Ted Gray, "Year to Forget"

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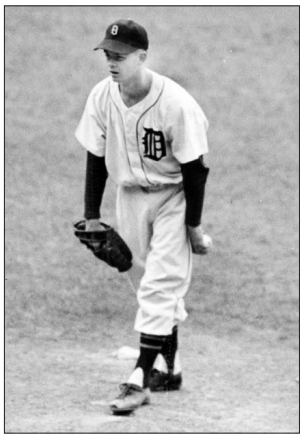
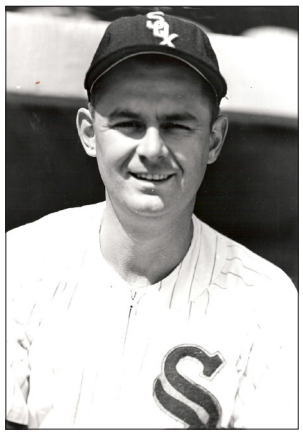
Ted Gray is a left-handed pitcher for his hometown Detroit Tigers for eight seasons before being traded on December 6, 1954, along with Walt Dropo and Bob Nieman, to the Chicago White Sox for Leo Cristante, Ferris Fain and Jack Phillips.

That trade, highlighted by the exchange of Dropo and Fain, begins a 10-month odyessy in which Gray becomes only the fourth major leaguer, and the first since Paul Lehner in 1951, to play for four different teams in one season.

Gray closes out a nine-year major league career in 1955, donning the uniforms of the Chicago White Sox (2 games), Cleveland Indians (2 games), New York Yankees (1 game) and the Baltimore Orioles (9 games).

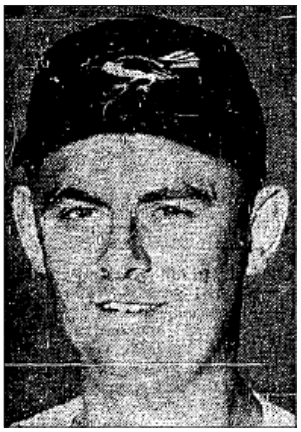


Ted Gray
1946, 1948-54 Detroit Tigers



Ted Gray
1955 Chicago White Sox

Ted Gray
1955 New York Yankees



Ted Gray
1955 Baltimore Orioles

1955 Timeline

May 11 - Gray is 0-0 with an 18.00 ERA with nine hits allowed in three innings when White Sox general manger Frank Lane announces that the veteran southpaw will be "disposed of" to bring the team down to the 25-player limit.

May 18 - In the process of being given his unconditional release by the White Sox, Gray works out with the Cleveland Indians ... Harry Jones of the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* opines "He hasn't much chance."

May 19 - Gray is given his walking papers by the Pale Hose and is made available to any other major league club for $1.00, if the club assumes his current contract.

June 15 - Gray signs with the Cleveland Indians ... that evening he pitches in his first game for the Tribe, allowing two earned runs on two hits and two walks in one inning, keeping his season ERA at 18.00.

June 24 - The Indians recall rookie first baseman Joe Altobelli from the Indianapolis ... to make room for Altobelli, the Indians release a "sore armed" Gray outright.

June 30 - The New York Yankees sign Gray to replace Bob Grim, the 1955 American League Rookie of the Year ... Grim is placed on the 30-day inactive list with a sore elbow.

July 19 - Gray is released when second baseman Jerry Coleman returns to the New York roster after being inactive since April 27 with mutltiple fractures of his left collar bone.

July 26 - Gray is signed by the Baltimore when the Orioles put ailing first baseman Eddie Waitkus on waivers.

September 17 - The Orioles ask waivers on Gray for purposes of giving the 30-year-old his unconditional release.

Notes: Named to the American League All-Star team in 1950 ... allows one run, a home run to Red Schoendienst, in an inning and 1/3 and aborbs the loss in a 14-inning 4-3 loss to the National League ... won 10 or more games four times, including a career-high 12 games in 1952 ... led the American League in 1951 with 14 losses.