

= Pat Collins =

Tharon Leslie " Pat " Collins (September 13 , 1896 ? May 20 , 1960) was an American baseball catcher who played ten seasons in Major League Baseball (MLB) . He played for the St. Louis Browns , New York Yankees and Boston Braves from 1919 to 1929 . He batted and threw right @-@ handed and also played five games at first base .

Collins played minor league baseball for the Joplin Miners until 1919 , when he signed with the St. Louis Browns . After spending six seasons with the organization , Collins spent a one @-@ year sojourn in the minor leagues before he was traded to the New York Yankees , where he spent the next three years and played in the famous 1927 Murderers ' Row lineup . At the conclusion of the 1928 season , he was traded to the Boston Braves , with whom he played his last game on May 23 , 1929 . A two @-@ time World Series champion , he is famous for being the only major league player to pinch hit and pinch run in the same game .

= = Personal life = =

Collins was born on September 13 , 1896 in Sweet Springs , Missouri . His mother , Sarah , ran a boarding house , and he had three siblings : Ola , Mildred , and Rathal . He attended school in Sweet Springs before moving to Kansas City , Kansas to play sandlot ball . He was married to Daisy C. Collins . During his time with the Yankees , his teammate Babe Ruth ? who usually called everyone " Kid " due to his inability to remember people 's names ? mockingly gave Collins the nickname " Horse Nose " . After his major league career ended , he went on to run a restaurant in Kansas City , then operate a tavern in Lawrence , Kansas until 1952 .

In April 1952 , the state of Kansas took Collins to court over alleged unpaid federal income tax from 1945 to 1950 . Although he was convicted in December of evading \$ 4 @,@ 037 , a federal judge ordered a new trial after evidence emerged showing his friend had deposited \$ 48 @,@ 300 in a safety deposit box for him . After being treated for a heart condition , Collins died in his sleep on May 20 , 1960 in Kansas City at the age of 63 and was interred at the city 's Memorial Park Cemetery .

= = Professional career = =

= = = Minor leagues = = =

Collins began his professional baseball career in 1917 with the Joplin Miners , a minor league baseball team that were members of the Class A Western League . In 1919 , his last season with the Miners , he had a breakthrough year , posting a batting average .316 and amassing 100 hits , 19 doubles and 10 home runs in 96 games played . This caught the attention of the St. Louis Browns , who signed him near the end of the season .

= = = St. Louis Browns (1919 ? 24) = = =

Collins made his major league debut for the Browns on September 5 , 1919 , at the age of 22 , entering the game as a pinch @-@ hitter for pitcher Bert Gallia and drawing a walk in a 12 ? 3 loss against the Detroit Tigers . Between 1920 and 1922 , he never played more than 31 games nor started more than 20 games a season as catcher , and his role was limited to occasional pinch @-@ hitting appearances .

During the 1923 season , Collins played 47 games (37 starts) and had the fifth highest caught stealing percentage in the American League (AL) at 44 @.@ 4 % . During a June 8 road game at Shibe Park , he became the first and only major league player to pinch hit and pinch run in the same game . His teammate Homer Ezzell reached base in the third inning , but needed to use the restroom . Collins was inserted into the game as a pinch runner until Ezzell returned . In the ninth

inning , Collins returned to pinch hit for pitcher Ray Kolp after the Philadelphia Athletics ' manager Connie Mack agreed to drop the no free substitution rule and allowed Collins to pinch hit . However , the official box score lists his pinch hit appearance only .

In 1924 , there were two factors which limited Collins to just 20 games (11 starts) as catcher . Firstly , he dislocated the joint in his left thumb during spring training after splitting the finger . Then on June 22 , Collins ? along with Browns manager George Sisler and coach Jimmy Austin ? were suspended indefinitely after arguing balls and strikes with the umpire . Sisler lodged a formal protest to AL president Ban Johnson , and the suspensions were rescinded four days later . After the season ended , Collins was not re @-@ signed by the Browns , so he spent the 1925 season with the St. Paul Saints , a minor league baseball team that competed in the American Association (AA) . There , he batted .316 and hit 19 home runs in 132 games .

