

ASU Alum Quate Named Rays' Top Minor-League Reliever

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Former Appalachian State University baseball standout Zach Quate (Raleigh, N.C./Wakefield) has been honored by the Tampa Bay Rays as the organization's top relief pitcher for 2010, the Rays announced earlier this month.

In his first full professional season, Quate turned in a dominant campaign for Charlotte Stone Crabs, Tampa Bay's high-Class A affiliate in the Florida State League. The right-hander went 2-2 with 25 saves and a 1.49 ERA in 49 appearances, limiting opposing batters to a .199 average while striking out 90 and walking only 18 in 72.1 innings of work. In the process, he earned mid-season and postseason FSL all-star recognition and help lead the Stone Crabs to a berth in the league's championship series.

In 98.1 professional innings, which includes 18 appearances with the Hudson Valley Renegades of the short-season New York-Penn League in 2009, Quate has compiled 38 saves and a 1.19 ERA with 124 strikeouts against just 22 walks.

Tampa Bay selected Quate in the 14th round of the 2009 Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft (439th overall). As a senior at ASU, Quate set was then a school record with 11 saves while going 3-1 with a 1.09 ERA, .171 opponents' batting average, 55 strikeouts and 14 walks in 41.1 innings pitched, en route to third-team all-America recognition.

Quate is currently one of six nominees for the 2010 Minor League Baseball award (MiLBY) for high-Class A's best relief pitcher. To vote for Quate, visit MiLB.com.