Luke Hughes BIO

Luke Trevor Hughes is an Australian baseball player for Perth HEAT in the Australian Baseball League. He has formerly played for Major League Baseball's Minnesota Twins and Oakland Athletics.

Australian career

Hughes played the 2001-2002 seasons in the International Baseball League of Australia, where he was named as the All-Star second baseman.

He helped the Perth Heat win the 2003 Claxton Shield with a .429 batting average. He also won the Golden Glove in the 2004 Claxton Shield.

Since the Australian Baseball league reformed for the 2010/11 season Luke has been a major driving force and team leader in the HEAT's success by leading them to 3 Championship Series – winning the inaugural and second ABL Championships. Hughes had an injury-plagued season for Perth Heat in the ABL this season, but played a key role as they fell just short of a third straight championship.

He currently plays for the Perth HEAT in the Australian Baseball League and grew up playing for the Morley Eagles Baseball Club.

American career

From when Luke signed with the Minnesota Twins in early 2002 until his he was called up to the Minnesota Twins Major League roster on 24 April 2010, he plied his trade in the Minor Leagues of Professional Baseball. This is like doing an apprenticeship to prove you have "whatever it takes" to cut it in the Big Leagues.

His Minor League highlights include reaching base safely in 19 straight games at one point, being named to the Gulf Coast League All-Star team at third base, 2008 Eastern League All-Star team, and he also played in the 2008 All-Star Futures Game and was the only Australian that played for the World team.

On 28 April 2010 he debuted for the Twins at third base. In his first Major League at bat he hit a home run against Detroit Tigers pitcher Max Scherzer. In comparison, hitting a first at bat home run is twice as rare as throwing a no-hitter. Hughes' home run was calculated to have gone 360 feet. He is the 106th person in MLB history to homer in his first major league at-bat dating back to 1855 (less than once per season).

International career

Hughes played for Australia in the 2005 Baseball World Cup, the 2006 World Baseball Classic and 2006 Intercontinental Cup.

In 2009 Hughes was with Australia for the World Baseball Classic, going 3 for 12 with 3 runs, 3 RBI, a walk, double and a home run as their starting third baseman.

He recently returned from Taiwan, where he played for an Australian team which was knocked out in the pool stage of the 2013 World Baseball Classic.