

Pete Schneider, "An Afternoon to Remember"

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On May 11, 1923, Vernon Tiger rightfielder Peter Joseph (Pete) Schneider turns in one of the single greatest offensive performances in professional baseball history, when the 27-year-old hits five home runs, two of them grand slams, a double and drives in 14 runs in a 35-11 victory over the home standing Salt Lake City Bees in a Pacific Coast (AA) League game.



Batting fifth in the Vernon lineup, the former major league pitcher comes close to getting a sixth home run when his sixth-inning double misses clearing the left field fence by a couple of feet.

Following is a play-by-play of Schneider's at bats that afternoon as carried in various news reports:

"On his first at bat, in the first inning, Schneider hits it over with one on; on his next at bat, in the second inning, he forced a preceding runner; on his third at bat, in the third Inning, he knocked it over with the bases full; and on his fourth at bat, in the fourth inning, he knocked it over with two on; on his fifth at bat, in the sixth inning, he knocked the ball against the upper board of the centerfield fence, not two feet below the top; on his sixth at bat, in the seventh inning, he knocked it over with the bases full; on his seventh at bat, also in the seventh inning, he knocked it over with none on; on his eighth at bat, in the ninth inning, he drove a terrific liner to the centerfielder."

TIGERS AMASS 35 RUNS; FIVE HOMERS BY SCHNEIDER

SALT LAKE CITY, Saturday, May 12.—Vernon overwhelmed the Salt Lake team yesterday, piling up thirty-three hits, good for thirty-five runs. Pete Schneider established what is believed to be a record of five home runs. Score:

Vernon—					Salt Lake—				
	AB	H	O	A		AB	H	O	A
Smith, 3b.	5	3	2	2	She'n, 2b-p	6	3	2	2
Chad'b'n, cf	4	3	1	0	Vitt, 3b	2	0	0	2
*O'Br'n, cf	2	0	0	0	Kerns, 3b.	3	0	0	3
Locker, 3b	7	5	1	0	Fr'cks, rf.	3	2	1	0
Bodie, lf.	6	4	1	0	Strand, cf	5	2	6	0
High, lf.	1	1	2	0	Wilhoit, lf	4	1	3	0
Sch'dr, rf.	8	6	4	0	Leslie, 1b.	5	2	1	0
Rader, ss.	5	0	0	5	Pearce, ss	4	0	1	3
Warner, ss	3	1	0	0	Peters, c.	1	1	1	1
Swyer, 2b	6	2	3	4	Ant'son, c-2	4	3	2	2
D.M'ph, c	7	4	3	0	Coumbe, p	1	0	0	0
Dell, p...	7	4	0	0	Kinney, p.	1	0	0	2
					Jenkins, c.	3	1	0	0

Totals ..60 33 27 11 | Totals ..42 16 27 15

*Batted for Chadbourne in seventh.
†Batted for Bodie in seventh.
‡Batted for Rader in seventh.

Score by innings:

Vernon4 3 8 5 0 4 11 0 0—35
Salt Lake0 2 2 0 0 1 0 6 0—11

Summary: Runs—Vernon 35 (Smith 5, Chadbourne 5, O'Brien, Locker 6, Bodie 3, High, Schneider 6, Bader, Sawyer 2, D. Murphy 3, Dell 2); Salt Lake 11 (Sheehan, Kerns, Fredericks 2, Strand 2, Wilhoit, Leslie, Antinon, Jenkins, Pearce). Errors—Smith, Bodie, D. Murphy, Leslie, Pearce. Home runs—Schneider 5, D. Murphy, Bodie, Locker, High, Leslie, Strand. Three-base hit—Chadbourne. Two-base hits—Dell, Smith, Schneider, Sawyer, Warner, Fredericks, Sheehan. Sacrifice hit—Chadbourne. Stolen bases—Leslie 2. Struck out—Kinney 1, Dell 2. Bases on balls—Coumbe 1, Kinney 2, Sheehan 9, Dell 5. Runs responsible for—Coumbe 1, Kinney 11, Sheehan 11. Charge defeat to Coumbe. Credit victory to Dell.

