

= Jeremy Affeldt =

Jeremy David Affeldt (/ ʔæfʔlt / ; born June 6 , 1979) is an American retired professional baseball pitcher . He threw and batted left @-@ handed and played in Major League Baseball for the Kansas City Royals , Colorado Rockies , Cincinnati Reds and San Francisco Giants .

Affeldt was a third @-@ round draft pick by the Kansas City Royals in 1997 . He made the team in 2002 , and started part of the year for them . In five seasons with the Royals , Affeldt bounced back and forth between the starting rotation and the bullpen . In 2006 , he was traded to the Colorado Rockies at the trade deadline , and was a member of the Rockies 2007 World Series team . After one season with the Cincinnati Reds , he signed with the San Francisco Giants in 2009 , where he was a member of the 2010 , 2012 , and 2014 World Series championship teams .

= = Early life = =

Affeldt was born in Phoenix , Arizona to David and Charlotte Affeldt . His father was a member of the United States Air Force , and Affeldt lived in Guam , Merced , California , and Spokane , Washington , growing up . While in Merced , Affeldt and his father would frequently attend Oakland Athletics games , and Affeldt enjoyed watching Mark McGwire , Jose Canseco , and Dave Stewart . Affeldt attended Northwest Christian High School , a Division 2 @-@ B school in Colbert , Washington . He participated in three sports while there , but it was baseball that drove several major league scouts to the school to see him pitch . He graduated in 1997 .

= = Draft and minor league career = =

Affeldt was drafted by the Kansas City Royals in the third round of the 1997 MLB draft . He spent 1997 pitching for the rookie ? league Gulf Coast League Royals . While with them , he went 2 ? 0 with a 4 @.@ 50 ERA in ten games (nine starts) .

Affeldt improved with the GCL Royals the next year , going 4 ? 3 with a 2 @.@ 89 ERA in twelve games (nine starts) . His performance even earned him a promotion to the single @-@ A Lansing Lugnuts . Affeldt did not do well in his time with them , though , as he went 0 ? 3 with a 9 @.@ 53 ERA in six games (three starts) .

In 1999 , Affeldt spent the entire season with the Royals ' single @-@ A affiliate , which had changed to the Charleston Alley Cats during the offseason . Although he only went 7 ? 7 , he had a 3 @.@ 83 ERA in twenty ? seven games (twenty ? four starts) .

Affeldt pitched with the Wilmington Blue Rocks of the single @-@ A advanced Carolina League in 2000 . While with Wilmington , he led the entire Kansas City Royals ' organization (and the Carolina League) with fifteen losses (to go with only five wins) . He also threw seventeen wild pitches . However , his ERA was 4 @.@ 09 , and the Blue Rocks were only a half ? game ahead of the worst team in the league (the Potomac Cannons) .

2001 was a better season for Affeldt , as he went 10 ? 6 with a 3 @.@ 90 ERA in twenty ? five starts for the double @-@ A Wichita Wranglers . He was selected to pitch in the Texas League All @-@ Star Game , and he was named to the postseason All ? Star team .

= = Kansas City Royals = =

= = = 2002 = = =

Affeldt was not expected to make the Kansas City Royals ' roster in 2002 , but he was added to the bullpen after he had an 0 @.@ 64 ERA and fourteen strikeouts (to go with just two walks) in fourteen innings in Spring training . His major league debut came on April 6 against the Chicago White Sox . He pitched two innings , giving up three hits and a run in a 14 ? 0 loss . On April 24 , Affeldt picked up his first major league win by pitching 3 @.@ 2 innings of relief in an 8 ? 2 win over

the Detroit Tigers .

Affeldt 's time in the bullpen did not last long . On May 3 , he replaced Bryan Rekar in the Royals ' starting rotation . In his first start , he pitched four innings , gave up one run , and earned a no ? decision in a 4 ? 3 loss to the Baltimore Orioles . Affeldt 's time as a starter garnered so @-@ so results , as he was 0 ? 4 with a 5 @.@ 45 ERA in seven starts . In his last start , on June 8 , Affeldt picked up the loss as the Royals fell 11 ? 3 to the St. Louis Cardinals . After getting pulled in the fourth inning due to an injury , Affeldt was placed on the disabled list with fingernail and blister problems .

