

= Scott Feldman =

Scott Wynne Feldman ( born February 7 , 1983 ) is an American professional baseball starting pitcher for the Houston Astros of Major League Baseball ( MLB ) .

After going 25 ? 2 in his first two years of college baseball , he was drafted in the 30th round by the Texas Rangers in 2003 . Feldman had Tommy John surgery later that year . He followed it up with a minor league career in which he had a 2 @. @ 70 ERA , and held batters to only 6 @. @ 6 hits per 9 innings , pitching almost exclusively in relief .

After pitching out of the bullpen while bouncing back and forth between Texas and its Triple @- @ A affiliate in 2005 ? 07 , Feldman converted to a starter in 2008 . He established himself in 2009 with a breakout season for the Rangers . He was 17 ? 8 , tied for 4th in the American League in wins , and tied the major league record with 12 victories on the road .

= = Early life = =

The 6 @- @ foot @- @ 5 @- @ inch ( 196 cm ) Feldman was big from an early age . " His second @- @ grade teacher made a comment to my wife that it was like ' Alice in Wonderland , ' because Scott was always too big for his seat " , his father recalls .

As for Feldman 's road to the major leagues , " The dream started off like any other kid " , Feldman said . " You ? d think about it as you were watching games in front of the TV , and you ? d think about it playing in the neighborhood park with your friends . You always hope , but you just don ? t know if it 's ever going to happen . "

His father , Marshall , an FBI agent who grew up in a Pennsylvania coal mining town and played college baseball at Duquesne , coached Feldman in youth baseball in Northern California . He worked at Mollie Stones in Burlingame as a courtesy clerk . His store manager Mark Lucchesi taught him how to throw a change up .

He went to Lincoln Elementary , Burlingame Intermediate School and later , Feldman attended Burlingame High School in Burlingame , California , where he pitched a no @- @ hitter . Feldman led the Peninsula Athletic League in batting average in his junior year . He was overweight in high school ; at one point he was up to 265 pounds ( 120 kg ) .

= = College = =

Feldman lost 40 pounds ( 18 kg ) before the start of his freshman year at the College of San Mateo , and walked on to the team . In two seasons , he went 25 ? 2 , with a 1 @. @ 30 ERA and a strikeout @- @ to @- @ walk ratio of 8 @- @ to @- @ 1 . " When Feldman pitched " , said Bulldogs coach Doug Williams , " the game was 95 % over . " He earned Coast Conference Pitcher of the Year honors both as a freshman in 2002 and as a sophomore in 2003 , and was also an All @- @ American both years . " He has a gift " , Williams said .

Picked in the 41st round ( the 1,241st pick overall ) of the 2002 Major League Baseball Draft by the Houston Astros , he did not sign . He was then drafted again , in the 30th round ( 886th overall ) of the 2003 Draft by the Texas Rangers , 13 rounds behind future teammate Ian Kinsler , and this time he signed with the Rangers after they offered him a lucrative contract .

= = Minor leagues = =

Feldman underwent reconstructive elbow surgery for a torn ulnar collateral ligament in October 2003 . In his four appearances in 2004 for the Arizona League Rangers in the Arizona League , he pitched seven scoreless innings . He began the 2005 season with the Single @- @ A Bakersfield Blaze , but after nine scoreless innings in relief was quickly promoted to the Double @- @ A Frisco RoughRiders .

On July 28 , 2005 , Feldman and two teammates threw a perfect game against the Corpus Christi Hooks . It was the first combined nine @- @ inning perfect game in Texas League history , and the

third overall . Feldman was tasked with getting the last three outs , and with two outs in the ninth he let the count get to 3 ? 1 . " I was just telling myself , ' Don 't walk him , ' " Feldman said . " Once it got to 3 ? 1 , I threw it right down the middle . If they got a hit , they got a hit . But they 're not going to break up a perfect game on a walk . " The batter grounded out . On July 31 , the three pitchers shared the Texas League Pitcher of the Week Award .

