

Lyman Nason, "Minnesota Mauler"

©DiamondsintheDusk.com

"Whether Nason has merely been out on a scouting expedition or whether he lives so far out in the tall timber that it takes three weeks by snowshoes and dog sled to get a message to the nearest station, will not be known until Nason reports some two weeks hence. Transportation was wired him immediately for fear he might decide to spend the weekend in Alaska.
- San Antonio Evening News. February 20, 1925

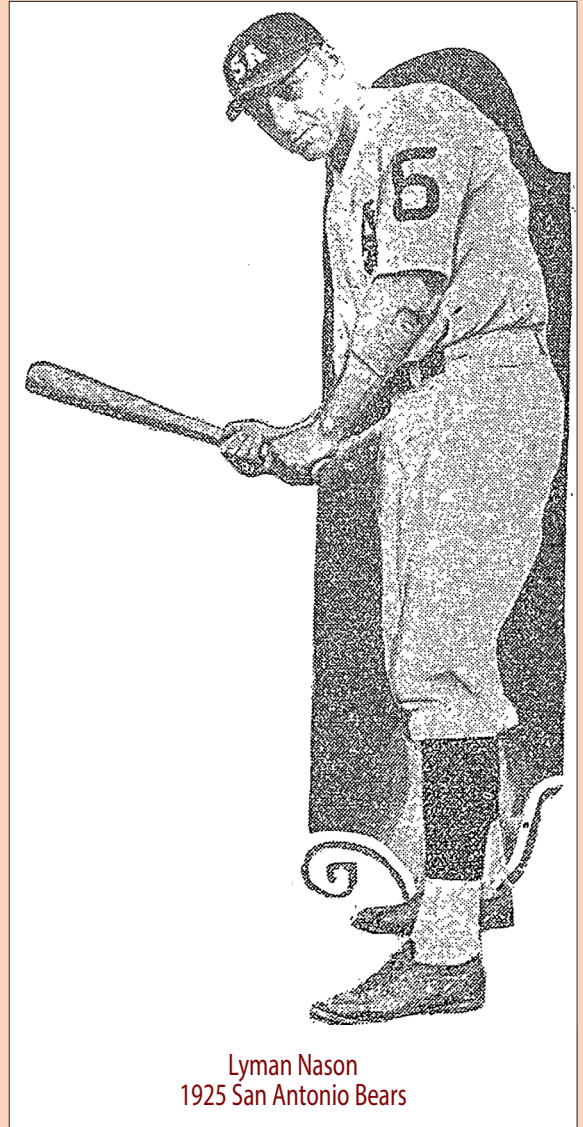
A full-blooded Chippewa of the Ojibwe tribe, Lyman Allen Nason plays 13 years in the minor leagues between 1921 and 1934. Nason is credited with having played only 11 seasons, but on two occasions – with the Mitchell Kernels of the South Dakota League in 1923 and the Eastern League's New Haven Bulldogs in 1932 – Nason plays in leagues that disband in July.

Born on October 11, 1900, in Grand Rapids, Minnesota, Nason is identified by several sources as a Sioux Indian while the *San Antonio Light* in 1925 and the *Springfield (Mass.) Daily Union and Messenger* in 1934 credit him as being a Chippewa Indian.

A powerful right-handed hitter with an open stance and a "loping gait," Nason compiles a lifetime average of .311 with 251 doubles, 120 triples, 126 home runs, 878 runs scored and 187 stolen bases. He hit over .300 in 10 of his 13 minor league seasons, including a career-best .351 with Wahpeton-Breckenridge in 1922, and .350 with San Antonio in 1925. Three times he tallies 100 runs-or-more and twice he passes the century mark in RBIs.

Following a four-year stint in the Navy where he attains the rank of Fireman 2nd Class, Nason plays two seasons of professional football with the Canton Bulldogs. A mature 24-year-old Nason begins his professional baseball career in 1921, with the Wahpeton-Breckenridge Twins of the South Dakota (D) League. He hits .319 with 17 doubles 15 triples and eight home runs. His 15 triples rank fifth among league leaders as does his 22 stolen bases. Noted as an aggressive outfielder he is tops among outfielders in both errors (12) and assists (17).

