



THE NEW ORLEANS PELICANS

The Heart of the Southern Association

S. Derby Gisclair

**Presentation to The First Annual Southern Association of Baseball Conference
October 8 – 9, 2004
Rickwood Field in Birmingham, AL**

THE NEW ORLEANS PELICANS

HISTORY

- **The Pelican Base Ball Club was originally organized on September 1, 1865 with fifty members whose practice grounds were located on the corner of Esplanade Avenue and North White Street.**
- **The Pelicans were members of the Louisiana Base Ball Association from 1868 through 1874, and the Crescent City League from 1880 through 1884.**
- **In December of 1869, the Pelicans were participants in a series of exhibition games with the New York Mutuals, a quasi-professional team sponsored by the notorious politician Boss Tweed.**
- **In May of 1870, the Pelicans were one of five New Orleans teams selected to compete against the country's first truly professional baseball team – the Cincinnati Red Stockings led by George and Harry Wright.**

THE NEW ORLEANS PELICANS

HISTORY

- As the Southern League was being formed during 1884, New Orleans was unable to secure a franchise in the new circuit.
- In 1885, New Orleans and Mobile each submitted two teams to form the Gulf Coast League. The Pelicans were one of the New Orleans entries.
- In December of 1886 it was announced that New Orleans would be granted a franchise to play in the Southern League and the New Orleans Pelicans were on their way.
- The team's first manager was Tom Brennan, not Abner Powell as is often claimed. Powell was, however, the team's first captain and did have the ear of Pelican owner Toby Hart.

THE NEW ORLEANS PELICANS

SOUTHERN LEAGUE RECORD

YEAR	WON	LOST	Pct	Finish
1885	0	0	NA	NA
1886	0	0	NA	NA
1887	74	40	0.649	1
1888	25	32	0.439	3
1889	46	9	0.836	1
1892	66	57	0.537	2
1893	40	51	0.440	8
1894	34	35	0.493	5
1895	46	55	0.455	4
1896	67	30	0.691	1
1898	10	15	.0400	6
1899	19	21	0.475	3
TOTAL	427	345	0.553	

There were sixteen teams that played in the Southern League at various times between 1885 and 1899.

The New Orleans Pelicans managed to last through ten turbulent seasons, the longest of any other franchise.

The Pelicans captured three Southern League pennants: 1887, 1889, and 1896.

The 1889 winning percentage of 0.836 is the highest of any club in Southern League history.

THE NEW ORLEANS PELICANS

SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION

- ⚾ During 1900, three men – Abner Powell, Charles Frank, and Newt Fisher – formed the Southern Association from the ashes of the Southern League.
- ⚾ The New Orleans Pelicans became a charter member of the new Southern Association, along with teams from Selma, Birmingham, Chattanooga, Memphis, Shreveport, Nashville, and Little Rock.
- ⚾ The Pelicans' first manager was Abner Powell, who would also become owner of the Selma Christians (moving them to Atlanta in 1902) and an investor in the Chattanooga and Nashville clubs as well.
- ⚾ The Pelicans played for 58 years in the Southern Association, from 1901 through 1959. The Southern Association folded at the conclusion of the 1961 season.

THE NEW ORLEANS PELICANS

SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION

Team	Won	Lost	Pct	Seasons	Rank
Atlanta	4,624	4,123	0.529	59	3
Birmingham	4,556	4,293	0.515	60	4
Chattanooga	3,672	4,264	0.463	53	9
Knoxville	809	1,132	0.417	12	12
Little Rock	3,679	4,321	0.460	54	10
Macon	75	79	0.487	1	6
Memphis	4,650	4,090	0.532	59	2
Mobile	2,789	3,080	0.475	40	7
Montgomery	762	851	0.472	12	8
Nashville	4,521	4,362	0.509	60	5
New Orleans	4,555	3,978	0.534	58	1
Selma	37	78	0.322	1	13
Shreveport	656	704	0.432	10	11

