

# On This Date

# October 10, 1932

**Hal Raether**, who pitches one game for the Athletics in 1954 and again in 1957, passes away on September 26, 2020, at the age of 87. At the time of his passing he was noted as one of the last surviving members of the Philadelphia Athletics.



Born on **October 10, 1932**, in Lake Mills, Wisconsin, Raether is a three-sport star at Lake Mills High School in baseball, basketball and football, earning all-state honors on the gridiron. Connie Mack attempts to sign the prep star after his high school graduation, but when he is told that Raether will attend the University of Wisconsin, the Athletics' owner advises him not to play football in college. Raether plays baseball for the Badgers and after he graduates in June, 1954, the 6-foot-1 right-hander quickly signs a contract with the Philadelphia Athletics and is added to the team's major league roster in July.

Raether makes his major league debut on July 4 against the Boston Red Sox. Entering the game in the bottom of the seventh inning he walks four but benefitting from a pair of double plays, he allows only one earned run in two innings of work. A week later, the Athletics send Raether down to the Savannah A's of the South Atlantic (A) League where he is 1-2 in nine appearances.

After spending two seasons in the minors and one year (1956) in the Navy, he is discharged in 1957 and rejoins the Athletics, now in Kansas City. The team, despite being in fourth-place, brings Raether straight from the Navy to the majors. In 1957, rules allow a player who had been discharged to not be counted against a team's roster limit, so he was the 26th player on the 25-man roster.

Raether makes his final major league appearance on May 19 in a 10-2 loss to Baltimore. After allowing a triple and a 2-run homer by George Kell, reties the next six batters he faces. In the first week in June, he is sent back to the minors, never to return to the majors. In his two games, he finishes with a career ERA of 6.75, allowing three hits and four walks in four innings and does not strike out a batter. Coming down with a sore arm in 1958, the A's release him and Raether elects to retire.