

COMMUNITY NEWS

Aug. 27: Active intruder workshop

The Hazelwood School District in partnership with Tier One Tactical Solutions will host a free active intruder workshop to educate the community on how to handle the threat of an aggressive intruder more proactively at 6 p.m. at Hazelwood Central High School Fieldhouse at 18755 New Halls Ferry Road in Florissant. This event is free and open to the public. Open to students, parents, staff, members of the Hazelwood School District Community and the media. Please RSVP at 314-953-5750.

<https://mycnews.com/st-louis-county/>

St. Louis County Community News
St. Charles County
O'Fallon, MO
Circulation: 30,000
Frequency: Weekly
August 22, 2018



St. Charles County lawmaker resigns, takes job in Gov. Parson's administration

JEFFERSON CITY • A state lawmaker from St. Peters has resigned to take a post in Gov. Mike Parson's administration. Rep. Robert Cornejo, a Republican who represents parts of St. Charles and Lincoln counties, has been in office since 2012 and was running unopposed for re-election in November. In a letter to Parson, Cornejo said it had been a privilege to serve the residents of the 64th House District. Parson announced Wednesday morning that he was appointing Cornejo to be chairman of the Labor and Industrial Relations Commission, a three-member board that oversees the state's Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. The appointment must be confirmed by the state Senate.

In the Missouri House, Cornejo served as chairman of the General Laws Committee.

"Robert brings the experience necessary to his new role as Chairman of the Labor and Industrial Relations Commission," Parson, a Republican, said in a statement. "His effectiveness in handling multiple projects ranging from constituent concerns to passing legislation at such a high level of quality gives him the qualifications needed to oversee this commission." Commissioners are paid about \$107,000. Members of the General Assembly are paid \$35,000. Cornejo, an attorney, was unsuccessful in a [bid last year to become speaker of the House](#). Prior to his tenure in the House, Cornejo interned for former U.S. Sen. Jim Talent. ***He is a 2001 graduate of Hazelwood Central High School*** and earned degrees in political science and international business from Washington University in St. Louis. He received his law degree from the University of Missouri in 2008. He could not immediately be reached for comment Wednesday. A committee of local Republicans will be able to appoint a replacement on the ballot.

http://www.newspressnow.com/news/state/st-charles-county-lawmaker-resigns-takes-job-in-gov-parson/article_92a795f1-d2e5-56fb-ada1-e9eab2375301.html

August 22, 2018



Devin Williams, Brewers' top pick in 2013, still has major-league aspirations

The Milwaukee Brewers had high hopes for right-hander Devin Williams when they made him their top overall pick – 54th overall – out of Hazelwood (Mo.) West High School in the 2013 draft. But not quite as high as those of the 18-year-old himself, who believed with youthful exuberance that he'd be pitching in the major leagues not long after signing his first professional contract for \$1.35 million. "I definitely thought that," recounted Williams recently. "I remember when I went to Milwaukee to sign my contract I was walking around the stadium with Harvey Kuenn (Jr., the scout who signed him), and we were in the bullpen and I told him that I would be there in two years. "He just kind of looked at me and was like, 'Oh, OK. All right. We'll see.' "

Five years later, Williams has yet to realize his goal of pitching off the mound at Miller Park. But he hasn't lost the belief that it still will happen sometime in the next few seasons. Now on the verge of turning 24, Williams is wrapping up his sixth year in the Brewers organization and his first since tearing the UCL in his pitching elbow during spring training in 2017. He was coming off a productive 2016 that saw him pitch well enough at Class A Wisconsin to earn a promotion to advanced Class A Brevard County for the final three weeks. Williams made a combined 22 appearances (12 starts) and went 7-5 with a 3.79 earned run average and 94 strikeouts in a career-high 97 1/3 innings. It was a performance that left Williams eager to begin the 2017 season, with an even bigger jump up the organizational ladder among his goals.

Then came that fateful day in early March in Arizona.

Devin Williams was the Brewers' top draft pick (54th overall) out of Hazelwood (Mo.) West High School in the 2013 draft. (Photo: Carolina Mudcats)

"I think it was my second outing of the spring," said Williams. "I went out for the first hitter and threw four straight balls and I knew something wasn't right. Then I threw a fastball to (Nathan) Orf and my whole arm got really hot and I was like, 'OK, that's weird.' The next pitch I threw a slider, and I heard and felt something in my elbow pop.

"I knew something was wrong then."

Williams, whose most serious injury to that point was a flexor strain that sidelined him early in 2015, suddenly was facing Tommy John surgery. He went under the knife on March 23 and spent the rest of 2017 recovering and rehabbing at the Brewers' Maryvale complex.

