

MIND MAGNAN

GREG MADDUX OF THE ATLANTA BRAVES MAKES BATTERS DISAPPEAR IN A PUFF OF SMARTS

GREG MADDUX DOESN'T LOOK like a great pitcher. He isn't tall or powerful. Off the field, his round glasses make him look like a teacher, not the ace of the Atlanta Braves.

Greg doesn't throw a blazing 98-mile-per-hour fastball. His "heater" barely reaches 90 miles per hour! But Greg gives hitters fits. They shake their heads on the way back to the dugout after Greg has made them look bad.

How does Greg do it?

ABRACADABRA!

Greg works magic with a cool head and pinpoint control. "He is better than most pitchers because

he's smarter," says outfielder Tony Gwynn of the San Diego Padres.

Greg keeps his pitching simple. "There are only two things you have to do to pitch well," he says. "Throw your fastball in the right place, and change the speed of your pitches."

How hard is it to hit against Greg? Imagine you are the batter. You will have less than half a second to look at the pitch Greg has thrown and decide:

- how fast it is traveling;
- if it is inside or outside, high or low;
- if it is a breaking ball or a fastball.

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You think, "Wow. By the time I figure all that out, the ball will be by me. I'd better just look for a pitch in a particular spot. If Greg throws it inside and belt-high, I'm going to swing automatically."

But Greg rarely throws a pitch the batter wants or expects. Greg studies hitters' strengths and weaknesses. If he knows you like a pitch inside and belt-high, he'll throw you a low, outside curveball in the strike zone. You won't swing, of course. But the ump will call it a strike.

Now what do you do?

MASTER OF CONFUSION

Greg's control is nearly perfect. He averages only two walks per game. He can "locate" the pitch wherever he wants to. He confuses batters by changing the speed of his pitches. That makes batters off-balance when they swing, so they hit a lot of harmless grounders. Greg often retires the side with as few as eight pitches.

BASEBALL'S BEST

"Playing behind Greg is like watching an artist as he makes a beautiful

painting," says Chipper Jones, the Brave third baseman.

Greg's smarts have helped him win the Cy Young Award four seasons in a row (1992 to 1995) as the best pitcher in the National League. He has won 15 or more games in a season 11 times since

1988. He has led the N.L. in ERA four times. He has helped the Braves win four division titles, two N.L. titles, and one World Series.

LITTLE BIG MAN

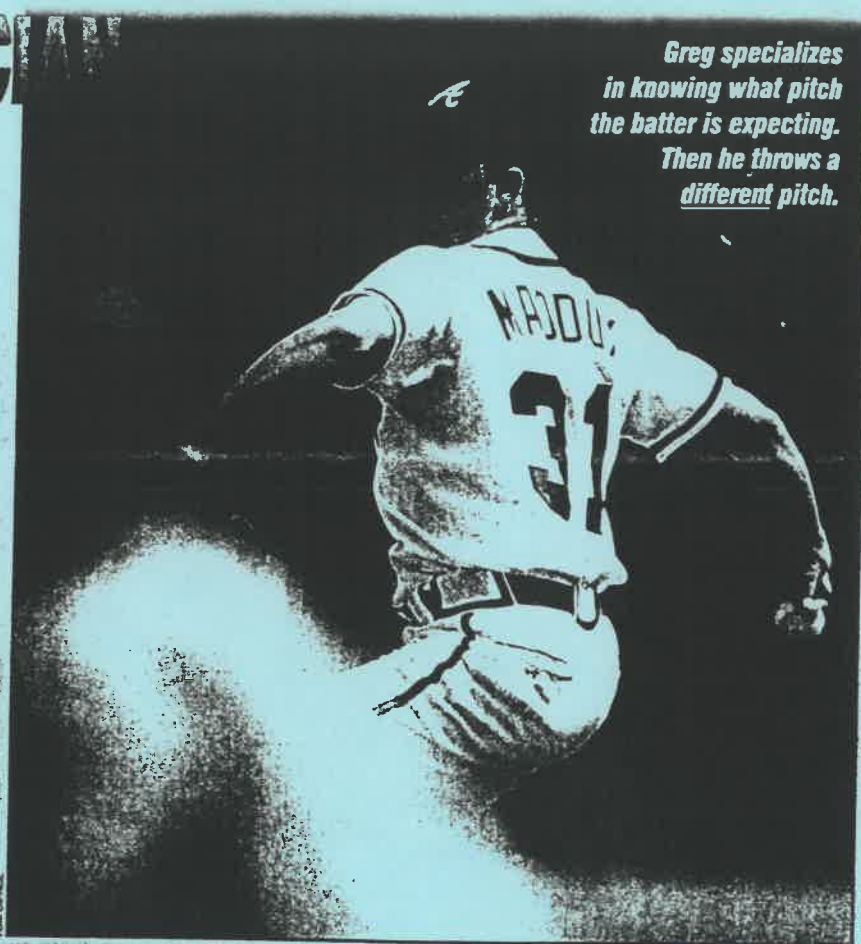
The Chicago Cubs drafted Greg out of high school in 1984. He was 5' 11" tall. He weighed 150 pounds. The Cub manager thought Greg was the batboy the first time he saw him!

