

Karl Wilhelm von Lautenschlager

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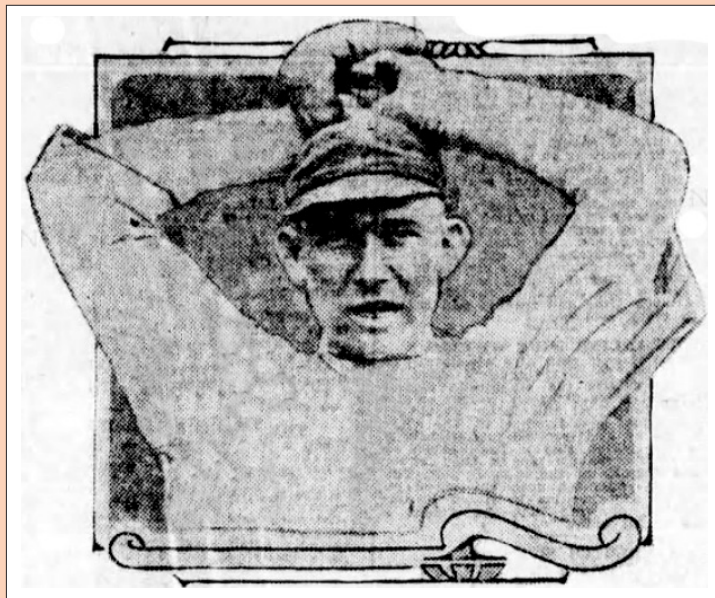
In a lengthy 20-year minor league career, Carl Black makes the trip to pitcher's mound 836 times as a starter (574) or as a reliever (262), each time leaving his God-given name of Karl Wilhelm von Lautenschlager in the dugout, or bullpen.

By whatever name, his career is impressive.

Born on April 4, 1890, in Newark, Ohio, to William and Magdalene Pheffer Lautenschlager, he elects to go by the name of Karl Black during the baseball season because it "looks better" in the box score and he prefers giving himself a proper name rather than leaving it to a sports writer.

A sturdy 6-foot-0, 175-pound left-hander, Black wins 275 games, including 33 shutouts. He has two 20-win seasons in back-to-back years with the Western League's Tulsa Oilers in 1923 and 1924. In 20 minor league seasons, he makes 836 appearances - an average of 42 a year. Five times he leads the league in appearances. It was not uncommon for him to pitch in three-or-four-straight games, or five times a week. He completes 66 percent (380) of 574 career starts. In 4,775 innings he allows 4,511 hits, walks 980 and strikes out 1,750. In 1914 he leads the Southern League with 36 complete games and innings pitched with 310. Five times he totals 300-or-more-innings. In 1923, at the age of 33, he has a career year with the Tulsa Oilers leading the Western (A) League in wins (29), games pitched (63), games started (41) and innings pitched (345).

In February 1911, a 20-year-old Black signs his first professional contract with the Ironton (Ohio) Nailers of the first-year eight-team Class-D Mountain States League. The portsider is 16-23 with 34 complete games and three shutouts splitting time between Ironton (9-17) and Charleston (7-6), the two worst teams in the league. As a rookie he leads the league in innings pitched (309) and appearances (46). On May 18, Black picks up the first of his 380 career complete game in a 14-4 win over the Montgomery (W. Va.) Miners.



Karl Black Wins Third Game in as Many Days; Davis Gets 23rd Homer

| SIOUX CITY | | | | TULSA | | | | | |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | AB | H | O A | | AB | H | O A | | |
| Genin, cf | 5 | 2 | 5 | 0 | Bennett, lf | 6 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Fairch'd, ss | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | Stuart, 3b | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Palmer, 2b | 6 | 3 | 5 | 3 | Davis, rf | 5 | 5 | 3 | 0 |
| Metz, 1b | 4 | 2 | 6 | 1 | Lamb, cf | 5 | 4 | 2 | 0 |
| Grover, rf, p | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | Lelivelt, 1b | 5 | 1 | 8 | 0 |
| M'D'ald, 3b | 5 | 2 | 1 | 1 | Bauman, 2b | 3 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Snyder, lf | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | Lee, ss | 2 | 1 | 5 | 3 |
| Query, c | 5 | 4 | 2 | 1 | Crosby, c | 4 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| Rasmus'n, p | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | M'L'ghlin, p | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Grant, p | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Tesar, p | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Williams, p | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | Black, p | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| O'Br'n, p, rf | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | | | | | |
| Totals | 45 | 21 | 24 | 11 | Totals | 37 | 19 | 27 | 10 |

