

= Jiggs Parrott =

Walter Edward " Jiggs " Parrott (July 14 , 1871 ? April 14 , 1898) was a professional baseball player whose career spanned eight seasons , four of which were spent with the Major League Baseball (MLB) Chicago Colts (1892 ? 95) . Parrott , an infielder , compiled a career batting average of .235 with 174 runs scored , 309 hits , 35 doubles , 23 triples , six home runs and 152 runs batted in (RBIs) in 317 games played . Although the majority of his career was spent in the major leagues , Parrott also played in minor league baseball . He got his start playing amateur baseball with the East Portland Willamettes . His professional baseball debut came in 1890 as a member of the Portland Webfeet . Parrott was the first MLB player from Oregon . He stood at 5 feet 11 inches (180 cm) and weighed 160 pounds (73 kg) . His brother , Tom Parrott , was also an MLB player and a teammate of his on the Chicago Colts .

= = Early life = =

Walter Edward " Jiggs " Parrott was born on the east side of Portland , Oregon on July 14 , 1871 to Thomas H. Parrott and the former Eliza Ann Rhodes . Thomas H. Parrott was born in England , but moved outside of Sherwood , Oregon in 1857 which used to be a part of Yamhill County , Oregon . Although he was training to be a shoemaker in England , when Thomas H. Parrott moved to Portland , he opened a music business . He organized the East Portland Brass Band . Jiggs Parrott had seven siblings : six brothers and one sister . Several of his siblings went on to play professional baseball and worked in music . Parrott played sandlot ball in Portland during his youth . He would also play with his classmates while attending Portland Public Schools . Eventually , Parrott and his brothers , Dode and Tom , signed with the East Portland Willamettes , an amateur baseball team .

= = Professional career = =

= = = Early minor league career (1890 ? 92) = = =

In 1890 , Parrott began his professional baseball career with the Portland Webfeet of the Pacific Northwest League . His brother , Tom Parrott , was his teammate on the Portland club . On the season , Jiggs Parrott batted .268 with 71 runs scored , 104 hits , 24 doubles , six triples , five home runs , and 26 stolen bases in 94 games played . He was second in the league in home runs , third in hits and fourth in doubles . Defensively that season , he played third base . Parrott continued to play with the Portland club in 1891 , who were now renamed the Gladiators . During the season , the Spokane Daily Chronicle stated that , " ' Jiggs ' [Parrott] was as much at home at third [base] as ever , and his throws to first [base] continue to excite the admiration of all the bleachers . " At the start of the 1892 season , Parrott joined the Minneapolis Minnies of the Class @-@ A Western League . Before the start of the season , The Sporting News said that Parrott " has the build of a successful third baseman . He is tall and spare in flesh . He has been in a gymnasium all winter . " With Minneapolis that season , he batted .317 with 31 runs scored , 53 hits , 13 doubles , and six home runs in 41 games played . He was tied for second in the league with James Graham , Joseph Katz and Billy O'Brien in home runs .

= = = Chicago Colts (1892 ? 95) = = =

During the 1892 season , Cap Anson , the manager of the Chicago Colts , offered Parrott a Major League Baseball (MLB) contract to play with his club . Parrott made his MLB debut on July 11 , 1892 . During that game , he struck out twice and made two errors . He was the first player from the State of Oregon to appear in an MLB game . Parrott hit second in the Colts ' batting order for most of the season . In his first MLB season , Parrott batted .201 with 38 runs scored , 67 hits , eight doubles , five triples , two home runs , 22 runs batted in (RBIs) , and seven stolen bases in 78

