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Steve Blass

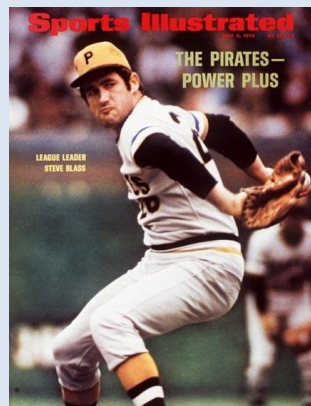


Steve had a 10-year pitching career with the Pittsburgh Pirates over which time he won 103 ball games. He will be remembered for his great pitching performances in the 1971 World Series against the Baltimore Orioles when Steve pitched 2 complete game victories over the heavily favored Birds.

Steve's best statistical season came in 1968 when he had an 18-6 won-loss record for a league leading .750 won-loss percentage to go with a stingy 2.12 earned run average, 5th best in the National League. Blass was voted to the all-star team in 1972 when he led the NL in shutouts with 5 and was second in voting for the Cy Young Award.

However, any pitcher dreads what has come to be known as "Steve Blass Disease". In 1973, suddenly, Steve Blass completely lost it. His once pinpoint control vanished. He would pitch fine in warm-ups, but would turn completely wild once the game started. His arm felt fine, it was examined several times and nothing was found. He went just 3-9 with a 9.85 ERA and had 84 walks in 88 innings. His career was effectively over.

Blass tried everything in an attempt to regain his form. He tried psychotherapy, transcendental meditation, optometherapy, and just about anything else that was suggested to him. Nothing worked. Even today, what happened to Steve Blass remains a mystery. It should be remembered, however, that Steve Blass was once one of baseball's best. He was a true clutch pitcher that brought a championship to the city of Pittsburgh. Steve has been a radio broadcaster for the Pirates since 1986.



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