

Wolverine Pitcher Nick Lawrence Makes USSSA National Team

Josh Hyber • October 22, 2010

Around Wellington High School, there are certain hair styles that are a cause for question. Sophomore Nick Lawrence's Mohawk is certainly an eye catcher. "It started as a dare from my friend's mom to my friend," he explained. "But then he backed out."

Lawrence has made an impression with his haircut and has also turned heads in the baseball program. The sophomore pitcher/right fielder has a 0.00 ERA, six strikeouts, and has not allowed a runner to reach base in four innings of fall baseball.

"We expect Nick to be one of the better 10th-grade pitchers in the area this year," Wolverines head coach Scott Riddle said. "He's always had the ability to throw hard, but in the past he's lacked command and threw too many pitches. This fall his velocity has picked up considerably, and he's been in the strike zone with his off-speed pitches."



Nick Lawrence on the mound.

In August, Lawrence was invited by the United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA) to try out for its 16-U National team. After being evaluated in practices and games by the team's coaches and MLB veterans Brian McRae and Walt Weiss, the teams were selected. The reward: to play in Italy in the summer of 2011.

"I thought of [the tryout] as just another day at the field like I always do," Lawrence said. "No matter who was watching and playing against me."

Lawrence, who throws a fastball (four seam and two seam), curveball and changeup, impressed the staff and made the team. The sophomore said he is excited to represent his country on the national stage. Before Lawrence suits up for the red, white and blue, though, he'll wear the blue and white for Wellington.

Lawrence has high aspirations for the coming spring season, saying he expects to make the varsity team at the beginning of the season. With his array of pitches ranging from 83 to 87 miles per hour, a transition to the tough Palm Beach County varsity baseball circuit could be easier for Lawrence. With the departure of four senior pitchers last year, he could find himself a role on the team.

"Nick's a great worker who's starting to figure out how to pitch," Riddle said. "We're sure he'll be battling our upperclassmen for innings in the spring."

Whatever part of the globe Lawrence takes the mound on, one thing is certain: his baseball cap will have a Mohawk peaking out from underneath. "I plan on keeping the Mohawk until Italy," he said. "I expect to keep it until it fails me, which hopefully will not be for years."