

= Ian Kinsler =

Ian Michael Kinsler ( born June 22 , 1982 ) is an American professional baseball second baseman for the Detroit Tigers of Major League Baseball ( MLB ) . He formerly played for the Texas Rangers . He is listed at 6 ft 0 in ( 183 cm ) and 200 lb ( 91 kg ) .

Despite having been drafted in only the 17th round out of college , Kinsler has risen to become a four @-@ time All Star , and a member of the Sporting News ' 2009 list of the 50 greatest current players in baseball . He is known as a five @-@ tool player , hitting for average and power , and excelling in baserunning , throwing , and fielding .

Kinsler has twice hit 30 home runs and stolen 30 bases in the same season ( 2009 and 2011 ) , and is one of 12 ballplayers in major league history who have had multiple 30 ? 30 club seasons . In 2011 , he also joined the 20 ? 20 club for the third time , one season shy of the major league record for a second baseman . He hit for the cycle in a game in 2009 , while getting hits in all six of his at @-@ bats .

Through 2013 , Kinsler led the Texas Rangers , all @-@ time , career @-@ wise , in stolen bases and power @-@ speed number . In November 2013 , Kinsler was traded to the Detroit Tigers for Prince Fielder . Through 2014 , on defense Kinsler had the best career range factor of any active second baseman in Major League Baseball .

= = Early life and high school = =

Kinsler 's father , Howard , was a warden at a state prison on Tucson 's southeast side . He has been a major influence on Kinsler . When Kinsler was four his father would toss him fly balls , and his dad says Kinsler would " get under them like he 'd been doing it his whole life . "

His father coached him until high school , and was especially tough . When Kinsler was 13 years old , and the best player on a PONY league team coached by his father that was playing for a championship , his dad caught Kinsler rolling his eyes as he gave the team orders . " I benched him , without hesitation " , said his father . With Kinsler on the bench , the team lost the game .

Kinsler had a physical challenge to overcome . " I 've had asthma my whole life " , Kinsler said . " That was tough when I was younger . I woke up a lot and couldn 't breathe , and had to go to the hospital in the middle of the night . It kind of held me back from athletics . I still have it , but I control it . Now I use an atomizer or an inhaler . When I was younger , I used this breathing machine ? I hated that thing . I always wanted to run around and be active . "

He graduated in 2000 from Canyon del Oro High School in the Tucson suburb of Oro Valley , Arizona . Kinsler helped lead the baseball team to state titles in 1997 and 2000 . He hit .380 as a junior , to earn second @-@ team All @-@ League honors , and .504 with 5 home runs and 26 stolen bases during his senior year , in which he was named first @-@ team All @-@ State and first @-@ team All @-@ League . Four of his high school teammates have also made it to the major leagues : Brian Anderson ( his best friend in high school ) , Scott Hairston , Chris Duncan , and Shelly Duncan .

= = Draft and college = =

Kinsler was drafted by his home @-@ state Arizona Diamondbacks after high school in 2000 ( 29th round ) , but did not feel ready for the pros . He opted instead to take a college tour . First ( because he had not been recruited by any Division I programs ) he attended Central Arizona College , where he hit .405 with 17 doubles , 37 RBIs , and 24 stolen bases , was named second @-@ team All @-@ ACCAC , and played shortstop alongside future major leaguers Scott Hairston and Rich Harden . The Diamondbacks drafted him again in 2001 ( 26th round ) , but he declined to sign because he felt that playing college baseball a little longer would help him develop his game .

Arizona State coach Pat Murphy then convinced him to transfer to ASU in his sophomore year , promising that he would play shortstop for the Sun Devils . But while he started briefly alongside fellow middle infielder Dustin Pedroia , he ended up spending much of the season on the bench . He

was also teammates with Andre Ethier .

University of Missouri Tigers coach Tim Jamison spotted him in a summer league , and convinced him to head east for his junior year . Jamison said : " I saw him take ground balls and thought , defensively , he was as good a middle infielder as I had ever seen . As for his bat , I didn 't really care . " While there , Kinsler had a .335 batting average , .416 on @-@ base percentage , and .536 slugging percentage , with 16 steals in 17 attempts . He was named to the All @-@ Big 12 Conference second team . Jamison noted , " From the day Ian stepped through the doors here , you could see it on his face : He was on a mission . " Playing for the Tigers during the 2002 Fall World Series , he led all hitters with a .619 average ( 13 @-@ for @-@ 21 ) .

Kinsler was then drafted a third time , by the Texas Rangers in the 17th round ( 496th overall ) in 2003 as a shortstop , at the urging of area scout Mike Grouse . Grouse liked Kinsler 's tools , makeup , desire , and gritty approach . In Grouse 's scouting report , he wrote that Kinsler had a great feel for the game , athleticism , solid defensive skills , intensity , and leadership qualities . Grouse knew that Kinsler was probably being underrated by rival scouts , who did not know that Kinsler had played with a foot stress fracture while at Missouri , " so [ Kinsler ] really couldn 't run like I knew he could . I 'd seen him in Wichita the year before , so I knew he was a plus runner . Most people ... didn 't know that , so they probably downgraded him . But I knew it , and I wasn 't telling anybody . " Kinsler , for his part , says : " I thought I was a lot better than a 17th round pick . I thought I belonged in the top 10 rounds . " Kinsler nonetheless agreed to sign with the Rangers on his 21st birthday , for \$ 30 @, @ 000 .

