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Note: All of the information provided in the Breakdown's annual guidebook to high school boys' baseball is believed to be accurate as of our submission date of March 3, 2017, but is not guaranteed.



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### FROM THE EDITOR

The **BREAKDOWN** staff would like to wish everyone good luck in the 2017 boys' high school baseball season as we look forward to our second year of providing statewide coverage. Make sure you stay informed at [www.BreakdownSportsUSA.com](http://www.BreakdownSportsUSA.com) throughout the season.

The **BREAKDOWN** publications are Minnesota's No. 1 resource for players, coaches, fans and sports enthusiasts. The **BREAKDOWN** is a full-service Minnesota high school sports company, offering season preview publications, in-season and youth tournaments, off-season leagues, newsletters, photography and an extensive website. We're starting our 15th year covering boys' and girls' basketball, our 10th year in boys' hockey and girls' volleyball, and our 3rd year in boys' baseball.

In short, **The BREAKDOWN** is the "Minnesota high school sports encyclopedia."



THE SEASON...

# A TO Z

STUDENT-ATHLETES REJOICE, WHAT BETTER WAY TO PREPARE FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASEBALL SEASON THAN TO TEST YOURSELF ON YOUR A-B-C'S? WE HAVE 26 DIFFERENT ANGLES ON THE SEASON.

BY TIM KOLEHMAINEN | BREAKDOWN SPORTS MEDIA

Tim Kolehmainen / Breakdown.zenfolio.com

**A IS FOR ALEXANDRIA.** The Cardinals are one of our preseason top-10 teams in Class AAA, even though finishing under .500 last spring. We think they improve significantly, thanks to a crew of talented players such as seniors Jacob Drew, Conner Hammerback, and Hunter Schoenrock, and junior Brock Anderson.

**B IS FOR BONK, JORDAN.** The Chanhassen senior was a big part of the Storm's first state title two years ago as a sophomore pitcher. Due to elbow surgery, he won't be on the mound for the Storm and coach AJ Pettersen, but his big bat will be in the lineup.

**C IS FOR CRETIN-DERHAM HALL.** The Raiders are Minnesota baseball royalty, with their history and excellence over the years, including 11 state championships. It's been 10 years since their last state appearance, though. This could be the year the Raiders break through, even after graduating All-Staters Jordan Ammons and Justin Weinberg.

**D IS FOR DIETL, ALEC.** How many eighth-graders make a big impact at the varsity level in baseball? Not many at all. And yet that's what the Foley left-hander did for the Falcons last spring, winning six games with a 2.98 ERA and 37 strikeouts in 42 innings, mainly against the top teams in the conference. That's precocious stuff.

**E IS FOR EASTVIEW.** Our fourth-ranked team in Class AAAA graduated All-Stater Riley Johnson, but otherwise returns a host of players expected to lead the Lightning to success. Super senior Danny Kapala has committed to the University of Minnesota, while junior Tommy Springer has already verbally to Missouri.

**F IS FOR FOUR CLASSES.** For the second year, baseball will have a four-class state tournament. That opens up more playoff berths and more opportunities for the players in Minnesota. The previous expansion of the tournament field came in 2000 when three classes were approved, which followed the two-class era from 1976 to 1999.

**G IS FOR GLENVILLE-EMMONS/ALDEN-CONGER.** The two programs will co-op this spring, hoping that increased numbers will lead to victories on the diamond. They won a combined five games last spring, but coach Lucas Knutson feels some talented multi-sport athletes will lead the way. Many of the players competed together on the combined football team last fall, so there is familiarity there.

**H IS FOR HERITAGE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY.** The field is tough in Section 4A, but the Eagles should be in contention behind players such as junior shortstop/pitcher Seth Halvorsen, one of the top players in the state in his class, and sophomore Taylor Brodersen. It may be a year early, but we expect Heritage Christian to be a state contender.

**I IS FOR IHRKE, JOE.** One of the returning veterans from a surprising state tournament Henry Sibley program, Ihrke hopes to lead the Warriors back-to-back. But it won't be easy. After flying under the radar with a 4-14 regular season, the Warriors won 11 of 12 in the playoffs to claim the Class AAA crown. They'll have a target on their backs this year.

**J IS FOR JOHNSON, TJ.** The Great River Conference most valuable player as a junior, Johnson led Hinckley-Finlayson to the state tournament for the first time in nine years last spring. He's back to fire away on the mound and try to make it a repeat performance.

**K IS FOR KASSON-MANTORVILLE.** The KoMets welcome in a new coach in Matt Franke, but he was an assistant the previous five, so he knows what he has in the dugout. Brendan Knoll returns as the KoMets' top pitcher, which could result in more than last year's 13 victories.

**L IS FOR LEWIS, JEFF.** A starter since his freshman year at Maple River, Lewis is an aggressive leader who stole 22 bases and won five games on the mound as a junior. Expect him to continue to power the Eagles in the Gopher Conference and Section 2AA races.

**M IS FOR MR. BASEBALL.** Last year, Forest Lake's Matt Wallner earned the prestigious award with a massive senior season at the plate and on the mound. Who's the next man up? Our experts are split on the decision, but that's because there is a deep field that should include Burnsville's Sam Carlson, Jimmy Ramsey of Minnetonka, Max Meyer of Woodbury, Bubba Horton of Maple Grove, South St. Paul's Ryan Duffy, and many more. We've made our prediction of the final 12 on our Mr. Baseball page.

**N IS FOR NORTHFIELD.** After back-to-back state tournament appearances, we've slotted the Raiders into the favorite's role in Class AAA. The Raiders should have strong depth of pitching, anchored by seniors Hunter Koep, Ross Beumer, Nic Zabel, and Cole Quiram. That could be important with the new pitch-count rules.

**O IS FOR OKLAHOMA.** A couple of Minnesota's top seniors are headed to Sooner country to play college baseball next spring. Holy Family Catholic ace pitcher Michael Jensen and Marshall's athletic Dylan Criquet-Danielson both committed to the University of Oklahoma and are considered preseason Mr. Baseball candidates.

**P IS FOR PRESEASON RANKINGS.** We've tabbed four programs as our favorites this preseason, and two look awfully familiar. In Class AAAA, Burnsville's outstanding pitching and depth of talent earned the No. 1 ranking, as did Northfield in Class AAA. In the smaller two classes, we went with defending champions. Minnehaha Academy is our top club in Class AA and Springfield got the nod in Class A.

**Q IS FOR QUESTIONS.** Every year has questions that will be answered by the time we reach Target Field in mid-June. Some of the big ones this year? Well, one will be what the pitch count rule change means for pitching depth (see below). Also, we'll continue to sort out what the new four-class format will do to the playoffs. And of course, new coaches and new stars will emerge for schools — and the Breakdown will be there to keep an eye on it all.

