



PORTER BASEBALL

SIGNS FROM THE DUGOUT

Coach Satunas and Porters Begin 2012 Campaign

The Porters finished the 2011 regular season with a record of 23-12. In the SWSC Conference the Porters finished first with an 11-3 record. Their expectations are even higher this season as they began the 2012 campaign on March 22 with a 14-1 win over Thornwood.

With only 4 starters returning from the 11' squad the Porters are definitely looking younger. Still, Coach Satunas has high expectations for his young team. "We are a very athletic and physical team," Satunas said. "Our size and speed will allow us to compete with any team in the area. We have some very talented players but they are going to have to fill some big shoes."

The young team took great strides this summer playing an ambitious schedule that included not only playing in the IHSBCA Summer League but traveling to several tournaments including the highly regarded Battle of Omaha 19U tourney held during the College World Series.

The key to our having a successful season will be the quality

and depth of the Porter pitching staff. The Porters return only 49 innings of experience on the mound from their three returning seniors. One of the players Satunas will depend on will be senior Nick Davito. "Nick has grown tremendously on the mound and we will look to him to keep us in the big games," Satunas said. "We're definitely going to lean on him for some leadership." Besides Davito, seniors Matt DeGraw and Rob Walus will play big parts and provide depth in starting and relief roles. With only three returning pitchers, the juniors coming onto the varsity, Doug Matthews, Evan Martens, Connor Ryan, Eric Duzan, Nick Lindemann as well as sophomore K.C. Erickson will have to contribute in a big way.

There is no doubt that the Porters strength lies in its offensive ability both at the plate and on the bases. The Porters as a team hit a healthy .350 and stole a record setting 156 of 190 bases. "Offensively, I'm excited

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March, April Calendar

A complete listing of games and special events during the first two months of the 2012 season.

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A closer look at Pat Domke as he begins his 1st yr. at Il. Wesleyan and Jory Koehler who is finishing up at Kankakee JC

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Special Events of Note

- **MINERS SHOWCASE TOURNAMENT**
March 26th-29th Marion, Il.
- **WJOL TOURNAMENT**
March 30th-31st...Flink Field & Silver Cross Fld.
- **PORTER MATTRESS SALE FUNDRAISER**
Sun, April 22nd
- **STRIKEOUT CANCER DAY** Sat., April 14th
vs. Minooka Frosh. 10/12, Soph. 2:30, Var. 7:00
- **EDWARDSVILLE TIGER CLASSIC**
May 5-th-6thEdwardsville, Il.
- **PORTERS ANNUAL GOLF OUTING**
Summer 2012, Date and Time TBA

March 2012

19	20	21	22 4:30p S-Fr vs. Thornwood 4:30p Var @ Thornwood	23	24 11 Soph @ Stagg (DH) 11 Stagg @ Frosh (DH)
26 9 Var.-St. Charles N.-Marion Tourney 11 FA-@Lake Central (2) 11 S-LAKE CENTRAL (2) 12p Var.-Warren Twp.-Miners Tourney	27 6p Var.-Cary Grove- Marion Tourney	28 3p Var.JV-Mundelein-Marion Tourney 4p FA-CHICAGO CHRISTIAN 4p S-CHICAGO CHRISTIAN	29 9 Var-Mundelein-Marion Tourney 4:30p FB-@Oak Park	30 11 FA-@Hinsdale Cen. (2) 11 S-@Hinsdale Cen. (2) 4:30p FB-@Plainfield C. 6:30p Var.-JCA- WJOL Tourney	31 TBA-Var.- WJOL Tourney TBA-Var.-WJOL TTourney 11 FB- LYONS TWP. (2)