Five years later , John Sickels wrote : " Only a handful of players from the 2003 draft are as good as Kinsler , and he 's certainly outperformed many more heralded talents . Scouting and drafting will always be an inexact science / art . " The pick was later lauded as " one of the greatest 17th round picks of all time . "

= = Minor league career ( 2003 ? 05 ) = =

= = = 2003 : Entering the pros = = =

Kinsler signed quickly , and broke in as a shortstop in 2003 . He batted .277 in 188 at @-@ bats in his pro debut for the Spokane Indians in the Short @-@ season Northwest League , while leading the team in steals ( 11 ) and triples ( 6 ) . He then spent the 2003 ? 04 winter in Arizona , working out with the Rangers ' strength and conditioning coaches . He said : " I was probably 170 pounds , and I decided I needed to lift , put on some weight , and eat as much as I could . And I learned how to hit . "

= = = 2004 : Breakout season = = =

By early 2004 , Kinsler had vaulted to the # 1 spot on Baseball America 's Prospect Hot Sheet . John Sickels of ESPN described him as having " great plate discipline , power , and ... [ being ] a reasonably good defensive shortstop . "

He had a breakout year in 2004 . He split the season between two teams , beginning with the Low @-@ A Clinton Lumberkings , for which he hit .402 / .465 / .692 in 224 at bats . Kinsler was voted to start at shortstop for the Midwest League Western Division All Star team , while he was leading the league in batting , on @-@ base percentage , slugging percentage , hits , doubles , extra @-@ base hits , and runs scored , but did not play as he was promoted . Baseball America rated him the most exciting ballplayer and the # 8 prospect in the league . When a friend asked him what the secret was to his success , he responded : " Dude , I have no idea . "

Kinsler was promoted two levels on June 12 to the Double @-@ A Frisco RoughRiders . " When I first got called up , there were a million things running through my head " , he said . " I was nervous , my hands were sweating . It was really exciting , but I didn 't know what to expect . I was a little nervous that ... all of a sudden I wouldn 't be able to hit . " In June he was named the Rangers '

Minor League Player of the Month . Frisco manager Tim Ireland observed :

I think he 's succeeding because his swing is graceful and effortless . It 's just a smooth swing , and he hits for power because he lets his swing work for him . Defensively , so far he 's shown a real feel for shortstop . He 's got good feet and soft hands , and he throws well enough .... He seems pretty legit to me .

In July , the Rangers agreed to send Kinsler and prospect right @-@ hander Erik Thompson to the Colorado Rockies for Larry Walker , but Walker vetoed the trade .

He ended up hitting .300 / .400 / .480 for Frisco , in 277 at @-@ bats . Those numbers would have placed him fourth in OBP , seventh in slugging percentage , and eighth in the league 's batting race had he received enough plate appearances to qualify for the title ( he was short by about 60 ) . Baseball America rated Kinsler the # 9 prospect in the Texas League .

Overall , in 501 at @-@ bats , Kinsler tied for first in the minor leagues in doubles ( 51 ) , and was seventh in batting average ( .345 ) and ninth in hits ( 173 ) . He also had 20 home runs , 103 runs , 98 RBIs , 18 HBP , and 23 steals . Rangers manager Buck Showalter marveled at Kinsler 's 51 doubles , saying : " Fifty ... A lot of guys don 't have 50 singles . "

Baseball America rated him the No. 4 Rangers prospect , the No. 11 prospect in the minors , and a second @-@ team Minor League All Star . Kinsler was also named a Sports Weekly All Star , and the Rangers ' Tom Grieve Minor League Player of the Year . In addition , he was awarded the first annual Diamond in the Rough Award , which recognizes a minor leaguer who " defies the odds " and rises from obscurity to play himself into prospect status during a breakout season . For his part , Kinsler noted simply : " It is fun to come to the ballpark every day when you are playing good baseball . "

Towards the end of the season , Sickels augmented his scouting report on Kinsler by reporting that he was :

a good athlete , not super @-@ toolsy , but strong for his size with speed a notch above average . His swing looked short , quick , and sharp . Although I 'm told that some people worry that his swing is too long , it looked fine to me . " Long swings " usually show up in the stat line as excessive strikeout totals , but Kinsler is not a whiff king . He works the count well , controlling the strike zone without trouble and not swinging at pitches outside the plate area . His bat has some pop in it , particularly to the gaps , where he rifles frequent extra @-@ base shots . He already has above @-@ average power for a player his size , and I think he has enough bat speed to keep hitting home runs at higher levels . Defensively , he shows slightly above @-@ average range and good hands . His arm strength is average , but he 's accurate with his throws and seems fundamentally sound , although his error rate is higher than ideal ( 20 in 71 games at Frisco ) . He might end up at second base eventually . Kinsler 's running speed is a bit better than average , but he 's fairly aggressive on the bases and will steal if the opportunity is there . Overall , he is a solid all @-@ around player who makes the most of his natural ability .