After making three rehab starts in Wichita , Affeldt returned to the Royals on August 2 and threw a perfect inning against the Minnesota Twins . He remained in the bullpen for the remainder of the 2002 season . After the season , he pitched in a winter league in the Dominican Republic .

= = = 2003 = = =

In 2003 , Affeldt found himself competing with Runelvys Hernández for the first spot in the Royals ' starting rotation during Spring training . Because Tony Peña , the Royals ' manager , was unable to decide which one would be the ace , he flipped a coin to determine who would be number one . Hernández won the toss .

Affeldt was placed on the disabled list after only four games with blister problems again . His time on the DL was brief and he returned to the Royals on May 6 . On May 28 , he struck out a career high eight hitters in a win against the Minnesota Twins . Later , on June 6 , he notched his first hit .

Affeldt 's final start of the year came on July 23 , in a game he won against Minnesota . After the start , the Royals moved him to the bullpen to try to fix his blister problems . The move was originally thought to be temporary . While in the bullpen , on August 3 , he got his career first save in a 2 ? 0 win over the Tampa Bay Devil Rays . On August 21 , the Royals announced that Affeldt would spend the rest of the year in the bullpen . Two days later , he got another save against Minnesota . He picked up two more saves before the end of the year and finished with a 7 ? 6 record and a 3 @.@ 93 ERA . After the season , to try to help with his blister problems , he had part of a fingernail on the middle finger of his left hand removed . Also , the Royals announced that if he developed blister problems again , he would be sent to the bullpen for good .

= = = 2004 = = =

In 2004 , Affeldt was named the Royals ' third starter out of Spring training . He went 0 ? 3 with a 5 @.@ 24 ERA in eight starts . His final start of 2004 came on May 18 against the Texas Rangers . Affeldt gave up five runs in four innings and received a no ? decision in a 7 ? 6 victory by the Royals . Afterwards , although his blister problems had not resurfaced , manager Tony Peña named him the Royals closer on May 21 due to poor pitching and injury problems with the other Royals closers .

Affeldt blew his first save opportunity of 2004 against the Oakland Athletics on May 22 , but he converted in his next outing on May 25 against the Detroit Tigers . He converted eight of ten save opportunities before he was placed on the disabled list on June 27 with a partially torn rib ? cage muscle . He was out for almost eight weeks .

After making four rehab appearances for AAA Omaha , Affeldt returned to the Royals on August 21 . He made his first appearance since returning from the DL on August 22 , but he did not get another save until September 1 in a 1 ? 0 victory over the Tigers . He picked up four more saves to finish the year with a career ? high 13 saves and a 4 @.@ 95 ERA .

= = = 2005 = = =

In 2005 , Affeldt was again expected to be the Royals ' closer . However , he did not get a save opportunity until April 16 against Detroit , and he was unable to finish that game because of a groin injury that landed him on the disabled list again . After rehabbing in Omaha , Affeldt returned to the Royals on June 4 . He was no longer the closer , however , because Mike MacDougal had been

closing well in his absence . Affeldt was not healthy for long , as he returned to the disabled list on June 20 after reaggravating the groin injury .

Affeldt returned to the Royals on July 7 . Through July 27 , he had a 2 @. @ 18 ERA . He did not give up more than one earned run until August 5 , when he got his first loss of the year against the Oakland Athletics . However , Affeldt had a 12 @. @ 71 ERA in his next eighteen appearances , which raised his ERA to 6 @. @ 93 . He held opposing batters scoreless for the final nine games of the season to bring it down to a season ? ending 5 @. @ 26 .

= = = 2006 = = =

Affeldt returned to Kansas City 's starting rotation in 2006 when he was named the fourth starter during Spring training . However , he was moved up to the third spot before the season began when Rinelvis Hernández was demoted to the fifth spot . Affeldt struggled as a starter , going 2 ? 5 with a 7 @. @ 80 ERA in nine starts . His final major league start came on May 27 against the New York Yankees . He gave up ten runs on eleven hits in a 15 ? 4 loss . After the start , he was sent to the bullpen , and Bobby Keppel filled his place in the starting rotation . Affeldt improved in the bullpen , posting a 2 @. @ 91 ERA there through July 31 .

