# Jacob Lookabaugh, "The Mysterious Immutable"

©DiamondsintheDusk.com

"Lookabaugh is one of those mysterious immutables who can be batted out of the box one inning and still smile and strike out three men the next inning."

Over a three-year period, Jacob Lookabaugh is as good of a pitcher that the competitive California League has to offer. From 1890 to 1892, the right-handed workhorse wins 123 games, with 221 complete games and 1,986 innings pitched.

That's an average of 41 wins, 74 complete games and 662 innings per season.

To put his durability into a modern-day perspective, Lookabaugh's 1,986 innings are 725 more than current four-time all-star and two-time Cy Young award winner Jacob DeGrom has totaled in his *entire* eight-year major league career. He was a mere 20 innings shy of *averaging* nine innings per start.

In 1892, a 30-year-old Lookabaugh starts 90 of San Jose's 170 games and leads the California League in innings pitched with 803. The major league record for a season is a mere 680 innings set by 24-year-old Will White of Cincinnati in 1879.

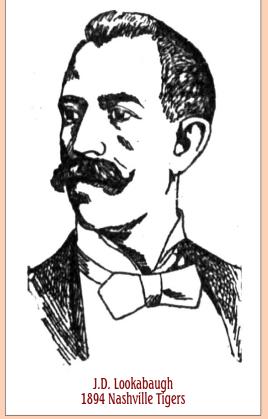
Then comes 1893.

Perhaps the luxuriously-mustached Lookabaugh knows that his arm is finished after the 800-inning season, as for the first and only time in his eight-year pro career he is a holdout come spring time. He elects to remain at his barbershop in San Jose for the first three-and-a-half months of the season until persuaded by Sacramento manager Pete Sweeney to don a Senators' uniform in the first week of July.

Or perhaps he was wary of a new rule instituted during the off-season.

In an effort to create more offense, professional baseball had moved the pitcher's box, which had previously been on flat ground, back five feet from 55 1/2 feet to 60 1/2 feet

and placed on a raised mound with a rubber slab 12 inches long. Five extra feet to the 5-foot-8, 155-pound curveball specialist must have seemed like, and probably was, too great challenge to overcome.



# **Numbers Don't Lie**

The move of the pitcher's box back five feet prior to the 1893 season proved to be detrimental to Lookabaugh's career. Listed below are his per game averages over a three-year period both prior and after to the rule change.

Years	Hitsp9	BBp9	SOp9
1890-1992	8.6	3.5	<b>2.8</b>
1893-1995	12.4	3.5	4.3

Several times during the 1893 and 1894 seasons, newspapers use the move of the pitcher's mound as the primary reason for Lookabaugh's ineffectiveness.

Lookabaugh's last hurrah comes in 1895, after taking the mound twice for the Bloomington Suckers of the short-lived Western Interstate League which folds on May 24 three weeks after debuting. Persuaded to come to Streator, Illinois, he finishes his diamond career playing the outfield (with an occasional turn on the mound) for the semipro Streator Reds. In his eight minor leagues seasons, Lookabaugh is 140-133-5 with 267 complete games and nine shutouts.

Jacob Duncan Lookabaugh is born on March 28, 1862, in Armstrong, Pennsylvania, one of eight children to Jacob and Rachel Buzzard Lookabaugh. A civil war veteran with Company E of the Pennsylvania 62nd Volunteer Regiment, his father serves less than two months in

the Union army before being discharged on September 5, 1861.

Lookabaugh gets his start in organized baseball in 1887 as a 25-year-old with a amateur team in Smith Center, Kansas, and then later in Red Cloud, Nebraska. He makes his professional debut a year later with Danville (Illinois) of the Central Interstate League. In 12 starts for Willard Johnson's Browns, he is 2-10 when he jumps his contract and signs with league foe Rockford. Prior to his switching teams, Lookabaugh also commits to a semipro team in Santa Fe, New Mexico. After going 2-1 with Rockford, he leaves for New Mexico before eventually ending up in Beatrice, Nebraska.



### Jacob Lookabaugh [2 of 10]:

### Jacob Lookabaugh Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Level	W-L	Finish	W-L	GP	GS	CG	SHO	INN	Н	BB	<b>SO</b>	ERA
1887	Smith Centre (Kansas)		Amt.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1887	Red Cloud (Nebraska)		Amt.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1888	Two Teams	One League	Ind.	-	-	4-11	15	13	11	0	134.0	93	-	-	
1888	Danville Browns	Central Interstate	Ind.	15-25	[1]	2-10	12	12	12	0	109.0	93	-	-	
1888	Rockford	Central Interstate	Ind.	11-21	[2]	2-1	3	3	2	0	25.0	28	-	-	
1888	Santa Fe, New Mexico	-	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1888	Beatrice, Nebraska	-	SPro	-	-	0-1	1_	1_	1	0	9.0	-	-	-	
1889	Pueblo Ponies	Colorado State	Ind.	37-21	[3]	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
1889	Sterling, Illinois	-	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1889	Denver Solis	Colorado State	Ind.	12-18	[4]	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1889	McCook, Nebraska	-	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1890	San Francisco Metropolita		Ind.	82-58	1 of 4	34-29-2	68	66	64	1_	580.2	524	257	226	
1891	San Jose Dukes	California League	Ind.	90-57	1 of 4	44-24	68	68	68	2	603.0	547	258	192	
1892	San Jose Dukes	California League	В	85-85	2 of 4	45-43-1	91	<u>±90</u>	<u>+89</u>	4	<u>+803.0</u>	<u>+828</u>	±272	208	1.70
1893	Sacramento Senators	California League	Ind.	30-59	[5] 4 of 4	4-4	8	8	8	0	69.0	92	36	21	
1893	San Jose	Central	SPro	-	[6]	0-3	3	3	3	0	27.0	31	9	15	
1894	Three Teams	Two Leagues	B/A	-	-	8-21-1	36	27	26	1	258.0	357	89	124	
1894	Nashville Tigers	Southern Association	В	30-38	[7] 6 of 8	1-6-1	10	7	7	0	67.0	93	19	51	
1894	Lincoln Treeplanters	Western Association	Α	67-56	3 of 8	4-9	14	13	13	1	115.0	134	42	39	
1894	Omaha Omahogs	Western Association	Α	66-59	5 of 8	3-6	12	7	6	0	76.0	130	28	34	
1894	Peru, Indiana	Indiana	SPro	-	-	3-0	3	3	3	1	27.0	-	-	-	
1895	Bloomington Suckers	Western Interstate	В	9-3	[8]	1-1	2	2	1	0	15	21	7	10	
1895	Lilly, Illinois	-	SPro	-	-	1-0	1	1	1	0	9	12	-	-	
1895	Streator (Illinois) Reds	-	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1896	Streator (Illinois) Reds	-	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1897	Streator (Illinois) Reds	-	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1898	Streator (Illinois) Reds	-	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1899	Streator (Illinois) Reds	-	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Minor	League Totals				8 Seasons	140-133-5	288	276	270	8	2462.2	2462	919	781	

