

# On This Date **February 10, 1888**

**Rexford Paul "Rex" Dawson** is born on February 10, 1888, in Mount Vernon, Washington. After first being noticed pitching for a strong amateur club in Chemainis, British Columbia, Dawson begins his rapid ascent to the major leagues, signing his first pro contract in March of 1913, with the Vancouver Beavers of the Northwestern (B) League where he 1-1 before being released.

Picked up by Missoula Highlanders, Dawson is on a three-game win streak when on August 24, manager Cliff Blankenship announces that the strong-armed right-hander has been sold to the Washington Senators and will report to the club at the end of the Union Association season.

On October 3, 1913, Dawson makes his only major league appearance, pitching a scoreless eighth inning in the Senators' 11-3 win over the Boston Red Sox.

In 1916 and 1917, the noted spitballer wins 35 games for Indianapolis, including a 20-win season in 1917. The following year, he refuses to accept terms and sits out the entire season. He is working as a mechanic in a shop and pitching for the semipro Muncie Greys, when in mid-May he leaves for the West Coast where he enters the naval aviation corps in San Diego.

He is the first to sign with Indianapolis in 1919, but after one game is sold to the Vernon Tigers of the Pacific Coast League where the spitter is still legal. Following a 16-win season with the Tigers, Dawson quits the game and returns to Indiana and pitches for several semipro teams.