A year later, again with Wahpeton-Breckenridge, Nason hits .351 with 30 doubles, and leads the league in runs scored (92) and home runs (17). In



Lyman Nason
1925 San Antonio Bears

1923, Nason returns to the South Dakota League playing for the Mitchell Kernals. He hits .310 and is among league leaders in hits (55) and triples (6), when the fourth-year league disbands on July 13. A couple of days later, every player in the South Dakota League is declared a free agent as a result of the breaking up of the circuit.

Buoyed with his new-found freedom, leaves the Dakotas for the first time, signing with the London Tecumsehs of the Michigan-Ontario (B) League in time for the 1924 season. He responds to the higher classification by hitting .326 with 21 doubles, 13 home runs, 23 stolen bases and a league-high 13 triples. Over a seven-game stretch in early June, Nason hits five home runs. At the end of the season, the Pittsburgh Pirates attempt to sign him but are unsuccessful.

Acquired by the Texas League's San Antonio Bears in the off-season, Nason responds with his best all-around season in 1925, hitting .350 with 25 doubles, a league-leading 18 triples, 20 home runs, with 109 runs scored, 109 RBIs and 24 stolen bases. On September 14, the Bears sell Nason to the St. Louis Cardinals for \$5,000, who then send him

July 22, 1912
Preston Tigers at Austin
Austin, Minnesota

Crack Southern Minnesota Aggregation Defeats Preston Team 10 to 2.

Austin, Minn., July 22.—Austin defeated Preston yesterday on the local diamond, 10 to 2. Wet grounds made ball playing hard work. Every Austin player was in good working form and it would have taken something pretty fast to grab the game. Benight, who lost a game at Preston early in the season, won it back easily yesterday. The score:

Austin—	ab	h	po	a	e	Preston—	ab	h	po	a	e
Chap'n,ss	4	1	3	0	0	Collins, cf	4	0	6	0	0
Smith, c	4	1	6	2	0	Huld'n, 1b	4	0	11	0	1
Dunfee, cf	5	2	4	0	0	Brokken, ss	4	1	0	2	1
Nason, 3b	5	3	2	2	1	Shook, 2b	4	0	5	2	0
Grimes, 2b	5	3	3	1	1	D'ulson, 3b	3	0	2	5	0
Meany, rf	4	0	2	0	0	Knip'r, p-lf	4	1	0	1	0
Barr, lf	4	2	2	0	0	Ott, lf-rf	2	0	0	1	0
Deller, 1b	4	1	5	1	2	Kremer, rf	2	0	1	0	0
Benight, p	4	0	0	2	0	Turek, c	3	0	5	1	0
						Duffy, p.	1	0	0	1	0

Totals.. 39 13 27 8 4
 Totals... 31 2 24 13 2
 Struck out—By Benight, 7; Knippenlacher, 2; by Duffy, 4. Passed—By Benight, 2; by Knippenlacher, 2. Hit—By Benight, 1. Two-base hits—Nason, Grimes. Three-base hits—Deller. Stolen bases—Chapman, Smith and Grimes. Umpires—Clifton. Attendance, 850. Time—1 hour, 50 minutes.

Lyman Nason [2 of 4]:

to the Syracuse Stars for a player to be named later. Nason is hitting .284 with a pair of home runs and 27 RBIs in 49 games with the Stars when on June 20, he is sold to Shreveport in a straight-cash deal. Expected to report with 48 hours, a disgruntled Nason takes 11 days to report to the Sports, so new manager Art Phelan elects not to start Nason for the next 15 days. Once he finds his way back onto the field, he endures the longest slump of his career, collecting only four hits in 40 at bats. However, he ends the season with 38 hits in his final 104 at bats to finish with a .292 mark with four home runs and 28 RBIs.

Not happy in Shreveport, he begins 1927 as a starter, but when he has a prolonged hitting slump in July, he simply packs his bag and eaves he team with a career-low .255 batting average in 81 games. Twenty-two-year-old and future major leaguer Johnny Gill hits .313 with eight home runs as Nason's replacement in the Sports' lineup. Manager Art Phelan says that Nason left the team because he "doesn't like the hot weather." Suspended from baseball, Nason plays the remainder of the summer with the semi-pro Oorang Indians as the team's starting centerfielder.

