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Beyond the Name: Jake Casey's Journey to Becoming His Own Player

For Toronto Blue Jays prospect Jake Casey, baseball was part of life long before he understood what it meant to play professionally.

His earliest memories trace back to Boston, where his father, three-time MLB All-Star Sean Casey, finished his Major League career. Jake, a five-year-old at the time, had seen spring training become a familiar part of his childhood.

Despite growing up around the highest level of the game, Sean Casey was still simply Dad.

"I don't think I understood how good he was until I started playing," Jake Casey said. "As I grew up, I didn't realize how special he was; you know, he batted .300 over 12 Major League seasons."

As Jake developed as a player, he began to understand the difficulty of competing at the highest level. What had once seemed like a normal part of family life became a valuable source of perspective on the sport he was learning to navigate himself.

"He always says, like, 'Failure to feedback,'" Jake said.

Rather than simply trying to swing harder after a difficult at-bat, Casey learned to evaluate what happened, identify adjustments, and move forward. The lesson helped him understand that failure is part of the game, not something that should define a player's performance.

Jake also drew from his father's approach to hitting, emphasizing the mental side of the game, keeping things simple, recognizing the fastball, and using the entire field.

That emphasis on approach helped Jake have a breakout season at Kent State in 2025. After missing half the season in 2024 due to an injury, Casey, in his senior season, earned All-MAC First Team and became the first player in program history to get an invite to the MLB Combine.

Applying those lessons, however, did not mean attempting to become a copy of his father, despite the pressure surrounding him.

"There's always something there, like, 'I gotta do this. I gotta do that. I gotta be like him."'

Over time, however, his perspective changed. He began to recognize that his relationship with his father was more important than any comparison between their careers.



“As you get older, as you grow up, you kind of gain that relationship with my dad and be like, you know, he’s more my dad,” Casey said. “It’s my career, you know, and I have to forge my own path here.”

His father remained a source of advice and support without becoming the standard against which every accomplishment was measured. Jake understood that his career belonged to him, and he would have to determine what success looked like on his own terms.

For Casey, one of the biggest misconceptions about the sons of former Major League players is that they are expected to play exactly like their fathers.

“I think trying to compare them to what they were. Like player comps,” Casey said. “They’re very much their own player.”

Every player develops differently, he explained, and comparisons can overlook the individual qualities that make each athlete unique.

For Casey, establishing his own identity does not mean rejecting his father's influence. It means taking the lessons that have helped him and applying them to his own game.

“I have a great support system,” Casey said. “Just using the people and the support system I have (is amazing).”

That support system has continued the Casey-family book in the game of baseball, weaving old-school stories with new steps to approaching and dissecting the game.

While his father’s career will always be a part of his story, Jake is responsible for writing the next chapter.

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