



CLARENCE (BUCK) MILLER

CATEGORY

Men's Fast Pitch

YEAR

1960

HOMETOWN

Memphis, TN

Hall of Fame Information

Clarence (Buck) Miller intended to be a baseball pitcher, but wound up instead as one of the all-time great fast pitch pitchers in a career that started in 1940 and ended in 1957. A four-time ASA All-America, Miller hurled for Standard Parts of Memphis, TN, and was a first-team selection in 1948, 1952 and 1954 and a second-team selection in 1955. In 1948, Miller had one of his finest seasons, winning four games in the regional with three of the wins no-hitters and striking out 78 batters in 34 innings. In the national tourney, he recorded five shutouts between an opening 7-0 loss and a 1-0 defeat in the finals to champion Briggs Beautyware of Detroit, MI. Miller had defeated Briggs in the semis, 2-0, to end their 42 game win streak, then allowed only three hits in the finals while his team was blanked. Miller finished the tourney with 101 strikeouts. In 1952, Miller was 3-2 in the national tourney with an ERA of 0.48 with 55 strikeouts in 44 innings. In 1954, he logged a 3-1 record with 59 strikeouts in 36 innings. In 1955, he fanned 41 batters in 24 innings in splitting four games. Miller retired from the Buckeye Tellulose Corporation in 1977. He was born July 25, 1923. He also is a member of the Memphis Hall of Fame and the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame.



HALL HISTORY SPOTLIGHT

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TENNESSEE SPORTS



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MILLER, CLARENCE "BUCK"

BIOGRAPHY

In the game of softball, Clarence "Buck" Miller was a pitcher with overpowering speed. Attesting to his ability, Miller struck out more than 6,500 batters in his career and won an estimated ninety-seven percent of the games he pitched. A Memphis native, "Buck" Miller first played softball at age fourteen. After pitching for Harwell Brothers and Buckeye Cellulose Corp., he played for Standard Parts of Memphis from 1946 to 1957. In the 1947 Tennessee State Tournament, Miller threw thirty-six strikeouts in a sixteen-inning no-hitter and then won a succeeding second game with both his pitching and hitting. In the 1948 regional tournament, Miller won four games while hurling three no-hitters in a row and seventy-eight strikeouts in thirty-four innings. After dropping his first game in the nationals, he then threw five consecutive shutouts before losing in the championship game. Finishing the national tournament with 101 strikeouts in fifty-two innings, Miller was named Outstanding Softball Player of the Year by the Spokane Sports Writers Association. "Buck" Miller was a First Team American Softball Association All-American in 1948, 1952, and 1954 and second team in 1955. In the 1952 national tournament, he won three of five games, struck out fifty-five batters in forty-four innings, and had a 0.48 ERA. In the 1954 nationals, his record was 3-1 with fifty-nine strikeouts in thirty-six innings. In 1955 he fanned forty-one batters in twenty-four innings and posted a 2-2 record. A member of the Memphis Sports Hall of Fame, Miller was inducted into the Softball Hall of Fame in 1960. Looking back over the years of virtually unsurpassed accomplishments that justified his national recognition, Miller observed that the guys who played the game "practically lived for the excitement on the ball field." Undoubtedly for opposing teams, there must have been much excitement and concern when "Buck" Miller, strikeout king, stepped to the mound.

Credit 1: Softball Hall of Fame

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Key:

Familiar Scene For Buck Miller

Softball Games Will Mark Honor Ceremonies

Two softball games provide the setting for honoring a great Memphis athlete at 9 tonight on Fairgrounds Diamond No. 4.

Buck Miller Day ceremonies are scheduled between the contests.

Clarence 'Buck' Miller, one of the world's great softball pitchers who represented Memphis



Cook

the Metropolitan Softball Tournament.

Mayor Henry Loeb, who will participate in the ceremonies, has issued a proclamation making today, "Buck Miller Day".

