

Carl Edwards Jr.

Carl Fleming Edwards Jr. (born September 3, 1991) is an American professional baseball pitcher for the Seattle Mariners of Major League Baseball (MLB). He previously played in MLB for the Chicago Cubs and San Diego Padres.

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Career

Texas Rangers

Edwards was drafted by the Texas Rangers in the 48th round of the 2011 Major League Baseball draft out of Mid-Carolina High School in Prosperity, South Carolina.^[1] Edwards initially committed to play college baseball for the Charleston Southern Buccaneers, where he would join a high school teammate and friend. However, when that friend died in a car accident, Edwards decided instead to pursue professional baseball.^[2] He spent his first professional season with the Arizona League Rangers and Spokane Indians. He finished the year 5–3 with a 1.48 earned run average (ERA) and 85 strikeouts over 67 innings pitched. He started the 2013 season with the Hickory Crawdads, going 8–2 with a 1.83 ERA and 122 strikeouts over 93⅓ innings (18 starts).

Carl Edwards Jr.



Edwards with the Chicago Cubs in 2017

Seattle Mariners – No. 16

Pitcher

Born: September 3, 1991
Newberry, South Carolina

Bats: Right | **Throws:** Right

MLB debut

September 7, 2015, for the Chicago Cubs

MLB statistics
(through 2019 season)

Win–loss record 9–8

Earned run average 3.58

Strikeouts 236

Teams

- Chicago Cubs (2015–2019)
- San Diego Padres (2019)

Career highlights and awards

- World Series champion (2016)

Chicago Cubs

On July 22, 2013, Edwards along with Mike Olt, Justin Grimm, and a player to be named later (Neil Ramirez) were traded to the Chicago Cubs for Matt Garza.^[3] He was sent to the Daytona Cubs, where he had a 1.96 ERA and 33 strikeouts over 23 innings (six starts). After the season, he was named the MiLB Pitcher of the Year.^[4]

Prior to the 2014 season, he was ranked by Baseball America as the 28th best prospect in baseball.^[5] He spent the 2014 season with the Tennessee Smokies where he compiled a 1-2 record and 2.44 ERA over ten starts. On November 20, 2014, Edwards was added to the Cubs 40-man roster, in order to protect him from the Rule 5 Draft. He began 2015 with Tennessee and was promoted to the Iowa Cubs in May.

2015 season

On September 7, 2015, Edwards made his Major League debut for the Cubs against the St. Louis Cardinals at Busch Stadium.^[6] In 36 appearances out of the bullpen between both Tennessee and Iowa prior to his callup, he was 5-3 with a 2.77 ERA and 75 strikeouts over 55¹/₃ innings.

2016 season

Edwards began 2016 with Iowa. He was recalled May 11 to Chicago, but returned to Iowa the next day. He was recalled once again on June 20 and spent the rest of the season with Chicago. On September 1, Edwards recorded his first Major League save against the San Francisco Giants.^[7] Edwards finished the 2016 season with a 3.75 ERA in 35 innings pitched.^[8]

On October 25, Edwards along with teammates Addison Russell, Dexter Fowler, and Jason Heyward became the first African-Americans to play for the Cubs in a World Series game.^{[9][a]} In Game 3, he struck out the side in relief duty in the top of the sixth inning against the Cleveland Indians, becoming the first African-American to pitch for the Cubs in a World Series game.^[10] Edwards appeared in the bottom of the 10th inning of Game 7, where he recorded the first two outs of the inning and surrendered one run. The Cubs went on to win their first World Series in 108 years.^[11]



Carl Edwards Jr. delivers a pitch during the 10th inning of World Series Game 7.

2017 season

2017 was Edwards' first full season in the major leagues; he was 5-4 with a 2.98 ERA and 94 strikeouts in 66¹/₃ relief innings pitched.

Edwards struggled in the division series against the Washington Nationals, pitching 2¹/₃ innings and allowing six runs.^[12] Notably, he allowed a game-tying two-run home run to Bryce Harper in the eighth inning of Game 2.^[13] Edwards' performance improved during the league championship series against the Los Angeles Dodgers, again pitching 2¹/₃ innings, but this time allowing no runs.^[12]

2018 season

In 2018, Edwards posted a 3–2 record and recorded 67 strikeouts and a 2.60 ERA in 52 innings.

2019 season

Edwards struggled in the beginning of 2019. He pitched in four games between March 30 and April 5, recording only five outs. He allowed three hits (two home runs), five walks, and six runs.^[14] He was optioned to the Iowa Cubs on April 6 to work through his mechanics.^[15] The Cubs recalled Edwards on May 6.^[16]

San Diego Padres

On July 31, 2019, Edwards was traded to the San Diego Padres in exchange for Brad Wieck.^[17] On November 4, 2019, he cleared waivers and elected free agency.

Seattle Mariners

On December 4, 2019, Edwards signed a one-year contract with the Seattle Mariners.^[18]

Personal life

Edwards and his fiancée, Anquinette Smith, welcomed their first child in August 2015, and their second in July 2018.^[19]

Miscellaneous

Edwards was known as "C.J." in the minor leagues, a name which Cubs manager Joe Maddon continues to use.^[20] Edwards also earned the nickname "**The String Bean Slinger**" for his skinny physique,^[21] which he has adopted for the back of his personalized jersey during the annual Players Weekend.^[22]

Notes

- a. Jackie Robinson's rookie season was 1947 which was two years after the Chicago Cubs appearance in the 1945 World Series. In 1953, Ernie Banks, known as *Mr. Cub*, became the first African-American on the Cubs roster.


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External links

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