Kinsler spent the winter of 2004 ? 05 playing for the Peoria Saguaros of the Arizona Fall League , improving his versatility by getting work in at second base . There , he hit .306 / .369 / .500 . One scout in Arizona noted that his swing was so effortless , yet generated so much line drive power , that : " It 's like he 's swinging a Wiffleball bat out there . "

= = = 2005 : Transitioning to second base = = =

Invited to the parent club 's 2005 spring training , he hit .327 while slugging .612 . Kinsler spent 2005 at Triple @-@ A with the Oklahoma RedHawks , transitioning from shortstop to second base because that is where the organization anticipated he would play in the future , in the event that Alfonso Soriano no longer played second base for the major league team . That was tough on Kinsler 's ego initially , but the most difficult part of the switch for him was the double play . He was selected to the mid @-@ season Pacific Coast League All Star team in June , and came in a close second to Mitch Jones in the 2005 Triple @-@ A Home Run Derby .

For the season , in 530 at bats he hit .274 with 23 home runs , 102 runs ( tied for tenth in the minor leagues ) , 94 RBIs , and 12 steals in 14 attempts . Kinsler cracked the Baseball America Top 100

Prospects list , ranking 98th . On the side , during the season he kept an on @-@ line journal for MinorLeagueBaseball.com.

= = Major league career = =

= = = Texas Rangers ( 2006 ? 13 ) = = =

= = = = 2006 : Rookie = = = =

With Alfonso Soriano having been traded in the off @-@ season , Kinsler won the Rangers ' starting second base job in spring training in 2006 over Mark DeRosa . " Ian Kinsler came as advertised " , said Showalter .

He made his major league debut against the Boston Red Sox on Opening Day on April 3 , 2006 , and got his first major league hit in his first major league at bat , off Curt Schilling . Kinsler said :

The crowd was full ; I had the butterflies going , so to get that hit was huge . The family was in town .... To go out there and face one of the best pitchers of all time , you 've got to be locked in . It 's your first game , your first big league experience ? it was unbelievable to face that guy .

He was hitting .476 when he dislocated his left thumb sliding head @-@ first into second base on April 11 , 2006 , and was placed on the disabled list . " I knew it wasn 't good when I looked down and I saw the top part of the thumb pointing in at me " , Kinsler said . He came back 41 games later on May 25 , and went 3 ? 4 with a single and two home runs , to lead the Rangers to an 8 ? 7 victory over the Oakland Athletics . " I hope the fans don 't expect that much every night " , he joked .

While Kinsler started off the season batting ninth in the lineup , in June Showalter moved him up to seventh . " I think as Ian 's career progresses , he 'll move up in the batting order " , predicted Showalter . For the season , he started 31 games batting seventh , 30 batting eighth , 20 batting sixth , 19 batting ninth , 12 batting second , 3 batting leadoff , 2 batting third , and 1 batting fifth .

Kinsler finished 2006 with a .286 batting average , 14 home runs , 55 RBIs , and a team @-@ leading 11 stolen bases in 423 at @-@ bats . He batted .300 with runners in scoring position , and .300 when the game was tied . He led all AL rookies with 27 doubles , and his .454 slugging percentage was the seventh @-@ best in a season since 2000 by an AL rookie with at least 400 at bats . Defensively , in August he tied a team record by recording five double plays in one game . He also led all American League ( AL ) second basemen in both range factor ( 5 @.@ 58 ) and errors ( 18 ) . He was named Texas Rangers 2006 Rookie of the Year .

= = = = 2007 : 20 ? 20 season = = = =

During the 2006 ? 07 off @-@ season , Kinsler focused on building up his legs to improve his speed , durability , and agility . In spring training in 2007 , he hit .429 , led the AL in RBIs ( 19 ) , and was sixth in the major leagues in hits ( 27 ) .

His torrid hitting continued into the season , and Kinsler was named the AL Player of the Week for the period ending April 15 . He batted .476 ( 10 @-@ for @-@ 21 ) that week with four home runs , eight RBIs , seven runs scored , and a 1 @.@ 095 slugging percentage . His nine home runs in April tied the team record for that month ( shared by Iván Rodríguez ( 2000 ) , Alex Rodriguez ( 2002 ) , and Carl Everett ( 2003 ) ) , and were the most ever in the season 's first month by a Major League second baseman . Kinsler said : " I 'm trying to put good swings on the ball , and if it goes out , it goes out . " He batted .298 with 22 RBIs for the month , and was also voted the Rangers ' Player of the Month for April .

On July 2 , Kinsler went on the disabled list with a stress fracture in his left foot ; he did not come back until July 31 , and missed 26 games . He tied a major league record on August 25 , when he had eight plate appearances in a nine @-@ inning game ( a 30 ? 3 win over Baltimore ) .

In 2007 , Kinsler hit 20 home runs ( leading all AL second basemen ) and was 23 @-@ for @-@ 25

in stolen base attempts ( a 92 % success rate ) . He was one of only six batters in the AL to have at least 20 home runs and 20 stolen bases , along with Alex Rodriguez , Gary Sheffield , Grady Sizemore , B.J. Upton , and Curtis Granderson . He also became the sixth player in franchise history to reach the 20 ? 20 plateau , joining Alfonso Soriano ( 2005 ) , Iván Rodríguez ( 1999 ) , Rafael Palmeiro ( 1993 ) , Bobby Bonds ( 1978 ) , and Toby Harrah ( 1975 and 1977 ) . He did it despite his stress fracture , which kept him under 500 at bats . His 23 stolen bases and 96 runs led the Rangers

Kinsler finished the season seventh in the AL in power / speed number ( 21 @. @ 4 ) , ninth in sacrifice hits ( 8 ) and steals of third base ( 4 ) , and tied for tenth in bunt hits ( 5 ) . He was also tied for fourth in the league in steals of third ( 4 ) , eighth in line drive percentage ( 23 % ) , and tied for ninth in sacrifice hits ( 8 ) . He began to hit higher in the batting order , as he batted second in 48 games , leadoff in 26 , seventh in 24 , sixth in 19 , ninth in 10 , and eighth in 2 . On defense , Kinsler led all major league second basemen in range factor ( 5 @. @ 69 ) , leading the league for the second straight year .

