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Brisbane baseball community mourns pitcher Trent Baker

 March 14, 2016 10:00am  
 Marco Monteverde The Courier-Mail



Brisbane Bandits pitcher Trent Baker.

THE Queensland baseball community is in mourning following the shock death of Brisbane Bandits pitcher Trent Baker.

Baker, 25, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, hours before he was due to play for Windsor Royals in a Greater Brisbane League preliminary final match against Carina.

Only last month Baker was celebrating his part in the Bandits' Claxton Shield triumph, a success that earned them the keys to Brisbane.

"Trent was a much-loved teammate," Bandits coach Dave Nilsson said last night.

"It's such a sad loss for everybody."

Bandits general manager Kate Dobie said Baker's passing had a devastating impact on Queensland's tight-knit baseball community

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"Trent just had one of those smiles that can put you at ease in a heartbeat," Ms Dobie said.

"He just carried that certain light with him."

Baker's last game was for the Royals on Friday night.

His talent was identified during his teen years and he was signed by American Major League Baseball club Cleveland Indians in 2007 via the MLB Australian Academy Program.

Baker made his professional debut two years later for the minor league AZL Indians and represented Australia at the 2009 Friendship Games in Japan.

He also spent time with the Atlanta Braves before returning home to Brisbane, where he debuted for the

Bandits in December 2010.

Royals coach Adrian Lamb described Baker as a “game-changer no matter what level he was at”.

“He played his heart out ... he did phenomenal things with ease,” Lamb told the Bandits website.

Please note: An incorrect photo was initially published in this story. We apologise for any distress caused.

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