

= Jimmy Rollins =

James Calvin " Jimmy " Rollins ( born November 27 , 1978 ) , nicknamed " J @-@ Roll " , is an American professional baseball shortstop who is a free agent . He has played in Major League Baseball ( MLB ) for the Philadelphia Phillies from 2000 to 2014 , Los Angeles Dodgers in 2015 and Chicago White Sox in 2016 .

After growing up in Alameda , California , and attending Encinal High School , Rollins was drafted by the Phillies in the second round of the 1996 MLB draft , spending most of five seasons with Phillies minor league teams before earning a promotion to the MLB team .

In Philadelphia , Rollins earned a reputation as an excellent defensive shortstop . In July 2001 , Rollins became the Phillies ' leadoff hitter , a role he retained for almost ten years . He made three All @-@ Star Game appearances early in his career . While a Phillie , Rollins compiled a 38 @-@ game hitting streak , which spanned the end of the 2005 season and the start of the 2006 season , the longest in team history . Rollins was named the National League Most Valuable Player in 2007 , as the Phillies won their division in the first of five consecutive seasons . He was also a key component of the 2008 World Series champion team . In his final season with the Phillies , he became the franchise 's all @-@ time leader in hits . During the offseason , he was traded to the Dodgers for the 2015 season .

= = Family and background = =

Rollins grew up in Alameda as a member of an athletic family . His mother played competitive fastpitch softball , and credits the experience for helping him develop a cerebral approach to the game as well as a passion for the middle infield ; he has been described as having " a near @-@ photographic memory of games and at @-@ bats and pitches " . Rollins ' brother , Antwon , played with minor league affiliates of the Texas Rangers and the Montreal Expos . His sister , Shay Rollins , was a starter on the University of San Francisco 's women 's basketball team , and he is the cousin of former MLB player Tony Tarasco . Despite the athletes in his family , his father encouraged Rollins to pursue music as well as baseball ; Rollins played the trumpet while growing up , and participated in various MC Hammer and Mavis Staples music videos during his adolescent years .

Rollins attended Encinal High School in Alameda , graduating in 1996 . His parents refused to let him continue playing football , instead directing him to focus on baseball . He finished his high school baseball career as the holder of 10 school records , including highest batting average ( .484 ) , and most stolen bases ( 99 ) . For his performance , USA Today named him a member of its All @-@ USA High School Baseball Team , and Baseball America named him the top infielder in Northern California as well as a second @-@ team All @-@ American . He committed to play college baseball at Arizona State University on a scholarship , but after " effusive " praise from Phillies Bay Area scout Bob Poole , the team drafted him in the second round of the 1996 Major League Baseball draft .

= = Professional career = =

= = = Minor leagues : 1996 ? 2000 = = =

After being drafted by the Phillies in the second round of the 1996 draft , Rollins was assigned to the rookie @-@ league Martinsville Phillies . He led the team in walks and stole 20 bases , but batted only .238 . However , he still earned a promotion to low @-@ A Piedmont for the 1997 season . The youngest player on the team at age 18 , Rollins led the team in games played , at @-@ bats , runs , hits , triples , stolen bases , and walks all in the same year . He batted .270 , stole 46 bases , and had 560 at @-@ bats , over 100 more than second @-@ place Dave Francia . For his performance , he was named a co @-@ winner of the Paul Owens Award , given to the Phillies ' top minor league player . At the end of the season he played in the Florida Instructional League .

Rollins was promoted to high @-@ A Clearwater in 1998 . While playing alongside future Phillies teammates Pat Burrell , Johnny Estrada , Adam Eaton , and Brandon Duckworth , Rollins batted .244 with 18 doubles and 23 stolen bases ; once again , he was the youngest player on the team . Eaton , Burrell , and Rollins were all promoted to AA Reading together the next year , and Rollins led the team in games and at @-@ bats , as well as hits . His 145 hits gave him an average of .273 , and led to a late @-@ season promotion to Scranton / Wilkes @-@ Barre , where he played four games . In 2000 , he led Scranton in games played , doubles , and triples , and helped lead the team to the playoffs .

