

= Andrés Torres =

Andrés Yungo Torres Feliciano , Jr . , (born January 26 , 1978) is an American former professional baseball center fielder . He stands 5 feet 10 inches (1 @. @ 78 m) tall and weighs 195 pounds (88 kg) and is a switch @- @ hitter . Torres played in Major League Baseball (MLB) for the Detroit Tigers , Texas Rangers , New York Mets and San Francisco Giants .

Born in New Jersey , Torres grew up in Puerto Rico before returning to the United States to attend Miami @- @ Dade Community College . He was a track star at Miami @- @ Dade and did not begin playing baseball until later . In 1998 , he was drafted by the Detroit Tigers in the fourth round of the 1998 Major League Baseball draft . Torres played in their minor leagues until 2002 , when he made his major league debut . In 2003 , he got a chance to be the everyday center fielder for the Tigers , but after 23 games they chose to replace him . He played only three games for them in 2004 before he was outrighted to the minors and released upon request . In 2005 , Torres resurfaced with the Texas Rangers but only appeared in eight games . He spent the next three years in the minor leagues .

Torres returned to the majors in 2009 , as a reserve outfielder for the San Francisco Giants . In 2010 , he became their everyday center fielder and leadoff hitter , winning the Willie Mac Award and helping the team win its first World Series since 1954 . After the 2011 season (in which Torres battled injuries and lost playing time in September) , he was traded to the New York Mets . He spent one season with the Mets , starting in center field for the most part except for a stretch in which he platooned with Kirk Nieuwenhuis , before re @- @ signing with the Giants in 2013 . He was used in a platoon split with Gregor Blanco in 2013 before suffering a season @- @ ending Achilles injury in August . After going unsigned to begin 2014 , Torres signed a minor league deal with the Boston Red Sox in June , but opted out of his contract in late July after not getting called up .

= = Early life = =

Torres was born in Paterson , New Jersey , and moved to Aguada , Puerto Rico with his family when he was one year old . He played very little baseball as a child in Puerto Rico , and did not become serious about becoming a professional baseball player until he was 18 . He attended Dr. Carlos Gonzalez High School and Miami @- @ Dade Community College . At Miami @- @ Dade , he was a track and field star , running the 100 meters in 10 @. @ 37 seconds . In 1997 , the Florida Marlins drafted him in the 23rd round of the Major League Baseball Draft , but he chose not to sign . He was then drafted by the Detroit Tigers in the fourth round of the 1998 Major League Baseball draft , and that time he signed .

= = Career = =

= = = Detroit Tigers (2002 ? 2004) = = =

Torres failed to bat higher than .236 his first two years in the minors , but he did steal several bases . However , in 2000 , while playing for the Single @- @ A advanced Lakeland Tigers of the Florida State League , Torres posted what was arguably the best minor league season in his career . With Lakeland , he batted .296 while leading the league with 65 stolen bases . During that season , he was promoted to the Double @- @ A Jacksonville Suns of the Southern League for a short period of time ; however , he struggled with Jacksonville , batting just .148 . Detroit switched their Double @- @ A affiliate to the Erie SeaWolves of the Eastern League in 2001 ; Torres spent the season with them but was limited to 64 games because of shoulder surgery . He batted .294 with 74 hits and 19 stolen bases .

= = = = 2002 = = = =

Torres was considered Detroit 's " leadoff hitter of the future " in 2002 , according to Jason Beck of MLB.com. He began the season with the Triple @-@ A Toledo Mud Hens of the International League but was soon called up by the Detroit Tigers on April 7 . He made his major league debut that same day and notched his first hit , a triple against CC Sabathia in a 5 ? 1 loss to the Cleveland Indians . He batted .211 and was sent back to Toledo on April 26 after he had no hits in 12 at bats during a series against the Kansas City Royals . In 115 games for Toledo , Torres batted .266 , tying Nick Punto for the league lead with 42 stolen bases , tying Omar Infante for fourth in the league in triples (eight) , and finishing fourth in the league with 80 runs scored . The Tigers initially chose not to call up Torres in September when rosters expanded ; he did not rejoin them until September 20 following injuries to Bobby Higginson and Hiram Bocachica . In 19 games (70 at bats) with the Tigers , Torres batted .200 with 14 hits , three runs batted in (RBI) , and two stolen bases .

