

= Jeriome Robertson =

Jeriome Paul Robertson ( March 30 , 1977 ? May 29 , 2010 ) was an American left @-@ handed baseball pitcher who played three seasons in Major League Baseball for the Houston Astros and Cleveland Indians . In 51 pitching appearances ( 32 starts ) , Robertson posted a win ? loss record of 16 ? 12 with a 5 @.@ 71 earned run average and 111 strikeouts in 184 ? innings of work .

Robertson attended Exeter High School before being drafted by the Astros in 1995 . He spent the next seven years moving up the minor league system before making his debut in September 2002 . His most productive year was 2003 , where he won 15 games and finished seventh in Rookie of the Year voting . He was traded to the Indians the following year , where he played in eight games before being demoted to the minor leagues . Robertson spent the next few years playing in various Minor League and independent baseball organizations , including the Mexican League , Chinese Professional Baseball League , Puerto Rican Professional Baseball League , and Venezuelan Professional Baseball League .

= = High school = =

Robertson attended Exeter High School in his hometown of Exeter , California , where he was a standout on the high school baseball team for three seasons . During his senior year , he played in the outfield and first base when he wasn 't pitching . He finished the season with a .427 batting average and 24 runs batted in ( RBI ) , as well as a win ? loss record of 9 ? 1 and an ERA of 0 @.@ 95 . For his efforts , he was named player of the year by The Fresno Bee and named to the All @-@ State baseball team . The Houston Astros selected Robertson in the 24th round of the 1995 Major League Baseball draft , and he signed a contract with them on August 22 , 1995 .

= = Minor league career = =

Robertson started his professional baseball career the following season , in 1996 . He spent most of the season with the Gulf Coast League Astros , the rookie @-@ class Astros franchise , where he played alongside future teammate Wade Miller . He also played one game with the Kissimmee Cobras . In 13 pitching appearances with the Astros , all of them starts , Robertson had a record of 5 ? 3 , a 1 @.@ 72 ERA , and 98 strikeouts . For the 1997 season , Robertson was promoted to the Quad Cities River Bandits of the Midwest League . In 26 games for the River Bandits , Robertson had a record of 10 ? 7 , 135 strikeouts , and an ERA of 4 @.@ 07 .

The Astros promoted Robertson in 1998 to the class @-@ A advanced affiliate Kissimmee Cobras of the Florida State League . In 28 games with the Cobras , Robertson pitched 175 total innings . He also had a 10 ? 10 record , a 3 @.@ 71 ERA , and 131 strikeouts . He was again promoted the following year to the Jackson Generals of the Texas League . At one point during the season , he went six weeks without earning a victory . He rebounded from the drought and finished the season with a 15 ? 7 record and a 3 @.@ 06 ERA ; his 15 wins led all pitchers in the league . After the season ended , the Houston Astros purchased his contract , effectively placing him on the 40 @-@ man roster .

Robertson did not play a game for the Astros during the 2000 season , and instead split his season between Kissimmee , the AAA @-@ class New Orleans Zephyrs , and Jackson ; the team was renamed to the Round Rock Express that season . He spent most of his time with the Express , where he was dubbed a " superprospect " during his time there . He won 5 games and lost 10 in 25 combined pitching appearances between the three clubs that year . Robertson spent the entire 2001 season with the Express ; it was the only season of his professional career where he was used solely as a relief pitcher . In 57 appearances totaling just under 75 innings , he had a 5 ? 1 record and a 3 @.@ 91 ERA . He was promoted to the Zephyrs for most of the 2002 season , and while he was told he would continue his relief work , he impressed management enough to move back into the starting rotation before the season began . In 27 starts for the Zephyrs , Robertson had a 12 ? 8 record , a league @-@ leading 2 @.@ 55 ERA , and 114 strikeouts en route to being named the

Pacific Coast League Pitcher of the Year . After the minor league season wrapped up at the end of August , the Astros purchased his contract and placed him on the major league roster .

= = Major League Baseball = =

Robertson made his MLB debut on September 2 , 2002 against the Texas Rangers . He was starting in place of Roy Oswalt , who was serving a suspension for hitting a batter with a pitch . He allowed two runs in 2 1/3 innings and got the loss in his only start that year . He got his second decision in a 5 1/2 loss to the San Francisco Giants on September 28 . In the game , the Giants clinched a playoff spot , and Barry Bonds hit a home run off Robertson into McCovey Cove to seal the game for them . He finished the season with a 6 @. @ 52 ERA in 9 1/3 innings pitched .

As the 2003 season began , Robertson was competing alongside Brad Lidge , Kirk Saarloos , and Pete Munro for the final spot in the Astros ' starting rotation . He pitched the entire month of spring training , and when the season began he was granted the final spot in the rotation . Robertson made his season debut on April 3 , and allowed eight earned runs in 4 1/3 innings , losing the match against the Colorado Rockies 10 1/5 . He got his first career victory on April 10 , allowing two hits in seven innings in a 4 1/2 victory against the Cincinnati Reds . He struggled in his next three starts , and by the end of April Robertson had a 1 1/3 record and an ERA of 7 @. @ 99 , which caused manager Jimmy Williams to consider moving him back to the bullpen . After a May 2 matchup against the Atlanta Braves further increased his ERA , Robertson was demoted to the minor leagues , but only played with the Zephyrs for one game before being placed back on the major league roster ten days later .

