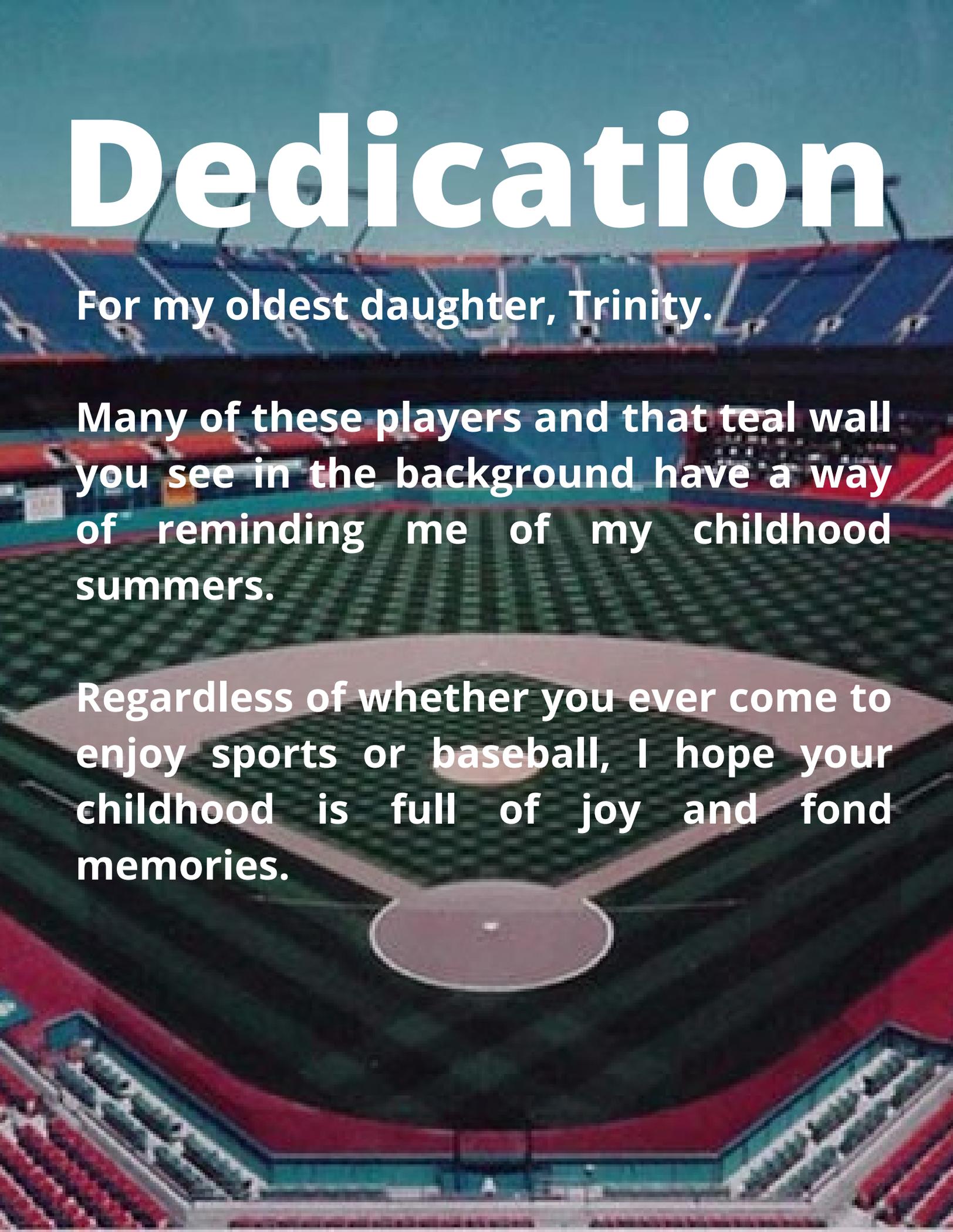


Remembering Every Marlins All-Star Ever

By Mike Ferguson



Dedication

A high-angle, wide shot of a baseball stadium. The field is visible in the foreground, with its characteristic diamond shape and green grass. The infield is a mix of brown dirt and green grass. The outfield is a solid teal color. The stadium seating is visible in the background, with rows of blue and red seats. The sky is a clear, light blue.

