

= Herb Pennock =

Herbert Jefferis Pennock (February 10 , 1894 ? January 30 , 1948) was an American professional baseball pitcher . He played in Major League Baseball from 1912 through 1933 . He is best known for his time spent with the star @-@ studded New York Yankee teams of the mid to late 1920s and early 1930s .

Connie Mack signed Pennock to his Philadelphia Athletics in 1912 . After using Pennock sparingly , and questioning his competitive drive , Mack sold Pennock to the Boston Red Sox in 1915 . After returning from military service in 1919 , Pennock became a regular contributor for the Red Sox . The Yankees acquired Pennock from the Red Sox after the 1922 season , and he served as a key member of the pitching staff as the Yankees won four World Series championships during his tenure with the team . After retiring as a player , Pennock served as a coach and farm system director for the Red Sox , and as general manager of the Philadelphia Phillies .

Pennock was regarded as one of the greatest left @-@ handed pitchers in baseball history . Mack later called his sale of Pennock to the Red Sox his greatest mistake . Pennock died of a cerebral hemorrhage in 1948 ; later that year , he was posthumously inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame .

= = Early life = =

Pennock was born on February 10 , 1894 in Kennett Square , Pennsylvania . His father , Theodore Pennock , and mother Mary Louise Pennock (née Sharp) were of Scotch @-@ Irish and Quaker descent . His ancestors came to the United States with William Penn . Herb was the youngest of four children .

Pennock attended Westtown School and Cedarcroft Boarding School , where he played for the baseball team . After struggling as a first baseman , with a weak offensive output and throwing arm that resulted in curved throws , his Cedarcroft coach converted Pennock into a pitcher .

= = Playing career = =

= = = Philadelphia Athletics = = =

While pitching at Cedarcroft , Pennock threw a no @-@ hitter to catcher Earle Mack , the son of Connie Mack , manager of the Philadelphia Athletics , in 1910 . Pennock agreed to sign with the Athletics at a later date . Mack signed Pennock in 1912 to play for his collegiate team based in Atlantic City . Pennock 's father insisted that he sign under an alias in order to protect his collegiate eligibility . Pennock threw a no @-@ hitter against a traveling Negro league baseball team , and Mack promoted him to the Athletics . Mack intended for Pennock to be one of the prospects who would replace star pitchers Eddie Plank , Chief Bender , and Jack Coombs .

Pennock made his major league debut with the Athletics during the 1912 season on May 14 , allowing one hit in four innings pitched . He was the youngest person to play in the American League (AL) that season . Former major leaguer Mike Grady , a neighbor of Pennock 's in Kennett Square , took Pennock under his wing , while Bender taught Pennock to throw a screwball .

Pennock missed most of the 1913 season with an illness . In the 1914 season , Pennock posted an 11 ? 4 win ? loss record with a 2 @.@ 79 earned run average (ERA) in 151 2 ? 3 innings pitched for the Athletics , and pitched three scoreless innings in the 1914 World Series , which the Athletics lost to the Boston Braves . Mack let Bender go after the season , naming Pennock his Opening Day starting pitcher in 1915 . On Opening Day , Pennock threw a one @-@ hit complete game shutout against the Boston Red Sox . However , as the Athletics struggled , Pennock 's nonchalant playing style drew Mack 's ire . Concluding that Pennock " lacked ambition " , Mack sold Pennock to the Red Sox for the waiver price of \$ 2 @,@ 500 (\$ 58 @,@ 479 in current dollar terms) . Mack later regarded this sale as his greatest mistake .

= = = Boston Red Sox = = =

With a deep pitching staff in place , the Red Sox loaned Pennock to the Providence Grays of the International League in August for the remainder of the 1915 season . He split the 1916 season between the Red Sox and the Buffalo Bisons , also in the International League . With Buffalo , Pennock pitched to a 1 @.@ 67 ERA , as Buffalo won the league pennant . Though the Red Sox won the 1915 and 1916 World Series , Pennock did not appear in either series .

Pitching in minor league baseball , Pennock began to regain confidence . However , Boston manager Jack Barry used Pennock sparingly in the 1917 season , and Pennock enlisted in the United States Navy in 1918 . Pennock pitched for a team fielded by the Navy , defeating a team composed of members of the United States Army in an exhibition for George VI , the King of England , in Stamford Bridge . After the game , Ed Barrow , the new manager of the Red Sox , signed Pennock to a new contract after promising to use him regularly during the 1919 season .

