**HERB SCORE**

**1933 – 2008**

by Gay A. Christensen-Dean

Herbert Jude Score was born June 7, 1933 in Rosedale, New York. His early life was fraught with injuries and health problems. When he was three he was run over by a bakery truck, severely injuring his leg. He contacted rheumatic fever and missed a year of school. He slipped on a wet locker room floor and broke his ankle.

When Herb was young his family moved to Florida. In 1952, he threw six no-hitters for Lake Worth High School and then signed a contract with the Cleveland Indians. He was sent to Indianapolis; Reading, Pennsylvania where he met Rocky Colavito; and then back to Indianapolis, with Rocky too. In the minor leagues he slipped on wet grass in the outfield and separated his left shoulder. In 1955 at age 21, Herb and Colavito were elevated to the Major Leagues as rookies with the Indians, joining Bob Feller, Bob Lemon, etc. In that first year in the Major Leagues, he struck out 245 batters, a Major League rookie record that stood until 1984. He pitched and batted left-handed. And, in 1956 he did even better.

On the night of May 7, 1957 at Cleveland’s Municipal Stadium, in the first inning, the second batter to face him was Gil McDougald of the New York Yankees. With the count 2 and 2, Herb threw a low fast ball and McDougald whacked the ball right back at Herb, while his head was still down in the follow-through position, hitting him in the eye and breaking some facial bones. He never lost consciousness but had severe hemorrhaging in his eye and a swollen retina. He spent three weeks in the hospital and was sidelined for the rest of the season. His vision eventually returned but his pitching was never the same. In 1959 he was traded to the Chicago White Sox and he damaged his elbow. He retired after three more seasons (in 1962).

In 1964, the Cleveland Indians hired him as their play-by-play announcer. He was revered by the fans and stayed with the Indians for the next 34 years.

On October 8, 1998, Herb was severely injured in an automobile accident near New Philadelphia, Ohio, while driving to Florida. He spent over a month in intensive care. And in 2002 he suffered a stroke. Herb died November 11, 2008 (age 75) in Rocky River, Ohio, and is buried in Lakewood Park Cemetery in Rocky River.

Sources: www.nytimes.com, https://miscbaseball.wordpress.com, www.wikipedia.org