

= Monte Pearson =

Montgomery Marcellus " Monte " Pearson ( September 2 , 1908 ? January 27 , 1978 ) was an American baseball pitcher who played ten seasons in Major League Baseball ( MLB ) . Nicknamed " Hoot " , he played for the Cleveland Indians , New York Yankees and Cincinnati Reds from 1932 to 1941 . He batted and threw right @-@ handed and served primarily as a starting pitcher .

Pearson played minor league baseball for three different teams until 1932 , when he signed with the Cleveland Indians . After spending four seasons with the organization , Pearson was traded to the New York Yankees , where he spent the next five years . At the conclusion of the 1940 season , he was traded to the Cincinnati Reds , with whom he played his last game on August 5 , 1941 . A four @-@ time World Series champion , Pearson holds the MLB record for lowest walks plus hits per inning pitched ( WHIP ) in the postseason . He is most famous for pitching the first no @-@ hitter at the original Yankee Stadium .

= = Early life = =

Pearson was born on September 2 , 1908 in Oakland , California . He was raised as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter @-@ day Saints and was one of the first Mormons to find success in the major leagues . He later moved to Fresno , California and studied at Fresno High School , where he started playing baseball at catcher and third base and was a letterman in four sports . After graduating , he attended college at the University of California , Berkeley , where he played two seasons of baseball for the California Golden Bears from 1928 ? 29 . He worked as a mechanic as one of his first jobs , and his ability to sing and play the guitar helped develop his reputation as a positive influence on the clubhouse throughout his major league career .

= = Professional career = =

= = = Minor leagues = = =

Pearson began his professional baseball career in 1929 with the Bakersfield Bees , a Minor League Baseball team that were members of the California State League . He was signed by the Oakland Oaks of the Pacific Coast League the following year , and was optioned to the Arizona State League 's Phoenix Senators after recording a 5 @. @ 77 earned run average ( ERA ) in 24 games pitched . However , he established himself in the Oaks ' pitching rotation in 1931 and compiled a 17 ? 16 win ? loss record and a 4 @. @ 46 ERA in 234 innings pitched . His performance that year , coupled with his heavy @-@ breaking curveball , caught the attention of the Cleveland Indians , who promptly bought his contract after the season ended .

= = = Cleveland Indians ( 1932 ? 35 ) = = =

Pearson made his major league debut for the Indians on April 22 , 1932 , at the age of 23 , relieving Pete Appleton in the eighth inning and giving up 6 earned runs in 1 1 ? 2 innings in a 16 ? 3 loss against the Detroit Tigers . His subsequent games were disappointing and , after compiling a 10 @. @ 13 ERA in 8 innings from 8 games pitched , he was demoted back to the minor leagues . He played the rest of the season for the Toledo Mud Hens of the American Association ( AA ) , where continued his dismal performance with a 3 ? 9 record and 3 @. @ 99 ERA . However , he improved significantly the following year , posting an 11 ? 5 record and 3 @. @ 41 ERA in 148 innings with the Mud Hens , as well as leading the AA in strikeouts at the time he was called back up to the majors . His pitching during the first half of the season prompted the Indians to bring him back up to the first team in early July . He continued to pitch well in the majors and finished the season with a 10 ? 5 record ; his 2 @. @ 33 ERA was the lowest in the American League ( AL ) that year and although he pitched only 135 1 ? 3 innings , he is recognized as the AL ERA champion by Baseball @-@

Reference.com.

Pearson followed up his impressive 1933 season with another strong showing in 1934 . That year , he finished second in the AL in games started ( 33 ) , fifth in strikeouts ( 140 ) and complete games ( 19 ) and sixth in wins ( 18 ) . In spite of 13 losses , a 4 @. @ 52 ERA , 130 walks ( the second highest in the AL ) and 15 wild pitches ( the most in MLB ) , this was considered one of his best seasons . However , his poor performance in 1935 ? where he went 8 ? 13 with a 4 @. @ 90 ERA ? convinced the Indians to cut their losses with their once @- @ promising prospect . Pearson was traded at the end of the season to the New York Yankees with Steve Sundra in exchange for Johnny Allen .