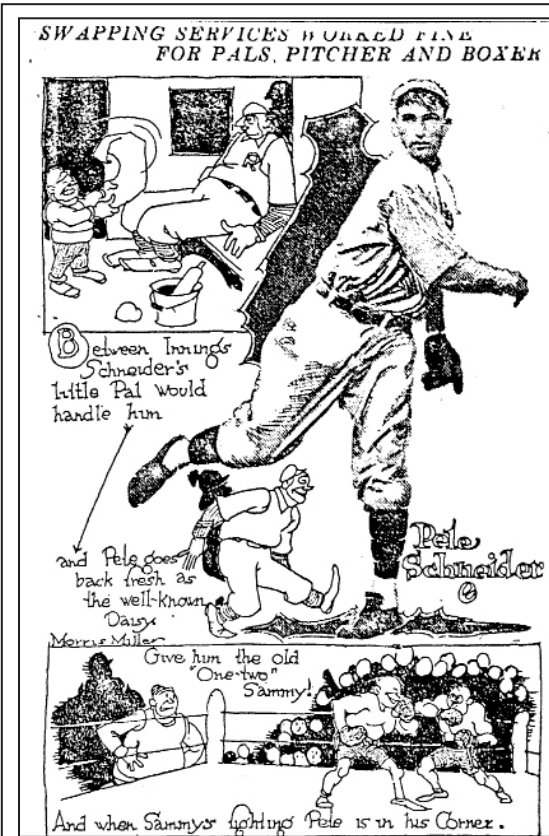
Schneider Batting Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Level	HR	RBI	AVG
1912	Seattle Giants.....	Northwestern	B	8		.311
1913	Medicine Hat Hatters	Western Canada	D			
1914	Seattle Giants.....	Northwestern	B	0		.286
1914	Cincinnati Reds.....	NATIONAL	ML	1	4	.178
1915	Cincinnati Reds.....	NATIONAL	ML	2	5	.245
1916	Cincinnati Reds.....	NATIONAL	ML	0	4	.236
1917	Cincinnati Reds.....	NATIONAL	ML	1	6	.167
1918	Cincinnati Reds.....	NATIONAL	ML	1	7	.289
1919	Vernon Tigers	Pacific Coast	AA	0		.375
1919	New York Yankees.....	AMERICAN	ML	0	0	.111
1920	Beaumont Exporters	Texas	B	5		.301
1920	Vernon Tigers	Pacific Coast	AA	2		.250
1921	Vernon Tigers	Pacific Coast	AA	14	69	.325
1922	Vernon Tigers	Pacific Coast	AA	15	51	.346
1923	Vernon Tigers	Pacific Coast	AA	19	110	.360
1924	Vernon Tigers	Pacific Coast	AA	16	52	.328
1925	Sacramento/Vernon	Pacific Coast	AA	0	5	.132
1926	Salt Lake City Bees	Utah-Idaho	C	4		.273
1926	St. Joseph's Saints	Western	A	4		.264
1928	Springfield (Mo.) Senators	Three-I	B			

The Los Angeles, California, native finishes the game with six hits in eight at bats as the Tigers improve their record to 22-14 and maintain their 1/2 game lead over the second-place San Francisco Seals with the win ... however, success will be fleeting for Bill Essick's Vernon club, as the Tigers, after their 24-run victory, will go 55-108 and finish last in the PCL, a full 46 games behind the eventual champion Seals.

A total of 11 home runs are hit that Saturday afternoon in Salt Lake's hitter-friendly Bonneville Park, including one by Vernon first baseman Dallas Locker, who will total only 20 round trippers in a seven-year minor league career ... estimates of the distances at Bonneville are 308 down the left field line, 408 to center field and 320 down the right field line.

Pete Schneider [2 of 6]:



Schneider gains national attention that season when it is reported he has his own personal trainer to "handle" him between innings ... Sammy Sundow, a local Cincinnati bantamweight boxer comes to the Reds' dugout and after each inning towels down the pitcher, giving him water and sponging his head and face ... Schneider, an avid boxing fan himself, returns the favor and is Sundow's chief second in several boxing matches.

Schneider begins his professional baseball career in 1912 as a 16-year-old pitcher with the Seattle Giants of the Northwestern (B) League ... two years later, he is 12-2 with Seattle, when the Giants sell his contract to the Cincinnati Reds in June of 1914 ... he makes his major league debut on June 20, against the New York Giants and will eventually pitch six years in the majors with the Cincinnati Reds (1914-1918) and the New York Yankees (1919) finishing with a 59-86 mark with 84 complete games, 10 shutouts and a respectable 2.62 ERA.

