

# Norman Brown, "All-Star from Evergreen"

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On July 16, 1940, 20-year-old Rocky Mount Red Sox right-hander Norman Brown pitches a seven-inning no-hitter in a 3-0 win over visiting the visiting Portsmouth Cubs in the second game of a Piedmont (B) League doubleheader.

In recording the first no-hitter in the history of Rocky Mount's Municipal Stadium, the five-time minor league all-star allows only two runners to reach first base and both of them - third baseman Jack Ridings and right fielder Ed Sheehan - are hit by a pitch.

Signed as an amateur free agent by the Boston Red Sox, an 18-year-old Brown goes 10-13 in his professional baseball debut in 1937 with the Moultrie Packers of the Georgia-Florida (D) League.

In a career spanning 16 minor league seasons (1937-1954), Brown will play for 13 teams in 10 different leagues at five different levels ranging from D to AAA ... earning all-star honors in the Georgia/Florida League (1937), American Association (1943), Southern Association (1948 & 1949), and the Western League (1953), Brown finishes his career in 1954 with the Jacksonville (N.C.) Braves of the South Atlantic (A) League.

A two-time 20-game winner with the Atlanta Crackers (22) in 1948 and the Lincoln Chiefs (21) in 1953, Brown posts a 198-178 career minor league record.

The Evergreen, North Carolina, native misses two seasons (1944-1945) while serving in Europe with the U.S. Army during World War II.



Norman Brown  
1941 Greensboro Red Sox

## Brown Hurls No-Hit Game For Red Sox

### Blanks Cubs 3-0 In Seven Innings

ROCKY MOUNT, N. C., (AP)—Norman Brown, 21-year-old right-hander from Bennettsville, S. C., pitched a no-hit, no-run game here last night as Rocky Mount defeated Portsmouth 3 to 0 in the second game of a doubleheader. Portsmouth took the first game 5 to 2.

Only two Portsmouth batters reached first on Brown. After retiring the first 10 batters, the hurler hit Ridings with a pitched ball in the fourth inning. With one out in the seven, Brown hit Sheehan.

Brown struck out four and walked none.

It was the first no-hit, no-run game in the history of Rocky Mount's Municipal Stadium.

PORTSMOUTH		ROCKY MOUNT	
Ab.	R.	Ab.	R.
Zentgraf cf	3 0 0 1	Peaky ss	4 1 2 1
Ridings 3b	2 0 0 1	Mazer 2b	4 0 1 0 4
Sheehan rf	2 0 0 1	Boheffler 1b	4 1 2 1 0
Schluter 1b	3 0 0 1	Walsh 3b	3 1 2 1 0
McHenry lf	3 0 0 0	Plummer rf	2 0 1 0 0
Curry 2b	2 0 0 2	Gentile lf	1 0 0 2 0
McFall ss	2 0 0 1	Gilbert cf	2 0 0 2 0
Davis c	2 0 0 4	Cobbie c	2 0 0 4 0
Hughes p	0 0 0 0	Brown p	5 0 1 0 3
Roberson p	1 0 0 1 2		
Abelnicks	1 0 0 0 0		
bWilson	0 0 0 0 0		
Totals	21 0 0 18 6	Totals	20 3 9 21 0

Batted for Roberson in 6th.  
Bled for Sheehan in 7th.

Portsmouth	000 000 0-0
Rocky Mount	200 100 X-3

Errors—None.  
Runs batted in—Plummer, Gilbert, Mazer.  
Two-base hits—Walsh, Peaky, Sacrifice—Gentile.  
Double play—Zentgraf to Ridings, left on bases—Portsmouth, 2; Rocky Mount, 5.  
Base on balls, off—Hughes, 2; Roberson, 2.  
Struck out, by—Hughes, 3; Roberson, 3; Brown, 4.  
Hits, off—Hughes, 3 in 2-3; Roberson, 5 in 5-1-3.  
Hit by pitcher, by—Brown (Ridings and Sheehan).  
Wild pitches—Roberson.  
Losing pitcher—Hughes.  
Time—1:16.  
Umpire—Artiglian and Murray.

## TAR HEEL PITCHER SIGNS WITH BOSTON

BOSTON, Jan. 18. — (AP) — The Boston Red Sox announced tonight the receipt of signed contracts from Norman Brown, right-hander with Rocky Mount, N. C., in the Piedmont league last year, and Albert Flair, 1940 first baseman with Scranton, Pa., in the Eastern league.

