

Tom Lovett, "Providence Prodigy"

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Thomas Joseph Lovett wins 88 games during a six-year major league career, with 53 of those coming in two seasons (1890-1891) with the National League's Brooklyn Bridegrooms.

One of six brothers, all of whom pitched in organized baseball, Lovett pitches the 13th no-hitter in National League history on June 22, 1891, in a 4-0 shutout of the New York Giants.

After beginning his career with Waterbury in the Connecticut State League in 1884, a 21-year-old Lovett makes his major league debut with the Philadelphia Athletics on June 4, 1885.

Finishing his rookie season 7-8 with a 3.49 ERA, Lovett does not pitch in the majors again until joining Brooklyn in 1889 ... over a three-year span with the Bridegrooms (1889-1891), the Providence, Rhode Island, native goes 70-40 with 101 complete games, eight shutouts and a 3.49 ERA

Lovett's his best season comes in 1890 when he goes 30-11 with a 2.78 ERA and leads the National League in winning percentage (.732) ... following a 23-19 mark with Brooklyn in 1891, Lovett declines to sign a \$3,000 contract with the Grooms because it involves a pay cut from the year before.

Sitting out the entire 1892 season, Lovett plays for an independent team in New Bedford, Massachusetts ... when Lovett returns to the majors, he is ineffective, going 11-11 with a 6.26 ERA in two seasons with Brooklyn and the Boston Beaneaters ... the Beaneaters release him on July 9, 1894.

The 5-foot-8, 162-pound right hander is 128-60 in seven minor league seasons, including a 41-5 mark in 1887



Lovett's 1889 N173 Old Judge Cabinet card is worth \$350 in near mint condition

while splitting time with the Bridgeport Giants (21-3) and Oshkosh (20-2) ... Lovett starts the season with Bridgeport but the team suffers financial difficulties following a decline in attendance ... with a monthly salary of \$400 per month, Lovett is sold, along with Tug Wilson and Dan Shannon, to Oshkosh in late July.

The following season (1888), Lovett is 30-14 for the Omaha Omahogs of the Western (A) League.

In his final season of professional baseball in 1896, Lovett is 8-11 with a 4.08 ERA with the Rochester Blackbirds and the Scranton Miners and allows 225 hits in only 161 innings.

Lovett attempts to pitch one more season in 1897, but remains unsigned despite being in "the best of condition."

Tom Lovett Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Level	W-L	INN	SO	BB	ERA	
1884	Waterbury.....	Connecticut	--	-	-	-	-	-	
1885	Philadelphia Athletics.....	AMERICAN AS.	ML	7-8	138.2	56	38	3.70	
1886	Newburyport/Lynn.....	New England	--	15-10	214	137	-	5.17	
1887	Two Teams	--	41-5	418	274	87	1.29	
1887	Bridgeport Giants.....	Eastern	--	21-3	217	170	21	1.12	
1887	Oshkosh	Northwestern	--	20-2	201	104	66	1.48	
1888	Omaha Omahogs	Western	A	30-14	392.1	273	41	1.56	
1889	Brooklyn Bridegrooms....	AMERICAN AS.	ML	17-10	229	92	65	4.32	
1890	Brooklyn Bridegrooms.....	NATIONAL	ML	30-11	372	124	141	2.78	
1891	Brooklyn Bridegrooms.....	NATIONAL	ML	23-19	365.2	129	129	3.69	
1892	New Bedford	Independent	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1893	Brooklyn Grooms.....	NATIONAL	ML	3-5	96	15	35	6.56	
1894	Boston Beaneaters.....	NATIONAL	ML	8-6	104	23	36	5.97	
1894	Providence Clamdiggers.....	Eastern	A	8-7	130	45	-	3.32	
1895	Providence Grays.....	Eastern	A	24-13	328	72	112	2.61	
1896	Two Teams	Eastern	A	8-11	161	45	55	4.08	
1896	Rochester Blackbirds.....	Eastern	A	6-8	116	39	43	4.19	
1896	Scranton Miners	Eastern	A	2-3	45	6	12	3.80	
Major League Totals				6 Years	88-59	1,305	439	444	3.94
Minor League Totals				7 Years	128-60	1,886	1,006	619	---

Bold denotes led league

1890-Led National League in winning percentage (.732)

Tom Lovett [1 of 3]:

Following his retirement, Lovett retires to run a saloon in his hometown of Providence ... on March 19, 1928, Lovett is walking down a street in Providence when he collapses unconscious and dies at age of 64.

