Ryan Wolfsberg, third baseman and outfielder for the Hamilton College baseball team, took big leaps this summer as he spent two months at the Major League Baseball Urban Youth Academy in Compton, California with some of the best baseball minds the game has to offer. Ryan played for the Academy Barons competing in the highly talented California Collegiate League. The team was led by highly respected manager Kenny Landreaux, a former MLB All-Star and World Series champion outfielder who played with the Angels, Twins, and Dodgers. He split his playing time between third base and left field, providing solid production in the middle of the Barons lineup, ending the season with a .306 batting average, with 3 doubles, a triple, 10 RBI, and 6 runs.

His season ended early due to injury, but that did not discourage him from continuing to work hard everyday. Ryan remained a key member in the dugout, attending every game while being in a constant support to his teammates. During his time with the Barons he established himself as a true student of the game, constantly picking the minds of his coaches and teammates in hopes of improving his performance both on and off the field. Ryan stated the following about his experience,

“The summer of 2015 was one that I'll never forget. Playing for the Academy Barons in the elite California Collegiate League was a career changing experience that enabled me to take my game to the next level. Kenny Landreaux and his coaching staff were able to teach me aspects about the game that only professional players have insight on. I want to personally thank each and every member of the coaching staff, training staff, and front office at the Academy for helping me grow both as a ball player and as a person.”

The MLB Urban Youth Academy in Compton is part of Major League Baseball’s Urban Youth Initiative. Encompassing more than 20 acres on the campus of El Camino College Compton Center, the Academy is a state-of-the-art facility featuring four fields, including a show field complete with scoreboard, grandstand seating, dugouts and lights; an auxiliary field; softball field; youth field; and a 12,000 square-foot clubhouse consisting of a weight room, locker room, and other training facilities, as well as batting cages and pitching mounds. The Academy operates on a year-round basis, offering free baseball and softball instruction, as well as clinics to youth throughout Southern California.