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UCLA Baseball
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UCLA BASEBALL ANNOUNCES SEVEN SIGNEES FOR 2008-09
Bruins' recruiting class features three AFLAC All-Americans

LOS ANGELES – UCLA baseball head coach John Savage announced Wednesday that seven student-athletes have signed National Letters-of-Intent during the early signing period to attend UCLA and play baseball. Headed by assistant coach and recruiting coordinator Brian Green, the fourth recruiting class under Savage includes six position players and one pitcher.

Savage's first three recruiting classes at UCLA earned high national rankings. His first recruiting class (2005-06) was ranked fifth-best in the nation by *Baseball America*. Each of Savage's last two recruiting classes was tabbed No. 13 and No. 7, respectively, by *Baseball America*.

This group features three AFLAC All-Americans – infielders Chris Amezcuita and Clark Murphy and right-handed pitcher Gerrit Cole. All seven signees have earned all-league honors in high school and were Milwaukee Brewers Area Code Games selections.

“Coach Green and our entire coaching staff have done a terrific job of putting this class together,” Savage said. “We feel this is a very talented group of young players that has a chance to make a major impact in the future as Bruins. From pitching to the position players, this is as talented a class as we have had at UCLA.”

2008-09 UCLA BASEBALL SIGNEES

Name	Position	B/T	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown (High School)
Chris Amezcuita	INF	R/R	6-2	190	La Mirada, Calif. (Servite)
Tyler Chatwood	INF/OF/C	R/R	6-0	170	Yucaipa, Calif. (Redlands East Valley)
Gerrit Cole	RHP	R/R	6-3	190	Santa Ana, Calif. (Orange Lutheran)
Cutter Dykstra	INF	R/R	6-0	170	Thousand Oaks, Calif. (Westlake)
Clark Murphy	1B/OF	L/L	6-3	200	Fallbrook, Calif. (Fallbrook Union)
Tyler Rahmatulla	INF	R/R	5-11	165	Mission Viejo, Calif. (Mater Dei)
Steve Rodriguez	C	L/R	6-1	190	Lomita, Calif. (St. John Bosco)

Chris Amezcuita
La Mirada, Calif. (Servite)
INF – 6-2, 190 – R/R

Two-year varsity baseball letterwinner at Servite High School under head coaches Todd Cook and Dave Lawn...named an AFLAC All-American in 2007...rated the 69th-best high school prospect in the nation by *Baseball America*...tabbed the 37th-best prospect in the 2008 class at the World Wood Bat Association fall championships by *Baseball America*... gained first-team All-Trinity League honors...as a junior, batted .394 with three home runs, 14

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doubles, 22 walks and nine strikeouts in 71 at-bats...his 14 doubles tied the school record for doubles in a season, set by Cleveland Indians' first baseman Ryan Garko...posted a 4-2 record and 3.45 ERA in 24.1 innings on the mound...as a sophomore, hit .300 with two home runs, six doubles and two triples...ranked among the top prospects at a Major League Baseball Scouting Bureau showcase in Compton, Calif., a Perfect Game event in Cincinnati and USA Baseball's Tournament of Stars in Cary, N.C...was a Milwaukee Brewers Area Code Games selection.

Head Coach John Savage: "Chris is a talented hitter who has a chance to hit for average and power. He has above average defensive skills and a very good arm. He had one of the best summers of any player in the country. We look for him to come in, ready to play at this level after spending a year with Coach Lawn and his staff at Servite."

Tyler Chatwood
Yucaipa, Calif. (Redlands East Valley)
INF/OF/C – 6-0, 170 – R/R

Two-year varsity baseball letterwinner at Redlands East Valley High School under head coach Steve Hernandez...ranked as the No. 31 high school prospect in the nation by *Baseball America*...tabbed the 19th-best prospect in the 2008 class at the World Wood Bat Association fall championships by *Baseball America*...posted a .564 batting average in 27 games his junior season...totaled 53 hits, including three home runs, 11 doubles and five triples...also collected 33 RBI and 33 runs scored...registered a .613 on-base percentage and a .883 slugging percentage...reached base via a hit or walk in 26 of Redlands East Valley's 27 games...was a Milwaukee Brewers Area Code Games selection.

Head Coach John Savage: "Tyler is one of the most talented players in the country. He has great feel to play the game and is one of those players who can play many different positions. Tyler also has terrific makeup and will add to our team's chemistry. Tyler will be a special player at UCLA."

Gerrit Cole
Santa Ana, Calif. (Orange Lutheran)
RHP – 6-3, 190 – R/R

Two-year varsity baseball letterwinner at Orange Lutheran High School under head coach Mike Grahovac...named an AFLAC All-American in 2007...ranked as the ninth-best high school prospect in the nation by *Baseball America*...tabbed the fifth-best prospect in the 2008 class at the World Wood Bat Association fall championships by *Baseball America*...as a junior, posted a 3-0 record and a 0.97 ERA with two saves in 29 innings...totaled 39 strikeouts and 11 walks and allowed 12 hits...earned second-team All-Trinity League accolades...also batted .269 with two home runs and four doubles while playing right field...threw six-plus innings of one-hit ball in his final outing of the season, a 2-1 victory over JSerra High (San Juan Capistrano, Calif.) in which he struck out 11 batters...never lost a game during his high school career, including his time on the junior varsity squad as a freshman...ranked the No. 3 prospect at Perfect Game's National Showcase in Cincinnati in June (by *Baseball America's Prospects Plus*)...rated No. 4 at USA Baseball's Tournament of Stars in Cary, N.C., later that month...was a Milwaukee Brewers Area Code Games selection.