games played . He finished the season third in fielding percentage amongst National League third basemen (.891) , behind Billy Nash and George Davis . Before the start of the 1893 season , The Sporting Life wrote that Parrott " is somewhat of an erratic player . There are times when he plays good ball , but just when good steady play is necessary , he is very liable to get a case of ' rattles . ' " However , in June , The Sporting Life changed its tune and called Parrott 's work at third base a " little less than brilliant " . It was reported that Anson was impressed by Parrott as a person , calling him a " well @-@ behaved young man " despite some criticism he was getting from the media and fans . During the 1893 season , the Colts signed pitcher Tom Parrott , Jiggs Parrott 's brother . The Washington Post reported that Tom Parrott bought out his contract with his former team so he could play with his brother in Chicago . The two Parrott brothers were the only two players from Oregon to play in the MLB during the 19th century . Jiggs Parrott was moved to seventh in Chicago 's batting order during the year . In his second season , Parrott batted .244 with 54 runs scored , 111 hits , 10 doubles , nine triples , one home run , 65 RBIs , and 25 stolen bases in 110 games played . His fielding percentage at third base was the fifth highest in the National League (.904) , behind Jack Crooks , Denny Lyons , George Pinkney and Billy Nash .

At the start of the 1894 season , Parrott was converted to a second baseman , making way for Charlie Irwin at third base . Manager Cap Anson was criticized by The Sporting Life for continuing to play Parrott . The publication stated , " It is true that [Anson] holds Parrot in high esteem and insists that ' Jiggs ' is a great infielder , hence a suffering public may confidently expect to witness still further attempts of ' Jiggs ' to hold down the second base bag . " On the season , Parrott batted .248 with 82 runs scored , 130 hits , 17 doubles , nine triples , three home runs , 65 RBIs , and 30 stolen bases in 126 games played . In 1895 , Anson signed a new second baseman , Ace Stewart from Sioux City , Iowa , which demoted Parrott to the role of utility player . Anson responded to the criticism he had been taking for keeping Parrott by stating , " I realize that ' Jiggs ' is not popular with the Chicago crowds , so we will play him in games abroad only . " However , The Sporting Life responded by saying , " The local scribes and fans thought we had buried the lanky ' Jigglets , ' so far as Chicago was concerned , but he bobs up serenely . " Parrott 's final MLB game came on June 6 , 1895 . He played just three games with Chicago that season . In those games , he batted .250 with one hit in four at @-@ bats . He was released early in the season .

= = = Later career (1895 ? 97) = = =

After being released by the MLB Chicago Colts , Parrott returned to the minor leagues with the Class @-@ B Rockford Forest Citys / Reds of the Western Association . On the season with Rockford , he batted .351 with 18 runs scored , 40 hits , five doubles and two triples in 26 games played . In 1896 , he started the season with the Grand Rapids Rippers / Gold Bugs of the Class @-@ A Western League as their starting third baseman . On June 22 , he was released by the Grand Rapids club . Parrott then signed with the Columbus Buckeyes / Senators , also of the Western League . Combined between the two clubs that year , he batted .306 in 86 games played . In 1897 , he re @-@ signed with the Columbus Senators . As a member of the Columbus club , The Milwaukee Journal noted in September that Parrott had " been playing a great fielding game " . However , he appeared in just one game with the Senators , getting one hit in four at @-@ bats . He then signed with the Dubuque , Iowa club of the Class @-@ B Western Association . In 15 games , he batted .213 with six runs scored and 13 hits .

= = Death = =

After the 1897 baseball season , he returned to his home in Portland , Oregon with his health deteriorating . In December , Parrott traveled to New Mexico in hopes of re @-@ gaining his health . When in New Mexico , he reported that the weather was too cold and that he was planning to move to Arizona where the climate is more mild . On April 14 , 1898 , while in a hospital in Phoenix , Arizona , Parrott died of tuberculosis . Earlier that day , Parrott had telegraphed his father , Thomas H. Parrott , back in Portland alerting him that it was not likely he would live two more days . Upon

receiving the telegram , Thomas H. Parrott sent his son , Archie Parrott , on a train to Arizona to be with the dying Jiggs Parrott . However , after the train left the station in Portland , the Parrott family got word that Jiggs Parrott had died . Archie Parrott continued to Arizona to retrieve his brother 's remains . His remains were returned on April 23 . Parrott 's funeral was held on April 25 , at his home in East Portland . His pall @-@ bearers were several former teammates from the Portland Willamettes : Joseph Beveridge , Charles Neale , Frank Buchtel , William Kern , Fred Bailey , and John Rankin . According to The Oregonian hundreds attended his funeral and 500 people attended his burial at Lone Fir Cemetery in Portland .