

June 18, 2009

Blue Raiders performing well in pros 14 former student-athletes playing professional baseball

MT Athletic Communications

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. - There are 14 former Blue Raiders still playing professional baseball since their careers at Middle Tennessee ended.

One of the most notable is Brett Carroll, who a week ago hit his first major league home run. He has been on the active roster for the Florida Marlins since opening day, except for a short rehab assignment in New Orleans.

Appearing in 40 games, Carroll has 12 hits, five RBI and has scored six runs in 43 at-bats. In the month of June, Carroll is batting .381 and in the last 30 days has posted an average of .409. In the final game of the Marlins sweep of Toronto, Carroll was 2 for 5 with two RBI and scored two runs.

Chris Mobley has been called up to Triple-A after beginning the season in Double-A with the Florida Marlins and is playing for the New Orleans Zephyrs. Mobley has a 2.74 ERA with a 1-0 record in 17 appearances. He has one save and 22 strikeouts in 23 innings of work as batters are hitting .278 against him. Overall this season, Mobley has a 2.88 ERA with 25 strikeouts in 25 innings of work.

Michael McKenry is playing for the Tulsa Drillers, the Colorado Rockies Double-A affiliate. McKenry has played in 49 games for the Drillers with 44 hits, 11 doubles, seven home runs, 24 RBI and has scored 25 runs.

Former Blue Raider Matt Ray is playing for the Kane County Cougars, the Single-A affiliate of the Oakland A's. In 50 games, Ray has 42 hits, seven doubles, one home run, 19 RBI and has scored 22 runs.

Josh Renick and Tjerk Smeets are playing in the Netherlands professional baseball organization.

Five former players are with independent baseball organizations. Eric McNamee and Jeff Beachum are both playing for the Gary Southshore Railcats, Jeremy Owens is with the South Maryland Blue Crabs, Josh Horn is playing for the Wichita Wingnuts and Dewon Brazelton rounds out the group as he is with the Camden Riversharks.

Beachum is currently batting .307 with 27 hits, 12 RBI and has scored 11 runs in 27 games while McNamee has 26 hits with five doubles in 31 games as he has 12 RBI and has scored 19 runs.

In 50 games, Owens has 43 hits, six doubles, 10 home runs, 26 RBI and has scored 39 runs while Horn is batting .345 with 39 hits, five for extra bases, driven in 18 runs and has scored 20 runs.

Brazelton, the only pitcher of the group, has a 3.24 ERA in 10 appearances with a complete game and 50 strikeouts. He has posted a 2-3 record in 58.1 innings of work as batters are



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(Carolina Mudcats/Florida Marlins) 

hitting .239 against him.

Three Middle Tennessee players from the 2009 season, **Rawley Bishop**, **Nathan Hines** and **Coty Woods**, will begin their professional careers later this week when their seasons begin. Bishop is playing with the Oneonta Tigers, the short season team for the Detroit Tigers while Hines and Woods will be playing with the Casper Ghosts, the rookie team for the Colorado Rockies.

Former Blue Raider assistant Andy Haines has his hand in professional baseball as he is the manager for the Jamestown Jammers, the short-season team of the Florida Marlins. The Jammers will begin their season later this week.

Complete list of Blue Raiders in the pros

Jeff Beachum - Gary Southshore Railcats (Independent)

Rawley Bishop - Oneonta Tigers (SS), Detroit Tigers

Dewon Brazelton - Camden Riversharks (Independent)

Brett Carroll - Florida Marlins

Andy Haines - Manager; Jamestown Jammers (SS), Florida Marlins

Nathan Hines - Casper Ghosts (R), Colorado Rockies

Josh Horn - Wichita Wingnuts (Independent)

Michael McKenry - Tulsa Drillers (AA), Colorado Rockies

Eric McNamee - Gary Southshore Railcats (Independent)

Chris Mobley - New Orleans Zephyrs (AAA), Florida Marlins

Jeremy Owens - South Maryland Blue Crabs (Independent)

Matt Ray - Kane County Cougars (A), Oakland A's

Josh Renick - Corendon Kinheim (Dutch Major League baseball)

Tjerk Smeets - Corendon Kinheim (Dutch Major League baseball)

Coty Woods - Casper Ghosts (R), Colorado Rockies

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