Years later , reflecting on his tenure with the Royals , Affeldt said , " I was pretty frustrated . I wanted to quit . I didn 't want to go to the ballpark . I was just failing a lot . I was getting hurt . I didn 't understand my role . I bounced around and I just didn 't enjoy the game . " At the trade deadline on July 31 , Affeldt was traded along with Denny Bautista to the Colorado Rockies for Ryan Shealy and Scott Dohmann . Affeldt recalled , " When [Royals General Manager Dayton Moore] traded me , he said , ' I feel like I need to give you a fresh start . You can learn to enjoy the game again . ' I have a lot of respect for him now because he saw that . It was a move that had to be made for me to be able to continue playing baseball . I 'm very thankful for it . "

= = Colorado Rockies = =

With the Rockies , Affeldt was used exclusively out of the bullpen . He got his only save of the season on September 19 in a 12 ? 4 win over the San Francisco Giants . Affeldt finished the 2006 season with a 6 @. @ 20 ERA in fifty ? nine games .

Affeldt spent the entire 2007 season in the bullpen , where he was used as a lefty specialist . Affeldt had a 2 @. @ 15 ERA through his first fifty ? six games of the year . He did not give up a home run until Pete Laforest hit one off of him in an 11 ? 9 loss to the San Diego Padres on August 16 . He struggled at the end of the year , with a 7 @. @ 30 ERA in his final nineteen games . He still finished the year 4 ? 3 , with a 3 @. @ 51 ERA in seventy @-@ five games , and the Rockies made the playoffs as the NL Wild Card . He made his postseason debut on October 4 in the Division Series against the Philadelphia Phillies and gave up one run (on a home run by Ryan Howard) in one inning in a 10 ? 5 win by Colorado . The Rockies swept the series to advance to the Championship Series against the Arizona Diamondbacks . In the first game , Affeldt entered with two outs and the bases loaded with the Rockies leading 5 ? 1 . He retired Stephen Drew to help the Rockies win 5 ? 1 . The Rockies swept the Diamondbacks to meet the Boston Red Sox in the World Series . Affeldt pitched in all four games of the World Series without giving up a run , but the Rockies were swept by the Red Sox . Affeldt became a free agent after the season .

= = Cincinnati Reds = =

Affeldt was signed to a one ? year deal by the Cincinnati Reds on January 23 , 2008 , to compete for a spot in the starting rotation . He said of signing and competing to start , " My heart skipped a beat when they offered that deal . I went with my heart there . " However , he was placed in the bullpen , where he stayed for the entire year . He won his first game as a Red when the Reds beat the Arizona Diamondbacks 6 ? 5 on April 2 . He made the three hundredth appearance of his career on May 2 in a 2 ? 0 loss to the Atlanta Braves . His only other decision of the year came on

September 3 when he was the losing pitcher in a 6 ? 5 loss to the Pittsburgh Pirates .

Affeldt finished the 2008 season with a 3 @. @ 33 ERA in seventy ? four games . He was also one of only five NL relievers to pitch seventy @-@ five innings and average one strikeout per inning , along with Joel Hanrahan , Aaron Heilman , Hong @-@ Chih Kuo , and Carlos Mármol . Following the season , Affeldt again became a free agent .

= = San Francisco Giants = =

= = = 2009 = = =

On November 17 , 2008 , Affeldt signed a two ? year deal with the San Francisco Giants . He said of signing with them , " With that starting rotation , the bullpen won 't get burned out . " Affeldt immediately began having a career year with the Giants . He was used on Opening Day against the Milwaukee Brewers , and he pitched a scoreless inning in the Giants ' 10 ? 6 win . On April 12 , he entered a game against the Padres with one out and the bases loaded in the sixth inning . Affeldt got Brian Giles to ground into a double play to end the inning , but he gave up two runs (one earned) in the seventh as the Padres won 6 ? 1 .