April 2012

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3 4:30p FA@Bradley 4:30p S@Bradley 4:30p V- BRADLEY	4	5 4:30p FA- STAGG 4:30p S- STAGG 4:30p V @Stagg	6	7 11 FA-ST. LAURENCE(2) 11 FB@Lyons Twp. (2) 11 S- ST. LAURENCE (2) 11 V @St. Laurence
9 4:30p FA @Andrew 4:30p S @Andrew 4:30p V-ANDREW	10	11 4:30p FA- LWAY E. 4:30p S- LWAY E. 4:30p V @LWay E.	12	13 4:30p FA @LWay E. 4:30p FB-JOLIET W. 4:30p S @LWay E. 4:30p V- LWAY E.	14 10 FB-Minooka 12p FA-Minooka 2p S-Minooka 7p Var.-Minooka
16 4:30p FB-@Mt. Carmel	17 4:30p FA-JOLIET W. 4:30p S- JOLIET W. 4:30p V @Jol. West	18	19 4:30p FA @Joliet W. 4:30p FB- JOLIET W. 4:30p S @Joliet W. 4:30p V- JOLIET W.	20 4:30p FA @JCA 4:30p S @JCA 7p Var.-JCA	21 10 FA- NAP. C. (2) 10 FB @Nap. C. (2) 10 S- NAP.C. (2) 10 Var.-@Nap. Cen.
23 4:30p FA @Sandburg 4:30p S @Sandburg 4:30p V-SANDBURG	24 4:30p FB- WILMINGTON	25 4:30p FA- SANDBURG 4:30p S-SANDBURG 4:30p V @ Sandburg	26 4:30p FB @Herscher	27 4:30p FA @H-F 4:30p S @H-F 4:30p V- H-F	28
30 4:30p FA-OAK FOREST 4:30p FB-@Glenbard West	May 1 4:30p FA- H-F 4:30p S- H-F 4:30p V @H-F	2 4:30p FA @L-Way N. 4:30p FA-@L-Way N.	3 4:30p FA- BBROOK 4:30p S- BBROOK 4:30p V @BBrook	4 7p V @Edwardsville- Tiger Classic	5 10 FA/FB-OAK LAWN (DH) 10 Var. @Tiger Classic 11 S @Oak Lawn (2) 12:30p Var-@Tiger Classic



Hello Jordan Bartley!!!
Congrats to new parents Coach Matt Bartley and his wife Traci and proud brothers Tyler and Leyton on the arrival of daughter and sister Jordan born March 20th

*Check our website (www.porterbaseball.org) for any last minute changes.

*Also, sign up on GameChanger (www.gamechanger.com) and follow the Porters inning by inning, batter by batter as games unfold.

CONGRATULATIONS PORTERS

PORTER SOPHOMORES

Coach Dan Blaskovitz

Coach Dave Jeglinski

Coach Andy Leonard

Lorenzo Blazekovich
Tom Bochenek
Colin Cronberg
Colin Cruz
Ryan Dalton

Frank Diaz
Matt Duplessis
Mike Formella
Chris Grazioli
Tyler Hair

Rusty Hoh
Jordan Johnston
Dan Kaleel
Nick Kaleel
Andrew Kosmowski

Avery Lochow
Noah Masa
Kenny Mashek
Ray Nolan
Jeremy Quade

Jake Stanton
Tyler Strutz
Tony Walthers
Ryan Zajeski

PORTER FRESHMEN

Coach Adam Wason

Coach Tim Harmatys

Coach Doug Chesna

Coach Brandan Morrone

Byran Brandyk
Troy Bateman
Mike Bejlovec
Cole Bellair
Jared Bitters
Brody Chmielewski
Hayden Chromy
Trevor Cielinski
Anthony Conolly

Kyle Gallagher
Josh Grabinski
Anthony Grybauskas
Jon Hager
Gehrig Hollatz
Michael Howard
David Irving
Eric Johnson
Tyler Johnson

Sean Kelley
Mike Kosinski
Andy Longanecker
Marco Montefusco
Austin Moralis
Tyler Nassar
Mike Obermeyer
Taylor O'Donnell
Ethan Phillips

Davis Purviance
Josh Quade
Cory Savage
Cody Schlusemann
Matt Sheldon
Carl Strom
Jake Wirtz
Ben Wishba
Austin Zborek



The players listed above are members of the Lockport Porters baseball program. They finished a week of tryouts under difficult circumstances. If anyone has been in the Lockport East field house after school during the first week of baseball, you know what we are talking about.