= = = New York Yankees ( 1936 ? 40 ) = = =

Pearson 's trade to the New York Yankees was initially unpopular among fans , with Joe McCarthy receiving heavy criticism for dealing Allen ? who had a 13 ? 6 record in 1935 ? for Pearson . However , Pearson repaid his manager 's faith in him by churning out the best statistical year in his career . His .731 winning percentage ( 19 ? 7 record ) was third best in the AL ; he finished fifth in ERA ( 3 @. @ 71 ) and strikeouts ( 118 ) and sixth in wins , though he also recorded the third highest number of walks in the AL with 135 . His performance during the first half of the season resulted in him being selected for the 1936 All @- @ Star Game , though he did not pitch in it . In the postseason , the Yankees advanced to the World Series , where they defeated the New York Giants 4 ? 2 . In Game 4 , Pearson ? who insisted on being included in the rotation even after falling ill with pleurisy just before the Series ? limited the Giants to just two runs while striking out seven in a complete game win . Offensively , he managed to get two hits , including a double . The 5 ? 2 victory ended Carl Hubbell 's streak of 17 consecutive regular and postseason wins .

During spring training of 1937 , Pearson injured his right ankle after accidentally stepping onto a rolling ball . He was still able recover in time for the start the season and pitched solidly . In arguably his best start of the year , he threw a one @- @ hit shutout against the Chicago White Sox on May 10 ; he also recorded three hits and drove in two runs in the 7 ? 0 win . However , other health problems and injuries ? most notably a sore arm ? began to affect him , limiting his season to just 144 2 ? 3 innings pitched in 20 games started and 2 games finished in relief . Despite his many ailments , he still came up clutch in Game 3 of the 1937 World Series . Facing a familiar foe in the New York Giants , Pearson stymied them to a solitary run in 8 2 ? 3 innings pitched and received the win as the Yankees cruised to a 5 ? 1 victory , taking a commanding 3 ? 0 lead in the Series . The Yankees eventually triumphed in 5 games , giving Pearson his second World Series ring in as many years with the team .

The 1938 season saw Pearson rebound in his regular season numbers . He had the fifth highest winning percentage ( .696 ) , the sixth most wins ( 16 ) and the seventh most complete games ( 17 ) in the AL , but he struggled with his control , ending the season with 9 wild pitches ( second highest in the AL ) and 113 walks ( fifth most ) . During a June 26 road game at Briggs Stadium , he held the Detroit Tigers to three runs in a complete game , 10 ? 3 Yankees win . By not giving up any home runs in the game , he halted the Tigers ' quest of breaking the MLB record for most consecutive games with a home run for a team . The highlight of his season came on August 27 , when he pitched a no @- @ hitter against the Cleveland Indians in the second game of a doubleheader . Facing his former team on only two days of rest , Pearson struck out seven , allowed just two baserunners through walks and retired the last 18 consecutive batters in a 13 ? 0 victory , marking his 13th win of the season and 10th consecutive win . This was the first Yankee no @- @ hitter in fifteen years ( pitched by Sad Sam Jones ) , as well as first no @- @ hitter at Yankee Stadium .

In October , Pearson suffered from a dead arm . Doctors advised him to undergo surgery after X @- @ rays revealed a spur on his elbow . However , he was able to overcome injury once again and pitched in Game 3 of the 1938 World Series . Up against the Chicago Cubs , he kept them to two runs ( one earned ) while striking out nine in a complete game , 5 ? 2 win . The Yankees completed their Series sweep over the Cubs in the next game , giving them their third straight championship .

During the 1938 ? 39 offseason , Pearson became a contract holdout after he rejected the Yankees

' initial offer . Reportedly the same amount he had earned the season before ( \$ 10 @, @ 000 ) , he described the contract offer as " not up to [ his ] expectations . " The two sides eventually agreed to a contract worth \$ 13 @, @ 500 . He kept up his good pitching , garnering the seventh highest winning percentage ( .706 ) in the AL that year , though his ERA ballooned to 4 @. @ 49 . Throughout the season , problems in his pitching arm flared up again , restricting him to just 146 1 ? 3 innings pitched and 20 games started . As a result , his inclusion on the postseason roster was not guaranteed ; in late September , McCarthy appeared resigned to the fact that Pearson would not " be able to help [ him ] in this series . " However , he managed to shrug off his injury woes and was penciled into the starting rotation for Game 2 of the 1939 World Series . Facing the Cincinnati Reds , he held them hitless through 7 1 ? 3 innings pitched ? eventually giving up just two singles ? while striking out eight and walking one in a complete game , 4 ? 0 victory . Pearson 's sublime pitching performance is considered one of the greatest in World Series history ; with a game score of 90 , it is one of only eight Fall Classic starts to record a game score of 90 or above . The Yankees proceeded to sweep the Reds two games later , resulting in their fourth consecutive championship and giving Pearson the distinction of winning a World Series ring in every season of his Yankees tenure .