Pennock received only one start apiece in the months of April and May , as the 1919 Red Sox relied on George Dumont , Bill James , and Bullet Joe Bush , leading Pennock to threaten to quit in late @-@ May unless Barrow fulfilled his earlier promise to Pennock . Barrow continued to use Pennock regularly after Memorial Day , and Pennock finished the season with a 16 ? 8 win @-@ loss record and a 2 @.@ 71 ERA in 219 innings pitched . He served as the team 's ace pitcher in the 1920 season , but subsequently settled in as the Red Sox ' third starter . After the 1922 Red Sox campaign , in which he went 10 ? 17 , and had seven wild pitches , leading the AL , the New York Yankees began to negotiate with the Red Sox to acquire Pennock . The Yankees traded Norm McMillan , George Murray , and Camp Skinner to the Red Sox for Pennock that offseason .

= = = New York Yankees = = =

Pennock pitched to a 19 ? 6 win @-@ loss record in the 1923 season , his first with the Yankees , leading the American League (AL) in winning percentage (.760) and finishing sixth in wins . Pitching in the 1923 World Series , Pennock defeated the New York Giants in game two , on October 11 , to end their eight @-@ game World Series winning streak . He recorded a save in securing the Yankees ' win in game four , and pitched to the win in game six on one day of rest , clinching the Yankees ' first World Series championship . Umpire Billy Evans called it " the greatest pitching performance I have ever seen " , as Pennock " had nothing . "

In the 1924 season , he pitched to a 21 ? 9 win @-@ loss record with a 2 @.@ 83 ERA while striking out a career @-@ high 101 batters . His win total was second in the AL , behind Walter Johnson , while his ERA was third behind Johnson and Tom Zachary , and he finished fourth in strikeouts behind Johnson , Howard Ehmke , and teammate Bob Shawkey . Pennock 's 277 innings pitched and 1 @.@ 220 walks plus hits per inning pitched (WHIP) ratio led the AL in the 1925 season , while his 2 @.@ 96 ERA was second @-@ best , behind Stan Coveleski . In the 1926 season , he posted a career @-@ high 23 wins , finishing second in the AL to George Uhle . He again led the AL in WHIP (1 @.@ 265) , and issued the fewest walks per nine innings pitched (1 @.@ 453) . During the pennant race , The Sporting News called Pennock the " best left @-@ hander in the majors " . Pennock earned the wins in game one and game five of the 1926 World Series . He finished game seven of the series , which the Yankees lost to the St. Louis Cardinals .

The Yankees reached the World Series , facing the Pittsburgh Pirates . Pennock pitched a complete game against the Pirates in game three of the 1927 World Series , not allowing a hit until the eighth inning . Pennock 's performance drew praise from teammate Babe Ruth . The Yankees swept the series from Pittsburgh . After pitching a three @-@ hit shutout against the Red Sox on August 12 , 1928 , he missed the remainder of the season , including the 1928 World Series , with an arm injury . His five shutouts and 0 @.@ 085 home runs per nine innings pitched led the AL . His 2 @.@ 56 ERA trailed only Garland Braxton , while his 17 wins tied for eighth place . Though the Yankees defeated the Cardinals in the 1928 World Series , the Yankees ' starting rotation without Pennock was likened to " a three @-@ stringed ukulele . "

In the 1929 season , Pennock saw his pitching time and pitching quality diminish . Over the rest of his career , he never posted more than 189 innings pitched in a season and his ERA rose to over 4 @. @ 00 . He suffered from bouts of neuritis in 1929 and 1930 . Pennock won his 200th career game during the 1929 season , becoming the third left @-@ handed pitcher to reach that mark . He led the AL in walks per nine innings pitched in 1930 (1 @. @ 151) and 1931 (1 @. @ 426) . Pennock pitched four innings of relief against the Chicago Cubs in the 1932 World Series , recording two saves . The New York chapter of the Baseball Writers ' Association of America named him their player of the year .

