

# Dave Barbee, "Gate City Crasher"

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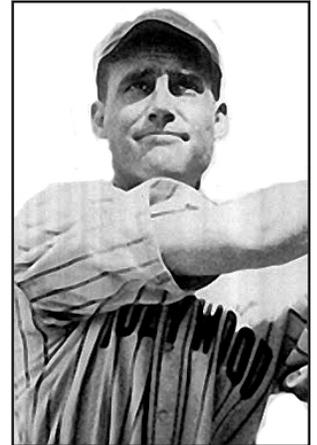
A hard-hitting native of Greensboro, N.C., David Monroe (Dave) Barbee plays 12 years of professional baseball, including two seasons with the Philadelphia Athletics (1926) and Pittsburgh Pirates (1932) ... fresh off the campus of Oglethorpe University, Barbee begins his career with his home town Greensboro Patriots of the Piedmont (C) League in 1925, hitting .333 with three home runs in 16 games.

In 1926, Barbee is batting .372 and has a Piedmont League record 29 home runs when he is acquired by the American League's Philadelphia Athletics on July 24 ... making his major league debut against the Cleveland Indians on July 29, Barbee belts a triple on the second pitch in his first at bat ... in 19 games for Connie Mack's Athletics, he hits .190 with one home run and five RBIs.

Returning to the minors in 1927 with Reading of the International (AA) League, Barbee hits .262 with 14 home runs ... the Keystones, despite having 20 former or future major league players on the roster, finish 43-123 and 68 games behind the first place Buffalo Bisons.

In 1928, Barbee begins a memorable career in the Pacific Coast (AA) League where he hits .325 with 146 doubles, 26 triples, 126 home runs with 526 RBIs in a four-year span (1928-31)... in 1930, splitting time between the Seattle Indians and the Hollywood Stars (or the Sheiks, their unofficial nickname), he bats .325 with 30 doubles, a league-leading 41 home runs and drives in 155 runs ... a year later, playing for Hollywood, Barbee hits .332 with a career-best 166 RBIs and leads the PCL in home runs for a second- straight year with 47.

Following his breakout year with the Stars, Barbee is drafted by the National League's Pittsburgh Pirates ... by the 20th game of the season, Barbee has established himself as the Bucs' starting leftfielder ... in his only full major league season, Barbee hits .257 with 22 doubles, five triples, five home runs and 55 RBIs.



Dave Barbee  
1931 Hollywood Stars

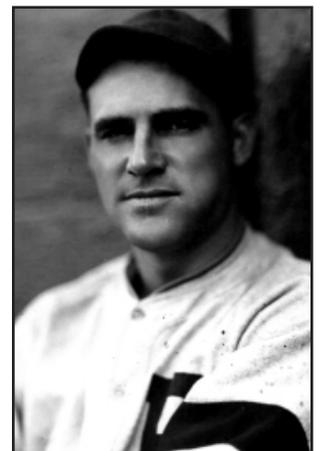
## Barbee Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Level	HR	RBI	AVG
1923	Pomona High School	NCHSAA				
1924	Oglethorpe University	SIAA				
1925	Oglethorpe University	SIAA				
1925	Greensboro Patriots	Piedmont	C	3		.333
1926	Greensboro Patriots	Piedmont	C	<b>29</b>		.372
	Philadelphia Athletics	AMERICAN	ML	1	5	.170
1927	Reading Keystones	International	AA	14		.262
1928	Portland Beavers	Pacific Coast	AA	16	89	.327
	Seattle Indians	Pacific Coast				
1929	Seattle Indians	Pacific Coast	AA	22	116	.316
1930	Seattle Indians	Pacific Coast	AA	<b>41</b>	155	.325
	Hollywood Stars	Pacific Coast				
1931	Hollywood Stars	Pacific Coast	AA	<b>47</b>	166	.332
1932	Pittsburgh Pirates	NATIONAL	ML	5	55	.257
1933	Tulsa Oilers	Texas	A	1		.210
1933	Toronto Maple Leafs	International	AA	5		.261
1934	Birmingham Barons	Southern	A	3		.273
1934	Minneapolis Millers	American Assoc.	AA	0		.284
1935	Atlanta Crackers	Southern	A	0		.178
1936	Mojuds Hosiery	NC Semi-Pro				
1937	Tower Hosiery	NC Semi-Pro				
1938	Burlington Mills	NC Semi-Pro				.481
	Asheboro Eagles	NC Semi-Pro				
1942	Burlington Bees	Bi-State	D	18		.301

**Bold** denotes led league

Despite a fairly productive National League debut, Barbee finds himself back in the minors the following year ... he will play three more seasons - with five different teams in four different leagues - before retiring in 1935, after hitting a career-low .178 in 12 games with the Atlanta Crackers of the Southern (A) Association.