Brown won 11 and lost five games for Rocky Mount and ended the season with an earned run average of 2.64. Flair batted .312 with Scranton.

On September 27, 1943, after seven years in the minors, Brown, now pitching for the Louisville Colonels, finally makes it to the major leagues when the Philadelphia Athletics send 33-year-old third baseman Eddie Mayo, 29-year-old outfielder Johnny Welaj and an undisclosed amount of cash to Louisville for his contract ... the Athletics, mired in last place in the American League, will spend \$65,000 to acquire 11 players at the end of the 1943 regular season.

Brown makes his major league debut with the Philadelphia Athletics on October 3, 1943, in the team's final regular season game ... turning in a steady seven-inning performance against the Cleveland Indians, Brown allows four unearned runs on five hits ... the Indians eventually push across four runs

## Norman Brown [2 of 5]:

against 16-year-old Carl Scheib in the top of the 11th inning for an 8-4 win before 2,330 at Philadelphia's Shibe Park.

Ironically, Brown's major league debut will also be his last professional appearance for two years after he enlists in the Army later that winter ... in 1945 Brown plays on a Fort Bragg team that lists Vern Benson, Clyde Kluttz, Van Lingle Mungo, Ernie White and Tommy Livingston on its roster.

Following his discharge from the military, Brown resumes his playing career making the Athletics' opening day roster in 1946 ... following a less than impressive performance (five runs in two innings) on May 11 against the Washington Senators, Brown's major league career comes to an end when he is sent to the Toronto Maple Leafs of the International League.

In his four-game major league career, Brown is 0-1 with a 3.14 ERA allowing 13 hits in 14 1/3 innings while striking out four, walking six and allowing two home runs.

Brown leaves baseball and returns to Bennettsville, South Carolina, where he becomes the owner of Brownie's Men Store ... **passing away on May 31, 1995, at the age of 76, Brown's obituary in Columbia's *The State* newspaper reports that he had received one World Series ring (despite playing on two last-place Philadelphia Athletics teams that finished a collective 105 games out of first place).**

## BROWN CHRONOLOGY

1940  
Pitching for the Rocky Mount Red Sox of the Piedmont (B) League, Brown has a stretch of 33 consecutive scoreless innings.

January 18, 1941  
The Boston Red Sox announce the receipt of signed contracts from pitcher Norman Brown and first baseman Albert "Broadway" Flair ... Flair, a graduate of LSU, will make his major league