Marion Hale, Superintendent of Recreation for the Memphis Park Commission, will serve as

master-of-ceremonies and present credentials naming Miller to the Amateur Softball Association of America's "Hall of Fame". Others participating in the program will be Marion 'Rabbit' Cook, Eddie Isom, Ray Schwill, James 'Bubba' Blackwell, Pat Elmore of the Mid-South Softball Officials Association, Hugh Brooks and Tony Ferrari, who was Memphis' top softball hurler when Miller first came into prominence.

Union Avenue Glass tangles with Bellevue Baptist in the first game of the Metropolitan Tournament which begins at 7:30 p.m. Howard Pollan will probably start on the mound for Union Avenue with Jerry Williams hurling for Bellevue. In the second game, following "Buck Miller Day" ceremonies will be Mack Trucks, with Gilbert Mills pitching, against Lansky Bros. with Tootsie Skelton on the mound.

In the other Metropolitan Tournament game on Fairgrounds Diamond No. 6, Ace Appliance clashes with Memphis Security Motors in the first game and Plough, Inc. meets Young Sales in the wind up.

The winner of the Metropolitan Tournament represents Memphis in the Southwest Regional Playoffs of the World Softball Tournament starting in New Orleans September 1.

Billy Grogan is chairman of the committee arranging "Buck Miller Day". Other members of the committee are Hugh Brooks, Cook, Lew Chandler, Hale, Early Maxwell, Schwill, Bill Scheehle and Lloyd Sowell.

Huge Crowd Attends Buck Miller Night

More than 2000 paid tribute to Clarence (Buck) Miller last night at Fairgrounds Diamond in Buck Miller ceremonies.

Miller, who was one of the nation's top softball pitchers from 1938 until 1958 and in 1949 was named the "World's Greatest Softball Player," was honored on the occasion of being named to the Amateur Softball Association's "Hall of Fame," being one of the first to be so honored among the millions of softball players in America.

Lloyd Sowell, assistant superintendent of recreation for the Memphis Park Commission, presented the ASA's "Hall of Fame" plaque to Miller in the absence of Marion Hale, superintendent of recreation, who was in Nashville on business.

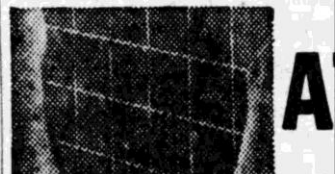
Eddie Isom acted as master-of-ceremonies for the occasion, which took place between games of the opening night of the Metropolitan Softball tournament. Marion (Rabbit) Cook presented a plaque from Standard Parts, who sponsored several teams Miller pitched for in world tournaments. Pat Elmore, president of the Mid-South Softball Officials Association, presented golf accessories on behalf of the umpires; and, James (Bubba) Blackwell, Shelby Coun-

ty Criminal Court clerk, presented a registered set of golf clubs on behalf of Miller's thousands of fans.

American League

DETROIT					CHICAGO				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Yost 3b	3	0	0	0	Landis cf	3	0	0	0
Fernandez ss	2	2	0	0	bKlugzewski	1	0	0	0
Kaline cf	3	1	2	0	Fox 2b	4	0	0	0
Bilko 1b	3	0	0	0	Sievers 1b	3	0	1	0
Colavito rf	2	0	1	0	Minoso lf	3	0	0	0
Maxwell lf	3	0	1	0	Freese 3b	1	1	1	0
Bolling 2b	4	0	0	0	Smith rf	3	0	0	0
Chiti c	4	0	0	0	Apapricio ss	3	0	0	0
Bruce p	4	0	0	0	Lollar c	3	0	0	0
					Score p	2	0	0	0
					aTorgeson	1	0	0	0
Totals	30	4	3	2	Totals	29	1	2	0

a—Struck out for Score in ninth: b—Grounded out for Landis in ninth.
Detroit 200 000 002—
Chicago 000 010 000—
E—Sievers, Smith, PO-A—Detroit 27-10
Chicago 27-8, Left—Detroit 9, Chicago 1
2B—Sievers, HR—Freese, Kaline, SB—
Fernandez, Kaline, SH—Fernandez.
IP H R ER BB SO
Bruce (W, 1-3) 9 2 1 1 0
Score (L, 3-7) 9 3 4 2 9
WP—Score, U—Paparella, Runge, Smith
Rice, T—2:23. A—29,868.



