

Billy Hulen, "aka Billy Hamilton"

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One of baseball's more enigmatic characters, William Franklin (Billy) Hulen makes his major league debut with the Philadelphia Phillies on May 2, 1896 ... pinch hitting for starting second baseman Billy Hallman, Hulen goes 0-2 in a 15-10 loss to the New York Giants before 8,650 in Philadelphia's Baker Bowl.

Hulen is a rarity, a left-handed throwing infielder whose 73 games at shortstop in 1896 remains the single-season major league record ... in two seasons with the Phillies (1896) and the Washington Senators

(1899). the Dixon, California, native will hit .246 with an on base percentage of .350, but make 66 errors in only 107 major league games.

Hulen also gains national notoriety in 1906 when he mysteriously disappears without a trace for over a year.

Following a solid season for the Everett Smokestackers of the Northwestern (B) League in 1905, Hulen is working on a mining claim near Eureka, California, when he disappears during a trip to Seattle in February 1906 ... planning to stop in Ashland, Oregon, to visit his wife, Hulen disappears ... his luggage is traced to Denver, but following an extensive search, no further information is forthcoming as to his whereabouts.

In September 1907, Hulen reemerges in Alberta, Canada, playing minor

Hulen Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Level	HITS	HR	AVG
1892	Los Angeles Seraphs	California	B	168	3	.251
1893	Los Angeles Angels	California	N/A	116	1	.289
1894	Minneapolis Minnies	Western	N/A	184	17	.340
1895	San Francisco	California Winter	Wtr	21	2	.368
1895	Minneapolis Millers	Western	A	195	8	.369
1896	Philadelphia Phillies	NATIONAL	ML	90	0	.265
1897	Columbus Senators	Western	A	163	6	.292
1898	Columbus Buckeyes	Western	A	137	5	.276
1899	Washington Senators	NATIONAL	ML	10	0	.147
1899	Kansas City Blues	Western	A			
1900	Pueblo Indians	Western	B	81	1	.318
1901	Colorado Springs Millionaires	Western	A			
1902	Salt Lake City Lagoons	Inter-Mountain	Ind.			
1902	Sacramento Gilt Edges	California	Ind.	38		.235
1902	Seattle Clamdiggers	Pacific Northwest	B	27		.267
1903	Seattle Chinookc	Pacific National	A	134	1	.285
1905	Everett Smokestackers	Northwestern	B	101	1	.296
1907	Medicine Hat Hatters	Western Canada	D	94		.319
1908	Spokane Indians	Northwestern	B	125	1	.237
1909	Medicine Hat Hatters	Western Canada	D	14	0	.203

league baseball under the alias of Billy Hamilton ... playing second base for the Medicine Hat Hatters of the Western Canada (D) League, Hulen hits .319 in 87 games in 1907 ... it is also reported that Hulen is one of the proprietors of Noble's Hotel in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Hulen's wife of 11 years, Blanche, begins divorce proceedings in March 1907, citing desertion.

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FORMER SPRINGS MANAGER MISSING

MAN WHO "DID" THE MERCHANTS HAS VAMOOSED FROM HOME IN ASHLAND, OREGON.

"Billy" Hulen, who was shortstop and manager of the first Western league baseball team in Colorado Springs, five years ago, is missing and his relatives have written to this city asking for in-



"BILLY" HULEN.

formation as to his whereabouts. He has been missing from his home in Ashland, Oregon, since February 29, and no trace of him can be found.

Hulen is well known in the Springs—and a number of business men here know him to their sorrow. It is alleged that when Hulen placed Colorado Springs on the Western league map, he collected thousands of dollars from the Chamber of Commerce, Merchants association and local business men for the purpose of supporting the team. At the time he collected the money, he promised to bring a team here which would eat up everything in the league. Hulen then got together a lot of scrub players, and even played local school boys in the outfield. When the season was over, Hulen left town with a neat bank account, selling the franchise to Tom Burus.

Billy Hulen [2 of 2]:

In 1908, Hulen returns to the United States to be a player/manager with the Spokane Indians of the Northwestern (B) League ... he hits a mediocre .237 with 11 doubles, six triples and one home run in 141 games and is replaced during the season as manager by Edward Quinn.

Hulen the Owner

On February 12, 1900, Hulen becomes an owner of a professional baseball team when Pueblo, Colorado is admitted to the Western League and the franchise is granted to Hulen ... player/manager/owner Hulen directs the Indians to a 41-64 record and a last-place finish, 20 games behind league champion Denver.

At the end of the 1900 season, an attempt is made to transfer Hulen's Pueblo franchise to Sioux City, Iowa ... however, fundraising falls \$600 shy and plans for a downtown ball park stall so Hulen moves his franchise to Colorado Springs for a reported \$7,000.

