

Astros Take Stanford Pitcher Appel With Top Pick; Twins Make Stewart First Prep Pick

SECAUCUS, N.J. (AP) — This time, the Houston Astros couldn't resist drafting Mark Appel with the No. 1 pick.

Houston selected the hard-throwing Stanford pitcher with the top choice in the Major League Baseball draft Thursday night, a year after passing on the hometown kid and instead of choosing 17-year-old shortstop Carlos Correa from Puerto Rico.

"I talked to him and told him: 'Welcome home,'" Astros general manager Jeff Luhnow said. "It's a kid's dream to go first in the country, first in the draft and to be taken by your hometown team. It just doesn't get any better than that. It's also really a great opportunity for us."

Appel, who grew up in Houston before moving to California when he was 12, slid to Pittsburgh at No. 8 last year but turned down a \$3.8 million offer and returned to Stanford for his senior season. The move paid off.

saturday

■ Yankton's Layne Somsen Hopes To Hear His Name Called In MLB Draft This Week.

When I turned down the Pirates offer," said Appel, who complements his mid-90s (mph) fastball with a nasty slider and improving changeup. "My goals were to finish my degree and become a better baseball player and better person and better teammate. As far as that goes, I think I accomplished those things.

"No matter what happened in the draft,

After going 10-4 with a 2.12 ERA and 130 strikeouts in 106 1-3 innings this season for the Cardinal, the 6-foot-4, 195-pound Appel is expected to fetch about \$2 million more than he passed on with the Pirates.

"I don't think I necessarily had an end goal in mind

I knew I had done everything that was in my control to put myself in the best situation possible."

The deadline for teams to sign draft picks is July 12, but that doesn't apply to Appel because he is a college senior.

"I'm very confident that Mark Appel is going to put on an Astros uniform," Luhnow said. "He's from here. He wants to play here. He's been selected first in the draft. All the indicators are pointing in the same direction, so I assume it will be a fairly straightforward discussion and that he'll sign sometime this summer."

The draft, which is held over three days and 40 rounds, started Thursday night with the first two rounds at MLB Network Studios.

It was the second straight season that the first pick was uncertain going into the draft, with Oklahoma right-hander Jonathan Gray and a pair of college third basemen — North Carolina's Colin Moran

and San Diego's Kris Bryant — thought to be in the mix for Houston.

It was the fourth time the Astros had the No. 1 pick, and they joined Tampa Bay (2007-08) and Washington (2009-10) as teams to have the top selection in consecutive years. The draft order is determined by reverse finish — worst to best — in the overall standings from last season.

With the No. 2 pick, the Chicago Cubs selected Bryant, who led Division I college players with 31 home runs this season. The 6-foot-5, 210-pound junior is a Golden Spikes finalist and Collegiate Baseball magazine's national player of the year. He leads the nation with 66 walks, 80 runs scored and an .820 slugging percentage.

Gray went third overall to the Colorado Rockies. The 6-foot-4, 245-pound flamethrower helped pitched the Sooners into the super regionals of the NCAA tournament, going 10-2 with a 1.59 ERA and 138 strikeouts in 119 innings. He throws a fast-

ball in the mid- to upper-90s, reaching 100 mph at times with an effortless delivery.

Colorado apparently was not scared off by published reports that cited unidentified sources who said Gray tested positive for the medication Adderall during baseball's pre-draft drug testing program.

"I'm not going to talk about that right now," Gray said. "There will be a time for that. Right now, I'm just happy to be selected by the Rockies."

The first high school player picked was pitcher Kohl Stewart, who went to the Minnesota Twins at No. 4. A right-hander from Tomball, Texas, Stewart has signed to play baseball and football at Texas A&M — where he would likely be a backup to Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Manziel at quarterback.

The Cleveland Indians followed by

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MLB Asks For FedEx, Phone Records In Drug Lawsuit

NEW YORK (AP) — Major League Baseball's lawyers issued subpoenas to Federal Express, AT&T Mobility and T-Mobile USA in an attempt to gain records for its investigation of players suspected of using performance-enhancing drugs.

The subpoenas were issued May 23, according to a civil case file in Florida's Circuit Court for Miami-Dade County, where MLB sued Biogenesis of America, anti-aging clinic head Anthony Bosch and five others in March.

Meanwhile, Commissioner Bud Selig said MLB's "very comprehensive" probe proves that baseball has the toughest drug policy in professional sports.

