

Edson Bahr, "From Rouleau to Pittsburgh"

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Born on October 16, 1919, in the small southern Saskatchewan, Canada, town of Rouleau, Edson Garfield Bahr is one of only six major league players from the large (404,513 square miles) prairie province.



Rouleau is probably best known as the filming location for the CTV television sitcom "Corner Gas" which ran for six seasons from 2004 to 2009 ... a full-size mock gas station and coffee shop are built on the edge of town, confusing visitors to the town who think the Corner Gas Station and the Ruby Cafe are real businesses.

In two seasons (1946-1947) with a woeful Pittsburgh Pirates organization, Bahr is 11-11 with a 3.37 ERA in 46 career appearances for a pair of Steel City teams that are a combined 58 games under .500 (125-183) ... completing eight games in 25 starts, Bahr strikes out 69 in 219 career innings pitched while walking 95.

The Pirates list three Canadians on their 1946 opening day roster - Bahr, 28-year-old outfielder Frank Colman (London, Ontario), and 31-year-old pitcher "Lefty" Wilkie (Zealandia, Saskatchewan) ... a member of the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame, Colman is batting .170 (9-for-53) when the Bucs sell his contract to the New York Yankees on June 17 ... two days later Wilke,

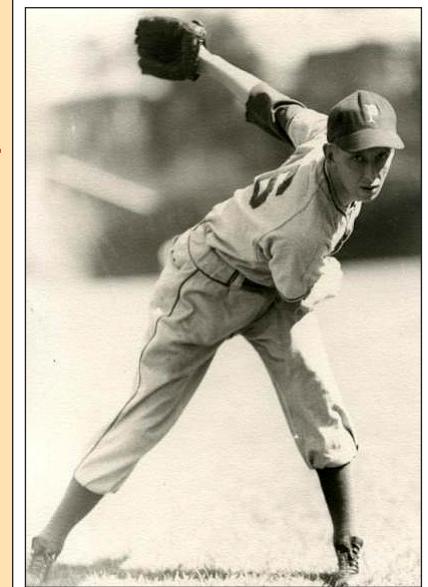
0-0 with a 10.57 ERA in seven appearances, is optioned to the Hollywood Stars of the Pacific Coast (AAA) League.

Edson Bahr Year by Year:

| Year | Team | League | Level | W-L | INN | H | BB | SO | ERA | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|--------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1936 | West Seattle High School | | HS | - | - | - | - | - | -- | |
| 1937 | West Seattle High School | | HS | - | - | - | - | - | -- | |
| 1938 | Napier-Scott Fuel | | Northwest | S-Pro | - | - | - | - | -- | |
| 1939 | 2 Teams | 2 Leagues | | C-B | 14-9 | 194.2 | 191 | 158 | 150 | 6.43 |
| | El Paso Texans | Arizona-Texas | D | 0-0 | 3.2 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 9.81 | |
| | Big Spring Barons | W Texas-New Mexico | D | 14-9 | 191 | 190 | 154 | 149 | 6.36 | |
| 1940 | 2 Teams | 2 Leagues | | C-B | 9-9 | 173 | 188 | 113 | - | 5.05 |
| | Wenatchee Chiefs | Western Int. | B | 2-5 | 70 | 84 | 57 | - | 6.56 | |
| | Idaho Falls Russets | Pioneer | C | 7-4 | 103 | 104 | 56 | 65 | 4.02 | |
| 1941 | 2 Teams | 2 Leagues | | B-C | 5-6 | 125 | 126 | 63 | - | 2.38 |
| | Idaho Falls Russets | Pioneer | C | 1-2 | 34 | 38 | 21 | - | -- | |
| | Augusta Tigers | South Atlantic | B | 4-4 | 91 | 88 | 42 | 60 | 3.26 | |
| 1942 | Boeing Clippers | Seattle City | S-Pro | - | - | - | - | - | -- | |
| 1943 | Pasco Naval Air Station | Armed Forces | | - | - | - | - | - | -- | |
| 1944 | Pasco Naval Air Station | Armed Forces | | - | - | - | - | - | -- | |
| 1945 | Kansas City Blues | American Assoc. | AA | 12-9 | 185 | 177 | 107 | 112 | 4.09 | |
| 1946 | Pittsburgh Pirates | NATIONAL | ML | 8-6 | 136.2 | 128 | 52 | 44 | 2.63 | |
| 1947 | Pittsburgh Pirates | NATIONAL | ML | 3-5 | 82.1 | 82 | 43 | 25 | 4.59 | |
| 1947 | Portland Beavers | Pacific Coast | AAA | 2-3 | 59 | 55 | 32 | 33 | 3.05 | |
| 1948 | Indianapolis Indians | American Assoc. | AAA | 10-6 | 148 | 164 | 57 | 78 | 4.20 | |
| 1949 | Indianapolis/St. Paul | American Assoc. | AAA | 8-9 | 138 | 128 | 65 | 47 | 3.52 | |
| 1949 | Almendares | Cuban Winter | - | 0-2 | 13 | 14 | 10 | 3 | 6.08 | |
| 1950 | St. Paul Saints | American Assoc. | AAA | 7-7 | 100 | 113 | 37 | 41 | 3.69 | |
| Major League Totals | 2 Seasons | | | 11-11 | 219 | 210 | 95 | 69 | 3.37 | |
| Minor League Totals | 8 Seasons | | | 67-58 | 1122 | 1142 | 632 | -- | -- | |

