

## **A Schott From The Bleachers**

### **“Pel” Hughes Figured in One of the Pelican’ Strangest Games**

by  
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The passing of James W. “Pel” Hughes in April of 2003 stirred some memories of what a fine all-around athlete he was. Hughes was a four-sport letterman in his senior year (1933) at Jesuit High School in New Orleans. Later at Loyola University, he was captain of the basketball team and was also the punter on the football team.

For about 20 years “Pel” Hughes played semi-pro baseball in the deep South. During the 1945 season, Hughes played 72 games in organized baseball as a part-time member of the New Orleans Pelicans.

Some older fans may remember a very unusual Southern Association game in which Hughes participated during his brief career with the Pels in 1945 as a 30-year old rookie.

On May 6<sup>th</sup>, the Pelicans rolled to their most convincing victory in their history when they walloped Nashville, 32 – 0 in New Orleans. The Pels, using only nine players, had 28 hits. Twenty New Orleans batters went to the plate in the 4<sup>th</sup> inning when the Pelicans scored 16 runs to make the score 21 – 0. Winning pitcher George Washburn, in addition to pitching a complete-game, 6-hit shutout, was also a hitting star for the Pelicans. Washburn had 6 hits in 7 at-bats (5 singles and a triple), chipping in with 5 RBIs.

“Pel” Hughes, who was 3-for-7 in the game, had 6 RBIs. Curiously enough, there was only one home run hit in the game, and Hughes hit it. The homer was the only one Hughes was to hit in organized baseball.

The Nashville pitching staff aided and abetted the Pelicans’ offensive efforts by issuing 14 bases on balls in the game.

James Hughes later picked up the name “Pel” despite appearing in a total of only 72 games for the Pelicans. After his playing days Hughes worked for several years as a football and basketball official at both high school and college levels. Hughes is in the Commercial Athletic Association Hall of Fame for his activities in softball, basketball and golf, and as a member of the Illinois Central Railroad teams. He was inducted into the Diamond Club of Greater New Orleans Hall of Fame in 1967.

Here's the box score of the game played on May 6, 1945:

Nashville							New Orleans						
	AB	R	H	PO	A	E		AB	R	H	PO	A	E
Orbie Brewer, cf . . . . .	5	0	0	2	0	0	Jean Merineau, cf . . . . .	5	4	1	3	0	0
Edward Gibson, ss-p . . . . .	4	0	1	0	3	1	Robert Skelton, 2b . . . . .	5	4	3	4	5	1
Alva Phillips, rf . . . . .	3	0	0	2	0	2	James Hughes, 3b . . . . .	7	3	3	0	1	0
Frank McMillan, lf . . . . .	4	0	2	1	0	0	Tom Astbury, lf . . . . .	7	5	5	2	0	0
William Sarni, c . . . . .	4	0	1	2	2	0	Juan Sanchez, rf . . . . .	6	3	2	1	0	0
Robert Carlson, 2b . . . . .	4	0	1	4	5	0	Robert Mosel, 1b . . . . .	4	4	2	7	1	0
John McManus, 3b-ss . . . . .	2	0	0	1	2	0	Marcus Carrola, c . . . . .	6	2	3	6	1	0
Garrett Gatlin, 3b . . . . .	2	0	0	1	1	0	Melvin Rue, ss . . . . .	5	3	3	3	2	0
Ralph Walker, 1b . . . . .	2	0	0	11	0	0	George Washburn, p . . . . .	7	4	6	1	0	0
* Albert Walker . . . . .	1	0	0	0	0	0							
William Bustle, p . . . . .	1	0	0	0	0	0							
Norman Fisher, p . . . . .	0	0	0	0	0	0							
Eugene Seifert, p . . . . .	0	0	0	0	0	0							
Hart McPherson, p . . . . .	1	0	1	0	0	0							
Totals . . . . .	33	0	6	24	13	3	Totals . . . . .	52	32	28	27	10	1

\* Batted for R. Walker in ninth.

Score by innings:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E	
Nashville . . . . .	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	=	0	6	3
New Orleans . . . . .	3	2	0	16	5	0	5	1	x	=	32	28	1

Summary: Rund batted in – Hughes 6, Mosel 4, Skelton 3, Astbury 4, Carrola 3, Rue 4, Washburn 5, Merineau, Sanchez. Two base hits – Skelton, McPherson, Astbury 2, Merineau, Carlson. Three base hits -- Washburn, Sanchez. Home run – Hughes. Stolen bases – Merineau, Hughes. Bases on balls off Bustle 1, Washburn 4, Fisher 3, Seifert 2, McPherson 5, Gibson 2. Struck out by Washburn 4, Bustle 1. Hits off Bustle 10 in 3 innings (none out in 4<sup>th</sup>); Fisher 1 in 0; Seifert 3 in 0 1/3; McPherson 6 in 1 1/3. Wild pitches – Fisher, Gibson 2. Balk – Gibson. Losing pitcher – Bustle. Umpires – Milazzo and Blakard.