



For Immediate Release

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SEVEN SUN DEVILS IMPROVE DRAFT STATUS BY GOING IN FIRST 20 ROUNDS

Junior LHP Jon Switzer tops list of seven Sun Devils drafted with 2nd round selection. Two signees go in 1st round.

TEMPE, Ariz. -- In the first day of the **2001 Major League First Year Player Draft**, seven Arizona State University baseball players and four players who signed a letter of intent to play for the Sun Devils in 2002 were drafted in the first 20 rounds. Sun Devil standouts Jon Switzer, Drew Friedberg, Casey Myers, Chris Duffy, Brooks Conrad, Mel Stocker and Bryce Kartler all improved their draft status and two ASU signees (Mike Jones and Kris Honel) were first-round picks

Arizona State baseball has continuously dominated the Major League draft, now having had 296 players selected in the annual amateur draft. In addition to its 21 first-round picks in school history, ASU has had three No. 1 overall draft picks and has had two players (Eddie Bane and Bob Horner) go directly from the draft to the Major Leagues. Arizona State has produced 75 Major League players and currently has seven players on MLB rosters.

Junior left-handed pitcher Jon Switzer was the first Sun Devil to hear his name called Tuesday, being selected as the third pick in the second round and 47th overall by the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. Switzer, who was 23-13 in his three-year ASU career, was an All-American in 2000 and played for Team USA last summer. He was a hard-luck 5-6 in 2001 with a 4.06 ERA. A native of Houston, Texas, Switzer improved dramatically in the draft since being selected in the 26th round by the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1998 after his senior year of high school.

"This is an exciting day for me and my family and it is a real nice feeling to see all of the hard work pay off," said Switzer from his Mother's house in Houston. "It is just a sweet feeling to have. I can't wait to get out there and start playing."

Possibly the biggest surprise of the 2001 season was the left arm of senior relief pitcher Drew Friedberg. The senior LHP rebounded from a shaky junior season, turned away a chance to sign with his hometown Milwaukee Brewers after being drafted in the 29th round last year and came back for his senior season where he shined on the mound. The Middleton, Wisc., native led ASU with a 2.08 ERA and was 4-2 with one save. He improved his draft status dramatically with his stellar season and it paid off when he was selected in the sixth round (174th overall) by the Pittsburgh Pirates. Friedberg was also drafted out of high school in the 25th round by the Arizona Diamondbacks in 1997.

"I am so pumped right now," said Friedberg from his home in Middleton, Wisc. "I made a commitment to come back for my senior year and I had the confidence that I could improve in the draft. My coaches really supported me and I just had a great end to my college career at Arizona State. The third time (being drafted) was easily the most exciting."

Two-time Pac-10 Player of the Year Casey Myers jumped from the 30th round last year (Milwaukee Brewers) all the way to a ninth round selection by Oakland this year. The senior All-American catcher hit .395 during 2001 and was a lifetime .384 hitter during his career in Tempe. Ranking third in ASU history in hits with 313 and second in both Pac-10 and ASU history in RBI with 275, Myers will most likely report to Oakland's short-season, Single-A team in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Two Sun Devil players were picked up in the eighth round in nearly back-to-back picks. Junior center fielder Chris Duffy was the eighth round pick of the Pittsburgh Pirates (234 overall), improving drastically from his 43rd round selection last year out of South Mountain JC. Duffy hit .372 in 2001 for the Sun Devils with four home runs and was named to the Pac-10 All-Conference team. Junior second baseman Brooks Conrad (Spring Valley, Calif.) was drafted two picks later (236 overall) by the Houston Astros. Conrad, a two-time All-Pac-10 selection, hit .278 with four home runs for ASU in 2001.



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Mel Stocker (Tucson, Ariz.) was drafted for the first time in his career with a 16th round selection (475 overall) by the Kansas City Royals and sophomore Bryce Kartler (eligible because 21 years old) was selected in the 20th round by the St. Louis Cardinals (584 overall). ASU head coach Pat Murphy, who announced publicly Tuesday that he will remain the head coach of the Sun Devils after turning down a job offer from the University of Hawai'i, expects juniors Switzer, Conrad and Duffy to all sign professional contracts, while he is uncertain on the status of Stocker and Kartler returning for ASU in 2002.

In addition to the seven players from the 2001 team that were taken in the first 20 round Tuesday, four high school and junior college players that have signed a national letter of intent (NLI) to play at ASU in 2002 were also selected in the draft. Mike Jones (Thunderbird High School) and Kris Honel were first-round draftees and are expected to sign professional contracts. Garrett Guzman, a 10th round selection by the Minnesota Twins out of Green Valley High School in Henderson, Nev., is a pure hitter who signed with ASU for next year. Travis Hinton, a one-time standout at Santa Clara and a East Valley product, played at Chandler-Gilbert CC this year and was picked in he 13th round (388 overall) by the Milwaukee Brewers.

