

DID YOU KNOW?



CHARLES W. FOLLIS

Was the captain of Wooster High School's first football team, **1899**.

Played **football** for the Wooster Athletic Association [amateur league in Ohio] while also playing **baseball** for the College of Wooster in the **1901-1902** seasons.

Became the first Black professional football player, signing a contract with Frank Schiffer and the Shelby [OH] Blues in **1904**.

As often the only Black football player on the field, was **targeted** by white opponents whose shattering blows caused injuries that forced him to leave the Shelby Blues in 1906. Played professional baseball for the Cuban Giants, **1909-10**.

Died of pneumonia, age 31, **1910**. Buried in Wooster Cemetery.