



Dave Dravecky

Dave is known universally for the reason that he did not have a full baseball career as opposed to being known for the considerable success he achieved on the field. He began his MLB career with the San Diego Padres in 1982. The following season, he was named to the National League All-Star team on his way to a 14 win season. After 5 1/2 seasons with the Padres as both a starter and a reliever, he was a key component of a big trade with the San Francisco Giants.

On the Giants, Dave was a member of what the press referred to derisively as The God Squad, a group of Giants' pitchers who were not shy about their Christian faith. In 1988, doctors discovered a cancerous desmoid tumor in Dave's pitching arm in October of that year he underwent surgery that removed half the deltoid muscle in his pitching arm. He was told that he'd never pitch again. However, he worked hard on rehabbing his arm and in August of 1989, he made his return to MLB. Five days after his triumphant return to the majors, Dave took the mound against the Montreal Expos and on a pitch in the sixth inning, a nauseating crack could be heard around the stadium; it was the sound of Dave's pitching arm snapping cleanly in two as he fell to the turf in excruciating pain.

Dave's baseball career was over. He had two more surgeries but doctors still feared the spread of cancer. Dave chose to save his life by having his left arm, shoulder blade and a part of his collarbone amputated.

Many people would have turned against God and been bitter about having their high-profile, well-paid career taken from them, but not Dravecky. He started his new career as a motivational speaker, sharing his first-hand account of God's love for him from the day he accepted Christ as his personal savior in the minor leagues, through his trials, to the blessings in his life today. Dave states that he has grown more through the bad and the ugly than he ever did through the good.

Dravecky has two books about his battles with cancer and his attempts to play baseball after his diagnosis. They are called *Comeback* which was published in 1990 and *When You Can't Come Back* which was written in 1992. In his books Dave confesses that without Jesus he is nothing. Contact us to have him share his incredible faith journey.

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