

## **Billy Bean**

### *Baseball*

#### *Class of 1982*

***Billy Bean is a 1982 graduate of Santa Ana High School where he was a three sport athlete in football, basketball, and baseball, all while maintaining a 3.95 grade-point average. His senior year he was named the most valuable player of the baseball team and helped lead the Saints to the CIFSS Division 3-A Championship with Coach Ross.***

***Billy went on to Loyola Marymount University, where he was a four-year starter for the baseball team. He set career records for hits (290), doubles (61), RBIs (204), runs (216), games played (225), and at-bats (822). His junior year, he hit .403 with 6 homers and 67 RBIs and was named to the All-American honorable mention team. As a senior, he hit .355 with 8 homers and 68 RBIs and was a second-team All-American selection. His career batting average was .353. He was the Lions' No. 3 hitter for three years and helped them reach the 1986 College World Series. He graduated in four years at Loyola Marymount – a rarity among college baseball players – earning a degree in business administration.***

***Billy's professional career began in 1987 when he was a fourth-round draft pick of the Detroit Tigers. His first stop was to their Glens Falls minor league affiliate who, at the time of his arrival, had struggled to a 25-33 record. He was immediately put into the lineup, and the team won 12 of its next 16 games. Following this run, his general manager remarked about Bean's impact on the team, stating that "He plays with reckless abandon in the outfield, and he has that good, sweet, left-handed stroke. He's really raised the collective spirit of the team." He didn't last long in the minors, joining the major league team that same season. He went on to play with the Tigers until 1989, at which point he joined the Dodgers organization. He closed out his career playing for the San Diego Padres from 1993-1995, finishing with a remarkable career fielding percentage of .989.***

***19 years removed from his playing days, Billy rejoined Major League Baseball as the Ambassador of Inclusion in the Commissioner's Office, where he continues to work to this day.***

***Coach Bill Ross said it best in describing Billy when he stated, "Everywhere he's been, good things have happened."***