Nason tells the Shreveport management of his desire to return to Syracuse, but on November 13, he and shortstop Al Maderas (.261) are traded to San Antonio for outfielder Leslie Phipps (.291).

Reinstated to the good graces of organized baseball in time for the start of the 1928 season, Nason returns to San Antonio and hits .319 with 18 home runs. In 1929, in his third and final season with the Bears, Nason, despite missing several weeks with the mumps, hits .325 with 24 doubles, 10 triples and eight home runs. He also sets a Texas League single-season record handling 422 chances in left field during the season.

On December 4, 1929, San Antonio trades Nason to the Eastern League's Bridgeport Bears for Ad Schinkel. He will play three seasons in the Eastern (A) League from 1930 to 1932 with Bridgeport and New Haven and 59 games with the Hazelton Mountaineers of the New York-Penn League in 1931 where he hits .342 with 13 home runs and 54 RBIs. Nason is with the New Haven Bulldogs in 1932

NASON TAKES THE AIR.

Lyman ("Chief") Nason, the Indian outfielder of the Sports, is a man of few words. Nason can not find much pleasure out of traveling with a baseball club unless being allowed to play regularly, and for this reason the chief has not accompanied the local baseball team on its present road trip. When the team left for the west Friday night Nason left for parts unknown. He was not being used by the Shreveporters, and decided best to travel along. He may return this season and he may not, but in the meantime his place is being filled by Gills, rookie outfielder.

Reports are that Nason was peeved when he was yanked out of a game here a few days ago. The following afternoon he failed to appear at the local ball lot. The report was that he was not in the best of health. The next day he was again absent. The boys looked for him at train time Friday night, and his room mate, Spencer Harris, brought the information that the chief had deserted. He left no forwarding address for his mail.

Friends of Nason said the "chief" felt he was being discriminated against, claiming that whenever the team was in a batting slump he was yanked out of the line-up for a pinch hitter while others on the team were doing worse with the stick than he was.

July 24, 1927, The Shreveport Times

Lyman Nason Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Lev	W-L	Finish	Age	AB	R	HT	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	SLUG	AVG	
1921	Wahpeton-Breckenridge Twins	South Dakota	D	55-43	3 of 8	24	392	72	125	17	15	8	-	22	.500	.319	
1922	Wahpeton-Breckenridge Twins	South Dakota	D	42-55	7 of 8	25	388	92	136	30	9	17	-	19	.606	.351	
1923	Mitchell Kernals	South Dakota	D	#28-27	3 of 4	26	177	33	55	8	6	2	-	11	.457	.310	
1924	London Tecumsehs	Michigan-Ontario	B	62-70	5 of 8	27	481	82	157	21	21	13	86	23	.539	.326	
1925	San Antonio Bears	Texas	A	81-64	4 of 8	28	468	109	164	25	*18	20	109	24	.609	.350	
1926	2 Teams	2 Leagues	AA-A			29	320	50	92	18	3	6	55	11	.419	.288	
	Syracuse Stars	International	AA	70-91	7 of 9	29	176	28	50	12	1	2	27	4	.398	.284	
	Shreveport Sports	Texas	A	77-79	4 of 8	29	144	22	42	6	2	4	28	7	.444	.292	
1927	Shreveport Sports	Texas	A	73-82	6 of 8	30	259	31	66	13	3	4	42	10	.375	.255	
1928	San Antonio Bears	Texas	A	76-83	5 of 8	31	596	104	190	33	10	18	104	14	.498	.319	
1929	San Antonio Indians	Texas	A	56-106	8 of 8	32	419	67	136	24	10	8	84	11	.487	.325	
1930	Bridgeport Bears	Eastern	A	91-74	2 of 8	33	585	101	180	25	12	5	93	30	.417	.308	
1931	2 Teams	2 Leagues	A-B			34	423	86	136	24	8	17	94	5	.556	.321	
	Hazelton Mountaineers	New York-Penn	B	57-82	7 of 8	34	228	50	78	10	3	13	54	2	.583	.342	
	New Haven Bulldogs	Eastern	A	63-73	4 of 8	34	195	36	58	14	5	4	40	3	.482	.297	
1932	New Haven Bulldogs	Eastern	A	^34-43	5 of 8	35	101	16	28	5	2	3	14	4	.455	.277	
1933	Springfield Nutmeggers	Connecticut	SPro	--	--	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	--	
1934	2 Teams	1 League	B			37	259	35	78	8	3	5	22	3	.413	.301	
	Springfield Ponies	Northeastern	B	41-62	6 of 8	37	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	--	
	Waltham/Worcester Rosebuds	Northeastern	B	66-43	1 of 8	37	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--	--	
Minors (13 seasons)							Minors:	4968	878	1543	251	120	126	703	187	.486	.311

