

The Laser is Officially Out
By Jesse Almeida written 2/26/2021

Throughout this little run by the Red Sox, it is safe to say that Dustin Pedroia was the smallest guy in the room with the biggest voice. He showed us determination to win as well as to play at his best ability every night. Over time, Pedroia won the fans respect for that reason. It is so unfortunate that we saw this hall of fame career end the way it did.

Dustin Pedroia has officially announced his retirement after 14 years with the Boston Red Sox on February 1st, 2021. Dustin grew up in Woodland, California and attended Woodland High School. Throughout Dustin's early time on the baseball field, he was known as the little guy, or too small to play in the majors. Dustin Pedroia the 5'9" second baseman did everything he could to prove that he belonged in the Majors. Dustin went to Arizona State University and put together one astonishing college career. In his career at ASU, he had a .384 batting average and that is tied for 7th in ASU history, 4th in ASU history in hits with 298 hits. In 2004 Pedroia was unbelievable as he had a .393 batting average with 24 doubles, 9 home runs, 48 runs batted in, and a .502 on-base percentage. This is only a small portion of what he did in his time with Arizona State. You could argue Pedroia as one of the best Sun Devil players of all time.

With the 65th pick in the 2004 MLB draft, the Boston Red Sox selected Dustin Pedroia. Dustin would spend his first 3 seasons in the minors and have a brief call up in 2006. In his first stint in the big leagues he played in 31 games with a .191 batting average, with 2 home runs, and 7 runs batted in, along with that he was on base only 26% of the time. Pedroia's first moments in the Majors were not so good as it looked like that he was not made for the majors. However, Dustin worked hard in the offseason and he let the league and the fans know that he was here to stay. In 2007, he won the fans over with his hard work paying off and putting 110% on the field every night. Pedroia would end up winning the American League Rookie of the Year with a .317 batting average, 8 homers, 50 runs batted in, 39 doubles, and a .380 on-base percentage. Red Sox Nation also knows that memorable home run that Dustin Pedroia hit to lead off the bottom of the 1st inning in game 1 of the World Series that set the tone

with the rest of the series. The Red Sox would end up winning the 2007 World Series and Dustin Pedroia made his mark in Red Sox history.

Dustin after this incredible season was known as the “Laser Show” by Red Sox Nation because of his energy and effort he put on the field. Pedroia blew the fans away for the rest of his career. In 2008, Pedroia went to his first All Star Game, and won the American League Most Valuable Player Award with a .326 batting average, with 17 home runs, 83 runs batted in, and 54 doubles. Dustin went to 4 All Star Games, a 4x Gold Glove winner, a Silver Slugger Award, and Pedroia was a huge part of the 2013 World Series Champion team that helped Boston heal after the Marathon bombings. Not only did Dustin make an impact on the field, he also made an impact off the field. He inspired a bunch of young athletes to put in 110% in anything you do whether it is school, baseball or anything. He would always take time to make a child's day as he would sign autographs for young fans and his efforts in the Jimmy Fund were out of this world.

We do not need to talk about the downfall of Dustin's career as there was not much he could have done, but Dustin helped the Red Sox huge in the 2018 historic season helping his teammates out with their game and how to work hard and keep pushing and supporting them every day. This leadership played a huge role in the Red Sox season and them winning it all in 2018.

But now it is official, Dustin Pedroia's playing career is over. The hard work and dedication along with what he did for Boston is clear as day, and Dustin Pedroia's number 15 will be retired by the Red Sox at some point, and we will have a Dustin Pedroia day at Fenway Park. Pedroia was not a huge power hitter who would either hit a home run or strike out, he was not about the home runs. Dustin Pedroia was an all around great baseball player who would hit for extra base hits, drive in runners, and get on base. Pedroia is the definition of a classic baseball player. Dustin went from David Ortiz not knowing his name and calling him Pee Wee, to the greatest second baseman in Red Sox history. Thank you Dustin for all you have done for the Red Sox and for the city of Boston.

Sources:

[Player Bio: Dustin Pedroia - Arizona State University Official Athletic Site - Arizona State University Athletics \(thesundevils.com\)](#)

[Dustin Pedroia Stats | Baseball-Reference.com \(baseball-reference.com\)](#)

[JockBio: Dustin Pedroia Biography](#)