

Royals honor fiery car crash survivor with Buck O'Neil seat

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KANSAS CITY, MO (KCTV) -

A Wichita area man who has become a motivational speaker after surviving a car crash that claimed his wife's life was invited to seat in the Buck O'Neil seat at Kauffman Stadium on Wednesday.

Jared and Paige Estes had been married just six months in March 2005 when a drunk driver slammed into their vehicle, which burst into flames. Paige Estes, 23, died of her injuries. Estes and four others were critically injured.

Estes has undergone more than 50 surgeries after he was burned over half of his body. He has held event's in his wife's memory. He speaks to groups and young people to urge them to never give up. He says he wants to help other burn survivors.

"I went through some pretty rough times and some pretty dark days early on," he said.

When he came out of a medically induced coma, he learned his wife's funeral had been a week earlier.

"It was tough for a long time to see happiness and good days in my future," he said.

But he didn't give up. And he kept pushing forward in his wife's memory.

The Royals honor inspirational fans by inviting them to sit in the seat named after baseball legend.

Estes was chosen for Game 4 of the ALCS against the Baltimore Orioles.

"It's like a big time bucket-list dream come true. Just being at this game is huge," he said. "For something like this to happen, it's crazy."

He said the Royals have fought to survive just like he did and proved their doubters wrong.

"Watching them fight was so inspiring. They inspired me so much. It means ten times as much to be here today with this particular group of guys to watch them on the field in person from this seat, I'm so happy. I'm blown away," he said.



Read more: <http://www.kctv5.com/story/26797927/royals-honor-fiery-car-crash-survivor-with-buck-oneil-seat#ixzz40xq3FvpW>