



Wilbur Wood

There are few pitchers in baseball history who excelled as both a relief pitcher and a starting pitcher. Recent names that come to mind are John Smoltz and Dennis Eckersley. But add the name of Wilbur Wood to that list.

Wilbur was one of the most popular Chicago athletes in the 70's in part because he wasn't 6-5 with a body by Adonis. Wilbur looked like your uncle or cousin. He was 'everyman.' And all Sox fans could relate to a guy who didn't look like a sculpted god yet somehow found a way to consistently get major league hitters out again and again.

Wilbur was a three time All Star, a four time twenty game winner, he had 57 saves and 163 wins with the Chicago White Sox. He was named the 1968 American League Fireman of the Year, the



American League Pitcher of the Year in 1972 and was also named as the left handed starting pitcher on The Sporting News 1972 American League All Star Team. Wood led the American League in 33 different categories during his playing days, most of them in the 'good' column.

Among them were leading the league in appearances, games started, games finished, innings pitched, batters faced, wins and getting hitters to ground into double plays. Amazingly, he started both ends of a double header twice and was named to the White Sox 'All-Century' team. There will never be another pitcher like Wilbur Wood.

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