

Walter Justis, "Smoke the Eccentric Slabman"

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WALTER JUSTIS.

One of the more eccentric players to ever heave a horsehide sphere across the plate, Lancaster (Ohio) Lanks' pitching ace Walter "Smoke" Justis earns a place for himself in the baseball record books when on September 13, 1908, he pitches his fourth no-hitter of the season.

Achieved on the final day of the Ohio State (D) League regular season, Justis also registers win No. 25, striking out 10 Marion Diggers en route to a 3-0 victory in the first game of a doubleheader. Justis falls two batters shy of a perfect game following a fourth inning error by third baseman William Lallier and a two-out walk in the bottom of the ninth inning to Marion center fielder Frank Farrell.

At the end of the game, the 24-year-old righthander is "treated to a shower of coin" for his accomplishment.

In all, Justis will pitch five no-hitters in his minor league career tying fellow Deadball Era pitcher Harry Kane (1900-1913) for the most in minor league history.

Three years earlier, Justis, despite having only a couple of South Atlantic League games under his belt, is signed by the Detroit Tigers and makes his major league debut July 12. He allows three runs on three hits and six walks in three innings of relief against the New York Highlanders in a 7-0 loss.

Justis' second and final major league appearance comes three weeks later when Detroit starter Bill Donovan simply walks off the mound with two outs in the eighth inning of a game against the visiting Washington Senators after the umpire refuses to take a ball out of play. Justis will face three Senators, allowing a triple, a hit batter and a ground out.

But it is in the minor leagues that the Moores Hill, Indiana, native makes his mark.

A 117-game winner over 10 minor league seasons, he begins his

professional baseball career with a one-game cameo appearance with the Macon Highlanders in 1904.

The following season Justis sticks around a little longer, appearing in four games before being released for a lack of control - a problem that will beset him throughout his career.

Frequently pitching both ends of a doubleheader, or appearing in back to back days, Justis will post four-straight 20-win seasons between 1907 and 1910, capped by a 25-win campaign with Lancaster in 1908 and a 24-win season for the Dayton Veterans in 1910. Twice he will lead a league in strikeouts and in 1908 he leads the Ohio-Penn League with 19 shutouts.

Unfortunately his obvious mound talent is often overshadowed by his equally obvious bizarre antics that are routinely publicized during his 10-year professional baseball career.

Some examples of Justis' bizarre behavior include:

- ▶ On two occasions with Lancaster in 1906, Justis causes disturbances while sleep walking. One time in the early morning, teammates awake to find their talented pitcher playing out an imaginary game in the hotel hallway, pitching, hitting and sliding into pillows complete with a running commentary. Later that summer, Justis is corralled by local constabulary in a late night walkabout in the downtown area holding two live chickens.
- ▶ Suffering from periods of continued "eccentricity" during the 1906 season, Justis elects to undergo an operation in the off-season. Surgeons find a bone pressing up against his brain and remove it.

SMOKE VS. THE GEORGIA PEACH

May 9, 1905, Augusta, Georgia

Augusta.	A.B.	R.	B.H.	P.O.	A.	E.
Cobb, lf.....	5	2	2	0	0	0
Leidy, cf.....	0	0	0	1	0	0
Cleotte, rf.....	2	0	0	1	1	1
Engle, 2b.....	3	2	2	2	5	0
Ruhland, 3b...	3	1	0	1	4	1
Lauzon, c.....	4	2	2	2	3	0
Jordan, 1b...	4	0	2	14	1	0
Smith, cf.....	3	0	1	3	0	0
Meehan, ss....	3	0	1	3	0	1
Holmes, p.....	4	0	0	0	3	2
Totals	33	7	10	27	17	2

Macon.	A.B.	R.	B.H.	P.O.	A.	E.
Lipe, 3b.....	4	0	0	3	0	0
Smith, cf.....	4	0	1	0	0	1
Sentell, ss....	4	0	1	1	1	1
Spade, lf.....	4	0	0	2	0	0
Stinson, rf....	2	0	1	0	1	0
Fox, 1b.....	4	0	2	8	1	0
Piepho, 2b....	4	0	0	0	1	1
Harnish, c....	3	0	0	19	2	1
Justis, p.....	3	0	0	0	4	1
Totals	32	0	6	24	10	5

Macon 000 000 000— 0
 Augusta 311 020 00*— 7
Summary.— Earned runs, Augusta, 3.
 Three-base hits, Jordan. Left on bases,
 Augusta, 8; Macon, 7. Solen bases, Cobb
 Cleotte, Engle 2, Jordan. Sacrifice hits,
 Leidy. Struck out, by Justis, 10; by
 Holmes, 2. Bases on balls, off Justis 4;
 off Holmes, 2. Wild pitches, Justis 1.
 Fassed balls, Lauzon, 1; Harnish, 2.

In his fourth professional baseball appearance in two years with Macon, Justis pitches a complete game against the Augusta Tourists, striking out 10 but allowing 10 hits and four walks in a 7-0 loss ... batting lead-off for the Tourists that afternoon is 18-year-old Tyrus Cobb who goes 2-for-5 with three runs scored.

Despite the 10 strikeouts, this is the last game Justis will pitch for Macon as he earns his release a week later and returns to Indiana to pitch semipro ball in Lebanon.

Ironically, Justis will make his major league debut with the Detroit Tigers on July 12, 1905, almost a month and a half before "The Georgia Peach" plays his first game with the Bengals on August 30.

Walter Justis [2 of 9]:

► During his record-setting 1908 season, Justis is suspended five days in mid-May and fined \$5 after being arrested for hitting Marion first baseman Andy Lotshaw in the face with a bat.

► Four weeks later, on July 26, 1908, Justis suffers a brain stroke similar to apoplexy at the Lancaster ball park and falls in a dead faint at the end of the second game of a doubleheader with the Lima Cigarmakers. He is removed from the field to his hotel in an unconscious condition. The stroke, his second in as many years, is not thought to be fatal.

