Kevin grew up in the town of Midlothian, Illinois, a small suburb on the southwest side of Chicago where he started playing baseball at the age of 4 years old. He learned at a very young age the passion for the game and the will to be a winner. Kevin attended Mount Carmel High School on Chicago's south side. He had minimal playing time as a freshman due to a lower back injury but came back strong and started on varsity for his next 3 years. Over his next 3 years, he owned a 1.74 career ERA to along with 23-5 record.

Kevin continued his baseball career at the University of Illinois playing alongside instructors Corey Kimes and Chris Pack. He was a 4 year starter and served as the #2 starter his freshman year and #1 starter his following three years. He had a very successful career at Illinois and was All-Big Ten his freshman year. Kevin served as captain of Illinois' baseball team his junior and senior year. His senior year he broke the career innings pitched record, which was one of the longest standing records in Illinois pitching history. He is also top 10 in career strikeouts, career appearances, career big ten innings pitched and career wins.

Kevin was drafted twice into the Major League Baseball first year player draft. After putting up a solid junior year, he was selected in the 31st round by the New York Yankees in 2012, but decided to go back to school for his senior season. While putting up one of the best years of his career his senior season, but was halted by an elbow injury two-thirds the way through. Kevin was selected in the 24th round by the Oakland Athletics in the 2013 draft, but missed the rest of the season due to elbow surgery. He played the entire 2015 season and part of 2016 season with the Class A affiliate for the A's before deciding to retire.

Kevin graduated from the University of Illinois in December, 2013 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Community health. He was a three time Academic All-Big Ten selection as well as a Big-Ten Distinguished Scholar.