<sup>+</sup>Denotes league leader

[1] Danville disbands July 5; [2] Rockford disbands June 26; [3] Pueblo disbands July 22; [4] Denver disbands June 2; [5] California League disbands August 13; [6] San Jose disbands mid-October; [7] Southern Association reorganizes June 27, disbands July 7; [8] Western Interstate disbands May 24

### The Decatur County News October 3, 1889

The people of McCook still cherish the delusion that the "back numbers" which constitutes their aggregation can play ball; the following is the Democrat's closing paragraph for the season: "No more will the shouts of "Hold on," "Wait a minute," "Now you're off," "slide" greet the ears of our people. The ball club has disbanded and the imported battery gone to its home. Lookabaugh went to Illinois and Stevents went to Denyer, and they stand ready to join us again next year if we want them, and we certainly do. The rest of the boys are all residents and will be ready to join us again in the spring. The season has been a very fair financial success."

For a second-straight year in 1889, Lookabaugh casts his lot with teams and a league that are unable to finish the season and as a result he once again plies his wares in multiple towns. He begins the season with the Pueblo Ponies of the Colorado State League and is credited with at least four victories for the first-place Ponies before they disband on July 21 after the players haven't been paid for two months. Some players never receive a dollar in pay while Lookabaugh says he pocketed \$150.

Following a couple of weeks playing for a semipro team in Sterling, Illinois, Lookabaugh returns to the star-crossed Colorado State League, donning the uniform of the last-place Denver Solis. After the Solis fold on June 2, he casts his lot with another semipro team in McCook, Nebraska.

Moving up to the more competitive and better paying California League in 1890, Lookabaugh signs with San Francisco and is the workhorse of manager Mike Finn's Metropolitan staff. Despite missing two weeks to injuries to his right hand,

he appears in 68 games, including 66 starts with 64 complete games and finishes the season 34-29-2 with one save (by today's standards). Five times Finn starts Lookabaugh on three successive days and four times he will pitch in back-to-back days. He is 13-8 in one run games. From August 15 to the end of the season, the "slow curve slabster," is 21-7 and along with William "Roscoe" Coughlin, a key factor as the Metropolitans are 42-19 (.689) and go from third place and 9 1/2 games behind first-place Sacramento to tying for the regular season championship.

### October 27, 1890 The Beatrice (Neb.) Daily Express

An item in the sporting columns of the Bee says that Lookabaugh, who pitched for the Beatrice ball club in '88, is now with the San Franciscos and is one of the very finest twirlers on the coast. The rambler trusts he will not be accused of trying to revive unpleasant memories of that eventful season when Lookabaugh and Dallas toyed with the feelings and yellow gold of the Beatrice fans. Of course there are none of the boys who would be so unselfish or revengeful as not to wish them all the success and friends they can surround themselves with. Oh no; perish the thought.

### Jacob Lookabaugh [3 of 10]:

Despite winning 34 games in 1890, San Francisco denies Lookabaugh's pay raise request in 1891 and he decides to sign with the newly-minted San Jose Dukes who are replacing Stockton in league membership.

Proving his durability for a second-straight year, Lookabaugh is 44-24 with 68 complete games and 608 innings pitched as the Dukes capture the league pennant by 5 1/2 games over his former teammates, against whom he is 15-11. Twice he has five-game win streaks and four-game win streaks three times. On two occasions he starts four days in a row, going 3-1 each time. In the 19-game post-season championship series with Portland, he 5-4, including pitching back-to-back complete game wins in a double-header sweep of the Gladiators on January 9.

After pitching over 600 innings in 1891 and nearly 1,200 innings in back-to-back seasons, Lookabaugh doubles down in 1892, appearing in a career-high 803 innings over 91 games, including 90 starts and 89 complete games for San Jose. The iron man right-hander with the big breaking pitch is 45-43-1 with a career-high four shutouts.

Over a three-year span (1890-1892), Lookabaugh totals 123 wins, 221 complete games including seven shutouts, and pitches 1,986 2/3 innings with 626 strikeouts and 787 walks. In addition, twice in the his first three seasons in the California League his team wins the

# 1891 California League

Final - Regular Season

Team W	l	Pct.	GB
San Jose90	57	.612	
San Francisco84	62	.575	5 1/2
Sacramento75	73	.506	15 1/2
0akland45	102	.305	45

### November 22

San Jose closes out the season on a 13-game win streak and finishes in first place by 5 1/2 games over San Francisco.

With Oakland ending the season 57 games under .500, three of the four league teams are able to finish above .500 ... Sacramento catcher Bob McHale has two hits in four at bats in the final game of the season despite suffering from asphyxiation ... the four teams played 127 players during the season with Oakland leading the way with 49, followed by Sacramento 39, San Francisco 23 and San Jose with only 16.

San Jose outfielder Bill Everett wins a gold-headed cane after being voted the most popular player on the team; in an early case of ballot box stuffing, Everett benefits from the effort of "an admiring lady friend," who purchases 500 ballots to deposit in his name ... umpire McDonald plays second base the last two games of the year for Sacramento ... San Jose and San Francisco played each other a league-high 54 times, with the Dukes winning 28 times ... Sacramento is the only team to play its full compliment of 148 games.