THE NEW ORLEANS PELICANS

SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION

Team	1 st Half Finish	2 nd Half Finish	Rank
Atlanta	0.607	0.393	3
Birmingham	0.550	0.450	4
Chattanooga	0.296	0.704	10
Knoxville	0.000	1.000	11
Little Rock	0.339	0.661	7
Macon	0.000	1.000	11
Memphis	0.683	0.317	2
Mobile	0.439	0.561	6
Montgomery	0.333	0.667	8
Nashville	0.508	0.492	5
New Orleans	0.712	0.288	1
Selma	0.000	1.000	11
Shreveport	.0300	0.700	9

THE NEW ORLEANS PELICANS

VENUES



Athletic Park (1901 – 1907)



Heinemann Park (1915 – 1937)

Pelican Stadium (1938 – 1957)

THE NEW ORLEANS PELICANS

VENUES



City Park Stadium (1958 - 1959)



Louisiana Superdome (1977)

THE NEW ORLEANS PELICANS MANAGERS



Abner Powell

- Pelicans Player: 1887 – 1899
- Pelicans Manager: 1888 – 1901
- Won 393 – Lost 310 (.559)
- 3 Southern League Pennants
 - 1887, 1889, and 1896
- Forgotten Innovator
 - Infield Tarpaulin (1887)
 - Ladies' Day (1887)
 - Rain Check (1889)
- Co-Founder of Southern Association

THE NEW ORLEANS PELICANS

MANAGERS



Charles Frank

- Pelicans Manager: 1904 - 1913
- Won 735 – Lost 607 (.548)
- 3 Southern Association Pennants
 - 1905, 1910, and 1911
- Co-Founder of Southern Association
- Southern Association Manager: 1901 – 1921
- Won 1,295 – Lost 1,063 (.549)
- 6 Southern Association Pennants

THE NEW ORLEANS PELICANS MANAGERS



Johnny Dobbs

- Pelicans Manager: 1915 – 1922
- Won 728 – Lost 515 (.586)
- 2 Southern Association Pennants
 - 1915 and 1918
- Southern Association Manager: 1907 – 1931
- Won 1,841 – Lost 1,453 (.559)
- 5 Southern Association Pennants

THE NEW ORLEANS PELICANS

MANAGERS



Larry Gilbert

- Pelicans Player: 1917 – 1924
- Pelicans Manager: 1923 - 1938
- Won 1,307 – Lost 967 (.575)
- 5 Southern Association Pennants
 - 1923, 1926, 1927, 1933, and 1934
- Most successful manager in the history of the Southern Association
 - 25 years as manager
 - 2,128 wins – 1,627 losses (.567)
- 9 Southern Association Pennants

THE NEW ORLEANS PELICANS

MANAGERS



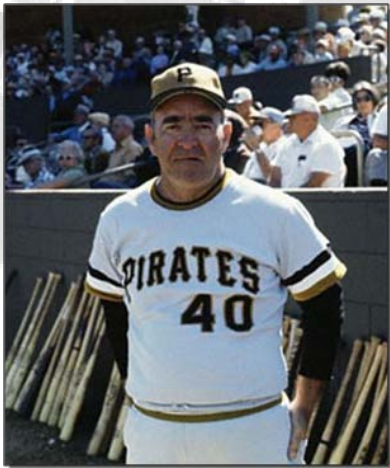
Ray Blades (1941, 1943)



Fresco Thompson (1944 - 1945)



Mel Parnell (1959)



Danny Murtaugh (1952 - 1954)



Charlie Silvera (1958)

THE NEW ORLEANS PELICANS

AFFILIATIONS

Prior to 1933, the Pelicans had informal working relationships with Connie Mack's Philadelphia A's and also with the Cleveland Indians.



Charles Somers

At one point, Charles Somers was an investor in the New Orleans Pelicans – as well as the Toledo Mud Hens. He also helped finance the American League in its first years, loaning money to Ban Johnson, Charles Comiskey, and Connie Mack. He also owned the Boston Red Sox and the Cleveland Indians.

