

1921 Virginia League, "Confusion Reigns"

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On the morning of September 9, 1921, Baseball Commissioner Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis issues a decision that rocks the foundation of the Virginia (B) League, one of baseball's more stable minor league circuits, when he rules that the league's two North Carolina franchises - Rocky Mount and Wilson - have exceeded the league's player salary limit and awards the first-half championship to third-place Portsmouth.

In a telegram to League President W.B. Bradley, Landis writes:

"Investigation has disclosed that Rocky Mount violated salary league limitation in the Virginia League constitution. Therefore, the league's action in awarding the pennant for the first half season to Rocky Mount is hereby set aside. Wilson, having violated the same provision, pennant for the first half is awarded to Portsmouth, that club being next in the standing of the clubs, and there being no intimation that it did not obey the constitution."

Landis' decision only confirms what fans of the 16-year-old league have suspected since mid-May, and caps a year of family squabbles, a less-than-popular league president, lawsuits, player, manager and fan disputes and franchise relocation.

With that said, unless you were a Portsmouth Trucker fan, the 1921 season was one to forget.

1921 VIRGINIA LEAGUE CHRONOLOGY

January 3

The new year gets off to a rocky start when a meeting of the Virginia League's franchise committee is delayed for three days at the request of President William B. Bradley, who asks for more time to complete negotiations with possible new owners for the Richmond franchise.

Portsmouth Truckers - 1921 Virginia League Champion



1921 Virginia League - Final Standings

Team	W	L	Pct	GB	Manager
Wilson Bugs	74	52	.587	--	Tom Clarke
Portsmouth Truckers	78	56	.582	--	Jim Viox
Rocky Mount Tar Heels	77	57	.575	1	Phifer Fullenwider/Frank Walker
Richmond Colts	74	58	.561	3	Ray Ryan
Norfolk Tars	74	64	.536	6	Jack Warhop
Suffolk Wildcats	59	78	.431	20.5	Gabby Street/William Cunningham
Newport News Shipbuilders	52	81	.391	25.5	Harry Lake
*Petersburg/Tarboro	46	88	.343	32	Billy Martin/Ambrose McConnell

*Petersburg Trunkmakers moved to Tarboro (Tarbabies) on August 2

First Half	W	L	GB	Pct.	Second Half	W	L	GB	Pct.
Rocky Mount	38	25	--	.603	Norfolk	46	28	--	.621
Wilson	38	25	--	.603	Richmond	38	22	1	.633
Portsmouth+	34	27	3	.557	Portsmouth	44	29	1.5	.602
Richmond	36	36	6.5	.500	Rocky Mount	39	32	12.5	.549
Petersburg	28	34	9.5	.452	Wilson	36	27	13.5	.571
Norfolk	28	36	10.5	.438	Suffolk	32	43	14.5	.427
Suffolk	27	35	10.5	.435	Newport News	26	44	18	.371
Newport News	26	37	12	.413	Petersburg/Tarboro	18	54	27	.250

April 21-July 3

+Portsmouth declared first half champion

July 5-September 24

Playoff: Portsmouth defeated Norfolk 4 games to 1

January 7

Richmond sells star first baseman Jim Poole to the Portland Beavers for "quite a bit of kale". One of six major leaguers from Lenior-Rhyne College in Hickory, North Carolina, Poole hit .302 with 30 doubles and 14 triples for the Colts in 1920.

January 10

The situation in Richmond appears settled when it is announced that former team owner and theatrical magnate Jake Wells will assume ownership of the franchise and be awarded the rights to the players reserved by the league office when the franchise was forfeited by its previous owner B.W. Wilson. Wells indicates that he plans to build a new baseball park on Mayo's Island.

1921 Virginia League [2 of 8]:



Jake Wells

"The Father of Richmond Movie Houses" Jake Wells is a former major league catcher with the Detroit Wolverines (1888) and the St. Louis Browns (1890) hitting .210 over 46 games. Following his playing and managing days, Wells builds the Bijou Theatre in 1899, offering select vaudeville acts. By the early 1920's Wells owns over 40 theatres in the Southeast. He later leaves the entertainment business to try his hand in real estate development. On April 16, 1927, a couple of days after suffering a nervous breakdown, Wells is driving near Hendersonville, North Carolina, with a friend when pulls the car over, steps out, pulls out a pistol and remarks "life is not worth living" before shooting himself in the head, twice.

a baseball park on Mayo Island costing not less than \$60,000, and it must be ready for the opening of the season, two months hence.

