

**Mike Redding** (minors 1978)

Report: “The fireballing University of Alabama product displayed excellent control (walking only one) and a fine offspeed pitch to augment his live fast ball... ‘He probably throws the hardest on the team,’ commented Logger manager Bill Bryk. ‘He just has to learn how to pitch.’ ”

Source: Aberdeen *Daily World* (Rick Anderson, 8/8/1978)

**Rick Reuschel**

Report: “Reuschel’s philosophy is to throw as few pitches as possible. He says that when a scouting report tells us a guy is a first-ball fastball hitter, ninety-five percent of the time we’re warned not to give the guy anything to hit on the first pitch. But Big Daddy’s philosophy is to throw him a fastball and let him hit it. Reuschel says he could face a whole team of first-ball fastball hitters, he could throw just twenty-seven pitches in a game – one for each out. He’d just have to throw it in a place that the guy couldn’t hit it well.”

Source: *Comeback* (Dave Dravecky with Tim Stafford, 1990)

**Mariano Rivera**

Rivera: “I throw the cutter about 90 percent of the time. For most pitchers, a catcher puts down one finger for a fastball, two for a curve, three for a slider, and so on. With me, one is a cutter, and two is a two-seam fastball. If there is a runner on second base, four is a cutter and two is a two-seamer. If Jorge waggles his fingers as he puts them down, it means he wants it up in the zone. That’s the sum total of our signs.”

Source: *The Closer* (Mariano Rivera, 2014)

**Tom “Specs” Roberts** (Negro Leagues 1938 1946)

Report: “Charley ‘Specs’ Roberts is a sidearm fast-ball chucker who had an assortment of the fastest slide hooks in the east when he tossed for Philadelphia and Newark.”

Source: Santa Rosa *Press Democrat* (4/28/1946)

Key Pitch: Curveball

Source: *Oakland Tribune* (Phil Norman, 7/5/1946 in game story)

**Preacher Roe**

Ralph Branca: “Elwin Charles Roe had pinpoint control. His overhand curve was excellent. What he called his slider was really a spitter; he’d wet his fingers with saliva before grasping the ball. Preacher was a slippery character and a good guy.”

Source: Branca in *A Moment in Time* (Branca with David Ritz, 2011)

**Steve Rogers**

Keith Hernandez: “The right-handed Rogers had really good stuff—a great curveball, cutter, sinker, and fastball—and he knew how and when to use all of them.”

Source: *I’m Keith Hernandez* (Hernandez, 2018)

**Saul Rogovin**

Rogovin: "I had a real good fastball when I came up. Later on, when I'd lost the real good fastball, I developed a change of pace and threw a slider, curve ball."

Source: *Jewish Major Leaguers in Their Own Words* (Peter Ephross with Martin Abramovitz, 2012)

Coach Ray Berres: "Then there was Saul Rogovin. He'd do anything to win, but had to ride herd on him early in a game because he would coast, try to get by so he'd have his stuff for the eighth and ninth. You could see him start to crank it up when he got to the eighth. If he saw somebody getting up in the bullpen, God almighty! He'd get mad. Lots of times we'd get somebody up, not to use him but just to get Rogovin fired up."

Source: *They Played the Game: Memories from 47 Major Leaguers* (Norman Macht, 2019)

### **Enrique Romo**

Willie Stargell: "Enrique frustrated the Phillie power boys with his off-speed curve balls, his off-speed screwballs, his off-speed sliders and his quick little fastball."

Source: Stargell describing 8/10/1979 appearance in *Willie Stargell: An Autobiography* (Stargell and Tom Bird, 1984)

### **Charlie Root**

Root in 1956: "My curve ball was terrible. My fast ball was real good and I had good control of it. I used it for my double play pitch. They tell me it wouldn't do nowadays. I'd have to have a sinker or slider. Maybe."

Source: *The Sporting News* (4/4/1956, Red Marston)

### **Marv Rotblatt (1948 1951)**

Rotblatt: "One of the funny true stories happened on the Johnny Carson show: my mother heard and two of my clients heard it. One night, McLean Stevenson, who is originally from Bloomington, Illinois, was a guest on the Carson show, and they were trying to compile an all-Jewish baseball team. And McLean Stevenson said, 'Johnny, the only two Jewish ballplayers I can remember are Marv Rotblatt and Sandy Koufax.' Carson quickly looked at him and said, 'Who's Sandy Koufax?' I thought that was very cute."

