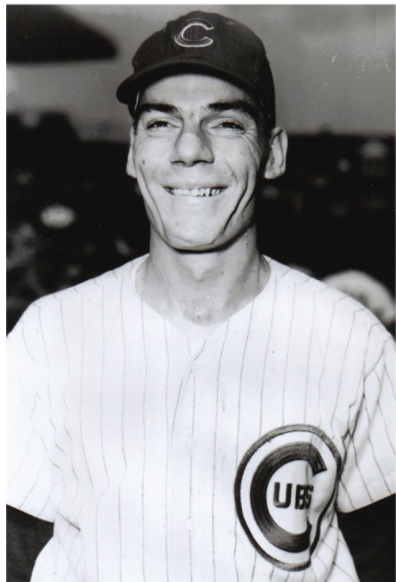


# Bill Gabler, "3 Strikes 3 Times"

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Bill Gabler  
1958 Chicago Cubs

What do Don Erickson, Ralph Mauriello and Johnny Klippstein have in common?

Each of them strike out Bill Gabler in his only three major league at bats during his brief stay with the Chicago Cubs at the end of the 1958 season.

## Gabler's Eight Days in September, 1958

September 13 - Gabler is hitting .270 with 23 home runs and 90 RBIs for the Fort Worth Cats when he is named to the Texas League All-Star team.

September 14 - After eight years in the minors, Gabler is one of five players from the pennant-winning Cats to have his contract purchased by the Chicago Cubs ... the National League team purchases the contracts of Gabler and outfielder Chick King, and exercises its options on outfielders Bob Will, Frank Ernaga and infielder Jerry Kindall.

*Two years earlier, Will and Ernaga, both playing for Tulsa, are involved in one of the most unusual plays in Texas League history ... in a game against Houston, opposing pitcher Bill Greason hits a fly ball to Ernaga in left field when the ball strikes a bird flying overhead ... Ernaga catches the ball before it hits the ground and Will, playing centerfield, grabs the plummeting bird ... Houston manager Harry "The Hat" Walker protests that the bird should be considered a "foreign" object and that the ball can't be legally caught ... since no passport or visa papers were found on the bird, the umpires rule that Ernaga's catch is legal.*

September 16 - Gabler makes his major league debut against the Philadelphia Phillies ... pinch-hitting for reliever John Buzhardt in the top of the 10th inning, Gabler strikes out against Phillies reliever Don Erickson ... two batters later, Al Dark's single drives in Cal Neeman and Tony Taylor, giving Buzhardt the first of an eventual 71 major league victories while Erickson is pinned with the loss in his only career decision.

September 19 - Gabler is part of a record-setting performance when Chicago and Los Angeles tie a National League single-game record with four strikeouts by pinch hitters ... Gabler, Chick King and Frank Ernaga go down on strikes for the Cubs while Gino Cimoli fans for the Dodgers ... batting for Taylor Phillips in the bottom of the seventh inning, Gabler strikes out against starter Ralph Mauriello, who records his only major league victory in a 5-to-1 decision.

September 21 - For the second time in three days, Gabler is part of another record-setting performance as the Cubs tie a National League record using seven pinch hitters in a single game ... batting for Tony Taylor in the bottom of the ninth inning, Gabler, in his final major league at bat, strikes out against reliever Johnny Klippstein as the Dodgers prevail 2-1 preserving Sandy Koufax's 11th win of the season.

Bill Gabler's Major League Debut  
September 16, 1958  
Chicago Cubs vs. Philadelphia Phillies

## Dark's Single Beats Phillies

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Alvin Dark's 10th inning single scored Tony Taylor and Cal Neeman to give Chicago a 10-8 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies Tuesday night. Taylor and Neeman had walked.

