Madison Bumgarner, who was selected by the San Francisco Giants with the tenth pick in the first round of the Major League Amateur Baseball Draft in 2007, is having another brilliant season.

And the left-hander from South Caldwell High School in Hudson, NC, and the Pitcher of the Year with the Augusta GreenJackets of the South Atlantic League last summer, could find himself on San Francisco's 40-man roster September 1.

His numbers pitching for Connecticut of the Class AA Eastern League: 7-1 2.11 earned-run-average in 15 games. In 81 innings pitched, Bumgarner has only given up 19 earned runs and he has 59 stirkeouts with only 24 walks allowed.

Former Pioneer Johnny Greene, who is playing for Bakersfield in the advanced Class A California League (a Texas Rangers affiliate), is batting .267 in 103 games with 18 home runs, 25 doubles, and 70 runs-batted-in.

Sam Runion, who played for A.C. Reynolds High School, is pitching for Burlington in the Class A Midwest League and an affiliate of the Kansas City Royals. Runion is struggling with a 3-9 record and a 6.81 ERA. He's given 82 earned runs in 108 1/3 innings in 22 games with 46 strikeouts and 34 walks.

And Matt Payne, who played at Alexander Central, is playing for State College in the Class A New York-Penn League, an affiliate of the Pittsburgh Pirates. In ten games, Payne is hitting .129 with 3 RBI.

Now, some former Appalachian State players are having stellar years. Outfielder Rand Smith, who is playing for the Class A Jamestown Jammers in the New York-Penn League, a Florida Marlins affiliate, is hitting .305 with 32 hits, two doubles and nine RBI in 30 games.

Pitcher Zach Quate, pitching for Hudson Valley in the NY-Penn League and a Tampa Bay Rays affiliate, is 1-0 in 11 games with seven saves. Quate has not given up an earned run in 16 innings this season.

Pitcher Josh Dowdy, who was promoted from Bluefield, WV in the Rookie Appalachian League to Class A Aberdeen of the NY-Penn League (affiliates of the Baltimore Orioles) is 3-0 combined 0.72 ERA in 16 games with seven saves. In 25 innings of work, he's only given up two earned runs with 31 strikeouts and seven walks allowed.

David Rubenstein playing for Class A State College in the NY-Penn League (Pirates affiliate), is hitting .270 in 43 games with a home run, seven doubles and 20 RBI.

Unfortunately, Jason Rook and Isaac Harrow are both struggling. Rook playing for Aberdeen in the Class A NY-Penn League (an Orioles affiliate) is hitting .206 with a home run and seven RBI in 27 games; Harrow, who was on fire for the Apps last spring, has cooled down playing for the Gulf Coast Yankees in the Gulf Coast Rookie League (a New York Yankees affiliate). Harrow is hitting .167 in 23 games with a home run and five RBI.