



Willie Horton

Willie Horton is known as one of the strongest men ever to play Major League Baseball. Perhaps that is as a result of being the youngest of 21 children in the Horton family!

Willie played in the majors for 18 years, including 15 with his beloved hometown Detroit Tigers. He was a key player for the Tigers when they won the 1968 World Series. In fact, his throw to home plate to nab the speedy Lou Brock in Game 5 is still talked about.

His accomplishments in the game are many. In 1975 and 1979, he won the AL Designated Hitter Award and also in 1979, was voted AL Comeback Player of the Year. He also selected to the All-Star team five times. In over 2,000 games, Willie clubbed 325 homeruns, collected 1,163 RBI's, and fell just short of 2,000 hits (1,993). Following his playing career, Willie went on to coach for several major league teams.

In addition to these tremendous statistics, Willie was the ultimate team player who was respected by his teammates and opponents alike. Willie is a man who never forgot those cold and hungry days of growing up in Detroit, or the pain and despair of the tragic loss of his parents at a young age. During the Detroit riots of 1967, Willie risked his own life by going into the streets to talk to the rioters and looters to bring calm back to the city.

In 2003, at the age of 60, Willie's nephew battled cancer. When Willie asked how he was feeling, his nephew told him not to worry about him but to worry about his own soul. It was like a fastball to the ribs for Horton. A couple of days later, his nephew passed away. The day after the funeral, Willie was informed that another of his nephews had been tragically killed. At the church for this funeral, Willie was overwhelmed with God's message of love. "I knew it was time and I received Jesus Christ as my Saviour."

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