

September 16, 1922

Done in by a soda bottle...

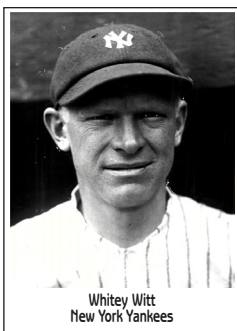
In a key late season game against the St. Louis Browns, New York Yankee centerfielder Whitey Witt is knocked unconscious when he is struck by a thrown soda bottle before a standing room only crowd of 30,000 in the Browns' Sportsman's Park ... Witt leaves the field on a stretcher after the bottle cuts a deep gash in his forehead ... New York wins the game 2-1 and increases its lead to 1 and 1/2 games over the second-place Browns.

OVER-ZEALOUS FAN BEANS WHITEY WITT WITH POP BOTTLE

St. Louis, Mo., Sept. 16.—Lawson "Whitey" Witt, centerfielder for the New York Yankees, had his forehead severely cut when struck by a pop bottle, presumably thrown by a fan.

Witt was carried off the field by fellow players and taken to the club house, where physicians announced after examining him that he was not seriously hurt. It was believed that the injury would prevent Witt from playing for several days. It was impossible to identify who threw the missile.

St. Louis owner Phil Ball offers a \$500 reward for information leading to the apprehension of the fan who threw the bottle ... later, American League President Ban Johnson offers an additional \$1,000 for the arrest of the bottle thrower.



Whitey Witt
New York Yankees

Solved St. Louis 'Pop Bottle' Case



James P. Hon, INFL.

In the heat of the series between the New York Yankees and the St. Louis Browns that determined the American League championship in St. Louis, Whitey Witt, of the Yankees, was knocked out by a pop bottle, most fans thinking it was thrown by a St. Louis rooter. James P. Hon saw the incident and reported that Witt, running at full speed, stepped on the neck of a bottle that was lying in the outfield and that it flew up and hit him in the head. Ban Johnson, president of the American League gave Hon \$100 and tickets to the world series in New York for his explanation of the incident.

After no one claims the award,

Johnson launches his own investigation ... on October 10, a St. Louis fan James P. Hon comes forward and says that Witt, "running at full speed, stepped on the neck of a bottle that was lying in the outfield and that it flew up and hit him in the head."

Johnson is so pleased with Hon's account, he sends him a personal check for \$100, including round-trip transportation between St. Louis and New York ... Hon's employer, Edward Morris, President of Morris & Company, grants him a leave of absence, with full pay, to attend the World Series games.

Yankee teammate Babe Ruth says of Johnson's conclusion, "It's a wonder they didn't accuse Whitey of trying to commit suicide."

Born Ladislav Waldemar Wittkowski, the 26-year-old Orange, Massachusetts, native finishes his first season with the Yankees hitting .297 with four home runs and 47 runs batted in.