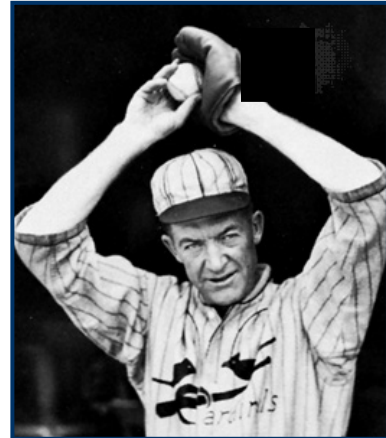


Background of a Star

Grover Cleveland (Old Pete) Alexander was a Major League baseball pitcher for the Philadelphia Phillies, Chicago Cubs and St. Louis Cardinals. He was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1938. Born in Elba, Ne., in 1887, as one of 13 children, Alexander made his official Major League debut on April 15, 1911. That year, he led the league with 28 wins (a modern-day rookie record), 31 complete games, 367 innings pitched and seven shutouts.

Regarded as one of the greatest pitchers of all time, Alexander grew up on a farm with a dream to play professional baseball. Between chores, he would throw apples, stones, or anything he could get his hands on to sharpen his accuracy.

When he was able to acquire a few baseballs, he nailed a catcher's glove to the outside wall of a chicken coop and threw at it hour after hour. He got so he could hit the mitt nine times out of 10.



Later, when he became a star, sportswriters went into raptures about the brilliance of his pitching. But no one knew better than Alexander that behind his amazing pitching was the patient drudgery of throwing at that old catcher's mitt nailed to a chicken coop.

Our work in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home is not a sport; it's far more important than a game, even in the Major Leagues. And Alexander's story should be an example to us. Some people equate being fast with getting results, but they mistake intention for determination. To rush into situations blindly generally means losing focus and energy, and simply petering out.

Successful individuals discover that quiet, steady, persistent work is what gets the best outcomes.

– Beecher Hunter