

= Allie Clark =

Alfred Aloysius " Allie " Clark ( June 16 , 1923 ? April 2 , 2012 ) was an American right fielder in Major League Baseball who played for seven seasons in the American League with the New York Yankees , Cleveland Indians , Philadelphia Athletics and Chicago White Sox . In 358 career games , Clark recorded a batting average of .262 and accumulated 32 home runs and 149 runs batted in ( RBIs ) .

Clark was born in South Amboy , New Jersey , where he attended St. Mary 's High School , and joined the New York Yankees organization after graduating . He spent the next six seasons playing minor league baseball and serving in the U.S. Army during World War II . He made his major league debut in 1947 , and after one year with the Yankees , he spent four seasons with the Cleveland Indians . He was a member of the World Champion Yankees and Indians after the two teams won the 1947 World Series and 1948 World Series , respectively . He then played with the Philadelphia Athletics and Chicago White Sox through 1953 , and played minor league baseball until 1958 . After retiring , he returned to South Amboy and resided there until his death in 2012 .

= = Early life and minor leagues = =

Clark was born in South Amboy , New Jersey on June 16 , 1923 . His parents were Alfred and Helen Clark , and he had four brothers and two sisters . He attended St. Mary 's High School in South Amboy , which is now Cardinal McCarrick High School , where he served as the baseball team 's shortstop . Clark led the 1939 baseball team to the county and state championships , and was named to the All @-@ State baseball team that year ; he has since been inducted into his high school 's athletic Hall of Fame .

After graduating from high school , Clark was signed by the New York Yankees as an amateur free agent . He was scouted while in high school , and was invited to a tryout in Newark , New Jersey , where he was signed to a minor league deal . Clark spent his first year in their farm system with the Easton Yankees of the Eastern Shore League and the Amsterdam Rugmakers of the Canadian ? American League . He hit .325 for the Yankees in 70 games , and .368 in 20 games for the Rugmakers . In 1942 , he was promoted to the Norfolk Tars of the Piedmont League , where he spent the season as the team 's second baseman and played with future major league teammate Vic Raschi . In 129 games with the team , he hit .328 with 34 doubles .

The following year , Clark was promoted to the Newark Bears of the International League , having played one game for them the previous year . After playing in 24 games for the Bears , he was called to serve the United States Army in World War II . Clark served with the combat medical corps in England and France , and saw some active combat in Germany . After being discharged at the conclusion of the war , Clark returned to baseball in 1946 . He was unable to stay in baseball shape due to combat duties , and as a result of having slowed down , the Yankees organization converted him to an outfielder and third baseman . In 97 games for Newark , Clark hit .344 with 14 home runs and 70 runs batted in .

= = Major leagues = =

Clark played well enough in 1946 to earn a tryout for the 1947 New York Yankees , and competed with Frank Colman for the final outfield position . He lost the battle and began the season in Newark . Over the course of the 1947 season in Newark , he had a batting average of .334 with 23 home runs and 86 RBIs . His efforts got him noticed by the Yankees , and he made his major league debut on August 5 . Within two weeks of being called up , Clark had a streak of six straight at @-@ bats with a hit . He finished the regular season with a .373 batting average in 24 games . He was named to the 1947 World Series roster , and played in three games . In game seven , he served as a pinch hitter for Yogi Berra , hitting a single , which helped the Yankees win the World Series ; he considered this one of his greatest moments in professional baseball .

He wore the # 3 jersey for the New York Yankees in 1947 , and was one of the last players to wear

it before it was retired in honor of Babe Ruth the following year . On December 11 , 1947 , he was traded to the Cleveland Indians for pitcher Red Embree . To begin the 1948 Cleveland Indians season , Clark was in a crowded outfield position battle , with Larry Doby , Thurman Tucker , and Wally Judnich fighting for playing time , but Clark was noted as the most interesting to watch by The Sporting News due to owner Bill Veeck 's high regard for him . The only weakness noted in his game was a sore arm from the previous season , to which Clark responded that reading the newspaper was the first time he noticed anything about a bad arm .