= = = = 2008 : All @-@ Star = = = =

In February 2008 , Kinsler signed a five @-@ year deal worth \$ 22 million guaranteed . It will jump to \$ 32 million if the Rangers exercise their \$ 10 million option for 2013 . He received a raise to \$ 500 @, @ 000 in 2008 , and a \$ 1 million signing bonus . The contract went to \$ 3 million in 2009 and \$ 4 million in 2010 , and will go to \$ 6 million in 2011 and \$ 7 million in 2012 . If the Rangers choose not to exercise their \$ 10 million option , Kinsler will receive a \$ 500 @, @ 000 buyout . If he is traded , both the buyout and the option year will increase by \$ 500 @, @ 000 . If the option is exercised , the commitment will have been the largest the Rangers have ever made to a player whom they drafted and developed . " Ian represents the past , present , and future of this organization " , said assistant general manager Thad Levine .

" It 's a lot of money " , Kinsler said . " I 've never imagined being in this position in my life . " " This is a big day for me and my family " , he reflected . " I 've been working my whole life to get to this point , since my dad first started taking me out in the backyard and started throwing the baseball with me . "

Asked what impact the money would have on him , Kinsler said :

I 'm going to play the same regardless of whether I 'm making five dollars or \$ 1 trillion . It really doesn 't make a difference to me . I 'm going to go out there and play hard , and money doesn 't bring respect . The way you play the game brings respect . When I finish playing the game , it 's not how much money I made that is going to be my legacy . It 's how I played the game , and what I did on the field .

Kinsler was delighted when Rangers manager Ron Washington ultimately committed to Kinsler being the team 's leadoff hitter in 2008 . " I didn 't think he was the prototype leadoff hitter , but the guy proved me wrong " , Washington said . " He 'll take a walk , or get one run for us with one swing of the bat . He can bunt , he can run , and he can hit the ball to the other side . "

Through mid @-@ May 2008 , Kinsler had the best career stolen @-@ base percentage ( 88 @. @ 5 % ) of anyone in Rangers / Senators history with at least 40 attempts . " It 's part of my game " , said Kinsler . " It 's not one of the first things I 'm known for . " According to scouts , his ability on the basepaths is due to innate instincts and his " twitch speed " rather than his pure running speed . Grouse , who signed him , says that Kinsler also " goes from first to third faster than anyone , because he has that God @-@ given ability to read the ball so well off the bat . "

During a mid @-@ June rain delay at Shea Stadium , Kinsler hopped to his feet , raced from the dugout and dove head @-@ first across the wet tarp covering the infield as though it was a giant Slip ' n Slide . Four teammates followed , receiving a large ovation from the New York Mets fans . Shea Stadium security ushered them off the field , drawing a chorus of boos . " We had some good routines going " , said Kinsler . " It was awesome . "

Kinsler was a 2008 AL All Star at the 79th All Star Game at Yankee Stadium . It was his most exciting moment in baseball to that point . He was a reserve voted in by his peers . In the fan

balloting , Dustin Pedroia , who finished with nearly 1 @. @ 3 million votes , beat him by 34 @, @ 243 votes . In the game , Kinsler hit 1 @- @ for @- @ 5 and stole a base . He was called out attempting to steal another base , though replays demonstrated that the umpire had missed the call . The Washington Post and ESPN baseball writer Jayson Stark picked Kinsler as the AL MVP for the first half of the season .

Kinsler had an MLB @- @ best 25 @- @ game hitting streak in June and July . The team @- @ best hitting streak of 28 belongs to Gabe Kapler .

Through July 28 , Kinsler was leading the AL in batting average ( .331 ) , runs ( 90 ) , hits ( 145 ) , total bases ( 232 ) , extra base hits ( 55 ) , at bats ( 438 ) , and plate appearances ( 499 ) . He was also second in doubles ( 37 ) and power / speed number ( 17 @. @ 9 ) , third in sacrifices ( 7 ) , fourth in singles ( 90 ) , sixth in sacrifice flies ( 6 ) , seventh in stolen bases ( 26 ) , triples ( 4 ) , and on @- @ base percentage ( .392 ) , and eighth in OPS ( .922 ) . " Kinsler " , said Seattle Mariners left fielder Raúl Ibáñez , " is the engine that makes that offense go . "

However , on August 17 he injured the left side of his groin on a defensive play , suffering a sports hernia that ultimately required season @- @ ending surgery . He missed the last 37 games of the season . " I really didn 't have a decision " , Kinsler said . " If I want to fix this injury , then I have to have surgery . "

In 2008 , despite missing the last six weeks of the season , Kinsler was third in the AL in times advanced from first to third on a single ( 17 ) , fourth in batting average ( .319 ) and power / speed number ( 21 @. @ 3 ) , fifth in steals of third base ( 8 ) and " bases taken " ( 23 ; advanced on fly balls , passed balls , wild pitches , balks , etc . ) , sixth in line drive percentage ( 24 % ) and in extra base hit percentage ( 10 @. @ 8 % of all plate appearances ) , eighth in runs ( 102 ) and OPS ( .892 ) , ninth in sacrifice hits ( 8 ) and home runs on the road ( 14 ) , and tenth in stolen bases ( 26 ; while only being caught twice ? a 93 % success rate ) and lowest strikeout percentage ( 11 @. @ 5 % of at bats ) .

