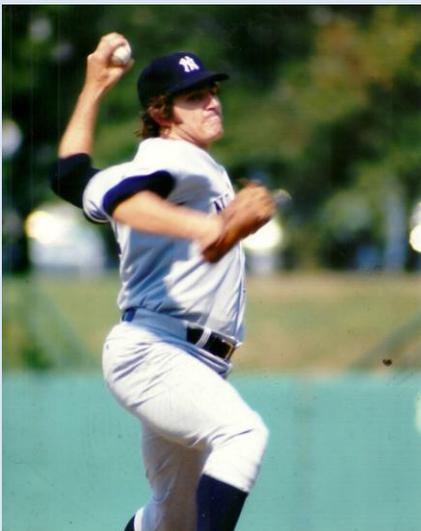




Fritz Peterson

Fritz Peterson is one of the greatest control pitchers in the history of Major League Baseball. He has the lowest Earned Run Average of any pitcher in the history of original Yankee Stadium (1923 to 2008) with an ERA of 2.52. That ranks him ahead of other outstanding pitchers such as Whitey Ford, Mariano Rivera, Lefty Gomez and Roger Clemens. His 1.14 “Walks+Hits Per Innings Pitched” is the best of any Yankee starting pitcher in the post-WWII era and he led the Major Leagues in this measurement in 1969 and 1970.

The accolades don't stop there. Fritz led the majors in fewest walks per 9 innings pitched for 5 consecutive seasons from 1968 to 1972, the only time that has been done in the American League. The last time that particular feat was accomplished in the National League was in 1903 by the legendary Cy Young himself.

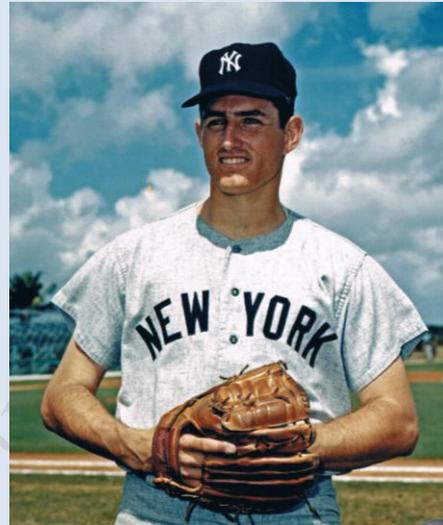


Fritz also led the Majors in the best strikeout-to-walks ratio in 1969 and 1970.

In 1970, Fritz became a 20-game winner for the only time in his career and pitched in the All-Star game that same season. That is the game best remembered for the play when Pete Rose steamrolled catcher Ray Fosse at a play at the plate.

If you are wondering why the best left-handed control pitcher of the 20th century would not be known for his incredible feats on the diamond, the answer would be because of an off-field trade that took place in 1973. Fritz and his Yankee teammate Mike Kekich traded wives, children, houses and even dogs. Sports Illustrated called it the most highly publicized trade in all of sports history. Fritz and his wife remain happily married to this day.

His stories from inside the Yankee dugout will thrill baseball fans of all ages.



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