Sioux City016 060 004—17
Tulsa214 311 70x—19

Runs—Genin 2, Fairchild 2, Palmer, Metz 2, Grover, McDonald 2, Snyder 3, Query 3, O'Brien, Bennett 2, Stuart 3, Davis 3, Lamb 3, Lelivelt 2, Bauman 2, Lee 2, Crosby, Black. Errors—Palmer 2, Snyder, Davis, Bauman, Crosby 2. Two-base hits—Davis, McLaughlin, Fairchild, Palmer 2, Lamb 3, Query, Genin. Home runs—Bennett, Query 2, Davis, Black. Bases on balls—Off McLaughlin 2, off Grant 1, off Williams 1, off O'Brien 3, off Grover 4. Struck out—By McLaughlin 1, by Tesar 1, by Black 1. Umpires—McDonald and Shannon.

On July 23, 1923, Black, the workhorse of the Tulsa pitching staff, sets a Western League record when he wins three games in three days against the visiting Sioux City Packers. Pitching five innings in each of the three games (one as a starter), the Oilers' lone "off-arm" thrower, Black isn't overly effective however, allowing 15 runs on 27 hits in 15 innings while striking out five and walking seven.

Black, "the southpaw with the four-jointed Teutonic handle," is an opening-day starter, including back-to-back seasons with Tulsa in 1923 and 1924. Over the course of the 1915-16 campaigns, the "fork-handed tosser" wins 11-straight games for the Southern League's Birmingham Barons.

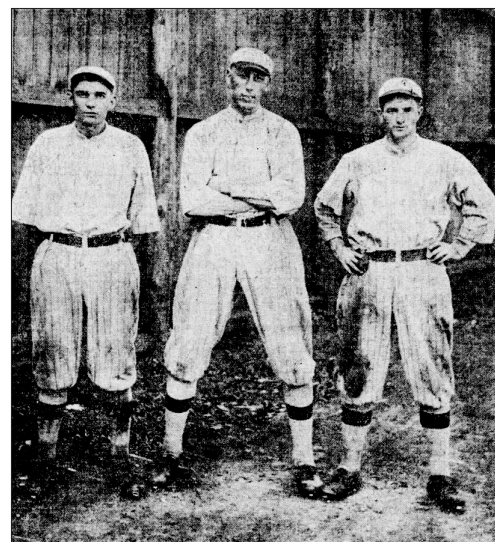
I can account for eight games where the "stormy southpaw" is banished from the game for various reasons, including once for whistling. Several newspapers opine that Black was "tossed" more times than any other player in the league in any given year.

KARL BLACK IS AGAIN BANISHED FROM BALL LOT

Twice, he misses playing time after being involved in traffic accidents. On five occasions, the Southern League's favorite "grunt ball" pitcher pitches 14+ inning complete games in his career, winning two and losing three.

Page 1 of 3:

1915 Birmingham Barons Pitchers



Left to Right: Karl Black (17-10), Arthur Johnson (19-15) and Dick Robertson (22-13) combine for 58 of Birmingham's 86 wins in 1915. In 10 minor league seasons, Johnson has five years with 18-or-more wins. A 5-foot-9 right-hander, Robertson is 3-8 in parts of three major league seasons with Cincinnati, Brooklyn and Washington.