Lima (Ohio) News
May 14, 1908

It is said that Justis has been twice confined in the state hospital for the insane, and it is certain that he is not a fit person to be allowed to participate in a game of baseball in a civilized country. He had no reason, whatever, for rushing into the fray with a bat and had much less reason for striking Lotshaw. Nothing surprised Lotshaw more for the two have played ball together, and had been good friends.

► One week later, on August 2, following a "miraculous recovery" he hurls his third no-hitter of the season against Lima. In fact, Justis will pitch three of his four no-hitters after being declared through with baseball.

► On September 1, 1908, one day after being selected by the St. Louis Browns in the annual minor league draft, Justis suffers a seizure for a second time that year and is admitted to a hospital where his physicians say he

should not pitch in another game this season ... Justis' tongue is paralyzed and he suffers from convulsions due to a blood-clot on the brain.

► One week later, on September 8, the quickly-recovering Justis returns to the diamond and shuts out Lima 5-0 without a hit for his third no-hit game of the season. Striking out 14, he walks two and only two balls are hit out of the infield.

► In spring training with the St. Louis Browns in 1909, and following a wrestling match with teammate Arthur Griggs where his head hits the ground, Justis is confined to his hotel room in St. Louis after suffering a severe nervous collapse. With his tongue paralyzed, he loses his power of speech and is sent home to Lawrenceburg, Indiana.

"Walter Justis, a pitcher recruit of the St. Louis Browns, is confined to his room by a severe nervous collapse, and the nurse in charge says he may be able to leave for his home in Indiana in a few days. Justis lost his power of speech at the end of a wrestling bout with Arthur Griggs in Sportsman's Park today. It is claimed Justis fell to the floor, striking his head, and reopened an old wound received when a boy." - Associated Press



Walter Justis Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Level	W-L	GP	INN	H	BB	SO	ERA	
1903	Banor Cooperage	Manufacturers	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	
1904	Lawrenceburg (Ind.)	-	SPro	24-1	25	-	-	-	-	--	
1904	Macon Highlanders	South Atlantic	C	0-0	1	-	-	-	-	--	
1905	Macon Brigands	South Atlantic	C	2-2	4	30.1	37	15	31	--	
1905	Lebanon Peaches	Tri-State	Ind.	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	
1905	Detroit Tigers	AMERICAN	MLB	0-0	2	3.1	4	6	0	8.10	
1905	Kansas City Blues	American Association	A	2-6	13	84.1	79	48	55	--	
1906	Lancaster Lanks	Ohio-Penn	C	9-7	17	-	-	-	-	--	
1907	Lancaster Lanks	Ohio-Penn	C	22-19	41	-	-	-	-	--	
1908	Lancaster Lanks	Ohio State	D	25-17	47	367.0	229	125	293	--	
1909	Lancaster Lanks	Ohio State	D	19-17	38	-	-	-	-	--	
1909	Dayton Veterans	Central	B	3-2	8	43.1	44	18	19	--	
1910	Dayton Veterans	Central	B	24-16	45	360.0	283	121	177	--	
1911	Jersey City Skeeters	Eastern	A	7-19	37	240.1	232	90	50	--	
1912	Jersey City Skeeters	International	AA	1-2	9	36	24	7	16	--	
1912	Holyoke Papermakers	Connecticut State	B	1-3	6	32.2	27	6	22	--	
1912	Canton Statesmen	Central	B	0-2	3	19	12	5	4	--	
1913	Covington Blue Sox	Federal	Ind.	2-0	6	37.2	36	7	15	--	
1913	Kansas City Packers	Federal	Ind.	0-1	2	15	16	5	8	--	
1913	Chicago Browns	Federal	Ind.	0-0	1	4	3	1	3	--	
1913	Kokomo Red Sox	Indiana Association	SPro	1-0	1	9	4	1	2	--	
1914	Connersville All-Pros	-	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	
Major League Totals				1 Season	0-0	2	3.1	4	6	0	8.10
Minor League Totals				10 Seasons	117-113	278	1169.1	1019	448	693	--

► One week later, Justis makes another one of his "miraculous" recoveries from his paralysis and is seen walking around Lawrenceburg smoking a pipe and speaking to friends. Browns' manager Jimmy McAleer is unamused and cuts the eccentric slabster.

► On August 13, 1909, Justis suffers a "brainstorm" at the Pilgrim Inn Hotel in Marion, Ohio, and is taken to the local hospital. Doctors say his condition is critical.

► Four days later, in the second Inning of a home game versus the Mansfield Pioneers, Justis enters the bleachers and assaults a spectator who has been taunting him. Justis is later arrested and is fined \$10 and costs of \$13.50 for his assault on Grant R. Oswald who suffers a bruised eye and cuts about the face.

► Several times over the years, Justis is said to have talked with a "clipped" British accent.

Walter Justis [3 of 9]:

Following a 24-16 mark with the Dayton Veterans in 1910, Justis closes his career toiling for five different teams over his final three years, ending with the Chicago Browns of the independent Federal League in 1913.

Leaving organized baseball after the 1913 season, Justis relocates to Greendale, Indiana, where works at the Old Quaker Distillery in Lawrenceburg and continues pitching for local semipro teams. Justis passes away on October 4, 1941, from a heart attack at the age of 58.

JUSTIS CHRONOLOGY

March 27, 1905

In a preseason exhibition game against the Boston Red Sox, Justis hurls a complete game for the Macon Brigands, allowing eight hits, striking out four and walking four in a 4-0 Red Sox win.

GRANTLAND RICE



On February 10, 1905, former Vanderbilt baseball player and current Atlanta Journal Sports Editor Grantland Rice is named Secretary of the South Atlantic League.

April 3, 1905

A "hard throwing" Justis is officially added to the roster of the South Atlantic League's Macon Brigands ... Justis had appeared in one game for Macon in 1904 but found he was unable to "stand the Southern climate."

April 11, 1905

Pitching for Macon in a spring training game against the American League's Detroit Tigers, Justis strikes out 12 and allows only seven hits in a 4-0 loss.

