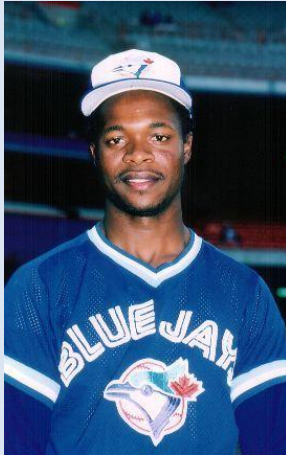




## ***Tony Fernandez***



Tony Fernandez played in the Major Leagues for 18 years. During his career he won 4 Gold Gloves and was selected to 5 All-Star Games. In 1986 Tony led the American League in games played (163), at bats (687) and singles (161). Tony's speed was on display in 1990 when he led the American League with 17 triples. He won the 1993 World Series with the Blue Jays. Tony's career in the Major Leagues ended where it began as a Toronto Blue Jay wearing his rookie number #1.

As a young boy, he never thought Tony never thought he was even good enough to sign, let alone participate at the level that he attained in the Major Leagues. "God has blessed me; it has become my time to do the same for someone else now".

Born in San Pedro de Macoris, Dominican Republic; Tony was signed at the age of 17 and made his Major League debut in September, 1983 with the Toronto Blue Jays. He played 8 seasons with the Jays and was selected to the All-Star Game 3 times and merited with four Gold Glove Awards while participating in the Post Season in 1985 and 1989.

In 1991, Tony was traded to the San Diego Padres, where he played for two seasons in the National League; once again he was selected to the All-Star Game. In 1993, Tony went on to play for the Mets for half a season before going off to Toronto for the remainder of the season where he went on to win the World Series against the Phillies.

In 1994, Tony was signed by the Cincinnati Reds where he played 3rd Base and earned a .993 fielding percentage. 1995 brought Tony the opportunity that almost every kid dreams of; becoming a Yankee shortstop. He played short and second base for the Bronx Bombers that year where he tied Larry Bowa (PHI) with the highest SS fielding mark (.980).

In 1997, he was signed by the Cleveland Indians to a one year contract and they went on to play in the World Series against the Florida Marlins. In 1998, Tony returned home to Toronto where he played 2 seasons and once again was selected to the All-Star game in 1999. After playing in the Major Leagues for the most part of his career, Tony took on an invitation to play with the Seibu Lions in Japan. After a great year, he was once again signed to a Major League contract with the Milwaukee Brewers. Through mid 2001, Tony re-signed with the Blue Jays where he began his humble baseball career and highlighted most of his achievements.

He now puts his efforts into the Tony Fernandez Foundation, a charitable organization he founded with the goal of influencing children's lives to be productive citizens of the world, bringing hope to a troubled society.



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