

Cups of Coffee: Arch Reilly

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On June 1, 1917, late afternoon inside of Pittsburgh's Forbes Field has turned slightly blustery and the threat of early evening showers probably weighing heavily on the minds of the few hardy Pirate fans that remain from the announced crowd of 1,500 that opened the Friday afternoon contest.



On the field, the National League's last-place Corsairs have finally managed to push across a run in the bottom of the ninth and trail the second-place Phillies 9-1 with two out.

It's nearing 4pm, when Pirates' first baseman Anthony John Grzeszkowski, aka [Bunny Brief](#), steps into the batter's box against Phillies' right-hander [Erskine Mayer](#).

PIRATES HELPLESS BEFORE TWIRLING OF ERSKINE MAYER

One out shy of posting his third complete game victory of the season, Mayer has already retired Brief three times, including a fifth-inning strikeout, the only one of what will soon become a seven-hit complete

game for the 27-year-old Atlanta native.

The on-deck batter, rookie Arch Reilly readies himself for the possibility of having his first major league at bat - if only the loquacious Brief can reach base. Reilly, a 25-year-old Ohio State graduate, entered the game in the top of the ninth inning replacing [Alex McCarthy](#) at third base and handled his one fielding opportunity flawlessly, snagging a sharply hit ground ball by Phillies' first base man [Fred Luderus](#) and tagging [Milt Stock](#) to close out the inning.

Unfortunately for Reilly, Brief, who is a little more than three weeks away from playing his final major league game, lives up to his .217 career batting average and lines out to Stock at third, ending the game and Reilly's chance of an official at bat.

Born on August 17, 1891, Archer Edwin Reilly's road to the Steel City proves more difficult than usual. In 1916, in his second season with the Wheeling Stogies, he hits .292 with 103 hits in 106 games. He has 21 doubles, five triples and two home runs. He steals 14 bases, draws 21 walks and strikes out only 26 times. Primarily a shortstop he handles a total of 510 chances but with 44 errors. Despite the uptick in his career, he announces his retirement in early February with plans to return to his teaching and baseball coaching assignment at Huntington (Pa.) High School. A week later he changes his mind and signs with the Corsairs for 1917.



Not so quick. Wheeling officials step in and say that Reilly is still property of the Stogies despite the fact the West Virginia city has forfeited its franchise for the upcoming season. On April 7, Reilly is thought to be one of four former Wheeling players to be declared free agents by the National Association. But unbeknownst to just about everyone, his contract has already been sold to the Muskegon Reds, a team he does not wish to play for.

On April 14, three days after the start of the major league season, the Pirates finally get their man when they trade first baseman [Newt Halliday](#) (left) to Muskegon for Reilly. Similar to Reilly, Halliday is another "Cup of Coffee" player. The Chicago sandlot star strikes out against Hall of Famer [Rube Marquard](#) in his only major league at bat on August 19, 1916. Less than two years later Halliday is dead, passing away at the age of 21 from tuberculosis and acute pneumonia at the Navy's Great Lakes Naval Station.

Friday, June 1, 1917
Philadelphia Phillies at Pittsburgh Pirates
Forbes Field, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Philadel.	AB	H	PO	A	Pittsb'gh.	AB	H	PO	A
Paskert, cf.	4	2	2	0	Carey, cf....	4	1	1	0
C. Cooper, cf.	1	0	1	0	Pitler, 2b....	4	1	3	1
Bancroft, ss.	4	1	2	1	Schulte, rf..	4	1	4	1
Stock, 3b....	3	2	3	2	Hinchman, lf	4	1	2	0
Cravath, rf..	4	1	2	0	Brief, 1b....	4	0	4	1
Whitted, lf..	5	1	5	0	McCarthy, 3b	2	0	3	2
Luderus, 1b.	3	0	7	1	*Bigbee.....	1	0	0	0
Niehoff, 2b..	3	2	3	3	Reilly, 3b..	0	0	1	0
Killifer, c... 4	2	2	1	Fischer, c....	3	2	6	2	
Adams, c....	0	0	0	0	Ward, ss.....	3	0	2	0
Mayer, p... 3	1	0	2	Miller, p....	0	0	0	0	
				W. Cooper, p.	2	0	1	2	
Totals....	34	12	27	10	†King.....	1	1	0	0
					Totals....	32	7	27	9

*Batted for McCarthy in eighth.

†Batted for W. Cooper in ninth.

