



# PORTER BASEBALL

## PORTERS BEGIN 17' SEASON WITH MIX OF VETS AND YOUTH

The 2017 season opened on March 20<sup>th</sup> with the Porters playing local rival Lemont. Thus began the 108<sup>th</sup> season of the Porters.

The 2017 26 man squad will feature a mixture of seniors with lower classmen. The infield will see seniors **DJ Studniarz**, **Bill Curtis**, **Kevin Davis**, **Gavin Lovesky** and **Brent McDowell**. They will be joined by juniors **Steven Salvino**, **Jim Cozen**, **CJ Weins** and sophomore **Josh Bentley**. Seniors **Conor Fitzgerald**, **Jake Suchor**, **Nick Stryzik** and **Matt Harder** will be joined by juniors **Austin Hoffman** and **Jim Heintz** in the Porter outfield.

The catching duties will be handled mainly by senior **Ryne Travis** with help from juniors **Bryan Fox** and **Gio Pappas**.

The Porters will return their top two starters from last year's pitching staff in **Ben Davis** and lefty **Ryan Gabriel**. Seniors **Kevin Davis**, **Matt Medina**, **Josh Baker**, **Drew Flanagan** and **Jake Suchor** will round out the staff along with juniors **CJ Weins**, **Tom Louch**, **Alec Gadomski**, **Zach Pytlewski** and **TJ Jaros**.

**Coach Andy Satunas** is looking with optimism to this season. *"I really like our up-the-middle defense, from the catching position through the outfield. We have veterans returning at each spot, except for second base, but we have a great group competing for playing time at the position."*

As far as the pitchers is concerned **Satunas** adds, *"We have a lot of arms return-ing with big-game experience,"* They now have the consistency to

*perform well and keep us in the game. The new y*

*pitch count rules have been something we have had in place, and I really believe it will be a nonissue."*

The Porters will play a heavy schedule of tournaments this season instead of a traditional schedule with a lot of non-conference single games. It is the belief that playing in tournament formats will better prepare them for the IHSA State Class AA Tournament in June.

*"Our goals remain the same every year for the program,"* **Satunas** said. *"Be better every day, play your best when it matters most, win the conference title and do well in the state tournament. They are simple goals, but if achieved, the success will come."*

## DATES YOU MAY WANT TO MARK DOWN

### Porters Special Game Nites

Porter Baseball will be hosting several special theme games this spring:

**Sat. 4/15 (Games start at 10 am)**  
**STRIKE OUT CANCER DAY**

**Sat. 4/29 10:00 am vs. Joliet West**  
**MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY**

**Sat. 5/13 10:00 am vs. Elk Grove**  
**SENIOR/ALUMNI RECOGNITION**

### Strike Out Cancer Day

Porter Baseball along with Porter Softball will host a full day of baseball and softball in our annual fundraiser in support of the **Mark Staehely Pediatric Cancer Foundation**.

The Porters on all levels will play Minooka:

**10 am Freshman White**  
**12 pm Freshman Maroon**  
**2 pm Sophomore**  
**4 pm JV**  
**6 pm Varsity**

### Special Events

**WJOL Tournament 3/31-4/1**  
-Porters will play against local teams from the Lockport area.

**PBR Super Preps Tournament 4/5-4/7**  
-Porters travel to Louisville, KY. to play teams from Kentucky, Tennessee and North Carolina

**Wounded Warrior Tourney 5/5-5/6**  
-Hosted by Edwardsville H.S. Also includes Glenwood and Highland

**Steven Bajenski Memorial Tournament 5/18-5/20**  
-Times, sites and opponents TBA

# 2017 PORTERS COMMIT TO PLAY COLLEGE BASEBALL

OF Nick Strysik will play for Central College Dutch in Pella, Iowa,

INF Gavin Lovesky will attend the U. of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri.

C Ryne Travis will attend Olney Central College in Olney, Illinois.