In April 1901, Hulen, now the player/manager/owner for the Colorado Springs Millionaires, announces that he is suing the Western (A) League owners because they will not allow him to sell a 50 percent interest in the team to newly-acquired catcher Tim Donahue.

Hulen is later accused by town's Chamber of Commerce of bilking the city out of thousands of dollars ... promising to field a team that will finish at the top of the league, Hulen instead fields a team of "scrubs" and high school players ... the Millionaires finish 45-73 and in last place, 31 1/2 games behind the first-place Kansas City Blues ... Hulen sells the team to Tom Burns and leaves town.

On September 13, following an 11-5 loss to St. Paul, the *Colorado Springs Gazette* admits that the rapid and continuous change in team personnel leaves the paper guessing as to the players' first names ... the Gazette asks readers to support the high school and local college teams because they "won't sell off their best men."

Hulen Ownership Record

1900	Pueblo6 of 6	41-64
1901	Colorado Springs8 of 8	45-73

Billy Hulen
Major League Debut, May 2, 1896

New York 15, Philadelphia 10.
PHILADELPHIA, May 2—The New York team won its second game of the season today, defeating the Phillies by the score of 15 to 10. The contest was marked by free hitting, in which the visitors did the better work. The score:

NEW YORK	AB	R	BH	TB	PO	A	E
Fuller s	4	3	0	0	3	3	1
Van Haltren m	5	2	2	6	8	0	0
G Davis 3	4	1	1	1	2	2	0
Tierman r	6	0	2	3	2	1	0
Gleason 2	8	3	5	5	2	4	0
Stafford l	3	3	2	4	3	0	1
H Davis 1	5	2	3	6	9	1	0
Doheny p	3	1	1	1	1	1	0
Farrell c	6	0	1	2	2	1	0
Totals	41	15	17	25	27	13	2

PHILADELPHIA	AB	R	BH	TB	PO	A	E
Sullivan m	5	1	0	0	5	0	1
Delehanty l	5	2	2	2	6	0	0
Thompson r	5	1	3	3	2	1	0
Brothers 1	2	1	1	1	8	0	0
Grady c	4	2	3	5	2	1	0
Cross s	5	0	0	0	1	1	0
Hallman 2	2	1	0	0	1	1	0
Hulen 2	2	0	0	0	1	1	0
Nash 3	4	0	2	2	1	1	0
Carsey p	3	2	3	4	0	3	0
Taylor p	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
Totals	38	10	15	18	27	9	1

Innings.....1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
New York0 1 0 0 6 0 4 2 2—15
Philadelphia5 0 1 2 0 0 2 0 0—10

Earned runs, New York 9, Philadelphia 4.
Home run, Van Haltren. Three-base hits, H. Davis, Stafford. Two-base hits, H. Davis, Farrell, Van Haltren, Tierman, Grady 2, Carsey. Sacrifice hits, Sullivan, Carsey, Stafford. Stolen bases, Grady, Hallman, Doheny. First base on balls, by Doheny, Delehanty, Brothers 3, Grady, Nash, by Carsey, Fuller, Van Haltren, G. Davis 2, Stafford, Doheny 2, by Taylor, Fuller. First base on errors, New York, Philadelphia. Hit by pitched ball, by Doheny, Hallman. Struck out, by Carsey, Doheny. Double play, Fuller, Gleason and H. Davis. Umpire, Henderson. Time 2h 7m. Attendance, 3050.

Returning to Medicine Hat as a player/manager in 1909, Hulen is hitting .203 (14-for-69) in 20 games when in early July he suffers a career-ending eye injury ... Hamilton/Hulen is struck in the left eye by a foul tip from his own bat and has to have it removed after it bursts.

In February 1897, a 27-year-old Hulen is named the head baseball coach at Santa Clara University in California ... Hulen will coach two seasons at Santa Clara, guiding the Broncos to a 6-5 mark in 1897, their first year of intercollegiate baseball, and a 9-5 record in 1900.

In April 1902, Hulen draws his release from the Salt Lake City Lagoons of the Inter-Mountain League after being promised a \$200 monthly salary by the Sacramento Gilt Edges of the California League ... however, he is detained in the Utah city after he refuses to pay the Lagoons \$50 in advanced expense money ... eventually a suit is brought against Hulen for \$1,233.70 by the team ... Hulen is later released by Gilt Edges on June 30.

Following his retirement from baseball, Hulen makes his home in Portland, Oregon ... he dies in Petaluma, California, at the age of 77 on October 2, 1947, while visiting relatives.