

2013 Baseball Recruits

Montana State Billings

Treasure Valley Pitcher Signs With MSUB (6/4/12)

Nate Villalobos, who spent two years at Treasure Valley Community College, will play next spring for Montana State Billings.

This past spring Villalobos (6-3, Jr., American Falls, ID) made nine appearances for Treasure Valley, pitching in 16.2 innings, recording 11 strikeouts and two saves.

Prior to his time at Treasure Valley, Villalobos was a three sport letter-winner at American Falls High School. He lettered in football for two, basketball for three and baseball for four. Villalobos was awarded the 2007 Mr. October and the 2006 Newcomer of the Year for baseball.

He also received accolades in basketball, being named Mr. Offense from 2007-09 and Most Valuable Player in 2009.

Three Sign with Yellowjacket Baseball (5/10/12)

High school standout Drew Adriaens and collegiate transfers Steven DeYoung and Josh Mejia have signed letters-of-intent to play baseball with Montana State Billings.

Adriaens is an all-state prospect playing for the Sheridan Troopers and Gillette Roughriders from the American Legion Baseball League. On the mound, Adriaens posted a 2.63 ERA, with 24 strikeouts and six walks in 24 innings pitched. He also went undefeated with a 4-0 record. As a batter, Adriaens recorded a .370 batting average, four home runs, four triples and 35 RBIs.

The Yellowjackets add a quality hitter with the addition of DeYoung (5-11, Jr., Missoula, MT - Hellgate). At Southwestern Oregon DeYoung had a .306 batting average, 37 hits, seven doubles and 11 RBIs.

In high school, DeYoung had a very accomplished career as a three-sport student-athlete. Lettering in football and wrestling three and four years respectively, he was a 2009-10 KPAX Athlete of the Year Nominee. DeYoung's stat totals while playing for the Missoula Mavericks in the American Legion League were a .393 batting avg., five home runs and 55 hits. He also was a member of the 2010 American Legion State Championship team.

Mejia (5-9, Ontario, Ore. - TVCC) batted .221 at Treasure Valley. During his high school career, Mejia

earned GOL Player of the Year and all-state honors batting .530.

Treasure Valley Players Sign with MSUB (5/2/12)

Treasure Valley Community College infielder Brad Birch and right-handed pitcher Alex Jones will play next season at Montana State Billings.

Birch (6-2, Eugene, OR - Churchill) has spent the last two seasons honing his skills with the Chukars. Out of high school, he boasted a .390 batting average with four home runs during his senior season as a four-year letter winner.

He was a four-time all-conference selection, three times as a second team selection and once to the first team. He was also an all-state honorable mention selection his senior year and graduated with honors.

Jones (6-2, Blackfoot, Idaho) currently holds a 2.02 earned run average in 22 and one-third innings of work. He has given up just five earned runs in seven games and struck out 13 batters to post a 2-1 record.

During his high school career, Jones was a two-time all-conference selection which included being named to the first team as a junior.

Yellowjackets Sign Two Players from Big Bend (4/25/12)

Matthew Benner, a outfielder-first baseman from Mt. Spokane High School in Spokane, and Danny Greenway, a pitcher from Eagle, Idaho, have signed letters of intent with Montana State Billings. Both players are transferring from Big Bend CC in Moses Lake, Wash.

Benner is currently batting .259 and is one of four players to see action in all 28 games so far this season for BBCC. He is tied for third on the Vikings' squad with 16 runs scored and has connected with the ball 22 times. The right-handed outfielder has four doubles on the season, five runs batted in and has swiped four bases.

Greenway has seen action in seven games pitching 41 1/3 innings (through mid-April). The leftie boasts a team-second-best 2.40 earned run average and has fanned a team-best 28 batters while only walking eight to claim his 5-1 record.

During his senior season of high school, Greenway was named an all-conference second team selection en route to helping lead his team to winning the 2010 Idaho 4A State Championship. Between his junior and senior seasons, the lefthander boasted a 15-0 record to go along with six saves.

Northwest Nazarene

Bellevue CC Pitchers Signs With Crusaders (11/18/11)

Andrew Groves, a right-handed pitcher from Bellevue Community College, has signed a National Letter of Intent to attend Northwest Nazarene and play for the Crusaders beginning in the spring of 2013.

Groves (6-0, 160, Mukilteo, WA) was a staple on one of the best pitching staffs in the NWAACC last season.

He appeared in 10 games as a freshman, making one start with a 4-1 record, and posted a 2.23 ERA in over 30 innings of work. Dating back to his sophomore year at Kamiak High School, Andrew has compiled 24 wins with only 5 losses.

“With the arms that we have graduating we need to bolster our staff and Andrew does that,” NNU coach Tom Onofrei said. “He is a polished mid-80’s arm with four pitches he can throw for a strike.”

In addition to his junior college accomplishments, Andrew was a first-team all-Wesco selection in both 2009 and 2010 while at Kamiak High. He was named all-state as a second baseman and a pitcher, named to the Seattle Times all-area team, and was honored as a Seattle Times state Athlete of the Week.

2012 Baseball Recruits

Montana State Billings

'Jackets Get Division I Transfer (7/5/11)

Outfielder Matt Comer (5-10, Bozeman, MT), who played last season at Seattle University, has transferred to Montana State University Billings.

A former Bozeman High standout, Comer will bring Division I experience with him from Seattle University. In one season with the Redhawks he hit .202 in 36 games with 25 starts. He recorded 18 hits with nine runs scored, four doubles, three home runs and 15 runs batted in.

Comer had a .348 slugging percentage and an on base percentage of .287 with nine walks.

Prior to SU, Comer played two seasons at Treasure Valley C.C. where he was named NWAACC co-MVP in 2010 and earned NWAACC All-East Region first team honors and was the regional MVP that same season. Comer also earned first team honors on the Pacific ABCA All-American list after hitting .399 and leading the NWAACC in home runs (9) and RBIs (55).

Comer helped Bozeman to the 2007 state AA legion ball title and appearances at the state tournament in 2006 and 2008. He was a first team all-conference and all-state selection in 2008 after batting .403 as a senior.

"Matt is a terrific hitter that will make an immediate impact on our lineup," MSUB coach Rob Bishop said. "He is a quality person that will bring leadership and experience to the table as well. We are excited to add him to a growing list of Montana natives looking to continue their baseball and academic careers at MSUB."

Former Miles CC Outfielder Signs with MSUB (6/30/11)

Outfielder Justin Harcharik, who played two seasons at Miles Community College, has signed a National Letter of Intent to play for Montana State University Billings.

Last season Harcharik (5-11, Jr., Butte, MT) hit .305. He scored a team-high 45 runs with seven doubles, one triple, one home run and 19 RBIs. Harcharik also slugged .398 and had an on base percentage of .431 with 51 total bases.

Harcharik earned 2011 All-Mon-Dak Conference Academic honors and was a 2011 all-conference

award winner. Harcharik also earned all-region honors in 2010.

"Justin will bring speed and athleticism to our defense and is a solid offensive player with gap power that will fit in well anywhere in the lineup," MSUB coach Rob Bishop, who coached Harcharik in his freshman season at Miles, said.

Yellowjackets Add Pitcher/First Baseman From South Dakota (6/1/11)

South Dakota native Jacob Bohne has signed a letter-of-intent to play baseball next spring at Montana State Billings.

Bohne brings a very successful prep career to the MSUB roster after lettering in three different sports at Stevens High School in Rapid City. He lettered four times in baseball, twice in football and participated in one year of track and field.

Bohne has helped lead his American Legion Post 22 team to back-to-back state legion titles the past two seasons (2009-2010) along with three straight regional titles. Through the first five games of the 2011 season, Bohne was hitting .538 and the lefty was 1-0 on the mound.

In his brief track career at Stevens, Bohne qualified for the state meet in the 110 and 300 meter hurdles.

MSUB Signs Billings Native (5/25/11)

Billings native Ty Gilmore has signed a letter of intent to play baseball at Montana State Billings.

"Ty will make an immediate contribution on the field and at the plate," MSUB coach Rob Bishop said. "Ty certainly is one of the best players in Montana and the region and we are excited to watch him develop into a great college player as well."

Gilmore prepped at Billings West High School where he lettered twice in basketball. He played legion baseball for the Billings Scarlets where he helped lead his team to the state championship in 2008 and 2009.

In 2010, Gilmore hit .373 with 57 runs and 66 hits for the Scarlets. He slugged .576 and reached base at a .482 clip. The 5-9, infielder, was an all-state and all-conference selection in 2009 and 2010. He also earned super state honors both years.

MSUB Adds Two NWAACC All-Stars (5/23/11)

Two NWAACC all-stars - Jordan Wilson of Spokane Falls Community College and Mack Unruh of Linn-Benton Community College - will play next season at Montana State Billings.

Wilson returns to Montana after attending high school in Absarokee, Mont., and playing legion baseball for the Laurel Dodgers.

Unruh, a Salem, Ore., native, became the second player from Linn-Benton Community College to sign with the Jackets this spring as Sam Paterson signed last month. Unruh, a 6-0 pitcher/utility was a second team All-NWAACC selection as a pitcher with a 1.46 ERA in 48 innings of work. He tallied 40 strikeouts on the mound, while hitting .250 from the plate with 12 stolen bases, 15 RBI and two home runs.

“Mackie is a fierce competitor and a very hardworking kid,” MSUB coach Rob Bishop said. “He is a terrific addition to our pitching staff and program. As a position player, he brings another left-handed stick and good speed. We are excited to see how he develops as a Yellowjacket.”

Unruh prepped at North Salem High School where he lettered all four years in baseball and three in football. He was a second team all-state selection as a senior and earned second team all-league honors as a sophomore and junior.

As a senior, he hit .450 with five home runs and 28 RBI. He tallied 18 stolen bases and had a .750 on-base percentage. On the mound, Unruh was very effective as he tallied a 1.23 ERA with 48 strikeouts and just 12 walks. Unruh helped lead his team to the playoffs each of his four seasons.

Wilson, played two years at Spokane Falls CC where he tallied a 1.99 ERA with 38 strikeouts in 40 innings as a relief pitcher.

Prior to that, the 6-0, 190 pound left-hander helped lead the Dodgers to their first state championship in 2009 and a runner-up finish at regionals that year. Wilson earned all-state honors in baseball in 2008. He lettered four years in football and track at Absarokee High School, while earning all-state honors in football in 2007 as a wide receiver/safety.

“Jordan will be a tremendous addition to our pitching staff,” Bishop said. “He is another terrific lefty who has pitched successfully as a starter and out of the bullpen. One of our goals is to continue to add Montana kids to our roster that will help us elevate MSUB baseball in the GNAC. Jordan gives our program a push in that direction.”

Yellowjacket Baseball Adds Miles Community College Transfer (5/6/11)

Jacob Williams, who played the last two seasons at Miles Community College, has signed to play baseball with Montana State University Billings.

“Jake is a great kid and a terrific athlete,” MSUB coach Rob Bishop said. “I am excited to see what he will bring to our pitching staff.”

