

Cougar Baseball
2026



PAC MEETING

March 4, 2026

ZOOM LINK:

<https://eacpds.zoom.us/j/91451766202>

Head Coach: Brent Goracke | baseball26@live.com | 612-363-7495

Athletic Director: Eric Albright | [@isd194](mailto:Eric.Albright@isd194) | 952-232-3321

Diamond Club President: Thane Hathaway | thane.hathaway@lakevillesouthbaseball.org
| 612.750.3155



#FINDAWAY



Be and Stay Connected!

Ensure you are subscribed/following these:

GameChanger

[Link to team: Lakeville South Varsity 2026 Cougar Prospects](#)

Facebook

[Facebook.com/LSHSBaseball](#)

Facebook Parent Group

[facebook.com/groups/lshsbbaseballparents](#)

Instagram

[Instagram.com/lshscougarbaseball](#)

X (Twitter)

[**@lscougsbaseball**](#)

Diamond Club Events Calendar

(Filter on Events tag. You must be logged in to see all Events and subscribe):

[LINK TO DC CALENDAR](#)



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Head Coach: **Brent Goracke**

- Pitcher at Mankato State
- Head Coach at Jordan High School (10 years)
- Manager for St. Patrick's Irish Baseball
- Coach at Lakeville South since 2023

Contact:
Baseball26@live.com
(612)363-7495



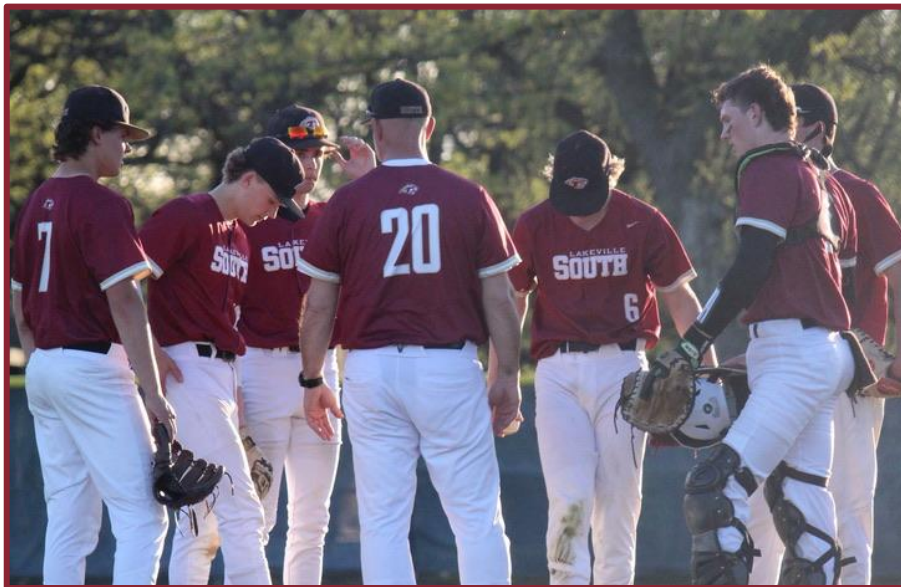
2026 Coaching Staff

- Head Coach: **Brent Goracke**
- Varsity Asst: **Corey Kennedy**
- Varsity Asst: **Jake Plucinak**
- Varsity Asst: **Kelby Johnson**

- JV Head: **Dalton Stevens**
- JV Asst: **Matt Torgerson**

- B-Squad Head: **Carter Bergdahl**

- 9A Head: **Tom Fisher**





2026 Captains



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Program Vision | Coaching Philosophy

- Competitive Teams
 - Playing time is earned every day
- Every player reaches a new level on baseball skill
- Teach baseball strategy at the highest level - deepening the love of the game
- Coaches want to be here, and continue to develop as experts in their craft
- Youth Development - kids shouldn't have to play club to get quality baseball instruction in preparation for a high school+ career
- College preparation/connections - for those interested



Our Expectations:

- Uniforms
- Baseball Opportunities
- MSHSL Rules/Violations
- Classroom
- Bussing
- Attitude & Effort
- Trust & Respect
- Emotions
- Attendance
- Own Your Role
- Fundraising
- PROGRAM FIRST





Attendance Policy

Excused absence is defined as: illness, family emergency, religious reasons, or permission by the head coach of your team. If you know you are going to be late or absent **THE PLAYER MUST COMMUNICATE BEFORE SCHEDULED TIME OF THE EVENT DIRECTLY TO THEIR HEAD COACH (TEXT OR GC)** for absence to be considered excused.

