



PORTER BASEBALL

PORTERS SUMMER WRAPUP

After wrapping up their spring season, the Porters wasted little time organizing their summer program. This year, in addition to the usual varsity and JV summer squads, the Porter program introduced a new team consisting of players that will be attending LTHS as freshmen this coming school year.

The varsity and JV held three day tryouts. At the conclusion of the tryouts, teams were determined and players notified. After several practices, both teams embarked on their individual schedules.

The incoming frosh team was coached by head freshman coach Brandan Morrone and recently graduated Porters Jake Suchor, DJ Studniarz and Ryne Travis. It consisted of players that signed up thru the Lockport Community Wellness Center and their schedule consisted of

high school level practices and playing JV (soph.) teams of local high schools.

The varsity team consisted of seniors Jim Cozen, Bryan Fox, Alec Gadomski, Jimmy Heintz, TJ Jaros, Tommy Louch, Zach Pytlewski and CJ Weins. Juniors Josh and Luke Bentley, Nick Frost, John Gallet, Jacob Goss, Sean Greaney, Adam Hansen, Alex Martinez, Jack Mladic, Jalen Rannells, Joe Tor, Jack Vrba, Zach Wehrman, Nolan and John Weis and Collin Woulfe. Sophs Jake Dagys, Nick Schindler and Marcos Voulgaris and freshman Ryan Moerman.

The team finished 10-4-1 with most games within 3 tournaments. The coaches all agree that major strides were made by most players but the pitchers did an especially fine job. Summer pitching coach Tim Harmatys stated "from competing on

the mound to pitch selection and communication with catchers, the staff was proud of how the pitchers threw this summer".

Senior Tommy Louch continued where he finished the spring, with well executed games in the Wood Bat tournament and summer playoffs. Senior CJ Weins also had a stellar summer with a strong start in the Omaha, Wood Bat and IHSBCA playoffs. He showed swing and miss stuff with a plus fastball and a sharp slider. Juniors Jack Vrba and Joe Tor came on strong this summer with quality outings in relief. As long as the pitching staff continues to execute pitches early in the count and compete, our defense is good enough to take care of the rest and help support the pitchers. Harmatys added "we are looking forward to seeing the pitchers continue to develop more as pitchers and as a pitching staff for the spring season."

2017 SUMMER CAMPS A GREAT SUCCESS!



Here are just a few of the camps that area youth attended this summer.

The annual Porter Summer Baseball Camp was held for youths K thru 8th grade June 12th-15th and was attended by close to 100 boys. Each day the campers were given instruction by Porter coaches and former players on various aspects of baseball. The final day consisted of games between the campers held on various fields in and around Flink Field. The picture is but a small portion of those that participated.

Another camp was held June 26th-28th at Flink. This was the Advanced Skills camp during which players 4th thru 9th grade were given advanced instruction on hitting and defense. Porter coaches ran the campers through advanced drills and techniques.

The final event was the annual Porter Baseball Showcase/Identification Camp held on July 17th and 18th for players in 6th thru 8th grade. During this camp attendees were evaluated on their throwing, hitting, defense and pitching. They were also timed on their throws/arm strength from both the OF and INF.

All in all a very busy and productive summer for the Porter program.

MORE 2017 PORTERS MOVE ON TO COLLEGE

Since our last newsletter some Porters have decided where they will be attending college this fall. **RHP Ben Davis** has committed to take his game to the west coast where he will attend and play for Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa, California. According to Ben and a double check with Google Maps, Orange Coast is 2 miles, I repeat **TWO MILES** from the Pacific Ocean and beaches such as Huntington Beach State Beach. Ben, we will be expecting an invitation sometime in December/January.

LHP Ryan Gabriel on the other hand chose to stay close to home and take his pitching to South Suburban College in South Holland, Illinois which according to Google Maps is **2,027 MILES** from Huntington Beach, California. I guess Ben and Ryan did not consult each other on college choices. However, Ryan will be joining former Porter teammate and Bulldog standout Stephen Hill next season. We wish both a great season and much success.

VARSIY PORTERS SUMMER TOURNAMENT PLAY

The majority of baseball this summer on the varsity level was involved with playing tournaments. After two quick double-headers against Providence and Minooka, the Porters hit the road on their annual trip to Omaha, Nebraska to participate in the ***19U Battle of Omaha*** tournament which is held during the first week of the College World Series.



