



Kelly Gruber

Kelly was drafted in the 1st round, 10th pick overall, in the 1980 Major League Baseball draft by the Cleveland Indians. In 1983, Kelly was drafted by the Toronto Blue Jays after being left unprotected by the Indians. By 1988, Kelly was a regular for the Blue Jays. In fact, he was chosen for the All-Star game in 1989 and 1990.

1990 was a breakthrough year for Kelly. Not only was he an All-Star, but he won the AL Gold Glove for third basemen and the Silver Slugger Award. That season, he also hit 31 homeruns and knocked in 118 RBI's. And to cap off a terrific season, Kelly hit for the cycle with a single, double, triple and homerun in the same game on April 16th. He was the first Blue Jay in the history of the franchise to do so.

The Blue Jays won the 1992 World Series and Kelly was at center stage. He hit a game tying homerun in Game 3 and then in Game 4, he scored the winning run with a belly flop across home plate that scraped his chin and left him woozy.

Unfortunately, during that same 1992 season, Kelly felt something pop in his neck while swinging. It was a bone spur on his spinal cord which eventually threatened his everyday movements and mobility. Only surgery saved Kelly from potential paralysis, but it also claimed his career.

Today, Kelly is a successful entrepreneur in his own businesses. He is an articulate, thoughtful and well-spoken athlete who gives much of his time and energies to ill, challenged and underprivileged children.

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