

= Guillermo Mota =

Guillermo Reynoso Mota (born July 25 , 1973) is a former Dominican professional baseball relief pitcher in Major League Baseball . In his career , he pitched for the Montreal Expos , Los Angeles Dodgers , Florida Marlins , Cleveland Indians , New York Mets , Milwaukee Brewers and San Francisco Giants . Mota stands 6 feet 6 inches (1 @. @ 98 m) tall and weighs 240 pounds (110 kg) . He throws and bats right @-@ handed . He throws three pitches : a fastball , a slider , and a circle changeup .

Mota was originally signed by the New York Mets in 1990 as an infielder . After several years in their organization , he was drafted by the Montreal Expos in the Rule 5 draft in 1996 and converted into a pitcher in 1997 . Mota had a 2 @. @ 96 ERA in 1999 , his rookie season , but he struggled in his next two seasons and was traded to the Los Angeles Dodgers prior to 2002 . His struggles continued in his first year with the Dodgers , but Mota had a career year in 2003 , as he had a 6 ? 3 record with a 1 @. @ 97 ERA in 76 games . He became the setup man to closer Éric Gagné in 2004 , but was traded to the Florida Marlins midseason . Mota started 2005 as their closer , but Todd Jones took over the role when Mota got hurt in April . Following the year , Mota was traded to the Boston Red Sox .

Before Mota ever played for the Red Sox , however , he was traded again to the Cleveland Indians . He struggled in his time with the Indians in 2006 and was designated for assignment by them in August . The New York Mets acquired him , and Mota improved mightily upon joining them . Following the season , he became a free agent , but he again signed with the Mets . After struggling in 2007 , he was traded to the Milwaukee Brewers . He got off to a poor start with Milwaukee in 2008 but improved in the second half . Following the season , Mota became a free agent and signed with the Dodgers again . He had his best year since 2004 and became a free agent again after the season . For the first time in his career , in 2010 he signed a minor league contract with the San Francisco Giants . After making the team out of spring training , Mota won his first career World Series despite struggling at times during the season . Following the season , he signed another minor league contract with the Giants and made the team out of spring training again . During the 2012 season , Mota became one of three players in league history to fail a drug test twice when it was shown he tested positive for Clenbuterol , a performance @-@ enhancing drug .

= = Early years = =

Mota was born on July 25 , 1973 , in San Pedro de Macorís , in the Dominican Republic . As a youth , he attended Jose Joaquin Perez High School . After high school , he was signed by the New York Mets on September 7 , 1990 , by scout Eddy Toledo .

= = Minor league career = =

After two years playing baseball in the Dominican Republic , Mota was assigned to the rookie @-@ league Gulf Coast League Mets in 1993 as a third baseman . He had a batting average of .249 with one home run and one stolen base and amassed a .934 fielding percentage in 43 games . The next season , he spent most of the year with the rookie @-@ league Kingsport Mets of the Appalachian League , although he went hitless in four at bats in one game with the St. Lucie Mets of the single @-@ A advanced Florida State League . With Kingsport , he batted .245 while he struck out 78 times in 245 at @-@ bats .

In 1995 , Mota was moved to the shortstop position and assigned to the single @-@ A Capital City Bombers of the South Atlantic League . With the Bombers , he batted .243 and struck out 127 times in 400 at @-@ bats while committing 40 errors at shortstop . In 1996 , he returned to the St. Lucie Mets , where he batted .234 with 90 strikeouts in 304 at @-@ bats while committing 21 errors . Following the season , he was selected by the Montreal Expos in the Rule 5 draft .

The Expos converted Mota to a pitcher in 1997 and assigned him to the Cape Fear Crocs of the South Atlantic League . Starting 23 of his 25 games for the Crocs , he had a 5 ? 10 record with a 4

@. @ 36 earned run average (ERA) and 112 strikeouts in 126 innings .