He was primarily a starter in the outfield for the first half of the season , and during the second half he split time in right field with Hank Edwards . Clark finished the year having played 81 games , most in the outfield and a few at third base , and hit .310 with nine home runs and 38 RBIs . The Indians tied with the Boston Red Sox that season and had to play a tie @-@ breaker to earn the right to play in the 1948 World Series . In that game , Indians manager Lou Boudreau placed Clark at first base , the first time he had played that position at any level . Clark then played in one game in the World Series , going hitless in four plate appearances as the Indians won the series .

Clark started the 1949 Cleveland Indians season primarily as a pinch hitter , having lost his platoon duties alongside Edwards to Bob Kennedy . He was used mainly as a pinch hitter throughout the year , and by August he was sent down to the San Diego Padres of the Pacific Coast League to make room for Luke Easter , finishing the year with a .176 batting average in 35 games . In 42 games with San Diego over the last two months of the season , Clark hit .295 with 11 home runs . During spring training in 1950 , Clark hit .473 , leading to a battle with Kennedy and Easter for the right field spot . He spent the season in Cleveland as the backup in right field for Kennedy , and had a .215 batting average with six home runs in 59 games .

In 1951 , Clark served as a substitute outfielder for three games with the Indians after Easter was out due to injury . After those three games , he was traded to the Philadelphia Athletics along with Lou Klein for Sam Chapman . His outings that season included a four @-@ hit game against the St. Louis Browns on June 24 . In 59 total games , 56 with the Athletics , Clark had a .251 batting average in 171 at @-@ bats . He spent the 1952 Philadelphia Athletics season as the fourth outfielder after being considered for a starting outfield position alongside Elmer Valo and Gus Zernial . In a game on June 12 , Clark ran into the outfield fence chasing a fly ball , and missed some playing time as a result .

Late in the 1952 season , Clark was ejected and fined \$ 50 for arguing strikes in a game where Athletics Eddie Joost and manager Jimmy Dykes were also ejected ; Clark 's was the only fine not to be rescinded , a move that occurred on Dykes 's request . In 71 games , he hit .274 with seven home runs . Clark started the 1953 season with the Athletics , and started off the year with a grand slam home run in spring training against the Philadelphia Phillies in the tenth inning . In 20 games with the Athletics , Clark had a .203 batting average and 13 RBIs , which led the team when that he was sold to the Chicago White Sox in mid @-@ May . A month later , after playing in nine games for the White Sox , he was purchased by the Rochester Red Wings for \$ 20 @,@ 000 , returning to the minors and ending his major league career .

= = Later life = =

Clark spent the next five seasons with the Rochester Red Wings of the International League , part of the St. Louis Cardinals organization . In 80 games in 1953 , he had a .328 batting average . He came close to making the 1954 International League All @-@ Star team , but missed the cut by four votes to Sam Jethroe . He finished the year with a .323 average and 18 home runs . During the offseason when he was with Rochester , Clark also played winter baseball for various teams in the Puerto Rican League .

To start the 1955 season , Clark held out for a new deal because he felt that he deserved a promotion to the Cardinals ' major league roster ; he ended the holdout in March . That season , he hit .308 with 23 home runs , 84 RBIs , and was named as a finalist for the International League Most Valuable Player Award . For the next two seasons , Clark hit .289 and .285 , and he finished his time in Rochester with four straight seasons of 20 or more doubles . He ranks in the top ten in Red Wings

history for RBIs ( 7th ) , home runs ( 9th ) , games played ( 9th ) , and hits ( 10th ) , and is a member of the Red Wings Hall of Fame , inducted in 1998 . He began the 1958 season with the Denver Bears , but left the team due to the distance between himself and his family . In his final year of professional baseball , he played a combined 70 games with the New Orleans Pelicans , San Antonio Missions , and Indianapolis Indians .

After retiring from professional baseball , Clark worked for 30 years as an employee of Iron Workers Local 373 , and served as a member of the South Amboy city council . He lived with his wife , Frances , and the two had six children together . He died on April 2 , 2012 , in South Amboy .