

= Eli Whiteside =

Dustin Eli Whiteside (born October 22 , 1979) is an American former professional baseball catcher . He stands 6 feet 2 inches (1 @. @ 88 m) tall , weighs 220 pounds (100 kg) . He batted and threw right @-@ handed . He played in Major League Baseball for the Baltimore Orioles , San Francisco Giants , and Chicago Cubs .

Whiteside attended Delta State University before being drafted in the sixth round of the Major League Baseball (MLB) Draft by the Baltimore Orioles . He played in their organization through 2007 , though he only played nine games in the major leagues with the Orioles , all coming in 2005 . He signed with the Minnesota Twins in 2008 but was released after playing for their Triple @-@ A team for a month . The San Francisco Giants then signed him , assigning him to the minor leagues . He was called up to be their backup catcher in May 2009 , and he caught Jonathan Sánchez 's no @-@ hitter on July 10 . In 2010 , he remained the backup catcher and was on the Giants ' roster when they won the World Series , despite not playing any playoff games . After an injury to Buster Posey in May 2011 , Whiteside split time catching with Chris Stewart for the rest of the year . He lost the role of backup to Héctor Sánchez in 2012 and appeared in just 12 games for the Giants during their second World Series @-@ winning season in three years . Following 2012 , Whiteside was claimed off waivers multiple times by different clubs before finally winding up with the Texas Rangers , who assigned him to their Triple @-@ A team in 2013 . In 2014 , he competed for a spot on the Cubs ' roster but was beaten out by John Baker and sent to the minors . In early 2015 , Whiteside decided to retire and currently serves as a coach on the Giants .

= = Early life = =

Whiteside was born on October 22 , 1979 , in New Albany , Mississippi . He was raised on an 80 @-@ acre farm that belonged to his grandfather . Whiteside attended W. P. Daniel High School , where he played both baseball and soccer before graduation in 1998 . He then spent three years at Delta State University , majoring in business . At Delta State , he was an All @-@ American , an All @-@ Gulf South Conference , and an All @-@ Region player all three years with the baseball team . After his junior year in 2001 , the Baltimore Orioles drafted Whiteside in the sixth round of the Major League Baseball (MLB) Draft .

= = Professional career = =

= = = Baltimore Orioles (2005) = = =

Whiteside began his minor league career in 2001 with the Single @-@ A Delmarva Shorebirds of the South Atlantic League . In 61 games (212 at bats) , he batted .250 with 53 hits , seven home runs , and 28 runs batted in (RBI) . He finished second on the club in home runs and had a caught stealing percentage of 41 % . Next season , he played for both the Single @-@ A advanced Frederick Keys of the Carolina League and the Double @-@ A Bowie Baysox of the Eastern League . He spent most of the season with Frederick , batting .259 with 89 hits , eight home runs , and 42 RBI in 80 games (313 at bats) . In 27 games (99 at bats) with Bowie , he hit .263 with 26 hits , two home runs , and 11 RBI . His combined totals for the two leagues were 107 hits , 10 home runs , and 53 RBI in 107 games (412 at bats) .

Outside of a rehab assignment , Whiteside spent all of 2003 with Bowie . In 81 games (265 at bats) , he batted .204 with 54 hits , one home run , and 23 RBI . Defensively , he had a .989 fielding percentage and threw out 37 % of baserunners . In 2004 , Whiteside again played with Bowie . He had two @-@ home @-@ run games against the Akron Aeros on May 17 and the Erie SeaWolves on July 28 , finishing fourth in the Orioles ' organization on the season with 18 home runs . He batted .279 before the Eastern League All @-@ Star break but hit just .206 afterwards . In 90 games (297 at bats) , he hit .253 with 75 hits . Defensively , he posted a .986 fielding percentage . He

batted .310 in away games as opposed to .187 in home games . Following the season , he played for the Peoria Javelinas of the Arizona Fall League , batting .329 with 20 RBI in 18 games .

Whiteside moved up to the Triple @-@ A Ottawa Lynx of the International League in 2005 , and the Orioles signed veteran catcher Sal Fasano to mentor him . On July 4 , Whiteside was called up by the Orioles after Gerónimo Gil was placed on the disabled list . He made his major league debut the next day , entering as a defensive replacement for Fasano in a 12 ? 3 loss to the New York Yankees . Four days later , making his first major league start , he got his first hit , an RBI single against Scott Cassidy in a 9 ? 1 victory over the Boston Red Sox . He appeared in six games and committed two throwing errors , one of which was important . On July 19 , he made a wild throw to second base on a stolen base attempt that put Joe Mauer in position to score the tying run from third on a wild pitch in a 4 ? 3 loss to the Minnesota Twins . Whiteside was sent back to Ottawa on July 25 when Javy López came off the disabled list . In 95 games (317 at bats) with Ottawa , Whiteside hit .233 with 74 hits , four home runs , and 27 RBI while posting a caught stealing percentage of 40 % . He was also called up in September , appearing in three more games . In nine games (12 at bats) with the Orioles , Whiteside had three hits and one RBI .