Barbee returns to Greensboro and for at least the next three years will terrorize pitchers in North Carolina's highly competitive semi-pro leagues ... he manages the Burlington Tower Hosiery mill team for two seasons and the Burlington Mills team for one ... in 1938, Barbee hits .481 as the player/manager for Burlington Mills ... compiles a .375 lifetime batting average in various semi-pro leagues in and around Greensboro.



Dave Barbee  
1932 Pittsburgh Pirates

## Dave Barbee [2 of 6]:

Six years after being released by Atlanta, a 37-year-old Barbee returns to professional baseball signing a contract to play for the Burlington (N.C.) Bees of the Bi-State (D) League ... despite suffering through some bothersome leg injuries, the popular ex-major leaguer is hitting .301 and has 18 home runs in only 58 games for the Bees when on July 23, he requests his release and retires from baseball.

Born in Greensboro, N.C., on May 7, 1905, an 18-year-old Barbee leads Pomona High School of the "Gate City" to the 1923 North Carolina state title, hitting a home run while pitching a three-hit shutout in the title game ... Barbee attends Oglethorpe University in Atlanta, Ga., and plays two seasons (1924 & 1925) and plays a key role as a freshman as the Petrals win the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championship as a freshman in 1924

Barbee dies at his home in Albemarle, N.C., in July 1, 1968, at the age of 63, and is buried in Guilford Memorial Park in Greensboro.

## Barbee Chronology

May 19, 1923

Barbee pitches Pomona High School to the North Carolina high school state baseball championship, allowing only three hits and striking out nine and hitting a second inning home run to open the scoring in a 5-0 win over Durham High School.

March 30, 1924

Barbee goes 3-for-6 and drives in the winning run in the 11th inning with a triple leading Oglethorpe past visiting Dartmouth 7-6.

## August 15, 1925 ►►

Barbee hits the first of his 205 career home runs, connecting off 36-year-old Danville Leaf left hander Rube Eldridge in the second game of Piedmont (C) League double-header before 1,500 in Greensboro's Cone Park ... Eldridge, a 285-game winner over a 20-year minor league career, pitches both ends of the double header that afternoon, winning the nightcap 6-3 after losing the opener 3-2.

June 25, 1926

Barbee suffers a concussion and is carried from the field unconscious following a first inning collision with Winston-Salem's Al Mellana in a 7-4 loss to the Twins ... the Piedmont League home run leader (21) is expected to miss two weeks and is replaced in the Patriots' lineup by rookie Eddie Judd who goes 1- for-7 in his Greensboro debut the following day.

July 21, 1926

In a 4-1 win over visiting High Point Pointers, Barbee hits home runs No. 27 and 28, breaking the existing Piedmont League record of 27 ... the Patriots still have 54 games remaining on their regular season schedule ... Philadelphia Athletics scout Earl Mack, Jr., is in the stands watching the recently-signed Barbee, who is expected to the report to the major league club at the end of the Piedmont League season.

July 24, 1926

In a 3:00 p.m. call to Greensboro Patriots manager Lee Hooch, Philadelphia calls up Barbee to the major leagues ... Barbee, whose contract was sold to the Athletics earlier in the season for a reported \$10,000, is told to report to the parent club by the following Monday ... to replace Barbee, former Patriot infielder Charlie Engle, who had two hits in 19 at bats (.105) in 19 games with the Athletics, will rejoin the club and play third base.

