

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Julio Alonso, '73



Julio Alonso was born in Havana, Cuba on April 12, 1954 and moved to New York City in May of 1962, at the age of eight. Julio lived in the Inwood section of upper Manhattan. He first attended elementary school at St. Jude's parish, before transferring to Good Shepherd, where he graduated in June of 1969 and then started at Power Memorial Academy in the fall of that same year.

Arguably one of the best baseball players ever produced at Power, Julio burst on to the high school baseball scene playing on the Varsity team and being selected a CHSAA All-City pitcher in his freshman year. This honor was repeated in his sophomore and junior years as well, while leading Power to multiple Bronx-Manhattan baseball championships, as well as a Fall League championship, under the tutelage of recent PMA Hall of Fame inductee and former NBA coach, Brendan Malone.

In his senior year, Julio required an operation on his pitching arm and could only play a few games that season. Nevertheless, Julio was drafted in the 9th round of the Major League Baseball Draft of 1973 by the Chicago White Sox.

Instead, Julio enrolled at Lamar University, where he received a full scholarship to play baseball. In his freshman year in college, Julio went 11-1 with a 1.25 ERA and was named an All-American.

After his sophomore year at Lamar, Julio signed a professional contract with the Detroit Tigers in 1975.

Julio played professional baseball for five seasons. His best year was in 1977, where he went 6-2 with a 1.58 ERA for the Tigers' AA Montgomery farm club. He also pitched for the Tigers' AAA Evansville farm club that year. However, continually plagued by pitching arm problems, Julio was forced to retire in 1979.

While with the Tigers' organization, Julio married and, after retirement, moved to Miami, Florida with his wife and raised a son and daughter over the years. In 1993, he had a stroke and was forced to go on disability. Although no longer playing baseball, Julio stayed in touch with Coach Malone over the years and saw him whenever he came to Florida to coach with the Detroit Pistons.

In fact, it was Coach Malone who recommended Julio's inclusion in the PMA Hall of Fame and, in the spring of 2018, Julio gladly accepted our invitation to join. Unfortunately, as fate would have it, Julio suffered a heart attack that August and died of complications from it on October 19, just 2 weeks shy of his induction into the 2018 Hall of Fame. At the time, Julio's family asked if his induction could be postponed until the 2019 HOF Dinner and tonight, we humbly honor that request.