

= Michael Barrett (baseball) =

Michael Patrick Barrett (born October 22 , 1976) is a former Major League catcher and current manager of the rookie @-@ level Gulf Coast Nationals . He started his professional career with the Montreal Expos at age 18 . Barrett spent three years playing in Minor League Baseball as a shortstop and catcher . He played with the Honolulu Sharks , West Palm Beach Expos , and Delmarva Shorebirds , and was elected to two Minor League All @-@ Star games . Barrett made his Major League debut in 1998 as a third baseman , but was shortly outrighted to the minor leagues to play with the Harrisburg Senators for a season .

Upon Barrett 's return to the Major Leagues in 1999 , he ranked among the top offensive rookies in various statistical categories . Barrett failed to stay healthy during the 2003 season , which prompted the Expos to trade him to the Oakland Athletics , who in turn , traded him to the Chicago Cubs . During his tenure with the Cubs , Barrett won a Silver Slugger Award in 2005 , and recorded near career @-@ high statistics in 2004 season . The Cubs traded Barrett to the San Diego Padres in June of 2007 . Barrett sustained two major injuries , which caused him to miss 115 games with the Padres , and was subsequently released after the 2008 season . Barrett attempted to make a comeback with the Toronto Blue Jays in 2009 , but continued to struggle with injury issues , which led to his release in the subsequent offseason . He spent the second half of the 2010 season in the New York Mets minor league system , and has not played professional baseball since , but has not officially announced his retirement . Barrett was also a volunteer assistant coach for the baseball team at the University of North Georgia .

= = Early years = =

Barrett was born in Atlanta . He attended Pace Academy , where he excelled in baseball . During his senior year , Barrett won Atlanta 's Gatorade 's Player of the Year , and was named to the All @-@ USA High School and First Team High School All @-@ Americans All @-@ star teams . He was considered to be one of the top draft prospects that year , and declared eligibility for the upcoming Major League Baseball Draft shortly after graduating from high school . The Montreal Expos selected Barrett as the 28th overall selection in the 1995 draft . He spent the next three years in the minors , playing in the Gulf Coast , South Atlantic , Hawaii Winter Baseball , and Florida State Leagues , during which he was converted from a shortstop to a catcher . His Minor League Baseball career was highlighted in 1996 , when he scored 57 runs and recorded 113 hits as a member of the Delmarva Shorebirds .

= = Professional career = =

= = = Montreal Expos = = =

The Expos called Barrett to the Major Leagues on September 19 , 1998 , in a game against the Cincinnati Reds as a third baseman . He managed to hit a home run and a single in the game . After only playing eight games as an Expo , Barrett was sent to play for the Harrisburg Senators , a Class AA team from the Eastern League . He recorded 145 hits , and seventy @-@ eight runs , nineteen home runs , and eighty @-@ seven RBI en route to winning the Double @-@ A All @-@ Star Catcher and Montreal Expos Minor League Player of the Year awards . His performance allowed him to claim a spot on the Expos ? starting roster during the 1999 . During his first full season , Barrett had fifty @-@ nine starts as a catcher , sixty @-@ two as a third @-@ baseman , and six as shortstop . He also led all National League rookies with thirty @-@ two doubles , while ranking as one of top statistical tiers in runs , hits , and run batted in among all other rookies .

Barrett struggled to perform consistently in the 2000 season . He committed fifteen errors during the course of the season , while earning .891 fielding percentage as a catcher . In addition , he hit for only a .214 batting average , with only a .288 slugging percentage . These difficulties combined to

prompt the Expos to send him to the minors again . After playing thirty games with the Ottawa Lynx of the International League , Barrett returned to the major leagues before 2001 . He was named onto the team 's opening day lineup , and eventually earned a full @-@ time spot on the team . He was one the Expos ' most consistent hitters , and posted career high statistics that season ; leading all National League catchers with thirty @-@ three doubles . Barrett also managed to improve his defensive performance by raising his fielding percentage to .993 , while only committing seven errors .

He also saw success during the 2002 season . Barrett started the season by hitting home runs in the first two games of the season . He would go on to have one of his best months in the Majors , scoring with four home runs , seventeen RBI , eight doubles , and scored ten runs . The League recognized his efforts , and named Barrett the " National League co @-@ Player of the Week " for the second week of April after he recorded a franchise record eleven RBI within two games . Barrett finished the season with mixed results . While increasing his number of stolen bases and batting and slugging percentage , he failed to record as many runs , hits , and RBI , as he did in the previous season . He committed nine errors , which resulted in a lower fielding percentage , but excelled in throwing out base runners .

