



# ***SABR COLLEGIATE BASEBALL COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER***

**WINTER 2017**

**SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN BASEBALL RESEARCH**

## ***Chairman's Letter***

Although the 2017 intercollegiate baseball season nears its mid-point, this is the Winter edition of our newsletter.

This is the issue where we attempt to document all the players with a collegiate baseball connection who made their Major League debut in 2016. Among the anomalies in this year's list is a player drafted from a school he never played for, **Andy Burns** who attended Arizona State when drafted, but never played a varsity game for the Wildcats and **Dustin Mollekin** who attended Lethbridge College in Alberta, Canada, but played for a team unofficially affiliated with both the two year and four year colleges in Lethbridge.

Accompanying this newsletter are attachments containing corrections, for both Major and Minor League players, to the collegiate information submitted to Baseball-Reference.

I trust you will enjoy the articles and information presented in this newsletter.

**Karl**

### ***IN THIS ISSUE***

Chairman's Letter .....	p. 1
A Well Lived Baseball Life .....	p. 2
Collegiate Connections Confirmed.....	p. 5
College Coach Necrology and Notes, April 1916 — Sept. 1916.....	p. 6
Collegiate Major Leaguers Debuting in 2016 — Notes.....	p. 8
Collegiate Major Leaguers Debuting in 2016 — List .....	p. 10
Colleges Closing ... ..	p. 14
Collegiate Coach Interview Podcasts .....	p. 15



DANNY LITWHILER

## A WELL LIVED BASEBALL LIFE – DANNY LITWHILER

By George Pawlush

Summer 2016 marked the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary of a long-time college baseball coach and former major league player who many say was one of the most innovative persons to ever represent the game.

Danny Litwhiler, who died at the age of 95 in 2011, was dubbed the “Thomas Edison” of baseball by Dan Gutman in his 1995 book *Banana Bats and Ding-Dong Balls: A Century of Baseball Inventions*. The book highlighted intriguing baseball innovations that altered or enhanced the game.

“He was a catalyst behind some of the greatest inventions in baseball history producing more than 100 innovations,” wrote Lou Pavlovich, Jr. in a 1995 article about Litwhiler in *Collegiate Baseball*. Among his most recognized accomplishments was the development of the radar speed gun and the invention of Diamond Grit.

Litwhiler also enjoyed a creditable big league career from 1940-51 playing for the Phillies, Cardinals, Braves and Reds. He was a lifetime .282 hitter with 107 home runs, 451 RBI and scored 428 runs in 1,057 games. He participated in the 1942 All-Star game and won a World Series ring with the 1944 Cardinals.

Following his major league playing career, Litwhiler began a five-year stint as a minor league skipper, managing at Fargo-Moorhead, Wilkes-Barre, Jamestown and Duluth before joining the college coaching ranks at Florida State University (FSU) in 1955.

Just eight years removed from being a women’s only college, Florida State was looking for its third baseball coach with the departure of Ralph Matherly in 1954. At some point a school representative asked Baseball Commissioner Ford Frick for a recommendation. Litwhiler was Frick’s recommendation. Playing as an independent, Litwhiler guided FSU to a 190-83-1 mark over nine seasons (1955 – 1963). This included seven appearances in the NCAA District 3 playoffs and three appearances in the College World Series (1957, 1962 and 1963). Dick Howser was the first of Litwhiler’s college players to make the Major Leagues, posting a respectable seven year career with the Athletics, Indians and Yankees. (Howser remains better known as a manager, first of the Yankees and ultimately guiding the Royals as winners of the 1985 World Series.) Woody Woodward was FSU’s second Major League player in Litwhiler’s tenure. Interestingly, both Woodward and Howser later served as head coach at Florida State.

In 1963 Michigan State University’s (MSU) legendary coach, John Kobs, announced his retirement. When representatives from MSU approached Litwhiler, he listened. After back and forth negotiations, Michigan State offered a better salary so Litwhiler moved to East Lansing. For the next 19 seasons (1964 – 1982) he served as Spartan’s head coach, posting a 489-362-8 overall record (167-127 in the Big Ten). Litwhiler’s Spartans captured the Big Ten title twice, in 1971 and 1979. The teams exited the NCAA tournament quickly, going 0-2 in ’71 and 1-2 in ’79. Litwhiler had 12 of his Spartan players reach the Major Leagues, with Steve Garvey, Kirk Gibson and Rick Miller the most notable.

Litwhiler explained his reasons for moving to college coaching in a 1974 interview with Lynn Henning for the *MSU Alumni Magazine*, “I didn’t like managing in pro ball because they don’t believe in teaching, they believe in winning. That seemed to be the trend – either win or else. My theory of baseball is to teach baseball and then win.”

## A Well Lived Baseball Life - cont.

He was known throughout the international baseball world conducting clinics in over ten countries. He served as president of the U.S. Baseball Federation from 1978-83. However, it was his contributions outside of coaching that made him a legend in the baseball world.

Litwhiler described the development of the radar speed gun (now called JUGGS) in a 1990 letter to Peter Clark, then registrar at the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. "Early in October 1974 Michigan State University purchased radar gun to check speeders on campus. I saw a large picture in the campus newspaper showing the police using the gun.

