

Jaime Vela, Columbia Basin RiverDogs Head Baseball Coach

I take great pride in writing this letter and promoting Hayden Meek to your baseball program. Hayden has played for me over the last two summers and this last spring as a Moses Lake High School Chiefs (now Mavericks). Over the past two summers, I've had the privilege of watching Hayden grow from the young baseball player at age 14... to the hard working and dedicated player and person he is today. Over the previous 8 years of coaching 15–18 year old high school athletes in the Columbia Basin, I've had several players go on to achieve their dreams of playing college baseball. One thing I have noticed from a handful of those players is that for most of them, the road to achieving their dreams was never easy. Each one of those players that went on to play college ball had their own set of unique challenges that they had to endure, and Hayden is no exception. This last summer, I watched a young man persevere through the life challenge of a season ending in knee surgery that would bring most people to relinquish their goals and take a back seat to what life was throwing at them. As easy as it would have been for him to take the summer off, Hayden dedicated himself to being with his teammates and being the best teammate he could be. If this doesn't speak volumes to who he is as a teammate, then nothing does. I watched Hayden become a selfless leader not only on the field, but he also showed up for his teammates off the field as well. Hayden was a constant voice in the dugout, cheering on his teammates and coaching them through the difficult times (we all know baseball has plenty of difficulties). Hayden made his presence known and helped lead us to second place in the western regional Babe Ruth tournament last summer. As an athlete, Hayden offers a unique left arm that consistently pounds the strike zone and effectively gets hitters off balance and out of their comfort zone. Defensively he has great height and mobility from the first base side that allows him to go get baseballs (dig up throws) some players do not have a chance at. Hayden also adds great power from the left side of the plate and has proven to show up at some of the most pressure filled moments. If you have any questions or would like to further discuss Hayden's performance or ability and how he could be of great benefit to your club, please feel free to contact me.