Despite of the efforts of California League President John L. Mone to stop it, San Jose and the Portland Gladiators, champions of the Pacific Northwest League agree play a best-of-19 game post-season series to determine the champion of the Pacific Coast ... the series is tied at nine games each when on January 9, 1892, in the eighth inning of 19th and final game, the game, and the series is forfeited to San Jose.

league pennant - San Francisco in 1890 and San Jose in 1891.

Following his 45-win, 800-inning season, Lookabaugh is either (1) exhausted, (2) a holdout, or (3) retired, as he remains in his adopted home town of San Jose when the season starts and where he owns a barber shop. He is initially rumored to be going to the Los Angeles Angels who have just parted ways with 15-game winner George Nicol, but eventually Sacramento manager J.W. Moore convinces Lookabaugh to put down his shears and come to the Capital City where he makes his Sacramento debut on July 7 with a 12-8 win over Oakland.

When the California League shutters its doors on August 13, Sacramento is in last place with a 30-58 record and Lookabaugh is 4-4 with 92 hits and 36 walks allowed in 69 innings. Following the collapse of the California League, Lookabaugh catches on with the San Jose entry in a reorganized semipro Central California League where he is winless in three starts before the team folds in early October, followed by the league soon thereafter.

When George Stallings is named manager of the Southern Association's Nashville Tigers in the 1893 off-season, the 26-year-old California League veteran, sets about rebuilding the Tigers' roster with a number of West "Coast players from his days with Oakland and San Jose. In addition to acquiring

# **1890 California League**

Final - Regular Season

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
San Francisco	79	58	.576	
Sacramento	79	58	.576	
Oakland	76	60	.558	2 1/2
Stockton	41	99	.293	39 1/2

### November 23

Despite losing a doubleheader on the final day of the regular season, San Francisco (79-58) finishes first by a half a game over Sacramento (78-58) according to the San Francisco Examiner (below).

San Francisco	79	58	137	.576
Sacramento	78	58	136	.573
Oakland	76	60	136	.558
Stockton	41	98	139	.294

However, 88 miles to the East, the Sacramento Record-Union has a slightly-different version of league affairs.

CLUBS.	Oakland	Sacramento	San Francisco	Stockton	Games Won	Games Played	Percentage
Oakland Sacramento San Francisco Stockton	24 21 15	20 26 12	27 17 14	29 38 32	76 79 79 41	136 137 137 140	.558 .576 .576 .292
Games Lost	60	58	58	99	275		

Three days after the close of the season, league directors meet and decide that San Francisco and Stockton played one unidentified game too many and elect to remove one win from Mike Finn's Metropolitans which deadlocks them with the Senators at 79-58. (There is no explanation why they chose to remove a win and not a defeat.)

The league then directs the two teams to play a best-ofthree series in neutral Stockton to decide the championship. San Francisco appears on the grounds as ordered, but Sacramento, "disgusted" with having to play in Stockton and not a home and home format, fails to appear on the 27th or the 28th and the Metropolitans are declared league champions for 1890.

Starting on August 15, San Francisco is 42-19 (.689) and improves from third place and 9 1/2 games behind first-place Sacramento to tying for the regular season championship.

Oakland owner Colonel Tom Robinson wants league president John L. Mone removed after its revealed that he has been drawing a \$200 a month salary from Southern Pacific Railway for using his influence to keep the league's baseball games near their lines of street cars ... Stockton's play is so bad that is has attracted the attention of the Board of Health.

San Francisco left-fielder Rube Levy wins a diamond badge after being voted as the league's most popular player ... 34-game winner Jacob Lookabaugh leaves the Metropolitans for home prior to the post-season series with Sacramento ... the San Francisco Examiner reports that there were no official averages kept "during the season and either the league could not afford to pay for the work, or else they didn't take enough interest."

### Jacob Lookabaugh [4 of 10]:

Lookabaugh, Stallings recruits fellow California League pitchers George Borchers and George Harper. Borchers will lead the team with 11 wins while Harper is 8-3. Lookabaugh, on the other hand, is 1-6-1 allowing 93 hits and 51 walks in only 67 innings. On May 19, he is released for the first time in his career.

Pubelo Ponies at Denver Solis Broadway Grounds, Denver, Colorado 01000010 Ulrich, p..... 0 0 24 S.R. PA 1 0 8 22 0 0 1 10 0 0 0 0 0 <u>\_</u> 3 14 Total4...... A.B. R. 1 8. Totals...... 43 14 17

May 31, 1889

Paried ruis - Pueblo 9, Selis 0.
Farned ruis - Pueblo 9, Selis 0.
Two-base hits - Fean.
Three-base hits - York, Lookabaugh,
Home ruis - Straub 2, Bartel 1.
Houble plays - Everett to McMahon,
Struck out - Lookabaugh 9, Urich 1,
Hit by pitcher - By Lookabaugh 1,
Rases on balls - Off Lookabaugh 1,
Passed balls - Adams 1, McMahon 3.

Ponles .....

Lookabaugh strikes out nine and walks one while pitching a three-hit shutout of the homestanding Denver Solis in a Colorado State League game. Lookabaugh also goes 3-for-5 at the plate with a double. Former major leaguer Jim Straub is 4-for-5 with a pair of home runs in the 18-0 win. Last-place Denver (12-18) will disband two days later. Pueblo is in first place with a 37-21 mark when on July 21 - a day before the town announces it at last has a paid fire department - the team disbands due to "slim" attendance. The directors of the association are in the arrears to the players for two months wages.

his competitive playing days with the town's semipro team for five seasons. Following his playing days, Lookabaugh continues his barbershop business in Lynnville, Illinois.

Lookabaugh passes away on July 3, 1925, in East Moline, Illinois at the age of 63.

## LOOKABAUGH CHRONOLOGY

Lookabaugh pitches a complete game as Red Cloud (Nebraska) beats Smith Center 24-2.

