

= Mike Jackson (right @-@ handed pitcher) =

Michael Ray " Mike " Jackson (born December 22 , 1964) is a former professional baseball player whose career spanned 19 seasons , 16 of which were spent in Major League Baseball (MLB) . Jackson , a relief pitcher for the majority of his career , compiled a career earned run average (ERA) of 3 @. @ 42 , allowing 451 earned runs off of 983 hits , 127 home runs , and 464 walks while recording 1 @, @ 006 strikeouts over 1 @, @ 005 games pitched .

Standing 6 feet 1 inch (185 cm) and weighing 185 pounds (84 kg) , he made his professional debut in 1984 for the minor @-@ league Spartanburg Suns , an affiliate of the Philadelphia Phillies . After battling arm injuries in the early 1990s , Jackson reestablished himself as a top relief pitcher for the Reds in 1995 and went on to pitch in the 1997 World Series for the Indians . After one @-@ year stints with the Astros , Twins , and White Sox , Jackson retired from baseball in 2005 .

= = Early life = =

Jackson was born on December 22 , 1964 , in Houston , Texas . He attended high school at Forest Brook , and later attended college at Hill College in Texas .

= = Career = =

= = = Philadelphia Phillies (1984 ? 1987) = = =

Jackson entered the Major League Baseball Draft in 1983 , where he was selected by the Philadelphia Phillies in the 29th round . He did not sign with the Phillies , and reentered the draft in 1984 where was again drafted by the Phillies in the second round of the January Secondary amateur draft . Jackson signed a \$ 60 @, @ 000 contract with the club on April 27 , 1984 .

Jackson began playing minor league baseball for the single @-@ A Spartanburg Suns , a minor league affiliate of the Phillies , in 1984 . Over 80 @. @ 2 innings pitched , Jackson recorded an earned run average (ERA) of 2 @. @ 68 , third best on his team . While batting , he recorded the best batting average and slugging percentage on the team , hitting .368 and slugging .526 .

Jackson continued his minor league career in 1985 , playing for the Peninsula Pilots of the Carolina League . Unlike the previous year where he started all 14 games he pitched , Jackson roughly split the 1985 season between starting games and serving as a reliever , starting 18 games but pitching in 31 . For the season , Jackson led the Pilots in losses , with nine , while allowing the most hits , runs , and earned runs among team members .

In 1986 , he played in three different leagues : Double @-@ A , Triple @-@ A , and in the Major Leagues . In Double @-@ A , Jackson played for the Reading Phillies , recording a 1 @. @ 66 ERA over 43 @. @ 1 innings pitched . He played Triple @-@ A ball for the Portland Beavers before making his major league debut for the Philadelphia Phillies on August 11 , 1986 . For his debut , Jackson pitched a perfect inning in relief of Dan Schatzeder in a game against the New York Mets . Jackson finished the 1986 Major League season with a 3 @. @ 38 ERA , allowing five runs off of 12 hits and becoming the seventh youngest player in the National League that year .

Jackson played almost the entire 1987 season for the Philadelphia Phillies , also making two starts for the Maine Guides . During the season , he compiled a 4 @. @ 20 ERA with three wins and 10 losses . After the season , on December 9 , 1987 , Jackson was traded , along with Glenn Wilson and Dave Brundage , to the Seattle Mariners . In exchange , the Phillies received pitcher Tim Lincecum , who never made a professional appearance for the Phillies , and an outfielder , Phil Bradley . Author Rich Westcott would later call Jackson " a good one who got away " in reference to the Phillies trade .

= = = Seattle Mariners (1988 ? 1991) = = =

From 1988 to 1991 , Jackson played for the Seattle Mariners . In 1988 and 1989 , Jackson finished in the top ten in the American League for most games pitched , with 62 and 65 , respectively , while recording a 2 @. @ 90 ERA over 198 @. @ 2 innings pitched for the two seasons . In 1991 , while facing the Kansas City Royals , he allowed Stu Cole 's only Major League hit while pitching in the bottom of the 13th inning .

After spending four seasons with the Mariners , Jackson was traded , along with Bill Swift and Dave Burba , to the San Francisco Giants . The Mariners , in return for Swift , Burba , and Jackson , acquired outfielder Kevin Mitchell and pitcher Mike Remlinger . This trade received criticism , being called " possibly the worst trade in [Mariners] history . "

= = = San Francisco Giants (1992 ? 1994) = = =

Jackson , now with a salary of \$ 1 @, @ 666 @, @ 667 , made his debut for the Giants on April 7 , 1992 , in a game against the Los Angeles Dodgers . Jackson allowed one walk in one inning pitched , while finishing the 1992 season with a 3 @. @ 73 ERA , 80 strikeouts , and one save . He led his team in games pitched , with 67 , the second highest total in his Giants career .

