

= Charley Wensloff =

Charles William " Butch " Wensloff ( December 3 , 1915 ? February 18 , 2001 ) was an American right @-@ handed pitcher in Major League Baseball who played for three seasons in the American League with the New York Yankees and Cleveland Indians . In 41 career games , Wensloff pitched 276 ? innings and posted a win @-@ loss record of 16 ? 13 and a 2 @.@ 60 earned run average ( ERA ) .

Wensloff began his career in the Arizona ? Texas League before joining the New York Yankees farm system . He played on various minor league teams for the next six seasons and made his debut during the 1943 New York Yankees season . He pitched in 29 games , and after the season ended , he served in the United States Army during World War II . Wensloff rejoined the Yankees in 1947 , pitching in 11 regular season games and in the 1947 World Series . After the season ended , he was sent to the Cleveland Indians , and pitched in one game for the team before retiring at the end of the season .

= = Minor leagues = =

Wensloff began his professional career in the Arizona ? Texas League , pitching for the Class @-@ D , El Paso Texans , a team not affiliated with any major league squad , in 1937 . The team included future Major League players Bill Bevens and Milo Candini , and one former Major League player , Jimmy Zinn . Wensloff pitched 34 games that season , going 17 ? 10 with a 4 @.@ 67 ERA in 233 innings pitched . At the end of the season , he was the third most successful pitcher in the league in terms of wins and pitched in the eighth highest number of innings .

In 1938 , Wensloff spent his first season in the New York Yankees minor league system , playing for the Class @-@ C Joplin Miners of the Western Association . In an exhibition game with the Miners against the St. Louis Browns , Wensloff allowed eight runs and failed to pitch for a full inning as the Miners lost , 12 ? 5 . In 28 games for the Miners in 1938 , he won and lost 13 games each and finished the season with a 3 @.@ 48 ERA . Wensloff continued his tenure with the Miners during the 1939 season . By the end of July , he had a win @-@ loss record of 17 ? 2 . In his final season at the Class @-@ C level , Wensloff compiled a 26 ? 4 record in 31 games , pitching 249 innings . At the end of the season , Wensloff had the most wins in the league along with Maury Newlin of the Topeka Owls , and was also third in the league in innings pitched .

In 1940 , Wensloff was promoted to the Kansas City Blues of the American Association , a higher level of the Yankees ' farm system , where he played alongside Hall of Famer Phil Rizzuto , among others who later played in the majors . In his first game at the Double @-@ A level , Wensloff allowed only two hits in a game against the Columbus Red Birds . Wensloff pitched in 35 games , 27 starts , going 13 ? 8 with a 3 @.@ 19 ERA in 178 innings pitched . The Blues went on to play in the American Association playoffs that season . In the second game of three against the Louisville Colonels , Wensloff shut them out as the Blues won the game , 1 ? 0 . Wensloff spent his second season with the Blues in 1941 , and went 15 ? 8 with a 3 @.@ 93 ERA in 36 games , 22 of them starts . He finished the season eighth in the American Association in wins .

Wensloff played his third and final season with the Blues in 1942 . That season , he was one of five pitchers named to the American Association All @-@ Star Team , which Kansas City hosted . Wensloff won his 19th game of the season on August 24 , 1942 , pitching the shortest game of the season , which only lasted one hour and 20 minutes . Wensloff had a 21 ? 10 record with a 2 @.@ 47 ERA in 33 games , had the most wins in the league , and was sixth in ERA during that season . On September 27 , 1942 , the New York Yankees purchased nine contracts from their minor league teams , including Herb Karpel and Wensloff 's contracts from Kansas City , which placed them on the major league roster .

= = New York Yankees = =

Upon signing a contract with the Yankees , Wensloff spent the 1943 season on the Yankees ' major

league roster . During spring training , Yankees manager Joe McCarthy had heard impressive things about Wensloff , though he had not seen him pitch often . Wensloff made his major league debut for the Yankees on May 2 , 1943 against the Washington Senators . In his debut , the second game of a doubleheader , he allowed four earned runs and seven hits in eight innings as the Yankees lost , 4 ? 1 . He won his first game in his next pitching appearance on May 7 , 1943 against the Philadelphia Athletics , allowing no walks and six hits in a 6 ? 2 victory . By the end of June , he had six complete games in his first six starts . However , he was not receiving the publicity other rookies were , such as pitcher Jesse Flores , and had four wins and four losses despite how well he had been pitching .

During the second half of the season , Wensloff remained a major part of the starting rotation . His losses included a 1 ? 0 defeat in which he only allowed one unearned run on a wild throw against the St. Louis Browns . During the season , Wensloff added a knuckleball to his selection of pitches , which he threw regularly during the season . As the end of the season approached , Wensloff was being promoted as a rookie of the year candidate , due to being second on the team in strikeouts , as well as his 13 wins . Wensloff finished the season with a 13 ? 11 record and a 2 @.@ 54 ERA in 29 games , 27 of them starts . He did not pitch in the 1943 World Series , though he was on the roster .

= = Military service = =

At the conclusion of the 1943 season , Wensloff enlisted in the United States Army and served in World War II . When the Yankees were preparing for the start of the 1944 season , the team originally had no idea where Wensloff was , as they had not heard from him . He was inactive for the 1944 season . In 1945 , Wensloff was traded from the Yankees to the San Diego Padres of the Pacific Coast League for Johnny Kreevich , allowing him to simultaneously pitch professionally and continue serving in the war . In 10 games for the Padres , he won three and lost four with a 3 @.@ 82 ERA . After the 1945 season and the war ended , Wensloff remained in military service , and as a result did not play in 1946 .

= = Later career = =

After his service , Wensloff returned to the New York Yankees for the 1947 season . He made his first appearance at the start of June and pitched despite having a sore arm throughout the season , pitching infrequently . In 11 games with the Yankees , Wensloff compiled a record of 3 ? 1 with a 2 @.@ 61 ERA and 18 strikeouts in 51 ? innings pitched , and pitched two innings of one game in the 1947 World Series .

As the 1948 season began , Wensloff did not report to spring training , and was holding out for a new contract ; the only time he communicated with the club was to inquire about his World Series ring . At the end of March , he was sold by the Yankees to the Philadelphia Phillies for a reported \$ 30 @,@ 000 . Wensloff refused to join the Phillies because he did not want to play in the National League , and as a result he was sent back to the Yankees . The Yankees were also in trade talks with the New York Giants , but Wensloff refused to play for them for the same reason . The Yankees continued to look for a trading partner , and eventually traded him to the Cleveland Indians for an undisclosed amount . With the Indians , Wensloff pitched only one game , giving up two earned runs in 1 ? innings pitched on May 4 . He was placed on the disabled list on May 20 , 1948 with continued arm soreness . This later proved to be a career @-@ ending injury for Wensloff , as he retired at the end of the 1948 season . Upon ending his career , Wendloff retired to San Rafael , California , and died on February 18 , 2001 .