===== 2003 =====

The next season , Torres failed to make the Tigers out of spring training , but he split the season between Detroit and Toledo . He was called up on April 29 to play centerfield and bat leadoff for the Tigers . After he batted .224 in 23 games , the Tigers traded for Alex Sánchez on May 27 to replace Torres in centerfield and sent Torres to Toledo to make room for Sánchez . He was recalled on June 18 to be a reserve outfielder when Ernie Young was designated for assignment . On this stint , Torres tried to improve his hitting by batting exclusively right @-@ handed , saying , " I feel better from the right side . " He batted .208 in 23 games on this stint before being sent back to Toledo on August 2 to make room for A. J. Hinch to return from the disabled list . Torres was recalled one final time , in September . On September 14 , Torres hit his first home run , a solo shot off of Jimmy Gobble of the Royals in a 7 ? 2 loss . In 59 games (168 at bats) with the Tigers , he batted .220 with 37 hits , one home run , and five stolen bases . Despite playing only 70 games in Toledo , Torres finished fifth in the International League with 27 stolen bases .

===== 2004 =====

Torres was initially sent to the minors to begin 2004 but was recalled on April 7 without playing a game for Toledo when Dmitri Young broke his leg . He only appeared in three games (and didn 't even have a plate appearance) before the Tigers attempted to outright him to the minors . Instead of going to the minors , Torres requested his release . He was granted free agency on April 22 .

===== Chicago White Sox organization (2004) =====

Just four days after getting released by the Tigers , Torres signed with the Chicago White Sox . He spent the rest of the 2004 season with the International League Charlotte Knights (outside a six @-@ game rehab stint) , batting .295 with 95 hits in 87 games and tying with Jason Tyner for eighth in the league in stolen bases , with 23 . After the season he filed for free agency .

===== Texas Rangers (2005) =====

On November 16 , 2004 , Torres was signed by the Texas Rangers . He started 2005 with the Triple @-@ A Oklahoma RedHawks of the Pacific Coast League , but he only played in 15 games (due to a sprained right shoulder) before getting called up by the Rangers on May 15 when Gary Matthews , Jr . , went on the disabled list . However , the Rangers designated him for assignment on June 12 and outrighted him to Oklahoma City on June 17 after he batted .158 in eight games with them . Torres suffered a right abdominal strain a week later which ended his season .

===== Minnesota Twins organization (2006) =====

Torres signed with the Minnesota Twins on December 25 , 2005 . He spent the entire 2006 season

with the Triple @-@ A Rochester Red Wings of the International League , batting .236 with them in 116 games and tying for second in the league with nine triples (tied with Joe Thurston behind Wayne Linton 's 12) . He became a free agent after the season .

= = = Detroit Tigers organization (2007) = = =

Unsigned through February in 2007 , Torres called the Detroit Tigers and asked for a job . The Tigers signed him on March 2 and assigned him assigned to Erie , where he was named the Eastern League Player of the Week for April 30 through May 6 after he batted .550 . He batted .292 with 17 stolen bases in 85 games before being promoted to Toledo . His 11 triples led the Eastern League despite the fact that he only appeared in 85 games . At Toledo , Torres also batted .292 in 42 games . He was caught stealing bases (six) more times than he stole successfully (five) , but in only 42 games , he managed to tie for second in the league with nine triples (tied again with Thurston behind Brian Bixler 's 10) . Following the year , he again filed for free agency .

= = = Chicago Cubs organization (2008) = = =

On November 20 , 2007 , Torres signed with the Chicago Cubs . In 2008 , he engaged a private hitting instructor named Chris O 'Leary to help him out . He began trying to model his swing after Albert Pujols , instead of merely trying to put the ball on the ground and run to first base , which is what he had been doing . He spent the entire season with the Iowa Cubs of the Pacific Coast League , batting .306 in 118 games with 11 home runs . He finished fifth in the league with 91 runs scored , tied for second in the league with 10 triples (tied with Trent Oeltjen and Nate Schierholtz behind Tim Raines , Jr . ' s 13) , and led the league with 29 stolen bases . However , the Cubs did not re @-@ sign him and he once again filed for free agency following the season .