Williams, a native of Bridger, Mont., spent the last two years at Miles Community College where he has pitched in 38.1 innings, with a 4.20 ERA, a 3-3 record and has four saves this season. He has appeared in 14 games with seven starts and has two complete games and one shutout. Williams has 21 strikeouts on the year.

He prepped at Bridger High School where he lettered all four years in basketball and track. Williams played legion baseball for the Beartooth Bighorns where he helped lead his team to three consecutive NBC Conference championships.

He also played middle infield, while playing for the Bighorns, and was named to the NBC Conference All-Star team as a junior, as well as earning the Wendy's High School Heisman Award as a senior.

He earned all-state honors in track all four years of high school and competed in multiple relay events and the long jump. Williams also earned all-conference honors in basketball, and was the Most Improved Player in basketball as a junior.

Linn-Benton Product Signs with Yellowjacket Baseball (5/2/11)

Outfielder Samuel Paterson will transfer from Linn-Benton Community College to play baseball for Montana State University Billings.

“Sam is a great competitor and will bring another solid left-handed pitcher into our program,” MSUB coach Rob Bishop said. “He has done a tremendous job at the community college level and we expect that success to carry over into our program. He will make an immediate impact on our pitching staff.”

Paterson pitched and played center field at the JC level. He prepped at McMinnville High School where he lettered four years in baseball and one in football.

Paterson earned first team all-conference honors as an outfielder in 2009, and second team all-conference honors as a left-handed pitcher in 2008. He helped lead his team to the first round of the playoffs in 2009.

Colorado Product Signs with MSUB Baseball (4/30/11)

Montana State Billings baseball coach, Rob Bishop, announced the signing of Colt Olson for the 2011-12 season.

Olson, a Castle Rock, Colo., native, prepped at Lutheran High School in Parker, Colo., where he lettered four years in football and baseball, two years

in basketball and one in track. The 6-2, 180 lb., left-handed, pitcher/outfielder was a Top 75 selection in baseball in Colorado in 2010, while earning all-conference honors in 2009 and 2010, as a pitcher and center fielder.

“Colt is a great kid with a tremendous upside,” Bishop said. “I believe he will be a factor in our program for years to come. He also brings tremendous intangibles with his commitment to academics and personal integrity.”

Olson owns his high school's career record in strikeouts and home runs, and helped lead his team to the 2009 conference championship. In 2009, his team was the district runner-up and an Elite Eight State Finalist. In 2010, they were repeat conference champions.

Academically, Olson was a four year honor roll selection and was a leader in Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

MSUB Signs Infielder from Missoula (4/25/11)

Brody Miller, an infielder from Missoula, Mont., has signed a letter-of-intent to play baseball at Montana State University Billings.

“Brody is a tremendous addition to our program,” MSUB coach Rob Bishop said. “He is exactly the kind of player we need to take Yellowjacket baseball to the next level. He is extremely competitive, and is a terrific offensive player.”

“Brody is one of the top players in Montana and we are on a mission to make MSUB baseball the kind of program that attracts the highest quality Montana kids.”

The five-foot, eight inch Miller prepped at Missoula Sentinel High School where he played football and lettered for two years. He placed sixth at the Montana State DECA Conference in Sports Management competition in 2010.

In legion baseball, Miller excelled as he played for the Missoula Mavericks mainly at second base helping his team to the state championship in 2010 and a third-place finish at regionals. The Mavericks finished the 2010 season with an impressive 66-11 record. Miller earned all-conference honors for three years and was an all-state selection in 2010.

As a senior, he led the team in just about every offensive category, including hits (146), RBIs (126), doubles (37) and home runs (17).. He broke single-season records in at bats (303), hits, RBIs, home runs and total bases with 248. Miller hit .482 to lead the team and slugged an impressive .818, while belting a team-high 61 extra-base hits.

Yellowjackets Sign Laurel Native to National Letter (4/20/11)

Laurel, Mont., native David Swecker, has signed a national letter of intent to play baseball at Montana State Billings.

“David has a chance to be a really special player in our program,” Bishop said. “He is a terrific athlete and we are excited to see him develop on the mound. In addition to what he brings on the field, David is a person of character who will be an asset to our program and MSU Billings.”

Swecker, a 6-3 pitcher/infielder, prepped at Laurel High School where he earned numerous all-conference and all-state honors in basketball and football.

In legion baseball, Swecker helped lead the Laurel Dodgers to back-to-back state championships in 2009 and 2010 and a district championship last year. The Dodgers finished second in 2009 at regionals and third in 2010 at regionals.

In 2010, Swecker carried a 1.63 ERA with a 14-2 record and 150 strikeouts as he earned all-state honors as a junior helping his team to a 60-11 record.

From the plate, he hit .406 with 83 runs and 84 RBIs to go along with 11 home runs, seven triples and 17 doubles. He reached base at a .572 clip and slugged .749, which led the team.

Not only did Swecker win in baseball, but also in basketball and football where he helped lead the Locomotives to a basketball state championship in 2010 and a divisional championship in 2011, as well as back-to-back conference crowns. On the gridiron, he helped lead the team to playoff berths in both 2010 and 2011.

Northwest Nazarene

Crusaders Add Two To Baseball Squad (6/14/11)

Nate Forseth and Orlando Rodriguez-Polanco have signed Letters of Commitment to attend Northwest Nazarene and play baseball for the Crusaders.

Forseth (Fr., OF/P, L/L, 6'7, 180, Nampa, ID/Nampa Christian) graduated from Nampa Christian High School where he earned valedictorian honors in the classroom and played both basketball and baseball.

“We are excited to have Nate join the NNU family. He is an incredible student and has a lot of upside with his long frame and size. We're looking forward to getting him in our program to see how he develops”, coach Tim Onofrei said.

Forseth was a first-team selection to the Idaho 2A District III all-conference team this spring and helped lead his team to the Idaho 2A state tournament.

Rodriguez-Polanco (Fr., OF/P, R/R, 5'10, 185, Emmett, ID/Emmett) was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico, and graduated from Emmett High School this spring. "Orlando brings some good athleticism and a really strong work ethic. We are excited to see how he matures as a ballplayer here at NNU. He has natural leadership ability and is just a really good kid."

NNU Signs Alex Barbee (11/19/10)

Alex Barbee has signed a National Letter-of-Intent to attend Northwest Nazarene and play baseball for the Crusaders beginning in the fall of 2011.

Barbee (OF, L/R, 5-10, 180, Boise, ID) is a 2007 graduate of Borah High School and attended Skagit Valley Community College in Mt. Vernon, Wash, where he played for SVCC in 2008. As a senior at Borah, Barbee was a first team Idaho 5A All-State selection as an outfielder and as a freshman at SVCC, he hit .269 with an on-base-percentage of .397 in 30 games.

"With the multiple tools Alex possesses, he has the ability to impact a baseball game on several levels. He covers a ton of ground in the outfield, has a strong arm, can steal bases, and he's a high batting average guy with some pop at the plate," NNU coach Tim Onofrei.

"We had the opportunity to see him play every day this past summer in the Boise Summer League (BSL) and were obviously impressed with his skills on the field and with who he is as a person; he's going to be a great individual for our program."

During the 2010 BSL season, Barbee was named the Player Of The Year in the wood bat collegiate league where he hit .382 in 110 at-bats, scored 34 runs, collected 42 hits (10 2B and 1 HR), and drove in 18 runs. Alex was also 22 of 24 in stolen base attempts.

Alex is the son of Andrew and Angelina Barbee of Boise and plans on majoring in Business while at NNU. He is currently enrolled at Treasure Valley Community College in Ontario, Ore., and will play baseball for the Chukars this spring.

2011 Baseball Recruits

Central Washington

White River Infielder Signs With Wildcats (12/2/09)

Connor Williams, a high school senior at White River High School in Buckley, Wash., has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball at Central Washington University beginning in 2011.

Williams, an infielder, has lettered each of the past three seasons for the Hornets. An honorable mention all-South Puget Sound League (SPSL) selection as a junior shortstop, he ranked third in the league with 12 stolen bases.

Williams, who plays for his father and CWU alum Mike Williams at White River, began his career as a second baseman. He batted .410 and earned first-team all-SPSL honors as a sophomore second baseman in 2008.

"Connor is an extremely athletic baseball player," CWU coach Storey said. "He is tall and lean, and defensively, he reminds me of (former CWU shortstop) Brandon Esparza. Offensively, he is going to be an extremely solid offensive guy at the Division II level. He has the athleticism and maturity to be able to come in and compete right away as a freshman -- similar to some of the freshmen we brought in for the 2010 season."

In addition to his baseball exploits, Williams also lettered in football and golf. He was also named Homecoming King this past fall. Academically, he carries a 3.8 grade-point average.

Montana State Billings

Yellowjackets Another Recruit (9/2/10)

Victor "Austin" Rue from Clancy, Mont., has been added to Montana State Billings' 2011 baseball roster. He is the third player added by Rob Bishop since being named the new MSUB coach.

"Austin is a great student and a terrific person," Bishop said. "He has very good speed and is a solid defender at any infield spot. Austin also brings the kind of work ethic that will fit in very well with how I see Yellowjacket baseball progressing on and off the field."

Rue attended Jefferson High School and played legion baseball for the Helena Senators and the Helena Reps. Rue played last year at Miles Community college for Bishop where he played third base. Rue batted .305 for the Pioneers with a .428 on base

percentage, 22 stolen bases and 39 runs scored. He helped lead the Pioneers to a 35-13 record and a conference and regional championship.

As a senior for the Senators, he hit .397 with 81 hits and had a slugging percentage of .480. He was 23 of 28 in stolen bases and reached base .490 percent of the time. Rue helped lead the Senators to a 42-17 record and the 2009 AA Missoula Championship in the Mavericks Memorial Day Tournament.

Yellowjackets Add Billings Native To 2011 Roster (8/30/10)

Billings native Blake Loran will play for Montana State Billings this spring

"Blake is a great student and a solid baseball player," MSUB first-year coach Rob Bishop said. "I expect him to make an impact in the program immediately and be a guy that contributes in the long term as well. We are excited to have another quality Billings player in the program."

Loran prepped at Skyview High School and played legion ball for the Billings Royals where he played first base and catcher. He hit .426 with 98 hits, 25 doubles, two triples, four home runs and 88 RBI as a senior. He had a .654 slugging percentage and reached base .517 percent of the time. Loran earned all-conference honors in 2009.

While at Skyview, Loran, who redshirted last season at Jamestown College, was named to the honor roll, graduated with honors and earned an Academic Letter.

Bishop Adds Gillette Product As His First Recruit (8/24/10)

New MSU Billings baseball coach Rob Bishop has added Michael "Tucker" Young to his 2011 roster as his first recruit.

"Tucker is a good young player that will develop well in our program at MSUB," Bishop said. "He comes from a strong Gillette program that has produced many good college players. I am looking forward to working with Tucker during the next four years."

Young, a native of Gillette, Wyo., attended Campbell County High School where he lettered all four years in baseball and wrestling. He helped lead his team to the state championships in baseball in 2008 and a state runner-up finish in 2009.

