

= Dan Meyer (first baseman) =

Daniel Thomas Meyer (born August 3 , 1952 in Hamilton , Ohio) is a retired professional baseball player whose career spanned 15 seasons , 12 of which were played in Major League Baseball (MLB) with the Detroit Tigers (1974 ? 76) , the Seattle Mariners (1977 ? 81) , and the Oakland Athletics (1982 ? 85) . Meyer primarily played first base , but also played left field , third base , and right field . He batted left @-@ handed while throwing right @-@ handed . During his playing career , Meyer was listed at 5 feet 11 inches (180 cm) and weighed 180 pounds (82 kg) .

After attending the University of Arizona and Santa Ana College , Meyer was drafted by the Detroit Tigers during the 1972 Major League Baseball draft . He began his career in the minor leagues with the Bristol Tigers . Meyer made his major league debut in 1974 . Over his career in the majors , Meyer compiled a .253 batting average with 411 runs scored , 944 hits , 153 doubles , 31 triples , 86 home runs , and 459 runs batted in (RBIs) in 1 @,@ 118 games played .

= = Early life = =

Meyer was born on August 3 , 1952 in Hamilton , Ohio . He attended Mater Dei High School in Santa Ana , California . In 1970 , Meyer was inducted into the school 's baseball hall of fame . Meyer spent one year (1971) at the University of Arizona . In 1972 , Meyer enrolled in Santa Ana College where he played second base on the school 's baseball team . He was selected by the Detroit Tigers during the fourth round of the 1972 Major League Baseball draft .

= = Professional career = =

= = = Detroit Tigers = = =

In 1972 , at the age of 19 , Meyer made his professional baseball debut in the Detroit Tigers minor league organization . He was assigned to play with the Bristol Tigers of the rookie @-@ level Appalachian League , where he batted .396 with 93 hits , 11 doubles , six triples , and 14 home runs in 65 games played . On defense , he played second and third base . He led the league in batting average , hits , and total bases (158) that season . During his second professional season in 1973 , Meyer was assigned to the Lakeland Tigers of the Class @-@ A Florida State League . With Lakeland , he batted .241 with 114 hits , 17 doubles , six triples , and 10 home runs in 133 games played . In the field , Meyer only played second base . It would later prove to be his last professional season playing at that position .

Meyer began the 1974 season in the minor leagues with the Evansville Triplets of the Triple @-@ A American Association . In 129 games with the Triplets , he batted .302 with 75 runs scored , 146 hits , 26 doubles , seven triples , nine home runs , 57 RBIs , and 10 stolen bases . Meyer was a September call @-@ up for the Detroit Tigers that year . On September 14 , 1974 , he made his MLB debut with the Tigers in a game against the New York Yankees , where in one at bat he went hitless . He received his first hit on September 20 , in a game against the Milwaukee Brewers . Meyer also hit two home runs in that game , the first coming in the third inning off of Brewers ' starter Bill Champion , and the second coming Brewers ' reliever Bill Travers in the seventh inning . In 13 games with Detroit that year , Meyer batted .200 with five runs scored , 10 hits , one double , one triple , three home runs , seven RBIs , and one stolen base . All of his 12 defensive games were played in left field .

In 1975 , Meyer played his first full season at the major league level . He played left field and first base in the field . During the fifth inning of a game against the Boston Red Sox on April 25 , Meyer hit a home run to break up Luis Tiant 's perfect game bid . One day after hitting the game @-@ winning home run for the Tigers against the Milwaukee Brewers on May 7 , Meyer committed a throwing error that let the deciding Texas Rangers ' run score . He batted .236 with 56 runs scored , 111 hits , 17 doubles , three triples , eight home runs , 47 RBIs , and eight stolen bases in 122

games played during the 1975 season . Meyer led the American League that year in plate appearances per strikeout with 18 @. @ 8 , which was over four points more than Mickey Rivers , who was second in the league in that statistic .

