



## **CPC Member Profile**

# **Michael Wieda**

I am twenty four years old and a Physical Education major at Chicago State University!

## **What does Community Presbyterian mean to me?**

Community Presbyterian Church is the ultimate refreshment. It is a place to flush out all of the negatives in life and to re-fuel my body with positives on a weekly basis. The congregation supports each other and prays for each other. An extended family can be found within the CPC congregation. God's word and his greatness is showered upon our congregation every Sunday morning with updates on great achievements within our family or miraculous recoveries regarding health issues. Guidance will be found at CPC along with love, support, and a reason to wake up every morning and attack the day as if it were our last with nothing but positive energy!

## **MICHAEL'S BACKGROUND**

### **LITTLE LEAGUE**

I played little league baseball in Mount Prospect and I was cut from every travel team I tried out for. I was about to give up the game of baseball but the lord kept me on the baseball path and convinced me my path was just getting started with the game of baseball and it was not even close to the end.

### **HIGH SCHOOL**

I played baseball at John Hersey High School in Arlington Heights, IL. I pitched all four years of my high school career. I played on the Freshman "B" team and received limited playing time my Sophomore year. As a junior I also received limited playing time on the Varsity ball club and finally got my opportunity to pitch my Senior season after one of my teammates refused to pitch. After hard work of getting to play my senior year I was honored with an All-Conference nomination. To close my high school career, I pitched against Prospect High School and threw a complete game, no-hitter (7 innings) which only took fifty-two pitches and lasted an hour and twenty minutes and is known in the Mid-Suburban League Conference as one of the most economical pitching performances ever.

### **COLLEGE**

I turned down luxurious offers from schools to play baseball and chose to play at Oakton Community College in Des Plaines, IL. My uncle suffered a stroke around this time paralyzing the left side of his body and I volunteered to take care of him every morning on the weekends. I would spend 9a-12p every Saturday and Sunday with him. I would wake him up, give him a bed bath, make him breakfast and do physical therapy exercises with him as well in order for him to attempt to regain strength in the left side again. While at Oakton Community College I was a starting pitcher and a relief pitcher. My freshman year I received limited playing time. My sophomore year I had more playing time and at one point I was ranked in the top ten in the nation in pitching earned run average for junior college division 2 baseball.

After Oakton, I spent my final two seasons of college baseball at Chicago State University. I was also a starting pitcher and relief pitcher. I recorded an excellent performance against Washington State University

out of the Pac Ten Conference my junior year. My senior season, I recorded wins against University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, University of St. Francis, and Tulane University. I also recorded a save against Centenary College.

## **PROFESSIONAL**

I was signed by the Oakland Athletics in 2007 (undrafted) and released a week later. I then played for the Schaumburg Flyers for a week prior to being released. In 2008, I played the entire month of August with the Schaumburg Flyers (Double A Independent Minor League Baseball) and led the team in innings pitched for the month of August and finished the season with a career ERA of 5.40. During the offseason, I coached in a baseball clinic with Chicago Cub Hall of Famer Ryne Sandberg, spoke to several kids and dads about pitching ON Wrigley Field, and was featured on NBC5 morning news supporting breast cancer awareness. I also spent spring training in 2009 with the Cincinnati Reds.

## **SEMI-PROFESSIONAL**

I started playing with the Chicago Lugnuts in the Summer of 2003. I was named to the all-star team with the Lugnuts, Northern Illinois Cubs, and Chicago Riverbandits in five of the last seven seasons. I made it to the national championships in Arizona in 2007 and 2009 with the Cubs and we lost in the Championship Game on both occasions. I have a cumulative career ERA in semi-pro baseball of 2.34. I also played baseball for a week in Europe with a United States select team and drew interest from multiple professional clubs in Germany, Belgium and the Czech Republic.

Despite all of my accomplishments, I lost my mother due to Pancreatic Cancer in February of 2008. She played the role of the mother and the father in our family. She was a remarkable woman who showed passion in everything she did. She made a difference in the lives of so many people and brought happiness to every person she came in contact with. At one point, she was the arts and crafts instructor for CPC's Youth Club. She made a number of sacrifices in her life to make sure I was able to make it as far as I wanted to go with baseball. When I lost her I contemplated giving the game up. However, I stuck with it and thought to myself what would my mother want me to do? It has been very hard to adjust to life without her but I keep on truckin' and I know as she looks down on me she is proud.

The moral of my story is that it is very easy to give up when things are not going our way. However, God has great plans for every one of us who chooses to bestow their faith in him. Rather than giving up, when the odds are against you, put your faith in God and he will continue to wrap his arms around you with love, warmth, and guidance. When obstacles in life become overwhelming, pray to the lord above and prepare yourself to receive his gifts and blessings and he will provide you with the strength physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually to overcome these obstacles.

## **JUN'10 UPDATE**

I am departing for Slovakia in early June. The Trnava Angels have labeled me as their franchise player and are hosting a welcoming party for me upon my arrival. When I arrive I will be meeting with local reporters and news stations to discuss my contract and arrival to play for Trnava. It will be like my media day and I will begin workouts and preparation for the tournament June 12th.

I will be playing for the Trnava Angels of Slovakia in Brest, Belarus for the European Cup (the baseball world series of Europe). I am scheduled to pitch June 15th versus Ukraine and June 19th in the championship game.

I will be coming back to the United States in late June. During my stay in Belarus, I will be meeting with the Angels owners and board of directors in order to establish the grounds of a contract for the entire 2011 season.

Following the 2011 season I will officially retire from professional baseball.