"In terms of working out in Arizona I was in there every day doing whatever I could to get better," he said. "Doing dry work in the mirror, going through my delivery and everything just so I would have that when I started throwing.

"I think that helped me." Williams' rehab carried over into the start of this season and he continued to progress, which is no guarantee for a pitcher coming back from such a serious surgery.

Devin Williams, Brewers' top pick in 2013, still has major-league aspirations, cont.

"They were kind of slowing me down when I was coming back," he said. "They account for setbacks during the throwing program, and I didn't have any. I honestly don't think my throwing program got pushed back one time.

"Frank (Neville, athletic training coordinator at Maryvle) down in Arizona wouldn't let me get in any games until after 12½ months. I felt like I was ready to go before then, but it was probably a good thing that he didn't let me, honestly."

Williams put the wraps on his rehab in extended spring training and on June 7 – less than 16 months after surgery – he was back on the mound for advanced Class A Carolina. He threw 43 pitches in a 2 1/3-inning outing and in 12 starts since he's thrown as many as 58 pitches in a game. With an 0-3 record and 5.73 ERA his numbers don't jump off the page. But Williams does have 34 strikeouts in 33 innings and he's allowed only two home runs.

He should make about three more starts – sticking to around a 60-pitch limit – and then head back to Arizona in the fall for instructionals, during which he'll taper back with the goal of incrementally trying to increase his workload in 2019 as he gets closer to full health. "For the most part it's been pretty positive," Williams said of his 2018. "I've gone through a couple rough patches here and there but that's to be expected coming back from TJ and everything. Just as long as I don't have any arm issues – which I haven't – that's really the main goal.

"Sitting out last season wasn't fun at all. That was pretty tough. But it's been really good to be back, getting on the mound every five days and getting back into the swing of things. It's been tough here and there, not performing like you used to or feeling like your usual self. But that's part of it." Williams has found a valuable sounding board in Carolina rotation mate Nathan Kirby, a left-hander who like Williams was a high draft pick (40th overall in 2015) who has undergone not one but two major elbow surgeries. Kirby, one of the top college pitchers in the country as a junior at the University of Virginia, is 3-5 with a 5.23 ERA and 68 strikeouts in 63 2/3 innings as he works his way toward the end of his first full – and fully healthy – season in the organization. "Me and him talk pretty much every day, honestly," Williams said. "We've been paired up and throwing together for most of the season since I've been here. Me and him talk pretty much every day about the struggles of coming back and finding your command and everything. "He's been a pretty big help. He's probably a little more level-headed than me. He'll tell me, 'Chill out – you're still not even 18 months out yet. Just keep working and it'll come.'" The surgery and a much-improved talent pool in the minor leagues has left Williams – once a top-10 prospect in the organization – outside the top 30. But he has the potential to get back into the mix next season. Williams relies mainly on a fastball, slider and plus changeup while mixing in an occasional curveball. He estimated he's now sitting between 89-93 mph with his fastball while touching 94-95; in 2016 at Brevard County, Williams said he was sitting at 91-94 and topping out around 96."Devin has really done a nice job throughout the rehab process working to get back to 100%," farm director Tom Flanagan said. "He has put himself in a very good position as he builds his innings workload back up. "Devin needs more innings, but delivery-wise he is pretty clean. He just needs to continue to work on his pace and quicken up his time between pitches. That will help his effectiveness as a pitcher as he moves up the system and to the higher levels." Over the past few years Williams has developed a relationship with Brewers reliever Jeremy Jeffress. The two were introduced in Arizona by Wisconsin pitching coach Steve Cline and had frequent conversations this past spring while Williams rehabbed and Jeffress, an offseason resident of the Phoenix area, trained at the team's Maryvale complex. "He's got the stuff to do it. It's just learning how to maintain it and staying healthy," Jeffress said. "I have high hopes for him. He knows I'm behind him. I've tried to encourage him. I keep hearing good things about him. "I'm pulling for him." Williams has seen a number of his former minor-league teammates advance to the major leagues in the past few seasons, with Corbin Burnes and Freddy Peralta currently on the Brewers and Brandon Woodruff having been up several times since 2017. His recovery will have a lot to say about whether Williams will join them in the coming years. But true to form, Williams is looking to buck the odds just as he predicted he would back in 2013.

"Hopefully I can get there next year. I want to get there and help as soon as I can," he said. "I don't think when I was 18, 19 I had an idea of what it took to get there and what kind of work you have to put in to get to that level. I definitely have a better understanding of that now. "I definitely think I was on my way (to the upper levels of the system) before the surgery. I was kind of hitting my stride and then I got sidetracked with the whole surgery and everything. But next year that's definitely the plan."