



# Jim Leyland

Jim Leyland is a great baseball story. It's a story of a man with a dream to make it to the Major League and he was willing to pay his dues to get there.

A native of Perrysburg, he attended Perrysburg High School where he lettered in football, basketball and baseball.

He spent six seasons as a minor league catcher in the Detroit Tiger organization (1964-69) before serving as a minor league coach at Montgomery in 1970. He then spent the next eleven seasons as a minor league manager in the Tiger organization. He was selected as Manager of the Year in the Florida State league in both 1978 and 1979 and also earned American Association Manager of the Year honors in 1979.

In 1982 manager Tony LaRussa hired him as the 3rd base coach for the Chicago White Sox. He served in that role for four seasons. Then on November 20, 1985 he was named as the 33rd manager of the Pittsburgh Pirates. He served as the Pirate manager for eleven seasons and his Pirate teams won three straight National League East Division championships (1990-92).

He left Pittsburgh after the 1996 season to become the manager of the Florida Marlins (1997 & 1998). His 1997 Marlin team advanced to the playoffs as the wild card entrant and advanced to the World Series by defeating San Francisco and Atlanta. In the World Series his Marlin team defeated the Cleveland Indians to claim the World Series title.

He left the Marlins and was named the manager of the Colorado Rockies in 1999 where he served for one season. He decided at that time, after 14 seasons as a Major League manager that it was time to step aside. He spent the next six seasons (2000-05) as the Major League scout for the St. Louis Cardinals, scouting National League clubs at PNC Park and American League clubs at Jacobs Field. This role kept him involved in Major League baseball, but allowed him to spend more time at home with his wife and two children.

Then on October 4th, 2005 he returned to Major League Baseball when he was named as the 36th manager of the Detroit Tigers. This allowed him a chance to return to his baseball roots with the organization that signed him as a minor league catcher in 1963.

Both the BBWAA and The Sporting News tabbed him as the American League Manager of the Year in 2006 after guiding the Tigers to the franchise's first playoff berth since 1987. He joined Sparky Anderson as the only other Tiger manager to garner the award from the BBWAA.

Through his 44 years of professional baseball experience he has won numerous individual and team honors including managing in the All-Star game twice, once for the National League and once for the American League.

In November 1987 his brother, Reverend Tom Leyland, performed Jim and Katie's wedding ceremony. They have two children, Patrick (17) and Kellie (15) and they reside in Pittsburgh in the off-season.

While growing up Jim and Monsignor Schmit developed a close friendship and Jim was the guest speaker at the first Monsignor Schmit Youth Foundation Dinner in 1991. We welcome him back to Toledo and thank him for once again helping us to raise money for the youth of our area.