

From college to MLB

Utes' Fife a top prospect

Among local college players, Utah pitcher most likely to go early

By **MARTIN RENZHOFER**
The Salt Lake Tribune

Stephen Fife can't remember how long he has been waiting for today. The dream for the University of Utah pitcher has always existed. Today is the day of days for a talented few college baseball players, many who have spent

much of their childhood yearning to wear a Major League Baseball uniform.

Fife is one of a handful with plans of camping next to the phone beginning at noon as MLB holds its First Year Player Draft, being held at Disney's Wide World of Sports Complex in Orlando,



Stephen Fife
Utah pitcher

Fla. BYU players Kent Walton (outfield), Dan Vargas (infield) and Sean McNaughton (outfield), as well as Fife and Utah teammate Corey Shimada (infield) could get that call.

"I hope they lose Fife," said BYU coach Vance Law. "He is probably going to be the highest pick in our area. He's going to get that opportunity. That's all you can ask for." Since the process is subjective, no one really knows who

will be drafted, or when. Fife recently worked out with Milwaukee, hopes he is drafted by his childhood favorite, Seattle, but just wants to hear the phone ring with good news. Fife's heard that he's a projected second-round pick.

Walton will be playing golf with his dad. "I haven't heard anything, and would rather not," he said. "The draft is a funny thing."
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Draft: Off year for Utah preps

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deeper. Already, according to Judge coach Jeff Myaer, Keenyn Walker, a switch-hitting center fielder in the class of 2009, is being projected as a high-round draft pick. Walker, a first-team Class 3A all-state selection, is described by Myaer as a five-tool player, which is a prospect that can hit for power, hit for average, field, throw and has speed. Myaer, who played professional baseball, has said that Walker reminds him of a young Ken Griffey Jr.

"The sky's the limit for that kid," Myaer said. "Obviously he's only 16, so there's a lot of growth to be had. But he's got the body, the speed, and the skill set. He's years ahead of where he's supposed



Keenyn Walker
Judge junior is projected as a future high-round MLB draft pick



Mike Dedrick
Canyon View junior pitcher, whose fastball is 93 mph, a future prospect

to be." Mike Dedrick, of Canyon View, is also expected to become a potential draftee, mainly because he throws a 93 mile-per-hour fastball and he has a healthy assortment of pitches that he throws for strikes.

Those two, along with Cottonwood pitchers Zach Adams and Kendall Mayer, appear to be the best prospects of next year's class. Marcus Littlewood, a sophomore shortstop from Pine View, is one to watch two years down the line. Littlewood, who is the Gatorade player of the year, was ranked as the top 10th grader in the country by



RICK EGAN/The Salt Lake Tribune

Cottonwood pitcher Zach Adams, front, and teammate Kendall Mayer, also a pitcher, have the potential to be future MLB draft picks.

Baseball America. People who have watched him say he's the best defensive shortstop to come along in years.

"That's what makes things so bright," Pine View coach Jonathan Howell said. "He

has two years to get bigger, two years to get stronger. He's the best defensive shortstop that I've ever coached, and the next two years are just going to drive his stock up."
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UTAH BRIEFS

Volleyball

Orem's Richards gets Oly tryout

Orem's **Kristin Richards** is playing for the United States at the Pan American Cup tournament in Mexico that began this week, hoping to impress coaches to prove that she has an Olympic future — either at the 2008 Beijing Games or the 2012 London Games.

Richards was a four-time all-state selection and national Gatorade player of the year while at Timpanogos High School, and went on to star at Stanford before joining the full national team three years ago.

Golf

Wilson advances to U.S. Open

Former BYU golfer **Dean Wilson** shot 69-68 at Columbus, Ohio, to make the field for next week's U.S. Open. Among other sectional qualifying entrants with Utah ties, ex-Cougar **Daniel Summerhays** missed by three strokes, shooting 75-69 at Lake Forest, Ill. **Mike Weir** qualified via his top-50 world ranking.

SLC presenting girls' golf clinics

Salt Lake City's golf courses are all conducting golf clinics for high school-age girls this summer. Go to the www.slc-golf.com for information on times, locations and costs.

Baseball

BYU adds two prep pitchers

Right-handed pitchers **Marc Oslund** of West High in Torrance, Calif., and **Nathan Bunch** from Hazen High in Renton, Wash., signed letters of intent to play for BYU's baseball team.

Oslund was 8-0 last season as a pitcher and also played quarterback in football. Bunch was 4-1 with a 1.15 ERA as the Seamount League MVP.

UVSC players earn honors

Utah Valley seniors **Marcus Moore** and **Scott Croshaw** were both named to the Division I All-Independent Baseball First Team. Voting was conducted among both the head coaches and sports information directors at the 13 independent schools.

Basketball

'Little Man's' camps set

Former NBA personnel director **Barry Hecker** will conduct his annual "Little Man's" camps beginning Monday in Salt Lake City (272-2243) and Park City (435-640-8470) for players in grades 3-8.

Tennis

UVSC adding two programs

Utah Valley announced it will add men's and women's tennis to its list of Division I sports, bringing the total to 17 sports. The men's program will start in the fall of 2009-10 and the women's program will start in the fall of 2010-11.
— Combined news services

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