

# Black and Gold Player Spotlight

The Pine Needle sits down with UNCP baseball player Matt McGovern as the 2010 season starts.

By Matt Smith  
Sports Editor

## What are your expectations for yourself and the team as you start out the season?

The expectations I have for myself are based on what I can do for my team. If I can go out and give our team a chance to win every time I step on the mound, then I have accomplished what I need to do. The expectation for our team is to advance to a regional tournament. I think that if we can have a successful season and play fundamental baseball throughout the postseason, we have a great chance to end up in World Series play.

## Describe your experience as a UNCP student-athlete.

Being a student athlete at UNCP has been very rewarding for me. I have learned so much on and off the field that will develop me into a better athlete and person. When I start my life in the working world, I trust in what I've been able to accomplish as a student athlete here at UNCP.

## What is your most exciting baseball moment?

It is hard to say exactly what my most exciting baseball moment was, but I would have to say when I stepped on the mound my first time in the Junior College World Series. There were a ton of people there and they were all there for the other team. It was exciting for me because I hadn't been put into a situation where I had to actually zone in and focus on the batter in front of me rather than the crowd behind them.

## Talk a bit about what goes on in the locker room before a game.

Well, we're never really all in the locker room at one time, but when we are we joke around with each other. Our team likes to stay calm and relaxed so it's nothing really too exciting.

## Who are your baseball inspirations?

My biggest baseball inspiration was Roy Halladay. Growing up in Ottawa, Canada, we didn't really have too many teams to cheer for and the team that was always on television was the Toronto Blue Jays. I have always admired Halladay because he never tried to do too much; he always stayed within himself and threw strikes. He is a very strategic pitcher and knows the game of baseball very well.

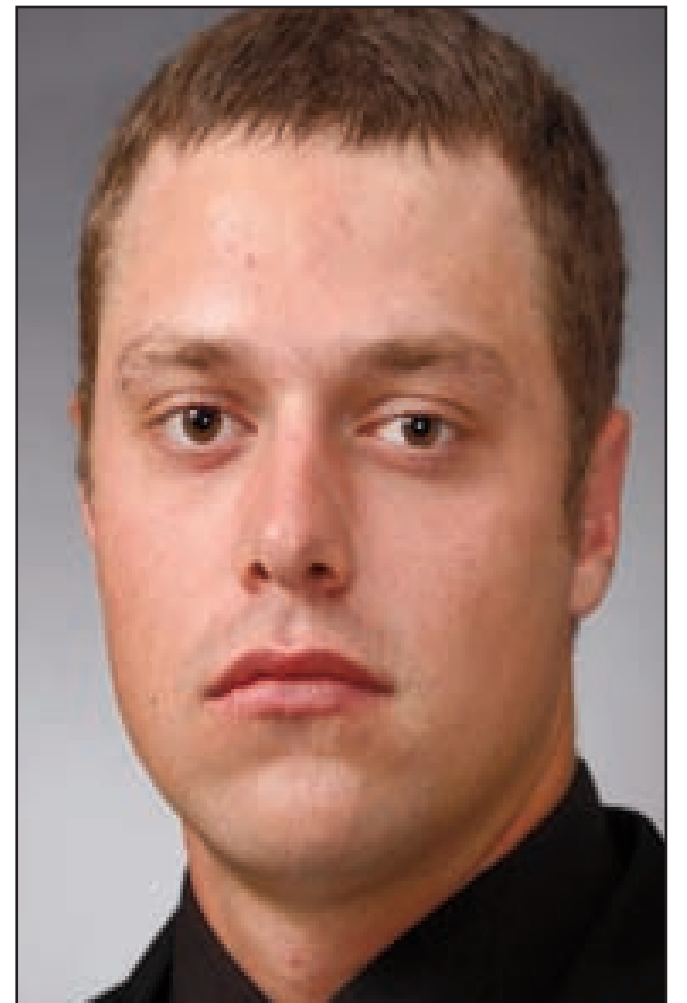


Photo courtesy of UNCP Sports Information

## Bio of the week Matt McGovern

### 2009 Season

In 2009, McGovern finished the season with a perfect 9-0 record with a 2.63 earned run average. McGovern had two complete games for the Black and Gold and recorded a shutout. McGovern finished the year with 59 strikeouts and 12 walks.

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