In 1998 , the Expos moved Mota to the bullpen , and he began the season with the single @-@ A advanced Jupiter Hammerheads of the Florida State League . He posted a 3 ? 2 record with a 0 @. @ 66 ERA and two saves in 20 games and was promoted to the Harrisburg Senators of the double @-@ A Eastern League during the season . With the Senators , he had a 2 ? 0 record with a 1 @. @ 06 ERA and four saves in 12 games .

Mota began the 1999 season with the Ottawa Lynx of the triple @-@ A International League . With the Lynx , he had a 2 ? 0 record with a 1 @. @ 89 ERA and five saves in 14 games .

= = Major league career = =

= = = Montreal Expos = = =

= = = = 1999 = = = =

Mota was called up to the Expos on May 2 to replace relief pitcher Shayne Bennett , who had been demoted to Ottawa after struggling in his first four games . Mota made his major league debut the same day , pitching a scoreless inning in an 8 ? 7 loss to the St. Louis Cardinals . He got his first major league decision on May 11 , when , after pitching 2 2 ? 3 scoreless innings , he gave up a walk @-@ off home run in the tenth inning to Luis Gonzalez in a 4 ? 3 loss to the Arizona Diamondbacks . On June 1 , he won his first major league game , also against Arizona after pitching three scoreless innings in the Expos ' 10 ? 8 victory on June 1 . On June 9 , he hit a three @-@ run home run in his first major league at bat (against Mark Guthrie) in a 13 ? 1 victory over the Boston Red Sox . On August 29 , he allowed one run in one inning and was the winning pitcher in an 8 ? 6 victory over the Cincinnati Reds . The win (the Expos ' eighteenth in August) set a new Expos ' record for wins in a month . Mota had a 1 @. @ 49 ERA over his first 32 games of the year , but a 15 @. @ 00 ERA over his next six games brought his ERA for the season to 3 @. @ 40 . However , he collected a 1 @. @ 38 ERA over his final 12 games to bring his ERA for the season down to 2 @. @ 93 , and he finished the year with a 2 ? 4 record in 51 games .

= = = = 2000 = = = =

The Expos sent Mota to Ottawa to begin the 2000 season . However , he was called up to the Expos in May . On May 20 , his first game of the season with them , he gave up one run in one inning in an 8 ? 7 victory over the Houston Astros . On June 11 , he was the losing pitcher when he pitched 1 ? 3 inning and gave up two runs in an 8 ? 3 loss to the Toronto Blue Jays . He was returned to Ottawa on June 17 after posting a 12 @. @ 60 ERA in his first 12 games with the Expos . Mota was recalled at the end of the month , but after appearing in one game (on July 1) , he was returned to the Lynx . However , he was recalled on July 19 after Tony Armas , Jr. was placed on the disabled list . Mota was returned to the minor leagues on July 27 when Hideki Irabu returned from the disabled list , but he was recalled soon after . However , Mota appeared in only one game before he was again returned to the minors , and he did not return to the Expos again until the beginning of September . At this point , he had a 9 @. @ 98 ERA through 17 games . On September 11 , in the second game of a doubleheader against the Philadelphia Phillies , he got his only win of the year by pitching one @-@ third of an inning in a 7 ? 6 victory . He had a 1 @. @ 84 ERA over his final 12 games to finish the year with a 1 ? 1 record and a 6 @. @ 00 ERA in 29 games . With Ottawa , he had a 4 ? 5 record with a 2 @. @ 29 ERA and seven saves in 35 games .

= = = = 2001 = = = =

In 2001 , Mota made the Expos out of spring training for the first time in his career . On May 12 , he

had a 1 @. @ 59 ERA through his first 20 games of the year . However , eight earned runs allowed over his next six games raised his ERA to 4 @. @ 00 . Afterwards , though , he had a 2 @. @ 08 ERA over his next 12 games . On June 17 , he was the winning pitcher when he threw a scoreless inning in a 4 ? 1 victory over Toronto . In his next game , on June 19 , he was the losing pitcher when he gave up three runs (only one run was earned) without recording an out in a 4 ? 1 loss to the New York Mets . However , after that 12 @- @ game stretch , he gave up five earned runs over his next four games to bring his ERA up to 4 @. @ 29 . On July 13 , he was placed on the disabled list for the first time in his career with right shoulder tendinitis . Mota returned at the beginning of September , but he had a 10 @. @ 57 ERA and two losses in his final 11 games of the year . He finished the season with a 1 ? 3 record and a 5 @. @ 26 ERA in 53 games .