**R IS FOR RULE CHANGES.** There's a new pitch count rule this year that could affect games. In brief, during the regular season, pitchers can throw no more than 105 pitches in a day and then must rest for three days, or 50 pitches then rest for two, or 30 and then rest for one. Any pitcher throwing in back-to-back days must rest a day, no matter the pitch count. That means pitching depth will be key this spring.

**S IS FOR ST CLOUD CATHEDRAL.** Are the Crusaders back? Or better yet, were they ever really gone? A five-year streak of state tourney berths (and two-year title run) ended last spring, but Cathedral still won 15 games under legendary coach Bob Karn. A strong junior class led by Tyler Bautch and Sam Hanson has the Crusaders aiming high again.

**T IS FOR THORESEN, SAMUEL.** Another of the University of Minnesota's home-grown recruits, Thoresen has a strong arm with a big-time fastball. The Minnetonka senior went 4-2 with a 2.20 ERA and 42 strikeouts in 31.1 innings as a junior and will make a great Skippers' 1-2 pitching punch with Jimmy Ramsey.

**U IS FOR UNBEATEN.** St. Cloud Cathedral won its second consecutive Class AA state title two years ago while going a perfect 25-0. Before Cathedral, the last team to finish a season without a blemish on its record was Eden Valley-Watkins in 2010. Those are the only two perfect records since baseball went to three



South St. Paul's  
Ryan  
Duffy

classes in 2000, although Cretin-Derham Hall did post a 29-0 record in winning the 1998 Class AA title. Again, that's the only perfect mark in the two-class era from 1976 to 1999. In the single-class days, Chisholm (1948), Halstad (1952), Austin (1954), Little Falls (1957), and Richfield (1965) went unbeaten.

**V IS FOR VEGA, RAMON JR.** The son of longtime Buffalo town ball star Ramon Vega, Sr., the younger is also a gifted baseball player. A four-year starter for the Bison, Vega hit better than .340 in each of his freshman and sophomore seasons before slumping last spring. Expect him to rebound in a big way.

**W IS FOR WEATHER.** Yes, Old Man Winter has been kind to Minnesota baseball players and fans the past three years now. Last spring, teams hit the fields right on schedule for an early April opening day and it looks like this spring will bring the same. Lack of big winter snows means teams can plan a normal slate of games.

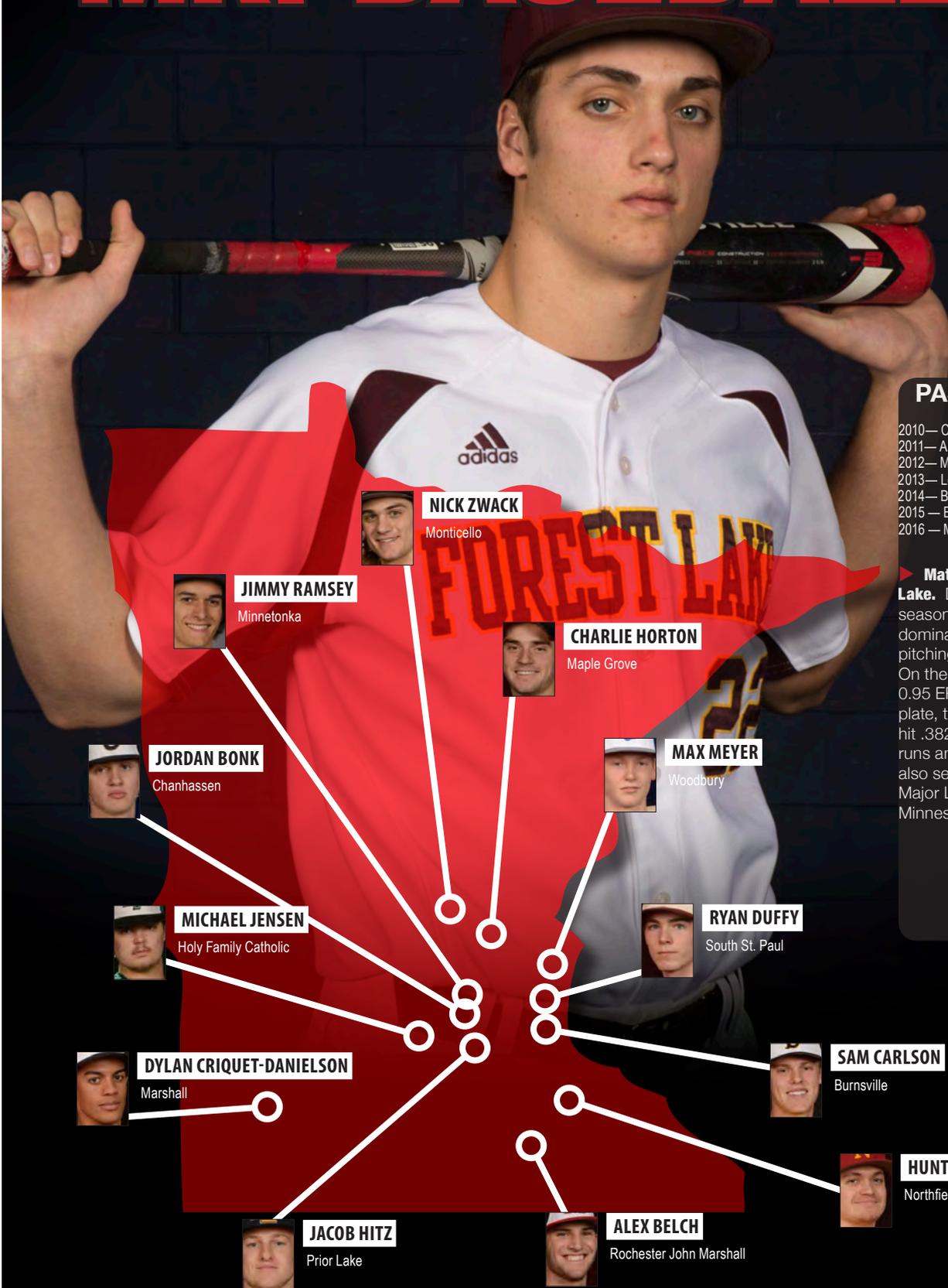
**X IS FOR X-AMINING THE X.** We're stretching for this one, but look at St. Croix Prep and Bemidji's George Loxtercamp as two who have the unusual x in their names. St. Croix Prep features one of the state's best — and perhaps overlooked — all-around players in Joe Vondrachek, who hit .527 as a junior and won four games on the mound. Meanwhile, Loxtercamp is Bemidji's ace pitcher, who begins his third season as a varsity contributor. The 6-foot-6 right-hander is a St. Cloud State commit.

**Y IS FOR YELLOWJACKETS.** Perham has a new coach in Kyle Van Dyke, who takes over a program that won 15 games and finished behind a strong Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton team in both Heart O' Lakes Conference and Section 8AA play. But with the Rebels graduating almost their entire starting lineup, it should open up Section 8AA for teams such as Perham.

