

Rodney “Ageless Arm” Tafoya

Born: May 7, 1964 (Age: 55) in Santa Fe, New Mexico

High School: St. Michael’s High School in Santa Fe, New Mexico

College: New Mexico Highlands University (1982-85); Newman University (Wichita, KS) 1986

Graduated: Degree in Business Management from Newman University, 1989

High School:

- Was a four-year letterman in baseball (1979-82) for St. Michael’s High School Horsemen (Santa Fe, New Mexico)
- District 2-AAA Champions-1979
- All-Tournament Team (St. Michael’s Invitational Tournament), 1982
- All-District Selection for District 2-AAA as (Pitcher, Outfielder), 1982
- As a senior lefthanded pitcher, posted a 0.87 ERA
- Set a then New Mexico AAA High School State Record for Strikeouts in a Game with 16 vs Pojoaque Elks on April 6, 1982
- Pitched two-hit shutout over West Las Vegas, 9-0 with 7 K’s and only 70 pitches on April 10, 1981
- Pitched a Complete Game Victory over AAAA Los Alamos as a sophomore (for first high school victory), winning 11-2 on April 24, 1980
- Selected and featured in The American High School Athlete, 1982
- Selected to New Mexico Boy’s State, Roswell, NM-1981
- Fellowship of Christian Athletes (1979-82)
- Played American Legion for Santa Fe, New Mexico (Post 101), 1980-82

College

- Received a full-ride scholarship to NMHU (Las Vegas, New Mexico 1982-85)
- Was the only freshman pitcher to make travel team and starting rotation with appearances against UTEP, Texas Tech, and Lubbock Christian College
- Recorded first collegiate victory over Denver University on March 13, 1983
- Recorded relief win over Lamar Junior College, 9-8 On April 19, 1983
- Pitched in Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico for Muebles Zeta, Liga Nortena Estrellas (Regional), and Juarez Indios (Estatal Zona V) going 14-2, 1.71 ERA, earning a tryout with the Mexico City Tigres of the Professional AAA Liga Mexicana de Beisbol
- Pitched a Complete Game victory over Serafines (Juarez), winning 7-2 with 14 K’s winning Player of the Game honors for Liga Nortena Estrellas
- Recorded victory over Trinidad Junior College winning 4-3 with 10K’s in five innings on March 20, 1984

- Pitched Complete Game, three-hitter against Denver University with 11K's, winning 6-2 on March 16, 1984
- Became the first American to attend Mexico's Academia de Pesteje (the Mexican Academy that hosts all of Mexico's top draft picks for the AAA LMB) outside of Mexico City, Mexico in the summer of 1984.
- Recorded a one-hit, 4-0 shutout over Casas Grandes, Chihuahua, Mexico with 2 K's on August 19, 1984
- Recorded relief win over the New Mexico State Aggies, 6-5 on April 5, 1985
- Pitched for the Wichita (KS) Broncos in the summer Jayhawk League that made the '85 NBC (National Baseball Congress) World Series at Lawrence-Dumont Stadium in Wichita
- Pitched a combined No-Hitter (Herring, Tafoya, Corn, and Sheperd) against the Hutchinson Cardinals, 18-0 on June 26, 1985 in Hutchinson, Kansas
- Transferred to Newman University (Wichita, Kansas 1986)
- Pitched a five-hit complete game shutout over Kansas University in Lawrence, Kansas winning 10-0. It was Newman's first victory over an NCAA Division I program in the school's history.
- Recorded a complete game victory over (no. 2 NAIA Nationally Ranked) Emporia State University, 4-2 in the District 10 Tournament. Recorded 9K's with no bases on balls
- Was voted as an All-District Pitcher for District 10 representing Newman University
- Held the school strikeout record (86) at Newman University (1985) for numerous years that has since been broken)

Professional Career:

