

Spain Bios

Brian Patrick Tollberg is a former starting pitcher in Major League Baseball who played from 2000 through 2003 for the San Diego Padres. He was born in Tampa, Florida and played college baseball at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville. Tollberg began his professional career in 1994 in the minor league system with the Chillicothe Paints before signing as a free agent with the Milwaukee Brewers a year later. He then was traded to San Diego in 1997, and made it to the majors in June 2000 with the San Diego Padres. He retired in 2008 after spending time with the Milwaukee Brewers, San Diego Padres, Colorado Rockies and Houston Astros organizations.

Tollberg has the distinction of being the first ballplayer to make it to the Major Leagues from the Independent Frontier League. As a result, the league's version of the Cy Young Award is named after him, he had his number retired, and was inducted into the Frontier League Hall of Fame in 2016.

Impressive stats: Tollberg posted a 4–5 record with a 3.58 ERA in his rookie season with the Padres. In addition, he earned National League Player of the Week honors during his first week in the Major Leagues, after going 2–0 with a 1.26 ERA in 14⅓ innings pitched. The following season, he won 10 games with a 4.30 ERA before being injured.

Tollberg is still active in youth baseball, travelling to the Middle East and Hong Kong most recently, and also has served as Director of Player Development for Palma Ceia Little League in Tampa, Florida.

Brad Pennington is a left-handed pitcher born in Salem, Indiana. Brad was the 12th pick by the Baltimore Orioles in the June 1989 draft, and later made his MLB debut in 1993. He played 5 seasons in the Major Leagues with the Orioles, Cincinnati Reds, Boston Red Sox, Anaheim Angels and the Tampa Bay Rays.

In 1992 Brad was the #1 prospect in the Orioles organization. At 3 levels in 1992 he posted a 2.24 era, with 14 saves in 56 appearances. More impressive than that, however were his averages of 12.3 strikeouts per 9 innings and his opposition batting average which checked in at a phenomenal .152. Both marks led the entire organization. After closing out 1992 with 7 1/3 no hit innings, Brad was summoned to the big leagues and began by striking out 7 hitters in his first 3 innings.

Brad has been very active in youth baseball since retiring from baseball in 2001. Helping coach many players who have went on to Major League Careers. He has done clinics and camps around the world including Curacao, China, Germany and the Netherlands.

Charles Gipson was born in Orange, California in 1972. He was drafted by the Seattle Mariners in 1991 at the age of 19. Gipson played fourteen years of professional baseball, seven years of which were in the major leagues as an outfielder and third baseman for the: Seattle Mariners, Chicago Cubs, New York Yankees, Tampa Bay Devil Rays. Gipson retired in 2005 with the Houston Astros.

Gipson was a part of the 2001 Seattle Mariners team that tied the Major League Baseball record for most wins in a season (116). He was also a member of the 2002 New York Yankees, and 2005 Houston Astros teams that went to World Series.

Charles currently works as a Athletic Director for Xavier High School in Houston, Texas while also spending time volunteering within his community through many different charity organizations. Gipson is a dedicated father and loves his family. He also centers his life on being a role model to others while leading and teaching children about the love of Christ. He is a member of Houston's First Baptist Church. Furthermore, Gipson remains as Chairman of the Board for Children 4 Tomorrow, as well as a member of Major League Baseball Alumni Association.