

= Cody Ross =

Cody Joseph Ross ( born December 23 , 1980 ) , nicknamed " Toy Cannon " and " Ross the Boss , " is a former American professional baseball outfielder . He is 5 feet 10 inches ( 1 @. @ 78 m ) tall and weighs 195 pounds ( 88 kg ) . Ross has played in MLB for the Detroit Tigers ( 2003 ) , Los Angeles Dodgers ( 2005 ? 2006 ) , Cincinnati Reds ( 2006 ) , Florida Marlins ( 2006 ? 2010 ) , San Francisco Giants ( 2010 ? 2011 ) , Boston Red Sox ( 2012 ) , Arizona Diamondbacks ( 2013 ? 2014 ) and Oakland Athletics ( 2015 ) . He is one of the few Major League players to bat right @-@ handed but throw left @-@ handed .

Following high school , Ross embarked on his professional career , getting selected by the Detroit Tigers in the fourth round of the 1999 Major League Baseball draft . He reached the Major Leagues in 2003 , but suffered a torn ACL which caused him to miss most of September . He was traded to the Los Angeles Dodgers following spring training in 2004 , appearing in a handful of games with them in 2005 . In 2006 , he played for the Los Angeles Dodgers , the Cincinnati Reds , and the Florida Marlins . It was in Florida that he finally established himself , as he played with the Marlins through 2010 . He was used mainly as a reserve outfielder in 2006 and 2007 , but during the 2008 season he took over a starting role . He would be a starting outfielder for the rest of his Marlins career , playing centerfield or right field . In 2009 , he hit a career @-@ high 24 home runs and won the Marlins ' Charlie Hough Good Guy award .

During the 2010 season , the Marlins placed Ross on waivers , and he was claimed by the San Francisco Giants . Named their starting right fielder for the 2010 playoffs , he went on to win the National League Championship Series Most Valuable Player Award , hitting five home runs in the postseason while helping the Giants win the 2010 World Series . He re @-@ signed with San Francisco in 2011 , batting .240 during the year . In 2012 , he signed a one @-@ year contract with the Boston Red Sox , hitting 22 home runs while playing every day despite the fact that the Red Sox originally expected him to be a reserve player for them . The Arizona Diamondbacks signed him to a three @-@ year contract in December 2012 , but a season @-@ ending hip injury limited Ross to 94 games his first year with the team .

= = Early life = =

Ross was born in Portales , New Mexico . Ross 's father was a chiropractor and professional bull rider ; and as a youth , Ross wanted to become a rodeo clown . He used to attend his father 's bull @-@ riding matches in clown outfits , complete with makeup . He did not give up on the aspiration until his family moved to Dallas , Texas . The Ross 's eventually moved back to New Mexico , and Ross played high school baseball at Carlsbad High School . Ross also played football until ninth grade . During high school , he was a Baseball America All @-@ American selection . As a senior , he threw a five @-@ inning perfect game . He graduated in 1999 .

= = Minor League career = =

Ross was drafted by the Detroit Tigers in the fourth round of the 1999 Major League Baseball draft . He began his minor league career that year with the rookie Gulf Coast League Tigers , batting .218 with 31 hits , eight doubles , three triples , four home runs , and 18 runs batted in ( RBI ) in 42 games . In 2000 , he played for the A West Michigan Whitecaps of the Midwest League , getting named the Midwest League Player of the Week from June 18 ? 24 after he scored four runs , had two doubles and a triple , drove in six runs , and batted .636 . In 122 games , he batted .267 with 116 hits , 17 doubles , nine triples , seven home runs , 68 RBI , and 11 stolen bases . His nine triples were tied for second in the league . After the season , Baseball America said he had the best outfield arm in the Detroit system .

Ross played for the A @-@ advanced Lakeland Tigers of the Florida State League in 2001 . He was the league 's player of the week from June 18 ? 24 after stealing four bases and batting .516 with 11 runs scored , three doubles , two home runs , and five RBI . Then , he was named Player of

the Week from August 13 to 19 after batting .385 . In 127 games ( 10th in the league ) , Ross batted .276 with 84 runs scored ( fifth ) , 133 hits ( eighth ) , 34 doubles ( second to Matt Padgett 's 37 ) , five triples ( tied with eight other players for seventh ) , 15 home runs ( tied with Jason Jones for eighth ) , 80 RBI ( seventh ) , and 28 stolen bases ( tied with Josh McKinley for eighth ) . After the season , Baseball America ranked him the ninth best Tigers ' prospect and again said he had the best outfield arm in the organization .

