Eric Hacker

Eric Lynn Hacker (born March 26 , 1983) is an American professional baseball pitcher who plays for the NC Dinos of the Korea Baseball Organization . Hacker stands 6 feet 1 inch (1 @.@ 85 m) and weighs 230 pounds (100 kg) . He throws right @-@ handed but is a switch hitter . He has played for the Pittsburgh Pirates , Minnesota Twins , and San Francisco Giants . He throws a fastball , a slider , a curveball , and a changeup .

Hacker was drafted out of Duncanville High School by the New York Yankees in 2002 . He pitched in their minor league system from 2002 ? 2009 (missing 2004 and 2006 with injuries) before getting traded to the Pirates . He made his major league debut with Pittsburgh on September 22 , 2009 , and pitched in three games for them that season . He signed with the Giants in the offseason and spent the entire 2010 season in the minor leagues . In 2011 , he signed with the Twins and appeared in two games with them . He signed with San Francisco in 2012 and made his first career start in the majors , recording a loss . He also pitched three games in relief for the Giants that year .

High school and personal life

Hacker was born in Duncanville , Texas ; growing up , he attended Duncanville High School . He was named the starting quarterback on the school 's football team his senior year , but he broke his foot in the second game of the season . Although some colleges were interested in him as a football player , he decided to concentrate on baseball as a result of the injury . As a senior , he was a third @-@ team Class 5A All @-@ State pitcher . Currently , Hacker lives in Corsicana , Texas , with his wife , Christine , whom he married in November 2008 . He is a Dallas Cowboys fan . Two of his hobbies are fishing and pool .

Professional career

New York Yankees organization

Drafted by the New York Yankees in the 23rd round of the 2002 Major League Baseball draft , Hacker began his career with the GCL Yankees of the rookie @-@ level Gulf Coast League . He appeared in three games with them in 2002 . In 2003 , he appeared in seven games (five starts) with them , posting a 3 ? 2 record , a 2 @.@ 86 earned run average (ERA) , 26 strikeouts , and seven walks in 28 1 ? 3 innings pitched . He also pitched with the Staten Island Yankees of the Class A short @-@ season New York ? Penn League , where he had no record and an ERA of 1 @.@ 00 in two starts . He underwent Tommy John surgery in 2004 and missed the entire season . During his time with the GCL Yankees , he was roommates with Brandon Weeden . The two still correspond .

In 2005 , Hacker pitched for the Charleston RiverDogs of the Class A South Atlantic League and was named to the league 's All @-@ Star game . On July 2 , he threw eight shutout innings in a 1 ? 0 victory over the Rome Braves . However , he was placed on the disabled list the next day and missed the rest of the season with right shoulder inflammation . In 10 starts , Hacker had a 5 ? 2 record , a 1 @.@ 60 ERA , 40 strikeouts , 14 walks , and one complete game in 62 innings pitched . Hacker missed the entire 2006 season after undergoing right shoulder surgery .

Hacker began 2007 with Charleston , where he had a 9 ? 2 record , a 2 @.@ 56 ERA , 54 strikeouts , 18 walks , and 95 innings pitched in 17 starts . He also appeared in nine games (seven starts) for the Tampa Yankees of the Class A advanced Florida State League (FSL) , posting a 3 ? 3 record , a 6 @.@ 10 ERA , 22 strikeouts , and 14 walks in 38 1 ? 3 innings . He finished the season by appearing in one game (which he won) with the Scranton / Wilkes @-@ Barre Yankees of the Class AAA International League (IL) .

Hacker began 2008 with Tampa . He was named the FSL Pitcher of the Week from April 8 to 14 after throwing 14 scoreless innings . After recording a 2 ? 2 record , a 1 @.@ 87 ERA , 31 strikeouts

, nine walks , and 53 innings pitched in nine starts , he was promoted to the Trenton Thunder of the Class AA Eastern League on May 28 . In 17 starts with the Thunder , he had a 7 ? 4 record , a 2 @.@ 76 ERA , 84 strikeouts , and 28 walks in 95 1 ? 3 innings pitched . His minor league totals were a 9 ? 6 record , a 2 @.@ 43 ERA , 79 strikeouts , 33 walks , and 144 1 ? 3 innings pitched in 26 starts . In the playoffs , he had a 2 ? 0 record and a 1 @.@ 54 ERA in two starts as the Thunder won the Eastern League championship .