**Z IS FOR ZWACK, NICK.** Monticello has a terrific multi-sport athlete in Zwack, who led the MAML boys' hockey team to their first-ever state tournament in the winter, but may be even better on the diamond. He's already committed to Xavier as a pitcher and struck out an amazing 89 hitters in 58.2 innings as a junior.

# 2017 WATCH LIST

# MR. BASEBALL



**NICK ZWACK**

Monticello



**JIMMY RAMSEY**

Minnetonka



**CHARLIE HORTON**

Maple Grove



**MAX MEYER**

Woodbury



**JORDAN BONK**

Chanhassen



**MICHAEL JENSEN**

Holy Family Catholic



**RYAN DUFFY**

South St. Paul



**DYLAN CRIQUET-DANIELSON**

Marshall



**SAM CARLSON**

Burnsville



**JACOB HITZ**

Prior Lake



**ALEX BELCH**

Rochester John Marshall



**HUNTER KOEP**

Northfield

## PAST WINNERS

- 2010— Chris Anderson ..... Centennial
- 2011— Austin Malinowski ..... Centennial
- 2012— Mitch Brown ..... Roch Century
- 2013— Logan Shore ..... Coon Rapids
- 2014— Brad Mathiowetz ..... Roch Mayo
- 2015— Eddie Estrada ..... Litchfield
- 2016— Matt Wallner ..... Forest Lake

### ▶ Matt Wallner, Forest Lake.

During his senior season, Wallner was a dominant hitting and pitching combination for the Rangers. On the mound, he went 7-1 with a 0.95 ERA and 95 strikeouts. At the plate, the Southern Mississippi recruit hit .382 with a school-record 10 home runs among his 28 hits. Wallner was also selected in the 32nd round of the Major League Baseball draft by the Minnesota Twins.



# SEASON PREVIEW CLASS AAAA

## FAB 15 RANKINGS

1. Burnsville
2. Lakeville North
3. Minnetonka
4. Eastview
5. Woodbury
6. Chanhassen
7. Eden Prairie
8. Cretin-Derham Hall
9. Stillwater
10. Champlin Park
11. Wayzata
12. Edina
13. Totino-Grace
14. Anoka
15. Maple Grove

## ALL-BREAKDOWN



**Sam Carlson**  
Burnsville



**Sam Thoresen**  
Minnetonka



**Charlie Horton**  
Maple Grove



**Zach Parks**  
Apple Valley



**Jimmy Ramsey**  
Minnetonka



**Trent Palmer**  
Anoka



**Max Meyer**  
Woodbury



**Jacob Hitz**  
Prior Lake



**Jack Kelly**  
St. Michael-Albertville



**Jordan Bonk**  
Chanhassen

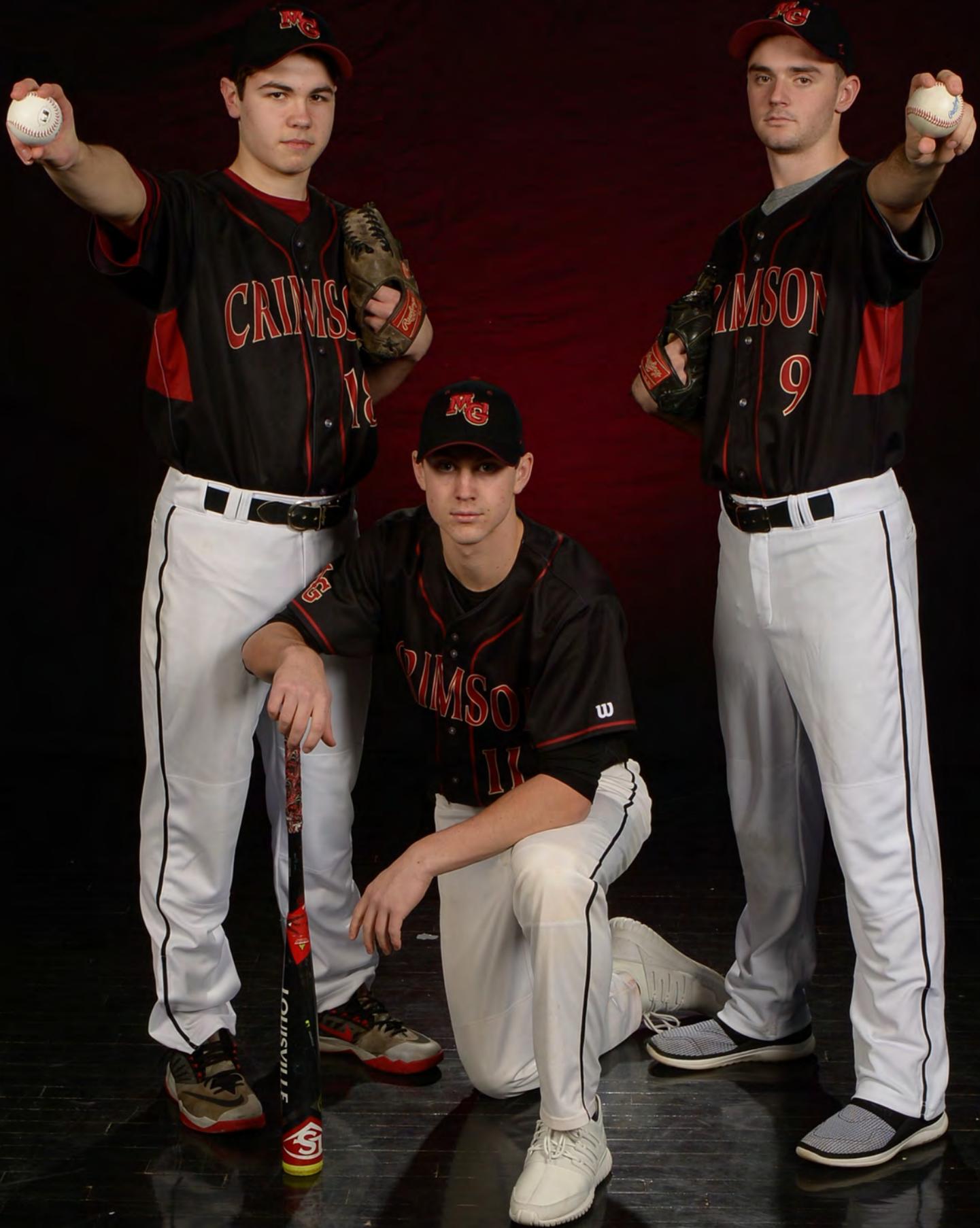


**Alex Belch**  
Rochester John Marshall



**Nick Juaire**  
Lakeville North

Nick Wosika



Tim Kolehmainen / Breakdown.zenfolio.com

# MAPLE GROVE GETS TASTE OF SUCCESS

## CRIMSON ENJOY LAST SPRING'S STATE TOURNAMENT BERTH, BUT EXPECT MORE THIS YEAR

HEATHER REINHART | BREAKDOWN SPORTS MEDIA

The Maple Grove baseball team is hoping that last year's state tournament appearance was just a stepping stone to bigger and better things. But they know it won't come easy.