With the RoughRiders , he held opposing batters to a .202 batting average in 46 relief appearances , led the team with 14 saves ( which tied for fifth @-@ most in the league ) , and had a 2 @. @ 36 ERA . For the 2005 season , between the two teams he had a 2 @. @ 06 ERA and 17 saves in 52 appearances , all in relief . Baseball America tabbed him as having the best control of all minor league pitchers in the Rangers ' organization .

Prior to the 2006 season , MLB.com beat reporter T. R. Sullivan opined that Feldman was the Rangers ' top minor league relief prospect . In 2006 , in 23 relief appearances for the Rangers ' Triple @-@ A affiliate , the Oklahoma RedHawks , he had a 1 @. @ 98 ERA , and in 2007 in 21 relief appearances for the team he had a 4 @. @ 50 ERA . Later in 2007 , he pitched in the Arizona Fall League , to work on a new three @-@ quarters delivery .

In 2008 , as the Rangers decided to convert Feldman to a starter , he started and won a game for Frisco , taking a perfect game into the fifth and a no @-@ hitter into the seventh ( " For my first start , it was a lot of fun " , Feldman said ) . He also started and won the two games that he pitched for Oklahoma .

Overall , through 2008 Feldman had a minor league career ERA of 2 @. @ 70 in 153 @. @ 1 innings in 105 games ( all but six as a reliever ) , and gave up on average only 6 @. @ 6 hits per every 9 innings .

= = Major leagues = =

= = = Texas Rangers ( 2005 ? 12 ) = = =

= = = = 2005 : Breaking in = = = =

Feldman was a late @-@ season call @-@ up in 2005 . " The night before , I didn ? t sleep a minute . I didn ? t know what to expect , but when I walked in [ the locker room ] , I saw a lot of the guys I had seen on TV all these years , and was like , ' Holy cow , I ? m in the big leagues ' " , he remembers .

He made his major league debut against the Chicago White Sox on August 31 , 2005 . In eight relief appearances with the Rangers , he compiled a record of 0 ? 1 , with an ERA of 0 @. @ 91 in 9 @. @ 1 innings of work .

= = = = 2006 : Brawl = = = =

Towards the end of the spring training in 2006 , Feldman was feeling confident that he was going to make the parent club 's 25 @-@ man roster . A week before Opening Day he was called into Manager Buck Showalter 's office . But instead of telling Feldman he had made the team , for the first 10 minutes Showalter and the team 's pitching coach Mark Connor spoke on and on about how Feldman had had a solid spring training ? but needed to work on some things . Feldman couldn 't believe it but eventually thought , " Holy smoke , I ? m going down [ to the minors ] . " Suddenly , unable to continue the prank any longer , Showalter burst out laughing : " Pack your bags , rookie , you ? re coming with us ! "

During the regular season , Feldman bounced back and forth between the Rangers and Oklahoma .

The national spotlight shone briefly on Feldman on August 16 , 2006 , when he sparked a violent bench @-@ clearing brawl in the ninth inning of a game between the Rangers and the Los Angeles

Angels of Anaheim . Tensions between the two division rivals were already high after two Ranger starting pitchers ? Adam Eaton and Vicente Padilla ? had been ejected in previous games that month for throwing at Angel hitters , along with Texas manager Buck Showalter . Before Feldman took the mound in relief , on a night with a game @-@ time temperature of 101 degrees , two Angel pitchers ( Kevin Gregg and Brendan Donnelly ) had already been thrown out of the game for hitting Ranger batters , and Angel manager Mike Scioscia and acting manager / bench coach Ron Roenicke had been ejected as well .

Feldman hit Angel second baseman Adam Kennedy in the buttocks with a fastball with two outs and the Rangers up 9 ? 3 . Kennedy charged the mound as the 6 ' 5 " Feldman stood atop it and threw down his glove . When Kennedy reached him , triggering a fight between Feldman and the light @-@ hitting 6 ' 1 " Kennedy , Feldman punched him in the armpit . An announcer describing the fight said , " [ Feldman ] even punches like he throws ? sidearm and underhand . " " I didn 't charge him " , Feldman said in his defense . " I couldn 't just stand there . " Feldman was suspended for six games . As to others ' reactions , Feldman said : " Everybody is telling me to take boxing lessons . "

In 36 relief appearances in 2006 , he had an ERA of 3 @. @ 92 . In games that were late and close , Feldman held the sixteen batters he faced hitless .

