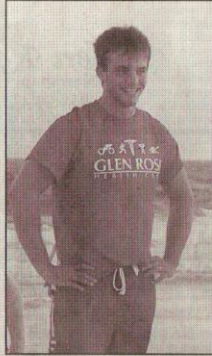


HOMETOWN HERO

Matthew Dulcie Helps Restore Cuban Sports Complex

By: Sean Michael Woodward

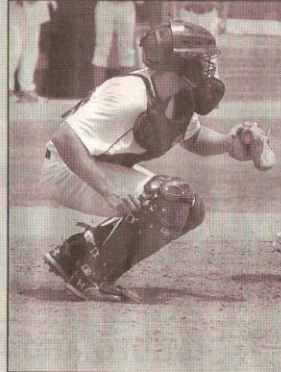
Glen Rose resident and student, Matthew Dulcie, recently accomplished a dream by making it on the NCAA D1, Baylor Bears



Baseball team with the position of catcher. Along with being on his dream team, Dulcie also recently had the unique opportunity to help the less fortunate in Cuba. Matthew has lived in Glen Rose since he was in the third grade, and he is the son of local residents Jeff and Deedra Dulcie. "Matthew has played baseball since he could walk, hold a bat and catch a ball," said Jeff Dulcie, Matthew's father.

prayed for me and my teammates. He is a good friend and fierce competitor. Coach Liggett coached for UTA for 11 years and has coached for THESA for at least eight years," said Dulcie.

Matthew, now 20 years of age, has dreamed of playing for Baylor University ever since he attended a clinic held there, for baseball fundamentals, after the Christmas of 1997. He was eight years old, but knew it wasn't going to be an easy path to get there. He would have to compete on many levels to make the team he desired.



Before the regular Baylor season began, Matthew had the unique opportunity to help the less fortunate in Cuba. The Baylor

Bears baseball team, with Head Coach Steve Smith, left early Friday, January 22, for a six-day humanitarian trip to Havana, Cuba.

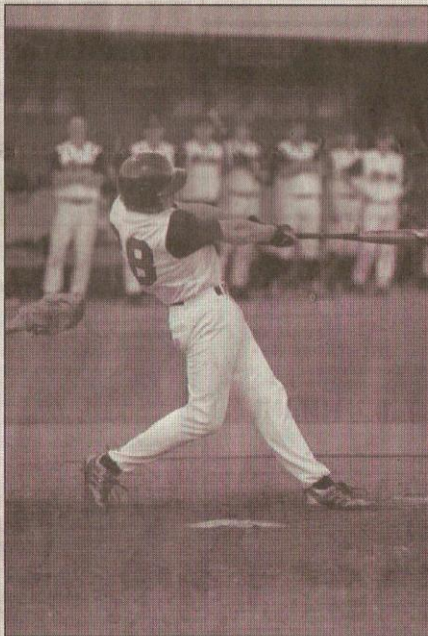
Dulcie and the rest of the Baylor Bear team worked through the Baptist Convention of Western Cuba on a variety of projects, which included the renovation of a sports complex that was built in the 1980's by the Soviet Union. The project involved restoring a baseball stadium and surface, basketball, and volleyball areas that had slowly decayed since they were built, and since the fall of the Soviet Empire.

Along with Dulcie helping to restore the sports complex, he and his teammates also hosted sports clinics, but because of NCAA rules, the Baylor Bears

Although he is the first in his family to play for the Baylor Bears, he isn't the first to attend Baylor University. Matthew joined his older brother, David Dulcie, who is a junior at Baylor. His parents, and his three brothers all support him as he now is a catcher for his dream baseball team.

Matthew has played for several coaches in Glen Rose, including Coach Teague, Robertson, Pillow, and Chris Conelly. He finished his high school career playing for the home-school baseball team, THESA Riders, under Head Coach, Ronnie Liggett. "My high school coach, Ronnie Liggett, always coached, advised, taught, ministered, and

He knows baseball is a team sport and his development thus far is a culmination of all his years of training, coaching, eating right,



owners of the club.

and staying focused on his goals. In 2009, he spent countless hours training by himself, and often waking up at the crack of dawn to do so.

"Matthew is one of the most self disciplined individuals I have ever known," said Jeff. He worked on dual credit classes while finishing his regular high school classes, and he was fortunate to have a job with the Glen Rose Health Club working for Tony and Joanna Nash,

were not allowed to participate in any games with the Cuban teams.

The team also brought with them huge shipments of items including, shirts, shoes, bicycles, handicap tricycles for children, and 20,000 pounds of rice, a donation from Rick Caywood Ministries of Crawford, Texas, to distribute to the less fortunate in Havana, Cuba.

Dr. Gerald Cox, a Waco based pediatric dentist, also joined Dulcie and the rest of the team on the trip. Cox set up shop at an old nursing home run by the Baptist Convention in order to treat the needs of the local children there.

Dulcie and the team returned on Wednesday, January 27, just two days before their official workout season began, ready to begin his first season with the Baylor Bears. There's no doubt Dulcie is a player everyone will be hearing more about in the future.

