

Stormy Summer Fails to Dampen Spirited Team Effort

Talented Westerners Fight 'til Last Out in 2009 Season

The leaves are off the trees, chill is in the air, the 2009 World Series has been completed but New England baseball is not in hibernation!! The spirit of highly competitive collegiate baseball still radiates from the Danbury Westerners home field in Rogers Park. The season ended abruptly as the "D-men" lost a one game play-in with Holyoke on August 1st by one run, but spirits were not completely dashed as fond memories of significant performances remain long after the game.

Jamie Shevchik and his gutsy coaches kept this talented team fighting 'til the last out. It was an up and down season with the loss of Chris Sedon to the Detroit Tigers in the MLB draft; the dynamo Kevin Rivers signing a pro contract with Seattle at mid-season; and Tulane's Freshman All American catcher, Jeremy Schaffer's commitment to Team USA.

However, there were many standouts for the D-men in 2009. Mississippi States' Devin Jones was stellar as Baseball America named him the number one NECBL pro pitching prospect from the summer; Sean Keeler (Franklin Pierce) was an outstanding closer down the stretch sporting a 1.10 ERA, 3 wins and no losses, and 19 strike-outs in 16 innings; Mike Amendola (U of Hartford) was an ironman catching virtually every game and contributing 6

homers and team leading 25 RBIs; the combination of outfielders Billy Burns, Sean Harrell, Brayan Valencia and Shane Kingsley virtually caught every playable fly ball; and Steve Hiscock (2.28 ERA), Brendan Malkowski (2.30 ERA) and Matt Iannazzo carried the bulk of the pitching chores with a combined 133 innings in 26 games.

Sean Harrell, arguably the fastest player in the NECBL, and Billy Burns burned up the base paths with a combined 22 stolen bases (in 24 attempts) and 30 runs scored. NECBL All Star SS Mike Fabiaschi and 2nd baseman Travis Feiner lit up the infield with spectacular fielding plays worthy of anyone's highlight reel.

These performances gave the fans plenty of excitement during the summer while Rogers Park baseball was energized by a quartet of volunteers, DeLavinia's Deli, Mr. & Mrs. Ganz, Mr. & Mrs. Benson, and Tom Spooner who worked tirelessly to start a successful and delicious Westerners concession stand which drew people from all sections of Rogers Park and converted many to DW fans. Not only was the food successful but the concession stand added to the ambiance of a true ballpark.

The 2009 season ignited a baseball spirit at Rogers Park witnessed by on-going increases in attendance.



Brendan Malkowski

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Using a similar recruiting strategy as 2009, Coach Corey Muscara and scout Dr. Steven Wisensale (UCONN) have analyzed and ferreted out some of the best collegiate talent in America. Working with the other coaches and general management the D-men have contracted arguably the strongest 28 player roster in the Westerners 16 year history.

Work is ongoing to improve the facilities at Rogers Park. To make these improvements a reality, e.g.

more parking, restrooms, more fan friendly seating and a safer playing surface for Rogers Park baseball contestants, the Westerners will need to expand the sponsorship base and receive financial support from some of the multi-national and other large corporations based in and around Danbury. We hope all businesses in the area will respond positively when they receive a sponsorship request from the Westerners this holiday season.

Terry Whalen, General Manager



2009 DANBURY WESTERNERS

Front Row: Castillo, Ganz, Fabiaschi, Kingsley, Valencia, Hiscock, Zizinia, Monroe, Benson, Keeler, Montabano, Devin Jones, Bartlinski, Iannazzo, Aisenstadt. *Back Row:* Coach Muscara, Head Coach Shevchik, Schaffer, Fortunato, Evan Jones, Rivers, Hurval, Heyne, Malkowski, Herrall, Amendola, Burns, Feiner, Coach Fesh, Coach Snyder. *Batboy:* Davi Bowden *Missing:* Scialdone

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AUG. 31 2009

Baseball America's TOP PROSPECT

Devin Jones

Danbury Westerners and Mississippi State righthander Devin Jones leads *Baseball America's* New England Collegiate Baseball League 'Top 10 Prospects' for the 2009 Summer season.

Westerners Ink Impressive Roster for '10

The Westerners scouts and management have been hard at work building an impressive squad for next season. The following provides a brief look at five of the twenty three players signed to contracts as of November 1st.