Karl Black [2 of 3]:



Karl Black
1917 Birmingham Barons



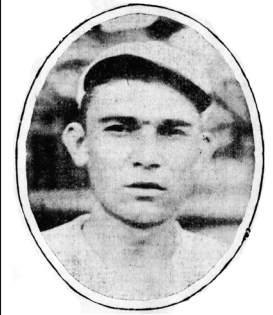
Karl Black
1915 Birmingham Barons



Karl Black
1915 Birmingham Barons



Karl Black
1914 Montgomery Billikens

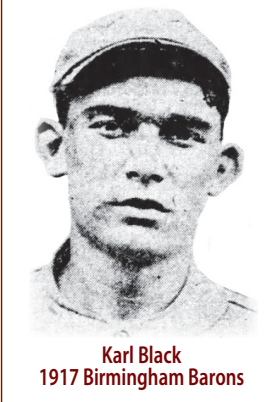


Karl Black
1915 Birmingham Barons

On June 10, 1915, "Hookarm" Black pitches 14 2/3 innings against the Chattanooga Lookouts, but is the losing pitcher in a 3-2 decision.

On July 10, 1915, the "Iron Man" of the Southern League proves he is worthy of the moniker, when he pitches and wins, both ends of Birmingham's doubleheader with Memphis 6-2 and 6-5. In the 18 innings, he allows 16 hits while walking five and striking out seven. In the second game, 21-year-old future Hall of Famer Burleigh Grimes was scheduled to pitch and is warming up before Black convinces manager Carlton Molesworth to let him take the mound.

"Fans of the Western league will miss old Karl Black, the grunting southpaw who has been 'sold down the river' by Oklahoma City to the Selma club of the Southeastern League. For almost ten years Karl has been a familiar and colorful figure in the Western, an attraction in every city in the circuit and as industrious a toiler out there on the pitching hilltop as any man who ever threw a baseball."
-- Oklahoma News, January 26, 1929



Karl Black
1917 Birmingham Barons

Following his playing days, Black manages the Sportsman Billard Parlor (right) in his hometown of Ironton, Ohio. On April 14, 1968, Karl Wilhelm von Lautenschlager passes away in Lawrence County General Hospital in Ironton. He had been seriously ill for six weeks and in failing health for the past eight years.

Southern League Record

September 10, 1915
Birmingham Barons at Atlanta Crackers
Ponce de Leon Park, Atlanta, Georgia

| Birmingham. | AB. | R. | H. | PO. | A. | E. |
|---------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Sloan, rf. | 5 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 1 |
| Magee, cf. | 5 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| Lindsay, 3b. | 5 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Clark, 2b. | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Coombs, lf. | 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| Coyle, 1b. | 3 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 1 | 0 |
| Ellam, ss. | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Hale, c. | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Black, p. | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Totals | 38 | 5 | 13 | 27 | 12 | 6 |

| Atlanta. | AB. | R. | H. | PO. | A. | E. |
|---------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| McDonald, 3b. | 4 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 0 |
| Williams, cf. | 4 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 1 |
| Moran, cf. | 4 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Jenkins, c. | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 0 |
| Manning, 1b. | 4 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 3 | 1 |
| Rumler, rf. | 4 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Flynn, lf. | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Werner, 2b. | 4 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 |
| Thompson, p. | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Totals | 33 | 3 | 6 | 27 | 20 | 2 |

Score by innings:
Birmingham 020 200 100-5
Atlanta 200 000 010-3

Summary.
Two-Base Hits—Magee, Flynn.
Three-Base Hits—Rumler, Clark.
Struck Out—Thompson 2.
Bases on Balls—Off Thompson 3; off Black 5.
Sacrifice Hits—Williams, Flynn.
Stolen Bases—Lindsay, Coyle 2.

Black sets a Southern League single season record winning his eighth-straight with a 5-3 complete game victory over Atlanta. Black allows six hits and walks five and is "backed" by a Baron defense that commits six errors. Black's record is later tied when New Orleans' Clarence Smith records his eighth-straight win.

