



## **Mike Easler**

Mike “The Hit Man” Easler, as his nickname implies, was a hitting machine during his Major League Baseball career. After being mired in the minor leagues for many seasons and being labeled as a defensive liability, Mike stuck in the majors with the Pittsburgh Pirates in the 1977 season. Despite a limited number of at bats most seasons, Mike twice topped 20 home runs in a season including 27 home runs and 91 RBI’s with a .313 batting average in 1984 with the Boston Red Sox. Mike had the privilege of winning the World Series with the Pirates in 1979 and was named an All-Star in 1981. During his career, he batted over .300 in four different seasons.

Since he was great with the bat and possessed long-ball power, teams traded for Mike frequently. Over his 14 season career, he played for the Pirates, Red Sox, Houston Astros, New York Yankees, Boston Red Sox, California Angels and Philadelphia Phillies.

In his post-playing career, Mike has carved a career in management and coaching. He was the Manager of the Nashua Pride of the Independent Leagues. He made it back to the Major Leagues as a hitting coach with the Boston Red Sox. In fact, Mo Vaughn credits much of his success in his career to Mike. Mike was also the hitting coach with the St. Louis Cardinals in 1998 and 1999 when Mark McGwire hit 70 and 65 home runs, respectively, to obliterate Roger Maris’ home run record. How’s that for credentials?

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