

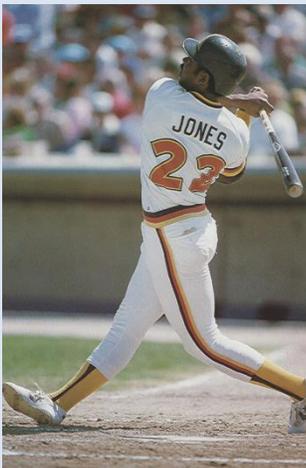


Ruppert Jones

Ruppert was a 5-tool player who battled a variety of injuries to put together a solid 12-year career in the major leagues. He debuted briefly in the big leagues as a 21-year old for the Kansas City Royals in 1976 and was promptly plucked off their roster by the Seattle Mariners as the first overall pick of the expansion draft, thus becoming the first ever Mariner.

He quickly became a fan favorite in Seattle with fans chanting “ROOP”. He was named an all-star that first season and had knee surgery following the season. In his second season, he had an appendectomy which slowed his progress but he came back strong in 1979 and set career highs with 109 runs scored, 78 RBI and 33 stolen bases. He played so well that the New York Yankees traded for Jones.

Rupe was having a career year batting second in the Yankee line-up and playing centerfield when in May, he became violently ill as a result of adhesions from his appendectomy causing a blockage and he needed surgery again. Then in August he chased a fly ball at full speed into the unpadded outfield wall in Oakland. He lay motionless on the turf and stopped breathing. Once revived and taken to the hospital, he was diagnosed with a severe concussion and a separated shoulder. Jones has no recollection of the following 24 hours.



Ruppert was dealt to the San Diego Padres for the 1981 season. Again he was named to the all-star team in 1982 and became a free agent after the 1983 season. He signed with the Detroit Tigers for the 1984 season and displayed his prodigious power by becoming the 13th player in MLB history to hit a ball completely out of the stadium over the right field roof. That season, he won a World Series championship and then took his talents to the California Angels. He made it back to the playoffs with the team in 1986. After three seasons in Anaheim, he was done in the major leagues. Ruppert then finished his playing career with a season in Japan with the Hanshim Tigers.

Jones serves on the board of a non-profit organization that hires people with disabilities and consults in the insurance industry. After his personal experience with Traumatic Brain

Injury (TBI), Ruppert wants to help others who are afflicted. He speaks about how his body could no longer do what he wanted it to after his injury. “I never got over it”, he states. Ask for help.

Book Ruppert Jones to speak with your group.