Rollins received a September callup to the Phillies . He debuted on September 17 against the Florida Marlins and had two hits in four at @-@ bats in the game , with his first MLB hit being a triple off of Chuck Smith of the Marlins . He batted .321 in 14 games , stealing three bases and batting in five runs . After the season , Baseball America named him the Phillies ' top organizational prospect . He was a finalist for the United States national baseball team to participate in the 2000 Olympics , but did not survive the final cut .

= = = Philadelphia Phillies = = =

= = = 2001 ? 2014 = = =

Rollins spent the entire 2001 season with the major league Phillies and hit his first MLB home run on May 2 off of Brian Bohanon of the Colorado Rockies . He achieved several statistical milestones , including a " quadruple @-@ double " ( double digit doubles , triples , home runs , and stolen bases ) . Moreover , he led the National League in triples and stolen bases , becoming the first rookie to do so since 1951 , as well as leading the NL in at bats . He was a member of the NL all @-@ star team in the 2001 Major League Baseball All @-@ Star Game , the Phillies only representative . In July , he took over from Doug Glanville as the Phillies ' leadoff hitter , a role he seldom ceded for nearly a decade . At the conclusion of the season , the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum named him the co @-@ winner of the Cool Papa Bell Award , given to the stolen bases leader , MLB managers voted him to the Topps Major League Rookie All @-@ Star team , and Baseball America named him the fifth @-@ best rookie in MLB .

Entering the 2002 season , despite his youth , Rollins sought to be a leader in the Phillies ' clubhouse ; an article in The Philadelphia Inquirer said , " Rollins , even at just 23 years old , may now have the clout needed to be a stern voice that makes a difference in the clubhouse and on the field . " Rollins ' season was characterized by a strong first half , and a " sophomore jinx " at the plate that plagued him in the second half of the season . For his performance in the early months of the season , he earned his second consecutive selection to the MLB All @-@ Star game , in doing so becoming the first Phillie and first MLB shortstop ever to reach the game in each of his first two seasons . After the all @-@ star game , however , he struggled at the plate , striking out frequently and chasing many high pitches that were out of the strike zone . Ultimately , Rollins finished the season among the NL leaders in defensive statistics ? he compiled a .980 fielding percentage ( second in NL ) , 695 total chances ( third in NL ) , 504 assists ( fourth in NL ) , and 226 putouts ( fifth in NL ) . Meanwhile , offensively , he regressed from his 2001 campaign , posting a .245 batting average with 11 home runs , but still leading the NL with 10 triples ; he stole 31 bases , 15 fewer than he did in 2001 . After the season , he participated in the Major League Baseball Japan All @-@ Star Series .

Prior to the 2003 season , he worked with Tony Gwynn on skills at the plate , predominantly using the whole field and being more of a " slap hitter " . However , he began the season slowly , sustaining a hamstring injury in spring training that hindered his progress , and ultimately struggling at the plate early in the season , causing manager Larry Bowa to drop him in the lineup . Throughout the season , he sought to maintain the focus that he admitted to having lost the previous season , and he eventually rebounded to post a " respectable " stat line ? a .263 batting average with eight home runs and 62 RBIs , although he stole what at the time was a career @-@ low 20 bases .

Among his season highlights were a game @-@ winning RBI against John Smoltz in June , and stealing his 100th career base in September , both of which occurred in games against the Atlanta Braves .

