

= Jack Warhop =

John Milton Warhop ( July 4 , 1884 ? October 4 , 1960 ) was an American baseball pitcher who played eight seasons in Major League Baseball from 1908 to 1915 for the New York Highlanders / New York Yankees . He is best known for giving up Babe Ruth 's first two career home runs .

Considered by baseball insiders and historians as an unlucky pitcher , Warhop had a career 69 ? 92 win ? loss record , but with a 3 @. @ 12 earned run average while playing for mostly second division Highlanders / Yankees teams . Of his 92 losses , the Yankees did not score a run in 23 , and he holds the MLB record for losing the most 1 ? 0 games with five in 1914 . He was released after the 1915 season and played a number of seasons in minor league baseball and semi @-@ professional teams until his late 40s or early 50s .

Warhop had an underhand submarine delivery , which gave him the nickname " Crab " . He was also known for his rather small size , which is a subject of some conflict , although most historians and statisticians agree that he measured between 5 feet , 8 inches , used by several historians like Marty Appel or 5 feet 9 inches , used by Baseball @-@ Reference.com.

= = Early life = =

Warhop was born in Hinton , West Virginia . He spent his early life working as a coal miner for the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad . Warhop played for local semi @-@ professional teams sponsored by the railway company . He drew the attention of several minor league teams , and in 1906 , Warhop signed with the Class @-@ D Freeport Pretzels of the Wisconsin ? Illinois League in 1906 to start his professional career . His debut campaign included a no @-@ hitter on Independence Day against the La Crosse Pinks . From 1906 to 1908 , Warhop had an 82 ? 20 win ? lost record and 330 strikeouts , with a career high 30 wins in 1907 . After pitching to a 29 ? 7 record for the Williamsport Millionaires in 1909 , people throughout both the National and American League started to take notice of his ability . As many as a dozen teams were interested in Warhop , and he signed a \$ 1000 contract with the Detroit Tigers . However , they soon sold Warhop to the Highlanders without appearing in a single game with the Tigers .

= = Major League Baseball career = =

= = = 1908 ? 1912 = = =

Warhop made his debut on September 9 , 1908 . He ended up with a 1 ? 2 win ? loss record with a 4 @. @ 46 earned run average ( ERA ) in five games that year . Warhop became a regular fixture in the starting rotation in 1909 . He pitched a three hitter against the Cleveland Nats on August 10 , 1909 and finished the year with a 13 ? 15 win ? loss record , a 2 @. @ 40 ERA , and 21 complete games in 36 games pitched as the Highlanders finished fifth in the American League ( AL ) . However , Warhop led the AL in hit batsmen in 1909 ( 26 ) and 1910 ( 18 ) , which might have been caused by his unorthodox pitching style . In 1910 , Warhop pitched to a 14 ? 14 win ? loss record , a 3 @. @ 00 ERA and 11 errors ( the most among AL pitchers ) . He was respected throughout baseball , and Baseball Magazine once called him the " unluckiest pitcher in the American League " .

The 1911 season saw Warhop post a 12 ? 13 record , a 4 @. @ 16 ERA and 15 hit batsmen ( the third highest in the league ) . His starts throughout the season were mixed ; some were poor or marred by bad luck . He was shelled on May 9 in a 10 ? 0 loss against a Detroit Tigers lineup featuring Ty Cobb , Sam Crawford and Jim Delahanty , giving up runs in each of the first four innings . However , he improved a few weeks later on May 20 , when he limited the St. Louis Browns to four hits . This began a quality stretch for Warhop , who won five consecutive games by July 17 ? a result of an improvement in his control . Then , during an August 21 road game against the Tigers , he lost a 5 ? 4 walk @-@ off game in the eleventh inning , in part due to his own unsuccessful

strategy in fielding two bunts . On both occasions , he threw to second base but was too late , and the baserunners were able to advance safely and load the bases . The Highlanders lost when Earle Gardner booted a routine ground ball by Bill Donovan in an rushed attempt to throw out the go @-@ ahead runner at home plate . His desperation culminated in him unsuccessfully requesting the league at the end of the season to change his win ? loss record to 14 ? 11 , under the mistaken belief that his 12 ? 13 record was incorrect .