From May 8 through July 24 , Affeldt had a twenty ? eight inning scoreless streak . During the streak , on May 15 , he struck out a season ? high four batters in an 8 ? 6 loss to the Mets . On May 31 , he entered a game against St. Louis with runners on first and third and Albert Pujols on deck in the eighth , and he struck out Joe Thurston to end the inning and help the Giants win 5 ? 3 . The streak did not end until July 28 , when Brandon Medders allowed one of Affeldt 's runners to score in a game against Pittsburgh . On August 2 , with runners on first and second with one out in the eighth inning against the Philadelphia Phillies , he retired Chase Utley and Ryan Howard to help the Giants win 7 ? 3 . He won the final game of the season against San Diego by pitching two scoreless innings as the Giants won 4 ? 3 in ten innings . Affeldt finished the season with a career best 1 @. @ 73 ERA in seventy ? four games . He was named tenth on one writer 's ballot for MVP voting , placing him in a tie for twenty ? eighth on the list . On December 17 , he won the This Year in Baseball Setup Man of the Year Award .

= = = 2010 = = =

In 2010 , Affeldt again spent the entire season in the bullpen for the Giants . On March 28 , the Giants extended his contract through the 2011 season with an option for 2012 . Affeldt picked up his first save with the Giants in a 6 ? 3 victory over the Atlanta Braves on April 11 . He struggled for most of the season and was placed on the disabled list on July 24 with an oblique strain . After rehabbing in the minors , Affeldt returned to the Giants on August 18 . He finished the season with four saves and a 4 @. @ 14 ERA in fifty ? three games .

Despite his struggles , Affeldt was named to the Giants ' playoff roster . Affeldt made his first playoff appearance for the Giants in Game 2 of the 2010 NLCS against Philadelphia . He struck out one batter and intentionally walked another one , but Santiago Casilla allowed him to score as the Giants lost 6 ? 1 . Affeldt faced (and retired) one batter in Game 5 , but the Phillies won that game 4 ? 2 . In Game 6 , Affeldt entered the game in the third inning with runners on first and second and nobody out after starting pitcher Jonathan Sánchez was taken out early . He pitched two hitless , scoreless innings , and the Giants won the game 3 ? 2 to advance to the World Series . Affeldt pitched in two games in the World Series , which the Giants won in five games to give Affeldt his first World Series ring .

= = = 2011 = = =

Affeldt returned to the Giants in 2011 and posted a solid season , going 3 ? 2 with a 2 @. @ 63 ERA in 67 appearances , including 3 saves . In addition , he posted a career best WHIP of 1 @. @ 151 .

Left @-@ handed batters hit only .144 off of Affeldt in 2011 . On September 8 , 2011 , Affeldt suffered a season @-@ ending injury as he gashed his non @-@ throwing (right) hand trying to separate frozen hamburger patties and underwent surgery to address nerve damage . After the season , the Giants picked up Affeldt 's \$ 5 million contract option for the 2012 season .

= = = 2012 = = =

On May 1 , 2012 , Affeldt suffered another off @-@ the @-@ field injury , spraining the MCL in his right knee while picking up his four @-@ year @-@ old son . The injury was listed as number two on an ESPN list of strangest injuries , and was named Jayson Stark 's " Strangest But Truest Injury of the Year " . Affeldt finished the regular season 1 ? 2 with a 2 @.@ 70 ERA in 67 appearances in 63 ? innings .

In the 2012 postseason , Affeldt appeared in 10 games , pitching 10 ? innings , allowing 5 hits and 3 walks against 10 strikeouts and no runs . In Game 4 of the 2012 World Series , Affeldt provided key relief , striking out Detroit Tigers power hitters Miguel Cabrera , Prince Fielder , and Delmon Young in the eighth inning to preserve a 3 ? 3 tie . The Giants would go on to win the game in the tenth inning , completing a sweep of the Tigers , earning Affeldt his second World Series ring . On November 13 , 2012 , Affeldt signed a three @-@ year , \$ 18 million contract to remain with the Giants through the 2015 season .

= = = 2013 = = =

Affeldt struggled with injury in 2013 , recording a 3 @.@ 74 ERA in 33 ? innings pitched . He went on the 15 @-@ day disabled list after suffering a right oblique strain on April 14 . Given Affeldt 's history of unusual injuries , Giants broadcaster Jon Miller joked that Affeldt suffered the injury during a sneezing fit . Affeldt clarified that he suffered the injury while pitching the night before in Chicago . He missed 50 games between July 21 and September 12 with a left groin strain . After returning for one game in September , Affeldt was shut down for the rest of the season .

