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Alex Wood Announces Retirement After 12-Year Major League Baseball Career

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Former Major League Baseball (MLB) left-handed pitcher Alex Wood announced his retirement on August 8, bringing to a close a 12-season career highlighted by significant accomplishments, including an All-Star selection and a World Series championship. Wood, 34, made his final MLB appearances during the 2024 season with the Oakland Athletics, finishing with a 1-3 win-loss record and a 5.26 earned run average (ERA) over nine starts.

Wood began his professional journey with the Atlanta Braves, pitching from 2013 through 2015 before joining the Los Angeles Dodgers mid-2015. His time with the Dodgers included his 2017 All-Star season and culminated with a World Series title in 2020. He also spent time with the Cincinnati Reds in 2019 and the San Francisco Giants from

2021 to 2023 before finishing his career with the Athletics in 2024. Over the course of 278 career games, 211 of which were starts, Wood compiled a 77-68 record and maintained a 3.78 ERA.

Reflecting on his career via Instagram, Wood wrote, “For over half my life, every decision I’ve made has centered around how it would impact my baseball career. I’ve given every ounce of myself in pursuit of my lifelong dream of becoming a big leaguer.” He highlighted several personal milestones, including seven postseason appearances. Wood expressed gratitude for his time in the game and the experiences it brought him. He said, “Playing 12 years in the show, reaching 7 postseasons, winning a World Series, and earning an All-Star selection. I never could’ve imagined it would turn out this way.” He also acknowledged the lasting impact baseball has had on his life, stating that outside of God and family, nothing has shaped him more.

Wood’s career was defined by consistency and resilience as he navigated various teams and roles over more than a decade. His All-Star nod in 2017 reflected his standing among the league’s top pitchers at the time. His contribution to the Dodgers’ 2020 championship team remains a career highlight, as the team secured its first World Series title since 1988.

Throughout his career, Wood was known for his work ethic and determination. He adapted to the demands of the major leagues, transitioning from starter to reliever when needed and helping his teams in crucial moments. His performance and leadership helped shape several pitching staffs over the years.

As Wood steps away from professional baseball, his legacy will include solid pitching statistics, a respected approach to the game, and a passion that endured through the ups and downs of a challenging career. His decision to retire marks the end of a noteworthy journey in baseball, one that younger players and fans alike can admire for its perseverance and dedication to America’s pastime.