In 2002 , Ross played for the AA Erie SeaWolves of the Eastern League , getting named to both the regular season and postseason All @-@ Star teams for the league . He was named the Tigers ' Minor League Player of the Month in June after hitting .336 with 29 runs , 10 doubles , two triples , eight home runs , 30 RBI , and 10 stolen bases ; he earned the same honor from Topps . A broken toe forced him out of action from July 1 through August 2 and limited him to 105 games . He finished the year with 112 hits , 28 doubles , three triples , 72 RBI , and 16 stolen bases . His 19 home runs were tied with Andy Phillips and Aaron McNeal for ninth in the league . After the season , he played for the Mesa Solar Sox of the Arizona Fall League . For the third year in a row , Baseball America said he had the best outfield arm in the Tigers ' system .

Ross began 2003 with the AAA Toledo Mud Hens of the International League . On July 4 , he was called up by the Tigers . He made his Major League debut that day , going hitless in two at bats before exiting after getting hit by a pitch in the sixth inning as the Tigers lost 9 ? 8 to the Kansas City Royals . He got his first hit on July 9 , an RBI single against Bartolo Colón in a 4 ? 2 victory over the Chicago White Sox . After he had one hit in four games , he was optioned back to Toledo on July 16 to make room for Danny Patterson , who was returning from the disabled list . From July 27 to 29 , and again from August 17 to 18 , Ross homered in three consecutive games for the Mud Hens . In 124 games for the Mud Hens , Ross batted .287 with 135 hits , 35 doubles ( tied for sixth in the International League with Andy Abad and Luis Rodríguez ) , six triples ( tied for fourth with Ross Gload and Coco Crisp ) , 20 home runs ( tied for third with Brandon Larson behind Fernando Seguígnol 's 28 and Ernie Young 's 21 ) , 61 RBI , and 15 stolen bases . He was recalled to the big leagues in September when rosters expanded . On September 2 , he hit a grand slam off Cliff Lee for his first Major League home run in an 8 ? 6 victory over the Cleveland Indians , becoming the first Tiger since Milt Cuyler in 1991 to hit a grand slam for his first home run . In that same game , he tore his ACL running to first base , which required season @-@ ending surgery . In six games with the Tigers , Ross had four hits in 19 at bats , including five RBI . Ross was named the Tigers ' Minor League Player of the Year , and he was named to Baseball America 's postseason All @-@ Star team . For the final time , he was rated as having the best outfield arm in the Detroit organization .

In 2004 , Ross was supposed to begin the season in the minors for Detroit . However , with Detroit desperate for bullpen help , Ross was traded to the Los Angeles Dodgers on April 1 for relief pitcher Steve Colyer . He was assigned to the AAA Las Vegas 51s of the Pacific Coast League , where he was teammates with Jayson Werth and Shane Victorino , whom he went on to face in the 2010 National League Championship Series ( NLCS ) . Injuries marred Ross 's 2004 campaign ; a knee injury kept him out for two weeks early in the season , he missed time from May 26 to July 15 after smashing his hand in a car door and breaking his finger , and he broke his wrist on August 25 which ended his season . In 60 games , he batted .273 with 65 hits , 17 doubles , 14 home runs , and 49 RBI . Ross spent most of 2005 with Las Vegas . From July 26 to August 11 , he hit 10 home runs and had 25 RBI in 17 games . In 115 games , he batted .267 with 105 hits , 21 doubles , 22 home runs , and 63 RBI .

= = Major League career = =

= = = Los Angeles Dodgers / Cincinnati Reds = = =

On July 24 , 2005 , Ross was recalled by the Dodgers to give them another bat during interleague play . He appeared in 14 games , batting .160 with four hits ( one double , no home runs ) and one RBI before getting sent back down on July 14 in favor of Steve Schmöll . He was not called up in

September .

Ross was out of options in 2006 and made the Dodgers Opening Day roster as a backup outfielder only because of an injury to Kenny Lofton . On April 13 , he hit a tie @-@ breaking grand slam and a three run home run in a 13 ? 5 victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates . He batted .500 in eight games for the Dodgers before getting designated for assignment on April 17 to make room for Oscar Robles on the roster . A week later , he was traded to the Cincinnati Reds for cash or a player to be named later ( Ben Kozlowski ) .