Iron Man II

May 29, 1921
Des Moines Boosters at Omaha Buffaloes
Omaha Base Ball Park, Omaha, Nebraska

| DES MOINES | | | | OMAHA | | | |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| H | O | A | | H | O | A | |
| Kennedy, cf | 0 | 4 | 0 | Gislason, 2b | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Grant, 3b | 1 | 1 | 4 | Haney, 3b | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| Miller, 1b | 2 | 14 | 0 | Lee, lf | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| O'Connor, rf | 4 | 3 | 0 | Lelivelt, 1b | 2 | 16 | 0 |
| Milan, lf | 2 | 6 | 1 | Griffin, rf | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Coffey, 2b | 2 | 7 | 4 | O'Brien, cf | 3 | 7 | 0 |
| Brown, ss | 2 | 4 | 2 | Massey, ss | 0 | 4 | 1 |
| Anderson, c | 1 | 3 | 1 | Lingle, c | 2 | 7 | 3 |
| Black, p | 1 | 0 | 5 | Glaser, p | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| | | | | Daniels, p | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Totals | 15 | 42 | 17 | Totals | 13 | 42 | 18 |

Score by innings:
Des Moines 000 102 000 000 01-4
Omaha 000 000 120 000 00-3

Summary: Earned runs—Des Moines 4; Omaha 3. Two base hits—Coffey; Miller; Haney 2; Lingle; Lelivelt. Three base hit—Grant. Base on balls—off Daniels 4, off Black 4. Struck out—by Glaser 1, by Daniels 4. Stolen bases—Lee 2. Sacrifice hits—Milan, Grant 2; Brown, Glaser, O'Brien, Haney, Lelivelt. Hits—off Glaser 19 in 5 1-3 innings; off Daniels 5 in 8 2-3. Left on base—Omaha 14; Des Moines 12. Time 2:15. Umpires—Guthrie and Ormsby

Black pitches the second 14-inning complete game victory of his career in a 4-3 win over homesteading Omaha 4-3. With one out in the top of the 14th Danny Moeller's (Miller) double scores Kennedy with the winning run. The win is the third-in-a-row for Black and improves his record to 5-4 on the season.

One-Hitter

August 19, 1916
Birmingham Barons at Memphis Chicks
Russwood Park, Memphis, Tennessee

| Bham | AB | H | O | A | PO | Mems. | AB | H | O | A | E | |
|---------------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|---------------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|---|
| M'Hold | 3b | 5 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 0 | Chadburn | cf | 4 | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Derrick | 1b | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | Ingham | ss | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Coombs | lf | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | Cuthers | 2b | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Mousler | rf | 4 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | Pauleto | 1b | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Clark | 2b | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | Kinsley | rf | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Eschen | cf | 3 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | Walsh | 3b | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Hansen | c | 4 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | Cook | lf | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Caton | ss | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 0 | Ried | c | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Black | p | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Kerr | p | 3 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Totals | 31 | 5 | 27 | 8 | 0 | Totals | 28 | 1 | 27 | 0 | 0 | |

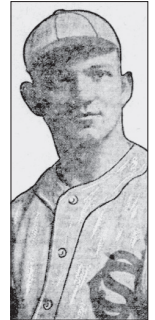
Score by innings:
Birmingham 000 000 001-1
Memphis 000 000 000-0

Summary: Run, Eschen; two-base hit, Eschen; sacrifice hits, Eschen, Cook, Black; double plays, Kerr to Russ to Pauleto, Walsh to Pauleto; bases on balls, off Black 0, off Kerr 3; struck out, by Black 2, by Kerr 5; hit by pitcher, Cruthers. Time, 1:35. Umpires, Pflanzinger and Kerin.

In a game that takes only 95 minutes to play, Birmingham's Karl Black allows Memphis only a lone single by second baseman Preston Cruthers with two outs in the sixth inning in a 1-0 win. Cruthers, a former major leaguer, is noted for using a white bat and following his playing career later manages the Kenosha Comets of the women's pro baseball league in 1946.

The Trade

It didn't make national headlines, but during the winter of 1920 Karl Black is involved in a trade for another player for the first and only time in his 20-year career. On November 10, the Shreveport Gassers trade the 30-year-old Black, who was 23-14 in his two seasons with the club, to the Western (A) League's Des Moines Boosters for 22-year-old pitcher Edgar Fletcher. It's one of three trades announced by the Boosters that afternoon. *The Shreveport Journal* opines that the newly-acquired right-handed slinger is noted for his endurance rather than for his ability as a winner. The Sioux City, Iowa, native is coming off a 11-23 campaign for the Boosters the previous season. In his first start for the Gassers, Fletcher shuts out Wichita Falls on three hits. On June 25, a sore-armed Fletcher is 5-6 when Shreveport gives him his release. It would prove to be his last season of professional baseball. In his four-year career with Sioux City, Des Moines and Shreveport, Fletcher is 32-50. Fletcher is working in the night mailing room at the *Sioux City Journal* at the time of his death on November 29, 1964.

