

2013 PHITEN PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL PLAYER ROSTER



Josh Hamilton – Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim

Five-time MLB All-Star, 2012 ALC MVP and 2010 AL MVP, Josh Hamilton knows how to dominate the game and holds one of baseball's most magnificent swings not to mention an incredible instinct in the outfield. Drafted in 2006 by the Cincinnati Reds, and now playing for the LA Angels of Anaheim, Josh has become a phenomenon and a fan favorite across the nation legitimized by accruing the most votes in the 2012 All-Star Game ballot. Josh's story is one of strength and perseverance. By overcoming many obstacles, Josh has shown us that hard work and dedication is the key to success.



CJ Wilson – Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim

CJ Wilson is a starting left-handed pitcher for the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim whose career is defined by hard work and an unwavering determination to succeed at the game's highest level. Wilson played baseball throughout his early life in Southern California. He was undrafted by the MLB and only invited to walk-on at Division I schools when he graduated high school in 1998. Unrelenting in his decision to pursue a career in baseball, Wilson chose to play in junior college before transferring to Loyola Marymount University in 1999. In 2001, his dreams became reality when he was drafted by the Texas Rangers, giving him the chance to work his way through the minors—and a major injury—to make his major league debut in 2005. His strong work ethic ultimately paid off when he was awarded the starting position in 2010, and his first nod to the AL All-Star team in 2011.



Justin Verlander - Detroit Tigers

Justin Verlander is a six-time All-Star pitcher for the Detroit Tigers. Growing up, Justin has always been a flamethrower, clocking 84 mph at the tender age of 13. By the time he was at Old Dominion University, he had grown into a 6'5" strikeout monster, breaking records and averaging 11.5 strikeouts per nine innings. In 2006, he was named Rookie of the Year and helped the Tigers reach the World Series. On June 12, 2007, he pitched a no-hitter against the Milwaukee Brewers and repeated this feat on May 7, 2011 to become the 23rd player in MLB history to pitch multiple no-no's. Justin was unanimously voted as the 2011 AL Cy Young Award winner. The same year, Verlander followed this amazing feat by being the first pitcher to claim the AL MVP award since Dennis Eckersley in 1992.



Curtis Granderson - New York Yankees

Curtis Granderson is a three-time MLB All-Star center fielder for the New York Yankees. Growing up near Chicago during the reign of Air Jordan, he loved both baseball and basketball and dreamt of playing in the NBA. Granderson is regarded as one of the most dynamic athletes in the MLB, and on September 9, 2007, he became the 4th player in MLB history to be part of the 20-20-20-20 club, recording 20 doubles, triples, home runs and steals in a single season. He led the Tigers to the World Series in 2006 and won the Silver Slugger Award in 2011. Curtis is often recognized for his commitment and efforts off the field reaching out to support inner city children and serving as an ambassador for MLB abroad. He also won the Marvin Miller Man of the Year Award in 2009.



Yu Darvish – Texas Rangers

A first round draft pick by the Nippon Ham Fighters in 2005, Yu Darvish is considered one of the best pitchers in Japanese professional baseball history. In 2009, he represented Japan in the World Baseball Classic as the Japanese team earned their second consecutive tournament title. Most recently, he was signed by the Texas Rangers in a six-year contract where he has immediately lived up to his name. In his first season in the Majors, Yu was named AL Rookie of the Month going 4-0 in April and was also voted in for the 2012 MLB All-Star Game. Whether in Japan or in the US, Yu Darvish has cemented himself as a dominant pitcher with many years still ahead.



Shin-Soo Choo - Cincinnati Reds

A native of South Korea, Choo was drafted by the Seattle Mariners in 2005. The following year he was traded to Cleveland where he played a big role becoming AL Player of the Month putting up a .400 batting average, 34 hits, five home runs and 24 RBIs. Choo also holds the record for most hits and RBI totals by a Korean-born player in the MLB. He is also the first Asian player to join the 20/20 club by hitting 20 home runs and 20 stolen bases for two straight years. Currently, Choo is playing a central role for the Cincinnati Reds hitting his 100th career home run on August 27, 2013.