Excused

- Sick - stayed home, or left school
- Special circumstance approved by coach

Unexcused

- Forgot
- Lack of transportation
- Oversleeping
- Unapproved special circumstances
- LACK OF COMMUNICATION

Consequences

- Excused: May not start next game
- Unexcused: No playing time in the next game
- Lateness: Coach discretion





Criteria for Playing Time

Coaches decisions are based on achieving team goals. Positioning and lineup decisions are made solely by the coaching staff. Mutual trust between players, coaches, and parents is imperative. Decisions are made based on:

- Attitude
- Team-first mentality
- Game knowledge
- Effort in practice and games
- Physical/mental preparation
- Fundamental knowledge and ability
- Compliance with team rules
- Game situation
- Individual Talent





Varsity Team Selection

- "South Roles" framework fosters a competitive yet transparent environment in the Lakeville South baseball program
- The goal is for players to understand roles, compete for positions, and receive fair evaluation and feedback
- Clear expectations and opportunities are defined to enhance player experience and development

1. Catcher
2. First Base
3. Second Base
4. Third Base
5. Shortstop
6. Left Field
7. Center Field
8. Right Field
9. Starting Pitcher
10. Starting Pitcher
11. Starting Pitcher
12. Spot Starter/Reliever
13. Relief Pitcher/Closer
14. Backup Infielder
15. Backup Outfielder





Varsity Team Selection

- Players are encouraged to approach coaches during tryouts and throughout the season for feedback on their standing
- Coaches provide accurate feedback based on comprehensive assessments
- Varsity team placement is fluid until the section roster is filled
- Roles will be communicated after tryouts and during the season
- Coaches reserve the right to make cuts until Varsity playoff rosters are finalized at the end of the regular season
- "South Roles" framework fosters a competitive yet transparent environment in the Lakeville South baseball program
- The goal is for players to understand roles, compete for positions, and receive fair evaluation and feedback
- Clear expectations and opportunities are defined to enhance player experience and development





Varsity Team Selection (continued)

- Roster spots are not guaranteed solely by experience or seniority
- Players compete based on physical abilities and contributions to team morale and success
- Underclassmen not filling Varsity role:
 - Placed on lower-level team or cut, based on evaluations and tryout performance
- Seniors failing to secure Varsity role:
 - Cut from the team





Varsity Team Selection (South Roles)

- South Roles concept defines player roles on the Varsity team
- Provides structure, clarity, and transparency for coaches and players
- Varsity roster is usually 12-15 players
- Individuals who can fill multiple roles add more value
- South Roles used by coaches for tryouts and in-season evaluations
- Aim: maximize overall experience for all participants





Playing Time

9th Grade & B-Squad:

- Emphasis on practice and competitive participation
- Effort to give playing time to all players for 1st half of season
- Strive for competitiveness, not equal playing time

JV & Varsity:

- Playing time based on skilled athletes for **TEAM** success
- Best **TEAM** may not consist solely of best players
- Coaches' decisions differ from parents' opinions





Player/Parent Question Process

Step 1: Conversation between player and parent

- Get all the information first

Step 2: Conversation between player and the head coach of their team

Step 3: Meeting with player, parent, and team head coach

- Respect the 24 Hour rule
- Pick an appropriate time

Step 4: Meeting with player, parent, team head coach, varsity head coach, and Activities Director - Mr. Eric Albright

