

= Brad Hennessey =

Brad Martin Hennessey ( born February 7 , 1980 ) is a former American professional baseball pitcher for the San Francisco Giants of Major League Baseball . He stands 6 feet 2 inches ( 1 @. @ 88 m ) tall and weighs 185 pounds ( 84 kg ) . He played for the Giants from 2004 ? 08 and threw five pitches : a fastball , a slider , a changeup , a curveball , and a cutter .

Hennessey attended Youngstown State University and set several school records during his tenure with the team . In 2001 , he was selected by the Giants in the first round of the draft . He did not pitch in 2002 because of surgery to remove a non @-@ cancerous tumor from his back . In 2004 , he reached the major leagues for the first time . He spent much of the 2005 season in the major leagues , making 21 starts and posting a 4 @. @ 64 earned run average ( ERA ) . In 2006 , Hennessey spent time both in the Giants ' starting rotation and the bullpen . He became a relief pitcher full @-@ time in 2007 , spending the entire season in the majors and closing for the Giants part of the time . After posting a 7 @. @ 81 ERA with the Giants in 2008 , Hennessey was outrighted to the minors ; he refused the assignment and became a free agent . He attempted to pitch for the Baltimore Orioles in 2009 but was unable due to injury . Hennessey then spent parts of 2010 and 2011 in the minor leagues .

= = Early life = =

Hennessey was born on February 7 , 1980 , in Toledo , Ohio . In 1997 , he graduated from Whitmer High School , where he was named a USA Today honorable mention All @-@ American and won All @-@ Ohio honors for his baseball playing . He went to Youngstown State University , where he played shortstop and pitched until his senior year , when he converted exclusively to pitching . As a senior , he had a 6 ? 5 record and a 4 @. @ 06 earned run average ( ERA ) in 16 games while setting school single @-@ season records for innings pitched ( 88 2 ? 3 ) and strikeouts ( 126 ) . That year , he was named the Mid @-@ Continent Conference co @-@ Pitcher of the Year .

= = Professional career = =

= = = Minor leagues ( part 1 ) = = =

Hennessey was drafted by the San Francisco Giants in the first round ( 21st overall ) of the 2001 Major League Baseball draft . He began his career with the Salem @-@ Keizer Volcanoes of the Single @-@ A short season Northwest League , where he had a 1 ? 0 record , a 2 @. @ 38 ERA , 22 strikeouts , and 34 innings pitched in nine starts . That year , Salem @-@ Keizer won the Northwest League championship . While pitching in an instructional league later that year , Hennessey began experiencing soreness that was initially attributed to a muscle strain but turned out to be a non @-@ cancerous tumor in his back . He had it removed in February 2002 , but it grew back later that season , and he missed the entire year while undergoing a second surgery .

Hennessey began 2003 in extended spring training but pitched for the Hagerstown Suns of the Single @-@ A South Atlantic League from June 14 to the end of the season . With Hagerstown , Hennessey had a 3 ? 9 record , a 4 @. @ 21 ERA , 44 strikeouts , one complete game , and 79 1 ? 3 innings pitched in 15 starts . He began the 2004 season with the Norwich Navigators of the Double @-@ A Eastern League , where he had a 5 ? 5 record , a 3 @. @ 56 ERA , 55 strikeouts , and 101 innings pitched in 18 starts . On July 14 , he was promoted to the Fresno Grizzlies of the Triple @-@ A Pacific Coast League . In 5 starts with Fresno , he had a 4 ? 1 record , a 2 @. @ 02 ERA , 16 strikeouts , and 35 2 ? 3 innings pitched .

= = = Major leagues = = =

===== 2004 =====

Following an injury to Jerome Williams in 2004 , Hennessey was called up to join the Giants ' starting rotation . He made his debut on August 7 against Greg Maddux of the Chicago Cubs , who was looking for his 300th win . Hennessey allowed four runs in 4 2 ? 3 innings and took the loss in the 8 ? 4 defeat , becoming the first pitcher to lose his debut to a pitcher who won his 300th game since 1901 , when Cy Young defeated John McPherson . In his next start , against the Philadelphia Phillies on August 13 , he allowed four unearned runs in five innings , got his first career hit ( against Brian Powell ) , and earned his first career win in a 16 ? 6 victory . After another start , he was sent to Fresno on August 18 when Wayne Franklin returned from the disabled list , but he was called up on August 28 when David Aardsma was demoted . On September 16 , he threw a season @-@ high seven shutout innings in a 4 ? 0 victory over the Milwaukee Brewers . Hennessey finished the season with a 2 ? 2 record , a 4 @.@ 98 ERA , 25 strikeouts , and 34 1 ? 3 innings pitched in seven starts .

===== 2005 =====

Hennessey began 2005 in the minors . He was called up to make a start on May 1 , and he gave up three runs over seven innings while earning the win in an 8 ? 3 victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates . After the game , he was returned to Fresno to make room for Jeremy Accardo on the roster , but he was called up on May 12 to replace the injured Jason Schmidt in the rotation . He made four starts on this stint ; after he gave up six runs in two innings in a 6 ? 5 loss to the Phillies on June 2 , he was replaced in the rotation by Jeff Fassero and returned to Fresno . On July 9 , he was called up to rejoin the Giants ' rotation as Kirk Rueter was demoted to the bullpen . Facing the St. Louis Cardinals that day , he pitched seven shutout innings and earned the win in the Giants ' 2 ? 0 victory . For the rest of the year , he remained in the Giants ' rotation . In a start against the Brewers on July 28 , Hennessey pitched 7 shutout innings , striking out seven and allowing only three hits , and won the game 3 ? 0 . The three runs came on a home run by Hennessey himself against Víctor Santos . He allowed one run over a career @-@ high 7 2 ? 3 innings on September 21 and hit a home run against John Patterson as he defeated the Washington Nationals 5 ? 1 . He ended up making 21 starts for the Giants , tallying a 5 ? 8 record , a 4 @.@ 64 ERA , 64 strikeouts , and 52 walks in 118 1 ? 3 innings pitched . With Fresno , he had a 4 ? 2 record , a 5 @.@ 19 ERA , 46 strikeouts , 22 walks , and 67 2 ? 3 innings pitched .

