



KAPPERMAN COMMITTS TO MAJOR SCHOLARSHIP AT NJC

"Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent." --President Calvin Coolidge

Since 2005, the Reds have graduated 30 players that accepted major baseball scholarships during their senior year. Nearly all of these men were blessed with rare God-given talents that made the sport of baseball come pretty easily to them. While having the advantage of starting high atop the mountain of success given their exceptional talents, they also worked hard to continually improve, and performed as determined competitors that willed themselves to win.

However only one of these 30 men personified the above quote in the manner that it was meant—as a universal truth to all Americans—regardless of the God-given gifts that may or may not have been bestowed upon them.

Ethan Kapperman has just committed to a major scholarship at Northeastern Junior College (NJC), a baseball program that was ranked #16 in the nation in 2013.

As a youth, Ethan was one of nearly a dozen pitchers within the most talented class the Reds have ever fielded. He had the benefit of being left-handed, but at the age of 13, he didn't throw enough strikes to make the Reds' star-studded team. The coach that reluctantly cut him stated at the end of tryouts, 'keep throwing Ethan, keep working hard and this could all change by next year. Embarrass me for not having taken you on this squad.' Those are the words coaches always state to players that have a chance to make it, but realistically very few of these players ever find the willpower from within to make it a reality. As Super Bowl Champion Russell Wilson stated: 'dreams don't come true, dreams are made true.'

Ethan Kapperman is that rare player that simply decided he was going to make the team the following year, and worked exceptionally hard to throw strikes from a unique sidearm delivery, and now he isn't just embarrassing coaches that previously cut him, he's embarrassing many of the State's top hitters.

By the following year, Kapperman was not only on the 14 year-old team, he worked himself into the rotation and led the Reds to multiple Triple Crown tournament championships and helped the Reds win the Legion D State Championship in 2011. By summer 2012, he was pitching in the State Semifinals of the Legion B State Tournament, helping lead the Reds to that State Championship as well. He started the Reds' remarkable 42-0 summer in 2013 with a complete-game, 4-hit shutout against Class 4A State Champion Mountain View, and throughout 2013 and 2014, he pitched in the toughest jams the Reds faced in the Legion A State Tournament. Kapperman helped the Reds to the Legion A Varsity State Championship in both 2013 and 2014, and pitched this fall for WYCO as their closer, closing out top teams including the Colorado Rockies Senior Scout Team, Team Colorado, Rocky Mountain, and top Slammers' teams. With the games on the line, he retired the first 18 batters in order that he faced this fall, and continued at that kind of pace to where he pitched so well against many junior college teams this fall that he attracted multiple scholarship offers, and has chosen to play for NJC next year.

The Reds have had one player with a similar story to Ethan Kapperman's, 2001 graduate Craig Ayers, who went on to an exceptional collegiate career after pitching 12 innings in the Reds' 15-inning 2001 State Championship victory. Kappy and his teammates have the opportunity to earn still one more championship ring as Reds this next spring, and as always, Kappy will be working hard throughout the off-season to help make that happen. The Reds, his family, and frankly President Coolidge himself, would expect no less from a man that has so perfectly exemplified persistence and determination.