For my oldest daughter, Trinity.

Many of these players and that teal wall you see in the background have a way of reminding me of my childhood summers.

Regardless of whether you ever come to enjoy sports or baseball, I hope your childhood is full of joy and fond memories.

What is the All-Star Game?

Each July, Major League Baseball holds what is called the “All-Star Game”. The All-Star Game is an exhibition, which is a word for a practice game, that features baseball’s best players.

Unlike in other sports that hold an All-Star Game, at least one player from each of baseball’s 30 teams have to be selected. The 30 teams are broken up into two leagues: the American League and the National League.

Since they started play in 1993, South Florida’s baseball team has been in the National League. From 1993 to 2011, they were known as the Florida Marlins. Since 2012, they have been known as the Miami Marlins.

In this book, you’ll get to know every Florida/Miami Marlin ever to make an All-Star Game and a little bit about each.

Bryan Harvey, Pitcher 1993



Years with Marlins: 1993-95

Throws: Right

Bats: Right

Bryan Harvey was the first pitcher for the Marlins ever to make the All-Star Game. Harvey was a relief pitcher for the Florida Marlins over their first three seasons. More specifically, he was the closer.

Being a relief pitcher means that you don't start the game, but you come in when the starting pitcher or other relief pitchers get tired or aren't pitching well. Closers typically come in at the end of the game, usually when the team is winning and tries to finish it out.

In 1993, the Marlins' inaugural season, Harvey finished with 45 saves. A save is when a pitcher comes in with his team winning by three runs or less and gets the final outs to end the game and preserve the win for his team.

Harvey's 45 saves in 1993 is still the second-most ever for a Marlins pitcher in a season.

Gary Sheffield, Third Baseman/Outfielder (1993, 1996)



Years with Marlins: 1993-98

Throws: Right

Bats: Right

Gary Sheffield made two All-Star Games for the Florida Marlins. In fact, Sheffield was the first member of the Marlins ever to hit in an All-Star Game. In his first at-bat in the All-Star Game in as a member of the Marlins, Sheffield hit a two-run home run in 1993.

Sheffield played more than five seasons with the Marlins from 1993 to the early part of the 1998 season. During his time with the Marlins, Sheffield hit 122 home runs, including a then team record 42 home runs in 1996.

A team record means that it was the most ever hit by a Marlins player in a season. That record would last for 21 years. Sheffield is still one of only two Marlins ever to hit at least 40 home runs in a single season. He's also the only Marlin ever to hit two home runs in the same inning.

Jeff Conine, Outfielder (1994, 1995)



Years with Marlins: 1993-97; 2003-05

Throws: Right

Bats: Right

An original member of the Florida Marlins, Jeff Conine became the first player in team history to ever make the All-Star Game two years in a row. In 1995, Conine became the first member of the Marlins ever to be named MVP of the All-Star Game.

MVP stands for "Most Valuable Player". That award usually goes to the player who plays the best or makes the biggest play. In the 1995 All-Star Game, Conine got to hit just once, but it was a big hit.

With the score tied 2-2 in the eighth inning, Conine hit a home run. That was the last run of the game—as the National League beat the American League, 3-2.

In 1995, Conine became the first Marlin to finish with at least 100 RBIs in a season. RBI stands for "runs batted in". For example, if there is a runner on third base and the player gets a hit that allows the runner to score, the hitter is awarded an RBI.

Here's another fun fact about Jeff Conine: his nickname was Mr. Marlin.

Kevin Brown, Pitcher (1996, 1997)



Years with Marlins: 1996-97

Throws: Right

Bats: Right

Kevin Brown played just two seasons for the Florida Marlins, but made the All-Star Game in both seasons. Brown was the first pitcher for the Marlins to make multiple All-Star Games. In 1996, Brown led the National League with a 1.89 earned run average. An earned run average or ERA is how many runs a pitcher gives up on average per nine innings pitched.

In 1997, Brown threw the second no-hitter in Marlins history against the San Francisco Giants. A no-hitter is when you pitch the entire game and don't allow the opposing team to get a single base hit.

Brown was a big reason why the Marlins won the World Series in 1997. That season, he finished the season with 205 strikeouts. That was the most-ever at the time and remains the third-most ever for a Marlins pitcher.