Schneider's best season in the major leagues comes in 1917 ... playing for Christy Matthewson's fourth-place Cincinnati Reds, he goes 20-19 with 24 complete games, a team-high 138 strikeouts and is sixth in the National League with a 2.10 ERA.

Following a 10-15 mark with Cincinnati in 1918, Schneider is pitching winter baseball in Los Angeles when he suffers an arm injury in a game against a negro semi-pro team ... he would win only five more games (at any level) in the rest of his career.

Acquired by the New York Yankees at the end of the 1918 season, a lame-armed Schneider goes 0-1 with a 3.14 ERA for Miller Huggins' Yankees in 1919, before being shipped out to the Vernon Tigers of the Pacific Coast (AA) League in mid-August.

Turning his attention to being a full-time outfielder, Schneider will hit .342 with 116 doubles, 47 triples, 64 home runs and drive in 282 runs for Vernon over a four-year span (1921-1924) ... he enjoys a career year in 1923, hitting a career-high .360 with 43 doubles, 23 triples, 19 home runs and 110 RBIs.

Schneider's 17th, and final, season in professional baseball comes in 1928, when he plays less than a month for the Springfield (Ill.) Senators of the Three-I (B) League ... the Senators release Schneider on May 16, 1928.

Schneider's life after baseball is not quite as successful as his playing days ... moving to Los Angeles, he enters the insurance business ... on May 30, 1935, he is convicted of manslaughter in the death of Gustavo Schnabel in a bar fight ... Schneider's defense is that Schnabel had been "assertedly disrespectful" toward his wife ... undeterred, Judge Charles Burnell sentences him to serve 1 to 10 years at San Quentin Prison in California.

While imprisoned at San Quentin, Schneider gains attention as the manager of the prison's all-star baseball team ... on June 1, 1957, Schneider dies in Los Angeles after a long illness at the age of 61.

Schneider Pitching Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Level	W-L	SO	ERA
1912	Seattle Giants.....	Northwestern	B	7-8		
1913	Medicine Hat Hatters	Western Canada	D	17-7		
1913	Seattle Giants.....	Northwestern	B			
1914	Seattle Giants.....	Northwestern	B	12-2	73	
1914	Cincinnati Reds.....	NATIONAL	ML	5-13	62	2.81
1915	Cincinnati Reds.....	NATIONAL	ML	14- 19	108	2.48
1916	Cincinnati Reds.....	NATIONAL	ML	10-19	117	2.69
1917	Cincinnati Reds.....	NATIONAL	ML	20-19	138	2.10
1918	Cincinnati Reds.....	NATIONAL	ML	10-15	51	3.53
1919	New York Yankees.....	AMERICAN	ML	0-1	11	3.41
1919	Vernon Tigers	Pacific Coast	AA	0-1		8.44
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1920	Beaumont Exporters	Texas	B	3-7		3.49
1920	Vernon Tigers	Pacific Coast	AA	0-2		13.50
1921	Vernon Tigers	Pacific Coast	AA	1-0		8.18
1922	Vernon Tigers	Pacific Coast	AA	2-1		4.97

Bold denotes led League

Led National League in walks, 1917 (117), 1918 (117)

Pete Schneider [3 of 6]:

Schneider Chronology

March 31, 1912

A 16-year-old Schneider pitches three scoreless innings as the Seattle Giants of the Northwestern (B) League beat the University of Washington 4-1 in an exhibition game.

April 18, 1912

With Portland's Lucky Beavers Stadium "as slippery as a cake of soap in a bath tub," because of a morning rain, Schneider pitches two scoreless innings in his professional baseball career debut, allowing one hit and one walk in a 12-6 loss to the Portland Colts.

August 31, 1913

Sent to the Medicine Hat Hatters of the Western Canada (D) League on an optional agreement earlier in the season, Schneider returns to the Seattle Giants ... known as the "Iron Man" in the "Twilight League", Schneider is 17-7 in 28 games with Bert Dunn's Hatters.