Ross broke his finger in his debut with the Reds on April 29 and went on the disabled list . He returned to the Reds on May 23 and appeared in one more game before getting traded to the Florida Marlins on May 26 for cash considerations .

= = = Florida Marlins = = =

= = = = 2006 = = = =

Upon joining the Marlins in 2006 , Ross was forced to shave his beard , in order to comply with the Marlins ' no facial hair policy . Manager Joe Girardi quipped , " Maybe he can put it on top of his head . " He was used as a backup outfielder but got many starts at all three outfield positions throughout the year , especially from June 10 through 30 , July 21 through August 8 , and September 11 through the end of the season . On September 11 , Ross hit a three @-@ run home run against David Williams and a pair of two @-@ run home runs against Heath Bell and Royce Ring in a 16 ? 5 win over the New York Mets . His three home runs and seven RBI in the game tied Marlins records . Ross 's five home runs and 14 RBI in September were more than he had in any other month that season . In 91 games ( 250 at bats ) with the Marlins in 2006 , Ross batted .212 with 53 hits , 11 doubles , 11 home runs , and 37 RBI .

= = = = 2007 = = = =

Again a reserve outfielder in 2007 , Ross batted .673 before going on the disabled list with a strained left hamstring on May 6 . He returned on July 19 and continued to be used in a variety of roles for the Marlins . For much of the year , he platooned with Alfredo Amézaga in centerfield . On April 20 , he hit his first career pinch @-@ hit home run against Chad Cordero to tie the Marlins with the Washington Nationals in the ninth inning ; however , the Marlins went on to lose 6 ? 5 in 14 innings . Four days later , he homered and had five RBI against Mark Redman in an 11 ? 6 loss to the Atlanta Braves . He had another pinch @-@ hit home run on August 23 against Brad Thompson in an 11 ? 3 victory over the St. Louis Cardinals . In 66 games ( 173 at bats ) , Ross hit .335 with 58 hits , 19 doubles , 12 home runs , and 39 RBI .

= = = = 2008 = = = =

Ross began 2008 platooning with Amézaga again in center field , though Amézaga was eventually replaced by Jacque Jones as Ross 's centerfield partner . Ross played against left @-@ handed pitchers as Amézaga and Jones faced right @-@ handers . Ross struggled in April , batting .159 with no home runs and two RBI . After receiving a text message from his father at the beginning of May saying he would improve , Ross declared that he was restarting his season and had 10 home runs and 18 RBI in the month . During the month , Ross had a stretch where nine out of 10 hits were home runs , becoming the first player to have a streak of that sort since Mark McGwire in 2001 . On May 14 , he hit a game @-@ tying three @-@ run ninth inning home run against Francisco Cordero in a 10 @-@ inning , 7 ? 6 loss to the Reds . Then , on June 7 he hit a game @-@ winning three @-@ run home run in the bottom of the ninth inning against Cordero to give the Marlins an 8 ? 7 victory over the Reds . Jones was designated for assignment on June 11 , putting Ross in sole control of centerfield . In a four @-@ game series with the Colorado Rockies from July 3 through 6 ,

Ross had 15 RBI , becoming the first player to have that many in a four @-@ game series since Carlton Fisk in 1977 . Fourteen of those RBI came from July 4 through 6 , the most in a three @-@ game span since Sammy Sosa had 16 in 2002 . In 145 games ( 461 at bats ) , Ross hit .260 with 120 hits , 29 doubles , 22 home runs , and 73 RBI .

===== 2009 =====

For the first time in his career in 2009 , Ross was a starting outfielder for the entire season . He began the year as the right fielder for the Marlins , who wanted prospect Cameron Maybin to play centerfield . On April 26 , he pitched a scoreless ninth inning for the Marlins to finish a 13 ? 2 loss to the Philadelphia Phillies . After Maybin batted only .202 , Ross moved back to centerfield on May 10 when he was sent down . On June 12 , he hit his third grand slam of the season against Brandon League to give the Marlins a 7 ? 3 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays . The grand slam tied Bobby Bonilla 's and Jeff Conine 's record for grand slams in a season by a Marlin . Dan Uggla and he hit back @-@ to @-@ back solo home runs against Kevin Gregg in the ninth inning on August 2 to give the Marlins a 3 ? 2 victory over the Chicago Cubs . On August 16 , he set a team record by notching six hits in a doubleheader against the Rockies . Ross returned to right field on August 31 when Maybin was recalled . He set career @-@ highs in most categories in 2009 . In 151 games ( 559 at bats ) , he batted .270 with 151 hits , 37 doubles , 24 home runs , and 90 RBI . In the daytime , he batted .349 , the fourth @-@ highest mark in the NL . Following the season , he was named the Marlins Charlie Hough Good Guy award winner .