= = = = 2007 : First win = = = =

Feldman was in the Rangers ' 2007 spring training camp , and won the final spot in the Texas bullpen . He picked up his first Major League victory on April 11 in his 47th big @-@ league appearance . " I 'll always remember it , no doubt about it " , Feldman said .

He was sent down , however , on May 1 . That began a trend , as he was called up and send down five more times during the season .

He made some changes in his delivery in September . Instead of throwing sidearm , he raised his arm angle and threw from a three @-@ quarters delivery , which pitching coach Mark Connor observed gave him more sink on his fastball and downward movement on his breaking ball . " This has a chance to be pretty good " , Connor said . " He was busting his fastball 94 ? 95 , the ball was sinking , and his four @-@ seamer was cutting . "

He was 1 ? 2 for the season , with a 5 @. @ 77 ERA in 29 games . He held the first batter he faced in each game to a .160 batting average , and his " ground ball : fly ball ratio " of 1 @. @ 39 was the highest on the team .

= = = = 2008 : Conversion to starter = = = =

In spring training in 2008 , Feldman changed his release point , and used the three @-@ quarter delivery that he had begun to use late in 2007 . Manager Ron Washington noted : " It makes his ball heavier , and his movement a little more pronounced . "

In late March , he was one of three pitchers vying for one long relief spot on the team , though the Rangers also began experimenting with converting him to be a starter . General Manager Jon Daniels observed : " Toward the end of spring training something clicked with his new [ three @-@ quarter ] arm slot . " On March 22 , despite Feldman 's success with his new , higher arm angle , the Rangers optioned him to Oklahoma , where he was a starter . In April he bounced back and forth between Texas and Frisco .

In his first Major League start , on April 13 , he allowed three runs in six innings and did not receive a decision . " Feldman was outstanding " , manager Washington said . " He hung in there and battled . " Feldman recorded his first major league hit on June 13 against Óliver Pérez of the New York Mets .

On August 13 , against the Boston Red Sox , he allowed 10 runs in the first inning ( a team record ) . This was the first time a major league pitcher gave up at least 12 runs without taking a loss since Gene Packard of the St. Louis Cardinals did it on August 3 , 1918 ) .

T. R. Sullivan of MLB.com wrote towards the end of the season : " He 's going to win the bronze

medal for innings pitched on the Rangers this season . ... He has exceeded all expectations , and his lack of history as a starter makes it difficult to figure where this great experiment is headed . " General Manager Daniels noted : " Feldman has really saved our pen this year , and he wasn 't a guy we were counting on in the beginning of the season . " The Rangers wanted to limit his use towards the end of the season , but had to keep him in the rotation because of injuries to the other pitchers .

For the season , he was 6 ? 8 in 25 starts and three relief appearances , over 151 @. @ 1 innings ? just two innings fewer than he had pitched in his entire minor league career . He also led the Rangers ' pitching staff in quality starts ( 13 ) , quality start percentage ( 52 % ) , strikes looking ( 29 % ) , " grounded into double plays " ( 24 ) , and " grounded into double play rate " ( 21 % ) . His 13 unearned runs tied for the third @- @ highest total in the AL .

During the off @- @ season , club president Nolan Ryan emphasized conditioning for the Rangers pitchers . Feldman and nine other of the team 's top young pitchers were brought to Arlington in November for a week @- @ long conditioning camp . " It 's different " , Feldman said . " In the past , it was a little more of ' this is what you need to do , now go out and do it . ' Most guys would do it , but this is their way of overseeing it and making sure everybody is ready . "

= = = = 2009 : Breakout season = = = =

The Rangers decided that Feldman would begin 2009 as a middle reliever , and Kris Benson would be a starter . " Feldman makes us a better team in the bullpen " , explained Washington . " He goes down there with better stuff than he had before . " Feldman was disappointed at the change .