June 4, 1914

During the seventh inning of a game with the Victoria Bees, Schneider tells Seattle Manager Frank Raymond, "I'm going to the club house to change my clothes. I am going to jump tonight to the (Chicago) Federals," Raymond asks Schneider to wait until the game is over so they can talk ... after talking with Raymond and team President D.E. Dugdale, Schneider agrees to sign with the Cincinnati Reds and returns Chicago's \$571 advance money to the local telegraph office ... Chicago scout Tim O'Rourke waits for Schneider at his hotel and to escort him by train to Chicago ... instead Schneider boards a train with Cincinnati scout John J. McCloskey.

June 10, 1914

Cincinnati Reds President August Herrmann notifies Chicago of the Federal League that he has signed Schneider ... Chicago earlier notified Hermann that they had signed Schneider and to "keep hands off."

Schneider tells the Reds that he never signed a Federal League contract ... Hermann tells Cincinnati manager and former University of Maryland standout Buck Herzog that should the Federals produce a signed contract not to use Schneider under "any circumstance."

June 20, 1914

Schneider makes his major league debut in a 7-2 loss to the New York Giants ... relieving starting pitcher Phil Douglas in the third inning, the 18-year-old Schneider pitches seven innings, limiting the Giants to two runs on two hits while striking out four and walking two.

August 2, 1915

In a 4-0 loss to the Brooklyn Dodgers, Schneider is accused of using the "emery ball" and two baseballs were taken out of the game as evidence.

July 26, 1917

Schneider wins his ninth straight game as the Reds defeat the Philadelphia Phillies and Hall of Famer Eppa Rixey 3-2.

September 26, 1917

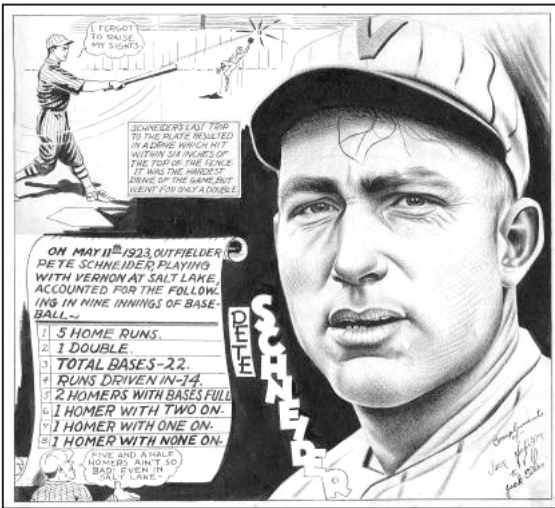
Schneider pitches both games of a double header against the Boston Braves, losing twice 1-0 and 3-0 ... he allows only 16 hits in the two complete games.

Pete Schneider Fully Expects to Cinch Job as Regular on Seattle Team This Year



Pete Schneider, carried as an extra pitcher last year, fully expects to cinch a place as a regular on the Seattle team this year. He has been pitching and playing the outfield all winter down in California and is ready to pitch a full game right now. Pete is a tremendous hitter when he connects fairly with the ball. There were times last year when Pete was mighty hard to beat and with his added experience he has gained confidence and that will help him a lot this year.

Pete Schneider [4 of 6]:



April 16, 1918

Schneider draws opening day honors for the Reds and hurls a one-hitter as Cincinnati beat Pittsburgh 2-0 ... the lone Pirate hit is a double by Casey Stengel.

July 6, 1918

Schneider is working on a one-hitter and has a 10-0 lead against the Philadelphia Phillies entering the top of the ninth inning ... he walks the first six batters he faces before recording an out ... two relief pitchers later, Cincinnati hangs on to a 10-to-9 victory ... in all, Schneider walks a season-high 13 batters.

December 9, 1918

New York Yankees manager Miller Huggins announces the purchase of pitcher Pete Schneider from the Cincinnati Reds.

March 1, 1919

Schneider and catcher Harry Hannah sign their New York Yankee contracts.

March 15, 1919

Two weeks after signing his Yankee contract, Cincinnati announces that they have *traded* Schneider to the New York Yankees for pitcher Ray Fisher ... Fisher will go 14-5 with a 2.17 ERA for the Reds in 1919 while Schneider is 0-1 with a 3.47 ERA before an arm injury ends his major league career.

