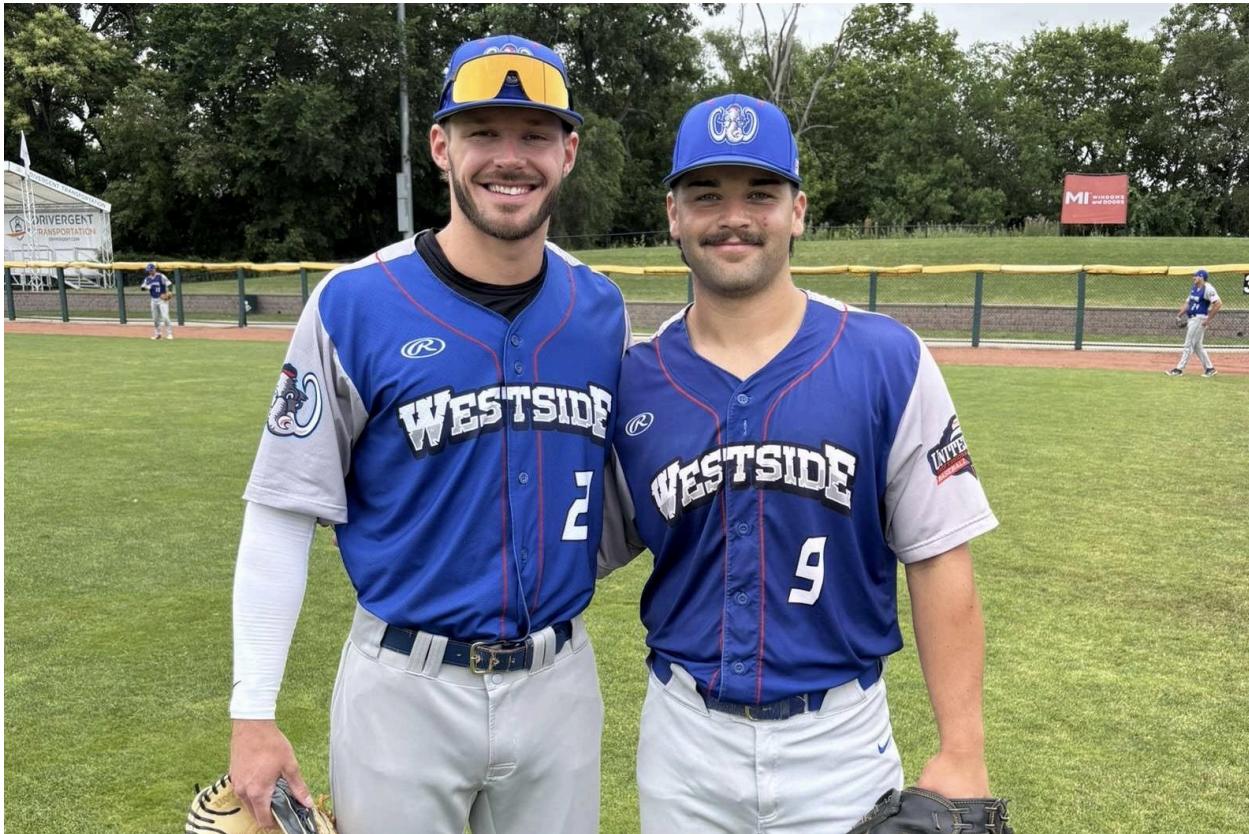


## USPBL Brotherhood: Medrano Steps in to Secure Teammate's Milestone Memory



Teammates Anthony Sharkas (left) and Josh Medrano (right) after a milestone trade.

By Ally Meske

**Utica, MI** — With a deep fly over in left field, Westside Woolly Mammoths outfielder, Anthony Sharkas, initially thought his hit was a double, but was pleasantly surprised when he claimed his first USPBL home run.

Later in the game Sharkas was approached by a young fan who had snagged the home run ball. Sharkas assumed the ball had disappeared into the trees beyond the field.

“The kid came up to me and was like “Hey, I got your first home run ball, can you sign it?” I was like, “Oh, can I give that to my dad? I’ll trade you a bat.””

Fellow teammate and Mammoth catcher, Josh Medrano, stepped in with no hesitation and handed the kid a bat in exchange for the ball.

“Instead of the kid leaving empty handed or waiting for a bat, I was like I’ll just give him mine. I have three in the dugout right now,” Medrano said, “The kid doesn’t care where it (the bat) came from—he just wanted something cool.”

Sharkas' his experience shows the true dynamic and bond he feels with the players on the Mammoths as most of the USPBL players do.

"I've only known Josh for like a year, but he's definitely one of my favorite teammates I've had. It meant a lot that you (Medrano) would do that for me."

To Medrano, it was about recognizing the kindness in this kid, "The fact that the kid brought (the ball) up and just wanted a signature, that was awesome," he said, "He could've kept it. Once it leaves the field, the fans can do whatever they want with it."

It was a simple trade, but one that said a lot about the kind of team the Mammoths are. Moments like this show the heart of the USPBL.

"It feels good, that's probably half the reason why you do it," Medrano said, "It's not something that I like want to be the big guy in that situation. It 's what felt right."