MLB asked Federal Express to turn over shipment records for Biogenesis, Bosch, the other defendants and a long list of individuals who appeared to be affiliated with Bosch.

MLB asked the phone companies for call records, texts and subscriber info for the phones of Juan Carlos Nunez, an associate of outfielder Melky Cabrera who was banned from big league clubhouses last year, and Porter Fischer, who was affiliated with the now-closed clinic.

In addition, a subpoena was issued for Biogenesis and related entities in March, seeking records involving major leaguers and 70 banned substances. No players were mentioned by name.

MLB hopes Bosch will provide information implicating players in the use of banned performance-enhancing drugs, and Bosch agreed this week to cooperate. Because any discipline could be challenged by the players' association in grievances before an arbitrator, MLB likely would want records to corroborate any testimony.

There was no indication in the files whether the companies planned to challenge the subpoenas.

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ALL-OUT IN AN SCL ALL-NEBRASKA SHOWDOWN



Wynot Expos left fielder Chase Rolfes lays out to snag a line drive during Thursday night's South Central League amateur baseball game against the Crofton Bluejays in Wynot, Neb. Crofton won its fourth straight league game with a 3-2 road victory.

JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Baseball: Irene Beats Avon In Battle Of Sees Brothers

IRENE — Irene's six-run first was all the Cardinals' Ben Sees would need to outduel his big brother as Irene downed Joe Sees and Avon 7-5 in South Central League amateur baseball action on Thursday.

Wes Robertson went 2-4 with a two-run homer and a double to lead Irene. George Sees and Mike King each doubled and singled. Brett Jensen added two hits in the victory.

Nick Honke finished with three hits, including a double, for Avon. Jeff Sand doubled and singled. Logan Tycz and Dan Bures each had two hits in the effort.

Ben Sees pitched eight solid innings for the win. Joe Sees settled down after giving up seven runs in the first two innings, but took the loss.

Irene, 5-0 in SCL play, faces fellow league unbeaten Yankton on Sunday at

Riverside Field. Avon, 3-2 in league play, hosts Lesterville on Sunday.

AVON (3-2) 010 110 002 — 5 13 0
IRENE (5-0) 610 000 00X — 7 13 3

Joe Sees and Dan Bures; Ben Sees, Josh Homme (9) and Pat Sees

Legion

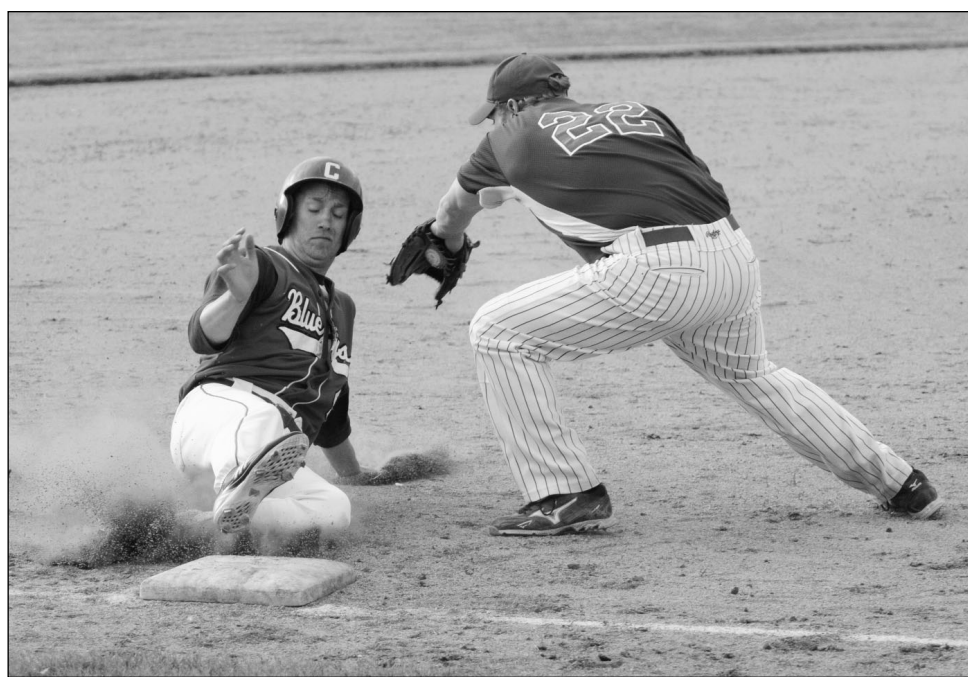
Vermillion 6, Tabor 4

TABOR — Vermillion Post 1 jumped out to a 5-0 lead and held on for a 6-4 victory over Tabor in American Legion baseball action on Wednesday.

