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max kuhn



Written by

[Mark Ambrogi](#)

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Zionsville High School senior shortstop Max Kuhn has produced more impressive batting statistics in the past, but he was valuable in many other areas to his team during the most season.

"My senior year was awesome, both on the field and off the field," Kuhn said. "I felt I had a pretty good year but not as strong as I had the previous three years. This year I feel I was more of a team player because our whole lineup could hit and field. I pretty much played my role and was a leader."

Kuhn, who has been selected The Indianapolis Star All-North Player of the Year, hit .374 with 12 doubles, three doubles, four homers and 24 RBIs to help lead the Eagles to a 22-6 record.

First-year Zionsville coach John Zangrilli leaned on Kuhn to take on more of a leadership role and help the new coach out.

"I told him I didn't need him to be a cheerleader, but I needed him to set an example," Zangrilli said. "He did that at every turn along the way."

On the field, Zangrilli asked Kuhn to help on the mound because the team had some arm injuries. Zangrilli said Kuhn hadn't pitched since he was a freshman.

"He said he would be more than willing to try and he did more than that for us," Zangrilli said. "He became our No. 3 man in the rotation and did a phenomenal job on the mound."

Kuhn had a 4-1 record with one save and a 2.65 ERA.

"Max has been a phenomenal player in Zionsville since his arrival as a freshman," Zangrilli said. "Unfortunately, I only got one year to spend with him. I'd take 100 Max Kuhns any day of the week. He has tremendous work ethic to go along with an exceptional amount of athleticism. Moreover, he's a baseball kid. He's a gym rat in every sense of the term."

Kuhn hit .460 with six homers and 37 RBIs as a junior. His career-high average came his sophomore year, when he hit .475. His

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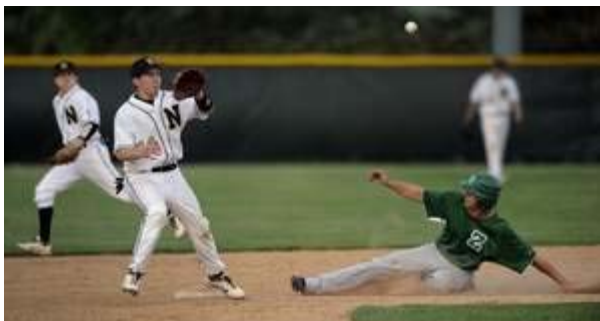
freshman batting average was .444.

The 5-foot-11-inch Kuhn was selected by Oakland in the 24th round of the major league baseball draft earlier this month. He has a scholarship offer to play for the University of Kentucky, and he said he most likely will be playing in college next season.

To keep sharp, Kuhn is staying with a host family in Cincinnati while playing for the Midland Redskins, a top amateur team.

"It's a good experience," Kuhn said. "I'm surrounded by great ballplayers playing in a wood-bat league. There are great coaches, so I'm **learning** a lot."

Call Star reporter Mark Ambrogi at (317) 444-6047.



Zoom

Zionsville's Max Kuhn was safe on second on this play during a May 9 game against Noblesville. "I'd take 100 Max Kuhns any day of the week," said Zionsville coach John Zangrilli. / Alan Petersime / The Star

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