

= Cy Young =

Denton True " Cy " Young ( March 29 , 1867 ? November 4 , 1955 ) was an American Major League Baseball pitcher . During his 22 @-@ season baseball career ( 1890 ? 1911 ) , he pitched for five different teams . Young established numerous pitching records , some of which have stood for a century . Young compiled 511 wins , which is most in Major League history and 94 ahead of Walter Johnson who is second on the list . Young was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1937 .

One year after Young 's death , the Cy Young Award was created to honor the previous season 's best pitcher .

In addition to wins , Young still holds the major league records for most career innings pitched ( 7 @,@ 356 ) , most career games started ( 815 ) , and most complete games ( 749 ) . He also retired with 316 losses , the most in MLB history . Young 's 76 career shutouts are fourth all @-@ time . He also won at least 30 games in a season five times , with ten other seasons of 20 or more wins . In addition , Young pitched three no @-@ hitters , including the third perfect game in baseball history , first in baseball 's " modern era " . In 1999 , 88 years after his final major league appearance and 44 years after his death , editors at The Sporting News ranked Young 14th on their list of " Baseball 's 100 Greatest Players " . That same year , baseball fans named him to the Major League Baseball All @-@ Century Team .

Young 's career started in 1890 with the Cleveland Spiders . After eight years with the Spiders , Young was moved to St. Louis in 1899 . After two years there , Young jumped to the newly created American League , joining the Boston franchise . He was traded back to Cleveland in 1909 , before spending the final two months of his career with the Boston Rustlers . After his retirement , Young went back to his farm in Ohio , where he stayed until his death at age 88 in 1955 .

= = Early life = =

Cy Young was the oldest child born to McKinzie Young , Jr. and German American Nancy Mottmiller . The couple had four more children : Jesse Carlton , Alonzo , Ella , and Anthony . When the couple married , McKinzie 's father gave him the 54 acres ( 220 @,@ 000 m2 ) of farm land he owned . Young was born in Gilmore , a tiny farming community located in Washington Township , Tuscarawas County , Ohio . He was christened Denton True Young . Some sources later , and even today , list his middle name erroneously as " Tecumseh " , apparently as a result of being nicknamed " The Chief " by teammates .

He was raised on one of the local farms and went by the name Dent Young in his early years . Young was also known as " Farmer Young " and " Farmboy Young " . Young stopped his formal education after he completed the sixth grade so he could help out on the family 's farm . In 1885 , Young moved with his father to Nebraska , and in the summer of 1887 , they returned to Gilmore .

Young played for many amateur baseball leagues during his youth , including a " semi @-@ pro " Carrollton team in 1888 . Young pitched and played second base . The first box score known containing the name Young came from that season . In that game , Young played first base and had three hits in three at @-@ bats . After the season , Young received an offer to play for the minor league Canton team , which started Young 's professional career .

= = Professional career = =

= = Before Major League Baseball = =

Young began his professional career in 1889 with the Canton , Ohio team of the Tri @-@ State League , a professional minor league . During his tryout , Young impressed the scouts , recalling years later , " I almost tore the boards off the grandstand with my fast ball . " Cy Young 's nickname came from the fences that he had destroyed using his fastball . The fences looked like a cyclone

had hit them . Reporters later shortened the name to " Cy " , which became the nickname Young used for the rest of his life . During Young 's one year with the Canton team , he won 15 games and lost 15 .

Franchises in the National League , the major professional baseball league at the time , wanted the best players available to them . Therefore , in 1890 , Young signed with the Cleveland Spiders , a team which had moved from the American Association to the National League the previous year .

= = = Cleveland Spiders = = =

On August 6 , 1890 , Young 's major league debut , he pitched a three @-@ hit shutout . While Young was on the Spiders , Chief Zimmer was his catcher more often than any other player . Bill James , a baseball statistician , estimated that Zimmer caught Young in more games than any other battery in baseball history .

