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# Sam Howard Lands Invite to Rockies Camp as Spring Training Opens

*Former Eagle invited as a non-roster player for 2017*



Sam Howard pitching for the Hartford Yard Goats (Image courtesy purplerow.com)

Baseball | 2/13/2017 11:11:00 AM

## Story Links

**STATESBORO, GA.** – Former Eagle and Colorado Rockies minor leaguer Sam Howard has received a non-roster invitation to Major League Spring Training in preparation for the 2017 season. Howard enters his fourth season as a professional after finishing the 2016 campaign with a 3.35 ERA over 27 appearances at the Advanced-A and AA levels. Howard is among a list of seven former Georgia Southern student-athletes playing professional baseball.

Howard opened the season by working 11 games and posting a 4-3 record with the Modesto Nuts

at the Advanced-A California League. He earned a promotion on June 9th, moving cross-country to play for the Hartford Yard Goats of the AA Eastern League. He posted a 5-6 record with a 3.99 ERA in 90.1 innings with Hartford. He reported to the Colorado Rockies' Spring Training in Scottsdale, Arizona on Sunday, February 12th.

Chris Beck is the other former Georgia Southern Baseball student-athlete heading to Spring Training this week. Beck is on the Chicago White Sox active roster entering the 2017 campaign after closing out the 2016 season with the big club. Beck went 2-2 in 2016 over 25.1 innings with 20 strikeouts.

Georgia Southern's list of former players in professional baseball also includes Jason Richman (Rangers), Victor Roache (Brewers), Aaron Mizell (Astros), Eric Alonzo (Angels), and Josh Wirsu (Cardinals).

Georgia Southern returns starters at seven of the eight fielding positions and a full stable of pitchers from the 2016 season. The Eagles capped a 36-24 campaign in 2016 by reaching the Championship Game of the Sun Belt Championships, falling one win shy of a berth in the NCAA Tournament.

The Eagles open the 2017 season with their first eight games at home, including visits from Georgia, Georgia Tech, College of Charleston and Middle Tennessee. Georgia Southern kicks off the season with a three-game set against Middle Tennessee starting on February 17th.

Get your Georgia Southern Baseball season tickets by visiting [GSEagles.com/Tickets](http://GSEagles.com/Tickets) or calling the Georgia Southern Athletics Ticket Office at 1-800-GSU-WINS during normal business hours.

Beginning with the 2017 season, the conference will conduct its baseball regular season with divisional play. Two divisions – East and West – will be comprised of six teams each and divisional champions will be awarded at the end of the year based on the winning percentage against all teams, regardless of division.

Those teams earn the top seeds for the 2017 Sun Belt Baseball Championships which will be held on the campus of Georgia Southern University at J.I. Clements Stadium. The tournament runs May 23-28. For more information, visit [SunBeltSports.org](http://SunBeltSports.org).

Georgia Southern Athletics provides up-to-date information on all its sports through its official website, [GSEagles.com](http://GSEagles.com), through social media channels [facebook.com/GSAthletics](https://www.facebook.com/GSAthletics), [twitter.com/GSAthletics](https://twitter.com/GSAthletics), iOS app Georgia Southern Eagles and Android app Eagles GATA. Fans can purchase tickets to Georgia Southern Athletics events by visiting [GSEagles.com/Tickets](http://GSEagles.com/Tickets).

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[twitter.com/GSAthletics](https://twitter.com/GSAthletics) and [Instagram.com/GSAthletics](https://www.instagram.com/GSAthletics). To purchase tickets to Georgia Southern athletics events, visit [GSEagles.com/tickets](https://GSEagles.com/tickets).

In order to expedite entry and provide a safe environment for all patrons and participants, Georgia Southern Athletics has implemented a Clear Bag Policy for all ticketed sporting events, effective Aug. 1, 2017. Fans can find the complete policy as well as an FAQ section at [GSEagles.com/ClearBag](https://GSEagles.com/ClearBag).