

= Jon Weber (baseball) =

Jonathan Brian Weber (born January 20 , 1978 in Lakewood , California) is a professional baseball player . An outfielder , Weber bats and throws left @-@ handed . Considered a journeyman , Weber has played professionally in minor league baseball since 1999 , without playing in Major League Baseball .

Weber played collegiately for Los Angeles Harbor College and Texas Tech University before embarking on his professional career in 1999 . As a professional , he played in the minor league organizations of the Cincinnati Reds , Oakland Athletics , Los Angeles Dodgers , Arizona Diamondbacks , Tampa Bay Rays , New York Yankees , and Detroit Tigers . He has also played independent league baseball in the unaffiliated Frontier League , Northern League , and American Association of Independent Professional Baseball . Weber has competed for the United States national baseball team , winning the gold medal at the 2009 Baseball World Cup .

= = Amateur career = =

Weber was born in Lakewood , California . He attended Lakewood High School in Lakewood , California . There , he played for the school 's baseball team , known as the Lancers , graduating in 1996 .

Out of high school , Weber was selected by the Oakland Athletics in the thirty @-@ first round of the 1997 Major League Baseball Draft . However , he chose not to sign with the Athletics , opting to attend college . He began his college baseball career at Los Angeles Harbor College (LAHC) of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) in 1997 . At LAHC , Weber was a NJCAA All @-@ America selection .

In 1999 , Weber transferred to Texas Tech University to compete in the National Collegiate Athletic Association 's (NCAA) Division I during his junior year . At Texas Tech , he played college baseball for the Texas Tech Red Raiders baseball team in the Big 12 Conference . Weber led the conference with eight triples , setting a Red Raiders team record in the process . He was named the Collegiate Baseball National Player of the Week and Big 12 Baseball Player / Pitcher of the Week for the week of February 1 , 1999 . Weber became the fourth player in Texas Tech history to hit for the cycle .

= = Professional career = =

= = = 1999 ? 2004 = = =

Weber signed his first professional contract with the Cincinnati Reds as a non @-@ drafted free agent in August 1999 . He made his professional debut that summer with the Rookie @-@ level Billings Mustangs of the Pioneer League , recording a .238 batting average , .365 on @-@ base percentage (OBP) and .500 slugging percentage (SLG) with five home runs and 17 runs batted in (RBI) in 22 games . The next year , he hit .221 with a .333 OBP and .333 SLG with six home runs and 34 RBIs in 108 games for the Single @-@ A Clinton LumberKings of the Midwest League . However , Weber was released by the Reds after the season . He felt the Reds " treated [him] like a non @-@ prospect " .

In 2001 , Weber played independent league baseball for the Canton Crocodiles of the Frontier League . He batted .307 with a .382 OBP , .559 SLG , 18 home runs and 69 RBI in 84 games , being named to the Frontier League post @-@ season All @-@ Star team . He led the Frontier League in home runs and triples . Canton sold Weber to the Fargo @-@ Moorhead Redhawks of the independent Northern League in 2002 , where he hit .296 with a .351 OBP , .501 SLG , and 30 doubles for Fargo @-@ Moorhead , placing fourth in the league in doubles . Back with Fargo @-@ Moorhead to open 2003 , he batted .309 with a .408 OBP and .520 SLG through 52 games , as the team went on to win the Northern League championship .

However , in July 2003 , the Oakland Athletics organization purchased Weber 's contract from

Fargo @-@ Moorhead . With the Athletics organization , Weber hit .361 with a .394 OBP , .626 SLG , seven home runs and 48 RBIs in 35 games with the Single @-@ A Advanced Modesto A 's of the California League for the remainder of that year . In 2004 , he hit .280 with a .356 OBP , .458 SLG , 15 home runs and 68 RBI in 111 games with the Double @-@ A Midland RockHounds of the Texas League , and hit .341 with a .383 OBP , .568 SLG , two home runs and 12 RBI in 12 games with the Triple @-@ A Sacramento River Cats of the Pacific Coast League (PCL) , helping the River Cats win the PCL championship .

= = = 2005 ? 2009 = = =

Weber signed with the Los Angeles Dodgers after the 2004 season as a free agent . In 2005 he hit .300 with a .369 OBP , .456 SLG , 11 home runs and 68 RBIs in 117 games with the Double @-@ A Jacksonville Suns of the Southern League . He was ninth in the league in batting average and led the league 's outfielders in assists (19) and double plays (7) . With Weber , Jacksonville won the Southern League championship , his third year in a row as a member of a championship @-@ winning team . During the season , Weber received a 15 @-@ game suspension for violating minor league baseball 's drug policy . Weber , who failed a drug test administered in August 2004 , said he had taken thermogin , a supplement that contained the banned substance ephedrine , and denied taking steroids .