= = = 2014 = = =

Affeldt started the 2014 season on the disabled list with a strained MCL in his right knee . Appearing in 62 games , Affeldt recorded a 2 @.@ 28 ERA with 41 strikeouts and 14 walks .

In Game 5 of the 2014 NLCS against the St. Louis Cardinals , Affeldt entered the game in the top of the ninth with two outs and the bases loaded , retiring Oscar Taveras on a comebacker to preserve a 3 ? 3 tie . Affeldt was credited with the win when Travis Ishikawa hit a walk off home run in the bottom of the ninth to clinch the pennant for the Giants .

Affeldt earned the win in Game 7 of the 2014 World Series against his first Major League team the Kansas City Royals . Affeldt was brought in from the bullpen in the 2nd inning and pitched 2 ? innings of scoreless baseball before giving way to series MVP Madison Bumgarner , who finished the game . In the 2014 postseason , Affeldt pitched in 11 games , allowing just 5 hits and no runs over 11 ? innings . Affeldt entered games in seven different innings and pitched in nine different innings overall , from the 2nd through the 10th . Through three postseasons with the Giants , Affeldt recorded 22 consecutive scoreless outings , a streak bettered only by Mariano Rivera (23) .

On getting the Game 7 win at Kauffman Stadium where he started his career , Affeldt said , " To be able to do it in Kansas City , with my past history , it just means a lot to me . It means my end was better than my beginning . "

= = = 2015 = = =

Affeldt struggled with injury and inconsistency in 2015 . By late June , he had a 5 @.@ 96 ERA and allowed five home runs , more than he allowed from 2012 to 2014 combined . He was placed on the disabled list with a left shoulder strain on June 26 . Affeldt returned July 22 , but on August 24 , he

suffered another off @-@ the @-@ field injury , a left knee subluxation , while spending time at a lake with his family on an off @-@ day . On October 1 , 2015 , Affeldt announced he would retire after the 2015 season .

= = Post @-@ playing career = =

After retiring as a player , Affeldt joined CSN Bay Area as a studio analyst for Giants Pregame Live and Giants Postgame Live for the 2016 season . Affeldt also rejoined the Giants organization as a community ambassador .

= = Pitching style = =

Affeldt had three different kinds of pitches : a sinking fastball (which is rare for a lefty) , a curveball , and a split . His fastball travelled in the low nineties , and while his curveball was not fast , it had late breaking action and got a lot of swing @-@ throughs . Affeldt induced groundballs at a high rate with his sinking fastball and could also get the strikeout when the situation called for it .

= = Personal = =

Affeldt is a devout Christian and a strong advocate for ending child poverty . He writes a weekly blog about his Christian faith and his desire to stir a movement in the cause of helping the suffering and marginalized . In October 2010 , during a visit to a Bay Area elementary school alongside former Giants pitcher Juan Marichal , Affeldt told the students , " I try to make sure everybody , all the young people in the world , also have a chance to dream really big . " In 2009 , Affeldt donated five thousand dollars to the Not For Sale campaign for opening a medical clinic in Thailand for former child slaves . He also became a prominent member of Not For Sale 's Free2Play campaign , pledging a \$ 100 donation for every strikeout and recruiting other professional athletes , including his teammate Matt Cain and the St. Louis Cardinals ' Matt Holliday .

In 2009 , Affeldt was recognized for his anti ? slavery efforts by a nomination for the Jefferson Award for Public Service , and in 2010 , he was the San Francisco Giants ' nominee for the Roberto Clemente Award . Affeldt also founded an organization known as Generation Alive that exists to develop a generation of young leaders , committed to serving others and responding to the needs in their community . In 2013 , Affeldt released a book entitled To Stir a Movement : Life , Justice , and Major League Baseball . In the book , Affeldt recounted a contract situation in 2010 where he voluntarily returned \$ 500 @,@ 000 to the Giants after discovering a clerical error . In 2015 , Affeldt received an honorary degree from Whitworth University for his humanitarian efforts .

Affeldt , his wife Larisa , and their three sons live in Spokane , Washington .