- Draft: Signed as a Free Agent by Mal Fichman (Boise, ID-Northwest League, January 1989)
- Signed a contract with the *Puerto Vallarta Delfines* of the *AA Liga Noroeste* in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico
- Voted to the *Juego de Estrellas* for the *Liga Noroeste* representing the *Delfines de Puerto Vallarta* in Tepic, Nayarit, Mexico on December 8, 1986 (*Story in The New Mexican, by Salo Otero (The New Mexican Staff)*)
- Led the *Liga Noroeste* in wins & strikeouts for Puerto Vallarta with 10 wins & 115 K's in 122 IP in 1986
- 1986-*Puerto Vallarta Delfines-Liga Noroeste (Winter League Championship)*
- Was purchased by the *Mexico City Diablos Rojos* of the *AAA LMB* in Spring of 1987
- Attended Spring Training with *Mexico City Diablos Rojos* in Durango, Mexico
- Optioned to AA Comalcalco, Tabasco, Mexico in Spring 1987, posting a 5-5, 3.75 ERA for the *Cocaoteros de Comalcalco* of the *Liga Tabasquena*

- Received promotion to the *Rieleros de Aguascalientes of the AAA LMB (June 1987)*
- Pitched 16 games in relief for the *Delfines de Puerto Vallarta* in the 1988 *Liga Noroeste*, posting a 3.27 ERA.
- Signed by *Mal Fichman* to the Independent *Boise, Idaho (Hawks)* of the *Class A Northwest Professional League* posting a 3-4 record and a 3.26 ERA in 12 games
- Voted *Little Caesars Pizza Player of the Week (July 30- August 7)* for being victorious over the *Eugene Emeralds*, 5-1 in Eugene, Oregon allowing four hits, 0ER, 0BB, and 10K's
- Received promotion to the *Erie Sailors of the New York-Penn League* in 1990
- Pitched for the *Regina Cyclones Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada* in the *Indy Prairie League* posting a team-high six victories in 19 games in 1997.
- Pitched for *AA Astros de Piedras Negras in Piedras Negras, Coahuila, Mexico* going 3-0 as a 41-year-old veteran in 2005
- Pitched professionally in the *Indy Pecos League of Professional Baseball Clubs* from 2012-current with the *Santa Fe Fuego, Taos Blizzard, Alpine Cowboys, and Roswell Invaders*
- At age 48, started for the *Santa Fe Fuego* in 2012 in front of 1,500 hometown fans for Santa Fe's very first game and *Inaugural Season* against the *Trinidad Triggers* on May 9, 2012
- Posted a 2.25 ERA in two starts for the *Taos Blizzard* with 12IP, 1BB, and 12K's at the age of 49.
- Pitched in one start for the *Alpine Cowboys* of the *Independent Pecos League* at Garden City, Kansas in a no-decision, posting a 1.93 ERA at age 54
- Set a record becoming the oldest pitcher (age 55) in the *Indy Pecos League of Professional Baseball Clubs* to start a game for the *Roswell Invaders*. Recording a no-decision, the *Invaders* beat the *White Sands Pupfish*, 9-8 in the bottom of the ninth inning.
- Pitched in relief for the *Alpine Cowboys* in 2021 at the age of 57, breaking his own record from the year before as the oldest professional pitcher in America. In his brief relief stint, he came in with *Cowboys* leading 3-2 over the *Salina Stockade*. He threw four pitches (all strikes) to leadoff hitter *Tevin Brown* and retired him on a broken bat groundout to second base to record the first out of the inning. For his efforts, he received both a standing ovation and player of the game honors.
- Had one professional championship in 1986 with the *AA Liga Noroeste* with the *Puerto Vallarta Delfines*. Lost in the *Championship League Series* on four occasions with *Erie, PA; Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada; and twice with the Alpine, Texas (Cowboys of the Pecos League)*

Amateur Career:

- In 2004, returned to Mexico and pitched for *Mar y Sol* in the *Zona V Chihuahua Estatal* going 5-0, 0.96 ERA, which included a championship start against Villahermosa, Chihuahua, Mexico. The victory was *Casas Grandes'* first since 1977 (featuring ex-MLB pitcher Teddy Higuera)
- Joined the *MSBL (Men's Senior Baseball League)* at age 29 for the Eugene Rockies and Portland Twins
- In his first three years in the MSBL, posted a win-loss record of 37-3. The next season at age 33, signed a professional contract with the *Indy Regina Cyclones of the Prairie League of Professional Baseball Clubs*. Led all Regina pitchers with six victories.
- On July 30, 1998, pitching for the *Santa Fe Expos* in the *AABC (American Amateur Baseball Congress) Stan Musial State Championship* game in Albuquerque, Rod and the Expos defeated the Albuquerque Dodgers 3-2 to advance to the *West Regional Tournament in Long Beach, California*. Rod's record was 11-0 on the season.
- In 1998 posted a 20-1 season on the mound, 20 homeruns, and a four-homer game (with eight RBI and 12K's in the game on the mound) against the Albuquerque Rangers in the 30+ MSBL @ Capital High School in Santa Fe, NM. *Reported by Journal Staff Report dated June 22, 1998.*
- *Had a 17-0 season in 1999 including a 1.17 ERA.*
- Won his *100th Milestone Victory (100-12)* game in the MSBL on October 18, 2001, with the *DeMarini Giants* winning against *Sonoma County, 27-7* in Phoenix, Arizona in the *American Division World Series (9IP 9K's)*
- A "Double Win Victory Day" in the MSBL Puerto Rican Winter Tournament that included "222 pitches," a Most Valuable Player trophy, and a Puerto Rican Winter Tournament championship at age 47. Story titled: "*Golden Armed Tafoya is Still Winning*" by *Arnie Leshin* dated March 11, 2009 in *New Mexico Free Press*.
- Won his 300th MSBL Victory on May 4, 2013, at the age of 49, winning a complete game, 139-pitch, 13 strikeout game, as the Albuquerque Yankees beat the Albuquerque Colt 45's, 13-4.
- The "300-Game" story went viral through an article written by the *AP (Associated Press-Arnie Stapleton)*, as over one hundred stories were written across America, including *Sports Illustrated, ESPN, Fox News, Fox Sports, MSNBC Sports, Boston Herald, Miami Herald, USA Today* among many others.
- In 2018 pitched for the 18+ MABL (Men's Adult Baseball League) and helped the Dodgers win the New Mexico State Championship going 13-1 with a 1.50 ERA at age 54.
- Had 19 strikeouts in a game four times, 17 strikeouts twice, and 16 strikeouts four times during his amateur career.

- Currently pitches for the Boston Wolfpack that includes ex-MLB players Michael Smith (Orioles), Dennis “Oil Can” Boyd (Red Sox), German Rivera (Dodgers), Larry See (Dodgers), and Mark Whiten (Cardinals, Yankees, and Blue Jays). Since 2017, the Wolfpack are 69-3, including a three-peat in the MSBL World Series in 2017, 2018, and 2019. In 2017 the Wolfpack garnered a gold medal in the World Masters Games in Auckland, New Zealand.
- On August 7, 2021, Rod set a record for the oldest to pitch (age 57) in an NBC (National Baseball Congress World Series) game in Hutchinson, Kansas when he came in relief for the Mid-Crest Pumas against the San Diego Stars. In his one inning stint, he struck out two batters in a scoreless inning, beating a record that was held by Satchel Paige.

Career Milestones & Records:

- Pitched a 1-0, complete game shutout over South Dakota in the National Division World Series Tournament in Phoenix, Arizona leading the Oregon Twins on November 2, 1998. Rod’s pitching record was 20-1 on the season to go with 20 homeruns during his season in New Mexico.
- On May 25, 2013, pitching for Paladin 55’s in the Las Vegas Open, Rod struckout a “Personal Best” and Las Vegas Open Record 22K’s. With no walks on 95 total pitches, Paladin defeated 8-time MSBL National Champion Sacramento Tribe, 5-3 for victory no. 286 in Rod’s career.
- On September 22, 2013, pitching in the 18+ MABL (Men’s Adult Baseball League) in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Rod set an MABL State Record by striking out 23 batters in a 7-0, three-hit, complete game shutout, as the A’s defeated the Albuquerque Indians in a league playoff game
- On May 28, 2014-the City of Santa Fe honored Rod with a Proclamation from the Mayor proclaiming “Rod ‘The Ageless Arm’ Tafoya 300th Victory Day” in Santa Fe
- From 1994-2019, Rod pitched and won a total of 12 MABL/MSBL/AABC State Championships in 14 tries. Eight of the *12 State Championships* were all complete games when Rod was between the ages of 31 and 55.
- From 1995-2021, Rod has participated in 49 National Championship games and his teams have *won 32 National Championship rings*. He has participated in over 86 MSBL World Series Tournaments. In Regional tournament play, Rod’s teams have won 68 championships.
- Since 2009, Rod has participated in ten *MSBL Caribbean Winter Tournaments in Puerto Rico*. His teams have made it to the Championship game six times, winning five championships.
- Rod has participated in three International Tournaments, including the 1998 Gold Medal-Kamloops International Baseball Tournament in Kamloops, British Columbia,

Canada; 1998 Bronze Medal-Nike World Masters Games held in Portland, Oregon; and 2017 Gold Medal-World Masters Games held in Auckland, New Zealand

- ***Inside the Numbers: 459-98 Lifetime Pitching Record, 365-73 Pitching Record in the MABL/MSBL, 687 Total Games Pitched, 113 No-Decisions, 13 Saves, 199 Teams Played for from 1982-Current. Won an average of 15 games per season for twenty-straight years (300-60) from 1993-2014. Has thrown over 80,000 pitches with no surgery.***
- ***No-Hit Game, Combined No-Hitter:*** (Vince Herring, Rodney Tafoya, Brian Corn, and Marvin Shepherd) June 26, 1985. Wichita Broncos @ Hutchinson, KS Cardinals, 18-0
- ***No-Hit, No Run Game:*** Complete Game Shutout: Giants-6 Braves-0 @ Highland HS Field, 9IP 0Hits 1BB 13K's on July 9, 1995. Tafoya 10-0 Record.
- ***No-Hit, No-Run, Perfect Thru Five Innings:*** Albuquerque Giants-28 Albuquerque Rockies-0. 5IP 0Hits 0BB 10K's on June 17, 2001.
- ***No-Hit, No Run Game:*** Complete Game Shutout: Albuquerque White Sox-5 Chihuahua Cementeros-0 @ Albuquerque TVI. 7IP 0Hits 1BB 17K's on July 24, 2004. 40 years old.
- ***No Hit, No Run Game:*** Complete Game Shutout: Albuquerque Brewers-9 Albuquerque Desperados-0. 9IP 0Hits 2BB 14K's Victory no. 262 @ Valley High School in Albuquerque, NM on August 14, 2011.

Featured Books and Articles:

- Several stories featured in both *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*. "For Love of the Game" by Jon Kelly, *New York Times*, May 22, 2013 "A Bank Executive Still Has an Arm in the Game" by Jen Murphy of the *Wall Street Journal*, October 13, 2013.
- Featured in *ABA Banking Journal*, "Southpaw Branch Manager Keeps Batters Guessing-Minor League Starting Hurler Loves America's Pastime." By Steve Cocheo, Executive Director, September 2013.
- Wrote Autobiography titled-*Ageless Arm, My Passion Lives in the Core*. Published by *Speaking Volumes*, 2012
- Featured in *America at the Seams-50 Stories in 50 States of How Baseball Unites Our Country* by Nathan Rueckert with Ethan D. Bryan. By Throne Publishing Group, 2017
- World Masters Games 2017: "Rod's Ageless Arm Keeps Going for Games" written by Ian McDonald for *Baseball New Zealand*
- Featured in "The Legends of Last Place: A Season with America's Worst Professional Baseball Team." Written by Abe Strep in the *Atavist* no. 24, New York, New York, 2012.
- Featured in "Blue-A Professional Umpire Strikes Back!" by Harold Moya, Jr. 2013
- Story titled "For the Love of Pitching" written by James Barron of the *Santa Fe New Mexican* dated July 28, 2019