In 2009 , Hacker attended spring training with New York for the first time but was sent to the minors on March 8 after two games . He began the season with Trenton , where he recorded a 1 ? 1 record , a 4 @.@ 11 ERA , eight strikeouts , seven walks , and 15 1 ? 3 innings pitched in three starts . After three starts , he was promoted to Scranton / Wilkes @-@ Barre , where he had an 0 ? 1 record , a 7 @.@ 88 ERA , 12 strikeouts , four walks , and 16 innings pitched in three starts . On May 9 , he was designated for assignment to make room on the 40 @-@ man roster for Brett Tomko .

= = = Pittsburgh Pirates = = =

On May 16 , Hacker was traded to the Pittsburgh Pirates for Rómulo Sánchez . The Pirates assigned him to the Indianapolis Indians of the International League . He was named the IL Pitcher of the Week for August 3 ? 9 after winning both of his starts and striking out 14 hitters during the week . He recorded a 5 ? 5 record , a 4 @.@ 02 ERA , 82 strikeouts , 46 walks , and 116 1 ? 3 innings pitched in 21 starts and was called up to the majors for the first time on September 8 following the IL season . Hacker said upon being called up :

Hacker made his major league debut on September 22 , allowing two runs in an inning in a 10 ? 4 loss to the Cincinnati Reds . He pitched a scoreless inning in a 6 ? 0 loss to the Chicago Cubs in his next game on September 29 . In his final game of the year on October 4 , he pitched a scoreless inning in a 6 ? 0 loss to Cincinnati . Hacker had no record , a 6 @.@ 00 ERA , one strikeout , two walks , and three innings pitched in his three games with the Pirates . He was outrighted (sent to the minors and removed from the 40 @-@ man roster) on November 6 , and he became a minor league free agent on November 9 .

= = = San Francisco Giants (first stint) = = =

On December 18 , 2009 , Hacker signed with the San Francisco Giants . He pitched in four games for the Giants in spring training but was sent to the minors after posting a 14 @.@ 29 ERA . With the Fresno Grizzlies of the AAA Pacific Coast League (PCL) , he won eight consecutive decisions from July 4 to August 20 . In 29 starts , Hacker posted a 16 ? 8 record , a 4 @.@ 51 ERA , 129 strikeouts , and 62 walks in 165 2 ? 3 innings pitched . He tied for the PCL lead in starts with Lance Lynn while finishing sixth in innings pitched , sixth in ERA , and fourth in strikeouts (behind Lynn (141) , Brandon Dickson (137) , and Michael Kirkman (130)) . His 16 wins led the PCL , the highest total since 1995 when Donne Wall won 17 . On November 6 , he became a free agent .

= = = Minnesota Twins = = =

On November 9 , 2010 , Hacker signed with the Minnesota Twins . He attended spring training but was sent to the minors after posting a 13 @.@ 50 ERA in five games . He was called up to Minnesota on April 19 to replace Alex Burnett (who was optioned) in the bullpen ; Twins manager Ron Gardenhire said , " We need a long guy [in the bullpen] . " He made his Twins ' debut that day , throwing two scoreless innings in an 11 ? 0 loss to the Baltimore Orioles . In his next game on April 27 , he gave up one unearned run in 3 1 ? 3 innings but allowed three inherited runners to score in an 8 ? 2 loss to the Tampa Bay Rays . After the game , Hacker was optioned back to Triple @-@ A Rochester to make room on the roster for Anthony Swarzak . On July 17 , he was outrighted off the 40 @-@ man roster to make room for Scott Diamond . With the Rochester Red Wings of the International League , Hacker had a 7 ? 14 record , a 6 @.@ 10 ERA , 98 strikeouts , 50 walks , and 135 2 ? 3 innings pitched in 26 games (25 starts) . He tied with Diamond for the league lead in

losses , ranked sixth in the league in walks , led the league in runs allowed (103) , and ranked third in the league in earned runs allowed (92 , behind Thad Weber 's 95 and Corey Kluber 's 93) . On October 4 , he became a free agent .

