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Panther Sports News

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July 7, 1981
Baseball/1s/as

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL --A pitcher with an earned run average of 1.12 in a 14-2 season and a catcher with a powerful throwing arm have signed letters of intent to attend Eastern Illinois Univeristy, Coach Tom McDevitt announced today.

Gary Heien, a right hander, had 109 strikeouts in 99 innings of work for O'Fallon High School this spring. He gave up only 29 bases on balls. Heien was drafted by the New York Mets, but elected to further his education, McDevitt said.

McDevitt said a scout described the 5-11, 185-pounder as "the best pitcher in the East St. Louis area." The coach said "this young man is a fierce competitor who likes to win. I believe that attitude, coupled with his ability, will make him a fine college pitcher. We are fortunate to have him."

Jim Fromm graduated from Lanphier High School where he hit .358. McDevitt said Fromm (6-1, 185 pounds) has "an excellent arm and I'm hoping he will help us right from the start. He has great potential because of his throwing. Jim is a good student and down the line he's going to develop into a fine baseball player."