Tom Lovett - Major League Debut Philadelphia at St. Louis

ATHLETIC.					ST. LOUIS.				
R	H	P	O	E.	R	H	P	O	E.
Purcell, l. f. ...	0	2	2	1	Latham, 3b. ...	1	0	1	1
Stovey, l. b. ...	0	0	7	0	Glendon, s. s. ...	2	1	1	1
Knight, c. f. ...	0	0	0	0	O'Neill, l. f. ...	1	0	3	0
Larkin, c. f. ...	0	0	1	0	Comiskey, l. b. ...	1	2	0	0
Houck, s. s. ...	0	1	3	0	Barkley, 2b. ...	1	2	2	1
Corey, 3b. ...	1	2	0	0	Nicol, r. f. ...	0	2	7	0
Milligan, c. ...	1	1	5	0	Welch, c. f. ...	0	0	1	0
Sirief, 2b. ...	0	0	2	0	Caruthers, p. ...	1	0	1	1
Lovett, p. ...	1	0	1	2	Bushong, c. ...	1	2	1	0
Totals	3	6	21	1	Totals	8	9	27	6

INNINGS.

Athletic.....	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
St. Louis.....	0	0	1	1	1	0	3	0	x-3	

Earned runs—Athletics, 1; St. Louis, 1. Home run—Comiskey. Three-base hit—Milligan. Two-base hit—Barkley. First base on balls—Knight and Caruthers. First base struck by pitcher—Larkin, Milligan and O'Neill. Struck out—Stovey, Milligan, Lovett, Nicol and Caruthers. Left on base—Athletic, 9; St. Louis, 5. Passed balls—Bushong, 1; Milligan, 1. Balls—Lovett, 2. Time—2 hours and 10 minutes. Umpire—Walsh.

Lovett Chronology

May 26, 1885

Despite pitching well in several exhibition games for the Providence Grays, Lovett is released to the Philadelphia Athletics.

June 4, 1885

Before 4,500 "Ladies Day" fans at Philadelphia's Jefferson Street Grounds, Lovett makes his major league debut against the St. Louis Browns ... Lovett turns in the first of his 149 major league complete games, allowing the Browns eight runs (only one earned) on nine hits and one walk ... Lovett allows a home run to eventual Chicago White Sox owner Charles Comiskey and also balks twice in an 8-3 loss.

August 1885

The Philadelphia Athletics release shortstop Blondie Purcell and fine Lovett \$100 for his "indifferent play" in a game against Atlantic City.

August 14, 1886

On the Newburyport roster when the club is transferred to Lynn (Mass.), Lovett is the starting pitcher before of a crowd of 850 at Lynn, who are forced to stand as the stadium seating has not yet been installed ... striking out 10, he pitches a complete game but drops a 6-5 decision to Boston.

April 30, 1887

Pitching in the season opener for the Bridgeport Giants of the Eastern League, Lovett, unfazed by the cold weather, begins a career year (41 wins) with a four-hit 14-3 complete game victory over Waterbury.

June 11, 1887

Despite being in first place, Bridgeport suffers from dwindling attendance ... Cincinnati Reds manager Gus Schmelz comes to the Giants' game at Danbury to watch Lovett pitch ... Lovett responds by pitching a four-hit complete game in an 8-4 victory ... following the game Schmelz offers to buy Lovett's release, but Bridgeport manager Dan Shannon tells Schmelz that Lovett is not for sale.

July 2, 1887

Lovett is 21-3 with 24 complete games in as many starts for Bridgeport when he, catcher Tug Wilson and second baseman Dan Shannon are sold to Oshkosh of the Northwestern League for \$3,000 ... Bridgeport disbands four days later despite being in first place with a 35-15 record.

June 22, 1891

Lovett pitches the 13th no-hitter in National League history with a 4-0 whitewashing of the visiting New York Giants.

March 26, 1892

Lovett, the team's winningest pitcher in 1891 with a 23-19 record, returns the Brooklyn contract unsigned because it calls for a pay cut ... Bridgeport's

Brooklyn, 4; New York, 0.