P Billy Curtis will attend Trinity Christian College in Palos Hts, Il.

P Drew Flanagan who will attend Robert Morris College.

OF Jake Suchor, OF Conor Fitzgerald, INF Brent McDowell and OF Matt Harder will attend the College of Du Page.

## 2017 PORTERS HIT THE ROAD EARLY AND OFTEN!!

As was mentioned earlier in this newsletter the Porters have adjusted their current schedule to emphasize tournament play in several different formats. In previous years the Porters would play a conference schedule with a mix of non-conference games including most Saturdays which were often double-headers.



### WJOL/DON LADAS MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT

This tournament has been around a very long time but became a memorial tourney after long-time WJOL radio host and friend of Porter Baseball Don Ladas passed away in 2014. The Porters play from a group of local teams including Joliet Central, Joliet West, Joliet Catholic, Minooka, Plainfield Central, Providence and L-Way West.



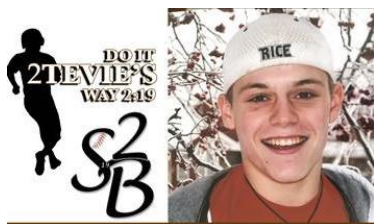
### 2017 PBR SUPER PREP BASEBALL TOURNAMENT

The Porters will travel to Louisville, Kentucky to play top teams from several states including Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Illinois, Indiana, West Virginia and North Carolina. This season, the Porters will play a mix of JV games as well as regular games. They will play host Ballard (KY) @ 5:30 4/5, Providence (IN) @ 5:30 4/6 and Hickory (NC) @ 5:30 4/7.



### EDWARDSVILLE TIGER WOUNDED WARRIOR CLASSIC

This is an annual trip for the Porters. Usually in the first weekend in May, the Porters head south to take on three state baseball powers who are all former State Champions. On Friday (5/5 @ 7) the Porters take on host Edwardsville and then play two on Sat. vs. Glenwood-Chatham @ 11:00 am followed by Highland (IL) @ 1:30. This year's tourney will benefit the Wounded Warrior Project.



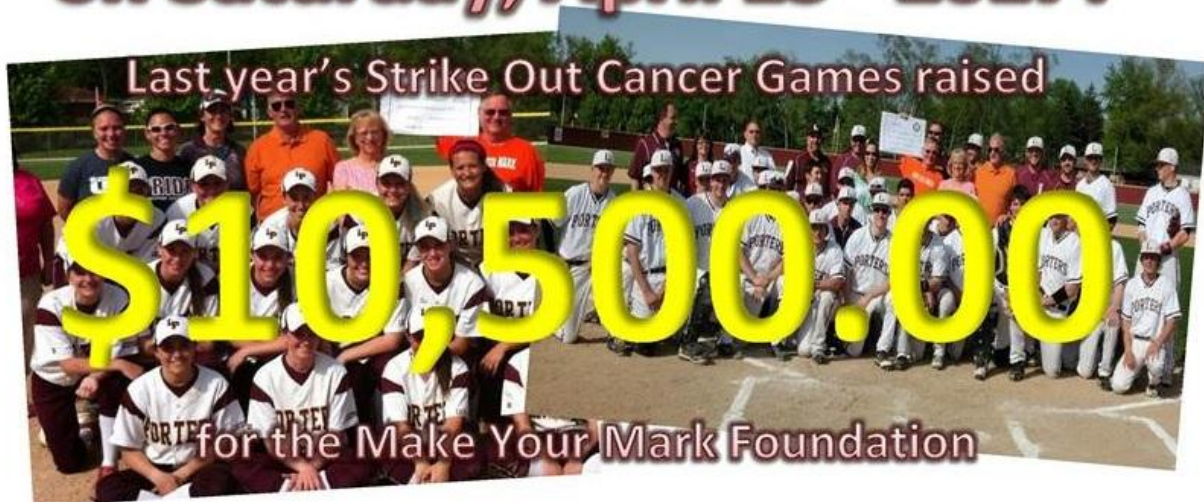
### STEVEN BAJENSKI MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT

It has been our honor to participate in this prestigious tournament for the second time this season. Early play begins with a single game Tues., 4/11 vs. St. Laurence at Flink Field. Final tournament games will be played at Standard Bank Stadium in Crestwood Thursday thru Saturday (5/18-5/20). The tournament is in honor of former Mt. Carmel baseball player, Steven Bajenski.