On January 15 , Rollins signed a US \$ 2 @,@ 400 @,@ 000 contract with the Phillies to avoid salary arbitration . According to one biography of Rollins ,

" In 2004 , Jimmy finally became the player the Phillies had been waiting for . He batted .289 with a .455 slugging percentage , scored 119 runs , led the league in triples , cut down considerably on his strikeouts , batted well from both sides of the plate , and hit well in the clutch . The workouts with Gwynn had helped , but it was joining morning sessions with ( Bobby ) Abreu that enabled him to sting the ball with authority and consistency . "

Overall , he achieved another " quadruple ? double " ( home runs , stolen bases , doubles , and triples in double figures in a single season ) , his first career grand slam , and posted career highs in a plethora of offensive categories including batting average , slugging percentage , RBIs , and hits .

= = = = 2005 ? 2007 = = = =

Under new manager Charlie Manuel , whose offensive strategy predominantly revolved around hitting lots of home runs , Rollins struggled to post a strong batting average early in the Phillies ' 2005 season , as he too tried to hit home runs . Nevertheless , he was again selected to the NL All @-@ Star team . His offensive strategy changed in early August , when he began a hitting streak that spanned the season 's final 36 games ; during the streak , he hit .379 . It was the longest hitting streak in Phillies ' history , surpassing Ed Delahanty , whose streak lasted 31 games . Throughout the streak , Rollins aspired to maintain a team @-@ first mentality , and noted that he would trade the streak for a playoff berth : " If we lose and I keep the streak , what does that mean ? The season is automatically over . The playoffs is everything . That 's what we all want . " Ultimately , the Phillies missed the playoffs by one game . Overall , Rollins compiled his fourth career quadruple @-@ double , tying Jonny Damon for most among active players , and posted a .290 batting average with 12 home runs , 54 RBIs , and 41 stolen bases .

The 2006 Phillies season began with much hype surrounding Rollins , and whether he could extend his hitting streak to pass Joe DiMaggio 's record 56 games . He extended the streak two games into the season , but it ended on April 6 when he failed to get a hit in a game against the St. Louis Cardinals . He struggled during the first half of the season , posting a batting average of just .259 , but rebounded during the second half , ultimately posting strong cumulative numbers once again . He became the third player in Phillies ' history to score at least 100 runs in three consecutive seasons ( Chuck Klein and Bobby Abreu ) , and led all NL shortstops in RBIs , runs scored , extra @-@ base hits , and total bases . He was just short , however , of another quadruple @-@ double . Cumulatively , he hit .277 with 25 home runs and 83 RBIs ( at the time , the latter two were career @-@ highs ) . Once again , the Phillies barely missed the playoffs .

Before spring training , Rollins announced that the Phillies were the " Team to Beat " in the National League East :

The Mets had a chance to win the World Series last year . Last year is over . I think we are the team to beat in the NL East , finally . But , that 's only on paper . "

It became a sports media sensation , especially given that the New York Mets had won the division in 2006 with relative ease . The claim was widely reported , often without the second part of the quote ( " only on paper " ) . USA Today columnist Hal Bodley opined , " The Phillies have needed someone to light a fire , especially in April . Rollins ' bold , if not arrogant , prediction might just do that . " During the first half of the season , it appeared Rollins had spoken prematurely , as the Mets jumped out to an early divisional lead . On June 28 , Rollins had a four @-@ hit game against the Cincinnati Reds , including a game @-@ tying triple . The triple was Rollins ' 10th , which gave him his fifth career " quadruple ? double " .

In August , the Mets ' lead began to dissipate , as the Phillies combined several solid series ; Rollins was a key component of their success . Rollins was named the National League Player of the Week for August 27 to September 2 , 2007 . On September 25 against the Atlanta Braves ,

Rollins hit the home run that completed his 30 / 30 season . On the last day of the 2007 season , Rollins became the seventh player to collect at least 20 doubles , 20 triples , and 20 home runs in one season when he hit his 20th triple of the year in a 6 / 1 win over the Washington Nationals that clinched the National League East division championship for the Phillies , which confirmed Rollins ' preseason assertion of the Phillies preeminence . The club advanced to the playoffs for the first time since their 1993 World Series loss ; however , they were swept by the Colorado Rockies in the National League Division Series .

