

Jim Sundberg is a Texas Rangers Hall of Famer who is known as one of the top defensive catchers in Major League history. He was the first catcher to win six American League Gold Glove awards (consecutively), and was a three-time American League All-Star during his 16-year major league career with the Rangers, Milwaukee, Kansas City and the Chicago Cubs. Jim was a member of the 1985 World Champion Kansas City Royals and voted by the Chicago writers as the World Series Hero.

Having been born in Galesburg, Illinois, Sundberg attended college at the University of Iowa. On January 10, 1973, he was selected by Texas Rangers in the 1st round of the secondary free agent draft. In 1974, he made the rare jump from Class A level baseball to the major leagues with the Rangers. As a rookie, Sundberg was selected to be a reserve in the 1974 All-Star Game and finished fourth in the Rookie of the Year balloting (behind teammate and Perryton, Texas native Mike Hargrove, who won the award). Sundberg had 101 assists in 1975, becoming the first American League catcher to have more than 100 assists in a season since the end of the Second World War.

After 10 seasons with the Rangers, Sundberg was traded to the Milwaukee Brewers in 1983. He played there only one year and was then traded to the Kansas City Royals. Sundberg's veteran experience helped bolster the Royals' young pitching staff, and the team's combined earned run average improved to second best in the American League. The Royals went on to win the 1985 World Series. In Game Six of that series, Sundberg scored the dramatic ninth inning winning run by sliding into home plate, skillfully avoiding the tag of St. Louis Cardinals catcher Darrell Porter. Sundberg was traded to the Chicago Cubs in 1987, before signing back with Texas where he ended his career at the end of the 1989 season.

In a sixteen-year major league career, Sundberg played in 1,962 games, accumulating 1,493 hits in 6,021 at bats for a .248 career batting average along with 95 home runs, 624 runs batted in and an on-base percentage of .327. His .993 career fielding average was 8 points higher than the league average over the span of his playing career. Sundberg led American League catchers six times in fielding percentage, putouts and assists. He completed 145 double plays in 1,962 games in his career, and holds the major league record for the best ratio of double plays to errors of any catcher in major league history behind the plate for at least 1,000 games.

He caught 130 shutouts in his career, ranking him fifth all-time among catchers. Sundberg played more games as a catcher than any other player in Rangers history (1,512). At the time of his retirement, Sundberg had caught more major league games than any man in history except his contemporary Bob Boone. He still ranks fifth today. Richard Kendall of the Society for American Baseball Research devised an unscientific study that ranked Sundberg as the third most dominating fielding catcher in major league history. Galesburg High School has named their main baseball field after Sundberg.

Between his playing days and re-joining the Rangers, Jim started companies manufacturing sports training products and conducting motivational speeches. He co-wrote the book *How to Win at Sports Parenting* with his wife, Janet. Jim was also an analyst on Rangers' television games from 1990-95. He spent thirteen years in the front office with the Rangers before retiring in 2014 from his role as Senior Executive VP for the Texas Rangers and President of the Texas Rangers Baseball Foundation to devote more time to writing and speaking.

Sundberg was recently appointed Chairman of the DFW FCA Executive Leadership Board. He and wife Janet live in Arlington and have three children and eight grandchildren.