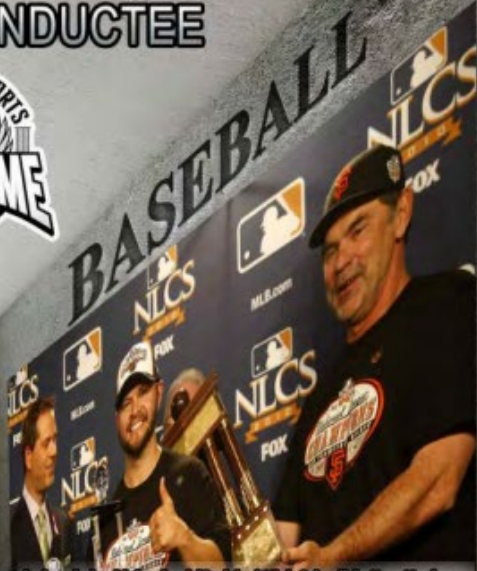


HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE



CODY ROSS



Cody Ross is the second baseball player to be born (Portales) and play high school (Carlsbad High School) in New Mexico to play in a Major League World Series. The other player was NMSHOF 2009 Inductee, Duane Ward who played in the 1992 and 1993 World Series. Cody's career highlight was playing in 2009 for the San Francisco Giants. Cody became an unlikely hero for the Giants in the postseason because he had just been picked up on waivers in late August 2009. Cody ended up winning the National League Championship Series MVP and ultimately leading the Giants to the World Series Championship over the Texas Rangers.

During his career, Ross earned a reputation for bringing energy to his teams and being a positive influence to his teammates. He was a fan favorite in his career, especially in Florida and San Francisco, where he earned the nicknames "Toy Cannon" and "Ross the Boss". Cody, drafted in the 4th round by the Detroit Tigers, Cody would play 1073 major league games in his career for the Detroit Tigers (2003), Los Angeles Dodgers (2005-2006), Cincinnati Reds (2006), Florida Marlins (2006-2010), San Francisco Giants (2010-2011), Boston Red Sox (2012), Arizona Diamondbacks (2013-2014) and Oakland Athletics (2015). He is one of the rare Major League players to bat right-handed but throw left-handed.

As a youngster, Cody at first wanted to be a rodeo clown. He used to attend his father, Ken's bull-riding and team roping matches in clown outfits, complete with makeup. He didn't give up on the aspiration until his family moved to Dallas, Texas. Cody played all sports - baseball, soccer and football. In seventh grade, Cody broke his arm in football and with the encouragement of his father started focusing on baseball. His family wanted to live in a smaller town environment and thus moved back to Carlsbad, where his father was a great athlete when Cody was an eighth grader.

Cody earned the DH spot in the lineup as freshman for a senior laden team that year that won the state title in 1996. In 1998, Cody was the pitcher in winning the 1998 state title, but lost in the state semi-finals when Cody was a senior. He was not only the team's starting center fielder by his sophomore season, but the team's ace on the mound. He pitched a perfect game in his senior year. Cody was named to USA Today's 1st Team All-American Outfielder. He set school career records with 35 home runs and 29 victories. He was 11-0 with a 0.68 ERA as a pitcher for the Cavemen.