

FOUR OF GAME'S EARLY STARS END THEIR CAREERS

DAVIS, HEILMAN, HUNTLEY, & MALONEY HANG UP THEIR CLEATS FOR THE LAST TIME

NORTHEAST U.S.A. (Oct. 1, 1874) – After the end of each baseball season, the more experienced men of the sport must decide whether or not to continue playing for one more season or to quit the endeavor and go back to year-round employment at a more standard full-time job.

For four of the early stars of the sport of baseball, the decision has been made: the uniforms have been put away, the bats have been set aside, and it's time to stop playing competitive baseball. The four players: Willie Davis, James Heilman, Edward Huntley, & Thomas Maloney, three legends in the APBL and an NBBO star who took a while to receive his due.

For the three APBL retirees stardom came almost instantly. After a fine debut campaign in 1858 (.318, 40 RBI, 34 SB, 2.6 WAR) as a 21-year-old, Davis spent the next three seasons winning an NEL Most Valuable Player Award and back-to-back Batsman of the Year awards for Susquehanna. As a 21-year-old in the NBBO's inaugural season Huntley led the NYL in Batsman WAR (4.4), something he would do in eleven of the league's first thirteen seasons, and he also took home a Golden Glove (3B) while batting .359 for Orange. Maloney was also 21 in the league's inaugural season, during which he hit .364 (.865 OPS, 43 RBI, 30 SB, 3.4 WAR) for Shamrock in one of the most difficult hitting environments in the sport, and just two seasons later he would lead the NEL with a .401 average while becoming one of the first set of NBBO All-Stars.

Heilman's path to stardom took longer. As a 27-year-old in the NBBO's inaugural season he was a very good player for Nassau County (.329, 46 RBI, 28 SB, 2.4 WAR) and over time was consistently one of the more valuable corner outfielders in the NBBO, but proper recognition eluded him until 1871, when he was named an All-Star for the first time at the age of 41. Heilman would make three All-Star Games and two Teams of the Year in his last four NBBO seasons, and he ended his career by winning NYL Batsman of the Year at the age of 44.

Willie Davis' career statistics & accomplishments:

Year	Age	TM	LVL	G	PA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS	OPS+	TB	HP	WPA	WAR
1858	21	SUS	NBBO	69	294	280	63	89	17	4	3	40	11	20	34	3	.318	.350	.439	.790	124	123	3	1.71	2.6
1859	22	SUS	NBBO	70	338	315	83	124	27	5	1	57	22	13	43	6	.394	.435	.521	.956	170	164	1	5.70	4.4
1860	23	SUS	NBBO	70	334	320	85	129	26	6	2	52	10	10	42	7	.403	.428	.541	.969	170	173	4	4.46	5.0
1861	24	SUS	NBBO	70	354	328	96	129	29	6	2	42	21	9	63	12	.393	.432	.537	.969	173	176	3	4.94	4.9
1862	25	SUS	NBBO	70	341	312	80	124	29	3	2	54	27	2	47	16	.397	.443	.529	.972	167	165	0	3.88	3.5
1863	26	SUS	NBBO	70	342	322	67	112	25	5	4	61	15	10	53	6	.348	.374	.494	.868	138	159	1	4.39	3.6
1864	27	SUS	NBBO	70	340	324	76	113	23	12	0	70	13	5	42	12	.349	.374	.494	.867	149	160	1	3.39	3.6
1865	28	AME	NBBO	70	339	314	81	112	22	12	1	62	15	7	28	4	.357	.383	.513	.896	169	161	3	5.00	3.9
1866	29	AME	NBBO	70	352	340	86	123	32	6	0	66	9	2	37	8	.362	.375	.491	.866	160	167	0	3.39	3.4
1867	30	AME	NBBO	70	341	322	76	107	21	6	1	52	12	5	30	6	.332	.358	.444	.802	132	143	3	2.58	2.2
1868	31	AME	NBBO	70	354	334	80	104	26	11	1	59	14	3	32	9	.311	.339	.464	.803	135	155	2	4.05	2.7
1869	32	AME	NBBO	70	336	320	85	127	24	11	0	54	11	5	42	10	.397	.423	.541	.963	182	173	4	3.62	4.6
1870	33	AME	NBBO	70	344	313	83	113	24	8	0	50	30	2	40	15	.361	.416	.489	.905	172	153	0	3.37	3.7
1871	34	AME	APBL	90	420	387	102	128	28	13	0	59	22	8	36	8	.331	.371	.470	.842	145	182	6	3.54	3.5
1872	35	AME	APBL	90	420	402	102	144	26	7	0	68	15	5	39	7	.358	.386	.458	.843	159	184	3	5.36	4.2
1873	36	AME	APBL	90	445	421	104	120	12	5	3	79	14	9	43	14	.285	.308	.359	.667	97	151	3	3.73	0.4
1874	37	AME	APBL	90	447	423	103	136	18	9	2	71	18	8	32	12	.322	.353	.421	.774	125	178	4	4.26	1.8
TOTAL				1269	6141	5777	1452	2034	409	129	22	996	279	123	683	155	.352	.383	.479	.862	150	2767	41	67.34	58.2
162 AVG				162	784	737	185	260	52	16	3	127	36	16	87	20	.353	.384	.479	.863	150	353	5	9.00	7.0