July 6, 1905

On the same day that the Northern League announces that its weekly salary for umpires will be \$30, the Detroit Tigers sign Macon's Walt Justis ... Justis "has a world of speed but is as raw".

July 12, 1905

With only a hand full of South Atlantic League games under his belt, Justis makes his major league debut allows three runs on three hits and six walks in three innings of relief against the New York Highlanders in a 7-0 loss.

August 1, 1905

Justis' final major league appearance is a strange one ... with two out in the bottom of the eighth in-

ning against the Washington Senators, Detroit's starting pitcher Donovan complains of the condition of the baseball ... when the umpire refuses to take it out of play, Donovan simply walks to the dugout, puts on his jacket and lays down on the team bench ... Justis is summoned from the bull pen and promptly allows a triple to John Anderson ... the Senators win the game 4-0.

August 2, 1905

To make room for veteran catcher Jack Warner, recently acquired from the St. Louis Cardinals for \$1,500, the Tigers "can" Justis, who claims that he made \$400 during his three-week stay with the Bengals ... Justis says of his time in the major leagues:

"All I knew was to burn them over. And the harder they hit them the harder I threw. Then the harder I threw the harder they hit them. Most of the time in the three months that I was there I lugged the big bat bag, and I guess I earned my salary then about as much as at any time I know of." - Fort Wayne Sentinel

MYSTERY JUSTIS

May 8, 1897 Issue of *The Sporting Life* magazine

MICHIGAN'S LEAGUE.

This Neat Little Organization Opens Its Campaign.

The Michigan League, under the efficient direction of President Walter Mumby, bids fair to have a successful season. The opening games on April 28 everywhere attracted large and enthusiastic crowds, and the playing was of a high order for a State League, thus giving promise of a well-contested race.

THE ROSTER.

Following is the complete list of players signed by the various clubs comprising the League:

Kalamazoo—Edward Mulhearn, D. Summer, Charles Krause, M. F. Conklin, Dan O'Connor, Harry Davis, O. Bushman, George Adams, J. Johnson, Bert Astrome, Carl Jacobs.

Port Huron—William McGraven, Robert Gumbert, William Hart, B. Eddy, O. E. Booram, H. Douglass, Hugh Kellack, Walter Justis, J. Kreuger, F. Comstock, William Doneghy.

Bay City—William Gleason, Frank Quinn, Tony Terry, A. J. Knapp, D. J. Lowney, Frank Hempbill, Jerome Wilhelm, A. B. Hugerman, George Ellerman, James Walsh, E. J. Eagan.

Jackson—John Elmig, J. Lafleur, John Dimond, T. A. Connell, C. C. Myers, C. Middleton, E. Elliott, A. J. Rathburn, J. J. Trayner, W. Van Dyke, A. C. Gifford, A. Vallendorf.

Saginaw—L. C. Snyder, George Ganzel, James Ganzel, Stephen Griffin, George Allen, W. Kennelly, Thomas Erwin, James Riley, Harry Fullmer, E. C. McMullen, William Wolf.

Lansing—Elmer Doty, Gan Burke, James Corcoran, Percy Albright, Don McKinney, James Murphy, Michael Flynn, H. Derfenderfer, Howard King, Bert Eltom.

While performing research on Justis it's mentioned several times in various newspapers that he had pitched professionally several years as teenager. The above story on the Michigan State (D) League was carried in the May 8, 1897, issue of *The Sporting Life* (Volume 29, No. 7). It lists a "Walter Justis" on the Port Huron roster. Born on August 17, 1883, Justis would have been only 13 at the time of the league's season opener on April 28. However, more than likely "Walter Justis" is probably another ballplayer named Walter Justin.

July 12, 1905
Bennett Park, Detroit, Michigan

HOGG SHUT DETROIT OUT.

New York Hit Kitson Freely and Made a Joke of Justis.

Detroit, Mich., July 12.—Inability to hit Hogg in bunches made Detroit look very bad this afternoon when the young twirler shut the locals out. Kitson was touched up freely, and Justis, who succeeded him, was a joke, forcing two men over by his wildness. O'Leary's catch of Williams' fly in the fifth was a feature. Jack Doyle joined the New Yorks to-day. Attendance, 1,000. Score:

Detroit	R	H	O	A	E	New York	R	H	O	A	E
Barrett, cf...	0	1	2	0	0	Conroy, lf...	1	1	5	0	0
O'Leary, ss...	0	1	3	2	0	Keeler, rf...	0	2	1	0	0
McIntyre, lf...	0	1	2	0	0	Eibertfeld, ss...	1	2	4	1	2
Crawford, rf...	0	0	0	1	0	Williams, 2b...	2	0	1	4	0
Coughlin, 3b...	0	1	1	6	1	Chase, 1b...	2	2	6	0	0
Schaefer, 2b...	0	1	2	1	1	Yeager, 3b...	1	2	2	1	0
Lindsay, 1b...	0	0	13	0	0	Fultz, cf...	0	0	4	0	0
Doran, c...	0	1	3	2	0	McGuire, c...	0	1	4	1	0
Kitson, p...	0	1	0	1	0	Hogg, p...	0	0	0	3	0
Justis, p...	0	0	0	1	0						
Cooley*	0	0	0	0	0						
Totals.....	0	7	27	14	2	Totals.....	7	10	27	10	2

*Batted for Justis in ninth.
Detroit 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0—0
New York 0 1 0 2 0 1 0 0 2—7
Earned runs—New York, 2. Base hits—Off Kitson, 7 in six innings; off Justis, 3 in three innings. Two-base hit—McIntyre. Sacrifice hits—Barrett, Chase, Yeager. Stolen bases—Eibertfeld, Chase. Bases on balls—Off Kitson, 1; off Justis, 6; off Hogg, 2. Left on bases—Detroit, 11; New York, 9. Struck out—By Kitson, 1; by Hogg, 3. Double plays—Lindsay (unassisted); McGuire to Eibertfeld. Umpire—Mr. Connolly. Time of game—3 hours.

