

# Pinch Hits, "Brothers Morrison"

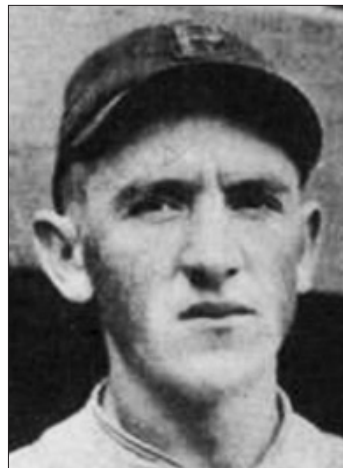
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Phil Morrison (0) and his older brother Johnny (103) combine for 103 victories in their major league careers, good for 18th on the major league's all-time brother win list. Phil (318) and Joe Niekro (221) with 539 wins sit atop the sibling's list while Gaylord (314) and Jim Perry (215) are second at 529 career victories.

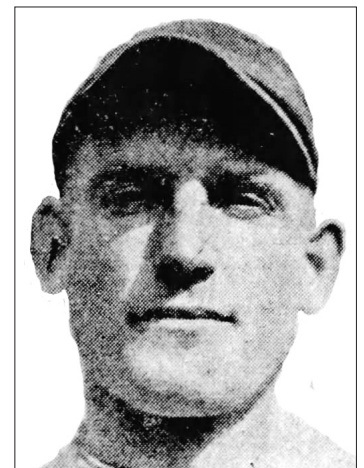
A right-handed pitcher, **Phillip Melvin Morrison** is 21-13 for the Birmingham Barons with a 2.88 ERA when he is sold to the Pittsburgh Pirates on September 9. The Corsairs are one of five teams bidding on his services. The owner of the Southern League's best curveball, the 23-year-old is reunited with his brother on team that is in second-place 1 1/2 games behind the New York Giants.

The price paid for Morrison is not announced as the Birmingham Post-Herald says, "disposal of an unnamed Baron player to Pittsburg at a very large price." It's understood that the team paid more for him than his older brother a year earlier.

He appears in only one major league game with the Pirates, on September 30, 1921. Relieving Rip Wheeler with one out in the bottom of the eighth inning during a 12-4 loss to the St. Louis Cardinals in Sportsman Park, Morrison pitches a scoreless 2/3rds of an inning, allowing one hit, a two-run double to Heinie Mueller, his first hitter, and striking out Austin McHenry. Pinch hit for in the top of the ninth by fellow rookie Ray Röhwer - the eighth of 85 University of California players to make it to the major leagues - Morrison's major league career is unexpectedly over.



**Johnny Morrison**  
Pittsburgh Pirates



**Phil Morrison**  
Atlanta Crackers

## Phil Morrison Major League Debut

September 30, 1921

Pittsburgh Pirates at St. Louis Cardinals  
Sportsman Park, St. Louis, Missouri

PITTSBURGH (N.)				ST. LOUIS (N.)							
abr	h	o	a	abr	h	o	a				
Bigbee,lf.	4	1	2	10	Smith,rf..	5	1	1	0	0	
Carey,cf.	4	1	2	4	0	1	F'nier,lb.	4	0	1	0
M'ville,ss	3	0	1	2	3	2	Stock,3b..	4	2	1	1
R'tson,rf.	3	2	0	1	0	0	H'sby,2b	5	3	4	0
T'ney,2b.	2	0	0	4	2	0	Mueller,cf	5	2	4	2
B'hart,3b	4	0	1	1	0	0	McH'ry,lf	3	3	1	3
Grimm,lb	4	0	1	8	2	0	Lavan,ss.	5	1	3	0
Carlson,p	2	0	0	0	3	0	Clemons,c	4	0	4	5
Wheeler,p	1	0	0	0	1	0	Haines,p.	3	0	0	3
Gooch,c..	4	0	0	2	1	1					
Morrison,p	0	0	0	0	0	0					
Rohwer.	1	0	0	0	0	0					
Totals..	32	4	6	24	14	4					

\*Batted for Morrison in the ninth inning.

