

The whole Storey

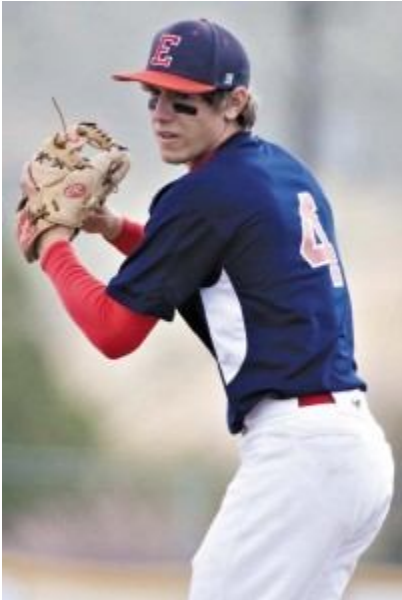
June 13, 2009 by [Scott Spruill](#)

[Email this](#) | [Leave a comment](#)

Ellensburg hurler bounces back from weightlifting injury ||

YAKIMA, Wash. — First and foremost, Brendan Storey is a pitcher. The Ellensburg senior was a first-team CWAC hurler, he plans to pitch for Big Bend Community College next spring and it's what he looks forward to doing in the All-State Series, which opens today at Parker Field.

But the most notable achievement of his final high school season came with a bat in his hands.



Ellensburg's Brendan Storey pitches against Selah in their CWAC district baseball semifinal on May 12 at Carlon Park in Selah. (SARA GETTYS/Yakima Herald-Republic file)

In a doubleheader at Prosser on March 28, Storey clubbed five home runs — three in the seven-inning opener and two in the five-inning second game. For the day he drove in 12 runs.

"I was getting a lot of strikes and when that happens it makes you more and more aggressive," recalled Storey, whose father Desi coaches the Central Washington

University baseball team. “I had maybe two (homers) in a game once but nothing like that. The ball was really carrying well.”

That one day basically made Storey the CWAC’s home run leader. He finished the regular season with six, one better than Othello’s Lee Gomez.

Trouble was, Storey’s Incredible Hulk episode carried into a weight-lifting session. A week after the five homers, he attempted a max effort on a power clean and “tweaked” his right (and throwing) wrist.

“I tried to play through it but it effected my swing a lot, and my velocity dropped pretty bad. It went from the high 80s to like 81,” Storey said. “I got it x-rayed and nothing was broken, but it’s just now feeling better.”

Storey hopes to pitch a few innings this weekend but his versatility makes him ideal for an all-star format. He can play outfield, infield and even catch.

“I’ve always played a lot of utility,” he said. “Anywhere is fine, but I’m really looking forward to pitching.”

COMING HOME: All 72 players picked for the Series can look forward to giving their families one last thrill in an all-star finish to their high school careers.

But for Columbia River’s Jon Yearout, this weekend is clearly something special.

Yearout’s father, Craig, is an Eisenhower graduate who played outfield for the Yakima Pepsi Beetles in 1973 and 1974. Jon’s grandfather, Jim, was president of the Beetles program in 1974.

“I’m just glad to get to see my kid play on the same field I did to finish his high school baseball,” Craig said. “The weekend will bring back great memories.”

Jon Yearout, a pitcher and first baseman, was the Greater St. Helens 3A player of the year this spring.

FALLER TO BE HONORED: Longtime Yakima Valley baseball coach Bill Faller, a member of both the YVCC and NWAACC Hall of Fame, will be honored at tonight’s All-State banquet, which will start at 7 p.m. at the Clarion Hotel on North First St.

The banquet is free for players and \$20 for non-participants. Washington coach Ken Knutsen and WSU coach Donnie Marbut will be the guest speakers.

THEY FEEL A DRAFT: A pair of All-State players were picked in the MLB First-Year Player Draft, which concluded Thursday.

Liberty infielder Eric Peterson was selected by Kansas City in the 28th round, and Shorecrest pitcher James Robbins was taken shortly after by Detroit in the 30th round.

MORE TO COME: For three All-State Series picks, the all-star trips to Yakima are just beginning.

Lakewood's Jordan Stauffer, Cashmere's Trevor Davis and Naches Valley's Ethan Flory have also been selected to play in the 15th annual Earl Barden Football Classic on June 27 at Zaepfel Stadium.

TICKETS: Organizers are offering weekend tickets for the four-game, two-day All-State Series. Adults are \$10, youth \$5 and a \$25 family pass is available for two adults with unlimited kids.