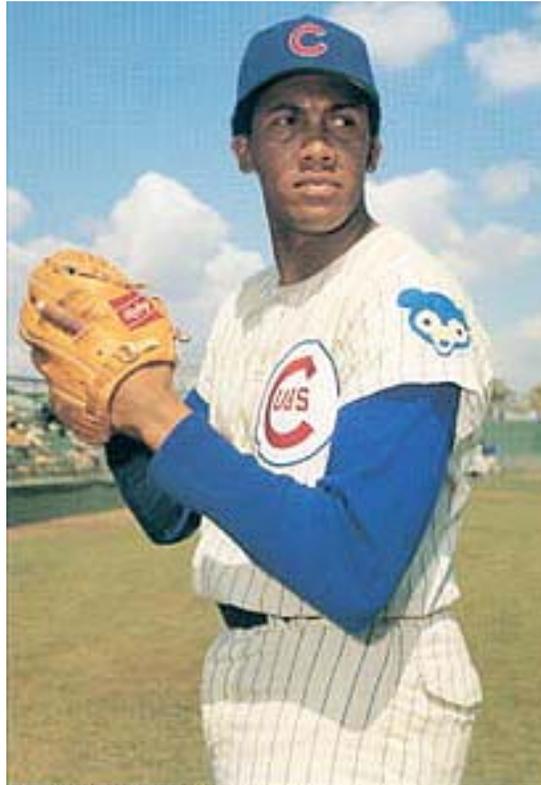


Hall of Fame pitcher **Ferguson Jenkins** cuts loose for the Chicago Baseball Museum.



*By Paul Ladewski*

**In the 1971 season, you started 39 games, pitched 325 innings, won 24 games and hit six home runs. Fast forward 37 years. What does it take for the Cubs to sign you now?**

Now? Probably \$14 million, \$15 million. Yeah, I think so. I was 28 years old at the time, so the team would probably want to lock me up for five or six years. I'd take five years for \$75 million. That wouldn't be bad. (Laughs.) Or I'd take **Carlos Zambrano's** contract -- \$92 million for six years.

**What was your salary that season?**

I made \$125,000. It was good money then. It was one of the first big contracts that the Cubs gave to a pitcher. My family really enjoyed it. I bought a ranch in Ontario, Canada, at the time, and me and my father worked on it. We were pretty happy with that.

**What memorabilia did you save from that season?**

I have a couple bats at home. I also have some jerseys, but I'm not sure if they're from the actual 1971 season because we didn't own the uniforms back then. The ballclubs did. At the end of the season, we handed them back in and got new ones before the next season.

**Now that you've have time reflect on your Cubs career, what do you remember most about it?**

It was a lot of fun. I look back at accomplishments, but mostly, we had a lot of fun with the Cubs in my years there. A lot of us joined the team at the same time -- **Glenn Beckert**,

**Don Kessinger, Randy Hundley, Bill Hands, Ken Holtzman, Adolfo Phillips** -- and we were in the same age group. We matured at the same time in 1967, 1968, 1969 . . . We became a better ballclub the more we played together.

**You rank first in strikeouts (2,038) and fifth in victories (167) in Cubs history. In six consecutive seasons (1967-72), you won at least 20 games, the last major league pitcher to do so. In 1991, you were inducted into the Hall of Fame. What's left on your wish list?**

The Cubs haven't retired my jersey number 31 yet, but it's going to happen when **Greg Maddux** retires, I think. Both of us wore it here, and we performed pretty well.

**As a kid, who were your favorite athletes?**

**Larry Doby** was one of them. My dad took me to some games in Detroit, and he was a centerfielder with the Cleveland Indians at the time and hit a few home runs. And I'm sure everybody knows Jackie Robinson. I'm kind of a history buff of the game and appreciate guys who were really good athletes from Joe DiMaggio to Mickey Mantle to Hank Aaron, who I played against for 11 years.

**So what did do you more at your Hall of Fame induction -- ask for autographs or actually sign them?**

I was very fortunate, because when I was inducted, it was the 50th anniversary of Joe DiMaggio's 56-game hit streak and Ted Williams' .406 batting average. So they came to Cooperstown, N.Y., when I got inducted, and we were back stage with all those guys. It was like being in a candy store, so I got a few autographs, yeah. (Laughs.)

**Do you have a pet peeve about autographs?**

When people pay for an autograph then wait in line, they want it to be readable. Some of the modern autographs are a uniform number written below some scribble, which is unfortunate. Al Kaline, Harmon Killebrew, Whitey Ford, Bob Feller, **George Kell** -- they have great autographs. They're proud of their names and write them nicely. I try to be distinct when I write mine. I never include my uniform number, but if someone asks for it, I'm glad to do it for him.

**What's the strangest autograph request you ever received?**

I signed a few bras for women, but not while they wore them. (Laughs.) They were in boxes. You know, I've signed some odd things. I might have been the first one to sign Cubs teddy bears 10 or 15 years ago. Now people want me to sign teddy bears, monkeys and things like that.

*(Editor's note: A native of Chatham, Ontario, Jenkins currently resides with his wife in southern Arizona.)*