

# Kevin Kerekes Baseball Information



## Kevin Kerekes Early Career History

Kevin Kerekes was a college level and minor league baseball player whose professional career lasted two seasons. During this time, Kerekes played for the Pittsburgh Pirates and Seattle Mariners organizations, and he worked his way up to AA before his career ended. Kerekes was highly rated by scouts for his patience, and he also scored above the middle of the pack for power and contact.

## College Level Baseball

Kerekes impressed scouts during his one year playing for Rutgers' NCAA team in 1987. His main position was center field, and the 20-year-old made his 86 at bats count by putting together an impressive .314 batting average and .404 on base percentage. Kerekes was not a power player in college, and this is evidenced by the fact that 21 of his 27 hits were singles. However, Kerekes was able to drive in eight runs, and he had good enough speed and timing to pick up 10 stolen bases. The patience that he typically displayed at the plate was rewarded by 11 walks, and Kerekes was able to achieve a very respectable on base plus slugging percentage of 823. These stats made the right-hander an attractive option for the Pittsburgh Pirates farm system, and he was signed to play rookie level ball for the 1998 season.

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## Rookie Baseball

Kerekes was assigned to a minor league affiliate of the Pirates in the Northern Division of the Appalachian League. His new team, the Princeton Pirates, came in third in their division in 1988. Kerekes received 118 at bats in 36 games, and he ended the season with a .271 batting average. The increase in at bats from the previous season allowed Kerekes to pick up 32 hits and drive in 13 runs, but his power numbers tailed off a little bit. Opposing pitchers gave Kerekes nine walks, and he continued to run after getting on base. Unfortunately, Kerekes' ratio of stolen bases to caught stealing attempts declined from a 90 percent success rate in college to 43 percent during his rookie minor league

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season. However, Kerekes helped make up for this with solid defensive plays in the outfield that are reflected in his career high .983 fielding percentage.

## **A Baseball**

In 1989, Kerekes was picked up as a free agent by the Seattle Mariners organization. The outfielder's first assignment was to the single A Wausau Timbers in the Northern Division of the Midwest League. Kerekes spent most of the season with the Timbers, and he received 215 at bats during 85 games. This was more than Kerekes' two previous seasons combined, and this helps explain his unexpected drop in batting average down to .191. On the plus side, the extra at bats helped Kerekes improve from a previous career high of one home run to four, and he also picked up 11 doubles. Although Kerekes' batting declined from the previous year, his defensive skills stayed very respectable with a .973 fielding average.

## **AA Baseball**

During the 1989 season, Kerekes was given the opportunity to appear in 24 games at the AA level by joining the roster of the Williamsport Bills in the Eastern League. Kerekes had a .165 batting average after 24 at bats, and his power numbers dropped back down. However, Kerekes did display increased patience at the plate by getting more walks than strikeouts for the first time since playing at the college level. This was not enough to improve his steadily falling on base percentage, but Kerekes was able to utilize his 13 hits to drive in seven runs. The outfielder also maintained a solid fielding percentage of .974 during his time playing at the AA level.

## **Notable Career Stats**

In total, Kerekes spent two years playing professional baseball. The minor leaguer had 412 at bats during 145 games and amassed a .209 batting average. Kerekes drove in 42 runs and picked up 23 extra base hits, and he was able to maintain a solid .976 fielding percentage.