Walter Justis' No-Hitters

July 19, 1908 #1
Lancaster, Ohio

Lancaster	A.B.	R.	H.	O.	A.	E.
Brown, 2b	4	0	0	1	2	0
Eichberger, cf	3	2	2	2	0	0
Heller, lf	4	1	2	0	0	0
Humphreys, ss	3	0	0	5	2	0
Carter, rf	4	0	0	1	0	0
Lallier, 3b	2	1	0	2	2	0
Gowdy, 1b	4	1	2	1	1	0
Piper, c	3	0	0	5	2	0
Justus, p	2	1	1	0	3	0
Totals	29	6	7	27	12	0

Mansfield	A.B.	R.	H.	O.	A.	E.
Jewell, ss	4	0	0	1	6	2
Neeham, cf	3	0	0	1	0	0
Mathay, lf	3	0	0	2	0	0
Channell, rf	3	0	0	0	0	0
Biery, 1b	2	0	0	9	0	0
Kettler, 2b	2	0	0	4	2	1
Flood, 3b	2	0	0	0	2	0
Harmon, c	2	0	0	5	4	1
Davy, p	3	0	0	2	3	0
Totals	24	0	0	24	17	4

Struck out, by Justus 5, by Davy 4; three-base hit, Heller; bases on balls, off Justus 3, off Davy 3; two-base hit, Eichberger; wild pitch, Davy 1; sacrifice hits, Eichberger, Humphreys, Kettler, Harmon; stolen bases, Heller, Lallier, Justus; left on bases, Lancaster 3, Mansfield 3; passed ball, Harmon 1; umpire, Longley; time, 1:35; attendance, 1,100.

August 2, 1908 #2
Lancaster, Ohio

Lancaster	A.B.	R.	H.	O.	A.	E.
Brown, 2b	3	0	0	1	0	1
Eichberger, cf	4	0	2	1	0	0
Heller, lf	4	1	1	1	0	0
Humphreys, ss	3	0	1	3	4	2
Carter, rf	4	1	0	0	0	0
Lallier, 3b	4	1	1	1	0	0
Reynolds, 1b	4	1	2	12	0	0
Piper, c	4	1	1	8	4	0
Justus, p	4	1	1	0	4	0
Totals	34	6	9	27	12	3

Portsmouth	A.B.	R.	H.	O.	A.	E.
Burke, rf	4	0	0	0	0	0
Jennings, lf	3	0	0	2	0	1
Nagle, 2b	3	0	0	2	2	1
Spencer, 1b	4	0	0	12	0	0
Tolman, cf	2	0	0	0	0	0
Zimpher, c	3	0	0	3	1	1
Dooin, 3b	3	0	0	2	3	1
Ruh, ss	3	0	0	3	5	1
Doyle, p	3	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	28	0	0	24	11	5

Struck out, by Justus 10, by Doyle 1; three-base hit, Humphreys; bases on balls, off Justus 3; sacrifice hits, Brown, Humphreys; stolen bases, Brown, Eichberger, Reynolds; left on bases, Lancaster 5, Portsmouth 3; umpire, Handboe; time, 1:35.

September 8, 1908 #3
Lancaster, Ohio

Lancaster	A.B.	R.	H.	O.	A.	E.
Brown, 2b	3	2	1	0	2	0
Eichberger, cf	3	0	1	1	0	0
Heller, lf	3	2	3	0	0	0
Humphreys, ss	3	0	0	3	1	0
Carter, rf	3	1	1	1	0	0
Lallier, 3b	2	0	0	2	3	0
Reynolds, 1b	3	0	1	7	0	0
Fox, c	3	0	0	13	1	0
Justus, p	3	0	1	0	0	0
Totals	26	5	8	27	7	0

Lima	A.B.	R.	H.	O.	A.	E.
Fink, 2b	4	0	0	3	4	0
A. Reilly, lf	4	0	0	2	0	0
Jackson, cf	2	0	0	3	0	0
Foutz, rf	3	0	0	0	0	0
Lindsay, 3b	2	0	0	1	2	0
Sykes, 1b	3	0	0	7	1	0
Newham, ss	3	0	0	4	2	1
E. Reilly, c	3	0	0	4	3	0
Linke, p	2	0	0	0	3	0
*Nefcau	1	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	27	0	0	24	15	1

* Batted for Linke in the ninth.
Innings: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
Lancaster: 1 0 0 2 0 0 2 6 5
Lima: 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
Struck Out—By Justus 14; by Linke 5.
Bases on Balls—Off Justus 2; off Linke 1.
Two Base Hit—Heller.
Wild Pitch—Linke.
Sacrifice Hits—Eichberger, Heller.
Stolen Bases—Heller, Jackson.
Left on Bases—Lancaster 2;

September 13, 1908 #4
Lancaster, Ohio

Lancaster	A.B.	R.	H.	O.	A.	E.
Brown, 2b	3	1	1	0	3	0
Eichberger, cf	3	0	1	2	0	0
Heller, lf	4	1	1	2	0	0
Humphreys, ss	3	0	3	2	0	0
Carter, rf	3	0	0	2	0	0
Lallier, 3b	4	0	0	1	4	1
Reynolds, 1b	4	0	1	8	0	0
Fox, c	4	0	0	10	0	0
Justus, p	4	1	2	0	1	0
Totals	32	3	9	27	8	1

Marion	A.B.	R.	H.	O.	A.	E.
Farrell, cf	3	0	0	1	0	0
Wolfe, ss	4	0	0	0	3	0
O'Day, 2b	3	0	0	3	1	1
Ketter, rf	3	0	0	0	0	0
Wilson, lf	3	0	0	4	0	0
LaRue, 3b	3	0	0	1	5	0
Burk, 1b	3	0	0	7	0	0
Luskey, c	3	0	0	7	0	0
McGuire, p	3	0	0	1	2	0
Totals	28	0	0	24	11	1

Two-base hits, Eichberger, Humphreys 2, Justus; stolen base, Farrell; struck out, by Justus 10, by McGuire 7; bases on balls, off Justus 1; off McGuire 3; umpire, Hart; time, 1:40.

