

# PRESS RELEASE

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**Editorial Contact: Jeff Risk**

**PH: 704-895-3030**

**FAX: 704-895-3099**

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## **A Rising Star in the Braves Organization**

**Myrtle Beach, SC** ó During the 2001 World Series the broadcasters made reference to gold glove third baseman for the Arizona Diamondbacks, Matt Williams, who as a youth would field balls with two ping pong paddles to polish his fielding skills. This type drill is now becoming main stream training.

Kelly Johnson of Austin, TX, who plays shortstop professionally for the Atlanta Braves High-A division, Myrtle Beach Pelicans, is using the **Solid Fundamentals Training Glove** distributed by Skillmakers Product Technology. This new and innovative training tool teaches proper techniques for catching and fielding. Johnson says, "this product has made a big difference in polishing my skills. I'm getting in better fielding position, and definitely have better anticipation and softer hands." Soft hands is a baseball term describing the exact timing necessary to absorb a ball upon impact with the glove. A person not possessing soft hands might have trouble bobbling the ball or with the ball kicking out of their glove.

The manager for the Pelicans, Randy Ingle, a professional coach and player for over 23 years, says "Kelly [Johnson] is realizing his potential. He has gone from sometimes error prone, to one of our best infielders! It's been a pleasure to watch!"

Johnson began using the **Solid Fundamentals Training Glove** earlier this year by the prompting of retired, 14 year Major League infielder, Rafael Belliard. Belliard, who endorses the new product, now serves as the Director over Infielders in the Braves organization. "We're using the **Solid Fundamentals Training Glove** at every level, and seeing results. Kelly [Johnson] is a good example of [how well] it works." says Belliard.

July was one of the most productive and efficient months in his young career. Ingle adds "the **Solid Fundamentals Training Glove** has made a real difference in [Johnson's] game. If he continues to get better, [Johnson] could have a good shot to make it all the way."

The **Solid Fundamentals Training Glove** is a self instructional product which forces an infielder to catch the ball out in front, to use both hands, to have soft hands, to have quick, precise foot action, and to get into the correct throwing position. Anyone who

plays baseball or softball can improve. With help from the **Solid Fundamentals Training Glove**, an ordinary player can become an extraordinary player.

Training can be fun and easy. According to Ingle, "the glove [Solid Fundamental Training Glove] helps **everyone** become a better player, from T-ball on up to the pro level."