

### DECEMBER 1, 1909

The Columbus (Ga.) Foxes sell popular catcher Herbert Smith to the Fort Wayne Billikens of the Central (B) League. The light-hitting Smith (.226) had requested the deal, telling Columbus manager Jim Fox that his wife refuses to return to the South for another season.

### DIDN'T LIKE THE SOUTH

SO HERBERT SMITH, CATCHER,  
SIGNS WITH LOCAL CLUB.

Playing for the Norfolk Tars a year earlier, the light-hitting Muncie, Indiana, native garners the attention of major league scouts (despite a less-than-sterling .227 batting average). *The Norfolk Landmark* says, "Big Herb Smith is attracting the attention of major league clubs. It has been leaked out the scouts have been on the scene."

Repeated efforts to determine how Smith fared during the 1910 season proved fruitless.

### CHICAGO UNIVERSITY BASEBALL TEAM BACK FROM ITS WORLD TOUR

### DECEMBER 30, 1915

The University of Chicago baseball team returns from a four-month foreign tour and is met at the train station by a few hundred Maroon "shouters." The majority of games

are played in Japan where Pat Ryan's Southsiders wins 21 straight games. Earlier the college nine dropped a half dozen matches to better talented teams in Honolulu and Manila.

### DECEMBER 13, 1933

Twenty-seven year old shortstop Gus McIsaac, who hit .262 in 89 games for the Western (A) League's St. Joseph Saints the previous summer, announces in Los Angeles that he is now a free agent. Finding the field of suitors a wee bit thin for a light-hitting middle infielder, McIsaac, previously called "one of the best infielders in the minors," by the *Dallas Morning News*, re-signs with the Saints and hits .273 in his final season.

### DECEMBER 3, 1939

Baseball Commissioner K.M. Landis announces that Robert S. Tarleton, the Director of Minor League Operations for the Chicago White Sox, has been placed on the ineligible list for an indefinite period.

Landis says that an investigation has revealed that Tarleton, while the Business Manager of the Texas League's Dallas Steers in 1937 and 1938, certified "a notorious gambler and bookmaker" as a scout for professional baseball. Tarleton, who was with the Steers for 10 years, is succeeded by Billy Webb

Almost one year later to the day (December 5, 1940), Tarleton is restored to the good graces of professional baseball by Landis and accepts a position as Business Manager of the Northern League's Eau Claire Bears. On November 3, 1941, Tarleton is named as assistant general manager of the St. Paul Saints.

### DECEMBER 8, 1941

Frank Lawrence owner of the Portsmouth Cubs of the Piedmont League says a two-hour daylight savings plan would help baseball during the duration of World War II. "I feel confident that if I could talk to President Roosevelt for five minutes, I could convince him that daylight saving should be on a two-hour basis next summer."