He hit .413 with runners in scoring position . He was one of only three batters in the AL to have at least 18 home runs and 18 stolen bases in both 2007 and 2008 , along with Alex Rodriguez and Grady Sizemore . His 41 doubles ranked second in franchise history to Alfonso Soriano 's 43 in 2005 . He had a .377 on @- @ base percentage as a leadoff hitter , the third @- @ best mark in the AL , and his .521 slugging percentage was the highest for a leadoff batter in the American League . Kinsler 's .381 on @- @ base percentage as a leadoff hitter over the 2005 ? 08 seasons was the fourth @- @ highest in the major leagues .

" Most hitters have [ a location ] that you can exploit " , said All Star pitcher Justin Duchscherer . " This guy has trouble with fastballs in . This guy has trouble with breaking balls down . [ Kinsler ] doesn 't have a hole like that . " In the field , he led all major league second basemen with a 5 @. @ 77 range factor and 123 double plays , but also in errors with 18 .

Kinsler was mentioned as an MVP candidate before his injury by writers at ESPN , the Dallas News , the Los Angeles Times , and the Washington Post . He could have conceivably rivaled Pedroia for MVP , if not for the sports hernia that cut his 2008 campaign short a month and a half . " I think he just missed having an MVP year " , manager Ron Washington said . " If luck [ had been ] on our side and he [ had stayed ] healthy , he would have run away with it . " In the end , he received a single 10th @- @ place vote from Jeff Wilson of the Fort Worth Star @- @ Telegram .

== == 2009 : Hitting for the cycle , and joining the 30 ? 30 club == ==

In 2009 , Kinsler was named # 24 on the Sporting News ' list of the 50 greatest current players in baseball . A panel of 100 baseball people , many of them members of the Baseball Hall of Fame and winners of major baseball awards , was polled to arrive at the list .

On April 15 , 2009 , in a game against the Baltimore Orioles , Kinsler hit for the cycle , becoming only the fourth Ranger to do so ( and , at the time , the only right @- @ handed Ranger ) . In the same game , Kinsler became only the second player in Ranger history to get 6 hits in a single game ( the first having been Alfonso Soriano , on May 8 , 2004 ) , and the first to do so in a 9 @- @ inning game . His five runs and four extra base hits in the game matched two other team records .

" It was a thing of beauty " , teammate Marlon Byrd said . " I loved it . " Kinsler 's dual feat was the first in the modern baseball era . The last major league player to have six hits in a game while hitting for the cycle was William Farmer Weaver , for the Louisville Colonels on August 12 , 1890 . Kinsler 's 13 total bases were also one base shy of Jose Canseco 's June 13 , 1994 , team record . Only three other players in the prior 55 years had had six hits , five runs , and four extra @-@ base hits in a game , the most recent having been Shawn Green of the Los Angeles Dodgers in 2002 .

Kinsler was named AL co @-@ Player of the Week on April 20 , 2009 . For the week , in 30 plate appearances he led the major leagues in batting average ( .556 ) , hits ( 15 ) , extra base hits ( 7 ) , and runs ( 9 ) , and tied for the lead in doubles ( 4 ) . He also had a .600 on @-@ base percentage and 1 @. @ 000 slugging percentage , with a triple , two home runs , and six stolen bases . " He 's incredible " , said teammate Hank Blalock .

On June 16 against Houston , Kinsler opened the first inning with his ninth career leadoff homer , surpassing the club record of eight , shared by Mike Hargrove , Oddibe McDowell , and Michael Young . On May 21 , Kinsler stole third base in the fifth inning , setting a club record for career steals of third at 18 . Furthermore , at the time Kinsler had never been caught trying to steal third . Rick Paulas of ESPN called Kinsler his " first quarter MVP . "

Through July 1 , Kinsler led the AL in power @-@ speed number ( 17 @. @ 5 ) , was third in home runs ( 19 ) , fourth in runs ( 55 ) and total bases ( 160 ) , sixth in extra base hits ( 38 ) and at bats ( 307 ) , seventh in sacrifice flies ( 4 ) , and ninth in stolen bases ( 16 ) and sacrifices ( 8 ) , while batting .359 against left @-@ handers and .333 with runners on base .