= = = Los Angeles Dodgers = = =

= = = = 2002 = = = =

Mota began spring training with the Expos in 2002 , but was traded to the Los Angeles Dodgers with outfielder Wilkin Ruan for pitcher Matt Herges and infielder Jorge Nunez on March 23 . He failed to make the Dodgers ' major league club in spring training and was assigned to the Las Vegas 51s of the triple @- @ A Pacific Coast League to begin the season . He was called up on April 20 when Kevin Brown was placed on the disabled list . After appearing in two games , he was returned to Las Vegas on April 30 when Brown came off the disabled list . On May 17 , he was called up a second time . In 22 games through July 14 , he had a 2 @. @ 43 ERA . On June 3 , he pitched a scoreless inning and earned the win in an 11 ? 5 victory over the Colorado Rockies . However , he was returned to Las Vegas on July 28 after he had a loss and a 13 @. @ 50 ERA over his next seven games . He did not return to the Dodgers until August 26 , when Kevin Beirne was demoted to the minors . That same day , he was the losing pitcher when he gave up three runs (two earned) in his third inning of work in a 12 @- @ inning 6 ? 3 loss to Arizona . He was the losing pitcher again on September 13 when he gave up three runs in the seventh inning and blew a 4 ? 2 lead over Colorado . He posted a 3 @. @ 92 ERA over his final 14 games of the year to finish with a 1 ? 3 record and a 4 @. @ 15 ERA in 43 games . With the 51s , he had a 1 ? 3 record with a 2 @. @ 95 ERA in 20 games .

= = = = Conflict with Mike Piazza = = = =

On March 28 , 2002 , Mota hit Mike Piazza , catcher for the Mets at the time , with a pitch in a spring training game against the Mets . After Mota was removed from the game , Piazza grabbed him by the neck and had to be separated from Mota by other players . Piazza received a \$ 3 @, @ 000 fine for his actions . Next season , in a spring training game against the Mets on March 12 , Mota hit Piazza with a pitch . Piazza charged the mound , starting a brawl , and both players were ejected from the game . After the game , Piazza entered the Dodgers ' clubhouse looking for Mota . Informed that Mota had left , Piazza searched the clubhouse before leaving . Mota said that hitting Piazza was not intentional , but both he and Piazza were suspended five games in the regular season and fined ? Mota \$ 1 @, @ 500 and Piazza \$ 3 @, @ 000 . Mota 's suspension was later reduced to four games .

= = = = 2003 = = = =

In 2003 , Mota earned a roster spot with the Dodgers after spring training . From May 1 to May 27 , he pitched 15 2 ? 3 consecutive scoreless innings . On May 23 , against the Milwaukee Brewers , he got his first save when he pitched three scoreless innings in a 6 ? 4 victory . Manager Jim Tracy used him to get the save because he wanted to rest closer Éric Gagné . On May 29 , Mota struck out six batters in three innings in a 12 ? 5 loss to Colorado . From June 11 through July 17 , he

threw 19 2 ? 3 consecutive scoreless innings . On July 13 , he hit his second career home run (against Joe Roa) in a 9 ? 3 victory over Colorado . In August , he had a 2 ? 0 record with a 0 @.@ 44 ERA in 21 games . Mota finished the season with a 6 ? 3 record and a 1 @.@ 97 ERA in 76 games , and his 105 innings pitched were the most by a Dodger reliever since 1985 , when Tom Niedenfuer threw 106 1 ? 3 . His 105 innings pitched led National League (NL) relief pitchers and were just two shy of American League leader Steve Sparks . Mota , Gagné , Tom Martin , and Paul Quantrill were the first relief pitcher teammates to appear in at least 76 games in a season . His opponent batting average of .205 ranked tenth among NL relievers , and left @-@ handers ' .181 average against him ranked fourth in the NL .

