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Now and then: Barchus fulfills D-I dream

By **DEREK WILEY**
Of the Keizertimes

A broken hand cost Jordan Barchus a season at Lower Columbia College but it did not derail his dream of playing Division-I baseball.

The 2014 McNary graduate has signed a commitment letter with the University of San Francisco.

"That's been my goal growing up, to play Division-I baseball," Barchus said. "It's amazing to see how far I have come, just how much better a person and how much better at baseball I've gotten. Especially the last three years, I did a lot of growing up and made me ready for Division-I baseball."

After playing sparingly as a role player his freshman season, Barchus broke his hamate bone swinging a bat early in his second year and red-shirted.

Barchus spent last summer playing with the Gresham GreyWolves to prepare for his final season at Lower Columbia, a two-year community college in Longview, Wash.

"There's a lot of Division-I baseball guys playing in the summer league so I get to face all of that competition to get me prepared to head to the next level," Barchus said.

Batting cleanup and playing third base, Barchus returned for the 2017 season



Jordan Barchus spent the last three years at Lower Columbia College in Longview, Wash. after graduating from McNary High School in 2014.

and led Lower Columbia with 44 RBIs along with 24 runs, seven doubles, two triples and two home runs while hitting .317.

On May 29, the Red Devils won their second Northwest Athletic Conference in three seasons. Barchus was voted to the all-tournament team as well as First Team All-NWAC during the regular season.

"It's a dream come true to be part of a college championship team," Barchus said. "You see the fruit of your labor from all of the hard work that you put in at the beginning of

September, all the way until the end of May. It's just unbelievable to see how much you grow, your team grows and it's just a lot of fun."

Part of Barchus' growth was getting bigger, faster and stronger. Barchus weighed 150-155 pounds when he arrived at Lower Columbia three years ago but will leave at 175.

"There's a lot of extra conditioning at Lower Columbia that we do that pushes you to become a better baseball player," Barchus said. "It makes you tougher."

With his future in doubt, Barchus didn't hear from San Francisco until about a week before the NWAC tournament.

"I'm pretty sure I was the last one from my team to sign or commit somewhere so it was a little frustrating for the type of season I was having," Barchus said. "These are my best friends so I was extremely happy for them but I was just personally frustrated. I just kept playing the game. It was out of my control. I just dealt with the things I could control and play really good baseball."



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"I was going to keep playing, didn't know if it was going to be Division-I level but I was going to keep playing no matter what."

In mid-June, he received a second offer from High Point University in North Carolina, before deciding to sign with San Francisco the first week of July.

"I just felt like I had the best opportunity and the best chance for that team to go to the NCAA playoffs and especially for me to grow as a human being even further," Barchus said. "I felt like it was a

really good fit program wise."

Barchus plans to major in the human physiology field. He wants to be a surgeon or chiropractor.

But signing with a Division-I program also gets Barchus closer to another dream. "The childhood dream is to play pro baseball and I'm just a step closer to that reality," he said. "I've just got to work harder. Only the 1 percent of the 1 percent will get that opportunity to get paid to play baseball. Now, I've got to make new goals and that's definitely one of them."

Norstrom, Wilcoxen break Holiday Swim Club records

By **DEREK WILEY**
Of the Keizertimes

Kyra Norstrom's path to setting a new Holiday Swim Club record in the pool began at home, competing with her 5-year-old sister, Eirelyn, on who could eat breakfast or get dressed first.

"She's like 'I'm going to beat you,'" Kyra said. "She's very competitive for her age."

And the desire to win doesn't end with her sister.

"My mom is super competitive and my dad is competitive but only in certain sports. I'm only competitive in swimming," Kyra clarified.

That competitiveness paid off Thursday, July 6 at the Northview Terrace pool as the elder Norstrom swam a club record 15.28 seconds to win the 11-12-year-old butterfly.

