

Bill Madlock

Bill Madlock was a pure hitter. He is one of only eleven players in the history of Major League Baseball to be a four time Batting Champion. Bill achieved his titles by leading the National League in hitting in 1975, 1976, 1981 and 1983. He also batted .300+ in 10 different seasons of his 15 season MLB career.

Madlock started his career with the Texas Rangers but was dealt after one season to the Chicago Cubs for Hall of Fame pitcher Fergie Jenkins. After batting .313 in his first year with the Cubbies, Bill won two of his batting titles the next two seasons hitting .354 and .339. Much to everyone's surprise, after 3 seasons the Cubs dealt Madlock to the San Francisco Giants in exchange for Bobby Murcer . With the Giants, Bill continued to hit over .300 for the next 2.5 seasons before being traded to the Pittsburgh Pirates.

It was in Pittsburgh in 1979 with the "We Are Family" Pirates that Madlock won his only World Series Championship. "Mad Dog", as he was known for his spirited temperament, was a catalyst for the struggling team when he joined part way through the season and batted .375 in the World Series to lead the Pirates over the Baltimore Orioles in seven games.

At the end of August 1985, Bill was dealt to the Los Angeles Dodgers for whom he hit .360 for the remainder of the season. He spent the 1986 in LA before splitting his final season between the Dodgers and the Detroit Tigers.

In addition to his World Championship and 4 batting titles. Madlock was MVP of the 1975 All Star game, a 3-time All Star, and finished Top 20 in MVP voting six times in his career.

In 2000 & 2001, Bill joined another feisty former Pirate, Phil Garner, and coached with the Detroit Tigers before moving on to coach in other leagues. Ever the competitor, Mad Dog now teaches hitting to aspiring ball players. Why not learn from one of the best?