

COMMUNITY

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PITCHER BRANDON DEANS IS OAKLAND UNIVERSITY BOUND

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL GRAD MOVING ON TO NCAA

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Brandon Deans was looking for a university that would help not only his pursuit of becoming a professional pitcher, but also his desire to learn.

The Mississauga native and recent Our Lady of Mount Carmel graduate believes he found the right mix with Oakland University in Michigan. He didn't hesitate on committing to the program to embark on his collegiate career.

"That's what I look for in a school, one that not only cares for sports, but also academics," said Deans, who recently helped his high school team finish fourth in Ontario.

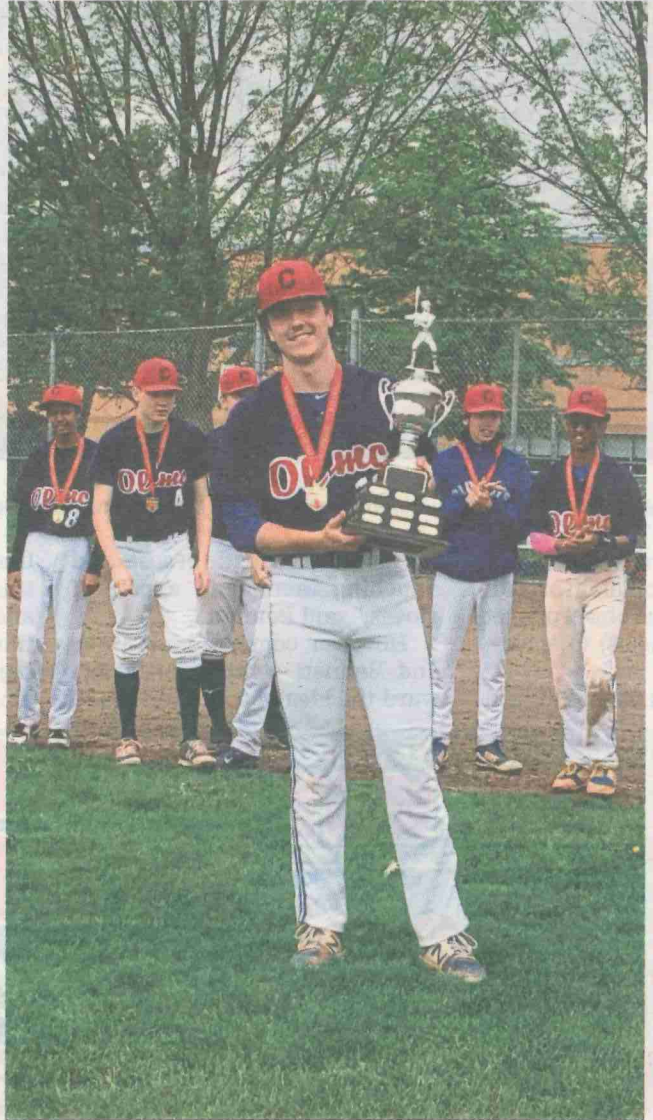
"Off the bat, knowing the academics are there was huge ... It just felt like home. That area of Michigan is very warm and welcoming."

Deans plans on studying toward a career in the health sciences field.

As is the case with most young baseball players, he was both a pitcher and a positional player (mostly centre field) before he was encouraged by Mike Steed, his coach with the Ontario Blue Jays, to commit to pitching full time.

"With his experience as a coach, he helped me with things like my mechanics, my grip," Deans said. "Then schools became interested and wanted to see how I'd grow."

Deans describes himself as a late bloomer and



Esther Deans photo

Brandon Deans has signed a scholarship with Oakland University in Michigan.

put in a lot of work over the off-season to get in a position where he could earn an NCAA scholarship. He heard a number of schools were interested after an Ontario Blue Jays Scout Day.

Earlier this year, he realized being chosen in the 2019 Major League Baseball draft was a possibility after he was invited to participate in the Arizona Diamondbacks prospect camp, where he pitched against top prospects

from other MLB squads.

Deans said having a strong season with Mount Carmel was special, especially because he was teammates with several players he played with on the Mississauga North Tigers when he was little.

"We kind of had that mindset of what you need to do to win a championship," he said. "We wanted to end it on a high note like every athlete wants to do."