

## Brett Roneberg

Brett Nicholas Roneberg

**Bats** Left, **Throws** Left

**Height** 6' 2", **Weight** 216 lb.

**High School** [Smithfield State High School](#)

**Born** [February 5, 1979](#) in [Trinity Beach, Queensland Australia](#)

[BR minorspage](#)

### Biographical Information [[edit](#)]

Infielder-Outfielder **Brett Roneberg** began his pro career in the [Florida Marlins](#) organization in [1996](#) as an undrafted free agent. He hit .213/~.259/.276 as a part-time 1B for the [GCL Marlins](#) that year. In '97, Brett returned and batted .265/~.362/.346 and led first basemen in the [Gulf Coast League](#) in putouts (481), assists (29, tied for the lead) and fielding percentage (.994).

At age 19, Brett batted .271/~.340/.338 for the [Kane County Cougars](#) but missed the second half of the season due to a back injury. He returned to Kane County in [1999](#) and produced at a .288/~.383/.413 with 79 walks (fifth in the [Midwest League](#)). Moving up to the [2000 Brevard County Manatees](#), Roneberg hit .261/.368/.324 with only 2 homers in 445 AB. He was 5th in the [Florida State League](#) with 77 walks. He represented Australia in the [2000 Olympics](#), getting to play in and for his native country on leave from the Marlins. In '01, Roneberg hit .299/.388/.483 for the Manatees and .262/.335/.421 for the [Portland Sea Dogs](#), starting a long run at [AA](#). He homered 16 times on the year and was sixth in the [Florida State League](#) in average and 4th in slugging at age 22. In the [2001 Baseball World Cup](#), Roneberg hit .240/.345/.240 as Australia's starting right fielder.

In [2002](#), Brett injured his hand. He got into 16 rehabilitation games with the [Jupiter Hammerheads](#), hitting only .211/.297/.263. On [June 19](#), he got promoted to the [AAA Calgary Cannons](#) and went 2 for 5 at the plate in three games as the team's second-youngest player. On [June 25](#), he was traded to the [Montréal Expos](#) in exchange for [Donnie Bridges](#). Assigned to the [Harrisburg Senators](#), he would hit at a .294/.374/.439 clip the rest of the year.

Let go by Montréal, Brett signed with the [Pittsburgh Pirates](#) system. At age 24, he batted .281/.338/.426 for the [Altoona Curve](#). He won the [Helms Award](#) as MVP of the Claxton Shield. In [2004](#), he switched to his fourth franchise in three years when he signed with the [Boston Red Sox](#). He put up a .278/.360/.462 back with the Portland Sea Dogs, cranking out 30 doubles and 17 homers and driving in 77. He again took time off to play for the Australian Olympic team; they finished as the Silver Medalists, ahead of powers like [Japan](#) and [Canada](#) (the [USA](#) hadn't even qualified for the Olympics). Roneberg was the team's offensive star with a .361 average, 7 RBI in 7 games and 3 homers (he slugged .639 and had an OBP around .425) and tied [Kosuke Fukudome](#), [Yurendell DeCaster](#) and [Yoshinobu Takahashi](#) for the Olympic lead in homers. In the semifinals, Roneberg scored the only run against [Daisuke Matsuzaka](#), singling in the sixth and coming around on a hit by [Brendan Kingman](#). Roneberg singled in the 9th inning of the Gold Medal game to put two Australians on base with none out as the potential winning run in a 2-1 contest, but [Danny Betancourt](#) retired [Dave Nilsson](#), [Jeff Williams](#) and Kingman to end the game. He also played in the AA All-Star Game that year. That winter, he injured his left shoulder making a diving catch in right field for the [Leones del Caracas](#) in the [Venezuelan League](#), tearing his rotator cuff and needing surgery (he was hitting .231/.351/.385 at the time). The Red Sox released him and he missed the entire [2005](#) season. He did play in the [2005 Baseball World Cup](#), batting .233/.343/.400 for Australia and leading the team with 7 runs.

Roneberg continued to be a mainstay of Australia in international events such as the [Baseball World Cup](#), Olympics, etc. and played for them in the [first World Baseball Classic](#) in 2006. He was 0 for 5 with a walk, 3 strikeouts and an RBI in three games for the Aussies in the WBC as the main right fielder. Back with Pittsburgh and Altoona in '06, he missed 2 1/2 weeks due to back problems but recovered well. He hit .303/.379/.430 with 9 steals in 10 tries as the Curve's cleanup hitter and was named the team MVP. He went 3 for 5 with 3 RBI in the EL All-Star Game and was named the game's MVP. He was second to [Michel Abreu](#) in average in the [Eastern League](#), right ahead of another Aussie, [Trent Oeltjen](#). He failed to make the league All-Star team as [Adam Lind](#), [Kory Casto](#) and [Vic Buttlr](#) were the three outfielders chosen.

Back in Altoona for 2007, Roneberg was hitting .227/.320/.373 through [May 18](#) before going on the Disabled List. He recovered a bit to bat .248/.342/.416, a far cry from his 2006 performance. Roneberg then batted .231/.355/.346 as Australia's main first baseman in the [2007 Baseball World Cup](#). He was thrown out at home in a critical play in a 3-2 loss to the [Cuban national team](#). Roneberg even was called on to pitch during a record-setting 26-1 rout of the [Thai national team](#). He allowed no hits or walks in the 7th inning and struck out one in relief of another position player, [Gavin Fingleson](#).

Roneberg was 1 for 9 with a 3-run double, a walk and two runs for Australia in the [2008 Final Olympic Qualification Tournament](#) as a DH. The three-run double came against [Jamie Richmond](#) in a 10-5 win over [Team Canada](#); it was Canada's only loss of the tournament and Australia's only win against a serious contender. Australia failed to make it to the [2008 Olympics](#).

Roneberg was on the Australian roster for the [2009 World Baseball Classic](#). he was Australia's top hitter in the [Classic](#), going 5 for 7 with a double, homer, 3 runs and a RBI. He led Australia in all the offensive rate stats, beating out major leaguers [Chris Snelling](#), [Justin Huber](#) and [Brad Harman](#). Roneberg's solo homer off [Jorge Campillo](#) was the lone Australian run in their 16-1 loss to [Mexico](#) which eliminated them from the event.

Sources: 1997-2006 [Baseball Almanacs](#), [Worldbaseballclassic.com site](#), Roneberg's Family Website (URL below under Related Sites), [Minorleaguebaseball.com](#), Altoona Curve website, Defunct 2005 Baseball World Cup site, [IBAF site](#)

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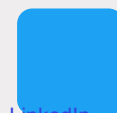
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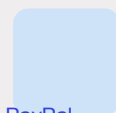
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