

21st Annual Baseball Hall Of Fame Inductee

JOE ROONEY: See attached

MIKE CORATO: No Information.

CLYDE 'TUB' PERRY; See attached.

LENNY BACKER; See attached.

RALPH YOUNG; See attached.

JOHN SILVEY; No information.

Lennie Backer

From BR Bullpen

Leonard Henry Backer (Franklin Milkman)

- **Bats Right, Throws Right**
- **Height 5' 8", Weight 163 lb.**
- **High School** [Sacramento High School](#)

- **Born** [February 5, 1907](#) in [Franklin, CA USA](#)
- **Died** [October 20, 1989](#) in [Sacramento, CA USA](#)

[BR minors page](#)

Biographical Information[[edit](#)]

Infielder Lennie Backer signed with the Senators right out of high school in 1925 and got into 14 games that year. He was farmed out to the Twin Falls Bruins in 1926 and his .374 average was among the league leaders. He also made it into 27 more games with Sacramento that year, and he would stay with the Senators through 1933. Backer was drawing the interest of major league scouts until April 27, 1931 when a pitch from "Wild Bill" Henderson of the San Francisco Seals fractured his skull and ended his season. Backer was unconscious for 48 hours and spent six weeks in the hospital. Stan Hack took advantage of the opening and spent the rest of the year starting at third base, before being sold to the Chicago Cubs at the end of the season. Backer recovered and spent 1932-1933 with the Senators and 1934-1935 with the Seals. He spent 1936-1938 moving around eastern leagues before retiring to dairy farming back in Franklin, CA.

Year-by-Year Managerial Record[[edit](#)]

Year	Team	League	Record	Finish	Organization	Playoffs
1937	Waterloo Reds	Western League	61-55	2nd	Cincinnati Reds	none
1938	Waterloo Red Hawks	Three-I League	59-65	8th	Cincinnati Reds	

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SACRAMENTO'S TOP MINOR LEAGUERS

Most statistics before 1960 for runs, RBIs, stolen bases, starts, complete games, shutouts and strikeouts are incomplete; some players may be missing.

GAMES PLAYED

Player	Years	High School/College	Total
Henry Steinbacher	1930-1945	Sacramento	1,702
Spider Jorgensen	1941-1960	Folsom/Sacramento JC	1,546
Neill Sheridan	1943-1954	Sacramento	1,446
Bevo LeBourveau	1918-1934	Marysville	1,435
Joe Marty	1934-1952	Christian Brothers	1,391
Billy Hulen	1892-1909	Dixon	1,359
Lenny Backer	1925-1938	Sacramento	1,341
Joe Thurston	1999-2012	Sacramento City	1,302
Les Sheehan	1916-1929	Sacramento	1,279

AT BAYS

Ross Eldred	1916-1930	Sacramento	6,740
Henry Steinbacher	1930-1945	Sacramento	6,584
Bevo LeBourveau	1918-1934	Marysville	5,433
Billy Hulen	1892-1909	Dixon	5,404
Spider Jorgensen	1941-1960	Folsom/Sacramento JC	5,240
Lenny Backer	1925-1938	Sacramento	5,015
Neill Sheridan	1943-1954	Sacramento	5,000
Joe Thurston	1999-2012	Sacramento City	4,960
Joe Marty	1934-1952	Christian Brothers	4,820
Les Sheehan	1916-1929	Sacramento	4,600

HITS

Ross Eldred	1916-1930	Sacramento	6,740
Henry Steinbacher	1930-1945	Sacramento	6,584
Bevo LeBourveau	1918-1934	Marysville	5,433
Billy Hulen	1892-1909	Dixon	5,404
Spider Jorgensen	1941-1960	Folsom/Sacramento JC	5,240
Lenny Backer	1925-1938	Sacramento	5,015
Neill Sheridan	1943-1954	Sacramento	5,006
Joe Thurston	1999-2012	Sacramento City	4,966
Joe Marty	1934-1952	Christian Brothers	4,826
Les Sheehan	1916-1930	Sacramento	4,607

DOUBLES

Player	Years	High School/College	T
Ross Eldred	1916-1930	Sacramento	5
Henry Steinbacher	1930-1945	Sacramento	3
Bevo LeBourveau	1918-1934	Marysville	3
Lenny Backer	1925-1938	Sacramento	3
Joe Marty	1934-1952	Christian Brothers	2

Behold the Bushers

The Last of the Rooneys

By VINCENT F. STANICH

"The first shall be last, and the last shall be first."

