

Braden Niksich Accepts Scholarship to Illinois State University

The Hobart High School Baseball program is proud to announce that senior pitcher Braden Niksich has signed his National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Illinois State University.

Braden Niksich has enjoyed an exceptional career at Hobart High School. Braden has been a member of the Varsity pitching rotation at Hobart since his freshman season in 2013. He began to attract attention late in his sophomore year when his fastball topped out at 91 miles per hour.

Braden was a key player on Hobart's 2014 Regional Finalist Team. As a sophomore on one of the top teams in Indiana, Braden went 3-3 with a 2.54 ERA in 30.1 innings. The highlight of his sophomore year came when Braden threw a five-inning no-hitter against Merrillville in the opening round of the IHSAA State Tournament, helping the Brickies start on their road to the Sectional Championship.

Braden began to receive national interest from several Division I college baseball programs in the summer after his sophomore year. In August of 2014, following a visit to their campus, Braden verbally committed to play baseball at Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois.

As a junior in 2015, Braden solidified himself as one of the top pitchers in Indiana. He finished the season with a 5-1 record and a 1.64 ERA while striking out 56 hitters in 38.1 innings. Included among his most dominant high school performances were a pair of 13 strikeout games against Northwest Crossroads Conference opponents Highland and Kankakee Valley. Braden earned 2nd Team All NCC and All Area Honorable Mention awards for his junior year. In addition, he is ranked among the top pitchers in Indiana by Prep Baseball Report and Perfect Game USA. Braden has also attracted interest from professional scouts who are planning to monitor his progress heading into his senior year at Hobart.

After follow up visits to Illinois State, Braden remained convinced that the university and their baseball program were the right fit for him. Illinois State plays baseball in the Missouri Valley Conference. One of the more underrated baseball conferences in the country, the Missouri Valley has produced several early round picks for the Major

League Draft in recent history. In November, Braden signed his National Letter of Intent to pitch for the Redbirds.

Braden has worked very hard to achieve the academic and athletic success necessary to play collegiate baseball. The School City of Hobart would like to congratulate him on his success and wish him well in his future endeavors.

Read Illinois State Baseball's [Press Release](#) on Braden and his fellow 2016 commits.

Read Brandon Vickrey's [article](#) on Braden's commitment to pitch for the Whiting Oilmen after graduation.