

In the News: Dusty Brown, 2000; Kyle Blanks, 2005

Years Attended: 2000

Area of Study: Baseball

Years Attended: 2005

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Blanks and Brown Get the Call to 'The Show'

Pridie also currently at the big league level

Left, Dusty Brown, Bradshaw Mountain grad and former Yavapai College player. As written up in The Daily Courier, Sunday, June 21, 2009.

It's been a good week for local baseball products.

First, Yavapai College grad Kole Calhoun had a monster showing at the College World Series for Arizona State. Then Prescott High School grad Jason Pridie was recalled to the Minnesota Twins after appearing in 10 games last year at the big league level. And

by the end of the weekend, two more players who used to tear up local diamonds were at "The Show" as well.

Former Roughrider Kyle Blanks got the call to join the San Diego Padres from triple-A on Friday, made his debut that night and collected his first hit in the major leagues on Saturday. And on Sunday, Dusty Brown, another former Yavapai star and the

Boston Red Sox called up the Bradshaw Mountain High School grad.

Brown did not appear in Sunday's 6-5 win over the Braves at Fenway Park. He took the roster spot of pitcher Daisuke Matsuzaka, who went on the disabled list.

Brown celebrated his 27th birthday on Friday. He was a 35th round draft choice of Boston from Yavapai College in 2000. Over the years he has collected honors in the minors such as Red Sox Minor League Defensive Player of the Month, Offensive Player of the Month and was an Arizona Fall League Rising Star in 2007. He was hitting .239 with two home runs and 12 RBIs in 47 games this year at triple-A Pawtucket before getting the call. He hit .290 with 12 homers and 55 RBIs last season in 84 games at the highest minor league level.

Soxprospects.com calls Brown "an excellent defensive catcher with an exceptionally strong arm" and says he has the makings of a great backup catcher at the MLB level with a chance to start at some point.

This first stint in the majors for Brown may not last long if the Red Sox send him back to triple-A when they take John Smoltz off the DL to pitch for Matsuzaka. But Blanks may be up for a while.



Blanks, pictured at left, 22, is regarded as the Padres' top hitting prospect. He is a natural first baseman but has transitioned to left field with superstar Adrian Gonzalez manning first for the Padres.

An article on bleacherreport.com this weekend was titled "Now Playing Power Forward For The San Diego Padres, Kyle Blanks..." That is because Blanks is listed at 6-foot-6 and 285 pounds.

Some of Blanks' homers at Yavapai

College are legendary. He was a 2004 42nd round draft pick of the Padres. He hit .325 with 20 homers and 107 RBIs in 132 games last season at Double-A. This year in triple-A he was hitting .283 with 12 long balls and 38 RBIs in 66 games at Portland in the Pacific Coast League.

Blanks pinch hit Friday night against Oakland and struck out looking. He went 1-for-3 on Saturday with a start in left field, collecting a single in the sixth inning. And on Sunday, he went 0-for-2 with a walk and run scored in a 4-1 San Diego win.