

# Christmas in December

Born on December 9, 1957, in Orlando, Florida, Steve Christmas plays parts of three seasons with the Cincinnati Reds (1983), Chicago White Sox (1984) and the Chicago Cubs (1986).

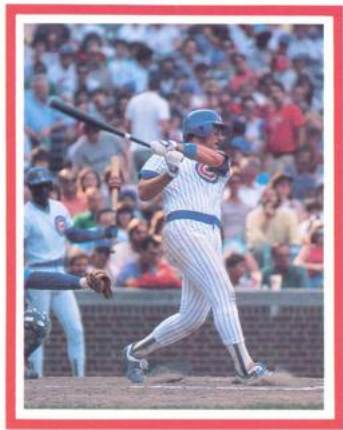
A product of Oklahoma State University, Christmas struggles against major league pitching, collecting only six hits in 37 at bats and finishing with a .162 batting average over a 24-game major league career.

On September 19, 1984, the 6-foot-1, 190-pound left-handed hitting catcher-first baseman has his "one shining moment" when he pinch-hits a tie-breaking three-run home run lifting the White Sox to a 7-3 win over the Minnesota Twins.

The Twins had originally drafted Christmas out of high school in the 33rd round in 1975, but failed to sign him. "I thought my talent was worth more than they offered," Christmas said. "Then they said they weren't sure I could play in the big leagues. That kind of made me mad."

Hampered by a strained elbow, Christmas fails to make the Cubs' opening day roster in 1987 and is optioned to Iowa of the American Association. Christmas elects to retire and returns to his native Orlando.

## CHICAGO CUBS



(18) STEVE CHRISTMAS, C