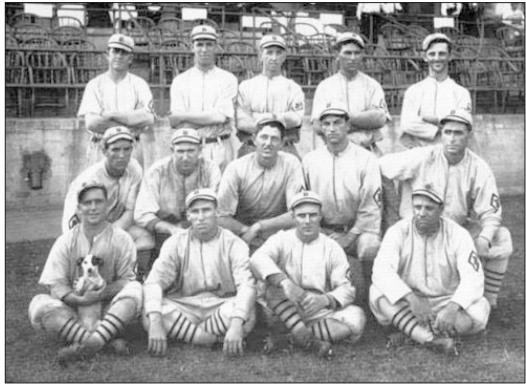


Karl Black Year by Year:

| Year | Team | League | Level | W-L | Finish | Age | W-L | SHO | GP | GS | CG | INN | H | ER | BB | SO | ERA |
|---------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|--------|---------|-----------|------------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1911 | 2 Teams | Mountain States | D | | | 21 | 16-23 | 3 | 46 | 41 | 34 | 309 | 260 | - | 53 | 121 | -- |
| | Ironton Nailers | Mountain States | D | 44-77 | 8 of 8 | 21 | 9-17 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Charleston Senators | Mountain States | D | 57-58 | 7 of 8 | 21 | 7-6 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 1912 | 2 Teams | 2 Leagues | D | | | 22 | 8-11 | 1 | 24 | 24 | 19 | 183 | 195 | - | - | - | - |
| | Charleston Senators | Mountain States | D | 18-22 | *3 of 4 | 22 | 3-4 | 0 | 10 | 10 | 7 | 72 | 92 | - | - | - | - |
| | Mansfield Brownies | Ohio State | D | 72-67 | 2 of 6 | 22 | 5-7 | 1 | 14 | 14 | 12 | 111 | 103 | +55 | 34 | 73 | -- |
| 1913 | Huntington Blue Sox | Ohio State | D | 68-68 | 4 of 8 | 23 | 15-16 | 3 | 37 | 32 | 29 | 288 | 247 | +95 | 54 | 128 | -- |
| 1914 | Montgomery Billikens | Southern | A | 54-99 | 8 of 8 | 24 | 10-29-1 | 3 | 45 | 39 | 36 | 310 | 338 | - | 89 | 127 | -- |
| 1915 | Birmingham Barons | Southern | A | 86-67 | 2 of 8 | 25 | 17-10 | 1 | 44 | 32 | 23 | 276 | 262 | - | 85 | 106 | -- |
| 1916 | Birmingham Barons | Southern | A | 69-62 | 3 of 8 | 26 | 11-13-1 | 1 | 34 | 27 | 19 | 234 | 211 | 85 | 58 | 71 | -- |
| 1917 | Birmingham Barons | Southern | A | 87-66 | 3 of 8 | 27 | 13-10 | 3 | 40 | 25 | 19 | 216 | 192 | 67 | 56 | 62 | 2.79 |
| 1918 | Birmingham Barons | Southern | A | 33-31 | 4 of 8 | 28 | 5-5 | 1 | 13 | 9 | 5 | 67 | 82 | - | 21 | 11 | -- |
| 1919 | Shreveport Gassers | Texas | B | 81-64 | *2 of 8 | 29 | 15-10-1 | 2 | 43 | 29 | 19 | 242 | 238 | 72 | 69 | 98 | 2.68 |
| 1920 | Shreveport Gassers | Texas | B | 81-66 | 3 of 8 | 30 | 8-4 | 1 | 17 | 13 | 9 | 115 | 88 | 23 | 24 | 99 | 1.80 |
| 1921 | Des Moines Boosters | Western | A | 71-92 | 7 of 8 | 31 | 16-23 | 1 | 57 | 38 | 26 | 320 | 380 | +195 | 68 | 146 | -- |
| 1922 | 2 Teams | Western | A | | | 32 | 11-11 | 0 | 46 | 30 | 17 | 243 | 326 | +162 | 32 | 93 | -- |
| | Des Moines Boosters | Western | A | 61-107 | 8 of 8 | 32 | 0-3 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 16 | 31 | +24 | 5 | 7 | -- |
