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Colton Meyer pitches for the Canyon Crushers during a game against the Withnell Dodgers on June 29, at Regis High School in Stayton.

CRUSHERS ADD STARS

Legion ballclub features Silverton High players

MATT RAWLINGS
SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

Channon MacBean, Colton Meyer and Tristan Lanier were all vital pieces to the Silverton High baseball program in 2016.

With their quality play at the high school level, all three have been selected to play for the Canyon Crushers, which are a Triple-A American Legion ballclub.

The Crushers, also known as Post 58, is a 19-and-under team that features players largely from McNary and McKay high school, but they also feature players from Regis, Scio, Stayton, and Silverton.

"Even though we are a team filled with high schoolers, the level of talent is much higher at the legion level because you are essentially dealing with all-star teams," Crushers coach Drew Heard said.

"Every legion team has an entire roster of kids that were all-stars on their high school teams, so the talent level we

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TRISTAN LANIER
ON JOINING THE CANYON CRUSHERS

have here is pretty high."

This is MacBean's second year playing for the Crushers. After a stellar senior season, MacBean is planning to play his college ball at Northwest Nazarene University.

"The speed of the game is much faster at the Legion level and you have to lock in and be focused a little more when you are playing a nine-inning game," MacBean said. "I think playing at this level has really helped me develop as a player and helped me reach the college level."

This is the first year of playing Legion ball for Meyer and Lanier, and both of them are splitting time between playing for the Crushers and playing for Silver-

ton's summer ball team.

"Kids are older and more mature baseball players at this level, so there is a sense that you have bigger shoes to fill," Lanier said. "People don't mess around here. You are expected to do your job and get things done."

Meyer also added: "You have to be a versatile and ready to bust your butt all the time."

The Crushers have several returners on this team and MacBean emerged as one of the leaders of the club.

"Channon has great ability as a baseball player, but he has really stepped up to be one of the key leaders on this team. Even when he has a bad game, his leader-

ship and intensity never waver," Heard said.

Even though Meyer and Lanier split time with between the Crushers and high school summer ball, they have still been able to leave an impact early on into the season.

"Based on what we have seen so far, they both have a lot of potential for this club and I believe that each of their individual ceilings is very high," Heard said.

Even though all three of these guys are established high school baseball players, their main goal is to improve for the next venture in their baseball lives.

"Everyone out here is here to get better. For myself, and most of the other guys I see this as a way to improve my game so I can help my high school team, Meyer said. "But my end goal is to be able to play at the college level."

Lanier added: "I'm looking to get to the next level and I feel that playing for this team is a huge stepping stone to allow me to reach that goal."



Channon McBean and the Canyon Crushers take on the Withnell Dodgers on June 29, at Regis High School in Stayton.