

Bernie Carbo

Bernie Carbo was a first round draft choice of the Cincinnati Reds in 1965, drafted even ahead of Hall of Famer Johnny Bench. He broke into Major League baseball with a bang, winning The Sporting News National League Rookie of the Year Award while hitting 21 homeruns with 63 runs batted in and a .310 batting average in only 365 at bats. The season was 1970 and Carbo played for the Reds. That season, Bernie participated in the World Series in his rookie year, losing in 5 games to the Baltimore Orioles.

Carbo played all of 1971 and part of the 1972 season with Cincinnati before being traded to the St. Louis Cardinals where he played until the end of the 1973 season. Beginning in 1974, Carbo joined the Boston Red Sox for whom he enjoyed his greatest heroics. He starred in the 1975 World Series for the Red Sox versus the Reds and tied a World Series record with 2 key pinch hit home runs in the 7 game series. His second home run in the 8th inning of critical game 6 tied the score and set the stage for Carlton Fisk's memorable extra innings homer that forced game 7.

Bernie played in Boston until the middle of the 1978 season, with the exception of one year in Milwaukee in 1976, before being sold to Cleveland in 1978. Carbo's trade greatly upset his teammates who, in the words of Bill "Spaceman" Lee, considered Carbo "the best tenth man in baseball". He finished off his career by returning to St. Louis in 1979 and part of 1980 when he played out his career with the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Bernie is a recovering addict who is not about to condemn athletes who fall victim to alcohol, drugs or sex, but he is ready and willing to show them and others that there is another way. The free-speaking Carbo is always eager to share the experiences of his life on the edge if there is any chance it will make a difference. "I've abused alcohol, drugs and women and, yes, it has been devastating to my life," he said. "I've even been on the verge of suicide." This man's testimony is powerful and needs to be heard!

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