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Beach Bums Trade Kalter For Catcher Coit

01/28/08 - Frontier League (FL) Traverse City Beach Bums

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TRAVERSE CITY -

The Traverse City Beach Bums have announced a trade that will send RHP Zack Kalter to the Orange County Flyers of the Golden League for OF/C Johnny Coit and a player to be named.

"Zack approached us this off-season and expressed his interest in playing closer to home," said Beach Bums' Director of Baseball Operations Jason Wuerfel. "We hate to see him go, but we also wanted to do what was best for his career. Orange County is just a few minutes from his home and it made more financial sense for him to play there. His family will be able to see him play on a regular basis."

Kalter, who primarily played outfield for the Beach Bums in 2007, will head to Orange County and concentrate on pitching in 2008. Kalter played in 94 games for the Beach Bums last season, and finished 3rd on the team in average (.304), 1st in doubles (24), 1st in triples (4), and 1st in RBI (54). Kalter also made 3 pitching appearances, going 1-0 with a 2.25 ERA in 4 innings with 3 walks and 4 strikeouts.

"Zack has made a commitment to pitching and I think he has big league potential," said Wuerfel. "He works hard, takes care of his body, and competes every day. I am confident he will be just as successful in his professional pitching career as he was as an outfielder."

In return for Kalter, the Beach Bums acquired OF/C Johnny Coit, who split time between the St. George Roadrunners and the Orange County Flyers in 2007. In 50 games Coit hit .265 in 155 at-bats with 10 doubles, a triple, 2 home runs, 22 RBI, 4 stolen bases, and 21 walks, good for a .367 on-base percentage. Coit also has good range in the outfield and a strong arm behind the plate - he led the Golden League last year when he threw out 32.4% of base runners attempting to steal.

The 5'10 195-pound Coit is from El Cajon, California, and played collegiately for Cal State Northridge. In three seasons at Northridge, Coit hit .293 with 17 doubles, 5 triples, 5 home runs, 58 RBI, and 63 walks against just 70 strikeouts in 135 games. He also stole 15 bases during his career.

"Coit is a versatile athlete that could really help us," said Wuerfel.

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"When you only have a 24-man roster with no farm system to draw from when injuries pop up, it is a huge benefit to have guys that can play multiple positions. Coit adds a solid left-handed bat to the lineup and we know we can stick him in the outfield or behind the plate without missing a beat."

The Beach Bums will also receive a player to be named later in the deal.