

Oneonta, meet The Rockett Man

Former Austin star making early mark at Class A level

BY CHRIS McSWIGGEN

Courtesy The Hometown Oneonta

Michael Rockett, the Detroit Tigers ninth-round pick from the University of Texas-San Antonio, has done more than impress in the No. 24 Oneonta Tigers uniform this season.

Batting in the second spot for the Tigers, Rockett leads the team in the RBI category as well as hits. He has legged out five doubles and four triples and currently has two home runs on the season.

Rockett has 46 hits and has scored 21 runs in 138 at bats. His team-leading 22 RBIs, mixed with his other stats, has him ranked third overall in the New York-Penn League in batting.

Rockett hit his first home run of the season at notoriously deep Damaschke Field back in June, during a 9-3 victory over the NY-PL Stedler division rival Lowell

Spinners.

As a part of an Oneonta Tigers team that is leading the NY-PL in batting, Rockett is an integral part of an offense that gives chills to pitchers all over the



Rockett

league. He currently posts an eye-opening .367 on-base percentage, a .471 slugging percentage and a .333 batting average.

Originally from Sugar Land, Rockett played baseball at Fort Bend Austin High School before choosing UTSA.

Many players have a hard time making the transition from the metal bat collegiate leagues to the wood bat pros, but for Rockett this kind of plate success is nothing new. He batted over .325 in each of his first two seasons

at UTSA and quickly became a fixture in the starting lineup.

While he did not have many offers to play baseball right out of high school, he made the best of what he was given.

Fortunately for UTSA, an assistant coach got a glimpse of Rockett's ability and called him up. Anyone who knows, has played with, or has coached Rockett throughout the years, knows that this decision has certainly paid off.

A diverse player on the field, Rockett has played a starting role on defense in all of the outfield positions. He has played 21 games in right field, 15 in left field and two in center; although center field is taken up by solid Oklahoma University draft pick and leadoff hitter Jaime Johnson.

In 48 chances Rockett, had 44 put outs, with two assists and only two errors in 21 games.