Barrett missed almost half of the 2003 on account of three injuries . He suffered the first during a game against the Colorado Rockies , during which one of Steve Reed 's pitches accidentally hit and bruised Barrett 's index finger . Barrett was able to continue playing , but claimed the injury had hindered his playing performance . He eventually managed to overcome the injury in July . He recorded a batting average of .333 and fifteen RBI . During this period , Barrett began to complain about tightness in his right hip flexor . This ailment took its toll on Barrett during a game against the Atlanta Braves , when he strained the muscles while taking a checked swing . The Expos sent Barrett on a rehabilitation assignment to play with the Edmonton Trappers , a AAA team from the Pacific Coast League . He only managed to play two games with team before fracturing his index finger on August 9 . Barrett returned to the major leagues on September 12 , although the Expos were already out of playoff contention .

= = = Chicago Cubs = = =

Barrett 's long tenure with the Expos ended in December 2003 . The team traded Barrett to the Oakland Athletics in exchange for Minor League pitcher Brett Price . The Athletics then traded Barrett to the Chicago Cubs for Damian Miller , only days after the initial transaction . Barrett , who had just spent six days with three teams , shortly signed a one @-@ year contract with the Cubs , which was worth nearly \$ 1 @,@ 550 @,@ 000 . He first practiced with Cubs during their annual spring training sessions , and reported receiving a cold reception from teammates . Barrett went on to become one of their top hitters during the 2004 season . He played a crucial role in their wild card chase ; Barrett maintained a .287 batting average and hit sixteen home runs and sixty @-@ five RBI during the 2004 season . He finished the season as one the league 's top defensive catchers (fielding at .994 with six errors) , and led the Cubs in triples and sacrifice flies .

Barrett continued to be one of the Cubs ? most consistent hitters in the 2005 season . He batted over .300 in three months of the season , and finished with 16 home runs , 32 doubles , and 61 RBI . Although he failed to meet and surpass the same statistical figures in the previous season , Barrett received a Silver Slugger Award for his efforts . Additionally , Barrett was selected to represent the United States in the 2006 World Baseball Classic . He played in four games , and recorded one run batted in .

Barrett sought to improve his numbers in the 2006 season , but ran into several obstacles . During the team 's annual series against the Chicago White Sox at U.S. Cellular Field , Barrett was involved in a major altercation with A. J. Pierzynski , which eventually led to a bench @-@ clearing brawl . He received a ten @-@ game suspension , which he served near the middle of June . Barrett rebounded after the incident , and batted over .300 in the final four months of the season . He suffered an intrascrotal hematoma in early September , and was forced to miss the rest of the season . The injury and suspension caused Barrett to miss a significant portion of the season . In his

shortened season , Barrett hit sixteen home runs , which matched his previous career high , and nearly surpassed his hit total from 2005 .

Barrett was unable to live up to expectations in the 2007 season . He was unable to replicate his statistical figures from the previous season , and finished May with a .244 batting average and only seven home runs . Barrett infamously made headlines when he was involved in a nationally televised dugout altercation with pitcher Carlos Zambrano . Lou Piniella dismissed both players for the afternoon , while the League proceeded to fine both players . Nearly two weeks later , a television camera caught Barrett engaging in a heated argument with Rich Hill over a pitch that resulted in an RBI . The tensions caused Barrett to lose his role as the Cubs ' everyday starting catcher . While Barrett increased his batting average over the next few games , his career with the Cubs began to come to a close near the middle of June .

== San Diego Padres ==

Various news sources reported that the Cubs had traded Barrett to the San Diego Padres on the morning of June 20 . The Cubs officially confirmed these details in the afternoon , and revealed that Barrett was traded in exchange for Rob Bowen and Kyler Burke . Despite stating he had no knowledge of the trade until hearing rumors in the morning , Barrett expressed his appreciation and well wishes to the Cubs organization on his homepage . He received a one @-@ game suspension on July 22 , after arguing with an umpire over a third strike . Barrett sustained a concussion on August 5 , after a base @-@ running accident against the San Francisco Giants . The Padres placed Barrett on the fifteen @-@ day disabled list . After returning from the injury , Barrett 's performance declined . His batting average dropped from .266 to .244 , while he produced near career low statistics .

Barrett became a free agent after the end of the season , but was offered arbitration from the Padres . The Tampa Bay Rays expressed interest in signing Barrett , even though the signing would involve trading the Padres a future second round draft pick as compensation . Barrett accepted the Padres ' arbitration offer on December 7 . The Padres placed Barrett on the disabled list on April 8 , 2008 , after he sustained an elbow injury . The team later activated him on May 25 , after he had recovered , and completed a minor league rehabilitation assignment . On July 2 , 2008 , Barrett was rushed to the hospital after fouling a pitch off his face . He required surgery to repair the damage , and had been placed on the disabled list for the second time in 2008 . The Padres waived Barrett on October 11 , after he previously expressed interest in testing the free @-@ agent market .

