Will Lintern ‘07 Making Big Strides
Furthering Baseball in the UK

by Aaron Gillespie
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W ill Lintern’s story is one of dedication and perseverance and exemplifies the benefits of seizing the all-encompassing opportunities offered by Menlo College. A native of a small town in England called Speldhurst, Lintern fell in love with baseball at an early age while playing for the nearby Tonbridge Bobcats. It was there that the seed was planted and Lintern’s love of the game of baseball began to blossom and flourish. This eventually led him to Menlo College and ultimately to his current role as National Development Manager for Baseball SoftballUK (BSUK), an organization whose mission is simple, “Played in Every Park.” That also appears to be the mission of Lintern whose successful playing career has taken him all over the world and netted him six national championships (third all-time for championships won by a player in the UK.) As a catcher for Team Great Britain, Lintern even had the opportunity to play against Yoenis Cespedes and the Cuban national team in the World Baseball Cup.

While pursuing a degree in Business Management at Menlo College, Lintern was highly involved in Game Operations within the Athletic Department and quickly began learning valuable skills that would translate into his current role. In addition to those skills, Lintern was positively impacted by the people he met along the way. “As with most things in life, it was the people who made my time at Menlo such a positive experience,” noted Lintern. “Everyone I interacted with seemed to be at Menlo for very different but very personal reasons but it was my relationship with the athletic department that is probably the highlight of my time at Menlo.”

Lintern’s reason was centered on the student-athlete experience. A relatively inexperienced catcher from the UK, he made the trip to the States in search of collegiate baseball experience and left with numerous mentors and countless lifelong friends. Coincidentally, a mentor and lifelong friend both came with the last name “Bowman,” as in then head coach and now Senior Associate Director of Admissions Ken Bowman and his son Scott.

“Will is unique,” said Ken Bowman. “His skills from the onset were not up to par, perse but I will say he improved so much that he caught at the end of his career. He’s one of the hardest workers I had here without a doubt. That’s the strength he had, that inner desire.”

That inner desire led to Will playing in 31 games as a senior and is what has turned Will’s passion for the game into a full-fledged career. Baseball SoftballUK is a government funded program charged with increasing the number of people playing baseball and softball across the country. As it stands, 20,000 people in the UK currently play baseball and softball. Under Will’s direction as National Development Director, they hope to increase that number to 30,000 by 2017 and 50,000 by 2021. Lofty goals for certain, but a tough task has never been enough to keep Will from success.

At the end of the day, it was his Menlo College experience and the people he met along the way that helped shape Will’s passion and direction in life.

For more information on BSUK, please visit their website http://www.baseballsoftballuk.com/