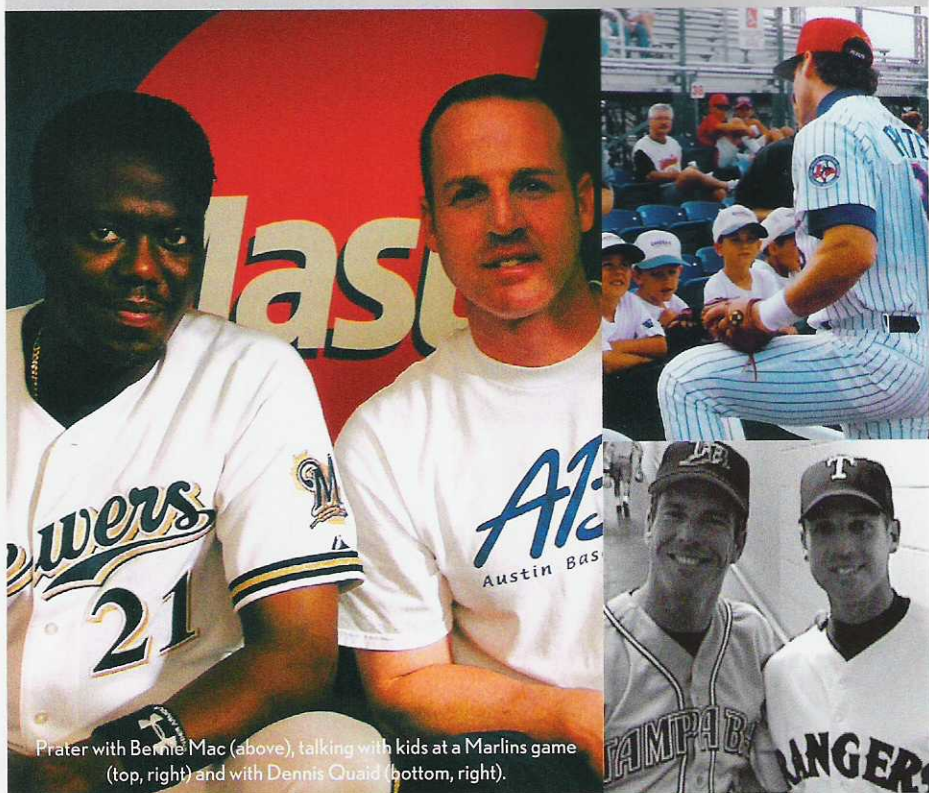


EVERY FAN'S DREAM JOB

Andrew Prater Baseball Scout & Skills Teacher



Prater with Bernie Mac (above), talking with kids at a Marlins game (top, right) and with Dennis Quaid (bottom, right).

BASEBALL SEASON NEVER ENDS FOR MILWAUKEE BREWERS SCOUT ANDREW PRATER. Wearing a variety of baseball caps, Prater also owns Baseball Solutions (an Austin baseball training facility), serves as head varsity baseball coach of St. Andrew's Episcopal School, coaches and directs elite baseball teams and is a technical advisor and baseball instructor for feature films. Always one to keep his eye on the ball, Prater was drafted out of high school but chose junior college instead, where he played with future stars like Astros pitcher Andy Pettitte. Eventually he joined the Florida Marlins organization. It was during his professional baseball career that Prater noticed he had an affinity for analyzing the game. "I began to absorb not just what it meant to play the game, but to try to comprehend what it was that made one player better than another. I became a true student of the game."

So when his playing career ended in 1998, it was only natural that Prater would return to Austin to teach ... baseball. Specializing in the training and development of high school players, Prater operates two indoor training facilities where he covers all aspects of the game. Especially popular is his hitting program called "Swingtherapy," but many come for his motivational influence. "Baseball is a game of failure," he says. "My desire is that each kid beats the odds and views the game of baseball as a parallel to the game of life. I want them to take their experiences learned on the ball field into their everyday world."

Prater's deep understanding of baseball and his instincts about players explain the variety of successes he enjoys in it. As a Milwaukee Brewers scout, he keeps his eyes open for talented young men possessing the special tools that may lead them to the "show." As a director and coach for the Austin Baseball Club, he trains, promotes, markets and coaches award-winning teams and happily watches as many of his players go on to play college and professional ball.

Perhaps most intriguing, baseball has led Prater to a membership in the Screen Actors Guild. When Disney's *The Rookie* was filmed in Austin, Prater was hired to train actors and prepare them for their roles as baseball players. Though his speaking part ended up on the cutting room floor, Prater received kudos that opened more doors, such as acting and technical advisory roles in *Mr. 3000* and the upcoming *Superman* movie.