= = = = 2004 = = = =

After Quantrill became a free agent , Mota became the setup man for Gagné in 2004 . He started the season with eight straight scoreless games . From June 27 to July 16 , he did not allow a run in 10 straight games . On July 29 , he started a career @-@ high five @-@ game winning streak when he got a win by pitching two scoreless innings in a 2 ? 1 victory over the San Francisco Giants . He was the winning pitcher when he pitched two scoreless innings in an 8 ? 5 victory over the Anaheim Angels on July 3 in a game notable for Gagné getting the final save of his 84 straight converted save chances . On July 30 , a day before the trade deadline , Mota had a 2 @.@ 14 ERA in 52 games . That day , he was traded to the Florida Marlins with Juan Encarnación and Paul Lo Duca for Hee @-@ seop Choi , Brad Penny , and Bill Murphy .

= = = Florida Marlins = = =

Upon joining the Marlins , Mota was named the closer because Armando Benítez , the Marlins ' closer , was injured . On August 5 , he entered a game in the eighth inning with the Marlins leading 7 ? 5 and got his first save as a Marlin in an 11 ? 5 victory over Arizona . However , that was his only save opportunity before he was returned to the setup role because of the return of Benítez from the disabled list . Mota had a 4 @.@ 81 ERA in 26 games with the Marlins , although it would have been only 3 @.@ 06 if he had not given up seven runs in his final two games of the year . He finished the season with a 9 ? 8 record and a 3 @.@ 07 ERA in 78 games . His nine wins were tied with Ryan Madson for second in the NL by a relief pitcher , and his 96 2 ? 3 innings pitched led NL relievers . His opponent batting average of .196 was fifth @-@ best among NL relievers .

In 2005 , Mota was named the Marlins ' closer in spring training since Benítez became a free agent following the 2004 season . He did not get a save opportunity until April 22 , which he converted in a 4 ? 2 win over Cincinnati . He got his second save of the year the next day in another 4 ? 2 win over Cincinnati . However , he was placed on the disabled list on May 1 (retroactive to April 24) with inflammation in his right elbow . He was activated on May 27 , but Todd Jones , who had been filling in for Mota , remained the closer . Mota had a 1 @.@ 69 ERA through his first 11 games , but 12 earned runs allowed over his next seven games raised his ERA to 7 @.@ 27 . On June 24 , he was the winning pitcher in the Marlins ' 7 ? 4 victory over the Tampa Bay Devil Rays . He got his only other win of the year on August 30 , when he gave up a run in two innings in a 7 ? 6 victory over St. Louis . Mota posted a 3 @.@ 81 ERA over his final 38 games to finish the season 2 ? 2 with a 4 @.@ 70 ERA in 56 games . On November 24 , Mota was traded with Josh Beckett and Mike Lowell to the Boston Red Sox for four prospects : Jesús Delgado , Harvey García , Hanley Ramírez , and Aníbal Sánchez .

= = = Boston Red Sox and Cleveland Indians = = =

Mota never played a game with the Red Sox , as on January 27 , 2006 , he was traded to the Cleveland Indians with Andy Marte , Kelly Shoppach , a player to be named later (eventually Randy Newsom) , and cash considerations for Coco Crisp , David Riske , and Josh Bard . The trade was postponed slightly because Mota failed to pass a physical , so the Indians put him on a conditioning

program before spring training . However , he was still expected to be the setup man for closer Bob Wickman . He started the season well , as he did not allow an earned run in his first seven games . However , he struggled after that , and he lost the setup role to Rafael Betancourt in May . Over his next 27 games , Mota had a 7 @.@ 89 ERA , and opponents batted .314 against him . On August 11 , he was designated for assignment after he had a 1 ? 3 record with a 6 @.@ 21 ERA in 34 games . On August 20 , he was traded to the New York Mets with cash for a player to be named later . To date , his time with the Indians was his only stint in the American League .

