

## Tug Arundel

Tug Arundel had played parts of three seasons in the majors prior to 1888, starting in 1882, when he appeared in one game with Philadelphia in the American Association. In 1887, he split time with George Meyers in Indianapolis, but hit only .197 in 43 games. Coming into the 1888 season, Indianapolis had Meyers returning, along with Dick Buckley, who had played with Syracuse in the International League the previous two seasons. Arundel, figuring he was not going to play much in Indianapolis, asked for his release in mid-April. He was released by Indianapolis April 20, and a few days later he signed with the Whites. He arrived in St. Louis right at the start of the season and was added to the roster in early May. He played in 17 games with the Whites, mostly as the catcher for Fred Nyce. On May 31, Nyce hurt his hand trying to field "a hot one near the box", and Arundel came out from behind the plate to pitch 7 innings.

After the Whites disbanded, Arundel signed with Washington of the National League. He hit .196 in 17 games, and then bounced around the minor leagues for a few more years. His last season in professional baseball was 1891. When Arundel was signed by Washington, the Evening Star of Washington DC noted that "he has not been in great demand because he was a difficult man to handle." Sullivan, the manager of the Washington club, had managed Arundel before (with Memphis in 1885 and Milwaukee in 1886) and presumably knew how to handle him. Arundel did have a reputation as being a good catcher.

**Arundel, John Thomas / "Tug"**

B	T	HGT	WGT	G	AB	H	R	2B
R	R	5'10"	175	76	260	45	21	4
3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	BA	SA	OBP
1	0	16	16	22	9	.173	.196	.224

**B.** 6/30/1862 Romulus, NY **D.** 9/5/1912

**TEAMS:** 82PhiA 84TolA 87IndN 88WasN

**DEBUT:** 5/23/1882 at Philadelphia; caught Ed Halbritter and finished the game in RF in a 12-8 loss to St. Louis's George McGinnis

**FINALE:** 9/27/1888 at New York; caught George Haddock after replacing Jim Banning and went 0-for-3 in a 3-0 loss to New York's Ed Crane

Tug Arundel was tough, durable, good at blocking the plate, and excellent at tracking foul flies. He was also more than a little nuts, disdaining not only the use of a chest protector and a glove but even a mask and ever ready to stick his head in front of a pitch to get his base. Fellow players meanwhile gave him plenty of space. By 1887 Arundel's "pugilistic propensities and bullying disposition" were so notorious that Indianapolis NL was warned against signing him, especially after he hit a mere .205 in the 1886 Southern League. In his second month in Indianapolis he was arrested on the eve of an ugly 24-0 loss to Philadelphia when he slammed teammate Patsy Cahill over the head with a cane when Cahill remonstrated him for his abusive conduct while he was in a house of ill repute with a woman named Nellie Ogden. He then slugged Ogden as well before being arrested. For his revelry, Arundel was fined \$100 by manager Fred Thomas and another \$62 by the court magistrate and then sentenced to ten days in the workhouse, which was waived when he took a six-month pledge of abstinence before a priest. The rest of the team rolled their eyes when they heard of his vow, but team official Horace Fogel continued to laud his play even though he was about to hit .197 and most of the Hoosiers pitchers loathed working with him.

That winter, Arundel grudgingly recognized that his bat would never match his arm strength and practiced pitching but was released to the Western Association before getting a trial in the box. He came to Washington from Omaha in July 1888 and caught his final ML innings at age 26. The following March, Arundel received a rude comeuppance when he was savagely beaten in a brawl with former teammate Mike Mansell in an Auburn, NY, saloon. Hospitalized with severe head injuries, he missed part of the 1889 season but later returned to play in the minors, finishing in the 1891 Northwestern League. Arundel died in an Auburn hospital in 1912 after a stroke. (DN/DB)

.955.

John (Tug) Arundel caught first for Saginaw, Mich., 1883; then he went to Peoria in 1884, in Northwestern League, finishing the season with the Toledo, American Association, catching Tony Mulane. In 1885 he began with Milwaukee and played until they disbanded. He finished the season with Memphis. His record as a catcher is the very best.

John Mansell—Began playing with the

Chattanooga Daily Times March 22, 1886

deserves a great deal of credit for his effective work.

Tug Arundel is to be released from the Indianapolis Club and wants to join the St. Louis Whites.

Kansas City is not saying much, but with Phillips, Barkley and Hankinson on the bases and big Davis as shortstop they have an infield of hitters and fielders that is not to be despised.

The Louisvilles and Browns do not play tomorrow, but will continue their series on Saturday, playing the next to the last game. Ramsey and Kerins and King and Boyle will be the batteries.