May 18, 1909 #5
Lancaster, Ohio

Lancaster	A.B.	R.	H.	O.	A.	E.
Brown, 2b	3	0	0	1	1	1
Reynolds, 1b	2	0	10	0	0	0
Humphreys, ss	4	1	3	0	0	0
Gowdy, lf	4	3	0	0	0	0
Laylor, rf	4	0	2	0	0	0
Lallier, 3b	5	1	1	3	0	0
Corbin, cf	4	2	0	0	0	0
R. Williams, c	4	2	2	0	0	0
Justus, p	3	1	0	3	0	0
Totals	33	9	27	9	1	1

Marion	A.B.	R.	H.	O.	A.	E.
Farrell, cf	4	0	2	0	0	0
Wolfe, ss	4	0	0	3	1	0
O'Day, 2b	2	0	5	4	1	0
E. Williams, lf	3	0	2	0	0	0
Watkins, rf	2	0	2	0	0	0
Staley, 1b	2	0	7	0	0	0
Locke, 3b	3	0	0	3	0	0
Reilly, c	2	0	2	0	1	0
Johnson, p	1	0	4	0	0	0
Whipple, p	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lucas, p	3	0	0	3	0	0
Totals	26	0	24	18	3	0

Lancaster: 1 2 0 0 0 3 x—7 9 1
Marion: 0 0 0 0 0 0 0—0 0 3
Two-Base Hit—R. Williams. Sacrifice Hits—Brown, Reynolds, Humphreys, Staley. Struck Out—By Justus, 9; by Lucas, 2. Hit by Pitcher—Justus. Stolen Bases—Lallier, Corbin, R. Williams, Justus. Bases on Balls—Off Justus, 2; off Whipple, 3; off Lucas, 4. Wild Pitch—Whipple. Time—1:45. Attendance—400. Umpires—Tibbetts and Handboe.

management is upset with the suspension of Lotshaw and plans to appeal Quinn's decision when he returns from the "West." ... Quinn also suspends Newark Newks' manager Bob Berryhill five days and fines the manager \$25 for assaulting umpire Mulligan.

1908 Lancaster Lanks, Ohio State League



LANCASTER, OHIO TEAM—Champions, Ohio State League
1, White; 2, Mock; 3, Humphreys; 4, Fox; 5, Piper; 6, Heller; 7, Eichberger; 8, Carter; 9, Lallier; 10, Brown; 11, Locke; 12, Gowdy; 13, Reynolds; 14, Justus.

The 1908 Lancaster Lanks (92-57), under the direction of veteran manager George Fox and behind the league's best pitching staff, capture the Ohio State League pennant by a full 11 games over the second-place Lima Cigarmakers (80-67) ... the staff features three 20-game winners in Kirby White (a league-leading 28 wins), Justis (25 wins and a league-leading 293 strikeouts) and Homer Mock (22 wins) ... led by Justis with four, the staff records six no-hitters with White and Mock each recording one during the season.

September 1, 1908

A day after being selected by the St. Louis Browns in the annual minor league draft, Justis suffers a seizure for the second time this season and is admitted to a hospital ... physicians say he should not pitch in another game this season ... Justis' tongue is paralyzed and he suffers from convulsions due to a blood clot on the brain.

July 19, 1908

Justis pitches his first no-hitter of the season, shutting out Mansfield 6-0 ... he strikes out five, walks three and only three balls are hit out of the infield.

July 26, 1908

Justis suffers a brain stroke similar to apoplexy at the Lancaster ball park and falls in a dead faint at the end of the second game of a doubleheader with the Lima Cigarmakers ... he is removed from the field to his hotel in an unconscious condition ... the stroke, his second in as many years, is not thought to be fatal.

August 2, 1908

Justis strikes out 10 and shuts out Portsmouth without a hit his second no-hit performance of the season.

QUINN MAKES HIS DECISION

Lotshaw and Justus Get Five Days and \$5.

BERRYHILL IS CALLED

The Fans are Dissatisfied with President's Ruling

George Fox, the Bruiser, Escapes Without a Fine—Justus, Who Uses Bat Gets Same as Lotshaw.

NEBRASKA'S FRANK JUSTUS

July 7, 1908; Shelton, Nebraska

Columbus 24—Kearney 15

Shelton, Neb., July 7.—In what was truly a farce on base ball, the Discoverers took the Kearney game today in corner lot style. Umpire Knowlton had some trouble with players on both sides, finding it necessary to send Balliet from the grounds for back talk. Score:
Columbus 1 2 0 1 4 0 0 5 11—24
Kearney 7 0 2 1 3 0 1 1 0—15
Batteries—Wright and Gray, Justus and Harrison. Hits—Columbus 28; Kearney 22. Errors—Columbus 2; Kearney 1.

Suffice to say, it was not a good day for Columbus Discoverers pitcher Frank Justus, but it is even a worse day for his mound counterpart, Forrest Wright of the Kearney Kapitalists. In a Sunday afternoon Nebraska State (D) League game in Shelton, Nebraska, Justus turns in his third-straight complete game, a nifty 15-run, 22-hit complete game. Wright, a veteran of nine minor league seasons, takes a two-run lead into the top of the ninth inning, but is touched up for 11 runs en route to yielding 24 runs on 28 hits.

Walter Justis [6 of 9]:

September 8, 1908

Justis tosses his third no-hitter of the season shutting out Lima 5-0 ... he strikes out 14, walks two and only two balls are hit out of the infield.

"SMOKE" THE IRONMAN

Despite being turned down by the Chicago Cubs for an early July chance at the major leagues, Justis continues his "Iron Man" work for Lancaster in 1908 ... over a seven-day period from Tuesday, June through Tuesday, July 6, "Smoke" appears in six games for Lanks winning three, losing two and picking up what today would be classified as a save ... in those six games, Justis allows only three runs (two possibly un-earned) on 24 hits in 41 innings of work while striking out 23 and walking 16.