Arizona State, who lost seven players, all drafted in the top 10 rounds in 2000, from its No. 1 ranked recruiting class last year, saw some additional familiar faces get drafted Tuesday. Three players who signed NLI's for the 2001 season, Matt Harrington, Julian Benavidez and Brett Haprer (NLI for 2000) were all selected in the draft.

ASU Players in the 2001 MLB Draft On Tuesday:

2001 ASU Draft Picks:

<u>Player</u>	<u>Round</u>	<u>Overall</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Previous Draft Selection</u>
Jon Switzer	2nd	47	Tampa Bay	26th Round (1998)
Drew Friedberg	6th	174	Pittsburgh	25th Round (1997), 29th (2000)
Chris Duffy	8th	234	Pittsburgh	43rd Round (2000)
Brooks Conrad	8th	236	Houston	Not Drafted
Casey Myers	9th	282	Oakland	30th Round (2000)
Mel Stocker	16th	475	Kansas City	Not Drafted
Bryce Kartler	20th	584	St. Louis	Not Drafted

2001 ASU Signees Who Were Drafted:

<u>Player</u>	<u>Round</u>	<u>Overall</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>High School/Junior College</u>
Mike Jones	1st	12	Milwaukee	Thunderbird (Phoenix, Ariz.)
Kris Honel	1st	16	Chicago (AL)	Providence Catholic (Bourbonnais, Ill.)
Garrett Guzman	10th	287	Minnesota	Green Valley (Henderson, Nev.)
Travis Hinton	13th	388	Milwaukee	Chandler Gilbert JC (Tempe, Ariz.)

Players Drafted Who Have ASU Connections:

<u>Player</u>	<u>Round</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Connection</u>
Julian Benavidez	3rd	San Francisco	Originally Signed with ASU for 2001
Matt Harrington	2nd	San Diego	Originally Signed at ASU for 2001
Chris Collins	Draft and Follow By Seattle		NLI with ASU in 2001
Brett Harper	Draft and Follow by New York (NL)		NLI with ASU in 2000

-- Stats of ASU Drafted Players on Page 3--



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Career Stats for ASU Players in the 2001 MLB Draft:

Career statistics for: Jon Switzer

Year	ERA	W-L	APP	GS	CG	SHO/CBO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
1999....	4.12	7-4	25	9	0	0/0	0	87.1	89	47	40	29	78
2000....	3.89	11-3	22	19	2	0/2	0	115.2	99	60	50	46	121
2001....	4.04	5-6	19	18	1	0/0	0	100.1	95	56	45	45	128
TOTALS..	4.01	23-13	66	46	3	0/2	0	303.1	283	163	135	120	327

Career statistics for: Brooks Conrad

Year	AVG	GP-GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB-ATT
1999....	.340	45-19	94	27	32	4	0	1	22	23	26	5-5
2000....	.336	59-59	226	72	76	16	4	10	67	36	47	13-17
2001....	.278	58-57	216	49	60	15	3	4	41	36	33	16-19
TOTALS..	.313	162-135	536	148	168	35	7	15	130	95	106	34-41

Career statistics for: Drew Friedberg

Year	ERA	W-L	APP	GS	CG	SHO/CBO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
1998....	6.65	0-0	19	1	0	0/1	0	21.2	28	22	16	14	24
1999....	4.07	3-1	17	4	1	1/0	1	42.0	43	23	19	9	29
2000....	4.00	1-0	11	5	0	0/1	1	27.0	24	17	12	10	24
2001....	2.03	4-2	24	0	0	0/0	1	53.1	40	15	12	13	55
TOTALS..	3.69	8-3	71	10	1	1/2	3	144.0	135	77	59	46	132

Career statistics for: Chris Duffy

Year	AVG	GP-GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB-ATT
2001....	.373	49-48	201	46	75	6	2	4	37	22	34	20-25
TOTALS..	.373	49-48	201	46	75	6	2	4	37	22	34	20-25

Career statistics for: Casey Myers

Year	AVG	GP-GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB-ATT
1998....	.386	51-48	184	35	71	17	0	8	58	20	36	1-1
1999....	.329	51-46	170	39	56	11	0	6	51	25	24	1-4
2000....	.412	59-59	238	71	98	19	0	18	97	34	24	4-5
2001....	.395	58-58	223	53	88	17	0	7	69	37	19	2-3
TOTALS..	.384	219-211	815	198	313	64	0	39	275	116	103	8-13

Career statistics for: Bryce Kartler

Year	ERA	W-L	APP	GS	CG	SHO/CBO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
2000....	6.61	0-1	9	2	0	0/0	1	16.1	22	14	12	14	19
2001....	5.77	0-0	22	2	0	0/0	4	39.0	47	31	25	21	41
TOTALS..	6.02	0-1	31	4	0	0/0	5	55.1	69	45	37	35	60

Career statistics for: Mel Stocker

Year	AVG	GP-GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB-ATT
2000....	.344	49-27	122	38	42	3	4	1	26	21	14	8-10
2001....	.245	51-33	106	32	26	3	1	0	15	23	13	18-20
TOTALS..	.298	100-60	228	70	68	6	5	1	41	44	27	26-30

--Sun Devil Baseball--



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