= = = San Francisco Giants (2009 ? 2011 ; first stint) = = =

= = = = 2009 = = = =

Torres signed with the San Francisco Giants on January 9 , 2009 . After a strong spring training , he was named to the Giants ' Opening Day roster as a reserve outfielder . Except for a minor league rehab assignment , he spent the entire year in the majors . He was placed on the disabled list on April 27 with a strained left hamstring . After a rehab assignment , he was activated on May 26 . On June , 15 he hit the 48th " Splash Hit " home run at AT & T Park , against John Lackey in a 9 ? 7 loss to the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim . He was again placed on the disabled list on July 31 with the same injury he suffered earlier in the year ; he was out until September 1 . On September 20 , he hit two home runs against Randy Wolf in a 6 ? 2 loss to the Los Angeles Dodgers . He finished the year with a career high .270 batting average and tied for eighth (along with Craig Counsell , Gerardo Parra , Everth Cabrera , and Juan Pierre) in the National League (NL) with eight triples despite only playing 75 games .

= = = = 2010 = = = =

In 2010 , Torres began the season as a backup outfielder again . On April 25 , he replaced Eugenio Vélez (who had been filling in for the injured Aaron Rowand) as the Giants ' center fielder , playing six games until Rowand 's return on May 1 . Upon Rowand 's return , Torres returned to a reserve role until May 9 , when he became a starting outfielder for the rest of the season after Mark DeRosa hurt his wrist . On May 30 , he had a game @-@ ending RBI single in the 10th inning against Carlos Rosa to give the Giants a 6 ? 5 victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks . By midseason , he had replaced Rowand as the Giants ' everyday center fielder and leadoff hitter . After the Giants blew a 9 ? 2 lead over the Florida Marlins on July 28 , Torres had a game @-@ ending single in the 10th

inning against Clay Hensley to give the Giants a 10 ? 9 win . After the Giants blew a 7 ? 3 lead on August 12 , Torres had a game @-@ ending RBI single against Andrew Cashner in the ninth inning to give the Giants an 8 ? 7 victory over the Chicago Cubs . On the morning of September 12 , Torres woke up with severe stomach pain and was diagnosed with appendicitis . He underwent an appendectomy the same day . He returned to the lineup roughly two weeks later , and on October 1 it was announced that he had won the 2010 Willie Mac Award . Torres said upon receiving the award , " It 's the best . It 's an honor for me from my teammates . I 've been blessed and I 'm happy and just thank God for everything , putting me here and these guys treating me like a family . " In 139 games (507 at bats) , Torres hit .268 with 84 runs scored , 136 hits , 16 home runs , and 63 RBI . He ranked fourth in the NL in doubles (43 , behind Jayson Werth 's 46 and Matt Holliday 's and Ryan Braun 's 45) and ranked seventh in the NL in triples (eight) . He finished the year having led the Giants in stolen bases with 26 .

Torres batted .115 in his first seven playoff games before batting .406 over the last eight . In the first four games of the 2010 World Series against the Texas Rangers , he had extra @-@ base hits , tying a Giants ' playoff record for most consecutive games with an extra @-@ base hit . He had a home run off Colby Lewis in Game 3 of the World Series ; however , the Giants lost that game 4 ? 2 . In Game 4 , he doubled twice , driving in a run and scoring another as the Giants won 4 ? 0 . Torres also had two stolen bases but was caught thrice in the postseason . He won his first World Series ring as the Giants defeated the Rangers in five games to win their first World Series since 1954 .

