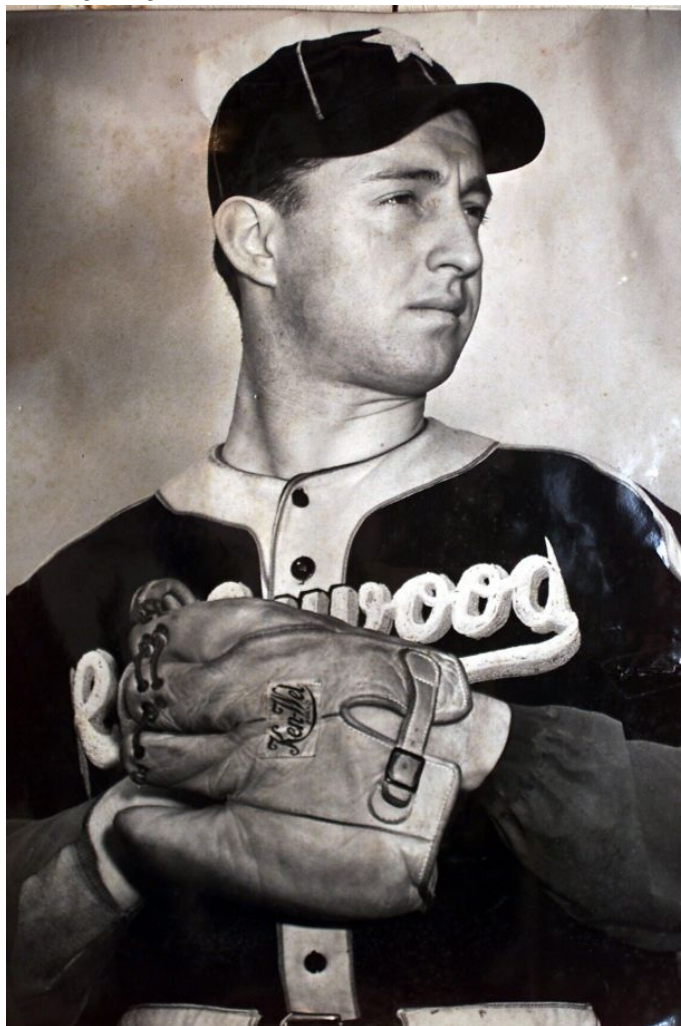


SFGATE <http://www.sfgate.com/sports/article/Rinaldo-Ardizoia-one-time-big-leaguer-6396206.php>

Rinaldo Ardizoia — one-time big-leaguer, longtime San Franciscan

By **John Shea** Updated 11:37 pm, Monday, July 20, 2015



Rinaldo Ardizoia appeared in one game for the Yankees in 1947 as a pitcher.

Longtime San Franciscan Rinaldo “Rugger” Ardizoia, who played one game for the 1947 **Yankees**, died Sunday night a week after suffering a stroke. He was 95.

Mr. Ardizoia, who pitched the final two innings of a 15-5 loss to the St. Louis Browns in his only major-league appearance, spent much of his career in the **Pacific Coast League**, including with the Mission Reds and Oakland Oaks.

He died peacefully in his sleep, said his grandson, [Chris Crawford](#) of San Jose.

“He was always there for me, always willing to talk no matter what the topic,” said Crawford, 31. “To everyone else, he was the oldest living Yankee and had great stories about the Yankees and PCL.”

Mr. Ardizoia was born in Italy, immigrated to the United States as an infant and signed with the San Francisco-based Missions out of now-defunct [Commerce High School](#).

After serving in the Army three years, Mr. Ardizoia joined the Yankees at 27. In his one game in the big leagues, he surrendered a two-run homer to fellow San Franciscan Wally Judnich.

In 2011, Mr. Ardizoia told The Chronicle that Yankees manager [Joe McCarthy](#) “wanted big guys who could intimidate the batters.” Mr. Ardizoia was 5-foot-11.

Mr. Ardizoia lived in the same [San Francisco house](#) for decades and was a member of the [Old Timers Baseball Association of San Francisco](#) and Friends of Marino Pieretti and attended many old-timers’ luncheons over the years.

Aside from Crawford, Mr. Ardizoia is survived by his son, Bill (Crawford’s uncle), and 1-year-old great-grandson, Luke Crawford. Services will be at [Saints Peter and Paul Church](#) on Aug. 7.

John Shea is a [San Francisco Chronicle](#) staff writer. E-mail: jshea@sfgate.com Twitter: [@JohnSheaHey](#)

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