



Tim Foli



Tim's professional baseball career began at the age of 17 when the New York Mets chose him as the Nation's 1968 Number One Draft Pick. In Sept. 1970, at 19 years old, he debuted in the Majors and competed for playing time in 1971. At the start of the 1972 season Tim was part of a blockbuster deal with the Montreal Expos, being traded along with Ken Singleton, and Mike Jorgensen, for Rusty Staub. For the next five years he anchored the shortstop position for Montreal, the city where he met his wife, before being traded to the San Francisco Giants for fellow shortstop Chris Speier in 1977.

After playing for the Giants in 1977, Tim went back to the Mets in 1978. He got his big break by being traded to the Pittsburgh Pirates early in the 1979 season and played a critical role in leading the Pirates to a World Series Championship. That

season, Tim set personal highs in batting average, RBI's, runs, hits and on-base percentage. He also struck out on average only once for every 38 at-bats, a strikeout ratio that has yet to be surpassed. He played two more seasons in Pittsburgh before finishing his career by playing two seasons with the California Angels, one with New York Yankees and then a curtain call with his beloved Pirates in 1985.

Tim's playing career was less than half of his 43 seasons in professional baseball. He went on to coach in various capacities, including many seasons in the Majors with the Rangers, Brewers, Royals, Mets, Reds and Nationals.

Tim will always be known as a fiery player, having once held the nickname Crazy Horse. Having finished in the top ten in the League for best strikeout ratio five times in his career, he was one of the most difficult players for pitchers to strike out. As a selfless player and terrific bunter, he finished in the top ten in the League in sacrifice hits, 8 times, but defense was his forte. The scrappy shortstop finished in the top 5 range factor (chances per 9 innings) nine times, and in fielding percentage eight times. While with the Pirates in 1980, he led the NL shortstops in fielding percentage (.981) and with the Angels in 1982, lead the AL shortstops in fielding percentage (.982).

Tim and his wife Ginette have five grown children, three boys and two girls. In 1978, at a Professional Athletes Outreach, they became Christians and through Christ Tim has been able to harness his aggressiveness. The Foli's are available, either separately or as a couple, for seminars, marriage retreats, youth rallies, men's breakfasts, and other outreach ministries.



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