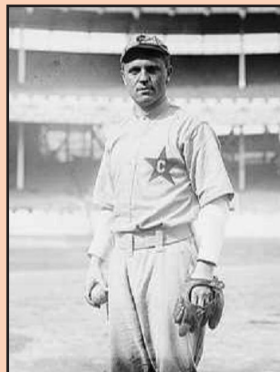


They Played the Game

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Phifer Fullenwider



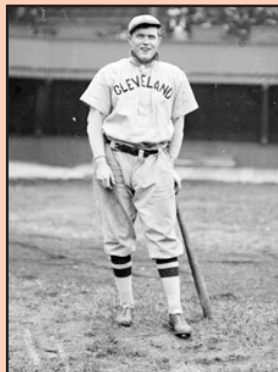
A name for the ages, Phifer Fullenwider also has one of the great nicknames in baseball ... a 1908 graduate with a degree in pharmacy from the University of North Carolina, and a pharmacist in the off season, Fullenwider is a fan favorite in Buffalo, where he pitches four full seasons and part of a fifth for the Bisons (1912-1916) ... Buffalo fans and sportswriters give him the nickname, "Phifer Phullenwider the Phlinging Pharmacist" ... the above photo is "Fi" Fullenwider in his Columbia Commies uniform standing in New York's Polo Grounds in 1912 ... born in Salisbury, North Carolina, the tall right-hander toils 13 years at different levels of the minor leagues and despite a wretched 2-10 mark with the Greenville Spinners in his final season in 1923, compiles a 188-137 record ... he has two 20-win seasons and three other campaigns with 19 wins ... in 1911, he wins a career-best 26 games with Columbia Commies of the South Atlantic League ... two years later he totals 20 victories with the Buffalo Bisons of the International League ... following a 19-win season in 1917 with the Southern Association's Atlanta Crackers, Fullenwider decides he is worth more money than the team is offering and he elects to sit out the 1918 season, and 1919 ... he returns in 1920 and wins 19 games as a 33-year-old with Rocky Mount Tar Heels ... Fullenwider's baseball career comes to an end on August 3, 1923, when he and catcher Lee Rhame are released by the Greenville Spinners.

Cotton Knaupp



Henry "Cotton" Knaupp has a brief major league career, but a lengthy and productive one in the minor leagues ... the San Antonio native hits only .184 in parts of two seasons (1910 and 1911) with the Cleveland Naps ... a 21-year-old Knaupp is 0-for-3 and makes two errors at shortstop in his major league debut in a 3-1 loss to the New York Highlanders on August 30, 1910 ... after his stint with the Naps, the right-handed hitting middle infielder is with the New Orleans Pelicans from 1911 to 1923, helping the Pelicans to three Southern Association Championships in 1911, 1915 and 1923 ... Knaupp still holds Pelican career records for games played (1,476), sacrifices (333) and put-outs by a second basemen (3,198) ... in 1922, the *Chattanooga Daily Times* calls Knaupp, "the smartest ballplayer in the league." ... in his 18-year minor league career, he hits over .270 only four times, including a career-best .278 in 1915 ... on August 8, 1916, Knaupp becomes the only player in Southern Association history, to pull off an unassisted triple play when he turns a line drive off of the bat of Chattanooga's Joe Harris into an easy twin-plus-one killing ... in 1927, as the player-manager of the Florida State League's Miami Hustlers, Knaupp hits only .195, but is involved in 51 double plays despite being on the field for only 65 games ... he guides the Hustlers to the second-half pennant with a 39-20 mark, but loses to Orlando in the championship series.

