

NHSBCA Rookie of the Month



Blake Wiggins
Pulaski Academy High School, Little Rock, Arkansas

By Casie Vogel

Freshman Blake Wiggins, SS/P, wakes up, by himself, every morning to do his workout routine at 6:30 a.m. According to Head Coach Billy Adams, Wiggins is the first one in the batting cages to get in cuts. He'll also stay late if he needs to.

Besides Rookie of the Month, Wiggins was MVP for Team USA during the 14-and-under tournament in Nicaragua last year, and is Pulaski Academy's lead off force.

Adams says that it's his heart and his hard work that makes him great.

"This is a 9th through 12th grade team and he's, as a freshman, our lead off hitter. He has the highest on base percentage and he's playing the most strenuous position on the field, in my opinion," Adams said. "So he's stepped up to be a leader even as a 15 year old playing with 17 or 18 year olds."

Wiggins' batting average is .426, his OBP .533, and has 31 runs and 26 hits.

"His presence on the plate is well beyond his years. He goes in with the mindset that he's going to get on base or get a hit any way he can," Adams said.

Adams says that Wiggins' age hasn't been a factor this season, and that the team recognizes his talent. The only place where Wiggins sees room for growth is in Wiggins' defense.

"He's been challenged a lot at shortstop. He's made his share of errors, that's for sure. His biggest challenge this year has been on defense, but I think that's the only spot where his youth has come into play," Adams said. "Defensively he's got a little time to make an adjustment, next year will be even better."

Pulaski Academy has three more years with Wiggins. When asked what he expects out of Wiggins over the next three years, Coach Adams laughed.

"He's a lead off as a freshman, and he hits for power. I'm sure he'll move to 3 or 4 in the lineup the next couple years. I expect him to lead us to a state championship," Adams said. "At least one."