One might think that with all of those facilities, it would be easy to conduct tryouts. However, if you consider all of the spring sports conducting tryouts or holding practice and add those winter sports finishing up their season you can begin to understand the complex scheduling that must be developed. On any day of the week of February 27th you would see both Boys and Girls Indoor Track, Girls Softball (all three levels), Boys Baseball (all three levels) and at times Girls Soccer holding meets, practices or conducting tryouts. In addition, Girls Badminton and Boys Basketball use the main gym at East Campus as well.

The Athletic Department staff and all coaches are to be congratulated on their organization and “creativity” in accommodating the huge amount of athletes participating. For our players we would like to thank the parents who had to transport their sons at odd hours for the tryouts. Your co-operation made a “trying” week of tryouts a little easier.

COACHES CORNER:

by **Tim Harmatys** Freshman Pitching Coach

• Pitching at the High School Level...A Whole New Ballgame

There are numerous difficulties players will face when they become part of the Porter Pitching Staff. The first of many difficulties player struggle with are the pitching mechanics. The mechanics in general at the lower level is poor compared to varsity pitchers. Players have received pitching lessons from coaches outside the program and there are components that do not “fit” our philosophy here at Lockport; players will try to mimic major league pitchers and the players have no idea what or why they are doing it; finally, players have received no pitching lessons and just pitch how they have done in the past. As a pitching coach here at Lockport, there are certain mechanical checkpoints I will make sure players are performing through their personal delivery; I am not molding players into a “cookie-

cutter” approach. The biggest problem with mechanics is trying to break old poor habits and create new proper habits; there are specific drills and progressions we will address to pursue fixing the major mechanical flaws and fine-tune the minor flaws.

Another challenge or difficulty incoming pitchers face when they enter our Pitching Program is adjusting to failure. Players have experienced what it feels to be successful at travel ball or junior high ball, but high school baseball and is so much DIFFERENT. Most, if not all of the starting players on different high school teams were the best on their travel teams; thus, pitchers are going against the best players and are going to struggle and fail at times. Pitchers need to understand that baseball is a game of failure and

EVERYONE is going to experience it – even major league pitchers. Therefore; we teach the players to focus on the PROCESS OVER THE OUTCOME; if we focus on the process of pitching, let the outcome take care of itself. If pitchers do not adjust to failure and bouncing back with confidence, they will not progress as a pitcher.

Another complexity with lower level pitching is that there is a SURPLUS of pitching at the lower level. Due to the fact that the freshmen team has two squads, we need to have many pitchers – 15-17 pitchers (almost half the team). Because we have a surplus of pitching, the problem arises with splitting time with the other position(s) they play. How do we overcome splitting time with

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PORTER BASEBALL ALUMNI FOCUS

Pat Domke.....Class of 11'



Pat was a 2 yr. varsity player for the Porters. In two seasons his growth as a player and person was outstanding. During his senior season Pat developed into an important part of the Porter pitching staff pitching in 12 games and accumulating 21.3 IP. He struck out 16 walked 11 and finished with a record of W1-L1-IS.

During the season Pat decided that Illinois Wesleyan was the place to continue his playing career and Coach Dennis Martel and his coaching staff gladly accepted Pat as a new Titan.