"I asked Major Adam Zutak if he would come over to the baseball field to see if the gun could track a thrown baseball. He consented and we checked two of my pitchers. We got readings from 45 mph to 79 mph when they threw on a flat surface. I was curious about throwing from the pitcher's mound. So, the major drove his car on the field and parked behind the mound.

"One pitcher threw 85 mph and the other 89 mph. However we didn't get a consistent reading on every pitch and I believed the readings might be too inconsistent. At this point I was not certain to what I was reading. The radar gun vendor said it was probably was the correct speed reading, but was not tuned for baseball.

"I then contacted my friend, John Paulson, inventor and manufacturer the JUGGS Pitching Machine. We often exchanged ideas. He was very interested in experimenting with the gun. Two weeks later, John got me a gun that was portable. It took many exchanges of guns until we were able to get one that gave us a 95 to 98 percent readout."

Over ten thousand JUGGS Radar Guns have been sold around the world since 1974. The original radar speed gun is now on permanent display at the Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown.

Other Litwhiler innovations finding success at the college and professional levels include "Diamond Dust," a dirt and clay mixture that can recondition and dry wet baseballs in 20 seconds; "Diamond Grit," a type of calcined clay that can quickly absorb water on wet fields after a rain; and a 3x6 foot, ¾ thick unbreakable mirror for pitchers to perfect their deliveries. He also developed a five-man batting cage that enables a team to achieve as much batting practice in one day as usually gained in five days.

In the late 1960s, Litwhiler figured that training with a heavier than normal ball would increase a pitcher's muscle strength and velocity of the fastball. He had some balls made with steel ball bearings and found that college pitchers could increase their velocity by 14.6% over a ten-week period.

Litwhiler was born in Ringtown, PA. He attended Bloomsburg State Teacher's College, now Bloomsburg University, where he attained a BS in 1938. Very soon after graduation Litwhiler signed with the Detroit Tigers before suffering a knee cartilage injury during 1939 spring training that temporally curtailed his career.

He returned to Bloomsburg State in 1939 where he coached baseball, football and basketball. The Philadelphia Phillies intervened later in 1939, pay for his knee operation, and giving him the chance to come to their spring training camp if he fully recovered.

### **A Well Lived Baseball Life - cont.**

The operation was a success and he started the 1940 season in Wilkes-Barre of the Eastern League, batting .305 in 103 games, In August, he was called up by the Phillies and had a 21-game hitting streak to finish .345 in 36 games.

Playing 151 games in 1941, Litwhiler continued to sizzle on the field, averaging .305 with 18 round-trippers and 66 RB while ranking fourth in the National League with 275 total bases. The escalation of World War II hostilities in 1942 had a very large impact on the major leagues as many players left to join the service. However, Litwhiler had a record breaking year defensively in the outfield.

Litwhiler, who saw his batting average drop to .271, played every inning of every game for the 1943 Phillies and handled 317 chances without an error to become the first major leaguer to ever achieve that feat. To honor that achievement his glove was sent to Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown. Midway through the 1943 season he was traded to the St. Louis Cardinals.

After a one-year break from baseball due to military service in 1945, Litwhiler reported to the St. Louis Cardinals in 1946 but was quickly shuttled to the Boston Braves where he was a platoon player hitting .286 and .261 respectively in 1946 and 1947. He was then traded to the Cincinnati Reds where he was a starter in 1948 and 1949.

Litwhiler was relegated to a backup status in 1950 when the Cincinnati management opted to go with younger players. He had a limited role for the Reds in 1951, starting as a first-base coach and then getting activated for 12 games late in the year concluding his playing career. The stage was now set for Litwhiler to begin his 34-year professional and college coaching career.

What an amazing run for a man who truly loved and lived baseball. Danny Litwhiler will always be remembered for his many contributions to the game.



Modern Jugs Gun



Original JUGS gun—courtesy of National Baseball Hall of Fame

### **About the Author - George Pawlush**

A SABR member since 1992, George Pawlush retired in 2013 after spending 43 years as a senior public relations manager in health care and higher education. Pawlush is interested in minor league baseball, especially in all the towns where he has lived or worked. This includes the post World War II Colonial and North Atlantic Leagues, the Wilkes-Barre Barons (1896-1955), Danbury CT, and Duke Landgraf, a baseball lifer with a connection to many of these organizations.



## ***Bits and Pieces***

### **Collegiate Connections Confirmed**

#### **Oland Alexander “Dixie” McArthur**

“Dixie” McArthur, whose Major League career lasted one inning with the 1914 Pirates, is Bethel College’s (now University) first alum to make the Major Leagues. While attempting to confirm McArthur attended the college and not the prep school associated with the college, his obituary didn’t mention Bethel; however, it did mention his playing football at Texas A&M. A check of the Aggies Football Media Guide shows O. A. Alexander receiving a letter in 1912.

#### **Carl Vedder Sitton**

Clemson pitcher Carl Sitton has been confirmed as having attended the University of North Carolina Medical School and pitched for the Tar Heels in the 1906 season. According to the October 1905 *Daily Tar Heel*, Sitton was elected President of the first year Medical School class. UNC records indicate that he did not graduate.

#### **Harry L. Anderson**

Harry Anderson, who played in the minor leagues from 1928 – 1934 attended Mars Hill College in Mars Hill, North Carolina. The *Asheville Citizen-Times* reported in May 1928 that Anderson had signed with the Cleveland Indians. He started his career with Johnstown in the Mid-Atlantic League.

