

= Michael Pineda =

Michael Francisco Pineda Paulino ( born January 18 , 1989 ) is a Dominican professional baseball starting pitcher for the New York Yankees of Major League Baseball ( MLB ) . He signed as an international free agent with the Seattle Mariners in 2005 , and made his MLB debut for the Mariners in 2011 . In his rookie season , Pineda was named an All @-@ Star and finished fifth in balloting for American League Rookie of the Year . After his rookie season , he was traded to the Yankees .

= = Professional career = =

= = = Minor leagues = = =

Pineda signed with the Seattle Mariners of Major League Baseball ( MLB ) at age 16 on December 12 , 2005 . He made his professional debut with the Mariners of the Rookie @-@ level Dominican Summer League ( DSL ) in 2006 , pitching to a 2 ? 1 win ? loss record with a 0 @.@ 44 earned run average ( ERA ) , allowing only one earned run all season . In 2007 , he had a 6 ? 1 record with a 2 @.@ 29 ERA in regular action for the DSL Mariners . Pineda pitched for the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers of the Class @-@ A Midwest League in 2008 and had an 8 ? 6 record with a 1 @.@ 95 ERA . Opponents had a batting average of .216 against Pineda . He led the Seattle farm system in ERA , opponent average and strikeouts ( 128 ) . Baseball America rated Pineda as the Mariners ' tenth best prospect while the Mariners organization named him their Minor League Pitcher of the Year . Wisconsin pitching coach Jaime Navarro became Pineda 's mentor .

Pineda battled injuries during the 2009 season , missing most of the year due to elbow strain . He was 4 ? 2 with a 2 @.@ 84 ERA for the High Desert Mavericks of the Class A @-@ Advanced California League while healthy and threw three shutout innings for the Mariners of the Rookie @-@ level Arizona League . He struck out 52 in 47 1 ? 3 innings pitched ( IP ) for the year .

Before the 2010 season , Baseball America ranked Pineda as the Mariners ' sixth best prospect . Back in good health in 2010 , Pineda was 8 ? 1 with a 2 @.@ 22 ERA for the West Tenn Diamond Jaxx of the Class @-@ AA Southern League with 78 strikeouts and 17 walks in 77 IP and 3 ? 3 with a 4 @.@ 76 ERA for the Tacoma Rainiers of the Class @-@ AAA Pacific Coast League with 76 strikeouts and 17 walks in 62 1 ? 3 IP . The Mariners front office ended his season when he reached 140 IP as a precaution against injury . The Mariners again named Pineda their Minor League Pitcher of the Year in 2010 , and he was a finalist for the USA Today Minor League Player of the Year .

Baseball America rated Pineda as the second best prospect in the Mariners ' system before the 2011 season . Baseball America also rated him the sixteenth best prospect in all of baseball .

= = = Seattle Mariners ( 2011 ) = = =

Pineda made the Mariners ' starting rotation out of spring training 2011 as the number five starter , the third youngest player on a 2011 American League opening day roster after Chris Sale and Tim Collins . He made his MLB debut on April 5 , giving up three runs in six innings in a loss . Pineda pitched 7 1 ? 3 innings , allowed two runs , struck out seven batters , and earned his first MLB win on April 12 , 2011 . Pineda struck out a career high nine batters against the Detroit Tigers on April 28 , including the first four batters he faced . He ended his first month in the majors with a 4 ? 1 record and a 2 @.@ 01 ERA . He was named American League Rookie of the Month for April 2011 , pitching at least six innings in his first five starts , giving up only 22 hits and 12 walks over 31 1 ? 3 innings , while striking out 30 opposing batters .

Pineda was selected to the All @-@ Star Game on July 10 as a replacement for Justin Verlander , who was ineligible to pitch in the All @-@ Star Game due to having pitched the day before the All @-@ Star break . He was 8 ? 6 at that point , but with a 3 @.@ 03 ERA and 113 strikeouts in 113 innings , against only 36 walks . In the All @-@ Star Game , Pineda pitched one perfect inning , striking out Scott Rolen and Rickie Weeks .

Pineda finished the 2011 season with a 9 ? 10 record and a 3 @.@ 74 ERA . He recorded no wins in his final seven starts over the last two months of the year , and the Mariners cut back on his work load as a precaution against an arm injury . In 28 starts , he struck out 173 hitters while walking just 55 over 171 innings . Pineda struck out 24 @.@ 9 % of all batters faced , which was the third highest strikeout percentage in MLB . He also finished fifth in voting for American League Rookie of the Year Award , behind Jeremy Hellickson , Mark Trumbo , Eric Hosmer , and Iván Nova , and ahead of teammate Dustin Ackley , who finished sixth . After the season , Keith Law ranked Pineda as the 20th best player under the age of 25 .

