

MATTHEW LIBERATORE LEFT-HANDED PITCHER

ROUND 1 - NO. 16 OVERALL

B/T L/L **HT/WT** 6-5/200 **BORN** 11/6/1999 **SCHOOL** Mountain Ridge (Ariz.) HS

- + Ranked as the No. 2 overall player in this year's draft by *Baseball America*...was ranked third by ESPN's Keith Law and fourth by MLB.com.
- + Went 8-1 with a 0.93 ERA (60.1-IP, 8-ER) and 104 SO as a senior and received Arizona Gatorade Baseball Player of the Year honors...named a first team Rawlings/Perfect Game All-American for this past season...helped lead Mountain Ridge to the Class 6A state championship game.
- + Last summer, he pitched 12 scoreless innings for USA Baseball's 18U National Team and recorded the win in their gold medal game over Korea.
- + Was selected higher than any other high school pitcher in franchise history...was the fourth high school pitcher selected by the Rays in the first round, joining Jason Standridge (No. 31) in 1997, Taylor Guerrieri (No. 24) in 2011 and Blake Snell (No. 52) in 2011.
- + Committed to play college baseball next season at the University of Arizona.

SHANE McCLANAHAN LEFT-HANDED PITCHER

ROUND 1 - NO. 31 OVERALL

B/T L/L **HT/WT** 6-1/190 **BORN** 4/28/1997 **SCHOOL** Univ. of South Florida

- + Ranked as the No. 8 overall player in this year's draft by *Baseball America*...was ranked 14th by MLB.com and 15th by ESPN's Keith Law.
- + Went 5-6 with a 3.42 ERA (76.1-IP, 29-ER) and 120 SO in 14 starts as a redshirt sophomore...his 120 SO ranked 4th for a single season in school history...tied for the conference lead in strikeouts and ranked 2nd in the country with a 14.2 SO/9 IP ratio.
- + Did not allow a run in his first 31.2 IP this season...it was the longest scoreless streak to start a season in program history.
- + Was part of the program's first combined no-hitter, coming on March 16 against Army...it was the program's first no-hitter of any kind since 2010...he went 6 IP and recorded a career-high 15 SO, and sophomore Carson Ragsdale pitched the final 3 IP.
- + Named to Golden Spikes Award preseason and midseason watch lists.
- + Became the second USF pitcher with at least 100 SO in consecutive seasons (104 SO in 2017).
- + Is the second player selected by the Rays from USF in the past two drafts, following Phoenix Sanders (10th round) in 2017.
- + Missed the 2016 season recovering from Tommy John surgery.
- + Previously selected by the New York Mets in the 26th round of the 2015 June Draft.

NICK SCHNELL CENTER FIELDER

ROUND 1 - NO. 32 OVERALL

B/T L/R **HT/WT** 6-3/180 **BORN** 3/27/2000 **SCHOOL** Roncalli (Ind.) HS

- + Received Indiana Gatorade Player of the Year honors...hit .535 with 15 HR and 37 RBI in 31 games as a senior, helping Roncalli reach Class 4A regionals...hit .473 with 25 HR and 109 RBI over his high school career...set a school record for home runs hit in a career.
- + Ranked by *Baseball America* as the No. 1 player out of the state of Indiana...became the 14th player ever drafted in the first round out of an Indiana high school and fifth in the 2000s, joining Ashe Russell (2015), Nolan Watson (2015), Trey Ball (2013) and Jarrod Parker (2007).
- + Also played basketball in high school...became the first player ever selected out of Roncalli HS in Indiana.
- + Committed to play college baseball next season at the University of Louisville.

TYLER FRANK SHORTSTOP

ROUND 2 - NO. 56 OVERALL

B/T R/R **HT/WT** 6-0/185 **BORN** 1/15/1997 **SCHOOL** Florida Atlantic Univ.