BROOKLYN, N. Y., June 22.—Tom Lovett pitched a phenomenal game today, and succeeding in shutting out the New Yorks without a solitary safe hit; while his support was perfect, the only error being a dropped foul fly by Pinkney. Ewing, too, pitched good ball, only one run being earned off him. Errors by Bassett and Clark gave the Brooklyn three of their runs. Lovett's pitching, a running catch of a hot foul by Daly, and Brooklyn's sacrifice hitting were the features. The score:

BROOKLYN—N. Y.										
AB.	R.	BH.	TB.	ER.	PO.	A.	E.			
Collins, 2b. ...	4	2	3	0	2	4	0	0	0	0
Ward, s. s. ...	4	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
Griffin, c. f. ...	4	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0
Burns, r. f. ...	4	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0
O'Brien, l. f. ...	4	2	3	4	0	1	0	0	0	1
Pinkney, 3b. ...	3	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	1
Foutz, 1b. ...	4	0	0	0	2	7	0	0	0	0
Daly, c. ...	3	0	1	1	0	8	0	0	0	0
Lovett p. ...	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Totals	38	4	8	10	6	27	6	1	1	1

NEW YORK—N. Y.										
AB.	R.	BH.	TB.	ER.	PO.	A.	E.			
Tiernan, r. f. ...	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1
Richardson, 2b. ...	4	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	1
Gore, c. f. ...	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Connor, 1b. ...	2	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0
O'Rourke, l. f. ...	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bassett, 3b. ...	3	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0
Whistler, s. s. ...	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0
Clarke, c. ...	3	0	0	0	0	6	2	4	0	0
Ewing, p. ...	3	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	0	1
Totals	28	0	0	0	0	24	14	7	0	4

Innings.....1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
 Brooklyn.....1 1 0 0 1 1 0 0 — 4
 Earned run—Brooklyn. Two-base hit—Collins, O'Brien. Stolen bases—Collins (2), O'Brien. First base on balls—Tiernan, Connor, Whistler. First base on errors—Brooklyn, 2. Hit by pitched ball—Pinkney. Wild pitch—Ewing. Struck out—Gore, Bassett, Whistler, Ewing, Collins, Burns, Foutz, Daly, Lovett. Double play—Collins and Foutz.

Tom Lovett [3 of 3]:

manager Monte Ward says the team will not miss Lovett as it has signed 24-year-old rookie hurler Brickyard Kennedy who was 20-18 with a 2.29 ERA the previous year for the Denver Mountaineers of the Western Association.

December 10, 1892

After missing the entire 1892 season, Lovett says he is making more money in his Providence saloon than he ever made in baseball.

Lovett Released and Shindle Signed

March 8, 1894

NEW YORK - While there was no startling development in local baseball affairs yesterday, the cranks that now assemble daily at the New York baseball club found plenty of things to discuss. Pres Byrne of the Brooklyns dropped in during the afternoon, and announced that pitcher Tom Lovett had been given his unconditional release. He also announced that third baseman (Billy) Shindle had been signed. - Boston Globe

March 24, 1894

Lovett signs with the Boston Beaneaters

July 14, 1894

Lovett is released by the Boston Beaneaters

July 19, 1894

Lovett signs with the Providence Clamdiggers of the Eastern League.

August 3, 1894

Lovett pitches a "grand game" for Providence ... manager Charley Snyder says that Lovett is pitching "as good ball as any man in the country" and that his arm is as strong as ever.

March 19, 1928

Lovett is walking down a street in Providence when he drops unconscious and dies at age of 64.

Tom Lovett's **Baseball Reference** page:

<http://www.baseball-reference.com/players/l/lovetto01.shtml>

OLD-TIMER IS DEAD

Thomas Lovett Pitched One of First Whitewash Games.

Providence, R. I., March 19 (AP) —Thomas J. Lovett, who pitched one of the first no-hit, no-run baseball games in the major leagues, died here Monday after dropping unconscious to the sidewalk. He was 64 years old. Lovett began his big league career with the Philadelphia Athletics in 1883, later pitching for the Brooklyn Nationals and the Boston Nationals. While with Brooklyn he pitched a no-hit, no-run game against the Giants in 1889. He once pitched for the Oshkosh and Omaha teams.