ML Debut: May 1, 1946 at Forbes Field, Pittsburgh: relieved Al Gerheaser at the start of the 8th inning in a 8-0 loss to Philadelphia; pitched two shutout innings, allowing one hit while facing 6 batters.

ML Finale: July 4, 1947 at Crosley Field, Cincinnati: relieved starter Kirby Higbe at the start of the ninth inning of a 6-4 loss to Cincinnati; allowed a game-winning two-run home run with one out to Grady Hatton; allowed 2 runs on 2 hits and 1 strikeout in 1/3 inning (Lost; 3-5)



Edson Bahr
1947 Pittsburgh Pirates

Bahr lives in Rouleau only a short time before his family moves to Seattle, Washington, where his father is a noted sandlot player ... attending West Seattle High School, the younger Bahr plays shortstop and second base before ultimately moving to the mound.

In the spring of 1938, the "lanky" (6-foot-1, although several publications referred to him as 6-foot-4) attempts to begin his professional baseball career trying out with, first, the Tacoma Indians and then the Vancouver Mounties ... plagued by omnipresent control problems, Bahr fails to make the roster of either team and spends the summer pitching for the Napier-Scott Fuel nine, a local Seattle semipro team.

Signing with New York Yankees scout Joe Devine, Bahr makes his professional baseball debut with the El Paso Texans of the Arizona-Texas (D) League, on April 25, 1939.

Edson Bahr [2 of 5]:



Edson Bahr
1946 Pittsburgh Pirates

On April 29, 1939, the Texans send Bahr, pitcher Herb Flynn, outfielder Bob Matthews and first baseman Curdele Lloyd to the Big Spring Barons of the West Texas-New Mexico (D) League ... upset with their demotions Bahr, Matthews and Flynn "jump ship" and leave the Barons, returning to their hometowns.

Bahr quickly changes his mind and returns to the Barons and becomes one of the league's top pitchers, posting a 14-9 mark with a 6.36 ERA for Tony Rego's third-place Barons (74-64).

Enlisting in the military in 1942, Bahr spends three years in the Navy, playing the last two years (1944-1945) for the Pasco Naval Air Station ... because of a bad back, he receives a medical discharge in 1945 and plans to take a position as an assistant foreman in Seattle's Boeing aircraft plant.

But his father wants his son to make a career in organized baseball and persuades the 25-year-old right hander to resume his playing career.

"He believed in me more than I believed in myself," Bahr says in a Sporting News article on April 11, 1946.

Pop Had Prominent Role in Bahr Start With Bucs

PITTSBURGH, Pa. — The kid wanted to quit, but his father wouldn't let him—that is the success story of Edson Bahr, young pitcher with the Pirates, who looks like one of the brighter prospects of the spring.

When Edson received a medical discharge from the Navy, last year, he intended to take a job as assistant foreman in an aircraft plant and give up the game. However, his father, Edward Bahr, a Seattle, Wash., clothing salesman who had played sandlot ball, wanted him to make a career in O. B., and dissuaded the boy. "He believed in me more than I believed in myself," said Edson. So, young Bahr went to Kansas City, and won 12 games while losing nine with a seventh-place team.

How the Bucs managed to get Bahr out of the Yankee chain isn't clear, but it was figured an injured back wasn't doing the young pitcher any good and they were not reluctant to part with him. Doc Jorgenson kneaded Edson back into shape and now Manager Frankie Frisch thinks the youngster has a chance to stick with the Pirates, if he can overcome occasional wildness.

Following a 12-9 season in 1945 with the Kansas City Blues of the American Association, Bahr is traded to the Pirates in August for a player to be named later and an undisclosed amount of money.

