

Pinch Hits, "Emergency in Cairo"

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On July 6, 1906, the *Paducah (Kentucky) Evening Sun* runs a front page story that the Kitty League's Cairo Giants' manager Daniel McCarthy has fined every member of the team \$100 for "indifferent playing," and then hands each of them their immediate release.

The players all have salary due them, but McCarthy withholds payment in lieu of the fines that he imposed that morning. Nicknamed "the Coal Baron," McCarthy quickly leaves town with the money for the player's salaries and a committee of "desperate fans" looking for him.

The Giants forfeit that afternoon's home game to the last-place Mattoon Canaries (19-38) because the "released" players will not work being unsure of where their salaries are coming to come from. A meeting is quickly convened by the directors of the local baseball association, which "highly condemns" McCarthy and appoints Ed Eichenberger as the team's temporary manager.



1906 Kitty League Standings

May 3 through September 9

Teams	W	L	Pct	GB
Vincennes Alice.....	76	49	.608	--
Jacksonville Jacks.....	67	58	.536	9
Cairo Giants.....	68	61	.527	10
Danville Old Soldiers.....	58	69	.457	19
Paducah Indians.....	57	69	.452	19 1/2
Mattoon/Charleston Canaries....	54	74	.422	23 1/2

Pre-Emergency

May 3 through July 5

Teams	W	L	Pct	GB
Vincennes Alice.....	37	23	.617	--
Jacksonville Jacks.....	33	26	.559	3 1/2
Cairo Giants.....	33	28	.541	4 1/2
Paducah Indians.....	29	31	.483	8
Danville Old Soldiers.....	28	33	.459	9 1/2
Mattoon Canaries.....	19	38	.333	16 1/2

Post-Emergency

July 6 through September 9

Teams	W	L	Pct	GB
Vincennes Alice.....	39	26	.600	--
Mattoon/Charleston Canaries....	35	36	.493	7
Jacksonville Jacks.....	34	32	.515	7 1/2
Cairo Giants.....	35	33	.515	7 1/2
Danville Old Soldiers.....	30	36	.455	9 1/2
Paducah Indians.....	28	38	.424	11 1/2

The Cairo Bulletin runs an editorial that it is now "up to the fans" to keep the team in town for the remainder of the season. It is estimated that \$1,500 must be raised to keep the team afloat for the remainder of the season.

McCarthy had entire control of the team prior to his departure as the Association had bound the team over to him the previous season in an "win all or lose all" effort. McCarthy received all of the gate receipts from home games, all commissions for any players sold, while at the same time he was responsible for all of the team's expenses, including salaries.

On July 9, McCarthy agrees to pay 15 days back salaries to the Cairo players.

Despite a recent slump, Cairo remains in third place in the league standings, 5 1/2 games behind first place Vincennes with a 33-28 (.541) record. The Giants return to the diamond the following afternoon and drop a 3-1 decision to Mattoon because of a "couple of errors and a few bad bad decisions of Umpire (Jack) Wilkinson."

On August 13, Wilkinson is removed, by petition, as an umpire in the Kitty League. Only Vincennes and Paducah are opposed to his removal. Pressure was brought to bear from towns where Wilkinson is alleged to have done his "dirty work."

The Cairo Citizen says of the six-team Kitty League: "All these cities except Cairo have beautifully paved streets, cement sidewalks and present a much more impressive appearance, and it is now up to Cairo to awake from her Rip Van Winkle sleep of twenty years and get busy in bringing about public improvements."