

= Byron McLaughlin =

Byron Scott McLaughlin (born September 29 , 1955) is an American retired professional baseball player , alleged counterfeit shoes manufacturer , and convicted money launderer . His baseball career spanned nine seasons , four of which were spent in Major League Baseball (MLB) with the Seattle Mariners (1977 ? 1980) , and the California Angels (1983) . McLaughlin , a right @-@ handed pitcher used primarily in relief , compiled a major league record of 16 ? 25 with a 5 @.@ 11 earned run average , five complete games , 14 saves , and 74 strikeouts in 3781 ? 3 innings pitched .

After his career , McLaughlin allegedly worked in the counterfeit consumer goods industry in Mexico making knock @-@ off athletic footwear , which included shoes designed to look like Converse , Vans , and Adidas . In 1990 , he was arrested for trafficking the counterfeit shoes and money laundering . He pleaded guilty to the money laundering charges , and proceeded to post bail . Before being sentenced , McLaughlin fled and his current whereabouts are unknown .

= = Early life = =

McLaughlin was born on September 29 , 1955 in Van Nuys , California . He attended Santa Monica High School in Santa Monica , California and Los Angeles Valley College . He played high school baseball at Santa Monica , and played the position of outfielder in his last three years .

= = Professional career = =

= = = Early career = = =

On December 24 , 1974 , the Montreal Expos signed McLaughlin as an amateur free agent . He was assigned to their minor league organization where he played seven games as a position player with the West Palm Beach Expos of the Class @-@ A Florida State League . In those games , he batted .313 with one run scored , five hits , and one run batted in (RBI) . In June 1974 , McLaughlin was released by the Expos . On March 4 , 1975 , McLaughlin signed with the Baltimore Orioles . He began the season with the rookie @-@ level Bluefield Orioles of the Appalachian League . McLaughlin was used as a pitcher when he joined Bluefield . He compiled a 1 ? 2 record with a 7 @.@ 46 earned run average (ERA) , one save , and 32 strikeouts in 14 games , two starts with Bluefield that year . He was promoted to the Class @-@ A Lodi Orioles during the season . With Lodi , McLaughlin went 0 ? 1 with a 4 @.@ 67 ERA , and 12 strikeouts in 12 games , all in relief . Years later , McLaughlin gave an interview to the Associated Press where he said he was bitter at the Baltimore organization for releasing him . In 1976 , McLaughlin joined the Class @-@ A Victoria Cowboys of the Gulf States League . The Cowboys were a non @-@ affiliated minor league team . That season , McLaughlin went 10 ? 4 with a 3 @.@ 05 ERA in 15 games , 14 starts . During his tenure with the Cowboys , the California Angels were reportedly interested in buying McLaughlin 's contract , but nothing ever came of it .

= = = Seattle Mariners = = =

On January 8 , 1977 , McLaughlin signed with the Seattle Mariners . On April 1 , 1977 , the Mariners loaned him to the Nuevo Laredo Mexican League franchise . At the time , the Mariners did not have a complete minor league organization . In the Mexican League that season , McLaughlin compiled a record of 18 ? 13 with a 1 @.@ 84 ERA and 221 strikeouts as his team , the Tescolotes , won the league championship . On September 11 , 1977 , he was returned to the Mariners . McLaughlin made his Major League Baseball (MLB) debut on September 18 , against the Kansas City Royals at Kaufman Stadium . In 11 ? 3 innings pitched , he gave @-@ up five hits , four runs (all earned) , and struck out one in his only major league appearance that season .

McLaughlin split the 1978 season between the major leagues and minors . McLaughlin made his season debut with Seattle on April 25 , against the California Angels . In that game , which also marked his first MLB start , McLaughlin gave up three runs (all earned) and struck out 10 in six innings pitched . He came away with the loss , which was his first MLB decision . In late June the Mariners sent him down to the minor leagues . With the San Jose Missions , who were the Mariners Triple @-@ A affiliate at the time , he went 5 ? 2 with a 3 @.@ 50 ERA , and 52 strikeouts in eight games , all starts . Two of those starts were complete games . McLaughlin was called back up to the majors in July after pitcher John Montague was placed on the disabled list . McLaughlin 's first major league win came on August 16 , against the Baltimore Orioles . In the majors that season , McLaughlin went 4 ? 8 with a 4 @.@ 37 ERA and 87 strikeouts in 20 games , 17 starts . Four of his starts were complete games . After the 1978 season , McLaughlin pitched in the Mexican Pacific League , where he led all pitchers with a 1 @.@ 05 ERA and 143 strikeouts .