As a senior, he hit .341 with 18 singles, five doubles, six triples and two home runs to go along with 20 RBI. He had an impressive .400 on-base percentage and slugged .540.

Dillon Product To Play For Yellowjackets (6/28/10)

Tim Goins, a Dillon, Mont., native who played the last two seasons at Yakima Valley Community College, has signed a letter of intent to play baseball at Montana State Billings.

While at Yakima Valley, Goins hit .259 and had a .382 on base percentage playing third base. He led the team in average at a .462 clip and had a .556 on base percentage.

Goins played legion baseball for the Dillon Cubs where he was an all-conference selection from 2006-2008. He hit .421 in his final year for the Cubs with 22 singles, 18 doubles, two triples and an impressive 22 home runs. He had 31 stolen bases and 73 RBIs.

He also competed in football and basketball for Beaverhead County High School where he helped lead his team to the 2006-07 state championship in football and basketball. In addition, he helped lead his legion baseball team to a third place finish in state in 2007-08.

MSUB Adds Player From Colorado Junior College (6/15/10)

Andrew Kachel, who played the last two seasons at Northeastern Junior College in Sterling, Colo., will play baseball next spring at Montana State University Billings.

Kachel, a Colorado Springs native, hit .316 in 20 games this past season after returning from Tommy John surgery.

Kachel, a 5-11, 175-pound catcher, prepped at Doherty High School in Colorado Springs where he was a first team all-conference selection as a senior, and a second team all-league selection as a sophomore and junior. He was named to the Colorado Top 50 team as a senior.

He batted .486 as a senior with 36 RBIs, which both were school records. He helped lead his team to the Metro championship from 2004-2007. In addition, he participated for the Farmington Cardinals on Connie Mack World Series team and competed for the U.S. Pan American team in the Goodwill Games in 2007.

Yellowjackets Add Players from Colorado, Nebraska (6/13/10)

Rhett Morgan, who is a native of Greeley, Colo., and Zachary Smith, from Palmyra, Neb., have signed letters of intent to play baseball next spring at Montana State University Billings.

Morgan, a 6-1, 215-pound, right-hander, who is a multiple position player, played his last two seasons at Northeastern Junior College in Sterling, Colo. There,

he saw action in the outfield, first base and on the mound.

He had a prolific high school career as he was a two-time all-state selection at Northridge High School and was the Class 4A Player of the Year in 2006. As a senior, he hit .430 with 29 RBIs, five doubles, two triples and eight home runs. On the mound he was equally impressive as he had a 1.23 ERA with an 8-1 record fanning 62 and walking 22.

Morgan helped lead his high school team to four district championships, two state Final Four appearances and one third-place finish in 2006.

Smith, the younger brother of MSUB pitcher Archie Smith, is a 6-1, 170-pound infielder/pitcher who played his last two seasons at Independence Community College in Independence, Kan., and prepped at Lincoln East High School in Lincoln, Neb.

In high school, Smith was an all-state selection in 2008, academic all-state in 2007 and 2008 and earned the Don Henry Award for the most outstanding Spartan baseball player in 2008.

Smith hit .355 as a senior, with 12 RBIs, one home run and 27 hits. On the mound, he was 6-1 with a 1.73 ERA in eight starts with five complete games. He fanned 43 in 131 innings pitched.

Northwest Nazarene

Boise Product Signs Letter With Crusaders (7/22/10)

Derek Bettinson, a first baseman from Blue Mountain Community College, has signed a National Letter-of-Intent to attend Northwest Nazarene and play baseball for the Crusaders.

Bettinson (L/R, 6-0, 190, Boise, ID - Centennial) earned first-team All-NWAACC East Region honors as a freshman in 2008 and second-team All-NWAACC East Region recognition as a sophomore during the 2009 season after graduating from Centennial in 2007..

“Derek is a phenomenal hitter and RBI machine who will provide us with a lot of production in the middle of the lineup,” NNU head coach Tim Onofrei said. “We expect him to be an immediate impact guy for us next year.”

Bettinson hit .321 with 59 hits and 34 RBI in his rookie year at Blue Mountain and followed with a .354 average as a sophomore that included 24 extra-base hits and 32 RBI.

Crusaders Add Three JC Standouts, Three Prep Stars For 2011 Season (6/30/10)

Jeremy Burk, Patrick Forgette, Randy Hall, Evan Parton, Aaron Vaughn, and Matt Voris have each signed Letters-of-Commitment to attend Northwest Nazarene and play baseball for the Crusaders in 2011.

Burk (LHP, L/L, 5-11, 180, Hanford, WA) graduated from Hanford High School in Richland, Wash., and has pitched the last two years at Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton, Ore.

As a sophomore at BMCC, Burk was 3-6 with a 3.38 ERA in 66 1/3 innings, giving up 60 hits while walking 27 and striking out a team-high 68 batters. "Jeremy will be another solid addition to our pitching staff," NNU coach Tim Onofrei said. "He throws a heavy fastball and has a sharp breaking ball."

Forgette (RHP, R/R, 5-10, 170, Kennewick, WA / Kamiakin HS) was the closer for the NWAACC East Region regular season champion Columbia Basin College. He was recently voted to the second-team All-NWAACC East-Region All-Star Team as a relief pitcher after pitching in 17 games.

Foregette pitched 24 innings with a record of 1-0 and earned eight saves, giving up only 15 hits while walking nine and striking out 33. During his two-year career at CBC, Forgette pitched in 30 games, compiling 44 innings with a 3-0 record, nine saves and a three-to-one strikeout-to-walk ratio with 18 walks and 54 strikeouts.

"Pat will add another important dimension to our bullpen as we use our pen at length. With the experience that Pat has closing ball games for a quality program like CBC, we have every confidence that he will be just as successful here at NNU."

Hall (OF/UT, L/R, 5'8, 165, Eagle, ID / Bishop Kelly HS) joins the Crusaders after two years at Wenatchee Valley College in Wenatchee. As a sophomore this year at WVC, he batted .246 with 16 hits in 65 at-bats with three doubles and an on-base-percentage of .341.

Hall was a first-team all-conference baseball performer as a junior and senior at Bishop Kelly High School in Boise, where he also wrestled and played three years of varsity football. "Randy is a versatile, solid ballplayer with good speed and will help us in several areas on the field," Onofrei said.

Parton (RHP, R/R, 6'3, 220, Leavenworth, WA / Upper Valley Christian Academy) is a 2010 graduate of Upper Valley Christian School and competed athletically at Cascade High School in Leavenworth, Wash.

Parton was a first-team all-conference performer on the mound in the Caribou Trail League this spring as

was also a second-team performer as a junior. "Evan is an athlete that we are really excited about. He is a big bodied athlete that really has the potential to be something special during his years at NNU. He already touches the upper 80's and throws a sharp breaking ball and we are really looking forward to getting Evan into our program and watching him develop."

Voris (P/INF, R/R, 6'1, 170, Atwater, CA / Buhach Colony HS) is a recent graduate of Buhach Colony High School in Atwater, Calif.

Voris was an all-area performer on the baseball field as a senior and posted a 3.9 GPA in the classroom. "Matt has a real loose arm on the mound and competed well in a very strong baseball area in California," Onofrei said.

Vaughn (P/INF, R/R, 5'11, 170, Tucson, AZ / Pusch Ridge Christian Academy) graduated from Pusch Ridge Christian Academy in Tucson and was named the 2A Southern Region Player-of-the-Year as a senior.

Vaughn posted a 9-0 record on the mound, striking out 58 in 36 innings pitched with a 1.94 ERA. He hit .580 with an on-base percentage of .663 as he drove in 34 runs and collecting 17 extra base hits.

"Aaron had a great spring in all facets of the game. His velocity has climbed to 88 mph and he put up some really impressive numbers at the plate."

Crusaders Sign Four Prep Standouts (6/4/10)

Northwest Nazarene has signed four student-athletes to baseball Letter-of-Intent including Ryan Kuhn, George Casper, Eli Kelly and Tyler Moore.

Kuhn (6-3, 200, Beaverton, OR), who is a right-handed pitcher, was a two-sport athlete in football and baseball at Southridge High School.

Casper (6-2, 195, Pocatello, ID), was a left-handed pitcher and first baseman from Highland High School. He was 6-2 overall with a 2.82 E.R.A. and hit .432 with 29 RBI in earning all-district honors during his junior season.

Kelley (5-10, 165, Corona, CA) is a right-handed pitcher from Riverside Christian High School in Riverside, Calif., and was a first-team all-league pitcher as junior, posting a 2.40 E.R.A in 46 2/3 innings and was named team captain for his senior year.

Moore (5-11, 240) is a right-handed hitting first baseman from Silverton High School in Silverton, Ore.

Nampa Product to Play for Crusaders (6/3/10)

Tyler Crabb, an infielder from Nampa's Skyview High School, has signed a letter of commitment to attend Northwest Nazarene and play baseball for the Crusaders this fall.

Crabb (R/R, 5-9, 145), was a two-sport athlete in soccer and baseball for Skyview. "Tyler will do a great job at NNU," NNU coach Tim Onofrei said. "He is good hitter, solid defensively, and does a phenomenal job in the classroom."

Crabb received Idaho 4A Southern Idaho Conference All-Academic Awards for both baseball and soccer and was an All-SIC honorable mention soccer player at Skyview. This spring on the diamond Crabb hit .402 and posted an on-base percentage of .651.

Crusaders Sign Emmett's Daylong (5/5/10)

Emmett's Tanner Daylong has signed a National Letter-of-Intent to play baseball for Northwest Nazarene University.

Daylong (R/R, 6-1, 185, Emmett, ID) is currently hitting .390 with 14 doubles, three triples, has stolen nine bases, and is slugging .667 through 20 games at Emmett High School this spring.

"Tanner is a great signing for us," NNU coach Tim Onofrei said. "He is a strong and physical kid that has great versatility and we are obviously expecting really good things from Tanner."

Daylong was a first-team 4A All-Southern Idaho Conference performer as a junior in high school and is rated 16th by Baseball Northwest regarding prospects in the Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming 2010 recruiting class.

Skyview's Sam Cook Signs With Crusaders (4/21/10)

Sam Cook, from Nampa's Skyview High School, has signed a National Letter-of-Intent to attend Northwest Nazarene, and play baseball for the Crusaders.

Cook (3B, R/L, 6-2, 195, Nampa, ID), a three-sport athlete at Skyview, is currently hitting .387 with five doubles, 15 RBI, and a .537 slugging percentage through 18 games of his senior season.

"We are excited to have Sam join our program," Onofrei commented. "He is a young third baseman that has the potential to be an excellent Division II ballplayer."

As a junior, Cook was named to the 4A All-Southern Idaho Conference baseball second team and was selected to play in the Idaho All-Star Showcase game. He hit .385 with 23 RBI's, 5 doubles and 3 home runs as a junior.

Last fall on the gridiron Cook averaged 296 yards passing per game, threw for 24 touchdowns, finished with 2,669 yards passing, and was named to the first-team 4A All-Southern Idaho Conference all-star team at quarterback.

