

#1D 1950 Tidewater League played some with the Newport Team - Bunky Stewart (Veston Goff Stewart) New Bern Legend

Born [January 7, 1931](#) in Jasper, [NC](#)

School [East Carolina University](#)

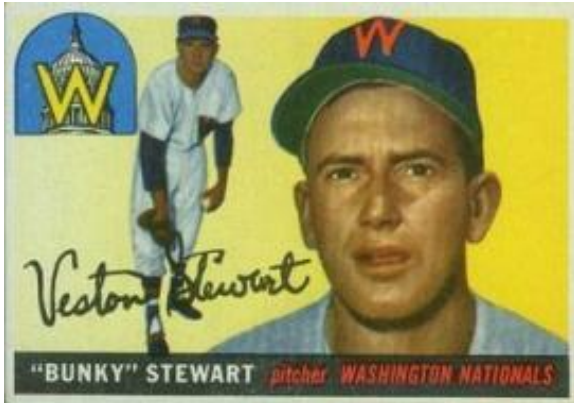
Bats Left, **Throws** Left

Debut May 4, 1952

Height 6' 0", **Weight** 155 lb.

Final Game September 15, 1956

Died Oct 5, 2007 at the age of 76



From Frank's Field of Dreams:

I Am not quite sure how he got his nickname Bunky, but Stewart, a skinny southpaw who had inability of finding the strike zone become the 2nd player from East Carolina ever make it to the Major League in 1952, also pitched with the Washington Nationals like the first player, Bill Holland.

To my knowledge, there are only three cards of him ever made, and pictured here is his card from the 1955 Topps Set.

PITCHING RECORD

YEAR	CLUB	G	GS	CG	IP	W	L	PCT	H	R	ER	SO	BB	ShO	SV	ERA
1952	Was AL	1	0	0	1.0	0	0	.000	2	2	2	1	1	0	0	18.00
1953	Was AL	2	2	1	15.1	0	2	.000	17	9	8	3	11	0	0	4.70
1954	Was AL	29	2	0	50.2	0	2	.000	67	52	43	27	27	0	1	7.64
1955	Was AL	7	1	0	15.1	0	0	.000	18	7	7	10	6	0	0	4.11
1956	Was AL	33	9	1	105.0	5	7	.417	111	77	65	36	82	0	2	5.57
CAREER		72	14	2	187.1	5	11	.313	215	147	125	77	127	0	3	6.01

Bunky Stewart *Continued*

October 5, 2007 - 1:10AM - [Randy Jones](#), Sun Journal Staff

Stewart will be inducted into the New Bern/J.T. Barber High School Athletics Hall of Fame on Oct. 12. He once struck out 23 Greenville Greenies in a high school game.

During the 1951 season in the CPL, Stewart won 17 straight games for the Bears. He pitched a no-hitter and a couple of one-hitters.

Soon after, he had professional scouts wanting to have him try out for the big leagues. He got his shot after the Bears won the CPL title that year. He got the tryout in front of owner Calvin Griffith.

"I worked out for old man Griffith," Stewart reminisced in 2006. "I had pitched the night before and felt like I didn't throw that good. We rode in an old Studebaker. I slept on the way up there in it. I ended up buying that car. They had everybody out at the stadium, watching and seeing how I threw and all that stuff. Then they signed me.

"The Senators bought out my contract (at New Bern) and I signed a bonus. At the time it was the most ever played for a Class D player. That \$500 was a lot of money back then."

Stewart played parts of five seasons with the Senators, compiling a 5-11 record from 1952 to 1956. His best season was his last in the majors, going 5-7. Along the way, he played with greats such as Hall-of-Famer Harmon Killebrew, Whitey Herzog, Eddie Yost and Mickey Vernon.

He also pitched against some pretty good hitters.

"I pitched right much against the Dodgers in spring training," he said. "Roy Campanella before he got hurt. Gil Hodges. Pee Wee Reese. Billy Cox. Duke Snider, Jackie Robinson. They were all great hitters."

"He said this in the hospital," said Stewart's son Wes. "He was asked what the best time of his life was; and he said, 'Playing baseball.' "

"Dad did what he wanted to do his whole life," Wes continued. "And he always had fun. Sure, there were times that were tough. But he always had a good time." Stewart pitched at New Bern High School and was drafted and played Major League Baseball for the Washington Senators.

Stewart pitched for the New Bern Bears of the now defunct Coastal Plains League before signing with the Senators. During his playing days with the Bears in 1951, the town would come to a standstill with signs of "Bunky's Pitching Today" adorning windows in businesses around old Kafer Park.

"New Bern was a baseball town back then," said Stewart's wife, Jean. "There were times when it seemed like the games were the social outing of the year."

But Stewart held his own on the mound, despite, in his own words being "A 6-foot tall, 148-pound asthmatic." Tough was what ball players were in those days, said Stewart's other son, Chris.

"Just look at the uniforms they wore," he said with a smile. "They were all wool. You just had to be tougher to wear those."