

< BACK TO PROGRAM



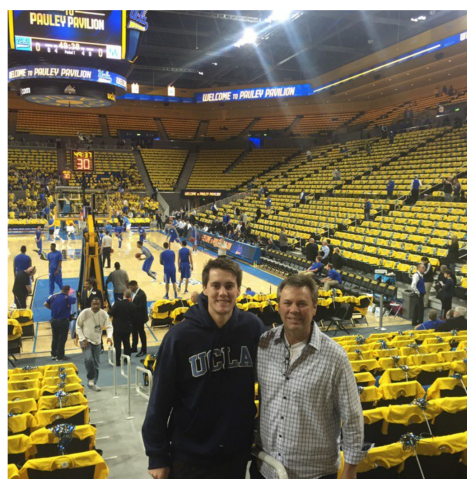
Ryan Kreidler stands in the batter's box at UPMC Park

PLENTY TO WRITE HOME ABOUT

In the world of sports, the child following the parent's path into the industry is no rare occurrence. Baseball has seen it plenty in its history. From names like Bonds to Guerrero and Tatis, sons have built their own space among the same work as their fathers. SeaWolves infielder Ryan Kreidler does have a more distinctive road, crafting his own career in baseball after being introduced to the sport from a press box.

Mark Kreidler is a veteran sports journalist in California. He has had bylines across the country, including the San Francisco Chronicle, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, The Washington Post, and ESPN. He's been on the beat for the Sacramento Kings, the San Diego Padres, and for 15 years he was a hall-of-fame-voting member of the Baseball Writers Association of America. In 2021, Mark has had an added focus on SeaWolves games.

Ryan, of course, took in most of his sports with his dad, "He was working with the Kings and that's how I got into basketball. By the time I came around, he wasn't writing about the Padres anymore, but we were always watching games, and I would ask him, 'Did you cover this guy?' and he'd tell me a funny story and he always had cool insight about different players."



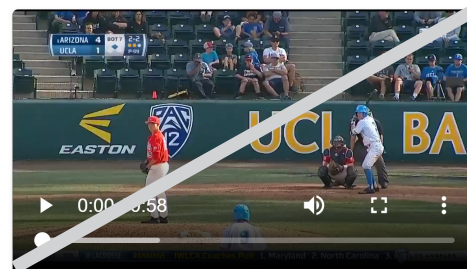
Ryan and Mark attending a UCLA Bruins basketball game | Mark Kreidler

Even considering the loss of the 2020 season, a player advancing from the Short Season-A Level to Double-A, as Ryan did, only happens to the most talented of the bunch. Around three weeks into the 2021 season, Ryan confirmed his eligibility to the jump. He notched a team-best nine-game hit streak while Erie faced off with division rivals Akron and Altoona. Just before Ryan tore up pitchers with three home runs and 14 hits over the stretch, Mark saw it coming from across the country. "The Double-A level...it's a huge jump. The level of talent is so high! [Ryan]'s seen pitches that he's never seen before, and he'll have to work through them to get the swing-and-miss out of his game. When that happens, the power stays, and the average comes up," he said as Erie played on the road. Ryan agreed, "He was right about that. It's experience, timing, and everyone's coming off of a missed year, so it takes some of that baseball intellect to stay in front."

While it is a unique path for father and son, Mark did find kinship during Ryan's college days.

"One of my best friends in sports, throughout my career, was Pedro Gomez... and his son, Rio, was recently advanced to Double-A. They'd faced each other in college, Rio and Ryan, because Rio was at Arizona while Ryan was at UCLA."

Pedro Gomez, a beloved and tenured baseball journalist for ESPN, passed away suddenly in February at 58 years old, devastating the sports community. His son, Rio, is a left-handed pitching prospect for the Red Sox. Rio was called up to the Portland Sea Dogs, Boston's Double-A affiliate, earlier this season. "What a win for sportswriters," Pedro had said when Rio and Ryan first faced each other in college. Mark and Pedro even sat together at the game.



"Pedro and I were always looking forward to that day that they might face each other as pros."

It's the first time that both Rio and Ryan have been in the same league since they were in college, but the hoped for matchup is not likely to happen in 2021. Erie and Portland do not meet this season. Triple-A Toledo and Worcester do not meet this season. The only chance in 2021 is a brief three-game series at Comerica Park between the Tigers and the Red Sox in early August. Whenever the eventual meeting on the field takes place, it will undoubtedly be a moment of celebration for both families.

For now, Ryan continues his own journey. Growing up, he idolized Derek Jeter. Now, Ryan's skills at shortstop can already be given some comparisons to the unanimous hall of famer. He'll keep working toward reaching the same fields his dad covered daily. It may be a different medium than what his father uses, but Ryan Kreidler is crafting a stirring baseball story for us to experience.

