

Joe Leonard, "\$3,080 Man"

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Joseph Howard (Joe) Leonard garners national attention on August 1, 1913, when the Pittsburgh Pirates purchase the 19-year-old third baseman from the Des Moines Boosters of the Western (A) League for \$3,080 ... Leonard, in his second year of professional baseball, becomes at the time, the highest-priced player sold to the majors, in regards to both number of seasons he has played in the professional ranks and age.

<http://www.baseball-reference.com/players/l/leonajo01.shtml>

On May 1, 1920, Leonard passes away at George Washington University Hospital in Washington, D.C., from complications of a ruptured appendix and pneumonia ... the 26-year Leonard, playing for the Washington Senators, becomes ill earlier in the week while on the road with the team in New York.

Joe Leonard of Washington Passes Away—Clark Griffith, Manager, at Bedside.

Washington, May 6.—Joe Leonard, former Pirate and late of the Washington Americans, has died of the effects of an attack of appendicitis complicated by pneumonia. Leonard, Clark Griffith and other members of the Senators were at the bedside of the young infielder, in George Washington University hospital, when the end came.

Leonard was first taken ill last Monday when the team was in New York. The seriousness of his condition was not apparent until Thursday evening, when he returned to this city. An operation was performed on Friday morning, when it was found that his appendix was ruptured and produced a gangrenous condition that affected his right lung. It was this development that nullified the splendid fight Leonard made to live.

Washington owner Clark Griffith and several teammates are bedside at the time of his death.

Born on November 14, 1893, Leonard has a five-year major league career with the Pittsburgh Pirates (1914), Cleveland Indians (1916) and the Washington Senators (1916-1917, 1919-1920) ... the West Chicago, Illinois native hits .226 in 269 career games with two home runs and 61 RBIs ... his best season comes in 1916 when he hits .274 in 42 games with the Senators.



Joe Leonard
1920 Washington Senators

Joe Leonard Major League Debut April 24, 1914

St. Louis					Pittsburgh								
AB	R	B	P	A	AB	R	B	P	A				
Huggins, 2b	5	1	1	5	20	Carey, lf	3	0	1	4	0	0	
Magee, cf	4	0	1	4	0	Jo. Kelly, cf	4	0	0	1	0	0	
Butler, ss	2	1	1	0	4	Mowrey, 3b	4	0	1	4	3	0	
Miller, lb	5	0	0	7	0	Wagner, ss	4	1	1	3	2	0	
Wilson, rf	5	1	2	2	0	Konetchy, lb	3	0	2	12	0	0	
Dolan, 3b	5	3	2	2	1	Viox, 2b	4	0	1	0	3	0	
Cruise, lf	3	0	2	1	1	Mitchell, rf	3	0	1	0	0	0	
Snyder, c	3	1	2	6	0	Gibson, c	1	0	0	1	3	0	
Perritt, p	4	1	0	0	1	*Leonard	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Totals	38	8	11	27	9	0	Broncagan, c	0	0	0	0	0	0
							Kafera, c	2	0	1	2	0	0
							Harmon, p	0	0	0	0	1	0
							Kantlehner, p	1	0	0	0	0	0
							†Hyatt	1	0	0	0	0	0
							Conzelman, p	0	0	0	0	5	0
							‡Jas. Kelly	1	0	0	0	0	0
							Totals	33	1	3	27	17	0

*Batted for Gibson in fifth inning.

†Batted for Kantlehner in fifth inning.

‡Batted for Conzelman in ninth inning.

St. Louis 0 5 0 0 2 1 0 0-8
Pittsburgh 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0-1
Two-base hits—Butler, Wilson, Wagner, Carey.
Konetchy. Three-base hit—Wilson. Sacrifice fly—
Mitchell. Hits—Off Harmon 6 in 3 innings, Kantlehner 3 in 3 innings, Conzelman 2 in 4 innings. Left on bases—St. Louis 7, Pittsburgh 7. First on balls—Off Harmon 2, Kantlehner 2, Conzelman 2, Perritt 1. Hit by pitcher—By Perritt 1. Struck out—By Kantlehner 1, Conzelman 2, Perritt 3. Wild pitches—Harmon, Conzelman. Passed ball—Broncagan. Time—2:12. Umpires—Byron and Orth.

Leonard makes his major league debut with the Pittsburgh Pirates on April 24, 1914

... he goes 0-for-1 as a pinch-hitter in the fifth inning for catcher George Gibson in an 8-1 loss to the visiting St. Louis Cardinals that snaps the Pirates' seven-game winning streak.

A week before his death, the 5-foot-7, 156-pound Leonard makes his final career appearance on April 23, as a pinch runner in the fifth inning for Senator pitcher Harry Courtney in a 4-2 loss to the Boston Red Sox in Griffith Stadium.

Joe Leonard Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Lev	AB	HT	2B	3B	HR	RBI	AVG
1912	Des Moines Boosters	Western	A	365	103	15	4	1	-	.282
1913	Des Moines Boosters	Western	A	588	163	28	9	4	-	.277
1914	Pittsburgh Pirates	NATIONAL	ML	126	25	2	2	0	4	.198
1915	Kansas City, Columbus	American Assoc.	AA	398	112	19	6	3	-	.281
1916	Columbus Senators	American Assoc.	AA	386	104	10	8	4	-	.269
1916	Cleveland Indians	AMERICAN	ML	2	0	0	0	0	0	.000
1916	Washington Senators	AMERICAN	ML	168	46	7	0	0	14	.274
1917	Washington Senators	AMERICAN	ML	297	57	6	7	0	23	.192
1918	Great Lakes Naval Air Station	Military	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1919	Washington Senators	AMERICAN	ML	198	51	8	3	2	20	.258
1920	Washington Senators	AMERICAN	ML	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Minor League Totals 4 years				1737	482	7	27	12	-	.277
Major League Totals 5 years				791	179	23	12	2	61	.226