



USA BASEBALL ANNOUNCES 2008 NATIONAL TEAM

First 20 spots filled on final roster; two spots to be named later

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(DURHAM, N.C.) – USA Baseball announced Tuesday its 2008 National (Collegiate) Team, headlined by left-handed pitcher and 2007 National Team member **Mike Minor** (Vanderbilt; Chapel Hill, Tenn.). The 20-man roster consists of nine pitchers, nine position players and a pair of two-way players. The 2008 USA Baseball National Team will compete next month in the Haarlem Baseball Week in the Netherlands and at the FISU World Championships in the Czech Republic.

The National Team roster was selected following a two-week trials period, during which time the trials participants played 10 games and had two intrasquad scrimmages. Comprised of the top non-draft-eligible college players in the United States, the National Team plays six games against the Chinese Taipei National Team before beginning competition in Europe.

The USA Baseball Olympic Team is comprised of the top professional players not on a 25-man roster; that squad will be announced July 16.

Rob Walton (Oral Roberts) serves as head coach of the 2008 National Team with pitching coach Jerry Meyers (Old Dominion) and assistant coaches Nino Giarratano (San Francisco) and Ritch Price (Kansas). Eric Campbell is the general manager for the USA Baseball National Team.

“Even though we are only at 20 players, this team is as ready as any national team in my time to start an international series,” Campbell said. “I credit this readiness to Rob Walton and his staff. We have had a great trials, and this team is eager and ready to play for their country.”

Minor was 5-3 with a 2.08 ERA in nine appearances for the 2007 National Team. He is joined on the 2008 National Team pitching staff by right-handers **Kyle Gibson** (Missouri; Greenfield, Ind.), **A.J. Griffin** (San Diego; El Cajon, Calif.), **Kevin Rhoderick** (Oregon State; Scottsdale, Ariz.), **Stephen Strasburg** (San Diego State; San Diego, Calif.) and **Kendal Volz** (Baylor; Bulverde, Texas), and left-handers **Chris Hernandez** (Miami-FL; Miami, Fla.), **Tyler Lyons** (Oklahoma State; Lubbock, Texas) and **Andrew Oliver** (Oklahoma State; Vermillion, Ohio).

Outfielder **Kentrail Davis** (Tennessee; Theodore, Ala.) headlines the position players. Davis hit .463 with six home runs and 19 RBI in 12 games during the 2008 National Team Trials. He is joined by outfielders **Matt den Dekker** (Florida; Fort Lauderdale, Fla.) and **Josh Fellhauer** (Cal State Fullerton; Rancho Cucamonga), infielders **Christian Colon** (Cal State Fullerton; Corona, Calif.), **Derek Dietrich** (Georgia Tech; Parma, Ohio), **Ryan Jackson** (Miami-FL; Miami Springs, Fla.) and **Hunter Morris** (Auburn; Huntsville, Ala.), and catchers **Micah Gibbs** (LSU; Pflugerville, Texas) and **Ryan Lipkin** (San Francisco; Vacaville, Calif.).

The two utility players are infielder/right-handed pitcher **Mike Leake** (Arizona State; Fallbrook, Calif.) and outfielder/right-handed pitcher **Blake Smith** (California; Modesto, Calif.).

USA Baseball will announce the final two members of the 2008 National Team later this week.

“Without a doubt, this is an outstanding collection of talent both on the mound and in the lineup,” Walton said. “We have plus arms, solid defenders and a group of quality hitters with great makeup. We look forward to representing the United States in international competition with this team.”

The National Team begins competition Wednesday, opening a six-game series against the Chinese Taipei National Team in Greenville, S.C. First pitch is scheduled for 7:05 p.m. EDT at West End Field.

Last Name	First Name	School	Pos.	B/T	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown
Colon	Christian	Cal State Fullerton	INF	R/R	6-0	180	Fr.	Corona, Calif.
Davis	Kentrail	Tennessee	OF	L/R	5-9	198	Fr.	Theodore, Ala.
den Dekker	Matt	Florida	OF	L/L	6-1	205	So.	Fort Lauderdale, Fla.
Dietrich	Derek	Georgia Tech	INF	L/R	6-1	195	Fr.	Parma, Ohio
Fellhauer	Josh	Cal State Fullerton	OF	L/L	5-11	175	So.	Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.
Gibbs	Micah	LSU	C	B/R	5-11	223	Fr.	Pflugerville, Texas
Gibson	Kyle	Missouri	RHP	R/R	6-6	195	So.	Greenfield, Ind.
Griffin	A.J.	San Diego	RHP	R/R	6-5	215	So.	El Cajon, Calif.
Hernandez	Chris	Miami, Fla.	LHP	L/L	6-1	195	Fr.	Miami, Fla.
Jackson	Ryan	Miami, Fla.	SS	R/R	6-3	180	So.	Miami Springs, Fla.
Leake	Mike	Arizona State	RHP/UTL	R/R	6-0	190	So.	Fallbrook, Calif.
Lipkin	Ryan	San Francisco	C	R/R	6-0	200	So.	Vacaville, Calif.
Lyons	Tyler	Oklahoma State	LHP	B/L	6-2	195	So.	Lubbock, Texas
Minor	Mike	Vanderbilt	LHP	L/L	6-3	200	So.	Chapel Hill, Tenn.
Morris	Hunter	Auburn	1B	L/R	6-4	215	Fr.	Huntsville, Ala.
Oliver	Andrew	Oklahoma State	LHP	L/L	6-3	209	So.	Vermillion, Ohio
Rhoderick	Kevin	Oregon State	RHP	R/R	6-0	190	Fr.	Scottsdale, Ariz.
Smith	Blake	California	OF/RHP	L/R	6-2	220	So.	Modesto, Calif.
Strasburg	Stephen	San Diego State	RHP	R/R	6-5	215	So.	San Diego, Calif.
Volz	Kendal	Baylor	RHP	R/R	6-5	220	So.	Bulverde, Texas

USA Baseball is the National Governing Body of amateur baseball in the United States and is a member of the United States Olympic Committee. The organization selects and trains the United States Olympic Baseball Team (and all other USA Baseball Professional Teams); the USA Baseball National Team (collegiate); the USA Baseball 18U, 16U and 14U National Teams; and the USA Baseball Women’s National Team, all of which participate in various international competitions each year. For more information on USA Baseball please visit usabaseball.com.

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