Whiteside was considered a " long shot " to make the Orioles ' roster in 2006 , but he remained in spring training with the Orioles until they made their final cuts on April 1 and sent him to Ottawa . On May 21 , Whiteside had four RBI in a game against the Rochester Red Wings , and he had back @-@ to @-@ back three @-@ hit games against the Norfolk Tides from July 23 through 24 . In 92 games (315 at bats) with Ottawa in 2006 , Whiteside batted .244 with 77 hits , 11 home runs , and 47 RBI . His batting average was .281 at home compared to .201 on the road . In 2007 , Whiteside attended spring training but was reassigned to the minors on March 27 , coinciding with the Orioles ' acquisition of Alberto Castillo . Whiteside began the season with the Orioles ' Triple @-@ A affiliate , which was now the Norfolk Tides , but after he batted .180 in 18 games he was reassigned to Bowie on May 11 . He spent time on the disabled list from June 18 through July 12 with a fractured right cheekbone . Upon returning , he had a seven @-@ game hitting streak , but he was lost for the season on August 6 after suffering a concussion . In 42 games (141 at bats) with Bowie , Whiteside hit .291 with 41 hits , four home runs , and 30 RBI . After 2007 , he filed for free agency , having played in only nine major league games during his seven years with the Orioles .

= = = Minnesota Twins organization (2008) = = =

On November 24 , 2007 , Whiteside signed a contract with the Minnesota Twins for the 2008 season . He played in eight games with the Rochester Red Wings of the International League , batting .167 before getting released on April 30 when Ryan Jorgensen returned from serving a suspension for performance @-@ enhancing drugs .

= = = San Francisco Giants (2009 @-@ 2012) = = =

Five days after getting released by the Twins , the San Francisco Giants signed Whiteside . He spent the rest of the year with the Triple @-@ A Fresno Grizzlies of the Pacific Coast League . In 49 games , the most by any catcher with Fresno in 2008 , Whiteside batted .238 with 36 hits , two home runs , and 22 RBI . He had a .986 fielding percentage but only threw out seven percent of attempted base @-@ stealers . In 57 games (175 at bats) between Rochester and Fresno , he hit .229 with 40 hits , three home runs , and 23 RBI .

The next season , Whiteside started the year at Fresno again , batting .241 with 28 hits , six home runs , and 24 RBI in 34 games (116 at bats) . However , after an elbow injury prevented Pablo Sandoval from catching , the Giants called up Whiteside to be the backup catcher for Bengie Molina on May 24 , 2009 . The same day , he played his first major league game in four years (and his first for a National League team) . He finished the game with a hit and an RBI in three at @-@ bats . Matt Cain said of Whiteside , " He 's been great . He 's a guy who definitely takes advantage of his days in between , when he 's not catching , and asking what guys threw in situations and what the pitches were , so he isn 't thrown into the fire the days he 's starting . Even if he doesn 't see a team

, he 's still figuring out how guys got them out . He 's definitely always learning . " On July 10 , 2009 , Molina was scheduled to catch , but was unable to because he went to see his wife , who was having a baby . Whiteside caught in his place , and Jonathan Sánchez , starting in place of the injured Randy Johnson , threw a no @-@ hitter against the San Diego Padres . When asked if he thought it was more unlikely for Sánchez to throw a no @-@ hitter or for him to catch it , he said , " Probably me catching one . " He hit a grand slam , his first Major League home run , against Brian Moehler of the Houston Astros in a 10 ? 6 Giants ' victory on August 5 , 2009 . He joined Bobby Bonds , Dave Kingman , and Brian Dallimore as the only Giants to hit a grand slam for their first home run . He finished the year with 29 hits in 49 games (126 at @-@ bats) , two home runs , and 13 RBI . Defensively , he posted a .993 fielding percentage while catching 39 % of attempted base stealers .

In 2010 , for the first time in his career , Whiteside made an MLB team out of spring training . He served as Sánchez 's personal catcher for much of the season , catching 19 of his starts . Following Molina 's trade to the Texas Rangers on June 30 , Whiteside saw his playing time reduced as Buster Posey caught more and more games ; Whiteside would only start six of the Giants ' final 57 games . He finished the regular season with a .238 batting average , appearing in 73 games . Though Whiteside did not appear in any playoff games , he was on the team 's roster throughout the playoffs , earning his first career championship title after the Giants won the series against the Rangers .