July 1887

Nick Lookabaugh is undefeated in 12 games for the Red Cloud nine and is said to be "as good a pitcher in the west outside of the Lincoln and Topeka teams." ... Lookabaugh and his catcher Turner are said to be receiving pay to play while the rest of the squad are amateurs.

August 1, 1887

Lookabaugh strikes out nine and allows 16 hits as Red Cloud drops a 22-8 decision to Minden.

Lookabaugh isn't a free agent for very long signing with the Lincoln Treeplanters of the Western Association five days later. He wins his first game with the Transplanters pitching a six-hitter against Quincy, but then loses six of his next

seven decisions.

The nadir of Lookabaugh's career may have taken place on July 11, 1894, after a 7-4 loss to the last-place Des Moines Prohibitionists. Lincoln is leading 4-1 in the seventh inning when Lookabaugh "looses control of the ball at a bad time," allowing the Prohibitionists to tally six runs on four hits and two walks in the win. After the game, several of his Treeplanter teammates express concern that Lookabaugh "sold the game" to Des Moines. Released three days later, he signs with the Omaha Omahogs where is 3-6 in 12 games, including seven starts, before being released for the third time in four months. He finishes the year pitching semipro ball in Peru, Indiana.

In 1895, Lookabaugh signs with the Bloomington Suckers of the ill-conceived and short-lived Western Interstate League. In the 22-day life span of the sixteam circuit, Lookabaugh is 1-1, giving him his 140th win in a nine-year minor league career. After the league disbands on May 24, Lookabaugh makes his way to Streator, Illinois, where he plays out

# 1892 California League

Final - Regular Season

Teams	W	L	Pct.	GB
Los Angeles	99	73	.575	
San Jose		86	.494	14
San Francisco	81	90	.474	17 1/2
Oakland	78	93	.462	20 1/2

Rain wrecks havoc on the season's final week of play as seven games are first postponed, then cancelled. Los Angeles, the "on the field champion" from the first half before the machinations of the league prexy, doubles down and finishes the second half with a comfortable 3 1/2 games lead over Oakland.

Two days after the close of the season, the Los Angeles team arrives in San Jose ready to play the first three games of a best of nine championship series on the Duke's home field. However, à contentious meeting between the team managers ends San Jose refusing to play any games in Los Angeles. The Angels' Mike Vanderbeck leaves the meeting and takes his feam back to the City of Angels on the 2:30 Southern Pacific train.

At a league meeting on December 13, it is decided that the championship of the first half of the season be awarded to San Jose and the second half to Los Angeles. And because of the actions of the Los Angeles manager, no club will be recognized as champion for the full season and "that owing to the actions of Mr. Vanderbeck, Los Angeles should be dropped from the league."

Meanwhile, San Jose players, free from contractual obligations to Mike Finn, travel to Los Angeles to play a best-of-11 series with the Angels. On December 16, Los Angeles claims the "unofficial" league title winning its sixth game in the series with a 2-1 win in 11 innings.

Controversy also reigns on the final day (July 24) of the season's first half when league president John L. Mone, rules that the first-place Los Angeles must not only forfeit an earlier win against Oakland, but also absorb a loss instead of simply vacating the game. With that decision, announced after the games of July 24 interestingly enough, and based on a set of bleachers edging out 14 inches into fair grounds, secondplace San Jose is able to claim the first half championship over the disgruntled Angels by 1/2 game.

### First Half - Before Forfeit

Teams         V           Los Angeles         44           San Jose         46           San Francisco         46           Oakland         36	9 37 8 37 4 41	.554	GB 1/2 4 1/2 18
First Half	After F	orfeit	
Teams         V           San Jose         44           Los Angeles         44           San Francisco         44           Oakland         36	37 3 38 4 41	.558 .517	
Seco	nd Half		
Teams V Los Angeles 5 Oakland 44 San Francisco 3 San Jose 36	1 35 3 39 7 49	.551	GB 3 1/2 14 14 1/2

### Jacob Lookabaugh [5 of 10]:

August 26, 1887

Lookabaugh pitches a complete game victory for Red Cloud in a 13-3 win over Kirwan and winning the first prize of \$250 and the amateur championship of Nebraska and northwestern Kansas.

September 15, 1887

Lookabaugh strikes out 16 and walks six as Smith Center beats Burr Oak in a Kansas amateur game ... before the game starts, Lookabaugh and catcher Dallas are upset when word reaches them that the game "has been sold out," and that Burr Oak will emerge the victor.

September 28, 1887

Smith Center is leading Mankato 8-1 at the end of the sixth inning when the game's umpire, who "seemed so palpably unjust," is removed and Dr. Slagle of Salem is asked to finish the game as the arbiter ... Lookabaugh's Smith Center nine hangs on to win 10-9.

May 1, 1888

It's opening day in the Central Interstate League and the Danville Browns' Lookabaugh drops a 2-1 decision to the Peoria Reds despite allowing only one hit.

May 3, 1888

Loókabaugh strikes out eight and allows only three hits as Danville posts a 4-2 win over Davenport.

May 16, 1888

Lookabaugh is 2-10 in 12 appearances with Danville when he leaves the team and signs with Rockford ... prior to his signing with Rockford, it is rumored that he has already given a team in Santa Fe, New Mexico, an option on his services.

June 18, 1888

In his first game with Rockford, Lookabaugh strikes out eight but allows eight hits in a 8-5 loss to Danville, his former team.

July 6, 1888

Lookabaugh leaves Rockford for a team Santa Fe, New Mexico ... the *Rockford Morning Star* says of their departed pitcher, "he is an excellent pitcher, sober and reliable."

October 6, 1888

Pitching for a semipro team in Beatrice, Nebraska, Lookabaugh strikes out 15 in a 10-3 win over visiting Union Pacifics of Grand Island.

### The Decatur County News October 3, 1889

The people of McCook still cherish the delusion that the "back numbers" which constitutes their aggregation can play ball; the following is the Democrat's closing paragraph for the season: "No more will the shouts of "Hold on," "Wait a minute," "Now you're off," "slide" greet the ears of our people. The ball club has disbanded and the imported battery gone to its home. Lookabaugh went to Illinois and Stevents went to Denyer, and they stand ready to join us again next year if we want them, and we certainly do. The rest of the boys are all residents and will be ready to join us again in the spring. The season has been a very fair financial success."