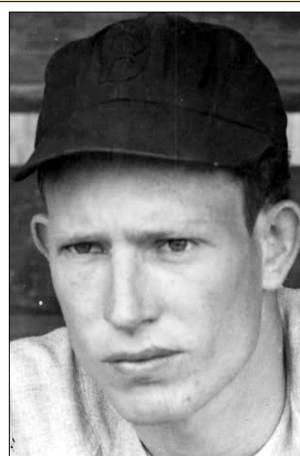
## Norman Brown Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Level	W-L	INN	H	BB	SO	ERA
1937	Moultrie Packers	Georgia-Florida	D	10-13	-	-	-	-	---
1938	Moultrie Packers	Georgia-Florida	D	-	-	-	-	-	---
	Canton Terriers	Middle Atlantic	C	0-0	-	-	-	-	---
<b>1939</b>	<b>2 Teams</b>	<b>2 Leagues</b>	<b>C-B</b>	<b>8-8</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2.10</b>
	Canton Terriers	Middle Atlantic	C	5-4	80	83	57	-	3.94
	Rocky Mount Red Sox	Piedmont	B	3-4	70	72	57	-	---
<b>1940</b>	<b>2 Teams</b>	<b>2 Leagues</b>	<b>B-A</b>	<b>11-5</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2.64</b>
	Rocky Mount Red Sox	Piedmont	B	11-5	150	107	80	-	2.64
	Scranton Red Sox	Eastern	A	0-0	-	-	-	-	---
<b>1941</b>	Greensboro Red Sox	Piedmont	B	13-8	195	164	91	116	2.31
1942	San Diego Padres	Pacific Coast	AA	13-12	197	201	80	76	3.56
1943	Louisville Colonels	American Assoc.	AA	16-11	255	233	85	98	2.33
1943	Philadelphia Athletics	AMERICAN	ML	0-0	7	5	0	1	0.00
1944	Fort Bragg	Military	-	-	-	-	-	-	---
1946	Toronto Maple Leafs	International	AAA	5-7	109	111	60	31	3.63
1946	Philadelphia Athletics	AMERICAN	ML	0-1	7.1	8	6	3	6.14
1947	Toronto Maple Leafs	International	AAA	7-13	173	172	92	46	4.47
1948	Atlanta Crackers	Southern	AA	<b>22-14</b>	<b>252</b>	278	102	89	3.96
1949	Atlanta Crackers	Southern	AA	11-11	202	217	90	79	4.23
<b>1950</b>	<b>2 Teams</b>	<b>1 League</b>	<b>AA</b>	<b>5-16</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>3.25</b>
	Atlanta Crackers	Southern	AA	5-16	169	165	89	58	3.25
	Chattanooga Lookouts	Southern	-	-	-	-	-	-	---
<b>1951</b>	<b>2 Teams</b>	<b>1 League</b>	<b>AA</b>	<b>14-16</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>3.92</b>
	Chattanooga Lookouts	Southern	AA	9-10	-	-	-	-	---
	Birmingham Barons	Southern	AA	5-6	-	-	-	-	---
<b>1952</b>	<b>2 Teams</b>	<b>2 Leagues</b>	<b>A-AA</b>	<b>18-8</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2.30</b>
	Birmingham Barons	Southern	AA	2-1	28	29	18	11	4.17
	Montgomery Grays	South Atlantic	A	16-7	195	118	66	73	2.63
1953	Lincoln Chiefs	Western	A	<b>21-11</b>	284	251	105	107	3.11
<b>1954</b>	<b>2 Teams</b>	<b>2 Leagues</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>8-13</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4.47</b>
	Lincoln Chiefs	Western	A	8-13	175	198	76	-	4.47
	Jacksonville Braves	South Atlantic	A	0-0	1	-	-	-	---
<b>Major League Totals</b>		<b>2 Seasons</b>		<b>0-1</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3.14</b>
<b>Minor League Totals</b>		<b>16 Seasons</b>		<b>182-166</b>	<b>2735</b>	<b>2624</b>	<b>1231</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3.37</b>

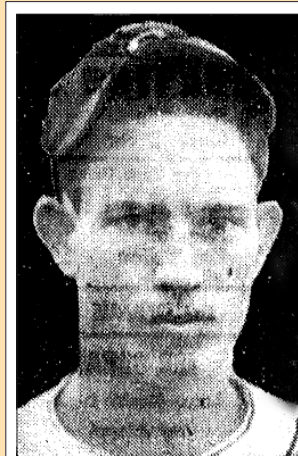
**ML Debut: October 3, 1943 at Shibe Park, Philadelphia:** started and was relieved after 7 innings by Carl Scheib in a 11-inning 8-4 loss to Cleveland; allowed 4 runs (0 earned) on five hits, struck out 1 and walked none (no decision).

**ML Finale: May 11, 1946 at Shibe Park, Philadelphia:** relieved Phil Marchildon at the start of the 7th inning in a 9-5 loss to Washington; allowed 5 runs on 6 hits, 1 walk and 2 strikeouts in 2 innings; allowed 8th inning HR to Al Evans (no decision).

**All-Star Honors:** 1938 Georgia/Florida League; 1943 American Association; 1948 Southern Association; 1949 Southern Association; 1953 Western League.



Norman Brown  
1943 Boston Red Sox Spring Training



Norman Brown  
1941 Greensboro Red Sox

## Norman Brown [3 of 5]:

debut with the Red Sox in late 1941, batting an even .200 with six hits in 30 at bats in 10 games.



HARDIN CATHEY.  
... He Loses.

After winning 20 games for the Thomasville Tourists as a 20-year-old rookie in 1940, Cathey will go 13-13 for Charlotte in 1941 ... the Burns, Tennessee native will pitch in 12 games for the Washington Senators in 1942, finishing 1-1 with a 7.42 ERA.