Within a month Benson was injured , however , and Feldman took his place in the rotation on April 25 . " I 'm excited " , said Feldman . " I love starting . " At the suggestion of pitching coach Mike Maddux , he changed his windup to a full windmill . He remained in the rotation thereafter . In early May , Washington noted : " He has real life on his fastball , his slider is harder than it has been , his breaking ball is much crisper , and he 's getting a good feel for his changeup . He 's got four pitches he can throw over the plate . "

Feldman began the 2009 season 5 ? 0 . He sported better mechanics and a different repertoire ( a new and improved cut fastball ) , threw 1 ? 2 mph harder , and kept the ball down ? forcing more ground balls . " Scott Feldman has been great since we put him in the starting rotation " , said Manager Washington . " He always does what you need him to do , keep you in the ballgame . "

At the All Star break , despite not having moved into the starting rotation until nearly a month into the season , Feldman was 8 ? 2 , led the AL in won @- @ lost percentage ( .800 ) , and was 9th in hits per nine innings ( 7 @. @ 75 ) and walks + hits per inning pitched ( 1 @. @ 18 ) . " He 's going to get better " , said Nolan Ryan on July 20 , noting Feldman 's youth and his recent change in pitching style .

On July 25 , Feldman outpitched Kansas City All @- @ Star and AL ERA leader Zack Greinke with eight innings of four @- @ hit , shutout ball , leading the Rangers to a 2 ? 0 victory . " Feldman matched the best pitcher in baseball " , Washington said . " I ? m so happy for him . Two pitchers went at it pretty good , and our 's won the battle . " The eight innings were Feldman 's major @- @ league high , as he mixed in a changeup , curveball , and slider with his fastball .

As of the end of July , opposing batters were hitting .228 against Feldman ( and only .217 in his starts ) , the fourth @- @ lowest batting average in the league . In his starts through the end of July he had a 3 @. @ 04 ERA , and 12 of his 17 starts were quality starts .

After he beat the Mariners on short ( three days ' ) rest at the beginning of August for the team lead in wins , Seattle manager Don Wakamatsu said : " I thought Feldman was awfully tough . I have seen this kid , and he gets better every year . I think you have to tip your hat . "

As of mid @- @ August , Feldman 's cut fastball was the most effective in the major leagues . And it was the third @- @ most @- @ effective pitch overall , behind only Tim Lincecum 's change @- @ up and Clayton Kershaw 's fastball . While in 2008 he used his cutter 13 @. @ 4 % of the time , in 2009 he was throwing it 30 @. @ 4 % of the time . The only starting pitchers who were throwing cutters more often were Brian Bannister , Doug Davis , and Halladay .

The press began to take notice . On August 14 Matthew Berry of ESPN noted that : " since April 25 , when Scott Feldman ... rejoined the Rangers ' rotation , only Justin Verlander has more wins than Feldman 's 12 . " And two days later , Phil Rogers wrote for The Chicago Tribune : " Scott Feldman is creeping into consideration for the bottom of Cy Young ballots . "

On August 23 , Feldman threw seven scoreless innings while allowing only four hits in a win over the Tampa Bay Rays . It was his 13th win of the season ( tied for third in the AL ) and put his season record at 13 ? 4 . It was Feldman 's ninth road win of the season ( bringing him to 9 ? 1 on the road ) , tying him with Sabathia for best in the AL . The win put the Rangers two games ahead of the Rays in the AL wild card standings , and one game behind the Red Sox . His career @-@ high 11 strikeouts were the most by a Ranger since Matt Perisho struck out 12 in 1999 ( see video of parts of Feldman 's 11 strikeouts ) . Commenting on Feldman 's last strikeout , Carlos Peña said : " I was on second base , and I saw a pitch that he made to B. J. [ Upton ] , and I was like , ' Wow . ' I thought to myself , ' That 's unhittable right there . ' " Rays manager Joe Maddon called Feldman 's performance " the best @-@ pitched game against us all year " , in spite of Mark Buehrle 's perfect game against them earlier in the season .