*denotes league leader

#South Dakota League disbands July 13, 1923; Mitchell is 26-25 in the season's 1st half, 2-2 in the 2nd half.

^Eastern League disbands July 17, 1932

Lyman Nason [3 of 4]:

when the league suspends operations on July 17, due to a lack of business at the gate. After sitting out of organized baseball the entire 1933 season playing semipro ball with the Springfield Nutmeggers, he returns for his final season in 1934 with the Springfield Ponies of the Northeastern (B) League. He leaves the team in anger when one of his pay checks is overdue and plays one game with the semipro Manchester Indians before returning to the Ponies. He finishes the season, and his career, with the Waltham/Worcester Rosebuds hitting a combined .301 in 69 total games for the three teams.



On April 24, 1901, **Roy Patterson**, Nason's manager for two seasons while with the Wahpeton-Breckenridge Twins of the Dakota (D) League in 1921 and 1922, is the winning pitcher for the Chicago White Sox in the first official American League game against the Cleveland Blues. In seven major league seasons, Patterson is 81-72 with a 2.75 ERA.



Lyman Nason
1922 Wahpeton-Breckenridge Twins

Nason Chronology

1912

As a 16-year-old, Nason plays semipro ball as a third baseman in Austin, Minnesota.

January 1921

Wahpeton newspaper publisher Robert J. Hughes purchases a franchise in the South Dakota (D) League and hires former major leaguer Roy Patterson as his manager ... limited to a 13-man roster, Patterson puts together a well-balanced team, and pitching well past his prime at age 44, he is 8-5 in 13 games ... one of the team's more promising players is rookie Lyman Nason ... the Twins finish third with a 55-43 record.

November 7, 1924

Nason is purchased by the San Antonio Bears of the Texas (A) League from the London Tecumsehs of the Michigan-Ontario (B) League ... Nason has 21 assists for the Tecumsehs.

July 24, 1925

Nason hits a pair of two-run home runs to lead San Antonio past the Fort Worth Panthers 4-2 before a 5,000 in Forth Worth.

August 5, 1925

Nason is 2-for-6 with three RBIs and steals second, third and home in the third inning in San Antonio's 18-2 win over visiting Shreveport.

June 20, 1926

Shreveport purchases Nason from the Syracuse Stars in a straight cash transaction.

August 21, 1927

Playing for the Oorang Indians, Nason beats out an infield hit and is robbed of a double in a 12-3 loss to Lima Independents ... Indians' manager Chick Skelly says Nason handles himself like a "real ball player."

November 11, 1927

San Antonio Bears' President Henry Ables announces the signing of outfielders Pug Griffin, Lyman Nason and infielder Al Maderas ... Griffin is purchased from Wichita Falls while Nason, who is on baseball's suspended list, and Maderas are obtained from Shreveport in a trade for outfielder Leslie Phipps.

1924 London Tecumsehs



Photo courtesy of Western Canada Baseball - <https://attheplate.com/wcbl/>

Lyman Nason [4 of 4]:

January 26, 1928

After being suspended the previous year for leaving Shreveport during the season, Nason is reinstated to the eligible list.