== = 2011 = = =

After injuring his left Achilles tendon on April 9 , Torres spent time on the disabled list from April 15 to May 10 . On May 30 , Torres hit his first career grand slam against Kyle McClellan in a 7 ? 3 victory over the St. Louis Cardinals . Three days later , he scored three runs in a 12 ? 7 victory over St. Louis . On July 15 , Torres had three hits , scored three runs , drove in two runs , stole a base , and slammed into the wall while making a nice catch to rob Kyle Phillips of a two @-@ RBI double in a 6 ? 1 victory over the San Diego Padres . He went on the disabled list a second time , from August 13 through August 28 , with a bruised right leg . After Torres batted just .228 through the beginning of September , he lost quite a bit of playing time to Cody Ross and Justin Christian for the remainder of the year . In 112 games (348 at bats) , Torres hit .221 with 77 hits , 24 doubles , four home runs , and 19 RBI . He led the Giants in stolen bases once again , with 19 .

== = New York Mets (2012) = = =

On December 7 , 2011 , the Giants traded Torres and Ramón Ramírez to the New York Mets for Ángel Pagán . The Mets and Torres settled their case of arbitration on January 17 , 2012 , with Torres earning \$ 2 @. @ 7 million for the 2012 season .

On Opening Day (April 5) 2012 , Torres re @-@ injured his left calf ? which he had previously hurt during 2012 spring training ? and spent much of April on the disabled list . He was activated on April 30 . However , though he would receive most of the starts in center field , he began to platoon with Kirk Nieuwenhuis , who had filled in for him when he was on the disabled list . This continued until July 29 , when Nieuwenhuis was returned to the minor leagues , enabling Torres to be the full @-@ time starter for the rest of the season . Torres endured a career @-@ worst 0 for 18 streak that he finally snapped with a hit against Rafael Betancourt on August 20 in a 3 ? 1 loss to the Colorado Rockies . In 132 games (374 at bats) , he hit .230 with 86 hits , 17 doubles , seven triples , three home runs , 35 RBI , and 13 stolen bases (in 18 attempts) . As a right @-@ handed hitter , he batted .286 . He joined José Reyes as the only players in Mets ' history to have two games in a season with a triple and home run . Following the season , he filed for free agency .

== = San Francisco Giants (2013 ; second stint) = = =

On December 13 , 2012 , Torres agreed to a one @-@ year non @-@ conditional contract to return to the San Francisco Giants . He began 2013 platooning with Gregor Blanco in left field . On May 8 , he had a game @-@ winning RBI single against Antonio Bastardo in the 10th inning of a 4 ? 3 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies . From May 20 through June 30 , he batted .298 with 11 doubles and 14 RBI in 35 games . He had a game @-@ tying RBI double against Rex Brothers on May 25 in an eventual 10 @-@ inning , 6 ? 5 win over Colorado . On July 13 , he began platooning with Blanco in center field after Jeff Francoeur was called up . His season came to an end on August 1 , when he was placed on the disabled list with a left Achilles strain , an injury which he acknowledged prevented him from hitting for power in 2013 . In 103 games (272 at bats) , Torres hit .250 with 68 hits , two home runs , and 21 RBI while only managing four stolen bases . He fared better from the right side at the plate , batting .291 as opposed to batting .206 left @-@ handed . After the season , Torres filed for free agency .

= = = Boston Red Sox organization (2014) = = =

On June 11 , 2014 , Torres signed a minor @-@ league deal with the Boston Red Sox . He played five games with the Lowell Spinners of the Single @-@ A (short season) New York ? Penn League and 18 games with the Pawtucket Red Sox of the International League . He batted .292 with Pawtucket . On July 28 , 2014 , Torres opted out of his contract with the Boston Red Sox by exercising an out clause in his contract .

= = Personal life = =

Torres is married to Soannie Mendoza . The couple has one son , Diego (born June 19 , 2004) . In 2002 , Torres was diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) ; however , he did not begin taking medication to treat it until 2007 . His medication has been helpful to him , and he is currently a spokesperson for ADHD . In 2012 , Plan A Films produced a feature @-@ length documentary about Torres titled Gigante , discussing his ADHD . The film was directed by Chusy Haney @-@ Jardine . Though a screening for the movie was shown at the NYU Langone Medical Center on May 31 , 2012 , the movie was never released .