Head Coach John Savage: "Gerrit has a power arm and is really starting to make strides as a complete pitcher. Gerrit is a very talented right-handed pitcher who looks to make a major impact as a freshman. He has one of the best arms in the country. We really look for Gerrit to make strides as a complete pitcher this spring."

Cutter Dykstra
Thousand Oaks, Calif. (Westlake)
INF – 6-0, 170 – R/R

Three-year varsity baseball letterwinner at Westlake High School under head coach Zach Miller...ranked as the No. 41 high school prospect in the nation by *Baseball America*...tabbed the 20th-best prospect in the 2008 class at the World Wood Bat Association fall championships by *Baseball America*...as a junior, hit at a .337 clip, collecting three home runs, six doubles, 16 RBI, 18 runs, 14 stolen bases, and 11 walks in 26 games...reached base safely in 20 of Westlake's 26 games and recorded at least one hit in 17 games...posted a .326 batting average his sophomore year, totaling four home runs, 15 RBI, 29 runs scored and a .431 on-base percentage; finished second on the team with 18 stolen bases in 20 attempts...gained first-team All-Marmonte League honors that season...played two seasons at Westlake with UCLA outfielder Jeff Rapoport... was a Milwaukee Brewers Area Code Games selection.

Head Coach John Savage: "Cutter is one of the best athletes in the country. He can run and hit as well as any high school player. Cutter has a tremendous future at UCLA and is one of those players that really knows the game. He brings energy to the field every day."

Clark Murphy
Fallbrook, Calif. (Fallbrook Union)
1B/OF – 6-3, 200 – L/L

Two-year varsity baseball letterwinner at Fallbrook Union High School under head coach Matt Parker...ranked as the No. 86 high school prospect in the nation by *Baseball America*...named an AFLAC All-American in 2007...earned first-team All-Avocado League accolades his junior season, when he split time between first base and right field...registered a .346 average and belted seven home runs, including one walk-off homer against Poway (Calif.) High in the bottom of the seventh inning...invited to participate in USA Baseball's Tournament of Stars in Cary, N.C., a week-long trial of games which are used to select the junior national team...participated in Perfect Game's National Showcase in June 2007 as well as the Area Code Games in Long Beach, Calif...as a sophomore, started at first base and batted cleanup for the team that lost in the CIF San Diego Section Division I Championship game against Poway (Calif.) High...batted .352 with seven home runs...captured second-team All-Conference honors...played with the San Diego Show travel; ranked the No. 10 prospect in the Class of at the World Wood Bat fall championship in Jupiter, Fla...was a Milwaukee Brewers Area Code Games selection.

Head Coach John Savage : "Clark has tremendous left-handed power. He has shown the ability to hit to all fields and has made a conscious effort to improve his game in all areas. He will make an immediate impact from the left side."

Tyler Rahmatulla
Mission Viejo, Calif. (Mater Dei)
INF – 5-11, 165 – R/R

Three-year varsity baseball letterwinner at Mater Dei High School under head coach Burt Call...rated the 84th-best high school prospect in the nation by *Baseball America*...captured 2007 Trinity League co-Player of the Year honors; two-time Mater Dei team MVP...hit .351 as a junior, collecting three home runs, seven doubles, 26 RBI, 26 runs and 16 stolen bases...earned first-team All-CIF honors, first-team All-Trinity League accolades and first-team All-Orange County; led Mater Dei to the Trinity League Championship...as a sophomore, hit .340, totaling six home runs, nine doubles, 21 RBI and 22 runs; was named one of the top five sophomores in Orange County by the *Orange County Register*...elevated from the junior varsity squad to the varsity team at the conclusion of his freshman season – Mater Dei won the 2005 CIF Division I Championship that spring...competed for the U.S. Junior National Team; hit .448 and led the team with three home runs en route to gaining All-Tournament Team...competed for the Kansas City Royals scout team (fall of 2005, 2006)... played for the Quakes Academy Baseball Team...was a Milwaukee Brewers Area Code Games selection.

Head Coach John Savage: “Tyler is one of the best defensive players in the country. He really showed his skill at the Area Code Games. Tyler has added strength and it has really showed in his offensive part of the game. He is a player who can slow the game down on defense and is a solid runner.”

Steve Rodriguez
Lomita, Calif. (St. John Bosco)
C – 6-1, 190 – L/R

Two-year varsity baseball letterwinner at St. John Bosco High School under head coach Moon Cordero...gained second-team All-Trinity League honors as a junior (2007)...was a Milwaukee Brewers Area Code Games selection...competed in USA Baseball’s Tournament of Stars in Cary, N.C.

Head Coach John Savage: “Stevie is a catcher who has very good catch-and-throw skills. A left-handed hitting catcher is always an asset to any Pac-10 program. Stevie has shown tremendous leadership skills at St. John Bosco, and we expect him to bring that mentality into our program. He is an all-around solid receiver.”

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