CHICAGO				PHILADELPHIA			
ab	r	h	bi	ab	r	h	bi
T. Taylor 2b	3	1	1	Ashburn cf	5	0	1
Dark 3b	3	0	1	Young 2b	4	0	1
Banks ss	3	0	2	dPost	1	0	0
Norlyn lf	4	0	0	Kazanski 2b	0	0	0
Will rf	0	0	0	iLopata	1	0	0
Long lb	2	0	2	Bouchee lb	6	1	3
Marshall rf	0	0	0	Philly rf	3	0	0
King cf	2	0	0	bBowman rf	2	1	1
Thomson cf	3	3	0	Anderson lf	1	1	1
Neeman c	4	4	3	Herrera 3b	3	3	2
Drott p	1	0	0	Fern'dex ss	5	2	2
Henry p	0	0	0	Hegan c	4	1	0
Elston p	0	0	0	fHemus	1	0	0
Buzhardt p	0	0	0	Conley p	0	0	0
Gabler p	0	0	0	Hearn p	0	0	0
Hillman p	0	0	0	Meyer p	0	0	0
				mRepulski	0	0	0
				Farrell p	0	0	0
				cJones	0	0	0
				Erickson p	0	0	0
				Morehead p	0	0	0
				sSawatski	1	0	0
				hSimmons	0	0	0

Totals 40 10 12 10 Totals 40 8 16 8  
 a—Grounded out for Meyer in 7th; b—Struck out for Philly in 8th; c—Struck out for Farrell in 9th; d—Hit into force play for Young in 9th; e—Struck out for Buzhardt in 10th; f—Filed out for Hegan in 10th; g—Singled for Morehead in 10th; h—Ran for Sawatski in 10th; i—Singled for Kazanski in 10th.  
 Chicago ..... 050 020 010 2-10  
 Philadelphia ..... 040 000 013 8-8  
 E—Banks, Anderson, PO-A—Chicago 30-8, Philadelphia 30-12, DP—Dark, T. Taylor and Long, LOB—Chicago 10, Philadelphia 10.  
 2B—Bouchee, Anderson, Hegan, 3B—Banks, HR—Fernandez, Herrera, Long, Marshall, SF—Dark, Taylor.  
 IP H R ER BBSO  
 Drott ..... 1-3 4 4 3 1 4  
 Henry ..... 7-1 3 7 3 3 1  
 x-Elston ..... 0 0 0 0 0 0  
 Buzhardt (W, 1-0) 1-3 0 0 0 0 0  
 Hillman ..... 1-3 3 3 3 4 4  
 Conley ..... 1-3 3 3 3 4 4  
 Hearn ..... 3 3 3 3 3 3  
 Meyer ..... 2-3 0 0 0 0 0  
 Farrell ..... 2 2 2 2 2 2  
 Erickson (L, 0-1) 2-3 3 3 3 2 2  
 Morehead ..... 1-3 0 0 0 0 0  
 x-Pitched to 3 batters.  
 U—Dascoll, Donatelli, Crawford, Smith.  
 T-3:35, A-4:30.

## Bill Gabler [2 of 2]:

Born William Louis Gabler on August 4, 1930, in St. Louis, Missouri, the left-handed swinging first baseman signs with the Brooklyn Dodgers as a amateur free agent prior to the 1950 season and is sent to Santa Barbara of the California League where hits .299 with 10 home runs in his rookie season.

Gabler will play 11 seasons in the minor leagues for 10 different teams ... following a one-year retirement, he ends his career in 1961 at the age of 30 with the Macon Peaches of the Southern League.

Finishing his career with 215 home runs and a .259 batting average, Gabler hits 20-or-more home runs seven times, including a career-best 30 with the Macon Peaches in his final season.