Rollins was named the National League 's Most Valuable Player . He also received the NLBM Oscar Charleston Legacy Award ( NL MVP ) , and won the first of three consecutive Gold Glove Awards , becoming the first Phillies shortstop to win a Gold Glove since Larry Bowa in 1978 . He was the first player in MLB history to record 200 hits , 20 triples , 30 home runs , and 30 stolen bases in a season .

== = 2008 / 2011 == =

Unlike in spring training 2007 , Rollins " made no guarantees heading into the next season , but that didn 't mean the Phillies weren 't confident " entering their 2008 season , despite the Mets ' acquisition of Johan Santana and a " 2007 Rollins @-@ esque " guarantee of winning the division from Carlos Beltrán . After beginning the season by hitting a home run on opening day , Rollins landed on the disabled list ( DL ) for the first time in his career in early April , suffering an ankle sprain . He returned in May , and had a " productive " summer , ultimately posting a career @-@ high 47 stolen bases , notwithstanding his batting average dropping to .277 , and his home run and RBI totals dropping to 11 and 59 respectively . In the postseason , Rollins was a focal point of the team , which ultimately won the 2008 World Series ; in the division series ( NLDS ) , he hit a leadoff home run in game four , and in the championship series ( NLCS ) , he hit a leadoff home run in game five , and despite struggles early in the World Series , he eventually contributed with strong situational hitting , helping the Phillies win the series in five games . At the conclusion of the season , Rollins was honored with a Fielding Bible Award for defensive excellence as the top MLB shortstop during the year .

Rollins began 2009 by participating in the 2009 World Baseball Classic ( WBC ) as a member of Team USA ; he hit .417 and was named to the all @-@ tournament team . After setting a career high in stolen bases in 2008 , he did not steal one in the season 's first 17 games , his longest drought to begin a season since 2004 . On May 21 , he reached the 1500 @-@ hit milestone in a game against the Cincinnati Reds . As of the end of June , however , he was hitting just .205 ( he went 28 consecutive at @-@ bats without a hit from the end of June until July 2 ) , and was benched for four games by Charlie Manuel in an effort to encourage him to regain the shorter , lower half @-@ driven swing that he used in his 2007 MVP campaign . He did improve in the second half of the season , batting .288 from July 3 to the end of the year . Overall , he compiled an NL @-@ leading 672 at @-@ bats , finished fourth in doubles ( 43 ) and stolen bases ( 31 ) , and tenth in runs ( 100 ) ; in addition , he had a .250 batting average , 21 home runs ( five of which were leadoff , the most in his career ) , and 77 RBIs , also winning the National League Gold Glove award for shortstops . In the postseason , he helped the Phillies reach the 2009 World Series by hitting a walk @-@ off double in game four of the NLCS . The Phillies failed to repeat as champions , however . They lost to the New York Yankees .

Rollins ' 2010 season was marked by injuries ; he missed a total of 74 games , playing in only 88 , the lowest total of his major league career . While warming up in the outfield prior to the Phillies ' game on April 12 , he strained his right calf , and eventually was placed on the disabled list . He spent April 13 / May 16 , and May 22 / June 21 on the DL with that injury ; Wilson Valdez served as his backup . When he returned , he hit his first career walk @-@ off home run on June 23 , powering the Phillies to a 7 / 6 victory over the Cleveland Indians . On July 3 , he hit his 150th career home run in a game against the Pittsburgh Pirates , and on October 1 , he hit his third career grand slam in a game against the Atlanta Braves . Overall , he hit .243 with eight home runs and 41 RBIs . He maintained his strong defense despite poor offense , but after his third consecutive mediocre

offensive season , some questioned whether his MVP campaign in 2007 was a fluke .