Farm Club Affiliations



1933 - 1939



1940 - 1942



1943 - 1944



1946 - 1947



1948 - 1956



1957 - 1958

THE NEW ORLEANS PELICANS TEAMS



***New Orleans Pelicans
1910 Southern Association Champions***

● **Manager: Charlie Frank**

● **Won 87 – Lost 53 (.621)**

● **Featured Players:**

● **Joe Jackson**

● **Ted Breitenstein**

● **Otto Hess**

THE NEW ORLEANS PELICANS TEAMS

● Manager: Larry Gilbert

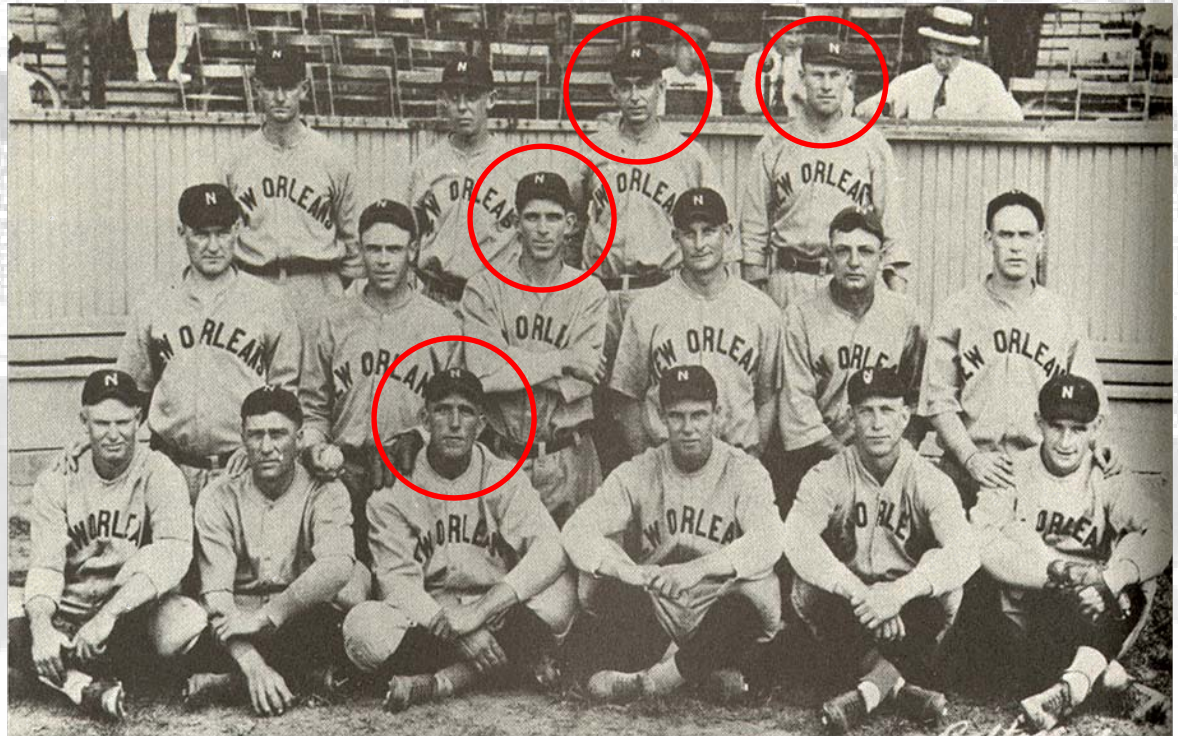
● Won 89 – Lost 57 (.610)

● Featured Players:

● Joe Martina

● Roy Walker

● Ollie Tucker



*New Orleans Pelicans
1923 Southern Association Champions*

THE NEW ORLEANS PELICANS

TEAMS

● 1905 New Orleans Pelicans

- Manager: Charles Frank
- Won 84 – Lost 45 (.651)
- Ed Hahn, Ted Breitenstein, Jimmy Dygert
- Played last month of the season on the road

● 1933 New Orleans Pelicans

- Manager: Larry Gilbert
- Won 88 – Lost 65 (.575)
- John Oulliber, Eddie Rose, and Fred Johnson
- Defeated San Antonio in Dixie Series (4 – 2)

● 1934 New Orleans Pelicans

- Manager: Larry Gilbert
- Won 94 – Lost 60 (.610)
- Lou Berger, Eddie Rose, Al Milnar, and Fred Johnson
- Defeated Galveston in Dixie Series (4 – 2)

● 1947 New Orleans Pelicans

- Manager: Fred Walters
- Won 93 – Lost 59 (.612)

● 1952 New Orleans Pelicans

- Manager: Danny Murtaugh
- Won 80 – Lost 75 (.516)

THE NEW ORLEANS PELICANS

SOUTHERN LEAGUE PLAYERS



Abner Powell

● 1887 – 1899

● Pitching

● 36 – 13 (.735), 128 SO, 1.86 ERA

● Hitting

● .284 BA, 261 SB

● Led the Southern League in ...

