

On This Date

April 1, 1949

After being dusted off the plate on the first pitch in his first inning at bat against Hollywood's George "Pinky" Woods, San Diego Padres' first baseman **Luke Easter** hits the first home run of his professional career when he "rips" a Wood fastball to right field giving the Padres an early 3-0 lead.

Woods rebounds and pitches seven shutout innings as the Stars rally to post a 5-4 Pacific Coast League win.

Signing with the Cleveland Indians in the off-season after winning the Puerto Rican Winter League batting title with a .402 average while playing

for Mayagüez, Easter is identified in news reports as "26-year-old" first baseman, when in reality he is already 34 years of age, having been born in 1915.

The Jonestown, Mississippi native is hitting a league-leading .363 with 25 home runs and 92 RBIs when on June 28 it's announced that he will undergo surgery for the removal of bone chips in his right knee.

Six weeks later, still hobbled from his surgery, Easter makes his major league debut with Cleveland on August 11 against the Chicago White Sox, grounding out "weakly" to shortstop on a 3-2 pitch. Easter will play in 21 games for Cleveland that season hitting just .222 with no home runs.

Hollywood	AB	H	O	A	San Diego	AB	H	O	A
O'Neil,ss	4	1	5	2	A. Wilson,ss	4	0	2	3
G. Hand'y,2b	3	1	1	2	L. Hand'y,3b	3	1	1	0
Stevens,1b	1	1	1	2	Barrett,lf	4	0	2	0
Kelleher,lf	4	2	2	0	West,rf	5	3	1	0
Baxes,3b	2	0	1	3	Easter,1b	4	2	10	1
Noren,c	3	0	4	0	Clay,cf	4	1	4	0
Lembo,cf	4	0	3	2	Ritchey,c	2	2	0	4
Woods,p	4	0	0	2	Coscarat,2b	3	1	3	5
Pluss,rf	4	1	2	0	Linde,p	3	3	1	0
G'rm'n,rf-1b	5	1	3	1	a-Hafey	1	0	0	0
Maltzberger,p	0	0	0	0					

Totals 34 7 27 13 Totals 33 9 27 11

a—Batted for Linde in 9th

SCORE BY INNINGS

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Hollywood	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	1-8
San Diego	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2-5

Pitcher IP AB R H ER BE SO
 Linde 9 34 6 7 3 6 3
 Woods 2 28 3 7 5 5 1
 Maltzberger 1 5 1 2 0 0 0
 E—G. Handley, Baxes, A. Wilson, 2; Easter, RB—A. Wilson by Woods, LOB—Hollywood, 10; San Diego, 8, 2B—Coscarat, RB—West, Easter, Pluss, Kelleher, SH—Baxes, G. Handley, Noren, BE1—West, 3; Easter, Kelleher, Pluss, 2; G. Handley, 2; L. Handley, DF—Coscarat to A. Wilson to Easter; G. Handley to O'Neil to Gorman; Baxes to G. Handley to Gorman. Winner—Woods. Loss—Linde. Attendance—3968.



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