

Pinch Hits, "Record Setting Beavers"

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PORTLAND MAKES IT 9 SHUTOUTS

HAS NOT BEEN SCORED ON IN 85 INNINGS.

McCredie's Team Breaks All Records in Final Spurt for Coast League Pennant

On the morning of October 6, 1910, with a little less than a month remaining in the Pacific Coast League schedule, league standings show the Portland Beavers and the Oakland Oaks engaged in a heated race for the circuit's coveted pennant, with the northern franchise owning a slim 1 1/2 game lead on their southern Bay-area neighbor.

Nine days later, the Beavers lead over the Oaks is down to a one game despite a 10-game stretch where Portland is 9-0-1, due mainly to a record-setting 88-straight scoreless innings by the team's superb pitching staff. Oakland, on the other hand, is able to keep pace because of a successful protest lodged against the league-leading Beavers over their use of infielder Gus Heitling in a three-game series against the Oaks in late September. League President Thomas F. Graham's ruling on October 12, constitutes a six-game swing and puts Oakland into first-place by two games in the middle of Portland's streak.

Portland's savvy 33-year-old player-manager Walter McCredie says that the decision was made to "satisfy the peanut politicians" of San Francisco, and "the Coast League is crooked all of the way through."

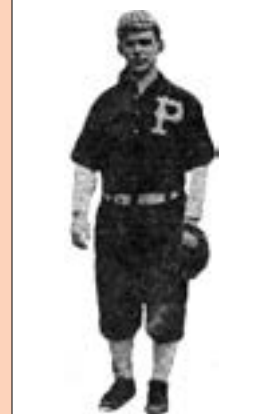
It's during that 10-game streak that Portland's superb pitching staff sets a pro baseball record by blanking their opponents for 88 consecutive innings, eclipsing the existing scoreless streak record of 62 innings set by the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1907 (the numbers in the parenthesis on the pitchers to the right are the number of innings each pitcher contributed to the streak).

And it's that talented pitching staff that will play a major role in Portland claiming four of the first five Pacific Coast League pennants (1910, 1911, 1913, 1914) in the new decade.



Vean Gregg, Portland (26)

The team's ace is 25-year-old Vean Gregg, who in his first season with the Beavers finishes 32-18 while leading the Pacific Coast League in strikeouts (376) and shutouts (14). After winning 20-or-more games in each of his first three seasons with the Cleveland Naps, the Chehalis, Washington, portsider is called, "the left-handed Walter Johnson," by Philadelphia's Eddie Collins.



Gene Krapp, Portland (31)

The 5-foot-7, 160-pound Krapp makes the considerable jump from the Flint Vehicles and D-ball to the competitive Pacific Coast League look easy as he wins his first five starts in 1910 with Portland. In 442 innings with the champion Beavers, he finishes 29-16-2 with a career-best 1.26 ERA and is second to teammate Vean Gregg in strikeouts (256) and shutouts (8).

Portland Wins by 12 Points							
STANDING OF THE CLUBS (Pacific Coast League)							
	W.	L.	Pct.		W.	L.	Pct.
Portland	114	97	.547	Vernon	818	497	.618
Oakland	122	96	.559	Los Angeles	893	521	.628
San Francisco	114	106	.518	Sacramento	82	124	.400

RESULTS OF GAMES			
Oakland 2, San Francisco 1,	Vernon 3, Portland 2,		
Oakland 2, San Francisco 0,	Vernon 7, Portland 5,		
Los Angeles 4, Sacramento 0,			

The season closed with just 12 points, or a little more than three games, between the two leading clubs, Oakland and Portland. The Comets had a fighting chance up to Saturday afternoon, when they dropped the final game of the double header to the Beavs. This put them out of the running.

San Francisco managed to catch four points, or about two games, ahead of Vernon. The Seals were forced to keep hustling every inch of the way in order to hold the Vikings in the four hole.

As for Los Angeles and Sacramento, their case was hopeless.

Keyed by a late season surge, Portland will finish 1 1/2 games ahead of the Oaks, clinching the pennant on the second-to-last day of the season. Listed to left are the season's final standings as carried by every newspaper in the region. They differ substantially from those carried in several later publications that show the Beavers (118-85) ahead of Oakland (120-101) by a

comfortable seven-game margin.

Comprising the Beavers' formidable mound staff is [Vean Gregg](#) (32-18, 1.53), [Gene Krapp](#) (29-16, 1.26), [Bill Steen](#) (27-17, 1.78), [Tom Sexton](#) (17-17, 1.99) and [Jess Garrett](#) (11-14, 1.85). In all, nine PCL pitchers win 20-or-more games, 20 have ERAs of 2.00 or better, including Los Angeles' 17-year-old right-hander [Flame Delhi](#) (10-10, 1.71). Nineteen hurlers pitch 310 innings or more, including seven who log more than 400 innings. San Francisco, led by individual batting champion [Hunky Shaw](#) (.281), leads the league in hitting with a team average of only .226, while Sacramento's .203 mark ranks last.

