

= John Paciorek =

John Francis Paciorek ( / p??t???r?k / ; born February 11 , 1945 ) is an American former baseball player . He attended high school in Michigan , and was signed by the Houston Colt .45s while playing for the school 's baseball team . After a season in the minor leagues , he was promoted to the Colt .45 's active roster , and played in one game at the end of the 1963 Houston Colt .45s season . In that game , he had three hits and two walks . However , injuries cut his career short ; he missed most of 1964 and 1965 due to surgery , and retired after playing parts of four more seasons in the minors . He returned to school , graduated from the University of Houston , and became a physical education teacher after retiring .

Paciorek is rare among Major League Baseball players in having a perfect batting average of 1 @. @ 000 . He is the only one as yet to achieve this distinction with more than two turns at @- @ bat .

= = Early life = =

Paciorek was born in Detroit on February 11 , 1945 . His father was a factory worker in Plymouth , Michigan . He was the oldest of eight children ; two of his brothers , Tom and Jim , went on to have MLB careers as well . He attended St. Ladislaus High School in Hamtramck , Michigan , and was named to the varsity baseball team as a freshman . During his high school career , he focused on strength building to achieve his dream of being a baseball player . By the time he graduated , he went from 119 pounds ( 54 kg ) to 200 pounds ( 91 kg ) , and was an all @- @ state three @- @ sport star in baseball , football , and basketball . Paciorek also played on Detroit 's team in the National Amateur Baseball Federation ; he was named most valuable player during the annual tournament in 1962 . While he was still in high school , Houston general manager Paul Richards convinced Paciorek to sign with the Colt .45s ; the two agreed to a \$ 45 @, @ 000 contract .

= = Baseball career = =

In late 1962 , Paciorek attended an instructional league put on by Houston , which led to him becoming part of the team 's spring training roster as one of 63 invited players . During exhibition play , he " hit everything in sight " , and had a batting average of over .300 . After spring training ended , he began his professional career with the Modesto Colts of the California League and played in 78 games for the team with a .219 batting average and 15 doubles . Late in the season , he injured his back and shoulder ; he was diagnosed with a sciatic nerve injury , and was told to rest . Shortly afterward , however , Houston brought Paciorek and seven other rookies onto the major league roster to play in the season finale on September 29 .

Paciorek , who was the starting right fielder , began the day with a walk in the second inning . He then had a single in the fourth inning , which drove in Rusty Staub and Bob Aspromonte . After singling and again bringing home Aspromonte in the fifth , Paciorek had a walk in the sixth , and ended the day with a leadoff single in the eighth . In total , he went to the plate five times and hit three singles and had two walks , scoring four runs en route to a 12 ? 4 Houston victory over the New York Mets . He had a perfect major league career batting average and on @- @ base percentage of 1 @. @ 000 as a result of his performance that day , something no one else with as many plate appearances as Paciorek has done .

Thanks in part to his performance in the final game of Houston 's season , Paciorek was invited to spring training for Houston in 1964 . His performances included a bases @- @ loaded triple against the Mets . However , his poor play on both offense and defense late in spring training led to him being cut despite being nearly a lock to make the roster . He spent part of the year on the Durham Bulls and Statesville Colts , where he had a .135 batting average in 49 combined games . Partway through the year , he had spinal fusion surgery , which caused Paciorek to miss the rest of the 1964 season , as well as all of 1965 .

Paciorek returned to the Houston organization in 1966 , and split the season with the Batavia

Trojans and Salisbury Astros , where he hit .193 in 77 combined games . The following year , he played for the Asheville Tourists and Cocoa Astros , had a .104 average in 32 games , and was released at season 's end . He was given a second chance to return to the major leagues when the Cleveland Indians , who were scouting his brother Tom at the University of Houston , signed him to a minor league contract with a spring training invitation . He spent 1968 with the Single @-@ A Reno Silver Sox and the Rock Hill Indians , and hit .268 with 20 home runs in 95 total games ; his 17 home runs with Reno led the team . Paciorek was promoted the following year to the Double @-@ A Waterbury Indians and played in 29 games with them , but tore his achilles tendon during warm @-@ ups , which led to his release and the end of his professional career .

= = Post @-@ baseball career = =

After his baseball career ended , Paciorek returned to school and earned a degree in physical education from the University of Houston , a degree that he began to pursue while recovering from back surgery . While acquiring his degree , he became a Christian Scientist and married Linda Cupp . After graduating from college , he spent several years as an instructor at a Jewish community center , then became a physical education teacher after inquiring about a Christian Science Monitor advertisement for a teaching position at Clairbourn School in San Gabriel , California . Linda died of breast cancer in 1987 , and Paciorek married Karen Purdy two years later . Paciorek has four sons and four daughters . His nephew , Joey Paciorek , played in the Milwaukee Brewers minor league organization , and his sons , Pete and Mack , had minor league careers as well . While watching his son in training camp , Paciorek became an author after watching what he felt was improper instruction given to the players . He has since written two books , Plato & Socrates , Baseball 's Wisest Fans and The Principle of Baseball , and All There is to Know About Hitting .