- + Through the NCAA Regionals, is batting .307/.444/.563 (73-for-238) with 13 HR, 35 RBI and 68 runs...tied for the conference lead with 20 2B.
- + As a junior, was named third team All-American, first team All-Conference and Conference USA Defensive Player of the Year.
- + Played last summer for USA Baseball's Collegiate National Team...was the first FAU player since 2005 to earn an invitation to the tryout camp.
- + Went to American Heritage-Delray Beach High School, where he was teammates with Rays prospect Lucius Fox.
- + Is the 2nd-highest selection ever out of Florida Atlantic, behind former teammate C.J. Chatham (No. 51) in 2016.

TANNER DODSON CENTER FIELDER | RIGHT-HANDED PITCHER

ROUND B - NO. 71 OVERALL

B/T S/R **HT/WT** 6-1/160 **BORN** 5/9/1997 **SCHOOL** Univ. of California

- + Is one of three finalists for collegiate baseball's John Olerud Award, which is given to the nation's top two-way player...other finalists are Stetson's Brooks Wilson and Georgia's Aaron Schunk...Louisville's Brendan McKay won the John Olerud Award in each of the previous three seasons.
- + Hit .320 (73-for-228) with 12 2B, 1 HR, 27 RBI and 12 SB in 54 games (all starts) at the plate...went 2-1 with a 2.48 ERA (40-IP, 11-ER) in 19 relief apps...finished with 11 saves, 3rd-most in the Pac-12 and a single-season program record...made 1 error and finished with a .993 fielding pct.
- + Ranked as the No. 62 overall player in this year's draft by *Baseball America*...named second team All-American by *Baseball America* in 2018.
- + His father, Bo, was a 3rd-round selection of the Brewers in 1989 and played 10 seasons in the minor leagues.
- + Previously selected by the New York Mets in the 31st round of the 2015 June Draft.

DRAFT DAY ONE CONFERENCE CALLS

Director, Amateur Scouting Rob Metzler

On the selection of Matthew Liberatore:

"We're very pleased with the outcome tonight. We saw him as the top high school left-handed pitcher in the draft. This is a great outcome for the organization. We think he has the physical and mental ability—and the character—and has the chance to develop into a top-end pitching prospect in our organization."

On what separates him from other pitchers in the draft:

"As I mentioned before, the physical ability. He's large. He has a good delivery, good arm action, a diverse repertoire of pitches. Fastball, changeup, slider, curveball—and he can command them all. Those are all really good ingredients that we think we can develop."

Matthew Liberatore

On which pitches he has the most confidence in:

"I have total confidence in all my pitches. I think I'm a pretty aggressive pitcher. I attack the strike zone and depending on who is hitting, I have three-plus wipe-out pitches."

On major league pitchers who he likes to emulate:

"Mechanically, I don't know if there is one guy who I am super close to. Mentally, I try and emulate Aroldis Chapman, Max Scherzer or Marcus Stroman. The passion and intensity that they bring to the game and the kind of presence that they have on the mound and the way they intimidate guys before they even step into the box. I think it makes that much easier to get them out physically so I try and bring that to my game."

Senior Vice President, Baseball Operations Chaim Bloom

On selecting Matthew Liberatore with the No. 16 overall pick:

"We were surprised. A talent like this you don't expect to be there in the middle of the first round. We had him right at the top of our board for pitchers. Nothing not to like about this kid. He's tall, left-handed, loose, good stuff and great pitchability. Some of our people have known this kid for a long time and absolutely love him. We are really excited to hopefully get him in the fold soon."

On if he was surprised that Shane McClanahan was available at No. 31:

"Very surprised. We are happy about it. You have to love the stuff that this kid has. Love the stuff, love the competitiveness. Bonus points for being a local kid, although obviously that's not a huge factor in our process. We are trying to add the most impact talent that we can and we certainly feel like Shane fits the bill."

On Nick Schnell:

"Athletic, high school outfielder from the Midwest. It's a type of body that has a chance to really be what you call a thoroughbred body, where he can add strength and maintain the speed that he has. [He's a] centerfielder, [with an] advanced hitting approach. He has some power to all fields. Can go the other way better than most high school kids. A lot to like about this guy and a really good high school player with upside to add to our system."