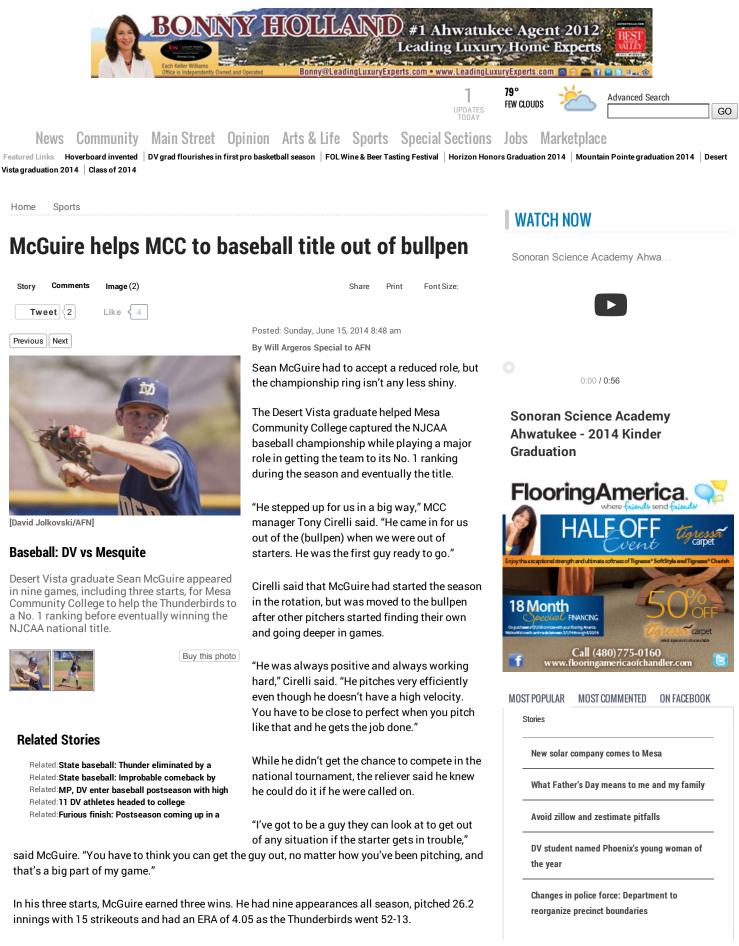
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McGuire helps MCC to baseball title out of bullpen - Ahwatukee Foothills News: Sports

"He had a great performance late in the season after not pitching a lot," Cirelli said. "He came in and pitched 6.1 shutout innings against Phoenix College, in what proved to be a very important game."

McGuire had a season high seven strikeouts against the ASU club team in 4.2 innings. The freshman only walked eight batters all season and didn't hit any.

"I'm big into winning, and I knew coming in what (McGuire) could do," his manager said. "He keeps his pitch count low and pitches very effectively."

McGuire said that his style really developed in high school under the guidance of Stan Luketich.

"He taught me you don't need to throw hard. You just need to know how to pitch," McGuire said. "So I tell myself I can be successful without the 90 mph fastball."

The freshman said there was a bit of an adjustment coming in to MCC, going from being a sure starter to a middle reliever.

"I was a starter all through high school, and all of the sudden I'm facing guys who can hit the ball 50 feet further than I'd ever seen, and with wood bats," he said.

It was a challenge the Desert Vista graduate welcomed, often thriving on the tension from coming in to a tough spot or working out of a jam.

"I like making the hitters look stupid," he said. "I have a big curveball I can put in the dirt, and they look foolish trying to chase it."

McGuire said he has some work to do in the offseason and build his confidence with his pitches with hopes of moving on to four-year program as a junior.

"I know I need work on my change-up, and some of my pitches need more velocity," he said. "That will give me confidence in my pitches. I do best when I can mix them all together."

• Will Argeros is a junior at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University. He is interning this semester for the AFN.

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