

A Schott From The Bleachers

Babe Ruth The Pitcher

by

Arthur O. Schott

This article originally appeared in the Times-Picayune on December 20, 1966.

Few baseball fans realize that Babe Ruth pitched his last major league game less than two years before he retired in 1935. On October 1, 1933, at Yankee Stadium the old Bambino pitched a game against the Boston Red Sox, and although touched for a dozen base-hits, he came up with a 6 – 5 victory. The Babe aided his own cause with a home run, actually resulting in the margin of victory in this ball game.



The record book contains some interesting facts about Ruth's career as a pitcher, some of which are not as familiar as his home run exploits. In 44 games in 1916 he won 23 while losing 12 games and posting an earned run average of 1.75 per nine inning game. The latter mark was enough to lead the American League in that department, and indicates his ability as an effective slabster. Ruth followed this season with a 23 – 13 mark in 1917, and another impressive 2.02 ERA.

Babe pitched a total of 163 major league ball games, and in decisions he shows 92 games won, 44 lost, for an all-time winning mark of .667. His lifetime earned run average was a 2.24.

In the strikeout department, Ruth fanned 443 batters in 1,220 innings to record a strikeout performance of 3.3 per nine inning game.

Ruth posted an almost perfect World Series record in that he won three games and lost none. In a total of 31 innings pitched he hung up a World Series earned run average of 0.87, and that is a mark any pitcher can be proud to display.

Arthur O. Schott

Louisiana's Official Baseball Historian

The box score of the game at New York on October 1, 1933:

BOSTON					NEW YORK				
	AB	H	PO	A		AB	H	PO	A
Werber, ss	5	1	0	2	Combs, lf	3	1	5	0
Almada, lf	3	3	3	0	Walker, rf	1	0	0	0
Jolley, rf	5	1	1	0	Farrell, 2b	5	0	1	1
Ferrell, c	5	1	4	1	Ruth, p	3	1	1	1
Judge, 1b	2	0	6	0	Gehrig, 1b	4	2	5	1
McManus, 1b	2	2	4	0	Chapman, rf-lf	4	2	7	0
Stumpf, cf	5	2	2	0	Lary, 3b	2	1	0	1
Walters, 3b	4	2	1	4	Glenn, c	4	1	0	0
Muller, 2b	4	0	3	3	Crosetti, ss	4	1	2	2
Kline, p	2	0	0	1	Byrd, cf	4	1	6	0
Welch, p	1	0	0	1					
a – Warstler	1	0	0	0					
<hr/>					<hr/>				
Totals	39	12	24	12	Totals	34	10	27	6

a – batted for Welch in the 9th

Score by innings:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E	
Boston	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	=	5	12	0
New York	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	X	=	6	10	0

Summary: Runs – Ferrell, Judge, Stumpf, Walters 2, Combs, Farrel, Ruth 2, Chapman, Lary. RBI – Gehrig 2, Chapman, Ruth, Glenn, Crosetti, Werber, Walters 2, Muller, Almada. 2B – Combs, Stumpf, Byrd. HR – Ruth. LOB – New York 5, Boston 10. BB – Off Kline 4, Ruth 3. SO – by Welch 3. HD – Kline 8 in 5; Welch 2 in 3. Loser – Kline. Umpires – Ormsby and Moriarity. Time – 1:38.