

JASON GRILLI

RHP

Bats: R **Throws:** L **HT:** 6'5" **WT:** 225

Born: November 11, 1976 **Hometown:** Royal Oak, Michigan

Family: wife, Danielle (married on February 17, 2001)

Major League Debut: May 11, 2000 with Florida

Growing up, I knew about Jesus Christ in my head but my self-centered attitudes and beliefs kept me from accepting Him into my heart and life. Even when I began to experience success on the baseball field, my life was lonely and empty. I felt as though my priorities were more important than what the Lord's priority was for me.

I signed my first professional baseball contract in the winter of 1997. My first minor league stop was Honolulu, Hawaii. While Hawaii is paradise for many, it wasn't for me. Being that far away from home for the first time, my loneliness and emptiness intensified. The beauty of God's creation in Hawaii began to be a daily reminder that there was something and someone bigger than me that was missing in my life. During a Bible study in the stands at the University of Hawaii, I realized what was missing in my life. I opened up my heart and received Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord. I've never looked back since.

As a Christian, now my life has meaning and purpose. I wake up every day with the confidence and faith that I have a solid ground to walk on. Jesus Christ is my backbone, not my crutch. During my career, I have faced two major arm surgeries and a lot of physical therapy. By God's grace, I have made it back to the major leagues and pitched in a World Series. Whether I am experiencing trials or triumphs, I am no longer alone as I go through life with Jesus Christ.

"But blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord and whose confidence is in Him."

Jeremiah 17:7