

Quate shining brightly in Florida

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Former Appalachian State University pitcher Zack Quate is quickly making a name for himself.

The right-hander, who set a school record with 11 saves last year at ASU only to see it broken by Chris Patterson (selected by the St. Louis Cardinals in the 29th round of the MLB draft) with 13 this season, is dominating hitters in the advanced Class A Florida State League.

Playing for the Charlotte (Fla.) Stone Crabs in the Tampa Bay Rays organization, Quate, who is 0-1, has a microscopic 0.52 earned-run-average with 49 strikeouts and 13 saves in 34 2/3 innings of work.

In his two seasons of professional baseball, Quate, who was selected by the Rays in the 14th round, has been simply outstanding. In 42 games, he has given up three earned runs in 60 2/3 innings of work. He has 73 strikeouts, he's given up ten walks, he has 26 saves and a magnificent 0.45 ERA.