



Willie Mays Aikens

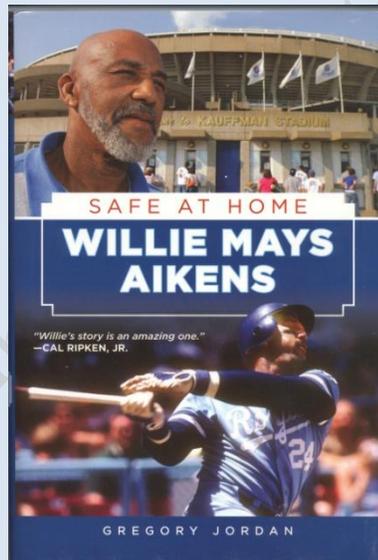
In 1980, Willie Mays Aikens became the first Major League Baseball player to hit 2 home runs in a World Series game twice. He was tabbed by many as the “next Reggie Jackson”. But ignoring the advice of his wiser teammates, Aikens drove himself out of baseball and into one of the longest prison sentences ever given to a professional athlete – 20 years and 8 months. The culprits: his neediness & gullibility and crack cocaine.

Willie was a first round draft pick of the California Angels in the 1975 draft. After 101 plate appearances in 1977, he became a semi-regular for the Angels in 1979 and hit 21 home runs with 81 RBI in only 379 at-bats. After that season, he was traded to the Kansas City Royals where he paid immediate dividends by slamming 20 home runs accompanied by 98 RBI.

Willie played in KC until being traded to the Toronto Blue Jays for the 1984 season. After 2 seasons in Toronto, Willie had blown and snorted away his baseball career.

Willie has recently chronicled his life story – from his horribly impoverished childhood to the heights of fame and fortune, down to the sheer terror of 14 years in various prisons, and back to a restored life and family after his release. His book is called “Safe at Home” and is a must-read.

Aikens now shares his story to a wide variety of audiences. Certainly, any aspiring athlete needs to hear Willie’s story so that he/she can avoid the traps that Willie ran headlong into. His story also resonates with any office worker or laborer as well as Willie’s path can be and has been followed by people of all walks of life.



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