Last year, the Crimson took a 20-4 record into the Class AAAA state tournament, where they lost a 2-1 game to Lakeville North in 13 innings and fell into the consolation bracket. They finished the season 21-6.

"We came up short because we ran out of pitchers," long-time head coach **Darby Carlson** said. "We want to get back to state and challenge the top teams."

In the state tournament, Maple Grove had its chances at the plate, but couldn't come up with the hits when they needed them most.

"Last year we got our taste, so-to-speak," said senior **Charles "Bubba" Horton**. "The first taste of what playoff baseball means."

The Crimson lost two key players from last year's team that have both gone on to play Division I college baseball. Shortstop **Isaac Collins** now plays at Creighton University and **Brett Schultze** pitches for the University of Minnesota. Those two players leave a significant hole in the Maple Grove line-up.

Collins, who was a five-year starter for the Crimson, broke multiple school records last year. He holds the Maple Grove High School record for most hits in a single game (6-for-6 at the plate vs. Blaine - 13 innings), was third all-time in single season batting average (.482), fourth all-time in single season runs scored (32), second all-time in single season hits (41) and set the school record for most triples in a single season with five. Schultze was fifth all-time in pitching wins in a single season with seven.

While those key losses are tough to overcome, Maple Grove has some big names coming back with state experience to boot.

### GETTING IN THE GROVE

Horton, a left-handed pitcher, has committed to play college baseball for the University of Minnesota next season and is looking forward to his final year with the Crimson. Last year, he was

fourth all-time in strikeouts for a single season with 77. He was also a star at the plate and finished fifth all-time for the Crimson in RBI for a single season with 26.

"Bubba is a team-first player that can contribute significantly both offensively and defensively," Carlson said. "(He is) a strong left-handed pitcher that can dominate when in the strike zone, and a solid defensive first baseman that will drive in runs with above average power and bat speed."

The 6-foot-3 Horton had a 5-3-1 pitching record in 2016 with an ERA of 1.49 over 56.1 innings pitched. When not pitching, he played first base and batted right. In 2016, he had 37 hits, scored 17 runs and had a batting average of .407. And he's ready for more this season.

"I'm just excited to be able to play again," Horton said.

While Maple Grove's pitching contributed to its state-tournament loss last season, the bullpen is expected to be the Crimson's strength this spring.

"This year, we have four solid starting pitchers that we can really rely on and spread the workload," Horton said.

Joining Horton on the pitching crew in 2017 is junior **Nathan Martinson**, who was in the starting rotation last season before an injury (broken thumb) forced him to the bench.

"It was hard to watch the team play well when I was hurt, but it was still better than watching them if they would play bad," Martinson said.

Martinson returned in time to pitch a few innings in last year's state tournament, but is hoping to play a much bigger role this season. Coach Carlson said Martinson will be one to watch this year.

"I feel like I can make a huge contribution to the pitching staff and hopefully be that next guy behind Bubba in the rotation," Martinson said. "I do believe we have the chance to get back to the state tournament."

Another key element to Maple Grove's baseball success is the continuity in the coaching staff.

"Everyone knows the expectations and that makes it a lot of fun," Carlson said.

"He brings the intensity, that's for sure," senior

centerfielder **Josh Tyler** said of coach Carlson. "We've all built a bond and get really close. We're trying to get him the (state) win."

### CARLSON'S BUNCH

Carlson has been the head coach at Maple Grove Senior High School since it opened in 1996 and has led the team for 20 years while compiling a 347-162 record. Carlson has taken seven teams to the state tournament, including a strong four-year run from 1998-2001. The Crimson also headed to state in 2007 and 2011 before last year's return trip.

"He's fun to play for—kind of old school, but that's fun," Horton said of Carlson. "We've had the same coaches (our whole high school career). That's key no matter what your philosophy is. If you can start to build a culture in the community, that trickles down to the youth too."

Martinson agreed.



We want to get back to state and challenge the top teams.

— DARB Y CARLSON

"I do like coach Carlson because he is a very funny guy that knows what's best for the team," he said. "I also think it is good that he has been the coach for so long because it brings a certain tradition and expectations for us because he has been successful in the past."

The entire Maple Grove coaching staff has been consistent over the years, and getting the team back to the big show in June is a goal of Tyler's.

"We're trying to reward them with a state title," he said.

Martinson said that one of the team's weaknesses this season may be the fact that the Crimson will only have one senior back that had significant playing time last year.

"That might be a part that we will need help

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

**CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE**

developing experience,” Martinson said.

But Horton said that while the team did lose a lot of seniors to graduation last year, the Crimson will still have a lot of leadership with many underclassmen returning to the roster that performed well in 2016. Tyler added that the juniors on the squad have a lot of varsity experience and have proven themselves both on the high school team and in summer leagues.

**VFW SUCCESSES**

“I think one of our biggest strengths will be our chemistry because two summers ago we were all on the same VFW team and I think that will help us,” Martinson said.

In the summer of 2015, Maple Grove’s VFW baseball team, coached by Carlson, advanced to the state championship game before losing a 2-1 extra-inning game to Grand Rapids to finish in second place. The team compiled a 36-11 record that summer. Tyler said that the players on that VFW team are the same players that will be in the Crimson lineup this spring.

“We’re trying to repeat that and win it,” Tyler said.

Due, in part, to their time together on summer teams, Tyler said a strength of this year’s Maple Grove team is the chemistry between the players. He said that in the past, the team has been somewhat divided between grades.

“Now we’re one group,” Tyler said. “We all hang out outside of practice and enjoy going to Applebee’s and just hanging out. This group of guys is just fun to be around.”

While the pitching and defense are expected to be a strength for the 2017 Crimson, the big unknown entering the season is the offense.

“Our big area of concern is offensive production and who’s gonna get some big hits for us and get runs on the board,” Carlson said. “There are a number of prospects that could surprise.”

“The big unknown is going to be hitting,” Horton added. “We need to be aggressive. Last year, we fell behind too much in counts.”

Carlson said there will be many different players competing for starting roles this year. They include junior **Hayden Thomsen** at shortstop, senior **Charlie Hutchinson** as a left-handed pitcher and Tyler in the outfield. Sophomore **Dylan Peck**



Maple Grove's Hayden Thomsen looks for signals before hitting in last year's state tourney.

Rick Corwine

(pitcher and third base) is an up-and-comer in the program that coach Carlson said has a strong arm and good control. Both Tyler and Hutchinson have committed to play Division III college baseball next year. Tyler will attend Augsburg College while Hutchinson will head to Gustavus Adolphus College.

