

December 19, 2000

Purple Heart veteran passes...

Lou Thuman Major League Debut
September 7, 1939

A's Make Most Of Few Hits, 5-4

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 8 (AP)—The Athletics were shy on hits but long on runs today. Outhit, 13 to 8, they nosed out Washington's Senators, 5 to 4, for their only victory of the series and their first triumph in six starts.

While Henry Phippen scattered the Senators' hits, the Athletics came from behind with three runs in the second inning and added two more in the third on Frank Hayes' triple with Eric Tipton on base and a fielder's choice.

The Senators filled the bases in the first inning and scored only one run but added three runs in the fifth on Buddy Lewis' triple, a double by Taft Wright and Jim Bloodworth's single.

PHILADELPHIA				WASHINGTON				
ab	h	r	e	ab	h	r	e	
Moses, r.	4	0	4	0	Wela, r.	5	2	3
G't'bein, r.	4	2	1	3	Lewis, r.	5	1	1
Tipton, lf.	3	1	2	0	West, cf.	5	1	4
Hayes, ..	4	1	4	1	Wright, lf.	5	2	3
Slobert, l.	4	1	0	1	Travis, s.	4	0	0
Ch'pm'n, cf	3	1	3	0	Bl'd'w'th, 2	4	2	2
Newsome, s	3	1	2	4	Vernon, l.	4	2	2
L'd'giani, 2	4	1	1	5	Farrell, c.	2	2	1
Pippen, p.	2	0	1	0	Giuliani, c.	1	0	0
					Krauskas, p	1	0	0
					Car'squel, p	1	0	0
					Thauman, p	0	0	1
					Pitko, ..	1	0	0
					Estalella, ..	1	1	0
					Case,	0	0	0
Totals, ..	31	8	27	14	Totals, ..	39	13	24
Philadelphia,	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0
Washington,	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0

Runs—Tipton, Hayes, Slobert, Chapman, Newsome, Wela, Lewis, West, Wright. Errors—Vernon, Slobert, Chapman, Lodigiani. Runs batted in—Travis, Lodigiani 2, Phippen, Hayes, Slobert, Wright 2, Bloodworth. Two-base hits—Wright 2. Three-base hits—Hayes, Lewis. Sacrifices—Travis, Phippen. Double plays—West and Vernon; Gantenbein, Lodigiani and Slobert; Hayes and Newsome. Left on bases—Philadelphia 6, Washington 11. First base on balls—Off Pippen 2, off Krakauskas 3. Struck out—By Pippen 4. Hits—Off Krakauskas, 5 in 3 innings; off Car'squel, 2 in 4 innings; off Thauman, 1 in 1 inning. Passed ball—Hayes. Losing pitcher—Krakauskas. Umpires—Rommel, Kells and Hubbard. Time—2h. 13m. Estimated attendance—1500.
*Batted for Krakauskas in 4th.
†Batted for Car'squel in 8th.
‡Ran for Travis in 9th.

On December 19, 2000, six days following his 84th birthday, Louis Charles Frank Thuman dies from pneumonia in his hometown of Baltimore, Maryland.

Thuman makes it into five games with the Washington Senators in 1939 and 1940, posting an 0-1 record with a 12.00 ERA in nine innings pitched.

Thuman is playing for a Baltimore-area amateur team in the spring of 1938 when legendary Washington Senators scout Joe Cambria signs him to a contract.

Beginning his professional baseball career that summer with the St. Augustine Saints of the Florida State (D) League, the 6-foot-2 righthander shows promise with a 7-8 mark and a 2.75 ERA in 19 games.

Earning a promotion to the Greenville Spinners of the South Atlantic League in 1939, Thuman is 8-15 with 10 complete games and a 4.16 ERA and earns a September call-up with the parent club.

Thuman makes his major league debut against the Philadelphia Athletics on September 8, 1939, before 1,500 fans at Shibe Park ... the last of three Senators hurlers, Thuman pitches a scoreless eighth inning in a 5-4 defeat.

Thuman makes two more relief appearances for Washington in 1940, walking seven in five innings and finishing with a 0-1 mark and a 14.40 ERA ... brought by the Senators to spring training in 1941, Thuman becomes one of the first major leaguers to enter military service when he is called to active duty in April.

In 1944, Thuman's infantry unit is in France when he is shot in his lung and right shoulder ... the injury earns him a Purple Heart, but ends both his military and baseball career.