2008

2008 AASU Baseball Guide

Armstrong State University

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Kenny Cail
5-9 • 160• Junior • INF • B:R T:R
Savannah, Ga. • Middle Georgia JC

Junior third baseman who enjoyed a fine debut season for the Pirates. 2007: Played in 62 games, starting 61, as a sophomore for the Pirates ... Hit .325 with two home runs and 54 RBI ... Collected 21 RBI in a nine-game span from March 16-25 ... Went 3-for-5 with a home run and six RBI in AASU’s win over Lander on March 24 ... Also drove in nine runs with six total in AASU’s 27-6 win over Augusta State on April 15. JUNIOR COLLEGE: Played one season for Middle Georgia College in Cochran, Ga. ... Middle Georgia captured the Region 17 Tournament in 2006 ... Hit .297 in 31 games for the Warriors ... High school teammate of fellow AASU player Tyler Crawford. HIGH SCHOOL: Played for two years at Benedictine Military Academy in Savannah ... Named defensive player of the year for the Cadets and also was the special teams player of the year for the Cadet football squad ... Wendy’s High School Heisman honoree. PERSONAL: Born Kenneth H. Cail II on May 8, 1987, in Savannah, Ga., his hometown ... Son of Chip and Angie Cail ... Majoring in biology ... Would like to attend medical school ... Enjoys watching and playing all sports ... Yunel Escobar is a favorite sports personality.

Kenny Cail’s Career Statistics

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Carlos Cardoza-Oquendo
5-9 • 170 • Sophomore • INF • B:B T:R
San Juan, Puerto Rico • Georgia State

Sophomore infielder who transfers in from Georgia State. GEORGIA STATE: Played one season for Georgia State University in Atlanta ... Hit .333 in 17 games of action, going 4-for-12 with two runs scored and three RBI ... Played with OF Nick Pyron on the Panthers squad in 2007. HIGH SCHOOL: Played for four years at Decatur HS in Decatur, Ga. ... Earned Atlanta Journal Constitution All-Area honors and first-team All-Region honors as a senior. PERSONAL: Born Carlos Cardoza-Oquendo on January 19, 1987, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, his hometown ... Son of Carlos F. Cardoza and Aida L. Oquendo ... Majoring in physical education ... Lists Roberto Alomar as his favorite sports personality.

Carlos Cardoza-Oquendo’s Career Statistics

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Jeff Chase
6-4 • 220 • Junior • RHP • B:R T:R
Albuquerque, N.M. • Yavapai JC (Ariz.)

Junior righthander who will again be a part of the Pirates’ starting rotation in 2008. 2007: Pitched in 20 games, starting 11, as a sophomore for the Pirates ... Went 4-3 with a 4.84 ERA and two saves ... Ranked among the league’s leaders in strikeouts with 68 K’s in 70.2 innings pitched. JUNIOR COLLEGE: Played one season for Yavapai JC, the NJCAA runners-up in 2007 ... Went 1-1 with a 5.50 ERA in seven games of action for the Roughriders. HIGH SCHOOL: Played four seasons for Cibola HS in Albuquerque ... Team captain and named team’s best pitcher ... Played summer ball for the Albuquerque Heat. PERSONAL: Born Jeffrey Michael Chase on October 15, 1985 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, his hometown ... Son of Michael and Janice Chase ... His father played collegiate basketball at the University of Idaho ... Majoring in chemistry ... Enjoys white water rafting and archery ... Lists Nolan Ryan as a favorite sports personality.

Jeff Chase’s Career Statistics

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Blake Culberson  
6-3 • 180 • Sophomore • RHP • B:R T:R  
Calhoun, Ga. • Gordon Central HS 

Sophomore righthander who will try and build upon a solid debut season. 2007: Pitched in 14 games, starting seven, as a freshman ... Went 4-2 with a 6.07 ERA ... Pitched a complete-game 5-2 win over USC Aiken in the Peach Belt Conference Championship game, giving the Pirates their first-ever PBC tournament title ... Named to the All-Tournament Team for his performance. HIGH SCHOOL: Played four seasons for Gordon Central HS in Calhoun, Ga. ... Three-time Pitcher of the Year for the Warriors ... Went 6-2 as a senior and was invited to participate in the Hardee’s Tennessee-Georgia All-Star Classic ... Played for three youth National Championship teams in 2003-2005. PERSONAL: Born Blake Culberson on October 28, 1987 in Calhoun, Ga., his hometown ... Son of Larry and Derrall Culberson ... Brother, Larry, played baseball at Shorter College ... Cousin of AASU assistant coach and former Pirate player Calvain Culberson ... Majoring in economics ... Enjoys playing golf ... Lists John Smoltz as a favorite sports personality.