== Toronto Blue Jays ==

On December 29 , 2008 , Barrett signed a Minor League deal with the Toronto Blue Jays , and attended spring training as a non @-@ roster invitee . He earned the back @-@ up catcher role for the Toronto Blue Jays during spring training . He was scheduled to back up Rod Barajas , but Barrett tore a muscle in his right shoulder while attempting to retrieve a wild pitch on April 17 , 2009 . Barrett was placed on the 15 @-@ day disabled list on April 18 , and was expected to return within the two weeks . Prior to the injury , Barrett had made seven appearances with a .167 batting average . The Blue Jays activated Barrett from the disabled list on July 6 , 2009 , and designated to Triple @-@ A for a rehab assignment , where he sustained a season @-@ ending injury . The Jays never recalled Barrett to their roster after the designation , and released him in the following offseason . He only played seven Major League games in 2009 , in which he recorded a .167 batting average , three hits , and one home run .

== New York Mets ==

Barrett signed a minor league deal with the Mets on June 29 , 2010 , and was assigned to the Class @-@ A St. Lucie Mets . In early August , he was reassigned to play for their Class AAA affiliate , the Buffalo Bisons . On November 6 , 2010 , Barrett elected and was granted free agency .

He has not played professional baseball since .

= = Controversies = =

= = = Oswalt confrontation = = =

While playing for the Chicago Cubs , Barrett was involved in two incidents with Houston Astros pitcher Roy Oswalt during the 2004 season . On August 22 , 2004 , Oswalt struck Barrett . Barrett , believing the pitch was a reaction to a three @-@ run home run that Aramis Ramírez had previously hit , confronted Oswalt , and prompted both teams to take the field . Oswalt was ejected from the game , as the Astros went on to lose 11 @-@ 6 . Five days later , during another Cubs @-@ Astros game , Barrett mouthed off to Oswalt and attempted to confront him . The game 's umpires restrained the two before a fight could break out , but not before both benches cleared out . Oswalt remained in the game , and defeated the Cubs 15 @-@ 7 . In a post @-@ game press conference , Barrett condemned Oswalt 's actions , and stated , " We 're going to see him again . "

= = = Crosstown clash = = =

On May 20 , 2006 , Barrett was involved in an infamous altercation with A. J. Pierzynski , during the Chicago Crosstown Classic between the Chicago White Sox and Cubs . During the game 's second inning , Brian Anderson hit a sacrifice fly , which allowed Pierzynski to score the game 's first run . Pierzynski collided with Barrett en route to home plate , causing Barrett to fall down . Pierzynski showed his enthusiasm by slapping home plate . As Pierzynski got up , he bumped into Barrett , who proceeded to punch him . Scott Podsednik came to Pierzynski 's aid and subdued Barrett . Anderson and John Mabry eventually joined the brawl before both teams emptied their dugouts and stormed the field .

The game 's umpires ejected Barrett , Pierzynski , Anderson , and Mabry . Barrett later received a ten @-@ game suspension , while Pierzynski was fined . Additionally , Anderson and the Sox 's third base coach were also suspended for a fewer number of games . The Cubs went on to lose the game by a score of seven to nothing . On June 30 , the two met during batting practice , and made amends .

= = = Zambrano scuffle = = =

The following season , Barrett made headlines again when he got into a fight with teammate Carlos Zambrano . During a game against the Atlanta Braves on June 1 , 2007 , tensions began to rise between the two players when the Cubs allowed the Braves to score five runs in the fifth inning . The Braves recorded 20 hits , en route to winning 8 @-@ 5 . However , their productivity became overshadowed by the scuffle between Zambrano and Barrett . As the two returned to the dugout , they had an exchange of words , which escalated into a small fight . After Lou Piniella dismissed the two from the game , another fight ensued within the Cubs ? clubhouse , and Zambrano punched Barrett 's lip . The wound required Barrett to go to the hospital immediately and receive stitches . Zambrano remorsefully admitted he was at fault after the ordeal , and Barrett later stated they had resolved their differences . Both players received fines for undisclosed amounts of money .

= = Managerial career = =

On December 20 , 2013 , the Washington Nationals , named Michael Barrett , the manager of the Gulf Coast Nationals .

= = Personal life = =

Barrett is married to Stephanie and they have two children , Grace and Andrew (born November 2007) . His cousin , Scott Fletcher , also played for the Cubs , along with many other teams over his fifteen @-@ year career . Barrett has spent a considerable portion of his personal life devoted to helping children . He runs several youth baseball programs , including one in Hawaii , which was inspired from his tenure with the Hawaiian Winter Baseball League . He also works with the Make @-@ A @-@ Wish Foundation and the Cubs Care Program to help lesser fortunate and sick children . More recently , he has worked with Kerry Wood and Ryan Dempster to raise money to help Derrek Lee 's daughter and research for Leber 's congenital amaurosis . Michael Barrett donated \$ 50 @,@ 000 to Project 3000 and pledged an additional sum of money for every home run he hits . Barrett was also a regular guest on FOX Chicago 's The Final Word television show , which is co hosted by Tom Waddle , a former Chicago Bears wide receiver .