

Verlander Has a Stellar Year

The Detroit Tigers' Justin Verlander '04 became Major League Baseball's first 20-game winner in late August and at the copy deadline for this magazine was widely considered to be leading the race for the American League Cy Young Award. This was the first time in his major league career that Verlander had reached the 20-win mark. He was 19-9 in 2009, 18-6 in 2007 and 18-9 last year.

The all-time strikeout king in ODU, Colonial Athletic Association and Virginia collegiate Division 1 history with 427 strikeouts in 335.2 innings, Verlander became the fifth MLB pitcher in the last 20 years to reach the 20-win mark before the end of August. The others are Curt Schilling (2002), Roger Clemens (1997), John Smoltz (1996) and Jack McDowell (1993).

Verlander, the 2006 AL Rookie of the Year and four-time AL All-Star, had his ODU jersey retired during a ceremony in November 2010. He also tossed a no-hitter in May 2011 against Toronto, the second of his career.

The jersey of Justin Verlander, center, was retired at a ceremony last year. With him (from left) are Nate Goulet, former interim baseball coach; President John Broderick, Tony Guzzo, former baseball coach; Wood Selig, athletic director; Mark Benson, associate athletic director for development; and Big Blue.