March 13

Rocky Mount secretary M.P. Dawson makes a trip to Baltimore and signs six players from the highly-regarded Baltimore Dry Dock team. Signing with the Tar Heels are outfielders Johnny Bates and Ben

ROCKY MOUNT CLUB IS GETTING STRONG TEAM

Six Baltimore Dry Dock Players Signed By Tar Heels In Virginia League

January 11

Confusion reigns once more in the Commonwealth when Jake Wells refuses to officially announce that he is taking over ownership of the Richmond team, thus placing the league's primary franchise back in limbo. In addition, team owners are unhappy with the performance of league president W.B. Bradley and have been trying to get rid of him since the start of the 1920 season. Former major leaguer Al Orth is rumored to have the inside track for the position.

Norfolk owner C. Moran Berry, before going duck hunting with manager Jack Warhop, announces that he has secured land and that his team will play in a new park this coming summer.

January 13

League owners are now publicly in favor of retaining W.B. Bradley as league president for the 1921 season.

January 20

In a four-hour meeting at the Murphy Hotel in Richmond, league "moguls" formally approve Jake Wells' purchase of the city's baseball franchise. At the meeting, former major league pitcher "Doc" White makes a last minute bid to buy the Richmond franchise, but is turned down.

January 28

On the same day that Newport News pitcher George Morgan, who was 16-10 with a 1.84 ERA for the Shipbuilders in 1920, signs with the Philadelphia Phillies, Virginia Tech's basketball team beats Washington & Lee, 23-9, in a game where the losing Generals are "unable to locate the baskets."

February 12

Petersburg announces that former Boston Brave, Billy Martin, will manage the team the upcoming season. The club, heretofore known as the Goobers, will be called the Trunkmakers in 1921.

February 18

League directors formally adopt a 138-game schedule to begin April 21 and end on September 24. In addition, any team dropping out of the league will forfeit their \$2,000 franchise fee. Richmond is told that they will be required to build

1921 Virginia League - Statistical Leaders

Batting Average	Jim Viox, Portsmouth	.370
Runs Scored	Ben Spencer, Rocky Mount	153
Hits	Ben Spencer, Rocky Mount	194
Doubles	Ben Spencer, Rocky Mount	50
Triples	Nathan Mathog, Suffolk; Angel Aragon RM	18
Home Runs	Joe Kelly, Norfolk	17
Wins	William McGloughlin, Portsmouth	25
Strikeouts	Al Benton, Portsmouth	196
Innings Pitched	William McGloughlin, Portsmouth	315

MANAGER RYAN RECEIVES LETTER FROM HOPEFUL

Ray Ryan, manager of the Richmond Colts, has received a letter from a budding youngster way out in Indiana who desires to play for the Colts. The letter, which is bona fide, reached the local pilot through the mail several days ago.

It follows:

Richmond, Ind.,
April 23, 1921.

Dear Sir.—Please send me a contract to play baseball with Richmond, Virginia, in Virginia State

League. Batting average, .356; fielding average, .946. Height, 5 feet 6 1-2 inches tall. Weight, 175 pounds. Please send me a ticket to come to Richmond for a tryout with Richmond, Virginia. I will report as soon as I receive a ticket. I will report as soon as I receive transportation to come on. Please send me a contract and ticket. My terms are \$3,500 a month. Please send me a little advance money, about \$200. I will sign contract by signing the same. Hoping to hear from you, I remain,

Yours very truly,
FRANK IRETON.

307 North D Street,
Richmond, Ind.

Spencer,

first baseman Lefty Russell, pitcher Harry Johnson and pair of middle infielders in Jim Curry and Elliott.

Dawson proves to be a keen eye of talent as Spencer will total 50 doubles and lead the team in hitting (.357) while Johnson finishes 17-5. However, the National Association of Minor League clubs rule that Bates, a former major leaguer, will not be allowed to play for Rocky Mount because he had jumped from another minor league club (Mobile) the previous summer.

1921 Virginia League [3 of 8]:

April 2

Wilson acquires pitcher John Rommel from the Martinsburg of the Blue Ridge League, where he was 4-9 in 1920, after Rommel declines to sign a contract with the Mountaineers. Rommel also decides not to sign with the Bugs and returns home.

