

Diamond Spotlight: Hayden McCutcheon



Diamond Spotlight: Hayden McCutcheon- Greenwood HS, C of C Commit

My name is **Hayden McCutcheon**. I am a senior at Greenwood High School. This past summer, I committed to the College of Charleston. I came onto the scene of the scouts kind of late. My sophomore year I did not do as well as I wanted pitching and hitting. The summer of my sophomore year, I worked really hard both in the weight room and on my pitching mechanics. We had a coaching change and there were some major changes for Greenwood High. I had to prove myself a starting position for Coach Vaughn. My pitching coach for Greenwood High, Coach Baker, helped me tremendously. I owe it all to him for my success on the mound my junior and senior year. I am continuing my hard work and seeing it finally pay off. I look forward to my career at the College of Charleston.



Diamond Prospects-Please list any high school statistics of importance, awards won:

Hayden McCutcheon- Beta Club, Interact Club, 2012 All Region (pitcher), 2012 Led team in Strikeouts (72). American Legion Offensive Award (421 BA), Palmetto Games- Golden Arm Award and co Most Outstanding Pitcher overall, 2012 South Atlantic Battle of The Border invitee.

Diamond Prospects-You have committed to the College of Charleston, what factors led to that decision? What other schools did you select them over?

HM- When I visited College of Charleston it felt like home. Coach Lee and his staff were very welcoming and have put many great athletes into the MLB, which is my ultimate goal. I

selected them over Appalachian State, Coastal Carolina, Charleston Southern, Presbyterian College and USC Upstate.

DP-Why do you think they recruited you?

HM- I am a hard worker and have a passion for the game. Also, I believe I have the talent to perform at the college level.

DP-What is your greatest high school thrill?

HM- My greatest high school thrill was this past season when we won region for the first time since 1978.

DP- Where does your love for baseball come from?

HM- My love for baseball comes from my family. My granddad played for Clemson and dad played at North Greenville, I always wanted to follow in their footsteps.

DP- What has travel ball done for your baseball career?

HM- Travel ball has given me the exposure needed for scouts to look at me. Also, it has given me a chance to play and test my skills against some great players.

DP- Who are the three toughest hitters you have faced?

HM- Justin Allen, Ben Boulware and Bryce Fowler

DP- What do you think your teammates thoughts are on the attention from colleges/pro scouts that you've gotten?

HM- They have supported me the whole way. I could not be where I am right now without the help and support of my teammates.

DP-A successful 2013 for your high school team is:

HM- A successful year for Greenwood High baseball would be to win Region and ultimately win State.

DP-Who are the three best underclassmen in South Carolina that you know of?

HM- Jonathan Wright (Greenwood, SS), LT Tolbert (Wren, SS), Tyler Romanik (Blythewood, C)

DP-What anxieties do you have about entering college?

HM- The struggles of playing baseball and having classes to go to everyday.

DP-What is the toughest adjustment you expect after high school on and off the field?

HM- For pitching, I believe that in high school you can make mistakes and get away with it, but in college you have a lot less room for error. Off the field, I think the biggest adjustment is to learn to discipline myself to focus on my school work.

DP-Tell us why you believe you'll succeed beyond high school in this game:

HM- I have a hard work ethic, I know the game really well, I believe I have good enough stuff to make it further, and I have been coached well enough to compete.

DP-What areas of your game do you need to work on the most to improve before you hit the college practice field?

HM- I have to work on hitting my spots more. It would be great to boost my velocity up a few more MPH. Also, I need to work on slowing myself down while I pitch; sometimes I get ahead of myself.

DP-What is the biggest crowd you've ever performed in front of and where?

HM- The Region Championship last year at Laurens.

DP- Who has made the greatest impression on you as a person and why?

HM- My dad. Since I was a kid, he made me work hard at everything. Down the road it has paid off and became a habit not a choice.

DP-Who has made the greatest impression on you as a baseball player and why?

HM- Davis Behrendt. He is like an older brother to me. He helped me on hitting when I was younger. He always went full speed at everything he did and I respect that.

DP-What does the term "student-athlete" mean to you?

HM- To be a student athlete means that you are a leader on the field and in the classroom. Not everyone can do this, but the people that can have a great work ethic.

DP-What do you intend to major in?

HM- International Business

DP-What MLB feat in history do you wish you'd been inside the stadium to witness and why?

HM- I would love to have seen Chipper Jones' last home season game at Turner Field because he has been my favorite player since I was a kid.

DP-Who is your favorite athlete outside of baseball and why?

HM- Tim Tebow because he is not afraid to show his true feelings and is a great player. He also uses his sport to spread the word of God.

DP-Who is your favorite MLB pitcher and position player and why?

HM- My favorite pitcher is Kris Medlen, because he has performed excellent at the professional level even though he is a rookie. Mike Trout is my favorite position player because he goes full speed at everything he does.

DP-What big leaguer would you most compare your game to?

HM- Tim Hudson

DP-Who is your favorite MLB team?

HM- Atlanta Braves

DP-What do you think about the Designated Hitter in MLB?

HM- I believe that both National and American leagues should have a Designated hitter because it gives no easy out.

DP-What is your favorite sport to play other than baseball?

HM- Basketball

DP-What is your favorite sport to watch other than baseball?

HM- Football

DP-What are some of your hobbies?

HM- Duck hunting, hanging out with friends, and going to football games.

DP-Use three words to describe yourself:

HM- Competitor, chill, and truthful

DP-What is something funny or different that people don't know about you?

HM- I hate the sight of blood and needles.

DP-If there were going to be a movie made about your life, who would you want to play you?

HM- Adam Sandler

DP-Do you have a Twitter account? If so, who's your favorite person to follow?

HM- Yes and Baseball YOLO

DP-What's your favorite thing to listen to when you're working out?

HM- Rap music because it gets me pumped up.

DP-Who is your favorite actor and actress?

HM- Adam Sandler and Sandra Bullock

DP-What is your favorite movie?

HM- Mr. Deeds

DP-What is your favorite thing to watch on television?

HM- Ax Men

DP-What type of music do you prefer?

HM- Country and Rap

DP- What is (or would be) your 'intro' song?

HM- "Can't Do It Like Me"

DP-What is your favorite video game?

HM- MLB the Show 12

DP-What is your favorite meal?

HM- Taco pie

DP-What goals do you have for yourself in and out of baseball?

HM- In baseball, I want to go as far as my talents take me until it is time to hang up my cleats. Out of baseball, I want to have a job where it is not miserable to wake up and go to work every day.

DP-If you could have dinner with three people in history, who would they be and why?

HM- Chipper Jones, Bryce Harper, and Mike Trout because they have all played professional

baseball early in their career.

DP-Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

HM- I see myself somewhere in the MLB, as a player or staff.



DP-You have been a participant in the Palmetto Games, in what way has that added to your high school baseball experience?

HM- When you go to the Palmetto Games you put your talents up against the best players in the state. It shows you if you really are good enough to compete at the next level.

DP-What are your thoughts on what Diamond Prospects has done for kids in the state of South Carolina?

HM- Diamond Prospects has given kids exposure for college and pro scouts all around the country. Also, they have given great advice for people trying to make it into the scene of scouts.

DP- Give a young high school player who is reading this article one piece of advice:

HM- Try your hardest and give everything you have got into the sport you love. You never know what might happen to you in the future. All you can do is control what happens now.

DP-Thanks for doing the SP Spotlight Hayden. We wish you much success during your senior and everything after that!