

Bris Lord

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Bris Lord is one of the thousands of fascinating footnotes in baseball history.

Born Bristol Robotham Lord on September 21, 1883 in Upland, PA (approximately 50 miles west of Philadelphia), he is often misidentified as *Briscoe* Lord, as he is on the 1912 T207 card for instance.

He broke into baseball in 1903 at the age of 20 with the semi-pro team in his hometown of Upland. The following year he was with the Lancaster Red Roses of the independent Tri-State League where he caught the eye of Connie Mack of the Philadelphia Athletics in the newly formed American League.



Lord was signed for the 1905 season and played in 61 games for the A's (38 in CF, 19 in RF, and 4 in LF) and made another 5 appearances as a pinch hitter, batting .239 in his first season. The A's would go on to win the 1905 American League pennant (92-56), but would fall to John McGraw's New York Giants in the World Series four games to one. Lord managed only two hits during the series, both coming in game two and resulting in RBIs in the 3rd and 8th innings off the Giants' 21-game winner Joe McGinnity. Those were the last runs Philadelphia would score in the series.

In 1906 he would replace Danny Hoffman as Philadelphia's regular centerfielder and played in 118 games, batting .233 as the A's finished fourth in the American League at 78 – 67, coming in 12 games behind the Chicago White Sox. Lord's strong arm helped him participate in 4 double plays that year.

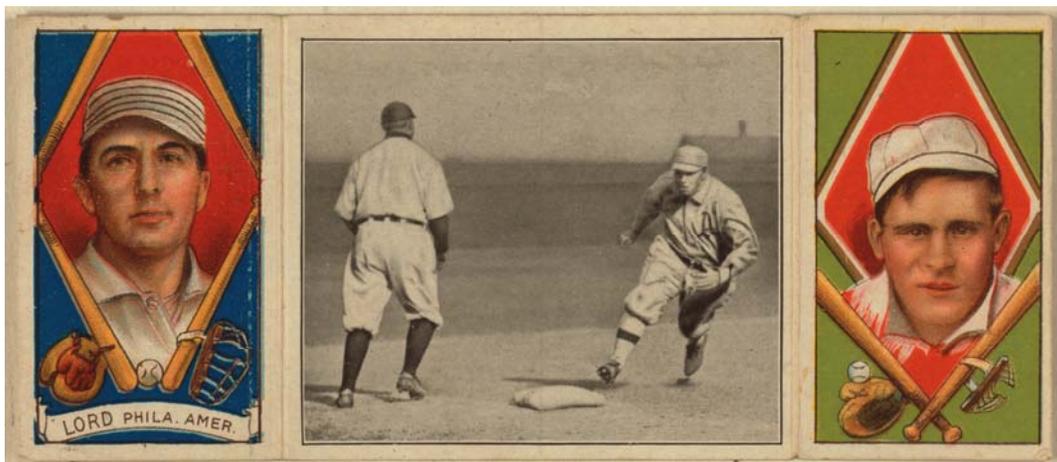
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He was replaced in centerfield by Rube Oldring for the 1907 season, playing in only 57 games as his batting average fell to .182 which resulted in his release to the New Orleans Pelicans in the Southern Association for the 1908 season.

Under manager Charlie Frank in New Orleans, Lord hit a respectable .320, helping the Pelicans finish second in the Southern Association at 76 – 57. His six home runs led the Southern Association. His contract was purchased by Napoleon Lajoie of Cleveland for the 1909 season where he moved to left-field, often relieving either Bill Hinchman (LF) or Wilbur Good (RF) during the season.



During the first 58 games of the 1910 campaign Lord's batting average had slipped to .219 when Cleveland was approached by the A's Connie Mack about a possible trade. On July 25, 1910 the most lop-sided trade in baseball history was announced: *Bris Lord had been traded to the Philadelphia A's for Shoeless Joe Jackson.* What was Connie Mack thinking!

Well, for one thing Mack was having a terrible time with the painfully shy and illiterate Jackson, who he had also sent to the New Orleans Pelicans with the hope of giving the young slugger more confidence. Jackson led the Southern Association with a .354 average as the Pelicans captured the 1910 Southern Association crown. Nevertheless, Mack figured Bris Lord was a solid player with a proven record and the trade was made.

However, Cleveland's fortunes were not immediately improved, as the Naps finished in fifth place, 32 games behind the pennant winning A's. Lord, on the other hand, found himself playing in his second World Series. Once again Lord slumped in the 1910 series, hitting only .182 as the A's bested the Chicago Cubs four games to one.



The 1911 season saw Lord back in left-field on a regular basis and he also contributed offensively, hitting .310 during the regular season as the A's captured their fourth American League pennant in eleven years. Once again, Lord slumped during the series, as did the A's other outfielders – Oldring and Murphy. Together the outfield hit a composite .312, but the A's prevailed over the New York Giants four games to two to capture their second consecutive World Series title.

After an average 1912 season, Lord's contract was purchased by the Boston Braves. The 29-year old played 73 games for manager George Stallings' Braves, batting .251, alternating between left and right field during most of the year.

Lord would try his hand at managing, first with Mobile then Memphis, both in the Southern Association, before leaving baseball to work as a probation officer in the Philadelphia area.

The man traded one-for-one for Shoeless Joe Jackson, and who was also known as *the Human Eyeball*, died in Annapolis, MD on November 13, 1964 at the age of 81.

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