BIG BASEBALL SUIT IS FILED

Former Owner of Richmond Club Begins Action for Damages

April 11

Seven of the eight Virginia League teams and league president W.B. Bradley are named as defendants in a lawsuit filed by Ben Wilson, the former owner of the Richmond franchise. Wilson, who was expelled from the league at a meeting back on November 6, is seeking in excess of \$50,000 in damages.

Wilson, who was not at the November meeting, claims that he did not receive notice that he would "be tried" that night and that he did not have an opportunity to prepare a defense. The suit does not involve the current Richmond franchise as it was organized after Wilson ceased to be part of the league.

The problem between Wilson and the other teams began during a league meeting in October, 1920, where the schedule for the 1921 season was discussed. Other owners declined to grant Wilson's request that Richmond be allotted more Saturday home dates than other teams and the meeting ends without an agreement.

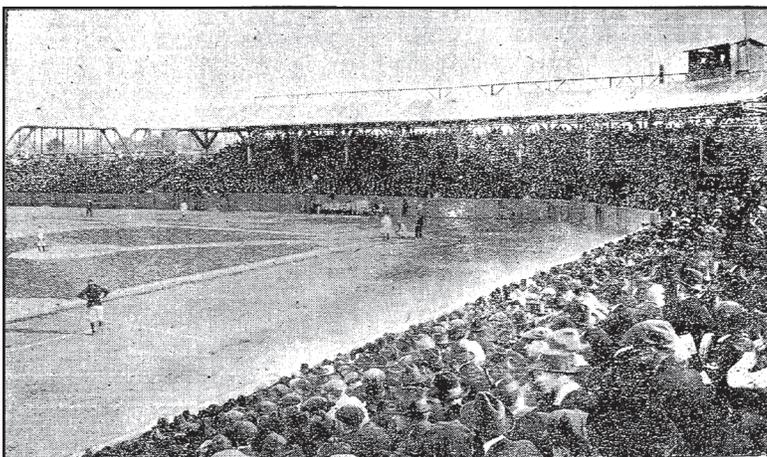
At the November meeting, the attending owners sought to have Wilson post a \$2,000 forfeit fee and accept a schedule as they might draft that night. Reached by long distance telephone, Wilson declines to post the forfeit fee. Following that decision, the league "confiscated" eight Richmond players (valued at \$30,000 by Wilson) and the rights to the franchise.

April 21- The Season Opens

Following a tumultuous preseason, the Virginia League opens its 16th season with a four game slate.

Rocky Mount beats Wilson, 6-5, in 10 innings before a Tar Heel record crowd of 4,000 with William "Lefty" Loach picking up the first of his 11 wins. Portsmouth tops Norfolk 7-6 in a "poorly played and slow game." Newport News totals 16 hits, including a home run by center fielder John Hupfer (his only one of the season) and hands visiting Suffolk a 6-3 setback before 5,000 fans. Shortstop Billy Martin goes 2-for-3 with a home run to lead Petersburg past Richmond 6-5 before 7,500 in brand-new Mayo Island Park.

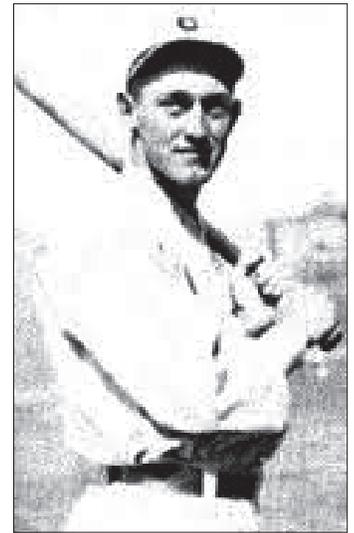
Crowd at Opening of New Baseball Park Yesterday



Mayo Island Park, Richmond, Virginia

April 24

The Philadelphia Athletics release 22-year-old pitcher Jack Slappey to Rocky Mount. Slappey, a University of Georgia product, appears in three games for Connie Mack's Athletics in 1920, finishing 0-1 with a 7.11 ERA. The 6-foot-4 Slappey is 11-18 for the Tar Heels in the best season of his seven-year minor league career where fashions a 34-77 mark before ending with a 3-14 slate for the Reading Keystones of the International (AA) League in 1927.



