



<http://www.chron.com/sports/astros/article/Bob-Bruce-Astros-pitcher-first-Astrodome-game-dies-11006398.php>

Bob Bruce, Astros' starting pitcher in first Astrodome official game, dies

By **Matt Young** Published 9:23 am, Thursday, March 16, 2017

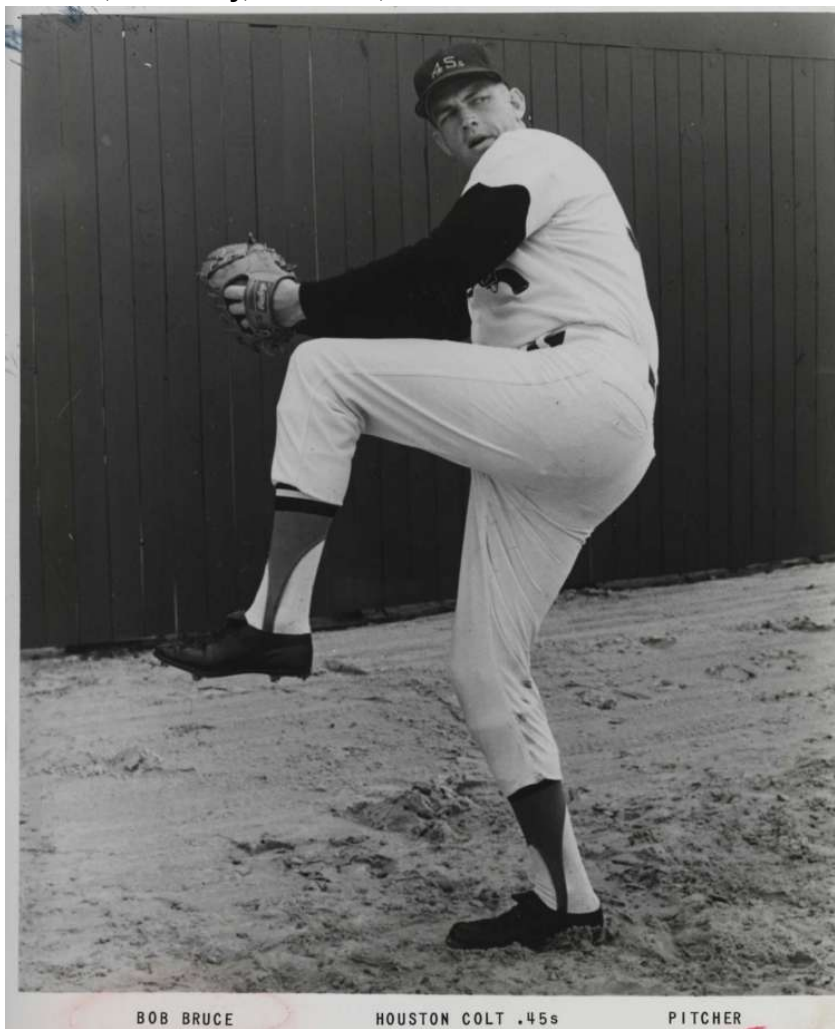


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1965: Bob Bruce

Bob Bruce, the man who was the starting pitcher in the last game at Houston's Colt Stadium and the first official official game at the Astrodome, died Wednesday at the age of 83.

Bruce was one of the original members of the Colt .45s, joining the team in its inaugural season in 1962 after three seasons with the Detroit Tigers.

He won a team-high 10 games – tying Turk Farrell – in the franchise's opening season. He was the first Houston pitcher to win 15 games when he did that in 1964. He also had a 22-inning shutout streak during that season.

Because of his strong 1964 season, Bruce was picked to be the Opening Day starter the next season when the Astrodome opened and the franchise was given the new Astros moniker.

"As a member of the original Colt .45s team, Bob Bruce will always have a special place in the history of our organization, playing a significant role in several milestone moments ..." the Astros said in a statement released Thursday. "He was a popular player both on and off the field and helped solidify the Astros as a Major League franchise in the early years. We send our heartfelt condolences to Bob's many friends, family members and fans."

In five seasons in Houston, Bruce went 42-58 with a 3.78 ERA.

After the 1966 season, the Astros traded Bruce with Dave Nicholson to the Atlanta Braves for Eddie Matthews, Arnold Umbach and a player to be named later - who turned out to be Sandy Alomar.

Bruce pitched one season for the Braves before retiring after a nine-year major league career.

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