Peter Haught had three hits and Jayce Huska tripled and singled for Vermillion. Joe Mazour also had two hits in the victory.

Scott Wieseler and Sawyer Fridrich each had three hits for Tabor. Ross Kortan and Alec Weber had two hits each.

Collin Bertram pitched six shutout innings, striking out seven, for the win. Wieseler took the loss, with Ross Kortan



Crofton Bluejays runner Scot Donner, left, slides in safely ahead of the tag from Wynot Expos third baseman Lance Heine during their South Central League amateur game Thursday night in Wynot, Neb.

JEREMY HOECK/P&D



Norfolk Golden Girls baserunner Haley Lamm safely steals second base after a throw glanced off of the Yankton Lightning shortstop Bailey Kortan's glove during the opening game of their girls' softball doubleheader on Thursday at Riverside Park.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Softball: Lightning Slug Past Norfolk

The Yankton Lightning U-16 girls' softball team pounded out 21 runs on the way to a doubleheader sweep of the Norfolk Golden Girls on Thursday at Yankton's Riverside Park.

In the opener, Jenny Feilmeier and Sophie Drotzmann combined for five hits and seven RBI as Yankton won 12-0.

Drotzmann had three hits, including a double, and four RBI to

lead Yankton. Feilmeier posted a double, a single and three RBI. Kalyn Peterka doubled and singled, driving in a run. Jaclyn Arens also had a double and a RBI. Brynn Albers added a hit in the victory.

Arens picked up the pitching victory, striking out six in three innings of work.

In the nightcap, Arens drove in four runs with a pair of hits as

Yankton won 9-4.

Drotzmann had two hits, Madison Dangler had a double and a RBI, and Feilmeier had a hit and a RBI in the victory.

Kortan earned the win, pitching the first three innings. Dangler struck out the side in the fourth.

The Lightning host Wynot on Tuesday at Riverside Park.

Brandon Hegge Headed To Mount Marty

CROFTON, Neb. — The Mount Marty College athletic program is continuing its recruitment of northeast Nebraska, as Crofton, Neb., standout Brandon Hegge will attend MMC and participate in both baseball and men's golf for the Lancers.

Hegge, whose cousin Ben Hegge has also signed to play at MMC, is the fourth player from northeast Nebraska to sign on for the MMC baseball program, joining Ben Hegge (Crofton), Alex Mogensen (South Sioux City) and Brady Zimmerer (Creighton) on the MMC baseball roster.

During his junior summer Legion season, Brandon Hegge batted .360 with 20 runs scored, 15 doubles, 2 triples, and 27 runs batted in. He has been a key member of the Crofton squad that has made the state tournament twice in the last three seasons.

"I'm excited to have Brandon as well as the Hegge family in our program," said MMC baseball coach Andy Bernatow. "Brandon has been coming to the MMC Baseball camps the past few years and has been a great kid to work with. We look for this commitment to provide depth to the infield."

Golf coach Tom Schlimgen is also looking forward to adding Hegge's talents to the squad.

"Brandon is going to be a great addition to our team. He brings a lot of experience and is a natural athlete," Schlimgen said. "His signing is a great addition to the MMC community."

The son of Kelly Hegge and Mindy Hatch, Brandon will major in criminal justice at Mount Marty College. Hegge will receive an honors scholarship in addition to his baseball and golf awards.



Crofton, Neb., standout Brandon Hegge, front center, will attend Mount Marty and compete in both baseball and golf for the Lancers, the institution announced on Thursday.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Men's Soccer: O'Gorman's Currier Headed To MMC

Kier Currier of Sioux Falls will attend Mount Marty and participate in men's soccer for the Lancers, the institution announced on Thursday.

Currier was a part of the O'Gorman team that finished second in the state.



Currier

"We are glad to have Kier joining the Lancer soccer program. He is a very versatile athlete and I believe he will show a lot of growth athletically while he is here. He will bring some much needed depth to our defense," said Nathan Epp, head MMC men's soccer coach.

Currier, the son of Roger Currier and Vicki Lowman, is undecided in his major at MMC. In addition to his soccer award he will receive an academic incentive scholarship.