The St. Louis Whites open the Western Association season at Sportsman's Park April 28, having Jim Hart's Milwaukee Club as their opponents. The admission to the games of this association will be 25 cents.

Brudder Bill Gleason will be missed by at

April 19, 1888

Catcher Arundel was last night given his release by the local management, and is no longer a member of the Indianapolis Ball Club. He wanted to get away after learning that there would not be much show for him behind the bat here, and he will doubtless be better satisfied elsewhere. It is said that the St. Louis Western Association Club has been after his services.—[Indianapolis Journal.

Post-Dispatch April 21, 1888

TOM LOFTUS yesterday signed Tug Arundel for the Whites. Tug caught for Indianapolis last season. He will do good work.

Globe Democrat April 29, 1888

TUG ARUNDEL, who bought his release from Indianapolis to play with the St. Louis Whites, arrived in town yesterday. Arundel is an every-day catcher.

Globe Democrat April 30, 1888

McCarthy's trouble is malarial fever.  
Tug Arundel has signed with Washington.  
The Pittsburg officials value their franchise at \$60,000.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch July 7, 1888

Manager Sullivan has signed Tug Arundel catcher, formerly of the Indianapolis Club. This undoubtedly means the release of Murray, who has failed to come up to expectations. He is too tender to catch O'Day's swift delivery. There is not the slightest question about Arundel's ball playing abilities. He has not been in great demand because he was a difficult man to handle. As Manager Sullivan managed him for two years without the slightest difficulty while others failed, he (Sullivan) has no fears of his not proving a valuable man. O'Day was anxious to have him signed, in order that he might have a back-stop in whom he had confidence, and this fact was an added reason. Deasley's accident and Murray's inability rendered another catcher an immediate necessity.

It is expected that by Monday Pitcher Shaw will  
Evening Star (Washington DC) July 7, 1888

**"Tug" Arundel on a Spree.**

AUBURN, N. Y., Feb. 5.—Policeman John Davis of this city holds the endurance championship in club swinging. "Tug" Arundel, the baseball catcher formerly of Indianapolis and Washington clubs, was drunk Sunday night. Davis attempted to arrest him, but Arundel knocked the policeman down and brutally kicked him, and when he finally got on his feet hit him over the head several times with his own club. Arundel was finally locked up.

Buffalo Evening News February 5, 1889

**Fight Between Base Ball Players.**

AUBURN, March 22.—"Tug" Arundel, of last season's Washington, and Mike Mansell, of the Hamilton Base Ball Clubs, wound up a drunk last night with a desperate bar room fight, in which Arundel got the worst of it. During the row the air was filled with beer glasses and cuspidors, and when the police stopped the fracas it was found that Arundel had received a couple of

Philadelphia Inquirer March 23, 1889

DETROIT is holding out inducements to "Tug" Arundel, the ex-Washington catcher. A difference of \$1000 is yet between them.

St. Louis Globe Democrat May 27, 1889

—The Auburn *Dispatch* says: "'Tug' Arundel was at Syracuse yesterday and said last evening that he had signed with the Detroit club of the International League as a catcher."

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle June 20, 1889

Tug Arundel, the old league catcher, has bobbed up again and will catch for Detroit.

Star Tribune May 17, 1891

agreeable way of achieving fame and money. Day by day the powers that be in baseball are drawing the lines closer on the drunkard in the profession. There are no such notorious tipplers in the major leagues now as Tom Deasley, Em Gross, Jack Leary, Lou Dickerson, Tug Arundel, Fred Lewis and men of that stripe. Baseball managers cannot and will not carry such players.

Topeka Daily Press September 19, 1891

Some eight or 10 years ago one of the gamest players connected with the game was Catcher Tug Arundel. With other peculiarities Tug possessed a roving disposition, and has never played two successive seasons with the same club, and in his day has caught such difficult men as Tom Ramsey and Hank O'Day. He was never known to use a mask or chest protector and the other day when he was met in Toledo, Tug remembered with a sigh that if by some machination, divine or otherwise, this part of baseball paraphernalia was wiped out of existence he would become the star catcher of the country, and it is easy to believe that he would

Akron Beacon Journal January 27, 1894

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**'TUG' ARUNDEL DEAD.**

**Auburn, N. Y., Sept. 6.**—Relatives here received word yesterday of the death of John Arundel in the Willard State hospital from paralysis. As "Tug" Arundel he was known 25 years ago in professional baseball. He was catcher for Indianapolis and Washington in the old National League, was with Detroit in the Western League days and with Savannah in the Southern League.

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Press and Sun Bulletin (Binghamton, NJ) September 6, 1912