Source: *Jewish Major Leaguers in Their Own Words* (Peter Ephross with Martin Abramovitz, 2012)

### **Dick Rusteck (1966)**

Pitch Selection: 1. Fastball 2. Curves

Note: In Rusteck's MLB debut, with the Mets, he threw a four-hit shutout against the Reds (which would be his only win in the majors). Afterward, broadcaster Ralph Kiner said, "A couple of times, the ball jumped more than half a foot as it came up to the plate." And plate umpire Ed Sadol said, "His fastball has a tendency to rise at the last instant. It had the batters off balance and was probably the main reason they popped up so much."

Source: *The Sporting News* (6/25/1966, Barney Kremenko)

**Ray Sadecki**

Sadecki: "... I never did have a consistent change-up, tried every one in the book. Finally ended up my last couple of years throwing a slip-pitch for my change-up. I tried turning it over, palming the balls, I never could find a good one, but I didn't quit there. I ended up throwing a form of the slip-pitch, my own invention. It was a poor-man's forkball."

Source: *SF Giants: An Oral History* (Mike Mandel, 1979)

**Jack Sanford**

Sanford: "By '62 I had become more or less of a *pitcher*. I still had a good fastball when I was thirty-three years old, but I went to a slider and I was getting it over when I was behind. And as the year went on, I made better pitches with it..."

Source: *SF Giants: An Oral History* (Mike Mandel, 1979)

**Jose Santiago**

Santiago: "I'm going to try to throw a knuckleball. I can still throw my fast ball and my curve, but the slider is out. It puts too much of a strain on my arm."

Source: *The Sporting News* (3/7/1970, Larry Claflin)

**Scott Sauerbeck (1999 2006)**

Key Pitch: Curveball

Sauerbeck: "I always tried to keep a sense of humor out there, so my mound conversations were probably a little different than most guys because they would ask me what pitch I thought about throwing situations, and I would normally say a 'knuckleball,' then change the conversation to something else. It was sort of stupid to me because I think the whole world knew I was throwing a curveball, so what was all the small talk for really in my opinion."

Source: *The Archives of the Baseball Historian* (A. Martin, 2019)

**Ralph Savidge (1908 1909)**

Report: "According to Charles H. Ebbets, of Brooklyn, he has made overtures for several pitchers and out-fielders, and a catcher, but he says the Southern clubs ask too much for them. The negotiations for pitcher Savidge, a so-called finger nail curve expert with Memphis, ended in Manager Babb, of the locals, taking into consideration an offer by Ebbets."

Source: *Sporting Life* (7/25/1908)

**Tom Seaver**

Seaver: "By the middle of the 1969 season, I had seven pitches in my repertoire – three fast balls, two curves, a poor slider and a poorer change-up – utilizing about four different grips, violating the principle that every pitch should be thrown with the same grip. I'd found that by changing grips, I increased my effectiveness, and I knew that as long as I hid the ball well – I kept it concealed in my glove until the last possible moment – I wouldn't tip off which pitch was coming."

Source: *The Perfect Game: Tom Seaver and the Mets* (Seaver with Dick Schaap, 1970)

**Dick Selma**

Keith Hernandez: “By the time we crossed paths in Tulsa, Dick had lost a few miles per hour on his fastball, so he’d resorted to throwing a ‘grease ball’ and seemed to be covered head to toe with lubricants—Vaseline in his hair, Crisco under his hat, K-Y beneath his jersey.”

Source: *I’m Keith Hernandez* (Hernandez, 2018)

**Paul Sewald** (2017 ?)

Traded midseason last year to Arizona, the eventual NL champions, Sewald owes his rise from fungible swingman to elite closer to the development of a sweeper. He pairs that pitch with a riding four-seamer from his funky, low-arm slot...”

Source: *Lindy’s Sports: 2024 Baseball Preview* (Matt Trueblood, 2024)

**Bob Shaw**

Coach Ray Berres: “In 1958 I was watching a Detroit pitcher, Bob Shaw, warming up. He had a live arm, but I didn’t like his delivery. But the last pitch he threw, I liked it and remembered it. When Detroit wanted to send him down, he quit and went home. We picked him up and I told him what I had seen. He said he’d do anything to stick. So I changed his delivery and he went with it.”

