



MENDOCINO-LAKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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GROSJEAN SIGNS NLI TO SAN FRANCISCO STATE

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On November 13, in a special signing ceremony held in the Mendocino College Athletics Department conference room, Eagles sophomore pitcher Gary Grosjean signed a National Letters of Intent (NLI) to continue his college education and college baseball career next fall at San Francisco State University, an NCAA Division II college.

The University's Gators baseball team and other intercollegiate sports teams are members of the California Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA).

Grosjean is still enrolled at Mendocino College and will complete his sophomore year at the college this coming spring semester and also play his second season for the Eagles baseball team.

Last season Grosjean, a Truckee High graduate, worked in relief for the Eagles and earned the job as the team's closer by the end of the season.

The right-hander pitched well enough to earn an All Bay Valley Conference All-Conference Honorable Mention selection.

He saw action in 20 of the Eagles' 35 game, all in relief. He pitched 41.1 total innings, 29.1 in conference play. His conference ERA was 3.07 good for a 9th place ranking among all conference pitchers. His total strikeouts in conference play were 25, good for 14th among all pitchers including starters. His strikeouts per game (9 innings) averaged 7.67 which earned him a 11th place ranking. He had 3 wins in conference games, good for 5th among all conference pitchers. His 2 saves ranked 4th. Opposing batters hit just .257 against him.

This coming season with, with the Eagles being led by first-year head coach Bret Ringer, Grosjean will be one of the team's starting pitchers.

Normally, community college student-athletes sign NLIs following the completion of their sophomore season in a sport, having completed two years of studies and two years of play in their sport at the community college level.

Most often he or she will see more playing time as a sophomore, often as a starter, and have more opportunity to build a stronger sports resume and value to a prospective four-year college.



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But four-year schools are not prohibited from recruiting prospective student-athletes earlier in their community college careers, nor are community college student-athletes prohibited from signing Letters of Intent before they have completed their sophomore year of study at a community college.

If a four-year school's team's staff sees a community college student-athlete who shows exceptional potential as a freshman, that staff may, as in this case with Grosjean, offer the prospective student-athlete a scholarship or financial assistance earlier while the community college student-athlete is still enrolled at the community college.

Once the student-athlete signs the NLI, he or she is committed to that four-year school's program and cannot sign with another college. However, he or she has the security of having "locked in" the recruitment offer and any associated financial assistance, subject to completing the necessary academic requirements and prerequisites while still enrolled at the community college.

Grosjean says signing the early NLI with SF State "was a good fit for me both academically and for baseball. I liked the coaches' presentation. They were very knowledgeable. I got to see all the (sports) facilities. I walked around the campus and really liked it."

He will receive financial assistance, having filed a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) that the federal government, states, colleges and other organizations use to award financial aid. Submitting the application allows the applicant to accessing grants, scholarships, work-study programs and federal student loans.

"I did file for FAFSA for my junior year. I will be getting financial assistance," explain Grosjean.

"I had a few other contacts from other schools with discreet offers, but this is where I wanted to go. It was my first choice and definitely the best fit for me. It's definitely a change from coming from a place like Lake Tahoe."

Grosjean wants to major in Kinesiology. "I wanted to make sure that it's (the four-year school) is a good academic fit. It (CSUSF) definitely is. I want to pursue a coaching career."

He offered thanks to those who have helped him get to this point in his career. "First of all, I'd like to thank my Mom and Dad. They've always been my biggest supporters. I'd also like to thank Coach Ringer for helping me in this signing process and all my teammates who have been on teams with me. They always encouraged me along the way."

Coach Ringer was hired as the new Eagles baseball team head coach after MC Athletic Director Matt Gordon served in as the interim baseball head coach for the 2019 season.

Ringer has served as an assistant baseball coach the past few seasons for Bay Valley Conference member Los Medanos Mustangs, after holding a similar position with Butte College. The Mustangs won the conference championship last season and went deep into the state playoffs.

In the 2019 season, the Eagles and Mustangs played 3 games in the conference play and an additional game in the



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conference post-season tournament.

Ringer got to see Grosjean and a couple of the other Eagles freshman pitchers, who will be pitching as sophomores for Ringer and the Eagles this coming 2020 season, pitch for the Eagles against the Mustangs in a couple of those games.

“I got to see them and see what their capabilities were and what I was going to be able to get out of them. Gary was capable of pitching out of the pen twice a week. Now he’s going to be a starter for us.

“He strived to do what he needed to do last year to showcase what he could do and be able to sign early with a good Division II program in California. It’s a huge thing for him.

“He was able to get into a sophomore showcase and show what he could do. SF State was one of the schools that really liked what they saw. They got him on campus right away. He pitched and threw a bullpen session for them. They liked what they saw. They didn’t want any other school to possibly see him in the spring.

“They (SF State) wanted to lock him up. So that’s good for him. I’ve had sophomores that have been signed early. They’ve had good (sophomore) years and bad years. Some of them kind of take their foot off the gas a little bit (having already signed).

“But I think Gary, with his work ethic, is going to push to improve. He knows now he’s a starter. It’s a new role for him. I think there will still be some excitement for him to prove what he can do for us (as a starter) and what he can do for SF State.

“He’s a four-pitch guy who can go through the lineup multiple times. There’s no reason he can’t be a capable starter. They got a good taste of what he did last year as a reliever. If he has a good year as a starter for us, he should be able to go in there (SF State) and compete for one of those three spots in their rotation, whether it’s a Friday guy, a Saturday guy or a Sunday game for them to help them out and win games.

“He’s set to go there. He’ll play for us this spring and finish strong in the classroom to be able to go over there (SF State) and play for two more years.”

“Being the head coach now and having 9 sophomores this coming season, one of my goals is to have those 9 guys playing somewhere else (at a four-year college) next year. If I can get them playing somewhere else, it’s a successful year for me no matter how many wins or losses we have.

“Your job as a head coach is to get guys in, help them with what they need help with, and get them on to bigger and better things, with getting a degree and an added bonus of playing baseball for longer.

“I’ve been with successful programs have learned how to win and move guys on. Everyone wants to be a Division I guy, but it takes work to get to that Division I and Division II and the NAIA’s.

“I’m willing to do the work for those sophomores to get them where they need to go. That’s my big push.”