

= Pretzel Pezzullo =

John " Pretzel " Pezzullo (December 10 , 1910 ? May 16 , 1990) , also known as Pretzels Pezullo , was a professional baseball player whose career spanned eight seasons , two of which were spent with the Major League Baseball (MLB) Philadelphia Phillies . Pezzullo , a pitcher , compiled an earned run average (ERA) of 6 @.@ 36 , allowing 61 earned runs off of 116 hits , five home runs , and 51 walks while recording 24 strikeouts over 86 @.@ 1 innings pitched . Pezzullo also played in six seasons of minor league baseball . He made his MLB debut at the age of 24 after spending a season in the minor leagues for the New York Giants organization . Pezzullo earned the nicknamed " Pretzel " after his unusual pitching style . After retiring from baseball , Pezzullo moved to Dallas , Texas , where he died of cancer on May 16 , 1990 .

= = Early life = =

Pezzullo was born on December 10 , 1910 , in Bridgeport , Connecticut . He had four siblings and is of Italian ancestry . Pezzullo attended school until the eighth grade , after which he went to trade school to learn cabinet and pattern making . He was officially listed as standing 5 feet 11 inches (180 cm) and weighing 180 pounds (82 kg) when he played professionally .

= = Professional career = =

Pezzullo began his professional baseball career in 1934 , when he played for the Richmond Colts , an affiliate of the New York Giants . Pezzullo finished the season fifth in the Piedmont League in wins , with 16 , while finishing fourth on the Colts in games pitched , recording 27 games over the season . He was called " a good pitching prospect " by Chicago Tribune sports writer Arch Ward . On November 1 of that year , Pezzullo was traded as a part of a four @-@ man deal that sent him , Blondy Ryan , Johnny Vergez , George Watkins , and cash to the Philadelphia Phillies in exchange for Dick Bartell . For the 1935 season , Pezzullo , who pitched for the major @-@ league Phillies , recorded a team @-@ worst ERA of 6 @.@ 40 , along with a 3 ? 5 win ? loss record over 40 games pitched . He hit seven batters by a pitch , tying him for the seventh most hit batsmen in MLB . In Pezzullo 's final MLB game in 1936 , he walked six batters in two innings pitched .

= = = Minor league career = = =

Pezzullo also played for two minor league teams during the 1936 season : the Richmond Colts and the Hazleton Mountaineers . Combined , Pezzullo went 14 ? 10 with a 5 @.@ 19 ERA . The following season he played for the Savannah Indians and the Colts ; for the Indians , Pezzullo went 13 ? 8 over 165 @.@ 0 innings pitched . The following season , he played only for the Indians , an affiliate of the Pittsburgh Pirates . His 26 wins were best in the Southern League , while his 288 @.@ 0 innings pitched also led all Southern League players . In a game against the Spartanburg Spartans , Pezzullo struck out 17 batters . After the season he was sold to the double @-@ A Toronto Maple Leafs of the International League , where , under managers Tony Lazzeri and Jack Burns , Pezzullo won 11 games and lost 12 . He went 5 ? 16 the following year , before leaving the team for the Syracuse Chiefs and the Buffalo Bisons in his final year of professional baseball in 1941 .

= = After baseball = =

After retiring from baseball , Pezzullo moved to Dallas , Texas , where he married Betty (née Tolcyk) and had one daughter , Patti Moore . In Dallas , he designed aircraft missile models and founded Gulf Industries , a Grand Prairie @-@ based model subcontracting firm . Pezzullo died on May 16 , 1990 , of cancer . Funeral processions were held on May 18 at Holy Redeemer Mausoleum Chapel in DeSoto , Texas , where he was interred .