August 13, 1919

The New York Yankees announce the release of Schneider to the Vernon Tigers of the Pacific Coast League as partial payment for Tigers' outfielder Bobby Meusel who will report to the Yankees next spring ... Schneider says he will not report.

August 19 1919

Schneider has a change of heart and tells Vernon manager Bill Essick that he is en route to join the team.

August 28, 1919

Making his first minor league appearance in five years, Schneider allows four runs on two hits and four walks in three innings of work in Vernon's 4-to-1 loss to the Sacramento Solons ... hindered by the sore arm from the previous winter, Schneider goes 0-1 with a 8.44 ERA in three games with the Tigers.

May 6, 1920

Vernon manager Bill Essick announces that Schneider has been sold to the Beaumont Exporters of the Texas (B) League.

June 7, 1920

Schneider emphatically denies that he was part of a betting scandal to lose a game while a member of the Cincinnati Reds in 1918 ... the infamous Hal Chase implicates Schneider in a court hearing, saying that Schneider was "on the take" in a game between the Reds and the Chicago Cubs ... interestingly enough, the Reds win the game in question.

August 15, 1920

Schneider is 3-7 with a 3.49 ERA for Beaumont when he is returned to the Vernon Tigers.

October 12, 1920

Back with Vernon and playing in right field, Schneider becomes the first player to hit a home run over the left field wall of Washington Park, keying a 1-0 win over Portland ... the distance to the 20-foot high left field wall is 375 feet.

Pete Schneider [5 of 6]:

October 26, 1920

Schneider is one of eight witnesses, including six Vernon players, called to testify before a Los Angeles County grand jury in its investigation of alleged corruption in Pacific Coast League games during the 1919 season ... three other Tiger players - Bill Rumler, E.J. Mulligan and Gene Dale - did not appear ... Rumler is accused that he had accepted money in exchange for throwing games ... despite denying any wrong doing, Rumler is banned from professional baseball for five years.

September 15, 1921

Schneider, playing rightfield for Vernon, is rendered unconscious after colliding with center fielder Chet Chadbourne in the fourth inning of a game against the Los Angeles Angels.

November 6, 1921

Vernon beats Oakland 1-0 in the first game of a doubleheader but loses the services of right fielder Pete Schneider when breaks three ribs after colliding with Oak outfielder Claude Cooper.

February 12, 1924

Schneider is named as the defendant in a divorce suit filed by his wife Louise ... in April, the courts will finalize the divorce on the grounds that he neglected her and order Schneider to pay his wife \$100 a month in alimony.

June 19, 1924

Schneider plays his first game in more than a month after being out with malaria ... he goes 1-for-3 with a run scored in an 8-2 win over the Los Angeles Angels.

May 7, 1925

Schneider and 35-year-old pitcher Claude (Lefty) Thomas are given their release by the Vernon Tigers ... Thomas, already the winner of 200 minor league games, will prove Vernon manager Bill Essick made a mistake by signing with the Des Moines Demons of the Western (A) League and posting a 19-6 mark in his second-to-last season of a 18-year career ... Thomas retires after the 1926 season at the age of 36 with a 231-223 career record while appearing in 660 games.

May 25, 1925

The Pacific Coast League's Sacramento Salons announce the signing of outfielder Pete Schneider.

May 12, 1926

Signing with the St. Joseph Saints of the Western (A) League in the preseason, Schneider is hitting .264 with four home runs in 16 games when he is released.

May 14, 1926

Two days alter, Schneider signs a contract to play for the Salt Lake City Bees of the Pacific Coast League.

June 2, 1926

Playing for Salt Lake, Schneider hits for the "cycle" in a 10-2 win at Ogden ... Schnedier goes 4-for-5 with three runs scored and two RBIs.

April 18, 1928

Schneider attends spring training with the Springfield (Ill.) Senators of the Three-I (B) League.

April 29, 1928

Springfield evens its record at 2-2 with a 19-12 win over Evansville ... Schneider goes 3-for-4 with a double that "nearly" knocks the boy off of the scoreboard in deep center field.

