

WEST PENN BASEBALL PROSPECTS

Special All-Star Weekend Edition

May 2007

The biggest weekend of the year in Western Pennsylvania scholastic baseball is almost here!!!

The WPIAL Baseball Coaches Association (WBCA) All-Star Weekend will take place on June 15 and 16.

The Weekend includes three major events:

- An Awards Banquet
- An Underclassmen Showcase
- An All-Star Doubleheader

The **Awards Banquet** will be held on June 15 at 7:00 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel Pittsburgh Green Tree. The Banquet honors the players and coaches selected to participate in the All-Star Doubleheader and the Players and Coaches of the Year in each of the four classifications as selected by the WPIAL baseball coaches. Randy Cosgrove will be the Master of Ceremonies and ex-Major Leaguer Sid Bream will be the guest speaker.

The banquet is open to public. The cost to attend the banquet is \$25 per person. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and there will be a cash bar throughout the evening. Call Tony Villiotti at 412-429-0546 if you wish to attend the banquet.

The **Underclassmen Showcase** will be held on the morning of June 16 at Ross Memorial Park (next to Falconi Field) in Washington, PA. This year's Showcase is limited to 2008 graduates who are varsity starters. Most of the top juniors in Western Pennsylvania have registered for the Showcase and a large turnout of college and professional scouts is expected. **There will be absolutely no walkup registrations as the event is a sellout.**

Any college or junior college coaches or professional scouts with questions about the showcase or who would like a pre-event registration list should contact Tony Villiotti (412-429-0546, 412-292-8564 or wpabaseball@hotmail.com) or Mark Saghy (412-915-0883 or marksaghy@adelphia.net).

The tentative Showcase itinerary is as follows:

7:30	Registration for Pitchers and Catchers
8:00	60 Yard Dash
8:30	Catcher Throwing
9:00	Pitching
11:30	Hitting (Catchers only)
11:30	Registration for Position Players
12:00	60 Yard Dash
12:30	Outfield Defense
1:00	Infield Defense
1:30	Hitting
2:45	Showcase Ends

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The **All-Star Doubleheader** will be played at Ross Memorial Park (same location as the Showcase) beginning at 3:30 p.m. on June 16. The All-Star teams from Class A and Class AA will face off in the opener with Class AAA taking on Class AAAA in the nightcap. Both games will be seven innings. The rain date for the doubleheader is June 11.

The All-Star teams are shown on pages 3 through 6 of this newsletter. Seventy-six players will participate in the doubleheader, representing fifty-four different high schools. Due to PIAA rules, only seniors are eligible to participate in the All-Star games.

As with most All-Star teams there are always questions about why Player A is selected over Player B. The selection process used by the WBCA is an open one and is intended to consider all deserving players. The process for selecting players begins with coaches nominating seniors from their team for consideration by a Selection Committee. Coaches are also asked to recommend players from other teams who they have seen play and who have impressed them. Virtually every coach in the WPIAL (110 out of 128) submitted recommendations. Information for the nominated players is then assembled and provided to the Selection Committee for their consideration.

The goal is for the Selection Committee for each classification to consist of a Chairman and at least two representatives from each section. Committee members are solicited on a volunteer basis. The Selection Committee for each classification then meets and selects the team, along with alternates. The player selected are then contacted to determine whether they will be able to play. This year 75 of the 76 players invited to play in the doubleheader accepted their invitations. An alternate took the place of the one player who declined because of other commitments.

The Selection Committee is faced with difficult choices as the number of players worthy of consideration always exceeds the number of positions available. The WBCA thanks those who took the time to participate in the selection of this year's team.

The Class A Selection Committee included Dan Alderson (Chartiers-Houston), Dave Bates (Carmichaels), Sam Cercone (Monaca), Brian Dzurenda (Serra Catholic), Don Hartman (California), Ken Laquinta (Our Lady of Sacred Heart) and Andy Maddix (Vincentian Academy).

The Class AA Selection Committee included Tony Babusci (Avonworth), Larry Cujas (Ford City), Paul DeFilippi (Center), Bob Grandizio (Shady Side Academy), Mike Houck (South Fayette), Brad Monas (Waynesburg), Skooter Roebuck (Brownsville), Bill Stoops (Deer Lakes) and Frank Szatkowski (East Allegheny).

The Class AAA Selection Committee included Andy Bednar (Mars), Bryan Cornell (West Allegheny), Jeff Kuzma (West Mifflin), Glen Vietmeier (Montour) and Gary Wilson (Hampton).

