

Pinch Hits, "Scottdale Scotties & Diamond Ring Denied"

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JULY 6, 1925

Hindered by an unwieldy five-team configuration, Mid-Atlantic League president Ray Archibald announces that the Pennsylvania mill town of Scottdale has been granted membership in the league and will begin play within six days.



In May of 1917, Scott Perry is sold by the Atlanta Crackers to the National League's Boston Braves for \$2,000 ... after 17 days of "bench duty" Perry deserts the Braves on June 17, signing with a semipro team in Joliet, Illinois ... in 1918, Perry signs with the Philadelphia Athletics of the American League in violation of a National Commission ruling which labels him an "outlaw" ... Perry wins 20 games with a 1.98 ERA for the A's

With the addition of Scottdale, the league changes to a split season with the second half beginning with Scottdale's debut game at first-place Johnstown on Sunday, July 12.

The town's successful semipro team will form the basis for the Mid-Atlantic League's newest entry. With its semipro team moving up to minor league status, the town's Baseball Association votes unanimously to withdraw its membership from the region's semipro ranks.

However the Scotties will need a new manager as its current field boss, former major league pitcher Scott Perry, is considered an "outlaw" by organized baseball for jumping a contract and will not be allowed on the field. Perry is succeeded by Joe Broadway.

The team will continue to play in its current uniforms but attempts are made to acquire new players to better compete in what baseball historian Robert Obojski in his book *Bush League: A History of Minor League Baseball*, calls "the toughest Class C circuit in the history of organized baseball."

As if playing in one of the better Class C minor leagues on a six-day notice isn't tough enough for what is basically a semipro team, Scotland is scheduled to play 59 games over 59 consecutive days.

Scottdale begins league play on July 12, with a 7-3 loss at Johnstown, and just to welcome the Scotties to the minor leagues of 1921, nine Scottdale and 13 Johnstown players are arrested after the game for playing baseball on the Sabbath.

NOVEMBER 3, 1907

Success is fleeting as Alex J. Lawson finds out.

Lawson, the founder and former president of the fledgling Western Pennsylvania League and former manager of the league's Butler franchise, is barred from baseball by the National Association of Base Ball Leagues.

The commission's charge against Lawson is that he had promised a diamond ring to any "lady of Butler" who sold the most season tickets in a pre-season fund raising drive, but then failed to deliver the ring to the winner.

Dissatisfaction with Lawson leadership of the league begins even before opening day, when he attempts to interfere with some of the team's scheduling of profitable exhibition games. On May 1, the league's opening day, the *Uniontown Morning Herald* opines: "When Czar Lawson begins to use his executive influence to benefit his own team at the expense of other clubs in the organization he may look for trouble."

On May 14, disgruntled owners replace Lawson as the league's president with Charles B. Powers of Pittsburgh. Over the next couple of years, Lawson reemerges several times attempting to form "outlaw" leagues such as the Eastern Association in New York and the Tri-State Association, an eight-team circuit in Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia and Pennsylvania.

SCOTSDALE GETS BERTH IN THE MID-ATLANTIC BASEBALL LEAGUE

Season Split in Half, First Half Ending Saturday. Scottdale to Play First League Game on Sunday, Pres. Archibald Announces.

ALEX LAWSON IS BARRED FROM GAME

BUTLER MANAGER WILL NEVER MORE FIND EASY PICKING IN WEST PENN LEAGUE

Alexander Lawson, last year manager of the Butler baseball team of the P .O. M. league, who made a bunch of money from the start and who killed the game by stunts that would have done credit to a Mugsy McGraw, will never more appear in the role of a manager. He has been barred from organized baseball. At the meeting of the National Commission in New York recently this action was taken.

Last season Lawson offered a diamond ring to the lady of Butler who would sell the most tickets for a benefit game. The ring was never delivered to the popular girl who came out ahead and that charge was brought up against him.