

Bumgarner makes MLB debut

Written by Mike Kelly

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Madison Bumgarner, an all-state performer who led South Caldwell High School state baseball championship his senior year in 2007, made his Major League Baseball debut Tuesday night for the San Francisco Giants.

Bumgarner, the Pitcher of the year in the Class A South Atlantic League with the Augusta GreenJackets last summer, went 5 1/3 innings in his debut against the San Diego Padres. He had a no-decision, but his numbers were impressive, none the less.

Bumgarner, who got the start when scheduled starter and last year's Cy Young Award winner Tim Lincecum was scratched because of a back injury, gave up two earned runs (both home runs) on five hits. He struck out four and walked one.

Bumgarner, who began the year with the San Jose Giants in the advanced Class A California League, went 3-1 with a 1.48 earned-run-average. He followed that up by going 9-1 with a 1.93 ERA with the Connecticut Defenders of the Class AA Eastern League. Bumgarner was selected by the Giants with the tenth pick in the opening round of the 2007 MLB amateur draft.

Former Pioneer Johnny Greene had a strong year with the Bakersfield Blaze of the advanced Class A California League. Greene, who is in the Texas Rangers organization, batted .273 with the Blaze with 20 home runs, 27 doubles and 77 runs-batted-in.

He was promoted to the Frisco Roughriders of the Class AA Texas League, where he played in 17 games to close out the year. During his short stay, Greene batted .172 with 4 home runs and 11 RBI. Greene played college baseball at Western Carolina and was selected by the Rangers in the eighth round of the 2007 MLB amateur draft.

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