

More players with Steam ties get drafted in Day 3

Ben Thomas, the Steam career leader in batting average (.338) and on base percentage (.441), was chosen in the 34th round with the 1,047th pick by the San Francisco Giants. Thomas played for the Steam in the summers of 2009 and 2010 as a first baseman, designated hitter and starting pitcher. The left-hander from Westerville Central high school in Columbus had a decorated college career for the Musketeers including 44 career home runs which is tops on the all-time list. The three-time Atlantic-10 selection became the first Xavier player to be named A-10 player of the year in 2011 with a .350 batting average, 15 home runs and 56 RBI. As a sophomore in 2009, Thomas was a starter on the Xavier team that advanced to the NCAA tournament.

Former Elder Panther Mike Nastold, who is scheduled to begin his first season with the Steam this summer, was selected in the 37th round with the 1,141st pick by the Philadelphia Phillies. Nastold just completed his redshirt sophomore season for the University of Louisville Cardinals. Nastold was on his way to an impressive freshman season with the Cards until it was cut short due to an injury. He was 2-0 with a 3.52 ERA in appearances, six of which were starts. The injury also cost him the 2010 season but he was granted a medical redshirt. The past spring, Nastold logged 43 innings in 13 appearances (11 starts) with a 3-7 record and a 4.81 ERA. As a freshman at Elder, Nastold was a member of the Panthers state championship team.

Cory Farris, whose only season with the Steam was short circuited by injury and illness, was taken in the 45th round with the 1,371st pick by the Chicago White Sox. Farris played his first two seasons as a collegiate player for the University of Kentucky. After last season, the left-handed hitting outfielder decided to transfer with two years of eligibility remaining to Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tennessee. He hit .259 this past spring with 12 home runs and 53 RBI for the Bulldogs. Farris was a five-year letter winner in baseball as a catcher for Boone County high school in Florence, Kentucky. Farris was also a football star for the Rebels, leading the state in rushing as a senior with 2,250 yards on 288 carries. He is second on Boone County's all-time career rushing list (6,227 yards) behind only former NFL running back Shaun Alexander. Farris was also selected by the White Sox in 43rd round of the 2008 draft as a high school senior.

Finally, Ian Kadish was picked up as a free agent at the conclusion of the draft by the Toronto Blue Jays. Please see the press release by Marshall University here:

<http://herdzone.cstv.com/sports/m-basebl/spec-rel/060811aaf.html>

With the completion of this year's draft, the Steam had a total of seven current or former players selected which equals the amount taken in the 2010 draft.