On August 29 , he again held the opposition scoreless , this time the Twins for 5 @.@ 2 innings in a 3 ? 0 victory . " His ball was definitely moving all over the place , with a great breaking ball " , Twins manager Ron Gardenhire said . " He throws a nasty cutter , and the ball sinks . He was tough on us . " It was good for his 14th win of the season ( tied for second in the AL behind Sabathia ) , raising his record to 14 ? 4 . His cutter was more dominant than any other thrown over a single season since Baseball Info Solutions first began collecting cutter data in 2004 .

On September 4 , he extended his scoreless streak to 18 @.@ 1 innings before giving up a run to the Baltimore Orioles in the sixth inning at Camden Yards ; that was the only run he gave up over 6 @.@ 2 innings in a 5 ? 1 win , to bring his record to 15 ? 4 . It was also his 11th road victory ( matching the club record held by Rick Helling ( 1998 ) and Padilla ( 2008 ) ) , and he matched the club record set by Bobby Witt ( 1990 ) with his 7th consecutive road win of the season . Evan Grant , writing for D Magazine , asked rhetorically : " At some point , RHP Scott Feldman is going to have to enter the Cy Young Award conversation , isn 't he ? "

On September 9 , Feldman threw seven innings of shutout ball against the Cleveland Indians , leading Texas to a 10 ? 0 win . He struck out five , while giving up five singles , raising his record to 16 ? 4 , and tying Sabathia and Verlander for the AL lead in victories . He became the first Rangers pitcher to win 16 games since Kevin Millwood in 2006 . It was his seventh win in a row , eighth straight road victory ( a new Texas record ) , and 12th road win overall in 2009 ( another new club record , and tops in the AL ) . " I 'm not doing anything different on the road than I am at home " , said Feldman , who had allowed only one run in the last 26 @.@ 1 innings . " The preparation is the same . I think it 's a pretty humbling game , so you can 't get too high or too low . " He became the first Rangers right @-@ hander to allow just one run over four consecutive starts . Outfielder Marlon Byrd said : " When you have your ace on the mound , you expect to win . You get a couple of runs early , and you feel you have a ' W ' in hand . He has been unbelievable this year when he steps on the mound . ... He just keeps getting better . "

The Boston Herald reported : " Scott Feldman started the season in the bullpen . He 'll end it as a Cy Young Award candidate . " Phil Rogers of the Chicago Tribune referred to him as " an under @-@ the @-@ radar Cy Young candidate . " And Jennifer Floyd Engel of The Fort Worth Star @-@ Telegram wrote : " Is there a more likable " stud player " on any of the locals than Scott Feldman ? Dude is amazing , wins freakishly a lot on the road , is Boy Scout @-@ ishly dependable , has been an ace on what is really a pretty good staff , and is humble as hell . He 's certainly deserving to be in Cy Young conversations . " Manny Navarro of The Miami Herald also referred to him as a Cy Young Award candidate .

Through September 10 , he was leading the AL in won @-@ lost percentage ( .800 ) , tied with Sabathia and Verlander for the league lead in wins ( 16 ) , had the 3rd @-@ lowest " slugging percentage against " ( .359 ; behind Félix Hernández and Greinke ) , was tied for 4th in double plays induced ( 20 ) , and had the 7th @-@ lowest " OPS @-@ against " ( .670 ) . Feldman was holding lefties to a .220 batting average , and as a starter he had kept batters to the 2nd @-@ lowest batting

@-@ average @-@ against on balls that they had put in play ( .261 ) among AL starters ( behind only Washburn ) , had the 4th @-@ best ERA in the league ( 3 @. @ 10 ; behind Greinke , Hernández , and Halladay ) , was tied for the 4th @-@ lowest batting @-@ average @-@ against ( .236 ) , had stranded the 5th @-@ highest percentage of runners ( 78 @. @ 3 % ) , and had the 5th @-@ highest ground ball / fly ball ratio ( 1 @. @ 48 ) . He had the most effective cutter of all major league starters , and had thrown it 33 % of the time ( behind only Brian Bannister ( 52 % ) and Halladay ( 42 % ) among AL starters ) . Feldman had also pitched at least five innings in all but one of his 26 starts in 2009 . As of mid @-@ September , Feldman 's cutter was still the third @-@ most @-@ effective pitch in the major leagues , behind only Tim Lincecum 's changeup and Randy Wolf 's fastball .