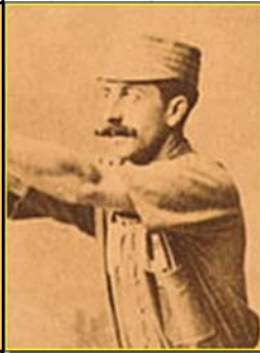
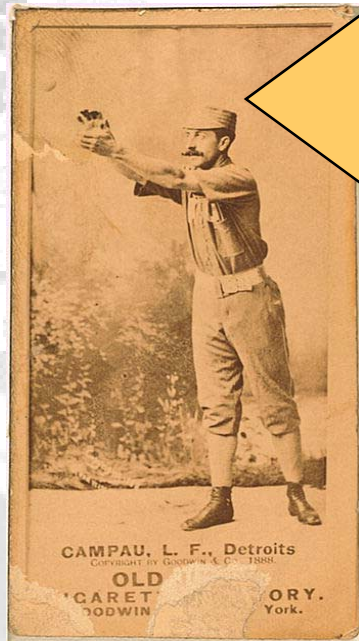
● At-Bats (517) in 1887

● Winning % (.800), ERA (1.42) in 1888

● Runs (97) in 1896

THE NEW ORLEANS PELICANS

SOUTHERN LEAGUE PLAYERS



Charles "Count" Campau

● 1887: 12 3B (led S.L.), .398

● 1892: .333

● 1893: .337

● 1894: 11 HR, 50 SB (led S.L.), .297

● 1903: .259, manager for 7 games

Other Players:

Ed Cartwright, Perry Werden, Mark Polhemus, Lucien Smith

THE NEW ORLEANS PELICANS

SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION PLAYERS



Ted Breitenstein

- 10 seasons in Southern Association (1902 – 1903)
- Four 20-game winning seasons
- Wins: 163 Losses: 90 (.644)

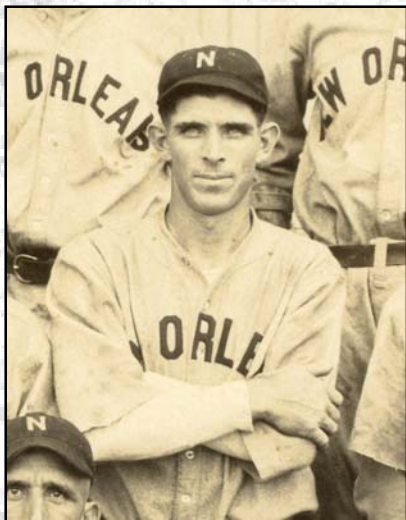
- 8 seasons in Southern Association (1916 – 1928)
- Four 20-game winning seasons
- 801 Strikeouts (led S.A. twice)
- Wins: 139 Losses: 79 (.638)



Joe Martina

THE NEW ORLEANS PELICANS

SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION PLAYERS



Roy Walker

- 10 seasons in Southern Association (1913 – 1925)
- 1,299 Strikeouts (led S.A. four times)
- Wins: 124 Losses: 74 (.626)

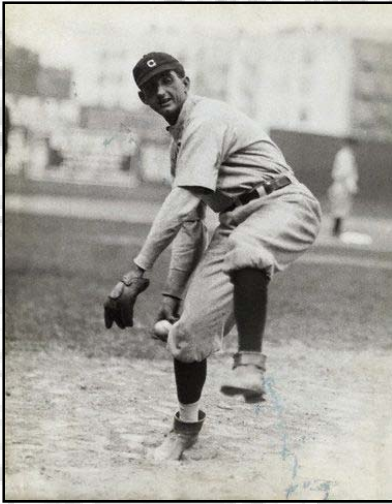
- 4 seasons in Southern Association
- 329 Strikeouts
- Wins: 51 Losses: 42 (.548)
- Elected to HOF in 1955