Email: Eric.Albright@isd194.org

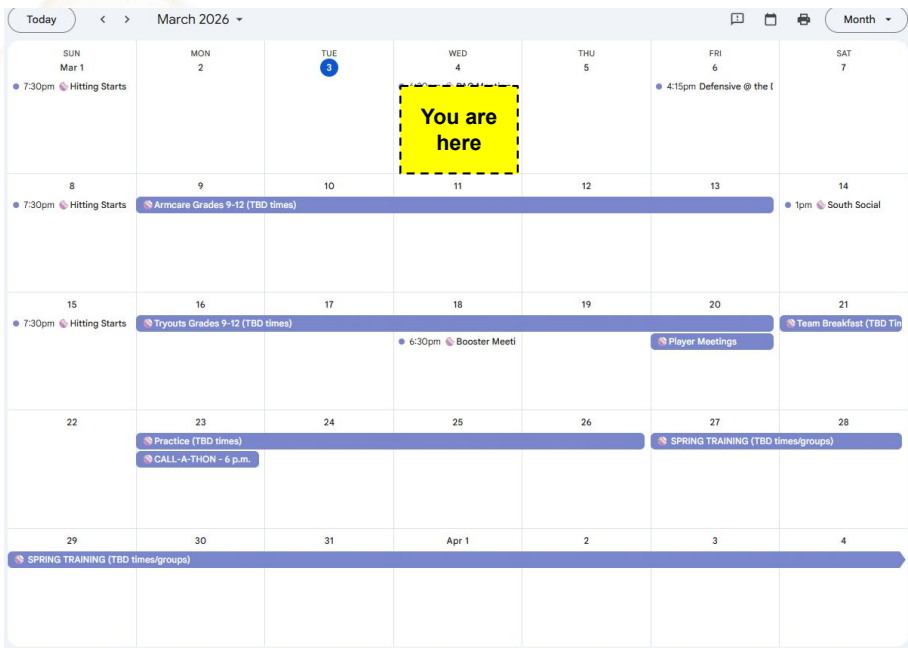
Office phone: 952-232-3321

#FINDAWAY

- All communication between coach and parent will be discussed with the player the next day
- Player upholding trust and respect is fundamental to our coaching philosophy
- Involvement is integral for personal growth within baseball
- Transparency is essential for trust and respect in player-coach relationship



2026 Tryouts + Spring Break



Tryout Schedule

- All Grades: Week of March 16
- Cuts made on Friday, March 20
 - May continue to be made through season (without refund)

Location/times: TBD

- Plan to be flexible as other sports, weather influence our calendar. Groups, times, location will be communicated via GameChanger as soon as possible.

Spring Break (mandatory)

- Local: Gym, domes, fields

Final Team Selections:

- Made during Spring Break
- Made by all staff





Player Gear

Program Provided:

- Jerseys (need to be returned)
- Hats
- Catchers gear (if needed)



Player/Parent Provided:

- Pants (White, no piping)
- Cleats (Black or white)
- Turf shoes or tennis shoes for indoor or turf fields
- Belt (Black)
- Helmet (Black - available in player store)
- Bats, gloves
- Catcher's equipment (booster owns three sets, talk to HC if needed)





Season Notes

Games start Monday, April 6!

- Most games are played at 4:30 p.m.
- Bussing is provided by the school district (except Target Field)
 - Varsity & 10th grade play at same time/location
 - JV & 9th play at same time/location

Practices will be held outside, and after school (times and locations will change)

- Plan to be flexible due to weather and sharing resources with softball and other Spring sports. Location/times will be updated via Game Changer. At times we practice as late as 9 p.m. due to availability of facilities.
- Practices will focus on baseball mechanics and strategy. We will be doing in-season weight lifting with Coach Sahli, usually before practices start (non-game days).
- Arrive fully dressed BEFORE start time. Be prepared for indoor and outdoor.
- Contact your team's Head Coach immediately for absences.



Parent Expectations



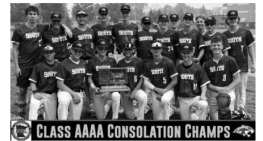
- **Stay informed**
 - Emails (from Level Coordinators and Sports Engine)
 - Game Changer - LINK
 - Social Media - like/comment/share! (Facebook, FB Parent Group, Instagram, X)
 - Subscribe to the Diamond Club Events calendar (*You must be logged in and filter on Events tag*)
- **Participate in fundraising**
- **Volunteer**
 - 10 DIBS hours required PER HOUSEHOLD

Next Steps

1. Register with LSHS Activities ([Registration Link](#)) and have current physical exam on record (email alle2664@isd194.org with questions)
 - a. Sign
 - [MSHSL Athletic Eligibility Brochure](#)
 - Transportation Release form
2. Read & Agree to all items attached in LSHS Baseball Player/Parent packet, signing agreement.
3. **Baseball Social** | March 14th Red Fox

Lakeville South Cougar Baseball
2024

PLAYER/PARENT INFORMATION



CLASS AAAA CONSOLATION CHAMPS

DEFENDING SOUTH SUBURBAN CONFERENCE
CO-CHAMPIONS

SECTION IAAAA CHAMPIONS

2014 (4th in State), 2023 (5th in State)



TM

TM