SECOND GAME										
Danville										
	AB	R	H	PO	A	E				
Herndon, 1b	4	0	1	6	0	0				
Douglas, cf	4	2	2	5	0	0				
Millsaps, 2b	4	2	2	4	3	0				
Smith, if	2	0	1	3	0	0				
L. Thrasher, rf	4	0	0	0	0	0				
Aragon, 1b	3	1	0	0	1	0				
Schmidt, ss	4	1	1	1	1	1				
Barrett, c	1	0	1	2	0	1				
Eldridge, p	3	0	1	0	1	1				
Totals	29	6	10	21	5	4				
Greensboro										
	AB	R	H	PO	A	E				
O'Hara, 2b	4	1	1	1	2	0				
Engle, ss	2	0	0	3	4	2				
Barbee, rf	3	1	1	1	0	0				
Cox, 1b	3	1	1	3	0	0				
G. Thrasher, cf	3	0	0	3	0	1				
Thompson, if	3	0	0	1	0	0				
Heine, 3b	2	0	1	1	0	0				
Ray, c	3	0	1	1	1	0				
Marshall, p	3	0	2	1	1	1				
Buggy, p	2	0	0	0	1	1				
Crews, p	1	0	0	0	0	0				
xDayton	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Totals	26	3	4	21	11	4				
xRay for Ray in 7th.										
Score by innings:										
Danville	.....	201	101	1—6						
Greensboro	.....	200	001	03						
Summary: Stolen bases, Douglas, Smith, Aragon. Sacrifice hits, Engle, Barrett and Aragon. Two-base hits, O'Hara, Douglas. Home runs, Millsaps, Barbee, Cox. Double plays, Marshall to Engle to Cox; Buggy to O'Hara to Heine. Hits off Marshall, 5 in 2-3 innings; off Buggy, 3 to 3-4 innings. Struck out, by Eldridge, 1; by Buggy, 1. Bases on balls, 4. Eldridge, 1; off Buggy, 1. Hit by pitched ball, Smith by Marshall. Left on bases, Danville, 7; Greensboro, 3. Time of game, 1:18. Umpires, Richardson and Morgan. Attendance, 1,500.										

## Dave Barbee [3 of 6]:

July 29, 1926

In a little more than three years after leading his high school to the state title, Barbee makes his major league debut against the Cleveland Indians ... with two on and two out in the top of the first inning, Barbee hits the second pitch thrown to him by Indian starter Garland Buckeye, over the head of centerfielder Tris Speaker for a triple and driving in a pair of runs to give the A's an early 2-0 lead ... in his second at bat, Barbee hits another drive to deep center that Speaker hustles to haul in ... goes 1-for-4 as Cleveland rallies for a 3-2 victory.

August 8, 1926

William Grant of the *Greensboro Daily News* writes, "if Barbee fails to remain in the majors, his downfall can be attributed to the fact that his limbs are out of order."

August 17, 1926

Barbee hits his first major league home run off of Cleveland left-hander Joe Shaute in second game of doubleheader sweep of the Indians ... Barbee goes 2-for-2 with two RBIs in a 6-4 win.

December 26, 1927

Philadelphia Athletics' manager Connie Mack announces that Barbee has been sold to the Portland Beavers of the Pacific Coast (AA) League, terms are not announced.

## Five Indians Suspended By Bill Klepper

Drinking Party Ends With  
Dave Barbee, Star Slugger,  
in Hospital With His  
Arm Broken.

Special to The Times.

SACRAMENTO, Tuesday, Oct. 2.—

A rookie catcher, a fair pitching staff, two outfielders and a few fill-ins will face the Sacramento Senators today in the critical three-game series that will either give the Solons the second half Coast League pennant or leave them in second place.

When the Seattle Indians arrived here yesterday, several members "threw a party" that ended with Dave Barbee, slugging outfielder, in the hospital with a broken arm and with five players, Barbee, Bernie Neis, Hap Collard, Kyle Graham and Eddie Ainsmith, suspended for the remainder of the season.

Klepper Acts Promptly.

Bill Klepper, president of the Tribe, who is here for the three-game series that winds up the Coast League season, promptly suspended the quintet, wrecking his club, when he heard of the party.

June 20, 1928

The Seattle Indians trade right-handed pitcher Jack Knight to the Portland Beavers for lefty Bert Cole and an outfielder to be named within 78 hours (three days).

June 22, 1928

Barbee is traded to the Seattle Indians as the "outfielder to be named later" in the Jack Knight for Bert Cole trade two days earlier.

June 29, 1928

Seattle Indians' President Bill Klepper telegraphs Barbee, who is five days late in joining the team, to report "immediately."

### ◀◀ October 1, 1928

On the night before a key series between Seattle and the Sacramento Solons, Barbee is involved in a "drunken brawl," and suffers a broken right arm ... Barbee, center fielder Bernie Neis, catcher Eddie Ainsworth and pitchers Karl Graham and "Hap" Collard are suspended for the remainder of the season and fined \$100 ... Sacramento enters the series with the last-place Indians tied with San Francisco for first place in second half of the season with identical 59-37 records ... both the Solons and the Seals will sweep their weekend series and finish the second half tied for first place with 62-37 records ... Sacramento wins the first two games in a best-of-three playoff to win the second half crown ... San Francisco will rebound to beat the Solons four-games-to-two to capture the PCL title.

October 2, 1928

Seattle President Bill Klepper reinstates Bernie Neis, Hap Collard and Eddie Ainsworth for the final three games of the season ... Dave Barbee and Karl Graham remain suspended as police charges are still pending against the duo.

