

Doad Tufteland, "The Doad Can Pitch"

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Joseph Doran (Doad) Tufteland signs with the Brooklyn Dodgers on April 9, 1948, but as a result of a front office mix up, the Lethbridge, Alberta native, despite an outstanding 43-11 record in four minor league seasons, unexpectedly retires in July of 1951, having never reached the major leagues.

Born in Magrath, Alberta in 1927, the 5-foot-10 right-hander owns dual citizenship in both the United States and Canada the son of Joe Tufteland, a well-known pitcher in the Southern Alberta League, he serves three years (1944-47) in the US Army Air Force and is a paratrooper stationed in Japan, where he matures as a pitcher while playing on various service teams.



Returning from Japan, Tufteland takes a job with an American seismographic company in the Wyoming oil fields ... on the days when he is able to get away from his job, he spends most of 1947 pitching semipro ball with his hometown Lethbridge Miners where he catches the attention Brooklyn of Dodger scout Howie Haak.

Two weeks after signing with the Dodgers, Tufteland reports to the team's training camp in San Bernardino, California ... he is later assigned to began his professional baseball career with the Ponca City Dodgers of the KOM (D) League.

Despite missing three weeks in June with a broken cheek bone, Tufteland begins his baseball career by winning his first 13 games for Ponca City ... he finishes his rookie season 18-2 with a 2.29 ERA for the first-place Dodgers and is a unanimous selection to the league's All-Star team.

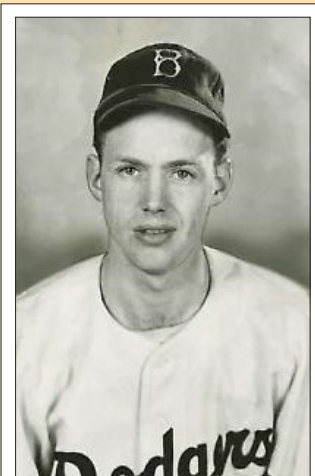
Tufteland begins 1949 with the Asheville Tourists of the Tri-State (B) League where he pitches in only one game before being optioned to the Pioneer (C) League's Billings Mustangs ... the 22-year-old Canadian continues his winning ways with the Mustangs going 12-4 with a 4.59 ERA and earning a second-straight All-Star berth.

In his first 43 games as a minor leaguer (1948-49), Tufteland has a career won-loss mark of 28-3 (.903).

Following his second consecutive all-star season, Tufteland is invited to the Brooklyn Dodger spring training camp in 1950 where he suffers an arm injury ... farmed out to the Danville Dodgers of the Three-I (B) League, Tufteland misses the first seven weeks of the 1950 season before rallying with a strong second half to finish 9-4 with a 3.46 ERA.

In 1951, Tufteland, now being used primarily in relief, continues his winning ways pitching for the Pueblo Dodgers of the Western (A) League where he is 4-2 with a 4.15 ERA when the Dodgers option him back to Billings ... the following day, Tufteland, who insists that he would quit if he found himself "slipping down the ladder instead of stepping up" reports to Billings where he surprisingly announces his retirement from professional baseball.

Tufteland's retirement comes as a result of a mix up between the front offices of the Brooklyn and the Pueblo clubs ... Billings, in the running for a spot in the first division, asks the parent Dodgers for some much needed pitching help ... Brooklyn feels that Tufteland is just the pitcher to help the Mustangs "into the leading company."



**Joe (Doad) Tufteland
1949 Brooklyn Dodgers**

Tufteland Win Streak Goes On

**Ponca City Pitcher
Adds Bartlesville
As 13th Victim;
Pittsburg Takes Two**

Kansas City, July 29. (AP).—Joe Tufteland and his KOM league fans pointed today to 13 good reasons why he's one of the brightest pitching prospects in the Brooklyn Dodger baseball chain.

Tufteland posted his thirteenth straight victory last night as Ponca City won from Bartlesville 6-4. He's undefeated this year and the loop's leading hurler.

Doad Tufteland [2 of 3]:

Brooklyn instructs the Pueblo front office to ask Doad if he would "voluntarily" go to Billings ... however, a front Pueblo office staffer "orders" Tufteland to report to the Montana city on the banks of the Yellowstone River, a demotion from class A to class C.