2010 Baseball Recruits

Central Washington

Wildcats Sign Two Infielders For 2010 (12/11/08)

Two infielders - first baseman Trevor Brain of Pasco, Wash., and infielder Sean Murphy of Bothell, Wash. and Woodinville High School - have signed baseball national letters of intent in the early signing period with Central Washington University.

"We have never been able to get early commitments, so this should be a real plus for us," CWU baseball coach Desi Storey said. "Both players are real athletic and they play positions we will specifically need for the 2010 season, so they address specific needs that we will have."

Brain has starred at Pasco High School for the past two seasons and also with the Pasco Sun Devils' summer baseball program. At 6-foot-3, 192 pounds, he hit four home runs in 77 official at-bats as a junior for the Bulldogs last spring to earn second team all-Columbia Basin Big Nine League honors. He then blasted nine round trippers and drove in 76 runs in 150 summer at-bats with the Sun Devils in 2008.

"Trevor has lots of power potential and can absolutely launch the baseball," Storey explained. "We feel that he has the potential to put up home run numbers that would challenge our school record."

Murphy has starred at Woodinville High School the past two seasons, earning second team all-KingCo 4A honors as a junior third baseman in 2008. He batted .431 with 16 runs batted in and committed just three errors defensively for the Falcons this past spring.

"Sean reminds our coaching staff of (former CWU infielder) Gordon Chubb," Storey said. "He has a great approach, is very aggressive with a strong arm, and has the same type of character."

"Both Trevor and Sean fit well into our offensive philosophy in that they hit well and are athletic. They should provide a good mesh for our program immediately."

With these two additions on the infield during the early signing period, Storey expects to focus his recruiting on pitchers and perhaps an outfielder or two in the late signing period in the spring.

Montana State Billings

Yellowjackets Sign Six More to 2010 Recruiting Class (8/17/09)

Six more players - Jordan Kessler, Blake Nelson, Ryan Pollock, Andrew Sanchez, Jacob Vulk and Kevin Zukaitis - have signed with Montana State Billings for the 2010 baseball season.

"This group of guys almost completes our recruiting class this year and we couldn't be happier," MSUB coach Chris Brown said. "We have addressed all the areas we needed to as well as adding depth and experience at every position. We have also been able to balance out our roster from top to bottom which was a priority."

Kessler joins fellow 2010 recruit, Jonathon Crews, from Northeastern Junior College in Sterling, Colo. There, Kessler hit .283 with two doubles, one triple, 11 RBI in 99 at bats with 28 hits as a sophomore. As a freshman he hit .263.

The Broomfield, Colo., native, lettered in baseball for three years as he was named all-conference as a senior at second base. He also was a team captain and earned the Eagle Award as a senior. He hit .426 as a senior with 12 doubles, two triples, one home run and 11 RBI.

Nelson, a Vancouver, Wash., native, played the last two years at Tacoma Community College. He tallied 16 RBIs with one home run in 124 at bats in his junior college career. Nelson prepped at Skyview High School where he lettered for three years in baseball. He hit .404 as a senior with three home runs, 17 RBI and nine stolen bases.

He was named GSHL first team all-league catcher in 2007 and was the team Defensive MVP, as well as team captain in 2006-07.

Pollock, a native of Butte, Mont., played two years at Miles Community College where he was an all-conference selection and a third team All-America selection as a pitcher. He played legion baseball for the Butte Minors where he helped lead his team to a third place finish at state in 2006. Pollock also lettered two years in football and basketball at Butte High School.

Sanchez, a Riverton, Utah, native also played at Miles Community College where he pitched 30 innings, with a 3.30 ERA and a 2-0 record as a sophomore. He tallied 16 strikeouts in 13 games for the Pioneers last season.

Sanchez prepped at Riverton High School where he was named to the 5A All-Stars Team in 2007 and was the Riverton Player of the Year. He helped lead the team to a fourth place finish at state and batted .453 as a senior.

Helena, native, Vulk, returns to Montana after two years of junior college baseball at two different schools. Vulk played one year at Western Nebraska Community College in Scottsbluff, Neb., and one year at Chandler Gilbert Community College in Chandler, Ariz.

Vulk tallied a 1-1 record in 15 appearances with one start at CGCC this past season. He pitched 28.2 innings with 17 strikeouts.

Truman State transfer, Zukaitis, started 36 games and appeared in 12 games as a relief pitcher as a freshman for the Bulldogs. He tallied 11 strikeouts and batted .287 with 35 hits and was fourth on the team with 20 RBIs. As a sophomore he appeared in eight games with eight strikeouts in 11 innings. He played in 40 games with 34 starts with 24 hits, four doubles and 13 RBI.

Zakaitis prepped at Burke High School in Omaha, Neb., where he played first base, designated hitter and pitcher. He was a two-year starter in football and helped lead his team to state in baseball in 2006. He also played four years of legion baseball.

Bozeman Native to Play for Yellowjackets (8/14/09)

Andrew Ballinger, who played four years of basketball at Bozeman High School where he was the 2008-09 Defensive Player of the Year and earned the Hustle Award, is among four players who have signed to play baseball this spring for Montana State Billings.

Ballinger hit .402 with 54 RBIs and an on base percentage of .470 as a senior catcher for the Bozeman Bucks Legion team. He helped lead his team to first in the Eastern Conference in 2009 and a second place finish at state in 2008-09.

“We are excited to have Andy join the Yellowjacket Baseball family,” Brown added. He is an interesting talent in that he was primarily a back-up his first two years of legion baseball and wasn't the starter until this year. Over the course of the summer he developed tremendously and is just starting to tap into his potential as a player. We are looking for big things from him in the future.”

Jaret Chatwood, a third baseman/utility from Red Deer, Alberta, played his past two years at Colby Community College in Colby, Kansas, where he hit .400 with two home runs and was named honorable mention all-conference. Chatwood prepped at Innisfail High School in Innisfail, Alberta, and graduated in 2007.

Kyle Gieselman is a well-traveled pitcher who played baseball in both Arizona and Wyoming in high school and played one year at Eastern Arizona College where he had 1.82 strikeout to inning ratio this past season.

Gieselman graduated from Higley High School in Gilbert, Ariz., where he was a second team all-region pitcher in 2008 and a first team all-conference outfielder. He had an 8-3 record with a 2.03 ERA in 73.2 innings. He fanned 48 and had just 16 walks. From the plate, he hit .288 with five doubles, two triples, eight walks and three stolen bases. In Wyoming, Gieselman played for the Sheridan Troopers and was a two-time all-state selection.

San Luis Obispo, Calif., native, Brian Hutchings played one year at Southern Virginia University and then went on his LDS mission for the past two years. Hutchings graduated high school from San Luis Obispo High School in 2006. He earned the Coach Award as a freshman in 2004, the Hustle Award in 2005 and was named team Most Valuable Player in 2006. He helped lead his team to state in 2006.

Four Players Sign With Yellowjackets For 2010 Season (7/16/09)

David Bledsoe, Jonathon Crews, Shawn Griffith and Connor Schultz have signed to play baseball next spring with Montana State University Billings.

“As a whole, we are very happy with this group of recruits and know that they will all play an integral part in our program,” MSUB coach Chris Brown said. “They are all strong students that also excel on the field. We look forward to having them join our program and making positive contributions on and off the field.”

Bledsoe, a native of Ridgway, Colo., prepped at Sheridan High School in Sheridan, Wyo. He was captain of the baseball team his junior and senior years playing pitcher and shortstop. He had a .315 batting average to go along with a .920 fielding percentage and a 4-2 record on the mound.

“David is a scrappy player that finds a way to get it done,” Brown said. “Nothing about him makes you say “Wow”, but at the end of the day, he's made all the routine plays along with a few highlight plays and he finds a way to get on base. He is smooth defensively, runs well, and puts the ball in play with a little pop. He is a good student that works hard in the classroom and on the field.”

Crews, a native of Cedaredge, Colo., played his past two years at Northeastern Junior College in Sterling, Colo. There, he helped lead his team to the Region IX championship and came within two games of the Junior College World Series. Crews hit .351 in 41 games with three doubles, two triples and 16 RBI.

Prior to Northeastern Junior College, Crews prepped at Cedaredge High School where he was an all-conference selection in 2006 and 2007 and catcher and shortstop, respectively.

"Jonathon is a hard-nosed kid that is athletic and has the ability to play multiple positions," Brown added. "He was part of a very successful program at NJC and was an integral part of that success. He plays the game the right way and is a driven individual."

Griffith, a native of Missoula, Mont., attended Sentinel High School where he was Academic all-state in track and football. He lettered four years in football and one in track and played American Legion baseball for the Missoula Mavericks where he tallied a 5-2 record with a 3.13 ERA in 2008. Griffith helped lead the Mavericks to a first place finish in the division in 2007 and a second place finish in 2008.

"Shawn is an intriguing prospect in that he has the physical tools to succeed at this level and is just starting to grow into his body," said Brown. "He is still pretty raw and has some room to grow as a player. He has been a part of a winning legion program and knows what it takes to succeed on the field and in the classroom."

Schultz hails from Belgrade, Mont., where he hit .307 with 31 RBI and one home run for Bozeman in 2008. He also had a .977 fielding percentage and went 14 of 15 in stolen bases. He was the Defensive Most Valuable Player in 2008 and was named a team captain for 2009.

Academically, Schultz was an Academic all-state golfer in 2006 and 2007 and had a 3.95 GPA ranking him fifth out of 196 in his class. He also earned the MSUB Chancellor's Scholarship and the Gallatin Valley Lions Club (Scott McDonald Scholarship).

"Connor is a very athletic kid that also excels in the classroom," Brown said. "He is a big, strong kid that has a great work ethic and is a proven leader. Connor has a world of potential and we look forward to him fulfilling that potential here at MSUB."

MSUB Signs First Baseman From Kansas JC (11/25/08)

Dustin Noraker, a first baseman from Garden City Community College in Garden City, Kans., has signed a national letter of intent to play baseball in 2010 at Montana State University Billings.

"Dusty is a big, strong, athletic player that will add some "pop" to the lineup from the left side," MSUB coach Chris Brown said. "He has had success at every level and has done well playing in the ultra-competitive Jayhawk Community College League (Kansas), which is one of the best JC leagues in the country."

Noraker grew up in Bozeman, Mont., but attended high school at Cherokee Trail in Aurora, Colo., where he helped lead his team to a state championship in 2007. He was honorable mention all-state as a junior and earned second team all-state honors as a senior, as well as second team all-conference and first team all-city. He hit .315 with two home runs, eight doubles and one triple.

In addition to a state championship in 2007, Cherokee Trail were conference champions in 2006 and 2007 as well as district champs and regional champs both years.

"He is a hard working student and athlete that brings a lot of intangibles to the table," Brown added. "Dusty is a "lunch box" guy that comes to work and play hard every day. He will also bring great pride, passion, toughness, and purpose to our team on the field, in the classroom, and in the locker room. We will look for him to step in and contribute on and off the field right away."

Northwest Nazarene

NNU Baseball signs Seton Hall Transfer Jesse Gwaltney (8/3/09)

Seton Hall transfer Jesse Gwaltney has signed a letter of commitment to attend Northwest Nazarene and play baseball for the Crusaders this coming season.