Glenn Liebhardt



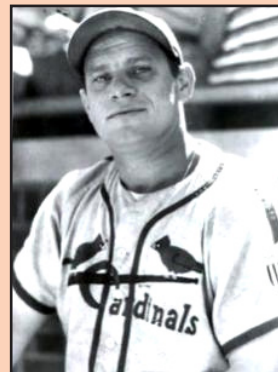
In 1906, right-hander Glenn Liebhardt has one of the great turnarounds in baseball annals ... a year after finishing 4-26 with Omaha and St. Joseph in the Western League, a 23-year-old Liebhardt wins 37 games - 35 with the Memphis Egyptians of the Southern (A) Association and two with his hometown Cleveland Naps ... nicknamed the "the Iron Man of the South," after having pitched both ends of six double-headers with Memphis ... it is originally reported that Liebhardt signs with the Philadelphia Athletics ... in his major league debut on October 2, 1906, Liebhardt pitches a three-hit complete win over Detroit ... despite his impressive credentials, one scout doubts Liebhardt will be successful with the Naps saying the right-hander "can't pitch hay." ... the slavia artist proves the doubter wrong as he wins 18 games despite an attack of pleurisy in June for the Naps in 1907, and 15 the following season ... in his four seasons with the Naps, Liebhardt is 36-35 with an impressive 2.17 ERA and 46 complete games and seven shutouts ... as a youngster while playing the outfield he misplays a flyball that hits him in the eye ... he begins his pro career as a 19-year-old in 1902 with the Western League's Milwaukee Creams of the Western League ... in 1904, Liebhardt pitches two no-hitters for the Rock Island Islanders ... he retires on February 15, 1915.

Harry Purcell



A speed merchant outfielder noted for his "individual style of play," Harry Purcell never plays in the major leagues ... I'm not sure Purcell even comes close to making the major leagues, even though in the 1922 season it's written that he was a major league prospect ... from Northampton, Massachusetts, Purcell serves two years in the Army in World War II, and was a left-handed hitting and throwing outfielder with 12 years of minor league experience under his belt ... in 1923, he hits .292 with Denver, but Bears' manager Billy Gilbert accuses him "of laying down," and not playing hard ... his obit says that in 1924, while playing for Jackson (Michigan), he leads the Central League in hitting with a .324 average ... the Central League must have been a semipro or independent league ... on April 5, 1925, Purcell is trying out with the Southern Association's Nashville Volunteers and has a triple and a home run in an exhibition game against the St. Louis Browns, but two weeks later is dropped from the Volunteers roster "because of lack of harmony with his surroundings," ... pegged to be a starter by team management, it's said that he does not fit in because he shouts "hurrah" to some fans who were giving him sham applause after striking out ... he hits .256 with 17 doubles, seven triples and 30 RBIs in his final season in 1927 splitting time between Springfield and Waterbury.

Art Rebel



Art Rebel is hitting .324 for the Columbus Red Birds and is leading in the American Association in runs batted in with 68, when the powerfully-built left-handed hitting outfielder is traded to the St. Louis Cardinals on July 25, 1945 ... having hit .222 in limited play for the Philadelphia Phillies seven years earlier (1938), the call-up marks the second opportunity at the major league level for the "piano legged" 5-foot-7, 180-pound, 30-year-old Pennsylvanian - and he makes the most of it ... classified 4-F by the military, Rebel hits .347 with 25 hits, including four doubles, in 72 at bats for the second-place Redbirds ... oddly enough, when it becomes time for the Cardinals to divide their portion of the World Series proceeds, full shares (\$1,070.06) are voted for 29 players ... Rebel is awarded \$356.03, while Dave Bartosh, the player he was traded for back in July, is allocated \$535.03, despite having 25 fewer at bats and hitting nearly 100 points less (.255) than Rebel ... on February 2, 1926, the Cardinals are surprised when Rebel clears waivers and they are forced to outright him to the Rochester Red Wings ... St. Louis' "board of strategy" had decided that Rebel could be spared to the Wings because of the return of Enos Slaughter, Terry Moore and Harry Walker - all three were in service during the 1945 season ... in his final season as a player in 1952, Rebel is both an outfielder and a business manager for the Lafayette Bulls.