Jory Koehler.....Class of 09'



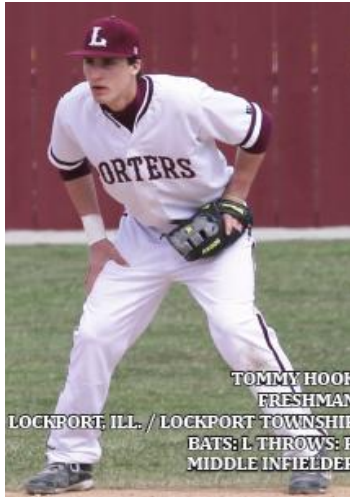
Before moving on to play baseball for the Cavaliers of Kankakee Junior College, Jory was a 2 year infielder for the Porters lettering in 09'-10'. This will be Jory's second season for Kankakee and is looking forward to an outstanding year.

Former Porter Head Coach Steve Stanicek says this about Jory: “Jory was a determined and focused young man who brought with him a positive outlook that seemed to infect the attitude of his teammates, coaches, and everyone around him. Jory's determination and leadership are some of the main reasons for the success of the Lockport baseball program. The daily work-ethic that is now expected among players is a direct result of the example Jory set each and every day.

Jory never got caught up in the selfish game of individual stats or self-promotion. He thrives on team success and the friendships and experiences with his teammates.”

PORTER BASEBALL “SENIOR MOMENTS”

Tom Hook.....SS



Tom is a 3 year varsity player for the Porters and is well-known for his enthusiasm and the energy he brings every single day to the field. He has set high goals for himself and his team. He *“wants to hit the ball hard”* and have *“as many QAB’s as possible.”* Defensively, he wants to have 10 E’s or less. For the team, Tom says the goal is simple. *“Win state and winning conference..... that is expected around here.”*

Being a senior leader is not something he takes lightly or shy’s away from. *“I love being a senior that helps the underclassmen. I believe the most important role for a senior is to guide them and help teach them the RIGHT way to play at Lockport.”* The best example of that to Tommy was Matt Skrzypiec from last year now playing at St. Joseph. Tom states, *“Matt helped me learn about hard work and dedication and I hope to pass this down to the underclassmen.”*

Porter Tradition for Tom is *“easy to define.”* It means *“hard working, blue collar players that are dedicated to Lockport. The tradition was created before my time and it means “winning....the right way.”*

Tom has signed a letter of intent with Northern Illinois University and will play baseball for the Huskies next year. He calls himself *“lucky to play baseball at the D1 level.”* The only advice to future Porters is *“listen to your coaches. Without them talent does not mean a thing.”* After school he *“wants to teach Social Studies and come back to Lockport one day and help coach baseball and football.”*

In his spare time this White Sox fan listens to some rap, some country and a lot of classic rock. He is a fan of *“The Boss”* and rates *The Blues Brothers* as one of his favorite movies.



Josh Altmann.....2B

This will be Josh’s second season on the varsity and as a starter. Last season, Josh was asked to play a little bit out of his comfort zone and play 3B. Traditionally a 2B, Josh handled the challenge and had a great season.

This season his goals for the Porters are to *“strive for perfection”* and *“go as far as we can in the state tournament.”* Personally, Josh feels the strongest part of his game is his offense and his ability to hit for some power. *“I will be working on my defensive aspect of the game all the time to improve arm strength and faster footwork.”*

Senior leadership on any team is important, but *“especially at Lockport.”* He sees his role *“as setting a positive example on and off the field, and give underclassmen encouragement as well as guidance to strive for whatever they can think of.”* Best example of that to Josh were last year’s seniors Garret Kooi and Jake Bulthuis because *“they showed me how to set the positive example, do everything like a game and correctly, and that the game of baseball at Lockport is always a fun experience.”*

When asked about the phrase **“Porter Tradition”** Josh simply put it, *“keeping the tradition of success and excellence both on and off the field.”*

After Lockport, Josh will continue his baseball at Olivet Nazarene University in Kankakee, Illinois. He says that *“I hope later in life, I can be a part of that small percent that make it to the professional level, but if not, I plan on getting a degree in education or athletic training.”*

A Chicago Cubs fan (atta boy Josh), his favorite baseball player is Dustin Pedroia. His favorite movie is *Never Back Down*. In terms of music his tastes are simple....”anything.”