#### **William T. Shield**

William T. Shield who appeared in 74 games with Ogden during 1926 played baseball for the University of California at Berkeley. Press accounts in March of 1927 indicate Shield was being sent to Nashville of the Southern League and then Asheville of the South Atlantic League.

#### **Joe Hatchett**

Joe Hatchett who appeared in 15 games with Fort Worth (Texas League) in 1926 matriculated from Virginia Military Institute (V.M.I.). The *Richmond Times-Dispatch* reported on February 11 that former V.M.I. star Hatchett had signed with the Detroit Tigers and would join the team in Augusta for spring training.

#### **R. Maurice Frew**

Robert Maurice Frew, who played with Spartanburg, Greenville and Asheville in the South Atlantic League from 1925 – 1930 attended Washington and Lee. Frew also served as the baseball coach at Wofford College, located in Spartanburg South Carolina in 1927-29, going 13-21 overall.

Special thanks to Chris Rainey who confirmed Sitton’s long suspected connection to UNC.

Special thanks to Gary Fink for the information on Anderson, Shield, Hatchett and Frew.

Special thanks to Jack Morris for digging up the clippings related to McArthur.



# COACHES NECROLOGY

APRIL 1—SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

NAME	BIRTH	DEATH	COLLEGE(S) COACHED	YR	SEASONS	W	L	T
Robert M "Scotty" Whitelaw	4/9/1927	4/2/2016	MIT	4	1957 - 1960	13	48	1
Robert G. Starkey	12/26/1931	4/2/2016	Shepherd College	2	1973 - 1974	19	21	0
William D. Hardisty	6/14/1924	4/15/2016	Waynesburg University	26	1961 - 1986	102	201	0
John P Angelus	10/24/1933	5/12/2016	University of Chicago	7	1972 - 1978	55	61	0
Richard Pierucci	1/6/1929	5/30/2016	Sacramento City College	1	1961 - 1961	23	3	0
Leroy H. Pfund	10/18/1919	6/2/2016	Wheaton College	11	1949 - 1959	118	104	1
				14	1961 - 1974	131	190	3
				25		249	294	4
William R. Marchant	5/27/1947	6/8/2016	Hinds Community College	1	1983 - 1983	30	7	0
			Delta St. Univ.	8	1989 - 1996	283	127	1
				9		313	134	1
Oland Canterna	10/29/1926	6/17/2016	St. Vincent College (Pa.)	12	1954 - 1965	69	77	0
			St. Vincent College (Pa.)	7	1981 - 1987	49	47	1
				19		118	124	1
Thomas D. Morgan	1/2/1933	6/27/2016	Pomona Pitzer College	1	1960 - 1960	14	18	1
			San Francisco St. Univ.	3	1961 - 1963	70	30	0
			American River College	3	1964 - 1966	52	48	1
						136	96	2
David E. Poole	4/11/1928	7/3/2016	Davidson College	1	1952 - 1952	4	13	0
George L. Luffey	1/6/1929	7/5/2016	Univ. Louisiana Monroe	11	1955 - 1965	132	134	3
Robert C. Flynn	5/20/1933	7/31/2016	Bates College	8	1991 - 1999	80	115	1
Daniel M. Frasier	8/8/1942	8/16/2016	Geneva College	3	1968 - 1970	35	30	0
Joseph Malizia		8/22/2016	Philadelphia School of Textiles & Sciences	2	1977 - 1979	34	40	0
Stephen J. Korcheck	8/11/1932	8/26/2016	George Washington Univ.	5	1967 - 1971	62	62	0
Leslie L. Hall	11/22/1935	9/9/2016	Florida Institute of Technology	25	1978 - 2002	585	553	9
Lynn E. Morrell	1/13/1942	9/12/2016	Marian College	18	1972 - 1989	418	218	0
Harold "Whitey" Fell		9/26/2016	Comm. Col. of Rhode Island	18	1966 - 1983	250	104	0

## Collegiate Coach Necrology, April 1 2016 – September 30 2016

The following notes concern collegiate head baseball coaches who passed away during the six-month period ending September 30 2016.

**Steve Korcheck**, who spent five seasons with George Washington University, is the only coach with significant Major League service. Korcheck spent parts of four seasons with the Senators during the 1950s, sandwiched around military service. **Leroy Pfund** played 15 games with Brooklyn in the first half of the 1945 season.

Other coaches who played minor league ball include the following: **Oland Canterna**, Boston Braves; **David Poole**, Chicago Cubs and Cincinnati Reds; **Robert Flynn**, Pittsburgh Pirates; **Daniel Frasier**, Houston Astros; **"Whitey" Fell**, Minnesota Twins; and **Joseph Biedler**, Boston Braves. **John Angelus'** obituary reported he played in the Braves organization but no record exists supporting that assertion.

## Collegiate Coach Necrology –cont.

In addition, **Thomas Morgan**, as Commissioner of the California Collegiate Athletic Association, help orchestrate its merger with the NCAA.

**Robert Whitelaw** served as Assistant Commissioner, 1960-1972, and then Commissioner, 1972-1989. of the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC).

