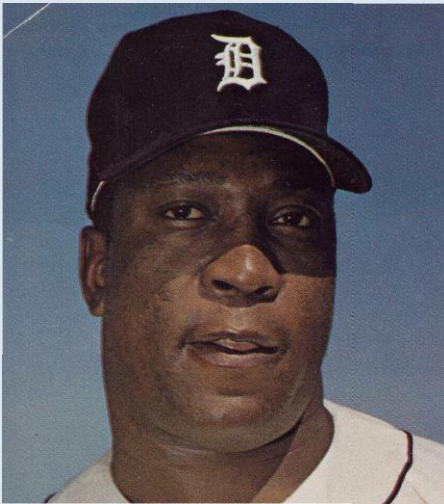




Providing the services of Dynamic Athletes & Celebrities to meet your business & promotional needs

Gates Brown



Gates spent his entire career with the Detroit Tigers (1963-1975). In a 13-season career, Brown was a .257 hitter with 84 home runs and 322 RBI in 1051 games. But Gates almost didn't make the majors; he had served a year in Ohio State Penitentiary for armed robbery in 1958 and 1959.

Brown divided his major league career as an outfielder, first baseman, pinch hitter and DH. He is best remembered for his contribution to the 1968 World Series champion Detroit Tigers. In his pinch-hitting at bats in the 1968 season, Brown hit for a .450 batting average, the eighth highest single season batting average for a pinch hitter (minimum 30 at bats) in major league history.

On June 19, 1963, coming off the bench, Brown became the American League's 11th player to hit a

home run in his first at bat. A popular figure among Tigers' fans, Brown has been considered one of the premier pinch hitters in MLB history. In his career, Brown collected 107 pinch hits, including 16 pinch homers, and also led twice the AL in pinch hits (1968 and 1974).

While 1968 was called the year of the pitcher for most of baseball, Gates appeared in 49 more as a pinch-hitter, banging out a torrid .370 (34-for-92) with a .442 on-base percentage and a .685 slugging average.

On August 7, 1968, Brown made history. He wasn't in the starting lineup, so he decided to grab two hot dogs from the clubhouse. He was ordered by manager Mayo Smith to pinch hit. He stuffed the hot dogs in his jersey to hide them from his manager. "I always wanted to get a hit every time I went to the plate. But this was one time I didn't want to get a hit. I'll be darned if I didn't smack one in the gap and I had to slide into second -- head first, no less. I was safe with a double. But when I stoop up, I had mustard and ketchup and smashed hot dogs and buns all over me. The fielders took one look at me, turned their backs and darn near busted a gut laughing at me. My teammates in the dugout went crazy." After fining Brown \$100, Smith said, "What were you doing eating on the bench in the first place?" Brown: "I decided to tell him the truth. I said, 'I was hungry. Besides, where else can you eat a hot dog and have the best seat in the house?'" Gates retired at the end of the 1975 season. In 1978, Brown returned to the Tigers as their hitting coach, a position he would hold through the championship season of 1984. Gates has 2 World Series rings for his amazing career with the Tigers.

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