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BASEBALL

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## Baseball Signs Matt Salemi & Nathan Orf

Flames ink hurler, catcher to National Letters of Intent.

Nov. 28, 2007

Chicago, Ill.- UIC head baseball coach [Mike Dee](#) announced on Wednesday (Nov. 28) that right-handed pitcher **Matt Salemi (Spring Grove, Ill./Richmond-Burton H.S.)** and catcher **Nathan Orf (Wentzville, Mo./Francis Howell H. S.)** have signed National Letters of Intent and will join the program beginning in the 2009 season.

"We're really excited about both," said Dee. "We started off the process with a lot of names and possibilities, and our needs were small and important.

"The key element was to identify the guys we felt had the same goals as we have in this program," said Dee. "These two guys share those perspectives, and we're excited about them joining and the future they are going to have in this program."

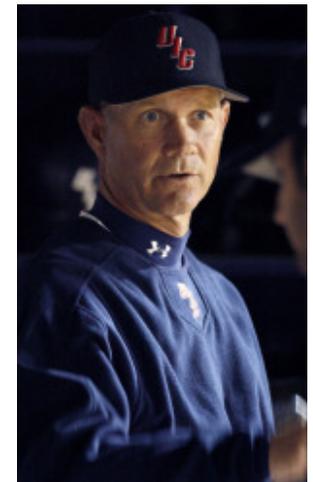
Salemi is a 6-foot, 175-pound right-handed hurler.

"Matt is a really good athlete," said UIC assistant coach [Mike Nall](#). "He is able to pitch beyond his years as far as command of the zone and his ability to change speeds and throw multiple pitches for strikes.

"He has a lot of room to fill in, and his best days as a pitcher are definitely in front of him," continued Nall. "I see Matt being able to make an impact early in his career."

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UIC head coach Mike Dee and the Flames signed a two-man class in this

Orf is a 5-foot-8, 165-pound catcher who is a right-handed hitter and thrower.

"Nathan is a very good defensive player," said UIC assistant coach and recruiting coordinator [Sean McDermott](#). "He has the ability to receive a high level of pitcher, he shuts down the running game and he loves to throw, loves to catch.

"Offensively, Nathan is a spark plug," said McDermott. "He handles the bat, he's an on-base freak, he bunts, drives the ball into gaps, runs, steals bases, you name it. He's just an old-school baseball dirtbag."

"We love having him aboard and we're excited to have him. He's a really tough kid."

The program's needs were not plentiful in quantity, hence the Flames inked only a two-man class in this year's early signing period.

"It's a smaller class than we've had," said Nail. "With only one senior currently in the program, we were able to be picky and target some kids that could really step in and make an impact. Both are good people, solid citizens first, and solid baseball players."

year's early signing period.

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