

# John Taff, "Double No-Hitters for Pinehot"

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Only July 15, 1910, Brownsville Brownie rookie pitcher John Taff pitches a no-hitter in the first game of a Southwest Texas (D) League doubleheader against the Beeville Orange Growers.

Following the 90-minute, 5-0 win against Beeville, Taff gains a measure of national attention as it is the second no-hit, no-run game that talented right-hander has turned in within a three week span, having also no-hit the Corpus Christi Pelicans on June 27.

Over his brief six-year professional career, the Austin, Texas, native and son of Bickler public school principal J.J. Taff, is referred to in the press as either "John Taff" or "Bill Taff."

In addition to his multiple first names, Taff acquires several interesting nicknames during his playing days such as "Possum Bill", "Pinehot", "Waco Bill" and "Elongated John."



John Taff  
1913 Baltimore Orioles

A 19-year-old Taff begins his organized baseball career in 1909 with the Brownsville Brownies, one of South Texas' top amateur teams. The pitcher/first baseman performs so well for the local nine that when the city joins the six-team Southwest Texas League the following year he is signed to a minor league contract and placed on the team's opening day roster by manager S.H. Bell.

Tabbed by Bell to be the Brownies' opening day starter on April 21, Taff make his professional debut one to remember, pitching a 10-inning complete game 3-2 win over visiting Corpus Christi. Taff finishes his rookie campaign 16-11 with 102 strikeouts and 51 base on balls in 148 innings.

## John Taff Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Level	W-L	INN	H	BB	SO	ERA
1909	Brownsville Brownies	-	Amt	-	-	-	-	-	--
1910	Brownsville Brownies	West Texas	D	16-11	148.1	165	51	103	--
1911	Waco Navigators	Texas	B	11-13	212.1	188	60	107	--
1912	Waco Navigators	Texas	B	20-11	285.0	213	75	145	--
1913	Philadelphia Athletics	AMERICAN	ML	0-1	17.2	22	9	5	6.62
	Baltimore Orioles	International	AA	6-10	108.1	132	52	58	--
1914	Beaumont Exporters	Texas	B	15-10	243.0	210	62	134	--
<b>1915</b>	<b>3 Teams</b>	<b>2 Leagues</b>	<b>A/B</b>	<b>7-10</b>	<b>102.0</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>--</b>
	Beaumont Exporters	Texas	B	4-9	90.0	90	36	47	--
	Waco Navigators	Texas	B	3-0	-	-	-	-	--
	Chattanooga Lookouts	Southern	A	0-1	12.0	8	4	7	--
	Mosers	New Orleans AA	Amt	-	-	-	-	-	--
<b>Major League Totals</b>		<b>1 Season</b>		<b>0-1</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6.62</b>
<b>Minor League Totals</b>		<b>6 Seasons</b>		<b>182-166</b>	<b>1098.2</b>	<b>1006</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>--</b>

**ML Debut:** May 10, 1913 at White Sox Park, Chicago: relieved Broadwalk Brown at the start of the 8th inning in a 4-3 loss to Chicago; allowed 0 runs on 1 hit, 1 walk and 1 strikeout in 2 innings; (no decision).

**ML Finale:** June 28, 1913 at Griffith Stadium, Washington: started; allowed two runs, five hits, 1 walk and 1 strikeout in 3 innings; losing pitcher (0-1)

## July 15, 1910 John Taff No-Hitter Brownsville, Texas

### First Game.

Brownsville	AB.	R.	BH.	PO.	A.	E.
Lamont, cf.	3	0	0	3	0	0
Price, 2b.	4	2	0	15	0	1
Hellman, 1b.	4	1	2	3	4	0
Dalley, 2b.	4	1	2	3	4	0
White, c.	4	0	0	0	1	0
Peebles, rf.	4	1	2	1	0	0
Zacha, lf.	4	0	1	3	0	0
Tepes, 3b.	3	0	1	2	4	0
Taff, p.	2	0	0	0	7	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1</b>
Beeville	AB.	R.	BH.	PO.	A.	E.
Anderson, ss.	2	0	0	2	1	0
Wossner, 1b.	4	0	0	0	0	0
Latham, rf.	2	0	0	0	0	0
Longley, cf.	3	0	0	1	0	0
Robinson, c.	3	0	0	6	1	0
Compton, lf.	1	0	0	1	0	1
Swoboda, 2b.	3	0	0	3	2	0
Knaupp, 3b.	3	0	0	2	2	0
McDonald, p.	2	0	0	0	4	3
*Gerhardt, 1b.	1	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>4</b>

\*Batted for McDonald in the pinch.

By Innings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Brownsville	1	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	5
Hits	2	1	3	0	2	0	0	0	*
Beeville	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

### SUMMARY.

Two-base hit: Price.  
Three-base hit: Peebles.  
Stolen bases: Dalley, Peebles, Tepes, Taff.  
Compton.  
Sacrifice hit: Taff.  
Struck out: By McDonald 5.  
Bases on balls: By Taff 2.  
Batters hit: By Taff 2, by McDonald 1.  
First base on errors: Compton, Hellman, Taff.  
Left on bases: Brownsville 5, Beeville 1.  
Double plays: Tepes to Dalley to Hellman;  
Taff to Price to Hellman.  
Passed ball: Robinson.  
Time: One hour and thirty minutes.  
Umpire: McLaughlin.

In addition, Taff wins two more games in the league's post-season championship series against regular season champion Victoria where the Brownies win the league title winning four of the six games played.

Following his impressive first-year performance, Taff is sold to Waco of the Texas (B) League where in two seasons with Ellis Hardy's Navigators, he is 11-13 and 20-11. The popular Hardy is forced to give up his managerial duties at the end of the 1912 season as it interferes with his duties in the cotton business.



## John Taff [3 of 3]:

(A) Association where he is quickly inserted into the team's starting rotation despite being released by two teams in the first three months of the season.

On June 29, Taff responds with one of his best games in years, shutting out the visiting Memphis Chickasaws on only one hit in seven innings. Unfortunately for Taff and first game starter Rube Marshall, the Lookouts fail to score nary a run in 18 innings in a twin bill defeat that drops their record to 33-38.

On July 5, 1915, Taff's final appearance in professional baseball comes to an abrupt end when he is struck in the temple by a pitch thrown by Nashville's Tom Rogers and forced to leave the game after allowing five runs on seven hits in four innings.

Two days later, saddled with a headache and a ERA of 6.00, Taff's once promising career comes to an end when the Lookouts hand him his walking papers.

Not be denied in his quest to remain in baseball, Taff makes his way south to New Orleans where he hopes to sign with New Orleans, another Southern Association team. However Pelicans' manager John Dobbs decides to pass on the still-young (25-year-old) hurler, so Taff signs to play with the New Orleans Mosers of the New Orleans Amateur Association in hopes of catching on with some one the following spring.

On May 15, 1961, Taff passes away in Houston, Texas at the age of 70.

July 5, 1915  
John Taff Final Game  
Nashville, Tennessee

### Moose Beat Vols

NASHVILLE, Tenn., July 5.--Heavy second baseman, defeated Chattanooga was spiked in the knee by Baker and when Taff was struck by a pitched ball on the temple and badly hurt. Doctors are in attendance on Taff.

Score:

CHATTANOOGA—	AB.	R.	H.	PO.	A.	E.
Graff, 3b, .....	5	0	1	1	4	0
Elberfeld, ss, .....	4	0	3	4	1	0
Johnston, lf, .....	5	0	1	0	0	0
McCormick, rf, .....	5	0	0	1	0	0
Daily, cf, .....	4	0	1	0	0	0
Harris, 1b, .....	2	1	0	15	0	0
Hudnall, 2b, .....	4	0	2	0	5	1
Peters, c, .....	1	0	0	2	0	0
Kitchens, c, .....	3	0	1	1	1	0
Taff, p, .....	1	0	0	0	2	0
Cunningham, p, .....	2	0	1	0	3	0
x Smithson, .....	2	0	1	0	3	0
x Smithson, .....	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals, .....	36	1	10	24	16	1

x ran for Taff in fifth.

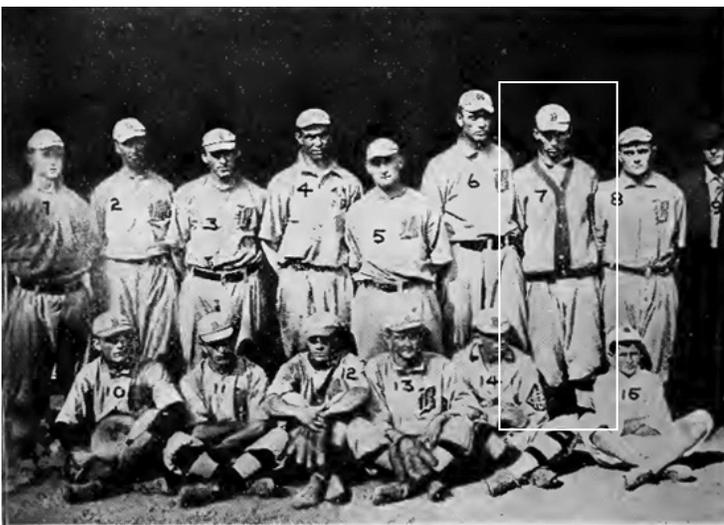
NASHVILLE—	AB.	R.	H.	F.	D.	A.	E.
Kircher, cf, .....	3	0	0	1	0	0	0
Stark, ss, .....	3	1	3	5	1		
Baker, rf, .....	4	1	3	0	0	0	
Paulette, 1b, .....	4	1	0	9	0	0	
Farmer, lf, .....	4	1	0	8	0	0	
Sheehan, 2b, .....	3	1	2	2	3	0	
Dodge, 3b, .....	3	0	2	0	0	0	
Street, c, .....	3	0	0	4	4	0	
Rogers, p, .....	3	0	0	0	0	0	
Totals, .....	30	5	8	27	12	1	

By innings:

Nashville, .....	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	—5
Chattanooga, .....	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—1

Summary: Innings pitched by Taff, 4, with 7 hits, and 5 runs. Struck out by Taff, 2; by Rogers, 4. Bases on balls, off Taff, 2; off Rogers, 2. Hit by pitches, by Rogers (Taff.) Two-base hits, Daly, Hudnall, Baker. Sheehan (2.) Left on bases. Nashville, 3:

## 1910 Brownsville Brownies



1. White; 2. Peebles; 3. Hellman; 4. Kerr; 5. O. K. Price, Capt.; 6. Brown; 7. Taff; 8. Zacha; 9. S. Bell, Mgr.; 10. McClintock; 11. Lamonica; 12. Tene; 13. Morton; 14. Daily; 15. Mascot.

"In all the towns that the Brownies play, the papers all state that they are among the cleanest and most gentlemanly ball players that have been in that section this season. That is the only kind of players Brownsville will have.

When the Brownies are licked, they can take their medicine and not raise a howl, but when they are deliberately robbed of a game because the other team "must have the game at all costs," they have a right to kick. Give us a fair deal and then beat us, and we are willing to admit that your team is the superior, but not otherwise."

- Brownsville Daily Herald, July 30, 1909