San Francisco Giants (second stint)

In 2012 , Hacker re @-@ signed with the Giants . He was called up to make his first career start for the Giants on April 27 due to an earlier doubleheader . He allowed three runs and got the loss (his first career decision) but recorded seven strikeouts in six innings as the San Diego Padres defeated the Giants 5 ? 3 . After the game , he was returned to Fresno to make room for Steve Edlefsen on the roster . Hacker was selected to the PCL All @-@ Star Game in 2012 . On August 17 , he was called up to be used as a long reliever soon after Brad Penny was placed on the disabled list . The next day , he gave up a run in 1 2 ? 3 innings (a home run by Carlos Quentin) in an 8 ? 7 victory over San Diego . He gave up a run in one inning (a home run by Will Venable) in a 7 ? 1 loss to San Diego on August 19 . He allowed a run in one inning in a 7 ? 3 loss to the Atlanta Braves in his next outing on August 25 . After the game , Hacker was optioned to Fresno to make room for Eli Whiteside when the Giants decided to have three catchers on their roster . With the Giants , he had an 0 ? 1 record , a 5 @.@ 59 ERA , eight strikeouts , two walks , and 9 2 ? 3 innings pitched in four games (one start) .
In 26 games (25 starts) with Fresno , Hacker had a 12 ? 6 record , a 4 @.@ 01 ERA , 103 strikeouts , and 43 walks in 150 1 ? 3 innings pitched . He tied with Tom Koehler , Ryan Verdugo , and Brad Peacock for fourth in the PCL in wins (behind John Ely 's and Sean O 'Sullivan 's 14 and Barry Enright 's 13) and finished fourth in ERA (behind Ely 's 3 @.@ 20 , Yusmeiro Petit 's 3 @.@ 46 , and Brad Hand 's 4 @.@ 00) . He was designated for assignment on September 4 to make room for Emmanuel Burriss on the Giants ' roster , and he became a free agent four days later .

NC Dinos (KBO)

On January 15 , 2013 , Hacker signed with the NC Dinos of the Korea Baseball Organization .
On April 4 , he started against the Lotte Giants . He pitched 7 innings , while allowing 3 earned runs , but no run support and poor defence caused him to take the loss . During the rest of April , Hacker had a lot of trouble in dealing with runners on base , because his pitching motion was vulnerable to stolen bases . So , by the end of April , Hacker was forced to make changes his pitching delivery .
On Mar 10 , he faced the Doosan Bears , and delivery was changed . Though he ended up with no decision , there was a bit of hope that he could pitch well . Twelve days later , he got his first win in KBO .
However , during the rest of the season , wins were hard to come by , because the batting was especially poor when he was on the mound . Even worse was that the bullpen couldn 't hold the lead he had given them . He ended 2013 season with 4 @-@ 11 with a 3 @.@ 63 ERA . He had 3 completed games , and pitched 178 @.@ 1 innings .
However , the Dinos didn 't hesitate to extend his contract . In late 2013 , Hacker re @-@ signed for the 2014 season with NC Dinos . He has since resigned twice with the Dinos . As of June 2015 he was 8 @-@ 3 , 3 @.@ 46 era .

Pitching style

Hacker throws four pitches : a fastball , a slider , a curveball , and a changeup . Early in his minor league career , he only threw the fastball and the slider ; former Indians ' pitching coach Ray Searage believes the other two pitches have helped him keep hitters " off balance . " After his first start (against the Padres in 2012) , Padres ' manager Bud Black said , " He has a deliberate motion out of the windup . "