



Jesse Barfield

Jesse is one of the all-time great Toronto Blue Jays, having played for the club from 1981 to 1989. Jesse was a key team leader on the 1985 AL East Division winning Jays, Toronto's first great baseball team.

Jesse's best individual season came in 1986 when he led the Major leagues in home runs with 40, was named to the All-Star team, won a Gold Glove, knocked in over 100 RBI's, and finished in the top 10 in the American League MVP voting. Additionally, he won a second Gold Glove in 1987 and was in the top 10 in MVP voting in 1985. Of course, Blue Jay fans also remember Jesse for his cannon of a throwing arm from the outfield. You may need to be a devoted baseball fan to appreciate the next statistic, but Jesse collected 162 assists from the outfield in his career including an amazing 22 assist in the 1985 season. Most outfielders don't have as many assists in their career as Jesse did in one season.

During the 1989 season, much to the chagrin of Jays fan, Jesse was dealt to the New York Yankees where he played until the close of the 1992 season. He then finished his playing career with one season in Japan. In



his post-playing career, Jesse has been batting coach for the Seattle Mariners and first base coach for the Houston Astros.

Jesse's son Josh played in the major leagues with the San Diego Padres and Cleveland Indians and his younger son Jeremy was also an MLB draft choice.

Jesse's true legacy comes from his faith in Jesus Christ. Jesse, together with his wife Marla, was instrumental in many of the Blue Jays accepting Christ as their personal Saviour. Jesse had the privilege of leading Jays such as Tony Fernandez, Ron Shepherd and Mark Eichhorn to the Lord. Similarly, Marla played a central role in leading many of the Jays wives to the Lord.

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