Ed Hock

Wheelersburg, Ohio, native Ed Hock makes his minor league debut with the Richmond Colts almost nine months to the day after making his major league debut with the St. Louis Cardinals. Signed off of an independent team from Portsmouth, Ohio, Hock breaks into the big leagues on July 8, 1920, as a late inning replacement for Cardinal left fielder Jack Smith in a 14-2 loss to the Brooklyn Robins. In a lengthy 22-year minor league career, Hock totals 3,474 hits. Hock dies at the age of 64 after drowning in the Ohio River on November 21, 1963.



**Jack Slappey
University of Georgia**

1921 Virginia League [5 of 8]:

July 1
Less than 24 hours later, league directors overturn Bradley's decision on the disputed Wilson/Richmond game and decide that should the game have a bearing on the first half standings, that the final two innings of the game be played the next time the two teams are in Richmond on July 19. Trailing 6-4 in the eighth inning, if Wilson rallies they will be crowned first half champion, a Colt win would give Rocky Mount the first half title.

The directors order the game to be replayed with the same pitchers and field players, just as they were when the game was called.

July 2 - The first half ends and the trouble begins

On the final day of the season's first half, Wilson beats Suffolk 3-0, on James Joliff's third shutout of the year, and moves into a first-place tie with Rocky Mount which drops an 8-4 decision to Norfolk. The Bugs and the Tar Heels are deadlocked with identical 38-25 records.

ROCKY MOUNT AND WILSON TIE IN VIRGINIA LEAGUE

PORTSMOUTH, July 3.—The first half race of the Virginia league for this season came to a close yesterday with Rocky Mount and Wilson, the two North Carolina teams in the circuit, tied for first place. Portsmouth, winner of the second half last season and last year's champions, finished third while Richmond, winner of the first half race last season finished fourth.

July 9
At a league meeting in Petersburg, where newspaper men are excluded, it is charged that both Rocky Mount and Wilson have exceeded the salary limit by more than \$1,000 per month.

July 14
In a morning announcement, the Virginia League assumes control of the struggling Petersburg Trunkmakers. League president W.B. Bradley orders that all games scheduled for Petersburg be transferred to the home fields of the opposing clubs and the franchise's \$2,000 guarantee be forfeited to the league to assist in paying the player's salaries. By mid-afternoon, Petersburg president Crutchfield denies that he has surrendered the club

to league office or that he consented to the transfer of future games.

July 16
Two days after the league reportedly assumes control of the Petersburg franchise and just hours before a new of investors are to leave for Norfolk to post a forfeit fee to take over ownership of the team, the grandstand of the Trunkmakers' ball park is destroyed by a fire.

July 20
The salary issue rears its ugly head once again as league president W.B. Bradley calls for another meeting to be held in three days to discuss the issue of certain clubs exceeding the salary limit.

TOM CLARKE SAYS HE PAYS HIS OWN BILLS

Wilson, July 20.—The charge made in a Norfolk paper that Tom Clarke, manager of the Wilson baseball team, in addition to receiving a salary of \$700 per month is getting house rent, water and lights free, is denied by Mr. Clarke.

He says: "If the doubting Thomases who wish to be convinced will communicate with my landlord, R. V. Moss, and City Clerk T. A. Hinnant, they will find that I pay my bills when they become due."

When asked about getting within the salary limit, he said, "The Tobacco worms like Wilson so well that all will submit to a cut; but we make no promise to reduce the speed at which we are now going."

Wilson manager Tom Clarke, whose Bugs tied with Rocky Mount for the first-half championship with identical 38-25 records, and are 12-3 through the first three weeks of the second half, denies a report by a Norfolk newspaper that in addition to his \$700 per month salary (\$9,100 per month in today's market place) he is also receiving rent, water and lights for free.

"If the doubting Thomases who wish to be convinced will communicate with my landlord, R. V. Moss and City Clerk T.A. Hinnant, they will find that I pay my bills when they become due."

- Tom Clarke

GRANDSTAND GOES UP IN FLAMES AT PETERSBURG

Baseball Moguls Unable To Say Whether Petersburg Will Remain In the Virginia League.

Petersburg, Va., July 16.—With the grandstand of the ball park in ruins from a fire which destroyed it this afternoon and ownership of the Petersburg club itself in doubt, local baseball magnates did not know tonight whether Petersburg would remain in the Virginia league.