In March 1979 , McLaughlin re @-@ signed with the Mariners . McLaughlin spent the entire regular season with the Mariners that year . He made his season debut on April 6 , against the Cleveland Indians , where he pitched seven innings , and came away with a win . In mid @-@ April , he missed a game after bruising his hand in his hotel room when he was practicing his pitching motion . McLaughlin earned his first major league save on June 6 , against the Detroit Tigers . On July 3 , he threw his only complete game of the season in a game against the Minnesota Twins . In August , McLaughlin missed a game to get married in Mexico . On August 14 , it was reported by The Miami News that McLaughlin was carrying a .357 Magnum when he traveled . With Seattle that season , McLaughlin compiled a record of 7 ? 7 with a 4 @.@ 22 with 14 saves , and 74 strikeouts in 47 games , seven starts .

In 1980 , McLaughlin started the season with the Seattle Mariners . In June , the Cleveland Indians were reportedly attempting to trade for McLaughlin and teammate Larry Milbourne in exchange for Bo Díaz . However , nothing ever came of the deal . With Seattle that season , he went 3 ? 6 with a 6 @.@ 85 ERA , two saves , and 41 strikeouts in 45 games , four of which were starts . Over his four @-@ year tenure with the Mariners , McLaughlin had a combined record of 14 ? 21 with a 5 @.@ 10 ERA , five complete games , 16 saves , and 203 strikeouts in 113 games . Of those games , he made 28 starts and finished 47 .

= = = Later career = = =

On December 12 , 1980 , McLaughlin was traded to the Minnesota Twins in exchange for Willie Norwood . McLaughlin played with the Twins during spring training in 1981 . However , on March 31 , Minnesota released him . In the 1981 and 1982 seasons , McLaughlin played in the Mexican League . He moved his primary residence to Hermosillo during his two @-@ year stint in Mexico . In August 1982 , he joined the Spokane Indians , who were Triple @-@ A affiliates of the California Angels at the time . With the Indians that season , McLaughlin went 1 ? 0 with a 1 @.@ 26 ERA , and nine strikeouts in six games , one of which was a start .

After spring training in 1983 , the California Angels assigned McLaughlin to minor league camp in Casa Grande , Arizona . He was eventually assigned to the Triple @-@ A Edmonton Trappers , but was called up to the majors in June after pitcher Bruce Kison was placed on the disabled list . McLaughlin made his season debut with the Angels on June 7 , against the Chicago White Sox , pitching 11 ? 3 innings , giving up one earned run . When asked what it felt like to be back in the majors , McLaughlin responded , " I 'm just thankful the Angels gave me this an opportunity to get back in the big leagues [...] I always knew I could pitch but I had been labeled a trouble @-@ maker " . McLaughlin commented that the personnel on his previous teams felt he had an attitude problem , but that he did not want that to affect him while playing with the Angels , and that it was " in the past " . He picked up his first win of the season on July 1 , against the Kansas City Royals . McLaughlin was optioned to the minor leagues in August . After hearing the news , McLaughlin was reportedly furious at the Angels front office staff and even threatened to retire . However , McLaughlin continued to play in the California minor league system , and even returned to the majors in September . In the minors that year , he played for the Triple @-@ A Edmonton Trappers

and the Double @-@ A Beaumont Golden Gators , going a combined 5 ? 4 with a 4 @.@ 26 ERA in 26 games in 961 ? 3 innings pitched . With the Angels , McLaughlin compiled a 2 ? 4 record with a 5 @.@ 17 ERA , and 45 strikeouts in 16 games , seven of which were starts .

= = Later life = =

In October 1984 , a warrant was issued for McLaughlin 's arrest after he failed to appear in court on previous charges . McLaughlin was arrested in for illegally trafficking counterfeit shoes and money laundering in 1990 . According The New Yorker , McLaughlin , who had ties in Mexico from when he played baseball there , made deals with Korean businesspeople to make counterfeit footwear . The brands that he counterfeited included Converse , Vans , and Adidas , which he manufactured to sell in the Mexican market . Harley Lewin , a lawyer who pursued people in the counterfeit business , found that McLaughlin was making 80 @,@ 000 pairs of sneakers for about \$ 750 @,@ 000 any given month . Lewin also discovered that half of all counterfeit footwear in Mexico could be traced back to McLaughlin 's business . McLaughlin pleaded guilty to the money laundering charges , but fled the county before being sentenced . While it is believed he has been living near Cannes in France for years , he has moved from that spot and his whereabouts are now unknown as he is a fugitive from justice .