Kinsler narrowly missed making the AL All @-@ Star team . First , though he had led all AL second basemen as of June 30 , with 2 @, @ 170 @, @ 100 fan votes ( fifth @-@ most votes of all AL players , just ahead of Dustin Pedroia 's 2 @, @ 163 @, @ 270 ) , Pedroia passed him on the last day in last @-@ minute voting . Then , he just missed making the team as a reserve in player voting , coming in second again , this time to Toronto 's Aaron Hill . He missed in his third chance , as AL All Star team and Tampa Bay manager Joe Maddon did not pick him as a reserve . He missed a fourth opportunity to make the team , in the Sprint Final Vote competition for the final spot on the team , coming in second to Brandon Inge of the Tigers . A fifth opportunity presented itself when Pedroia pulled out of the All Star Game to spend time with his pregnant wife ? and as Kinsler had finished second in fan voting , in player voting , and in the Final Vote competition , he appeared a likely candidate to replace his fellow second baseman . But Maddon went with one of his own to replace Pedroia , Tampa Bay 's first baseman Carlos Peña , who was leading the league in homers but batting .228 ( and who had come in fourth in the Final Vote competition , behind Kinsler and Chone Figgins ) . A sixth and final opportunity presented itself when Evan Longoria withdrew because of a finger infection ; but again Maddon ( a former Angels coach ) chose someone else as a replacement , this time Figgins of the Angels , who had come in third in the Final Vote competition ( behind Kinsler ) .

Bleacher Reports ' Andrew Nuschler observed : " Maddon spent his tenure as the AL All Star manager finding new and inventive ways to give Ian Kinsler the middle finger . " And Sports Illustrated 's Jacob Osterhout took note , writing :

It is an absolute travesty that Ian Kinsler is not the starting second baseman for the American League . Dustin Pedroia , who IS the starting second baseman , has hit only three home runs and has 36 RBIs . Kinsler , on the other hand , has hit 20 home runs and has 63 RBIs . The fact that Kinsler isn 't even a reserve makes it hard to take the All Star Game seriously .

At the All Star Game , as a tribute to Kinsler , his teammate and close friend Michael Young wore wristbands with Kinsler 's number 5 .

On July 11 , Kinsler stole third base for the 21st time in his career , building on his team record , without ever having been thrown out . On July 19 , he led off the bottom of the first inning with a home run , and 12 innings later he broke a 3 ? 3 tie with a two @-@ run , walk @-@ off home run . Only four times before in major league history had the same batter led off the bottom of the first inning with a home run , and ended the game with another homer . Kinsler suffered a strained left hamstring on July 28 , and missed 11 games while on the disabled list .

Kinsler , who already had 30 stolen bases , hit his 30th home run on September 25 , becoming the

only major leaguer to join the 30 ? 30 club in 2009 , and the 34th major leaguer ever . He became only the second player in Rangers ' history to have a 30 ? 30 season ( joining Alfonso Soriano , who did it in 2005 ) , and joined Soriano ( who also had 30 ? 30 seasons in 2002 and 2003 for the Yankees ) and Brandon Phillips ( 2007 ) as the only 30 ? 30 second basemen in Major League history . " It 's an incredible accomplishment " , said Michael Young . " I 've played with guys who have had some incredible seasons here , but 30 ? 30 is something special . He deserves a lot of credit . He battled all season long . That 's what separates the great players from the good ones . "

He led the AL in power @-@ speed # , with a 31 @.@ 0 . Through 2009 , he had the second @-@ highest steal success rate among active players with at least 100 attempts , at 87 @.@ 5 % ( 91 @-@ of @-@ 104 ) . Carlos Beltrán was the best , at 88 @.@ 3 % . Sharing his philosophy on stealing bases , he said : " It takes the art of stealing away if you do it when you 're four runs up or four runs down , and the opposing team is just worried about getting outs , not stolen bases . The idea is to steal them when you need them . "

He also showed a good eye at the plate . Of 15 Rangers who had at least 100 at bats , his rate of only one strikeout per 8 @.@ 31 at @-@ bats was the best on the team . Similarly , he made contact on 87 % of his swings , the best contact rate on the team .

Playing 144 games , he also had 13 home runs against lefties ( 2nd in the league ) , stole third base 11 times ( 3rd ) , hit 47 % of his hits for extra bases ( 7th @-@ best in the AL ) , was 7th in the AL in stolen bases , scored 101 runs ( 10th ) , and had 5 bunt hits ( 10th ) . On defense he led AL second baseman in " zone runs " s ( 17 ) , was 2nd in assists ( 451 ) and range factor / game ( 4 @.@ 86 ) , and was 5th in putouts ( 249 ) .

== == 2010 : All @-@ Star == == ==

In December 2009 , Washington said Kinsler would bat second in 2010 . " I think Kinsler performs better when he 's in the mix hitting at the top of the lineup in the first inning " , Washington said . " When he has to wait to hit , I think it takes a lot away from him . " But by early March , it was reported that he would bat fifth . Washington said , however , that that would not keep Kinsler from running : " I will not slow him down . He is a threat . I will not take away that threat . I 'm not stopping Kins . " On days when Julio Borbon was not batting leadoff , Kinsler was to move up to the top of the lineup . In the end , Kinsler started 60 games batting 3rd , 20 games batting 5th , 16 games batting 6th , and 6 games leading off .

In spring training , while he was batting .400 , Kinsler slipped on a patch of wet grass during pre @-@ game warm @-@ ups . He rolled his right ankle , and suffered a sprain of the ligaments above it ( referred to as a " high ankle sprain " ) , as well as a small bone bruise at the tip of his tibia at the back of his ankle . He missed three weeks of spring training , and began the season on the disabled list . Washington said : " We miss his presence . We miss his threat . We miss what he brings on the defensive end . We miss his leadership . " He made his initial 2010 appearance on April 30 , after having missed the first 20 games of the season .