The following coaches lettered or played multiple sports while attending college:

**William Hardisty**: lettered three years in both football and baseball for the University of Pittsburgh;

**Leroy Pfund**: played basketball at Univ. of Illinois

**Oland Canterna**: played basketball for the University of Pittsburgh;

**Thomas Morgan**; played football for California State – Los Angeles

**George Luffey**; while it's unclear if he played baseball for University of Southern Louisiana, he was inducted into the school's athletic Hall of Fame;

**Daniel Frasier**; played both quarterback and defensive end for Geneva College's football team;

**Stephen Korcheck**; won the Southern Conference's Player of the Year in football and was drafted by the San Francisco 49'ers from George Washington University.

**William Marchant** played on the first Delta State University team to play in the Division II College World Series. His last three seasons coaching Delta State the team posted a 148-36 record with two appearances in the Division II College World Series. Marchant followed "Boo" Ferriss as coach at Delta State. (Ferris died Nov. 24, 2016 and his career will be noted more fully in the next addition of the Coaches Necrology.)

The following coaches held additional coaching positions besides serving as head baseball coach:

**John Angelus**: served as University of Chicago's head basketball coach 1975 – 1991, posting a 146-177 career mark.

**Richard Pierucci**: served a Sacramento City College's head football coach and director of athletics.

**Leroy Pfund**: served as Wheaton College's head basketball coach 1951 – 1975, posting a 361-240 career mark.

**Oland Canterna**: served as St. Vincent College's head basketball coach 1953 – 1970, posting a 131-227 career mark.

**Robert Flynn**: revived and served as head coach of the ski team for Bates College 1968 – 1990. He then coached the school's golf team 1997 – 2015.

**Daniel Frasier**: served as Geneva College's head football coach, receiving NAIA District and Area VIII Coach of the Year honors in 1971.

The following information is missing:

**William Hardesty**: Won – Loss records for 1980-82 and 1984-86 for Waynesburg State.

**Joseph Malizia**: Date of birth.

**Lynn Morrell**: The won – loss record presented comes from the Marian University web site without a season by season confirmation.

**Harold "Whitey" Fell**: Date of birth, the won – loss record comes from the obituary; a season by season record is missing.

If you can provide any of this missing information, please contact Committee Chair Karl Green.

## New Collegiate Major Leaguers In 2016

David Kirk Anderson Sr. & David Kirk Anderson Jr.

The following notes refer to the four-year collegians.

### 2016 Notes:

The Oakland A's introduced eleven collegians from four-year schools in 2016, the most of any major-league team. The Arizona D-Backs debuted nine, and the Houston Astros fielded eight. The Philadelphia Phillies were the only MLB team that didn't debut at least one collegian from a four-year school.

Vanderbilt and Mississippi State each produced five of the 134 debuting collegians from four-year schools. Arizona State, Louisville, and Oklahoma each contributed four players.

For the fourth consecutive year, the Southeastern Conference led all other conferences by sending 26 players to the major leagues. Runners-up were the Pacific 12 Conference (14) and the Atlantic Coast Conference (13).

In 2016, these schools saw their first alum reach the major leagues:

<u>College</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>First MLB Player</u>
Franklin Pierce	Rindge, NH	Steve Hathaway
Marist	Poughkeepsie, NY	Kevin McCarthy
Regis	Denver, CO	Steven Brault
Tennessee Martin	Martin, TN	Alec Mills

Until this season, only two UC Davis alums had ever played in the major leagues. In 2016, however, the school added three more – Ty Kelly, Joe Biagini and Eddie Gamboa

Florida Gulf Coast had produced just two major league players in its history, both in 2010. Within a five day period this year, it added two more – Richard Blier and Jacob Barnes. Similarly, Centenary had just two previous major leaguers in its history – it saw two alums debut in 2016 – Seth Lugo and James Hoyt.

Drew Hayes became the first major leaguer to attend Bethel (TN) since Tom Winsett, who debuted in 1930.

Ben Heller became Olivet Nazarene's first major leaguer alum since Mike Overy debuted in 1976.

Chad Green (Louisville) and Conor Mullee (St. Peter's) were both added to the Yankee active roster on May 14<sup>th</sup>. They both debuted on May 16<sup>th</sup>, and they were both optioned back to the minors the next day.

The following collegians from four-year schools debuted with their new team after being selected in the Rule 5 draft (December, 2015)

<u>Player</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Drafted From</u>
Colin Walsh (Stanford)	Brewers	A's
Joey Rickard (Arizona)	Orioles	Rays
Joseph Biagini (UC Davis)	Blue Jays	Giants
Matthew Bowman (Princeton)	Cardinals	Mets

NOTE: The White Sox lost Blake Smith (California) to the Padres in the 2015 Rule 5 Draft. The Padres subsequently returned Smith to the White Sox, where he made his debut on September 10<sup>th</sup>.

Dansby Swanson (Vanderbilt) had been the #1 overall pick in the 2015 Amateur Draft. He debuted with the Braves after playing in just 127 minor league games at level AA and below.

Aaron Judge (Fresno State) homered in his first major league at-bat. It was the first time in four years that any debuting collegian accomplished the feat. Judge also collected an extra base hit and an RBI in each of his first three major league games – the only Yankee player to ever accomplish that feat.

In his first major league game, Ross Stripling (Texas A&M) started for the Dodgers against the Giants. He pitched 7 1/3 innings of no-hit ball before being relieved.