The fire at the ball park occurred just before representatives of a group who agreed last night to take over the club were about to leave for Norfolk to post the forfeit that would bind the deal.

They quickly abandoned the trip and as officials of the Petersburg sports corporation thought the deal had been completed, none of them went.

Agents for the prospective new owners said tonight that the deal would fall through unless the sports corporation would rebuild the grandstand. The burned stand was fully insured and will be rebuilt at once, it was said.

Until the question of ownership is settled, the sports corporation remains responsible for the team and will continue playing the schedule, although the series with Norfolk here Monday may be transferred to Norfolk.



Rube Yarrison

One of five 20-game winners in the Virginia League in 1921, Gettysburg College graduate Byron Wardsworth (Rube) Yarrison is 20-13 for the Rocky Mount Tar Heels in 1921. In his college debut on April 11, 1917, Yarrison limits visiting Lafayette College to one single in a 4-1 win. Five years, and two days later (April 13, 1922), Yarrison makes his first start at the major league level, allowing seven runs in four innings and absorbs the loss in a 6-2 defeat to the Boston Red Sox in Fenway Park.

July 23

Following Wilson's defeat in the makeup game at Richmond four days earlier, league officials vote by a 4-to-2 margin to award the first half championship to Rocky Mount. Immediately following the vote, Portsmouth and Newport News, upset that both Wilson and Rocky Mount have violated league salary limits, announce that they will "carry the question" to Baseball Commissioner Judge Kenesaw Landis.

July 28

It's official; Faced with mounting debt and a \$3,000 repair bill to replace the grandstand that burned down on July 16, Petersburg officials turn the franchise over the league office.

"Tarboro wants to enter the Virginia League and is said to be ready to take up the franchise of the Petersburg club. Tarboro has as much business in the Virginia League as Frank Kugler in a beauty show for babies. The next thing we know, Aurora will be trying to get Cleveland's franchise. Tarboro in the Virginia League would look like a pair of tanned oxfords at a formal dance. Last year Tarboro associated with Pinetops and Scotland Neck. This year she wants to associate with Richmond and Norfolk."

- Washington (N.C.) Daily News

August 1

Ignoring the advice of the *Washington Daily News*, League president W.B. Bradley awards the North Carolina city of Tarboro the Petersburg franchise.

August 2

Rocky Mount's Jimmy Woodhead hurls the Virginia League's first no-hitter of the season when he blanks Norfolk 3-0. Facing only 29 batters, Woodhead allows only four Tars to reach base, two by errors, one on a walk and one when his catcher drops a third strike.

August 11

R.B. Evans, of the *Raleigh News & Observer*, feels that a 15-game suspension of Wilson first baseman Claude Roth is unwarranted. In a recent game with Portsmouth, it is alleged that Roth "struck" the game's umpire, but his teammates say that Roth only "shoved" the arbiter.

Roth is ejected from the game, taken to police headquarters and fined \$10.

Evans states that it was thought that the matter ended there "inasmuch as other players have administered corporal punishment to umpires who failed to keep their 'lamps' properly trimmed" and are not suspended.

Evans goes on to opine that Wilson is "crawling" too close for the comfort of the Virginia teams and it looks as if "the cards are being stacked against the Wilson aggregation."

League president W.B. Bradley later reduces Roth's penalty to a mere \$100 fine.

ROCKY MOUNT PITCHER ENTERS IMMORTAL CLASS

Retires League-Leading Tars Without Allowing Semblance of Safe Hit.

PITCHES TO ONLY 28 MEN

Perfect Record Saved in Ninth Inning. When Spencer Makes Sensational Catch of Vermilyea's Line Drive.

Norfolk.							
	A.	B.	R.	H.	O.	A.	E.
Vermilyea, 3b.	3	0	0	0	3	0	0
Yoter, ss.	4	0	0	0	4	1	0
Furke, cf.	2	0	0	1	0	0	0
Bowman, 1b.	3	0	0	16	0	1	0
Kelly, rf.	3	0	0	1	0	0	0
Fuhrman, lf.-c.	3	0	0	2	1	0	0
Rhodes, cf.-lf.	3	0	0	2	0	0	0
Burkett, 2b.	3	0	0	2	4	0	0
Garton, p.	2	0	0	0	5	0	0
*Deckert	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	28	0	0	24	17	2	0
Rocky Mount.							
	A.	B.	R.	H.	O.	A.	E.
Moran, 3b.	4	0	0	1	2	1	0
Spencer, lf.	4	1	1	2	0	0	0
Walker, cf.	2	0	0	6	1	0	0
Curry, 2b.	4	1	2	3	4	1	0
Kelliher, 1b.	2	1	2	10	0	0	0
Steinback, c.	2	0	0	3	0	1	0
Winston, rf.	4	0	1	1	0	0	0
Champlin, ss.	3	0	1	1	1	0	0
Woodhead, p.	4	0	1	0	1	0	0
Totals	29	3	8	27	9	3	0