Meyer played 105 games in 1976 for the Tigers . On the year , he batted .252 with 37 runs scored , 74 hits , eight doubles , four triples , two home runs , 16 RBIs , and 10 stolen bases . His batting average was the highest it would ever be as a Tigers player , despite the decline in at @-@ bats (470 in 1975 , 294 in 1976) . During the season , Meyer played 47 games in left field , 19 at first base , and one in the designated hitter spot .

= = = Seattle Mariners = = =

During the 1976 Major League Baseball expansion draft , Meyer was selected by the Seattle Mariners , who chose him ninth overall . On June 9 , 1977 , in a game against the Minnesota Twins , Meyer hit two home runs . In his first season with the Mariners , Meyer batted .273 with 75 runs scored , 159 hits , 24 doubles , four triples , 22 home runs , 90 RBIs , and 11 stolen bases in 159 games played . He led the American League with 159 defensive games at first base . During the Mariners inaugural season , he led the team in hits and RBIs . Meyer also set multiple career highs in 1977 that would stand until the end of his professional tenure in games played , plate appearances (639) , at bats (582) , runs scored , hits , home runs , RBIs , walks (43) , strikeouts (51) , on @-@ base percentage (.320) , and total bases (257) .

In 1978 , Meyer saw his offensive statistics decline . In 123 games played , he batted .227 with 38 runs scored , 101 hits , 18 doubles , one triple , eight home runs , 56 RBIs , and seven stolen bases . Defensively , he played 121 games at first base and two games in left field . Meyer was moved back to third base during the 1979 season , while also playing limited time at left field and first base . In June , while Meyer was having success at the plate , he attributed it to switching positions . On the season , Meyer batted .278 with 72 runs scored , 146 hits , 21 doubles , seven triples , 20 home runs , 74 RBIs , and 11 stolen bases in 144 games played .

During the 1980 season , Meyer batted .275 with 56 runs scored , 146 hits , 25 doubles , six triples , 11 home runs , 71 RBIs , and eight stolen bases in 146 games played for Seattle . Meyer spent his final season as a Mariners player in 1981 , batting .262 with 26 runs scored , 66 hits , 10 doubles , one triple , three home runs , and 22 RBIs in 83 games played . Meyer saw his playing time decrease that season due to strained abdominal muscles , which had him on the disabled list from the start of the season to April 15 .

= = = Oakland Athletics and later career = = =

In December 1981 , the Seattle Mariners traded Meyer to the Oakland Athletics in exchange for Rich Bordi . In his first season with the Athletics , Meyer batted .240 with 28 runs scored , 92 hits , 17 doubles , three triples , eight home runs , and 59 RBIs in 120 games played . With Oakland that year , Meyer was primarily used as a first baseman in the field , but did see limited time in right field , and left field . He was also the designated hitter during 38 games . During the 1983 season , Meyer batted .189 with runs scored , 32 hits , nine doubles , one home run , and 13 RBIs in 69 games played .

In 1984 , Meyer found himself starting the season in the minor league for the first time in ten years . With the Tacoma Tigers of the Triple @-@ A Pacific Coast League , Meyer batted .293 with 134 hits , 19 doubles , two triples , and seven home runs in 124 games played . Meyer was called up to the majors in September . As a member of the Athletics , Meyer batted .318 with one run scored , seven hits , three doubles , one triple , and four RBIs in 20 games played . After the season , he filed for free agency .

On January 15 , 1985 , Meyer re @-@ signed with the Athletics . With Oakland that year , Meyer went hitless in 12 at @-@ bats . He was released by the team on May 26 . For the duration of the 1985 season , Meyer played with the Triple @-@ A Nashville Sounds , who were the minor league affiliates of the Detroit Tigers . With the Sounds that year , Meyer batted .225 with 36 hits , 13

doubles , one triple , and one home run in 51 games played . During the 1986 season , Meyer was absent from professional baseball . He resurfaced in 1987 , playing three games with the Class @-@ A San Jose Bees of the California League .