PAYING DUES



- 0. PAYING DUES Story Preface
- 1. NEW DIRECTIONS
- 2. PAYING DUES
- 3. LIFE IN THE MINOR LEAGUE
- 4. THE REALTY OF PRO BASEBALL
- 5. IT'S OVFR
- 6. TO THE WHITE SOX
- 7. KEEP DREAMING!
- 8. ANOTHER CHANCE
- 9. JIM MORRIS: BIG-LEAGUE PITCHER
- 10. JIM MORRIS: TAMPA BAY DEVIL RAY
- 11. JIM MORRIS TODAY

Jimmy Morris knew he wanted to be a major league baseball star when he was a child. But sometimes knowing exactly what you want to accomplish in life is harder than not having a clue.

For twenty years Morris thought of little else. He wanted to play ball in <u>the majors</u>. He could pitch. He could even hit - a rare talent for a pitcher. But self-doubts can plague even the most optimistic, dedicated person when it seems like achieving the objective is an unrealistic goal.

It's a rare person who gets to play professional baseball. It's an even rarer person who goes straight to the big league without spending time in the "farm club," a system created by Branch Rickey in the 1920s. Even Mark McGuire started in the farm club.

Since he graduated from a high school that didn't have a baseball program, Jimmy was behind - despite his innate talent. He possessed far less experience than he needed. A major league season has 162 games. Morris had played in a 12-game summer league. What realistic chance did he have to play pro ball?

Turns out, Coach <u>Jack Allen</u> from Ranger Junior College provided a way for Morris to get both experience and exposure. He offered Jimmy a full-ride scholarship. But ... those junior college days were short-lived.

After a scout for the Milwaukee Brewers saw him pitch, Morris was that team's fourth pick in the supplemental draft. With a \$35,000 signing bonus, Jimmy thought his dream was finally coming true.

It was just the start of his professional dues-paying days.

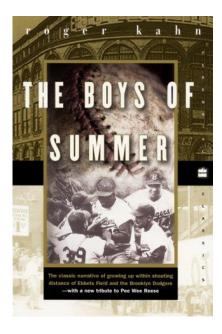
See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/PAYING-DUES-Rookie-The

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/PAYING-DUES-Rookie-The

Media Stream



The Boys of Summer

Cover image, courtesy Amazon.com

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/The-Boys-of-Summer



Branch Rickey

Image online, courtesy the Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division. Reproduction #: LC-USZ62-119888.

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Branch-Rickey



Mark McGuire

Image online, courtesy The Sports Loop website.

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Mark-McGuire