

A man in a white baseball uniform and cap is sitting on a bench, looking towards the camera. He is wearing sunglasses and has his arms crossed. The background is a blurred green fence.

Now there's three things you can do in a baseball game:

You can win, you can lose or it can

Rainwater.

Okay. This isn't baseball and that's not exactly what Casey Stengel said. Though knowing it was paraphrased with regard to a ballplayer and a man the likes of Brian Rainwater, it's a safe bet that the Old Professor would be okay with it.

On and off the field, Rainwater is a man who lives his life between the lines, earning him fans among family, friends, students, athletes and even strangers along the way.



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In his words...To say I was raised in a small town would be an understatement. I am originally from Leesburg, Georgia – a blip on the map about 175 miles south of Atlanta. I was blessed with incredibly supportive parents and sisters who allowed me to strive to reach my goals which often meant sacrifice for them. I played four years of high school baseball and began playing church softball at the age of fifteen thanks to the encouragement of two people I refer to as “big brothers” – Steve and Jackie Glover. If it wasn't for their insistence that I get involved in church softball, I may not be where I am today. I went on to have a successful college baseball career at Middle Georgia College and then the University of Georgia. While playing baseball at the University of Georgia I had the pleasure of playing for one of the all-time greatest coaches in collegiate baseball – Ron Polk. Coach Polk had an enormous influence on me as a player and as a man.

It was at Middle Georgia College that God led me to my wife, Natalie. Natalie and I dated just four months before I proposed. Eleven months later we were married and will be celebrating our eleventh wedding anniversary this July. In the eleven years Natalie and I have been together, I've learned that a marriage is a lot like playing ball – it takes hard work and dedication to be successful. I think Natalie and I are good at both of those things. She has been my biggest fan since the day our relationship began, and I'm her biggest fan. She's an amazing wife and mother, and I thank God every day for allowing me to live this life with her.

In April of 2004 my greatest accomplishment made her debut into the world. The birth of my daughter, Abbi, made every other “amazing moment” in my life pale in comparison. Abbi is the coolest six year old you will meet. She loves singing country music, swimming, playing t-ball and basketball, and best of all – she loves

her Daddy. You just can't beat that.

Nothing I've accomplished in life thus far would've been possible if it wasn't for my God. I don't believe in chance or luck – I believe in faith and purpose. God gave me this life to do something with it, and I have faith in His plan. Romans 12:6 says, “We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.” The athletic gifts God has granted me have allowed me to be in situations where I can share His word and His love. That's what it's really all about.

When I'm not playing softball, I have an extremely full life. Besides being a husband and a dad, I am a high school special education teacher. I coached high school baseball and softball for eight years and have coached middle school softball and baseball for the last two years. Coaching has been extremely rewarding for me. Any time you have a chance to be an active participant in making a difference in a kid's life, you take that chance and do the very best you can with it. I am very proud of my coaching career and the relationships I've built with mentor coaches and players.

I've been playing softball now for seventeen years. After beginning with church softball I moved on to play summer tournaments with a team out of Florida called Wet-Easton. From there I played with L&L Paint where I had the opportunity to get to know some amazing people and made lifelong friendships. Our sponsor, Pat Patrick, had more faith in me than I had in myself at the time, and I learned a lot about life from him.

In 2000, after playing with L&L Paint, I played with Twin States Worth. It was then that my partnership with Worth Sports began. I've been sponsored by Worth ever since.

In 2001 God opened another door for me, and I had the opportunity to move up and play at the Major level with



Coach Ron Polk... "I only had the great fortune to coach Brian in the Spring of 2000, for I was hired at the University of Georgia as their head coach that year and Brian was in his senior year of eligibility. Thus, I did not recruit Brian but I was very happy to have him on our 2000 baseball team. What a tremendous athlete he was then and I'm sure is now as he plays competitive softball at the highest level. Brian was always a very strong young man with great upper body strength so it isn't a surprise to me that he has hit with great power through his softball playing years. Yes, he had a little bit of an uppercut swing during his senior year which proved to allow him some power numbers but not with a high batting average. I can vividly remember working with Brian on his baseball stroke telling him one day, that uppercut stroke would prove beneficial when he turns his skills to softball. Brian and I have stayed in close contact for the past ten years for he is a solid person and I take great pride in what he has accomplished in his personal life and with his softball skills. I remember last year he called me and told me his team was going to be on national television, but at the time I was on the road and at the time the game was being televised I would not be near a television. I felt bad that I could not see him play that day."