In a May 22 matchup against the St. Louis Cardinals , Robertson allowed one run and four hits in a 5 1/2 victory ; after the game , catcher Gregg Zaun said that it was " absolutely the best he 's thrown . " After the win against the Cardinals , Robertson won his next two starts , then he had three more matchups with a no @- @ decision . Robertson continued to win games over the following months , and on July 22 , he won a match against the Pittsburgh Pirates , 2 1/0 . In the game , Robertson allowed three hits in what was his ninth victory in a row without a loss , as well as his sixth victory in his past six starts for Houston . His streak ended on July 27 , as he only lasted 1 1/3 innings in a 5 1/3 loss to the Chicago Cubs in what was at the time the shortest start of his major league career . A month later , Robertson broke the team record for most victories by a left @- @ handed rookie pitcher when he notched his 13th win against the Los Angeles Dodgers on September 2 . His last start of the season on September 26 , however , was his worst ; he only pitched a third of an inning , allowed three earned runs , and threw 7 of 18 pitches for strikes as the Milwaukee Brewers won , 12 1/5 . Robertson finished the 2003 season with 15 victories , 9 losses , a 5 @. @ 10 ERA , and 99 strikeouts . He also finished in seventh place for the Rookie of the Year Award .

Before the 2004 season began , the Houston Astros signed Andy Pettitte to boost their starting rotation . As a result , Robertson found himself battling with Tim Lincecum , Jared Fernandez , Carlos Hernández and Brandon Duckworth for the final spot in the rotation . After Roger Clemens was signed as well , the Astros decided before spring training began that Robertson would pitch out of the bullpen for the season . By the end of spring training , Robertson failed to crack the bullpen , and was to be demoted to the Zephyrs . On March 31 , just before the season started , the Astros traded Robertson to the Cleveland Indians for Luke Scott and Willy Taveras .

Robertson originally pitched for the Buffalo Bisons , the Indians ' AAA @- @ class affiliate in the minor leagues . He played with them for the first three months of the season , with the exception of one game on April 20 against the Kansas City Royals . In 14 appearances with Buffalo , 12 of them starts , Robertson had a 4 1/5 record with a 7 @. @ 27 ERA . The Indians called Robertson up to the major league roster on June 25 after placing Rafael Betancourt on the disabled list . In eight games for the Indians , Robertson had a record of 1 1/1 and a 12 @. @ 21 ERA . In his final appearance in the major leagues , a July 21 game against the Chicago White Sox , Robertson was ejected after hitting Magglio Ordóñez with a pitch in the fifth inning .

= = Later years = =

After being demoted back to Buffalo , the Indians traded Robertson on August 3 to the Montreal Expos for Pierre @-@ Luc Marceau . He pitched in seven games for the Edmonton Trappers to end the season , finishing with a 1 ? 3 record and a 5 @.@ 73 ERA . He was on the Expos ' 40 @-@ man roster for September , but did not play a game for them , and in October he was removed from the roster . In November , the Cincinnati Reds signed him to a minor league contract with an invitation to spring training . During spring training in 2005 , Robertson competed with Aaron Harang , Brandon Claussen , Luke Hudson , and Josh Hancock for two spots in the Reds ' rotation . At the end of spring training , he was assigned to the Reds ' minor league squad , the Louisville Bats . Robertson spent the season there , pitching in 28 games , 18 of them starts , and ended the year with a 5 ? 11 record and a 5 @.@ 46 ERA . After the season ended , Robertson was released , becoming a free agent .

In March 2006 , Robertson signed with the Newark Bears of the independent Atlantic League . He pitched in two games for them , then on May 10 his contract was sold to the New York Mets . He spent the next couple months pitching for the Mets ' minor league team , the Norfolk Tides , where he pitched in 11 games , finishing with a 1 ? 6 record and a 7 @.@ 68 ERA . After being released from the Mets , Robertson spent the rest of the season pitching for the Uni @-@ President Lions of the Chinese Professional Baseball League .

Robertson re @-@ signed with the Newark Bears in 2007 . For the season , he pitched in 14 games and went 5 ? 5 with a 4 @.@ 89 ERA . At the end of June , the Bears sold Robertson 's contract to the Rieleros de Aguascalientes of the Mexican League . After a month there , in which he pitched four games , going 1 ? 3 with a 5 @.@ 54 ERA , he returned to Newark to finish the season with the Bears , in what was his last professional baseball appearance .

Two years after leaving baseball , on May 29 , 2010 , Robertson died in Exeter , California after losing control of his motorcycle . According to the Visalia Times @-@ Delta , Robertson was taking a turn on his motorcycle at an estimated 70 mph when he lost control of his bike .