

= Ramón Ramírez ( Venezuelan pitcher ) =

Ramón A. Ramírez ( born September 16 , 1982 in Cagua , Venezuela ) is a Venezuelan pitcher . He stands 6 feet ( 1 @. @ 8 m ) tall and weighs 190 pounds ( 86 kg ) . Previously , he has pitched for the Cincinnati Reds . He bats and throws right @-@ handed . He throws three pitches : a fastball , a slider , and a changeup .

Ramírez was signed by the San Diego Padres in 2000 as an outfielder , but he was released in 2001 . The Reds signed him in 2003 as a pitcher , and he reached the major leagues in 2008 , when he made four starts for the Reds . The next year , he appeared in 11 games in relief for the Reds . After the season , the Tampa Bay Rays claimed him off waivers , but they released him . The Boston Red Sox claimed him off waivers , and he spent 2010 in the minor leagues for them . He signed with the Doosan Bears of the Korea Baseball Organization in 2011 , but he was released before appearing in a game with them .

= = Professional career = =

= = = San Diego Padres = = =

On March 27 , 2000 , Ramírez was signed by the San Diego Padres as an outfielder . He was released by the Padres on June 12 , 2001 .

= = = Cincinnati Reds = = =

= = = = 2004 ? 2007 = = = =

On May 12 , 2003 , Ramírez was signed by the Cincinnati Reds , this time as a pitcher . In 2004 , he pitched for the Billings Mustangs of the Pioneer League , a rookie league . In 17 games ( 12 starts ) , he had three wins and six losses , which was tied for fourth in the league . However , he was 10th in the league in strikeouts ( 60 ) , third in innings pitched ( 74 1 ? 3 ) , and second in earned run average ( 3 @. @ 39 , behind only Samuel Deduno 's 3 @. @ 18 ERA ) .

In 2005 , Ramírez pitched for the Dayton Dragons of the single @-@ A Midwest League . He had a 5 ? 7 record , a 4 @. @ 50 ERA , 114 innings pitched , and 90 strikeouts in 30 games ( 19 starts ) .

Ramírez pitched for the Sarasota Reds of the single @-@ A advanced Florida State League in 2006 . He had a 4 ? 5 record , a 4 @. @ 29 ERA , 53 strikeouts , 65 innings pitched , and one complete game in 15 games ( 11 starts ) .

In 2007 , Ramírez began the year with Sarasota again . He had a 5 ? 2 record , a 4 @. @ 05 ERA , 73 1 ? 3 innings pitched , and 86 strikeouts in 15 games ( 12 starts ) ; and he was promoted to the Chattanooga Lookouts of the double @-@ A Southern League on June 22 . At Chattanooga , used exclusively as a relief pitcher , he had a 5 ? 1 record , a 4 @. @ 60 ERA , 31 1 ? 3 innings pitched , and 35 strikeouts in 16 games . On August 18 , he was promoted to the Louisville Bats of the triple @-@ A International League to replace Elizardo Ramírez , who was called up to the Reds . With Louisville , Ramón Ramírez had a 1 ? 0 record , an 0 @. @ 00 ERA , 14 2 ? 3 innings pitched , and 16 strikeouts in five games ( two starts ) . In the minor leagues that year , he had 11 wins ( tied for fourth in the Reds ' system ) , 3 losses , a 3 @. @ 70 ERA ( ninth ) , 119 1 ? 3 innings pitched , and 137 strikeouts ( second ) in 36 games ( 14 starts ) . The Cincinnati Reds added him to their 40 @-@ man roster on November 20 .

= = = = 2008 = = = =

Ramírez attended Reds ' spring training in 2008 but was optioned to the minors on March 10 after having an 11 @. @ 57 ERA in three games . He began the season with Chattanooga . After he had

a 2 ? 3 record , a 4 @.@ 70 ERA , 46 innings pitched , and 52 strikeouts in 11 games ( nine starts ) , he was promoted to Louisville on May 23 . At Louisville , he had a 4 ? 5 record , a 3 @.@ 08 ERA , 99 1 ? 3 innings pitched , and 93 strikeouts in 19 games ( 15 starts ) . On August 30 , he was called up to the Reds make a start that day in place of the injured Johnny Cueto . He gave up three runs over seven innings while striking out six , but he received a no decision in a 7 ? 6 victory over the San Francisco Giants . He was optioned to Sarasota the next day to make room for Wilkin Castillo on the roster but was recalled on September 2 . On September 4 , he threw three perfect innings in relief of an injured Josh Fogg in an 8 ? 6 victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates . Afterwards , he made three more starts for the Reds . He got his first career decision ( a win ) on September 19 when he gave up two runs and struck out five batters in six innings as the Reds defeated the Milwaukee Brewers , 11 ? 2 . He got his only other decision of the year on September 24 , when he gave up two runs in five innings in a 5 ? 0 loss to the Houston Astros . Ramírez finished the year 1 ? 1 , with a 2 @.@ 67 ERA , 21 strikeouts , and 27 innings pitched in 5 games ( 4 starts ) . In the minors , he had a 6 ? 8 record , a 3 @.@ 59 ERA , 145 strikeouts , and 145 1 ? 3 innings pitched in 30 games ( 24 starts ) .

== = 2009 == = =

Ramírez was expected to compete for a spot in the Reds ' starting rotation in 2009 ; however , because he missed much of spring training at the World Baseball Classic , he began the year with Louisville . On May 19 , he was called up from Louisville to replace the injured Nick Masset in the bullpen . After appearing in one game , he was optioned back to Louisville on May 22 to make room for Carlos Fisher on the roster . He remained in Louisville until August 31 , when he was recalled between games of a doubleheader . After giving up 4 runs in his first 3 games of the season , Ramírez gave up 1 run in his last 8 games . Used exclusively out of the bullpen , he finished the year with an 0 ? 0 record , a 3 @.@ 65 ERA , eight strikeouts , and 12 1 ? 3 innings pitched in 11 games . At Louisville , he had a 6 ? 7 record , a 4 @.@ 03 ERA , 78 strikeouts , and 127 1 ? 3 innings pitched in 31 games ( 20 starts ) .

== = Tampa Bay Rays / Boston Red Sox == =

On November 9 , the Tampa Bay Rays claimed Ramírez off waivers , but they released him on December 3 . On December 9 , the Boston Red Sox claimed him off waivers . He spent the 2010 season with the Pawtucket Red Sox of the International League , where he had a 5 ? 5 record , a 4 @.@ 92 ERA , one complete game , 97 innings pitched , and 80 strikeouts in 28 games ( 13 starts ) . On November 6 , he became a free agent .

== = Doosan Bears == =

In 2011 , Ramírez signed with the Doosan Bears of the Korea Baseball Organization . However , he was released before playing a regular season game after he struggled in the preseason .

== International play ==

In 2009 , Ramírez represented Venezuela in the World Baseball Classic , deciding to play in the tournament at the last minute . On March 10 , he gave up one run in three innings of relief as Venezuela defeated Italy 10 ? 1 to advance to the second round of the Classic . He pitched a scoreless 2 ? 3 of an inning on March 16 as Venezuela defeated Puerto Rico 2 ? 0 . In his final game of the Classic ( on March 18 ) , Ramírez gave up two runs in 1 2 ? 3 innings , but Venezuela defeated the United States 10 ? 6 to advance to the semifinals .

== Pitching style ==

Ramírez throws three pitches : a fastball , a slider , and a changeup . Rays ' general manager Andrew Friedman described the fastball as " average " , the slider as " pretty good " , and the changeup as " above @-@ average . "