Bahr is 26 years old when he makes his major league debut with the Pirates on May 1, 1946, with a two inning scoreless stint against the Philadelphia Phillies ... he finishes his rookie season 8-6 as a starter (14) and a reliever (13) with a team-leading 2.63 ERA in 136 2/3 innings pitched ... the following season Bahr is 3-5 with a 4.59 ERA in 83 1/3 innings pitched when he is sent down to Portland in mid-July.

Bahr earns national notoriety when it takes him 13 days to report to Portland following his release from the Pirates.

On May 19, 1949, Pittsburgh trades Bahr and infielder Grady Wilson (both playing at Indianapolis) to the Brooklyn Dodgers for outfielder Nanny Fernandez ... Bahr is assigned to the St. Paul Saints of the American Association ... in his final season of professional baseball, Bahr compiles a 7-7 mark for the Saints with a 3.69 ERA.

Bahr passes away in Fall City, Washington on April 6, 2007, at the age of 87.

BAHR CHRONOLOGY

February 17, 1938

Bahr, a "raw-boned young right-handed pitcher from West Seattle," signs a professional baseball contract with the Seattle Indians of the Pacific Coast League ... the Indians are soon bought by Emil Sick, owner of Seattle's Rainier Brewing Company, who renames them the Rainiers.



Edson Bahr [3 of 5]:

March 24, 1938

Bahr, Al Aries and Chick Ferries fail to make Seattle's opening day roster and are sent to the Vancouver Maple Leafs of the Western International (B) League.

March 29, 1938

Bahr, Aries, Ferries, Bob Austin and Ed Drier leave Seattle to join the Vancouver Maple Leafs at their training camp in Kennewick, Washington ... the four rookies are driven to the camp by 27-year-old former major league pitcher Clarence Pickeral ... Bahr fails to stick with the Maple Leafs and spends his summer pitching in the semi-pro Northwest League.

Napier-Scott Nine Blanks Stoneway

Young Ed Bahr struck out twelve batters and allowed three hits as Napier-Scott Fuel of the Northwest League defeated Stoneway Lumber, 8-0, in exhibition baseball at Broadway Sunday.

Next week-end the Fuel team will play a four-game Northwest League series in Vancouver, B. C.

R. H. E.
Napier-Scott 5 10 2
Stoneway Lumber 6 3 3
Batteries—Bahr and Marx, Norrie; Groh and Misulin.

◀◀ June 27, 1938

Pitching for the Napier-Scott Fuel team of Seattle's Northwest League, Bahr strikes out 13 and allows only three hits in an 8-0 shutout of Stoneway Lumber.

April 2, 1939

Bahr goes to spring training with Bill DeLancey's Albuquerque Cardinals of the Arizona-Texas (D) League and is mentioned as one of the pitchers likely to make the team when the season opens.

April 14, 1939

On the same day that the El Paso Texans of the four-team Arizona-Texas (D) League open their regular season with a 10-0 win over Bisbee Bees, Texan management announces the acquisition of 19-year-old pitcher Ed Bahr of Seattle.

April 25, 1939 ►►

Bahr makes his professional baseball debut with the El Paso Texans, allowing four runs over 3 2/3 innings in a 13-2 loss to the Bisbee Bees ... relieving starter Herb Flynn with one out in the sixth inning, Bahr "is steady in spots" allowing only one hit, but walks four and has three wild pitches as the Texans slide to 4-7 on the year.

El Paso Herald Post
May 3, 1939

Flynn, Bahr in Bad

PITCHERS Herb Flynn and Ed Bahr put themselves in bad by "jumping" the Big Spring club . . . Until they're reinstated they will never be able to play organized baseball again . . . Bahr looked promising in the brief appearance here . . . Flynn has plenty of stuff to win, but until he quits showing the white feather, he never will . . . His attitude here could hardly make a Beau Geste of him . . . The fans set him up on a pedestal when he hit two homers in succession last year, raised a neat little cash sum for him . . . He didn't do anything else for the rest of the season worthy of his hire and when a few of the fans started riding him, he couldn't take it . . . Despite the fact that most of the fans were tolerant and pulled for him to make good, he took the attitude that everybody was down on him . . . He cussed the city, the fans and the sports writers out when he was released by the El Paso club.

April 28, 1939

Bahr, pitcher Herb Flynn, outfielder Bob Matthews and first baseman Curdele Lloyd are sent to Big Spring Barons of the West Texas-New Mexico League.