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Steven Currie  
6-1 • 170 • Freshman • LHP • B:L T:L  
Loganville, Ga. • South Gwinnett HS 

Freshman righthander who will be one of the Pirates’ first options out of the bullpen in 2008. HIGH SCHOOL: Played four seasons for South Gwinnett HS ... Earned second-team All-County honors as a senior ... Also a four-time All-State diver. PERSONAL: Born Steven Thomas Currie on August 31, 1988, in Snellville, Ga. ... Hometown is Loganville, Ga. ... Son of Mike and Robin Currie ... Undecided in major ... Enjoys swimming and diving and playing table tennis ... Lists David Justice as a favorite sports personality.

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Joey Davis  
6-0 • 250 • Senior • 1B • B:R T:R  
Acworth, Ga. • North Cobb HS 

Senior first baseman who will continue to be the Pirates’ primary first baseman against left-handers in 2008. 2007: Played in 32 games, starting 15, as a junior for the Pirates ... Hit .231 with three home runs and 17 RBI ... Went 3-for-4 with a home run in AASU’s win over Lander on March 24. 2006: Played in 31 games, starting 12, as a sophomore ... Hit .226 with two home runs and 15 RBI ... Hit game-tying home run in AASU’s 10-9 win over Pfeiffer on April 17 ... Had two hits and drove in three runs against Southern Connecticut State on 2/18. 2005: Played in 25 games, starting 11, for the Pirates as a freshman ... Hit .152 with four RBI in 46 at-bats. HIGH SCHOOL: Played for two years at North Cobb HS in Kennesaw ... Named first-team All-Cobb County as a senior and was a member of the GACA All-Stars after hitting .415 with nine home runs and 33 RBI. PERSONAL: Born Joseph Lee Davis on June 26, 1985, in Tulsa, Okla. ... Hometown is Acworth, Ga. ... Son of Bill and Linda Davis ... Majoring in physical education ... Enjoys fishing and playing table tennis ... Brian McCann is a favorite sports personality.

Culberson hurled a complete-game win over USCA in the 2007 PBC Championship Game.
Ducey was third on the Pirates staff in wins last year with five, all in relief.

**Josh Heath**

6-1 • 180 • Freshman • Outfield • B:R T:R
Locust Grove, Ga. • Luella HS

Freshman outfielder who should see some time in his debut season. **HIGH SCHOOL:** Played for four years at Luella HS in Locust Grove ... Named team’s MVP and best offensive player in 2007 ... First-team All-Southern Crescent honors as a senior ... Named the Academic Athlete of the Year for Henry County ... Also a standout basketball player for the Lions. **PERSONAL:** Born Josh Heath on February 2, 1989, in Nashville, Tenn. ... Hometown is Locust Grove, Ga. ... Son of Kenny and Andra Heath ... Majoring in pre-medicine ... Enjoys going to church, playing video games and watching sports ... Lists Tyler Hansborough and Marcus Giles as his favorite sports personalities.

**Juan Dorado**

5-9 • 165 • Junior • Infield • B:R T:R
San Pedro, Calif. • L.A. Harbor (Calif.) JC

Junior infielder who will take over as the Pirates’ starting shortstop in 2008. **JUNIOR COLLEGE:** Played in 42 games for L.A. Harbor College as a sophomore ... Hit .308 with 14 RBI. **HIGH SCHOOL:** Played for four years at San Pedro HS ... Earned first-team All-Marine League honors for three seasons ... Earned second-team All-Area honors as a senior for the Pirates. **PERSONAL:** Born Juan Dorado on September 20, 1976, in San Pedro, Calif., his hometown ... Son of Juan and Marca Dorado ... Majoring in English communications ... Enjoys camping, traveling and listening to music ... Lists Alex Rodriguez and Chipper Jones as his favorite sports personalities.

