

= Will Middlebrooks =

William " Will " Scott Middlebrooks (born September 9 , 1988) is an American professional baseball third baseman for the Milwaukee Brewers of Major League Baseball (MLB) . He made his MLB debut with the Boston Red Sox on May 2 , 2012 and played with them through 2014 . He also played for the San Diego Padres .

A fifth round draft pick in the 2007 MLB draft out of Liberty @-@ Eylau High School in Texarkana , Texas , Middlebrooks signed with the Red Sox for \$ 925 @,@ 000 , bypassing his commitment to Texas A & M University . Middlebrooks was originally a shortstop , but the Red Sox converted him into a third baseman in the minor leagues . He represented the United States in the 2011 All @-@ Star Futures Game . Following Middlebrooks ' emergence as the Red Sox ' starting third baseman in 2012 , the organization traded former All @-@ Star Kevin Youkilis . After struggles in the 2013 and 2014 seasons , the Red Sox traded Middlebrooks to the San Diego Padres .

= = Amateur career = =

Middlebrooks attended Liberty @-@ Eylau High School in Texarkana , Texas . Middlebrooks played shortstop and pitched for the high school baseball team . As a pitcher , he could reach 90 miles per hour (140 km / h) with his fastball . Liberty @-@ Eylau won the Class 3A state championship in 2006 , Middlebrooks ' junior season . In his senior season , Middlebrooks had a .555 batting average with 22 stolen bases and 48 runs batted in (RBIs) in 38 games , and a 13 @-@ 0 win ? loss record as a pitcher . He was named to the Class 3A All @-@ State First Team and Class 3A Player of the Year by the Texas Sports Writers Association .

In addition to baseball , Middlebrooks played American football and basketball in high school . A quarterback , placekicker and punter , he played on the school 's football team , which also featured LaMichael James . He was named an All @-@ State punter . Middlebrooks admits that he preferred football , until he realized during his junior year that he had the opportunity to be selected in the Major League Baseball Draft . In November 2006 , he committed to attend Texas A & M University on a full scholarship to play baseball and football for the Texas A & M Aggies .

= = Professional career = =

= = = Boston Red Sox = = =

= = = Minor Leagues = = =

Middlebrooks had been projected as a first round talent in the 2007 Major League Baseball draft . However , the belief that he would follow through with his scholarship to Texas A & M led Middlebrooks to fall in the draft . The Boston Red Sox drafted Middlebrooks in the fifth round of the draft , selecting him as a shortstop , rather than as a pitcher . He received a \$ 925 @,@ 000 signing bonus to bypass his commitment to Texas A & M.

Middlebrooks made his professional debut in 2008 with the Lowell Spinners of the Class A @-@ Short Season New York ? Penn League , where he batted .254 with one home run . He described himself as developmentally behind other players at his level because of the time he had devoted to football . Initially a shortstop , Middlebrooks made the transition to third base as he added muscle , increasing from 190 pounds (86 kg) at the time he was drafted to 210 pounds (95 kg) .

In 2009 , Middlebrooks played for the Greenville Drive of the Class A South Atlantic League , where he batted .265 with seven home runs and 57 RBIs . He was promoted to the Salem Red Sox of the Class A @-@ Advanced Carolina League in 2010 and responded by batting .276 with 12 home runs and 70 RBIs . Middlebrooks began the 2011 season playing for the Portland Sea Dogs of the Class AA Eastern League . He played in the Eastern League All @-@ Star Game , hitting a double in the

game . Middlebrooks also participated in the 2011 All @-@ Star Futures Game , starting at third base and going 1 @-@ for @-@ 2 .

Through August 2011 , Middlebrooks batted .306 with 18 home runs and 80 RBIs for Portland , at which point he was promoted to the Pawtucket Red Sox of the Class AAA International League . Joe McDonald of ESPN.com called Middlebrooks " Boston 's likely [third baseman] of the future " upon his promotion from Portland to Pawtucket . He hit .161 in 16 games with Pawtucket to close out the 2011 season .

After the 2011 season , the Red Sox assigned Middlebrooks to the Arizona Fall League , where he hit four home runs in 13 games and was named to the Rising Stars Game . In November 2011 , Middlebrooks , Che @-@ Hsuan Lin and Drake Britton were added to the Red Sox 40 @-@ man roster to prevent them from being selected in the Rule 5 draft .

Heading into the 2012 season , Baseball America rated Middlebrooks as the Red Sox ' best prospect and 51st best prospect overall . Starting the 2012 season with Pawtucket , Middlebrooks hit .333 with nine home runs and 27 RBIs in 24 games and 93 at @-@ bats . Meanwhile , Red Sox starting third baseman Kevin Youkilis struggled , opening the 2012 season batting .219 . As Youkilis struggled , Middlebrooks appeared to be ready for a promotion .

