



## Ben Smith

### Baseball Contestant

**Episode Airs Saturday, March 3, 2011 at 3 p.m. ET on ABC**



#### Ben Smith

Age: 27

Resides: New Castle, IN

In high school, Ben was a promising, but not spectacular pitcher. He was recruited and offered MLB development contracts, but turned them down, thinking that he might get a better offer after playing college ball and improving further. However, while Ben was in college, his father became terminally ill. Ben left school, and his baseball career, behind and came home to help his mother care for his father and his disabled brother, who has cerebral palsy. After going home to take care of his family and support his mother, Ben let go of his dream of playing professional ball and eventually moved on to become a personal trainer. After not throwing a “serious” pitch in over 5 years, Ben discovered he could still throw 95 mph fastballs with great accuracy. Although he’s still hesitant to leave his mother alone, her excitement over his opportunity has reignited his passion for the game.