

# Matador Becomes a Chicago Cub

By Rebecca Eckland



Photos provided

Chicago Cubs Center Fielder Brett Jackson remembers watching Giants games with his dad while growing up, well, watching half a game anyway. "I'd rather play than watch," he said.

His dad, Peter Jackson, explained that his son had a specific goal. "When he was a tyke of six years old, he had a plastic bat in hand and said that he wanted to be a 'baseball man.'"

Instead of growing out of his dream like most kids do, Jackson grew into his.

Jackson's baseball career began at the age of four when he began to play for the Orinda Baseball Association. It wasn't long until baseball became Jackson's sole athletic focus. Once an avid snow-skier, hiker, and water-skier, he sacrificed summers with his family to attend baseball camps. "Every summer since he was 14, he's yet to have a summer at home," his dad recalled.

Brett's dedication earned him a position on Miramonte High School's baseball team, where he earned DFAL First-Team All-League honors his junior and senior years.

At the age of 16, UC Berkeley recruited him to play for the Golden Bears. At Cal, he studied sociology and art, while achieving All-American status on the field.

"It's hard to see how you size up in the big baseball world when you are in high school. Playing at Cal and [for] summer college leagues gave me confidence I could work hard and maybe play at the highest level," Brett said.

After Brett's junior year at Cal, he accomplished his lifelong dream of playing Major League Baseball. He was drafted in the first round, 31st overall, by the Chicago Cubs in 2009.

Jackson was called up from the minors to make his debut for the Cubs on August 5.

Playing in the Majors is different than Brett had imagined it. Growing up, he thought players just showed up to play at game time. Instead,

Jackson arrives hours before the first pitch to watch video.

"This is a 9-10 hour a day job," he explained, "Sometimes, it feels like a 24/7 job, seven months a year!"

However, Jackson enjoys the extra time to develop his skills. "The combination of coaching and technology... [has] allowed for the ability to fine-tune areas of my game that I never had before," he said, "I simply want to take full advantage of that."

Yet, the strength of competition has been a challenge for Jackson. He has struggled at the plate, accumulating 31 strikeouts for 61 bats, while batting .197 before last weekend's series.

"[My] biggest adjustment has been the additional speed of the game--the pitchers are the best in the world," he said.

Brett found a rhythm last weekend against the Colorado Rockies though. He notched two home runs in as many games, including a bomb that sparked a winning rally for the Cubs on Friday.



Brett and his family in 2009

**Correction:** In the last issue in the OMPA High Point Winner sidebar, we only listed one high-point winner for the boys' 6-and-under category. However, Bronsen Trunzo tied for the top finish, also earning high point honors.

## Five Year Old Makes Waves

Submitted by Eddie Lee



Bronsen Trunzo had an incredible swim season. As a five-year-old competing against six-year-olds, Trunzo went undefeated in dual-meets. He also won the high point at Bottom's Up Invitational and at Meadow Mini Meet Invitational, where he broke a 20-year-old meet record in the 25 back.

Following his top finish at OMPA, he competed at the Contra Costa County Championships where he placed third in back and third in breast.

Photo provided

## 2012/2013 Lamorinda Football Teams



The Acalanes Dons traveled to Hercules to take on the Titans in their season opener on August 24. The Dons dominated the game, winning 34-7. Junior Peter Mitchell and senior DeShawn Johnson combined for rushing 261 yards and four touchdowns. Acalanes next travels to take on Skyline in Oakland in their season opener on August 31. Photos Ohlen Alexander



Campolindo took on Moreau Catholic in Hayward in a televised game on August 24. The Cougars rolled to 48-28 victory. Senior quarterback Brett Stephens recorded 166 yards on 6-of-7 passing to notch two touchdowns. Campo will host St. Patrick/St. Vincent (0-1) next Friday, August 31 at 7:00 p.m.



The Mats played host to Marin Catholic, last year's NCS runner-up, on August 24. Miramonte fell to the visitors, 31-14. The Mats had a 14-10 lead in the third quarter, when Marin Catholic switched to a running game and took over. Miramonte next travels five hours to take on Eureka (0-1) on Saturday, September 1.

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