- 2x APBL Champion (1872-73)
- 2x NBBO NEL Batsman of the Year (1860-61)
- 2x NBBO NEL Most Valuable Player (1859, 65)
- 13x All-Star (10x NBBO, 3x APBL)
- 5x NBBO NEL Team of the Year (1859-61, 64-65)
- 6x Golden Glove (5x APBL, 1x NBBO)
- 3x NBBO NEL leader in Total Bases (1860-62)
- 3x NBBO NEL leader in Slugging % (1860-61, 65)
- 2x NBBO NEL leader in Batsman WAR (1865, 69)
- 2x NBBO NEL leader in Hits, 2B, OPS

Davis joined the NBBO in 1858 with Susquehanna. After spending the first seven years of his career with the team, he joined American in his hometown of Philadelphia ahead of the 1865 season and spent the last ten years of his career there. Davis remains the youngest player to win either Batsman of the Year or Most Valuable Player in any league, and he also remains the youngest batsman ever to lead his league in OPS. Over time, he may end up most remembered for being part of American's back-to-back APBL championship teams in 1872 & 73, and a key piece of the '72 title winners.

Edward Huntley's career statistics & accomplishments:

Year	Age	TM	LVL	G	PA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS	OPS+	TB	HP	WPA	WAR
1857	21	ORA	NBBO	70	344	320	76	115	24	6	0	39	20	13	24	3	.359	.404	.472	.876	148	151	4	2.41	4.4
1858	22	ORA	NBBO	70	330	302	65	96	13	2	1	50	18	10	23	2	.318	.361	.384	.745	115	116	5	2.55	2.9
1859	23	ORA	NBBO	70	334	312	77	113	13	4	1	41	17	8	31	6	.362	.404	.439	.843	142	137	5	3.14	5.0
1860	24	ORA	NBBO	70	329	309	73	105	22	4	0	44	18	10	19	3	.340	.377	.437	.814	135	135	1	1.23	5.0
1861	25	ORA	NBBO	70	346	323	80	109	17	3	0	41	16	4	22	5	.337	.379	.409	.787	123	132	6	3.74	4.7
1862	26	ORA	NBBO	70	342	310	75	123	23	12	0	60	24	9	29	10	.397	.436	.548	.984	174	170	2	3.00	5.3
1863	27	ORA	NBBO	70	345	317	76	114	21	7	1	68	22	2	35	3	.360	.403	.479	.882	144	152	3	3.32	4.9
1864	28	ORA	NBBO	70	328	308	62	102	31	6	1	51	18	2	21	10	.331	.366	.481	.846	141	148	0	2.75	3.8
1865	29	KNI	NBBO	70	335	296	75	92	21	3	0	61	28	4	33	8	.311	.364	.402	.766	129	119	2	4.40	4.9
1866	30	KNI	NBBO	70	327	299	77	107	29	10	1	56	25	3	37	8	.358	.407	.532	.939	175	159	1	5.26	5.3
1867	31	KNI	NBBO	70	349	318	100	113	32	12	0	71	27	1	36	7	.355	.404	.531	.935	166	169	1	3.58	6.4
1868	32	KNI	NBBO	70	339	298	85	101	27	7	0	49	37	8	44	3	.339	.407	.477	.884	156	142	0	4.11	5.7
1869	33	KNI	NBBO	70	340	304	90	107	23	9	1	73	30	3	32	8	.352	.406	.497	.903	162	151	1	3.97	5.5
1870	34	KNI	NBBO	70	344	308	62	105	26	5	0	59	32	3	37	12	.341	.398	.458	.856	155	141	0	2.19	4.8
1871	35	KNI	APBL	90	426	401	102	132	26	15	0	67	23	5	37	4	.329	.364	.469	.833	137	188	0	3.69	4.6
1872	36	KNI	APBL	90	433	399	78	110	14	6	1	57	25	11	45	8	.276	.316	.348	.665	102	139	2	2.96	4.0
1873	37	KNI	APBL	90	440	417	109	156	22	11	3	98	18	3	34	7	.374	.400	.501	.901	161	209	2	7.92	4.3
1874	38	KNI	APBL	90	432	413	81	143	16	4	2	81	12	6	23	14	.346	.366	.419	.785	124	173	3	5.21	2.3
TOTAL				1340	6463	5954	1443	2043	400	126	12	1066	410	105	562	121	.343	.385	.459	.844	143	2731	38	65.44	83.8
162 AVG				162	782	720	174	247	48	15	1	129	50	13	68	15	.343	.386	.456	.842	143	328	5	8.00	10.0

