

# Breaks of the Game: Naches Valley's DeVolve Bounces Back From Broken Wrist to Star This Spring

After injury last season, Ranger standout returned and went 11-1 as a pitcher and hit .517 this spring



YAKIMA, Wash. -- When Evan DeVolve lowered his glove at third base to make a play on a sliding player, the only thing he wanted to hear was the umpire announcing, ‘Out!’

What he heard instead was a snap from his wrist breaking.

Heard it and then, worse, saw it.

“I spun around and my glove flew off,” DeVolve recalled of the fateful play a year ago. “When I looked at my wrist it was all deformed and really gross. I completely snapped it.”

With the better part of his junior season wiped away by one play, it seems like the Naches Valley senior was determined to make up for lost time this spring. The SCAC West MVP was not only 11-1 on the mound with a perfect game but he also batted .514 with 37 RBI.

He’ll get another chance to exercise those diverse skills while representing Naches Valley in the All-State Baseball Series this weekend at Parker Faller Field. DeVolve will play for Team St. Helens and is one of four local seniors picked for the Series that will feature a doubleheader on Saturday and Sunday.

“I never thought I’d be a pitcher with numbers like that,” DeVolve admitted. “That really surprised me, and so did hitting over .500.”

When struck by the injury to his left (non-throwing) wrist in the second game last season, DeVolve was the starting third baseman with hopes of being in the pitching rotation or a top reliever.

Then came Plan B.

He was actually back on the mound in less than three weeks with a hard cast and modified glove for his left hand, but he wasn’t cleared to bat until the district tournament.

“It was really strange pitching with a borrowed softball glove,” he said. “But at least I was out there. I really missed hitting, though, and only had like nine plate appearances all season. Looking back, it was a hard time. But I think it just made me work harder for this season.”

It showed.

The highlights of that nifty 11-1 record, which included a 1.40 ERA and 85 strikeouts, were a perfect game against league rival Zillah and a shutout victory over College Place in the SCAC district championship.

While Naches Valley’s graduation was on Thursday, most of the Rangers’ infield is moving on together next fall at Wenatchee Valley College — DeVolve at third base, Christian Casey at shortstop and Kobe Kohls at second.

“That all came together toward the end of the season and it’s exciting that we’ll be together,” DeVolve said. “That’s like a dream for teammates.”

DeVolve and Team St. Helens will play Team Rainier, which includes Ellensburg’s Gage Gibson, in Saturday’s second game at 3:30 p.m. East Valley’s Chase Oldham and Zillah’s Drew VanKemseke will be teammates on Team Adams, which plays Team Baker in Saturday’s opener at noon.

On Sunday the third-place game starts at 10:30 a.m. followed by the championship game at 1:45 p.m.