Pride of the Porters

Pitching at H.S. Level cont'd

pitching and other positions? When we need the player to throw a bullpen or pitch in the game, pitching is the PRIORITY. After a player pitches a bullpen or in a game, he needs to communicate to the coaches about throwing too much during defensive drills; therefore, the player needs to focus on fielding or catching fly-balls with MINIMAL throwing. One misconception of pitchers here at Lockport, is that if a player pitches, he does not play another position – that is NOT true. As stated above, pitchers are also position players. With regards to playing time, we are going to be FAIR, not equal. We do not want to put pitchers in situations where they will not succeed.

Finally, pitchers have coming into program is the plethora of pitches. “Jonny” has a 4-Seam Fast Ball, 2-Seam Fast Ball, Slider, Curve Ball, and Change-Up. On the freshmen level, I want our pitchers to have anywhere from 3 pitches. We want fewer pitches so we can be “perfect” at a few rather than “average” at many. The one pitch that is a priority is the FASTBALL –regardless if it is a 2-Seam or 4-Seam. Lower level pitchers need to throw a Fast Ball Strike % of at least 66%. Lower level pitchers will improve their second best pitch (change-up or breaking ball), and introduce and/or develop a third pitch (change-up or breaking ball). By having too many pitches, pitchers will a sense of the fast ball by throwing too many “junk” pitches and not get hitters out. Lower level pitchers will throw a lot of Fast Balls, especially with the new high school bats. There is a reason why the Fast Ball sign is #1, it is our best pitch.

To ease the transition to high school baseball and pitching, there

are some tips and expectations for pitchers. First, we expect that the players’ arms are already in shape prior to tryouts, because there is a limited amount of time before the first game. In addition, we are a throwing all the time program philosophy with minimal rest. Also, we want the players to be physically in shape in their legs and core because most of the pitching delivery is performed in the legs and core; throwing is the last phase. During the season, the players will be put into a structured weekly schedule of throwing, pitching, sprints, distance, and core work. Finally, we want our pitchers to COMPETE each practice, each bullpen, and each game; we want the pitchers to become warriors – One Pitch Warriors. We want our pitchers to DEVELOP and improve every day and learn something new each day. Finally, we want our pitchers to be STUDENT ATHLETES by having positive behavior and good grades in the classroom. By not being able to practice and play by having poor classroom behavior and grades, the player suffers, the PITCHING STAFF suffers, and the TEAM SUFFERS.

If lower level pitchers are coachable, overcome failure and adversity, compete, develop, take care of their body arm, and are student athletes, they will lay and build the foundation for sustained pitching success.

Coach Tim Harmatys

Coach Harmatys played four years for the Porters and went on to pitch for Lewis University. He is now our freshman level pitching coach and will be in charge of the transition that this article described.

Flink Field Kudos!!!!



In a recent online issue of Prep Baseball Report, Drake Skleba penned an article entitled, *My Ten Best Illinois High School Baseball Stadiums*. Guess what field was rated #1? If you said our own Flink Field you guessed right. With his permission, here is what he wrote.

“The press box is old and has the dirtiest windows in all of Illinois. Elevated aluminum bleachers sit high above the 3B line and 1B line, among a grove of ancient trees. The stadium, named after former Porter head baseball coach, Ed Flink (1941-53), sits in a quiet, old, residential section of old Lockport (1836). It’s not pretty, It’s not flashy. It’s just the best.

Picnic tables grace a large grassy area behind home plate. Lawn chairs line up by the score before the 1st pitch. More like a 4th of July picnic, a Porter baseball game is a special treat, especially under the lights!

The field is in mint condition and if you like your popcorn salty, the Porter concession stand has the best in the state. The Porters don’t play as many games under the lights as they used to. Under Hall of Fame Coach Jim Hall (1991-06), the Porters once played 17 of their home games under the lights.

