



# PORTER BASEBALL

## PORTERS SUMMER SEASON SHOWS PROMISE FOR 2015 SEASON

The Porters regular 2014 season was a season of contrasts and struggle. At times the Porters found it difficult to score runs that would mean the difference between a very good season and a .500 season. The Porters finished a little better than .500 at 19-17.

On the other hand the Porters showed flashes of the potential many thought they possessed. Nothing showed that more than capturing the SWSC Blue title with a 12-2 league record that was highlighted by a 16 inning 2-1 win over then 1<sup>st</sup> place Sandburg that was played over two days. The team's effort in that game was indicative of what that team was capable.

The Porters also played 10 games against teams in the top 25 including #1 and #2 who became state champions in 3A and 4A.

Consequently, the Porters set lofty goals to be accomplished during the summer as well as evaluated all players for next year's team. 29 players including 12 seniors, 15 juniors and 2 sophomores made the roster after three days of on the field tryouts and evaluation by all of the coaches.

The summer Porters season (W12, L8) would include play in 4 tournaments including the 2015 Battle of Omaha 19U held during the College World Series. The Porters finished the tourney 4-1 losing to host Burke H.S. in the championship game. The Wood Bat Classic, the Porters Showcase and the IHSBCA State Tournament were three others the summer team played in.

The JV summer team, made up of

sophomores also played a full schedule and tournaments. The aggressive scheduling during the summer is indicative of the commitment the Porters baseball program continues to have of helping our players grow and develop.

College and professional scouts attended many of games as interest in several LTHS players as well top players on visiting teams played in tournaments we hosted. Senior pitchers Cole Bellair, Austin Moralis and Jordan Johnston drew particular interest.

With the summer over, the Porters will take a little breather and then go to work on off season conditioning and strength work with coaches and Nick Setta to prepare for the 2015 season.

### SPECIAL EVENT OF NOTE

## 2014 BASEBALL ALUMNI GAME ANNOUNCED

The Porter football team will host its annual homecoming game October 3<sup>rd</sup> against the Bolingbrook Raiders. Excitement is certainly high as new Head Coach Dan Starkey leads the Porters into the 2014 season. Scheduled home games include Lake Park (9/5), L-Way East (9/19), Joliet Central (10/10) and Joliet West (10/24).

To coincide with homecoming activities former head baseball coach Jim Hall will be hosting a baseball alumni get together on **Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at Flink Field** that will include a HR Derby and then (if the bodies are able) a game between those who want to give it a go. Food and beverages will be provided by Coach Hall. It is a great chance for alumni to come together, reminisce about the

“old days”, enjoy food and beverage, and then see “if you still have it” for those who want to participate. If you just want to come out and visit, bring the family and shoot the breeze with fellow Porter Baseball alum that would be great also.

Please email Coach Hall if you plan on attending:

**[jimhallbaseball@comcast.net](mailto:jimhallbaseball@comcast.net)**

**When: Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> @**

**Where: Flink Field**

# PORTER BASEBALL "SENIOR MOMENTS"

## CONGRATS COLLEGE BOUND PORTERS!!

Once again the Porter baseball pro-gram is very proud to announce that eleven 2014 seniors will be continuing their playing career at the college level. In addition to these 11, several other 14' seniors will be attending college in the fall as well. The Porter baseball commitment to players having success in the classroom as well as the field is a big part of this .

Lorenzo Blazekovich (Black Hawk Community College), Ryan Dalton (Carthage College), Frank Diaz (Harper College), Nick Formella (Concordia U. Chicago), Chris Grazioli (St. Mary's U. of Minnesota), Russ Hoh (North Central College), Nick Kaleel (Rochester College (MI), Dan Kaleel (Grand View University (IA), Avery Lochow (Purdue-Calumet), Noah Masa (UIC), and Jake Stanton (Milliken U.) will begin their playing careers on the college level.

We, as always, are very proud of these young men and wish them the best of luck. Go Porters!!!

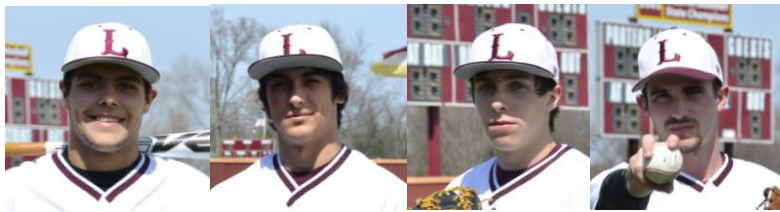


Lorenzo Blazekovich

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Noah Masa

Nick Kaleel

Jake Stanton

### COACHES IN THE NEWS

It's been a busy summer for current and former Porter baseball coaches.

