	-	-	-	-	--
1914	Bronx Athletic Club	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1915	Inter-Borough of New York	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
1916	Newburg	Frisco League	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
<b>Major League Totals</b>		<b>2 Years</b>		<b>0-1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4.91</b>
<b>Minor League Totals</b>		<b>5 Years</b>		<b>0-1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>---</b>

### Mathewson's Missing Brother

Cincinnati Times-Star, August 12, 1906

During the winter months and early in the spring there was considerable sporting-page space devoted to announcements of the acquisition by the New York club of Henry Mathewson, brother of the famous Christy, and the progress he was making in the direction of being a rival of the eminent twirler of the Giants. Suddenly these promises and epeniums ceased, and the baseball public began to wonder what had become of Henry.

Inquiry develops the fact that on the first and fifteenth of every month Brother Henry, unguarded by Secret Service men, calls upon Secretary-Treasurer Knowles, of the New York club, and relieves him of that portion of the stipend stipulated in his contract that two weeks' work calls for.

"Henry is still with us," remarked Manager McGraw, when information was sought regarding the now obscure brother. "He has been working hard and faithfully in practice at the Polo Grounds, and also has been making some spare change pitching for various independent teams in this vicinity. Incidentally, Henry has learned a lot about the pitching game and by next spring will be ready to make his appearance in fast society as a promising debutante. I would not say that he is going to be as great a pitcher as Brother Matty, but from the form he has shown us so far, I feel I am justified in predicting that he will win more games than some of the twirlers who now are posing as stars."

October 5, 1906

Mathewson pitches a complete game in major league debut ... the righthander walks 14 in a 7-1 loss to the Boston Beaneaters.

May 4, 1907

In New York's 10-0 win over the Brooklyn Superbas, Mathewson pitches a scoreless inning in his final major league appearance ... Nashville is rumoured to be after Mathewson's services.

June 21, 1907

The Giants release Mathewson to the Wilmington Peaches of the Tri-State (B) League ... it is reported that Mathewson has "plenty of speed and curves, but he lacks the control."

## Henry Mathewson [3 of 3]:

August 30, 1907

Pitching for the Pottsdown Quakers, Mathewson walks seven in the first two innings and is relieved by Johnson in a 7-3 loss to the Brooklyn Atlantics.

December 22, 1907

Mathewson reportedly retires from baseball and enters the automobile industry in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

July 12, 1908

The New York Giants release Mathewson.

March 1908

Signs with the Sharon Giants of the Ohio-Penn (C) League

### **"NICK" MATHEWSON A SUICIDE; PUTS A BULLET INTO BRAIN**

**WELL KNOWN BASE BALLIST,  
BROTHER OF THE FAMOUS  
CHRISTY, SHOT HIMSELF  
WHILE DESPONDENT.  
DIED IN SCRANTON  
HOSPITAL.**

SCRANTON, Pa., Jan. 15.—Nicholas Mathewson, one of the most promising young base ball pitchers in the country and brother of the famed Christy Mathewson, star pitcher for the New York Giants, shot himself through the head at his home in Factoryville late yesterday afternoon and died at 7:10 this morning at Dr. Reed Burns' private hospital. There is no other explanation for the suicide than that of overstudy and intense suffering from pains in the head.

November 7, 1910

After playing for a semipro team in Douglass, Arizona, Mathewson signs with the Oklahoma City Indians of the Texas (C) League.

March, 1913

Mathewson signs with the Rome Romans of the Appalachian (D) League.

April 1, 1914

Lowell's Jim Gray announces that he has received a contract from Henry Mathewson.

May 2, 1914

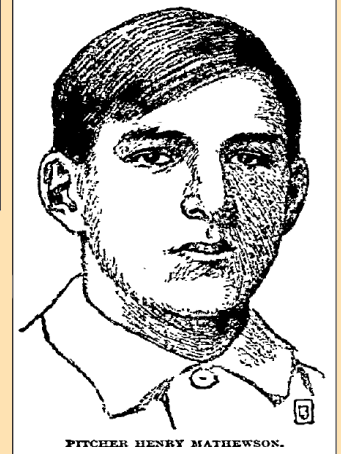
Citing that his work "has been poor", Mathewson is released by Lowell.

July 1, 1917

Mathewson passes away in Factoryville, Pennsylvania from tuberculosis at the age of 30.

### **QUITS GAME.**

Hank Mathewson, younger brother of Christy, has been convinced there is no place in base ball for him, and has gone in the automobile industry in Scranton, Pa. Hank failed in only three leagues last season—the National, Tri-State and Atlantic.



November 1908

Savannah announces the signing of pitcher Henry Mathewson.

January 14, 1909

Nick Mathewson, the younger brother of New York Giants pitchers Christy and Hank Mathewson, commits suicide by shooting himself with a .32-caliber revolver ... three weeks earlier, Hank, a promising pitcher, receives a \$3,000 offer to sign with the Detroit Tigers ... a freshman at Lafayette College, he was not yet 20 years old.

May 30, 1909

Mathewson, "a good twirler, but has been unable to get in shape." is released by Savannah.

May 31, 1909

Twenty-four hours after being released by Savannah, Mathewson signs with South Atlantic League foe Columbus Foxes.

June 7, 1909

Mathewson returns to Savannah to undergo an operation for varicose veins.

July 1909

Mathewson recovering from the effects of the operation, signs with his third team of the season - the Jacksonville Braves of the Central (D) Association.

### **HANK MATHEWSON DIES**

Factoryville, Pa., July 2.—Henry Mathewson, 30 years old, only brother of Christy Mathewson, manager of the Cincinnati team, died at his home here yesterday, a victim of tuberculosis. Henry was a baseball player, too, and was with the Giants for one season several years ago. Later he played with minor leagues. He returned here a week ago from Arizona. His wife and four daughters survive.