= = = New York Mets = = =

On September 1 , Mota was the winning pitcher when he pitched a scoreless inning in an 8 ? 7 victory over Houston . He got another win by pitching a scoreless inning on September 12 in a 6 ? 4 victory over Florida . With the Mets , he had a 3 ? 0 record with a 1 @.@ 00 ERA and 19 strikeouts in 18 games to finish the season 4 ? 3 with a 4 @.@ 53 ERA in 52 games . He made the playoffs for the first time in his career as the Mets won the NL East . In the first game of the 2006 National League Division Series against the Dodgers , Mota was the winning pitcher when he pitched two innings , although he blew a 4 ? 1 lead by giving up three runs and allowing the Dodgers to tie the game . Mota pitched two scoreless innings in the Mets ' series @-@ winning 9 ? 5 victory over the Dodgers in Game 3 . In the 2006 National League Championship Series , Mota appeared in five of the seven games in the series . He blew a lead in an eventual Game 2 loss , but he did not give up a run in the other four games as the Mets lost to St. Louis in seven games . On October 30 , he filed for free agency .

On November 1 , 2006 , Mota became the fifteenth MLB player to be suspended for using performance @-@ enhancing drugs (and the first to be suspended for fifty games) when he was suspended for the first fifty games of 2007 . However , the Mets re @-@ signed him to a two @-@ year , \$ 5 million contract on December 7 . After spending two weeks in the minors , Mota rejoined the Mets on May 30 , 2007 . He struggled in his first 16 games , collecting a 7 @.@ 71 ERA in them . In his next 15 games , however , he amassed a 1 @.@ 89 ERA . During those games , on August 3 , he was the winning pitcher when he threw a scoreless inning in a 6 ? 2 victory over the Chicago Cubs . He struggled after that , though , as he had a 7 @.@ 48 ERA over his final 21 games of the season . On August 28 , he was the losing pitcher when he gave up a walk @-@ off home run to Ryan Howard in the 10th inning of a 4 ? 2 loss to Philadelphia . He earned the win on September 12 in a 4 ? 3 victory over the Atlanta Braves despite losing a two @-@ run lead in the eighth inning . His final decision of the season came on September 16 , when he gave up three runs without recording an out in a 10 ? 6 loss to Philadelphia . Mota finished the season with a 2 ? 2 record and a 5 @.@ 76 ERA in 52 games . On November 20 , he was traded to the Milwaukee Brewers for Johnny Estrada .

= = = Milwaukee Brewers = = =

Mota started the 2008 season with a 2 @.@ 20 ERA in his first 15 games . On May 11 , Brewers manager Ned Yost removed Gagné from the closer 's role and decided to use different pitchers in save opportunities . The next day , Mota got his first save since 2005 in an 8 ? 3 victory over St. Louis . However , that was his only save of the season , and Salomón Torres took over the closer 's role . Mota began to struggle after the save , as he had a 9 @.@ 00 ERA over his next 19 games to bring his ERA to 5 @.@ 77 at the All @-@ Star break . However , he began pitching better after the All @-@ Star break as he posted a 1 @.@ 59 ERA in his final 24 games of the season . On August 24 , Mota was the winning pitcher in a 4 ? 3 victory over Pittsburgh when he entered the game with the bases loaded and no outs and did not allow a run to score in one inning of work . He finished the season with a 5 ? 6 record and a 4 @.@ 11 ERA in 58 games , and he returned to the playoffs as the Brewers made the playoffs for the first time in 26 years . In the first game of the 2008 National League Division Series , he pitched a scoreless 1 ? 3 inning in a 3 ? 1 loss to Philadelphia . His only other appearance of the playoffs that year came in Game 4 (the final game of the series) when he

allowed a solo home run to Pat Burrell in the final 1 1 ? 3 innings of a 6 ? 2 loss . On November 3 , Mota filed for free agency .