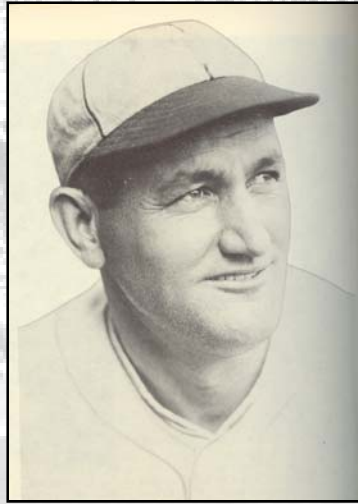
Dazzy Vance

THE NEW ORLEANS PELICANS

SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION PLAYERS



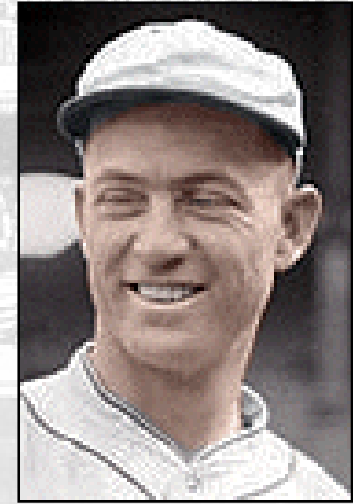
Joe Jackson



Ike Boone



Zeke Bonura



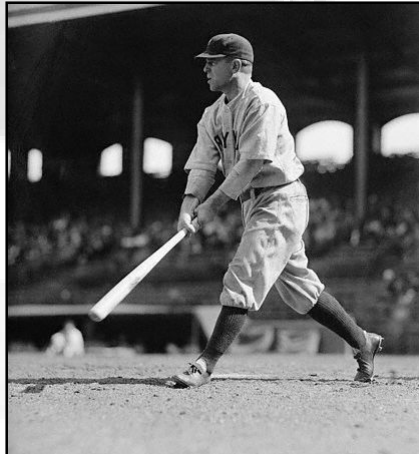
Dave Danforth



Jimmy Dygert



Hub Perdue



Joe Sewell



Bill Wambsganss

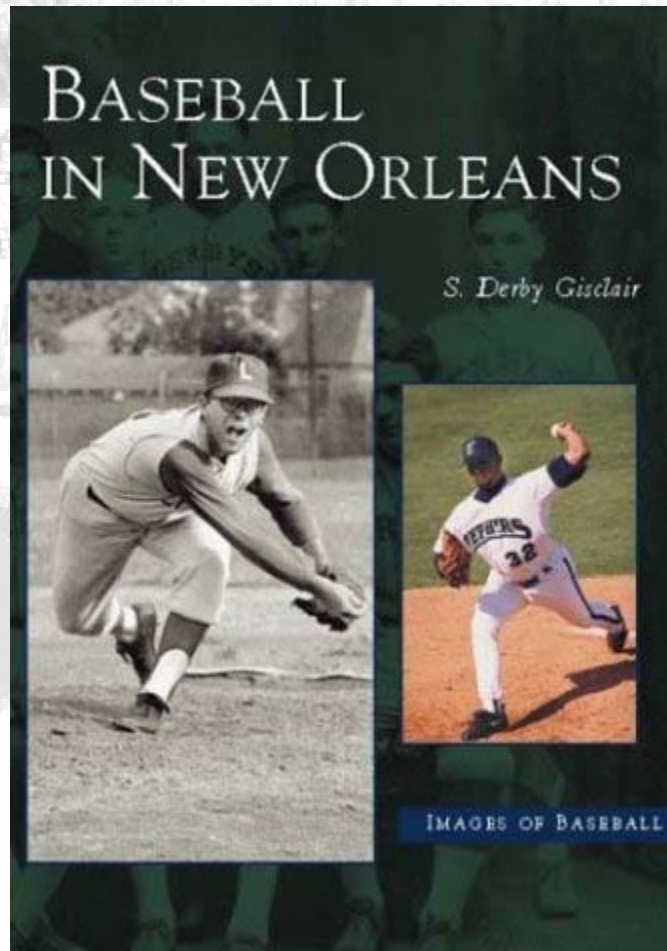
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SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION PLAYERS



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Learn more about the Pelicans by reading ...



Baseball in New Orleans

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www.neworleansbaseball.com





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Thank You