This passage from Holy Scripture can well apply to Joe Rooney, chief of detectives in the local police department, as he is the last of the second generation Rooneys and O'Neils, but the first of that celebrated Irish gang to become an officer of the law. It is traditional in all centers of Irish population to have at least one member of an Irish family join the police force.



VINCENT STANICH
Sacramento Police Department
in April of 1936.

THE START of the Rooney-O'Neil gang of boys emanated from the Rooneys. There were James Rooney, Peter Rooney, Steve Rooney and Minnie Rooney. Minnie married Tom O'Neil, Sr., and was the mother of Joe, Jack, Paul, Tom and Steve. James Rooney was the father of Jim, Franz, Paul, Leo and Joe. Peter Rooney sired Ed, Pete, Pierce and Clem, while Steve Rooney had but two sons—Steve, Jr., and William. *OK

As local bush history has it, this group of first cousins banded together and formed one of the most colorful baseball teams in local history. Each and every



JOE ROONEY

to his size and his scholarship was cancelled.

As luck would have it for Slip Madigan, Leo enrolled at St. Mary's College, where he reached great heights in his senior year as a halfback.

Leo's great playing paved the way for Joe to receive a scholarship and the tall redhead turned out for football in 1925.

Joe made the varsity squad in 1926 and it was a harbinger of good things to come for Madigan. Although Joe was not a potent factor on the football club that year, his presence, evidently, was inspirational to his brother, Leo, who had a great day to give University of California its worst defeat in the long grid series between the two schools.

ST. MARY'S on that September afternoon annihilated the Bears by an overwhelming 26 to 7 score. It broke a 10-year drought for the Gaels as their only victory prior to that time over California occurred in 1917 when they eked out a one-point victory. In the same season St. Mary's also defeated Stanford. The two schools have not met since that time.

In 1927 and 1928 Joe was on the varsity squad, but his playing was somewhat limited as the Gaels had the greatest collection of players ever assembled at the school. Punting duties were entrusted to the local lad, but he divided the chore with Mack Stennett, who has since been judged an all-time St. Mary's great.

Joe received his sheepskin in 1929 and took up coaching at the Brothers' school the following year. However, his baseball ability as a pitcher began to manifest itself and he was signed to a San Francisco contract in 1931. He was farmed out by Ike Caveney, manager of the Seals, to their club at Globe in the Arizona League, along with Augie Galan, Johnny Babich and Jack Wilson.

The following season he hung on with the Seals until he was released in late August. His teammates on that club were Art Garibaldi, Hank Oana, Jerry Donovan, Ernie Sulk, Curt Davis and Bill Henderson.

THE DEPRESSION years in the early 30's had already set in and Joe began to ready himself for the police examination and received his appointment in 1936.

In 1943 he started a 30-month hitch in the Army, spending 19 months in Puerto Rico. He returned to the police department in the fall of 1945 and was appointed captain the following year. In 1947 he moved up to become chief of detectives.

Joe is still in pretty fair shape and still dabbles in baseball as a member of the police baseball club. He has since given up pitching, but still concentrates on hitting the ball, both on the field and on beats in the city of Sacramento.

one of the boys played on the club some time or other. That is, with the exception of Joe. He was too young to compete, but the ability of the older boys to play baseball, apparently, was deep rooted, as Joe turned out to be quite a ball player himself when he reached his majority.

Joe started high school at Christian Brothers School at the corner of 12th and K Streets, where the present Weinstock-Lubin store now stands, in the fall of 1921. His brother, Leo, was two years his senior, was a star halfback under Coach Peter Mitchell, who donated his services to guide the small Brothers' squad in its football campaign.

JOE MADE the varsity in his freshman year, as there were only enough players turning out for football to form a team.

Leo, who subsequently received honorary mention on the Walter Camp All-American team, received a scholarship to Santa Clara University in 1923 for baseball and football. Arriving at the campus, Leo, who weighed 145 pounds soaking wet, did not impress the football coach, due

RALPH YOUNG

70 yrs - Roanoke, VA

1922

Graduated from Gridley High School 1918

1918 Won High School Championship From Chico High School.
Defeated Carroll Canfield, later with Sacramento Coast League.

Played with Medford Oregon and Weed in ^{SISKIYOU} Sisque League. 1919-20
Sacramento Winter League

Ed dell Stars (American League).
Nevis Carnie, Julius, & Eastern Outfitters. National League.

Elk Grove In old County League. (1927) Capital City League -
Rio Linda .

3 Years in Valley League.
2 Years With Sacramento, and 1 year with Roseville.

Capital League At Moring Field. Western Pacific.

