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The Day Lou Gehrig Struck Out 17

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A member of the Society for American Baseball Research

While playing for Columbia College in New York, Lou Gehrig known not only for his bat, but for his pitching as he struck out 17 and lost 5-1, against Williams College on Wednesday, April 18, 1923.

Pitching at Columbia's South Field, Lou held his opponents in check, even though he gave up one run in the first. In the fourth inning was when the roof caved in on Gehrig, who allowed two walks, three hits and three runs. Williams would add another run in the fifth and cruised their way to a 5-1 victory.

Of Lou's 17 strikeouts, Mr. Monjo, (his first name was not available), struck out four times in five at-bats. It is interesting to note, that Lou would record 10 or more strikeouts in a collegiate game five times when he toed the rubber.

Columbia would score the only run in the seventh when Gehrig, who singled, advanced on an out, scored on a double.

Gehrig would play one varsity season for Columbia, 1923. He accumulated six doubles, two triples, seven home runs and four stolen bags. He batted a robust .4444 and a sizzling .937 in nineteen games. He posted a 6-4 mark. His 17 strikeouts was a club record that stood for forty-five years. Lou's "big" game was overshadowed that day by the opening of Yankee Stadium, with Babe Ruth and company besting Boston Red Sox, 4-1.

Jay Gauthreaux now resides in Memphis, TN with his wife and son where he is now researching the history of Memphis baseball.