



## **Tom Henke**

Tom “The Terminator” Henke is the perfect name for a relief pitcher who came into a game throwing gas. At 6’5” tall with glasses and a mid-90’s fastball, coupled with a devastating forkball, Henke was a force out of the bullpen for the Toronto Blue Jays.

Tom started his career with 2 seasons, 1983 & 1984, with the Texas Rangers before moving over to Toronto. With the Blue Jays, Henke found his stride and dominated, compiling 217 saves in 8 seasons in Canada. In 1987, he had 12.3 strikeouts per 9 innings pitched, and in 4 of his Blue Jay seasons he exceeded the 30-save mark. Tom played in Toronto from 1985 to 1992, the glory years of the franchise.

Of course, his zenith came in 1992 when the Blue Jays won the first World Series ever by a team based outside of the United States. Henke saved 3 games in the ALCS and two more in the World Series.

Tom moved back to the Rangers for the 1993 & 1994 seasons and in '93 he recorded his first 40-save season. Henke ended his major league career with one final season spent in St Louis with the Cardinals, and what a year 1995 was. He was named to the All Star Team for the second time – his first being in 1987. Tom recorded 36 saves and a 1.82 ERA while winning the Roloids Relief Man of the Year Award for the only time in his successful career.

Following his outstanding 1995 season, Tom shocked the baseball world by retiring to spend more time with his family. He left the game with 311 saves ranking him 7<sup>th</sup> all-time at the time of his retirement. Over his career, he fanned 9.8 batters per 9 innings pitched, a remarkable achievement.

Tom Henke truly was The Terminator.



**Sports Celebrity Marketing S.C.M. Inc.**  
13332 Tenth Line,  
Georgetown, ON L7G4S8 Canada  
Phone: 647-221-8405

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