

## Joe Bartlett

### “Heck of a Good, Young Team”

Memories of Wilmer "Vinegar Bend" Mizell.  
*Interview recorded May 17, 2006*

**BARTLETT:** The ball games, we- we had a- we had a heck of a good, young team after World War II. We had a lot of veterans who were real good ball players. And then, of course, later on, "Vinegar Bend" Mizell- and I've talked to Vinegar Bend, bless his soul. He's gone on to his reward. But Vinegar Bend- the other side was afraid of him, because he was a terribly good- And he told the stories about when he was a professional baseball player, how he had been instructed to hit a batter. And it was a gruesome story, to me to think that- Well, he said, "It's going to cost you \$200 if you don't." Well he said, "I don't have \$200." But- when he got on the team they wanted him- they- they were trying to think of all kinds of handicaps to even the playing field. {laughter}

**JOHNSON:** It just wasn't possible. {laughter}

**BARTLETT:** Oh, he was a tiger.