SALT LAKE.						
	AB.	R.	H.	PO.	A.	E.
Molle, 2b	5	1	2	2	4	0
O'Shea, c	5	2	2	3	0	1
Nielson, ss	3	1	1	1	3	0
O'Neil, 3b	5	0	2	0	2	0
McMurtry, rf	5	0	0	2	1	1
Crowley, 1b	4	2	1	13	0	0
Schneider, cf	5	3	4	3	0	0
Molloy, lf	5	0	1	2	0	0
Jacobs, p	5	1	3	0	1	0
Totals	42	10	16	27	11	2
OGDEN.						
	AB.	R.	H.	PO.	A.	E.
Lampe, 2b	4	1	2	3	2	4
Shield, ss	4	0	2	1	1	0
Cox, rf	4	0	1	2	0	0
Knox, cf	4	0	0	3	0	0
Erich, lf	5	0	1	2	0	0
Bates, 3b	5	1	3	1	6	1
White, 1b	4	0	0	10	0	0
Phillips, c	4	0	0	4	1	1
Portman, p	3	0	1	1	1	0
Totals	37	3	11	37	11	2
Score by innings:						
Salt Lake	021	300	112	—10		
Ogden	020	000	010	—3		
Summary: Home run—Schneider. Three base hits—Schneider, Bates, O'Shea, Nielson, Lampe. Two-base hits—Schneider, Bates, Cox, Jacobs. Runs batted in—Schneider 2, Jacobs 2, O'Shea 2, Nielson, Molloy, O'Neil, Shield 2, White. Stolen base—White. Double play—Portman to Lampe to White. Wild pitch—Jacobs. Bases on balls—Off Jacobs 4, off Portman 2. Struck out—By Jacobs 2, by Portman 4. Sacrifice flies—Shield, Nielson. Earned runs—Ogden 2, Salt Lake 8. Time of game—Two hours. Umpires—Lowe and Stone.						

Pete Schneider [6 of 6]:

May 16, 1928

The Springfield Senators announce that they have released Schneider from the team's roster.

Charge Ex-Ball Star With Manslaughter

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 20 (AP.)—Pete Schneider, former member of the old Vernon baseball club of the Coast league, who in 1923 set a world's record for home runs in one game when he batted five circuit clouts against Salt Lake City, today was charged with manslaughter in a complaint issued by the district attorney's office.

Schneider was immediately arraigned in municipal court where his bail was set at \$2500 and his preliminary hearing set for Feb. 26.

Police allege that Schneider so severely beat G. A. Schnabel in a beer parlor the night of Feb. 17 that Schnabel died of a fractured skull.

February 10, 1935

Declaring he fought G. A. Schnabel in a beer parlor in order to protect his wife, Schneider is held in jail on suspicion of murder ... Schnabel, a 49-year-old mattress maker, dies on February 8 ... the autopsy discloses his skull is fractured, his lungs congested and the scalp bruised ... Schneider insists that he used nothing but his fists.

March 7, 1935

Schneider is ordered held for Superior court trial at the conclusion of a preliminary hearing on charges of manslaughter In connection with the death of Gustave Schnabel during a beer parlor brawl.

May 28, 1935

Schneider is the object of a search by a bail bondsmen who deposited a \$500 bond for Schneider's appearance in a Superior court on a manslaughter charge ... the bondsman tells Judge Charles Burnell that Schneider has provided a wrong address when he obtains bond

money ... the case is tried without a jury.

May 29, 1935

Judge Burnell announces Schneider is guilty of manslaughter and sentences the former major leaguer to one-to-ten years in California's San Quentin prison.

November 2, 1936

The San Diego Union reports that Schneider has done "a great job" with the San Quentin All-Star team and that his teams have done "remarkably well" against all opposition.

June 1, 1957

After a long illness, Schneider dies at his home in Los Angeles at the age of 61.

Ex-Majors Hurler Schneider Dies

LOS ANGELES, June 1—(AP)—Former major league pitcher Peter J. Schneider, 61, who played with the Cincinnati Reds and the New York Yankees died today at his home after a long illness.

Schneider joined the Reds in 1914 and had his best year in 1917 when he won 20 games and lost 10. He ended his major league career with the Yankees in 1919.

Schneider, who became an outfielder when his pitching arm went bad, set a flock of Pacific Coast League hitting records while playing for Vernon in a game on May 11, 1923, against Salt Lake City.

He went to bat eight times and hit five homeruns, two in one inning and two with the bases loaded. He had a total of 14 runs batted in, scored six runs and also banged a double for 22 total bases.