## Bill Gabler Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Lev	AB	HT	2B	3B	HR	RBI	AVG	
1950	Santa Barbara Dodgers	California	C	521	156	34	7	10	-	.299	
1951	Santa Barbara Dodgers	California	C	581	177	48	7	23	-	.305	
<b>1952</b>	<b>2 Teams</b>	<b>.....2 Lgs</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>481</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>.283</b>	
1952	Newport News Dodgers	Piedmont	B	425	126	24	6	13	-	.296	
1952	Miami Sun Sox	Florida Int.	B	56	10	2	0	1	-	.179	
1953	2 Teams	.....2 Lgs	A-AA	522	126	22	8	22	-	.241	
1953	Elmira/Fort Worth	Eastern/Texas	A	522	126	22	8	22	-	.241	
<b>1954</b>	<b>2 Teams</b>	<b>.....2 Lgs</b>	<b>A-AA</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>.188</b>	
1954	Fort Worth Cats	Texas	AA	59	17	4	0	6	20	.288	
1954	Elmira Pioneers	Eastern	A	319	54	9	5	7		.169	
1955	Pueblo Dodgers	Western	A	351	106	22	4	20		.302	
<b>1956</b>	<b>3 Teams</b>	<b>.....3 Lgs</b>	<b>AA</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>.237</b>	
1956	Tulsa Oilers	Texas	AA	135	33	2	1	4	20	.244	
1956	Hollywood Stars	Pacific Coast	Open	49	10	2	1	2	11	.204	
1956	Atlanta Crackers	Southern	AA	69	17	2	2	5		.246	
1957	Memphis Chickasaws	Southern	AA	512	126	23	6	28		.246	
1958	Fort Worth Cats	Texas	AA	503	136	18	5	23	94	.270	
1958	Chicago Cubs	NATIONAL	ML	3	0	0	0	0	0	.000	
1958	Marlboro Smokers	Panama Winter	-	-	-	-	-	8	28	.237	
1959	Fort Worth/Minneapolis	American Assoc.	AAA	451	95	20	4	21	72	.211	
1961	Macon Peaches	Southern	AA	515	124	20	1	30	99	.241	
Minor League Totals				..... 11 years	5068	1313	252	57	215	316	.259
Major League Totals				..... 1 years	3	0	0	0	0	0	.000

All-Star Team: Piedmont League-1952; Texas League, 1958

## Gabler Notes

In 1957, playing for the Memphis Chickasaws, Gabler hits 28 home runs and finishes second to Chattanooga's Harmon Killebrew in the Southern Association home run race ... Killebrew belts 29 round trippers in his first full season in the minor leagues.

January 4, 1958 - Entering the game with a .125 batting average with only nine hits in 72 at bats, Marlboro Smokers first baseman Bill Gabler breaks out of his slump in a big way with three home runs and a triple and eight RBIs in a 18-13 win over the first place Azucareros Sugar Kings in a Panama League game ... his three home runs, in the fifth, eighth and ninth innings, tie a league record set by Hector Lopez two years earlier and his eight RBIs surpass the single game standard set by Joe Tuminelli in 1950.

August 14, 1959 - Gabler hits his fifth home run in six days, and 18th on the season, leading the Fort Worth past St. Paul 8-3.

## Gabler vs. Gabler

June 17, 1959

Bill Gabler drives in seven runs with a grand slam and a bases loaded triple leading Fort Worth to a 14-2 win over Denver in an American Association contest. The Cats pound out 20 hits, including 12 against Bears' starter John Gabler who lasts only five innings, allowing eight runs on 12 hits.

Fort Worth		Denver	
ab.	h.rbi.	ab.	h.rbi.
Cosmidis 2b	6 4 0	Windborn lf	4 1 0
Will rf	5 3 0	Malkmus 2b	4 0 0
Walters cf	5 4 2	Jaciuk 1b	4 2 0
Gabler 1b	6 2 7	Thorpe rf	4 1 2
Macko 3b	6 2 0	Pless 3b	4 2 0
Syngel lf	5 2 2	Oldis c	4 1 0
Thacker c	5 1 0	Mitchell cf	4 2 0
Bellino ss	4 2 1	Davidson ss	4 1 0
Johnson p	4 0 1	Gabler p	2 0 0
		Mayer p	1 0 0
		aCrusion	1 0 0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>46 20 13</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>36 10 2</b>

aFanned for Mayer in ninth  
 Fort Worth ..... 001 054 400—14  
 Denver ..... 000 000 002— 2

R—Cosmidis 3, Will 3, Walters 3,  
 Gabler 2, Macko, Syngel, Jaciuk, Thorpe.  
 E—Cosmidis, Thorpe, Mayer, PO—A—  
 Fort Worth 27-15, Denver 27-10, DP—  
 Davidson-Malkmus-Jaciuk, Bellino-Cosmid-  
 is-Gabler, Lett—Fort Worth 9, Denver 7.  
 2B—Cosmidis, Bellino 2, Will 3B—  
 Gabler HR—Gabler, Thorpe S—Walters,  
 SF—Johnson, A—1, \$80.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Johnson (W, 7-5)	9	10	2	2	0	4
Gabler (L, 4-3)	5	12	8	8	2	2
Mayer	4	8	6	5	0	1