



CELEBRATING 20 YEARS SINCE 9.9.99

BAKERSFIELD BRAVES BASEBALL CLUB ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: JUSTIN KELLY



JUSTIN KELLY, A 2011 GRADUATE OF STOCKDALE HIGH SCHOOL, HAS ONE OF THE MOST AMAZING BASEBALL STORIES OF OUR ALUMNI. SPOILER ALERT... HE'S HEADING TO THE 2020 OLYMPICS!

KELLY PLAYED FOR THE BRAVES CLUB THROUGHOUT HIGH SCHOOL AND EARLY COLLEGE AS A LEFT-HANDED PITCHER. AFTER GRADUATING FROM STOCKDALE HIGH SCHOOL, KELLY ATTENDED BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE WHERE HE WAS A TWO-YEAR PLAYER UNDER COACH TIM PAINTON. KELLY'S RELENTLESS WORK ETHIC GAVE HIM THE OPPORTUNITY TO FURTHER HIS CAREER, RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP TO PLAY AT VIRGINIA TECH. AFTER HIS JUNIOR SEASON, HE DECIDED HE WANTED TO COME BACK TO THE WEST COAST AND PLAYED FOR UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SANTA BARBARA. THAT SAME YEAR, KELLY MADE APPEARANCES IN A SUPER REGIONAL AND COLLEGE WORLD SERIES.

DURING THAT VERY EXCITING TIME IN KELLY'S LIFE, HE WAS SELECTED IN THE MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL DRAFT IN THE 33RD ROUND BY THE LOS ANGELES ANGELS OF ANAHEIM. IN THE 2016-2017 SEASON KELLY WENT FROM ROOKIE BALL ALL THE WAY TO AAA IN THE ANGELS ORGANIZATION.



IN 2018, KELLY JOINED THE ATLANTA BRAVES ORGANIZATION. WITH THE BRAVES, KELLY PLAYED IN THE FLORIDA STATE LEAGUE AS WELL AS THE SOUTHERN LEAGUE, MAKING IT TO AA.

AFTER BEING RELEASED FROM THE BRAVES, KELLY SIGNED WITH ACEREROS DE MONCLOVA IN THE MEXICAN LEAGUE WINNING THE MEXICAN CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES. FROM THERE, KELLY WAS ASKED TO JOIN THE MEXICAN NATIONAL TEAM TO PLAY FOR A SHOT IN THE TOKYO OLYMPICS IN 2020. MEXICO RECEIVED AN INVITATION AND KELLY IS SLATED TO PLAY THERE STARTING JULY 29TH, 2020.

DESCRIBE BBBC IN 3 WORDS.

MY SECOND FAMILY.

WHAT DOES BBBC MEAN TO YOU?

THE BBA PROGRAM HAS ALWAYS SUPPORTED ME SINCE I JOINED IN HIGH SCHOOL. THE PROGRAM HAS GREATLY IMPACTED MY ON-FIELD ABILITIES BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, HELPED ME GROW OFF THE FIELD. THE RELATIONSHIPS I MADE PLAYING AT BBA WILL LAST A LIFETIME.

FAVORITE PLACE YOU'VE TRAVELED TO FOR BASEBALL?

TOKYO!

ONE OF YOUR FAVORITE MEMORIES OF BBBC?

GOOFING OFF WITH ELIJAH AND BRODY ON THE ROAD TRIPS TO AWAY GAMES.