===== 2006 =====

Kevin Correia and the newly acquired Jamey Wright competed for the Giants ' fifth starting job with Hennessey in 2006 ; Hennessey struggled and began the season with the Grizzlies as Wright won the job . Hennessey was called up on April 16 due to an injury to Noah Lowry . After posting a 2 ? 1 record and a 3 @.@ 33 ERA , he was sent to the bullpen upon Lowry 's return to the starting rotation on May 9 , though Hennessey was frequently called upon to make spot starts . He got his first career save on June 5 , pitching the final four innings of the Giants ' 14 ? 2 victory over the Florida Marlins . On August 11 , Giants ' manager Felipe Alou announced that Hennessey would replace the struggling Wright in the rotation . In his first start since rejoining the rotation on August 14 , he threw 5 2 ? 3 shutout innings , earning the win in a 1 ? 0 victory over the San Diego Padres . He posted an 8 @.@ 62 ERA over his next four starts and returned to the bullpen when Lowry returned from an injury in September , though he made one more start before the end of the year . In 34 games ( 12 starts ) , Hennessey had a 5 ? 6 record , a 4 @.@ 26 ERA , 42 strikeouts , and 42 walks in 99 1 ? 3 innings pitched .

===== 2007 =====

Hennessey spent the entire 2007 season in the bullpen for the Giants . At the beginning of June ,

he was named the closer by Giants ' manager Bruce Bochy after Armando Benítez was traded . From June 30 to August 31 , he converted saves in 14 straight save opportunities , the longest streak by a Giant since Robb Nen had a 28 @-@ save streak in 2000 ; overall , Hennessey converted 17 out of 19 saves from May 30 to August 31 . Afterwards , he converted only two out of five opportunities before Brian Wilson took over the closer role . In 2007 , he went 4 ? 5 and had a 3 @.@ 42 ERA and 19 saves ( out of 24 opportunities ) .

= = = = 2008 = = = =

On January 18 , 2008 , the Giants and Hennessey avoided arbitration and agreed to a \$ 1 @.@ 6 million , one @-@ year deal . After he posted a 12 @.@ 94 in his first 11 games of the season , he got sent down to the minors on May 6 to make room for Billy Sadler . Used as a starter at Fresno , Hennessey posted a 7 ? 10 record , a 4 @.@ 83 ERA , 69 strikeouts , 37 walks , and 132 1 ? 3 innings pitched in 21 starts . He was called back up when rosters expanded on September 1 . After initially pitching out of the bullpen , he was moved to the rotation to replace Correia . On September 15 , he threw the only complete game of his career , allowing three runs in eight innings in a 3 ? 1 loss to the Arizona Diamondbacks at Chase Field . In 17 games ( four starts ) , he had a 1 ? 2 record , a 7 @.@ 81 ERA , 21 strikeouts , and 15 walks in 40 1 ? 3 innings pitched . He was outrighted to the minors in October , but he refused the assignment and became a free agent .

= = = Minor leagues ( part 2 ) = = =

Hennessey signed a minor league deal with the Baltimore Orioles on November 17 , 2008 . Spencer Fordin of MLB.com wrote that Hennessey was " consistently hyped as a favorite to break camp in the rotation " for the Orioles . However , an elbow injury kept Hennessey from making any appearances with the Orioles or their affiliates . On June 1 , 2009 , Hennessey was released .

On March 2 , 2010 , Hennessey signed with the Minnesota Twins . He spent the 2010 season with the Rochester Red Wings of the Triple @-@ A International League , posting a 1 ? 3 record , a 7 @.@ 76 ERA , 13 strikeouts , and eight walks in 26 2 ? 3 innings . After 14 games ( one start ) , Hennessey was released on August 5 .

The Houston Astros signed Hennessey to a minor league contract on May 31 , 2011 . He played for the Double @-@ A Corpus Christi Hooks of the Texas League and the Triple @-@ A Oklahoma City RedHawks of the Pacific Coast League . His four games with Corpus Christi were all relief appearances ; he had an 0 ? 1 record and a 1 @.@ 80 ERA . In seven games ( six starts ) with Oklahoma City , he had an 0 ? 3 record , an 11 @.@ 45 ERA , 10 strikeouts , and five walks in 22 innings pitched . On August 1 , Hennessey was released by the Astros .

= = Pitching Style = =

Hennessey threw five pitches : a fastball , a slider , a changeup , a curveball , and a cutter . The fastball was Hennessey 's main pitch ; he threw it over 60 % of the time in the majors . He did not throw it very hard , averaging speeds under 90 mph in 2007 and 2008 . His slider was his secondary pitch , and his changeup was his third most @-@ used pitch . Hennessey rarely used the cutter except for in 2006 , when he threw it 10 @.@ 1 % of the time . Hennessey often was plagued by a big inning , displaying a tendency to allow several runs in an inning during his starts .

= = Personal life = =

Hennessey married a nurse , Erin Bullard , on December 14 , 2002 . The couple has two children : Emma ( born April 18 , 2003 ) and Colin Jacob ( born October 26 , 2006 ) . Hennessey participated in numerous charitable events during his tenure with the Giants .