

= Paul Shuey =

Paul Kenneth Shuey ( born September 16 , 1970 ) is an American former professional baseball player . Primarily a relief pitcher , Shuey pitched in Major League Baseball ( MLB ) for the Cleveland Indians ( 1994 ? 2002 ) , Los Angeles Dodgers ( 2002 ? 2003 ) and Baltimore Orioles ( 2007 ) .

Shuey was honored as an All @-@ American as a college baseball pitcher for the North Carolina Tar Heels baseball team . The Indians selected Shuey with the second overall selection of the 1992 MLB draft . Envisioned as a comparable pitcher to Cincinnati Reds closer Rob Dibble , Shuey had more success as a setup reliever than closer .

Injuries sidelined Shuey throughout his career , preventing him from becoming a closer . When healthy , he enjoyed success with the Indians as a setup pitcher . He was traded to the Dodgers in 2002 to be their set up man while contending for a playoff spot . He pitched well until a hip injury initially suffered in 1999 forced Shuey to retire in 2004 . After an experimental medical procedure , Shuey returned to baseball briefly in 2007 with the Orioles . He retired after that season , and took up a professional career in bass fishing , competing in what he considers " Double @-@ A " -level tournaments .

= = Early life = =

A native of Lima , Ohio , Shuey 's family moved to North Carolina when he was ten years old . Shuey 's father taught him how to pitch . He played American Legion and Babe Ruth League baseball with Everett Lindsay .

Shuey attended Millbrook High School in Raleigh , North Carolina . With Millbrook , Shuey was a starting pitcher and right fielder . While pitching for the baseball team at Millbrook , Shuey threw a no @-@ hitter against Garner High School . He was named to North Carolina 's All @-@ Triangle and All @-@ State teams .

= = College career = =

Shuey enrolled at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill ( UNC ) , where he played college baseball for the North Carolina Tar Heels baseball team in the Atlantic Coast Conference ( ACC ) of NCAA Division I. He served as the team 's closer . At UNC , Shuey was named a freshman All @-@ American and All @-@ ACC pitcher for the Tar Heels in 1990 , as he had an 8 @-@ 1 win ? loss record and eight saves . He led the team with 31 appearances , and the Tar Heels were the ACC regular season and tournament champions .

Though he suffered a patellar tendon rupture in 1991 , Shuey led the Tar Heels with a 1 @. @ 70 earned run average ( ERA ) that season . That summer , Shuey pitched for the United States national baseball team in the Pan American Games . He led the team with a 3 @. @ 13 ERA and 87 strikeouts in the 1992 season , in 69 innings pitched . Shuey and Chad Holbrook won the team 's S.H. Basnight Award as the team 's most valuable players . Through 2001 , Shuey 's career winning percentage ( .818 ) ranked fourth all time in UNC history . He was a letterman in all three seasons at UNC .

= = Professional career = =

= = = Cleveland Indians = = =

The Indians selected Shuey with their first round draft pick , the second overall selection , in the 1992 Major League Baseball draft . The Indians envisioned that Shuey could develop into a closer similar to Rob Dibble of the Cincinnati Reds . Shuey made his professional debut with the Columbus Red Stixx of the Class @-@ A South Atlantic League in 1992 .

Heading into the 1993 season , Baseball America ranked Shuey as the 81st best prospect in

baseball . He pitched for the Kinston Indians of the Class @-@ A Carolina League in 1993 , going 1 ? 0 with a 4 @.@ 84 ERA in 15 appearances , and was promoted to the Canton ? Akron Indians of the Class @-@ AA Eastern League that season . He opened the 1994 season with Kinston , where he went 1 ? 0 with a 3 @.@ 75 ERA and eight saves in 13 appearances .

The deaths of Indians ' relief pitchers Steve Olin and Tim Crews in a boating accident heightened the Indians ' need to develop Shuey . Shuey was promoted from Kinston to the major leagues during the 1994 season , becoming the first player promoted from Class @-@ A to the majors since Greg Swindell during the 1986 season . He made his MLB debut on May 8 , 1994 . On May 14 , Shuey became the tenth American League pitcher to strike out four batters in an inning . He also pitched for the Charlotte Knights of the Class @-@ AAA International League that season . Baseball America ranked Shuey as the 67th best prospect in baseball heading into the 1995 season .

Shuey struggled with the Indians , with an 0 ? 3 win ? loss record , five saves , and 7 @.@ 00 ERA in 21 appearances in 1994 and 1995 . He also pitched for the Buffalo Bisons of the International League in 1995 , and spent time on the disabled list with an injured hamstring . He also pitched for the Senadores de San Juan of the Puerto Rico Baseball League that winter to gain more experience .

