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London's Dave Wydeven passes on pro baseball - for now

MIKE ARSENAULT
FOR METRO

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London's Dave Wydeven just tried to keep himself busy last week as he anxiously awaited the results of the 2011 Major League Baseball draft.

Wydeven, a junior right-handed pitcher at Grand Canyon University in Arizona, drew the attention of the Houston Astros with a strong collegiate season. They invited him to a camp for draft prospects on June 2.



SUBMITTED

Dave Wydeven

"It was my first time on a major league diamond, but I felt comfortable on the mound," Wydeven said. "No nerves; just locked in. I

was clocked at 92 (miles per hour) with good command and control.”

An Arizona-based Astros scout called him late Tuesday night saying the team planned to draft him the following day. When the talk turned to money, Wydeven was left with an interesting dilemma: Go play pro ball or finish school.

“I had a set number of what I wanted to sign for, but the Astros offered well below that,” Wydeven said. “I talked it over with my family, and it just made the most sense to go back to school.”

He told the Astros that he wouldn't sign at their price – thereby taking himself off their draft list – and plans to return to Arizona in September for his senior season.

With a new coaching staff headed to Grand Canyon, Wydeven is excited about the improvements he can make to his craft. “Every year of college ball, I've gotten physically and mentally stronger. I've turned into a pitcher, not just a thrower.”

As for bypassing the draft, the hurler has no regrets and is at peace with his decision. “Pro ball will still be an option next year, but finishing my university career is important . . . (Grand Canyon) is a lot of fun and has been a great experience for me.”

Dave Wydeven is currently studying exercise science and is committed to completing his education. “Getting my degree gives me an insurance policy if baseball doesn't work out,” he said.

He is playing for the London Majors this summer after playing for the St. Thomas Tomcats of the Junior Intercounty League last year.

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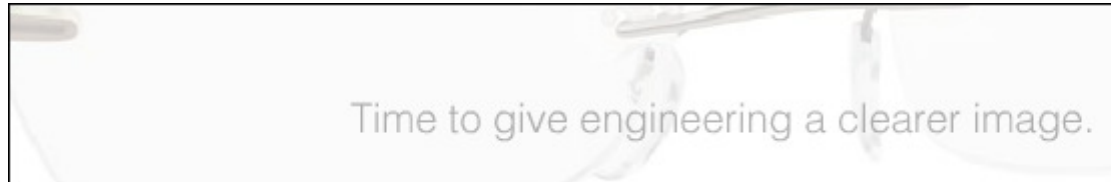


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