◀◀ May 1, 1939

Unhappy with their demotion to a Class D team, Bahr, Matthews and Flynn "jump ship" and leave the Big Springs club, returning to their hometowns . . . Lloyd stays with the Barons, hitting .270 with 25 doubles and nine home runs.

Bahr has a change of heart and returns to Big Spring, posting a 14-9 mark with a 6.36 ERA . . . Flynn, who was 6-18 the previous year with El Paso, pitches in one game for Barons before going AWOL and does not play in professional baseball again.

May 29, 1939

Bahr throws a one-hit 1-0 shutout of the visiting Abilene Apaches 1-0 . . . Abilene's Gordon "Dude" Loken has the lone safety off of Bahr, beating out a slow roller down the third base line in the seventh inning.

Bahr's Professional Baseball Debut April 25, 1939

| PIGEE— | AB | R | H | PO | A | E |
|----------------------------------|----|----|---|----|----|---|
| Rockman, 3b. | 6 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Beringhell, 2b. | 3 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| La Plana, rf. | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cockroft, cf. | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Montgomery, c. | 5 | 2 | 2 | 14 | 1 | 0 |
| Moore, lf. | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Meyer, 1b. | 3 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| Gill, ss. | 5 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Carpenter, p. | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Totals | 38 | 13 | 9 | 27 | 9 | 1 |
| EL PASO— | AB | R | H | PO | A | E |
| Morey, 2b. | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Carroll, 1b. | 2 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| Ratto, ss. | 4 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 2 |
| Baldacci, cf. | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Skeber, rf. | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Jewell, 3b. | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Deniston, lf. | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mayer, c. | 2 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| Flynn, p. | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Bahr, p. | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| * Matthews Totals | 31 | 2 | 5 | 27 | 13 | 6 |

* Batted for Bahr in ninth.

Score by Innings: Total

Bisbee 401 004 040—13

El Paso 020 000 000—2

Edson Bahr [4 of 5]:

June 23, 1939

Bahr picks up his third shutout of the year, shutting out the Lamesa Lobos 10-0 on three hits.

August 15, 1939

Bahr picks up his 14th win of the season, defeating the Amarillo Gold Sox 8-5 ... surviving a "shaky" ninth inning (3 runs), Bahr allows nine hits and issues six walks in the route going performance ... the 14 wins will mark a career-high ... in the final weeks of the season Barons' manager Tony Rego begins using Bahr as the team's starting left fielder.

June 5, 1942

Pitching for the Boeing Clippers, Bahr strikes out 19 and allows only six hits in a 7-4 win over Lake Washington in a Seattle City League game.

June 1941

Pitching for the Augusta Tigers of the South Atlantic (B) League, Bahr "clamors" for a change of scenery because the "food they serve in this league doesn't agree with my stomach."

March 22, 1945

Returning from his military service, Bahr's chances of making the opening day roster of his hometown Seattle Rainiers (the team he signed with eight years earlier) diminish when he quits the team and leaves the team's training camp in San Fernando, California, to be with his wife ... the Yankees immediately ship the temperamental pitcher to the Kansas City Blues of the American (AA) Association.

August 8, 1945

Bahr allows only five hits in Kansas City's 2-1 win over Columbus.

August 24, 1945 ►►

Kansas City Blues business manager Roy Hamey announces that Bahr has been traded to the National League's Pittsburgh Pirates for an "undisclosed" amount of money and the proverbial "player to be named later." ... Bahr is told to report to the Pirates at the end of the American Association season on September 9.

Kiner Jolts Phillips

Rookie Ralph Kiner's two homers, one with the bases full, gave Pitcher Edson Bahr plenty of margin for his first victory as the Pirates won, 10-2, at Philadelphia.

| Pittsburgh (S) | Philadelphia (N) |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| A b r h o n | A b r h o n |
| Handley, Ab | 8 1 4 0 3 |
| Russell, If | 3 0 0 1 0 |
| Gronfidda, cf | 4 1 1 3 0 |
| Fletcher, 1b | 4 1 1 10 3 |
| Gustine, 2b | 4 1 1 2 2 |
| Kiner, cf | 4 3 3 3 6 |
| Cox, ss | 4 1 1 1 3 |
| Lopez, c | 8 1 3 5 0 |
| Bahr, p | 3 1 1 2 1 |
| | T. Hughes, p |
| | Pearson, p |
| | Mauney, p |
| | xRowe, |
| | Hoerst, p |
| | xxWasdell |
| Totals | 30 10 15 27 11 |
| | Totals |
| xBatted for Mauney in seventh. | 34 2 8 27 20 |
| xxBatted for Hoerst in ninth. | |

