



Rod Gaspar

Rod Gaspar was a member of the 1969 Miracle Mets who won the World Series over the heavily favored Baltimore Orioles. Rod was a switch-hitting outfielder on that team sharing time with players such as Tommie Agee, Cleon Jones, Ron Swoboda. Despite limited playing time, he was an excellent defensive outfielder and led the Mets outfield contingent with 12 assists and 6 double plays.



In Game 4 of the five-game series, Ron was involved in a controversial play at Shea Stadium. With the score deadlocked at 1-1 in the 10th inning, Rod was sent in to pinch-run for catcher Jerry Grote who had led off the inning with a double. Al Weis was walked intentionally and J.C. Martin was sent to pinch hit for pitcher Tom Seaver. Martin bunted to advance the runners and the bunt was fielded by pitcher Pete Richert whose throw to first hit Martin on the hand and bounced away allowing Rod to score the game winning run. Replays later showed that Martin had been running inside the baseline when the ball hit his hand. This play could have been ruled intentional interference which would have meant Martin would be called out and the runners returned to their original bases, but this call was not made by the umpiring crew.



Rod played for the Mets again in 1970 but was dealt after the season to the San Diego Padres where he played in 1971 and again with the big club in 1974.

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