===== 2010 =====

Ross began 2010 in right field , but he moved to centerfield when Maybin was sent down on June 17 . He had four hits on April 7 in a 10 @-@ inning , 7 ? 6 victory over the Mets . On May 10 , he stole home as part of a double steal with Maybin in a 4 ? 2 victory over the Cubs , marking the first time a Marlin had stolen home since Reggie Abercrombie did so in 2006 . Six days later , he again had four hits in a 10 ? 8 victory over the Mets . In his first 120 games ( 452 at bats ) , Ross batted .265 with 120 hits , 24 doubles , 11 home runs , and 58 RBI . After the Marlins fell out of contention in 2010 and with Ross due for a pay raise the following year , the Marlins put him on waivers in August in order save money and give their young players more playing time .

===== San Francisco Giants =====

On August 21 , 2010 , Ross was awarded to the San Francisco Giants on a waiver claim , partly to prevent him from being acquired by the San Diego Padres . He appeared in 33 regular season games for the Giants , batting .288 with three home runs . In 153 games combined with Florida and San Francisco ( 525 at bats ) , he batted .269 with 141 hits , 28 doubles , 14 home runs , and 65 RBI . The Giants went on to overtake the Padres late in the season to win the NL West Division title .

Ross was named the Giants ' starting right fielder for the playoffs because of a neck injury to José Guillén , according to Bruce Bochy at the start of the postseason . However , it was later revealed that Guillén had been left off the roster after a package of human growth hormone was intercepted as it was being shipped to his house . In the ensuing NL Division Series ( NLDS ) against the Atlanta Braves , Ross started all four games in right field , hit a home run to tie the deciding fourth game , and drove in the winning runs in two of the Giants ' three wins . Ross hit two home runs off of Roy Halladay in Game 1 in the following NLCS against the Phillies , and hit a solo home run against Roy Oswalt in Game 2 . Following the Giants ' Game 6 win of the NLCS , Ross was awarded the MVP award for the series , in which he hit .350 with three home runs , three doubles and recorded five RBI . Three of his five postseason home runs broke up no @-@ hitters . His home run off the Braves ' Derek Lowe was the Giants ' first hit in Game 4 of the NLDS . His first home run off Halladay in Game 1 of the NLCS , in addition to being the first hit off Halladay in the game , was the

first hit off Halladay in 11 innings , as Halladay had thrown a no @-@ hitter in his previous start . Finally , his home run off Oswalt in Game 2 of the NLCS was the Giants ' first hit of the game . In Game 3 of the World Series against the Texas Rangers , he hit the first home run for the Giants off Colby Lewis ; however , the Giants went on to lose 4 ? 2 . He won his first World Series ring as the Giants defeated the Rangers in five games to win their first World Series since 1954 .

In 2011 Ross re @-@ signed with the Giants on a one @-@ year contract worth \$ 6 @. @ 3 million . Henry Schulman of the San Francisco Chronicle called it a " mild surprise " that Ross did not sign at least a two @-@ year deal . He began the season on the disabled list with a sprained right calf , but he assumed the Giants ' right field job upon his return on April 20 . On May 10 , Ross had a game @-@ ending single against David Hernandez in a 1 ? 0 victory over the Diamondbacks . After May 10 , Ross began playing left field most of the time when Pat Burrell was moved to the bench . On May 18 , Ross hit a three @-@ run home run with two outs in the ninth inning against Lance Cormier to give the Giants an 8 ? 5 victory over the Dodgers . From August through the end of the year , Ross began moving around between all three outfield positions , only once making four straight starts at the same position . He hit the 100th home run of his career against Alex White on September 16 in a 9 ? 1 victory over Colorado . In the same game , Ross pulled his right hamstring , forcing him to miss the rest of the season . In 121 games ( 405 at bats ) , Ross hit .240 with 97 hits , 25 doubles , 14 home runs , and 52 RBI . He led the Giants with a career @-@ high 49 walks .

