

## **A Year in the Making**

Brett Watson was all ready to pitch for the Walla Walla Sweets last summer. His shoulder wasn't. Watson never threw a pitch last summer thanks to a shoulder problem but showed the Sweets enough to ask him back for a second go-around this summer. On Saturday, he was finally able to toe the rubber at Borleske Stadium and throw a pitch for the Sweets.

"I was a little nervous at first," Watson admitted afterwards. "I got my stuff going and got through the first inning and the nerves settled."

Watson did more than get through the first, he cruised through it, striking out the first two batters and snaring a comebacker to complete the inning. He worked around a two-out single in the second but hit a snag in the third. After the first two batters reached, Watson fielded a bunt and tried to get the lead runner at third but his throw went down the left field line, scoring a run and allowing another to move to third.

With a run in and runners on the corners with no one out, Watson didn't back down. He allowed the runner on third to score on a fielder's choice but got two ground outs to end the inning and a two-out double by Dayton Alexander in the fourth was the only hit and baserunner he allowed over the next three innings.

"I went back out there and went after each guy," Watson said.

His night came to an end after a leadoff double in the seventh and despite trailing 2-0, the trot back to the dugout had to feel pretty good. Watson gave up three runs (one earned) on four hits and struck out four in six innings of work. The result was not what he wanted but getting a chance to pitch for the Sweets this season will have to do for tonight.

## Peterson Debuts

You get a variety of players on college summer league teams. There are players that play every day and some that platoon. There are some pitchers that are starters and some that are first out of the bullpen. Then, you have some that redshirt and don't see an inning all spring. That's where right-hander Derek Peterson (pictured right) fits in.

Peterson was a freshman at Gonzaga this year and was stuck behind several upperclassmen.

The result was a redshirt season in which he had to watch and wait for a chance to pitch in the s



ummer. In fact, before Peterson took to the mound in relief of Brett Watson on Saturday, the last time he had thrown in a real game situation was last summer in a high school summer league.

Like Watson, Peterson admitted to being a bit nervous when he first got onto the mound but a strikeout of the first batter he faced did a lot to ease some of those nerves. Peterson would eventually allow the inherited runner to score on a sac fly but gave up just one other hit, working three scoreless innings.

“I'm a little fresher and I really want to do well and get to play,” Peterson said.

As long as the he continues to show the pitch command he did tonight, that should not be a problem. The strikeout was a beautiful slider that broke down and out of the strike zone and he had command of his fastball from the beginning.

And while he may only have three innings under his belt this year, it doesn't mean that he can't get hitters out. With 58 games left on the schedule, Peterson is sure to get a chance to make up for lost innings this summer.