This spring, give yourself a treat, and head out to Garfield and Division in old Lockport and check out a little slice of Americana.try to see Ed Flink Field under the lights, in its true glory.”

Drake Skleba

BASEBALL BOOSTER CLUB NEWS & UPDATES

Walter Altmann
President

John Cielinski
Vice-President

Robert Duplessis
Treasurer

Jeff DeGraw
Secretary

Message from the President

Welcome to all parents and players who will be part of the LTHS baseball season . The Booster Club is hard at work already this season starting off with the *Maroon/White Games*, as well as our *March Madness Kickoff Party* at Mulletts back on March 17th. It was a huge success, we had over 150 people in attendance, and comments during the event were all fantastic! Events coming up will be *Strike Out for Cancer Day* on **April 14th**, when Lockport will be hosting Minooka HS and playing 5 games that day with all players from both teams playing in honor of a family member affected by cancer. All proceeds that day will go to the *Make Your Mark Foundation* supporting youth cancer research and family needs. We will also be raffling off the prizes from our program wide raffle event that day as well. Please mark your calendars and invite lots of family members and friends!! Make sure you have registered as a booster club member so you can receive all the benefits. Without joining, you will be missing out on some very important things. Reminder that 2 of our board members this year will be leaving so during the June meeting we will be looking for replacements, any questions please contact **Walter Altmann, President** at 708-227-0168.

OUR GOAL AS ALWAYS IS TO HELP SUPPORT OUR COACHES AND PLAYERS SO THAT WE CAN OFFER ALL OUR YOUNG MEN INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITIES, WHILE STRIVING TO BE ONE OF THE BEST BASEBALL PROGRAMS ANYWHERE!!

Walter Altmann

Mark your Calendar!

Lockport High School Baseball Boosters

1st Annual

Mattress Sale Fundraiser!!!

Sunday, April 22, 2012

The Lockport Baseball Booster Club will be sponsoring our 1st annual mattress sale on Sunday, April 22, 2012.

Name brand (Restonic and Southerland) mattress sets will be sold at 30-60% below retail prices. These are all top quality mattresses with full factory warranties. All sizes and price ranges. Delivery is available. Floor models will be displayed at the high school (in the Cafeteria) on Sunday, April 22nd, from 10am-5pm. The SALE is ONE DAY ONLY!!!

Proceeds go directly to the Baseball program!!!

\$50 off purchase of a mattress set with this email.

For additional information please contact Jim Vondrak of Custom Fundraising Solutions:

jimvondrak@comcast.net

NEW FACES ON PORTERS COACHING STAFF



A couple of familiar faces and a new one joined the Porters coaching staff this season. Left to right, Doug Chesna and Brandan Morrone will work at the Freshman White level this season. Both are former Porter players and will help the frosh get off on the right foot....Porter style. Andy Leonard (far right) comes to us from UIC and Stagg H.S. and will be on the sophomore staff.

Dugout News from page 1

because we are big and athletic," he said. "We have guys who can move pretty well. Even with the change in bats, I'm confident that we still will be able to drive the ball into the gaps. A lot of these juniors have shown that they can hit the ball as well."

The Porters will especially look to seniors Tommy Hook, Josh Altmann, Austin Mastela, and junior Ted Snidanko. Last season the four hit for a combined avg. of .355 with 37 doubles, 40 stolen bases and 99 RBI. Coach Satunas says of Mastela, "Austin is one of our senior leaders who has a big bat and plays great defense." Mastela has committed to Lewis University and will play ball for the Flyers next season.

Tommy Hook has committed to play for Northern Illinois University. Satunas will rely on Tommy and says he "is a high-energy player who will anchor our infield for the third straight year." Hook's middle infield partner, 2B Josh Altmann, is also expected to do big things for the Porters both offensively and defensively. Josh will attend Olivet Nazarene University and play for the Tigers.