→Deckert hit for Garton in ninth.
 Score by innings:
 Norfolk 000 000 000—0
 Rocky Mount 010 100 10x—3
 Summary: Home run—Curry. Sacrifice hits—Steinback (2). Walker, Kelliher. Stolen bases—Champlin. Walker, Curry. Struck out—by Garton, 2; by Woodhead, 4. Base on balls—off Garton, 4; off Woodhead, 1. Left on bases—Norfolk, 2; Rocky Mount, 9. Time of game—1:35. Umpire—Orth.



Ben Mallonee
1920 Portsmouth Truckers

1921 Virginia League [7 of 8]:

September 2

Wilson ace right-hander George Quinn is sold to the New York Yankees for \$3,000 and is told to report at the end of the Virginia League season.

Awards Portsmouth First Half Pennant In Virginia League

Portsmouth, Va., Sept. 9.—High Commissioner of Baseball, M. K. Landis today reversed the decision of the directors of the Virginia League in awarding the first half pennant to Rocky Mount, ruling that the Portsmouth club was entitled to first-half honors.

The dispute, settled today by Commissioner Landis, grew out of charges of violations of salaries of players prescribed by the league constitution. The two clubs most affected by the ruling, Rocky Mount and Wilson, admitted they were over the salary limit, and these confessions, together with other data, were forwarded to Commissioner Landis by owners of the Portsmouth and Newport News clubs, with a petition for final decision.

The club which were over the salary limit in the first half are now within the margin prescribed by the league constitution.

LEAGUE WRANGLE SENT TO LANDIS

Merchants' Boycott Follows Virginia League Squabble

CHICAGO, Sept. 24.—Judge Kenesaw M. Landis, commissioner of baseball, yesterday agreed to straighten out the championship tangle in the Virginia league, where a merchants' baseball feud has sprung up among the hills famous for sectional strife.

Until recently the Wilson (N. C.) club led the league. Several games were protested because the Wilson club was alleged to have violated the salary limit. President Bradley of the league threw the protested games out, allowing Portsmouth, Va., to take first place.

Then the feud began. Merchants of Wilson, irritated at the loss of the championship, agreed not to trade with Virginia firms.

Norman Y. Chambliss, business manager of the Rocky Mount (Va.) club, which won the championship for the first half of the season, appeared before Judge Landis with a request for an investigation. Several clubs are involved in charges of violating the salary limit and illegal transfer of high salaried players. The investigation will be conducted after the close of the Virginia league series.

September 3

Richmond sets a Virginia League single game record for runs scored, besting visiting Newport News 26-1 in a game shortened to seven innings.

September 5

Suffolk's Dennis Burns turns in the second no-hitter of the Virginia League season. Burns walks only one batter and improves to 17-12 with a 6-0 win over Newport News.

September 9

Baseball Commissioner Kenesaw Landis overturns the previous decision of Virginia League officials that awarded the first half championship to Rocky Mount, ruling that Portsmouth is entitled to first half "honors". Both Rocky Mount and Wilson admit that they were over the salary limits.

September 13

Portsmouth sells its leading hitter, outfielder Ben Mallonee, to the Philadelphia Athletics. Mallonee, a 27-year-old Baltimore native, the Truckers' leading hitter with a .338 average, makes his major league debut one day later, striking out against Cleveland Indian right-hander Stan Coveleski in an 8-5 loss.

September 24

Baseball Commissioner Kenesaw Landis decides to mediate the Virginia League championship where charges of salary limitations violations have resulted in confusion among league members and a boycott by Wilson business merchants agreeing not to trade with firms from Virginia.

Rocky Mount's business manager Norman Chambliss, meets with Landis with a request for him to investigate the league action of stripping the Tar Heels of their first half championship for violating the salary limit.

