

Jake Beckley

Jake Beckley was the most successful player to play for the St. Louis Whites. Prior to joining the Whites, he played two seasons in the Western League at ages 18 and 19. Following the 1887 season with Lincoln, he went to California and played winter ball with the Stockton club. He signed with St. Louis in early December of 1887.

Beckley appeared in all but the final game for the St. Louis Whites (having been sold to Pittsburgh the day prior). He led the club in hitting with a .317 average, 15 doubles, and a .485 slugging percentage. As the club headed towards oblivion, Beckley and pitcher Harry Staley were the two prime targets from other clubs. On June 19th, Von der Ahe threw in the towel on the Whites and sold both to Pittsburgh for \$4500. Beckley and Staley played for the Whites in Chicago on June 19th, and then Staley started at first base for Pittsburgh in Chicago on June 20th in his major league debut. He hit a triple as one of two hits. Beckley played 20 seasons in the majors, finishing with 2938 hits and a career line of /308/.361/.436. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1971.

Jake Beckley's Hall of Fame page

JAKE BECKLEY
is 23 years of age, and came originally from Hannibal where he played first base for the home team. He then went to Leavenworth; from which club Dave Rowe bought him for his Lincoln team for which Beckley played an acceptable, if not a brilliant, first base. Last season he did good work in the same position for the Stockton Club of the California League, and the Californians will be sorry to part with him.

Special to the STANDARD.

Lincoln, June 9.—The second game of the Lincoln-Leavenworth series was played yesterday afternoon, resulting in a victory for the home team by a score of 20 to 3. The weather was cloudy and the rain of the night before placed the grounds in a bad condition. The number of errors of the Leavenworths was the only conspicuous feature of their playing, while the home team played a well-nigh faultless game. Beckley, the Leavenworth's first baseman, was purchased by the Lincolns for \$700 and he played his first game with them yesterday. Hart, the new pitcher, arrived yesterday from Philadelphia and will play in to-day's game.

The score:

The Leavenworth Standard June 9, 1887

Captain Drischel and the members of the Leavenworth team generally lament the sale of Dooms, which they think was an irreparable loss to the club. They don't care so much for Beckley, as they say that he was only good at the bat and was so disagreeable that he was not liked by his fellow players.

The Daily Commonwealth (Topeka) June 21, 1887

Tebeau and Smith of the Denvers, Beckley and Hart of the Lincolns, and almost the entire Topeka team, have already been taken by the larger leagues, and many others of the promising young bloods developed throughout the western country during the past season are on the lists. Let the Omaha management consider this gentle admonition. It will stand them in hand ere another October rolls around.

Omaha Daily Bee, October 10, 1887

Beckley, the slugger of the Western league, has signed with Stockton, Cal., for the winter and left for that place Sunday night.

The Nebraska State Journal, Oct 28, 1887

Wikoff's Bulletin.

Below will be found Wikoff's latest official bulletin. It will be noticed that Bushong's release by St. Louis and signing by Brooklyn have been promulgated. The Wm. Gleason signed by the Athletics is not "Bill," but some other youngster from the East:

Contracts approved—With Brooklyn, David Orr, A. J. Bushong; Pittsburg, W. J. Kuehne; Indianapolis, L. L. Shreve; Syracuse, Robert Higgins, O. Beard, W. W. Higgins; Toronto, D. Oldfield; St. Louis (Association), Jake Beckley; Athletics, Wm. Gleason.

Released—By Metropolitans, David Orr; St. Louis, A. J. Bushong.

Globe Democrat Dec 3, 1887

The following contracts of baseball players have been promulgated by Secretary Young: Thomas Deaseley with Washington; W. H. Higgins, D. Oldfield and M. F. Walker, with the International Association; Jake Beckley and J. E. Bingham with the Western Association; W. H. Wheelock, W. R. Hamilton, John M. Burke, T. F. Turner and J. Hanivan with the New England League. L. Gibson has been released by the Washingtons.

The Gazette (Montreal), December 5, 1887

First-Baseman Beckley.

J. P. Beckley, the successful first-baseman of the Lincoln team and one of the coming ball-players of the country, arrived from the Pacific coast yesterday, where he has been doing good work for the Stockton nine. He says Whitehead and a number of other players are wintering in Los Angeles, and will take part in games against the New York, Philadelphia, Chicago and St. Louis nines. Beckley will leave for St. Louis to-day, via Kansas City. He has been signed by Von der Ahe, but whether he will play with the St. Louis Browns or the Western association nine he does not know as yet. He will hold his own in either.

Denver Rocky Mountain News Dec 13, 1887

Beckley the peerless slugger of the Western league, has signed with Tom Loftus' St. Louis team.

The Courier (Lincoln, Nebraska) Dec 17, 1887

Beckley, who played first base for Leavenworth and Lincoln last year, and also covered the same bag for the Stockton Club in a fine game, is reported to have signed with the St. Louis Western Association Team.

The San Francisco Examiner, December 19, 1887

"Von der Ahe and Dave Rowe are again at war. Manager Loftus some time ago began to negotiate with Beckley, the fine young Western League player—the same who made four two-baggers of Vian when the latter pitched for the Philadelphias in Denver. Loftus received a telegram from Beckley when the latter was at Stockton, Cal., accepting the terms of the St. Louis Club. He afterwards, however, wrote that he would have to retract, as he had previously signed with Lincoln. Mr. Von der Ahe proposes to hold him to his telegram of acceptance and has so telegraphed Secretary Morton."—*St. Louis Republican*.

Arkansas City Daily Traveler Dec 31, 1887



There can be no doubt now of the Allegheny management's intention to strengthen the team. Three

new men have already been signed, two infielders and one pitcher. The pictures of two of the strangers, First Baseman Beckley and Pitcher Staley, who were purchased from the St. Louis Whites for \$4,500, accompany this article,



HARRY STALEY.

and if they are anywhere near as good as people are led to believe, they should be dandies. Staley is about 22 years of age, weighs 175 pounds and stands 5 feet 10 inches high. He is a speedy pitcher and has excellent control of the ball. Beckley, the first baseman, is also a big fellow, and is rated as a slugger from away back.

The club officials claim they cost nearly \$6,000, but the real consideration was \$4,500. Even this was a big price for comparatively untried men, coming as it did from a club so averse to trying experiments as the Alleghenys. It is anticipated that Nimick's eastern trip will be productive of another player



JACOB BECKLEY.

or two, or a cash consideration for the release of Smith, which can be put into other players. The present players are much dissatisfied and it is reported don't care whether school keeps until they know whether they are going to stay on or not.