On April 8<sup>th</sup>, the Cardinals became the first team in major league history to hit three pinch-hit homeruns in one game. All three of those pinch-hitters were debuting that week, and two of them were collegians -- Jeremy Hazelbaker (Ball State) and Greg Garcia (Hawaii).

On September 12<sup>th</sup>, Jeremy Hazelbaker (Ball State) hit a 9<sup>th</sup> inning homerun to spoil the no-hitter and shutout of Cubs pitcher Kyle Hendricks.

On August 22<sup>nd</sup>, Dodger teammates Andrew Toles (Tennessee) and Rob Segedin (Tulane) homered back-to-back – it was the first major league homerun for each. The following day, both players homered again.

Andrew Benintendi (Arkansas) was the youngest debuting collegian from a four-year school (age 22); Tony Barnette (Arizona State) was the oldest (age 32). Barnette had pitched for the previous six years with the Yakult Swallows of the Japan Central League.



Andy Burns is listed as having been drafted from the University of Arizona -- but he never played a game for the Wildcats. Burns had previously played at the University of Kentucky. He was drafted despite sitting out the season.

Taylor Rogers (Kentucky) has a twin brother, Tyler Rogers (Austin Peay) who is a pitcher in the Giants organization. Greg Mahle (UC Santa Barbara) has a brother, Tyler Mahle, who is a pitcher in the Cincinnati Reds organization.

As a minor-league player, Matt Buschmann (Vanderbilt) was interviewed by ESPN Sports Center anchor Sara Walsh. The interview must have gone quite well -- Buschmann and Walsh are now husband and wife.

Three collegiate newbies were born in foreign countries -- Rob Zastryzny (Missouri) in Canada, Carlos Asuaje (Nova Southeastern) in Venezuela, and Bruce Maxwell (Birmingham Southern) in Germany. Maxwell's family had been living overseas while his father was in the military. Two other collegiate debutants were born in U.S. territories -- Jose DeLeon (Southern) in Puerto Rico, and Jharel Cotton (East Carolina) in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

After his first week as a major leaguer, Tyler White (Western Carolina) was chosen as the American League's Player Of The Week,

Of the debuting collegians in 2016, these position players were the most successful based on their Wins Above Replacement (WAR) totals:

Ryon Healy (Oregon) 2.2 (See Tim Anderson in the Jr. College Notes)

Alex Bregman (Louisiana State) 1.8

Ryan Schimpf (Louisiana State) 1.8

These debuting collegiate pitchers posted the highest WAR totals in 2016.

Tyler Anderson (Oregon) 3.5

Chris Devenski (Cal State Fullerton) 2.8

Sean Manaea (Indiana State) 2.7

#### **Collegiate Phantom Update:**

A "phantom" major leaguer is a player who was on an active major league roster during a regular season, but who never appeared in a regular season game.

-- The Toronto Blue Jays added Chris Smith (Kentucky Wesleyan) to their active roster on September 27<sup>th</sup>, but he did not appear in a game.

-- Two other collegians were technically phantoms in 2016. The Giants recalled Ray Black (Pittsburgh) from the minor leagues, and then placed him on the Disabled List that same day. Zack Jones (San Jose State) started the season on the Disabled List; the Brewers optioned him to the minor leagues on the day that he was activated.

Two true collegiate phantoms from previous seasons were still playing professional baseball in 2016 -- Brian Jeroloman (Florida) and Mike Antonini (Georgia College).

The following notes refer to those players who only played or attended a 2-year college.

Only 9 junior college alums made Major League debuts in 2016.

Daniel Stumpf was the only Phillies player making their debut in 2016 who attended college. Stumpf was a Rule 5 pick by the Phillies from Kansas City. After making his ML debut, the Phillies returned him to the Royals. (Note: Detroit selected Stumpf from the Royals in the 2016 Rule 5 draft.)

Tim Anderson, a 1<sup>st</sup> round draft selection by the White Sox, posted the highest WAR by any position player collegian making their debut in 2016, a 2.8 with the Pale Hose.

Derek Law posted at 1.5 WAR while pitching for the Giants.

Cody Reed started 10 games for the Reds, and lost all the games where he was credited with the decision, going 0-7.

Jabari Blash was born in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Some sites credit Blash with playing ball for two different teams while attending Miami Dade Junior College. However, Miami-Dade consolidated their baseball teams after the 1997 season.

Dustin Mollekin attended Lethbridge College (a two-year college in Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada). However, he played for the Prairie Baseball Academy, team comprised of students attending either Lethbridge College or the University of Lethbridge, neither of which has a baseball program. The team plays in the Canadian Intercollegiate Baseball Association (CIBA). The CIBA are comprised of colleges and universities in Alberta and British Columbia.

