

Robert Garrecht

Baseball

1947-1948

Pitching ace Bob Garrecht was a key part of the great Nyack baseball teams of the late 1940s. A string of dominant pitching performances from Garrecht helped propel Nyack to a Rockland PSAL championship in 1948. He was able to make it into the farm system of the Detroit Tigers and played for their minor league teams for two years. He was also chosen to pitch in several semi-pro games in the Nyack area.

Bob Garrecht grew up in Tappan. He played sports with "quite a group of kids, including Thomas Coffey, who would go on to become Chief of the Nyack Police Department. This crew of youngsters was called the Tappan Blue Devils. They played baseball, football, basketball and ice hockey. Garrecht played with the Blue Devils from age 12, all the way through high school. In those days, the choice of high schools was either Nyack or Haverstraw. Initially, Bob chose Haverstraw, following in the footsteps of his brother George, whom he recalls as "one heck of an athlete." Later, Garrecht switched to Nyack High School, where he had great success in baseball.

Bob Garrecht was masterful as Nyack's main pitcher during the 1948 campaign. He consistently delivered for Nyack, dominating opposing batters and contributing quite well as a hitter himself as he carried Nyack to a Rockland PSAL title. Garrecht was undefeated his senior year, finishing as the winning pitcher in all six league contests. Bob had perhaps his greatest game in the PSAL opener against Suffern. The Indians won 4-0, with Garrecht only giving up one hit in the spectacular shutout victory. Bob nearly had a no-hitter, only giving up a single to the batter who could have been the last out. He also had 11 strikeouts, and helped himself out at the plate with a run scored and three RBIs. Garrecht followed up his incredible all-around performance with another dominant pitching effort against Pearl River. Bob gave up just two hits and struck out 12 in the 12-0 win over the defending champions.

Perhaps his most hard-fought victory was against Haverstraw in the game that would come to decide the title race. Garrecht gave up three hits and two runs in the 4-2 win, but struck out a stunning 16 batters and drove in a run himself to help Nyack take sole possession of first place. Bob followed up with a 2-hitter in a 9-2 win over Piermont in which he whiffed 12 hitters. Garrecht kept Nyack in first place with another 12-strikeout 2-hitter in a 5-0 home win over Congers. Nyack looked to Bob once again in the final league contest against Spring Valley, and he came through one final time for the squad. He struck out 13 batters and surrendered only four hits in a 6-1 victory that clinched the title as Nyack finished 6-0, one win ahead of 5-1 Haverstraw. Garrecht was the hero behind the championship run, finishing with 6 wins, 3 shutouts, 76 strikeouts, and several key RBIs in leading his team to glory.

In the spring of 1949, Garrecht pitched for the Thom asville Tigers. He was listed as batting righty and throwing righty, with a height of 6'1" and a weight of 160 lbs. In 1950, Bob pitched for the Richmond Tigers. Over the course of his two years in the minors, he played in a total of 49 games.

Bob Garrecht and his wife, Patricia (Pat) are currently living in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The two were blessed with two sons and extended family. He still enjoys actively running his plumbing supply business.