May 15, 1889

Lookabaugh strikes out two and allows only four hits in Pueblo's 9-4 win over Colorado Springs in the independent New Mexico State League.

May 30, 1889

Lookabaugh strikes out nine and walks one while pitching a three-hit shutout of the homestanding Denver Solis in a Colorado State League game ... Lookabaugh also goes 3-for-5 at the plate with a double.

June 2, 1889

The Denver Solis baseball club announces that is formally disbanding because of its inability to secure playing grounds ... the team's home field, Athletic Park, cannot be secured as it is being prepared for a bicycle tournament.

# 1893 California League

Final - Regular Season

Teams	W	L	Pct.	GB
Oakland	.60	39	.606	
Los Angeles	.50	44	.531	7 1/2
San Francisco		49	.505	10
Sacramento	.30	58	.341	24 1/2

It did not end well. On August 13, after 12 seasons, the California League passes into memory as the Los Angeles Angels disband and take the league with it. Immediately following the announcement, Oakland and San Francisco agree to play a 35-game series with the players continuing to get paid and a cash prize of \$1,000 to the team that wins a majority of the games.

On August 4, both Oakland and Sacramento inform the Los Angeles Angels that unless they can guarantee \$100 above expenses for the visiting teams, they will not be making their way to the City of Angels. Los Angeles refuses to agree to the demand and the die is cast.

On August 9, Sacramento remains home in the state capital and that afternoon's game at Los Angeles' Athletic Park is awarded to the Angels by a 9-0 score when the Senators are a no-show. In addition, Oakland players are owed \$2,500 in salary and haven't been paid in two months.

At a June 5 meeting in San Francisco, it's decided that the circuit will have two championship seasons for the second year in a row. Dates for the split are to be determined. After being called "A chestnut," by Los Angeles' Al Lindley, long-time league president John L. Mone is removed from his duties and is replaced by John Wieland of San Francisco, a noted pool hall devotee.

San Francisco and Los Angeles are opposed to the split-season format while Stockton and Oakland vote in favor. Newly-elected president Wieland casts the deciding vote for the split-season. At the end of the meeting a disgruntled San Francisco owner Henry Harris tells Lindley, L.E. Geishen of Oakland and John Moore of Stockton that "He would be in baseball circles in California long after the names of those three gentlemen have been forgotten by the public."

The first half of the California League season comes to an end on July 4, with the Los Angeles Angels recognized as the champions:

- 1-	1	r۲	١.	н	a	ll
					u	

Teams Los Angeles	10 36	1 30 30 35 44	Pct. .583 .571 .507 .322	GB 1 5 1/2 17 1/2
Seco	ond-H	lalf		
Teams Oakland	.9	L 9 14 14 14	Pct. .690 .500 .391 .364	GB 5 1/2 8 8 1/2

### Jacob Lookabaugh [6 of 10]:

July 20, 1889

The Sterling Daily Gazette reports that Lookabaugh "and another ball player," are expected from Pueblo, Colorado.

### April 5, 1890

Sacramento Senators at San Francisco Metropolitans Haight Street Grounds, Sacramento, California

SAN FRANCISCO. AB.	R.	BH.	SB.	PO.	٨.	E.
Shea, 2d b 5	0	2	1	2	3	0
Levy, l. f 3	0	O	0	3	0	0
Hanley, c. f 3	0	1	0	0	0	0
Sweeney, 1st b 4	0	1	ĭ	7	Ü	o
Ebright, s. s 4	0	0	0	2	ĭ	ĭ
Buchan, 3d b 3	ŏ	ĩ	1	2	î	õ
Stevens, r. f 3	0	0	0	ī	Õ	0
Speer, c 4	1	0	ĭ	10	ő	ĭ
Leokabaugh, p 3	î	ő	Ô	0	2	Ô
Developagn, pro	_	_	_	_	_	-
Totals32	2	5	4	27	7	2
SACRAMENTO. AB.	R.	BH.	SB.	PO.	A.	E.
Goodenough, c. f 4	0	1	1	1	O	1
Stapleton, 1st b 4	0	1	0	13	0	1
Bowman, c 4	O	0	0	3	22	1
Daly, s. s 4	0	1	1	1	4	2
Godar, 3d b 4	0	1	1	1	3	0
Reitz, 2d b 4	1	1	1	2	2	Ö
Roberts, I. f 4	0	22	0	4	0	0
Harper, p 3	0	0	0	0	3	0
Zeigler, r. f 3	0	0	Ö	2	Ü	0
	_	-		_	-	-
Totals34	1	7	4	27	14	õ

### RUNS BY INNINGS.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
San Francisco							0	0	0-	2
Sacramento	0	0	0	0	0	o	1	o	0-	1

Earned runs—Sacramento, 1. Sacrifice hits—Harper, Stapleton. First base on errors—San Francisco. 2: Sacramento, 1. First base on called balls—San Francisco, 5; Sacramento, 1. Left on bases—San Francisco, 8; Sacramento, 6. Struck out—By Lookabaugh, 8; by Harper, 2. Hit by pitcher—Lookabaugh. Double play—Sweeney (alone). Umpire, Sheridan.

San Francisco's Jacob Lookabaugh makes his California League debut pitching a seven-hitter in a 2-1 win over Sacramento. His first pitch of the season is lined for a single by Senator center fielder Bill Goodenough who then steals second. Lookabaugh ends with eight strike outs and one walk, but sprains an ankle and will be sidelined for a week.

July 22, 1889

Despite being in first place since the start of the season, the Pueblo Poines announce they are disbanding because of attendance problems.

September 7, 1889

The McCook (Nebraska) baseball club announces that is soon disbanding for the season and the pitching battery of Lookabaugh and Stevens is "available."

September 11, 1889

As the season nears its end, McCook snaps an extended losing streak defeating Holdredge 14-8 in a game delayed by a melee on the field.

January 25, 1890

Lookabaugh signs with Mike Finn's San Francisco Metropolitans of the California League.