= = = New York Yankees ( 2012 ? present ) = = =

The Mariners traded Pineda to the New York Yankees with José Campos , for Jesús Montero and Héctor Noesí on January 13 , 2012 . The Yankees needed a top @-@ tier starting pitcher to pair with CC Sabathia , and the Mariners felt they could afford to part with Pineda because of their depth of top @-@ tier pitching prospects , including Danny Hultzen , James Paxton , and Taijuan Walker .

Pineda was placed on the 15 @-@ day disabled list with tendinitis in his right shoulder at the culmination of spring training , causing him to miss the start of the 2012 season . During his rehabilitation , he suffered an anterior labral tear in his right shoulder . He underwent arthroscopic surgery on May 1 , 2012 , and was ruled out for the 2012 season . Pineda began the 2013 season on the 60 @-@ day DL as he was still recovering from the shoulder surgery . He was activated from the disabled list on July 8 , 2013 , and optioned to the minor leagues , where he pitched for the Scranton / Wilkes @-@ Barre RailRiders of the Class AAA International League . In six games pitched for the RailRiders , Pineda had a 1 ? 1 record and a 3 @.@ 86 ERA .

Pineda competed for a spot in the Yankees ' starting rotation during spring training in 2014 . He was named the Yankees ' fifth starter towards the end of spring training . He made his first start for the Yankees on April 5 , 2014 . On April 10 , 2014 , during a start against the Boston Red Sox , Boston broadcasters noticed a substance that appeared to be pine tar on the palm of Pineda 's pitching hand in the early innings of the game . Midway through Pineda 's outing , the substance was wiped from his hand only to be added to his wrist . The umpires of the game were never notified and no action was taken against Pineda , who told reporters after the game that the substance on his hand was dirt . On April 23 , 2014 , during Pineda 's next game against the Red Sox , Red Sox manager John Farrell notified the umpires about pine tar on Pineda 's neck , and he was ejected from the game in the second inning . Pineda was suspended for 10 games for the incident . He had a 1 @.@ 83 ERA in 19 2 ? 3 innings pitched across his first four starts .

While pitching in a simulated game during the suspension , Pineda developed a strain in his teres major muscle , which was expected to require three to four weeks to heal . Following inflammation experienced in late May , Pineda 's return was pushed back to August . The Yankees activated Pineda to start on August 13 . Pineda finished the season with a 5 ? 5 record and a 1 @.@ 89 ERA in 76 1 ? 3 innings .

On May 10 , 2015 , in a win against the Baltimore Orioles , Pineda struck out a career @-@ high 16 batters over seven innings while also walking none , shattering his previous career @-@ high of 10 strikeouts in a single game . He also became the first pitcher since Johan Santana in 2007 with 16 strikeouts and no walks in a single game . Pineda went on the disabled list on July 30 due to a strained flexor muscle in his right forearm . He finished the season with a 12 ? 10 record and a 4 @.@ 37 ERA in 160 2 ? 3 innings across 27 games started .

= = Scouting profile = =

Pineda is listed at 6 feet 7 inches ( 2 @.@ 01 m ) and 265 pounds ( 120 kg ) . Baseball America rated Pineda as having the best fastball and control in the Mariners ' system in 2010 , while rating him as having the best fastball and slider in the Mariners season in 2011 . Pineda 's fastball in 2011 averaged 94 @.@ 7 miles per hour ( 152 @.@ 4 km / h ) , the highest among MLB rookies with at least 100 innings pitched , ranking fourth in the American League behind Alexi Ogando , Justin

Verlander , and David Price . Pineda also throws a changeup . Since his shoulder surgery , his fastball is in the 92 @-@ 93 mph range , topping out around 96 @-@ 97 .

= = Personal life = =

Pineda 's family lives in the Dominican Republic . While pitching for the Mariners in 2011 , he roomed with Navarro , who had become the Mariners ' bullpen coach . He makes an effort to conduct his interviews in English , without the use of a translator , though he still receives some assistance from Yankees ' teammate Dellin Betances .

On August 20 , 2012 , Pineda was charged with driving under the influence ( DUI ) of alcohol while on injury rehab in Tampa , Florida . On February 20 , 2013 . Pineda pleaded no contest to driving under the influence and must serve 50 hours community service , up to one year of probation , attend DUI school and pay a \$ 500 fine .