“Every season is kind of a surprise,” Carlson said. “The first half of the season we expect a lot of different guys in the lineup until we figure out who’s going to get it done.”

Maple Grove plays in the Northwest Suburban Conference, which has been very competitive the past few years. The Crimson finished 10-3 in conference play last season. In post-season play, Maple Grove competes in Section 8AAAA and expects to be in the hunt for the title once again.

Teams expected to challenge them include Elk River and St. Michael-Albertville.

Carlson used to coach football at STMA as the defensive coordinator before retiring from that role following the 2015 season. He said that when the two teams meet, there’s always some razzing between the two because of that relationship, but it’s all in fun.

“The relationship part of coaching is the best,” Carlson said. “Working with players and seeing them make improvements and learn how to compete. Those relationships last a lifetime.”

Carlson said he also expects Champlin Park to be a team to watch this season. The Rebels made it to the Class 4A state championship game last year before losing to Wayzata. Those two teams will face each other in the 2017 season opener on April 11.

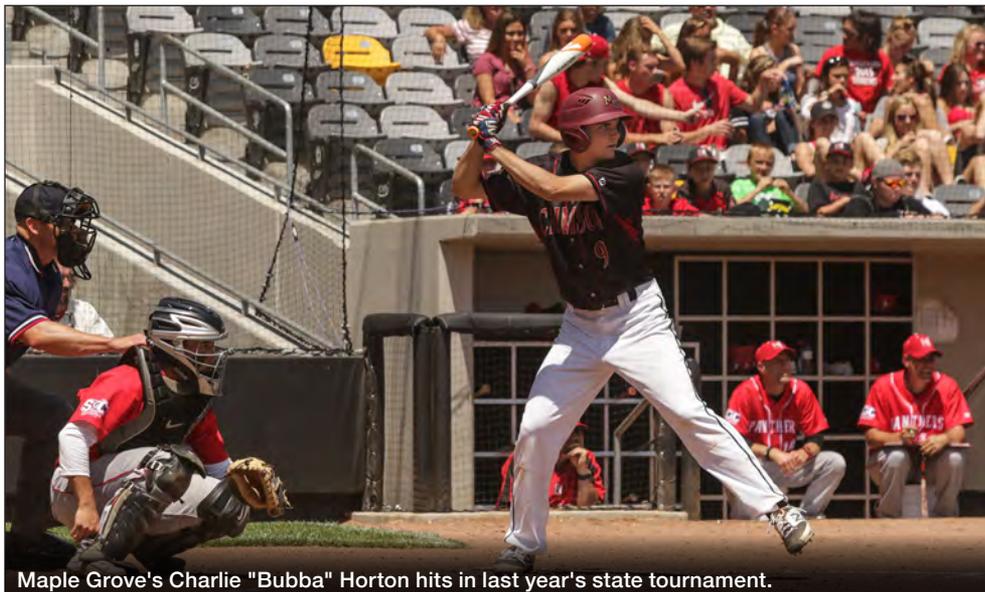
“I think it’s good to start off with a good team because you get the intensity of what it’s going to be like right away and you get the stress off,” Tyler said, adding that after that game, the Crimson are likely to know whether they are sitting in good shape or whether they have a lot of work to do.

Maple Grove is ready to get started with what they hope will be another successful season.

“Last year got us all some experience and hopefully this year we can get back there and take care of business,” Tyler said.

Considering coach Carlson’s string of success over the past 20 years and last year’s state tournament appearance, one might think Maple Grove players would feel some pressure. But that doesn’t seem to be the case at all.

“I’m just looking forward to getting together with all the guys and hanging out, being back with the boys,” Tyler said. “We’re just trying to have fun and play baseball and the wins will take care of themselves.” ♦



Maple Grove's Charlie "Bubba" Horton hits in last year's state tournament.

Rick Corwine

# SECTION PREVIEW

# 1AAAA



## PREDICTION

1. Lakeville North (No. 2)
2. Rochester John Marshall
3. Owatonna
4. Rochester Mayo
5. Rochester Century

## DETAILS

- ▶ **SECTION CHANGES:** None.
- ▶ **PAST SECTION CHAMPIONS:**  
2016 — Lakeville North

**W**hen the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) instituted a fourth class in baseball, the state's biggest schools moved up into the newly formed Class AAAA last spring. Yet many of the schools were already plenty familiar with each other, as it was essentially a reassigning of smaller schools into an additional class. Therefore, Section 1AAAA's first-ever champion — Lakeville North — was a regular face at the state tournament. The Panthers qualified for their fourth straight tourney (the first three in Section 3AAA) and we think they're the favorite to make it five in a row.

**Lakeville North:** North returns strong pitching and defense, which is a recipe for playoff success. The Panthers and coach Tony Market will miss ace pitcher Billy Riach, but there are plenty of top arms remaining with seniors Ross Bastyr and Sean Flaherty, rising junior Collin Denk,

and senior closer Luke DeGrammont, who had eight saves last spring. Junior catcher Nick Juaire helps the staff with his defense and will also anchor the batting order. The Panthers' battery will lead the charge.

**Rochester John Marshall:** The Rockets have similar strengths to North — pitching and defense — which should result in a great battle for section supremacy. JM has a terrific 1-2 pitching punch with Kansas State-bound Alex Belch and Zach Smith. Despite not earning a preseason top-15 spot, we think the Rockets are a contender.

**Owatonna:** The Huskies were one of four section teams over .500 last year and return four all-conference winners.

**Other contenders:** Rochester Mayo will have some thunder in its lineup, led by Thomas Krause, while Rochester Century hopes to jump into contention with its city mates.

— TIM KOLEHMÄINEN

## ALL-SECTION



**NICK JUAIRE,**  
Lakeville North



**ROSS BASTYR,**  
Lakeville North



**NATHAN BERG,**  
New Prague



**ALEX BELCH,**  
Rochester JM



**TYLER FIETEK,**  
Lakeville North



**ZACH SMITH,**  
Rochester John Marshall



**SAMUEL WILSON,**  
Farmington



**JOE MCKIBBEN,**  
Lakeville South



**THOMAS KRAUSE,**  
Rochester Mayo

Rick Corwine | RickCorwinePhoto.com

**FARMINGTON**

**NICKNAME:** Tigers  
**TWITTER:** \_FHSBaseball  
**CONFERENCE:** South Suburban  
**SECTION:** 1AAAA  
**CONFERENCE RECORD:** 3-15  
**OVERALL RECORD:** 5-19  
**STATE TRIPS:** 1977  
**COACH:** Jon Graff  
**PHONE:** 612-636-1801  
**EMAIL:** jgraff@farmington.k12.mn.us  
**YEARS COACHING/RECORD:** 4/28-38

**COACH'S COMMENTS:** We return a lot of our position players who have a year or two of experience already and also have some talented guys coming in. The overall depth of talent in our program continues to grow. The key will be to see how quickly the new guys can adjust to the varsity level and which pitchers step forward to claim a starting spot in the rotation. We've also got some really great senior leadership-guys who play the right way, work hard and support one another. Our goal is to get back to where we were a couple of years ago, competing for the top of the conference.

