



BRANDI STONE/Contributing Photographer

Maverick Stone heads for home in a recent game.



BRANDI STONE/Contributing Photographer

Hudson Welch runs the bases in a recent game.



BRANDI STONE/Contributing Photographer

Ezra Hayden bats during a recent coach pitch game at Dean Watts Park.



BRANDI STONE/Contributing Photographer

Simms Taylor (back) high fives a teammate after scoring a run.



BRANDI STONE/Contributing Photographer

Players and coaches received medals following the end of the season last week.



BRANDI STONE/Contributing Photographer

HUDSON WELCH

MLB owners propose high school signing ban, international draft

BY RONALD BLUM
AP BASEBALL WRITER

NEW YORK — Baseball owners proposed banning high school players from signing with major league teams, raising the age for international amateurs and slashing the money spent on signing bonuses in negotiations Thursday for a new collective bargaining agreement.

The amateur draft for players residing in the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico would be cut from 20 rounds to 12 beginning in 2027 under the proposal Major League Baseball made during a bargaining session with the players' association. An identical 12-round draft would be started for international prospects, a proposal the union has rejected in the past.

Starting in 2028, a prospect for the amateur draft would have to be at least 20 years old by the Sept. 1 of his signing year and two years removed from the graduating year of his high school class — a restriction that also would eliminate players who completed their first year of junior college.

The amateur draft started in 1965, high schoolers have been eligible along with college players who are in or have just finished their junior years.

Raising signing ages would likely lead to players being older when they become eligible for free agency, which currently requires six years of major

league service.

MLB cited increased revenue in college baseball as reasoning. In addition, MLB said 75% of high schoolers signed from 2012-19 did not reach the major leagues.

"Expanded scholarships, NIL opportunities, revenue sharing and significant investments in facilities and player development have made college baseball an increasingly important pathway that is producing major league-ready talent at an accelerated rate," MLB said in a statement. "By creating a draft system centered around college-aged players and making most college players eligible one year earlier, more players will benefit from both a college education and an elite development environment while reaching professional baseball — and ultimately the major leagues — more quickly."

The players' association claimed the plan would decrease compensation by \$1 billion over five years, including \$400 million from this year to 2027.

"MLB made another set of proposals that are flat-out bad for baseball, ones that would cripple the next generation of players and damage the future of our game," the union said in a statement.

ACC commissioner Jim Phillips supported keeping more prospects in college longer. He said in a statement that improvements in facilities, technology and scholarships "are creating

more opportunities for student-athletes and providing additional pathways to develop at the collegiate level before taking the next step to the professional ranks."

MLB said it will not seek to reduce the 120 minor league teams in the top four levels when it negotiates

new professional development licenses in 2030 to replace expiring 10-year deals. It would cap bonuses for undrafted players at \$10,000 — Middle Tennessee two-way player Trace Phillips was bypassed in the draft last July and signed with Tampa Bay for \$629,200.

BATT

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picking his brain and calling on his institutional knowledge, and everything else that he brings to the table (for) as long as often as he'll let me."

During his time working at Alabama, Batt admired the standard of excellence Barnhart set during his two-plus decades at the UK helm.

"From my time in the

SEC, (I) had a great amount of respect for this program, and I've mentioned several times, but that championship standard, the excellence that exudes from this place, that's been clear," he said. "Understanding that from afar, having been to Lexington, knowing what a great community this is. I think the other thing that shines through and has really been cemented for me is just how important this athletics program is to the entire commonwealth."



LEGAL NOTICE

SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. B2026-08
ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR, JULY 1, 2026, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2027
AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE CITY OF BARDSTOWN, KENTUCKY, ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2027, ESTIMATING REVENUES AND RESOURCES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS, an annual budget proposal and message has been prepared and delivered to the City Council; and WHEREAS, the City Council has received and reviewed the budget proposal and made desired modifications. NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF BARDSTOWN, COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY: Section I - That the annual budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, is hereby adopted as set forth below:

Fund	Revenues	Expenses	Total Revenue over (under) Expenditures
GENERAL FUND	19,555,500	46,555,500	** (27,000,000)
COMBINED UTILITIES FUND	53,242,950	61,142,950	** (7,900,000)
SELF INSURANCE FUND	2,370,000	2,370,000	-
MUNICIPAL ROAD AID FUND	320,000	395,000	** (75,000)
EQUIPMENT FUND	277,500	355,000	** (77,500)
LAND ACQUISITION FUND	91,750	-	91,750
DEPRECIATION FUND	20,000	-	20,000
LAGOON CLEANING FUND	5,000	-	5,000
BOND SINKING FUND	1,500,000	1,500,000	-
SEWER ENHANCEMENT FUND	185,000	500,000	** (315,000)
OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE RESERVE	195,000	-	195,000
ASSET FORFEITURE	5,000	5,000	-
CEMETERY FUND	110,800	140,800	** (30,000)
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS	77,878,500	112,964,250	** (35,085,750)

Section II - That any and all ordinances inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed; and Section III - That this ordinance shall take effect July 1, 2026 after its passage and publication as required by law. CITY OF BARDSTOWN: /s/ J. Richard Heaton, Mayor This summary was certified by Audrey Haydon-Blackmon, City Attorney. A copy of the complete budget is available for inspection in the office of the City Clerk, 220 N. 5th Street, Bardstown, KY 40004 from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. This advertisement was paid for by the City of Bardstown using taxpayer dollars in the amount of \$310.81

** use of unrestricted reserves