

Four Port Angeles Lefties alums selected on day three of MLB Draft



(Photo courtesy of Major League Baseball)

By: Tyler Oshima

For the second straight day, the Port Angeles Lefties have had alums selected in the 2024 MLB Draft. With their 11th round pick of the 2024 MLB Draft (No. 327 overall), the Boston Red Sox selected 2021 Port Angeles Leftie RHP Steven Brooks out of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. With their 12th round pick (No. 368 overall), the Minnesota Twins selected 2021 Leftie RHP Christian Becerra from UC Berkeley. With their 14th round pick (No. 416 overall), the Detroit Tigers selected 2021 Leftie RHP Preston Howey out of Saint Mary's College. With their 18th round pick (No. 529 overall), the Chicago White Sox selected 2022 Leftie LHP Liam Paddack from Gonzaga University.

Brooks, Becerra, Howey and Paddack put the total number of Lefties alums selected in the MLB Draft up to 13. The quartet joins 2021 alum RHP Luke Jewett (Colorado Rockies, 8th Round, UCLA) as Lefties selected in this year's draft. Brooks, Becerra, and Howey join Jewett as the first four members of the 2021 Lefties squad selected in the Draft.

Paddack is the third 2022 Lefties alum drafted, following the selections of RHP Zane Petty (Milwaukee Brewers, Round 13, 2022, Corsicana HS) and IF B.Y. Choi (San Diego Padres, Round 20, 2023, New Mexico Military Institute). With five Lefties alums selected, the 2024 MLB Draft shattered and set the team-record of selections in a single draft, which was previously two picks in both the 2020 and 2021 drafts.



Photo Caption: The Boston Red Sox selected 2021 Lefties RHP Steven Brooks (Cal Poly SLO) in the 11th round of the 2024 MLB Draft (No. 327 overall). (Photo courtesy of Cal Poly Athletics)

In his Lefties career, Brooks made 16 appearances in the West Coast League, six of which were starts. The Cal Poly Mustang compiled a 2-3 record across 45.2 innings with a 4.92 ERA, putting up 36 strikeouts. His best performance in a Lefties uniform was a five-inning start against the Portland Pickles where he allowed three hits and struck out five batters. Brooks would take his summer experience with the Lefties to record 43 appearances across his three-year career at Cal Poly SLO with 31 starts, posting a 5.34 ERA across 178.2 innings while striking out 154 batters.

“Steven is a wonderful person and has a bright future ahead of him,” said Lefties owner Matt Acker. “It was fun watching him cut his teeth in the WCL as he went from short outings to a starting arm.”



Photo Caption: The Minnesota Twins selected 2021 Lefties RHP Christian Becerra (UC Berkeley) in the 12th round of the 2024 MLB Draft (No. 368 overall). (Photo courtesy of UC Berkeley Athletics)

With Port Angeles, Becerra tossed 14.2 innings across four appearances, two of which were starts, and struck out 18 batters while posting a 3.6 strikeout to walk ratio. He had his best outing in a relief appearance where he recorded 3.1 innings without giving up an earned run while striking out six batters. Across his three seasons at Berkeley, Becerra pitched in 57 games, starting in 12 of them, and threw 133.2 innings while striking out 138 batters.

“[Becerra] was one of the best teammates,” current Lefties outfielder and UC Berkeley teammate Ethan Kodama said. “I played with him for a year and [he is] truly one of the biggest competitors.”



Photo Caption: The Detroit Tigers selected 2021 Lefties RHP Preston Howey (Saint Mary's) in the 14th round of the 2024 MLB Draft (No. 416 overall). (Photo courtesy of Peninsula Daily News / Keith Thorpe)

Howey made five WCL appearances with the Lefties, two of which were starts, pitched 16.1 innings and recorded 21 strikeouts. As a reliever, he did not allow an earned run across 6.1 innings in three outings with seven strikeouts. Across his four seasons at Saint Mary's, he would compile a 5-9 record in 72 appearances across 107 innings while striking out 112 batters. The 2024 season was Howey's best at Saint Mary's as he went 4-2 with a 4.26 ERA across 38 innings and picked up five saves.

"Howey was really quiet and wanted to be under the radar," said Lefties Owner Matt Acker. "Then he got on the mound and we saw electricity. He was cold as ice on the bump."



Photo Caption: The Chicago White Sox selected 2022 Lefties LHP Liam Paddack (Gonzaga) in the 18th round of the 2024 MLB Draft (No. 529 overall).

To round out the MLB Draft for Port Angeles, the White Sox selected the most recent Lefties alum of this group. Paddack made 12 WCL appearances in the 2022 season, five of which were starts, posting a 2.50 ERA across 36 innings and striking out 50 batters. His best outing in a Lefties uniform was a start against Edmonton where he scattered three hits across five-scoreless innings and struck out a career-best eight batters. In his one season at Gonzaga, Paddack made 10 starts with two additional appearances out of the bullpen, had a 3-5 record across 54.2 innings, posted a 5.76 ERA and struck out 65 batters.

“I am thrilled for Liam. It is great when a player’s work ethic, talent, and expectations all line up,” said former Lefties head coach and current assistant coach at NJIT Matt Greely. “Liam brought a competitive edge to every outing with us in 2022 and has continued to elevate his game.”

The Lefties extend their heartfelt congratulations to this quartet of Port Angeles alums and their families on this incredible and well-deserved accomplishment. The Lefties are eager to continue following their journeys to the big leagues with their new organizations.

About the Lefties

The Port Angeles Lefties are a collegiate summer baseball team based in Port Angeles on Washington's Olympic Peninsula. Established in 2017, the Lefties compete in the West Coast League (WCL), the West's premier summer collegiate baseball league. The Lefties play their home games at the historic Civic Field and are led by skipper Donald Brais. For more information, visit paleftiesbaseball.com, @leftiesbaseball on Facebook and Tiktok, @PALefties on Twitter, and @paleftiesbaseball on Instagram. You can watch all Lefties games live at <https://wcleague.watch.pixellot.tv/> or on the Peninsula Area Public Access YouTube.