- ▶ **LETTERWINNERS RETURNING/LOST:** 8/6
- ▶ **GRADUATION LOSSES:** IF Max Barthel (Northwestern-St. Paul); P Nicholas Bauer; OF Dylan Bergstad (All-SSC HM, DCTC); OF Christian Groves; P Justin King (All-Section 1AAAA, DCTC); IF Jacob Laube

**RETURNING ROSTER**

Name	Gr	Pos	Ht	Wt	Bats	Thrs
Reed Collins	12	3B/P	6'0	190	R	R
Hunter Conrad	10	P				
Mitchell Fox	12	P	6'3	175	R	R
Michael Fredrickson	11	C	5'9	165	R	R
Zachary Jakubowsky	10	P				
Landon Lancaster	12	IF				
Michael Nezerka	12	C/2B	5'9	155	R	R
Mason Spencer	12	IF				
Adam Weed	10	OF				
Samuel Wilson	12	1B/LF	6'2	190	L	L

**REED COLLINS, Sr. 3B/P**

Pitching	W	L	SV	ERA	IP	H	ER	BB	K
	2	0	0	2.45	20	27	7	10	9

**\*HEIGHT/WEIGHT:** 6'0 / 190  
**\*BATS/THROWS:** R / R  
**\*COLLEGE:** Ellsworth CC

**\*SCOUTING REPORT:** "Reed had a strong summer in Legion and continues to carry that over to his winter training. He's got power potential and can drive the ball. He also led our team in ERA last year and will continue to get more innings this year." — Farmington coach Jon Graff



**Q: Give me a short scouting report on yourself as a player. What are your strengths?** I consider myself to be a strong hitting 3rd baseman. I have strong instincts as a corner infielder with a strong and accurate arm to throw across the diamond. I have good baseball knowledge of where to be on every pitch. I also am a right handed pitcher who can log some innings as a reliever.

**Q: Can you tell us one unusual thing about yourself that others may not know?** The last five years I have been living with type 1 diabetes.

**Q: What is the best part of playing high school baseball and why?** The best part of playing high school baseball is playing with and against people with a competitive mindset.

**Q: Tell me about the outlook for your team this year. What are the strengths of your team?** Farmington is looking to do well this 2017 season. We have a solid returning varsity roster who is looking to have lots of success this year. I think our strengths will be hitting and our defense.

**MITCHELL FOX, Sr. P**

**\*HEIGHT/WEIGHT:** 6'3 / 175  
**\*BATS/THROWS:** R / R

**\*SCOUTING REPORT:** "After a stellar sophomore year, Mitch didn't get much run support last year. He'll look to be our anchor this year and really has the ability to shut teams down and keep hitters off balance." — Farmington coach Jon Graff



**MICHAEL FREDRICKSON, Jr. C**

Hitting	Avg	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BB	K
	.269	5	18	1	0	1	10	3	2	11

**\*HEIGHT/WEIGHT:** 5'9 / 165  
**\*BATS/THROWS:** R / R  
**\*ALL-SSC HM**

**\*SCOUTING REPORT:** "Mikey was all-conference honorable mention in the South Suburban Conference as a sophomore. He has an exceptional pop time to second which will help control the other team's running game and continues to work hard in the off-season. Mikey has flashed his power potential and has a superior approach at the plate. He'll also serve as one of our captains which is a testament to his dedication and leadership on and off the field." — Farmington coach Jon Graff



**Q: Give me a short scouting report on yourself as a player. What are your strengths?** As a player, my strengths include a strong arm, good pop time, and a well-rounded swing.

**Q: Can you tell us one unusual thing about yourself that others may not know?** I like technology, whether its building computers, or messing around with cool devices.

**Q: What is the best part of playing high school baseball and why?** The best part about playing high school baseball is being able to play the game that I love around my teammates because the bond that you begin to create with them will be something that you will never forget.

**Q: Tell me about the outlook for your team this year. What are the strengths of your team?** I believe that our team this year will be strong in hitting and defense as we are all working hard this off-season to improve. The pitching staff is starting to look stronger as well with younger guys progressing well.

**MICHAEL NEZERKA, Sr. C/2B**

**\*HEIGHT/WEIGHT:** 5'9 / 155  
**\*BATS/THROWS:** R / R  
**\*COLLEGE:** UIM-Morris

**\*SCOUTING REPORT:** "Michael is a true baseball player who gets down and dirty and never gives up. He's relentless in his pursuit to represent the team and the game the right way and will get some time at second, catcher and maybe even pitch a little." — Farmington coach Jon Graff



**Q: Give me a short scouting report on yourself as a player. What are your strengths?** I would say that I'm a versatile player as I can play all nine positions if need be. I also do a good job getting on base through singles and walks.

**Q: Can you tell us one unusual thing about yourself that others may not know?** I play with a wristband on that says "Height Doesn't Measure Heart" which is saying created by Blue Jays pitcher Marcus Stroman, who is only 5'8".

**Q: What is the best part of playing high school baseball and why?** I'd say the best part of playing High School Baseball is being able to represent your city and school on the ball field.

**Q: Tell me about the outlook for your team this year. What are the strengths of your team?** Our team goal is to make it farther in sections than last year. I feel that we have a very strong infield this year, as every player from last year is returning with varsity experience.

**SAMUEL WILSON, Sr. 1B/LF**

Hitting	Avg	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BB	K
	.347	15	26	4	0	0	5	7	8	6

**\*HEIGHT/WEIGHT:** 6'2 / 190  
**\*BATS/THROWS:** L / L  
**\*SUPER 100 SENIORS**  
**\*ALL-SECTION 1AAAA**  
**\*ALL-SSC**

**\*SCOUTING REPORT:** "Sam is a two-year all-conference player in the South Suburban Conference who has a .385 BA over the last two years. He's proven to be a standout first baseman who can also play the outfield and is one of the tougher hitters to get out. He should have a great senior year and look to continue his playing career somewhere at the DII level." — Farmington coach Jon Graff



**Q: Give me a short scouting report on yourself as a player. What are your strengths?** My strengths would be that I'm a really good contact hitter that uses the whole field. Also a solid first baseman.

**Q: Can you tell us one unusual thing about yourself that others may not know?** I like traveling.

**Q: What is the best part of playing high school baseball and why?** The friendships you create that will last forever.

**Q: Tell me about the outlook for your team this year. What are the strengths of your team?** Should be much approved from last year and have a lot of experience returning.