Gwaltney (Jr., 5-10, 175, Battle Ground, WA) played two seasons at Seton Hall in South Orange, NJ. As a sophomore at Seton Hall during the 2008 season, Gwaltney had 24 appearances with 49.1 innings pitched, posting a 3.47 E.R.A..

"Jesse is a polished pitcher who throws four pitches for strikes," NNU coach Onofrei commented. "He has already had success at a high level and his maturity and leadership will be huge for our club. We are very excited to have Jesse at NNU."

Gwaltney is originally from the Northwest, having graduated from Battle Ground High School in 2006.

Crusaders Sign Catcher From Oregon (4/28/09)

Jackson Wilde, a catcher from McNary High School in Keizer, Ore., has signed a National Letter of Intent to attend Northwest Nazarene University and play baseball for the Crusaders.

Jackson was a first-team All-Central Valley Conference selection and an honorable-mention Oregon 6A all-state team member last season as a junior.

"Jackson is an intelligent ballplayer who understands the game," NNU coach Tim Onofrei said. "As a

catcher, he receives it very well and at the plate he will be a guy who hits for both average and power."

Wilde is currently ranked as the 16th-highest prospect in the state of Oregon by Baseball Northwest. As a student, Jackson carries a 3.91 G.P.A. Jackson plans on majoring in Pre-Physical Therapy and Kinesiology.

Crusaders Add Player From Twin Falls (12/3/08)

Zeb Sneed has signed a National Letter-of-Intent to attend Northwest Nazarene University and play baseball for the Crusaders.

"Zeb is the type of kid that you can get real excited about," NNU coach Tim Onofrei said. "He's versatile in that he can play the outfield, first base and he can pitch. Physically, he has all the tools to be a dominate force at multiple positions for us. We are very pleased that Zeb has chosen to come to NNU."

A 6-4, 175 pound senior from Twin Falls High School (Idaho), Sneed was a first-team High Country Conference all-star outfielder for the Bruins as a junior. He is planning on majoring in Pre-Optometry at NNU.

Western Oregon

Wolves Sign Two Players To Early Letters (12/12/08)

Gavin Hite and Cody White have signed national letters of intent to play baseball for Western Oregon University.

Hite, a right handed pitcher and outfielder from Bellarmine Prep High School in Tacoma, Wash., is a three-year varsity starter and helped Bellarmine finish the 2008 season with an 18-5 record as he was named to the All-Narrows League second team (4A).

"Hite is a two position player with big upside on the mound," said coach Robbins. "He is a good mentality guy and a quality young man which we can build this program around."

White will join the Wolves as a left handed hitting outfielder out of Clovis High School in Clovis, Calif. As a junior he helped lead CHS to a 24-8 record and a first place finish in the Tri-River Athletic Conference. The Cougars went on to place second in the Central Section as White earned second team All-TRAC and honorable mention All-Valley.

"Signing in the early period was a plus because now I can focus on my senior year instead of being uncertain about my future," explained White. "I was very pleased with the offer I received, especially since I am the first in my family to receive an athletic scholarship. I am looking forward to spending my next four years at Western Oregon University ."

"White played in a very competitive summer league and we are excited to have him sign with our program," said Robbins. "He runs well and throws well and will be a foundation of this team in the future."

"Both of these players should have an immediate impact at Western Oregon," Robbins added. "Hite and White are both quality students and athletes which we are excited to have as part of this program."

2009 Baseball Recruits

Central Washington

Wildcats Sign Four to National Letters of Intent (6/10/08)

Central Washington head coach Desi Storey has signed four right-handed pitchers to National Letters of Intent. Joining the Wildcats for the 2009 season are Richie Carmichael, Jordan Dallas, Ryan Graves and Justin Reed .

Carmichael (La Grande, Ore.) and Reed (Federal Way, Wash. /Decatur HS) will be true freshmen, while Dallas (Finley, Wash. /River View HS/Columbia Basin College) and Graves (Puyallup, Wash./Lower Columbia College) are both junior college transfers. Graves will have three years of eligibility remaining, while Dallas will have two years left.

In addition to his pitching abilities, Carmichael (6-0, 170) is also a middle infielder who is expected to fill a role on the Wildcats similar to that of current CWU player Kevin Walkenhauer. Carmichael, who was class valedictorian with a 4.00 grade-point average at La Grande High School in Oregon , was the Greater Oregon League Pitcher of the Year.

"Richie is an athlete similar to Kevin (Walkenhauer)," Storey said. "He can hit, play up the middle, and can pitch. We're hoping he can fill a dual role for us. He has great arm strength, and if he can come in and have success, that will open some doors for us to be able to recruit in the state of Oregon ."

By joining the Wildcats, Carmichael will be the first player from the state of Oregon to play for the Crimson and Black since left-handed pitcher Kevin Jamison, a native of Woodburn , Ore. , played for CWU in 2001.

Dallas (6-1, 195) prepped at River View High School in Finley, Wash. , graduating in 2006. He played the past two seasons at Columbia Basin College. As a sophomore this past season, Dallas posted a 1-1 record and 4.09 earned-run average in 33 innings of work for the Hawks. He finished his two-year career at CBC with a 2-1 record and 3.60 ERA in 50 innings.

"Jordan was one of the first pitchers we pursued," Storey proclaimed. "We want him to come in and take one of the starting spots we lose. He didn't throw as much at CBC this year as we thought he would, but he is capable of being a number one starter at the Division II level."

Graves (6-0, 205) will be just a sophomore when he suits up for the Wildcats in 2009. The former Puyallup High School standout was a redshirt at Washington State University before starring at Lower Columbia

College this past spring. For the Red Devils, he posted a 0-1 record.

"Ryan has good arm strength and size," Storey said. "Like Jordan (Dallas), he didn't throw as much as we thought he would this past season, but he has a tremendous upside."

Reed (6-5, 235), like Carmichael , will be a true freshman for the Wildcats. The Decatur High School product was an honorable mention all-South Puget Sound League 4A North selection as a senior this past season. Included among Reed's top performances this were a seven-strikeout, three-hit outing against league-leading Tahoma High School . He also had a 15-strikeout outing as a sophomore against Bethel .

"Justin's a big, physical kid," Storey explained. "He can already throw in the upper-80s, and if he continues to mature, he could very easily be in our (starting) rotation next year. He has great arm strength, and with his upside, Justin could be a pro prospect in a couple of years."

"All four of these guys are pitchers, which is something we have been trying to secure for next year," Storey continued. "We feel that all four can come in and be major contributors on the mound, and with Richie's (Carmichael) ability to hit and play the middle infield, he can provide a dual role for us."

Montana State Billings

Four More Sign To Play Baseball for Yellowjackets (7/24/08)

Joel Barnett, Jesse Finley, Charlie Johnson and Bryce Thompson are the latest players to sign letters of intent with Montana State University Billings.

Barnett, a native of Belgrade, Mont., can either pitch or play in the infield. He went to Belgrade High School and played legion baseball for the Belgrade Bandits. In addition, he played for the Big Sky Baseball where helped lead his team to the Far West Classic championship in 2007 and was named Defensive Most Valuable Player in 2008.

Finley, a Billings native, earned the Frederick J. Urbaska Baseball Scholarship which is awarded to a Billings Legion player. Finley went to West High School and played for the Billings Scarlets legion team. Finley had a .361 average last season with one home run and 35 RBI while playing third base. He had 13 extra-base hits, including 10 doubles.

Johnson also played at West High School where he played legion baseball for the Billings Lobos. During the 2008 season, Johnson batted .450 with 53 RBIs and eight home runs which is the most home runs in a season for the Lobos.

He was named Offensive Most Valuable Player of the Belgrade Firecracker Tournament in 2007 and earned the Golden Glove Award that same year at the hot corner. In 2008, Johnson was named to the Cody All-Tournament team as well.

Thompson, a Great Falls, Mont., native, played football at Great Falls High School where he was a three-year letterwinner and was a first team all-state selection in 2007. In baseball, Thompson batted .412 with 65 RBIs and 20 extra-base hits this summer for his legion team. In 2006, he helped lead his team to a third place finish at state.

Yellowjackets Add Three Baseball Recruits (7/23/08)

Three more players have signed national letters of intent to play baseball for Montana State University Billings. They include Ryan Dennehy, Brian Dukart and Jordan Lundberg. Earlier this summer Andrew Venum, a pitcher out of Spokane, Wash., and West Valley High School, signed.

Dennehy, a native of Butte, Mont., played outfield at Miles City Community College where he had a .397 batting average last season and belted in 53 RBIs. Prior to Miles City, Dennehy played for the Butte Muckers/Miners in legion baseball. Dennehy helped lead Miles City to the Region 9 championship and qualified for district in 2008.

In high school, he ran track and played football as well. Dennehy was a first team all-conference and second team all-state defensive back and was a member of the 4X100 relay team that won a state championship.

"Ryan is a big, strong kid that has quite a bit of "pop" in his bat," MSUB coach Chris Brown said. "He also is a strong student, that works very hard in the classroom, on the field, and in the weight room. We look for him to immediately compete for a starting position and make significant contributions on and off the field."

Dukart, a native of Billings and West High School, played in the infield his last two years at Miles City as well. He played legion baseball for the Billings Scarlets and won the state championship in 2006. Last season at Miles City, Dukart helped lead the Pioneers to a 39-18-1 record and was third on the team in average at a .341 clip. He had 62 hits and 42 RBIs.

"We are thrilled to have Brian join the Yellowjacket baseball program," Brown said. "He is a good student and his intelligence is evident in the way the he plays the game. He is a "dirtbag" on the field, which we love. He plays with an intensity and desire that is impossible to teach, and that rubs off on everyone. He is a gamer that leaves it all between the lines."

Lundberg, a right-handed pitcher and a native of Trego, Mont., played the last two years at Grays Harbor Community College in Grays Harbor, Wash., where he pitched 62 1/3 innings, with 26 strikeouts and a 2.45 ERA.

"Jordan will contribute immediately on the mound for us," Brown said. "He has had success at Grays Harbor in the always tough NWAACC and we look for him to continue that here. He will compete for a weekend spot in the rotation and will give us depth and experience on the mound as well."

Yellowjackets Sign Player From Spokane's West Valley (6/6/08)

Andy Venum, from West Valley High School in Spokane, Wash., has elected to enroll at Montana State University Billings where he will participate in the baseball program.

"We are extremely excited to have Andy join the Yellowjacket baseball family," MSUB coach Chris Brown said. "He is a very good student that has a tremendous work ethic in the classroom as well as on and off the field."

"Andy has had a lot of success at the high school and legion level and we anticipate that to continue here. He brings a lot to the table and has just started to realize his true potential. We project Andy competing for playing time immediately in the outfield and on the mound."

Venum was a first team all-league pitcher as a junior and was named league Most Valuable Player his senior year at West Valley. During his senior season, he had a 7-1 record and a 1.2 ERA. In addition, he hit six home runs and batted .650 leading his team to district and regional championships.

Northwest Nazarene

Five Sign In Early Period With Crusaders (11/21/07)

Five players, including three local freshmen, have signed National Letters of Intent to attend Northwest Nazarene and play baseball for the Crusaders.