**Matt Bartley** leaves the Porters to concentrate on his new position as Dean of Students at the Central Campus. Matt will continue coaching soccer in the fall. Good Luck Ted!!

**Dave Jeglinski**, former coach for the Porters, took THE giant leap this summer. On July 18th, Jegs married Shannon Vanderschoot. Congrats to both and have a long life together.

Some may not have known it but **Butch Markelz** joined the ranks of the retired at the end of the 2014 school year. Longtime Dean of Students at the East campus, Coach Markelz will continue to coach varsity

### PORTER NEWS BITES

ty pitchers but will also have a lot more time on his hands to improve his golf game and go over pitching charts.

During the season, Coach **Adam Decaire** and his very patient wife **Julie** welcomed their first child, son **Jackson James**, on May 14<sup>th</sup>. Jackson was 6 lbs. 14 oz. and is growing by leaps and bounds. He soon will pass up dad. Congrats to Adam and Julie!

Finally, Head Coach **Andy Satunas** and wife **Amanda** welcomed new son, **Joseph Anthony**, on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Looks like a future as a catcher coming in at 8 lbs. 13oz.!! Both mom and son are doing well as he joins brother and sister Drew and Abby.

### 2013 GRADS MOVING ON

As we see in the story above, players move on to college to continue playing baseball. We also see players that have started at the junior college level move on to a four year college to continue at the next level.

Recently, we learned that pitcher **Conner Ryan (13')** has been accepted at the University of Illinois-Chicago where he will join 14' grad Noah Masa on the Flames pitching staff.

Also advancing on but staying closer to home is pitcher **Matt DeGraw (12')** who will join the staff of Coach Brian Michalak (LTHS 79') at St. Francis U. in Joliet.

Good Luck to both.

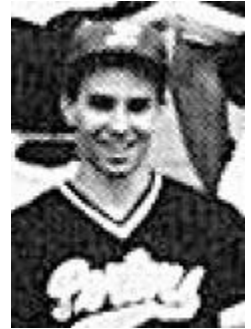
# ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

In this issue we will be highlighting two alumnus who appeared in news stories over the summer.



## Dennis Ivanich (Class of 90')

Dennis Ivanich (picture right) roamed the outfield of Flink Field in 89' and 90' for Coach Odle. Known for his quickness and speed, Dennis was an excellent defensive player. On Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup> Dennis' quickness saved a life. Now an officer with the Lockport Police Department, Dennis was on patrol that day when he got a call of a child in distress. Officer Ivanich, only a few blocks away, quickly responded to the call and upon arriving saw a woman and her four week old daughter



who had taken on a purplish look and was not breathing properly.

Relying on his training, Dennis picked the baby up and immediately began CPR. He didn't let on to those around him but, according to an article in the *Lockport Legend* newspaper, "I honestly didn't think the baby was going to make it...I was getting no response..." Despite that, Officer Ivanich continued with CPR and delivered the child to the Lockport Twp. Fire Dept. paramedics who had by then arrived on the scene. After doctors at Silver Cross hospital worked on the baby, Dennis heard them say that she had good blood pressure and that she would survive. He kept in touch with the family afterward. In the *Legend* article, the mother said of Dennis, "He went above and beyond...to make sure she was OK." The baby is now back home with her family. (picture above left)

Dennis, an 18 yr. veteran of the dept. and a father himself of 22 month old twins, said "...this is the hardest thing I've had to do." We are sure running down a hard hit fly ball in the gap at Flink Field doesn't come close.

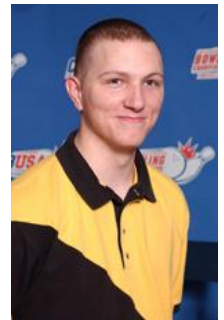


## Brian Valenta (Class of 03')

Anybody who ever saw Brian Valenta's delivery on the pitching mound left scratching their head as to how it was possible to throw strikes with his underhand, unorthodox motion. Pitching coach Butch Markelz and Head Coach Jim Hall were two of them. But throw strikes he did making him a mainstay of the relief corps during the 02' and 03' seasons. Brian was also a mainstay on the powerhouse Porter bowling team.