- 3x NBBO Champion (1859, 65, 67)
- 1x NBBO NYL Batsman of the Year (1866)
- 4x NBBO NYL Most Valuable Player (1859, 62, 65, 69)
- 16x All-Star (12x NBBO, 4x APBL)
- 10x Team of the Year (9x NBBO, 1x APBL)
- 9x NBBO NEL Golden Glove (1857, 59-63, 65, 67-68)
- 11x NBBO NEL leader in WAR (1857, 59-63, 65-69)
- 2x league leader in BB, SLG, & TB
- Career Zone Rating of +226.7 as 3B & SS
- WPA of 7.92 in 1873 is the all-leagues record

Huntley immediately became one of the stars of the sport as a 21-year-old with Orange, with his talent & popularity never waning during his eighteen-year career. After eight seasons with Orange he joined the other Manhattan team, Knickerbocker, and immediately won a championship with the famous 58-12 team of 1865. He spent nine more seasons with the team, all of them All-Star worthy, before calling for an end to his career.

Of course, a discussion of Huntley's career wouldn't be complete without noting his legendary exploits during the postseason:

Year	Age	TM	LVL	G	PA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS	OPS+	TB	HP	WPA	WAR
1859	23	ORA	NBBO	13	67	63	18	31	8	1	0	18	3	4	7	1	.492	.522	.651	1.173	235	41	1	1.42	1.2
1862	26	ORA	NBBO	10	48	44	11	13	1	1	0	9	2	1	6	0	.295	.354	.364	.718	102	16	2	0.24	0.3
1865	29	KNI	NBBO	10	47	42	15	15	6	1	0	10	3	2	5	0	.357	.404	.548	.952	181	23	1	0.67	0.7
1866	30	KNI	NBBO	10	44	41	13	14	1	3	0	11	3	0	8	2	.341	.386	.512	.899	163	21	0	0.82	0.5
1867	31	KNI	NBBO	10	49	45	14	20	4	5	0	13	4	0	5	1	.444	.490	.756	1.245	250	34	0	0.53	1.0
1869	33	KNI	NBBO	10	49	46	12	23	7	2	0	9	2	1	6	3	.500	.510	.739	1.249	259	34	0	1.59	1.0
1870	34	KNI	NBBO	11	52	45	13	15	3	0	0	10	5	1	5	1	.333	.404	.400	.804	141	18	1	1.10	0.6
TOTAL				74	356	326	96	131	30	13	0	80	22	9	42	8	.402	.444	.574	1.017	193	187	5	6.37	5.2
162 AVG				162	780	714	210	287	66	28	0	175	48	20	92	18	.402	.444	.573	1.016	193	409	11	14.00	11.0

Somehow, a player who was talented enough to lead his league in Batsman WAR eleven times in thirteen seasons played even better in the most high-pressure baseball on the calendar against the best teams in the sport. He and James Burke are the only players to go to the playoffs more than twice and have a career postseason Batting Average over .400, but Burke has played 27 games over three postseason appearances while Huntley had 74 games played over seven.

Simply put, Edward Huntley was one of the best batsmen and fielders in the sport for eighteen years, both during the regular season and postseason.