Nason Steals 3 Bases in 1 Inning

August 5, 1925

Shreveport Sports at San Antonio Bears
League Park, San Antonio, Texas

SHREVEPORT					SAN ANTONIO				
	AB.	H.	O.	A.		AB.	H.	O.	A.
Stnsbury,l	5	1	1	0	Gonzales,2	6	2	3	5
Ostergrd,3	4	0	0	2	Meyers,m	6	3	3	0
Kirke,l	5	1	6	0	Nason,l	6	2	2	0
Benton,s	4	2	2	4	Clark,3	5	3	1	3
Schick,r	4	1	2	0	Rosenthal,r	6	3	1	0
Bonwitz,m	3	1	3	0	Washrn,l	6	4	6	0
Wistrzil,2	4	2	7	3	Wirts,c	4	1	10	0
Burns,c	4	1	3	0	Kahdot,s	3	1	1	0
Adkins,p	1	0	0	0	Owens,p	5	3	0	0
McCauley,p	0	0	0	0					
Thmpsn,p	3	0	0	1					
Totals	37	9	24	10	Totals	47	23	27	8

Shreveport000 000 200— 2
 San Antonio083 120 22x—18
 Summary: Runs, Burns, Thompson, Gonzales 2, Meyers 2, Nason 3, Clark 2, Rosenthal 2, Washburn 2, Wirtz 2, Kahdot 2, Owens; errors, Benton 2, Burns, Gonzales 2; innings pitched, Adkins 1-3 with 4 runs and 5 hits, McCauley 2-3 with 4 runs and 2 hits; two-base hits, Gonzales, Meyers 2, Wistrzil, Washburn, Schick; three-base hit, Clark; **stolen bases, Nason 3**, Clark, Wirts; struck out, Owens 10; bases on balls, Adkins 1, McCauley 3, Owens 2; left on bases, Shreveport 10, San Antonio 9; double play, Clark to Gonzales to Washburn; passed ball, Burns. Time, 2:15.

Nason is 2-for-6 with three RBIs and steals second, third and home in the third inning in San Antonio's 18-2 win over visiting Shreveport ... Homer Owens, a 6-foot, 200-pound, right-hander makes his Texas League debut striking out 10 batters and is 3-for-5 with an RBI.

1929

Nason, who played little last year because of an illness, was brought back in a trade from Shreveport late last fall for Leslie Phipps, who flopped as a Bruin after a promising start.

July 18, 1929

San Antonio's Nason is the latest Texas League player to come with the mumps ... probably lost for several weeks, Nason's position with in the field will be filled by pitchers taking turns playing his position.

January 6, 1930

San Antonio trades Nason to the Bridgeport Bears of the Eastern League for Ad Schinkle.

May 11, 1931

Hazelton acquires Nason from Bridgeport.

March 11, 1932

Nason accepts contract terms with the Eastern League's New Haven Bulldogs.

July 11, 1934

Nason asks for and is granted his release from Springfield Ponies.

July 1970

Nason's son, Daniel, is recognized for his gallantry while serving with the First Calvary Division in Vietnam ... the 20-year-old Daniel has a Combat Infantryman's badge, two Army Commendation medals, a Silver Star and two Purple Hearts.

March 7, 1976

Nason dies in Providence, Rhode Island at the age of 79.

INTRODUCING NEW TEXAS LEAGUERS

Allen Lyman Nason
SAN ANTONIO

By CHARLES J. FOREMAN.
 Born, Grand Rapids, Minn., October 11, 1900.
 Position—Outfielder.
 Height, six feet, one inch. Weight, 185 pounds.
 Bats right-handed. Throws right-handed.
 Club in 1924—London, Michigan-Ontario League.
 First engagement—Mitchell, Dakota League, 1923.
 1924 record—Games, 131; at bat, 481; runs, 82; hits, 157; doubles, 21; triples, 21; home runs, 13; sacrifices, 10; stolen bases, 23; batting average .326. Putouts, 322; assists, 21; errors, 12; fielding average .966.
 Best feats—Leading Michigan-Ontario League in three-base hits and its outfielders in making putouts and accepting chances.



Lyman Nason
1927 Shreveport Sports



Lyman Nason
1928 San Antonio Bears