Ted Snidanko had a tremendous breakout sophomore year with the varsity leading the Porters in hitting with a .408 average. He also played flawless CF, not making an error in handling 33 chances. He displayed great speed and quickness stealing 23 of 26 bases.

Goals are set by every team in sports. It provides them with something to strive for and act as a measurement of a season's success. The Porters regularly set lofty goals for the team. The team

always expects to win the conference title and go far in post season play. Of course, the Porters always talk about accomplishing the ultimate- a state title. 2012 is no different. It won't be easy but the Porters believe they have the ability to win a state title. To do so however, they must take it one step at a time.

The Southwest Suburban Conference title is the first goal of the season. The Porters seem to make a habit of conference titles winning or sharing it 20 of the last 27 years. It is especially difficult to win a conference title considering the high caliber of competition. Coach Satunas believes "The SWSC Blue should be very competitive this year. Every school has at least one very good pitcher which will make for some very close games. I think it is going to be a free-for-all. It's going to be exciting baseball and you are definitely going to need to take advantage of your opportunities."

The Porters will carry on their philosophy of playing the very best competition within their non-conference schedule. This season, the Porters will travel to Marion, Illinois to take part in the Miners Showcase Tournament where they will face highly rated teams St. Charles North, Mundelein, Cary Grove and Warren Twp.



(Rent-One Park, Marion, Il.)

When they return from that trip they will begin local tournament play March 30th at Flink Field in an opening game of the WJOL Tournament vs. arch rival Joliet Catholic. Other top ranked teams the Porters could face in that tourney include Providence Catholic, Minooka, Plainfield South, Lemont and Joliet Twp.



(Silver Cross Field, Joliet, Il.)

The Porters will play in the Edwardsville Tiger Classic hosted by Edwardsville High School. All four teams in that tournament are recent IHSA State Champions. Included besides the host Tigers and Porters will be Highland, Il. and Chatham-Glenwood.



(Edwardsville Tiger Field)

Other top-ranked teams on our 2012 schedule will include St. Laurence, Lincoln-Way East, Naperville Central, Sandburg, Stevenson and Brother Rice.

All in all, 2012 looks to be an exciting season for the Porters. Coach Satunas would like to invite everyone out to beautiful Flink Field (recently ranked by PBR writer Drake Skleba as his most favorite field, see pg. 6 of newsletter) to see the Porters.

Where Are They Now?????

Rollie Bolattino.....Class of 61'



Anyone who has been around Lockport High School sports the *last few decades* knows the name Rollie Bolattino. Even though our feature is entitled “Where Are They Now?”, we know where Rollie is and has been and we don’t have to look hard either as Rollie still lives in Lockport where he has called home his whole life.

Rollie graduated from Fairmont Grade School in 1957, and from LTHS in 1961. Back then Central Campus was the only high school and the “Athletic Field” (Ed Flink Field now) was the place to go for Porter athletics and the place to go see Rollie play for the Porters. Rollie started playing organized baseball for Lockport Boys Baseball and was selected in a draft for players first organized by Coach Ed Flink. Rollie was a 3 sport athlete for the Porters (football, basketball and baseball) and played baseball for highly respected Coach Bill Kappmeyer. He played for successful Porter teams in the South Suburban Conference and on the state level. In the early 60’s the IHSA had only one class and teams had to play in a District, Regional and Sectional before advancing to the State Tournament in Peoria. In his junior and senior years (60’-61’), the Porters lost in the Sectional finals, both times to the eventual State Champions (York in 60’ and

Morton in 61’). Rollie has fond memories of those teams and especially teammates he “had the privilege to play with.” Former Porters Bill Malinowski, Bruce and Pete Fulton, Bob and Chuck Ballantine, Jim Long, Ed Edson, Ken Kirk are just a few. Rollie, if asked, “can still tell you our batting order for every year”. For him, “that’s how enjoyable it was playing for the Porters during those years”.

