



Clark Mains is arguably considered as one of the most dominant pitchers ever to take the mound in the long, storied history of the Kingston High School Baseball program. He set the bar high for all those who would toe the rubber for future generations of KHS pitchers to follow. His career could well be summed up in just three words, "Just Win Baby! And win he did. Clark pitched in 20 contests for the Fighting Maroons and came out victorious in 19 of them. His career record of 19-1 gave him the all-time school record winning percentage of .950. He is second in career wins (Lester Caunitz 20-3). His career spanned just a little over two years, 1946-48, pitching in only one game after being called up to the varsity squad in 1946. His KHS Varsity debut was a nine inning, two-hit, 4-1 victory over Saugerties High.

In 1947, Clark was superb as he compiled a sparkling record of 8-1 (.888) along with a 0.43 earned run average in leading the team to the DUSO League Baseball Crown. Along the way Clark tossed 4 complete game shutouts including a one-hitter, and a pair of two-hitters. During the campaign, he suffered his only career and DUSO League loss to Newburgh in a 4-3 loss despite giving up only two earned runs. On June 6th, at Dietz Stadium, Clark entered the KHS record books by twirling a 12 strikeout, 4-0 complete game shutout against archrival Newburgh, no hitting the Goldbacks, and avenging his earlier and only loss. He became only the 4th pitcher in Kingston Baseball annuals to toss a no-hitter. The last to do so was Jack Watzka in 1944, when he no-hit Port Jervis.

As the 1948 season rolled around, Coach Willard Burke depended on his ace to deliver once again. Clark proved that he was up to the task as he improved on his last years accomplishments by pitching the Maroon to its second consecutive DUSO league pennant. This time the Burkemen went undefeated in league play by going 6-0. Clark had a season for the record books, as he went 10-0, including 6 shutouts. He struck out 105 batters (10.5 per game) and had a miniscule, earned run average of 0.20, allowing only 10 bases on balls all season long. Included in those ten victories was the second no-hit performance of his career. This time the victim was the powerful DUSO League foe Port Jervis nine. During this 2-0 victory, Clark struck out 12 Red Raider batters. Clark narrowly missed having a perfect game when he walked a man with two outs in the seventh inning after going to a 3-2 count.

Two games later, he again beat Port Jervis 2-0, this time throwing a one-hitter, with 16 strikeouts in another masterful performance. Mixed in between those two Port Jervis victories, he pitched the Maroons to a 14-1 victory over Newburgh. Facing the Newburgh Goldbacks for the last time, the blonde right hander attained perfection May 28th on the road at the Hilly City diamond. Clark tossed the first perfect game in Kingston Baseball History. He completely dominated the Goldbacks with an 8-0, no-run and no-base on balls game that included 13 strikeouts. He then followed that up with a 4-2, 9 inning victory over Poughkeepsie High School. This win snapped a 23-game losing skein to the Pioneers. Clark closed out his career the way he began it, with a 3-0, 10 strikeout, decision over Saugerties. It was his record 6th shutout of the season to go along with his 10th victory of the year as well.

For his career, Clark established a record of 19-1. His .950 winning percentage, 10 shutouts and 0.29 earned run average still rank number one on the all-time list in the record books. His seasonal records that still stand include 10 victories, 6 shutouts, and a 0.20 earned run average. Clark ranks second in most strikeouts in a season with 105, (Willard Thomas 1931-110 K's) Clark concluded his baseball career with a record 15 consecutive game winning streak.

The New York Giants signed Clark to a professional baseball contract after his high school playing days were over. He was assigned to Ohio-Indiana League, Class D at the start of the 1949 season. Once there, he established himself as the league's only 20 game winner in the circuit that year going 20-8 with a .714 winning percentage. In 1950 he was assigned to Trenton of the Class B Interstate League.

Clark entered the service on March 7, 1951. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War 1951-1955. He served aboard the USS Orion and later the attack carrier the USS Hornet as a fire control technician. While in the Navy, he stayed active pitching. His 1952, his ship won the Atlantic Forces Afloat Fleet baseball tournament and in 1954 he had a record of 7-1.

In 1953 the Kingston Freeman selected Clark as the Greatest Kingston High School Pitcher of the past three decades. After his discharge from the Navy, Clark continued to play ball in the Men's City Baseball League, and for the Saugerties Dutchman. He was elected to the Kingston Old Timers Baseball Hall of Fame in 1981 and to the Saugerties Athletics Hall of Fame in 1996. Clark gave back to his home community by serving in the Port Ewen Fire Department for 60 years. He served as Chief of the Department for 21 years.