



Duke Sims

Duke Sims played 11 MLB seasons with the Cleveland Indians, Los Angeles Dodgers, Detroit Tigers, New York Yankees and Texas Rangers. While he was mainly a catcher, he also played first base, leftfield, rightfield and DH'd. Yes, Duke was versatile. His career spanned from 1964 to 1974. Playing before the era of "big bucks", his highest salary was \$55,000 while his career average was closer to \$20,000.

Duke was a terrific handler of a pitching staff. In 1968, he caught the Indians staff which led the league with a terrific 2.66 ERA. Two of those pitchers were 21-game winner, Luis Tiant, and fireballer Sam McDowell.

Sims had a great view of one of the nastiest plays in baseball history. In Game 2 of the 1972 AL Championship series between Duke's Tigers and the Oakland A's, he was behind the plate when Bert Campaneris threw his bat at Tiger's pitcher Lerrin Lagrow after being hit by a pitch. And on the up-side, Duke hit the last home run in original Yankee Stadium before its remodeling.

Following his baseball career, Duke built himself a very successful and eclectic business career. He spent time in the plastics industry, financial and insurance services, an energy company, a time share business and as a VP at a medical devices company. He is well-schooled in communications, economics and politics.

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