Al Leiter, Pitcher (1996)



Years with Marlins: 1996-97, 2005

Throws: Left

Bats: Left

In 1996, Al Leiter joined Kevin Brown as the first starting pitchers to ever make the All-Star Game for the Florida Marlins. The 1996 season may have been the best year of Leiter's 19-year career. He finished the season with more innings pitched and more strikeouts than any other season in his career.

Leiter remains one of just seven Marlins pitchers ever to strike out 200 batters in a season. Against the Colorado Rockies that season, Leiter tossed the first no-hitter in Marlins history.

In his only All-Star Game as a member of the Marlins, Leiter finished the game for the National League by recording the final out in a 6-0 win over the American League. In 1997, Leiter helped the Marlins win their first World Series. He was the starting pitcher in the final game, Game 7, of the series.

Moises Alou, Outfielder (1997)



Years with Marlins: 1997

Throws: Right

Bats: Right

Moises Alou spent just one season with the Florida Marlins, but it was a great one. Alou led the Marlins that year with 23 home runs and 115 RBIs and was named an All-Star.

Alou was also great in the playoffs as he helped the Marlins win their first World Series. In the World Series, Alou hit three home runs.

The World Series is when the winner of the National League plays the American League for the championship. The first team to win four games is the champion of Major League Baseball. In 1997, Florida beat the Cleveland Indians in seven games.

Charles Johnson, Catcher (1997, 2001)



Years with Marlins: 1994-98, 2001-02

Throws: Right

Bats: Right

Charles Johnson was the first Marlins catcher ever to make the All-Star Game. He made it twice - in 1997 and 2001.

Johnson hit 75 home runs as a member of the Marlins, but was known better for what he did in the field as a catcher. From 1995 to 1997, Johnson won a Gold Glove every year. The annual Gold Glove Award goes to the best player in the field at each position in the American and National Leagues.

During his 12-year career, Johnson played for seven different teams, but his only All-Star appearances came as a member of the Marlins. Johnson was the first player ever drafted by the Marlins. The draft is when professional teams take turns picking the best high school and college players to join their team.

Johnson was the first three-time Gold Glove winner in Marlins history. No other catcher for the Marlins has ever won the Gold Glove.

Edgar Renteria, Shortstop (1998)



Years with Marlins: 1996-98

Throws: Right

Bats: Right

Edgar Renteria's time with the Marlins is most remembered for the 1997 World Series. Renteria had the game-winning hit in the 11th inning to give the Florida Marlins their first championship, but one season later, he became the first shortstop to make an All-Star Game as a member of the Marlins.

Just 21 years old in 1998, Renteria led the team in batting average and stolen bases. Renteria was always a good hitter, but he was also very fast and excellent with his glove.

At the time, Renteria became the youngest All-Star ever for the Marlins. In the 1998 All-Star Game, Renteria scored one of the eight runs for the National League and made an excellent play at shortstop in the ninth inning for the final out of the night for the American League. The American League won the game, 13-8.

Alex Gonzalez, Shortstop (1999)



Years with Marlins: 1998-2005

Throws: Right

Bats: Right

In 1998 and 1999, the Florida Marlins had shortstops make the All-Star Game in consecutive years. In 1999, that was 22-year-old rookie Alex Gonzalez. A rookie is a player in his first full season in Major League Baseball.

Gonzalez played 16 seasons for seven different teams, but his lone All-Star appearance came as a member of the Marlins. That season, Gonzalez posted a career-high batting average of .277. In 1999, Gonzalez led the Marlins in base hits, runs scored and doubles. A double is when you hit the ball and get to second.

Over his eight years with the Marlins, Gonzalez was best known for his ability in the field, but he had some big moments with the bat as well. In Game 4 of the 2003 World Series, Gonzalez had the game-winning home run in the 12th inning against the New York Yankees.

Ryan Dempster, Pitcher (2000)



Years with Marlins: 1998-2002

Throws: Right

Bats: Right

Ryan Dempster is the only Canada-born player ever to make an All-Star Game for the Marlins. Dempster spent five seasons with the Marlins, but his best came in 2000.

