

# Steve Dalkowski, "Wild Thing Redux"

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Step aside Ricky Vaughn and apologies to Charlie Sheen, but the moniker "Wild Thing" belongs to Steve Dalkowski, and Steve Dalkowski alone.

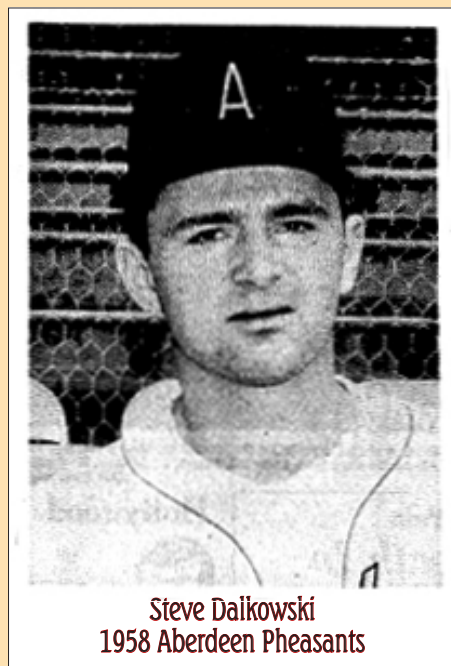
Despite never appearing in the major leagues, Steven Louis Dalkowski, Jr., achieves legendary status because of his ability to throw a baseball faster than maybe any other player in the history of the game. The talented but tormented left-hander strikes out more batters (12.6) and *walks* more batters (12.2) per nine innings than any pitcher in baseball history.

In nine minor league seasons, in nine different minor leagues, at seven different levels, the New Britain, Connecticut, native compiles a lifetime record of 46-80 with 38 complete games, 14 shutouts and an ERA of 5.59. He strikes out 1,396 and walks 1,354 in only 995 innings pitched. Interestingly enough, Dalkowski allows only 37 home runs in his nine seasons (1 every 26.9 innings, or 1 every 3 games.)

The son of a vocational buffer in an electric-tool plant in New Britain, he stars in football, basketball and baseball in high school in the mid 1950's. A star quarterback for the New Britain High School football team, he leads the team to Connecticut divisional championships in 1955 and 1956. On the baseball diamond, he is 7-2 as a senior, with two no-hitters, striking out 150 in only 69 2/3 innings, including a state-record 24 in one game. In another game, he strikes outs 18 *and* walks 18.

Following graduation, he signs with Baltimore for a \$4,000 bonus and over the next nine years he makes all of the stops in the Orioles' farm system - Kingsport, Knoxville, Wilson, Aberdeen, Pensacola, Stockton, Kennewick, Elmira and Rochester.

Dalkowski begins his minor league odyssey in 1957, with the Kingsport Orioles of the newly-created six-team Appalachian (D) League where he is 1-8 with a 8.13 ERA . Pitching only 62 innings in a 70-game season, he leads the league in walks (129) and the team in strikeouts (121) and wild pitches (39).



Steve Dalkowski  
1958 Aberdeen Pheasants

## Steve Dalkowski Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Level	W-L	INN	BB	SO	ERA
1956	New Britain High School	Scholastic	HS	7-2	69.2	-	150	-
1957	Kingsport Orioles	Appalachian	D	1-8	62	<b>129</b>	121	8.13
1958	Knoxville Smokies	South Atlantic	A	1-4	42	95	82	7.93
1958	Wilson Tobs	Carolina	B	0-1	14	38	29	12.21
1958	Aberdeen Pheasants	Northern	C	3-5	62	112	121	6.39
1959	Aberdeen Pheasants	Northern	C	4-3	59	110	99	5.64
1959	Pensacola Dons	Alabama-Florida	D	0-4	25	80	43	12.96
1960	Stockton Ports	California	C	<b>7-15</b>	170	<b>262</b>	262	5.14
1961	Tri-City Atoms	Northwest	B	3-12	103	<b>196</b>	150	8.39
1962	Elmira Pioneers	Eastern	A	7-10	160	114	192	3.04
1963	Elmira Pioneers	Eastern	AA	2-2	29	26	28	2.79
1963	Rochester Red Wings	International	AAA	0-2	12	14	8	6.00
1964	Columbus Jets	International	AAA	2-1	12	11	9	8.25
1964	Elmira Pioneers	Eastern	AA	0-1	15	19	16	6.00
1964	Stockton Ports	California	A	8-4	108	62	141	2.83
1965	Tri-City Atoms	Northwest	A	6-5	84	52	62	5.14
1965	San Jose Bees	California	A	2-3	38	34	33	4.74
<b>Minor League Totals</b>		<b>9 Years</b>		<b>46-80</b>	<b>995</b>	<b>1,354</b>	<b>1,396</b>	<b>5.59</b>

**Bold** denotes led league  
1962 - led Eastern League in shutouts (6)

His first professional win comes on August 31, 1957, when he strike outs 24, walks 18, hits four batters and throws three wild pitches in an 7-5 win over the eventual league champion Bluefield Dodgers.

On May 17, 1959, pitching for the Aberdeen Pheasants of the Northern (C) League, he hurls a no-hitter against the Grand Forks Chiefs for a 6-0 victory, tying a Northern League record with 21 strikeouts while walking 16.

In 1960, with the Stockton Ports of the California (C) League, Dalkowski sets career-highs in strikeouts (262) and walks (262) while allowing only 105 hits in 170 innings and finishing 7-15 with a 5.14 ERA.