In 1940 , Pearson 's pitching during the first half of the season earned him his second All @- @ Star Game selection , but he was not called upon to pitch in it . About a week after the game , on July 17 , he tore his shoulder ligament which prematurely shortened his playing career . After pitching 13 innings against Bob Feller and his former team , Pearson eventually won the game but the injury ? discovered after a full physical examination on his sore arm a few weeks after the game ? ended his season ; he finished with a 7 ? 5 record and 3 @. @ 69 ERA in only 109 2 ? 3 innings pitched and 16 games started . He received treatment at the Union Memorial Hospital in Baltimore , and at the end of the season , he was placed on waivers and traded to the Cincinnati Reds in exchange for Don Lang and \$ 20 @, @ 000 .

= = = Cincinnati Reds and back to the minors ( 1941 ) = = =

Pearson 's final major league team was ironically the one he pitched his World Series two @- @ hitter against . Due to his history of injuries , the Yankees refused to offer a guarantee and thus , no other team was willing sign him . However , Reds manager Bill McKechnie made the gamble , remarking how Pearson " showed [ the Reds ] more that day than any National League right @- @ hander showed [ them ] that season " when he threw the two @- @ hitter against them . Pearson expressed his delight at the trade and looked forward to working with McKechnie . However , he was unable to rediscover his pre @- @ injury form ; in his first start for the Reds , Pearson was battered by the opposing team , giving up six earned runs and five walks to the Chicago Cubs before being pulled out of the game after only 1 1 ? 3 innings . In a total of 7 games pitched ? 4 starts and 3 games finished ? for the Reds , he pitched poorly , posting a 1 ? 3 record with a 5 @. @ 18 ERA in just 24 1 ? 3 innings pitched . This dismal showing convinced the Reds to cut ties with Pearson , and he was sold to the Hollywood Stars of the Pacific Coast League on August 21 .

Pearson 's sojourn in the minor leagues was brief , lasting just one game . In his only start for the Stars , he pitched a complete game , giving up six hits and three walks in five innings . He announced his retirement from baseball the following year on August 27 .

= = Personal life = =

Pearson married Cleo Wimer in January 1931 . They had a son and a daughter . He remained with Cleo for thirty @- @ two years , before she filed for divorce in 1962 . He remarried to Nellie , with whom he had one son , Larry . Larry was signed by the Washington Senators in 1959 .

During the 1939 offseason , Pearson was nearly killed while hunting with William Rudolph , a 15 @- @ year @- @ old high school baseball player from Fresno . Rudolph accidentally fired his shotgun at the same time as Pearson . The shot penetrated Pearson 's cap and knocked it from his head . Pearson , who escaped uninjured , described the incident as " the thrill of [ his ] life . " In 1942

, during a leave of absence away from baseball to recover from injury , Pearson worked at the Fresno Air National Guard Base as a firefighter . After his Major League career ended , he planned on switching to a career in boxing , but returned to Fresno State College and graduated with a degree in chemistry . He became the chief sanitarian of Madera County . He unsuccessfully ran for a seat on the Fresno County Board of Supervisors in 1952 .

On May 15 , 1962 , Pearson was arrested and charged with accepting bribes in exchange for approving shoddy septic tanks . In November of that year , he was found guilty of one count of bribery involving \$ 200 . The court sentenced him to eight months imprisonment and placed him on probation for three years . After a long battle with cancer , Pearson died on January 27 , 1978 in Fresno , California at the age of 69 and was cremated .

= = Legacy = =

Despite having mediocre statistics in the regular season , Pearson excelled in the postseason . He won all four of his World Series starts , finishing with a 4 ? 0 win ? loss record . His 0 @.@ 729 walks plus hits per inning pitched ( WHIP ) is the lowest of all @-@ time in the postseason , while he also has the second lowest hits per nine innings ( 4 @.@ 794 ) and seventh lowest ERA ( 1 @.@ 01 ) . Together with teammate Red Ruffing , they held a combined 8 ? 1 record and a 1 @.@ 79 ERA spanning from the 1936 ? 39 World Series , and the two are viewed as one of the most dominant postseason pitching duos of all @-@ time .

Pearson appeared on the Baseball Hall of Fame ballot in 1958 . He received just one vote ? 0 @.@ 4 % of the vote ? and was not included on any subsequent ballots . He was inducted into the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame in 1967 .