The Porters went 2-2 in pool play. They opened against Weber Utah and were defeated 3-1. The next day the Porters played two games losing to Allen, Texas 4-1 and defeating Jamestown, South Dakota 10-4. On the final day, they defeated Faith Christian of Colorado 9-1 and then headed back to Lockport.

During their stay the Porters took in two games of the College World Series (r). On Sunday June 18th they saw eventual World Series Champion Florida defeat TCU 3-0 and then again on Tuesday June 20th Florida defeat Louisville 5-1.



The Porters then held their annual ***Wood Bat Classic Tournament*** with teams from Palatine, Andrew, Marist, Lincoln-Way West and Oak Lawn participating. The Porters won the tournament going undefeated with a 5-0 record. They opened with a 7-0 defeat of Palatine with Jack Vrba throwing the complete game shutout on 3 hits and 6 K's. Next victim of the Porters was Marist in a tough 2-1 game that saw TJ Jaros do most of the work. TJ not only threw the complete game but also hit the winning 2 run HR. Next for the Porters would be back to back games with Andrew defeating the Thunderbolts 13-7. Jacob Goss had a big 3 run 2B as well as Nolan Weis with 2 RBI. The Porters finished off the Bolts winning 2-1 on Tommy Louch's complete game 2 hitter with 10 K's. In the championship game the Porters had a rematch with Marist and came away with the tournament title with a 5-0 win. CJ Weins went 6 innings limiting the Redhawks to 2 hits and striking out 11. Jimmy Heintz delivered the big hit with a 2 run HR. Additionally, Josh Bentley was 2 for 2 with an RBI and both Ryan Moerman and Nolan Weis had big RBI's in the 4 run 4th.



After a Fourth of July break, the Porters opened play in their own regional of the IHSBCA Phil Lawler Summer Tournament. The Porters opened strong with an 11-1 five inning defeat of Lemont behind the pitching of Tommy Louch's complete game effort and the hitting of Josh Bentley (3 for 3), John Weis (2 RBI) and Jack Mladic (4 RBI).

Next, the Porters defeated Plainfield North 7-1. CJ Weins pitched an awesome game striking out 10. Offensively Jack Mladic (HR) and Nick Schindler (2 RBI) had a big day. These two wins put the Porters into the regional championship vs. SWSC rival Lincoln-Way East. The Porters jumped out with 3 first inning runs but fell behind 6-3 after 5. They got within 1 on Collin Woulfe's clutch 2 run single but they could not hold on and were defeated 8-5. Jimmy Heintz, Josh Bentley and Jack Mladic each had 2 hits in the loss.

PORTER PROS UPDATE



Josh Altmann (12') as of the end of July was playing 1B and 3rd for the Down East Wood Ducks, the Class A-Advanced affiliate of the Texas Rangers in the Carolina League. In 94 games Josh has knocked 8 HR's and batted in 31 runs. His on base % is .336 with an OPS of .719. According to MLB.com last week, *"He's hitting .231 with a career-high eight homers while primarily playing at the corner infield positions. His 14 doubles are three shy of matching a career best, and he's five RBIs away from equaling the number he drove in all of last season. Altmann even suited up for the South in last month's Carolina League All-Star Game and participated in the Home Run Derby."*



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](#)



Connor Ryan (13') is entering his 1st season as a professional baseball player. After completing his senior year at UIC, Connor was drafted by the Cincinnati Reds in the 8th round of the MLB draft. He is currently assigned to the Billings Mustangs in Billings, Montana. Billings is the Advanced Rookie League of the Reds. Connor has appeared in 9 games (all in relief). He is 0-2 with an ERA of 5.09 and is 4 for 4 in saves with 1 hold. He has a WHIP of 1.13.



You can follow Connor on the Mustangs [website](#)

BUSY SUMMER FOR PORTER BASEBALL ALUMNI

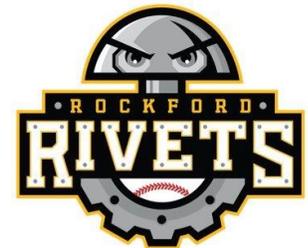
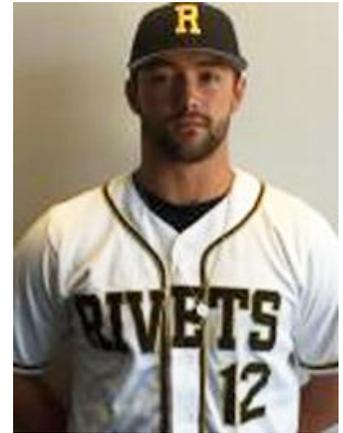


Derek Bangert (13') (left) and Cole Bellair (15') (right) have had busy summers after completing successful college seasons. Both are playing in the well-regarded Northwoods College Summer League and are enjoying great success. Northwoods is a summer collegiate league in its 24th season, many MLB players have played for it including Max Scherzer, Ben Zobrist, Chris Sale and Curtis Granderson.