"THE STREAK"

October 6 (4 innings)

Portland beats Sacramento 3-1 behind a four-hitter by Bill Steen ... Steen strikes out six, walks two and does not allow a run after the fifth inning.



Bill Steen, Portland (22)

The 22-year-old Steen is responsible for 22 innings of Portland's record-setting 88-inning scoreless streak. In two years (1910-1911) with the Beavers, he is 57-32, including a 30-win season in 1911 that earns him a promotion to the Cleveland Naps where he is 9-8 as a rookie in 1912. In four major league seasons, the Pittsburgh native is 28-32 with a 3.05 ERA. One of eight major leaguers to come out of Washington-Jefferson (Pa.) College, Steen starts his career in Pittsburgh's County League in 1905.



Jess Garrett, Portland (9)

Born at Oneonta, Alabama, in 1883, Garrett starts his professional career in 1906 with the Texas League's Dallas Giants. Following a 22-win season with the Giants in 1907, Garrett is drafted by the Portland Beavers. In three seasons from 1907 to 1909, the diminutive right-hander averages 22.7 wins per year. In 1913, he plays for a semipro team in Pemberton, Oregon and is 7-10 as the head baseball coach at Oregon Agricultural College (now Oregon State).

1910 Portland Record Setting Beavers [2 of 2]:

October 7 (17)

For 13 innings Portland and visiting Sacramento fail to score a run and the game ends as a 0-0 tie, called on account of darkness ... Sacramento's recently-acquired [Larry Pape](#) allows four hits but is outdone by the Beavers'

Gene Krapp who yields only a second inning single to Sacramento right-fielder [Joe Briggs](#) ... Pape is making his first start since being acquired from the Brockton Shoemakers where he had won 19 games.

1910 Portland Beavers



Reading from Left to Right—Casey, Gregg, Garrett, Fisher, Rappas, Steen, Seaton, Ryan, Olson, Ort, Krueger, Krapp, Warner, Sheehan and Menner

October 8 (26)

Portland's 27-year-old right-hander Jess Garrett pitches a seven-hit complete game shutout in a 10-0 win over last-place Sacramento ... second baseman [Pearl Casey](#) leads a 12-hit attack with a pair of triples ... Garrett strikes out six and walks one.

October 9 (40)

Portland ace Vean Gregg pitches both games of a double-header, shutting Sacramento out 4-0 in the opener and 1-0 in the second game contest a five-inning affair Gregg allowed three hits in the nine-inning game and four in the afternoon's five-inning battle ... Gregg strikes out eight in the first game and six in the second game.

October 10

A day off for the Beavers as they prepare to host the 5th-place Los Angeles Angels in their final home stand of the year.

October 11 (49)

Gene Krapp returns to the mound as Portland hosts Los Angeles in the first game of a eight-game series ... Krapp responds by allowing only three singles and wins a pitchers' battle from former major leaguer [Bill Tozer](#), 1 to 0.

October 12 (58)

Portland sends Bill Steen out against Los Angeles and the Pittsburgh native extends the scoreless streak to 58 innings with a 4-0 shutout of the Angels ... the 22-year-old right-hander allows six hits and strikes out four in the win ... the Angels have three hits in the ninth inning, but fail to push across to push a runner across home plate.

October 13 (67)

Portland ace Vean Gregg draws Thursday's starting assignment and like those before him, he turns in nine scoreless innings in a 1-0 pitcher's dual with Los Angeles' 17-year-old teenager Flame Delhi ... in this game the Beavers eclipse the existing scoreless record of 62 innings set by Pittsburgh in 1907 ... Gregg strikes out 11 while Portland's two hits come in the first inning and produce the game's lone score ... neither pitcher yields a safety after the third inning.

October 14 (76)

Gene Krapp takes his third turn on the mound during the streak and finally gets some run support by his teammates in a 6-0 win over Los Angeles ... the Beavers pound southpaw [Elmer Criger](#) and 40-year-old [George Wheeler](#) for 13 hits while Krapp allow only five safeties ... in his three starts during the streak, the hard-throwing right-hander allows only nine hits and strikes out 17 in 31 innings.

October 15 (85)

Portland's record-setting scoreless streak reaches 85 consecutive innings with a 3-0 win over Los Angeles ... Bill Steen yields only one hit, a fourth-inning single by Angels' left-fielder [Tom Daley](#), but more importantly the win gives Portland a one-game lead over Oakland in the pennant race.

October 16 (88)

Portland's scoreless skein comes to an end at 88 innings ... Los Angeles takes a double-header from Portland before 10,000 people who attend the Beavers' last home appearance of the year ... the Angels, who account for 48 of the Beavers' 88 scoreless innings, manage to break "the procession of goose eggs" by scoring two runs in the fourth inning of the first game.