For the season , Feldman was 17 ? 8 with a 4 @. @ 08 ERA in 34 games , 31 of them starts . Despite not having become a starter until the end of April , he tied for 4th in the American League in wins , and only four pitchers in the majors had more victories . His club @-@ record 12 victories on the road tied the major league record . Feldman became the third player in Rangers history to win at least 17 games in 31 starts or fewer , joining Kenny Rogers ( 17 wins in 31 starts in 1995 ) and Ferguson Jenkins ( 18 wins in 30 starts in 1978 ) .

He was named the Texas Rangers ' Pitcher of the Year for 2009 by the Dallas @-@ Fort Worth Chapter of the Baseball Writers ' Association of America .

== == 2010 ; Opening Day starter == ==

The Rangers and Feldman agreed to a \$ 2 @, @ 425 @, @ 000 one @-@ year contract in January 2010 , thereby avoiding arbitration .

On March 27 , manager Ron Washington announced that Feldman would be the opening day starter for the Rangers . On April 2 , the Rangers signed Feldman to a two @-@ year , \$ 11 @. @ 5 million extension through the 2012 season , with a \$ 9 @. @ 25 million option for 2013 .

Feldman was 7 ? 11 for the season , as he started 22 games and pitched seven games out of the bullpen .

== == 2011 ; Injuries , and scoreless postseason == ==

Feldman , had microfracture surgery performed on his right knee during the off @-@ season . To rehab , he made two appearances for the Double @-@ A Frisco Roughriders and eight appearances for the Triple @-@ A Round Rock Express . On July 8 , he was transferred from the 15 @-@ day disabled list to the 60 @-@ day disabled list . He was outrighted to the minors on July 13 . However , on July 14 , after he cleared waivers , Feldman rejected the assignment giving the Rangers the option of activating him from the disabled list or releasing him . They opted to activate him off the disabled list , which re @-@ added him to the 40 @-@ man roster .

In 2011 , Feldman was 2 ? 1 with a 3 @. @ 94 ERA for Texas in 11 games , two of which were starts . In 32 innings he gave up 25 hits , while walking 10 and striking out 22 . He limited left @-@ handed hitters to a .155 batting average .

Brought in during the first game of the playoffs against the Tampa Bay Rays , he pitched three scoreless innings , allowing two hits while striking out four . In Game 2 of the ALCS he pitched 4 1 / 3 scoreless innings in relief , allowing the Detroit Tigers only one hit and no walks . He became the third pitcher in 20 years to throw at least four scoreless innings of relief in a postseason game . He pitched another scoreless inning in Game 4 , and through the first two rounds of the postseason his playoff record was 8 @. @ 2 innings pitched with nine strikeouts , three hits , and no walks .

In the first game of the World Series , he pitched another 1 @. @ 2 innings of scoreless baseball to extend his postseason record to 10 @. @ 1 scoreless innings pitched . Only eight relief pitchers had pitched more scoreless innings in a postseason , with Goose Gossage holding the record ( 14 @. @ 1 in 1981 ) . His postseason record in 2011 was 10 @. @ 1 innings pitched with 10 strikeouts , 4 hits , and 0 walks .

===== 2012 =====

In 2012 , Feldman was 6 ? 11 , with a 5 @. @ 09 ERA in 123 @. @ 2 innings . He had a 96 / 32 K / BB ratio . He walked one @-@ or @-@ fewer batters in 10 @-@ straight starts ; the only Ranger with a longer single @-@ season streak was Ferguson Jenkins with 12 @-@ straight starts in 1974 .

He became a free agent on October 30 , 2012 , when the Rangers declined his \$ 9 @. @ 25 million 2013 option .

===== Chicago Cubs ( 2013 ) =====

On November 27 , 2012 , Feldman signed a one @-@ year deal with the Chicago Cubs worth \$ 6 million with a possible \$ 1 million in additional incentives . General Manager Jed Hoyer indicated that the team planned to use him as a starter . On May 24 , 2013 , Feldman hit his first career home run off of Cincinnati Reds pitcher Bronson Arroyo .