That season, Dempster finished 14-10 (14 wins, 10 losses) with a 3.66 ERA. He also broke Kevin Brown's single-season team record for strikeouts with 209. That record would last for 16 years.

Despite making the 2000 All-Star Game, Dempster didn't get a chance to pitch in the contest. The American League won the game, 6-3.

Cliff Floyd, Outfielder (2001)



Years with Marlins: 1997-2002

Throws: Right

Bats: Left

Cliff Floyd played 17 years in Major League Baseball with seven different teams, but his best year was in 2001 as a member of the Florida Marlins.

That year, Floyd became just the third Marlin to hit 30 home runs in a season and just the fourth to finish with 100 RBIs. It was the only season for his career in which he finished with at least 100 RBIs. He hit .317 with 31 home runs and 103 RBIs.

Floyd led the team in all three of those categories. Floyd still ranks in the top 10 in Marlins history in batting average, doubles, home runs, RBIs and stolen bases.

Luis Castillo, Second Baseman (2002, 2003, 2005)



Years with Marlins: 1996-2005

Throws: Right

Bats: Switch

Luis Castillo was the first switch hitter to make the All-Star Game as a member of the Marlins. That means he hit left-handed and right-handed. Castillo spent 10 years with the Marlins and was best known for his speed.

Castillo led the league in stolen bases twice during his tenure with the Marlins. Castillo remains the all-time leader for the Marlins when it comes to games played, hits, runs scored, triples and stolen bases.

In addition to the three All-Star appearances, Castillo won three straight Gold Gloves for his play at second base in 2003, 2004 and 2005. In 2002, Castillo had a team record 35-game hitting streak. That means that he had at least one base hit in 35 straight games.

Castillo had just one hit in seven at-bats in the three All-Star Games, but did score following his hit. That came in the 2005 All-Star Game as the National League lost to the American League, 7-5.

Mike Lowell, Third Baseman (2002, 2003, 2004)



Years with Marlins: 1999-2005

Throws: Right

Bats: Right

Mike Lowell was the first player in Marlins' history to make three straight All-Star Games. Lowell was also an inspiration as he battled cancer before ever playing for the Florida Marlins.

Lowell spent seven years with the Marlins and left as the team's all-time leader in home runs with 143 and RBIs with 578. He is still the Marlins' all-time leader in doubles.

In the All-Star Game as a member of the Marlins, Lowell had three total hits in six at-bats, including a double. He also scored a run.

Despite battling through a hand injury in 2003, Lowell was a big reason why the Florida Marlins went on to win the World Series. In the playoffs that year, he hit two home runs. Both came against the Chicago Cubs in the National League Championship Series.

In 2004, Lowell became the first Marlin ever to hit three home runs in the same game when he did so against the Philadelphia Phillies. The 2005 season would be his last with the Marlins. Although he did not make the All-Star Game, he became the first Marlins third baseman to win a Gold Glove.

Dontrelle Willis, Pitcher (2003, 2005)



Dontrelle Willis, Pitcher (2003, 2005)

Years with Marlins: 2003-07

Throws: Left

Bats: Left

Known for his high leg kick, Dontrelle Willis brought enthusiasm and excitement to the pitcher's mound. Nicknamed the "D-Train", Willis became the first member of the Florida Marlins to earn National League Rookie of the Year in 2003.

Willis spent five years with the Marlins and won 68 games with the club, including 22 in 2005. His 22 wins was the most in all of baseball that year. That remains a club record and Willis remains the only Marlin pitcher ever to win 20 games in a season.

Willis was an outstanding pitcher, but was also really good with the bat. Pitchers are not usually good hitters, but during his time with the Marlins, Willis hit eight home runs. In 2006, Willis became the first and only pitcher for the Marlins ever to hit two home runs in one game.

Armando Benitez, Pitcher (2004)



Years with Marlins: 2004, 2007

Throws: Right

Bats: Right

Armando Benitez was a hard-throwing right-hander who closed games for the Florida Marlins in 2004. Benitez appeared in 64 games that season and struck out 62 batters in nearly 70 innings pitched.

In 2004, Benitez broke Bryan Harvey's team record by recording 47 saves. Benitez pitched 15 years in Major League Baseball, but never saved more games than he did in 2004 in Florida. Benitez also posted the best ERA of his career at just 1.29 that season.