Pittsburgh 502 000 102--19
Philadelphia 001 000 010--2
Error---Newsome. Runs batted in---Fletcher,
Kiner, 5; Handley, 3; Pearson, 1; Bahr,
Two-base hits---Cox, Kiner, Kinnis. Three-base
hit---Handley. Home runs---Pearson, Bahr, 2.
Double plays---R. Hughes-Verban-McCormick,
Bahr-Cox-Fletcher. Verban-Newsome-McCor-
mick. Bases on balls---T. Hughes, 2; Pearson,
2; Hoerst, 2; Bahr, 2. Strikeouts---Bahr, 4;
Mauney, 2; T. Hughes, 4 in 1/2; Pearson,
7 in 3; Mauney, 2 in 4 1/2; Hoerst, 2 in 2.
Hit by pitcher---By Mauney (Kiner). Losing
pitcher---T. Hughes. Umpires---Magerl, Urth and
Dunn. Time---2:27. Attendance---1,718.

Pitcher Sold

KANSAS CITY, Aug. 24 (AP) Sale of Edson Bahr, young right-hand pitcher, to the Pittsburgh Pirates for an undisclosed amount of cash and a player to be named later was announced Friday night by Roy Hamey, business manager of the Kansas City Blues of the American association.

Bahr will report to the Pirates at the close of the association season, September 9. He has won 12 games and lost six.

February 17, 1946

Bahr pitches five scoreless inning in a Pittsburgh Pirates intra-squad scrimmage and is considered the team's top rookie pitcher.

March 26, 1946

Bahr solidifies his spot on the Pirate pitching staff throwing a six-hit 8-1 complete game victory over the Chicago White Sox in a spring training game.

◀◀ May 23, 1946

Ralph Kiner hits two home runs, including a grand slam, and Bahr gets his first major complete game with a 10-2 win over the Philadelphia Phillies.

June 7, 1946

In a game that receives national attention because of an anticipated players' strike by the Pittsburgh Pirates, Bahr lasts only five innings but wins his third game in four decisions in a 10-5 victory over the New York Giants ... targeted by Robert Murphy's American Baseball Guild to be first major league team

Edson Bahr [5 of 5]:

to unionize, the players' decision against unionizing and to play that night is reached in a closed-door, two-hour meeting from which team officials, writers, radio men and Murphy are barred.

Afterwards, Murphy declares, "This fight barely has begun. This particular ball game isn't over just because the opposition got a few hits."

April 29, 1947

Home runs by Hank Greenberg and Ralph Kiner highlight a four-run fourth inning as the Pirates beat the Philadelphia Phillies 6-2 before 7,386 at Shibe Park ... Bahr scatters eight hits en route to picking up the eighth and final complete game of his two-year major league career.

At this point in his career, Bahr is 10-7 with a 2.90 ERA in 30 games ... over his final 19 games he is 1-4 with a 5.00 ERA.

July 4, 1947

On the same day that 60 picnickers and a United Airlines pilot attest that they have seen "flying saucers" in and around the Portland area, Bahr makes his 49th, and final major league appearance in the second game of a double header loss to the Cincinnati Reds ... relieving Kirby Higbe in the top of the ninth inning of a 4-4 tie, Bahr gives up a one-out, two-run home run to Grady Hatton to take the loss in a 6-4 decision ... Hatton is the last major league batter that Bahr will face.

Pirates Buy Queen

PITTSBURGH, Pa.—Pitcher Mel Queen, a righthander, has been purchased by the Pittsburgh Pirates from the New York Yankees. He will join his new club today in Philadelphia.

As part of the deal, the Pirates promised to release Eddie Basinski, second baseman, outright to Newark of the International League, and to option Edson Bahr, pitcher, to Portland of the Coast League.

◀◀ July 10, 1947

Mired in seventh place, the Pittsburgh Pirates (38-53) make several roster moves, including the purchase of pitcher Mel Queen (0-0, 9.45) from the New York Yankees ... to make room for the 29-year-old right-hander, the Corsairs option Bahr (3-5, 4.59) to Portland of the Pacific Coast League, and release second baseman Eddie Basinski (.199, 4 HR, 17 RBIs) outright to Newark of the International League ... neither Bahr or Basinski will appear in the major leagues again.

May 19, 1949

Playing for the Indianapolis Indians, Bahr and infielder Gray Wilson are traded in a straight player deal to the St. Paul Saints for third baseman Nanny Fernandez.

April 6, 2007

Bahr passes away in Fall City, Washington, at the age of 87.