Rollie continued his playing days at Western Illinois playing for Coach Guy Ricci whose philosophy was similar to that of Coach Kappmeyer. At Western he says, “we were the first northern school to make a southern trip before the “official” season started. We went to Fort Hood in Texas during Easter vacation and played in the tournament there. Our first game was against Arizona State. They entered the game 17-1 and we had practiced just twice outside.” As Rollie firmly puts it, “results of that game need not be mentioned---we got clobbered”!

After graduating from Western, he began what would be a very long and accomplished teaching/coaching career beginning first at Wilmington. In 1967-68 things came full circle when Rollie came back home and was hired to teach P.E./Dr. Education and coach football, basketball and baseball at LTHS. He coached baseball as a varsity assistant for 5 years and then began an umpiring career which saw him rise from umpiring high school and then college games. He umpired in the Big Ten Conference and worked games that featured several pitchers who went on to pro careers including Bill Gullickson and Mark Grant from Catholic High as well as Bob Welsh, Bob Ochenko and Steve Trout. His most memorable game as an umpire was when he was behind the plate in the Metro Dome in Minneapolis. On the mound for Michigan was Jim Abbott the one handed pitcher. He not only no-hit the Gophers but pitched a perfect game as well! Abbott would later go on to play for the Angels, Yankees and White Sox.

Rollie retired from LTHS in June of 1994 and still lives in Lockport. He still re-laces baseball gloves for area sports businesses as he has since 1959. If you want your glove done the right way, Rollie is your guy. He and his wife Patti have one daughter Callie who was the first female graduate of LTHS to attend and graduate from the University of Notre Dame. “Callie has blessed us with four grandchildren, two boys and two girls. When they attend Hinsdale Central, I plan to become a fan.”

He also goes on to tell us that his age indicates that he umpired many games of Coach Markelz and that “he is not demanding anything from you that he did not demonstrate as a player. He was one tough competitor.” Rollie goes on to tell us, “I want to wish the Porters of 2012 the best and know you will carry on the tradition of great baseball!”

Rollie is yet another of the many alumni we are so very very proud of!

For the Record: Tradition Motivates 2012 Porters

Tradition: Not Just Another Word at LTHS Baseball

Few high school baseball programs can claim a baseball tradition such as the one at LTHS. To have a tradition, you must achieve something consistently and on a regular basis. One merely needs to look at the records and see the conference, regional and sectional championships the Porters have won over the many decades. One only has to go to LTHS and look at the state trophies on display that mark the historic seasons when the Porters proudly wore the Maroon and White at the state tournament. One only has to look at the long list of Porters who have gone on to the next level and competed on the collegiate and pro levels. Then a person might come to understand exactly what that word TRADITION really means at LTHS baseball.

The 2012 season is about to start. Those players on the varsity and sophomore teams have already come to understand the meaning of the phrase, "*the tradition of Porter baseball*". The freshman, competing for the first time wearing the Maroon and White will soon find out. That word-*tradition*, is not merely a word that Lockport coaches throw around lightly just to motivate their players. To all who have worn the colors of LTHS baseball in the past know that the tradition of Porter baseball is synonymous with playing hard, tough, competitive and fundamentally sound baseball. The Freshman Porters will quickly learn of the high expectations that come with being a Porter baseball player. They will soon realize that being a Porter is to be proud of being a part of a program that is widely respected throughout Illinois high school baseball.

"The quality of a person's life is in direct proportion of their commitment to excellence, regardless of their chosen field of endeavor"

PORTER BASEBALL

Coach Andy Satunas

(asatunas@lths.org)

Lockport Township High School

13333 East Seventh Street

Lockport, Illinois 60441

Website: www.porterbaseball.org

Contact Us: porterball@comcast.net

GO PORTERS!



Our next issue will be mid-season and will include scores and more as well as information about how the season is going.