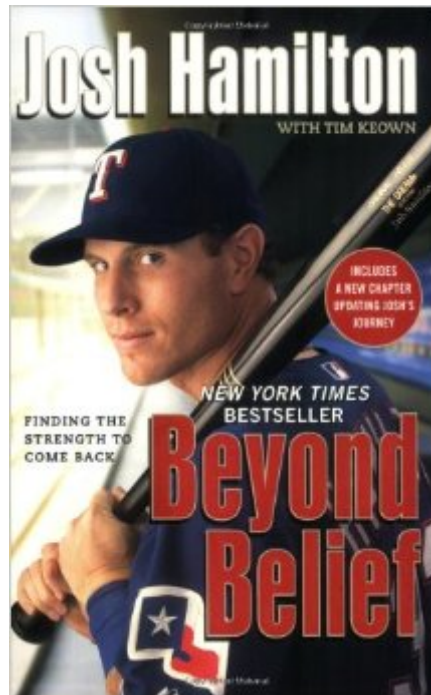


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# Beyond Belief: Finding The Strength To Come Back



## Synopsis

Josh Hamilton was the first player chosen in the first round of the 1999 baseball draft. He was destined to be one of those rare "high-character " superstars. But in 2001, working his way from the minors to the majors, all of the plans for Josh went off the rails in a moment of weakness. What followed was a 4-year nightmare of drugs and alcohol, estrangement from friends and family, and his eventual suspension from baseball. BEYOND BELIEF details the events that led up to the derailment. Josh explains how a young man destined for fame and wealth could allow his life to be taken over by drugs and alcohol. But it is also the memoir of a spiritual journey that breaks through pain and heartbreak and leads to the spectacular rebirth of his major-league career. Josh Hamilton makes no excuses and places no blame on anyone other than himself. He takes responsibility for his poor decisions and believes his story can help millions who battle the same demons. "I have been given a platform to tell my story" he says. "I pray every night I am a good messenger." Also, as part of the paperback edition of BEYOND BELIEF, Josh's journey has been updated to include developments in his recovery.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I just finished reading "Beyond Belief: Finding the Strength to Come Back." Now, I know what you're probably thinking here; and, it's "How can someone who is just 27-years old author their biography?" Or, [if you know me] maybe it's "Aren't you a little old to be reading baseball 'puff piece' books?" Then again, maybe you're thinking both of these things? Well, let me tell you... "Beyond Belief" may only cover the first 27 years of Hamilton's life. However, there's a very interesting story

to tell within those first 27 years. And, trust me, this book is far from being a 'puff piece.' As I was reading Hamilton's story, all I could think about was "Wow. This is 'The Natural' - just like the movie. Except, as entertaining as that movie was, the story seemed too far-fetched to be true...and, now, here's the same story...and it's all true!" First, some background on Hamilton. When he was six-years old, Josh was playing on youth baseball teams for boys between the ages of eleven and twelve. Picture that...a 6-year old playing against 12-year olds. And, regardless of that age gap, he was one of the best players on the field during the games. Hamilton's talent, even at that young age, was off-the-charts. And, Josh Hamilton's talent never fell back to the pack. Related, he was the first overall pick in Major League Baseball's 1999 Amateur Player Draft - at the age of 18. At that time, Josh was considered as being as good as Alex Rodriguez was at the same age. However, in 2001, when he was just 20-years old, Hamilton - who, up until this time, was a squeaky-clean All-American boy in an Opie Taylor type way - started abusing alcohol and using illegal drugs. And, his habits became so bad that he became low-life crack addict...

Beyond Belief: The Josh Hamilton Story I had never heard of Josh Hamilton until the Home Run Derby last year. His massive swings of the bat hit a record number of baseballs of the fence and the name Josh Hamilton found its way into the homes of baseball fans across the country! Even though the Home Run Derby set Josh Hamilton apart, there is a better story behind the man. Beyond Belief is a thrilling story of a man seeking to find peace and grace in the eyes of God. His journey from a highly touted High School baseball prospect to a drugged out- tattooed-trouble soul is clearly projected in the words of Josh Hamilton. Even the places and people are brought to life through the story of Mr. Hamilton's rise and fall then his rise again. Josh Hamilton could be called the "Prodigal Son" of baseball. His life as headed for the Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mi, until a fateful day when he allowed the troubles of the world to infect his life. His parents struggled with their child as they saw his troubles and his bank account quickly dwindling because of addiction. His wife struggled through the years, but she kept hope in this North Carolina baseball star. Young children had looked up to him, his drug habits caused young people to read his suspensions, and slowly his name was fading from the books. One day, his life was going to change. The ways and ideals he had grown up believing were coming back...but how long would it take? His family was behind him and his wife was praying...then the day came! The crack of the bat felt the way it used to and the story was changing. He looked at his wife, saw her face and he knew he was back! Josh Hamilton's story is an amazing one and every year it seems to get better.

When Josh Hamilton was six-years-old he could throw a baseball FIFTY-MILES-PER-HOUR... when he was eleven-years-old he could throw a baseball SEVENTY-MILES-PER-HOUR... when he was twelve-years-old in Little League in one game he batted five times... and FIVE TIMES HE HIT A HOMERUN... in his senior year in high school... he threw a baseball NINETY-SEVEN-MILES-PER-HOUR... and batted SIX-HUNDRED... upon graduating high school in 1999 Josh was the NUMBER-ONE-DRAFT-CHOICE in the Major Leagues... he signed a contract with the Tampa Bay Devil Rays and received a record \*\$3,960,000.00 signing bonus... he was the minor league MVP... and consensus choice as the BEST PROSPECT IN BASEBALL...AND THEN IT ALL WENT WRONG... AND IT WENT WRONG FAST! Josh came from a close knit family in North Carolina and the entire family's life was built around baseball. Josh was the proverbial "ALL-AMERICAN-BOY". He had a dream that he would sign a rich Major League baseball contract and reward his parents for coming to every game he ever played and driving him where ever he needed to go. He said when he signed his dream contract he would pay off all his parents' bills and buy them a house, so they could travel with him all over the United States and see him play. He signed the dream contract... he paid off their bills... they traveled with him to his minor league games. He kissed his Mother on the cheek in front of his teammates before every game. The other players... and then management and ownership... thought it was a little strange having a young ballplayer's parents traveling with him, and made him stay in other lodging. Then Josh started getting a number of injuries, some obvious, some possibly imagined. For the first time in his life he couldn't play baseball, and he was away from his parents.

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