Early on , Young established himself as one of the harder @-@ throwing pitchers in the game . Bill James wrote that Zimmer often put a piece of beefsteak inside his baseball glove to protect his catching hand from Young 's fastball . In the absence of radar guns , however , it is impossible to say just how hard Young actually threw . Young continued to perform at a high level during the 1890 season . On the last day of the season , Young won both games of a doubleheader . In the first weeks of Young 's career , Cap Anson , the player @-@ manager of the Chicago Colts spotted Young 's ability . Anson told Spiders ' manager Gus Schmelz , " He 's too green to do your club much good , but I believe if I taught him what I know , I might make a pitcher out of him in a couple of years . He 's not worth it now , but I 'm willing to give you \$ 1 @,@ 000 ( \$ 26 @,@ 337 today ) for him . " Schmelz replied , " Cap , you can keep your thousand and we 'll keep the rube . "

Two years after Young 's debut , the National League moved the pitcher 's position back by 5 feet ( 1 @.@ 5 m ) . Since 1881 , pitchers had pitched within a " box " whose front line was 50 feet ( 15 m ) from home base , and since 1887 they had been compelled to toe the back line of the box when delivering the ball . The back line was 55 feet 6 inches ( 16 @.@ 92 m ) away from home . In 1893 , 5 feet ( 1 @.@ 5 m ) was added to the back line , yielding the modern pitching distance of 60 feet 6 inches ( 18 @.@ 44 m ) . In the book The Neyer / James Guide to Pitchers , sports journalist Rob Neyer wrote that the speed with which pitchers like Cy Young , Amos Rusie , and Jouett Meekin threw was the impetus that caused the move .

The 1892 regular season was a success for Young , who led the National League in wins ( 36 ) , ERA ( 1 @.@ 93 ) , and shutouts ( 9 ) . Just as many contemporary Minor League Baseball leagues operate today , the National League was using a split season format during the 1892 season . The Boston Beaneaters won the first @-@ half title , and the Spiders won the second @-@ half title , with a best @-@ of @-@ nine series determining the league champion . Despite the Spiders ' second half run , the Beaneaters swept the series , five games to none . Young pitched three complete games in the series , but lost two decisions . He also threw a complete game shutout , but the game ended in a 0 ? 0 tie .

The Spiders faced the Baltimore Orioles in the Temple Cup , a precursor to the World Series , in 1895 . Young won three games in the series and Cleveland won the Cup , four games to one . It was around this time that Young added what he called a " slow ball " to his pitching repertoire to reduce stress on his arm . The pitch today is called a changeup .

In 1896 , Young lost a no @-@ hitter with two outs in the ninth inning when Ed Delahanty of the Philadelphia Phillies hit a single . On September 18 , 1897 , Young pitched the first no @-@ hitter of his career in a game against the Cincinnati Reds . Although Young did not walk a batter , the Spiders committed four errors while on defense . One of the errors had originally been ruled a hit , but the Cleveland third baseman sent a note to the press box after the eighth inning , saying he had made an error , and the ruling was changed . Young later said , that , despite his teammate 's gesture , he considered the game to be a one @-@ hitter .

= = = Shift to St. Louis = = =

Prior to the 1899 season , Frank Robison , the Spiders owner , bought the St. Louis Browns , thus owning two clubs simultaneously . The Browns were renamed the " Perfectos " , and restocked with Cleveland talent . Just weeks before the season opener , most of the better Spiders players were transferred to St. Louis , including fellow pitcher Pete McBride and three future Hall of Famers : Young , Jesse Burkett , and Bobby Wallace . The roster maneuvers failed to create a powerhouse Perfectos team , as St. Louis finished fifth in both 1899 and 1900 . Meanwhile , the depleted Spiders lost 134 games , the most in MLB history , before folding . Young spent two years with St. Louis , which is where he found his favorite catcher , Lou Criger . The two men were teammates for a decade .

= = = Move to the American League = = =

In 1901 , the rival American League declared major league status and set about raiding National League rosters . Young left St. Louis and joined the American League 's Boston Americans for a \$ 3 @, @ 500 contract ( \$ 99 @, @ 554 today ) . Young would remain with the Boston team until 1909 . In his first year in the American League , Young was dominant . Pitching to Criger , who had also jumped to Boston , Young led the league in wins , strikeouts , and ERA , thus earning the colloquial AL Triple Crown for pitchers . Young won almost 42 % of his team 's games in 1901 , accounting for 33 of his team 's 79 wins . In February 1902 , before the start of the baseball season , Young served as a pitching coach at Harvard University . The sixth @-@ grade graduate instructing Harvard students delighted Boston newspapers . The following year , Young coached at Mercer University during the spring . The team went on to win the Georgia state championship in 1903 , 1904 , and 1905 .