2011 was a contract year for Rollins , and his performance concurrently rebounded , insofar as he improved his batting average , and home run and RBI totals . He made his 11th consecutive opening day start , and , for the first time in several seasons , he was healthy at the beginning of the season , starting the season 's first 49 games . Nevertheless , it took him 54 plate appearances to record his first RBI , the longest drought of his career . On July 20 , for the second time in his career , he had a multi @-@ home run game in which one home run came batting right @-@ handed and the other left @-@ handed , the first Phillies player to do it multiple times . His season was not entirely devoid of injuries ; on August 22 , a right groin strain landed him on the DL , causing him to miss 18 games . He returned in time for the playoffs , and set several Phillies records in the 2011 NLDS , including hits ( 9 ) , doubles ( 4 ) , and multi @-@ hit games ( 4 ) . Despite the records , the Phillies lost the series to the St. Louis Cardinals . Overall , he posted a .268 batting average with 16 home runs and 63 RBIs . At the season 's conclusion , Rollins was selected as the shortstop on the MLB Insiders Club Magazine All @-@ Postseason Team . On December 17 , 2011 , Rollins signed a three @-@ year , \$ 33 million deal with a vesting option for a fourth year , worth another \$ 11 million . The option vested when he reached 1 @,@ 100 plate appearances in 2013 @-@ 14 .

= = = = 2012 ? 2014 = = = =

In 2012 , Rollins epitomized the Phillies ' general " averageness " by posting a .250 batting average with 23 home runs and 68 RBIs . He hit poorly in the beginning of the season , and did not hit a home run until his 136th at bat of the season , the second @-@ longest it had ever taken him to hit a home run at the beginning of a season . He missed three games from May 21 ? 23 for the birth of his first daughter . On July 31 , he hit his fourth career inside @-@ the @-@ park home run , which led active players . His hitting improved over the latter half of the season , and in September , he hit eight home runs . He missed the final three games of the season with a calf strain . During the season , he joined Craig Biggio , Barry Larkin , and Paul Molitor as the only players in MLB history to record 2000 hits , 350 stolen bases , and 150 home runs as a member of one team . It was his fourth career season during which he hit at least 20 home runs and stole 30 bases , which trailed only Bobby and Barry Bonds .

Prior to the 2013 season , Rollins played for Team USA in the 2013 World Baseball Classic ( WBC ) , and was the only player from Team USA to make the event 's all @-@ star team ; it was his second WBC , and second placement on the all @-@ star team . He was back to the Phillies in time for opening day , and made his 13th consecutive start on opening day . Overall , he tied for fifth in the NL in games ( 160 ) , and led the team with 600 at @-@ bats , 151 hits , 36 doubles , and 59 walks . He achieved several career milestones during the season , including his 800th RBI ( April 22 ) , his 433 double ( breaking Ed Delahanty 's record on May 15 ) , and his 45th career leadoff home run ( fourth most in MLB history ; hit on July 20 ) . Despite the achievements , overall , the season was a decline from previous years ; his isolated power ( ISO ) was among the worst in the major leagues , he attempted to steal the fewest amount of bases in his career , and his defense " tanked " according to fielding metrics . He " struggled mightily " , and ultimately posted a .252 batting average with six home runs and 39 RBIs. which " could be the beginning of his decline as an effective Major League hitter " .

Rollins attracted media attention in the offseason prior to 2014 when he supposedly expressed disinclination or lack of motivation after commenting " who cares " in regards to spring training ; Buster Olney penned a column suggesting that there was a sentiment within the Phillies ' organization that he should be traded ( the rumors were dispelled by Rollins and Phillies general manager Rubén Amaro , Jr. as ridiculous ) . He opened the season by hitting a grand slam against the Texas Rangers , which was also his 200th career home run . After two games , Rollins left the team on paternity leave to be with his wife as the couple had their second child . On April 12 , he hit a walk @-@ off home run against the Miami Marlins . On June 14 , Rollins singled to right field for his 2,235th hit to surpass Mike Schmidt as the Phillies ' all @-@ time leader in hits . The game paused as Schmidt and the remainder of the Phillies congratulated Rollins at first base . Following

the season , Rollins became the first ever co @-@ winner of the Roberto Clemente Award when he and recently retired Chicago White Sox captain Paul Konerko being announced as the awards ' recipients .