**Q: What other activities are you involved in?** Basketball.

**LAKEVILLE NORTH**

2

**NICKNAME:** Panthers  
**CONFERENCE:** South Suburban  
**SECTION:** 1AAAA  
**CONFERENCE RECORD:** 14-4  
**OVERALL RECORD:** 21-6  
**STATE TRIPS:** 2000, 05 Champs (as Lakeville), 2013, 14, 15, 16  
**COACH:** Tony Market  
**PHONE:** 952-232-3999 x6833  
**EMAIL:** tony.market@isd194.org

- ▶ **GRADUATION LOSSES:** 1B Nick Fossey; 2B Mitch Frederick (MSU-Mankato); OF Robert Frederick; OF/2B Nate Klehr; SS/P Joey Larson (All-SSC, Augustana); P/C Jake Peterson; P Billy Riach (All-SSC, All-Section 1AAAA, Class AAAA All-State, North Iowa Area CC); OF/P Drew Stewart (All-Section 1AAAA, Augustana); OF Kaden Tousignant; OF Michael Warfield

**RETURNING ROSTER**

Name	Gr	Pos	Ht	Wt	Bats	Thrs
Ross Bastyr	12	P	6'1	175	L	R
Ryan Bastyr	12	IF	6'1	160		
Luke DeGrammont	12	1B/P	5'10	170	L	L
Collin Denk	11	P	6'1	170		
Michael Dooney	12	OF	5'10	160		
Tyler Fietek	12	3B/RF/INF/OF	6'2	215	R	
Sean Flaherty	12	P	6'3	205	R	R
Nick Juare	11	C	5'8	175	S	R
Nathaniel Peterson	11	P/OF	5'9	155		
Nick Spitt	11	OF/P	6'0	175	R	R

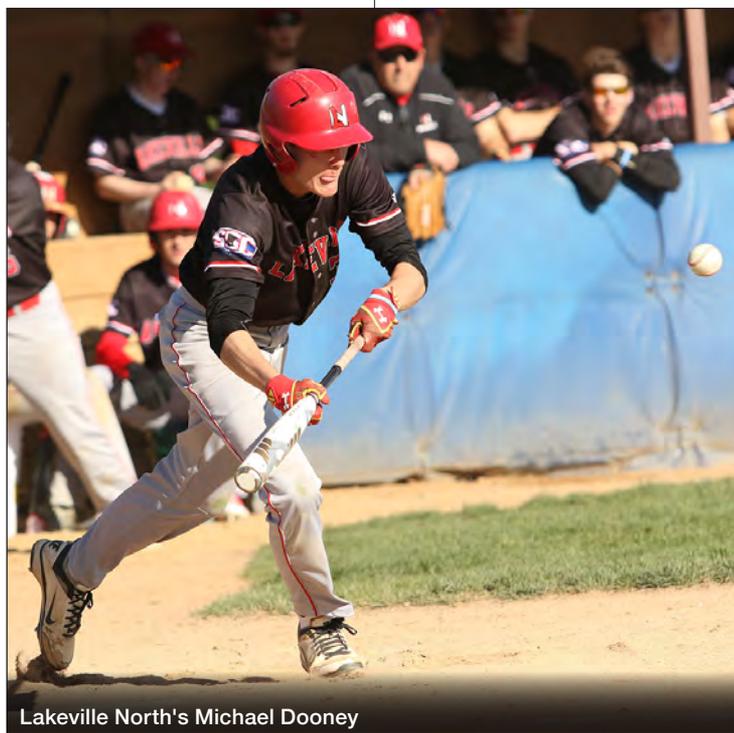
**ROSS BASTYR, Sr. P**

Pitching	W	L	SV	ERA	IP	H	ER	BB	K
	6	0	0	0.98	57.13	46	8	11	54

**\*HEIGHT/WEIGHT:** 6'1 / 175  
**\*BATS/THROWS:** L / R  
**\*SUPER 100 SENIORS**  
**\*ALL-SECTION 1AAAA**  
**\*ALL-SSC**  
**\*COLLEGE:** Concordia-St. Paul

**Q: Give me a short scouting report on yourself as a player. What are your strengths?** Competitive player who throws three pitches for strikes.

**Q: Can you tell us one unusual thing about yourself that others may not know?** I have a twin brother.



Lakeville North's Michael Dooney

Cheryl Myers



## WHO IS MINNESOTA'S BEST SHUTDOWN CATCHER?

As part of our preseason coverage, we searched far and wide across the state to come up with great players in certain skill categories. The above five nominees are presented in no particular order. Certainly, it's just opinion, but we asked one of the top players what it takes to make this list.

**JACK KELLY, ST. MICHAEL-ALBERTVILLE**

**BROCK BOLTMANN, EDINA**

**DREW BULSON, ST. CLOUD TECH**

**BROCK RUSSELL, TARTAN**

**NICK JUAIRE, LAKEVILLE NORTH**

**Q: What do you think it means to be considered a shutdown catcher? Is it arm strength, knowing the game, etc.? And how fast have you been timed?**

**A:** I consider a shutdown catcher to be one who changes the way the game is played. A catcher who can receive at the highest level and who develops a great relationship with the pitching staff. A catcher who can take away the running game and force the opposing team to change their game plan because of his arm strength and ability to control the game. Arm strength is a huge advantage for a shutdown catcher. My arm strength is my biggest asset, my best pop time is 1.78.

**Q: Do you take pride in that label? Do you think it helps make you a leader on the field?**

**A:** I am humbled and do take pride in being considered a shutdown catcher. I feel that a catcher who can alter the course of a game is a huge asset to his team. Being a leader on the field comes from working hard and earning the trust of teammates and coaches.

**Q: Any favorite moment when you used your catching to help your team win?**

**A:** There isn't really one favorite moment – as long as my team wins I have done my job.

**Q: What kind of special training do you do to develop your catching skills?**

**A:** I do training for arm strength by using weighted balls and long toss. I work on my foot speed and agility to increase my quickness. I use weighted balls for receiving, along with bare-handed drills.

**Q: Is there anybody you try to pattern your game after and why?**

**A:** I pattern my catching game after (the St. Louis Cardinals') Yadier Molina because he can single handedly control a game from behind the plate, and he makes everything he does look easy.



**Q: What is the best part of playing high school baseball and why?** Playing with your teammates.  
**Q: Tell me about the outlook for your team this year. What are the strengths of your team?** We hope to compete for the conference and section championship.  
**Q: What other activities are you involved in?** FCA.

**RYAN BASTYR, Sr. IF**  
**HEIGHT/WEIGHT:** 6'1 / 160  
**COLLEGE:** Concordia-St. Paul



**Q: Give me a short scouting report on yourself as a player. What are your strengths?** Good contact hitter and versatile defender.  
**Q: What is the best part of playing high school baseball and why?** Getting to play with the people I've grown up with.  
**Q: Tell me about the outlook for your team this year. What are the strengths of your team?** We hope to make it to state again.  
**Q: What other activities are you involved in?** FCA.

