

Jones Makes Pro Debut

Written by Mike Kelly
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Ryder Jones hasn't missed a beat. The Watauga High senior picked up right where he left off, when he made his professional baseball debut Friday night with the Arizona League Giants, the rookie Arizona League

affiliate of the San Francisco Giants. Jones was 2-3 with a double and a run scored in a 5-1 win against the Arizona League Diamondbacks in Scottsdale, AZ. Jones got the starting nod at third base and batted third in the Giants' starting line up. It was 113 degrees at game time. Jones, who was selected by the Giants in the second round (64th pick) of the Major League Baseball Amateur Draft on June 6, was the North Carolina Gatorade Baseball Player of the Year (the first WHS player to win this award). He was also named to the NCPreps.com Class 4A All-State Team, and he was the Northwestern 3A/4A Conference Player of the Year. Jones signed with the Giants on June 10, and was originally assigned to the San Jose Giants, the advanced Class A California League affiliate of the Giants. Jones, who transferred to WHS from Stillwater, OK, for his senior year, when his father, Billy Jones, was named the new baseball coach at Appalachian State University, batted .461 for the Pioneers last spring.

He tied the school record with 11 home runs and set a school record with 43 runs-batted in. He also walked a school record 21 times, with a school record eight intentional walks. The AZL Giants take on the AZL Padres Sunday night.

Photo Courtesy: Ryder Jones, PHOTO SUBMITTED