Date	Opp	Score	Dec	Inn	R	H	SO	W
6.29	Lima	1-0	(W)	12.0	0	5	3	3
6.30	Lima*	5-2	(S)	4.0	0	0	5	1
6.30	Lima	1-0	(W)	7.0	0	2	2	3
7.2	Mansfield	1-3	(L)	9.0	1	4	6	3
7.4	Mansfield*	9-10	(L)	2.2	2	5	1	3
7.6	Lima	3-2	(W)	6.1	0	8	6	3
*denotes relief				(3-2)	41.0	3	24	23

September 13, 1908

On the final day of the Ohio State (D) League regular season, Justis gets wins No. 25 and no-hitter No. 4, striking out 10 Marion Diggers en route to a 3-0 victory in the opening game of a doubleheader.

April 6, 1909

The last of the "recruited" pitchers by manager Jimmy McAleer, Justis' bid for a spot on the Browns' opening day roster is dealt a setback when he is confined to his room in St. Louis by a severe nervous collapse or as one entrepreneurial writer tones "a paralyzed brain." ... he loses his power of speech at the end of a wrestling bout with teammate Arthur Griggs at Sportsman Park ... Justis falls to the floor, striking his head reopening an old wound received when a boy ... Justis is later taken to his home in Indiana.

April 13, 1909

Justis recovers from his paralysis when he is seen walking around the business section of Lawrenceburg smoking a pipe and speaking to his friends.

DEATH ON THE DIAMOND

September 14, 1909, Fairview Park, Dayton, Ohio

PINKNEY INJURED

Dayton, O., Sept. 14.—Pinkney, Dayton's second baseman, was hit in the head in the last inning of the second game today by Pitcher Hagerman and is in a serious condition. Dayton and Grand Rapids each won a game. The scores:

First Game— R. H. E.
G. Rapids... 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0—0 2 1
Dayton ... 3 1 4 2 0 0 0 0*—10 14 1
Batteries—Hagerman and Bailey
Justus and Kurke.

Second Game— R. H. E.
Gr. Rapids... 0 0 1 0 4 0 0—5 10 0
Dayton ... 0 0 0 3 0 0 1—4 7 3
Batteries—Hagerman, Humphries and Clarke; Clyde, Justus and Pearce.

Justis pitches in both ends of a Central (B) League doubleheader with the Grand Rapids Stags. After winning the first game on a two-hit shutout, Justis relieves starter Cyrus Clyde in the sixth inning of the "nightcap".

With one man on and one out in the darkening gloom of the last inning of the second game, Dayton second baseman Charles Pickney is hit behind the left ear on a pitch by Stags righthander and future major leaguer Casey Hagerman.

The 20-year-old Pickney, who had homered in the Veterans' 10-0 win in the opener, suffers a fractured skull. Never regaining consciousness, Pickney passes away shortly after noon the following day.

injury is not considered life-threatening.

OVERWORK PROVES FATAL

Walter Justus of Lancaster (O.) Team Is in Serious Condition After Twirling a Double Header.

Walter Justus, star pitcher of the Lancaster, Ohio, State league team, has been almost literally worked to death. He lies in a hospital at Marlon a sufferer from convulsions and with his tongue paralyzed, due, physicians say, to over-exertion from pitching two games Sunday at Marlon.

Justus has for several years suffered from a blood clot on the brain. It was believed this was relieved by an operation two years ago. There was no indication of the return of the malady until after Sunday's double-header Justus became unconscious at his hotel in the evening and there seems to be no relief for him.

Justus has pitched both games of a number of double-headers this season. His physicians say he will never play ball again.

Detroit gave Justus a trial three years ago and his brilliant work this season attracted much attention.

WALTER JUSTUS

Makes Quick Recovery from Recent Illness.

Lawrenceburg, Ind., April 15.—When Walter Justus, the most promising cub pitcher of the St. Louis Browns, came down into the business section calmly smoking a pipe and speaking to his host of friends the whole town was amazed. Only two days ago he was brought from St. Louis in an unconscious condition and was supposed to be afflicted with a paralyzed brain as the result of a friendly wrestling bout with one of his team mates. For a number of days he was unable to utter a word. Suddenly he awoke from his subconscious condition and arose from his bed as speech returned. Those who knew him best claim that he is now as fit as ever, and that he could leave at once to join the Browns. As he has four weeks' leave of absence to recover from his illness he will probably wait for the call from Manager McAleer before re-joining the team. His recovery is one of the most remarkable in the history of athletics.

May 4, 1909

Justis obtains his release from the Browns and rejoins the Lancaster Lanks.

May 1909

The National Commission makes a decision in the case of Walter Justis versus the St. Louis Browns ... Justus, who made a claim against the Browns for salary from May 4 until May 14, when he was released to the Lancaster Lanks ... the Commission finds that Justis is entitled to the salary due him and the Browns are directed to pay his salary after deducting \$50 advanced to him, and whatever money that club paid out for doctor and nurses during the time Justus was ill, while with the club.

May 18, 1909

Justis picks up his first win of the season in grand style pitching his fifth career no-hitter blanking Marion 7-0, allowing only four balls into the outfield ... not one Marion batter reaches first base after the second inning.

June 14, 1909

Justis limits Lima to one hit en route to a 3-1 complete game victory.

June 20, 1909

Justis pitches and wins both games of a doubleheader with Portsmouth ... over the last three innings of the second game, he strikes out three men on ten pitches.