| | Tulsa Oilers | Western | A | 103-64 | 1 of 8 | 32 | 11-8 | 0 | 43 | 27 | 17 | 227 | 295 | +138 | 27 | 86 | -- |
| 1923 | Tulsa Oilers | Western | A | 101-67 | 2 of 8 | 33 | 29-13 | 1 | 63 | 41 | 33 | 345 | 429 | +180 | 63 | 118 | -- |
| 1924 | Tulsa Oilers | Western | A | 98-69 | 3 of 8 | 34 | 20-15 | 2 | 60 | 37 | 20 | 301 | 394 | +201 | 70 | 108 | -- |
| 1925 | Tulsa Oilers | Western | A | 75-91 | 7 of 8 | 35 | 18-20 | 3 | 56 | 38 | 17 | 290 | 349 | +146 | 53 | 156 | -- |
| 1926 | Tulsa Oilers | Western | A | 86-78 | 5 of 8 | 36 | 15-15 | 1 | 45 | 32 | 15 | 236 | 303 | +155 | 50 | 78 | -- |
| 1927 | Tulsa Oilers | Western | A | 101-53 | 1 of 8 | 37 | 12-2 | 1 | 25 | 20 | 11 | 150 | 201 | +108 | 34 | 52 | -- |
| 1928 | 2 Teams | Western | A | | | 38 | 15-10 | 3 | 70 | 27 | 10 | 274 | 305 | +142 | 36 | 88 | -- |
| | Tulsa Oilers | Western | A | 96-69 | 2 of 8 | 38 | 0-0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 2 | -- |
| | Oklahoma City | Western | A | 95-67 | 1 of 8 | 38 | 15-10 | 1 | 69 | 25 | 10 | 272 | 300 | 135 | 34 | 86 | -- |
| 1929 | Selma Cloverleafs | Southeastern | B | 77-60 | 2 of 6 | 39 | 13-9 | 1 | 34 | 22 | 12 | 205 | 201 | 60 | 29 | 37 | 2.63 |
| 1930 | 4 Teams | 4 Leagues | C-A | | | 40 | 8-15 | 1 | 37 | 18 | 7 | 171 | 212 | 113 | 36 | 51 | 5.95 |
| | Selma Cloverleafs | Southeastern | B | 94-43 | 1 of 6 | 40 | 1-5 | 0 | 10 | 3 | 0 | 34 | 43 | 22 | 11 | 10 | 5.82 |
| | Mobile Bears | Southern | A | 40-112 | 8 of 8 | 40 | 0-3 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 20 | 25 | 16 | 7 | 5 | 7.20 |
| | Baton Rouge Highlanders | Cotton States | D | 68-65 | 6 of 8 | 40 | 3-4 | 1 | 10 | 7 | 4 | 55 | 73 | 36 | 4 | 15 | 5.89 |
| | Wheeling Stogies | Middle Atlantic | C | 50-65 | 7 of 8 | 40 | 4-3 | 0 | 11 | 6 | 3 | 62 | 71 | 39 | 14 | 21 | 5.66 |
| Totals | | | 20 Seasons | | | | 275-264-3 | 33 | 836 | 574 | 380 | 4,775 | 4,511 | -- | 980 | 1750 | -- |

*Mountain States League disbands July 1
+denotes total runs.

1917 Birmingham Barons



Retired Baseball Player Karl Lautenschlager Dies

A retired professional baseball player, Karl L. (Lefty) Black Lautenschlager, 78, died at 8:20 a.m. Sunday in Lawrence County General Hospital. He had been seriously ill for six weeks and in failing health for the past eight years. He resided at 524 Eina St.

The native of Newark, Ohio, was a left-handed pitcher and for 21 years played professional baseball in the Western and Southern Leagues. Following his retirement, he managed the Sportsman for the late John Rist.

