

## Kevin Dewayne Brown

### Class of 2022



Kevin Brown graduated from Oroville High School (OHS) in 1984 and was an outstanding athlete, excelling in basketball and baseball all four years. He earned All-League honors in basketball two years and baseball three years, was an Optimist Basketball All-Star as a senior, and won multiple Most Valuable Player awards and All-Tournament honors in every tournament in which he played. He was a Block O member for four years, Homecoming King and Student Body President in his senior year. During the summer following his junior year, he worked with the Youth Conservation Corps.

The summer following graduation, Kevin played in The Big-League All-Star game in Yuba City and Sacramento City College (SCC), where coach, Jerry Weinstein took notice. Jerry was encouraged by New York Mets scout Marty Coil to watch Kevin pitch, resulting with an invitation to play at SCC.

While at SCC, Kevin was personally drafted two times during his freshman year, the first in 1984 by the Kansas City Royals in the 4<sup>th</sup> round and in the summer of 1985, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> round by the Philadelphia Phillies. He decided not to sign with either team and returned to SCC for his sophomore season to pursue his dream of being drafted in the first round. In 1986, his decision paid off when he was drafted in the first-round by the Atlanta Braves, who had the 2<sup>nd</sup> pick in the nation.

While playing at SCC, he was a member of two teams that set Guinness World Book Records. Fourteen freshman players were drafted by Major League Baseball (MLB) from the same team in 1985, and 15 players in 1986.

Beginning in 1986, at age 20, Kevin pitched in the Minor Leagues, in Class A, AA and AAA until 1990 when he was called up by the New York Mets, pitching in his first game on July 27, 1990. Later that year, he was traded to the Milwaukee Brewers where he pitched for parts of two years before being claimed off waivers by the Seattle Mariners in 1992. Kevin finished up his professional career with the Kansas City Royals AAA affiliate in Omaha where he suffered a career ending shoulder injury

Overall, Kevin's professional baseball career saw him playing six seasons in the minor leagues and parts of three in the Majors with the NY Mets, Milwaukee Brewers and Seattle Mariners. His MLB Earned Run Average was 4.82 in the 24 games in which he played. During his 9 professional seasons he pitched in 214 games, with a win/loss record of 61/65.

As highly decorated as Kevin was at OHS, awards continued in baseball as he won the Double Day Award as the top minor league player for the Mets, the Florida League Championship with the Port St. Lucie Mets.

With his baseball playing days over, and Kevin just 31 years old, his competitive juices were still flowing and he needed a new focus. He turned to his Lord and Savior with a focus on winning souls for Christ along with other public service endeavors.

For 20 plus years, he has been a Pastor at his church, co-founder and CEO of People Working Together, a non-profit organization that provides housing and workforce development for the underserved. He is also a consultant to the Sacramento Building and Construction Trades Council, where he has been instrumental in developing Project Labor Agreements so that under-represented populations can gain access to viable careers in the construction industry.

Eric Rood, writes in his letter of support, *"There is no doubt Kevin checks all the boxes as an athlete, however he is a better human being. He has touched thousands of lives in Sacramento and it is a great honor to support him for this prestigious honor."*

Kevin has not forgotten his roots as he maintains close connectivity to his childhood friends, specifically Fred and Kathy Huntington, where he lived during his high school days when his mother relocated to Sacramento to

become the assistant deputy of social services for Yolo County. He also takes immense pride in the fact that his single mother, Bobbetta, took the time to be his Little League baseball coach. His dad was Tommie Brown, 2021 OHUSD Hall of Fame, and he is the brother of 2022 inductee, Dr. Kendall Thomas.

Kevin makes his home in Sacramento with his wife Cynthia. They have two adult sons and four wonderful grandchildren.