

Cups of Coffee: Cy Neighbors

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On April 29, 1908, Pittsburgh Pirates' rookie Cy Neighbors makes his major league debut replacing future Hall of Famer Fred Clarke in left field in the bottom of the ninth inning in the Bucs' 2-to-1 victory over the Chicago Cubs.

For the 27-year-old Neighbors, known for his size four shoe, that half inning in Chicago's West Side Grounds will be his only appearance in a major league game.

The Fayetteville, Missouri, native begins his professional baseball career in 1905 with the Duluth White Sox of the Northern (D) League. He hits .295 in 84 games for the White Sox before having his contract purchased in early August by the Toledo Mud Hens of the American (AA) Association where he hits .286 in 27 games.

A year later, playing for the Burlington Pathfinders, Neighbors captures his only league batting title pacing the Iowa State (D) League in both hitting (.320) and runs scored (96).

Over his next 12 seasons, Neighbors will hit .300 or better on six occasions, including a career-high .333 mark in 1910 with the Sioux City Packers.

During Pittsburgh's 1908 spring training camp in Hot Springs, Arkansas, Neighbors develops a bad case of blood poisoning and comes close to having his right hand amputated. Expected to make the Pirates' opening day roster, Neighbors' play was apparently less than sterling as evidenced by this article in the May 9, 1908, edition of *The Sporting Life*.

"The young man so admired by Southern correspondents, has not displayed talent up to the liking of the local management. Colonel Dreyfuss was heard to express regret over this fact. He wanted to keep the lad, but there were unmistakable defects so pronounced that one could not hope for a change inside of a year or two. Neighbors isn't a half bad ball player by any means, but as to being up to National League calibre there is decided doubt in the mind of the Pittsburgh owner. Chances are that a trade will be figured on ere long."

Neighbors finishes his baseball career with the Victoria Islanders in 1920. Over 13 minor league seasons, Neighbors fashions a .295 career batting average in 1,574 games. Following his playing days, Neighbors manages semipro teams in the state of Washington.

NEIGHBORS CHRONOLOGY

PORCUPINE BOOT LASTING

Baseball Player Goes 6200 Miles With Repaired Tire.

Cy Neighbors, baseball player, has just reported a run of 6200 miles on a tire repaired with a Porcupine boot. Neighbors had a blowout in one of the rear tires of his heavy touring car. He was miles from the nearest garage and had no spare, but he had a Porcupine boot in his kit; so he promptly fixed his blowout.

He had heard the boot was a permanent repair, but was skeptical, so took a note of his mileage register at the time, and a long time afterwards took another peep at the register, when he found to his astonishment that the boot had given 6200 extra miles to his tire.

"I'll say she's a permanent repair," said Cy.

April 29, 1908

Neighbors makes his major league debut with the Pittsburgh Pirates.

July 15, 1909

The American League's Detroit Tigers sign Neighbors and pitcher Bill Lelivelt from the Mobile Sea Gulls. Lelivelt debuts with the Tigers on July 19, while Neighbors' contract is sold to the Memphis Turtles of the Southern Association.

August 1910

Neighbors has a hit in eight straight plate appearances for the Sioux City Packers.

October 1910

Neighbors is one of two Sioux City players (Chick Hartman the other) to receive checks for \$50 from Bull Durham Tobacco Company for hitting company's billboard earlier in the season.

The "Bull Durham" signs (usually 25 feet high by 40 feet wide) are located in almost every minor league ballpark in the country during the 1910 season. The company

Cy Neighbors Major League Debut
April 29, 1908

CUBS LOSE TO PIRATES.

Chicago, April 30.—After waiting four days of cold and rain to get a crack at the Pirates, the Cubs won a ball game from them in eight and one-half innings yesterday, and lost it again in the ninth after two men were out. Score:

PITTSBURGH.					CHICAGO.								
Player	R.	B.	P.	O.	A.	E.	Player	R.	B.	P.	O.	A.	E.
Brocker, rf.	1	1	2	1	0	0	Slagle, cf.	0	0	2	0	0	0
Leach, 3b.	1	1	3	0	0	0	Shuck'd, lf.	0	0	3	0	1	0
Clarke, lf.	0	0	0	0	0	0	Shulte, rf.	0	1	0	0	0	0
Neigh's, lf.	0	0	0	0	0	0	Chance, 1b.	0	1	1	0	0	0
Wag'rs, ss.	0	1	2	3	0	0	Hoff'n, 1b.	0	0	0	1	0	
Abby, 2b.	0	0	2	5	0	0	Stan'ld, 3b.	0	1	1	4	0	
Swac'a, 1b.	0	0	0	0	0	0	Evans, 2b.	1	1	1	4	0	
Wilson, cf.	0	0	1	0	0	0	Tinker, ss.	0	0	3	2	0	
Leid'g, ss.	0	0	0	0	0	0	Kling, c.	0	0	6	1	0	
Gibson, c.	0	1	8	1	1	0	Peister, p.	0	0	0	4	0	
Cam'tz, p.	0	0	0	4	0	0							
*Phelps	...	0	0	0	0	0							
**O'Con'r	...	0	1	0	0	0							
Totals	...	2	5	27	14	2	Totals	...	1	1	27	15	1

*Batted for Camnitz in ninth. **Batted for Clarke in ninth.