The local products are Nathan Bobrowski (Jerome, ID), Sean McDonald (Boise, ID) and Charles Pollock (Boise, ID). Also signing were Boone Farrington from Roseburg, Ore., and Treasure Valley transfer Michael Hobgood (Mountain Home, ID)

Bobrowski (6-2, 175) is a shortstop who is ranked 13th in the 2008 class of Idaho/Montana baseball players as chosen by Baseball Northwest.

On pace to become the valedictorian for the Jerome High School 2008 senior class, he is the team captain

of the Tigers after being awarded first-team all-Great Basin Conference (4A) honors, second-team all area, and becoming a member of Team Idaho and the Baseball Northwest all-tournament team during the 2007 high school and summer seasons. Nate was recently named to the 2008 Under Armor Pre-Season High School All-American team.

McDonald (5-9, 155) is an outfielder and right handed pitcher from Boise High School who was ranked 32nd in the 2008 class of Idaho/Montana baseball players, chosen by Baseball Northwest.

Named the Boise High School outstanding hitter and outstanding pitcher for the 2007 season, he was also named the Boise High Most Valuable Player for 2005, 2006 and 2007. A first-team all-Southern Idaho Conference (5A) outfielder, he was also named to the all-tournament team at the Eugene Invitational, MVP of the James A. Dodge Invitational tournament, and was a member of Team Idaho during the summer season.

Pollock (6-1, 180) is a left-handed pitcher from Boise High School and Hobgood is a right-handed pitcher from Treasure Valley Community College, where he posted a 7-3 record with one save, an era of 2.50 and a 73-26 strikeout to walk ratio.

Farrington (5-9, 150) is a middle infielder. Expected to be the valedictorian of Roseburg High School this spring, he is a member of the National Honor Society, National Honor Roll and was a first-team all-Southwest Conference (6A) pick in 2007, a second-team all-SWC pick as a sophomore in 2006 and is Baseball Northwest's 27th-ranked player in the state of Oregon.

Western Oregon

Another McCarthy To Play Baseball at Western Oregon (11/15/07)

Crescent Valley High School senior Thomas McCarthy has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball at Western Oregon University in 2009. McCarthy signed on the first day allowed per NCAA rules.

If the name sounds familiar to Western Oregon fans, it's for good reason. Thomas' brother Greg McCarthy was a four-year starter at WOU leaving the program in 2005 as the Wolves' all-time RBI and doubles leader.

Greg was the Great Northwest Athletic Conference Player of the Year in '05, and was a first-team NCAA Division II all-west region selection. He went on to play two seasons in the San Francisco Giants organization.

Thomas earned first team All-Mid Valley Conference honors in 2007 as a junior (utility). He also was a honorable mention all-state (5A) pick. He hit .441 and drove in 20 runs at Crescent Valley.

Last summer, the 6-2, 190-pounder hit .314 for Richey's Market in Corvallis and drove in 32 runs. He also stars for the CVHS hoops team, earning honorable mention All-MVC honors last winter.

"Thomas is a great addition for us," said Wolves head coach Jeremiah Robbins. "He has a chance to be the kind of hitter that Greg was during his career here."

2008 Baseball Recruits

Montana State-Billings

MSUB Adds Pair of Pitchers (8/6/07)

Pitchers Brian Howe of Whitefish and Andy Barham of Bozeman will join Montana State University Billings' baseball team this fall for the 2008 season.

Howe is a 5-foot-9 lefty who split time between Whitefish and California. He graduated from Valencia High School in Valencia, Calif., in 2006 and did not attend college last year. Howe earned all-conference and all-state honors at Valencia and also played for the Lake Havasu All-Stars.

"We are extremely excited about the addition of Brian," said Brown. "He gives us another lefty and is a guy who will compete for a weekend spot in the rotation. He is definitely a guy that will be an impact player on and off the field."

"He is a strong student, is passionate about baseball, and is a good person. We expect Brian to be an inning eater as well as a guy that gives us a chance to win every time he gets the ball. He has a bulldog mentality on the mound and expects to succeed every time he steps on the field."

Barham is a 6-foot-4 right handed pitcher who graduated in 2005 from Bozeman High School and played two years at Columbia Basin College. He was an all-state tight end for the Hawks' football team and played Legion baseball for the Bozeman Bucks.

At Columbia Basin, Barham pitched 22 1/3 innings of relief last year with a 4.03 ERA. As a freshman he pitched 15 1/3 innings with a 1.76 ERA.

"Andy is guy that we went after out of high school, so we have been keeping an eye on him for the last two years," Brown said. "He had an outstanding career as a Buck and followed it up with a solid career at CBC. We look for him to continue that success here at MSUB."

"He is a big, strong, athletic kid that will give us a power arm on the mound as well as depth in the outfield. Andy is a hard working guy that has had success at every level, and we expect his work ethic and attitude to be contagious on and off the field."

Montana Products Sign With Yellowjackets (7/30/07)

Three more Montana players will join Montana State Billings for the 2008 baseball season. Stefon Malkuch of Kalispell will transfer from Spokane Falls Community College, Jonathan Schlender of Bozeman will transfer from Columbia Basin Community

College and Dustin Lind of Florence will be a true freshman.

Malkuch, a 6-foot-1 outfielder and relief pitcher, graduated from Flathead High School in 2005. He played two seasons at Spokane Falls CC, one as an outfielder and one as a pitcher. As a freshman he batted .301 and was named the team's most improved player. As a sophomore, Malkuch earned five wins and six saves as a relief pitcher and batted .227.

"Stefan's addition gives us a versatile guy that is capable of playing anywhere in the outfield as well as a strong arm on the mound," said MSUB coach Chris Brown.

"He will provide us with experience and depth in the outfield, at the plate, and on the mound. He is a hard working guy that brings his lunch box to work everyday, and that mentality will be a positive influence on and off the field. He had a successful two-year career at Spokane Falls CC, and we look for him to continue that success here."

Schlender is a 6-foot-2 outfielder who graduated from Bozeman High School in 2004. He played two seasons at Columbia Basin CC. As a sophomore, Schlender batted .329 and was named first team all-conference and second team All-NWAAC. He also led Columbia Basin with 18 doubles.

"The addition of Jonathan gives us an experienced player that will make an immediate impact on and off the field," Brown said. "He is a mature young man that is driven in the classroom, in the weight room, and on the field. Jonathan is a very talented player that hits for average and power, plays solid defense, runs the bases very well, and is a five-tool guy. We look for him to anchor the outfield and be a presence in the middle of the lineup. He is guy that you go to the ballpark to watch, and he can be a difference maker day in and day out."

Lind, a 5-foot-11 outfielder, graduated from Florence Carlton High School this past spring. He lettered twice in football and twice in basketball at Florence. As a junior last year for the Bitterroot Bucs Legion team, Lind batted .401 with 53 RBIs. The Bucs were district, state, and regional champions in 2006, and Lind was named the Northwest Regional MVP.

"We are excited to have Dustin choose MSUB and Yellowjacket baseball," said Brown. "He is a talented young man that has a very high ceiling. He is a very good student that plays the game intelligently."

"Dustin has had an accomplished Legion career for a very good program. We look for him to continue his success in the classroom and on the field and know he will be a valuable member of the Yellowjacket baseball program."

Pryor Transfers From Miles (7/26/07)

Infielder Cole Pryor will transfer from Miles Community College to play baseball next spring for Montana State University Billings. Pryor is the younger brother of former Yellowjacket shortstop Kyle Pryor, who established school records for runs, hits, walks, stolen bases, defensive assists, games played, and games started in his two seasons at MSUB.

"We are extremely excited to have Cole join the Yellowjacket baseball program," said coach Chris Brown. "Not only is he an outstanding talent on the field, but he is an outstanding student, person, and leader.

"Cole brings all the intangibles to the table; he has a "moxie" about him that has made him successful at everything he does. We look for Cole to make an immediate impact on and off the field as well as from a leadership standpoint.

"He is a catalyst-type player that gives us a table setter at the top of the line up. He has a knack for finding a way to get on base, scoring runs, and finding ways to win. Defensively, he can pick it and throw as well as anyone we have. Cole will be a guy that people want to go the ballpark to watch play."

Pryor graduated from Billings West High School in 2005. He was a four-year letterman in wrestling for the Golden Bears and played Legion baseball for the Billings Scarlets. In Pryor's four years, the Scarlets had two second, one third, and one fourth place finish at the state tournament.

At Miles CC, Pryor had a record-setting two-year career. He set both single season and career records for runs scored. His 60 runs this past season made him the first player in Pioneer history to score over 100 runs in a career with 104. Pryor also set school records for walks (41) and triples (6) in 2007 as he helped lead the Pioneers to the National Junior College World Series. For his sophomore season, Pryor was named all-conference, all-region, and Mon-Dak Conference MVP.

Three More Sign With Yellowjackets (7/16/07)

Three more recruits have committed to play baseball this spring for Montana State Billings. Nate Enslow of Anchorage, Alaska, and Tyler Nelson of Helper, Utah, will transfer to MSUB as juniors, and Jordan McKamey of Worland, Wyo., will be a freshman.

Enslow is a 6-foot-1 outfielder who played two years at University of Charleston (W.Va.). He batted .333 as a freshman but appeared in just two games in 2007. Enslow graduated in 2005 from Robert Service High School in Anchorage. He was an all-city first team selection as a junior and senior.

"We are excited to have Nate join our program," said MSUB coach Chris Brown. "He is a talented player and a solid student that has a strong desire to succeed on and off the field. We look for him to immediately add depth and experience to the outfield. He is strong defensively, runs well, and is an on-base guy at the plate. Nate is a hard worker that will be a positive addition to our baseball program, athletic department, and university."

Nelson is a 6-foot-3 outfielder who played two years at College of Eastern Utah. As a sophomore last season he batted .282 in 40 games to earn Scenic West Athletic Conference all-conference honors. A 2005 graduate of Carbon High School in Price, Utah, Nelson was a first-team all-state centerfielder.

"The addition of Tyler will help us immediately," said Brown. "He is a talented player that has had success at every level. He is a hard-working guy that is extremely motivated on the field and in the classroom. He played at a good junior college in a very strong conference and was an all-conference performer. We are looking for him to be able to step right in and contribute from day one."

McKamey is a 5-foot-11 designated hitter who graduated from Worland High School last spring. He has batted over .400 in each of the last two Legion seasons, smacking 11 home runs in 2005 and 13 in 2006. Through July 2 of the current season, McKamey was batting .450 with six home runs and a .550 slugging percentage.

"Jordan is a big, strong kid with natural power," said Brown. "He is a raw talent that we look forward to developing over the next four years. He has the natural power that you can't teach but needs to refine his swing and become more consistent. He is a good all-around athlete, and that ability should help him bring his game to the next level."

Yellowjackets Add Player from Eastern Utah (6/27/07)

Joe Via will transfer from College of Eastern Utah to play baseball next spring for Montana State Billings.