Brooklyn quickly attempts to correct the mistake, but Tufteland chooses to remain retired ... undeterred, a Dodger front office executive remarks "If Tufteland's arm comes around, he'll be pitching for Brooklyn soon."

Doad Tufteland Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Level	W-L	INN	H	BB	SO	ERA
1943	Lethbridge Painters		Amt	-	-	-	-	-	---
1944	Columbus (Lethbridge) Club		Amt	-	-	-	-	-	---
1945	Columbus (Lethbridge) Club		Amt	-	-	-	-	-	---
1947	Lethbridge Miners	Western Alberta	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	---
1948	Ponca City Dodgers	KOM League	D	18-2	185.0	140	74	122	2.29
1949	Asheville Tourists	Tri-State	B	0-0	4.2	6	0	2	1.93
1949	Billings Mustangs	Pioneer	C	12-4	151.0	168	70	77	4.59
1950	Danville Dodgers	Three-I	B	9-3	130.0	115	50	-	3.46
1951	Pueblo Dodgers	Western	A	4-2	39.1	43	22	16	4.15
1951	Billings Mustangs	Pioneer	C	--	-	-	-	-	---
1951	Lethbridge Miners	Western Alberta	SPro	--	-	-	-	-	---
Minor League Totals				4 Seasons	43-11	505.1	423	194	- 3.42

1948: KOM League All-Star; led league in wins (18); 14 complete games, 2 shutouts

1949: Pioneer League All-Star

Tufteland later says, "Say what you want, but baseball is a tough business. You produce or else. The big league glamor has the annoying habit of shoving the little guys, the ones fighting to land berths with loftier and better paying clubs, into cold, dark corners."

TUFTELAND CHRONOLOGY

July 27, 1941

Making his first start on the mound for the Lethbridge Junior Arcades against the visiting Barons in a South Alberta League game, a 14-year-old Tufteland appears "jittery" allowing nine runs on eight hits and four walks over 4 2/3 innings in a 10-9 loss.

April 9, 1948

Tufteland signs his first professional baseball contract with the Brooklyn Dodgers.

May 5, 1948 - First Win

In Ponca City's season opening 10-9 win over the Bartlesville Pirates, Tufteland enters the game in relief in the third inning, allows two hits in seven innings while striking out five and walking only two en route to picking up his first career win.

June 3, 1948 - First Shutout

Before a Ladies Night crowd of 1,200 in Iola's Riverside Municipal Ballpark, Tufteland allows only three hits en route to garnering his first career shutout and outdueling 19-year-old Hal Brydle in a 1-0 win ... Tufteland strikes out six and walks two.

July 28, 1948 - 13 in a Row ►►

Tufteland runs his record to 13-0 with a 6-4 win over Bartlesville ... he has defeated every team in the eight-team circuit at least once and among his victories are a one-hitter, two three-hitters, a four and five-hitter ... five of his 13 victories are in relief.

August 8, 1948

Tufteland's 13-game win streak to start the season comes to an end when the fourth-place Pittsburg Browns turn the trick defeating the first-place Dodgers 7-1.

September 5, 1948

Ponca City, behind Tufteland's three-hit shutout of the Miami Owls, clinch the regular season pennant with a 7-0 win ... Tufteland moves to 18-2 win the victory.

June 3, 1948 Riverside Municipal Ballpark Iola, Kansas

PONCA CITY-IOLA BOX SCORE

Ponca City--1	AB	R	H	PO	A	E
Degeer, 1b.	4	0	0	13	0	0
Bartley, 2b.	4	0	0	3	4	0
Wade, cf.	4	0	0	1	0	0
Barrow, rf.	3	0	0	1	0	0
Scheralight, lf.	3	0	3	0	0	0
Kubat, c.	3	0	0	6	2	1
Delich, 3b.	2	1	1	0	0	1
Muirhead, ss.	3	0	1	3	7	0
Tufteland, p.	3	0	0	0	2	1