**LUKE DEGRAMMONT, Sr. 1B/P**

Pitching	W	L	SV	ERA	IP	H	ER	BB	K
	1	0	8	0.00	17	5	0	5	19

**HEIGHT/WEIGHT:** 5'10 / 170  
**BATS/THROWS:** L / L  
**COLLEGE:** Concordia-St. Paul



**Q: Give me a short scouting report on yourself as a player. What are your strengths?** I am a strike throwing lefty who commands both sides of the plate and works fast to disrupt the timing of the hitter. My strengths are my command and my use of three pitches in any count, and my ability to strike people out.  
**Q: Can you tell us one unusual thing about yourself that others may not know?** Everyone I know calls me Deggy instead of Luke.  
**Q: What is the best part of playing high school baseball and why?** My favorite part is the team aspect and the city rivalries. I like creating chemistry with the team and make sure we are all going for the same goal.  
**Q: Tell me about the outlook for your team this year. What are the strengths of your team?** I think our team is looking as strong as ever, the pitching depth is good and we have some good hitters, I think we have the ability to go a long way this year. I would say our pitching will be our strength this year.  
**Q: What other activities are you involved in?** I am involved in FCA.

**COLLIN DENK, Jr. P**

Pitching	W	L	SV	ERA	IP	H	ER	BB	K
	2	2			25				20

**HEIGHT/WEIGHT:** 6'1 / 170  
**TOP 50 JUNIORS**



**Q: Give me a short scouting report on yourself as a player. What are your strengths?** My strengths as a pitcher are my confidence and my composure I exemplify on the mound.  
**Q: Can you tell us one unusual thing about yourself that others may not know?** I've been to 15 MLB stadiums.



Lakeville North's Ross Bastyr

Cheryl Myers

**Q: What is the best part of playing high school baseball and why?** Playing with some of your best friends and pushing each other day in and day out to get to Target Field.  
**Q: Tell me about the outlook for your team this year. What are the strengths of your team?** Our team looks very promising. I think we'll be a young but experienced team. Our pitching staff will have a lot of talent along with experience.  
**Q: What other activities are you involved in?** Basketball.

**TYLER FIETEK, Sr. 3B/RF/INF/OF**

**HEIGHT/WEIGHT:** 6'2 / 215  
**BATS/THROWS:** R /  
**SUPER 100 SENIORS**  
**COLLEGE:** Iowa Central CC



**Q: Give me a short scouting report on yourself as a player. What are your strengths?** I signed to play baseball at Iowa Central Community College. Power hitter with a strong arm.  
**Q: Can you tell us one unusual thing about yourself that others may not know?** I am an avid outdoorsman. When I am not on the baseball field I am hunting, or fishing.  
**Q: Tell me about the outlook for your team this year. What are the strengths of your team?** We should have a strong pitching line up.  
**Q: What other activities are you involved in?** Year round baseball and in the off season I enjoy fishing and hunting with friends and family.

**SEAN FLAHERTY, Sr. P**

**HEIGHT/WEIGHT:** 6'3 / 205  
**BATS/THROWS:** R / R



**Q: Give me a short scouting report on yourself as a player. What are your strengths?** I'm a tough minded pitcher and I have good control around the zone with my fastball and off-speed.  
**Q: Can you tell us one unusual thing about yourself that others may not know?** Big fan of playing golf along with baseball.  
**Q: What is the best part of playing high school baseball and why?** Being able to play with the boys.  
**Q: Tell me about the outlook for your team this year. What are the strengths of your team?** Our pitching staff will be outstanding. We have great arms that will help us keep the ERA's low.  
**Q: What other activities are you involved in?** I was part of the Drumline for our school band for three years.

**NICK JUAIRE, Jr. C**

Hitting	Avg	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BB	K
	.365	31	8	1	1	16			10	

**HEIGHT/WEIGHT:** 5'8 / 175  
**BATS/THROWS:** S / R  
**TOP 50 JUNIORS**  
**BREAKDOWN CLASS AAAA PRESEASON ALL-STATE**  
**ALL-SECTION 1AAAA**  
**ALL-SSC**  
**COLLEGE:** Texas Christian



**Q: Give me a short scouting report on yourself as a player. What are your strengths?** Juairé's strengths are in his bat and his arm. He is a switch hitting catcher with power from both sides of the plate. His arm is considered one of the top arm's in the nation for the 2018 class.  
**Q: Can you tell us one unusual thing about yourself that others may not know?** I have played piano for 11+ years.  
**Q: What is the best part of playing high school baseball and why?** The best part of playing high school baseball is playing with my teammates and working hard toward a state championship.  
**Q: Tell me about the outlook for your team this year. What are the strengths of your team?** We have a very strong team heading into this year. Our pitching is unbelievable! We have a lot of veterans returning and some very strong underclassmen. Its going to be a very good year.  
**Q: What other activities are you involved in?** I work with kids teaching them different aspects of baseball.

**NICK SPITT, Jr. OF/P**

Pitching	W	L	SV	ERA	IP	H	ER	BB	K
				0.94	22.1				

**HEIGHT/WEIGHT:** 6'0 / 175  
**BATS/THROWS:** R / R  
**TOP 50 JUNIORS**



**Q: Give me a short scouting report on yourself as a player. What are your strengths?** Athletic.  
**Q: Can you tell us one unusual thing about yourself that others may not know?** Barrel raced horses when I was a kid.  
**Q: What is the best part of playing high school baseball and why?** Playing baseball with your best friends, it never gets old.  
**Q: Tell me about the outlook for your team this year. What are the strengths of your team?** We have a ton of depth for pitching and defense should be good. If we can hit decently, we will go a long way.  
**Q: What other activities are you involved in?** Football.

**LAKEVILLE SOUTH**

**NICKNAME:** Cougars  
**CONFERENCE:** South Suburban  
**SECTION:** 1AAAA  
**CONFERENCE RECORD:** 4-14  
**OVERALL RECORD:** 7-18  
**STATE TRIPS:** 2000, 05 Champs (as Lakeville), 2014  
**COACH:** Bill Goodman  
**PHONE:** 612-710-2417  
**EMAIL:** bill@goodmanresources.com

**GRADUATION LOSSES:** OF/P Joe Bartholomaus; 1B/OF Aaron Brist; SS/P Casey Carlson; 2B/P Kelby Johnson (All-SSC HM, Luther); OF/P Tyler Korska; OF/P Jimmy Lapsley; OF/P Nathan Luzum; OF/P Spencer Patterson (Ellsworth CC); IF/OF Jared Saufferer (All-SSC, All-Section 1AAAA); OF/P Connor Stroh (MSU-Mankato); IF/P Austin Vandewiele (All-SSC, All-Section 1AAAA)