Bangert just completed his 1st year at Bradley U. where he hit .278 with 14 HR and 42 RBI. This summer he plays for the Kenosha Kingfish and was named to the league's all-star game on July 18th in Wausau, Wisconsin. He is currently batting 4th for the Kingfish hitting .288 with 10 HR, 11 2B and 52 RBI.



Bellair was a sophomore for the Fighting Illini and finished as a rotational starter unusual for an underclassman. He finished with a 3-2 record and an ERA of 6.97 with 41 K's in 51+ IP. Summer finds him playing for the Rockford Rivets and was also chosen as an All-Star. He leads his team in wins and strikeouts. He has 51 K's in 58 innings pitched and has a 4-2 record. Cole



has an ERA of 4.65.

You can follow both on their individual team sites:

[Kenosha Kingfish](#)

[Rockford Rivets](#)



SUMMER FARM REPORT (SUMMARIES OF JV & FROSH SUMMER SEASONS)

The summer of 2017 saw the incoming sophomore JV summer team have a great season as did a new team of the Porters program, that of incoming freshman that are enrolled for LTHS in the fall. Here is a brief summary of their summer season and some thoughts from their coaches.

The JV team was coached by sophomore coach Dan Blaskovitz assisted by frosh assistant coach Pat Flynn and consisted of players who, this past spring finished a highly successful season on the freshman level. That season had both its ups and downs, but the most important thing is that they continued to work hard and finished the season by achieving their number one goal by winning the conference championship. The most impressive thing to look at from a team perspective for this group was that after starting out playing .500 ball, the boys made some adjustments, changed their attitude, and went 18-2 from that point on. That was a statement about character and their work ethic that impressed the Porter coaches.

Coach Blaskovitz stated, *“The JV team finished the summer undefeated while the coaches observed solid growth by every player that resulted in great success. The boys were very aggressive at the plate with a lot of quality at-bats. They were just as aggressive on the bases stealing a lot of bases as well as taking an extra 90 feet whenever the situation called for it whether it on base hits or balls in the dirt. The pitchers were allowed to call their own game with only one instruction from the coaching staff, “if you're going to get beat get beat by giving up hits not walks.” This group is very coachable and they're all great kids and had a lot of fun playing the game. With great attitudes they truly wanted to get better every day. The coaches loved working with this group and can't wait to see what they can do next spring.”*

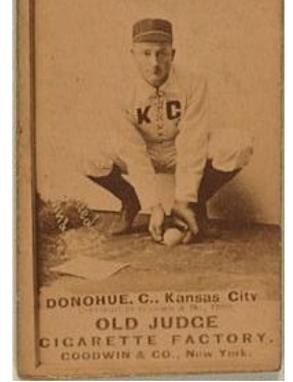
A new summer team was organized this season, that of incoming freshmen. This part of our program combined a camp, practices and games against JV teams from other schools. It was a way for the Porter program to introduce some of the components of our system both offensive and defensive. It was also a way for coaches to get to know some of the players who plan on trying out for the freshman team this coming spring. Coaches were head freshman coach Brandan Morrone and some of our graduating seniors who expressed an interest in coaching. It was very satisfying as coaches to see some of these fine young men lend their knowledge and expertise to players just beginning their Porter baseball journeys. Jake Suchor, DJ Studniarz and Ryne Travis were an invaluable asset to the coaches.

Coach Morrone had this to say about his young team; *“having had the opportunity to work with our incoming freshmen this summer was outstanding! We had over 40 players who joined us and had their first crack at being part of the Porter Baseball Program. Every one of them went up against players who are older than them as we played all JV teams from other schools. It was great to see these young men go out and get wins against quality programs such as Joliet West and Andrew, as well as playing several other hard fought games. We saw many great things from these young men from start to finish this summer and we are very excited to get it going again in the spring!”*