After starting the 2006 season with the Triple @-@ A Las Vegas Stars of the PCL , where he hit .258 with a .338 OBP , .352 SLG , 2 home runs and 31 RBI in 82 games , he was released . He signed with the Arizona Diamondbacks , where he played for the Triple @-@ A Tucson Sidewinders of the PCL , hitting .321 with a .374 OBP , .518 SLG , 5 home runs and 27 RBI in 46 games . The Sidewinders won the PCL championship , Weber 's fourth consecutive league championship .

Weber was released by the Diamondbacks during 2007 spring training . He signed with Fargo @-@ Moorhead . After 16 games there , batting .283 with a .371 OBP and .417 SLG , his contract was sold to the Texas Rangers on June 4 , 2007 . The Rangers assigned him to the Single @-@ A Advanced Bakersfield Blaze of the California League , where he hit .356 with a .416 OBP , .550 SLG , five home runs , 14 doubles , 25 RBI , and 34 runs scored in 37 games . After spending a month with the Rangers organization , on July 16 , the Tampa Bay Rays purchased his contract from the Rangers and assigned him to the Triple @-@ A Durham Bulls of the International League . There , he hit .265 with three home runs and 21 RBIs in 39 games . Weber re @-@ signed with the Rays on a minor league contract after the 2007 season , and batted .265 with a .334 OBP , .447 SLG , 13 home runs for the Bulls in 2008 .

Weber returned to the Rays ' organization in 2009 , almost making the Rays ' opening day roster until Matt Joyce recovered from an injury . Weber returned to Durham , where he hit .302 with 14 home runs in 117 games , and led the 2009 International League with 46 doubles and finished ninth in batting average . He was named to the International League post @-@ season All @-@ Star team .

= = = 2010 ? present = = =

After the 2009 season , Weber signed with the New York Yankees organization and was invited to spring training for the 2010 season . Weber signed with the Yankees because they gave him an opportunity to compete for a job in the major leagues , while other teams told him they viewed him exclusively as a minor leaguer . In spring training , Weber led the Yankees with a .483 batting average and was presented with the James P. Dawson Award , given annually to the best rookie in the Yankees ' camp . Manager Joe Girardi indicated that Weber could beat out Marcus Thames and Rule 5 draft pick Jamie Hoffmann for the fifth outfielder position on the Yankees 25 man roster , but ultimately the Yankees chose Thames , as the Yankees preferred a right @-@ handed batter to complement their left @-@ handed hitting outfielders , and assigned Weber to the Triple @-@ A Scranton Wilkes @-@ Barre Yankees . He hit .258 with no home runs in 47 games with Scranton / Wilkes @-@ Barre before being released by the Yankees on June 3 . He signed with the Detroit

Tigers , reporting to the Triple @-@ A Toledo Mud Hens of the International League . He hit .256 with a .310 OBP and .372 SLG in 21 games for Toledo . He announced his retirement on July 15 , 2010 .

On July 19 , 2010 , Major League Baseball announced Weber 's 100 @-@ game suspension for having failed a drug test for the third time . The drug was identified as a " drug of abuse " rather than a performance @-@ enhancing drug .

Despite announcing his retirement earlier in the year , Weber continued his career in leagues unaffiliated with MLB . He played winter league baseball in the winter of 2010 @-@ 11 in the Dominican Republic , then signed with the Winnipeg Goldeyes of the American Association of Independent Professional Baseball in June when they had an injury to outfielder Jonathan Wyatt . Weber was named the team 's most valuable player . Weber returned to Winnipeg for the 2012 season . After batting .281 in 78 games , the Goldeyes waived Weber , giving him his unconditional release .

= = International career = =

Weber joined the United States national baseball team for the 2009 Baseball World Cup held in Nettuno , Italy in September 2009 , helping the United States win the gold medal . Weber made the Cup 's All @-@ Tournament Team .

Weber has routinely played winter league baseball . Following the 2006 season , Weber played for the Naranjeros de Hermosillo of the Mexican Pacific League (MPL) , appearing in the 2006 Caribbean Series . He played for the Cañeros de Los Mochis of the MPL after the 2007 season . With the Venados de Mazatlán of the MPL after the 2008 season , Weber reached the 2009 Caribbean Series . In the 2011 @-@ 12 offseason , he played for the Gigantes del Cibao of the Dominican Winter League .

= = Personal life = =

Weber is married . He and his wife have two children . Weber works in construction during his time away from baseball to help make ends meet .