### July 18, 1941 Charlotte Hornets vs. Greensboro Red Sox Municipal Stadium, Greensboro, N.C.

CHARLOTTE.						
	Ab	R	H	O	A	E
Hahn,lf	4	0	1	3	0	0
Hoffman,3b	5	0	0	1	4	0
Hoberg,c	4	0	0	6	2	0
Ortiz,rf	6	0	1	1	0	1
Roberts,ss	5	0	0	5	6	2
Lyons,2b	5	1	2	0	8	1
Poydock,1b	4	0	0	16	2	0
Mallory,cf	5	0	0	4	0	0
Cathey,p	5	0	1	2	2	0
Totals	42	1	5	38	23	4

GREENSBORO.						
	Ab	R	H	O	A	E
Falk,cf	6	1	1	6	0	0
Nowak,lf	6	0	2	0	0	0
Scheffler,1b	6	0	2	11	3	0
Combs,ss	5	0	1	4	4	0
Huffstetler,2b	5*	0	0	2	5	0
Plummer,rf	5	1	1	2	1	0
Ferraiola,c	5	0	2	8	2	0
Stalleup,3b	6	0	0	4	2	1
Brown,p	5	0	2	2	1	0
Totals	48	2	11	39	18	1

aTwo out when winning run scored.  
Score by Innings: R. Charlotte .000 010 000 000 0-- 1 Greensboro .010 000 000 000 1-- 2

Two base hit--Cathey. Sacrifice--Poydock. Double plays--Lyons to Roberts to Poydock, 3. Bases on balls--Off Brown, 1. Struck out--By Cathey, 6; Brown, 8. Left on bases--Charlotte, 5; Greensboro, 8. Wild pitch--Cathey. Hit by pitcher--Hahn by Brown. Umpires--Strain, Powell and Mitchell. Time--2:18.

### July 18, 1941

In an 13-inning thriller, Greensboro's 6-foot-3 Norman Brown out-duels Charlotte's 6-foot-4 Hardin Cathey to post a 2-1 Piedmont League victory before 1,425 fans in Memorial Stadium ... Brown allows only five hits and strikes out six in a game that is decided in the bottom of the 13th inning when Bobby "The Human Rabbit" Falk scores from second on right fielder Roberto Ortiz's error.

### August 17, 1941

In the seventh inning of Greensboro's 8-7 win over the Portsmouth Cubs, Brown injures his hip covering first base and is carried from the field ... the following morning the team announces that Brown will be the lost for the remainder of the season.

### August 21, 1941

Miraculously recovered from his season-ending hip injury four days earlier, Brown allows 11 hits and walks six but goes the route in an 8-7 11-inning win over Winston-Salem in the second game of a doubleheader sweep of the last-place Twins.

### August 28, 1941

Brown is one of 11 players recalled by the parent Boston Red Sox ... expected to report at the conclusion of Greensboro's season, Brown instead opts to return to his home in Bennettsville, South Carolina, to have some dental work done to four of his molars, which he says have already affected his throwing arm.

### March 22, 1943

Brown is one of nine Boston Red Sox players to miss the opening day of spring training at Tufts College in Medford, Massachusetts ... after getting an early start from the club's hotel in Boston (5.4 miles away), Brown is misdirected to the training camp site and fails to appear.

### April 3, 1943

Brown makes his first ever appearance against a major league opponent when he pitches the fifth and sixth innings of a preseason game against the Brooklyn Dodgers ... with temperatures in the mid 30's, Brown allows three runs on three hits and four walks in his two innings of work.

### April 19, 1943

Life can be cruel ... informed earlier in the day that he was being sent down to Louisville of the American Association, a distracted and unhappy Brown enters a tied game in the 10th inning with the Boston Braves and promptly walks four batters, allows one hit and commits an error as the Braves score five times for a 6-1 victory.



Norman Brown  
1943 Boston Red Sox Spring Training

## Norman Brown [4 of 5]:

After the game, Brown threatens to quit, "This is my seventh year in the Red Sox chain and if I can't make good with them when they're short of players, when can I hope to? I think I'll get a job in a shipyard and call it quits."

Brown has a change of heart and reports to the Louisville Colonels of the American Association.



Otho Nitcholas compiles a 254-200 record in 21 minor league seasons ... Nitcholas will pitch in seven games for the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1945 finishing 1-0 with a 5.30 ERA.

July 10, 1943

Pitching for Louisville, Brown out duels veteran St. Paul right hander Otho Nitcholas in a "brilliant mound battle" shutting out the visiting Saints 1-0 in 16 innings ... Brown allows only seven hits, none over the last five.

September 5, 1943

Brown is the only Louisville player named to the American Association All-Star team.

September 27, 1943

Brown finally makes it to the major leagues when the Philadelphia Athletics send 33-year-old third baseman Eddie Mayo and 29-year-old outfielder Johnny Welaj and an undisclosed amount of cash to Louisville for his contract ... the Athletics, mired in last place in the American League again, will spend \$65,000 to acquire 11 players.