- *Featured in Sports Collectors Digest, "Ageless Arm, at age 56 as a hired gun, Rodney Tafoya pursues 500th pitching victory." By Gary Herron, dated November issue 2021.*

Honors:

- *1981 Attended "Boys State" (Citizenship Training Program) in Roswell, New Mexico @ NMMI representing St. Michael's High School in Santa Fe, New Mexico*
- *1998 MVP-Kamloops International Baseball Tournament, Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada. (Victory over San Diego Stars (6IP 5H 8K's)*
- *2000 All-Star Game MVP (Albuquerque MSBL (5IP 2H 3ER 3BB 9K's) July 30, 2000*
- *2004 Albuquerque White Sox-Liga Mexicana de Beisbol (Best Pitcher Award)*
- *2009 MSBL Caribbean Winter Tournament (Caguas, Puerto Rico) Tournament MVP For two victories in a day and 222 pitches (Victories over Chicago & New England)*
- *2009 MSBL Las Vegas Kickoff (Player of the Game) March 7-9, 2009 Complete Game Victory over Las Vegas Senators (9IP 2Hits OR 2BB 18K's)*
- *2012 Roy Hobbs World Series (Team MVP) Cicero Pirates*
- *City of Santa Fe "Muchas Gracias" Award presented by Mayor Coss on July 2012 Santa Fe Fuego*
- *Enshrined to the MSBL National Hall of Fame for Winning 300 Games/Recipient for the Class of 2014. Enshrinement by Steve Sigler (President of the MSBL)*
- *Acknowledged by the City of Santa Fe (Mayor Gonzales & City Council) proclaiming Rod "The Ageless Arm" Tafoya "300 Victory Day" on May 28, 2014.*
- *World Masters Games Gold Medalist Team (Boston, MA Wolfpack, Auckland, New Zealand-2017)*
- *Enshrined to the National Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame for winning 442 games/Recipient for the Class of 2018 @ Evansville, Indiana*
- *Outstanding Community Service Award-Espanola, New Mexico Rotary Club, 2001-2002*
- *Certificate of Recognition Second Annual Espanola Rotary Club Baseball Clinic, June 30, 2001 in Espanola, New Mexico*

Community Activities/Other:

- *Tutor-Albuquerque Reads Program, Bel-Air Elementary School 2012-2014*
- *St. Michael's High School Foundation Board Member, 2009-2014*
- *Disney Marathon: Orlando, Florida (26.2 miles in 3:52:01 in 2008)*
- *Professional Baseball Scout: San Diego Padres, 2005-2008; Philadelphia Phillies, 2008*
- *Rotary Club HELP International, served as a Spanish Interpreter in San Cristobal, Guatemala, 2000*
- *City of Espanola Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Treasurer-2000*

- *Chimayo Boys and Girls Club Board of Directors, President-2000*
- *Rotary Club (Community Service Chair, Club Service Chair) 1998-2003*
- *Lunch Buddies Advisory Board of Directors-President-1999-2002*
- *Board Member-North Central Community Based-Services, Lunch Buddy Program, 2002*
- *Duke City Civitan-VP/Service Chair 2003-2004*
- *BNI-Business Networking International (Member) 2003-2004*
- *Junior Achievement volunteer, 2010-current*
- *March of Dimes volunteer, 2004-current*
- *Special Olympics volunteer, 2007-current*
- *NM Governor's Mansion Board of Directors, 2016*
- *Ran and organized Little League Coaches & Managers Pitching Clinic @ Salvador Perez Park on April 9, 2016 (free for all Santa Fe Little League Coaches & Managers to attend)*
- *NM Children's Foundation Board of Directors, 2016-2017*
- *National Dance Institute (NDI) Albuquerque Development Committee, 2017*
- *National Dance Institute (NDI) Corporate Council Charter Board Member, 2017*

Family:

- Son of proud parents Antonio and Maude Tafoya, who gave him both his work ethic and passion. They both serve as his torch of inspiration throughout his baseball journey, as he continues to reach his lifetime goal of winning 512 games (Cy Young 511).
- Rod is the youngest of five children, including sister Judy Lujan, brothers Jim, Jack, and Glenn Tafoya