



CAPITOL CITY SPEAKERS BUREAU

We help you thrill your audience!



Jim Morris

Travels from: Texas

Fee Range: \$15,001 - \$20,000

Jim Morris' Cinderella story is testimony to the power of dreams and their ability to inspire and transform human life. His story is the subject of the film from Walt Disney, "The Rookie," starring Dennis Quaid and based on Jim's book, *The Oldest Rookie*. His story was also featured in the TNN documentary, "Fame for 15," which received rave reviews. A school teacher by trade, Jim is a polished public speaker whose miracle story captivates and inspires audiences to never give up on a dream.

Growing up as a navy brat, Jim's family moved constantly throughout his childhood. Baseball became his way to make friends when he moved from place to place.

Originally drafted in the first round in 1984, Jim's dream was to become a Major League Baseball player, but his career was derailed by a series of debilitating arm injuries before he got out of the lower minors in 1988. Instead, Jim got married, raised a family of three, and got his college degree before becoming a high school science teacher and baseball coach in a financially depressed area of West Texas (he also became an All-American punter in college football at the age of 27). His baseball career was reduced to playing in beer leagues and throwing batting practice to his high school baseball team.

At the age of 35, and some 11 years after retiring from minor league baseball, Jim was giving a speech to his high school team about the importance of dreams and hard work when his high school players challenged him to pursue his dream of pitching in the major leagues. Jim made the following bet with his high school team: if they won the District Championship for their division, he would tryout for the first major league team that came through town.

Jim's team fulfilled their end of the bargain, which committed him to a big league tryout, where he miraculously threw 12 consecutive pitches at a rate of 98 mph, almost 10 mph harder than he had some 15 years earlier! Inspired by his family and students, Jim immediately signed a professional baseball contract. After just 3 months in the minor leagues and with his family and students in attendance, Jim returned to Texas as a major league player and struck out all-star Royce Clayton with a 98 mile per hour fastball in his first big league game. Jim Morris' ragtag rise from obscurity became the feel-good story of 1999. After pitching for the Tampa Bay Devil Rays in 2000, Jim signed with the Los Angeles Dodgers and retired from baseball in 2001.

As a speaker, Jim inspires and motivates audiences to never give up on their dreams. With a Walt Disney film and a major bestseller, Jim is part of the landscape of American heroes.

Most Requested Programs...

- Never Giving Up on a Dream
- Finding a Mentor and Becoming a Leader
- Taking Advantage of Second Chances
- Remembering Who You Are
- Keeping Your Promises
- Learning How to Laugh at Yourself