

Cups of Coffee: Wedo Martini

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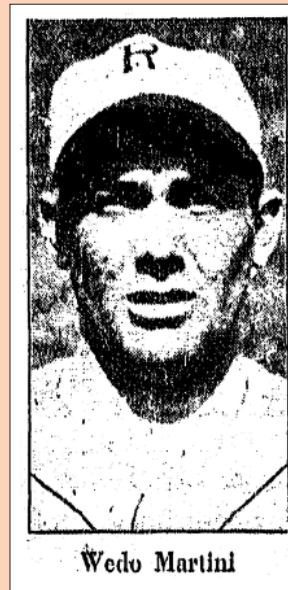
Straight from the sandlots of Philadelphia to Shibe Park and then back again. That's the story of Guido Joe "Wedo" Martini, all within a 30-day period during the summer of 1935.

On July 28, a 22-year-old Martini makes his major league debut as an reported "18-year-old" pitcher, for the lowly Philadelphia Athletics against the visiting Boston Red Sox.

Connie Mack's A's give Martini a quick 2-0 lead in the second inning but he is unable to maintain it. The 5-foot-10, 165-pound right-hander is knocked out in the fourth inning after allowing six runs (five earned) on five hits and five walks in three 1/3 innings. Relieved by veteran Al Benton, Martini leaves the field to the "shouting and jeering" of the 5,000 hometown fans.

A's DROP MARTINI
PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 30—Wedo Martini, local sandlot pitcher, drew his release today from the Athletics and returned to the Raphael semi-pro club. He may be taken south next spring.

Martini will pitch in two more games for the A's before being released on August 30, and returning to the sandlots from whence he came and leaving the Athletics five available pitchers.



Wedo Martini

Born July 1, 1913, in Birmingham, Alabama, the third of eight children to Pasqual and Celester Martini, he attends East Birmingham High School where he plays second base and pitches for the school's baseball team, twice hurling no-hitters. During the summer he plays semipro ball with the East Birmingham Giants.

Moving to Philadelphia in 1933, Martini continues his budding baseball career with the St. Columbus semipro team. In 1934, he pitches for the Philadelphia Eagles of the Main Line League and leads the league in hitting (.335) and home runs (10).

In 1935, playing for the Grayfield nine where he is 18-3 and first attracts the attention of Connie Mack, inking his first pro contract that July.

After being invited by Philadelphia to its 1936 spring training, Martini starts the season with the Richmond Colts of the Piedmont (B) League. He appears in only one game for the Colts before earning his second release in as many years. Martini will re-emerge two years later for yet another brief appearance (two games) in professional baseball with the Eastern League's Hartford Laurels where, in his debut, a local paper refers to him as the "Squatty Italian."

On August 23, 1941, Martini hurls a no-hitter for Lansdale. A couple of months later, Martini's pro career comes to an end when Lansdale hands him his release.

Martini passes away on October 28, 1970, at his home in Philadelphia. A delivery truck driver for the *Philadelphia Inquirer* at the time of his death, Martini is 57 years old.

July 28, 1935
Boston Red Sox at Philadelphia Athletics
Shibe Park, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Boston	Ab.	R.	H.	O.	A.	E.
Cooke, cf	5	2	3	5	0	0
Almada, rf	6	1	2	1	0	0
R. Johnson, lf	4	1	2	3	0	0
Cronin, ss	6	0	2	3	0	0
R. Ferrell, c	3	1	1	2	0	0
Werber, 3b	4	1	2	3	5	0
Williams, 2b	5	1	1	2	2	0
Dahlgren, 1b	5	1	2	9	0	0
Weich, p	2	3	0	0	2	0

Totals	Ab.	R.	H.	O.	A.	E.
Totals	40	11	15	27	11	0
Philadelphia	Ab.	R.	H.	O.	A.	E.
Finney, rf	5	0	1	1	0	0
Cramer, cf	5	0	0	2	0	0
B. Johnson, lf	4	0	1	1	0	0
Foxx, 1b	3	1	0	14	0	0
Higgins, 3b	4	1	3	0	1	0
McNair, ss	4	0	0	0	5	1
Warstler, 2b	4	0	2	4	2	0
Richards, c	3	1	1	4	0	1
Martini, p	1	0	0	0	3	0
Benton, p	0	0	0	0	0	0
xMoses	1	0	1	0	0	0
Caster, p	0	0	0	1	2	0
Turbeville, p	0	0	0	0	0	0
xxMarcum	1	0	0	0	0	0

Totals35 3 9 27 13 2
x—Batted for Benton in 7th.
xx—Batted for Turbeville in 9th.

Score by innings: R.
Boston001 501 103—11
Philadelphia020 000 010— 3
Runs batted in: Higgins, Finney, Williams, R. Johnson, Almada, Cooke 3, Warstler, Cronin 3. Two base hits: B. Johnson, Cooke 2, Almada, Cronin. Home run: Higgins. Stolen base: Werber. Double plays: McNair to Warstler to Foxx 2; Weich to Cronin to Dahlgren. Left on bases: Philadelphia 8, Boston 14. Bases on balls: Off Martini 5; Benton 2; Caster 5; Weich 3. Strike outs: Martini 1; Benton 1; Weich 3. Hits off Martini 5 in 3 1-3 innings; Benton 6 in 3 2-3; Caster 4 in 1 2-3; Turbeville 0 in 1-3. Losing pitcher: Martini. Umpires: Owens, Marberry and McGowan. Time: 2:07.

Wedo Martini Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Level	W-L	GP	INN	H	BB	SO	ERA	
1932	East Birmingham Giants	-	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	
1933	St. Columbus Knights	Main Line	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	
1934	Philadelphia Eagles	Main Line	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	
1935	Grayfield	City	SPro	18-3	-	-	-	-	-	--	
1935	Philadelphia Athletics	AMERICAN	ML	0-2	3	6.1	13	11	1	17.05	
1936	Richmond Colts	Piedmont	B	0-0	1	0.1	0	0	0	0.00	
1936	Raphael	Philadelphia	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	
1936	DuPont Club	Greater Industrial	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	
1937	Raphael	Philadelphia	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	
1937	Paoli	Main Line	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	
1938	Hartford Laurels	Eastern	A	0-0	2	2.0	2	1	0	9.00	
1939	House of David	Touring	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	
1939	Raoli	Main Line	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	
1940	Lansdale	East Penn	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	
1941	Lansdale	East Penn	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	
Major League Totals				1 Season	0-2	3	6.1	13	11	1	17.05
Minor League Totals				6 Seasons	64-43	984	-	946	421	633	--

ML Debut: July 28, 1935 at Shibe Park, Philadelphia: starting and losing pitcher for Philadelphia in an 11-3 loss to the Boston Red Sox; allowed six runs (5 earned) in 3 1/3 innings on five hits, five walks and one strikeout.

ML Finale: August 28, 1935 at Navin Field, Detroit: starting and losing pitcher for Philadelphia in a 11-0 loss to the Detroit Tigers; allowed three earned runs in one inning on one hit and three walks.