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Former Mule signs with Kansas City Royals

(WARRENSBURG, Mo.) – Central Missouri State fans remember **Morgan Burkhart** as the man who recorded the final out in Central's 1994 NCAA Division II World Series Championship game. Burkhart took a screaming line drive on the first base line, touched the bag, and the Mules had their first ever baseball national championship.

Central fans may soon have a chance to watch Burkhart again, as the switching hitting first baseman/designated hitter has signed a contract with the Kansas City Royals. He will be a non-roster invitee when the Royals head to spring training.

Burkhart became the first position player from the frontier League to reach the majors in 2000 when he batted .288 with four home runs and 18 runs batted in in 25 games for the Boston Red Sox. He spent most of 2001 at Class AAA Pawtucket before getting released. A shoulder injury limited him to 42 games last season, when he played for Japan's Fukuoka Daiei Hawks.

Burkhart batted .394 with 70 RBI in 60 games in helping lead Central to its national title in 1994.

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