

SETH JACKSON SIGNS TOP SCHOLARSHIP AT DIVISION I UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO



Seth Jackson is expected to be a top middle infielder at the Division I level in 2011-2012

Jackson's career at UNC will be followed closely by Reds' fans throughout the next 4 years, but in the meantime, EatonBaseball.com provides a summary of Jackson's career to-date:

Seth Jackson has played a lot of roles in his 4-year, 8-season career at Eaton.

Summer 2007

Only days out of 8th grade, Jackson immediately moved into the starting lineup in the summer of 2007. Jackson took over at 2nd base, and batted toward the bottom of the order, but in the first State Tournament of his career, Jackson delivered one key hit after another and likely would have been awarded the Top Hitter of the Tournament if the Reds had won State.

Spring 2008

By spring of 2008, Jackson was hitting #6 in the lineup and again starting at second base. As only a freshman, Jackson not only delivered an RBI double in the 4-1 State Championship Game victory, but also hit a 2nd double in the game and showed the maturity to take a full-count, 2-out, bases-loaded walk to bring in another run for the Reds to seal his first State Championship.

Summer 2008

Only one year into high school, Jackson spent the summer of 2008 as the Reds' #2 hitter. He drew more walks than likely any #2 hitter in Reds' history, which is amazing because those who walked him had to then face Reds' legendary slugger Tyler Wallace. Jackson's patience at the plate, along with a single or two per game, allowed for many of the nearly-100 RBIs that Wallace drove in that summer. Jackson and his teammates went 43-2 that summer, easily winning the Legion B State Championship. The Reds celebrated their first pileup on Eaton's home field in history, as all previous State Championship wins had occurred on visiting fields.

Jackson's role in the summer of 2008 was to simply get on base via any means possible, much like leadoff hitter Adam Geisick, so that the Reds' sluggers Wallace, Bennett Pickar, and Logan Hall then had runners on base to drive in, which they did with remarkable consistency. There was a time that Wallace was so hot at the plate, that Jackson actually took verbal signs from the Reds' 1st base coach once he reached base as to whether he was allowed to take 2nd base on a wild pitch, or whether he was to feign tripping and/or hesitation to stay right there on 1st base so that pitchers didn't have an open base to pitch around Wallace. Jackson was playing a pivotal role, but the glory was going to the Reds' sluggers, and Jackson was just fine with that.

Spring 2009

By spring 2009 as only a sophomore, Jackson continued to play 2nd base and hit 2nd in the lineup, and helped lead the Reds to not only an undefeated season and another State Championship, but also the #1 ranking in the entire nation for schools with an enrollment under 800—Eaton High School is well under this mark at just over 500 students. During the closest game of what would become a nationally historic 60-game win streak, all Reds' fans will remember that Wallace hit a 2-out, 2-run home run in the 7th inning to win the game against a top Major League draft choice. It was arguably the greatest regular season moment in Eaton history, and yet none of that would have happened if Jackson hadn't fouled off multiple 2-strike sliders in the at-bat before Wallace, and then hit an infield single to extend the game for Wallace's heroics to then become possible. Jackson again played a major role in the State Championship Game, drawing two key, two-out walks, including one walk that later allowed 3 more runs to be driven in to effectively end the game. Despite having built a career resume at Eaton that every kid would dream of having as their own, including earning 3 straight spring and summer State Championships, Jackson was remarkably only halfway through his career in The Pinstripes.

Summer 2009

After being issued more bases on balls than even Wallace during the 2009 season, the Reds' coaching staff met with Jackson during the start of the summer of 2009 and explained that he couldn't have performed that role any better, however now we needed him to be more aggressive and start driving the ball, given the fact that the Reds had just graduated 5 3-year starters. Jackson quickly started jumping on 1-0 fastballs that he had previously taken to try to get deep into each at-bat, often eventually leading to walks. Jackson immediately moved to #3 in the lineup, and moved over to shortstop, now that legends Bo McLavey and Tyler Wallace had stepped aside from manning the position. Jackson also became the Reds' ace pitcher, moving up from a supporting role behind Hall and Wallace, to now being atop the rotation following their graduation.

Jackson helped lead the Reds in their inaugural year in the Class 4A/5A Northern Colorado Baseball League (NCBL) to a 20-1 league record, facing the top teams in Northern Colorado throughout the summer. The Reds also finished tied atop the summer standings in Legion B games, and yet again advanced through the District Tournament to the State Tournament, earning multiple wins on the mound along the way.

Spring 2010

As a junior in 2010, Jackson was now the old man in the Reds' dugout, with much more experience as a starter than any other Red. With an inherited 37-game win streak on the line, and a chance to win the first 9 games of the season to set the state record, Jackson led the Reds in huge wins that most considered upsets for the youthful Reds over top-caliber teams including Kent Denver, Faith Christian, and Holy Family—these teams would go on to represent the entirety of the Final Four later in the year along with Eaton. Jackson then entered the game in relief against Valley, and recorded 10 strikeouts in 4 1/3 innings to secure the victory and set the new Colorado baseball win streak mark at 46, and then went on to help the Reds advance this record

all the way to 60 consecutive wins. In one of the very few losses experienced in Jackson's career, on a windy day in which the umpire held a very small Major League strike zone, Jackson took the mound in relief and never left it, throwing well over 100 pitches, and battling it out to the final pitch as the Reds tried to mount a late comeback. While this State Championship Game did not go to Jackson and the Reds, he nonetheless batted 1.000 with two walks.

Summer 2010

With playoff experience now under the belts of the bulk of the Reds' starters, Jackson led the Reds to another NCBL League Championship with a 20-2 record, and the Legion B League Championship with an undefeated 13-0 league record. Jackson and his teammates then won the NCBL Championship against top Class 5A competition. With Jackson throwing throughout the NCBL Tournament, the Reds risked being upset in the Legion B District Tournament that started only 36 hours after the NCBL Championship, but fortunately the Reds pulled through to advance through Districts as well. The Reds then came back to win the Legion B State Championship as well, as Jackson led the Reds at the plate in the State Championship Game with a triple, double, two singles, and 3 RBI, including the game-tying RBI in the comeback win, to earn his 4th State Championship.

In the fall of 2010, Jackson was selected to an all-star team sponsored by the Atlanta Braves, consisting of players primarily from Colorado Class 5A State Champion Rocky Mountain and Wyoming State Champion Cheyenne. Jackson played shortstop for the all-star team and often batted #2 in the lineup, leading the team to wins over top junior colleges in the area as well as top high school all-star teams including Cherry Creek.

Spring 2011

The Spring of 2011 will be Jackson's 8th, and final, season wearing The Pinstripes. The Reds are expecting to again be ranked #1 in the preseason, and Jackson will be attempting to win his 5th State Championship Ring. Only two Eaton legends, Josh Noblitt and Dusty Dominguez, have earned more than 5 State Championship Rings as starters, and Jackson will be looking to tie a number of Reds' legends from the middle of this last decade that earned 5 State Championship Rings. If the Reds retired jerseys, Jackson's number would certainly be retired next summer, but much like as with the Yankees, Jackson couldn't be wearing #2 right now if that were the case, as one of many Reds before him would have had that jersey number retired well before Jackson stepped out of middle school 3 ½ years ago in need of a uniform for his first varsity game. It will be very odd late this spring when Jackson dons The Pinstripes for his final time, but it will be the culmination of one of the greatest 4-year careers in Eaton history.

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Jackson winning his first State Championship as a freshman in 2008.