

2009-2010 LOWER COLUMBIA COLLEGE

Pitching Prospects

by LCC Pitching Coach Rob Hippi



Jeff Ames- FR.- 6-4- RHP- Skyview HS, Vancouver, WA Jeff was drafted by the Seattle Mariners last spring and was also an early sign at national powerhouse Oregon State. We are delighted that he has chosen to attend LCC especially with so much high profile interest coming his way. Jeff's older brother Steven is currently a Dodger farmhand who pitched for Coach Hippi with the Wenatchee Applesox two summers ago who steered Jeff in our direction. Jeff understands the importance of being able to log innings as a freshman and he will certainly be able to do that here, and right away. With a low 90's fastball and decent feel on the secondary pitches he should progress rapidly.

Tim Culligan- SO.- 6-1- RHP-Liberty HS, Hillsboro, OR Tim returns after a very successful freshman campaign in which he posted a 1.33 ERA with 47 strikeouts in 41 innings pitched. With a fastball that sits in the upper 80's and low 90's, he will move from the bullpen to a starting role with the Devils this year. With a vastly improved change-up and the experience, mound presence and maturity that he gained last summer while pitching for the perennial powerhouse Alaska Goldpanners he will be the real deal in the NWAACC in 2010.

Levi Dean- SO.- 6-5-RHP W.F. West HS Chehalis, WA Levi is another hard throwing right-handed option for Coach Smith to choose from this season. He struck out 21 over 18 innings in just 1/2 a season last year as the Red Devils closer. He will also move to a starting role. Levi is young as a pitcher after missing a year and a half while recovering from Tommy John surgery before his senior year in high school. He gained valuable experience last summer while pitching for the WCL champion Wenatchee Applesox. He is becoming more seasoned and beginning to be able to throw all 3 pitches for strikes.

Todd Griffiths- SO- 6-0 RHP- Mt. View HS Meridian, ID Todd is a transfer from Wenatchee Valley where he won 6 games as a freshman last spring. When his major program of study was dropped from the curriculum at WVC he chose LCC as the place to pursue his education. Todd has a unique delivery that along with his fearless mound presence will enable him to be an effective option for the Red Devils this spring. He is a very hard worker, extremely coachable and will only get better as the year goes along.

Mike Hartley- Fr.-6-1 RHP- Woodland HS Woodland, WA Mike throws hard with maximum effort. Coach Hippi is working to smooth out his delivery, improve his mechanics and add a consistent second pitch in order to enable him to work in a more efficient manner. Mike has a linebacker mentality and build, can be a fierce competitor and is very athletic. His dad Tom was a 1st round draft pick from Fort Vancouver in the early 80's so the bloodlines are very good. With a 90 MPH fastball he has an excellent chance to develop into a D-1 or professional prospect. Exciting future.

Evan Howard- FR- 6-3- RHP- Archbishop Murphy HS- Everett, WA Evan is big boy who is just learning how to develop the velocity that will allow him to pitch at this level. He has decent feel on the secondary pitches, is very open to coaching, works very hard and should progress, quite rapidly, into a good college pitcher.

Aaron Huson- FR- 6-4- RHP- Forest Grove HS- Forest Grove, OR An outstanding all around athlete who had college options in other sports, Aaron chose to pursue pitching here at LCC and we are glad that he did. He has a perfect body, a great mental make up and with the athleticism that he possesses will soon develop into a next level arm.

Alex Massar- FR- 5-11- LHP- Wilson HS- Portland, OR Alex is classy little LHP with good command of several different pitches. He comes from a solid background where he helped pitch Wilson to a state runner-up finish in Oregon last spring. He has big game experience and is absolutely fearless. Alex is the same kind of guy that the Devils have struggled against over the years. He has the intangibles that give him a chance to be very good.

Craig Mooney- SO- 6-2- RHP- Lake Oswego HS- Lake Oswego, OR We think that Craig is going to be a big success story for us here at L.C.C. He has put on 30 pounds of solid weight since he showed up last year throwing 81-82 M.P.H. Now he has touched 89 and sits 84/87. Craig posted a 1.47 ERA last spring in 19 innings. He should get a lot more than that this year. He projects to the next level. We don't have anyone who works harder, is more dependable or wants to succeed more than Craig Mooney.

Drew Pettit- SO- 5-10- LHP- Castle Rock, HS- Castle Rock, WA Another smallish LHP but with an incredibly quick arm. Drew struck out 35 in 19 innings pitched last season. He once struck out 15 in-a-row for the Longview Red Lion Legion team last summer. We are trying get him to slow down his tempo and throw 85/86 MPH to contact instead of 91 MPH with inconsistent command. So far this fall it is working. That along with some minor adjustments to his mechanics make him a legitimate D-1/ Pro prospect. He can really bring it.

Alex Phillips- SO- 6-4-LHP-Tenino H.S.- Tenino, WA Alex is the most improved returning pitcher on our staff. He sits 85/87 MPH with his fastball but has touched 91. He has command of 3 pitches and rarely walks a batter. Alex has a 4/1 K/BB ratio in his time here at LCC. It will be difficult to leave him out of the starting rotation if he continues to pitch like he has been. A definite D-1 prospect who is just starting to receive the attention that he deserves. What is not to like? A 6 foot 4 inch LHP who throws strikes with 3 pitches and will sit in the upper 80's. Alex is a dude!

Garrett Tygerson- FR- 6-5-RHP- Ashland, HS- Ashland, OR Garrett is a very good athlete who can also play the outfield but is focusing on pitching this fall. He might be the fastest guy on our team. He comes from a solid baseball background. He helped the Medford/ Ashland American Legion club to a 2nd place finish in the national World Series last summer. Garrett has a calm demeanor on the mound and has pitched very well over 10 innings so far this fall. Garrett needs to fill out and get stronger. He has already touched 87 MPH with his fastball but is just scratching the surface of his potential. He really projects.

Brandon Walker- FR- 5-11- RHP- Kalama HS- Kalama, WA Brandon pitched Kalama to a 2nd place finish in the 1A State Tourney last spring, dropping the title game to Naches in a heartbreaker. He throws strikes, is confident in himself and unafraid of the challenges that all pitchers must face. As he continues to gain strength and experience at this level he will become more and more of a factor as the spring approaches.