The Boston Americans played the Pittsburgh Pirates in the first modern World Series in 1903 . Young , who started Game One against the visiting Pirates , thus threw the first pitch in modern World Series history . The Pirates scored four runs in that first inning , and Young lost the game . Young performed better in subsequent games , winning his next two starts . He also drove in three runs in Game Five . Young finished the series with a 2 ? 1 record and a 1 @. @ 85 ERA in four appearances , and Boston defeated Pittsburgh , five games to three games .

After one @-@ hitting Boston on May 2 , 1904 , Philadelphia Athletics pitcher Rube Waddell taunted Young to face him so that he could repeat his performance against Boston 's ace . Three days later , Young pitched a perfect game against Waddell and the Athletics . It was the first perfect game in American League history . Waddell was the 27th and last batter , and when he flied out , Young shouted , " How do you like that , you hayseed ? " Waddell had picked an inauspicious time to issue his challenge . Young 's perfect game was the centerpiece of a pitching streak . Young set major league records for the most consecutive scoreless innings pitched and the most consecutive innings without allowing a hit ; the latter record still stands at 25 @. @ 1 innings , or 76 hitless batters . Even after allowing a hit , Young 's scoreless streak reached a then @-@ record 45 shutout innings . Before Young , only two pitchers had thrown perfect games . This occurred in 1880 , when Lee Richmond and John Montgomery Ward pitched perfect games within five days of each other , although under somewhat different rules : the front edge of the pitcher 's box was only 45 feet ( 14 m ) from home base ( the modern release point is about 10 feet ( 3 @. @ 0 m ) farther away ) ; walks required eight balls ; and pitchers were obliged to throw side @-@ armed . Young 's perfect game was the first under the modern rules established in 1893 . One year later , on July 4 , 1905 , Rube Waddell beat Young and the Americans , 4 ? 2 , in a 20 @-@ inning matchup . Young pitched 13 consecutive scoreless innings before he gave up a pair of unearned runs in the final inning . Young did not walk a batter and was later quoted : " For my part , I think it was the greatest game of ball I ever took part in . " In 1907 , Young and Waddell faced off in a scoreless 13 @-@ inning tie .

In 1908 , Young pitched the third no @-@ hitter of his career . Three months past his 41st birthday , Cy Young was the oldest pitcher to record a no @-@ hitter , a record which would stand 82 years until 43 @-@ year @-@ old Nolan Ryan surpassed the feat . Only a walk kept Young from his second perfect game . After that runner was caught stealing , no other batter reached base . At this time , Young was the second @-@ oldest player in either league . In another game one month

before his no @-@ hitter , he allowed just one single while facing 28 batters . On August 13 , 1908 , the league celebrated " Cy Young Day . " No American League games were played on that day , and a group of All @-@ Stars from the league 's other teams gathered in Boston to play against Young and the Red Sox . When the season ended , he posted a 1 @.@ 26 ERA , which gave him not only the lowest in his career , but also gave him a Major League record of being the oldest pitcher with 150 + innings pitched to post a season ERA under 1 @.@ 50 .

= = = Cleveland Naps and retirement = = =

Young was traded back to Cleveland , the place where he played over half his career , before the 1909 season , to the Cleveland Naps of the American League . The following season , 1910 , he won his 500th career game on July 19 against Washington . He split 1911 , his final year , between the Naps and the Boston Rustlers .

On September 22 , 1911 , Young shut out the Pittsburgh Pirates , 1 ? 0 , for his last career victory . In his final start two weeks later , the last eight batters of Young 's career combined to hit a triple , four singles , and three doubles .

= = College coaching career = =

In February 1902 , before the start of the baseball season , Young served as a pitching coach at Harvard University . The sixth @-@ grade graduate instructing Harvard students delighted Boston newspapers . The following year , Young coached at Mercer University , in Macon , Georgia during the spring . The team went on to win the Georgia state championship in 1903 , 1904 , and 1905 .

= = After baseball = =

Beginning in 1912 , Young lived and worked on his farm . In 1913 , he served as manager of the Cleveland Green Sox of the Federal League , which was at the time an outlaw minor league . However , he never worked in baseball after that .

Young 's wife , Roba , whom he had known since childhood , died in 1933 . After she died , Young tried several jobs , and eventually moved in with friends John and Ruth Benedum and did odd jobs for them . Young took part in many baseball events after his retirement . In 1937 , 26 years after he retired from baseball , Young was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame . He was among the first to donate mementos to the Hall .

