



*Monday's Scouting Report – "In His Mitt"*

*May 16, 2016*

## *Identity Crisis*

Donnie Moore pitched in the Major Leagues from 1975 - 1988. Primarily a reliever, he compiled a career record of 43-40 with 89 saves and a 3.67 ERA. He was selected to the All Star game in 1985.

Chances are that if you have heard of Donnie Moore, you likely know him as the pitcher who gave up a homerun to Dave Henderson in Game 5 of the 1986 ALCS. There were two outs, man on first and a 2-2 count in the ninth inning. The Angels were one strike away from going to the World Series for the first time in franchise history when Henderson homered. As a coach, I know that one pitch doesn't win or lose a game. In fact, the Angels tied it up in the bottom of the ninth, but ended up losing in the 11<sup>th</sup> inning. In addition, although the Angels had a 3-2 series lead, they went on to lose Games 6 and 7. Despite this, Angels' fans blamed Moore and he was booed at home games for the next two seasons. He was eventually released by the Angels and signed a minor league contract with Kansas City. In June 1989, he was released by Kansas City. Less than a month later, Donnie Moore got into an argument with his wife and shot her three times. He then turned the gun on himself, and in the presence of his son, committed suicide.

After his death, Donnie Moore's daughter was quoted by a reporter as saying, "When he was cut by Kansas City, he'd really been depressed about that. I mean, here he is, the high-life career...then all of a sudden, it's gone. He comes back home...and the marriage, the family, is all destroyed. I mean, what else does he have left?" The last phrase "what else does he have left?" is tragic.

Donnie Moore's identity was rooted in baseball and when that was gone, he had nothing. Just like the man who built his house on the sand, when we look for our identity, self-worth, fulfillment, and meaning in things other than a relationship with God, we are not going to be satisfied. (Matthew 7:24-27). As FCA coaches, we don't want to be identified as baseball coaches who are Christians, but rather as Christians who are baseball coaches. Our identity needs to be in Christ first and foremost.

Baseball is fun, winning is fun, and pushing yourself to be your best is a good thing. Trust me, I want my players to reach their potential and I want to win every game we play. I spend a lot of time working on ways to accomplish these two things. However, as FCA coaches, we need to remember that God did not put us on earth to win baseball games.

When this life ends, God is not going to ask us or our players what our win-loss record was, or our ERA, or how many championships we won. He is just going to want to know whether we accepted Jesus as our Savior. Because of this, we need to remain focused on our true purpose as we coach – to reach others for Jesus!

***"I have come as a light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me would not remain in darkness." – John 12:46***

*--Matt Carlson, Head Coach, FCA Power 16u -Fairfax*