Natalie Rainwater... "Brian and I have been married almost eleven years. In those eleven years I have never once seen Brian give himself credit for any of his accomplishments. He is absolutely the most humble person I know. Brian's an amazing athlete, but in my opinion, that is not where his greatest talents lie. I believe his greatest talents can be found in his every day life. Brian lives each day for the Lord. He's a loving husband, a devoted Daddy, a supportive teacher and coach, a great friend, and the list goes on. I am very proud to call him my husband."

Hague/Resmondo. I owe a great deal of my softball success to Travis Resmondo who took a leap of faith and believed in me and my ability to play the game of softball. My first year at the Major level I had the chance to play with and learn from some of the greats like Rusty Bumgardner, Jeff Wallace, Todd Martin, and Andy Purcell just to name a few. They took me under their wings, and I can't begin to say how much I appreciate them.

I've been playing at the Major level now for nine years with the same team and the same sponsor. Throughout my career at the Major level I've been blessed with several accomplishments. I have been on five USSSA Men's Major Championship teams, several defensive and offensive MVPs, homerun champion, and the 2007 tournament MVP at the Men's Major Championship. In 2009 I was invited to play with the inaugural Men's National Slowpitch Team USA. This was a huge highlight in my career. I was able to do what I love and represent my country at the same time. What an honor. I'm looking forward to what the rest of my softball career holds.

My goal in life is pretty simple – make positive impacts in the lives of the people around me in every aspect of my life- whether it's in my home, in my classroom, coaching, or playing. I pray that God will continue to put me in the position to do just that.



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**Dr. Andy Gentry; Assistant Principal,
Mossy Creek Middle School...**

"Brian has been a friend and colleague of mine for the past six years. Brian was my assistant coach at Houston County High School. Brian's expertise in baseball has made him a very good coach. His knowledge of the game has allowed him to impart much of his wisdom into many young players. Brian is a very good disciplinarian and is well respected by all his players. They always believe he is trying to make them a better person and player. Brian has volunteered much of his time to just be around the game and players. He understands that his number one goal is to make his players better people and citizens first and then good players. He has been a good counselor to many players, listening and giving much needed advice. Of course, We always let Brian take batting practice just as the other team arrived as an intimidation factor. It was fun to watch others team be amazed at how far and hard he can hit the ball."

Steven Glover ..."I have known Brian since he was very young and followed his development as a player from youth through college. One of my happiest moments as coach in American legion baseball- my team defeated Brian's team for the state championship but it was bitter sweet, me celebrating with my guys and knowing Brian was in the other dugout just devastated. I did go hug him and tell him the only regret I had on that day was that he wasn't in my dugout celebrating too. But Brian went on to star at Middle Ga. and UGA. He would play with my local teams during the summer of his junior year and we had a blast. He was a natural. At the end of his college career at Georgia, I called him and we were talking as usual and I told him we might be a player short at the Cajun and wanted to see if he was interested. I was playing with Southland Superior at the time so I called John Hicks, our leader. John explained to me the world of difference between baseball and major softball so on and so on. I made Hicks a promise... if the kid was awful I would sit myself out. After a little more begging on my part Hicks reluctantly let him play. We played this little team called Bell Corp. in the first game and this would be Brian's debut. Well to make a long story short, he was 19 for his first 19 and we beat Bell Corp. and a star was born. Never thought about it much, but when he first started everyone said he was a young Steven Glover. Both of us were left-handed and ran well so comparisons were only natural. Brian helped us that year to win the Mullet, Bowlegs and Southeastern and that was a nice way for me to end my career. But now, looking over his career and mine there is no comparison. Brian has turned out to be truly one of the greats. I am proud of the example he has set both on and off the field. I still think he is faster than my OLD buddy Kendo too."



Jody Dean... "I have worked with Brian in the classroom for the last five years. We actually co-teach some classes so we are in the same classroom at the same time. Brian always brings a positive attitude to class, and we can always count on him to lighten the mood with something humorous. Outside of the classroom, we have been friends for the last 10 years and his personality is the same outside of school as it is in school."