Batting .304 at the time with a .412 on @-@ base percentage ( 4th in the AL ) , he was selected as a reserve to the 2010 American League All Star team , his second All Star Game . An appreciative Kinsler said : " It 's a huge honor . " He had finished third among AL second basemen in fan voting behind Robinson Canó and Pedroia , but Pedroia was injured , and Kinsler was picked to replace him . He had also finished second among AL second basemen in voting by AL players . On July 29 he went on the disabled list again , this time for a strained left groin , and was not reactivated until September 1 .

Kinsler finished the season batting .286 , with a career @-@ high on @-@ base percentage of .382 . His .985 fielding percentage was 5th @-@ best in the league , and he had the highest career range factor / game of all active major league second basemen ( 5 @.@ 201 ) . With his two stints on the disabled list , he played in only 103 games .

In the first round of the playoffs , against the Tampa Bay Rays , Kinsler batted .444 / .500 / .944 in five games , leading the majors with 3 home runs ( tied ) and 6 RBIs in the division series . He hit safely and scored a run in all five games , joining Boston 's Nomar Garciaparra as the only two



players to start their post @-@ season careers with at least one hit ? and with at least one hit and one run ? in each of five consecutive games . As teammate Nelson Cruz also hit three home runs , it marked the second time in Major League history that two teammates each hit three homers in a postseason series of five games or fewer ( the other two to do it were Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig , in the 1928 World Series ) . For the first two rounds of the playoffs , Kinsler hit safely in 9 of 11 games , and batted .342 with 3 HRs , a playoff @-@ high 9 RBIs , 6 runs , 2 stolen bases , an OBP of .409 , and an OPS of 1 @. @ 067 .

== == 2011 : 30 ? 30 club , redux == ==

On April 2 , 2011 , Kinsler became the first player in major league history to hit a lead @-@ off home run in the first two games of a season ( giving him a total of 15 lead @-@ off homers in his career ) . In his next game against the Red Sox , he hit another home run in the third inning . Kinsler and Nelson Cruz also became the first two teammates to homer in each of the first three games in a season . The two also joined Dean Palmer ( 1992 ) as the only Texas ballplayers to ever homer in the first three games of the season .

In September Kinsler tied his own Rangers record , which he set in 2009 , with his seventh leadoff home run of the season . He also hit his 20th career leadoff homer , becoming the 34th player in major league baseball history to have hit at least 20 . Since his first season in 2006 , his 20 lead @-@ off homers were the 6th @-@ most behind Alfonso Soriano ( 31 ) , Hanley Ramírez ( 25 ) , Jimmy Rollins ( 24 ) , Curtis Granderson ( 24 ) , and Rickie Weeks ( 24 ) .

He stole 28 consecutive bases without being caught , breaking his own club record , which he had set in 2007 ? 08 .

Kinsler joined the 30 ? 30 club , for the second time . He became the 12th player in major league history to have multiple 30 ? 30 seasons . The only other infielders in major league history who had had multiple 30 ? 30 seasons as of 2011 were Alfonso Soriano , Howard Johnson , and Jeff Bagwell . He also joined the 20 ( home runs ) / 20 ( steals ) club for the third time in his career . Joe Morgan , who did it four seasons , is the only second baseman to have joined the 20 ? 20 club more times .

In 2011 Kinsler was 2nd in the American League in runs scored ( 121 ; the fifth @-@ highest season total in Rangers ' history ) , 5th in home runs ( 32 ; a career high ) and walks ( 89 ) , and 9th in stolen bases ( 30 ) and extra base hits ( 70 ) . He was also third in power @-@ speed # ( 31 @. @ 0 ; behind Jacoby Ellsbury and Curtis Granderson ) , and had the best walks @-@ to @-@ strikeouts ratio in the major leagues , with 1 @. @ 25 walks per each strikeout . On defense , his career range factor of 5 @. @ 092 was the highest among active major league second basemen , and in 2011 he led AL second basemen in double plays , with 103 .

His 136 career stolen bases through season @-@ end were third @-@ most in Rangers history , behind Bump Wills ( 161 ) and Toby Harrah ( 143 ) , and his career stolen @-@ base percentage was the third @-@ best rate among active players with at least 120 attempts .

His 124 career home runs were the 5th @-@ most in the first six years of any second baseman 's career , behind Dan Uggla ( 183 ) , Joe Gordon ( 142 ) , Chase Utley ( 130 ) , and Alfonso Soriano ( 126 ) .

On October 4 , in Game 4 of the playoff series against the Rays , Kinsler led off the game with a home run , sparking the Rangers 4 ? 3 victory over Tampa Bay to send them to the ALCS .

== == 2012 : All @-@ Star == ==

Kinsler was an All Star again in 2012 , for the third time . For the season , he was second in the AL in plate appearances ( 731 ) , third in at bats ( 655 ) and runs ( 105 ) , fifth in power @-@ speed number ( 20 @. @ 0 ) , sixth in doubles ( 42 ) , and eighth in hit by pitch ( 10 ) .

