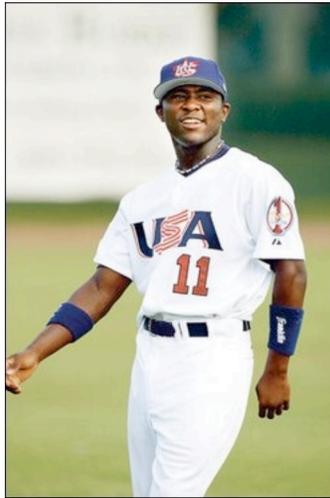




Rookie of the Month



***Ronnie Richardson
Lake Region High School
Eagle Lake, Florida***

Once in a while a coach has the fortune to work with young players with some talent. They can develop a line-up based around the player's strengths and lead their team with great success. Coach Bill Bullock has had this kind of fortune for the last two years.

"Ronnie is an outstanding young man. He is an overall B+ student in the classroom. On the field he is an intense competitor, and he plays the game hard," quotes Coach Bullock.

As a lead off hitter, Richardson can hit for average or for power. This year he hit .380 with 3 home runs, 6 doubles in 27 hits. He also scored 28 runs.

"He's a real spark. With a couple of seniors in the middle of the lineup to drive him in, he has had some success. He hasn't had a bunch of RBI's but that could change next year," comments Bullock.

Richardson's strength is definitely on the base path, being an extremely fast guy. He runs the 60 in 6.2 to 6.3. He stole 25 bases as a freshman to break the school record. This year Ronnie stole 20 bags. Ronnie's speed has also helped him in the outfield. Playing centerfield and being able to run down balls from gap to gap has helped his team on defense. Plus Ronnie has a strong arm from the outfield, and pitches a little too. Topping out at the high 80's low 90's.

Coach Bullock was quoted as saying to Brian Tynes, news chief staff on April 2, 2007, "In high school baseball, you've got to make things happen a little bit. We've won seven games in a row, and a big part of that was that we had great execution on the bunt game. With Ronnie at first, if we bunt where it's supposed to be, Ronnie can get to third base. Now we're at third base with one out."

This is a big reason for the success Lake Region Thunder has had over the course of the last two years. Ronnie Richardson is easily one of the top sophomore's in the country. Keep an eye out for this young man, because as he continues to play with this team, he becomes even more of a leader.

Good luck!

By David A. Himmelstein