

Highlights of My Baseball Career

Carl Hewlett - From the Baseball Field to the Mission Field

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EARLY YEARS IN BASEBALL

The Dream Begins

At the age of ten, as a pee-wee leaguer during our city tournament, I hit my first homerun (out of park).

First game as a 12-year-old Little Leaguer, pitched a no-hitter and hit 2 homeruns. Won Top-honors of all league play in Huntington that day..

On the radio reports of the little league scores, one of my nicknames was "fireballer."

Won 2 City Little League Championships in 3 years. (There was no Little League World Series at that time. Competition went no further than the city)

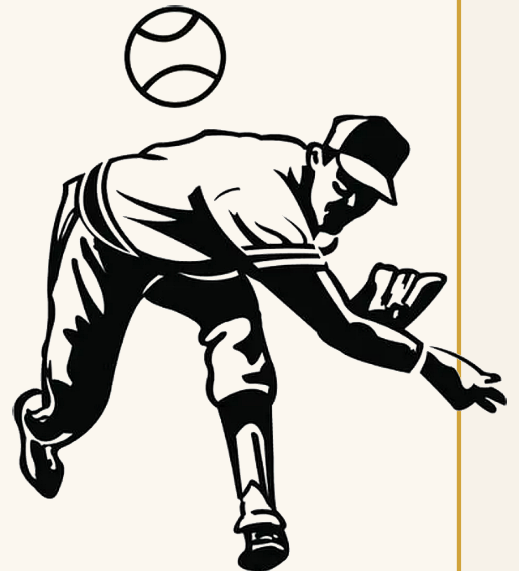
Total of 21 homeruns

When I was 12 years old, I was told by my Little League coach who was a scout for the Philadelphia Phillies, that I would probably play in the major leagues one day.

From that day on, my goal was to make it to the Major Leagues.

Made all-star team my first year in Babe Ruth, age 13.

Began play in independent league (semi-pro, college age and older) at age of 14.



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HIGH SCHOOL YEARS

A Rising Star Under Coach Jack Cook

First game of the season in high school, first at bat as sophomore under Coach Jack Cook, hit homerun over the ivy wall at Houdai Field. The very next game, I was the starting pitcher, and pitched a shutout against Ironton HS and got two hits. In my first 10 appearances at bat as a sophomore, I was leading the team with 6 for 10, a 600 average.

Participated in a Cleveland Indians try-out camp at the age of 16. They told me that they were following my career.

Won two HS state championships (2 out of 3 years under Coach Cook).

At a state tournament game at Ceredo-Kenova High field in my senior year, I hit a homerun off of a 70-ft high light tower just at the base of the light frame, about 50 ft up. The ball was still climbing when it hit the tower. The outfield fence measured 320 at the corner. Coach Cook said in the newspaper report, "That was the hardest-hit ball I have even seen from a high-school player." The newspaper article was titled "Hewlett Turns Blaster."

Was given the nickname "King Carl" in the 11th grade, and it stuck with me all through college.

After high school state championship game in senior year, I spoke to five different major league team scouts, but had already signed a 4-year scholarship to play college ball at Marshall University where Coach Jack Cook was to be the new head coach. For the three years in high school and 4 years in college, Jack Cook was my coach.

Won 1966 most valuable High School player award for the state of WV..

Later inducted into the Huntington High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

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COLLEGE YEARS

Marshall University and a Winning Record

First game as freshman (freshman not allowed to play on varsity team at that time. If I had been able to play as a freshman for the varsity, I would have had an even better win-loss record) for Marshall against Ohio State, pitched 2-0 shutout. The Ohio State freshman team had been unbeaten up to that game.

First game as varsity player for Marshall, pitched no hitter against Concord College.

Against Miami of Ohio, got credit for two wins in two days, hit a grand slam, and knocking 5 runs in – and for all this I was awarded Mid-American Conference Athlete of the Week.

While at Marshall, I pitched against greats like Mike Schmidt (Phillies) and Thurman Munson (Yankees), both Major-league hall of famers.

Pitched against and beat Ohio University and Mike Schmidt on their home field.

Record of 15-6 at Marshall, setting win-loss record.

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COLLEGE YEARS

Games to Remember

Games to remember:

During a game against Bowling Green (Ohio) at St. Cloud field, I was still ill with flu symptoms and was in the bullpen, when Coach Cook called me into pitch. When my turn came to bat, I hit a line-drive shot over the center field fence, about 425 ft. away. (Reminds me of the Bible verse, "When I am weak, then am I strong.")

The very next game was against University of Kentucky at their home field. I was the starting pitcher. It was a windy and rainy day. The wind was strong and blowing in toward home plate. Both Coaches and the umpires agreed that "there would be no homeruns hit today" (because of the wind blowing against the batters). When it came for me to bat, I hit a fast ball up over the wind (apparently) and out of the park in left field. The rain kept up, little by little, but was not enough to postpone the game. The game was called finally in the 8th inning, and the headline in the next-day's newspaper read, "Hewlett and MU Swim by UK." We won by a score of 5-1.

While playing at Western Michigan University at the Kalamazoo field, the game was late, and we were losing, Coach Cook surprisingly calls me in to pinch hit (Imagine calling a pitcher into pinch hit?). He says to me, "I want you to hit a homerun - I want you to go for downtown." So I go to bat and end up hitting a fly ball to deep left, but since I didn't hit it square on the barrel of the bat, it was just a long fly ball to the left fielder. Till this day, I wish I could get that chance back.

Later inducted into the MU Athletic Hall of Fame.

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PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL AND CONVERSION

From the Pirates to God's Major Leagues

Signed a contract with the Pittsburgh Pirates in June of 1970.

First game as a pro with the Pirates, pitched a 3-hit shutout against the Cincinnati Reds.

In one game, I pitched a no-hitter till the last inning. I was utterly exhausted in the 95-degree Florida heat, and not being able to gather strength and concentrate, I threw a lackluster fast ball, and the batter hits a Texas league single just over the head of the third baseman into left field. That ruined my no-hitter.

Made the all-star team my first year with the Pirates.

Was told by my pitching coach, Harvey Haddix, that I could make it to the Major Leagues in a year or less.

Was in Spring Training with greats like Roberto Clemente, Willie Stargell, and others.

Played in the all-star game with Dave Parker.

Had a 5-3 record when my career ended in 1971. (3-3 in FL in 1970, and 2-0 in 1971 in NC)

Surprisingly, my career ended in early 1971.

Made it to the God's Major Leagues when He saved me on May 22, 1971

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MISSION FIELD

From the Baseball Field to the Mission Field

Went from the baseball field to the mission field, arriving in Costa Rica in May, 1980.



Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Matthew 28:19, 20



GOD IS GOOD.

Carl Hewlett

Spanish Missions Director

The Gospel Preacher Association

Luke 19:10

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." 2 Cor. 5:17