Score by Innings—

Pittsburgh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2-3
Chicago	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0-1

Two-base hit: Shulte. Base on balls: Off Camnitz 6, off Peister 1. Struck out: By Camnitz 4, by Peister 2. Double plays: Steinfeld, Evans. Chance: Wagner, Abbatchio, Swadina. Time of game: 1:28. Umpires: Rialer and Rudderham.

Cy Neighbors
1912 Tacoma Tigers



Cy Neighbors [2 of 2]:

offered a \$50 reward to any hitter who had a "fairly hit" ball off the sign. In addition, any player hitting a home run in a park sporting a Bull Durham sign received a five pound carton of tobacco.

With Bull Durham billboards being hit 86 times and an estimated 2,000 home run totaled, \$4,300 in cash and about 10,000 pounds of North Carolina tobacco was awarded that summer.



Snitz Applegate
1907 Toronto Maple Leafs

June 27, 1911
Playing for the Sioux City Packers, Neighbors breaks his left arm when he is hit by a Snitz Applegate pitch in the first inning of a 8-1 win over the visiting Lincoln Railsplitters.

June 21, 1912
After striking out in the second inning of Tacoma's 9-1 loss to Portland, Neighbors protests so vigorously that he is fined

\$5 and confined to the bench. Continuing to complain, Neighbors is then fined another \$5 by the game's umpire and ejected from the grounds.

November 7, 1912

Prior to leaving for the annual minor league meetings, Tacoma Tigers' President Edward Watkins announces that he is willing to sell Neighbors for \$500 despite the fact that he is coming off a season where he hit .305 with a career-high 11 home runs.

January 14, 1915

Coming off a .315 season with 25 doubles and four home runs, Neighbors is traded to the Spokane Indians for outfielder Bill Hogan (.314, 3 home runs).

May 2, 1916

Spokane Indians' manager Nick Williams give Neighbors his unconditional release. Neighbors reports to Seattle Giants immediately.

March 8, 1918

Neighbors is mailed a contract by the Indianapolis Indians of the American Association. He does not sign the contract choosing to return to the Spokane Indians.

April 15, 1919

Neighbors is named the field captain of the Spokane City League's United Clothes Shop team.

August 2, 1920

On the strength of 12 "scratch hits and Texas Leaguers," the Victoria Islanders hand the visiting Vancouver Beavers a 7-0 setback. The lucky Islanders announce that they have released pitcher Gus Davis and 39-year-old outfielder Cy Neighbors.

May 20, 1964

Neighbors dies in Tacoma, Washington, at the age of 83.

Cy Neighbors Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Lev	AB	HT	2B	3B	HR	AVG	
1905	2 Teams	2 Leagues	D-AA	443	130	2	0	0	.293	
1905	Duluth White Sox	Northern	D	352	104	0	0	0	.295	
1905	Toledo Mud Hens	American Assoc.	AA	91	26	2	0	0	.286	
1906	Burlington Pathfinders	Iowa	D	503	161	-	-	-	.320	
1907	Memphis Egyptians	Southern	A	501	134	-	-	-	.267	
1908	Kansas City Blues	American Assoc.	AA	452	128	18	2	1	.283	
1908	Pittsburgh Pirates	NATIONAL	ML	0	0	0	0	0	.000	
1909	3 Teams	2 Leagues	A	358	84	3	0	1	.235	
1909	Kansas City Blues	American Assoc.	A	84	21	3	0	1	.250	
1909	Memphis, Mobile	Southern	A	274	63	-	-	-	.230	
1909	Sedalia Cubs	Ind.	Ind.	-	-	-	-	-	---	
1910	Sioux City Packers	Western	A	618	206	35	4	4	.333	
1911	Sioux City Packers	Western	A	406	131	20	7	1	.323	
1912	Tacoma Tigers	Northwestern	B	627	191	17	2	11	.305	
1913	Tacoma Tigers	Northwestern	B	557	160	9	10	4	.287	
1914	Tacoma Tigers	Northwestern	B	550	173	25	4	4	.315	
1915	Spokane Indians	Northwestern	B	533	164	23	7	1	.308	
1916	2 Teams	Northwestern	B	134	24	-	-	-	.179	
1916	Spokane Seattle	Northwestern	B	134	24	-	-	-	.179	
1918	2 Teams	1 League	B	96	24	3	0	0	.250	
1918	Spokane, Vancouver	Pacific Coast Int.	B	96	24	3	0	0	.250	
1919	United Clothes Shop	Spokane City	Ind.	-	-	-	-	-	---	
1920	Victoria Islanders	Pacific Coast Int.	B	91	24	4	0	0	.264	
1921	Manitou Tigers	Tacoma City S-Pro	-	-	-	-	-	-	---	
Minor League Totals				13 Seasons	5869	1734	159	36	27	.295

League Leader: 1906:Iowa State League, Batting Average (.320); Runs Scored (96)
1910: Western League, Hits (206)

Cecil F. (Cy) Neighbors, 83, former outfielder in the old Northwestern and Pacific Coast International leagues, died at Tacoma, Wash., May 20.

After breaking into the game in 1909, Neighbors played with Tacoma, Spokane, Great Falls and Victoria, B. C., from 1912 to 1921.

He was with Tacoma for three seasons and hit .305, .287 and .315. After his retirement from O. B., he played and managed in the Tacoma City League. Last February, he was inducted into the Tacoma-Pierce County Sports Hall of Fame.

A carpenter by trade, Neighbors was one of the workmen who helped build Cheney Stadium in 1960.