Despite making the All-Star Game, Benitez didn't get to pitch in the 2004 All-Star Game. The American League defeated the National League, 9-4.

Miguel Cabrera, Outfielder/Third Baseman (2004, 2005, 2006, 2007)



Years with Marlins: 2003-07

Throws: Right

Bats: Right

Miguel Cabrera was just 20 years old when he made his Major League Baseball debut for the Florida Marlins in 2003. In his very first game, he hit the game-winning home run to beat the Tampa Bay Devil Rays.

Cabrera would also go on to become the first four-time All-Star in Marlins history. Cabrera made four straight All-Star Games from 2004 to 2007. Over those four years, Cabrera hit at least 26 home runs and finished with at least 112 RBIs each year.

His .313 batting average as a member of the Marlins is the highest in team history. Cabrera still holds the Marlins' single season record with 50 doubles in 2006.

Cabrera started his career in the outfield, but moved to third base in 2006 after Mike Lowell was traded to the Boston Red Sox. Although Cabrera played in four straight All-Star Games as a member of the Marlins, he never managed a base hit in any of those contests.

Carl Pavano, Pitcher (2004)



Years with Marlins: 2002-04

Throws: Right

Bats: Right

Carl Pavano spent 14 years in Major League Baseball, but his best season came in 2004 as a member of the Florida Marlins.

That season, Pavano set personal bests with 18 wins, 222.1 innings pitched and a 3.00 ERA. Pavano's lone All-Star Game appearance came in 2004.

Although he had a great year, he did struggle in the All-Star Game. Pavano pitched a scoreless fifth inning, but gave up a two-run home run to David Ortiz of the Boston Red Sox in the sixth.

Paul Lo Duca, Catcher (2005)



Years with Marlins: 2004-05, 2008

Throws: Right

Bats: Right

Paul Lo Duca was acquired by the Florida Marlins in a trade from the Los Angeles Dodgers midway through the 2004 season. That means the teams traded players and Lo Duca came to the Marlins from Los Angeles.

The 2005 season would be Lo Duca's only full season with Florida. He would go on to make his third straight All-Star appearance and only one as a member of the Marlins.

In 132 games that season, Lo Duca batted .283 with six home runs and 57 RBIs. In the 2005 All-Star Game, Lo Duca went 0-for-2. That means he batted twice, but did not get a hit in the National League's 7-5 loss to the American League.

Dan Uggla, Second Baseman (2006, 2008)



Years with Marlins: 2006-10

Throws: Right

Bats: Right

Dan Uggla wasn't the biggest of players, but had a lot of power in his bat. Uggla spent five seasons with the Florida Marlins and left South Florida as the team's all-time leader in home runs.

Uggla hit at least 27 home runs in each of his five seasons with the Marlins and 154 total with the team. Although he didn't make the All-Star Game in 2010, Uggla finished the season with a career-high 105 RBIs.

He also won the National League Silver Slugger Award in 2010. That goes to the best hitter at each position.

Hanley Ramirez, Shortstop (2008, 2009, 2010)



Years with Marlins: 2006-12

Throws: Right

Bats: Right

The 2006 National League Rookie of the Year, Hanley Ramirez was one of the best hitters in the game in the late-2000s and early-2010s. Ramirez hit just about everywhere in the lineup and played with power and speed.

Ramirez made his first All-Star appearance in 2008 and became the first Marlin ever to lead off the All-Star Game. That means that he was the game's very first hitter. In the game, Ramirez finished 2-for-3 with a run scored. Ramirez led the National League in 2008 with 125 runs scored.

In 2009, Ramirez became the first member of the Marlins to win the National League batting title. That means that he had the highest batting average in baseball as he hit .342. That's the highest average for a Marlin ever in a season. He also set a career-high in 2009 with 106 RBIs.

Over his six full seasons with the Marlins, Ramirez averaged more than 22 home runs per season. He won the Silver Slugger Award for National League shortstops in 2008 and 2009.

Josh Johnson, Pitcher (2009, 2010)



Years with Marlins: 2005-12

Throws: Right

Bats: Left

In eight seasons as a member of the Florida and Miami Marlins, Josh Johnson picked up 56 wins. 26 of those came over a two-year period from 2009 to 2010.

