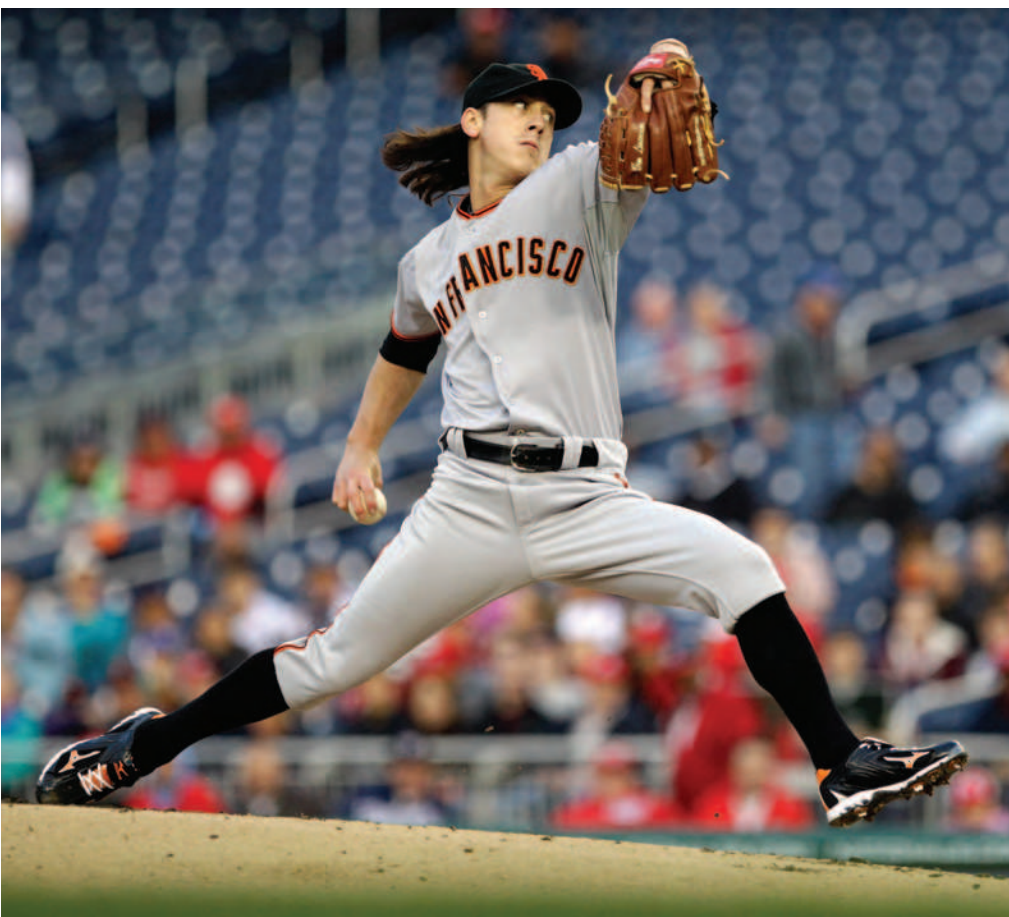


#2 Tim Lincecum



Robert Carr/Getty Images

Tim Lincecum is one of only two players in MLB history to throw multiple no-hitters, win multiple Cy Young awards, receive multiple All-Star selections and win multiple World Series titles.

BY MATT RAWLINGS Of the Keizertimes

Tim Lincecum comes in at #2 on the *Keizertimes* list of the greatest Volcanoes players of all time. The 5-foot-10, 170-pound right-hander, otherwise known as “The Freak” is the only pitcher in Major League Baseball (MLB) history to win back-to-back Cy Young awards in his first two full seasons. Lincecum also appeared in four consecutive All-Star Games and led the National League (NL) in strikeouts for three straight seasons.

Lincecum's unique and explosive pitching motion helped him become arguably the most dominant pitcher in baseball in the late 2000s. Despite his small stature, Lincecum's efficient lower body mechanics helped him throw his four-seam fastball in the high 90s. Lincecum was also able to create a lot of movement with his slider and changeup.

Lincecum grew up in Washington and attended Liberty Senior High School. He led the varsity baseball team to a 3A state title in 2003 and was the player of the year in the state.

Despite being drafted by the Chicago Cubs out of high school, Lincecum elected not to sign with the team. Lincecum instead decided to attend the University of Washington, where he became one of the best pitchers in school history. He was a two-time Pac-10 Pitcher of the Year and was named a first-team All-American in 2006. Lincecum finished the 2006 season with 12 wins and 199 strikeouts — each were single-season school records — to go along with his 1.94 ERA. Lincecum was also given the Golden Spikes

Award, which is annually presented to the nation's top amateur player.

Lincecum left Washington as the school's all-time leader in wins (30), starts (51), innings (342.0), walks (216) and strikeouts (491). He also became the conference's career leader in strikeouts (491).

Lincecum was drafted ninth overall by the San Francisco Giants in 2006 and began his brief minor league career in Salem-Keizer. Lincecum appeared in just two games for the Volcanoes and only gave up one hit and no earned runs while striking out 10 in just four innings of work.

Going into the 2007 season, Lincecum was the top prospect in the Giants organization. He spent the first month of the season in Triple-A with the Fresno Grizzlies. In his five starts, Lincecum went 4-0 with a 0.29 ERA in 31 innings and gave up just one run while striking out 46.

Lincecum was called up to make his first MLB start on May 6, 2007 and struck out the side in order in his first inning of work. He earned his first MLB win the following week against the Colorado Rockies, giving up three runs over seven innings of work.

In July of 2007, Lincecum went 4-0 with a 1.62 ERA.