Player	Pos	College(s) Attended	Debut Date	Debut Team
Timothy Adleman	P	Georgetown Univ.	5/1/2016	Cincinnati
Daniel Altavilla	P	Mercyhurst University	8/27/2016	Seattle
Tyler Anderson	p	Univ. Oregon	6/12/2016	Colorado
Carlos Asuaje	2b	Nova Southeastern Univ.	9/21/2016	San Diego
Daniel Barnes	p	Princeton Univ.	8/2/2016	Toronto
Jacob Barnes	p	Fla. Gulf Coast Univ.	6/3/2016	Milwaukee
Anthony Barnette	p	Arizona State Univ. Central Arizona College	4/5/2016	Texas
Jake Barrett	p	Arizona State Univ.	4/4/2016	Arizona
George Baumann	p	Missouri State Univ.	7/16/2016	San Diego
Andrew Benintendi	of	Univ. Arkansas	8/2/2016	Boston
Joseph Biagini	p	University of California, Davis College of San Mateo	4/8/2016	Toronto
Tyson Blach	p	Creighton Univ.	9/5/2016	San Francisco
Aaron Blair	p	Marshall Univ.	4/24/2016	Atlanta
Richard Bleier	p	Florida Gulf Coast Univ.	5/30/2016	New York AL
Matthew Bowman	p	Princeton Univ.	4/6/2016	St. Louis
Jedidiah Bradley	p	Georgia Tech	9/3/2016	Atlanta
Steven Brault	p	Regis Univ.	7/5/2016	Pittsburgh
Alexander Bregman	3b	Louisiana State Univ.	7/25/2016	Houston
Andrew Burns	3b	Univ. Arizona (dnp) Univ. Kentucky	5/9/2016	Toronto
Matthew Buschmann	p	Vanderbilt Univ.	4/10/2016	Arizona
Matthew Carasiti	p	St. John's Univ.	8/12/2016	Colorado
Stephen Cardullo	1b	Florida State Univ.	8/26/2016	Colorado
Jon Chargois	p	Rice Univ.	6/11/2016	Minnesota
Michael Clevinger	p	Seminole State College Florida The Citadel	5/18/2016	Cleveland
Jason Coats	of	Texas Christian Univ.	6/4/2016	Chicago AL
Jharel Cotton	p	East Carolina Univ. Miami-Dade College	9/7/2016	Oakland
Zac Curtis	p	Middle Tennessee State Univ. Volunteer State Comm. College	4/30/2016	Arizona
Grant Dayton	p	Auburn Univ.	7/22/2016	Los Angeles NL
Jose De Leon	p	Southern Univ.	9/4/2016	Los Angeles NL
Patrick Dean	p	Boston College	5/11/2016	Minnesota
Matthew Dermody	p	Univ. Iowa	9/3/2016	Toronto
Christopher Devenski	p	California State Univ. Fullerton Golden West College	4/8/2016	Houston
Hunter Dozier	of	Stephen F. Austin State Univ.	9/12/2016	Kansas City
Cody Ege	p	Univ. Louisville	4/23/2016	Miami
Brett Eibner	of	Univ. Arkansas	5/27/2016	Kansas City
Jacob Esch	p	Georgia Tech	8/31/2016	Miami
Dylan Floro	p	California State Univ. Fullerton	7/7/2016	Tampa Bay
Adam Frazier	of	Mississippi State Univ.	6/24/2016	Pittsburgh

## 2016 Major League Debuts - Cont.

Player	Pos	College(s) Attended	Debut Date	Debut Team
Carson Fulmer	p	Vanderbilt Univ.	7/17/2016	Chicago AL
Eduardo Gamboa	p	Univ. California, Davis	9/2/2016	Tampa Bay
Percival Garner	P	Ball State Univ.	8/31/2016	Cleveland
Ryan Garton	P	Florida Atlantic Univ.	5/26/2016	Tampa Bay
Chad Girodo	P	Mississippi State Univ.	4/22/2016	Toronto
Koda Glover	P	Oklahoma State Univ. Eastern Oklahoma State College	7/20/2016	Washington
Brian Goodwin	of	Miami-Dade College University of North Carolina	8/6/2016	Washington
Chad Green	P	Univ. of Louisville	5/16/2016p	New York AL
Mitchell Haniger	of	Calif. Polytech, San Luis Obispo	8/16/2016	Arizona
Donnie Hart	P	Texas State Univ.	7/17/2016	Baltimore
Steven Hathaway	P	Franklin Pierce Univ.	7/31/2016	Arizona
Andrew Hayes	P	Vanderbilt Univ. Bethel College	4/21/2016	Cincinnati
Jeremy Hazelbaker	of	Ball State Univ.	4/3/2016	St. Louis
Ryon Healy	3b	Univ. Oregon	7/15/2016	Oakland
Benjamin Heller	P	Olivet Nazarene Univ.	8/26/2016	New York AL
Jeffrey Hoffman	P	East Carolina Univ.	8/20/2016	Colorado
Jonathan Holder	P	Mississippi State Univ.	9/2/2016	New York AL
Jared Hoyer	of	Univ. of Toledo	5/23/2016	Texas
James Hoyt	P	Centenary College Palomar College	8/3/2016	Houston
Jason Hursh	P	Oklahoma State Univ.	8/13/2016	Atlanta
Kyle Jensen	P	St. Mary 's College, Calif.	9/3/2016	Arizona
JaCoby Jones	3b	Louisiana State Univ.	8/30/2016	Detroit
Aaron Judge	of	California State Univ., Fresno	8/13/2016	New York AL
Tyler Kelly	3b	Univ. California, Davis Loyola Marymount Univ.	5/24/2016	New York AL
Anthony Kemp	of	Vanderbilt Univ.	5/17/2016	Houston
Spencer Kieboom	c	Clemson Univ.	10/2/2016	Washington
Dean Kiekhefer	P	Univ. Louisville	5/14/2016	St. Louis
Patrick Kivlehan	of	Rutgers Univ.	8/20/2016	San Diego
Matt Koch	P	Univ. Louisville	9/9/2016	Arizona
Chad Kuhl	P	Univ. Delaware	6/26/2016	Pittsburgh
Patrick Light	P	Monmouth Univ.	4/26/2016	Boston
Jacob Lugo	P	Centenary College	7/1/2016	New York NL
Damien Magnifico	P	Univ. Oklahoma Howard College	8/16/2016	Milwaukee
Gregory Mahle	p	Univ. California, Santa Barbara	4/13/2016	Los Angeles AL
Sean Manaea	P	Indiana State Univ.	4/29/2016	Oakland
Joseph Mancini	1b	Univ. of Notre Dame	9/20/2016	Baltimore
Joseph Manti	p	Virginia Tech	9/30/2016	Detroit
Bruce Maxwell	c	Birmingham Southern College	7/23/2016	Oakland
Michael Mayers	p	Univ. Mississippi	7/24/2016	St. Louis
Kevin McCarthy	p	Marist College	9/9/2016	Kansas City