February 20, 1929

Portland Indians president Tom Turner, who traded Barbee to Seattle the

## **Dave Barbee [4 of 6]:**

previous season, attempts to get Barbee back, offering 29-year-old pitcher Edwin Tomlin (9-8, 3.56) straight up for the slugging outfielder ... the proposed trade is turned down by Seattle.

February 24, 1929

Four days after Portland's attempt to re-acquire Barbee fails, defending PCL champion San Francisco attempts to convince Seattle to trade Barbee to the Seals ... Seattle president Bill Klepper responds, "Barbee is here to stay, no matter how much money they offer for him. We are building a first division baseball club and we certainly cannot do it by sacrificing our best hitter and biggest drawing card."

May 29, 1929

Barbee is "beaned" by Los Angeles Angels pitcher Harry Child and is carried off of the field ... Seattle gains a measure of revenge, posting a 7-0 win ... it marks the second beaning of the season for Barbee who was decked earlier in the season by Portland's Roy Mahaffey.

May 30, 1929

Nicknamed "Fried Chicken" by the Seattle media, Barbee returns to action the following day, playing briefly in both games of a doubleheader with the Angels, going 1-for-3 in the twin bill.

June 20, 1929

The Oakland Oaks win their 11th-straight game, beating the Seattle Indians 5-2 ... an ailing Barbee misses his first game of the season with an injury ... the *Seattle Daily Times* reports that Barbee "is so heavy" that his legs are giving him problems.

May 15, 1930

Despite losing his starting spot in the Seattle lineup, Barbee is the object of trade rumors with the Hollywood Stars ... mired in fifth place with an 18-18 mark, Seattle president Bill Klepper announces that the team will waive eight players and will entertain trade talks for Barbee ... Klepper wants \$10,000 for Barbee, Hollywood's Bill Lane offers \$5,000.

May 17, 1930

Reinstated into the starting lineup in time for that afternoon's game with Hollywood, Barbee goes 2-for-4 with a pair of home runs and two RBIs ... the Stars score twice in the bottom to pull out an 8-7 victory.

June 17, 1930

The Hollywood Stars are 32-40 and in sixth place, 11 games out of first-place, when owner Bill Lane announces that the team has purchased outfielder Dave Barbee from Seattle ... Lane signs Barbee to a unique contract, agreeing to pay both the travel and hotel bills for Barbee's wife on all of the team's road trips ... Hollywood is 32-40 and is in sixth place 11 games behind front-running Sacramento.

June 19, 1930

Barbee makes his Hollywood debut and wastes little time in making in presence felt, hitting a home run in an 11-7 loss to the Mission Reds.

July 3, 1930

Hollywood runs its winning streak to 10 in a row with a 9-1 win over Oakland ... Barbee hits a grand slam in the fifth inning - his ninth home run in 15 games with the Stars.

July 4, 1930

Hollywood extends its winning streak to 12 games with a double-header sweep of Oakland, 10-9, 2-1 ... Barbee hits his 10th home run in 17 games with the Stars ... Hollywood is 15-2 since Barbee joined the club on June 19th.

## Dave Barbee [5 of 6]:

October 19, 1930

Despite missing the final series of the regular season with a sprained ankle, Barbee finishes the season with a .325 average ... leads the league with 41 home runs and is fifth in RBIs with 155.

October 26, 1930

Hollywood, behind the slugging over outfielder Dave Barbee, beats Los Angeles 8-4 and defeats the Angels four games to one to win its second-consecutive PCL title ... Barbee goes 12-for-19 (.632) in the five games with four home runs.

April 14, 1931

Barbee is fined and suspended for breaking training rules the night before Hollywood's season opener.

June 2, 1931

It is reported that the National League's Brooklyn Robins are interested in acquiring Barbee and Seattle's Dutch Holland ... Barbee cannot be "delivered" until the end of the season ... Holland, another North Carolina product who played collegiately at NC State, will make it to the majors in 1932 with the Boston Braves.

September 30, 1931

Barbee is selected by the Pittsburgh Pirates in the Rule C draft at the annual major league draft meetings.

April 20, 1932

With Barbee in the running for Pittsburgh's starting left field position, Hollywood Stars manager Oscar Vitt tells the media that the Stars have put in the first claim on Barbee should he not make the Pirates' opening day roster.

May 3, 1932

In Pittsburgh's 8-6 loss to the visiting Chicago Cubs, Barbee pinch hits an eighth-inning home run off of Chicago right hander Bob Smith.

