

RICKY BOWEN

RICKY BOWEN WAS BORN AUGUST 6, 1987, TO RICK AND RENEE BOWEN OF JASPER,

Alabama. At eight years old, Bowen began playing in the youth leagues and developed a love and passion for baseball. His childhood was marked by playing All-Stars and World Series Tournaments in Mississippi.

In the seventh grade, Bowen began playing for Maddox Middle School and developed a relationship with Lance Blair, his future high school coach. In the ninth grade, he transferred to Sumiton Christian and began practicing with the high school team, while playing on the 14 and under Dizzy Dean team that won the Alabama State Tournament and finished third in the World Series.

As a sophomore at Sumiton Christian, Bowen pitched for the Eagles and helped the team to get to the third round of the state playoffs. During his junior year, Bowen began to excel. He led his team on the mound and at the plate through the state playoffs and Sumiton Christian won the Alabama state title. He finished the championship series with a win and a save. He finished the season 13-4 and compiled 107 strikeouts. In his three years of varsity baseball at Sumiton Christian, Bowen won thirty-one games and struck out over 200 batters. He was named 1st team All-State twice, Birmingham All-Metro twice, *Daily Mountain Eagle* All-County 1st team twice, and *Daily Mountain Eagle* pitcher of the year twice.



Because of his success in high school, Ricky Bowen received attention from various college teams and eventually accepted a scholarship to play for Coach Ron Polk at Mississippi State. He redshirted in the spring of 2006 and was used in a relief/closer role for the Bulldogs in 2007. That year, Mississippi State won both the Florida State Regionals and the Starkville Super Regionals to qualify for the NCAA College World Series. At the end of the season, Bowen was named to the Louisville Slugger All-American Team. The next season found Bowen in the starting rotation for the Diamond Dogs and after shutting out Ole Miss, he was honored with being named the National Pitcher of the Week, as well as being named to the Roger Clemens Award Watch List. The following summer, he played in the Cape Cod Baseball League, where he was named Pitcher of the Week three times and was drafted by the Cincinnati Reds. Bowen declined and returned to Mississippi State. At the conclusion of that season, Bowen was again selected by the Cincinnati Reds in the June amateur draft.

In his collegiate career, Bowen played in the College World Series, SEC Tournament and was on the Academic All SEC Team. He signed his first professional contract in Cape Cod, Massachusetts. He played over five years of professional baseball with stints at Billings, Montana, Dayton Dragons, Cape Cod Massachusetts, and was signed by the Minnesota Twins organization. In his last season with the Twins, he was honored with an All-Star selection.

Bowen now operates 31 Sports Academy in Sumiton, Alabama, where he trains and teaches baseball to youth and high school athletes. In his short time there, he has helped over a dozen players receive college scholarships. Ricky and his wife, Kelly Jordan Bowen (former All-State athlete at Curry and Mississippi State Volleyball Standout), have one son, Richard Russell "Russ" Bowen, III.