

Ty Cobb, "An Oklahoma Peach"

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On October 1, 1916, Detroit Hall of Famer Tyrus Raymond (Ty) Cobb collects three hits in five at bats as his Tigers close out the regular season with a 6-3 win over the home standing St. Louis Browns ... the three hits raise Cobb's season batting average to .371, good for second in the American League batting race to Cleveland's Tris Speaker's .386.

On that same day, some 443 miles southwest of the Browns' Sportsman Park, another Tyrus Raymond (Ty) Cobb is born in the town of Tupelo, Oklahoma.

An Oklahoma Peach



Tyrus Raymond (Ty) Cobb

A REAL second Ty Cobb, who is making his bid for fame as a pitcher, has left-handed his way to 12 victories, while suffering seven defeats, for the Lake Charles club of the Evangeline League. In the 157 innings he has pitched, he has fanned 80, while allowing 67 bases on balls.

Ty the Second was born October 1, 1916, when the Georgia Peach was in his prime, and the father, Charles D. Cobb of Tupelo, Okla., who wanted his son to be a player, immediately named his offspring Tyrus Raymond.

Young Cobb received his first professional experience last year when he joined the McAllen, Tex., club in the Texas Valley League. While with this team he won seven and lost three games.

Cobb has a baffling delivery which Manager Joe Bratcher of the Lake Charles club thinks will take him to higher company some day. The youthful pitcher lives only for baseball. He is a walking record book of names of players, of winning teams, and holders of various records.

Cobb Year by Year:

| Year | Team | League | Level | W-L | INN | ERA |
|------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------|-------|-----|------|
| 1936 | Henderson Oilers | East Texas | C | | | |
| 1937 | Monahans Trojans | W. Texas/N. Mexico | D | | | |
| 1938 | McAllen Packers | Texas Valley | D | 7-3 | 84 | 4.07 |
| 1939 | Lake Charles Skippers | Evangeline | D | 15-13 | 244 | 4.09 |
| 1940 | Tyler Trojans..... | East Texas | C | | | |
| 1941 | Port Arthur Tarpons..... | Evangeline | D | 7-6 | 93 | 4.45 |

The Oklahoman Cobb eventually makes his way into professional baseball, debuting in 1936 with the Henderson Oilers of the East Texas (C) League.

In 1937, Cobb is listed on the roster of the Monahans Trojans of the newly-formed West Texas/New Mexico (D) League ... on March 11, 1937, the *Dallas Morning News* reports that the site of Trojans' ball park will be located in what was designed to be the world's largest oil reservoir.

"A rich petroleum company excavated a six-acre tract to a depth of 40 feet for thus huge tank, then built concrete side walls 20 feet above the ground. Finding it would not hold oil, it had to be abandoned for this purpose anyway, and the bowl has been turned into a unique model ball park.

The enclosed six acres affords ample room for a large park. Sandlot teams are playing there and report that it is a rarity for a ball to be driven out of the enclosure either in fair or foul territory."

Cobb begins to draw attention in 1938 as a 21-year-old with the McAllen Palms of the Texas Valley (D) League ... a lefty with a "baffling delivery", Cobb quickly serves notice to the league hitters that he belongs, pitching 84 innings and finishing 7-3 with a 4.07 ERA.

Cobb's best season comes in 1939, with the Lake Charles Skippers of the Evangeline (D) League, when he leads the team in wins (15) and innings pitched.

Out of baseball in 1940, Cobb returns in 1941 to make the opening day roster of the Evangeline (D) League's Port Arthur Tarpons ... Cobb goes 7-6 with a 4.45 ERA in his final season in professional baseball ... he ends his five-year minor league career with a 29-22 mark and a 4.17 ERA.

Ty Cobb: [2 of 2]:

◀◀ July 14, 1938

22-year-old McAllen Palms lefty Ty Cobb, hurls a 10-hit complete game in his Texas Valley (D) League pitching debut, a 9-to-3 loss to the visiting Harlingen Hubs in a game ... three Palm errors in the early part of the game put the rookie in a deep hole following a three-run first inning.

With the win, the Hubs move past McAllen and into second place (by mere percentage points) in the league standings ... Harlington is led by 18-year-old 1B Bill McClaren, who goes 3-for-5 with two RBIs and 21-year-old rookie LHP Gene Hinricks who scatters seven Palm hits en route to picking up his 19th win of the year.

| Harlingen | AB | R | H | O | A |
|-------------|----|---|---|---|---|
| Roseni cf | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Wassing 2b | 3 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Carter lf | 3 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| McClaren 1b | 5 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 1 |
| Mays 3b | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| McBryde rf | 5 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Phillips ss | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Fisher c | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Hinricks p | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |

| Totals | AB | R | H | O | A |
|---------------|----|---|----|----|---|
| Totals | 37 | 9 | 10 | 27 | 9 |
| McAllen | AB | R | H | O | A |
| Taylor 2b | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| Cicero 3b | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Pollard rf | 4 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| Jordan cf | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Grigg c | 4 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 0 |
| Barnes 1b | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Peters ss | 4 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Hardcastle lf | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Cobb p | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |

Totals 33 3 7 27 16
 Harlingen 300 000 051-9
 McAllen 100 101 000-3
 Errors McClaren, Cicero, Grigg 2, Barnes, Hardcastle. Runs batted in—McClaren 2, Phillips 2, Hinricks 2, McBryde, Jordan, Grigg 2. Two base hits—Taylor, Mays. Home runs — Grigg. Stolen bases — Phillips. Double plays — Cicero to Taylor to Barnes. Left on bases—Harlingen 7; McAllen 4. Base on balls—off Hinricks 1; Cobb 4. Struck out—by Hinricks 11; Cobb 2. Umpires—Decker and Ogden. Time of game—1:35.