

= Vic Aldridge =

Victor " Vic " Aldridge (October 25 , 1893 ? April 17 , 1973) , nicknamed the " Hoosier Schoolmaster " , was an American right @-@ handed pitcher in Major League Baseball who played for the Chicago Cubs , Pittsburgh Pirates and New York Giants , and was known to be an excellent curveball pitcher . Before his playing career he was a schoolmaster , hence his nickname . His most significant actions as a player occurred during the 1925 World Series , where Aldridge completed and won games two and five , only to have the most disastrous first inning in the seventh game of the World Series ever . After his retirement from baseball , he served as a state senator in the Indiana General Assembly . Aldridge is a member of the Indiana Baseball Hall of Fame , inducted in 2007 .

= = Personal life = =

Born in the small country town of Cale , Indiana , Vic Aldridge attended the Tempy primary school in Cale , Indiana which was a short walk from his home . He attended high school in Trinity Springs , Indiana where he played baseball on the Trinity Springs team . He graduated from Trinity Springs , Indiana . He then attended Central Normal College in Danville , Indiana . In 1914 ? 1915 he taught school at the Pea Ridge School in Trinity Springs , Indiana . He also taught school in Miami County Indiana . He was married to Cleta B. Wadsworth of Indian Springs , Indiana .

= = Early career = =

Aldridge was a dependable second or third starter throughout most of his career . He was known for his curveball and pinpoint accuracy . Aldridge batted and threw right @-@ handed . He began his pro career by signing a contract with Indianapolis of the American Association in 1915 , but first played for Denver of the Western League and then Erie of the Central League . He played for Indianapolis in 1916 where he was scouted for the Chicago Cubs . He was sold to the Cubs on August 28 , 1916 .

Aldridge spent 1917 and 1918 with the Chicago Cubs , serving in the bullpen . In 1917 Aldridge played in thirty games , winning six games and losing six , with a 3 @.@ 12 earned run average and two saves . In 1918 he played only three games , pitching only twelve innings , before joining the United States Navy during the final year of World War I. After returning from the war , he played for the Los Angeles Angels , an affiliate of the Cubs , in the Pacific Coast League . Aldridge returned to the Cubs for the 1922 season . He played the next three years for Chicago , with consistent performances . In 1922 , 1923 and 1924 he played 36 , 30 and 32 games respectively , with 16 , 16 and 15 wins in the three seasons , with respective earned run averages of 3 @.@ 52 , 3 @.@ 48 and 3 @.@ 50 . During this time his son Vic Aldridge , Jr. served unofficially as the Cubs batboy and even had a uniform donated by Mordecai Brown so he would look the part . In 1923 he was ejected from a game .

= = 1925 = =

Vic Aldridge was traded to the Pittsburgh Pirates after the 1924 season on October 27 , 1924 , along with George Grantham and Al Niehaus , for Wilbur Cooper , Charlie Grimm and Rabbit Maranville . The change in stadiums prompted him to rely more on his fastball than his curveball , as he felt he needed to protect himself from home runs in Wrigley Field and its smaller field , thus using the curveball to reduce the risk of being homered against , but the larger field in Pittsburgh made fastballs safer to use , and thus a better pitch to rely upon . The next year , Aldridge won fifteen games (ninth highest total in the National League in 1925) and lost seven , for a .682 winning percentage that was the fourth highest for any NL pitcher that year . His finest moments were in the postseason that year when he pitched two complete game victories against the Washington Senators as the Pirates won the World Series . He won Game 2 of the series 3 ? 2 on October 8 ,

and Game 5 by a score of 6 ? 3 , the first two Pirates wins of the Series . Aldridge used the money from the World Series to buy a home in Terre Haute , Indiana .

Aldridge also started the seventh game on October 15 . It had been raining for a week in Pittsburgh , and the sixth game had been rainy . The weather for the seventh was even worse , and the game was played in thick pea soup fog and drizzle , with a very wet pitching mound . It was hoped that Aldridge would continue his success in the first two games to the seventh , but it was not to be . Although noted for his consistency , in this game Aldridge was very wild ; he had had only two days rest and he kept slipping on the slick pitcher 's plate . Sam Rice was the first batter , and he hit a single . Then Bucky Harris came out , whose fly out was the only success Aldridge had during the game . Goose Goslin was walked after a wild pitch . Joe Harris was walked after a wild pitch advanced the baserunners . After a full count , Joe Judge was walked , scoring in one run . Then Ossie Bluege hit a single . Pirates manager Bill McKechnie had seen enough and relieved Aldridge . In total , Aldridge gave up three walks , two hits and two wild pitches , resulting in the Senators having a 4 ? 0 lead in the first inning . The Pirates would rally to win the game and the World Series by a score of 9 ? 7 , the first time a team won the World Series after a 3 ? 1 deficit . It was the worst start of the seventh game for a pitcher in Series history .

= = Late career = =

The 1925 proved to be the pinnacle of Aldridge 's career . In 1926 he suffered a record of 10 wins and 13 losses , with a 4 @.@ 07 earned run average . The year 1927 was better for Aldridge . He won fifteen games , losing only ten , with a 4 @.@ 25 earned run average . Aldridge also played in the 1927 World Series , losing the second game of the series 6 ? 2 as Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig led the New York Yankees to a sweep of the Pirates in four games . He gave up all six runs in the 7 ? innings he pitched . After several other players had ghostwritten newspaper articles for the Christy Walsh Syndicate , he wrote an article for a Pittsburgh newspaper , who bragged that it was Aldridge himself who wrote it .

After winning 15 games again in 1927 , Aldridge expected a raise , but instead Pittsburgh owner Barney Dreyfuss traded him to the New York Giants on February 11 , 1928 , for Burleigh Grimes , citing Aldridge 's 4 @.@ 25 ERA in 1927 as a reason not to give him a raise . He held out for much of the year ; by the time he returned , he was out of shape and pitched poorly . During the time Aldridge refused to report , Giants manager John McGraw threatened Aldridge with less pay , and at one point tried to trade him to the Cincinnati Reds . After the season , in which Aldridge 's record was four wins and seven losses with a 4 @.@ 83 earned run average after 119 innings pitched , he was sent to the Brooklyn Dodgers . However , Aldridge refused to report and retired from baseball instead . His final game was on August 29 , 1928 .

In total , Aldridge pitched 1 @,@ 601 innings , won 97 games and lost 80 , had 102 complete games and a combined earned run average of 3 @.@ 76 . Rogers Hornsby said that Aldridge had one of the three best curveballs he had ever seen , a curveball described by the Baseball Magazine as a " hard , sharp @-@ breaking curve " that was one of the best curveballs in all of baseball . He also threw a screwball . His batting average was .229 , a respectable average for a pitcher . Aldridge twice attempted to steal a base , once each in 1922 and 1926 , and succeeded both times .

= = Post career = =

After his playing career ended , Aldridge attended law school at the Voorhees School of Law and served in the Indiana State Senate from 1937 to 1948 . He was first elected on November 4 , 1936 , as a Democrat . He served as a schoolmaster full @-@ time before his baseball career , hence his nickname " The Hoosier Schoolmaster " .

Aldridge died in Terre Haute at age 79 , and is buried in the New Trinity Springs Cemetery of Trinity Springs , Indiana . He was inducted into the Indiana Baseball Hall of Fame on January 19 , 2007 , as its 131st member ; his granddaughter , Mary Turner , and grandson , Vic Aldridge III , accepted the award on his behalf .

