

March 2010  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Craig Bate and Will Richards have signed pro contracts to play independent league baseball. Bate has signed on to play for the Southern Illinois Miners of the Frontier League and Richards has signed to play for the Sioux Falls Canaries of the American Association of Independent Baseball.

Bate returned to baseball after a two year layoff rehabbing from Tommy John surgery...Spent the 2009 season with the London Majors of the Intercounty Baseball League...Posting a 7-1 record and a 1.43 ERA, good enough for second in the league...Struck out 76 batters in his 63 innings of work, walking only 22 and allowing just 33 hits...Signed with the Miners on 10/28/09.

Bate played two seasons at Eastern Michigan University...Made one start in 2007, helping EMU upset Tennessee, before missing the rest of the year with an elbow injury requiring Tommy John surgery...In 2006 went 2-1 with a 3.09 ERA in 16 games for EMU and named the team's Newcomer of the Year...Was a member of the Canadian Junior National Team and the Ontario Youth Under 17 Team during his last two years of high school...As a senior, pitched a perfect game with the Under 17 Team in the World Showcase...Born in St. Thomas, Ontario.

In 2009 with the Majors, Richards hit 0.295 during the regular season team highs of 7 homeruns, 11 doubles and 33 rbi. Will followed that up with an amazing production during the 1st round of the playoffs. In 6 games Richards hit 0.550 with 3 homeruns and 10 rbi. Will spent most of the year at 1st base and played some games as the catcher. After an injury plagued 2008 campaign Richards returned to his all star form in 2009.

Prior to playing for the Majors Richards suited up for the now defunct Stratford Nationals. In addition Richards played his college ball at Indiana Tech where he was a standout hitter.

Roop Chanderdat, Co-Owner, General Manager and Field Manager of the LONDON MAJORS is very proud of these two players and wish them great success in pursuing their baseball dream." "This also shows the Majors program to develop players and move them to a higher caliber of ball."

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London Majors Baseball  
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