His best performance of the month came against the Arizona Diamondbacks when he threw seven scoreless innings and struck out 12.

Lincecum was shut down for the final month of the season as a precaution because of the high volume of innings he had thrown. He finished the year with a 7-5 record and 4.00 ERA to go along with 150 strikeouts.

While he had made a lot of noise in his rookie campaign, Lincecum took over the baseball world during the 2008 season. He graced the cover of Sports Illustrated on July 7, 2008 and was selected to his first All-Star Game.

On Sept. 13, 2008, Lincecum tossed his first complete-game shutout, giving up four hits and striking out 12 hitters. Later in the month, Lincecum broke the Giants single-season strikeout record — he ended the season with 265 punchouts and was the first Giants pitcher to ever lead the National League in K's.

Lincecum was 18-5 on the season with a 2.62 ERA and won his first NL Cy Young award. At the age of 23, Lincecum was considered by many as the best pitcher in baseball.

At the beginning of the 2009 season, Lincecum picked up right where he left off. After losing his first



decision of the year, Lincecum won his next six starts. In the month of June, Lincecum went 4-1 with a 1.38 ERA and pitched three complete games — he was named June's NL Pitcher of the Month and was selected to his second All-Star Game. Lincecum also earned his 500th career strikeout on June 2 and reached the milestone quicker than any other Giants pitcher.

Through his first 20 starts in 2009, Lincecum was 11-3 with a 2.30 ERA, 183 strikeouts, four complete games and two shutouts. He also threw 29 consecutive scoreless innings, which was the third longest streak in San Francisco history.

On July 27, 2009, Lincecum pitched his fifth complete game of the season and struck out a career-high of 15 hitters in the Giants 4-2 win over the Pittsburgh Pirates. On Aug. 3, he was named NL Player of the Week.

Lincecum finished the year with a 15-7 record and a 2.48 ERA with 261 strikeouts. He won the Cy Young award for the second straight year, and was also recognized as the Sporting News NL Pitcher of the Year for back-to-back seasons.

Even though he wasn't as

dominant as his first two seasons, Lincecum had another great season in 2010, starting the year off with a 5-0 record. He cooled later in the year, finishing the first half with a 9-4 record and a 3.16 ERA over 116.2 innings, but was still selected to his third straight All-Star Game.

After enduring a poor August performance, Lincecum was lights out in September, winning five games and helping the Giants win the NL West Division title. Lincecum went 16-10 on the season with a 3.43 ERA. He also led the NL in strikeouts for a third straight year (231) and set a record for most K's by an MLB pitcher in his first four seasons.

In his first career playoff game, Lincecum struck out 14 and tossed a two-hit shutout against the Atlanta Braves in game one of the NL Division Series (NLDS). The Giants won the series in four games and advanced to the championship series (NLCS).

Lincecum out-dued Philadelphia Phillies ace Roy Halladay in game one of the NLCS throwing seven innings and striking out eight in the Giants 4-3 win. Even though Lincecum was the losing pitcher in game five, the Giants still went on to

win the NLCS in six games to advance to the World Series.

Despite giving up four earned runs in 5.2 innings against the Texas Rangers, the Giants offense backed up their ace as Lincecum earned his first World Series win. Lincecum took the mound once again in game five, with the Giants up 3-1 in the series, and delivered one of the best performances of his postseason career.

Lincecum tossed eight innings and struck out 10 while giving up just one earned run and three hits and the Giants clinched their first World Series championship in 56 years by defeating the Rangers 3-1 in game five.

At the end of the season, Lincecum was given the Babe Ruth Award — which is given annually to the most outstanding player of the postseason.

The accolades kept rolling in for Lincecum in 2011. On May 4, Lincecum struck out 12 against the New York Mets and became the franchise leader in most games with 10 or more K's (29). Later in the month, he threw a three-hit shutout against the Oakland A's in a 3-0 Giants win. On June 6,

Please see TIM, Page A8



“This community is beautiful and the whole staff is so attentive and caring! As a family member, I always want the very best for my Mom and I know that we have found an incredible place where I know that she is happy and well-cared for. The atmosphere is engaging and respectful and it is so good to know that Mom is in such good hands. I would highly recommend this community to anyone!” — HEIDI C.



Quality senior living for those who have reached the age of sixty-two.

Come See the Finest in Senior Living
CALL (503) 390-1300

The Village at Keizer Ridge
ASSISTED LIVING & MEMORY CARE

1165 McGee Ct NE, Keizer, OR • www.VillageAtKeizerRidge.com

Home FIRE STOVE GRILL CITY SURVIVAL GUIDE
HOW TO PLAY IT WARM THIS WINTER
Now It's easier than ever to shop for your new Heat & Glo fireplace, stove or insert from the safety and comfort of your home at:
www.homefirestove.com



Pictured: The Heat & Glo 6000 CLX with Chateau Forge Front

Home Fire Stove & Grill City
Save up to \$1,450 on a new Gas Fireplace
1695 Market St. NE Salem, OR 97301
503-364-6339 • CCB# 48630

PRE-PLANNING YOUR FINAL ARRANGEMENTS IS A GIFT ONLY YOU CAN GIVE YOUR LOVED ONES.

CALL TODAY!

RESTLAWN MEMORY GARDENS & RESTLAWN FUNERAL HOME
Salem, OR 97304
503-585-1373
www.restlawnfh.com

FARNSTROM MORTUARY
Independence, OR 97351
503-838-1414
www.farnstrommortuary.com

KEIZER FUNERAL CHAPEL
Keizer, OR 97303
503-393-7037
www.keizerchapel.com