May 6, 1932

Three days later, Barbee goes 1-for-4 in his first start as a Pittsburgh Pirate in a 4-2 loss to the Philadelphia Phillies ... the loss drops the last-place Bucs' record to 7-13, but the 27-year-old Barbee gains the confidence of manager George Gibson and will start 64 of the Pirates' next 69 games until a knee injury forces him to the sidelines ... over that 69-game span the Bucs will go 44-25 and move into first place by four games.

### July 26, 1932 ▶▶

Hitting a solid .254 with five home runs and 46 RBIs, Barbee spikes his right leg diving for a line drive off the bat of New York Giant left fielder Chick Fullis and is carried from the field ... not able to return to the starting lineup for over two weeks, Barbee will go 4-for-5 as pinch hitter before getting his next start on August 15 ... without Barbee in the lineup, Pittsburgh goes 6-13 and drops into second place, a game-and-a-half behind the front-running Chicago Cubs.

### Pitt Pirates Release Benswanger and Barbee

PITTSBURGH, Feb. 15—(AP)—President William Benswanger of the Pittsburgh Pirates announced Tuesday Pitcher Erv Brame and outfielder Dave Barbee have been released to the Toronto ball club.

Brame was released outright but the Pirates retain an option on Barbee.

### ◀◀ February 14, 1932

Pittsburgh Pirate president William Benswanger announces that Barbee and pitcher Erv Brame have been released to the Toronto Maple Leafs of the International (AA) League ... the 30-year-old Brame was 3-1 with a 7.41 ERA for the Pirates in 1932 ... the Big Rock, Tenn., native is only two years removed from leading the National League in complete games with 22 ... a career .306 hitter in five major league seasons, Brame was a noted pinch-hitter, going 25-for-70 (.375) in that role during his five-year major league career.

### Dave Barbee Hurt In Pirate-Giant Game

POLO GROUNDS, New York, Tuesday, July 26.—Dave Barbee, formerly of the Seattle Indians, now left fielder of the league-leading Pittsburgh Pirates, wrenched his knee in the fourth inning of a game with the New York Giants today, and was carried from the field. A physician said he probably would be out of action for at least two weeks. Barbee was injured when he attempted a diving catch of a line drive off the bat of Chick Fullis.

## Dave Barbee (6 of 6):

July 19, 1935

With starter Eddie Harris on the injured list and also suspended for 10 days, Atlanta Crackers manager Eddie Moore announces the signing of Barbee to a contract ... Barbee hits only .178 in 12 games for the Crackers.

April 22, 1936

J.V. Hunt, manager of the Mock-Judson-Voehringer (Mojuds) team of the Greensboro Commercial League announces that former major leaguer Dave Barbee has started work at the Mojud plant and will play against High Point College during the upcoming weekend ... Barbee hits three home runs and a double in his Mojuds debut.

October 15, 1937

Scheduled to play a seven-game series for the championship of the Greensboro Commercial League, the Tower and McEwen Ho-siery teams decided to "call the whole thing off" after the ninth game ended in a tie - the fourth of the series ... McEwen had won three of the nine games, Tower two ... Tower player-manager Dave Barbee is 10-for-14 with five home runs.



DAVE BARBEE

Outfielder Dave Barbee, of the Pittsburgh Pirates, who has been a big factor in the rise of George Gibson's boys to a very serious contender for the National League pennant.

June 22, 1938

Barbee joins the Asheboro Eagles, the defending champions of the North Carolina's competitive semi-pro baseball leagues.

**February 18, 1942 ►►**

The Burlington Bees of the Bi-State announce the signing of manager Hal "Rube" Wilson and 37-year-old outfielder Dave Barbee to contracts for the 1942 season.

July 23, 1942

With the signing of 23-year-old Jim Mallory, the Bees announce that Barbee has been released at his own request ... Mallory bats .167 (2-for-12) in a brief four-game stint with the Washington Senators in 1940 ... called for induction into the armed services in April of 1942, Mallory is rejected for military service before signing with the Bees ... a teammate of Snuffy Stirnweiss while at the University of North Carolina, Mallory plays football for the Tar Heels and was the team captain in baseball.

## Leading Again



DAVE BARBEE

Harry Soufas and Dave Barbee had been staging a nip and tuck battle for home run honors in the Bi-State league and up until yesterday the two men had been tied at 17 each. Yesterday Barbee, who was the first man at bat in the fifth inning, broke the deadlock when he hit his 18th homer of the season. Soufas, who plays with Rocky Mount, failed to get a round tripper last night even though his mates did tek Leaksville, 3-1.