Kaitlyn Carriker... "I am a 20 year old sophomore at Kennesaw State University in Georgia. I attended Houston County High school in Warner Robins, Ga and played softball there. I was lucky enough to be coached by Brian Rainwater for all four years while attending high school. He has a way of teaching and coaching sports that is tough, structured, and meaningful but makes you laugh and feel at ease in the process. I learned that dedication in the classroom and on the field pays off. I chose not to play ball in college but to concentrate on my studies in the hopes of becoming a nurse. I still keep in touch with Coach Rainwater and his family when I am at home and consider him a mentor. He has since coached my brother Dalton and sister Carson at their middle school in baseball and softball. I guess you can say we are all graduates of the "Rainwater school of "ball".



Andy Purcell... "Brian is obviously a great player. This is my eighteenth year playing this game and I would have to say he is in the top five best outfielders to ever play the game. I know that when a ball is hit anywhere near left field I am happy because if there is any possible way for 'Rainy' to get to it, I know it will be caught! He has an amazing ability to read the ball off of the bat quickly and get to where he needs to be. Left field is probably the hardest outfield position due to the fact that there are so many right handed batters and he will see everything from an easy pop up to a nasty knuckleball and he seems to catch everything. As far as a teammate, he plays the game the right way. He will do what's right for the team even if it means sacrificing himself and that's all you can ask from a teammate. I've played and known Rainy for about eight years now and for those of you that don't know him, he is a no nonsense guy. If he feels like you did something wrong he will tell you to your face and if he likes what you did he will do the same, so there is no guessing with him and that's something I really appreciate about Rainy. Rainy is not only a great player and friend but he is an even better father and husband. Whenever possible his wife and daughter will come to the tournament and when they are there, you will always know where to find Rainy in between games, playing with his little girl and hanging with the family. That's when you see the competitive side on the field and the loving father off the field and there is no better sight to see."

Jason Kendrick... "It doesn't get any better than Brian Rainwater. He's an unbelievable talent on the softball field and an even better person off the field. I have had the honor and pleasure to have played on the same team as "Rainy" for a number of years in Major Softball. It's players like Rainy that make a championship team successful. It's easy to see the USSSA Major World Series MVP award and the countless All Tournament Selections that have been awarded to Brian over the years, but he brings so much more to the table for his team. I have to say that I respect Brian Rainwater as much as any player in the game. He has earned that respect from his peers with his actions on and off the field. Bottom line...The guy is a stone cold WINNER and future Hall of Famer!

Even when he had better offers to play on other teams, he has been very loyal to Travis Resmondo for many years. Travis is one of

the best sponsors that big time softball has ever seen and Rainy has been rewarded for his loyalty. Year in and year out, he continues to play on the best team in the country. Brian Rainwater is a very big reason for that fact. I know because I was blessed to have been a part of those championship teams with Rainy over the last few years. He's absolutely the best roommate on the road that I've had in all my years of travel ball. I remember the big hits, great performances in clutch time and unbelievable catches in the outfield from Rainy, but more than that, I remember the type of friend that he has been to me. If you are lucky enough to see Brian Rainwater play softball this year or in the near future, stop and realize that you are watching one of the best players of all time. In closing, I still can't believe that I played right beside Rainy in the outfield for all those years on those championship teams and nobody can ever take that away from me. Just an overall good man that happens to be a great father and husband. I've always said that "When I grow up, I want to be just like Brian Rainwater."



Chris Tesseniar... "Brian Rainwater was one of my coaches in baseball when I was in high school. During my last three years, he honestly pushed me harder than any other person I have ever known. He saw some potential in me, and was hard on me from the first year. I learned more from him and his dedication to making me better, than any other person I have ever been coached under.

But he is much more than a coach to me now. I am now in college up in Virginia, and any time I am home he invites me over to have dinner with him and his wife and daughter. It is like going home to another family. But he is such a cool guy, able to talk about sports, and we even get some time in to go play a round of golf. He really is just an awesome guy, who you can tell loves his family, and is able to reach out to a college guy like me and give me a good steak meal when I come into town."