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Randy Jones



Imagine a Cy Young Award winning pitcher whose best pitch hit 73 to 75 miles per hour on the radar gun! That was Randy Jones. An arm injury caused Randy to forego throwing hard in exchange for perfecting his pinpoint control. Obviously it worked for him as he won the Cy Young Award in 1976 for the San Diego Padres.

Randy played the first 8 of his 10 major league seasons in San Diego. In 1974, he was one of few pitchers to lose 20+ games in a season by losing 22 games while winning 8 for a terrible Padres team. But the Padres stuck with Jones and were rewarded in 1975 when Randy won 20 games to finish second in Cy Young voting behind Tom Seaver and followed that up with a 22 win season in 1976.

After three more seasons with the Padres Randy was traded to the New York Mets where he spent 2 seasons before retiring. In addition to his Cy Young Award, Randy was an all-star in 1975 and 1976 and he received votes for league MVP in both those seasons. He also led the NL in ERA in 1975 with a miniscule 2.24 ERA. Randy also went an incredible 68 consecutive innings without walking a batter, a record until Greg Maddux went 72 innings to break the record.

Randy is proof that control can often be a better tool than pure heat. His success came from a great sinker and slider and pinpoint control. He is one of very few pitchers to win 20 games without striking out more than 100 batters. Kids, put the ball where you want it and let them hit it to get the easy out. Randy Jones was the best pitcher in baseball in the mid '70's doing just that.



Canada:
RR#5, 13332 Tenth Line,
Georgetown, ON L7G4S8 Canada
Phone: 954-330-6362 Fax: 905-873-8334

United States:
49 N. Federal Hwy. #264
Pompano Beach, FL 33062 U.S.A.
Phone: 954-330-6362 Fax: 954-353-1962