A LOOK AT LOCKPORT'S BASEBALL HERITAGE



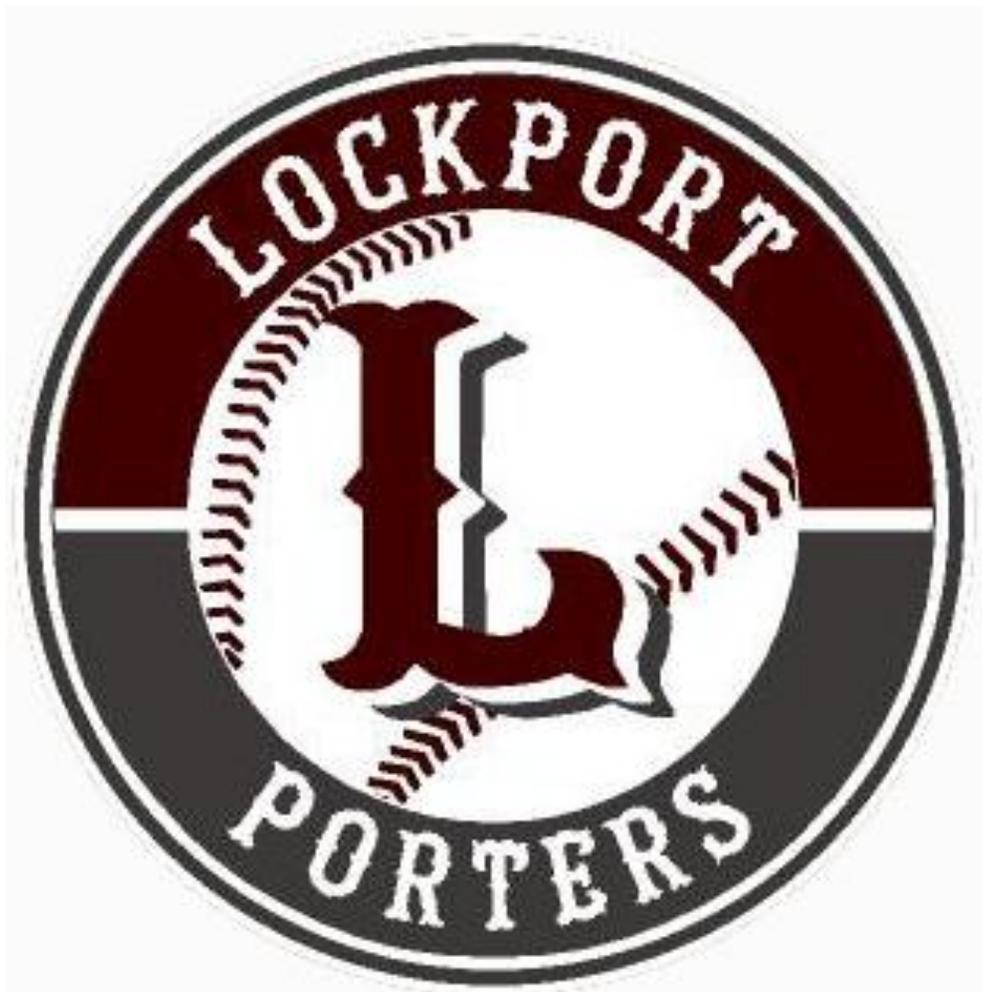
It is very well known in the Will County area that the Lockport community area has a long relationship with the game of baseball. As early as the late 1800's area citizens have played organized baseball. Some, like Earle Harry Decker and Jimmy Donahue, played in the early major leagues. Harry Decker (left) has even been credited with the invention of the "hinged catcher's mitt". Donahue (right) played 5 years, returned to Lockport and opened a saloon.



The Central campus opened its doors in 1910 and the earliest mention of LTHS baseball that we can find was in a 1911 school "Handbook" (forerunner of the yearbook) that listed a baseball team coached by Leon Judd. However, we know that LTHS as a school goes back further than that into the 1880's. Its first graduating class was in 1888.

Here are two pictures that were given us by former Porter assistant baseball coach and Lockport Area Historical and Genealogical Society (LAGHS) Archivist John Johnson. They are from a post card dated 1904 that pictures the "Dellwood Park Baseball Team 1904". 1904 was the year Dellwood Park opened. Newspaper articles from that period stated that Dellwood sported a "...boat house, dance hall, roller coaster and a *baseball field*". One of the two pictures (below) probably shows them playing on that new field. While some of the players shown in the team picture are older, a few look to be high school age. Could they also have been playing for the Lockport Porters? Names of these players are: Top Row (l-r) Will Moots, Ed Dutteirile, Bert Snyder, August Moots, James Snyder. Bottom Row (l-r) Lee Snyder, William Staley, Nick Voigt, Harold Boward(?). You can visit LAGHS at www.lockporthistory.org





PORTER BASEBALL

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