Johnson made the All-Star Game in each of those seasons. After posting a career-high 15 wins in 2009, Johnson led the National League with a 2.30 ERA in 2010.

Johnson did not pitch in the 2009 All-Star Game, but threw two perfect innings for the National League in the 2010 contest, striking out two batters. From 2009 to 2021, Johnson was the only Marlins pitcher to throw over 200 innings in a season.

Johnson was off to a great start in 2011, but an injury to his shoulder ultimately ended to his season. He was never quite the same after that. He still ranks in the top three in Marlins history in wins, strikeouts and innings pitched. His 3.15 ERA as a member of the Marlins is the best in team history.

Gaby Sanchez, First Baseman (2011)



Years with Marlins: 2008-12

Throws: Right

Bats: Right

Gaby Sanchez was born and raised in Miami. That's also where he went to high school and college.

Sanchez's career was relatively short, but in seven seasons, he managed to make one All-Star Game. That came in 2011 as a member of the Florida Marlins.

That season, Sanchez finished with a .266 batting average, 19 home runs and 78 RBIs. Sanchez was 0-for-1 in his only All-Star Game at-bat as the National League topped the American League, 5-1.

Giancarlo Stanton, Outfielder (2012, 2014, 2015, 2017)



Years with Marlins: 2010-17

Throws: Right

Bats: Right

The first All-Star for the franchise after becoming the Miami Marlins, Giancarlo Stanton is arguably the greatest player in team history. Stanton joined Miguel Cabrera as the only four-time All-Star in the history of the franchise.

During his tenure, Stanton hit more home runs than any Marlin ever. Over his eight years with the club, Stanton hit 267 home runs, including a team-record 59 in 2017. He led all of baseball that year in home runs and with 132 RBIs.

In 2017, Stanton became the only member of the Marlins ever to win the National League's Most Valuable Player (MVP). That award annually goes to the best player in each of the two leagues.

Stanton is also the only Marlin ever to win Home Run Derby. Home Run Derby is a home run hitting contest that is held on the Monday night before the All-Star Game.

Stanton's MVP season would be his last as a member of the Miami Marlins. During his eight years with the Marlins, Stanton never hit fewer than 22 home runs in any season.

In addition to home runs, Stanton is the team's all-time leader in RBIs and extra base hits. Extra base hits include doubles, triples and home runs. Stanton is the greatest home run hitter in team history, but he also had a very strong throwing arm in the outfield.

Jose Fernandez, Pitcher (2013, 2016)



Years with Marlins: 2013-16

Throws: Right

Bats: Right

Jose Fernandez was just 20 years old when he made his Major League Baseball debut for the Miami Marlins in 2013. A native of Cuba, Fernandez was a hard-throwing right-hander with a curveball that blew away opposing hitters. A curveball is a pitch that curves downward.

Fernandez looked like he was always having fun on the pitcher's mound and was a fan favorite in Miami. In just four seasons, Fernandez made two All-Star Games.

In 2013, Fernandez was named National League Rookie of the Year. In 2014, he suffered a season-ending shoulder injury, but returned late in 2015 and was fully healthy for the 2016 season. In 2016, he broke the team's single-season record with 253 strikeouts.

With a week left in that season, tragedy struck as Fernandez died in a boating accident. He was just 24 years old. In the game following his unexpected death, every Marlins player wore jersey No. 16 – the number that Fernandez wore.

Henderson Alvarez, Pitcher (2014)



Years with Marlins: 2013-15

Throws: Right

Bats: Right

In six full seasons in Major League Baseball, pitcher Henderson Alvarez won more games than he lost just once. That was in his second season with the Miami Marlins in 2014.

That year, Alvarez finished with 12 wins and seven losses while posting a 2.65 ERA. Although he made the All-Star Game in 2014, he didn't pitch in the contest.

While 2014 was his best season, his most memorable moment as a member of the Marlins arguably came in the final game of 2013. Against the Detroit Tigers, Alvarez threw a no-hitter, but the game was scoreless until the Marlins scored the only run in the bottom of the ninth inning.