August 3, 1890

In one of the best played games at Oakland's foul-smelling Emeryville Station Park (located next to an iron plant that emits toxic black smoke), Oakland and San Francisco play to a 2-2 tie ... Lookabaugh is pitching a four-hitter with one out in the eighth inning when Oakland's Charley O'Neill's line drive catches

Lookabaugh in the right hand, forcing the "twirler" to retire with a 2-1 lead ... O'Neill eventually scores, tying the score at 2-all ... two innings later, with darkness settling across the diamond, the game is declared a 2-2 tie.

### August 22, 1890

Lookabaugh allows four hits in a 6-2 complete game win over last-place Stockton.



[From a sketch by an " Examiner " artist.]

August 23, 1890

Taking to the mound for a second-straight day, Lookabaugh pitches a six-hit 4-3 complete game win over Stockton.

### October 2, 1890

In the midst a personal five-game winning streak, Lookabaugh has the nail of his index finger ripped off during practice and will not be able to take his regular turn on the mound for at least a week.

# 1893 Central California League

A new six-team Central California League is formed on August 30, with two teams from San Francisco, one from Santa Rose, Petaluma, San Jose and Oakland. League rosters are filled with California League "refugees."

The newly-constituted league gets underway on September 16, with San Francisco beating Oakland 7-5. San Jose disbands on October 11 and after a couple of other league games are played, the league calls it quits as well at an unspecified date.

San Franciscos.	Positions.	Petalumas.
Sweet	Catcher	Green
Jackson McGreevey	· Pitcher	
McGreevey	. ,	Baisz
Powers	First base.	Wilds
Peeples		
Nethercott		
Pequigney		
McCarthy	Left field .	Deau
D. Sweeney		
H. O'Day		
Pioneers.	Positions.	Santa Rosas.
Sullivan		
Deveraux		
Crowley	First base	D. Levy
Mertis	Second bas	eRiley
Monahan		
Sharp		
P. Sweeney		
Philpot	Center field	Dextraze
Kelly		
Oaklands.		
Cody		
Horner		
Earle		
Smith	Second base	Fogarty
Van Haltren	i hird base.	Ebright
Cattopy	Shortstop	Flannery
Hines	Left field	Levy
Hernon,	Center field.	McGucken
Donavan	Right field	Works

The Central California League that started the 1893 season is composed of the following clubs: Scott & Gilberts of San Francisco, the Santa Rosas of Santa Rosa, the Petalumas and the E.T. Allens of San Francisco. The Petalumas won the first half championship beating Santa Rosa 17-4 on August 7, 1893.

October 27, 1890 San Francisco Examiner

# REGISTRATION FRAUDS THAT WILL FAIL.

The Baseball Joint Is Closed Up— The Rest for the Weary.

The exposure of Democratic frauds in the down-town "Buckley Joints," published in the Chronicle a few days ago, has caused much talk among the hostelries along the water front and elsewhere. A representative of the Republican County Committee called at 449½ Jessie street to serve citations on the quartet of baseball players who are registered from one room. They had disappeared, however, as mysteriously as a "sky scraper" thrown by the adept fist of Pitcher Lookabaugh. They registered from Jessie street in order to swell the returns for Charlie Sweeney, who is a candidate on the Democratic ticket for Assemblyman.

### Jacob Lookabaugh [7 of 10]:

### November 22, 1891 Oakland Colonels at San Jose Dukes San Jose, California

SAN JOSE. A.B.	R.	в.н.	g p	PA	. A.	E.
McGucken, l. f 5	ï	0	1	4	o.	0
Hanley, 2d b 4	ō	ĭ	ō	ī	2	ŏ
Everett, s. s 4	ĭ	î	ŏ	2	$\tilde{3}$	ŏ
Ebright, 3d b 4	î	ō	ŏ	õ	4	ŏ
Dooley, 1st b 4	2	2	ŏ	10	ō	ĭ
McVey, c. f 4	õ	ĩ	ŏ	2	ŏ	ō
G. Sharp, r. f 4	ŏ	i	ŏ	2	ŏ	ĭ
Stallings o	ĭ	ó	3	6	ŏ	ō
Stallings, c 3	ō	ĭ	í	ő	4	ŏ
Lookabaugh, p 4	v	•	-	U		U
Totals 36	6	7	5	27	13	2
SACRAMENTO, A.B.	R.	B.H.		. P.O		E.
Hustin, 3d b 4	0	0	0	3	. ô.	0
	ŏ	ĭ	ŏ	9	3	ŏ
McGuirk, 1st b 4 Heitz, c 4	ŏ	ô	ŏ		3	ŏ
	ŏ	ŏ	ő		ő	×
McCloskey, c. f 2				3	8	0
Parrott, p 3	0	0	0		5	8
Hoffman, s. s 3	0	0	0	7	3	2 0
McDonald, 2d b 3	0	0	v	3	4	
McEwing, 1, f 3	0	0	1	o	0	1
Graham, r. f 3	0	0	0	1	0	0
Totals 29	0	1	1	27	17	3
Runs by innings-						
	0 (	0 1	1	0 (	0 0	-6
		o o	ō	0 (		-ō
	ose	1. 5	Sac	rame	ento	0.

Earned runs—San Jose 1, Sacramento 0. Three-base hits—Dooley, Hanley. Two-base hits—McVey. Sacrifice hits—McGucken. First base on errors—San Jose 4, Sacramento 1. First base on balls—San Jose 2, Sacramento 1. Left on bases—San Jose 5, Sacramento 2. Struck out—By Lookabaugh 5, by Parrott 4. Double plays—Ebright to Everett to Dooley. Passed bal's—Reitz 1. Umpire—Geo. Harper. Official scorer—George Derrick. Time of game—1h. 25m.

On the final day of the 1891 season, Lookabaugh twirls a one-hit shutout as California League champion San Jose sweeps a doubleheader from visiting Oakland, 6-0 and 8-2. In winning his 43rd game of the year, Lookabaugh strikes out five and walks only two. The win is No. 12 of season-ending 13-game winning streak for the Dukes.

