

On This Date

April 11, 1928

On April 11, 1928, the Pittsburgh Pirates' latest left-handed recruit [Les Bartholomew](#) makes his major league debut against the St. Louis Cardinals in the season opener for both teams.

A long shot to make the Corsair's opening day roster, Bartholomew nonetheless impresses second-year manager [Donie Bush](#) enough to not only make the roster of the defending National League champion, but is the first reliever of the season to be summoned from the bullpen.



Despite the hoopla, Bartholomew's debut against the Cardinals is one that the 25-year-old Wisconsin native would just as soon forget. The Pirates are trailing 6-3 when Bartholomew relieves starter [Ray Kremer](#) at the start the bottom of the sixth inning. [Bob O'Farrell](#) greets the husky (190-pound) lefty with a sharp single to left field. Following a sacrifice by the opposing pitcher, Bartholomew yields (in order): a walk, double, home run ([Frankie Frisch](#)), walk, single, single.

Thankfully, with the score 12-3, Bush elects to relieve Bartholomew with another rookie, 22-year-old [Glenn Spencer](#), also making his major league debut. Bartholomew's pitching line for that afternoon is 1/3 inning, six earned runs on five hits and two walks. His ERA is 162.0.

Bartholomew will make six appearances for Pittsburgh in 1928, finishing 0-0 with a 7.15 ERA. He allows 36 hits in 22 2/3 innings with six strikeouts and nine walks.