

Field of Dreams

Dental student takes on new challenge after winning career

By Lee Cashatt

First-year dental student Brian Banks has experienced a successful athletic career that many men only dream of.

He believes success in any profession results from loving what you do and working hard to be the best. Banks clearly lives by his own advice and in 2007 traded his baseball glove for a dental chair.

Born in Mesa, Ariz., Banks' baseball talent was recognized at Mt. View High School where, as a catcher, he was named State of Arizona Player of the Year and three years in a row to the All-State Team. "I enjoyed the competition and camaraderie that came from playing a team sport," he says.

Out of high school he was drafted by the Baltimore Orioles but chose not to sign. Instead, Banks served a two-year church mission in Seattle, Wash. "I also had a scholarship to attend Brigham Young University, and I wanted to have the college experience," he says.

Playing collegiate baseball at BYU, he was named to the All-American Team as an outfielder. Banks was drafted in 1996 to the Major Leagues with the Milwaukee Brewers and played outfield through the 1999 season.

After playing overseas in the Japan Series Championship for the Fukuoka Daiei Hawks, Banks signed with the Florida Marlins from 2001-2004. In 2003, the Marlins won the World Series Championship, defeating the favored New York Yankees in Game Six with a score of 2-0.

"What a rush as we charged the infield grass at historic Yankee Stadium," he says. "I will never forget that night. I was fortunate to fulfill my childhood dream of playing on the very fields and against many of the players I grew up idolizing and cheering for."

In the whirlwind excitement of the series, Banks says he didn't have time to think about the magnitude of his career. Playing in the World Series is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for most ball players.

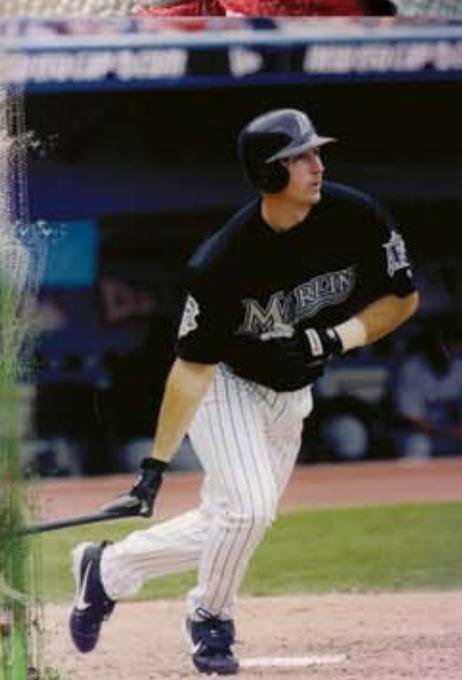
"Many players go through their whole career never having the opportunity to play in a World Series – let alone win one," Banks says. "I consider myself very lucky to have been in that position."

He says he is grateful for that time in his life and the friends and memories he made along the path to World Series Champ.

Banks retired following the 2004 season to focus his champion efforts on his family, his studies, and his new career.

"I've always had an interest in healthcare and working with my hands. If baseball hadn't been an option, I would have pursued some aspect of health," he says.

"My career in baseball allowed me to recognize how fortunate I am and that I can do good for those who need help. I will value compassion and integrity as I embark on this new career in the field of dentistry." ❧



Banks and his wife, Tarrah, present the newest addition to their family. Hudson, 6 months, joins older brothers Davis, 4, and Carter, 2.

Banks and his Florida Marlins teammates celebrate their 2003 World Series win with trophy in hand.

Brian Banks, DI, played for the Florida Marlins from 2001-2004.