

Matre Signs with Dodgers

Pitcher ends college career with 1.19 ERA and Steam career with 1.15 mark.

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WESTERN HILLS, Ohio—GLSCL and HCAC hitters can breathe a collective sigh of relief.

Cincinnati Steam pitcher Steve Matre's Wednesday signing with the Los Angeles Dodgers means that the right-handed hurler will no longer be around to make life miserable for collegiate hitters, taking his impressive track record to the professional ranks instead.

The Purcell Marian product put up staggering numbers with the Lions of the College of Mount St. Joseph, registering 32 saves and a microscopic 1.19 ERA over 59 career relief outings. Even more impressive is the fact that Matre improved in almost every area in each of his three seasons (he missed the 2010 college season recovering from Tommy John surgery). As a freshman in 2007, his ERA was a sparkling 1.95; in 2008, he lowered that figure to 0.84, and in 2009 to 0.41. Matre picked up nine saves in 2007, tied for the most in the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference; in 2008 he upped that mark to 10, and in 2009 to 13 (the final two totals put Matre alone at the top of the league). And Matre averaged 9.49 strikeouts per nine innings as a freshman only to see that mark rise to 10.97 as a sophomore and 13.09 as a junior. Of Major League relievers with at least 54.0 innings pitched last season, only Jonathan Broxton—the current closer for the Dodgers—averaged more strikeouts per nine innings (13.50) than Matre's 13.09 a year ago.

Opposing hitters have been accustomed to riding on the interstate against Matre, recording a .168 average versus the righty in 2007, followed by .150 in 2008 and .133 in 2009. Matre, who was named MVP of the HCAC in 2008 and a first-team All-American by D3baseball.com as a sophomore and as a junior, allowed just 50 hits over 91.0 frames in his college career.

Unsurprisingly, Matre has also excelled as a member of the Steam, notching an ERA of 1.15 in 16 career appearances. He struck out 20 and walked just two in 15.2 innings, an outstanding ratio that still does not compare to Matre's one walk—to 39 strikeouts—in 32.0 innings with the Lions in 2008. Matre put an exclamation point on his career by striking out the last five batters—and eight of the last 10—he faced as a member of the Steam. In addition, he did not allow a single extra-base hit in his GLSCL career.

Matre was selected in the 39th round (pick 1192) of this year's First-Year Player Draft after being scouted (and now signed) by L.A. scout Tom Keefe.