

## **ATHLETE OF THE MONTH: BRANDEN SCOTT**

By Sid Elford

The Grace College baseball team welcomed new member Branden Scott, 21, to the team in session Spring A. Branden is a junior transfer student from Midland and Hope Universities but grew up in Warsaw, having gone to high school at North Manchester High School, and is very familiar with Grace.

“I wanted to come to Grace to build more friendships with my teammates and to become closer to God through worship and getting deeper into the Word,” Scott said. “Baseball has always been a big part of my life and so has my faith, so I’m really happy that I can come to a school that combines both of those things for me.”

As a resident of Warsaw, Branden Scott knew about Grace, but never really knew what to expect when it came to the people that he would meet when he arrived. “I’ve only been at Grace for about a week and I like that the people are really nice. The baseball team, the people on campus, and the teachers are very helpful and nice to me. The overall culture at Grace is much more homely and comfortable than the college experiences that I’ve had.”

Branden Scott has begun working out and practicing at shortstop, third-base, second-base, and outfield with the baseball team already and is looking forward to beginning the season on his new team. “The team looks much better than some of the teams I’ve played for in the past, and everyone is working hard and is excited to start the season,” he said. “I like that Coach Screeton is always working hard to make the team better with new drills and scientific information that helps us become a better team and continues to build the baseball program.”

Brendan played basketball and baseball in high school, but his love has always been for baseball, no matter what sort of adversity he has faced over the years. “I’ve broken two bones in my right arm and pretty much have continued to play through the pain of them anyway. I used to short arm the ball when I threw, which made my growth plate break, and I also fractured my wrist and just kept playing through the pain anyways. My trainers hated me because of that.” Scott said.

“I know that the business program at Grace is highly recommended and recognized, and I’m happy to be getting involved with the program,” Branden said. “I’ve heard the professors have lots of experience in different fields of business and I’m hoping they can help me with some networking opportunities to help me be able to find a good, long-term job in the area.”

“At Hope, the last school that I went to, I enjoyed the people there for the most part, but the academics were extremely difficult and I felt like I was missing something with the lack of a stronger spiritual aspect to the campus there,” Branden said. “The people were nice and everything, but it just didn’t fit with the ideology that my parents and churches had taught me when I was younger. Since I’ve lived in Warsaw for most of my life, and I know a lot of people at Grace already, I know that the culture around campus is more of what I’m looking for from that standpoint. That was one of my greatest reasons for leaving Hope and coming to Grace.”

Brendan is happy to be a part of the baseball team and a member of the Grace College community, and has already started to integrate himself into both. “Branden should be a great addition to our team this season.” said Head Coach, Cam Screeton, “He

(Branden) has a great glove in the field, can cover a lot of positions, and is a good hitter at the plate.”

“Even though we’ve had a bit of a rough season so far, I love the atmosphere of the team a lot,” Branden said. “All of the boys on the team are really nice and have been great when it comes to helping me feel like I’m apart of the team. It hasn’t always been easy adjusting to being on the new team, but my teammates have made it much easier. The goal now as a team is to make it to the conference tournament so that we can play a little bit of postseason baseball for the first time at Grace. But even if we don’t make it, I’m happy to be around such a great group of guys, and I’m lucky to call all of them my teammates.

The baseball team is currently ninth in the Crossroads League, but is only one-and-a-half games back of the eighth seeded St. Francis University. The Lancers have eight more games left in their season, including games against Indiana Wesleyan, Huntington, Taylor, Bethel, and Mount Vernon Nazarene. Branden and the rest of the Lancers baseball team will look to win over the last games of the season in order to earn a place in the Crossroads League postseason tournament.

-###-

Potential Markets: The Sounding Board, Warsaw Times Union, Ink-Free News