

Dravecky's Loss

Dave Dravecky pitched for the San Francisco Giants in the 1980s. In 1988, doctors discovered a tumor in his pitching arm. In 1991, Dravecky's arm finally had to be amputated. In *When You Can't Come Back*, Dravecky writes about his sense of loss:

"I miss doing things with my own two hands, and -- of course -- I really miss baseball. There is a scene in the movie, *Field of Dreams*, where Shoeless Joe Jackson, one of the eight White Sox players banned from baseball for conspiring to lose the 1919 World Series, said, 'Getting thrown out of baseball was like having part of me amputated. I'd wake up at night with the smell of the ballpark in my nose, the cool of the grass on my feet. Man, I did love the game. I'd have played for food money. It was a game. The sounds, the smells, I'd have played for nuthin'!"

"That scene had a powerful effect on me," Dravecky added. "I missed those feelings, too. The feel of stitched seams as you cradle a new ball in your hand. The smell of seasoned leather as you bring the glove to your face. The sound of a bat cracking out a base hit. I'd have played for food money. I'd have played for nuthin'."

How painful it is to lose what we love. Unfortunately, in this world, our lives are touched by loss over and over again. God wants us to enjoy what we love for all eternity, to never experience loss. That is the promise of heaven.

--Beecher Hunter