

Separation anxiety? Not for these twins *Marshalls* headed in opposite directions

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Jun 05, 2003

Twins ought to be drafted by Minnesota.

But, on Tuesday, Brian Marshall was selected by the Boston Red Sox in the fifth round. His twin brother, Sean, went 19 picks later, in the sixth round, to the Chicago Cubs.

Negotiation will begin in the coming days. But the Manchester High graduates, rising seniors at Virginia Commonwealth University, sound anxious to turn pro. Neither seems concerned about separation anxiety after two decades of togetherness.

"I think it's about time to get away from each other," Sean said.

From Brian: "It's not going to be tough, but it will be different."

Brian pitched for a team in South Carolina last summer while Sean stayed in Richmond. Other-wise, the Marshalls have lived under the same roof since birth. In the next week or so, it's likely Brian will ship out to Lowell, Mass., while Sean heard his destination will be Mesa, Ariz., or Boise, Idaho.

Had Sean stayed on the draft board a while longer, it's possible both Marshalls would be Red Sox property. Jeff Zona, Boston's scouting supervisor for the Mid-Atlantic region, liked both southpaws that much.

"You've got to get one, and we favored the reliever [Brian] over the starter [Sean]," said Zona, who lives in Mechanicsville.

Zona, whose job it is to sign Brian Marshall, pitched at VCU in the late'70s. One of the Rams assistant coaches during Zona's collegiate years was Billy Swoope, now a Norfolk-based Cubs scout whose job it is to sign Sean Marshall.

Coming out of Manchester High, Sean was the more well-regarded prospect, and headed to Longwood. Brian prepared to matriculate at Christopher Newport. VCU coach Paul Keyes came through in July with offers to play Division I.

"Sean rated high, but with Brian, you could see him coming on," Keyes said.

Sean throws a bit harder. Brian handles hitters with a wider assortment of pitches and varied arm angles. As they prepare for professional careers, these twins share an identical goal: the addition of 20 pounds.

In other draft news, the second day of the draft proved prosperous for several local standouts.

Virginia Tech second baseman Marc Tugwell was grabbed in the 22nd round by the Philadelphia Phillies, and Richmond catcher Adam Tidball received a call from the Chicago Cubs in the 28th round.

Also drafted were William and Mary's Chris Shaver and Mark Harris; Nathan Doyle (James Madison); Phillip Hendrix (VMI); Justin Mattison (VCU); Erich Cloninger (Liberty); Danny Lopaze (VCU); Matthew Deuchler (James Madison); Jeremy Knicely (Longwood) and Robert Rochelle (Mills Godwin High).

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