# STRIKE OUT CANCER DAY OF BASEBALL

## Can You Help Us "Strike Out Cancer" on Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup> 2017?



## JOSH ALTMANN UPDATE



After a successful winter ball season in Australia, Josh had little time to catch his breath before heading to Surprise, Arizona to join fellow Texas Rangers minor leaguers in spring training. According to our sources (Josh's dad Walter) Josh had a great experience "down under" and completed a successful season playing 1B for the Adelaide Bite (right A TV snapshot from Australia All-Star game). He finished with a .255 BA in 40 games including 12 extra-base hits and 21 RBI. His Arizona spring training went extremely well that included playing 7 games with the big club. He had 1 hit (3B) in 6AB and an RBI.



At the end of the spring Josh received great news that he had been promoted to the new High A affiliate in Kinston, North Carolina. The 2017 season will be the 1<sup>st</sup> season for the Down East Wood Ducks. Josh will be joining his teammates on April 2<sup>nd</sup> in a meet and greet with their fans in North Carolina before the start of their season.

You can follow Josh all season live on Facebook at *Down East Wood Ducks*. You can also follow them on Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat @GoWoodDucks as well on the Wood Ducks' website *WoodDucksBaseball.com*.



# WELCOME NEW PORTER BASEBALL MEMBERS

The Porters would like to congratulate and welcome all new players to our 2017 baseball family. After a hectic week of tryouts from February 27<sup>th</sup> to March 3<sup>rd</sup>, the rosters of all three levels were announced (below). The Porter program would like to thank ALL of those who participated in tryouts and their families who had to get them to tryout sessions that occurred at various times and locations. With the squeeze for space in the East Campus Field House being tight due to various activities also conducting tryouts as well as indoor seasons, it was necessary to hold both morning, afternoon and evening sessions. Availability of the turf football field eased things a bit and “milder” temperatures allowed use of this facility. We would also like to thank the Athletic Office and administration for their support.

## 2017 VARSITY

Josh Baker  
Josh Bentley  
Jim Cozen  
Bill Curtis  
Ben Davis  
Kevin Davis  
Conor Fitzgerald  
Drew Flanagan  
Bryan Fox  
Ryan Gabriel  
Alec Gadomski  
Matt Harder  
Jim Heintz  
Austin Hoffman  
TJ Jaros  
Tom Louch  
Gavin Lovesky  
Brent McDowell  
Matt Medina  
Gio Pappas  
Zach Pytlewski  
Steven Salvino  
Nick Stryzik  
DJ Studniarz  
Jake Suchor  
Ryne Travis  
CJ Weins

## 2017 SOPHOMORE

Luke Bentley  
Nick Frost  
John Gallett  
Justin Gasper  
Aaron Grcevic  
Sean Greaney  
Adam Hansen  
Austin Hubert  
Matt Kronsbein  
Jake Kundrat  
Alex Martinez  
Jack Mladic  
Jack Moran  
Jalen Rannells  
Noah Schad  
Nick Schindler  
John Stoch  
Joe Tor  
Nolan Vlcek  
Jack Vrba  
Zach Wehrman  
John Weis  
Nolan Weis  
Collin Woulfe

