

Major League Baseball

Giants select Colby's Jared Cranston, again

By John Van Nostrand
Colby Free Press

Huskers' top relievers in 2006, going 2-0 with a 6.46 ERA in 21 appearances.

He was second on the team with five holds and allowed just six of 21 inherited runners to score. The left-hander earned wins against Super Regional qualifier Missouri and Arizona.

He turned in strong showings against No. 1 Rice, tossing 1.1 innings of no-hit ball. Against nationally ranked North Carolina State, he struck out both batters he faced in a 4-3 victory.

In 2005 at Seward County, he earned first-team Jayhawk West All-Conference honors after posting a 6-2 record with a save and a 2.68 ERA.

He ranked fourth nationally among junior college pitchers with 101 strikeouts over 77.1 innings.

Cranston said being a left-hander has made him a good prospect. He said he is proud of his command and ability to throw 93 mph.

He has some time to decide his future and will play in The Cape Cod League, a college summer league in Harwich, Mass.

"I can decide right up until my first class," he said.

A dream may be coming true for Jared Cranston.

Cranston, from Colby, was drafted last week by the San Francisco Giants in the 34th round of the first-year player draft. Cranston currently pitches for the University of Nebraska.

"I knew I had a good shot," Cranston said. "I talked to a scout and I knew there was some interest."

It was the second time in as many years Cranston, 21, was drafted by the Giants. Last year, the Giants selected him in the 46th round after his sophomore season at Seward County Community College.

At that time, Cranston still wanted to play at Nebraska.

"I really wanted to go there, a top 10 team and a chance to play in the College World Series," he said.

But this year may be different. "We are negotiating a contract," he said. "I have one more year at Nebraska, but this is something I've always wanted to do."

According to the University of Nebraska, Cranston was one of the



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA PHOTO

Colby resident and University of Nebraska pitcher Jared Cranston was drafted by the San Francisco Giants last week. It was the second consecutive year the Giants selected the left hander.

Legion, Sweet Thunder teams win

Colby's American Legion baseball team defeated Ellis Sunday in a doubleheader in Colby.

Colby won game one 15-7 in a five-inning game.

Brett Wilson and Joe Heier each had three RBIs to lead Colby. Wilson hit a home run. Kevin Lang had three hits to lead the team.

Colby won game two 15-4 in a four-inning game.

Wilson again had two hits and three RBIs to lead Colby. Dietz had two RBIs. Colby was walked nine times.

Sweet Thunder wins
Colby's Sweet Thunder 16U team earned second place last weekend at the Hays Invitational.

Colby defeated the Burlington Cougars 6-1, Larned Renegades with a run rule 10-2, and the Great Bend Rebels, 3-2.

The Darrell Powers Invitational Saturday at Hill City saw Colby take first place after wins over Hoisington Kansas Heat (7-0, 9-1) and Larned Renegades (17-2, 10-0).

The team travels to the Father's Day Invitational in Russell.

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