



## Al Hrabosky

“The Mad Hungarian”. Say that to a ballplayer in the 1970’s and it meant “game over”. Al would be coming in from the bullpen and his team would seal the victory.

Al debuted with the St. Louis Cardinals in 1970, a year in which he made the only start of his major league career. He pitched in St. Louis for a total of 8 seasons. It was during this time that he perfected his colorful persona. With his Fu Manchu mustache, long hair, and a silver ring, Hrabosky would turn every outing into performance art. He'd stomp off the mound toward second base, eyes blazing, the fury practically seeping through his uniform as he turned his back to the hitter who was left waiting at the plate until he was done working himself into an altered state he called his "controlled hate routine," then whirled around, pounding the ball into his glove while the home crowd generally went nuts.

For the 1978 season, Al was traded to the Kansas City Royals for Mark Littell and Buck Martinez. In KC he continued to close games with aplomb for two seasons. Then in 1980 he signed as a free agent with the Atlanta Braves where his save totals tailed off and he retired after the 1982 seasons.

Al earned many honours in his career. He was named the National League Fireman of the Year in 1975, led NL pitchers in win-loss percentage in 1975, finished 5<sup>th</sup> in Cy young voting in 1974 and 3<sup>rd</sup> in 1975 and tallied MVP votes in both seasons as well, led the NL in saves in 1975 and has one of the best win-loss percentages of all-time for a relief pitcher (.646). but most of all, The Mad Hungarian entertained us!

Al has been a broadcaster for the Cardinals since 1985. It goes without saying that Al is an entertaining speaker.

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