The Class AAAA Selection Committee included Tim Banner (North Allegheny), Dave Florie (Butler), Bob Hinds (Shaler), Rick Krivanek (Pittsburgh Central Catholic), Joe Maize (Peters Township) and Jim Rider (Bethel Park).

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Class A All-Stars

Ryan Anderson	Bentworth High School
Ray Arch	Springdale High School
Michael Cercone	Our Lady of Sacred Heart High School
Mike Christiansen	Our Lady of Sacred Heart High School
Beau Citrone	Springdale High School
Marcus Cook	Laurel High School
Mike Galis	California High School
Derek Jansante	Bentworth High School
Zack Jeney	California High School
Lukas Johnson	Rochester High School
A J Kerr	Chartiers-Houston High School
Mike Kochman	Serra Catholic High School
Brett Mazine	Monaca High School
Ashley Menear	Mapletown High School
Ben Sladick	Western Beaver High School
John Thomas	Laurel High School
Aaron Thompson	Carmichaels High School
Tim Voithofer	Carmichaels High School
Ryan White	Jefferson-Morgan High School

Coaches

Dion Jansante, Bentworth High School

Eric Verdi, Laurel High School

Brian Verrico, Rochester High School

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Class AA All-Stars

Jon Bastian	Deer Lakes High School
Eddie Beveridge	Seton LaSalle High School
Kenny Blackwell	Waynesburg High School
Nick Czapor	South Allegheny High School
Zach Fatigante	Avonworth High School
Justin Gibson	Brownsville High School
Josh Graham	Avonworth High School
Ryan Hand	Ford City High School
Nathan Helster	Charleroi High School
Josh Hospodar	Ford City High School
Ryan Hulme	Center High School
David Kaye	Riverview High School
Steve Lowry	Riverside High School
Anthony Mattei	Greensburg Central Catholic High School
Mitch Monas	Waynesburg High School
Zach Stobart	Center High School
Jim Suhevich	Deer Lakes High School
Cole Taylor	Burrell High School
Anthony Venditti	Greensburg Central Catholic High School

Coaches

Skooter Roebuck, Brownsville High School
Mark Suckfiel, South Allegheny High School
Shawn Trainor, Seton LaSalle High School

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Class AAA All-Stars

Tom Burkett	Yough High School
D J Cannon	Mars High School
Tom DeAngelis	Moon High School
Craig Denman	Blackhawk High School
Derek DiRuscia	Blackhawk High School
Kyle Fisher	Ringgold High School
Butch Kriger	Montour High School
Jared Littler	West Allegheny High School
Ryan Moore	West Mifflin High School
Joe Motto	New Castle High School
Rick Moyer	Ambridge High School
George Nahay	Thomas Jefferson High School
Tom Pasinski	West Mifflin High School
Mike Pegg	Laurel Highlands High School
Bryce Pfueffer	Montour High School
Justin Shaffer	Yough High School
Brett Stackhouse	Chartiers Valley High School
Adam Zimmerman	Hopewell High School
Zach Zollner	Mars High School

Coaches

Jeff Kuzma, West Mifflin High School
Tom Landman, Laurel Highlands High School
Glen Vietmeier, Montour High School

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Class AAAA All-Stars

Eric Anderson	Penn-Trafford High School
David Angle	Pine-Richland High School
Dave Bergstrom	North Allegheny High School
Dan Cybulski	Bethel Park High School
Gene Franks	Albert Gallatin High School
Gabe Grinder	Seneca Valley High School
Andrew Heck	North Hills High School
Andy Kountz	Bethel Park High School
Joe Leonard	Connellsville High School
Joe Lombardo	Shaler High School
Aaron Maize	Peters Township High School
Brian Muransky	Canon McMillan High School
Chris Murphy	Fox Chapel High School
Andy Onufrak	Butler High School
Erik Rasky	Penn-Trafford High School
Tom Shirley	Norwin High School
Andy Trettel	North Allegheny High School
Brian Warheit	Butler High School
Derek Zofchak	Canon McMillan High School

Coaches

Rich Krivanek, Pittsburgh Central Catholic High School

Eric Semega, Seneca Valley High School

Carl Vollmer, Plum High School

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WPIAL Baseball Coaches Association Players and Coaches of the Year

The WPIAL Baseball Coaches Association has announced their Players and Coaches of the Year. Winners are selected by a vote of WPIAL coaches and will be honored at the WBCA Awards Banquet on June 15.

