

Claude Rohwer, "Cal Bear"

©DiamondsintheDusk.com

Born on May 11, 1897, in Dixon, California, Claude Rowher plays four seasons of minor league baseball as middle infielder with three different teams, finishing with a .290 career batting average, nine home runs and 134 RBIs.

One of five baseball playing Rohwer brothers (Ray, Claude, Hans, Eggert, Ted), Claude is the starting shortstop for the University of California baseball team in 1917 and 1918, serving as team captain in 1918 ... Rowher has a tryout with the Chicago Cubs in February of 1918, but two months later his baseball career is put on hold when he and Bear second baseman W.W. Hudson report to California's Coast Artillery unit for a two-year stint in the United States military.



The younger brother of Pittsburgh Pirates outfielder Ray Rowher, Claude returns from military service to play with the Richmond Redmen (1919) and the Halls-Scott nine (1920) in the *Oakland Tribune* semi-pro league, earning all-star honors in the process.

Rowher begins his professional baseball career in late July of 1920 when he joins the San Francisco Seals to "fill in" when Roy Corhan, the team's regular shortstop, is injured ... Rowher collects two hits in eight at bats in his two weeks in the PCL.

After playing semi-pro ball in San Francisco's Bay Area in 1921, Rowher signs with the National League's Pittsburgh Pirates and is brought directly to the team's spring training camp in 1922.

One of seven infielders listed on the Corsairs' pre-season roster, Rohwer battles 32-year-old Jewel Ens and 23-year-old rookie Pie Traynor (whom the Pirates paid \$10,000 for his services) for playing time at the hot corner ... despite a productive spring training, Rohwer is hampered by a leg injury and loses out to Traynor, a future Hall of Famer, before being farmed out to the Charleston Pals of the South Atlantic (B) League where he hits .294 with 19 stolen bases and 31 RBIs ... at the end of the season, the Pirates notify Charleston to return Rohwer and Hazen "Kiki" Cuyler to Pittsburgh at the end of the South Atlantic season.

On December 13, 1922, the Pirates announce the purchase of pitcher E.D. "Pinches" Kunz from Sacramento of the Pacific Coast League for \$7,500 and four players ... the Cincinnati Reds had offered Sacramento \$35,000 for Kunz, so the Salons agree to accept four players from Pittsburgh in addition to the \$7,500 - pitchers "Chief" Yellowhorse and William Hughes, outfielder Harry Brown and Rohwer ... Kunz proves to be a disappointment for the Bucs in 1923, finishing 1-2 with a 5.52 ERA in 21 games before returning to the minors for another seven seasons (1924-1930).

Back in his home state, Rohwer establishes career-highs in 1923 in both RBIs (56) and batting average (.295) ... a year later,

Rohwer concludes his professional baseball career with the Solons, hitting .284 with a career-high seven home runs and 47 RBIs.

After his baseball career, Rohwer becomes a prominent attorney in Northern California ... following a lengthy illness, Rohwer dies in Woodland, California on October 7, 1940, at the age of 43.



Rowher's 1924 Zeenut card is worth \$60 in near mint condition.

Claude Rohwer Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Lev	AB	HT	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	AVG	
1917	University of California...	Pacific Coast Assoc.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1918	University of California...	Pacific Coast Assoc.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1919	Richmond Redmen.....	Tribune League	S-Pro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1920	Halls-Scott.....	Tribune League	S-Pro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1920	San Francisco Seals	Pacific Coast	AA	8	2	0	0	0	0	0	.250	
1921	Crystal Lights	Joaquin Valley League	S-Pro	36	10	2	0	0	-	2	.380	
1921	Vallejo	Semi-Pro	S-Pro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1922	Charleston Pals	South Atlantic	B	422	124	29	4	2	31	19	.294	
1923	Sacramento Solons	Pacific Coast	AA	353	104	14	5	0	56	15	.295	
1924	Sacramento Solons	Pacific Coast	AA	409	116	23	7	7	47	0	.284	
Minor League Totals			4 years	-	1192	346	66	16	9	134	34	.290