



John Hiller

John was a rare Canadian playing in the majors in the 1970's. He was also extremely rare in being a professional athlete who achieved the pinnacle of his sports after suffering a heart attack!

John grew up in a suburb of Toronto and made the Detroit Tigers in 1965. He didn't get substantial playing time until 1967 and he pitched in 38 games for the 1968 World Series Champs posting a remarkable 2.39 earned run average.

Hiller's heart attack occurred in January 1971 and after a lengthy recovery, he began the 1972 season as a batting practice pitcher, with the team thinking he'd never be anything more than that. However, by July he was back on the roster and pitched in 24 games with an astounding 2.03 ERA.

In his first full season back with the team, 1973, John record 38 saves, a major league record until 1983 and a Tigers team record until 2000. He also won baseball's Hutch Award given for fighting spirit and competitive desire. Additionally, he was named the AL Fireman of the Year and Comeback Player of the Year.

In 1974, John continued his comeback and set an AL record with 17 wins in relief. For this, he made the All Star team for the only time in his career.

John ended his career with a record of 87-76 with an ERA of 2.83 and 125 saves. At the time of his retirement, his 125 saves were 4th most in AL history. His 545 career appearances ranked 9th among AL left-handers and remains the franchise record.

John was inducted into the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame in 1985 and into Canada's Sports Hall of Fame in 1999.

Sports Celebrity Marketing S.C.M. Inc.
13332 Tenth Line,
Georgetown, ON L7G 4S8 Canada
Phone: 647-221-8405

www.sportscelebs.com