



Frank Tanana

How many pitchers can claim a 21 season career? Frank Tanana is one of them. He made his major league debut in 1973 as a 19-year old with the California Angels as a young flame-throwing lefty. In only his second full season, he finished fourth in voting for the AL Cy Young Award and the following 3 seasons, he was named an all-star each season and received Cy Young Award votes along with some MVP votes in those seasons. In seven plus seasons with the Angels, Frank won 102 games.

In 1981, Frank was involved in a big trade with the Boston Red Sox, going to Beantown with Joe Rudi in exchange for Fred Lynn and Steve Renko. Injuries limited his effectiveness with the Bosox as he won only 4 games that season.

In 1982, Frank signed as a free agent with the Texas Rangers where he played until being traded to the Detroit Tigers part way through the 1985 season. In Detroit, Frank caught fire again, only this time as a crafty “junk baller” as an arm injury forced a change in his approach. In Detroit, Frank won another 96 games in seven plus seasons. He finished his playing career in 1993 with a final season in New York split between the Yankees and the Mets.



In his career, Frank won a total of 240 games as two different pitchers - the hard throwing youngster and the finesse pitcher. His career had a span such that he is one of only two pitchers to allow a home run to both Hank Aaron and Barry Bonds (Rick Reuschel is the other).

Just as Frank had two distinct stages of his pitching career, his personal life also had two stages. In his youth, Frank was known as the hard-partying bachelor. At the age of 25, Frank became a Christian and has spent the rest of his life honouring God by telling others about Him at every chance he gets.

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