

Interview with Kable Hogben



It's always worthwhile finding out about the experience of ball players who go overseas to work professionally. Of course, one of our famous Rustler "exports" to the US is Kable Hogben with the Arizona Diamondbacks.

He spent last season in class A baseball with the Yakima Bears in Washington State, which must have been a great experience for a young bloke to go through; but it is just the start of the ride for Kable as he tries to work his way up the ladder of professional baseball.

So, in order to bring you closer to the experience, we asked Kable a few questions.

Chelt website: *So Kable, you've spent some time over in the US after signing with the Diamondbacks, first can you tell us a bit about how you signed, how it felt?*

Kable: I was first scouted by John Wadsworth in my bottom age under 18's nationals. He liked what he saw and came down 3 weekends in February to watch me pitch finals for Chelt's 1's in division 2. On the 3rd visit we settled an agreement for my contract. It was an incredible feeling especially at the age of 16 but also very daunting.

Chelt website: You were sent to the class A Yakima Bears last season, can you tell us a bit about that experience? What's the standard of play like? How did they treat you?

Kable: I had a very good season in Yakima, so the season flew by; the league was basically first and second year players mostly from college so I was a year or 2 younger than most players. I lived with a host family with 2 other guys; we had use of a car to get to and from home games and the dropped us off at the field when we went away on road trips.

Chelt website: *What were the highlights for the season and lowlights, if any?*

Kable: Making the playoffs was very exciting, whilst the lowlight was also playoffs - getting kicked out by losing the first 2 of a 3-game series.

Chelt website: *So, where are you likely to play this year? What are your targets? What's the next few months look like for you?*

Kable: In the next month I will have to prove myself in spring training and continue on with my performances from last year and hopefully go on to play full season A this year.

(Ed: Kable played 'short' season last year, which is a 60-game season; somebody correct me if I'm wrong.)

Chelt website: *What do you like about the States? What do you miss about home?*

Kable: WEATHER, soon as it hits Autumn I'm out of here and in Spring in USA, so a 12 month spring/summer is very nice and being able to play baseball everyday is awesome!!

Chelt website: *How do the Aussie baseballers go over there? Did you play with/against any?*

Kable: It's culture shock your first year and having to get up everyday for 6 months to go train followed by a game later that day is extremely intense.

Chelt website: *Finally, what advice could you give some of our up and comers in the game?*

Kable: Enjoy your baseball but never get single minded, whether it's playing different positions not always being in the same position every week, or trying out other sports to keep a variety.

So, there you have it, the impressions of a young professional over in the US trying to make his way up to The Show.

You can follow Kable's progress at his own page on the Chelt website. When we find out which team he's playing at this season, we'll post the details so you can follow how he's travelling.