LIFETIME

.282

Gillette Stars, Colusa.

Portola California. # Years 1931-1932

Shot Stop -

Brother ~~Died~~ R.C. Young.

Cecil Cy Young - 1960

Roofing

'A True Gentleman'

County Supervisor Eulogizes
Passing Of Local Sport Figure

Editor's Note: The following story was submitted by Yuba County Supervisor Harold J. "Sam" Sperbeck for publication in the Independent-Herald.

In the passing of Clyde O. "Tub" Perry on the 21st day of this month Northern California sport lovers, particularly baseball fans, lost one of the greatest products of our time. "Tub", as he was known since his high school days at Sutter High, was a left handed pitcher who was feared by semi-pro teams from the bay area to the Oregon line during his prime years which were 1922-1950. Perry was an all-sport athlete at Sutter under the late Coach Leo Wadsworth and will be remembered by some of us oldsters as having some great pitching duels with the late Clifford Gottwals and Edgar Brown, of Marysville High for the Northern California championship.

In 1922 Perry, upon completing his high school days, joined up with Jack Dooley and the Marysville Giants. Dooley's team could not gain entrance in the Valley League, which was organized in '22, until 1924. The General of the diamond, as Major Dooley was known in those days, had Perry and Red Brow, a Marysville fireman and a good right hander as his pitching staff. The Valley League was real tough and the hub Giants did not function too well for the first few years. But finally it became the most feared club in the circuit, largely due to Perry's pitching and Dooley's diamond shrewdness.

One writer described Perry as a big round faced lad who resembled the late Babe Ruth in looks and ability. Tub was a threat to any pitcher when at bat and was often used in the outfield or pinch hitter as well as taking his turn on the rubber. After setting a fire, never to be equaled by a home town product in the Valley, Perry signed with the San Francisco Seals of the Pacific Coast League when they played real baseball. Tub was doing well with the Seals but due to the love of his wife and family he decided to come back to his old home in Sutter and went to work



CLYDE O. "TUB" PERRY

for the P.G. & E. Co. where he remained until his retirement a few years back. He continued his baseball and was a winner in the Valley League and along with such unforgettables as Mick Hall, Vince Fasano, Hira Hall, Teebone Smith, Dick Barry, Scotty McLean, Wiz Pappa, Ted Zackney, Ken Brock and others to win the Valley League title several times beating out Colusa, Grass Valley, Woodland, Chico, Oroville, Redding and usually a traveling club from Sacramento.

During the second war years Perry teamed up with his old catcher, (still alive) Ken Brock to help Vic Pitt's Marysville Giants play independent ball to standing room only crowds at Bryant Field. On an evening game, dedicated to Perry, approximately 2000 fans turned out to see the old Sutter wonder win "just another ball game". Hal Keely secretary-treasurer of that great independent team and this writer was the front office and PR boss.

Perry played football with the old Marysville Giants when the late Lloyd Hewitt of Andy Smith's U. C. wonder team fame, was coaching the hub team. Perry was a guard

along with Carl Syvertsen, still around, and John Sperbeck was the center. In one game Tub caught a kickoff and not being a broken field runner of fame, he plowed his way down to the opposition's ten yard line where the late Jim Kelly, the Stanford Ace, went over for the score.

Perry also played basketball with the old Yuba-Sutter Host team along with such ex-stars as Glenn Potter and Hal Hawley.

Tub's favorite sport is probably known only to his family and close friends and that was deer hunting.

One of the toughest problems that a manager faced when Perry was a member was "how to keep Tub home on deer season opening if the latter fell on a game day.

The Northern California old timer's baseball Association awarded Perry, Dooley and Sheriff Larry Gillick of Butte Co. trophies honoring their contribution to baseball at their last meeting held early this year in Marysville. Perry as a charter member of this group and usually attended the LaSalle old timer's party each year in Sacramento where he enjoyed replaying many of the games of the past with his host of friends.

The Perrys had two sons, "Dick" and "Brud" and both were good semi-pro ball players but they will admit could not begin to match their father's accomplishments in any of the sports including deer hunting.

In all due respect to Mr. Perry's great contribution to baseball and other sports, the best asset this man had in the opinions of those associated with him is that he was always a true gentleman, a tough competitor and always gave his best and did his job and did not try to play the other fellows' position, and that included the team manager, front office and down to the bat boy. The old American sport of baseball did on June 21, 1971, lose a great representative in Clyde Oscar "Tub" Perry, a credit to his family, community and friends.