The July 24<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Lockport Legend* highlighted Brian as he now is a professional bowler with, you guessed it, an unorthodox two-handed delivery. If you go on YouTube at (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=skEBb87zPn8>) you can see Brian demonstrate and explain his unique two-handed delivery.

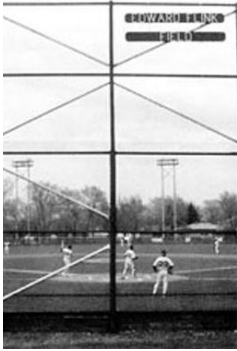
After graduating from LTHS, Brian went to Lindenwood U. (right) in St. Charles, Missouri on a bowling scholarship and then led the Lions to their 1<sup>st</sup> Intercollegiate Bowling Championship over Fresno State. Valenta was a 2004-05 National Collegiate Bowling Coaches Association All-America first-teamer and a Junior Team USA 2005 member. After ending his college career, Brian then joined the PBA tour where he has been ever since. Recently, according to the *Legend* article, Valenta finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Badger Open in Oklahoma.



Brian, who started bowling at the age of three, came to Lockport in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade and was a regular at Lockport's Strike N Spare bowling alley. When the IHSA began bowling competition Brian was a senior and was considered a favorite to become the state's first individual state champion. Going into day 2 he was the leader but finished 5<sup>th</sup>. It was noted in the story that when anyone suggested he change his delivery his mom and coach said to leave him alone. Gee, I think we heard Coach Markelz say that as well.

# Pride of the Porters

## Trip Down Memory Lane: Flink Field Sign



Remember the old backstop with the Ed Flink Field sign (left)? We were wondering whatever happened to that original sign when the new back stop and net were installed? The original sign was put up when the field was named in honor of Coach Flink in 1981.

Coach Satunas found it under debris in the old shed at Flink. As you can see, (right) it was in very bad shape. We also realized that the name was carved into two old seats of a wooden picnic table, probably by our wood shop class.

Coach Satunas thought that it would be a good idea to try and clean it up and that we would place it on the back of our new press box when it is finished. We sanded down the two part sign, gave it two coats of new maroon paint and then repainted the name. The finished product, we think, looks pretty good.



## IN MEMORIAM

### Porter Nation Remembers Zach Lammers

Tragedy struck the Porter baseball family August 4<sup>th</sup>. 2005 graduate Zachary Lammers passed away in a tragic accident in Chicago. Zachary had graduated from Brown University and was working in the private sector in Chicago where he also lived.

Zach was a member of the State Championship football and baseball teams but was remembered for his character and quality as a person more than anything else. Those who played with him and coached him truly experienced a deep sense of loss at Zach's passing. Former Porter's head baseball coach Jim Hall said Zach was *"one of the best kids you're ever going to coach"*. In a recent article by Randy Whalen, Porter baseball alum and writer for the *Lockport Legend*, Hall goes on to say, *"In your life, you meet special people. Zach Lammers was one of those persons....he touched so many. He was a great teammate and individual...one of the best human beings that I've ever met in my 41 years of coaching."* Hall's comments are typical of the remembrances and thoughts shared by those who knew Zach. Longtime LTHS trainer Joe Cunnane got to know Zach very well both on the field and in the classroom. *"He was the kind of young man that I want my four boys to grow up to be like."* He says further, *"he was a great kid, a total package of a great human being."*



Current Porter football and baseball coach Adam Decaire was a teammate of Zach's on the football team that won the state championship in 2003 and had remained a close friend. Adam recently arranged for Zach to talk to football campers about Lockport tradition. Decaire says of Zach, *"he had an impact on me and he always had a good word for anyone. That was just the type of guy Zach was."* In a post on the Lockport Football Alumni Organization's Facebook page, Adam states *"Zach was a true definition of what a teammate should be and what every Porter needs to strive to be like. There are no words really necessary to describe him..."*

We always end our newsletters with the same quote by Vince Lombardi. We end this issue and our tribute to Zachary Lammers with that same quote which we found to be so fitting. God Bless Zach, peace.

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

# GO PORTERS!



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## PORTER BASEBALL

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Our next issue will be in the fall-winter.