JASON MAAS

 Jason Maas was drafted by the New York Yankees in 1985 after an outstanding four-year career at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. He was a first team All-California Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) selection as an outfielder his junior season when he led the nation in triples with 11. His career mark of 18 triples is still a Cal Poly record. Maas won second-team All-America and first-team Academic All-America honors while at Cal Poly.

 In 1995, Cal Poly established the Jason Maas Captain’s Award “based on leadership, scholarship and baseball talent.”

 As a professional, Maas batted .273 and had 327 walks in 2,343 plate appearances, stole 127 bases and had 17 triples. His on-base percentage was an excellent .376.

 Although Jason was a unanimous All-Catholic Athletic League selection at third base his senior year at Bishop O’Dowd High, he said he never considered baseball as a career until the summer after his high school graduation (1981) when he was invited to play for the highly regarded Bercovich amateur team.

 Five future major leaguers, including Hall of Fame pitcher Randy Johnson, played on that team and Maas more than held his own.

 That summer was a turning point for Jason. He already had been accepted at Cal Poly’s engineering school, but wasn’t sure baseball was in his future. His success with Bercovich convinced him to join the Cal Poly baseball team as a walk-on.

 Maas played infield his first two years at Cal Poly until Steve McFarland took over as head coach, switched him to outfield and gave him the green light to steal bases.

“That changed the kind of player I was,” Maas said. His on-base capabilities and speed are what drew the Yankees’ attention.

 Maas was batting .352 for the Yankees’ triple-A affiliate, the Columbus Clippers, when he decided to call it quits in the middle of the 1991 season.

“It was time,” he said, in retrospect. “It was a wonderful ride. I have no regrets.”

 Maas was 28-years-old and had been accepted to UCLA’s Anderson School of Business. He earned an MBA from UCLA and has been with Goldman Sachs in San Francisco as a wealth advisor for the last 21 years.

 Jason and his wife, Sara, live in Menlo with their 10-year-old daughter, Erika, and five-year-old son, Zachary.