Winners of the Player of the Year Awards are:

Class AAAA	Cory Mazzoni of Seneca Valley High School
Class AAA	Zak Sinclair of West Allegheny High School
Class AA	Cole Taylor of Burrell High School
Class A	John Thomas of Laurel High School

Winners of the Coach of the Year Awards are:

Class AAAA	Eric Semega of Seneca Valley High School
Class AAA	Bryan Cornell of West Allegheny High School
Class AA	Mark Spohn of Burrell High School
Class A	Don Hartman of California High School

Cory Mazzoni, a junior, was 7-0 as a pitcher with 65 strikeouts in 48 innings pitched and had a 0.73 ERA. He was also an offensive threat, batting .370 with 6 home runs and 17 runs batted in.

Zak Sinclair, a junior, was 5-0 as a pitcher with a 1.99 ERA and 39 strikeouts in 31 2/3 innings pitched. Zak was also an offensive force to be reckoned with, batting .362 with 3 home runs and 26 runs batted in.

Cole Taylor, a senior who will be playing baseball for the University of Pittsburgh, was 6-0 on the mound with 77 strikeouts in 38 1/3 innings pitched and a 0.54 ERA. Cole is also an excellent center fielder and batted .500 with 1 home run and 20 runs batted in.

John Thomas, a senior who will move on to Slippery Rock, was 7-0 as a pitcher on the mound with a 1.07 ERA and 84 strikeouts in 46 innings pitched. Also a first baseman, John batted .531 with 1 home run and 20 runs batted in.

Eric Semega led a junior-dominated team led wire-to-wire losing only one game. Seneca Valley was undefeated in the very competitive Section 1. Semega led his team to 16 consecutive regular season victories after losing their season opener.

Bryan Cornell led the only undefeated team (20-0 in the regular season) in the WPIAL through a very competitive section. West Allegheny averaged almost 10 runs per game as they established themselves as the dominant team in Class AAA.

Mark Spohn led Burrell to a 14-1 regular season record and the Section 3 championship. Burrell's only loss was a one-run loss to section rival Deer Lakes. Burrell surrendered only 22 runs during the regular season.

Don Hartman continued the momentum from last year's run to the state semi-finals with an 18-2 regular season record and a championship in the very competitive Section 1. California posted the top record in Class A in possibly the strongest Class A section

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College Decisions

Following are commitments and signings we are aware of for players who will be playing college baseball. We know that a number of others are still in the decision-making process and we will report those decisions as we become aware of them. Please let us know if we have left anyone out.

