

the game

The push for **wood bats** at the amateur level is bringing **baseball...**



By **Joey Nowak**
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Wade Korpi doesn't remember the ball that nearly killed him. Last April, the then-Notre Dame pitcher threw a two-strike fastball to Rutgers shortstop Dan Betteridge, who hit a line drive back at Korpi at more than 100 mph. The ball caromed off the left side of Korpi's forehead and landed by first base.

"I remember trying to look around and I felt the pain in my head and I went down," Korpi said. "I don't remember the ball coming at me. I remember trying to stand up and I couldn't get up."

Korpi's near-death experience is one of many instances when a non-wood baseball bat might have put a young pitcher in peril. While college baseball programs such as MSU continue to use non-wood bats, some critics say if Korpi had heard a "crack" instead of a "ping," things might have been different.

Man on a mission

Because of incidents like Korpi's, New York City Councilman James Oddo has made it his mission to safeguard youth in amateur baseball

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