

= Jonathan Sánchez =

Jonathan Omar Sánchez (born November 19 , 1982) , nicknamed " The Kid , " or " The Comeback Kid , " is a Puerto Rican professional baseball pitcher who is a free agent . A left @-@ handed starter , Sánchez 's pitching repertoire consists of a low @-@ to @-@ mid 90s mph fastball , a change @-@ up , and a slurve in the 80s .

After being drafted by the San Francisco Giants in 2004 , Sánchez quickly worked his way through the Giants ' minor league system . In 2006 , he was called up to the major leagues and was used mostly in a long relief role . In 2007 , he made the team out of spring training and was again used mostly in long relief , though he spent part of his season in the minors . In 2008 , he made the Giants ' starting rotation and remained in it for the entire year , except for a stint on the disabled list .

Sánchez began 2009 as a starter but was moved to the bullpen during the season . He was returned to the rotation on July 10 because of an injury to fellow starter Randy Johnson , however , and he threw a no @-@ hitter against the San Diego Padres that day . In 2010 , Sánchez struck out 200 batters for the first time and was a member of the Giants team that won the World Series . He was traded to the Kansas City Royals in 2012 , who traded him to the Colorado Rockies after he struggled in the first half of the season . He began 2013 with the Pittsburgh Pirates .

= = High school and college = =

Sánchez attended Blanca Malaret High School in Sabana Grande , Puerto Rico . After graduating in 2000 , Sánchez pitched for four seasons at Ohio Dominican University in Columbus , Ohio . While at the university , Sánchez threw four no @-@ hitters and set school records for most strikeouts in a single game (sixteen) , most strikeouts in a single season (105) , most strikeouts in a career (311) , and most shutouts in a career (ten) . However , his final collegiate appearance was arguably his worst , as he was saddled with the loss in the Panthers ' NAIA regional playoff defeat to Saint Vincent College , going five innings and allowing six runs on six hits .

= = Professional career = =

= = = Draft and minor leagues = = =

Sánchez was selected by the San Francisco Giants in the twenty @-@ seventh round (820th overall) of the 2004 MLB draft . In his first year of professional ball , he went 7 ? 1 with a 3 @. @ 72 ERA in fifteen games (nine were starts) with the Rookie league Arizona League Giants and the Single @-@ A (short @-@ season) Salem @-@ Keizer Volcanoes . While pitching in the Arizona League , he tied for third in the league in wins , with five .

Sánchez was promoted to the Single @-@ A Augusta GreenJackets of the South Atlantic League in 2005 . He went 5 ? 7 with a 4 @. @ 08 ERA in twenty @-@ five starts , but he led the South Atlantic League in strikeouts with 166 , averaged 11 @. @ 9 in nine innings pitched , and was selected to the league 's All @-@ star team . During the offseason , Sánchez pitched for the Carolina club of the Puerto Rican Professional Baseball League , posting a 2 ? 2 record with a 2 @. @ 91 ERA in 19 relief appearances .

Coming into 2006 , Sánchez was ranked as the sixth best prospect in the Giants ' organization by Baseball America . He began the 2006 season with the Double @-@ A Connecticut Defenders , where in thirteen appearances (three starts) he went 2 ? 1 with a 1 @. @ 15 ERA and forty @-@ six strikeouts .

= = = San Francisco Giants (2006 ? 2011) = = =

===== 2006 =====

Sánchez was called up to the Giants on May 26 , 2006 , as a reliever . He made his MLB debut two days later on May 28 against the Colorado Rockies . He pitched one inning in relief and retired all three batters he faced (Todd Helton , Matt Holliday , and Garrett Atkins) . His performance was overshadowed , however , because Barry Bonds hit his 715th home run in the same game to surpass Babe Ruth for second place on the all @-@ time home run list .

On June 4 , Sánchez picked up his first major league win . With the score tied at six in the eleventh inning against the New York Mets , Sánchez entered the game and pitched a scoreless inning . The Giants won the game 7 ? 6 in the twelfth on an RBI single by Pedro Feliz .

Sánchez posted a 2 ? 0 record with a 1 @.@ 37 ERA in twenty @-@ two games in his first stint with the team . On July 29 , the Giants sent him to their AAA affiliate , the Fresno Grizzlies , to improve his abilities as a starter . While at Fresno , he went 2 ? 2 with a 3 @.@ 80 ERA in six starts . With the expansion of the MLB rosters on September 1 , Sánchez was recalled from Fresno .

Sánchez won his first major league start on September 6 (in place of Noah Lowry , who was injured) , giving up one run in 5 ? innings pitched in a 3 ? 2 victory over the Cincinnati Reds . After that , Sánchez replaced Brad Hennessey in the rotation . However , Sánchez did not pitch well in his last four appearances of the season (one came in relief) , as he had an 11 @.@ 36 ERA in them .

