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Walnut Grove Standouts Sign with ABAC Baseball Stallions

TIFTON— Two former Walnut Grove High School standouts are in the group of 14 new freshman recruits who will shoulder a heavy burden for the Golden Stallions of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College during the 2016 baseball season.

Bryce Shupe, an outfielder, and Chandler Hyman, a pitcher, are both scheduled to be in ABAC uniforms for the upcoming season.

Brandon Reeder, recently named the ABAC head coach after wearing the interim title during the 2015 campaign, said the freshmen will add much needed depth to a squad which streaked out to a 12–2 start in conference play but wound up fourth in the league tournament.

“We lost our entire infield from last year’s team so we have some holes to fill,” Reeder said. “There are a lot of little areas we can improve on from last year.”

Besides batting a red-hot .425, Shupe stole 17 bases while batting in the lead-off spot for Walnut Grove. He didn’t make an error all season, received all-region honors, and was selected for the United States Army Reserve National Scholar Award after posting a 4.03 grade point average.
“Bryce is a situational hitter who is the epitome of a ball player,” Reeder said. “He has great instincts, and he’s also a fantastic student. He is all around very impressive.”

Hyman also played for Walnut Grove, recording a 2-1 record on the mound with an earned run average of 2.28. He was a first team all-region performer.

“Chandler is a ground ball pitcher who will look to earn a spot in our rotation,” Reeder said. “He has excellent command of a mid-80s sinker and knows how to pitch.”

Other freshman recruits include Cain Peterson, a third baseman from Eastman; Austin Guest, a pitcher from Brunswick; Hunter Bramlett, a catcher from Douglas; Bran Davis, an outfielder from Douglas; Preston Sparks, a pitcher from Kathleen; Tristain Daugherty, a pitcher from LaGrange; Dakota Sloan, an outfielder from Hawkinsville; Ethan Edwards, an outfielder from Macon; Brett Sitton, a shortstop from Fox Creek, S.C.; Tyler Bunn, a pitcher from LaGrange; Keaton Gordon, a pitcher from Gray; and Colby Melton, a second baseman from Thomasville.