

= Travis Jackson =

Travis Calvin Jackson (November 2 , 1903 ? July 27 , 1987) was an American baseball shortstop . In Major League Baseball (MLB) , Jackson played for the New York Giants from 1922 through 1936 , winning the 1933 World Series , and representing the Giants in the MLB All @-@ Star in 1934 . After his retirement as a player , Jackson managed in minor league baseball through to the 1960 season .

Jackson was discovered by Kid Elberfeld at a minor league baseball game at the age of 14 . Elberfeld signed Jackson to his first professional contract , and recommended him to John McGraw , manager of the Giants . His exceptional range at shortstop led to the nickname " Stonewall . " Jackson was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1982 .

= = Early life = =

Jackson was born in Waldo , Arkansas on November 2 , 1903 . He was the only child of William Jackson , a wholesale grocer , and his wife , Etta , who named their son after William B. Travis , a Lieutenant Colonel who died at the Battle of the Alamo . His father bought him a baseball when he was three years old , and they often played catch together .

Jackson 's uncle took him to a game of the Little Rock Travelers , who played minor league baseball in the Class @-@ A Southern Association , when Jackson was 14 years old . At the game , Jackson 's uncle introduced him to Kid Elberfeld , telling Elberfeld that his nephew was a talented baseball player . Elberfeld observed Jackson in an impromptu work out , and asked Jackson to contact him when he was ready to begin his professional career .

Jackson attended Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia , Arkansas , where he starred on the college baseball team . He injured his knee in college , and this injury would recur during Jackson 's career .

= = Professional career = =

= = = Playing career = = =

Following Jackson 's collegiate career , Elberfeld signed Jackson to his first contract , and he played for Little Rock in 1921 and 1922 . Jackson committed 72 errors during the 1922 season , which he considered the " world record for errors " .

Despite this , Elberfeld recommended Jackson to John McGraw , manager of the New York Giants of the National League (NL) , who was entitled to a Travelers ' player as he had lent a player to the team in 1922 . McGraw signed Jackson to a contract on June 30 , effective at the end of the Southern Association 's 1922 season .

Jackson debuted in MLB with the Giants on September 22 , 1922 , appearing in three games . With Dave Bancroft and Heinie Groh , the Giants starting shortstop and third baseman respectively , sidelined with injuries in during the 1923 season , Jackson drew notice as a fill @-@ in . McGraw was confident enough in Jackson 's abilities to trade Bancroft before the 1924 season , choosing Jackson to be the Giants ' starting shortstop . Though there was doubt that Jackson could adequately replace Bancroft , Jackson played in 151 games during the 1924 season and hit .302 with 11 home runs . The Giants lost the 1924 World Series to the Washington Senators , with Jackson committing a key error in Game 7 , which contributed to Washington 's victory .

Jackson was considered one of the best active shortstops in baseball during his career ; he led NL shortstops with a .970 fielding percentage in 1931 . However , he missed considerable playing time in his career due to injuries and illnesses . Jackson reinjured his knee in 1925 , missed significant time as a result of his knee during the 1926 season , and had surgery for appendicitis during the 1927 season . He missed time with mumps in 1930 and influenza in 1932 , and he continued to battle knee problems , missing much of the 1932 and 1933 seasons . Jackson was said to " at 28 ,

already [have] one foot in the minors " . Despite this , manager Bill Terry said that Jackson would " make or break " the 1933 season . Though Jackson fell behind Blondy Ryan on the team 's depth chart during the season , he returned in the 1933 World Series , which the Giants won over the Senators .

Terry stayed with Jackson as the Giants ' starting shortstop for the 1934 season , in which he drove in 101 runs , and was named to appear in the 1934 MLB All @-@ Star Game . He played as a third baseman in his final two seasons , serving as team captain , although he struggled in the 1936 World Series , which the Giants lost to the New York Yankees . After the season , the Giants requested waivers on Jackson , in order to assign him to the minor leagues .

Jackson was regarded as one of the premier defensive shortstops in the league . He batted over .300 six times , including a career @-@ high .339 in the 1930 season , and hit 21 home runs in 1929 . He was on four NL pennant @-@ winning teams and one World Series champion (1933) . Jackson finished his MLB career with 135 home runs and a .291 batting average .

= = = Coaching and managing career = = =

Jackson signed a three @-@ year contract with the Jersey City Giants of the Class @-@ AA International League after the 1936 season . The team , which the Giants had purchased to become their farm team that offseason , was moved from Albany , New York , with Jackson to serve as player @-@ manager . Jackson 's knees prevented him from appearing in many games with Jersey City as a player , but he remained as the team 's manager until July 1938 , when he was replaced with Hank DeBerry . The Giants brought Jackson back to MLB as a coach for the remaining 18 months on his contract , succeeding Tommy Clarke , who became a scout .

Jackson missed the next five baseball seasons as he battled tuberculosis , eventually returning to manage in the Boston Braves / Milwaukee Braves system for the Jackson Senators in the Class @-@ B Southeastern League in 1946 . Jackson returned to the Giants to coach in 1947 and 1948 , receiving his unconditional release following the 1948 season .

Returning to the Braves ' minor league system , Jackson managed the Tampa Smokers of the Class @-@ B Florida International League in 1949 , but resigned in July during a losing streak . He managed the Owensboro Oilers of the Class @-@ D Kentucky ? Illinois ? Tennessee League in 1950 , and began the 1951 season managing the Bluefield Blue @-@ Greys of the Class @-@ D Appalachian League , but was reassigned to the Hartford Chiefs of the Class @-@ A Eastern League when Hartford manager Tommy Holmes was named Braves ' manager . Jackson managed the Appleton Papermakers of the Class @-@ D Wisconsin State League in 1952 and 1953 , Lawton Braves of the Class @-@ D Sooner State League from 1954 through 1957 , Midland Braves of the Class @-@ D Sophomore League in 1958 , Eau Claire Braves of the Class @-@ C Northern League in 1959 , and Davenport Braves of the Class @-@ D Midwest League in 1960 .

= = Personal life = =

Jackson and his wife , Mary , had two children , Dorothy Fincher and William Travis Jackson , six grandchildren and four great @-@ grandchildren . Jackson died of Alzheimer 's Disease in 1987 .

= = Honors = =

Jackson was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame by the Veterans Committee in 1982 . Despite his record and achievements , defensive standouts were overshadowed by power hitters in Hall of Fame balloting . He was also inducted in the Arkansas Hall of Fame .