Pittsburgh ..... 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 3 0-4  
St. Louis ..... 0 1 0 3 4 1 0 2 x-12

Two base hits—Grimm, Hornsby 2, Barnhart, Mueller. Three base hit—Clemons. Home runs—Mueller, Hornsby. Stolen base—Mueller. Sacrifices—Tierney 2, Haines. Left on bases—Pittsburgh, 6; St. Louis, 7. Bases on balls—Off Carlson, 2; off Wheeler, 1; off Haines, 3. Hits—Off Carlson, 11 in 41-3 innings; off Wheeler, 6 in 3 innings; off P. Morrison, 1 in 2-3 inning. Hit by pitcher—By Wheeler, 1 (Fournier). Wild pitch—Wheeler. Passed ball—Gooch. Losing pitcher—Carlson. Umpires—O'Day, Klem and McCormick.

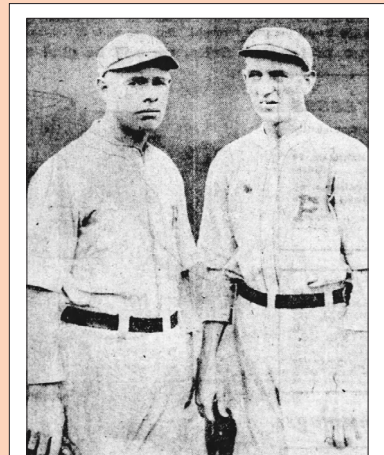
A World War I veteran, Morrison enlists in the Army as an 18-year-old on February 21, 1917. A member of the American Expeditionary Force, Morrison is sent to Europe where he is involved in numerous engagements with the Germans. Discharged from the Army on August 19, 1920, Morrison signs with the Birmingham Barons 11 days later and makes his pro debut on September 8, dropping a 3-2 decision to Mobile. He is 1-2 with the Barons with his lone win a 13-0 five-hit shutout of New Orleans on September 14.

On July 20, 1921, Phil Morrison pitches his only career no-hitter, a 7-0 seven-inning decision over the Mobile Bears. Following the 1923 season, Morrison is scheduled to pitch for the Owensboro (Kentucky) All-Stars but comes down with rheumatism and is unable to appear. Morrison misses both the 1924 and 1925 seasons with his rheumatism.

**John Dewey Morrison** earns the nickname "Jughandle Johnny" in part because of the curveball he perfects as a semipro pitcher and as a pitcher with Pittsburgh and Brooklyn. In 10 major league seasons he is 103-80 with 13 shutouts and a 3.64 ERA, pitching 1,536 innings, striking out 546 and walking 506.

John makes his professional debut in 1915 with the Anniston Moulders of the Georgia-Alabama (D) League, a team he will play with for three seasons. In 1920, he is 26-13 with the Birmingham Barons when he bought by the Pittsburgh Pirates on September 19.

He makes his major league on September 28 in the second game of a doubleheader against the Cincinnati Reds at Crosley Field. Four days later, in a record-setting tripleheader against the same Reds in Forbes Field, he starts the day's final game and pitches a seven-inning, four-hit shutout for the first of 103 career victories.



Pittsburgh rookie pitchers Whitey Glazer (L) and Johnny Morrison (R) combined for 50 wins playing for Birmingham in 1920

Making the Pirates' opening day roster in 1921, he finishes his first full season 9-7 with a 2.88 ERA. He completes 11 of 17 starts and ties for the league lead with three shutouts. In 1923, the lanky right-hander has a career year finishing 25-13 with 27 complete games and a 3.49 ERA.

Phil Morrison passes away on January 18, 1955, following an extensive stay at the Veteran's Hospital in Lexington, Kentucky. "Jughandle Johnny" passes away on March 20, 1966, after a long illness at the Veteran's Hospital in Louisville.