October 12, 1890

Oakland's Kid Carsey no-hits San Francisco and Lookabaugh ... the future major leaguer strikes out one and walks three in the 2-0 win ... Lookabaugh allows only six hits and the loss is his first in a month and snaps a personal six-game win streak.

October 15, 1890

Released by both Cleveland and Pittsburgh earlier in the year, "Peek-a-Boo" Veach earns his third release of the season when the Metropolitans cut the

erratic first baseman ... it is noted that he has not been "acting right" lately, missing several practices and has been breaking the blue ribbons on too many bottles to satisfy manager Finn.

**Knothole Gang** 

A revolt of former Pacific League players takes place

across the league. In years past, former players and

players currently on the team's injured list, have al-

ways been able to get into league games for free. Under a new league policy, every player, no matter how

popular, even injured, must now pay for his ticket. As a result, disgruntled players, and one former team president, have formed their own "Knothole Brigade,"

to boycott the baseball business and any player found

paying his way into a stadium is blacklisted.

November 27, 1890

League directors decide to have San Francisco and Sacramento play a best-of-three series for the California League title ... the games will be played at neutral Stockton with one game to be played on Friday (November 28, and two, if needed on Saturday (November 29) ... with Lookabaugh having already left for his home in Illinois, Coughlin and Shaw are named as the starting pitchers for San Francisco.

Friday, November 28, 1890

Sacramento fails to show for the playoff game at Banner Island Park in Stockton and umpire Fred Carroll forfeits the first game to San Francisco ... there is no one reason why the Senators fail to show, but it could be that the players demand a full week's salary and Sacramento's management disagrees knowing they won't cover expenses traveling to Stockton.

March 28, 1891

In his first appearance of the season, Lookabaugh "with the same limpy walk, the same perpetual smile and the same old slow, sneaking curve ball," pitches the first of 69-straight complete games, striking out three and allowing nine hits in a 6-5 win over San Francisco.

May 17, 1891

Lookabaugh picks up his first shutout of the season, allowing only five hits in a 2-0 win over Oakland.

June 7, 1891

For the first time in his career, Lookabaugh takes to the mound for a fourth-straight day, allowing only seven hits in a 7-4 win over San Francisco.

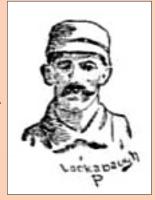
November 22, 1891

On the final day of the regular season, Lookabaugh twirls a one-hit shutout as Cali-

fornia League champion San Jose sweeps a doubleheader from visiting Oakland, 6-0 and 8-2 ... in winning his 44th game of the year, Lookabaugh strikes out five and walks only two.

January 9, 1892

Lookabaugh starts and wins both ends of a doubleheader with the Portland Gladiators in the Pacific Coast Championship series ... in the 1:30 affair, he pitches a three-hit shutout and collects two hits en route to a 3-0 victory ... in the afternoon game, he allows six hits in a 6-4 win in a game shortened to seven innings because of darkness.





### Jacob Lookabaugh [8 of 10]:

January 10, 1892

San Jose captures the Pacific Coast championship when in the deciding game No. 19, played before 6,000 fans, Portland captain Bob Glenalvin,

while arguing with the home plate umpire allows two runs to score in the seventh inning and pulls his team off the field ... after two warnings and several minutes, home plate umpire Sheridan announces a forfeit.

March 26, 1892

For the second time in his career, San Jose's Jacob Lookabaugh is an opening day starter ... he responds by shutting down Oakland on seven hits in a 4-1 win.

June 5, 1893

With pitcher Phillip Knell out the rotation after breaking his hand in a mishap with a door, San Francisco is trying to coax Lookabaugh out of his barber shop in San Jose.

June 20, 1893

Despite a 15-8 record, Los Angeles severs ties with erratic pitcher George Nicol of the "unusual mannerisms" ... Angels' manager Lindley attempts to sign either Phillip Knell or Lookabaugh ... the team eventually settles on Knell, who goes 3-10 in 13 appearances while Nicol signs with the Erie Blackbirds and is 13-9 against Eastern League competition.

There were no official averages kept in the California League this year. Either the league could not afford to pay for the work, or else they didn't take enough interest in the game themselves.

**Statistics Held Hostage** 

The reason why final statistics for the 1890 California League are nowhere to be seen in The Sporting Life, The Sporting News, The Spalding Guide or The Reach Guide is explained below. To put Mr. Wallace's request into perspective, with inflation, his \$50 demand in 1890 would be a \$1,400 request today.

The editor of the GUIDE notified the secretaries of all the Minor Leagues last January to send him in their League statistics for 1890, but only the Western League responded. The following letter from Mr. Wallace of California tells its own story. Mr. Wallace says that he wrote to a Mr. Carroll a San Francisco journalist, and in the reply was the appended paragraph.

"A few weeks ago, I wrote Messrs. A. G. Spalding & Bros., offering the averages for the sum of fifty dollars, and received reply through J. A. Hart. Mr. Hart stated that 'it was not customary to pay for averages, and it has always been considered as a great favor by the Leagues to have them published in the GUIDE.' So I dropped the matter. If the gentlemen have reconsidered their views regarding the importance of the California League and its averages, I am willing to turn over the figures upon the receipt of their check for the stated amount."

Comment is unnecessary. Why the California averages are not in the GUIDE will be seen.

July 4, 1893

In the reorganized California League, Sacramento takes over the struggling (21-44) Stockton River Pirates franchise ... the team will be quartered at the Capital Hotel ... Sacramento manager J.W. Moore announces that he is replacing pitcher Jack Fanning (7-25) with Jacob Lookabaugh ... the Senators also sign 19-year-old pitcher Jay Hughes and 23-year-old outfielder Bob McHale.

# 1894 Nashville Tigers

Back Row (L-R): Jim Collopy, Milt Whitehead, Jack Meara, John O'Brien, Charles Dooley; Middle Row: Edward Webster, George Stallings, George Cleve. Front Row: Jacob Lookabaugh, George Borchers.

July 7, 1893

"Nicolas" Lookabaugh makes his Sacramento debut with a 13-hit complete game victory over visiting Oakland at Snowflake Park ... Lookabaugh also allows eight walks and strikes out three in the win.

