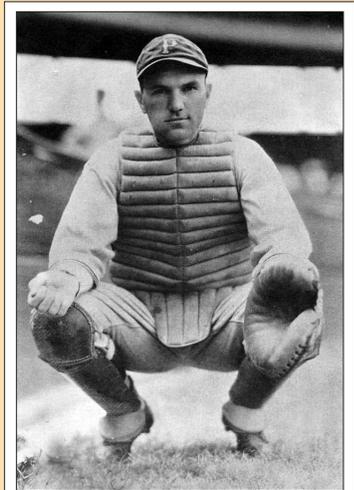


# Pinch Hits, "Hitless Hal & Bartunek to Boston"

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## HAL FINNEY

On September 27, 1936, in Pittsburgh's season finale, 28-year-old backup catcher Hal Finney goes hitless in three at bats in a 6-5 loss to the Cincinnati Reds and in the process establishes a major league record for the most hitless at bats in a season by a position player.



Hal Finney  
1933 Pittsburgh Pirates

|                              |               |        |
|------------------------------|---------------|--------|
| Bats: Right                  | Throws: Right |        |
| Height: 5-11                 | Weight: 170   |        |
| Born: 7-7-05 Lafayette, Ala. |               |        |
| Harold Wilson                |               |        |
| "Hal"                        |               |        |
| <b>FINNEY</b>                |               |        |
| (S) Catcher (6)              |               |        |
| 11- 9                        | 31- 13        | 51- 13 |
| 12- 25                       | 32- 26        | 52- 27 |
| 13- 32                       | 33- 38        | 53- 18 |
| 14- 30                       | 34- 31        | 54- 32 |
| 15- 13                       | 35- 30        | 55- 13 |
| 16- 28                       | 36- 33        | 56- 34 |
| 21- 30                       | 41- 12        | 61- 24 |
| 22- 13                       | 42- 32        | 62- 27 |
| 23- 27                       | 43- 29        | 63- 32 |
| 24- 29                       | 44- 13        | 64- 29 |
| 25- 13                       | 45- 36        | 65- 35 |
| 26- 24                       | 46- 30        | 66- 8  |
| 2-4                          |               |        |

Hal Finney  
1936 APBA Card

The Lafayette, Alabama, native finishes his final major league season 0-for-35, far eclipsing the existing mark of 21 hitless at bats set by Ed Whitting of the National League's Washington Nationals in 1886. Coupled with an 0-for-7 streak to close out the 1933 season three years earlier, Finney ends his five-year major league career hitless in his last 42 at bats and lowers his major league career batting average from .249 to .203.

After hitting .279 with 12 doubles and two home runs in 1934 with the International (AA) League's Albany Senators, Finney is driving a tractor on his dad's farm near Buffalo, Alabama, when a broken tree limb strikes Finney in the forehead fracturing his skull and forcing him to sit out the entire 1935 season.

Continuing to have problems seeing the ball because a crushed cheek bone is impinging on his optic nerve he elects to have surgery to relieve the pressure, but the problem persists. On December 5, 1936, the Oklahoma City Indians announce the purchase of Finney's contract from the Pirates but prior to the Indians' spring training camp the following April, Finney informs the team that he wishes to be placed on the voluntarily retired list, effectively ending his career.

Finney's "record" stands for 75 years before Eugenio Velez of the Los Angeles Dodgers manages an 0-for-37 season in 2011.

## Giants top Braves in 13th by 1 to 0

BOSTON. (AP). The second game of a doubleheader between the Braves and the New York Giants was called at the end of the seventh inning because of darkness with the score tied 2-2 after the New Yorkers had registered a 1-0 13-inning victory in the opener.

|             |            |             |            |
|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| New York    | ab h o a l | Boston      | ab h o a l |
| Rucker cf   | 6 2 3 0    | Culler ss   | 6 1 7 3    |
| Hausm'n 2b  | 6 1 3 2    | Wiel'm'n 2b | 4 0 3 3    |
| Mead rf     | 4 0 5 1    | Holmes lf   | 6 4 2 0    |
| Gardella lf | 3 0 6 0    | Workman rf  | 6 0 5 0    |
| Kluttz c    | 4 1 4 2    | Wentzel cf  | 6 0 4 0    |
| Zim'r'n 1b  | 5 1 10 3   | Nelson 3b   | 6 0 1 1    |
| Kerr ss     | 5 0 5 3    | Masi c      | 5 2 5 2    |
| Reyes 3b    | 5 1 3 3    | Shupe 1b    | 4 3 10 2   |
| DFisher p   | 5 0 0 3    | Wallace p   | 2 0 2 1    |
|             |            | Nieman      | 1 0 0 0    |
|             |            | Hendr'son p | 1 0 0 0    |

Totals 43 6 39 17 Totals 47 10 39 12  
Nieman batted for Wallace in the ninth  
New York ..... 000 000 000 000 1-1  
Boston ..... 000 000 000 000 0-0

Runs: Reyes. Errors: Hausmann. D. Fisher. Runs batted in: Reyes. Two base hit: Rucker. Hausmann. Masi. Home run: Reyes. Sacrifice: Wallace. Double play: Kluttz to Kerr; Shupe to Culler to Wallace. Left on base: New York, 7; Boston, 12. Base on balls: Off D. Fisher, 3; Wallace, 3; Hendrickson, 1. Struck out: By D Fisher, 2; Wallace, 2; Hendrickson, 1. Hits: Off Wallace, 4 in 9 innings; Hendrickson, 2 in 4. Losing pitcher: Hendrickson.

## DON FISHER

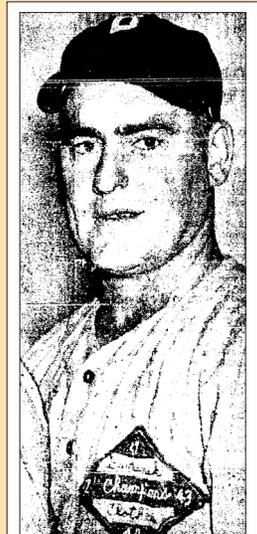
On September 30, 1945, on the final day of the season, 29-year-old New York Giants rookie pitcher Don Fisher makes his first and only major league start one to remember as he whitewashes the Boston Braves, 1-0, in 13 innings in the first game of a scheduled National League doubleheader.

A 6-foot, 210-pound right-hander, Fisher teams with catcher and Catawba College product Clyde Kluttz in the 10-hit shutout, walking three and striking out two in what turns out to be his lone appearance in the major leagues. A standout sandlot pitcher for 10 years in his native Cleveland, Fisher is 21-3 in two seasons with the Cleveland Baseball Federation (CBF) champion Bartunek Clothes team when he signs a Giants' contract on August 21.

Fisher, a "trouble-shooter" in his day job for the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, was once property of the Cleveland Indians. In 1938 he spends a month with the Fargo-Morehead team in the Northern League before returning home.

Fisher will pitch one more season in organized baseball, compiling a 3-8 mark over 30 appearances in 1946, splitting time between the Jersey City Giants of the International (AAA) League and the Columbus Red Birds of the American (AAA) Association.

Fisher dies on July 29, 1973, at the age of 57 in Mayfield Heights, Ohio.



Don Fisher  
1945 Bartunek Clothes