**Sam Dotson**

6-3 • 190 • Freshman • Catcher/RHP • B:R T:R
Guyton, Ga. • Effingham County HS

Redshirt freshman who will get a chance to contribute both behind the plate and on the mound in 2008. **2007:** Redshirted the 2007 season for the Pirates. **HIGH SCHOOL:** Played three seasons at Effingham County HS in Springfield, Ga. **PERSONAL:** Born Sam Dotson on March 14, 1988 in Savannah, Ga. ... Hometown is Guyton, Ga. ... Son of Eddie Dotson ... Uncle, Andy Dotson, played football at the University of Georgia ... Undecided in major ... Enjoys playing all sports ... Lists Jarrod Saltamacchia as a favorite sports personality.
Senior reliever who is the most experienced returnee in the Pirates’ bullpen from 2007.

2007: Pitched in 22 games, all in relief, going 3-4 with a 2.87 ERA and four saves.

Named PBC Pitcher of the Week on 2/6 for saving three wins in AASU’s season-opening series against Mount Olive. JUNIOR COLLEGE: Pitched one season at Central Arizona ... Went 5-4 with three saves and an 0.94 ERA as a sophomore, giving up just 38 hits and five earned runs in 47.2 innings pitched. HIGH SCHOOL: Played for two seasons at Standley Lake HS in Westminster, Colo. ... Earned All-Conference honors as a senior and honorable mention All-State honors for the Gators.

PERSONAL: Born Nathaniel Louis Herder on November 12, 1985, in Wheat Ridge, Colo., his hometown ... Son of Robb Herder and Karen Breay ... Majoring in economics ... Enjoys the outdoors and snowboarding ... Lists Greg Maddux and John Smoltz as favorite sports personalities.
Brandon McCreery
6-0 • 210 • Sophomore • RHP • B:R T:R
Rincon, Ga. • Georgia State

Georgia State transfer who will be one of the Pirates options. AT GEORGIA STATE: Pitched in 11 games, starting two, for the Panthers as a freshman. Went 0-0 with a 9.88 ERA in 13.2 innings pitched. Played with OF Nick Pyron and IF Carlos Cardoza-Oquendo. HIGH SCHOOL: Played for four years at South Effingham HS. Named to the Savannah Morning News All-Coastal Empire team as a senior. Went 34-6 in his career as a pitcher. Also played four years of football for the Mustangs. PERSONAL: Born Troy Brandon McCreery on December 10, 1987, in Savannah, Ga. Hometown is Rincon, Ga. Son of Troy and Donna McCreery. Brother, Chris, pitched for Tennessee Wesleyan. Undecided in major. Enjoys camping and playing baseball. Lists Greg Maddux as a favorite sports personality.

Derrek Miller
5-11 • 215 • Senior • Catcher • B:R T:R
Visalia, Calif. • College of the Sequoias

Senior catcher who will battle for the starting job behind the plate in 2008. 2007: Played in 16 games, starting seven, as a junior for the Pirates. Hit .226 with one home run and nine RBI. JUNIOR COLLEGE: Played for two seasons at the College of the Sequoias in Visalia, Calif. Second-team All-Conference as a sophomore and freshman. Team captain as a sophomore. HIGH SCHOOL: Played for three seasons at Golden West HS. Second-team All-League honors as a senior and honorable mention All-League honors as a junior. PERSONAL: Born Derrek Justin Miller on July 30, 1986, in Visalia, Calif., his hometown. Son of Janis and Grant Miller. Majoring in electrical engineering. Enjoys fishing, playing the guitar and table tennis. David Wright is a favorite sports personality.

Ross Partee
6-3 • 210 • Junior • RHP • B:R T:R
Vero Beach, Fla. • Indian River CC

Senior hurler who will be the opening day starter for the Pirates in 2008. 2007: Pitched in 17 games, starting 15, as a junior for the Pirates. Went 7-5 with a 4.69 ERA. Won his last three regular season starts, beating USC Upstate, USC Aiken and North Georgia. Started South Atlantic Regional opening game against GCSU and gave up just one earned run in seven innings pitched. JUNIOR COLLEGE: Played for two seasons at Indian River CC. Named team’s best pitcher as a sophomore. Also named to the FC-CAA All-Academic team. HIGH SCHOOL: Played for two seasons at Vero Beach HS in Vero Beach, Fla. Helped lead the Fighting Indians to the state semifinals in 2003. PERSONAL: Born Ross Philip Partee on May 1, 1985, in Vero Beach, Fla., his hometown. Son of Jean Lindsey and Phil Partee. Majoring in criminal justice. Enjoys hunting and fishing. Lists Mickey Mantle as a favorite sports personality.
Michael Price  
5-9 • 170 • Freshman • Outfield • B:B T:R  
Orlando, Fla. • Timber Creek HS  