Jonathan Angel	Albert Gallatin	Bethany	Jon Bastian	Deer Lakes	Indiana Wesleyan
Rob Baumgartel	Deer Lakes	Penn State - Behrend	Dave Bergstrom	North Allegheny	Bucknell
Jared Bowser	Kittanning	Duquesne	Bill Brady	Gateway	California (PA)
Calvin Buerkle	Greensburg Cent	John Carroll	Tom Burkett	Yough	Charleston Southern
Andrew Burrell	Ambridge	Westminster	Jim Burry	Seneca Valley	John Carroll
D J Cannon	Mars	Seton Hill	Michael Cercone	OLSH	Westminster
Ryan Chiappetta	Beaver Falls	Penn State - Behrend	Mike Christiansen	OLSH	St Vincent
Beau Citrone	Springdale	Wooster	Corey Collins	Laurel	Mercyhurst Northeast
Marcus Cook	Laurel	LaRoche	Tom DeAngelis	Moon	Marietta
Mike Deems	New Brighton	Thiel	Ty Dillinger	McKeesport	Bethany
Derek DiRuscia	Blackhawk	Slippery Rock	Jake Ellis	Seneca Valley	Penn State - Beaver
Elmer Engle	Albert Gallatin	Sussex Comm. Coll.	Gene Franks	Albert Gallatin	WV Wesleyan
Ian Gabos	Vincentian	W&J	Michael Galis	California	Grove City
Pat Gannon	Upper St Clair	Oakland	Sean Gaughan	Baldwin	Point Park
Bryce Goldbach	Moon	Marietta	John Goray	Seton LaSalle	Maryland -E. Shore
Gabe Grinder	Seneca Valley	IUP	Brian Grise	Steel Valley	Point Park
Adam Hartwig	North Allegheny	Penn State - Behrend	Josh Haubrich	Norwin	WV Wesleyan
Andrew Heck	North Hills	Duquesne	Nathan Helster	Charleroi	Waynesburg
Steven Hubsch	Brentwood	Waynesburg	Ryan Huebner	West Allegheny	Allegheny
Ryan Hulme	Center	Elon	Zack Jeney	California	Louisburg College
Mike Kalis	Sewickley Academy	Kenyon	Zack Kaminski	Mt Lebanon	Ohio Wesleyan
Matt Katich	Mohawk	Notre Dame	David Kaye	Riverview	Pittsburgh
A J Kerr	Chartiers-Houston	California (PA)	Eddie Kessler	Bethel Park	Penn State - Behrend
Andrew Klimek	South Fayette	Grove City	David Klocek	Serra Catholic	Mercyhurst Northeast
Pat Kohl	Kiski Area	Seton Hill	Andy Kountz	Bethel Park	Penn State - Behrend
Ryan Lang	Mt Lebanon	Furman	Casey LaValle	Chartiers Valley	Piedmont
Joe Leonard	Connellsville	Pittsburgh	Shane Liska	Central Catholic	Xavier
Jared Littler	West Allegheny	Seton Hill	Joe Lombardo	Shaler	Duquesne
Steve Lowry	Riverside	Penn State - Beaver	Ed Lynch	Kiski Area	Seton Hill
Matt Mangery	Greensburg-Salem	Mt Aloysius	Frank Marko	Montour	Point Park
Isaac Marx	North Allegheny	Allegheny	Dave McCarthy	Baldwin	Seton Hill
Nick Merolillo	North Allegheny	Concord	Mitch Monas	Waynesburg	Slippery Rock
Rick Moyer	Ambridge	Penn State - Behrend	Brian Muransky	Canon McMillan	Xavier
Chris Murphy	Fox Chapel	Southern Illinois	George Nahay	Thomas Jefferson	LaRoche
Justin Napper	North Allegheny	W&J	Matt Nemec	Riverside	Bethany
Joe Noro	Fox Chapel	Calhoun Comm. Coll.	Andrew Onufrak	Butler	Wheeling Jesuit
Tom Pasinski	West Mifflin	Penn State - Behrend	Dennis Ovesney	Keystone Oaks	Mercyhurst Northeast
Blake Pavlik	Kiski Area	Penn State - Behrend	Bryce Pfueller	Montour	Point Park
Logan Phillips	Carmichael	Mercyhurst Northeast	Rick Rareigh	North Allegheny	Seton Hill
Zane Reese	Kiski Area	Bethany	J T Seelman	Thomas Jefferson	Grove City
Jacob Shaffer	Kiski Area	IUP	Tom Shirley	Norwin	Xavier
Andy Slifko	West Allgheny	Penn State - Altoona	Brett Stackhouse	Chartiers Valley	Gardner-Webb
Zach Stobart	Center	Penn State - Beaver	Steve Stombaugh	Mt Lebanon	Grove City
Mike Susi	Hampton	Allegheny	Cole Taylor	Burrell	Pittsburgh
Jim Teyssier	Montour	Thiel	John Thomas	Laurel	Slippery Rock
Aaron Thompson	Carmichaels	Bethany	Rich Toal	Montour	West Virginia
Curtis Tucak	Penn-Trafford	Seton Hill	Alex Valadja	North Catholic	James Madison
Anthony Venditti	G'burg Central	Johns Hopkins	Brian Warheit	Butler	Seton Hill
Matt Whiteman	Norwin	Seton Hill	Matt Wier	Mohawk	West Virginia
Brian Wisniewski	North Hills	John Carroll	Ryan Zamiski	Penn-Trafford	Penn State - Behrend
Adam Zimmerman	Hopewell	Grove City	Derek Zofchak	Canon McMillan	Waynesburg

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Controversial New NCAA Rules Passed for Division I

The NCAA Division I Board of Directors recently passed several new rules that will become effective on August 1, 2008. First, players must be academically certified at the start of the fall term to be able to compete in the spring. Second, players who transfer between Division I schools must now sit out a year before they are eligible to play. Currently, players are eligible immediately. Finally, and most controversial, an athletic scholarship must be for at least 33% of the cost of tuition and fees, room and board and books. Also, a college cannot have more than 30 players (2008-2009 academic year) and then 27 players receiving aid. This last provision is most controversial and is opposed by many college coaches.

Congratulations to the WPIAL Champs!!

This year's WPIAL Champs are Peters Township in Class AAAA, West Allegheny in Class AAA, North Catholic in Class AA and Springdale in Class A. Other qualifiers for the PIAA playoffs are Bethel Park and Seneca Valley in AAAA; Blackhawk and Trinity in AAA; Seton LaSalle, Canevin and Riverview in AA; and California and Laurel in A.

Contact Info

WEST PENN BASEBALL PROSPECTS is published by West Penn Baseball Prospects, Inc. Any correspondence should be directed to Tony Villiotti at wpabaseball@hotmail.com or 63 Stancey Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15220

Website

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