

Sisters baseball star is a Tiger

By Rongi Yost
Correspondent

Joey Morgan, a 2014 Sisters High School graduate, is on his way to fulfilling his childhood dream of becoming a Major League baseball player.

Morgan has played baseball his entire life. After a very successful high school career, Morgan went on to play at catcher for the University of Washington (UW). After three years at the collegiate level you are eligible for the draft, and Joey was selected in the third round, 95th overall, by the Tigers in the 2017 baseball draft.

Morgan received a signing bonus of \$564,000.

The Washington State Husky catcher is the second-highest-ranked Husky ever picked in the draft. He also had the best season ever by a Husky catcher, earning the 2017 Baseball America Second Team All American, 2017 All-Pac 12 and All-Pac 12 Defensive Team, as well as being named one of 15 semi-finalists for the Johnny Bench Award. Morgan is the first Husky catcher to earn All-Pac 12 honors twice in their career (he also earned it in 2016).

D1Baseball.com ranked Morgan the No. 1 catcher in the nation. Joey led the Huskies in batting average (.324), slugging percentage (.500), on-base percentage



PHOTO PROVIDED

Joey Morgan was an Outlaws standout – and now he’s playing for the Detroit Tigers organization.

(.427), hits (59), runs batted in (45), walks (30), and tied for the team lead in doubles (15). Joey also blasted five home runs, and reached base safely in 47 of the 53 games played. In the Pac 12, Morgan is ranked seventh in RBI, and eighth in on-base percentage.

Behind the plate, he was just as impressive. Joey threw out 13 of 27 runners that tried to steal, and allowed just two passed balls. He committed just three errors in 356 chances for a .992 fielding percentage.

In late June, Morgan was sent by Detroit to play in Norwich, Connecticut, for the Connecticut Tigers (CT), which is the short-season A ball team of the Detroit Tigers — where all the recent draft picks go and play. Players have two days off per month, but other than that they play a game(s) every single day.

Joey hopes to do well for the CT, and move up in the Detroit Tigers system. Morgan told *The Nugget* his goal is to ultimately make it to the big leagues and stay there.

OSU receives fragment of requested funds

BEND (AP) — Central Oregon got its wish for a four-year school that locals can attend when Oregon State University’s Bend branch opened in 2016, but the university’s goal of expanding its facilities has been drastically weakened after the state allocated the university just a fragment of the expansion money it requested.

The state gave OSU-Cascades \$9.5 million of the \$69.5 million it wanted, *The Bulletin* reported on last week.

The university was hoping to build another academic building by 2021, as it currently only has one facility. But Kelly Sparks, the university’s associate vice president of finance and strategic planning, said that’s likely no longer feasible.

The university had about 1,200 students in its first academic year and is projected to grow to as many as 5,000 students by 2025.

The state, however, is

still adjusting to having eight major universities to fund, as OSU-Cascades expansion money doesn’t fall under OSU’s main campus funding.

Becky Johnson, vice president of OSU-Cascades, said the bump from “seven to eight mouths to feed did not play well in the Legislature.”

Many legislators would actually prefer OSU-Cascades to fall under the responsibility of Oregon State University, Johnson said.

“But OSU-Cascades was created not because OSU in Corvallis wanted to create it, it was because Central Oregon said we need higher education here, and the state itself made that decision that we’re going to invest in an institution in Central Oregon and we’re going to fund it separately,” Johnson said.

Supporters in the Legislature are encouraging the university to go back in 2018 and 2019 to ask for more money, Johnson said.



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