August 10, 1909

Justis injures the index finger of his right hand while at the opera house in Lima, Ohio. The

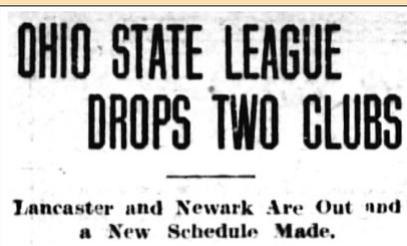
Walter Justis [7 of 9]:

August 13, 1909

Justis suffers a "brainstorm" at the Pilgrim Inn Hotel in Marion, Ohio, and is taken to the local hospital ... his condition is said to be critical.

August 17, 1909

In the second Inning of a home game versus the Mansfield Pioneers, Justis enters the bleachers and assaults a spectator who has been taunting him ... Justis is later arrested and fined \$10 and costs of \$13.50, for his assault on Grant R. Oswald who suffers a bruised eye and cuts about the face.

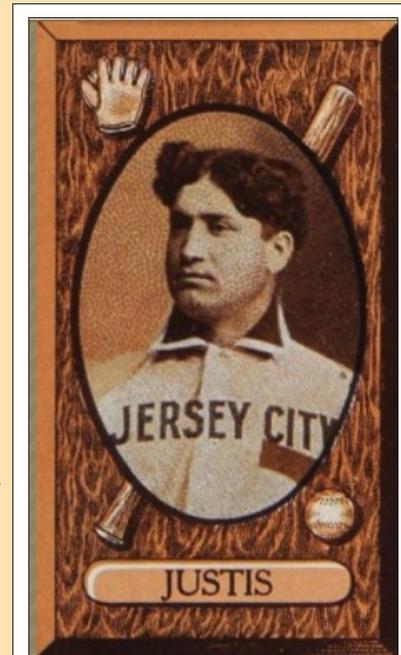


August 23, 1909

The Lancaster Lanks and the Newark Newks disband ... Newark has been "under care" by the league for several months while Lancaster is \$1,000 in arrears ... once Lancaster makes it clear that it not continue under "any circumstances," the league decides to drop Newark as well ... Ohio State League president Robbie Quinn says the circuit will complete the season with four teams.

August 24, 1909

Justis is 19-17 for the now-defunct Lancaster club when he and 25-year-old outfielder Fred Heller are sold to the Dayton Veterans of the Central (B) League for \$2,000 ... Heller is hitting .310 in limited action for the Lanks ... Dayton release shortstop Frank Wessell who has 53 hits in 302 at bats (.175)



The 1912 Imperial Tobacco card (No. 42) is only known baseball card of Walter Justis ... Ebay lists the PSA5-graded card for \$180.00.

1909 Dayton Veterans, Central League



DAYTON, OHIO, TEAM—Central League

1, Dohard; 2, Wacker; 3, O'Brien; 4, Grogan; 5, Ragon; 6, Nenschafar; 7, Nec; 8, Clyde; 9, Asher; 10, Spencer; 11, Dollaven; 12, Sykes; 13, Sample; 14, Knoll; 15, Martin; 16, Justis. Photo by Zweifel.

The 1909 Dayton Veterans, under the direction of manager Babe Myers, finish in last place in an eight-team Central League by a 1/2 game to seventh-place Evansville ... despite having several players who will go on to major league careers, the Veterans finish 56-77 and 27 games behind league champion Wheeling.

November 30, 1909

Harry Justis, Walter's brother, is shot to death by Louis Wingerter a former policeman ... the shooting is determined to be an "outgrowth" of an old grudge.

July 11, 1910

Justis pitches both ends of a doubleheader with visiting Grand Rapids including a one-hit shutout in the first game (4-0) and a five-hit complete game win in the second (5-4)

August 22, 1910

Justis is sold to the Jersey City club of the Eastern League for \$750 and is told to report at the end of the Central League season.

August 25, 1909

In his Central (B) League debut with the Dayton Veterans, Justis is knocked out of the game allowing four runs on four hits in one inning of work.

August 26, 1909

Justis and outfielder H.A. Carter, both the of defunct Lancaster club, are served with a summons to testify before a grand jury on September 7 ... Justis and Carter are eyewitnesses to the stabbing death of Roy Cubbinson.

August 29, 1909

Justis strikes out 11 and allows only four hits en route to shutting out the league-leading Wheeling Stogies 4-0.

September 19, 1909

Justis agrees to become the head football coach at his alma mater, Lawrenceburg High School.

Deputy Sheriff Cornelius Breen went to Zanesville, this morning, to serve summons on Pitcher Walter Justus and Fielder H. A. Carter, who are wanted by Prosecuting Attorney Charles L. Justice to testify before the grand-jury, which convenes September 7. Justus and Carter, who were at that time members of the Lancaster baseball team, were among the eyewitnesses of the stabbing of Roy Cubbinson, who died of his wounds. George Hamner is now in jail charged with his murder.

Prosecuting Attorney Charles L. Justice states that the grand jury grid will not be as heavy this time as it was the last time. So far as now known there will be only eight or nine cases to consider.

Walter Justis [8 of 9]:

March 10, 1912

Justis signs with the Jersey City Skeeters of the International (AA) League.

THROWS LIKE A GIRL

May 23, 1912, Hartford, Connecticut

Hartford.		A.	B.	P.	P.O.	A.	E.
Fisher, cf.	.....4	0	0	0	2	0	0
Baker, 2b.	.....3	0	0	0	2	3	0
High, lf.	.....4	0	1	3	0	0	0
Kunkel, 3b.	.....3	0	0	0	2	3	0
Crowther, ss.	.....3	1	2	1	6	0	0
Cassett, rf.	.....3	0	1	0	0	0	0
Vann, 1b.	.....2	1	1	15	0	0	0
McDonald, c.	.....2	1	1	1	2	0	1
Powers, p.	.....2	0	0	0	9	5	0
	26	3	6	27	17	1	1
Holyoke.		A.	B.	P.	P.O.	A.	E.
Curry, 2b.	.....4	1	1	2	2	0	0
Hickey, lf.	.....4	0	0	1	0	0	0
Shincol, 1b.	.....4	0	1	9	0	0	0
Flanagan, rf.	.....4	0	0	1	0	0	0
O'Hara, 3b.	.....3	0	0	1	2	0	0
Nichols, cf.	.....3	1	2	1	1	0	0
Hannifan, ss.	.....3	0	0	2	3	0	0
Ahearn, c.	.....3	0	1	7	1	0	0
Green, p.	.....2	0	1	0	3	0	0
*Manning	.....1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Justus, p.	.....0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	31	2	6	24	12	0	0

*Natted for Green in eighth.