Mr. Lautenschlager was born April 4, 1889, a son of the late William and Magdalene Pfeiffer Lautenschlager. He was educated in Newark schools and was the last member of his immediate family.

Surviving are the widow, Pauline Miller Lautenschlager, whom he married on December 23, 1911; two daughters, Mrs. Curtis (Thelma) Massie of Ironton and Mrs. William (Karlene) Serrison of Cincinnati; seven grandchildren; five great-grandchildren.

Services will be conducted 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Baker Funeral Home by Monsignor John J. York. Burial will be in Woodland Cemetery. Friends will be received at the funeral home between 5 and 9 tonight.

Tulsa World, August 26, 1923

Concerning Karl Black and His Off Arm

Has Remarkable Record for Control in 255 Innings on Throwing Rise

Karl Black, the Oilers' sole far-arm thrower, is wooing the Goddess of Opportunity these days. The old girl rapped at his door and Karl threw wide the portal, bowed in elegant fashion and grunted a time or two as he bade the charming creature tumble into his presence.

Last year the leading pitcher of the Western League was doing ball orchard business in an Oiler uniform. That gent was none other than the peerless George Boehler, who ran up so many victories in the course of the season that an adding machine was necessary in accurately keeping track of them.

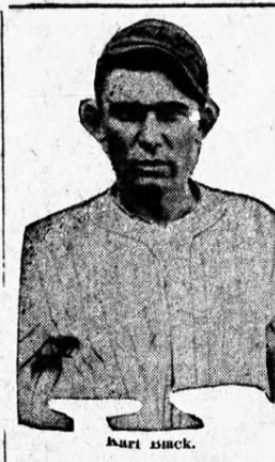
This year, if the fickle damsel known far and wide as "Lady Luck" can settle down and shower part of her affections upon one certain hoshide manipulator, the Western League's leading pitcher for the year now in full force and effect will also wear a Tulsa uniform.

That pitcher, unless misfortune and all the adverse breaks in the world appear, will be Karl Black.

Without question Black is having the best year of his career as a baseball pitcher—and that is saying something, for Karl has been in the game quite a spell as time on the ball lot is calculated and he has been pitching fair ball all those years.

Karl has been quite a long time coming into his own in this circuit. He has been prowling around these parts for several seasons, now, and for the most part the sport scribes of the various Western League towns were not inclined to take him seriously as a pitcher.

He won his games now and then and the experts printed pieces in



Oilers' Southpaw Flinger Is Having Best Season of His Ball Lot Career.

Control is a pitcher's greatest asset. Control—regular, gun-u-wine, blowed-in-the-bottle and consistent control—is, in most cases, as foreign to a southpaw pitcher as the pinch of poverty to the Ford family life. A haw-winged thrower who has the usual requisites of a baseball pitcher, plus control, is generally a gentleman of parts.

Black has the control this year and he is stepping right along. Instead of winning "good luck" games, as the experts once were wont to declare, Black this year is losing the "hard luck" games. Had his helpers been able to rap the ball for a puny single upon more occasions than we care to discuss his record of nine losses would be pared down to some considerable extent.

As these lines are being penned Black's record stands at 22 victories and nine defeats. That constitutes a throwing rise average of .796. Black's nearest competitor is Maun of Wichita. Maun's average is .731. Black has participated in 45 contests, Maun has had a finger in only 21 games.

In those 45 games Black has pitched 265 innings.

He has been touched for 308 safe hits.

From those 308 hits the opposition was able to score 130 runs.

Forty-nine men were walked in those 255 innings.

Eighty-nine batters were fanned. Five batters were hit by pitched balls.

And Black, in all of that time, uncocked just exactly three wild pitches.

their papers about him more often than not giving breaks of the game and luck credit for the victory. This year, however, Black is one of the best pitchers in the league. There isn't a sport writer in the league that will not admit that fact. In fact, all of them have already gone on record in that premise.

They, of course, couldn't do otherwise. They might call him eccentric, which they do; they might characterize him a crab, which they do; they might discuss at length his inclination to grunt a little when he pitches, which they do—but, after they finish tossing their pet brickbats, they have to admit that Black is throwing the agate with deadly aim this season.