

# West Linn graduate Williams makes it to the majors

by Mark A. Borrelli  
Sports Editor

Every baseball player from little league to college has dreams of making it to the major leagues. For a lot of baseball players this is only a dream and will never happen, because getting all the way up to the big leagues takes a lot of luck, hard work and determination.

None of this of course, would mean anything unless you have the talent to put it all together. West Linn graduate Mitch Williams has put it all together and is now the ace reliever of the Chicago Cubs.

Williams, a 1982 graduate of West Linn High School, has made his way to a secure job as the staff stopper for the Chicago Cubs. Williams was drafted by the San Diego Padres after high school and spent some time in their minor league system before being traded to Texas. He was labeled as a starter in Texas, but soon found his way into the pin and then, after a mediocre year, found himself headed to Chicago.

"I welcomed it (the trade). It was hard on my family, because my wife and kids had been in Texas all their lives, but I looked forward to the opportunity," said

Williams in a telephone interview from his hotel room in San Francisco.

"Mitch always knew that he would make it up to the big leagues. He worked hard and had the determination to do it. He set a goal to get there and he got there," said Marci Williams, Mitch's mother.

Not only has the change of towns affected Mitch and his family, it has affected his family in West Linn.

"Our day revolves around Mitch. We plan everything around the Cubs schedule," said Marci Williams.

Williams was on the West Linn pitching staff in 1982, despite missing a year of baseball due to an injury which occurred while playing high school football.

"My time at West Linn was fun. Coach Pollaric was a good coach—he really taught me a lot. When you're in high school, you just have to go out and use the talents that God gave you, and as you progress you learn more. Every day is another learning experience," said Williams.

The Cubs big problem last year was not having a stopper to give the ball to in clutch situations. They gave up a lot to get Williams,

in hopes that he could correct his control problems and shore up the Cub bullpen. Williams to this date and been everything the Cubs could want and more, with has 11 saves in 13 save opportunities.

"That's what they brought me over here for and that's what I try to do. I throw the ball hard and where I end up, I end up. I just throw as hard as I can," said Williams.

Williams has been dubbed "wild thing" by fans across the national league and is even greeted by a chorus of "wild thing" when he comes into a home game.

"That doesn't bother me. I go out and try to get the hitters. We have a very good team this year and I just hope that I can help us stay in contention, then I'll be doing my job. I don't set individual number goals, I just want to help the team," said Williams.

Williams resides in Texas now, but occasionally gets to West Linn to visit his parents Jeff and Marci Williams. He hopes get into broadcasting when his baseball career is over, but hopefully that won't be for awhile.

"I won't quit until they drag me off of the field. I love baseball and I love winning. There's no substitute for winning," said Williams.



Chicago Cub ace reliever Mitch Williams is a 1982 graduate of West Linn High School. Hard work and determination have made him one of the best stoppers in the major leagues.

## Good luck Cougars!!

**Softball:**  
NWAACC Championships at Skagit Valley Community College.  
5-26, 5-27, 5-28.

**Track:**  
NWAACC Championships at Mt. Hood Community College  
5-26, 5-27.

## Spring intramurals end

Another season of intramurals are at a close, with yesterday's softball game between "Dongs 'R' Us" and the "No Names" ending spring intramurals.

Intramural racquetball had a good turnout and saw some competitive matches. Carrie Thomas claimed the beginning championship, Russ Cole won the Intermediate championship and Ron Peters took home the advanced championship title.

Intramural tennis held their tournament May 10, and although they didn't have the numbers, they had some serious competitors. The men's champion was Mark Potts. The women's champion was Linda Christensen and the doubles champions were Mike Carlson and James Catlin.

Mary Grout was the women's winner in the fun run and Dan Caldwell was the men's winner in 3.1 mile jaunt held May 1.

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49.25	38.62	28.86	16.19	8.29	3.44	31.41	72.46	72.95	29.37	54.91	43.96	82.74	52.79	50.87	a*
-0.16	-0.18	0.54	-0.05	-0.81	-0.23	20.98	-24.45	16.83	13.06	-38.91	52.00	3.45	50.88	-27.17	b*
0.01	-0.04	0.60	0.73	0.19	0.49	-19.43	55.93	68.80	-49.49	30.77	30.01	81.29	-12.72	-29.46	
0.75	0.98	1.24	1.67	2.04	2.42										

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