Freshman outfielder who will .... **HIGH SCHOOL:** Played for four years at Timber Creek HS in Orlando ... Hit .494 as a junior with 21 stolen bases ... Hit .359 as a senior with 22 steals ... Earned first-team All-Metro Orlando honors and second-team All-State honors as a junior. **PERSONAL:** Born Michael Nathaniel Price on January 29, 1989, in Albuquerque, N.M. ... Hometown is Orlando, Fla. ... Son of Reggie and Aneda Price ... Majoring in physical therapy ... Enjoys working out, playing basketball and table tennis ... Lists Jackie Robinson and Jesse Owens as favorite sports personalities.

Nick Pyron  
6-3 • 250 • Junior • Outfield • B:R T:R  
Zebulon, Ga. • Georgia State  

Junior transfer from Georgia State who will take over the starting ... field spot for the Pirates in 2008. **AT GEORGIA STATE:** Hit .189 with three home runs and 11 RBI in 28 games of action for the Panthers as a sophomore ... Played in 18 games as a freshman ... Played with RHP Brandon McCreery and IF Carlos Cardoza-Oquendo. **HIGH SCHOOL:** Played four years for Pike County High School, lettering in baseball, basketball and football for the Pirates ... Hit .405 with 14 homers and 53 RBI as a senior, earning All-State honors ... Named team’s best offensive player as a senior ... Also earned All-Region honors in basketball. **PERSONAL:** Born William Nicholas Pyron on March 2, 1987, in Griffin, Ga. ... Hometown is Zebulon, Ga. ... Son of Bobby and Lottie Pyron ... Majoring in criminal justice ... Enjoys playing baseball and basketball ... Lists Barry Bonds, Sammy Sosa, Michael Jordan and Barry Sanders as favorite sports personalities.

Tommy Ray  
5-9 • 185 • Junior • Catcher • B:L T:R  
Powder Springs, Ga. • Gordon College  

Junior college transfer who will be one of the Pirates’ options behind the plate in 2007. **JUNIOR COLLEGE:** Played for two seasons at Gordon College in Cuthbert, Ga. ... Earned first-team All-Conference honors as a freshman and second-team All-Conference honors as a sophomore ... Hit .350 with 35 RBI as a sophomore. **HIGH SCHOOL:** Played for two years at North Cobb Christian HS in Acworth, Ga. ... Earned All-Region honors as a senior for the Eagles. **PERSONAL:** Born Tommy Rayr on September 24, 1986, in Sacramento, Calif. ... Hometown is Powder Springs, Ga. ... Son Tom and Cherisa Ray ... Enjoys playing baseball and basketball, fishing and working with computers ... Lists Brian McCann as a favorite sports personality.
AASU Player Profiles

Blake Sills
6-0 • 190 • Freshman • RHP/UTIL • B:R T:R
Columbus, Ga. • Northside HS

Freshman righthander who could see time in the pen or in the field in 2008. **HIGH SCHOOL:** Played for four years at Northside HS in Columbus ... Hit .300 or better all four years for the Patriots ... Earned All-State honors as a senior. **PERSONAL:** Born Robert Blake Sills on September 13, 1988, in Portal, Ga. ... Hometown is Columbus, Ga. ... Son of Lee and Melainie Hutchins ... Majoring in economics ... Enjoys playing basketball, baseball and the outdoors ... Lists Alex Rodriguez and Michael Jordan as favorite sports personalities.

Chris Smith
6-1 • 210 • Senior • Catcher • B:R T:R
McDonough, Ga. • South Georgia JC

Senior catcher who takes over starting duties behind the plate in 2008. **2007:** Played in 34 games, starting 27, as a junior for the Pirates ... Hit .269 with one home run and 18 RBI ... Connected on a pinch-hit grand slam in AASU’s 19-2 win over No. 30-ranked California (Pa.) on March 16 ... Went 5-for-8 in the three-game PBC series against Georgia Southwestern State on Feb. 24-25. **JUNIOR COLLEGE:** Played for two years at South Georgia College ... Named team MVP as a sophomore. **HIGH SCHOOL:** Played for three years at Jonesboro High School ... Earned Georgia Dugout Club Player of the Week honors as a senior. **PERSONAL:** Born Christopher Thomas Smith on April 5, 1986 in Joneboro, Ga., his hometown ... Son of Rebecca and Richard Smith ... Majoring in general studies ... Enjoys watching movies, cars and weightlifting ... Mike Metheny is a favorite sports personality.