In 1993 he led the Major Leagues in games pitched , with 81 , while also leading the Majors in holds , with 33 . The 1994 MLB season was Shortened to 115 games for the Giants ; however , over 36 games pitched , Jackson led National League relievers in ERA (1 @. @ 49) , opponents average (.164) , and hits per 9 @. @ 0 innings pitched (4 @. @ 9) while finishing second in strikeouts per 9 @. @ 0 innings pitched (10 @. @ 84) . The already shortened season was again shortened for Jackson due to tendinitis in his right elbow . This led to two stints on the disabled list : one from June 17 until July 2 , and another from July 6 until the end of the season . On October 17 , 1994 , Jackson was granted free agency .

= = = Cincinnati Reds (1995) = = =

Jackson signed with the Cincinnati Reds on April 8 , 1995 . Again he struggled with injury , and was placed on the disabled list once for tendinitis in his right shoulder and once for a strained rib cage muscle . In his only year with the club , Jackson posted a team @- @ best 2 @. @ 39 ERA , while recording 41 strikeouts over 40 games . Jackson and the Reds made the playoffs , winning the National League Divisional Series but losing the National League Championship Series to the Atlanta Braves in four games . Jackson was granted free agency on November 3 , 1995 .

= = = Seattle Mariners (1996) = = =

In 1996 , Jackson signed a \$ 1 @, @ 200 @, @ 000 contract , which included a \$ 400 @, @ 000 earned bonus , with the Seattle Mariners . Jackson averaged nearly nine strikeouts per 9 @. @ 0 innings pitched (70 strikeouts / 72 @. @ 0 innings pitched) . After the season , Baseball Digest called Jackson " a competent and underappreciated setup man " . The Mariners did not resign Jackson , on the grounds that Jackson 's new contract would be too expensive .

= = = Cleveland Indians (1997 ? 1999) = = =

In 1997 , Jackson signed a three year , six million dollar contract with the Cleveland Indians . Jackson served as the primary setup man to closer José Mesa for the first half of the season , but took over the closer position while Mesa answered to charges of rape . Finishing the year with an 86 ? 75 record , the Indians finished first in the American League Central and made the playoffs . After winning against the New York Yankees in the American League Divisional Series (ALDS) and the Baltimore Orioles in the American League Championship Series (ALCS) , the Indians played in the World Series against the Florida Marlins . In the World Series , Jackson recorded an ERA of 1 @. @ 93 over four games pitched , although the Indians lost the World Series , four games to three .

After the Indians traded Mesa to the Giants in July 1998 , Jackson became the Indians primary

closer , recording 40 saves over 64 @. @ 0 innings pitched and leading the team in games finished , saves , and games pitched . The Indians again made the postseason , but were eliminated by the New York Yankees in the ALCS .

Jackson finished the 1999 season with Cleveland , ranking fourth in the American League in saves , with 39 . Jackson recorded his 100th career save against the Minnesota Twins on April 11 , and made his 800th career appearance on July 3 against the Kansas City Royals before he was granted free agency on October 28 of that year .

= = = 2000 onward = = =

Jackson signed with the Phillies in 2000 but did not pitch due to discomfort in his right shoulder the first time Jackson warmed up to pitch in a game for Philadelphia . On May 26 , Jackson had season @-@ ending arthroscopic surgery to repair a SLAP tear in his right shoulder .

Jackson signed with the Houston Astros the next year . The Astros , National League Central champions , earned a spot in the playoffs , but were eliminated by the Atlanta Braves in the Divisional series . After his season with the Astros , in 2002 , Jackson signed as a non @-@ roster invitee with the Minnesota Twins , helping them to finish 94 ? 67 and leading them to a playoff appearance , where he recorded a 27 @. @ 00 ERA over three games pitched in the American League Championship Series (ALCS) . The Twins lost the ALCS in five games . Jackson was granted free agency later that year .

On January 29 , 2003 , Jackson signed for the Arizona Diamondbacks , but did not play a major league or minor league game for the franchise . The Diamondbacks released Jackson on March 29 , 2003 , before the season began . Jackson later stated :

I know it 's a numbers game and nothing I could control , but I was disappointed that I had to sit at home [for the 2003 season] . If teams want to base their decision about me on spring training as opposed to what I ? ve accomplished over the years , then I don ? t know what to say .

In his last professional season , Jackson signed as a non @-@ roster invitee with the Chicago White Sox . For the season , Jackson recorded an ERA of 5 @. @ 01 , allowing 31 runs over 46 @. @ 2 innings pitched . The White Sox released Jackson on September 2 , 2004 .

= = Personal life = =

Jackson is married to Tammy Jackson and has four children : Lindsey , Ryan , Amber and Michael .