Philadelphia.....	3	1	0	0	2	0	3	0	0-8
Pittsburgh.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1-1

Runs—Paskert, Stock (3), Cravath (3), Luderus, Killifer, W. Cooper. Errors—Bancroft, Carey, Brief, Ward. Two-base hits—Stock, Cravath, Mayer, Schulte. Three-base hit—Paskert. Stolen bases—Stock, Cravath, Luderus. Sacrifice hit—Mayer. Sacrifice flies—Bancroft, Luderus, Niehoff. Double play—Stock to Niehoff to Luderus. Left on bases—Philadelphia, 6; Pittsburgh, 4. First base on errors—Philadelphia, 1; Pittsburgh, 1. First base on balls—Off Miller, 1; off W. Cooper, 2. Hits—Off Miller, 2 in 1-8 inning; off W. Cooper, 10 in 8 2-8 innings. Hit by pitcher—By Miller, 1 (Luderus). Struck out—By Mayer, 1; by W. Cooper, 5.

A Quaker slugfest takes place at eight-year-old Forbes Field as the second-place Phillies (22-13) pound out 12 hits and swipe three bases en route to a 9-1 win over the last-place Pirates (13-26). Right-hander Erskine Mayer allows only seven hits while winning for the third time in four decisions.

Arch Reilly [2 of 2]:

Arch Reilly Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Lev	W-L	Finish	Age	G	AB	R	HT	2B	3B	HR	SB	SLUG	AVG
1913	Springfield Reapers	Central	B	67-71	3 of 6	21	133	465	57	124	20	10	1	24	.359	.267
1914	2 Teams	Central	B			22	127	468	67	127	18	6	2	18	.348	.271
	Springfield Reapers	Central	B	42-67	6 of 6	22	106	386	54	104	14	5	0	15	.331	.269
	Grand Rapids Champs	Central	B	58-72	5 of 6	22	21	82	13	23	4	1	2	3	.427	.280
1915	Wheeling Stogies	Central	B	50-76	7 of 8	23	118	424	48	112	17	4	1	29	.330	.264
1916	Wheeling Stogies	Central	B	65-54	4 of 8	24	106	353	47	103	21	5	2	14	.397	.292
1917	Pittsburgh Pirates	NATIONAL	Maj	51-103	8 of 8	25	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	--
	2 Teams	2 Leagues	B			25	89	327	40	81	3	3	0	3	.275	.248
	Scranton Miners	New York State	B	38-84	6 of 6	25	49	188	26	47	3	1	0	2	.298	.250
	Richmond Quakers	Central	B	46-70	6 of 8	25	40	139	14	34	0	2	0	1	.273	.245
Major League Totals		1 Season					1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	--
Minor League Totals		5 Seasons					573	2037	259	547	79	28	6	85	.344	.269

ML Game: June 1, 1917, at Forbes Field, Pittsburgh: replaced Alex McCarthy at third base in the top of ninth inning; had one unassisted fielding chance; did not have a plate appearance in a 9-1 loss to the Philadelphia Phillies.

With the high school baseball season at Huntington HS now over, Reilly finally makes it to the Pirates, reporting to manager [Jimmy Callahan](#) on May 27. Four days after his June 1 debut against the Phillies, in order to make room for an unretiring 44-year-old Pittsburgh legend named [Honus Wagner](#), Reilly and un-rostered pitcher [M.G. Milligan](#) are optioned to the Scranton Miners of the New York State (B) League.



Milligan, a college standout at Alabama Polytechnic Institute (Auburn), is 8-0 for the Portsmouth (Va.) Truckers in 1916, playing under the alias of "[Jack Orr](#)."

The brother of veteran catcher [Emmett "Turk" Reilly](#), Reilly is hitting .250 in 49 games for Scranton when he is sent to the Richmond (Ind.) Quakers on July 25. The road weary veteran closes out his final season of professional baseball hitting .245 for the Quakers in 45 games.

Following his pro career, Reilly continues to play semipro baseball. In 1918, he is named the head football and basketball coach at Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia. Under his tutelage the Herd is 8-0 on the gridiron but 2-5 on the hardwood. He is also 8-8 as the school's baseball coach in the spring of 1920.

In college, Reilly letters for the Ohio State Buckeyes in basketball in 1911, 1912 and 1913. He is the team captain as a senior in 1913. Following college, he starts his pro career with the Springfield (Ill.) Reapers in 1913 where he hits .267 with 20 doubles, 10 triples and one home run. A year later, he splits the season playing for both Springfield and for the Grand Rapids (Mich.) Champs. He hits a combined .271 with 18 doubles, six triples and two homers.

Signing with the Wheeling (W.Va.) Stogies in 1915, he eventually becomes the team's manager when he succeeds [Caleb "Pops" Shriver](#) on July 21, with the team tied for last place with a 32-51 record. Ten days later it's reported that both the Detroit Tigers and the Boston Braves are interested in acquiring the 23-year-old infielder.

GRAND OLD MAN OF
BASEBALL YIELDS TO
CALL OF THE DIAMOND



Honus Wagner.

On November 29, 1963, Reilly, the president of Leckie Coal Company, dies after suffering a heart attack in Columbus, Ohio. He is 72 years old.