

## **JEFFERSON SIGNS WITH PIRATES**

CINCINNATI, OHIO – Cincinnati Steam pitcher Michael Jefferson has decided to forgo his final year of college eligibility at Louisiana Tech University and sign a minor league contract with the Pittsburgh Pirates. Jefferson was selected in the 22<sup>nd</sup> round (662<sup>nd</sup> pick overall) by the Pirates in last week's draft.

Jefferson, a left-handed pitcher, had a strong spring for Louisiana Tech as a redshirt junior going 6-4 with a 3.56 ERA in 18 appearances (14 starts) with 70 strikeouts and 46 walks in 86 innings. Jefferson had a 13-11 record with a 4.94 ERA and 178 strikeouts, starting 30 games and made 62 appearances in his career with the Bulldogs.

The graduate of Clermont Northeast High School played two summers for the Steam and was on the 2011 roster but did not appear in a game yet this season. For his Steam career, Jefferson was 3-3 with a 2.65 ERA in 17 appearances (11 starts) with 74 strikeouts in 54.1 innings. He was a member of the 2009 squad that won the Great Lakes Summer Collegiate League post season tournament.

Jefferson will report to the Pirates rookie league team, the State College Spikes of the New York Penn League.