In 2011 , Whiteside again began the year as the backup catcher . However , following Posey 's season @-@ ending leg injury on May 25 , 2011 , he moved into a more prominent role , splitting starting time with Chris Stewart . On June 22 , he had two hits (including a triple) and a season @-@ high three RBI in a 5 ? 2 victory over the Twins . He had a season @-@ high three hits on July 14 in a 12 @-@ inning , 6 ? 2 victory over San Diego . From August 19 through August 25 , he was on the seven @-@ day disabled list with a concussion . In 82 games (213 at bats) , Whiteside hit .197 with 42 hits , four home runs , and 17 RBI . Defensively , he threw out 25 % of attempted base stealers . He was non @-@ tendered after the season and briefly became a free agent before being re @-@ signed to a one @-@ year deal with the Giants .

In 2012 spring training , Whiteside competed with Stewart for the backup catcher job . However , the Giants ultimately decided to give the role to prospect Héctor Sánchez , a promising hitter who had been expected to start the season with Fresno to work on his defense . Stewart was traded to the Yankees and Whiteside was sent to Fresno . In 60 games (201 at bats) with Fresno , he hit .224 with 45 hits , one home run , and 20 RBI . On July 18 , 2012 , Whiteside was called up from Fresno when Héctor Sánchez was placed on the disabled list , appearing in six games before being optioned back to Fresno on August 1 when Sánchez returned from the disabled list . He was then recalled on August 26 to be the third @-@ string catcher . Whiteside appeared in 12 games with the Giants in 2012 , having one hit (an RBI double) in 11 at bats . He threw out three out of five attempted base stealers . This time , he was left off the playoff roster as the Giants went on to win the World Series in a four @-@ game sweep against the Detroit Tigers .

= = = 2012 @-@ 13 offseason = = =

Due to the emergence of Héctor Sánchez , Whiteside did not expect to return to the Giants after 2012 . " I didn 't really think I 'd be back with the Giants . Love that team and love that organization . They 've got a good thing going there . Good group of guys and I 've enjoyed the time I 've spent there . " On November 5 , 2012 , Whiteside was claimed off waivers by the New York Yankees , agreeing to terms with them on a one @-@ year contract worth \$ 625 @,@ 000 in the Major Leagues and \$ 200 @,@ 000 in the Minors on November 26 . Just two days later , the Yankees designated Whiteside for assignment to make room for Andy Pettitte . On December 3 , he was claimed off waivers by the Toronto Blue Jays .

= = = Texas Rangers organization (2013) = = =

Nine days later , Whiteside was claimed off waivers by the Texas Rangers . He was designated for

assignment by the Rangers on January 3 , 2013 , and removed from the 40 man roster to make room for Jason Frasier . Whiteside cleared waivers the next day and was assigned to the Rangers ' Triple @-@ A affiliate Round Rock Express of the Pacific Coast League .

Whiteside attended 2013 spring training as a non @-@ roster invitee , appearing in five games . He played 2013 with the Round Rock Express , where he split time at catcher with Robinson Chirinos and José Félix . In 67 games (225 at bats) with the Express , he hit .187 with 5 home runs and 25 RBI . On October 1 , he filed for free agency .

= = = Chicago Cubs = = =

On November 15 , 2013 , Whiteside signed a minor league contract with the Chicago Cubs , with an invitation to spring training . He competed with John Baker and George Kottaras for the backup catcher role , and was assigned to the Triple @-@ A Iowa Cubs of the Pacific Coast League on March 27 when Baker was given the role . His contract was selected from Iowa on June 3 when Welington Castillo was placed on the disabled list . Whiteside appeared in eight games , batting .120 . He was designated for assignment on June 22 when Castillo returned from the disabled list , and sent outright to the Iowa Cubs on June 25 . Whiteside elected free agency in October 2014 .

= = = Retirement = = =

He signed a minor league contract with the Atlanta Braves during the off @-@ season in 2015 , but decided to retire instead . He returned to the San Francisco Giants as a bullpen catcher .

= = Personal life = =

Whiteside married his high school sweetheart , Amy , in 2004 . They have two sons : Whit and Wake . Whiteside is easily recognized by his completely gray hair , which he said began to gray when he was in high school . Whiteside said , " I 've come to terms with it . As long as it doesn 't fall out , I 'll be doing all right , I think . " After Whiteside won the 2010 World Series , his hometown of New Albany declared an " Eli Whiteside Day " and presented Whiteside with a key to the city .