



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 16th, 2015

## **PIPPINS INK TWO BRUINS FOR 2015**

**Jake Bird and Dayton Provost added to roster**

YAKIMA, Wash. – The Pippins have added two UCLA Bruins to the 2015 roster, announcing the signing of right-handed pitcher Jake Bird and outfielder Dayton Provost.

"I'm very excited to continue our relationship with the UCLA Bruins," said Pippins' Manager Marcus McKimmy. "Their reputation for developing great players and winning national championships goes without saying. Adding two of their finest young players to our roster will pay immediate dividends in 2015."

Bird is in his first year on the UCLA roster. The native of West Ranch, California has made three appearances so far this year, holding a 3.38 ERA through his first 2 2/3 innings. At West Ranch High School, he was named third team all-state last year, while also garnering team pitcher of the year honors.

"Jake is a right-handed pitcher who will have a good chance to be in our starting rotation from day one," said McKimmy. "His fastball is 88-90 mph with heavy sink out of his hand. His arm is really loose as well, and at 6'3", there is still some room to get stronger. I know Coach [Bob] Wells will be thrilled to work with the ability that Jake brings to the table."

Provost is an outfielder in his final year at Hart High School and will join the Bruins next year. He comes from a long line of great UCLA baseball players out of Hart High, including Cleveland Indians pitcher Trevor Bauer. Last year, he participated in the Perfect Game USA National Showcase, where he was named a top prospect by Rawlings. Perfect Game USA also named him a national high school underclass all-American honorable mention.

"Dayton is a top high school outfielder in southern California," said McKimmy. "He hits left, throws right, and can really cover a ton of territory in the grass. I plan on him being a big part of one of the best defensive outfields in the WCL. As a plus runner and the projection to hit for power at the Division-I level, I'm excited he will be wearing a Pippin uniform this summer."

The 2014 East Division Champions are busy preparing for next season and want you to be involved. The 2015 season begins on June 5<sup>th</sup>, and season tickets are currently on sale as well as our full retail line at

our new downtown Yakima offices, located at 12 S. 2nd Street. You can also purchase Pippins Gear online at [www.pippinsbaseball.com](http://www.pippinsbaseball.com). Call us at 509-575-HITS (4487) or email us at [info@pippinsbaseball.com](mailto:info@pippinsbaseball.com) for more information regarding tickets, retail, or host families.

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#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Team Graphic

#### **ABOUT THE WCL:**

The West Coast League has developed into one of the best collegiate wood-bat leagues in the country, as the nation's top collegiate baseball players are drawn to the beauty and strong communities of the Pacific Northwest. Collegiate wood-bat leagues allow college players develop their skills in professional settings and stadiums without sacrificing their college athletic eligibility. Players such as Jacoby Ellsbury (centerfielder for the 2007 and 2013 World Series Champion Boston Red Sox), Jeff Francis (pitcher for the 2007 National League Champion Colorado Rockies), and Chris Davis (2013 AL Homerun Leader) began their careers in the West Coast League. For more information, please visit [www.westcoastleague.com](http://www.westcoastleague.com).

#### **ABOUT PACIFIC BASEBALL VENTURES:**

Pacific Baseball Ventures, Holdco is a group of civic-minded individuals with strong ties to the Columbia Valley, Yakima and to the game of baseball. PBV will strive to provide their fans, sponsors, business partners, and investors with the very best in competitive baseball and entertainment, including atmosphere, comfort, food & beverage, safety, competition, fun and value. PBV also owns and operates the Walla Walla Sweets.