

Carson Hodge, "Tight times in the Nutmeg League"

©DiamondsintheDusk.com

On August 15, 1906, at a meeting of Connecticut League officials, veteran Holyoke (Mass.) Paperweights pitcher Carson "C.C." Hodge, just two years removed from a 24-win season, is sold to league rival New Haven for princely sum of 25 cents.

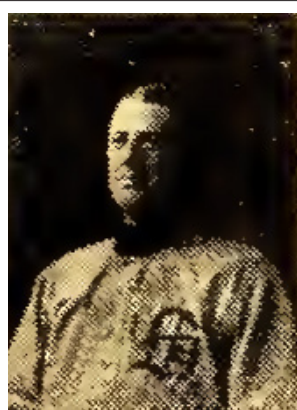
Holyoke manager Tommy Dowd refuses to comply with the arrangement and three days later on August 18, the 26-year-old right-hander returns to the mound for the Paperweights, striking out a season-high nine batters in a 5-1 complete game loss to the visiting Norwich Reds.

Norwich goes on to capture its second Connecticut League pennant in eight years with a 72-53 record. However financial troubles catch up with the Reds and less than four months later on December 4, the entire franchise is sold at public auction for 25 dollars (\$610.00 in today's money)

Signing with Connie Mack's Philadelphia Athletics directly from the sandlots of Philadelphia, Hodge begins his professional career with the Meridan Silver Citys in 1901. In 1902 and 1903, Hodge wins a combined 34 games for Meridan, pitching 604 innings and completing 64 of 67 starts.

At the end of the 1903 season, Meridan sells Hodge to the Newark Sailors of the highly-competitive Eastern (A) League. Hodge continues his iron man competition, completing all three of his starts despite posting a 0-2-1 mark.

Hodge's career-best season comes in 1905, when pitching for Holyoke, he is 24-9 and leads the Connecticut State (B) League in wins and winning percentage (.727). Hodge will win 63 games in his four seasons with the Paperweights.



Carson Hodge
1907 Holyoke Paperweights

PITCHER SOLD FOR ONE LONE QUARTER

Twenty-five-Cent Player Refuses to Be Transferred, and War Cloud Hovers.

New Haven, Conn., Aug. 23.—The lowest price ever paid for the release of a baseball pitcher is believed to be the consideration paid by C. J. Danher of the New Haven team to J. J. Madison, president of the Holyoke, Mass., club, for the transfer of Carson C. Hodge, the Holyoke pitcher, to the New Haven team.

"What is your price for Hodge?" said Danher to Madison at the league meeting.

"I will sell him for a quarter," said Madison.

"Taken," said Danher, and Madison wrote on the back of an envelope: "I hereby sell Carson C. Hodge to C. J. Danher for the sum of 25 cents."

He signed the contract, Danher paid the quarter and the deal closed. Now Hodge refuses to abide by the arrangement and Tommy Dowd, the team captain, is backing him up. A league complication is likely to result.

Carson Hodge Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Level	W-L	G	CG	SHO	INN	H	BB	SO
1901	Meriden Silver Citys	Connecticut State	F	2-5	7	7	1	61	62	17	17
1902	Meriden Silverites	Connecticut State	D	15-18	33	33	2	308	312	65	72
1903	2 Teams	Connecticut/Eastern	D/A	19-16-1	38	34	2	320	264	68	98
	Meriden Silverites	Connecticut State	D	19-14	34	31	2	296	236	63	90
	Newark Sailors	Eastern League	A	0-2-1	3	3	0	24	28	5	8
1904	2 Teams	Connecticut	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	65	83
	Meriden Silverites	Connecticut State	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Holyoke Paperweights	Connecticut State	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	65	83
1905	Holyoke Paperweights	Connecticut State	B	24-9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1906	Holyoke Paperweights	Connecticut State	B	10-15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1907	Holyoke Paperweights	Connecticut State	B	18-10	28	-	-	-	-	-	-
1908	Holyoke Paperweights	Connecticut State	B	11-18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1909	New Britain Perfectos	Connecticut State	B	6-5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Minor League Totals		9 Years	-	105-96	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Bold denotes led league

Hodge closes out his career in 1909 with the New Britain Perfectos, winning six games while losing five. A notoriously bad hitter, Hodge closes out his final season with one hit in 35 at bats (.029).

Hodge's futility with the bat is so well known around the "Nutmeg" League that on July 28, 1907, the *Bridgeport Herald* opines:

"Carson Hodge of Holyoke is the poorest hitter of the pitchers in the Connecticut league"

Hodge 1 of 3: