

Jerry Blanchard, "Promise Denied"

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Blanchard Sets Strikeout Record Here Before Joining Oklahoma City Club

On July 13, 1938, two left-handed pitchers, aces of their respective teams, turn in outstanding performances in West Texas-New Mexico (D) League games.

In Hobbs, New Mexico, Marshall "Lefty" Scott strikes out 14 Big Springs Barons in a 9-3 Boosters win ... 110 miles to the northeast in Lubbock, Texas, Hubbers' ace Jerry "Flop" Blanchard does Scott eight better, striking out a league-record 22 batters and allowing only three hits in a 12-1 victory over the WTNM defending champion Wink Spudders.

Prior to the game, Blanchard is told by Lubbock general manager Harry Faulkner that he has been recalled by the Oklahoma City Indians of the Texas (A1) League.

A fan favorite for Lubbock's semi-pro team the previous two years, Blanchard faces only 34 batters while allowing only one ball to be hit out of the infield ... Hubber first baseman Bob Mozel records only three outs during the nine innings ... the first nine men to face Blanchard are retired in order, six by strikeouts ... the Estelline, Texas, product strikes out the side in the third, fifth, seventh, eighth and ninth innings.



Shortly before taking the hill against Wink last night, Lefty Jerry Blanchard, above, was told that he had been recalled by Oklahoma City, Texas League club which "owns" him. Then Jerry went to work, fanned 22 batsmen for a new West Texas-New Mexico league record, gave up three hits to beat Wink, 12-1. Harry Faulkner, general manager of the Lubbock club, said Blanchard might be returned here within two weeks, however.

Jerry Blanchard 22 strikeouts, July 13, 1938

The box score:					
	AB	R	H	PO	A
WINK					
Monago, rf	3	1	0	3	1
Spangler, 3b	4	0	0	1	2
Jubela, 1b	4	0	1	6	0
Ray, lf	4	0	0	0	0
Reeves, cf, p	2	0	0	1	0
Prockett, ss	4	0	0	0	0
Laewer, 2b	4	0	1	3	1
Kates, c	3	0	1	10	1
Jones, p	2	0	0	0	1
Borgen, x	0	0	0	0	0
Robinson, cf	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	31	1	3	24	6
LUBBOCK					
Redzius, ss	5	1	1	0	0
Kozel, 1b	3	2	0	3	1
Taylor, 3b	3	3	2	0	1
Levens, 2b	5	1	1	0	1
Miller, c	3	2	2	21	1
Watkins, cf	4	2	0	0	0
Hillm, rf	5	0	2	1	0
Sherry, lf	2	1	1	0	0
Blanchard, p	4	0	1	0	1
Totals	33	12	10	27	5
Wink	000	100	000	—	1
Lubbock	201	220	41x	—	12

Errors, Mozel, Jones, Monago. Two-base hits, Blanchard, Taylor. Three-base hits, Redzius, Sherry. Home run, Miller. Run scored in, Taylor, Miller, Sherry, Blanchard, Watkins, Hillm. Double play, Monago to Spangler. Stolen bases, Mozel, Miller, Monago, Jubela, Watkins, Sherry, Taylor. Left on bases, Wink 3, Lubbock 7. Wild pitch, Jones. Struck out, by Jones 4, Blanchard 22, Reeves 7. Bases on balls, off Jones 7, Blanchard 2, Reeves 2. Runs and hits, off Jones 11 and 9 in 7 innings; Reeves 1 and 1 in 1 inning. Hit by pitcher, by Blanchard (Monago). Losing pitcher, Jones. Time of game, 2:10. Umpires, Fitz and Cartwright.

Blanchard's masterpiece comes in front of nearly one thousand fans in Lubbock's 2-year-old Paris Field in the town's first night game since 1931 ... a \$6,500 lighting system has been quickly erected in time for the 8:30 first pitch ... unfortunately for the players, too little time (the equipment arrives only 72 hours prior to the game and the 70-foot poles arrive two days late) is allowed for the installation and proper focusing of the 135,000-watt flood lighting system ... the Hubbers management announces that the problem will be corrected in time for that night's game.

Blanchard will pitch three seasons in the minor leagues with Lubbock (1938), Oklahoma City (1938-1939) and the Jackson Senators (1940) of the Southeastern (B) League ... in 100 career minor league appearances, the lefty will go 34-33 with a 3.89 ERA, walking 306 in 589 1/3 innings ... his best season comes with Lubbock in 1938 when he finishes 17-9, leads the league in strikeouts with 265 and earns a spot on the league's All-Star team.



Jerry Blanchard
Lubbock Hubbers, 1938

Jerry Blanchard [2 of 2]:

Following a 14-10 mark with the Jackson Senators of the Southeastern (B) League in 1940, Blanchard's promising baseball career comes to an abrupt end on November 17, 1940, when a shotgun he is carrying accidentally discharges and shoots him in the left knee ... gangrene sets in and eight days later (Nov. 25) doctors are forced to amputate his left leg between the knee and hip.

Blanchard Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Level	W-L	INN	BB	SO	ERA
1936	Estelline	Red River Valley	S-Pro	-	-	-	-	-
1936	Lubbock Hubbers		S-Pro	-	-	-	-	-
1937	Panama City Pelicans	Alabama-Florida	D	-	-	-	-	-
1937	Lubbock Hubbers		S-Pro	-	-	-	-	-
1938	Lubbock Hubbers	W Texas-N-Mexico	D	17-9	207	146	265	3.35
1938	Oklahoma City Indians	Texas	A1	0-0	3.1	7	2	5.40
1939	Oklahoma City Indians	Texas	A1	3-14	156	76	57	4.38
1940	Jackson Senators	Southeastern	B	14-10	223	77	-	4.04

Bold denotes led league
 1938 West Texas-New Mexico League All-Star

Blanchard Cronology:

July 22, 1937 ▶▶

Pitching for the semi-pro Lubbock Hubbers, Blanchard throws a no-hitter and strikes out 20 in a 9-0 win over Tahoka.

**Lefty Scott
June 15, 1945**

On June 15, 1945, seven years after his 14-strikeout performance against Big Springs, a 29-year-old Scott makes his major league debut with the last-place Philadelphia Phillies (13-41) in the Polo Grounds ... he allows one run on one hit and a walk in 1 1/3 innings in a 7-5 loss to the New York Giants ... in his only major league season, the Roswell, New Mexico, native will pitch in eight games for Phillies, finishing 0-2 with a 4.43 ERA.

Scott dies on March 3, 1964, at the age of 48 in Houston, Texas ... Scott is a boilermaker at the local the Shell Oil refinery and is killed when he is struck by a concrete block and falls to his death.

July 17, 1938

Four days after his record-setting 22-strikeout performance with Lubbock, Blanchard makes his Oklahoma City debut against San Antonio Missions allowing one run on three walks and one base hit in 1/3 of an inning.

April 13, 1939

Blanchard is the opening day pitcher for Oklahoma City against Tulsa ... he strikes out four and allows only six hits in a 4-3 complete game loss to the home-standing Oilers.

**Jerry Blanchard
No-Hitter, July 22, 1937**

No Hits, 20 K's

FIRST GAME		AB	R	H	PO	A
Hubbers—		5	0	1	0	0
Graham, 2b		4	1	3	7	0
Bettes, 1b		5	0	2	20	1
Coppage, c		5	0	0	0	0
Thompson, rf		5	1	2	0	0
Crites, cf		4	1	1	0	0
Fresley, lf		5	1	1	0	0
Breedlove, ss		4	4	3	0	0
Holloway, 3b		4	1	3	0	0
Blanchard, p		1	0	0	0	0
T. Pair, lf		1	0	0	0	0
Totals		42	9	16	27	1
Tahoka—		AB	R	H	PO	A
Evans, 2b		4	0	0	3	2
Larkin, 1b		2	0	0	10	1
W. Holland, ss		3	0	0	2	5
Edwards, cf		3	0	0	2	0
Thomas, lf		4	0	0	1	0
T. White, 3b		3	0	0	1	1
Bovell, rf		3	0	0	1	0
Heasley, c		3	0	0	7	0
Ellis, p		1	0	0	0	1
Wells, x		1	0	0	0	0
Totals		27	0	0	27	10

X—Batted for Bovell in 8th.
 Hubbers 002 401 020—9
 Tahoka 000 000 000—0
 Errors: White 2, Holland, Two-base hits, Bettes, Blanchard, Three-base hit, Holloway, Home run, Blanchard, Runs batted in, Coppage 2, Holloway 3, Blanchard 4, Double plays, Ellis to Larkin to White; Holland to Evans to Larkin, Sacrifice, Bettes, Stolen bases, Coppage 2, Left on bases, Hubbers 7; Tahoka 7. Struck out, by Blanchard 20; Ellis 7. Bases on balls, off Blanchard 7. Time of game, 1:58. Umpires, Gunter and Hensley.

**Blanchard, Ex-Hurler,
Shot; Seriously Ill**

MEMPHIS, Texas, Nov. 22 (AP).—Jerry Blanchard, former pitcher for the Oklahoma City baseball club of the Texas League, is seriously ill in a Memphis hospital with gangrene in the knee.

The southpaw hurler was wounded in the knee when a shotgun was accidentally discharged last Sunday as he and his wife were en route from a short hunting trip to their home near Estelline.