

Matt Smith
1994
Inducted in 2019



Matt was raised in Grants Pass, where he attended Highland Elementary, North Middle School and Grants Pass High School.

While at Grants Pass High, Matt excelled in football, basketball and baseball earning 11 letters. He earned four letters in basketball and baseball and three in football.

Matt started on both offense and defense all 3 years he was in football. He won the defensive player of the year award for the SOC both his Junior and Senior season. In addition, he was named 1st team All-Conference and 3rd team All State QB and Defensive player of the year for the state of Oregon in 1993. Matt helped lead GP to an 11-2 record and a trip to the semi-finals where they lost to the

eventual state champions in overtime.

In basketball Matt saw success again starting 3 years and receiving 1st team All-Conference his junior and senior years. He was named 2nd team All State his senior year. Matt helped lead the team to the state tournament and upon graduation Matt held the GPHS school records for steals and FG %.

Baseball was always Matt's favorite sport and it showed. Matt was called up to varsity his freshman year and ended up being a 4-year starter on the baseball team. Matt pitched and played 1st base all 4 years for the Cavemen. Matt was a 3 time 1st team All-Conference player and the Oregon Player of the Year his senior year. In addition, the summer of his freshman and sophomore year, he played on the Jr. Pan Am USA national team winning a silver and gold medal. Matt was on numerous pre and post season national lists, one being a Top 10 Pitching Prospect in the country, another being named a 1st Team All American on the 1994 ABCA/Rawlings High School All American Team.

Matt signed with Stanford University to play both football and baseball. He was also drafted by the Kansas City Royals in the 1st round. Matt ended up signing with the Royals and played 5 seasons in the minor leagues winning championships in both the Midwest and Carolina leagues. The desire to get his education and play football again brought Matt back to the University of Oregon. Matt ended up starting his Jr. and Sr. years where he was a two-time Honorable Mention All-Conference LB. He also was a semifinalist for the Butkus award given to the top LB in the country and Co-MVP for the 1999 Co-Pac 10 Champion Oregon Ducks. Post college Matt was selected to play in the Shrine football game and signed as a free agent with the Indianapolis Colts in 2000.

Today Matt lives in Wilmette, IL with his wife Theresa and two daughters Elizabeth (9) and Julia (6). Matt got into business out of college and has been in sales and marketing roles throughout his career. Today he is a Sales Director for Becton Dickenson which is a global medical technology company. He enjoys golf, fishing and coaching his girls' sports teams.