Written by Mike Kelly
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The Piittsburgh Pirates, to no one's surprise, selected righthanded pitcher Gerritt Cole of UCLA with the first pick in the Major League Baseball Draft Monday night.

Cole,who was a first-round pick of the New York Yankees in 2008, is 6-foot-4, 220 pounds. He entered the year as the top pitcher in the class, and not much has changed. Cole, who does have some rough spots, looks and throws like a future ace. His fastball is 92-99 mph and sits comfortably at 95-96 deep into starts. His hard slider comes in at 88-90 mph.

Lefthanded pitcher/first baseman Danny Hultzen of Virginia was taken by Seattle with the second pick in the draft. He is the highest draft selection in Virginia baseball history. Hultzen is also the fourth Cavaliers' player to be chosen in the first round of the MLB draft. Hultzen has posted an 11-3 record on the mound with a 1.57 ERA, while striking out 148 batters, a single-season school record. He has become Virginia's all-time career leader in wins (31) and strikeouts (378) this season. A two-time ACC pitcher of the year, Hultzen is seventh in ACC history in career strikeouts and has been named first-team All-ACC three consecutive years.

In 103.1 innings this season, he has allowed 26 runs (18 earned), 69 hits and 17 walks. Batters are hitting just .189 against him. His 148 strikeouts leads the ACC and ranks second nationally. Hultzen also has been a force at the plate and has seen more at bats this season. He is batting .336 with 34 runs batted in. He owns 10 doubles, two triples and a home run in 2011.

The Atlanta Braves had the 28th choice in the first round and selected lefthanded pitcher Sean Gilmartin of Florida State. Gilmartin is 12-1 with a 1.83 ERA and 122 strikeouts in 113 1/3 innings. Shortstop Levi Michael of North Carolina was selected by the Minnesota Twins with the 30th and final pick in the opening round.

Michael batted .297 with five home runs and 48 RBI. He had a .444 on-base percentage and a .455 slugging percentage. He also has a .968 fielding percentage (eight errors in 248 chances).

Catcher Austin Brett of Providence High School in Charlotte was taken by the San Diego Padres with the 54th selection in the compensation round.

Rounds 2-30 will be conducted on Tuesday. The draft coverage begins at 12 noon. The draft concludes Wednesday with rounds 31-50.