= = = Los Angeles Dodgers = = =

On December 19 , 2014 , Rollins was traded to the Los Angeles Dodgers in exchange for minor league pitchers Tom Windle and Zach Eflin . Rollins waived his no @-@ trade clause in order for the trade to be accomplished and he stated that he was expecting to take on a leadership position with his new team .

Rollins played his first game with the Dodgers during opening day against the San Diego Padres on April 6 , 2015 , hitting a 3 @-@ run homer off of Shawn Kelley , giving the Dodgers a 6 @-@ 3 victory over the Padres . He struggled offensively with the Dodgers , hitting a career low .224 with 13 homers and 41 RBI . He also stole eight bases . In September , he lost his starting job to rookie Corey Seager . On the final day of the season , in a meaningless game , manager Don Mattingly let Rollins manage the club for the game .

= = = Chicago White Sox = = =

On February 22 , 2016 , Rollins signed a minor league contract with the Chicago White Sox that included an invitation to major league spring training . He competed with Tyler Saladino for a starting role at shortstop . At the end of spring training , the team announced that Rollins would serve as their Opening Day shortstop .

Rollins batted .221 in 41 games for the White Sox . On June 10 , he was designated for assignment so the White Sox could promote Tim Anderson from the minor leagues .

= = Player profile = =

= = = Offense = = =

Growing up , Rollins admired Rickey Henderson , one of the best leadoff hitters in MLB history , and especially early in his career , sought to emulate Henderson at the plate . This contributed to his propensity to swing early in the count , and chase high pitches , seeking to hit home runs rather than get on base , the stereotypical role of a leadoff hitter . Consequently , he struggled to make contact with the ball , striking out too much , and rarely walking . To help alleviate those predominantly negative tendencies , he worked with Tony Gwynn , Sr. prior to the 2003 season to work on using the whole field , and hit more ground balls than pop @-@ ups . Overall , he " always had a hard time accepting that he is vertically challenged at 5 @-@ foot @-@ 8 " , which contributed to his inclination to strive to hit for power rather than contact , and to seek to pull the ball rather than use the whole field . The Phillies all @-@ time leader in hits , he also is second in Phillies history in stolen bases .

= = = Defense = = =

A " supreme defensive shortstop " , Rollins has won four Gold Glove Awards , and only Omar Vizquel has a better fielding percentage among shortstops who have played at least 10 seasons . Rollins attributes some of his defensive prowess to experience , noting that he has played in MLB for a long enough time to know most hitters ' tendencies and to learn how to read swings , both of which help him appropriately position himself to get to as many balls as possible . In their 2011 season preview , Lindy 's Sports commented that Rollins is an upper @-@ echelon shortstop " with soft hands , excellent agility and plus range left and right " , going on to praise his strong throwing arm , especially from the hole .

= = Personal life = =

Rollins resides in Woolwich Township , New Jersey , and is married to Johari Smith . They were married on January 23 , 2010 in the Cayman Islands . On May 21 , 2012 , Johari gave birth to the couple 's first daughter , Camryn Drew Rollins .

An active philanthropist , Rollins and his wife Johari have participated in several charitable endeavors including the creation of The Johari & Jimmy Rollins Center for Animal Rehabilitation , which is located in Woolwich Township , New Jersey and provides several medical rehabilitation services for animals , and an annual BaseBOWL charity bowling tournament to benefit the Arthritis Foundation . Rollins is also active politically , and campaigned for Barack Obama in the 2008 Presidential Election . His second daughter , Logan Aliya , was born in early April 2014 .

Rollins is an investor for esports team NRG Esports .