Via is a native of Helper, Utah, and graduated in 2005 from Carbon High School in Price, Utah. He spent one season at Kansas City Community College and one season at College of Eastern Utah.

"The addition of Joe gives us experience and depth behind the dish, at both corners, and at the plate," said MSUB coach Chris Brown. "He is a versatile player that will be able to contribute with his ability as an all-around baseball player.

"Joe is a very good person that is driven to succeed on and off the field. He is what we like to call a "dirtbag" in that he is always hustling, sacrificing his body, and

doing anything is takes to win all the while never keeping his uniform clean. We are excited to have him join our program and know that he will make a positive impact on and off the field.”

In high school Via was a two-time all-state catcher. As a senior he batted .487 with 35 RBIs, helping his team to regional and state titles and earning 3A State MVP honors. In 41 games at Eastern Utah last season, Via batted .254 with 13 RBIs and nine runs scored.

Yellowjackets Add Player From Columbia Falls (6/21/07)

Josh Peterson of Columbia Falls, Mont., has signed a letter of intent to play baseball for Montana State University Billings. Peterson is a 2006 graduate of Columbia Falls High School and is currently playing for the Glacier Twins legion program.

“We are excited to have Josh join our program,” said MSUB coach Chris Brown. “He is a strong athletic kid that is raw talent. He will be interesting to watch develop over the next four years. Josh is a solid student that is very motivated to succeed in the classroom and on the field. He has been a leader on his athletic teams and I have no doubt he will bring those intangibles to Yellowjacket baseball as well.”

Peterson attended Flathead Valley Community College for one year and will have four seasons of eligibility remaining. Last year for the Glacier Twins he batted .381 with 25 RBIs and 30 runs. He pitched 92 innings with a 3.73 ERA in 35 appearances as a relief pitcher. Peterson was a two-time team MVP of his legion team as a 15- and 16-year old. He also lettered in football and wrestling at Columbia Falls.

Yellowjackets Sign Junior College Catcher (6/22/07)

Steven Larson, a 6-foot-1 catcher, will transfer from Miles Community College to play baseball for Montana State University Billings. The Ronan, Mont. , native played two seasons for the Pioneers.

“We are very excited to have Steven join our program,” said MSUB coach Chris Brown. “He is a very gifted defensive player with a strong arm and a good feel for the game. At the plate he has developed into a solid, disciplined hitter that puts the ball in play and has the ability to drive the ball gap to gap.

“Steven is a leader on and off the field. He is a solid student that will make an immediate impact in our program at practice, in the classroom, and on the field.”

Larson started 48 games for the Pioneers this season, helping them reach the NJCAA Division II World Series. He batted .288 in 146 at bats and was third on

the team with 39 RBIs. Larson had a .974 fielding percentage and threw out 13 of 35 base runners.

Larson will be vying for the catching spot vacated by graduated senior Jake Samuelson. Samuelson, who also came to MSUB from Miles Community College , has been the Jackets' regular catcher for the program's first two seasons. The team captain and leader, Samuelson batted .302 in 86 games over the last two seasons.

Yellowjackets Sign Recruit From Alaska (6/8/07)

Ryan Skillern, a 6-3 outfielder from Anchorage, Alaska , will play will play baseball next season at Montana State University Billings. Skillern is a 6-foot-3 outfielder who graduated from South Anchorage High School in May.

“We are very excited to add Ryan as a member of our program,” said MSUB coach Chris Brown. “He is a solid student that is motivated in the classroom and on the field. He is a big, strong, athletic player that has a very high ceiling. We look forward to helping him develop to his full potential. He should be an exciting player to watch in the years to come.”

Skillern was a four-sport letter winner at South Anchorage where he competed in baseball, football, tennis, and track. He played America Legion baseball for four years. Last season he batted .368 with 40 RBIs. He was an all-conference and all-district selection as an American Legion player in 2006 and an all-district choice in 2005.

Yellowjackets Sign Four Montana Products (5/3/07)

Four Montana prep products have signed to play baseball for Montana State University - Billings next season. Joining the Jackets for their third season and inaugural year in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference will be Triston Spehar, Jeff Ridgeway, Nick Rupert and Levi Johnson.

Spehar is a left handed pitcher from Anaconda. He will graduate from Anaconda High School where he lettered in football, basketball, track, and wrestling. He was an all-conference selection in wrestling, basketball, and football. Last year he posted a 2.10 ERA with 113 strikeouts for the Anaconda Legion team.

“We are excited to have Triston choose MSUB and the Yellowjacket Baseball Program,” said MSUB coach Chris Brown. “He is a highly motivated student that will be a positive addition in the classroom, the locker room, and on the field,” Brown said.

“Triston has had an outstanding Legion career as well as distinguishing himself in football, basketball, and wrestling. He is a talented young pitcher that will help

add balance and depth to our pitching staff. We look forward to helping him develop to his full potential as a student and an athlete.”

Ridgeway is an outfielder from Billings .He graduated from Billings West High School in 2006 and attended College of Southern Idaho for one semester. Ridgeway lettered in football at Billings West and played Legion baseball for the Billings Scarlets. In his last season with the Scarlets he batted .342 with eight home runs and 12 triples. Ridgeway will have four years of eligibility remaining.

“Jeff is an outstanding athlete that we are thrilled to have join our program,” said Brown. “He adds a big, strong left handed bat with pop and can run very well. We look for him to contribute immediately and be an impact player for the next four years. He has the ability to hit the ball out of the park, but also to hit for average and stretch the defense with his speed. Jeff is a strong student that brings a very good work ethic every day in the classroom and on the field.”

Rupert is an infielder from Bozeman. A 2004 graduate from Bozeman High School , Rupert has attended Miles Community College and Minnesota State-Mankato. In his sophomore season at MCC, the Pioneers were 43-17 and won their sixth straight MonDak Conference title. Rupert batted .270 and set a school record by stealing 27 bases on 27 attempts. He will have two seasons of eligibility remaining.

“The addition of Nick gives us a versatile infielder that is exceptional defensively,” said Brown. “At the plate he is a scrappy hitter that finds a way on and seems to always make things happen. Nick is an outstanding young man that brings an enthusiasm and passion for the game that is contagious. We are excited to have him on board and know he will be able to step in and contribute immediately.”

Johnson is a utility player from Great Falls. He graduated from Great Falls High School in 2005 and played two seasons at Miles Community College . As a senior Legion player in Great Falls , Johnson batted .331 with 27 RBIs and 12 doubles. This year for MCC, Johnson is currently batting .304 with 34 runs and 26 RBIs.

“Levi is an all around ball player that provides us with depth and experience,” said Brown. “He is an outstanding student that plays the game intelligently. He is just starting to reach his peak as a player, and it will be exciting watching him continue to improve. Levi has the ability to play multiple positions and will be able to be an impact player on and off the field from day one. We are excited to have him choose to be a part of the Yellowjacket baseball program.”

Western Oregon

Twelve Sign With Wolves (6/26/07)

Twelve high school and junior college baseball players have signed with Western Oregon University for the 2008 season. The list includes five prep stars and seven college transfers.

Transferring to Western Oregon this coming fall will be Nicolas Morris (Eagle, Idaho/Blue Mountain CC), Sam Stahl (Vista, CA/Cal State LA), Dan Ulrich (Tahoma HS/Everett CC), Tyson Nelson (Eagle Point HS/Mt. Hood CC), Jon Renander (Forest Grove HS/Clackamas CC), Chad Lynch (Douglas HS/Southwestern Oregon CC) and Taylor Mieras (Western Nevada CC).

Incoming freshman coming to the Wolves program include Jeffrey Lucero (Temecula, CA/Great Oak HS), James Maxwell (Oceanside, CA/Rancho Buena Vista HS), Eric Bezenek (Ketchikan, Alaska), Kurt Snowley (Milwaukee/Rex Putnam HS) and Cory Staniforth (Central Point/Crater HS).

“This is a very talented group,” WOU coach Jeremiah Robbins said. “We lost nine seniors this spring and we have a lot of holes to fill. One of the things that I really like about this class is that many of them can play more than one position. This is also a quality character group that has done well in the classroom.”

MORE ABOUT THE GROUP: Nicolas Morris is a pitcher who sat out last season at Blue Mountain CC, but was an All-East Region NWAACC selection in 2006... Sam Stahl was a redshirt at NCAA Div. II west region champion Cal State LA last spring. He is an infielder... Dan Ulrich , a 6'3" outfielder, hit .390 at Everett CC this past spring, had 21 doubles and drove in 34 runs... Tyson Nelson was a first team All-NWAACC tournament selection as an infielder. He hit .387 and had a .475 on-base percentage... Jon Renander hit .316 last spring for Clackamas CC. At Forest Grove HS, he was a first team all-state selection as a shortstop in 2005... Chad Lynch is a utility player from Southwestern Oregon CC, and was a former standout at Douglas HS... Taylor Mieras was a catcher at Western Nevada CC.... Kurt Snowley was a two-time first team All-Three Rivers League selection at Rex Putnam High School as an infielder, as was an honorable mention all-state (6A) pick this spring... Cory Staniforth was a first team all-state selection (5A) as a shortstop in 2007. He hit .509 with 28 RBI for the state champion Crater Comets... Jeff Lucero hit .348 for Great Oak HS in Temecula , Calif ... Jimmy Maxwell hit .367 and drove in 20 runs at Rancho Buena Vista HS near Oceanside , Calif. .. Eric Bezenek was an all-league outfielder at Ketchikan HS in Alaska , and is currently playing at the Pete Wilkinson Academy in Seattle .

2007 Baseball Recruits

Central Washington

Walkenhauer Signs With Wildcats (6/6/06)

Kevin Walkenhauer, a two-time Most Valuable Player in the Mid-Valley League while playing for Yakima's West Valley High School, has signed a National Letter of Intent to continue his baseball career at Central Washington University.

Walkenhauer, at six-foot-one and 165 pounds, earned top individual honors in the Mid-Valley League as a junior and senior, and was a first team all-MVL selection during his sophomore season with the Rams. He added second team all-state (Class 3A) honors during the 2005 season and will be participating in this coming weekend's all-state series in East Wenatchee.

"Pitching is our number one priority, and Kevin will help to fit our needs there immediately," CWU coach Desi Storey said. "He has good arm strength - he's already at the caliber to compete right away at the Division II level - and I expect that he will be competing for a spot in our starting rotation.

"Offensively, we'll let Kevin hit. He has perennially had one of the top averages in the Mid-Valley League, and I expect that he will have similar success at our level once he makes the adjustments to playing college baseball. Kevin has the kind of tools that makes him a great find for our program."

On the infield, Walkenhauer has played primarily as a shortstop during his prep career, but Storey and the Wildcats already have an all-region shortstop in Jamie Nilsen (Federal Way, Wash./Thomas Jefferson HS), who will be a junior in 2007. As a result, Storey expects that Walkenhauer could see time right away at either third or second base, with long-term aspirations of moving him into a starting role at short upon Nilsen's departure.

Included among Walkenhauer's top high school performances was a 12-strikeout no-hitter in a victory over Wapato High School. In addition to his success on the baseball diamond, he was a two-year letterman in both cross country and basketball for the Rams.