== == 2013 : Rangers ' all @-@ time stolen base leader == ==

In 2013 , Kinsler struck out once every 10 @. @ 4 plate appearances , making him the third @-@

toughest batter to strike out in the American League , and was the sixth @-@ toughest batter to double up in the league ( 109 @.@ 0 at bats / double play ) . He finished the season tied for fifth among active players in leadoff home runs . He led the Texas Rangers , all @-@ time , career @-@ wise , in stolen bases ( 172 ) , hit by pitch ( 57 ) , and power @-@ speed number ( 163 @.@ 6 ) , and was fifth in runs ( 748 ) , seventh in doubles ( 249 ) and walks ( 462 ) , eighth in home runs ( 156 ) , and ninth in hits ( 1 @,@ 145 ) and RBIs ( 539 ) . Fangraphs ranked him as the 56th @-@ best baserunner in baseball history .

= = = Detroit Tigers ( 2014 ? present ) = = =

In November 2013 , Kinsler was traded to the Detroit Tigers for Prince Fielder in a one @-@ for @-@ one trade of All @-@ Stars , with the Tigers sending Texas \$ 30 million to cover part of the difference in the players ' salaries . There was an ESPN Sunday Night Baseball commercial in 2010 where Kinsler and Fielder were talking about trading each other for Tim Lincecum .

= = = = 2014 : All @-@ Star = = = =

In 2014 , Kinsler was named to his fourth All @-@ Star team , as a replacement for an injured Victor Martinez . For the season he led the American League in at bats ( 684 ) , was 4th in hits ( 188 ) and doubles ( 40 ) , 5th in runs scored ( 100 ; scoring 100 runs for the fifth time in his career ) , and 7th in power @-@ speed number ( 15 @.@ 9 ) . He was the 10th @-@ toughest batter in the American League to strike out ( once per every 9 @.@ 19 plate appearances ) , and was one of seven AL players to hit at least 15 home runs and steal at least 15 bases . On defense , he led the AL in putouts ( 290 ) and was third in assists ( 467 ) and fielding percentage ( .988 ) , among all second basemen . Through 2014 , Kinsler had the best career range factor of any active second baseman in Major League Baseball , at 4 @.@ 881 .

On November 5 , 2014 , Kinsler was awarded the Wilson Defensive Player of the Year Award for second base .

= = = = 2015 = = = =

On September 10 , Kinsler recorded his 1,500th career hit , a single off of Bryan Shaw of the Cleveland Indians . For the 2015 season , he hit .296 , his best batting average since posting a career @-@ high .319 mark in 2008 , while collecting 11 home runs and 73 RBIs .

Following the 2015 season , Kinsler was awarded the Fielding Bible Award as the best fielding second baseman in MLB . His 19 Defensive Runs Saved were six better than any other Major League second baseman this season , according to Fangraphs . His 6 @.@ 3 Ultimate Zone Rating was the best in the American League and second only to Miami 's Dee Gordon . His 2 @.@ 6 defensive Wins Above Replacement , according to the Baseball Reference formula , ranked him eighth among all Major League players regardless of position . Kinsler has put up 50 Defensive Runs Saved over the last three seasons , according to The Fielding Bible . The next @-@ best total among Major League second basemen is 29 from Colorado 's DJ LeMahieu .

= = = = 2016 = = = =

On July 3 , 2016 , Kinsler hit his 200th career home run off Danny Farquhar of the Tampa Bay Rays . Kinsler became the third active Major League player , and the 40th overall , with 200 home runs , 1 @,@ 000 runs scored , 1 @,@ 600 hits and 200 stolen bases .

= = Personal = =

Kinsler , who is Jewish , and whose father is Jewish while his mother is Catholic , has become a prominent figure in the Jewish community , and enjoys the attention that he attracts from it . He was

featured in the 2008 Hank Greenberg 75th Anniversary edition of Jewish Major Leaguers Baseball Cards , licensed by Major League Baseball , commemorating the Jewish major leaguers from 1871 through 2008 . He joined , among others , teammate Scott Feldman , Brad Ausmus , Kevin Youkilis , Ryan Braun , Gabe Kapler , Jason Marquis , Jason Hirsh , John Grabow , Craig Breslow , and Scott Schoeneweis . Kinsler was one of three Jewish players in the 2008 All Star Game , joining Youkilis and Braun . He says that " Youkilis will always say something to me on the bases [ referring to the fact that they are both Jewish ] . ' Happy Passover , ' he 'll throw something at me . " In July 2013 he passed Shawn Green with his 163rd steal , to become the all @-@ time career steals leader among Jewish major leaguers .

Kinsler , who would have been eligible to play for Israel in the 2013 World Baseball Classic because of his Jewish heritage , said : " Wow , I would be happy to play for Team Israel .... The truth is that if a proposal comes from Team USA to play for them , I will have a very difficult decision to make . Youk [ Kevin Youkilis ] , Braun [ Milwaukee 's Ryan Braun ] , and I could make a fantastic team . I am sure that I 'll talk it over with Youk ? we always laugh about things like this . "

Kinsler married Tess Brady , his high school sweetheart , on November 18 , 2006 . Their daughter , Rian Brooklynn Kinsler , was born December 5 , 2008 . On June 8 , 2011 , his wife gave birth to a son , Jack Jamisson Kinsler . He was put on paternity leave due to the birth .

In 2008 Kinsler won the Rangers ' Jim Sundberg Community Achievement Award , in recognition of his having devoted a great deal of his personal time to the community .

= = Awards = =