October 17

Baseball commissioner Kenesaw Landis promises Newport News president G.S. Barnes that he will "clean house" in the Virginia League, requesting detailed information from all of the clubs as to their salary limits and other arrangements with players for the season just ended.

26 RUNS IN 7 FRAMES

Richmond, Va., Sept. 3.—Opening up a terrific offensive the Richmond Colts this afternoon beat the Newport News Builders in the last game of the series by the score of 26 to 1 and established a record for runs scored since the Virginia league was organized.

"Lefty" Heatwole a former Richmond pitcher was pounded from the box in the second, when the colts scored eight runs. He was succeeded by Jones, right-fielder, and the Richmond batters smashed out eleven runs off his delivery in the seventh frame.

A total of thirty-one hits rewarded the efforts of Richmond during the afternoon.

Score: B. H. E.
Richmond082 005 11—26 31 0
Newport News ...100 000 0—1 9 2
Batteries; Smith and Greenae, Abbott; Heatwole, Jones, Whitercraft and McQuinn.

Suffolk Hurler Equals League's Pitching Feat

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
NEWPORT NEWS, VA., Sept. 5.—Dennis Burns, Suffolk pitcher, equaled the hurling record of the Virginia League for 1921 here this morning when he pitched a no-hit, no-run game against the Newport News Shipbuilders. It is the second time this season that the feat has been accomplished, Woodhead, of Rocky Mount, turned the trick against the Norfolk team about three weeks ago.



Jim Viox

Former Pittsburgh Pirates' outfielder Jim Viox leads the Virginia League in hitting with a .370 average as the player/manager of Portsmouth while directing the Truckers to the league championship. In his first full season in the majors in 1913, the Lockland, Ohio, native finishes third in the National League in hitting with a .317 average. In five seasons with Pittsburgh (1912-1916) Viox hits .273 with seven home runs and 190 RBIs.

December 12

Virginia League president W.B. Bradley announces that the owners will meet on December 15, to decide what cities will comprise the league next year. It is reported that the three North Carolina franchises - Wilson, Rocky Mount, Tarboro - will be dropped and an all-Virginia circuit will be organized ...

Tarboro, which took over the Petersburg franchise on August 2, has surrendered its option while the owners of the Suffolk club dispose virtually all of its players and have indicated that they will not be in the league in 1922.

December 15

Virginia League officials, following a "long drawn out" meeting agree to set a salary limit of \$3,000 for the 1922 season and a player limit of 14 men, excluding the manager. The new salary limit is a \$200 reduction from the scandal-riddled 1921 campaign.

Also, in a resolution of a lawsuit against the Virginia League and President W.B. Bradley, a court in Richmond awards former Richmond team owner Ben W. Wilson \$6,500 in damages. Wilson had sought in excess of \$50,000 for the loss of his franchise and roster players.

December 25

The entire Tarboro team is purchased by the Richmond Colts, including manager Ambrose McConnell.

VIRGINIA LEAGUE ENDS UP VERY STORMY YEA

PORTSMOUTH, Va., Sept. 24.—The Virginia League today closed its stormiest and probably the last season in its history Monday the post-season series will start to decide the official and unofficial championship of the league for 1921.

The view is freely expressed by owners of the Virginia city clubs that the Virginia wheel has seen its last season and that next year will see some of the Virginia cities playing in class A league with clubs in New Jersey, Maryland and Pennsylvania. Steadily sounding out the sentiment in the northern cities for such a league has already been taken.

Portsmouth, winner of the first half by virtue of a decision by Commissioner of Baseball K. M. Land and the Norfolk team, winner of the second half by virtue of the action of President W. B. Bradley in throwing out all games won by the Wilson club up to July 23, because of alleged salary limit violations, will start the official post-season series in Norfolk on Monday.

Rocky Mount, N. C., winners of the first half in the percentage table with a team admittedly over the salary limit and Wilson, N. C., leaders in the second half, until the action of President Bradley, will start the unofficial championship series on the same date.

1922

The Virginia League contracts to a six-team circuit in 1922 - Newport News Shipbuilders (63-56), Norfolk Tars (58-57), Portsmouth Truckers (57-61), Richmond Colts (49-68), Rocky Mount Tar Heels (60-61), Wilson Bugs (68-52). Wilson will represent the league in a post-season best-of-seven championship series with the Charleston Pals of South Atlantic League. The Pals defeat the Bugs four games to two.