

Hitless Wonders

High school no-nos don't always lead to pro success

Patrick Schuster has a 90-mph fastball and a slider that ties hitters in knots. The senior lefthander at J.W. Mitchell High in New Port Richey, Fla., has been virtually unhittable all season—and completely unhittable the past month. Last week Schuster broke the Florida high school record for consecutive no-hitters when he threw his fourth, a 5-0 win against Pasco High. Schuster was scheduled to try for number 5 on Tuesday in a district tournament game in Clearwater. Success in that attempt would set up the 6'2" 230-pounder for a try at the national round of six.

So will the streak and the attendant national attention lift Schuster into the first round of the major league draft in June? Probably not. "I've been talking to scouts," Schuster said last week. "They're saying none of this is making a difference. They're seeing me in a specific round, and they're not going to change it. So I'm not going to worry about it."

Last November Baseball America ranked Schuster, who has signed a letter of intent to play for Flor-



STINGY
Schuster's fourth consecutive no-hitter set a Florida record.

second round by the Mets. Engle has gone on to become quite accomplished in sports; after two elbow surgeries (he never rose above Triple A) he wound up becoming a producer at ESPN. Two weeks ago he assisted on an interview for *First Take*. The interviewer? Patrick Schuster. —Andy Staples

ida, as the No. 79 draft prospect, meaning he's probably a second- or third-rounder. And it's unlikely his recent run has done much to improve his stock, because no-hit streaks are historically poor predictors of pro success.

Tampa's Sam Miletello threw three in a row in 1987 and was taken in the sixth round by the Yankees in 1990. He was 4-4 in his brief big league career. Gek Moley, who threw five straight no-hitters for Memphis (Texas) High in 2007, is at Cisco (Texas) Junior College, where he has a 4.95 ERA.

Then there's Tom Engle. In 1989 he threw six consecutive no-nos for Fairfield Union in Lancaster, Ohio, and was drafted in the

HISTORY LESSON

For the Birds

Sports Illustrated's avian fo

Last week a Ben hawk released by Hawks before game, refused to his hands turns up on several play out, leading as the bird's wrangles it.

2003 The pay 10 grand Challenge, land on the mound before of the ALCS, the bird's up P-14 flyover his Derek J. face. "He was off today," a Challenge is not asked back for Game 2.

1988 Several doves released in the opening ceremonies for the Seoul Games land on the unit. Photo: Frank O. ...



The Best Pitcher in Baseball

By Joe Posner

He's been a phenom and a bust. He's walked away and come back. He's been a starter and a reliever, a genius and a flake. He's only 25 and right now...

2003 The pay 10 grand Challenge, land on the mound before of the ALCS, the bird's up P-14 flyover his Derek J. face. "He was off today," a Challenge is not asked back for Game 2.

1988 Several doves released in the opening ceremonies for the Seoul Games land on the unit. Photo: Frank O. ...

THE BIZ

Common Policy

More draftees insure their NFL careers before they start

For a lucky few college players, getting picked high in the NFL draft means a lifetime of financial security. That's why more and more prospects aren't waiting till draft day to protect their futures. Before their final seasons many take out insurance against a career-ending injury. Most policies, which cost around \$10,000 for each \$1 million of

SPORTS ILLUSTRATED

THE BIZ

Common Policy

More draftees insure their NFL careers before they start

For a lucky few college players, getting picked high in the NFL draft means a lifetime of financial security. That's why more and more prospects aren't waiting till draft day to protect their futures. Before their final seasons many take out insurance against a career-ending injury. Most policies, which cost around \$10,000 for each \$1 million of

coverage (first-round picks typically buy up to \$5 million), are written by Lloyd's of London, which famously insured Tina Turner's legs and Keith Richards's hands. The policy expires as soon as a player signs a pro contract.

Keith Lerner, a Gainesville, Fla.-based financial consultant, says that in 1990 only 15% of draft picks in the first three rounds had policies. Now nearly every player projected to



SAFETY NET
Britt had seven-figure protection at Rutgers.

go that early is insured. For example, three first-round picks this year—Larry English (chosen

No. 16), Robert Ayers (18) and Kenny Britt (30)—bought policies ranging from \$1 million to \$3 million from Rich (Big Daddy) Salgado, president of Coastal Advisors, LLC, who has written various policies for 130 current pros.

One recent player who collected? Ed Chester, a Florida defensive lineman who suffered a knee injury in 1998. His \$8,000 premium netted \$1 million in coverage. —Joe Lemire