Dee Strange-Gordon, Second Baseman (2015)



Years with Marlins: 2015-17

Throws: Right

Bats: Left

Dee Strange-Gordon was never the biggest player, but throughout Major League Baseball, he was one of the fastest. Strange-Gordon usually hit lead-off for the Marlins. That means he batted first in the lineup.

Strange-Gordon spent just three seasons with the Marlins, but led Major League Baseball in stolen bases twice. He stole 58 bases in 2015 and 60 in 2017.

As an All-Star in 2015, Gordon also led the National League with 205 hits and won the National League batting title with a .333 average. He also won a Golden Glove that season.

Gordon hit just seven home runs over his three years with the Marlins, but one was among the most memorable in franchise history. In the Marlins' first game following the death of Jose Fernandez, Gordon homered to lead off the bottom of the first. His eyes were filled with tears as he mourned the loss of his friend.

Marcell Ozuna, Outfield (2016, 2017)



Years with Marlins: 2013-17

Throws: Right

Bats: Right

Outfielder Marcell Ozuna was just 22 years old when he made his Major League Baseball debut for the Miami Marlins. Ozuna spent five years with the Marlins and made the All-Star Game in each of his final two seasons.

Ozuna had a strong throwing arm, good speed and had the ability to hit for average and power. Ozuna's best season came in 2017 when he hit .312 with 37 home runs and 124 RBIs.

That year, he also won the Silver Slugger Award and a Gold Glove. In his two All-Star Game appearances as a member of the Marlins, Ozuna was 1-for-4 with a single in the 2016 contest.

AJ Ramos, Pitcher (2016)



Years with Marlins: 2012-17

Throws: Right

Bats: Right

In his six years with the Miami Marlins, AJ Ramos was a reliable pitcher out of the bullpen. The bullpen is where relief pitchers warm up before coming into the game.

In 2016, Ramos made his only All-Star Game. That season, Ramos served as the team's closer and became just the fifth Marlin to record 40 saves in a season.

Although he made the 2016 All-Star Game, Ramos did not pitch in the game. He finished the season with a 2.81 ERA.

J.T. Realmuto, Catcher (2018)



Years with Marlins: 2014-18

Throws: Right

Bats: Right

The last catcher to make the All-Star Game for the Miami Marlins, J.T. Realmuto had the best season of his Marlins tenure in 2018. That year, he set then career-highs with 21 home runs and 74 RBIs.

Realmuto led the Marlins in each of those two categories. He also won the National League Silver Slugger Award for catchers in 2018.

Realmuto came to the plate twice during the 2018 All-Star Game. He walked both times and scored a run.

Sandy Alcantara, Pitcher (2019)



Years with Marlins: 2018-Present

Throws: Right

Bats: Right

Pitcher Sandy Alcantara was just 23 years old when he was named an All-Star in 2019. Alcantara is one of baseball's best young pitchers with a fastball that can hit 100 miles per hour.

Alcantara finished with a 6-14 record in 2019, but had a solid 3.88 ERA. Despite having a losing record during his time with the Marlins, Alcantara has a career 3.49 ERA.

Alcantara pitched a scoreless ninth inning in the 2019 All-Star Game while striking out Whit Merrifield of the Kansas City Royals. In 2021, Alcantara became the first Marlins pitcher to throw at least 200 innings in a season in 13 years.

Trevor Rogers, Pitcher (2021)



Years with Marlins: 2020-Present

Throws: Left

Bats: Left

In 2021, Trevor Rogers became the first left-handed Marlins pitcher to make the All-Star Game since Al Leiter 25 years earlier. Just 23 years old, Rogers is a hard-throwing lefty with a bright future.

In his first full season in Major League Baseball, Rogers posted just a 7-8 record, but it came with a stellar 2.64 ERA. He finished second in the National League Rookie of the Year voting.

In 133 innings, Rogers struck out 157 batters in 2021. Rogers did allow two runs in the 2021 All-Star Game, but both were unearned. That means an error – or a mistake by one of the fielders – is the reason those runs scored. Rogers did strike out J.D. Martinez of the Boston Red Sox.

Special Thanks



Below are a list of resources used to complete this book:

- **Baseball Reference**

- **Getty Images**

- **USA TODAY Images**

- **Miami Herald**

- **Sun Sentinel**

- **Associated Press**