## Norman Brown Goes To Macks

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 27.—(UP) The Philadelphia Athletics picked up six players for the 1944 squad tonight, including Jo-Jo Moore, of Indianapolis.

Roy Mack, A's business manager, said Moore was purchased for cash. The club bought Norman Brown, pitcher for Louisville in the Southern association and ex-Greensboro Red Sox star; Luke Hamlin, pitching for Toronto in the International league, and three Lancaster, Pa., Interstate league players, George Kell, third baseman; Louis Flick, outfielder, and Norrward Wheaton, manager-pitcher.

October 3, 1943

Making his major league debut against the Cleveland Indians on the final day of the regular season, Brown allows four unearned runs over seven innings on five hits ... the Indians eventually push across four runs against 17-year-old Carl Scheib in the top of the 11th inning for an 8-4 win.

January 19, 1944

Brown and St. Louis Cardinals' pitcher Ernie White pass their physical examinations and are inducted into the armed services at Fort Jackson, South Carolina ... Brown later sees action in Europe during the early part of 1945.

May 11, 1946

After three appearances with the Philadelphia Athletics where he does not allow an earned run, Brown is roughed up for five earned runs on six hits in a 9-5 loss to the Washington Senators ... Brown's two-inning stint will be his final appearance in the major leagues.

## Norman Brown, Farmed Out Again, Threatens To Quit

BOSTON, April 20.—(AP)—Norman Brown, lanky right-handed pitcher, today threatened to quit baseball when the Boston Red Sox management notified him that he had been released to the Louisville American association farm team.

"This is my seventh year in the Red Sox organization and if I can't make good with them when they're short of players, when can I hope to?" Brown said. "I think I'll get a job in a shipyard and call it quits."

Brown, an American Legion baseball product who started with

the Red Sox class D farm at Moultrie in the Georgia-Florida league in 1937, won 13 and lost 12 games for the San Diego Pacific Coast league last season. He won 13 and lost 8 for the Greensboro, N. C., Red Sox in 1941. He performed in yesterday's exhibition game with the Boston Braves and displayed but little control.

The Red Sox also announced the return of Lefty Al Olsen to the San Diego club because he was not in playing shape. Olsen, however, is expecting an early draft call.

October 3, 1943

Norman Brown's Major League Debut  
Shibe Park, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

PHILADELPHIA, (P) — The Cleveland Indians clinched third place in the American League yesterday when they rallied in the eleventh inning to defeat the Philadelphia Athletics, 8 to 4, at Shibe Park. Joe Heving pitched his first win for the Indians.

CLEVELAND (A)		PHILADELPHIA (A)	
abr.	r.h.o.a.	abr.	r.h.o.a.
Hockett lf	5 0 0 2 0	Wheaton cf	0 1 2 5 1
Rocco lb	5 1 1 18 1	Busch ss	5 1 2 2 2
Cullenbine rf	4 1 2 2 0	Staller rf	6 1 1 4 0
Keltner 3b	4 1 1 1 4	Burgo lf	5 0 2 3 1
Edwards cf	5 1 1 0 0	Skaff lb	4 0 1 0 3
Boudreau ss	5 1 1 5 0	Nullo 2b	4 0 1 1 3
Mack 2b	5 2 0 0 2	Suder 3b	5 0 0 4 1
Rosar c	5 1 3 4 3	Wagner c	3 0 0 3 0
Desautels c	0 0 0 0 0	Brown p	3 1 0 1 3
Harder p	1 0 0 0 1	Scheib p	1 0 0 1 0
Bagby p	1 0 1 0 2	Hall p	1 0 1 0 0
Heving p	2 0 0 1 2		

Totals ... 42 8 10 33 24 Totals ... 43 4 10 33 14  
abatted for Scheib in 11th.

Cleveland ... 020 020 000 04—8  
Philadelphia ... 000 220 000 00—4

Errors—Suder, Busch, Boudreau, Mack, Keltner.