== = Boston Red Sox == =

On January 26 , 2012 , Ross finalized a one @-@ year contract with the Boston Red Sox . He was supposed to provide depth off the bench , but injuries , particularly to Carl Crawford , led to him holding a starting role for the entire season . He started almost every day for Boston in all three outfield positions , but mainly right field . On April 14 , Ross hit his first home run in a Red Sox uniform , a two @-@ run shot off the Tampa Bay Rays 's Dane De La Rosa in a 13 ? 5 Red Sox victory . The next day , Ross hit a three @-@ run homer in the bottom of the second inning off Matt Moore in a 6 ? 4 victory over the Rays . On May 18 , 2012 , Ross suffered a fractured foot after fouling a ball off his foot . He was placed on the disabled list and expected to miss from six to eight weeks .

On June 19 , Ross was activated from the disabled list . His first game back , he hit a home run against Mark Buehrle over the Green Monster at Fenway Park in a 7 ? 5 victory over the Miami Marlins . Five days later , he hit two home runs and had five RBI in a 9 ? 4 victory over the Braves . He hit two consecutive three @-@ run home runs against Pedro Hernández of the White Sox on July 18 in a 10 ? 1 Red Sox victory . The next day , he hit a three @-@ run home run against Addison Reed for a walk @-@ off win against the White Sox . For the season , he had a .267 average , 127 hits , 34 doubles , 22 home runs , and 81 RBI in 130 games ( 476 at bats ) .

== = Arizona Diamondbacks == =

On December 22 , 2012 , Ross agreed to a three @-@ year contract with the Arizona Diamondbacks worth a reported \$ 26 million , with a club option and a \$ 1 million buyout . An injured left calf caused him to miss the beginning of the season ; he made his return April 13 . He began the 2013 season playing right field , but in May through the rest of the season he split time between right and left field . On June 19 , he hit a pinch @-@ hit three @-@ run home run against Mike Dunn in a 3 ? 1 victory over the Marlins . He hit a three @-@ run home run against Matt Harvey to put the Diamondbacks ahead 3 ? 2 on July 3 ; the Diamondbacks would wind up defeating the Mets 5 ? 2 . Three days later , he set a career high with five hits and added three runs scored in an 11 ? 1 victory over Colorado . On August 2 , he had four hits , two doubles , and three RBI , including a game @-@ winning solo home run against Pedro Beato in a 7 ? 6 victory over Boston . On August 11 , Ross dislocated his right hip while running to first base . He was placed on the disabled list and missed the rest of the season . In 94 games ( 317 at bats ) in 2013 , Ross batted .278 with 88 hits , 17 doubles , eight home runs , and 38 RBI .

On April 4 , 2015 , Ross was released by the Diamondbacks .

= = = Oakland Athletics = = =

On April 8 , 2015 , Ross signed a one @-@ year deal with the Oakland Athletics for the league minimum salary of \$ 507 @,@ 500 , with the Diamondbacks paying the remainder of his salary with them . He was released on May 3 , 2015 .

= = Legacy = =

Ross has been a streaky player throughout his career . He described this in 2006 : " I have gotten in grooves before , and you try to stay in it as long as you can until it ends . And it does end . I 've been notorious for that my whole career , where I 'll hit five or six in a week , where it seems like I can 't miss the pitch and I feel good in the batter 's box . " The most famous of these came in 2010 , when Ross 's torrid hitting in the playoffs helped San Francisco win the 2010 World Series .

During his career , Ross has earned a reputation for bringing energy to his teams and being a positive influence to his teammates . He has been a fan favorite in his career , especially in Florida and San Francisco , where he earned the nicknames " Toy Cannon " and " Ross the Boss " , respectively .

Ross bats right @-@ handed and throws left @-@ handed ; one of the rarest dominant bats / throws combinations in the history of Major League baseball . The only position player in the Baseball Hall of Fame with this combination of " bats / throws " is Rickey Henderson , who , like Ross , also had stints with the Dodgers and Red Sox .

= = Personal life = =

Ross and his wife , Summer , live most of the year in Scottsdale , Arizona , with their two children : Hudson and Haven Leigh . His father , Kenny , played strong safety at the University of New Mexico but became a chiropractor and bull rider after undergoing three knee surgeries in college . Ross has a sister , Sarah , who was a long @-@ jumper and basketball player growing up .