

Top Prospects

Baseball America comes out with a Top 10 Prospects list each season for summer collegiate baseball leagues. These players were ranked as the best prospect in the Northwoods League by Baseball America for their respective year.

2009: #1 Rob Brantly, C, La Crosse Loggers (So. – UC-Riverside)

(From Baseball America)

Widely regarded as one of the top recruits in Southern California last year, Brantly had a solid freshman season at UCR (hitting .316/.344/.454) before exploding in the NWL. He led the league in batting (.346), ranked third in on-base percentage (.411) and second in slugging (.516), while compiling six homers and 34 RBIs. He showed off his mature offensive approach and ability to make consistent contact by drawing 21 walks and striking out just 11 times, the fewest of any NWL qualifier. Brantly's smooth lefthanded swing creates good backspin, and he projects to add more power as he fills out his wiry 6-foot-2, 195-pound frame. Behind the plate, he's a decent receiver and blocker with some arm strength, though his defense lags a bit behind his bat. He also earns plaudits for his ability to handle a pitching staff. Brantly should garner plenty of interest as a draft-eligible sophomore next spring, but he could be a premium pick as a junior in 2011.



2008: #1 Cory Vaughn, OF, La Crosse Loggers (So. – San Diego State)

(From Baseball America)

Nobody could get Vaughn out during the first few weeks of his college career at San Diego State, but pitchers soon began feeding him a steady diet of curveballs, and he struggled to adjust, finishing at .243/.326/.432 with 63 strikeouts. He continued to rack up strikeouts (82 of them in 255 at-bats) this summer, but he also smacked eight homers and stole 26 bases, hinting at his tantalizing power-speed potential. Vaughn, the son of former big leaguer outfielder Greg Vaughn, has a super-athletic 6-foot-3, 225-pound frame with plus speed and plus raw power that he can unlock if he learns to use his lower half more in his swing. He has enough hand-eye coordination to hit for average if he does a better job laying off breaking balls away. He's still raw in the outfield but has an average arm. Vaughn's upside is enormous, but he needs a lot of polish.