Source: *They Played the Game: Memories from 47 Major Leaguers* (Norman Macht, 2019)

**James Shields** (2006 2018)

Shields: “I have four pitches: fastball, curve, changeup, and cutter. My fastball is just a straight fastball. My cutter looks like a fastball but has a little bit of a cut to the left. It’s a pitch that I’ve really developed, and it’s been pretty good. It keeps hitters from really sitting on the fastball.”

Source: *September Nights* (Shields as told to Bill Chastain, 2011)

**Bill Singer**

Ernie Whitt: “He was one of the few pitchers I’ve caught who threw a spitball. He had a pretty good one and he’d give me a special sign when he had it loaded up.”

Source: *Catch: A Major League Life* (Ernie Whitt and Greg Cable, 1989)

**Bill Slayback** (1972 1974)

Report: “Slayback also is a long, lean physical specimen. He’s 6-4 and weighs merely 177 pounds. ‘I got up to 185 pounds once,’ he said wistfully. He pitches with a sort of knock-kneed delivery, but he manages to close the gates on ground balls to the mound.”

Source: *The Sporting News* (Watson Spoelstra, 7/15/1972)

**Mike Small** (minors 1964 1969)

Memory: “Mike Small was a six-foot-four, loose-limbed lefty from Southern California who threw as hard as anyone in the league. You could hear the pop of his heater in the leather of the catcher’s mitt from a distance. It intimidated batters. But Mike was a thrower and not yet a pitcher and never would become one. He often had no idea where the ball was going.”

Source: *Playing With Tigers: A Minor League Chronicle of the Sixties* (George Gmelch, 2016)

Note: In his minor-league career, Small struck out nine batters per nine innings *and* walked nine batters per nine innings.

**Tim Smith** (minors 1991 1997)

Pitch Selection: 1. Slider 2. 2-seam Fastball

Report: “Tim could throw a nasty two-seam fastball consistently around ninety-five miles per hour plus a razor-sharp slider that was almost unhittable. However, the refugee from the Boston Red Sox minor-league system tended to lose command and throw a lot of balls in the dirt.”

Source: *The 33-Year-Old Rookie* (Chris Coste, 2008)

**Steve Stone**

Report on Stone’s Cy Young season: “Stone won largely by throwing as many curveballs as he could -- seven out of 10 pitches, most days. His trick was to vary his curves at three speeds, depending on where he held the ball and how he applied finger pressure. Maybe all those curveballs hurt his longevity, he says; he lasted just one more season, a casualty of elbow pain.”

Source: *K: A History of Baseball in Ten Pitches* (Tyler Kepner, 2019)

**Marlin Stuart** (1949 1954)

Report: “[Ralph] Terry remembered how Marlin Stuart, an otherwise ordinary righty in the 1950s, had humbled the great Ted Williams with screwballs. Williams generally owned Terry, but on June 20, 1958, Terry retired him three times in a row with screwballs.”

Source: *K: A History of Baseball in Ten Pitches* (Tyler Kepner, 2019)

Ralph Terry: “The first year I faced [Ted Williams], he was seven for 10 against me. Then I started doing some research. There was an ex-major league relief pitcher named Marlin Stuart who’d been a teammate of mine on the Denver Bears in ‘55. He had a good sinkerball, which was pretty much all he pitched; he’d throw it outside and it would really tail away down around the knees. He’d had pretty good luck with Williams.”

Source: *Right Down the Middle: The Ralph Terry Story* (Terry with John Wooley, 2016)

**Note:** The two citations above contradict each other. I will note that Terry, immediately after the Marlin Stuart note, writes about learning a screwball from A’s pitching coach Spud Chandler, then using it effectively against Williams. So when he writes about Stuart’s sinkerball, he might be mistaking it for Stuart’s screwball, or Stewart’s sinkerball with a screwball movement.

**Craig Swan**

Report: “Swan, a right-hander, needs a curve to get left-handed hitters out. His fastball and slider aren’t enough to get him by in the big leagues.”

Source: *The Pitching Staff* (Steve Jacobson, 1975)