Buck Miller Whiffs 29

Buck Miller, softball right-handed pitching marvel, whiffed 29 last night in a 14-inning softball game, as Frisco Railroad beat Southern Bell, 1-0, last night at the Fairgrounds. He gave up two hits and walked three. In another tilt, South Memphis beat the Memphis Navy, 7-3.



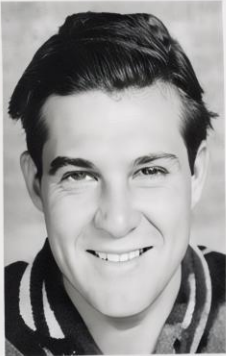
Whatever Happened To-

David Bloom

Buck Miller And The Fast Pitch
The Fireplug Fullbacks
Blue Luck

Miscellany:—

There are 96 teams involved in a mammoth softball tournament in Memphis this week and you can be sure that not one of the thousand or so players will fail to respond when the name Buck Miller is mentioned. He was the greatest Memphis has ever claimed perhaps the greatest, period. So it is appropriate that the silver to be awarded the fast-pitch winner should be the Clarence 'Buck' Miller Trophy. Fast pitch was his dish.



Buck Miller
(In his heyday)

Some members of the old Memphis Chick baseball team challenged him and in an exhibition he fanned 17 of 18... His fast ball had a rise which frustrated hitters, but he could put a curve on the ball, too, and threw everything with the same windmill motion.

Miller participated in a number of national tournaments and in 1949 his Standard Parts team was second in the World tournament at Portland, Ore. Miller lost in the finals to Detroit, 1-0. That was the year he was rated "the world's greatest softball player." Naturally he was chosen for the softball Hall of Fame... Buck is 44 now, quit softball 10 years ago, works as an electrician at Buckeye, pitched for the company team during most of his active years. And he quit softball as a champion, although he was still better than most of those around.

His feats over a period of 20 years reached toward legend and made a question mark of truth... One day in Ashland, Miss. he pitched a seven-inning game and struck out every one of the 21 men who faced him... In a single day in Chattanooga he pitched 37 innings, including a 16-inning no hitter for the championship... In his 21 seasons with Washington Walter Johnson struck out 3,497 batters. In 18 seasons of softball Buck Miller nearly doubled that figure... Once

Clarence C. 'Buck' Miller

"Mr. Softball" and "Most Valuable Player in the World" are just two of the credentials for fame held by 'Buck' Miller. But greatness is not measured in titles alone and this fabulous softball pitcher can point to approximately 90 no-hit games and "a whole raft" of perfect games, once striking out 21 men.

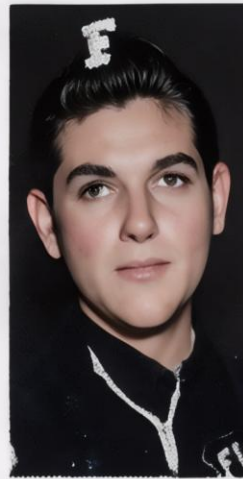
Miller earned the first named honors

in 1948 when he hurled the Standard Parts team to second place in the World Tournament in Portland, Ore. He was beaten in the championship game, 1-0, by Briggs Beauty Wear of Detroit.

'Buck' played in the World Tournament in 1941, 48, 51, 54 and 55 in the course of a 20-year career. In 1949, he was offered a pro

contract with the Fort Wayne Zollners but turned it down because "I just couldn't leave Memphis."

A back injury forced 'Buck' out of softball in 1957 but he stays active by playing golf. A graduate of Humes High School, 'Buck' is now an electrician at the Cellulose Corp. (Buckeye) on Jackson. The 40-year-old Miller is married to the former Louise Pulliam of Ashland, Miss., and they have a 14-year-old daughter Gloria. The Millers live at 4700 Lynn Road.



Miller



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