

Jim Essian

Jim was both a player and a manger in the major leagues. He was a catcher for 5 different clubs in 12 seasons.

Jim made his MLB debut in 1973 with the Philadelphia Phillies and got a handful of at-bats for the club over three seasons before being packaged to the Chicago White Sox in a deal that included Dick Allen and Johnny Oates. In Chicago, Jim finally got some playing time and in 1977 posted a career high 10 homeruns and 44 RBI.

In 1978, he was traded to the Oakland A's where he platooned until 1980 when he signed as a free agent with the White Sox for a second tour of duty in the Windy City. He lasted only one season there until he was moved again, this time to the Seattle Mariners in exchange for Tom Paciorek. He played 1982 in Seattle, 1983 with the Cleveland Indians and 1984 back with the Oakland A's for a second time before ending his playing career.

In 1991, Jim became interim manager of the Chicago Cubs when Don Zimmer was fired and in his only season led the Cubbies to a 59-63 won-loss record in his 122 games at the helm.