



## Two Assistants Added To 2017 Staff

Two former teammates of new Copperheads head coach Taylor Bratton – one of whom played with him in Asheboro and another from his college days at West Alabama – have been added to the coaching staff for the 2017 Coastal Plain League season.

Bratton, who was named head coach in mid-September and spent 2012 and 2013 as a member of the Copperheads pitching staff, has tabbed former Asheboro teammate John Harris and West Alabama alum Jocobby Robinson as his assistants. Bratton and Robinson were teammates for two seasons at UWA, while Harris, a graduate of Gardner-Webb, played with Bratton on Asheboro's 2012 team.

Harris, 26, was born in California but grew up in Kennesaw, GA before playing collegiately at Gardner-Webb, where he was named All-Big South in 2012 and Best Defensive Catcher in the Big South in 2013. He started 26 games for the Copperheads in the summer of 2012. He later played professionally in the independent Frontier League. After his stint in pro ball, Harris has served as a volunteer coach in the collegiate ranks and also coached travel youth teams in Georgia. He currently works for National Scouting Report, a national high school scouting and college recruiting organization which evaluates high school athletes and steers them to colleges and universities best suited for their athletic skill level and academic qualifications. He will coach third base and serve as hitting coach for the Copperheads.

"Having played with John in Asheboro and given his experience in the CPL, it was an easy decision for me to ask him to be part of the staff," Bratton said. "His offensive knowledge and pro experience as a catcher will be a huge asset."

Robinson, a 25-year old native of Meridian, MS, served as a volunteer assistant for one season at UWA and also spent a summer as a youth coach with Golden Spikes Baseball. This fall he served as an assistant with the Ontario Blue Jays, a Canadian Junior National team that toured both the United States and Canada playing collegiate teams. Additionally, Robinson has worked in the business field during and between his part-time coaching stints. An outfielder at UWA, Robinson was an All-Gulf South Conference player as a senior in 2014 when he hit .364, made just two errors and led the team in stolen bases. Robinson will coach first base and work with infielders and outfielders for the Copperheads.

"Jocobby is a young, energetic coach," added Bratton. "As teammates at UWA we had discussed possibly coaching together in the future. He has experience playing both the infield and outfield and his 'small ball' approach as a player should be helpful to us."

"I'm very excited to have both of them joining me next summer in Asheboro," Bratton said. "We all have similar approaches to the game and I think we're going to have an exciting summer together."