

Crespo Named All-Region

Written by Mike Flynn
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Appalachian State University second baseman Hector Crespo (Miami, Fla./Florida Christian) has been named second-team all-Atlantic Region by the American

Baseball Coaches Association, the ABCA announced on Monday.

Crespo hit .336 while starting all 54 games at second base for Appalachian State (30-24) in 2013. The first-team all-Southern Conference honoree led Appalachian with 48 runs scored and tied for the team lead with 40 RBI. His 22 stolen bases were good for second on the team, a tie for fifth in the SoCon and rank 67th nationally this season. He also put together a sterling .979 fielding percentage with just six errors in 292 chances at second base.

Appalachian State's all-time leader in games played (225) and stolen bases (101), Crespo is Appalachian's 34th all-time all-region selection and the ninth in the last five seasons.

The New York Yankees selected Crespo in the 34th round of this month's Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft. Crespo has been assigned to the Staten Island Yankees of the New York-Penn League (Class A short season), which opens its 2013 season on Monday night at home versus the Brooklyn Cyclones.

THREE MORE MOUNTAINEERS SET TO MAKE PRO DEBUTS: In addition to Crespo, the other three Mountaineers selected in the 2013 MLB Draft have signed contracts with their respective organizations and are set to make their professional baseball debuts in the near future.

Like Crespo, former Appalachian State pitcher Sam Agnew-Wieland (Marietta, Ga./Wheeler), a 24th-round selection by the Yankees, has been assigned to Staten Island. By signing with the Yankees, Agnew-Wieland elected to forego his final season of collegiate eligibility.

Pitcher Rob Marcello (Royal Palm Beach, Fla./Royal Palm Beach), who was drafted by the Philadelphia Phillies in the 17th round, will join Crespo and Agnew-Wieland in the New York-Penn League as a member of the Williamsport Crosscutters. The Cutters open the 2013 campaign at home on Monday evening versus the State College Spikes.

After being selected by the San Francisco Giants in the 37th round of the MLB Draft, shortstop Will Callaway (Greenville, S.C./Eastside) has signed with the Giants. He has yet to be officially assigned to a minor-league club but will likely begin his pro career with either the Salem-Keizer Volcanoes of the Northwest League (Class A short season) or the Arizona Giants of the Arizona League (rookie level).

LITTELL SIGNS WITH MARINERS: Pitcher Zack Littell (Mebane, N.C./Eastern Alamance), who signed a National Letter of Intent to attend Appalachian State this fall and play for the Mountaineers beginning in 2014, has elected to forego his collegiate career and sign with the

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Seattle Mariners, who selected him in the 11th round of the MLB Draft.

Littell is Appalachian State's first incoming freshman to be drafted and sign out of high school since Austin Brice, who was a ninth-round pick by the then-Florida Marlins in 2010.

Pitcher Matt Brill(Coal Valley, Ill./Moline), who was selected in the 24th round of the 2013 MLB Draft by the New York Mets, has not signed a professional contract as of yet. He has until July 12 to decide if he will sign with the Mets or attend Appalachian State this fall. If he elects to attend Appalachian, he will not be eligible to be drafted again until 2016 (following his junior season).

Photo Courtesy: Hector Crespo, ASU Athletics