



Mark Eichhorn

Mark made his debut for the Blue Jays in 1982, but suffered a shoulder injury, and would not return until 1986. The shoulder injury had robbed Eichhorn of most of the velocity on his fastball and had forced him to turn to an unconventional sidearm motion. However, 1986 proved just how valuable the combination of Mark's motion and devastatingly slow change-up could be. Appearing solely in relief, Mark threw one hundred and fifty-seven innings with a sterling 1.72 ERA, a 14-6 record along with ten saves. He also showed tremendous class, turning down the chance to pitch five additional innings to meet the bare minimum and steal the ERA title for Roger Clemens.

Mark was again an effective reliever for the Jays in 1987. By 1988, either the league had begun to catch up to his unconventional combo or the innings total of the previous two seasons caught up to Eichhorn and he regressed in both 1988 and '89. In 1990 however, Mark regained his touch and began a string of successful seasons that would last through 1994, including excellent seasons for the California Angels in 1991 and Baltimore Orioles in 1994. He returned to Toronto in a mid-season 1992 trade and appeared in both the 1992 and 1993 playoffs for the Jays. Mark was effective in extremely limited duty, appearing in exactly one game each series, and surrendering no runs in four and a third innings.

Eichhorn missed the 1995 season but returned in 1996 with the Angels, but he was below league average and retired after the year. He was featured on the PBS special "Small Ball" as the coach of his son's Little League team.

Jays' teammate Jesse Barfield led Mark to a decision to accept Christ as his savior. To this day, Eich likes to sign his autograph by adding Philipians 4:13 behind his signature.

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