Thomas Maloney's career statistics & accomplishments:

Year	Age	TM	LVL	G	PA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS	OPS+	TB	HP	WPA	WAR
1857	21	SHA	NBBO	70	329	313	79	114	23	5	0	43	10	8	30	6	.364	.395	.470	.865	150	147	6	1.94	3.4
1858	22	SHA	NBBO	70	328	303	70	95	15	3	0	51	22	12	32	7	.314	.360	.383	.743	116	116	1	3.45	2.3
1859	23	SHA	NBBO	70	330	309	71	124	19	2	0	66	17	8	37	5	.401	.430	.476	.906	160	147	1	5.46	3.7
1860	24	SHA	NBBO	70	328	308	77	115	14	4	0	55	17	7	32	5	.373	.405	.445	.850	142	137	1	3.50	3.3
1861	25	SHA	NBBO	70	324	304	55	104	23	3	0	58	15	4	16	7	.342	.377	.438	.814	134	133	3	2.65	2.5
1862	26	SHA	NBBO	70	320	303	80	107	23	10	0	42	13	8	28	5	.353	.384	.495	.879	144	150	3	3.19	3.5
1863	27	SHA	NBBO	70	317	292	68	104	21	5	2	51	19	3	20	12	.356	.401	.483	.884	148	141	4	2.60	3.1
1864	28	SHA	NBBO	70	321	306	61	94	21	5	0	49	11	7	37	8	.307	.330	.408	.739	116	125	1	2.43	2.4
1865	29	REA	NBBO	70	329	294	68	114	19	7	0	63	28	3	30	5	.388	.438	.500	.938	176	147	2	3.94	3.9
1866	30	REA	NBBO	70	329	302	79	113	25	5	2	46	25	4	32	8	.374	.419	.510	.929	171	154	0	2.74	3.4
1867	31	MB	NBBO	70	327	308	60	110	23	8	3	58	18	1	18	6	.357	.391	.513	.904	150	158	0	3.47	2.9
1868	32	MB	NBBO	70	330	311	86	111	22	14	2	70	17	2	26	7	.357	.391	.537	.928	162	167	1	4.42	3.5
1869	33	MB	NBBO	70	338	308	81	110	21	7	1	73	26	2	32	7	.357	.408	.481	.889	151	148	2	3.56	3.2
1870	34	MB	NBBO	70	334	311	76	109	20	5	0	61	17	5	23	10	.350	.383	.447	.830	140	139	2	3.67	2.3
1871	35	MB	APBL	84	375	352	67	111	17	10	1	60	19	4	21	5	.315	.355	.429	.784	120	151	3	4.03	2.4
1872	36	MB	APBL	57	141	134	26	44	10	2	1	28	6	3	4	2	.328	.355	.455	.810	140	61	0	3.05	1.1
1873	37	MB	APBL	87	414	399	80	113	7	3	0	52	13	1	26	8	.283	.307	.316	.623	80	126	1	3.70	0.0
1874	38	MB	APBL	52	60	56	7	15	0	0	0	11	1	0	1	0	.268	.283	.268	.551	57	15	1	-0.22	-0.0
TOTAL				1260	5574	5213	1191	1807	323	98	12	937	294	82	445	113	.347	.383	.453	.836	139	2362	32	57.56	46.8
162 AVG				162	717	670	153	232	42	13	2	120	38	11	57	15	.346	.382	.457	.839	139	306	4	7.00	6.0

- 1x NBBO Champion (1862)
- 1x NBBO NEL Batsman of the Year (1865)
- 2x NBBO NEL Batting Champion (1859, 65)
- 12x NBBO NEL All-Star (1859-70)
- 4x NBBO NEL Team of the Year (1859-60, 62, 65)
- Career .354 postseason Batting Average

Maloney began his career with a remarkable run for Shamrock. After a dip from his .364 average in the inaugural season of the NBBO, his .401 in 1859 is heralded as one of the most remarkable feats of batsmanship ever considering Shamrock's home grounds (**AVG factor: .884**) even though he didn't win BotY (Anderson MacGyver). Stuningly, Shamrock let him leave after a down year in 1864. Maloney then joined Reading, where he rebounded with a BotY campaign in 1865. After another stellar campaign for Reading in 1866 Maloney came back to Boston, where he would join Massachusetts Bay and spend the final eight seasons of his career.