## 2016 Major League Debuts - Cont.

Player	Pos	College(s) Attended	Debut Date	Debut Team
Whitley Merrifield	2b	Univ. South Carolina	5/18/2016	Kansas City
Michael Miller	2b	Calif. Polytech, San Luis Obispo Cueta College	6/27/2016	Boston
Alec Mills	p	Univ. Tennessee-Martin	5/18/2016	Kansas City
Colin Moran	3b	Univ. North Carolina	5/18/2016	Houston
Anthony Morris	p	Kansas State Univ.	5/24/2016	Cincinnati
Taylor Motter	of	Coastal Carolina Univ.	5/16/2016	Tampa Bay
Conor Mullee	p	St. Peter's College	5/16/2016	New York AL
Tyler Naquin	of	Texas A&M Univ.	4/5/2016	Cleveland
Zachary Neal	p	Univ. Oklahoma Howard College Sam Houston St.	5/11/2016	Oakland
Brett Nicholas	c	Univ. Missouri Scottsdale Comm. College Gonzaga Univ.	4/11/2016	Texas
Steven Okert	p	Univ. Oklahoma Grayson County College	4/16/2016	San Francisco
Dillon Overton	p	Univ. Oklahoma	6/25/2016	Oakland
Jordan Patterson	of	Univ. South Alabama	9/8/2016	Colorado
Chadwick Pinder	2b	Virginia Tech	8/20/2016	Oakland
Adam Plutko	p	Univ. Calif. Los Angeles (UCLA)	9/24/2016	Cleveland
Matthew Purke	p	Texas Christian Univ.	5/20/2106	Chicago AL
Andrew Reed	1b	Univ. Kentucky	6/25/2016	Houston
Anthony Renda	2b	Univ. California, Berkley	8/2/2016	Cincinnati
Dustin Renfroe	of	Mississippi State Univ.	9/21/2016	San Diego
Matthew Reynolds	ss	Univ. Arkansas	5/17/2016	New York AL
Joseph Rickard	of	Univ. Arizona	4/4/2016	Baltimore
Thomas Rivera	2b	Troy Univ. George C. Wallace St. Comm. College	8/10/2016	New York NL
Brady Rodgers	p	Arizona State Univ.	9/3/2016	Houston
Taylor Rodgers	p	Univ. Kentucky	4/14/2016	Minnesota
Ryan Schimpf	2b	Louisiana State Univ.	6/14/2016	San Diego
Robert Scott	p	Florida State Univ. Broward College	9/2/2016	Boston
Robert Segedin	of	Tulane Univ.	8/7/2016	Los Angeles NL
Steven Selsky	of	Univ. Arizona	5/20/2016	Cincinnati
Braden Shipley	p	Univ. Nevada-Reno	7/25/2016	Arizona
Blake Smith	p	Univ. California, Berkley	9/10/2016	Chicago AL
Jacob Smith	p	Campbell Univ.	9/7/2016	San Diego
Kevan Smith	c	Univ. Pittsburgh	9/1/2016	Chicago AL
Mallex Smith	of	Santa Fe College (FL)	4/11/2016	Atlanta
Layne Somsen	p	South Dakota State Univ.	5/14/2016	Cincinnati
Jacob Stallings	c	Univ. North Carolina	6/19/2016	Pittsburgh
Brock Stewart	p	Illinois State Univ.	6/29/2016	Los Angeles NL
Christopher Stratton	p	Mississippi State Univ.	5/30/2016	San Francisco
Thomas Stripling	p	Texas A&M Univ.	4/8/2016	Los Angeles NL
Tyler Sturdevant	p	New Mexico State Univ.	5/24/2016	Tampa Bay
Brent Suter	p	Harvard Univ.	8/19/2016	Milwaukee