Warhop 's penchant for tough luck was best exemplified in the 1912 season , when he finished with a 10 ? 19 record ? the second highest number of losses in the AL ? despite compiling a 2 @.@ 86 ERA and 6 @.@ 7 Wins Above Replacement ( WAR ) . Both his ERA and WAR were tenth best in the AL , though he also finished second in hit batsmen ( 16 ) and fifth in errors as a pitcher ( 7 ) . In a July 5 road game against the Washington Senators , he entered the game in the second inning and lost 6 ? 5 in a walk @-@ off , despite dueling Walter Johnson up to the 16th inning . Then , in a game on August 22 , he held the Chicago White Sox to just two hits and no runs in the first five innings . While pitching with a 3 ? 0 lead , Warhop surrendered one run in the sixth inning , before getting shelled in the seventh , giving up four runs and the lead . After another four runs were given up in the ninth inning , the Highlanders lost the game 9 ? 4 . Towards the end of the season , Warhop was again on the losing side of a bad luck game , when he lost a 3 ? 0 pitchers ' duel against the St. Louis Browns , having held them scoreless for the first five innings .

== 1913 ? 1915 ==

A sore arm in 1913 caused Warhop to pitch ineffectively and have just seven games started . He recovered by 1914 ; however , Warhop was on the unfortunate end of a hard @-@ luck campaign . He had an 8 ? 15 win ? loss record with a 2 @.@ 37 ERA . However , the Yankees were one of the worst offensive and defensive teams in baseball , which caused Warhop to be on the losing end of five 1 ? 0 games , a present @-@ day Major League Baseball record shared with five other pitchers . In one of those games , on July 25 , Warhop shutout the Chicago White Sox for twelve innings before losing 1 ? 0 in the thirteenth , due to two errors ? one of which was committed by himself on an errant throw to first base after a sacrifice bunt . His first win of the season finally came on June 25 against the Boston Red Sox . He led the American League in home runs allowed at the end of the season with eight , a very high number in the dead @-@ ball era . His pitching style included an underhand , submarine delivery which he abandoned by 1914 .

He gave up Babe Ruth 's first career home run on May 6 , 1915 , while Ruth was a member of the Boston Red Sox . Warhop threw a fastball in the third inning , and Ruth hit the ball to the upper right field stands . Warhop won the game 4 ? 3 in extra innings . When interviewed about it many years later , Warhop shrugged it off , stating " that 's one way to be remembered " . A little over three weeks later , on June 2 , he gave up Ruth 's second career home run in a 7 ? 1 Yankee defeat . In what would be his final season in Major League Baseball , Warhop had a 7 ? 9 win ? loss record and a 3 @.@ 96 ERA , while leading the American League in home runs allowed ( 7 ) for the second consecutive year . He was released alongside first baseman Charlie Mullen and catcher Ed Sweeney on August 14 and then sold to Jack Dunn of the Richmond Climbers in the International League , but Warhop didn 't play a game with them . According to one historian , however , Warhop was released because Yankee management thought he was a " jinx " to the club , as during Warhop 's tenure ? with the exception of the 1910 season ? the Highlanders / Yankees finished no higher than fifth in the division .

Warhop led the Yankees in games pitched four times ( 1908 , 1909 , 1912 , 1914 ) , saves three times ( 1909 , 1910 , 1912 ) , and complete games once ( 1909 ) . His 114 career hit batsmen is a Yankees team record and ranks 37th on the MLB all @-@ time hit batsmen list .

== Later life ==

After leaving the Yankees , Warhop played in the minor leagues , including stints in the Pacific Coast League and the International League , until the late 1920s . He was player ? manager for the

Class @-@ B Norfolk Tars of the Virginia League in 1921 and won 20 games for the team . In 1927 , he pitched and won both games of a doubleheader , a rare achievement , while with Bridgeport of the Eastern League at age 42 . In 1928 , Warhop became the manager for the Sally League Spartanburg team . He played semi @-@ professional baseball until the age of 50 , when he retired and became a butler for a large house in Long Island .

He married Grace Nichols on November 23 , 1907 . They later divorced , and he married Frances Helsinger in 1918 . Warhop died at age 76 in Freeport , Illinois , where his professional baseball career began .