

= Sammy Vick =

Samuel Bruce " Sammy " Vick ( April 12 , 1895 ? August 17 , 1986 ) was an American professional right fielder in Major League Baseball . He played for the New York Yankees from 1917 to 1920 , and the Boston Red Sox in 1921 . He stood 5 ft 10 in ( 1 @. @ 78 m ) , and weighed 163 lb . , and he batted and threw right @-@ handed . He was born in Batesville , Mississippi , and attended Millsaps College in Jackson , Mississippi .

After playing one season of minor league baseball in 1917 , Vick was signed by the Yankees and was used sparingly by them later that same season . He became their starting right fielder in 1919 . With Babe Ruth 's arrival , and Bob Meusel 's emergence in 1920 , Vick 's productivity and playing time diminished . Following the season , he was traded to the Red Sox in a deal that brought future Hall of Famer pitcher Waite Hoyt to the Yankees . In his five @-@ season career , Vick had a .248 batting average , with two home runs and 50 RBIs in 213 games played .

After his major league career ended after the 1921 season , he returned to the minor leagues and played in various leagues until 1930 . Vick died , after a long illness , in Memphis , Tennessee , at age 91 .

= = Early life = =

Samuel Bruce Vick was born on April 12 , 1895 in Batesville , Mississippi , to Hugh , a farmer , and Lillie . After attending Millsaps College in Jackson , Mississippi , he signed a minor league baseball contract with the Memphis Chickasaws of the Southern Association ( SA ) . He played one season in Memphis , playing in 126 games , and had a .322 batting average along with 24 doubles and 12 triples . When the SA season was completed , he signed a contract with the New York Yankees of the American League ( AL ) .

= = Career = =

= = = New York Yankees = = =

Vick made his Major League Baseball ( MLB ) debut with the Yankees on September 20 , 1917 . He finished the season with the Yankees , playing in 10 games , all in right field . In 36 at bats during that stretch , he collected 10 hits for a .278 batting average . He played in just two games during the early part of the 1918 season , before being drafted into the military . The first appearance occurred on April 19 , in the second game of a double header against the Boston Red Sox . He relieved starting right fielder Frank Gilhooley late in the game , and collected a hit in each of his two at bats in against Red Sox pitcher , Babe Ruth . He had a run batted in ( RBI ) and scored a run in the game , although the Red Sox won the game by a score of 9 to 5 . His other appearance that season was as a pinch hitter in a game against the Washington Senators on April 25 , and failed to collect a hit .

In 1919 , Vick became the Yankees 's starting right fielder . On April 30 , in his fourth appearance of the season , he led off the bottom of the first inning with a home run off of Mule Watson of the Philadelphia Athletics : his first career home run . He struggled at the plate during the first two months of the season , with a batting average of .208 after the June 1 game . However , he began to increase his productivity in June and July . By early August , he had raised his average to a season @-@ high of .266 . It was during that time period when he hit his second , and last , major league home run . It was a grand slam off of Allan Sothoron in a game on August 7 : an 8 ? 2 victory over the St. Louis Browns . For the remainder of the season , Vick 's production had a steady , slow decline ; he finished the season with a .248 batting average , along with 27 RBIs , 15 doubles , and nine triples .

Vick 's playing time dwindled in 1920 with the arrival of Babe Ruth , an off @-@ season purchase from the Red Sox . The Yankees now had an outfield that consisted of Ruth , established players of

Duffy Lewis and Ping Bodie , and Bob Meusel , a rookie . Injuries to Lewis and Bodie allowed for periods of lengthy playing time for Vick in July and September . Later in the season , Vick and his manager Miller Huggins got into a heated argument , during which Vick punched Huggins . Appreciating Vick 's spirit , the manager quickly forgave him . Vick 's final totals in 1920 consisted of a .220 batting average in 51 games . During his time with the Yankees , the New York City sportswriters noted that he was prodigious eater . He was so much so that they proclaimed that any time someone ate a large meal , they were " doing a Sammy Vick . "

= = = Boston Red Sox = = =

The Yankees felt that Vick had not lived up to his potential during his four seasons with the team . Considering the team now had a solid outfield of Ruth , Meusel , Lewis , and Bodie , and the Yankees needed pitching ; Vick became expendable . On December 15 , 1920 , the Yankees traded Vick , Muddy Ruel , Del Pratt and Hank Thormahlen to the Red Sox for Waite Hoyt , Harry Harper , Wally Schang and Mike McNally .

Vick began the 1921 season with an injured leg , which did not allow him the play in either April or May . He did not appear in a game until June 2 , and was mostly used as a pinch hitter and late @-@ game replacement . He was absent from the line @-@ up for most of July as well , until August when again , he was used mainly as a pinch hitter . In total , he played in just 44 games for the Red Sox , with only 15 games in the outfield ; 12 of them starting the game . Vick had a season @-@ total of 77 at bats , a .260 batting average , and nine RBIs .

= = Post major league career = =

After the 1921 season , Vick continued his baseball career in the minor leagues . In 1922 , he played for the Toronto Maple Leafs of the International League , batting .233 in 50 games played . He returned to the Memphis Chickasaws for one season in 1923 , improving his average to .290 . For the 1924 season , he joined the Brookhaven Truckers of the Cotton States League ( CSL ) as player @-@ manager , and he produced the best offensive numbers up to this point in his career . He batted .322 with 16 home runs , 21 doubles , and 11 triples .

In 1925 , Vick stayed in the CSL , but became the Laurel Lumberjacks 's non @-@ playing manager for two seasons . However , in 1926 , his tenure was short , and he joined the New Orleans Pelicans of the SA as a player only for the remaining 32 games of the season . After batting .348 in 1926 , he improved his average to .350 in 1927 , along with career @-@ highs in hits with 194 , doubles with 39 , and triples with 16 . Staying in New Orleans for the 1928 season , his offensive numbers dropped , but he still batted .302 in 109 games played . His 1929 season was split between three teams ; the Pelicans , the Chattanooga Lookouts of the SA , and the Dallas Steers of the Texas League . That season , he hit a career @-@ high 17 home runs , along with a .333 batting average . He finished his minor league career back with Memphis in 1930 .

= = = Later life = = =

According to the 1930 U.S. Census , he became a teacher at a public school in Panola County , Mississippi , following his baseball career . He was married to Lois Monteith , had three sons , and had one daughter . Vick died on August 17 , 1986 in Memphis , Tennessee after a long illness , and is interred at Forrest Memorial Park located in Batesville .