Norstrom, 11, joined the Holiday Swim Club last summer after the family moved to Keizer from Eastern Oregon. While it was her first team, Norstrom did take lessons in La Grande.

"I was terrified of swimming," Norstrom said. "My teacher couldn't even get me to jump off the edge because I was too scared."

Norstrom has come a long way since starting with Holiday, especially her diving.

"Last year, I just totally belly flopped them," Norstrom said. "Diving was horrible for me. Last year, I was the worst butterfly ever. I could barely do it so it was really fun to improve my times."

Norstrom also won the 11-12 girls backstroke at Northview in 36.06, two seconds faster than she swam last summer, and the freestyle in 29.82.

Norstrom credited her coaches and of course her competitiveness for the swift improvement.



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

ABOVE: Kyra Norstrom and Alex Wilcoxen set new Holiday Swim Club records in the butterfly on Thursday, July 6. BELOW: Eli Stayley won the 11-12 individual medley for Northview.



"Sarah (Eckert) and Cody (Luth) and Kylie (McCarty) pushing me and for me to beat all my friends is really fun," Norstrom said.

Alex Wilcoxen's success in the pool also comes from her family. Her mother was previously the head coach at Holiday and her father currently serves as the club's president.

Along with breaking her own record in the 9-10 girls butterfly in 15.06 seconds, Wilcoxen also won the breaststroke in 45.65 and the individual medley in 1:19.62.

"It tires me out but it just keeps me going," Wilcoxen said of the butterfly. "Just our coaches cheering you on just pushes you on."

A strong start was key. "I did a really straight dive instead of a deep dive," Wilcoxen said. "I had a really, really good dive. It felt good."

Wilcoxen and Norstrom's swims helped Holiday defeat Northview 337 to 232.

Evylyn Hales had the fastest times in the 7-8 butterfly and backstroke.

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John Campos celebrates with his daughter Bristol after winning an IMCA Modified race on Memorial Day weekend in Banks. Campos also won July 8 at Willamette Speedway in Lebanon.

Keizer man wins IMCA race

By **DEREK WILEY**
Of the Keizertimes

John Campos, 41, of Keizer, is making a name for himself in his third year on the International Motor Contest Association (IMCA) Modified circuit.

Campos won his third race of the season on Saturday, July 8 at Willamette Speedway in Lebanon.

Competing in the Clair Cup, Campos started outside on the third row.

However, after a caution, Campos took the lead before the 10th of 30 laps and never let it go.

"They'd just put a little bit of water down on the track before we got going," Campos said.

"The track was really dusty and had a little bit of a cushion around the top edge of it. Basically, I was the first car to get up there and find it and use it to my advantage. I took the lead and nobody could catch me from there."

Campos estimated he maintained about a quarter of a lap lead over the field, which included 14 cars.

The clay oval track at Willamette Speedway is a third of a mile.

"We just had a good hot rod that night," Campos said. "We had a good car and we just never really got challenged after I took the lead."

Winning came with a \$1,000 prize, which is double of a typical race. And since fireworks were after the race, Campos said it was a packed house.

The win also helped Campos remain on top of the IMCA Modified Oregon point standings. A state championship would bring even more prize money.

Campos, who also works as a shipping manager at Pacific Building Systems in Woodburn, races about every weekend from April through September and would like to make it his full-time job. He

hates the word 'hobby.'

"It's more than a hobby just because you spend so much of your life with it," Campos said. "Obviously, if we could have it as a career and not have to go to work everyday I would."

"I'd love to pack it all up and just hit the road and go. One day it would be nice to make the effort and see what you can do. It's a long shot."

Campos grew up around the sport, watching his dad race at the Roseburg Fairgrounds.

Campos has been at it for nearly 20 years. He was in the late model division before switching over to modified three years ago.

Campos races for Break the Chain, an organization that helps fight addiction and violence.

"They're racing to break the chain," Campos said. "It's just a good cause and I wanted to run it on my car and help spread that word."