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## *Jerry Grote*



Jerry was widely known as one of the best defensive catchers of his era in his 16 year career. He started his career, as many talented young players did, with the Houston Colt .45's who were renamed the Astros. And like many others (Joe Morgan, Rusty Staub, Jim Wynn) he was traded away, in Jerry's case to the New York Mets.

Jerry became a fan favorite in New York and was an integral part of the 1969 Miracle Mets World Series winning team. He played 11 and a half season for the Mets and was twice named an all-star (1968 and 1974). Jerry wasn't necessarily an offensive power, although he came through with some timely hits, but

he was the man who was the on-field general for pitchers such as a young Nolan Ryan, Jon Matlack, Jerry Koosman and Tom Seaver.

In 1977, Jerry was traded to the Los Angeles Dodgers and in 1981 he signed with the Kansas City Royals only to return to the Dodgers later that season before retiring.

Jerry was inducted into the New York Mets Hall of Fame in 1992.



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