Greg has achieved greatness very quietly. He hates to call attention to himself. He dislikes posing for photos for magazine stories. He doesn't show up hitters on the mound.

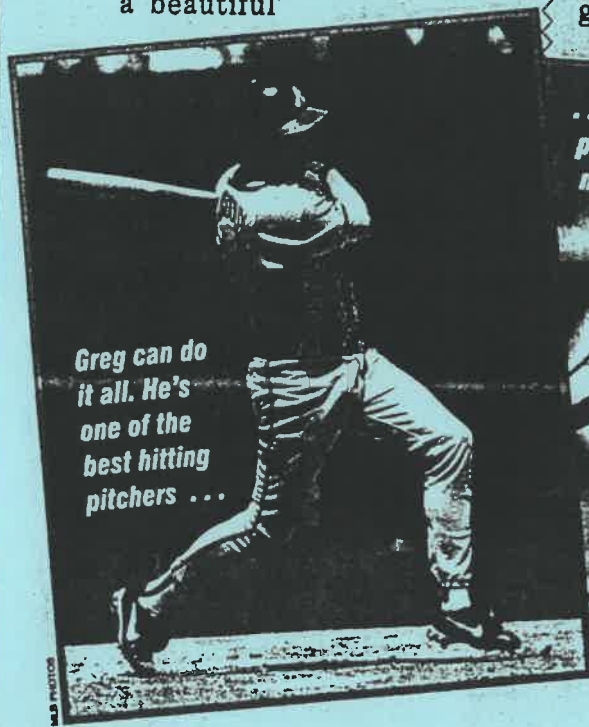
"A hitter only sees me six or seven times a season," says Greg. "I'm not going to do anything that makes him remember me."

Smart move, Greg.

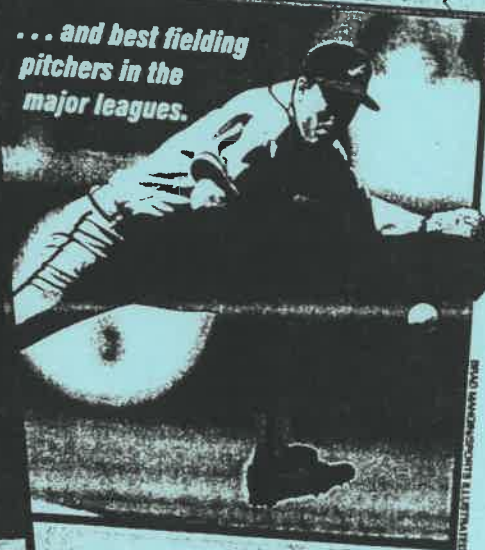
— BY MARK McCLUSKY



Greg specializes in knowing what pitch the batter is expecting. Then he throws a different pitch.



Greg can do it all. He's one of the best hitting pitchers ...



... and best fielding pitchers in the major leagues.

Greg's FAVORITE

THINGS

NAME: Gregory Alan Maddux

NICKNAME: Mad Dog

BIRTH DATE: April 14, 1966

BIRTHPLACE: San Angelo, Texas

FAMILY: wife Kathy; daughter Amanda Paige (age 5); son Chase Alan (2)

HOME: Las Vegas, Nevada

BIGGEST SPORTS THRILL: Getting a hit off

my older brother, Mike, in a major league game. I hit a hard single to leftfield.

FAVORITE SPORT TO WATCH (OTHER THAN BASEBALL): Golf

SPORT TO PLAY (OTHER THAN BASEBALL): Golf

MOVIE: *The Silence of the Lambs*

TV SHOW: *Get Smart*

SUBJECTS IN SCHOOL: Science, particularly biology, earth science, and chemistry

VIDEO GAMES: *Contra: Legacy of War* and *Contra Adventure*

HOBBIES: Being a dad, and playing golf during whatever free time is left over.

WHAT I LIKE BEST ABOUT MY JOB: Winning, traveling, and the friendships I make along the way

SECRET AMBITION: If I told you what it is, then it wouldn't be a secret anymore!

THE BEST ADVICE I EVER RECEIVED: "I've told you everything I know about baseball. Now go listen to your coaches!"
— from my dad



Greg will stroll right into the Hall of Fame some day.

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1. What two things does Greg Maddux do to keep his pitching simple?
2. How long does a batter have to determine if they like the pitch that Greg Maddux has thrown?
3. How does Greg know the types of pitches batters like or dislike?
4. What does Greg Maddux do while pitching to confuse the batters?
5. What is the Cy Young Award that Greg won?
6. When did the Chicago Cubs draft Greg Maddux?
7. Who gave Greg Maddux the best advice about baseball?
8. What does Greg specialize in when it comes to pitching?
9. How many World Series has Greg Maddux won with the Atlanta Braves?
10. How many walks per game does Maddux average?