===== 2007 =====

Entering the 2007 season , Sánchez was ranked as the second best prospect in the Giants ' organization (behind only Tim Lincecum) by Baseball America . Sánchez made the Giants ' roster out of spring training . He struggled in his first fourteen games , however , and was sent down to Fresno on May 21 when Russ Ortiz came off the disabled list . Sánchez returned to the majors on June 6 when , coincidentally , Ortiz got hurt again . On June 13 , he picked up his first major league hit (an RBI double) in a 7 ? 4 loss to the Toronto Blue Jays . On July 4 , he was placed on the disabled list with a strained rib cage , but he was reactivated on July 18 .

Sánchez was sent back to Fresno on August 11 to make room for Brian Wilson on the roster . He returned in September , and he replaced Lowry (who was injured) in the rotation . He made four starts , but he lost three of them and had a 7 @.@ 16 ERA in all four of them . After straining his left oblique muscle in his fourth start , he was shut down for the rest of the season and replaced in the rotation by Travis Blackley . He finished the year 1 ? 5 with a 5 @.@ 88 ERA in thirty @-@ three games (four starts) .

===== 2008 =====

In 2008 , Sánchez made the Giants ' starting rotation out of spring training as the fifth starter . In only his second start of the season , he struck out a career high ten batters against the San Diego Padres in a game the Giants eventually won 1 ? 0 . Sánchez struck out ten batters again in a 3 ? 1 victory against the Cincinnati Reds on April 25 , becoming the first Giants left @-@ handed pitcher since Shawn Estes to strike out at least ten batters in a game more than once in a season . From May 28 through June 12 , Sánchez won a career best four straight starts . On June 12 , in a 10 ? 7 victory over the Colorado Rockies , he became the first Giants ' starter to allow seven runs and win a game since Russ Ortiz did it in 2000 . In his next start , on June 17 against the Detroit Tigers , Sánchez took a no @-@ hitter into the sixth inning , but he was ultimately the losing pitcher in a 5 ? 1 loss . Sánchez finished the first half with an 8 ? 5 record and 115 strikeouts , which were the most ever in the first half of a season by a Giants ' left @-@ hander during the Giants ' tenure in San Francisco .

The second half did not go well for Sánchez . He lost five straight decisions starting on July 9 before getting placed on the disabled list on August 16 . In his last start before going on the disabled list , he no @-@ hit the Houston Astros through five innings . However , he was the losing pitcher in a 3 ? 1 loss . Sánchez returned on September 1 , but lost his sixth straight game as the Colorado

Rockies prevailed by a score of 4 ? 0 . He finally ended his losing streak on September 12 , when he was the winning pitcher in a 5 ? 2 win over the San Diego Padres . Sánchez did not win another game all year , though , and he finished the second half of the season with a 1 ? 7 record . Sánchez still finished with a 9 ? 12 record , and he struck out 157 batters in 158 innings .

= = = = 2009 = = = =

Sánchez was again the fifth starter in the Giants ' rotation in 2009 . The season did not start well for him , though , as he had a 2 ? 8 record in the first part of the year . On June 28 , Ryan Sadowski replaced him in the rotation .

Sánchez did not stay in the bullpen very long though . After Randy Johnson strained his shoulder , Sánchez was chosen to start against the San Diego Padres on July 10 . In that game , Sánchez not only threw the first complete game and the first shutout of his career ; he threw a no @-@ hitter , becoming the first Giants ' pitcher to do so since John Montefusco no @-@ hit the Atlanta Braves in 1976 . In the process , Sánchez struck out a new career high of eleven batters . Sánchez had a perfect game going into the eighth inning , but an error by Juan Uribe allowed the only baserunner of the night . Sánchez almost lost the no @-@ hitter during the ninth inning when Edgar Gonzalez hit a ball deep to centerfield . However , Aaron Rowand made a spectacular catch , and Sánchez got his no @-@ hitter . Sánchez 's no @-@ hitter was also special because his father Sigfredo , who had never seen his son start a major league game , was in attendance .

The no @-@ hitter proved to be a turning point in Sánchez 's season , as he went 6 ? 4 the rest of the way to finish with an 8 ? 12 record . He remained in the rotation for the entire time . Sánchez also struck out 177 batters in 163 @.@ 1 innings for a 9 @.@ 75 average per nine innings . This was good for fourth in the National League , behind only Tim Lincecum , Yovani Gallardo , and Javier Vázquez .

= = = = 2010 = = = =

Sánchez was arbitration eligible to begin 2010 , but he avoided arbitration by signing a one @-@ year contract with the Giants . He was named the fourth starter out of spring training this time . Sánchez began started strong in 2010 , as he was 7 ? 6 by the All @-@ Star break . Because of injuries to the Giants ' left @-@ handed relief pitchers , Sánchez made his only relief appearance of the year on July 30 in a 6 ? 5 win over the Los Angeles Dodgers . On August 3 , Sánchez tied Juan Marichal 's record when he struck out seven straight batters in a 10 ? 0 win over the Colorado Rockies . Two months later , on the last day of the season , Sánchez started against the San Diego Padres . Sánchez pitched five shutout innings , scored the first run after hitting a triple in the third inning , and was the winning pitcher in a 3 ? 0 win . The win sent the Giants to the playoffs for the first time since 2003 .

