

KEIZERTIMES.COM

Francisco Liriano has won 112 games over his 14-year Major League career, which is the most ever for a former Volcano pitcher.



BY MATT RAWLINGS
Of the Keizertimes

Francisco Liriano is #7 on the *Keizertimes* list of the top Volcanoes players of all time. The left-handed pitcher from the Dominican Republic has racked up 112 wins over his 14-year big league career — which is the most for a former Volcano player. He also is a two-time Comeback Player of the Year Award winner and he won a World Series ring in 2017.

With a 93-mile-per-hour fastball to go along with his slider and change-up — both in the mid-80s — Liriano has excelled as a strikeout pitcher for the majority of his career, averaging more than one punch-out per inning.

As a phenom in his home country, Liriano signed with the San Francisco Giants as a 17-year old in 2000. He began his professional career in the Arizona Rookie League in 2001 before being promoted to the Volcanoes near the end of the season — Liriano made two starts for the Volcanoes in 2001.

After spending three seasons in the Giants organization, Liriano was traded to the Minnesota Twins, along with former Volcanoes Boof Bonser and Joe Nathan.

Liriano began his tenure with the Twins organization in advanced-A ball in 2004 but was eventually promoted to the Triple-A level with the Rochester Red Wings in 2005. Dubbed as one of the best prospects in the organization, Liriano flourished with the Red Wings, posting a 9-2 record with a 1.78 ERA and 112 strikeouts in 91 innings. He was named the International League Rookie of the Year at season's end and led all of Minor League Base-

ball with 204 punch-outs — Liriano started the year with the Double-A New Britain Rock Cats.

In September 2005, Liriano was called up by the Twins and made his Major League debut on Sept. 5. He would win his first game on Sept. 30 against the Detroit Tigers, pitching seven innings and surrendering just five hits and two runs while striking out eight.

Liriano made the Twins opening day roster in 2006. Although he began the season in the bullpen, the southpaw transitioned into the starting rotation and quickly became one of the best arms in the American League (AL).

Liriano was named the AL Rookie of the Month in June and July of 2006 and earned a trip to his first All-Star Game. He led Major League Baseball in ERA and was considered a frontrunner for the AL Rookie of the Year and Cy Young Awards. But after being placed on the disabled list (DL) in August with elbow pain, Liriano missed the remainder of the season and didn't have enough innings logged to qualify for any major awards. He finished the season with a 12-3 record and a 2.19 ERA with 144 strikeouts in 121 innings.

Liriano underwent Tommy John surgery in 2007 to repair his elbow and missed the entire season. He made his return to the Twins on April 13, 2008. But after three less-than-stellar post-surgery performances, Liriano was sent back down to Triple-A.

Liriano was impressive while rehabbing in Triple-A with the Red Wings, compiling a 10-2 record with a 3.28 ERA. He was brought back to the Twins in August 2008. Liriano won his first three

starts since being re-called and had a 1.45 ERA in the final two months of the season. He finished the season with a 6-4 record and a 3.91 ERA in 76 innings.

However, in his first full season with the Twins since surgery, Liriano arguably had the worst year of his career, going 5-13 with a 5.80 ERA in 2009. During the off-season, Liriano returned to the Dominican Republic to play winter ball, helping Leones del Escogido win the league championship. In his seven playoff starts, Liriano had a 0.49 ERA with 47 strikeouts in 37 innings.

Liriano came back to the Twins in the spring of 2010 as a rejuvenated pitcher, cementing himself as the #2 starter in the rotation. In his first four starts of the season, Liriano went 3-0 with a 0.93 ERA and 27 strikeouts — he was named the AL Pitcher of the Month in April 2010.

While he had some moments of struggle from mid-May until the All-Star break, Liriano was incredibly sharp in the second half of the season. Over a two-month stretch, Liriano went 8-0 as a starter with a 2.41 ERA, limiting hitters to a .227 batting average and striking out 72 in 71 innings of work.

Liriano finished the season with a career-high of 191.2 innings pitched to go along with his 201 punch-outs — which was fifth in the AL.

Liriano made his first post-season start in game one of the 2010 American League Division Series (ALDS) and received a no-decision after throwing 5.2 innings and giving up four runs on six hits. The Twins lost the game 6-4.

Please see LIRIANO, Page A8

Donations & Sewing Talent Needed!

- Sew gowns from pre-made kits
 - Sew masks for our medical staff and patients
 - Donate new supplies:
 - PPE (gowns, masks, etc.)
 - Tarps (new and still in the wrapping) that you would use to cover something outside
 - Clear Shower Curtains (new and still in the wrapping)
 - Elastic 3/8 inch
 - Elastic 1/8 inch
 - Elastic 1/4 inch
 - Bias Tape- extra wide double folded
 - Tyvek
- 
- A stack of blue tarps, showing the top edge and the folded layers. The tarps are a vibrant blue color and appear to be made of a heavy-duty material.

Email giving@santiamhospital.org or call 503-769-9319 for more information.

We are grateful to live in a generous community!
Thank you!



1401 N 10th Ave. • Stayton, Oregon • SantiamHospital.org

