

Joe Glenn "BEYOND THE SCOREBOOK"

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Joe Glenn may have been a journeyman catcher in the major leagues, but he has the unique distinction of being the catcher in both Babe Ruth's final pitching appearance in 1933 and Ted Williams' only mound appearance seven years later.

October 1, 1933

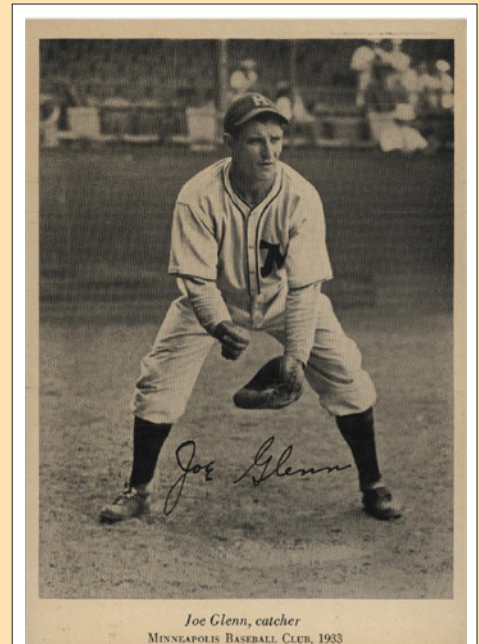
In the final game of the 1933 season, Babe Ruth allows 12 hits in a 6-5 complete game victory over the visiting Boston Red Sox before 25,000 in Yankee Stadium. Making his first mound appearance in three years, Ruth does not strike out a batter and walks three in a route-going performance. The win completes Ruth career pitching record at 94 wins and 46 losses with a 2.28 ERA. Batting third in the Yankee lineup, Ruth is 1-for-3 with a home run (No. 34) and one RBI.

Batting seventh in the lineup, the 24-year-old Glenn is 1-for-4 with collects the first of an eventual 89 career RBIs.

August 24, 1940

Detroit's Rudy York hits his 23rd homerun of the season and drives in five runs as the Tigers collect 16 hits off three Boston pitchers, including Red Sox outfielder Ted Williams, in taking the first game of a double header by a 12-1 count. Making his major league pitching debut before 29,600 in Fenway Park (the largest crowd of the year for the Red Sox), the 21-year-old Williams, hurls the last two innings, striking out one while allowing three hits and the game's final run in the ninth inning.

For Glenn, who replaces starting catcher Jimmy Foxx, and collects a single in two at bats raising his season batting average to .128, the game marks his final major league appearance.



Joe Glenn, catcher
MINNEAPOLIS BASEBALL CLUB, 1933

Joe Glenn's 1933 Wheaties Minneapolis Millers baseball card is worth \$180 in near-mint condition.

Boston (A)		New York (A)	
ab.	r.h.po.a.	ab.	r.h.po.a.
Werber ss	5 0 1 0 2	Combs lf	3 1 1 5 0
Al'mada lf	3 0 3 3 0	Walker rf	1 0 0 0 0
Jolley rf	5 0 1 1 0	Farrell 2b	5 1 0 1 1
Ferrell c	5 1 1 4 1	Ruth p	3 2 1 1 1
Judge 1b	2 1 0 8 0	Gehrig 1b	4 0 2 5 1
Welch p	1 0 0 0 1	Ch'n rf-lf	4 1 2 7 0
Warstler	1 0 0 0 0	Lary 3b	2 1 1 0 1
Stumpf cf	5 1 2 2 0	Glenn c	4 0 1 0 0
Wal'rs 3b	4 2 2 1 4	Crosetti ss	4 0 1 2 2
Muller 2b	4 0 0 3 3	Byrd cf	4 0 1 8 0
Kline p	2 0 0 0 1		
McM'us 1b	2 0 2 4 0	Totals	34 6 10 27 6

Totals 39 5 12 24 12

xBatted for Welch in ninth.

Boston000 004 010—5
New York300 030 00x—6
Runs batted in—Gehrig (2), Chapman, Ruth, Glenn, Crosetti, Werber, Walters (2), Muller, Almada. Two-base hits—Combs, Stumpf, Byrd. Home run—Ruth. Left on bases—New York 5, Boston 10. Bases on balls—Off Kline 4, off Ruth 3. Struck out—By Welch 3. Hits—Off Kline, 8 in 5 innings; off Welch, 2 in 3 innings. Losing pitcher—Kline. Umpires—Ormsby and Moriarty. Time of game—1:38.

Detroit (12)		Boston (1)	
AB	H O A	AB	H O A
Fox, rf	5 1 1 0	DiM'go, cf	5 1 3 0
McCky, cf	4 2 2 0	Cramer, rf	2 0 0 0
Higgins, 3b	4 1 0 1	Spence, rf	2 0 0 0
Grn'bg, lf	6 2 6 0	Foxx, c	0 0 5 0
York, 1b	6 4 6 2	Glenn, c	2 1 2 0
Meyer, 2b	5 2 3 3	Wilms, lf,p	4 0 1 2
Tebbets, c	5 2 4 0	Cronin, ss	3 0 1 2
Bartel, ss	1 0 2 2	Carey, ss	1 1 2 0
Cruchr, ss	1 1 2 1	Doerr, 2b	4 2 1 1
Bridges, p	3 1 1 0	Finney, 1b	4 2 1 1
		Gelbert, 3b	2 1 1 4
		Heving, p	1 0 0 0
		Terry, p	1 0 0 1
		Hash, p	1 0 0 3
		Barby, lf	1 0 0 0

Totals 40 18 27 9

Totals 35 8 27 15
Detroit016 220 001—12
Boston010 000 00x—1

Summary: Runs—Detroit 12 (Fox, McCosky 2, Higgins, Greenberg 2, York 2, Meyer, Tebbets, Bridges); Boston 1 (Doerr). Errors—York, Tebbets, Gelbert. Two-base hits—York, Tebbets, Bridges, Doerr. Three-base hit—McCosky. Home run—York. Stolen bases—Fox, Finney. Sacrifices—Fox, Bartel, Bridges. Bases on balls—Off Bridges 4, Heving 1, Terry 4, Hash 4. Struck out—By Bridges 4, Heving 2, Terry 1, Williams 1. Wild pitches—Bridges, Hash. Losing pitcher—Heving. Attendance—30,000.

Born Joseph Michael Gurzensky on November 19, 1908, in Dickson City, Pennsylvania, the future major league catcher changes his name to Joe Glenn as a teenager while working as a part-time delivery man for a baker in Scranton.

While playing for St. Thomas College in Scranton, Glenn catches the attention of New York Yankees scout Paul Krichell. Working during the summers in the nearby oil fields, he signs his first professional contract with the Syracuse Stars in 1928. Originally a pitcher, Stars' manager Mike O'Neill switches the solidly built 19-year-old into a catcher. A year later he is sold to the New York Yankees.

Nicknamed "Gabby" by teammate Lou Gehrig for his constant chattering, Glenn makes his major league debut with the Yankees against the Chicago White Sox

on September 15, 1932. Glenn goes 0-for-3 with a walk and a strikeout and is charged with a passed ball that allows Chicago to score a run in the seventh inning.

Glenn plays eight years in the majors with the New York Yankees (1932-33; 1935-38), St. Louis Browns (1939) and the Boston Red Sox (1940), finishing with a .252 career batting average with five home runs and 89 RBIs. Although he was on three World Series championship teams with the Yankees in 1936, 1937 and 1938, he does not play in a single game.

Glenn dies on May 6, 1985 in Tunkhannock, Pennsylvania at the age of 76.