

# Cups of Coffee: Eli Hodkey

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On September 12, 1946, in the second game of a doubleheader against the Chicago Cubs, 28-year-old Philadelphia Phillies rookie pitcher Aloysius Joseph (Eli) Hodkey relieves Hugh "Losing Pitcher" Mulcahy with two outs in the fifth inning ... pitching 2 1/3 scoreless innings, Hodkey is lifted for a pinch hitter (Ron Northey) in the eighth inning of an eventual 5-4 loss in 10 innings before 6,848 fans at Shibe Park.



**AL HODKEY.**  
Puts Pups In Win Column.

For the World War II Army Air Corps veteran, his relief stint against the Cubs is the first of only two major league appearances in a nine-year professional baseball career ... 16 days later (September 28) Hodkey makes his first career start, but the second and final appearance of his major league career, allowing six runs on seven hits and two walks over two innings in a 8-2 loss to the last-place New York Giants.

Born on November 3, 1917, in Lorain, Ohio, a 19-year-old Hodkey signs with the Boston Red Sox in September, 1937, after pitching a three-hitter for the Lorain Dusky Brothers in the National Amateur Tournament.

Hodkey fashions a 87-59 mark in nine minor league seasons highlighted by a 15-8 mark with a 1.96 ERA in 1942 for the Scranton Red Sox ... following the 1942 season, Hodkey is the first player selected in annual Rule V Draft of minor league players by the Philadelphia Phillies ... unable to locate the slender lefthander in the weeks following the draft, the Phillies finally find him in the employment of Uncle Sam at Camp Perry in Port Clinton, Ohio ... Hodkey serves three years (1943-45) in the Army Air Corp during World War II.

## Eli Hodkey Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Level	W-L	INN	H	BB	SO	ERA
1936	Lorain Braun for Mayor ...	Lorain Amateur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1937	Lorain Dusty Brothers .....	Lorain Amateur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1938	Canton Terriers.....	Middle Atlantic	C	-	-	-	-	-	-
1938	Moultrie Packers .....	Georgia-Florida	C	4-4	106	85	60	105	3.31
1939	Canton Terriers.....	Middle Atlantic	C	12-7	165	138	85	-	3.05
<b>1940</b>	<b>2 Teams .....</b>	<b>2 Leagues</b>	<b>C-AA</b>	<b>10-8</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3.08</b>
1940	Canton Terriers.....	Middle Atlantic	C	9-8	146	134	67	-	3.27
1940	Louisville Colonels.....	American Assoc.	AA	1-0	9	8	4	7	2.00
<b>1941</b>	<b>2 Teams .....</b>	<b>2 Leagues</b>	<b>B-AA</b>	<b>6-5</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2.68</b>
1941	Louisville Colonels.....	American Assoc.	AA	0-1	16	15	6	10	4.50
1941	Greensboro Red Sox .....	Piedmont	B	6-4	78	66	31	-	2.31
1942	Scranton Red Sox.....	Eastern	A	15-8	188	162	70	-	1.96
1946	Utica Blue Sox .....	Eastern	A	13-7	176	172	99	-	4.04
1946	Philadelphia Phillies.....	NATIONAL	ML	0-1	4.1	9	5	0	12.46
<b>1947</b>	<b>2 Teams .....</b>	<b>2 Leagues</b>	<b>A-AA</b>	<b>15-5</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4.40</b>
1947	Utica Blue Sox .....	Eastern	A	15-5	183	180	94	-	4.43
1947	Memphis Chickasaws.....	Southern	AA	0-0	1	-	0	-	-
<b>1948</b>	<b>2 Teams .....</b>	<b>2 Leagues</b>	<b>AA-AAA</b>	<b>5-7</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4.71</b>
1948	Atlanta Crackers .....	Southern	AA	5-4	92	90	57	-	4.11
1948	Toronto Maple Leafs.....	International	AAA	0-3	36	45	18	13	6.25
1949	Atlanta Crackers .....	Southern	AA	7-8	124	139	66	-	3.85
<b>Minor League Totals .....</b>	<b>9 Seasons</b>			<b>87-59</b>	<b>1214</b>	<b>1226</b>	<b>657</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3.75</b>
<b>Major League Totals .....</b>	<b>1 Season</b>			<b>0-1</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12.46</b>

## Eli Hodkey Major League Debut September 12, 1946

Chicago (N)			Philadelphia (N)						
	ab.	r.h.o.a.		ab.	r.h.o.a.				
Lowrey cf	4	2	2	O'Neill ss	2	0	1	2	4
Sturgeon 2b	5	0	0	Newsome ss	3	1	2	1	4
Waikus 1b	6	0	8	Gilbert rf	3	0	0	0	0
Cavarretta rf	5	1	4	Wyrostek cf	3	1	0	3	0
Rickert lf	6	0	2	Ennis lf	5	1	3	2	0
McCull'gh c	6	0	1	Tabor 3b	5	0	2	2	3
Block 3b	3	1	0	Hemsley c	2	0	1	1	1
Jurges ss	2	0	1	Seminick c	3	0	0	0	0
Erickson p	2	0	0	Dinges 1b	4	1	1	1	1
xDalles'ro	1	0	1	Verban 3b	4	0	2	6	3
xxMerullo	0	1	0	Posschl p	2	0	0	0	1
Bauers p	1	0	1	Mulcahy p	0	0	0	0	0
				Hodkey p	1	0	0	0	0
				zNorthey	1	0	1	0	0
				zzHughes	0	0	0	0	0
				Karl p	0	0	0	0	1
				zzzMcCormick	1	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>13</b>

Chicago .....001 012 000 1-5  
Philadelphia .....000 030 010 0-4

Errors—McCullough, Rickert, Bauers. Runs batted in—Waikus 2, Cavarretta, (Block scored on Mulcahy's wild pitch), Rickert, Ennis, Tabor 2, Northey. Two-base hit—Rickert. Three-base hit—Dinges. Stolen bases—Wyrostek, Dinges, McCullough, Sacrifices—Gilbert, Sturgeon, Jurges, Verban. Double plays—O'Neill-Verban-Dinges; Jurges-Sturgeon-Waikus; Cavarretta-Waikus. Bases on balls—Erickson 4, Posschl 4, Mulcahy 1, Hodkey 3. Strikeouts—Erickson 5, Posschl 1, Bauers 1. Hits—Erickson 6 in 5; Bauers 5 in 5; Posschl 8 in 5, Mulcahy 2 in 1/2, Hodkey 2 in 2/3, Karl 3 in 2. Winning pitcher—Bauers. Losing pitcher—Karl. Umpires—Stewart, Dunn and Maxerkurth. Time, 1:37. Attendance, 6,898.

Returning from the military in 1946, Hodkey is 13-7 in 26 games with the Utica Red Sox before he is a late-season September call up by the Phillies.

On March 3, 1950, Hodkey's career comes to an end with he and veteran pitcher Jim Bagby, Jr., are released by the Southern (AA) League's Atlanta Crackers.

Following his baseball career, Hodkey works at the U.S. Steel's Lorain Works as a bridge operator and relief foreman for 32 years, retiring in 1980 ... following a three-year illness, Hodkey dies on August 30, 2005, in his hometown at the age of 87.