**Yu Darvish** (ダルビッシュ 有 *Darubisshu Yū*, born August 16, 1986) is a Japanese [professional baseball](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Professional_baseball) [starting pitcher](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Starting_pitcher) for the [Chicago Cubs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicago_Cubs) of [Major League Baseball](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Major_League_Baseball). Darvish previously played in MLB for the [Texas Rangers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Texas_Rangers_%28baseball%29) and the [Los Angeles Dodgers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Los_Angeles_Dodgers) and in [Nippon Professional Baseball](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nippon_Professional_Baseball) for the [Hokkaido Nippon-Ham Fighters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hokkaido_Nippon-Ham_Fighters). In international play, Darvish pitched in the [2008 Beijing Olympics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baseball_at_the_2008_Summer_Olympics) and the [2009 World Baseball Classic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2009_World_Baseball_Classic) as a member of the [Japanese national team](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japan_national_baseball_team).[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yu_Darvish#cite_note-1)

He was considered by many to be the best pitcher in [Japanese professional baseball](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nippon_Professional_Baseball) prior to his arrival in [Major League Baseball](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Major_League_Baseball) in 2012.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yu_Darvish#cite_note-2) In his first MLB season, Darvish finished third in the [American League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_League) (AL) [Rookie of the Year](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Major_League_Baseball_Rookie_of_the_Year_Award) balloting. The next season, he finished second in the AL [Cy Young Award](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cy_Young_Award) vote as he led the Major Leagues in [strikeouts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Strikeout) with 277 and finished fourth in the AL in [earned run average](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earned_run_average) (ERA) at 2.83. On April 6, 2014, Darvish reached the 500 strikeout mark in fewer [innings pitched](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Innings_pitched) than any starting pitcher in MLB history.