Off the athletic field, he was a member of the National Honor Society and carried a 3.9 cumulative grade-point average. Walkenhauer plans to major in biology at CWU.

Western Oregon

Western Oregon Signs Thurston Pitcher (5/24/06)

Thurston High School star pitcher Dan Straily has signed a national letter of intent to attend Western Oregon University.

Straily, a 6-1, 185-pound right-hander, is the second prep player to sign with the Wolves program during this school year. Last fall, West Salem's Mike Cusick committed to WOU during the early signing period. Cusick was just named the Valley League Pitcher of the Year last week.

Straily went 7-3 for a Thurston team that finished 9-14 on the season. He had an ERA of 2.48 and gave up only 43 hits in 62 innings of work. He fanned 65 batters and walked only 18. He also had one save.

"Daniel is a hard worker, and has improved as much in a two-year period as any player that I have ever had," said Colts coach Chris Verneer. "He has been our leader on the mound and at the plate. He is a real pleasure to coach."

Straily, who played first base or right field when he wasn't pitching, hit .343 on the year with 20 RBI and seven doubles.

"We look for Dan to come in and compete for some innings as a freshman," said Western Oregon head coach Jeremiah Robbins. "He has good command of his fastball, and he has a slider that will be one of his better out pitches as he matures."

Western Oregon Signs Pitching Standout (11/16/05)
West Salem pitching standout Mike Cusick has signed a national letter of intent to play at Western Oregon in 2007.

The Titan senior helped his team to the Valley League championship last spring and to a second round state play-off game. West Salem went 15-3 in winning the league title and they were 20-6 overall.

Cusick was 3-1 in Valley League contests, with two saves. He fanned 41 batters in 28 innings of work, and gave up only 21 hits.

"Mike has good velocity, an excellent curve ball and a very good change up," said his coach, Micah Tiffin. "Best of all, he is a great kid. He has been a tremendous part of helping us establish the character of our program, through his work ethic and positive classroom example."

2005 Recruits

Northwest Nazarene

NUU Baseball signs six junior college players (7/12/04)

Six junior college players will attend NNU this fall and play baseball for the Crusaders. Joining the Crusaders for the 2004-05 season are Matt Pollard (5'11/175/OF-C/Winlock, WA), Trevor McKinney (6'4/195/C/Richland, WA), C.J. Severin (6'4/240/P-1B/Pendleton, OR), Chris Alexander (6'0/200/P-UT/Yakima, WA), B.J. Avila (5'8/150/SS/Turlock, CA) and Steve Coogan (5'10/170/UT/Kennewick, WA).

Following a 15-34 season, that included 16 short margin losses, coach Tim Onofrei focused his 04-05 recruiting on depth and speed. "We have been blessed with good incoming talent and all-around quality individuals this year," stated Onofrei.

These six impact players will join 13 returnees and 14 other incoming players to make up the largest roster in coach Onofrei's five years at NNU. "We had very few replacement options last year, and because of that it was difficult to continuously challenge players. We will not have that problem this year. We have added depth, diversity and mobility."

Matt Pollard from Centralia Community College (WA): Named to the NWAACC all-tournament team and finished the season hitting .280 with 18 RBI's and 11 stolen bases. "Matt will play a large role in the Crusader line up next year. Pollard brings so much versatility to the team that the challenge is going to be where does he fit best into the big picture. He could start behind the plate, anywhere in the outfield, hit lead-off or in the three spot."

Trevor McKinney from Blue Mountain Community College (OR): "Our vision for Trevor is bigger than he knows. Trevor is the guy that NNU is counting on to command the field and control the game. He is a very skilled catcher who has good arm strength, good receiving skills, good blocking skills, and has a stick that will force teams to challenge the hitters in front of him. Trevor hit .281 last season with 12 RBI's and 1 homerun. He is the type of hitter who will have a great power hitting career hitting at Elmore Vail Field in Nampa."

C.J. Severin from Blue Mountain Community College (OR): Will bring much needed depth in multiple areas. "CJ is a quality arm that will strengthen our pitching staff, an outstanding 1st basemen to back up returning all league 1st basemen Kevin McCarthy, and present another high quality designated hitter option. This is the type of kid who will find his way into the line-up everyday."

Chris Alexander from Yakima Community College (WA): Will join former high school and JC teammate Gabe Stotz (returning starting pitcher) at NNU. Will contribute on the mound, but can also catch, played third and in the outfield. "I liked him out of high school and thought he would have made an impact as a freshman, and now with 2 years of experience he will make a large impact on the rotation next season."

B.J. Avila from Yuba Community College (CA): NNU needed dramatic changes to the left side of the infield after struggling defensively last season. Avila and Steve Coogan could provide those upgrades. "BJ's range and glove at short will be a huge improvement for us. He reminds me of Ruben Burciaga (graduated 2000 from NNU and holds several records as a shortstop)."

Steve Coogan from Columbia Basin Community College (WA): In 2003 Steve was the starting third basemen at one of the premier community colleges in the NWAACC. He brings high talent, knowledge of winning and stable maturity that shows in his work ethic and leadership. "We were fortunate enough to resign Coogan after he chose to step away from college baseball for a year. With Coogan, Avila, Tim Andra (returning second basemen), and McCarthy (all league 1st basemen) we will be strong defensively next season."

2004 Recruits

Northwest Nazarene

Crusaders Sign YVC Lefty (5/30/03)

Gabe Stotz, a left-handed pitcher from Yakima, Wash., has signed a national letter-of-intent to play baseball at Northwest Nazarene University.

Stotz, who has three years of eligibility remaining, will transfer from Yakima Valley Community College where he appeared in five games in 2003.

"Gabe suffered an injury his senior year on a recruiting trip that resulted in Tommy John surgery, and only nine months after his procedure he was back on the hill throwing for YVC," NNU coach Tim Onofrei said. "In Gabe's five outings, which included a 93 pitch complete game shutout, he showed good recovery and continuous growth as he works to get back to where he was in high school."

"At Davis High School in Yakima, Gabe was one of the most sought after throwers in the state," according to Onofrei. "He brings a large frame at 6'6" and a loose arm that can run high velocity numbers. NNU has had great results in redeveloping and strengthening injured athletes, we believe that at 18 months from his surgery date, Gabe will be back to 100 percent."

NNU will look to place Stotz in the five-man rotation in the 2004 season. "I like the upside on Gabe. When he gets back to full strength he is going to be a very effective pitcher at the NCAA D.II level, " stated Onofrei. Stotz will fill a void for the Crusaders, as he is currently the only lefty on the pitching staff.

2003 Recruits

Central Washington

Esparza Signs With Wildcats (6/20/02)

Shortstop Brandon Esparza, who helped lead Big Bend Community College to a 32-13 record this spring, has signed a national letter of intent to attend Central Washington University.

Esparza, a second-team Eastern Region selection, batted .354 with a home run and 17 RBI as the Vikings captured the league championship and tied for third place at the NWAACC tourney. BBCC won 23 of its 30 conference games.

"He swings the bat well and is a good athlete," CWU head coach Desi Storey said.

The Central mentor also believes that Esparza will do his part to shore up a Wildcat defense that was guilty of 85 errors this past spring. "He is definitely going to help us," he said. "He will be a big plus for us defensively."

Northwest Nazarene

Crusaders Sign Two (7/8/02)

Righthanded pitcher Shaine Thurman (6-4, Boise - Borah & Lane CC) and shortstop Dan Richardson (6-1, Moses Lake, WA - Big Bend) have sign letters of intent to play baseball at Northwest Nazarene.

Signing an incentive award was Nick Patee, a middle infielder from Ridgefield High School.

"Shaine will be a great addition to our starting staff," NNU baseball coach Tim Onofrei said. "He has a world of talent, college experience, a hunger to succeed and a never-ending work ethic."

"Richardson's maturity will provide the leadership we need from the shortstop position," Onofrei added.

Everson Signs With Crusaders (4/23/02)

Roger Evenson of Boise has signed a letter of intent to play baseball at Northwest Nazarene University. The right-handed pitcher from Capital High School has impressed NNU coach Tim Onofrei "because he has control of three pitches and uses them wisely."

He has a 1.93 earned run average to along with 38 strike outs in 29 innings. "We see immediate talent in Roger," said Onofrei. "He throws in the upper 80s and I'm really impressed with his maturity. We feel he will not need to make mechanical adjustments during his freshman year."

Meridian Standout Inks Letter With NNU (4/18/02)

Pitcher-outfielder Tyson Burkhart of Meridian has signed a letter of intent to join the baseball program at Northwest Nazarene University.

"There has been a lack of left-handed hitters and pitchers since I've been at NNU and Tyson will help fill that void," said NNU coach Tim Onofrei. "Tyson will be one of several lefties to join the pitching staff. He will have the opportunity to earn a spot in the outfield. Having excelled at hitting at all levels we anticipate a quick adaption to the pitching at our level."

The Meridian High School product earned First Team All-League and Wendy's Heisman candidate honors.

"Tyson is the type of player who finds a way to win," said the NNU coach. "He is among the good Treasure Valley talent that can step right in and contribute."

Hodsdon Signs Baseball Letter With Crusaders (4/17/02)

Travis Hodsdon of Coalinga, Calif., has signed a letter of intent to play baseball at Northwest Nazarene University. The catcher will transfer from West Hills College where his father is the head baseball coach.

At Hanford High School (Calif.) he earned all-league honors three times, league MVP once, and also all-area honors.

"I feel Travis will pick up where our senior All-American Catcher Benji Warren leaves off," said NNU Coach Tim Onofrei. "Along with outstanding defensive qualities, Travis brings a very potent bat. And he is a winner, knowing what it takes to compete at the highest level."

Saint Martin's

Saints Sign Four to Letters (7/18/02)

Four players, including three pitchers have signed letters-of-intent to play baseball at Saint Martin's College.

The signees include righthanded pitchers John Madsen from Spokane and Eric Kopp from Moses Lake and lefthander Lucas Spagnuolo from Redding, Calif. Spagnuolo previously played at Shasta College. Kopp is also listed as an outfielder.

Also signing was outfielder Sean Ortiz from Maryknoll High School in Hawaii.

Western Oregon

Wolves Add Three JC Transfers to Baseball Squad (8/14/02)

Western Oregon will have three more veteran players on its roster when they begin play for the 2003 baseball season.

Wolves coach Terry Baumgartner added three junior college transfers to his roster this summer to bolster a squad that won the 2002 Great Northwest Athletic Conference title. WOU was 35-17 last season and finished 18-6 in conference play.

Troy Martin, Tucker Brack and Ryan Godfrey will add experience to a 2003 WOU squad that returns mostly intact.

Brack is a former North Marion High School standout that has played at Lower Columbia CC the past two years. A middle infielder, Brack hit .291 last spring for the Red Devils, scored 28 runs and had 30 RBI. He was a first team All-NWAACC selection.

Martin, a first baseman and outfielder, also hit .291 at Columbia Basin CC last spring. Godfrey is a former star at North Salem High School and last played at Chemeketa CC. He is a pitcher and also filled the designated hitter spot for the Storm.