

= Bobo Holloman =

Alva Lee " Bobo " Holloman (March 7 , 1923 ? May 1 , 1987) was an American right @-@ handed pitcher in Major League Baseball who played for one season in the American League with the St. Louis Browns in 1953 . In 22 career games , Holloman pitched 65 @.@ 1 innings and posted a win @-@ loss record of 3 ? 7 and a 5 @.@ 23 earned run average (ERA) .

Born in Thomaston , Georgia , Holloman served in World War II before starting his professional baseball career . From 1946 to 1952 , he gradually rose up the minor leagues , and got a spring training invitation from the Chicago Cubs in 1950 . After the 1952 season , he was acquired by the St. Louis Browns , who placed him on the major league roster . He made his debut April 18 , and in his first start on May 6 , he threw a no @-@ hitter , one of three players to do so in his first start . Holloman pitched in 22 games that season for the Browns before being sold to a minor league team . He spent the rest of 1953 and 1954 in the minors before retiring from the game . After retiring , he ran an advertising agency and worked as a scout before his death in 1987 .

= = Early life = =

Holloman was born in Thomaston , Georgia , and moved to Athens , Georgia with his family when he was 17 . In Athens , he met Nan Stevens , the two were married on January 24 , 1942 , and they later had one son . He served as a Seabee for the United States Navy during World War II . After returning from the war , Holloman became an apprentice in a machine shop for the Georgia Railroad in Macon , Georgia . While working there , he played amateur baseball , and did well enough for his colleagues to convince him to try out for the Macon Peaches , the local baseball team . He did so , and he was assigned to the Class D Moultrie Packers , where he began his professional career .

= = Minor league career = =

Holloman began his professional baseball career by recording a 20 ? 5 record and a 2 @.@ 33 ERA for the Packers as a rookie in the Class D Georgia ? Florida League in 1946 . He played winter baseball in Cuba , then had a record of 18 ? 17 for the Macon Peaches of the Sally League the next year . He started the 1948 season with Macon , then after winning eight games he was promoted to the Nashville Volunteers of the Class AA Southern Association , where he posted seven wins and two losses . While there , Volunteers owner Larry Gilbert gave him the nickname Bobo because the pitcher reminded him of Bobo Newsom ; the nickname stuck with him the rest of his career .

In 1949 , Holloman again spent the season with the Volunteers , posting a record of 17 ? 10 with a 4 @.@ 46 ERA . After the season ended , the Chicago Cubs signed him and gave him an invitation to spring training . Holloman 's outgoing nature clashed with manager Frankie Frisch , who did not appreciate the pitcher 's attitude . It was , partially , for this reason that Holloman did not make the major league roster . Holloman split the 1950 season between Nashville and the Shreveport Sports of the Texas League . Combined , he had 13 wins and 13 losses on the year . In 1951 , he spent seven games with Nashville , but spent most of the season with the Augusta Tigers of the Sally League , where he posted an 11 ? 9 record and a 3 @.@ 87 ERA .

The following season , Augusta sold his contract to the Syracuse Chiefs of the AAA International League , and he posted a 16 ? 7 record and a 2 @.@ 51 ERA with the team . After the season ended , he played winter baseball in Puerto Rico for the Cangrejeros de Santurce . With Santurce , he had a 15 ? 5 record during the regular season . After the season ended , he participated in the 1953 Caribbean Series , and won two of the six games Santurce played , allowing them to win the title .

= = Major Leagues and later life = =

In October 1952 , Holloman was signed by the St. Louis Browns after they traded Duke Markell and \$ 35 @,@ 000 to acquire him . Heading into the season , manager Marty Marion was high on him ,

considering him to be a pitcher who could have won 20 games with Syracuse the year prior had he not missed time due to an appendectomy .

Holloman made his major league debut on April 14 in a relief appearance . He made in three additional relief appearances afterward , allowing five runs in 5 ? innings through his first four games . As a result , Holloman asked Marion for a start , claiming he was better in that role , and if he was just going to be used as a relief pitcher , he should be sold to another team . Marion gave in , and put him in for a home game on May 6 against the Philadelphia Athletics . On a rainy night before a crowd of 2 @,@ 473 at Sportsman 's Park , Holloman threw a no @-@ hitter in his first major league start . He had two hits as a batter , and recorded three strikeouts en route to the 6 ? 0 victory .

Holloman is one of three pitchers to throw a no @-@ hitter in their first major league start . The others were Ted Breitenstein , who accomplished the feat in 1891 , and Bumpus Jones , who did so in 1892 . However , Breitenstein and Jones threw their no @-@ hitters before the 1893 rule change that moved the pitcher 's delivery point back to 60 feet , 6 inches from home plate .

The no @-@ hitter cemented Holloman 's spot in the starting rotation for the next month . In his next start against the Athletics , he lasted barely an inning , allowing two runs and three walks before leaving the game due to a blistered finger . His next win came on May 28 against the Cleveland Indians , but his third win did not come until a month later against the Boston Red Sox , where he allowed two hits in eight innings of work . Outside of the three wins , however , Holloman was ineffective ; in 22 games , 10 of them starts , Holloman had a 3 ? 7 record with a 5 @.@ 23 ERA , 25 strikeouts , and 50 walks . As a result , after his final appearance on July 19 , the Browns put him on waivers , and he was sold to the Toronto Maple Leafs .

Holloman finished the 1953 season with Toronto , and had a 4 ? 3 record in 13 games . In 1954 , Holloman 's last professional season , he spent time on five different minor league squads , including former stops Toronto and Augusta , before retiring . The retirement was partially due to a sore arm , the result of pitching too frequently while playing winter ball . After retiring , Holloman became a truck driver and ran an advertising agency , and served as a scout for the Baltimore Orioles . He also turned to drinking for many years , but was able to overcome the addiction . He died on May 1 , 1987 at the age of 64 in Athens , Georgia of a heart attack .