

= Ernest Groth =

Ernest William Groth ( May 3 , 1922 ? December 27 , 2004 ) was an American Major League Baseball right @-@ handed pitcher who played for three seasons . He played for the Cleveland Indians during the 1947 and 1948 seasons and the Chicago White Sox during the 1949 season . In four career games , Groth pitched 7 ? innings and had a 4 @.@ 91 earned run average ( ERA ) .

Born and raised in Pennsylvania , Groth began his professional career in the Wisconsin State League in 1942 . After his rookie season , he spent the next three years serving in the military during World War II . After he returned , he spent more time in the minor leagues , then spent parts of the 1947 and 1948 seasons with the Cleveland Indians . After the end of the 1948 season , he was traded to the Chicago White Sox , and played with them in 1949 . He spent the next seven seasons pitching in the minor leagues , retiring at the end of the 1956 season . After his retirement , he ran Groth 's Nursery and worked for Standard Steel , and died in 2004 .

= = Early life and minor leagues = =

Groth was born in Beaver Falls , Pennsylvania to William T. and Clara Court Groth . He played American Legion Baseball in East Palestine , Ohio in his teens , and attended Beaver Falls High School . He grew up pitching in the county league , and was both a right fielder and pitcher for the Chippewa Indians . After pitching for Chippewa in 1941 , he was offered a contract for the 1942 season by the Pittsburgh Pirates . Groth turned down the offer instead signing with the Cleveland Indians , spending the 1942 season with the Indians ' D @-@ Class ( Rookie League ) affiliate , the Appleton Papermakers of the Wisconsin State League , where he played alongside future teammate Mike Garcia . In 26 games , he pitched in 203 innings , had a 16 ? 10 win ? loss record and a 3 @.@ 59 ERA .

After the 1942 season , Groth spent the following three years serving with the United States Army in the Pacific Theater of Operations during World War II . After the war , he returned to baseball , spending the 1946 season with the Wilkes @-@ Barre Barons , a Cleveland Indians minor league team that played in the Eastern League . His performances that season included a one @-@ hitter against the Elmira Pioneers in the second game of a doubleheader on August 19 . In 29 games , Groth finished with a 13 ? 7 record and a 2 @.@ 98 ERA . Shortly afterward , he became engaged to Blanche Klein , a fellow graduate of Beaver Falls High . The two were married shortly after .

= = Cleveland Indians and Chicago White Sox = =

In 1947 , Groth was promoted to the Oklahoma City Indians of the Texas League , the Cleveland Indians ' AA @-@ class minor league affiliate . In 33 games with Oklahoma City , he threw 180 innings and finished the season with a 7 ? 11 record and a 3 @.@ 45 ERA . After the minor league season ended in September , Groth was called up to the Cleveland Indians major league roster , and made his debut on September 11 , 1947 . He pitched in one more game , finishing the season having pitched 1 ? innings , striking out one batter and not allowing a run .

Groth was looking to stay in the major league in 1948 . He spent spring training on the Indians ' roster , and originally made a great impression on the team . However , he was one of seven Indians stricken with dysentery in early April , causing him to miss some time . By the end of spring training , Groth was optioned to the Baltimore Orioles of the International League , the Indians ' AAA @-@ class minor league affiliate . He spent the season with the Orioles , and his pitching performances included a 13 ? 0 victory over the Newark Bears , as well as a 1 ? 0 victory where Groth limited the Bears to three hits . Groth finished the season with Baltimore having amassed 29 pitching appearances , 27 of them starts , a 12 ? 12 record and a 4 @.@ 48 ERA , while also pitching in two games for the Dallas Eagles . After Baltimore 's season ended , he was promoted to the Indians ' roster , and pitched in one game for the Indians that season .

At the end of the 1948 season , on December 2 , the Indians traded Groth to the Chicago White Sox along with Bob Kuzava for Frank Papish . After signing a contract with the White Sox , Groth

took part in spring , training alongside many other newcomers to the White Sox , where his pitching performance earned him a place on the major league roster . He pitched in three games for the White Sox , losing one , and finished his tenure with the White Sox with a 5 @. @ 40 ERA in five innings pitched . After his final game on May 4 , the White Sox purchased Ed Klieman and sold Groth to the Kansas City Blues , a New York Yankees minor league team , ending his major league career .

= = Return to minor leagues = =

Groth spent the 1949 season with the Kansas City Blues , finishing with a 12 ? 9 record , a 4 @. @ 28 ERA , and 162 innings pitched . When the 1950 season began , the New York Yankees had five holdouts ( players who wanted more money and would not sign their contracts ) . Groth was one of them , and was the only minor leaguer to hold out . He eventually signed his contract with Kansas City , and after spring training ended , Groth was sent to the Oakland Oaks of the Pacific Coast League , the Yankees ' AAA minor league affiliate . The Yankees sent Groth to the Oaks to make up for sending over George Earl Toolson last season , who the Oaks had to return because his condition was poor . Groth finished the season with a 7 ? 11 record and a 5 @. @ 09 ERA . In January 1951 , the Oaks sold Groth to the Baltimore Orioles of the International League , now a farm team of the Philadelphia Phillies . He struggled in ten appearances , finishing with an ERA of 7 @. @ 58 , and was sent to the Chattanooga Lookouts , the AA minor league team of the Washington Senators . He pitched in 26 games for the Lookouts , finishing with a 3 ? 8 record and a 6 @. @ 29 ERA .

For the next five seasons , Groth played for the Oklahoma City Indians of the Texas League . He was sold to Oklahoma City by Baltimore in December 1951 . In his first season with Oklahoma City , he finished with a 15 ? 12 record , a 3 @. @ 43 ERA , and 207 innings pitched . The following season , Groth started things off with a victory in an early appearance against the Dallas Eagles where he allowed only four hits . He finished the season with an 8 ? 8 record and a 5 @. @ 37 ERA . In 1954 , Groth improved his pitching , finishing the season with a 14 ? 11 record and a 3 @. @ 75 ERA . After a 9 ? 13 season in 1955 , Groth split time between Oklahoma City and the Tulsa Oilers in 1956 , finishing the season with a combined 9 ? 16 record . He ended his professional career after the 1956 season .

= = Later life = =

After retiring from baseball , Groth returned to his hometown of Beaver Falls . He and his family ran Groth 's Nursery , and he worked for Standard Steel until his retirement . He and his wife had three daughters ; Elizabeth , Constance , and Suellen . Groth was inducted into the Beaver County Sports Hall of Fame in 1990 . He also spent time playing in local golf tournaments . Groth died on December 27 , 2004 .