

Ballinger Cats
outfielder

James "Stormy"
Davis, dies in a

Sweetwater, Texas, hospital from a brain hemorrhage resulting from an injury received a week earlier when he is struck in the head by a pitched ball in a Class D Longhorn League game with the Sweetwater Sports.

Ballinger Cat Player, 'Stormy' Davis, Dies



On July 3, in a 10-6 loss to the Sports, Davis is hit behind the left ear on a pitch thrown by Sweetwater's Stan "Midnight" Wilson. Davis is immediately taken to the Sweetwater Hospital where emergency surgery is performed by Dr. Albert D'Drico, a Dallas specialist who finds "no evidence of a blood clot but rather swollen tissues."

For the next six days Davis shows steady improvement and the 20-year-old Mobile, Alabama, native is conscious and talking with his nurse only moments before he dies. Davis is hitting .333 with eight doubles, 19 home runs and 64 RBIs in 48 games for the Cats at the time of the injury and is tied with Sweetwater's Bob Cowsar for the league lead in homers.

In his first season of professional baseball, Davis had reported to the Dallas Rebels' 1947 spring training camp as a free agent pitcher. Dallas management decides Davis "doesn't have the stuff to make the grade" as a pitcher, but Cincinnati scout Jack Knott likes the way he swings the bat and asks the Rebels to release him to Tyler to play the outfield.

Davis hits a home run in professional baseball debut and is hitting .271 with four doubles and two home runs in 23 games for the Tyler Trojans of the Lonestar (C) League before being sent to Ballinger in late May for more "seasoning."