



Seven Copperheads Named To CPL All-Star Team; Keith Ritsche Named Head Coach For West Squad

Seven Asheboro Copperheads have been named to the West Division team for the Coastal Plain League's annual all-star game to be played in Fayetteville Monday night, July 11.

Four of the Copperheads will be in the starting lineup, including pitcher Brady Feigl of Ole Miss, who will start on the mound for the West and is schedule to work the first two innings.

Other Asheboro starters on the team will be outfielder T.J. Nichting of Charlotte, who is currently leading the CPL in hits, runs scored and total bases, along with shortstop Colin Rosenbaum of Belmont Abbey and third baseman Connor Lind of Northwestern. Also named to the squad were outfielder Kyle Smith and pitcher Bryan Blanton, both of Catawba, along with infielder Ryan Colombo of Drury, who was voted in on Final Fan balloting held Tuesday and Wednesday.

Also, Copperheads field manager Keith Ritsche has been named head coach of the West team by virtue of leading Asheboro to the first half title in the West. Ritsche, an assistant coach at Winston-Salem State University during the school year, directed the Copperheads to a 19-8 first half record.

"We are very happy for and proud of these Copperheads," said team General Manager David Camp. "All are very deserving. We had actually hoped for another one or two that we felt had also performed well enough to be named, but we're pleased to have these six young men represent us in Fayetteville next week and especially thrilled that Brady has been named the starting pitcher for the West."

Feigl owns a 2-1 record and sports a 2.08 earned run average over 21 2/3 innings, making four starts and one relief appearance. He is averaging a strikeout per inning and he has held opposing batters to a .228 average.

Nichting is hitting .377 as of July 5 with 43 hits, 27 runs scored and 63 total bases. He has eight doubles, four homers and driven in 24 runs. Rosenbaum missed two weeks with an injury, but is hitting .373. Lind stands at .284 and has provided the Copperheads with a steady glove at third base, although he has spent some time at first as well. Kyle Smith is hitting .343 with 35 hits and 21 runs scored. He had three home runs and stands second on the Copperheads in RBIs behind Nichting with 15. Blanton has appeared in 11 games through July 4 with seven saves and two wins. He has held opposing hitters to a meager .208 average. Blanton leads the CPL in saves with seven and also has a couple of wins to his credit.

