

On This Date

October 14, 1889

It's said that [Albert Belle](#) became baseball's first \$10 million dollar player when he signs with the Chicago White Sox prior to the 1997 season.

However, some 86 years earlier, on April 18, 1911, 22-year-old outfielder [Ten Million](#) makes his professional debut with the Victoria Bees in their season opener against the Tacoma Tigers.

Ten Million is not a nickname. His father, Judge E.C. Million of Seattle, figured that if Million was a good name, then Ten Million was simply better.

After the first two weeks of the Northwestern (B) League season, Million is second among league hitting leaders with a .287 average. He will finish his debut season with a .275 average, 21 doubles, five triples, two home runs and a team-high 26 stolen bases.

A three-year letterman (1908-1910) at the University of Washington and the team captain as a senior, Million spurns offers from several major league clubs including a \$2,000 offer from the St. Louis Cardinals following his junior year, simply because he wished to remain in the northwest.

Born on October 14, 1889 (there is some discrepancy as to his actual birth year - Baseball Reference lists 1888, his draft card has 1889) in Mount Vernon Washington, he later moves to Seattle and as a teenager becomes the star of the Broadway High School baseball team. In four minor league seasons, mostly in the Northwestern League, Million fashions a career average of .261. Following a stint in the military during World War I, Million becomes a car salesman in Seattle. When the Ford Motor Company manufactures its 10 millionth car they ship it to his dealership so he can be the one to sell it and gather publicity in the process.

