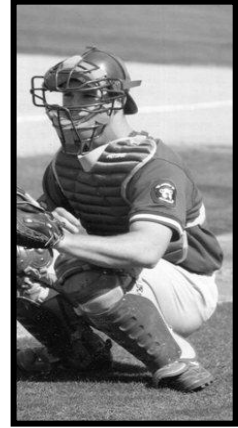


MIKE HUBBARD

Having his first major league home run called by Baseball Hall of Fame honoree Harry Caray at Wrigley Field, and broadcast by cable network WGN, is a highlight that Mike Hubbard will never forget. Commencing on the Dixie Youth Baseball fields in Madison Heights as an eight-year-old, Hubbard played for the next 23 years, including a decade in the professional ranks, with more than 100 games in the majors.

The youngest of three, he watched brothers, Carlton and Ricky, in Colt League baseball and ACHS football, experiences that lit his fire for competition. Their parents, Fred and Hilda Hubbard, were active fans and supporters.



Mike grew up appreciating small town life, where he could walk to and from the baseball field, seeing family and friends, hearing the sounds of the game, and enjoying the camaraderie. His Dixie Youth teams had success, winning a district championship, with his being named Most Valuable Player and leading the league in home runs and batting average.

Hubbard enjoyed success in sports in high school, pouring in 8 three-point shots while scoring 33 points in a basketball game. The baseball team captured a district championship and his American Legion baseball team was a state finalist. Coaches Randy Thomas and William Gouldthorpe drilled him in the art of catching, with skills he employed all the way to the majors.

All-Conference at James Madison University, he set the school record in stolen bases and earned an invitation for the Olympic Trials. Summers were spent with the Shenandoah Valley League, where he was named co-MVP on a championship team.

Drafted by the Chicago Cubs in 1992, he became an All-Star at A, AA, and AAA levels, and debuted with the Cubs in 1995. Hubbard values many experiences in professional baseball: meeting childhood idol, Johnny Bench; hitting a home run against the Birmingham Barons over outfielder Michael Jordan; throwing out all-time leading base stealer Ricky Henderson; playing for managers Bobby Cox, Johnny Oates, and Felipe Alou, and coach Ferguson Jenkins.

Michael Wayne Hubbard – February 16, 1971

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- Youth: Baseball – Dixie Youth Majors (1982-83), league MVP, home run champion, leading batting average, All-Stars district champion; Dixie Youth Pony League (1984-85); American Legion baseball state finalist
- ACHS: Baseball (1987-89); Basketball (1987-89)
- James Madison University: Baseball (1989-92) – All-Conference (1991, 1992), stolen base record (1992), US Olympic Trials invitee (1991); Shenandoah Valley League (1991, 1992), Co-MVP (1992), league championship
- Professional Baseball: Geneva NY Cubs (1992), league champion; Daytona FL Cubs (1993), Florida State League All-Star; Orlando Cubs (1994), Southern League All-Star; Iowa Cubs (1995-97); Chicago Cubs (1995-97); Montreal Expos (1998); Oklahoma Redhawks (1999-2000), Pacific Coast League AAA All-Star; Texas Rangers (1999, 2001); Richmond Braves (2000, 2003), Most Popular Player (fan award), Player of the Month; Atlanta Braves (2000, 2003), National League playoffs; Rochester Redwings (Orioles)