Hartford	.....0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	*--3
Holyoke	.....0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	--2

Two-base hits, Vann, Shincol, Green; sacrifice hits, McDonald, Powers; stolen bases, Baker, Crowther, Curry; bases on balls, off Green 2; struck out, by Powers 2, by Green 4, by Justus 1; balk, Powers; left on bases, Hartford 3, Holyoke 2; umpire, Mr. Mason;

Apparently the *Hartford Courant* is not a fan of Holyoke pitcher Walter Justis. Relieving 18-year-old Paddy Green in the eighth inning of a one-run game against the homestanding Hartford Senators, the *Courant* opines on Justis:

"Justus (sic) furnished the best comedy of the season to date. He must have been taught to play baseball in a ballroom, for he winds up in the way that a coffin leader would toss a bouquet. To some, his delivery was about the way that a woman would throw a stone at a hen and (Holyoke) manager O'Neil was asked if his pitcher was a girl masquerading in a baseball uniform."

All of this ridicule for a pitcher who retires the top of the Senator lineup 1-2-3.

May 12, 1912

Released by Jersey City, Justis signs with the Holyoke Papermakers of the Connecticut State (B) League.

June 16, 1912

Holyoke releases Justis who promptly signs with Canton of the Central League so he can pitch more "regularly".

July 6, 1912

Canton releases Justis.

April 6, 1913

Justis loses all of his possessions in a flood at his home in Lawrenceville, Indiana ... a free agent, Justis is "open to an engagement" with a minor league club.

April 14, 1913

The Victoria Bees of the Northwestern (B) League sign Justis to replace departed pitchers Charley Alberts and George Hardin.

April 18, 1913

Declared a free agent because the Bees fail to send him a signed contract, Justis signs with the Fort Wayne Champs of the Central (B) League.

May 6, 1913

Released by Fort Wayne, Justis signs with Covington Blue Sox of the "Out-law" Federal League ... not recognized by the National Association, the Federal League began in 1913 as a minor league with teams in Chicago, Cleveland, Indianapolis, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, and Covington, Kentucky ... the

Covington franchise is relocated in late June to Kansas City.

May 9, 1913

In Covington's season opener against St. Louis, Justis allows only six hits in a 6-0 shutout before an overflow crowd of 6,000.

October 4, 1913

Justis passes away at the age of 58.

Editor's Note:

How many ballplayers from the early 1900's have a restaurant named after them? Turn the page.

THE LAST SHUTOUT

May 9, 1913, Federal Park, Covington, Kentucky

Covington 4, St. Louis 0.

SPECIAL TO THE PLAIN DEALER.
COVINGTON, Ky., May 9.—Inability to hit Justus, while their opponents pounded Gwynn hard, lost the first game of the local Federal league season for the St. Louis club, by the score of 4 to 0. A half holiday was declared. Six thousand fans were in the stands and crowded on the field when Mayor Phillips formally opened the season by pitching the first ball. Score:

Covington	A	R	H	O	St. Louis	A	R	H	O
Exeter, 3...	5	0	2	0	Barton, 2...	4	0	1	3
Chapman, cf	5	0	2	0	Prout, 3....	4	0	1	2
Radel, 1....	5	0	0	0	Hohnhorst, 1	4	0	1	7
Decker, lf...	4	1	2	1	Kempfle, cf...	3	0	1	1
Hicks, c....	4	1	3	7	Stiss, s.....	4	0	1	2
Emery, 2... 4	1	1	4	4	Zoellers, rf.	3	0	1	0
Reggy, s....	4	0	1	2	Sheahan, lf.	3	0	0	1
Thoss, rf...	4	0	3	1	Walden, c...	3	0	0	0
Justus, p...	4	1	1	0	Gwynn, p...	3	0	0	2

Totals	30	4	15	27	12	Totals	31	0	6	24
Covington0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	*--4	

Errors—Barton, Prout, Walden.
Two-base hits—Barton, Stiss, Decker, Hicks. Double plays—Barton and Hohnhorst; Emery and Radel. Bases on balls—Off Gwynn 1, off Justus 1. Struck out—By Gwynn 9, by Justus 6. Sacrifice hits—Emery. Stolen base—Hicks. Time—1:35. Umpires—Wilson and Nippert.

Pitching for the Covington Blue Sox, Walter "Smoke" Justis throws the last shutout of his organized baseball career when he whitewashes the visiting St. Louis Terriers 4-0 in the home opener in front of 6,000 fans in Covington's newly-made Federal Park.

FEDERAL PARK, COVINGTON, KENTUCKY



Construction on Covington's Federal Park on April 16, 1913, only three weeks prior to the team's home opener on May 9 ... dimensions at the park are tiny, with right field measuring only 194 feet, 267 to center field, and 218 to left field.

SMOKE JUSTIS SPORTS BAR & RESTAURANT COVINGTON, KENTUCKY

Smoke Justis Sports Bar & Restaurant is located on the corner of Park and Court in Historic Covington's Roebling Point neighborhood. The restaurant features smoked meats, whiskey, craft beer, live music, and arcade games.

Smoke Justis Sports Bar & Restaurant is named after a former baseball player Walter "Smoke" Justis who played on the Covington Blue Sox in 1913 before they were renamed the "Packers" and shipped of to Kansas City. The team played in the Federal League which was called the 3rd Major League before the league folded in 1915.

Smoke Justis Sports Bar & Restaurant is owned and managed by the owner of Dickman's Sports Cafe, a Northern Kentucky Bar & Grill in Ft. Wright, Kentucky that every local has visited one time or another!