===== Baltimore Orioles ( 2013 ) =====

On July 2 , 2013 , Feldman and Steve Clevenger were traded to the Baltimore Orioles for pitchers Jake Arrieta and Pedro Strop . There , Feldman reunited with his first big league manager , Buck Showalter . His first start was on July 3 , 2013 , against the Chicago White Sox , a game the Orioles won 4 ? 2 although Feldman did not get the decision . Feldman had his best start as an Oriole August 18 , and was borderline dominant the entire outing . Through his first six innings , Feldman had allowed just two hits , while not allowing a single run to score . The Orioles took the victory 7 ? 2 against the Rockies . He improved upon that outing by tossing the first complete game shutout of his career on September 6 , holding the White Sox to 5 hits .

He finished the season with a combined 12 ? 12 win @-@ loss record and 3 @. @ 86 ERA in 30 starts that included one shutout . He allowed only a .234 opponent 's batting average , tied for 10th @-@ best in the Major Leagues among righty pitchers , and a .207 average with two outs . After falling behind batters 2 ? 0 , he held them to a .131 average , the lowest in the Major Leagues .

===== Houston Astros ( 2014 ? present ) =====

Feldman signed a three @-@ year contract worth \$ 30 million with the Houston Astros after the 2013 season .

He was the Astros ' opening day starter , and beat the New York Yankees by blanking them into the seventh inning . On August 30 , 2014 , Feldman threw a 3 @-@ hit shutout against the Texas Rangers , giving up just 1 walk while striking 5 . Astros went on to win 2 ? 0 , winning the Silver Boot for the club for the first time since 2006 .

For the season , he was 8 ? 12 with a 3 @. @ 74 ERA ( the lowest over a full season in his career ) , in 29 starts ( tied for the club lead ) . He was tied for sixth in the AL in complete games ( 2 ) . He threw the highest percentage of curveballs among all Major League pitchers ( 28 @. @ 9 % ) , ahead of Sonny Gray . At 6 ? 7 , Feldman is the third @-@ tallest pitcher in Astros history behind Randy Johnson ( 6 ? 10 ) and J. R. Richard ( 6 ? 8 ) . He received the Astros 2014 Darryl Kile Good Guy Award , voted by the Houston Chapter of the Baseball Writers ' Association of America .

===== Pitching =====

Feldman is a three @-@ quarters pitcher with a sinker , a low @-@ to @-@ mid @-@ 90s fastball , a hard dropping slider , a curve , a changeup , and a 90 @-@ mph cut fastball .

He changed the angle of his arm from sidearm to three @-@ quarters in September 2007 . In August 2009 a scout described him as having three " above @-@ average pitches " , and a " filthy " cutter .

= = Personal life = =

Feldman is Jewish , as is his father , and the family belonged to Peninsula Temple Sholom in Burlingame for a period of time .

As of March 2007 , Feldman was one of 13 Jewish baseball players in the major leagues , along with teammate Ian Kinsler . He was featured in the edition of Jewish Major Leaguers Baseball Cards , licensed by Major League Baseball , commemorating the Jewish major leaguers from 1871 through 2008 . He joined , among others , Kinsler , Brad Ausmus , Kevin Youkilis , Ryan Braun , Gabe Kapler , Jason Marquis , John Grabow , Craig Breslow , Scott Schoeneweis and Jason Hirsh . In 2009 , Feldman was named the Jewish Major Leaguers Pitcher of the Year , in a year in which he had more wins than any other Jewish pitcher since Steve Stone in 1980 . Through 2014 , he was eighth of all Jewish major leaguers in career strikeouts , behind Barney Pelty , and tied for eighth in career wins , with Barry Latman .

Feldman , in 2007 , was one of 32 players born in Hawaii to have made it to the majors . In 2014 , he and Jerome Williams joined Brian Fisher ( 1990 ) and Sid Fernandez ( 1997 ) as the only Hawaiian @-@ born players to ever pitch for the Astros .