Garrett Smith
5-10 • 215 • Junior • RHP • B:R T:R
Haymarket, Va. • Frederick (Md.) CC

Righthander who will get a shot in the starting rotation for the Pirates in 2008. **JUNIOR COLLEGE:** Played for two years at Frederick Community College in Maryland ... Two-time All-Conference honoree and first-team All-Region honoree as a sophomore ... Went 6-1 with a 3.00 ERA with 49 strikeouts in 48 innings pitched. **HIGH SCHOOL:** Played for four years at Stonewall Jackson HS in Manassas, Va. ... Earned All-District and All-Prince William Area honors as a senior, going 9-1 for the Raiders. **PERSONAL:** Born Christopher Garrett Smith on December 6, 1986, in Fairfax, Va. ... Hometown is Haymarket, Va. ... Son of Debra and Ken Smith ... Majoring in criminal justice ... Enjoys fishing, playing video games and watching television ... Lists Roger Clemens and Nolan Ryan as favorite sports personalities.

Chris Smith’s Career Statistics

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Smith had a pinch-hit grand slam in AASU’s 19-2 win over No. 30 California (Pa.) on 3/16
Wilson was the Peach Belt Conference Tournament MVP as a freshman in 2007

Matt Tufts
6-1 • 195 • Freshman • INF/C • B:L T:R
Guyton, Ga. • South Effingham HS

Freshman utility player who could see time in the infield or behind the plate. **HIGH SCHOOL:** Played for two years at South Effingham HS ... Helped the Mustangs to the 2007 State Final Four. **PERSONAL:** Born Matthew Eric Tufts on April 13, 1989, in Cape Cod, Mass. ... Hometown is Guyton, Ga. ... Son of Kelli Tufts ... Majoring in criminal justice ... Enjoys playing video games ... Lists David Ortiz as a favorite sports personality.

Cody Walden
5-9 • 180 • Junior • LHP • B:L T:L
Tucson, Ariz. • Cochise (Ariz.) CC

Lefthanded starter who expects to be in the starting rotation for the Pirates in 2008. **JUNIOR COLLEGE:** Helped Cochise to a 40-15 record and a No. 2 ranking in the NJCAA Rankings ... Earned Second-Team All-ACCAC and All-Region I honors as a sophomore ... Went 8-5 with a school-record 2.01 ERA ... Struck out 74 batters and gave up just 81 hits in 94 innings pitched. **HIGH SCHOOL:** Played at Santa Rita HS in Tucson. **PERSONAL:** Born Cody Walden on April 25, 1986, in Tucson, Ariz., his hometown ... Son of William and Jodi Walden ... Majoring in economics ... Enjoys playing table tennis and poker ... Lists Tom Glavine and Greg Maddux as favorite sports personalities.

Josh Wilson
5-11 • 190 • Sophomore • INF • B:R T:R
Springfield, Ga. • Effingham County HS

Preseason All-Conference second baseman who will try and improve on a stellar freshman year. **2007:** Started all 62 games for the Pirates as a freshman ... Hit .360 with a team-high eight home runs and 56 RBI ... Hit .458 with 10 RBI in the PBC Tournament, including the game-winning single in the bottom of the ninth to defeat Columbus State, 7-6, in the semifinals ... Named the PBC Tournament MVP ... Named Daktronics Second Team All-South Atlantic Region ... Collected a 19-game hitting streak from March 4 o March 3. **2006:** Redshirted the 2006 season for the Pirates. **HIGH SCHOOL:** Played for four years at Effingham County HS ... Earned team offensive award as a junior and a senior ... Selected to Team Georgia as a sophomore ... Attended Chipola JC but did not play baseball. **PERSONAL:** Born Joshua Shane Webb on May 12, 1987, in Savannah, Ga. ... Hometown is Springfield, Ga. ... Son of Don and Karen Wilson ... Uncle, Andy Dotson, played football at the University of Georgia ... Undecided in major ... Enjoys hunting and fishing ... Alex Rodriguez is a favorite sports personality.

Josh Wilson’s Career Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>GP-GS</th>
<th>AB</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>H</th>
<th>2B</th>
<th>3B</th>
<th>HR</th>
<th>RBI</th>
<th>BB</th>
<th>K</th>
<th>SB-SBA</th>
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<td>63</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>56</td>
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<td>16-20</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Year</td>
<td>62-62</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>18</td>
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