Rhett Stafford (Chewaw, SC) is a sophomore outfielder from Marshall University who brings power and versatility to the Westerners this upcoming season.

Out of high school, Rhett was ranked the number one high school catcher and number two overall prospect in the state of South Carolina by the publication Diamond Prospects. Upon arriving at Marshall, he split time between left field and catcher due to his incredible athleticism. Rhett has registered a 6.6 in the 60-yard dash, which is incredibly fast for any baseball player of Rhett's stature. Evidence of his work ethic and athleticism was reinforced when he garnered top honors at Marshall University's four-day Herd Challenge where he competed against other teammates

Rhett has also shown his ability to hit for average and power. In 46 games for Marshall in his freshman season Rhett hit .293 with 48 hits 6 home runs and 29 rbi's. These totals mean that Rhett was averaging a little more than one hit and .5 rbi's a game, which are impressive production numbers. Rhett followed this with a solid summer in the Valley League in Virginia where he hit .297 with 4 home runs, 8 doubles and 19 rbi's.

Derek Ingui (Sterling, MA) is the only Division II player on the Westerners roster for the upcoming summer but do not let this distinction fool you. Derek is going to be a junior at Franklin Pierce, the perennial Division 2 power where he has compiled an impressive resume. Franklin Pierce players have great success in the summer due in small part to the fact they play with wooden bats all college season so have little trouble transitioning to a wooden bat summer league. Derek transferred to Franklin Pierce from the University of Tampa and from the time he stepped foot on Franklin Pierce's campus he has hit. In Derek's freshman year, he was a key cog in the line-up that won their third consecutive regional championship and went on to the Division II College World Series. Derek followed up his stellar freshman campaign by improving his numbers in every category. In Derek's sophomore season he lead the team in hitting with a .356 batting average, hit 9 home runs, had 15 doubles 7 triples 47 rbi's and stole 15 bases. To earn first team all Region again as well as becoming a NEIBA All Star, MVP of the conference tournament, first team all NE-10 conference and first team all NE-10 academic team.

Because of these accolades, Derek earned a full contract to the Yarmouth-Dennis Red Sox of the prestigious Cape Cod League. Derek will be team captain at Franklin Pierce for the 2010 season.

The Westerners have inked three pivotal members of the University of Dayton Flyers pitching staff for the 2010 season. The Flyers are coming off their best season in history where they were 38-16 and won the Atlantic 10 Conference to earn a birth in the NCAA tournament.

The Westerners have signed sophomore right-hander **Mike Hauschild** (Beavercreek, OH) who was a weekend starter as a true Freshman. Mike has three effective pitches he throws for strikes including an 87-91 mile an hour fastball, a good change-up and a devastating split finger fastball that he uses as his strikeout pitch. Mike used his numerous talents to gain All Star recognition in the Great Lakes League last summer playing for the Mariners club and earning a 3 win and 2 loss record with a 2.48 ERA.

Joining Mike on the Westerners will be two highly touted freshmen who are expected to join Mike in the weekend rotation; Ian Gardeck and Bryce Lahrman.

"**Ian Gardeck** (Lake in the Hills, IL) possesses more than just an electric fastball. He is a young man that truly understands the commitment to preparation that it takes to pitch at the Division I level and beyond." This quote from Dayton pitching coach and recruiting coordinator Todd Linklater sums-up the Flyers thoughts on Gardeck. If this is not enough to get Westerners fans excited, his fast ball that has reportedly topped-out at 95 on various occasions, surely will open some eyes.

Ian is a big, strong athletic freshman who's talents have scouts all over the Midwest excited about his future potential. He was ranked the number #1 right handed pitching prospect in the state of Illinois for this past years major league baseball draft.

Bryce Lahrman (Wauconda, IL) was rated the number 10 right handed pitcher in the state of Illinois heading into last year's draft. While he does not possess the high radar readings of Gardeck, he still throws in the low 90's and possesses better command and a power curve which actually allows him to be more polished at this stage of his career. Coach Linklater sums it up by saying: "Bryce's feel for pitching and his bulldog approach on the mound will fit perfectly into our system of attacking our opponents. He has the potential to be a major contributor as a freshman."

Visit www.danburywesterners.com to follow their progress.

SPONSORS & BOOSTERS

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