

NEWPORT GULLS BASEBALL

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"RAISING THE BAR IN SUMMER COLLEGIATE BASEBALL"

Outfielding corps stems from top collegiate programs

NEWPORT, R.I. - There is little concern about the talent that will be roaming the outfield for the Newport Gulls this summer. The corps of players includes a trio of guys that play for top-five teams in the country.

University of North Carolina freshman **Drew Poulk** [Morehead City, N.C.] has played centerfield and the corner outfield spots in his first season with the Tar Heels, who have been ranked in the top five all season and have been as high as No. 1. Thus far, Poulk has started 23 of the 32 games he has played, batting .297 along the way. He has shown some pop with the bat (three doubles, one triple, four home runs) and has been spotless in the field, handling all 54 chances he has had cleanly.

Coming in from the current No. 1 team are Vanderbilt University juniors and Tennessee natives **Brad French** [Brentwood, Tenn.] and **Jonathan White** [Nashville, Tenn.]. White, a left-handed batter, is batting .306 with seven doubles, one triple and three home runs in 38 games for the Boilermakers. The regular designated hitter for Vanderbilt, he figures to see time in the outfield for Newport. French gives the Gulls flexibility and depth in several areas, as he can play corner spots in the outfield, as well as first, second or third base in the infield.

The arrival status for Poulk, French and White will be determined by their respective team success in the NCAA tournament. Vanderbilt and North Carolina are both legitimate national title contenders and figure to make deep runs this spring.

University of Maryland red-shirt sophomore **Gerry Spessard** [Hagerstown, Md.] brings a special combination of speed and power from the left side of the plate. Though he has struggled from a batting average standpoint (.225), Spessard has plenty of extra-base power (9 doubles, 4 home runs) to go with eight stolen bases in nine attempts. As a freshman, Spessard set a school record with five triples for the Terps.

Hunt Woodruff [Dallas, Texas] brings a strong right-handed bat and positional flexibility to the Gulls. A sophomore from Texas Christian University, Woodruff is capable of playing the corner outfield spots and can also go behind the plate as a catcher. In 25 games for the Horned Frogs, Woodruff has a .321 batting average with four doubles, two home runs and 11 runs batted in.

Be sure to check back Monday for a look at the Gulls' pitching staff for 2007.

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