In 1933 , serving exclusively as a relief pitcher , Pennock had a 7 ? 4 win @-@ loss record in 23 appearances . After the 1933 season , the Yankees honored Pennock with a testimonial dinner on January 6 , 1934 , and then gave him his release .

= = = Return to Boston = = =

Eddie Collins , a former teammate with the Athletics now serving as the general manager of the Red Sox , signed Pennock to their 1934 roster . In his last season pitching in the major leagues , Pennock served as a relief pitcher for the Red Sox .

Pennock retired with a career record of 240 wins , 162 losses , and a 3 @. @ 60 ERA . Pennock pitched in five World Series , one with Philadelphia and four with New York . He was a member of four World Series championship teams . In World Series play , Pennock amassed a 5 ? 0 career win @-@ loss record with three saves , becoming the second pitcher to win five World Series games , after Coombs . Pennock was a part of seven World Series championship teams (1913 , 1915 , 1916 , 1923 , 1927 , 1928 , and 1932) , though he played in four World Series ' as a member of the winning team . Many , including Mack , consider Pennock among the greatest left @-@ handed pitchers of all time .

= = Post @-@ playing career = =

Pennock became the general manager of the Charlotte Hornets , a Red Sox ' farm team of the Piedmont League , prior to the 1935 season . He returned to the Red Sox in 1936 , serving as the first base and pitching coach under manager Joe Cronin . He served in this role through the 1938 season . In 1939 , Pennock served as the Assistant Supervisor of Boston 's minor league system , reporting to Evans . Pennock succeeded Evans as Director of Minor League Operations late in the 1940 season .

In December 1943 , R. R. M. Carpenter , Jr . , the new owner of the Philadelphia Phillies , hired Pennock as his general manager , after receiving a recommendation from Mack . Carpenter gave Pennock a lifetime contract . Pennock filled Carpenter 's duties when the team 's owner was drafted into service during World War II in 1944 . As general manager , Pennock changed the team 's name to the " Blue Jays " , and invested \$ 1 million (\$ 13 @, @ 442 @, @ 344 in current dollar terms) into players who would become known as the " Whiz Kids " , who won the National League pennant in 1950 , including Curt Simmons and Willie Jones . He also created a " Grandstand Managers Club " , the first in baseball history , allowing fans to give feedback to the team , and advocated for the repeal of the Bonus Rule .

Pennock opposed racial integration in baseball . In 1947 , when Jackie Robinson was signed to the Brooklyn Dodgers , Pennock called Dodgers team president Branch Rickey before the Dodgers ' series in Philadelphia and told him not to " bring that nigger here with the rest of the team . " He further threatened to boycott a 1947 game between the Phillies and Dodgers if Robinson played .

In 1948 , at the age of 53 , one week and four days before his 54th birthday , Pennock collapsed in the lobby of the Waldorf @-@ Astoria Hotel as a result of a cerebral hemorrhage . He was pronounced dead upon his arrival at Midtown Hospital . Pennock had been healthy , even inviting friends to join him at Madison Square Garden to attend a boxing match .

= = Honors = =

Pennock was honored with " Herb Pennock Day " on April 30 , 1944 in Kennett Square . Weeks after his death , Pennock was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame . An attempt to erect a statue in Kennett Square in his honor was blocked due to his support of segregation in baseball .

Fred Heimach , a teammate of Pennock , once called him the smartest ball player he knew . In 1981 , Lawrence Ritter and Donald Honig included Pennock in their book The 100 Greatest Baseball Players of All Time . He was inducted in the International League Hall of Fame in 1948 . Noted baseball photographer Charles M. Conlon considered Pennock one of his favorite subjects to photograph .

= = Personal = =

Pennock was nicknamed " the Squire of Kennett Square . " He married Esther M. Freck , his high school sweetheart and the younger sister of a childhood friend , on October 28 , 1915 . Esther often attended spring training and traveled with her husband 's team during the season . Together , the couple had a daughter , Jane (born 1920) , and a son , Joe (born 1925) . Jane later married Eddie Collins , Jr . . While a member of the Yankees , Pennock rented an apartment on Grand Concourse in The Bronx , where his wife and children stayed while the Yankees played their home games .

Pennock was a proficient horse rider . He also raised hounds and silver foxes for their pelts . He also grew flowers and vegetables on his farm .