Runs batted in—Rosar 3, Burgo 2, Skaff, Bagby 2, Staller, Cullenbine, Edwards, Boudreau, Two-base hits—Rosar 2, Wheaton, Boudreau, Three-base hit—Rocco, Stolen bases—Bagby, Staller, Sacrifices—Nullo, Keltner, Bagby, Staller, Sacrifices—Nullo, Keltner, on bases—Cleveland 3, Philadelphia 11. Base on balls—Harder 1, Heving 2. Hits—off Harder Double play—Bagby, Boudreau and Rocco, Left 4 in 3 1-3 innings; Bagby 4 in 1 1-3; Heving 2 in 6 1-3; Brown 5 in 7; Scheib 5 in 4. Winning pitcher—Heving. Losing pitcher—Scheib. Hit by pitcher—by Heving (Busch). Umpires—Pipgras, Bagby and Rommel. Time of game—2:06. Attendance—2,336.

## Norman Brown [5 of 5]:



Norman Brown  
1944 Fort Bragg

July 15, 1948

Pitching for the Atlanta Crackers, Brown is one vote shy of being a unanimous selection to the Southern Association All-Star team ... no player is a unanimous selection in balloting by 18 sports writers ... Brown will win 22 of the team's 69 wins.

July 6, 1949

For a second-straight year Brown is named to the Southern Association All-Star team being named on 11 of the 18 writer ballots.

May 12, 1950

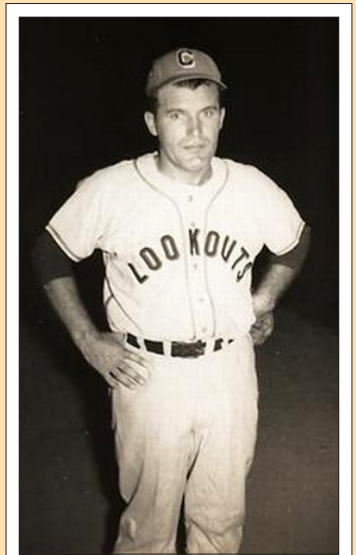
The Chattanooga Lookouts of the Southern (AA) Association purchase the contract of Norman Brown from Atlanta and third baseman Victor Barnhardt from Toronto.

July 5, 1951

To "discourage dissension" on a last place team (34-50), the Lookouts trade Brown to the Birmingham Barons, and two other players - catcher Frank Sacka and outfielder Joe Hazle - are suspended with a request by manager Jack Onslow for team owner Joe Engle to "get rid of them."

Sacka, who started the season with the Washington Senators, is eventually suspended 10 days and fined \$250 for "quitting" the team during a doubleheader with Little Rock on July 4 while Hazle is suspended indefinitely for insubordination ...

Hazle, a converted pitcher, is hitting .274 in 76 games for the Lookouts before "jumping" the club in July and returning home.



Frank Sacka  
1951 Chattanooga Lookouts

August 29, 1953

With two weeks left in the regular season, the 34-year-old Brown, the Western League's "senior citizen", chalks up his 21st and final victory of the season with a 4-3 victory over Pueblo, falling two shy of the league record of 23 set by Pueblo's Elroy Face two years earlier ... Brown finishes with 26 complete games, including six shutouts and a league-record 284 innings pitched, eclipsing the previous mark of 275 set by Omaha's George Eyrich in 1951.

February 27, 1954

Lincoln Chiefs' business manager Bill Herring announces that Norman Brown has signed a contract for the 1954 season.

July 1, 1954

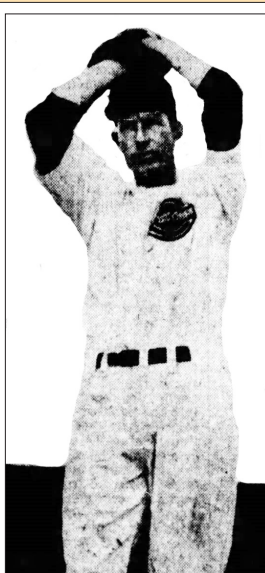
The Chiefs are on a road trip when Brown returns to Lincoln to begin treatment of a sore arm ... University of Nebraska trainer Paul Schneider describes Brown's soreness as "just like the trouble Bobby Shantz is having" ... recently signed pitcher Frank Stewart will join the team currently playing in Omaha ... the 24-year-old Stewart will go 4-5 in 12 outings for the Chiefs.

August 8, 1954

Brown, 8-13 with a 4.47 ERA, is traded to the Jacksonville Braves of the South Atlantic (A) League for 21-year-old shortstop George Wegerek ... Wegerek will hit .128 with 12 singles in 94 at bats for the Chiefs while Brown will appear in one game (his last as a professional) prior to the end of the season.

May 31, 1995

Brown passes away in Bennettsville, South Carolina, at the age of 76.



Norman Brown  
1953 Lincoln Chiefs