===== 2012 season =====

The Red Sox promoted Middlebrooks to the major leagues on May 2 , 2012 , when Youkilis was placed on the disabled list . He made his MLB debut that day , drawing a walk in his first plate appearance and recording two hits . On May 6 , he hit a game @-@ tying grand slam for his first major league home run in what was eventually a 17 @-@ inning loss to the Baltimore Orioles . In his first 41 games with the Red Sox , Middlebrooks batted .326 with nine home runs and 34 RBIs , the most RBIs to start a career for a member of the Red Sox since Walt Dropo recorded 37 RBIs in his first 41 career games dating back to 1949 ? 50 .

Bobby Valentine , the manager of the Red Sox , initially alternated between Middlebrooks and Youkilis at third base . However , Middlebrooks ' emergence led the Red Sox to trade Youkilis on June 23 . Middlebrooks was named American League Player of the Week for the week ending June 24 . Middlebrooks broke a bone in his right hand when he was hit by a pitch in a game against the Cleveland Indians on August 10 , ending his rookie season with a .288 batting average , 15 home runs and 54 RBIs in 75 games played .

===== 2013 season =====

On April 7 , 2013 , Middlebrooks hit three home runs in a 13 ? 0 Red Sox victory over the Toronto Blue Jays in Toronto . Two of his home runs were hit off of pitcher R.A. Dickey . However , he lost playing time to José Iglesias after he strained his back in May . After he batted .192 on the season , the Red Sox optioned Middlebrooks to Pawtucket on June 25 , 2013 . The Red Sox opted not to promote Middlebrooks when they traded Iglesias on July 30 , using Brandon Snyder and Brock Holt instead . After Middlebrooks made adjustments , the Red Sox recalled him from Pawtucket on August 10 . In Game 3 of the 2013 World Series , Middlebrooks was ruled to have obstructed future teammate Allen Craig after diving for an errant throw at third base . The play awarded Craig the game winning run for the Cardinals . The Red Sox won the series over the Cardinals .

===== 2014 season =====

In 2014 , Middlebrooks missed 19 games in April due to a strained calf . In May , he broke a finger , and again went on the disabled list . He had been struggling at the plate to begin the season hitting just .197 with two home runs in 21 games . As he rehabilitated his injury in the minor leagues , Middlebrooks began playing in the outfield , due to the Red Sox ' signing of Stephen Drew . After the Red Sox traded Drew , they hoped that Middlebrooks would improve his performance with more regular playing time . Middlebrooks continued to miss time later in the season due to lingering

effects of the hand injury . He finished the 2014 season with a .191 average in 215 at @-@ bats .

= = = San Diego Padres = = =

During the 2014 ? 15 offseason , the Red Sox signed free agent Pablo Sandoval , a third baseman . On December 19 , 2014 , the Red Sox traded Middlebrooks to the San Diego Padres for Ryan Hanigan , whom the Padres had acquired earlier the same day . Middlebrooks competed with Yangervis Solarte to be the Padres ' starting third baseman in spring training . By July , the Padres began to use Middlebrooks at shortstop as Solarte received more playing time at third base . With Middlebrooks batting .212 on the season , the Padres optioned Middlebrooks to the El Paso Chihuahuas of the Class AAA Pacific Coast League (PCL) on July 22 . On December 2 , 2015 , the Padres non @-@ tendered Middlebrooks , making him a free agent .

= = = Milwaukee Brewers = = =

On December 15 , 2015 , Middlebrooks agreed to a minor league contract with an invitation to spring training with the Milwaukee Brewers . The Brewers assigned him to the Colorado Springs Sky Sox of the PCL to start the 2016 season . Middlebrooks batted .282 with 10 home runs and 47 RBIs for Colorado Springs , before he was promoted to the major leagues on July 4 .

= = Player profile = =

Middlebrooks is an athletic defensive player . He hits for power and is also credited for his contact skills , though he is not considered the most patient hitter . His throwing arm is well regarded , and his baserunning is rated as average .

= = Personal life = =

Middlebrooks grew up in Texarkana , Texas . His father , Tom , serves as the head baseball coach and assistant football coach at Liberty @-@ Eylau , and his younger sister , Lacey , played softball for the University of Tulsa . She is now an assistant softball coach at the University at Buffalo . Middlebrooks ' mother , Julie , and youngest sister , Mary , are artists ; Julie is an art teacher . He has been friends with Ryan Mallett of the Baltimore Ravens since they met in a football camp after Mallett moved to the Texarkana area in the seventh grade .

Middlebrooks was engaged to Ann Lux , a former Dallas Cowboys cheerleader , however they broke up in August 2012 . They are from the same hometown and have known each other since age 12 . Later in 2012 , Middlebrooks began dating Jenny Dell , a reporter who covered the Red Sox for the New England Sports Network . They became engaged in July 2014 , and were married in February 2016 .