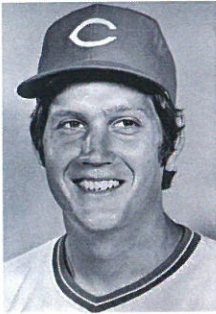


ARLINGTON SPORTS HALL OF FAME

2017 INDUCTEE - CLAY KIRBY

Clay Kirby is the most renowned Major League Baseball pitcher to hail from Arlington, with an eight-year MLB career as a starting pitcher that included 75 career wins, a 15-win season, a World Series championship and an eight-inning no-hitter.

Clay Kirby was born in 1948 and was raised in Arlington, attending Arlington public schools. As a three-year starter at Washington-Lee High School, Kirby led his W-L team to three straight Northern District championships. He pitched many no-hitters and one-hitters, and was the winning pitcher when Washington-Lee beat Bishop O'Connell, 6-1, to break its 42-game winning streak, a national record at the time. Upon his 1966 graduation from Washington-Lee, he was chosen by the St. Louis Cardinals in the third round of the 1966 amateur draft. In 1969, at the age of 20, he made his MLB debut with the San Diego Padres, facing Willie Mays as his first batter. (He walked).



In his rookie year he won seven games, pitching 215 innings in 35 games, with an ERA of 3.80. In 1970, he had an eight-inning no-hitter against the New York Mets, but the Padres, trailing 1-0, lifted him for a pinch-hitter, denying him the chance to complete the no-hitter.

Kirby pitched five seasons for the Padres with his best year in 1971, when he won 15 games, pitched 267 innings, had 231 strikeouts and an ERA of 2.83 for a Padres team that lost 100 games. After the 1973 season, Kirby was traded to the Cincinnati Reds, where he pitched for two years, winning 22 games and posted a 10-6 record on the Big Red Machine's 1975 World Series Champion team. He finished his MLB career with the Montreal Expos in 1976. He won 75 career games, pitched over 1,500 innings, and amassed over 1,000 strikeouts. His career ERA was 3.85.

He and his young family returned to Arlington in 1983. He died of a heart attack in 1991, at the age of 43.