

May 8, 1921

Spiked Baseballs

On May 8, 1921, during a Southern League game between Mobile and Little Rock, several baseballs with nails driven into them are discovered at Mobile's Monroe Park. The nails are small and barely discernible to the human eye.

It is determined that the added weight on one side of the ball will allow the pitcher to "do all sorts of funny things."

Several hard hit balls cause the nails to protrude. Mobile players claim to know nothing about the balls or how they got put into play and team president John D. Logan promises a "full investigation."

Two months later, Mobile pitcher Jesse Sigman, the prime suspect in the ball tampering incident, "jumps" his contract to join an independent club in Sallisaw, Oklahoma, and is suspended by the team and fined \$250. Considered one of the top southpaws in the Southern Association, Sigman is 13-10 at the time of his departure.

WHAT NEXT? SPIKE BALL DOWN SOUTH SO IT'LL ACT FUNNY

Mobile, Ala., May 9.—Spiked baseballs have been discovered at the Mobile Southern Association Park, according to President John D. Logan, who has taken the matter up with President John D. Martin at Memphis and National Commissioner Landis at Chicago.

The balls were found after the Mobile-Little Rock game Friday, but the discovery of nails driven into them was not made until Sunday. The nail in each instance is a small long wire one, driven into the stitches, and the ball had to be examined closely to find it. It is claimed that the added weight of the nail in one side enabled a pitcher to make the ball do all sorts of funny things. The Mobile players claim that they did not put the balls into play and how they got into the game is yet to be determined. President Logan stated he would demand a full investigation.

A Pitchers Battle

Mobile, May 6.—Little Rock made it three out of four today by defeating Mobile, 3—2. Sigman was outpitched by Jonnard in the pinches.

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Little Rock ..	000	300	000—3 6 0
Mobile ..	000	011	000—2 5 0

Jonnard and Land; Sigman, Utt and Pond.