## 2016 Major League Debuts - Cont.

Player	Pos	College(s) Attended	Debut Date	Debut Team
James Swanson	ss	Vanderbilt Univ.	8/17/2016	Atlanta
Alvin Toles	of	Chipola College Univ Tennessee	7/8/2016	Los Angeles NL
Ashur Tolliver	p	Oklahoma City Univ. Univ. Arkansas-Little Rock	5/26/2016	Baltimore
Andrew Triggs	p	Univ. Southern California	4/25/2016	Oakland
Patrick Valaika	ut	Univ. California Los Angeles (UCLA)	9/6/2016	Colorado
Colin Walsh	3b	Stanford Univ.	4/4/2016	Milwaukee
Luke Weaver	p	Florida State Univ.	8/13/2016	St. Louis
Jeffrey Wendelken	p	Middle Georgia College	5/8/2016	Oakland
Joseph Wendle	2b	West Chester Univ. of Pennsylvania	8/31/2016	Oakland
Bryan White	1b	Western Carolina Univ.	4/5/2016	Houston
Trevor Williams	p	Arizona State Univ.	9/7/2016	Pittsburgh
Alex Wimmers	p	The Ohio State Univ.	8/26/2016	Minnesota
Nicholas Wittgren	p	Purdue Univ. Parkland College	4/19/2016	Miami
Daniel Wright	p	Arkansas State Univ.	5/24/2016	Cincinnati
Robert Zastryzny	p	Univ. Missouri	8/19/2016	Chicago NL
Timothy Anderson	ss	East Central Community College (MS)	6/10/2016	Chicago AL
Jabari Bush	of	Miami-Dade College	4/4/2016	San Diego
Derek Law	p	Miami-Dade College	4/15/2016	San Francisco
Ryan Merritt	p	McLennan Comm. College	5/30/2016	Cleveland
Cody Reed	p	Northwest Mississippi Comm. College	6/18/2016	Cincinnati
Adrian Sampson	p	Bellevue College	6/18/2016	Seattle
Matthew Strahm	p	Neosho County Comm. College	7/31/2016	Kansas City
Daniel Stumpf	p	San Jacinto College	4/7/2016	Philadelphia
Dustin Molleken	p	Lethbridge College (Alberta CN)	7/4/2016	Detroit

For players attending multiple schools, the most recent attended is presented first.

David Anderson Sr. and his son, David Anderson are long-time SABR members who provide this listing as well as the accompanying notes .





## ***Bits and Pieces***

### **School News**

The University of Akron eliminated its baseball program during the summer of 2015. The elimination of the baseball program was part of a school program to reduce spending by \$40 million. According to the *Akron Beacon Journal* eliminating the baseball program would save \$700,000 or 0.14 % of the budget.

Akron's baseball program dates to the 1870's when the school was known as Buchtel College. It's most recent alum to reach the Major Leagues was Mark Malaska, who played with Tampa Bay in 2003 and Boston in 2004. It's most famous coach was the football coach John Heisman whose 1894 baseball squad posted an 8-5 record.

St. Catharine College in Kentucky closed its doors in July of 2016. A 2 year school for most of its existence, St. Catharine had converted to a 4 year program and began playing in the NAIA in 2009. Only one Major League player, Justin Leuke had attended the school. Lueke transferred to Northern Kentucky University, the school from whence he was drafted. John Werner, drafted by Texas in 2015 and Alfredo Bohorquez, signed as a free agent in 2016 remain active in minors.

In January of 2017, the University System of Georgia's Board of Regents voted to merge Armstrong State University in Savannah with Georgia Southern University in Statesboro. The Georgia Southern name will survive the merger and it's expected the 2017 season will Armstrong's last baseball season. Retired head coach Joe Roberts won 1,322 games from 1980-2013 for Armstrong State.

Georgia's Board of Regents also approved the merger of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College with Bainbridge State College. Bainbridge did not have a baseball program.

In February of 2017, St. Joseph College in Rennsselaer Indiana announced the school would suspend operations at the end of the 2017 spring semester. St. Joseph's most famous Major League alum was Dodger first baseman and Miracle Mets manager Gil Hodges. Playing on Gil Hodges Field, the Pumas had 16-6 record through March 29, although only a 2-2 conference record.



## Baseball Coaches Interviews Available

Long-time SABR member and baseball writer Bill Ballew launched the free College Baseball Now podcast on the iTunes store on December 1, 2016. Developed to give fans, players, potential recruits and fellow coaches insight into the various Division I programs, Ballew also aims to promote the sport with the hope that all schools will continue to increase their commitment to the growth of college baseball.

The College Baseball Now podcast is produced twice a week, on Mondays and Thursdays. A weekly blog summarizes the previous weekend's top results, focusing on the top teams. Both the podcasts and blogs are available on the website [CollegeBaseballNow.com](http://CollegeBaseballNow.com). In addition to the web site, the interviews are available for free on at the iTunes store.

"The idea behind College Baseball Now is to give college baseball and the people associated with this great game more of the attention it deserves," Ballew said. "I have been amazed at the overwhelming response I have received from many of the game's top coaches upon describing the concept to them. The podcast debuted with Coastal Carolina's Gary Gilmore and Vanderbilt's Tim Corbin, the head coaches of two of the last three national champions."

Recent podcasts include Dan McDonnell of Louisville, Jeff Duncan of Kent State and Darin Hendrickson of St. Louis. In addition, College Baseball Now has released podcasts featuring interviews with Clemson head coach Monte Lee, Middle Tennessee State's Jim McGuire, South Carolina's Chad Holbrook and Georgia Tech's Danny Hall.

"I talk with the coaches about the state of college baseball and their feelings regarding their programs heading into the 2017 season," Ballew said. "We also discuss the coaches' careers, recruiting and any changes they feel may need to be made in the college game. Most of the shows run about 30 minutes, although a couple have gone a few minutes longer."