James Heilman's career statistics & accomplishments:

Year	Age	TM	LVL	G	PA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS	OPS+	TB	HP	WPA	WAR
1857	27	NC	NBBO	70	345	322	64	106	23	3	0	46	17	7	28	1	.329	.365	.419	.784	122	135	3	3.20	2.4
1858	28	NC	NBBO	70	332	288	63	91	19	2	0	51	37	8	34	3	.316	.404	.396	.799	129	114	6	2.78	2.5
1859	29	NC	NBBO	70	318	291	61	92	22	1	0	46	20	6	34	2	.316	.362	.399	.760	116	116	3	2.18	2.7
1860	30	NC	NBBO	70	331	294	64	90	23	3	0	40	33	7	26	7	.306	.381	.405	.785	125	119	3	2.67	2.6
1861	31	NC	NBBO	70	332	303	82	96	15	4	2	26	21	6	29	6	.317	.373	.413	.786	121	125	7	1.87	2.6
1862	32	NC	NBBO	70	325	300	71	90	19	2	1	30	20	12	23	4	.300	.351	.387	.737	106	116	4	1.90	1.6
1863	33	NC	NBBO	70	332	304	81	92	19	5	0	29	20	10	21	6	.303	.361	.398	.759	109	121	8	2.04	2.2
1864	34	KC	NBBO	70	353	327	85	101	11	6	2	34	18	6	41	13	.309	.351	.398	.749	114	130	5	2.42	2.0
1865	35	KC	NBBO	70	338	310	89	87	12	4	2	32	18	5	38	10	.281	.334	.365	.699	106	113	8	2.74	2.1
1866	36	SUS	NBBO	69	332	307	74	89	17	5	2	41	14	1	34	14	.290	.331	.397	.729	114	122	7	3.38	2.0
1867	37	SUS	NBBO	71	337	290	65	82	13	5	0	50	35	6	31	7	.283	.362	.362	.724	107	105	5	3.12	2.3
1868	38	KNI	NBBO	70	351	306	76	92	19	8	1	50	35	1	50	16	.301	.373	.425	.798	132	130	4	4.32	3.2
1869	39	KNI	NBBO	69	340	291	76	68	9	3	0	30	40	3	52	16	.234	.335	.285	.621	84	83	6	2.64	1.9
1870	40	PORT	NBBO	70	345	288	92	80	14	6	0	27	51	0	47	13	.278	.388	.368	.756	126	106	3	3.04	2.5
1871	41	PORT	NBBO	70	352	265	99	83	10	5	1	42	77	2	45	16	.313	.472	.400	.872	149	106	6	4.03	3.5
1872	42	UTI	NBBO	70	340	288	81	102	12	1	1	57	42	1	35	10	.354	.444	.413	.857	159	119	7	4.97	3.8
1873	43	UTI	NBBO	70	351	305	86	81	12	3	0	60	36	3	41	7	.266	.348	.325	.672	101	99	5	1.27	1.5
1874	44	UTI	NBBO	69	349	294	71	105	14	7	1	79	39	0	18	1	.357	.421	.463	.884	155	136	3	4.08	3.1
TOTAL				1258	6103	5373	1380	1627	283	73	13	770	573	84	627	152	.303	.376	.390	.766	121	2095	93	52.66	44.6
162 AVG				162	786	692	178	210	36	9	2	99	74	11	81	20	.303	.377	.390	.767	121	270	12	7.00	6.0

- 1x NBBO Champion (1873)
- 1x NYL Batsman of the Year (1874)
- 3x NBBO All-Star (1871-72, 74)
- 2x NYL Team of the Year (1872, 74)
- 1x NEL Golden Glove (1867)
- 7x league leader in Bases on Balls (1858, 60, 70-74)

What made James Heilman so popular wasn't that he put up superstar levels of production for his entire career. Instead, it was that he was a very good player who then peaked after he hit the age of forty thanks to a combination of extraordinary patience at the plate – his 77 Bases on Balls in 1871 are the all-leagues record – and fundamental baseball ability. Heilman bounced around more than the other three men, playing for four different teams after spending the first eight seasons of the NBBO playing for Nassau County. Yet, Heilman stands as a beloved figure whose 1874 season, in which he led the NYL in OPS and won Batsman of the Year at age 44, will be remembered as one of the most remarkable seasons of all time.

So, here's to the retirements of four of the early history of the sport's brightest stars. One can only hope that their legacies will be remembered for generations.