= = = Second stint with the Dodgers = = =

On January 13 , 2009 , Mota returned to the Dodgers upon signing a one @-@ year contract . His second stint with the Dodgers got off to a bad start , as he posted a 9 @.@ 00 ERA in his first 15 games of the season . However , his statistics improved when he compiled a 0 @.@ 26 ERA over his next 29 games to lower his season ERA to 2 @.@ 92 . From June 24 through July 29 , Mota gave up no runs in 17 games (20 1 ? 3 consecutive innings pitched) . However , he had a 4 @.@ 97 ERA over his next 13 games . On August 4 , in a 17 ? 4 victory over Milwaukee , Mota was ejected after he hit Brewers first baseman Prince Fielder with a pitch (in retaliation for Chris Smith hitting Manny Ramirez a few innings earlier , according to Dodgers catcher Russell Martin) . After the game , Fielder attempted to gain entry into the Dodgers ' clubhouse to confront Mota but was stopped by teammates . Both Mota and Fielder were fined by Major League Baseball for their actions . On August 31 , Mota was placed on the disabled list with an ingrown toenail to make room for Ronnie Belliard on the roster . He was reactivated on September 14 . However , after posting a 5 @.@ 40 ERA in his final four games of the year , he was left off the Dodgers ' playoff roster . He finished the season with a 3 ? 4 record and a 3 @.@ 44 ERA (his lowest since 2004) in 61 games . On November 6 , he filed for free agency .

= = = San Francisco Giants = = =

On February 2 , 2010 , Mota signed a minor league contract with the San Francisco Giants with an invitation to spring training , marking the first time he was a non @-@ roster invitee . On April 4 , he was placed in the final spot in the Giants ' bullpen . He started his tenure with the Giants with nine consecutive scoreless outings . On May 5 , he got his only save of 2010 in a 9 ? 6 victory over Florida . Mota took over the setup role in May , but lost it after allowing five runs and losing one of three games from June 10 to 13 . He compiled a 1 @.@ 27 ERA over his first 23 games , but a 7 @.@ 48 ERA over his next 28 games raised his ERA to 4 @.@ 78 . On July 4 , he intentionally walked four batters in 1 1 ? 3 innings (due to runners reaching third base with nobody out in the 14th and 15th innings) and was the losing pitcher when he allowed a run in the 15th inning of a 4 ? 3 loss to Colorado . On August 23 , he was placed on the disabled list with iliotibial band syndrome to make room for Cody Ross on the Giants ' roster . He returned to the Giants on September 6 . Mota did not give up an earned run in his final five appearances of the season to finish the year with a 1 ? 3 record and a 4 @.@ 33 ERA in 56 games , and he made the Giants ' playoff roster as they won the NL West . However , he was not used until Game 2 of the 2010 World Series , when he pitched a scoreless ninth inning in a 9 ? 0 victory over the Texas Rangers . His only other postseason appearance came when he pitched 1 1 ? 3 scoreless innings in a 4 ? 2 loss in Game 3 . However , Mota won his first World Series when the Giants defeated Texas 4 games to 1 in the series . After the series , he filed for free agency .

On December 19 , Mota signed another minor league contract with an invitation to spring training with the Giants . He won one of the final two spots in the Giants ' bullpen on March 30 , 2011 . On April 16 , after Giants ' starter Barry Zito was injured in the second inning , Mota pitched a career @-@ high 4 1 ? 3 innings , giving up one run and earning the win in a 5 ? 3 victory over Arizona .

On May 7 , 2012 , MLB announced that they were suspending Mota for 100 games due to his testing positive for Clenbuterol , a performance @-@ enhancing substance . This was his second suspension as he had previously been suspended for 50 games in 2006 .

= = = Kansas City Royals = = =

Mota signed a minor league deal with the Kansas City Royals on January 16 , 2014 . However , he announced his retirement on March 2 , 2014 .

= = Pitching style = =

Mota has three different kinds of pitches : a fastball , a slider , and a circle changeup . The slider is the pitch he usually uses to get outs . Wildness has been a problem for him , though , and his fastball is easy to hit when thrown over the plate . In the past , he has thrown a splitter and a curveball .