

On This Date

January 27, 1936

The Cleveland Indians announce that they have obtained veteran pitcher **George Blaeholder** from **Connie Mack's** Philadelphia Athletics. Cited by both the *Sporting News* and the *Baseball Digest* as the inventor of the slider, he is acquired at the waiver price of \$7,500.

Obtained one day after his 32nd birthday, the right-hander with 10 years of major league experience and regarded as one of "brainiest pitchers in baseball," Blaeholder is expected to be a tutor for the Indians' young hurlers.

Prior to the start of the season, Cleveland manager **Steve O'Neill** says Blaeholder, catcher **Frankie Pytiak** and pitcher **Johnny Allen** are three players that can make the Indians pennant contenders in 1936. Allen finishes 20-10 with a 3.44 ERA and 19 complete games, Pytiak hits .321 in 75 games splitting time with **Billy Sullivan** and Blaeholder is 8-4 with a 5.09 ERA including six complete games in 16 starts, but the Indians finish a disappointing fifth, 22 1/2 games behind first-place New York with a 80-74 record.

On August 21, 1931, in a 11-7 loss to the New York Yankees, Blaeholder, pitching for the St. Louis Browns, yields **Babe Ruth's** 600th career home run that clears the bleacher roof of **Sportsman Park**. Ruth reclaims the "pellet" from the youngster who found it, giving him \$10 and an autograph baseball in return.

Blaeholder's major league career comes to an end on December 10, 1936, when the Indians send him to the Milwaukee Brewers of the American Association as "partial payment" in the **Joe Heving** deal. In 11 major league seasons, George Franklin Blaeholder is 104-125 with a 4.54 ERA, 106 complete games and 14 shutouts.

