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Price, Dickey to hold clinic for young pitchers

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A pair of guys who know a little about pitching will put their collegiate backgrounds aside and share their baseball knowledge with area youth Saturday.

R.A. Dickey and David Price, both first-round draftees who starred at Tennessee and Vanderbilt, respectively, will hold a clinic for junior high and high school pitchers at D1 Sports Training in Cool Springs. The three-hour session will be limited to 40 attendees.

"I thought it would be a good way for a couple of community guys that were pitchers and fairly well known to ... offer some kids the chance to learn some things that maybe we didn't have an opportunity to learn at that age," said Dickey, who will head into his 12th professional season this spring as a member of the Seattle Mariners pitching staff.

"David's obviously a well accomplished pitcher, learned a lot from his experience at Vanderbilt. I learned a lot from my experience at Tennessee. I think it could be a benefit to everybody, simply because we have some philosophies we're able to share and build on."

The 18th overall selection in the 1996 Major League Baseball Draft by the Texas Rangers after representing the U.S. in the 1996 Olympics, Dickey was the 2007 Pacific Coast League Pitcher of the Year as a member of the Nashville Sounds. He signed a minor league contract with the Minnesota Twins this offseason before the Mariners selected him during last month's Rule 5 Draft.

Price, meanwhile, was the first player selected in last year's amateur draft by the Tampa Bay Rays after earning consensus national player of the year honors as a Commodore junior.

"Working with (Vanderbilt pitching coach Derek) Johnson, one of the best in the country, and being around him three years, you feel like you know quite a bit," Price said. "I should be able to pass some of that along."

The two different pitching styles and perspectives — Dickey as a 33-year-old knuckleballer, Price as a 22-year-old "velocity guy" — should allow virtually any up-and-coming athlete to gain something.

At the same time, the two have gained from each other since getting to know each other.

"I have a lot to learn from him," Dickey said. "I'm kinda far removed from getting out of college and that energy; hopefully some of that will rub off on me."

Price, who will participate in his first pro spring training next month, could pick up some pointers from his veteran counterpart.

"We don't talk about baseball a whole lot; we just talk," Price said. "He's a great friend. If I need him, I give him a call."

For more information on Saturday's clinic, call 480-7434.