Totals 29 1 5 27 15 3

Iola--0 AB R H PO A E

Fortine, cf. 3 0 1 4 0 0

Murphy, 1b. 2 0 1 12 1 0

Hewson, rf. 4 0 1 2 0 0

Tye, lf. 4 0 0 2 0 0

Sullivan, ss. 4 0 0 2 1 0

Sollars, 3b. 3 0 0 2 4 0

Fritz, 2b. 3 0 0 2 1 0

Walz, c. 3 0 0 2 1 0

Brydle, p. 3 0 0 1 2 2

Totals 29 0 3 27 13 2

Ponca City 000 000 010--1

Iola 000 000 000--0

Summary: Doubles--Hewson. Sacrifice--Murphy. Stolen base--Delich. Double play--Bartley to Muirhead to Degeer; Fritz to Sullivan to Murphy. Sollars to Murphy. Left on base--Ponca City 2; Iola 5. Struck out--by Brydle 2, Tufteland 6. Base on balls--off Brydle 1, Tufteland 2. Earned runs--None. Umpires--Cook and Cox. Time--1:42.

Doad Tufteland [3 of 3]:

October 7, 1948

Tufteland and Independence Yankees second baseman Jim Finigan are unanimous choices to the 1948 KOM League All-Star team ... selected by the Baseball Writers Association of the KOM, Tufteland is 18-2 and a key player in Ponca City's pennant drive while the 19-year-old Finigan hits .309 with 17 doubles, five triples and two home runs.

April 2, 1949

The Brooklyn Dodgers announce that pitchers Joe Tufteland and Glenn Brate have been optioned to the Asheville Tourists of the Tri-State (B) League.



Doad Tufteland
1951 Pueblo Dodgers

May 2, 1949

After one appearance with the Tourists, Tufteland is assigned to the Billings Mustangs of the Pioneer League on option.

June 19, 1949

For the second time in three days, Tufteland, pitching for the Billings Mustangs of the Pioneer (C) League game, fashions a two-hit complete game victory, beating Idaho Falls 12-0 ... Eddie Moore hits a three-run home run in the eighth inning, keying the Mustang's 12-hit attack.

July 25, 1949

Mid-season statistics show that Tufteland leads the Pioneer League with a 10-1 mark ... in his first 43 games as a minor leaguer, the 22-year-old Canadian sports a career won-loss mark of 28-3 (.903).

April, 1950

Tufteland suffers an arm injury in the Brooklyn Dodger spring training camp and misses the first seven weeks of the season.

July 10, 1951

Being used primarily in relief, Tufteland is 4-2 with a 4.15 ERA with the Ponca Dodgers of the Western (A) League when the Dodgers option him to Billings of the Pioneer (C) League.

July 11, 1951

Disappointed by his demotion to Billings, Tufteland announces his voluntary retirement from professional baseball with plans to accept "other" employment in the near future.

Joseph (Doad) Tufteland's Baseball Reference page:

<http://www.baseball-reference.com/minors/player.cgi?id=tuftel001jos>

Tufteland Unbeaten

13 WINS IN A ROW

PONCA CITY, Okla., July 30: (C.P.)—Joe Tufteland of Lethbridge, hasn't lost a game for the Ponca City's entry in the class D Kansas-Oklahoma-Texas League so far this year.

And the freshman, playing his first year as a professional, undefeated in 13 straight games, has his eye on the Brooklyn Dodgers pitching staff.

The Canadian right-hander was chosen at the Dodgers' first farm summer school in Western Canada held in Edmonton in 1947.

Howard Haak, Pacific coast area scout and former catcher, chose him and earmarked him for the Ponca team.

He started his streak May 5 against Bartlesville in the third inning as a reliever. He won the game with a 10-9 decision. He struck out five and gave up only two hits in the six innings.

His 13th victim was the Bartles-

ville club which lost Wednesday night, 6-4.

Hurling one two-hitter, a pair of three-hitters and a four and a five-hitter between the two games he defeated every other team in the eight-club circuit.

The 170-pound Lethbridge boy is winning a reputation as a relief hurler. Five of his 13 victories have come in relief roles.

Haak brought him to the Dodger training camp last spring at San Bernardino, Calif., after he had pitched semi-professional ball at Great Falls, Mont.

Ponca City is a Dodger farm club, and Tufteland was optioned here for experience.

Tufteland claims citizenship both in the United States and Canada. The five-foot ten, 21-year-old hurler served in the United States army for 2½ years and maintains United States citizenship as long as he is in the reserve force.