= = = New York Yankees (1926 ? 28) = = =

The Saints traded Collins to the New York Yankees on August 30 , 1925 , in exchange for \$ 25 @,@ 000 and three players to be named later (the Yankees later sent Pee @-@ Wee Wanninger to St. Paul on December 16) . During his years with the team , he developed a reputation of being slow @-@ footed and having a throwing arm that was described as " terrible " and " weak " . However , his steadiness behind the plate and his bat kept him in lineup . He became the starting catcher " by default " after Benny Bengough ? who was Miller Huggins ' first choice for the job ? suffered from a sore arm before spring training commenced . In his first season with the organization , Collins had the fourth highest on @-@ base percentage (.433) and tenth best at bats per home run ratio (41 @.@ 4) in the AL , though he also recorded the fifth highest number of strikeouts in the league with 57 . Defensively , he played the fourth highest number of games at catcher (100) , during which he finished second in errors committed by a catcher (14) , fifth in passed balls (6) and fourth in stolen bases allowed in the AL . However , he compensated for this by turning the most double plays (14) and recording the second highest range factor (4 @.@ 75) as catcher , while finishing fourth in putouts (401) and fifth in assists (74) at his position and catching the fifth highest number of baserunners stealing (34) . On July 20 , in the final game of a series against the Browns (his former team) , Collins injured a side ligament while attempting to run down catcher Wally Schang , who was also facing his former team . This , along with Bengough 's recurring problems with his arm , prompted the Yankees to buy Hank Severeid from the Washington Senators . In the postseason , the Yankees advanced to the 1926 World Series , where they lost to the St. Louis Cardinals in seven games . Collins did not receive much playing time throughout the series , appearing in just three games and getting no hits and one strikeout in two plate appearances .

The 1927 season saw Collins split catching duties with Johnny Grabowski and Bengough . He appeared in the most games behind the plate out of the three players ? 89 games caught by Collins versus 68 by Grabowski and Bengough 's 30 . He was usually placed near the bottom of the Yankees lineup , which was given the nickname " Murderers ' Row " . Many sports analysts , baseball writers and fans consider the 1927 team the greatest baseball team of all time . Although Collins was labelled an " offensive afterthought " , he still managed to bat a respectable .275 and drove in 36 runs in 311 plate appearances . Defensively , he once again finished fourth in the AL in number of games (89) and putouts (267) at catcher , while also recording the fourth highest fielding percentage at the position (.976) . At the end of the year , the Yankees once again advanced to the World Series , where they swept the Pittsburgh Pirates in four games . Collins played in Games 1 and 4 ; in the first game , he was hitless in two at bats but garnered two walks , while in the latter game he went 3 @-@ for @-@ 3 with a double . His series average of .600 was the highest among his teammates .

After the Yankees purchased Bill Dickey from the Jackson Senators before the start of the 1928 season , the team now had four catchers on their roster . The increase competition restricted Collins to 45 starts and 70 games in total . In the 1928 World Series , the Yankees achieved a second consecutive Fall Classic sweep , this time against the Cardinals in a rematch of the series from two years before . However , he played just one game in the series , entering the 7th inning of Game 4

as a defensive substitute and hitting a double two innings later . The catching situation ? along with his dismal .221 batting average that year ? made Collins redundant , and at the end of the season , he was sold to the Boston Braves .

= = = Boston Braves and back to the minors (1929 ? 32) = = =

Collins managed to play just seven games for the Braves during the 1929 season , making his final major league appearance on May 23 . During his brief tenure with the team , he was hitless , but drove in 2 runs , drew 3 walks and had 3 sacrifice bunts in 11 plate appearances . After the Braves acquired several younger catchers , he was released and sent to the Buffalo Bisons of the Class AAA International League There , he batted .122 and had 5 hits in 16 games played before manager Bill Clymer cut him loose after the season ended . He promptly signed a one @-@ year contract with the Seattle Indians , a minor league team that played in the Class AAA Pacific Coast League . He batted .244 during his stint with the team and was traded midway through the 1930 season to the Kansas City Blues , thus returning to the AA . His numbers improved tremendously ? he recorded a .358 batting average , amassed 39 hits and slugged 7 doubles and 3 home runs in 109 at bats . The 1931 season saw Collins play just 27 games with the Blues and his average dipped to .182 . He was scheduled to be traded to the Omaha Packers in July , but the deal fell through and he remained with the team through to the 1932 season . That year , he played 105 games and batted .268 , collected 78 hits with 14 doubles , 3 triples and 4 home runs before retiring from professional baseball at the end of the season .

= = Post @-@ playing career = =

After playing his final major league season in 1929 , Collins returned to minor league baseball and played for several teams until 1932 . In 1936 , he teamed up with former minor league pitcher Van Hammer in attempting to establish a new Western League franchise in St. Joseph , Missouri , after the St. Joseph Saints moved to Waterloo , Iowa and became the Waterloo Hawks . However , the plan fell through after a court injunction was issued barring him from using the stadium in St. Joseph for professional baseball . Because of this , Collins forfeited the St. Joseph franchise and subsequently bought the Western League 's Rock Island Islanders instead .