## 2017 FRESHMAN

Caleb Andrea  
George Andretich  
Michael Barber  
Tony Blazekovich  
Kyle Boone  
Payton Collins  
Jake Dagsy  
Tim DiCristofano  
Devin Drake  
Drew Connor  
Aaron Hernandez  
Tim Hoak  
Sam Hook  
Kyle Janssen  
Jake Kaczmarek  
Jake Kampf  
Cody Kundrith  
Bryon Mane  
Brian Markham  
Dallas Miedona  
Zach Murray  
Brandon Onagan  
Vince Sartori  
Jon Studniarz  
Toth. Matt  
Marcos Voulgaris  
Ryan Waddell  
Donny Wallace  
Alec Wattawa  
Ryan Way  
Logan Zarbock

An interesting note about the rosters of the Porter Baseball program is that this season we have several sons of former Porter baseball players that are now playing for the Porters.

On the freshman and sophomore levels we see some familiar names from Porter teams of the past. Three freshman players' fathers played together on the same 1987 and 1988 Porters. Fathers of Vince Sartori (Dave), Ryan Waddell (Jeff) and Marcos Voulgaris (Spiro) all played for Hall of Fame coaches Clyde Odle and Jim Hall. On the Sophomore team, Aaron Grcevic's dad Brad also played with those former Porters in 87' and 88'.

Also on the freshman team, Tony Blzekovich joins his older brother, former Porter infielder and current Frosh Asst. Coach Lorenzo (13'-14'). Jon Studniarz' older brother DJ is a current varsity player. Several players also have been coached on summer-fall area teams by former Porter players Jim Batusich (89-90), Dave Mondrella (85-86) and Greg Blaesing (87-89).



# WHO ARE THESE GUYS ANYWAY?????

These two guys roamed the green grass of Flink Field during the 2012 and 2013 seasons. Do you know who they are?



The fine looking young man on the left (though you wouldn't have guessed sports was in his future in that getup!), was a cornerstone of the Porters' pitching staff during those seasons. His job was to come in during tough situations and shut the opponent down and boy did he ever. In his 2-yr. career he had a 4-2 record with 4 saves mostly in relief. In 51+ innings he struck out 62 batters and earned a 2.20 ERA. He is now a major pitcher on the staff at UIC.



The young man on the right may look like he didn't even know how to wear a baseball cap but he figured it out by the time he played outfield for the Porters. In the 2013 season he was 3<sup>rd</sup> in hits with 31 and stole 15 of 21 bases. An anchor in RF, in his career he had a perfect 1.000 fielding % handling all 68 chances without an error. He went on to play two seasons under Coach Wayne King at Joliet Junior College.



ANSWERS (in reverse):

Left: **RONNOC NAYR**

Right: **FFEJ NOSITTAP**

## PORTER COACHES NEWS AND OTHER "ODDS" AND ENDS

The Porters have welcomed several new coaches to our staff this season. Some are new to the Lockport community and LTHS but a couple have been seen in the halls of LTHS before as former students and Porter baseball players. On the freshman level Pat Flynn, Bo Starkey and Lorenzo Blazekovich join Brandon Morrone's staff.

Pat Flynn is a member of the Special Education staff at LTHS and will work with hitters and outfielders. Bo Starkey is a baseball and football program alum and is the son of Head Football coach Dan Starkey. Needless to say Bo has been around good coaching a long time and will be our Head Freshman White team coach.

Lorenzo Blazekovich was a Porter in 2013 and 2014. He played middle infield as well as pitch in relief for Coach Satunas. He will work with a fine group of freshman pitchers that happens to include his younger brother Tony.

The sophomore team is also very fortunate to welcome Andy Zuales to its staff. Andy was a two sport athlete at St. Francis University and played under legendary coach Gordie Gillespie. At USF Coach Zuales led the Saints his senior season in hitting, extra base hits and RBI's. He was a 2<sup>nd</sup> team All-CCAC selection. Last season, Coach Zuales served as the Head Coach at Manteno High School where they finished 22-11-1. He brings a wealth of coaching experience having served as an assistant coach at Manteno and Lincoln-Way West as well.



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## **PORTER BASEBALL**

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**Coach Andy Satunas**

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