By 1940 , Young 's only source of income was stock dividends of \$ 300 per year ( \$ 5 @.@ 067 today ) . On November 4 , 1955 , Young died on the Benedum 's farm at the age of 88 . He was buried in Peoli , Ohio .

= = Baseball legacy = =

Young retired with 511 career wins , which remains the record for most career wins by a pitcher . At the time , Pud Galvin had the second most career wins with 364 . Walter Johnson , then in his fourth season , finished his career with 417 wins and , as of 2015 , remains second on the list . In 1921 , Johnson broke Young 's career record for strikeouts .

Young 's career is seen as a bridge from baseball 's earliest days to its modern era ; he pitched against stars such as Cap Anson , already an established player when the National League was first formed in 1876 , as well as against Eddie Collins , who played until 1930 . When Young 's career began , pitchers delivered the baseball underhand and fouls were not counted as strikes . The pitcher 's mound was not moved back to its present position of 60 feet 6 inches ( 18 @.@ 44 m ) until Young 's fourth season ; he did not wear a glove until his sixth season .

Young led his league in wins five times ( 1892 , 1895 , and 1901 ? 1903 ) , finishing second twice . His career high was 36 in 1892 . He had fifteen seasons with twenty or more wins , two more than the runners @-@ up , Christy Mathewson and Warren Spahn . Young won two ERA titles during his

career , in 1892 ( 1 @. @ 93 ) and in 1901 ( 1 @. @ 62 ) , and was three times the runner @- @ up . Young 's earned run average was below 2 @. @ 00 six times , but this was not uncommon during the dead @- @ ball era . Although Young threw over 400 innings in each of his first four full seasons , he did not lead his league until 1902 . He had 40 or more complete games nine times . Young also led his league in strikeouts twice ( with 140 in 1896 , and 158 in 1901 ) , and in shutouts seven times . Young led his league in fewest walks per nine innings thirteen times and finished second one season . Only twice in his 22 @- @ year career did Young finish lower than 5th in the category . Although the WHIP ratio was not calculated until well after Young 's death , Young was the retroactive league leader in this category seven times and was second or third another seven times . Young is tied with Roger Clemens for the most career wins by a Boston Red Sox pitcher . They each won 192 games while with the franchise .

Particularly after his fastball slowed , Young relied upon his control . Young was once quoted as saying , " Some may have thought it was essential to know how to curve a ball before anything else . Experience , to my mind , teaches to the contrary . Any young player who has good control will become a successful curve pitcher long before the pitcher who is endeavoring to master both curves and control at the same time . The curve is merely an accessory to control . " In addition to his exceptional control , Young was also a workhorse who avoided injury . For nineteen consecutive years , from 1891 through 1909 , Young was in his leagues ' top ten for innings pitched ; in fourteen of the seasons , he was in the top five . Not until 1900 , a decade into his career , did Young pitch two consecutive incomplete games . By habit , Young restricted his practice throws in spring training . " I figured the old arm had just so many throws in it " , said Young , " and there wasn 't any use wasting them . " Young once described his approach before a game :

I never warmed up ten , fifteen minutes before a game like most pitchers do . I 'd loosen up , three , four minutes . Five at the outside . And I never went to the bullpen . Oh , I 'd relieve all right , plenty of times , but I went right from the bench to the box , and I 'd take a few warm @- @ up pitches and be ready . Then I had good control . I aimed to make the batter hit the ball , and I threw as few pitches as possible . That 's why I was able to work every other day .

By the time of his retirement , Young 's control had faltered . He had also gained weight . In three of his last four years , he was the oldest player in the league .

In 1956 , about one year after Young 's death , the Cy Young Award was created . The first award was given to Brooklyn 's Don Newcombe . Originally , it was a single award covering the whole of baseball . The honor was divided into two Cy Young Awards in 1967 , one for each league .

On September 23 , 1993 , a statue dedicated to him was unveiled by Northeastern University on the site of the Red Sox 's original stadium , the Huntington Avenue Grounds . It was there that Young had pitched the first game of the 1903 World Series , as well as the first perfect game in the modern era of baseball . A home plate @- @ shaped plaque next to the statue reads :

On October 1 , 1903 the first modern World Series between the American League champion Boston Pilgrims ( later known as the Red Sox ) and the National League champion Pittsburgh Pirates was played on this site . General admission tickets were fifty cents . The Pilgrims , led by twenty @- @ eight game winner Cy Young , trailed the series three games to one but then swept four consecutive victories to win the championship five games to three .