July 21, 1893

Lookabaugh has a 14-2 lead heading into the eighth inning, when he "went to pieces" and yields seven run in the eighth and two runs in the ninth in a 15-11 win over Los Angeles.

August 13, 1893

After 12 seasons, the California League passes into memory as the Los Angeles Angels disband and take the league with it ... immediately following the announcement, Oakland and San Francisco agree to play a 35-game series with the players continuing to get paid and a cash prize of \$1,000 to the team that wins a majority of the games (the series is never completed.)

February 1894

Nashvillé manager George Stallings says he has signed two pitchers from California - Lookabaugh and George Borchers ... Borchers and Lookabaugh are among the eight former California League players in the Nashville camp.

### Jacob Lookabaugh [9 of 10]:

# **Snowflake Park, Sacramento**



Owned by the Sacramento Agricultural Association, Snowflake Park is the home field to the Sacramento Senators during the 1893 season.

March 18, 1894

Lookabaugh is a no-show in the Nashville camp.

April 4, 1894

Lookabaugh is expected to share the pitching responsibilities in Nashville with George Borchers and George Cleve ... Lookabaugh has the reputation of having the slowest and most deceptive curveball in the country, yet has plenty of speed when it becomes necessary.

April 13, 1894

In his Nashville debut, Lookabaugh walks 10 and allows 11 hits and drops an 11-10 decision to visiting Memphis.

April 25, 1894

Lookabaugh wins his first, and only game with Nashville, a 17-5 decision over Savannah ... Lookabaugh allows 10 hits and six walks while striking out three.

May 10, 1894

Nashville is rolling along in second-to-last-place when one of the papers opines, "Nashville with all California players, are worrying along at next to the last place in the Southern League. That is supposed to be due to bad management, and the idea is supported by the fact that Stallings, Dooley and Pete Sweeney are all trying to captain the team."

May 19, 1894

Lookabaugh is 1-6-1 when he is one of five players released by Nashville.

May 24, 1894

The Lincoln Treeplanters of the Western Association are 11-6 when they sign Lookabaugh, who is said to be the equal of 20-year-old Lincoln pitcher Youngy Johnson.

May 27, 1894

Loókabaugh makes his Treeplanter debut and is reunited with his battery mate from the San Jose Duke, George Speer, and pitches a six-hit complete game win over Quincy by a 6-4 score.

June 12, 1894

Lookabaugh "Redeems Himself for All Past Offenses," as he pitches a 13-7 eight-hit complete game win over Des Moines.

Banner Island Park, Stockton



Stockton's ballpark at Banner Island on the San Joaquin River. Currently the Stockton Ports play in a modern stadium on the site of the original park.

July 11, 1894

Lefty Ed Corbett, a pitcher from Detroit, is brought in for a trial ... he is said to be a good man with the stick, a good pitcher and an elegant outfielder ... if he does good work, it means that Lookabaugh "will have to tread the plank."

July 14, 1894

After signing pitcher Ed Corbett, Lincoln releases Lookabaugh and he immediately leaves to join Omaha.

July 28, 1894

Pitching for St. Joseph's, Lookabaugh hits his first home run of the season, but yields 18 hits and loses a 14-13 decision to Rock Island.

July 29, 1894

Either sadistic or numbers challenged, Omaha manager Billy Rourke sends an obviously faltering Lookabaugh out to the mound for a second-straight day against Rock Island ... Lookabaugh responds to the challenge by again yielding 14 runs on only 15 hits, but this time the moustached hurler goes the route in a 15-14 win over Rock Island.

August 2, 1894

For a third-straight game, Lookabaugh allows 14 runs (on 17 hits) in a 14-4 loss to Peoria.

### Jacob Lookabaugh [10 of 10]:

March 16, 1895

The Bloomington Suckers of the Western Interstate League announce the signing of Lookabaugh ... the *Nebraska State Journal* opines, "it is hoped that he will get back his effectiveness."

May 9, 1895

In his final pro career game, Lookabaugh pitches yet another compete game, but allows 14 hits in a 13-5 loss to Terre Haute.

May 28, 1895

Lookabaugh takes a position at Ballard's Barbershop in Streator, Illinois, and will pitch for the town's crack baseball team.

May 30, 1895

In his debut with the Streator Reds, Lookabaugh is pounded for 11 hits in a 13-3 loss to the Pullman team.

July 3, 1925

Lookabaugh passes away in East Moline, Illinois, at the age of 63.

### **OBITUARY**

J. D. Lookabaugh, who passed away at the Moline hospital July 3d, was born in Pittsburgh, Pa. March 28, 1863, and in 1887, at the age of 24 years, made his first professional baseball appearance with the Red Cloud, Neb., team; in 1838 he went with the Banville, Ill., team, and finished the season with the Santa Fe club; of: New Mexico Military in 1888, he became manager and pitcher of the Pueblo, Colo., team and by his good work won the championship.

He developed great talent as a pitcher and was secured by Manager Finn of the San Francisco team in 1890 the San Jose, Cal, club later obtaining his services. The San Jose club had no more faithful or carnest player in its team, and as "Nick" Lookabaugh has never been in anything but championship teams he is looked upon by his tellow players as a mascot, personally a very sociable young man, with hosts of friends and admirrers, as well as a popular tavorite in all the cities in the league.—From San Francisco Examiner, Year 1891.

The death of Mr. Lookabaugh marks the end of another one of the "old timers" who belped to place baseball in the tavorable position it holds today, and among his contemporaries were Cy Young, Jake Stallings, Finn Rourke, all of whom enjoyed baseball to its fullest extent and were as popular among the fans of those days as are the leaders in the field today.

J. D. Lookabaugh is survived by his widow, Mrs. Effle Lookabaugh and four sons, John of Bensenville, Ill., Kyrle, Earl and Ralph of Chicago, one brother, S. B. Lookabaugh of Chickasha, Okla., and two sisters, Mrs. Nancy Bain of Byron, Ill., and Mrs. Ida Behrman of Rochelle, Ill.