

## 2019 Player Awards

### **Offensive Player of the Year: Riley Boushack**

Riley led the team in batting average at a .373 clip. He had 47 hits (38 singles, 7 doubles, and 2 triples). He also tied for the team lead in RBIs with 16. He also led the team in runs scored with 25 and tied for second with 13 stolen bases. He moved around in the lineup, but was either hitting in the middle of the order driving in runs, or at the top, setting the table. I remember talking to Riley in the spring, and he was talking about his struggles at the plate. That almost seems hard to believe with the summer he had. Riley was a senior this year, but can come back next summer. If this was it for him, it was a great way to go out. But I'm hopeful we can get him back again next year.

### **Pitcher of the Year: Mason Coffren**

Mason struggled a bit on the mound in the spring, so coming into the summer, I expected he'd be our No. 3 or No. 4 pitcher. I even contemplated throwing him out of the bullpen. But he pitched the first game of the summer for us, and although we lost, he was very good, and I liked what I saw. His best outing, without a doubt, came against Eau Claire in the tournament. It was a 4-hit shutout, against one of the better hitting teams in the state. He struck out three and walked only two. He was also brilliant against another top team in Sheboygan. We picked up a 4-2 win in that one. Mason finished with 40.2 innings pitched and a 3.62 ERA, always drawing our tougher matchups. Mason, like Riley, finished up his senior year, but can return again next summer. It goes without saying, I hope to see him again next summer.

### **Pitcher of the Year: Cole Hediger**

Like last year, we had two pitchers of the year, and I had no choice but to go that route again. Cole was brilliant all summer for us on the mound. He struggled with his command in his first start of the summer against Manitowoc, but it was easy to see, he had the best stuff out of any of our pitchers. I think Cole's highlight was definitely his last game on the mound for us this summer. He threw six innings against Wisconsin Rapids in our regional matchup. Although he didn't pick up the win, he allowed just two runs and gave us a chance to win a thriller in extra innings. He led the team with 43.1 innings pitched this summer, and finished with a 1.45 ERA. He also led the team with 32 strikeouts. Cole is hoping to pitch at Madison College this year, and also has a year of eligibility for us next summer. I can assure you there will be a spot in the rotation for him if he decides to come back next summer.

### **Iron Man Award: Isaiah Baierl**

Last summer, we unfortunately lost Isaiah to a gruesome hand injury late in the year thanks to some hot tar. But he came back strong this year and appeared in every game for us. He was an anchor at third base, but also provided some versatility playing in the outfield occasionally. He hit .299 and finished with 35 hits (28 singles, 5 doubles, 2 triples). He was also second on the team with 20 runs scored and tied with Riley for the team lead with 16 RBIs. Isaiah's best moment came with his walk-off pinch hit against Altoona in the Eau Claire tournament. But I wouldn't be shocked if he'd tell you his best moment was picking up a strikeout on the mound against the Green Bay Shockers. He'd begged me for two years for a chance to pitch, and finally, I was able to give him a shot, and he did not disappoint. I was able to coach Isaiah in hockey as well for two years, and unfortunately, he is out of eligibility. So this summer wrapped up his legion career. Good luck in the future Isaiah!

### **Coaches Award: Eli Drexler**

I don't think this summer went the way Eli would've hoped. He missed time with a bad back, and then had to be shut down with elbow tendonitis. I could tell he was discouraged, but he never became a bad influence or distraction. He did whatever he could through the summer to stay positive and to support the team. Fortunately, a player with the skill set Eli has, can contribute even when he's not in the lineup. Even using him as a courtesy runner is valuable. He did lead the team in stolen bases after all with 21. He even came back sooner than was recommended for his tendonitis to be fully available for regionals. It's hard not to respect that as a coach. These are many of the reasons I nominated Eli for the All-Star game at Miller Park that he will get to play in this weekend. Eli is also out of legion eligibility, so this was unfortunately, the end of his legion career. He will play at Minnesota-Duluth this upcoming year, and I have no doubt he will have success. You don't find many players with his skill set. It was a pleasure coaching you for two years Eli, best of luck at UMD.

I'd also like to take a second to mention Jacob Earll and Tragen Bogdonovich. Both of these players are out of eligibility, so their legion careers came to an end this summer as well.

**Jacob** made huge strides this summer for us. Stuck as the backup catcher last summer, he took a huge leap this year, and cemented himself as the top catcher this summer. He called a great game behind the plate, and he took control of the game. He was always talking and letting our defense know the situation, and making sure we were set for any situation that could arise. He really was like having another coach on the field. He also provided probably the highlight of the year for us with his walk-off single against Wisconsin Rapids in the regionals. What a moment that was. So Jake, thank you for a great summer, and I wish you nothing but the best moving forward.

**Tragen** also finished up his legion career after two summers with us. Last summer, he struggled early, and that led to diminished playing time. But he stuck with it, and after a couple injuries, he earned few opportunities and he took advantage of them and found himself in the lineup heading down the stretch at the most important time of the season. This summer probably didn't go as well as he'd hoped either, but he was a great teammate, and was always supporting the team. He made the most of his experience and took on a role as the bullpen coach, which I think he really enjoyed. Where we did get a major contribution from Tragen this summer was on the mound. After not throwing at all last summer, it was great to get innings out of. So Tragen, thank you for your two seasons with us, and good luck to you in the future.

Logan Schreiner, Preston Wagner, Will Voss, and Ty Pankratz were also seniors this summer, but they all have eligibility to return next summer, so I don't want to put a bow on their legion careers yet. I'm hopeful they will join us next year.