

Mitch Keller wins Metro Spotlight Award

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Cedar Rapids Xavier senior Mitch Keller is the winner of the Metro Spotlight Award for high school boys this week, the Metro Sports Report announced Sunday.

Keller, a right-handed pitcher, was selected in the second round of the 2014 Major League draft Thursday by the Pittsburgh Pirates with the 64th pick overall.

Keller is very interested in signing with the Pirates, which would officially end his prep baseball career at Xavier. He's pitched twice for the Saints this season and played shortstop, but does not plan to play for Xavier anymore.



He watched Friday night as the Saints lost a doubleheader at Prairie.

Keller struck out 16 batters in 10 innings this season and has a 1-1 record. He went 5-5 last season with a 1.72 ERA and 91 strikeouts in 69.1 innings. He was 4-0 as a sophomore in 2012 with a 3.73 ERA and 37 strikeouts in 35.2 innings.

Keller's fastball has been clocked at 95 mph and he has a sharp curveball.

The slotted bonus money for the 64th pick in the draft is \$886,800.

Keller signed with the University of North Carolina, but has given every indication he will begin his pro career this summer.