

A Schott From The Bleachers

Mel Parnell Pitched and Won an 18-Inning Game

by

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In his second season of organized ball, Mel Parnell found himself locked in a marathon pitcher's battle. The game was a Middle-Atlantic League (Class C) contest played at Canton, Ohio, on August 31, 1942. Parnell gained his victory over one Bob Snider, who also went the route for the losing Zanesville club.

Pitch counts in those days were not even imagined, but I discussed this aspect of the game with Mel Parnell and he thought that an average of four pitches to each batter was a conservative estimate in attempting to determine this output.

A look at the box score reveals that the players had 133 official times at bat, along with 12 walks, seven sacrifices and one hit batter for a total of 153 plate appearances between the two pitchers. At four pitches per plate appearance, this totals 612 pitches or 306 for each pitcher.

The game itself was a fine one and ended in the bottom of the 18th frame when Mat Batts led off with a single to left; Barnes sacrificed and Stallcup was given an intentional pass; then Stevens singled to center, Batts stopping at third and loading the bases. Joe Douglas, a player with one week of professional baseball experience, was the next batter and, after several fouls (two over the fence) and a full count, watched as ball four allowed the winning run to score after four hours of play.

Mel almost won his own game in the 17th inning when he started the frame with a single. Gentile sacrificed him to second; DiBlasi then laced a single, but Parnell was thrown out at the plate by Sauer's peg from centerfield.

Como Cotelle led the Middle-Atlantic League in batting with a .327 mark. He played with Erie in 1942 and will be remembered as a Southern Association player in the 1930s. Walter Alston, later to reach acclaim as a major league manager with Brooklyn, led the league in HRs with 12 and RBIs with 90, thus taking two-thirds of the Triple Crown for hitters. His .310 BA followed Cotelle by .017 points.

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At Canton, Ohio on August 31, 1942

ZANESVILLE					CANTON				
	AB	H	PO	A		AB	H	PO	A
Hoffman, 2b	9	4	4	3	Gentile, cf	8	2	6	0
Peterson, ss	7	0	4	6	DiBlasi, 3b	8	3	2	8
Dancisak, lf	8	1	2	0	Sommers, 2b	9	1	7	3
Sauer, cf	8	2	5	1	Batts, 1b-rf	6	3	13	1
Land, c	7	2	14	1	Barnes, lf	7	2	3	0
Naponic, rf	7	4	8	0	Stallcup,ss	7	4	4	4
Clifford, 1b	7	2	13	1	Stevens, c	8	1	8	2
Campau, 3b	6	0	1	3	Wentzel, rf	4	1	5	0
Snider, p	7	2	1	1	DeCesare, 1b	2	0	5	0
					a – Douglas, ph-rf	2	0	0	0
					Parnell, p	6	1	1	3
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Totals	66	17	52	16	Totals	67	18	54	21

R – Hoffman, Sauer, Land, Campau, Sommers, Batts (2), Barnes, Gentile. **E** – Peterson (3), Campau, Sommers, Stallcup. **RBI** – Sauer, Land, Naponic, Hoffman, Barnes, Stallcup (2), Douglas. **2B** – Hoffman (2), Sauer, Naponic, Barnes (2), Batts, Gentile. **SB** – DiBlasi, Sauer, Stallcup. **SH** – Peterson, Stallcup, Snider, DiBlasi, Gentile, Clifford, Barnes. **DP** – DiBlasi-Sommers-Batts, Hoffman-Peterson-Clifford, Peterson-Clifford.

Pitching	IP	H	R	BB	SO
Parnell (W)	18	17	4	4	7
Snider (L)	17.1	18	5	8	10

Umpires – Crouch and Fox
Time: 4 hours 1 minute

															R	H	E			
Zanesville	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	17	4
Canton	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	-	5	18	2

Mel Parnell's Pitching Record with Canton in 1942

G	IP	W	L	PCT	BB	SO	ER	ERA
29	204	16	9	.640	49	125	36	1.59

An examination of his stats above indicates that he was a good control pitcher for the season. In working 204 innings, Mel struck out 125 batters while walking only 49. His performance on a nine-inning basis reads 2.16 BB and 5.51 SO.