After starting the 1996 season with Buffalo , Shuey was promoted to the Indians , where he pitched to a 5 ? 2 record with a 2 @.@ 85 ERA . He pitched in the postseason for the Indians , appearing in three games in the 1996 American League Division Series , which the Indians lost to the Baltimore Orioles . Shuey received a three @-@ year contract from the Indians at the start of the 1997 season , worth \$ 3 @,@ 203 @,@ 000 guaranteed . An option year and performance bonuses made the maximum value of the contract \$ 11 @,@ 603 @,@ 000 over four seasons .

With José Mesa and Mike Jackson serving as closers for the Indians , Shuey pitched in middle relief . He spent time on the disabled list in the 1997 season on three separate occasions . In 1998 , he led all American League relief pitchers with a .132 ( 7 ? for ? 53 ) batting average against when the opposition had baserunners in scoring position . His strong performances while healthy gave the Indians hope that Shuey could become their closer in due time . Shuey appeared in four postseasons for the Indians , including in 1998 , when he pitched 6 1 ? 3 scoreless innings for the Indians in the 1998 American League Championship Series .

In 1999 , while pitching on a wet mound in Cleveland , Shuey injured his right hip . Over the next several seasons , he had multiple surgeries on his hip , including repairing a torn labrum and removing bone spurs . He finished the 1999 season with an 8 ? 5 record , a 3 @.@ 53 ERA , and six saves . His eight wins tied for the most among Cleveland 's relief pitchers . In 2000 , new Indians ' manager Charlie Manuel indicated the Indians would attempt to shift Shuey into the closer role . When Shuey spent time on the disabled list , Steve Karsay served as the Indians ' closer . He again spent time on the disabled list in 2001 with a strained elbow ligament .

= = = Los Angeles Dodgers = = =

As the 2002 trade deadline approached , teams interested in acquiring Shuey began to inquire on his availability . On July 28 , 2002 , before the trade deadline , Shuey was traded to the Los Angeles Dodgers for Terry Mulholland and minor leaguers Ricardo Rodríguez and Francisco Crúgeta . With the Dodgers in the playoff chase that season , they hoped to pair him with closer Éric Gagné to form a strong bullpen for the later portions of games .

Though Shuey struggled upon joining the Dodgers , recording a 9 @.@ 35 ERA in his first eleven appearances after the trade , he altered his approach and began to obtain better results , allowing no runs in his next five appearances . Shuey played for the Dodgers through the end of the 2003 season . During spring training prior to the 2004 season , he tore a ligament in his thumb and reinjured his hip while fielding a bunt during his rehabilitation . Shuey spent the entire season on the disabled list . The Dodgers sued the Hartford Life Insurance Company , who insured Shuey 's contract , over Shuey 's \$ 3 @.@ 25 million salary for the 2004 season , saying the insurance company did not honor their claim .

= = = Later career = = =

A free agent after the 2004 season , Shuey signed a minor league contract with the Indians to attempt a comeback in the 2005 season . After pitching two innings for the Class @-@ AA Akron Aeros , he retired due to pain in his right hip .

Shuey sat out the whole 2006 season , as he received a hip replacement . The procedure , which involved installing a metal hip , was performed in Montreal , as it was not approved in the United States . On February 2 , 2007 , he signed a minor league contract with the Orioles that included an invitation to spring training . He suffered an injury and did not make the cut , and was sent to the minor leagues . He made one appearance for the Class @-@ AA Bowie Baysox , and then joined the Norfolk Tides , the Orioles ' Class @-@ AAA affiliate . His contract was then purchased on June 19 , 2007 , and he appeared in that night 's game against the San Diego Padres .

Though his fastball was able to reach 95 miles per hour ( 153 km / h ) earlier in his career , Shuey 's fastball had difficulty reaching 90 miles per hour ( 140 km / h ) due to his metal hip . On July 1 , 2007 , he recorded his first save since 2002 , in a game against the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim . He finished the 2002 season with a 9 @. @ 82 ERA in 22 games . In his penultimate appearance , in the first game of an August 22 doubleheader , he surrendered the last nine runs in a 30 ? 3 defeat to the Texas Rangers , an American League record for most runs scored by a single team . As his fastball increased in velocity , Shuey injured his back . The Orioles gave Shuey his outright release on September 5 .

= = Personal = =

Shuey was inducted into the Kinston Professional Baseball Hall of Fame in 2011 and the Millbrook High School Hall of Fame in 2012 .

Shuey lives with his family , including his wife Julie and three daughters ; Morgan ( born 1997 ) , Casey ( born 1998 ) , and Kate ( born 2006 ) . in Wake Forest , North Carolina . He spends his time as a father , pitching coach , and bass fishing . He overcame posttraumatic stress disorder , which resulted from a car accident in 1996 .

Shuey competes in local bass fishing tournaments . He is hoping to compete in the Bassmaster Elite Series of the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society . Now Shuey is a successful coach of Barton College 's women soccer team alongside Head Coach Chris Shaw .