In Game three of the 2010 NLDS against the Atlanta Braves , Sánchez struck out eleven batters in a game the Giants won 3 ? 2 . Sánchez gave up three runs over six innings in Game two of the 2010 NLCS , but he was the losing pitcher in a 6 ? 1 loss . Sánchez also started Game six . He only lasted two innings , giving up two runs and getting pulled from the game after an argument with Chase Utley . However , the Giants won the game 3 ? 2 and returned to the World Series . Sánchez 's only World Series game was unsuccessful , as he gave up all four runs in 4 @.@ 2 innings in the Giants ' 4 ? 2 loss to the Texas Rangers in Game three . However , the Giants ultimately won the World Series for the first time in fifty @-@ six years .

Sánchez was arbitration @-@ eligible following the season , but the Giants avoided arbitration with him by signing him to a one @-@ year contract .

= = = = 2011 = = = =

Sánchez started the season 2nd in the Giants ' rotation , as to split the righties Lincecum and Cain , as well as to split the lefties Sánchez , Zito , and Bumgarner . He did not fare well early in the

season , and was placed on the DL shortly before Barry Zito was activated in June . When Sánchez returned from the DL , he was still experiencing the control problems that had plagued him before he was injured . Sánchez sprained his foot in August while on the road in Atlanta , and remained on the DL until the end of the season , ending with a line of 4 ? 7 W / L ; 4 @.@ 26 ERA ; 101 @.@ 1 IP ; 102 Ks ; 66 BBs ; .220 Opp AVG ; and a WHIP of 1 @.@ 44 .

= = = Kansas City Royals (2012) = = =

On November 7 , 2011 , Sánchez was traded to the Kansas City Royals with prospect Ryan Verdugo for outfielder Melky Cabrera . He struggled with the Royals , pitching to a 1 @.@ 6 record and 7 @.@ 76 ERA in 53 1 ? 3 innings , while allowing 65 hits , including eight home runs , and 44 walks . After allowing seven runs on seven hits and one walk in 1 1 ? 3 innings in a start against the Seattle Mariners , the Royals designated Sánchez for assignment on July 17 , 2012 .

= = = Colorado Rockies (2012) = = =

The Royals traded Sánchez to the Colorado Rockies for Jeremy Guthrie on July 20 . He only made 3 starts for the Rockies and was 0 @.@ 3 with a 9 @.@ 53 ERA .

= = = Pittsburgh Pirates (2013) = = =

The Pirates signed Sánchez to a minor @.@ league deal on February 6 , 2013 . The deal included an invitation to spring training . Sanchez made the team and was in the starting rotation to begin the season . On April 26 , 2013 , he was ejected for the first time in his MLB career by umpire Tim Timmons after intentionally pitching at St. Louis Cardinals batter Allen Craig following back @.@ to @.@ back home runs by Matt Carpenter and Carlos Beltrán and a single by Matt Holliday . After posting an 11 @.@ 85 ERA with the Pirates , he was designated for assignment on April 30 , and was later released on May 8 .

= = = Los Angeles Dodgers = = =

On May 13 , 2013 , Sánchez signed a minor league contract with the Los Angeles Dodgers . After spending a month at the Dodgers extended spring training location in Arizona , Sánchez joined the AAA Albuquerque Isotopes on June 24 . He made 14 starts and was 7 @.@ 3 with a 5 @.@ 13 ERA .

= = = Chicago Cubs = = =

On December 18 , 2013 , Sánchez signed a minor league deal with the Chicago Cubs . He was released on July 2 , 2014 .

= = = Cincinnati Reds = = =

On January 29 , 2016 , Sánchez signed a minor league deal with the Cincinnati Reds . He was released on March 18 .

= = International play = =

Sánchez was chosen to pitch for Puerto Rico in the 2009 World Baseball Classic . He made two starts in the Classic . He won the first one on March 11 by pitching four scoreless innings in a 5 ? 0 victory over the Netherlands . Although he only pitched 22 ? 3 innings and gave up three runs in his next start against the United States , he was in line for the win going into the ninth inning . However , J. C. Romero and Fernando Cabrera blew the lead , and the United States knocked Puerto Rico out

of the Classic with a 6 ? 5 victory .

= = Pitch repertoire = =

Sánchez throws a fastball that travels about ninety @-@ one mph for his main pitch , though it sometimes can go up to ninety @-@ five mph . His other pitches (slurve and change @-@ up) travel in the low eighties . Wildness has been a problem for Sánchez ; he has walked 10 % ? 15 % of major @-@ league batters faced each season . However , he also strikes out a lot of batters ; he struck out two hundred for the first time in his career in 2010 . That year , he led all qualifying MLB starting pitchers in limiting hits per innings pitched (6 @.@ 61 H / 9) , and his career swinging @-@ strike percentage is among the best in the majors .